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Puget Sound Mini

MOTERING CLUB

Fall 2009 Volume 3, Issue 3

Seattle MINI Landed!

Written by: Bruce and Stacie Hart

Seattle MINI opened in September of this year as an entirely new and different kind of car dealership. It's a flagship store for the MINI brand. The idea was to make the dealership a destination - a place to hang out, to grab a coffee drink, use the free Wi-Fi, maybe even have a quick meeting with a client if it's convenient.

Rather than designating specific areas to sell merchandise or display new models, these areas are intermingled throughout the store. New MINI dealerships will follow this model with a more relaxed, clubhouse type atmosphere - almost like a coffee shop that also happens to sell your favorite car.

General Sales Manager Richard Stone explained that Seattle MINI opened because there's been enough demand at Northwest MINI to justify another location, even with the downturn in the economy. Buyers continue to see the MINI as a "value car," meaning that you get a lot for your money, including better than average resale value. Seattle MINI has drawn in a new group of customers from the immediate Seattle area, and hasn't taken much business from Northwest MINI. The Lake City Way location was chosen for its proximity to downtown, I-5 and I-405. In its first month of operation, Seattle MINI has sold 45 new MINIs, with orders placed for another 20. To deal with Seattle's inclement weather, Seattle MINI

boasts a unique feature - an underground display area with bright lighting and tons of MINIs to see and drive.

There are 16 service bays in the impeccably



clean and quiet service area, which features a large picture window - one mechanic's favorite feature of the new building. Service Manager Kyle Canalizo, Parts Manager Wade Olson and two Motoring Advisers have made the move from Northwest MINI. Whether you're stopping by for a latte, buying parts, or maybe even a new car, Seattle MINI is here and open for you. Nothing exemplifies this more than the fact that they are hosting the PSMINI holiday party this year.

Quick and Effective Mods - maybe not so quick.

Written by Liz Smart

Mini owners are well versed in modifying their Mini's. We will do anything to look good, hug corners, and overtake SUVs. Members chime in with 1st and 2nd generation mods that are quick, easy, and worth a few dollars. **YakiMini** says, "Rear sway bar is a great mod for both the 1st and 2nd Gen Mini's. Second choice would be a drop in

High Flowing Filter for the 2nd Gen Mini's." On another note, **Hapa Haole and Wild-family** agree, "the pulsar brake light would be at the top of the list." Hapa Haole also "converted the rear fog light to a 4th brake light. Both of those were bought from **GoMiniGo**." **Searocko** puts his Mini money on, "Best bang for the buck for the R53 is a 15% reduction supercharger pulley

along with a shorter belt (NAPA 060535). **GoKart** goes with the triple whammy mod, "for sound, performance, and power try out the cold air intake. **Onramp** keeps things clean with, "glove box tidy and the no holes front license plate mount." Onramp goes to state, "Oil catch can for the R53, black out trim and the Joey mod."

What's a Joey mod?

XXX Car Show in Issaquah - Contributed by CINIMIN and PEABODY

This was as good a MINI gathering as we've ever been to. Thank you Gumbo (Byrne Kelly) for getting this event started. Not only was the parking lot FILLED with MINIs (I think 86 registered, although that's unofficial - and that doesn't include a lot of non-registered MINIs that were also in the lot), but there were MINIs on the street in both directions, and in the parking lot across the street. Nirvana!

Vendors, (UberMini, Griot's Garage, Craven Speed) thank you or contributing prizes for the raffle which

raised a substantial amount for the LEO charity. We look forward to next year's XXX Car Show on Sept. 26, 2010.

The staff of the XXX drive-in who provided the perfect venue for our little show - Thank you! Fred the Music Man, who supplied the perfect background for the show and even found and downloaded "40 Miles of Bad Road" as a special request.

Mark and Judy-Jo did an amazing job of organizing and putting this show together in a short period of time. They also showed up at 6:30 to

start setting up this event. The people who worked the PS MINI booth (Linda, Fiona, Judy-Jo, Mavourneen, and others) kept everything running smoothly. I never knew there were so many classic Minis in the Puget Sound area - thanks to SAMOA for their attendance and support.

This was a really fun day to talk with lots of people about MINIs and classic Minis, and just walk around looking at all the cars and we also gained several new members - welcome to the club! Finally, the club has another two MINI/Mini couple - congratulations to Mark and Judy-Jo on the addition of their new classic Mini!

Thank you PHYDEAUX (Eric Werner) for organizing the "after party" drive. It was a great time to cool down after the XXX car show.



Viva Las Vegas - AMVIV7 March 25-28, 2010

Sin City Mini Club presents AMVIV 7!

Sin City Mini has signed a hotel contract! "We're moving away from Palace Station this year, to another property in the Station Casinos family. We're going to Aliante Station which is a brand new, absolutely beautiful hotel casino. The hotel part is a bit

smaller than Palace, and we will have the entire hotel blocked out for our attendees.

Yes, if you see someone in the hotel elevator, they will be another AMVIV attendee. Rooms are \$99 per night plus taxes for each night of the event which is a good deal for a new resort-style property in Las Vegas. "

The hotel only has 200 rooms, so book early if you for sure want to stay at the "home hotel". To book your room or call 1-877-477-SOAR (7627) and use group code S03MINI.

