



DCMM Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

April 2008

6th Annual MINIs on the Dragon

MINIs on the Dragon is the largest gathering of MINIs and their owners in the US. This year we're expecting around 800 people and more than 500 MINIs. The weekend is centered around the mutual interest and enjoyment of what can be argued as the most fun car on the road.

MINIs on the Dragon (MOTD for short) is a gathering of MINI (and Mini!) Cooper enthusiasts in Deals Gap, North Carolina, where the Tail of the Dragon is located. This spectacular 11-mile section of Route 129 has an astonishing 318 curves -- with no cross streets or driveways. Last year, we had over 600 enthusiasts with more than 450 MINIs/Minis in attendance, and we expect an even greater number this year! The Tail of the Dragon is one of the best, if not THE best sports car and motorcycle road in the country, and has become a "magnet" of sorts for driving enthusiasts. The road is amazingly twisty and fun, with a good quality surface and spectacular views.

The area surrounding Deals Gap includes many scenic drives through the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains. Forests, gorges, lakes, rivers, and dams make for many beautiful roads worthy of motoring in your MINI.

MOTD is more than motoring, though. It's a chance to hang out with many like-minded MINI owners who are as obsessed with MINIs as you are! Socializing is an equally large part of the gathering as motoring, and most folks have trouble deciding which is their favorite part. The [Fontana Village Resort](#) is the location of, or gathering point for, the majority of events and where most participants will stay. Fontana has inn rooms, cabins, and camping facilities. Information on other lodging in the area, as well as maps, history, and great background information is available on www.TailOfTheDragon.com.

Just as in years past, a number of vendors will be present with clothing and accessories for sale. You will even be able to get a supercharger reduction pulley installed! Note that pulleys and other mechanical car installations may have to be arranged with the vendors prior to the event (see the [MOTD Event Planner](#) for installation parties).

If you are attending MOTD this year, please be sure to sign up for the farewell dinner. DCMM is hosting the farewell dinner, so be sure to sign up. MININurse (Stacey) has put a lot of hard work into making sure the event is a great success!

Also, our President, Katie (kgdblu), will be hosting her 3rd annual Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday night from 6 to 11pm in Cabin #538. More information can be found by going to the discussion on NAM. Katie is also running the Info Booth which is a new and much welcomed addition to the Dragon this year.

<http://www.northamericanmotoring.com/forums/showthread.php?t=127539>

Please see the MOTD Event Planner on NAM for details on all the events.

<http://www.northamericanmotoring.com/motd-events>

You really don't want to miss this spectacular event!

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Congratulations to MNEEME winner of the 4th DCMM Photo Contest! The theme was “MINI in Action”



The next Photo Contest theme is “Wet and Wild”. The deadline for submission is April 12th @ 12pm.

How to enter

Entries must be submitted to Maxicooper via email at photocontest@dcmetrominis.org with the subject line reading “**DCMM Photo Contest**”. When you upload your image you must include a topic of the contest, your name and image's caption.

St. Patrick's Day “Parade” Run

On March 16th, 24 MINIs braved the cold, damp weather to meet in Columbia, MD for the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day “Parade” Run. By the time we made our first stop the weather had warmed up enough for two convertibles to motor topless. This was also DCMM's first run with Clubmans (Clubmen?) in attendance! The 85-mile run had a variety of twisties and long, open stretches. It even included a wrong turn down a gravel road and an angry pick-up truck. The winner of the MINI decorating contest was Ed (Hypnohealer). A very big thank you to Chris (CR&PW&JB) and Roxanne for organizing the run, the goody bags and the prizes.



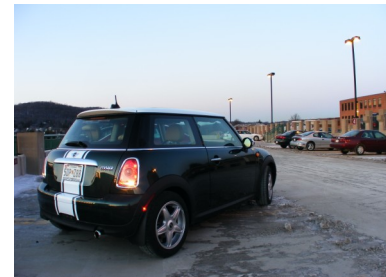
MINI of the Month Acrobatikdan's "Victoria"

Owning a MINI has been a dream of mine since I first learned of the car's existence some 5 years ago. I was wee lad at 14 years old, and I wasn't exactly chomping at the bit to start driving. I was never into cars and never really had my heart set on getting something specific. But that all changed one morning while eating breakfast before school: While scarfing down some Lucky Charms I saw the new MINI featured in a magazine my dad had left on the table. It was at that point, when I saw the picture of the new MINI Cooper, that I finally had a dream car. It was beautiful. The slick exterior and the awesome, contemporary interior (not to mention the eco-friendly gas mileage!) won me over before you could say "let's motor!"



