



## British Conclave 2002

by Kenn Lively

The 2002 British Motoring Conclave was a smashing success for Minis Of The Rockies (M.O.T.R.). More Minis showed up for the Ride the Rockies Tour than ever before—more in fact than have shown up in past years for the Conclave: 6 classic Minis; 1 MINI. It was awesome and way big fun.

The group of M.O.T.R. heads were early arrivals at the parking lot, and the organizers were in disarray. The registration bags and the rally directions were locked in a pickup, and the person who had the key was conspicuous by his absence. When the keys finally arrived, two lines formed: preregistered and registrants. Most M.O.T.R.



A conga line through the Rockies



Convoying out of the parking lot

members were in the registrants line, which may or may not be significant.

Fully registered and bearing instructions (sometimes with a navigator and sometimes not), the M.O.T.R. head formed a convoy and headed out, led by a driver/navigator team. The leaders promptly missed the first turn. Several people honked and waved, but then followed the leader, because everyone knew they were going to end up on Ralston Road anyway—and they did.

It was a typical Front Range day. Sunshine, deep blue skies, a slight chill in the air with a promise of scented breezes—and cars cheek by jowl on the thoroughfares. This was not the usual M.O.T.R. blast through the city and mountains. This tour was a leisurely jaunt through little traveled city streets, a brief trip on a freeway when necessary, and

a long glide through the mountains, constantly scanning the roadside for anything that seemed to match the written clues.

Kenn realized that he had missed the first clue when he got the second one. Driving and navigating is not the easiest at best, and when he missed the third and fourth clues (on the same sign that just disappeared behind him) he decided that perusing the passing landscapes and staying up with the others was more important than filling out the score card so he put his pen away. At the first stop—designed to allow people to stretch their legs and search for clues—Kenn discovered that all the Mini drivers and navigators were feeling rather casual about filling out the rally sheet.

While the discussion was underway, Bill Frakes rescued a bus. He noticed that the hood was up on the bus and inquired: dead battery. Bill jumped into his Mini and backed across the street in front of the bus, whipped out his jumper cables and promptly got the



Pulling the thorn from the Lion's foot



The usual suspects try to have some fun

behemoth started. Ok, so he had to empty out his trunk to find his jumper cables, and it took about five minutes before the dead battery had enough life to crank the engine, but he was still the hero. The mouse rescues the elephant. It was priceless.

Having agreed to just cruise along and not double back if a clue was missed, the pod of Minis set out to enjoy themselves. After the stop in Golden, the tour continued on Sixth to highway 40—up the canyon. When that option gave out at the Buffalo herd overlook, the route joined I-70 until the Evergreen exit. Then it was right at the first light to continue the highway 40 cruise to Floyd Hill.

The rally sheet then led them back onto I-70 until Idaho Springs, and through that tiny mountain community to the Mt. Evans turnoff. See where this is heading? From Idaho Springs to Echo Lake, there were no instructions except enjoy the scenery, and enjoy it they did.

The Aspens were just turning in the high country and the vistas were phenomenal.



The Bini is quite large amongst the Minis

Watching a samba line of Minis glide around the mountains kept a smile on more than one Mini driver. Echo Lake was the planned lunch stop.

After lunch, the route led back the other way toward Bergen Park. The Minis stayed in tandem through most of the stages and were right together when they came to the end of the rally. No one turned in a rally sheet (a new record).

After posing for a few pictures, the group decided that they needed more

mountain time in their Minis, and asked Kenn to lead them down through Evergreen and into Morrison. Another fine drive for Miniacs.

Just before Morrison, Kenn hung a quick left and led the group through Red Rocks. There are some very tight turns on this back way through the park before it joins the road past the amphitheater, and this short detour was a knockout.

As agreed in Bergen Park, the group started taking their separate turns for home after Morrison. Several hit I-70, but only Kenn and Bob made the turn onto 6<sup>th</sup>—horns blasting—for the TREX congested ride home.

Ride the Rockies was a blast for everyone. It was great work by the organizers. Then there was the Conclave.

There were 31 Minis/MINIs at the Conclave and there wasn't enough room in the Mini designated area. The cars were packed two deep in places, and blocking the Rolls Royces in other places. If Dean hadn't allowed three Minis to share the Computer Car space they would have probably stacked them two high! Some Minis were scattered throughout the conclave, in with the RMVR cars or in the club space for other clubs which helped out in the lack of space department.

