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**newsletter**

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[www.psmini.org](http://www.psmini.org)

# A Match Made in MINI Heaven

*Not your typical love story: boy meets girl, marries girl at dealership. They drive off happily ever after in a new Clubman.*

**By Stacie “Valvashon” Hart**

If heaven is a place on earth, most MINI owners will tell you it can be found at the local MINI dealership. Juli and David Drake took it to a new level of nirvana when they found each other at Northwest MINI. They decided to get married in this divine locale and invited their PSMINI family to share the joy.

David and Juli met while tending to their MINIs with a visit to the service department. They started talking over one of the new models in the showroom, Juli said, “and then he was gone.” It seemed that might be the end. But David had caught Juli’s license plate, SPINSTR, also her PSMINI forum name. A PM to inquire about her attendance at the next PSMINI event was the beginning of the end for Juli’s online moniker and also her marital status.

The staff at Northwest MINI was instantly onboard with the idea of a MINI wedding. Fortunately, the dealership’s owner was also charmed by the idea. Juli states they “went above and beyond” on the day, even helping with the room setup. When asked what her family thought of the wedding venue, Juli said, “Half thought I was crazy and half thought it was a stellar idea.” The date was set for April 1 to increase David’s chances of



**Photo by Jerry Cunning**

Above, David and Juli Drake, known to PS MINI members as Mozleron and Spinstr, pose with their wedding party April 1 at Northwest MINI in Fife in their new Clubman, which they picked up that day.

remembering their anniversary.

The bride arrived in style in JOIDVIE, driven by Larry Stone, and was escorted down the aisle by her father past rows of guests including Kristin and Rich Eberly (Kristin), Brenda and Steve Fromhold (Hapa Haole), Linda and Jack Grouell (WOODSTOCK and CINIMIN) and Belinda and Dean Prince (MiniCharley). The groom waited at the end of the aisle, accompanied by Mark Talkington (Scoop), who officiated the ceremony. The couple chose Mark to officiate because, “We wanted

someone who knew us, who was going to be respectful of the service,” yet would also be “funny and make our friends and family laugh.” Mark was the right man for the job.

The newly ordained minister’s words drew comparisons between marriage and owning a car. Maintenance is important. Don’t ignore the warning lights. Trade-ins are not an option. Given the love affair most MINI owners have with their cars, David and Juli could do worse than to keep

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# AMVIV 6 Gets Taste of the Great NW

What happened in Vegas March 26-29 was too good to stay in Vegas as members of PSMINI walked away with the big awards and a million new motoring stories.

Linda Grouell (WOODSTOCK) won "Best in Show" at the Show & Shine event at SAFE House in Henderson on Saturday, right after Gina Alexander (ginainbelltown) and her navigator Gloria Blanco-Duque came in with the best hand in the Poker Run (a jack-high straight). Gina won a leather jacket from host hotel Palace Station for their efforts.

More than 20 cars joined the caravan from the Northwest (including one from Washington, D.C.) on the way down, joining hundreds more from throughout the US at the annual event put on by Sin Citv Mini.



Photo by Brenda "Hapa Haole" Fromhold

Above, Linda Grouell poses with Mike Syfritt after winning the "Best in Show" award with WOODSTOCK. Syfritt is the owner of Aesthetic Creations who installed the graphics on her car. At right, MINIs lined up after the run up Mt. Charleston, one of several during the week.

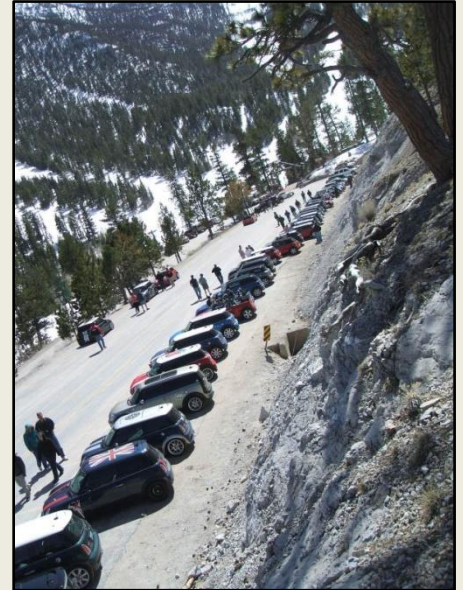


Photo by Bruce "Valvashon" Hart

## Match

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his words in mind as they start their life together.

