

Cape Cod Currents

the official newsletter of the Cape Cod British Car Club, Ltd



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"Boot" - by President, Mike Dallaire

Forestdale, MA - After one day of spring like weather, the snow is back with freezing temps and a Nor'easter predicted to start within the next 48 hours. That leaves me with a slight case of cabin fever. As I daydream about warmer weather, firing up the Spitfire, putting the top down and just going for a ride, I begin to reflect a bit about my younger days and LBC ownership.

My first LBC was a Triumph TR4 - 1962 I believe, a purchase that was influenced by my best friend Art who drove a Spitfire. It was a nice car, bright red with wire wheels, which I purchased from a former high school teacher of mine, and was a daily driver for me. A daily driver may not impact you much but realize that at the time I was living in the Berkshires and daily driver meant year round transportation. It meant looking out onto your back yard and not being able to see your car through the depth of the snow! It meant mounting studded snow tires on those wire wheels. It meant driving with the defroster at full blast only to provide a two by three inch viewing area on the windscreen on the passenger's side! The TR4 struggled its way through the winter months until on the way skiing one evening, it met the rear end of a Ford sedan which had decided to back out onto the highway directly into my path, resulting in the total destruction of the Triumph.

Upon my return after a three year enlistment in the Army, my next LBC was a 1972 Triumph TR6. She was in pretty rough shape. In fact, it had to be started with a wood chisel because the previous owner had lost the keys and had disassembled the ignition switch. This too was my daily driver which not only needed studded snow tires but a constant reminder that I needed to pull out the choke at night. If you did not do this simple task, the choke cable would freeze so that there was no way the car would start in the morning!

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"Boot" continued - by Mike Dallaire

The TR6 brings back lots of memories because during this time I was a member of the Berkshire Sports Car Club. This club was an active club with fun rallies, Sunday Gymkhanas, and believe it or not, ice races in the winter! Yep, on Cheshire Lake, we would set up a course and either run against the clock or sometimes against each other. It was a blast! Which brings me back to the start of this Boot, winter. It did not seem to affect me then as it does now. Standing on a frozen lake in January years ago, I don't remember being cold - just anxiously waiting my turn on the ice course, anticipating the cold wind against my face, and oh yeah, running with our tops down!

Today with the temp at 14 degrees and six inches of snow outside my window, the Spitfire snugly in the garage, my thoughts engage in the possibility of taking her out for a spin to recapture the thrill of times past....on second thought, I think I'll wait a little while longer.
Be safe, get 'em ready for spring.

February Club Social article by Jodi Fletcher photos by Bill Scott

Another successful social event went off without a hitch. Cape Cod British Car Club did it again!!! After the fun we had at Industry Ale House in January it was hard to imagine the next event could measure up. Yet...somehow it did. February 25 at 4:00 pm the usual (and UNusual as well) suspects gathered in Falmouth at the Quarter Deck to chase away the winter blues.

We had our own private space downstairs at the lively pub with our own wait staff and congenial bartender, John. They took excellent care of us and the appetizers were plentiful and delicious. The company was stellar of course and we were happy to see some old friends whom we hadn't had the pleasure of seeing for some time. Brian and Mary Nickerson were in the house and it was wonderful to see them looking so well. One of the ideas behind switching the sites of the events is to provide convenience for different club members. Since we were in the Nickerson's neighborhood we were thrilled to see them again. We were also pleased to see Darcy and Mary Hunter whom we had been missing for quite awhile. It was great to catch up with these good friends.

Our most recent new member and artist, Nancy Fernald - a painter from Bourne, came to join in on the fun and get acquainted. Ron and Kathi Garner from Hull were there as well. Kathi is also an artist as is Mary Nickerson, Laura Bergeron creates jewelry and Pam Dallaire has taught art, maybe we can do an Art & Cars event in the future?

