

BRITISH SPORTS CARS ALASKA



British Sports Cars Alaska Limited is the club for owners of all British sports cars including Austin Healey, Caterham, Jaguar, Jensen Healey, Lotus, Marcos, MG, Mini, Morgan, Sunbeam, & Triumph
May 1, 2018



Renewals > Shop Day, Concours, Highland Games > Tin Worm Collection > Buy/Sell/Trade

British Sports Cars Alaska is the monthly newsletter of British Sports Cars Alaska Limited.

British Sports Cars Alaska Limited is the club for owners and enthusiasts of all British sports cars. Individual or family dues are \$30.00 per year. BSCA is an affiliated chapter of the North American MGA Register.

The BSCA Ltd board is:

Martin Walters, President

854-9949 martinwalters@gci.net

Johnson Quarles, Past President

227-3812 johnsonquarles@gci.net

Dean Cox, President-elect

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John Martin, Treasurer/secretary

748-8004 mrjohnmartin@mac.com

David Baldwin, At-large

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Ken Morton, Newsletter Editor

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Useful contacts

British Sports Cars Alaska (BSCA) Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/441619005978014/>

North American MGA Register (NAMGAR)

<http://www.namgar.com/>

North American MGB Register (NAMGBR)

<https://namgbr.org/>

Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)

<http://vtr.org/>

Austin Healey Club of America (AHCA)

<https://www.healeyclub.org/>

Austin Healey Club USA (AHCUSA)

<http://www.healey.org/>

Jaguar Clubs of North America (JCNA)

<http://www.jcna.com/>

Antique Auto Musers of Alaska (AAMA)

<http://www.antiqueautomusersak.org/>

Midnight Sun Street Rod Association (MSSRA)

<http://www.midnightsunsra.com/>

Cover: MGA cutaway, British Motor Museum

2018 Renewals Past Due

If you have already renewed your BSCA membership for 2018, thank you. Your dues cover everything from printing costs to library rental fees for the concours, parade entry fees to Christmas party expenses. If you haven't yet renewed, please send the attached renewal form with your \$30 check to John Martin, 8004 Meadow Hills Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

2018 BSCA Activities & Plans

If you have an idea for an event, be sure to contact President Martin Walters, martinwalters@gci.net or 854-9949.

May 5 (Saturday) First event of the year: Dave & Tane' Bathke's shop day.



Dave and Tane' Bathke have invited us for the 2nd annual BSCA Shop Day on Saturday, May 5, starting at 11:00 AM and going to about 5:00 PM. The Bathke's home and shop are located at 4351 DeArmoun Road, a little more than a mile up from the Seward Highway, and three driveways past Elmore Road, which has an overhead flashing caution light. Dave will have orange traffic candlestick markers at the end of the driveway to help you find them.

Dave says "We have a car lift, and the ramps have been modified for low ground clearance cars. If you would like to do an oil change, or rotate your tires, or just get a good look at your car (or other peoples cars) this is a great opportunity for that to happen."

Adrian Dixon of Repairs Unlimited will join us for the day to socialize and offer technical support.

Questions?

Dave & Tane' Bathke

907-244-0630

daveb@norcoastmechanical.com

May 12 (Saturday) Tour of Anchorage: John Martin

A short drive around the Anchorage area to help ensure your car is ready for longer events.



May 19 (Saturday) Tune in the Spring: Travis DeMoss



I will be organizing club attendance to this year's "Tune in the Spring" car show at the Alaskan Transportation Museum located just west of Wasilla. There will be more info sent out in an email, once I've had a chance to pose questions to the event organizers. For right now, all the info I have can be found on the car show website:

<https://tuneinthespring.com> (you'll notice a familiar set of fog lamps gracing the site's cover page)

There is a road rally the day prior to Tune in the Spring. It is a "work in progress". I will follow this and inform all of concrete updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/alaskasca/>



June 2 (Saturday) Hatcher Pass: Johnson Quarles



June 10 (Sunday) BSCA Concourse d'Elegance, Loussac Library: John Martin

Wipe off the bugs, wipe on some wax.



