

## Maple Bacon Donuts + MINIs = Awesomeness PhillyMINI hosts Cars & Coffee at Sweets Cafe

Cars and Coffee was held Saturday April 27, 2024 at Sweet's Cafe in Bechtelsville, PA. The weather cooperated and we had a brilliant turn out! 24 shining MINIs including one classic MINI joined us for sweet treats and caffeinated drinks. It was a fantastic turn out and even several new people joined us to talk about all things PhillyMINI! We even had the pleasure of meeting potential new members! We are excited to see the club continue to grow. As always our canine friends were also on hand for some extra socialization and

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puppy kisses.

Sweet's Cafe is always so friendly and inviting to our club. New this year were the fabulous Maple Bacon donuts! Prime MINiSTER, Tracy, waited patiently for the first batch hot out of the oven. We were not disappointed.

We look forward to our next visit at Sweet's Cafe. If you know of any other cars and coffee events you would like to see the club members attend, please talk to one of the officers and give them the specifics.





# Ambassador Spotlight

# Paul Petrella



**How did you learn about PhillyMINI?**

New Jersey MINI group suggested it to me when I joined their newbie rally after buying my car.

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

Almost two years.

**What is your MINI's name?**

Maxx (He's a JCW, so he's the maximum MINI...

**What is your favorite part of being a member of PhillyMINI?**

All the great people I've met (especially Vinnie!)

**What is your favorite rally? Why? (If you are filling out as a Rally Master, please spotlight all your upcoming rally/rallies this season.)**

They've all been great so far. But any rally I can bring Mr. Bo gets extra points!

**What is your favorite PhillyMINI memory? Why?**

The 20th weekend. Even though I was relatively new to the organization I felt like I was welcomed and accepted. There was plenty of time to chat and talk with all the other members, it was less rushed than a since day rally and then rush home to take care of Mr. Bo.

**What is your favorite part/thing/aspect of your MINI?**

Driving it with the top down!

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

Car repairs on all three project cars, lol. Then organizing the garage (usually organizing all the parts I bought for each car). Working and hanging out in the yard with Mr. Bo.

**What other clubs are you a member?**

Volvo and VW car groups, but they're not as active.

MINI of Allentown has invited PhillyMINI to a launch party for the all new 2025 MINI Countryman (U25) on June 15, 2024. This will be a fun day of events for everyone. In addition to a Q&A with MINI experts, members will also have the chance to test drive both models and get hands on with the newest technology! Registration for event can be found on the PhillyMINI website on May 18, 2024.

MOA and PhillyMINI have teamed up to announce there is a fun day of activities planned for everyone!. Food and beverages will be served during the event. Also, non-PhillyMINI members are invited to come see what the club is all about. MOA has been kind enough to invite their clientele to a “meet and greet” of potential new club members. PhillyMINI officers will be circulating to answer any questions about memberships and club activities.

Also, Prime MINlster, Tracy Krapf, will be instructing a painting class. For \$45, members can paint their own wood cut-out MINI Cooper to any color of their choosing. There will be a separate, Pre-registration for the painting class and it will open May 1st. Provided for the class will be wood cut out, paints, brushes, paper towels and water dishes. Please bring an old shirt or apron to protect your cloths. Paints are non-toxic acrylic and wash off skin but may stain materials.



Printed instructions will also be provided if you wish to follow along with the instruction. Class has been designed by AnneMarie Bossard of Bossards Boardworks, Palmerton, PA.

Additionally, we say “Bon Voyage” to club members traveling to MINI Takes the States. There will be PhillyMINI swag for participants to hand out/trade with other MTTs travelers. This tradition was started by past participants as a way to commemorate all the wonderful MINI owners you will meet traveling with the MTTs groups.

So save the date and join us for a full day of excitement at MINI of Allentown on June 15, 2024!

ESTABLISHED IN 2003



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# May

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gary Adlersberg  
Daniella Amorando  
Nicholle Bilodeau  
Andrew Bugosh  
Kim Espenschied  
Margo Fotta  
Vinnie Funelas

Sandra Gourley  
Marissa Krick  
Tonya Lobb  
Josh Markovitz  
Marianne Pontano  
Ian Ratcliffe  
Kathleen Scullion  
Jo Small



A big warm motoring welcome to all of the new members this year!! We are looking forward to getting to know you and your MINI(s) this really season.

- Stephanie Murphy
- Sam Williams – MINI of the Main Line
- Khan Afroze – MINI of the Main Line

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## Countryman Review by Greg Bilton

I attended MINI of Mt. Laurel's event unveiling the new Countryman and being that I own the current generation Countryman I have some thoughts. Let's first address the elephant in the room, it is a bigger car but since no one has driven it (in the US), yet we won't know if it still drives like a MINI, the European model seems to be getting decent press though.

The most interesting feature is the new screen, a 9.5" circular display which pays homage to the dinner plate speedometer in the Classic and the Gen1 and 2 modern MINI's. It does almost everything in the car and seems busy at first, but if you live with it every day it should be manageable. There are plenty of quirks and features hiding in there as well. The Hud should make using it every day better too as the core functions are displayed in it (speed, radio, and navigation).

Speaking of the radio, the Harman Kardon system sounds great, and the massaging driver's seat is also a nice addition. The back seat isn't much bigger than the current car but that's not a problem unless you're tall and need to have people sit behind you, the boot is bigger and there is room for a spare tire under the floor (same as the current car). But the spare tire is still an option (one I would go for) and thankfully they have binned the run flat tires!

The two things I didn't like were the center console the armrest only moves forward backwards not up or down, and the storage space is down as well, also the panoramic roof no longer has the individual mesh panels. But thankfully the wireless phone charger is now not in the armrest, just below the control panel below the screen (so maybe you won't leave your phone in the car as often, ask me how I know).

In the end I don't dislike the car it's different and more modern the learning curve from any previous MINI will be steep if mostly for that screen. But the real test will be driving it, and seeing if it still is a MINI at heart.







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Our menu choices will blow your mind. From Nachos, Fries and Tots, to sandwiches, salads and more! And that's not all..Our nationally famous, award winning wings will have you flying! And our huge Burgers will satisfy any craving! The Jug is perfect for lunch with coworkers, dinner with the family or a late night snack with friends.

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**The Jug Handle Inn**  
**1018 Forklanding Road Cinnaminson NJ 08077**  
**May 15, 2024**  
**6:30 PM**



# PhillyMINI Welcomes Newbees!

The Newbee Rally was held on Saturday April 13, 2023.

The morning started off with our very first driver's meeting of the 2024 motoring season. We did a quick round robin and introduced all our newest members and the officers that were in attendance. We were so pleasantly surprised this year to have such a large group of "freshmen" coming into the club. Many seasoned PhillyMINI members were in attendance as well and helped welcome our newcomers! After introductions, Tracy told everyone the touching story of why the rubber ducky is given out by MINI owners worldwide and at our rallies.

Newbees were treated to their first duck and a pin commemorating their very first rally! Afterwards, we went over rules of the road, how to perform a Le Mans start, and other club safety reminders. Last call "PB4UGO" was given and we all prepared ourselves and the MNIs for the start of motoring season! The "bleeps" were heard all around as radios clicked on and were tested before the engines started.

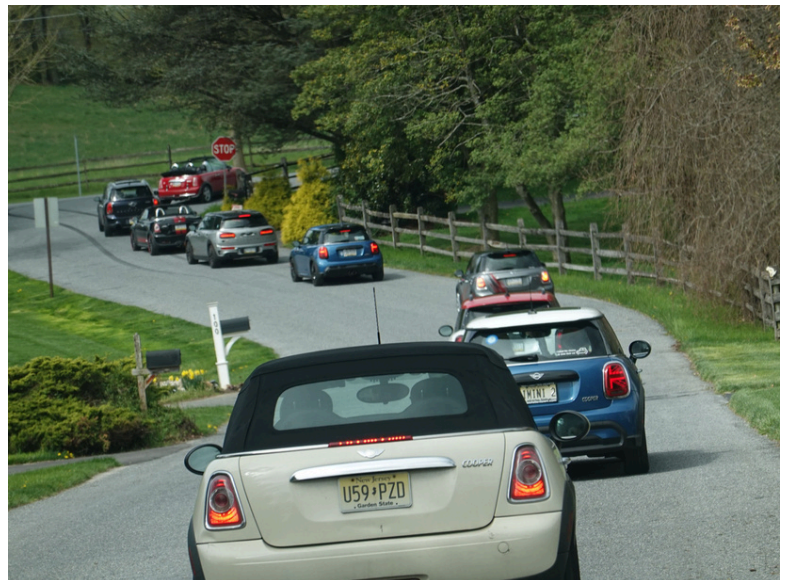
This year we combined everyone into one large group led by Prime MINISTER Tracy and Deputy Prime MINISTER Barry as the sweeper. MINISTER of Technology Greg, MINISTER of

Treasury Ron and MINISTER of Membership Averywere on hand to act as Marshalls and keep all the cars on track. The twisty roads lead us through some beautiful spring scenery.

Convertible drivers had a brisk cool morning, but several opted for top down driving anyway. We had several opportunities to practice our rally rules when cars got cut off at traffic lights or we had non-MINI vehicles join our ranks.

The group also got excellent teaching opportunity to test the Le Mans start! It was not perfect, but we had a lot of fun trying. Hopefully over the next motoring season we will get more opportunities to test our skills. The rally day ended at World of Beer in Exton and everyone had a marvelous lunch, mingling and chatting about the roads and events of the day. The weather, while sunny, was a bit too chilly and breezy for an outdoor lunch, WOB did a great job accommodating the club indoors and taking care of all the hungry MINIs. It was wonderful to hear so many of the Newbees commenting about the fun drive and looking forward to the next rally! The club and I welcome you all and cannot wait to see you at the next event!

This is just the start to a fantastic year of events planned by the officers. Happy 2024 Motoring year PhillyMINI!





## Monthly Dinner Recap

Opa is a Greek word that may be used as an exclamation, utterance, declaration or affirmation. At the April monthly dinner, 16 MINlacs were delighted to "taste" the meaning of "Opa"!

The food at Zorba's was authentic, fresh and absolutely delicious. Plates of Moussaka, Souvlaki, Gyro and even Yiouvetsi Sti Gastra, a slow cooked lamb dinner, were delivered to the table. Thank you to Michael and Marilyn Tontoni for sharing this gem of a restaurant and their wine! We hope this place is a yearly visit! OPA!













May Calendar Spotlight: Paul Petrella



# MAY

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

						
	6	7	8	9		11
12	13	14		16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**1 - 5 MINIs on the Dragon**

**10 Cruise Night in Hopwell\***

**15 Social Dinner @ Jug Handle Inn**

**18 - 19 MINI to Shore Tri-County Tour**

**19 National I Heart Vinnie Day\***

**25 Hershey Rally**

\*Not a PhillyMINI-sanctioned Event





# CRUISE NIGHT

★ *Friday, May 10, 2024* ★

*Rain Date May 17th*



THE SHOW WILL BE HELD ALONG  
**BROAD STREET**

★ **5PM-8PM** ★

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