

# British Motor Club of Utah

www.britishmotorclub.org

JUNE 2005

Volume 17 Number 9



What is the Buffalo Really Thinking?

## Sunday Drive Produces A Great Time for All

When I looked in the paper on Saturday, I noticed the article about the clouds of midges along the shores of the Great Salt Lake. The weather looked to be nice, but according to the newspaper, that same good weather would bring out the midges. I feared that, along with our experiment to try a Sunday driving event, the midges would keep people home.

I shouldn't have worried. It was a great turnout on an absolutely gorgeous day. If I didn't know better, I'd say we beat the rain hex that has

plagued the Antelope Island drive for the past several years.

We gathered at the capital, and the weather was so wonderful that I lost track of the time. We left a bit late, but had light traffic up I-15 to Antelope Drive in Layton, so we could tool along at a steady 60 mph. We had 10 cars (mostly Triumphs!) from Salt Lake and pulled into the parking lot behind the Burger King in Layton to another half-dozen or so cars. Like I said, a great turnout.

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## Utah Highland Games Beckon

Have you ever seen the movie Braveheart? Have you ever had the urge to pick up a telephone pole and see how far you could throw it? Or just park your Britmobile in a beautiful park and go enjoy British foods, maybe even sample some different whiskys? Along with traditional Scottish and Irish dancing groups, Pipe bands galore and of course our very own lovely cars on display for all to see and enjoy. This year's Highland Games should be a real treat to

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**Nathan running the Umpteenth Antelope Island Trivial Challenge. Example: "What does an Australian wash his face in?" Answer: a bison**



**Scottish Bagpipers Pay Tribute to the BMCU attending Armed Forces Day Car Show.**

## Armed Forces Day Car Show Aids Military Families

May 21, 2005 Saturday, middle 70's, clear skies, Wow! What a beautiful day for a gathering of car buffs and fans. There were approximately 20 cars of which 6 were from the BMCU. In attendance were Mitch, Diane and Mike Johnson, John Progress, Clayton Merchant, Marv Marcus, Floyd Inman and newcomer Terry Hilton with a surprise guest appearance from Pugs and Diane Piviroto. We had a relaxing day sitting and talking. The Military folks kept coming by to make sure we were well supplied with water bottles

and ice cream bars. At the awards ceremony we had a hard time competing with the Hot Rods and Cobras but Kathy Inman's little 52 MG Y-type "Hyacinth" captured the "Generals" award plaque. So the BMCU did not leave empty handed. Everyone who participated received a nice Commanders coin. This was the first year the Murray City did this car show and it sounds as if they want to do it again next year. Maybe we can have a bigger turnout, and give the Cobras a bit more competition!

### BFD—Hope You Didn't Miss It!

In fact, it may have already happened by the time you read this. Events early in a month are typically betwixt and between newsletter editions, and that's the case with this year's Field Day, which is Saturday June 4.

For all the glorious details (you thought we'd say gory, right?), con-

sult the May newsletter, or our illustrious club web site. Volunteers are solicited for set up Friday evening at 6:30pm, and Saturday morning at 7:30am. Cars should be in place by about 9am. Look for the BMCU welcome center and boutique, graced by the shining face of our Quartermaster, Mitch Johnson.



### *The Lucas Calendar*

This calendar works about as well as its namesake, so use it with care. All events are subject to change. Check our web site for the latest information.

**[www.britishmotorclub.org](http://www.britishmotorclub.org)**

**June 4:** Annual British Field Day, Pioneer Park. Bill Davis, 801-486-5049. See story this page.

**June 11:** Utah Highland Games: See story on p. 1.

**July 6-10:** NAMGB Annual Meet, Olympia, WA. See letter on p. 3, or look at [www.mg2005.com](http://www.mg2005.com).

**July 11-15:** GoF West 2005. Contact Floyd Inman, 435 654-7086.

**August 20:** Alpine Loop Run.

**August 26-28:** Concours d'Elegance benefiting senior citizens.

**September 5:** Miner's Day Parade, Park City. Contact Floyd Inman 435-654-7086

**September 17:** State Street Cruise Night.

**September 23-25.** 15th Annual Rio Grande Valley Regional Rendezvous British Car Meet. Farmington, NM. Kevin Kittle, 505-345-4207 or [www.baqa.org](http://www.baqa.org).

