



The British Connection

Message from the ABCC Club President



Gary and Sylvia Thomas pose with their 1966 Austin Healey BJ8 MkIII 3000, at the February British Motor Trade Association Conference.

Good-bye April, Hello May. The hint of summer heat has become evident to us, and we all are probably frantically finishing our car projects before the driveway gets too hot to lie on. What are you working on these days?

Rumor has it that Bruce M. Worth will soon have his 1967 Austin Healey back in Florida sometime this month. He is full of energy about it, and I expect the wrenches will be spinning night and day as he assembles his little British car. Member John Lister popped across the pond recently, and joined us at the Golden Oldies with his 1974 ½ MGB. He reports that it cranked right up, despite a 5-month sleep in his garage. John learned that dropping the MGB hood can be a challenging experience, and vows to become a master hood folder in the future. Frank StAngelo thinks he has solved his distributor cap hold down clip problem. He says he traded distributor caps, and now the cap stays on the distributor. Frank got stranded the other night because of this issue. Roy Sleeper has installed an electric fan on his 1958

MAGNIFICANT MAY MATTERS

Lunch Bunch on the River

May's Lunch Bunch will meet at the Grille at Riverview Restaurant. Meet us Wednesday, May 4 at 101 Flagler Avenue, New Smyrna Beach for good food, good company, and a good view.

Last Chance Picnic

Say what? Whaddaya mean by "Last Chance"? This is our last chance to enjoy cool(?) weather in May before the heat sets in, the Love Bugs reproduce publicly, and everyone scatters for the summer to avoid another Hurricane Season. How about a picnic to take your mind off incoming events? Give your little British car some exercise. We will picnic at noon, at Washington Oaks State Park, Saturday, May 21, 2011. Their address is 6400 North Oceanshore Boulevard, Palm Coast. It is on A1A in Flagler County, towards the north end of the county (Marineland is visible to the north). There is a picnic area with open air, but roofed, tables with a view of the nearby Intracoastal Waterway. Here's their web address: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/washingtonoaks/default.cfm>



CLUB OFFICERS -
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Vice President - - Gordon Hart
Secretary - - Connie Hart
Treasurer - Steve Bradley
Editor - Gene Schoonmaker

**(Continued “ Message from the President)**

MGA and is pleased with the difference it made in his engine temperature. Jim McCarthy is dealing with another version of temperatures, as he is visiting a popular Middle Eastern country for some extra work. Ken DeLeeuw recently won a Best In Class plate for his 1976 MGB V-6 at the Wheels Across The Pond British Car Show in Jupiter. Congratulations! I am still struggling to snuff out that pesky Lucas gremlin that has been affecting my MGC charging system. The most current diagnosis is a leaking diode in the alternator. I also have discovered that the speedometer in Ruby’s MGCGT has frozen, and the angle drive on the transmission is toast as well. Ron Watz sent me a document about repairing Smiths speedometers, and I was able to repair mine...I think. Thanks, Ron.

I recently saw Eric Salvioli’s latest requisition. He has added a 1967 Jaguar 420G to his stable. It has the 4.2 liter XKE engine with triple SU carbs, twin cam, and NO EMISSION CONTROLS. Eric says the emission controls started with the 1968 models. The car starts and runs like you would expect a Jaguar of that era to run: smooth and quiet, with a hint of throaty exhaust. The inside has a lot of beautiful walnut woodwork, and it comes with A/C, power steering, power brakes, power windows, and power antenna. Twin fuel tanks on both sides of the inside trunk compartment round out the features I saw. And I am told that Donna Vetter has her eye on the car as well. Eric showed me the production stats, and only 1,125 of the LH version were manufactured during the entire production run. This car is definitely one for cruising, but watch those miles per gallon fall off with this hungry baby.

Speaking of gas, here’s a story that may amuse you: Attempting to stay ahead of the next gas price increase, we filled up the tank, then went shopping. Thirty minutes later, we drove past the same gas station, and the price had actually DROPPED two cents. If any of you are wondering how we do when we play the lottery, that story should answer your question.

