

Northwest Alabama British Sports Car & Motoring Club

Newsletter July/August/September 2004

President's Corner

The summer has been an active time for our club. We have had **seven** drive outs! Due to the family summer vacations and activities there have been some small groups and large groups enjoy the drive outs coordinated by the club. We have a few more drive outs planned before the "winter" months set in.

The Club's October Car Show (Oct 22-23) is fast approaching. At September's monthly meeting some final plans were put into place:

- 1) Jim McCoy will head up the "parking" of the cars on Saturday between 8:00-10:00 AM
- 2) Walter Ingle will coordinate the church youth group providing the food and announcing DJ
- 3) Jean Mammen will coordinate the Friday night open house refreshments
- 4) Alice Hester will coordinate the free coffee and donuts provided for the show entrees on Saturday morning at 7:30 AM in the Keystone building.
- 5) John Van Sant will coordinate the use of the Sun Bank parking lot and Keystone building.
- 6) Tim Glover will coordinate the registration, door prizes, and trophies.
- 7) Al Mammen will print and mail the new brochure design (done by Terry Geiger) on the show. It will be mailed to 123 prior entries in our car shows or individual known to have a British car in the Four state area (MS, AL, TN, GA)

Club Members can assist to insure that the show is smooth and successful. Tim Glover needs some help in procuring door prizes. We are short two tents the day of the show (Saturday morning 7:00 AM). Please contact Tim Glover (766-8874, ftglover@wisealloys.com) Jean Mammen needs some donated food for the Friday night open house (767-2032, jean.mammen@comcast.net). Walkie-talkies

are needed for parking coordination on the day of the show (Saturday morning 8:00 AM). Please contact Jim McCoy (757-2271)

**** Upcoming DRIVE OUT Oct 9 ****

Over the last four monthly meetings we have discussed going to a fellow area club car show as a "club". The Nashville All British Car & Motorcycle Show is Saturday October 9th in Franklin TN was chosen. The cost is \$30 entry fee. The featured Marque is the MG – 80th Anniversary! There will be live music provided by a local British band. Award presentations are at 3:30-4:00 PM. There is a Hospitality Room from 6-9 PM Friday evening October 8th at the Amerisuites, 650 Bakers Bridge Ave, Franklin, TN. For more info contact Jack Coffey, show chairman (615-937-1535, coffeyjack@bfusa.com).

The club will drive out the day of the show, Saturday October 9th and will meet at the Winn Dixie parking lot on the corner of Cox Creek Pkwy & Cloverdale Rd in Florence at 7:00 AM. (Registration at the show is by 10:00 AM). Jim McCoy will lead us to Pinkerton Park in Franklin by way of the Trace. The drive takes about 2 hours so please have cars gassed and humans fed ready to leave at 7:00 AM.

With everyone's help the club can produce a great British Car Show October 22-23. The Tuesday meeting October 12th at Tourway we will be finalizing the last details of our show. Please attend this meeting in anticipation of producing a great show this year.

Best wishes to James Hester (and of course his "nurse", wife Alice) on his recent bout with Prostate cancer. The operation was successful and James is ready to help with the Car Show.

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“The Great American Race – June 21”

Monday June 21st the club participated in the welcoming of The Great American Race coming through Florence for the second year in a row. We had 5 British cars and one old “Chev” (Jim McCoy’s son). The race only had two British vehicles this year, a Bentley & a Rolls Royce. After the race came through, club members went to the Corner Grill on Mobile Street (where we had parked our cars) for lunch. Everyone had a good time and the food was good. (Saturday it has 2 for 1 burgers - GOOD burgers)

“Dinner at the Pilot House - July 1”

On Thursday July 1st at 6:30 PM the McCoys, Hesters, Mammens, and Armstrongs, met in Tuscumbia at the Pilot House for dinner and conversation. Unfortunately no one drove a British car because of the rain in the early evening. But that did not stop us from enjoying the company. We had a lovely meal and managed to discuss local elections, Australia, past club functions, and many more subjects. The McCoys and the Hesters stayed after to see the water show in Spring Park.

