



TUCSON BRITISH CAR REGISTER

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AUGUST

Below is the normal outline of the monthly schedule for events in each upcoming month:

Tuesday Coffee

Every Tuesday – 0700 to 0900+
Starbucks – Corner of Swan Rd & Fort Lowell Road

1st DRIVE

1st Saturday of the Month
Watch for Details on Actual Date and times.

2nd DRIVE

3rd Saturday of the Month
Watch for Details on Actual Date and times

BLAT

Wednesday or Thursday 3rd Week of the Month
Watch for Details on Actual Date and times

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Number 08

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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

TUCSON CLASSICS CAR SHOW - TCCS

The registration is closed.



**2026 Tucson Classics Car Show-
Registration is now open!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The 2026 Tucson Classics Car show will be held October 24th, 2026. This is the 20th year the Rotary Club of Tucson hosted the show, and we're extremely proud to have been able to use the proceeds to donate over \$3 million to local non-profit organizations who work to make Tucson a better place to live and work.

The show will be held at The Gregory School (3231 N Craycroft Rd, Tucson) from 10:00am – 4:00pm. All details are on our website.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: www.tucsonclassicscarshow.com

Hope to see you October 24th

TRIUMPHЕСТ – 2026 – FLAGSTAFF, AZ



Go to: www.triumphestaz.com

Register now for
Triumphetst 2026
September 17th thru 19th

BRITISH WHEELS ON THE GREEN (BWOG) – 2026 – PEORIA, AZ

We have not heard anything, but it is about that time of the year when we usually do. Website indicates “In Planning”. We will keep you posted as there will be communication with them whenever they commence advertising.

The Prez Sez

By David Hoffman, VP

In the past few TBCR newsletters I have delivered parodies on one subject or another. So, this month's missive goes out to Tim O'Keefe who preceded me as TBCR Vice-President. He is a great guy, so when he handed over the mantle, I received it with good intentions.

So, what does Tim do now? He snowbirds back to Minnesota and torments me with suggestions in which I'm just not interested, stuff like cars and other things.

Tim, you should know better than adding insult to injury by sending me a news article that's somewhat automotive related. Without naming the article, I'll protect all of us from potential copyright infringement by just winging it like some school kid plagiarizing his older brother's book report from a few years ago. Well, here we go:

News Flash! - Approximately 0.6% of new vehicles made for the US market in 2025 were stick shifts, according to preliminary government data. That number is down from about 35% in 1980.

Hey Tim, we're all a bunch of sophisticated *BritClubbers* here. You think we don't already know that manual transmissions have seen better days. Geez Ol' Pete Williams by Gosh? Yes, the European market displays a higher percentage of gearshift enthusiasts, but at what cost? Here in America, Volkswagen's ditching its stick shift model the Jetta GLI, and Toyota's canning the GR Supra manual shift model as well. Drivers are offered fewer choices, bullied by CVTs in SUVs that are AWDs, FWDs, RWDs, not to mention EVs with high MSRP's. Enough already, where's my Uber ride? Probably caught up in downtown traffic.

Minnesota must be really nice this time of year. Up there escaping the desert heat hanging out with Bob Dylan's "Girl From The North Country" playing on the radio, driving around on two lane blue highways almost halfway to Fargo dreaming like it's still the 20th Century. Looking for restaurants serving Lutefisk. Shifting gears and reaching over to change the station, tuning the radio and singing along to Soundgarden lyrics, "I'm looking California, and feeling Minnesota."

Yeah, well let me tell you something, Buster. While you're up there on the Minnesota Super Slide acting Ultra Kool, us *BritClubbers* are holding down "Fort Summer" here in the arid Gadsden Blood Meridian. Why just last week, we completed two organized drives: a Wednesday BLAT and a Saturday drive (well, kinda). What I mean is the BLAT went well consisting of maybe 8 to 10 cars including a couple genuine Brit antiques – Don Halsey's XKE and Glenn Mallory's MG. Everybody else pressed the easy button driving contemporary air-conditioned chariots. We completed the circuit arriving at Dove Mountain Country Club for breakfast.

Now for an explanation of the "Kinda" Saturday Drive: a similar number of cars showed at the Park Place Mall Starbucks, but rainfall was more than robust such that arroyos on the Eastside of Tucson were complicating the proposed route to Tanque Verde Ranch. Our fearless trail boss, Ben Cohen, affectionately known to all as *BenCo ChiliMo*, made a brilliant field-expedient decision, nixed the drive and led everyone directly to two nearby breakfast places – the Baja Café Broadway and the Biscuit Country Café. The food was substantial; however, considering the name "Country Café" I thought for sure we'd be listening to music by 'The Good Ol' Boys. Maybe next time. Incidentally, Ben's rescheduled the next drive for Saturday August 1st.

The Prez Sez (Continued)

By David Hoffman, VP

Tim, we await your return to the Ol' Pueblo sometime toward October in time for the Hot Dog Extravaganza. In the meantime, while in Minnesota, why not check in with some government authorities in charge of all that money sloshing around up there. You could score one of those fancy Porsche 911s with a PDK automatic transmission. Forget about that stick shift – the real challenge is pronouncing the word for transmission, “*Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe*”.

