



The British Connection

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June 2013

President's Message

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Happy Memorial Day

As the summer heat sets in my thoughts this weekend turned to our American Veterans and the sacrifices made for our freedom.

May brought a lot of heat and rain but we still got in many hours with our MGA. Actually since changing the tires from nylon to radial the car is getting more of a work out than it has seen in a long time. There is something to be said about some up-grades.

What has been going on in your garage? Let me hear from you. I do know Roy Sleeper is considering replacing the wood floors of his MGA 1500. Roy says it's because they weren't replaced when the car was rebuilt a few years ago and he just wants to improve on the car. Good for you Roy. Barbara Walters brake problems were solved with a couple of new slave cylinders. Now that summer is here and she has left for the mountains guess who MUST drive her MG-TD this summer to keep an eye on those brakes... Yes! ME! Thanks Barbara. I promise not to put TOO many miles on her.

Call or email and tell me what's going on in your garage and don't forget our Editor could use your articles too.

It is surprising how much we don't know about our members. I ran across a little

something on the World Wide Web about Roger Sieling that will be of interest to all British car enthusiasts. Take a look at www.sebringsprite.com/falconsprite.html and enjoy.

May event was "Viva Volusia 500 Years of Local History" held at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach. If you were there, you know how informative and entertaining club member Professor of History Joe Vetter and special guests Ron and Alice Howell were. Joe, Ron and Alice are seasoned re-enactors with Ron & Alice being authors of 7 books about Volusia County. If you haven't caught one of Joe Vetter's reenactments I highly recommend that you do for a good time.

June event is one of my favorites. Skydive DeLand has been getting a lot of attention lately with a 98 year old man skydiving to raise money to feed the needy at the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia last Saturday. We may not see 98 year old Don Sugg skydive but I'm sure there will be plenty of skydivers as they jump every 20 minutes. Most divers are aiming for a small white circle drawn on the ground that is located about 50 yards from the spectator platform with tables and benches. Afterwards a short ride to Chili's where we have ample parking and good food.

I hope to see ya Saturday the 15th.

MGAstev

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My First British Car



It Was White

It was July in Florida. The year was 1970, and it was one of those mid-summer days where the heat clung to everything. My parents and I were in St. Petersburg, returning to Ormond Beach after the obligatory 4th of July weeklong visit with my grandparents in their senior citizen trailer park. (Shuffleboard, anyone?) I had been back from Vietnam about a month, and the problems of adjusting to civilian life were already weighing heavily on my mind. No car. No money. No apartment. And worst of all, no girlfriend. Enrolled at Daytona Beach Junior College for their September classes, I had consigned myself to riding my 10-speed bicycle to DBJC, using the GI Bill for my education expenses, and living at home with my parents. Three out of 4 problems solved anyway...

My parents felt my pain, but wise in their years, they knew Time would eventually solve many problems for me.

And that's just what happened!

As we drove through the pattering traffic of St. Pete, Dad and I both saw the car at the same time. We looked at each other, and without a word between us, Dad turned around and drove us back to the car dealer's lot. There it sat. It was white, small, convertible, Wire wheels, Radial tires, AM-FM radio, Leather seats, and Overdrive. Only one previous owner. We learned it was a 1968 British sports car called an MGB, and it sported a price tag of \$2,195. Since age 16, I had been driving my mom's 1965 VW Beetle, so it was no problem for Dad and I to jump in the MGB for an easy test drive through the gears. The car drove well. Soon, my wheeler dealer father had the sweating salesman down to \$1,875, and we were soon out the door. Dad had opened his check book and purchased the car for me as a gift. Wow. Thanks Dad!

Mom rode with me on the trip back to Ormond, and Dad followed in the family car, checking out the way the MGB drove. No smoke from the exhaust = good. All the lights worked = good. And it drove straight = good. The next morning, I found an Owner's Manual tucked under a seat, and I proceeded to go through the book cover to cover.

The more I learned about this little car, the more I liked it. It was peppy, the top didn't leak too much, and all the OE parts performed well. With the newly-discovered overdrive, I was able to attend college and use teaspoonful's of gasoline. I slowly acquired tools and mechanical skills needed to keep the car on the road, and I learned the meanings of DIY and DPO. I kept that car until I graduated from UF five years later. During those five years, It had taken me to Ft. Lauderdale and Miami several times, a camping trip through the mountains of North Carolina, a drive to Pensacola, another to Gulfport, Mississippi to see some Seabee friends, plus scores of trips between Gainesville and Ormond Beach. I met and made many friends with that car, some of whom I still have today. Many memories, albeit some good / some not so good, are still treasured due to that car.