**October 2:** Fall Colour Run to Trial Lake (possibly) Contact Doug Wimer 435-654-2117

**October 29:** End-Of-Season Dinner

**November 19:** Tech Session

**January 14, 2006:** Tech Session

**February, 2006:** Annual Pot Luck and Business Meeting

## Letter to the Editor . . .

### NAMGB Meet to be Held July 6-10 in Olympia, WA

Just saw a copy of the British Motor Club of Utah's Newsletter and was very surprised to see no mention of the North American MGB Register's Annual Convention, MG 2005. This year's event is going to be in Olympia, WA from July 6th to 10th. Relatively speaking you are a hop, skip and a jump away. I say "relatively" cause I'll be traveling from NY with six other East Coast MG's. That's 2,000 miles further than the 850 miles your members are from Olympia.

It's been a while since the Annual Convention has been out west and it sure would be nice to see some of the Utah folks attending. The event is open to all British Cars, by the way, not just MG's. Information about this event can be found in the MGB Driver and at the event's website: [www.mg2005.com](http://www.mg2005.com). I hope you'll pass the info on to your members and encourage them to come on up to Olympia. At the very least, could you add the event to next newsletter's events listing. Or just reprint this message.

Having attended eight Annual Conventions, I'll tell you, it is a really good time. It could be many years before the Annual Convention is held on the west coast again.

Safety Fast,  
David Deutsch  
Chairman / NAMGBR

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### BMCU Grille Badges Still Available

I still have Grille Badges for the folks who have paid for them. They will not be going away (until you pick them up that is). I will always bring them to events and you can collect them up there, or for a small shipping fee I will mail them to you. For you folks that missed out and still want one, I will be selling some at the next events (Armed Forces Day Car show, Memorial Day Run, British Field Day, Highland Games and Alpine Loop). Cost for a BMCU Grill Badge is \$25.00 and if you need a grill badge bar mount bracket I have a few left at \$5.00 each. Don't forget the proceeds from the sale of these beauties goes to help support the BMCU. If you need to contact me, e-mail works best: [spitfires-rule@msn.com](mailto:spitfires-rule@msn.com).

### Will Roger's Wisdom . .

Will Rogers, who died in a plane crash with Wylie Post in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Enjoy the following:

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
3. There are 2 theories to arguing with a woman ... neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

## Autojumble

Wanted: MGA or early MGB seats  
Roger Gisseman [rgisseman@slco.org](mailto:rgisseman@slco.org), home 278-4767 or work 269-7531.

**Europa Webers:** I'm trying to get my Europa tuned up correctly. It is not stock, it has a 2.0l DOHC engine, and I'm dealing with a pair of Weber 40mm DCOE's. Right now it goes very lean from about 2000-2800 RPM's. I have been told that I should try different emulsion tubes. The ones I have are F16's and it was suggested that I try F7's or F8's. Does anyone have 4 F7 or F8 emulsion tube that I could borrow to see if that fixes the problem before I spend a lot of money for tubes that 'might' help?

**MGB front cross member:** I'm looking for one for a chrome bumper model, '62 - '74. Anyone have one they need to get rid of or know where I can find one close by? Jake, 1-801-356-6969, [jmv@et.byu.edu](mailto:jmv@et.byu.edu).

**'79 Spitfire or Sale** - \$1,500 or best offer. Call Chris Kontis, 801-856-9500.

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In Case Batman Forgets



# Antelope Island Produces a Great Experience

Continued From Page 1

After a bit of talk and peeking under a few cars' bonnets, Jon Hermance sounded the horn (where's Floyd when you need him?) and we drove out to the island. We lined up along the causeway while everyone made it through the toll booth, and noticed very few midges. Had the newspaper article been wrong? After all the cars were ready, we took off for the island. It was only as we neared the island, and the water, that we saw the columns of midges spiraling up off the roadside weeds. Still, at a leisurely 40 mph pace, the bugs just didn't present a problem.

This year we stayed to the left as we got to the island and drove to the Garr ranch for our lunch stop. That drive to the ranch is one of my favorites. It's smooth but twisty, with a few hills. I think the speed limit sign said 25, but we went by it too fast to know for certain. There was a large herd of buffalo (OK, bison) on the slopes near the road. Fortunately, they weren't close enough to be a worry. After all, an adult bull might just rival our cars in size and weight.

