

# North West Alabama British Sports Car & Motoring Club

## Monthly News Letter October 2003

### Notes from the President's Corner

The last two months has been an active time for our club: a "British Car Week" drive out, an attendance reward, finalizing future drive outs, and various "club" activities.

On Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> the family of Walter Ingle celebrated his 80th birthday. There was family from out of state and local with over 40 people in attendance. We want to wish him a very happy belated birthday.

On Monday June 30<sup>th</sup> the club had a presence at the "Great American Car Race". The club erected a tent with a banner displaying our club name with 10 of our babies on display (9 cars and 1 motorcycle). The arrival of the racecars began at 10:15 AM. Even though the weather threatened rain, we enjoyed the magnificent machines going past our display. I mentioned in last months update that this would be an opportunity to shine. We did, many participants' heads turned to our "display" making us feel proud. The racecars were gone by 11:45 AM and the rains poured at 11:50 AM. Our individual race was on to protect our babies. The babies survived but some of us were soaked in the bargain.

On Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> the club met at the Tuscumbia McDonalds and headed NW to "Hester's". The drive was short but refreshing. Alice had a food layout to quench our body and James had a garage plus to quench the mechanic. All had a good time. We learned the TLC has a British car cartoon on at 5:30 AM which one member (Jim) watches every morning. And we learned that in Hester country James goes by another name, Mackey. Our youth haunts us all through life. I am sure we all have family nicknames. James has a good one with pleasant memories.

Terry Geiger has finalized the 'business cards' representing the club. They are being printed on Terry's PC and look good. Members can obtain from Terry or pick up at our meetings.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> a small number of members participated in a drive out to the Walnut Grove, TN fire department Saturday fish fry dinner. We met at John's Express Oil on Dr. Hick's Blvd in Florence at 4 PM. We found out the Walnut Grove Fire department serves over 2,200 dinners every month. They are organized and the catfish is outstanding. A good time was had by all with the thought we need to do it again.

The club's Oct Car show is coming together. Brochures are ready. Contact Tim or pick up at the meetings. The car badges have been ordered. Jim McCoy will be "Traffic coordinator" the day of the show. I will head up Friday night refreshments. I will be calling for assistance soon. The Saturday refreshments will be provided by a yet to be determined school group to handle as a fun raiser.

In Sept/Oct we will have an outing to the "Gruber Garages". Date will be finalized by our next meeting.

There are many more social occasions being planned, drive outs and non drive-outs for the coming months. There are various car shows coming up in the fall (See the calendar in the newsletter or web site) which we plan to participate in plus the ultimate show, our own "Northwest Alabama at the Renaissance Fare" the weekend of October 24-25<sup>th</sup>. The plans are coming together for a great show this year. Tim Glover is taking volunteer names now. There are many areas you can help with to make the event a success. And we have a good time by all doing it.

### Editors note

Last months meeting the plans for the fall renaissance show are progressing well and plans are on schedule. Many new items to be offered for sale were discussed. For our show to be successful we must attract as many people as we can as these visitors can help swell the coffers of our club, make sure your friends neighbors, co-workers anyone you come in contact with, know about the show we can supply posters to post to your workplace, church, if you have a personal web site, post it to that. Attach

it to your e-mail messages GET THE WORD OUT we need all the support we can get.

We have an ample supply of posters they can be picked up from Jane at the new Climate Guard Self Storage located in the old Heileg Meyers Store opposite K mart on Florence Boulevard. Just give her a call at 766-1221 and let her know your coming in and how many you may need. Or they will be available at the next monthly meeting and the various directors will have an ample supply

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Planned Events (See web site for past events)

Aug 9	Walnut Grove Fish Fry, Meet at Express Oil Change on Dr. Hicks at 4:00 pm
Aug 12	Club Meeting, 6:30 pm. Tourway Pancake House
Oct 10 & 11th	The Nashville British Car Club is hosting the ALL BRITISH CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW at the Carnton Plantation ( <a href="http://www.carnton.org">www.carnton.org</a> ) in Franklin, TN, on October 10th & 11th, 2003. For more information and to register, go to: <a href="http://www.nashvillebritishcarclub.com">www.nashvillebritishcarclub.com</a> . Mississippi Motoring Club - held in Vidalia, LA "Brits by the River"
Oct 24-25	<u>7th Annual British Renaissance Faire Show</u> - The annual fall show put on by the members of our club
Nov 7-8	Chattanooga, TN