“Mitchell-Hollingsworth drive out- 7/10”

Saturday July 10th four club members drove their cars to the nursing home to let the patients enjoy and reminisce. Jean and Alan Mammen’s Jag, Terry Geiger’s Triumph, Jim McCoy’s MGTD, and John Van Sant’s Model T. The patients shared stories of their “old times” with their cars. The memories were great and everyone wanted to have their pictures taken with the cars for mementos. Kelly Young was there to bring his father out (his father was a patient at Mitchell-Hollingsworth). We all took away a memory of a good morning of giving to the community.

“Antique Boat Show-Joe Wheeler-July 17th”

July 17th Antique Boat Show-Joe Wheeler was canceled because of rain. The weather had been so

bad for two weeks, there was a poorer turn out of boats than was scheduled.

“Scooter’s-Karen Gruber Jazz-July 24th”

July 24th the Mammen’s, Hester’s, and Marvin attended the WC Handy Event at Scooters starring Karen Gruber. Y’all missed some good jazz music and comradeship.

“Walnut Grove Vol Fire Company Fish Fry Dinner – August 14th”

Last year we traveled to the “Monthly Fish Fry” and enjoyed it so well we decided to go back this year. The McCoy’s, Hester’s, Mammen’s, and Bob Armstrong (his wife was in Australia visiting family) left Florence around 4:30 PM by the back roads to arrive in Walnut Grove to the typical long line for food. We had a good meal and comradeship. Bob told us many stories about his family’s “war stories” handed down from generation to generation of the Civil War in this area. We returned to Florence by a different route and memories of beautifully weather, good stories, and a good meal.

“Dinner at the Walton Restaurant, Elgin – August 26th”

Thursday evening 8/24 we met at the McDonald’s in Killen to drive to Walton Restaurant in Elgin. After arriving at the restaurant we found some more members, which live near Elgin already there. There was a good turn out: Steve Tomlinson, Steve Blazer, Geiger’s, McCoy’s, Katachis’s, Brook’s, friends of the Brook’s Joyce/Dick, Jean Mammen, Cameron Kay, and Tim Glover & daughter Rebecca. Conversation was great, food was good, and all had a good time. Before and after the meal club members spent time outside admiring and discussing the “babies” (British cars for those of you who do not know my nickname for MY British Jag).

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“Drive out to David Crockett Park in Lawrenceburg – Sept 11th”

The day was typical fall weather, cool start and hot during the day. Three members of the club (the Terry Geiger's, McCoy's, and Mammen's) plus one new member (Terry's father and mother Ted and Sue) headed out to TN around 9:00 AM from Florence. Our guide, Jim McCoy, led the pack through some of the prettiest country around: Rt 47, Rt 8, Rt 61, Rt 94, Rt 177, through St Florian, Upper Shoals Creek, Dogwood Hollow, Iron City, West Point, Crewstown. We drove 45 miles in 2 hours. The curves, hills, scenery, and stories about the area talked about on our walkie-talkies were enjoyed. All tops were down and breezes made the day great. We lunched at the David Crockett Restaurant. On our return trip Terry Geiger led. We passed a few families of deer while in the park. The return trip took us home by way of Rt 177 and the “Trace”. On the trace we stopped at the Glen Rock picnic area (we had a picnic there earlier in the year). Certain ladies will remember the event as a “bath” experience at the creek. It was a Saturday well spent enjoying friends admiring our cars and passing time over a good meal.

Passing of a long time club member

A member of the club from it's beginning many years ago, **Leander Gruber** (Marvin Gruber's father), passed away on June 26th. The club made a donation to the Hospice of the Shoals. Some members attended the memorial service Sunday June 27th. Members talked of going out to “the farm” on Saturdays to talk and enjoy British cars from the time they were teenagers. We would like to convey to Marvin and his family our heartfelt condolences.

James Hester's Mystery Car

MG - “M” pre-war

By James Hester

According to the Roads Act, 1920 Registration Book, for a Mechanically Propelled Road Vehicle, this particular "M" type, MG, was originally registered July 30, 1930. The car was produced in the midpoint of production for this particular model, i.e. the "M" Type. My father purchased the vehicle in the late 60's.

