

British Motor Club of Utah

October 1996

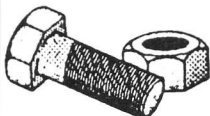
Volume 9 Number 3

Colour in the Mountains

There is colour in the mountains and we will drive the Mount Nebo Loop road looking for it on **Saturday, October 5**. We have done this trip several times over the past few years and it has been an adventure every time, but Autumn in the mountains is spectacular. We will meet at **8:30 AM at River Pointe Plaza, 9000 South and Redwood Road (1700 West)**.

An early start is necessary on this trip. The total run will be in the neighborhood of 200 miles. It is also possible to drive down to Nehi Friday and stay in the Whitmore Mansion Bed and Breakfast (623-2047 for reservations), meeting the group Saturday morning. If you plan to stay in Nehi make sure you let our trip leaders, Dan and Sharon Forester, know that you will be there as it will affect the direction that we drive the loop.

Bring a picnic lunch along or buy lunch before you get onto the loop road. There are no stores or restaurants on the mountain. The exact lunch site will be the leader's choice. Check out the weather carefully before this trip and dress appropriately. It can be quite cool at altitude on this road. For more information call Dan and Sharon Forester, 966-6463.



End-of-the-Season Dinner

Come out to this event to acknowledge the end of another driving season. Don't put the car away however. We have a neat event planned for November (See "Left over parts"). The dinner will be at the **Silver Fork Lodge on Saturday, October 19**.

Silver Fork Lodge is about 12 miles up Big Cottonwood Canyon on the right side as you head up canyon. We will meet at the Olympus Hills Mall at 3900 South and Wasatch Boulevard at 5:15 PM and drive up the canyon to the lodge. We will need to leave by 5:30 to arrive on time at the lodge. If you prefer you can meet us at the Lodge at 6:00. The atmosphere is very casual, and entrees range from \$7.00 to \$20.00 with the average about \$13.00.

It's been a long time since the dinner was held this close to Salt Lake, so let's get a good sized group out for it. The weather should be cool and there shouldn't be any overheating from either the cars or the people. Be sure to bring a jacket or more.

Hint for the Month: Clonking noises from the propshaft universal joints are very often mistaken for a worn gearbox or differential. Before spending lots of money, check your U-joints. Any motion between parts of the U-joint is unacceptable.

Gearheads?

By Don Mackie

Are you a gearhead? See how you answer these and then judge.

1. Do your "best" trousers get oil and grease on them?
2. Have you ever bought a tool because it looked cool and never used it?
3. Have you ever bought any special tools, unique to one model of car?
4. Is there, somewhere in your garage, a piece of steel pipe that you have, on one or more occasion, used for "extra leverage?"
5. Do you worry that you will develop mesothelioma from working on asbestos brake shoes/pads?
6. Do you spend more time listening to the car noises than the radio?
7. Do you spend more time listening to the car noises than your partner?
8. Have you ever used the domestic oven to heat parts in order to remove or fit bearings?
9. How many containers half full of unidentifiable petrochemical products are there around your home right now?
10. Do you possess a set of Whitworth spanners? (Score double for sockets)

Thanks to Don Mackie of Auckland, New Zealand for the questions.

MGA Info

A year or so ago I worked up a list of information on MGAs for someone restoring one and have always planned to put it in the newsletter. Although this is aimed at MGAs, many of the sources are the same for other marques and models.

MGA books:

A Brief Guide to MGA Restoration by A.I. Sargent, available from MG Car Club (of England) and, I think, Classic Motor Books, P.O. Box 1, Osceola, WI 54020, 800-826-6600. This is the best "how to do it" book on A's I have seen. It deals with "frame off" restorations but is certainly useful to anyone working on an A.

MGA 1500 or MGA 1600 Official Factory Parts Catalog. Available from British Car Bookshop, P.O. 9099, Canoga Park, CA 91309, 818-710-1234, fax 818-710-1877. Both 1500 or 1600 catalogs are claimed to be available, about \$50. in paperback, and \$55 to \$60 in hardback. I would certainly buy one just for the drawings of how things go together. Parts catalogs are available for most MGs.

Original MGA by Anders Ditlev

Clausager, not perfect, but a good guide to original colors, layout, etc. mainly for folks who want a concours car, but fun reading. Lots and lots of high quality photos of the interior, engine, etc. of MGAs. Available from Classic Motor Books and other places (I got mine at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Sugarhouse). About \$35.

