

Metropolitan Manifold

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SO CAL METS

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CHAPTER OF Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

President:	Ron Bauman	1944 Spruce St.	Riverside	951-202-9927
Vice President	Gwen Tolleson	1949 Smokewood Ave.	Fullerton	714-525-8830
Secretary-Treasurer	Barbra Bauman	1944 Spruce St.	Riverside	951-683-8060
Newsletter Editor	Ken Conner	17002 Bolero Lane	Huntington Beach	714-846-5003
Membership Chairman	Tony Bilotti	2691 W. Parkside Ln.	Anaheim	714-994-3220
Cruise Director	Marcia Jones	9435 Cormorant Circle	Fountain Valley	714-963-9116
Webmaster	Tony Bilotti	2691 W. Parkside Ln.	Anaheim	714-994-3220

2014

SO CAL METS Calendar

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

Club website: www.socalmets.com

Planning Meetings: Every 3 months normally. Adventures: Every Month

Day & Date	Event	Location & Hosts	Start
Jan 18, Saturday	Hello LA County Metters	Metropolitan Pit Stop, 5324 Laurel Cyn Blvd, NoHo Host: June Valentine 800-677-5519	10:30 AM
Jan 26, Sunday	Planning Meeting	9435 Cormorant Cir., Fountain Valley Host: Marcia Jones 714-963-9116	1:30 PM
Feb 15, Saturday	Sweet Heart Lunch Rainforest Cafe	1515 Disneyland Monorail System, Anaheim, CA 92807 (714) 772-0413 Please RSVP to Marcia Jones 714-963-9116 by February 11	11:30 AM
March 16, Sunday	Automobile Driving Museum,	610 Lairport St., El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 909-0950	10:00 AM
March 28-29	Unique Little Car Show	Pomona	TBD
April 19, Saturday	Cruise to Tom's Farm - Corona	Temescal Canyon Road & I-15	11:00 AM
April 27, Sunday	Planning Meeting	1949 Smokewood Ave., Fullerton Host: Gwen Tolleson 714-525-8830	1:30 PM
May 17, Saturday	Visit Stanley Ranch Museum & Village	12174 Euclid St., Garden Grove 714-530-8871	10:00 AM
June 8, Sunday	Annual Picnic Pot Luck	Craig Park, 3300 N State College Blvd. Fullerton 50/50 Raffle, White Elephant Sale Bring quality items for the sale	10:30 AM
July 26, Saturday	Cruise near the Cool Ocean	17002 Bolero Lane, Huntington Beach Hosts: Ken & Judy Conner 714-846-5003	TBD
August			
Sept			
October 11, Saturday	San Dimas Cruise		TBD
October 17-18	Run-To-The-Sun Car Show	Lake Havasu City, AZ www.relicsandrods.com	TBA
November 30, Sunday	Car Show & Lunch	Original Mikes – Santa Ana 100 S. Main Street	11:00 AM
December 6, Saturday	Christmas Party		TBD
December 13, Saturday	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso) Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pancake House & 7-11	8:15 AM

Revised: February 6, 2014

We hope that by the time you read this, you will have had a...



Your So Cal Mets officers - L to R - Gwen Tolleson - VP, Ken Conner - Newsletter, Marcia Jones - Cruise Director, Tony Bilotti - Membership Chairman & Web Master.

Metters Meet at the Pit Stop



The invitation read 10:30 AM but many arrived before that. The occasion was a get together for Metropolitan owners throughout the greater Los Angeles area. It was hosted by The Metropolitan Pit Stop and So Cal Mets, a chapter of the Metropolitan Owners Club of North America.

Metropolitan Pit Stop owner, June Valentine and her staff went all out to welcome Met lovers. June reported that nearly 150 Metters attended the January 18th event. The North Hollywood location sells replacement parts for and restores aging Metropolitans. The Laurel Canyon site is also home to a delightful Museum of Metropolitans. Started in the early 70's by June's father Jimmy Valentine, the business today is known around the globe.



Photo above shows the entrance to the Pit Stop with Judy Conner manning the events reception table. To the right are 14 Mets that were driven there.





This photographic compilation of the interior museum of the Metropolitan Pit Stop was created by Brian Cotariu.



Acting MC Ron Bauman introduced Met Pit Stop owner June Valentine.

June Valentine welcomed the group and told a bit of history about the Metropolitan Pit Stop.



Guests listen to June's welcome address.

June introduced her assistant Mark Lane.