Fast forward to my freshman year of college ('06-'07). I had made quite a bit of money the summer before, and I was planning on getting a job at school the following year. I realized then that getting a MINI could be more than just a dream. I could even have one by the time I graduate! Once I knew my dream could be realized, getting my MINI suddenly became an obsession. Ask any of my friends about it, and they will rant for hours about how annoying I became during the time period before getting my MINI. I spent countless hours configuring and reconfiguring (and reconfiguring and reconfiguring...) multiple MINIs on MINIUSA.com. Whenever I was in the car with friends or family and I saw a MINI on the road I uncontrollably shouted "MINI!" and hastily pointed at the car with excitement (note: screaming and pointing, no matter what you are screaming, can make your driver and/or passengers very scared, and therefore angry at you after they realize it was "just" a MINI driving the opposite direction). For my 19th birthday in October of last year I asked for one main thing: for my father to take me out to MoT for a test drive. It was my first experience driving a MINI. I was excited beyond belief. Like most MINI owners will probably say about their first test drive, I was completely sold after taking it for short spin.

Finally on December 19, 2007, after painfully waiting and saving my money for so long, my very generous grandmother helped me with the down payment on my brand new '07 BRG/W MINI Cooper! It seemed that the motoring Gods had finally recognized my dedication to getting a MINI, because on that day there was a MINI configured exactly how I wanted mine to be minus the Hi-Fi Stereo (but I gladly passed on it, knowing I couldn't take another 3 months of waiting). I am now the proud owner of Victoria. We have made a bond like all MINI owners do with their car. I take the *extra*-long way home when running errands. I look forward to the 4 hour drive it takes to get home from school. On my days off I go driving just for the hell of it. Having a MINI Cooper with a white racing stripe, checkerboard mirror caps, and checkerboard sunroof, I enjoy the befuddled/admiring/reverent looks of just about anyone who is paying attention to the vehicles around them on the road. I love stopping for gas or at a rest stop on a highway and receiving compliments from the most unsuspecting people! From a rugged I-70 rest area janitor who drives a large pickup truck, to a student who walked past my car on campus while sitting at a stoplight and simply said "daaayum," I have received tons of heart-warming compliments. It's a reminder that I have accomplished my dream, and it is an amazing feeling. The only part of this whole experience I'm not enjoying is writing the check every month to pay for it! Joining DCMM has made the experience even more enjoyable that I would have ever imagined. I have met some awesome people and I don't think I will ever grow tired of seeing 20+ MINIs winding through beautiful twisty roads. See you all at the next event!



Spring Fling Run—April 6 and April 20

This run was originally held on April 24th 2005 and planned by Bruce (mty_mini) and Jen (past President and event coordinator). Haemish (Edge) decided the run was such a good one it needed to be done again this year.

After much discussion and by popular demand, we're going to do this run **twice!** Once on **Sunday, April 6** and again on **Sunday, April 20**. Here are the corresponding RSVP links:

[Sunday, April 6 - Spring Fling 2008: Sunday Drive & Brunch \(Rappa Edition\)](#)

[Sunday, April 20 - Spring Fling 2008: Sunday Drive & Brunch \(Naked Edition\)](#)

Everyone is welcome to attend **both** runs if they like - if so, be sure to RSVP for both! Please be sure to RSVP in the thread on NAM if you are bringing a passenger and if either of you will be participating in the wine tasting.

<http://www.northamericanmotoring.com/forums/showthread.php?t=131437>

WHERE TO MEET: Northeast corner of Sterling Wegmans parking lot (just down the street from MINI of Sterling)

WHEN TO MEET: **9:30am** on the date of the run. **We will be departing at 10am SHARP**, so be on time!

WHAT TO BRING: Your MINI, a 2-way radio (configured for Channel 7, Sub 21), **a full tank of gas**, money for lunch (Griffin Tavern & Restaurant [menu](#)) & wine tasting (optional: \$7.50 per person on the 6th, \$5 per person on the 20th). Also, if you aren't a current DCMM member: \$5 fee required per vehicle (why not [join the club](#) instead?)

Cumberland Valley Mountain Run—April 13th

MINIRAB is hosting the Cumberland Valley Mountain Run on April 13th. This run will start just west of Hagerstown and follow the base of Fairview Mountain up past the Whitetail Ski Resort and across the Cumberland Valley up to the of South Mountain to High Rock (one of the top hang glider spots on the East Coast). The run will then continue to Catoctin Mountain Park, past Camp David and on to Thurmont for lunch at the Cozy Restaurant. (www.cozyvillage.com). The total mileage for the run is approximately 75 miles and lunch should start around 1:30. Be prepared for some great roads and outstanding scenery!

