

One Love - One Mini, Mini 60

Words: Mike Guido. Photos: CMU members.



In America, they drive on the wrong side of the road.

Classic Minis United proudly hosted the largest 2019 Mini event in the US, celebrating the Mini 60, while marking the 10th anniversary of our internationally-attended events. It was held in Wytheville, Virginia, USA, 9-13 October.

The host campground was centred within the many twisty and scenic mountain roads, allowing amazing drives in every direction.

Like all CMU events, this was based on fun mountain drives with night-time campground activities. To celebrate the universal love of the classic Mini, we titled the event One Love – One Mini.

First thing every morning, the Minis lined up in three groups, each headed by a Cruise Master. Every day featured unique roads and sights. Some of the roads are named for their complex and fast corners. The most exciting roads were the Back of the Dragon,



The Snake and Burke's Garden. Upon returning to the campground after a day's drive, the smiles and stories were nothing short of priceless.

Mike Price, from Birmingham Mini Owners Club in England, was a special guest and joined in the celebration. It was his first time in the US so we were excited to show him around and explain how we do a CMU event. He quickly stepped in to help Minis with mechanical problems while, after some fast, tight, twisty roads in my turbo Mini, he quickly stepped out.

In addition to the drives, we had our renowned scavenger hunt. Minis were



Strategising at the start of the scavenger hunt.



One of many picturesque rest stops.



Three generations of the Doss family. Left to right: Jack, Mitch and Kevin.



Celebrating the Mini 60 in the 60s.



1960s fancy dressers.

going in every direction throughout the quaint town. Then, for more Mini fun, as there's nothing cooler than a Mini with big spot lamps blasting through mountain roads, we had a night-time ice cream run that led us up to the top of a mountain. While the Mini is what brings us together, the campground parties are all about the people. Everybody shared stories while making new friends. On Friday night we had a big Mini 60 party. The party included a swap meet, beer tasting, silent auction, catered dinner, 1960s fancy dress contest, and the International Mini Film Festival. The beer tasting was different this year as it included Tequila from our Mexican Mini friends, and Chilean wines from our Mini friends in Chile! I would like to thank the staff, members, many helpers, supporters, title sponsor Mini Sport USA, and everybody who came for making this event an epic success. 🇬🇧

Find out more about Classic Minis United and the International Mini Film Festival at: www.classicminis.org. Mini 61 will be in April, 2020.



Hot Wheels racing staff. Left to right: Wilver, Dawson and Justin.



Jackie Szweida tending the beer, Tequila and Chilean wine tasting.



Zach Peterson drove his 998 automatic Mini 1300 miles from Texas. Unfortunately he then blew up the head gasket during the event!



Left to right: Fancy dress winners Pete and Carla Waldron, Mike Guido and runner-up Mike Price.