

# British Motor Club Of Utah

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## April's Poker Run

*By Steve and Laurie Bender*

I bet you think Sandy is just a sleepy bedroom community for Salt Lake City. Well, you probably didn't know that in its early days it had more bars per capita than any other northern Utah city (which, of course, isn't saying all that much).

April's Poker Run will explore Sandy and the surrounding areas. We will cruise back roads, learn more interesting tidbits about this little-explored area and end up at the Bender's for a BBQ afterwards. Everyone should bring their favorite thing to BBQ and a small side dish. The Benders will provide drinks and dessert. There is a Smith's store very close to the house where you can stop for anything you need to pick-up before lunch. Maps of the area will be provided for this test of ingenuity and luck. May the best hand win! See you in April.

A Poker run is a simple kind of rally. At the meeting point you will be given clue for a location that you to go to next. For example, in a run near the U of U the clue read, "Have you ever met General Conner? Probably not since he has been dead for over a hundred years, but stop by his statue. Where would you expect to find a statue of a general?" Clearly at Fort Douglas, although several folks had other ideas. When you find the proper location, you will find a can containing envelopes. On the outside of the envelopes is the next clue. Inside the envelope is a playing card — leave the envelope sealed, however. When you have

collected five envelopes at five different sites, you will go to the final location, the Bender's house in this case, to have lunch. When we all get there, or at least most of us, we will open the envelopes. The team with the best poker hand wins. Pure luck of course, but great fun. It's fair to ask advice, to follow others, to mislead others, and to try to not be followed. Maps and another person with you are helpful. There will be a "stop" time set and you will be given the lunch location.

We will meet at *South Towne Mall, 106th South between State Street and I-15 at 9:30 AM on Saturday April 22*. Give Steve and Laurie Bender a call, 571-5020, if you have questions.

## Spring Tinker Day

Mark Bradakis will be hosting the annual Spring Tinker Day on Saturday April 8 at the Fat Chance Garage, Mark's garage and home of the Fat Chance Racing Team, beginning at about 10:00 AM. It is traditional for snow, or at least heavy rain to occur on this day, but the event will go on anyway. If you are having some sort of problem with your car and want advice, want to see what problems others are having, want to help someone out, or just want to stand around drinking coffee and kicking tires this is the day for you. Stop in with or without your British car. The tinkering goes on until everybody goes home, about mid-afternoon normally. We will also try again to hold a Board meeting Saturday morning.

You will need to bring any parts that you may need for your tinkering, but tools are generally in good supply. If you have questions about whether we can help or if the job is too big

for a tinker day, give Mark a call at 364-32541. The best way to reach Mark and Karen's place is to turn north off of 8th South in Salt Lake onto Park Street (540 East), just ahead of you the street jogs to the left, a right turn at that point will put you into Mark's driveway. The address is 739 South Park Street.

## An oasis in the wilderness

*By Steve and Laurie Bender*

This summer we had the pleasure of a trip to England and Scotland — those frequent flyer miles really came in handy. Almost 2 weeks of sightseeing without our 3 children seemed like heaven, and we were of course excited about seeing many British cars. However, it didn't take us long to realize that Minis, Land Rovers and an occasional Morris were about the only British cars we would see on our trip. French and Japanese cars dominated the British automotive landscape. We were quite disappointed that instead of seeing Triumphs, Healeys, and MGs we were seeing Fiat Unos and Mazdas.

Thankfully, near the end of our trip, we had planned to visit the new British Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon. The Centre is housed in a magnificent Art Deco Style building surrounded by 63 acres of countryside. It is quite easy to find and is about 15 minutes from Stratford-Upon-Avon and less than an hour from Oxford. As the brochure states, it is more than a museum. It has been specially designed as both an entertainment attraction for the entire family as well as a research and education

*When did the Triumph Spitfire first appear on the market?*

centre. We knew it would be great when we saw a Triumph Dolomite, an old Lotus, and an Austin Healey 100/4 in the parking lot.

There are more than 300 vehicles on display, the largest collection of British cars in the world. That's even more cars than Mark Bradakis is believed to have! The cars date from the earliest 1896 Wolseley to the present day. There is a small selection of MGs and Triumphs and a large selection of other marques — Rover, Morris, Austin, Riley, Land Rover, Wolseley and Minis. Some exotic vehicles include a Morris Minor Fire engine, an new MG RV8 (which was re-introduced with a Rover V-8 engine), the first-ever BMW, a badge-engineered Austin 7, and the last of the line for Triumph Stag, TR7, and MGB. While we were visiting they were displaying an MG J2 (about a 5/8 scale MG T) and an MG SA Saloon on loan from the chairman of British Aerospace.

