



***smoke in the wires***

December '24

# From the President

Paul Reese (pbca1president@gmail.com)

Hi Everyone,

Another year of PBCA is almost over and I would like to review some of the highlights. We started the year with a very successful Chili Cookoff hosted by **Bob** and **Risa Manske**. Wow that was good, and let's see if reigning champion **George Bruno** can repeat.

The Shrimp Boil was great as always, ok, maybe not the part where I cleared the kitchen by adding just a little too much hot pepper to the boil. I do think being banned from the kitchen for life is a little harsh.

Car Show! Hard to believe it could be better next year but new chair **Tim Witzigreuter** is working hard at it.

Other hits include the May Picnic at Gulf State Park. More gymkhana! June, the Sir Richard's Knight Run. July, the annual three club Pig Roast. August, the Great Valve Cover Float Race. Sept, Pirates Cove Rally. Oct, Dog Daze donation drive. And November's Flying Valve Covers, Lunch, Autojumble, Photo (FLAP!). And an aborted ferry ride outing in there. And of course all our tech events and the shows and events sponsored by other clubs and organizations.

Lastly, **Bob Manske** has a write up on p. 7 about the Christmas Party. But I'd like to repeat some of the comments I made regarding attendees during the event. I first noted that at the last meeting, after 30 years or so, **Keith Sanders** had won his first 50/50. Now he can finally retire. Thank you Keith for setting up the party and mostly for bringing **Gail**.

And how about, "After retiring, I took all my suits to Goodwill. Boy they were surprised to

see them again." Attributed to **Bob Manske**. Thank you Bob for all the years as Activities VP, doing all those door prizes, and all the other things you do for the club.

**Tim Witzigreuter**, our new VP for activities and Car Show Chair was awarded the NAVY award (Never Again Volunteer Yourself). Thanks Tim.

Our Treasurer, **Karen Ianniello** got the WYGWOYBH award. It stands for: Wow You're Good, We Owe You Big Hugs.

It was noted that of all the travel events, there was only one time that everyone had to pull over to fix something. And that was on the way to the South Alabama Car Show and **Fred Veen-shoten's** hair had gotten messed up and he had to fix it. That guy can repair anything. Thank goodness he is in the club.

**Joe Stephens**, who is spearheading the effort to change out our secretary, **Monica Bachmann's** MGB engine, was awarded the Patience Award. At the recent engine pullout event, it looked like there were about 17 guys over his shoulder "helping." What I mean is that it is very nice of Joe and the others to volunteer to help Monica.

And do you know we have modern day Green Acres, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Eddie Albert? Kinda. Past President **Bill** and **Donna Weeks** have 10 acres next to **Tom Schmitz's** Hut. They've been clearing it for their kids to set up small country homes and raise chickens. Hopefully it they'll include a Pig we can invite to the next pig roast.

Oh, and **Tom Schmitz** got the IT Hacker award. He can break any phone or computer he touches. We'll, except the phone that called me at 1:32 a.m. a week back. And all the event hosting Tom does is much appreciated. And since he has good insurance, we're planning a valve cover longest sink distance in his pool in July and a Guinness world record long valve cover launch event at the Hut in November.

*(column continues next page)*



# Activities Calendar

**Jan. 9, 2025**

**Executive Committee and Car Show Meeting**

11:00, **Paul and Mollie Reese's** repurposed fire station, 14 South 2nd St, Pensacola, 32507. All club members are invited to every executive committee meeting.

**Jan. 18, 2025**

**Chili Cookoff**

Can **George Bruno** repeat as chili champion? Join us at 11:00 at **Bob Manske's** garage, 6129 Dutch Way, Milton, 32570 to find out, and bring your best recipe, so that we can dethrone him! Watch your email for more details.

**Jan. 10, 2025**

**Fancy Friday**

We'll meet for a nice dinner at a local restaurant; watch your email for time and location, and wear your best bib and tucker.

