

# BRITISH MOTOR CLUB OF UTAH

Volume 3, Number 4  
November, 1990

## GOING TO REBUILD AN ENGINE THIS WINTER?

The **November event** will be a technical session on **engine rebuilding**. We have lined up Mike Robinson and Brad Massey from Ramco Machine, Inc. to explain what an auto machine shop can do for you, how to know what needs to be done, and how they do it. The event will be **Saturday November 17, beginning at 1:00 at Ramco Machine, 339 West 1410 South, SLC**. The shop was not well marked the last time I was there. It is on the south side of 1410 South about three or four buildings west of 300 West. 1410 South is just north of the railroad tracks that cross 300 West. Wear old clothes as engines are not the cleanest things.

## YOU MEAN THE SEASONS OVER ALREADY!

It was a tad chilly, but still nearly everyone turned out in their usual sportscar. Well, Greg Chester brought one of his MGs rather than the TR3. And both Scott and Bruce came in pickup trucks, though they did heed the request to bring along a part of the car they might have driven. Bruce had a Thor knockoff hammer from his TR2, and Scott brought a steering wheel from one of his Sunbeams. Some folks commented that my wife Karen, who came along in her Honda had the ultimate British accessory, a pair of British folks. Bill and Julie get the "It can't be the end of the season yet, we've still got the top down!" award.

After standing around getting colder and colder in the K-mart parking lot, it was time to head off. Rather than using I-80 all the way, we went up Emigration Canyon for a bit more scenic route. On the way, there were a few other British motors headed the other way, but none turned around to join us. A quick stop to count heads at the summit, then down to the freeway and up to Park City. This portion of the trip was uneventful, as none of the strange fellows dressed in bright clothing and lurking about their pickups mistook any of us for trophy wildlife.

We ended up with 26 people, which was a bit more than I had originally told the pub we would have. So when we got there they had still not set up tables for all of us, so those of us who partake of fermented barley beverages were forced to stand around the bar sampling the selection. It was rough, but we managed.

The list of attendees includes Bob and Vera, some friends from Wales who were traveling through the States and dropped in on Karen and I for the weekend. In addition to the four of us there were Mike, Mary, Julie, Bill, Steve, Greg, Susan, Mary Ann, Merv, Sandy, Bruce, Mike, Nathalie, Barry, Denise, Jim, Michelle, Reed, Claren, Grant and Gail. Wow, did I forget anyone? If these events get much bigger we might have to list the folks who don't show up!

For those of you who might be thinking of doing this trip again next year, we don't have to go to the brewery. If anyone else has an idea for a nice drive and some appetizing food, feel free to make suggestions. This is YOUR club, so let's do what YOU want to do.

### A PLEASANT AUTUMN TINKER DAY

This one was much better than the last. Earlier this spring I had a tinker day at The Fat Chance Garage, and it was less than a success. The three of us, Bill, Jim and myself stood in the garage deciding if the rain was going to turn to snow or not. But on the 13th of October, the skies were mostly blue and sunny, the weather quite acceptably warm.

Still, it didn't quite turn out as I had thought. Sure, lots of people turned out, but an odd thing happened. Everyone who showed up brought a nice, well running car. No one had any tinkering to do! Well, Bill did mention a noise possibly coming from a crank bearing he wanted me to look into. I said "Sure, pull it out and put it on the bench over there, and I'll take a look." I don't think he ever lifted the bonnet.

They were certainly willing to comment on what I was doing, and equally glad to make sure I continued doing so without any assistance. But then, I guess body work is like that. All these folks had read Tom Sawyer, and were not quite convinced I was having that much fun sanding old paint and body filler off the GT6.

Keeping their suspiciously respectful distance from the tray of sandpaper were Bill, Jim, John, Jerry, Greg, and another fellow whose name escapes me at the moment. I knew I should have written it down sooner!

Shortly after this gang all left, Neal Wheeler called to see what was going on. And of course, right after I told him everyone had left another car shows up! In an early Midget looking almost good enough to make me want an MG was Jay Johnson and his wife. We chatted a bit, and I went back to sanding and scraping on the GT6.

All in all, a fun day. And a few of the folks there did turn out for the final autocross of the season the next day. Our illustrious editor got to go for a quick ride in my autocross car, and he didn't scream or try to jump out once! You'll have to hear about that from him, though.

Editors note: Ever heard of the phrase " Paralyzed with fear."

### YOU KNOW YOU HAVE HAD BRITISH CARS TOO LONG WHEN:

You always park facing downhill.

