

TUCSON BRITISH CAR **REGISTER**

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Tucson British Car Register P.O. Box 30997 Tucson, AZ 85751-0997

TBCR Website http://www.tucsonbritish.com

DECEMBER CALENDAR

By Ben Cohen Below is the schedule of upcoming events for **December**:

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday – 0700 to 0900+

Starbucks – Corner of Swan Rd & Fort Lowell Road

1st DRIVE

Saturday, December 7th – 07:30

BOARD PLANNING MEETING Tuesday, December 10th At the Tuesday Coffee starting at 0900 (+/-)

<u>HOLIDAY PARTY</u> Sunday, December 15th - 1300 to 1600

2nd DRIVE

Saturday, December 21st - 07:30

<u>BLAT</u>

December 18 or 19 - Watch for Details

Other Upcoming Events:

- January 5th Annual Business Meeting 1130
- January 25th SCV Car Nuts Car Show. Registration closes on 18 January

Volume 30 Number 11

In this Issue:

December Calendar

Announcements

Prez Sez

On the Road

- 1st Drive Nov 2nd
- 2nd Drive Nov 19th
- BLAT Oct 24
- HOT DOG RUN Nov 30th

Potpourri

- Welcome New Members
- Tech Matters
- For Sale
- Out of Bounds

The Articles, opinions, suggestions, and items sale printed in the *Register* are solely those of the authors or offerors and do not reflect the official policy or warranty of TBCR, its officers or members unless noted.

Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

URGENT!

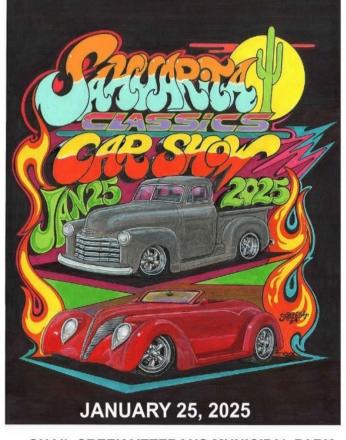
Holiday Party Sunday December 15th, 1-4 PM at Culinary Dropout.

It appears that interest in this event is waning as very few have shown interest in signing up on our web page and paying. It is only \$40 per person.

TBCR is partially subsidizing the event. In order to break even we need as many members to sign up as possible. It is held a BIG private room. We have space for many members and their guests.

SANTA CRUZ VALEY CAR NUTS CAR SHOW - 25 JANUARY 25

It is time to sign up for the show in Sahuarita on the 25th. Registration is on <u>www.carnuts.org</u> and closes on January 18th.



QUAIL CREEK VETERANS MUNICIPAL PARK 1905 S. OLD NOGALES HIGHWAY SAHUARITA, ARIZONA ON-LINE REGISTRATION BEGINS 01 OCTOBER 2024 www.carnuts.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

A REMINDER from the Treasurer

The not-so-great news is that dues are due by the end of this year and are delinquent on March 31, 2025. New members from October 2024 forward are paid for 2025. The good news is that dues remain at \$35 per year and include a spouse/significant other in events and activities. As usual, the club provides a gelato gathering, lunch at the Tour de Garages, Sonoran Hot Dogs for the election in November and subsidizes the Holiday Party. And there are great drives every month.

* * To make this easy on both members and the Treasury Team you have the following options:

- 1. Go to our web site: <u>tucsonbritish.com</u>. Click on "Shop", then the "Member Renewal" button. There you can pay by PayPal.
- 2. Send a check made out to and mailed to Tucson British Car Register, P.O. Box 30997, Tucson AZ 85751-0097. Since checks are not always personalized, please include your name on the check.
- 3. Pay in person by check or cash at the informal Tuesday Coffees. Our Treasurer, Dave Germain is there on most Tuesdays.
- 4. Pay in person by check or cash on Saturday, November 30th, TBCR HOT DOG RUN and TBCR Elections.

For any option, please send changes in car or contact info, or questions, to Dave Germain at <u>dkgermain6@gmail.com</u> or by a written note.