Speaking of bad luck, our Vic Hall cut short his voyage to Arizona. Apparently two vehicles cannot

occupy the same space at the same time, and Vic got bonked. He was not injured, but chose to return to Florida to get repairs done to his Honda Ridgeline. As of this writing, I don’t know what his plans are for the Arizona holiday. We are glad he is OK.

Treasurer Steve Bradley reports our membership is now at 56. Welcome new member John Bellmore. Thanks to all of you for renewing your memberships. Once again, remember this is your club, and your officers welcome all your suggestions, comments and advice.

MGC ya,
Craig

(Continued from Magnificent May Matters)

As you will see, entrance fees are \$5.00 for 2 or more passengers, or \$4.00 single driver. There is an “Honor box” for your money. You get an envelope, complete the information on the card, rip off the receipt for your dash, place your fee in the envelope, then put the envelope in the honor box. There is a nature trail and gift shop. Plus, across A1A from the park, there is a natural coquina rock formation at the ocean’s edge, where I used to picnic with my family as a child. So, after we wrap up lunch, we will shoot across A1A to The Rocks to see if any whales have washed ashore. Don’t forget your camera. So, what about food? Everybody brings their own food, beverage, and set-up. Last year, some of you brought an extra dish to share with everybody, and that worked out well.

Bonus: If you are interested in a group drive to the park, meet me at Bailey River Bridge Gardens at 10:50 a.m. It is the little park on the north west side of the Granada Bridge (State Road 40) in Ormond Beach. We will drive north through the Tomoka Loop to High Bridge, to A1A, ending at Washington Oaks at noon.

Daytona Cubs British Car Show - Cancelled

This event was originally scheduled for May 14, but it has been cancelled because we could not get 20 members to purchase tickets in advance.



All British Car Show in Winter Park

This year proved to be another excellent event at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. With plenty of shade and moderate temperature it was pleasant all day. I am not sure of exact numbers, but it looked like 170+ comparing to previous years. The field was almost full by 10 a.m. with a few models overflowing their allotted parking spaces (the MGBs).

Several vendors, including Triple C, were present, as well as the popular silent auction making something for everyone to do. The lunch fare was BBQ with a very tasty brisket or pulled pork. This turns into time to see old friends and catch up with everyone. Trophies were awarded to some members of our ABCC of Volusia County:

Red Meyer with his 1960 Austin Mini, 2nd Place
Gary Thomas with his 1965 Mark II Jaguar, 1st place
Sylvia Thomas with her 1958 MGA, 1st place
Jere Dotten with his 1968 TR250, 2nd place

The weather held, unlike the past, for a great ride home - the end of another great Mead Gardens show.

Lunch Bunch Celebrates a "Holiday"

Actually, the "Holiday" was the Holiday House in DeLand where we met for our April 6 Lunch Bunch. Bob Storke had to make an emergency executive decision in March when he discovered his first choice for our April lunch location would be closed. Oops. But I am sure the 18 members who ate at the Holiday House walked away satiated. Members with happy faces were Steve and Debi Bradley, Bob and Betty Storke, Jere and Bonita Dotten, Richard Heckathorn and Joyce Thomas, Jim Lubinski and friend, Luke Coderre, Jan Radigan, Paul and Ursula Suddard with their 1969 TR6, Burt and Celia Martin came in their venerable 1975 MGB, Vic Hall arrived in his silver Jaguar, Craig Colby drove his 1968 MGC GT, and new member John Bellmore showed off his Harley Davidson 3-wheeler. Thank you Jere Dotten for this report

WHERE WERE YOU? WE MISSED YOU!!!

Golden Oldies British Car Show

This past April 16, we held our 5th Golden Oldies British Car Show at Riviera Assisted Living Facility in Holly Hill. Thirty people who appreciate British cars showed up to talk, walk, and admire the cars. We had 17 cars on display for the residents to see, and we hope everybody enjoyed the show. I counted 5 different events within driving distance of Volusia County that were being held at the same time, so many of our members had scattered in the wind. And yes, it was really windy that day!

We got a few good pictures of everyone there -Here's the list of participants and their cars: Mike and Gene Schoonmaker (1980 Spitfire), Paul and Ursula Suddard (1969 TR6), Burt and Celia Martin (1975 MGB), Steve and Debi Bradley (1962 MGA), Allan Wright (1973 TR6), John Lister and neighbor Wayne (1974 MGB), Bruce M. Worth (1973 MGB), Frank StAngelo (1971 MGB), Wayne and Doris Deswert (2001 Jaguar XK8), Ken Izzi (1961 Nash Metropolitan), Bob and Dianne Gilpatrick (Pembleton Supersport), Tom Gaynor (1952 Jaguar XK tribute), Dan Pettit (1973 Jensen Healey),





Aaron Duncan (1973 MGB), Joe and Donna Vetter (1973 MGB), Craig and Ruby Colby (1968 MGC roadster), Taras and Gina (1962 Austin Healey Sprite), and Rick D'Louhy.

Thanks to Riviera for allowing us to show on their premises, and for providing hot dogs, drinks, and music.

Note: If you have an interest in seeing more cars, check out the club website:

www.volusiabritishcars.com/

Other April Activities But Not ABCC

MG Gathering of the Faithful GOF South (April 8-10, 2011)

It was at Weeki Wachee Springs. Go to <http://www.britishcarclub.net/index.html> to see their photos with the Mermaids. Did you go? Send us an email about it, thanks.

Daytona Speedway (April 16, 2011)

Bob Storke told me about this and was there, but I am not sure what it was.

A.A.C.A. (April 16, 2011)

Morgan owner Don Buck told me there was something going on at Palm Coast that day, and he attended it. I haven't heard anything else from Don about it.

Concours d'Elegance (April 16, 2011)

Gary and Sylvia Thomas attended this one. Sponsored by the Jaguar Club of Florida, in Lake Mary. The club's link is <http://www.catdriver.org> How did you do, Gary?

Brits on the Bay (April 16, 2011)

In Pensacola. Sponsored by the Panhandle British Car Association, go to <http://www.pbcal.com/show.htm>

Wheels Across the Pond British Classic Car and Bike Show (April 23, 2011)

In Jupiter. Sponsored by Palm Beach Motor Cars Ltd.

Their web address is

<http://www.wheelsacrossthepond.com/> , or go to

www.mgcarclubflorida.org (see "Club Photos") for write up.

A.A.C.A. Show (April 30, 2011)

Lake Helen, go to

<http://local.aaca.org/volusia/news/news.htm> to see the details.

Ultima GT Missing

News Flash: The mystery black Ultima GT parked behind the fence at an Ormond Beach mechanic's shop is gone! Member Jerry Peck claims he paid someone \$100 to lift it by helicopter and set it in my back yard. But the only thing in my back yard is a tree that fell from the windy weather we had in April. Jerry and I have been drooling over that car for months, and now wonder if the Ultima was delivered to your back yard by mistake? Please contact Jerry if you have the Ultima.

Improve Your MGB Electrical System – Go Modern and Cool it Down

By Kevin Lemire

I want you to guess what company I am describing, just by reading the following clues: hot switches, melted wires, blown fuses, dim lights, erratic horns, psychotic directional lights, grounds everywhere, voltage stabilizers, zener diodes. Give up? Well, of course it is our old friend, or nemesis, Lucas! If your vehicle is over 25 years old, and they all are now, it is an antique. If we apply that logic to humans then nearly all of us are antiques as well. Just as you can eat oatmeal, exercise regularly, and cut down on your salt intake to improve the human antique, you can also do things to improve your mechanical antique.

