



THE BRITISH DIAMOND

October 31st, 2024

New member Richard Allen's Caterham 7 - 1957 Lotus 7 replica, indeed it is on a 1957 PA registration! Owned from new by Richard, following a love affair of the 7 from his university days some 30 years ago!

140hp 4-cylinder, weighs just about 1,000lb





British Car Club of Delaware

PO Box 5317,
Wilmington, DE 19808

Website: www.bccdelaaware.org

Officers

President

Terry Young
terryyoung224@me.com

Secretary

Sharon Kalinowski
sdkal@verizon.net

Treasurer/Membership

Calvin Jackson
Calvin_jackson@hotmail.com

Southern Chapter

President

Bill Tattersall
billtattersall@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jerry Hirst
jerryhirst@comcast.net

Secretary / Publicity

Mike Tyler
AH3000TriCarb@comcast.net

Volunteers

Newsletter - British Diamond

Trevor Mees
TrevorMees@outlook.com

Historian

Martha Gimbel
dediva245@verizon.net

Lewes Car Show

Mike Tyler
AH3000TriCarb@comcast.net

Northern Chapter Car Show

Sharon Kalinowski
sdkal@verizon.net

Webmaster:

Terry Young
terryyoung224@me.com

Advertising:

Don McDonald

You have no doubt noticed that I have been tweaking the British Diamond. Last issue I started adorning the front cover with a picture of a British car. I really wanted it to be a member's car, but I hadn't yet asked for any and I felt putting my own car there might be considered a bit much. So the XK140 was nicely inoffensive. Since soliciting members for pictures of their cars for the front cover I have received a few. The car on this month's cover caught my eye because the owner is a brand new member, having joined at the Hagley show in September, and he was one of the first to submit a picture. His Lotus 7 Replica was pictured doing what Lotus 7s do. BTW Bill Tattersall, the esteemed president of our Southern Chapter, has restored a 1962 Type 2 Super Seven (pictured). He did, however, have to modify it a little so that he could get in and out of it and operate the pedals.



This issue is packed with stories about the various activities the club members enjoy. Thank you very much to those who contributed them. I hope you all enjoy the words and pictures. I'm still working on the Southern Chapter Rally, which took place last weekend and will appear in the next edition. If you were there please send me something to print about the event.

I recently spent a couple of weeks in my home country (Great Britain), after a gap of about 8 years, and the differences between driving here and driving there were striking. Expect an article about that in a future edition.

As ever, send me items about the club, British cars, or anything British that you feel the members might enjoy.

Happy Motoring!

Trevor The Editor

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President's Musings

Terry Young

One of the greatest joys I have as President of the British Car Club of Delaware is promoting our club's activities and supporting the folks who work behind the scenes to make it all possible. I spoke about the fall events in the last president's message, now that the time has come to pass. The anticipation was driving me crazy until each episode unfolded. And boy-oh-boy did they! All happening within a few short weeks, sometimes days, from one another. It's not difficult to keep up – well, it is, kind of... I'll going to defer to the people who participated to tell their stories.

Here are the Headlines!

June 20, Old Timers Day celebration in Selbyville

July 19, Friday Night Concert at Hudson Field

Aug 25, Lanco British Show & Polo Match

Sept 8 Buggies & Brunch

Sept 13, Pre-Show Meet 'n Greet

Sept 14, Annual Fall Car & Motorcycle Show

Sept 15, Hagley "British Invasion" Car Show

Sept 16~18, Healey Encounter 2024 "Back to the Boardwalk"

Sept 21, British Invasion Car Show in Stowe, VT

Sept 22, Buggies & Brunch

Sept 24, The Southern Chapter's Crab Fest

Sept 28, **The 45th Annual "MG on the Rocks" British Car Show**

Oct 5, The Covered Bridge Tour

Oct 8~10, The 3-day drive up in the Poconos

Oct 19, Cars & Coffee

Oct 20, Southern Fall Rally

The remaining outings are about to happen!

Nov 9, Cars & Coffee

Nov 17, Sunday, Ladies Luncheon

Nov 30, Wilmington Jaycees Christmas Parade

Dec 4, Wednesday, Annual Holiday Dinner Party

Dec 7, Saturday, Lewes Christmas Parade

Dec 15, Sunday, Holiday Luncheon

This list seems long. Well, it is, and these are the most recent. If you look at our webpage, you'll find 24 since the beginning of the year, most with photos and a story – at least the ones we know about – and we're still posting as we head into the holiday season with more celebrations coming our way. Closing out the year (keep in mind this newsletter covers November and December) We'll have our traditional outings like the Christmas parades and holiday dinners to report about. We're looking forward to all the stories.

