



TUCSON BRITISH CAR REGISTER

Volume 30
Number 4

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

JUNE CALENDAR

By Ben Cohen

Below is the schedule of upcoming events for **JUNE**:

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday – 0800 to 1100

Starbucks – Corner of Swan Rd & Fort Lowell Road

Phantom Car Show

June 1st – Park Mall

[Details to follow]

1st DRIVE

Saturday, June 8th – 0730

[Details to follow]

La Encantada Car Show

Saturday, June 8th - 0730 to 1000

2nd DRIVE

Saturday, June 22nd – 0730

[Details to follow]

BLAT

June 26th or 27th

[Date to be confirmed and details to be arranged].

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The Prez Sez

By Tim O'Keefe

Welcome to Summer

Welcome to the Summer British Car driving season in Tucson! During the summer our President Pete takes a hiatus from the heat by going back to Wisconsin. While Pete enjoys the cool summer breezes, I, as Vice President, step in to take his place in Tucson. Mind you this really means letting everyone else do their jobs. That is Ben devising interesting driving routes; Marc and Dave handling memberships and dues; Libbie keeping her pulse on regalia; Steve and Nancy getting what they need for the newsletter; and Harold keeping the website running.

I would like to take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up and spent my first 30 years in Alexandria, Virginia. A friend of mine had a TR3 that sort of ran. I don't even remember what year it was, but he would have me over and we would tinker with the car to get it running. As a kid I found the car easy to understand. At age 16, I purchased my first car with the proceeds of my lawn mowing business. It was a 1973 French Blue Triumph Spitfire. What a blast! You can literally sit on the engine while working on it!

I had the car for about 6 years which included repainting it red; taking it to college; making multiple road trips to the beach; and finally, as my means of transportation during graduate school at Virginia Tech. In my last year at grad school, I distinctly remember completing a grueling take home winter final exam. Upon arrival for the exam and driving into the parking lot of the building with about 8 inches of snow on the ground, I realized that the reverse gear was broken. I could only drive forward! In addition, I always kept multiple Lucas headlight switches in the car since they would just burn out. I had become quite adept at readjusting the valves as one was clearly broken and would constantly become lost on the highway. Sadly, the reversing gear issue along with all the accumulating issues, were just the last straw.

I was graduating and starting a new job which required reliable transportation and just didn't have time to fool with the car anymore. Reluctantly, I sold it. To add insult to injury, I bought a boring Honda and left my "teenage" days behind.

When I was around 30 years old, my wife and I moved our family to Minnesota to be closer to her family. It was a great place to raise kids and have a great career. As much as I thought it would be fun to have another sports car, I couldn't see getting one where I could only drive it 4 months of the year.

Fast forward 30 years and it's time for my wife and I to retire and move on. The move was to the South as I was very tired of continuously shoveling snow from November to May. Since we were going to move south. I also thought it would be really fun to pretend I was a teenager again and buy another British sportscar to tinker on. We eventually settled in Oro Valley near Tucson.

After getting our house settled, I searched the internet and found that there was a British Car Club that meets for coffee near Oro Valley every Tuesday morning. How perfect! I showed up one morning. Everyone was so friendly and eager to give advice on buying my next British sports car. Over the next three or four months I went to the coffees in my "everyday car" and picked up nuggets of information on classic cars people owned; how much they cost; and how and where purchased parts. I finally decided that I wanted a TR6.

The Prez Sez – [Continued]

[From previous page 2]

The folks in the club gave me enormous confidence in looking for my own British car; things to look out for; the pros and cons of different cars; and to be wary of certain scams. I had no idea what to expect of a car that was literally manufactured 50 years ago. After scouring all the usual places for a car, I found one for sale that met most of my criteria through the Facebook Marketplace in Chandler. The folks in the club told me about looking up prices in Haggarty and I used that as the starting point for talking with the owner of the car.

Meeting the owner in person gave me the vibe of someone who took great care of the car. He had it stored in his garage with a trickle charger and kept a cloth nearby so he could wipe off areas of the car we touched to keep it clean. He said it had never been washed with a hose as far as he knew. He used waterless wash products. That type of care really gave me a super confident feeling about owning this car. So, I bought it!