The PSMINI contingent is already queuing!

Join PSMINI

Check out our forums at psmini.org. You will get to know the members and browse through current and past topics. It is also free to join us at events. Of course, membership has its privileges. Paid members are covered by group insurance during events and receive discounts from a number of local and national vendors. Membership is \$25 per year. For more information, email psmini@psmini.org We look forward to **Motoring** with you!



Route Planning - Written by John Pearce

It's late Saturday morning and you pull into the garage feeling both rejuvenated and a bit spent—you just ran a bunch of twisties, got some adrenaline coursing through your system, and now ready to tackle those weekend duties. When you woke up you had no idea...

Well into your second cup of caffeine you noticed that the sun was peeking out (or not, this is the PNW...), and right then decided your responsibilities would hold for an hour—or two... it was time for a little fun!

You pulled out your map (either printed or in your head), picked a mid-way point, and then sought out for the snake roads—the ones that undulate through the landscape taking advantage of nature's best. Start your engine, hand the map to the navigator, and we off!

Now imagine that your first stop includes 17 other MINIs and they're all waiting for you to lead the way...

Next: Planning for a Group Run

WHERE DO MINI'S HANG OUT?

1. Sept. 12, Run to Rainer
2. Sept. 13, Edmonds Car Show
3. Sept. 27, XXX Car Show, Issaquah
4. Oct. 10, Spotted Cow Coffee
5. Oct. 31, S.N.E.W. Coffee Meet, Tukwila
6. Nov. 14 & 15, Coastal Run South, Oregon
7. Dec 5, NW Toy Run Pacific Raceways, Kent
8. Dec 13, PSMINI Xmas Party @ Seattle Mini
9. Mar 25-28, 2010 AMVIV VII, Las Vegas, NV
10. Sept. 26, 2010 XXX Car Show, Issaquah

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Woodstock Chirps

It is hard to believe November is here, the leaves are coming down, and time is marching on. This has been an amazing eight months and much has happened; some good and some bad, but all a part of the process. More people are involved as volunteers in shaping the club than ever before and I'm very proud and thankful to all that have worked to make this an even better club.

I want to extend my thanks to Liz Smart for picking up the role of Newsletter Editor with this issue and to Mark Talkington for doing so in the past. Liz has some great ideas and I love her enthusiasm! You'll see more on the forum about some of the other volunteers that are stepping up in various roles to continue to make this club a great experience.

Seattle MINI is now open and working with us to come up with some benefits for PSMINI Members. In the coming months watch for a special parking place designated for 'PSMINI Members' as well as Tech Sessions and new member referrals. We'll work on similar items at the Northwest MINI facility to provide a choice and something close to home.

Also, watch for volunteer opportunities to keep this club moving forward. If you have an idea or want to be involved in something, please send a message to psmini@psmini.org. If I haven't met you, I'd love to do so. Please catch up with me at an event or **come to the Christmas Party** and let's get to know one another!

Linda Grouell, PSMINI President

TOP TEN WITH JOHN FRIEND

'Top Ten with John Friend' is our featured PSMINI Member. John resides in Ephrata, WA with wife Candus and their Mini family. John has a generous nature of finding that unique Mini part, helping members diagnose mysterious chugga chugga engine noise, and has contagious sense of humor. Let's celebrate our awesome member with John Friends Top Ten!



1. **First Mini:** This is my first Mini it is a Royal Gray 2006 MCS. The interesting thing is that I had no idea until we took delivery of the car from the original owner that it's birth month is the same as mine. Like most guys most of my cars have always been a she or a her. But I knew right away this was a he and since it was the smartest car to date that I had owned. Since I like to experiment, it was a given to call it Einstein, but we finally decided to call him 'Albert'.
2. **Favorite Mini Moment:** There has been a lot of great moments with Albert. But to date I must say the favorite one was the 10 hour drive to Salt Lake City to pick him up and the 10 hour drive bringing him home.
3. **Super Charger or Turbo?** You had to ask. I am old school and by that I mean that all forced induction applied to a 4 cycle engine is super charging. To me a Super Charger is a pump that provides forced induction to the engine. Too much of the old knowledge has been lost to catchy phrases of today's motoring world. However, I will take it that you are asking if I like the blower or the turbo version of the Mini. I am old school and I love the sound of a Blower and it's belt winding up, if I wanted a Turbo I would have bought a WRX STI. LOL - yeah right!
4. **Best Mini Mod for the money?** To be fair, this needs to be broken down.
 - Performance: Gen 1: 'S' would be a pulley, 'Just a Cooper' FSD's or brakes and same with Gen 2: suspension or brakes.
 - Interior: that would be window tint and exterior clear bra for all.
 - Maintenance : The Fumoto valve www.quickoilrainvalve.com
5. **What makes a good Mini owner?** Pride and the Love to drive.
6. **Best decision in life?** To marry my wife Candus.
7. **Predictions for the future?** Two Minis in the family if not more.
8. **Worst Job?** That would be Far West Marine. Any owner that can - in front of its employees - hand out turkeys 5 days before Xmas and then bounce their payroll check the same week. Now there is a great place to work.
9. **Favorite Charity?** That would be which ever one Candus is donating to this year.
10. **Quote to live by:** "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." - Albert Einstein