Concluding one year also involves looking towards the next. There are some past events that have a promise of duplication. I think we should talk about all of them when we meet for annual planning.

These next couple of months are jammed packed with more fun than any of our British Car Club of Delaware careers can stand! So, until next time... Please drive safely!!!

Terry & Georgia

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Chuck Ott

By Mike Tyler



Chuck was honored by the Austin-Healey Sports and Touring Club (AHSTC) at its annual Encounter in Ocean City, NJ September 15-19. He was recognized at the Encounter Awards Banquet on Wednesday 18 September. His award, the George Null Club Person of the Year Award is given to "a club member or couple who during the course of the year best exemplify those qualities that they were admired in George Null one of the founding members of AHSTC and long-time editor of *The Flash* club newsletter." Nominees are active members who demonstrate attendance at regional meetings and Encounters and who make a meaningful contribution to the Austin-Healey marque, the Region or AHSTC.

Here are the Award presentation remarks given to Chuck at the Awards Banquet:

Chuck has been a member of AHSTC since 1987 – almost 40 years - and has been President of the Brandywine region almost as long. Chuck is the primary reason that this region is so active in spite of being one of the smallest in number of members. His decades of leadership have kept the region vital including organizing many excellent Encounters. Chuck promotes the Austin Healey Marque by driving his Healeys to as many events as he can - no matter the season. His heaters must work better than most of ours!

Chuck is also a member of our Board of Directors and is one of the longest serving Board members. The Board is always sure that we know where he stands on an issue. He has shown over the years that he is always looking after the best long-term interests of the club in mind.

His sincere and long-term dedication to the region and to the club as a whole make him so deserving of the 2024 George Null Award.

Shows and Show Sponsors



Ode To Triumphs

By Tom Huelsenbeck

This was written by a friend from the Indiana Triumph Club, who I've had the pleasure of caravanning with to Triumph events around the country for the last five years:

Ode to Triumphs and Passengers

Author: Carol Brost/ITC Member 6/22/24

Here's to us gals, may we always be there beside our dear drivers with wind in our hair.

May we always be brave, smile when wet weather frowns, and be so patient when the darn car breaks down.

We help them bleed brakes, dust those tiny little vents and keep track of gas mileage to prevent roadside events.

We hand them pliers, rags, or even a spanner and hope we don't need to find a big hammer.

Our cars are so cute, and some say romantic until rattles and smoke make our dear drivers panic.

There's one thing we know when all things go right, these fine little cars can make all road trips bright.

Ted Becker

1949 - 2024



Sadly Ted, a former Mayor of Lewes, died on October 6.

He was elected to the Lewes City Council in 2004 and became mayor in 2014, serving two terms before creating the Bay Beach Association in 1022.

During his time as Mayor he could be seen handing out the trophies at the end of our parade after the "British Are Coming Again" car show.

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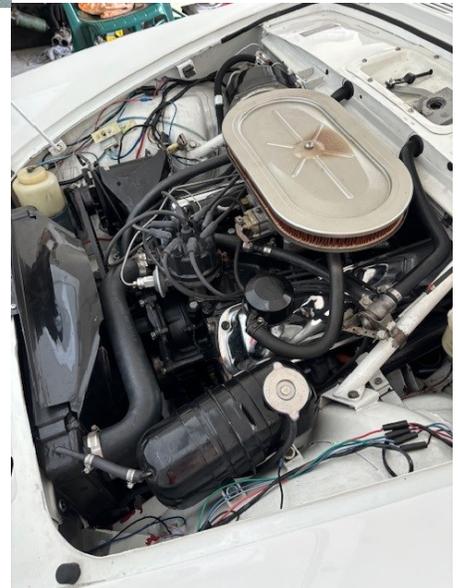
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1966 Sunbeam Tiger

By John Hohman

Beside my 61 Morgan Plus 4 and my 1960 Triumph TR-3A being restored in Hanover, PA., I have purchased this Tiger.
> I am starting to get photos back of the TR-3A project, he also painted Bob Wall's Jensen Interceptor.



