

Metropolitan Manifold

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CHAPTER
OF

Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

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TWENTY MARKS AND HALF A PIZZA

With travel plans to tour Alpine Europe this year, I hoped that there would be an opportunity to meet a fellow Metropolitan owner there. Thanks to John Dowling, Editor for the Metropolitan Owners Club (MOC) in the UK, it came to pass. John put me in touch with fellow MOC member Horst Haslach in Bavaria who went out of his way to welcome me.

On Sunday October 25th our Alpine tour was visiting Munich Germany. I played hooky from some of the guided tours and was able to spend time with Horst. Horst and his wife live 25 miles south of Munich in the Upper Bavarian community of Geretsried. He was gracious enough to pick me up, show me around his beautiful countryside and take me back to our hotel.

Horst's Mercedes van took us out of Munich on the autobahn as we headed for his shop near his home. There for the first time I finally got to witness the world famous high-speed traffic as it flashed past us & on out of sight.

Horst's shop occupies the corner of a huge old stone building in a country setting with a herd of cattle beside it. Parked inside was not a complete Metropolitan but a charming 1932 Opel 1.8

Liter SED, 4-door sedan with a 32 HP 6 cylinder engine. There were also a couple of classic motorcycles, a BMW Isetta under restoration and yes, a Metropolitan engine, trans & restored suspension parts. The rest of the Met was housed at his mother's place, which was too far away to visit at the time.



He bought the 1957 Met from a friend in the late 70's. Paid the grand sum of Twenty Marks, plus

half of a Pizza to seal the deal. The friend had gotten it two years prior from an uncle who was no longer able to drive. Since the acquisition he has dismantled the Met which revealed the original yellow color, which was later, repainted black. Alas, salt on the Deutschland winter roads had taken its toll on the Met's underbody. However the body has now been sandblasted, repaired, & primed. When asked the obvious question: "When will it be back on the road?" Horst thinks in terms of 4 to 5 years. You see Horst is recently retired from the aerospace industry and wants to travel while he can & I commend him for that.

Horst worked at Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm, which became Eurocopter, which more recently became Airbus. Next year he is shipping his BMW motorcycle to Australia where he plans to circumnavigate the continent!



To top off the visit, Horst wanted to go cruising in the Opel. After installing a new fuel filter, the Opel ran better and off we went through the beautiful fall foliage of Bavaria. More than once, we approached bystanders who noticed our classic shape and smiled. An offered wave always got one back in return. We wound through fairy tale like settlements until we came upon an old Monastery & Brewery where we had a delicious lunch. Horst refused to let me pay the bill.



In retrospect the day turned out to be an experience I will treasure. Thank you Horst Haslach for your generous Hospitality. May you create even bigger smiles some day with your Metropolitan, as you cruise through your Bavarian countryside.



Photos above show the diligence Horst has taken to restore every nook & cranny of his Mets body.



While your editor was across the pond, a scheduled So Cal Mets event took place in El Segundo. It was a visit to the Automobile Driving Museum near Los Angeles International Airport. Tony Bilotti created an excellent report about it. Just go to our website www.socalmets.com and click on current events.

TOOTIN OUT TO TOM'S FARM



Eight Metropolitans and a very cool 1960 Rambler Wagon rendezvoused at “Toms Farm” south of Corona November 15th. The yellow Rambler belongs to new members Tom & Bonnie Both who have a Met at home getting fixed up to join us. Regular Metters who came from all over were Leon & Nancy Hastings from Desert Hot Springs, Paul & Allison Van Wig from Long Beach, Renee & Nick Anderson from Riverside, Marcia Jones from Fountain Valley, Ron Bauman from Riverside, Tony & Jackie Bilotti from Anaheim, Mike & Kim Dahlberg from Tustin, Ken & Judy Conner from Huntington Beach and Armando & Maritza Reyes with Maritza’s Mom from West Covina in there X brand.

For more photos go to “Events” at www.socalmets.com





26th Annual Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade



Putting on the Ritz



Eleven Mets and one Rambler Wagon paraded down Crown Valley Parkway this year. The excellent turnout of Mets was applauded by a huge crowd of curbside watchers.

