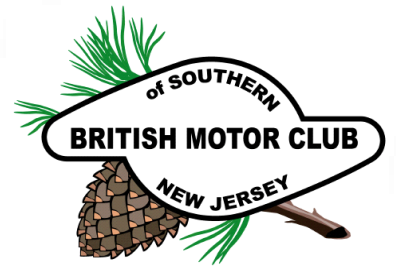


THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
of THE BRITISH MOTOR CLUB  
of SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY



July/August

2025 / Issue 4

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**July / August**

**2025 / Issue 3**

**The Official BMCSNJ website can be**

**accessed at**

**[WWW.BMCSNJ.ORG](http://WWW.BMCSNJ.ORG)**

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# ***Secretary's Satchel***

July / August 2025

By Tom Evans

June 15, 2025

A few newsletters ago I wrote about the current state of Lead-Acid batteries. The situation remains the same and, surprise, the warranties have gotten shorter. It must be the manufacturer's way of "shrinkflation," reducing costs by not having to replace defective units that last for barely two years and require another \$200.00 to replace them. I'm still convinced that the industry is not incentivized to do anything about it because of the push for the demise of the IC engine and the promotion of EV's. However, I have had excellent help and care from my local Batteries Plus franchise run by Mike Androlewicz at 2121 West Marlton Pike in Cherry Hill, the west end near Wegman's. Mike did all he was able to test, charge, revive, and eventually replace my less than two-year-old Triumph battery. The downside, there was only two weeks left on the original warranty and that's what the manufacturer goes by..... Oh well, now it starts .... For now.....

Several events have occurred in the last two months, Parvin Park Picnic, Smithville Memorial Gathering and monthly meetings. As to the meetings, because of the demise of Toni Roni's Tap House the June meeting was hosted at Millers Ale House in Mt. Laurel. More news on the decision to stay there and photos and stories in this issue of Off Side/Near Side. If you have a story to tell or your perspective on an outing, tell it to our editor Manny, he'd appreciate the content.

As announced at the April meeting in Maple Shade, we are looking for someone to compose a new webpage for the club. They don't need to be a member and we are willing to compensate someone with those skills. A friend, a family member, a neighbor or a coworker. We are also in the process of researching integrated club organizational software to integrate several aspects of the work into a single package. Please let me or any other Board member know, see the banner in this newsletter for names and email addresses.

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](mailto:tundramgb@hotmail.com) for that assistance. See you on the road, maybe with Pete's help.

.

Happy Motoring

# Treasurer / Registrar Report

July / August 2025

By Brian Deam

Dear Members,

The weather gods favored us with beautiful days for our May and June events. The BMCSNJ Club Picnic at Parvin State Park in Pittsgrove, NJ, on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Thanks to Chris Bethmann for securing a perfect venue for admiring cars and picnicking.

Thanks to all that participated in our Smithville Memorial gathering on June 21<sup>st</sup>. We had more than forty cars, the most ever, and raised \$1,850 for Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice. Thanks to Fred DeSantis and all that volunteered to make this special event so successful.

Next up is the Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5 Points Custard in East Vineland. September and October will be busy as well with both club and non-club events scheduled. Our annual club car show will be held at the Greenwich Craft Faire in Greenwich, NJ on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

We had thirty members at the June Members' meeting as well. The attendance at our events and meetings has steadily increased over the past 1.5 years. So come on out and enjoy the fellowship.

Financially, the club is very solvent, which enabled us to contribute \$721 to Samaritan.

Our membership increased to 178 with the addition of two new members over the last two months. Please continue your effective word of mouth marketing!

If your membership expired on June 30, 2025, and you have not sent your renewal yet, please do so by July 15<sup>th</sup> to maintain your membership. 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](http://www.PayPal.com) and send your dues to "members@bmcsnj.org".

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)

May / June 2025

By Brian Deam

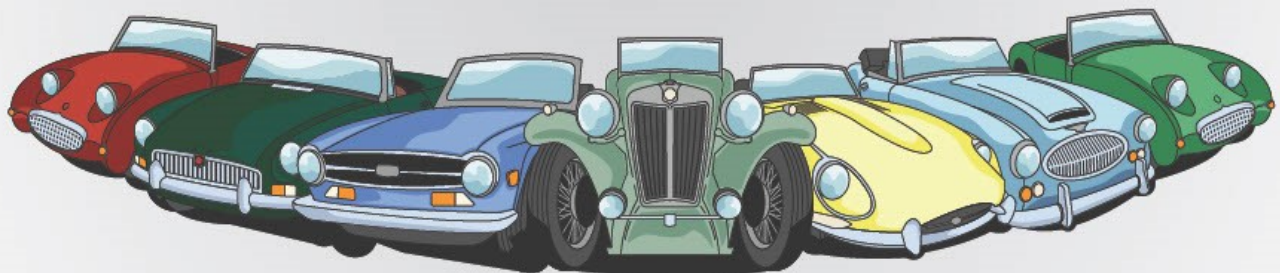
Welcome two new members.

Name	Town	Car
Thomas Dougherty	Northfield	1947 MG TC and 1951 MG TD
Greg Bollinger	Galloway	1969 MGB

Happy Motoring!



Classic British & Jaguar Parts



Shop Online at [MossMotors.com](http://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.

