



# Bloody Marvelous!

## Kim Perkins likes to do his open motoring with a bit of classic style

by Neil G. Chirico

**M**aybe you won't recognize the name, but Kim Perkins has had a MINI featured in MC2 before. This time though, it's his Mini that we'll be checking out. Back in our May/June 2008 issue, Kim's MINI, "Alice," was the cover car and featured after his trip to AMVIV 2008, where he met our Editor-in-Chief.

Flash forward to Mini Meet West (MMW) 2008 where our Editor-at-Large, Neil Chirico, meets Kim and his other car, a late model Rover/Mini Cabriolet (titled as a 1974) named Bloody and appropriately painted Night Fire Red. Kim did 90 percent of the work you see and it took him only four months to complete the build-up.

Purchased from the previous owner in the great state of Louisiana in March of 2008 for \$17,000, Kim

estimated that he'd invested another \$3,600 by June, 2008, where it showed at Mini Meet West and won Best in Class. His Mini remains fairly stock with some

tasteful upgrades, such as removing the SPI in favor of SU carburetion and the replacement of the stock distributor with a 123 Distribution A-Plus no vacuum advance unit, all part of a kit offering better reliability and emissions.

Other changes to the engine compartment were visual enhancements like a finned aluminum alloy rocker cover,

chromed alternator as well as a various other chromed or stainless steel under-hood enhancements. Royal Plating of Tucson, Arizona, handled the plating chores while Auto Tops and Interiors, also of Tucson, provided much of the red-French-seamed leather items such as the



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