What a sight to see the Minis and MINIs together, and to watch the reaction of the spectators. The new MINI is a hit. Someone was overheard to say that online, the new MINI is referred to as the Bini (BMW MINI) instead of as the new MINI.

The organizers must have paid off Mother Nature, because the day was darn near perfect. Cool and clear in the morning,



Some early voters checking the goods



## Minis Of The Rockies

warm and clear in the afternoon, with a few clouds around to bring respite from the sun, but not enough clouds to threaten rain. Much different from the years it rained all day. Grins were a-poppin everywhere and sunscreen was the preferred moisturizer.

Most of the morning was spent talking with members and potential members and wandering around trying to fill in the voting form—votes had to be in by 12:00 (although this deadline was extended). It's always difficult to vote for the best car of a group. Many people don't know what makes a good MG Midget/AH Sprite, and some of the delineations are strange to non-owners: An MG with a chrome bumper is in a different group than an MG with a black (safety) bumper. Go figure.



**The Minis/MINIs had to double up**



**The Hovsepians brought both cars for this event**

One of the new MINIs that has just moved here from California was still sporting the CA vanity plate: GBSMKED. For those who weren't around for the '99 Minis in the Mountains, the term "gob smacked" is British for amazement—explanations available at the next meeting. The CA MINI also had roof graphics over the sunroof—they were perforated and see through. It was a great looking car.

The voting was finally tabulated and the awards were begun around 1:45—not time enough to get an award and get home in time for the Bronco game. Some sacrifices have to be made in the name of Mini. Luckily, the Mini judging was about the third one announced, so it was still early in the day when everyone started leaving (a few left early on).

Good times, good cars and fun people. What could be better?

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### **M.O.T.R. Meeting**

The September meeting of Minis Of The Rockies (M.O.T.R.) filled the meeting place. It wasn't quite capacity, but it was close: 18 members (ten Mini/MINIs in the parking lot). Even with a full house, it was no more raucous than usual—we have our standards.

The meeting was gaveled to order around 8:00 by president Kenn Lively, who was also doing administrative assistant duties for this meeting—Carolyn Quick was absent.

After denting a table with the gavel,

Kenn gave a brief report on the Shell Grand Prix of Denver. He was a marshal in the pit lane—a credential cop—and worked all three days. He told a good story about Mario Andretti, and reported on the Paul Newman and Ashley Judd sightings. He recommends volunteering next year. Paul Herrmann reported that he could hear the race cars from his house in Cherry Creek—a long way from downtown. The cars are LOUD, and volunteers are issued ear plugs for each day they work.

Paul then reported on the shortened Glenwood Springs Rallye and offered to show his videos of the fire for anyone interested. The fire was right across the road from Glenwood. He then suggested that M.O.T.R. report on the Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing (RMVR) and Nostalgia racing results in the newsletter. At least the results of the M.O.T.R. members, and maybe all the Minis racers, members or not. The editor promised to take it under advisement.

Kenn then passed around a couple of ideas for T-shirts and promised to bring more to the next meeting (he accepts entries by e-mail: [kennlively@bod.net](mailto:kennlively@bod.net)). Paul has a friend who does silk screening and can probably get us a deal on the manufacturing. The talk turned from T-shirts to calendars, and Kenn said he would try to get one together with members Minis.

Bill Frakes gave his report on Mini Meet West, 2002. He was the only M.O.T.R. member who attended. He drove out at night and it was still 100 degrees in Las Vegas when they went through. He drove through to



Valencia (southern California) where his brother lives, and then drove on down to Orange county on Thursday.

The event was well organized and Mini Owners of America, Los Angeles (MOALA) were very nice. The autocross was the first

promptly installed them. He had it fixed in time for the rally, and it was a blast—those California beaches are great.

Bill was also the winner of four new Yokohama 008 10" tires. Fortunately for M.O.T.R. members, Bill has 12" rims on his car, so the Yoko's are for sale for \$236 the set (great price). Kenn wanted to claim them right away, but couldn't come up with the money on the spot. If any members wants them, give Bill a call at 303-671-2506.

Bill also got a chance to meet Graham Riley, the head of Heritage Garage—those wonderful folks who are still manufacturing replacement panels and bodies for classic Minis.

