

MINI MEET

Mini Owners of America - Los Angeles BRAD THORNTON, Editor

JULY-AUGUST 92

THE PREZ SEZ

BY TONY SWISLER

I hope you all came thru the earth quake ok. I have reworked my garage so nothing should be able to fall on the Minis. I have been working hard on the Mini getting it ready for Mini Meet.

We have Mini Meet West coming up this week. We have the rescheduled Braille Rallye on July 11 th, a Pool Party at Willies house on July 26th and our annual Fallbrook run in August.

At the June meeting we voted to buy a TV-VCR combo for the club. It runs on 110V or 12 Volts We can play our MINI movies at the car shows.

We are going to try a German Restaurant for our July 15 th. meeting info elsewhere in this issue. **SEE BELOW**

At the last meeting it was put to a vote about moving the meeting place to a new place. I think it is in keeping with our runs(DRIVE-RACE-EAT-EAT-EAT!!!!) So now We will be meeting at Gustav's Jägerhaus I've seen the menu and it has about everything you want to eat. **SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

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BEACHFEST '92
MAY 30, 1992

This event suffered from "terminal postponement". First postponed because of rain — then again because of riots. The organizers finally got it all together on May 30. It turned out to be a perfect day for an outing at (or at least near) the beach. Cool breezes all day — complimented by sunshine that the weatherman had been promising for a week.

Lots of goings-on at Shoreline park — including; food booths, bikini-clad young ladies, beer, bands (good music), classic cars, bikini-clad young ladies, free samples, kite flying, more free samples and (did I mention) bikini-clad young ladies. There were only five Minis this time around (down from 6 last year.

The day was spent browsing the live bands — picking up on lots and lots of free samples from the many specialty booths — gawking at the bikinis — sampling food from the food booths — giving out information on the M.O.A.L.A. to many very interested people.

People do not expect to see Mini's at this type of affair. They are used to the "classics" — detroit iron and hot rods etc etc. But when they come upon a group of Minis it blows them away. It was fun hanging out around the cars and answering questions — there were many!


There were also many folks who knew what the Minis were; "owned one back in the sixties"; "knew someone in high school that had one"; "It was my very first auto in the sixties" (this statement backed with a strong British accent).

The day went all too quickly — and before we knew it, it was time to "pack it in". Before I take my leave — there were many nice cars in attendance — but the two that struck my fancy — a '39 Morgan, driven by a British-looking gentleman — and a '39 Willys coupe with a monster engine and beautiful blue paint! (I know — my taste is a bit eclectic.)

Before we left I dabbled in my penchant for getting lost. (It is not easy to get lost INSIDE Shoreline Park!!). But — as I took the lead for four Minis intent on leaving — we shuffled over the pedestrian paths; around saw-horses; between food booths; over the grassy knoll; between staked-out tents and round and about some bikini-clad young ladies, (covering most of the area a minimum of twice) — I finally felt as if we were doing a remake of "The Italian Job"! Bill Fitzgerald even managed to deftly leap off a curb at one point.

If you missed it — you missed it! (I think that is a Yogi Berra quote!)

VINTAGE RACING

update 

VINTAGE RACING UPDATE

Well, the first half of the 1992 Vintage calendar is complete. Races at Willow Springs, Las Vegas, and San Diego saw some spirited competition. The vintage Mini contingent is being led by Valley resident Eric Allard and his white and orange Morris. Eric seems to be getting all he can out of the motor, and his 'bonsai' driving skills makes for a good show. Rumor has it that Eric is working on a light weight Mini Jem with a monster-motor for the Sprite-Mini Challenge.

The calendar for the rest of the year remains the same:

July 4-5	Willow Springs - Alfa/Porsche Challenge
Sept 26-27	Las Vegas - H-Modified Reunion
Oct 10-11	Phoenix International - First VARA event at PIR
Nov 19-22	Palm Springs - 4 days of excitement
Nov 28-29	Sears Point - <u>MINI-SPRITE CHALLENGE</u>
Dec 5-6	Willow Springs - Season Finals with the Stock Cars

I know of no further information on the Thanksgiving weekend Mini-Sprite Challenge at Sears Point. Hopefully they will start promoting it soon. I'll check with VARA and maybe give Mini Mania a call and report back.

