

Be It Ever So Humble...

The Illini Mets, The Illinois Chapter of the Metropolitan Owners Club of North America
Special Super Summer Extravaganza Issue



Special Interest Articles:

- Mets Pop Up in the Craziest Places
- Pictures, Pictures and more Pictures

Contributing Writers:

Bob Greenlee
Emily Darak
And the Club Members for their Profiles

Message from the President

Greetings to All... We hope everyone has been enjoying the last three months. It seems that Spring and Summer have flown by. There have been several events in the last couple of months, the Cascade Drive-in in July. On Aug. 3rd our club had four cars at the Illinois Railway Museum (the Potts 2, Teschkys 1, and Greenlees 1). The weather was perfect. Then on Aug. 10th 4 members

attended The Windy City Rambler/AMC picnic on Aug. 17th (Emily D. Nancy M., Marge G. and Bob G.) This Newsletter will be out after The Orphan Picnic on August 17. I am hoping for a good turn out for this event. On Sept 7th, we have the Sandwich Fair, then on Sept. 21, an 'End of Summer Picnic' at the Greenlee's house. We hope Everyone can attend. Just let us know if you're coming. Thanks.
Bob G.



Bob Greenlee, Pres.

P.S. Please either email or snail mail Marge Greenlee your name, phone number and email address if you have one. Marge is compiling a rolodex of members.



Welcome New Members

We have two new members and one returning member.

New Members:

Emily Stewart

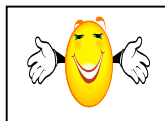
Kathryn Schoenbeck

Stacey and John Schillerstrom

Returning Member:

John Judge

A BIG "ILLINI MET" WELCOME TO YOU ALL!





Mets pop up in the craziest places

by Emily Deraik

One can often find Mets in the oddest of places....

A couple of co-workers kept telling me that there was a car like mine sitting in the garage/dock next to our office building. I thought they were all crazy.

However, one day I was leaving work and the garage was open and, lo and behold, there was a bedraggled little Met tucked away in the garage/dock. I snapped a picture with my camera phone. The picture is below.

It does look like it needs some love and attention - but it is still really cute! It looks like an earlier

model, maybe '54 or '55. I am still trying to find out who owns it to see what they have to say about their little treasure.

Don't forget to check out my flickr site. There are tons of pictures posted.

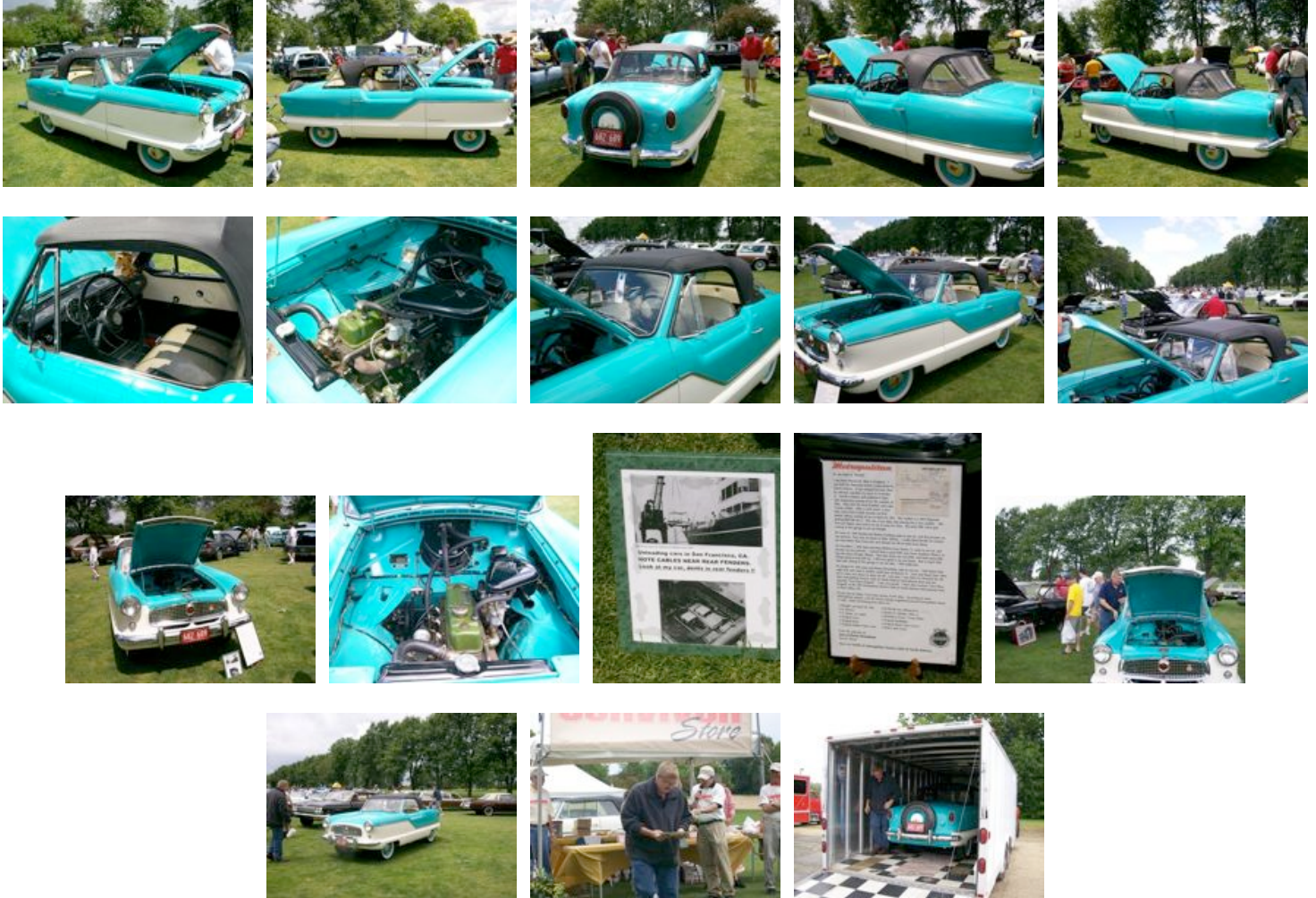
I am such a fan of this cruise night I have to promote it again. Check out the Voodoo Kings cruise nights on Saturdays at the Buona Beef in Itasca at 1170 N. Arlington Heights Road
Phone: 630-773-2333
They have flame-throwing cars!

