

REME Reporter

Volume 1/Issue 2

March/April 2008

Early Runs of 2008

East Bay Run

February 10th saw the first all-REME run of the year. A huge group full of new faces gathered at Peet's Coffee & Tea in Lafayette. We headed west into the Berkeley hills where we found ourselves part of the "Bearathlon VI" hosted by the Cal Triathlon Team. Even though the group got split up by cyclists, cruising police cars, and wrong turns, we all managed to join up for lunch at Bosco's Bones & Brew in Sunol, where we were met with a bountiful buffet lunch. The afternoon found us winding our way back east, where we took a break at the Altamont Pass to look at the windmills, and into Clayton where we finished at Ed's Mudville Grill.



Many thanks to our new East Bay Chapter Chair, Kat Noble, and her navigator Brent Clay for coming up with the run and leading the way. We're sure more will be coming from the East Bay Chapter!

To see pictures from the run, go here: <http://www.redwoodempiremini.com/mbbs2/photos/photo-thumbnails.asp?albumid=187>. To see the run map, go here: <http://redwoodempiremini.com/PDF/REME%20-%20East%20Bay%202-10-08.pdf>.

Mount Tamalpais/Cheese Factory Run

On March 1st, another large group full of veterans and soon-to-be veterans met at Strawberry Village in Mill Valley. Departure time found us moving west and then UP

to view the San Francisco Bay from the top of Mt. Tamalpais. After a rest stop and Dramamine dosage, we wound our way down Mt. Tam. Most of the group found themselves back on the Shoreline Highway, while a small group finished Ridgecrest Road before rejoining Shoreline. The two groups traveled separately through Pt. Reyes Station before we all gathered up at the Marin French Cheese Company for an alfresco lunch. (Isn't it funny how we manage to find the lunch spots together?) Our post-lunch route found us running north on Marshall-Petaluma Road, before turning south again towards Petaluma. The group that continued from Petaluma was again separated, but the two groups found their way over the grade at Lucas Valley Road and safely into the parking lot at Northgate Mall in San Rafael. We were fortunate to have some guest riders with us this day. Mike & Karen Bennett joined us from Liverpool, England, and ghosting us in his Mustang while awaiting his own special MINI, was John "Boxcars" Matyja. (Whom, at presstime is now in possession of his dream MINI!) Thanks to our Membership Chair, Rick Molinari for coming up with the "bones" of this run! To view the REME Album, click here: <http://www.redwoodempiremini.com/mbbs2/photos/photo-thumbnails.asp?albumid=195>. To view the run map, click here: <http://redwoodempiremini.com/PDF/REME%20-%20Tamalpais%20-%20Cheese%20Factory.pdf>.



MAGICAL MINI MYSTERY TOUR



SAN FRANCISCO ★ SEPTEMBER 2008

Plans, vendors, and equipment are all coming together for September's Magical Mystery Mini Tour. As of March 4, 2008, with 183 days left, we have 193 entries—319 participants, signed up to come to the Magical Mystery Mini Tour. We have several vendor commitments as well.

We have rented the entire Great Lawn on Treasure Island. This lawn is over 1000 feet long and 160 feet wide. It has paved parking alongside for our Minis.

Friday, September 5th, will be registration, and we plan to have a DJ playing 1960's – 1970's theme music. We have a group rate and arrangement with the San Francisco Giants to visit AT&T Park, one of the finest ball parks in America, for a Giants vs. Pirates Major League Baseball Game.

On Saturday, September 6th, the morning will include a Mini run over the Golden Gate Bridge, the Marin Headlands, Mount Tamalpais, and up the coast to Stinson Beach. Saturday afternoon will include a visit to Infineon (Sears Point) Raceway in Sonoma County or a run through the Sonoma/Napa Valley to visit wineries.

Our Saturday night meal will be provided by San Francisco Deli & Catering BBQ. If you were lucky enough, you enjoyed their fabulous food and service at our 2007 Mountain Tour atop Mount Shasta. The menu will be hand-rubbed tri-tip and chicken barbecued over oak, special barbecued baked beans, Caesar salad, sourdough dinner rolls, and all the great condiments needed to round out great barbecue. Waterloo, an Abba tribute band, will entertain us from 7pm-10pm.

