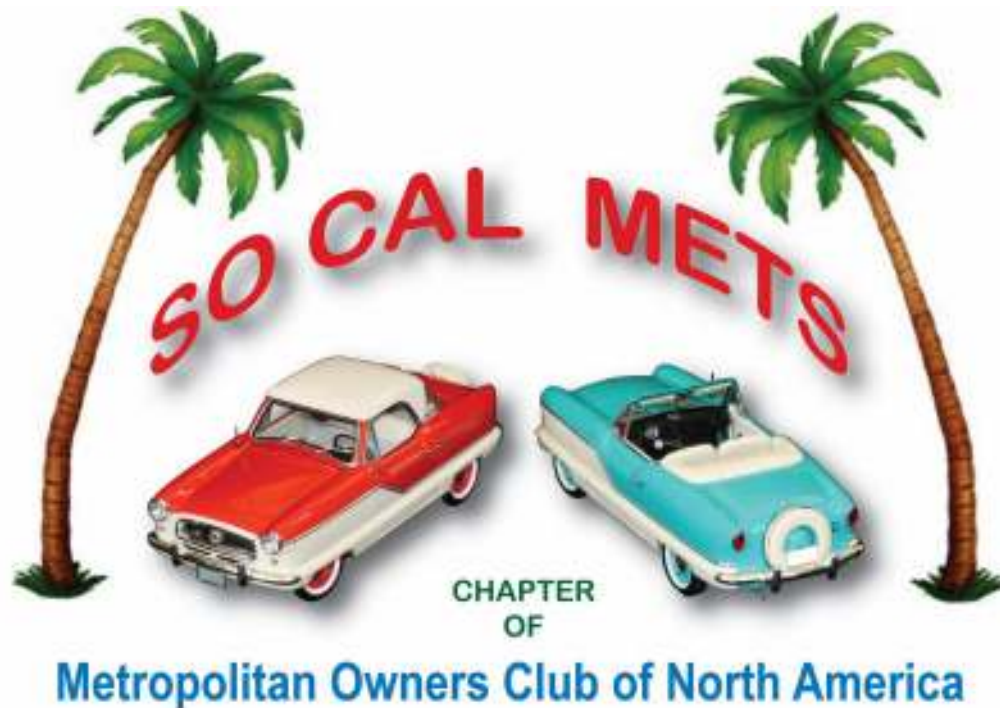


Metropolitan Manifold

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SO CAL METS

www.socalmets.com

Apr-May-Jun 2021
No. 61



| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|
| President: | Ron Bauman | 1944 Spruce St. | Riverside | 951-202-9927 |
| Vice President | Marcia Jones | 9435 Cormorant Circle | Fountain Valley | 714-963-9116 |
| Newsletter Editor | Ken Conner | 17002 Bolero Lane | Huntington Beach | 714-846-5003 |
| Webmaster | Tony Bilotti | 2691 W. Parkside Ln. | Anaheim | 714-994-3220 |
| Membership Chairman | Kim Dominguez | 31 Cape Cod | Irvine CA 92620 | 714-323-8334 |
| Cruise Director | Marcia Jones | 9435 Cormorant Circle | Fountain Valley | 714-963-9116 |



Thanks to the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce, on April 24th we were given the opportunity to enjoy a cruise with our friendly Metropolitans. Seal Beach has a fabulous car SHOW every year in the spring but because of Covid-19 restrictions, it was cancelled last year and now rescheduled for this fall. So to accommodate the chomping at the bit classic car people, they created the first annual Vintage Car CRUISE.

The Sun Newspaper reported that nearly 200 vintage cars participated. Seven of our So Cal Metropolitans were there and were probably the only example of a car “club” or uniform group or type of car. We Metter’s met at Patrick Halbert’s home and caravanned to the Boeing parking lot at Westminster & Seal Beach Blvd’s. There we were staged & later led in groups of 25 or so, thru the communities of Seal Beach. The group staging was unique since we were able to “mingle” with the great variety of parked classic cars. Once we were underway it was fun to drive thru so much residential area with so many people out on their front yards cheering us by. That was also the case through the business district where we finished the 3 1/2 mile route. Thanks to so many helpers who directed our turns.

