



TUCSON BRITISH CAR REGISTER

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Technical tips are for informational purposes only.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

By Ben Cohen

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

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday – 0700 to 1100

Starbucks – Corner of Swan Rd & Fort Lowell Road

1st DRIVE

Saturday, September 7th – 0700

[Details to follow]

La Encantada Car Show

Saturday, September 14th - 0730 to 1000

2nd DRIVE

Saturday, September 21st – 0730

[Details to follow]

BLAT BREAKFAST

September 25th or 26th - 0700

[Details to follow].

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ATTENTION

TUCSON CLASSIC CAR SHOW.

We are in receipt of an email from The Rotary Club's organizer for the St. Gregory Show who have asked for certain information. Apparently, they are reaching out to all clubs about attendance. This is due to it being sold out very early and the fact that they have an extensive wait list.

We need an email response to Tim O'Keefe (okeefe.timothy@gmail.com) as soon as possible indicating the following:

1. You have successfully registered for entry to the show, or,
2. You tried to register but was rejected due to show being sold out and:
 - a. You are on the Wait List, or,
 - b. You are not on the Wait List
3. You have not attempted to register but are interested in entering the show, or,
4. You have registered but now cannot attend.

Please email Tim as soon as possible and/or if the situation changes, please do the same.

The Rotary has informed us that if we have member(s) who are registered but now not going to use their tickets, that those members let us know so that we can use the entry tickets for another of our members either on the Wait List or now wanting to go.

If there is a substitution, we would reach out to the Rotary and provide the substitute member's pertinent details - Name, contact info, car type / model so their judging records can be updated. Obviously, if there are surplus tickets we would return those to Rotary for the member's credit.

PRE-SHOW FRIDAY AND DAY OF THE SHOW

On another matter related to this show, we organize a team to go to St. Gregory's on Friday late afternoon/early evening to set up the TBCR tent on the show grounds. This will require assisting in fetching the tent and accessories from Peter's property, taking it to the show and assembling the tent.

On the day of the show, we usually meet in the northeast corner of River and Craycroft in the shopping mall parking and drive as a group to the show.

BWG CAR SHOW

British Wheels on the Green 2024

All owners of classic British cars or motorcycles are invited to Arizona's largest British marque show, **British Wheels on the Green!** This year's show is scheduled for:

November 3, 2024

Registration is open!

Visit www.britishwheels-az.info for more information.

TRAVEL TO THE SHOW

TBCR usually makes this a weekend event with an organized drive on Saturday to Peoria with a stop along the way at a location of interest before continuing to the hotel for check-in on Saturday evening for an overnight before the show on Sunday. The show starts early Sunday morning and completes early afternoon on Sunday for a timely trip back to Tucson.

Please look for details of the drive up and hotel in the October Newsletter or in emails prior to publishing. The drive home is usually not an organized event, but no harm in doing so in case there is a breakdown.

The Prez Sez

By Tim O'Keefe

Pete Williams Update

Last week TBCR President Pete Williams sent a note to the rest of the board concerning back problems that he has been having that became significantly worse over the last 2 months. He is summering in Wisconsin and unfortunately now plans to have surgery there on Sept 6. He was hoping to return to Tucson around Sept 28 but that is now up in the air.

I don't think he would mind if I shared the note from him with the rest of you. From Pete:

"I've been dealing with a case of sciatica, neuropathy, (left side butt to toes) for several months. I've had tests - MRI, EMG (Nerve Conduction) and consulted with spinal and neurology specialists. The bottom line is I will be having a procedure to reduce a disc pressing on a spinal nerve. The concern is without surgery, the nerve may be further compromised. It is not a fusion, but a conservative action.

The operation will be early on 9/6/24. My follow up appointment will be 9/24/24. I had planned being in Tucson by 9/28 or 9/29, but I don't know if that will be possible at this time. I will be wearing a back brace and will have weight lifting restrictions.

I'm really bummed out about the recovery and physical restriction time (unknown). This physical issue entirely changed my summer plans. Instead of enjoying and having fun, it's been a series of appointments and staying near my rental.