A fascinating display was an MGB GT which was cut in half, clean down the middle, with both halves on view (it was a left-hand drive, of course). There are tours and movies covering a variety of topics. They have a reading room with archive services and an extensive array of engineering drawings, production records, photographs and rare film material. The 4x4 Demonstration circuit is highly touted, and is probably thrilling for some British to drive Land Rovers through an off-road track, but is expensive and looks like nothing you couldn't find in Utah.

The restaurant located in the Centre is actually quite good and reasonable, and the gift shop is a great place to burn any stray pounds you may have in your pockets after you have paid 5.50 (about \$9) for admission to the Centre. It is certainly worth the price of admission for any British car enthusiast. For children there are

## The Lucas Calendar

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

**April 22.** Poker Run. Steve and Laurie Bender.

**May 20.** Run to Logan. Mike and Susie Cady.

**June 17.** British Field Day. Bill Davis.

June ?? IV Racing hillclimb in the Ogden area.

June 23 or 24. Possible dinner with MGB owners traveling to MGB Convention at Lake Tahoe.

June 26-30 NAMGBR Convention at Lake Tahoe. Call 800-NAMGBR1 for information.

July 1-2. The MG Car Club of Sweden Scandinavian MG meet. On an island off Stockholm. Call +46-8-768 26 28 for information.

July 12-16. GoF-West in Ventura, CA. Contact Floyd Inman, 645-8460, for information.

**July 29.** Alpine Loop.

July 14-16. 3rd Annual Moss British Car Festival, Buellton CA. Call 800-235-6953 for pre-registration material.

July 26-30. Vintage Triumph Register meet in Rockford, IL.

August 17-20. University Motors Annual Summer Party. Ada, Michigan.

**August 12.** Run to Mirror Lake.

**August 18-20.** BMCU tour to the Cedar City Shakespeare Festival. Contact Karen Bradakis at 364-32541 for information. Early reservations are needed.

October 6-9. Triumphest in Palm Springs, CA.

**October 7.** Fall Colour Tour.

**October 21.** End-of-the-season Dinner.

**November 11.** Tech Session.

**January 13.** Tech Session.

**February 10.** Pot-luck and Business Meeting.

Pink Panther videos, colouring stations, an outside Adventure play area, motor course and bike path. So it can be a fun time for the entire family, and is a must for a trip to England.

## Autojumble

For Sale, '69 MGB-GT. New engine, tires, wires. Front end damage. Make offer. "Humble" Herb Dailey, 943-1254.

For Sale, complete engine (apart) with newly polished standard crankshaft and 4 speed tranny from a 1976 TR7. Let me hear your offers, I am desperate for garage space. Call Don at 801-942-5259.

## Fat Chance Garage goes commercial!

With the recent demise of Boyd's, formerly Parts Master, a small void has occurred in Salt Lake. There are certainly other shops in town that provide necessities for our beloved British beaters, and there are numbers of mail order places catering to our hobby. They just aren't the same as Bruce's shop. This seems like an opportunity for The Fat Chance Garage. I'm not ready to quit my day job, rent a few thousand square feet of space on a busy street and lay in a few shiploads of stock, but if anyone wants to finance such a venture give me a call.

What I will do is take a step in that direction, and stock up on a small supply of Triumph items, Crane ignition bits, maybe various consumables, and offer such for sale to the motoring public. I'll order in what I can, at prices that compare favorably with The Roadster Factory and Victoria British. No credit cards yet, cash only, personal checks from regular customers. I'll even look into becoming a Moss Motors distributor. Who knows, maybe that thousand square foot store isn't that far off.

But for now, give me a call at 355-5438 and if I'm available, I'll chat with you about what you need, if not, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. If you leave a message with part descriptions, I should have price and availability info when I call back. And just wait until I start stocking all those Team Fat performance items for the Spitfire and Herald!

*Editor's note: How about MGs?*

## Left over parts

It appears that the editor fouled up again, twice. The board of directors elected at the February meeting were Steve Bender, Mark Bradakis, Jim Pivrotto and Marty Van Nood. Creeping senility caused the editor to omit Jim from the list last month. Sorry Jim.

