

North West Alabama British Sports Car & Motoring Club

Monthly News Letter September 2003

Editors note

Well another summer has come and gone, I hope it was a good one with many more good memories to store and cherish during the coming winter months.

When winter's its most depressing, I sometimes let myself drift back to the open road with the top down and I can feel the warm summer sun penetrating my shoulders and it feels ever so good.

However, in late fall, there's nothing more exhilarating than on a crisp morning, putting the top down, bundled up, gloves and scarf's (I used to wear a Balaclava until it became the garb of choice of terrorists) and feeling the bite of the crisp air on the open face. It gets the juices flowing and makes one glad to be alive.

Over the past nine months I have attempted to bring a new face to our newsletter and add some interest

to our monthly publication, however, it is the Newsletter editor's job to put the newsletter together from stories generated by the members.

Unfortunately, I find I have to write stories to make it a worthwhile newsletter, I have had some very good participation on a number of occasions and a couple of months I felt we had some momentum going, then only to be let down the next one as I get nothing.

The newsletter can only be good, if members participate. The more participation the better the newsletter can be. For a newsletter to reflect the clubs image it must have input from its members.

Remember our newsletter gets posted to the World Wide Web and from that perspective our club is judged by many people on its content on the quality of the people of our club.

Upcoming Events

Here is a list of events for the upcoming year. If you know of anything that should be added or if you need more information concerning a particular event, please email webmaster@shoalsbritishcars.org.

[Past Recent and upcoming Events](#)

2003	Recent and upcoming events
Sept 20	Trail of Tears Car Gathering - McFarland Park 9am to 4pm. We've been requested by the folks that put on the Trail of Tears to show some cars at McFarland Park. They've promised a lot of free publicity (on the radio) and will also advertise the upcoming Renaissance Faire Show in October.
Oct 3-4	20th Annual Memphis British Car & Motorcycle Fest will be held at Memphis Boys Town www.MemphisBritishCars.org
Oct 10 & 11th	The Nashville British Car Club is hosting the ALL BRITISH CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW at the Carnton Plantation (www.carnton.org) in Franklin, TN, on October 10th & 11th, 2003. For more information and to register, go to: www.nashvillebritishcarclub.com .
Oct 14	Club Meeting, 6:30 pm. Tourway Pancake House
Oct 24-25	7th Annual British Renaissance Faire Show - The annual fall show put on by the members of our club
Nov 7-9	Chattanooga Car Show at the Chattanooga Choo Choo

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Thumbnail of the month John Van Sandt 1957 Austin Healey 100-6 Stuck In The Mud”

The second British car I purchased when I was in the 11th Grade.

Everyone kept telling me at school that there was an Austin Healey for sale in our local paper. So I called the number, found out it was located in Sheffield.

They said it would run but not drive. So my two high school friends (Kelly Young and Steve Shaw) and I went to look at it.

What a dismal sight, the Healy was parked besides a barn in the open air, the wheels and tires sank so deep in the ground that the tires disappeared up to the rims, making it impossible to roll.

The owner brought a hot battery from his pickup, hooked it up and pressed the starter button, surprise surprise it sprang to life.

He said the clutch was frozen to the flywheel, had no top, but everything was there to make a great car.

650 bucks later with the aid of a come-along we winched it out of the ground and brought it home.

This was the beginning of an almost zero budget “frame off” restoration of a big Healey.

- § Many of “pop rivets” and what seemed like endless sheets of aluminum.
- § Homemade floorboards were welded in by a family friend for the princely sum of a couple of beers.
- § A cheap engine rebuild (removed cleaned and painted green put back in).
- § Painted it Healy ice blue over white.

