

ABCS Newsletter



May 2003

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NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, May 8, 2003 – RUSH STREET GRILL

Minutes of the ABCS Meeting For April 10, 2003

By: Greg Bowman

Ken Hampton, Vice-President, conducted the meeting. 19 Members were in attendance. Not too surprisingly, since we once again received a deluge of rain, there was only one British cars in attendance, a Jaguar XJR.

The Board has decided that the next order of t-shirts and sweatshirts will have white lettering, so as to be more legible.

Al Bradley has for sale:

- T-Shirts \$10
- Caps \$15
- Sweatshirts \$20

Program:

C.C. Goodson gave a very informative program on cleaning and polishing your British Car. C.C.'s preference is for Meguiar's products, which he indicated, were safe for clear coat or enamel or lacquer finishes.

He starts by washing the car with Meguiar's soap, and drying with an artificial chamois called "the Absorber."



Wheels are cleaned with Meguiar's Hot Wheels cleaner.

He polishes the car with Meguiar's step 1 Paint Cleaner and step 2 polish, using different applicators and rubbing only in a back and forth motion, not circular. Polishes are removed with terry cloth.



Meguiar's step 3, carnuba wax, is applied with a new applicator in a circular motion. C.C. uses an electric buffer to remove the wax.

Vinyl and rubber are cared for with Meguiar's vinyl protectant; leather with Connolly hide food. Tires are coated with Black Magic foaming tire dressing.

Believe it or not C.C. doesn't work for Meguiar's.

Month of May: Randy Stills with a Mystery Program.

Randy Still and his Mother and Dad have been personal friends of ours for many years. He is a member of AACA and owns a number of antique cars.

The last time I was at his home and in his barn, I counted over 20 cars of various vintages. And he has purchased others since then. He owns only one MG, a Midget, but he has 4 or 5 antique Franklins in mint condition, several Cadillacs, Lincolns, Rolls Royce and I don't remember what all. He owns thousands of toy car models such as Matchbox, etc, and some very valuable antique hood ornaments and other automobile memorabilia. He has visited our club before.

I wish we could get him to join our club, but he is very active in AACA and takes his Franklins all over the country for show. He has won a number of awards for his mint condition cars.

I'm sure you will enjoy whatever he decides to talk about. I asked him for a subject about three days ago, but as yet he hasn't decided.

Allen Calcote

Upcoming Drives:

April 26 to Bays Mountain. Leave Rush Street at 9:00 a.m. Afterwards, members are invited to go to the exchange place in Kingsport.

End of August: Overnight trip on Blue Ridge Parkway with stay at Peaks of the Otter.

Upcoming Events:

Cruise-In in Jonesboro on Mother's Day weekend, May 9-11 (Fri, Sat, & Sun)

Blount British Cars Townsend Gathering May 3.

British V8 Convention in Townsend May 1-3.

Gathering of the faithful at Presbyterian College Clinton, S.C. Memorial Day Weekend. Contact Alle Calcote for details.

See "Upcoming ABCS Activities" at www.britcars.net for details.

Drive Your British Car Week Gathering at Gourmet & Co. May 28 at 6:00p.m.

Free coffee and cookies. Drive your British Car. The first ten arrivals will receive dash plaques. Please call for reservations if you would like to eat a gourmet meal.

History of "Taps"

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician.

The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform.

This wish was granted. This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" that is used at all military funerals.

In case you are interested, these are the words to "TAPS":

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the lakes,
From the hills,
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

In memory of Appalachian British Car Club members Jennifer Bradley and Dick Williams. They will be missed.



We all grieve for Dick as I think he was one our most loved club members.

Gerry Mitchell



By: Margaret & Allen Calcote

The ABCS driving season for 2003 officially started on Saturday, March 29. Two MGBs, a Jaguar and one SOB (Some Other Brand) left Rush Street promptly at 10:00 AM and motored to Johnson City and were joined by another MG and a Land Rover. With Eddie Penland in the lead, the entourage motored to "Betsy Town", (Elizabethton) via Watauga and Turkey Town. A fine herd of Holstein cows was seen in Turkey Town, but not a single turkey.

We arrived in Elizabethton and immediately found a Coffee Shoppe where some members could be refueled. After a bit of antique shopping, who should appear but our esteemed president and his lovely wife. We all enjoyed a tasty lunch at Duck Duck Goose, a delightful deli in an antique shop. After lunch we tried to go to the hardware store, but found it had closed at noon. Our next stop was the covered bridge. We drove through the bridge, then stopped for picture taking.

A few hardy souls, not to be outdone, drove to Hampton to shop at Brown's Hardware, which was open. It was well worth the drive.

The day was chilly and the rain provided a test for the MG's, but Ben Bailey, David Bettis, Gael and Kathy Bright, Allen and Margaret Calcote, Gerald and Becky Mitchell, Eddie Penland and Bud and Regina Shinall all had a great time.





Pictures by: E. Penland