Additional note: I saw this picture on a website and it made me chuckle because I know everyone gets this

question at one time or another ---- "Is that the car that goes in the water?" And to answer that, "Yes, it will – once."



Survivor Show at Bloomington Gold, Sunday, June 29, 2008
Gary Bosselman's Met, Harold, was in attendance and won an award



Westchester Cruise Night, Monday, June 28, 2008
Three Mets in Attendance (of Members Gail Brandys, Emily Darak & Nancy Mackey)



Profiles in "Met"bership

Answers to the Questionnaires that have been sent to the membership with a few questions to find out more about the owners or aficionados of the Met.

Joel Reznick from Bradenton, FL

Joel has been a member for about 25 years or more. At the present time, Joel does not own a Met but is in the process of looking for one. Joel's favorite, like most others, is the convertible. His favorite colors are Berkshire Green & White. He likes the Met because it is very cute and enjoyable to drive. Joel is currently widowed and living it up in Florida. He has four daughters, one of which lives in Florida. The other daughters live in the Chicagoland area. Joel also has nine grandchildren.

Jerome & Rae Novak from Sandwich, IL

Jerome and Rae have been members since May 2006. They own two Mets – an early 1959 Coral & Cream convertible and a 1962 Blue & White convertible. The 2007 'Rock Around the Clock' International Meet in Rockford has been one of the most memorable moments so far. Their favorites in Mets are convertibles and colors being Coral, Aqua and Red. They are both retired. The Met is their 'all-time' favorite antique car.

Patrick & Jeanne Hyland from Chicago, IL

Patrick and Jeanne have been members for over 20 years. They used to have two Mets – a 1956 and 1960. However, at this time both were sold. They will buy another Met in the future. Their favorite Met is the convertible and color, yellow and white. At this time, they do have a 1978 Corvette Pace car. Unique, cute, attention-getter are words they use to describe the Met.

