



ROAD *and* TACH



(it's only a year late)
2015 Issue 2
Feb, Mar, Apr, May

Presidential Mullings

Wow!! As you probably noticed on the cover, this issue of R&T is *really* overdue, as in big max late.

I take full responsibility for that, and could probably give you lots of excuses – but mostly I just didn't get it done. Yeah, I did have to move last year, although that wasn't until July/August – so not a valid excuse for this early-in-the-year issue being late!

So, I have finally decided that I better get this done - and the next one, and the next one, until I get caught up. If things go well, you may be getting a new issue every week for a while!

I will do them in order, that is, keep results and articles and such in order as if these had actually been done when they should have been. This one has FFN results for February through May, as well as Inaugural '15 and Eureka '15 (that will fill up the pages quickly!). And of course, there are some (of last year's) WRC results and the always popular recall log.

As these issues get done, I will also try to keep the other commentary time-appropriate (no stories about my big move until later). Just pretend you are reading these a year ago, in whatever month is on the cover.

The officers listed in the right-side column are the 2015 officers; the 2016 officers will get listed in the appropriate issue. As for the Rally Calendar, who knows what it will say?

See you down the road!

Jeanne English,
SMSCC President



COMMUNICATION WITH SMSCC

CAN BE DONE EITHER BY
SURFACE MAIL TO:

Santa Monica Sports Car Club
13969 Lemoli Ave
Hawthorne, CA 90250-8511

OR

BY EMAIL TO OUR OFFICERS:

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Rally Info Available Online

Check out the SMSCC and Cal Club websites for road rally results, rally calendar, flyers for upcoming rallies, and other rally-related information (including a link to the SCCA Minor Waiver required for minors to participate). The Cal Club website has a photo gallery where we post pictures of rally winners - so get ready to smile when you are accepting your trophy!

SMSCC's website is www.smscc.org.

Cal Club's website is www.calclub.com/roadrally.

Minor Waiver Reminder

For a minor to participate in our rallies, both parents must sign the SCCA Minor Waiver. Each parent's signature is only valid if the parent signs in the presence of the rally registrar, or the parent's signature is notarized. You can download the SCCA Minor Waiver from:

<http://www.scca.com/documents/insurance/SCCAminorwaiver.pdf>

Rally Calendar

<u>when</u>	<u>what</u>	<u>where</u>	<u>who</u>	<u>more info</u>
Mar 6	First Friday Niter	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	www.smscc.org
Mar 18	FFN checkout	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	310-372-7168
Mar 25	Dinner meeting	to be determined	SMSCC	310-372-7168
Apr 3	First Friday Niter	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	www.smscc.org
Apr 5	East			
Apr 15	FFN			310-372-7168
May 1	First			www.smscc.org
May 2	Eurek			www.smscc.org
May 9	Some			www.itnrally.org
May 10	Mother's Day	Mom's House	you & Mom	
May 13	FFN checkout	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	310-372-7168
May 27	Dinner meeting	to be determined	SMSCC	310-372-7168
Jun 5	First Friday Niter	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	www.smscc.org
Jun 14	Father's Day	Dad's House	you & Dad	
Jun 17	FFN checkout	BofA, Mission Hills	SMSCC	310-372-7168

past their expiration dates



Cal Club SCCA/Santa Monica Sports Car Club

First Friday Niter

February 6, 2015

Place	DRIVER/NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Total
CLASS A							
*1	Paul McGaffey/Ron Dunlop	Cobra	ITN	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.16
2	Greg Bartlett/Joe Mancewicz	Mazda	TCSCC	0.03	0.03	0.24	0.30
3	Revere Jones/Jared Leadbetter	Mini	PCA/TCSCC	0.02	0.31	0.12	0.45
CLASS C							
*1	Larry Boone/Jenny Boone	Toyota	Pumkin Rally Team	0.20	0.45	0.28	0.93
2C	Mike Klein/Kevin Ayers	Porsche	SMSCC/ITN/PCA	0.02	0.68	0.87	1.57
3	John Dillon/Synnova Wise	Audi	Widget Rally Team	0.51	0.80	0.36	1.67
4	Joe Batwinis/Patrick Strong	Mini	CarriageHouseModels	0.14	2.36	3.51	6.01
CLASS D							
*1D	Matt Woodruff/Marcos Pinares	Honda		0.02	0.07	0.15	0.24
2	Rob Goldstein/Dave Goldstein	Jeep		1.03	1.30	0.21	2.54
3	Andrew Schwartz/Alex Frailich	Toyota		0.45	4.39	2.69	7.53
4	Connor Crowley/Cody Crowley	Toyota	CalClub	5.00	4.20	0.12	9.32
* - Trophy C - best single leg in Class C (earns a Rally Buck) D - best single leg in Class D (earns a Rally Buck)							