I recently replaced the entire wiring harness on my 1976 MGB (WIKD FUN) due to numerous sections of melted wiring, 34 years worth of jury-rigs, an excess of splices, and to just plain get everything to work. I even put a new fuse block in with shiny new glass fuses. Now, glass fuses in a car, how antique is that? Out for a drive one night I happened to put my hand on the headlight switch and it was HOT! I opened up the hood and felt the fuse and it was HOT too. All that current going through the switch heated things right up. Surely there must



be a better way to channel the Lucas current spirit than this and prevent some of the problems that go with it. An internet search brought me to Bits4Brits (www.bits4brits.com) and a solution to my problem. A click on the “Products” link on their website brings up relay kits, fuse box kits, and several other bits. I purchased both the relay kit and the fuse box kit for a total of \$108.50. The relay kit installs relays to control headlights and horn and takes the load off the electrical switches. The website makes the following claims for the relay kit:

- Modern blade-type fuses
- Relays protect ignition and light switches
- Two additional fuses afford better circuit protection
- Optional 3rd relay for single-speed heater motor.

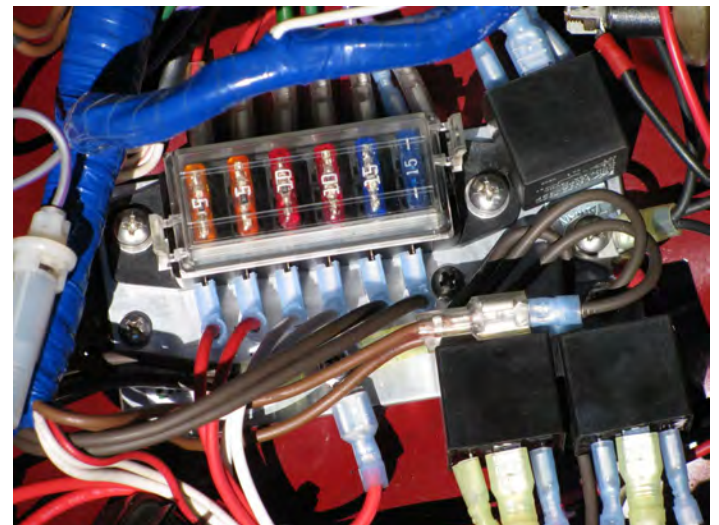
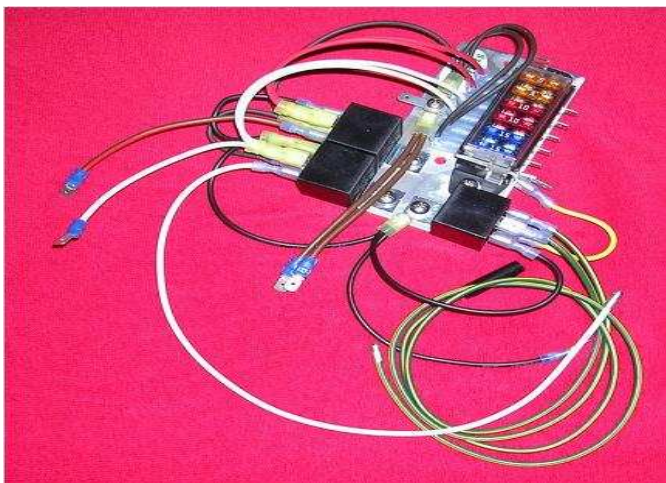
I only needed a few simple tools to install the kits, including: wire cutters, crimper, drill and 3/16” bit, tape measure, and Phillips screwdriver. My installation took about an hour and much of that was spent checking the kit wires against my wiring diagram to make sure I hooked everything up right. The website does offer diagrams showing precisely how to wire up the kits. The kits were exactly as advertised and so far work great. Shipping time was a little slow but the owner responded quickly to my email inquires. Here are a couple photos showing the installation in WIKD FUN.



