



Time has certainly flown by since the year end issue of the newsletter and here it is almost June. Ed and Alma did a great job putting together a Spring issue, but it got delayed just a bit with some other activities going on at the board level and we didn't get it reviewed and edited as soon as we would have liked. We'll do a better job next time. Meanwhile, thanks again to the Silver Surfer Crew for putting this together!

It's been a busy few months and many changes have taken place. The club now owns our domain names, we've moved our website, made significant improvements to security and the home page (thanks to Roy Morey, our webmaster), and held the first open member meetings (one in Burien and one in Redmond). We've also had to take some unpleasant steps to protect club members, club assets, and allow us to move forward, but felt we had gotten to the point where we had no other choice. This is a club based on common interest and the desire to all have fun revolving around our MINIs and we want to maintain that for everyone.

So, now on to the summer driving/ showing/ parading season! We've already been involved in parades, road trips, racing events, wine tasting, donut visits, rallies and it's just May. As you read this, we have just completed a two day trip down to the Maryhill area, visiting Stonehenge, the wineries, and having an exclusive chance to drive the famous Maryhill Loops Road. There's more to come, so I encourage you to check out our calendar and join us!

You'll see more changes as we move forward for the remainder of the year. We have enhancements in mind for the web, a logo contest to come, planning efforts for club events. If you want to contribute and be involved, please let us know. We'd love to have your help as this is *your* club.

Linda Grouell, President, president@psmini.org

FRS RADIO BY GRAPE APE

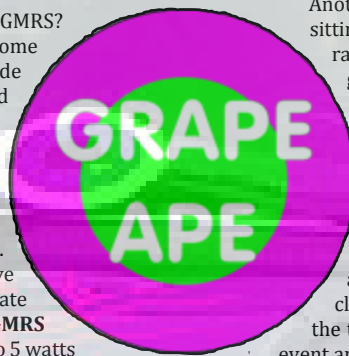
The question has been asked, what radio do we use to communicate between cars on our drives, and what radio do I need? We use FRS (low power) with sub audible/PL tones (privacy channels) given out on each drive. No license is required in the FRS (Low power) portions of these radios.

What is a FRS radio, and why do some of them also say FRS/GMRS? What is the sub audible/PL tones also called privacy channels on some brands? What's a Ham and why do they get to talk World wide distances on there hand held radios? How do I get one and do I need a license to operate one?

FRS -vs - GMRS -vs - Ham Radio

If you operate a radio that has been approved exclusively under the rules that apply to FRS, you are not required to have a license. FRS radios have a maximum power of 1/2 watt (500 mill watt) effective radiated power and integral (non-detachable) antennas. If you operate a radio under the rules that apply to GMRS, **you must have a GMRS license**. GMRS radios generally transmit at higher power levels (1 to 5 watts is typical) and may have detachable antennas.

A License for GMRS radios can be obtained through the FCC website for a fee of \$80 for a 5 year period. Form # 605. The FCC requires you obtain a free FRN number to do any business with them including obtaining a license. Details on FCC site www.fcc.gov



Both Radios are available from many manufacturers and many retail or discount stores. The manual that comes with the radio, or the label placed on it by the manufacturer, should indicate the service the unit is certified for. FRS radios usually have only 14 channels where as FRS/GMRS radios usually have 22 channels.

Another excellent option is the HAM radio. It's not the old man sitting at a desk with a Morse code key anymore. We have hand held radios the size and even smaller than the FRS/GMRS radios and give you endless possibilities on communications. From car to car without any interference, to using the free local repeaters to repeat your signal for long distance communications. You can even link them to your laptop and talk and send photos and video or many other forms of digital or analog transmissions world wide. A license is required but is only obtained by passing a basic technical test through the FCC. Just a little studying and you never pay that \$80 for five years again. There are many ham radio clubs in our area who offer classes that will help you pass your test and many of them give the test as well. Check out the mobile ham in the Grape Ape next event and I will be glad to give you a demo. We have at least 3 hams in the MINI club that I know of and one returning to Joint Lewis-McCord base soon.

I hope this has helped you understand all the options and what is required by the FCC to operate these radios. Please feel free to send me a PM if you have any other questions and I will do my best to help. As we say in Ham radio, 73s (Best wishes) and keep motoring.

PS MINI Partners

NW MINI
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Go Mini Go
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MINI HITCH MOD

by SOGGY-1

I am always modifying something and the MINI is no exception. Rather than using the stock roof rack and being forced to put the load off center, because the tow hook points for tying the bow and stern of the kayak are off center, I installed a receiver hitch to pull my kayak trailer.

When I was having the roof painted to match the pepper white body at Ken's Auto Body in Port Orchard, I also had the hitch frame installed since they had all the tools and the experience to remove the bumper. However, while they were working on the light module they forgot to disconnect the battery and quickly blew a fuse. I assisted in locating the illusive blown fuse in the passenger foot well.



The instructions/descriptions for the wire colors is not great, maybe it was written for GEN1 MINI's. Using a probe to identify light circuits works if you cannot see where the wire is going.

I have had no problems with this system so far. You have to get used to the idea that a trailer is hooked on the MINI and the hitch rattles a bit making for strange noises. This can be minimized

with some adjustment but not totally eliminated since some motion of the trailer tongue is needed to move in all directions.



large wheels and shocks on it but got lazy.