Cal Club SCCA/Santa Monica Sports Car Club

First Friday Niter

March 6, 2015

Place	DRIVER/NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Total
CLASS A							
*1	Paul McGaffey/Ron Dunlop	Cobra	ITN	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.07
2	Revere Jones/Jared Leadbetter	Mini	PCA/TCSCC	0.03	0.07	0.02	0.12
3	Greg Bartlett/Joe Mancewicz	Dodge Dart	TCSCC/Mopar	0.01	0.01	0.30	0.32
CLASS B							
*1	Paul Zahorecz/Sam Weissen	Ford	SMSCC	0.08	0.00	0.11	0.19
CLASS C							
*1C	Mike Klein/Kevin Ayers	Porsche	SMSCC/ITN/PCA	0.15	0.40	0.01	0.56
CLASS D							
*1D	Matt Woodruff/Marcos Pinares	Honda		0.09	1.90	0.01	2.00
2	Gregory Saccoccio/Noelle Saccoccio	Volkswagen		2.39	0.92	1.28	4.59
3	Mark Miller/Kristen Taylor	Mazda		0.91	1.18	2.80	4.89
4	Andrew Schwartz/Alex Frailich	Ford		2.45	5.00	5.00	12.45
5	Zafer Ulkucu/Sarah Mitchell	Mazda		4.54	5.00	5.00	14.54
* - Trophy C - best single leg in Class C (earns a Rally Buck) D - best single leg in Class D (earns a Rally Buck)							

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the e-version of Road & Tach!

Starting with the previous issue of Road & Tach (yes, it was a year ago), we started sending you your issue of R&T via e-mail instead of snail mail. For some of you, this is nothing new. But for the rest of you – thanks for helping us save some trees and printing and postage costs! You will keep getting it until your e-mail bounces or you tell us to stop sending it. If you would prefer to continue getting the paper version, please let me know at ean21@juno.com.

Cal Club SCCA/Santa Monica Sports Car Club
First Friday Niter
April 3, 2015

Place	DRIVER/NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Leg 4	Total
CLASS A								
*1	Charlie Engen/Rob Tivy	Mini	SMSCC/SCCA	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.18
2	Joe Akerman/Nathan Harris	Subaru	ITN	0.20	0.51	0.01	0.00	0.72
3	Revere Jones/Jared Leadbetter	Mini	PCA/TCSCC	0.04	0.11	0.57	0.01	0.73
CLASS B								
*1	Ron Dunlop/Robert Dunlop	Ford		0.10	0.16	0.07	0.30	0.63
CLASS C								
*1	Larry Boone/Jenny Boone	Toyota	Pumkin Rally Team	0.42	0.15	0.46	0.31	1.34
2C	Joe Batwinis/Patrick Strong	Mini	CarriageHouseModels	2.13	0.63	0.06	0.31	3.13
CLASS D								
*1D	Sean Stern/Kim Stern	Mazda		1.16	0.07	1.94	0.60	3.77
2	Vern Clayton/Christie Van Pelt	Scion	SCCA	1.36	0.20	3.06	1.04	5.66
3	Andrew Schwartz/Jesse Wood	Toyota		1.18	1.90	0.69	1.93	5.70
4	David Frederick/Mike Young	Porsche		0.90	2.36	0.19	3.48	6.93
* - Trophy C - best single leg in Class C (earns a Rally Buck) D - best single leg in Class D (earns a Rally Buck)								

Cal Club SCCA/Santa Monica Sports Car Club
First Friday Niter
May 1, 2015

Place	DRIVER/NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Leg 4	Total
CLASS A								
*1	Revere Jones/Tom Gould	Subaru	PCA	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04
2	Joe Akerman/Nathan Harris	Subaru	ITN	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.09	0.16
3	J Toney/Jessica Toney	Porsche	PCA/SCCA	0.29	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.34
4	Paul McGaffey/Ron Dunlop	Cobra	ITN	0.01	0.60	0.09	1.71	2.41
CLASS C								
*1C	Bob Day/Sally Kinsey	Mazda	SCCA	0.37	0.92	0.98	0.16	2.43
CLASS D								
*1D	Andrew Schwartz/Eric Wolentarski	Ford		0.77	3.14	5.00	0.21	9.12
2	Madison McBride/Danielle Starr	Mazda		0.87	3.57	5.00	5.00	14.44
* - Trophy C - best single leg in Class C (earns a Rally Buck) D - best single leg in Class D (earns a Rally Buck)								

Tradition, Tradition

by Larry Scholnick

Every year 3 things occur: Good Friday, the first night of Passover, and the April First Friday Niter written by Yours Truly; this year all 3 occurred on the same evening, April 3rd, 2015.

The tradition has been that my most diabolical traps are sprung on suspecting contestants on the April FFN. Note that I didn't say UN-suspecting; contestants have come to expect an evening of evil traps, with layers of 2nd- and 3rd-level logic.

But this year I promised something different: Traps that would be EASY to UNDERSTAND.

The Odo Check went all the way out to Piru, a little town along Highway 126 in Ventura County. The first leg went 10 minutes up the dead-end canyon road to the (closed at night) entrance to the lake's recreational facilities, turned around, and headed down the same road back to Piru at a speed that matched the average of the individual speeds used on the way up. However, as soon as the last car left the town of Piru, the first checkpoint crew sprang into action to quickly set up the first checkpoint in a spot that did not have a checkpoint as cars went by on the way up to the lake.

SURPRISE! Checkpoint 1 was located *before* the Free Zone, in a spot you had observed to be checkpoint-free just 20 minutes earlier.

Leg 2 began with a Free Zone (part of the Leg 1 fake-out), followed by a spirited drive on Guiberson Road south of the Santa Clara River to Bardsdale, the farming community south of Fillmore. As you headed west along Pasadena Avenue into Bardsdale, the next instruction was a DIYC; however, you went over a slight rise and found a manned checkpoint lurking there.

Thus far you had seen several instances of the word AFTER, such as observing "CHIQUITO CYN" *after* "CHIQUITA CYN". Soon after leaving checkpoint 2 you were looking for: R on Ventura after

"Santa Paula St". However, you came to Ventura before you had seen "Santa Paula St". You had to confidently refuse Ventura, at which point you came to "Santa Paula St" on the left. You had to refuse it (because quoted signs must be on the right unless marked SOL-Sign on Left or SA-Sign Anywhere) and confidently drive over 4 miles before you found "Santa Paula St" on the right, followed by another instance of Ventura, where you could finally turn for the Route Instruction. Those who turned on Ventura without finding "Santa Paula St" were about 5 minutes early at the DIYC for leg 3.

Leg 4 headed west along South Mountain Road and introduced a new lettered instruction: Turn on Balcom (whenever possible). No sooner had that lettered instruction appeared but Balcom appeared on the left only, so you turned on Balcom. At the T at the bottom of the hill, Balcom went left only and another road went to the right, so you turned on Balcom. But on the way to the final checkpoint, as you were working on L at 1st OPP, Balcom appeared one more time; this time it was Old Balcom and it went to the right only; you should have turned on Balcom once again before reaching the final checkpoint.

This rally didn't promise that it would be trapless or even 'Larry-Light'; it only promised that every trap would be easy to understand, with no multi-level logic involved. It lived up to its billing. And the rally was won (in Expert class) with single-digit scores on every leg.



'Santa Monica Sports Car Club/Cal Club SCCA

Inaugural March 21, 2015

Place	DRIVER/NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1 Leg 6	Leg 2 Leg 7	Leg 3 Leg 8	Leg 4 Leg 9	Leg 5	Total
<i>Class A</i>									
*1	Robert Dunlop/Nathan Harris	Nissan		0.01	0.08	1.52	0.31	0.53	
				1.02	0.07	0.42	0.07		2.45
2	Jack Rabell/Dick Rafter	Porsche	SD PCA	0.06	0.71	1.32	0.01	0.03	
				1.63	1.13	0.02	0.07		2.13
<i>Class C</i>									
*1	Larry Boone/Jenny Boone	Toyota	Pumkin	0.07	0.12	0.28	0.58	0.02	
				0.03	0.67	0.29	0.62		1.07
*2	Jessica Toney/J Toney	Nissan	SCCA/PCA	0.03	0.14	1.24	0.03	0.01	
				1.57	1.04	0.11	0.04		1.45
3	John Hannon Sr/John Hannon Jr	Nissan		0.07	0.59	0.02	0.68	0.63	
				0.17	0.40	1.69	0.00		1.99
4	Andrew Provost/Kim Provost	Nissan	SD Minis	0.09	1.57	1.32	3.00	0.05	
				3.00	0.77	0.99	0.05		6.03
5	Kyle Weichman/Scott Kimbrell	Ford	SCCA	0.06	3.00	0.02	3.00	1.64	
				0.48	1.10	2.24	1.49		7.72
6	Richard Wetzel/Delores McKinnon	Porsche	SCCA/PCA	0.14	2.26	1.66	0.12	0.05	
				3.00	0.90	2.66	3.00		4.23

* - Trophy

Thank you for running Inaugural! We hope you enjoyed it.

PCA San Gabriel Valley Region/Santa Monica Sports Car Club

EUREKA May 1, 2015

Place	DRIVER NAVIGATOR	CAR	CLUB	Leg 1 Leg 5	Leg 2 Leg 6	Leg 3 Leg 7	Leg 4 Leg 8	Total
<i>Class A</i>								
*1	Jack Rabell	Porsche	PCA-SD	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.16	
	Dick Rafter			0.76	0.05	1.10	0.08	2.29
2	Charles Engen	Mini Cooper S	SMSCC	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.02	
	Sam Weissen			0.59	0.13	1.05	1.23	3.14
3	Richard Wetzel	Porsche	PCA-SVR	0.34	0.04	0.04	1.77	
	Jessica Toney		PCA-GGR	5.00	3.68	5.00	2.55	18.42
<i>Class C</i>								
*1	Larry Boone	Toyota Sienna	Pumkin Rally Te:	0.04	0.28	0.93	0.44	
	Jenny Boone			5.00	2.45	1.24	0.38	10.76
2	Robert Day	Mazda		5.00	5.00	1.14	1.25	
	Sally Kinsey			0.19	0.00	1.48	0.09	14.15
3	Jeff Kropf	Porsche	PCA-SGV	0.58	0.38	2.82	0.47	
	Paul Friedman		PCA-OC	5.00	5.00	0.76	2.67	17.68
<i>Class E</i>								
*1	Constantine Marantidis	Porsche	PCA-SGV	1.16	0.10	1.74	0.19	
	Nicholas Marantidis			5.00	0.60	0.80	2.55	12.14
2	David Heenan	Porsche	PCA-LA	0.56	4.10	2.23	0.20	
	Jonathan Heenan			5.00	3.79	0.18	3.18	19.24
3	Zafer Ulkucu	Mazda		5.00	5.00	5.00	0.79	
	Evan Weszaros			5.00	3.60	0.18	4.11	28.68
<i>Class D (Touring)</i>								
*1	Joe Akerman	Subaru	ITN	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.05	
	Nathan Harris			1.20	0.04	0.06	0.02	1.43
*1	Paul McGaffey	Cobra	ITN	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.00	
	Ron Dunlop			1.16	0.06	0.07	0.02	1.43

* - Trophy Classes A and C: the true time for Leg 5 has been corrected (by 0.24), and scores adjusted

Thank you for running Eureka! We hope you enjoyed it.

RALLY SWEDEN
February 13-15, 2015

1. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia	
VW Polo R	2:55:30.5
2. Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul	
Hyundai i20	2:55:36.9
3. Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Floene	
VW Polo R	2:56:10.3
4. Ott Tanak/Raigo Molder	
Ford Fiesta RS	2:57:56.5
5. Hayden Paddon/John Kennard	
Hyundai i20	2:59:02.0
6. Elfyn Evans/Daniel Barrit	
Ford Fiesta RS	2:59:23.5
7. Kris Meeke/Paul Nagle	
Citroen DS3	2:59:36.3
8. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek	
Ford Fiesta RS	2:59:56.5
9. Yuriy Protasov/Pavlo Cherepin	
Ford Fiesta RS	3:01:02.7
10. Mads Ostberg/Jonas Andersson	
Citroen DS3	3:02:21.4

RALLY GUANAJUATO MEXICO
March 6-8, 2015

1. Sebastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia	
VW Polo	4:19:13.4
2. Mads Ostberg/Jonas Andersson	
Citroen DS3	4:20:32.2
3. Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Floene	
VW Polo	4:20:38.5
4. Elfyn Evans/Daniel Barritt	
Ford Fiesta RS	4:22:53.6
5. Dani Sordo/Marc Marti	
Hyundai i20	4:24:15.2
6. Martin Prokop/Jan Tomanek	
Ford Fiesta RS	4:25:49.5
7. Nasser Al-Attiyah/M. Baumel	
Ford Fiesta RS	4:34:56.7

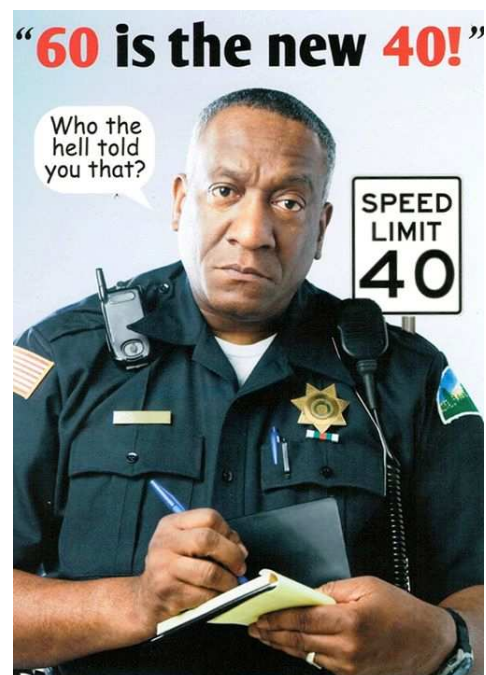
8. Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul	
Hyundai i20	4:41:56.7
9. Nicholas Fuchs/F. Musano	
Ford Fiesta RS	4:42:02.4
10. Jari Ketomaa/K. Lindstrom	
Ford Fiesta RS	4:42:23.6

DRIVER'S CHAMPIONSHIP

	Mexico	Total
1. Sebastien Ogier	28	81
2. Andreas Mikkelsen	17	47
3. Thierry Neuville	6	35
4. Mads Ostberg	18	32
5. Elfyn Evans	12	26

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

	Mexico	Total
1. VW Motorsports	31	99
2. Hyundai Shell	20	75
3. M-Sport	16	48
4. Citroen Total	22	42
5. Jipocar Czech National	10	20
6. VW Motorsports II	---	15
7. Hyundai Motorsports	2	3
8. F.W.R.T.	0	1



RECALL LOG

Chrysler: 2002-03 Jeep Liberty; 2002-04 Cherokee; 2003-04 Viper. Heavy electrical noise can cause air bag to deploy. 753,176 units. Chrysler recall # R06.

Honda: 2003-04 Odyssey; 2003 Acura MDX. See above. 374,177 units. NHTSA recall # 15V045.

Toyota: 2003-04 Corolla Matrix, Avalon, Pontiac Vibe. As above. 1,006,849 units. NHTSA recall # 15V043.

Nissan: 2013-14 Pathfinder; 2013 Infiniti JX35; 2014 QX60, QX60 hybrid. Hood latch installed wrong. 170,665 units. NHTSA recall # 15V033.

Nissan: 2008-13 Rogue; 2014 Rogue Select. Can have electrical short because of snow/water or salt seeping through driver's floor mat. 468,815 units. NHTSA recall # 15V032.

VW: 2014-15 Jetta, Passat, Beetle, Beetle Convertible; 2015 Golf, GTi. Fuel rail can leak gas into engine bay. 44,658 units. VW recall # 24BL.

Polaris: 2015 Slingshot M/C, Slingshot SL. Upper pinion bearing in steering rack can fail. 1896 units. Polaris recall # SL1-15-02.

Polaris: 2015 Slingshot, Slingshot SL. Roll hoop may not meet specifications. 1577 units. Polaris recall # SL1-15-01.

VW: 2011-12 Audi S4, S5, Q7; 2012 Audi A6, VW Tuareg Hybrid; 2012-13 Audi A7. Fuel injection system can leak. 26,1008 units. VW recall # 24AP/24BK.

Porsche: 2011-12 Cayenne S Hybrid, Panamera S Hybrid. Fuel injection system can leak. 1368 units. NHTSA recall # 15V016.

Land Rover: 2013-14 L R Range Rover; 2014 L R Range Rover Sport. Brake vacuum hose routed badly allowing a hole to be worn. 24,679 units. Land Rover recall # P052.

Chrysler: 2014-15 Jeep Cherokee. Side curtain and seat airbag can deploy unexpectedly. 167,749 units. Chrysler recall # R05.

Land Rover: 2006-12 L R Range Rover. Front brake hoses may rupture. 74,648 units. L R recall # P054.

Jaguar: 2012-15 XK. Front side lamps can turn off after c. 5 minutes. 4787 units. Jaguar recall # J049.

GM: 2006-07 Chevy Malibu, Malibu Maxx, Pontiac G6. May have loss of electric power steering. 69,633 units. GM recall # 14772.

Nissan: 2008 Infiniti EX35; 2009 Infiniti FX35, FX45, Nissan GT-R, all equipped with optional power tilt/telescope steering. Outer tube of steering

column not round causing strain on bearings. 16,973 units. NHTSA recall # 15V054.

Toyota: 2011-12 Avalon. Bad wiring in stereo can cause overheating. 51,495 units. NHTSA recall # 15V047.

Ford: 2010-13 Taurus; 2011-13 Lincoln MKS. Interior door handle may not seat properly increasing chance of door opening in a crash. 194,889 units. Ford recall # 15S02.

Toyo Tire: Open Country M/T 40X15.R22 127Q. Tires were made with belts off center. Can lead to pressure leak or tread separation. 15T003.

Land Rover: 2013-15 L R Range Rover; 2014-15 Range Rover Sport. Light weight adult in front passenger can fool seat belt system to thinking it's a child and not deploy. 61,793 units. Land Rover recall # Po59.

M-B: 2013-15 (many models). Rubber seal at back of engine can stick to hood when opened and fall on engine with potential for fire. 147,224 units. M-B recall # 2015020001.

Piaggio: 2008-11 Vespa (many models). Bad fuel pump can make scooter stall. 2613 units. NHTSA recall # 15V066.

Tireco: Milestar 225/70R 19.5. Cracks in lower sidewall. NHTSA recall # 15T004.

GM: 2013-15 Cadillac ATS. Sliding roof panels can be inadvertently closed. 58,698 units. GM recall # 15119.

Hyundai: 2008-10 Elantra; 2009-10 Elantra Touring. Electric power steering can get false readings and disable unit. 204,768 units. Hyundai recall # 127.

Bombardier: 2013 Can-Am Spyder RT. Idle or slow speed riding can create very high temperatures causing skin burns or engine fire. 5165 units. NHTSA recall # 15V095.

Chrysler: 2015 Chrysler 200 with 9 speed auto transmission. Parking pawl or PARK rod may not go into PARK. 25,734 units. Chrysler recall # R08.

Kia: 2016 Sorento. Bad solder in accelerator assembly can keep driver from increasing speed. 12,361 units. Kia recall # SC115.

GM: 2014 Chevrolet Impala. Electronic parking brake may not fully retract. 1177 units. GM recall # 15100.

Alliance Tire: 445/65 R22.5; 600/50 R22.5. Tread may separate. Alliance recall # ATG-396HS-001.

Nissan: 2013-15 Altima. Secondary hood latch may not close. 625,000 units. NHTSA recall # 15V116.

Chrysler: 2012-13 Jeep Grand Cherokee with 3.6, 5.7 or 6.4 liter engine; 2012-13 Dodge Durango with

3.6, 5.7 liter engine. Fuel pump relay can fail. 338,216 units. Chrysler recall # R09.

Hyundai: 2015 Genesis. Water can leak into rear combination lamp assembly and cause incorrect gear display on dash (?). 24,400 units. Hyundai recall # 128.

Kia: 2014-15 Soul, Soul Electric. A portion of accelerator pedal can bend and break. 208,858 units. Kia recall # SC116.

Chrysler: 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT, Charger SRT with 6.2 L supercharged engine. O ring and fuel rail damage. 1673 units. Chrysler recall # R07.

GM: 2015 Chevy Cruze. Right or left parking brake bracket not attached properly. 1733 units. GM recall # 15135.

Honda: 2001 Accord; 2004 Civic; 2008 Pilot. Driver's side front air bag can rupture when deployed. 104,871 units. NHTSA recall # 15V153.

GM: 2015 Buick Encore, Chevrolet Trax. Electric power steering circuitry can wear out too soon. 2295 units. GM recall # 15168.

GM: 2011-13 Chevy Volt. If driver leaves vehicle without turning off electrical system gas engine can start on its own to recharge battery. 50,236 units. GM recall # 14617.

Toyota: 2014-15 Rav4; 2015 Camry, Camry Hybrid, Highlander, Highlander Hybrid. Electric power steering control may have been damaged in building. 110,085. NHTSA recall # 15V144.

Toyota: 2012-14 Rav4 EV. Software problem can cause drive unit to shift to neutral. 2497 units. NHTSA recall # 15V143.

BMW M/C: 2005-11 many models. Rear wheel mounting flange can crack if mounting bolts are over tightened. 43,426 units. NHTSA recall # 15V141.

M-B: 2015 C300 4Matic, C400 4Matic. Fuel delivery module may not be secured to fuel tank. Also, wires that connect fuel delivery module may have been pinched. 3039 units. M-B recall # 2015030004.

M-B: 2015 CLS400, CLS400 4Matic; 2012-15 CLS550, CLS550 4Matic; 2012-14 CLS63; 2014-15 CLS63P. LED tail lights may not light on sides. 30,141 units. M-B recall # 2015030005.

Ducati: 2010-14 Multistrada 1200. Throttle cable may stick open. 5962 units. Ducati recall # RCL-15-001.

BMW: 2015 4 series convertibles. Driver's front air bag deployment timing can be incorrect. 2067 units. NHTSA recall # 15V148.



VIN-swapped Mini Cooper awaits crushing.

Score this Department of Homeland Security 1, previous-generation Mini Cooper 0

Importation rules regarding vehicles are very specific: Only those over 25 years in age may be brought into the United States without compliance to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). Bringing in vehicles less than 25 years old gets exponentially more complicated, which is why some importers bend the rules by swapping an earlier VIN on a later model automobile. Such was the case with this previous generation Mini Cooper, crushed in a New Jersey wrecking yard last week at the direction of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As *NJ.com* reports, the Mini's destruction was carried out as part of "Operation Atlantic," a joint effort between the United States and the United Kingdom designed to rid the country of dangerous, illegal Minis and Land Rover Defenders built after 1988. The car seen in the video was likely built in the late 1990s, possibly as late as 2000 (making it one of the last "original" Minis), but was illegally labeled with a VIN pulled from a 1988 model to circumvent the 25-year rule.

A government spokesperson exonerated the car's buyer from blame, but clarified that the person would not be compensated by the government for their loss. Original Minis and Land Rover Defenders (the subjects of Operation Atlantic) command premium prices in the United States, making them a popular target for shops in the U.K. (and elsewhere) to modify with an older VIN, hoping that officials on either side of the Atlantic won't notice the difference.

In the case of this Mini, several clues pointed to a VIN swap, with the most obvious being a right-hand-drive VIN on the left-hand-drive car. Its engine didn't match the labeled 1988 build date, and the Mini carried an airbag warning light on the dash, something a 1988 model would not have had.

The instruction given the equipment operator was clear: No part of the car can be salvaged for any reason, meaning that nothing short of total destruction was permissible (though the same could have been accomplished, with far less ceremony, using a crusher). Wasteful or not, the DHS has a zero tolerance rule for illegal imports, and the video, though difficult to watch, makes this point perfectly clear.

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