MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why, when and where to buy a car. Those are the three biggies when I start pondering on the purchase of a new vehicle. Before I bought my MINI in May of 2006, I thought long and hard about the need for another car as well as what kind. This purchase was to be my commuter car and as such I had pretty much free reign with respect to what to buy. I did set some criteria; it had to get good gas mileage, it had to be relatively inexpensive and, for the first time ever, it had to be fun. So a convertible was a given.

I test drove a Mustang, Miata, Eclipse and a MINI — four very different cars that were all convertibles. I drove the MINI last but I think even if I had driven it first there was really no competition. The Eclipse was nice and powerful but the view out the back with the top up made the MINI’s seem like a picture window. Plus Mitsubishi is not what I would call a top-tier quality manufacturer. The Miata was fun, but I felt very small and unprotected. It did make runner-up on my list but it was rear wheel drive and I’ve seen too many rear wheel drive cars not make it up the hill by our house with snow. The Mustang offered tons of power (perhaps too much for its poor handling nature) but visibility was a huge issue. Not only could you not see out the back but the massive hood made the front view less then optimum as well. Plus you had the rear wheel drive issue in addition to the overstated middle-aged crisis image thing.

So the MINI proved to be that clear winner. Front wheel drive, fun, handling, inexpensive and there weren’t that many around. Also I had good experience with Ralph Schomp in the past so that was good. The downside was of course the wait (mine was 2 months) and the CVT automatic left a little to be desired for acceleration. But those things aside and rationalized, the MINI was selected and the rest, as they say, is history. So why did I bring up all this ancient history? Because my friends, it’s that time again.

Matilda, as I call my MINI, is approaching middle age. She is going to be 3 years old in July and by that time she will have close to 40,000 miles. That is my definition of middle age in automotive terms. So what to do; keep her till the wheels fall off or buy another car. And if the latter then do I go with another MINI or with something else? Don’t be shocked that I might actually consider going with a different manufacturer or at least brand. I think it is a very reasonable question and being an engineer I have a knack for taking all emotion out of an evaluation.

If I keep Matilda I will extend her warranty to 100,000 miles by paying about $1,800. Plus I need leather seats so that is another $2,000. Also despite my best efforts she has chips in her bonnet which is like acne on a prom queen - $500 for a repaint and then I should get the trim painted too so make that $1,000. My cost to keep this fine running car will be at least $4,800. Now if I trade her in on a new MINI I will probably get about $16,000 so add to that the $4,800 I would have spent had I kept her and suddenly the 2009 MCS Convertible of whom spec’s I save on MINI USA will only cost me about $20,000. A new car for only $20,000 — doesn’t take an engineer to figure that one out, but I do need some help convincing the educator in our house that logic was the prevailing method leading to this decision.

I have considered the BMW 135 but right or wrong I seem to see only kids driving their daddy’s money and old guys that just won’t let it go (even though their hair has). Audi has a very nice convertible or two in their line up but they are very pricey and really only a VW with different skin. Every other convertible I’ve looked at is either too much or not enough — dollars or performance. So it seems that again I have logically narrowed the field down to just a MINI. It was a good exercise though because I didn’t want to seem excessively zealous or emotionally loyal to the brand. On top of all that I do have another year left as your president and it just wouldn’t be right if I drove to the meetings in a convertible Hummer.

I’m sure I share these internal conversations with more then a few of you. We have that in common. Now I just need to figure out a way to get my teacher to let me go out to recess and play again.

Chuck Maybee
President,
MINI5280
SCOOTER GETS SPRINGS

TSW R56 Performance Springs by Don Suiter – spring installation by Umberto T.

When I ordered my MSCa in April 2007, I decided I wanted a softer suspension, so I did not opt for the sport or JCW spring suspension sets.

Little did I know that wheel gap on the R56 approaches SUV territory? So, I began my search for the proper set of springs with the right amount of road feel and a modest drop.

I did not want an extreme drop, not slammed to the pavement or even the common drops of 1.5 to 2 inches which can be achieved with some of the popular offerings like H&R, MACH V or any of the coilover variations from KW, Cross, Megan etc.

I was looking for firm ride, not harsh, great control and a linear construction versus the common progressive spring build. The factory JCW springs are linear in construction, but only allow a ½ inch drop on the R56 and are pretty stiff.

Texas Speed Works (TSW) offered a performance spring for the R53/R50 which received rave reviews. In April 2008, they announced a similar spring for the R56 was in development. I followed the thread on NAM (North American Motoring, http://www.northamericanmotoring.com/) and when they announced the retail version of the spring in late August, I purchased a set. Their advertised drop/lowering for the TSW R56 performance spring is 1 inch front and ½ inch rear.

Here is a Scooter’s picture very close to new with the webbies and stock springs (non sport) and the 4x4 look.

After purchasing the springs, my good friend Umberto (09 JCW) offered his services and work area to install the springs. Actually, Umberto did all the work on the installation, excellent job too. We have a set of these springs for his JCW after we use Scooter as the guinea pig (test MINI).

Install was pretty straight forward; it helps to have the correct tools and a lift. We even managed to get a professional spring compressor which made the installation safe. Springs can be dangerous if taken out of compression incorrectly.

