



MINI NEWS

Official Publication of the Mini Owners of America, Los Angeles, Inc., - Mar/Apr, 2004



The Palos Verdes Run included a stop at the Pt. Vicente Lighthouse. Attendees were able to climb to the top of the lighthouse to take in unparalleled views of the Palos Verdes coast. The historic lighthouse, right, is currently staffed entirely by volunteers from the Coast Guard and Sea Scouts. The Lighthouse stands 55 feet tall on a bluff that puts the light itself at 185 feet above the water - visible from 20 miles out to sea. The tour of the lighthouse was made possible by the volunteer staff and the guides were volunteer Sea Scouts (below). They opened the lighthouse specifically for our group and we extend our appreciation to these dedicated staffers who were kind enough to allow our visit.

PALOS VERDES RUN

Jan. 24, 2004



Story By Willy Hugron
Photos by Bob Amaral

The Palos Verde Run 2004 was organized by Roadmaster Bob Amaral and was a very pleasant run. We had 26 Minis; 15 original Minis and 11 new MINIS.

The cooler than normal weather did not seem to dampen the spirits or mood of the group. We met at the usual place at Ports 'O Call Harbor Village. No hand-brake turn arrivals this year from your author after last year's close call with the local gendarme.

This years run was more tame in comparison to past years. We had the usual stops at the Korea Bell and at the top of Via Visalia cul de sac and lunch at the Acapulco Restaurant.

This year in an effort

Continued on Page Five

The PREZ Sez

This weekend was the first one in some time that I've been allowed any constructive time with the Mini. I had an afternoon that was free from martial obligations and managed to square away quite a few small chores I've wanted to get on for a while. And you know what, I felt really good about what I'd gotten done afterwards. I often find that the biggest hurdle to overcome is that of getting started, but once you are into what you are doing it can be really easy to make significant progress!

I'd also sought professional help on a couple of issues this last month, both to do with my cars handling. One I thought I could handle myself but got a bit out of hand, leaving my car for the most part undrivable, and another that I knew would go bad on me if I tried to go it alone. This time I sought out Graham Reid over at Heritage Garage for assistance. I figured that after 4 years of bending his ear for free advice he

was well entitled to earn bone or two from me! And I can't tell you how happy I was with what he did, my car has never handled better!

I can't tell you how lucky we should feel having some of the best repair facilities in the country right here in our back yards! And you should support them as much as you can. Yes, it's a great feeling taking care of things on your own, but if you don't have either the expertise or the time, simply writing a check can be the easiest way to getting your car back on the road! And I don't know about you, I

enjoy driving my car far more than I enjoy tinkering with it!

So as we look towards Spring, make some time for your Mini. If you can't make time for it, but you have the funds to pay for help, get it into your local repair shop and have them look at it for you. Be ready for hours of fun behind the wheel when the good weather comes, rather than hours underneath the bonnet!"

Regards,
MJW



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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:
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Editor's Ramblings

Well it has been an interesting first two months of the year. The Palos Verdes Run seemed to go off rather well. Simplified from previous years and something different thrown in for good measure. It was very special that the Sea Scouts volunteered to come in and open the lighthouse for us. Special thanks to Elizabeth Saksteder, who helped arrange the opening, and to the Coast Guard volunteers who gave up their day off for us. Everyone seemed to get a kick out of touring the lighthouse and the Sea Scouts seemed to enjoy a tour of our cars as well.

The second event of the year - "A Mini Vacation in Vegas" was also a success on a rather grand scale. The only disappoint-

ment was the lack of participation from the classic Mini membership. Maybe next year.

If you received this newsletter your dues are paid for 2004. Thank you for enabling the club to provide you with events, runs, car shows, the newsletter and meetings in the upcoming year.

As you can see; we are experimenting with a color newsletter thanks to Michael Walsh who has access to a new color printer. I hope that this turns out to be the first of many color newsletters.

Many members have opted for an online version of the newsletter which, of course, will also be in color. If you want to receive the newsletter via an e-

mail download please contact me and I will arrange it.

To those who will be receiving the on line version: Please let me know if you encounter any problems downloading the electronic version and I will see what I can do to correct it.