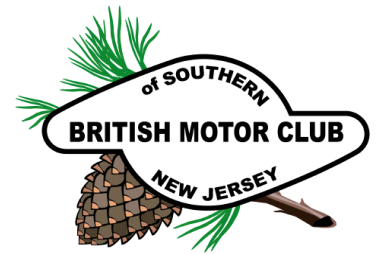
THE INFORMATION IN THIS EVENTS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED BY E-MAIL. You can also consult our webpage at [HTTPS://BMCSNJ.Org](https://BMCSNJ.Org)

## July - October

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time &amp; Location</u>
July 6 (rain date 7/13)	<b>Rebels and Redcoats Classic Car Show</b> American, French, British, German Car Show <a href="http://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/event">www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/event</a>	9:00AM – 2:30PM Washington Crossing Historic Park 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA
July 6 – 19	<b>Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix</b> <a href="http://www.PVGP.org">www.PVGP.org</a>	10 day long schedule of vintage car shows, drives, racing.
July 16	<b>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</b> <b>7 Stars Diner</b>	6:00PM–8:00PM <b>7 Stars Diner</b> 1890 Hurffville Rd, Sewell, NJ
July 26	<b>British Car Owner's Ice Cream Social</b> Contact Sue Salsburg <a href="mailto:Old_cat@verizon.net">Old_cat@verizon.net</a>	2:00PM – 5:00PM <b>5 Points Custard</b> Landis Ave. Rt 540 & Tuckahoe Road Vineland, NJ
August 9	<b>Summer driving Tour S.J.</b> Tracy Westergard ( <a href="mailto:kitakat123@gmail.com">kitakat123@gmail.com</a> ) <b>Woodstown Diner TO</b> The Bait Box, Greenwich	10:00AM (Meet) <b>Start: Woodstown Diner</b> 16 East Ave., Woodstown, Salem County <b>End:</b> The Bait Box, 30 Hancock Harbor Rd, Greenwich, NJ
August 9 & 10	<b>New Hope Auto Show</b> (British Cars on Sunday 8/10/25) <a href="https://newhopeautoshow.com/">https://newhopeautoshow.com/</a>	<b>New Hope-Solebury HS</b> 129 Bridge Street New Hope, PA.
August 16	<b>Wenonah Cars and Coffee</b> Contact Ralph Travis 609-472-7331	9:00AM – 11:00AM Wenonah Park Southeast Ave. & E. Mantua Ave. Wenonah, NJ
August 20	<b>Monthly Club Membership Meeting</b> <b><u>Millers Ale House</u></b>	<b>6:00PM to 8:30PM</b> <b>Millers Ale House</b> <b>554 Fellowship Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ</b>
September 11-15	<b>Austin Healey Encounter 2025</b> <a href="https://www.austin-healey-stc.org/show.html">https://www.austin-healey-stc.org/show.html</a>	Tannersville, PA
September 27	<b>Annual BMCSNJ Car Show</b>	<b>Greenwich Craft Faire</b> 1730 Gibbon House, 960 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich NJ 08323
October 5	<b>Roadster Rally</b> <a href="https://www.blinkerfluidproductions.com/">https://www.blinkerfluidproductions.com/</a>	10:30AM – 4:00PM Ocean City Boardwalk
October 25	<b>NASA Monitored Track Time</b>	<b>NJ MotorSports Park</b> 8000 Dividing Creek Rd. Millville, NJ

