

Wires & Tyres

May 2022



www.memphisbritishcars.org

British Sports Car Club, LTD Memphis, Tennessee

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Empire Marque Leader	Tom Wilson
Jaguar Marque Leader	Dave White
MG Marque Leader	Paul Burdette
Triumph Marque Leader	Jon Brody
Lotus Marque Leader	Chris Irving
Secretary	Jim Duke

Membership Meetings

Coletta's Italian Restaurant
2850 Appling Rd.

Mark your calendar - **Monday**,
the 16th; 6:00 p.m. for dinner, 7:00 p.m. for
our program by the Flying Saucer Draft
Emporium

Taco Tuesday - May 24th, 6 p.m. Location
To Be Announced



Where can I take my recently acquired British car (Jowett Jupiter, Nash-Healey, Alvis) to get it checked out and road-worthy?

That's the common thread of several email messages we've gotten recently. Your humble editor has the limited knowledge of anyone who has led a sheltered life. Jim Styles still does maintenance and repair work, but he's as backed up as you'd expect any one-man shop to be. Similarly, BB's seems to have more work than they can handle for at least the next three or four months.

We've heard that 'Tracy's' over on Monroe, across from the Edge Motor Museum does excellent work and might undertake maintenance or repair, but have no personal experience with them. There's at least one more local shop who works on later-model British cars, but we've heard less than rave reviews.

We had our Family Truckster at our friendly independent shop for normal service recently, so your editor flagged the chief mechanic to ask if their shop would be able to handle the BSCC membership's classics.



His response was, "We can, but we don't want to." Noting my befuddled look (he didn't recognize it as my usual expression), he added, "We can plug an OBD reader into any new car and get a diagnosis in minutes. It will take us a half day to figure out what's wrong with one of those older cars." As a result, he said, "Our usual shop rate is \$125/hour,

and I'd have to charge \$225 for that work. And, then we'd have to wait a month for parts while the cars fill up our shop and parking space."

Many BSCC members do the much of maintenance and repair themselves; tinkering with relatively simple machinery is a major part of our automotive interest. One member cited his home address to the question; "Where do you take your MG B for service work?"

How about you? Where would you suggest a newcomer look for service, repair, or inspection on a British classic? Your editor really needs to know.



After working for 50 years, I retired, looking forward to some relaxation time and putting my feet up.

My wife had other ideas; she insisted I take her to the local shopping mall every day.

Like most men, I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and out. She, like most women, loves to browse. That left me with endless time to fill.

Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter, from the local mall:

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion, in our store. We cannot tolerate this behavior and have been forced to, ban both of you from the store.

Our complaints against your husband, Mr. Harris, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

On June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.

July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.

July 7: He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.

July 19: He walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, 'Code 3 in House wares. Get on it right away'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her supervisor that, in turn resulted in a union grievance, causing management to lose time; and costing the company money. We don't have a Code 3.

August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on layaway.

August 14: Moved a, 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.

August 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.

August 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, 'Why can't you people just leave me alone?' EMTs were called.

September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

September 10: While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.

October 3: Darted around the store suspiciously while, loudly humming the, 'Mission Impossible' theme.

October 6: In the auto department, he practiced his, 'Madonna Look' using different sizes of funnels.

October 18: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled 'PICK ME! PICK ME!'

October 22: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and screamed; 'OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!' Then, he took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked where is the fitting room?

And last, but not least:

October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile; then yelled very loudly, 'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.' One of the clerks passed out.

Geeze Louise, Why Is Everything So Complicated!

While modern vehicles are not overly affected, our classic British cars don't like ethanol in our gasoline. Ethanol, threatens to corrode some metals and to deteriorate rubber in seals, gaskets, and carburetor parts. That's in addition to rapid separation and water absorption inherent in ethanol blended fuels.

On top of those troubles, ethanol decreases fuel mileage by about 3% to 5%.

To counteract rising gas prices, the Federal government announced plans last month to temporarily allow gasoline with 15% ethanol to be sold between June 1 and Sept. 15. Normally only a 10% ethanol blend can be sold during summer months.



Proponents argue that allowing higher ethanol content will cut reliance on oil and its byproducts, such as gasoline. Ethanol gas is cheaper. Federal officials predicted that adding in the higher-blend ethanol could save drivers 10 cents a gallon off current prices.