**Jan. 20, 2025**

**Monthly Club Meeting**

**Ace's Hangar Southern Grill and Bar**, 3966 Avalon Boulevard, Milton, 32583. Eat at 6:00, meet at 7:00.

## January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
				Exec. Cmte. Meeting	Fancy Friday	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						Chili Cookoff
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Club Meeting					
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# Tight Connections

## Club and Member News

### December Tech Session

On Thursday, Dec. 5, PBCA held a tech session at Bob Manske's capacious garage in Milton. Paul Reese described Jack Rowles' old MGB as the "victim" of this activity, as its engine and transmission were pulled out; the engine will be used in Monica Bachmann's car.



Top, the "victim" arrives; bottom, plenty of help under the car. (photos courtesy **Bob Manske**)



Thanks to Joe Stephens, said victim arrived

around 9:30, and the team, of which some members actually knew what they were doing, proceeded to excise said powertrain.



From left, Joe Stephens, Kyle Hall, and Fred Veenschoten work the hoist as Tim Garrold and Eddie Toenes look on. (photo courtesy **Noel Eagleson**)

At 11:00, the club's executive committee adjourned to the pool house for one of their typically contentious meetings; when they returned, the engine was not yet out but the workers claimed they were "close." Sure enough, it came out mostly in one piece shortly thereafter, and no dogs or people were injured. The engine will be cleaned and refurbished for installation in Monica's car, meaning the process will be repeated to remove her existing engine. God help us everyone!



The partially-cleaned engine. (photo courtesy **Bob Manske**)

## Lillian Christmas Parade

story by *Paul Reese*

The annual Lillian Christmas Parade is sponsored by the local Optimist Club. The PBCA contingent all arrived by noon 14 Dec. in a large lot across from the Lillian Community Center. We were the largest group, narrowly besting the tractor group [*those tractor guys are serious-Ed.*]. Participants included **Tom Schmitz** with his MGTF, **Taber Tompkins** his Caterham 7, Tom's nephew AJ and girlfriend in Tom's purple Moke, member **Bob Hensen** and son in his '67 Jag E-Type, **Michael King** in one of his gorgeous Jags [*thanks, I was in the XK convertible-Ed.*], **Fred and Toni Veenschoten** in one of their three-wheel Morgans, and **Paul and Mollie Reese** in their '62 MGA. And member **Joe Stephens** and wife were in the lane next to us in their beautiful Model A. Tom's sister, **Linda Warren**, led the parade in Tom's XJS convertible, carrying the grand marshal, Pastor Dan.



From left, **Tom's Moke**, **Taber's Caterham**, and **Joe's Model A**. (photo by Ed.)

Our Lane 4 coordinator birthday girl, Karen, was awesome. She graciously offered her visiting sister Marion to Taber . . . to help throw beads. After visiting around looking at some very nice vehicles, we took off . . . slowly. At departure, we were the last car in our group and a Lillian Fire Dept. pickup truck and ladder truck

pulled out right behind us. All good until their lights, sirens, and horns came on. I went to pull over, but Mollie pointed out there was a Grinch on the ladder truck. Oh.

So we crawled along the route with Mollie trying to hit kids with beads (kindly donated by Tom) and candy canes (cheap Walmart ones I bought). After a while, in the midst of clutch leg cramps, we started smelling coolant. Luckily the Jag made it to the free hotdogs and Bob departed with no problems. Bottom line – yes, it's time out of our busy lives, but with every one happily wishing Merry Christmas to one another and the kids so excited, it's definitely a do-over. Cheers! [*It truly was great fun, but I made the rookie mistake of running out of beads – and my car threw a code on the way home, perhaps because I kept blipping the throttle to make it pop and crackle on the route. No worries, I cleared it with my code scanner.-Ed.*]



Top, **Bob** waits in his E-Type (photo by Ed.); bottom, a shot along the route. (photo by **Mollie Reese**)



## 2024 Christmas Party

story by **Bob Manske**

The 2024 Christmas party was enjoyed by everyone. The food was great and **Fred Veenschoten** was able to keep his bottle of Irish Whiskey in the Dirty Santa game. A small group of conspirators attempted to foil his plan, but Fred won out in the end.



