



smoke in the wires

March '25

From the President

Paul Reese (pbca1president@gmail.com)

Hi, our show is next month and again we are asking for support. I am introducing yet another one of our members. **Gail Sanders** grew up in Hartwell, GA. She met her first husband in college. They had three children and he was in the U. S. Marines. He was stationed in Quantico, Va.; Oklahoma; and California. She was married to her second husband until his death in 2000. Gail was a school teacher and administrator for 38 years. She met **Keith Sanders** in 2009.



Keith and Gail Sanders with their MGC.

Keith was born in New Jersey but grew up in Mobile, Ala. He was a salesman and later started his own mailing business, Action Mailing, in Pensacola. It became the largest mailing service between New Orleans and Jacksonville. He became a PBCA member in 1987. He moved to Virginia after retiring and bought and started a bed and breakfast, operating it for twelve years. That is where he met Gail. They married in 2011 on Waikiki Beach, Hawai'i. At that time, Gail became a member of our club.

This year Gail is heading up the collection of baskets and Silent Auction items for the Friday night dinner and show on Saturday. She and her team, **Angela Fink, Monica Bachmann, and Ri-sa Manske**, are asking that members donate items with a \$35 to \$50 value.

Recommendations or ideas for the baskets are:

- Cheese and Wine Basket
- Greeting cards and/or party-like napkins
- British Tea Basket
- Movie Night Basket
- Beach Theme
- Chocolate Lovers
- Auto Items Basket
- Certificate to a spa
- Gift cards to a restaurant
- Coffee Basket

Cheers,

Paul

PBCA Club Officers

President	Paul Reese
Vice President	Paul Salm
VP/ Activities	Tim Witzigreuter
Secretary	Monica Bachmann
Treasurer	Karen Ianniello
Technical Director	George Bruno
Membership	Tim Garrold
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Show Chair	Tim Witzigreuter

Activities Calendar

March 17, 2025

Monthly Club Meeting

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

March 21, 2025

Monthly Tech Session

Manske Garage and Cigar Joint, 6129 Dutch Way, Milton, 32570. People show up around 10:30-ish. (A special session will be held **Mar. 12**).

March 29, 2025

BMCNO British Motoring Festival

Covington Trailhead and Firehouse Event Center, 419 N New Hampshire St, Covington, LA 70433. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

April 11 – 12, 2025

Brits on the Bay

Our annual show is coming up! For show details and to print a registration or a sponsor form, please visit [here](#) (and those forms are on pp. 13-14).

April 21, 2025

Monthly Club Meeting

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

April 25, 2025

Monthly Tech Session

Manske Garage and Cigar Joint, 6129 Dutch Way, Milton, 32570. People show up around 10:30-ish.

March 2025

SU	MO	TUE	WE	TH	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 TECH SESSION	13	14	15
16	17 CLUB MEETING	18	19	20	21 TECH SESSION	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 BMCNO FESTIVAL
30	31					

April 2025

SU	MO	TUE	WE	TH	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 BRITS ON THE BAY	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 CLUB MEETING	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Tight Connections

Club and Member News

Shrimp Boil

Since traditional Baptists have church on Sunday morning at 10:45 (tradition, you know), **Kristine** and I were not among the 40 folks who attended the annual PBCA Shrimp Boil Feb. 16 at Bear Lake Pavillion. Fortunately for all of us, VP of Activities **Tim Witzigreuter** was on the scene from “can to can’t” and shared all the relevant details with me.

When I say Tim was there from can to can’t, I’m not kidding. He arrived at the pavilion at 8:00 a.m., and mopped himself out the door before



Above, the new flags outside the pavilion; below, **Bob Manske** fortifies himself as **Tim Witzigreuter** checks the cooker (photos courtesy **Tim Witzigreuter**).

heading home. In the meantime, Chief Cookers **Bob Manske, Paul Reese, Fred Veenschoten,** and Tim began preparing corn, potatoes, sausage, seasonings, and oh yes, shrimp, fortified with potent potables provided by Paul and **Mollie Reese**. Other members joined in the preparation, and in short order, the steaming feast was emptied on the table, and the serious eating began. Tim reported no complaints were heard.



