

Mini Owners of America, Los Angeles
P.O. Box 26121
Santa Ana, CA 92799-6121
Affiliated with . . .



TO:



NEWS

JULY/AUGUST
2002
Vol.-33 - No. 3



*The Official Newsletter of the Mini Owners
of America, Los Angeles*

Buttonwillow British Extravaganza Organized by Moss Motors

I only attended Buttonwillow on Sunday (was lucky to do that -- see page fourteen) but Sunday was pretty cool. Moss has been doing this kind of event for eons (that is longer than even I have been around) and their penchant for pulling off a great event boosts the confidence of participants that they will be in for a good time.

They did not disappoint -- there was a weekend of good racing and a little something offered to pique the interest of everyone who attended.

I am going to reprint articles from the MOASF newsletter because I thought those articles said it best (and it is easier to "pirate" their articles than write my own --). ----- So Here They Are:

Talk about a great Mini Weekend. Lots of MOALA and MOASF attendees! The Racing was bumper car city! The MM Mini picked up a Boo-Boo, (I think Bill Gilcrease drove it most of the time) as well as one Mini going rubber up (which was fixed and back on the track later in the day). Don was fast in the Landar as well as Scott Crawford in the Britax Cooper. It was a rematch between Mini & MINI from the Laguna MC! Heritage Garage was out in force too, with a few bumper cars also! I didn't know you could swap a water pump out in 20 minutes! I think you can find the results on the VARA website.

For the non racers it was a blast too. The "Track Tour" at lunch was nothing like the parade lap at Laguna. You got to pass on the long straight! Nothing more fun than passing an MG in a Woody with 4 people in the car!

They had a short little autocross for the non-racers at the end of the day on Saturday and our own HyperSprite came in First in Class "A" (under 1500cc), followed by Moi (Murphy)!! Minis 1 & 2!

The car show was a kick too. The same two Minis, (different order though).
David G. Haight - MOALA

MOASF sandbags MOALA at British Extravaganza.

Hypersprite beats Murphy in the slalom. Hypersprite beats Murphy down the straight at Buttonwillow. The sandbags were Terry and Clayton Smith on board Murphy for the track tour, a little extra weight to even the suspension out. Bob A. was riding shotgun with a

Continued on Page EIGHT

The Prez Sez

We would like to thank Dennis Cooper for inviting MOALA to participate with CAR NIGHT that was held at his facility. There was definitely an interesting assortment of cars and people. We would also like to thank John Kure for being the road master of the Big Bear run. We encourage you to participate in the Braille Rallye coming up July 20. We will be having our annual pool party August 10 at Jim Keeter's house. See the calendar, this issue, for more information.

Mini Meet West 2002 is moving along well. We are all working hard to make this a very enjoyable and successful event. Please send in your registration to avoid any late fees. If you know any potential sponsors do not hesitate to pursue them yourself or ask for our assistance. We could use more financial sponsors and goodie bag items.

We hope you are carefully considering new officer candidates who can take the club to even higher levels. The club continues to grow with new members joining at every meeting. We are seeing greater participation from all the members especially at meetings and runs. Last month, at the monthly club meeting, we saw a new Cooper S along with a regular Cooper. The dealers are starting to receive allotments and selling them fast. I am still waiting for my Cooper S to arrive along with several other club members.

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting and runs,

Willy Hugron
MOALA President

Editor's Ramblings

As you can see by the expanded newsletter -- there has been a lot going on lately. The meetings are astounding in their attendance figures. More than 65 people at the June meeting with 25 or so cars including two "new" MINI Cooper S's and a Cooper.

Participation also seems to be getting better at events and the MMW committee is building to a frenzy of activity that promises to bring you all a great meet this summer. (By the way --- REGISTER --- NOW!).

But if you think that it cannot get any busier, think again. Upcoming we have many more activities that will tempt you to bring out your pride and joy including the Braille Rally and a car show that features the Mini.

If you want to have more fun than you can imagine; join us for the Braille Rally. You need no rally experience to run this one. Directions are kept simple and to the point to enable the blind students to relay the information to you as navigators. That's right -- your navigator is blind. With these kids, though, that is no disadvantage -- THEY ARE OUT TO WIN !!

It is difficult to explain what this rally is like -- but suffice it to say that it is an AWESOME experience. I hope that I will see you all there. Check out the calendar page as you will need to call Pat West and register your car if you intend to participate.

Another upcoming event is the Central Coast British Car Club's 12th Annual All British Car Show whose featured marque this year is Mini! It promises more than 100 British cars on display at the Ventura Harbor Village with trophies in all classes and a president's award and best of show winner. Sounds pretty cool to me! Register early. Again -- check the Calendar page for info on this event.

