

Spark & Spanner

The Official
Publication of
the South
Alabama British
Car Club

February 2025



From the President

Ben Cummings

Boy, last year was a busy year. When I agreed to be president of our little club, I had no idea how much we do. At the January meeting last month, I read aloud an abbreviated summary of the events and activities SABCC either hosted or participated in during the calendar year of 2024. I was amazed at the list. The events varied from programs at the regular meetings, to tech sessions, and drives and meets. And, of course, we also host the best British Car Festival in the South. (But I may be biased.) [*I tend to agree, Ben-Ed.*]

A brief summary of the SABCC activities in 2024 is as follows:

January

- A history of the club presented by **Rodney McDonald**

February

- **John Twist** conducted a technical seminar at the Garagemahal

March

- **Fred Veenschoten** presentation of interesting cars and machines
- Downtown Showdown at Downtown Car Care in Mobile
- BMCNO show in Covington
- MGMGs at the Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival

April

- "Bring a Young Person" to the regular monthly meeting.
- PBCA show in Pensacola

May

- Cars and Coffee
- Silverhill car show

June

- NAMGBR presentation by **Noel Eagleson**
- SABCC picnic
- The Reserve grand opening (car display)
- Baldwin Loop Rally

July

- Tri-Club Pig Roast

August

- **Rodney McDonald's** presentation on his TR7 article
- **Mike McCord** gave a presentation on the restoration of his MG TD

September

- Dillard Show presentation by **Noel Eagleson**

October

- British Car Festival
- **Fred Veenschoten** presentation on miniature machines

November

- Autojumble at **Tom Schmitz** Garage-mahut
- Cars and Coffee

December

- Christmas Lunch and awards presentation

So, as you can see, SABCC does a lot. And this list does not cover everything we did in 2024. I am proud of what all we do. We are an active club committed to promoting British car enthusiasm. And 2025 will be another great year! But organizing our events requires help. The Club needs volunteers to help with our activities. And helping is fun! Volunteering allows you to get to know other members and learn more of the hobby of British cars. So, let's all work together to continue the great success of SABCC.

I look forward to another fun-filled year of British car activities in 2025.

Safety Fast,

Ben

Ben Cummings is the president of SABCC.

SABCC Club Officers

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| VP-Membership | Rick Black |
| Secretary | Peter Lee |
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| Member at Large | Stan Anderson |
| Member at Large | Dick Bishop |
| Member at Large | Don Blosser |
| Member at Large | Tom Renick |
| Member at Large | Frank Stabler |
| Technical Advisors | Pierre Fontana, Scott Paradise |
| Webmaster | Peter Lee |
| Historian | Robb Ogletree |
| Newsletter Editor | Michael King |

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Membership in SABCC is open to anyone with an interest in classic or modern British cars, and dues are only \$20 per year [*Inflation? Not here! Well, at least until 2025, perhaps-Ed.*].

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Want a Club Shirt (or Jacket or Hat)?

SABCC uses Queensboro, which offers a large variety of embroidered shirts, jackets, hats, and other items, in men's, ladies, and youth styles, all of which can be embroidered with the SABCC logo. Here's it works:

1. Visit the [Queensboro site](#), find a shirt (or other item) you like, and note the style number, size, and color name (make sure the item is available in your size and color). We can usually get items at half retail.
2. [Send Ed. \(Michael King\) an email](#) listing what you want, including quantity, style number, color name, and size for each item.
3. When Queensboro runs one of their sales, I will place a group order – **but we need at least five to get the best pricing.**
4. Once the order is placed, I will send you an email with your total, which will include the price of your items plus shipping and tax.
5. When I receive the order (usually a couple of weeks) I will let you know.
6. I'll deliver your items at the next club meeting or event, and you'll reimburse me.

Simple, right? So, start shopping, and send me your list! If you have any questions, call or text Michael at 251-689-1040.

Around the Bend

Upcoming Club Activities



February 15, 2025

John Twist Tech Seminar

Eagleson "Garagemahal," 25604 Friendship Rd, Daphne, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The \$10 fee covers the seminar, coffee and doughnuts in the morning, and lunch.

February 25, 2025

Monthly Club Meeting

Don Carlos Restaurant, 29699 AL-181, Daphne – 6:00 p.m. to eat and 7:00 to meet.

March 25, 2025

Monthly Club Meeting

Don Carlos Restaurant, 29699 AL-181, Daphne – 6:00 to eat and 7:00 to meet.