Trophies were awarded in 8 classes as follows: Best Truck, Best Convertible, Best Coup/Sedan, Most Unique, Best Paint Color, Best Car for Dad and Best Car for Mom which was won by Patrick Halbert’s Met. That group was voted by spectators who cast their vote online. The Chamber’s choice was chosen by the Chamber & it was a 32 Ford Roadster.

The cruise (parade) ended at Main Street & PCH. From there six of us drove South to Sunset Beach where we stopped for lunch at Taco Surf alongside Surfside’s Water Tower. After lunch we cruised down to the Huntington Beach Pier where we scattered and headed home.



Patrick Halbert Trophy winner for "Best Car For Mom"



Mike Dahlberg



Natalie Pollard



Tony Bilotti



Sandra Nair & Girls



Marcia Jones





Clockwise from L to R - Patrick & Leanne Halbert, Marcia Jones, Mike Dahlberg, Ken & Natalie Pollard, Ken Conner & Tony Bilotti.



With more time at home this Pandemic year, I suspect we are not the only ones who have uncovered new old “stuff” around the house. A perfect example in our case is my wife’s discovery of the decorated grapefruit-sized Gourd pictured here. The artist was Nancy Gnepper. On the back side she had written: “Ruby’s Diner, 25 years of Ruby magic!” Nancy made it and donated it as a fund raiser for the 2009 Southwest Unique Little Car Show. It took place that year in the refurbished East LA shopping center called the Citadel. Anchored near the parking lot is a special “Ruby’s Diner.” Where most Ruby’s will have displayed inside, a restored carnival Bumper Car or Whizzer Motorized Bicycle, the Citadel Ruby’s has a Metropolitan! On top of that, Ruby Cavanaugh herself was there as a celebrity. She was a good sport riding around and signing autographs. She even posed inside my Met. Sadly she passed away in 2015. Because of this unique history of Ruby, we cherish Nancy Gnepper’s gourd with Ruby’s image painted on it.



Then in early August 2020 several of us were returning from the great ExplorOregon event when we learned that Nancy Gnepper herself had passed away unexpectedly.

In the September 2020 issue of the Met Gazette, Brad Swiggart & John Hill in particular, wrote wonderful tributes to Nancy Gnepper.

When I photographed her in Colorado, I did not know that the drive up Pike’s Peak was the third trip for her 1954 croten green convertible. Among every thing else, her love of Metropolitanans and her artistry with hand painted gourds will be missed.



John Hill



Tail Light Talk

Considering the experiences with my Metropolitan's electrical system, I probably don't deserve to offer advise. Yet I've completed something this time that seems like a bright idea.

I won't dwell on the time that I installed the additional hood prop. Before I bought the little rubber slot holder to secure it to the side wall, I just laid its end on the firewall, kinda held in place by the rat's nest of wires. That worked for a while but then one day I left the house, drove a block, turned a corner, then suddenly, no

electrical, no motor. What happened is hood prop slid over and landed smack dab on the firewall fuse block. That shorted out the voltage regulator bus bar but thankfully, I was able to solder that back together. Needless to say I had a new rubber prop holder working the following week!

Then you might recall my more recent fiasco when I left my needle nose pliers (again on the firewall). I drove off and created a short burning through the spiral wire conduit supporting the oil pressure line which caused an oil shower over the engine and an oil spot trail back to the house.

This time I've gone out on a limb and installed LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs in the tail & brake light sockets. If you have shopped for regular light bulbs lately you will have noticed most every thing is now LED. They are now available for automotive use. They require less energy and are brighter.

