



Calendar Spotlight: Paul Petrella

## PhillyMINI 20th Anniversary Recap

### *Weather does not stop PhillyMINI from celebrating*

A little bad weather couldn't dampen 20 years of MINIs, Friends and Fun! The 20th Anniversary weekend started off with some rain but a good time was the theme of the weekend event!

Friday night we welcomed PhillyMINI members present and past to a cocktail hour of hors d'oeuvres and pizza. There was also a pretzel bar with pretzels of every size and shape not to mention about 10 different types of mustard as well. Our fire tender, John Grabowski had a nice warm fire going so we could roast marshmallows and enjoy some S'mores. A passing storm delayed the outdoor movie but we still had a nice alfresco viewing of the original Italian Job thanks to our AV team spearheaded by Tony

Gauker and Shawn Trexler. Ronnie and Tony Gauker also donated the use of a Photo Booth for everyone to enjoy!

Friday night's backdrop was different from Saturday night's so you could have multiple photos with different backgrounds and props. MINI of Allentown representatives joined us for the weekend and brought with them two Yeti coolers engraved with the MOA logo and filled with MINI goodies.

All in attendance were asked to drop their name in a fish bowl and winners were determined at Saturday night's dinner.

Saturday, we woke with the sun to a brisk morning of MINIs, coffee and pastries. Rally



# REWIND & RECAP

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Masters, Josh and Barry lined up the MINIs as they arrived, eagerly awaiting the fun roads planned for the day. There were 3 groups and 2 road courses. Keith and Amanda, planned quite a fun rally but starting the run we had no idea just how much fun was in store. As I said, the previous night brought a passing storm in to the area. Apparently we were protected at camp, because once on the road, all 3 groups experienced leftover issues from the storm the night before.

Groups 1 and 3 were on the same route. Group 1 left first and came across a downed tree. Not to be stopped, the group rallied to up and move the tree from the road. In the meantime, group 3, now on the road, caught up to group 1 and formed a super cell of MINIs traveling along the route. Now back to group 2, the renegades, had a different route, but not with different circumstances. A tree blocked group 2's progress, however, unlike the other two groups, this tree was not moving without some heavy duty help.

Group 2 leader, Keith DuAmie, made quick work of re-directing the group and got them back on course quickly. This is where the story gets better... when planning the routes, Keith had an ultimate plan of having the groups cross paths. Group 1 and 3 would be moving on the same road but in opposite direction from group 2. Even with the downed trees and even with the now HUGE super cell of group 1 and 3 moving through traffic together, Keith achieved

this goal! As group 2 crested a hill, a line of headlights flashed in the dreary grey sky.... It was Group 1! Wait! Why is that group so big?!! Super Group 1/3 and Group 2 all passed each other on a twisted road, like we ever doubted it. There are some pretty awesome videos of this happening. This is a phenomena that is very difficult to achieve and this year alone, we have had this happen 3 times (Red's Run, M&M, and now this rally)!

