



the SAMOAN

Monthly newsletter of the Seattle Area Mini Owners Association

Vol. XLVI, Number 4, April 2011



ABOVE: Lots of people turned out to experience the first of the new Fiat 500s in the state. LEFT: Peter Larsen, Don Dixon and Greg Burch get up close and personal with one of Goodman Racing's Ferraris. BELOW: The KTM X-Bow in the Group 2 shop drew a lot of interest. The 1,700-lb., 240-HP, carbon-fiber kit car was pure rolling sculpture.

Group therapy

SAMOA's meetings at Group 2 are good for what ails you

If BMW missed the mark with the Bini, Fiat scored a direct hit with its retromobile 500. And SAMOA members and guests got door-slammin' close to the diminutive Italian at the March 5 February meeting at Joe English's Group 2 shop near Fishermans Terminal. And even if there weren't any doors to slam, SAMOAns got that close to the *bahn*-storming KTM X-Bow that was lurking at Group 2 (if ever there was a car that lurked, the "0-60 before you can say 0-60" X-Bow is that).

And then there was the McBride Collection to wander through. And then there was the Goodman Collection to wander through. And then there were all these classic Minis scattered around the lot. If you'd just awakened from a long winter without a lot of car stuff going on, February's meeting was total sensory overload — of the very best kind.



February and March meeting minutes

The February SAMOA meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. on March 5, 2011, by President Tim Boyd in the loft overlooking Seattle's McBride car collection. We were there courtesy of Joe English, owner of Group 2 Motorsports. New-president Tim then introduced the club officers and committee chairs present.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved with no additions or corrections, as published in the February newsletter.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Dan Berglund neither received nor sent any correspondence during the past month, but Chuck Heleker reported sending thank-you notes to the providers of White Elephant silent-auction items. Thanks, Chuck.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chuck did a little research and found that in the distant past, he'd momentarily served as SAMOA Treasurer while he filled in for someone who'd left the club. No doubt feeling stronger in that knowledge, he reported an ending balance from January of \$3,985.23. Expenses, including web hosting, domain registration, regalia, and food for Dyno Day and the White Elephant, totaled \$779.58. Income from memberships, regalia, the White Elephant auctions, and a gracious donation from Life Member Al Beebe totaled \$2,660. Ending balance, therefore, is \$5,865.65. The report was approved by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

Membership: Chair Ed Sauer reported a landslide of recent membership renewals and the current number of members at 99. He then asked an unprecedented number of guests to introduce themselves and they complied. The Secretary's hands couldn't move fast enough to record all their names. The signup sheet indicated 51 members were in attendance, but a number of people hadn't signed in because it's hard to remember to do that.

Newsletter: Editor Dan says the number of members getting their newsletters via the U.S. Postal Service continues to dwindle, and thanks to everyone for the savings in cost and effort. Several members offered solid suggestions on how to reduce the number even further.

Tool/Part Library: Chair Kelley Mascher says the windscreen file tool is checked out.

Events: Chair Don Dixon expressed his thanks to the McBride Family for inviting SAMOAns to tour their facility. He also said several members (Tim and Carl, for instance) are participating with him in the Bellevue ABFM planning meetings. Events to come include the March 26 Belfair cruise from Carl Barfield's home (Carl will post details on the web forum), the MG Car Club's Tulip Rallye April 23, the Vancouver ABFM May 21, Mini Meet West June 22-24, and the aforementioned July 23 Bellevue ABFM. Members added the Greenwood Show June 25 and the Bash on Vashon June 4. Mark Hurston is asking for input on a club outing to the go-kart track at Pacific Raceways to raise funds to refurb the Mini-Q.

Barth Sherwood's neighbor, Tiger driver Stark Shelby, invited SAMOA to SOVREN's Maryhill hillclimb Oct. 1 and 2. Mini and Saab are the featured marques for the Saturday car show, and the Sunday hillclimb promises ample auto action on the twisty old section of Highway 97. In addition, those in attendance can dine at the Saturday BBQ and take in the Maryhill art museum and Stonehenge recreation. Watch the club's Web forum for more info on this and other events.