First be aware of the position of the red tail light lense. When you go to replace them, the extended portion should be at the top. With the red lense removed for access, remember the the top bulb is "brake & tail light" bulb. The lower bulb is the "turn signal" bulb.

Taking a cue from our MOCNA facebook site, I ordered & installed these LED brake lights from Amazon for \$18.95.



iBrightstar Newest 9-30V Super Bright Low Power 1157 2057 2357 7528 BAY15D LED Bulbs with Projector for Tail Brake Lights, Brilliant Red
Return or replace items: Eligible through June 16, 2021

For the Turn Signal bulbs I ordered the more expensive LED's with the built-in anti hyper flash:



ANTLINE 1156 1156NA 1141 1003 7506 LED Bulbs Amber Yellow for Turn Signal Lights with Build-in Load Resistor CANBUS Error Free Anti Hyper Flash for BI
Sold by: **ANTLINE**
Return eligible through Jun 29, 2021
\$25.99



Is the extra brightness worth the money? I would say yes since my Met has already been rear ended once, back in 2010.

Our 2021 Picnic



Fullerton's Ted Craig Regional Park was once again a perfect site for our Annual Picnic. After a years hiatus because of Covid we gathered there on Saturday, June 26 and put on a jellybean show with ten little Metropolitans. Participating were Ron Bauman & Judy Kanouse, Tony & Jackie Bilotti, Marcia Jones, Ken Conner, John & Anita Fildes, Byron Robinette, Patrick & Leanne Halbert, Armando Reyes, Sean Makin & Family, Jeff & Sue Garrett & grandkids, Mark Weitzman & family, & Bill & Cindy Harris and their dog Stanley.







Proceeds from our annual SoCalMets Picnic/Auction keep us from charging dues. Here was this years last item on the table. It was a pivoting Metropolitan Whirligig crafted by member Jeff Garrett. Auctioneer & chapter president Ron Bauman declared the winning high bidder to be Tony Bilotti at \$100.00. We netted around four hundred dollars from the auction. Thank you members & thank you Marcia Jones & Judy Kanouse for assisting in the auction.

Jeff's Whirligig Met - A novel setup with the fan's shaft as part of a crank, moved the teeter-totter chassis up & down. The driver, balanced in the middle, automatically bobbed his head back & forth! The up & down movement of the wheels made the car look like it was flying over a pot hole road!



2021

SO CAL METS Calendar

Editor's Email: kconner@socal.rr.com

Club website: www.socalmets.com

ADVENTURES: EVERY MONTH IF POSSIBLE

| Day & Date | Event | Location & Hosts | Start |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| <i>June 26th Sat</i> | <i>Annual Picnic Potluck</i> | <i>Craig Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton</i> | <i>10:30 AM</i> |
| <i>July 24 Sat</i> | <i>Knott's Berry Farm Shops</i> | <i>Meet at: Henry Boisseranc Park 7520 N Dale Ave., Anaheim, CA (.4 mile North of La Palma)</i> | <i>10:00 AM</i> |
| <i>Aug</i> | <i>?</i> | | |
| <i>Sept</i> | <i>?</i> | | |
| <i>Oct 2nd Sat</i> | <i>Parade in Tustin Tiller Days</i> | <i>Mike & Kim Dahlberg, 18142 Theodora Dr., Tustin</i> | <i>TBA</i> |
| <i>Nov 6th Sat</i> | <i>Cruise</i> | <i>Carbon Canyon to Chino Airport</i> | <i>TBA</i> |
| <i>Dec 5th Sun</i> | <i>Xmas Party</i> | <i>John & Anita Fildes Residence 28356 Via Anzar, San Juan Capistrano</i> | <i>1:00 PM</i> |
| <i>Dec 11 Sat</i> | <i>Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade</i> | <i>27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso), Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pankcake House & 7-11.</i> | <i>8:15 AM</i> |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Revised: July 3rd, 2021