The reception followed the ceremony and featured a bridal cake topped by two small MINIs, scale models of David and Juli's cars. The groom's cake was a replica of the 2009 Lightning Blue Clubman that awaited the couple as they raised a toast to their new life together.



Photo by Jill Murphy

## Thank you volunteers!

I'm pleased to announce several appointments that will focus efforts on some of the changes to help move our club forward.

**John Pearce (GoKart)** has agreed to head up the By-Laws Committee to see that those are revised and consistent with club needs.

**Karin Nilsson (4LFCLVR)** has accepted responsibility for the Club Regalia Committee that will look into club merchandise and will take on the discussion surrounding the logo to be used in that regard.

**Dean Prince (ConeKiller)** will be filling the role of webmaster and will be working on the main page to bring it up to date, as well as any additional pages needed. (The forum pages are separate and are using WebWhiz software.)

**Mark and Judy-Jo Tyler (KOOLBLU)** have volunteered to head up the committee for this year's Christmas party and are currently in search of a location. Watch for news on volunteer opportunities in the coming months and let them know if you might have a location available. Mark is also serving as our Parade Chairman.

**Mark Talkington (Scoop)** will continue in his role as newsletter editor and we will look to publish a newsletter on a quarterly basis. Please send any ideas you have for articles to him.

Thanks for your help and support and special thanks to the above people in accepting responsibility for these areas and volunteering their time to help make this a great club!

Linda Grouell  
PSMINI President

## Looking forward ...

Watch the psmini.org forum for exact times and departure points, and for any changes.



Photo by Mark "Scoop" Talkington

MINIs and Minis of all shapes and sizes will gather at the LeMay Museum in Spanaway in August for the annual PSMINI car show. This year's event features a poker run on day two.

**Event:** Dam Stampede to Omak

**Date:** July 17-18

**Details:** Club members from all directions will meet up and tour Central Washington

**Location:** Central meeting place is Ellensburg

**Event:** All British Field Meet

**Date:** July 25

**Details:** British cars of all types will gather to show and swap.

This year honoring Triumph  
**Location:** Bellevue Community College

**Event:** Family Mini Day at the Lake

**Date:** August 2

**Details:** Day of fun for the whole family with swimming, beach games and more

**Location:** Silver Lake in Everett

**Event:** Minis at LeMay

**Date:** August 15-16

**Details:** PSMINI's annual car show. This year featuring a poker run

**Location:** LeMay Museum in Spanaway

## Looking back ...

A sampling of events from the spring

### April

**18:** Bickleton Run with the Yakima club (16 MINIs)

**25:** Tulip Rally in Marysville (more than 50 MINIs and Minis)

### May

**9:** Griot's Detailing Clinic, Fife (29 MINIs)

**16:** Mod party, potluck, garage sale at Go Kart's place in Olympia (multiple MINIs received loving care)

**30-31:** This is Stonehenge. Overnight drive, wineries and twisties on Maryhill Loops Road (20 MINIs)



Photo by Leanne "cativr2" Powell

PSMINI members enjoyed spirited driving on a private road in Eastern Washington during the Stonehenge weekend run.

### June

**13-14:** Winged Victory IV, Olympia. Annual rally, won this year by driver Dave Roundhill and navigator Helen Roundhill (36 MINIs)

## 10 turns with: Cheetah



Meet Sanaye Birney, proud owner of a 2005 Solid Gold/Black Cooper with a never-ending supply of cheetah-themed accessories



Photo by Mark "Scoop" Talkington

**First car:** Nissan 510.

**Worst car:** Pontiac Sunbird

**First concert:** The Beatles at Cow Palace in San Francisco

**Currently in your CD player:** IL Divo

**Three things always in the MINI:** My favorite CDs, snacks and bottled water

**Best road trip:** MINI Mountain Madness in 2007 and the Tulip Rally every year

**Favorite road food:** Cheetos

**Worst idea I ever had:** Giving my later mom's jewelry to someone I thought was a friend. Never thanked or acknowledged

**Favorite octane:** 92

**Better job: president of the US or president of MINI USA?** President of MINI USA

*Sanaye lives in Everett where she is retired from customer service at Community Transit and The Herald newspaper.*



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## COME JOIN THE FUN

Check out our forums at [www.psmiini.org](http://www.psmiini.org). You'll get to know the members and browse through current and past topics. It's also free to join us at events.

Of course, membership has its privileges. Paid members are covered by group insurance during events, and receive discounts from a number of local and national vendors. Membership is \$25 per year.

For more information, e-mail: [psmini@psmini.org](mailto:psmini@psmini.org)