

The Villages MINI Cooper Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes of October 18th, 2012 at Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Club members enjoyed an exceptional meal at the Longhorn Steak House followed by our get together at Laurel Manor that featured the “neighboring” German Club’s visiting band from the homeland. New members at the meeting include Barbara Blanch residing in the Village of Glenbrook with her 2012 yellow Countryman, Bob and Paulette Lamontagne, skiers from Lincoln, New Hampshire now splitting their time in the Village of Caroline with their 2008 red supercharged convertible and Dan and Saunie Olvey who recently built a house in Pennecamp for their 2013 British racing green supercharged convertible. Welcome to our growing group that now has 62, increasingly diverse, MINI Coopers! And best wishes to the Emburys who traded in their MINI for an Enclave to handle their growing family.

Our thanks to Betty and Bud Olson for a great dinner at the Olive Garden this week followed by an awesome Halloween display in their fully lighted neighborhood and huge indoor display of Department 56 lighted Halloween houses, stores, trains, park rides and so on.

Don gave us a rundown on the recent Mickey & MINI event in Orlando that struggled a bit organizationally but was great for those that wanted to see some great custom MINIs and try out the Disney track currently run under the “Richard Petty Driving Experience”.

On a much sadder note, Bill McGibney is now at the hospice facility on route 466 and our prayers are with Mary at this difficult time.

We also covered the following events on our 2012/2013 schedule

MINI Motoring Events:

October 22nd, Monday – Don and Sharon McGinniss will be leading a small group of people through the Coleman Correctional Center that have been previously identified and cleared by the prison. The trip departs from Seabreeze and visitors are reminded that this is a no name tag, no club shirt event that requires a government issued picture ID in their pocket.

October 27th, Saturday – Two events are being held this Saturday. One is the BRIT BASH in Vero Beach and the other is the all British Car Show (featuring specifically the MINI Cooper this time) in Safety Harbor near Clearwater. Check with www.sunshineminis.org for more details

November 7th, Wednesday – Ted and Sandy Goodman have identified a neat FarmAll tractor museum that may be the world’s largest right here in Leesburg. The event starts with breakfast at the Bonifay Country Club. Plan to be there at 8:00 AM for a rumored great meal

December 13th, Thursday — Our annual Christmas party, hosted by Bill and Janett McGinniss, will be held at the Canal Recreation Center and be catered by the Hacienda food group. Please indicate your general intent to attend to Don for an approximate head count now. The cost will probably be \$15 to \$20 per person. The party starts at 6:15. Remember that we do not have a general sit down meeting in December.

January 25th, Friday — Don McGinness, who is already doing too much of the club's work, has organized a trip to Daytona's Continental Tire Grand-Am racing event. This is the race that features the MINI Cooper. In addition to the general admission, a small amount (\$10) will get you into the garage area before the races.

February 13th or 14th — Gary and Francis Wingerter will be our hosts for a trip to Tampa Bay Downs for some horse racing. With but 12 people signed up to date, we may lose our place for the promised suite that requires 20 as a minimum. More information to follow.

March 22nd, Friday — This is our big Annual MINI Cooper car show at Lake Sumter Landing.

March 26th, 27th, and 28th — Those interested in a trip to Thomasville, Georgia in conjunction with The Villages Convertible Club can contact Don and Sharon. Twelve couples have already expressed interest. The trip is centered on a huge plantation known as Pebble Hill. Room rates are \$110 per night and the event fee is \$90 per person.

April — We really need a volunteer couple to lead us, with a possible visit suggested to the race track at Disney at \$25 per car.

May — We need a volunteer here too for a local event. Several members of the club will be going to the MINI on the Dragon the first week of May.

June — There is a thought that this would be an excellent chance to join the North Carolina Tar heels MINI Club traveling south to north on their Blue Ridge Parkway Tour. Think about it! Sounds like mid month.

In other news:

We discuss a potential cruise to or around England centered on an Oxford England MINI plant visit and tour. Other ideas included a poker run and a scavenger hunt close to home.

Our first club meeting presentation by an outsider will be next month after which we will revisit this program with discussion next January.

Our treasurer reports a balance well north of \$600 that will help defray Christmas party expenses. Thank you, Janett.

Decals are available to club members for their front windshield as well as name tags for shirts from Don.

We AGAIN want to remind everyone that they should submit a picture of themselves with their car to be posted on our club website. Send these to Bob McCarthy at www.cathy.d.mccarthy@gmail.com who has really put a great website up there for us.

Upon review, we seem to think that the magazine called MINI International is available only to MINI dealers. On the good side, those wanting to try MC2 on a trial three issue basis may do so for \$10. The standard subscription rate is \$25 for the annual offering of six issues.

Tech Talk:

Several people spoke warmly of the new peace and quiet as well as smoothness of their ride having dumped their run flats and getting an AAA plan since there is no room for a spare tire.

Club members are reminded to put personal reviews of their maintenance experiences locally on our website for others to read.

We are uncertain if free nitrogen for our tires is still available to club members at the Tire Choice Colony Plaza location.

Those experiencing a molding problem in the rear around their convertible area may want to cut their costs more than in half by buying the parts online and easily installing them themselves.

The Next Great Eat-Out Winner is: “The Evans Prairie Country Club”, soon to open south of 466A, at 5:00 PM. Please let Laura Bales know if you are attending at www.drbales2000@yahoo.com . See you all on **Thursday November 15st, 2012.**