

Metropolitan Manifold

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Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

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2015

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 11, Sunday	Cruise & Lunch	Roadside Café - 1822 North Glassell Street, Orange, <i>RAINED OUT</i>	11:30 AM
Feb 15, Sunday	Cruise & Lunch Gypsum Canyon	Knowlwood Burgers, 5665 E. La Palma Anaheim	11:00 AM
Mar 14, Saturday	Lunch Rainforest Cafe	1515 Disneyland Monorail System, Anaheim, CA 92807 (714) 772-0413	11:30 AM
April 10 & 11	Southwest Unique Little Car Show	Tucson, AZ	
April 25, Saturday	Cruise to Tom's Farm - Corona	Temescal Canyon Road & I-15 & Planning Meeting	11:00 AM
May 30, Saturday	Mini - Small Car Cruise	1733 Lake St, Huntington Beach	9:15 AM
June 7, Sunday	HB Concours Car Show	7111 Talbert, Huntington Beach	7:00 AM
June 14, Sunday	Annual Picnic Pot Luck	Craig Park, 3300 N State College Blvd. Fullerton	10:30 AM
July 8-12	MOCNA International Meet	7414 South Hosmer Tacoma, Washington	
August 9, Sunday	Antiq. Music Box Phonograph Show	UFCW Union hall 8530 Stanton Ave, Buena Park, CA 90620	TBA
August 15, Saturday	Johnny Carson Memorabilia	Fullerton Museum Center 301 N. Pomona, Fullerton	TBA
September			
October 10, Saturday	Nash/Hudson/AMC Reunion & Show	Automobile Driving Museum El Segundo	TBA
November ?Sunday	Car Show & Lunch	Original Mikes - Santa Ana 100 S. Main Street	11:00 AM
December 12 Saturday	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso) Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pancake House & 7-11	8:15 AM
December 13 Sunday	Annual Christmas Party	Mama Cozza's - 2170 W. Ball Road Anaheim 714-635-0063	1:00 PM

Revised: June 16, 2015

A Tribute to Donny Conn

We were entry number 201. It was just another entry in a Fourth of July Parade, except that it was in the hometown community of musician Donny Conn. The “community”, better known as Pacific Palisades is a coastal celebrity-ville here in Southern California and this was their 67th Annual parade. It was also the parade Donny Conn had been thinking about participating in for the last couple of years.

We first met Donny in 2011 at the MOCNA International Meet in Kenosha, Wisconsin. MOCNA Historian Chris Custin had made then president Wayne Metz aware of Donny and his connection to the famous “Beep Beep” song. Wayne invited Donny to Kenosha where he was warmly received. There he shared with us how the “Beep Beep” song came about. In essence their musical group, The Playmates were driving home one night from a gig in New York when a Nash “something” tried to pass them. That gave Donny the inspiration to write the song. The novelty tune remained on the 1958 Billboard Top 40 chart for 12 weeks, sold a million copies and received a Gold Disk. When pressed as to why “Rambler” was used in the lyrics Donny recalls that the Nash they saw that night was small enough to be a Metropolitan but they thought it was called a Rambler. Also “Rambler” fit the tempo of the lyrics better than the longer word “Met-ro-pol-itan!



Still, we Metropolitan drivers seem to have taken Donny under our wing. In 2013 we gave him a ride and played his song when we appeared in the Pasadena “Do-Dah” parade. That got him wanting to do the same in his hometown and he applied but was too late with the registration in 2014. Not this year though. We starting the planning early and by parade day we had four, 4th-of-July colored Metropolitans for the event. They were owned & driven by Beverly & Bill Grandia of Riverside, Marcia Jones of Fountain Valley, Ron Bauman of Riverside and Ken Conner of Huntington Beach.

What makes our effort more gratifying is knowing that Donny suffered a stroke on the 8th of May. His first words to his daughter Kiela were “I hope I can still make the parade”. Well he did make the parade and he rode in a Metropolitan!

For a very informative interview with Donny Conn, go to our website at www.socalmets.com. Our Webmaster Tony Bilotti has captured an excellent audio podcast of the interview. Click on “Donny Conn Beep Beep Podcast”.

Photo below shows Donny autographing the glove box door of Beverly Grandia’s convertible!

Ken Conner





Donny's niece Tina Claps looks on while daughter Kiela Moriarty takes a photo. His granddaughter Kelly Hine provided shade with the parasol. Beverly Grandia was owner/driver.



Marcia Jones & Ron Bauman stand by waiting for the parade to start.



The parade route began and ended in residential neighborhoods. Half of the route was on Sunset Boulevard.



The 2015 MOCNA International



We left Southern California at 5:00 am on July 5th. The plan was to meet the Met folks from the Bay Area that evening in Weed (near Mt. Shasta) where we all had motel reservations. About 30 miles before we reached Weed, we rounded a curve and came upon the Bay area Metters rolling along. We



merged in with them and arrived together about 6:00 PM. We were quite a site on I-5. We were a combination of Mets being driven, trailered and towed! We pulled off the next night in Salem, Oregon and the following day, July 7th we all arrived in Tacoma, Washington.

Day 1 – THE LONG TOUR – VASHON ISLAND – July 8th

Twenty-one Metropolitans departed the Shilo Inn and streamed across Tacoma to the Defiance Ferry Terminal for a day on Vashon Island. Ferry travel in Washington's Puget Sound region is a regimented means of transportation but we were up to it because we wanted to be able to say that our Mets could float! By mid morning we had driven on to the ferry and were gliding over to the Island.