Also last month's newsletter said it would contain a membership form. It didn't. The reason is that we got a note from Reed Baier saying that he needed to step down from his job as membership director for the BMCU, but would continue until we found another person to do it. We did not want to send out a couple of hundred forms with Reed's address on them and then forgot to remove the article. The BMCU is really in need of someone to take on this job. It involves talking with a few people each month who call about the group, collecting together any membership form that may arrive in the mail and getting all the information to the editors. Not a terrible job, but it does require a little time and you should enjoy talking to people. If you are willing to do this, please contact the editors, Bill or Julie, at 582-9223(H) or 581-7687(W) as soon as possible.

Rob Foye has volunteered to be the contact for the group with the Salt Lake Tribune's Recreation Page. Thanks Rob.

The British Field Day is scheduled for June 17 this year to try to get a bit better weather. Bill Davis would like to get a group of people to help him organize and publicize the event. If you would like to help with this contact Bill at 968-0610 (H) or 322-3400 (W). The Field Day is developing into a major event and we need YOUR help to make it go and grow. Put a bit of time into it and let's see the British Field Day develop. Again the Cathedral of St.

Mark will sponsor and provide the site for the event, with the BMCU and the Utah British Bike Club actually organizing it. We also hope to have continued participation by the Jaguar, Austin Healey and Morgan clubs this year. Help make it all work!

We sent out 185 newsletters in March. Many thanks to Jim for copying them.

Did you ever notice that MG is the opposite of GM? In about every way you can think of!

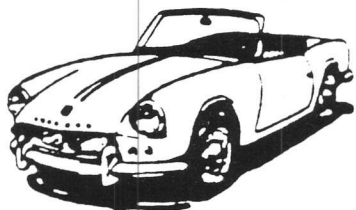
There are conflicting stories out about the availability of the MGF in the U.S. Initial articles, including the March MG Magazine, said that the car would be available in the U.S. USA Today (and Autoweek?) said it would not be available.

Plans are well underway for the trip to the GoF-West this year in Ventura, CA. Floyd Inman is heading up the trip and has planned quite a tour. The group will leave SLC for Ely on July 7. On the 8th they will motor to Lee Vining. Next to Carmel via Yosemite on the 9th. The 10th will be spent in Carmel. The 11th will take them from Carmel to San Simeon by way of Big Sur and the Hearst Castle. On the 12th they will reach Ventura for the GoF. The group will depart Ventura on the 16 for Las Vegas or Mesquite and will be back in SLC on the 17th. If you are interested in taking part, give Floyd a call at 645-8460.

The GoF (Gathering of the Faithful) – West is a annual convention of MG owners from the western states. The event originated with T-series and pre-war owners but has slowly broadened to include the owners of all MGs. This year the organizers are trying to get an extremely good turn-out of pre-war cars and the lists I have seen look impressive. If you have any interest in pre-war MGs, this is the event to

attend or if you have never seen one you better go as it is unlikely that you will ever have an opportunity to see so many in one place.

It appears that the '97 GoF-West will be in Park City. Get this on your calendar now.



*(answer from page 1) The Spitfire was first introduced in October 1962, production appears to have begun in 1963 and ran until August 1980. A total of 314,342 cars were produced. In 1963 the price was 641, in 1980 4,524.*

## From the Exchequer

Estimated balance as of 2/21/95 (Account has \$839.75, Editor is owed \$31.24). \$808.51

March Newsletter postage (from Editor) -\$57.60

March donations (to the Account) \$10.00

Estimated balance as of 3/25/95 (Account has \$849.75, Editor is owed \$88.84). \$760.91

Newsletter Editors: Bill and Julie Van Moorhem, 582-9223 (H), 581-7687 (W).

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Newsletter Layout and Art: Nathan Massie, 486-2935 (H).

Cancellor of the Exchequer: Martin Van Nood, 268-4105 (H).

This newsletter is published by the British Motor Club of Utah, Ltd., a non-profit corporation of British automobile owners. The group hold monthly events: drives, picnics, technical sessions, and more. We welcome owners (or potential owners) of British cars, in any condition, to the group. Membership in the BMCU is free, but we ask for a donation at events to support the newsletter and other activities. If you would like to join the group, send your name, address, and a list of British cars owned to Reed Baier, 13052 Blaze Court, Riverton, UT 84065 or call Reed at 801-2531901 (H).

## BMCU

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