March 29, 2025

BMCNO British Motoring Festival

Covington Trailhead and Firehouse Event Center, 419 N New Hampshire St, Covington, LA 70433. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

February 2025

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**TWIST
SEMINAR**

**CLUB
MEETING**

March 2025

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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

**CLUB
MEETING**

**BMCNO
FESTIVAL**

Sparks

Club and Member News

Veenschoten Shop Tour

story by Don Pritchett

Our January activity was a tour of **Fred Veenschoten's** shop. Interest in his shop stemmed from his video presentation at a recent club meeting. The presentation revealed his interest in miniature steam engines and some of his machinery used in this hobby.

On Saturday, January 25th about a dozen SABCC'ers met at the Derailed Diner for an enjoyable lunch. Good food, good service and good camaraderie.



Breakfast at Derailed Diner (photo by Dave Roloson)

After lunch the group headed to Fred's shop. Fred had his three Morgan 3-wheelers parked in front of the shop. Quite a sight! We spent the first part of the tour admiring the cars and asking lots of questions. Fred answered them all

and discussed some interesting oddities of these beautiful cars.



Fred's 1952 Morgan F Super (photo by Dave Roloson)

Then it was into the shop. It was full of semi-antique, semi-repurposed yet completely useful machinery. Each was explained and demonstrated and lots of questions answered. Also on display was a miniature steam engine built using the machinery in the shop and some parts cast in his kiln housed in another building which we also toured. Needless to say a lot more questions were answered.



Fred answers questions about one of his miniature steam locomotives. (photo by Noel Eagleson)

Thanks to Fred for hosting this interesting, informative and enjoyable afternoon.

Snowbird Fest

Organizers of the Snowbird Fest in Orange Beach asked the local British car clubs to host a “shine and show” display at their Feb, 4, 2025 event for winter visitors. SABCC member **Dick**



Bishop, who is also activities chair of the Mardi Gras MGs, coordinated the event, and several Panhandle British Car Association members joined in. Besides the car display, the clubs were given a table to promote the British car hobby.



Top left, **Dick** parks cars (photo by **Pat Couling**); middle left, the line-up (photo by **Noel Eagleson**); bottom left, the lineup again (photo by **Rick Black**); top right, Taber Tompkins's Caterham, middle right, **Tom Renick** extols the virtues of Sunbeams; bottom right, **Don Pritchett** presents one of his dioramas to raffle winner Mary Leach of Jackson, MN (all photos on right by **Noel Eagleson**)

Rovers in the Snow

story and photos by Charles Bell

January 21st, 2025 was a historic day here on the Gulf Coast. We had record snowfall all along the area breaking a 130-year mark. It's something we just don't see here in Mobile in that capacity. It was so amazing to see everything covered in multiple inches of the frozen white stuff.



One thing that you need to know about me is that I love to be outdoors. And any time it starts to rain I am itching to get out, climb into my 2014 Land Rover LR4 XXV Anniversary Edition and find some trails somewhere to explore. You can imagine my excitement when the snow began to fall. I didn't want to go out too early and miss the heavier snowfall that was on the way.

I was just about to go knock on my neighbor's door to see if he wanted to head over to Perdido River WMA (about a 40-minute drive from Mobile) and drive the trails in the snow but an alert came over my phone that stated the bridges should be considered to be impassible. That was that. I did go out to take pictures by Battleship Park and Mobile Bay. I also took my sons out to get a little experience driving in these condi-

tions. My oldest used his 2003 Discovery and my youngest drove mine. They both did a fantastic job.

After all the fun on the snow day, I planned to stay off the roads the next day just out of courtesy, even though I really wanted to get out again. But I got a phone call from one of our church members that lost power and needed a ride to our church's warming shelter that was set up. I was glad to help some great friends and get to drive on the ice- and snow-covered roads. They were delivered and returned safely.



I don't know when we will see these conditions again, if ever, but I really enjoyed getting the Land Rover out and enjoying something unique. Besides, that is what a Land Rover is for.

[SABCC member **Charles Bell** is president of the Gulf Coast Land Rover Club-Ed.]

Spannering

Tech Tips



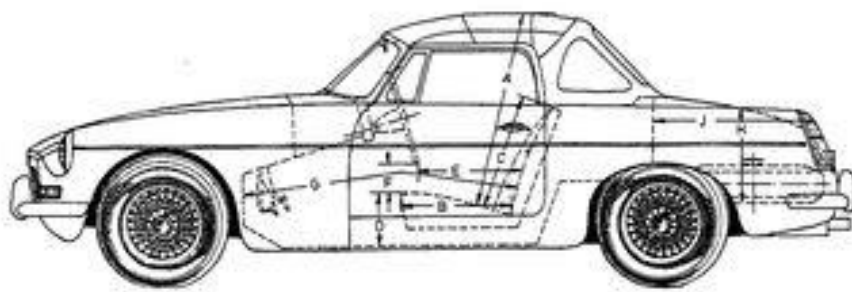
Of Holes and Hinges

story and photo by Rodney McDonald

The photo at right is of the indexing holes found in MGB bonnet hinges. These holes were drilled as the bonnets were removed from bodyshells delivered to the Abingdon MG factory by Pressed Steel Fisher. Since aligning the bonnet on re-installation can be a time consuming process (ask me, I know) indexing holes served to make the job much faster at the end of the assembly line.

The bonnets were taken off to make the installation of engine bay components easier and reduce the risk of damage to the painted surfaces. Once the point on the line was reached that no further engine bay access was required, the bonnets were fitted back on the hinges and punches were slipped into the holes to insure a perfect alignment.

If your MGB has these holes it is likely that your car still has the original hinges and bonnet. Or a previous owner put them there for the same reasons noted above. If your MGB does not have these indexing holes it might be a good thing to do before you have to remove the bonnet at some point (*cough* new clutch *cough*)



MG TD Restoration Update

photos by Mike McCord

Note from Ed.: Mike McCord bought a 1952 MGTD from fellow member Ed Burkett in June 2004. The car had not been driven since the 1970s and had been in a fire. It had been stored for many years in disassembled condition. Mike recently sent some pictures showing the tremendous progress he's made. Great work, sir!



Top left, deterioration of the wood framing in the body tub;
bottom left, new body timbers; top right, timber framing
installed; middle right, Mike fitting a new dash made by his son
of Tennessee white cherry, bottom right, primed door panels.



Security in the Digital Age

story by *Peter Lee*

As your SABCC webmaster and secretary, I get a lot of exposure to email and other cyber schemes. From strange emails from members requesting money by gift card to people trying to link me to their computer for my own protection. If you use a computer, tablet, or phone to read email or surf the web you should be cautious to protect yourself from the individuals out there trying to get your information for nefarious purposes.

Basics

Passwords: Let's start with your passwords. I know they are a pain to remember but just incrementing a number on the end of your dog's name is asking for trouble. Use a phrase of random words with more than 15 characters. Add capitals, special characters, and numbers into the mix. Do not write them down or share them. If you can use two-factor authentication (like a text to your cell phone) do it as it is an extra layer of protection. And don't use the same password for everything. Phones now will hold your passwords under a master password or generate a random one then save it.

The link hover: On most computers or phones you can hover the mouse over the email address without clicking and it will display the whole address. If you do this and it seems overly complicated or links to somewhere that seems off, then be you should be suspicious. A lot of times the address will seem alright but be slightly misspelled or have additional letters to alter where it is really going.

Think about what they are asking for: If they want you to pay with gift cards that's a bad sign as it is unrecoverable. So as soon as you give it to them, they are gone with free money. What if they are a bank asking you for details that they should already know? Maybe they sent you a

link. That link may send you to a legitimate-looking website for you to enter your login information so they can then use it on the real website. What if the language is a little off or they are asking you for something that seems well out of character for the individual? Someone else's lax security may have gotten their account hacked and now a bad actor is using that account to attempt to compromise yours.

Schemes

Phishing: emails telling you of an issue or an urgent action to play on your fears, usually with a malicious attachment or link. Companies or government agencies will not reach out this way. Do not click on anything that you don't trust. Look closely at the email addresses. I recently had an email from a possible club member which was correct but ended in @gmail.com instead of @outlook. Luckily I recognized it. Also be careful as sometime your phone or computer email will store the fake address in your past email addresses so you can easily recall them automatically. You will run into it at a later date when trying to email the person and bring up the fake account unknowingly.

Smishing: a text or digital message through an app like Facebook Messenger or Whatsapp pretending to be someone you know. The name is cloned to look correct to a quick glance. Looking for personal or sensitive information. If it seems odd, directly reach out to the individual to see if it is real.