I hope you join me in keeping him in your thoughts and prayers as he makes his way through this difficult surgery and recovery. I sent him a note and mentioned that many of us would be eager to help in organizing our attendance at the St. Gregory show and especially to help him with his projects as long as we could play around with his lift and tools 😊

Club Drives

Besides the Tuesday Cars and Coffee at the Starbucks on Swan Road many members enjoy the drives that occur several times a month. Generally, there are drives two Saturdays a month and a midweek drive once a month. Ben Cohen, who leads this effort, is a master at creating scenic drives throughout Tucson and its neighboring towns. The drives are usually around 50 or so miles, almost always starting at the parking lot of a Starbucks and ending at some restaurant where we gather as a group to have

breakfast. Ben carefully selects roads that are fun to drive on (both straights and turns), are lower in traffic, reasonable condition and avoiding highways. It is a wonderful chance to exercise your car as well as see and explore areas that you might never have found on your own.

The drives all end at one of the many casual breakfast places around town where we gather, eat and have interesting conversations. Some people bring friends or significant others.

Ben usually sends out a note to those who are interested a few days or so before the drive with details and a map. He uses his own distribution lists for sending details so please contact Ben to make sure you are on his list, especially during summer months.

Side Note 1 – Ben refers to the midweek drive as a ‘BLAT’. At first, I had no idea what he was talking about but apparently it is a reference used by many in the Lotus community (Yes, Ben has quite an assortment of Lotus cars) as a reference to going for a drive. I found a website with some research that someone conducted on the word - <https://www.international7network.org/post/what-is-blat>

The author concludes with these marvelous definitions:

“Blat. n.

1. A drive or a journey in a Lotus or other Seven motor car in which driving becomes more than driving, the act more than the destination, becoming, not going.

2. The higher state of mind and awareness in which blatness has been achieved.

Blat. v.

2. To go for a drive in a Lotus or other Seven motor car for the sheer delight of going for a drive in a Seven.”

Side Note 2 – Be prepared for anything. Our classic cars are old, reliability can be questionable and occasionally they run into problems. It is a good idea to have some backup plan because, if you experience an unplanned engine shutdown or other problem, you could be 30 or 40 miles from your house. Personally, I have an AAA plan which gives me 100 miles of towing anywhere. Hagerty has a similar plan. I’d also suggest keeping a couple of bottles of water in your car and a few basic tools like screwdrivers, some common socket wrenches, pliers, duct tape, some wire and perhaps a few spare parts. For spare parts I keep a distributor cap, rotor and points as well as some coolant and a quart of oil.

I have to say that I have not counted on anyone being there to help me in a breakdown situation but in two instances where I experienced such, kind club member(s) following me have stopped to offer assistance. The first, when we were near Tubac, my fuel pump died. Several members pulled over to assist and amazingly someone had an extra electric pump.

Imagine a scene out of MacGyver with Karl Rettenmaier splicing electrical connections and fuel lines from the small fuel pump to the car. In a matter of about 20 minutes these folks got my car running! Truly outstanding! I was able to make it the 30 miles home!



The Prez Sez (Continued)

My second and recent unplanned shutdown occurred on the August 2nd Drive while heading towards Mount Lemmon. I want to thank Ed Smith for pulling over, helping me trouble shoot and keeping me company while I waited for AAA. As frustrating as these breakdowns are, I have to say that the tow truck drivers I've met have been super nice and helpful – and their trucks are air conditioned 😊 In any event, I think you see my point that it is helpful to be somewhat prepared in case of an emergency.

Recently on the way up to Mt. Lemmon:



Until next time...

***May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
And may the hand of a friend be ever near.***

Tim

ON THE ROAD

By the Editor

1st DRIVE – 03 AUGUST - Circle K on S Palo Verde Rd Westward Ho through the Tucson Mountains

A good turnout with good weather and a great route, but not such a good start because, though warned of it, a loose lug-nut behind the wheel of a 140 took the wrong turn after departing Circle K. It took a few turns, but the Drive was soon back on course.

