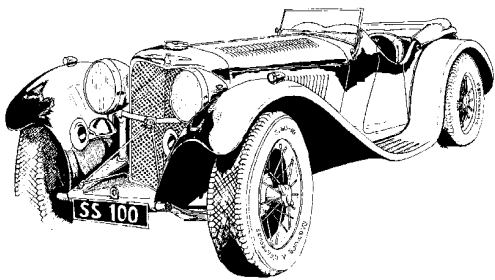


SHOP TALK

SPECIAL ALERT!

15TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE MAY 30, 2009

GLOBAL ISSUE—SPRING 2009 Vol 16 Issue 1



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Ragtops & Roadster's 15th Annual Open House is held in conjunction with Perkasiole Towne's 'Hot Ribs, Cool Music Festival' in Perkasiole, PA. We previously listed the date of our Open House as May 23rd in our Winter Newsletter.

We have changed the date to **Saturday, May 30th 2009** and the times are the same; 9am to 4pm. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and hope that you are able to come out and participate in this wonderful antique automotive and local community event.

The Open House invites all Special Interest Car owner's to come out and enjoy the company of other automotive enthusiasts.

The street out front of the shop is closed off and limited to only classic car parking and, after checking out the various vehicles in the shop, you are invited to stroll a few blocks and visit the Festival.

Perkasiole Olde Towne Association presents the "Hot Ribs & Cool Music Festival". Featuring jazz performances under the big tent, a hot ribs cooking competition and sampling, a pie-cooking contest, salsa dancing lessons, lots of food, wagon rides with historic tours, children's activities including rides, clowns, and kids cooking classes.

Featured Bands include The Mango Men, Michael Greer, Dirk Quinn—Tet, Vein Melter and the Penridge High School Jazz Ensemble.

Traditionally the Perkasiole Town Center is packed for the day with people arriving from all over Bucks, Montgomery, Hunterdon counties and the Lehigh Valley, who together with residents and shopkeepers join in celebration. Stores remain open and all discover once again why we are so in love with Perkasiole. For more information call 215-257-4989 or visit www.perkasioleoldetowne.org.

1968 TRIUMPH TR 250 UPDATE

Two years ago we fitted a 1968 Triumph TR-250 with the Moss Motors Supercharger kit. The performance was significantly improved as the horsepower was increased by a whopping 50%! We gave demo rides at the 2007 VTR National Meet in Valley Forge and some passengers came back with white knuckles!

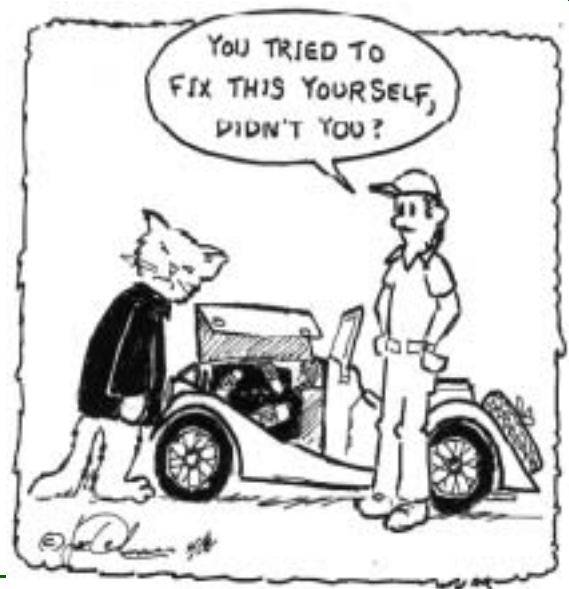


So what could be done to further improve performance? A Laycock deNormanville overdrive versus a Toyota five-speed conversion was discussed during the past winter months. After some deliberation, the five-speed was ordered from HVDA in California. It seemed most fitting with this project, as originality was not the goal, rather improved performance with modern day components.



The technicians at Ragtops & Roadsters have completed several five-speed conversions, most recently on a 1958 AC Bristol. We had a bell housing made in Australia to mate the Toyota gearbox with the AC Bristol engine. This time the HVDA kit came complete with bell housing, clutch disc, pressure plate, annular release bearing and most everything you need to fit a new or rebuilt gearbox without any cutting of the body or frame. The shift lever position does not change and every thing looks stock from the drivers seat.

The net result regarding performance is a smoother, shorter shift, and a lighter clutch pedal with less travel. All the better for comfort and driver feed-back. Of course the car now has longer legs! With the original TR gearbox, keeping up with turnpike traffic at 75 MPH the engine was turning about 3700 RPM. Now with the Toyota five-speed the RPMs are reduced about 750 RPM and the engine is now turning a shade under 3000 RPM! What a difference it makes as the turnpike driving experience doesn't include the vision of all body bolts vibrating out at top speed! These same results are available for TR2 through TR6. For more information about the HVDA five-speed gearbox check out www.hvdaconversions.com and contact Ragtops & Roadsters to schedule the work. You will not be disappointed!



2009 Vintage Motorsports Events Calendar

- 5/1-5/3 "The Mitty" Road Atlanta Atlanta, GA www.roadatlanta.com
5/1-5/3 Rhinebeck Car Show, Rhinebeck, NY www.rhinebeckcarshow.com
5/2 BRITFEST '08, Succasunna, NJ www.mgccnj.org
5/2 The British are Coming! Lewes, DE www.leweschamber.com
5/2-5/3 Delaware Valley Jaguar Spring Rally, PA www.northeastrallyclub.com
5/3 Artistry in Motion Lancaster, PA www.artistryinmotion.org
5/3 10th Annual British Car Show, Williamsburg, VA www.wmbgbrit.com
5/3 SCCA Sanctioned Road Rally "Get the Dust Off" Kingsville, MD www.phillyscca.com
5/9 North American Cecil Kimber Birthday Run, Milford, PA www.mgdriversclub.com
5/9-5/10 NESCCA Double Regional / Enduro Long Pond, PA www.scca-nnjr.org
5/15-5/17 Import / Kit Replicar Nationals, Carlisle, PA www.carsatcarlisle.com
5/16 25th Annual British Motorcar Day, Rome, GA www.atlantabritishmotorcarday.com
5/17-5/22 New England 1000, Woodstock, VT www.vintagerallies.com
5/24 SCCA Solo Summer Series, Citizens Bank Park, PA www.phillyscca.com
5/28-5/30 AACA Eastern Spring Meet, Gettysburg, PA www.aaca.org
5/28-6/1 Lotus Owners Group LOG 29 Birmingham, AL www.lotuscarclub.org
5/29-5/31 Eastern US Concours, Bethlehem, PA www.concourseast.org
5/30 Meeting of the Marques, Hershey, PA www.svvscc.org
5/30 Ragtops & Roadsters Open House, Perkasie, PA www.ragtops.com
5/30-6/7 British Car Week – Drive Your British Car Week! www.britishcarweek.org
5/31 Newport Concours de' Elegance Newport, RI www.newportconcours.org
- 6/3 Motorcars Under the Stars, Philadelphia, PA www.ucpphila.org
6/5-6/7 52nd Gold Cup Historic Races, VIR, Alton, VA www.virclub.com
6/6 DVT/DVJ "Cars of England" Westtown, PA www.delvaltrs.org
6/6-6/7 Greenwich Concours, Greenwich, CT www.greenwichconcours.com
6/7 32nd Original British Car Day, Adamstown, MD www.chesapeakechaptermgtclub.com
6/7 21st British by the Sea, Waterford, CT www.ctmgtclub.com
6/7 14th Red Mill British Car Day, Clinton, NJ www.mgdriversclub.com
6/10-6/14 Gathering of the Faithful GOF 85 Concord, NH www.nemgtr.org
6/13 "A Touch of England" Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ www.njtriumphs.org
6/14 Philadelphia Italian Car Show Philadelphia, PA www.flu.org
6/14 16th Annual British Motorcar Gathering, Hellertown, PA www.keystonemg.com
6/15-6/21 58th Rolls Royce Annual Meet, New Orleans, LA www.rroc.org
6/17-6/20 TRA National Meeting, Charles Town, WV www.triumphregister.com
6/19-6/22 Le Bella Machina d'Italia, Skytop, PA www.italiancarsatpocono.com
6/20/6/21 Eurocar, Lorenzo State Park, Cazenovia, NY <http://www.mgcars.org>
6/21-6/26 Austin Healey Conclave, Kingston, Ontario www.austinhealeyconclave.com
6/24-6/27 Aston Martin Annual Meet, Lime Rock Park Lakeville, CT www.amoc-na.org
6/24-6/28 North American MGB Register, Breckenridge, CO www.mg2009.com
6/26-6/28 SVRA Vintage Grand Prix, Lexington, OH www.midohio.com
6/26-6/28 "Minis on Top" Mount Washington, NH www.minisontop.com

- 7/3-7/5 Goodwood Festival of Speed, Goodwood House, UK www.goodwood.co.uk
 7/3-7/5 Morgan Car Club MOG-39, Staunton, WA www.morgandc.com
 7/10-7/19 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Pittsburgh, PA www.pittsburghvintagegrandprix.com
 7/11-7/12 Giants Despair Hillclimb, Laurel Run, PA www.pahillclimb.org
 7/12 British Invade Gettysburg Gettysburg, PA www.britishinvadegettysburg.com
 7/13-7/17 GT-34 North American MGA Register Hot Springs, AZ www.gt-34.com
 7/17-7/19 Hemmings 3rd Annual Concours, Stratton Mountain, VT www.hemmings.com
 7/18 Heart of Bucks, Doylestown, PA www.heartofbucks.com
 7/26 British Car Show of NE PA, Chinchilla, PA www.bccnepa.com
 7/26 "Day of Triumph" Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Brookline, MA www.larzanderson.org
 7/31-8/2 Das Awkscht Fescht, Macungie, PA www.awkscht.com
- 8/1 4th Annual Pennypacker Mills British Car Day, Schwenksville, PA www.dvcmg.com
 8/2 Meadowbrook Concours, Troy, MI www.meadowbrookconcours.org
 8/6-8/9 Austin Healey Encounter 2009, Pocono Manor, PA www.austin-healey-stc.org
 8/7-8/8 Roadster Factory Summer Party, Armagh, PA www.the-roadster-factory.com
 8/8 4th Annual Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car Show Saratoga, NY www.hemmings.com
 8/8-8/9 New Hope Auto Show, New Hope, PA www.newhopeautoshow.com
 8/13-8/17 Fiat Lancia Unlimited FLU National Valley Forge, PA www.flu.org
 8/14-8/16 SCCA Tri-Region Race Group Long Pond, Pocono, PA www.poconoraceway.com
 8/15 Perkasio Under the Stars, Perkasio, PA www.perkasiooldetowne.org
 8/16 Pebble Beach Concours, Pebble Beach, CA www.pebblebeachconcours.net
 8/23-8/23 Mt Equinox Hillclimb Manchester, VT www.vscca.org
 8/23 Day on the Farm, DVC AACA, Worcester, PA www.aaca.org/dvraaca
 8/23 Vanderbilt Invitational Concours, Centerport, LI NY <http://www.limeny.org>
 8/23 20th "A Taste of Britain" Polo Match, Rothsville, PA www.lancomgclub.com
 8/23 UK Car Day Rochester, NY www.rochestertriumphclub.org
 8/28-8/30 British Marque Car Club News Triathlon VIII Hancock, MA www.britishmarque.com



- 9/4-9/7 SVRA Rolex Vintage Festival, Lime Rock Park Lakeville, CT www.limerock.com
- 9/5 Duryea Days, Boyertown, PA www.boyertownmuseum.org
- 9/11-9/13 SVRA Zippo Vintage Festival, Watkins Glen, NY www.grandprixfestival.com
- 9/11-9/13 Radnor Hunt Concours, Edgemont, PA www.radnorconcours.org
- 9/12 FALLFEST 09, Dukes Island Park, Bridgewater, NJ www.njtriumphs.org
- 9/12 British Car Show, Delaware City, DE. www.bccdelaaware.com
- 9/12-9/13 Jaguar Drivers Club Concours Show, Centerport LI, NY www.jcna.com
- 9/18-9/20 Glenmore Gathering Canton, OH www.glenmoorgathering.com
- 9/18-9/20 The British Invasion, Stowe, VT www.britishinvasion.com
- 9/19 "Brits at the Beach" Ocean Grove, NJ www.pedc.org
- 9/20 Buckingham Concours, Buckingham, PA www.buckinghamautoshow.org
- 9/20 Hagley Antique Car Show, Wilmington, DE. www.hagley.lib.de.us
- 9/20 25th Classic on the James, Richmond, VA www.britishcarclub.com
- 9/24-9/26 6 - Pack Trials Festival 2009 Long Beach Island, NJ www.6-pack.org
- 9/24-9/27 TVR "Out Of The Woodwork" Langhorne, PA. www.tvrcna.org
- 9/25-9/26 VSCCA Lime Rock Finale, Lime Rock Park, Lakeville CT www.vscca.org
- 9/25-9/27 American British Reliability Run Bucks County, PA www.abrr.org
- 9/26 8th Annual Brits on the Bay Virginia Beach, VA. www.tidewatertriumphs.org
- 9/26 30th Annual MGs on the Rocks, Bel Aire, MD www.mgsofbaltimore.com
- 9/27 Autumn Leaf British Car and Bike Show, Bethlehem, PA www.bcclv.com
- 9/30-10/4 Vintage Triumph Register National, San Luis Obispo, CA www.vtr.org
- 10/3 Tinicum Polo Club British Car Festival, Tinicum, PA www.tinicumpolo.org
- 10/3 The Brits Invade Delaware Dover, DE www.bccdelaaware.com
- 10/3-10/4 5th Annual Festa de' Ferrari Stamford, CT www.ferrariclubofamerica.org
- 10/7-10/10 AACA Eastern National Meet, Hershey, PA www.aaca.org
- 10/10 TRAC Brits by the Bay, Pasadena, MD www.tracltd.org
- 10/10 British Car and Bike Show, Lahaska, PA www.phillymgclub.com
- 10/11 Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA www.mgcarclubdc.com
- 10/16-10/18 Euro Auto Festival, Spartensburg, SC www.euroautofestival.com
- 10/17 Brits on the Delaware, Kintnersville, PA www.tvrcna.org
- 10/30-11/1 Hilton Head Concours, Hilton Head, SC www.hhiconcours.com
- 11/5 Guy Fawkes Day!, Milford, NJ www.shipinn.com
- 11/22 Before we Put 'Em Away for the Winter, Bentley Drivers Club www.classiccarclub.org

This is a web-based calendar of mostly British car and sports car events for the 2009 northeast driving season. We have included most major British Car Marques and their websites. We suggest that you explore the many other events that are listed on each website. If we have missed listing your event please let us know so we may include it in next years' calendar! Concours shows, overseas events, local, regional, national shows, rallies, vintage races, hillclimbs, and even Sunday drives, are also listed.

Have Fun and Happy Motoring!

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteers are an important part of most organizations and the Boyertown Museum is no exception. We have many projects to tackle and without volunteers who give their time and talent we could not function.



One project we will need help with is completing Phase II of the Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Shop restoration. This project will be done this summer. There are ten trailers of equipment and tools that will need to be unloaded. Everything will have to be cleaned, painted, and moved into the carriage shop. Volunteers with a variety of skills, such as carpentry, painting, and mechanical, would be much appreciated to help with this project. Sometimes all that is needed is just two more hands.

The Boyertown trolley which is currently undergoing extensive renovations, will soon be returning to the museum. It will need to be cleaned up upon its return, as well as have seats and windows installed. It is our hope that both the Jeremiah Sweinhart Carriage Shop and trolley will be done by this year's Duryea Day on September 5th.

Pollock Auto Restoration is volunteering their time and resources to bring our 1912 S.G.V. back to life. Servicing the engine and fuel system, checking all mechanicals, rebuilding the magneto and performing some much needed cosmetic repairs. This car will be displayed at many local area car events during the 2009 season then will return to the museum.



There is always a need for help with on-going, day-to-day tasks, such as cleaning, dusting, moving cars, building displays, mowing grass, snow removal, and setting up the meeting rooms. Need a less physical job? Filing, stuffing envelopes, doing research, or being a docent for tours are some of the possibilities. The museum will likely be setting up a major exhibit of vehicles again this year at the Kutztown Folk Festival in July. Volunteers are needed to greet festival visitors and talk to them about the vehicles and the museum.

These are some of the many projects we will do during the upcoming year. If you have some time to spare—a couple of hours, a day, a weekend—whatever you can give will be an important aid to the museum's activities. As our volunteer base builds, we will need Team Leaders to supervise their activities, so none of these volunteer positions are dead-end jobs. Come join the museum team!

Joe Alackness
Project Manager
Boyertown Museum of Historical Vehicles
610-367-2090 / 610-948-9077 cell

Amelia Island Concours 2009 by Dave Hutchison

Now that some of us are approaching the "Bucket List" age, I thought I might suggest that you consider adding the Amelia Island Concours to that list. I know you'll say, "Those Concours cars, trailer queens, polish every nut and bolt cars. That's not for me, I say. Those guys never drive their cars. I drive MY car." I know you drive your car and so do these owners. This Concours is very much a driver participation event with a good deal of racing history. When you google the name Bill Warner you will find a passionate car enthusiast who, as a photographer, cut his teeth shooting the early Sebring races. He went on to race for many years, as I recently saw him behind the wheel of his ex-Tullius TR 6 last fall at the Glen. A tried and true Triumph guy, he is the man at Amelia! He is the selection committee as he picks the cars that are invited every year to Amelia. His passion for sports car and racing is evident at every show. Yes, the heavy iron is there, which is wonderful in it's own right, however, of the three times that I have attended, I would have to say that there are more sports cars there every year.



This year's event was no exception, as "The Cars of David Hobbs" (he raced for Triumph at Lemans) were displayed. From Lola, to the GT 40, from the Ferrari 512M to the BMW March they were all there, including Mr. Hobbs of course! As the Ambassador of the Concours, he was very approachable and eager to discuss his racing experiences. The 1959 Lotus Elite that we restored last year was invited to this year's show. Given David's experience with Lotus during the Elite years we were eager to ask him his recollection of the good ol days. We approached and introduced our selves and showing him a couple of pictures of "our" Elite. He thought for a minute and said "Huh" and then he burst our bubble. "Ya know, these cars really never made any kind of power". We smiled and agreed, of course, and added, "but they were very light! Build strength and add lightness." He reminded us of his history winning 12 out of 15 races with the Elite and then we all felt better! He participated in a presentation dedicated to The Great Roadster Drivers that included Parnelli Jones, Bobby Unser, Jim Rathmann and Johnny Rutherford followed by a question

and answer session. There was also the Group 44 Reunion. Seven of the original race cars came in from all over the country, from as far as California, Bill Warner showed his 1971 TR6 and Tim Suddard, of Classic Motorsports, debuted his freshly restored ex- Mike Downs 1969 GT6 (It was finished the night before the show!) Tim won an Amelia Award as they all paraded past the reviewing stand.



Group 44 was first started on three bar stools at the Fiji-Japanese restaurant on 56th Street in Manhattan in the fall of 1961 when Bob Tullius pitched then Triumph Advertising Manager, Mike Cook and Fred Gamble. Mike told Tullius that Triumph would not be able to back him in the up-coming racing season with the new TR4. Undaunted, Tullius promised to beat the new TR4 with his TR3 and he made good on that promise in some early spring races. Soon after Tullius went the president of Triumph, Martin Tustin to seek support again. After his recent wins Mr. Tustin asked Mike to get Tullius a TR4! After a rocky start, Tullius and Group 44 were on the way to making racing history as the face of Triumph for many years to come. The TR4, Spitfire, GT6, TR6, TR7 and TR8 were all backed by Triumph until Group 44 moved to Jaguar in 1976. Tullius and his fellow Group 44 racers won an impressive 14 SCCA Championships, 3 Trans-Am Titles, and 11 GTP victories. After all was said and done, Group 44 won nearly 300 races in their 25 year history.

There is one problem with Amelia...TOO MUCH! Too many wonderful cars and stories to take in in one day, I do suggest that if you add this event to your list, make it a three day weekend. I recommend that you take in the Porsche Driving Tour on Friday. It is always a great experience. This year Hurley Haywood was giving 165 MPH demo drives of the new Porsche PDK automatic gearbox. I am not sure but I think it stands for Pretty Damn Kwick! Go to the talk on Saturday and get up early for the show on Sunday. You'll smile when you scratch that one off your list!

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RAGTOPS & ROADSTERS 15TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

MAY 30, 2009 SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM

