

The British Are Coming, The British Are Coming!

E-type

MGB

elise

- Jimran Sham 2017, Photos - Dan Deutsch

TR6

Midget

Healey 3000

Spitfire

One if by land and two if by a fleet of British sports cars!

As I cruise along 275 East on Friday night into Milford turning onto HWY 32, I see my friends from BCCGC cruising in their yellow Lotus Elises, MGBs, Triumphs, Austin Healey Bug Eye and more! Jim Steputis' midget is down for some ailment contracted on the Put-In-Bay drive but he leads the way from our rally point at Edie Merlot's in his German 1971 VW Super Bug, Clementine. The Germans raised the white peace flag after WWI and have hardly bothered the British since so I guess it's okay for my Triumph to cruise with a German car! There's a rumor Jim imported it from the British sector of East Berlin anyway so we got that going for us too!



The Germans were one thing – Imagine the looks we get at a “traditional” American heavy iron cruise in with the “lads” pulling in with 9 British sports cars! Man-O- Man, do we get some odd looks from American muscle car owners? You bet we do. But did Churchill let the Americans push him around? Or, when was the last time The Queen visited the US to meet the Kardashians? I guess never. As sung by the greatest of all time Freddie Mercury, “*We are the Champions, No time for losers!*”

The saying about British being polite is true, but then we show up on Friday night with our Brit machines butting our way into parking spots between muscular giants with roaring mufflers and you bet we sure have an attitude of “We belong here.” Especially when we pop our “bonnets” and the triple Strombergs of Joe's Jaguar are revealed – I swear Joe Gerst gets hit on by some car show groupie every time he “pops his bonnet!” That Jag is a real “bird” magnet – The muscle car guys look on with new respect, remembering triple carb set-ups on flat head Fords from a time long gone. Now it's direct fuel injection, automatic transmissions and Ethanol gas.



Then Bill Bowser and Brad LeBlanc park their Elise's side by side and pop the “boots” to reveal the engines. The muscle car guys laugh at the tiny engines at the wrong end of the car until they read the spec sheet on Brad's 200+ horsepower supercharged Lotus engine – better power to weight than almost all the contemporary muscle cars today, including the Corvette! I'll take the Lotus and sit about 6 inches off the roadway, thanks!

Chairs are brought out and conversations are multitude in the late summer sun. A few wander off to Jersey Mike's or Chick-Fil-A or whatever to grab a bite of dinner. Some wander off and cruise the cars – All kidding aside we are all car guys (gals... folks... whatever...). And we appreciate all cars. Soon FOTC (Friends of the Club) start dropping by. Members who, for various reasons, are not driving their cars tonight as well as all kinds of friends stroll by for a chat. All are welcome in our little circle of camaraderie!



Eventually, the gang starts to break up and then some really weird old guy pops up and tries to school Jim about why his car is not a Super Beetle – apparently because the windscreen is flat and the dash is wrong. Of course Jim knows his car and as an early Super Bee there are exceptions that make Clementine unique. Having lost that battle the dude then starts in on Ray Rawlinson about how to make tea! Schooling a Brit on how to make tea is not going to end well for this “wanker!”

Ray being super polite gently attempts to correct the guy's thinking about tea but Deutsch (our loudmouth) jumps in uninvited to “help” Ray out. “No. It's not a Lipton tea bag for Pete's sake! It's a tea pot and you put tea leaves in it. Then you bring the pot to the kettle, not the kettle to the pot so the water goes in “boiling” hot! Then you steep it and then you strain it into a tea cup not a coffee mug you animal! Yes, start with Tetley as a good beginner's tea and we'll talk next week...”

Summer evenings are a great time for a drive and a great time to hang out. Join us next Summer!



Get off your leash... and Drive Your British Sports Car!

