

THE CLEAR HOOTER!



NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL COAST BRITISH CAR CLUB



Volume 38 Number 3, March, 2022

WWW.CENTRALCOASTBRITISHCARCLUB.COM



Ron Butler's 1963 Daimler SP250

see pg. 3

BUSINESS INFO



GENERAL MEETINGS:

2022 Meeting Dates, first Tues of each month.

March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7
at Casa de Soria restaurant
1961 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001

Dec. 4—Christmas Luncheon at 4 points Sheraton

Board meetings take place according to the needs of the club, usually before or after the club's General Meeting; but as often as is deemed necessary at the discretion of the Club President.

NEWSLETTER

THE CLEAR HOOTER is your Club Newsletter and it is published monthly. The deadline for submission of any camera ready or digital ads, stories, reports and information that you'd like to see in the next issue is the **23rd** of the month prior to publication. Items may be sent to the editor at: dtreid@gmail.com

For Sale ads are free to members. Non-members pay \$25. Ads run 3 months, unless otherwise indicated by the seller. Any commercial ad or to open a commercial account please contact Allen Merriam, alyn123@sbcglobal.net

Membership dues are \$40 to join and \$30 to renew yearly. Make sure we have your e-mail for newsletter deliveries. If you need to have one snail mailed to you please let the editor know, dtreid@gmail.com Extra \$15.00 for mailed newsletters, payable with your dues.

Central Coast British Car Club, Inc. is a NONPROFIT Mutual Benefit Corporation registered in the State of California

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PRESIDENT CONSULT (non-voting)

Jim Hill jhill@oilguys.com

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RECORDER Martin Keller

mhkflyer52@gmail.com

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CCBCCbooks2017@gmail.com

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Terry Schuller dtreid@gmail.com

ADVERTISING & CLASSIFIED ADS

Glen Dewar glen90210@hotmail.com

WEBMASTER

Patrick Redd (805) 746-5379

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER (non-voting)

Dave Reid mgtc48@hotmail.com

REGALIA & RAFFLE (Non Board member) Julie Root (805)676-1464)

THE CLEAR HOOTER! Is the newsletter of the Central Coast British Car Club, formerly The Central Coast Triumphs, founded in 1984 by Mrs. Lee Bloomquist and is a chapter of the VTR, Vintage Triumph Register

CENTRAL COAST BRITISH CAR CLUB
2674 E. Main St. #E 614,
Ventura, CA 93003

Ron Butler's Daimler SP250 (from pg. 1)



Ever since I became interested in classic British sports cars, one car intrigued me more than any other, like the White Buffalo of LBC's, the Daimler SP250. Rare, not by intention, but by design, the Daimler SP250 was Daimler's last attempt to resurrect the sliding company fortunes, whose luxury car market had dwindled with the postwar British economy, along with some technical issues with their transmissions (causing the royals to switch over to Rolls-Royce) and generally scandalous behavior among the BSA management family.

Daimler was the first and oldest of the British car companies. In 1896, H. J. Lawson set up the first car manufacturing company in Coventry and purchased the rights to use German automotive pioneer Gottlieb Daimler's name to badge his vehicles. The German Daimler companies were entirely different enterprises. Even the name was pronounced differently in England, with a long A instead of the German long I.

By 1910 the company had been purchased by BSA. Daimler brand cars dominated the luxury markets in England up into the 1950s. But as that market and their share of it shrank in the mid-1950's, Daimler threw a Hail Mary into the US sports car market with the SP250.

Introduced in 1959 as the Daimler Dart until Chrysler had a fit, the SP250 had a core idea, put a V8 into a light sports car. Edward Turner of Triumph motorcycle design fame, now the Managing Director of BSA Automotive, designed a superb 2.5 liter hemi-head V8 engine, rated at 140 hp. The body that was rushed into production was fiberglass - over 80% cheaper tooling costs than tooling for a steel body - set atop a ladder steel chassis based on the TR3. It had 4 wheel Girling disc brakes, a non-synchro first 4-speed transmission, and cam and follower steering.

It was a terrible car. There was so much body flex that the doors flew open on turns. The steering was Mack truck heavy, the engine tended to eat up the transmissions and it was generally perceived to look like a catfish. But it was bat-out-of-hell fast.