I have a Yakima trailer with an extended tongue for up to 21 foot long kayaks. I modified it (yes, another mod) and made a bracket for the bows of the kayaks to tie to, although not real tight since the trailer tongue does flex. This trailer is my second one for the MINI. The first one was a Trailex with small wheels, no shocks, and rode way too rough for me! The rest of the trailer was nice and I considered putting



I tow up to 2 kayaks, each weighing 55 pounds and the trailer itself weighs about 175 with the modifications I have made to it (total wt 285lbs). My MINI gets 35mpg while towing the kayaks @ 60mph on level freeway.

I have given thought to a MINI Teardrop trailer but my wife would frown... She prefers room service!

Happy Motoring!
Stephen



CANYONBALL RUN CONTINUED... allowing the supercharged motors to breathe in some of the cold, albeit thin air, and really scream. Continuing south we hooked up with route 89 taking us to the amazing colors and configurations of the rocks and strata of Bryce Canyon. The snow-covered scenery was a delight and gave everyone the opportunity to get out and stretch and take advantage of the endless opportunities to photograph the amazing landscape and rock formations. The day ended with our arrival in Kanab, Utah where the group enjoyed the old-west history of the old movie town along with dinner and drinks at The Rocking V where we took over the popular establishment and were schooled in the finer details of Utah's complex liquor laws.

On day 4 those who hadn't yet had enough of the amazing scenery doubled back for a morning drive through Zion National Park. The sheer red rock walls and varying formations were utterly stunning and included a mile long section of road bored through the side of the mountain. The ribbon of twisties ran right down the middle of the canyon floor offering reflections of the cliffs and peaks in the headwaters of the Virgin River. After exiting the park and picking up the late risers back in Kanab we ran into one of the only two MINI owners in Kanab who promptly

ran home and brought his MINI out for "show and tell". On his recommendation we saddled up and took alternate route 89 and headed off to the Colorado River and the South Rim of the Grand Canyon where we had the opportunity to watch the sunset from some of the many viewpoints along the south rim.

Day 5 gave some in the group the opportunity to get up extra early and watch the rising sun over the South Rim prior to departing on our final leg of the journey which took us down famous Route 66. Route 66 via Kingman, AZ was a reminder of the days before interstates and gave us glimpses into the past and what it was like to drive the roads less traveled. After a lunch stop at Mr. D's in Kingman the group motored its way to Las Vegas and AMVIV with an impromptu "street party" in the middle of route 93 approaching Hoover Dam and showing others that not even an hour delay due to road construction can get a group of MINI enthusiasts down! After 2,200 miles and 5 days of some of the most amazing scenery and roads traveled, the group rolled into Las Vegas to kick off AMVIV 7. Almost as soon as it ended plans were already in the works for Canyonball Part Deux in 2011. Pacific Coast Highway anyone?!?



COME JOIN THE FUN at PS MINI!

We are the leading MINI Motoring Club for the Puget Sound community. We organize MINI motoring events, meet-ups, and other activities, allowing us all to expand our enjoyment as MINI enthusiasts. Membership is \$25 per year. Paid members are covered by group liability insurance during our events and receive discounts from our PS MINI partners. For more information about the

club, email psmini@psmini.org. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our MINI Motoring adventures!

2010 Events Schedule:

- JUNE 5th - Charity Car Show in Puyallup
- JUNE 26th - 18th Annual Greenwood Car Show
- JUNE 28-Jul 1st - Mini Meet West 2010, Penticton BC
- JULY 10th - Hurricane Ridge Run
- JULY 24th - Western Washington All British Field Meet (honoring Mini)
- AUG 12-15th - Minis in the Mountains
- AUG 22nd - PSMini Family Picnic

- SEPT 4-6th - Portland All British Field Meet
- SEPT 18-19th - "Run to the Sea" Rally/Tour
- SEPT 26th - PSMini Annual Car Show @ XXX
- OCT 16th - Winged Victory Rally
- DEC 12th - PSMini Christmas Party



TOP TEN WITH "GUMBY"

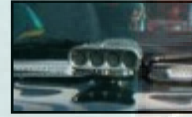
Byrne Kelly JR AKA Gumby is our featured PS MINI member for this spring issue. Gumby has been a PS MINI Motoring Club member since March 2007.

1. First Mini: 2006 Astro Black Metallic with Silver Roof, Sports Pkg, HK Stereo. The car had 10 miles on it when I bought it in January 2007, today it has 76,000 fun filled miles on it.



2. Favorite Mini Moment: GUMBY LIVES ties for 1st place in the 2009 XXX Mini Cooper Car Show.

3. Super Charger or Turbo? Neither but I have a Magna Flo exhaust system that sounds RADICALLY LOUD and as you can see in the XXX Car Show picture I have a Blower on my MINI.



4. Best Mini Mod for the money? Definitely the FLAMES on the sides and the hood. It cost \$600.00 and if I had a dollar for every picture that was taken of my car I could buy another one!

5. What makes a good Mini owner? A loving man and woman that make good parents like the way my Mom and Dad made me.

6. Best decision in life? The day I decided to buy a MINI COOPER.

7. Predictions for the future? "Every little thing is gonna be all right" (Bob Marley). When I die I want to be buried in My MINI.

8. Worst Job? Doing the speed limit all the way there.



9. Favorite Charity? The Ronald McDonald House. Ronald and me AKA GUMBY are TIGHT!

10. Quote to live by: "GUMBY LIVES AND I'M NOT POKEY" and "WHAT ME WORRY?"



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A MINI OWNER WHEN...



YOU KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE ONLY BY THIER "SCREEN NAMES"

PSMINI EVENT MOTORING BADGES

APRIL 24

MAY 22-23



29TH ANNUAL
TULIP RALLYE



RETURN TO
"THIS IS STONEHENGE"