

THE TUCSON BRITISH CAR



# REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

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## Classic Cars in the COVID Era



It seems unseemly to be whining about what COVID 19 is doing to vintage car activities so I'm not complaining, rather I'm just looking around and commenting. From our TBCR perspective it's obvious there's little of the social routine, whether its Tuesday coffee, Cars & Coffee or Little Anthony's. There is Zoom on Tuesday and I must say I've enjoyed those. There's also email and the phone. If you have not heard from a TBCR pal, give them a call, maybe invite them to Zoom coffee. Of course there's also the newsletter and our website. These venues offer both reading and writing potential. See these pages for examples from Marc and Jeff.

How about driving? These days the only thing stopping you is the weather. Get out on the road, the fresh air (not so fresh in some TBCR cars) will do you good. Don't like to drive alone? Find a TBCR member or two in your part of town and meet for a drive. It's easy to keep the social distance in a parking lot and on the road. If you are invited to an informal drive, do it if you want. Several met up recently and it involved no close encounters, just driving.

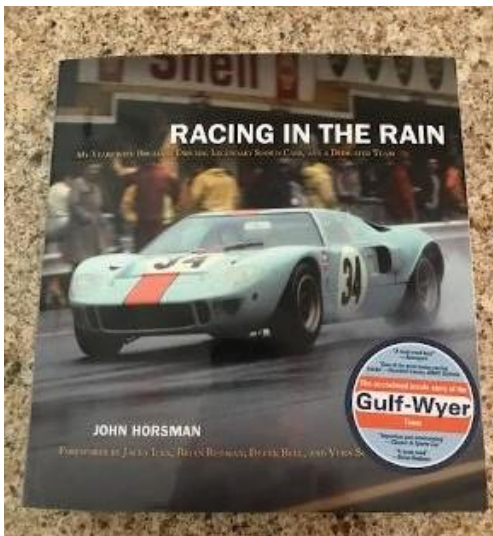
*Continued on page 7.*

# Remembering John Horsman



## John Hargreaves Horsman

I don't know how many of us look at the local obituaries in the paper, but sometimes a person who passed away will capture our interest. That person may have been a part of Tucson history or somebody that you used to work with years ago. In my case, I happen to run across an obit about John Horsman. I don't know how many of you ever met him, although he lived in Tucson for a number of years near Camino Seco and Pantano. I was lucky to meet him two times, once at the Tubac car show and once at his house where he gave me a signed copy of the book he wrote, *Racing in the Rain, My Years with Brilliant Drivers, Legendary Sports cars and a Dedicated Team*.



To plagiarize, I found some historical information on John: After completing military service as an officer in the Royal Air Force, he graduated with honors in Mechanical Sciences from Christ's College in Cambridge. He was a leading engineer, Technical Manager and Team Director in endurance sports cars at Le Mans, and Daytona 24 hour races. During his career of 40 years, he was responsible for the development, construction and race preparation of the iconic Gulf-sponsored blue and orange livered Ford GT-40's, Porsche 917's and Mirages. John's short-tail design on the Porsche 917 turned it from a fast but unstable car into one of the greatest sports racing cars of all time.

The second time I met John, was at his house, his wife Janet gave me "tea and crumpets" and he led me over to his book shelf in his sitting room and showed me the 1975 Le Mans trophy as he handed me the signed book.....pretty awesome!!!

Marc Koenig  
'65 Sunbeam Alpine

# Events Calendar

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TBCR Website  
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Photos:  
Staff

## Tuesday Brit Café via Zoom - New Time

Tuesday's Zoom coffee is 8:00am every Tuesday. An email to all TBCR is sent on Mondays with the zoom meeting link. If you are not seeing that, or the link is incomplete, or a password is missing, just contact the newsletter editor.