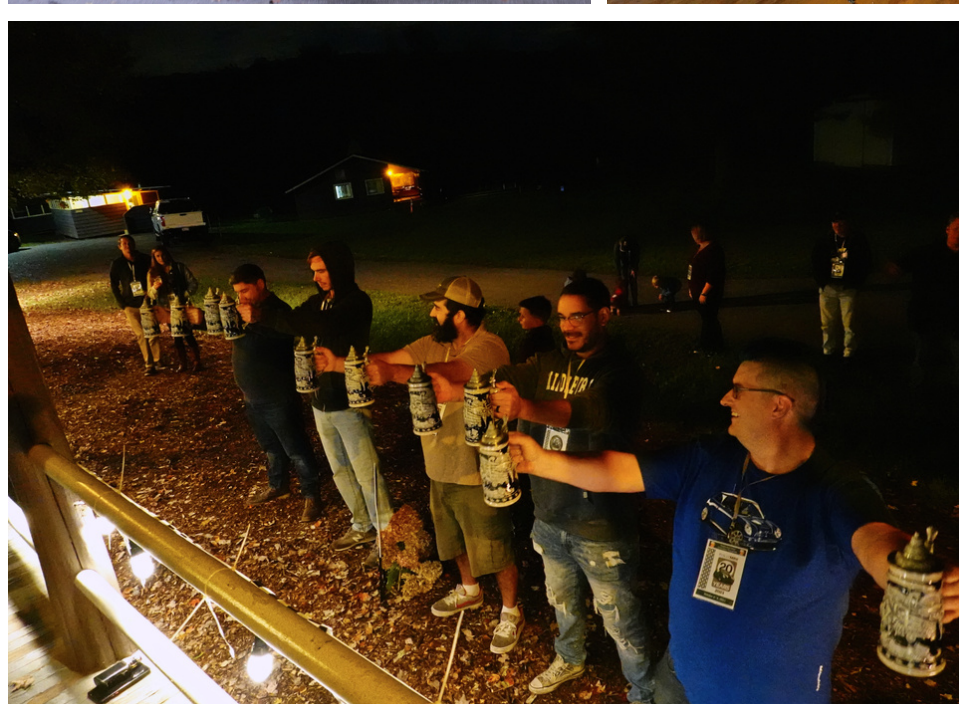
We all converged on French Creek State Park for a picnic lunch. The weather held off long enough for us to have a short lunch break. When the drizzle changed to a pour, we moved everyone down to the ranger station to use the rest rooms and started our trek back to camp for Saturday's dinner. We called an audible on the way back and made group 2 our leader just in case there were any more trees and/or detours. Sure enough there was a detour and Keith made quick work around of that one as well and Amanda called back to the other two groups so they had the plan as well. The overall routes we traveled were a combination of quite a few old PhillyMINI rallies such as, Parks Rally, K&A Adventure, Tiki Rally and even the newest Red's Run. I think the best name for this was "Rally Down Memory Lane".

Back at camp, a few committee members stayed to get everything ready for Saturday night. The dining hall looked incredible! Decorating committee leaders, Darci and Tonya, had such a



*by Tracy Krapf  
PrimeMINister*

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great vision and turned the camp dining hall into a rustic German Oktoberfest! They used thrift store beer steins, seasonal flowers and pumpkins to really bring the vision to life! All the decorating committee really put a lot into the vision and it was magnificent!

A screen in the dining hall played continuously all night with photos and videos from the last 20 years of PhillyMINI events. Even our favorite, famous, blue mohawk, mechanic even made an appearance as a super hero commercial. Before dinner the junior ambassadors put on a short presentation they titled "Different types of MINI drivers". They "nailed-it"!

The food was an amazing spread of culinary delights. There was beef stroganoff with spaetzle, salmon Florentine, veggie strudel, herb roasted chicken and a divine stuffed pork loin.

For dessert there was a cake and cupcake arrangement in the shape of the MINI symbol. We heard lots of great things about the food and several went back for second trips! With all that food, we had to have some fun too.

Contestants signed up to win a Midland radio and bragging rights for the best of the best in our first ever PhillyMINI Beer Stein competition. First the women's division showed what a bunch of strong cookies we have in the club. Contestants had to hold two beer steins filled with water. The last to drop was winner.

The men were even more competitive than the ladies. Lots of heckles came from the crowd but everyone showed just how strong they can be when MINI swag is on the line! Our winners are: Ladies- Abbie Trexler and Men - Mike Marzo. Congratulations!

On Sunday morning, we gathered again for a continental breakfast alfresco. It was brisk fall morning but everyone enjoyed the sunshine. Today's rally was another memory lane trip with a combination of roads from the Night Owl and the NewBee rally.

We ended a fantastic weekend of events at Exton shopping center for goodbyes and a lunch a la carte.

Thank you to everyone that helped in the planning and execution of the 20th Anniversary party.

We also would like to thank all of our sponsors and donations that helped make this weekend a huge success.

We look forward to the future of PhillyMINI and cannot wait for our next Anniversary Celebration!