Lowell & Karen St. Clair from Bettendorf, IA

Lowell and Karen have been members for 26 years. They joined MOCNA and Illini Mets in 1982. Lowell served as President of Illini Mets from 1989 to 1995 and Vice-President from 2000 to 2005. Karen served as Secretary from 1989 to 2005 and as Secretary/Treasurer from 1995 to 2005. Karen also served as Newsletter Editor from 1989 to 1999. Karen states "We are currently down to just one Met after owning and restoring 3 Mets. Lowell really enjoys the "METROD" and has had many calls from all over the US from people wanting "specs" on how to build one." They recently sold their very first Met (1957 Coral/White convertible) to a Minnesota car collector. They had owned it since 1981. The buyer bought the car as a Christmas present for his wife. Their 1960 Red/White hardtop was also bought as a gift for a wife. A man in DesMoines bought it as a birthday surprise for his wife. She had owned one as a teenager. The most memorable moments for Lowell and Karen were getting together at the 1998 Regional Meet in Moline and the 2007 International Meet in Rockford. They enjoyed working with the Illini Met members for both meets and getting to meet with all their MOCNA friends from around the US. They also enjoy touring interesting places with the Illini Mets and getting together for some of club's social events. They enjoy both styles of the car and have owned both styles (hardtop and convertible). Their favorite color is the Coral Red/Strawberry White combination since their 1957 was an original color and there weren't that many done in those colors. Karen and Lowell have been married for 41 years and have lived in their house for 36 years. They are both retired but Lowell keeps busy with a part-time job at a local Budweiser distributor maintaining the vehicles and keeping inventory on the beer. They enjoy going to the local cruise nights during the summer or visiting other car enthusiasts. Lowell is currently street-rodding a 1940 Ford Tudor Deluxe Sedan. They also own a stock Rambler American Deluxe Station Wagon in great condition with just over 14,000 original miles on it. Everything on that car is original, except the tires and battery. The reason Lowell and Karen like the Met is it is "a cute little car that draws attention and smiles. Seems like everyone that approaches a Met and it's owner always has a good attitude and plenty of Met stories from their past to share."

Larry & Marybeth Claypool from Frankfort, IL

Larry and Marybeth have been members from approximately 1987. Larry has served as Vice President in the past. At this time, they do not own a Met but have owned a 1961 hardtop in the past. A few memorable moments for the Claypools have been the Mall show in Bourbonnais around 1991, the driving tour at the Nationals in Wisconsin Dells and driving their Met to the Nationals in Louisville with the Lathams. The Lathams had their 3 kids in their Met. Their favorite Met styles is the 1959 and up convertible and colors are 57-58 Coral & White. Larry is not looking for a production model/car. Marybeth works in IT support at a downtown Chicago company. Larry is an ASE master technician and operates The 'Vair Shop. Larry services collector cars. He is a Corvair specialist but also has experience with Mets and other makes. You can take a photo tour of his shop through his website at www.vairshop.com. They enjoy the Met because it wins the 'cute' award all the time. They ride well for a small car. They are well constructed and the mechanics are reasonably sturdy. Plus they have a good heater. Now, for the other antique vehicles that Larry and Marybeth own. Here they are: 51 Studebaker Starlight Coupe, 57 Autobianca Bianchina, 60 Lloyd LT600, 61 Corvair Lakewood Wagon, 61 Pontiac Tempest, 61 DKW 1000s, 62 Fiat 600D Multipla, 63 Corvair Greenbrier Camper, 63 Tatra 603, 64 Renault Dauphine, 64 Renault Caravelle, 64 Sunbeam (Hillman) Imp, 65 Corvair 4dr HT, 66 Skoda 1000MB, 66 Riley Elf, 66 Simca 1000 Coupe, 66 Oldsmobile Toronado, 67 Checker Marathon Wagon, 67 Zaz 965A, 68 NSU 1200, 68 Citroen DS Pallas, 70 Subaru 360, 70 Fiat 850 Sedan, 73 Zaz 968, 85 AMC Eagle Ltd Wagon and 90 Yugo Cabrio. Wow, that is a lot of cars!

Profiles in "Met"bership continued

Bill & Alice Latham from Willow Springs, IL

Bill and Alice have been members for approximately 27 or 28 years. Bill purchased the Berkshire Green Met in California about 28 years ago. Bill, Alice and their 1 year old daughter flew out to California on an one-way ticket. The Met was bought, some repairs done to them and it was driven from California back to Illinois. It needed a fuel pump, exhaust system and new tires, as well as a 4 inch thick foam rubber pad to cover the naked seat springs. The Lathams then purchased the Red convertible about 20 years ago because it was very original with only 27,000 miles on it. Now, it has about 33,000 miles. Some of the memorable moments are enjoying the hospitality of Jim and Bea Hall at their home in Canton, IL. A late model convertible is the favorite style and Red or Coral Pink are the favorite colors of the Lathams. Bill and Alice also own other vintage cars including a 1948 Allard, 1952 Kaiser Henry J, 1952 MGTD, 1957-1958 and 1959 MGA's and 1958 MG Magnette ZB. However, Bill and Alice feel that the Met is special because it is more of a crowd pleaser than any of his other cars.