The car, a 1972 TR6 (made in Dec 1971), appeared to be in beautiful shape. It had nice British Green paint. There was no rust. It started right up and drove okay. The owner had documents for repairs including overhaul of the transmission and a new clutch that had at that time recently been completed. I have been and I am still so happy with and proud of my car.



But since the car is more than 50 years old, I have encountered a few problems which I have successfully endeavored to resolve. Over the next few months and further into the future as things occur, I plan on writing about some of the problems that occur and how they were resolved. It will be a running chronology of any matter that arises with my car. It will address definition of the issue; the resources utilized including interaction with Club members and my gratification to their giving me confidence in their advice; their participation in the resolution of my issue by actually coming to my house to help; lending their strong shoulders to lean on allowing reasons to laugh and have fun as I move through this adventure. This is such a precious relationship with others who share a passion for owning a historical or modern British auto.

The Prez Sez – [Continued]

I hope each of you can find value in the club and friendships you have made with our members.

Until next month – drive carefully, keep air in your tires and have fun.

Tim

[Editor's Note: Bravo Tim! Great to have you sharing your background (I did have a preview of it at Biscuits restaurant on the last drive and our connection to Arlington and Alexander Virginia). But most important is your discussion concerning help from other club members. That is a major asset of any car club. I am glad that you are experiencing this. I try to do the same. I have helped Dave Bollen with rebuilding his two Spits. He has loaned me some keen tools. New member Joe Bean has his TD in Phoenix. Fritz has offered his car hauler which I will hook to the dually and will make the trip to Phoenix and back to Scott's for him to go through the car to make sure it is drive worthy.

ON THE ROAD

By The Editor

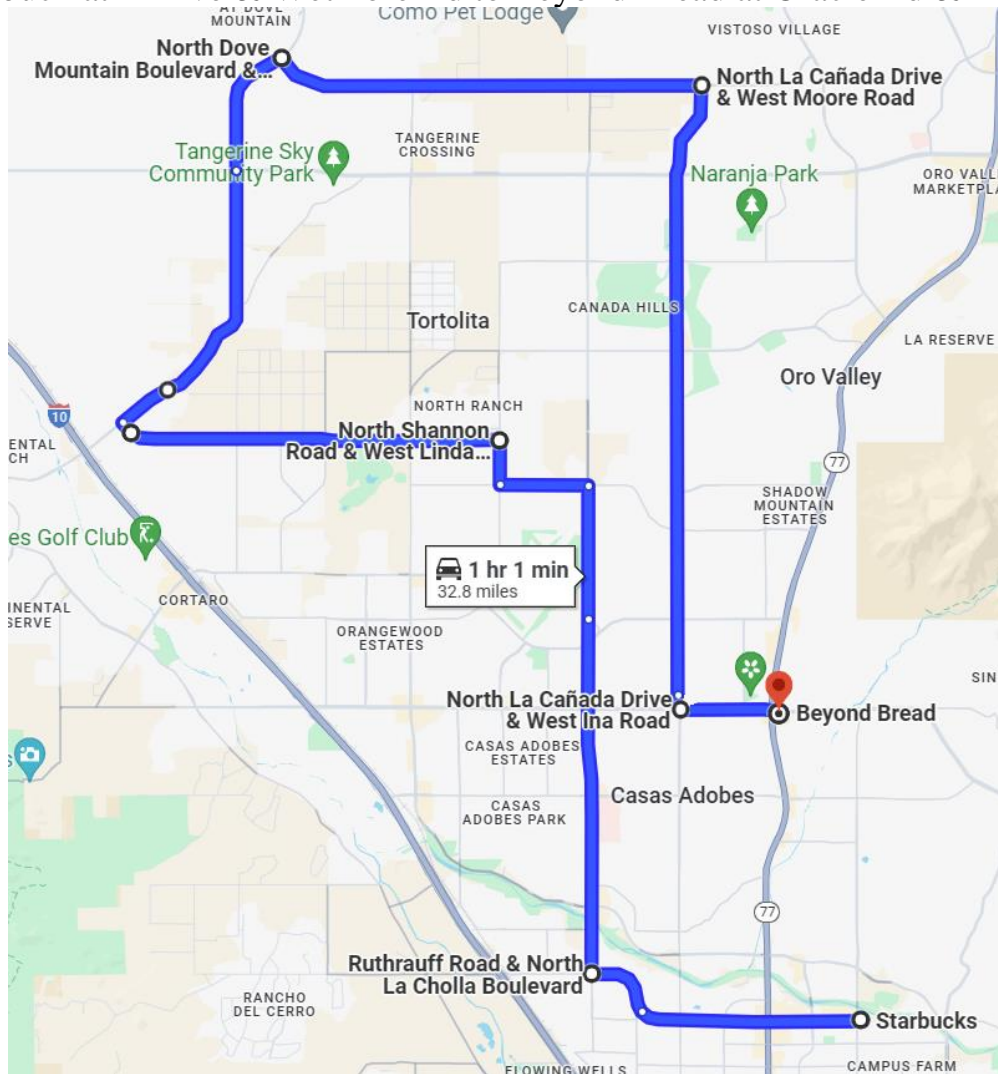
1st Drive – 04 May – Wetmore Starbucks to the Northwest Side and Beyond!