Take care -- Drive Safe ---

Bob Amaral

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MOALA - South Submitted by John Kure

MOALA South has been playing all month. In just the first two weeks of June the north San Diego MINI people have gotten together twice. Once on a Sunday afternoon we met for a picnic lunch and activity planning at the Escondido home of Lee and Sue Casad. Nine Minis were present with twelve drivers and passengers Mike and Megan, Gary, A.J., Jim and Linda and Dave. Their names you've seen before. Ron and Mary Norris, new names in the bunch, drove their NEW MINI licensed "Li Yellow". You can guess it's liquid colored exterior, but you'll have to ask Ron how he got 17" wheels on it. Maybe he'll even tell you about his job as a sixteen-year old office boy for our cars' ancestral hero, Alex Issigonis, back in Merry Ol' Cowley, U.K.

Ron and Mary aren't the only Brits of the Southern Bunch. There are Mel and Tina with a



new one of Indi Blue under white and Graham Luck with his recently imported 1972 Tashin Blue with silver roof. You will hear of them and the others later.

At the picnic were two special guests. Bob Earl of Wildomar learned of our existence from the David Haight managed MOALA Website and came to get acquainted, take pictures and to figure out if Classic or NEW was the way to go. He recently retired and the motor home he bought has not satisfied his need to play on the streets. He shared that hill climbing his DKW long ago when a neighbor of Tony Swisler usually produced second place finishes behind a Mini.

Our second guest was Charles Budenz of Escondido who arrived in a shiny black Alpha Spyder. I'd met Charley the evening before while discussing his SCCA racing experiences and the black 928 Porsche he has for sale. The Alpha won't be sold, but the Porsche will in order for him to own a NEW "S". After Charley told me he'd been to the actual factory in Cowley where the NEW MINIs are being manufactured, visited dealers and had a lot of literature about NEWs, you can

Continued on Page THIRTEEN



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Driving With A Legend

Reprinted with permission from British Car Magazine

I just had to print the following excerpt from an article in British Car magazine about a recent test drive of the new MINI by writer Travis Geny in the company of driving legend Paddy Hopkirk.

Paddy at the Wheel

After I had spent the whole morning and about 100 miles at the wheel it was time for Paddy to take over. In hindsight I should have let him drive first when all I had in my stomach was fruit and bread instead of heavier fare. I am proud to report that I kept my lunch but there were some throwing moments.

Paddy's first act as driver was to pull the E-brake and spin the tires in the parking lot of our lunch stop, one of the things they let you do when you are a rally legend on the company's dime. After a little warming up Paddy really let me have it. Bombing down a two-lane road at 90mph is an experience in of itself, then you remember that this is an economy car.

As we were the last ones out of the parking lot at lunch I didn't expect to see anyone else on the route. I hadn't counted

on catching anyone. It seems in England you are allowed to pass wherever it is reasonable. Here in the US they take a little notice when you are going 70mph in a 45-mph zone, passing on a double solid going into a 35mph blind corner. At one point Paddy asked me if the police would be annoyed if we passed a slow moving truck in such a manner. "Paddy," I responded, "at this point they would arrest us." Traveling at 90 mph on what the British call b-lanes is normal. "It's when you start pushing triple digits that they (traffic police) get rather annoyed," Paddy informed me. So there I was holding on for dear life, holding lunch down with herculean might when I began to really appreciate what a great car the new MINI is. I then asked if the rally navigators ever got sick. "Oh, sure," was the reply. "But they would get used to it after a while."

Ed. Note: Reminds me of a Paul Simon tune "Still Crazy After All These Years" because Mr. Hopkirk is a very unassuming 68-year-old Irish gentlemen at the writing of this recent article.



PADDY HOPKIRK with the new MINIs in background. At 68 years Paddy apparently still able to manhandle the little car as he did in the Monte!!

Dave's Hat Trick

Ice Hockey and soccer use the term "Hat Trick" to describe three goals in a game scored by one player. California-born David Punaro of San Marcos has scored a hat trick in another game, that of car collecting. David has three collector cars each of a different make. One is a MINI, and his hat trick story goes like this.

MOALA members first met Dave when he appeared at Ontario Mill's Krispy Kreme Donut Shop in May, 2000 for the start of the first Big Bear Run. Without a MINI of his own David came in his 1975 gull-wing doored Bricklin. The car had been a cover car on the Brickline magazine earlier that year. Dave asked to drive along up the mountain to learn about MINI's. In order to keep the run pure MOALA member Bernie Just invited Dave to ride with him in his red and black 'S.' When circumstances and the perils of driving old English

machines struck and prevented it from being a round-trip ride, Brad and Chris Thornton brought Dave down the hill in "Nugget."

