

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
of THE BRITISH MOTOR CLUB
of SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY



March / April

2025 / Issue 2

Spring Tour



April 12 , 2025

10:30 am

From Batsto Village parking area

To

Laurita Winery

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British Motor Club Of Southern New Jersey



"Offside/Nearside" is the bi-monthly newsletter of the British Motor Club of Southern New Jersey (BMC), which was founded in 1992 to encourage the ownership, operation and preservation of British cars.

Membership is open to all owners of automobiles manufactured in Great Britain prior to 1996 and all owners of motorcycles manufactured in Great Britain prior to 1979.

The dues of \$15.00 per year, includes a subscription to "Offside/Nearside". BMC is affiliated with the following organizations: MG Owners Club (MGOC); North American MGB Register (NAMGBR); North American MGA Register (NAMGAR); Vintage Triumph Register (VTR); Triumph Register of America (TRA).

BMC Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month in alternating locations to best reach our membership base.

Odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, September):
Seven Stars Diner 1890 Hurffville Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080

Even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October)
Tony Roni's Tap Room, 2803 NJ 73, Maple Shade NJ 08052

Meetings are not planned for November or December due to holiday scheduling conflicts. Meetings typically begin at 7pm, with food service beginning at 6pm. Dates and times are subject to change, which will be communicated by email to club members.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

OFF SIDE / NEAR SIDE is [YOUR Newsletter](#).

The Editors are always looking for new material.

No material / No Newsletter. Simple as that. Please submit British car related copy and especially personal experiences in your LBC for us to use in one of our six annual Newsletters. Project articles with pictures are really good.

PLEASE SEND [NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS](#) TO THE EDITOR :
editor@bmcsnj.org

PLEASE SEND [FOR SALE, WANTED or FREE REQUESTS](#) TO :
Steve Ferrante president@bmcsnj.org

All Classified submissions should be written in the exact form you wish to have published, with specific Information and contact info.

Although we hope that these things are common sense, BMCSNJ has adopted the following policies and practices with respect to club sponsored events.

Membership meetings are sometimes held in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages. We expect that members who choose to consume alcohol at these meetings will do so responsibly.

BMCSNJ supports safe and responsible enjoyment of British automobiles and motorcycles. All events sponsored by BMCSNJ are alcohol and drug free. Consumption or distribution of alcohol or controlled substances is expressly prohibited. All driving events are conducted in accordance with motor vehicle laws at all times.

This does not really represent a change to our prior policy or practice, it just documents it. If you have not been to one of our events before, come out and join us. You will be glad that you did.

>>>> DISCLAIMER!!! <<<<

Readers are warned that any attempt at mechanical or other modifications described herein is at their own risk. Good car mechanics results in pleasure; poor car mechanics results in, at best, a personal rebuild. The opinions expressed in the articles of this newsletter are not necessarily those of BMC, the editors or advertisers.

The editors take responsibility for any editorial mistakes or errors.

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The Official BMCSNJ website can be

accessed at

WWW.BMCSNJ.ORG

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Secretary's Satchel

March / April 2025

By Tom Evans

April 2025

Happy St. Patrick's Day, patron saint of Ireland! Although St. David (Wales) and St. Patrick were nearly 100 years apart there is a kinship between the surrounding UK countries ... a severe dislike of the English, that lingers even to this day.

But, Britannia ruled the waves, they did conquer their neighbors and a third of the known world, we drive their cars and they gave us the finest cuisine (?). But Jaguar, what have you done? Stopping production for a year to retool to make only electric vehicles? There is a place for just electric vehicles and perhaps Jaguar has been elected the sacrificial lamb to shift the mandates from the other Tata divisions for them to meet the EU, US and other mandates. That seems a strange way to go by not spreading it over the other lines with their various styles and uses. Although, rumor has it that Tata was going to put a gun to Jaguar's head because of lagging sales and development. Besides, the electric vehicle is not as popular, is not selling well and to force it is not free market or capitalism. But, apparently, that is one man's opinion, actually that is the way the market is leaning. All the other manufacturers are rethinking their EV strategies, Volvo, Ford, GM, everyone.



Our February Club meeting was once again moved from Toni Roni in Maple Shade to the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum in Philadelphia for an evening of conversation, pizza and the viewing of "The Best of Britain Exhibition – Lotus." A huge success, the meeting was conducted by Pete Cosmides, BMCSNJ Events Coordinator, with the evening hosted by our own Kevin Kelly, Curator of the museum, with an informative presentation of various events hosted by the museum, particularly, the "24 Hours of Simeone," a 24-hour viewing of La Mans. All were invited back for next year's event.. The event was very well attended by members and guests.

