



THE TUCSON BRITISH CAR

REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

In this Issue:

View

On the Road

Calendar

Club News

Roots Group Meet



View from the Windscreen

by Ben Cohen

It has been a great fall so far and I want to be first to welcome back all our snowbirds. While you were enjoying the loneliness of British car isolation, we have been driving, enjoying talking cars at coffee and getting set for a full season of driving. As you gathered from emails sent toward the end of the summer, we were tapping new talent for the 2022 and you can see the slate of officers and directors that are up for our November elections. The election this year will be conducted voting via email. See page 3 for details and please be sure to vote.

Also: if you were an official member in 2021, your membership extends until the end of 2022. That means don't send \$ to us for 2022 Dues!

Although last month I promised to give you an update on what is going on in my garage, I have to say, I never had time to get more results on the uses of an ultrasonic cleaner. Hopefully, I will get that done for an pcoming newsletter. The lack of time was due to preparing my 1960 Triumph Italia 2000 for transport to Denver. No, the car is not sold (Megan was hoping, maybe) but will be part of the winter exhibition of Triumph cars at the Froney Transportation Museum. The show runs from Nov. 3, 2021 – January 31, 2022. This is their third winter exhibition of British cars following successful ones of MGs and D- and C-Type Jaguars. You can look ahead and find out more in the December *Register*.

Thanks again for remaining active, joining in drives, the Rotary car show and enjoying Tuesday morning coffee. --Ben



On The Road

October 7 Mt Lemmon

Wow, what nice weather! This was at the end of the hot days in Tucson, so a drive up the mountain was perfect.



October 23 NW Drive



It was a bright and sunny morning when we gathered at the Wetmore and First Ave Starbucks. Nine colorful cars started the tour. It was nice to be back on the road again. The tour was mostly "in town" and was a variety of moderate speed and low traffic conditions. As we neared the end of the tour, participants peeled off when they came close to their home destinations. Some turned north on Oracle for a mid-morning meal. Suddenly, as I toured east on River Road, I was the sole driver remaining. It felt great to exercise my LBC. See you on the next tour! --Pete Williams

More pictures on Page 7.

Calendar

Brit Café: TBCR's Tuesday Coffee 7am to 9am

TBCR has resumed in-person coffee at a new location: Starbucks at Swan and Ft Lowell. This is a great location with good outdoor seating.

November Drives

Ben hopes to have a post-Thanksgiving drive, sans the hotdog. Watch for emails for this and another drive in November.

TBCR Event Cancellations

TBCR will not have a hotdog run lunch and will not host a Holiday Party in 2021. Lets hope for a return to these in 2022.

BRITISH WHEELS ON THE GREEN

City of Peoria Centennial Plaza at 9:00 AM on Sunday, November 7th, 2021. Centennial Plaza and public parking are located at 9875 N. 85th Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85345.

Anyone going to this out-of-town event who has not heard from Dave Germain and want to join our drive on Saturday Nov 6th, contact him at dkgermain@aol.com. The drive begins the Bashas at 15310 N Oracle, stopping for lunch at Casa Grande National Monument, and the Martin Auto Museum, finishing at the Holiday Inn.

TBCR Elections

The following slate is offered by the board:

President: Pete Williams
Vice President: Marc Koenig
Secretary: Mike Morales
Treasurer: Dave Germain

Election procedure:

To limit COVID exposure to our members, the board has decided not to hold the usual Saturday after Thanksgiving gathering and election at end of the hot dog run. The election process will be as follows:

TBCR (via official member list) will send each member a ballot listing the slate of candidates. The return email ballots will be due Nov. 26th.

Results for the election of 2022 officers will be announced after Nov. 27th via email to members.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have new members in October. Mike Graff and Sue Jaap live on the North side of town and drive a 1956 Signal Red TR3. Be on the lookout for our new friends, say hello. They have name badges. Please welcome them to our coffees and drives.

