

The Villages MINI Cooper Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes of May 16th, 2013, at Laurel Manor Recreation Center

WELCOME

Club President, Don McGinnis, welcomed guests and new club members in attendance. The new club members are:

- Janette and John Carlile proud owners of a 2013 MINI S red convertible with a white interior who live in the Village of Fernandina.
- Joe and Betty Pane owners of a 2007 MINI S dark silver convertible who live in the Village of Gilchrist.
- Kenneth Thompson who was lucky enough to get an order number from a North Dakota dealer for a 2013 JCW edition MINI Cooper. Ken lives in the Village of Bonita.

Please note that we will continue to meet in either the **Monroe or the Madison Room** going forward.

MEMBERSHIP - The club now has approximately 130 members with 69 MINI Coopers.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The club has \$952.09 in the club's account which will increase with funds from the recent, highly successful, first annual Poker Run successfully planned and executed by Art Rosenblatt and a raft of helpful and cheerful volunteers. Many thanks.

MINI NEWS

- BMW is reported to be on target in developing their new i3 engine by years' end that is expected to be introduced in the MINI as well.
- Expect numerous changes to all the MINI formats of transportation in styling but the standard change cycle is about seven years for any specific model.
- MINI has now won their racing class for two years running at the Dakar Road Rally run from Lima, Peru to Santiago, Chile. This endurance event was formerly run from Paris to Senegal, Africa but apparently there were entirely too many accidents resulting in numerous deaths!
- An American-made modified '03 MINI will perform in the June 30th, 2013 hill climb. This long standing racing event is twelve and a half miles long climbing from 9,039 to 14,100 feet in elevation.
- Don's "Mighty McGinnis MINI Slide Show" featured an engineered back flip video performed in France, new JCW high performance cars obtaining 33 mpg but at a \$45,000 price tag,

trained dogs taught to drive a MINI in New Zealand and a special fiberglass MINI “boat” built with MINI parts for a recent regatta. Please do not try these ideas at home!

- Newer delivered MINIs with automatic transmissions are reported to be without paddle shifters based on the type of steering wheel on the car.

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CLUB WEBSITE - Don't forget to check out our website. Just Google **villagesminicooperclub** .

- New members need to send Bob McCarthy photos of themselves with their cars at www.robertimccarthy@yahoo.com to put on the website, and everyone should forward any photos they have from the club's trips.

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Upcoming Club Motoring Events:

MINIs on the Dragon Three couples, specifically the Lawtons, Eulers and Caseys traveled to this annual event of adventure and daring.

June 11 – Stetson Mansion Tour Jay and Cindy Coats have planned a trip to Deland to see the grandest mansion of the 19th century in Florida that may soon be sold. The trip will start from Mulberry Grove at 9:00 AM with lunch to follow at Norwoods Restaurant and Wine Shop in New Smyrna Beach. Plan to visit the local beach with your car at a nominal cost of five dollars. House tour tickets are \$20 per person. Trip Advisor rates this 5-star tour as number one in Deland and the parquet floors and leaded glass windows are very special. Sign up with Jay or contact him at jay.coats@mail.wvu.edu . Those staying might consider either the Hampton Inn or the higher end Black Dolphin.

June 13th - 15th - Blue Ridge Parkway Tour There are several more couples considering this travel event that starts in Cherokee, North Carolina and ends in Roanoke, Virginia. Anyone interested in participating should contact Randy Blumenschien at blumouse@yahoo.com or **352-633-0224**.

July 24 - National Parts Depot Bob & Jane Lawton will be our hosts for the trip Wednesday to Ocala to get a tour of the Schmidt Brothers spectacular 200 plus private car collection. This collection is shown by invitation only by the owner and includes cars driven as little as eight miles. The tour is free. Lunch will follow at Stumpknockers. If interested, sign up or contact Bob & Jane at 352-259-5832. Bob also will be happy and able to show you his new cup holders purchased at the Dragon!

August 19th, Monday – Once again we are invited to a car show at Cody's here in The Villages. Dinner is discounted at 15% off their standard prices. Hopefully we can make a big showing.

September – We need a sponsor for this month and rescheduling of the St. John’s riverboat cruise is possible. Also, for those interested, the Disney Mickey and MINI 9 annual event can be reviewed and booked through www.mickeyandmini.com .

October 19 - Joann and Don Cyr will be putting together a trip to Bok Tower.

November 10 – Bruce and Susan Evans are planning on a trip to the 11th Annual Winter Park Concours d ‘Elegance held on Park Avenue. Rivalled only by Pebble Beach and Amelia Island, this is a spectacular judged 120 exotic car event that is free Sunday to all comers. MINI of Orlando is a sponsor and I encourage everyone to visit the events website at www.winterparkconcours.com .

December 12 - Time again for our Annual Christmas Party. Please note the date on your calendar now.

NEXT Year – Early planning has started for the Amelia Island Concours d’Elegance in March, an amazing show of cars, personalities, fashion and wealth, as well as the Festivals of Speed held at the luxurious Mission Inn at Howey-in-the-Hills in May.

Kudos to Art and Joyce on a great event once again.

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

- Dinner before the next club meeting will be at the new **O’Brien’s Irish Pub** (a fast growing Florida Franchise) on Route 44 where the Speckled Butterbean formerly lived.
- Our NEXT CLUB MEETING WILL BE June 21, 7:00 pm, in either the Monroe or Madison Room at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.