- Improved Light Brightness
- Improved Horn Function
- Lower Switch Current
- Longer Switch Life
- Fused Circuit Protection
- Lower Risk of Short Circuit
- Optional 4th relay for additional lights, etc



The fuse box kit replaces the original fuse block with modern blade type fuses and the website claims:





Recipe of the Month

Coke Brisket

4 ½ - 5 lb. beef brisket, well trimmed
 2 T. vegetable oil 1 c. chopped onions
 1 c. chopped celery 2 minced cloves garlic
 1 T. onion soup mix 1 pkg dry spaghetti sauce mix
 1 tsp. Salt ¼ tsp. Fresh pepper 2 tsp. Paprika
 ¼ c. hot water ½ c. ketchup 1 Coke

Place meat in large casserole and brush with oil. Sprinkle with onions, celery and seasonings. Sprinkle garlic over the top. Mix ketchup with hot water, soup mix, and spaghetti sauce mix, add Coke and pour this mixture over the meat. Cover and bake 3 – 4 hours at 325*, basting with sauce every 30 minutes. Test for doneness. It should be very tender. Serves 6-8. Brisket should be sliced across the grain in thin slices. Enjoy! Gene Schoonmaker

Since we have not heard from some of you for this special spot, "*How you met your British Car*" with perhaps including a picture, - in lieu of that article - I have included this information many of you might enjoy.

13 April 2011

MG cars roll off Longbridge production line



[Mass production returns to Longbridge, Birmingham](#)

The first new MG for 16 years has rolled off the production line in Longbridge.

The MG6 is the first large-scale production at the Birmingham plant since the demise of Rover in 2005 with the loss of 6,000 jobs.

A five-seater model will be available to buy in May and is expected to sell for between £15,495 and £18,995. (UK£ 15,495 = 25,334.325 U.S. dollars)

MG is owned by the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation, the largest carmaker in China. The 1.8l petrol, turbo-charged MG6 has a top speed of 120mph (193km/h) and takes 8.4 seconds to go from 0-60mph. It has been designed in the UK but the parts are made in China ready for assembly in Longbridge.

Guy Jones, from MG, said a total of 400 people were now working at Longbridge, in design, engineering and assembly roles.

"It will be important for the Chinese company to have a local presence that enables it to tailor its cars to international markets" said Jorn Madslie Business reporter, BBC News Speaking to BBC Radio 4's Today programme, he said the response locally had been good. "It's the start of a brand new business," he said. "It's significant as the car drives off the production line in Longbridge. It's a good time for the MG brand."

Local MP Richard Burden said: "Today is a real milestone for Longbridge and for the automotive industry in the West Midlands. "Longbridge has been through dark days. Nothing will bring back the days when thousands were employed on Longbridge production lines," said the Labour MP for Birmingham Northfield. "But the greatest tribute we can pay to the heritage that made the name Longbridge synonymous with motor manufacturing throughout the 20th Century is to build a future in the 21st Century. "Today is about that future. Longbridge is a huge site and we need to make sure that the redevelopment which is taking place beyond the MG factory itself adds real value to the potential which this area has." Andy Cartwright was one of the people who lost his job in 2005, at the Rover plant. He was a painter. The MG6 is the first large-scale production at the Birmingham plant since that demise of Rover with the loss of 6,000 jobs. His house was repossessed and his wife Gemma had to support him and their four-children on her salary as a midwifery assistant at Birmingham Women's Hospital. Mr Cartwright said: "I'm just pleased there will be mass production there again, obviously not like before. When I first joined there were about 16,000 people working there. But when I see the flags flying outside, the Union Jack, the Shanghai flag and the Rover flag, I'll feel proud to know that the MG badge will always be associated with Longbridge." MG Rover went into administration in April 2005 when 6,000 jobs were axed. Three months later the company's assets, including the equipment at the Longbridge factory, were sold to Chinese carmaker Nanjing; later incorporated into the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation.



ABCC FUN ARTICLE FOR MAY

Ten Commandments for the Car Collector

RULE 1. Thou shalt not store thy cars out-of-doors, except for thy wife's modern iron.

