

Metropolitan Manifold

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SO CAL METS

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Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

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2020

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
March 13 th & 14 th Fri & Sat	Unique Little Car Show	Avi Resort, 1000 Aha Macav Pkwy, Laughlin, Nevada John Hill swulcs2020@gmail.com 602-549-0929	
March 21 st Sat	Cruise & visit San Juan Capistrano	Chris Di Tommaso, 3321 E. Vine Ave., Orange	9:30 AM
April 25 th Sat	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 th Sat	Carbon Canyon to Chino Airport	Gwen Tolleson, 1949 Smokewood Ave., Fullerton	9:30 AM
June 6 Sat	Blind Children 5k walk/run	18542-B Vanderlip Avenue in Santa Ana	TBA
June 28 th Sun	Annual Picnic Potluck	Craig Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton	10:30 AM
July 25 th 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 The57MetLady@hotmail.com Crescent City, CA 541-840-4777 November Met Gazette page 10	TBA
Aug 29 th 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 th 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 rd 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 th Sun	Xmas Party	?	TBA
Dec 12 th Sat	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso), Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pankcake House & 7-11.	8:15 AM

Revised: March 2, 2020

BRITISH IMPORTS



It just so happened that our first get together this year took place on the Chinese New Year, January 25th. We met at the Conner's home in Surf City USA & planned our events for 2020. Judy Conner had the place decorated with both Chinese Lanterns & Valentine Hearts. Refreshments were served along with a (Year of the Rat) Red Envelope giving drivers money for parking at our destination in Long Beach.

Folks at the meeting were Ron Bauman with Judy Kanouse, Tony Bilotti, Mike Dahlberg, Kim Dominguez, Chris Di Tommaso, Mark Weitzman, Paul Van Wig, Nancy & Patrick Halbert and the Conner's.

Your editor led the 5 Mets and 1 Bugeye Sprite out of the neighborhood, onto a canal road in the Harbour where we took photos. Then we got on Pacific Coast Highway and headed to Long Beach where we parked our English Mets near another English icon, The Queen Mary!

Finished with the photo shoot, we drove back off the access road and parked in the Shoreline Village Shopping Center where we had lunch at Louisiana Charlie's. Some of us actually had Fish & Chips.

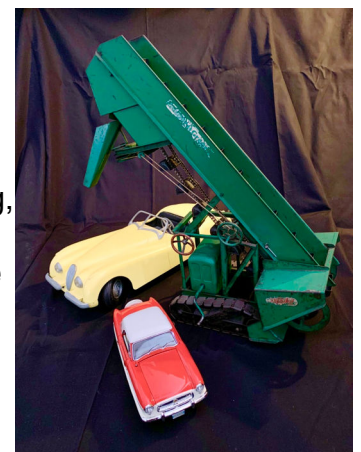




The January edition of Hemmings Classic Car Magazine had an article that transported me back to my youth. It's not about real cars but about the make believe treasures younger folks played with as kids. In this issue author Jeff Koch examines the world of the "Johnny Lightning" brand of miniatures. He writes that the 1/64 scale models got started in 1969 in order to compete with Mattel's "Hot Wheels" & "Match Box" line. Yes, Johnny Lightning made a Metropolitan. Thanks to my crafty friend Bruni Wilson, below is a clever display she made of "Lightning" Mets on an actual old LP record enhanced with miniature foliage.



Now I know this gives away my age but I was a youngster when "Cast Iron" toys were being replaced by the ever so real "Pressed Steel" toys such as "Buddy L" in the 30's & "Doepke" in the 40's & 50's. I always wanted, but never got, that Buddy L dump truck whose steering wheel would "actually" turn the front wheels and the hydraulic lift would raise the bed & dump the load! Today my wife will tell you that I must have been a stingy kid growing up because I still have a lot of my toys. That's partially true. Still the toys that take up half of the space on my shelves today are the huge "Model" Toys by Doepke which I've purchased in recent years. My folks could only afford one "Model" toy for me and that was the #2000 Wooldridge Earth Hauler, 25" long, 10 LBS and it cost a whopping \$14.75 in 1949. Now, that I'm all grown up I have acquired a sample of all Doepke toys except two. My favorite is my rare #2001 Barber Green Bucket Loader, 13" high complete with a swiveling chute! Most of the Model Toys were construction toys or fire Trucks although they did make a cast aluminum MG TD and a Jaguar XK120, both with working steering wheels and leaf springs. The Jag is 17 inches long!