February 10, 2024 was international "Drive Your Triumph Day!" commemorating Sir John Black's birthday, did you drive your Triumph?

Remember, the Rescue Squad are willing and able to assist in repairs to your LBCs. If you have a problem or have identified the problem and need assistance in the remedy, then email Pete Cosmides at tundramgb@hotmail.com for that assistance. See you on the road.

Happy Motoring!

Treasurer / Registrar Report

March / April 2025

By Brian Deam

Dear Members,

We are getting back on track with the Newsletter publication thanks to Manny Paredes and other members that are submitting content. Thank you all for your contributions and efforts!

Thanks to Kevin Kelly and his staff for another wonderful Best of Britain event at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum. The collection of Lotus' was excellent and interesting (I never knew they made bicycles). We had a great turnout and an informative presentation by Kevin. We hope the high participation rate continues at our events for the rest of the year.

As a not-for-profit entity, each year we submit an IRS Form 990 summarizing our operating P&L and assets. This is publicly available information, which we share with our members. The following are the results for 2024:

Revenue:	
- Contributions:	\$ 852
- Dues & Assessments	\$ 5,186
- Total	\$ 6,037
Expenses:	
- Printing, Publications	\$ 461
- Other Expenses (Sch O)	\$ 3,802
- Total	\$ 4,263
Profit (Loss):	\$ 1,774
Assets:	
2024 Excess (Profit)	\$ 1,774
Assets on 1/1/2024	\$ 6,080
Other	\$ (54)
Assets on 12/31/2024	\$ 7,800

Schedule O:	
Charitable Donations - Smaritan Hospice and Healthcare	\$ 1,255
Charitable Donations - Patcong Valley Railroad Club	\$ 50
Charitable Donations - Cape May MAC	\$ 75
Regalia Costs	\$ 1,563
Banking and Government Fees:	\$ 114
Member Event and Meeting Expenses:	\$ 746
Total:	\$ 3,802

Treasurer / Registrar Report

March / April 2025

By Brian Deam

(continued from page 5)

Your club is in a strong fiscal position and well positioned to support our events and member services in 2025. There will be many club events for you to attend and enjoy the diverse collection of cars in the British Motor Club of Southern New Jersey! Be sure to periodically check the events calendar on our website for the latest on our activities.

Membership

We welcomed two former members in February but had seven resignations/non-renewals, which reduced our membership to 174. Keep spreading the word about the club.

If you have a question about when your membership expires, please email me at members@bmcsnj.org.

Club dues remain at \$15/year (free if you volunteer to host an event). You receive six newsletters per year, access to our Facebook page and unlimited use of club supplied resources! Just a reminder that the Facebook page is for paying members and spouses only.

If you want to renew or if your membership has inadvertently lapsed, please send your payment using one of two methods:

- PayPal: sign on to www.PayPal.com and send your dues to "members@bmcsnj.org".

or

- Check: made payable to "British Motor Club of Southern NJ" and mailed to:
Brian Deam
900 Riverton Road
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Treasurer / Registrar Report (Cont'd)

March / April 2025

By Brian Deam

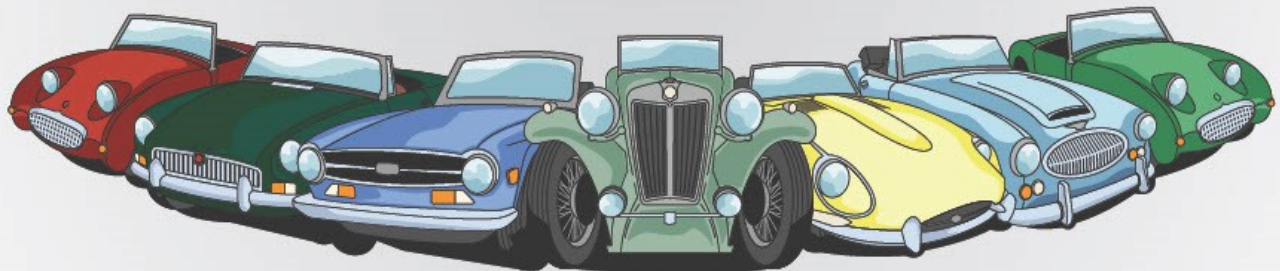
Welcome two returning members.

Name	Town	Car
Louis Defabio	Bensalem, PA	TR250 and 1997 XK8
Bill Garvey	Hammonton	2019 McLaren 600LT, 1951 TD, 1966 Tiger

Happy Motoring!