Sunday, September 7th, will see us enjoying a Sunrise Bonfire & Breakfast at Ocean Beach. The breakfast will be furnished by San Francisco Deli & Catering. The early morning menu includes mixed pastries & muffins, doughnuts, bagels & cream cheese, coffee, tea, orange juice and milk. We will all need the nourishment for the "Steve McQueen Memorial Run" through the streets of San Francisco. Sunday afternoon we will have the Santa Cruz Mountain Run.

Our main dining tent on the lawn is a 100' X 130' Legend Main Tent (13,000 square feet). The tent will include clear paneling so we'll be able to enjoy the views of the bay and other scenery. We will have 60" diameter round tables for seating with 10 chairs per table and stay comfortable with propane heaters and soft ambient lighting throughout.

Also on the grass, the Vendor Village will consist of 30 units - each 10' X 10' with electrical power. The Band Stage will be 24' deep x 36' wide x 24" tall.

For safety, there will be up-lighting on the inside and out side walls of the main tent, with lighting on the catering area, vendor village, bathrooms, and the band stage. The tenting will be equipped with 20 fire extinguishers, emergency lighting and nine clear vinyl exits.

Almost most importantly, we'll have 30 standard Port-a-Potties (plus three that are ADA Handicap approved) with washing stations.

-Norm Nelson

Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts was formed for both new and classic Mini Cooper owners located within an hour radius of the Petaluma to Healdsburg Highway 101 corridor. Counties served include San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Mendocino, and Lake. We also have very active members located in the Sacramento and Central Valleys, as well as the South Bay and Peninsula areas. Anyone wishing to participate from outside of the area is invited to join our membership and our activities.

Our group is informal and activities are intended to be fun. We will do everything in our power to facilitate that goal for all members. Our club is still in its infancy. Participation in any group activities is at the sole risk and cost of each participant.

Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts

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Founder's Message

I want to welcome all new members to Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts. We had ten new member cars in January, twenty in February and six in the first two days of March bringing REME membership to 365 cars. There must be a reason that the club continues to grow at such a fantastic rate. It is because of you - each and every active or semi-active member who makes visitors and newer members feel so welcome.



We have an active membership not only in the North Bay Area but also with chapters in the Sacramento Valley, Upper Central Valley, and East Bay Area. In upcoming issues of the newsletter each chairman of the area chapters will introduce themselves and their goals and or visions for their group. Additionally, the 2008 REME Board members will also introduce themselves to the membership (my introduction was in the last newsletter). Leeta, our dedicated and talented publisher will add the profiles as space permits in upcoming editions of the newsletter. If you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations for club improvement, all board members, chapter chairmen, and committee chairmen are listed in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact us.

On January 5 we had an Upper Central Valley REME run turned social due to nasty weather, followed by an REME windshield replacement day and BBQ in Windsor on January 19. The Windshield Replacement and Repair Day was a great success. I believe that 17 windshields were replaced on member's cars. On February 10th, 34 cars participated in our East Bay Area Run. It was chronicled in at least 2 local area newspapers. After such a successful run in February, I am happy to report that we had even more participating cars in our March 1st run in Western Marin County and Southern Sonoma County, where we had 39 participating vehicles. We will have to wait and see if any local newspapers caught us in flight.

Thank you to all that participate making this the fastest growing and more importantly the most active Mini-MINI club in Northern California. As the club continues to grow, the number of dedicated volunteers increases more than proportionately. I look forward to our next run and the ones following that.

-Peter Ziedrich



Norm and Peter's cars at our Windshield Replacement Day sponsored by 1st Class Auto Glass

REME News

The UCV (Upper Central Valley) Chapter of Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts are preparing for Kool April Night's April 16th - 20th! Every year in mid April, Redding fills with classic cars of all makes, models, years, and colors. This year REME will be filling it with MINIs and Minis as well! We can't wait to have all of you join us for a great weekend!



In February we had a small gathering on Super Bowl Sunday at Norm & Jesse's home, which was filled with wonderful food and fun. Although many of us had differing ideas on which team

should win, we had a great time, even with Norm and Mindy winning all the money in the pool! Thanks again to Norm & Jesse for opening their home to us once again. To the left we see Taylor Mitchell enjoying a drive in Norm & Jesse's driveway.

