

# Spark & Spanner

November 2024

The Official  
Publication of  
the South  
Alabama British  
Car Club





# From the President

Ben Cummings

This year's British Car Festival was another success. Thank you to all that worked to make it the success that it was. Our new Festival Chairman, **Peter Lee**, did an excellent job running the show. He was very organized and knows how to delegate. His show committee meetings ran seamlessly and were not overly long. A brief meeting is a wonderful thing. This year we had a few new faces at the committee meetings. Thank you to the new guys for getting involved and thank you to the veteran committee members for another year of hard work. The show is a success because of everyone's involvement.

Our Treasurer, **Donna Eagleson**, was especially pleased with the financial outcome of the festival. Her financial report at the October meeting was exciting. The only two sources of revenue for the Club are our dues and the income from the festival. The festival made the money we need to cover or partially cover our club expenses throughout the year. One of our big club expenses is the **John Twist** seminar in February. I am pleased to announce that we will once again, because of the success of the show, be able to invite John to the Garagemahal for another one of his informative and entertaining seminars.

The October meeting after the festival is also the meeting when the slate of new officers is presented. The Nominating Committee, **Noel Eagleson**, **Brian Daly**, and **Robb Ogletree** presented the following list to the members.

- President: **Ben Cummings**
- Vice President of Activities: *vacant*
- Vice President of Membership: **Rick Black**
- Secretary: **Peter Lee**
- Treasurer: **Donna Eagleson**



- Members at Large:
  - **Dick Bishop**
  - **Frank Stabler**
  - **Don Blosser**
  - **Stan Anderson**
  - **Tom Renick**

The seat for VP of Activities is currently available. This officer helps schedule events throughout the year such as rallies and informal meetups at local diners. This person also announces other car-related events that might interest club members such as other car festivals, Cars & Coffee meets, and technical seminars. If you are interested in getting involved in the club and think this is something you might want to help with, then please do not hesitate to contact **Noel Eagleson** prior to the November meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting.

Safety Fast,

**Ben**

[*Ben Cummings is president of South Alabama Car Club.*]

## SABCC Club Officers

President	Ben Cummings
VP-Membership	Rick Black
VP-Activities	<b><i>Volunteer Needed!</i></b>
Secretary	Peter Lee
Treasurer	Donna Eagleson
Member at Large	Dick Bishop
Member at Large	Don Blosser
Member at Large	Tom Renick
Member at Large	Frank Stabler
Member at Large	Ron Wolverton
Technical Advisors	Pierre Fontana, Mike Darby, and 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.*].

British Car Festival is Supported by



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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



**November 11, 2024**

### British Car Festival Meeting

Ed's Seafood Shed, 6450 US-90, Suite J, Spanish Fort — 6:00 to eat and 7:00 to meet. This meeting will give us the opportunity to discuss the recent show — what went well and what might need improving.

**November 26, 2024**

### Monthly Club Meeting

Don Carlos Restaurant, 29699 AL-181, Daphne — 6:00 to eat and 7:00 to meet. We will elect new officers at this meeting (see list in "From the President," p. 2).

**December 8, 2024**

### Christmas Lunch

Homestead Village, Fairhope, 12:30 p.m., \$25 per person. **Reservations due to Donna Eagleson Nov. 22.** Details of the event are on page 15. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child in need.

**December 24, 2024**

### Christmas Eve — NO CLUB MEETING

Not that we'd meet anyway on Christmas Eve, but the Dec. 8 Christmas Lunch takes the place of our regular December meeting.

## November 2024

SU	MO	TUE	WE	TH	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	BCF Meeting					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Club Meeting				

## December 2024

SU	MO	TUE	WE	TH	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Christmas Lunch						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



# Sparks

## Club and Member News

### 2024 British Car Festival

Will the 34th edition of the SABCC British Car Festival be remembered as one of the best iteration of the show? The statistics are certainly compelling.

With 154 cars registered, tying the record set in 2023, and 138 cars on the field, only three fewer than last year, we offered participants and visitors an array of British cars, trucks, SUVs, and motorcycles spanning nearly a century of British motoring history. The oldest vehicle was a 1930 MG M-Type owned by James Hester of Russellville, Ala.; three 2024 Ineos Grenadiers (an SUV inspired by the classic Land Rover Defender) were the newest. With the exception of the 1940s, each of the past ten decades was represented.

The variety of vehicles was also impressive. Fully 25 marques and 75 models were covered by the registered cars. Each of the 30 BCF classes had at least one entry, and we even had to split the Sprite/Midget class when we ended up with three “Bugeye” Sprites on the field.

Diversity was also seen among the participants.

Registrations came in from nine states, and a total of 21 clubs were represented. Importantly, 45 of the participants were new to the show (or at least had not registered a car within the last eight years).



*Andrea Bertagnolli was in charge of door prizes at the Friday dinner (photo by Donna Eagleson)*

But enough about statistics – the compelling question in the days and weeks after the show is “Did it go well?” While the BCF meeting on Nov. 11 (see preceding page) will give the show committee (and anyone else who would like to attend) the opportunity to discuss this in detail, the consensus thus far is “It went very well, thank you.” The Friday night dinner was very



*A wide shot of the MINIs, featured marque at the show (photo by Robb Ogletree)*

*(story continues next page)*



## 2024 BCF, continued

well-attended, and thanks to a critical assist from past show chair **Brian Daly**, the main course arrived in time for us to stay on schedule. **Donna Eagleson** and her team kept everything moving smoothly, and everyone had plenty to eat. **Andrea Bertagnolli** arranged for a large assortment of door prizes.



*Fred Veenschoten led the convoy from Pensacola, and is welcomed by Will Chadwick, grandson of **Rodney McDonald**, and his girlfriend Haley Powell (photo by **Donna Eagleson**)*

The day of the show was bright and sunny, with temperatures ranging from the mid-60s in the early morning to an afternoon high of about 80. Thanks to 134 participants registering before the day of the show, we had no lines at the entrance, and the only parking issues were finding places for some of the cars whose classes had more entrants than expected. As usual, **Noel Eagleson** and team handled these with grace and aplomb.

Once the cars were on the field, ballots were distributed and voting began. A crack team of vote counters, headed by **Donna Eagleson**, began tallying the votes as they came in, and the full results were ready by about 2:45 p.m.

Meanwhile, the activities of the day continued. **Dennis Carroll** recruited five vendors to display their good or services at the show. You can read more about them on page 7. The Tin Tin food truck served delicious food to those desiring a

hot meal onsite, and a snow cone truck offered cold sweet treats. Finally, one of the highlights of the afternoon was valve cover racing, organized (but not won by) **Peter Lee**, the BCF chair. This event proved so popular that the awards ceremony had to wait for the contests to end.



*Don Pritchett's special awards and other trophies (photo by **Robb Ogletree**)*

When the awards ceremony did begin, at about 3:30, the club presented nine major or special award, 87 class trophies, and three valve cover trophies. The complete lists of winners are on pages 8 to 11. **Don Pritchett's** handmade special awards, representing miniature scenes of British car life, are unique and treasured recognitions. One was presented to Larry Norton, president of the North American MGB Register, who brought his MGF to the show.



*BCF chair **Peter Lee's** Reliant Robin won the Hard Luck award trophies (photo by **Robb Ogletree**) [Note: Peter did not pay me to put this picture in the newsletter-Ed.]*

So was this among the best shows ever? The consensus seems to be "YES," but we will try to do even better next year!

## Valve Cover Races Add Excitement to BCF

story by **Peter Lee**  
photos by **Robb Ogletree**

This year at the BCF we had the 3rd annual valve cover rac-

es. With 12 total competitors we had some stiff competition. Some competitors refined their

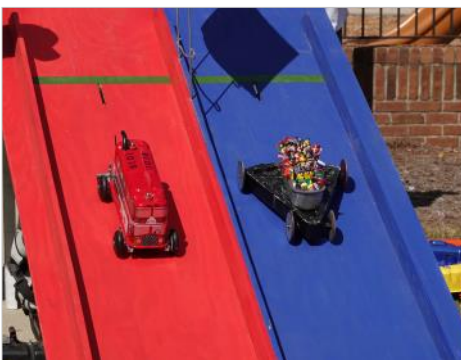
### Valve Cover Winners

- **Best Engineering: Bob Zabzdyr**
- **Best Looking: Caroline Brown**
- **Top Gun: Allen Bradley**



previous cars while others brought in new rides. These included accurate sounds of real British cars, passengers along for the ride, and new levels of technological innovation.

Everyone had a good time but we did continue to struggle with how close the racing competition was. We are working on a solution for next year to determine the winner through an electronic finish line. Our judge did a great job of



keeping the competition fair and I look forward to seeing the number of competitors increase yet again in 2025.

## More Vendors Than Ever Participated in Festival

To some extent, vendors have for many years been a part of the British Car Festival. This year, new vendor chair **Dennis Carroll** decided to go all out, and recruited five vendors to present their goods or services to attendees.

