

ABCS Newsletter



July 2004

Volume 13 Issue 7

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, July 8, 2004 – RUSH STREET GRILL

The First Annual ABCS Car Show

On June 12 a group of ABCS members and other British car enthusiasts brought their favorite cars to display in the parking lot in front of Office Depot in Kingsport. By noon we had 21 cars registered. There was a King Midget, one Mini, one Rolls Royce, one Jaguar and a host of MGs and Triumphs. Herren arrived “dead stick” as he coasted the last quarter mile in his newly restored beloved MG and “landed” perfectly in an appropriate parking spot. Eventually there were 25 registered cars. Margaret saw to it there was no rain. The first annual car show for the ABCS was considered a success.



While C. C. was in charge of parking show cars and redirecting SOB (Some Other Brand) cars to other areas of the parking lot, Ben supervised the assembly and erection of the shade tent. Juan found some concrete blocks to hold down the tent against the possibility of wind. The tent was much appreciated during the heat of the day. To all those who assisted in putting up and taking down the tent we say “many thanks”. Also we want to express our appreciation to Office Depot for their cooperation in making this show a success and to Joe Coffey who supplied the trophies at cost.



Every registered car received a dash plaque. Winners of the trophies were selected by popular vote. First place went to Allen and Margaret Calcote and their 1954 MG TF. Second place went to Richard and Sue Williams and their 1951 MG TD. Third place went to Greg Cowan and his Triumph TR 6. George, the dog, got "honorable mention". It was a day of fun and camaraderie for all who attended. We can hardly wait until the 2005 show.



Getting Our 1963 MGB to the Appalachian British Car Show

By: Herren Floyd

To celebrate forty years of owning our 1963 MGB, which we bought new back then, we had the body repainted, the engine overhauled, and the gearbox refurbished. Our club member, Steve Hightower, did all of that for us at his shop at home in his spare time (which he seemed to have very little of after starting the project which took about a year and half to complete).



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My son, Carl, helped me install the engine and transmission in May with his engine hoist.



We had set a goal of having the car on the road in time to enter it in the first-ever Appalachian British Car Show on June 12, and I had a lot of parts to clean, paint, and replace before then. We cranked the engine several days before the show, but we had to shut it down because it soon got too hot. We eventually discovered that I had missed removing one of the many temporary plugs, this one at the radiator hose connection. With that corrected, we ran the engine for twenty minutes at 2500 RPM and then changed the oil and oil filter. My wife, Otti, and I took it for a test run the day before the show, and it started easily and ran good but tended to run too hot, maybe

because I had not put the thermostat back in.

About 8:30 AM on the day of the show, as I drove up the hill on Eastman road from Fort Henry Drive, the engine suddenly quit. My momentum didn't quite get me to the top of the hill. Just as I came to a stop, Paul Knuckles pulled up in his Jeep Cherokee and asked if I needed help. He helped me push it far enough so that I could coast on down to the Center Street traffic signal.

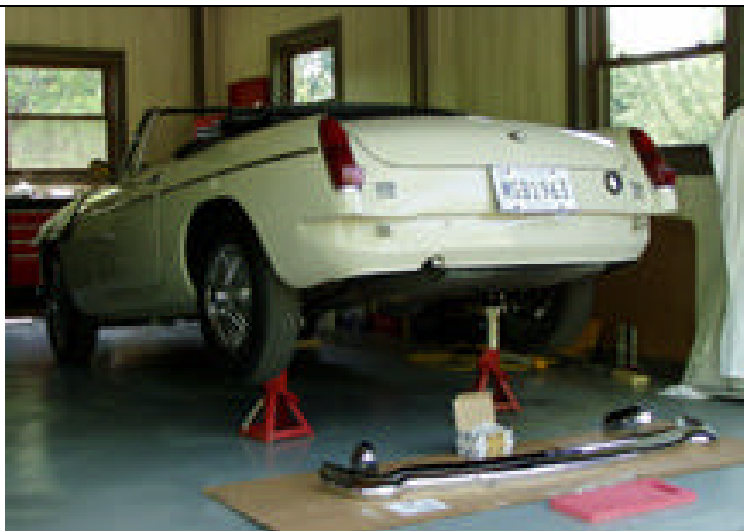
When the signal turned green I began to coast slowly through the intersection and then picked up a lot of speed down the hill toward the former Kingsport Mall parking lot where the show would start in a little over an hour. I turned into the parking lot with enough speed to coast on over to a parking space that I selected for my spot in the show in front of Office Depot. A core plug (or freeze plug as they're usually called in these parts) had come out, dumping water onto the distributor.

When we went for lunch during the show, we bought a couple of expandable temporary core plugs, one too small and one too large, but Lee Seats whittled the larger one down to size with his sharp pocket knife. Paul Kern found that NAPA had a limited number of permanent core plugs that fit an MGB engine.

After the show, Otti followed me toward home in our Honda. The temporary core plug held, but another one came out on the way home, this time the one in back of the engine that is difficult to replace without removing the engine and transmission, but not impossible as Carl suspected and verified on the Internet. Not realizing what had happened, I continued to drive past Wal-Mart on Fort Henry Drive, but pulled into the Food City Gas Station when the temperature gage reached 212.

A church group was washing cars there and gave me water which I watched pour out of the back of the engine. Otti and I decided to try to push the MG to a parking space to leave it, and two guys were helping us just moments after we started to push it.

As we were putting up the top, Danny Freeman (who had driven Charlie Keith's Rolls Royce to our show) was parking his van next to us. He loaned us a come-along tool that he had with him and told us we could borrow a car dolly that was at the garage where the Rolls Royce was stored. With Carl's truck and the use of the dolly, we had the MG back in our garage by the end of the day. We calculate that we had had enough good luck to balance out the bad luck, and above all we were successful in getting our MG to the first Appalachian British Car Show.



Programs

July	Dave Valentine	China
August	Bud Shinall	To Be Announced
September	Open	
October	Open	

APPALACHIAN BRITISH CAR SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ HOME PHONE (____) _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE: _____

<u>CARS:</u>	<u>MAKE</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COLOR</u>
#1	_____	_____	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____	_____	_____
#3	_____	_____	_____	_____

**DUES ARE PRORATED ACCORDING TO
THE MONTH IN WHICH YOU JOIN:**

January-March	\$20.00
April-June	15.00
July-September	10.00
October-December	20.00 <small>(includes following year's dues)</small>
All Renewals	15.00 (due February 28 of each year)

Enclose payment with application and mail to:
 Appalachian British Car Society
 c/o Al Bradley, Treasurer
 143 Stonewall Heights
 Abingdon, VA 24210

All meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Rush Street Grill in Kingsport, TN

ABCS / Eddie Penland
4547 Grace Dr.
Kingsport, TN 37664

TO: