

# Metropolitan Manifold

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SO CAL METS

[www.socalmets.com](http://www.socalmets.com)

Mar-April 2020  
No. 55



## Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

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# 2020

## SO CAL METS Calendar

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Club website: [www.socalmets.com](http://www.socalmets.com)

ADVENTURES: EVERY MONTH IF POSSIBLE

Day & Date	Event	Location & Hosts	Start
March 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Fri & Sat	Unique Little Car Show	Avi Resort, 1000 Aha Macav Pkwy, Laughlin, Nevada John Hill <a href="mailto:swulcs2020@gmail.com">swulcs2020@gmail.com</a> 602-549-0929	
March 21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Cruise & visit San Juan Capistrano	Chris Di Tommaso, 3321 E. Vine Ave., Orange	9:30 AM
April 25 <sup>th</sup> Sat CANCELLED	Floral Park Home Tour & Car Show	Upscale/Oldtown Santa Ana Meet at: Barns & Noble park lot 791 S. Main, Orange	8:30 AM
May 16 <sup>th</sup> Sat MAYBE	Carbon Canyon to Chino Airport	Gwen Tolleson, 1949 Smokewood Ave., Fullerton	9:30 AM
June 6 Sat MAYBE	Blind Children 5k walk/run	18542-B Vanderlip Avenue in Santa Ana	TBA
June 28 <sup>th</sup> Sun MAYBE	Annual Picnic Potluck	Craig Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton	10:30 AM
July 25 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Cruise to San Clemente	Chris Di Tommaso, 3321 E. Vine Ave., Orange	9:30 AM
July 30 - Aug 1st	NorCal Redwood Mystery Tour	Lauri Brownson <a href="mailto:The57MetLady@hotmail.com">The57MetLady@hotmail.com</a> Crescent City, CA 541-840-4777 November Met Gazette page 10	TBA
Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Visit Sherman Gardens in CDM	(2647 PCH, Corona Del Mar) Chris Di Tommaso, 3321 E. Vine Ave., Orange	9:30 AM
Sept 13 Sun	Belmont Shore Car Show	Join up location TBD	
Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> Sun	British Cars Meet Up in Palos Verdes	(Golden Cove Shopping Center, 31242 Palos Verde Dr. PV) Meet at Kens, 17002 Bolero Lane, Huntington Beach	8:30 AM
Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Parade in Tustin Tiller Days	Mike & Kim Dahlberg, 18142 Theodora Dr., Tustin	TBA
Oct 17 Sat	Harvest Festival	Costa Mesa Events Center, OC Fairgrounds	TBA
Nov 7 Sat	Knotts Berry Farm	Market Place	TBA
Nov 14	Day Family Museum	2525 Wardlow Rd., Corona Meet at: Knowlwood Rest. 5665 E. Lapalma Ave., Anaheim	TBA
Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Xmas Party	?	TBA
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso), Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pankcake House & 7-11.	8:15 AM

Revised: April 15, 2020

With the Coronavirus affecting us and our events, it was tempting to not put out a newsletter for March/April but that would be selfish. Besides many of you have more time to read something these days so here goes:

Mike Dahlberg reports that the Unique Little Car Show in Laughlin, Nevada was attended by five members from So Cal Mets. They were Mike Dahlberg, Ken Pollard, George Mocabee & Peter & Rita Bulow.

MOCNA President Brad Swiggart gives a summary of it in the April Met Gazette. And speaking of That publication, congratulations to Nancy & Patrick Halbert. Their black Met is on the cover of the magazine. Word has it that they are getting a poster size print made!

The March 21st cruise to San Juan Capistrano did take place with Chris Di Tommaso, Mike Dahlberg and Cindy & Bill Harris. Bill reported that they had lunch in the park across the tracks from the train station in Capistrano. "As restaurants were only open for take out. We bought Mexican food from a small strip mall eatery".



The April 25th Floral Park Home Tour has been cancelled by the hosts.  
The May 16th Carbon Canyon Cruise is up in the air. Stay tuned.

So how ya doing on Toilet Paper? Have less than a pallet? With all the news of hoarding that began March 1st, I rememberedt there is another use for it which I discovered five years ago. Ever hear of the Frantz Automobile OIL FILTER? I had not untill I saw it on a Met I was doing a story on in Yucca Valley, CA. The thing actually uses a roll of Toilet Paper to filter out the bad stuff. Not to worry though, there are not very many in use today.