The Prez Sez

By Peter Williams

Each year we hold a few mandatory events. Three club business events fall into this category: Board Elections, Pre Annual Board Meeting event, and Annual Membership Meeting event. The dates are: 11/30/24, 12/10/24, 1/5/25 (respectively). By laws require sufficient advance notice so the members can attend if they wish.

Board Elections – 30 November 2024

Our election meeting will be held at the conclusion of our Hot Dog Run tour starting from San Xavier and ending at the Sonoran Hot Dog stand on Alvernon Way and Lee Street. After a sumptuous repast of a hot dog, bag of chips, a soda, and some sheet cakes, we will hold our business meeting. The nominations will be presented and voted on by those present. We hope you will attend and enjoy the food provided by the TBCR.

Pre-Annual Board Meeting – 10 December 2024

The next meeting is an organizational board meeting which will be held at Starbucks (Ft. Lowell & Swan) at 8:30 AM inside their building. This meeting is for the new board (elected members and appointed members) to organize their thoughts and activities for the coming Annual Membership in January.

The Prez Sez (Continued)

Annual Membership Meeting – 5 January 2025

The final meeting will be held at Brandi-Fenton Park (River Rd/Alvernon Way). There may be a quick local tour preceding the meeting. The membership will gather for a (BYO) picnic lunch at Noon with the meeting to follow (approximately 12:30 PM). Brief reports by elected and appointed members will be presented. You may come early and stay later as we have reserved the space all day. Board members will discuss club business and present reports. Annual awards will also be presented.

Our holiday party will be Sunday December 15, 2024, at Culinary Drop Out, Coop Room. This is a private room with plenty of space for us. The buffet luncheon (1 PM to 4 PM) food is very good with options for vegan and regular tastes. The fee is \$40 per person. Here is the link to the TBCR "Shop" web page: https://www.tucsonbritish.com/shop/ Choose the "Holiday Luncheon tab" <u>See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. Sign up NOW.</u> While TBCR is subsidizing the event, the more members that participate, the lower the overall cost will be to the club. If we need to change the size of the event we have a tight time frame (December 5th) to downsize the event to reduce our club's outstanding cost, (by about \$1,000).

Membership: We currently have 163 members. Many have paid the \$35 dues, <u>but for **those who have**</u> <u>**not, please pay your dues on line** (web page above - choose "Member Renewal"). Membership is for</u>

the member and their spouse or Significate Other. The dues rate is very reasonable compared to other car clubs. TBCR has held the line of dues for many years and absorbs the credit card transaction fee. This coming year, 2025, continues this tradition. In person payments - to an officer may also be made by check if necessary.

The next big car show (Sahuarita Car Show) is scheduled for January 25th, 2025. Online registration is available only - <u>www.carnuts.org</u>. There is no day of show registration. This is a well-attended event and a good show. Our British cars are separated from the hot rods. The venue is Quail Creek Veterans Municipal Park, 1905 South Old Nogales Highway and is split into two (soccer field) sections. There will be participant awards. This is a charity event that benefits Sahuarita Automotive Program and Walden Grove High Schools. December 1 the registration increases to \$40.

We look forward to continuing our tours, coffee and fun events in 2025.

Keep the round rubber on the road and the shiny bits up.

*Note: Lead times for articles created are past, present and future tense matters.

Pete Williams

ON THE ROAD By the Editor

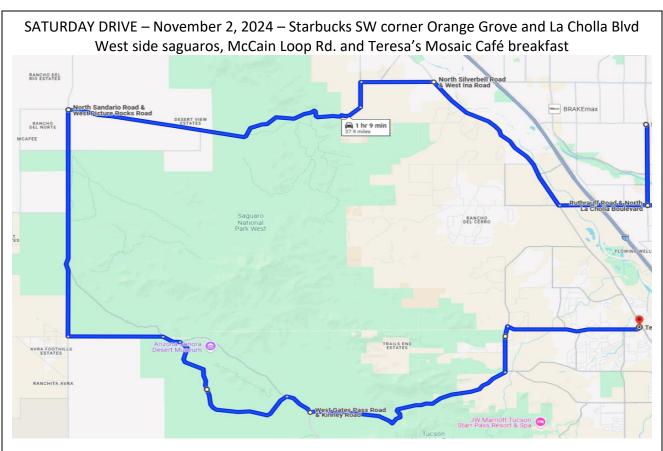
1st DRIVE – November 2nd – Starbucks on River and Stone up to the Northwest

A little chilly morning but a good turnout.









- Exit south [R] on La Cholla Blvd and continue crossing the Rillito River
- Go west [R] on Ruthrauff Rd and follow over I-10 onto Camino del Cerro
- Go north [R] on Silverbell Rd
- Go west [L] on Ina Rd
- Follow Ina Rd left onto Wade Rd then right onto Picture Rocks Rd and enjoy the saguaros
- Go south [L] on Sandario Rd
- Go east [R] on Mile Wide Rd which will become Kinney Rd eastbound
- Go south [R] on McCain Loop Rd and check out the views but watch for cyclists!!!
- Go east [R] on Kinney Rd, which turns south
- Go east [L] on Gates Pass Rd and hope for no RVs or sightseers to spoil our fun
- Once up and over the top of the mountains, again, watch for cyclists
- Go north [L] on Camino de Oeste
- Go east [R] on Ironwood Hills Dr
- As you pass Greasewood Dr watch on your LEFT for the McDs and turn LEFT into their entrance but go past the McDs and Teresa's Mosaic Café is on the right...
- ENJOY!!!

<u>2ND DRIVE – November 16th – Starting at Park Place Mall then touring the SW ending at Sunny Daze Café.</u>

Smaller group (we all sat at one table) but great weather, great drive and good food.

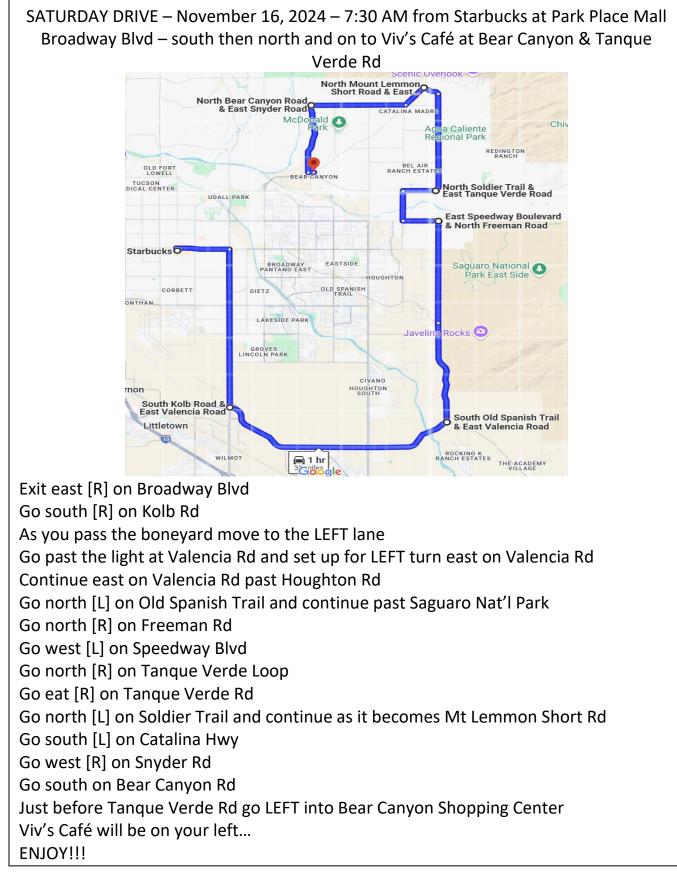








New Member Nathan Abel



BRITISH WHEELS ON THE GREEN CAR SHOW – November 16th - Peoria, AZ

By Peter Williams

The original show was canceled due to pending inclement weather. The organizers stated they didn't want to damage the show field and expose fragile British cars to adverse weather. The postponed show was held on November 16th. Of the 150 original entrants, around 100 were present. Some out-of-town entrants, who had to cancel motel reservations lost money in the situation.

