

11

"The difference between fiction and reality?
Fiction has to make sense." - - Tom Clancy

W E L C O M E N E W R E A D E R S !

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.
The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."
- - Winston Churchill

Dear British Car Enthusiast,

This non-commercial e-publication will arrive in
your email about twice a month with information
about what's going on in the British Car world. We
are always looking for short pieces on just about
everything British so let us know what YOU think.
Your input is what will make this e-publication
a path to fun with British cars.

Send to a friend!

Rick Feibusch, Editor

Photos Attached:

** 1950 English Ford Pilot Estate - one of four imported for a market test
- failed as these cost more than their larger American cousins - model
Katie Weche

** Assorted Car Show Pix - STORIES BELOW - Have fun!!!!

E D I T O R I A L

Dear Readers,

The car shows are coming fast and furious - here are some stories and
photos hot off the printer - get out there and enjoy your car, show it off
and meet some people. The only way that our hobby will expand is if new
people become interested and the present owners are continuing to have fun.
Break down barriers. I remember a time when MG owners would not get waves
from Jag or Triumph drivers. By the 1960s, if you had a Cortina with road
lamps and radial tyres, you could join the British wavefest. Today, it is

amazing that anyone is able to keep this old stuff on the road, no matter where it was made.

Also, check out the California Motor Vehicle Law material below from John Quilter - He is a strong promoter of the Association of California Car Clubs and all of the work that they are doing to keep our state government from passing laws that will hinder our hobby.

See you on the Funway!

Cheers,

Rick Feibusch
British Car Network
Venice Beach, California

"I don't like country music, but I don't mean to denigrate those who do. And for the people who like country music, denigrate means 'put down.'"
- - Bob Newhart

LETTERS

Richard,
As always, the updates are entertaining, informing, and much appreciated. However, the image of the MG Girl (That we featured as last issue's opening art) compels comment. Sexy AND classy. And obviously intelligent, by her choice of driver. The last two characteristics seem impossible to put together with the first nowadays. This image should be made into a poster.
Thanks,

TL Goodell

Richard,
The "MG Girl" is a piece by renowned pin-up girl artist Gil Elvgren, entitled "Let's Go".

You can see it on my web site here:
<http://www.mgnuts.com/mg/artwork/paintings/>

- Steve Simmons

Hi Rick!

Looking forward to the British Car Meet again at Palo Alto, as I always do. With a little luck, will have the Panther there this year. I know, seriously worrisome to have two on the field at the same time!

I enjoy the newsletter, and keep it coming. A couple of corrections however on a few of the stories, if I may.

On "Made In China" (MG), Reuters got a few things wrong. I know, what else is new.

The "new" MG7 sedan is based on the MG version of the former Rover 75 which was badged an MG ZT - not ZF! There is an issue over this as well. SAIC (Shanghai Automobile Industries of China, or Shanghai for short) BOUGHT the rights and tooling to the 75, the small 25 and the K-series engine (4-cylinder) from MG-Rover (or Phoenix) PRIOR to the collapse of the combine on April 8, 2005. Shanghai has said that Nanjing (NAC-MG as it is now going by) can NOT produce a 75 based car without their approval. I have not heard if the issue had been resolved as of yet.

Shanghai actually did NOT bid for all the assets (or MG necessarily) from the receiver (PriceWaterhouseCoopers, or PWC), rather offered a much smaller amount for certain assets, which is why the receiver went with the Nanjing offer. Nanjing bought the bulk of the remaining assets, including the MG name and TF sports car, Powertrain factory (at Longbridge) and the KV6 engine (Land-Rover Freelanders use this unit) for the reported →£53 million - which was about \$92 million at the time; the article uses CURRENT exchange rates 2 years later to get to the \$104 million mark that it would be today. There are reports that NAC-MG may make an MG5 based on the former Rover 45/MG ZS models, which was based on the late 1990's Honda Civic sedan platform. However, Honda is not supplying bodyshells and I am unsure of the legal situation here. Nanjing actually claims to be the OLDEST car maker in China having started in 1927 (not 1947) if I remember correctly.

Shanghai started in the 1930s and is China's largest automaker. It appears ready to relaunch the former Rover 75 sedan in Europe and possibly in the U.S./Canada as a Roewe 750. It also is preparing a 450 model based on the RDX60 prototype that Rover was working on at the time of the collapse. The recent admission of NAC-MG (Nanjing) that it was looking for finance and seeking the possible sale of 50% or even more of the company has raised some concerns about the financial viability of NAC-MG. Despite China's large boom in its economy, capital remains difficult to come by. Of the four or five largest firms (including SAIC, NAC-MG, Cherry and Hong-Qi), Shanghai appears to be in the best position financially as it has been working with foreign automakers (partners) since the late 1970's starting with VW.

