



The Oil Spot

The Oil Spot is the monthly Newsletter of the Birmingham Motoring Club

February—2015

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Positively Grounded—Randy and Lee Darden, Co-Vice-Presidents

From the office of the VP (almost the big cheese):

We would like to say how excited we are about planning events for 2015! While we had a somewhat quiet January, we have many activities lined up for the coming months. With a mixture of rides, shows, race events and tech sessions; let's move right into it.

So as you know we moved the donated Midget Project into the Chelsea Garage. We will have regular Tech Sessions on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 am at the Chelsea Garage. While we will be focusing on our Project Car, not all Tech sessions will be limited to this one Project. See attached schedule for Topics of each Tech Session. And as always subject to change.

Our club event for February: The Birmingham Brew Tour, February 21. Participants will leave O'Henry's at 11:00 am for a brief drive through Mountain Brook to arrive at Avondale Brewery and a light bite to eat. At Noon, Tour of the Tap Room is courtesy of Bill Kraus and Pizza, courtesy of Lee Darden. Other stops to include Trim Tab and Cahaba Brewery. Come early for socialization, Cars and Coffee upstairs and a cup of Joe from O'Henry's before we leave promptly at 11:00 am. This is a Rain or Shine event, so pick your vehicle accordingly!

Our March event will be the 25th Anniversary of the New Orleans British Car Show. This looks to be an exciting weekend as the NOLA British Car Club celebrates their 25th Car Show in downtown New Orleans. ----- Plans include leaving Birmingham Friday noonish, spending 2 nights on the road, returning Sunday. Cars, food, fun and "N'awlins" culture should be a great combination. As there few good back roads for this trip, interstate travel seems indicated. So bring your fast British Car! (Or daily driver) Would love to get a head count so that we can find the best appropriate accommodations for the weekend. Please contact Lee ASAP!

April will be a busy month! Plans are being made to participate in Brits by the Bay, the annual Pensacola show. April 17/18 This will be a 2 night event also. There are several hotels to choose

from right on the beach, time to plan now for broad participation from multiple car clubs along the gulf coast.

The weekend of April 24-26 has a couple events from which to choose. Barber will host the Honda Indy Gran Prix of Alabama. Car Corral, museum, paddock access and lots of fast cars with BMC represented. In Atlanta, that same 3 days (bummer), Classic Motorsports Mitty presented by Hagerty at Road Atlanta will run. Several members are planning to participate/attend and represent BMC.

May brings us Barber Vintage Racing, lots of details to follow. You will want to save this date. Plans are being made now for the club to have lots of active participation in this event.

We are developing some plans to have *Flash Drives*. These will be spontaneous weekend drives that any member can start/create/instigate with social media. We are working out the details now. So come to the Tuesday meeting to see how it works!

Mostly, lastly.... ***Let's ride!***

Car Shows/Events on Our Radar (what's on yours?)

These are high on our list to attend. Although this is not an exhaustive list, someone from the club, if not a group from the club will travel to most of these events. Ask Randy or Lee for additional info or watch email or Facebook for greater details as they develop. Mostly.....

Save the Date:

March 21

British Motoring Club of New Orleans
25th Annual British Car Day (bmcno.org)

April 17/18 23rd

Annual Brits by the Bay
Panhandle British Car Association (pbca1.com)
Featuring the Jaguar Series

Art of Lightness—John Viviani

Hershey, PA (December 9, 2014) The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum presented **Lotus: The Art of Lightness from January 24-April 26 2015.**

This compelling exhibit offered a selection of Lotus road cars and racing cars throughout their 66 year history covering over 15 models from a **1956 Mark VI to the 2014**

Evora and will also included representative examples of Lotus engineered vehicles.



Colin Chapman, the founder of Lotus, and the man behind Lotus' racing successes and iconic road cars said **"I believe in getting light weight through elegance of design"** translated through folklore as the mantra **'Simplify and add lightness'**. In today's automotive world, making vehicles lighter is the newest method to extract efficiency and performance. But for Colin Chapman and Lotus it has always been the essence of their design and engineering philosophy.

The first Lotus came from the humblest of sources. In 1948 Colin Chapman, a young engineering student, became enthused with automotive competition and sought to enter the unique world of British Trials competition. The basis for this was an Austin Seven "Chummy", an antiquated pre-war people's car that Chapman transformed into his first competition special, dubbed Lotus. His forays into competition were successful and led to the formation of Lotus Engineering by 1954. It didn't take long for Lotus Engineering to be in full production of bespoke Chapman designed chassis and Lotus subsequently invaded and triumphed in the

Art of Lightness—John Viviani

world of British Club racing and international motor-sports competition. Since those early days, Lotus and the genius of Colin Chapman have been at the forefront of racing technology and automotive design. Colin Chapman's philosophy of light weight, efficiency of design and innovation resulted in seven Formula 1 World Championships as well as

wins at Le Mans and Indianapolis and championships in Saloon car racing, the World Rally Championship, sports car racing and the lower open wheel formulas. Colin Chapman's philosophy of simplification, light weight and the least amount of



parts effectively deployed that went into his racing car design were directly translated into Lotus' road cars and produced a pantheon of iconoclastic machines such as the Seven, Elite, Elan, Cortina, Europa, Esprit, Elise, Exige, and Evora, truly making them "racing cars for the road".

