



# TUCSON BRITISH CAR REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

## MAY CALENDAR

*By Ben Cohen*

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

### Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday – 0800 to 1100

Starbucks – Corner of Swan Rd & Fort Lowell Road

### 1<sup>st</sup> DRIVE

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – 0730

[First notice sent]

### La Encantada Car Show

Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> - 0730 to 1000

### 2<sup>nd</sup> DRIVE

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – 0730

[Details to follow]

### BLAT

May 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

### **Early Notice**

### Phantom Car Show

June 1<sup>st</sup>

Park Place Mall

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## WINNER OF BRITISH CLASS @ DM 50 CAR SHOW.

By Pete Williams



The annual car show was at Davis Monthan Air Base in Tucson on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The DM50 show is a charity event. It is well attended by folks showing their cars as well as a large number of Air Force personnel and their families stationed at the base.

On my way to the restroom, I noticed one of my hearing aids was gone. YIKES!! On my way back I scanned the grey asphalt for my grey hearing aid hoping that it hadn't been crushed and hoping it was not totally gone. About half-way back to my car I found it... Undamaged! Wow, that was lucky! That was a big win!

In my mind, when I go to car shows I feel that my MGB and trailer are low key, and I feel are not impressive. I usually don't do a whole lot of preparation or detailing either. I usually check the tire pressures and oil level. And that is about all I do for car show preparation.

When they called my car number at the awards ceremony, I was totally taken by surprise. Of course, my little display might have had something to do with the award. The unusual DM50 first place in British Class award is a blank round for an A10 aircraft. (The award is the same - 1st place only in each class.)

So, now I was really blown away! Nice way to end a show. Totally unexpected. Another big win! What an unusual day!

Oh yes, everything collapses and fits in the car & trailer.

## **The Prez Sez**

*By Peter Williams*

### **Question: What is the secret to our success?**

Occasionally, I get a question from someone asking why we are such a successful club. I have pondered over this question for quite a lengthy amount of time. There are many pieces to this puzzle.

First, get a mirror. Then take it next to your favorite collector's car and view yourself and the car in the mirror. If you have more than one car repeat this for the other one or for those with the many others – do apply sunscreen and stay hydrated. Smile please! Just think of how lucky you are to possess such a beautiful article and that you are one who has preserved such a historical article.

Next, think about the fun you've had on a tour. Remember the beautiful scenery; the fun response on hills and twisty roads; the fun of matching the car's performance to the different challenge. OOPS!! Watch out for that bike rider or critter! Whew - missed them!

Then think about the gatherings you've attended at Star Bucks on Tuesday morning. Did you see some different vehicles there today? How about those interesting folks? Did you get a nugget of information which will help you with your car / vehicle? Did you enjoy the technical information, stories, and openness of those attending? Very engaging!

After the tours and the gatherings have you been able to reach out to a member you just met who can give accurate advice on how to proceed on a technical issue? Have you invited them over to your home to help solve an issue?

Here are the real short answers to all these questions - Great folks. A huge depth of knowledge. Interesting scenery. Excellent drives. Good parties (now that they have resumed). Low dues cost. Low-cost Regalia to wear. There is always something to look forward to in the future. In short – true FUN!

While I'm doing my snowbird thing, Tim O'Keefe will be handling club business. He knows, I'm only a phone call away and a text or an email distance. Have fun and enjoy our summer here in Tucson!

Look forward to June's Phantom Car Show.

Keep the shiny bits up and the black bits on the road.

Cheers,

Pete Williams

# ON THE ROAD

*By The Editor*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Drive – 06 April – Starbucks on Wetmore to Sunny Daze Cafe

This was a trip out to the West side over Picture Rocks Road, South on Sandario Road, McCain Loop, West Gate Pass and then through Downtown Tucson to Sunny Daze Café (aka, Cinni-bun City). The weather was great. It was a counterclockwise drive of an established route which has expansive views of the desert west of the Tucson Mountains. Ben did call out that “It is not a race!”, but it was some work keeping up with on '53 Bentley”!



## DM50 Car Show

By The Editor

This is the greatest show of all! And it is for a good cause (not necessarily *Prez Pete's* tax deduction) benefiting our military personnel stationed at DM. It is somewhat like an elementary school lawn fete. There is a row of ten bouncy castles of various configurations; pony rides, horse trail riding for older ones; artwork sessions; various games and other festivities along with music and the sounds of happy children at play.

There was an air of heightened security as there were more security patrols by two-man teams of short-armed military personnel wearing flak jackets patrolling in cycles. I spent much time speaking with each one I encountered either by my car or walking around. I tried to keep the discussions to their military careers and their career plans. All were relatively young people, "*kids*", with the longest serving being about 10 years. Some were staying on at DM, others were moving on to Korea, Germany, and the Middle East (ME). All welcomed having a conversation which some went for some time.

We usually look at aged and/or weathered veterans and say, "Thank you for your Service". I made sure to say this to each one of these "*kids*". The reaction - mostly somewhat stunned; some with welled-up eyes; a couple indicated that "nobody has ever said that to me"; or there was a jittery 'Thank you, Sir'. God Bless them!