"Our vendors contributed both time and funds to ensure we had a successful BCF," said Dennis. He added, "Please consider these vendors when you need the products and services they offer. Be sure to mention that you are a member of the SABCC and you appreciate them being supportive of our club and the BCF. With your help they will be encouraged and want to participate in future BCFs in the years ahead."

The vendors participating in the 2024 BCF were:

- **2U Tire of Alabama:** onsite tire/wheel installation, flat repairs, TPMS sensors  
Contact: Scott Blair, 251-616-6773 or [scott@2utire.com](mailto:scott@2utire.com)
- **Vintage Euro:** NOS and good used British car parts  
Contact: David Bishop, 732-259-8234, or [dgbishop30@gmail.com](mailto:dgbishop30@gmail.com)
- **The Reserve at Fairhope:** senior living facility  
Contact: Caroline Boulware, 251-270-5052 or [cboulware@thereserveatfairhope.com](mailto:cboulware@thereserveatfairhope.com)
- **Cutco:** kitchen products  
Contact: Tripp Tremayne, 251-402-8742 or [tripp@portcitymobile.com](mailto:tripp@portcitymobile.com)
- **McCarty Exteriors:** exterior home improvements - Gutter and gutter guards (Leafguard), soffit repair, fascia repair, vinyl siding, Hardie board, and more  
Contact: Michael McCarty, 251-500-4431, or [mjpgutters@gmail.com](mailto:mjpgutters@gmail.com)



## BCF Major and Special Awards

### *Richard B. Cunningham, Jr. Best in Show Award*



Robert Hurst, 1936 Railton Tourer. Robert, from Covington, LA, is a member of BMCNO.

### *Pastor's Pick*



Peter and Melissa Brauen, 1964 Austin-Healey 3000 Convertible. The Brauens are from Kiln, MS and are members of BMCNO.

### *Tony Wilson Historic Preservation Award*



Mike Darby, longtime member of SABCC, was recognized for his years of restoring classic British cars [photo from 2018 BCF-Ed.].

### *Next Generation Award*



Brian Miller, 2005 Morgan Aero. Brian is from Madison, AL.

### *Kids Choice*



Michael Ranieri, 2013 McLaren 720 Spyder. Michael is from Montgomery and a member of BMCN.



## More BCF Major and Special Awards

### *Diamond in the Rough*



**Mike McCord**, 1952 MGTD Roadster. Mike is from Foley, AL and a member of SABCC.

### *Longest Distance Traveled*



**Thomas Pokrefke** drove his 1970 MGB from Lombard, IL. He also entered, and drove to the show, a 1974 Jaguar XJ6L. His family joined him for the trip and wore shirts with MG and Jaguar logos!

### *Hard Luck Award*



SABCC member and BCF chair **Peter Lee**, of Spanish Fort, AL, was recognized for the failings of his 1993 Reliant Rialto [Isn't owning and driving a Reliant already hard enough?-Ed.]

### *When Pigs Fly Award*



**Ben Cummings**, SABCC president, was recognized as the owner least likely to win Best of Show for his 1973 MGB Roadster. Ben is from Mobile.