# The Frantz Oil Filter on Leonard Bruch's 1958 Met



## Basic Filter Kit

**\$199.95**  Quantity [ADD TO CART](#)

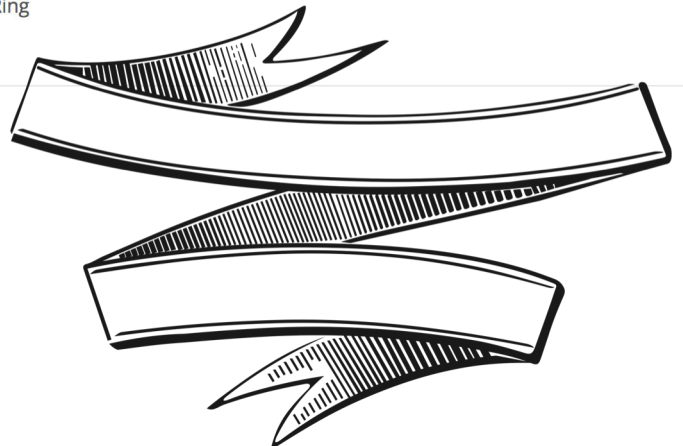
The Frantz Filter Basic Kit contains parts to fit most applications. It does not include fittings or hose. Select the products menu above to see if a specific kit is available for your application.

### The Basic Kit Includes:

- Base & Polished Canister
- Mounting Bracket & Hardware
- Pull Ring & Retainer Ring
- Clamp & T-Bolt

[Benefits](#) [How It Works](#) [Installation](#)

- Increased Engine Life
- Extended Drain Intervals
- Saves money on oil changes
- Superior Oil Filtering
- An Endless Supply of Pure Oil
- Improved Oil Cooling



Since we have no cruises to report on, I am reiterating a couple of amazing stories about "Longest Metropolitan Ownership". The second one was originally titled "A 58 for Fifty-Seven Years" and was run five years ago in 2015. It is about MOCNA member Leonard Bruch from Yucca Valley, CA. I phoned Leonard a few days ago and was delighted to learn that he still has his 58 Met he bought new in 1958. That makes 62 years!

Now Leonard has always been proud of his probable title of "Longest Metropolitan Ownership in the USA" and we do challenge anyone to better that (In the USA). However he has been a bit disappointed that he was outranked by a dear lady in the UK by the name of Jeanette Richardson, who purchased her Met in 1957!

In order to validate the score on this contest, I Emailed Steve James who is the membership chairman for the MOC (Metropolitan Owner's Club) in the UK. Steve was kind enough to email me his article about Jeanette which appeared in their March 2012 MOC magazine. He replied : "Jeanette Richardson is still a member. Given that she was 79 back in 2012 and owned the car from new (55 years), that's now moved on to 87 years old and 63 years of ownership. Surely no-one can beat that."

### A Remarkable Partnership

Steve James.

Whilst updating my records with all the newly paid subscriptions in January, I noticed that Club member Jeanette Richardson was celebrating a remarkable achievement this year. Jeanette has owned her red & white convertible from new, having acquired it 55 years ago. I wrote to Jeanette to ask her if she would like to share her story with us and happily, with the help of grand-daughter Jeannie, this is Jeanette's story -

"I have spoken to my grandmother and asked her about memories, and stories of interest.

Metropolitan Convertible - HFB 345, 1957. Same ownership since it was purchased in 1957. It is in completely original condition throughout and is regarded as a specimen car being the only such car in the UK - Met owners club.

It was a 24th birthday present from her father at a time where you could buy eight gallons of petrol for £1. She first saw the car in a Bath car showroom "Steel's", lower Bristol road, Bath.

The very rare red car cost £700 when new and now is worth several thousands to a collector. People have always told her to "turn it into money", and has even been offered open cheques for the car. But she will never part with it. "It has always been a great little car" - she says.

Today it is in the same showroom condition, like the day it rolled off the assembly line. Its spare tyre holds the original air pumped into it nearly 55 years ago. The seats are like new, with its original plastic covers on the black and white dog tooth upholstery, the hood has only been down 3 or 4 times, and radio still has its licence.

A few favourite memories encapsulated with the car are:

- First holiday in the car to Swanage, 7th September, 1958 ( have attached image of that holiday ) see below



# *Metropolitan*

OWNERS CLUB

NO.233 MARCH 2012

55 years  
and still  
going  
strong!





- Late husband proposed, Countryside lane, Leigh on Mendip, 1960
- Fond memories of taking her own mother for trips in the Metropolitan. (see front cover of photo of first outing with her mother)
- Often took her daughter to the Bath cinema when she was a little girl, to watch Snow White, and other Disney Films. In late 1960's



- In late 1980s and early 1990s started to attend local classic car shows, and won several trophies and plaques, and appeared in local newspaper articles (see photo at Wincanton classic car show 1996)
- Chauffeured her granddaughter to her 'flash' leavers day and school prom, 2010 -



(SJ - can there ever be a better way to turn up at your school prom?)





Jeanette remembers the days when car park fees cost 6 pence and 3 shillings, but now she would be afraid to leave it in any public car-park.

The car still manages to make heads turn to all generations, and is a true example of a devoted owner, who has loved and cherished a gift from all those years ago!"



Clearly a wonderful partnership and we wish Jeanette many more happy years to come with her beloved Metropolitan. Hopefully we'll be able to celebrate Jeanette's own diamond jubilee in 5 years time. My thanks go to Jeanette and Jeannie for sharing their story with us.