Total time was 3 ½ hours of install time, Umberto’s first time for the MINI. Umberto took his time with the installation making sure we marked all the proper alignment items on the springs and struts. Some pictures of the spring installation.

This image above is right after installation. The springs need to settle for about 500 miles of which I have around 470 miles as of January 19, 2009.
Some of the lessons we learned are the springs need a good lubrication on the upper and lower rubber spring perches. For some reason my R56 perches were very dry and the new springs squeaked. We applied a good automotive German spray lube (not WD40) and the issue went away. In the first 200 miles I started to pick up a pop/flex noise. We found the spring was rubbing on the upper spring perch (metal to metal), so we replaced with a new spring provided by TSW at their cost of shipping both ways.

We did replace the right front spring for a clearance issue and the odd sound which was due to a loose upper sway bar link. The link was not loose due to the installation of the springs but some of my CSP track lapping adventures. Check your nuts and bolts before a track day as part of your safety procedure.

The actual pop/flex issue was a combination of the metal to metal rub and my loose upper sway bar link.

The lesson I learned was even though we did not take that link off at the upper mount point, it saves aggravation to tighten everything. Check everything twice and check them again, to ensure all the nuts and bolts are tightened to specification.

We found the folks at TSW are great to work with on purchase, replacement and quality. The R56 springs are great on Scooter, the ride height is not slammed, but you can see that Scooter is sitting a little lower that the stock height 09 JCW R56, then again you can’t from the picture in the next column, but I like it.

Ride in comparison to my base R56 suspension is firm, very tight. I will probably take my Hotchkiss 19mm rear-sway to the softest setting as the new springs have minimal lean. In my opinion the ride is better than stock and not as harsh as sport or JCW or some of the slammed coilover setups. My real test will be after 600 or so miles and an alignment by Schomp and a set of new tires which are sitting on the shop floor. I plan on taking advantage of a lapping Friday at the new High Plains Raceway (HPR) this spring; I think the TSW springs will be a great advantage.

Anyone who wants to take a test ride and/or drive let me know, perhaps at one of our MINIS280 future rides or HPR at an open lapping day.
MINI5280 AFTER THE HOLIDAYS PARTY

Warm and cozy Mount Vernon Country Club was the setting for the MINI5280 After The Holidays Party, Jan. 28th. Without the stress of the previous holiday season, close to 50 people, enjoyed a tasty dinner of beef, chicken, eggplant parmesan and all the fresh fixings with fellow MINI5280 club members and their families. And the deserts (many to choose from) were to die for! Thanks to increased membership dues received in 2008, MINI5280 was able to pickup over 50% of the dinner cost at this beautiful foothills location.

A photo slide show (with music), expertly produced by Chuck Maybee, provided reminders of the many activities enjoyed by many members throughout the past year. The show consisted of events such as Snowball Rallye, Wide Wound Walden Ride, Tweet Me to Some Twisties, MINIs In The Mountains 3, Yalla Yalla and more -- all sponsored and organized by MINI5280 members and officers. The slide show sparked many a conversation, question or comment from the audience. The general consensus was that we all owe a big thank you to those who grabbed the ball and ran with it in 2008, dreaming up creative and fun group events for all to enjoy. It is hoped that the images of last year’s group activities will inspire more folks to participate in this year’s upcoming events, including organizing and brainstorming. Keep those ideas coming and help your fellow club member with the arrangements! It’s easy and fun.

No party would be complete without prizes, so a slew of door prizes were awarded to various people, including the youngest future MINI driver, Fred Alig’s son. NAM Calendars and a plush MINI toy were handed out, but the big prize of the night went to Teena and Rich Craighill. They motored home (hopefully with the top down) with a nice black Cabin Trolley (luggage), from the MINI Motoring Gear “Go Fast” collection. Finally, the all-new, official MINI5280 magnetic grille badge was unveiled, with one given to each ATHP attendee.

By Rick Gonzales
# Meet Your Members - Mike Gleason

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th>Whitlow Wong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MINIs Name-Color And Purchase Info** | Mini Toy; purchased at Ralph Schomp  
Chili Red with white top |
| **Spouse / Year Married** | Eleanor |
| **Is she a MINI Mania?** | Yes |
| **Children** | Melissa and Tiffany, twins. They are both students at CU in Denver |
| **Grandchildren** |  |
| **Address** | 5379 S. Olathe Circle, Centennial |
| **Mods** | K & N Filter, M7 Brace |
| **Employer / Type** | Walgreens Pharmacy |
| **Position** | Pharmacist |
| **Hobbies** | MINI |
| **Greatest Achievement Since College** | Retirement |
| **Favorite MINI Memory** | Getting lost on MINI rides |
| **Favorite Songs** | Take Five; Blue Rondo Ala Turk |
| **MINI History** | Joined MINI5280 in 2005 |
ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE INLAND NORTHWEST MINI CLUB

Dear fellow MINI/Mini Enthusiast,

I am writing representing the Inland Northwest MINI club. We are located in eastern Washington and north Idaho. Over the past year, in conjunction with Mt2 Magazine, we have been exploring the possibility of holding a MINI/Mini event in our area in 2009. After much research and investigation we have elected to hold this event now called MiNiFest.

