

# BRITISH MOTOR CLUB OF UTAH

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1990

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The next event will be a **technical session on bodywork and painting** with Merlin Berg on **January 20**. Merlin specializes in restorations and can give you a 100 point concours body and paint job. Do you really know the difference between a \$300 and a \$2000 paint job? Is the \$2000 job really worth \$300? What are the advantages and disadvantages of lacquer, enamel and polyurethane? Should you use plastic (bondo), lead or no filler on your next body repair? What should you do to keep the body from rusting away? Merlin will be showing us his shop and giving some guidance on paints, painting, bodywork, restoration and preservation. We will meet at **10:00 am** at Merlin's shop, 12277 South 700 West. Get off I-15 at 123rd South, marked the Draper - Riverton exit. Head west for a mile or so, the first street where you can turn north is 700 West. Turn north onto 700 West. Just around the corner on the right is a brick building with a silo next to it, this is Merlin's shop (the building not the silo). There is no name or sign on the building. Come in the front door. We will attempt to have coffee and a snack too. If we have heavy snow we may postpone the session. Call if you are unsure.

The evening of February 10 is the current date for the long-planned Potluck Dinner, business and planning meeting and whatnot. Plans currently call for our purchase of a main meat dish and for the other items to be brought as a potluck (really a potplanned as we would like you to call and let us (Bill and Julie) know what you will be bringing.) We will have a small charge for this main dish. Let's get a good turnout for this so we can make some plans for the upcoming year. We have also had several suggestions for videos, movies and slides and will likely show some of these. Kees has volunteered to host this event.

March 17 will be the St. Patrick's day parade. If there is interest, we will take part.

We need an event and an event organizer for April, an in-town or near-town event would be best because of the questionable weather at this time of the year.

A rally has been suggested for May with the Vintage Motor Car Club.

All of this (except the January event) is still somewhat tentative. All good and other suggestions will be considered. We need new ideas.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

With the December newsletter you received a membership list giving the address and phone numbers of everyone receiving the newsletter in December. Also, a list of cars and owners was included. When I was writing the newsletter, I was not sure that I could get the lists done in time so there was little comment about it in the December issue. The strange spacing on the names and addresses is a result of my lack of understanding of the computer program that I use to produce the mailing labels. I am sure that there were errors in the list, please let me know. We also lack phone numbers and cars for a suprisingly large number of people, again help us get it straightened out.

At the beginning of December we had 68 names on the mailing list, these 68 people own 84 british cars, although 12 of the people do not list a car or cars. So for the people listing cars the average is one and half cars per person. (I always knew that they were like peanuts.) Mark Bradakis and Kees Versteeg appear to own the most British cars, 6 each (Mark proof read this and tells me he really has 7). People seem to be very loyal, all Triumphs, Jaguars, or what ever. MGs, especially MGBs, were by far the most popular, but there is a sizable number of Triumphs, quite a pride (is that the right word?) of Jaguars, a few Healeys, three Morgans and two TVRs, two Sunbeams and one Lotus and one Rover. To see the rarer cars would be impressive, how about bringing them out? The oldest car is Dave Stephens' '32 MG F type. Dave has had it out and promises to bring it out in '90. The newest appears to be Guillermo Guzman's '79 MGB, I believe that Guillermo has had his out too. Where are all the later TR-7's and TR-8's? Nobody has an '80 B? We also don't have the year on many of the cars.

The entire purpose in preparing these lists is to get people talking. If you are having a problem with your car, there is likely somebody with a similar car. Call them up, maybe they know the answer; if not, two heads are generally better then one. Remember, everybody loves to talk about their car.

## POTENTIAL AUTOCROSSERS AWAKE! -- Mark Bradakis

As an avid autocross enthusiast, I have flogged my poor old TR4A, and earlier the infamous Rust Rocket, around a few parking lots in the area. Not exactly the excitement and drama of, say, the Triumph Spitfire team at LeMans, but it certainly is a bunch of fun! And there may even be enough interest amongst other members of this club to warrant an autocross school this spring. So to better plan such an event, why not give me a call if you are interested. My home number is 364-3251, and chances are you'll have to talk to one of those worthless answering machines. I still haven't gotten around to running a phone line out to the Fat Chance Garage!