Even with his up and down day of MINI-ing Dave made it known he'd like to own one for they clearly had a

uniqueness as had his second collectable vehicle, an Amphicar. All on the Big Bear Run knew Dave was for real in his interest of unique cars of quality when he'd shared the December issue of Classic Auto Restorer with his pretty red swimmer on the cover photographed in a local lake.



DAVE PUNARO and his Cooper S is holding 3 magazines with his 3 collector cars on the cover of each of them.

Continued on Page ELEVEN

MINI OWNERS OF AMERICA - LOS ANGELES

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

MINIS OWNED

Year _____ Make _____ Model _____
 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____
 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____
 Year _____ Make _____ Model _____

NOTE: You do not have to own a Mini to join. You just have to love them!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

\$30.00 annually for individual Membership

Dues are required to be paid during the month of January every year. New members joining after January may prorate their membership fees as follows: \$2.50 per month for remainder of months in year.

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

A bi-monthly newsletter (The Mini News); monthly meetings; club rallies and other activities and the opportunity to meet other crazy Mini enthusiasts like yourself. There are no condition or requirements for membership in the MOALA. Our membership is open to Mini enthusiasts worldwide and we would enjoy having you as a member. Please send your check or money order; payable to MOALA to:

MOALA
 P.O. Box 26121
 Santa Ana, CA. 92799-6121

video camera. Scott Crawford flashed by in Crossie. These are just the headlines . . .

Submitted by Terry Smith -- MOASF

Buttonwillow was a great trip. The track tour was definitely one of the best parts of both days. My wife went with me and although I was worried I would get the "where's the fire?" comments, I got the "what's that smell?" instead. "Rubber" I said as I added more gas into the next turn. Meeting DH and a few of the other guys from down south was a kick, and getting the flag for the slalom was cool too (something else to hang in the garage).

We put hundreds of miles on the Mini this weekend, had to keep an eye on the temperature out in the desert, but it never went overboard. We are going again next year for sure!

Chris Dunavan -- MOASF (you can see pictures - tons of them - on www.Hypersprite.com)

SPEAKING OF PICTURES!



OUR OWN David Haight takes 1st place in concours.



TESTAMENT to the "bumper car" aspects of racing was this car -- rolled on Saturday -- but repaired and back on track later.



TRACK TOUR Participants L-R Clayton & Terry Smith; Hypersprite Chris Dunavan and Bob Amaral stand by driver David Haight's Murphy



Chris Dunavan scrubs up for concours competition



HYPERSPRITE Chris Dunavan takes the checkered flag for his win in class "A" in the Autocross



SO YOU THOUGHT you drove a Mini -- this car came in at 250 pounds. No, not British money, pounds as in "weight".

All Photos on this page by David G Haight except, of course, the one of him above receiving award taken by Bob Amaral

Ongoing Events & Cruises

Monthly

Pomona Car Show & Swap Meet -o- Information
 Hi-Performance Swap Meet & Car Show at Long Beach Veteran's Stadium
 Information
 San Diego Auto Swap & Show -o- Information
 - www.carsnet.com

Weekly

Sundays - HUNTINGTON BEACH - John's Philly Grille -- Information

Tuesdays - COVINA - Danny's Kosher Pickle Restaurant & Deli., 402 N.
 Azusa Ave. Information (---, ---, ---)
 Peter Piper Pizza, 1459 Citrus Ave. Information (---)
 GLENDALE - Eat Well Restaurant, 1013 S. Brand Blvd.
 Information: (---)
 LAKE FOREST - Fuddrucker's 23621 El Toro Rd. Information:

Wednesdays - ANAHEIM - Sonic Drive-In - Information:
 COVINA - JR's Italian Pizza & Sports, 904 N. Citrus. Information:

DOWNEY - Frisco's Drive-in, Woodruff & Washburn. 5 p.m. on.

Thursdays -THURSDAY evenings - CAR NIGHT -- An eclectic gathering of "Old Car
 Guys" at various locations -- Essentially a series of garage & warehouse tours put on
 by owners and collectors. To check out the next get-together www.carnight.org
 COVINA - Beach Side Cafe, 1319 N. Grand. Information: (626) 969-1699
 FOUNTAIN VALLEY- Hamburger Hanks, 9121 Garfield. Information:

FULLERTON - Giovanni's, Harbor Bl. & Imperial Highway. Information:

Fridays - GARDEN GROVE - Main Street Car Show - Information:

Saturdays - HUNTINGTON BEACH - Donut Derelicts, Corner of Magnolia & Adams
 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Tons of American Iron
 LAKEWOOD - Fuddrucker's - Clark Ave at Candlewood 5:00 p.m.