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Southern Chapter Crab Feast

Trevor Mees

The Southern Chapter held its annual Crab Feast on September 24th. It was well attended with some folks driving down from Newark and Dover to attend. Messy but fun. The Club "shelled" out for the crabs and we each brought a side dish or dessert to complement them. Those of us who are not pickers brought our own dinner (I plumped for a tuna salad sub from Capriotti's. At least I had a fishy reference).



Bill Tattersall provided the pictures



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Mystery Car

Last Issue

Robert Gannon correctly identified it as **the** Rolls Royce “Round Door”. “The” because there is only one. Its real name is 1925 Rolls Royce Phantom 1 Jonckheere.

It started life with a Hooper Cabriolet body but in 1934 it was sent to Jonckheere of Belgium to be rebodied as you see it here.

It is currently in the Peterson Museum. Have a look at

<https://www.autocarsfans.com/the-tale-of-the-round-door-rolls-royce.html>

for its full story



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Clue - it's from the 1950s

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AHS&TC Enclave 2024 in Ocean City, NJ September 15-19, 2024

David & Nancy Haines

The Austin-Healey Sports & Touring Club is a regional club based around the Philadelphia area. An annual event termed "Encounter" is held in September. This year the meeting was held in Ocean City, NJ at the Flanders Hotel, an historic venue located on the Boardwalk. From September 15th through the 19th. This event was titled "Back to the Boardwalk" as it was a repeat of the previous event held in 2019. Having previously participated in 2019, we looked forward to another four days on the Boardwalk.

The weather forecast was dire: predicting rain –heavy at times starting Tuesday and continuing through Thursday. The forecast, along with a flat tire on Friday before – led us to forego taking the Healey. I had experienced a rain soaked Lewes Car show in May and had no desire to repeat the experience – driving a topless car in the rain is not fun. However, we had already booked the hotel and the Ferry from Lewes to Cape May so we pushed on using our minivan (much more comfortable in the rain!). The ride over on the Ferry was a little rough but at least the sun was shining. It is about a 40 minute drive north to Ocean City from Cape May using the Garden State Parkway.



On Monday we participated in the Rally which started from the Hotel and ended at the Cape May airport. The route took us through the backroads of southern New Jersey and last about 1 ½ hours. Along the way we had to identify items per the clues provided in the rally instructions. Unlike the previous event, we did not get lost this time. After finishing the rally, we toured the Wildwood Naval Air Station Museum. This facility is located outside of Cape May at the Cape May Airport and was a training base for WWII naval pilots. A large hanger contains displays of various aircraft from WWII planes to modern day jets and helicopters. Located next to the Museum is the Flight Deck Diner where we had lunch.

That evening there was a Wine & Cheese Reception and Charity auction where the Club auctioned of Healey based memorabilia and raised \$4500 for the Ronald McDonald House Charity of Philadelphia.

Things got a little jumbled on Tuesday. The Encounter 2024 Car Show was moved from Wednesday to Tuesday due to the predicted rain for the rest of the week. The cars are lined up and then driven down the Boardwalk and parked for display. This year there were only about 30 participants but the weather held off and the show was a success. That evening we had a Southern BBQ Buffet at the hotel followed by Valve Cover races. This involved valves covers – mostly from the 4 Cylinder cars – to which skateboard type wheels were added and the covers then elaborately decorated. A wooden ramp is used and the covers were raced two by two until a winner was declared.



Wednesday turned out to be free day so we walked the Boardwalk for a while. We also walked over to the Ocean City Life Saving Station which, unfortunately, was closed. That evening, after a cocktail reception, we attend the Encounter 2024 Awards banquet. The theme of the Banquet was the Roaring Twenties and participants were encouraged to dress for that period. At the end of the evening the Georg Null Award for the Club Member of the Year was given to Chuck Ott (Chuck has participated in a number of the BCCD events).



Mike Tyler running his valve cover racer.

Thursday was checkout and a drive to Cape May for the ferry ride back to Lewes. After all of the concern about rain, there was none. The ferry ride back was calm and sunny. Next year Encounter 2025 will be held at the Camelback Lodge & Resort in the Poconos – we will see what the weather brings.

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A visit to the Walt Koopman Collection

Mike Tyler

The pictures don't give you the depth of his collection but he has so much in that building. He has all the original boxes the models came in, books, manuals, photos. He has made acquaintances with Paul Newman among other driving celebrities and race car drivers. He is 89 years young and is still enjoys showing his collections and other related items such as his role in the Korean War and his acquaintances with famous female race car drivers.

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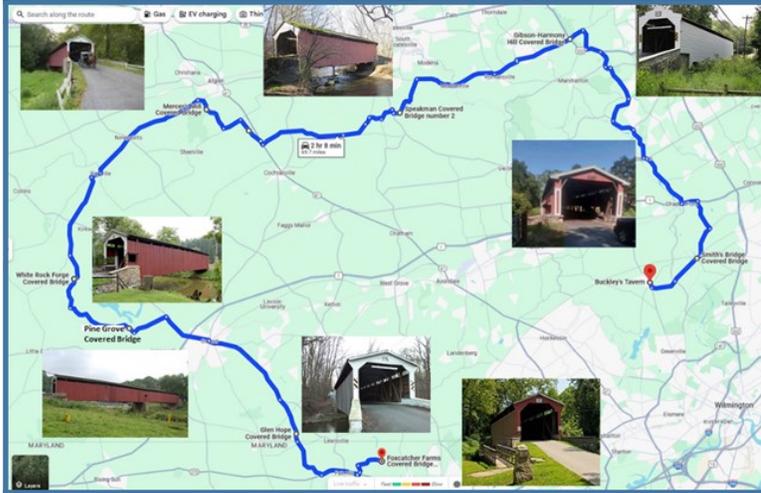
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Covered Bridge Driving Tour

Bob & Carol Wall

On Saturday, October 5th, seven British cars enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day visiting eight different covered bridges in Delaware, Pennsylvania, & Maryland – actually 9 historic covered bridges since getting to Buckley’s Tavern for the kickoff lunch had a bridge on the way! Once our luncheon was over, John & Trudi Gaito in their Triumph TR6, Terry & Georgia Young in their Jaguar XK8, Alan & Fiona Hill in their Lotus Elan S3, Richard Hill & Barbara Russell Triumph TR3, Richard Speck & Janet Tillman in their MGB, Mike & Lee Salino in their Jaguar XK, and Bob & Carol Wall in their Jensen-Healey made the 70-mile trek through the hills, curves, & bridges in ~3 hours. Besides the beautiful scenery, we crossed paths with Amish carriages and passed by several Halloween exhibits with giant skeletons and monsters. Treats and care packages were provided along the way thanks to Alan Hill and Carol Wall. We ended our ride at Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge, the only bridge we couldn’t drive through, where everyone received personalized certificates of completion.



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Fall Car Show Weekend September 13-15th

Bob Wall

Couldn't have asked for a better weekend for our Annual British Car & Motorcycle Show at Bellanca Air Museum. This year was special since we kicked it off with a Meet & Greet event at the Hilton on Friday night for the participants and BCCD members. Saturday drew 54 British Cars & Motorcycles at Bellanca, including seven Jensen cars celebrating this year's Marque. Many stayed for Sunday to participate in the Hagley car show in Wilmington which featured British Cars this year. Hagley provided us a prime location, custom signs about our car models, and let us put up a BCCD membership drive tent. The membership drive, spearheaded by Alan Hill, was successful with many new members joining the BCCD.

This year, thanks to Alan Hill, we added a Best in Show Class made up of past winners of individual classes. Congratulations to Amelia Rochette from Shady Side, MD who won this new class with her 1979 MGB. Alan also designed the unique medals and trophies that were well-received by the winners.

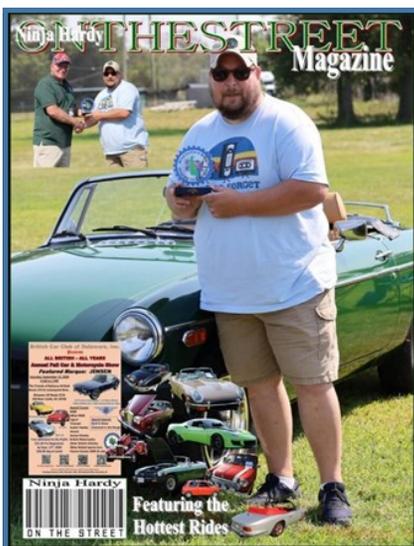
A list of winners and photos from all three events can be found on the BCCD website at: <https://bccdelaware.org/2024-events/>. A big thank you to all the Club members that helped with the preparations, setup, execution, and clean-up for all three events!



Meet & Greet at Hilton



Celebration of the Jensen Marque



BCCD Membership Drive @ Hagley

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