



## Council News & Notes

- As this issue goes to "press," we have officially begun spring. Temps are starting to head north, grass is turning green already, trees should start filling out shortly AND the calendar's quickly expanding.
- The addition of two more clubs—the Boone Trail Corvette Club and Gateway Miata—has resulted in even more opportunities to get out and do things of a sports/special interest car nature. For example, a large number of Miatas/MX-5s turned out for last month's Polar Bear Run; Triumph club members said they really enjoyed having them along. As you'll see from the photo spread this issue, the drive also brought out the usual good number of MGs, a Volvo, a couple of BMWs, an Austin-Healey, plus others...a good sampling of the StLSCC member club marques.
- By the way, as always, our thanks to the club newsletter editors and webmasters for posting photos from/articles on club activities. We rely on these resources heavily in order to get the word out about events on a monthly basis.
- Anyway, spring has sprung (storms are inbound, oh BOY!). As usual, we'll end this month with our standard: Drive 'Em!

## Up & Coming

- 25 Mar 23**—The members of the Gateway Chapter VCOA have been invited to tour a private **vintage Volvo collection** in Pacific Junction, Iowa, with the Kansas City Volvo Club. If interested in participating, email [gateway.vcoa.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:gateway.vcoa.chapter@gmail.com).
- 25 Mar 23**—St. Louis Triumph Owners Association **Winery Drive**, to Cedar Lake Cellars. Meet at the Weldon Spring Carpool lot south of I-64/MO 94 around 10 AM, driver's meeting at 10:15 with a 10:30 AM departure. Rest break at Daniel Boone Historic Home, lunch at Cedar Lake around noon. Open to all drivers/cars.
- 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. Meet at the Park & Ride lot at MO 94 and US 40/I-64 at 9:45 AM for a 10 AM departure, lunch stop TBD. \$9 admission to the museum. Monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com>.
- 26 Mar 23**—**Date Change**: MG Club of St. Louis **Annual Terry Fanning Rally**. Meet at the Dierberg's Hilltop Center (MO 100 west), 9:30 AM for a spirited drive through West County and beyond. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/>.
- 28 Mar 23**—**Taco Tuesday** with Gateway VCOA, at Volvo Cars St. Louis, 7700 Manchester Rd, 5-7 PM. Join us for tacos and margaritas and meet new service manager Mike Crowell.
- 29 Mar 23**—St. Louis BMWCCA **Go-Kart Night**, at Victory Raceway, 8800 Watson Rd, 6:30-8:00 PM.
- 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](mailto:rallycrosschair@stlscca.org)
- 2 Apr 23**—**Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 2**, Family Arena, St. Charles. Show around 9-9:30, \$50 for six runs. For more information or to get on the email list, contact Racer Steve at [sshab@yahoo.com](mailto:sshab@yahoo.com).
- 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](http://www.gatewayhealey.com).

(Continued on page 2)

Note: Some club events restrict participation to club members only, primarily for national/chapter insurance reasons. If interested in joining in on a drive or other event, we recommend you contact the club's event coordinator in advance for details.

## In Print

February's *Classic & Sports Car* offers a comparison test between a **Jaguar S-Type 3.4** and a Vanden Plas 4 Litre R, the latter built by BMC with a Rolls-Royce-sourced 4-liter six. Several pages follow on the making of a British Leyland commercial featuring Minis; the commercial, filmed in Amsterdam, harkened back to 1969's classic "The Italian Job." At the back of this issue, one-page updates on a 1967 **E-Type 2+2** and **Volvo 240GL** owned by C&SC contributing editors.

If you're a fan of **Austin-Healey Sprites**, particularly early bugeyes/frogeyes, see if you can latch onto February's *Octane*. The

Continued on pg 2



- 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 Munny upper lot, Forest Park. Details and registration information at <http://hccmo.com/easter-concours-delegance-2/>.
- 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/>.
- 23 Apr 23—Date Change:** 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!
- 22 Apr 23—Mid-America Corvette Show**, Columbia, Missouri. Monitor <https://www.boonetraillcc.com/>.
- 25 Apr 23—St Louis BMWCCA Movie Night**, at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, 3700 Forest Park Ave, 6 PM. Monitor <https://stlBMWCCA.org> for details.
- 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 2023 Missouri Endurance Rally/"North to Alaska."** Arrive at the McDonald's in Alton, 717 E Broadway, at 6:30 AM. Driver's meeting at 7:00 AM, mileage check at 7:30 AM and first car out around 8 AM. Open to all British cars manufactured on or before 1981, no smart phones, GPS or other electronic navigation devices allowed. \$10 per car, register/pay at <https://www.stlouismgclub.com/buy-stuff>, for more info contact Rally Master Tom Hurlbert at [rally-bastard@stlouismgclub.com](mailto:rally-bastard@stlouismgclub.com).
- 29 Apr 23—Go West Tour**, Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis. Details TBA, monitor [www.jagstl.com](http://www.jagstl.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.boonetraillcc.com/>.
- 6-7 May 23—MG Club of St Louis Fling in the Spring**, rally to Peoria to enjoy the Wheels O'Time and Caterpillar Museums, meet at 9 AM. 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 re-enactors and VA health care and benefits tables. At the Jefferson Barracks VA Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive (exit onto Koch Rd), 9 AM-3 PM. For info or to register your car, email [vastlevents@va.gov](mailto:vastlevents@va.gov).
- 20 May 23—Salute to the Troops Corvette Show**, presented by the Route 66 Corvette Club at Poage Chevrolet, 851 W Pearce Blvd, Wentzville. All proceeds benefit USO Missouri. Call up [www.route66corvetteclub.com](http://www.route66corvetteclub.com) for details and registration.
- 21 May 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Labadie Dine-Out**. Details to follow, monitor <https://www.boonetraillcc.com/>.
- 27 May 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.
- 25 May 23—MG Club of St Louis RUBCO**, Golden Oak Pancake House, 7289 Watson Rd, 9:30-11:00 AM.
- 3 Jun 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Motorheads Illinois Road Trip**. Details to follow, monitor
- St Louis Car Shows and Cruises:** [www.stlouiscoachmen.com/car-shows-special-events](http://www.stlouiscoachmen.com/car-shows-special-events)

*In Print (Continued from page 1)*

magazine as an extended article on an early works racing car that was heavily modified for competition in the Targa Florio. From the back, it's still recognizable as a bug-eye, but from the front it looks like a very expensive sports racer. March's edition of *Oc-tane* features McLaren Racing's Zak Brown doing a few laps at Laguna Seca (officially, WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca) in his 1989 **Jaguar XJR-10**. Farther along, a multi-page look at a truly unique, one-off glass-roof BMW **635CSi** along with an article on a restored **Jaguar XK120** which served as one of the company's racing cars during 1953. At the back, a current market assessment of the **Volvo 480** ("This rare Swede not only looks great but is also a surprising bargain").

Finally, *April's Car & Driver* provides brief reviews of the 2023 BMW M4 CSL and 2023 BMW M3 Competition X Drive. And, for those who really appreciate something off the wall, at the very back, a review of the late 1980s Yugo ("The average C/D reader will regard the Yugo not as a real car, but at best, as a carlike curiosity"). As a reminder, a Yugo made it to last year's European Auto Show as part of the Warsaw Pact Collection, which also included a Polski Fiat and a Trabant.



Ever see a Wedge station wagon (or, in the King's English, an "estate" or "shooting brake")? Probably not, because there's only one. *Classic & Sports Car* featured the truly unique Triumph in the September issue.

Crayford, a noted coachworks established in Westerham, Kent, in 1962 by David McMullan and Jeffrey Smith, fabricated the car over 1976-1977. Triumph dealer Page Motors Ltd of Epsom, Surrey, commissioned the project with the intent of offering a limited number of cars to the public. Crayford held a pretty strong reputation for a wide number of vehicle conversions, starting with a convertible Mini and continuing with convertible and hatchback mods to other BMC cars, Fords, VWs, Mercedes and Audis.

The single wagon conversion, named the Crayford TR7 Tracer, featured a rear hatch and a back seat of sorts, making the TR7 a 2+2. However, the styling apparently didn't light any fires among the British auto-buying public. According to ARAOnline's Declan Berridge, the mod resulted in a "...rather awkward-looking sporting estate...Despite several motor show appearances and appearances in various car magazines and annual guides, it never got off the ground, perhaps a victim of its own unhappy styling."



The TR7 Trader (photos via ARAOnline)



As Berridge indicated, it drew interest but no orders from the public or other Triumph dealers. Adding to the situation, per C&SC, "...the building turned out to be rather complicated, which would not have made it competitively priced in its sector."

