

So I never mentioned this before but we have been pondering purchasing a new car for quite a while...actually we started looking at different cars last fall.

We love our Honda and the purpose for getting it was so we would have a bigger car for getting around in. It has certainly served us very well but we have been looking at a variety of smaller cars, yup, you read it right...smaller. We loved our Jetta and had we been able to get different seats in it, we would have kept it but we found the seats to be too uncomfortable. The Honda is plenty roomy enough and when we towed it four wheels down it was perfect but then we bought the bike. The car really fills our trailer and Rick has a silent struggle everytime he loads and unloads it, hence the small car thing.

We were sure we wanted a convertible and we considered an older Mercedes but their fuel mileage sucks and they have no back seats. The BMW was another possibility but we preferred the newer ones and their price sticker was prohibitive. After plenty of looking we settled on a Mini and last Monday we ordered one; it was gold, had a convertible top and the backseat was roomy enough for a couple of car seats. It was ideal...or so we thought.

Then last weekend, we test drove 3 different Mini's, a convertible Mini, a 2006 Cooper S Rally edition and a 2007 six speed Cooper S with all the bells and whistles. We eliminated the convertible for a number of reasons, one being the noise factor and another being a ragtop which after our break in incident seemed less secure. The 2006 Rally edition was used, with only 2800 kilometres and very fun to drive but like the Jetta, the seats were too "short". The price tag was a little better than the 2007 but in 2007, there was some major changes to the

## Something New...Again

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vehicle, inside and out and they are great changes. The '07 also has great seats; plenty long enough for us.

Today we picked up our new Mini Cooper S loaded with everything we could want and then some. It is a blast to drive, very comfortable for us long-legged varmints, has a built-in way cool GPS system complete with a trip computer, cool 18 inch wheels, tinted glass and wicked stereo system. Okay, so we have reverted back to the days of our youth but we are loving it! Oh ya, it gets great gas mileage and it fits really well in the trailer giving Rickey lots of extra space!

Here is Rick at Yaletown Mini getting psyched up to drive our little toy home!