Classic British & Jaguar Parts



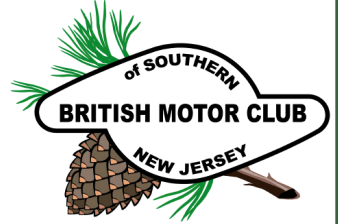
Shop Online at MossMotors.com

Calendar of Events 2025

BMCSNJ supports the safe and responsible enjoyment of British automobiles and motorcycles. All events sponsored by BMCSNJ are alcohol and drug free. Consumption or distribution of alcohol or controlled substances is expressly prohibited. All driving events are conducted in accordance with vehicle laws at all times.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS EVENTS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED BY E-MAIL. You can also consult our webpage at [HTTPS://BMCSNJ.Org](https://BMCSNJ.Org)



SPRING: April thru May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
April 12, 2025	CLUB SPRING TOUR to LAURITA WINERY	Start: 10:30am from Batsto Village Parking Area Route 542 Hammonton, NJ End: Laurita Winery Route 640 New Egypt, NJ
April 16	<u>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</u>	6:00PM—8:30PM Tony Roni Tap House 2803 Route 73 Maple Shade, NJ
May 4	New Hope Cars & Coffee	8:00-11:00AM Sudbury Regional HS 180 Bridge St, New Hope, PA
May 17	BMCSNJ CLUB PICNIC	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Parvin State Park 701 Almond Rd, Pittsgrove, NJ 08318 . More details will be sent by early May.
	Carlisle Import Nationals www.Carlisleevents.com	Fairgrounds 100 Bryn Mawr Road Carlisle, PA
May 21	<u>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</u>	6:00PM—8:30PM 7 Stars Diner 1890 Hurffville Road Sewell, NJ

Calendar of Events 2025

Summer : June Thru July

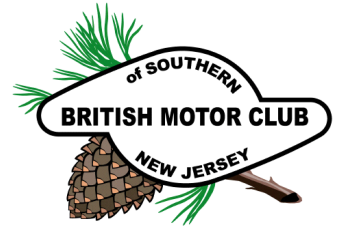


<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
June 1	30 th Annual Red Mill British Car Day www.Austin-Healey-STC.org/Redmill.html	10:00AM – 3:00PM Red Mill Village 56 Main Street, Clinton, NJ
June 7	Cars & Motorcycles of England www.DVTR.org/CMOE	8:30AM – 3:00PM Hope Lodge Historical Site 553 S. Bethlehem Pike, Ft. Washington, PA
June 8	31 st Annual British Motorcar Gathering www.keystonebritish.com/hellertown/html	9:00AM – 2:00PM Arthur J. Fitchman Reservoir Park 3400 Reservoir Road, Hellertown, PA
June 14	BMCSNJ CARS & COFFEE A casual gathering among club members Contact club member Ralph Travis 609-472-7331	9:00AM – 11:00AM Wenonah Park Southeast Ave. & E. Mantua Ave. Wenonah, NJ
June 18	<u>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</u>	6:00PM–8:30PM Tony Roni Tap House 2803 Route 73, Maple Shade, NJ
June 21 (rain date 6/22)	MEMBERS MEMORIAL GATHERING Smithville Village to Benefit Samaritan Hos- pice . www.historicsmithville.com Contact club member Fred DeSantis Captain172@comcast.net	10:00AM – 2:00PM Absecon or Galloway will show up GPS. Select: Historic Smithville, 615 E. Moss Mill Rd. 08205 or 1 North New York Road, Smithville NJ
July 6 (rain date 7/13)	Rebels and Redcoats Classic Car Show American, French, British, German Car Show www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/event	9:00AM – 2:30PM Washington Crossing Historic Park 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA
July 6 – 19	Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix www.PVGP.org	10 day long schedule of vintage car shows, drives, racing.
July 16	<u>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</u>	6:00PM–8:30PM 7 Stars Diner 1890 Hurfville Road, Sewell, NJ
July 26	BRITISH CAR OWNERS ICE CREAM SOCIAL Contact club member Sue Salsburg Old_cat@verizon.net	2:00PM – 5:00PM 5 Points Custard Landis Ave. Rt 540 & Tuckahoe Road Vineland, NJ

Calendar of Events 2025

End of Summer and Fall:

