

# British Motor Club of Utah

www.britishmotorclub.org

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## Chinese Plant Rolls Out First MG

The first Chinese-built MG sports cars have rolled off the production line in the eastern city of Nanjing.

The manufacturer, state-owned Nanjing Automobile, bought the assets of collapsed UK firm MG Rover in 2005. It plans to produce 200,000 new cars every year and hopes to sell the vehicles around the world.

But many are likely to be sold to the booming domestic market, with demand for luxury vehicles soaring amongst the country's wealthy elite.

In six short months the Chinese have built a massive new factory and installed the robots and assembly lines they bought from the collapsed Rover, reports the BBC's Quentin Sommerville in Nanjing.

General Manager Zhang Xin told Reuters news agency, would be priced at between 180,000 and 400,000 yuan (\$23,300 - \$51,700; £11,800—£26,300). The cars have not changed much, right down to the Union flag, which is still displayed proudly on their bodywork.

The MG brand is being marketed in China as "Modern Gentleman". "We are

— continued on p. 4

## British Roll Over Irish Obstacles

About two dozen St Patrick's Day celebrants arrived at the Kmart parking lot on Parley's in a wide variety of fine British vehicles; including MG, Triumph, Lotus, and one Scandinavian. This year's event was an unexpected break from the long BMCU tradition of participation in the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade in downtown Salt Lake City. We were informed last month by the Hibernian Society (organizers of the parade) that Gateway management (the location of the parade) claimed "safety" issues required that car clubs be limited to three vehicles. Since BMCU events are open to all members and we typically have 15 - 20 cars at the parade, the club response was a good Irish "no, nay, never..." Hence the hasty change in plans.

After some good socializing and a poll of participants as to suggestions for the day's event, two options led the voting: one was to crash the parade, the other was to proceed with due haste yet with English dignity straight to MacCools at Foothill before the crowds of others not at the parade filled the establishment on

St. Patty's. A short drive was made towards the mouth of Emigration Canyon on an absolutely beautiful morning (where is good weather when you need it?). Up one side of Foothill then back down the other, the drive led to the construction zone in the tight parking lot near MacCools. It was a combination mini car show and Easter egg hunt with brightly colored Britmobiles interspersed among silver/black/white SUV's.

The BMCU was dutifully in place before the doors of the establishment were opened for business. The event was traditional and in keeping with the founding principles of the BMCU - that events should be open to all, have fun, and be sure to have something good to eat. At this point I personally decided it was too beautiful a day so I went for a drive. Reports are that MacCools did a great job hosting our crowd, just as they did for last October's End of Season Dinner.

--Rob Foye

**Drinking drivers  
Enhance their  
Chance  
To highball home  
In an ambulance  
-- Burma-Shave, 1945**



No friends, this isn't the power plant of the Pivrotto Herald — or even one of their vintage Caddy's — it's the cooker at the Yukon Grill in Huntsville, the destination of the tour described below.

## Huntsville Show & Shine BBQ

April 7th is the one year anniversary of the Impromptu Huntsville Tour and Governor General Send Off. That was a quickly arranged outing for Mitch prior to his Middle East tour and turned out to be a great little run right here in our own backyard. So, this year the name remains the same but with a tad of planning. Meet at the Checker Auto Parts, 315 W. 200 N. in Kaysville at 10:00 for departure to Ogden. Then it's up Hwy 39 to Huntsville.

Once in Huntsville side trips can include the Monastery for their honey and cereal or/and a zip up to the gate to Monte

Cristo, which is closed at this time of year. Lunch will be at the Yukon Grill in Huntsville. Last year the owner warmly invited us to return with the whole group to show off our cars there at the Grill. We're currently lobbying to get the BBQ fired up for our visit. The return trip is to Liberty, over the North Ogden Divide and down into North Ogden. Meet for farewells and handshakes at the artesian spring in Acres Market parking lot on Washington. South on Washington to 89 and points south.