The purpose of this letter is to assess the interest your club may have in attending this event for planning purposes only, and are in no way seeking a firm commitment of attendance. We have so far established firm dates and a tentative event schedule.

The event will be based in beautiful north Idaho in the resort community of Coeur d’Alene on August 19th through the 21st. (Coeur d’Alene is located just across the border from Spokane, Washington). We are not using this event as any sort of fundraiser and only hope to recoup costs. Our intent is keep entry fees in the $100 to $125 ranges, per car and one driver (additional costs might be necessary for 2nd person attending such items as the boat cruise and awards dinner, however, they will be kept as low as possible).

MiNiFEST EVENTS:

Wednesday August 19th:
Meet and greet continental breakfast
Trade shows open at host hotel
11am: Show & Shine at Silverwood Theme Park
Silverwood is beautiful theme park located just north of Coeur d’Alene. All cars with Driver and one passenger will receive all day entrance to the park. The Show & Shine will officially close at 3pm but encourage those who wish to stay until closing. This is a very family friendly place! For more information http://www.silverwoodthemepark.com

Thursday August 20th:
Funkana – location TBD
Autocross – location TBD

Thursday evening - Boat cruise on Lake Coeur d’Alene. The Coeur d’Alene resort operates a fleet of cruise boats on the lake. Our cruise will be approximately 2 hours with music and a no host bar. For more information http://www.cdaresort.com/activities/lake_cruises.

Friday August 21st:
Photo Rally - on the back roads of North Idaho around another of our beautiful bodies of water – Hayden Lake.
Farewell dinner and awards banquet.

OPTIONAL EVENTS:

Tuesday, August 18th – This is an optional event at an additional cost than shown above.
High Performance Driving School. This school places an instructor in your car for a full day of closed course driving. In between runs there will be classroom instruction on aspects learned on the track. The event will be help on the 2.5 mile closed course racetrack located at Spokane County Motorsports Park. For more information you can go to http://www.iemw.org/driving_schools.html. Cost for this event will be in the $250 to $300 range. Again, this will be an optional event.

Thursday (tentative):
Tour of the Buck Knife Factory and visit to Cabela’s Outdoor Store and/or a drive around Lake Coeur d’Alene. This is approximately 3 hours of beautiful country and great driving roads.
Also, for those not interested in attending some the events, the area offers outstanding opportunities for shopping and recreation. For more information on the area please visit these great websites: http://www.coeurdalene.org/index.asp?PageId=343 http://www.visitspokane.com/visitorpages/index.php?id=6

Please gauge your personal interests and let us know if you might attend. A full informational web site for more information and registration will be up by years end. If you know of any other clubs that would be interested please let me know their e-mail information and I will certainly get them added.

For more information please contact
Gayle White
Club and Planning Committee Secretary
inlandwnminiclub@hotmail.com
www.inlandnwminis.com
HIGH PLAINS RACEWAY ANNOUNCES

Don't be black flagged on Valentines Day!

Valentine Day is coming SOON. Have you figured out what you're going to do for your sweetheart? No? Well, here's the perfect solution.

HPR is sponsoring the First Annual Valentine Grand Prix. This is a great opportunity to take your sweetheart out for a nice evening, enjoy the wine, food and camaraderie. Food provided complements of the Avenue Grill.

You might even want to buy a nice Valentine present at the silent auction. Auction items aren't just car stuff -- jewelry, gift baskets, Spa certificates, etc. Pamper yourself and your sweetheart.

And the net proceeds of the evening benefit HPR! What's not to like?

When: Saturday February 7th
Time: 6:00 - 10:00 (registration 6:00 - 7:00)
Where: At the fabulous Motorsports Gallery located at 2669 Larimer. (Map)

for ticket information and reservations. No tickets sold at the door, so sign up now and circle you calendar for Saturday February 7th.

This isn't just a "car" evening. So invite your non-gearhead friends. The more the merrier. In fact, you can easily sign up on our website www.HighPlainsRaceway.com
Registration for MINI Meet East meets West 2009 is now open! The event will be in Winona, Minnesota starting the evening of June 29, and going through July 2, 2009. Go to: http://www.minimeet09.org/ click the registration button, and follow the instructions from there.

Registration is being done on-line and you can pay on-line by credit card through PayPal (you do not have to join PayPal to do this) or you can pay by check through the mail if you are not comfortable with on-line payments. When you have filled out the registration form click on the PayPal symbol for credit card payment or on the mailbox symbol for payment by check. Either way, you will get a confirmation email listing your choices. If you choose to pay by check, payment details will come with your confirmation email.

We’re planning a great event with a lot to do this year. Here are the plans:

Monday, June 29th is check-in starting at 1:00 PM at the Riverport Hotel. Mini vendors will be present all during the car show. That evening there will be a welcome reception in the hotel’s ballroom. A great chance to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Tuesday, June 30th is the car show at St. Mary’s University followed by the panoramic photo. Tuesday evening we’ll be celebrating the Mini’s 50th Birthday at the bandshell in the park in Winona with a live band, cake and soft drinks.

