

ABCS Newsletter



September 2004

Volume 13 Issue 9

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, September 9, 2004 – RUSH STREET GRILL

Up Coming Programs

September	Eddie Penland	17 days in Europe
October	Open	Add your name here.
November	Open	Add your name here.
December	Christmas Party	Add your name here.

Up Coming Events

September 11*	British Car Show Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival	Elizabethton, TN
September 19**	ABCS Annual Get Together	Shelter # 1 Warriors Path State Park 1 PM
September 19	Allendale Car Show	Allendale Mansion
December 9	ABCS Christmas Party	Rush Street Grill

* For more information visit the ABCS website. <http://www.britcars.net/>

** Date Change

Minutes of the ABCS Meeting For August 12, 2004

Ken Hampton, Vice-President conducted the meeting in Gael Bright's absence. Gail just underwent surgery, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

New member Barry Black received a warm welcome. He is the proud owner of a 1977 MGB.

Club Business:

Ken Hampton made a motion to invest \$100 of club funds in the drawing being held by the Sacred Octagon to win a 1937 MG TA. In the event the club wins, the Board will determine a type of drawing by which one of our club members will own the vehicle. The motion was seconded and approved.

Regalia:

Al Bradley has for sale:

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

Program: Bud Shinall "Show and Tell."

Bud led a show and tell of interesting and useful tools. Bud showed a clear Tamiya model paint, which can be used to refurbish tail and marker, lights. For spraying, he picked up a cheap airbrush at Wal-mart along with a cheap can of propellant.

Upcoming Events:

[Sycamores Celtic Fest and British Car Show](#) – September 11, 2004. Please plan to attend this even sponsored by our club and the Smokey Mountain Jaguar Club.

[Eurofest in Greer S.C.](#) - October 15-17, 2004. Greg Bowman is hoping to go, and Mark Whitt will be leading a group of British cars from Morristown. Plan to attend. This years featured marque is the MG

He also showed a Preval aerosol could be used to spray premixed paint, rather than using an airbrush or touch-up gun. Finally, Bud presented some silver foil he found at a craft store for refurbishing chrome dash items.

Herren Floyd showed an old automotive bulb socket that he attached two wires to, to set his static timing. He also constructed a tool to hold the flywheel steady on his MGB during installation.

Allan Calcote demonstrated how to use a timing light to see which spark plug is not firing, by placing the inductive pickup on each wire until the light no longer flashes. Allan also showed the group his homemade spark gap tester, constructed from wood, screws, wire, and a plastic bottle cap and fiberglass resin.

Greg Bowman shared a Unibit drill bit, and his grandfather's tune up kit.

Gael sent along a tip for holding tiny drill bits in the chuck. Use small copper tubing in the chuck around the drill bit.

Upcoming Drives:

August 21, 2004: Drive to Grayson Highlands State Park.

September 25, 2004: Drive to the Natural Tunnel State Park.

September 4, 2004: Drive to Middlesboro Air Show.

October? 2004: Drive to Bloomquist Airfield in Bean Station.

It was a Dark and Stormy night. . . .

By: Allen McKenna

Well, that's how our friend Snoopy might have described the 21 August, as several intrepid members of the Appalachian British Car Society met at Abingdon's Cracker Barrel restaurant, with designs on an adventure into the high country of Virginia's Grayson Highlands State Park. The rain gods had other plans for us, as it rained incessantly from dawn till past 9:00AM. Our knowledgeable member Al "The Weatherman" Bradley pointed out that if it was damp and dreary in the flatlands, then another two thousand feet of elevation gain would not put us above the clouds, but firmly in them, and we wouldn't see our hands in front of our faces, much less the spectacular mountain scenery.

So we held a caucus, right there on the front porch of the Cracker Barrel. Margaret Calcote had heard rumors of a Civil War Re-enactment in nearby Saltville, VA, and that met the approval of the rest of the group. Furthermore, being new territory to many of the group, foreigners all from that land of much personal freedom known as Tennessee, leadership fell to yours truly, who happens to be indigenous to Washington County Virginia. Not indigent, not always, anyway, but indigenous, meaning local to these parts.