*All photos this and preceding page courtesy Robb Ogletree*



## 2024 British Car Festival Class Winners

Class	First	Second	Third
<b>Austin Healey 100/3000</b>	Peter and Melissa Brauen, 1964 3000 Convertible, Kiln, MS	Richard Willows, 1958 100-6, Pensacola, FL	<b>Dennis Carroll</b> , 1967 3000, Mobile, AL
<b>Austin Healey "Bugeye" Sprite</b>	<b>Dwyke Rushing</b> , 1960 Bugeye Sprite, Cantonment, FL	<b>Chuck Wimberly</b> , 1959 Bugeye Sprite, Fairhope, AL	<b>Rick and Robbi Gilly</b> , 1961 Bugeye Sprite, Ponchatoula, LA
<b>Austin Healey Sprite and MG Midget</b>	Benny Stiegler, 1967 Sprite, Covington, LA	David Maloney, 1967 Sprite, Mobile, AL	TIE: <b>Steve Bowersox</b> , 1973 Midget, Saraland, AL TIE: <b>Ben Cummings</b> , 1973 Midget, Mobile, AL
<b>Jaguar Classic Saloons</b>	John Hans, 1962 Mark II, Gulfport, MS	John Hans, 1967 Mark II, Gulfport, MS	Thomas Pokrefke, 1974 XJ6L, Lombard, IL
<b>Jaguar Classic Sports</b>	Louis Cashman, 1956 XK140 DHC, Vicksburg, MS	<b>Bill and Sandra Cashion</b> , 1951 XK120, Fairhope, AL	
<b>Jaguar Modern Saloons and Shooting Brakes</b>	James Bielinski, 1996 Vanden Plas, Pensacola, FL	<b>Dave Roloson</b> , 2001 XJ8 Vanden Plas, Daphne, AL	<b>Michael King</b> , 2011 XFR, Cantonment, FL
<b>Jaguar Modern Sports</b>	Robert Manske, 2012 XKR, Milton, FL	Jack Wilson, 2008 XK Coupe, Fairhope, AL	Wally Waguespack, 2004 XK8 Convertible, Baton Rouge, LA
<b>Jaguar XJ-S/XJS</b>	<b>David Menaker</b> , 1992 XJS Convertible, Mobile, AL		
<b>Land Rover Classics</b>	Glen Warwick, 1966 Series IIA, Theodore, AL	<b>Walt Bolton</b> , 1968 Series IIA, Fairhope, AL	Matt Busbee, 1995 Defender, Mobile, AL
<b>Land Rover Modern</b>	<b>Charles Bell</b> , 2014 LR4, Mobile, AL	Joshua Todd, 2004 Discovery, Daphne, AL	
<b>Lotus</b>	<b>Jerry Hall</b> , 1967 Elan, Fairhope, AL	Taber Tompkins, 2007 Caterham 7SV, Crestview, FL	Buddy Clarke, 1969 Europa, Pass Christian, MS
<b>Pre-War MGs and MG T-series</b>	James Hester, 1930 M-Type, Russellville, AL	Michael Manning, 1952 TD Mark II, Fairhope, AL	David Duplantier, 1951 TD, New Orleans, LA
<b>MGA Roadster and Coupe</b>	Mark Foster, 1960 MGA, Mandeville, LA	<b>Robb Ogletree</b> , 1962 MGA Roadster, Grand Bay, AL	
<b>MGB and MGC GTs, 1965 – 1980</b>	<b>Stewart Reisinger</b> , 1966 MGB GT, Daphne, AL	Gene Johnston, 1973 MGB GT, Ridgeland, MS	Hans Hassinger, 1972 MGB GT, Covington, LA
<b>MGB and MGC Roadsters, 1962 – 1974</b>	<b>Andrea Bertagnolli</b> , 1974 MGB Roadster, Spanish Fort, AL	<b>Gil Stuart</b> , 1969 MGB Roadster, Fairhope, AL	Clay Johnston, 1972 MGB Roadster, Mount Olive, MS
<b>MGB Roadsters, 1974½ – 1980</b>	Mike Cook, 1977 MGB Roadster (V8), Roswell, GA	Jennifer King, 1977 MGB Roadster, Sullivan's Island, SC	Tim Witzigreuter, 1977 MGB Roadster, Pensacola, FL

(list continues next page)