Happy racing and see you at the track!



Mark Smith

(w)

(h)



THE UNIQUE SMALL VEHICLE SHOW
MAY 2, 1992

Bob Anaral

This event was a blast! The turnout was incredible! The cars were unbelievable! The weather was great! The people were friendly! (Do you get the idea???)

I entered my car in this one because I had promised Larry Cox that I would participate. I had other things that I had to do — but then again — I had promised. It was very difficult for me to arrange to participate — BUT — I had promised.

Man — I am ecstatic that I had promised!!! This show was great fun!! All the (excuse me owners) "weird little cars" were there!!

The Metros were out in full force — The Subarus were also well represented — The Fiats, Messerschmitts (forgive me if I spelled that one incorrectly), the Mokes, the Minis, the Morris Minors, the Citroen 2-CV's, the Freeway (yeah — its a car! — ask Larry!) and to top it all off — a real, honest to goodness King Midget!!!

If you do not know what a King Midget is — you have not read any early sixties Popular Mechanics or Popular Science magazines. No description does these little jeep-like vehicles justice — you have to see one to believe it! This is the first one that I have ever seen "in the flesh". And — it was a beauty.

And the best news of the day — I actually took an award!!! Imagine that! I took second place in the "EMC Mini Class". First was taken by a beautiful wagon that was driven here all the way from Phoenix, AZ!!

You know — every time I go to an event I think about all the cars that DO NOT attend. I am talking about cars that run; cars I have seen on the road; cars that represent some of the best in the club — and they choose not to attend some really neat events.

I am not talking about those who have to work — or have other very valid excuses — and I do not mean to preach — but I just do not understand the rate of non-participation in the club. Some of the Unique Small Vehicles in this show traveled very long distances just for the weekend.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EDITOR'S NOTE: All ads will run for three (3) consecutive issues. If you desire to continue your ad for a longer period of time you must notify the Editor one month prior to the last edition. To help you keep track the Editor will place a numeric character in the front of your ad; (1) for the first month, (2) for the second month, and (3) for the last issue it will run. When you request an extension it will only last for one more edition unless you request a longer extension.

- (1) MOKE 1275cc Motor Disassembled Asking \$4,500 O.B.O. Call John Gilbert at
- (2) 1967 Mini Cooper--RHD rust free car. Very straight. Green and White top(factory colors) 60,000 mi. Asking \$4,500 Call Jan--
PHONE: work home
- (1) MINI CAR COVER BROWN \$50
CALL BRAD
- (3) WANTED - Mini Finned Brakes a full set. Contact: Eric Lindquist (714

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FIVE SPEED GEARBOX

For years people have complained that the Mini required a fifth gear. Although many years ago the idea was tackled by Felday, Coletti Francis and Jack Knight, these gearboxes suffered through being either too complex to make, awkward gear changing or poor reliability. The basic problem with the Mini was, that, although fairly quick off the mark, it lacked "legs" on the motorway. The only way to solve this was to fit a higher final drive ratio, killing the Mini's sharpness off the line. An "all or nothing" choice. Several people and companies took a serious look at solving the problem, realising the potential in sales and company promotion. To produce a functional, compact easy to assemble and above all reliable five speed gearbox conversion for the Mini was a major engineering feat on a box that has always carried inherent problems.

Most five speed boxes have the fifth gear as a direct drive with 1-1 ratio. It was quickly evident that this set up was not possible, but a ratio of less than 1-1 would have to be used and it could only be fitted to a rod change gearbox. Tran-X were given the project and as David Hirons, the owner, pointed out, "there is more to this than meets the eye". As Mini Spares demanded a proven product, the idea involved much thought, and design changes midway, with fabrication of parts to get to a finished product. Working models were built, modified or scrapped and it became obvious where others had tried and failed miserably. Certain seemingly unimportant but significant areas were overlooked. The result of all this painstaking development is a five speed gearbox solely designed by Dave Hirons of Tran-X under licence to Mini Spares, that not only runs quietly, but is suitable for everyday use (road or race) with an inherent strength over the original.