Vishing: like phishing but through voice mails or calls. Trying to get sensitive information from individuals like bank statements or credit card numbers. They will pressure you to react quickly without thinking about the possible dangers. The IRS is not going to want you to give them your debit card number within the next hour or you go to jail.

(story continues next page)

Security in the Digital Age, continued

New Threats

Phone voice safety: In the new high tech world we are starting to see voice spoofing. That's people using your recorded words in a different way to make people think it's you. If you receive a call from an unknown number just don't answer. Tell your friends and family to leave a message and you will call them back. If you have to answer, make the caller talk first. Limit your answers and don't be afraid to hang up. I get calls all the time from numbers where I hear the forwarding tone as soon as I answer. And that's when I just hang it up. One piece of advice is to have a family code word to make sure it's always the real person you're talking to. "Broccoli" if it's really you. "Pizza" if you need help.



If only online fraud was as easy to identify as this Lincoln Town Car trying to pass itself off as some sort of Rolls-Royce...

Buying online: There are a few things here. Dedicate one low limit credit card to online purchases. That way if someone gets a hold of it they can only spend so much. Credit cards are actually the safest method as they have a lot of built-in fraud protection. Check your transactions often for fraudulent purchases or sign up for a service that does that for you. A lot of companies will lock the card if something seems off and contact you. Like when I went on vacation and they

locked my card for getting gas in Orlando. Scammers will try to buy something small with your cards to see if the information works before hammering a big expense so if you see a small error you don't understand react before it multiplies. Put a stop on the card and request a new one. Decide on how you want to send money to individuals online. There are multiple ways like Venmo, Cashapp, or Apple Pay. Whatever you use, make sure you understand the rules. I use Venmo a lot and if you send money to an individual through their friends and family setting you have no repercussions if the product never shows. So, if a buyer sends you the money request that way you need to weigh the risks. Some payment companies will hold the money until the buyer confirms the receipt of the goods. This is how eBay's system worked for buying a car last time I did it. There is some level of protection there for both the buyer and the seller. I tried to buy a taxi door from England recently and they guy wouldn't give me his business Venmo. Then he tried to convince me to use my debit card through an eastern European website. Forget that. It had scammer written all over it and even though I posted his information the to the Facebook page, he still suckered a couple other people in that very group. Remember you can always use pre-paid credit cards already charge with a fixed amount of money to limit the risk and keep access to others away from your full credit amount. Don't save your card information on websites. Enter it each time and then refuse to let the system save the payment info. Otherwise, if someone breaks into their system then your information is at risk.

I hope this clears up some questions on this subject but be wary. The techniques of thieves change constantly but if it seems too good then it probably is. Trust your gut and the only way they get your info is by tricking you into handing it over.

British Sports Cars and Aeroplanes

story by *Rodney McDonald*

In the late 1950s and early 1960s jet aircraft were about as advanced a form of travel as could be imagined. Rocket ships were still in their infancy and the world was probably still trying to wrap their heads around the concept of manned spaceflight. It's no small wonder that the builders of our favorite cars wanted to associate themselves with jet aircraft and I've found a couple of vintage ads that did just that.

First up is an advert from Austin Healey touting the new "100" and its record-setting speed on the Bonneville salt flats. This 1954 magazine ad (right) shows a well-dressed couple in their new Big Healey with its windshield folded chatting with the pilot of an F-84 jet fighter.

I doubt that the couple traveled very far in the open top two-seater; the lady's hair is perfect and the gentleman's hat is still on his head cocked just so.

Early in the following decade, the MGB was introduced and MG also wanted in on the jet plane image as well. This time, however, the subject is Lute Eldridge - Lockheed F-104 Test Pilot. As you can see from the images (next page), ol' Lute enjoys quality time with his spanking new MGB roadster on his way to another day of testing the razor-winged wonder from Lockheed.

MG apparently specified action in their ad and they got it in spades. Our test pilot friend starts his day by folding down the MG's convertible top so he can soak up that southern California sun. Around lunchtime the top is finally stowed [*he works fast-Ed.*] and he's off, kicking up clouds of dust as he motors through the desert shortcut to the airfield.

Today, all the cool kids want to be associated with Cyber-this and E-that. A shame neither of those options come with an afterburner.

