

# BRITISH MOTOR CLUB OF UTAH

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 1989

Volume 2, Issue 2

## UPCOMING EVENTS - DO YOUR LIGHTS WORK?

Two ideas that were suggested this summer were to have an evening run and a trip to the Wasatch Brew Pub in Park City. These got combined and the **September event** will be a **run to Park City for Dinner most likely at the Wasatch Brew Pub on Saturday September 16**. Dinner can be had there for under \$10. (useful if the car needs parts). Meet in the K-Mart parking lot at the mouth of Parley's Canyon (Parley's way and Foothill Blvd.) at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday September 16. For more information contact Duff at 487-5192.

## HELP!!

We are looking for an October event, any ideas? Also for future events. If you have an idea we will probably try it.

## A TEMPORARY EDITOR

As some of you may know Rich, our newsletter editor, is likely to be out of town for a few weeks and may be moving. Julie and I will be trying to keep things together temporarily while Rich is gone. If you need information call Bill or Julie Van Moorhem 582-9223 (home) or 581-7687 (Bill's work). *VANMOORHEM@ME.UTAH.EDU*

## AN "A" WITH AN AUTOMATIC??

The Bonneville Healey Club held its "Healey Days" on August 5 and a few folks from the "other british car club" showed up. There were five groups of us there, Neal and Marilyn, Duff and his father, Tyler, a couple with the white 1500 Midget whose name I am sorry to say I have forgotten, and Julie and myself, also seven Healeys, a MGC with a Buick (Rover) V-8 that was added in England, a beautiful original E-type Jag, and other people who came and went plus some SCCA types. Not a huge turnout but a respectable one. They had a car show, a funkana and prize drawings. Tyler did not have a co-driver with him so I got to drive all of the funkana events twice. The funkana was run in three stages. The first had a pylon with a rope, about 20 feet long, attached to it. A wrench was tied to the middle of the rope. The aim was for the co-driver to hold

the rope between two knots about five feet apart near the end of the rope and the driver to circle the pylon as quickly as possible without pulling it over or dragging the wrench. The driver and co-driver then changed positions and repeated the circle. Time was added for dragging the wrench or pulling the pylon over. This is more difficult than it sounds.

The second event was blindfolded driving with directions from the co-driver. The course was an "H" pattern, think of a gearshift pattern. You entered at second gear position and drove forward to first. Reversed to fourth. Switch drivers and blindfold. Forward to third and reverse to second. Time was added for cones knocked over.

The third event was more gymkana than the funkana. It was a roughly figure eight course with backing-up at some points and was a pure speed event on a very short course. When one driver completed the course you switched drivers and repeated it. Tyler drove this at a speed that gave me white knuckles but when we switched the fun began. Tyler has a right hand drive MGA and this day was the first time I ever had driven a right hand drive car. It's strange, as soon as you start to shift you rap your right knuckles on the door frame, realize what happened, switch hands and try and shift with your left which then can't find the gears. Tyler watched this happen a couple times and then started shifting for me as we groped around the course. This seemed to work fairly well and we took second place.

## EUREKA!

Four cars met at South Town Mall on August 19 for the parade in Eureka. This was a disappointing showing after the large groups this summer. Rich and Shirley were in the "B", Allen and his father, Bill, in the TR, Bruce and Diane in the beautiful E type Jag that was at the Healey days, and Julie and I in the "A." It was a cool day and the drive down was uneventful. When we arrived the normal chaos of a parade was underway: a band forming up, the pom-pom girls wandering around, Miss Sanaquin County looking beautiful, the sheriff trying to convince people that the detour around the parade route required them to drive through the hole in the fence and down the dirt road on the other side. Normal parade stuff. It finally got going about on time and we drove down the route with some nice comments on the cars. There were at least ten times the number of people that I have ever seen before in Eureka. A really good turnout there. After the parade we parked and wandered around. There were some strange old general stores, some art and crafts displays and a home-cooked lunch by the senior citizens (with home-grown tomatoes and home-made cake). The event had more of a flavor of a reunion than anything else. While walking about we learned that we were supposed to be hosting a car show that didn't happen. Maybe next year.

Several people called and had other commitments but we have gotten poor showings at the two parades we have been in this year. Should we continue entering them? What's your feeling about them?

## AUTOCROSS

I went up to Hill AFB to see the autocross run there by the Hill Sports Car Club in August. They had about 30 cars there and an enthusiastic group of people. Autocross is a timed speed event around a "road course" laid out with cones. I would guess the total length of the course may have approached a half mile and involved a number of turns to keep the speed down, but it was fast enough that cars would spin. The event is held nearly every weekend and is open to anyone interested. I would suggest that you watch one first before charging into it if you have not tried before. There were a few British cars, Mark Bradakis' TR-4, a TR-7, a Sunbeam Alpine, Brian Mertz's Healey, and a Spitfire. If someone is interested in doing the contacting maybe we all should go watch (See Sept. 24 in the calender) and then try it.

## THE LUCAS CALENDER

This calender works about as well as its namesake. Use it with care.

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| Sept. 2-4 | Vintage racing at Steamboat Springs, CO. Several people from the club are going to watch.  |
| Sept. 3   | Autocross at Hill AFB. Begins about 10:00. You may have to convince the guard that you need to get in. Be Confident. Contact Mark Bradakis, 364-3251(h) or 581-8866(w) for info. |
| Sept. 5   | Crown Burger Cruise Night, 2684 S. 3200 W., begins about 6:00 till ?? Hamburgers and great old cars. Lots of rods and customs.   |
| Sept. 15  | KRSP Cruise Night, at an Eat-a-Burger, call or listen to KRSP for the exact location. More burgers and cars.   |
| Sept. 16  | <b>Club run to Park City for Dinner. See page 1.</b>   |
| Sept. 17  | Senior Citizens Car Show at the U. of U.   |
| Sept. 24  | Silver State Classic. Nevada closes down a section of highway about a 100 mi. long between Ely and Las Vegas.  |

For a healthy entry fee you can drive it at any speed you like.

- Sept. 24      SCCA autocross at Alta High School. (Last minute note, the location is questionable. Contact Mark Bradakis, 364-3251(h) or 581-8866(w) for info.) An excellent chance to see what autocross is all about.
- Oct. 1        Autocross at Hill AFB. See Sept 3.
- Oct. 3        Crown Burger Cruise Night. See Sept. 5.
- Oct. 7        KRSP Cruise Night. See Sept. 15, but in the afternoon.
- Oct. 8        Autocross at Hill AFB. See Sept 3.
- Oct. 15      Autocross at Hill AFB. See Sept 3.

#### TIDBITS

Anybody know of a TR-8 for sale? Rich knows somebody who wants one.

If you are looking for that strange unobtainable part let us know and we will make a note of it here. Maybe somebody has two.

Again, we need help with ideas for events. Anybody know how to set up a Rally?