

# MiniNews

MINI OWNERS OF AMERICA — LOS ANGELES P.O. BOX 91785 LOS ANGELES, CA 90009

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## OFFICIAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So you miss ONE meeting and look what happens...You get elected President!!! Well with that brick tossed my way I'd better get my road apples together. Oh yes, I can hear you all now, "Young buck, always poppin' off, let's see him put his Mini where his mouth is!" Well let's just say that I have a few ideas lurking around in my Cuervo soaked brain. As a life long resident of Southern California, I've been exposed to a lot of sights here (not to mention exposing myself to a few things). There's more places to go around here than you might think.

Upon going through some old newsletters I found a "Minis in Morro Bay" write up and thought this might be a great weekend trip to plan in the late Spring. I hope to have contacted the San Francisco Mini Owners by publication of this newsletter to see if they would be interested, and you might give it some thought for January's meeting. The only thing I can see to shoot it down would be that times are hard and money is tight, but if it could happen I think it could be a great trip.

So anyway, welcome to 1983 and don't forget to make the meeting. This month's theme will be "Minis in Bondage" past, present, and future. Don't forget your whip!

Your Loving President,  
Tony Pearson.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wanted to thank everyone for letting me serve as President in 1982, for helping me, and for letting me help you put on another great Mini Meet. It was a lot of fun.

The only thing that tainted '82 was last month's editorial by "Concerned Members". We need members who are not afraid to step up and help build our club back to greatness, not someone who is too ashamed to speak out constructively. Our newsletter shouldn't be used to tear down the club with vague editorials, so vague in fact that most everyone (even Kathy and I) took offense.

Let's work together in '83 to help Tony and the crew come up with some great meetings, and help Ken and Pattie put out informative newsletters. These are the two building blocks to a great club. From there we can have great outings and enjoy our Minis and each other.

Pete.

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Mini News is the monthly publication of Mini Owners of America - Los Angeles. Subscriptions to this newsletter are included as part of the annual membership fee. Separate subscription rate is \$7.00 per year. For membership information, write Mini Owners of America - Los Angeles, P.O. Box 91785, Los Angeles CA 90009. Articles, letters, and personal ads are always welcome and should be received by the editors by the 25th of the month. Editors are Ken & Pattie Swenson, P.O. Box 5017, Torrance CA 90510. Meetings are normally the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Mercury Savings Building, 20715 S. Avalon Blvd. in Carson.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE; Pair of stock front seats from a recent model Mini. Perfect condition. \$150 obo. Marcy -



At last, a classy MINI shirt! White golf shirt with black MINI COOPER script above the breast pocket with your choice of design on the back— either 1) Mini Mechanic (as shown) or 2) an intricate cut-away of a MK1 Cooper. Both designs are available on golf shirts or beige Hanes T-shirts. Mini Mechanic is also available on blue T-shirts. Sizes: S,M,L,XL. Golf shirts: \$17.95 T's: \$7.95 Include \$2 per order for postage. Make checks payable to: Henry Walker, 6390 Kimi



## THE STARLIGHT RALLYE

Hosted by the Santa Barbara Sports Car Club (they helped us with our Mini Meet Slalom), the Rallye went from Coleta to Las Vegas, 520 miles.

The route dipped south into Ventura County, and wiggled up into the Sierra Madre Mountains. Fog, shallow river crossings, snow, and ice awaited us, not to mention a large rock that a considerate BMW cleared out of my path at the expense of its oil pan and gas tank. When we first encountered the snow and ice, I could only think of Paddy Hopkirk driving the Monte Carlo Rallye. Since Kathy and I were in her Mini, we sailed right past the slow Detroit Iron. Cockiness turned to panic when we hit a large patch of ice and went sliding into a snow bank. (I have since learned that Metzler Perfects are no good on ice.) I thought I'd done another Mini Meet number on Kathy's car. Three wheels over the edge, and one in the air, and snow higher than the Mini, I thought it was tow truck time. With the help of reverse gear, and another driver pushing, it came right out, and only the flare slightly bruised! I now remember Paddy had a dozen different tire styles, and a crew to change them to fit the stage.

Marcy and Cecil had similar white knuckle experiences in the snow and ice. Marcy's Mini needed to have the front wheels aligned (this was her first "long" trip, so her tires didn't show any alignment problems with the few miles her Mini had on it), so they were driving on slicks through the snow and ice! Miraculously they made it through with only scuffed rubber. Cecil rotated the tires several times throughout the rallye in hopes of keeping some tread pointing in the right direction. (Don't try to beat him in a tire rotating contest.)

