

July 8, 2009

Volume 29, Issue 12

# BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...

The Illini Mets, The Illinois Chapter of the Metropolitan Owners Club of North America



## Special Interest Articles:

- Resurrection of "Bug" part two
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illini Mets

## Contributing Writers:

Bob Greenlee  
Gary Bosselman  
Emily Darak  
Jerry Novak

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Half of the calendar year has come and gone already. This has been a cool and wet Spring, which has messed up some car shows and cruise nights. In April we had a tech session on the brakes on Marge's car. Gary Bosselman and the Brandy's were on hand. After changing out the master cylinder replacing all the brake fluid and adjusting the brakes, Marge's Met stops a lot better. Our vacation was pushed up this year because our daughter is starting a Summer program for collage in July. So we

missed out on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary party at the Novak's and the Highland Games car show in Oak Brook. We wish to thank Rae and Jerry Novak for hosting the Anniversary Party. I heard the 12 members and 6 Metropolitans were there. Our next event is the Illinois Railway outing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you there.

-Bob G.



Bob Greenlee, Pres.

For any questions, contact Bob and Marge for any questions at [rlgreenlee@wowway.com](mailto:rlgreenlee@wowway.com) (Bob Greenlee) or [margsmet@wowway.com](mailto:margsmet@wowway.com) (Marge Greenlee). Thanks!

### 2009 Dues Reminder

If your name on the address label is highlighted in yellow, you still owe dues for 2009. Please send \$10.00 to Marge Greenlee as soon as possible.





## RESURRECTION OF “BUG” CHAPTER TWO

Starting metal work on the Met does require some special tools and a welder. Photo on the right is some of those tools I used and what will make the job much easier.

Many of these tools can be purchased at Harbor Freight or Northern Hydraulic for \$20 to \$30 each. Starting on the top row, left to right, work my way down:

- High-speed angle grinder with 3M-roloc adapter for 2” disc’s. I used 24 and 36 grit. \$36 for a box of 25 disc’s, I used about 8-boxes on this car!
- Air powered sheet metal shears. Very useful for cutting long straight pieces and gradual curves.
- Air powered hacksaw, for cutting contours on and off the car.
- High speed cut off wheel with a 1/32” thick disc.
- Ball peen hammer. I used both a large and small.
- Body hammer, actually have several different styles and shapes.
- Tin snips, used a straight cut, LH and RH.
- Spot-weld chisel, for cutting panels off the car.
- Spot weld cutters (see second photo); will cut the spot welds off the car, enabling you to remove panels to repair off the car, under the panel.
- Air hammer with chisel end.
- Welder. You can get by with a “stick” welder or a oxygen/acetylene welder, but a MIG welder (wire feed) with .025 wire is what I used. This will allow you to butt

weld the panels on, grind the welds down and not even see a seam. Welding sheet metal is a delicate process; too much heat will cause the panels to warp, making the finish bodywork harder to do. Short welds, about 3/4” at a time, is good. Some of the discount big box stores (Lowes) offer the 120V MIG models for less than \$400. Great for the home user. I have the 220V model, as I have used it much more often.

- Clamps, vise grips, assorted.

I ordered extended rocker panels from Metropolitan Restoration Services. These rocker panels are about 10” longer than original, allowing them to be welded in the front and rear fenders. This will make a convertible much stiffer. I also ordered inner rocker panels, all four-fender patch panels and the rear fender metal welts. \$864 for what could be purchased pre-formed.

I went over to a local sheet metal shop and bought four sheets of #22 gauge, cut 2’ x 4’ long, for \$106. I ended up using two of those sheets on the car. They also allowed me to root through the scrap pile and get some pieces of #16 gauge and #11 gauge.

When I mounted the body on the rotisserie, I fastened the front end at the lower a-frame mounting holes. The rear mounting point was the rear spring holes. With the rusty rocker panels, fender panels, this allowed the center of the body to sag and not allow the door to open or close! I used a brace in the middle of the car to support the car during metal work, to maintain the door gap. I jacked the middle of the car

up until the door fit good, then a little farther until I had about another 1/8” gap at the top rear of the door. Then I removed the doors and hinges.

I started on the right side of the body. Hey, I’m right handed! First I cut the jack support, under the rocker panel off. I cut off the lower rear fender, to gain access to the rocker panel. Then I cut off the outer rocker panel with the spot weld cutter, high-speed cut-off wheel and air chisel. These are welded on really good at the factory! The lower half of the inner rocker panel was rusted away, so I measured about 3/4” down and cut it off. Then I cut away the rusted lower hinge pocket, exposing the rusty frame rail. As long as I was making a mess, I also cut away the rusty area of the upper hinge pocket. See above pictures. You can see the rust in the kick panels, as well as the inner firewall panel.

Patch panels for the frame rails are not available. These will have to be formed by hand.

Next time, I’ll show how we did that.

