

**British Briefs**  
**British Car Club Midlands Centre**  
**July 2011**



[www.bccmc.com](http://www.bccmc.com)

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**BREAKFAST 06/04/2011**

Those attending were Bob Blundy, Ray Burns and Susan Kaiser, Thomas and Diane Caine, Randy Clark, Dave and Jo Davis, Steve and Margaret DeGroat, Fred DeShong, Mike and Susan Eckhart, Brad Fowler, Clark and Elizabeth Gregory, Dave Headrick, Charley and Edith Hylton, Pamela Jones, Ron Kuebler, Stan Lacy, Dennis Lambries, Bart Lehman, Jim McCormac, Eddie and Charles Pearce, Chris and Brenda Powell, Steve Ratcliffe and Madell Dobrushin, Lewis and Lois Smith, Todd and Courtney Smith, Mike Speer, Tony Stakis, Wally and Sonya Stewart, Eric and Ross Szendrei, Brad and Val Wik. Guests were Charles Pearce, Bill and Tina Beckman, Dave Mahrer and Jim Hess.

**NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBER UPDATES**

Eddie and Frances' son Charles joined us for breakfast on 06/04.

Cheerio and Welcome to Bill and Tina Beckman and their 1975 MGB and Dave Mahrer and his 1962 Jaguar E-Type.

Chris Powell will have surgery on the 16th to correct a problem from a previous operation. We hope for a swift recovery for Chris. Brenda is ready to start radiation. Sonya is off crutches and walking better.

Birthdays include Brenda, Mike and Betty. Anniversaries include the Szendries and the Kueblers.

Ever have your dog eat your homework? Brad's dog ate his nametag.

**British Car Day South - June 12 - Frank Liske Park, Concord, NC**

Dave and I left home, Columbia SC, about 7:15 in the morning on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June driving our British racing green right hand drive chrome bumper MGB roadster. Destination Concord, North Carolina, a journey of 103 miles taking 1 hour and 40 minutes. The Carolinas Austin Healey Club was putting on their 31<sup>st</sup> annual British Car Day South show which was being held at the Frank Liske Park. Just past Rock Hill, we saw another member of our club, Jay, driving his classic Mini. The featured marquee was Mini classic and modern.

Before entering the park, we stopped at a garage for a cappuccino. We then drove on to the park and parked our car with 14 other chrome bumper MGs. Dave cleaned the outside of the car as I had cleaned the inside the day before. We did our usual staging and for the first time put up a canopy. It was

needed too as the day was already hot and humid. We met up as usual with old friend from previous shows and made as usual new ones. For ourselves we had a lemon loaf cookie each and shared the cappuccino.

We then walked around voting on the different cars in the different classes. There were two lovely Rolls Royces and also about 5 motorcycles, one with a side car. Registration for the show was about 130. We bought \$10 worth of raffle tickets. The Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte was a recipient of a portion of the event proceeds.

Once again I tried my hand at wrench racing, using a small model Camaro with a small wrench attached to it. I won two out of three in the first event but only one out of three in the second event. There was music, vendors, food and beverages. Dave bought a cup of home made peach ice cream.

The drawing for the raffles was at 1:30 and we won a year's subscription to the American MGB Association, a value of \$35. Awards were given out just before 2 o'clock and we left the park hot to long after 2:30 to make our way home.

Jocelyn Davis.

### **QUARTERLY DINNER AT HARBOR**

#### **INN**

It was a stormy late afternoon but we persevered and had seafood for dinner (most of us had seafood). There were 23 of us, we had two LARGE tables and a very efficient staff to take or orders and serve us. It was nice to have new members Bill and Tina Beckman join us. Mike and Marcie's daughter Kelly was there too.



Others attending were Cliff and Donna Berry, Walt and Iris Brown, Tom and Diane Caine, Fred and Betty DeShong, Jeff and Pam Jones, Stan and Connie Lacy, Dennis Lambries, Eddie and Pearce, Mike and Marcie Speer, Tony and Pat Stakis and Sonya Stewart (Wally had been in Raleigh, singing all afternoon).

### **RENEWAL TIME**

**Your 2011-12 dues are due. The form is at the bottom of the newsletter. Last chance for this year!  
Send the update/change info and a check to Edith.**

### **GOT THE URGE FOR A MINI?**

Hampton Automotive on Fernandina Road has a lineup of Minis, including a Clubman or two.