-- Paul & Elizabeth Jaroch

## Need Inspiration On Your Restoration Project? Read About *Team Sprite*

[*Sports Car Market Magazine* April 2007 describes an 1958 Austin-Healey Sprite which sold at RM's Phoenix auction on January 19 for \$23,100.]

Here's a new twist to a timeless tale. A group of high school students pool their money to buy a car, it needs some

work ... but hey, how hard can it be to make an old car run? Sounds like something from the era of ducktails and drive-ins? But here's the twist: those students are young women, and the car was just a tub and twenty-odd boxes full of rock-hard rubber, rats

—continued on page 3



## 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 year's complete schedule and latest information.

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

**April 7:** Huntsville Show & Shine BBQ. Paul Jaroch, 801-710-8796, bughous@msn.com. See article at left.

**April 21:** Tech Session by RedLine Oil, Swap Meet, and Funkhana Trial Run. Mike Bailey, 801-743-2875. See article on page 3.

**May 5:** Antelope Island Run. Michael & Mary Scoggins, 801-295-1732, stradi@xmission.com.

**May 19:** Living Traditions Festival. Pugs & Diane Pivrotto, 801-486-0547, jimp@corp.firstindustrial.com.

**May 26-28:** Memorial Day Run to Moab. Jon Hermance, 801-583-5846, Jonathan\_Hermance@atk.com. See article in March issue.

**June 9 (tentative):** British Field Day. Bill Davis, 801-486-5049, GBROvers@aol.com.

**July 2-6:** Gathering of the Faithful West MG meeting, Park City, UT, Floyd Inman, 435-654-7086, floyd\_inman@msn.com.

**July 7 (tentative)** Cache Valley Cruise In.

**July 14:** Trappers Loop Run. John Progress, 801-547-0259, johnprogress@comcast.net.

**August 11:** Alpine Loop Run & Raffle. Mary, Larry & Suzanne Bishop, 801-321-0482, larrybishop2@comcast.net.



## 2007 Spring BMCU Swap Meet Tech Session and Picnic

Once again the sun climbs a bit higher in the sky, the days get longer and warmer and the snow has melted away from that rotting hulk in the back 40. Time to get serious about some British car work and getting ready for the upcoming driving season.

To assist in getting folks in the mood, Bailey's Service will host a swap meet on Saturday, April 21st, similar to the one last spring. Bailey's is at 187 West 4800 South in Murray, Utah.

For those wishing to offer parts, show up after 9 am with your stash. Space will be available on a first come, first served basis. If the weather cooperates there should be a plenty of space outdoors, otherwise we'll have to squeeze folks into limited space inside Mike's shop. You'll need to bring your own tables, chairs and such to provide the can't fail, awesome display guaranteed to turn your

excess parts into cash, And those chomping at the bit to get the hot deals should show up around 10 am, greenbacks in hand.

This year there will be an added feature. Pat Wright from Redline Oil will be on hand to provide a tech session on their lubricant products. The tech session will start at 11, last maybe an hour or so, depending on how many questions folks have on zinc additives and yellow metal gearbox compatibility.

And in a different twist to add to the day's festivities, let's throw in a potluck barbeque picnic. There will be some grills set up around noon, bring your burgers, bratwurst, ribeyes or pickled eel steaks or whatever you fancy for lunch. Should be a fun, informative event for all.

--Mark Bradakis and Mike Bailey

### Team Sprite, cont'd from page 2

nests of frayed wire, and hundreds of unlabeled bits. That's a great story for the new owner to narrate as he or she shows off this highly accurate restoration at the next British car or Austin-Healey club meet.

Few cars that cross the auction block have an entire web site devoted to the restoration, as is the case for this pretty little car ([www.teamsprite.com](http://www.teamsprite.com)). On the web site, it's possible to see the Sprite at various stages of its restoration and also to get brief profiles of each of the team members involved. In addition, lists are provided of all the corporate sponsors, such as Moss Motors, which donated parts and services, and the private supporters who helped out with hard-to-find original parts and other contributions.