Please check out this newsletter carefully for upcoming events and I hope to see you all at every one of them. The new year promises to be crammed full of activities for the die-hard Mini/MINI fanatics among us. Keep the shiny side up and I will see you down the road.

Take Care

Drive Safe

Bob Amaral



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March to March in March Sunday March 14, 2004

This event is being put on by the British Motoring Club of the Inland Empire. It sounds like a smashing good time for anyone with a British marque vehicle.

The schedule goes something like this. Arrive 10:00 a.m. at March Field Air Museum. Tour and inspect the more than fifty historic aircraft and thousands of related artifacts. Marvel at the stories of crusty old ex-USAF docents. Cost: \$5.00 donation at the door.

At Noon embark upon a sixteen-mile "Third-World" back roads tour to the fabled Orange Empire Railway Museum in historic Perris, the largest operating rail museum in the American West. Ride the vintage trolleys and trains and relax. Enjoy the picnic lunch you so thoughtfully carried along. Some food services may be available at the museums, but quality may be "iffy." Entrance to the Railway Museum is FREE; tickets are on sale for rides on the equipment.

Travel Directions:

March Field Air Museum is located at the Van Buren Boulevard Exit of the Interstate 215 freeway. Take the 91, 60 or I-10 Freeways to I-215 and proceed South towards San Diego on I-215 to the Van Buren Exit. You cannot miss the museum as it is immediately next to the exit ramp and there are numerous aircraft visible next to a large hangar building with an orange-and-white checkerboard roof.

Further information -- Phone Norm & Betty Kear, event hosts, at:

VARA British Extravaganza May 15th & 16th 2004

A weekend long program of Vintage Racing featuring British, European and American sports and racing cars from Pre-War to the 80s. You are invited to join in the fun with your sports car in an event that harkens back to the glory days of southern California Racing.

Featuring: Sprite/Mini Challenge, MG/Triumph Challenge. Large Pre-War Contingent both vintage race cars and historically correct vehicles have been invited to participate in what has become one of the biggest Pre-War events in the country.

Also: Popular Choice Car Show with lots of trophies and prizes. BBQ and Kareoke Saturday evening, lots to eat and drink under the stars.

Day-trippers are welcome. There is a \$10.00 per head gate fee.

The weekend deal is \$35.00 per person, pre-registered for the weekend which includes two days admission, the Saturday night BBQ, admission to the Funkhana, entrance to the popular choice car show, a dash plaque, lunchtime track drives and the chance to poke fun at the folks who only showed up for the day. Children under 14 are free. There will be a \$10.00 late fee after April 23rd. Registration form Page 8.

For more information check the Moss Motors website (www.mossmotors.com) under "News".

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to provide the club with a "different" experience, Bob made special arrangements to have a private tour of the Point Vicente Lighthouse by the Sea Scouts.

The volunteer Sea Scouts were kind enough to open the lighthouse and the grounds and provide guides for the members of MOALA. The lighthouse was very appropriate for the MINI Club, since it also was a MINI lighthouse . . . Not one the largest light houses of the West Coast.

The Sea Scouts seemed to enjoy browsing the parking area and sitting behind the wheel of many of the Mini's as much as we enjoyed the spectacular panoramic view from top of the lighthouse. We were all able, 6 at a time, to climb up to the top to see the massive 3rd order lens used to focus the light which is visible to ships 20 miles out to sea. There was no charge for the special tour, so we elected to pass a hat around and collected \$40, which has been matched by the club and donated to the Sea Scouts.

Next to the Point Vicente Lighthouse is a whale watching area. Since this was whale-watching season there were several people monitoring the whale activity. By mid morning 13 whales had been spotted. We just missed a mother and her calf round the point as we arrived.

If you would like to visit the lighthouse on your own it is open to the public once a month on the Second Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(Editor's Note:

If you were on the Palos Verdes run you probably noticed a rather daffy crew of individuals following our caravan of crazy Mini drivers. At right is "Jake" who plans to use footage of our run in his latest "Hollywood extravaganza" film to be seen in many and varied student film competitions in the future. Good luck with your project Jake.)



Partial lineup of cars at Ports 'O Call parking lot. Because of increasing participation it gets more and more difficult on every run to get a shot of all the cars together. It was necessary to climb a tree for this shot.

