

MINI OWNERS OF AMERICA - LOS ANGELES

# MINI NEWS

I'm leaving you, Ted.  
I love another. Your  
best friend. I'm taking  
the Mini. You'll never  
see me again.

The  
Mini?  
What  
about  
it?



Khlson

**End Of Year Issue 1994**

PRESIDENT  
Phil Dawson

SECRETARY  
Jeanne Ross

## Mini Owners



NEWSLETTER  
Pete Agle

MOA-LA  
24 Hour Fax

Los Angeles

# CLUB NOTES

- Well, here it is! The final issue of the year, and my last issue as the editor. Bob Amaral will be taking over as the Mini News editor, and I am sure he will do a great job. Unfortunately I must step down from the position as this next year will prove to be the busiest of my life, I am getting married, moving to Arizona, and finishing my Mini, to name a few of the things on my list. I have enjoyed putting this magazine together and I hope you have enjoyed it as well. Thanks for all the help, especially Jeanne Ross, Bob Amaral, and Phil Dawson.
- We will be setting up a "Member-a-billa" table at the Christmas party to celebrate the 30th anniversary of MOA-LA. If you have anything from the past 30 years, especially from the first 10, please bring it with you to share at the party.
- Classified ads, articles, and all other submissions for the next Mini News are due January 1st.
- Our regular monthly meeting will not be held in December due to the Christmas party on the 17th.
- DUES ARE DUE! That's right, it's time again. Please send your membership fees so that you do not fall behind. We will be updating our files and if we don't hear from you, you may be dropped! The cost is \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families.

# CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER

- 20 - Topanga Turkey Run. Roadmaster: Bob Amaral. Meet at the Holiday Inn on Sunset Blvd off the 405 at 8:30 AM  
26-27 - Vintage Racing - Sear Point (N/S Runoffs)

## DECEMBER

- 4 - SCCA Cal Club Solo II (Slalom) at Irvine Meadows. For info call (818) 444-1100  
11 - Mini Mania Winter Swap Meet. 7AM til ? at Mini Mania, Milpitas, Ca.  
17 - MOA-LA Annual Christmas Party Extravaganza and 30th Anniversary. 7:00 PM at Tony Swieler's Home.

## JANUARY '95

- 8 - Pomona Swap Meet  
18 - MOA-LA Monthly Meeting. Me N Eds in Lakewood 7:30 PM.

## APRIL '95

- 21-22 - 15th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show. Tucson, Arizona.  
For information call

## AUGUST '95

- 2-4 - Mini Meet West 1995 - Portland Oregon.



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# 25 things you probably didn't know about the Mini

1. At one stage the Mini was going to be called the Austin Newmarket.
2. After just three years of production the 500,000th Mini rolled off the production line.
3. At the peak of production the Mini used 2.4 million wheel nuts a year.
4. The record for cramming people into a Mini was 66! It happened on Noel Edmonds Late Late Breakfast show in 1986.
5. If you parked all the Minis ever made end-to-end they would stretch from London to Sydney, Australia, 10,568 miles away.
6. There are 115 Mini clubs in Britain, 80 in Germany and 1 in Croatia.
7. The total production of Minis exceeds 5,270,000 and is rising.
8. Joanne Westlake was the first person to be born in a Mini.
9. Niki Lauda's first racing success was in a Mini Cooper on a hillclimb.
10. And the late James Hunt's first ever racing car was a Mini in 1966.
11. The first Mini off the production line ever made registration 621 AOK can now be seen at Gaydon's Heritage Museum.
12. A year after its launch an average of 400 Minis were being produced at Longbridge, while the night shift made 180.
13. The price of a Mini in 1959 when launched was equal to \$728.42 of today's dollars including tax.
14. There have been 26 special and limited editions the first was in 1976.
15. There was no heater available as standard on Minis in 1959, but it was available as an option.
16. It has been claimed the Mini was the cause of the collapse of the British motorcycle industry.
17. Designer Alec Issigonis failed his math exams three times at Hattorica Technical College.
18. The Twin Mini with an engine at both ends created a 2.5 litre car with 175bhp.
19. The best year for sales was 1971 at 318,475 cars.
20. Peter Sellers' Radford Mini that appeared in the Pink Panther film featured a wicker pattern with 2,000 hand painted lines.
21. In 1959 the Longbridge assembly line was 220 yards long. It took just over two hours to build each car.
22. The best export market is currently Japan.
23. To start a 1959 Mini there was a separate starter button on the floor.
24. It is believed that more British people have learned to drive in a Mini or had one as a first car than any other.
25. In 1967 the AA replaced their entire fleet of motorcycle combinations with Mini vans.