Above, **Bob** and **Tim** make preparations; below, **Bob** with special guest **John Twist**—does anyone know what had **John** so worried? (photos courtesy **Tim Witzigreuter**).

Since the weather was pleasant, most folks sat outside, and when everyone had their fill, a vigorous competition was held in the parking area.

(story continues next page)

Shrimp Boil, continued

Worth noting is that the pavilion grounds were decorated with the club's new British flags.

The only other report I heard was that one of our more "tenured" members took advantage of the lax law enforcement on the roads leading to the pavilion to blow some cobwebs from the engine of his Jaguar. No names will be mentioned here. And, at the end of the day, only shrimp and sausage were harmed.



Shrimp Boil Races

Top left, official race referee **Keith Sanders** advises **Linda Warren** of the rules of the three-wheel bike competition; bottom left, **Risa Manske** leads **Monica Bachmann** and didn't have to put her into the wall; top right, **Donna Weeks** pushes a rather stoic **Bill Weeks** in the rolling walker; middle right, **Donna Eagleson** is pushed around by husband **Noel**, bottom left, referee **Keith** is at the mercy of **Gall Sanders** (photos courtesy **Monica Bachmann**).

Tech Sessions

PBCA held its regularly-scheduled tech session on February 21, and a follow-up session was held March 5. At both, the focus was a pretty Austin-Healey 3000 Mk II which was failing to start. The best minds in the club tried to diagnose the problem, with fuel delivery and timing being the most common suggestions.

Certainly fuel delivery was an issue, as the plumbing between the tank, fuel pump, and engine was improperly configured. However, correcting that failed to get “fire in the hole”

After spending all day on it, lead mechanical expert **Fred Veenschoten** finally got the inline six to run. “It was always a timing issue and took three tries to get the distributor drive sorted, then it fired right up,” Fred reported. However, it still did not have oil pressure, so the distributor drive had to be removed again so a device could be inserted to spin up the oil pump. That was accomplished at the follow-up session and Fred has promised to send in an article documenting his efforts [*I’ll keep reminding you, Fred-Ed.*]. By his count, this is now the twelfth “Lazarus Project” Fred has completed. Thanks to host **Bob Manske** and skilled members like Fred and others, the tech sessions are keeping (or putting back) British cars on the road!



PBCA president **Paul Reese** replaced the license plate lamp on the Healey (photo by **Tim Garrold**).



From left, **Eddie Toenes**, **Bob Manske**, and **Noel Eagleson** with an MGTF at the Mar. 5 session (photo courtesy **Noel Eagleson**).



Above, a couple of crowd shots from the February 21 session (photos by **Ed.**).

Wiring Diagrams

Tech, Tools, and Tips

Barn Find in Baldwin County

*story by Noel Eagleson
photos courtesy the author*

In the broad world of classic car ownership, a “Barn Find” piques one’s interest right away and folks are drawn into reading if this may be Uncle Albert’s long forgotten 1930s Jaguar SS100 or some Italian prancing horse. Alas we must come back to reality – in this case it’s a 1979 MGB Limited Edition (“LE”). SABCC member Don Pritchett [who makes the special SABCC awards-Ed.] is well known for tracking down quite a number of our British Classic cars and this one came to his notice while chatting to a friend at a recent Cars and Coffee meet.

Don quickly reached out to the owner and arranged a visit, and sure enough the car was located in a Dutch-style barn on County Road 13, Baldwin County. It transpires the husband bought the car for his wife, and after a short drive she did not feel comfortable driving a stick shift!



Don and the owner unveil the Barn Find.

The little “B” had a license plate showing it had last been on the road in 2017, then placed in the barn and left to slumber for several years.

The first problem encountered was the bonnet release was frozen solid, but not one to give up easily Don reached out to John Twist who just happened to be holidaying in the area. On John’s suggestion a piece of thin rod was shaped and on his next visit Don had the bonnet open. The story does not end there, as having talked with a couple of fellow SABCC members, Michael Bertagnolli checked out the car and a deal was struck. A few days later we drove over to the barn and I was keen to see how the LE had fared during its period of rest.