The Latham's Met all covered with snow

Charles & Shirley Harper from Moline, IL

Charles and Shirley have been members for about 8 years. They own a Red over White 1958 convertible. They bought it in Bettendorf, IA. Lowell St. Clair helped them get it road-worthy. It was pretty much a basket case. They had to put in plugs, points, thermostat, all new brake system, clutch master cylinder with D.O.T. 5 fluid. However, the engine ran fine. They invested about \$3,500 after purchase plus a whole lot of labor! The Harpers have not participated in many Illini Met activities due to distance but have participated in many local car shows. They love the convertibles and never put the top up on theirs. When winter comes, the Met goes in the garage with a cover. Since the Red and White is what they bought, that is their favorite colors. Charles is retired from the military but continues to work part-time. He continued to fly until health issues grounded him. The one interesting item that no one knew about Charles is that he used to leave town every Wednesday morning with \$15,000,000.00. He would come back on Thursday with more or less. He worked for Brinks and he was never tempted to keep going with the money. The Harpers do not have any other vintage vehicles. But they would like a 56 Ford Victoria (worth the price) would make a nice winter companion for the Met. The reason they like the Met is it is small and Shirley says "they are so ugly, they are cute."



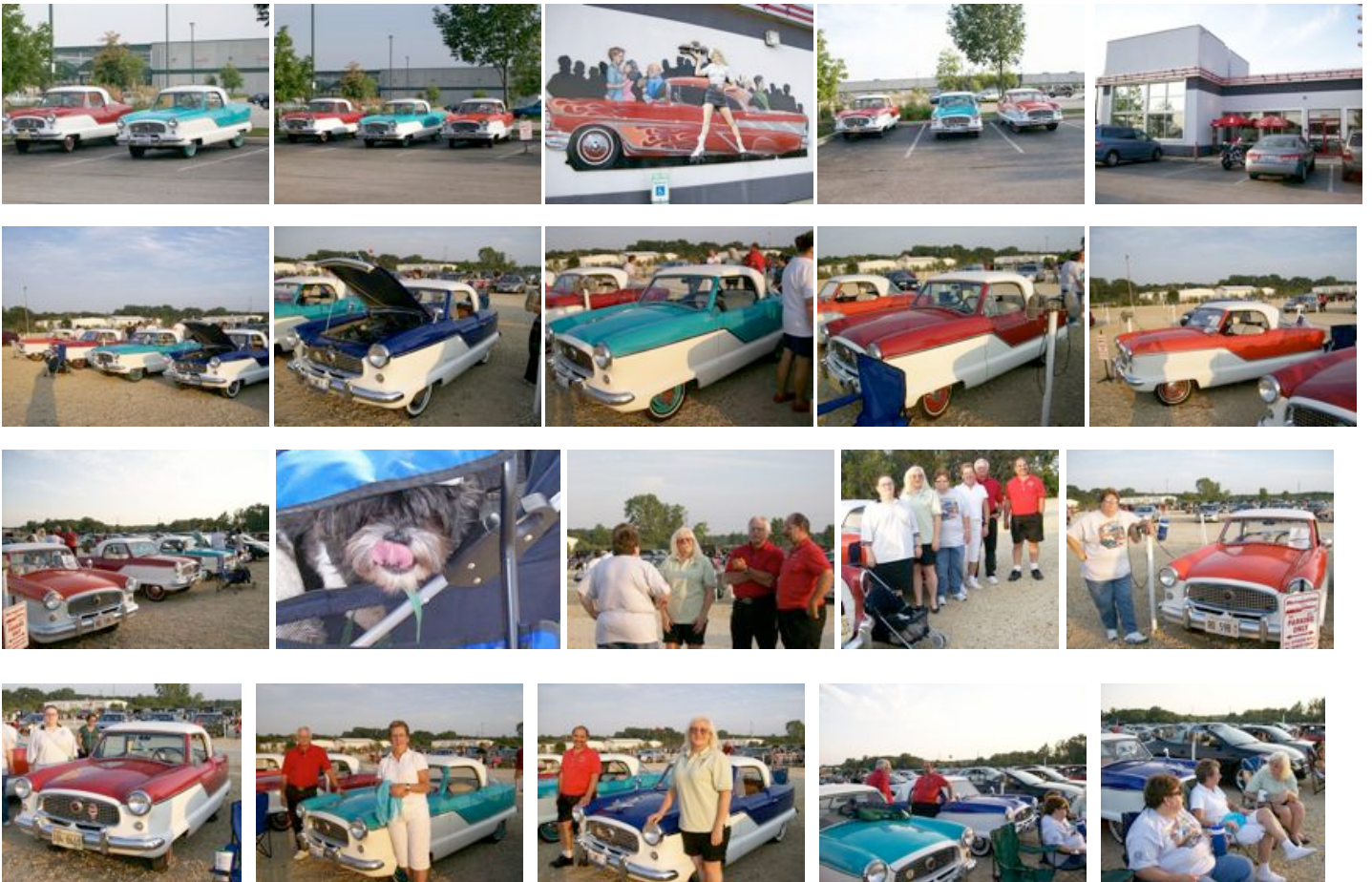
The Harper's Met

And although he is not in our club, below is Jimmy Buffet's Met



Outing to Cascade Drive-In on July 26, 2008

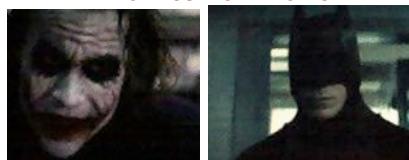
Dinner at Augustino's Rock & Roll Deli and then to see "The Dark Knight" at the Cascade Drive In, West Chicago
Gail and Bob Brandys, Marge and Bob Greenlee, Emily Darak and Nancy Mackey in attendance