## The Tucson Classics Car Show

From the Rotary Club of Tucson:

*Due to the recent increased outbreak of COVID-19 in Arizona, it is with a heavy heart that the Executive Committee for the 2020 Tucson Classics Car Show has made the decision to postpone our 2020 October 17th show until October 16, 2021. We are all disappointed, but we believe the safety of our vehicle owners, club members, volunteers, vendors, and customers would be put too much at risk. We are deeply sorry we will not be seeing your fabulous vehicle this year. However, there will be a raffle drawing! Tickets are only \$5 each! We will give away the following on October 17, 2020 at 3:30 pm: 1. Grand Prize 2007 Corvette or \$15,000..... (other prizes, charities, details have been edited out – check their website for all that –the Editor).*

*.... We greatly appreciate you, our valued vehicle owners. We will truly miss you this year, but hope you win one of our raffle prizes. We value your continued support of our show and look forward to seeing you next year on October 16, 2021 (always the 3rd Saturday of October). Visit our website [www.tucsonclassicscarshow.com](http://www.tucsonclassicscarshow.com) for updates on our on-line auction and other news.*

*Thank you for understanding as we transition to a raffle and on-line auction fund raiser this year! Sincerely, Your Tucson Classics Car Show Registration Team 2020 Tucson Classics Car Show.*

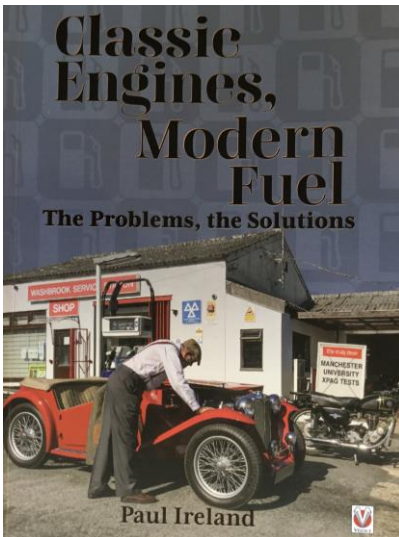
## British Wheels on the Green

From the AZ MG Club:

*The BWOG 2020 Planning Committee recently met to discuss this year's show, scheduled for Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is still too soon to predict the full impact that the COVID-19 virus may have on this year's event. Rather than make inflexible or finite decisions based solely on the virus factors of today, the Committee has agreed to proceed with planning for a full featured show, while also preparing contingency plans and alternatives.*

*Continued on page 7.*

# From the Bonnet to the Boot



CLASSIC ENGINES, MODERN FUEL by Paul Ireland

Published earlier this year by Veloce Publishing Limited, it is the only up-to-date reference that I know of that address the problems using the currently available ethanol blended, lead free, fuel in older English built engines. Ireland has a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and is a long time MG TC owner so he has a first-hand understanding of the problems and the need for fact-based solutions. Unlike most other tuning guides and internet perpetuated opinions and half-truths, the material in this book was actually developed in the Engineering lab of the University of Manchester. Most of the data was developed using a small displacement British inline four-cylinder engine with dual “SU” carbs so are directly applicable to our cars. The research data is presented clearly, using numerous charts, drawings, photos, and graphs. The text is clearly written and easy to understand.