Evidence of rodent residency beneath the bonnet.

As one would expect the local rodents had built two large nests, one on either side of the inner fenders. These were rather palatial as having a ready source of drywall insulation made for cozy homes, yet the interior and under dash

(story continues next page)

Baldwin County Barn Find, continued

seemed untouched. The car was duly winched onto the trailer and we headed out to **Mike's** shop where a thorough extraction of all the insulation and mice skeletons was carried out. We did not expect the car to fire up and were concerned that there might be chewed wiring. Later that evening a very delighted Mike called to say that he had the car running, albeit a little rough. Perhaps the little rodents found this particular Joseph Lucas wiring a little too smoky for their taste!



The LE's trademark black paint still shines.

The LE was basically the swan song of MGB sales here in the US with a total of 6,682 cars built, all in black with black or beige interior. There were a couple of add-on embellishments: special alloy wheels, front spoiler, silver stripes along the sides and an MG Badge with "Limited Edition" on the glove box door. While the venerable MGB is probably the most recognizable sportscar at any British classic car meet, the LE is somewhat of a rare bird.

I'm delighted that there is now an MGB Limited Edition in SABCC.

Safety Fast!

Noel

MGB
LIMITED EDITION

UNLIMITED FUN.

Here are the classic lines and quick response that have made MGB America's best-selling convertible. Here is the agility of rack and pinion steering, short-throw four-speed stick, and the stopping power of front disc brakes. And now it's all enhanced by the striking design and accessories of the Limited Edition, available only in black accented by dramatic silver striping. The Limited Edition comes with distinctive cast-alloy wheels and wide-profile tires. There are performance features like a front air dam and a padded, smaller diameter racing-type steering wheel for quicker response. There is a sturdy luggage rack, coco mats and an official Limited Edition plaque on the dashboard. The edition is Limited. The fun isn't. For the name of your nearest MG dealer call toll-free: (800) 447-4700. In Illinois: (800) 322-4400. © Jaguar Rover Triumph Inc. Leonia, N.J. 07605.

found in www.automobile-catalog.com

A period ad for the MGB LE, from automobile-catalog.com

A Blast (of compressed air?) from the Past



South Alabama British Car Club member Rodney McDonald sent **Ed.** this souvenir from the tenth year of SABCC. It reads "South Alabama British Car Club, 1990—2000, Driving the Past into the Future." Do any of you still have one of these?

Stirring Cogs on the Column

story by *Rodney McDonald*

Changing gears in a manual gearbox has – for the most part of the last eighty years or so – been done with a lever that was mounted on the floor or on the steering column. As tastes and fashions change, so does the location of the stick used for the purpose.

Gear levers were originally connected directly to the gearbox to provide a better “feel” for the equipment in the days of non-synchronized units. Since the gearbox itself was directly under the floor, it followed that the gearstick would sprout from the middle of the floor where the driveline lived. Not counting the early experimentation with external gear lever placement, the floor shift stayed centered in the floor.

In 1938, General Motors offered an option for a column mounted gear lever. Called “Safety Gear Shift Control,” it added ten bucks to the price of the car, but it was new and convenient. Passengers riding in the center of front seat were finally freed of dodging the driver's gearchanges on floor shifters. Soon, all domestic American cars offered a column change as an option and eventually it became the standard placement. [*In 1939, GM introduced the Hydramatic, the first mass-produced automatic transmission, furthering the trend of moving gear selection to the column-Ed.*]

This elegant solution was not lost on our British cousins. Postwar, British carmakers offered a number of models with a three- or four-speed gearbox with column shift. Let's take a look at a few of them.

Sunbeam Alpine Mark 1: Made famous by their wins on the world rally stage, the Mark 1 Alpine also featured prominently in the film “To Catch a Thief” starring Grace Kelly and Cary Grant. These 2.3 liter, four-cylinder convertibles were based on Sunbeam-Talbot 90 saloon underpinnings with bodies built by Thrupp and Maberly



Sunbeam Alpine Mark 1 (Alpine Owners Club)

coachbuilders. Early Alpines are rare and highly sought after.