## 2024 British Car Festival Class Winners (cont.)

Class	First	Second	Third
<b>Mini Classics</b>	Ray Gomez, 2015 Cooper S Roadster, Pensacola, FL	Mike Grieco, 2014 Cooper S Roadster, Pensacola, FL	TIE: Randy Cummings, 2013 Cooper GP, Spanish Fort, AL TIE: <b>Peter Stacey</b> , 2004 Cooper Coupe, Daphne, AL
<b>Modern MINI, Generations 1 and 2</b>	Robert Rougelot, 1978 Mini, Covington, LA	Christopher Creary, 1976 Mini Cooper, Lawrenceville, GA	Tom <b>Schmitz</b> , 1967 Mini Moke, Lillian, AL
<b>Modern MINI, Generations 3 and 4</b>	James Rosene, 2023 Cooper S, Daphne, AL	Traci Pritchett, 2020 Cooper S, Semmes, AL	
<b>Morgan</b>	John and Tina Fikes, 1971 4/4, Hamilton, AL	<b>Fred Veenschoten</b> , 1935 Sports, Pensacola, FL	<b>Jim O'Brien</b> , 1998 Plus 8, Fairhope, AL
<b>Sunbeam, All Models</b>	<b>Tom Renick</b> , 1965 Tiger, Mobile, AL	Colin McCormick, 1967 Alpine V, Mandeville, LA	<b>Tom Renick</b> , 1963 Alpine, Mobile, AL
<b>Triumph Classic Sports, pre-1969</b>	<b>Tom Schmitz</b> , 1963 TR3, Lillian, AL	<b>Phillip Herring</b> , 1954 TR2, Fairhope, AL	<b>William Doran</b> , 1966 TR4A, Daphne, AL
<b>Triumph Spitfires and GT6s</b>	Hunter and Falon Fikes, 1973 Spitfire, Hamilton, AL	Blitz Welch, 1979 Spitfire, Montgomery, AL	<b>Eddie Toenes</b> , 1980 Spitfire, Cantonment, FL
<b>Triumph TR6</b>	Danny Varnado, 1970 TR6, Denham Springs, LA	<b>Robert Reichert</b> , 1971 TR6, Daphne, AL	TIE: Darrell Damare', 1975 TR6, Walker, LA TIE: <b>Dwyke Rushing</b> , 1974 TR6, Cantonment, FL
<b>Classic Britannia Sports</b>	Chris Irving, 1993 TVR Chimaera, Bartlett, TN	Robert Hurst, 1936 Railton Tourer, Covington, LA	Paul and Mollie Reese, 1974 Jensen Healey Mk I, Pensacola, FL
<b>Large Britannia Saloons and Shooting Brakes</b>	<b>Robert Zabzdyr</b> , 1983 Car-bodies FX4R Saloon, Spanish Fort, AL	Mark Brown, 1974 Rolls-Royce Corniche, Prattville, AL	
<b>Small Britannia Saloons and Shooting Brakes</b>	Harry Landry, 1958 Nash Metropolitan, Port Allen, LA	Cliff Hughes, 1957 MG Mag-nette, Mandeville, LA	TIE: <b>Peter Lee</b> , 1993 Reliant Rialto, Spanish Fort, AL TIE: <b>Mac McNamara</b> , 1960 Ford Anglia, Mobile, AL
<b>Modern Britannia</b>	Michael Glore, 2020 GT, Destrehan, LA	Ian MacDonald, 2009 Aston Martin DBS Coupe, Covington, LA	Michael Ranieri, 2013 McLaren 120 Spyder, Montgomery, AL
<b>Motorcycles</b>	David Donald, 1961 Triumph Bonneville, Baton Rouge, LA	David Donald, 1950 Triumph Thunderbird, Baton Rouge, LA	<b>Walt Bolton</b> , 2014 Triumph Thruxton, Fairhope, AL
<b>Under Restoration</b>	<b>Peter Lee</b> , 1970 Austin FX4, Spanish Fort, AL	<b>Mike McCord</b> , 1952 MGTD, Foley, AL	<b>Ben Cummings</b> , 1973 MGB Roadster, Mobile, AL



## Gulf Coast Autojumble / FLAP

*story by Paul Reese, president, PBCA*

The Flying Valve Cover, Autojumble, Lunch, Photo (FLAP) event was held at **Tom Schmitz's** Hut in Lillian on Sunday 3 Nov. About 40 people were in attendance including some folks who motored up to check out the cars [actually, *the ever-organized Donna Eagleson had a sign-in list and total attendance was 56-Ed.*]. Autojumble sale items include a Bugeye Sprite, a Jaguar 120 Bon-



Taber Tompkins and **Noel Eagleson** discuss the merchandise (photo by **Donna Eagleson**)

net, a couple of E-Type engine blocks, and various other treasures. Photos of British Cars and participants were taken before lunch. There were six flying valve covers displayed and launched off the club's valve cover race board via a boat winch rubber strap drawback mechanism patented by **Eddie Toenes**. Actually, only one cover could be considered to have "flown" as Paul Salm and Bob Manske's "cover zil-la" (not real name) actually glided for a bit and landed gracefully. The rest were ballistic and crashed with resulting clouds of grass, flipping, and parts falling off.

The top distance "crash" "Longest Award" went to **Fred Veenschoten's** "Melting Pot". It was measured at 66 ft., 9 in. A very close second place went to Tom Schmitz's "Will Pigs Fly" at

66 ft. And in third place was Ed Toenes' "Simple Man" at 45.5 ft. The crowd voting category "Best Looking" award went to Monica Bachman's "Super Hero". It had a crash distance of 44 ft (if you count the piece that went the farthest). And voting for "Wackiest" went to Paul Salm and Bob Manske's "Kitty Hawk" that traveled 23 ft.



Above, Monica Bachmann prepares for takeoff; below, **Tom Schmitz** celebrates his wins (photos by Mollie Reese)



The participants gathered and bestowed "Most Entertaining" awards to Paul Reese's "Kamikaze Kover," whose farthest piece traveled, 41 ft., Tom Schmitz for his entry with all the streamers, and Monica for most pieces that fell off. Thanks to all that contributed to a fun event; we are looking forward to the next stupid thing to do.