August thru October



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
August 9	SUMMER DRIVING TOUR S.J. Led by club member Tracy Westergard Contact Tracy Westergard kitakat123@gmail.com	10:00AM Meet at Woodstown Diner
August 9 & 10	New Hope Auto Show (British Cars on Sunday 8/10/25) https://newhopeautoshow.com/	New Hope-Solebury HS 129 Bridge Street New Hope, PA
August 20	<u>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</u>	6:00PM to 8:30PM Tony Roni Tap House 2803 Route 73 Maple Shade, NJ
September 11-15	Austin Healey Encounter 2025 https://www.austin-healey-stc.org/show.html	Tannersville, PA
October 5	Roadster Rally https://www.blinkerfluidproductions.com/	10:30AM – 4:00PM Ocean City Boardwalk

No events slated for November or December

Spring Tour

April 12, 2025

April brings our first club Scenic drive scheduled for **Saturday April 12th , 2025.**

10:30 departure time starting at the **Batsto Historic Village** parking lot on Rt 542 (31 Batsto Rd) in Hammonton and ending for lunch at the beautiful **Laurita Winery** in New Egypt.

Last year's drive was a big success, so plan to join the fun this year.

Driving directions will be handed out upon leaving the Batsto parking area.



Destination: Laurita Winery

85 Archerton Rd, Route 640 New Egypt, NJ

(609) 752-0200

<https://lauritawinery.com>



Event Manager: Pete Cosmides

It's 1950, the modern sports car has arrived!

By Steve Ferrante

Fighting the enemies of freedom in Europe and Japan during the first half of the 1940's took its toll on American families across this great country as over 400,000 military members died defending the United States and much of the world. When victory in Europe and Japan occurred in May and August 1945, respectively, American families experienced a new beginning with the return of GIs from the seas, air, and battlefields. For those who were fortunate to return, the five years between 1945 and 1950 saw significant increases in manufacturing and consumption of goods and services following years of rations due to the war effort. Sales of domestic automobiles from Ford, Chevrolet and Chrysler led the way while a small fraction of foreign cars, mainly from Great Britain, were introduced to the United States by returning servicemen. These cars would soon change the American auto industry forever.

After the war, the British recognized and capitalized on the fact that in order to rebuild, they had to generate cash and exporting cars to the US was the perfect way to do that. By 1950, there were a few foreign cars available that attracted buyers who were interested in the new concept of a sports car.



MG-TD

While MG TC production ended at the end of the forties, 1950 saw the arrival of the MG TD which in many ways was an updated version of the TC, complete with left hand drive and a chassis more suited to America. Production of nearly 30,000 TDs eclipsed the 10,000 TCs made and more than two thirds of them were imported to the United States. Clearly, the sleek lines and British charm helped MG ignite the sports car passion here in the States. While the Chevrolet Corvette and

Ford Thunderbird were still only lines on drawing board, the TD was available for less than \$1,900 in 1950. The TD was light years ahead on the excitement spectrum when compared to American offerings like the bullet nosed Studebaker Champion (\$2,300), the Nash Rambler (\$1,800) or the kit-like Crosley Hot Shot (\$850).



MORGAN +4

Another much less common car was available in 1950 with the introduction of the Morgan +4 that replaced the 4/4 which had been around since 1939. With a similar style to the MG TD, the Morgan was much more exclusive but still was a throwback to the earlier British cars. Hand built Morgans remained in this style, unchanged for many years. With a 145" length, 56" width and 52" height, it was tiny compared to Ford Crestliner at 197" length, 72" width and 63" height that were com-

mon on American roads.



JAGUAR XK120

The Jaguar XK120 came ashore in 1949 and created quite a buzz with its beautiful lines that were a huge departure from earlier Jaguars. Priced from around \$3,500, its popularity quickly grew with exposure from America's elite class including many Hollywood celebrities like Clark Gable. With the iconic Jaguar DOHC inline 6 producing 160hp, the top speed of prototypes led to the 120 name. Offered as a roadster, drop head, or a fixed head coupe, they all had beautiful lines.



ASTON MARTIN DB2

Following his purchase of the company in 1947, David Brown ushered in a new era at Aston Martin that would lead to huge success in sports car racing. Debuting in 1950, and continuing until 1953, only 400 or so of these beautiful DB2s were built. A tube chassis, independent front suspension, and a 2.6 liter engine making 105hp wrapped in a gorgeous alloy body, made for spirited driving to and from the club if mom and dad had a \$6-7,000 stack of old money to spend! If exclusivity was important and money was not, Aston Martin fit the bill.

