

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



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**BREAKFAST 08/06/2011**

Those attending were Dave and Jeni Behning, Cliff Berry, Bob Blundy, Thomas Caine, Lonnie Caughman, Fred and Betty DeShong, Mike Eckhart, Bruce and Donna Edge, Eric and Bonnie Gibeaut, Clark and Elizabeth Gregory, Charley and Edith Hylton, Ron and Jerri Jarosz, Hal Kievlan and Gail Bragg, Ron Kuebler, Stan Lacy, Dennis Lambries, Cecil and Connie Myers, Chris and Brenda Powell, Steve Ratcliffe and Madell Dobrushin, Mike Speer, Ed and Donna Stanfield, Wally and Sonya Stewart. Guests were Dennis Cassillo has bought the Wiks' TR-7 and Bob and Noel Faulkner.

We had four charter members at our breakfast: Chris Powell, Lonnie Caughman, Ed Stanfield, and Bruce Edge. These guys, along with a few others, are the ones that have us where we are today. Let's keep it rolling.



Don't ya love a parade?

### **NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBER UPDATES**

Bob and Noel Faulkner have a 71 TR6 and joined the club at breakfast. He also has a 1953 Jaguar XK 120 in use and a 1974 MGB under restoration.

Dennis and Karen Cassillo have joined us and drive a 1980 TR7.

Birthdays include Madell, Chris, Connie and Fred, anniversary for Ed and Donna.

Brenda Powell has finished her chemo & radiation treatments, and is doing well. Chris is rebounding also. He is currently working on another project, which is a flathead Ford Model A, " with a few mods," of course.

Tom and Maria Comerford are new members and have a 1985 Jaguar XJ6 and an Austin America.

### **ROAD TRIP**

We have a mountain trip planned for September 9-11. We'll be staying in Asheville this year. A trip on the Blue Ridge parkway is on Saturday's agenda. Not to worry, we'll return to the hotel in time to watch the USC/GA game in the late afternoon.

Mike Speer has reserved nine rooms for us at the Red Roof Inn in Asheville, NC for \$67 a night. If we need more rooms, it will be on a first come first served basis. You need to let me know as soon as possible if you want to go. The plan is to leave on Friday, the 9th of Sept., and return on Sunday, the 11th. We will do a Blue Ridge Parkway drive on Saturday to Mount Mitchell, and have lunch at the Mt. Mitchell restaurant. We did this two years ago, and it was great! Get your name on the list, and I will keep you posted. **Fred**



Mike and info about the mountain trip

## **EURO 2011**

To read about this year's event, go to <http://euroautofestival.com/>

This site is updated periodically so you should check back often. Information concerning guest speaker will be announced next week.

2011's Marque is the **Austin-Healey Sprite/Midget**. The Honorary Marque is **Jaguar XKE**.

This year you have the ability to register on line for the car show, the tours, the tech sessions, banquet and reception.

If you prefer, you can also print out a registration form and mail it in. You will receive a confirming email after it is received. This printout is found at <http://euroautofestival.com/registration.html>

Links for the EURO Merchandise can also be found on our home page. If you want something special, be sure to preorder --- some items will NOT be available if you do not pre-order them. Merchandise includes men's and women's apparel. If you would like children's shirts, please notify us.

We expect the available registrations to fill up quickly. So, we would like to offer you the opportunity to reserve your spot at a reduced early bird rate! To RSVP, [click here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you,

### **Registration**

Linda Barber

euroregistration@hotmail.com

## **23RD ANNUAL "MGS ON THE GREEN"**

on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at its new location, Lion's Club, 507 Patricia Ave, Harrisburg, NC with much of the proceeds to benefit the Harrisburg Lions Club.

As always, "MGs on the Green" is a free (no registration or entrance fee), family fun event that focuses on the people who own British cars and fellowship with other British car enthusiasts. Your car doesn't have to be show quality to be entered or appreciated. The featured marque is of course MG, however, other British cars are welcome and expected. The cars will be displayed in mixed groups on the green grass in the cool shade of the plentiful trees. There will be dash plaques for all, a few awards and lots of raffle items. The raffles on donated items are always a highlight of "MGs on the Green" and a lot of fun.