**MOALA Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m Me
 'n Ed's Pizza - 4115 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA**



Continued from Page SIX

San Diego MINI people have seen both of these cover cars and have even allowed Dave to park one next to us at local car shows when he's forgotten to bring his "Hat Trick" completing MINI. That car which he purchased in the spring of 2001 is a 1969 green and white MK II Cooper "S" Downton. It was selected by Moss Motors to be the cover car of their British Motoring magazine for autumn, 2001. Other member's cars owned by Gary Roberts, A.J. Ashley, Alan Berry, Mike Spangler, Lee Casad and Josh Sadler were also inside that issue.

Dave's "Hat Trick" completer drove the Big Bear Run last year loaded with Krispy Kreme Donuts and a passenger, Jennifer. He is being counted upon in June to lead the parade of MOALA flatlanders up the 7,200 foot climb to play with the two resident MINIS' of altitude owned by Chris Dolan and John Kure.

Drive like a Miniac -- John Kure

DUES NOTICE: As of this publication of the Mini News we have quite a few folks who have not paid dues for 2002 and are being kept on the newsletter roster only because we want to get the word out to as many people as possible about the upcoming Mini Meet.

After MMW we intend to pare down the list to those members who have actually paid dues for the year 2002. **No one else will receive the newsletter.**

We have been "carrying" these members too long and we should not (and we will not) send newsletters to those who have not kept their dues current. It is unfair to those who keep up their dues each year.

If you want to know if your dues are current -- look at the mailing label on this newsletter. That red type is the year that you were last current with your dues.

Thanks to those who are up to date -- Ed.

MARCONI AUTO MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

First of all -- my apologies for the unavoidable late notice on this event. On Saturday, June 29, 2002 the Marconi Museum is opening its doors for an "open house" from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a very rare occurrence and if you have never been to the Marconi Auto Museum you do not want to miss an opportunity to see this great collection..

Normally, the only way to see the cars at the Marconi is to be present at a fundraising dinner or event that is being held at the museum.

I am trying to put together a convoy of cars for the visit. If you are interested in joining the convoy we can meet at my place (6771 Belgrave Ave, Garden Grove) at high noon on Saturday and we can convoy over there as a group. If you have any questions please call me (714) 890-1966.

If you would like to meet us at the museum or go there on your own the address is: 1302 Industrial Dr., Tustin. If you need directions their telephone number is .

Those of you with e-mail may already have received this notice from Chris Travers. Hopefully we can get a few cars together for this event. I have been to see it in the past and highly recommend the experience. It is a very cool museum.

Hope to see you there --- Drive Safe --- Bob Amaral



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Continued from Page FOUR

understand why he was invited to picnic with us. While Electric Blue is his stated color choice, I've got a bet that the "S" will instead be shiny Jet.

Our planning session talk was about attending MMW 2002 in August, a July run down the Gold Coast of San Diego County's historic Highway 101 on which racers of the past scooted up and down the Torrey Pines grade and the Big Bear Run on Saturday, June 22.

The other planned activity talked about resulted in seven Classics appearing at the Grand Avenue Cruise in Escondido on the regularly scheduled first Friday night. One of the cruisers was Alan Berry from nearby Poway in his green and gold vintage racer nicknamed "Swamp Thing". Perhaps you have seen Alan's car on page 62 of the May issue of Mini World. You may even learn more about our southern clan's representative in the world of vintage racing another time.

The neatest part of the Mini display that evening was that three new MINIS joined the seven classics. What a show! All three were Liquid Yellow. The Norris' car was alongside two from Diamond Racing. Partners Tracy Hemstreet of Oceanside and Cy of Temecula have cars with exciting roof graphics and bright chrome wheels. You'll be seeing them and the growing active Southern Bunch at MOALA outings. You are, also, invited to join ours. Check out the website members.cox.net/sdmini for dates and events.

Be Happy! Drive Like A Miniac! -- John Kure

2002 Events

Note: All events in bold face type are official MOALA events.

June

29 - Saturday June 29 -- The Marconi Collection OPEN HOUSE --
1302 Industrial Dr., Tustin. For information call Museum at
--- See facing page for info on a convoy to this event.

