

THE TUCSON BRITISH CAR



# REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

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## DM-50 Car Show





## On the Road      Patagonia for Lunch



The BLAT tour to Patagonia started out in true April pre summer fashion with very temperate temperatures, although there was dust in the atmosphere which softened the mountain vistas. We started out with four cars which were enhanced by folks from Green Valley, Sierra Vista and Douglas!

We had lunch at the new location for the Velvet Elvis restaurant. The theme was a rehabilitated building in the fashion of an old mission. The new restaurant was much larger and as the pictures show much better than the old version. Oh yes, the food was quick and excellent! It was a very nice mid week tour!

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## Calendar

### Saturday May 6 TBCR Drive

### Saturday May 20 TBCR Drive

**Saturday June 3 TBCR Phantom Car Show** 7:30am. This will be on southeast side of Park place Mall parking lot, if available. Watch for updates.

### Saturday October 21 Tucson Classics Car Show.

**Every Tuesday**—Brit Coffee 7am to 9am, Starbucks at NW corner of Swan and Ft Lowell. Join in and enjoy the car talk and car walk.

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## TBCR Seasonal News

- Passing the baton: It is time for Marc Koenig to assume the leader position while I'm out of town for a few months.
- Holiday Party: We are planning our December 2nd Holiday Party. Ed Smith, our Holiday Party Chairman, has found an interesting venue and is negotiating the menu and the prices. We feel that after our three-year holiday party hiatus this event will be a well-attended event.
- Summer Events: There will be many activities our Tour Director will host over the summer. Monthly tours and special events (like the Phantom Car Show) are on the schedule.
- Dues Collection: After a three-year lull in dues collection for current members, we will be resuming our \$35 2024 full membership dues collection. (Annual dues for current members were suspended due to Covid.) With Covid mostly behind us, we hope everyone will renew! Dues will be collected at our November Hot Dog Run. Please use the on-link Webmaster Harold Beekhuizen created for paying your dues online. The credit card payment method is quick, easy and less work for our Treasurer. We would like your dues to be in before January 1, 2024.

## The Prez Sez

### Seasonal Changes: Snowbird Migration Time

Several of our members are snowbirds. While some migrate earlier than May, it seems this time of year is when most of them make the transition to northern locales. In some cases, our local Arizona peers move to northern Arizona or mountain areas where temperatures are more moderate.

Getting ready for the migration includes gathering and packing items to ease the trip. Shutting down the southern Arizona home for a few months may include ensuring our homes are secure and tidy for our return. There is always some planning that goes into the journeys. Some of us drive to our destination, while others make reservations to fly. Weather always plays a role. Cleaning out the food which won't be viable after an absence is part of the ritual. As launch time gets closer, the food selection becomes rather sparse as we might feel guilty about throwing out expired / ruined food... and we certainly don't want to be welcomed to "science projects" on our return. Turning off appliances and water are important items on our checklists too. It's silly to pay a utility company for hot water or refrigerated items.



When the snowbirds get to their destination there are several things to do. Open up the slumbering house, turn on utility items, unpack and get groceries are priorities. Then there is checking for damages that critters have left for us. Sometimes all is well. Other times, not so much.

Recently my older brother had a visit from a recent black bear, just out of hibernation that looked rather scrawny. The bear was checking out - no eating - the feeder contents on their patio door bird feeders. Scary!



## Members and Their Cars

I am a little late to the party .. I enjoyed my cars and as a member of the Car Nuts never missed a parade or car show until I got too old to crawl under them and change the oil.



*My first British car was back in the 80's.* We noticed a 1950 Bentley parked at the curb in Scottsdale AZ. It looked well-worn and sad, but we stopped to look. The owner had everything he owned in the front yard for sale. He approached us and asked if we liked the car, I replied in the affirmative. He handed me the keys and said drive it around the block. We did and then I asked how much. He said \$800, take it home and bring me to money tomorrow and I will give you the title. Our next trip was to find a restorer and we settled on British Cars in Phoenix.

He kept the car over two years while we were living out of state. The phone calls were monthly with progress reports and a request for money. When we took delivery, it looked like new. Paint, upholstery, tires and the drive train completely rebuilt. Twelve years later we sold it to a Texas couple.



*Why I wanted a Woodie I will never know,* they rattle and squeak going down the road but nevertheless less I spotted an ad for a '49 Alvis TA 14 Shooting Brake in the UK. I sent the owner an email and he called. We settled on a price, and he shipped the car to LA on a transport surrounded by 5000 Mini-Coopers.

We trailered it home and learned it was once owned by Jack Straw. I sent him a letter and received a reply return address was #10 Downing Street. He sent me a thank you note that said they used the car to campaign when he was running for office. you note that said they used the car to campaign when he was running for office and thanked me for letting him know the car was across the pond. It was a nice car but much too slow on the US highways for my taste.



*And finally, while visiting family in St Louis I saw a 1953 **Alvis TA 21 Drop Head** for sale in a classic car showroom. It was powered by a 265 Chevy engine and transmission. I made an offer and it arrived at our home in Green Valley a few weeks later. We loved the car and sent it to a shop in Tucson for a new 350 engine and transmission. The original owner was still living in Phoenix and came down to take a drive.*

Rumors were that it was once owned by George Reeves, star of the 50s TV Superman series. In the glove box was a photo of Reeves looking under the hood of the car but no verifiable proof. It was fun car and was eventually sold to a classic Car Museum in Florida.

So thats it ... at 87, all of our old cars and British classics are just a happy memory. We are still members of the Car Nuts, but not active. Our need for speed has been satisfied by our Tesla Model S Long Range which will cause a momentary driver blackout when put to the test. No repairs or oil to change, just fun driving.

Thanks for letting me share.

Bob Doss (La Posada)  
Green Valley, AZ

## For Sale

### 1975 MGB Project.

The prior owner, in the last years of his life, embarked on a complete restoration of a 1975 MGB Roadster. He refreshed the engine, started to do the needed body work, and accumulated many new parts to complete the car including, we are told, paint. More parts are available beyond what is seen in the pictures. The current owner inherited the car via a bequest from the prior owner. He would like to move the project on as a package to an interested person. The windshield glass appears to be intact.

Contact Bill Herron at 520-444-3062 or via email [bcHerron@yahoo.com](mailto:bcHerron@yahoo.com) Make Bill an offer. He is open to negotiations.