As for "China's Passenger Cars Leaves US behind in the dust" by Braden Gueth, there were also a few errors. GM's Losses (although heavy) for 2005-2006 were not as high as reported. FORD however, DID lose about \$12 billion in 2006! This was due to losses in its North America operations and its overseas operations including Jaguar-Rover in Britain. Aston-Martin was sold for \$848 million (Ford retains a small interest in the company) recently, and there has been talk of selling both Jaguar-Rover and the Volvo (car side only, Volvo AB builds trucks and is an independent company), despite denials from Ford officials. Mazda has been a bright spot for Ford which had to obtain an \$18 billion line of credit from three

separate banking firms led by Citigroup. Braden Gueth is obviously unaware that one of the most popular selling cars made in China is Buick! Others include Shanghai, VW and Citroën. This all due to much cheaper Chinese labour than in the U.S. or Europe, ironically.

There are other car corporations facing the same bleak situation as GM and Ford do, and MG-Rover did. Daimler-Chrysler has financial problems (due to many things, but SMART and Freightliner have the been the biggest losers), as do Peugeot, Fiat, VW, Mistubishi, and Malaysia's Proton - owner of Lotus. Fiat DID recently climb back into the black. Renault-Nissan and Isuzu have some financial issues as well, but not as severe as the others. Only Toyota, Hyundai (including Kia), Subaru, Suzuki and BMW have been doing well financially. Honda has been stable despite flat sales and discounts. One of the principle reasons is that Honda is non-union. Anyway, that is the latest.

Jeff Savage - AutoPhyle

Hey Rick,
It's that time of the year again when we start the holiday runs! The 2007 Memorial Day British Car Cruise is coming up on May 28th.

2007 Memorial Day British Car Cruise

We will meet at the Malibu Colony Plaza located at 23841 West Malibu Road, at the southwest corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Webb Way, approximately 12 miles north / west from where I-10 turns into PCH. Meeting time is 9:00 AM with rollout at 10:00.

This is an unorganized event. Everyone is welcome!

There are restaurants and a bakery in the plaza for breakfast and coffee but you may want to call ahead to make sure they will be open on the holiday. Starbucks is half a mile south, on Cross Creek Road. Fuel is expensive in Malibu so you may want to fill up a few miles before you arrive. There is little petrpl available on the driving route unless yoo take a detour into town.

For more information visit <http://www.socalbritishmotoring.com> or contact Steve at

I hope to see you there again this year!

- Steve Simmons

Not Britiron But Old Volvos in Monterey Need Saving:.....

Hi Rick!

Need to get the word out (if anyone is interested) that there are two early Volvos (1 PV444, not 544, and a 122S) at the local Pick 'N Pull yard (Moss Landing - in Monterey County) that are complete (need restoration) and are

for sale (they have not gone into the yard yet). Somebody really should save them as they do not have any serious issues that I could see. PV444's are not common here and this one is complete including its original two-tone interior and banjo steering wheel. They are for sale with "best offer" on the windshields which means they can be grabbed at a reasonable price.

Jeff Savage

The 2007 Annual All British
Motorcar Show & Swap Meet Sunday, May 20, 2007

Dixon Fairgrounds - Dixon, CA
A British Motorcar Tradition

The United British Sports Car Club of Sacramento is proud to host Northern California's premiere all British car show and swap meet. This is a wonderful opportunity to see more than 200 cars representing over 80 years of British motoring history. Come join us for great family fun and excitement. We are sure you will have a fun-filled Sunday.

Pre-registration is closed, but you can still enter on the day of the show.
FREE admission to the public

Participants Choice Car Show:

The first 225 entries will receive a ballot, goodie bag and dash plaque. Voting closes at 1:00 PM and the awards ceremony held at 2:30 PM. There have been over 25 classes at past shows and classes will be determined by pre-registered cars. Three or more of the same car type make a competition class. This is not a ³concours² show, but a chance for British car lovers to get together, display their cars and have a good time. Any car could go home with a trophy. So bring your British ³ride² and enjoy the camaraderie.

People's Choice Award:

One car will be chosen by all the public to win! Special ³Winners¹ Circle² class for previous year¹s winners: First place class winners from last year's show will be featured in a special Winner's Circle area and will compete against each other. This provides an opportunity for other cars to win a trophy in their individual class.

Directions: Take Highway 113 South From I-80, then drive 2.3 miles to Dixon Fairgrounds on the left. [Click here for a map](#), or visit [Google Maps](#) for a regional map.