July

17 - Monthly Meeting

20 - Braille Rallye -- Contact Pat West (714) 841-1249 to Register your car -- Meet at 8:00 a.m., Braille Institute Youth Center 3450 Cahuenga Blvd., West -- Los Angeles. Lost? - Call 5 for directions to Youth Center.
28 - CCBCC (Central Coast British Car Club)-- 12th Annual All British Car Show -- Mini is the featured marque this year. 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Ventura Harbor Village (1542 Spinnaker Dr.). Trophies to all "Classes" with a President's Award and "Best of Show" winner. Pre-registration is \$25.00 - Cutoff Date is July 14. All late reg & day of show entries will be \$35.00. Call Don Cole or e-mail

August

10 -- Noon - Saturday Aug. 10 The POOL PARTY -- at Jim Keeter's place. Bring a covered dish for pot-luck and prepare to have mucho fun. Address - 1052 Tehachai Dr., Long Beach.
Information

22-25 MMW2002 @ Orange County Market Place - BE THERE!

25 - Endless Summer Classic Car Show @ OC Market Place
Information

31-Sept 2 -- Great Labor Day Cruise XVII @ OC County Fairgrounds
Information

September

8 - Belmont Shores Car Show - Details to come

18 - Monthly Meeting

19-22 Stater Bros Rte 66 Rendezvous @ Downtown San Bernardino
Information | - www.route-66.org

28 - Crusin' For a Cure @ OC Fairgrounds. Information:

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Bob Amaral

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David Haight

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Rob Mckeown

San Diego Contact
John Kure

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Adventures in Motoring

There are certain "adventures in motoring" that can very easily be done without. One of them is breaking down in the middle of nowhere. That was my adventure when I found myself stranded near Gorman on the 5 northbound. If you have any doubt about where "nowhere" is; I recommend that particular spot as a candidate. Thank God for freeway callboxes. They are pretty slick. They enable you to contact civilization from the middle of (you guessed it) nowhere.

I was on my way to Buttonwillow for the Mini-Sprite Challenge put on by Moss Motors when my car backfired twice and just shut down.

This was my very first experience with being stranded in my old reliable "Woody". Woody had never seen the back end of a tow vehicle until that fateful day. I was forced to abandon my car and continue on with my new "hero" Bernie Just -- who happened along at the right moment. Thank you for stopping Bernie. Good to see a friendly face in that situation. You might just say "it made my day".

Bernie followed the tow truck operator to a garage in Frazier Park (which could be considered "nowhere" except that it is only a mile or two from Gorman).

So, thanks to Bernie, I got to see a bit of racing on Sunday at Buttonwillow but then had to drive back up on Monday with my trailer to pick up my car and bring it back to Heritage Auto where a shorted out distributor was diagnosed as the culprit.

Chalk it all up to "Adventures in Motoring" -- and many thanks to Bernie (and David Haight, who gave me a ride home from Buttonwillow). Thanks guys -- Take care . . . Drive Safe

-- Bob Amaral

CLASSIFIEDS

OK Folks . . . Here it is . . . Your opportunity to clear out the bedroom closet of Mini bits and pieces. No item too small -- or big to be listed here in the Mini News Classified section. And the best part? ITS FREE! Give me a call at

Editor's Note: As yet I am a bit short on Classified ads -- so thought I would borrow some local ads from Mini Mania website -- Photos of the first two cars can be found on Mini Mania website in the "cars for sale" section -- private sellers. The third ad is one that was submitted to the Mini News via e-mail.

(2) -- 1960 Morris mini. RHD. Sharp looking car with great paint, flares, 12" minilight style wheels. Disc brakes in front, Drum in rear. Strong 1275 (rebuilt fall 2001) rod change gearbox. New carpet and other recent interior upgrades. E-Mail me for more pics! PRICE LOWERED!!!!!! MUST SELL! GIVE ME SOME OFFERS!
Contact

(2) -- 1963 Morris Mini, 850 850 very clean morris mini RHD alloy wheels, nice paint, great on mileage, real head turner. Pamper yourself with a real classic. Call Steve or Eric

(1) -- 1968 MK II, 1000 Saloon 998 engine bored .040 over. (Approx. 1030 ccm) 2X1..25" SU carburetors K & N air filters with chrome covers LCB exhaust manifold RC40 exhaust system 10" Minilite wheels Yokohama A008 tires. 165/70R10 72H, 10" wheels. New Carpet (gray) RH drive Virtually no rust New brake master cylinder Cooper grill Speedometer is not matched to the final drive ratio 12G295 head. (milled for proper compression ratio) New tie rod ends New inner and outer hub seals New fuel pump Smith 3" tach. \$8500US Much More -- LK Gray



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