MGA: A History and Restoration Guide by R. P. Vitrikas. There is a second edition, which I have not seen, but the first edition had very little on restoration and a lot on history. About \$34. from Classic Motor Books.

There are many other books on MG and MGA history. They are fun to read but tell you little about MGA restoration. Anyone doing a restoration should have at least one good workshop manual. I think Haynes Manuals are the best. Bentley manuals are

reprints of the original MG factory workshop manuals, and are useful, but not as good as Haynes in my opinion (Triumph owners seem to have the opposite opinion, however). My view is that the Clymer and Chilton manuals are not in the league with the other two.

MGA parts:

The two major parts sources are Moss Motors and Victoria British. Another interesting source is Clarke Spares & Restorations, 90 West Swamp Road, Route 313, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215-348-0595. They specialize "in hard to find parts and services including authentic fasteners, body packings and gaskets, rubber grommets, sheet metal panels for inner body and chassis frame, spares for and rebuilding of windscreens, seat assemblies, and cockpit rails." Mainly MGA stuff that no one else has, but as is typical, many parts used on an A were used on other cars of the same time period. Their catalog is \$3.00. Definitely get one if you are doing an A and look at one for other cars of the late '50s and early '60s.

There is a national MGA register, North American MGA Register, known as NAMGAR. They publish a magazine that sometimes has good articles on MGA restoration. The group is mainly centered in the East; the last convention they had in the West was in Seattle in 1987. I keep renewing my membership, I guess because of the technical articles. The address is Don Holle, NAMGAR Registrar, P.O. Box 11746, Albuquerque, NM 87192-0746, dues are \$25/year.

The Lucas Calendar

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

October 5. Mount Nebo Loop. Dan and Sharon Forester, 966-6463.

October 19. End-of-the-Season Dinner. Bill and Julie Van Moorhem, 582-9223

November 1-2. Mini-GoF in Tucson, AZ. Gene Rabb, 520-886-1573.

November 16. Tech Session.

January 11. Tech Session.

February 15. Pot-Luck and Business Meeting.

Close to Home by John McPherson



Auto-repair shops continue to become more specialized.

FRANK AND ERNEST



Left over parts

Driving across Nevada to Washington there was a discussion of why isn't the GoF later in the year. The Tucson MG-T Register has held a mini-GoF in Tucson, in the Fall, for the past several years. It sounds like an excellent time to travel in a T-series MG, but then there are scheduling problems for some of us. Gene Rabb of the Arizona group gave the editors a call to remind us about the event. It sounds like a good one. The editors have entry forms or, or better yet, give Gene a call at 520-886-1573.

For November Roy Beale, Bruce Schilling and Mike Bailey will be diagnosing car problems. Bring your car to the event and our experts will give you the benefit of their experience in sorting out what is wrong. If your car is running perfectly (really?), well then come along and learn about other people's car problems. This should be great fun and we will have some place where you can work on the

problem, too. You will need to bring your own parts and tools. More information in the next newsletter.

