

British Briefs
British Car Club Midlands Centre
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It's so hot, we don't have much to do with our sweet cars.

BREAKFAST 07/02/2011



Those attending were Dave and Jeni Behning, Cliff Berry, Bob Blundy, Chuck Cecil, Dave and Jo Davis, Steve DeGroat, Fred and Betty DeShong, Mike Eckhart, Clark and Elizabeth Gregory, Dave and Millie Headrick, Charley and Edith Hylton and guest Junior Farris (Charley's nephew), Ron and Jerri Jarosz, Stan Lacy and Witt Lacy (Stan's son from Charleston), Dennis Lambries, Cecil and Connie Myers, Chris and Brenda Powell, Steve Ratcliffe and Madell Dobrushin, Tony and Pat Stakis, Phil and Norree Wicks, Brad and Val Wik.



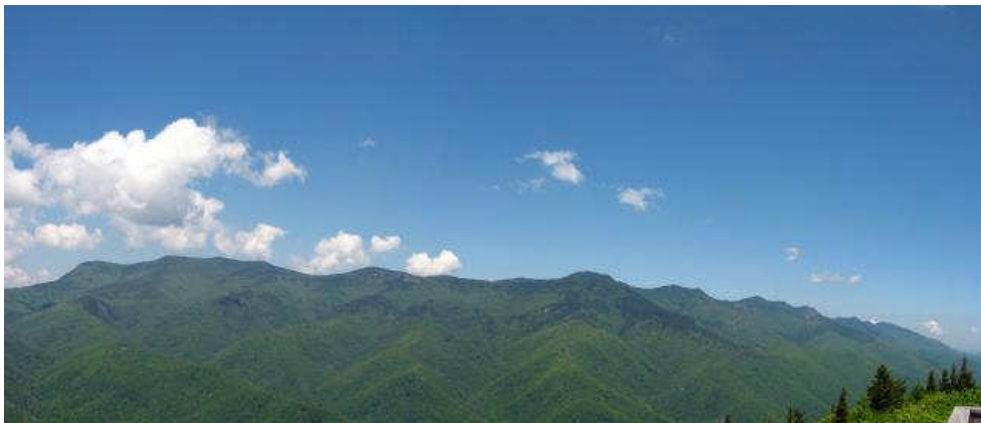
NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBER UPDATES

Wally and Sonya have returned from their tour of 13 states, 3,230 mile and 17 days. Cecil and Connie Myers celebrated their 67th anniversary at breakfast.



ROAD TRIP

The travel committee is planning a September mountain trip. Stay Tuned!



A DAY AT THE RACE TRACK

By Cliff Berry

At our July breakfast, I sat with Mini driving school instructor Phil Wicks and his wife Norree, who invited me out to Carolina Motorsports Park for an opportunity to drive my MGB around the track and to witness one of his classes in session. You don't have to ask me twice for a chance to drive on a race track, so Sunday a week later I drove up to Kershaw to the CMP.



Phil limits his classes to two students per day. This particular weekend he had only one student and that student had driven his Mini Cooper Works Edition all the way from Alabama to be instructed by Phil. When I arrived, they had just returned from a session on the track and he and Phil were reviewing his times.

Track days at CMP are divided into three 20 minute session per hour – one for motorcycles, one for novices and one for more experienced drivers. In addition to Phil and his student that Sunday, there were about 20 motorcycles, two or three track prepared Porsche 911s, a Miata, a 1955 Chevrolet stock car racer set up for road courses, a Birkin/Lotus 7 (which surprisingly was sidelined by an electrical problem) and several others.



Around lunch time, the course is opened for Touring laps and this is when Phil and I were able to take my MG onto the track. We did three laps with Phil pointing out braking points and apexes as we went. Phil cautioned me not to exceed 60 mph and I probably didn't go over 50 on the straights, but I did zip through some corners fairly quickly. However, three laps is not nearly enough time to learn a course like the CMP. I gained plenty of respect for a driver who can remember each braking point and each corner because I certainly couldn't!

CMP also has a go-kart road course track that is completely separate from the main course where karts are available for rent - \$20 for 10 minutes. These are not go-karts like you find at Frankie's Fun Park. These are Birel N-35 Rock karts with 9 horsepower Honda engines and they go close to 50 mph on the straights! So of course I had to try one. It was fun and it was terrifying! After braking hard for a corner, the kart just slides through but you just have to keep your foot down and hold on. I didn't spin out but I came close. I got passed twice but the second time the kart that passed me spun out within a few turns because he made the mistake of looking back at me rather than concentrating on the course ahead. When they flagged me in, I was ready and relieved that I was still alive.



The whole day was great fun and I am grateful to Phil for inviting me. CMP is an excellent facility for training and practice. There is a staffed concession stand with sandwiches and snacks. The tech shed is a large roof only structure about 200 feet long which gives car and bike owners a place out of the sun to prep their machines. They also have a timing building with a classroom that Phil uses and a club house for members and special events. For more information about CMP, go to www.carolinamotorsportspark.com.

2011 CAR SHOWS AND EVENTS

August 6 – Breakfast Golden Corral Forest Drive

August 19-20 – SUMC Garage Sale Adger and Devine

September 3 – Breakfast Golden Corral Forest Drive

September 5 – Labor Day

Sep 10 & 11 - 9:00AM - CLUB EVENT - Drive in the Mountains - Mike Speer arranging - Details to follow.

September 15-18 – Greek Festival

Sep 24 - 10AM - Hendersonville Car Show

October 1 - Breakfast

October 15-16 – 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 - 6:00 PM Annual Christmas Dinner at Marcie and Mike Speer's, 6 West Lake Road, Columbia, SC 29223 (Spring Valley)



MGB Registry

Photos: Breakfast & Carolina Motorsports Park - Cliff Berry
Black Mountain Ridgeline - Matt Mutel, NC State Parks Image Database