Austin A90 Atlantic: The Austin A90 Atlantic was conceived as a dollar earner during Britain's “export or die” period when British automakers were allocated scarce steel based on their export sales. A bit overwrought by British standards,



Austin A90 Atlantic (Austin Owners Club)

the Atlantic aped the chrome laden American offerings of the time. Powered by a whopping 2.7 liter four-cylinder engine, the Atlantic could be had originally as a convertible and a coupe joining the ranks soon after.

Morris Oxford: As with most makers of saloon cars for those of moderate means, Morris also offered a column shifter in their Oxford family car. Unlike the two cars mentioned earlier, the

(story continues next page)

Stirring Cogs on the Column, continued

“Farina” Oxford’s stick was attached to a four-speed ‘box. The engine is the familiar B-series



Morris Oxford (Wikipedia)

four-cylinder found in countless British cars and trucks built during the time.

Jowett Jupiter: While we've looked at larger British cars, a handful of smaller sports car came from the factory with a column-stirred gearbox. The Jowett Jupiter was the result of an attempt



Jowett Jupiter (Bring a Trailer)

to use Jowett Javelin components to build an up-scale sporting car. The 1.5 liter flat four-powered convertible offered a bench seat, taking full advantage of the extra room a column shifter allowed. Fewer than 1,000 were built making survivors rare indeed.

Auction Roundup: Pricey Drop Tops

It's springtime, after all.

2010 Aston Martin DBS Volante



Sold for \$74,777 on Bring a Trailer

A 5.9-liter V12, only 14k miles, no evident flaws, and no reserve led to a sale on this DBS's second BAT attempt.

2007 Aston Martin DB9



Sold at no reserve for \$56,250 on Cars and Bids

If the car above was too pricey, you could have had this V12 Aston for \$18k less, and it only had 10k miles.

1981 Rolls-Royce Corniche Convertible



Sold for \$35,000 on Bring a Trailer

With this “driver-quality” car, the cost of acquisition might be dwarfed by future maintenance and repair needs.

2015 Bentley Continental GT W12



Not Sold for \$77,500 on Bring a Trailer

Finished in beige over matching leather, with a black soft top, this Continental had just 22k miles and was recently serviced. Its failure to sell was attributed to concerns with the stock market, rather than any issues with the car.

MG2025 Update

*story by Melissa Gonzales,
Chicagoland MG Club*

We are on a mission from . . . well, not that mission, but close enough! Honestly, it still blows my mind. All it took was one unforgettable trip to the Peterborough, Ontario, for the MG2022 Convention. What a blast – hats off to Jeremy and the team! On the drive back, in my mom’s ridiculously stylish Mini Cooper (top down, obviously), with some bossa nova setting the mood, inspiration struck like a lightning bolt: “Hey, Melissa, it’s time for the Chicagoland MG Club to host a national convention.” Fast-forward, and here we are just months away from what is bound to be the event of the year: MG2025 July 28th to 31st, folks!

The team is revved up to meet and greet every one of you. We have a massive kickoff party on Monday night that will be the stuff of legends – think dancing, laughter, and stories you will retell for years (or at least until next year’s convention). The website is live and let me give you this advice: register now before someone beats you to the finish line. Now, let us talk about plans. Crystal Lake, Illinois, is where all the action’s happening. We have lined up a fantastic array of events, but if you are feeling rebellious and want to freestyle your time, which is fine. There is plenty to explore, eat, and enjoy in and around town. Still, I would say do not miss the organized events – trust me, your diary is begging for some new entries.

Oh, and while you are packing, channel your inner Blues Brother: white shirt, skinny black tie, and, yes, all your other clothes. Plot your course to Crystal Lake or let your GPS take the wheel. On day one, you will register, and from there, you can cruise the city or kick back at the hotel. But whatever you do, do not skip the welcome and first-timers’ reception – it is going to be a

blast!

On Tuesday, the fun continues with more registration, silent auctions, all-day tech sessions, and some unforgettable activities. Highlights include:

- Sanfilippo Estate: A 44,000-square-foot wonderland of restored musical instruments and antiques.
- Volo Auto Museum: Classic cars, movie vehicles, and nostalgia galore – it is like stepping into automotive heaven.
- Anderson Japanese Gardens: Serenity meets beauty in this tranquil, waterfall-laden paradise.
- Illinois Railway Museum: Steam engines, diesels, and streetcars – railway fans, rejoice!
- Chicago Architecture Boat Tour: Stunning views and riveting stories of Chicago’s skyline from the river.
- Pizza-Making Session: Get your hands doughy and learn to toss like a pro – you will leave with more than just memories (and a marinara stain or two).
- Drive-In Movie Night: Grab your popcorn, roll down the windows, and enjoy a classic flick under the stars, car speakers optional but encouraged.
- Car Show: Show off your ride or marvel at others – there is no better way to celebrate our shared love for these iconic vehicles.

Not feeling those? No worries – take a scenic drive to charming towns like St. Charles, Geneva, or Woodstock for strolling, shopping, and some top-notch lunching. There is truly something for everyone! So, what are you waiting for? Register now because this event is HOT. No pun intended. Okay, a little pun intended. Cannot wait to see you there!

PANHANDLE BRITISH CAR ASSOCIATION

2024 "Brits on the Bay" All British Car Show

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Prof. Emma G. Plum

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Runway Imports

Security Engineering

Southern Gardens Florist and Gifts

The Paint Mart

Warrington Chiropractic Clinic

Willows Studios





April 11 and 12, 2025
Historic Seville Square

Class	Car Number

REGISTRATION FEE:

- \$25.00 if received before April 1, 2025
- \$30.00 after April 1, 2025
- Additional vehicles: \$15.00 (use additional form for cars 3 and beyond)

Name (First, MI, Last) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Club Affiliation(s) _____

Vehicle 1 Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Vehicle 2 Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

Number attending the Friday tours? _____ Number attending the Friday night welcome party? _____

I am aware of the hazards inherent with motor vehicle events and specifically release and indemnify the organizers, supporting sponsors, and the Panhandle British Car Association, Inc. collectively and separately, from any and all liability from personal injury or property damage incurred by me or my guests while participating in the Pensacola British Car Show. I understand and agree that the Panhandle British Car Association Inc. reserves the right to revoke my registration fee should I engage in reckless, dangerous, and/or unsafe behavior.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, AND AGREE TO THIS RELEASE.

Signature _____ Date _____

2025 Show T-shirt order (\$20.00 Each) Qty. _____ Medium \$ _____

Qty. _____ Large \$ _____

Qty. _____ XL \$ _____

Qty. _____ 2XL \$ _____

Qty. _____ 3XL \$ _____

Make check payable to "PBCA"

T-SHIRT TOTAL \$ _____

Mail completed registration form and check to:

Karen Ianniello
4279 Chittingham Dr
Pace, FL 32571

REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

For Friday event information and show updates, visit our web site www.PBCA1.com

April 11 and 12, 2025
Historic Seville Square



2025 "Brits on the Bay" Sponsor Form

_____ Major Sponsor 150.00
_____ Class Sponsor 50.00

Sponsoring Organization, Business, or Individual

Address

City

State

Zip

Contact Name

Phone number

Email

Payment must accompany the sponsor form. Make checks payable to "Panhandle British Car Association" and give to representative or

**Mail to : Karen Ianniello
4279 Chittingham Dr.
Pace, FL 32571**

Major Sponsor Benefits

Your logo displayed on show posters
Your logo displayed on PBCA website
Invitation to pre show dinner
Free day of show parking
Plus same benefits as Class Sponsor

Class Sponsor Benefits

Listed in PBCA newsletter
Your company name on
car class show sign

To be included in all show publicity, sponsorships must be received by **April 4, 2025**

Received _____

Date

PBCA Representative

Check #

Amount

Wire Nut

Michael King, Editor, "Smoke in the Wires"

Bought parts lately?

Having John Twist in our part of the world gave me the opportunity to help my brother get his Damask Red '77 MGB tuned by arguably the leading expert on all things MG. If you were at John's seminar at the Garagemahal, you saw him demonstrating his skills on this car; otherwise, you might recall it as the car restored by the late Stuart Waddington.