Vintage Race & Restoration



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A Mini Vacation in Vegas

February 6-8, 2004

This event was a surprise in many ways. The event was mainly put together by a very small group of people from the Arizona Club and touted only on the internet and not with the usual plethora of paperwork such as applications, flyers and newsletter notifications. It would seem almost impossible to organize such an event this way.

The only way to "track" the event was via the internet at the web page dedicated to informing everyone of the schedule. This would seem to be leaving out a great many people who do not have an internet connection. Well -- my first surprise was the number of people who are connected to the internet. And there were more that got their information from word of mouth and club officers and newsletter alerts in other clubs from Denver to Idaho and Utah to Southern California.

Lots of people did get the word. Even through multiple changes of planned events and venues. The organization seemed simply doomed to failure. Well that was the second surprise. All of the events that were included in the final plan were unusually well attended. There were well over 130 cars in attendance. I did not attend the Alladin gathering of cars that was kicked off by a "cruise" of the Vegas Strip but from others I found out that they had about 250 cars at that event.

The schedule left everyone to decide for themselves exactly what they would do with their time over the weekend. Events were scheduled and it was up to you whether you wanted to attend -- or not! This seemed like a very different philosophy. But it seemed

to work to perfection. That was another surprise.

I attended two events over the weekend. The Mt. Charleston run where I joined about 30 new MINIs to drive the twisty roads of

Mt. Charleston (an event that I had to drop out of because of carburetor problems) and the Valley of Fire run where I rode with Jack Belcher in his very nicely appointed 2004 Mini as we joined up with 58 other new



License plates from everywhere (L-R) Arizona; California (MINI LADY BUG); California (MINI TOI). There were many more neat ones -- these are just my favorites.



The only classic Mini on the Valley of Fire run was this Barney & Debbie Rael owned BRG '66 Mini from the Arizona club. And I really could not resist sneaking in a pic of my wife & I in the first color edition of the MOALA newsletter. When you become newsletter editor you can do this too!



Minis. Both events were fun (even though I had problems -- I enjoyed my part of the run up Mt. Charleston and got to photograph my car in some snow -- alongside the road).

So - In a nutshell - I had a GREAT time socializing with all of the new MINI owners and the very few classic owners in attendance (I

think I saw 6 classics all weekend). That was my only disappointment -- the lack of classics. My last surprise was the great attitude of the new MINI owners which mirrored the classic owner's staunch dedication to the marque. And --- they were also having a great time. Smiles from ear

to ear were in evidence in every car. There was talk of making this a yearly event. Wouldn't mind that if some of you classic owners can get your cars there. It was a blast. If you were not there -- you missed out.

Bob Amaral



More plates from (L-R): Arizona; California; Utah and Idaho



On the way to the Valley of Fire we decided to stop and regroup. We attracted quite a bit of attention from the locals



And still more Plates: (L-R) Colorado; Texas; California and New Mexico

WEST MEETS EAST MINI MEET 2004

June 29 - July 2*
Rockford IL.

Minis In Northern Illinois and the Mid-America Diehard Mini Enthusiasts' Network are combining their efforts to bring you the combined West Meets East Mini Meet in 2004 to celebrate the 45th birthday of the Mini.

The event will be held at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, IL, approximately 90 miles northwest of Chicago. All Classic Minis, new MINIs, and Mini variants are invited to attend. We have reserved 200 rooms at this resort for all four (4) nights of our Meet, from Tuesday night (June 29) through Friday night (July 2). Registration will open on Tuesday afternoon and there will be a full schedule of activities including an Autocross, Funkhana, Rally, Picnic, Team Event, Concours, Kids' Activities, Banquet and much more. Contact the Clock Tower Resort, mention "Mini Meet", and reserve your room NOW at our special Mini Meet rate, before the hoarders get there and grab them all up !! I have heard that more than half the rooms are booked already.

Note that you can obtain



MOSS MOTORS Presents
The 7th Annual VARA British Extravaganza
May 15th and 16th, 2004

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: () _____ Work: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email address _____

Vehicle Information

Year _____ Make: _____ Model: _____ Body Type: _____ Color: _____

Entry Fee before April 23rd: \$35.00 per person. Includes \$10.00 Gate Fee and lunchtime track drive for both days, Saturday evening BBQ, Sunday Car Show. Children under 14 are free.