We are also in the process of planning gatherings/runs monthly or every other month in and around our area, which should be easier now that the weather will be on our side as spring approaches.

-Mindy Brown, UCV REME Chair

The East Bay REME Chapter has formed! A couple of new members and members-to-be joined us on our East Bay Run on 2/10/2008. Right now I have 11 members who have responded to my quick poll of how interested they are in the EB chapter, etc. Most are interested in some sort of weekend gathering that involves a scenic run and food. A few have also mentioned tech events, detailing and a general network that is not limited to Minis.



John and Karen Cerilli loved their '06 MINI so much they decided to buy it out of its lease. Above you can see how they equip their mini when they go camping.

- Kat Noble, EB REME Chair

Editor's Notes

First off, let me say that I love my MINI. What about yours? Well, enough about yours; I didn't get *yours*, I got *mine*, and *mine's* the one I love. Before I alienate you all, let me tell you what I *do* love about yours. It led you to REME and the great people that belong to this community.



Back in March of '06, my husband, Rob, took possession of his brand-spankin-new MINI convertible, Minion. We both attended our first REME run in April, where we explored the Sacramento Delta. While the run was fun, it was the group that we met that day that had us returning for more local dinner events, and then our first multi-day event of REME's Trinity-Shasta-Lassen run in June of that same year. We haven't stopped since, and over the past two years, we've seen how the club has grown, and we've stepped out from being newbies and became veterans.

While Peter talks about how the club is growing, I want to make sure the club stays close and personal to everyone. How do we ensure this? I think we need to make sure everyone knows one another and sees how diverse our group is. To that end, the *REME Reporter* will start profiling faces in the club. Not just the "important" guys, but you, too, because your being active is what helps this club grow. This issue, we have two guinea pigs (er, profiles) to read about. Jerry Del Castello (who is a Board Member) from Novato and Garrett Davis from Suisun City. They've both done such a great job, I feel confident that each and everyone of you will say "yes!" when I come up to you out of the blue and ask you for a small blurb about yourself. Thanks in advance!

-litabelle

REME and the MINI Community

MINIs Motoring Against Cancer



Thanks to Sandie Zdunaik's (Sandiepepper) keen eye, quick thinking, and generosity, Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts will be honored to take possession and carry the Minis Motoring Against Cancer Banner. This is a charitable cause that started with the Tar Heels Mini Club in North Carolina and has passed from club to club across the USA. Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts will take possession at AMVIV in Las Vegas and Sandie will carry it on to Emerald Mini Club in Oregon. There will be a ceremony and pictures for the passing of the flag at AMVIV.

We have set up a donation account with our local American Cancer Society so that REME members can make donations in the name of Minis Motoring Against Cancer or Redwood Empire Mini Enthusiasts. Make your donation here:

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?px=5261765&pg=personal&fr_id=11100



Are You Registered for the Magical Mystery Mini Tour? What are you waiting for?

<http://www.magicalmysteryminitour.com>

New Faces

Sara Popovich..... Arcata
 Angie Williams..... Auburn
 Andrew Lampi..... Cool
 Joy Clark..... Daly City
 Chip Zempel..... Fair Oaks
 Bryan MacDonald..... Folsom
 Reed Wimmer..... Folsom
 Andrew Vitek..... Huntingdon Valley, PA
 John Ulvila..... Lakeport
 Don Compton..... Lodi
 Jim Ireland..... Manteca
 Tom Fortenberry..... Mill Valley
 David Schwoegler..... Oakland
 Rachel Harp..... Penryn
 John Matyja..... Petaluma
 Nina Palaganas..... Pittsburg
 Brandon Hoang..... Pleasanton

Cindy Willhite..... Redding
 Iain Sutherland..... Red Bluff (Sandy Springs, GA)
 Paul Edmonds..... Rohnert Park
 Thomas Sanborn..... Sacramento
 Tran Shawn Yu..... Sacramento
 Deborah Ross-Monelo..... San Jose
 Wallace Lee..... San Mateo
 Camilla Wong..... San Francisco
 Tamara Barrett..... San Francisco
 Wil Klassen..... San Francisco
 Meredith Bressie..... Sausalito
 Ron Lussier..... Sausalito
 Melody Martin..... Sonora
 George Edgerton..... Walnut Creek
 Jon Canaan..... West Sacramento
 Claire Pang..... Woodside