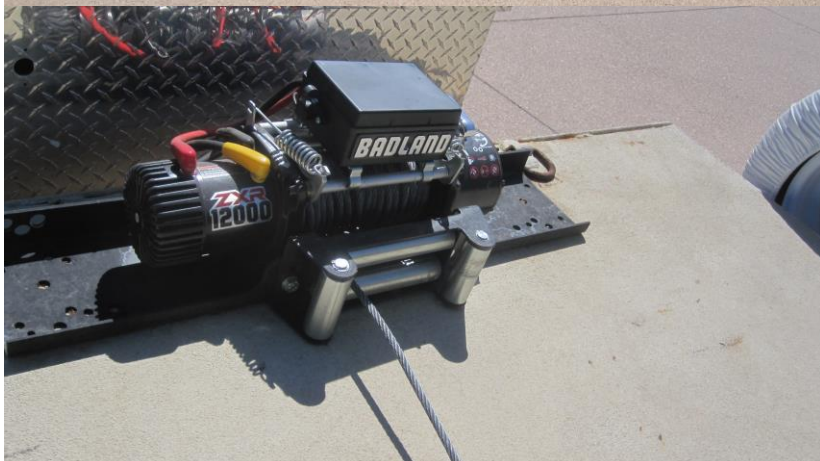
The book first covers the characteristics of current fuels and the effects their formulation changes make to the operation of the engine. Further, it suggests changes to the ignition and carburation necessary to address use these fuels. Overall, a lot of very interesting and useful information in a little book. I think everyone will find at least several of their long-held ideas being turned upside down and around. Maybe more importantly, we can drive knowing our older engines are better tuned and not in danger of an early demise due to the fuel with which we are stuck. I expect I will be referring to this book quite often.

Just my opinion. Jeff Simpson

*Editor's note: This book is available on Amazon for \$20.27.*



## For Sale



**Carson car hauler**, custom champagne paint, new spare wheel & tire, tandem axles, electric brakes, steel deck, 12000lb electric winch (battery included), aluminum storage box with new tie down straps. Current Arizona license Plate.  
\$3000.00

Contact Len Wheeler, 520-296-7971  
or [lenscats@comcast.net](mailto:lenscats@comcast.net)



## **Events continued**

### **British Wheels on the Green**

From the AZ MG Club:

*Key decisions already made:*

- 1. The show will be held on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of November 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- 2. The Arizona MG Club will again host a hotel social hour for out-of-town show entrants at a local hotel. Options for an outdoor social gathering are being researched.*
- 3. The show will comply with virus spread precautions required by the City of Peoria, Maricopa County, State of Arizona, and the US CDC. This may include: enhanced handwashing facilities, face masks for entrants and the public, and socially distanced cars and owners.*
- 4. Show registration will open later this year, likely by September 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- 5. Advertising of the show to the general public will be deferred, allowing the Planning Committee to assess public health conditions over the next few months.*
- 6. The Arizona MG Club will prepare car class layout options that support greater spacing of the cars and spectators.*

*The show will only be a success if we have widespread participation from both new and prior show entrants. For this reason, the Arizona MG Club would like to gauge your intent to participate by inviting you to answer a few questions in the brief and confidential survey below.*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FWG679M>

*Thank you for your help and we look forward to seeing you at the show on November 1, 2020.*

### **BRITISH WHEELS ON THE GREEN**

**Sunday, November 1, 2020**

[www.britishwheels-az.info](http://www.britishwheels-az.info)

**Organized and hosted by the Arizona MG Club**

<http://www.azmgclub.org/>

## COVID continued

Car shows? They are the big casualty in the car world. Tucson Classics pulled the plug. British Wheels on the Green is still on, maybe (see Events page 3). Pebble Beach and most of the related shows and events cancelled early. The New York Times reported on the effect on the Monterey Peninsula: a loss of 80,000 visitors and \$55 Million in economic activity and \$5 million in tax collections. Carmel reports they could lose fifty percent of their town revenue.

Live auctions are in the same boat as the big players scramble to maximize online options. The big winner so far may be Bring a Trailer. This San Francisco based business has of course always been online and as such has built a follower base and the infrastructure to keep right on going.

So, forget about dusting off the car for a car show, but do drive. If you have AC in the garage, or at least a fan, get going on a project. I've got one just waiting for me. When that gets old, check out BOT or better yet read a book (see page 4). And by all means stay in touch! That means Tuesday Zoom, an informal drive or just a call.

John Mead, AKA the Ed.

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## From the Archives

DESERT OCTAGON



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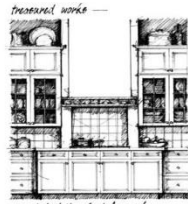


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