# WINGS & WHEELS

Santa Monica Air Museum

October 23, 1994

The decision had been made (long ago) that I would not attend this car show because of the lack of organization at last year's meet. However, Rick Felbueh made an impassioned plea at the Del Mar meet and I promised to at least think about it.

The plea worked -- and I am glad that I decided to give this meet just one more chance. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and noted that many others shared my enjoyment throughout the meet. Being on the tarmac alongside the historic plane was a treat -- and sure beats sitting in the dirt! At least you don't have to spend another day cleaning the car after this one.

The attendance was rather light -- due, no doubt, to last year's lack of organization. But this meet was completely different in that respect. Cars were pre-registered and marquees shared a common area all to themselves. There were many spectators in attendance and they were treated to intermittent sunshine and light overcast with balmy (very light) breezes all day -- just the kind of weather for walking about and perusing the cars -- not too hot, not too cold.

There were many MG's -- a few Jags and Triumphs -- but the club participation trophy went to the Rovers -- very well represented. Quite a few other marquees attended in light numbers making it a diverse collection of cars. Plane were set about the tarmac and we got to see a genuine WWII Spitfire run. (Last year we got to see one actually fly but there was some mechanical glitch with this one -- so they just demonstrated it by rolling out and running it on the runway). It was still pretty impressive!

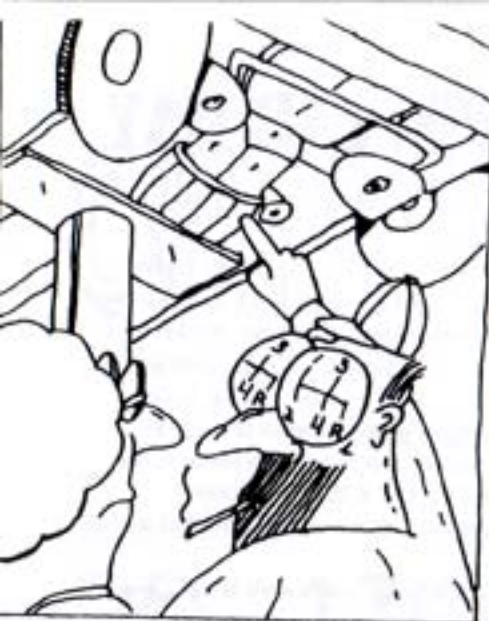
The usual vendors were there and doing a land-office business, for the most part. British Bangers were available and of course the opulent DC-3 airport restaurant was open. The Air Museum is always interesting -- every time I visit I discover something new.

On the premise that nothing is perfect -- I want to offer a few suggestions to make the meet better. The \$20 fee is a bit steep for a show that only offers minimal trophies, (I must mention, however, that they did raffle off tickets for two to England -- donated by the British Chamber of Commerce). A "people's choice" trophy in each marque (as per Del Mar's system) would be nice. I did not see any tee-shirts for this event and probably would have bought one had they been available.

Please do not consider the above complaints, they are meant to be constructive suggestions only -- I think that Rick did a fine job of correcting previous shortcomings and made this meet a quite enjoyable experience for all those who attended. Thank you, Rick, for taking the time to convince me.

Drive Safe!

Bob Amaral



Despite his claim that she needed a new transmission, Marcie found it difficult to trust her shifty-eyed mechanic.



