

British Motor Club of Utah

www.britishmotorclub.org

February 2008

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Kirkham Motorsports Tech Session January 12

In Provo, who knew?

After some of our worst snow earlier in the week, Saturday morning February 12th dawned to clear roads for our trek down to Provo and Kirkham Motorsports for our BMCU tech session. Turns out that getting there is a "one way in" deal, and in pea soup fog, too. Joe at Kirkham's steered Larry & I in over the phone, "left at the old brick church". Got it.

In the session announcement Mitch covered the history of Kirkham building Cobra replicas from aluminum rather than fiberglass with the bodies and frames produced in a former MIG factory in Poland. Production quality on these items is what you would expect from a military aircraft facility as we would see.

At Kirkham entering the manufacturing bay from the office area is a stunning sight as can be seen by the accompanying photographs. Build quality in this plant is first rate with CNC Machine Centers whirring away producing all manner of parts and a computer hydraulic tube bender turning out compound formed exhaust pieces. The sight of a nine-stack of car body's right from their shipping container from Poland gets your attention straight away, that and the near complete car in the rotating jig. This is a modern, high quality operation.

Now, out the door, past the friendly guard dog and back to the 60's in the building that keeps the cars that started it all, a number of Shelby Cobras from that era. These vehicles were brutes

built to beat the reigning Ferrari's that dominated production sports car racing of the time, and they did just that. And thus the legend that led to a number of companies throughout the world producing replicas of that original Cobra.

Reflecting on what we have seen, on the Kirkham everything that could be better than the original is better. Steel control arms are now CNC produced aluminum alloy, brakes are now the items used in NASCAR. You get the idea.

Attendance at this tech session was huge. Those signing the list included Gary Lindstrom, Kendall & Alan Dewsnup, Roger Davis, Clayton Merchant, Steven Nelson, Fritz & Casey Lindbeck, Lee Brown, Andrew Frink, Chris Jones, Duff Lawson, Chris Dunbeck, Wayne Mortensen, Richard & Kyle Moklofsky, Jon Hermance, Bill Beecher, Larry Farrington, Paul Jaroch and I think a Brian Akins and David Womac. There were many more.

Kind thanks to those arranging the visit and Tom the owner for the wonderful tour. Want one? It can happen. Visit www.kirkhammotorsports.com and prepare to be impressed. Note the upcoming open house at their facility next month. Tom invited us and I know I'll be there.

Watch out, they bite.

— Paul Jaroch

**He tried
To cross
As fast train neared
Death didn't draft him
He volunteered
-- Burma-Shave, 1950**



Triumphest Laughlin, NV, October 11-14, 2007

October is a fabulous month to drive "topless" to Laughlin, Nevada! The morning of the 10th the group consisting of: Mike and Mary Scoggins, Mitch and Diane Johnson, Larry and Margaret Farrington met Paul Jaroch in Nephi. Paul elected to drive his new Mercedes SUV and it thrilled the girls to be able to ride with him out of the wind for just a bit!

No breakdowns, except for a faulty gas gauge, which turned out not so bad. While the boys went back to town for gas the rest of the group contemplated the small graveyard next to the road, taking pictures and having a snack break. In good company these are the times we remember most, right? Stopping in Manti we were lucky to catch the daughter of Ed Roth (Rat Fink) and talk to her for a bit. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate her mom, whom the daughter said would be thrilled that we had stopped by.

We stayed the night in Mesquite, where we were joined by John Perry in his 1500 Spit, and were rolling early the next morning. Paul's suggestion for lunch was a good one, as usual, at the famous Memphis Championship BBQ in Las Vegas. Back on the road and we were in Laughlin before the beautiful sunset. It may not be Vegas but Laughlin has its own charm and virtues. The Colorado River provided boating in different forms, jet skiing, and river walking.

The River Palms hotel provided ample parking for the LBCs and were very accomodating in their facilities. The local shopping mall kept the girls happy and the boys were in heaven just hanging around the cars from sunup to well after sundown.

The road rally to Oatman was unique. On the way we saw a man working his mine, Burros wandering the streets of Oatman (Mary is a hands-on kind of a gal!) and a wild west shootout! At the Kingman AZ. Museum we found Route 66 souvenirs galore and crossed the street to eat at the hamburger joint with Elvis souvenirs! What a blast from the past!

And now, to toot our own horns, the Awards Banquet was a success for each of the Utah members. Mike and Mitch received Gold awards. Paul just missed the award for a fantastic photo taken at our outing with the British RAF last year. There should be an award for the Mother Ship though!

It was fun to see Bill and Juls Robinson again along with Bruce Schilling! They seem to be enjoying life in the south but we sure do miss them here!

Sunday, the 14th we waved goodbye to new and old friends and steered our bonnets for home. Stopping for lunch along the way and back on the road for

a record setting cross country time.

Laughlin was a very enjoyable destination, for those who are skeptics, and we won't hesitate if offered the chance to go again! This year October 2nd to the 5th the VTR Triumphest will be held in Lake Tahoe!!! Reserve your rooms as soon as possible people! We'd love to have more of you join us this year! See <http://www.triumphtravelers.org/Events/Triumphest08/TRfest08Home.php>.

