

# Metropolitan Manifold

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SO CAL METS

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

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## 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 CANCELLED	Carbon Canyon to Chino Airport	Gwen Tolleson, 1949 Smokewood Ave., Fullerton	9:30 AM
June 6 Sat CANCELLED	Blind Children 5k walk/run	18542-B Vanderlip Avenue in Santa Ana	TBA
June 28 <sup>th</sup> Sun CANCELLED	Annual Picnic Potluck	Craig Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton	10:30 AM
June 28 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Cruise to San Clemente	Mike & Kim Dahlberg, 18142 Theodora Dr., Tustin	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 27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	British Cars Meet Up in Van Nuys	Queen's English All British Car Show, Woodley Park in Van Nuys, <a href="http://www.queens-english.org/">http://www.queens-english.org/</a>	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: June 28, 2020



# Our May 16th Adventure



Because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we had to cancel the planned canyon/museum cruise and substitute a community/car hop cruise. Mike Dahlberg sports a huge halo for saving the day by plotting and leading us on a great cruise through the City's of Orange & Santa Ana.

We met in Orange at Chris Di Tommaso's home and headed east into Orange Park Acres. Making up our string of Ten jelly beans were Mike Dahlberg, Chris Di Tommaso, Cindy & Bill Harris, Ron Bauman, Kim Dominguez, Jeff & Sue Garrett, Ken Conner, Marcia Jones with sister Chris, Nancy & Patrick Halbert and Tony Bilotti.





After a view of equestrian life in Orange Park Acres, we found ourselves headed west on Collins where we turned south on Glassell towards Orange's historic Traffic Circle. Eight of us managed to circle the circle three times before the last two Mets were able to merge with us.



Next Mike led us into the stately Floral Park neighborhood of north Santa Ana. We had planned on visiting the area's open house there last month, unfortunately, that too was cancelled. From there we cruised south on Main street, turned west on Wilshire, then south on colorful Garnsey street whose Jacaranda trees were in full bloom. (Next page).







Our presence along the route brought out people who seemed to be craving for normalcy. We would like to think that our Mets made extra smiles along the way. Their waves, smiles & photos of us, certainly made our day.



We finished our adventure by lunching together in our Mets at a Sonic Drive In. Having "Car Hop" service was a first time for our chapter. But why not when regular restaurants are still closed. "No", our hop was not on roller skates and "yes", she was wearing a mask. Sonic provides a large order sign beside each car. Once you've make a decision from the menu, press the big red button & place your verbal order.







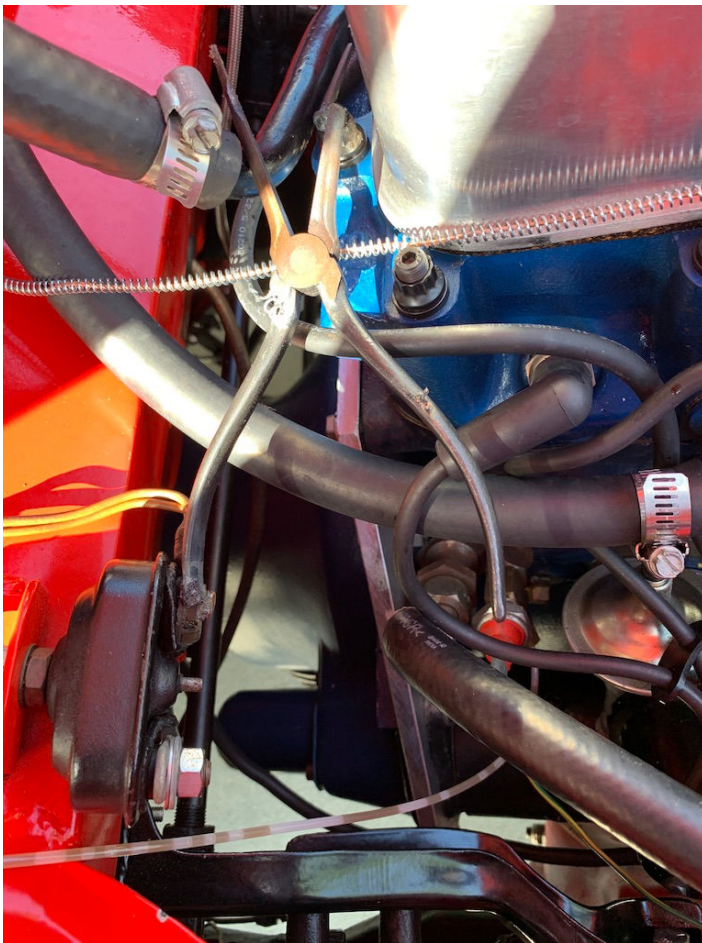
# TECH TRIVIA

## "FOUND MY NEEDLE NOSE PLIERS"

It was a day late in May and I decided to take the Met through the local Del Taco drive thru & pick up my regular order of "two tacos, one green burrito & one LARGE Vanilla Shake please". Because of the Covid 19 Pandemic there was an extra long line of cars waiting to order. Nevertheless I took my place in line and began the crawl forward. After about a minute I felt something hot on the front of my left ankle. I also thought I smelled something electrical. Looking under the dash I spied the oil pressure gauge tube, dripping, what must be motor oil. After putting a rag around the leaking oil tube I waved the cars behind me to go on past. I pulled out of line & headed home careful, to keep my oily left shoe from slipping off the clutch pedal!

During the 2 mile drive back home I could see the oil pressure had dropped from 60 to 40 or 30 but the temperature gauge read a steady 125. Once home and back in the garage, I popped the hood & found that motor oil had been spraying all over the upper back side of the engine, then oozing through the firewall cable holes.

Now to be honest, I hadn't really missed the pliers! But It turns out that I left them in the engine compartment the day before when I was cleaning the air intake filter on the Weber 2 barrel carburetor. After all, I had performed a lube job, oil & filter change, and the Weber was the last completed engine item, I thought! Except, I didn't put away my tools or tool!



Here is what apparently happened. During the drive, the needle nose pliers slipped down and the handle made a connection to the right terminal of the Starter Motor Switch. The tool came to rest on top of the metal water temperature line while the plier's tip welded itself to a head bolt! The electrified wire conduit/water temp wire then melted a spot or two on the oil pressure gauge tube up where they were side by side on the firewall. The result was motor oil sprayed all over the engine. Once home I was grateful to still see oil on the dip stick, though low. I realized later that the "safe" temperature reading on that gauge was false since the line was totally burnt through.

I am probably lucky that I didn't end up with a Metropolitan burnt to a crisp! Fortunately, everything electrical & mechanical seems OK. New gauges & lines plus more oil have the 1800 back in perky shape.

Just don't ask me about the trail of oil spots coming down the street that lead up to my driveway :(

Ken Conner





# A Sixty Two Year Ownership

(This is a follow up to our March/April issue about Len Bruch from Yucca Valley)

Proof that Len Bruch (not Bruchs) still drives his Met is revealed in his hometown newspaper article from earlier this year. Unfortunately the errors in the story expose why newspapers no longer have the following they once did. First the Met is a 58 not a 68 as listed in the main photo. Len's family moved to California in 1948, not 1938. He was born in 1938. The school mentioned was his junior high school, not high school. He & his wife Gail were married in 1965 rather than 1964. And as if that is not enough nit picking, we Met people know the hood ornament not, as the Flying Goddess, but the "Flying Lady".

Lastly, Len's other long time accomplishment is his hobby as a Ham Operator. He has had his license since he was 15 years old. He thinks he is in the oldest 10% still "calling up" fellow Hams around the world.

## Two survivors are still road ready

By Stacy Moore  
Hi-Desert Star

**L**en Bruchs of Yucca Valley bought his Metropolitan brand new on Sept. 30, 1958, for \$1,750. Sixty-two years later, they're both still on the road.

"I never thought when I got it that I'd have it all this time," Bruchs said during a recent drive to the newspaper office.

"Everything works ... except me," he quipped from the driver's seat.

Born in Chicago and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bruchs moved with his family to California in 1938. He went to high school at Holy Angels in Arcadia and got a job at a furniture store before starting work at the post office on May 16, 1959.

Bruchs was a letter carrier for 41½ years. He moved to Joshua Tree when he was 24 and started delivering mail in Palm Springs. He married Gail, the daughter of a fellow postal employee, in 1964, and the two moved



STACY MOORE Hi-Desert Star

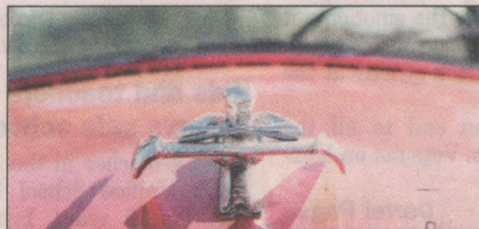
Len Bruchs parks his 1958 Nash Metropolitan outside the Hi-Desert Star Friday. He bought it new from Walker Brothers in Los Angeles.

to Yucca Valley.

Now a widower, Bruchs still lives in Yucca Valley and still drives his Metropolitan from time to time.

"It's just part of me," he said.

"It's a survivor, kind of like me, I guess."



STACY MOORE Hi-Desert Star

**Left**, the Nash Metropolitan Flying Goddess soars over the hood of Len Bruchs' 1958 model.





## *CRUISE TO SAN CLEMENTE*

Thanks to the Covid 19 Pandemic our chapter event schedule is out of whack. As you know Sunday June 28th was supposed to be our annual picnic. Instead, for that date, we substituted the scheduled July 25th cruise to San Clemente to at least do something with our Mets! Six Mets and eight people proceeded to do that regardless of social distancing masking restrictions. Inland Metter's, Mike & Kim Dahlberg, Tony Bilotti, Kim Dominguez and Chris Di Tommaso met up with coastal Metter's Bill & Cindy Harris and Ken Conner in Laguna Beach. The morning spit threatened the beginning drive in Newport Beach but the Met's noisy windshield wipers cleared the view and the rest of the day's weather was just fine. Even Catalina Island was visible from PCH. Mike Dahlberg led us right up to Ruby's Diner atop San Clemente where we enjoyed lunch. Afterwards he took us down past the Pier, then back North on El Camino Real where we headed home. There is talk of holding our picnic sometime this fall, hopefully.