But chances are that a large number of you never have even heard of an autocross, let

alone been wanting to try it yourself. An autocross, or as it is also known a slalom, solo, or even gymkhana, is basically a miniature roadracing course set up by placing traffic cones in a large parking lot. Folks then run through the course one at a time, trying to get the fastest time, while avoiding the cones. The speeds are usually low, on the order of 30 or 40 mph max, though certain LARGE parking lots have higher average speeds. You'd be amazed at how fast things happen at even 10 or 20 mph though! Safe, sane and quite exciting, you may want to give it a try.

#### SPACE - THE ETERNAL FRONTIER -- Mark Bradakis

As the new year settles in like the fresh snow on not only my own Spitfire, but my friend's Lotus as well, I start to think. Perhaps there are other BMC folks who are in a similar situation as I, with stout old roadsters sitting out at the mercy of the weather. Perhaps one solution might be a shared garage space. I myself currently rent an old, leaking, cold and poorly accessible shed in the outskirts of Murray, and I got to thinking that it would certainly be nice to have a warm, dry place to do a little work on some of my cars. Perhaps some folks would be interested in sharing the cost of some larger space, maybe on the order of 1,000 square feet or so. The advantages would be a chance to share tools and expertise, a place to stash a car or two and various bits and pieces, a place to hang that calander your wife thinks she threw out last month. A casual clubhouse, if you will.

The disadvantages would be shared tools, as someone else could wear out your compressor or bend all your screwdrivers, making sure everyone paid up on time, having some other car blocking the entry or exit of your own, and all those little things that might happen when, like roommates in college, you don't quite agree on the details. But it might be worth a thought, a few phone calls, a bit of shopping for locking tool boxes and at the least, one more thing to discuss at the upcoming meeting.

#### THE LUCAS CALENDER

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

January 20            Technical Session on Paint and Bodywork.

February 10        Potluck Dinner, business meeting, and ???

March 17  
(Tentative)        St. Patrick's Day Parade. Time to get the car out.

July 30 -  
Aug. 3            GOF-West (Gathering of the Faithful, for MG T-type owners)  
Portland, OR (previous info said Bend, OR. I will inquire.)



Aug. 1-5 Vintage Triumph Register Annual Convention, Boulder, CO. Contact Mark Bradakis, 364-3251, for info or call (303) 690-6864.

#### TIDBITS

Rich Holder and I met somebody at Roy Beal's in November who works for a radio station. Would you please give me or Rich a call so we can talk about what you can do for the group in the way of publicity?

In December we sent out sixty-eight copies of the newsletter. Because of the membership list this was expensive. Thanks to Kees for the donation of the Xerox machine for copying the newsletter. The membership list was too much for Kees' Xerox, however, and we had to get it done commercially. Total cost was \$98.89 or \$1.45 / copy for the 68 copies. Is it worth the cost?

By the way somebody didn't get their December newsletter, I got one returned after the mailing label fell off. If it was you and you want the membership list, give me a call.

Three new members in December:

**Lynn Chidester** has a '59 MGA with a Volvo (?) engine and transmission. He is looking for 1500 MGA engine and transmission. If you know of one give him a call at 563-3023 (H).

**Jack Peake** has a '60 Healey, a '62 MGA and a '61 Healey.

**Bill Simmons** has a '59 Healey and '53 MG-TD. Bill, do you want to send the newsletter to you care of Jack? If not give us an address.

Glad to have you with us!

We are now registered as a club with Moss Motors. In their Winter newsletter they said that they are frequently asked about local clubs and would be glad to give the information out if they had it. In their reply they asked if we would send them the membership roll. Do you want me to do it?

#### REPORT FROM THE EXCHEQUER:

Balance as of 12/2/89	\$226.20
Corrections (Rich tell me I added the November Donation in twice)	66.00
December newsletter and membership list	98.89
Balance as of 1/4/90	\$61.31

Newsletter Editors: Bill and Julie Van Moorhem, 582-9223 (H), 581-7687 (W).  
Keeper of the Exchequer and the Membership Roll: Rich Holder, 250-4928 (H).

Keep 'um running.