

13th Annual Brits at the Shoals

Or a Weekend of Friends, British Cars, Funkhana, and Fun!
A Great British Car Show at Joe Wheeler State Park.



We packed up the MGB/GT Friday morning, told the boys to be good and not torment the cats or trash the house and headed out to meet up with George and Nonie. As we are driving down the road, I asked Melinda where the phone charger was, just as we were looking behind the seats, I saw something fly off the roof of the GT, the phone charger! Yes, this will be a great trip.....

We met up with George and Nonie and off to Chattanooga to meet up with rest of the gang, Charles and Perky in their Mini, Paul and Tricia in the TR-8 and Mike and Teresa in their MGB - road trip to Alabama and off we go.

So on the way to Alabama along the back roads somewhere in Georgia, not too far from Chattanooga we make our first pit stop. Age, maturity and wisdom has earned us the frequent stop miles. Of course if you have two restrooms, only one will work, so everyone waited their turn. The only question in my mind was, who is next, do I leave the seat up or down? Our leader, Charles, was discussing which trail to follow and getting input from



Teresa and all was loaded into the faithful GPS and we all loaded up and followed Charles to Northwest Alabama as he listened to his GPS directions or Perky.



We arrived at Joe Wheeler Lodge and State Park just before dark, checked in and headed to the cabin to unload. Then we made our way to the reception to meet up with the show hosts, Northwest Alabama British Sports Car and Motoring Club, and all our friends for an evening of conversation, fellowship and to find out what projects are finished and what are being started.



Saturday, day of the show, with the excitement of Christmas Day, I jumped up, got my first cup of coffee (again age, maturity and wisdom has earned that frequent coffee rite) showered, dressed, and headed to the show field, second cup of coffee in hand and Melinda's blessing - don't buy anything!

There were about 48 or 50 British Cars, a good selection of marques and all shapes and sizes. An overview of the show field reflected the turnout of British cars.



Walking the field, quick pictures of the British Cars are as follows:

1. Morris Minor Woody
2. Triumph Herald convertible, Terry Geiger is finishing this up for his wife, Diane.
3. Beautifully restored Jensen Healey
4. Austin Healey 3000 of Terry Mount
5. Mini panel wagon powered by Honda
6. of course the Honda powered Mini's hang together and discuss the details.....
7. Vanden Plas Princess, 3 liter - I



heard Laurence Vooght rode to school in the back seat of an auto like this.



8. Triumph TR-8's
9. Laurence and Janice sitting next to their TR 250, George and Nonie sitting next to their Spitfire, so relaxed, so laid back.....oh, oh what is missing?



10. Laurence and their TR-250
11. Triumph TR-3's
12. MG Midgets





- 13. Jaguar XKEs
- 14. Cobra and Cobra coupe
- 15. Right hand drive MGB/GT with a sun roof
- 16. Overview of chrome bumper MGB's and MGB/GT. 17. Overview of the rubber bumper MGB's
- 18. the only MGA on the field
- 19. MG T series



Funkhana

After the show, around 2:30, the fun really started with the 2nd Annual Funkhana. The Alabama Club did a great job laying out and setting up the course. And as the time runs started, the competition got serious, strategies planned and rivalries built. Check out the TR-8 in motion...slow motion...but none the less motion.



Paul and Trish running to their TR8—off to a slow start.



The 1st place winner of the Funkhana was Charles Long and his rider Molly Odom. Many participants cried foul when Charles jumped in his car, not with his lovely spouse, Perky, but with a young thing he plucked from the on-lookers. The Honda powered Mini was a flash thru the course, so graceful and smooth and the youth of Molly really made us all look so slow.



3rd place went to Jim & Melinda Watson in a MGB/GT - their family car.

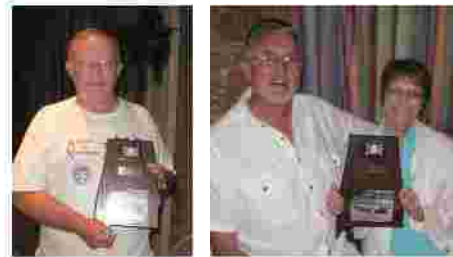
The talk has started as to what British Car to bring next year and who is going to build one just for the Funkhana that will do better than the one someone else may bring.



Banquet

After all the day's activities, the banquet was the wrap up, the icing on the cake, so much fun. The trophy winners from our clubs are (Blount British Cars and Southern British Car Club).

- Charles Long with 1st place in the Funhkana
- Jim and Melinda Watson with 3rd place in the Funhkana
- George and Nonie Mason with 1st in the Spitfire Class
- Charles and Perky Long with 1st place in the Mini Class
- Sam and Janice Rymer with 1st place in the rubber bumper MGB class.
- Paul and Tricia Batovsky with 1st place in the TR 7 & 8 class
- Laurence and Janice Vought with 1st place in the TR 250 class



Then when all good times come to a close we do group. As always we make more than one group picture. This picture shows Janice V. talking, as usual, and Perky and Teresa comparing shoes?! Speaking for myself, so much fun was had by all and back to the rooms we went.

Sunday we started with breakfast at the lodge, then back to the rooms to pack and load up.



But wait, one more group picture and everyone is waving! Now there's something you don't see very often — is it true? can it be? look close...is that a smile on Charles' face?!



We line up, load up and head for the house, convoy style.

We still make our frequent stops, as necessary, and by Lunch we were close enough to Chattanooga to say our good-bys and head our separate directions to home, except for George and Nonie, they followed Charles and Perky to their house to replace George's smoking, very hot, generator and I have the blister to prove it, but then that can be a story for another time.



For those who have not put this show on their British Car agenda for next year, add it. I promise, it will be fun.

Jim Watson
(with a lot help from Melinda)