



REGISTER

November, 2014

Volume 20, Number 9

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page 6 – Wayne P.
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The President Squeeks

Everybody take a seat please. This is Economics Minus 101, Economics Outside the Box. I'm going to begin with two examples of what this is.

There was this fellow who belonged to a car club of old cars, 1920 – 1940 or so. He had 3 or 4 nice examples which were not 100 point cars but good drivers. But he did not have the ONE car he really desired, a 1928 Buick Town Car by Brougham. Finally he did find one in very good shape and a good runner for \$30,000. But first he was going to have the Buick expert of the club look it over. The club member agreed that it was a fair price at \$25,000 but not a \$30,000. Our friend said he was going to take it anyway. Club member asked why. Friend replied, "Yes, I'll be paying 5K too much but in 5 years it'll be worth the 30K and during that time I'll have had 5 years to enjoy it on picnics, car shows, tinkering with it and meeting other collectors all over the world. What I'm doing is paying 25K for the car and 5K for the extras package as I mentioned." The club member walked away, slowly shaking his head. Our friend turned and walked away smiling!

It all depends on your point of view.

There was this sheep farmer in England that thought he had the best job in the world. Plus his farm made enough money for he and his wife with some left over. But there was one thing. His feet. They hurt. All the time. When he was a youngster his feet got run over by a tractor and they never grew quite straight. He tried sheep boots by Red Wing, Dr. Martin, but no luck til one day he was walking through the village



The 1928 Buick

and saw a cobbler setting up shop in an empty shop space. His sign said, "Custom boots made to fit." Couldn't hurt he said and went in. The cobbler measured his feet and got busy carving two lasts. When he was satisfied he told the farmer to return in a week and he'd have his boots. £25 in advance. The farmer returned a week later and tried on his boots. It was a miracle! No pain at all. Well, he wore them and wore them and had them re-soled and wore them some more. Finally after 20 years they were plum worn out. So he went back to the cobbler and inquired. Yes, the cobbler said and I still have the lasts from before. How much did you pay for them 20 years ago? £25, the farmer said. Well, the cobbler told him they now cost £75. The farmer replied, "That's alright. 20 years ago one sheep cost £25. Now one sheep costs £75. So my boots are still the same price as 20 years ago. One sheep!" Our sheep farmer turned and walked away smiling!

It all depends on your point of view.

Tonight, re-read the chapters about collecting old cars and about sheep farming. There'll be a quiz tomorrow. Class dismissed.

Jim

Drive Time

Fall 2014...cool weather...then cooler weather...and finally some near freezing weather for our cars. Hope you're ready, as I can't wait! Since we have so many new members this year, here are some of the highlight events for the coming 3 months (yeah, there is still breakfast runs, Cruise & Schmooze and perhaps a 5th Saturday breakfast drive, too!



November 5 – BLAT – this month will be one of the best. Tucson to 3-Points to Arivaca to Amado and lunch at the BK Outlaw BBQ. The drive south on SR286 and across the Arivaca road is great. We have good surface, fabulous scenery and BBQ. I will ask for RSVPs, so that I can be sure we have good service at the Outlaw.

November 29 – Annual Sonoran Hot Dog Run and Dues collection. We'll be heading out for that great lunch drive from Mission San Xavier and ending at our favorite Sonoran Hot Dog cart in the vacant lot on Alvernon Way. Everyone who attends either the drive or shows up for lunch will get their Sonoran dog and drink. We also use this opportunity to vote for officers for 2015 AND collect your dues for next year. In past years we get between 60 – 70% of all dues, and it saves you a stamp and TBCR from tracking you down to remind you. I'll remind you via email a few more times. Last year's record for hot dogs was 106!!! Let's hope more of you show up for this great event.

December 3 – BLAT – Annual Feliz Navidad drive to Mexico!!! Yeah, just in case you're new here...we actually drive through Sonoita and Patagonia to Nogales, AZ. Once there we park in a secured lot and walk across the border. We will have lunch at La Roca's, do some mindless shopping and sightseeing, then recross the border and drive home. Remember, you MUST have a valid passport for this experience.

December 13 – Mystery Holiday Breakfast Run – For this event you only get to know “where” we start and that we leave at 7:30 AM promptly. You will be given directions/map at the start. Only then will you know the route and breakfast destination. The Holiday Run is longer than the usual breakfast drive and runs for about 90 minutes before you'll be fed. The rules for this event are simple...”FULL” tank of gas to begin and “EMPTY” bladder before you leave. Simple!!!

January 31, 2015 – 21st Annual Tubac Car Show – This is probably the best of the best in our area. The venue is great...no dust or gravel. The weather brisk and never hot. We typically have some of our best turnout for this show and usually end the day with a slew of new members that didn't know there was a British car club in Tucson. I would like to see a great turnout this year to showcase some of our great cars in TBCR. So, plan ahead and be ready for an early AM drive to Tubac. You must register by mail before January 23, 2015, as there is no same day entry allowed. Get your information and forms at: <http://www.carnuts.org> Don't wait until it's too late.

Well, with all these events happening, it's time to get that car out of storage and drive it with the group. You'll be among like-minded people ready to lend a hand, if you have any problems. You can't beat that! See you out there this fall in “something British.”