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# DEL MAR BRITISH CAR DAY

October 2, 1994

Perfect weather for our outing at Del Mar down the coast. We had a slight breeze all day and light cloud cover from time to time. The Kamakazi flies were the only downside to an otherwise enjoyable meet. They were out in force -- and our plan for a potluck must have absolutely made their day! Ordinarily a few flies are of minor concern to picnickers -- but the flies of Del Mar are a breed unto themselves! And their sheer numbers make them all the more unbearable. There must have been 100 of them accompanying us home in the Mini. Most of them were gone by the time we hit the 405 fwy -- other motorists to that point must have been perplexed at our arms flailing about trying to direct the flies to open windows.

The meet itself was quite enjoyable -- although there were fewer cars this year than last due in part, no doubt that there was a concours show at the Newport Marriott. The MG's were out in force -- and the Triumphs. There were 14 Minis in attendance (not our best turnout but some very nice cars). By the end of the day all the Minis were coated with a thick layer of brown dust -- due to the fact that we were positioned in the dirt. But I figure it was our turn to "eat dirt" as I cannot recall when we were not on the grass at Del Mar.

The potluck was absolutely brilliant!! Thanks go to John and Maria Wohlschlagel for the original idea -- and all the hard work in putting it together. We had more food than we could possibly have eaten. And there were some pretty delectable dishes around the picnic table. Thanks John & Maria -- and thanks to all of you who brought along those yummy dishes.

It has been mentioned that a better place for a potluck might be the Woodley Park gathering -- as far away from the flies at Del Mar as we can possibly make it. There will be some discussion of this at future meetings.

Our team for the "Del Mar Olympic Games" gave it their all! We placed out of the money in third place (we were not last -- there was one other team behind us) but at least we gave it a shot! Thanks to Joanne Rose, Bruce Brewer, and Larry Cox for representing the Mini contingent. We will get them next year!!

John Wohlschlagel took a well-deserved best in marque trophy for the Mini's -- good job John!!

All in all -- it was good fun -- nice cars -- good people -- great food -- Mini stories by the bucketful! We will be back next year -- possibly with a giant can of Raid strapped to the top of the Mini!!

Drive Safe!!!

Bob Amaral



# Annual MOA-LA CHRISTMAS PARTY and 30th Anniversary Celebration!

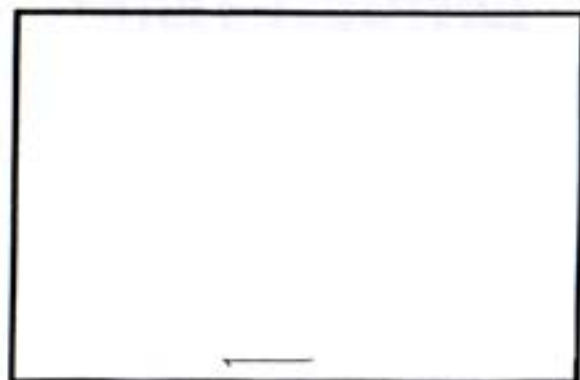
Saturday

**DEC. 17th**

at 7:00 PM



at Tony's house,



Beer, Soda,  
and Turkey  
will be served.  
Please bring a  
Dinner Dish  
with you!

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Phil Dawson



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# BELMONT SHORES CAR SHOW

Sixteen blocks of the wildest, weirdest and coolest cars on the planet. That's what I like about Belmont Shore's car show each year. It is a blast. It is billed as Southern California's largest one-day car show -- and I believe it!

Each year we arrange to meet at the Marina Pacifica Mall to caravan to the entry point for the show. Each year we get there a little earlier to try and get further up in the queue. Each year we end up in about the same place in line. This year the entry to the show was sped up considerably -- they opened the gates and ZOOM we were in. It went very fast.

Belmont also draws a huge amount of spectators (it must have something to do with the fact that it is free). But that is not the only attraction!! There are tons of places to eat -- and shop -- and peruse at your leisure.

The crowd seemed to surge from one end of Second Street to the other in a never-ending wave from 9 am on. The crowd swells all morning and peaks about two or so in the afternoon. Lots and lots of looky-loos -- Its great!