## A 58' for Fifty-Seven Years

It was September 30<sup>th</sup> 1958 and 20-year-old Leonard Bruch walked into Walker Brothers Nash at 3280 W. Olympic in LA and bought a new Met. It had five miles on the odometer. Today that Met has an additional 168,000 miles on it and Len still owns it!

The current 57year old relationship may be a record so we challenge anyone to better it. The one owner Met is a Red & White hard top. The license plates are ham operator plates showing Len's call letters K6BKK & they to go back to 1958.

Len's family was living in Covina when he turned 18. He got a job as a postal clerk at the Terminal Annex in LA. In need of transportation, his aunt loaned him the money to buy his first car, a new but economical 1956 Nash Metropolitan. That lasted a

few months but Len got the urge to drive a larger car. So he traded the 56 Met for a regular size car for a while but it used too much gas. After all regular gas was up to .30 cents a gallon! Blessed with a good mind for numbers & frugality Len reverted & bought a newer Met, the 58 he has to this day!



With an opportunity to work at the Palm Springs Post Office, Len & his Met moved to the Yucca Valley area in 1962. There he later met his wife Gail and their marriage produced a son & daughter. Len is MOCNA member 2343, which makes him a member since 1981.

He delivered mail in Palm Springs for 12 years delivering to such notables as Kirk Douglas & Dina Shore.

The 60-mile round trip down to work was always in his Met. That accounts for the odometer reading of 168,000 miles. However we calculate that 42,000 of those miles were just "coasting miles"! You know how the Desert floor slopes endlessly. That 1500 Austin engine had it easy part way. Of course it did have to power back up the grade going home.



When I arrived at Len's place I felt like Wayne Carini from the Velocity Channel's "Chasing Classic Cars" program. The Met was in an 8' wide shed and hadn't run for almost two years. There was a sharp downslope from the shed so once the car came out it would need to power itself back in. Hoping for the best we decided to get it out, get it running and then do a photo shoot. At first it wouldn't move. A very flat right front tire was the culprit. Using some wild body positions I was able to reach down and just feel the valve stem. Then with the air compressor connected the tire took back its shape. We carefully rock-n-rolled it out & down from the shed. I put some fresh gas down the carburetor & pumped the fuel pump. Len set the choke, pulled the starter and .....it fired right up!!!



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The one owner Met has some relic accessories in the engine compartment. The oil filter is a Franz, which uses an actual roll of toilet paper (must be 2 ply)! Mounted above the brake light switch is an additive dispenser, which lubricates the upper cylinders with a product that was called "Rislon". The engine has had a valve job or two, which seems to account for the blue painted valve cover. The car did experience a sand storm once and was repainted and re-chromed in 1984. It looks none the worse today. I like the spare tire cover. It is a unique shaped stainless cover with an unusual convex



metal face plate looking like a white wall. It handily allows access to the valve stem for pressure checks.



After the photo session, I looked under the car. I could see no rust. I asked Len the obvious question: "Would you sell it?" His answer reminded me of the Les Brown/Doris Day hit song "Sentimental Journey". "No" he said. "I'm still too sentimental about the car".



Ken Conner

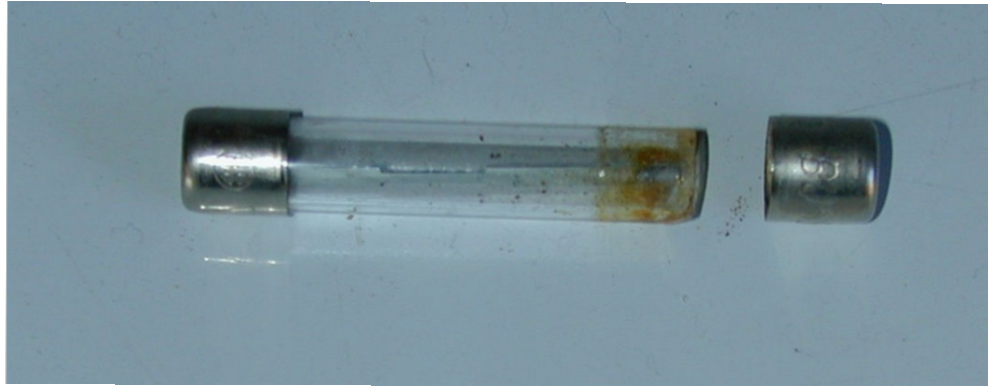


Did you know Disneyland's first Circarama Theater, 1955, was sponsored by American Motors?



Then in 1959 it was upgraded to show "America The Beautiful" and sponsored by Bell Telephone.

# TECH TRIVIA



If there is electrical problem Check the fuse's in the Fuse Block (to the right of the voltage regulator) If a fuse has blown it should show the burnt element in the glass. A solid clean element is an indicator that the fuse is OK. However, fuses have been known to come apart & still give you the false indication that the fuse is working. When in doubt, try a new fuse.

Did you know - you can store extra tire valve stem Caps on top of the wire terminal screws on the fuse block? See photo. They also serve as insulators.