Regalia: Other Chair Patti Boyd didn't bring anything to sell.

Website: Chair Kelley says the site is running smoothly. Tim asked about linking from the home page to the SAMOA Facebook page, which is not a club-sanctioned, but was started by Joe Steele and Todd Fitch to encourage participation. Kelley said a link like that would have to be built by webguy Rodney Bullington. Don wondered what we could do to encourage Rodney to be a little more responsive, and Chris Bryner thought we might consider another direction. Ed moved to form a committee to study the situation, and circulated a signup sheet.

Photo Site: Chair Tim Boyd wouldn't mind a little help with the Flickr site. If you're interested in a personal development opportunity, e-mail him at qwickmini@gmail.com.

Mini Cooler: The Mini Q/Cooler now resides at Mark Hurston's. Mark has created a display showing what's planned and what's needed, and he's trying to gauge interest in saving/rebuilding the thing. He'd like to move the Mini-Q's trailer from private to club ownership.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Chuck recalled the old SAMOA phone committee that was used to get messages around the club quickly. Do we need a modern counterpart? Do we have a way to contact everyone at a moment's notice? We'll discuss more later.

Unused Mini Mania gift certificates (late arrivals for the White Elephant) were given away in a drawing. Bill Adams and Damon Curtis won 'em.

Tim then asked what the criteria for lifetime membership were. Turns out there are no hard and fast rules. Al Beebe was the first, and all others were charter members honored at the 40th Anniversary celebration. Don then moved that Chuck and Ed — in light of their long, long, long, long histories of contributions to the club — be inducted as life members. The ayes had it, and Tim presented Chuck and Ed with suitable-for-framing certificates. Chris had a great plaque ready to give Chuck, complete with ceremonial gavel.



I think this huffer on a McBride motor displaces more cubes than an A+ block.

For Sale/Wanted: Mark's Heritage shell is still for sale. James Thompson is selling a Mountney steering wheel and hub for \$75. Doug Bingham is looking for a rotary coupling switch for an air bag. Jeff Van Hurston needs Mk 1 panels.

Technical Discussion/Questions: None. Several members could hear the car collections softly calling out to them.

Next Meetings: The March meeting will be held Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 at Chuck's. Dan pointed out he wouldn't have enough time to create a newsletter in time for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36.

The March 15, 2011, SAMOA meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Tim Boyd at Chuck Heleker's home. Because there wasn't time between the delayed February meeting and the March meeting to produce a newsletter, minutes of the February meeting hadn't been published and couldn't be approved.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Dan Berglund reported no correspondence in or out.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Chuck reported an ending balance from February of \$5,865.65. Expenses, including food for the Group 2 meeting and a few expenses from the 2010 Food Drive, totaled \$371.93. Income from memberships totaled \$600. Ending balance is \$6,093.72. The report was approved by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

Membership: Chair Ed Sauer reported a total of 96 members. No guests were present, but Ed mentioned new member Phil Wright of Whidbey Island, who bought Tim Connor's faux Mark 1 and says he saw the Min unveiled at Earl's Court in 1959.

Newsletter: As noted above, there was no newsletter. Nonetheless, Dan thanked those members getting their newsletters online and via e-mail for the savings in cost and effort. A prominent "Events" box in the newsletter was suggested, but the Editor is reluctant to duplicate the effort that lists past and future events in the published minutes. Still, he'll consider it.

Tool/Part Library: Chair Kelley Mascher wasn't in attendance.

Events: Chair Don Dixon reported the March 26 Belfair cruise from Carl Barfield's home has been postponed until further notice. He also listed upcoming events, including the MG Car Club's Tulip Rallye April 23, the April 24 All-Italy show at the Issaquah Triple X (Innos are eligible), the May 1 Portland Autojumble, the May 1 planning meeting for the Bellevue ABFM, the May 14 Exotics at Redmond Town Center (featuring Minis/Binis), the May 21 Vancouver ABFM/Whistler Run, the June 4 Bash on Vashon (not a club meeting this year), Mini Meet West June 22-24 (trek leaves June 18), the June 25 Greenwood Show, SOVREN's NW Histories and Car Corral over the Fourth of July weekend, the July 16 barbecue at Steve

Gay's, the July 17 Vashon Island Strawberry Fest car show, and the aforementioned July 23 Bellevue ABFM.