All the members that came out for the Cascade Drive In outing had a good time. The weather was very nice and the first movie, "The Dark Knight", was decent. I did not stay for the second feature movie 'Journey to the Center of the Earth'. The Greenlees, Nancy Mackey and I all met at the Augustino's in West Chicago. I brought my friend Lourdes and, of course, Ming. The Brandys ended up at the Augustino's in Carol Stream. However, we all met up at the Cascade for a night out at the movies.

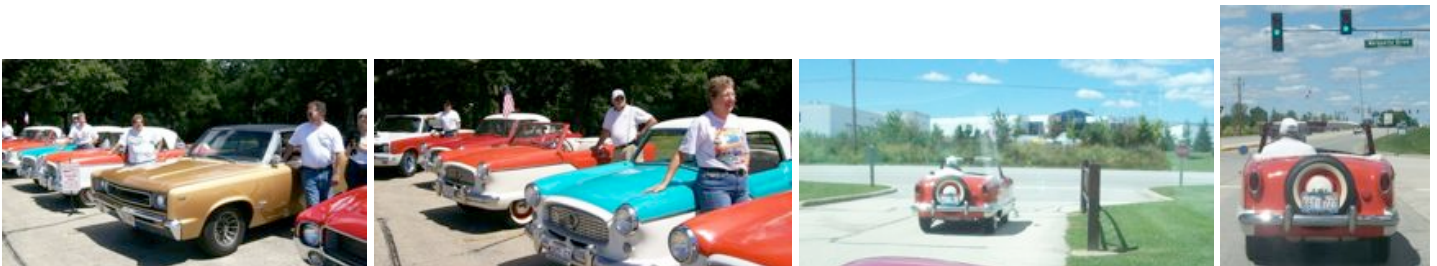
- Emily Darak

Two Pics from Movie



Windy City AMC Picnic in Romeoville, IL on Sunday, August 10, 2008

Four Illini Mets members (Bob & Marge Greenlee, Nancy Mackey and I) met up with the Windy City AMC club at their annual picnic. The weather was wonderful and the Windy City AMC club members were happy we joined them! The chicken was provided by their club and it was from White Fence Farm. Everyone brought a dish to pass around. There was a raffle of many goodies and Split the Pot. A good time was had by all.





Professional Nash Metropolitan Maintenance, Repair, Restoration & Customization by Illini Mets Member Businesses

Roscoe Restoration

Met Repair, Restoration, Parts

Gary Bosselman

(Past President, Illini Mets)
6812 E. Rockton Road
Roscoe, IL 61073
815-389-9500
815-389-9510 fax
gary@roscoe-restoration.com



The Vair Shop

Met Repair, Restoration, Parts

Larry Claypool

(Past Vice President, Illini Mets)
21403 S 80th Ave
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 469-2936

larry@vairshop.com



Mikes Met

Met Parts & Custom Accessories

Mike Potts

(Vice President, Illini Mets)
2N754 Alma Ave
Lombard, IL 60148
(630) 469-2936

POTTS2N754@wmconnect.com



2008 Calendar of Club Events

Sunday, September 7, 2008 **Sandwich Fair**

Sandwich, IL (815) 786-2159 or <http://www.sandwichfair.com/>

Sunday, September 21, 2008 **Greenlee's End of Summer Picnic** at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bob & Marge Greenlee, 819 E Bailey Road, Naperville, IL (630) 369-1348 or rgreenlee@wowway.com or margsmet@wowway.com. *Please RSVP to Marge by Sunday, September 14!*