Much of the redesigning had been put into simplifying the conversion so home-assembly by a reasonably competent individual was possible. The kit contains over 35 pieces and to all intents and purposes, the design work is almost over-engineered! - Strong enough to withstand torque inputs of over 220lb more than any 'A' series engine is likely to deliver. Careful consideration was given to final drive ratios as this could easily have become a restrictive choice, but this was dealt with in the overall design so that any final drive ratio could be used. Essentially the conversion can be fitted to any gear assembly that can be fitted into a rod change gear case. The gearbox case and laygear needs modifying and a new speedo housing is supplied to hold the gears. Therefore the gearbox will be sold on an exchange basis in kit form, with all parts and gears for introducing a fifth gear including a special speedo housing. Customers will have to exchange their gearbox case and laygear as extensive modifications are carried out on these two parts. Customers will retain their own diff assembly and mainshaft with all gears and bearings. The ratio will be 0.86 on 'A' plus and 0.87 on non 'A' plus gearboxes, which will reduce 3.44 to 2.96 and 2.99 respectively. An optional ratio of .91 or .92 is also being looked at.

People will now have the choice of better acceleration and economy on motorways, exclusively through Mini Spares at a cost of £587.50 exchange. Complete gearboxes can be built depending on customers requirements.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SHOWING UP!!!

MINI MEETING NEWS

If you missed the last meeting, you missed a good meeting, We had it all. We watched the Run-offs video from Atlanta with many Minis racing. There was many crashes because of a new CHICANE on the course. We also voted on buying a combo VCR/TV for the mini club to show videos of our events to people passing our tents at Car shows throughout the area.

WILLY said that he finally sold his BLACK CAR to a man who is going to send it the land of the Rising Sun. The man purchased nine minis to take home with him. While were on the subject of Willy we are going to be invading his home on July 26, 1992 for the Annual Pool Party. See the Map to Willy's House on the next page. Willy wants everybody to show up with MINi things, Seeing how this is the age of mini things (ie Mini-Oreos Mini-Ritz Crackers) I think Marilyn started it all with her world famous Mini shaped cookies.

There was also talk of a Stretch Mini at one of the many Limo-makers in the area. If anybody has any further news on this please contact the Mini News editor.

The NEXT meeting of MOA-LA Is going to be held at Gustav's Jagerhaus so go early and chow down. The meeting will start at 8PM. Hope to see you there!!!!!!

MOA-LA has cut away mini picture for sell. I've seen them and boy do they look sharp. The price is \$10 for members or \$12 for non-members. GET YOURS TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I hope you all made it safe and sound through the earthquake, we did!! Also I hope Everybody enjoys the Mini meets as some of us have to work!

I would also like to thank everybody who contributed to this issue of Mini News. With special Thanks to BoB Amaral, Tony S., Mark S. and Keith D., from Mini Spares* for the article on the Five speed Transmission.

I've heard a rumor that there might be a five speed tranny at the MINI MEET WEST?????

TAKE CARE
Blad



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MINI MEET WEST
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 4th-6th

BRaille RALLY SAT JULY 11th
FOR INFO. CONTACT Terry Holloway
PHONE: (

MOA-LA REGULAR MEETING
JULY 15th 2525 E. Ball Road
Anaheim

Gustav's Jagerhaus

MOALA POOL PARTY
JULY 26th 11am

WILLY'S HOUSE

AUGUST FALLBROOK RUN 30^{mi}
TIME AND DATE PENDING

9 am - Coco's 91 Green River

*9-20-92 Belmont Shores, all cars
over the bridge, 2nd St. after Creek
Restaurant on left*



MOA-LA
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