

Cape Cod Currents

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



President – Mike Dallaire

- Vice President – Bill Scott
- Treasure – Fran Minnock
- Clerk – Kathy Rocha

Editor, Newsletter - Bill Scott

"Boot" - by President, Mike Dallaire

Greeting from Forestdale, MA - Now that I have dried out and caught some needed rest from the British Legends Weekend, I thought it was time for a few words about our signature weekend event.

This year's BLW set all kinds of records! We had 105 cars pre-registered (our total registered cars from the past two years was in the mid 80's with 52% registering at the gate on show day) a new record for us. At Friday's Meet & Greet we had over 100 persons attend, and Saturday night BBQ we had 110 attendees. Our Saturday tour was run with 56 cars another record. The two tech session held on Saturday were not attended as well as we hoped due to late arrive of the cars in the morning tour but were enjoyed by the persons whom attended.



Then came the rain! Of near biblical proportions! So much rain that the ARK was being considered for the "Best of Show" award! In reality approximately 40 cars did make the field. The donut guy was happy supplying the work staff and attendees with hot coffee and freshly made donuts. The two field Tech Sessions operated in brief and with good attendance and response.



"Boot" - continued

As I wandered about during the Saturday night's BBQ all that I spoke with express pleasure on what was going on especially that it centered around one location. So in short the weekend was a hit for the most of it, and seeing that we could not control the weather, I consider the event a success.

I would be amiss if I did not complement all those who participated in the planning and execution of this event and a special tip of my rain hat to the workers on the show field who never lost stride in getting the field set up, cars parked and attendees registered. They truly went above and beyond!

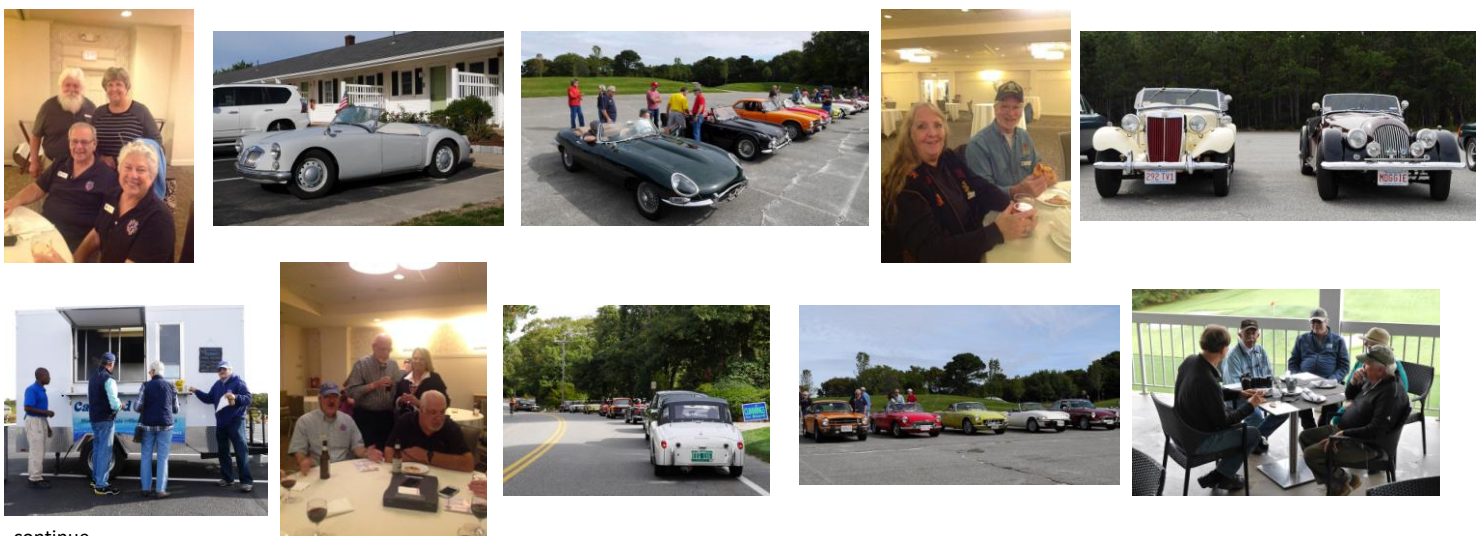
In closing thanks to all who worked so hard and the attendees who braced against the rain to complete the 16th Annual Cape Cod British Car Club's British Legends Weekend! Cheers!



Editor and Vice President Note: by Bill Scott

Sea Crest Resort Hotel, their staff from top down did a wonderful job to make this 16th BLW a success - despite the rain. The accommodation provided comfort from the storm, wonderful food starting with breakfast to the Saturday night BBQ. Friendly gatherings at Red's for lunch and a quick warm up especially on rainy Sunday. We thank all of the staff for their service. We think that maybe this is a start of a long relationship. Plan on coming and being a part of BLW 2017.

All was made possible by the support of our many sponsors; South Shore MINI our Gold Sponsor, Silver sponsors; Donovan Motorcar Services, Oxford Motor Car and Hemmings Sport & Exotic Cars along with the many others who have helped us make this event possible. We thank them all, and you can find them all listed on our web site as well as in our, new this year, program book.