Please bring a dish – Meat will be provided (rain date of September 28)

Sunday, September 28, 2008 **Windy City AMC Regional Meet** at 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sonny Acres Farm, 29w310 North Ave., West Chicago, IL (All AMC's will park together)

\$20 per car - trophies, music, entertainment, lots of shade trees

Saturday, October 4, 2008 **Fall Color Tour and Apple Run** at 10:00 am, SHARP

Meet at Gary Bosselman's Home, 6812 E Rockton Road, Roscoe, IL (815) 389-9500 or gary@roscoe-restoration.com

Sunday, November 9, 2008 **Membership Meeting** at 1:00 pm Please try to attend so we can discuss the Holiday Party!

Oakfield Family Restaurant, 27W229 Geneva Road, Winfield, IL (630) 690-3303

Holiday Party in January 2009 **TBD** - We are thinking about going to the Pheasant Run Theater in St. Charles or Drury Lane in Oak Brook for Dinner and a Play. If anyone has any other ideas for Holiday Party location, please call or email Marge Greenlee. All ideas will be considered!

Cool Cars Under the Stars, Elmhurst, IL
AMC/MOPAR night on July 23, 2008



Gail Brandys, Nancy Mackey, Emily Darak and, the unofficial Illini Mets mascot, Ming all attended AMC/MOPAR night in Elmhurst. We have also now dubbed ourselves "Charlie's Angels". I guess Ming would be 'Bosley'. We had a difficult time finding a place to eat since Ming tagged along. So we ended up eating pizza slices on a park bench in downtown Elmhurst. In the picture below, three Mets in two parking spaces. It was a beautiful night to be out cruising in one's antique car!



Emily's car, Gail's car and Nancy's car



2008 Dues Final Reminder

If your name on the address label is highlighted in yellow, you still owe dues for 2008. Please send \$10.00 to Marge Greenlee as soon as possible.



Gary Bosselman and "Harold" made an appearance the Chicago Tribune on Sunday, August 3, in an article on the Bloomington Gold Survivor Show. There are pictures of his car at this event in the front section of this newsletter. You should be able to read the article from this link http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-mxa0803survivorcarsaug03_0,6848267.story.



Gary and Rosey Bosselman of Roscoe, Ill., are only the fourth owners of a pristine 1960 Metropolitan. Yes, those tires and headlights are original on the car that has just 10,133 miles on it (Photo for the Tribune by Rob Olewinski / July 31, 2008)

Bits & Pieces

Illini Mets Officers & Contacts

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.illinimets.org

Webmaster

Mark Hardy

gnash@illinimets.org

If you would like to see a Preview of the Mets Around the Clock 2007 International Meet Slide Show Gail Brandys put together on You-Tube check out the following link!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TINh0Ogz1Is>

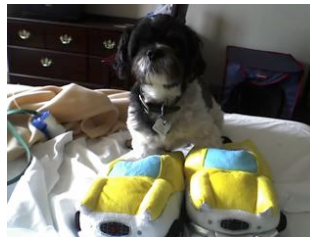
Gail also put up a web page to sell the slide show and the quirky Met magnets by Tiffany.

<http://www.branmuffinindustries.com/mets/Mets.html>

"Hope you enjoy it and share it with whomever you like!" – Gail Brandys



Also for sale from Rhonda Gelstein's creative mind are Vroomers. Vroomers are slippers that look like Mets. So you show your love of the Met by purchasing Vroomers and wear your Mets on your feet! Go check out her website www.vroomersonline.com.



Even Ming has Vroomers

If you have a story or an advertisement..

If you have a story or pictures, please email the story and/or pictures to me at

er_darak@sbcglobal.net. If you

do not have a computer, you can send me stories and/or pictures to my address listed in

the newsletter. There will also be ads taken for "Bits n' Pieces", the new ad section (items to sell or items needed). C'mon guys,

we need more ads so I do not keep running the same old ones!

If you need to get in touch with

me, my cell phone number is 773-206-9607 and home number is 773-622-0388.



ILLINI METS

Emily Darak

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Chicago, IL 60707



"Be it ever so humble..."

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