There were 177 cars and 233 entrants for Mini Meet West 2002—a huge turnout. It is probably indicative of the renewed interest in Minis that the new MINI has inspired. Keep those numbers in mind while making plans for Mini Meet West 2003 in Victoria, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. The dates are set for August 12-14, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. (Let's see, Saturday thru Monday to drive up, Friday thru Sunday to drive home—perfect.) Check out the reports on the 2002 meet at <http://www.moala.org/MMW/> and view the results at <http://www.moala.org/>.

Next, Paul took the floor to extol the good driving of Darren Haines. Darren has been driving in some of the M.O.T.R. rides with his learners permit—parent in the passenger seat, but he finally got his drivers license two days before the last of summer ride. Driving alone for the first time, he suffered a broken throttle cable on the way to Ft. Collins but still managed the 363 mile cruise with style and aplomb. Congratulations Darren, good show—we are all gobsmacked!

After he finished gushing about Darren, Paul turned to Michael Playle and asked him why he is selling his woody now that he has it sorted out and it's running so well: "Because work is being funny, again, and there are more shutdown days. I have to be

prepared for the worst." Good answer, too bad he has to sell.

Lisa Hite reported that there is a garage in Ft. Collins that is going to get her Mini running in exchange for the Mini body that is

**M.O.T.R. Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 1, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Zang's Brewery**  
**23rd & I-25**

The meeting is in the back room. Members arrive around 7:00 and the business meeting starts around 8:00. The 50/50 raffle is the last order of business. Videos are optional—bring any motoring videos you would like to share. This meeting we'll be voting for the new M.O.T.R. T-shirts.

event, and Bill happened to be first. He was doing fine until the carburetor leaned out in the last turn. He never thought he was a contender, but he sure had a good time (except for the carb) and his time improved with each run.

After the autocross, Bill headed back to the hotel and was checking the engine over when something about the radiator didn't look right. He pulled it out (no mean feat), and not only was it slightly bent, but it was clogged and nasty. He strolled over to the vendor area, and bought a super cool two core radiator and a tropical fan, then

**W I N B I G**

**Show off your design skills**

**Demonstrate your artistic side**

Bring a design for the **NEW M.O.T.R. T-shirt** to the next meeting—competition is still open

A new T-shirt design will be chosen  
**You may already be a winner!**

The winning entry gets a  
**FREE T-shirt**

Sharpen those pencils

Crank up that airbrush

**W I N B I G**

hanging in the rafters of her garage. Way to barter, Lisa. Mini parts will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no Mini parts (apologies to the Freak Bros).

The last race of the season for Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing (RMVR) is coming up September 21-22. The annual Pueblo enduro is looking for a few good volunteers to work corners, pit and grid, or anything else. It's always fun. If you miss this one, you can always volunteer for next year—crash and burn school is always entertaining and informative.

Kenn sold 50/50 raffle tickets, and Dick Shearer collected his share of the booty while the official meeting was gaveled to an end (the party continued).

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## Minis For Sale

**1970 Mini Clubman Estate** - \*\*\* New Price \*\*\* This car has a 1275GT spec engine and interior and has been converted to a Woody. Has many upgrades including disk brakes, 12" wheels. A beautiful red that really shows off the new wood. (Did I mention that this car is fast?) Call or email for full details. Work: (970) 407-6483 Home: (970) 207-0804 email: [mplayle@earthlink.net](mailto:mplayle@earthlink.net) Was \$9700, now **\$9500/obo** CO Michael Playle 970-207-0804 [mplayle@earthlink.net](mailto:mplayle@earthlink.net) 25-Sep-02

**1964 Morris Mini Cooper Mk1** - Genuine LHD MK1 Mini Cooper. Runs and drives good. Sliding windows, external door hinges and small taillights. 10"x5" Mamba wheels. Red body is in good shape with no visible rust. Please email me for more info. See pictures at <http://www.klhoughton.com/mini/1964MorrisMiniCooper/index.html> **\$6,500/obo** CO Keith Houghton [keith@klhoughton.com](mailto:keith@klhoughton.com) 24-Sep-02

