

THE TUCSON BRITISH CAR



REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

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View from the Windscreen

by Ben Cohen

Well, by the time you read this my year as President of TBCR will be complete. It was not an eventful year, but at least my alter-ego driving coordinator got us back on the road. I will continue with that persona in 2022 and hopefully keep us driving and enjoying our cars.

It is too bad I cannot predict where TBCR is going. As you know, we have been very concerned about finding people to step up to be on the board. This year we worked to get new participation in club leadership and two new members offered their help to the club for next year.

Speaking of elections, it was a landslide for our newly elected officers...well done and THANKS again.

Next year will mark my 30th year in TBCR. Also, I have been an office/director of the club since 1997, when I ran for VP. Originally, us "non-MG" owners were permitted to join an all-MG club, when it appeared that their membership was waning. Us non-MG owners (I had just one Austin-Healey 3000) boosted the membership two-fold and TBCR kept building from there. While we have a substantial membership and excellent participation in most driving events, we do not get commitment for the future of the club from our membership. Please think about what you might add to the future of TBCR.

I know this has been a difficult year for all our members, their families and friends. I think TBCR is in good hands for 2022, so give your support, come to as many events that you can and be safe on the road (and everywhere else).

--Ben

Editor's Note:

TBCR is fortunate to have a tradition of members stepping up to make the club work. Ben and Pete are part of that tradition, as are many others. It is fitting that in addition to these columns, this month's featured articles are written by Ben and Pete. --John

Your 2022 TBCR Leaders

by Pete Williams

Our new TBCR board is in place for the coming year. A big thank you to all the folks who agreed to continue. I am pleased to announce two new board members. We will be having a planning board meeting in a few weeks to ensure we're heading in the right direction.

New Officers / Directors:

President: Pete Williams

Vice President: Marc Koenig is a strong choice for this position. He will be stepping into the President role when I am out of town. Marc will do well, and we will work closely.

Regalia Chair: Libbie Gabriel will be assuming the Regalia position. She is enthusiastic about her new club role. We will be rolling out a Regalia announcement and provide some modifications to the ordering forms.

Continuing Officers /Directors: A big thank you to these fine members who are continuing in their positions...

Treasurer: Dave Germain

Secretary: Mike Morales

Driving Events: Ben Cohen

Newsletter Editor: John Mead

Web Editor: Harold Beekhuizen

Special Events: Hernan Aubert

I would also like to give a BIG thank you to our past officers for their service, direction, and dedication. Ben Cohen (past President) and Geo Hahn (past Vice President) served us well in difficult times!

I look forward to writing about British cars and our activities in future newsletters. Here are a few introductory thoughts:

Living in Tucson without TBCR activities would be like living in a climate without sunshine.

I really enjoy our tours, the weekly companionship at coffee hours, car shows and, when times are better (due to covid issues), our group social events. We have an *excellent* car club.

- The "WHY": This club and the friends I've gotten to know through the club is one of the big reasons why I truly enjoy being in Tucson.
- We have in excess of 140 members.
- We are financially stable and have vital activities with lots to do. (Driving, socializing, technical experts, and special events).
- Our driving tours are really fun!
- We gather weekly (Starbucks coffee on Tuesday mornings).
- Our monthly newsletter along with intra-month emails advises members of our events and has interesting tech stories.
- Our web page is an excellent resource.
- The reservoir of technical and member generosity with their expertise is vast.
- We have TBCR branded Regalia.

Here's a little more about me:

- I am a 7-month snowbird resident of Tucson
- I've been a successful car club President before for multiple years (each) in the metro Detroit area for 3 major local car clubs.
- Member: Society of Automotive Historians.
- Auto book author (The Untold AMC Stories).
- I restore and maintain old British and other collector cars.
- I retired from a long and varied automotive career in 2005.
- I'm a widower with one married daughter in Austin, Texas.

Thank you for your confidence in me and the 2022 leaders. See you on the road! --Pete

Calendar

Saturday December 11—TBCR Drive.

Wednesday December 22—TBCR Drive.

Saturday January 1—TBCR New Year's Drive.

Saturday January 29-- Sahuarita Classics Car Show. See page 4 for details.