# ***BMCSNJ Summer Driving Tour***

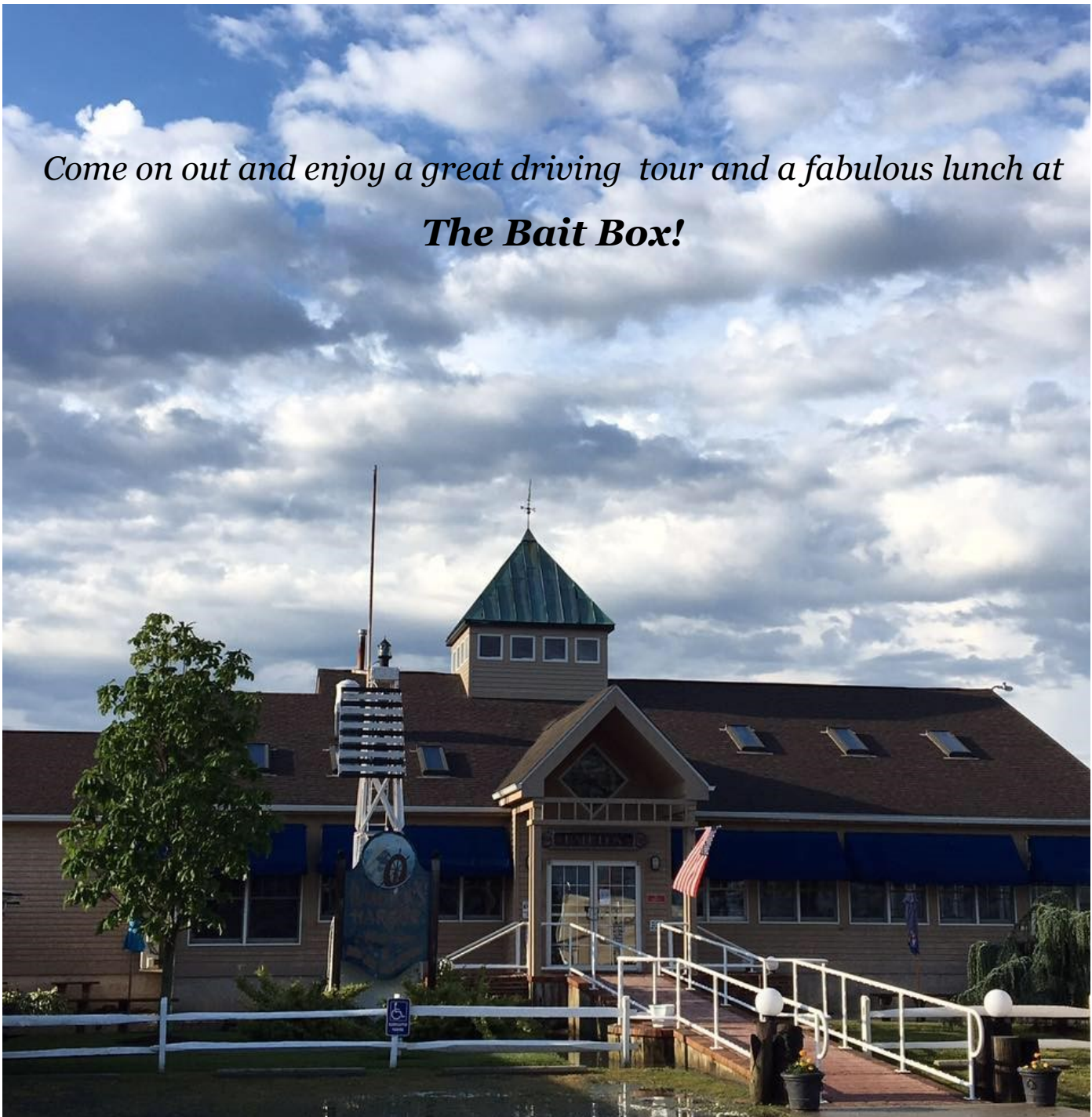
***August 9, 2025***



***Start at: Woodstown Diner  
16 East Ave Woodstown, NJ (10:00 AM)***

***Destination: The Bait Box  
30 Hancock Harbor Rd. , Greenwich, NJ***

*Come on out and enjoy a great driving tour and a fabulous lunch at  
**The Bait Box!***





## On The Track



### Attention BMCSNJ Members!

We have a new event to add to the club calendar thanks to club member Bill Fisher!

### **Monitored Track time at New Jersey Motorsport Park (NJMP)**

**8000 Dividing Creek Rd., Millville, NJ 08332-6022**

Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 10:00 AM until about noon.

NASANE offers an event called [Hyperdrive](#). With "Hyperdrive", NASANE manages an event that enables street cars to drive the **NJMP** track, following a "Pace Car".

The *British Motor Club of SNJ* has an opportunity for track time on the **NJMP** track in Vineland by teaming with the National Auto Sport Association (NASA) Northeast ([NASANE](#)).

There is a 20-minute training session regarding what to expect on the track and about 20 minutes on the track. A NASANE instructor will ride in your car answering questions and observing your driving style.

Cars need to be in good mechanical shape and will be inspected to ensure all "loose" items are removed, such as floor mats. Empty passenger seats must be secured (for your Bugeye's)

Driving on the track DOES REQUIRE a **Snell rated helmet**. Motorcycle helmets do not meet this requirement. The web site says driving helmet loaners are available for a fee.

Sounds like a great way to experience having your car on the track without committing to a full track day experience for a very low fee of **\$55**.

Bill Fisher is going to act as contact man for this event and anyone who is interested in participating is urged to get in touch with Bill and register.

Contact Bill Fisher to reserve your slot. [BillFisherMGB@yahoo.com](mailto:BillFisherMGB@yahoo.com) or (609) 221-2633

We are planning a lunch following the event.

**This will enable you to state, "I have taken my car on 'the track.'"**



# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**July 26th 2025 2 to 5pm**

**Join us for ice cream and British cars at**

**5 Points Custard 557 Tuckahoe Rd. Vineland NJ**

**No judging, just car talk, good friends and ice cream**

**Come early for lunch or stay after for dinner at**

**5 Points Inn next door**

**more info: Sue at [old\\_cat@verizon.net](mailto:old_cat@verizon.net) , [bmcsnj.org](http://bmcsnj.org)**

**or our group on Facebook**





# *Rescue Squad Report*

## *- Moorestown*

On Tuesday morning June 3 several club Rescue Squad members met at the Moorestown home of board member, Brian Deam to attend to his Triumph TR6. Brian was getting a non cranking issue with his car, despite keeping it on a trickle charger.

Well before several members even arrived, our resident TR6 expert, Ed Doody had worked his magic and had the car cranking and started. There appeared to be some loose/dirty connections on the starter relay which is located on the inner driver side fender. Easy, peasy.



## Rescue Squad Attendees

It Starts!



In attendance were myself, Ed Doody, Bill Fisher, Ben Ragusa, Hank Lipson, Fred DeSantis (who gets the long distance award for coming from Ocean City!)

Well Done gentlemen

Pete Cosmides  
Rescue Squad Coordinator

"The first step when working on your car. Take out every tool that you own. "

*Fred DeSantis' (Go Figure)*



## **Red Mill British Car Show**

**- Clinton, NJ**

**Pete Cosmides**

Clinton, NJ

On Sunday, June 1st seven club members and spouses met in Pennington, NJ for a beautiful scenic drive through Hunterdon County on our way to on our way to attend the 30th Red Mill British Car Show in Clinton, NJ. The weather was picture perfect making for a 125 mile round trip drive. We had 2 big Healey's, 2 MGB-GT's, 2 MGB's and one family car bring up the rear. We encountered no mechanical issues and even brought home a trophy or two.

It's a smaller show, but the location is very pleasant with an easy walk into town for lunch. In attendance were Peter and Anne Cosmides, John and Joyce O'Neill, Jim Wines, Paul Serdiuk, Nick and Alice Ferrant, Dave and Nancy Pitman and Joe Pilato

To quote Joe Pilato "Thanks for putting today's event together. It was the best thing I've done with the MG since I've had it". Glad to hear it Joe, that's the idea.