Entry fee after April 23rd: \$45.00 per person

Car Club/Show Participant Entry Fee \$35.00 X _____ persons _____

Late Fee after April 23rd \$10.00 X _____ persons _____

Total _____

Please make check payable to VARA or Visa/MC

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

ENTRY REQUEST WAIVER

As an entrant, I make this request for entry into the British Extravaganza car show with the knowledge that being around motor racing is dangerous, and that I will be expected to sign a "release form" before I enter the racing facility. I also authorize that my vehicle may be publicized in newspapers, magazines and/or television.

Entrant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail Payment and Completed Form to: VARA c/o Dan Longacre
30131 Town Center Drive #150

Or Fax to: (949) 495-1464 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

For information about the event please visit www.mossmotors.com

a registration form for the event on the event website: <http://minimeet2004.com>.

Two additional, extra-cost events will be conducted by two other enthusiastic Mini organizations at Blackhawk Farms Raceway, about 25 miles north of Rockford. The ULTIMATE MINI DRIVING ACADEMY will be

presented by the Phil Wicks Driving Academy on Tuesday (June 29). The ULTIMATE MINI CHALLENGE 3 race will be presented by Mini Mania on Wednesday (June 30). See www.midwestdriver.com and www.minimania.com for registration forms and details about those two events.

WHITTIER HILLS RUN & SHOP TOUR EVENT

April 17, 2004

We will begin the morning as guests of longtime member Phil Reed at his own personal museum. Phil has collected many interesting cars and motorcycles over the years. He has restored everything himself and loves nothing better than sharing them with good company...that would be us. The self guided tour of the museum begins at 8:00 a.m. at Santa Fe Springs Grinding; 9128 Dice Road in Santa Fe Springs. A continental breakfast will be provided for your enjoyment. We will end the tour at 9:30 to begin the fun run.

I know that you have all seen parts of these hills while driving the 605 & 60 freeways, but have you ever experienced them first hand in a Mini? Well now is the time. Many of these roads are narrow, winding residential roads, but there is lots to look at so take your time and check your brakes first! This is somewhat of a navigational run with lots of turns so bring along someone to help out with the directions. These roads transverse across the from Whittier to Hacienda Heights to Fullerton, to Walnut so there will be many places to re-fuel as well as to

The Unique Little Car Show

May 7-9, 2004 Seaport Marina Hotel - Long Beach
~ REGISTRATION FORM ~

* Please submit with your payment prior to April 25, 2004

NAME _____ Phone #: (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CAR REGISTRATIONS

Make Of Car (1st entry) _____ Year _____ Model _____
 Make Of Car (2nd entry) _____ Year _____ Model _____

Please fill in amounts and extend totals

1st car registered @ \$15.00 per car (_____) Total \$ _____
 2nd car registered @ \$10.00 per car (_____) Total \$ _____

GONDOLA RIDE

For reservations call Jean or Keith (562) 425-4860 after Feb 15th, 2004
 _____ @ \$20.00 ea \$ _____

AWARDS BANQUET & DINNER RESERVATIONS*

*Reservations are required and payment must be made before April 25, 2004
 Adult Dinners @ \$20.00 per person

_____	Chicken Hawaiian	\$ _____
_____	Roast Sirloin of Beef	\$ _____
_____	Mahi-Mahi	\$ _____
Child Dinners @ \$15.00	Chicken Hawaiian	\$ _____
per child	Roast Sirloin of Beef	\$ _____
_____	Mahi-Mahi	\$ _____
	Total	\$ _____

T-SHIRT ORDERS (\$10.00 each)

Small _____ Med _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ Total \$ _____

All items listed above Total Amount Payable \$ _____

Send your check, payable to the "Metropolitan Club of California, Ltd. C/O:
SHAWNEY HAWK
 612 Sea Breeze Dr., Seal Beach, CA
 (562) 430-5006

In consideration of inclusion as a participant in the 24th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show, the participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Seaport Marina Hotel, The Metropolitan Club of California, Ltd. and all its officers, volunteers and committee workers from and against all liability of loss or injury that the participant and/or participant's guests, including family and relatives, may sustain or incur as a result of claims, demands, costs or judgments arising from the participant's involvement in the 24th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please note: New MINIs do not qualify for entry under the Metropolitan club rules restricting engine size to under 1300ccs.

de-fuel so just take your time and enjoy.