# WELCOME TO VERMONT

## PhillyMINI Participates in 5th Annual Event

by Barry Meyer



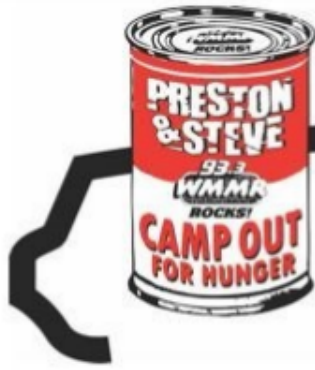
The fifth annual Minis Take Vermont event was held at the Okemo Ski resort in Ludlow, VT, October 19th thru the 22nd and PhillyMINI was in the house. Barry Meyer, Bill Pittock, Pam Wagner and Marley Mermelstein from PhillyMINI attended this awesome event.

What started as a modest word of mouth event in 2018 that had 38 Mini owners in attendance has grown to over 100 Minis in 2023. Even though the weather was a bit rainy, it didn't dampen the spirits of those who came out to enjoy the blazing colors of fall and the awesome twistie roads of Southern Vermont.

It was a weekend of Vermont cheese, craft beer and wine stops, covered bridges maple syrup and of course any rally in Vermont wouldn't have been complete without the proverbial gravel/dirt road or two. If you have attended this event in the past you know what I'm talking about.

MTVT consisted of a welcome reception dinner on Thursday night, multiple rallies on Friday and Saturday and the farewell dinner and raffle for charity that raised over \$2500 to support the local Ludlow businesses hard hit by the flooding in the area. This well-organized event has grown to become a bucket list to do for any Mini owner.

It was great to see old friends and it was also an opportunity to make new ones. Circle your calendar for Oct 17 thru the 20th for next year's event to be held in the Smugglers Notch area.



# Phil-a-Trunk

A literal food drive.

**Nov 12th**

Phil-a-Trunk benefits Philabundance and we are asking any and all car clubs of the Delaware Valley to unite and drive out hunger within our region. Fill up your trunks, frunks, and beds with non-perishable food items and either drive down to Wells Fargo Center as a group or meet your club in the F lot

*Main Line*

**CARS**  
& Coffee



## Kickoff Event for Campout for Hunger

**Come hang at Wells Fargo Center**

- Cars & Coffee
- Mini-Autocross
- 50/50's



**PHILABUNDANCE**

**Philatrunk.com**

## TOP 10 MOST NEEDED ITEMS

In an effort to provide the most nutritious food to those we serve, this list represents our highest food priorities. These items are high in both demand and nutritional value. While we continue to accept other items, we kindly ask you to focus your efforts on these items so, together, we can have the maximum impact for individuals facing hunger.



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



COOKING OIL



CANNED TUNA OR MEAT



CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES



CANNED STEW & SOUPS



OATMEAL/BREAKFAST CEREAL



WHOLE GRAIN PASTA



100% JUICE



RICE



BOXED, NON-REFRIGERATED MILK

### GUIDELINES:

Please donate products that are in boxes, cans or plastic bottles and do not require refrigeration.

Please note we prefer items that are low in sugar/sodium and free of high fructose corn syrup. Please do not donate bread and baked goods which have a short shelf life.

All items should be recently purchased and in good condition.

• PLEASE NOTE: THESE ITEMS ARE NOT RANKED IN A PARTICULAR ORDER BECAUSE ALL OF THESE ITEMS ARE VERY MUCH NEEDED •

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [PHILABUNDANCE.ORG](http://PHILABUNDANCE.ORG)

# Membership Spotlight

## Barry Meyer

**How long have you been a member?**

As of 2023, 10 years.

**How did you hear about PhillyMINI?**

Internet search.

**What are your MINIs' names?**

Sir Lewis.

**What's your favorite rally? Why?**

MINIs in the Mountains.

**What's your favorite PhillyMINI memory?**

My first members meeting in 2014. I knew this was going to be an awesome experience for years to come!

**What's your favorite part of being a PhillyMINI member?**

Meeting other MINI owners



**What's something you would like to see or experience with PhillyMINI in the future?**

More social events.

**How do you spend your time outside of PhillyMINI?**

Enjoy watching soccer and Formula One racing and I'm a huge baseball fan.

# Quad County Tour of Terror Strikes

***“We came. We saw. We drove some twisties.”***

The Quad County Tour of Terror returned on Saturday, October 28. Twenty-two fearless PhillyMINI members made the trip out west to the start point in Columbia, PA, which is a bit farther out than many of our runs. But they knew that Rally Masters Tony and Ronnie Gauker had a spooktacular drive planned that would make the journey worth the effort.