In our case, we left the Circle K on west Grant at 7:15 AM. We traveled via the freeways to the destination arriving in Peoria about 9:40 AM. Other members who live in the northern Tucson area drove up the back roads to the event. About 10 TBCR members were at the show. Some were spectators.

None of our members won anything. There were several special interest cars on the show field. The 2 day of show drives make it a very long day. All in all, it's an excellent show.









BLAT – November 21, 2024 – Up the mountain to Sawmill Restaurant

By Peter Williams

[Editor's Note: I did the launch for the drive. It certainly raised the bar on the term "herding cats"! It made one think that it was a Tuesday Coffee at Starbuck's where there are separate groups spread about surrounding someone's LBC chatting it up. Finally managed to get everyone in their car and off. It's all fun.]

Our Mt Lemmon tour launched at 10 AM. We stopped at Windy Point for a bio-break and to take in the view. There was smoke in the lower elevations from controlled burns north of the mountain that obscured long distance details. After the view we crossed the highway and continued to the Sawmill Restaurant for lunch. While there were snowplow warning signs, we only encountered a road crew filling potholes. However, there was a slight accumulation of snow on the north facing shaded hills. There were about 20 members who enjoyed lunch. Afterwards we returned to Tucson. While it was warm on the mountain, it was balmy in town. One thing that slowed our descent from the peak was bike riders taking up the entire traffic lane. Yes, the bikes were zipping along mostly above the speed limit, our drivers couldn't pass them due to the double yellow lane markers. In all it was a good tour.

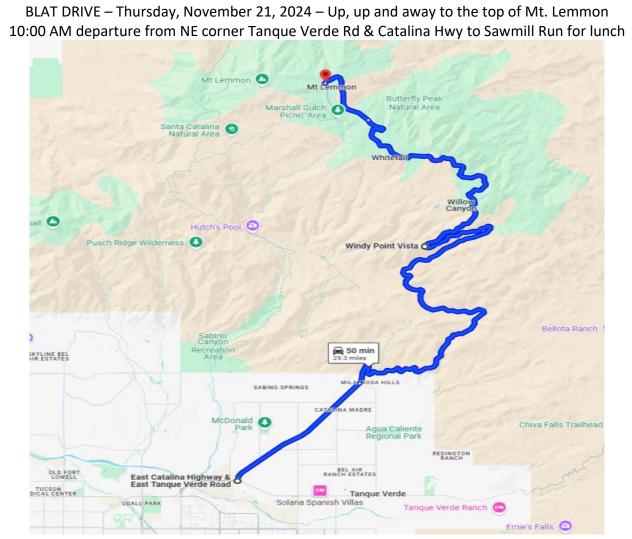












This one is easy-peasy – you can't get lost…or can you??? Exit north [R] on Catalina Hwy

Continue up and up to mile post 16 and Windy Point Overlook Stop, relax and take in the view

Continue up to Summerhaven – not to Ski Valley – unless we decide otherwise

Lunch is at the Sawmill Run Restaurant. Other options are Mt Lemmon Lodge or Cookie Cafe, or you could picnic, if you like... ENJOY!!!

2024 Hot Dog Run – November 30, 2024 – Departing Mission San Xavier to Hot Dog Heaven at SE Corner Alvernon Way & Lee St.

There was a large attendance for the drive with many others showing up and filling the parking lot at the food truck at Alvernon Way and Lee St. Our hosts, (food truck) provided an additional area with another large tent with tables and chairs for us. The seating area was full and became a little crowded with overflow going to the north side of the tent. Everyone appeared to enjoy the "dogs" and the especially the cakes as they disappeared entirely.

The Election Meeting was called to order. Before the election event commenced there were two subjects discussed.

The first one was an award to a founding TBCR member, Jim Abbott, who was awarded a free lifetime membership to the Club.

