



The British Connection



Unknown Jaguar at British Motortrade conference in February, 2011.

Message from the ABCC President

Quick, now is your chance! Before it gets too cold and the garage floor turns into a flu-enhancing ice floe, get out your wrenches and finish whatever job you have been procrastinating about over the summer when the floor was the temperature of surface of the sun. Get that Triumph TR-8 A/C working, install that MGA water pump, put that re-sleeved MGA clutch / brake master cylinder back in your car, finish those brackets for the electric fan on your XKE, and drive drive drive your car.

OK, ahem, sheepishly, I confess I have finally finished installing the poly bushings on the MGC roadster, and it only took 2 years. And why is it one job always leads to another when we work on our cars? Case in point: taking the C for the test drive, I noticed the speedometer needle was swinging strangely. (continued on page 2)



Our Previous Outings in September

One Hull Of A Time

Our September Lunch Bunch dined at Hull's Seafood in Ormond Beach. Our family eats there a lot, and we know the catch is always fresh. Obviously, a lot of you also know about Hull's, as we had a great meal with some great people. Vic Hall and Sue, Bob and Betty Storke, Jan Radigan, Richard Heckathorn and Joyce, and Ruby and Craig Colby were clearly satisfied with their meals.



No Other September Events

Sorry, the British car show event and the British Cruisers events did not materialize for you for September. I apologize for the poor planning on my part. Craig

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So, bolstered by my luck repairing Ruby's MGC GT speedometer last year, I dove in to investigate the cause. Removing the speedometer cable pinion gear, a flood of transmission fluid greeted me. But nothing there was binding, and the oil bath was invigorating. I pulled the dash, removed the speedometer, opened it, and there it was: 43 years of accumulated dust on the gear teeth had created several gummy deposits, causing the needle to fluctuate. After a rigorous cleaning and light lubrication, everybody went back together nicely and now the speedo acts smoothly. Oil is back in the tranny, and we are good to go.

Go? Go where? Good grief, October is here and the slate is full of automobile and motorcycle events of all types. We have several things coming up this month that I hope will finally entice you and your little British car out of the garage. Be sure to read about them in our newsletter, plus watch for emails from me. After all, the first day of Fall was this past September 23. Did you go watch the leaves turn to that crimson gold? Me neither...

Unfortunately, we didn't go to the ABCC Salutes Our Veterans British Car Show we had planned for you in September. There were several attempts made to communicate with the facility, with them eventually insisting that our show be held on a Friday morning. I could only get 8 of you to commit to the Friday show, and that was iffy. Most of our members work on Friday, making it impossible to attend, while others never returned my voice messages about the show, and your silence spoke loudly.

Club elections will be forthcoming soon. All positions are up for grabs. We will have a meeting in November to nominate a slate, then hold elections at our annual Christmas Party in December. I hope a lot of you will step up to the plate and become our next club officers. We need your input and leadership and participation.

I have posted you on the health issues with our Ron Cobb, and know you share your thoughts and prayers with his wife, Peggy, and their family at the passing of Ron. He will be missed.

MGC- ya! Craig

October Activities To Plan For

Timeless Wings & Wheels British Car Show

Meet us Saturday, October 1, for a British Car Show at the New Smyrna Beach Airport. Hosted by the Timeless Wings and Wheels organization, the show begins at 9 and ends at 2 p.m. There is no entrance fee, and you could win the People's Choice Award. We may hold a short meeting at 12:30 p.m. just to bring our club members up to speed on your club. Food vendors will be there, bring a chair and camera too. See you there.

Saturday October 1, 2011 9am - 3:30pm
British Car Classic Mk XXIII Jacksonville
<http://www.mgclassics.org/mgclassics/>

Wednesday **Lunch Bunch** 1pm
October's Lunch Bunch will be at the Holiday House in Deland, on 1206 N. Woodland Avenue. As always, please contact Bob Storke rstorke@cfl.rr.com to confirm and or get more information. Lunch time is at 1 p.m.

Friday & Saturday - October 14 & 15
Athens, GA. Southeastern GOF XVI
<http://semgtr.org/gof/registration.pdf>

Saturday- October 22, 2011 in the afternoon time to be announced

British Cruisers

We will drive in this year's Daytona Dream Cruise on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Currently, the plan is to assemble at a central point, drive as a group to get a free photo taken of you and your car, then do the cruise down A1A in Daytona Beach. The route could take us all the way to Ponce Inlet, so look for an email from Craig in the near future for rendezvous points and times. I am currently considering a start time of 4 p.m., please let me know your thoughts. Thanks.

