



MINI vs. Porsche Food Challenge

Contributed by: Eric Werner

The debate has raged on for many years; which is better, MINI or Porsche? As with all things, it depends on your perspective, and your end goal. But that is not going to stop discussion from happening. Eventually something quantifiable needs to be done. And what better way to do that than to do something that helps those in need?

It is with that goal in mind that the MINI vs. Porsche Food Challenge was born. In 2011, we saw the second running of the challenge. To prepare for it, a few club members decided to have a drive to get to the drive, and met in Puyallup for a Jason's Restaurant breakfast. After all, one must keep up their strength when taking the "road less traveled" to get from Puyallup to Redmond.

After a brief driver meeting, nine MINIs started their way north. The route led everyone up to 58th PL S, a favorite short twisty that many don't know of. From there, the group worked their way to Auburn, and Lk Holm Rd., another short twisty. Next up was a brief pit stop on Snoqualmie Ridge, then a run down SR 202 into Redmond, with a big gathering for all cars.



And a big gathering it was. Over 100 cars, and well over 200 people milling about before the jump off to the donation site at Redmond Town Center. Learning from last year's challenge, Northwest Harvest was prepared with four labeled donation bins for each group. MINIs drove down one side, Porsches down the other. Volunteers were running up to each car to collect everything and anything they had. This may have been a few cans of soup to a whole boot filled to the brim. A particular favorite of the volunteers was the MINI Countryman, which can really pack in the boxes.

The final tally was 40 MINIs donating 3200 lbs. of food and \$3735 in cash donations. There were 88 Porsches donating 3200 lbs. of food and \$5575 in cash donations (\$2500 from the local chapter of the Porsche club). Grand total: 6400 lbs. of food and \$9510 all going to Northwest Harvest.

The debate still goes on. Did the Porsches win with more cash donations, or did MINIs win with an equal amount of food, but only half the vehicles? Personally, I think Northwest Harvest won, as the generosity of both marques came through in shining colors.

So mark your calendars for 12/1/12 est. to help us expand the Food Challenge this year.





Ridge Motorsports Park Contributed by: Don New

What could make a cold and rainy Saturday morning better than having breakfast with SSMINI friends followed by an orientation and tour of the new Ridge Motorsports Park, including a few warm laps around its road course? The answer is simple, 'not much', because it was an awesome event.

Eleven MINIs met early in Olympia. Chili-S led out thru the back roads of Mason County to the Little Creek Casino for breakfast. Good food and good friends. After we continued on to the Ridge Motorsports Park near Shelton we met up with Rod.

Rod gave us a briefing about the vision the owners have for the park and an update on the progress that has been thus far. Progress included the paving of the road course (main track) in early November. Other components to the Ridge will be a drag strip, groomed runoff, scoring towers, paved paddock and onsite fuel with creature comforts such as restrooms, rental garages and food service facilities.

Next on the agenda were a few warm laps around the recently paved road course. What a treat! The track is 2.5 miles long with 15 curves/turns and an awesome straightaway. We ran upwards to 70 mph and it was very easy to determine the track line.

Special thanks to SSMINI member Dave, for setting up this 'first car club on the track' event. Thanks to Rod of Ridge Motorsports Park, for the Orientation and tour, but especially the laps around the road course. We all had a great time!



NW MINI and Salish Sea MINI Christmas Party

The gathering began at 4:00 PM. NW MINI had moved all of the MINIs out of the showroom. The tables were festively decorated with center pieces and red linens. Tables were placed for the 'Silent Auction' contributions, for the food and White Elephant gifts. As we entered, the aroma of the Prime Rib and Turkey, provided so graciously by NW MINI, was heavenly. There was so much good food that if some one went home hungry, it was their own fault. The meal was served 'Pot Luck', but it looked like it could have been a '5 Star' restaurant. When it came to the desserts (if one had room for them) there were pies, cakes, Stolen and even fancy cupcakes with the MINI logo on them. Dave Stride provided home-brewed beer which was a big hit. Thanks Dave.



The evening's festivities included a magician who performed amazing card tricks (I believe there is still a card stuck to the ceiling), a mega raffle which Don New kept lively, fierce bidding on the silent auction items until the very end and the ever so popular 'White Elephant' gift exchange. Great fun, Great friends.



