



The British Connection

Volume 2013 Issue 11

November 2013

President's Message

Inside this issue:

- My First British Car** 2
- ABCC Upcoming Activities** 3
- Upcoming Events** 4

I hope everyone had a good Halloween. It was certainly busy in our corner of the county.

Once again it is time to elect new ABCC officers. Officer positions are only a one year term which zooms by fast as we all know. Positions are Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. I hope we will have some new volunteers to breathe new life in the club. Not that the old officers haven't done a fine job, they have. The fact is we have served our club and some many times. When our Secretary Connie Hart moved out of our area this summer Celia Martin, club Treasurer, offered to take on Connie's duties. Celia gets involved. Celia has been in every officer position and some more than twice. And folks that included being a good President too, thank you Celia. If any member wants to make a difference, the best way is to get involved, lend a hand and help your club by volunteering. If you or you have someone in mind that would like to run for any of the available positions please email me sbradley5@cfl.rr.com or call 386-775-9558 or any club officer. Elections will be held at the Christmas party. More on the Christ-

mas party will be sent shortly after the newsletter so stand by for details.

The British Cruisers will be back in 2014. Craig Colby is talking about having a cruise through the loop but needs suggestions on an eating spot. Send lunch spot suggestions to Ruby Colby cwcolby@hotmail.com or myself and I will forward.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner which means the Turkey Rod Show at the Speedway. This is always a great show. Let us know if anyone is entering their car. Thanksgiving also means getting together with friends and family. I'll be enjoying a great meal in Lake Helen with our family.

The weather is absolutely gorgeous. So no matter how busy you get...take that LBC out on the road and enjoy it.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL

Thanksgiving

Steve & Deb Bradley

2013 ABCC Officers

President - Steve Bradley
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Vice-President - Gary Thomas
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Secretary/Treasurer - Celia Martin
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Editor - Bob Storke
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My First British Car

By: Mike Schoonmaker



The year was 1960. I was fresh out of the Army and had my first real job as a Field Engineer with UNIVAC, working on their first transistorized computers, in Ilion New York where they built them. I was looking for a car because some guy had just hit my beautiful burgundy and white 1954 Buick Special hardtop and destroyed it completely.

All of the other engineers were buying new cars, mostly American Fords and Chevies. I had never owned a new car, and had been brought up to believe you always paid cash for what you bought, even a car. I had never given much thought to owning a foreign car, nor for that matter, knew anyone who had owned one.

This all changed when Dick Capristo showed up one day at work with a brand new 1960 Triumph TR-3A, white with a red interior. It made the 60' Ford convertible I was looking at seem like a tank. One drive of his TR-3A and I was hooked, but now came a cultural

rub. The Ford and the TR came in at about three thousand bucks, no where near what I had to spend, and I knew my Dad would never co-sign for such a loan. 50 years ago banks didn't lend that kind of money to 20 year olds who had been working less then a year without a co-signer.

This all changed when the above "Dick", three other bachelors and myself decided to rent a five bedroom country farm house, complete with housekeeper, from a doctor who was leaving for a year of advanced studies. The five of us arrived to view the house. We were especially impressed with the five car garage, one bay for each of us. When I looked in the garage, there in the corner set the prettiest robin-egg blue (with matching blue interior) Triumph you could ever imagine. The doctor said it was his wife's 1957 TR3 and didn't know what he was going to do with it. Although it was three years old it had less than 10,000 miles on it and had never seen the New York snow. I bought it on the spot, and the doctor let me drive it down to Albany where my Dad agreed to co-sign a signature loan for what I was short. To show you how much different things were back then, Dad called his banker, telling him how much he wanted and the banker said I could come by and get the check... he would do the paper work with Dad the next time he was in the bank!

Well, that's when my love affair with the TR-3 began. Like any other love affair it was not without trials. I learned that the sliding windows you used to get to the inside pull rope (no outside door handles on a 57') froze shut in the winter; you had to pour anti-freeze in the channel. I also learned not to park it at the curb when visiting overnight when it was snowing. In the morning there was just a big snow plow drift... somewhere under it was the TR-3.

This all changed about a year later at Christmas time when I took a UNIVAC field assignment in Phoenix Arizona maintaining the first transistorized computer in Arizona. Everything I owned was crammed into the TR-3, or on its luggage rack, and I made the 2,400 mile trip loving every mile of it and without any mechanical problems. I kept the TR-3 for several years more when the inevitable happened. Stopped in the left turn lane behind a flat bed truck (you can see this coming), he decided to back up and change lanes... in the process he backed over the TR-3 up to the windshield. I was again without a car...

(continued on pg. 3)

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Epilog... Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have your first love back? Well I got the chance a few years ago when a member of the North Florida Triumph Club considered selling his wife's 1957 TR-3 with less than 30,000 miles on it. It was completely original and exactly like mine in all respects except it had wire wheels and overdrive. To finish the restoration he had under way would have created a trailer queen with about \$30,000 invested in it. (First loves will always be considered trailer queens). I weighed that against my 1980 Spitfire "driver" and decided it is better to live in the present... you can never go back! (But it sure is tempting)



2013 ABCC Upcoming Activities

- NOVEMBER 16th Spring Gardens Ranch, De Leon Springs, FL (note location change)
- DECEMBER 15th Christmas Party, Spruce Creek Park, NSB, FL
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For Sale

I have a set of new MGB shocks. These are brand new, never been on a car Armstrong shocks, front & rear. They are left from when I had my B and worked at Collier Jag. Just found them while going thru the garage and don't need them. I would like \$500 for the full set. Contact John Bellmore at owlseye@bellsouth.net April 2013

1973 Chrome bumper MGB GT - it has a High compression engine and working overdrive. The GT runs well. It has new brakes front and rear, stainless steel exhaust, good tires and everything works. It has a clear Florida Title. I can provide more details. I have included pictures and I have lots more.

Asking \$3,000 or best offer. Contact Brad Richardson [321-751-0764](tel:321-751-0764) or Cell [321-543-9292](tel:321-543-9292) August 2103

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2, 2013 Ancient City Auto Club - 28th annual car show. St Augustine, FL - <http://local.aaca.org/ancientcity/>

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2013 Chattanooga CHOO-CHOO. Chattanooga, TN. – <http://southernbritishcarclub.org>

NOVEMBER 10, 2013 Winter Park Concours D' Elegance. Winter Park, FL - www.winterparkconcours.com

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013 Zephyrhills Fall Auto Fest. Zephyrhills, FL. – <http://zephyrhillsauction.com/>

NOVEMBER 10, 2013 Vintage Motor Classic. St Petersburg, FL. www.spvc.org/classic

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013 Zephyrhills Fall Auto Fest. Zephyrhills, FL. – <http://zephyrhillsauction.com/>

NOVEMBER 14-17, 2013 Daytona Continental Historics (HSR). Daytona, FL. - www.hsrrace.com

NOVEMBER 16, 2013 Spring Gardens Ranch. DeLeon Springs, FL. ABCC Club event

NOV. 28 – Dec. 1, 2013 Daytona Turkey Run. Daytona Beach, FL – (386) 767-9070 -or- www.turkeyrun.com

NOVEMBER 29, 2013 Gas light parade and block party. Ormond Beach, FL. – (386) 441-7793

NOVEMBER 30, 2013 AACA Antique Car Show. . Ormond Beach, FL. – (386) 441-7793

NOV. 29- DEC. 1, 2013 Turkey Bowl XVII, Summit Point, WV - www.vrgonline.org

NOV. 29 – DEC. 1, 2013 Orlando Festivals of Speed. Orlando, FL - <http://festivalsofspeed.com/orlando/>

DECEMBER 1, 2013 SCCA SOLO II. DeLand Airport, DeLand, FL – www.cfrsolo2.com

DECEMBER 5-8, 2013 Sebring Historics (HSR). Sebring FL - www.hsrrace.com

JANUARY 17-26, 2014 Mecum Auction. Kissimmee, FL. - www.Mecum.com

JANUARY 22-26, 2014 Cavallino Classic, Ferrari Gathering. Palm Beach, FL. – www.cavallino.com/cavallino-classic.html

JANUARY 25-26, 2014, Rolex 24 hours of Daytona. Daytona Beach, FL. – www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com

FEBRUARY 9, 2014 21st Annual All Brit Car Show. Royal Palm Place, Boca Raton, FL - www.goldcoastbritcar.com/

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2014 2014 AACA South East Winter Meet. Port St. Lucie, FL www.tcvcc.com/FallFestival.pdf



OUR MISSION

To encourage the preservation and enjoyment of all of British cars

We're on the Web

www.volusiabritishcars.com

**ALL BRITISH CAR CLUB OF
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