



Bonnet To Boot

Paradise British Car Club



July/August 2022 Issue
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July/August News Briefs

The Club and its members have been very busy this summer!

The best non-event of the year was held on Saturday 7/23, details elsewhere in the newsletter.

There are still a lot of car shows and club activities coming up.

The board has eve already made venue reservations for our Christmas party!

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Upcoming Events:

- 8/6 Lompoc Police Car Show
- 8/17 Club Drive Overwatch Aero in Santa Maria
- 9/7 Club Rally Buellton to Los Alamos (tentative date)
- 9/24-25 Trilogy Car Show Nipomo
- 10/2 Central Coast British Car Club Show
- 10/? Club Model Train outing
- 12/12 Club Christmas Party

August Outing

Please reserve August 17 for a club outing to Overwatch Aero in Santa Maria. This should be a very interesting outing. Overwatch provides real-time incident support to various agencies using UAS (drones). As we get closer to the 17th more information will be sent out. Below is a short synopsis of what Overwatch Aero does:

“Overwatch Aero is the premier provider of aerial data acquisition and dissemination.

We provide REAL-TIME PERISTENT INTELLIGENCE utilizing a fleet of long-endurance unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in support of emergency responders, non-governmental organizations, and commercial operators.

Our mission is to provide timely and impactful intelligence to our customers enabling them to make superior decisions.”

Paradise Car Club Summer Party

Story and Photos courtesy of Rhonda Cardinal

Jeff and I were happy to host the 2022 Summer Party in our backyard on July 23rd.



The weather was perfect, and participation was through the roof! At last count, 21 cars showed up!
We have been working all summer to keep our back yard ready for the many events we have scheduled this year. We have never hosted a car show, although we felt that it was very possible. The Summer Party was really the test.



We had asked Jim Bull to put together some games and contests in the spirit of his recent success with the Carless Funkhana at GoF west late last month. Jim put together a series of car contests and knowledge games that all who registered could enter.



All of the cars had to be checked in before entering the backyard. They were handed contest forms and questionnaires, as well as a large piece of clean paper to be placed under the car for the duration of the event. The purpose was to see who had the most oil drippage by judgement time.



Once all of the cars were in the backyard, which took about 45 minutes to accomplish, the ukulele group, Hula Cove, performed to entertain our guests while the cars were being judged. Jeff Brown is a member of this band and Jeff Cardinal guested on bass. Some people also used this opportunity to try their hand at the Carless Funkhana.



Dave Renshaw, from the Oasis Ukulele Band, was our BBQ chief that day, and he did a truly outstanding job. The menu was the classic tri-tip, beans, salad and bread. This was augmented by appetizers, desserts, and salads from the members. The club bought the soft drinks and water, but many members brought a little bit of wine to smooth out the day.



The variety and quality of cars was outstanding. New members Donna and Bryan Wilkins brought our first ever Aston Martin. Jeff Brown and Rich Pescatore brought their Rolls Royces. Alice was there in her MGC-GT. Ziggy brought his Morris Minor Traveler. Jim Bull was there in his Morris Minor Tourer. There were multiple MGAs and MGBs. The Palmers brought their "new" old black MG TD. Friend of the Cardinals, Brian Tedsen, brought his Panoz Esperante at their invitation.



After lunch, members continued to talk and play the games of Carless Funkhana. Finally, awards were handed out to the deserving.

Ken Palmer “won” the oil spot contest and also the “award” for the most positive, i.e., non elegant Concours car points. The paint on the hood of the original paint was worn through to the primer. That had to do it!

Tom Tallone, in his pale blue MGA, received the “award” for the car with the most negative points, which means his was the most likely to be a

true Concours car.

Wayne Peterson received the highest points overall for the British car trivia, English “translation”, parts in the box (he got all eight parts correctly) and scored the highest on the darts. A couple did better on the British car trivia, but Wayne got a bull’s eye on the darts. All three darts hit high point areas.



We encouraged people to stick around and talk after the official part of the day was completed. Jeff Brown was unable to start his car, necessitating some extra backyard time while Jeff Cardinal put his Rolls on charge. The Browns and the Pescatores made good use of it, chatting while sitting under a tree.



Once the car was able to start, the two Rolls Royces rolled away. Some other friends had come to visit us and look at the remaining cars, and they helped us put the tables and chairs away after we had sat and decompressed for a few hours.



All in all, it was a wonderful day for us and for our guests. Larry and Barbara Long hosted this party for many years and the Gjerdrums have also provided some excellent summer parties for the club. We would be happy to do it again, but we are also happy to share the event if someone else wants to be in rotation.

See you in August.
Rhonda Cardinal

A few more photos of the party sent to me by Ken Palmer



April Biddle Park Outing Recap

Story and Photos by Clark Lewis



Wednesday, April 20th turned out to be a beautiful sunny spring day, perfect for a leisurely drive and picnic. Two groups of PBCC cars left mid-morning from San Luis Obispo (Madonna Inn) and Orcutt (Golden Donut). After winding along some of our scenic central coast backroads, both converged almost simultaneously at Biddle Park east of Arroyo Grande. We had 13 cars in all and some 20 members and guests. BYO picnic lunches were supplemented by some terrific snacks and dessert treats generously shared by attendees.

The highlight of the outing, however, happened just after everyone finished eating. The intent was for everyone to gather in the parking area to share stories about our cars and our mutual interest in British motoring. This turned out better than expected, however, due largely to a portable PA system thoughtfully provided and set up by Rhonda and Jeff Cardinal. The stories were funny, amusing, informative, and overall entertaining.



Among the things we learned was that Jeff Brown ended up purchasing his Rolls Royce Silver Dawn to make up for "prematurely" selling a concours quality Rolls that his wife really liked and enjoyed driving. Rhonda and Jeff told how they have driven their MG Midget just about everywhere in the Southwestern US. Rhonda also used it for several years to commute to work at Vandenburg. The tow hitch on Rhonda and Jeff's Midget is there so they can tow their ultralight aircraft! Keith Smith recalled how he would pick up hitchhikers in his Healy

Sprite when he drove from LA to San Luis Obispo to visit Cheryl. The Smiths also used their Sprite to commute in LA traffic. Jim Bull's Morris Minor was the first car he ever owned. After selling his Minor (and apparently experiencing a bit of remorse), Jim managed to reacquire it some 22 years later. Alice finished restoring her MGC GT after finding some of its parts in her garden shed. Alice has been surprised by the attention and awards she has received for her MGC including one given to her by students at her school! There were many other stories as well, undoubtedly just the tip of the iceberg for the club.



The drive(s), picnic and storytelling made for a very enjoyable get-together and something we'll definitely need to consider for a future PBCC outing.

GoF West in Buellton

Story and Photos by Rhonda Cardinal

Several Paradise British Car Club members, past and present, attended the Gathering of the Faithful (GoF) West in Buellton, CA from June 27th -July 1st.

This show, which originally was intended for the T series MGs has now expanded to include other MGs, broadening the attendance and participation.

Member emeritus Larry Long flew in from his new (going on 5 years now) home in Kansas. He did not bring a car, but he helped organize many of the events that took place over the course of the weekend, including hosting the Hospitality Suite. Veteran Paradise club members were very happy to see him again, especially the Cardinals.



There were quite a few events on the schedule. Monday night was check-in and registration and hospitality. The Cardinals arrived in time to accompany Larry to a delicious dinner at Buellton's iconic A.J. Spurs, where they had a wonderful time catching up.

Car owners and spouses were encouraged to bring arts and crafts and models to the show for display throughout the event in one of the hotel meeting rooms. Participants were able to judge these entries, with awards to be announced at the banquet on Thursday night.

Tuesday was the car show at Riverview Park. Over 70 cars participated. The early morning was taken up with getting the park ready for the big line-up. This is Larry's special area of expertise. The Parking Protractors (PPs) were fully exercised, along with an assemblage of stakes and strings. Many discussions ensued as to the proper procedures for lining up the cars. Pretty soon, the cars started entering the park, being very careful not to run over the sprinklers. The whole process took about an hour, fraught with drama and tension. But the job got done and the cars looked great.

The weather was hot that day, over 90 degrees. This did not deter the enthusiasts from examining and judging each of the cars. There were many different categories to locate and judge, which went on for about 2 hours. The lunch truck set up shop and dispensed some truly delicious food. The Cardinals brought the sound system and played music from the Pink Martini Pandora station in between multiple announcements. At about 1:00, the ballots were collected, and the show was ended. The attendees returned to the Buellton Marriott to attend two educational lectures.



Dinner that night was on your own; the Cardinals and a small group of friends went to the Figueroa Brewing Company for some beer and burgers.

Wednesday afternoon was the day of the big rally. The Cardinals did not attend, but word on the street was that it was an excellent rally for those that participated and who may not have been familiar with our area. People drove everywhere even if they were not on the rally. One couple drove all the way to Avilla Beach.

Wednesday night was the first of the two GoF banquets in the hotel. This was the auction dinner, a classic Central Coast BBQ buffet; chicken, tri-tip, beans, bread and salad. The food was truly delicious. The auction lasted quite a while; the event did not wind down until after 10:00 p.m. It was very financially successful; many dollars were raised for future GoF events.

Thursday was the day of the Funkhana and the Carless Funkhana. The driving Funkhana course had been put together by none other than Larry Long. Larry had a very elaborate back-story about this Funkhana involving a ranch, horses, errant cattle, roping, riding, and driving blind-folded. An incredibly fun event to participate in. The challenges were very difficult. Many teams went through twice, changing drivers.



In addition to the driving Funkhana, there was also the Carless Funkhana. This event was put together by Jim Bull and was also very challenging in a more cerebral way. Jim and Karen Bull were on a trip to Israel and unable to personally manage this activity. Paradise Car Club members Clark Lewis and Chris Swan jumped in to lead this and did a great job. No one could pass up this additional challenge and the proctors were kept busy for several hours until this part of the event ended at noon.

Thursday morning was also the morning of the Flea Market. Many attendees presented goods on a table for or part of a table, so there was a tasty assemblage of parts, tools and toys for participants to peruse and purchase before heading over to the Funkhana. All in all, a very fun and action-packed morning.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to GoF Management meetings, so other guests were on their own, exploring the area or taking advantage of the hotel amenities. In the late afternoon, the Hospitality Suite was open for business. Thursday night was the Awards Ceremony banquet. The meal was excellent, once again. This was a plated dinner, salmon or short ribs. It was all expertly prepared and delicious. The banquet lasted until about 9:30, awards handed out to the most deserving. It was a great capstone to a wonderful week of fellowship. We were sorry to see it end.

Friday morning was the breakfast and a display of the winning cars. The Cardinals did not attend this, having left Thursday night, but pictures will surely be available on the GoF website.

All in all, it was a wonderful event and a great opportunity to mix it up with MG owners from a slightly different spectrum. It was also a great time to catch up with old friends and spend quality time with them. The Cardinals had a wonderful time and hope that this event can continue, in some form, throughout the Western United States, for many years to come. We hope to see you again next year, somewhere!

Anyone Looking for an MGA repair manual?

I saw an MGA repair manual for sale at a garage sale in the Sunnyside neighborhood of the Lake Tahoe west shore (where I live most of May-October). I don't think it sold. If you need one email davidtonello@gmail.com and I'll go try to get it for you.

VIN Plate Removal/Replacement

By Jim Bull

Have you ever removed a VIN (VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER) from a vehicle? I have. During restoration work I removed the VIN plate from a 1966 MGB, another from a 1969 MGB, another from a 1967 Morris, and also from a 1959 Austin.

When doing a restoration, it's nice to have everything look like the car was brand new and sitting on the show room floor. Moss Motors, as well as many other reproduction companies, make VIN plates for our old cars. I've purchased brand new VIN plates, made to look identical to the original, taken them to a trophy shop, along with the original, and had the trophy shop engrave the VIN number in the identical size and graphic style as the original. Of course, the SAME VIN number was used, and the VIN plate was re-attached after painting the car.

All the British cars I am familiar with have simple ID plates which attach with either metal machine screws or rivets. The Austin has the VIN plate on the inside of the driver's side door, the Morris has the VIN plate on the firewall, etc. These plates can have the printed ink on the metal plate wash off, scratch, or corrode when exposed to time, water, chemicals, etc.

So, what's the problem? Is anything wrong here? Apparently a lot and be aware of what could happen from the following information, which is not urban legend but documented from an article in Newsweek Magazine and printed in a recent edition of "Minor News", the magazine of the U.S. Morris Minor Registry.

As related in the article, a car enthusiast purchased a 1957 Corvette in Indiana in 2017, but when he tried to register the car in his home state of Kansas, the Kansas Highway Patrol seized it as "contraband". Under Kansas law, police are supposed to seize any car whose VIN plate has been "destroyed, removed, altered, or defaced". Such "contraband" vehicles, by state law, shall be destroyed without exception.

Suppose as a Kansas resident, I had been towing one of my newly painted cars home from the paint shop, without engine, transmission, chrome, OR VIN plate and got stopped for some reason while in Kansas? Is it really possible that my car could have seized? Really? Obviously, these laws were written to prevent vehicle theft, or at least try to prevent it but gee whiz!

The owner of the Corvette had purchased the car legally, but the VIN plate had been removed during restoration. He was unaware that the VIN plate was missing and unaware of the law he had un-intentionally violated in his home state.