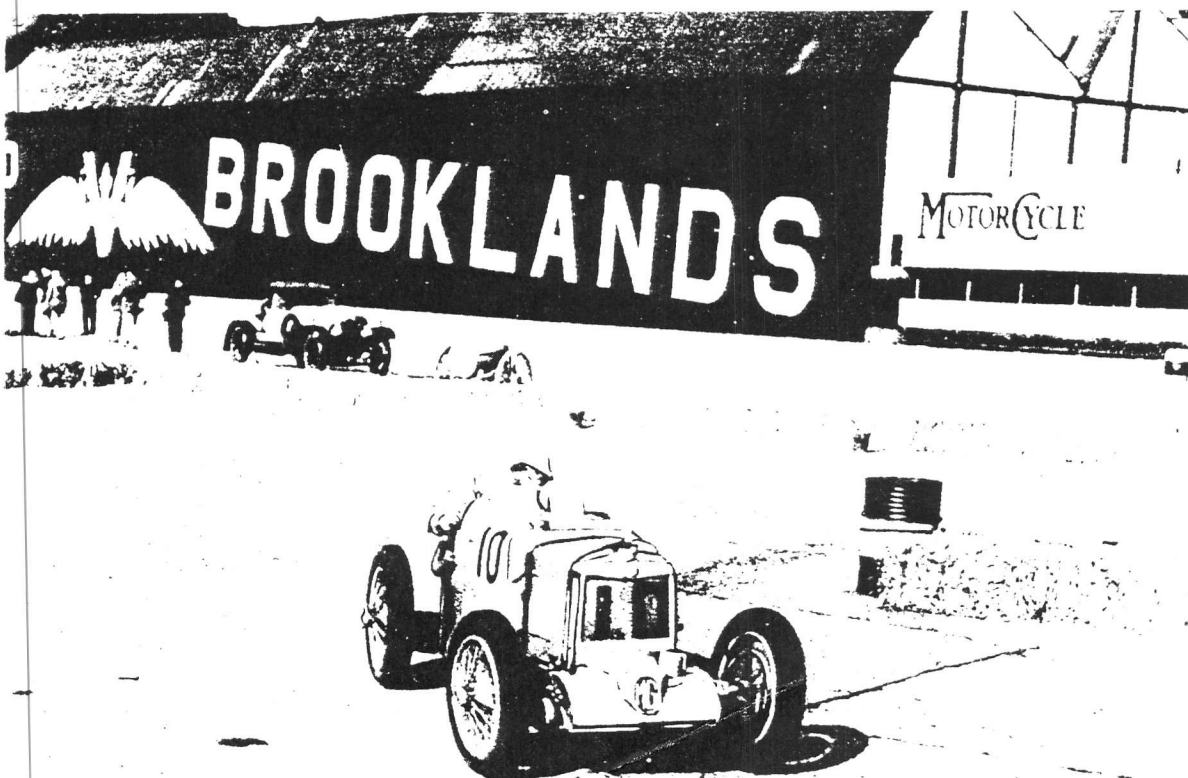
Have you seen the TV ad with the harried housewife who shops at Albertsons? This gives her time to do the things she likes, like working on her MGB. Watch for it. Thanks to Gary Lindstrom who first spotted this ad.

The editors are about "questioned out," so the question for the month will end as of this month, for awhile at least. We will be including a series of technical hints from the parts catalog of a company that no longer exists, Start Your Engines. We believe that SYE was purchased by Moss and became the Moss east coast warehouse. Their old catalog is filled with technical hints, but many are MGA or MGB related. We will try to include generic hints but that may get difficult sometime. Triumph, Jaguar, Morgan, Lotus and Austin Healey owners, please excuse us.

Anybody going to be in Philadelphia on October 26 with some free time? Want to represent the BMCU at the annual meeting of the NAMGBR? Let the someone on the board or the editor know if you can do this.

Would you believe, all the Grill Badges from the last order are gone. Want to get one? When we have pre-paid orders for 13 we will order 25. They are \$20. each.

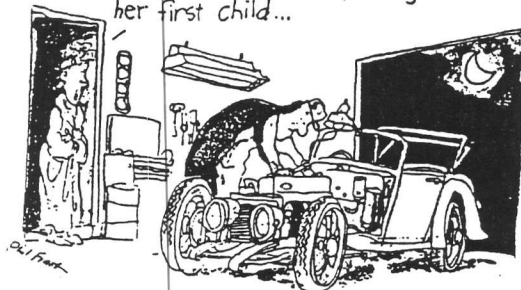
We heard a report that the BMCU was well represented at the Miner's Day parade in Park City. The parade being on Labor Day, at the first of the month, always seems to get missed in the newsletter. Last month was particularly bad as the newsletter was very late getting out. As we all settle into the normal work schedule following summer, we hope to get things back in the normal pattern.



K3030 Driven at Brooklands by "B.Eira", Prince Birabongse of Siam.

Frank & Troise

Honey, why don't you come in now?
You've been out here a long time.
Both of the kids have graduated
from high school. Josh has joined the
Peace Corps and Eileen is expecting
her first child...

*From the Exchequer*

Balance 8/15/96 \$1384.88

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Both donations and the newsletter costs for August have not yet been posted.

Board of Governors: Mark Bradakis, Governor General; Joe Martinez, 255-8326; Diane Piviroto, 486-0547; Marty Van Nood.

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This Newsletter is published by the British Motor Club of Utah, Ltd., a non-profit corporation of British automobile owners. The group holds monthly events such as drives, picnics, technical sessions, and more. We welcome owners (or potential owners) of British cars, in any condition, to the group. Membership 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 Bruce Schilling, 917 East Mill creek Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106 or call Bruce at (801) 486-0425.

British Motor Club of Utah

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