The morning started out a little chilly from home to Starbuck's and wishing I had brought a jacket. The feeling did not survive very long after arriving at Starbuck's on Wetmore. There was a good show of cars as there were almost twenty cars at the start.





**SATURDAY DRIVE – May 4, 2024 (Star Wars Day) – 7:30 AM departure
Starbuck at 1st Ave & Wetmore Rd to Beyond Bread at Oracle Rd & Ina Rd**



Exit Starbucks straight west on Wetmore Rd
Follow the curves as it becomes Ruthrauff Rd
Go north [R] on La Cholla Blvd
Go west [L] on Overton Rd
Go north [R] on Shannon Rd
Go west [L] on Linda Vista Blvd
Go north [R] on Twin Peaks Rd and cross Tangerine Rd where it becomes Dove Mt. Blvd
Go east [R] on Moore Rd
Go south [R] on la Cañada Dr
Go east [L] on Ina Rd
Cross Oracle Rd - Beyond Bread is on the SE corner - 1st parking lot...ENJOY

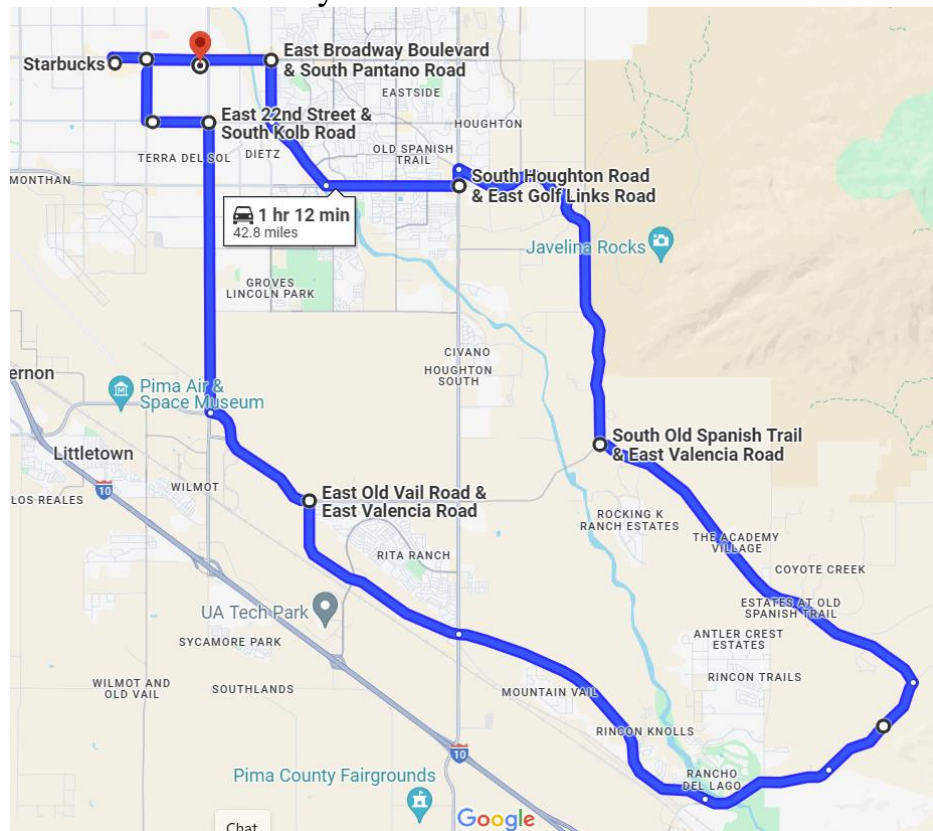
ON THE ROAD (Continued)