Above and below, **Keith Sanders** provides a history of the club. (photos by **Bob Manske**)



**Keith Sanders** provided an interesting “history of our club” seminar with occasional input from charter member **Jeff Olive**.

Jeff Olive and **Tom Schmitz** both supplied handmade wooden Santa gifts. Tom's famous

Harry Potter wands were fought over along with Jeff's assortment of goodies including a beautiful rolling pin. There were a lot of clever gifts with the players all having a good time.

The installation of new officers for 2025 was quickly accomplished with all positions remaining the same except **Tim Witzigreuter** is replacing **Bob Manske** as Vice President and Activities director. In an unusual twist of events, the new Vice President was heard complaining he won the position due to Russian disinformation, Chinese interference and mail-in voting all organized by Bob Manske!

Overall, the Christmas party was a great time and good way to end a most enjoyable year for our Panhandle British Car Association.

Merry Christmas!



Did **Mollie Reese** capture the exact moment when incoming VP of Activities **Tim Witzigreuter** (left) accused his predecessor **Bob Manske** of nefarious voting activity?

# Pierre's Wisdom

Pierre Fontana

## British Car Air-Conditioning

Just so you will know, way back years ago, in the beginning of British cars offering air-conditioning, shop owners were required to take a course on maintenance, recovery, and dispensing [of refrigerants-Ed.]. I still have my card.

The Freon used was very efficient but bad for the for the environment, so in time it was replaced by a better one we use now, R-134a. It is reasonably priced and can be purchased anywhere; I've found Walmart to be the cheapest. You can still purchase the old Freon, R-12, but it is not manufactured anymore so you will have to pay dearly. [You will also pay about four times the price of R-134a for the newest refrigerant, R-1234yf, which has been used in some cars since 2013 and



All photos courtesy **Pierre Fontana**

most since about 2018; by next year, all cars are expected to be using it-Ed.]

Retrofitting the old system is easy, don't let them tell you differently. A few modern "o" rings, seals, an orifice tube, a dryer, a complete purge of the old stuff, vacuuming the system for 30 minutes, and a recharge with Freon R-134a and oil are all that is necessary. I have done too many to count. All the equipment needed can be borrowed from parts houses and it is OK for you to do your own car.

You would be surprised at the strange way we checked for leaks years ago. It entails a propane torch with a suction tube to pick up the leak. In turn the freon burning in the flame would turn it to green. The only problem was the transformed flame produced Phosgene gas, which armies used to kill each other during World War I, so it was a dangerous process.

Later we used an ultraviolet dye we could pick up with polarized goggles, and now we have sniffers. And, lots of us have vent windows. so we have no need for A/C [Well, unless it's raining-Ed.].

*Pierre Fontana is a technical advisor for SABCC.*





## A Graphic Guide to Current Ownership of Historic British Marques

Can't recall who owns your favorite British marque? Rodney McDonald put together this handy guide.



**Mini • Triumph  
Riley • Rolls Royce**



**Land Rover • Rover  
Jaguar • Daimler**



**Lotus**



**Austin • Morris  
MG • Wolseley**



**Singer • Sunbeam  
Hillman**



**Bentley**

## Minis as Advertising Vehicles

*story by Rodney McDonald, SABCC*

The classic Mini has always been a blank canvas for the creative types. From John Cooper's hot rod Cooper and Cooper S models to platforms for sometimes zany creations, Minis spur the imagination. In the UK, the classic Mini has been used for a number of memorable advertising campaigns. These are some of our favorites.

### The Outspan Mini

The promotional brainchild of the Capespan firm of South Africa, the Outspan Mini was a fiberglass representation of an orange placed on a shortened Mini platform. Outspan ordered five of the potentially roly-poly little cars for PR



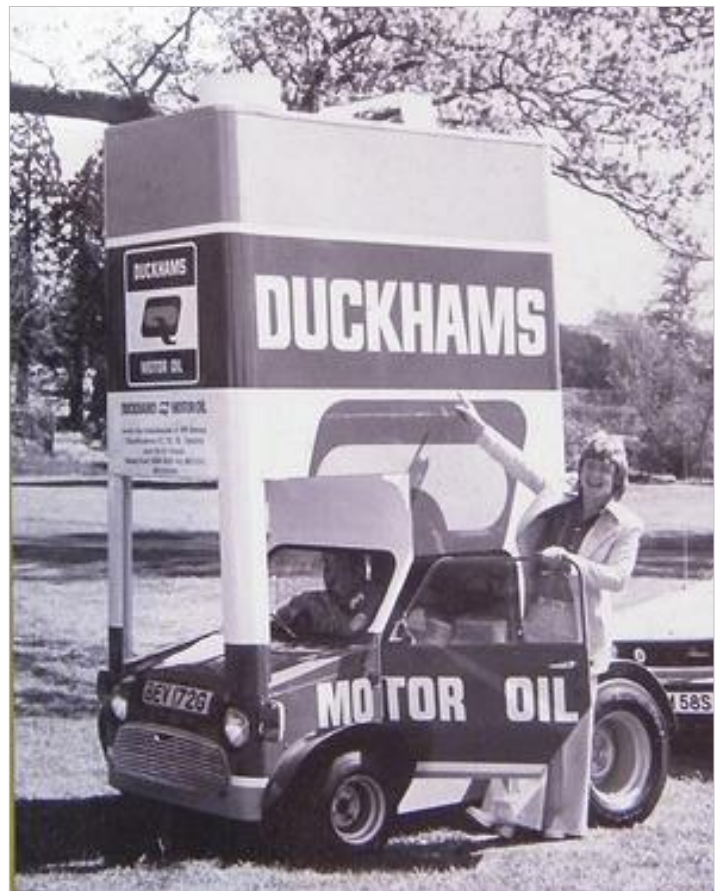
*Outspan Mini (photo courtesy thisbrighton.co.uk)*

duty in the UK in the early 1970s. Orange was certainly the theme with an orange interior made even more so with the use of orange tinted glass for the side windows. The only break from the sea of orange was the green OUTSPAN lettering and the stalk on top. The Outspan Mini contained a driver and a young lady who would alight from the giant orange bearing a basket of fruit to mingle with curious onlookers.

Outspan Minis are still a nostalgic favorite in the UK with the surviving cars making appearances at Mini rallies and historic motoring events.

### Duckhams Mini

Based on another shortened Mini platform, the Duckhams Mini was built in 1968 to resemble an outsized gallon can of Duckhams motor oil. The "can" was sheet metal over a tubular steel frame



*Duckhams Mini (photo courtesy thisbrighton.co.uk)*

and the rear axle was taken from a Ford product to, one assumes, give it an aggressive stance.

As with other promotional vehicles, the Duckhams Oil Mini was frequently seen at motorsports events and on the open road to promote the brand. Duckhams was also associated with Formula 1 racing particularly with Lotus. The Duckhams Mini currently resides in the British Motor Heritage Museum in Gaydon

*(story continues next page)*

## Minis as Advertising, continued

### Levis Mini

While not as flamboyant as the first two cars here, the Levis Mini was done up in denim blue



*Levis Mini — does the original still exist? (photo courtesy the author)*

with orange top stitching recalling the seams on the iconic Levis jeans. A representation of the trademark brass button appeared on the bonnet along with zipper graphics on the sides of the car. Sadly, there is not much information available about the Levis promotional Mini, other than a few images of miniatures around the Internet.

Of course the modern MINI is as much a canvas for today's American marketers with versions running



*Red Bull MINIs (photo via shiftingglances.com)*

about with giant Red Bull cans on their back and there is even a MINI "Weinermobile" in the wild.

## Auction Roundup: Red and Green

*In keeping with the season, cars in Christmas colours.*

### 2024 McLaren 750S Spider



**Not sold** for \$336,853 on Bring a Trailer

*Was Grinchy Green (actually Elite Mantis) the issue, or was the seller expecting too much? The sticker was \$401k.*

### 2023 Range Rover P530 SE



**Sold** for \$118,000 on Cars and Bids

*In Belgravia Green over Caraway leather, this luxury SUV features a 4.4 litre V8 with 523 hp.*

### 1994 Jaguar XJ6 Vanden Plas



**Sold** for \$6,000 on Bring a Trailer

*The X40 saloons were not universally loved, due to their square head- and tail-lamps, but with just 47k miles, this clean Flamenco over Ivory car jingled someone's bells.*

### 1951 Hillman Minx Convertible



**Sold** for \$11,500 on Hemmings

*Sporting new paint, and a top and interior in very good condition, perhaps the only negative (at least for traditionalists) about this car is that it sports a Chevrolet 350 V8 and a GM automatic transmission.*

# PANHANDLE BRITISH CAR ASSOCIATION

2024 "Brits on the Bay" All British Car Show

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2024 PANHANDLE BRITISH CAR ASSOCIATION  
SEVILLE SQUARE · PENSACOLA, FLORIDA  
A Classic All-British Car Show  
19-20 April, 2024

## 'Twas the Night Before the Car Show

By Michael Carnell (*Just British Online Motoring Magazine*)

'Twas the night before the car show, but I was out in the shed. My car wasn't budging – the danged thing was dead.

The battery and petrol had been checked twice with care, the tires kicked too, to make sure they held air.

The plugs were all snugged up, tight on their leads, while shop towels betrayed how much knuckles can bleed.

Once more I inspected the rotor and cap, but that car was intent on a long freakin' nap.

When out in the street there arose such a clatter, I sat up real fast to see what was the matter.

Into the sump my head slammed with a bash, crunched back to the floor – I grew faint with the crash.

The lump on my forehead and ringing in ears, gave an aura of migraine, while nausea grew near.

But then what to my watering eyes should appear? Why an old Morris tow truck with grinding of gears!

There was a little old driver, so crazy and quick, I knew in a moment it must be Dip Stick.

More bewildered than brilliant his mechanics they came, And he laughed and he hollered, and called them by name!

"Now Austin! Now Triumph! Now MG and Jaguar! On Healey! On Mini! On Morgan and Rover!

Get that car off the lift, and watch out for that wall! Now back away! Back away! Back away all!"

As good money before a long shop visit flies, And

when met with a rebuild, bills mount to the sky.

So up to his full height sir Dip Stick he grew, despite a kink in his back, and I believe his leg too.

And then, in a fuse flash, I heard under breath, the swearing and calling for previous owner's death.

As I bandaged my head, and was fumbling around, down the first Castrol can came with a terrible bound.

He was dressed all in Dickies, from his pants to his shirt, and his clothes were adorned with gas, oil and dirt.

A couple of rags he had stuck in his belt, and he left stains on the concrete wherever he knelt.

His eyes-how demented, his pupils how twitchy. I offered to help him, but he laughed out of pity.

His crusty old mouth, twisted up like a bow, and the stubble he wore had a good three days growth.



A slow burning cigar he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a nicely round belly, you could tell he liked his chair right in front of the telly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself!

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke very few words as he turned to his work, and after tuning the SUs, he turned with a jerk.

Then he turned the key one and hit the starter, wow, she started right up as he hit the gas harder!

He sprang to his truck, to his team gave a whistle, and away they all zoomed, like shot out of a missile.

But I heard him call out, over a backfiring blast, "Happy car show to all, and to all safety fast!"

[The late Terry Trovato, a member of SABCC, sent this to me in 2022-Ed.]

