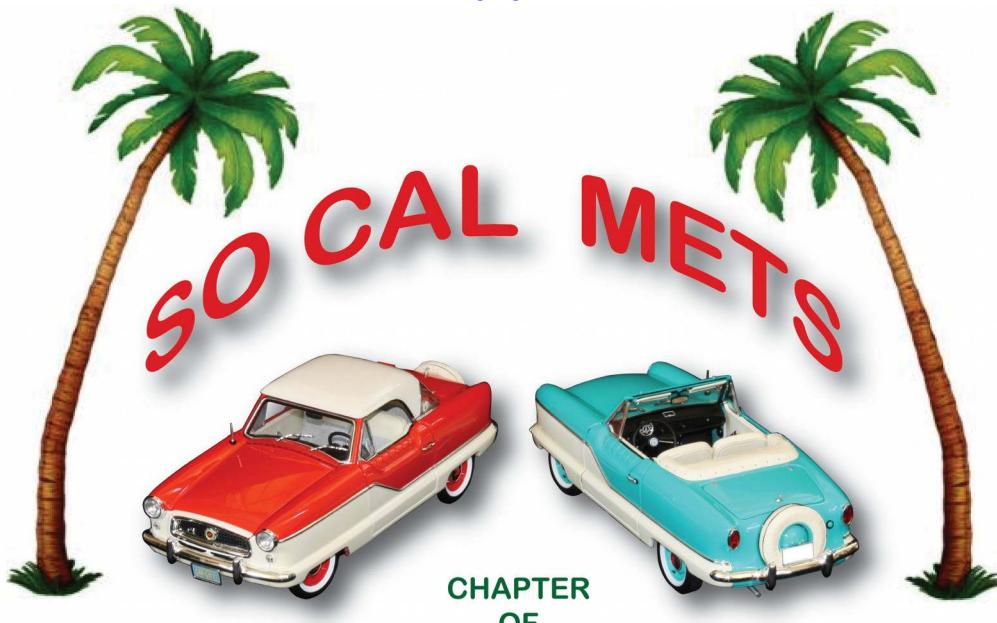


Metropolitan Manifold

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CHAPTER
OF

Metropolitan Owners Club of North America

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2019

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
January		RAINED OUT	
February 10th Sun	East OC Canyon Cruise	Mike & Kim Dahlberg 18142 Theodora Dr. Tustin RAINED OUT	9:00 AM
Mar 16 & 17 Sat & Sun	Classic Auto Show	OC Fair & Event Center 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa	10:00 AM
April 5-6 Fri & Sat	Southwest Unique Little Car Show	Sacramento, CA	TBA
April 27 Sat	Floral Park Home Tour & Car Show	North Santa Ana http://floralparkhometour.com/	8:30 AM
May 4th Sat	Blind Children 5k walk/run	18542-B Vanderlip Avenue in Santa Ana	TBA
June 20-23	International Meet	Holiday Inn Express, 610 Genoa Way Castle Rock, Colorado 303-688-0888	
July 21 st Sun	Annual Picnic Pot Luck	Craig Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton	10:30 AM
Aug 11 th Sun	Marconi Auto Museum	1302 Industrial Dr, Tustin, CA 92780	9:30 AM
Sept 8 th Sun	Belmont Shore Car Show	Meet at Ken's: 17002 Bolero Lane Huntington Beach (714) 926-7393	6:15 AM
Sept 21 st Saturday	Crevier Auto Museum	365 Clinton St, Costa Mesa, CA 92626	9:30 AM
Oct 26 Saturday	Canyon Cruise	Meet at Mike Dahlberg's - 18142 Theodora Dr. Tustin	10:00 AM
Nov 16 Saturday	Tom's Farm	23900 Temescal Canyon Rd Corona, California 92883	11:00 AM
Dec 8 Sun	Xmas Party	Angelo's and Vinci's Ristorante 550 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92832	1:00 PM
Dec 14 Sat	Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade	27001 Moulton Parkway (& Oso) Aliso Viejo Parking lot between Pancake House & 7-11	8:15 AM

Revised: August 12, 2019

Destined To Own One



So Cal Mets member Mark Weitzman says he came across this old family photo recently. It shows him at 2 1/2 years old in 1960 admiring a pink Metropolitan near his grandfather's place in Crenshaw Village. Mark says he was told that as he grew older, he could name all the different types of cars he would see.

Finally, just over a year ago, he & his wife Socorro acquired a 1959 Met from the 3rd owner of the car whom he has known for 40 years. Mark says that until then he had never driven a manual transmission car, so it's "teaching me how to drive".

We were pleased to have Mark, his family & the Met with us again this year at the picnic.



OUR 2019 PICNIC



A message from our Vice President Marcia Jones:

WOW, if you didn't join us at the picnic, you missed a great event and hopefully this will inspire you to come next year ! **WE HAD A RECORD 17 METS, and a Nash Rambler Station Wagon,** in the most beautiful 'rainbow of colors' I've ever seen!

First and foremost we all owe **Ken Conner** a big round of applause and a hearty **THANK YOU** for stepping in at the last minute to show up at the Craig Park Gate and be first in line at 6am in order to reserve our favorite spot at the park, and set up our 'pop up" and our flags. While we were all catching that 'extra wink' he was sitting there in his 50'z Toy patiently waiting for the park to open. He got our perfect spot with lots of shady trees, and the best parking lot to display our cars. Thank you Tony Billotti for showing up early too, helping Ken and keeping him company!

We had a wonderful variety of food consisting of green salads, fruit salads, chicken, sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, lots of cookies, specialty "Met Cookies" and deserts, a great auction and lots of stimulating conversation about our cars.. ..what year they were, where they came from, how to fix, them, what to do if.... what a great day we had and the weather was perfect!

Thank you to Ronnie, our president for the great job he did on the auction, assisted by our lovely Jackie Bilotti and me, to Kim who always goes beyond and designed and brought the name tags (it really helped us all getting to know each other), and to Patrick who was our chief chef assisting Kim, and his wife Nancy in bbq-ing the hot dogs and all the fixins' they brought.



We had some very interesting auction items this year including a 'brief type case' from the FBI donated by Kim Dominguez that was used to transport "things" (whoo hoo) from past cases; homemade 'tomato jam' with garden fresh tomatoes too; an instrument to measure how hot your radiator gets; one specific item from our newest member Tom Booth, which was two outside mirrors for a Met with wind wings that could be installed without drilling into the body that received a lot of 'action' on bidding.. some Met Slippers now out of production, a cute little metal sign with "Toe Mater" stating 'he wasn't able to fix the brakes so he made the horn louder'.. got some bid action on that one too ! Oh my gosh, the list goes on and on !! The auction was worth your attendance in itself!!

We met some of our "Metters" and their beautiful cars for the first time! I must single out two of **MY** favorites... "Merlot" who belongs to fun new member and first time attendee Diana Milon, a beautiful maroon/white Met and Ken and Nancy Pollard who brought their award winning coral/white Met. There were so many beautiful cars there yes, I wish I could name them all and who owned them. (Note to self to make a list next year)... I know Ken and Tony got lots of pictures that will be posted on our web site and in our next newsletter. Diana Milon brought her friend Mercedes who's Met is in restoration mode so we hope we'll be able to call her a member soon!

Some traveled a long distance to join us The Mocabees from Arizona, The Pollard's from Murrieta, The Wessels from Wildomar and even though they came in their brand -X car this year, June Valentine (proprietor of "The Pit Stop" in North Hollywood) and husband Michael. Thank you! We also had someone come with a cute little Black and White Met, complete with automatic transmission and air conditioning, who is not a member but has 'followed' us on our web site. He showed up with a 'FOR SALE' sign in the window. One of our members asked for a test drive and before the day had even really begun, he had a buyer. After spending the day with us and having such a good time, he actually said he was 'reconsidering' his sale, since we were all such a fun group. Who knows... maybe he'll buy another one and be back ! I'll just let you guess who was the buyer from our Club!



I'd like to thank **EVERYONE** for coming, bringing all the wonderful food, auction items and being such great company. We have an awesome Club with fun, friendly people who just love their Mets and it's a credit to all of **YOU** for making this such a great event.

Thank you for spending the day with us Ken/Judy Conner, Chris Di Tommaso, Tony/Jackie Bilotti, Tom/Kathy Wessels , George/Norma Mocabee, Mark/ Socorro & family Weitzman, Armando/Maritza Reyes, Jeff, Sue and Noodles Garrett, Diana Milon and her friend Mercedes, Mike/Kim Dahlberg, Ken/Natalie Pollard, Ronnie Bauman and his long time 'adopted son' Pat who was visiting here from Montana, Kim Dominguez and her long time friend, Jim/Lisa Houpt, June/Michael Valentine, Nancy/Patrick Halbert, Tom/Bonnie Booth and me, Marcia Jones.

Stay tuned for next month's event ! See ya' on the road...