Dr. Cy Conrad, Chief Judge of the La Jolla Concours d'Elegance, wrote "According to Webster, 'Concours' comes from the French, and means 'a crowd or confluence of things; also a park promenade.' The term conjures up romantic visions of beautiful women in haute couture in a park-like setting surrounded by sparkling coaches, glistening groomed horses, gorgeous flowers, champagne, fine art and sculpture, and later, by the finest automotive art."

In the 1920s and '30s, a Concours displayed the work of the finest contemporary automotive designers and builders. By the 1950s, the concours was becoming a place to display classic and fine antique cars, original or restored. Some historic events include a Concours d'Elegance, a car show, a classic car auction, and vintage racing.

June 16 (Saturday) Eagle River / Hiland Road: Rick Harding, with BBQ to follow at Dean Cox residence



June 21 (Thursday) Summer Solstice Rumble

June 30 (Saturday) Scottish Highland Games, Palmer State Fairgrounds: Ken Morton

British car show, scotch eggs, scotch whiskey, large men in plaid skirts throwing heavy objects. It's a lot of fun to watch, and we get in free to show our cars. We are the only car club invited to the Games. Let's make this a good show.



The Alaskan Scottish Club is a non-profit organization established to promote the Scottish culture, heritage and teachings through events, workshops, concerts and other social gatherings in Alaska. Visit their website for more information. <http://www.alaskascottish.org>

This brief history of Highland Games in Scotland is from True Highlands: "The exact origins of Highland games are unclear. Certainly there are apocryphal

tales of ancient Scottish kings selecting the most able soldiers and couriers, by pitting young warriors against each other to find the fastest or strongest. Whatever format these tests of strength took, the break-up of the traditional clan system and the suppression of Highland culture in the aftermath of the battle of Culloden, meant that they very much took place in secret.

"It was not until the Victorian era that the games as we know them now had a real resurgence. This was partially due to Queen Victoria herself, who was an avid spectator, and who started a long standing tradition of Royal patronage at the Braemar games, close to her residence at Balmoral. One of the joys of attending such a gathering today is that much of the spectacle seems relatively unchanged in the intervening years. The games are like a portal to a strange past, where tests of strength and musical ability take precedence over video games and football.

"The exact composition of the days entertainments differs in local communities, but, as in the Victorian era, the highlights will always be the traditional dancing competitions, the massed pipes and drums and the so called heavy athletics. These include the caber, tug o' war, hammer, shot putt and weight over a bar."

<https://www.truehighlands.com/brief-history-of-highland-games-in-scotland/>

July 4 (Wednesday) Independence Day Parades, Anchorage (John Martin) and Chugiak

Celebrate our independence by driving your British car in the 4th of July parade.



July 13 (Friday) Bear Paw Car Show: Rick Harding
July 14 (Saturday) Bear Paw Parade: Dean Cox



