

- 25 Mar 23—Caffeine & Chrome**, Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Dr, O'Fallon, Illinois, 9 AM-12 Noon. No admission fee, come on in and have donuts and coffee.
- 26 Mar 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club** drive to the **Grissom Center and Space Museum**, Bonne Terre. Monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com>.
- 26 Mar 23—MG Club of St Louis Annual Terry Fanning Rally**, details TBA, monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/>.
- 30 Mar 23—MG Club of St Louis RUBCO**, west county Uncle Bill's Pancake & Dinner House, 14196 Manchester Rd, 9:30 AM-11 AM.
- 2 Apr 23—St Louis Region SCCA Rallycross No. 1**, 8 AM-4 PM in Troy, Missouri. For more information, contact Calvin Cooper at rallycrosschair@stlscca.org
- 8 Apr 23—Annual Gateway Healey Association Wash-Up/Tune-Up**. Traditional pre-Forest Park gathering for British car owners (or whatever other interesting vehicle you have). Details TBD, keep an eye on www.gatewayhealey.com.
- 9 Apr 23—MG-Triumph Challenge XIII for the British Leyland Cup**, in association with the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri's annual **Forest Park Easter Concours d'Elegance**, in the Muny upper lot, Forest Park. Details to follow.
- 13 Apr 23—Mid America Corvette Show**, in Columbia, details to follow.
- 15 Apr 23—What should be the first Cars & Coffee/Amp Up** of the season, 13901 Manchester (Home Depot/Fresh Thyme shopping center), details and other dates to follow.
- 16 Apr 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 1**, Family Arena. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 16 Apr 23—MG Club of St Louis drive/picnic** in honor of **Cecil Kimber's Birthday & Drive Your MG Day**, 11:30 AM-?, Babler State Park, 800 Guy Park Dr, Wildwood. Bring a side!
- 29 Apr 23—Go West Tour**, Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis. Details TBA, monitor www.jagstl.com.
- 22 Apr 23—Mid-America Corvette Show**, Columbia, Missouri. Monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 27 Apr 23—MG Club of St Louis RUBCO**, Silver Pancake House, 9983 Manchester Rd, 9:30-11 AM
- 29 Apr 23—MG Club of St Louis Annual Missouri Endurance Rally**, details TBA, monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/>.
- 29 Apr 23—Lake of the Ozarks Corvette Show**. Monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 29 Apr 23—Caffeine & Chrome/Sparkplug Spectacular**, Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Dr, O'Fallon, Illinois, 9 AM-12 Noon. No admission fee, come on in and have donuts and coffee.
- 28-29 Apr 23—Third Annual Lake of the Ozarks Corvette Show**, at the Margaritaville Lake Resort, 494 Tan Tar A Drive, Osage Beach. Hosted by the Lake of the Ozarks Corvette Club, all proceeds benefit local charities. Info at <https://locc2010.net/locc-annual-car-show/>.
- 30 Apr 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II Novice School**, Family Arena. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 5-7 May 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II CAM/Extreme Challenge**, Family Arena. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 5-7 May 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Route 66 Road Trip**. Details to follow, monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com>.
- 6-7 May 23—MG Club of St Louis Fling in the Spring**, to Peoria for an overnigher. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com> for more information.
- 14 May 23—Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis Run to Country Classic Cars**, 2149 E Frontage Rd, Staunton. Monitor <https://www.jagstl.com> for details
- 20 May 23—VA St Louis Car Show**, celebrating over 100 years of world class service to our nation's heroes. Car show, music, visit by Fred Bird, food trucks, military reenactors and VA health care and benefits tables. At the Jefferson Barracks VA Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Dr (exit onto Koch Rd), 9 AM-3 PM. For info or to register, email vastlevents@va.gov.

St Louis Car Shows and Cruises: www.stlouiscoachmen.com/car-shows-special-events

industry to expand its footprint in North America; the featured vehicles include the **Triumph TR250**, along with a number of other interesting vehicles.

February's *Thoroughbred & Classic Cars* includes the "life story" of a **1963 Morris Mini Super Deluxe**, along with a buyer's guide for the **MG RV8** ("Robust, genuinely special and curiously overlooked"). Finally, the February/March edition of *Car & Driver* presents the magazine's annual evaluation of the fastest cars available in the US. The comparison, which took place at Virginia International Raceway, included a brace of BMWs plus a Corvette: a **2022 BMW i4 M50**; **2022 MBW M240i xDrive**; **2023 BMW M4 CSL**; and a **2023 Corvette C8 Z06**. At the back of the magazine, a one-page review of the **2023 BMW X1**.

