

The Car Club Beano



British Engineered Automobiles-Nanaimo Order

May—June 2008

52nd Edition

Editor & Publisher: Ken Hedges



LUCILLE

I am a 1963 SUNBEAM ALPINE SERIES 3. My current owner, a relatively new member of your enthusiastic ranks, found me in Victoria.

In 2002 the former owners found me in a garage in Royston where I had been gathering dust for 22 years. They had my body restored and my chrome redone. My engine got some T.L.C. and my tires were replaced.

I thought I was keeping them happy but they bought a 64 Comet and suddenly I became surplus.

Back to the current owner.....She had joined the V.C.C.C. and had started to look for a car to purchase.

In her early 20's she owned a 1961 Sunbeam Alpine and (as you all have done) wished she still had it, but, the lure of Australia suddenly made that car surplus.

Anyhow, imagine her surprise and delight when she came upon an ad for ME. After a couple of emails and trip to Victoria I was on my way to Nanaimo.

On one of my first trips we went to Brits on the Beach at Transfer Beach and she was easily talked into joining the O.E.C.C. Life is good!

Now we just need that old weather to smarten up because she likes to travel with my top down.

Lucille.... (dictated to C.J. Sylvest)

The Garden Run

Sunday May 25th saw 13 cars and 25 people pull out of Canadian Tire at around 12:45pm. (We were late because Dave Harris was making a blood sacrifice to the Sun Gods and had to tape up the wound). I was very pleased to see some “new” faces on the run. As well as the usual mob, we had Helen & Adrian Rice in their daily driver and Michael Chriss in his red MGB.



Despite, what I considered to be the most complete set of driving instructions I have ever seen, we managed to lose one car on the first turn and Sandy & I were already discussing whether to wait for all the cars to get through the lights or let everyone follow our directions (she won)! What an auspicious start to our first ever run.

Our original plan for the run was to visit five member's homes, spending approximately twenty minutes at each home and ending up for a barbeque at our home. With

this in mind, our first stop was Irene & Al Thompson's home. Irene had arranged for her rhododendrons to all be in bloom along with many other plants in their lovely garden. Oscar and Laura rejoined us here. After the aforementioned twenty minutes (yes Al I again apologize for the short stay), we left to go to Danita & Dave Nishioka's. We managed to all arrive together and as well Peggy & Don Badger joined with us there. After approximately twenty minutes we all got formed up again and headed to Adèle & Ken Hedges' home. By now Sandy & I realized that this group had it far more together than we thought and we could allow more time to visit in the rest of the gardens (much to Al's dismay), so we spent a bit more time exploring this pretty yard.



Upon leaving, we headed back into Nanaimo to Linda & Dave Harris'. Linda had put out a marvelous display of her quilt collection as a compliment to their garden. As well she had nice yummies and cold beverages for everyone. We left there for our last garden, the home of Jan & Wayne Peddie. (On the way we temporarily lost another of the group). Many of us envied the remarkable view.



Off we went from there to our home, where we settled in to enjoy each others' company and a nice barbeque. For Sandy and I it was an opportunity to experience the fun and satisfaction of organizing a “good” run and further get to know our friends in the club.

The weather was great, the gardeners made a marvelous effort to show their yards at their best and we think it was a worthwhile project. Thanks to all who participated and joined us.



... Doug & Sandy Groth

Chairman's Note

The fun season proceeds as expected – with many outings and events. Since last I wrote my Beano piece, we have had the annual Alberni Run (which this year included a super tour around and inside the Martin Mars water bombers at Sproat Lake). Several of our Central Island Branch members also took in the VanDusen All British Field Meet in Vancouver; and, the very next day, we had our cars in the annual Nanaimo Empire Days Parade (about which I have written elsewhere in this Beano). Then there was the inaugural, and most enjoyable, Gardens Tour & BBQ late in May – many thanks to Doug and Sandy Groth for coming up with this idea and organizing everything. A great start to the season I must say! And I see that our busy Events Coordinator, Marge Sabourin, has lined up plenty of interesting stuff for the summer and fall. I want to highlight one special event coming up. That is the OECC Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 28th June, which is preceded by an interesting car rally known as the “Mini Monte”. I urge you to try and take part in both the Mini Monte and the AGM. You’ll get to know some of the like-minded old English car enthusiasts from other OECC branches, as well as getting some idea of how the wider OECC Society is constituted and run. As we are the host branch for this year’s AGM, it would be nice to have a good local participation in the rally, and a good showing at the AGM.