Marcia
VP/Cruise Director

Good Morning Marcia,,, & fiends,,, W O W ! ! that's a wonderful description of our experience in the Park yesterday. The weather was with us,, The food was great , I had fun at the auction ,so many nice cars & best of all,,, The people are the nicest folks & they all were enjoying the event. Thanks to all who came, Thank`s for all of the hard work that our members did, Thank`s for being my friends,,, I`m very proud to be the prez of such a great family of car lovers. Please join us on our monthly events , with or with out your Met. Your always welcome & we guarantee you will have a great time. C~U soon,,, Ronnie





The June 2019 issue of Hemmings Classic Car Magazine had an interesting story by Patrick Foster about "The Modern Metropolitan". Those of us who were at the 2011 International MOCNA Meet in Kenosha, Wisconsin saw a tent there with a small clay model and large banner of a new Met. The idea of a NEW Met was certainly a conversation starter. The concept had been brewing since 2008. However as the Hemmings eight page article explains, the New Met really never got beyond clay. It was a collaboration of former AMC employees, mostly designers who took on the project as a labor of love with the goal that the design project could actually be put into production. It was speculated that Fiat/Chrysler could have met the challenge, however even the Fiat 500 is being dropped from the US market. Sadly, time has taken its toll on the lives of those designers as well.

We admirers of the original Metropolitan should never forget that William J. Flajole designed our cars. Did you know that his daughter, Diana & her husband Russ Hawkinson are on the MOCNA History/Library Team? They live in Michigan and would have joined us in Colorado at the International Meet but Russ had to have knee surgery.

history of automotive design 2008-2012

The Modern Metropolitan

How former AMC employees joined together to create a retro design

BY PATRICK FOSTER • PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY FRANK PASCOE AND VINCE GERACI

Somewhere on the outskirts of Detroit lies a hidden automotive styling studio concealed in a back room within a nondescript commercial building. Inside that studio several highly talented designers and clay modelers, formerly with American Motors and Chrysler, have labored for years on a top-secret project: the creation of a modern Metropolitan sub-compact car.

Sound a little crazy? It's not. The men who have been involved with this project from the beginning are veteran automotive designers, stylists, modelers, and engineers with years of industry experience, some of them counted among the best in the business. The team, which varied over the years of the project, has included Bill St. Clair, a retired AMC designer; Frank Pascoe, a

highly skilled clay modeler who worked at AMC, moved over to Chrysler after the merger, and is retired; two other extremely talented AMC clay modelers, Keith Goodlough and Felix DeRose; retired AMC engineer Bob Irlisow; and the legendary designer Vince Geraci, who led AMC's interior design team for many years. In its time, Geraci's group created the Levi's Gremlin and Hornet, Cassini Matador, and Canine Javelin, among other automobiles. They put a denim interior in the CJ and were the first to put leather seating in an SUV—the jeep Wagoneer Limited and Grand Wagoneer. Think about that.

Right after the time of the merger with Chrysler, Geraci was elevated to Director of AMC Styling—the last person to carry that title. The idea of designing a new Metropolitan for the 2000s all began innocently enough around 2008. Clay modeler Frank Pascoe had recently retired from Chrysler—he's sort of the "youngest" of the AMC group—and he and the other guys who would eventually make up the core of the

Metropolitan

The American Motors team created a styling studio in miniature. Left to right are designer Vince Geraci, and clay modelers Felix DeRose and Keith Goodlough with the wooden buck on which they would create the modern Metropolitan.

Modeler Frank Pascoe joining with DeRose and Goodlough to continue work on the clay model.

Hemmings.com | JUNE 2019 HEMMINGS CLASSIC CAR 71

The Marconi Museum

More than once over the years, So Cal Met Club member John Fildes has suggested we visit the Marconi Museum in Tustin. Thanks to Francine Felgemaker from the Nash Car Club, we finally did it. Francine is the Editor for their "Nash Flash" Newsletter and she made us aware of the Marconi "Open House" which took place August 11.

Much to your editor's surprise, the museum has more than just the open wheel race cars that Dick Marconi once drove. The museum is chock full of muscle & high end sports cars. They market the museum as a place to host gatherings, meetings, even weddings. The address is 1302 Industrial Dr., Tustin, CA. Their phone is 714-258-3001. See more at: <https://marconimuseum.org>.