Kansas law states that the car must be crushed and has been in a Topeka impound yard since 2017 as the owner has gone through numerous court appearances trying to save his car. Even the prosecutor in the case admitted that the owner had legal possession of the car and was unaware of the state law. Imagine what the car must look like today after sitting outside in an abandoned state since 2017!

It turns out that various states have different laws concerning VIN plates. In one state it is possible to be sentenced to five years and a \$250,000 fine for a VIN violation.

California punishes violators with 16 months to 3 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines.

In 2021, the Corvette owner obtained help from SEMA, Specialty Equipment Marketing Association, an organization of restoration companies manufacturing parts for classic cars. Testimony from the association has helped deal with state legislators to help modify the language to prevent owners from having their classic vehicles taken by the state.

Dealing with Kansas is not the only issue, as it is also a federal law, a felony, to remove a VIN number.

The new Kansas law will state that a VIN may be removed "if the removal and reinstallation are reasonably necessary for repair or restoration unless the person in possession of the vehicle has reason to know that the vehicle is stolen."

One thing to know about our antique British cars. There are always TWO VIN numbers on a vehicle. On BMC vehicles, for example, the 2nd VIN number is on a plate riveted to the block.

My 1959 Austin has the original 2nd VIN number on the block, perhaps an indication the engine has never been removed, however, this same plate on my 1967 Morris is missing. It disintegrated when the engine block went to the machine shop for a re-build. I didn't remove it first, the shop didn't remove it, and the thin tin plate was eaten up during the time the block sat in a "hot tank".

Some vehicles have a VIN etched onto the vehicle frame; however, rust can remove this as well in many climates over time.

If you ever intend to sell your vintage car, just make sure that you don't expose the new owner to an avalanche of problems at the DMV or with a law enforcement agency. It might also save you from attorney's fees related to a lawsuit!

If you purchase a vintage car, make sure you can locate the VIN number(s) and that the VIN on the registration and title match the vehicle!

HAPPY VIN MOTORING!

The Golden Parking Protractor Award By Jim Bull

Larry Long first saw a parking protractor in action at the Concours on the Avenue in Carmel, California in 2007. The concept there was to present cars in show room condition which were cars the average person could have had in years gone by and allow the public to enjoy viewing these cars, which had mostly disappeared over time.

The event was held as part of the famous Pismo Beach Concours which features multimillion dollar cars which most of us never heard of and have never seen, let alone ever driven or thought of owning. The street show required an application with photos and a donation check to a local charity was also required. My car was accepted for display and Larry, and I drove to Carmel.

My 1967 Morris Minor "Tourer", (which is the factory designation for a convertible) was newly restored. When we drove into the entry area it was nothing like we had ever observed at a car show before. Volunteers parking vehicles were dressed in identical straw hats, dark blue blazers, white shirts with striped ties, and light grey pants. Each car was parked with a large protractor, which placed every vehicle at exactly the same angle on the street. Parking spots were premeasured and marked. A potted red geranium was placed in front of each car and a preprinted informational sheet, placed in a plastic stand, (with the potted plant holding down the stand), allowed the public to read about the vehicle. The owner of each car submitted the information about their vehicle. This was a really classy event for a little Morris Minor!

The Morris was parked in class, with a Volkswagen "bug" and other small cars from the 50's & 60's. There was a Morgan, an Austin-Healey, and other British cars, but most were American cars our parents owned when we were kids, like a '57 Chevy, a Plymouth, or even a Cadillac. After the judging the Morris received an award of a silver tray from Tiffany's! Yes, that's how they do things during the week in Carmel and Pebble Beach.

Now back to Larry and his fascination with the parking protractor. Larry graduated college with a degree in physics and went on to teach high school math before going to work for defense contractors and working on air to air missiles, infrared earth scanning satellites and the like, so you can appreciate how positively enchanted Larry was with the exact preciseness (the mathematical beauty) of parking cars in this manner.

The parking protractor does what any protractor does, it measures the exact degree of an angle. Larry has built these devices out of wood several times and used them whenever he volunteered to be involved in a car show such as GoWest, and North Meets South in Santa Barbara County. The beauty of seeing a row of cars parked at exactly the same angle can't be appreciated until you see what

Larry can do with a parking protractor! The Paradise British Car Club even spray painted one with gold paint and presented it to Larry at an Awards Banquet as a joke.

In the history of British car shows how many people have ever received The Golden Protractor Award for Parking Excellence?

Central Coast British Car Club Car Show October 2nd

8/1/22, 4:42 PM

31st annual CCBCC Car Show | Central Coast British Car Club

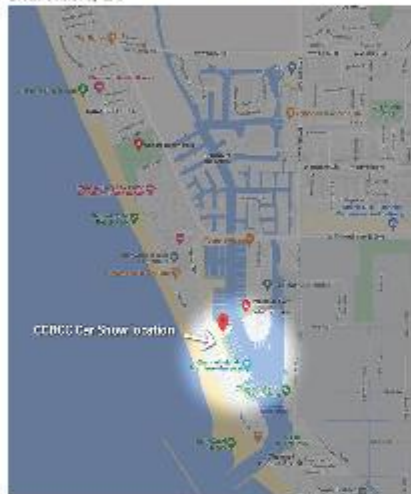
CAR SHOW // REGISTRATION

INFO.

31ST ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST BRITISH CAR CLUB CAR SHOW.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE MGB

Our car show will be held on October 2nd from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Channel Islands Harbor Park, 3600 Harbor Blvd, Oxnard, CA.



CCBCC CAR SHOW REGISTRATION 2022 AVAILABLE NOW

The show is open to all British Cars and is free for spectators. With an average of around 125 British cars there are a lot of beautiful cars to enjoy. The show is always a great time so plan on coming out and making a day of it.

There will be food trucks, vendors, a DJ, and an opportunity drawing. The car show is judged by the participants, with an awards ceremony held at 1:30 pm.

Download the registration form here.

Fill out the form and mail it in with your check, or follow the instructions on the form and pay via PayPal.

2022 Car Show Schedule

- 7:30 am Check-in begins
- 9:00 am Show starts
- 11:00 am Check-in ends
- 12:00 pm Ballots due
- 12:00 pm Pacific Highland Pipers
- 12:30 pm Opportunity Drawing
- 1:20 pm No-Show Drawing
- 1:30 pm Awards
- 2:30 pm Show Ends
- 3:00 pm Cars off grass - ramps down

Trophies

1st place trophies are awarded for all classes. 2nd place trophies are awarded for classes with 4 or more cars entered. Best of Show, President's Choice and Moss Motors Choice awards are also presented. You must be present to win.

CHECK OUT THESE TWO FEATURE ARTICLES FROM THE 2019 SHOW

Article 1: A History of the 1940s British Motor Show in California



AUTOMOBILE

Article 2: Celebrating 60 Years of the Triumph TR6



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STAY CONNECTED



How About a Morris for the 21st Century?

Morris Commercial Limited, based in Worcestershire, is reviving the famous and much-loved '[Morris](#)' name in a truly unique fashion. Fully designed and engineered in Britain, the automotive engineering company is pioneering a new approach to carbon-neutral transport, by combining innovative modular skateboard architecture and ultra-lightweight recycled carbon-fiber body construction with timeless and quintessentially British design.

Since the global media launch in November 2019, the Morris JE's beautiful appearance has attracted a passionate following from around the world and its status has been further enhanced by high-profile television appearances ahead of the first deliveries in 2022.

In June, the Morris JE's charismatic appeal turned heads and created smiles in all four home nations (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) during a UK-wide tour with the BBC Travel Show.

This was followed by an appearance on Channel 4's 'The World's Fastest Electric Car' where the Morris JE's high-quality British craftsmanship and refined driving characteristics stunned motoring legend Guy Martin.

The Morris JE will be meeting members of the public for the first time at Fully Charged Live. Designed for customers and businesses that crave individuality, the vehicle's stunning and distinctive aesthetics will provide a perfect and eye-catching mobile marketing solution. Combined with the beautiful British craftsmanship, the vehicle is engineered with the driver's comfort and well-being as two of its core values.



Morris

JE Pickup and Minibus

Morris Commercial will be exhibiting alongside the Electric Vehicle Association (EVA) England, an organization that provides access to information, support, and products to improve the EV owner experience, and increases the opportunity for discussion within the EV community.

Dr. Qu Li, Founder and CEO at Morris Commercial, said: "*We're delighted to be partnering with the EVA England at the event as it is an organisation that shares our passion and commitment to EV drivers and owners*".

The Morris JE sits within the 2.5-tonne segment – the lightest sector in the commercial vehicle market – but it boasts an impressive 1,000kg payload and 6m³ load volume, which is more typical of vehicles in the larger 3.5-tonne market segment.

The lightweight carbon fiber and aluminum construction, which are both recycled and recyclable, allows for a range in excess of 200 miles and makes the Morris JE an exceptionally appealing solution for urban deliveries.

The Morris JE will be displayed alongside the Electric Vehicle Association at Fully Charged Live on Friday the 3rd, Saturday the 4th, and Sunday the 5th of September 2021 at Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre (Etps Road, Farnborough, GU14 6FD).

Note: Press release courtesy of [Morris Commercial](#).