

The British Connection

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December 2023

President's Message

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Night before Christmas	2
Tire size conversion	4
Upcoming Events	5

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Hello all. And happy after Thanksgiving, Black Friday et al. If you are familiar with bringatrailer.com, you will know that about every two weeks there is a column by a user @sludgo Mile Markers. He seems to be a writer in the style of possibly Peter Egan from Road and Track, or Satch Carlson from the way back machine in Autoweek when it was a newspaper style weekly magazine. His columns are usually life stories from his life about people whose paths have crossed his. His last was about being thankful for people in his life who made a difference to him down to and including some dude in a "Brodozer" who had let him into traffic in his MGB.



So, it started me thinking. I can't generally get through his stories without some mushiness. The column made me think about many of the people who have helped me out in one way or another. You can't go back to tell them "Thank You". Usually, you can't even find them, or they have long since vacated the gravity of this giant rock. But sometimes, through fate or whatever, you can do it.

Where I grew up, my parents frequented a service station owned by a fellow named Ted. It was Ted's Texaco, Ted's Exxon, Ted's Mobil, Ted's Phillips. Needless to say, Ted moved around in the 18 years I spent in the frozen tundra. And my parents and then I moved with him. One of those people, when you find them, you don't want to lose them. One time I went into his station, a Shell at the time, and he had just pulled a car into a bay. Had it up on the lift, snow dripping off everywhere, just like it's raining. All the snow packed underneath is starting to melt from the heat in the garage bay.

I said to him "why don't you get out of this business? This is a crappy business to be in. He said, "You're right". I think the next summer I was casting about, looking to make some money. Ted had a brand-new Texaco, now. Not too far from our house. I asked him if he would use me for some hours, and he said sure. Worked there all summer, and the next summer, too. A good portion of the time I was alone in the evenings.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

I started doing light mechanical stuff when I was bored. It was a good gig, and Ted was good to me. I always wished I could've thanked him.

Some 15 to 20 years later, we are living in Colorado. It's Christmas, and we're shopping at the closest mall to our house. Ted was a big guy. Six foot something. I see this guy coming toward me in a bunch of people. It sure looks like Ted. Naw, it can't be. Too far from the great frozen north. He had moved on, bought a truck stop out on the plains somewhere, I had heard. About a month or so later, I saw an ad in my most favorite publication, the Auto Trader. The ad was for an Oldsmobile, same last name. Ted and his brother had always been into Oldsmobile's. The phone number was a number from a town to the north of us, a little town Lyons, Colorado.

Since I worked for the phone company, I started looking in records for Lyons. Sure enough, there was Ted's name and number. It turned out the truck stop he had bought was in Lyons, about 45 minutes north of where we lived. We went through Lyons many times on our way to the mountains. Lovely drive. So, I called Ted, told him how much that job had meant to me, and how the way he treated me stayed with me all those years. And Ted told me "You were good for me, too".

Happy travels,

Doug Bullard

Night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the valley,
Not a sports car was stirring, not even a Ferrari.
we raced to the window, my dear wife and I.

The moon on the chrome of her baby Lago,
gave the brightness of noonday to objects below.
When what should my wondering eyes betray,
but eight tiny MGs, pulling a sleigh.

With a small hero driver so steady and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be Hot Nick!
More rapid than Grand Prix his little fleet came,
and he poured on the coal as he called them by name.

"Now KA, now PB, now KN and TD,
On VA, on TF, on NA and TC;
To the top of the turn, keep away from the wall,
Now dash away, dig out, and change cogs all!"

Like Ascari and Fangio fighting a duel,
they broad-slid the driveway and turned on the fuel;
Up to the garage where they braked to a stop,
the sleigh full of goodies with Santa on top.

The stockings were hung on the garage door with care,
in hopes that Hot Nick soon would be there.
The kiddies were nestled all snug in their beds,
While Alfas and Jaguars raced in their heads;
Mom in her goggles and I in beret,
had tucked in the Allard, and then hit the hay.
When out on the road there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Expecting to see a Mercedes roar by,

The sleigh was aluminum - Ghia design;
In British Racing Green, it really looked fine.
The badge bar up front stood out clear and bold,
the collection of badges a sight to behold.

He was dressed up all in Italian Race Red,
from the tip of his toes to top of his head;
A bundle of speed parts he had on his back,
and he chuckled with glee as he opened his pack.

His eyes, how they sparkled, like a spinning Rudge wheel,
His beard was the silver of machine-tooled steel;
With a little round face and a chubby waist line
That shook when he laughed like that Bugatti of mine.

He started his task without saying a word;
the idling exhausts were all that was heard.
Wire wheels for Junior, to fit his TD,
Hood strap and windscreens for Allard and me.

Some paint for the Bug, marked "French Racing Bleu",
Castrol, a blower, and dual carbs, too;
The last thing he left was the best that could be,
A year's "Road and Track" for the family and me.

He jumped to the sleigh and gave his commands,
then away they all flew like the start at Le Mans,
and I heard him exclaim as he quickened the pace,
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good race!

Author Unknown



Celebrations

By: Gene



December Celebrations

Birthdays -

- Gene Schoonmaker - December 1
- Christine Steward - December 9
- Dr. Jon Schiff - December 23
- Sally Sieling - December 30

Anniversary -

- Bill & Lucie Kooy - December 14

2023 ABCC Upcoming Club Activities

The new year brings the changing of the Guard. All of the positions are open for a new member to step up and try their hand in the office. All of the officers have been in office longer than they should hold their position. Anyone interested please contact Doug at pbullard@hotmail.com. The positions are listed on page 1 of the newsletter.

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Tire Size Conversion

Two versions of numeric tire sizes were used as original equipment on vehicles between 1949 and 1970. The early numeric tires had the equivalent of a 90-series aspect ratio, while later tires offered a "lower" profile equivalent to a 80-series. These tires typically featured tread widths ranging from 3.5" for the smallest 13" rim diameter tires to about 5.5" for the largest 15" rim diameter tires.

To convert Numeric sizes to today's P-metric sizes, it is important to remember that early cars were not only equipped with narrow tires, they were equipped with narrow wheels as well. In most cases, numeric tires should be replaced with today's 80- or 75-series sized tires. This is especially important if the original wheels are to be used. Today's lower profile sizes will usually result in too wide a tire with too much gap between the wheel well opening and the top of the tire.

For example: The 1965 Ford Mustang's 6.95-14 would be replaced with a P185/75R14.

Tire Size	Overall Diameter	Section Width	Load Capacity
6.95-14	25.3"	7.0"	1230 lbs @ 32 psi
P185/75R14	25.0"	7.2"	1290 lbs @ 35 psi

Alpha numeric tire sizes were introduced as original equipment in the late 60's and became widely used in the early 70's. These tires were identified with a letter which indicated the tire's load capacity, followed by a "R" if radial ply construction, the tire's aspect ratio and wheel diameter. So while G78-15 (28.01"), G70-15 (27.5") and G60-15 (26.4") sized tires are all rated to carry the same load, their different aspect ratios resulted in tires with the overall diameters indicated above.

To convert Alpha Numeric tires to P-metric sized tires, it is important to identify the original tire's aspect ratio. The 78-series Alpha Numeric tires should be replaced with today's 80-, or 75 series tires. If the vehicle was equipped with the low profile 70-, 60- or 50-series sizes, the P-metric substitution should be selected from the P-metric size column that offers the equivalent aspect ratio as the existing tire.

For example: The 1970 Chevrolet Camaro Z-28 F60-15 would be replaced with a P235/60R15. (selected from the P-metric 60-series column).

Tire Size	Overall Diameter	Section Width	Load Capacity
F60-15	25.9"	9.2"	1500 lbs @ 32 psi
P235/60R15	26.1	9.5"	1642 lbs @ 35 psi

1949 to 1964	1965 to 1970	1970 to 1980	1980 - On				
NUMERIC	ALPHA NUMERIC	EUROMETRIC	P-METRIC	EUROMETRIC or P-METRIC			
"90" to "80"-Series	78 to 50-Series	"82"-Series	80-, 75-series	70-series	65-series	60-series	50-series
		145R10		165/70R10			

For Sale or Wanted

1979 Spitfire parts for sale.

Prices: Finisher \$80- small ding on it, LH fender \$125, RH fender \$125, Chrome front bumper (super nice) \$225, Alternator (new in box) \$50. Jim Donnelly Email: jdonnelly44@CFL.RR.COM Location: Cape Canaveral, FL (October)

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 8-10, 2023 VDCA Season Finale. Roebing Roads Raceway, Bloomingdale, GA. - www.vintagedrive.com/

JANUARY 2-14 2024 Mecum Auction. Kissimmee, FL. - www.Mecum.com

JANUARY 21, 2024 Annual Festivals of Speed. Vinoy Park St. Petersburg, FL- <https://www.festivalsofspeed.com/>

JANUARY 25-28, 2024 Cavallino Classic, Ferrari Gathering. Palm Beach, FL. – <http://www.cavallinoclassic.com/>

JANUARY 19-21, 2024 “Roar before the Rolex 24” IMSA test days. Daytona, FL - <http://www.imsa.com/>

JANUARY 25-27, 2024 Michelin Global Championship. Daytona Beach, FL - <http://sportscarchallenge.imsa.com/>

JANUARY 25-28, 2024 Rolex 24 hours of Daytona. Daytona Beach, FL. – <http://www.imsa.com/>

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 2nd Annual British and European Car Show 3500 Sarno Rd., Melbourne, FL - [2024 British and European Car Show \(americanmusclecarmuseum.com\)](http://2024.British.and.European.Car.Show(americanmusclecarmuseum.com))

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 Sir John Black’s Birthday drive your Triumph Day. – Worldwide event

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 29th Annual All Brit Car Show. Broward Mall, Plantation, FL - www.goldcoastbritcar.com/

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 Boca Raton Concours d' Elegance. Boca Raton, FL - www.bocaratonconcours.com

FEBRUARY 22-25, 2024 Sebring Speed Tour (SVRA) Sebring Raceway, Sebring, FL - www.svra.com/

Feb 29-March 3, 2024 Amelia Island Car Show. Amelia Island, FL. – www.ameliaconcours.org

MARCH 1, 2024 Gator MOG Spring Noggin_ Fernandina Beach, FL – www.mogsouth.com

MARCH 2, 2024 Annual Strawberry Festival Car Show. Ocala, FL - [Habitat for Humanity of Marion County FL | Strawberry Festival \(habitatocala.org\)](http://Habitat.for.Humanity.of.Marion.County.FL.Strawberry.Festival(habitatocala.org))

MARCH 8-10, 2024 HSR Spring Fling. Sebring, FL www.hsrrace.com

MARCH 10, 2024 “British-Italian German” (BIG) car show. Cape Coral, FL - <https://bccswf.com/events-experiences>

MARCH 13 -16, 2024 Sebring Support races. Sebring, FL - www.imsa.com

MARCH 13-16, 2024 Mobil 1 12 hrs. of Sebring. Sebring, FL. - www.imsa.com

MARCH 23, 2024 New Orleans British Car Day, Tammany Trace Covington, LA - www.bmcno.org/

MARCH 21-24, 2024 Atlanta Speed Tour, Road Atlanta. Braselton, GA - www.svra.com/

MARCH 22-24, 2024 34th Annual Spring Turkey Run. Daytona Beach, FL - <http://www.turkeyrun.com>

MARCH 30, 2024 Wheels Across the Pond. Jupiter, FL - www.wheelsacrossthepond.com

APRIL 6, 2024 39th Annual British Car Show. Henry’s Depot, Sanford, FL - www.allbritishcarclub.com/

APRIL 11-14, 2024 NOLA SpeedTour NOLA Motorsports Park. Avondale, LA -<https://svra.com/>



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