PRIZE-WINNING AUSTIN-HEALEY—ONLY \$2985



Austin-Healey "100" and number slot booby, the Republic F-84F Thunderstreak

World's fastest production car under 3,000 cc. includes every custom extra at no extra cost—and delivers up to 25 miles per gallon

The flashing new AUSTIN-HEALEY in the picture has been called the greatest sports car boy of all time. In every way it represents remarkable value for your money.

At Bonneville Flats, Utah, a stock AUSTIN-HEALEY "100" broke all American stock car records in Class D at distances from 5 to 3,000 miles! Its speed tests over the flying mile, this new sports car went 142.636 miles per hour! (All records certified by American Automobile Association.)

The new AUSTIN-HEALEY 100 is the world's fastest production car under 3,000 cc., yet it costs only \$2985*. The styling is superb, as you can see,

and the car gives you up to 25 miles per gallon.

In addition, the price includes all Federal taxes and about every custom extra you can think of: Heater, Defroster, Twin carburetors, Tachometer, Three forward speeds plus overdrive, Adjustable wind-screens, Disappearing all-weather top, Custom-fitted leather upholstery, Tonneau cover, Roomy luggage compartment. And wire-spoke wheels which cost about \$200 extra on other sports cars.

Why not get an AUSTIN-HEALEY demonstration?

For full information on the AUSTIN-HEALEY and the complete AUSTIN line, as well as the name of your nearest AUSTIN-HEALEY dealer, drop a card to Austin Motor Company Ltd., 25-29 West 37th Street, New York, N. Y. or 600 Gough Street, San Francisco, California.

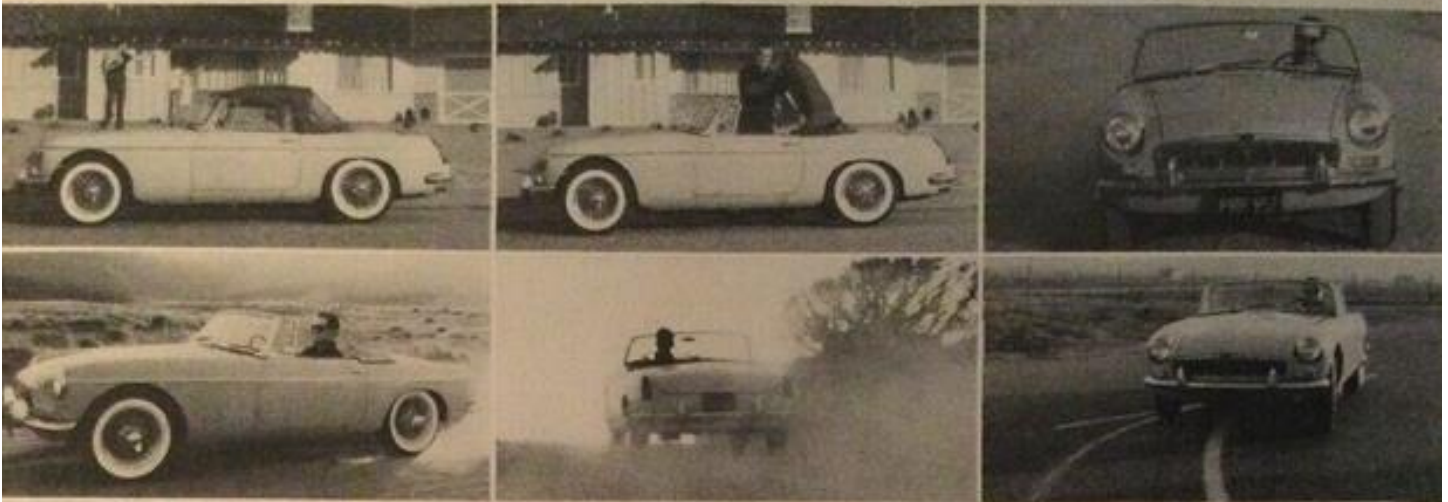
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lessons of almost a decade have joined to create a spectacular new car—the MGB. New styling—based on an all-steel, unit-construction body. New power—from a larger engine. New safety—from bigger brakes. New feel to the wheel—because turns-to-lock have been raised from 2.6 to 2.9. And new comfort—wind-up windows, quick-stowing top, a smartly re-designed cockpit. With all these, the MGB retains all the basic good manners of its predecessors—exceptional cornering, no lurch or fade when braked, and a top

speed of 100-plus without laboring. ● You can see why this distinctive breed of car appeals particularly to a special breed of man. Perhaps you're already a member of the MGB owners club. If you aren't, give yourself the thrill of driving one of these powerful, responsive new cars. You might just as well begin with the best.