When: April 13, meet 09:45 depart at 10:15

Where: From DC/Balt take I-70 west to Exit 24(1st exit past I-81), at bottom of ramp turn RIGHT onto Rt.63 north, go 1.5 miles to Sheetz Convenience Store on your left.

Please [RSVP](#) !

Pre-Dragon Inspection at FunKtion Auto

FunKtion Auto will offer a Dragon Run Special Service for all registered DC Metro MINI club members for \$265.00, a **savings of \$180!**

The Dragon Run Special Includes:

Undercarriage

Change oil and oil filter while engine is at operating temperature.

Check transmission for leaks.

Half shafts: Check for leaks.

Visually check fuel tank, lines and connections for leaks.

Check condition, position, and mounting of exhaust system. Examine for leaks.

Check power steering system for leaks. Check p/s fluid level; add fluid if necessary.

Check overall thickness of front and rear disc brake pads.

Examine brake disc surfaces. Grease wheel centering hubs.

Check steering for absence of play, condition of suspension track rods, front axle joints, steering linkage and joint disc.

Check brake system for leaks, damage,

Visually check shock absorbers for leaks.

Check all tire pressures (including spare). Correct if necessary. Check condition of tires (outer surfaces [left/right]), tread wear and pattern.

Rotate all four road wheels.

Engine Compartment

Read out diagnostic system.

Check engine cooling system/heater hose connections for leaks. Check coolant level and antifreeze protection level; add coolant if necessary.

Check level of brake fluid in reservoir.

Check windshield washer fluid level.

Check air conditioner operation.

Body/Electrical Equipment

Check battery.

Check lighting system, i.e., headlights, fog lights, parking, back-up, license plate, interior, glove box, illuminated make-up mirrors, and luggage area lights.

Check instrument panel and dashboard illumination.

Check all warning/indicator lights, check control.

Check turn signals, hazard warning flashers, brake lights, horns, headlight dimmer/flasher switch.

Check windshield and tailgate wipers and washer systems; wiper blades, washer jet positions.

Check condition and function of safety belts.

Check central locking system.

Check operation of all latches.

Check heater/air conditioner blower fan, rear window defogger.

Check rear view mirrors.

Visually examine the SRS airbag units for torn covers, obvious damage or attachment of decals, decorations or accessories.

Final Inspection

Road test with check of brakes, suspension, steering, automatic transmission.

Call Wayne at FunKtion Auto at 703.544.0015 or email wayne@funktionauto.com to schedule your appointment today! Please have your DCMM credentials to redeem this special pricing.

DCMM Annual Meeting

DCMM held it's annual meeting on March 15th, 2008 at FunKtion Auto. Minutes from the meeting are below

Club updates:

- Introduction to Funktion Auto by Walid and Crystal
- Introduction to SCCA
- Meeting started by Kurt – the outgoing DCMM President
- Membership number discussion
- Financial status report – healthy and growing
- 501c7 status discussion – thanks to Jen's hard work, we are approved 501c7 organization... but vast majority of income must come from membership dues
- Mention of possible annual board meeting change to after MOTD

New PayPal account change from dues@dcmetrominis.org to payment@dcmetrominis.org

- Website status – new webmaster is Alan (Scavenger)
- Request from Stacey (MININurse) to have member join DCMM Flickr account
- Newsletter status—Laura (GreenCactus) is the Editor-in-Chief

Event discussion

- Brainstorming for events
- Request for more event leaders & planners

Chris (Maxicooper) is stepping down as Event Coordinator – request for new EC

Also discussed DCMM Swag. Stacey discussed past swag (flags, badges, shirts), current (hats) and requested ideas for future swag items. (jackets, key chains, etc).

MOTD update

Stacey – status of our MOTD event (Farewell dinner)... current registration numbers are low – request to make sure all of our members attend the farewell dinner

Board elections

- Open call for board members – Katie (kgdblu), Laura (GreenCactus), Rick (Mr EZ) & Alan (Scavenger) are nominees, 4 positions open

Election held, all 4 members accepted as new board members

Meeting is concluded



April 2008 Calendar of Events

April 6th—Spring Fling Run

April 13th—Cumberland Valley Mountain Run

April 19th—Monthly Breakfast at Tate MINI

April 20th—Spring Fling Run Part 2