Every Tuesday-- TBCR's Tuesday Coffee 7am to 9am, Starbucks at NW corner of Swan and Ft Lowell. Friendly staff and Good outdoor seating.

Note: watch for emails from Ben on details of the drives or contact the Editor.



Welcome Our New Members

We added 2 new members in November.

Rick & Ida Wickizer are in the Twin Peaks area, driving a Green 1958 Triumph TR-3.

Dick Casey in Green Valley driving a 2013 XKR SE.

Our new members will have name tags. Take time to welcome them to our events. We now have 147 members.



Join us at TBCR
Tuesday Coffee.

7-9am, rain or
sun, hot or cold.
Snow won't even
stop us. Well,
some of us.

TBCR Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Pete Williams
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Tubac Show Moved and Revised Date: January 29, 2022

For many years we have enjoyed the Santa Cruz Car Nuts (SCCN) car show at the Tubac Golf club. **This season the show moved to Sahuarita's Quail Creek Veterans Memorial Park**, located on two soccer fields in the park. There are two nice restroom facilities as well as a concession stand in the park.

Considering the past very large British Car turn outs, the SCCN group has dedicated one complete row (#4) to British cars on field 1. Registration fees are \$30 in advance of December 25th. After that date they increase to \$35. We recommend preregistering as soon as possible. <https://carnuts.org/event-4510563/Registration> (click on "HOME", then click on "Click Here" under upcoming events). Mail-in registration is possible, but online is the way to go.

There are a couple of changes to what we are used to. Tents and canopies are not allowed. There is no shade on the show field. We suggest you bring a suitable sun hat and use plenty of sunscreen, The park does have picnic tables and some shade elsewhere on the grounds which may be available.

Driving in as a Group: The day of the show we will gather at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot on Swan and Broadway for the 35-40 minute drive to the park. Alternatively, if you live south of Tucson, we expect join us at the park. We will depart from the bank at a time to be advised in a later announcement. (The show opens to the public at 10 AM... so we have to be there much earlier than that. You probably will receive entry times via your email.)

On the Road

Post Thanksgiving Drive

Drove thru NW to, Avra Valley and Gates Pass.



Watch for our December drives!



Thanks everyone for turning out for our drives in 2021.

British Wheels on the Green

Reported by Pete Williams

Our journey to the British Wheels On the Green (BWOG) started out with 6 cars meeting at Basha's on Oracle Rd at 11 AM, Saturday November 6th. The following vehicles made it to Peoria. (MGB & 1/2, MGB GT, MGA on a trailer, 2 Jaguar XK150s, Jaguar Mark 9)

Our first stop was Casa Grande National Monument in Chandler for a picnic lunch. Our next stop was the large multi marque Martin Auto Museum in Glendale. Our destination hotel was the Holiday Inn in Peoria. The local MG Club hosted a welcome social hour with light food and refreshments along with an event preview.

On Sunday, November 7, the show gates opened at 7:30 AM. Five of us made it to the show field.

Jeff and Bethanne Simpson's XK150 failed to proceed with starting and brake issues. Carolyn Arnquist's XK150 made it to the show field, but it had clutch issues. Fritz and Leah Ficke's Mark IX sedan became the shuttle support car for our stranded drivers. Fritz and Leah did display their car after shuttle duties.

Our other entrants, Dave and Shirley Germain (MGA), Dave George (MGB GT) and Pete Williams (MGB & 1/2) were displayed on the lovely Peoria City field. While it was a beautiful day, none of our intrepid entrants won any awards.

At the time this article was written, the status of the XK150s was unknown.

Fortunately at a show like this one, there were local members with support shops with parts for our stranded participants.

It was a beautiful Arizona day and the viable cars and drivers returned safely to their homes after the show.



The Mile High Triumph Italia Adventure

By Ben Cohen

What do you do when you get a call asking..."How would you like to exhibit your Italia this winter at a museum in Denver?" It would be in good company with rare Triumph cars including a TRS, TR5 and a Gloria Six! How can you say no to this type of opportunity? I had one experience loaning my 1960 AC Ace to the Simeone Foundation Automobile Museum in Philadelphia in 2017 for the largest exhibit of AC cars outside of the UK. The experience was rewarding to share my car with the public and they helped with the arrangements. Now fast forward to 2021, add the pandemic issues with scarcity of some services and it's a whole different ball game.



