



The Oil Spot

The Oil Spot is the monthly Newsletter of the Birmingham British Motoring Club
an affiliate of the North American MGB Register

September—2011

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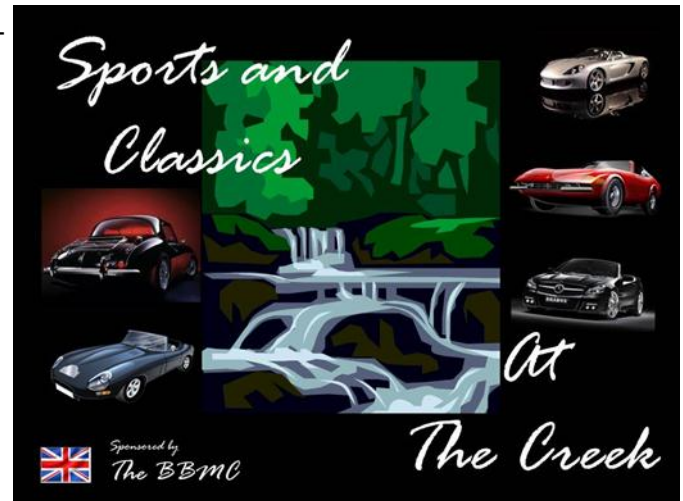
Positively Grounded—The President's Message, Alan Apel

It's time to get that old British (or Italian) iron out and start flogging it around the town and further. The ambient heat seems to have let up making it tolerable once again to put the top down and act like the floorboard heat is really no big deal (unless you are barefoot or wearing flip-flops).

The nearest event is the Sports and Classics At The Creek which is our annual picnic mixed with a very casual car show. We have invited all the other car clubs who's contact information is known in the Birmingham area as our guests and also the regional British Clubs have been invited. This is a reuniting of sorts to show how we as group embrace the entire car culture and want to show that if you are a "car-person" you need to embrace other car people no matter the choice of marque, from which country or whatever. Come On, admit it, we all have a little hidden Jay Leno in us and would have a wildly diverse collection of cars if we could afford it! I might even have a couple of French cars!

I know the message has gone out to the clubs and their presidents have sent the message out. I know of some Mercedes and Porsche folks who said they will try to show.

The club will provide the



main course of BBQ and all we ask is that members bring a side dish or dessert. We encourage you to bring your drink of choice, keep in mind the rules of the park in Helena.

This should be a nice and relaxing way to start the car driving Fall season. Conversely the Auto-Cross event on Sunday at the Verizon Amphitheater parking lot give us a chance to kick it into gear with some vigor by taking our cars out to use as they were used in the 60's and 70's, in



Positively Grounded (cont.)

track events! Don't be intimidated, just show up and have fun. Spectate if you don't want to drive.

Again, Please do not be intimidated, helmets will be available for those that do not have them and it should be a great driving skill exercise and tons of fun.

I am really pleased with the enthusiasm shown by our club members. We seem to be a group that knows what fun is and are all able to add a little something extra to make the club experience better for others by our individual contributions. Thanks to all of you!

We will have themed T-Shirts available with the design you see in the picture at the start of the article on the back and the logo you

charge but they cost a few bucks to make).



It is an exciting weekend coming up, I hope we have a great showing, pressure everyone you know in the club to come!

We will have more to offer as the fall season progresses.

Put the pedal down like you mean it! Braaaaaaaaaapppppppp!

Alan

"I am really pleased with the enthusiasm shown by our club members. We seem to be a group that knows what fun is and are all able to add a little something extra to make the club experience better for others by our individual contributions."



see advertised in the advance notices for the show as a small icon on the left upper side of the shirt (minus the date), we think they are quite attractive and hope you will want to buy one (sorry we have to

Calendar of Events

September

- 13—BBMC Meeting
- 17—BBMC Picnic
- 18—BBMC Autocross

October

- 1-Montgomery Car Show
- 8—BBMC Monthly Cruise-in-Hamburger Heaven-280
- 11—BBMC Meeting
- 14-16-Southeastern Fall Gathering of the Faithful—Athens, GA

November

- 4-6—Chattanooga Car Show
- 8—BBMC Meeting

MOTHER NATURE vs CARS – MOTHER NATURE WINS
From TheWeather Channel





Birmingham British Motoring Club

Annual Picnic, Car Show and Autocross

Sports and Classics at the Creek

September 17th and 18th, 2011



The Annual Picnic and Car Show will be held at Buck Creek Park in Helena on Sept. 17th, 2011. Bar-B-Que will be provided. Please bring a side dish. Everyone is invited! The Car Show will be a simple 1st, 2nd, 3rd and “Best in Show” cross-marque people’s choice voting. There will be no entry fees.