2nd Drive – 18 May – Park Place Mall to Vail returning to Broadway.

Beautiful morning start for the drive to the Southeast and Vail. Light traffic, both auto and bicycle. Ended with three restaurant choices, the prevailing being Biscuits and seated in our own room.



SATURDAY DRIVE – May 18, 2024 – Starbucks at Park Place Mall on Broadway Blvd to Baja Café or Biscuits or Little Anthony’s at Kolb & Broadway...round ‘n round the SE side



Exit east [R] on Broadway Blvd and continue past the Hilton Hotel
Go south [R] on Pantano Rd and follow as it becomes Pantano Pkwy
Go east [L] on Golf Links Rd
Go north [L] on Houghton Rd
Go east [R] on Old Spanish Trail
At the light at Valencia go east [L] to stay on Old Spanish Trail
Go south [R] on Pistol Hill Rd and follow toward Vail
In Vail continue straight at the light, as the road becomes Mary Ann Cleveland Way
Continue straight across Houghton where the road becomes Old Vail Rd
Go west [L] on Valencia Rd
Go north [R] on Kolb Rd...as you pass Golf Links and 29th St move to left lane
Go west [L] on 22nd St
Go north [R] on Wilmot Rd
Go east [R] on Broadway Blvd and stay in right lane
Go south [R] into parking lot just past Brings Funeral Home and ENJOY!!!
Careful of parking lot full of potholes

POTPOURRI

WELCOME New Members

We have new members who joined this month:

David and Beatriz Padgett reside on the west side of Tucson close to the Tucson Mountain range and drive a 1960 Austin Healey Sprite which is in good condition.

William “Joe” Bean is in the progress of moving to Tucson in the near future and has a red 1953 MG TD currently stored in Phoenix.

A small Bio on Joe – A more expanded one in the next issue.

Joe has two sons. One, Jonathan, is a professor at the University of Arizona and lives there when he's teaching courses in architecture and business. He also has a house in Portland, Oregon. The second son, Joshua, lives in Atlanta and is getting married there on October 12th. He's a creative director for American Express. The boys' mother lives in Denver. We were divorced almost 20 years ago. I've been single since.

He bought a house in Tucson about two years ago and son Jonathan (who has a PhD in the sociology of architecture) has overseen the remodeling and rebuilding. He is a passive house consultant so the building will be exceptionally energy efficient. It's a small, 2 bed, 2 bath place with no garage, but a nice patio and a decent back yard. Joe has lived with changing seasons all his life. He perceives that getting accustomed to no green grass will be a challenge.

His MG TD has been “resting” in Phoenix for some years. The intention is to get the car moved as soon as possible. I don't think I will be able to move into the house until mid to late September to avoid the summer heat and the monsoon and to get ready to move after graduation.

He has a BSJ in journalism from Northwestern University in Evanston, Il and is a graduate student at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio. He is currently working on his doctoral dissertation which he has been pursuing for the last nine years and must participate successfully in an oral defense of my work by July 15. After his committee reviews and accepts my dissertation draft, and if all goes well, he will graduate with a PHD on August 10. Very soon!! But that will be the second graduation. The first one occurs just before August 10th when Joe graduates to an octogenarian.