\$30.00 day of event for each car.
Dash plaques to the first 225 cars.
Great new goodie bags.

Swap Meet Space:

Private Parties \$20 day of the event.
Business vendors- \$30.00
Swap meet includes new & used parts.

Everyone will enjoy:
Silent auction and tech sessions.
Food and drinks available on site.
Variety of British Car Club displays.

Gates open to the public at 8:00 AM.
Vendors and participants set up at 7:00 AM.
Final registration: 11:00 AM.
Awards presentation: 2:30 PM.

For more details, call any of these numbers:

Show held rain or shine. - No motorcycles
No awnings, tents or trailers in the show area.

"The point that I'm constantly making is that people don't understand the difference between being solemn and being serious. There is a kind of Teutonic mind which you find not just in Germany and Switzerland, but also in America, which thinks that you have to be solemn if you are being serious. But in fact solemnity is, I think, in many ways the enemy of the kind of process of learning that comes from being open because solemnity is allied with pompousness." -- John Cleese

**** CAR SHOW REVIEW *****

Pictures Attached

MGs By The Bay 2007 - May 12 Show
John F. Quilter
Brisbane, CA

The MG Owners Club of the San Francisco Bay Area held its annual car meet at the marina in San Leandro which was well attended by T series, MGA, MGB, MGBGT and Midgets. Also present were three ZA and ZB Magnettes. A new entertainment was used this year, valve cover races. Music was provided in the form of pop music from the 50s and 60s appropriate to the years of most of the cars.

For more info or to get on next year's mailing list,
contact Mike Jacobsen

Just a reminder.....

GOLDEN COVE
ALL BRITISH CARS

COFFEE MEET
RANCHO PALOS VERDES

THE AUSTIN HEALEY ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU
TO JOIN OTHER BRITISH CAR ENTHUSIASTS
FOR STARBUCKS AND CONVERSATION
ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL WINDING SCENIC DRIVE
OVERLOOKING THE PACIFIC OCEAN
GOLDEN COVE SHOPPING CENTER
• RANCHO PALOS VERDES •

Plan on good weather and a pleasant drive to the ocean. Use MapQuest for the intersection of Hawthorne and Palos Verdes Dr. West. For the adventurous, coming from Long Beach you can catch W. 25th St. (at the end of Gaffey or Western Blvd. in San Pedro) which will turn into P.V. West.

From Redondo you can take PCH to P.V. Blvd. which turns into P.V. Dr. West.

9:00 AM - • THIRD SUNDAY EVERY ODD MONTH •

**** CAR SHOW REVIEW *****

Pictures Attached:

George Barris/Culver City, CA Car Show - May 12, 2007
by Rick Feibusch
Venice, CA

This was one of the best shows that I have been to in a long time - Rods, customs, stockers, low riders (mostly old school), movie cars like the Batmobile and Herbie, the Love Bug. Oak O'Connor and I parked our Plymouth coupes between a bunch of prewar Chevies and a pair of chopped '55 Ford pickups. By the end of the day, almost 400 cars covered the streets of Culver City - Thousands of people came out to view the cars.

The imported car category was not too large. While the British were pretty well represented by a prewar Rolls, a Jag, a Cobra and a number of very slick MGs, the Germans included just a few low-rider and "Cal Bug" style Beetles, the French surrendered and went home, and then there was the lone Japanese entry, a sparkling Datsun 2000 roadster. The Australians were represented by a RHD, late-1970s Ford fastback set up like the one in Mad Max with a blower sticking up through the hood. I'll let the pix do the talking:

This show was a winner all around - \$25 reg fee, free to the public - live retro bands all day, including Big Sandy and his Fly-Rite Boys who do Elvis and Johnny Cash like they came back from the dead!!! They even did amazing magnetic dash plaques that stick to old metal dashes (or on the refrigerator!)

Had a ball

**** CAR SHOW REVIEW *****

Pictures Attached

Sacramento Show To Demonstrate The Power Of Car Collectors
by John Quilter
Brisbane, California

As a finale to the Association of California Car Clubs (ACCC) annual legislative conference in Sacramento California last week, a car show was held on the steps of the State Capitol as a show of presence to the policy makers and legislators in the capitol. A variety of cars were on display, including three British cars, an MGTD, my Jaguar 3.8S sedan, and a concours quality Triumph TR6 owned by Anna Belle Pugh.

The purpose of this show is to acquaint the legislators and staff of the importance and enjoyment of the car collector and restoration hobby in the state and in so doing to attempt to influence them in the bills pending that are either favorable or unfavorable to the continuation of the car hobby in the state.

- * Currently there is a bill pending that would extend the number of years that year of manufacture black and yellow license plates can be used, Assembly Bill 462. The ACCC supports this bill.
- * A proposed change to the smog check regulations that would require an ANNUAL smog check for any car over 15 years old and newer than 1976 model year, Assembly Bill 616. The ACCC strongly disagrees with this bill.
- * A bill expanding the criteria a local agency can deem a vehicle "abandoned" (even if stored on private property!) and issue a 10 day requirement for removal. This could directly impact those who house or store a vehicle on their property for a future restoration or project or for spare parts. The ACCC strongly disagrees with this bill.

Further details can be viewed the ACCC website at www.acccdefender.org.

California hobbyists and clubs are strongly urged to join ACCC to protect your rights and the rights of your fellow car enthusiasts. You may not see an immediate threat now but unity is strength for future threats that WILL impact you. If any of these bills are of concern to you, now is the time to contact your local assembly person and senator and express your opinion.

A sample letter about the "abandoned" vehicle law - send to your local assembly person - add your cars and details:

Assemblyman Ira Ruskin
Member Assembly Transportation Committee

5050 El Camino Real Suite 117
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Assemblyman Ruskin:

I write to you as a member of the Association of California Car Clubs and the peninsula based Arcane Auto Society whose goal is to preserve the rare and unusual in automotive history. I am disappointed in your bill AB468 as it expands the authority of local agencies to declare a motor vehicle as "abandoned" even if on private property. As such it begins the process where the vehicle must be relinquished to the authorities. Such a process is punitive to those of us that work to preserve and restore the rare and unique automotive examples either as restoration prospects or as sources for componentry for other restoration projects.

Over 30 years ago I rescued the 1951 MG from a situation in Brisbane that could have been deemed "abandoned" and spent the next 10 months in an extensive restoration process. Since then, in my care the car has been a fine example of this marque in regular use and fully insured, driven with extreme care, and always garaged. Your proposed bill could easily have precluded this car from being saved for the preservation of history and the enjoyment of many who have seen it over the last three decades.

To educate yourself on this hobby, I would urge you to attend the long running annual historic automotive event known as Friendship Day to be held at Canada College in Redwood City on May 20th. Come and meet your constituents who partake in this national pastime.

Sincerely,
John F. Quilter
Brisbane, California

2007 Concours and Automotive Car Show Web Sites
compiled bt Jim Perell

Event Date Website

British Cars @ Dixon 05/20/07 www.ubsc.org/

British Cars @ Dunsmuir 05/25-27/07 www.dunsmuir.com/

Wine Country Classic 06/02-03/07 www.winecountryclassic.com

OpenRoads 2007 British 06/08 - 06/10 www.GoldenGateHealeys.com
Car Weekend at Lake Tahoe by the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club
Info:

Shriner¹s Concours 06/10/07 www.shrinersconcours.com/

Chico British Car Pending www.chicobritish.org (

Reno Jaquar Club June 22/23&24

All British Car Show & Concours
Mike Johnson (

Palo Alto Concours 06/24/07 www.paconcours.com
(SCCA)

Reno Day On The Green 6/22 -24/07
<http://www.xks.com/events/renoEvent.aspx>
Concours, car show & tour

Hot August Nights 08/5-08/12/07 www.hotaugustnights.net

Italiano Concours 08/17/07 www.concorso.com/

Pebble Beach Concours 08/19/07 www.pebblebeachconcours.net

Palo Alto British Car Sept. 8 & 9/07 Rick Feibusch:
Meet(30th & last show at El Camino Park) rfeibusch1@earthlink.net

Chico Concours 09/09/07 www.chicoconcours.com

Ironstone Concours 09/22/07 www.ironstonevineyards.com

Niello Concours @ Serrano 10/07/07 www.nielloconcoursatserrano.com
(SCCA)

2007 Triumphest 10/11 - 10/14 <http://www.triumphest.com/>
(this is the 26th year!) traditional
At The RiverPalms Resort and Casino in Laughlin, NV.

California Autumn Classic 10/20-21/07 www.autumnclassic.100mregistry.com
Bill Meade

Click on the above links or cut and paste to your browser!!
Check this information for yourself to assure accuracy.
I don't give guarantees, as this is just a courtesy for
fellow enthusiast!