Hopefully next time you all can also join us.





*In The Mirror*

## **Red Mill British Car Show**

**- Clinton, NJ**





*In The Mirror*

## **Red Mill British Car Show**

**- Clinton, NJ**





## ***The British Are Coming ... Again***

***- Lewes, Delaware***

***Fred DeSantis***

This year the Lewes Delaware British Car Show was gifted with great weather. A group of us decided to make the show a one-day event. Guido Battaglini, 1970 MGB, and I, 1959 TR3, drove to the Cape May Terminal and met up with Joe Letizia, 1961 TR3, and Andrew Barnes, 1955 MG TF.

We boarded the 7:00 am ferry and had a great ride over arriving at Lewes around 8:15AM. The event went off without a hitch with a sold-out show field and plenty of spectators. We also met up with Club members Lance Landgraf, 1976 Spitfire; Bill Remster, 1979 Midget; Jim Vines, MGB; Fred Schuchard, daily driver; and Rosario Zappala; 1952 MG TD.

Our Club took home a good share of the trophies!

Andrew Barnes, 2nd place Early MG Category (1955 MG TF)

Guido Battaglini, 1st place Late MGB

Fred DeSantis, 1st place Triumph to 1968

Lance Landgraf, 2nd place Triumph 1969 and later

Bill Remster, 2nd place Late MG





In the Mirror

## ***The British Are Coming ... Again***

***- Lewes, Delaware***

*Great time had by all!*



Hope you can join us next year!



## **BMCSNJ Annual Club Picnic at Parvin State Park**

**Pittsgrove, NJ**

*Manny Paredes*

The sun was shining, the weather was temperate, the breeze soft and mellow. The drive to and from Parvin State Park, Pittsgrove was actually quite nice without much traffic through the Pittsgrove roads. The caveat was the turtles crossing the road. If you kept an eye out you were able to slow down in time or if you were driving a good Brit, you happily swerved.

With a fair showing of cars, good conversation, lunch and beverages provided by the Club the outing was as pleasant as could be. It really did give everyone a chance to know each other better and catch up on some local news and tales.





## Cars and Coffee

- Wenonah, NJ

On June 14, we had our first Cars and Coffee at Wenonah. The Alpha Romeo car club and the Fiat Club were invited. We had one Fiat (Miata based “*Fiata*”) driver from Burlington County, come to “Test out” our gathering.

*“I needed 16 expensive Pozidriv screws for a project. They come in packs of five.”*

*-Fred DeSantis’ (Go Figure)*





## ***Smithville Memorial Gathering***

***Galloway, NJ***

To put the Smithville Gathering in the rear view mirror, Fred DeSantis organized the event and Gary Warren brought "the stuff". This year proved to be one of the largest gathering of BMCSNJ members at Smithville. The cars were lined up on both sides and down the center. The weather was not as hot as last year and we beat the heat that came in next few days. Some members found it to be great weather and hung around after the day's event. BMCSNJ made quite a show.

With \$1850 in the fundraising kitty to Good Samaritan. Fred sent our thanks to Smithville. The club will be looking forward to next year.



## ***Tonys in the Rear View Mirror***

At the May meeting at Seven Stars Diner we learned that Tony Roni (the BMCSNJ alternating monthly meeting establishment ) on Route 73 in Maple Shade had closed.

On May 2024, Tony Rony took over Pizzeria Uno, the deep dish Chicago Pizza restaurant on Rt 73. Pizzeria Uno traces its roots to a Chicago eatery that offered distinctive deep-dish pizza in 1943.

During the transition from Uno's to Tony Roni, the Maple Shade location maintained the same management and ownership, said Angela Bock, vice president of business development.

However, after a short time in business the owners announced that on Friday, May 23rd Tony Roni's Tap-house would close its doors in Maple Shade. "The restaurant was just not marking the sales it needs to stay afloat and we were losing \$1000s a week." Tony Altomare of the East Falls section of Philadelphia is the owner of other Tony Roni establishments in Pennsylvania. The Tony Roni name comes from the first name Tony and Roni from Pepperoni.

None-the-less, we still are still good to go at Seven Stars in Deptford.

In the interim and hoping for a new meeting home we will move on to Miller's Ale house In Mt. Laurel (Also on RT 73).

### **Miller's Ale House**

Moving on, the Club's June meeting was held at Miller's Ale House. What we missed was a dedicated room that was set aside for the club. We sat in at a long table in the back which served us and a small overflow of the public. At times it was hard to speak and hear over the music but we made it through.

The best things were our gathering and the food was a step or two better. Overall, we did not suffer much. Change is good. Hope you can always join us wherever we are.





## *It's 1960, the party rolls on!*

Steve Ferrante

Prosperity continued during the years between 1955 and 1960. While the Chevrolet Corvette and Ford Thunderbird were both selling in great numbers, the American shopper was still buying foreign cars to satisfy their sports car needs. By 1960, the big three had pushed out most other domestic competitors and were still responsible for the vast majority of new car sales in the US. The fact that many families still had the desire for a sports car, but maybe didn't have the means to get one, the American car marketers were taking notes and were poised to introduce some sporty options including the Ford Falcon, its cousin, the Mercury Comet as well as the ill-fated Chevrolet Corvair. A few others like the Rambler American and the Studebaker Lark came along around the same time if you fancied shrunken versions of big American cars.

The British offerings still had the sports car feel and represented good value in the US. As such, sales were strong which allowed for continued growth. Jaguar, Austin-Healey, and MG rolled on with large production numbers along with smaller companies like Sunbeam and Lotus who entered the market.