There will be a lunch stop at the end to re-fuel again. Don't worry if you are meeting your navigator at Phil's as the finish spot is not that far from our starting point and I'll provide some basic maps to keep everybody from getting lost.

Please try to RSVP so

that we can be sure to have enough goodies for breakfast in the morning.

Chris Travers
"Tour Guide"

PLEASE RSVP

or

MOALA 2003 Calendar of Events

OFFICIAL CLUB EVENTS LISTED IN BOLDFACE TYPE

MARCH

Sunday, March 14, 2004 "MARCH to MARCH in MARCH" -- Although not an official club event - this sounds interesting. See article on Page 4 of this newsletter for details.

DROMO ONE Kart Racing night: Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. to ??? RSVP your attendance to Bob Amaral woodymini@att.net or (714) 890-1966. A full night of racing Go Karts on the indoor track at Dromo One - 1431 North Main St., Orange CA. For Directions call (714) 744.4779. You may invite friends or family to participate at the club rate (\$75.00 per person). No driver's license required. Only restriction is driver must be 60" tall and wear closed-toe shoes. (under 18 must have guardian present to sign release). Also - no tank tops; no alcohol. Observers (non-racers) are encouraged to attend.

March 17: Regular MOALA Meeting 7:30 at Me 'n Eds Pizza Parlour in Lakewood

APRIL

Saturday, April 3, 2004 -- San Marcos High School Car Show and Fundraiser. Details contact Mike Spangler at

Saturday, April 17, 2004 -- WHITTIER HILLS RUN & SHOP TOUR. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Santa Fe Springs Grinding; 9128 Dice Road in Santa Fe Springs. This will be a combination museum tour and twistie road experience. Details are on Page Nine. PLEASE RSVP if you are planning to attend so we will have enough goodies for everyone for a continental breakfast.

Saturday, Apr 17, 2004 -- S.D. BRITISH ROLLING CAR DAY Details: www.sandiegobritishcarday.org

April 21: Regular MOALA Meeting 7:30 at Me 'n Eds Pizza Parlour, Lakewood

MAY

May 7-9 -- 24th Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Show Seaport Marina Hotel 6400 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach. Info: (562) 434-8451. See pg 9 for Registration form. Note: this event is not "official" club event as new MINIs do not qualify for entry under the Metropolitan club rules.

Saturday & Sunday May 15-16 -- Moss Motors presents the 7th Annual British Extravaganza. At Buttonwillow Raceway. For details see article - Page four.

Sunday, May 16, 2004 -- Ball Bearing Breaker Challenge Rally. Details: www.sandiegobritishcarday.org

May 19: Regular MOALA Meeting 7:30 at Me 'n Eds Pizza Parlour, Lakewood

CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice-Pres./Treasurer
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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 (714) 890-1966 or e-mail: woodymini@att.net

(1) FOR SALE: 1974 Morris Mini traveler Deluxe, Original Tweed Gray Paint and Blue Gray Interior. Factory LHD and California Black Plate. Rust free with nothing to hide. Modified 108 on Cooper S C/R gears, custom suspension, Cooper S discs, Extra parts \$15,000. Contact Mike at: megmike226@sbcglobal.net or call:

(3) FOR SALE -- Small single-axle trailer -- suitable for towing Mini. Some surface rust -- needs paint & wiring but for the price -- very good deal at \$350. (firm). Contact John at

(1) FOR SALE -- 2002 MINI Cooper S Yellow/White(Manufactured during the last week of the 2002 production year. End of August 2002). Just under 8,000 miles. Pre-paid service till Oct. 2005. -1.6 Liter Super Charged Engine (163 Hp) -6 Speed manual transmission. -Sports Suspension Plus. -Dynamic Stability Control. -Leather, Heated, Sports Seats. -Cruise Control. -Fog lamps. -Engine is totally stock. No modifications made. -Windshield Washer bottle replaced (warranty). -Professionally detailed inside and out every six months. -Parked in the garage when at home. So what's the PRICE for this little jewel you ask ? Well Edmunds.com and the Kelly Blue Book Says in the \$22,000.00 neighborhood and that's good enough for me. As those prices do not take into consideration the roof rack, second set of tires and wheels. I think thats pretty fair. However, I will listen to any offers that come my way. Rob Van Wandelen (650)

Helpful Hints which can be applied to any car -- any garage -- any project

When working with stainless steel fasteners you must use anti-seize on the threads. Stainless steel is a soft metal and can readily seize during assembly.