August 11 (Saturday) Hot Summer Nights,
Palmer: Dean Cox

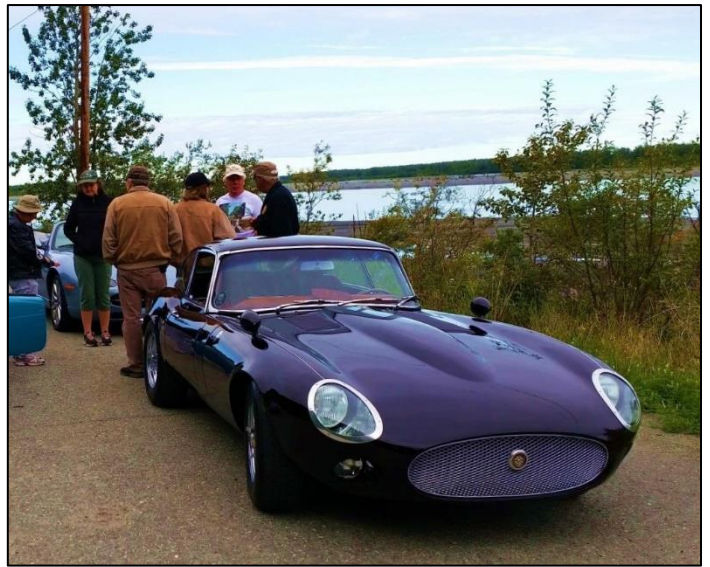


July 21 (Saturday) Sutton Valley Trash Show &
Shine: Cheryl Babbe

July 28 (Saturday) Whittier! Dave Baldwin



August 18 (Saturday) Knik River Run: Johnson
Quarles



August 4 (Saturday) PRE Show & Shine: Martin
Walters

August 5 (Sunday) Jay Ofsthun Show & Shine
Delaney Park Strip

The biggest car show in town!



August 25 (Saturday) Eklutna Lake: Rick Harding



Tin Worm Auto Collection

Dennis Johnson, story & photos

I have always been interested about how and why people ended up in Alaska. Even more interesting to me is why car people end up here considering the short and sometimes very wet summers. Many of you BSCA's don't know me, where I came from, or why I have a couple of British cars shoehorned into a garage with the balance of my used car collection. I have been one of those silent or anonymous members for quite a few years. This was due to my work schedule on the North Slope.

Well, I grew up in Southern California, mostly in and around the San Fernando Valley. I remember in 1974 I found a 1959 Austin Healey Bug Eye Sprite for sale at Reseda Imports on Reseda Blvd. It was a nice car.



Upgraded 1275cc engine, original engine was only a 948cc, it also sported wire wheels. I couldn't afford this car but I returned to this dealer often to see this car before it was sold. I was hooked, it didn't take long before I was the proud owner of a tired, affordable, bondo filled, Bug Eye Sprite. This tired B.E. was an important part of my story, now I was forced to learn how to repair and maintain this car and many more cars to follow. I started honing my mechanical skills working part time for Russ Thompson who was doing mostly repairs and maintenance on Big Healey's. Russ is still doing business in Southern California, (Thompson British Car). Over the years in Southern California, I owned a couple of Bug Eyes and an early Midget plus I had a 1961 Austin Healey 3000 for a brief period. Another memorable experience was at a car dealer on the corner of Ventura and Sepulveda Blvd. I was about 18 and was admiring a Austin Healey Sebring Sprite that happened to be for sale on the lot.

This was a rare and pretty spendy car even back in the 70's. The salesman was impressed that I knew what the car was, he said business was slow and asked me if I wanted to go for a ride? No reason to ask twice, I'm in. We take off from the lot, head up Coldwater Canyon. Once the car is warmed up the salesman pulls over and asked if I wanted to drive? Dumb question. But who lets a 18 year old drive an expensive, right-hand drive car on Coldwater Canyon at night? The car didn't get wrecked, we made it back to the dealership fine, even though I didn't share with the salesman that I had never driven a RHD car. This was one of those memories I will never forget.



Fast forward, got married, while raising a family we moved to Alaska in 1991, we felt that Alaska would be a good place to raise our kids. I discovered early on that raising a family was expensive so my British car hobby was put on hold until about 2006 or so. My wife, Robin noticed that I had been looking at British sports cars for sale. She suggested that I buy one, the kids were getting older and doing their own things. Her suggestion was all that it took. Before long I was the proud owner of another tired, well used 1960 Bug Eye Sprite. A non-running 1977 MGB was soon to follow.



Today I am happy to say that they both run well along with the rest of the collection and are exercised on a regular basis, weather permitting here in the Great Land. My BSC's do share a crowded garage with some big old American iron. I guess you could say that I never met an old car that I didn't like.