**1966 Mini Moke** - PRICE REDUCED! Car was featured in January 2001 Mini World magazine. Body is totally original and rust free. Twin SU carbs, 2" roll bar with 3 point safety belts, 2 bucket seats, like new bikini top, 5 1/2" white wheels and tachometer. Runs great, fun to drive but will need engine rebuild soon. Also included are ALL of the following original parts in excellent condition: 850cc engine that runs well, 4" wheels, 4 seats with cushions, top hoops for original convertible top. White w/Green Hood Stripes **\$ 6,000** CO Richard Shearer 303-789-1658 [rgshearer100@hotmail.com](mailto:rgshearer100@hotmail.com) 07-Sep-02

**1976 Leyland Mini 1000** - Very clean car!! Good everyday driver. Also included but not currently installed, new wine red carpet set, black vinyl dash panels, chrome bullet mirrors, headlamp peaks, stainless steel side strips. Very recent complete tune-up and oil change. New water and fuel pump. Stainless steel wheel arches, bootlid liner, Haynes manual, original dash. White w/black checkered roof and bonnet decals. **\$ 5,000** TN Letty Mullins 423-235-4651 [lettymullins@aol.com](mailto:lettymullins@aol.com) 23-Sep-02

**1967 Riley Elf Mk III** - This Riley was recently restored with new paint (maroon w/ white roof), complete new interior from Newton Commercial, many bits rechromed, engine bay detailed, and the car has had a comprehensive service from FAF Performance including new clutch. The car has 10x6 Mamba alloys with new center caps and wheel centers painted in maroon to match, brand new Yoko A008's, Group 2 arches with chrome trim. BTW, this car is FL titled. This is truly a very nice Elf, that needs a new home! Photos available on request. PRICE REDUCED!!! **\$ 5,750** FL Windsor [FlaKeysMinis@aol.com](mailto:FlaKeysMinis@aol.com) 23-Sep-02

**1974 Morris Mini Cooper 1275** - 1974 Morris Mini in a very nice Flip Flop paint. Color is really nice, it has a pearlescent in it so it changes color from a mint teal green to a purple blue. This Mini has a 1275 engine, sports pac wheel arches, 13" Superlite wheels w/low profile Dunlaps, bullet mirrors, RC 40 Center exhaust, New chrome bumpers, large fogs recessed in the grille and it is also right hand drive. The car runs drives and stops good but could use a tune up. The 1275 is a peppy little engine! Car does have normal Mini rust here and there but with a little time this car can be really nice. Interior seats are nice retro plaid fabric, newer carpet. This car turns heads and drops jaws wherever it goes!!! Please email for any pictures or info you want!! **\$ 4,900** OH Steve 440-684-1422 [steve11@stratos.net](mailto:steve11@stratos.net) 22-Sep-02

**1973 Mini 1000** - Price Reduced!!! Up for sale is an original, stock, 1973, Orange British Leyland Mini 1000 (standard round-nose Mini). This is not a re-vin or a re-shell. The engine is a 998cc, four-cylinder, water-cooled, transverse configuration and shares lubrication with the four-speed, all synchromesh, manual transmission. Engine and body have approximately 46,000 original miles (76,000 kilometers). No, that is not a typo. The mileage has been verified and it is NOT an odometer turnover. 46,000 ORIGINAL MILES! This car was initially manufactured in the United Kingdom for export to New Zealand. I then imported from New Zealand to California. It has a clear, current California title and registration. It is a Right Hand Drive. I am not a dealer. I purchased this automobile for driving. However, I am moving in another direction in the car collecting world and so I am reluctantly putting this beautiful Mini up for sale. The individual who selected, inspected, and made this car what it is spent a lot of time fine tuning it before I received it. I am saddened that his hard-earned efforts do not now accrue to me. The upside is that the new owner will have thousands of worry free (s)miles with this car! I don't want to sell this Mini, it is a gut-wrenching experience, but I must. For a complete description go to <http://users.cvip.net/~gtw02/OrangeMiniWebPage.htm> Note the web page name is too long for a hot link. Be sure to type in the entire URL including "Orange Mini Web Page.htm." Price reduced!!! Still for sale. Still running great. I'm advertising locally. No reasonable offer refused. **\$ 6,000** CA Gary Ward [gary.ward@sccd.com](mailto:gary.ward@sccd.com) 26-Sep-02

These and other Minis for sale can be found on the Minis Mania website: [www.minimania.com](http://www.minimania.com)