Whenever you fabricate something from metal (for example, making a cut or drilling a hole), the process almost always leaves a sharp burr. Break the edges with a file or de-burring tool before handling the part. Your skin will appreciate the extra effort.

Keep a few plastic spray bottles filled with water on your workbench. A light mist of spray can be used to cool items such as soldered wire, welds, saw cuts and the like. Most plastic spray bottles are robust and don't leak if you knock them over.

Alcohol and grease do not mix, folks. Save the beers and happy hour until after the work is done for the day. Then the war stories will be superior.

Phil Wicks Drive School

How would you like to get specialized instruction in handling your Classic Mini or New MINI from one of the most accomplished and experienced Mini professional in the world? And what if the class were held on a race track in your general part of the country ... for a very reasonable price?

Mini Mania and professional driving instructor Phil Wicks are pleased to announce their collaboration in the Phil Wicks Ultimate Mini Driving Academy presented by Mini Mania. These events combine classroom and on-track sessions designed to help you get the most out of your Mini/MINI, in a safe environment. The class covers safety, emergency maneuvers, and performance driving, and is suitable for novice to expert drivers.

Details about each Ultimate Mini Driving Academy event will vary slightly from venue to venue, but in general the classes run from 8 am to 5 pm each day with a short lunch break, with groups alternating between classroom discussion and on-track practice. Novice, Intermediate, and Expert groups each have the track to themselves during practice, and the groups are further divided into smaller clusters of three or four students, with a teacher/student ratio of 1:3. On-track sessions will be lead-follow. You can expect to get six 15-minute track sessions in during the day, which is plenty of 'seat time' - that estimate is of course subject to weather, visibility, or red flag conditions.

Phil Wicks has 46 years driving experience which includes 15 years driving and engineering Minis for race on the most prestigious international road racing circuits. He has numerous stunt driving projects to his credit, including the ultimate Mini driving extravaganza, the original "Italian Job" movie.

The Ultimate Mini Driving Academy is proving to be a very popular idea, and negotiations are in process for other Academy events to be held in Indiana, Kansas, California, Texas, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, and Colorado - to name just a few of the possibilities.

For more info go to Phil Whick's website at:

<http://www.wickssafedriving.org>

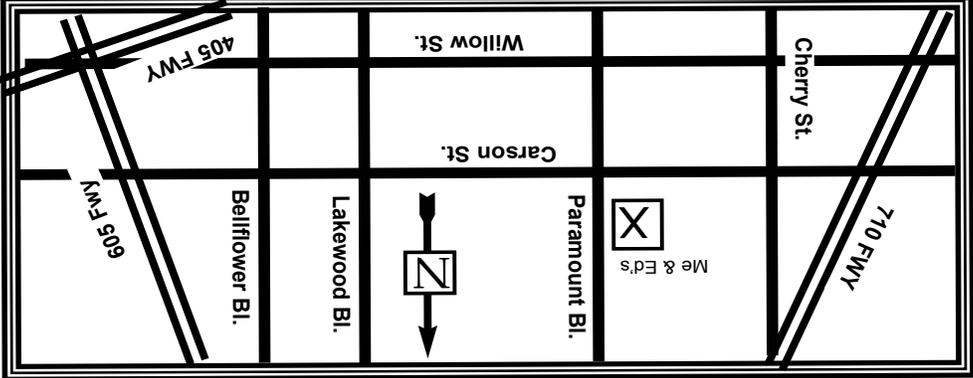
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Regular MOALA Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at Me N Ed's Pizza 4115 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA



Mini Owners of America; Los Angeles
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