There were only 4 Minis this year -- c'mon -- we can do better than that!! Next year we will!! You can Help!! Come on down!!! See you next run!

Drive Safel  
Bob Amaral



# PETERSEN'S AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM

Although it has been quite some time since our visit to the Automotive Museum, I thought it deserved a big plug in our little magazine.

The museum itself is full of surprises -- I will not reveal these surprises in this little blurb -- suffice to say that it is unlike any other automotiver museum the I have visited.

The staff was extremely nice to us and treated us to what amounted to the grand tour! We even got to meet the director of the museum (who once owned a mini -- hasn't everyone??) and he spent some time discussing the museum and its philosophy.

We were told that at least 80 percent of the cars were "on loan" and are all scheduled to move on and be replaced with other vehicles. This means that you could probably plan a visit about 3 or 4 times a year without going over the same vehicles.

The first floor of the museum is dedicated to documenting the automobile and its relationship with Southern California living. The second floor is a showcase for race and classic cars and the third floor is dedicated to "automobile art".

Those that went were all very impressed with the layout and cars on display and everyone said that they had never seen an automotive display quite like it. So if you wish to be pleasantly surprised and like to peruse customs -- hot rods -- classics -- and race cars, then this is definitely the place for you. Check it out -- because you WILL BE SURPRISED at this one. Yes, there is a Mini on display!! Take a ride out there -- I have only scratched the surface of this one, as there are plenty more surprises if you do make it -- it really is neat!!

Bob Amaral



*'If the good Lord had meant cars that size to do  
- 100 m.p.h. He'd have given them larger wheels.'*

# Neiman-Marcus Chocolate Chip Cookies

Reprinted from "The Vette Set Gazette"

My daughter & I had just finished a salad at Neiman-Marcus Cafe in Dallas & decided to have a small dessert. Because our family are such cookie lovers, we decided to try the "Neiman-Marcus Cookie". It was so excellent that I asked if they would give me the recipe and they said with a small frown, "I'm afraid not." Well, I said, would you let me buy the recipe? With a cute smile she said, "Yes." I asked how much and she responded, "Two-fifty." I said, just add it to my tab.

Thirty days later, I received my Visa statement from Neiman-Marcus and it was \$285.00. I looked again and I remembered I had only spent \$9.95 for two salads and about \$20.00 for a scarf. As I glanced at the bottom of the statement it said "Cookie Recipe \$250.00." Boy, was I upset!! I called Neiman's Accounting Department and told them the waitress said it was "two-fifty", and I did not realize she meant \$250.00 for a cookie recipe. I asked them to take back the recipe and reduce my bill and they said they were sorry, but that all the recipes were this expensive so that not just everyone could duplicate any of our bakery recipes...the bill would stand. I waited, thinking of how I could get even or even try and get any of money back.

I just said, "Okay, you folks got my \$250.00 and now I'm going to have \$250.00 worth of fun." I told her that I was going to see to it that every cookie lover will have a \$250.00 recipe from Neiman-Marcus for nothing. She replied, "I wish you wouldn't do this." I said, "I'm sorry but this is the only way I feel I could get even," and I will.

So here it is, and please pass it on to someone else or run a few copies.... I paid for it; now you may have it for free.

(Recipe may be halved)

- 2 Cups butter
- 4 Cups flour
- 2 Tsp. soda
- 2 Cups sugar
- 5 Cups blended oatmeal\*\*
- 24 Oz. chocolate chips
- 2 Cups brown sugar
- 1 Tsp. salt
- 4 Eggs
- 1 8 Oz. Hershey bar (grated)
- 3 Cups chopped nuts (your choice)
- 2 Tsp. baking powder
- 2 Tsp. vanilla

Cream the butter with both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder, and soda. Add chocolate chips, Hershey bar, and nuts.

Roll into balls and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 112 cookies.

\*\*Measure oatmeal and blend in a blender to a fine powder

Have fun! This is not a joke...this is a true story!!

# MINI MARKETPLACE



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