Saturday - October 22, 2011 - 10am - 3pm
Legends On the Green - St. Augustine
For more information, go to
<http://www.jagdriver.org/>



COAST to COAST in a MG

By: Ken DeLeeuw All British Car Club, Volusia County

The first time I saw a posting of this event I thought “what a cool idea, driving an MG across the country”. I had just completed a rolling restoration on a 1970 MGB GT named “Old Ormond Whitey”. Having recently retired, the idea was becoming more of a reality. My wife (Deanna) agreed it would be a fun trip. Having never driven a 41-year-old car this kind of distance before I really went over the car with a fine toothcomb and changed anything I thought would need to be addressed. I also carried a supply of the usual British spare parts, hoses and extra belts.

I heard about a group of people going to Reno across Route 50 leaving from Ocean City, Md. I checked out the schedule of travel and saw this would not be the way I wanted to go. I talked to one of the organizers of the “Rallye to Reno” and figured I could join up with them in Reno and continue on to San Francisco with them to conclude my “coast to coast” trip.

We left Ormond Beach on Friday June 3rd just as the sun started to rise as we drove north along the ocean to catch I-95 in Flagler. Our plan was a vacation that would keep us away from Florida for the rest of the summer. We took the title of the car, cell phones, and Haggerty’s Road Assistance Insurance program and headed west. We drove the Southern route I-10 to Phoenix, AZ. before heading north.

Along the way we planned to stop in San Antonio to stay with a cousin of mine. He lives within walking distance of the Alamo and River Walk, a must see if ever in San Antonio. I thought we would never get out of Texas, what a long and hot drive that was. (*Be sure to ask Ken about his “lost” dipstick.*) Our next main stop was Las Vegas to visit my sister and play in the Casinos. After a week with them it was on to Reno, another 8 hour drive north on 95 through some of the ghost towns of the past as well as a modern day ghost town, with a sad tale of it’s own. Seems the economy hit a town the mined gypsum, the product that drywall is made of. The

Chinese have cornered the market on that and 40,000 people were let go and told to move from the company homes.

We arrived in Reno on Monday June 13th; we had reservations at the El Dorado Hotel and Casino for the 4-day event. The MG 2011 brought people from all over the USA, and Canada. Most drove there but some just flew in for the festivities. I had attended MG 2005 in Gatlinburg, TN. so I wasn’t in awe of all the MG’s gathering in one place as before. We checked in and mingled with other MG enthusiast as crazy as ourselves. I missed many of the Tech sessions, and speeches by featured guests. One in particular was our own Tim Studdard. Sorry Tim, I didn’t know you were to be there. The show took place on Thursday in a park not far from the host Hotels. The same models of MG’s were grouped together for the show. I had never seen so many GT’s in my life. We met many new friends at the show and arranged a drive from Reno to the Napa Valley on our way to San Francisco. The drive thru Napa Valley was every bit as fun as the Tale of the Dragon in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. It was in the Napa Valley that my GT’s battery quit abruptly. Thankfully for friends traveling with us, a quick push and it was off to Frisco. Once we made it to the garage parking lot in San Francisco the car would not start again. I found a Riley’s Auto Part store a couple of miles away and the next day before we started our sight seeing trip around the bay, I bought a new battery. Problem solved.

(For those of you who own an MGB, you know the pleasure you get replacing the battery located under the rear cockpit. Now imagine the same task, but this time pack your car to the gunnels with luggage, etc., then repack the car again after installing the new battery. What fun!)

Spending a couple of days in San Francisco was fun, but even in the end of June it was cold. We hooked up with two couples from Indiana, who drove a MGA and a MGB from there to Ocean City, Md. To take the “Rallye to Reno” trip with 135 others. We all drove up the Pacific Hwy for a couple of days and parted company in Oregon. They were going to start back to Indiana, but first wanted to go to Yellowstone Park. We planned on going to stay with other new friends we met in Reno at there home in Oregon. It turns out they will host MG 2013. (continued)