The second subject was the status of the Holiday Party and the dire need for a greater attendance by Club members. The Club has until the 5th of December to confirm attendance with the vendor or downsize the event. The Club at the moment is subsidizing a significant amount with the current confirmed attendance. (Sign up at the TBCR web page: <u>https://www.tucsonbritish.com/product/holiday-luncheon/</u>)

John Mead led the election portion of the meeting. The election process commenced with the reading of the BOARD candidates for 2025. An invitation to nominate from the group was expressed. There were no additional nominees. Len Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Libbie Gabriel, to approve the current board members for another year for 2025. The group approved unanimously.

For Year 2025 the BOARD members are:

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Pete Williams Tim O'Keefe Marc Koenig Dave Germain

































- Exit to the north the go west [L] on San Xavier Rd and go SLOWLY Please.
- Go south [L] on Mission Rd. Go approximately 12 miles then go east [L] on Helmet Peak Rd. This continues as Sahuarita Rd after crossing I-19 in Green Valley.
- After 18 miles go north [L] on Houghton Rd (there is gas and restrooms at the SE corner of this intersection).
- Go west [L] on Dawn Rd (well-marked) and follow it around to the north onto Harrison.
- Follow Harrison until it turns west to become Rocket Stravenue.
- Go north [R] on Rita Rd. Go OVER I-10.
- Go west [L] on Old Vail Rd.
- Go west [L] on Valencia Rd.
- Go north [R] on Kolb Rd and continue north past Escalante and Stella.
- Go west [L] on Golf Links Rd. Go past Craycroft and Swan and then be in the RIGHT lane.
- Take the exit for N.B. Alvernon Way and follow it onto northbound Alvernon Way. Continue north. You will pass 22nd St., Broadway and 5th St. The next intersection is Speedway. There is a Speedway gas there with restrooms, if you need, as there are NO facilities in the vacant lot where we will have Sonoran Hot Dogs.
- Just north of Speedway the Hot Dog vendor's cart is on the SE corner of Alvernon Way and Lee St. You can enter from either Alvernon or Lee...just watch for the driveways and watch your mufflers on them.
- ENJOY!!!

By the Editor

WELCOME New Members

We have many new members this month: The total member count is 165.

- Rod Zehrung and Siggy Otter from Marana driving a 1957 Jaguar XK140 OTS, Blue, restored.
- **Zach Franklin** from the Catalina Foothills driving a white 2018 Audi A5.
- Tom Higgins and Carl from the west side of I-10 driving a 1979 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow II Ivory/Chestnut. – Tom's vehicle was accused of winning third place at St Greg's this year! [Editors!]
- Eric Tobin from the Catalina Foothills and searching for his "new" LBC.
- Kurt von Blanckensee from the Catalina Foothills and driving a Porsche 911. Kurt is a regular at Tuesday Coffee's.
- Walter and Jane Reifsnyder from Oro Valley are working on restoring an orange 1971 MGB GT.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

THE WILLIAMS FOLLY - The Saga Continues

MGB GT Engine Rebuild

By Pete Williams

Present Status

As you know, I am in the process of restoring a 1973 MGB GT. This will be my fourth article on this effort which I have taken on. There are previous articles in the March, April and May editions of The Register.

Currently, the frame and suspension system and bodywork are complete. This article addresses the next stop in the restoration addressing the work processes and challenges of the power train restoration. I will be including pictures of the various events as the work progressed to the rebuilt engine and the addition of a new 5 speed transmission.

On November 28, 2023, the GT engine rebuilding process began. It all started with a not so innocent engine/transmission "lump" being extracted from the '73 MGB GT. Along the way we made some discoveries which would have been catastrophic if we had tried to start the engine. After removal of the engine and transmission several machine shop work operations progressed. Then re-assembly started in the spring of 2024, shortly followed with the usual summer break in the Great Lakes Region. We are concluding the engine/transmission assembly this Fall. More work will continue into 2025.

Issues With the Engine:

<u>A hidden wayward bolt:</u> It was discovery during tear down that a bolt had self-extracted and was laying between the flywheel and the rear backing plate. If we had attempted to start the engine before fixing this issue, there would have been carnage.