RULE 2. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's car, nor his garage, nor his battery charger.

RULE 3. Thou shalt not love thy cars more than thy wife and children – as much, perchance, but not more.

RULE 4. Thou shalt not read thy Hemmings on company time, lest thy employer make it impossible to continue thy car payments.

RULE 5. Thou shalt not despise thy neighbor's Edsel, nor his DeSoto, nor even his 1947 Plymouth.

RULE 6. Thou shalt not allow thy daughters nor thy sons to get married during the holy days of Hershey.

RULE 7. Thou shalt not deceive thy wife into thinking that thee is taking her for a romantic Sunday drive when, indeed, thou art going out to look at another car.

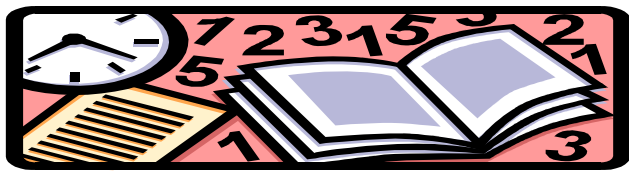
RULE 8. Thou shalt not tell thy spouse the entire cost of thy latest restoration, at least not all at the same time.

RULE 9. Thou shalt not promise thy wife a new addition to the house and then use it to store cars – and thou shalt not store thy cars in the attic.

RULE 10. Thou shalt not buy thy wife a floor jack for Christmas.

- Donald R. Peterson

<http://www.wheelman.com/TenCommandments.html>



YOUR MONTHLY MEMO FROM MURPHY

#7. Any given mechanical job you decide to repair by yourself will immediately require a third hand at its most critical moment.

#30. When there are three other cars on the road with you, and all three of those other drivers are drunk, stoned, or texting, there shall not be a cop in sight.

ABCC RECOMMENDED WEB SITES



Our club's web site:

<http://www.volusiabritishcars.com/>

For the MGA (our club's godfather):

<http://www.namgar.com/>

For the MGB and Midget:

<http://www.mgclub.org/index.htm>

also <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgbr/>

For the MGC: <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/amgcr/>

Triumph Spitfire, GT6, Herald, Sports 6, and other small Triumphs: <http://www.triumphspitfire.com/>
also <http://www.gatriumph.com/>

ABCC of Central Florida:

<http://www.allbritishcarclub.com/>

MG Car Club Florida (Brevard County):

<http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org/>

MG Classics of Jacksonville:

<http://www.mgclassics.org/mgclassics/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

A worldwide forum about MGs:

<http://www.mgcars.org.uk/>

This continues to be a help:

<http://www.mgexperience.net/>

Classic MotorSports magazine.

<http://classicmotorsports.net/>



One of our members publishes the Grassroots MotorSports magazine
<http://grassrootsmotorsports.com/>

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Members can have any style and color shirt they desire. *Four Towns Embroidery* 502 N. Spring Garden Ave in DeLand will apply the logo and their name. The ABCC Logo is \$8.00 ea and the name is \$3.00 if done at the same time. They have an assortment of shirts in the shop. Members not in the DeLand area can bring their shirts to any club meeting and we will arrange to have them done. They need to pin their name and payment to the shirt. Note on the paper the name you wish to be put on the shirt, if any. Check the colors in the logo so you don't get a shirt that will make the embroidery blend into the shirt color.



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A new supply of ABCC ball caps. Tired of that old dirty cap? Now is the time to replace it with a new and improved ball cap. It has a Velcro type fastener in the back. Contact me at rstorke@cfl.rr.com to reserve you cap. Still \$10.00!



British Car Owners (and Miata Owners): I can save you \$\$\$\$ on new Moss Motors Parts for MG, Triumph, Austin Healey, Jaguar, Mini and Miata. Just look up the parts you need in the Moss Catalog or online and note the part numbers. Give me a call and save a bundle. Large restoration project orders or small, the savings are worthwhile. Dick Goudey 386-760-5794 727-743-9287