The car show is in an area a little remote from the lawn fete. Not much shade but the show time is shorter than others – 1000 to 1400 hours. You can get a wrist band for three beers, but it is usually left up to the individual's discretion, and there is all the BBQ food you can eat. Best of all, it is good food!

For the car show, Pete was completely overwhelmed at taking the trophy. I should have videoed it. Congrats to our Prez. Subsequent to the show, I have spoken to some others with the club who did not attend and there was nothing but positive responses to finally winning (and he can still hear!).



## Sisters

Ms Durham in Old English White and Ms. Hosmer in Pastel Blue.



It was a great time to park the two beside each other and compare the two arts of work.

## Pete's Day



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Drive – 20 April – Park Mall to the SE ending at Triple T

*By the Editor*

Another beautiful day with great weather and some good winding roads down into Vail. Then back to the north to the Triple T for breakfast.

A minor impediment at the start as Environmentalist Reynolds works on a pollution issue, aka fuel leak but managed to correct the matter and all were off.



## POTPOURRI

### WELCOME New Members

*By the Editor*

We have a member who joined this month, M. Langdon Hill, who is from the central area of Tucson.

Langdon is the driver of the following vehicles:

Range Rover Classic X3 Defender  
DeLorean 12/1  
Bristol Double Decker Transit Bus

Those of you who venture out to the Tuesday Coffee, we were paid a visit by Langdon on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with his Bristol Bus.

As you can see it has two levels, a lower one for the noble,



and an upper one for clowns!



Langdon's name and contact details have been added to the directory. Name Badge has been ordered. So please keep an eye out for him and take the time to welcome him to the club. And, have the correct change!

**Tuesday Morning Wake Up** As I noted in my Prez Sez article. We never know what or who will show up at our Tuesday morning Starbucks Coffee gathering. This Bristol bus, we were told, was formerly owned by Truly Nolen, and is now owned by prospective member Langdon Hill. Its International Harvester powered diesel starts smoothly. Fast? No! Memorable and making a statement. Yes. A running project? Yes. What fun!



## Technical Matters

### Stop-Leak Clogs 1973 MGB GT Water Pump

*By Pete Williams*

At the onset of my restoration effort on my MGB GT I had suspicion and with some investigation, discovered the vehicle had coolant system issues due to the presence of stop leak in the system.

Before I removed the engine from the car, I performed a 15-psi pressure test on the cooling system to check for leaks. It survived a 15 PSI pressure test with no leaks into the cylinders. Further, there were no apparent leaks at the water pump, the heater core, the freeze plugs, and the radiator. I thought this was great. No need to worry about the radiator or cooling system.

But when I disassembled the water pump from the block there was a very large presence of crystalline items behind the water pump in the engine coolant passages which surrounded the cylinders. It also blocked or severely narrowed passages from the block to the head. Freeze plug removal also revealed more stop-leak debris around the cylinders. Further investigation revealed the water pump was clogged with stop-leak crystals. The car passed the pressure test despite these issues.

I received the engine back from the machine shop where they boiled out the head and block to rid both of any internal blockages. Then I wondered about the viability of the radiator. That generated many questions. Why did the previous owner add stop-leak to the coolant system? Where or which component was leaking causing a prior owner to add stop-leak? Luckily, the block and head did not show any evidence of overheating when it was disassembled and evaluated at the machine shop. The radiator and heater core are destined to be examined at a radiator shop and repaired as needed.

Stop-leak is a poor problem solution. It clearly leads to collateral damage and potential engine overheating. As the pressure test showed, it was masking a much larger issue.

I prefer the rust inhibiting anti-freeze solution to keep internal engine water jacket rust at bay.



## FOR SALE

This is a Real Stunning Car:

### **2020 Jaguar F-Type Convertible P-300**

- This is a class winning Jaguar Concours champion car.
- 18,500 miles
- British Racing Green
- A Two-owner Southwest USA car
- Like-new condition with all known optional equipment including special Windsor leather interior package with heated and cooled seats.
- Jaguar warranty until July 2025.
- \$73,000 new
- Asking \$44,900 / **OBO**

Current Owner is John Albertsen who is a long-time member of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona and a past member of TCBR. You may contact him 520-885-6842 for further details.



## FOR SALE (Continued)

### **1966 MK III Austin Healey Sprite**

This is an original CA car with little to no rust. It has an unmolested body with approximately 95% of all original parts. The engine is a 1098 cc. It does have some dents/dings but is a great candidate for a partial/full restoration. I really don't want to sell the car, but I don't currently have time to devote to some *TLC* that this car deserves.

Some particulars:

- it has the original undercoating.
- the front fenders/wings may not look aligned-they are on the car loosely/not bolted down.
- I have the original front grill.
- I have all items that were removed from engine bay-the pedal box has been media blasted.
- The gas tank was removed, and media-blasted and cleaned. In excellent condition.