# Classifieds

## 1971 Lotus Europa S2 Project Car

I started a frame-off restoration on this car, and it is mostly in boxes. Before I moved to Mobile four years ago, I was preparing the parts to put the car back together. But in moving I lost my garage and age, health and time force me to sell it.

Here are some of the things I bought for the rebuild:

- shocks/springs (from Banks Europa in England)
- aluminum radiator (custom made, group buy)
- aluminum flywheel (Fidanza)
- pistons (custom made Wiseco)
- intake manifold and Weber carb
- stainless steel door hinges
- reground cam (Elgin, hot street grind)
- windscreen (used, but in very good shape)
- crashpad
- four 185/60-13 Yokohama A008 tires

Body doesn't look pretty but it is mostly cosmetic; there are several places that need repair.

There are several coats of paint. Wheels are Minilites and there is a set of four 185/60-13 Yokohama A008 tires with less than 10 miles of use. I bought them as the last set I could find in the US. They have been stored in black plastic bags in a cool dry space. Suspension is complete with some new bushings etc.

All brake parts and lines are there. I have a box of NOS parts that I think includes cylinder rebuild kits and stainless pistons. (Some parts are

same as TR parts, e.g., trunnions, rotors, heater valve.)

Electrical components (gauges, wipers, window lifts, lights etc.) all work. Harness is there, but I was planning to rewire to modern standards. Interior is complete, but seats and crash pad need padding and covering and it needs a headliner. Fascia has been sanded and stained. Steering wheel is a small Momo, not the stock one.

My engine is missing a crankshaft. One of the four liners is broken. The head has a thumb sized chunk missing – could be welded if one knows a great aluminum welder, but it would probably be better/easier to get a new head. There was nothing wrong with the transaxle.

I have both Factory Repair Manual and Factory Service Parts Book. I also have a ton of other literature on the Europa both in hard and electronic copy.

The car can be seen in Mobile, Alabama. Asking



## 1971 MGB Roadster



Thanks to Michael Bertagnolli, it runs great! New fuel filter, new distributor cap and rotor for Pertronix electronic ignition. Timing re-set and new valve cover gasket installed. Also has new tires and new rebound straps. A few years ago, Mike Darby installed a new fuel pump and a new radiator. The tach is not working and the heater has never worked. The paint is in good enough for running about the Eastern Shore but not show quality. The top in great shape and the interior is an eight out of 10. Why am I selling? Headquarters says I must reduce my number of toys. \$5,900.

*Mike*

251-422-9219 (text)

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## 1975 Triumph TR6

Has been in storage and last registration was in 1991, recently purchased from an estate. Original color is code 84 Topaz; manufacture date 6/75. Motor is free and turns over by hand. I have not attempted to start. Car rolls and steers. Floors have some rust, more prevalent on passenger side, rockers look good, headlights good, taillights good other than a small amount of paint bubbling on left. Edge of hood & trunk good. Small amount of bubbles on lower passen-

ger door edge. The mechanics of the top work, canvas is shot, boot appears good condition. Trunk solid. Has spare & jack pieces. Tires will hold air long enough to load on trailer. Before cleaning I thought this was a full resto or complete parts car; after cleaning up at bit, I think with servicing the brakes, cooling system, engine & fuel system you'd have a nice patina driver. Located in Fairhope. \$5000 OBO.

*Bradley Davis*

*bradleydavis72@yahoo.com*



## Just one more thing, please . . .



*This month, we feature two classics: left, the E-Type Commemorative, presented by Jaguar Classic; and right, SABCC member **Noel Eagleson** (at the time the chairman of the Morris Minor Club, Northern Ireland Branch) with Mayor of Ards (No. Ireland), Councillor Alan McDowell, at the finish of the club's regional rally, ca. 1983.*



Find us on the web at [www.pbca1.com](http://www.pbca1.com), or on Facebook at Panhandle British Car Association