## Mobile Bay Cars & Coffee

The monthly Mobile Bay Cars & Coffee event saw a British invasion on Nov. 9, as several SABCC members, along with a couple of Lotus and a MINI owned by others, showed up to fly the Union Jack. Members met at Daphne's Village Point Park Preserve to convoy to the



show. **Peter Lee** reports "Visitors as usual loved hopping in **Bob Z's** taxi and checking out the rides."



Photos from top left: the lineup at the park, proud owner **Mario Gabriel** with his MGB: **Robb Ogletree's** MGA; the cars lined up; **Tony McLaughlin's** bright yellow Morgan stands out; **Bob Zabzdyr's** London Taxi (first two photos by **Mario Gabriel**, others by **Peter Lee**)



# Pierre's Wisdom

Pierre Fontana

## Drivers and Drivers

Americans are blessed with many easy laws or rules that are more strongly enforced in most countries. The opportunity of driving is a major one.

Pay attention; the ability to drive well in a loss of control situation, to know the laws, how to maintain your car, and how to help in an accident is very important elsewhere versus here, so getting a driver's license is a difficult, expensive, and lengthy process, so count your blessings.

Just a few examples: in France, when applying to driving school, you have to pass all the tests, which could take up to two years and cost you over a thousand dollars. In Spain, depending on the city, it can cost you from \$800 to \$2,300. In the UK, it can coast you \$1,700. In Germany, you pay \$2,000 to \$3,000, and eight hours of maintenance and first aid courses are required, plus a 30-question test to show mechanical ability for minor repairs and maintenance.

Cars are a more expensive utility in these countries. They are taken care of, and drivers are better educated of needs and how use them, store them, and not abuse them like we do. Don't believe fairy tales about the "Prince of

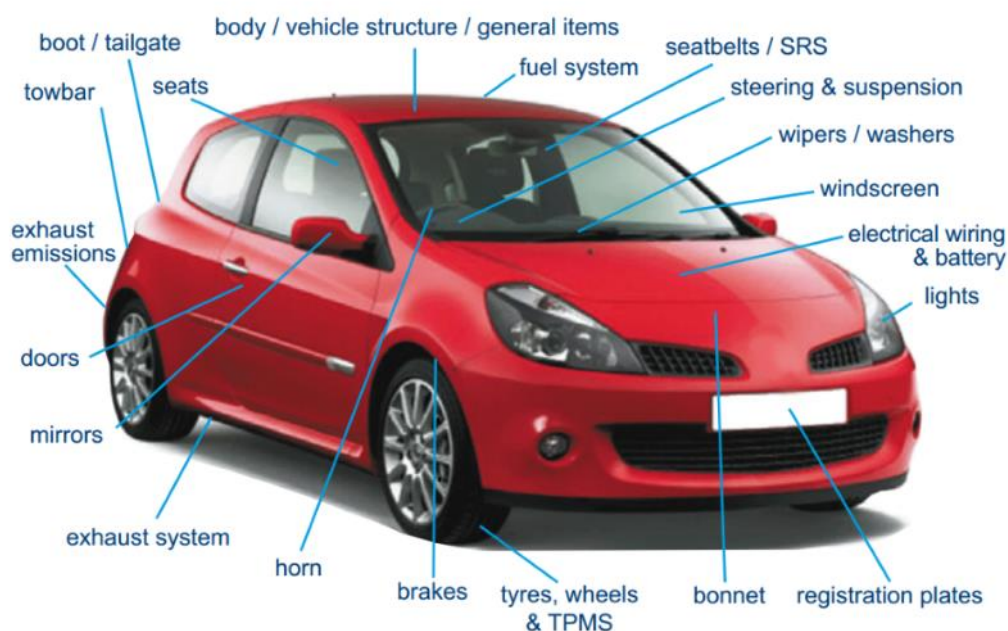


All photos courtesy **Pierre Fontana**

Darkness." This was propaganda circulated by poor drivers and mechanics.

**P.S.: I have an old customer and friend wanting to reminisce about his youth. He is looking for an old MG TD, locally, a driver, no family jewel. If you know of such a car, please [contact me](#).**

*Pierre Fontana is a technical advisor for SABCC.*



Perhaps you have heard of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Transportation (MOT) inspection, required every year after the third anniversary of a car's first registration from new. The diagram above shows "some of the important parts of your car that will be checked in the MOT." (source: [www.gov.uk/getting-an-mot](http://www.gov.uk/getting-an-mot))

## Christmas Lunch, Installation of Officers and President's Awards 2024

**Date:** Sunday, December 8, 2024

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Where:** Camellia Room – Homestead Village Main Building in Fairhope, AL (924 Plantation Blvd, 36532)

**Parking:** Plenty of parking to both sides of the building.

**Catering by:** Diane Cartmell, Owner & Chef of Oui Oui Paris Restaurant – healthy food with an eclectic twist. The restaurant is located on the outside of Homestead Village in Fairhope.