We went through Frazier Park, hitting I5 at the Grapevine. Down the back door of Bakersfield, up and over another mountain range to Lake Isabella, and down to China Lake for breakfast. After an awful Carl's Jr. omelet, off we went across Death Valley. The panoramas of Death Valley are sure pretty at sunrise doing 80 MPH!

We arrived in Vegas about lunchtime. Checked into the hotel, but couldn't sleep, so we hit the slot machines. Ever see a bunch of zombies feeding slot machines?

There were over 150 cars, people from Alaska and Washington D.C., driving pick-up trucks, Thunderbirds, sports cars, and two minis.

Of the three M.O.A. entries, Kathy and I had the best time of 26 minutes off! The winner zeroed the entire rallye!

There were only two Minis on this rallye--Marcy's and Kathy's, (David Lock chickened out and didn't run his tan Station Wagon, he rented a new Camaro). Come May 27, 28, 29, and 30 there is another rallye, Santa Barbara to San Francisco, another 12 hour Monte Carlo. It costs \$225.00, but includes two nights at the Grand San Francisco Hotel, private parking, another super meal for two, and maps, jacket patches, license plate, etc. We have four Minis signed up so far. It should be fun, so think about going along. I'll have more info at the meeting, look for Kathy's blue Mini 1000 with frostbite!

Pete.

## EDITORIAL REPLY

I'd like to present "another opinion" on the issues raised by the anonymous guest editorial in the December newsletter. By way of qualification, I'll mention for the benefit of new members that I have been actively supporting the club for several years, including 3 years as newsletter editor, as well as secretary and treasurer for multiple terms. I was the primary organizing element for Mini Meet West '79 with the help of Pete and Kathy Smith during which time my husband was hospitalized with Leukemia. During my years of association with this club there's only been a handful of people keeping the club together. And there's often periods when old supporters may not show up for a few meetings or events; we just realize that they have always given a lot and when they can, they'll return. And if they don't, we've all got to recognize that when the same few people do all the work for a while, there's inevitable burnout. Mini Meet West '82 was only 3 months ago--and 3 months seems hardly a sufficient period on which to base judgement of club support. This also suggests to me that the guest editors have short memories, are new to the club or just haven't heard all sides of the story.

Speaking from my point of view, some things have happened over the last few months to cause me to feel a sense of burnout. For example; A group of us had agreed that MMW would be managed by committee with a sharing of the decision-making and the work load. During the months preceeding the meet, at one point I was advised of a decision and was asked for expense reimbursement on something of which 2/3 of the committee knew nothing about. And the expense was much greater than it might have been had the committee been made aware. Then on the other hand, I was highly criticized for taking the program to my printer and spending unnecessary Mini Meet funds when someone else had a printer who would supposedly do the printing 25% cheaper. I wasn't given credit for my years of experience in dealing with printers and knowing a valid quote nor for my ability to exercise good judgement where the club was concerned. As it turned out, I called that printer; his "special

discounted" price was higher than my printer's rates directly off his price sheet! Additionally, Cecil and I volunteered to coordinate and oversee the cocktail party and banquet but someone else wanted to do the party-- so we said OK and made plans to go out to dinner. Come Saturday night, that person left the party and was furious with us because we weren't going to be there to see the party through to it's conclusion. Because of this, we delayed our dinner while we took over management of the party.

These are examples of the attitudes I've seen develop in the club lately and they concern me greatly. I could go on, but my purpose is not to waste our energies on creating dissention and hard feelings in the club, but rather use them creatively and in a positive manner toward the growth of the club.

Marcy Wexler.

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LITTLE ORPHAN CAR SHOW

The Heinkel-Messerschmitt-Isetta Club is holding its 3rd annual Southwest Weird Little Car Show and Swap Meet Saturday January 15, 1983 in Phoenix Arizona. The Meet will be held at the Rodeway Inn, Metrocenter, 10402 N.

or

For, but not restricted to, owners of all little cars 1000 CC and less.  
For more info and RSVP send SASE to: Louis Hudgin, 950 E. Hampton Street,

(phone:

JANUARY RUN

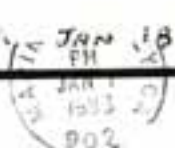
January's event will be a tour through Ocotillo Wells in Anza Borrego State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. Sunday January 23rd at the Sambos off the 91 Freeway at Green River Drive. Get there sooner if you want to eat breakfast there. Trip will take 8 - 10 hours, so cars should be in good working order.

JANUARY MEETING

6 PM

JAN 18<sup>th</sup>

MERCURY SAVINGS AGAIN



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**P.O. BOX 91785**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA 90009**



**FIRST CLASS**