The project advisor encouraged the team to do everything to top standards of originality and quality. For example, according to the documentation, the pile of parts that accompanied the stripped

Bugeye shell included a larger 1960 A-Series engine, which simply wouldn't have been right for the first year of Sprite production, so it was swapped for the proper 948 cc, 1958 engine.

Even the battery, which sits front-and-center in the engine compartment, is a correct reproduction of the original Lucas tar-top battery, and from the pictures, all the other details (except perhaps the contemporary gold Lucas Sport Coil) look equally correct for the car and its period.

The restoration team can take great pride in its achievement, and clearly learned much more than the mechanical skills they were seeking almost two years ago. The lucky buyer takes away much more than just an excellent Bugeye restoration --- a unique and detailed provenance. Even at the price, this car was well-bought.

[For complete story, see <http://www.sportscarmarket.com/profiles/2007/April/English/index.html>]

## Autojumble

**1980 MGB:** Black Beauty ready for British Field Day. Originally from California, Always garage-stored, 97,000 miles. \$3,500 OBO. Call JC at 801-815-1959.

**More free Spitfire parts:** See <http://forums.britishmotorclub.org/viewtopic.php?t=151> or call Mark Bradakis, 801-364-3251.

**For sale:** Lime green MG Midget 1500; 4 MGB SU carbs good shape \$75.00; BGT tail light lenses \$5.00 each; early MGB clutch and Flywheel \$50.00; 3 MG steering wheels, 1 is a custom wheel w/ mg center cap \$25.00 each; 1500 SU intake manifold, and exhaust manifold \$75.00; 2 MGB SU manifolds \$50 each; MGB lever arm shocks \$25 each; MGB exhaust manifold. \$25; 1500 Spitfire midget Stromberg carb and manifold, great running shape, with filter \$50.00; MGB GT Weber carb, manifold, and KN \$150.00; early MGB starter \$25. Lane Farka 801-390-9757, [mightymg@hotmail.com](mailto:mightymg@hotmail.com)

**1973 MGB** Owned since 1974. Body work done, no rust, partially in primer (originally red), one dent from a tree branch, broken windscreen. Engine tired but runs. Interior black, racked dash. Asking \$1,500. David Pendell, 801-ART-1706, [davidann@uofu.net](mailto:davidann@uofu.net).

**1978 MGB Roadster:** Red, black Interior, 93,000 miles. Hard top and soft top in great condition. Well maintained and have service records New brakes and shocks. Newer stereo with CD player. Wood steering wheel. Custom nose protector. Tracy Zeller, 636 East 650 North, Centerville UT 84014, home 801-992-3149, cell 812-209-9401.

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# British Motor Club of Utah

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A Chapter of the North American MGB Register  
A Zone of the Vintage Triumph Register

## Chinese Plant Rolls Out First MG — *cont'd from page 1*

keeping the original British flavour," said Mr. Zhang, quoted by Reuters. "But in the future, the major market for MG will be in China."

The company wants to sell the cars not just in China but around the world.

But with the Chinese car market growing by 10 million new cars every year, Nanjing Auto will likely be selling most of its MGs in showrooms closer to home, our correspondent adds.

The MG plant in Nanjing is capable of producing 200,000 cars, 250,000 engines and 100,000 gearboxes annually.

Nanjing Auto also plans to build some MGs at Britain's Longbridge factory for the European market. And the firm plans to start producing MGs for the US market in Ardmore, southern Oklahoma, next year.

Nanjing Auto acquired bankrupt MG Rover's models and assets for £53m (\$104m) in 2005, outbidding China's biggest carmaker Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC).

— *BBC News*

## Exchequer Report

*As of March 28, 2007*

**Balance last report \$2,895.08**

### Income

Member contributions	134.00
Ad sales	175.00
Interest	1.26

310.26

### Expenses

Newsletter	148.10
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**Ending balance \$3,057.24**

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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 Michael and Mary Scoggins, 1448 North 100 West, Bountiful, Utah 84010-5977, or to their email address shown above. Check us out on the web!

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