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Hurricane is no Match to My Healey and the 16th BLW by Chuck Camp

My first old British car was the 1956 Austin Healey 100M that I bought 33 years ago and still own. I just liked the way it looked; I knew little about its “British-ness.” Lessons on that would come later, the most recent at the rain-soaked but marvelous British Legends Weekend. If you missed it, you missed a good time.

First, a little background: In 1983, my Healey was just another used car. I handed over a ridiculously small check by today’s standards, and headed for home. It was late November, the remains of an ice storm still coated the trees overhead and the Healey had no top or functioning heater. My then-college-aged son and I froze. But, as the saying goes, “we drove it like we stole it,” 130 miles across Pennsylvania to New Jersey and it never complained. That should have been my first clue that it would get up and go in bad weather.

The Healey was well-used at that time, with poor paint and so-so mechanicals. The gas gauge lied so I ran out a lot. The crankshaft broke, the brakes acted up regularly, I learned how to rebuild SUs and to wield a knockoff hammer. I put in a clutch, exhaust and had the gearbox rebuilt. It was clearly demanding my love, but after a while I gave it benign neglect. Eventually it quit. I don’t know why, but I kept it.

About 10 years ago, I decided to revive it. “I’m not doing a full restoration,” I vowed. Of course, I then did a full restoration. I made every mistake in the book and dropped a frightening amount of cash. A lot went wrong but in the end the project turned out well. Too well.



By then the Healey had become a “valuable” collectors’ item. The rarity of factory-built 100Ms had been documented and lo, I happened to have one of the 180 or so left on the planet. Auction prices soared and my car went into the Worldwide 100M Registry. Suddenly it had “papers,” like an AKC dog. I began to coddle it. Teething problems made it unreliable and made me even more reluctant to use it. At last year’s BLW the brakes locked up. I began thinking about selling it. I had driven it only 500 miles.

Then came this year’s BLW at the classic Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. I crossed my fingers and signed up, doing my first tour ever on a beautiful sunny Saturday with so many great cars. To my relief, the Healey behaved perfectly. Another lesson learned: our old British cars are indeed like dogs; they like running in a pack with their own kind.

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Healey continued

But with the remnants of Hurricane Matthew wandering the Atlantic, the Sunday forecast was grim. I thought about bailing out. Maybe it was the margaritas before the barbecue, but I finally elected to stay. The forecast was wrong. Sunday's weather was way worse. It poured and the wind at times reached gale force. It got cold. I soaked two sets of clothes, two pairs of shoes, a hat, a jacket, three pairs of socks and collapsed one umbrella walking around casting ballots. My camera swallowed too much water and drowned.

Some fine cars of all makes remained on the field, though, and their wise owners found shelter, either on porches or huddled under tents. Spirits were high and the show went on. On Saturday, it had seemed there would be a number of good-looking Healeys in the show; I was disappointed to see that on Sunday we were down to two. My car won the class and was voted Best of Show. I was stunned and honored – and shivering – as I picked up the handsome hand-blown glass trophies that have become a coveted signature of the BLW.



The Healey took to the 30-mile drive home like a gull to the surf. Sure, the side curtains leaked prodigiously and spray slid in through a narrow gap at the top of the windshield. But the Smiths heater pumped its little heart out, the tiny wipers crept back and forth, and the cowl slots that pass for defrosters did what they could. (Of course, being British, the one on the right worked far better than the one in front of me.)

Suddenly I felt warm and the day all made sense. I have concluded that like the people who built them, old British cars are hard-wired to deal with adversity. Coping with lousy weather is apparently in their DNA -- "Keep Calm and Carry On," and all that. I'm already planning to drive the Healey back next year, with a lot more miles on it. Still, next time I'm bringing sun glasses and a swim suit.



Martha's Vineyard Weekend - coming up! Nov 5th & 6th by Bill Scott



Just next week and the Martha's Vineyard Weekend beautiful fall outing begins.

Some of you will be going early to extend the fun and others will be going on Saturday AM. The Saturday group can meet up at Betsey's for breakfast on Main Street in Falmouth around 7:30 AM. We will leave for the ferry at 8:30 taking the scenic shore route to Woods Hole to board the 9:30 ferry.

After a day of driving, lunch in Oak Bluff, shopping and enjoying the island, we will enjoy a club dinner in a special dining room in the hotel prepared from the chef at Henry's.

I am looking forward to seeing you there. Please contact me if you have any questions about the weekend.

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CCBCC New Members - Welcome

- James Alban 2007 Jaguar XK • Falmouth, MA •
- Mark & Linda Hamblin 1991 Jaguar XJ 40 • 2013 • 2013 Abarth Convertible • Bethlehem, CT •
- Richard & Pam Pierce 1953 MG TD • Madison, WI & Duxbury, MA •
- Sam & Shari Polito 1974 MGB Roadster • 1991 Jaguar XJ 40 Sovereign • Pittsfield, MA •
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Cape Cod British Car Club - Events

November

[Martha's Vineyard Weekend](#)

05-06 November 2016 - Harborview Resort Hotel • Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, MA •

[Freezing Fun Run For Kids](#)

19 November 2016 - BBC Sandwich to Hyannis Yacht Club • Hyannis, MA •

[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)

22 November 2016 • BBC Sandwich, MA • 7:00 PM •

December

[Holiday Party - Stay tuned](#) - Enjoy the Holidays

TBD December 2016 -

The End