Ben

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.tucsonbritish.com>

Full Chat

Each November 11th we observe Veterans Day in the U.S. When I was a lad it was Armistice Day while in the UK and Commonwealth they still refer to it as Remembrance Day. The purpose is the same in all locales, to remember the sacrifices of those who served in the 'War to End All Wars' and in the many conflicts that took place before and since.

On the Triumph email list there was a recent discussion on the subject of the correct stamping of commission plates on Triumphs. A straight-forward topic to be sure, but for one of the list members it brought back memories of how it was done 'back in the day'.

John Macartney literally grew up amid Triumphs. His book [In the Shadow of my Father – Life at Triumph](#) recounts his father's long career with Standard Motor Company and his own experiences both as a youth and later as an employee of Standard's successor organization Triumph.

John's reply about those commission plates seemed appropriate for repeating this November. I'll let John tell the story in his own words...

John writes:

"Sadly I can't help with sizing issues except to say they weren't always in the same font.

"What I can tell you is all commission plates between about 1946 and 1975 were hand stamped by a small group of five men who were given jobs at Standard-Triumph immediately after World War Two by the then CEO [Sir John Black]. I remember all of them (though not now by name) and they were employed because of their horrendous war injuries.

"Two, to my certain knowledge got badly shot up on the beaches on D-Day (6 June 1944) and were seriously disabled. One had been an RAF fighter pilot with indescribable burns and two had had a very rough time in the POW camps in Burma.

"It was an incredibly boring job but they all did it assiduously until some years past retirement age and while the spacing and positioning of the letters and numbers may not have been absolutely precise, they rarely, if ever got it wrong."

A remarkable bit of Brit car history and having heard this, I know I will never again look at one of those plates without thinking about those brave lads and their sacrifice.



Geo

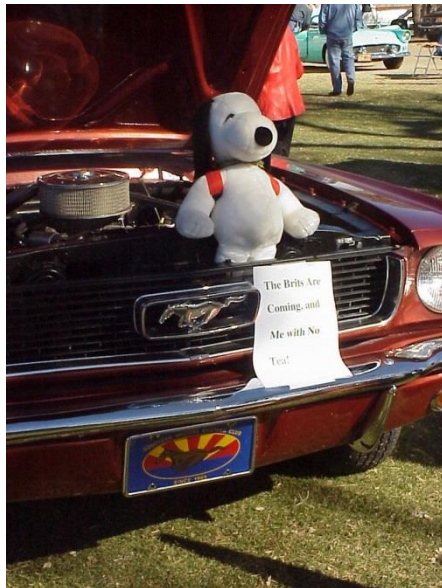
In the Rear View Mirror



We have recently received the sad news that long time TBCR member Susie Gilcrest recently passed away in Florida.

Susie and her partner Ken Fogden were mainstays of the club and present at all activities for many years. They were instrumental in many Christmas parties as well as hosting the club at their home in Catalina.

Here we remember one such event – the 2002 Tubac Car Show where Susie, Joan and Christine held a traditional British Tea for our members and members of the (rival) Mustang Club.



Events Calendar

Wednesday, November 5	BLAT Depart 10:30a BK Outlaw BBQ in Amado
Saturday, November 8	2 nd Saturday Breakfast Run Depart 7:30a TBA
Sunday, November 9	Cowboy Cookout Departure TBA Colossal Cave
Saturday, November 29	Hot Dog Run Departure from Mission San Xavier Alvernin & Lee
Wednesday, December 3	BLAT Depart 10:30a La Roca in Sonora, Mexico
Saturday, December 13	Mystery Holiday Breakfast Run Depart 7:30a TBA
Thursday, January 1, 2015	New Year's Day Breakfast Run Depart 7:30a TBA
Every Tuesday	BritCar Café 7:30 - 9:30a NE corner of Grant & Swan

On the Road

Perhaps our most popular destination for a Breakfast Run is a ride to the fabulous buffet at the Casino del Sol on west Valencia.

A fine turnout and perfect driving weather for a route around Saguaro West, a zip through McCain Loop and south to the casino.



A Starbucks start



Lotus on Lotus



Several E-Types on hand



Kim's MGA



Professional driver, closed course, do not attempt



A new top on Steve's E



The casino buffet is great

Open Garage at Ben's

October 4th was another Open Garage day at Ben's. Lots of cars got work done in the open bay and on the lift – with plenty of helping hands and free advice.



A Four Corners Road Trip

In late October a group of TBCR members did a 1,300 mile tour of the Four Corners area. The drive went north as far as Moab, Utah – then south and east to Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.


The roads, Fall colors, scenery and weather all combined to make it a memorable drive and all 12 vintage vehicles performed fine.



Phoenix E-Vent

Four TBCR E-Types drove up to Scottsdale to attend an informal gathering of E-Types that has become an annual event... or more precisely: an E-Vent. More that 30 of the iconic models were on hand. The weekend included a visit to the sales and restoration facilities at Brighton Motors (5 E-Types among the cars on hand there) and a look at the Penske Racing Museum.





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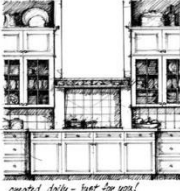
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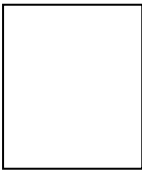
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