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Someone was watching over us the day we saw that car, because we were lead to a car that had been well cared for by the previous owner. And, in turn, the car took good care of me. As I reflect back on the impulsive purchase we made, and the long drive back to Ormond Beach from St. Petersburg that July of 1970, I shudder to think of what could have been a very bad example of purchasing a used car. But my overall experiences with that first car were positive, and thus the groundwork was laid for future little British cars in my life.

So, my next car was a 1974½ Datsun 260Z.... And it was green.

Craig

Join us at 10:00am on June 15th at Skydive DeLand for an exciting morning of sky diver watching followed b y lunch at Chili's Grill & Bar

2013 ABCC Upcoming Activities

JULY 13 th	Canal St. Cruise-in, New Smyrna Beach, FL
AUGUST 17 th	Main St Cruise-in, DeLand, FL
SEPTEMBER 14 th	Canal St. Cruise-in, New Smyrna Beach, FL
OCTOBER 26 th	Ormond Beach Ghost Tour, Ormond Beach, FL

For Sale

1960 MGA 1600 Roadster for sale. This car is clean and straight. It has been garaged for many years. No known rust. It is an older restoration. Paul Linney re-stored the car--it's the one in his book, "Making My Marque" on page 80-81. I am asking \$10,300. Contact Scotty Stewart at 919-696-4990 or email: scotty.3.27.34@gmail.com

I have a set of new MGB shocks. These are brand new, never been on a car Armstrong shocks, front & rear. They are left from when I had my B and worked at Collier Jag. Just found them while going thru the garage and don't need them. I would like \$500 for the full set. Contact John Bellmore at owlseye@bellsouth.net

1965 Jaguar 3.8 S-Type. 3.8L engine, 3 speed automatic, power steering ,power brakes, IRS, blue interior , wood veneer is good but needs refinishing, 120K miles. Asking \$4,495 contact Steve at 386-479-6263, located in DeLand, FL.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 6-9, 2013 Finger Lakes Wine Country Classic. Watkins Glen, NY. - www.svra.com/

JUNE 8, 2013 Touch of England. Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. - www.njtriumphs.org

JUNE 9, 2013 20th Annual British Motorcar Gathering. Hellertown, PA – www.keystonemg.com.

JUNE 10-12, 2013 British V8 Meet. Omaha, Nebraska – www.britishv8.org/British-V8-Meetings.htm

JUNE 10-14, 2013 NAMGAR GT-38. Ashville, NC - <http://www.gt38-namgar.org/>

JUNE 15, 2013 Club Event: Sky Dive DeLand, DeLand Airport.

JUNE 17, 2013 3rd Annual Hot Rods on the Hill. Hollyland Park, Holly Hill, FL - www.hotrodsonthehill.com

JUNE 27-30, 2013 Mid-Ohio Vintage Grand Prix (SVRA). Lexington, OH - www.svra.com/

JULY 11-14, 2013 Goodwood Festival of Speed. , Chichester, England – www.goodwood.co.uk/

JULY 11-14, 2013 “Vintage Lightning Strikes Thunderbolt”. Millville, NJ - www.svra.com

JULY 13, 2013 Brits on the Delaware. Kintnersville, PA – <http://www.tvrccna.org/>

JULY 14, 2013 The British Invade Gettysburg Car & Motorcycle Show. Gettysburg, PA – www.lancomgclub.com

JULY 20, 2013 London to Brighton Rally. Indiana - www.ibcu.org

JULY 15-20, 2013 Pittsburg Vintage Grand Prix. Pittsburg, PA – www.pvgp.org

JULY 20, 2013 British Car Day. Pittsburg, PA – <http://wptriumph.org/index2.html>

JULY 10-13, 2013 MGC Event of Brutal Aggressives MK XXXIII. Indianapolis IN – www.mgcars.org.uk/amgcr/

JULY 27, 2013 British Cars of New Hampshire 15th Annual Show of Dreams. Wolfeboro, NH - www.bcnh.org

JULY 27, 2013 17th Annual Caladium Festival Car Show. Lake Placid, FL – <http://www.lpfla.com/caladium.htm>

AUGUST 1-3, 2013 The Roadster Factory Summer Party. Armagh, PA – <http://www.the-roadster-factory.com/>

OCTOBER 2-6, 2013 “Triumphest 2013” VTR National Meet. San Rafael, CA - www.triumphtravelers.org



OUR MISSION

To encourage the preservation and enjoyment of all of British cars

We're on the Web

www.volusiabritishcars.com

**ALL BRITISH CAR CLUB OF
VOLUSIA COUNTY**

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