It was good to have Bob Vogel and Bob Frye along with nearly thirty others of us in attendance which made the gathering quite lively. Of course, the wine might have contributed to the atmosphere as well. Not mentioning any names, but some people seemed more lively than usual. (You KNOW who you are !)

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Weld Tech *continued*

Well, at least one of the five, Martin Filardi, a new member from Marshfield, has been involved with his own restoration on his Austin Healey. I think David Graham is also doing some work, but Larry Donnelly, Mike Dallaire and yours truly, Bill Scott, are not thinking of a ground up, just thinking we could if we wanted to badly enough, if you get my drift.

Rick is working on his LBC, an Austin Healey project, and we were elated to see the progress he has made this past year. All but the bonnet and boot lid are painted waiting for assembly. Rick is proud of - as he should be - the new steering wheel { *see side bar - steering wheel*} that he fabricated and brought up to original condition. We're not certain this restoration project will make the BLW this fall, but we're hopeful.



Rick demonstrated welding technique on MIG, TIG, Stick and Oxygen/Acetylene along with some brazing work. He also showed us plug welding, where you spot weld two flat sheet metal pieces together with an offset so that the outside surface remains flush. One does this through holes in the inside overlap. This method keeps the heat level down without warping the sheet metal surface. Then a little joint sealing compound is applied to the inside surface and minimal fill needs to be done to finish the outside surface. One doesn't do this the first time out, it take a little (a lot) of practice to perfect this skill. Rick explained the equipment and tools needed for various welding and where to get the tools and supplies. He also showed us a Miller Power Course kit that explains and through video disc demonstrates, how welding should be done - very helpful.



Rick's son, Ben, who also has welding skills, stopped in to tell us how welding can be helpful in removing a broken stud even below the surface - like in a head or engine block. Set a nut (bigger than the hole) on the flat, put the welding rod down through the hole to touch the top of the broken stud. The welding fills the hole and welds the nut to the stud. The heat breaks the stud loose and you then back the stud out of the hole using a wrench - cool or what? Just takes practice. You also have a short bolt as a souvenir, one you just made.

I think Graham was staying for an extended crash course, but the rest of us had arrived at our capacity to learn, so we thanked Rick for the tech session. It was a well spent cold Saturday morning.

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Steering Wheel - side bar by Rick Poole

A Labor of Love - This is the steering wheel that my Dad held & loved for so many years. The plastic rim had completely deteriorated all the way around. Now I could have just bought a new one but it wouldn't be Dad's. All that was left of the rim was the steel core rod. I cleaned it up, epoxy primed it and then started to rebuild it. I had an old can of fiberglass infused Bondo that surprisingly was still good. I built up several layers, shaped it with files and sand paper, including the finger notches. Coated it with epoxy resin to give it a hard shell and then painted it black. There is probably a good two weeks of labor in this project. I had to make special jigs to clamp and hold it firmly in place, and to measure it as I worked on it. I think Dad would approve !!



Cape Cod British Car Club - Events

March

[March Motor Madness](#)

25 March 2017 • Brookside Club - Sun Set Grille • Bourne, MA • 6:00 PM •

April

[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)

18 April 2017 • BBC • Sandwich, MA • 7:00 PM •

[Paul Hinchcliffe Safety-Fast Day](#)

29 April 2017 • Dallaire's new lift • Forestdale, MA • 9:30 AM •

May

[Brewster in Bloom-Social & Parade](#)

07 May 2017 • BBC to the Scott's • Breakfast Social • Brewster in Bloom Parade • 9:00 AM •

[Annual Meeting](#)

20 May 2017 • Sea Crest • North Falmouth, MA • 10:00 AM • stay tuned for update •

June

[Breakfast Run & Lemon Tree Village Car Show](#)

03 June 2017 • BBC Sandwich to Breakfast • Lemon Tree Village Brewster to car show • Details to follow •

[Regular Monthly Meeting & Ice Cream Run](#)

20 June 2017 • BBC • Sandwich, MA • 7:00 PM •