As President Pete always says, “***May the rubber meet the road, and the shiny bits remain up!***”

Dave Hoffman, VP

POTPOURRI

By the Editor

NEW MEMBERS

We are currently reconfiguring documentation associated with this matter and will announce those new members that joined between June 1st and August 31st in the September edition.

OUT OF BOUNDS

TRAVELS

By Editor

Fuel and Directions

This past June 6th Nan and I drove “home” to Maine. We returned to Tucson on July 14th. The purpose – Nan’s quarterly visit with her elderly Mother to attend to her affairs and me to work on three properties including Nan’s Mother’s home along with a Tenant and a quasi-derelict camp.

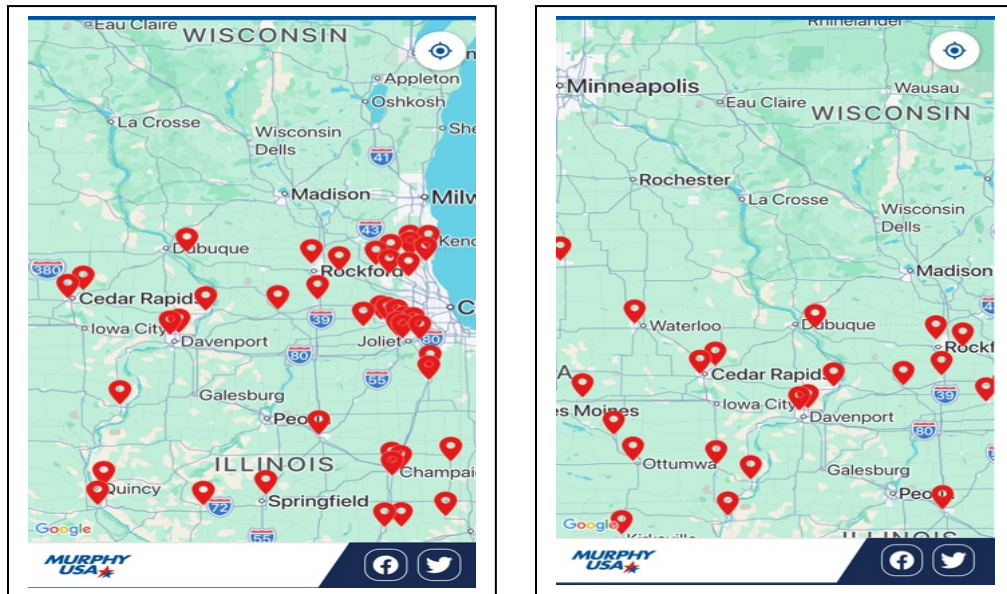
Fuel - One of the first things to be done is to top up to the max with diesel. The Chevron N Camino de la Tierra usually suits the desired pricing. The dually has a 50 gallon tank so a fill up is a three credit card operation as one usually gets cut off at \$125. So, 50 gallons puts it at \$260+. But that gets you a range of almost 1,000 miles – taking your heavy shoe off the right foot and keeping it at 65 mph and never over 70 helps.

Normally this is a 2,800 mile trek involving four days of 12+ hours of driving. We did this on the Eastbound leg. On the Westbound leg we did it a little different. This was partly due to the severe inclement weather flowing across the nation. Secondly, no commitments at any event upon return to Tucson. So enjoy it was then the motive.

OUT OF BOUNDS TRAVELS (Continued)

The fun began in Effingham IL which is a usual stop. This is one of the locations that we also usually refuel (with diesel), needing so or not because the fuel prices are usually the lowest. Pulling off the interstate and perusing the green neons (actually digitals) I spotted a green “\$4.03” per gallon. I navigated to that station – Murphy’s Diesel. The red neons were about a dollar less. So I joined Murphy’s and enjoyed the ride home a little more.

Mind you there are no such stations west of Las Cruces. It appears they have not ventured west of I-25 at this time nor too far Eastward of the Mississippi. It also appears that they are associated with Walmart. If you see a Walmart, look around and you will find Murphy. Hopefully, some of our Tucson Walmarts will acquire their cousin.



DIRECTIONS - Next came the routing issue and directions. I always try to drive in a northern arc which is the shortest direction when looking at a flat map. So I asked my navigator to see if Kansas City looked like a northern arc rather than drudge Westward through OK City. Well Miss Nancy does not read maps let alone even look at them. She gets to fiddling with her phone (She has downloaded ChatGPT) and the next thing I hear is her asking the phone for best route to Kansas City. Pause.... Then this male voice comes over and starts describing a route along with a weather and traffic report, places of interest to see along the route, restaurants to eat at and the best hotels to stay. Not only do we have the voice but we have the transcript of the call which we can reference later along the way or to impose another question to GPT.

ChatGPT is \$19.00 per month. She will cancel (pause) it at the end of 30 days. She will still have the inactive app on her phone ready to light back up for the next trip.

From these conversations that followed as we progressed on our travel, there were two stops recommended along the way. One a distillery and the other a car museum.