John made himself available for a tune-up session on February 19, and **Noel Eagleson**, Tom Renick and I fetched tools and assisted as needed as he torqued the head, adjusted the valves, set the timing, adjusted the carburetor, and checked several other mechanical systems. He also took the car (which ran much better after his ministrations) on a thorough test drive.

Now, I had already changed the oil and filter, but as usually happens in a workday such as this, we found that we needed several other parts. I ordered most of these from Moss, but I knew I could get some of them from my employer (AutoZone).

That got me thinking about the parts-buying process. I probably have touched on some of this in previous articles, but when you sell auto parts a couple of days each week, they stay top-of-mind. Let's review the various sources:

Moss Motors: In the British car hobby, "parts house" and "Moss Motors" are synonyms. They've been around a long time, they offer a wide selection, and with their acquisition and assimilation of XKs Unlimited, they now offer a far broader range for us Jaguar owners. They might not be the cheapest source, and I think their shipping costs are a bit steep, but they usually have what you need.

Other Specialty Houses: Anyone miss Victoria British? I do, but we still have The Roadster Factory, which continues to make progress recovering from a disastrous fire in December 2023. British Parts Northwest is another option, and Abingdon Spares (MG), Sunbeam Specialties, SNG Barratt (Jaguar), Welsh Enterprises (Jaguar), and others cater to specific marques.

Forums and enthusiast sites: MG Experience, Jaguar Forums, and pretty much every other forum has a marketplace where folks list parts for sale and/or run want ads for parts they need. I've bought many parts from these and I've not yet been burned.

eBay: If you want used parts, you can do worse than the world's largest online auction house.

Mainstream Online Sellers: This category encompasses auto-specific sources, such as Carparts.com, FCP Euro, RockAuto, and the like, and Amazon, which offers a reasonably good auto parts search function. Before you buy, however, make sure you know what you're getting, and what recourse you have if you have a problem. If you get the wrong part, how easy is it to return? And if the part has a warranty, how do you get it replaced if it fails?

Brick and Mortar Stores: Auto parts houses have lots of parts for Silverado and F-150 pickups, but not much else, right? Well, not exactly. AutoZone, O'Reilly's, NAPA, and Advance all carry basic parts for lots of cars, and can order parts not in stock. The best part about doing business with one of these is that returns and warranty claims are generally trouble-free, and they offer free services, including battery/starter/alternator testing, OBD scanning, battery charging, and free installation of many batteries, bulbs, and wiper blades. Sometimes, their associates even offer good advice.

Happy shopping!

Classifieds

1959 MGA

Very restorable barn find as seen in *Spark & Spanner* May 2023. The car is complete and original. Have MGB engine, gearbox, front end assembly, rear end assembly. Must see.

Lyman Dykes

16442 Covered Bridge Lane

Fairhope AL 36532

251-990-8296



The photos above are from the May 2023 "Spark & Spanner" article and show **Lyman Dykes** removing the barn find and inspecting it. He reported that the car had only minimal rust.

Tail Gate Rack

21" wide x 59" long x 2 1/2" deep

\$50 or best offer

David Couling

251-402-6628



1969 MGB

Listed on [Facebook Marketplace](#) is a 1969 MGB project described as nearly complete, save for paint. Asking price is \$5,500. The seller allowed the ad to be shared here and said he also has parts from a '74 to give away.



The MG Car Clubs from Ottawa and Toronto invite you to

MG102Fest.

Join us for a weekend of fun and camaraderie in beautiful Muskoka.

Muskoka is located in Central Ontario.

This weekend gathering of MGs is open to all enthusiasts.

We would love to see you there!

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Tailgate Pizza Party	Group Scenic Tour	MG Car Show
	Pub & Trivia Night	

Register at tinyurl.com/mg102fest

AUGUST 22 - 24, 2025



Just one more thing, please . . .



If you've ever thought, "I love the lines of the Jaguar XJ-S, but what that British V-12 grand tourer really needs is a nice pair of side pipes," you unfortunately missed an opportunity. This car was listed on eBay at \$3,999 or best offer, and sold on March 3.



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Membership in PBCA is open to anyone with an interest in classic or modern British cars, and dues are only \$20 per year. To join, visit www.pbca1.com.