### **Austin-Healey 3000**



The 3000, also known as the “Big Healey” was an extension of the 100 from the late 50s. It was more refined and powerful as the Series I cars performed better because of a larger engine and the introduction of disc brakes on the front. The Mark I sold well with Austin-Healey dispatching over 13,500 units, many to the US. The styling was similar to earlier models and, like the one shown, two tone paint schemes enhanced the lines and made them very recognizable over some others in the mix. These were great cars that offered jump seats in the back to bring the kids along.

### **Austin-Healey Bugeye Sprite**



As Austin-Healey transformed the 100 into the 3000, it was also introducing a more affordable way to hit the road. No room for the kids (or much else) here, but what it lacked in storage space, it made up with fun. Driving one of these with another adult in the car, made for a very friendly experience as there wasn't much space left over. Priced well below the 3000 and other competitors, sales were significant at nearly 50,000 worldwide over the course of four years. The look of the Bugeye (US) or Frogeye (UK) is unmistakable and still easier to identify than most collector cars.

## *It's 1960, the party rolls on!* (2)

Steve Ferrante

### **Jaguar E-Type**



Technically , not available until early 1961, I suspect there were many sports car buyers who held onto their cash in 1960 waiting for an E-Type. For many of us, the Jaguar E-Type or XKE, as it was known in North America, is an amazing example of beauty, form and function. Enzo Ferrari wasn't the only one who thought that the E-Type was "the most beautiful car ever made." Actually, I find it a bit hard to believe that he actually said that, but I believe many of us still think that way. I

chose this picture because, in my opinion, it shows the gorgeous lines on this machine. If you search E-Type coupe, you will see a magnificent sibling that gives nothing away to roadster in terms of beauty. A 3.8L inline six cylinder boasting 265hp was just what the doctor ordered, since, at north of \$6,000, you had to be a doctor to afford one in 1960.

### **Sunbeam Alpine**



We have seen by now that there were many choices for fun cars available in the US in 1960. The Rootes Group produced almost 12,000 Series I Alpines in 1960 with most exported to the US. Once again, body lines are extremely recognizable now but may have created a bit of confusion in 1960 considering it seems to be a combination of British sports car and American car with Space Age tail fins. While the fins were cut down in later refinements, Alpines (and Tigers) made a lot of appearances in movies and TV

driven by legendary secret agents James Bond and Maxwell Smart to name a couple. Priced new at around \$2,500, the Alpine was very competitive in the market.

### **Lotus Elite**



Colin Chapman was born in 1928 and by his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday he was building racing cars. I would need a lot of pages to describe his achievements as an engineer and car builder. His early cars were low production, but successful racers. His machines were synonymous with light weight and his most famous quote was, "Simplify, then add lightness." The Elite was no exception at less than 1,500 pounds but also presented a challenge as he wasn't building a purpose built racer any longer, but a real road car that could be enjoyed off the track. Needless to say, it was the start of something big as nearly 1,000 of them were built between 1959 and 1963.

(continued on next page)

## *It's 1960, the party rolls on!* (3)

Steve Ferrante

For those of you who have been around BMC of SNJ for a while, you will recognize the car in the picture as the 1959 Elite Series I that belonged to the late Joe Marchione, our esteemed former editor of this newsletter. The massive restoration of this car is well documented in the now defunct Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car magazine from September 2008.

(See Google “Elite Resurgence Hemmings” for a link to the article.)

By 1960, the door to the sports car market was left wide open for sports car lovers to continue to embrace offerings from Great Britain and the rest of Europe. Aside from those shown above, the Porsche 356, Maserati 3500GT and the Ferrari GT cars were also well established by 1960. While the Corvair went on to develop some rather nice styling later in its run before being forced out of production, I really can't say that for the Falcon or the Comet. By now, it was clear that the Big Three had lost much of the sports car market and started fishing for new customers using higher horsepower, more luxury and bigger size as bait. This was not necessarily a bad thing, just a different road to take.

Next time, we will have a look at 1965, when pony car and muscle car madness would emerge across America and begin to impact the import offerings.



Steve Ferrante



## Leno's Law: California Senate Bill 714



### Jay Leno Wants Your Classic Car On The Road

California is the epicenter of car culture, with classic and exotic cars making up a large percentage of vehicles on the road. California also happens to be one of the strictest states when it comes to emissions, putting vehicles through fairly rigorous smog testing. The current law says all motor vehicles manufactured after the 1976 model year must undergo smog testing. That's a big chunk of vehicles on the road.

A small loophole allows cars at least 35 years old, registered as a classic, and meet the DMV's emissions rules to circumvent smog testing, but that doesn't always work.



Senator Shannon Grove introduced Senate Bill 712, also known as Leno's Law. Jay sponsors this, hoping to "remove unnecessary and burdensome smog check requirements for classic vehicles, ensuring they remain a celebrated part of California's culture and economy."

### What Is Senate Bill 712?

Bill SB 712 aims to delete the partial smog check exemption for collector motor vehicles from existing law. The bill would fully exempt a collector car from the smog check requirement if the vehicle is at least 35 model years old and proof is submitted that the motor vehicle is insured as a collector motor vehicle.

"California has a rich automotive heritage, with some of the first classic cars rolling off assembly lines right here in our state," said Senator Shannon Grove. "These rolling pieces of history are more than just vehicles—they have strong cultural ties in our communities and supply thousands of jobs in the aftermarket parts industry."

Grove and Leno hope this change will allow enthusiasts to enjoy their vehicles without restrictions.