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Weak and Rusty

Michael King, Editor

No more “nauseating blue.”

I should explain. My long-suffering wife has been consumed with the care of her elderly parents the last several years, and in late 2021, eight months before he passed, her father could no longer get in her beloved new Ram pickup. We bought, unseen (pandemic shortages), a Honda Pilot in “Steel Sapphire,” which turned out to be more steel than sapphire. **Kristine** hated it.

Finally, after three years, we decided that we were ready to consider a new vehicle. Kristine thought she wanted another truck, but found the current models too unwieldy. So, we began considering SUVs.

We looked at the local dealers, but I asked her to consider Jaguar and Land Rover, which meant a trip to Mobile. We drove a Defender, and that was it. Finally, after 16 years of SABCC membership, we are an all-British-motor family.



Less than three weeks after we bought the Rover, the record snow came, and Charles Bell is right, that's what Rovers are for (see p. 7). Now to get her to enter it in the shows . . .

Auction Roundup: Defenders

*How older models of **Kristine's** truck did at auction.*

1997 Land Rover Defender 90 NAS



Sold for \$68,001 on Bring a Trailer

This white over gray truck with a 4-liter V8 was one of about 2,800 North American Specification models imported in 1997. With just 50k miles, it had only minor flaws.

1991 Land Rover Defender 110 RHD 4x4



Sold at no reserve for \$24,413 on Hemmings

This is a project truck, needing paint and transmission work. The powerplant is a 2.5 liter turbodiesel.

2024 Land Rover Defender 130 X



Sold for \$87,000 on Bring a Trailer

The 130 is the largest modern Defender, offering three-row seating. This 6k mile model stickered for \$117k.

1991 Land Rover Defender 90 NAS



Not Sold for \$34,750 on Cars and Bids

This truck, in Alpine White over black and grey, offered a “desirable 5-speed manual transmission” and several modifications, including Bilstein shocks, an ARB front bumper, and a Warn winch. Unfortunately, it did not meet the reserve, perhaps because the title was “inbound.”

Classifieds

Tool Box Set

For sale is **Mike Darby's** largest rolling tool box. It is actually two tool boxes together for \$550.00. They are both US General Pro boxes. If new, the price at Harbor Freight for the pair is \$800.00. Accepting cash only.

The bottom rolling tool box has 9 drawers and measures 42" wide, 18" deep, and 40" tall (from the floor). The top tool box has 13 drawers and measures 42" wide, 17.5" deep, and 21.5" tall.

Please note that this is the sale of the tool boxes only and does not include any tools.

Noel Eagleson

(251) 404-3216

noeleagleson@gmail.com



Wanted: English Wheel Set and Shrinker/Stretch

I'm in search of metal-working tools, preferably at a low price!

"Bugeye Bob" Willsie

bobw111@hotmail.com

Text: 504-444-1370

Hagerty has just released a new MGB Buyer's Guide for all models from 1962 - 1980, available [here](#).

[Ed. thanks *Tony McLaughlin* for sharing this.]



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2024 British Car Festival

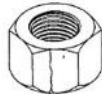


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Caroline & George Brown (3)
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Bill & Sandra Cashion
Buddy & Karen Clarke
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Cockrell's Eastern Shore Body Shop
Country Wagon
Don Carlos Mexican Restaurant
Ed's Seafood Shed
For All Veterans (2)
Gulf Coast Land Rover Club (2)
Mario Gabriel, Jr.

John George Clocks & Jewelry
Tommy & Joanne Hartwell
Jarvis Law Firm, PC
JBT Power
In Memory of Brad Klees
L & S Transervices
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Mattie Lee (2)
Norbert & Kitty Long
Maggie, a '39 MGTA
Mandina's
Mardi Gras MGs
Marine Technology Services
Matthews Foreign Car Parts
McDonald Muffler
Mr. Gene's Beans
Mutt Manor
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Tom Schmitz (3)
Debi Tchividjian (2)
Ed & Terry Toenes
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And now, for something completely different . . .



*We couldn't let a once-in-a-lifetime Gulf Coast snowstorm go without a couple of British car photos. On the left is **Frank Stabler's** MGB, who found out the hard way that his carport was insufficient protection. On the right, a couple of cats: **Ed's** Jaguar XFR, and a silly feline named Charley.*

Spark & Spanner



South Alabama British Car Club

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