### **YOU'LL NEVER GROW OLD IF YOU NEVER SLOW DOWN**

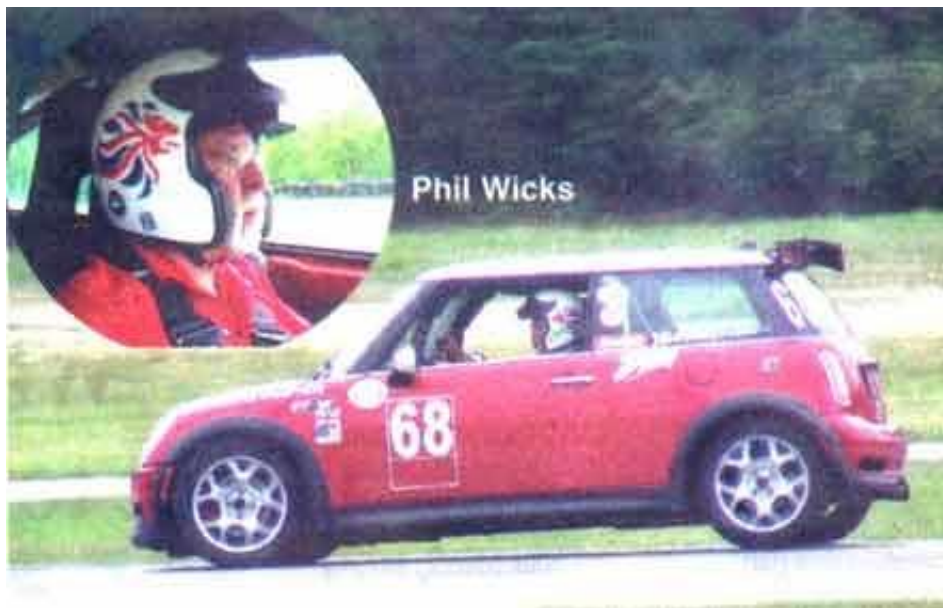
By Chuck Gerald (former owner of Gerald's Show Repair in Five Points)

I had the pleasure of spending the day with legendary driver Phil Wicks, owner of the Phil Wicks Mini Driving Academy.

Phil, now living in Columbia, invited me to hangout with him at a "one on one" performance driving event at Carolina Motorsports Park-in Kershaw, South Carolina. The Academy offers opportunities around the country for all skill levels as half of the students have never been on a track. The goal is to make better drivers on and off the track. It is more about accident avoidance rather than defensive

driving!

His two students that day were Judy and Tom Logue, high school sweethearts, both now seniors from Jacksonville Florida. They came for the adventure and chance to learn from a man who has driven with the likes of Sterling Moss and Steve McQueen. When Phil is not training students, he can be found racing classic Mini Coopers on the



circuit or his hobby of racing superbikes at 180 mph down the straight and dragging his knees through the turns at Roebing Road.

Phil was born in London, in July, 1940. While he was a toddler, his father "Big Phil" went off to be a dispatcher on a motorcycle for the Brits. Hitler and the Nazis tried to kill Phil and his Mom by bombing their home to pieces. Phil never saw his father again until after the Nazis gave in to allies. He remembers one day this handsome man showed up, whom he did not recognize. It was his father, who brought with him a 30's model Norton with a "chair" or side car. Phil hopped on the seat, arms wrapped around his father's waist, with Mom in the "chair." With the wind in his hair and love 'all around, his passion for motorcycles and speed started.

Phil began racing at Brands Hatch just south of London on a Norton at the age of 15 in 1955 and has never slowed down. He has raced internationally from Niirburgring to Lemans where he drove my dream car, a Ford GT 40, just before they were outlawed.

Phil started his first business at the age of 18 as a hair stylist. One of his clients happened to be Michael Caine who asked Phil to do stunt driving in the *Italian Job*. He also drove in the movie *Grand Prix* and others. Despite his impressive past, Phil is most congenial and down to earth.

I did get to experience his serious side on the track in his race prepped supercharged Mini. We blasted around the 14 turn, 2.2 mile track at "slow "speeds near 100 mph. The mini was detuned with worn street tires at the time.

Phil said, "I think people should find something they like and do it, exercise moderately, and eat good food. It's easy for me, I like to cook and control what's in it. This is heaven for me and I am living in it." Words well-spoken from the mouth of a 71 year old. Tom Petty summed it best, "You'll never get old if you never slow down."

### **2011 CAR SHOWS AND EVENTS**

July 2 – Breakfast Golden Corral Forest Drive

#### **July 4 – Independence Day**

August 6 – Breakfast Golden Corral Forest Drive

September 3 – Breakfast Golden Corral Forest Drive

#### **September 5 – Labor Day**

October 1 - Breakfast

October 15 – EURO 2011?

October 29 – Charleston Show?

November 5 - Breakfast

November 5 – Cape Fear Show at Poplar Grove Plantation

November – AGM Office Elections

#### **November 24 -Thanksgiving**

December 3 - Breakfast

December – Christmas Party



MGB Registry

Photos Cliff Berry

**BRITISH CAR CLUB MIDLANDS CENTRE**

**DUES NOTICE**

**July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \_\_\_\_ (\$30)

**Has Anything Changed?**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_ home (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_ office (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_ cell

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Car/s \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form with any changes from current information. If nothing has changed, just send name and check.

Please make check payable to **BCCMC** and mail to

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