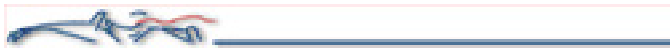
Not everyone agrees. Higher ethanol blending can sometimes raise prices for refiners. Corn prices, like oil and other commodities, have already seen sharp increases this

year because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine (often called Europe's breadbasket). Furthermore, there is limited infrastructure to sell E15 gasoline because not all wholesalers and retail gas stations are willing to invest in a product that cannot be sold year-round.

Stations are not required to sell E15, but some have started offering E15 due to state and federal incentives for upgrading equipment and better profit margins when compared with regular gasoline, the Energy Department site says. E15 is available in 30 states at just over 2,300 stations - only about 2% of total gas stations in the U.S.

Ethanol and ethanol-gasoline mixtures burn cleaner and have higher octane levels than gasoline that does not contain ethanol, but they also have higher evaporative emissions from fuel tanks and gas pumps. These evaporative emissions contribute to increasing ground-level ozone and smog. Additionally, gasoline requires extra processing to reduce evaporative emissions before blending with ethanol.

Sounds kinda lose-lose, doesn't it.



Third Time Is Charming

Last month, Thaloc, the Aztec rain god, spoiled



plans for a spirited drive to, through, and around Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. We'll never let a good plan go to waste, so the drive is back on the BSCC calendar

for Saturday, May 7th – the day before Mother's day.

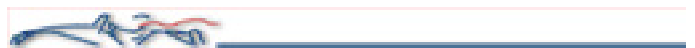
Our traditional plan is to gather in the parking lot of the Walgreen's drug store at the intersection of Highway 70 & Germantown Pkwy. From there we'll caravan along a winding path to the Shelby Forest area, visit the General Store for



lunch, follow the twisty one-way roads through the park, and savor a lively drive through though the spring foliage.



Details will be forthcoming via email and a follow-up calling post reminder, but mark your calendar to make sure to save the date!



I asked my grandpa: "After 65 years you still call grandma darling, beautiful and honey.

What's the secret?"

Grandpa: "I forgot her name five years ago and I'm scared to ask her."



Have you paid your 2022 dues?

May is awfully late, but we won't impose a tardy fee – BUT ACT NOW!

A simple \$30 check made to BSCC, mailed to BSCC, PO Box 38134, Germantown, TN 38183-0134 will keep you in good graces.

In exchange, you'll get all the love, admiration, and best wishes we can offer. What more do you want?



Club Calendar

May 7 – Shelby Forest Drive, Walgreens, Hwy 70 & G'town Pkwy. Time TBA

May 16 – Membership Meeting – Coletta's. 6:00 p.m. Program by Flying Saucer Draft Emporium

May 24 – Taco Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. location to be revealed next week.

May 29 – Memorial Day / Indy 500 Fish Fry – Jim Hofer's, 496 Melody Ln., 11:35 a.m. CDT

June 9 – Memphis Redbirds Game – Autozone Park 7:05 p.m. kickoff (\$22/person pay Paul Burdette – 901-212-5893 (ASAP)



Wants & Gots

Ben and Jessica Gaillard have their 1980 Spitfire Triumph on offer.



"We haven't had much time for our 1980 Triumph Spitfire since our son's arrival, and have decided to offer it for sale. It has been driven regularly since we got it from Steve Wayne, and is still in great shape.



Maybe even better due to the upgrades we've added.



We'd like to give a club member first dibs on



the car.

Give me a call, 901-210-2629 /
benblur4@gmail.com

Tico Capote is selling his 1970 Mini. Bought in England already converted to left hand drive. New 1993 body used, NO RUST. Later model parts used for dash, etc.

1380 cc engine, 10:1 compression, 73.5 mm



pistons with block bored staggered, etc. Lots of other engine, ignition/fuel, cooling, exhaust,



transmission and suspension upgrades.

Car is in Memphis and can be shown by appointment. \$20,000 OBO.

Tico Capote 901-550-9949.

As a final note to Wants & Gots, want to pass along that the Everson MGTC was successfully sold last week according to Son-in-Law John Edwards.



Dear Diary

For my fortieth (?) birthday this year, my wife (the dear) purchased a week of personal training at the local health club for me.