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person for members; \$25.00 for spouses or one guest. The price includes gratuity and tax. Please make your check payable to SABCC and submit to Donna Eagleson (or mail it to her at 25604 Friendship Road, Daphne, AL 36526) in advance and by the deadline of Friday, November 22nd. After November 22nd email or call Donna if you want to come to see if we can add you. If so, you must put a check in the mail right away. We will not be able to refund you if you pay and cannot attend. We have to pay in advance and pay for a certain number of meals.

### Menu:

- Stuffed chicken breast with a herb bread and cranberry stuffing, topped with a cream chicken sauce, or baked cod in a creamy Gouda sauce with roasted baby bakers potatoes and parmesan butter broccoli
- Banana pudding or peach cobbler
- Tea, water, and coffee

**Dress:** Casual. Some members wear Christmas attire.

**Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child of any age for donation to a local toy drive.**

## Auction Roundup: Odd Ducks

*This month, we look at unusual vehicles recently sold.*

### 1962 Daimler SP250



**Sold** for \$32,000 on Bring a Trailer

*Refinished in white over a "worn black interior," this V8 drophead coupe will be going back to the UK, where perhaps its rather homely face is more tolerated.*

### 1950 Ford Prefect Coupe Utility



**For Sale**, asking \$14,000 on Barn Finds

*Who needs an F-150 when you can have this charming pickup, with no significant mechanical or cosmetic issues?*

### 1924 Rolls-Royce 40/50 Silver Ghost



**Sold** for \$132,000 on Bring a Trailer

*This Springfield Rolls-Royce is a recreation of a car commissioned by C.S. Rolls to transport a balloon basket and equipment. The balloon basket was included in the sale.*

### 1970 TVR Vixen



**Sold** for \$27,300 on Hemmings

*Refinished in Marquessa Light Mauve Metallic over black leather with red carpets, this coupe is one of less than 1150 built. Powered by a Ford 1650-cc inline four, the car has had a full restoration.*



# Classifieds

## 1976 MGB

Car has a new starter and a new clutch slave cylinder. The odometer stopped at 58k miles. It has a carburetor leak, a front seal leak, and a fuel pickup issue. Clean title—located on Perdido Key. Sale price \$2,500.

**Bob Kennedy**  
**207-701-7010**





## 1979 MGB – FREE TO GOOD HOME

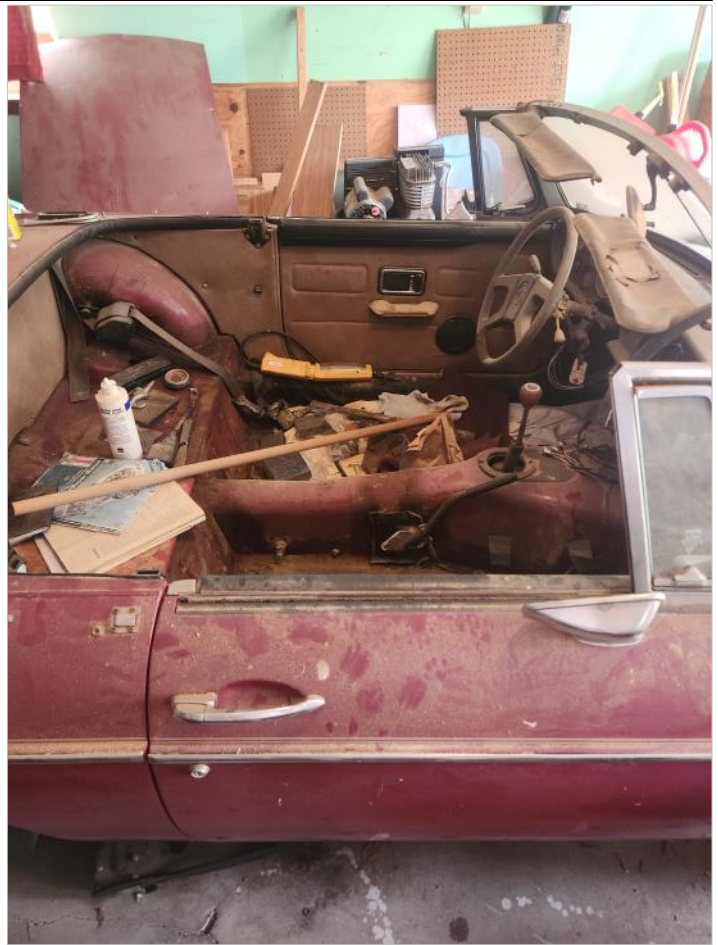
Longtime PBCA member Jack Rowles has a project MGB that is free (for pickup) to a good home.