-- Mitch & Diane 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 year's complete schedule and latest information.

www.britishmotorclub.org/lucas.html

February 9. Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner, 6pm, St. Paul's Church. See article on page 3.

A complete line up of club doings for 2008 will be mapped out at the February 9 meeting — see you there!

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting February 9, 2008

OK folks, time to dust off the cookbooks and get ready to show off your culinary skills! It's time for the BMCU membership to gather to feast and to scheme!

That means besides bringing along your favorite dish, we would like to hear your ideas and hopes for the coming year. This is the time for sitting down and planning out a years worth of activities and fun for all of us.

We had a great year in 2007 and I know we can do even better in 2008 (sounding a bit like a politician there, sorry). This is also the time we can elect (volunteer/Shanghai) new BMCU officers.

I am currently researching the creation of an official BMCU ball cap. The BMCU logo would be embroidered on the front and (this is where you come in) on the back we'd like something witty, such as *Going Topless in the Rockies* or some-



All the food groups were represented at the 2007 Pot Luck Dinner

thing fun. I'd like you to bring your ideas to the dinner and we can vote for the best one -- with the first hat going to the suggestion winner.

Also this year I am working on a display of information that pertains our cars. I am contacting parts vendors and business' that can help us in our quest for LBC performance and reliability.

The display is open to local folks to bring info along too! We are always open to ways to help each other out.

There will also be door prizes. Everyone at the dinner will receive a ticket for a chance to win something (sorry, no new Jags or Mini's from the dealer). This will not be a raffle sale, just a way to make the evening a bit more interesting. Make a note on your calendar: February 9th 6:00pm, [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 261 South 900 East, Salt Lake City.

--Mitch Johnson

Autojumble

For sale: '57 MGA. Ran when parked. Always garaged. One rusty rocker panel and one rusty fender. A little front end damage. Bumper & grill missing. Car located in Nampa, ID. Make offer. Wilton Freeman, at 208-466-7977(H) or 208-880-0845(C).

Wanted: Good rebuildable set of 1500 or 1600 MGA rods. Mike Bailey, 801-743-2875.

Wanted: TR-3 or MGA 15 inch wheels (stamped metal / disk) plain 4 lug nut type. Almost any condition even lightly rusted. Call or E-mail 298-8924 beachbum-barry@msn.com.

Wanted: Gas cap for a TR-6 or GT-6. Roger Gisseman, RGisseman@slco.org.

Wanted: Distributor for a late model Midget with Spitfire engine. Dean Anderson, 801-966-6520.

Wanted: Good MGB hood/bonnet, aluminum or steel. Rob Foye, 801-916-1949, rfoye@wwdb.org.

For sale: I've finally got around to finishing out some spring cleaning and have all of my TR7 parts collected. You can see the on <http://unable.com/tr7/>. I don't have a price set on any of them - just have a look-see, email me with any questions, and make a reasonable offer. They're all in Farmington if you want to come by and inspect anything - just let me know and I'll give you my address. I work on 33rd South and 7th East if that's more convenient to you - let me know what you want me to bring in to inspect. Jeff hegg@unable.com.

1966 MG: 100% ORIGINAL chrome bumper Model MGB. No rust. Dark Garnet in color, tan top, red interior. Almost fully restored new carpet and top. Needs work on carburetors. New items: convertible top, king pins, rear end, tires, oil pump, carburetors rebuilt but seals dried out, major tune items, seat/upholstery (autumn leaf color), battery, shock absorber, brakes, front wheels (real wire spoke knock off). All front end bushings-upgraded poly. If interested called 643-9206.

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, davidam@uofu.net.

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British Motor Club of Utah

1448 North 100 West
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Exchequer Report

As of January 25, 2008

Balance last report \$2,666.08

Income

Interest	0.47
Ad sales	575.00
Member contribs	1,152.00
	<hr/>
	1,727.47

Expenses

Jan. newsletter	55.07
Postage	82.00
	<hr/>
	137.07

Ending balance* \$4,256.48

*record high — congratulations to all involved



This Month's Featured Member Car

Richard Moklofsky's Hooper bodied 1949 Rolls Royce Silver Wraith.



Spridget Golden Anniversary!

*"50 Years of Spridgets" at
Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri
June 26-29, 2008*

This is the one for all the Sprite and Midget enthusiasts everywhere!! The Spridget is 50 Years Old!! We've got an entire resort hotel reserved in the center of North America and Spridgeteers are coming from every place imaginable! Some of the most beautiful and "Spridgetly" roads in the world along with the best cars, the greatest people, and the most fun you've ever had!

Car Show - Autocross - Funkhane - Banquet - Trophies - Door Prizes - Drawings - Road Tours - Technical Sessions - Parties - Hospitality Rooms - Regalia - Much More!!

For additional information, an event poster, apparel, and to pre-register point your browser to: <http://www.Sprite-MidgetClub.org>



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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