

MINIS ON THE BEARTOOTH



Big Sky MINIs held their annual event “MINIs On The Beartooth (MOTB)” on July 26th and invited MINI5280 members to join in the fun. Given the short notice and travel time to Bozeman, MT only your President and the Drury’s from Casper were able to attend. Never fear however, club spirit and inter-club cooperation was high as we set out to concur the Beartooth highway.

Starting the day from Bozeman, MT the Big Sky bunch stopped at Columbus, MT to pick me and a few other up. From here we travelled south to Red Lodge, MT down highway 78. My passenger for the day was 10 year-old Ashleigh who is the daughter of Linda and Luke Drury. Ashleigh is a true MINI enthusiast and knows a sweet MINI when she sees one so of course she chose my convertible for the honors. Ashleigh and I had some great MINI related philosophical discussions and were both quick to point out cows (I was faster). I appointed the girl official MINI5280 photographer for the day since I lack any photo instinct whatsoever. What you see here are the results of some of her efforts.



Stopping for lunch in Red Lodge, MT the opportunity was presented to me to address the Montana MINI folks about our club, MITM and how we can combine efforts of the two clubs for some future motoring. Red Lodge is a town that thrives on motorcycles and skiing but absorbed and welcomed the 14 MINIs with out a bobble. Main street is a combination of old west and new west or more accurately a kin to Easy Rider meets Hang’um High. It too serves as the eastern entry to the Beartooth Highway.

MINIS ON THE BEARTOOTH



For those that don't know, highway 212 from Red Lodge, MT to Cooke City, MT is perhaps one of the most scenic stretches of the US highway system and can not be routed in Google (try it, Google just won't let you). Commonly referred to as the Beartooth Highway this road crosses the Tolman mountains at an elevation of over 10,000 ft. Rising out of Red Lodge the road snakes its way up the side of the mountains toward the summit. Once on top vast vistas of alpine habitat and numerous lakes greet the motorer. On our journey lightning flashed and rain fell at times but neither were able to wash away the splendor of the country side. From the top the road drops down in to Cooke City and en-



ters Yellowstone park. As during the June MGTY trip, numerous buffalo, elk and deer were seen as our 12 MINI motorcade cut across from Tower to Mammoth Hot Springs. Leaving the park on the north side we drove through the

postcard town of Gardner, MT before stopping in Livingston for some excellent Mexican food.

Final destination for the night was Bozeman, MT. The next day I drove to Scottsbluff, NE via the Tensleep mountains between Lovell and Sheri-



dan, WY and the southern edge of the Black Hills near Newcastle, WY as well as the sand hills in Nebraska. I spent the night at my father's B&B at the base of Scottsbluff National Monument. On the final day, after a daughter pick up, we travelled back to Denver. All totaled the trip was just over 2,000 miles in 4 days traversing many varied terrain and countryside. This is what a MINI is for.

Article by: Chuck Maybee

Photos by: Andy Orr , Chuck Maybee and Ashleigh Wigington