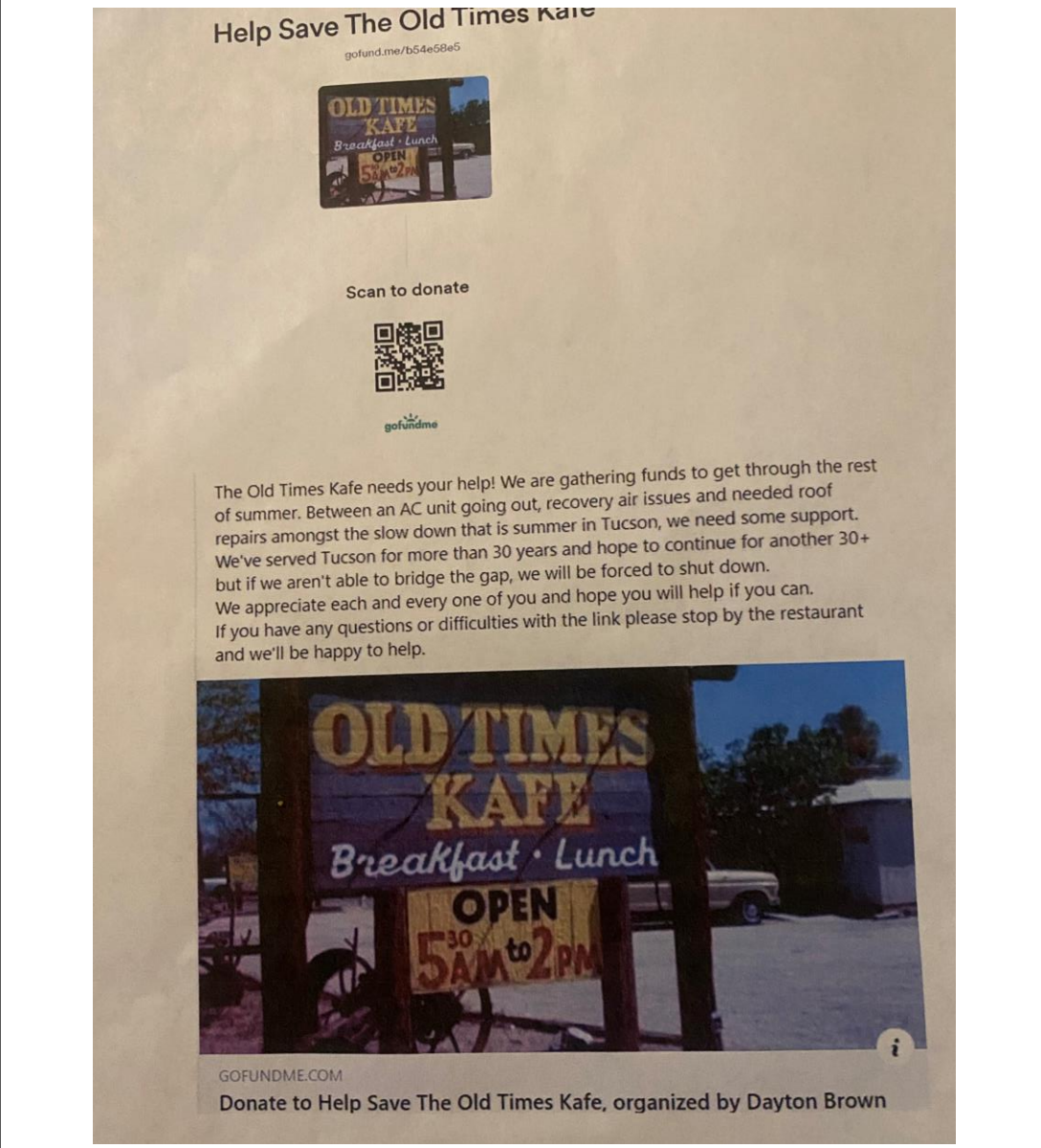


ON THE ROAD (Continued)




ON THE ROAD (Continued)


There was some sad news to the day. A 30-year establishment fighting for its life. They do have a [gofundme](#) set up for anyone who would like to contribute. There are quite a few with the largest one at \$200. When we were in there enjoying our meal the ceiling was dripping water from the AC system. Luckily we were seated in a room to ourselves with no issues.



Help Save The Old Times Kafe
gofund.me/b54e68e5




Scan to donate



gofundme

The Old Times Kafe needs your help! We are gathering funds to get through the rest of summer. Between an AC unit going out, recovery air issues and needed roof repairs amongst the slow down that is summer in Tucson, we need some support. We've served Tucson for more than 30 years and hope to continue for another 30+ but if we aren't able to bridge the gap, we will be forced to shut down. We appreciate each and every one of you and hope you will help if you can. If you have any questions or difficulties with the link please stop by the restaurant and we'll be happy to help.