In addition to producing class-leading sports cars, Lotus has become a globally respected automotive engineering consultancy, working with many of the world's most prestigious car manufacturers. Their expertise in ride and handling

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BMC Board Meeting Schedule

President David Boger has set a proposed meeting schedule for the 2015 BMC Board Meetings. All club members are invited and welcome to attend any and all board meetings. The location is mostly at O'Henry's Coffee Shop at Brookwood Mall at 8:30 AM, but is subject to change if there are coinciding events that may necessitate a change in venue. These changes will be announced ahead of the change. Proposed schedule is:

February 28
March 28
April 25
May 30
June 27

August 1
August 29
September 26
October 31
November 28

And as always, regular monthly meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month. Currently we are meeting at Logan's on 280, dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you at the next meeting!!!

Tech Sessions:

Second Saturday of each Month @ the Chelsea Garage

- February 14** Assessment of project car and part inventory. This will be a planning session.
- March 14** Will focus on getting YOUR car ready for shows and summer drives
- April 11** Project Car- preparation of car body for paint Bring your elbow grease (Sanding 101)
- May 9** Painting – we will find out how good we sanded
- June 13** Suspension- focus on front suspension
- July 11** Catch up month (here's hoping we are only a month behind)
- August 8** Drive train - basic of rebuilding the go parts (engine/transmission)
- September 12** More drive train
- October 10** Electrical ! Overcoming the Lord of Darkness (learning to keep the smoke in)
- November 14** Heating and Ventilation- Baby its getting cold outside!
- December 12** Weather equipment - Windshield/Wipers/Hood (Top)

Ambitious-yes! Doable-yes! Will it happen?.... We will see. Cannot get there if we don't try. The journey starts with the first step! Come volunteer and see what you can learn OR teach someone else!!!

Treasury Report

Jan 1, 2013- December 31, 2014

Expenses:

PO Box Rent	\$92.00	
Hagerty's insurance	350.00	
Hemmings S&E	420.00	
Rubber Stamp	34.28	
Website	62.91	
Summer Picnic	334.30	
Holiday Party	135.00	
Total	1,428.49	(3518.51 in 2013)

Income:

Dues 2014	1,424.80	(2216.00 in 2013)
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Profit (loss) 2014 (3.69)

2015 Barber Historics featuring Lotus—John Viviani

Historic Car Racing Returns to Barber Motorsports Park in May 2015

As a car guy in the vast collection of motorcycles in the Barber Museum, the question I get asked most from other car enthusiasts is, “*How can I see the basement of the Museum?*” That question is usually closely followed by, “*Is historic car racing ever going to return?*” Or, more honestly the statement, “*Barber needs a historic car race.*”

My friends, it is happening in 2015. May 15-17 will see the return of historic cars to Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama. This event will follow the Barber Vintage Festival model that has grown in the last ten years to become one of the largest vintage motorcycle festivals in the country. The Historic Motor Sports Association (HMSA) will bring out some of the finest in historic automobiles for on-track completion, including drivers from Historic F1 and Trans Am.

While the track will be active all weekend, the grounds will also be abuzz with activity. The famous Barber Car Corral will take place, in addition to a sports/racing car ordained swap meet, filled with all kinds of goodies for your automobile/automobilia needs.

Practice on track, the car corral and swap meet will begin on Friday, along with the Mountain Brook Car Rally, where many of the drivers will take their race cars from Barber Motorsports Park to Mountain Brook Village for a celebration.

For information on the rally, swap meet or car corral, contact John Viviani, jviviani@barbermuseum.org or 205-702-8718. For information on the racing portion, contact HMSA at 818-249-3515 or www.hmsausa.com. Tickets, camping and RV spots for the event will go on sale in early 2015, so stay tuned to www.barbermotorsports.com for more information.

In the meantime, SAVE THE DATE for the *Barber Historics featuring Lotus* taking place May 15-17, 2015, at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Alabama!

RACING HISTORY COMES ALIVE!