<u>Sludge:</u> Any engine which has not had frequent oil changes will experience sludge building up in the oil pan and in the oil pickup screen and in oil passages. A large amount of sludge was removed from the oil pan. The clogged oil pickup screen assembly could not be cleaned.

TECHNICAL MATTERS (Continued)

MGB GT Engine Rebuild (Continued)



<u>Oil pump removal:</u> The sludge (above) required removal of the oil pump. The aluminum oil pump housing was fused to the cast iron block. Increased force was used to remove the pump which cleanly broke the lower oil pump housing in the block. This left the lower half of the pump embedded. What should have been done was to leave this for the machine shop to remove... Nope! I drilled it out. This caused another issue of scaring the block by eroding the internal socket oil pump face of the block. Would the new oil pump seal the new oil pump shaft to the block and ensure pressure?





<u>Crystals in the water pump and water jacket:</u> When the water pump was removed there it was solidly packed with green crystals which were caused by "*stop leak*". Yes, the radiator held pressure. It too was "blessed" with *stop leak*. The radiator was sent to Performance Radiator to ensure viability and cleaning. It passed the test. Areas behind the water pump, the block core (freeze) plugs (when removed) and the cylinder head water jackets also had deposits. The block and head needed to be boiled out, cleaned and brushed where possible.

<u>Block needed attention</u>: Initially we attempted to use old donor stock blocks in our possession and machine those. They were 18G engine versions. There were a few issues with that. First the 5 - speed transmission kit specified use with an 18V, 5-main bearing engine. The donor blocks were the incorrect versions. Also, the 18V block cylinders were over-bored by 0.030 of an inch. The crank was determined to be acceptable. The cam shaft was worn and replaced with new bearings installed. One piston rod had to be shaved. The flywheel was cleaned up and machined. George's Machine shop did each job quickly and well. The owner was pleasant, and the work done was great. Freeze plugs were also installed along the way. High temperature paint was added to the head and block.

<u>Miscellaneous</u>: A package of an assembled engine and transmission which came out of an MGB was obtained. This served as a backup in case the machined engine had a problem and needed to be replaced. Also, this served as an assembly template.



Next issue will address the actual reassembly of the engine.

WHAT IS IT?

This is a device of the past that was present in the late '70's and lingered on into the '90's depending on the vehicle manufacturer.



If you know what it is, please respond to seacocm@gmail.com or seacocminc@aol.com.

FOR SALE

1960 Healey 3000

This vehicle is being offered by **Marv James** who is a long-time member of TBCR. His message is as follows:

"Time to thin the herd.

Go back a few years and Kay and I did most breakfast runs and Blats in this car. Also, most of the Roadrunners and the similar spring run - I forget what we called it. It's been super reliable. If you have any interest, email me or give me a call and come look at it. Bored members just looking for something to do and tire kickers are welcome."

- Rust free unusual for a Healey
- Relatively low miles 48k
- The car was repainted by the first owner. It's still in good condition. It was originally white.
- New interior
- New top
- New tonneau
- Dayton wires, sealed for tubeless tires
- New battery









FOR SALE (Continued) 1960 Healey 3000 Continued)





If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message. I'm kind of a jerk and tend to ignore phone numbers I don't recognize.

Marv James britcrs@mac.com 520-971-8004

<u>1971 Lotus +2</u>

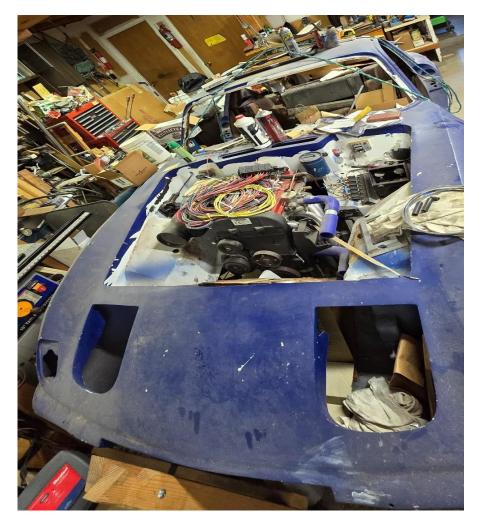
My father passed away last year before he could finish restoring his Lotus Elan+2. He was the original owner and brought it over from England in 1974 while we were stationed there for the military. My mother is looking to get this to another Lotus lover, so I am starting the legwork in trying to find such a person.