Don said Bellevue ABFM organizers asked for a SAMOA blurb for the program, and have asked what classes we want and what day-of-show help we can provide. They're also seeking input on new awards and vendors. Dan will try to mock up a program blurb to show at the April meeting.

Watch the club's Web forum for more info on these and other events.

Regalia: Other Chair Patti Boyd didn't bring anything to sell. Chuck noted at the Group 2 meeting that of the 23 Minis he counted, only 16 had SAMOA clings. Should new members get clings? Discussion didn't produce a decision.

Website: Website Planning Committee meets next Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 at Ed's.

Photo Site: Chair Tim said Mark Hurston had submitted a number of new photos. If you have photos for the Flickr site, e-mail Tim at qwick-mini@gmail.com.

Mini Cooler: Mark says there isn't much interest in the Mini Cooler beyond the group that recently moved it from Dave Baughman's. He'd like a decision on the go-kart fundraiser, but we don't know much about the track at Pacific Raceways. Do we can the Cooler?

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Officer photos from the White Elephant? Dan has 'em, and will e-mail 'em to Chuck. Also, Tim's signature is required for the club bank account. That will be provided.

For Sale/Wanted: The Designer convertible in Chuck's driveway is for sale. It's a decent car with a fried 998, but the gearbox is probably good. Chuck isn't sure of the price, but will put interested parties in touch with the owner. Someone said Aaron Pass is selling four 12-inch pepperpots for \$300.

Technical Discussion/Questions: Don's new 52mm tach has flames. Westach built it for him. Chuck has Parts of Shame on display.

Next Meetings: The April meeting will be held Tuesday the 19th at 7:30 at Chuck's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52.

Friends of SAMOA

APT

• www.aptfast.com

Autosport

• www.autosportseattle.com

British Sports Cars and Classics

• www.britishsportscars.biz

ClassicMini.US

• www.classicmini.us

Fairlady Motors

• www.fairladymotors.com

Group 2 Motorsports

• www.group2inc.com

Heritage Garage

• www.heritagegarage.com

Hunter Classic Sports Cars

• www.hunterclassicsportscars.ca

Mini City

• www.minicityltd.com

MiniGuy

• www.miniguy.com

MiniMania

• www.minimania.com

Seven Enterprises

• www.7ent.com

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Dues are \$20 per year. Make checks payable to SAMOA. Send to: SAMOA dues, 24112 Brier Rd., Brier WA 98036. Newsletter submissions are welcomed. E-mail articles or classified ads to: mininewsletter@yahoo.com.

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April SAMOA meeting

Tuesday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m.
at Chuck Heleker's home
13422 80th Ave. S., Seattle



Drs. McBride and Goodman sent over a couple of prescriptions to take your mind off the crappy weather.

From Southbound I-5:

Take Exit 157, Highway 900/Martin Luther King Jr. Way S.

Go through both the 129th St. and the 68th Ave. S. intersections.

Keep an eye open and take 135th St. on your left.

Continue down 135th to the 'T' intersection and turn left.

Chuck's is the house on the right with all the Minis parked at the bottom of the steep driveway.

From Northbound I-5:

Take Exit 154, I-405 N./Highway 518.

Keep right at the fork in the ramp.

Take Exit 2, Highway 167, toward Renton/Auburn.

Keep left at the fork in the ramp, then keep right at the next fork.

Merge onto the Valley Freeway and go straight on Rainier Ave. S.

Turn left onto Sunset, then right onto Naches Ave. S.W. (80th Ave. S.). Look for Chuck's house on the right.

If you lose your way, call (425) 226-2783.