The Forney Transportation Museum in Denver, CO is staging a winter exhibition of British cars that features Triumph. The exhibit will include rarely seen cars, pre-war cars and motorcycles...also a bicycle! I accepted easily, as I think it is important to make collectable and rare vehicles accessible to the public. The process began at the end of June. I started making calls to the usual vehicle transporters...Reliable, Passport and InterCity for quotes on round trip costs, availability, and guaranteed delivery timing. Well...pandemic service shortages to the max. No possible guaranteed pickup or delivery dates. The window needed was 3-4 weeks and then they might possibly get it there on time. I called a few individuals that haul cars, but no luck. I even tried the second-tier haulers that seem to only deal in CASH moves, and they too don't make any guarantees. By the end of Sept., it seemed hopeless. Finally, I tried a shop in Tempe where I bought my 1961 Lotus Elite, which they delivered to Tucson. Unfortunately, the owner had retired. He still had the 24' box trailer but

would not haul my car; nor, would they rent the trailer to me. Again stymied. What's a guy to do? So, in a moment of "lack of clarity" I made a deal to buy the trailer in partnership with my favorite diesel truck owner and solved my problem...MENSA here I come!!!



Continued next page.



As you can see from these pictures, I spent 3 weeks washing, claying, polishing, waxing, vacuuming, and detailing. The effort was worth it. Before driving 1800+ miles round trip, the trailer was updated with LED lighting, new wheel bearings, winch controls, etc. The loading was easy, the fit perfect and nothing could go wrong, right?

My partner in this adventure, Fritz Ficke and I left Tucson for a 4-day round trip drive stopping in Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, unload in Denver, back to Albuquerque and back to Tucson. The first night in ABQ temperatures dropped to the mid-30s.



In Colorado Springs the temp dropped to 29 degrees with some light snow. The morning drive into Denver wasn't bad and the museum was ready and waiting for our arrival. After parking and unstrapping I checked everything and started the car...well, not quite. If you add the combinations of 29 degrees, 20w50 Castrol and a mechanical fuel pump, it was a "no-go." We added an extra battery with jumpers and while it cranked faster and stronger, still "no-go." The one item that we did not have in our "on the road" fix-it kit was starter fluid, However, the staff at the Forney was quick to the rescue with a can and after two brief whiffs, we had ignition. After a quick warmup, drive to their warehouse and up a ramp, we were parked in the company of a TR5 and a 1936 Triumph Gloria Six Southern Cross. Yes, the picture doesn't do it justice (covered), so perhaps you might think of a brief winter trip to Denver to enjoy the exhibit.

After securing the car in the warehouse and packing our trailer, Damien at the Forney gave us a great private tour of the museum. Their collection features one of the 8 remaining Big Boy Locomotives, a sibling to the one that visited Tucson a few years ago. The museum houses cars, motorcycles, bicycles, planes, and other railway rolling stock. This is a must-see anytime you're in Denver.

Photos: 1. Italia after prep. 2. Strapped to go in the front 3. Strapped to go in the rear showing easy on ramp-door 4. Unloading at a mile high. 5. Co-pilot Fritz freezing in the Italia. 6. Comfortably resting with 2 other Triumphs.

For Sale/Wanted

Looking for a well-used tire so I can push my 1976 spitfire in and out of my garage to work on it. Can't seem to find one in Tucson. It can be bald as long as it holds air. Will be purchasing new ones at a later date. Contact Sam: semomj@cox.net

For Sale: 1966 MGB Roadster. Asking \$15,000

Beautiful 1966 MGB Roadster 4 speed with overdrive. 1500 miles on an Ernie's British Cars 2013 rebuilt engine. Original chrome throughout. Working original AM radio. Paint and body (interior and exterior) in great condition. Tonneau cover only. Have the hardware for windshield attachment but not the frame for the convertible top.

Contact Phil: 520-837-9980

To see pictures contact the Editor tucsonbritish@gmail.com.

More British Wheels on the Green