The Mazda Motor Corporation (*Matsuda Kabushiki-Gaisha*) of Hiroshima, Japan, got its start on 1 January 1920 with the formation of the Toyo Cork Kogyo Company, Ltd (*Toyo Koroku Kogyo Kanpani*) in Fuchu-cho. The company dropped the "cork" from its title (and manufacturing of cork products) and, having barely survived the Great Depression, started producing machine tools. Its first vehicle, a motorized rickshaw – basically a three-wheel motorcycle – debuted in 1931. Mitsubishi handled sales of the trike, which proved popular in Japan; Toyo Kogyo followed up with a three-wheel utility truck, the Type-DA or "Mazda-go." This marked the company's first use of the Mazda name.



Juniro Matsuda (photo via Mazda Motor Corporation)

In 1940, the company built a prototype passenger car, a small, two-door hardtop. However, military production dominated at the plant, including manufacturing of the bolt-action, 7.58 Type 99 rifle. Remarkably, Toyo Kogyo's factory survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the *Enola Gay* on 6 August 1945; a mountain between the plant and ground zero in downtown Hiroshima shielded the facility. Toyo Kogyo co-founder Juniro Matsuda and his driver were ejected from their car when the shock wave hit, but they survived and, over the following months,

Matsuda and his surviving employees worked to get the company back in business.

In late 1945, the company turned out the Type-GA truck, powered by a 701cc single-cylinder engine. Additional three-wheel trucks followed, along with 1950's Type-PB, a tricycle passenger vehicle and 1958's "Romper," Toyo Kogyo's first four-wheel truck, powered by an 1105cc two-cylinder engine.

Toyo Kogyo's first conventional four-wheel passenger car debuted in December 1960: the R360 or "Mazda Coupe." Known as a "Kei" car, the vehicle only weighed about 840 pounds and was powered a rear-mounted, four-cycle 356cc V-twin. The design made extensive use of alloys to keep the weight down, including an aluminum hood and cylinder heads and magnesium transmission housing and oil pan. The car had a 70-inch wheelbase and the engine turned out all of 20 horsepower, driving through either a 4-speed manual or 2-



Above: Show time! (photo via *Motor Trend*). Below, the Toyo Kogyo plant during the 1950s.

speed semi-automatic and capable of propelling the R360 to just north of 350 mph (per one road test, "O-60: not possible").

The car and others like it, such as the Subaru 360 (aka "The Mouse of the Rising Sun"), rolled out of the factories in large num-



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Photo: Mazda Motor Corporation



Photo: Mazda Motor Corporation



bers in response to a government effort to rebuild industrial capacity, while putting more Japanese into cars. Japanese who bought the Kei vehicles paid less in taxes and registration, due to the cars' light

Photos: ConceptCarz



weight and small engines. The R360, which sold for ¥300,000 - about \$830- quickly dominated the market. In 1964, the R360 received a larger 358cc four, one year prior to the model's retirement.

From this small (literally!) start, Toyo Kogyo (Mazda Motor Corporation after 1984) went on to bigger and better vehicles, including the Carol, 1962; Familia, 1963; Luce, 1966; and the company's first rotary-powered car, 1967's Cosmo Sport. In April 1970, the corporation started exports to North America of the rotary-powered R100.

Sources: "History (1920 ~ 1979), Mazda Motor Corporation, n.d.; "Mazda 100th Anniversary - R360 Coupe," Mazda Motor Corporation, n.d.; "1960 Mazda R360," *ConceptCarz*, n.d.; Aaron Gold, "Mazda's First Car Was Equal Parts Cute, Dorky, and Innovative," *Motor Trend*, 5 March 2020; Bob Murray, "The Seven Best Mazdas of All Time," Goodwood Road & Racing, n.d.; Hans Greimel, "How Mazda Survived the Atomic Bomb...By A Hair," *Automotive News*, 23 September 2014; Aaron Gold, "Mazda's First Car Was Equal Parts Cute, Dorky, and Innovative," *Motor Trend*, 5 March 2020.

Featured Events

MGCStL RUBCO

26 Jan 23



Photos by Glenn Owens and Lee Fox



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