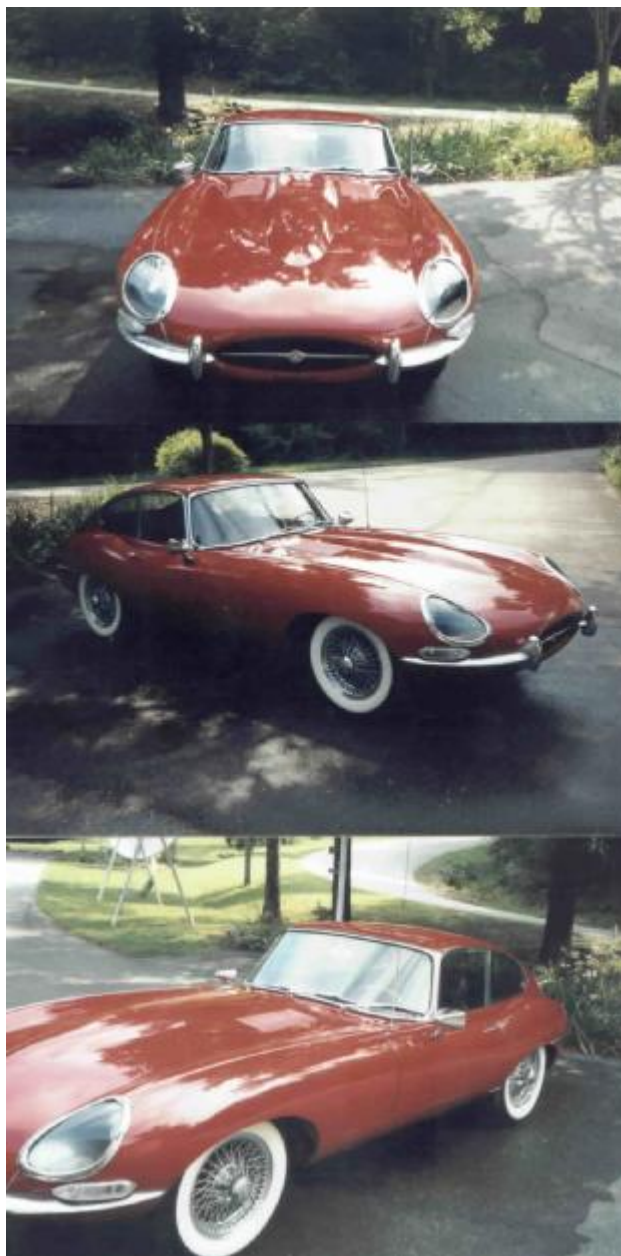
It took about three years (until I was a junior in UNA) before the car was finished. Despite being a very amateurish restoration so many years ago, it still runs great and looks pretty good from twenty feet.

The cheap engine rebuild has held up over the years, still runs great and gives me great enjoyment that I hope will last for many years.

Due to lack of editorial input I have taken the liberty of including this car, a local car that I found is up for sale.

Gentlemen & Ladies:

For anyone interested in a really suburb XKE



Thank you John, another nice story

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Jaguar XKE Coupe

- § This car has only 66,000 miles
- § It is all-original. Matching Numbers etc.
- § Never been bumped or abused in any way.
- § No rust (not even in the floor wells)
- § Has been the in Florence AL area all but the first two years of its life with the same owner.
- § The vital maintenance a car of this type needs has religiously been performed.
- § All body rubber seals have been replaced.
- § All suspension rubber components have been replaced.
- § All chrome work is in very good condition.
- § Always garaged, has seen rain only out the garage door and never never any snow and the salt that follows it.
- § The interior requires attention to bring it into first class condition (only if your a fanatic as the interior is still in fair to good condition
- § Not concourse condition but with a little time and expenditure of a few modest bucks could be.

As the old cliché goes you must see it to appreciate it.

We will be bringing the car to the show (unless its sold).

If you've always wanted an XKE, (or a second or third one) bring your checkbook, as this is the one you've been looking for.

PS the only drawback of this car is: when its sold, the purchaser will have to put up with the tears its current owners will shed when they part with it.

If your interested give me a call on my cell phone 256-710-6284 and I'll arrange an appointment to see it

Update on our resident Walkabout guy”

Received the following letter from Jim McCoy on his latest “Walkabout”

Hi guys:

A lot has happened since I last wrote. As you are probably aware, I was under the weather a little during the Trail of Tears bash. Linda and I crashed our Gold-Wing motorcycle up near South Pittsburgh Tenn. on Tuesday Sept. 9th.

I blame the Tenn. state highway repair crew for leaving an open ground repair site, unfinished and unmarked, this condition caused me to lose control of the bike on a downhill curve section of the Hwy. 422.

Linda suffered only small gravel cuts to her hands, while I wasn't so lucky. I went down hard on left shoulder, skinned my knee, elbow and stoved up my shoulder and left side. However, **We are recovering nicely.**

The bike came out with minor damage, broken windshield, mirrors and scratched roll bars.

I have owned 10 -12 bikes, have ridden 200,000 plus miles the last 40 years since my last encounter with an automobile in Dayton Ohio.

I feel responsible for the crash and it will make a better driver, rider and pilot.

“My next scheduled Walkabout”

Chuck Clark has invited me to drive with him to the Southeastern MGT meet at Hawasee GA this weekend Oct. 2, 3, 4, & 5th.

We leave at noon Oct. 1st. drive to Mont Teagle Tenn., meet up with 2 T cars, spend the night there drive up 156 to New Hope Tenn., SW to Trenton GA, 136 to Elijahay then 76 to Hawassee.

We are looking forward to a great time We will drive straight home Sunday the 5th.

PS I made it to 72 years old Oct. 1st. I feel bloody good. No cards please gas money will do very nicely.

Thanks Jim for the update very pleased to here you and Linda came through it with only minor damage and no more lasting effects than feeling a little humbled and thankful your mishap didn't do more damage.

We are looking forward to your write up on your Hawassee trip.

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