The morning was so sunny, warm and glorious that it would have made Winifred Sanderson sick; however, the conditions were perfect conditions for our ‘vert drivers to enjoy some late season top down rallying.

The fall foliage was still in its peak and provided a wash of color as the two groups of MINIs zipped their way through twisties, up and over bunny hops and around sweeping vistas throughout Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Perry and Dauphin counties. Yes, faithful readers, you read that right. Not four counties, but five this year!

Just after the break in Goldsboro, the groups gathered for a second drivers’ meeting to prepare them for a special Halloween treat. Instead of telling ghost stories this year, the Gaukers arranged for the participants to experience something strange and unusual in their MINIs – a gravity hill. Locals say that a car stopped and put in neutral at this particular spot will be pulled up the hill by ghost children. We are happy to report that all the MINIs were able to escape the grasp of the tiny little spectres. In fact, Vicky and Ron Leopold’s Sir Walter defied gravity and refused to cater to the supernatural shenanigans. (You go, Sir Walter!)

Once everyone regained their composure after the gravity hill, the groups made their way back across the Susquehanna River where they got to spy the Mini Statue of Liberty of Harrisburg. More colorful autumn leaves painted colorful patches along Blue Mountain as the groups wove their way to back to Hershey for lunch at Troeg’s Independent Brewing.



# Philly MINI spreads out to participate in MINI Together

*On Saturday October 21 MINI USA held their MINI Together event where MINIACS from all over the country participated in motoring and supporting the causes of Keep America Beautiful. PhillyMINI represented by its members visiting their local dealers (our vendors). Here are some of the reports from our members who were at the dealers.*

## MINI of Allentown- by Joyclynn Reynolds

Lin, Don, David, Cynthia and I went together rally style. We got “lost” a couple times and no one had

radios. We went over the county line but couldn’t find the sign that Lin and Don son said was there. We all ran into goodwill looking for planters. Went to the green place and everyone was watching me so I couldn’t do my rap. Oh! And as soon as we left MOA David (was leading) and made a sudden exit from the highway and we were all going super-fast so you can imagine how that went. Let’s just say my (fictional) rap involved me flipping my car because of David.



## MINI of Mt. Laurel- by Greg Bilton

Representing the New Jersey delegation was myself, Paul Petrella and Ray Rizzuto. We checked in and chatted for a while and plotted our adventures. I ended up driving out to Washington Crossing State Park and finding I could complete a lot of the tasks there and ended my run with lunch at the Jersey Girl Café (sound familiar).



## MINI of West Chester - by Laura Matheny

I showed up at MINI of West Chester and got my swag bag and saw Erika Mills there, we chatted for a bit and ate some of the food. And then I saw Michael Dixon, who sold me Giddy four years ago, and we talked for a long time, catching up, which was lovely. At one point Michael Dixon was talking with a guy who told Michael he was retired, and Michael said, you should talk with Laura about PhillyMINI rallies, now that you have time, and I totally talked up PhillyMINI and how much I enjoy the group. I looked through the scavenger hunt items, and on my drive up to Whole Foods I passed a street with Green in the name at a red light, and I took a photo at Whole Foods of some cookies with MINI in the name.





**This the Season!**

**Are you a last minute shopper?**

**Wondering what to get your MINIlac for the holidays?**

**Log into your member account and shop all the fantastic discounts from our preferred Dealers and Vendors!**



November

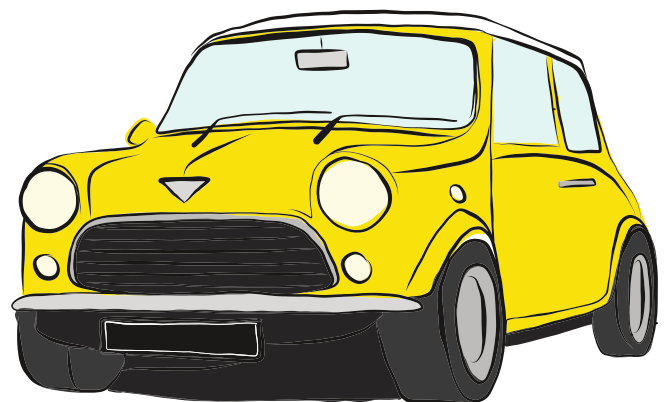
Julia Barol  
Dana Dillon  
Richard Eiler  
Angela Eschert  
Dave Evans  
Li Halpern  
Curt Howard  
Wendy Kemmerer  
Zach Kubanoff  
Julie Lambrechtse  
Karol Mannherz  
Yelena Mukhin-Zak  
Jozef Pfeiffer  
Zachary Repp  
Ray Rizzuto  
Erica Rome  
Marco Ruiz  
Thomas Sarver  
Howard Schwartz





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	13	14	15	16	17	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- 8 Montly Dinner at Piccolo Tratoria
- 12 Preston & Steve Campout for Hunger
- 18 Pagoda



## Social Dinners

Piccolo Trattoria is known as a destination for intimate gatherings for family and friends. They offer an atmosphere of Old World ambience with real Italian flair, creativity and quality.

Piccolo Trattoria is located in Newtown, Pennington and Doylestown. We are meeting in the Doylestown location as they have a liquor license and have a wide selection of bottled wine, alcoholic drinks and beer.

Piccolo Trattoria offers authentic, elegant Italian cuisine. Each entrée is made from scratch including their famous marinara sauce. Using only the freshest and finest ingredients, their goal is to offer the ultimate dining experience for us! Whether you are in the mood for an old-world Brooklyn style pie, one of their traditional homemade pasta dishes or a chef-inspired signature entrée such as their whole Mediterranean Bronzini fish, they are certain we will enjoy our meal.

Please register by Monday, November 6, 2023 at 11:59 PM. Our table will be set up in a private room, in a u shape!!



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**When:** Sunday November 12, 2023

**Meet up:** 8:00 AM

**Meet up location:** Eddystone Crossing Shopping Center 1570 Chester Pike, Eddystone, PA 18022

**What to bring:** non-perishable food donations (see list of items most needed); full tank of gas; FRS radios; and Money for food trucks

**Sunday November 12, 2023:** The 5th annual Phil-a-Trunk is a literal food drive/car show where any and all car clubs from the Delaware Valley unite and drive out hunger within our region. Fill up your trunk aka "boot" with non-perishable food items and join us at Eddystone Crossing Shopping Center 1570 Chester Pike, Eddystone, PA 18022 at 8AM. There is a shopping center near by where you can, last minute, fill your MINI to capacity. At 8:30 we will have a fun drive through the city and behind the airport ending at the XFinity Live / Wells Fargo Center Parking Lot F.

All the car clubs are staged in the Wells Fargo Center parking lot F, then each club will drive as a group to unload and weigh their totals. Phil-a-Trunk is shaping up to be one of the largest car events of the Philadelphia area. At the car show, there will be 50/50 drawings and an AutoCross event to test your abilities as well. Last year the other car clubs were cheering for the MINIs on the Autocross course! Fun times!

Phil-a-Trunk is kicking off WMMR Preston and Steve's Camp Out for Hunger. Camp Out is the largest single-location food drive in the U.S., and benefits Philabundance, the Delaware Valley's largest hunger relief organization. In the past two years Phil-a-Trunk has collected over 300,000 pounds of food. Phil-a-Trunk and Camp Out help Philabundance feed the 700,000 people in its nine-county service area who do not know where their next meal is coming from, or if they will have one at all.

Philabundance keeps a list of its highest food priorities, which helps the hunger relief organization to provide the most nutritious food to those it serves. These items are high in both demand and nutritional value. While Philabundance continues to accept other items, we kindly ask you to focus your efforts on these items so, together, we can have the maximum impact for individuals facing hunger.

Anyone unable to meetup and drive to the event with the group is invited to join us directly at the Wells Fargo Parking Lot F (Enter through 11th Street and park in the designated MINI Cooper line). Car clubs enter at 9AM and the MINI call over time for unloading is 12 Noon.

If you are unable to attend or would like to make a contribution to this excellent cause, please send donations via PayPal app to [PayPal@PhillyMINI.org](mailto:PayPal@PhillyMINI.org) (Please put in the NOTE this is for Preston & Steve Camp Out so we can distribute the money correctly)