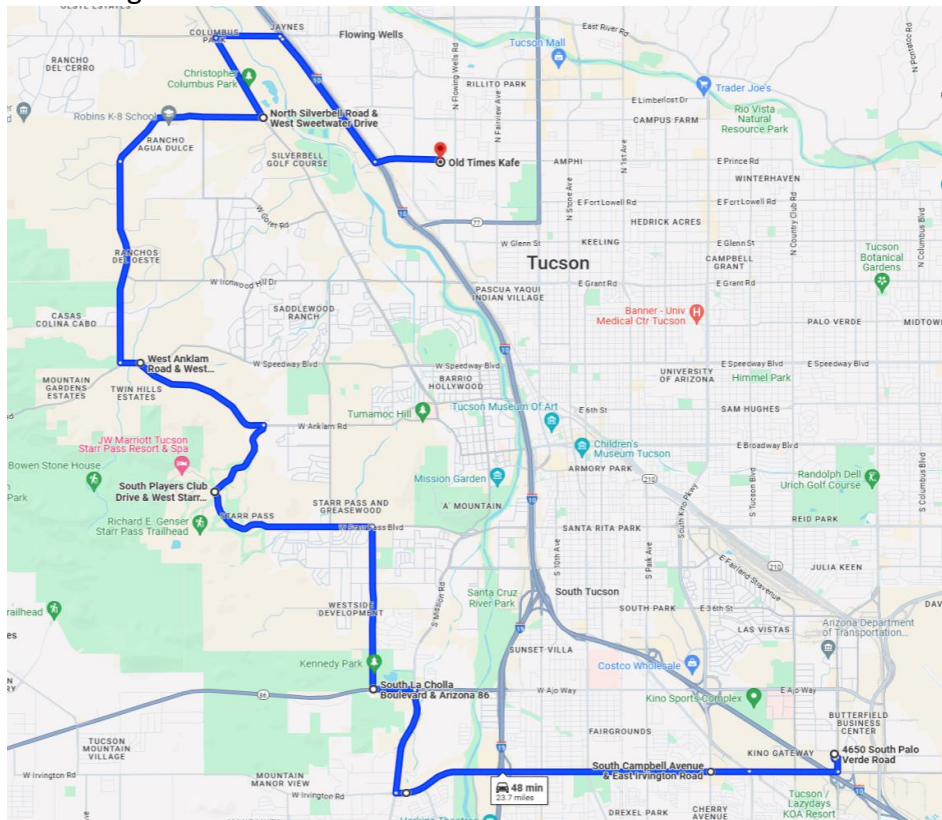


GOFUNDME.COM

Donate to Help Save The Old Times Kafe, organized by Dayton Brown

ON THE ROAD (Continued)

SATURDAY DRIVE – August 3, 2024 – 7:00 AM departure from Circle K 4650 S Palo Verde Rd Westward Ho through the Tucson Mountains to breakfast at Old Time Kafé 1485 W. Prince Rd



- Exit south [R] on Palo Verde Rd
- Go west [R] on Irvington Rd (before I-10)
- Continue west passing over I-19 and the Santa Cruz River
- Go north [R] on Mission Rd and make your way to the LEFT lane for upcoming turn
- Go west [L] on Ajo Way SR86 and stay to the right
- Go north [R] on La Cholla Blvd
- Go west [L] on Starr Pass Rd continue west passing Greasewood Rd
- Go north [R] on S. Players Club Dr
- Go west [L] on Anklam Rd
- Go west [L] on Speedway Blvd and STAY RIGHT do not turn toward Gates Pass Rd
- At the “T” intersection go north [R] on Camino de Oeste
- Follow Camino de Oeste to the right as it becomes East Sweetwater Dr
- Go north [L] on Silverbell Rd
- Go east [R] on El Camino del Cerro
- Go south [R] on the entrance ramp to I-10 east Tucson but STAY RIGHT on the Frontage Rd
- Go east [L] on Prince Rd and continue east for about 1+ miles
- Old Time Kafé is at 1485 W. Prince Rd, just past Iroquois Ave --- **Enjoy!!!**

ON THE ROAD (Continued)

2nd DRIVE – 17 August - Departure from Starbucks at Wilmot Rd/Speedway Blvd to Babad Do'ag Scenic Overlook 2 & then to Eclectic Café for breakfast.