The Autocross will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18th 2011 at the Verizon Wireless Center in Pelham. Be there at 8:00 am for tech.

Autocross Details (Revisited) —John Viviani

The BBMC has been invited to a SCCA AutoCross September 18th. We were to have done this back in June but weather and scheduling conflicts caused a date change but now the time is here. The Alabama Region of the SCCA has a set of directors for their Solo events (also known as AutoCross) and they are looking to increase participation. This is a win-win for both of our clubs. They have been kind enough to invite us out for a day to play with them, but still have fun within our group.

What follows is a basic go over of what AutoCross is and what to expect on the exciting day. In addition to this article Mark Kilgore one of the directors for the SCCA will be at our August Club Meeting to answer any questions that you might have and talk a little more about the event and venue.



So what is Auto Cross? Autocross

that wore tires like a belt sander. Verizon is a very tire friendly surface.

What do I need? Bring yourself, your car (each car can have 2 drivers), driver's license, entry fee (which is the discounted \$25 in our case, unless you have run an event in the recent past), drinks, maybe a snack or lunch (but in Pelham there are many nearby restaurants), and sunblock. You may want to bring a chair, but there is not a lot of sitting time. If you have a helmet bring that also (the officials there will tell you if it passes their specs or not). If you don't have a helmet they have loaners.

What about my car? Keep in mind most of our cars are British Sports Cars! Note the words Sports Cars. They were designed to do this and have fun. You may not be the

“This is a win-win for both of our clubs. They have been kind enough to invite us out for a day to play with them, but still have fun within our group”



Autocross Details—(cont.)

fastest time of the day, but the SCCA is giving us a club group, so we are really running against each other. Your car will have to pass a Tech Inspection. You will be briefed that morning on how



they will tech your car (I recommend teching before registering, just in case you don't pass). The Tech Inspection will be looking for good brake pedal, brake reservoir full, battery securely tied down (this is a BIG one for them), and that there are no loose items in your car's cockpit or trunk (change, candy bars, loose spare or jack, cell phones, etc).

What happens? You need to arrive between 7-8AM and have your car teched, pay your entry and maybe talk with the other racers to get a feel for what is going on. Somewhere in the 8AM hour they open the course for a course walk so you can see the course before driving it. At 9AMish they have a rookie meeting which most of us should attend. They will explain basic rules, the course do a course walk and provide advice. After the rookie/novice meeting is the general drivers meeting where more rules are covered special instructions are given and run/work

groups are assigned. At 10AM the event begins.

You said work group? Yes I did. The day is divided into 4 sections 2 sections happen before lunch, 2 after. You will drive in one of those sessions the other you will be corner worker. When you are driving, well that is simple you will get three runs during each of your driving sessions. During your first session it is recommended that you ride with an experienced AutoCrosser just to see the course at speed. You can also ask for an experienced club member to ride along with you to "coach". (You can have a helmeted passenger, over the age of 16 (It maybe 12 but I am not sure)). When corner working you are in a group of three or four and will be assigned to help pick up cones that are hit by the other racers. After lunch the whole thing repeats. At the end of the day awards are given and normally the group will have dinner somewhere, if you feel you have new friends.

I hope to see a lot of us out at Verizon on Sunday September 18th. This is a kind thing the SCCA is offering us and we owe it to show up in force and say thanks. So bring your LBC, or if you don't think it will hold up bring your modern car. They autocross everything from new Minis, Fiat 500s, heck bring your Honda Accord if you must (sorry no SUVs).

Full info can be found on the ALSCCA website at www.alscca.net



"This is a kind thing the SCCA is offering us and we owe it to show up in force and say thanks. "

Senna—Where were you? —John Viviani



During the meeting on August 8 I made an announcement that the movie “Senna” would be showing on August 28 at the Alabama Theatre. This was to gauge interest and to let the membership know planning had begun. I am glad to know people listen, as over the next few days I cannot tell you how

many emails I got informing me of this event.

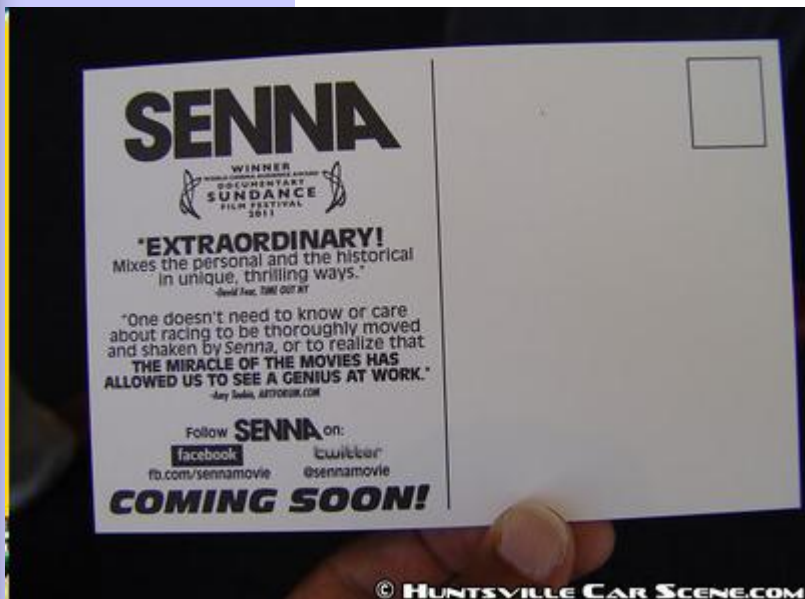
“The news leaked the movie would be playing ONCE in Birmingham as part of the world famous Sidewalk Film Festival.”

I had started the planning of a road trip with Kathy Chuhrouri (PCA) about a week earlier to view this movie as part of a road trip in Atlanta, since that would be closest this critically acclaimed movie was coming to Birmingham. During that week news leaked the movie would be playing ONCE in Birmingham as part of the world famous Sidewalk Film Festival. Kathy and I sprung into action and started planning. Some of BBMC membership was relentless in

keeping me informed of the upcoming movie and things needed to be done. Since the movie was only being shown once and as part of a film festival made planning difficult. Jim Roberts jumped onboard to help form the 3 person planning committee. We contacted the festival office countless times. We talked with every car club in throughout Alabama. I created a select list of special Birmingham area cars that had some connection to Ayrton Senna. Phone calls were made and emails sent, personally over a 2 week period I had over 300 emails just on this movie. But we made it happen.



If you made it to the film you saw a very unique movie about one of the greatest Formula 1 drivers of all time.



MOB Inc, SCCA, and the Ferrari Club of America. Members of these clubs were in attendance plus members from clubs as far as Huntsville and Mississippi. Thanks to the Barber Museum for participating and displaying their Lotus 95T and MV Augusta Senna along with a AMG Mercedes Benz SLS, a Ford GT, Ferrari 355, Lotus Esprit, and a Acura NSX provided by a BBMC member.

Two things learned with this movie- If you missed the Senna you need to buy the DVD and your attendance at club meetings is important.—John

“If you missed the Senna you need to buy the DVD .”

movie that was shot in a way that made it appear as Senna himself was telling his story. It was moving and very emotional. Many dates that attended the movie were not car people, F1 fans, or even had a clue who Ayrton was. Most of those same people who walked out were now Senna fans and had a better understanding of the people behind Formula 1 in the late 80's.

I would like to thank on behalf of the BBMC all the clubs that helped make this event happen- Birmingham British Motoring Club, Porsche Club of America Alabama Region, Mercedes Benz Club of America, Alabama Lotus Car Club,



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A Little Help Please—Letter to the club

Dear Membership,

I get tired of just reading Alan's writing's every month. It seems it is just him and me who write the articles every month. So I ask what do you do this last month with your car? Did you start restoration reassembly? Did you have a break down somewhere? Did you happen to find yourself on the most perfect drive you have been on in a long time? Why not jot it down on and email it off to Howard? Get it in the newsletter. Make the rest of us jealous. Make us try and go out and top you.

My 2 Cents

John Viviani



The British Motoring Club
Montgomery, Alabama

*15th British & European Sports Car
Day & Picnic*

OCTOBER 1, 2011 10 am to 2 pm

**British & European Sports Cars (separately judged)
Games – Manic Mechanic, Parts Toss, Name that Part
Lunch for All Entrants – Register Early**



All British Cars, Motorcycles & European Sports Cars are invited
1st , 2nd. & 3rd Overall and People's Choice Award

For Both British and European

Each entrant will receive a **Commemorative Dash Plaque**

**2855 LAGOON PARK DRIVE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36109**

REGISTER ON-LINE at: www.montgomerybrits.org

Information Contact: Ron Pardo

ph. 334-207-2030

ronandlynn@elmore.rr.com

Classifieds

Four (4) Jaguar 16" 60-spoke painted wire wheels in good used condition. Spokes are straight and tight. Rim run out within specs on all four. Removed from a 1960 XK150. Make an offer, gotta go!

David Boger

david.boger@att.net

531-7243 cell

Set of 195 60R 15 Kumho tires. They came on a set of rims I bought from Tony Barnhill and are nearly new. Almost positive they are touring tires. I'd take \$100 for the four.

Dan Perry

dansvans@cableone.net

531-7243 cell

Classifieds

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