Wednesday, July 1 is Autocross and Funkhana day at Southeast Tech University. They have a great track for the Autocross and drivers should have a ball. With time constraints, we need to limit spaces in the Autocross to 150 so be sure to sign up early. Since spaces are limited in the Autocross, we are making that event a la carte for meet registrants. The wacky hijinks of the Funkhana will be held nearby and should provide a great time for all. In between the two venues, there will be vendors setting up shop along with several planned tech sessions. Wednesday evening will be "Cruise Night" at the local drive-in.

The Rally will be held on Thursday, July 2, and with all the scenic river bluffs throughout the area, it will prove to be an unforgettable drive in the countryside on some great "MINI" roads. Thursday evening is the awards banquet featuring some great food, fascinating speakers and door prizes.

We’re looking forward to a great time and hope all of you can come to the meet in Winona, Mini-sota!
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MOTORING SOCIETY OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION  February 2009

DAYTONA PARTY

Date:  February 15, 2009
Time:  1:30 p.m.

Place:  COOLEYVILLE
11945 W Temple Drive
Morrison, CO 80465
303-933-9339

Call for Directions

Entry Fee:  Bring a favorite dish
(Beer, Soda & Chris’ Chili provided)

Please RSVP by
February 13, 2009

The Lotus Club of Colorado (LOCO) is inviting members of MINI5280 and Minis of the Rockies (MOTR), as well as other auto enthusiasts, to participate in their inaugural Track Day at the new High Plains Raceway on June 28, 2009. The goal is to get 50-60 cars, with 60 being the maximum, to spread the costs of track rental. Prior track experience is not required; there will be track familiarization and driver instructors briefing beforehand. The only requirements will be safety helmets (loaners available) and long sleeve shirts. Convertibles with roll bars (i.e. Mini Cooper) are OK. Run groups will be made up of drivers/cars of similar experience and capability. The track will be open all day so there will be plenty of track time. For further info on HPR, go to highplainsraceway.com.

The cost will be $100-125, depending on number of cars, and if a minimum is not reached they will refund deposits. A deposit of $100 is required with the Request for Entry. LOCO is asking that Request for Entries be submitted by about FEB 15. It is early because they have to make a firm reservation with advance deposit to hold the June 28 date.

Dick Shearer will be at the Dyno event Feb 7 and the next meeting Feb 14 with Request for Entry forms and to answer any questions. If you don’t get a form, you can mail a check with info on you and your car direct to John Arnold, who is running the Track Day. Dick is a member of MOTR and LOCO and believes both the Mini folks and the Lotus folks will have a great time at HPR. If you have any questions, please call him.

Dick Shearer
303-789-1658

John Arnold -Lotus Colorado
15409 W.55th Ave.
Golden CO 80403
MINIS GO TO YELLOWSTONE

It has been a while since I’ve toured Yellowstone. Many of you have indicated that you have never been to our nation’s first national park. To rectify both situations MINI5280 is planning a ride to Yellowstone.

We will leave Denver on Friday morning June 5th and drive to Cody, WY via some really swell twisty, lonely roads. After bunking for the night in Cody we will hit the park and do a figure eight on the loop roads before heading back to Cody for the night. This is only about 300 miles but with lots of photo opportunities it will take us all day. Some may want to spend the night in the park either camping or in one of the lodges. My advise is to book early.

The next day we will skirt the southern edge of the park and travel to Jackson Hole. There are some nice scenic roads between Cody and Jackson but we should arrive early enough to do some window shopping and perhaps drink an adult beverage or two. A few folks are planning on heading north out of the park and go to Glacier park in Montana.

Finally on Monday morning we will leave Jackson and drive back to Denver via Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Craig Colorado. This should be a fun relaxing drive with nice roads and excellent scenery. So join us if you can and learn more on our NAM thread: www.northamericanmotoring.com/forums/mini5280/154506-mgty2009-minis-go-to-yellowstone.html

This is a MYOR (make your own reservations) trip so here are some useful links:

www.yellowstonepark.com

www.travelyellowstone.com

So make your vacation plans and reservations as soon as you can to ensure time off and rooms.
FEARS OVER EARTHQUAKE “SWARM” AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Mike Harvey in San Francisco

Hundreds of earthquakes have hit Yellowstone National Park, raising fears of a more powerful volcanic eruption. The earthquake swarm, the biggest in more than 20 years, is being closely monitored by scientists and emergency authorities. The series of small quakes included three last Friday which measured stronger than magnitude 3.0. The strongest since this latest swarm of quakes began on December 27 was 3.9. No damage has yet been reported but scientists say this level of activity - there have been more than 500 tremors in the last week - is highly unusual. “The earthquake sequence is the most intense in this area for some years,” said the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory. Some of the larger earthquakes have been felt by park employees and guests, according to the observatory.

The swarm is occurring beneath the northern part of Yellowstone Lake in the park. Yellowstone sits on the caldera of an ancient supervolcano and continuing geothermal activity can be seen in the picturesque geysers and steam holes, such as Old Faithful.

About 1,000 to 2,000 tremors a year have been recorded since 2004. The most devastating earthquake in recent history in the Yellowstone region occurred on August 17, 1959, when a magnitude 7.1 earthquake hit. It was centered near Hebgen Lake, Montana and it caused landslides that killed 28 people and caused more than $11 million in damage.