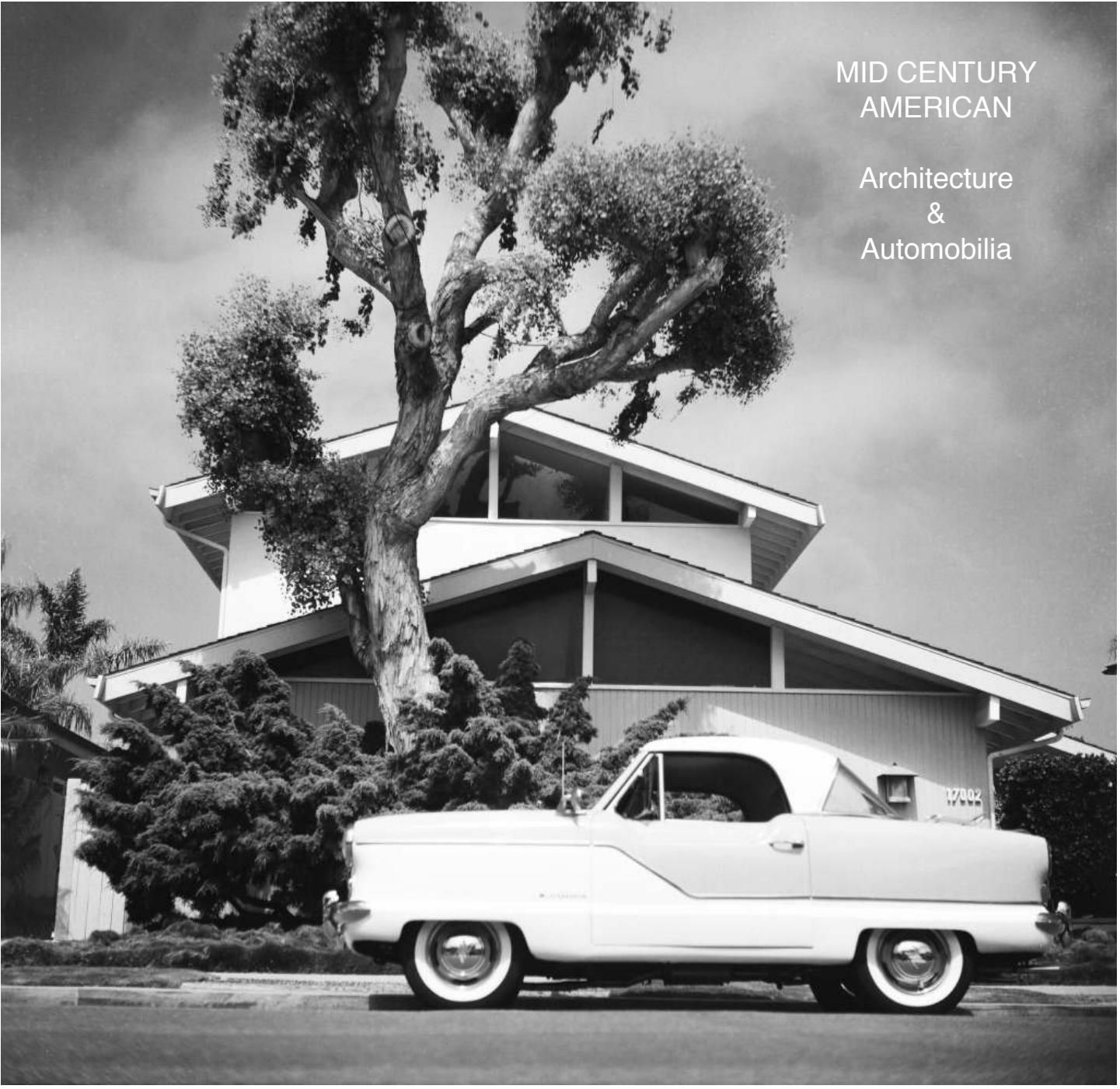
We met at Mike & Kim Dahlberg's home in Tustin and caravanned to the museum. So Cal Met members participating were, Ron Bauman & Judy Kanouse from Riverside, Marcia Jones from Fountain Valley, Tony Bilotti from Anaheim, Mike Dahlberg from Tustin, Kim Dominguez from Irvine, Ken Conner from Huntington Beach, Jeff & Sue Garrett from Chino Hills, Tom Wessels from Wildomar, Tom Booth from Cerritos, and first timers Doug & Doreen Campbell from Trabuco Canyon in their Pink Met.

Below is the museum parking lot after we arrived. Note the Ferrari in the foreground but the Mets were getting all the attention!





Photo right shows first time participating members Doreen & Doug Campbell with their Pink Met.



MID CENTURY
AMERICAN

Architecture
&
Automobilia

Most any Met owner can recall when some stranger has taken a photo of their Met. Usually it is when the car is parked, however more than once, my Met has been photographed by a shutterbug passing me on the freeway. Driving a Metropolitan makes you feel like a celebrity because of the attention the Met gets. So recently I was returning to my neighborhood in my Met and I noticed a "Z" car following me. When I stopped he pulled up beside me and asked if he could photograph my Met. "Certainly" I said. Then from his car he produced Not a modern Digital Single Lens Reflex camera but a Minolta 120 dual lens camera loaded with black & white FILM. He introduced himself as Gus Peña and went to work shooting my Met from street level. Above is my favorite of what he emailed back to me. He has a presence on Instagram and the identity is: @outofseason__. Who knows, perhaps this budding photographer will become a modern day Ansel Adams. Thank you Gus Peña.