Leno said something similar - California has always been a haven for car enthusiasts. “California’s smog check laws for classic cars need to be updated—they vary too much from state to state, and California’s rules don’t match up with neighboring ones. Our classic cars are only driven for special occasions, weekend drives and car shows. I am excited to work with Senator Grove on SB 712 to make it simpler for us to preserve these pieces of history.”

### **SB 712 Has Some Other Important Backers**

Mike Spagnola, President and CEO of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), says the current regulations hold back a small group of vehicles. “These vehicles are rarely driven, meticulously maintained, and represent only a fraction of the cars on the road. By exempting collector vehicles from smog checks, we can ensure that these historical treasures are preserved for future generations.” California's specialty automotive aftermarket industry contributes quite a bit to the state economy, generating \$40.44 billion in economic impact. It supports 149,325 jobs, \$13.47 billion in total wages and benefits, and \$6.16 billion in taxes paid. “From car shows to weekend cruises, classic cars bring people together and keep our history vibrant,” Senator Shannon Grove said in the announcement. “With Jay Leno’s support, we’re sending a clear message: California values its automotive roots and the communities that keep them running.” The bill will move through the legislative process in the coming months, with the first hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee in April.



### **Leno’s Law Update: California Senate Bill 712 Closes in on the Finish Line**

On Friday, May 23, 2025, just one day after the [U.S. Senate put the kibosh on the California’s EV mandate](#), republican and democratic senators in the Golden State agreed to advance SB 712 through the Senate Appropriations Committee, voting 12–2.

The bill, better known as “Leno’s Law” thanks to its strong endorsement from comedian and longtime classic-car enthusiast Jay Leno, calls for a discontinuation of [mandatory smog checks](#) (Cali-registered, modified, and high-performance hot rods’ longtime nemesis) for collector vehicles 35 years and older (built before and no later than 1990) and only driven for special occasions or car shows. Said vehicles may require historic vehicle registration and collector-car insurance coverage.

“California helped invent car culture, from lowriders in East L.A. to muscle cars in the Central Valley,” Leno said. “These cars tell our story. SB 712 is about keeping that story alive. These vehicles are only driven occasionally, not daily, and it makes sense to treat them differently. I’m proud to work with Senator (Shannon) Grove and thank the committee for supporting our automotive legacy.”

State Senate Passes Len’s Law. Clearing another significant step in the legislative process, Leno's Law, officially known as Senate Bill (SB) 712, was successfully passed out of the California Senate. The 32-3 vote. The Bill now moves to the State Assembly, where it will be referred to a policy committee and heard prior to July 18.



“These classic cars aren’t just hobby vehicles,” Senator Grove said, “they represent generations of craftsmanship, culture, and community pride. With this bill, we’re protecting small businesses, empowering car enthusiasts, and preserving a vital piece of California’s heritage.”

Yes, small and big businesses in the automotive aftermarket will benefit from SB 712’s passing, through increased production and sale of parts and products. According to statistics recorded by the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), the industry supports more than 149,000 jobs and contributes \$40.44 billion to California’s economy.

It’s important to reiterate that although SB 712’s endorsement by California’s Senate Appropriations Committee is an extremely bright glimmer of hope for a major and welcome change to the state’s smog laws, right now those laws are still in effect.

And, until the bill is passed and any new details about “can-do” and “can’t-do” modification and all-important [parts](#) permissions and restrictions are provided by the California Air Resources Board, serious discretion is needed about adding and/or removing emissions-associated hard parts or [modifying engine-management strategies](#). That’s the thing to remember in all of this. The potential changes don’t bring forth the total dissolution of the Environmental Protection Agency’s or CARB’s influence on emissions-related affairs. In English? Neither agency will be completely going away because of SB 712’s passing.

Those of you who may have attended the Rescue Squad floor replacement event may have met John from California to look at a Non-Smogged Porsch 911 and a 62 Land Rover so that his acquisition could be “Grandfathered” and legal in his state. Passage of SB712 would help increase the available cars within the state and bring more unmodified classics to the nation as a whole.

### Current Smog-Check Requirements

For clarity and because confusion seems to be the norm when it comes to California’s smog-check requirements, here’s what the California state’s Bureau of Automotive Repair (the outfit that keeps smog inspectors in check):

**Vehicles Requiring California Biennial Smog Check (as of 5/26/2025):**

- Gasoline, hybrid, and alternative-fuel vehicles model year 1976 and newer
- Diesel vehicles model year 1998 and newer
- RVs, motorhomes, collector cars, and government vehicles that meet the above criteria also need a smog check.

**Vehicles Exempt from Requiring California Biennial Smog Check (as of 5/26/2025):**

- Gasoline, hybrid, and alternative-fuel vehicles eight model years and newer (for vehicle registration renewal only)
- Gasoline, hybrid, and alternative-fuel vehicles four model years and newer (for change of ownership only)
- Gasoline, hybrid, and alternative-fuel vehicles model year 1975 and older
- Diesel vehicles model year 1997 and older
- Diesel vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds
- Electric vehicles
- Motorcycles

**PASS**

Congratulations! Your vehicle passed the Smog Check inspection, which helps California reach its daily goal of removing smog-forming emissions from the air. Thank you for keeping your vehicle well maintained.

Visual Inspection: PASS Functional Inspection: PASS

Smog Check Certificate Number: RQ381999C  
DMV ID Number: 5744Q505R031

Your Smog Check certificate has been electronically transmitted to DMV.  
Your certificate is valid for 90 days from date of issuance.  
Please keep this copy for your records.