A special Metrolina MG Car Club T-Shirt was designed for this year's MGs on the Green event with the British transit logo on the upper left front & it will also have an MG logo on the sleeve. There is a limited production of the t-shirt, so we recommend getting your orders in by August 26th to ensure you get one! Simply complete the registration form & mail your check (payable to Metrolina MG Car Club) to: MGs on the Green P.O. Box 512 Norwood, NC 28128-0512

We strongly recommend pre-ordering your t-shirt as limited quantities of this quality 6.1 ounce event T-Shirt will be available for \$15.00 on the day of the event.

Harrisburg Lions Club will have your favorite fun foods available for sale such as hot dogs, hamburgers and more. There is inside & outside dining available on-site.

Pre-registration along with pre-ordering of t-shirts is encouraged to assist in event planning. All types of British cars are welcome to participate!

Please contact Bob White (704 907-0986) or Ray Sawyer (704 321-5314) for more information.

Thank you & we hope to see you there!

Metrolina MG Car Club, Inc. 704 907-0986

**DUES**

Members that did not pay dues by August 15 have been dropped from the roster.

**CAR SHOW**

One last item from the May car show – The club made charitable donations to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Mental Health Research, Cancer Research and Alzheimer’s Research.

**OCTOBER REMINDER**

Ron J reminded us that NAMBGR will be checking our club memberships in October. We need 8 members to qualify for the \$1,000,000 insurance coverage. You don’t have to own an MG to belong, either. The club must have this coverage to have a car show. [www.nambgr.com](http://www.nambgr.com) is the website.

**NOVEMBER AGM**

We will elect officers at this annual IMPORTANT event. It’s scheduled for November 12.

## TIRE KICKING IN WEST PALM BEACH

By Cliff Berry

West Palm Beach, FL – West Palm Beach is a beautiful city with many fine attractions. But for a car nut, one of its most unique appeals is its many exotic car dealerships. While visiting my daughter, who recently moved to West Palm Beach, I asked her husband to give me a tour of these uncommon establishments.



Our first stop was Palm Motor Cars, purveyor of Aston Martins, Jaguars and Fiskers. I explained to sales consultant John Thompson that I was just a tourist but was writing an article for my British car club's newsletter. John graciously invited me into the showroom and even pointed out vantage points for pictures of the dealership. The Aston Martins were absolutely stunning. After posing for a photo in a V-12 powered 4-door Virage, I was almost overcome by an urge to begin introducing myself to strangers by last name, first name, last name – Berry, Cliff Berry.



Next, we went to the local Lamborghini store, where I admit I feared we might be turned away since it was obvious we were just a couple of rubber neckers. That was not the case at all, as Ron Levinson of Lamborghini Palm Beach invited us into his office where for over an hour he regaled us with stories of his father Herb's collection of cars. Opening up a carefully notated photo album, Ron told us of the many cars that passed through his father's hands, many of which were British, such as lovely MG TD and a gorgeous Jaguar XK-120.



Ron, like his father Herb, is a true car enthusiast and obviously enjoys his work. As we walked through the showroom filled with beautiful machinery, Ron's passion was clear as he spoke.





The two-story building that houses the Ferrari of Palm Beach dealership is almost as impressive as the cars inside. The glass floor of the second level allows an interesting view of the cars from below. Sales advisor Bud Root was extremely courteous and welcoming, especially since he was in the process of completing a sale to one particularly fortunate individual. In the meantime, we gawked and drooled at the surprisingly many examples of fine Italian craftsmanship on hand. Shamelessly, we waited and watched from a nearby

bench while the sale was completed and the new owner drove away. Later, Bud even let us have a peek at the state of the art service department.