Maybe it was because of the rain, or because it was a Sunday, but we had no problem getting picnic tables in the shade once we got to the ranch. After lunch, and the rousing game of Antelope Island trivia, we wandered about the ranch buildings. There's a new, albeit small, museum in the barn that's quite fascinating.

After leaving the ranch, we headed around the island in a clockwise fashion. We visited Buffalo Point, then drove past the beach, and finally, back to the marina and onto the causeway for the drive home.

Sharing the fun were: Gary, Sandy and Margaux Lindstrom; Jon and Susan Hermance; Rob and Mary Foye; Chris Shell; Pugs Pivrotto; Andrew Frink; Michael and Mary Scoggins; Mike and Becky Chambers; Mitch and Greg Johnson; Julie and Michael Schoonmaker; Rich Goodman; Roger and Jill Davis; Scott and Barbara Reinsimar; Bob and Dixie Jahnke; Steve Nelson, and our Fearless Leader, Nathan Massie.



What's wrong with this picture?

## Car Buyers Seek Romance, Glamour — But Get Gibberish

By Sid Frigand of *TheColumnists.com*

Q. Ms. Clovis Shallot of Hatchechubbee, Alabama, writes: "I was recently shopping for a new car at the Nissan showroom in Montgomery and I couldn't understand how in the world those Japanese came up with car model names like Altima, Sentra and Xterra which aren't real words and don't mean nothing to nobody. Then I went to the Olds dealer and they have models like Alero and Bravada, which are just as stupid. Who names car models and why are so many of them so silly?"

What an astute observation, Ms. Shallot. But don't just blame the Japanese. Everybody's doing it. Think about it: What do Catera, Allante, Lumina, Nubira, Mirada, Amanti, Alantra, Cordia, Murano, Achieva, Ciera, Diamante, Fiero, Alero, Solara, Sentra, Miata, Arnage, Galant and Altima all have in common? They are all romantic sounding nonsense words used as names by auto manufacturers to

attract customers to their new car models.

All car names are not meant to be romantic to the ear. There is a whole group of nonsense auto names that seem muscular and harsh because of the use of "x's" and "z's." In this category consider: Zagato, Leganza, Impreza, Prizm, Xterra, Aztek, Forenza and Boxter. The cryptic Spyder, Prius and Tiburon exude mystery as well.

Over the years, the car industry name-callers have adopted real words, some of which are bold and broad-shouldered, some inspirational and too many that are remote and implausible--witness: Insight, Ac-

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### Memories!

BROTHER SPEEDER  
LET'S REHEARSE  
ALL TOGETHER  
GOOD MORNING, NURSE

Burma Shave

## Starter Classics: First Car, or First Classic: There's One For You

The December 2004 issue of *Practical Classics* (no, that's not an oxymoron) has a feature article subtitled "21 best old cars for young people". Here are extracts on cars that BMCU members own or have owned.

### Mini:

The archetypical young person's wheels. It was launched as an affordable car for the masses in 1959, built for more than 40 years and charmed its way into the hearts of millions. Thanks to its ingenious design you'll seat yourself and a trio of mates in a Mini, even though the car itself would fit in your bedroom.

### Triumph Herald:

A car for the Meccano generation. Thanks to its separate chassis construction the Herald was outdated on its introduction in 1959. But look at it another way -- fantastically sharp Michelotti styling, rack-and-pinion steering, and all-independent suspension are yours. Buy a convertible and keep it till you have kids -- it's the best value family soft-top around.

### MG Midget:

Just like the Mini, you'll find loads of specialists keen to sell you spare parts and service for your Midget, as well as just about the biggest and most active owner's club scene around. If the Mini is the archetypical young person's car, then MG is the archetypical classic marque. This is a sports car with heritage that goes back to the legendary Austin-Healey Frogeye Sprite of 1958.

### Triumph Spitfire:

Triumph's MG Midget rival was based on the underpinnings of the Herald. That means it's just as simple to work on and buy parts for but

you're getting a sports car instead of a small family car. You're also buying into a fabulous motoring heritage -- the Spitfire is the baby sibling of the legendary TR sports cars.