It's 1950 continued (2)

With the introduction of sports cars to the American public, a new era in automobiles was born. The combination of these offerings and the increase in disposable cash created by the post war boom, would result in cars being seen as fun and not just utilitarian machines that took families to work, church or to the grocery. From their start in the early 1950s to present day, each of these companies made an indelible mark in automotive industry. While MG and Jaguar were the clear volume leaders over the years, Aston Martin and Morgan built a long standing legacy of limited production cars that survives today. While they would never replace the American family car, I'm sure it was nice to see some of them on the road instead of the traditional American iron from Chevrolet, Ford and Chrysler.



Be sure to check out the next issue where I will move on to the year 1955 to see what Americans had hiding behind their garage doors. See you then.



Steve Ferrante

Plan a Tour

You've all heard the phrase "It takes two to tango."

Well this year it applies to British Motor Club of Southern New Jersey, except it should read, "It takes two to plan a car tour."

First: call up your favorite club member and ask about teaming up to discuss a fun little driving tour this upcoming season.

Second: Find a suitable starting and ending pint – diner, museum, historical place, etc.

Third: Present your plans with possible dates, meeting locations, driving maps, to Pete Cosmides: events@bmcsnj.org

Let's go!

Tips for planning a one-day cruise

Once you've picked an interesting destination, here are a few tips to consider:

Plan a central location or parking lot for everyone to meet.

Give an exact start time, so people can come early and make necessary restroom breaks.

Have a "driver's meeting" first, explaining the entire destination, the route, the road conditions, and any planned stops along the way.



Pass out driving maps/directions showing the complete route and if any members are familiar with the planned route, space them throughout the caravan in case the group gets stretched out, everyone makes the correct turns.

Plan restroom stops every 45-60 minutes, and make sure there is plenty of room for the cars to park and allow for this time in your route.



If at all possible, take back roads and try to stay under 55mph.

Drive slowly and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

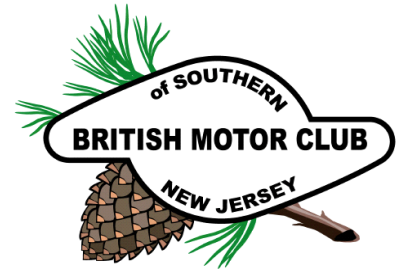
Do you know why I stopped you?



Umm, you couldn't catch the XKE?

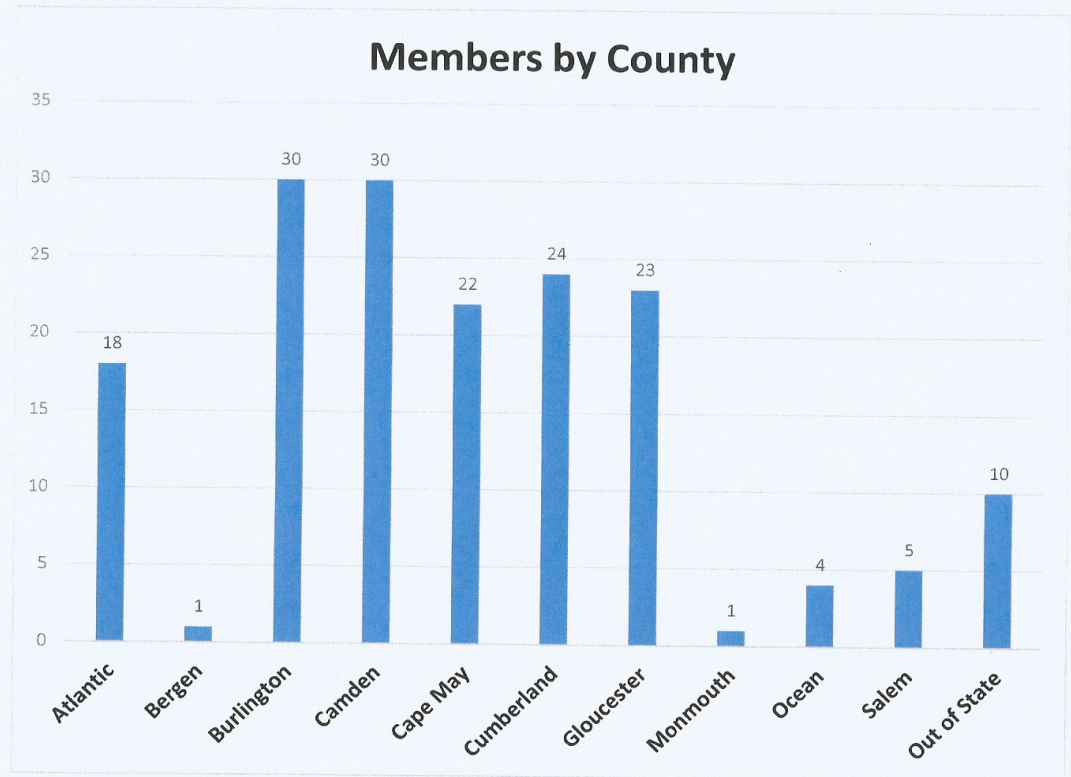
BMCSNJ Tappets (Those little things with a big impact)

The charts below provide us an opportunity to see where our club stands today in regards to the geographical distribution of our membership and the cars that we drive. This information is helpful in determining the health of our organization and future successes. Please note that subsequent to this chart our membership has increased to 174. With the understanding that a few registrants have not renewed the current member count would have been higher.

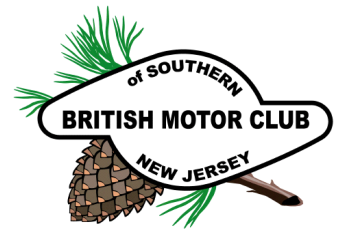


Many questions and answers come to mind when events, meetings and general offerings are being planned. Within the scope of this chart it is important for us to keep our club memberships and vehicle identity up to date.

County	Count
Atlantic	18
Bergen	1
Burlington	30
Camden	30
Cape May	22
Cumberland	24
Gloucester	23
Monmouth	1
Ocean	4
Salem	5
Out of State	10
Total	168



BMCSNJ Tappets (cont'd)



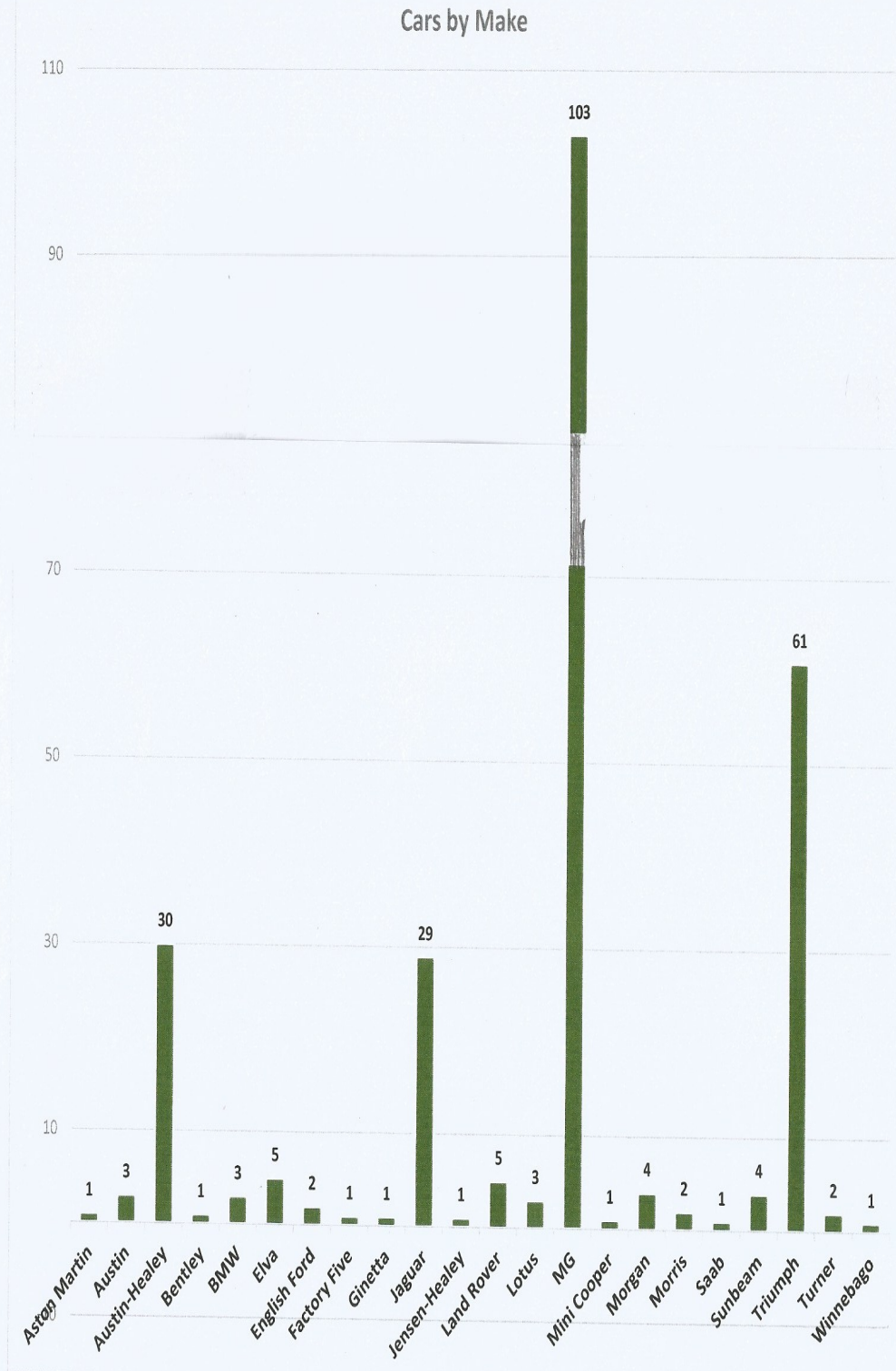
Here's more proof that it's not the destination but how you get there.