OUT OF BOUNDS TRAVELS (Continued)

The Distillery – it has been in operation since 1853. It is a bourbon distillery. I am not much of a fan of bourbon. Don't think I would wash my feet in it. Our daughter and her spouse like it. It is on a beautiful farmland. A long driveway lined with oak trees and a white fence. A rustic home well refurbished and sitting on a high knoll. Suns out. Nice cool breeze. Walk in and start investigating the product and was approached by a staff member. He was persistent that we buy a flight for small sampling the bourbon as that is preferred by the establishment. OK. We have a seat outside in the shade and cool breeze. Out comes the staff member. Sets down a very small tray with four glasses and wishes us to enjoy. Small sampling? It's got to be double shots in each glass! Eight ounces!! Mind you, we have made a hotel reservation in Wichita for the evening! Four hours away! Well I do my little sips and there are two that do not make me gag. So we carry the tray back and Nan orders two small bottles for the kids. He says fine, go enjoy your flight and I will bring them to you. I informed him that we had to drive to Wichita and there was no way I would even finish one. He hollars out, "That is alcohol abuse!" There were well over twenty customers present in the building and you certainly could hear a pin drop until we walked out the door.

The Car Museum – we got off Route 54 and onto I-40 until Santa Rosa where we then got onto Route 66. Quite rundown and desolate at first. Anyway the museum:



The Car Museum



McNamara would be proud

It was all American vehicles except for two (1-½ maybe). Not a Brit at this party. For a moment I was overjoyed to see a vintage Mercedes!



Pretty drive



German lock smithery???



After seeing the door I scooted back to re-read the sign!

OUT OF BOUNDS TRAVELS (Continued)

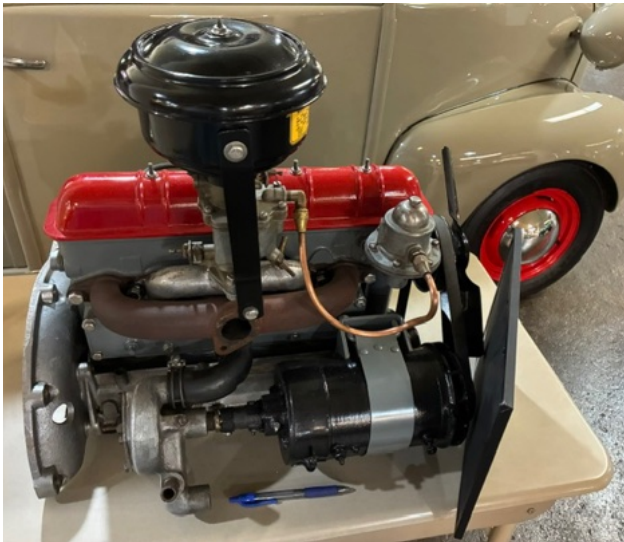
MORE MUSEUMS

Oddities... Small Car Engine

By Pete Williams

Our “Snowbird Prez” is enjoying the museum tours in the North.

How about the small engine that powered the Crosley truck and car in the late 1930s to the early 1950s? The pen shows the relatively small size of the 4-cylinder engine. The truck is a pre-WWII design.



From Google:

- Pre-War (1939–1942): Early air-cooled two-cylinder engines produced about 12.5 horsepower.
- Post-War (1946–1952): The famous sheet-metal (CoBra) and later cast-iron (CIBA) four-cylinder engines made 26.6 horsepower.
- Specialty Models: The high-performance Crosley Hotshot and Super Sports could output 27 to 28 horsepower, and highly modified race versions occasionally pushed past 50 horsepower.

The BMC A series engine had higher horsepower starting at 28 HP in an 803 cc engine. (Source: Google). As seen at NATMUS (National Automotive and Truck Museum) behind the ACD Museum in Auburn IN. After car production ceased, the engine was placed vertically in outboard motors by other companies.

OUT OF BOUNDS

MORE MUSEUMS (Continued)

More from Google:

- **The Fageol 44:** In the 1950s, Lou Fageol, recovering from a hydroplane accident, modified the 44-cubic-inch Crosley car engine into a vertical outboard called the Fageol 44. Paired with a Scott-Atwater lower unit, it produced 35 horsepower.
- **Homelite Bearcat 55:** In 1961, chainsaw-maker Homelite acquired the design, expanded its displacement to 60 cubic inches, and re-engineered it to marine specifications. This heavy, 55-horsepower, 4-stroke outboard was later sold to Fisher-Pierce in 1966.
- **The Boston Whaler Connection:** Fisher-Pierce marketed it as the Bearcat 55. It was famously paired with the popular, innovative **Boston Whaler 16**.
- **Design & Legacy:** As a rare 4-stroke option in a market dominated by loud, smoky 2-strokes, they were beloved for their smooth idle and excellent fuel efficiency. However, because they are heavy and parts are highly scarce, they are now prized as sought-after collector's items.

The Crosley Corporation, as a manufacturer and conglomerate, was more famous for their electric radios and appliances and other business ownerships.