Paul Reese and Bob Manske took a look at it and could not find the bumpers [*those who hate "rubber" bumpers would say this is not a problem-Ed.*]. One wheel and the spare were also not located. The seat frames were in a shed out back.

All the body work appeared to be in good shape with no rust. If interested, contact his son John Rowles.

**John Rowles**  
**703 785-6402**

[*Comment from Ed.: Six years ago, I refurbished a late MGB that was about as needy as this one. It had seats and door cards, but most of the rest of the interior, dash, and top needed replacing, along with all four wheels and tires. Based on my experience, this project is financially viable.*]





## 1979 MG Midget

Runs and drives great, looks very nice also. Only 34K original miles. No rust and in excellent condition. Must see if you're in the market. Located in Milton, Florida. Asking \$6,400. Drive it home today. Call or leave message.

*Tom Bayer*



# Weak and Rusty

Michael King, Editor

## The Show Must Go On

First, a word about last month's column: several readers contacted me to tell me they appreciated my thoughts on reasons to quit the car club. To those who took a minute to tell me they liked the column, thank you. To those who decided my reasons were sufficient to leave, it's been good to know you.

Continuing in the spirit of that column, and since our British Car Festival has just been held, I thought I'd use my space this month to talk about why we still need to have car shows.

Let's thank about it for a minute — with our phones or other devices, we can see pictures of countless cars almost anywhere in the world. We can read about them, see videos of them in action, and with gaming systems, even virtually "drive" them on a track. So we don't really need shows anymore, right?

And let's face it, folks. Car shows are a lot of work. The BCF committee works for almost an entire year planning and organizing the show. Yes, the last show was only three weeks ago, but we will meet Nov. 11 to start making plans for 2025. Is that really necessary, and a good use of our time? After all, none of us are getting paid.

Finally, a car show is a somewhat wasteful endeavor. All those carbon-spewing monsters on the road . . . many of them with little or no emission control systems. Of course that doesn't even consider the unnecessary driving to and from meetings, making preparations, and so forth. And has anyone thought about from whence comes the pork for our barbecue?

I believe the benefits of the show do, in fact, outweigh the costs. Apparently, many of you agree,

as we seem to pull off this event every year, for 34 years and counting, and it seems to keep getting bigger and better. So let's discuss benefits.

First, the BCF supports our purpose as a club. Our bylaws say we exist to "promote camaraderie through British car oriented events" and "provide a multi-faceted source of information concerning British cars." Hosting a show for the community at large, and inviting other clubs and individuals to register and participate, certainly provides information and promotes camaraderie. I'd also suggest that having a common purpose — i.e., the BCF — increases camaraderie within our organization.

Second, while images, videos, articles, books, magazines, websites, and even virtual reality can increase awareness and knowledge of our hobby, nothing compares to seeing a car in person. We annually bring about 140 British cars to a single location — cars that many of our visitors, and even some of our members, have never seen before or even knew existed. Before Oct. 19, had you had ever seen, or heard of, a Railton?

Third, the show fulfills another club purpose, which is to "provide support for charitable organizations." We make a generous donation each year to the Fairhope United Methodist Church, our host site, and their pastor, Rev. Michael Precht, told us that those funds are used locally and around the world.

Finally, and perhaps most important, our show carries the history, enthusiasm, and appreciation for the British car hobby to future generations. Our efforts, led by **Don Pritchett**, to involve kids and youth in the show are vital. We also selected the MINI as our featured marque this year, knowing that younger generations appreciate them. Thank you, **Ben Cummings**, for seeking more ways to involve young people.

So yes, the show must go on. We did well this year. Let's do even better next year.



## 2024 British Car Festival

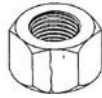


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And now, for something completely different . . .



*Seen on a MINI Cooper at the Nov. 9 Mobile Bay Cars and Coffee event (photo by **Peter Lee**).*

## Spark & Spanner



South Alabama British Car Club

PO Box 18036

Mobile, AL 36618



*Find us on Facebook! Look for our Facebook page, **South Alabama British Car Club**, and our Facebook group, **Friends of South Alabama British Car Club**.*