Geyser in Yellowstone National park changed eruption times, and new ones began to erupt. On June 30, 1975, a magnitude 6.4 tremor hit the park. Professor Robert B. Smith, a geophysicist at the University of Utah and one of the leading experts on earthquake and volcanic activity at Yellowstone, said that the swarm was significant. "It's not business as usual," he said. "This is a large earthquake swarm, and we've recorded several hundred. We are paying careful attention. This is an important sequence."

The last full-scale explosion of the Yellowstone Supervolcano, the Lava Creek eruption which happened approximately 640,000 years ago, ejected about 240 cubic miles of rock and dust into the sky. Geologists have been closely monitoring the rise and fall of the Yellowstone Plateau as an indication of changes in magma chamber pressure.

The Yellowstone caldera floor has risen recently - almost 3in per year for the past three years - a rate more than three times greater than ever observed since such measurements began in 1923. From mid-summer 2004 through to mid-summer 2008, the land surface within the caldera moved upwards as much as 8in at the White Lake GPS station. The last major earthquake swarm was in 1985 and lasted three months. The observatory said similar swarms have occurred in the past without triggering steam explosions or volcanic activity. However, the observatory said there is some potential for explosions and that earthquakes may continue and increase in intensity. Joe Moore, director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, said his office is tracking the events at Yellowstone on a minute-by-minute basis. "It's being followed very closely," Mr Moore said.
A MINI VACATION IN VEGAS (AMVIV6)

Hi everyone.
This year, the registrations are opening a little later than in past years, all my fault. I’ve been busy with non-AMVIV things and not getting everything done that needed doing. However, as of 12/23/08, registrations are open.

If you go to http://www.amviv.com/reg.htm and fill in the demographic page, when you click the “submit” button, you will be taken to the page where you can add the items you want to buy. Please add everything you want to your shopping cart then pay. You will receive a confirmation email from Paypal if you use Paypal, and another confirmation email from Pedro once we get your payment. If you don’t get the confirmation from Pedro, we didn’t get your payment and you aren’t registered. It might take a day or 2 for Pedro to get the confirmations out. If you have any problems with the registration or payment process, please email me at Agro42@gmail.com.

If you don’t want to pay online, please fill in the demographic page and add everything you want to buy to a shopping cart, then PRINT THE CART and the DEMOGRAPHIC PAGE and mail them with your check to:

Sin City MINI Club
AMVIV VI Registration
287 Hampton Ridge Ct
Henderson, NV 89002

Please make sure you include your email address so that Pedro can email you your confirmation, or to clarify any issues with your registration.

Vendor registrations are also open. If you plan on being a vendor at AMVIV6, please go to http://www.amviv.com/reg_vend.htm and do basically the same procedure as above. Please make sure to contact Larry on Lsimpson@litelv.com to verify everything before signing up as a vendor.

It says it on the registration pages, but just to clarify, please note the following:

You cannot pre-purchase any AMVIV items unless you purchase either a car or vendor registration. Any purchases that do not include a registration will be cancelled and refunded.

Tickets to the Saturday evening banquet will ONLY BE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE WEBSITE. There will be no dinner tickets available in Las Vegas.

The shirt and hat combo deal (shirt and hat for $25) is only available as a pre-purchase through the website. Shirts and hats will be $15 each in Las Vegas.

If you want to guarantee getting your shirt size, pre-purchase is the way to go. We order extra shirts in assorted sizes, but if you wear a popular size and it is sold out when you arrive, you will miss out.

I’m sure I forgot a few important items, so keep an eye out for more emails in the next few days and months.

See you in Vegas!

Andrew Ross aka Agro
President, Sin City MINI Club www.SinCityMINIClub.com
Organizer, A MINI Vacation In Vegas www.AMVIV.com
**ANOTHER SPRING MOTORING OPPORTUNITY**

Announces it's first ever event, and you are invited:

- May 15, 16 and 17 2009
- "Meetup at Mt. Rushmore"
- Hosted by a diverse group of MINI friends (all former Dragon attendees)
- Anyone is welcome
- Groups will be attending from Markel MINI in Omaha (Coopers of Omaha and Rural Nebraska aka C.O.R.N.) and Baron MINI in KC (KCMiniacs) and Stl MINI (MINIs of St. Louis) and Ralph Schomp MINI (MINI5280)
- Colorado MINIs will drive thru Alliance, NE (Carhenge) for pictures then meetup with the others in Rapid City, SD.

Further details will be announced. Subscribe to this thread if you want to stay in touch.

Jonathan along with Jim and Doug, your other hosts

JSP

Check out this thread for more information in the weeks to come

www.northamericanmotoring.com/forums/mini5280/156522-high-plains-motoring.html
RIDE MAKERZ / BUILD-A-BEAR FOR BOYS........