In 1960 Jaguar bought the company and immediately recalled all the unsold "A spec" vehicles for chassis stiffening upgrades. This solved the flex problem, but not the slow sales problem, and by 1964 Jaguar killed the car, seeing it as a costly lower margin competitor to its popular XKE. In total only 2654 vehicles were produced over a 5 year run.

So when I saw one listed on BaT with all the proper upgrades, rack and pinion steering conversion, Toyota Supra 5-speed transmission, uprated chassis, and generally excellent condition, I couldn't resist bidding on it even though I had nowhere to put it. I figured out my top bid price, participated in the final minutes bidding, stopped when I hit my top price and then waited to see what it would finally go for. As the two minutes ticked down and no other bids came in, I said, "Uh-oh."



With almost everyone having extra time during this virus crisis, now is the time to get some stuff done that has been put off for so long. How about an article for the newsletter??? I know you have something to say about your car, a trip with your car, an outing, a technical article. I am sure you must have a picture of your drive that you would like to see on the cover of the newsletter.

I am attempting to put out a newsletter every month, there may be times I miss a month due to being away.

The newsletter is a vital piece of communication to keep members informed of what is happening within our club and lists events that are happening that may be of interest to club members.

I would like to feature one member's British car on the cover of each newsletter. If you would like your ride displayed on the cover, please send me a high resolution picture of it in a nice place (not just the parking lot at work!!) to dtreid@gmail.com

I have no more pictures for the front page of the newsletter. Let's see some of your favorite pics of your British car. Also I am out of baby pictures for the guess who this is feature. There must be some of you working from home and have no where to go, take some time and find a great picture of yourself as a kid, maybe even with a car in the picture.

ARTICLES NEEDED:

The newsletter is in need of articles on anything to do with the club or British cars. Please use Microsoft Word and save as a document. If possible use font Arial, size 12 and do not do any formatting, just paragraphs of words.

IN PERSON MEETING



March 1 is the next meeting and with everything opening up we will meet again at Casa de Soria in 1961 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001. Meeting will start at 7pm. Arrive early to get your dinner ordered.

Christmas Luncheon 2022



Mark your calendars now for our well attended Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 4, 2022 at Four Points Sheraton in Venura

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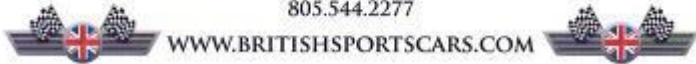


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Drive your Triumph Day by Ron Butler



Thursday Feb 10 was Drive Your Triumph Day (Sir John Black's birthday). On a nearly impromptu gathering, a dozen cars met up in the Opollo Wine Tasting Room parking lot near the Westlake Hyatt at 2:30PM for a scenic drive through the Santa Monica Mountains.

It was a nice mix of cars. Rallied up were Pam and Joel Justin (TR4), Randy and Debbie Manes (TR6), Steve and Lyn Sacks (Mini), Frank Powell (Austin Healey), Pam and Jack Waschbusch (MGB), Jim and Tonya Thomas (TR250), Paul Wittrock (Honda S2000), Martin Hall (TR6), Randy Ricks and friend Steve (TR6), Glen Dewar (MG Midget), Doug Wachna (Triumph Spitfire) and Ron Butler (TR3).

The day was another in the string of warm and breezy weather conditions, and as we headed out I was concerned the canyon winds could be an issue. Our route took us out along Agoura Rd to Cornell Road past Kanan where we started into some canyon road driving. Past the Paramount Ranch we turned left onto Mulholland Hwy and wound our way past Las Virgenes Canyon to Stunt Road. This was the only dicey navigation point because the road sign was down. I told members it was right after the second Cold Canyon Road. Well there are three Cold Canyon Roads before the Stunt Road turnoff, but everybody did just fine.

Stunt Road is a fun winding ascent to the Santa Monica Mountains crest. We pulled into the Lois Ewen Overlook parking lot for photo ops. You can see Chatsworth to the north and even in the distance the Santa Ynez range, and to the south Santa Monica, Santa Catalina and the Pacific Ocean. The winds were no problem at all, and the views were stunning. Firing back up we drove Schueren Road to Piuma, enjoying more ocean views of Point Dume and the Channel Islands then twisting back down past the Saddle Peak Lodge to Las Virgenes Canyon again. From there we traced our way back to Mulholland and then past Cornell Rd to land at The Old Place in Cornell.