Drivers & wavers were Ron Bauman, Marcia Jones & her sister, Ken & Judy Conner, Tony & Jackie Bilotti, Gwen Tolleson, George & Norma Mocabee, John & Anita Fildes, Jeff Gordon with friend Donna, Caryl Stepenson, Elise Doran & friend, Mike & Kim Dahlberg and Tom & Bonnie Both.



Three different public address stations along the route announced our arrival and told about So Cal Mets and the history of the Metropolitan.





After the parade most of us headed South to Pacific Coast Highway. A right turn on PCH and we cruised with the blue Pacific on our left until we pulled in at Ruby's Auto Diner in Laguna Beach. There on the rooftop patio we took in the ocean view and had a working lunch planning our club activities for 2016.

In this newsletter you will see a projected calendar for next year. If there is anything you want to add, please contact us with your suggestions.



2016

SO CAL METS Calendar (Preliminary)

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 23, Saturday	Lunch & Shop Cruise Maybe	Ruby's Diner & Depot 186 N Atchison St, Old Town Orange	11:30 AM
Feb	Nobel Private Car Museum	Fountain Valley	TBA
Mar	Lunch	Ruble Castle Glendora	11:30 AM
April 8 & 9	Southwest Unique Little Car Show	Phoenix, AZ	TBA
April	Car Show	UC Irvine	TBA
May Saturday	Mini - Small Car Cruise	1733 Lake St, Huntington Beach	9:15 AM
June , Sunday	Friday Eve Car Show	Main St. Old Town Garden Grove	TBA
June , Sunday	Annual Picnic Pot Luck	Craig Park, 3300 N State College Blvd. Fullerton	10:30 AM
July 31, Sunday	Car Show & Lunch	Original Mikes - Santa Ana 100 S. Main Street	11:00 AM
August	Peterson Auto Museum		TBA
September Sat	Coastal Cruise	Lunch at Crystal Cove Newport Coast	9:00 AM
October	Run to the Sun Show	Havasu City Arizona	TBA
October Saturday	Gypsum Canyon Cruise	Anaheim & Yorba Linda to Polly's Pies	TBA
November	Cruise to Tom's Farm - Corona	Temescal Canyon Road & I-15 & Planning Meeting	11:00 AM
December Saturday	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso) Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pancake House & 7-11	8:15 AM
December Sunday	Annual Christmas Party		1:00 PM

Revised: Dec 12, 2015

Christmas Party





Among the party attendees were So Cal Met charter members George & Norma Mocabee from Upland. They joined us in the Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade Saturday, then drove their Met right back down for our Christmas Party Sunday. Fortunately for them and unfortunately for us, they are retiring and moving to Bullhead City Arizona. Their yellow Met's former California license plate "Daisy" has already be replaced by an Arizona plate reading "Historical Vehicle" YZV8. George & Norma, enjoy those lower taxes across the river. You will be missed.

Other party people were Gary Loomer from Paris, Nick & Renee Anderson from Riverside, Paul Van Wig from Long Beach, Mike & Kim Dahlberg from Tustin, Armando & Maritzq Reyes from West Covina, Jeff Gordon & friend Donna from Huntington Beach, Leon & Nancy Hastings from Desert Hot Springs, Tony & Jackie Bilotti from Anaheim and Ken & Judy Conner from Huntington Beach.

A special tip of the hat to our party Co-Hosts Marcia Jones & Gwen Tolleson. It was good to see our Treasurer Barbara Bauman.

Below President Ron Bauman holds a board with a laser-drawn Met on it. We signed it and thanked him for his efforts this past year. Someone wrote on it "Glad you've signed up for life." We hope that's true!



You may have noticed that our Calendar of events for this next year is far from finished. We welcome your suggestions & ideas for our chapter.



And finally, since this newsletter is created on a new Apple computer, here is a passage from the book "Steve Jobs" by Walter Isaacson:

Jobs was able to get his first car, with his fathers help, when he was fifteen. It was a two-tone Nash Metropolitan that his father had fitted out with an MG engine. Jobs didn't really like it, but he did not want to tell his father that or miss out on the chance to have his own car. "In retrospect a Nash Metropolitan might seem like the most wickedly cool car" he later said. "But at the time it was the most uncool car in the world. Still it was a car, so that was great". Within a year he had saved up enough from his various jobs that he could trade up to a red Fiat 850 coupe with an Abarth engine. "My dad helped me buy and inspect it. The satisfaction of getting paid and saving up for something, that was very exciting."