

THE TUCSON BRITISH CAR

REGISTER

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On the Road



View from the Windscreen

by Ben Cohen

Here I am back after a one month “vacation from writing” and looking to the future of TBCR in 2022 and beyond. Although it’s creeping up on us slowly, March 2023 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Tucson MG-T Register – the precursor of TBCR. I’ve been a member since 1994. By then it was an all-MG marque club. To increase membership and add longevity to the club it allowed all makes of British cars into the club. It’s pretty amazing that we have kept the fires burning (not literally), driving thousands of miles and are still doing what we love...despite a pandemic. Brilliant, as they say across the pond. I hope we can continue this club long into the future.

As members of TBCR, you need to consider what you want in the future. Right now we have a cadre of individuals that have served as officers and coordinators for many, many years. When TBCR needs a treasurer, newsletter editor, web master, etc., these same individuals step up to do their best for TBCR. We are where we are today because of dedicated “doers.” The problem is less than 10% of the members fall into this category. Needless to say, how can we sustain TBCR with such limited participation?

The election of officers takes place in November. Right now we don’t know if this will be at the annual Hot Dog Run or virtually on Zoom; and, we have no control over this. Personally, as President and Driving Events Coordinator, I’d be willing to mentor anyone who wants to vie for either of these positions, as long as they are willing to give it their time and attention. I am sure that others on the Board would probably do the same. I’d like to see some new blood volunteer for the Board for 2022 and help keep TBCR running and perhaps, inject some new ideas for those of us who enjoy owning, fixing, testing and yes, driving our British cars. It doesn’t matter whether you have one car or many; or if, your car is from the 50s or 10s. TBCR is here to make ownership more than seeing what’s leaking in the garage. We are here to enjoy Motoring!

Keep driving and carry on.

Ben

N.B.: As to what’s doing in the mews these days??? Lots of driving my ’62 Mini Cooper and checking out the latest in new tools...more next month on Ultrasonic Cleaning!!!

This summer marked the passing of two long-time members of TBCR and the British car community:

Bob Swetzer and Cam Sheahan.

If you have stories or remembrances about Bob or Cam please consider sharing them. I hope to do tributes to them in a future *Register*. –the Ed.

Calendar

TBCR Summer Drives

Watch for Ben's emails announcing summer drives.

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.

Zoom Brit Café

The next best thing is on Zoom. Every Tuesday at 8am. Watch for the weekly email reminder or contact the Editor.

Tucson Classics Car Show

October 16, 2021 Registration: www.RotaryTCCS.com

This may be filled by now, but.....

TBCR will again participate in the annual Tucson Classics Car Show on October 16th at the Gregory School. Pete Williams and Mike Morales will help you with any questions about the event. The entry class for our group is "J. British Made Cars".

Other Regional British Car Events Noted

31st Rio Grande Valley Regional Rendezvous September 17-19
Ruidoso, NM.

This is held in the Sierra Blanca Mountains in SE NM. Visit www.baoa.org for details.

Triumphfest October 14-17 Flagstaff. This is an annual regional event held in CA, Nevada or AZ. It includes all Triumph cars. It is the same weekend as the Tucson Classics.

British Wheels on the Green November 7 Peoria. Organized by the Arizona MG Club. All Marques are invited and judged.



Welcome New TBCR Members

Even in the month of August with heat and rain, we have 3 new members. All the new members have name badges. Please welcome them to our coffees and drives.

-John Tolle lives in north central Tucson and has 3 Jaguars: a 1965 E Type FHC, a 1969 E Type FHC, and a 1975 Jaguar XJ6C. John introduced himself in an excellent article in the July *Register*.

-Al and Sue Ojeda have a white 1977 MG Midget. They are on the Southeast side.

-Don and Jan Halsey are driving a yellow 1968 Triumph TR-250. They are in central Tucson.

Be on the lookout for our new friends, say hello.