Where does your Classic fit in these stats? Every car has a story.

Please share in the "Cruisin" questionnaire below?

Make	Count
Aston Martin	1
Austin	3
Austin-Healey	30
Bentley	1
BMW	3
Elva	5
English Ford	2
Factory Five	1
Ginetta	1
Jaguar	29
Jensen-Healey	1

Land Rover	5
Lotus	3
MG	103
Mini Cooper	1
Morgan	4
Morris	2
Saab	1
Sunbeam	4
Triumph	61
Turner	2
Winnebago	1
Total	264



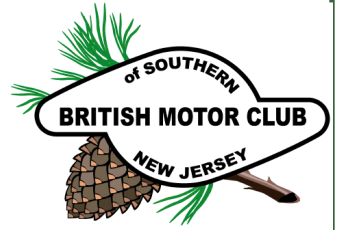
Cruisin' Our Brit' Classics

There's nothing like it.

Cool breeze, sunny day, engine purring like a kitten...BMCSNJ car in front, a line of Brit cars in the mirror. "Is it really all about the car?" You bet it is!

As Steve Ferrante asks "Why do we do this?"

Thank you Pete for your help on the questionnaire!



Meet the Member Questionnaire (Folks, send me one for the road at Editor@BMCSNJ.org)

Just the facts Ma'am, just the facts.

Please consider completing the below questionnaire to assist our newsletter editor to feature you and your story in an upcoming newsletter.

Feel free to include pictures.

Name_____

Location_____

British cars owned; currently and past_____

Running or a project?_____

When did you get involved in British cars?_____

What story can you tell about a special car purchase you've made?_____

Have you taken your British car on any special road trips you care to share with us?_____

Simeone *Best of Britain* Recap (2025)

The Best of Britain at the Simeone Museum presented a terrific selection of Lotus' on display. I hope many of you enjoyed the special monthly meeting. Our host Kevin gave us a great tour of the facility and some helpful hints on keeping our cars fluid happy (Advice on fluids for human consumption not mentioned). Here are a few shots for you to reflect on the outing.



Simeone *Best of Britain* Recap (2025)



2025 Lewes British Motorcar Show

May 3 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Last minute guidance from Fred DeSantis:

Hello Members,

I was able to get a discount ferry rate for those going to the British Motorcar Show in Lewes Delaware on May 3. My TR3 with two passengers was \$56 (total cost) instead of the standard rate of \$84.

I sent the information to Pete, our events coordinator, to disseminate the information to our members. I also sent it to the PEDC, The British car club of Delaware, and the Lewes Chamber of Commerce. You might wonder why I've done this. I went (to the show) three years ago and found that a discount was offered. I called the Chamber of Commerce last year and also found that no one had put in for it. So I decided to do it (send the word out) on my own. Everyone was grateful. Of course "they" (sic) don't take the ferry!

As of now we have a group of five cars taking the 7 A.M. Cape May-Lewes Ferry over and the 4:30 P.M. ferry back (same day). Still looking for a few more (participants).

Here are the details on the group discount:

Those wishing to attend will need to make a reservation and it must be made by phone. Call [1-800-643-3779](tel:1-800-643-3779) and give them group number **CN219147**. My TR3 with 2 adults was \$56. I saved \$30. Reservations can be cancelled up to 1/2 hour before departure at a cost of \$6 or can be modified anytime for free.

Happy Driving!