The car was purchased from an Englishman, David John Meadows, Hurts Hall, Saxmundham, Suffolk County, Great Britain.

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The car had been stored in a barn for approximately 10 years with the usual hay and chicken droppings covering it. It was located in Suffolk County, near Ipswich, with the registration plate number of SC8173. I believe the SC stood for Suffolk County, and the car still has this plate on the rear. After finding it in the barn, we put air in the tires, petrol in the tank, installed a battery, and pulled it down the road for about two miles and it started. Because the engine smoked so badly, the engine short block had to be rebuilt.

Syd Beer rebuilt the block. The late Mr. Beer had the largest Private collection of MG's in the world, 70 MG's at least one of every type manufactured. I rebuilt the cylinder head and put everything back together, and it has been running every since. It has an aluminum body, and only 273 of the entire production of 3,200 were aluminum bodied. The rest were fabric bodied, and I suppose metal was in short supply then. The "M" type was rebuilt in England and shipped via below deck cargo space in January 1968 to the Port of Mobile, Alabama where my father picked it up. He brought it back to Russellville in the back of a pickup.

Listed below are some specifications:

Wheelbase:	6 ft- 6 in.
Fan:	Optional, 2-blade, this car is equipped with a fan.
Track:	3 ft.- 6 in.
Weight:	1000 lbs, approx
Brakes:	Mechanical, with Finned Drums for Cooling
Cylinders:	4
Engine Bearings:	White Lead, Poured, (Babbitt)
Engine Size:	847 CC
Bore:	57MM
Stroke:	83 MM
Carburetor:	Single, 1-1/8" SU Horizontal
Overhead Cam	
Volts:	6
Transmission:	4 speed - "Crash Box"
Top Speed:	65 MPH
Radiator:	Honey Comb
Cooling:	by Convection, No Water Pump
Miles Per Gallon:	39, Imperial Gallon
Aluminum Body:	Boat Tail
Shocks:	Knee Action, Friction
Chassis No.	2M1996
Engine No.	1744A

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Upcoming Events

To post an event on the club calendar please contact Terry Geiger at
tgeiger@aitinc.com

Sep 24-25	The 8 th Annual Brits By the River – Vidalia, LA – www.msemc.org (Comfort Suites 800-260-2715 \$80)
Oct 1-2	21 st Annual Memphis British Car & Motorcycle Fest at Memphis Boy's Town. Proceeds from the show will benefit Villages (the parent Organization of Boy's Town) www.memphisbritishcars.org (Hampton Inn wolf chase galleria 901-382-2050 \$89)
Oct 8-9	All British Car & Motorcycle Show – Nashville, TN - Amerisuites 615-771-8900 - www.nashvilletn.org/NBCC/ We as a club are doing a drive out on the day of the show to enter as a group our British Cars – details in President's message.
Oct 12	Monthly Club Meeting – 6:30 PM Tourway Pancake House, Florence
Oct 22-23	8th Annual British Renaissance Faire Show - The annual fall show put on by the members of our club. Hospitality Fri 6:30 PM Keystone – Show Sat 8:00 AM SunTrust Parking Lot Florence
Nov 5-7	Southern British Car Club Show – Chattanooga, TN www.southernbritishcarclub.org/home.html

Club Officers

President	Jean Mammen	767-2032	jean.mammen@comcast.net
VP	Jerrell Ingle	760-0962	
Treasurer	James Hester	332-1297	HestJam@aol.com
Secretary			
Newsletter	Al Mammen	767-2032	alan.mammen@comcast.net
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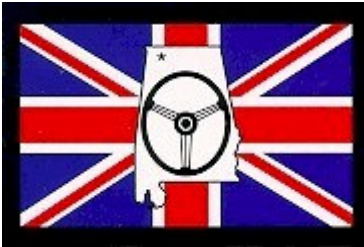
The club meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except Dec) at the Tourway Pancake House in Florence at 6:30 PM. The newsletter is published on the 1st of every month. Anyone who would like to contribute articles or comments to the newsletter please forward to alan.mammen@comcast.net or PO Box 1058, Florence, AL 35631.

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James Hester's mystery car.

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