### Thumbnail of the month

John Van Sandt  
Bug Eye love affair

My first British encounter was when I was about 8 years old when my aunt was in college at auburn and her boy friend (soon to become my uncle) drove a red Bug eye Sprite. He took me for many rides in it and being young and very impressionable I fell in love with that little. Fast forward to when I was fifteen my dad said to me we must start looking for some kind of car. When asked what kind of car I wanted I immediately replied a Bug eye sprite. After suppressing his laughter he said if you could find he might consider it. I got 2 Hemmings Motor news and found one just outside of Memphis. I had pictures sent to me and that weekend off we went to Memphis.

The whole family piled into our Buick station wagon. It was first of July 1976 and very hot! While dad was inside paying for the car I quickly put the top down. We let the girls go shopping and us guys headed back about 12 noon with no hats and we had long hair in those days.

First dad had to buy beer for the trip back and he could not believe the little car had no trunk. We put the beer behind the seats and took off. About a four-hour drive later we arrived back in Florence. We were both sunburned our hair tied in knots and I still didn't know how to drive a straight shift.

All afternoon I thought we would spend the remainder of the afternoon learning how to drive. But when dad got out of the car in our driveway he said I would have to learn the best way I knew how, because that was the last time he was getting in that **thing** again.

I guess he had a little buyer's remorse. Anyway the next day my mother needed to go the post office in North Florence, so I said I would take her. After letting the car die a few times we were on our way. After parking outside the post office this man came out and said he had a bug-eyed sprite. I couldn't believe it the first time I drove the car I found another Bug-eyed owner. His name was Walter Ingle and he told me about a sports car club in Florence that met in a bank basement and suggested I join.

I had the car painted British Racing Green and installed a new black interior installed. Ordered a new top and tonneau cover and paid for it with yard mowing money. I restored that bug-eye again in 1988, this time painting it white with a red interior. I still have the car today and drive it frequently.

Thank you John,

(I'll bet you aged your mother twenty years in that drive to the post office)

**The major portion of the following story is an excerpt from the History of Jaguar Web site.**

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### Little known Facts about British automobiles

I have had a love affair for many years with Jaguar cars. My first "real car" was a 1950 2-½ Litre "Jag". Black in color and long on looks, great big P100 headlights that lit up the nighttime roads like the searchlights illuminated the skies over London in WW II.

In 1961 at a very impressionable age of 22, my company sent me to look at some steel we had sold Jaguar, this visit led to one of my most memorable episodes. I arrive at the Jaguar plant early one morning and mistakenly was sent to the wrong department. When I entered the large building, there was a car under a large sheet with tethers going to the ceiling, about this time a large group of distinguished gentlemen began arriving, so being intrigued by all the whispering and very knowing exchanges of glances, I just stood around trying to look like I belonged in that group. A few minutes later a gentleman appeared who I later found out was the main man, Sir William Lyons, without much fanfare he rose to a podium and began to announce the car that would rock the sports car world, the much admired XKE. When he pulled the rope leading to the ceiling the cover rose to reveal a brilliant red XKE, you should have heard the gasps around the room, I don't think I breathed for at least 15 mins. I was so taken aback by the sheer good looks of this automobile.

**Who would think the storied Jaguar started out in such humble beginnings**

### Jaguar Automobile History

#### The Beginning... Blackpool

William Lyons was born to a Blackpool family in September 1901. His father, an Irish musician, had visited Blackpool and met a local girl. William senior opened a music store in Blackpool, which did well. William junior seems, in his early years, to have developed a great enthusiasm for motorcycles.

In those days, there were no cheap mass produced cars, and motorcycles with attached sidecars were popular transportation. In 1921, at the age of 20, he met a man called William Walmesley, who was making sidecars for motorcycles in his parent's garage. The Walmesleys had just moved to Blackpool from Stockport, and they met when Lyons purchased a sidecar for his Harley-Davidson.

William Lyons was younger than Walmesley, but seems to have been able to persuade him

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**The Legendary Jaguar XKE**



**The car that exemplifies the British Sports car**



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