Click or copy here for **Cape May Lewes Ferry schedule**: <https://www.cmlf.com/schedules-fares>



30th Annual
"British are Coming...Again" Car Show
THIS TIME, WE INVITED THEM!
Lewes Ferry Terminal
May 3, 2025 • 11AM – 3PM
No spectator entry after 2PM • \$5 at the Gate
CONCLUDING WITH THE WINNERS' PARADE
FROM THE TERMINAL TO DOWNTOWN LEWES
Merchants' Spring Sidewalk Sale • May 2 - 4, 10AM – 5PM
Join us before, after and during the car show!

Featured Marque:  **ROLLS ROYCE**  **BENTLEY**

Sponsored by:  **LEWES** Chamber of Commerce
LewesChamber.com • 302-645-8073

With support from:  **Southern Delaware TOURISM**

BMCSNJ Regalia

British Motor Club of Southern New Jersey GRILLE BADGE SALE

****ONLY A FEW REMAIN AVAILABLE****



Badges are metal with enameled surface and mount by two studs that screw into the back of the studs shown above.

Cost is \$39.50 each including mounting hardware and shipping.

Payment by check made out to British Motor Club of Southern New Jersey or by Paypal sent to members@bmcsnj.org

I would like _____ grille badge(s) at \$39.50 each = \$_____ total.

Name	
Street address	
City, State & Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Email address	

Checks should be sent to:
British Motor Club of Southern NJ
Brian Deam – Treasurer
900 Riverton Rd
Moorestown, NJ 08057



This V8-Powered MGB Is Coming Stateside

Frontline Cars will bring its LE60 MGB to The Quail, and it won't be cheap.



Ever thought about building an MGB with almost *four times* the horsepower of the original? Thankfully, these days you don't have to drop a small block (or a similar powerplant) into anything yourself. Someone can do that for you.

That someone is UK-based Frontline Cars, which will bring its V8-engined MGB restomod to The Quail and other events during Monterey Car Week. The USA-specific model of the LE60 that will be on display, named to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the MGB, is the company's most powerful model to date featuring a 4.8-liter Rover V8 (up from 3.5 in the original) good for 375 hp paired with a five-speed manual.

The recipe also includes suspension upgrades from Nitron, six-piston alloy front brakes and four-piston alloy brakes out back, a widened track, and a strengthened chassis. Frontline's MGB also features a limited-slip differential, while the 2,473-pound curb weight and almost perfect 50/50 weight distribution promise to make the RWD roadster agile in the twisties.

Frontline plans to make 60 units of this sporty MGB, and it's not going for a stock look.

"The LE60 has never been 'just a car' to us. It's a heartfelt celebration of our history and our deep connection with this iconic British brand," said Tim Fenna, founder and chief engineer of Frontline.

But the LE60 won't be confused for a garden variety MGB anytime soon, even from afar.

For one thing, it won't have the US-spec rubber bumpers (as much as we've warmed up to those), or much of a bumper at all. The front fascia has been restyled for a cleaner look, along with updated headlights, larger wheels and tires, and a re-trimmed interior, but no obvious modern touches.



V8-Powered MGB



So you won't see an infotainment screen, Recaro seats, or anything else that looks like it came out of a catalog and was shipped to your door to be bolted in. The aim of this MGB is a little different.

Launched in 1991 by Fenna, the design and restoration company has specialized in MG restorations of various types, and the LE60 is perhaps one of the more distant projects from the stock look.

Among other things, Frontline offers a battery-electric MGB as well if gasoline isn't your drink of choice, which is something we expect to see with some frequency in the coming years as cassette conversions become more popular.

If the interior is any indication, this MGB will not compete price-wise with original examples of the model.

As for the LE60, just 30 examples will be built and they won't be cheap, as this isn't far in aim from a money-no-object V8 MGB fever dream. The LE60 won't compete head-on with original V8 versions of the model, as the price of entry will be around the \$220,000 mark.

"We can't wait to meet enthusiasts who share our love for the MGB at Monterey Car Week, and to offer them the chance to experience the blend of tradition and modern performance that defines our vehicles."

If you're in the market for a rare MGB with V8 power from the factory for a little less coin, we should note that the [MG RV8 from the early 1990s has been eligible for importation](#) into the US for a few years thanks to the ever-generous 25-year rule. Most of them are still in Europe, but due to their RHD nature some have since settled in Japan from new.

And a nice example of the RV8 can set you back around 10% of the price of Frontline's LE60.

Just which of these two will be easier to explain to people at a car show in the present day, or a decade from now, remains to be seen.

The concept of an MGB with an out-the-door price around the quarter million dollar mark will certainly seem strange to some, we'll admit, but it's not alone in this price category of restomods.

BY [JAY RAMEY](#) Published: Aug 5, 2024

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