Jerry Del Castello (Smokey)

Before joining REME my motoring life was dull and mundane. Same thing day after day. BORING. I was driving around without any direction. Totally lost. But now, thanks to REME, I have a reason to drive and places to go. I met Norm in December '05 at East Bay MINI. He gave me one of his cards and told me about the club. Gerry and I went on our first run in January '06 it was the Point Reyes, Marin Headlands run. We had a blast! I told Gerry, that this was the best birthday present I had ever received. (My birthday is on the 9th.) We decided then that we would join REME. Since then we have been on many weekend runs and numerous overnights. The things I enjoy most about our club is the fact that everyone has the same interests. They love driving Minis, Talking about Minis, showing Minis, working on Minis and Minis, Minis and Minis.

Back in 1969 I saw this movie called The Italian Job. I knew then that I wanted a Mini Cooper. A few days later I went downtown to British Motor Cars on Van Ness Ave in San Francisco. Right there on the showroom floor was a beautiful British racing green with a white top Mini Cooper S. It was love at first sight. This was to be a short romance though because I was lacking the most important thing—M.O.N.E.Y. dang! At that time in my life I was 19 years old and going to City College and working part time at the Post Office. (Hippy Dippy Mailman) Well time passed and after many different jobs and many different non-British cars, I finally got my MINI. My life really got shook up in the late 80's. That is when I met Gerry. We were married in '91 and I became a husband, step father to two daughters and a homeowner all on the same day. WHEW. I was forty-one and had never been married before. It has been very rewarding and quite the learning experience for us. The girls are grown now and living on their own, and Gerry and I have more time to spend together.



I love doing re-model work on our home. I have built a large deck, re-modeled our kitchen and just lately re-modeled our master bathroom. I worked in the building trade for over twenty years doing mainly sheet metal work and furnace installations. I currently work as a Building Engineer at a large hospital in Daly City. I maintain the heating and cooling systems, operate high pressure steam boilers, do plumbing, carpentry and electrical work. It can be a very demanding job but also very rewarding. I have been doing this type of work for about fifteen years. REME has and will always be my new and extended family.

Garett Davis

I am originally from Durango, Colorado. When I started driving, I lived right smack in the Arkansas River canyon. This was a very good road for "spirited driving" and that is where I learned that I really loved to drive. Once I joined the Air Force, (yeah yeah, I know, pilot, fast car) I moved to Texas. Now don't get me wrong, I loved Texas, but the roads were a little bit lacking. I saw my first MINI in a used car lot in San Antonio. I didn't really know what it was, but boy did it look good! I whipped in and asked for a test drive. They let me take it for a spin by myself. That was all it took, I was hooked. I ordered my car from the BMW dealer, soon to be MINI dealer, who knew absolutely nothing about the cars! I educated them on all of the features and options available, and waited. Four months later I had my very own MINI, the fourteenth one delivered in San Antonio! Over the next two years, I spent a **lot** of time with the South Texas MINI Club driving the best roads we could find. It was a lot of fun. Then I got sent to Travis AFB, here in Cali. It was the best thing a twisty road loving MINI enthusiast could ask for! I did a search for MINI clubs and immediately found REME. I went to the first drive I could, which happened to be in my favorite area around here, the Marin Headlands. I immediately loved the atmosphere and the people. This was the club for me. I love that we consistently have new people showing up and we are always trying to find new and better runs to dazzle drivers with.



I have been fascinated with the classic Minis since I got my MINI. I eventually found a Mini that was exactly what I was looking for. One problem—it was sitting in the Netherlands! So, with a little help from a source over there, and the customs company here, I managed to get my new toy, "Kreuzr", back to the states. Now I don't know which one to take on the runs, I love to drive both cars!! Tough decisions!!

I think one of my favorite roads around here is Fairfax-Bolinas Road in the Headlands. All of that area is absolutely beautiful! Of course being in the military, I have had the opportunity to drive a little overseas. I spent some time in southern Spain and put a **lot** of miles on my rental car exploring the country. I found one road in particular that beats all roads I have ever been on. It was CA-9104 between the towns of Zahara and Grazalema. It was a typical mountain road for the area, no painted lines, barely wide enough for two cars, concrete blocks to keep cars on the road, and everybody driving like it's a race course! But this one had the best view of the very cool old town of Zahara, it's neighboring lake and the winding road up the side of the mountain. Just amazing! I only wish that I had my MINI there with me, the Seat Leon was good, but not a MINI!

What's Happenin'



Daniel (Skurfer) & Quinton (ATCQL) Enjoy the Day

March

- 15 (Saturday): NB-REME Dinner ([RSVP](#))
- 22 (Saturday): **SV-REME** - Sacramento Area AMVIV send-off Dinner ([RSVP](#))
- 27-30 (Thurs-Sunday): Sin City Minis - AMVIV5 A Mini Vacation in Vegas 5 ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 29 (Saturday): EB-REME Mini Run & Social ([RSVP](#))

April

- 16-20 (Wed-Sun): Kool April Nites - Redding CA ([RSVP](#))
- 20 (Sunday): **SV-REME** - Sacramento Area Trip to Chico/Mini Run & Dinner at Basque Norte ([RSVP](#))
- 20 (Sunday): CABCC - Chico Area All-British Meet
- 21 (Monday): SAMOA (Sacramento Area Miata Owners Assoc) - Got Guts at Thunderhill III. ([INFO](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 25-27 (Fri-Sun) Euro Sunday - Euro 500 Rally ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#))
- 27 (Sunday): Pacific Coast Dream Machines Car Show - Half Moon Bay CA ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#))

May

- 4 (Sunday): **REME** - Susuin Bay-Lake Berryessa Run
- 17 (Saturday): [Mini Mania](#), A Nevada City Adventure Open House ([INFO](#))
- 17 (Saturday): **SV-REME** - Dinner/Social ([RSVP](#))
- 18 (Sunday): UBSCC All-British Car Show, Woodland, CA (previously held in Dixon) ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#))

June

- 14 (Saturday): **REME** - Mini Day @ AT&T Park Giants vs A's ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 26-29 (Thurs-Sun): MOALA - Mini Meets West in Orange County, CA ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#))
- 28 (Saturday): **SV-REME** - Dinner/Social ([RSVP](#))

July

- 10-15 (Thurs-Tues): **REME** - Ring of Fire Run - Oregon, Washington - Victoria Canada
- 19 (Saturday): **SV-REME** - Sac Area Dinner/Social ([RSVP](#))

August

- 2 (Saturday): **REME** - North Coast Run
- 21 (Thursday): Hooked on MINIS Thunderhill Raceway Park Willows CA ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 24 (Sunday): **SV-REME** - Dinner/Social

September

- 5-7 (Friday-Sunday): **REME** - Magical Mystery MINI Tour, San Francisco, CA ([INFO](#)) ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 13-20 (Saturday-Following Sunday): TARGA New Foundland ([Register](#)) ([INFO](#))
- 14 (Sunday): Palo Alto British Car Meet (location to be determined)
- 20 (Saturday): **REME** - End of Summer Luau ([RSVP](#))
- 20 Vintage Mini Challenge at Sears Point - Infineon Raceway ([INFO](#))

October

- 12 (Saturday): **SV-REME** - Dinner/Social ([RSVP](#))
- 18-19 (Sat/Sun): California Autumn Classic (location to be determined) ([INFO](#))
- 25-26 (Sat/Sun): **REME** - Monterey run

November

- 9 (Sunday): **SV-REME** - Dinner/Social "Guy Fawke's Day" ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#))
- 15 (Saturday): **REME** - TBD ([RSVP](#)) ([FORUM](#)) ([MAP](#))

December

- 6 (Saturday): **REME** - Christmas Run & Dinner ([RSVP](#))
- 7 (Sunday): **REME** - 2009 Planning Meeting ([RSVP](#))



Bill (Chainsaw Flowerchild) checks out the rear of a Clubman