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On the Road



Ben organized a series of drives this summer, being confined only by COVID limitations and the Monsoons. With six drives through August the results have been good. Most of the drives have brought good turnout and miles on those old odometers. Two drives were rescheduled due to rain -not a bad thing in Tucson.

The Story of Duncan (no, he's not Irish!)

By Craig House

Some of you know of my “shunt” in Jane’s beautiful 1966 Morris Mini Minor deluxe at the end of 2013, not quite 2 years into retirement life and just BARELY into TBCR - that bent both of us rather badly, but “Winston” was a terminal case! That put us down to one Mini left, my '67 Aussie Cooper S, “Ozzie” – unfortunately, I had begun a motor rebuild the year prior to destroying Jane’s Mini and Oz wasn’t in any condition to sooth our Mini driving itch! The shunt did cause a bit of shuffling in the garage, with both of us acquiring new daily rides, but alas, no new-old Mini!

About the time I was getting back into my new-normal life (July 2014), a good Oregon Mini Society friend sent me a Craig’s List ad, detailing a 1963 Austin Mini Cooper for sale not 2 hours south of us – OK, we’ll take a look. Turns out after a phone call to arrange a look-see, the owner was TBCR member Steve Vukobratovich! Steve had a number of interesting projects and had built this car up to be his boy-toy ride. Fortunate for me, Steve lost interest just prior to a strip and repaint, but had rebuilt the car with ALL new interior and mechanicals, including the larger cooper S disk brakes, mostly from Mini Spares of England. Looking the car over carefully, I couldn’t believe how clean and uncut the body was, as it had been previously owned by a young man who set it up as a boy racer! I couldn’t help but think this was fate, handing us our next Mini just as we were needing to scratch that itch! Steve even delivered the car by trailer from Sierra Vista once we’d done the deal!





Why “Duncan”? Dunno, the name sounded British and – well – he just looked like a Donut Boy to me go figure! Had lots of fun with our “red-white & blue” Mini in the ensuing couple years, even taking the coveted 30mm DM Trophy cannon shell at the 2016 Davis Monthan car show! Sorry all you participating Brit owners, our patriotic-liveried Mini just seemed to attract lots of attention!



Later that year, we had Duncan all set and loaded for a trip to San Diego for Mini Meet West2016. Not an hour down the road oil pressure decided to tank below 20 lbs requiring a lift back to the garage! Steve had warned me that in all his work he hadn’t cracked the engine. New go-fast parts everywhere but inside the lump. For me, the ensuing years always seemed to bring other priorities, like all the world travels we decided needed to happen sooner than later and the never-ending doctor visits & procedures to keep us upright and walking! Eventually I had a fresh engine thanks to great work by local mechanics at Machine Works and Ernie at his Ernie’s British shop. Help from neighbors and TBCR member Jon Small got the old engine out and later the rebuild back in. I’ve done these Mini engine dances many years now, Jane having vintage raced for a dozen years, and they certainly don’t get any easier! I think that’s my last one. Getting the final tweaking done now and we hope you’ll see more of Duncan later this year and beyond! He will eventually go to a fresh home, as Ozzie needs some cash infusion to stay fresh.

Oh – if you are curious about Winston’s fate; with the help of a few AZ Miniacs, a major assist from past member & Mini expert Joe Sawarski, he was disassembled – even cut up - and anything useful parted out to help local Minis be better Minis! I did keep a few choice goodies, of course!

For Sale

65 Sunbeam Tiger 289 red

69 E-Type red

Kelly Rivers 907-388-9388

Car Cover


The 2004 Jaguar XJ8 just purchased came with a Technalon car cover which was from the estate's previous Jaguar XJ6. As I do not use/need the car cover am making it available to anyone who would put it to a better use.

Donald Sanger <sangerfamily@comcast.net>

Happy Summer driving!



Please send articles, calendar events and pictures to the editor, tucsonbritish@gmail.com.



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