...Al Thompson – 31 May.

A Note from the Editor

This issue comes as we approach the start of Summer, and as you can see from the articles in this issue, even though the weather has not been great so far, it has not deterred many of you from participating in many of the runs we have had thus far.

As this issue contains a bumper number of pages, I have found it necessary to condense the minutes of the previous two meetings.

Remember there are still a lot of activities and drives planned, so get those cars out on the road.

...Ken Hedges

Membership

Half way through the year and we are 84 members, more than this time last year, but down 6 on the 90 we had at the end of 2007.

There were several enquiries about the Club and membership at the June Swap Meet in Parksville, which may lead to new members joining us. If you know of a Brit car owner, please invite him/her to a meeting, or bring along a member who has difficulty getting to the ABC restaurant.

Cheers,

...Mike Bull

Membership Guy

Get Acquainted—Jim & Cathy Gislason



Jim and Cathy both live and work in Port Alberni. Jim was born and raised there and is a recently retired carpenter. Cathy has lived all over the country (Navy brat) but settled on the island and has lived in Port Alberni for about 11 years. She is a RN instructor for a local college.

Jim has always had a "project car" of one kind or another and has rebuilt a few. He is very proud of his current work in progress, his '66 Sunbeam Tiger. The '66 A-H Sprite is Cathy's first, but they love to work on and

drive them together when time permits. "You know you are hooked when you find yourself checking the weather report just to see if it's a top up or top down day"

Empire Days Parade



The weather on Sunday 18th May was perfect, and the turn-out outstanding, for the Nanaimo Parade this year. A record 19 old English cars lined up at the start of the parade on Victoria Road. Mike Minter in his trusty old 1952 Austin A40 van was in the lead. Then there were a whole bunch of our sports cars, two by two – and then, at the end of our line, the '79 Jag XJ6 of Don and Peggy Badger, and the Kemp's '62 Austin Gypsy (driven by Glen's

daughter). As we crawled down through the huge and enthusiastic crowds in downtown Nanaimo, most of us just managed to keep vapour locks and overheating clutches under control. However, one car did succumb on crowded Commercial Street and had to be pushed out of the parade (happily, it was just a temporary problem, because it later started up OK and was able to be moved under its own power). Following the parade, no less than 28 of us gathered at Smitty's Restaurant, Southgate Mall, for a late lunch and a good chinwag...*Al Thompson*



Get Acquainted—Michael & Mirna Finlay



Mike & Mirna Finlay, we have lived in Errington for 35 years, When we got married we had a lotus Europa but then came a family and we grew out of it. Ten years ago this lotus was for sale and we both agreed to buy it. It took two years to get it on the road, now its our daily driver in the summer.

Visit to Canadian Electric Vehicles Ltd

We all learned something new on Saturday. Randy our host was most knowledgeable. I was surprised that there is no problem selling every electric truck that he manufactures. The buyers are mostly universities and municipal governments. Many thanks to the OECC South Island chapter for inviting us along
...Russ Heughan



Rear axle and drive train



Where are the doors?

Nigel Muggeridge Park Bench



Our goal is to raise \$2,000.00 for the purchase, installation and ongoing maintenance of the *Nigel Muggeridge Park Bench Memorial*. This everlasting memorial will be located in Nigel's hometown of Ladysmith at Transfer Beach, site of 'Brits-on-the-Beach'.

Nigel was the co-founder of this fabulous annual event that brings over 125 Old English cars from across British Columbia each July to be seen and appreciated in Ladysmith. He was an active member of his community, involved in Ladysmith Days, the parade and devoted to St. Mary's Church, its leaders and its congregation. Nigel was a dedicated Canadian through and through. He and his wife, Frances, had taken on the project of locating little known crash sites in England where Canadian bomber crews had perished, ensuring the sites were properly recorded, and where possible, marking the sites with a Canadian flag or other prominent indicator so that those Canadian boys were not forgotten. He was a kind, considerate, tolerant and generous person that we all knew and loved. Your donation to this worthy Memorial is appreciated.

**IN MEMORY OF
NIGEL MUGGRIDGE
1939—2008**

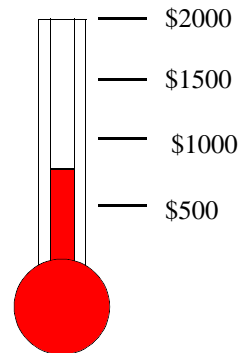


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or
Marge Sabourin
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\$784.87

Minutes of April 15, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by chairman Al Thompson with 38 in attendance. The minutes of the last meeting were read by past chair Doug Unia. Adèle Hedges, subbing for absent membership chair Mike Bull, reported 84 paid up members current. Adèle, as treasurer, advised current equity of \$723.67 and total equity of \$2245 she passed around financial statements for perusal. Beano Editor, Ken Hedges, thanked members for material for the new issue. Doug Bainbridge, webmaster and AGM chair, reported on dates and times for the AGM, available on the society web page. Brits 'Round BC report from Adèle has a total of 24 cars and 47 registered. Total expected including people who have booked hotels but not sent in registration yet amounts to 30 cars and 59 people. Al Thompson, subbing for events coordinator Marge Sabourin, talked about upcoming events. Tony Dowell discussed the run to Ladysmith to view the 1907 Zust. Dave Harris reported on the Bunny Hop run and Mike Minter the Saanich restoration fair. Peter Sparks advised on the cars for sale at the fair. The upcoming Port Alberni run was discussed by Geoff Francis. Under old business, the cost of a memorial bench for Nigel Muggeridge is about \$2,000 There will be a separate fundraising for this under Darla Millard. Frances Muggeridge has asked Tony Mantell to help with the sale of Nigel's cars. Nominations are required for the Link Trophy and it is proposed that Nigel be nominated for the OXO Trophy. Possible nomination for the Montagu of Beaulieu award Mike Green for his BSA restoration Rob Gibbs & Kevin Noga presented an excellent powerpoint presentation on powder coating. Merv's car of the month was the Austin J40 and Pathfinder pedal Cars. (April Fool) The 50-50 draw of \$29.50 was won by Irene Thompson Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm. ...Doug Unia (condensed by the editor)

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The Annual Port Alberni Run

I am going to start this story on the day prior to the run when we awoke to 2 feet of snow. Plans were made and by the looks of it Mother Nature had other ideas. After a very anxious day of indecision of whether the run to Port Alberni and the visit to the Martin Mars Bombers should be rescheduled or not, we decided to leave it to fate. If it did not snow again overnight then we would carry on as planned.

Mother Nature decided to give the Wagonmaster a Birthday present and the sun was out for the event. An impressive nineteen cars showed up for the drive to Port Alberni, with only a few being daily drivers. A few of us brave souls had the top down and the boot on, to better enjoy that beautiful sun. We had a casual drive up the coast until we reached Qualicum Beach. After a brief leg stretch we carried on turning up to Port Alberni. The drive was a wee bit chilly with the top down, especially around Cameron Lake and through Cathedral grove but we managed to arrive at the Chances Rim Rock Gaming Entertainment, in Port Alberni, at noon without frostbite.

The Operation Manager and Chef of the Rim Rock met us at the door and escorted us to the Cypress fine dining facility. A few of those who were the first to finish eating decided play the slot machines while the rest completed our meal.



We rounded everyone up at 2:00 and enjoyed a nice tour through some of the back roads in Port Alberni and Sprout Lake ending our drive at the Martin Mars Bomber Base. Coulson Flying Tankers was very kind and arranged a tour through the Base for our group. They met us at the gate and gave us a brief history of the two massive planes and a little on the ones that are no longer in existence. Originally, the Martin Mars flying boats were produced for the US Navy and were used as troop and cargo transports among the islands of the Pacific. Firefighting certainly wasn't what the aircraft's manufacturer, Glenn L. Martin had in mind..... however, all four aircraft,

the Marianas, Philippine, Hawaii and Caroline Mars were ferried to British Columbia where three were fitted with 7,200 gallon (27,276 litres) water tanks and converted to water bombers. Out of the 4 that came to BC there are only two left, the "Hawaii" and the "Philippine" If you see one in the sky you can tell which one it is by looking at the tale. The "Hawaii" has a red tail and has bottom Bombay doors to drop the water, while The "Philippine" has a white tail and the doors for the water are on the side of the aircraft. Everyone was excited that we were allowed inside the "Phillippne" to check it out and sit in the cockpit and image they were the Pilot or Co-pilot.

We hope everyone who came out enjoyed themselves and we would like to thank you for making it such a success.

...Candy Francis



Sussex Auto Car Clinic

Saturday May 3rd was; what I hope to be the first of future “Car Clinics” at Sussex Auto. There were five cars that took the opportunity of having their car subjected to a very thorough inspection and road test, after which a check sheet was issued along with any items listed that required attention.

Sussex Auto is owned and operated by Anji and Alan Petrie, and along with Eric Bradley make a fine team, both Alan and Eric have extensive experience working on English cars. ...*Ken Hedges*



Minutes of May 20, 2008 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by chairman Al Thompson at 7:30 PM with 33 in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by past Chair Doug Unia

In the absence of membership chair Mike Bull, vacationing in England, Adèle Hedges reported a total of 84 paid up members. As treasurer, Adèle advised current earnings of \$839.66 and current equity of \$2361.64. The financial statements were available for perusal.

Guest Catherine Hill, owner of a TR6 was welcomed.

Ken Hedges, Beano editor, reported the next issue will be available in June. Clarification of responsibility for articles has resulted in the wagonmaster for a specific run being designated as reporter. Webmaster Doug Bainbridge advised that there is a link to past events from the club events section on the website. Please email pictures of events to Doug.

Marge Sabourin advised of upcoming events. Adèle updated members on Brits Round BC.

Malcolm Hargrave, rally master, reported on the Mini Monte in conjunction with the AGM.

Wayne Peddie talked about preparations for Brits on the Beach July 20.

In regards to the T-shirt proposal by Tony Dowell, a show of hands resulted in 3 for and the rest against committing club funds towards purchase.

Under old business, funding for the Nigel Muggeridge memorial bench has reached \$415 to date.

Nominations for society awards are Mike Green - Montagu Award and Nigel Muggeridge - OXO Award.

Al discussed the price of the disco for the Annual Banquet and this was agreed upon.

Tony Mantell reported Nigel Muggeridge's MGB has sold and that there are some tools, and a welder available.

Merv's car of the month was the Swift, identified by Adèle.

The 50-50 draw of \$25.00 was won by Adrian Rice.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

...*Doug Unia (condensed by the editor)*

Van Dusen ABFM Vancouver

The ABFM in Van Dusen Gardens is always a great affair, especially when the weather is good, and I don't know if I should say this after the "Summer !!" we have had so far this year, but it was actually TOO HOT!. Shady picnic places were hard to come by.

There was a good showing from the OECC Central Island Branch. Geoff & Candy Francis with their chrome MGB, Bill & Valerie Grace TR7, Ken & Adèle Hedges MGB, Dennis & Darla Millard MGB, Ken & Bonnie Boyd MGB GT, Bill Rathef Lotus, Doug & Judy Unia Jaguar XJ6C and Wayne & Jan Peddie TR7.

At the end of the day there were many of our members that drove away with awards.

Doug & Judy Unia, 1977 Jaguar XJ6C, 1st in Class 9
Bill Rathlef, 1963 Lotus Elan 1600, 3rd in Class 12
Ken Boyd, 1971 MGB GT, 1st in Class 18
Bill & Valerie Grace, 1980 Triumph TR7, 1st in Class 31

Congratulations to you all for having such fine cars.

Note: OECC had more winners at the May 17 ABFM at VanDusen than any other club ... *Ken Hedges (Source; Steve Hutchens)*



Three Island flowers at Van Dusen



Run to Steve Harris Collection

On Sunday May 4. we were greeted by a clear day as 10 cars gathered at Canadian Tire for the tour to view Steve Harris' collection in Parksville. Our route took us through Lantzville and out on the Highway to Nanoose where we took Northwest Bay Road. Hedges joined up as we passed by their access road on Northwest Bay and Norbert and Dianne were picked up at the south end of Parksville. Reaching Steve's place on Little Mountain Road, we found Mike & Mirna Finlay already there.



Steve had pulled several of his cars out into the yard for easier viewing. The 1930 Vauxhall Hurlingham was first up and Steve explained that Vauxhall had over extended themselves during the 20's trying to compete with the high end makes and it was taken over by GM in 1925. The Hurlingham has a 3.3 litre seven main bearing OHV straight six engine. The previous owner had added a Jaguar gearbox with overdrive and it is capable of cruising at 75MPH without difficulty.

Closer to the shop, (I really like the Brooklands sign), we found a 1933 Rover 10 and 1949 Bentley Mk VI. The Rover has 1185cc 4 cylinder OHV power and because of the weight, Steve says it is a bit lacking on power for hill climbing. The Bentley has a 4257cc six of IOE or F head configuration. This cylinder head configuration has overhead intake and side exhaust valves. These engines can be made to run very silently and were also used by Rover in the 50s and 60s.



Inside the shop we found a 1939 Humber Imperial DHC (4086cc S6SV), 1934 Humber Vogue (1667cc S4OHV) and a 1931 Standard Avon. Steve says he is planning to replace the 1287 cc S4SV engine and crash box with a SS Jaguar 1775 cc S4 OHV engine and gearbox which will greatly improve the drivability. Also in the back corner is a 1929 Austin 7 (747cc S4SV power). Our tour included a visit to the main floor of the Harris' house which is of 1897 vintage. It was moved from Nanaimo and Steve and

Barbara have spent a lot of time and effort restoring and filling the rooms with antiques.

Our thanks to Steve and Barbara for their hospitality.

The tour concluded with lunch at the Rocking Horse Pub.

...Doug Unia

Upcoming Events 2008

Mount Washington Run

Date: June 22
Meeting Place: Canadian Tire Nanaimo
Time: 9:00 am
Wagon Masters: Ray & Marge Sabourin

OECC AGM in Nanaimo

Date: June 28
Several Events are scheduled.
Contact: Doug Bainbridge 250 756 2207

Brits' On The Beach

Date: July 20
Location: Transfer Beach Ladysmith
Time: Parked by 10:00 am if possible
Contact: Wayne Peddie 250 741 0221

Ladysmith Parade

Date: August 4
Time: TBA

ABFM @ Filberg Comox Valley Branch

Date: August 17
Meeting Place: Canadian Tire Nanaimo
Time: TBA

Cowichan Valley Run

Date: August 24
Meeting Place: Southgate Mall
Time: 9:00 am
Wagonmasters: Ken & Adèle Hedges

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Central Island OECC Website
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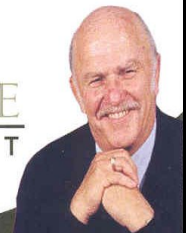
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