The Old Place, for those of you who don't know it, is a popular gem of a destination not unlike Cold Spring Tavern above Santa Barbara. It used to be a favorite hang-out spot for Steve McQueen and Ali MacGraw, and Jason Robards among others. The Woolsey Fire destroyed the Peter Strauss Ranch across the road and the bridge on Mulholland Hwy next door but somehow spared The Old Place. They serve hearty take-out food from a side window. The wonderful inside bar is still closed for Covid. But we took advantage of ample outdoor seating, swapped stories and ate and enjoyed refreshing beverages. Most everybody left by dusk for the easy short ride along Troutdale back to Kanan and home. Really a lovely afternoon and a successful outing.





Wine Tour 2022 Cancelled



Hi all.

Unfortunately, because of the never ending Covid-19 Pandemic, the wineries in Paso Robles have cancelled large group events, and this year's CCBCC Wine Tour has been cancelled. Hopefully we can try it again later in the year, or in 2023.

We had close to 50 participants signed up to attend, and that size of a group just isn't able to be accommodated by the wineries at this time.

If you have them, please don't forget to cancel your hotel reservations.

Thank you and be well.

Neal Subic

Healey Week



The Austin Healey Association of Southern California is pleased to be hosting California Healey Week 2022 this May in Palm Springs, CA. Registration is now open. www.austin-healey.org.

The event is open to all Healey fans, regardless of Club affiliation. We would appreciate it very much if you could let your members know about this event.

Thank you.

Steve Kirby
President

Phone: 949 261 8208

Queens English—April 10, 2022



ALL BRITISH CAR MEET AND AUTO JUMBLE
WOODLEY PARK, VAN NUYS

Sunday, April 10, 2022 - 9am to 4pm

[Click here to register online.](#)

Day of Show Registration \$25 at the Gate

[Click here to download entry form.](#)

It will be a non-judged "meet" designed for the enthusiast and serious collector alike. All British marques (cars and motorcycles) are welcome.

An area will be set aside for an Auto Jumble (Swap Meet) USED AUTO PARTS ONLY!. Spaces are the same price as show entries.

Commercial vendors \$100 per space. MUST PRE REGISTER BY MARCH 1.

There will be food, music and general merriment. ADMISSION IS FREE FOR SPECTATORS.

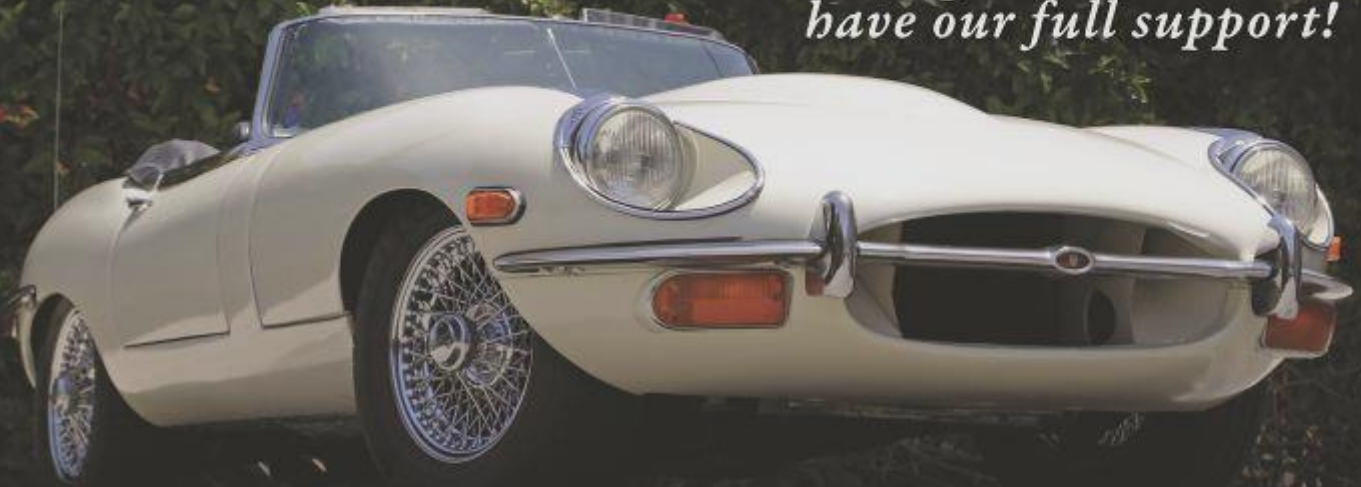
We are sure it will be day you don't want to miss. Click here for a [map and directions](#).