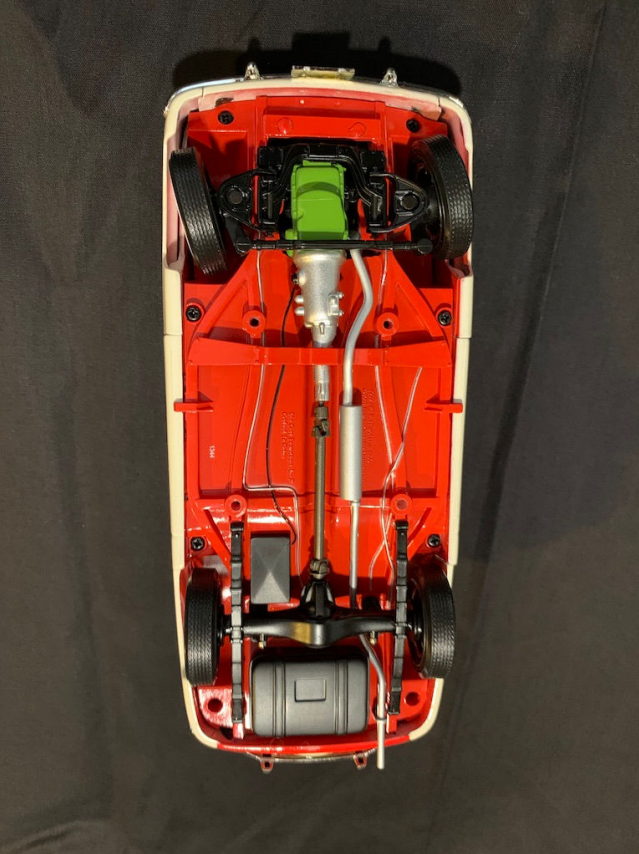


There have been several brands of Toy Metropolitans over the years. Here are three plus a “peanut” sized model in silver made for a necklace. The blue Met is the 1:64 scale Johnny Lightning. The coral red Met is a 1:24 scale Franklin Mint and the top or mardi gras red Met is a 1:18 scale Highway 61 production.

Below are close-ups of the necklace Met.



The very detailed 1959 Highway 61 Nash Metropolitan Toy.



Observations On An Extra Day

Somehow our February Adventure happened on Leap Day the 29th. That didn't stop four of us from jumping into our Mets & going for a fun cruise, plus taking in a little culture afterwards.

We met at Mike & Kim Dahlberg's home in Tustin and headed up to the charming horsey estates of Orange Park Acres. Long known for its equestrian trails amongst the rambling homes, we idled thru a unique enclave of Orange County real estate.



And yes, we came across horse people out for a Saturday ride.



Finished with a slow loop through the territory, we coasted down Chapman Avenue to Old Town Orange to visit the Hilbert Art Museum. There Ironically, was a water color by Emil Kosa that almost typified the scenes we had just left.





Once in front of the Museum at 167 Atchison St., we U turned & parked across the street from it which is the site of the Orange Metrolink station and Ruby's restaurant! Seen here is our cruise group consisting of Tony Bilotti, Mike Dahlberg, Cindy Harris & your editor behind the camera. After our tour of the museum we stepped back across the street and had lunch at Ruby's. Thanks to Orange county residents Mark & Janet Hilbert and the extended campus of Chapman University, one can enjoy one of California's newest Art Museums. It is the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University. It is free and open to the public - Tuesday-Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM.





We classic car folks can't help but notice "Cars" in these SoCal scenes by artists William Jekel, Emile Kosa & Ben Abril.





Above member Chris Di Tommaso joined us only for lunch, since her Met is getting new bling.



Left - Tony Bilotti shows his Ruby's complimentary die-cut pop up paper car given to us kids while waiting for food.



Happy St. Patricks Day