There is this shop in Chicago called Ride Makerz and thought members might find it interesting... It’s essentially the “build-a-bear” for boys... with cars... So you pick a base model... decide if you want to make it a model or a remote control car, add sounds, accessories, lights, engines, rims, tires, decals etc etc etc... then you sit at a work desk with a “air drill” and put the thing together... and they’re reasonably priced!! They have roughly 4-5 different MINI models and thought they could make a “killing” having people customize their own at one of our events... like MiTM4.

http://www.ridemakerz.com/
MEMO

NEXT CLUB MEETING

7:00 PM TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

The Tavern at Lowry
7401 E. 1st. St.
Denver, CO 80230
Phone: (303) 366-0007

http://www.tavernhospitalitygroup.com/lowry

We will discuss upcoming motoring opportunities, Dyno day results as well as awards presentation and the new MINI5280 Facebook page.

Free parking is available around the building and adjacent lots

Chuck Maybee
President, MINI5280
Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts is pleased to announce the 2009 Wine Country British & European Car Show to be held at the legendary Fred Stoke Ranch in the heart of the Sonoma County Wine Country, just south of Windsor on Sunday, August 23, 2009. The show will open its gates promptly at 9:30am for early bird arrivals but the event is scheduled to last from 10am to 5 PM. The show is open to all British and European built or tagged vehicles, both classic and contemporary for a traditional car show on the grassy field beneath towering oaks on the Stoke Ranch.

The registration cost is $25 if received before August 1st and will increase to $30 afterwards and on the day of the event. On-site spectator parking is available for $2 per car and there is no cost to the public to view the vehicles. No off-site parking is allowed on Old Redwood Highway.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Safari West Wildlife Foundation operating north east of Santa Rosa.

There will be live jazz music, vendors, BBQ food and wine tasting available to participants and visitors. Dash plaques will be given to the first 100 entries and an awards ceremony will start at about 3:30 PM.

Fred Stoke's Redwood Highway ranch is a Luddite's tribute to a bygone era when gas was pumped in tall glass cylindrical tanks and oil was sold in bottles. Collecting for only about a decade, the former business contractor has amassed a sprawling yard full of historical treasures. Art classes have been known to camp out on his front yard and paint pictures of the mock General Store he built to house his thousands of vintage oil cans, the Signal gas station he salvaged from the corner of Fifth and Wilson streets in San Rosa (back when gas was less than a quarter) and the hard-to-miss horse-drawn farming implements that act as a fence.

Location: 5525 Old Redwood Highway, between Fulton and Shiloh roads. Exit US-101 at Shiloh Road and turn right onto Shiloh Road. Drive east ¼ mile and turn right on Old Redwood Highway. The Stoke Ranch is about ½ mile south on the right side of the road.

For additional information:

- see our website at: http://redwoodempiremini.com
- email: carshow@redwoodempiremini.com
CLASSIFIEDS

2005 MINI Cooper

This vehicle has been kept in pristine condition and has a brand-new windshield and brand-new all-season tires that will be mounted just prior to the sale. In average driving, we have seen 33 MPG and up to 40 MPG on the highway. The Cooper also includes the factory warranty until 1/8/2009, so an extended warranty can be purchased until then. We are selling because we placed an order for a 2009 Cooper S Clubman!

**Paint**: Purple Haze Body Color Black Roof/Chrome Mirrors Black Bonnet Stripes

**Packages**

**Cold Weather Package**: Heated Front Seats, Heated Side Mirrors, Heated Washer Jets

**Premium Package**: Automatic AC, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, On-Board Computer, 3-Spoke w/Cruise and Multifunction

**Performance**: 16” V-Spokes w/All Season Tires, Front Fog Lamps, Rear Fog Lamp, 6-Speed Getrag Manual, Xenon Headlamps w/Power Wash

**Cockpit**: Sport Seats, Leatherette: Black, Anthracite Headliner, Int. Surface Anthracite, 6-spkr AM/FM CD Player, XM Direct Radio

**Exterior Accessories**: Clear Bra (Bumper, Hood, Xenons, Foglights, Parking lights)

**Interior Accessories**: 30% Window Tinting, MINI Rubber Floor Mats (front & rear), MINI Black Carpet Floor Mats (front & rear)

**Lighting Accessories**: MINI European White Indicator Taillights, MINI White Sidemarkers, MINI Driving Lamps

44,500 miles

**Asking $17,495 OBO** (NADA Retail $17,825  KBB Retail $18,565 )

Please contact me via email at mrdirosa@dirosafamily.com or at 303-378-9496 (mobile).
CLASSIFIEDS

2004 MINI Cooper S Limited Edition MC-40,

# 531/1,000 USA, 113000 miles, excellent condition, always had its maintenance on recommended schedule, 1 owner, garaged, Chili Red, red-&-black leather seats, 1
7-inch multi-spoke alloy wheels in anthracite gray & polished aluminum, all-season run-flat tires, sport package, on-board computer,
Xenon headlamps, front & rear fog lights, carbon fiber dash, all-weather rubber floor mats, 2 magnetic # 37s, auxiliary gauge package, chrome package, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, A/C, anti-lock brakes, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), keyless entry, manual 6 speed transmission, and more.