Contact us at info@queens-english.org or by voice, (626) 797-4221.

CCBCC 31st Annual Car show Oct. 2, 2022

Last years 30th annual car show was such a hit, the board has decided to switch to October for our 31st car show. Stay tuned for details

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE



It's that time of year again - time to renew your Central Coast British Car Club membership. Renewals are due by the end of February. You may download the renewal form on the CCBCC website on the FAQ page (<http://centralcoastbritishcarclub.com/join-the-club/>).

Here is the direct link to the form: <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.185/wxl.019.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Membership-Form.pdf>

If you mail your check, please send it along with your completed form to:

CCBCC Membership
2674 East Main Street, Suite E614
Ventura, CA. 93003

Alternatively you can renew via PayPal on the same JOIN page. Please be sure to include your latest contact and vehicle information in the PayPal comments. You can also renew at club meetings before the end of February. Bring your membership form and check.

If you need/want a new badge, then it's an additional \$10 per badge. And be sure to tell us what kind of badge you want (pin, magnetic or clip) along with the way you want your name spelled.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me - Joel Justin, Membership Co-Chairperson at j_bar_j@hotmail.com.

The good news is, we've had 86 membership renewals so far. Thanks to all those who've renewed! The bad news is there are still 67 of you who haven't renewed. There's a little over a month to get your renewal in. The email below has all the information on the various ways to do that (except for the Christmas, obviously!).

I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't wait until the last minute as that causes me to spend time following up with you individually. If you're going to renew, do it right now, so you don't forget. If you know you're not going to renew, please send me a quick reply stating that and why. Obviously if you moved or sold your car, we get that. But if it's because of something you're not getting from the club or something you're not happy about, let us know so we can work to get better.

Thanks, Pam and Joel Justin...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Jim & Tonya Thomas
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1968 Triumph TR250
1963 Daimler SP-250

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Once you have an account at www.gasgeek.net then you can purchase two car decals from CCBCC for \$10 .These “Tale Tags” will be connected to the profile for your vehicle. This is a discounted price for club members. Another perk for our members.

When someone walks by your car, they can scan the QR code on the decal using their phone. The decal can be placed on the passenger side windshield for example. All of the information that you posted about your car on the www.gasgeek.net website appears on the phone instantly, including the history, photos and videos.

Dave Reid has had his on his jag for a year now. To order your Tale Tags please write to dtreid@gmail.com. This new design is available. He is bringing them to all the meetings, check out his Jag QR code.



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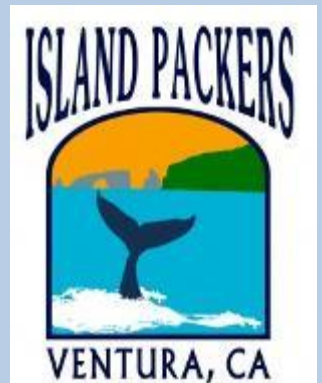
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In addition to our silk-screened regalia above, we are now offering for members, high quality club regalia. **Lisa Rizzo at Ventura Custom Embroidery** has our logo on file and can make almost any kind of regalia desired. Please visit our CCBCC Website to find all the information needed to order. Items ordered will be in Royal Blue (the official club color) or some can be in white. The list of regalia offered with current pricing can be found on the CCBCC website in the members only section. (There is a link just before the list on the site to download an order form to take with you if you visit the store) 805 491-3068 to order. Please provide your name, size and desired item. If you want a shirt by the July car show, please get your order and money to me by June 15th. Checks are preferred but cash will be taken (correct amount is appreciated)

Club business cards available, no cost, keep a few in your car to give to people who might like to join.