Visual Inspection Result Information			
Result	Inspection Category	Result	Inspection Category
PASS	Computers, Sensors, Switches, and Wiring	PASS	Crankcase Emission Controls
PASS	Exhaust Gas After-Treatment Systems	PASS	Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR)
PASS	Fuel Metering System	PASS	Other Emission Related Components/Systems
PASS	Turbocharger/Supercharger	PASS	Vacuum Lines to Sensors/Switches

Emission Control Systems Functional Check Results			
Result		Result	
PASS	OBDII	PASS	Smoke Check

**Smog Check Inspection Station Information**

Station ID: TC234404	Inspector Name/ID:	BOOTH, ELISABETH/EO632198
SIMPLY SMOG	Software Version/OIS ID:	20.3.1148.0/CV006543
8655 RESEDA BLVD #B		
NORTHRIDGE, CA 91324		

## ***Waxing About Wix***

Made in USA? Ed Doody doesn't think so. "The box is made in the US but not the filter!"

WIX has been a producer of WIX oil filters as well as NAPA Gold oil filters for some time. However, recent developments show that although WIX continues to make oil filters it just isn't making as many in the US as it turns out. WIX were bought out by Mann+Hummel a few years ago but still makes the Wix Gold, Macrogold and Napa Gold brands as imports. Currently, it seems that according to internet searches, most of their gas and oil filters are made in China, Brazil, Viet Nam, UK, Canada and Mexico. It also seems as if the USA and Mexico marks are most alike from a quality control standpoint. UK and Canada ship to some mass distributors like Rock Auto. Who knows where the rest are shipped, probably Amazon or Walmart. This led me to take a look at some of my Moss filters I have in stock. While advertising shows Wix, there was no name on the box or filter that was shipped to me. Lee filters were stamped Made in USA. The question arises on what will the future hold if the tariffs take full effect? Will the manufacturing be brought back to the US or will manufacturing remain overseas. The bottom line is that prices will surely go up. Check your stock to see what Fram Extra Guard, Mobil-1 or K&N offer.

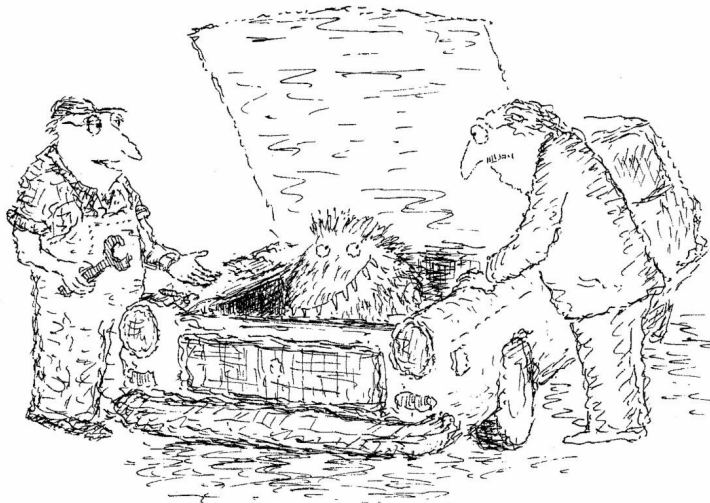
## ***Is the Moss growing under your feet ?***

Last month I ordered a Universal Joint for my MGB Steering Knuckle. MOSS wanted \$9.90 for just the Universal joint and \$149 for the Box with the joint installed. Thinking that I am not too mechanically inhibited I bought just the Universal. I'm cheap too. The part arrived in a small cardboard box and was invoiced from BMW. Upon further research I found the identical part for a BMW MINI. Puzzled I checked my daughter's Mini. Yup, you guessed it. Exactly the same part. What gives MOSS? Coincidentally I looked on EBAY for the part. The whole box with U joint cost twenty bucks. I bought it and received the part in perfect condition. I returned the U-Joint to MOSS, letting no Moss grow under my feet. As a side note, I bought rear overriders for my Bugeye from Rimmer. The train showed that the parts came from China, shipped to England and then to me. What a "tarrific" journey they made.

## ***One for the Road—Pete Cosmides***

This article from Hagerty is very informative and I wanted to share it with everyone. Excellent diagnostic steps to learn. I can say from experience as a former shop owner, I agree fully about the lack of quality in current ignition replacement parts. We had gotten to the point that we would not replace those items during a tune up if the car was running well.

<https://www.hagerty.com/media/opinion/the-hack-mechanic/getting-to-the-points/>



*"Well, there's your problem!"*

## Oh, The Places You Can Go (or Drive)

### - Everywhere

Last summer it seemed like we had one rainy weekend after another. So far, this year the club has fared pretty well in the weather and event attendance. Keep your fingers crossed. Yet in addition to our BMC events there are still some places that are worthy of a road trip with or without your British ride. Whatever your ride is now is the time to drive'm. Now I can't say that a cross country trip is at the top of my list as Pete and Ben described at the 7 Stars Diner but some local spots may be worth a drive. Here are some of my favorite nearby stops.

**Harpoons—North Cape May.** This is a great beach front bar and restaurant not far from the Cape May Ferry. There's live music and a full menu if you want a bigger meal and the sunset is fantastic. Park on the street or lot.

**Peter Shields—Cape May.** For a more formal and more upscale dining experience ditch the sandals and park your car on the side street or along Beach Drive. A little pricey but worth the experience. Afterwards, take a walk in town along Washington Mall. Parking on the street can be tough but it's safe.

**Willow Creek Vineyard and Winery West Cape May.** This is a great place to sit outside, meet friends, grab a couple glasses of wine and a charcuterie board. Tons of parking.