### Fiat 500:

All those Romans can't be wrong. Picture any Italian city scene and you'll imagine hundreds of these little Fiats clattering manically with no apparent regard for traffic laws. Tiny car, tiny engine and therefore not the ideal choice for a long-distance motorway commute. Instead, this is the ultimate in Latin urban cool, as stylish as it is short -- you'll giggle at all those who spent too much on a Smart city car.

### Morris Minor:

The Germans build the VW Beetle and the British built the Minor. One is synonymous with surfers, the other for district nurses. But it's wrong to think the Minor is a dull car for old people. It

### Sid Frigand, Cont'd From Page 4

cord and Element (Honda), Escalade (Cadillac), Accent and Sonata (Hyundai), Ascender and Axiom (Isuzu), Aviator and Navigator (Lincoln), Protege and Tribute (Mazda), Marauder and Sable (Mercury), Eclipse, Endeavor and Lancer Evolution (Mitsubishi), Frontier, Quest and Silhouette (Nissan), Cayenne (Porsche), Phantom (Rolls-Royce), Legacy (Subaru), Matrix and Tundra (Toyota), Escape and Heritage (Ford), Rendezvous (Buick), Vigor (Accord) and Vanquish (Aston Martin).

— to be continued

was designed by the same man who went on to design the Mini, so you can thank him for the Minor's rack-and-pinion steering that makes it so sharp to drive.

### Hillman Imp:

Rear-engined Mini rival from the Rootes group is powered by a superbly revvy and smooth Coventry-Climax engine. The first dash style included highly advanced ergonomic fingertip controls, subsequently lost as Rootes looked to America for design inspiration.

### Ford Cortina:

Five generations over 20 years and most of the time spent at the top of the sales charts: the Cortina is a British institution. The first generation (1962-1966) and the Mk III (1970-1976) offer the most classic appeal, thanks to the simplicity and handsomeness of the earlier car and the flamboyantly cheesy Seventies appeal of the later one.

### Highland Games, From Page 1

see. We have been invited to return to this year's events on Saturday June 11th from 9 AM to 5 PM at Thanksgiving Point in Lehi, Utah. Take the Alpine / Highland (287) west bound exit off I-15 you will see it all from the freeway. Added besides "free" admission, is anyone who will bring a car for the duration is invited to attend the whisky tasting event on Friday night, also they are invited to attend the Friday night concert, and Saturday night concert for free if they bring their car for the entire day (Saturday). We will be setting up a BMCU base camp next to our cars (for recruiting and sales). This is a big event, many folks come from out of state and country too. Please join us for a great day of fun and culture, come find your roots! Kilts are welcome!



## LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

### **Memory was something you lost with age**

An application was for employment  
A program was a TV show  
A cursor used profanity  
A keyboard was a piano  
A web was a spider's home  
A virus was the flu  
A CD was a bank account  
A hard drive was a long trip on the road  
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived  
And if you had a 3 inch floppy . . .

. . . you just hoped nobody ever  
found out!

## *Exchequer Report*

**As of May 23, 2005**

Beginning balance  
(from last report) **\$1,769.40**

### **Income:**

Contributions	\$ 693.00
Sales	\$ 130.00
Interest income	.41
	<b>\$ 823.41</b>

### **Expenses:**

March Newsletter	\$ 126.00
USPS Permit	\$ 150.00
Insurance	\$ 100.00
Polo shirts	\$ 266.39
St. Patrick's Day Fee	<u>\$ 120.00</u>
	\$ 762.39

**Ending balance** **\$1,830.42**

### **Board of Governors:**

Governor General: Gary Lindstrom  
801-532-1259 gary@cs.utah.edu  
Chancellor of the Exchequer: Marty VanNood  
801-467-0525, vannood@intergate.com  
Newsletter Editor: Floyd Inman  
435-645-8460 floyd\_inman@msn.com  
Board Member: Larry Bishop  
801-558-5688, [larrybishop2@comcast.net](mailto:larrybishop2@comcast.net)  
Membership director: Bruce Schilling,  
801-486-0425, partsmaster4@sisna.com  
Board Member: Jim "Pugs" Pivrotto  
801-486-0547 jimp@corp.firstindustrial.com  
Quartermaster: Mitch Johnson 801-547-1087  
[spitfiresrule@msn.com](mailto:spitfiresrule@msn.com)

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 to Bruce's email address shown above. Check us out on the web!

[www.britishmotorclub.org](http://www.britishmotorclub.org)

# British Motor Club of Utah

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