The guy at the parts store:

grins when he sees you walk in;

is listed as a dependant on your 1040;

sends you a get well card if you haven't bought parts for 2 weeks;

recognizes your voice on the phone.

You buy a parts car, and not even you believe that you will part it out.

You get in a car and are surprised:  
     when all of the instruments work;  
     that you can carry on a conversation, without shouting;  
     by it not needing oil, or brake fluid, or anti-freeze, or....  
     that it doesn't leak in the rain.  
 You get in a car and are NOT surprised by:  
     a spare battery sitting on the seat;  
     a tool kit and collection of spare parts that fills the boot;  
     a slightly singed instrument panel.  
 You actually like the smell of chemtool.  
 You hear someone talk about new shoes, and assume they are doing their brakes.  
 You call AAA and THEY recognize your voice too.  
 You look under the bonnet and see:  
     more duct tape than hose;  
     more electrical tape than wires.  
 You tell your wife that the reason that you were out till 3AM was that the car broke down, and she believes you.  
 The people you live with are no longer phased by sitting down to dinner and sharing half the table with carburetors.  
 You pay more visits to the parts store than the gas station, or the grocery store.  
 Your car makes a funny sound and you immediately know:  
     what is wrong;  
     how much the part will cost;  
     what tools will be required;  
     how long it will take to fix.  
 Your generator dies, so you just pull one off of the parts pile in the garage.  
 You distrust anyone named Lucas.  
 You budget 4 hours for a trip, 3 for driving, 1 for repairs.  
 You bought the car to attract members of the opposite sex, but no longer have time or money to go out on a date.  
 People ask how many cars you own, and you respond in fractional numbers.  
 You wash your hands BEFORE working on your car, so that you don't get the engine compartment dirty.

-- From the British Car Computer Mailing List

## THE LUCAS CALENDAR

This calendar works about as well as its namesake, so use it with care. Club events are in **bold** type. The others you may find interesting. All events are subject to change.

Nov. 5      Guy Fawkes day. We missed it this year, but this seems like a good date for an activity. On this date in 1505 Guy Fawkes was part of a plot to set off an explosion that would have destroyed the English parliament. He was captured and, later, hanged and the parliament was saved. The day is celebrated in England, I have been told, because the plot failed, but I always wonder if some aren't celebrating the attempt.

Nov. 17      **Technical Session, Engine Rebuilding. 1:00 pm, 339 West 1410 South.**

Dec.          **There will be no event in December.**

Jan. 12      **Technical Session. Suggestions wanted.**

Feb. 16      **Pot-Luck Dinner and meeting.**

Mar. 16      **St. Patrick's Day parade.**

#### TIDBITS

We sent out 113 copies of the October newsletters for a cost of \$27.00 in postage plus \$17.85 for copying for a total of \$44.85.

New member for the month: Thom Warr, Thom has 2 TR-6s, a TR-3, an MGA and an MGB. Nice group, Thom.

Judging from the reaction to the note about the possibility of storage space for cars we need somebody to look into this in a serious way. If we get a volunteer we will pursue the idea, if not .... I have the names of people with about 15 or more cars that need storage. The space we looked at is just too big, 2000 sq. ft. for \$400/ month, and would require 20 or more cars to fill and to get the price into the \$20/car/month range. If somebody wants to pursue this, give me (Bill, 582-9223) a call .

We need a location for the February Pot-Luck. Something like a condominium party room, a room in a church or such-like, where a kitchen is available would be ideal. We had about 30 people at the last one and expct more this year. If there is a reasonable charge we can cover it. Contact the editors if you know of a place we can use.

Did you see the article in the Tribune about the guy who owns the MGs in Florida on 10/26? Annie, Julie and I met him at the GOF. He is an interesting character. We could use some publicity too. Anybody have contacts with either paper and can get somebody from the lifestyle, auto or whatever sections to go with us on an event sometime next year? Let the editors know if you can help.

#### REPORT FROM THE EXCHEQUER:

Balance as of 9/30/90 (in CU account \$281.31, Editor has \$32.84)	\$314.15
October Newsletter cost	44.85
October donations	34.00
Balance as of 10/30/90 (in CU account \$281.31, Editor has \$21.99)	\$303.30

Newsletter Editors: Bill and Julie Van Moorhem, 582-9223 (H), 581-7687 (W).  
 Associate Editors: Mark and Karen Bradakis, 364-3251(H).  
 Keeper of the Exchequer: Rich Holder, 943-6077 (H).