Set your camera to the highest resolution to get a quality image for a large calendar print. **Make sure the sun isn't directly behind the car or you.** **Keep your shadow and reflection out of the picture.** **Make sure the camera is focused.**



Take a picture of your car!

Start thinking now about getting a good calendar picture of your car! Reprinted in shortened form from Triumph 6 Pack Magazine article by David Fidler (Photos: K. Morton)



Turn the front wheels away from you. The wheel looks nicer than the front suspension.



Keep people out of the shot. It's all about the car.

Don't shoot all car and nothing but the car. Having the car full frame makes it impossible to crop the photo for the calendar format.



Watch out for signs, poles, trees, trash cans and people sticking up out of your car.



Don't use a wide-angle lens setting; it distorts things badly. (Look at the droopy bumper and leaning right wheel.)



Look for interesting angles, compose the shot, squat down or stand on up on something to add interest.

Have some fun with this!

Let's get calendar pictures from some of you folks who have never submitted one before! Email your jpg files to Ken Morton at ak.roadster@att.net

Outside events:

If you've never been to a big classic car event, you should go to one this year!

North American MGA Register GT

GT-43, the 2018 NAMGAR Get Together, Richmond, Virginia, in June 13-17, 2018.

More information at www.namgar.com

North American MGB Register

NAMGBR's MG 2018, Gettysburg, PA, June 17-22.

More information at www.namgbr.org

Vintage Triumph Register

VTR 2018 National Convention, La Crosse, WI, July 17 - July 21

More information: vintagetriumphregister.org

Triumphfest Sacramento, CA Sept 27-30

<http://triumphfest2018.org/>

Austin Healey Club of America

Conclave Bloomington, Indiana, July 15 - July 20

www.austinhealeyconclave.com

California Healey Week

October 17-21, 2018, Solvang, California. More information: <http://www.austin-healey.org>

Jaguar Clubs of North America

San Antonio, Texas, March 23-25, 2018

www.icna.com

International Jaguar Festival

October 31, 2018 – November 4, 2018, Santa

Barbara, CA More : <http://www.icna.com/>

Monterey Car Week & Concours

d'Elegance August 18 - 26, 2018

www.seemonterey.com/events/sporting/concours/

Portland All British Field Meet

Hundreds of British cars & vintage racing too!

Portland, OR Sept 7 - 9, 2018

<https://madmimi.com/p/2d55fa?fe=1&pact=18256-142057343-4369271744-d878a20fefa92a4a062b0f6afc3a9b9018e0f121#>

Goodwood Revival, Goodwood Circuit, U.K.

Vintage racing, vintage music, vintage costumes, and much more, September 7-9, 2018

www.goodwood.com

Member News

Be sure to check the BSCA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/441619005978014/>

Roster

Your treasurer is in Hawaii and your editor is in the UK. We will get a current roster to you as soon as possible!

Buy/sell/trade/etc.

MG project & parts for sale

Clearing out the shop: MGTD project for sale, rolling chassis with rebuilt engine, new body timbers. Also misc. MGA & MGB parts for sale including engine, rear axle, brake calipers. Tom Arminski 744-1341 arminski@gci.net

MGB Radiator needed

Good used radiator needed for 1978 MGB

Ursula Gould 301-1950 or ursulagould@yahoo.com

British Sports Cars Alaska Membership Application & Renewal May 2018

Your Name(s)

Your Car(s)

Make _____

Model _____

Year _____ Colour _____

Make _____

Model _____

Year _____ Colour _____

Make _____

Model _____

Year _____ Colour _____

Your Mailing address

Street/ PO box _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Your Email Address

_____@_____

Your Phone number (cell or land line, where you prefer to be called evenings/ weekends)

_____ - _____ - _____

Please complete this renewal form and return **with your check for \$30.00 to:**

**British Sports Cars Alaska
c/o John Martin
8004 Meadow Hills Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502**

Thanks!