In Joe's words, “Well, you didn't ask, but I thought I should introduce myself more completely. Nothing to hide here, just a non-traditional student who loves to learn and hopes to teach. Maybe at PCC?”

Their names and contact details have been added to the directory. Name badges have been ordered so please keep an eye out for them and take the time to welcome them to the club.

With 6 new members this year and more responses to the "End of the Road", we now have 150 paid members for 2024. We lost one member due to the sale of their car.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

As I mentioned before in this newsletter about Dave Bollen lending me some unique tools, here is one. It is a one-man brake bleeder operation. I used it on both the Jag and the B. Works like a charm. There are many models available on www.mityvac.com.



FOR SALE

CAR TRAILER FOR SALE - \$3000: 2015 Carson Car Hauler. 7,000 lb capacity. The trailer weight 1700 lb. New tires 10/21. Rock guard and toolbox mounted with 12,500lb winch (connecting cables or battery). Drop Axles and 8' ramp. Break Away and electric brakes. Spare tire w/lock. Anti-sway device with trailer hitch. Hitch Lock. Jack and lug wrench. Stored under cover. Dave Germain (703) 855-5764



WHAT IS IT?

Below is Item in last month's request to identify specimen of the past. The specimen is the vehicle in the picture to the left and details the vehicle are below:



LANE MOTOR MUSEUM

1971 Reliant Regal 3/30

Reliant Engineering Ltd. was established in 1959 to make 3-wheeled delivery vans powered by Austin Green engines. In 1963 they brought out their first passenger car—the Regal. The car was built to comply with the government's arbitrary 660 pound weight limit, so that the owners could take advantage of fuel tax and driving license requirements. The Regal series was loved by many people because of its unusual combination of qualities: results from its makers' aim to produce a vehicle car or three wheels rather than a miniature vehicle. Reliant was booming in the late 70s with their 3-wheeled vehicles—producing 200 per week. It had a fiberglass body with two wheels in the rear and one wheel in the front. The car has a peculiar look. Production of the Regal ceased in 1973 with the introduction of the Reliant Robin. Reliant stopped producing cars in 2000.

| Specifications |
|--|
| Manufacturer: Reliant Motor Co. Ltd. |
| Country of Origin: Great Britain |
| Designer Configuration: Four-wheeled car with three wheels |
| Engine: 270cc, 4-cylinder, 25 hp |
| Transmission: 3-speed manual |
| Top Speed: 75 mph |
| Years of Production: 1963-73 |
| Model Produced: _____ |
| Original Color: _____ |

Below is this month's specimen created in past time. Do you know what it is? If so, please respond to tbcrcmail@gmail.com



OUT OF BOUNDS

“Rogue” Car Shows

I say “rogue” without intent to discredit these events due to those who interpret the term in the colloquial way, but they are a little unorganized and primarily serve the clientele of an organization and for the car owner other than show off their pride and joy. And they can be fun.

We have attended the Saturday night ritual at St. Anthony’s

After one of our recent drives, John Reynolds invited me to a car show at his club, the Stone Canyon Golf Course. It was their first attempt at such an event. Not much parking space but the crowd was pleased. Most of the cars were new luxury cars that seem a little outside one’s means, if you get the drift. There was some old iron with John and I being the only British. They will have another one and hopefully we will have ample notice to plan to attend next year. The club is in a beautiful setting.



There is also the 49er Golf Club car show. I was invited last year but could not make it. I have reached out to this club to see if they intend to hold another one. Last year some dipstick showing his Bimmer got on to it a little too much after leaving the club and caused a fatality. This might have an impact on their future desires for another show.

HELP!!!

I would kindly like to make a request to all members of the Club. That is, if you take a picture, any picture whether it is the Tuesday Coffee, a Drive, a party, a meeting or anything associated with the Club, including helping another member on their car, or completing a drive all around the State of Texas, or some other event somewhere, please do not let go to waste but rather email a copy to me so that we can include it in the newsletter.

Further, do not hesitate to craft an article on any LBC subject for inclusion in a newsletter.

Email: seacocm@gmail.com or seacocminc@aol.com

THANK YOU!