And so we were off. Two of those darned Yapanese cars (the Calcote family Honda, Eddie Penland in his Miata that might possibly pass for an imitation MGB if you squint and contort your face just right), and two glorious little Britcars, Ben Bailey's MGB and my well-experienced TR6. Do the tops leak? If I was concerned, really, about keeping dry feet, I could drive an Explorer. Shucks, man, this is an ADVENTURE, first class, and as long as we are reasonably safe, let's roll.



Our designated route was one of much personal history for me, leaving Abingdon on the Hillman Highway, onto Old Saltworks Road, towards Meadowview. Left at Snavely's Corner, Right at Logan's Corner, Slow through the village of Clinchburg. Caution entering Plasterco, passing many, many former company row houses, and into downtown Saltville. As we had no clue where the Re-enactment was being held, we eased into the Town Parking lot for a pow-wow. And as if on cue, right across the street from us, the Museum of Middle Appalachia (MoMA, if we must use acronyms) threw open the doors, turned on the lights, and beckoned us inside. So we went—we are all curious souls, as you know.



MoMA is best left to two words: MUST SEE. Not purely homage to Saltville, but comprehensive enough to consider the history-cultural, geological, economic of the that forgotten valley province west of the well known I-81 corridor perhaps defined by the North Fork of the Holston River from its origins

in Bland County, through Smyth County and into Washington County. Sure, there were some darn big bones from some long dead native critter, but there were many insights into the native peoples of the village of Saltville. Of particular fascination was a relatively new exhibit examining the practice of concealment. Not black magic, not shoplifting, nor sorcery, but the cultural phenomenon of including articles of personal significance in the construction adjacent to a home's front entrance, as a warning to evil spirits.

For more info—head for the museum. Entry fee is a very reasonable three bucks, unless a person is antique and qualifies for that Seniority Discount—as Ben Bailey did on that day, his birthday. I'm sworn to secrecy—I have to let Ben tell just which birthday—but it's up there. The ride up there is spectacular, too. Perhaps we should include this on our repertoire of rides?

Now—our appetite for history was whetted. Our Curiosity was piqued—or peaked. Margaret and Alan Calcote found many, many, connections between Saltville and their hometown of Kingsport, with a little Abingdon connection thrown in.

Perhaps the greatest connection was that Kingsport was just that—the port, belonging to King, from where Saltville's namesake product, Salt, was shipped to the rest of the world. And the missing link became our challenge.

As our minds wondered back in time, we saw the formidable task of transporting the Saltville Salt to Kingsport. We learned in the museum that most likely, the salt traveled down the North Fork of the Holston River in either low draft boats, or perhaps along a riverbank tote road. And we saw challenge in re-tracing that route—so we did.

Leaving Saltville proper, we passed the remains of the Olin Chemical Works, and headed towards Allison's Gap. Turning left through Perryville, we headed downriver on VA 611. The first several miles were gravel, complete with an occasional pothole, but entirely passable at reasonable speeds. Crossing Route 80 (some may remember Route 80 as our route to Breaks Interstate Park, last summer), 611 becomes gravel again for a short while.

Observant motorists may have noticed Washington County's resident Amish community just across the river—but then the pavement resumed. We sped through the resort community of Mongle Springs, and intersected US 19, the Abingdon/Lebanon superhighway at the community of Holston. At this point the nomenclature changed to VA 802, the Mendota Road.



And thus we continued, through some of the county's most fertile river bottom farmland, to the community of Mendota, Virginia, complete with US Post Office, Medical Clinic, and Community center, and I don't mean all wrapped into one. This metropolis is big enough to support three separate such enterprises, and is poised to grow even more as the Bristol/Mendota rail-trail conversion is scheduled for development to rival the well known Virginia Creeper Trail. Stay tuned.

Leaving Mendota, we journeyed into Scott County, still along the river road. Of import is the well known Carter Family Fold music venue, more beautiful farmland, and proud, well kept homes of our neighbors and fellow citizens along the way.

This amazing journey ended at what we suspect was once a streetcar, parked alongside the road in downtown Hiltons Virginia. In spite of the rain (on and off all day) we were in agreement that the scenery was spectacular, the traffic was manageable, the company was good, and a good time was had by all.



APPALACHIAN BRITISH CAR SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

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

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE: _____

CARS:	<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 (includes following year's dues)
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: