

# The British Connection

Volume 2025 Issue 1

January 2025

## President's Message

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### ABCC Officers

President - Doug Bullard  
Vice-President - Steve Bradley  
Secretary - Debi Bradley  
Treasurer - Gene Schoonmaker  
Editor - Bob Storke

Hello everyone, and happy New Year. Continuing with how we got to where we are, automotive version. When I went back to college in the fall of 1969, I again went looking for something to drive. I think I had floated a loan for 1000 dollars for school. Well, you can see where this is going. I found an MGA that the guy was flipping. It seemed like a pretty good car, so I bought it for \$700. We had a small hole in the wall foreign parts place just outside the south end of campus. That store became a gathering place for many of the car crazy college kids and non-college kids. I mentioned to one of the guys that I wouldn't mind finding a Sunbeam Tiger. I think I have said before that he had a couple. One was a running driving street car. Too much money. The other one was an ex-SCCA race car in pieces. That car was in a three car garage a couple blocks away. I indicated that I would like to see it.



The guy told me where it was. He said just to go over there. It wasn't locked up. I found that very hard to believe.

When I got to the garage out in the alley, the sliding barn door was open.

*(Continued on page 2)*



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and there it sat. An ex-race car with a real wind shield, no wheels, no engine, no hood, no interior except for 2 seats. It had a wood dash that was broken in half, because someone tried to steal it by breaking it out. Not muck to talk about, but a thing of real beauty to a car crazed kid looking for his dream car. I went back to the parts store to talk about buying it. The guy that owned it said he had all the pieces. Said he had spent 6 months finding which machine shop had the block. Which shop had the heads, and everything else. Well, what about the wheels? No wheels. They had been stolen. Funny, as they wouldn't do anybody any good. They were 5-pin

Knock off Halibrand, straight out of California. We made a deal, including the MGA. Once again, I'm car-less.

No problem. My brother is going to law school at the University of Michigan, just up the road. (I was at Ohio State.) He had a habit of buying something useful that he could haul stuff in like a station wagon. To him, a convertible is almost as useful as a station wagon, because you can put the top down and haul stuff, like tall stuff, bulky stuff. The next problem is how to get there from here. None of my roommates had a car at school. Unbeknownst to me we were supposed to be studying. What a strange concept. A short interjection here. I was blessed with photographic memory, or almost. I didn't have to work too hard in class.

(continued next issue).

Safe travels

*Doug Bullard*

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## **Update - Notes from the December Lunch and meeting**

In other business, oh yes, we had the Vice President chairing the meeting, a motion was made and seconded that the club donate \$500 to the Daytona Beach Second Harvest food bank. The vote was unanimous. Gene delivered the check for \$500 USD, to them.

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The Michigan Rowdies are excited to invite you to GT-50 in Traverse City, Michigan. The Rowdies have hosted GTs 10, 20, 30 & 40 and are determined to make GT-50 the best ever. Help us celebrate 50 years of get-togethers in one of the most popular vacation spots in Michigan.

Mark your calendars now for June 2 through 6, 2025 and watch for more information.



# Celebrations

By: Gene



## January Birthday

Celia Martin

January 11

## Happy Anniversary

Steve and Deborah Bradley

January 6

## 2023 ABCC Upcoming Club Activities

Do you have an idea for an event? Contact Doug at [pbullard@hotmail.com](mailto:pbullard@hotmail.com)

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### **The Adventures of Ol' Red & British Car Week**

by Scott G. Helms

The warmth felt so good while the sun beamed its rays upon it,  
Ol' Red knew he was being saved when the mechanic popped his bonnet.

The mechanic replaced this and then he adjusted that,  
then finally the fluids were changed, and he was given a brand-new thermostat.

With a simple turn of the key, and the starter button a poke,  
the old tractor engine fired up with a bellow of black smoke.

The fire inside the engine was like a hot furnace blast,  
and the owner hopped into the cracked leather seat with his heart pumpin' fast.

The roarty exhaust reminded everyone within an earshot,  
that this old car was still hotter than hot.

Given this second chance, he'd make his owner so proud,  
and everywhere they'd go he'd draw a large crowd.

Even though Ol' Red was much older than ever before,  
He was now a classic and that meant much more.

Now they were having more fun than ever,  
and they truly appreciated their restored life together.

They've made a commitment they promise not to sever,  
that is to celebrate British Car Drivers Week and pray for good weather.

**British Car Drivers Week is the last full week of May every year**

**MAY 25- JUNE 2, 2024 Annual British Car Week.**

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### **For Sale or Wanted**

If you are looking for an item related to your LBC or you have something automotive to sell.  
Send the information to me and I will run it in this section for 3 months or sold.

## Upcoming Events

**JANUARY 17-19, 2025 “Roar before the Rolex 24” IMSA test days. Daytona, FL - <http://www.imsa.com/>**

**JANUARY 19, 2025 CFTR regular meeting. Club event.**

**JANUARY 22-26, 2025 Rolex 24 hours of Daytona. Daytona Beach, FL. – <http://www.imsa.com/>**

**JANUARY 23-26, 2025 Michelin Global Championship. Daytona Beach, FL - <http://sportscarchallenge.imsa.com/>**

**JANUARY 23-26, 2025 Cavallino Classic, Ferrari Gathering. Palm Beach, FL. – <http://www.cavallinoclassic.com/>**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2025 Sir John Black’s Birthday drive your Triumph Day. – Worldwide event**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2025 30<sup>th</sup> Annual All Brit Car Show. Broward Mall, Plantation, FL - [www.goldcoastbritcar.com/](http://www.goldcoastbritcar.com/)**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2025 Annual Festivals of Speed. Vinoy Park St. Petersburg, FL- <https://www.festivalspeed.com/>**

**FEBRUARY 20-23, 2025 Sebring Speed Tour (SVRA) Sebring Raceway, Sebring, FL - [www.svra.com/](http://www.svra.com/)**

**MARCH 1, 2025 Annual Strawberry Festival and Car Show. Ocala, FL - [Habitat Ocala Strawberry Festival - Habitat for Humanity of Marion County](http://HabitatOcala.com)**

**MARCH 6-9, 2025 HSR Spring Fling. Sebring, FL [www.hsrrace.com](http://www.hsrrace.com)**

**MARCH 6-9, 2025 Amelia Island Car Show. Amelia Island, FL. – [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org)**

**MARCH 12-15, 2025 Sebring Support races. Sebring, FL - [www.imsa.com](http://www.imsa.com)**

**MARCH 12-15, 2025 Mobil 1 12 hrs. of Sebring. Sebring, FL. - [www.imsa.com](http://www.imsa.com)**



### OUR MISSION

To encourage the preservation and enjoyment of all of British cars

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We're on the Web

[www.volusiabritishcars.com](http://www.volusiabritishcars.com)

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ALL BRITISH CAR CLUB OF  
VOLUSIA COUNTY

1122 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Orange City, FL 32763