Once off the ferry, we caravanned East to the Point Robinson Lighthouse. There, a very knowledgeable docent, Captain Joe Wubbold, spoke of the history of the 100 year old lighthouse. He let us go up to the top where we could see the rare Fresnel lens and it's Puget Sound view. Next we cruised around the curvy East shore and then up to the inland village of Vashon where we had lunch. After lunch, some of us shopped and the rest of the group visited the Vashon Winery. With leisure time drawing to an end we all drove back to the Tahlequah Ferry Terminal where we headed back to the mainland.

Right off the ferry most of us took the scenic five-mile drive through Point Defiance Park. It was a beautiful forested drive with occasional views of the Sound, peeks of Gig Harbor and the Tacoma-Narrows channel.







DAY 2 – THE LONG TOUR – ROAD TO PARADISE – JULY 9TH

Fourteen Metropolitans took the 140-mile challenge to go up to Paradise and back. It was a climb to the 5,400 foot level of Mount Rainier. That's the location of the Paradise Lodge & Visitors Center very near the lowest snow, which continues up and caps the 14,110 foot peak. We left the Shilo Inn around 9:00 AM and headed south, then east on Hwy 7 & Hwy 706. At the Alder Dam viewpoint we regrouped and pulled into the Lake Park to use the facilities and take some pictures. Five miles further we pulled over and parked in front of the historic Elbe Church. We signed the guest register, took pictures and some smart shoppers bought a bunch of delicious Rainier Cherries. Back on the road we continued upward in the warmth of the day, some of us a bit concerned about vapor lock but the July temperature started going down as we got higher into the forest.

Next stop was an outdoor metal sculpture exhibit by artist Dan Klennert. Some of his works were also done in wood. The place was called "Spirits of Iron".

Ten miles later we turned off at the "Wild Berry" Restaurant for lunch.

It was a Nepalese restaurant staffed with a couple of real folks from Nepal.

The décor was mountain themed including some photos of Mount Everest treks. The food was good. There was even a "Yak Burger" on the menu.

Filled with Sherpa food, we continued on up to the entrance of the Mount Rainier National Park. As is the case in summer, the roads were being repaired and we did have to wait our turn on the one-way lane projects. Seventeen miles past the park entrance we reached the Paradise Lodge & Visitors Center. The view of the Mountain was stunning! Just passed the green ridge in the foreground, was a wall of snow & glacial valleys. We took lots of photos.

A big thank you to our expedition leader, Jeff Rich and staff for making the tour so enjoyable. We Metter's can be proud. We climbed the Mountain in a Metropolitan and made it to Paradise!







DAY 3 – LeMAY MUSEUM – SLOW DRAGS – JULY 10

On day three we drove our Mets to the LeMay “America’s Car Museum” near the Tacoma Dome downtown. We filled the plaza in front with 71 Mets. Brian Cotariu got the best shot of the cars and smartly uses it as background on the MOCNA facebook page.

While walking down one of the museum aisles I detected an English accent coming from a gentleman having a conversation with MOCNA President Brad Swiggart. Steve James, membership chairman with the MOC (Metropolitan Owners Club) in the UK had told me last month that one of their members, Bob Patrick would be attending our meet. I stepped closer and sure enough the name tag confirmed that it was him. I introduced myself and further down the hall I met his wife Val so I took the photo of the two of them in front of the two museum Mets. I was to see Bob later that day at the slow drags driving a right hand drive Met convertible. Bob & Val plus all the good folks who came over the border from Canada sure helped justify our use of the word “International” in our 2015 Meet!

Slow Drags – A large church parking lot in the southeast area of Tacoma was the site for the Slow Drags event. Essentially the challenge was to drive your Met over the starting line, take it out of gear and coast up to, but not over, the finish line, WITH/ OUT using your brakes. So on my practice try I way overshot the finish line. On my contest attempt I washed out by stopped way too early! The heats consisted of 2 cars at a time. Winner is closest to but not touching the finish line. There is no earsplitting sound, no choking burnt rubber smoke. It is simply a fun contest for any driver.





DAY 4 VALVE COVER RACES

You would think that rolling a car-part down a ramp would be a silly idea for a contest. At least that was the thinking of several of us before we witnessed "Valve Cover Racing" hosted by the PNMOC & BC Mets at the 2015 MOCNA International. More like a soap-box derby for unmanned miniatures, the event drew a big crowd of spectators who watched the 31 gravity fueled racers coast down a ramp, and further onto the flat. Rules are that the racer should be an actual valve cover although they do not have to be from Metropolitans. Wheel types & locations ran the full gamut but many were roller blade assemblies. Max weight was 10 lbs and if they veered off the road, they lost the race though they may have been ahead. As each pair of racers dropped down the ramp you would hear the ooh's and yea's from the crowd. It was serious fun coupled with unbridled enthusiasm. Dale Carrington made it seem all the more official by wearing his referee shirt. Congratulations to Jan Rich who took 1st place with her orange speedster.





DAY 4 – LeMAY/MARYMOUNT SHOW – BANQUET – JULY 11

In retrospect this was the most enjoyable International Meet I have experienced and I have attended them since Sacramento in 2009. The Met turnout for the Saturday show was amazing. I counted 90 Metropolitans on the field. Some say 104.

Washington State has so much great geography to see. We took advantage of it and enjoyed both long tours. There is something special about driving your Met with other Mets from other parts of the continent.

One almost feels guilty not knowing how much time and effort went in to making the meet the success that it was. At the awards banquet event chairman Dale Carrington was given a standing ovation and rightly so. I know of two instances where Dale was a “midnight mechanic” for other Mets during the meet.

Thank you Dale Carrington and your entire staff. The “2015 International” will long be remembered!