Gary Bosselman

Resurrection of "Bug" Pictures



This is the second installment in the continuing story "The Resurrection of 'Bug'" by Gary Bosselman







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

**Roscoe Restoration**

Met Repair, Restoration, Parts

**Gary Bosselman**

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**The 'Vair Shop**

Met Repair, Restoration, Parts

**Larry Claypool**

(Past Vice President, Illini Mets)

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(815) 469-2936

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**Mikes Met**

Met Parts & Custom Accessories

**Mike Potts**

(Vice President, Illini Mets)

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**EuroFest Auto Show 2009**

Oak Brook Promenade (located at the corner of Butterfield and Meyers Roads)

**August 22nd, Saturday**

Registration 11am with awards at 5pm

\$20 participation fee

50 awards, Dash Plaques, Goody Bags

[www.oakbrookpromenade.com/StoreDirectory.html](http://www.oakbrookpromenade.com/StoreDirectory.html)



## BITS & PIECES

### Car for Sale

1960 Red & White sedan, About 2500 miles since complete mechanical rebuild. 64K miles, Runs and drives good as expected, Older restored paint & interior with a few knicks, Looks good at 20 feet. New tires, Battery, Gas tank, Stainless Steel exhaust. Wheel cyl, Master cyl, Slave cyl, Rebuilt Engine, Trans, carb, fuel pump, front & rear end. Heater & Radio. Many extra parts. \$5,900. 573-346-1330 or Email [oldford@charter.net](mailto:oldford@charter.net) for photos. Central Missouri (specifically Lake of the Ozarks, in Camdenton, MO) Or you can have Emily forward the email with larger pictures.



Pop the clutch and set the clock to rock, 'cause The Crown Vics are taking the world of 1950's Rock 'N' Roll by storm. This six piece band tears up the dance floor with two wailin' saxes, slappin' bass, boomin' drums, rockin' guitar and crazy vocals. Whether performing sockhop boppers by Bill Haley or Little Richard, or early wild, rockin' Rhythm & Blues numbers that always shake a party, these cats know how to twist the key, rev it up and go, man, go! **The Crown Vics will be appearing at the Palos Heights Classic Car Show on 07/16/2009 at 5:45 pm.**

**2009 Calendar of Club Events**

Sunday, August 2, 2009 **Illinois Railway Museum Outing** at 8:00 am  
Illinois Railway Museum  
Union, IL (815) 923-4000 or (800) BIG-RAIL or <http://www.irm.org/>

Sunday, August 9, 2009 **Momence Gladiolus Festival** at 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Momence, IL (815) 472-6353 or <http://www.gladfest.com/>

Saturday, August 22, 2009 **EuroFest Auto Show 2009** in Oak Brook, IL from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Promenade (located at the corner of Butterfield and Meyers Roads) \$20 participation fee  
[www.oakbrookpromenade.com/StoreDirectory.html](http://www.oakbrookpromenade.com/StoreDirectory.html)

Sunday, August 23, 2009 19<sup>th</sup> **Annual Orphan Auto Picnic** at 10:00 am  
Grundy County Fairgrounds (new location) (877) COR-VAIR or <http://www.ccecorvair.com/OAP/> (no rain date)

Sunday, September 13, 2009 **Sandwich Fair**  
Sandwich, IL (815) 786-2159 or <http://www.sandwichfair.com/>

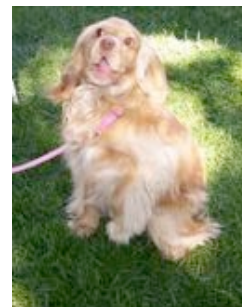
Sunday, September 20, 2009 **Greenlee's End of Summer Picnic** at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Bob & Marge Greenlee, 819 E Bailey Road, Naperville, IL (630) 369-1348 or [rgreenlee@wowway.com](mailto:rgreenlee@wowway.com)  
or [margsmet@wowway.com](mailto:margsmet@wowway.com)  
Please bring a dish – Meat will be provided

Sunday, October 4, 2009 **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](mailto:gary@roscoe-restoration.com)

Saturday, November 10, 2009 **Membership Meeting** at 1:00 pm  
Oakfield Family Restaurant, 27W229 Geneva Road, Winfield, IL (630) 690-3303

**Holiday Party** in January 2010 TBD

**Tech Session at the Schoenbecks**  
**held Sunday, May 31, 2009 presented by Gary Bosselman**





**Illini Mets Anniversary Party**  
June 10, 2009 was the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Illini Mets!

The event was held Saturday, June 13, 2009 at the Novaks lake house in Sandwich, Illinois. Attendees were Etta McDuffee #2, Alice & Bill Latham #33, Mark Hardy # 109, Gail & Bob Brandys #111, Claudia & John Teschky #152, Pam & Ernie Iannotta #182 and Rae & Jerry #194. Once the weather cleared about noon, we went for boat ride on Lake Holiday, had Margaritas, more than enough food, drink and desserts. A good time was had by all. —Jerry Novak



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& Contacts**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.illinimets.org](http://www.illinimets.org)

**Webmaster**

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**BITS & PIECES, CONTINUED...**

Dear Nash Friends,

Twenty years ago my lovely '57 Nash Metropolitan got away from me but I'm still on the hunt for another. Where should I start looking? I don't mind if it's not in mint condition either. I had to put some work into mine when I got her. I live on the south side of Chicago. Thanks so much.

Cheryl Lynn ([clynnbruce@mac.com](mailto:clynnbruce@mac.com))

**If anyone one knows of a Met for Sale, please contact Cheryl! Thanks**



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](http://www.vroomersonline.com).



Even Ming has Vroomers

**MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR ABOUT NEWSLETTER**

I have to do the paper version of the newsletter on a black and white copier for the time being. We are looking for a printer or place that will take on doing color copies for us at a reasonable price. However, at

this time we have not found one. You can view the newsletter in color if you check it out at the Illini Mets website ([www.illinimets.org](http://www.illinimets.org)). If you know anyone willing to help us out with color copies, give me a

call at 773-206-9607 or 773-622-0388.



**ILLINI METS**

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*"Be it ever so humble..."*

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