Mark Lane did an excellent walk-around of the museum cars. He pointed out that this 1961 blue & white hard top was the first Met owned by June's father Jimmy Valentine. The need for parts for the car is what propelled Jimmy to start his own parts business around 1974.



This station wagon was one of two prototypes that American Motors made. Jimmy Valentine sought it out and purchased it in 1980. After a long restoration it is now on display. The other one was destroyed.



No Flux Capacitor on this one! This was the future envisioned in 1956. Called the Astro-Gnome, it was designed by Richard Arbib for the 1956 New York International Auto Show. The Aluminum body sits on a 1955 Nash Metropolitan. It was pictured on the cover of Newsweek magazine, September 3, 1956. Another find by Jimmy Valentine.



Joe Vanderhoof's cleverly disguised black Met is the spitting image of the "Hot Car" toy he copied. Joe says that he couldn't afford to build a real hot rod so he created a pretend one instead. Joe lives in Long Beach.

There is no doubt about the realism of this Met. It is a familiar visitor to car shows in the West. Driven by Brian Thatcher & Dubbed the METRO-NATOR, its blown V8 will catch you attention. Prolong Oil Lubricants is its sponsor. <http://www.metronator.com/index.html>.



MOCNA VP Brian Cotariu made it all the way down from Castro Valley, CA and welcomed all Met owners. Brian indicated that MOCNA will be stepping up support to MOCNA chapters. He reminded the audience that come July 2015, there will be an International Metropolitan Meet in Tacoma, Washington. The Pacific Northwest MOCNA chapter would like to have 100 Mets there for the event.

So Cal Mets President Ron Bauman introduced the officers of the MOCNA chapter in Southern California. They were Gwen Tolleson, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer Barbra Bauman, Newsletter Editor Ken Conner, Membership Chairman & Webmaster Tony Bilotti. Cruise Director Marsha Jones was unable to join us.



Taking the prize for longest distance traveled to the event was John Dowling from the United Kingdom. John & his wife Rosemary were also visiting their daughter who lives in Los Angeles.

John is the newsletter editor for the MOC, the Metropolitan Owners Club of the UK which started in 1972.

John pointed out that the MOC was the first Metropolitan car club and that it had quite a few American members until the Metropolitan Owners Club of North America became established. Today the club has 120 members spread all over the UK which unfortunately makes it difficult to have regular meetings. He stated that in 1957 Nash allowed the Austin Company to sell to the British markets and Europe. Around 10,000 right hand drive Mets were built. Today in the UK there are around 90 Mets left on the road!

John talked about the cordial relations they have with we American Metters. In fact four So Cal Met members are members of the MOC. He invited anyone traveling to the UK to visit. The web site for their club is: <http://metropolitanownersclub.co.uk/contact-us.php>.



At the 2011 MOCNA international meet in Kenosha, WI, our guest of honor was Donny Conn. We were again honored to have him speak before us this time at the Metropolitan Pit Stop.

Should you need to ask what has he to do with our beloved Metropolitans, the answer is “Beep Beep”.

Donny who now lives in Malibu grew up in Waterbury Connecticut. It is there in the early 1950s that he teamed up with two friends and formed the “Playmates”, an instrumental & vocal trio. After they graduated from the University of Connecticut they began touring the USA and Canada. In 1958

they signed a contract with Roulette Records and became the label’s first vocal group. They had two notable top 40 singles “Jo-Ann” and “Don’t Go Home”. Then on July 9, 1958 their novelty tune “Beep Beep” became a #4 hit. It was on the Billboard Top 40 chart for twelve weeks, sold over one million copies and was awarded a gold disc! But wait you say. The Beep Beep lyrics say nothing about a Metro-pol-i-tan? Donny tells a charming story of their trio returning from a gig in New York one night. A small Nash something came upon their Cadillac and played the passing game for a time. That inspired him to write the lyrics later that night. It turns out that a shorter word fit the rhythm better so Rambler was used instead! (continued)



Regardless, we in the Metropolitan community seem to have adopted Beep Beep as an unofficial theme song. Donny Conn seems comfortable with it.

As he was describing the writing of the lyrics he got our audience to help him fill in & sing the chorus “Beep Beep, Beep Beep his horn went Beep Beep Beep”.

To see video of the entertaining presentation go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rs1e-C8nxr0>

Brian Cotariu produced it and added a bit of the song at the beginning.



The 45 record shown here was discovered last year by my dear wife Judy. It was waiting in a bin at a boutique in Costa Mesa. It is in excellent condition considering that it is as old or older than our Mets! Donny kindly autographed it before he spoke. Afterwards we donated it to June Valentine for her Metropolitan Museum.

Lastly a delicious lunch was served.

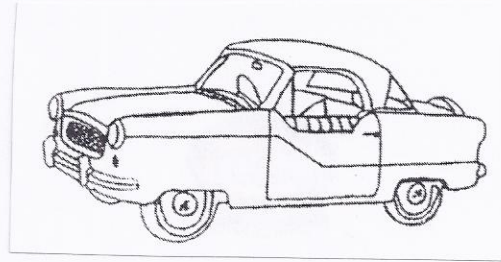
Our heartfelt thanks to June Valentine, Mark Lane and the entire Pit Stop Staff for a memorable day.



This familiar chrome object is mounted above the main exit door



METROPOLITAN OWNERS



WHAT:
34th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show

WHEN:
March 28-29, 2014

WHERE:
Hosted by the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum
1101 W. McKinley Ave., Gate 1 of the L.A. County Fairplex, Pomona, California
(909) 622-2133

WHO: It's for everyone! Forget any preconceived notions you may have had about "car meets." The Unique Little Car Show is a blast for spouses, kids, and people who have never even seen a microcar before.

TYPES OF CARS:
All Classic Micro and Mini Cars are Welcome. All 3 and 4 wheel Microcars under 700cc or Battery Electric Propulsion; Minicars such as original Mini Coopers, Nash Metropolitans; and other small, arcane vehicles usually under 1200cc. If you have an exception, let us know!

COST: Pre-registration for 1 car is \$20, 2nd & 3rd car \$5 each, 4 or more FREE.
Day of show, \$25

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
Friday, March 28
Registration 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Welcome reception at the NHRA Museum and cruise around beautiful Puddingstone Lake, Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, San Dimas, CA to
Pinnacle Peak Steak House, 269 W. Foothill Blvd., San Dimas, CA
For menu and pricing, log on to: <http://pinnaclepeaksteakhouse.com>

Saturday, March 29
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Car Show and FREE admission to the NHRA Motorsports Museum
Banquet dinner and awards 5 p.m. Cash Bar Reception / 6:00 p.m. Dinner \$40 per person.

ACCOMODATIONS: Host Hotel:
Sheraton Suites Fairplex,
601 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA (walking distance to show location)
(877) 535-0684
Mention: micro mini car meet for the event's special room pricing

METROPOLITAN OWNERS

34th annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show

March 28-29, 2014

Car Registration

Car Make _____ Model _____

Year _____ Original _____ Restored _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Club _____

Pre-registration for 1 car is \$20, 2nd & 3rd car \$5 each, 4 or more, Free. Registration includes: car show entry, 2 days of Museum Admission and event dash plaque.

Use one form for each car registered. Pre-registration closes, March 14. Onsite registration is \$25.

Car 1 @ \$20.....\$ _____

Car 2 & 3 @ \$5 each.....\$ _____ (attach additional forms)

Buffet Dinner(s) (Saturday)@ \$40 each \$ _____

Event T-Shirt (fill in quantity /size) (T-Shirts will only be available if we meet the minimum required to order)

___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL..\$18 \$ _____

___ 2XL ___ 3XL.....\$20 \$ _____

TOTAL\$ _____

Method of Payment: VISA M/C DISCOVER Check or Money Order (do not send cash)

Credit Card number: _____ 3-digit code: _____ Exp. date: _____

Name as it appears on the card _____ Signature _____

Remit to: NHRA Museum/ULCS, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Bldg. 3A, Pomona, CA 91768

Or FAX: (909) 622-1206

For general information including directions, log on to:

nhramuseum.org

Dale Carrington's Tech Tips

Wiring the trafficator to the main wiring harness

Wiring can really be frustrating and has never been one of my favorite things to do. I can tell you how I go about it - but I don't know if it's the BEST way to do it.