"To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the original Mini Cooper's win at Rallye Monte Carlo in 1964, Mini released 1,000 limited-edition "MC 40" cars. The winning driver, Paddy Hopkirk, autographed them."

sharon@dnsbliss.com
$16,000 OBO
CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale – 2007 MCS CR/B $28,000 OBO

This is my personal car, which I special ordered from MINI. I received the car in March of 2007. I have upgraded the car with street oriented performance parts. The upgrades include:

- Performance Wheels/Tires (silver Kosei K1/Bridgestone RE01R or black Team Dynamics/RE01R)
- Webb Motorsports Extreme Rear Swaybar
- H&R Springs
- Webb Motorsports front camber plates
- Webb Motorsports rear aluminum adjustable camber arms
- Webb Motorsports cold air intake
- Milltek downpipe with high flow catalyst
- Milltek/Webb Motorsports cat-back exhaust
- Custom GIAC/Webb Motorsports ECU tuning
- Redline oil
- Redline Water Wetter
- Redline MTL
- Motul brake fluid
- Carbotech front brake pads (stock included)
- Vinyl Styles (VS) blacked out grill
- VS blacked out headlight rings
- VS blacked out belttine
- VS blacked out tail light rings
- Aesthetic Creations black side marker housings

The car was ordered with the factory Limited Slip Differential, the Sport suspension, Multi-Function Steering Wheel in leather, Lounge Leather interior option, Anthracite headliner, Piano Black dash, and Rooster Red dash line. The car is Chile Red with a Black Roof. I have the stock suspension which is included with the car. I also have the stock intake and downpipe, and the intake includes an Alta foam filter element.

I am the owner of Webb Motorsports, and I love these cars. This car is totally set up, waxed over and over, not a ding on it, and I have changed the oil at 5000 mile increments with Redline and bled the entire brake system twice with Motul. The car currently has 14,750 miles. It gets 32 MPG on average with both highway and city driving. It has never been in an accident.

I have dyno sheets for the car, weight sheet (it was built with light weight in mind - no sunroof or Xenon lights), original window sticker, and full alignment specs. The picture does not show the car in its current state with the VS black out bits.

Please email for quickest response - I doubt this will last long. The price is $28,000 OBO  randy@webbmotorsports.com or randybmc@gmail.com

Location: Highlands Ranch
MINI Cooper Suitcases

2 luggage with wheels/pull-handle. Also can be worn as a backpack. Both together take up about 1/2 the boot. Almost brand-new. Used once in the car for a weekend trip and once as carry-on luggage. Always stored in plastic bags. In perfect, clean condition. 1 for $74obo or both for $139obo. Contact sharon@dnsbliss.com.

Custom MINI Shift Knobs

2002-2006 Mini Cooper Shift Knobs. $40.00 Shipped. Custom made from pool balls. Locks on with a dowel pin and set screws, will not spin.

e-mail me at bryansusanw@hotmail.com

If you have any items for our classified section please email a description, price and photo(s) to:

Newsletter@MINI5280.org

Kellen Russell from Craven Speed has informed MINI5280 that they will be extending a year-long discount to all MINI5280 Club members off any product ordered from them. All you have to do is enter code *M528009* in the discount box on the online order form. The code will work any number of times and is good all year long.
For Sale – MITM Plaques $15

These plaques are made by a MINI5280 member out of aluminum. They are engraved with the MITM logo and yet do not include a year so they are in fact timeless.

These are perfect for mounting in the engine bay, dash or bumper and include their own adhesive backing.

Contact: Bryan Williamson at bryansusanw@hotmail.com

Jean Allais (NAM: eeyore) has published a cookbook full of fun recipes, witty humor and over 80 photographs of MINIs.

If you can cook, know someone who can, can correctly identify a stove from a microwave or can spell meringue – this book is for you.

Given my “if it don’t come in a can, it don’t go in this man” philosophy of culinary arts, even I have found the recipes easy to follow with superb results. For example my favorite on page 30:

**Single Malt Highland Scotch**

*Ingredients:*
1 Bottle Single Malt Highland Scotch

*Directions:*

Order via PayPal for $20 which includes postage: just jean@bresnan.net
BY THE NUMBERS - 2008: PHEW! GLAD THAT'S OVER EDITION

by John Neff on Jan 5th 2009 at 7:29PM

We didn't know sales for the U.S. auto industry in 2008 would be this bad when the year began, but it sure ended on a fitting note. Over the past six months or so we've seen the U.S. auto sales market nearly collapse and almost take our own domestic auto industry with it.

Nevertheless, there were a couple of standouts. Both MINI and Subaru somehow managed to post sales gains in 2008 compared to the previous year. The success of MINI is likely due to production capacity more than popularity, but we have no explanation for Subaru other than its sales staff is more persuasive than at your average car dealership.

As for the big dogs, despite the whole lot of them being hit equally hard over the past few months, Japanese automakers had a stronger first half of 2008. As such, their year-end sales data looks better than the domestics with Toyota being the worst performing Japanese automaker at -15.4% and Honda fairing the best with a drop of just 7.91%. In comparison, Ford Motor Company (-20.7%) and General Motors (-22.9%) were equally unimpressive while the Chrysler Group hemorrhaged sales and finished down a full 30%.