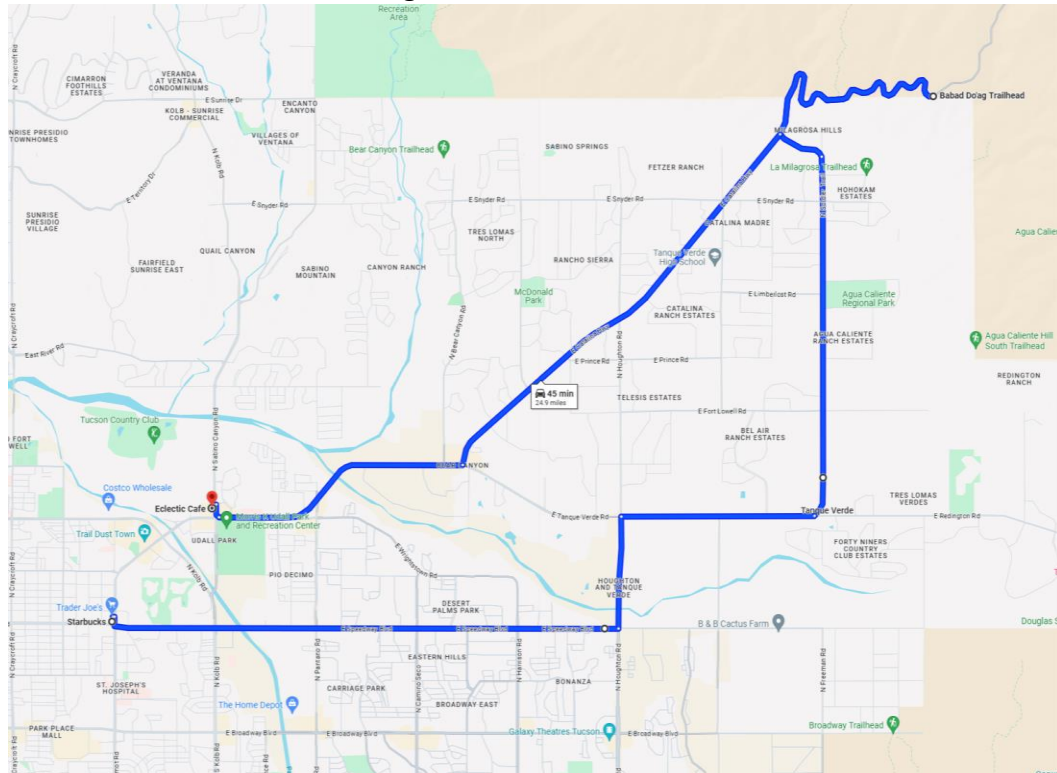
A beautiful day with a good turnout and a great drive except for poor Tim who you have read about in the **PREZ SEZ** article of this newsletter.



ON THE ROAD (Continued)

2nd DRIVE (Continued)

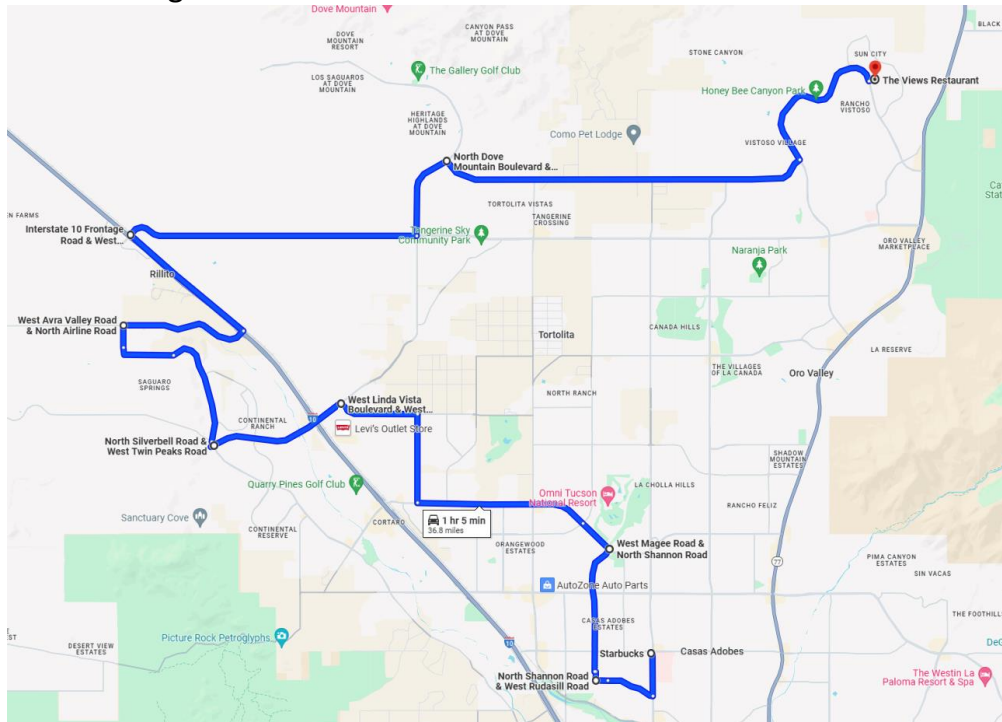
SATIURDAY DRIVE – August 17, 2024 – 7:00 AM departure Starbucks at Wilmot Rd & Speedway Blvd
Destination 1: Babad Do’ag Scenic Overlook 2: Eclectic Café for breakfast



- Exit south [R] and move to the left to make a left at the light
- Go east [L] on Speedway Blvd
- Go north [L] on Houghton Rd
- Go east [R] on Tanque Verde Rd
- Go north [L] on Soldier Trail and follow west onto Mt Lemmon Short Road
- Go north [R] on Catalina Hwy and up, up, up...
- Turn into parking lot for Babad Do’ag Scenic Overlook
- Park, relax for a few minutes, take in the great view all around you.
- Exit “down the hill” [L] and enjoy the twisties!!!
- Continue straight on Catalina Hwy
- Go west [R] on Tanque Verde Rd
- Continue on Tanque Verde Rd moving to the right lane after the overpass
- Continue STRAIGHT at Sabino Canyon Rd and turn RIGHT into the shopping center
- Eclectic Café is there!!!
- Enjoy.

ON THE ROAD (Continued)

AUGUST BLAT DRIVE – Thursday, August 22, 2024 – 7:00 AM departure
Starbucks at Orange Grove Rd and La Cholla Blvd. to “THE VIEWS” in Rancho Vistoso



- Exit south [R] on La Cholla Blvd
- Go west [R] on Oracle Jaynes Station Rd
- Continue straight as it becomes Rudasill Rd
- Go north [R] on Shannon Rd
- Jog [L] then [R] to stay on N. Shannon Rd
- Continue north on Shannon Rd passing Ina Rd
- Go west [L] on Magee Rd
- Go north [R] on N. Hartman Ln (major right turn after Camino de Oeste)
- Go west [L] on Linda Vista Blvd
- Go southwest [L] on Twin Peaks Rd and crossover I-10 continuing west
- Go north [R] on Silverbell Rd and STAY RIGHT to continue north on Silverbell Rd
- Silverbell Rd swings west becoming Lambert Ln which then becomes Airline Rd
- Airline Rd swing north and ends at Avra Valley Rd
- Go east [R] on Avra Valley Rd
- Go under I-10 and turn north [L] and STAY RIGHT to be on the Frontage Rd
- Go east [R] on Tangerine Rd
- Go north [L] on Dove Mountain Rd
- Go east [R] on Moore Rd (the 1st sign for Moore Rd is to the west – ignore)
- Continue east for a while then go north [L] on Rancho Vistoso Blvd
- The Views will be on your left at 1555 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd...Enjoy!!!

POTPOURRI

By the Editor

WELCOME New Members

We have two new members:

Robert LeCompte and **Emily Head** from the northeast side and driving a 1970 Rover 3500S. And they have already attended the drives.



FOR SALE

1951 MG TD

Garage kept 100% original numbers car. Driven in parades and drive-ins until 2021. Currently not running due to shorted wiring harness which needs to be replaced. Engine and body are sound. Located in Pinehurst, NC (28374). For more details call or mail:

Jimmy Duncan
910-986-1591

a1ajimmyd@gmail.com



FOR SALE (Continued)

1951 MG TD (Continued)



WHAT IS IT?

Below is the photo as well as the identification of the vehicle that was requested to identify.



LANE MOTOR MUSEUM

1929 Austin Seven "Fabric Saloon"

After Sir Herbert Austin established his reputation at the Wolseley tool and Motor Co, he found backing for a venture based in Longbridge, England and successfully produced his own cars. Before the war, Austins were much larger cars of high quality. During the war years, they manufactured everything from airplanes to artillery shells. A minor setback after the war temporarily put Austin in receivership, but the firm fought back with several new models. One of them was Sir Herbert Austin's diminutive masterpiece, the Austin Seven.

Nicknamed "Baby Austin", the car was affordable and reliable, meeting the needs of young modern families. The Austin Seven was also very stylish and became one of the most popular cars produced for the British market, similar to that of the Model T Ford in the US. The Austin Seven affected the entire automotive world as they licensed to other companies. In Germany, the very first BMW car, named the Dixi, was a licensed Austin Seven. Car manufacturer Lucien Rosengart produced Rosegarts in France under licensing. In Japan, Nissan based the Datsun Type 11 on the Austin Seven design, although not under license, which led to a 1952 agreement to build them under the Austin name. The American Austin Car Company in Butler, Pennsylvania, built American Austin Bantams with licensing.

British pilot and racing driver E. C. Gordon England built the first Austin Seven fabric-bodied saloons with his coachbuilding company, England based the construction on his aircraft building principles. He produced Austin Seven Fabric Saloons from about 1926 until 1930. The construction of the body consists of a wood, inner framework. He covered the wood structure in "Rexine", a specially made cloth coated with a mixture of cellulose paint and castor oil which was formerly used in the manufacturing of WWI aircraft wings. Fabric covers the entire wooden-framed body and nailed into position from the cowl rearward, including the opening doors. Because of this construction, very few original examples exist today. Until fabric bodies fell from fashion in the early 1930s, the "Fabric Saloon", often called a Doctor's Saloon, remained in Austin's catalogue at a 14% premium (£20) over Austin's standard steel-bodied saloon. The original Fabric Saloon selling price was about 690.00 US, which was the price of one of the more expensive Model A Ford body styles offered during 1929.

Specifications:

- Manufacturer: Austin Motor Co.
- Country of Origin: United Kingdom
- Drivetrain Configuration: Front-engine, rear-wheel drive
- Engine: Water-cooled, 747 cc, inline, four-cylinder, L-head, 10.5 hp
- Transmission: Sliding gear transmission with three speeds forward, one reverse
- Top speed: 48 to 52 mph
- Years Produced: 1922 - 1939
- Number Produced: 200,000
- Cost: \$680.00

STRETCH TO FIT
FABRIC COVERED CARS

WHAT IS IT? (Continued)

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



It should be noted that the unchallenged CHAMPION of this series of articles is **Hernan Aubert** who has had a perfect score until this month and appears he was a little too busy.

OUT OF BOUNDS

AUBERT'S CHALLENGE

Speaking of Messer Aubert, he has requested some assistance in an artistic challenge he is facing. We received the following:

Good morning fellow LBC enthusiasts,

*I've been working on a bathroom remodel project for quite some time and got to the point where I can apply my **lack** of artistic abilities to the finishing touches. I'm thinking (yeah! Thinking!) doing some crazy painting of the shower walls, with nice bright colors, in the likes of a "Pollock", Kandinski or Miro painting.*

*Thus, I'm ISO some small amounts (no 5-gallon buckets, please!) of leftover **oil-based** paint of **bright colors**. I'm thinking of some bright primary colors of different tones and black. I do not want to use pastels or water-based paints as I'm planning to clearcoat the final product.*

If you have some small cans of such paints (even spray cans will do) and want to get rid of them, I'd gladly take them off your hands. If you are a "Tuesday coffee person", feel free to bring your paint and I'll take them off your hands.

Thank you and best regards,

Hernan Aubert