Many, many thanks go out to all who planned, contributed and executed this wonderful event; Judy-Jo and Mark Tyler, Dale Subitch, Linda Carignan, Jennifer Dempsey, Don New, Northwest MINI, MC2 Magazine, Griot's Garage and to all those who donated items for the Silent Auction where we raised more than \$1000.00. Many Thanks



SS MINI Member Spotlight!

Becki New, AKA 'kulbee' is our featured spotlight member for the Winter newsletter. She is also the club Secretary. I caught up with Becki in Olympia and asked her my usual tough MINI questions.

Lee: How did you come to own your MINI, and how did you decide on the color 'liquid yellow'?

Becki: I have always liked the 'liquid yellow' shade of yellow. Don saw a liquid yellow MINI for sale in California on North American Motoring, contacted the owner and worked a deal with the guy. He then flew down to Santa Cruz early one day, closed the deal and drove the car home. He was back home for dinner that night. We had the name and theme already for her when we got her. She only had 8,000 miles on the odometer and the owner claimed she had never seen rain or a parking lot until we got her. Don believed him because she was in the back of a garage under a car cover and looked and smelled like a new car.

Lee: What is your favorite part of owning a MINI?

Becki: I like a small car and this one fits just perfectly. I think the way they drive and ride is one of my favorite parts. I really enjoy taking trips in her. The only problem with taking her on trips is the packing for the trip. Not a lot of space for all the stuff I want to carry.

Lee: What modifications have you made to your MINI, and are there any others planned?

Becki: The mods we have made are mostly bling: such as a custom made bulldog head gear shift knob, hand painted pin striping and bee graphics and the Rota black wheels. The gear shift knob and graphics are two of my favorite bling mods. A few other mods include a Magnaflow exhaust system, Koni FSD's and a rear wing from a MINI 'S'. The only other mod planned at this time is the installation of a K&N High Flow Air Intake.



Lee: Where did you grow up and how did you end up in Olympia?

Becki: I grew up in a military family so I was all over. Don and I met in Phoenix, AZ

where he was an Army Recruiter. We got married and went wherever the Army sent us. After a tour in Germany, the Army sent us to Ft. Lewis where Don retired in 1988. We loved this area, so this is where we remained.

Lee: When you were younger, what did you want to be?

Becki: I actually had a couple of things I wanted to be. I wanted to be a lawyer and a dancer. I was always dancing as a teenager and thought that is what I wanted to do when I grew up. The law was always an interesting area for me and I wanted to be a lawyer or a paralegal.

Lee: What were you doing in 1984?

Becki: I was here working at Ft. Lewis. Don was still on active duty so we were working all the time.

Lee: Besides driving your MINI, what other hobbies or avocations do you have?

Becki: My other interests are my bulldogs. I enjoy showing my dogs. I got my first bulldog in 1994 and then in 2001, I got a female and decided to give showing a try. I found that I liked showing and in 2005 I finished my first champion. I have bred her twice and her first litter consisted of two girls and her second litter, two boys. I have also shown a number of other bulldogs. I am currently showing one of the boys from the second breeding of my champion. Once he is finished, I will be phasing out of dog shows.

Lee: That somehow seems fitting, Bulldogs and MINIs.

Lee: What is the best advice you ever received?

Becki: My mom was an English teacher. One thing she always told me was "never end a sentence with a preposition". That is one thing I am always quoting to Don when he ends a sentence with "at".

Lee: What are the top three things on your bucket list?

Becki: The top three things I want to do are: finish my bulldog's championship, retire in two years after 34 years with the Federal Government, and drive across the country in the MINI.



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SS MINI Upcoming Events

January

Second Saturday—Clarks Restaurant Artic, WA 14 Jan. 2012
Meeting place—Olympia, WA 9:30 AM

Quarterly Meeting 29 January 2012 11:00 AM, NW MINI

February

Second Saturday—February 11, 2012 Place TBD

March

Yet to be calendared Check the Website calendar



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Salish Sea MINI Motoring

Welcome

New Members this Quarter

We want to welcome Edward Smith of Maple Valley who brings a 2011 Chocolate/Black Countryman S to our group.

SS MINI Membership

c/o Becki New
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