Upgrades that I have implemented:

- Pertronix electronic ignition
- spin on oil filter kit installed.
- The radiator was professionally cleaned and re-cored in 2017.
- new tie rod ends
- new front brake rotors, have new replacement front calipers to install and new brake cylinders. New rear brake hubs and cylinders.
- all gauges are working. The fuel gauge has been restored and ready to install.
- All new "cuniform" gas, brake, and clutch lines

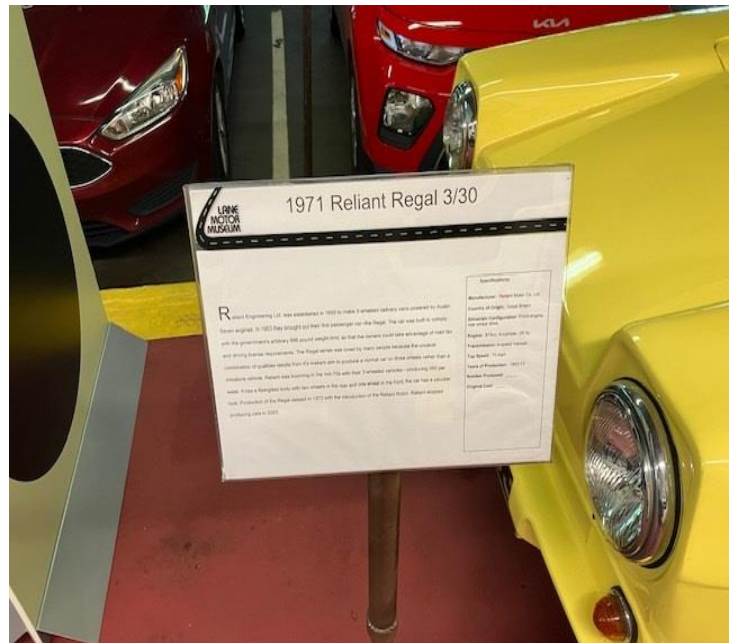
Note from seller:

*My original plan was to upgrade/restore systems at a time (brakes and fuel components 1st) and keep the car on the road. Then strip it down/clean up and do any minor body work needed. Send the body off to a paint shop and then re-assemble. It needs to go to someone who will do this. I will not sell it to a "collector" who will put it in their back yard to rot.*

The asking price is \$6,000. For further details on this vehicle, please email Mike Vestal at [carmichaelsonata@yahoo.com](mailto:carmichaelsonata@yahoo.com). Photos are available on <https://classiccars.com>.

## WHAT IS IT?

Below is Item in last month's request to identify. The article is a vehicle in the picture to the left and the details of the vehicle.



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



## OUT OF BOUNDS

And the bus saga continues!

### **MAGIC BUS – Running well and not on the “fritz.”**

And the bus saga continues.

Not to be out done by a recent new member and his shinning British Bristol bus, Mr. Ficke, aka “Fritz”, showed up at the Tuesday Coffee on April 16<sup>th</sup> driving a Crown bus that has been converted into a RV. Some quite beautiful work. We need to have Fritz tell us more about this vehicle in the next issue of the Register.



## The Song of the Prune

By Pete Williams

When I was growing up, we found this record and a portable metal needle wind up victrola in my grandmother's summer home. We would put the record on the victrola and played it. We saved the record all these years later but now the Victrola is gone. We still have the fragile record and can be played at 78 RPM.

Looking at the lyrics one can get a sense of the era when it was written. Prohibition was the law. Air travel was in its infancy. The lyrics are still funny today.

This song is by Frank Crumit.

### The Song of the Prune

La-la-la-la  
La-la-la-la  
Nowadays we often gaze  
On women over fifty  
Without the slightest trace  
Of wrinkles on their face.  
Doctors go and take their dough  
To make them young and nifty.  
But Doctors I defy  
To tell me just why  
No matter how young a prune may be  
It's always full of wrinkles.  
We may get them on our face.  
Prunes get 'em every place.  
Prohibition worries us,  
But prunes don't sit and brood.  
For no matter how young a prune may be  
It's always getting stewed.  
In the kingdom of the fruits  
The prune is snubbed by others  
And they are not allowed  
To mingle with the crowd.  
Though they're never on display  
With all their highbrow brothers.  
They never seem to mind  
To this fact they're resigned.  
That no matter how young a prune may be  
It's always full of wrinkles.  
Beauty treatments always fail.

They've tried all to no avail.  
Other fruits are envious  
Because they know real well  
That no matter how young a prune may be  
Hot water makes 'em swell  
Baby prunes look like their dad,  
But not wrinkled quite as bad.  
Every day in every way  
The world is getting better  
We've even learned to fly  
As days go passing by  
But how about the poor old prune  
His life is only wetter  
No wonder he can't win  
In the awful stew he's in  
No matter how young a prune may be  
He's always full of wrinkles  
We may get them on our face  
Prunes get 'em every place  
Nothing ever worries them  
Their life's an open book  
But no matter how young a prune may be  
It has a worried look.  
Prunes act very kind they say  
When sickly people moan.  
But no matter how young a prune may be  
It has a heart of stone.

Source: LyricFind

Songwriters: Frank Crumit

The Song of the Prune Lyrics © Jerry Vogel Music Co. Inc