Right next door and part of the same dealership is the Maserati showroom. Sales advisor Fabio Azevedo greeted us warmly and educated us about various features of Maseratis, such as the beautiful and lustrous pearl white paint which coated one Quattraporte in the showroom, an \$11,000 upgrade. He also told us about another important service they provide for absentee owners – storage. Many Palm Beach residents are seasonal, it seems, and need someone to keep their cars in an air conditioned environment and crank them up weekly to be sure the batteries don't go dead. I suppose someone has to do it.





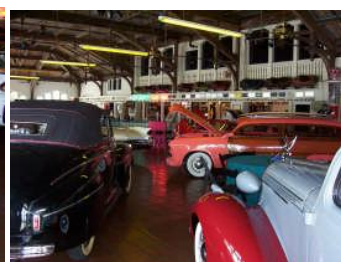
At the Palm Beach Bentley and Rolls Royce dealership, the atmosphere was a bit more rarefied but client advisor Jeffery Jacknin kindly allowed us to kick the tires – figuratively speaking, of course.



From Bentley Supersports to Rolls Royce Phantoms, we oohed and aahed at the luxurious accommodations and beautiful attention to detail. One of those details, perhaps silly but still impressive, is how the center RR insignia on the Roll Royce wheels is always upright rather than turning over with the rotation of the wheel. How do they do that?



Not every interesting automotive attraction in West Palm Beach is a new car dealership, however. Ragtops Motorcars deals in classic automobiles, both foreign and domestic, while utilizing its inventory and its unique sales warehouse as a special events facility. CEO Ty Houck's two story combination showroom/event ballroom houses vintage American iron such as Mustangs, GTOs and Cadillacs as well as several Porsches, a Viper and even a rarely seen MG Y-type, which is a somewhat larger four seat model similar to T-series MGs.



So many cars, so little time. This part of my vacation was like a trip to an automotive theme park to me. Everyone at all the various dealerships was exceptionally kind and welcoming and I would like to thank them all. If you are ever in West Palm Beach, go see for yourself.

## **2011 CAR SHOWS AND EVENTS**

*September 3 - 9:00AM - CLUB EVENT - Breakfast at The Golden Corral, Forest Drive near Ft Jackson.*

**USC/ECU game in Charlotte; Troy at CU**

**September 5 – Labor Day**

*September 9-11 - 9:00AM - CLUB EVENT – Asheville Drive On The Blue Ridge Parkway, Mike Speer arranging.*

**September 10 USC at GA game; Wofford at CU**

**September 15-18 – Greek Festival**

**September 17 – Navy at USC; Auburn at CU**

*September 24 - 10AM - Hendersonville Car Show*

**Vandy at USC; FSU at CU**

*October 1 - 9:00AM - Breakfast at Ryans, Bower Pkwy*

**Auburn at USC; CU at VTU**

**October 8 Vandy at USC; BC at CU**

**October 15 – USC at MS State; CU at Maryland**

*October 15/16 - 10:00AM - Euro 2011 Greenville/Greer Car Show.*

**October 22 – - 10:00AM - 27th Annual Charleston British Car Show**

**UNC at CU**

**October 29 - USC at TN Knoxville; CU at GT**

*November 5 - 9:00AM Breakfast at Ryans, Bower Pkwy*

*2011 Brits at the Poplar Grove Plantation Car Show, Rt 17, Wilmington, NC*

**USC at Ark**

**November 12 - Annual Dinner & Officer Elections**

**FL at USC; WFU at CU**

**November 19 - Citadel at USC; NCS at CU**

**November 24 –Thanksgiving**

**November 26 – Clemson at USC**

*December 3 - 6:00PM - No Monthly Breakfast - Annual Christmas Dinner at Marcie and Mike Speer's, 6 Westlake Road, Columbia, SC 29223 (Spring Valley)*

**SEC and ACC Championship games**

2012

**April 27-29 – The Mitty, Road Atlanta, GA**

**June – MG Gathering**



MGB Registry

Photos from Cliff Berry