TBCR Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Ben Cohen
rct2bnc@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT George Hahn
Ahwahnee18@gmail.com

SECRETARY Mike Morales
mikemorales400@gmail.com

TREASURER Dave Germain
dkgermain@aol.com

DRIVING EVENTS Ben Cohen
rct2bnc@aol.com

REGALIA Pete Williams
tbctours@aol.com

NEWSLETTER John Mead
tucsonbritish@gmail.com

WEBSITE Harold Beekhuizen
harold_beekhuizen@msn.com

TBCR Mail Address (Including Regalia Orders)

Tucson British Car Register
P.O. Box 30997
Tucson, AZ 85751-0997

TBCR Website
<http://www.tucsonbritish.com>

Tucson Classics Car Show

The 2021 edition of the Rotary sponsored car show drew a large crowd of visitors to a sold-out field. Once again, the British cars had a huge turnout, with 25-plus TBCR members and half dozen or so entries in the Rolls-Bentley class and a few exotics. Getting into onto the field was slow, as indicated by the temp gauges on the Tiger and the big Healeys, but once in place everything was good. Thanks go to Pete and Mark for organizing the TBCR tent and the club's entries. Thanks also to everyone who entered a car. We handed out club cards and certainly generated interest in TBCR and British cars. — John Mead





Sunbeams in Missouri Sept 2021

By Charlie Nichols

The Rootes Group loyalists again congregated for the 5-year reunion known as SUNI. Due to Covid, it has been 6 years. This year's reunion was in Independence, Missouri. Just about the center of the county: 1200 miles from Tucson, 1200 miles from Florida and 1300 miles from Long Island NY. Dave and Sue Green and Jane and I made the trip to Independence. We took over a Sears's parking lot to park all the trailers – about 60 of them. A few brave souls drove their cars and a few hired Reliable to transport their cars and just flew in.

The organizers planned a full 5 days of activities. Drives to a Winery, (250 miles worth a little more than I wanted), tours of local Museums, and a visit to the WW I Museum. On Thursday and Friday, we enjoyed the concours and an autocross. All fun activities.

The highlight for me however was the evening talks. The first night was a talk by John Nikas, the same person who drove though Tucson a few years ago in an Austin Healey collecting signatures on the car for cancer victims. There is a picture on our web site of the car John was driving. He related a fascinating story of the British and their cars before and after WW II. Britain was close to bankrupt after the war and survived only by borrowing money from the US. The US at first would not loan the money because we were sending so much to rebuild Germany. After the second request and realizing the dire circumstances, it was agreed. Britain finally repaid that loan in 2006.

Another evening speaker was Andy Bye from the Rootes Archives in England. In the last couple years with fund raising efforts, they have acquired their own building and plan to have it paid for by this November. All the Rootes drawings, ads, dealer documents and microfilm drawings have been acquired and stored. They are in the process of scanning them all, quite an undertaking.

Another evening Mike Jones gave us a talk on the Jensen Assembly plant. Jensen was an independent contractor with an assembly plant that Rootes used. They assembled all the Tiger models. John worked at Jensen for Rootes as the liaison during the Tiger production years. He related a story of flipping one of the prototype cars on a test drive. Rootes was not happy. A destroyed prototype could easily set production back months. Another story was about the issue with the panhard bar mounted from the wrong side. He easily got one of the production people to correct it in an afternoon, but it took Rootes until 1967 to incorporate the change into production. He spent his career as an automotive engineer on both sides of the pond, an interesting guy.

Then there were the technical presentations from a wide variety of people. Everything from the change-over to LED bulbs to installing a 5-speed transmission. Again, really interesting stuff. All in all, a great week.

*Charlie Nichols
59 Hillman, 65 Tiger*




More pictures on the next page.



On the Road *from page 2*





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Cell # 253-314-4578

Tucson British Car Register
PO Box 30997
Tucson, AZ 85751-0997