As for the rest of the auto industry, it's all on the next page and it isn't pretty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acura</td>
<td>-19.8%</td>
<td>144,504</td>
<td>180,104</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audi</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
<td>87,760</td>
<td>93,506</td>
<td>-6.4%</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMW</td>
<td>-15.2%</td>
<td>249,113</td>
<td>293,795</td>
<td>-15.5%</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buick</td>
<td>-26.2%</td>
<td>137,197</td>
<td>185,791</td>
<td>-26.4%</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadillac</td>
<td>-24.9%</td>
<td>161,159</td>
<td>214,726</td>
<td>-25.2%</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chevrolet</td>
<td>-20.5%</td>
<td>1,801,131</td>
<td>2,265,641</td>
<td>-20.8%</td>
<td>5,848</td>
<td>7,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysler</td>
<td>-38.3%</td>
<td>335,108</td>
<td>543,011</td>
<td>-38.5%</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>1,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodge</td>
<td>-25.9%</td>
<td>784,113</td>
<td>1,058,402</td>
<td>-26.2%</td>
<td>2,546</td>
<td>3,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>-19.7%</td>
<td>1,687,731</td>
<td>2,101,244</td>
<td>-19.9%</td>
<td>5,480</td>
<td>6,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>-25.5%</td>
<td>376,996</td>
<td>505,746</td>
<td>-25.7%</td>
<td>1,224</td>
<td>1,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honda</td>
<td>-6.4%</td>
<td>1,284,261</td>
<td>1,371,438</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
<td>4,170</td>
<td>4,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMMER</td>
<td>-50.9%</td>
<td>27,485</td>
<td>55,986</td>
<td>-51%</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyundai</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infiniti</td>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>112,989</td>
<td>127,038</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeep</td>
<td>-29.7%</td>
<td>333,901</td>
<td>475,237</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>1,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kia</td>
<td>-10.5%</td>
<td>273,397</td>
<td>305,473</td>
<td>-10.8%</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexus</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>260,087</td>
<td>329,177</td>
<td>-21.2%</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>1,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
<td>107,295</td>
<td>131,487</td>
<td>-18.7%</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazda</td>
<td>-10.9%</td>
<td>263,949</td>
<td>296,110</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercedes-Benz</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
<td>225,128</td>
<td>253,433</td>
<td>-11.5%</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>-28.6%</td>
<td>120,248</td>
<td>168,422</td>
<td>-28.8%</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINI</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
<td>54,077</td>
<td>42,045</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi</td>
<td>-24.6%</td>
<td>97,257</td>
<td>128,993</td>
<td>-24.8%</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nissan</td>
<td>-10.9%</td>
<td>838,361</td>
<td>941,200</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>3,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontiac</td>
<td>-25.3%</td>
<td>267,348</td>
<td>358,022</td>
<td>-25.6%</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>1,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porsche</td>
<td>-25%</td>
<td>26,035</td>
<td>34,693</td>
<td>-25.2%</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saab</td>
<td>-34.7%</td>
<td>21,368</td>
<td>32,711</td>
<td>-34.9%</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>-21.7%</td>
<td>188,004</td>
<td>240,091</td>
<td>-21.9%</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subaru</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>187,699</td>
<td>187,208</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzuki</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyota</td>
<td>-14.6%</td>
<td>1,957,575</td>
<td>2,291,648</td>
<td>-14.9%</td>
<td>6,356</td>
<td>7,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volkswagen</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
<td>223,128</td>
<td>230,572</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volvo</td>
<td>-31.2%</td>
<td>73,102</td>
<td>106,213</td>
<td>-31.4%</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPANIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMW Group</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
<td>303,190</td>
<td>335,840</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>1,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysler LLC</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>1,453,122</td>
<td>2,076,650</td>
<td>-30.3%</td>
<td>4,717</td>
<td>6,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FoMoCo</td>
<td>-20.7%</td>
<td>1,988,376</td>
<td>2,507,366</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>6,456</td>
<td>8,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Motors</td>
<td>-22.9%</td>
<td>2,980,688</td>
<td>3,866,620</td>
<td>-23.2%</td>
<td>9,678</td>
<td>12,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honda America</td>
<td>-7.91%</td>
<td>1,428,765</td>
<td>1,551,542</td>
<td>-8.21%</td>
<td>4,369</td>
<td>5,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nissan NA</td>
<td>-10.9%</td>
<td>951,350</td>
<td>1,068,238</td>
<td>-11.2%</td>
<td>3,081</td>
<td>3,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyota Mo Co</td>
<td>-15.4%</td>
<td>2,217,662</td>
<td>2,620,825</td>
<td>-15.7%</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>8,537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calendar of Events

Here are the upcoming MINI5280 events as well as events from other clubs and organizations. For more details on all events visit the MINI5280 Calendar on NAM. Make sure to check the calendar often because you never know when something may be added!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>MINI5280 Monthly Meeting - 7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>2009 Icicle Rallye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26—29</td>
<td>A MINI Vacation in Vegas, Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15—18 2009</td>
<td>High Plains Motoring, Black Hills, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5—8</td>
<td>MGTY—MINIs Go To Yellowstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29—July 3</td>
<td>MINI Meet East Meets West, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any items for our classified section please email a description, price and photo(s) to:

Newsletter@MINI5280.org

MINI5280 Monthly Staff

Ingrid Fleming  
Chief Editor

Chuck Maybee  
Co-Editor and Contributor

Don Suiter  
Rick Gonzales  
Jonathan Souza  
Whitlow Wong  
Contributors