I start out using a continuity tester (an Ohm meter would work as well) and it helps if you have alligator clips attached to the loose ends of the red and black wires. I first identify each wire from the trafficator harness that comes out of the steering box. Do this by connecting one tester wire to a harness bullet (start with the longest wire which *should* be the horn wire) and the other tester wire to a ground. You can use the E terminal on the voltage regulator for a good ground. Next press the horn button and see if you get a continuity sound or a 0 reading on the Ohm meter. If so - use a piece of masking tape and mark that wire H, if not - move your clip to another bullet and repeat until the horn honks. Next, identify the flasher wire coming from the trafficator. The Flasher wire is the common wire to both the left and right turn signals and was *originally* the shortest wire from the trafficator. To identify the common (flasher) wire - clip to the shortest wire, flip the turn signal lever to the left and touch your remaining tester wire to each of the two remaining wires. One of them should get a response on the meter. Now flip the turn signal lever to the right and touch your tester wire to the remaining wire. If that one gets a meter response also you are correctly clipped to the flasher wire and can mark that wire F. With your turn signal lever still to the right mark the wire getting a meter response R (*should* be the 3rd longest wire) and the other wire L (*should* be the 2nd longest wire). If no response the three wires and test again until you identify the original wiring harness - horn, the 2nd longest Right turn and the short-

- three groups of wires: 1. (3 wires)brakes/tail lights
2. (5 wires) turn signals
3. (3 wires) headlight harnesses
4. horn wire feed (hot)



If you'd rather mark the circuit numbers (shown as Left turn 11/18, Right 15/23.

Now the tedious part - correct connections on

First, identify the three out of the main wiring harness Start by following the the engine compartment

be the thickest of the two harnesses that come through the firewall) toward the front of the engine compartment. About 5 or 6 inches along (about where the fuse box is located) you should see a group of three single wires come out of the main harness - these should hook up to the brake light, parking lights and fuel sender circuits. About an inch further down the main harness you'll see a single wire coming out of the back of the harness - this should be the horn wire (24/40) and should be hot even with the ignition key off. Immediately after that you'll see a group of 5 wires come out of the main harness - these will be your turn signal connections (15/23, 11/18, 13/21). The last group (three wires) are your headlight harness connections to the main harness.

I start by looking for the horn wire connection on the main harness. This wire should ALWAYS be hot and can be found with a test light (see below for how to make one) or by setting your Ohm meter to the DC voltage setting. Connecting one wire of the tester to a good ground (E terminal of voltage regulator should do nicely) start touching the other wire to any wire coming out of the main harness (ignition key OFF) that isn't connected to anything. Assuming the neighbor that you butted heads with last week hasn't come over and randomly rearranged your wiring connections to "get even..." you should be able to quickly identify the hot wire that is not connected to anything. Use a single barrel connector to connect your H (40) wire to that hot wire. Now pressing the horn button should result in sound from the horns.

Next, the main harness wire to the flasher - turn on the ignition switch (this will put power to the turn signal circuit). Using the test light or meter identify one wire of the five wire group coming out of the main harness as the hot wire - there will only be one - this is the common or Flasher wire. Connect the F wire from the trafficator harness to the now hot wire with a single barrel connector.

move your clip to another of the left and right connections the common flasher wire. On ness the longest wire was Left turn, 3rd longest est was the flasher.

wires with the appropriate cir-'54-'55/'56-'62) Horn 24/40, turn 13/21, Flasher would be

connecting these wires to the the main wiring harness.

major groups of wires coming harness that apply to this job. wiring harness where it enters through the firewall (this will



Mike & Kim Dahlberg pose with their Met as the Disneyland Monorail leaves the hotel station. **The Rainforest Café** proved to be an excellent destination for our group. We agreed that next time we would avoid a holiday weekend because of traffic. Photo upper right from L to R shows Ronnie & Barbara Bauman, Jackie & Tony Bilotti, Mike & Kim Dahlberg, Judy Conner, Leon & Nancy Hastings and Marcia Jones.

Hats off to longest distance driven Mets by the Hastings & Bauman's. Leon & Nancy trailered their Met from their home in Desert Hot Springs to Riverside. They then caravanned with the Baumans 40 miles from Riverside to Anaheim (and back).



Below Marcia Jones & Leon Hastings show the photos of their Mets in the February issue of Germany's "Auto Bild Klassik" magazine. The photo shoot was done last August.

Lastly, one can't help but wonder if the designer of Disney's "Toon-Town" cars wasn't influenced by our whimsical Metropolitans. After all they came in to being after our Mets were already out there making smiles!





Here are two more professional images from the August photo shoot by Bernhard Schmidt. Bernhard is a photo/journalist for Germany's leading classic car magazine, "Auto-Build Klassik. His objective was to show Metropolitans with "Googie" architecture. Above are the two Mets of Marcia Jones and below, the Met of Leon Hastings.