**** CAR SHOW REVIEW *****

Pictures Attached

WINNERS OF THE 27th UNIQUE LITTLE CAR SHOW
* METROPOLITAN CONVERTIBLES
1st Wayne Metz
2nd Stan Cramer
3rd Joe Englehart
* METROPOLITAN HARDTOPS
1st Ronnie Bauman
2nd Jack Woodruff

3rd Gerald Butchke
* HONDAS
1st Michael Bluman
2nd Tim Mings
3rd Krag Griffiths
* CROSLEYS
1st Ronnie Bauman
2nd Gary Loomer
* AUSTINS
1st Dominic Valentino
2nd Jim Johnson
* ISETTA
1st Marilyn Felling
2nd Mark Sebolt
* SUBARU
1st Ralph Lopez
2nd Glen Roberts
* BEST OF SHOW - HOLIDAY INN
Thomas Volkmann 1959 ISETTA
* BEST OF SHOW - CITY OF HOPE
Dominic Valentino 1959 AUSTIN HEALEY
* BEST ENGINE COMPARTMENT
Ronniwe Bouman 1940 CROSLEY
* LONGEST DRIVEN
Dennis Napier 1967 MORRIS
* LONGEST BROUGHT
Rick Gilbert 1962 METROPOLITAN
* DAILY DRIVER
Ed McCallister 1957 METROPOLITAN
* BEST OF SHOW
Jim Johnson 1939 BANTUM SEMI TRUCK
* PWEOPLE'S CHOICE
Garnett Capone 1927 MORGAN

submitted by Vigil

**** CAR SHOW REVIEW *****

Pictures Attatched

Brits Show Well at Annual Prestigious Hillsborough (California) Concours.
by John Quilter
Brisbane, CA

Of the 210 honored cars displayed at the May 6, 2007 Hillsborough Concours
SCCA event, 55 or a full 26% were of United Kingdom manufacture. This
compares with 20 German, 22 Italian, 3 French and a paltry zero, Japanese.
Good show Brits! There was in fact a whole class of Jaguar XKs from the
1950s including not one, but two rare XK150 S models. A rare prewar MG
saloon, a VA, was seen along with some T series and MGAs. A side valve V8

Ford powered Allard was shown, a perennial 50s sport car racing entry. Bentleys and Rolls Royces made up a large proportion of the entries as well including a one-off all metal early 50s Bentley R Type estate car.

Exceptional Mid-Peninsula warm weather greeted the crowds and the displayed motor cars. Once again, there was something for all and as they say, a great celebration of cars and community

Autocross at June 2007 Tahoe British Car

Meet set for Saturday June 9

SUNNYVALE CA (March 30 , 2007) - A full day of autocrossing will be held on Saturday June 9 at the upcoming OpenRoads 2007 British Car Weekend at Lake Tahoe. The course will be set up and run by the Sacramento Sports Car Club and will be open to all those registered for the weekend event. The autocross event will be held in the parking lot of the host hotel, the Horizon Casino and resort in Stateline NV starting at 9AM and running to 3PM. The number of runs per car will be limited only by the number of cars participating. There will be a \$30 surcharge for the event.

Helmets will be required. Sacramento SCC will have some helmets on hand, but it is advisable to bring your own if you plan to autocross your car. Drivers will be required to certify that their cars are in good running order prior to the event and will also be required to sign an additional release form.

OpenRoads 2007 will be hosted by the Golden Gate Austin Healey Club of Northern California, sponsors of the weekend event and welcomes all owners and enthusiasts of British cars of all makes. It will be held Friday June 8 to Sunday June 10, 2007 at the Horizon in Stateline starting with a 6PM reception. Dinner following Friday check-in and the evening reception will be on-your-own. On Saturday, June 9, there will be a day of tours in addition to autocrossing. There will be an awards event in the evening. On Sunday morning June 10 there will be a morning car show and awards ceremony followed by departure early that afternoon.

Registration forms are available at the club's web site www.GoldenGateHealeys.com Payment is by check only. Send payment and registration form to John Trifari,

"A Day on the Village Green"
by The Reno Jaguar Club

All British Car Show & Concours
June 22, 23 and 24, 2007
Cal-Neva Resort at Crystal Bay, Nevada

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Friday, June 22

Welcome Reception at the casino lounge
4:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, June 23

7:30 - 9:30 am ~ Concours parking
9:30 - 10:00 am ~ Rags down & judging begins
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm ~ Lunch
3:30 pm ~ Judging concludes

Saturday Evening festivities

6:00 pm ~ Cocktails
6:30 pm ~ Awards banquet

Sunday, June 24

Lake Tahoe driving tour
8:30 am ~ Breakfast
9:45 am ~ Depart for tour

JCNA Champion: \$40 entry, \$30 each additional entry
JCNA Driven: \$35 entry, \$30 each additional entry
All British Concours: \$35 entry, \$30 each additional entry
Display only: \$20 entry, \$15 each additional entry
Please plan to register early.

Concours Chairman: Mike Johnson
(