Although I am still in great shape since playing football 40 yrs ago, I decided it would be a good idea to go ahead and give it a try.

Called the club and made my reservation with a personal trainer named Vanessa, who identified herself as a 26 year old aerobics instructor and model for athletic clothing and swimwear.

My wife seemed pleased with my enthusiasm to get started! The club encouraged me to keep a diary to chart my progress

MONDAY:

Started my day at 6:00am. Tough to get out of bed, but it was well worth it when I arrived at the health club to find Vanessa waiting for me.

She was something of a Greek goddess with blonde hair, dancing eyes and a dazzling white smile. Woo Hoo!!!! Vanessa gave me a tour and showed me the machines. She took my pulse after 5 minutes on the treadmill. She was alarmed that my pulse was so fast, but I attributed it to standing next to her in her Lycra aerobics outfit.

Very inspiring, Vanessa was encouraging as I did my sit-ups, although my gut was already aching from holding it in the whole time she was around. I enjoyed watching the skillful way in which she conducted her aerobics class after my workout today.

This is going to be a FANTASTIC week!!

TUESDAY:

I drank a whole pot of coffee, but I finally made it out of the door. Vanessa made me lie on my back and push a heavy iron bar into the air, and then she put weights on it! My legs were a little wobbly on the treadmill, but I made the full mile. Vanessa's rewarding smile made it all worthwhile. I feel GREAT!! It's a whole new life for me.

WEDNESDAY:

The only way that I can brush my teeth is by laying on the toothbrush on the counter and moving my mouth back and forth over it. I believe I have a hernia in both breasts.

Driving was OK as long as I didn't try to steer or stop. Vanessa was impatient with me, insisting that my screams bothered other club members.

Her voice is a little too perky for early in the morning and when she scolds, she gets this nasally whine that is VERY annoying. My chest hurts when I got on the treadmill, so Vanessa put me on the stair monster. Why the hell would anyone invent a machine to

simulate an activity rendered obsolete by elevators? Vanessa told me it would help me get in shape and enjoy life. She said some other shit too.

THURSDAY:

Vanessa was waiting for me with her vampire-like teeth exposed as her thin, cruel lips were pulled back in a full snarl. I couldn't help being a half an hour late; it took me that long to tie my shoes. Vanessa took me to work out with dumbbells. When she was not looking, I ran and hid in the men's room. She sent Lars to find me, then, as punishment, put me on the rowing machine.

FRIDAY:

I hate that bitch Vanessa more than any human being has ever hated any other human being in the history of the world. Stupid, skinny, anemic little cheerleader. If there were a part of my body I could move without unbearable pain, I would beat her with it. Vanessa wanted me to work on my triceps - I don't have any triceps!

And if you don't want dents in the floor, don't hand me the Barbells or anything that weighs more than a sandwich.

The treadmill flung me off and I landed on a health and nutrition teacher. Why couldn't it have been someone softer, like the drama coach or the choir director?

SATURDAY:

Vanessa left a message on my answering machine in her grating, shrilly voice wondering why I did not show up today. Just hearing her made me want to smash the machine with my fist.

However, I lacked the strength to even use the TV remote and ended up catching eleven straight hours of the Shopping Channel.

SUNDAY:

I'm having the Church van pick me up for services today so I can go and thank GOD that this week is over. I will also pray that next year, my wife (the bitch), will choose a gift for me

that is fun -- like a root canal or a vasectomy.

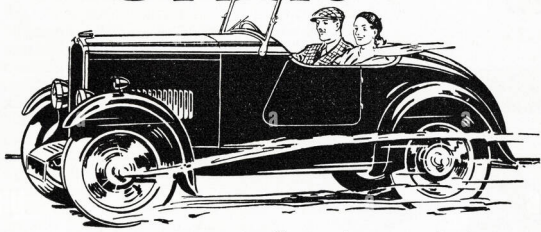
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Contact the editor via dukemeteo@gmail.com

"The Gnat"



... a smart Sports model
with de Luxe equipment ...
at a reasonable figure **£185**

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There are other Triumph Super Seven models from £162 10s., Scorpion 6 cyl. models from £220. Write for full details.

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Dunlop Tyres standard

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