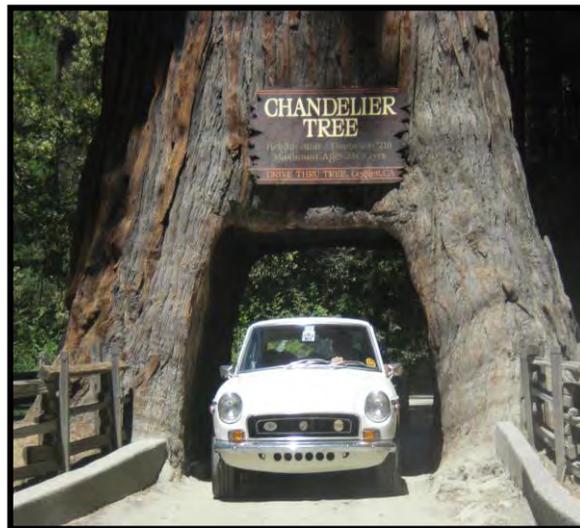


Our vacation plan was taking us to Minnesota to stay with Deanna's brother. Along the way we stayed in a "haunted hotel" in Montana. Actually right next-door in the motel is where we stayed, but we toured the hotel the next day. No one died that night!!

The thought of selling the GT was always on the back of my mind. I carried the Title for two reasons 1) If car broke down and couldn't get it fixed. 2) If an offer I couldn't refuse came along. After all, what better proof of a good running car, than driving it a cross the country. My first offer came in Oregon. I wasn't ready then, but it gave me an idea what it was worth. From Minnesota we drove to Michigan to a family farm in Standish where we planned to spend the rest of the summer. While there I was reading the MGE forums, and responded to a fellow looking for a clean MG in the Ohio or Indiana area. He drove up one day looked it over, wanted the car. We knew we had to be back home for a wedding in September, so he met us down in Detroit the day before we flew back to Florida and he bought the car.



I still have the 76B with the v6, so I am not without a British car. Along the way we met many fellow British car owners, who will be our friends for life. This was not just a trip, we drove over 6,000 miles in that car, it was an adventure. By the way MG 2012 is in the northeast section of Georgia next June, plenty of time to plan. Anyone want to caravan?



TECH TIP

"Find Your Wrenches and Sockets more Easily"

"A reader writes:"

"At the local Home Depot, I bought a package of electrical/vinyl tape that contains six rolls of tape in different colors. Using the red tape, I put a strip around each of my 1/2" box wrenches, open end wrenches and sockets. Using the black tape, I put a strip around each of my 9/16" box wrenches, open end wrenches and sockets. I did the same with the other four colors (blue, green ,yellow, white) on the various wrench sizes I use most often. Now, if I need to find a 1/2" wrench in a crowded tool box or pile of tools on the floor while I'm working, I don't have to try to read the ridiculous little numbers on the side - I just look for the red tape! Periodically I have to replace the tape, but it's a cheap solution and it helps me keep my tools in order too."

Footnote: Sears sells socket racks for SAE and metric sockets. There are racks for 1/4 inch, 3/8 inch, and 1/2 inch drives. Each rack has an upright stem for each socket. There are two rows of stems, one for standard depth sockets, and one for deep sockets. On the top of each stem is stamped the size of that socket. Each stem is sized to accept only the corresponding size socket. I like this system better than using a crowded tool box and colored tape...

**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/>

For the MG: <http://www.mgexperience.net/>

For the Triumph Spitfire, GT6, Herald, Sports 6, and other small Triumphs:

<http://www.triumphexperience.com/> and,

<http://www.triumphspitfire.com/> and also,

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

For Jaguar: <http://www.jaguarexperience.com/>

For Austin Healey:

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

For the Austin and Morris Mini:

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

For the Morris Minor:

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

For the Land Rover:

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

For the ABCC of Central Florida:

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

For the MG Car Club Florida (Brevard County):

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

For the MG Classics of Jacksonville:

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

For a worldwide forum about MGs:

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

One of our members publishes the Grassroots MotorSports magazine:

<http://grassrootsmotorsports.com/>

and Classic MotorSports magazine:

<http://classicmotorsports.net/>

Just a little more fun –

(Use one of these on your answer machine)

Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need siding, windows or a hot tub, their carpets are clean and they do not need more insurance or another credit card. They give to charity through their office and do not need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and number and they will get back to you.

Or how about this one –

Hello. I am David's answering machine. What are you?

Please leave a message. However, you have the right to remain silent. Everything you say will be recorded and will be used by us.