**Hammonton Main Street**—Not quite as busy as Haddonfield, Hammonton has a similar feel with a few shops and great Mexican restaurants. Don't forget Bagliani's Italian Market for authentic deals and the Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel on July 16. Park on the street.

### Longer Drives:

**Brooklyn Botanical Garden—Prospect Park, NY.** If you've been to Manhattan and are looking to slow it down take in the Botanical Gardens and the restaurant. It's a great day trip and/or find your way to Williamsburg Brooklyn for shops, restaurants, bars and a youthful crowd. Robert Plant is known to live in the area so it's gotta be a cool place to hangout. Parking is tough with alternate day parking.

**Mystic Seaport, Connecticut.** The NE chapter of the Austin Healey Club (AHCA) meets here annually for Healey's on the Green (August 15). The town of Mystic is an event in itself with shopping, restaurants and Pizza for movie fans. Pay to park.

**Tale of the Dragon—Gatlinburg, Tennessee.** Eleven miles with 318 turns and twists on Route 129 through the Smokey Mountains. Check your clutch before you go. It's a fun drive! Who Parks?

**Baseball Hall of Fame - Cooperstown, New York.** Well, need I say more. Open highway to a small town. Park in the lot.

**Portland, Maine.** This is not as long a trip as you might think. Mystic is along the way and there are many hotels on the way. Portland is a funky little town with shops and you guessed it, Seafood. Spend three days and you'll wonder why you don't move here. Unless you don't like the frigid cold you will find few reasons. But it's a nice place to visit, in the summer. Park in a lot or at the hotel.

# *Cars & Coffee Wenonah*

*OR HOW ABOUT A SECOND CUP, AT WENONAH?*

## VINTAGE EUROPEAN

## CARS & COFFEE

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**SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025**

**9:00AM-11:00AM**

### LOCATION:

**Wenonah Park**

**Southeast Avenue & East Mantua Avenue**

**Wenonah, NJ**

Event Contact: Ralph Travis (609) 472-7331  
or Pete Cosmides: [events@bmcsnj.com](mailto:events@bmcsnj.com)



# 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](mailto:members@bmcsnj.org)

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

Name	
Street address	
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Brian Deam – Treasurer  
900 Riverton Rd  
Moorestown, NJ 08057



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You may have noticed that I moved the guiding principles for Offside/Nearside that are usually found on page 2 to the last page of this Newsletter. It's was just that this summer has been chock filled with good stuff. I just had to get into it pronto. That is not to say that the fine print is not necessary. It is! Offside/Nearside is what organizes the Newsletter and in itself is the Final Word for the things that we do and the guidance it provides us to stay out of the pits. So our usual lead-in is the lead-out for this letter's effort.

This summer has been surely one of the most busy as far as events and happenings go locally and across the country. How are your eyes after watching Le Mans? If you've never been there I gotta tell you it's a short ride from Paris and has some of the most quaint homes and small streets. It's a lovely place but I wouldn't want to live there during Le Mans week. Watching it on TV is much better.

Locally, some of the folks who I have contacted in the recent past also decided to finally give me a call or drop me a line. I'm beat. I'm hoping for a slower winter to catch up. I did try to contact Jay Leno in the SB article. No dice but I did get a response from a legislator who remains anonymous (You know politicians). Then I saw that Hemmings grabbed the Leno story too but I think I got a better line.

I've also been trading a couple back and forth's from a restoration shop in the UK. Very interesting projects going on there. I hope to put that correspondence together in the cold months.

In between the BMCSNJ happenings my grandson turned eighteen and I took him for his driving test in Salem. He passed. That gives me 14 family passes for the drivers test. No failures yet. Salem is the place to go for driving tests but unlike the days when you passed a slow tractor doing 15mph on Rt 45 . Now its faster paced with mucho trucks. You have to take the test on the road with SUVs at high speeds. I was told that the Test Officer said "Just gun it" after waiting for traffic to subside. There's also at least an hour wait at DMV too. Farm country? Well... So, yeah, my grandson also graduated high school and introduced me to one of his best friends who is showing a real interest in British cars. Just in time for rebuilding the rear suspension of my "B" but too late for the Bugeye still on jackstands. My daughter kept saying "call the rescue squad." I think there was a conspiracy because my "Dad Can You?" list is getting longer. I should ask Pete if he has evening hours. Maybe not.

I also gotta give a shout out to Fred DeSantis, Mike Eck and Ed Doody for providing source material when I couldn't be in two places at the same time.

### **Jay Leno Addendum**

The ticket is still split on SB712. While there is a call for relaxing the requirements for Classic cars there is growing opposition to adding pollution to California's highways. Now that the Trump administration has pulled back green and clean air initiatives and taken away California's state self determination for automotive emissions its hard to tell if Leno's law was a win or a side swipe. The EV market had been in its biggest slump for the past three years so that some manufacturers are now pulling back, especially foreign companies. California legislators are calling foul since the president has been gifted a plane with Arab oil sale increases to American refineries. As an aside, I sent a letter to our State Senator about the inconsistency between when cars need to be inspected (1997) and year allowable for QQ tags.





**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 1990 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 (MGO), North American MGB Register (NAMGBR), North American MGA Register (NAMGAR), Vintage Triumph Register (VTR), AND 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 Hurfville Road, Sewell, NJ 08080

Even numbered months (February, April, June, August, October)  
Miller's Ale House 554 Fellowship Rd. Maununt Laurel, NJ 08054.

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.

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](mailto:editor@bmcsnj.org)

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

All classified submissions should be written in the exact form you wish to have it 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 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.