It is a 4-seater left hand drive. I believe the chassis frame is a replacement, as the original cracked in an accident around 1980. I know he had to redo some fiberglass body work on it, but I'm not sure of the extent. There is also another chassis in the backyard that fits it, which would go along with the car. He was working on the wiring harness before he got too ill to work on it. The new seats have been kept wrapped in plastic in their living room since he purchased them some time ago and are in fantastic condition. I believe the motor was rebuilt, although the new owner would need to lube and tune it up again. The windows are in good condition and have been kept in the garage and I think the interior resides there too. The dash/instrument panel may have been moved indoors in the living room as well, but I would need to double check. All in all, if I understood correctly, all or nearly all parts are there, but it would take someone with the knowhow to finish putting it back together.

If there is anyone interested, I would be happy to provide photos and get more precise details on everything.

Eric Stallard yodasbeast@yahoo.com

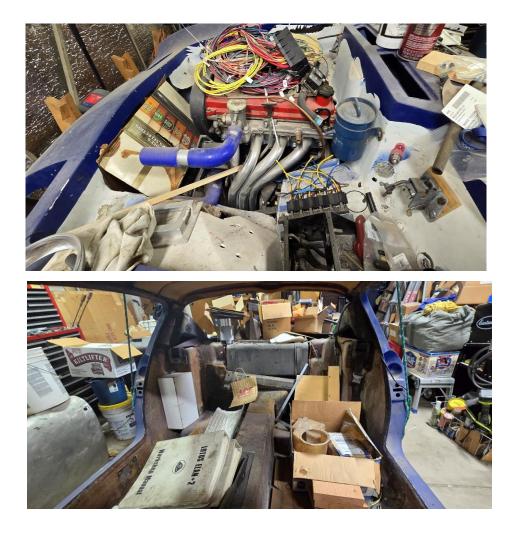
FOR SALE (Continued) Lotus Elan +2 (Continued)





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FOR SALE (Continued) Lotus Elan +2 (Continued)







FOR SALE (Continued)

1971 Triumph TR6

I was approached by this individual at St. Greg's Car Show. He indicated that this vehicle was for sale. I offered to advertise it in the *REGISTER*. Contact details are included for those interested.

- 56,000 original miles
- Complete bolt off restoration
- British Racing green w/tan interior.
- Complete records since new
- \$38,000
- Appraised by Harvey Falkenstein for \$42,500. (Full report available upon request.)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This ad to the seller earlier for review. I received a note back that he sold it to Tucson Classic Motor Company. So it is still available, but the price will not likely be the same.]













OUT OF BOUNDS

CAR SHOW MANIA

Still working on an annual calendar matrix of local and not-so-local car shows. It is a work-in-progress and hopefully published in the next newsletter.

MUSEUM MANIA

For those who are interested in strolling through museums there are three local ones of which two are open and one in the process of relocating.

- Franklin Auto Museum One visited by TBCR often and focused on the Franklin Auto
 - Website: www.franklinmuseum.org
 - o Address: 1405 E Kleindale Rd
- Tucson Auto Museum Another one visited by TBCR. This one is in the process of relocating from Cherry Avenue to N. Sabino Canyon Road. <u>It is not open</u>, but I stopped for a visit. There was much interior finish work in progress but no one to speak with unless one was in the mood to discuss finishing drywall.
 - Website: <u>www.waynestoys.com</u>
 - Address: TBD
 - Rolling Thru Time This one appears to be a catch-all for a wide spectrum of vehicles.
 - Website: <u>www.rttmuseum.com</u>
 - Address: 4750 S Park Ave

WARNING: You do <u>not</u> have to rush out and buy tickets! The Club is looking into this and trying to obtain Group Rates. Watch for details.



[Note the little oval sticker to the lower right just below "day". They come from class.]

ADIEU