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FOCUSED SWAP MEET!
20X20 SPACES INTRODUCTORY
PRICE \$100
VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT
JOHN VIVIANI @ 205-702-8718 OR
JVIVIANI@BARBERMUSEUM.ORG



BARBER HISTORICS



MAY 15-17 2015
BARBER MOTORSPORTS
PARK, BIRMINGHAM, AL



WWW.BARBERMOTORSPORTS.COM

CAR CORRAL
BARBER RALLY TO
MOUNTAIN BROOK VILLAGE
HISTORIC RACING ON TRACK-
FORMULA ONE, IMSA GT, TRANS
AM, MONOPOSTO



SWAP MEET

20' x 20' swap meet space: ~~\$150.00~~ **Introductory Price \$100**

Includes:

- Camping in your Vendor spot (2 people)
- 2 weekend tickets for the Barber Historics
- 2 weekend passes to the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum
- Preferred 2nd year placement

PREMIUM PACKAGES

These spaces are located on the end cap, at the front of their respective rows.

PP E - End Cap E: 80' x 20' swap meet space:
~~\$600.00~~ **Introductory Price \$600**

PP F - End Cap F: 56' x 20' swap meet space:
~~\$600.00~~ **Introductory Price \$400**

PP G - End Cap G: 56' x 20' swap meet space:
~~\$600.00~~ **Introductory Price \$400**

PP H - End Cap H: 40' rear/20' front x 20' Oversized space:
~~\$400.00~~ **Introductory Price \$280**

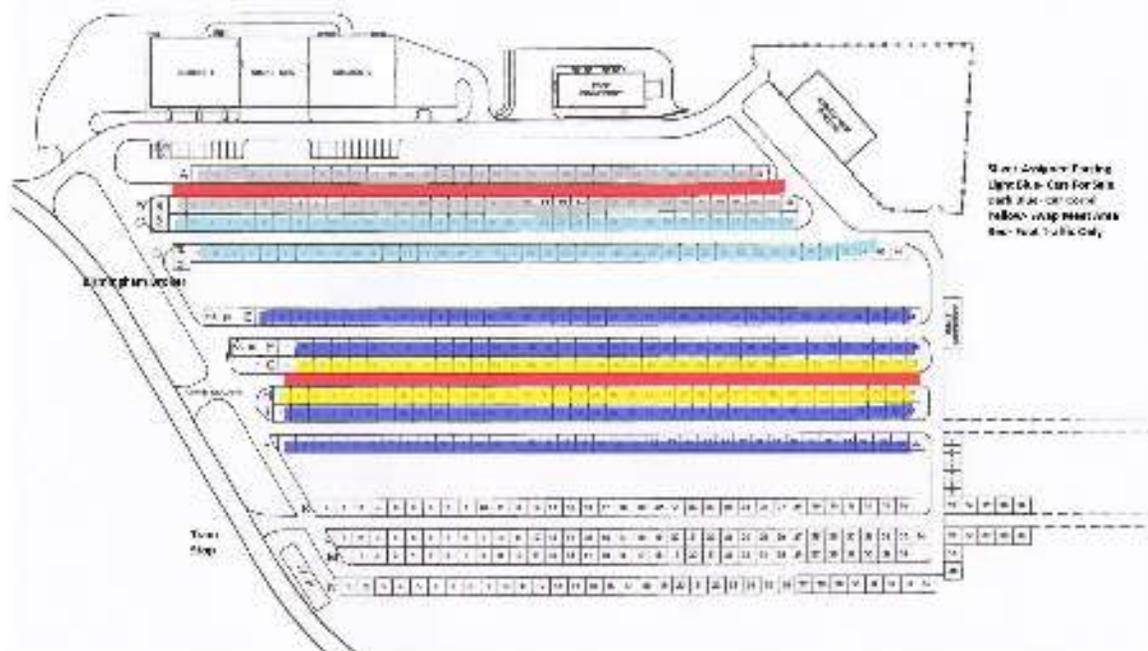
PP I - End Cap I: 40' rear/20' front x 20' Oversized space:
~~\$400.00~~ **Introductory Price \$280**

PP J - End Cap J: Oversized 20' x 20' swap meet space:
~~\$300.00~~ **Introductory Price \$200**

Includes:

- Camping On Site (2 people)
- 4 weekend tickets for the Barber Vintage Festival
- 4 weekend passes to the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum
- Preferred 2nd year placement

Car For Sale Corral \$10/day





Saturday, February 21, 2015

1:30pm-2:30pm



Join us for an afternoon of Lotus talk about our new X180R. The Lotus made famous by drivers such as Paul Newman and David Carradine.



Free for museum members and volunteers

\$25.00 admission for non-members

To purchase tickets, visit the museum, or call

205-702-8713

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Classifieds

I am sending this Email to you to see if any one in the Birmingham area might be interested in a 1957 MGA that my sister in-law is looking to sell. I have pictures of the Car that can be sent for viewing. The Car was restored by her husband a few years ago. The car belonged to Ron Harris but when I spoke to my sister in-law she said that some of the members of the Club came to Ron`s funeral. So if you new Ron you would know his car. The selling Price that is set to start is \$27000.00

Gary Bishop
saintjc@bellsouth.net



Classifieds



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