Apparently only a few prototypes were built, with one surviving, the car featured in *Classic & Sports Car*. Chris Turner, a collector of TR7s and TR8s, located the prototype; as he stated in the magazine,

It was owned by a fellow Triumph enthusiast, from whom I'd bought a rare Triumph TR7 Sprint. I saw the Tracer estate when I collected the Sprint and asked if it was for sale. It wasn't, but he promised that he would ring me if he ever decided to part with it. Then, just before Christmas 2021, he did so, when he needed more space to complete the restoration of an early Triumph TR7. I felt as if I had won the lottery!



The car was "discovered" in storage (photo via *Classic & Sports Car*)

The car's intact but in very poor shape and will require a lot of work, including a return to its original yellow color. Once completed, it should prove very popular at British Triumph and other LBC events and shows.

Now, let's say you find the concept appealing but might prefer a somewhat more upscale wedge-shaped estate? Well, there are a couple of them out there.

Rapport International, another specialist in conversions founded in 1977 by Ian Leif, came up with a sports/GT based on the Jaguar XJ12 saloon with 5.3L V12. Chris Humberstone designed the car; the result was a four-seater that was fast, luxurious and available either as a coupe or an estate. From the front the car looked somewhat like a larger TR7/8 while the back end vaguely resembled a Lancia.



The Forté debuts at Brands Hatch. Mark Hatcher, son of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, did the honors (photo via ARAOnline)

Named the Forté, the coupes incorporated a folding aluminum and steel roof, similar to the late 195s Ford Skyliner and more recent offerings by BMW and Volvo, among others. The interiors featured Connolly leather and lambswool carpeting, air conditioning, electric windows, cruise control and, of

(Continued on page 4)



course, a top-of-the-line stereo. Besides the V12, buyers could order 3.4L or 4.2L straight sixes, along with turbocharging.

The Forté debuted at the 1980 British Grand Prix at Brands Hatch and, like the TR7 Tracer, drew a good amount of attention but not much in the way of orders. Only a few made it out of the factory before Rapport went into receivership in 1982. Alexander Patrick of the Patrick Motor Group, Birmingham, received three partly-assembled Fortés and, through arrangement with coachbuilder Ladbroke Avon of Warwick, had a single estate fabricated. It was completed in 1983.



Forté Estate (photo via AROnline)

Apparently the finished car had a nasty tendency to overheat, so it didn't actually go on the road much. In 2009 collector Georg Donnt acquired the estate with only 600 miles on the odometer, fixed the overheating issue and started putting the vehicle in shows. Notably, in 2019 he also acquired the prototype Forte DHC, presumably destroyed following Rapport's collapse. The car is now in restoration.

So there you have it, two options in the serious wedge estate market, high end and low end, neither of which panned out. As jarring as the TR7s were to the LBC traditionalists upon their mid-70s debut, an estate version of Triumph's Wedge, if offered alongside a production version of the 2+2 Lynx fastback, might've put the Triumph brand in a better position to battle other modern sports and GT cars like Datsun's Zs.

Ah well, opportunities lost.



The surviving Lynx prototype (photo via MotorCar.net)

**Sources:** "One-Off Wagon to Roll Again," *Classic & Sports Cars*, September 2022; Declan Berridge, "The converters: Crayford Engineering TR7 Tracer," *AROnline*, 16 February 2019; "Triumph TR7: Triumph and Crayford," Crayford Convertible Club, n.d.; Keith Adams, "The Converters: Crayford Engineering," *AROnline*, 23 July 2018; Keith Adams, "The specialists: Rapport Forté," *AROnline*, 6 June 2022;

## Featured Events

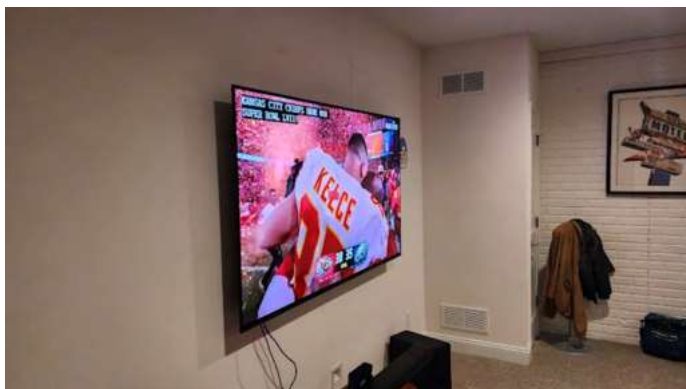
### Super Bowl Party

Boone Trail Corvette Club, 12 Feb 23



## Kansas Chiefs xx, Philadelphia Eagles xx

Photos courtesy of  
Boone Trail Corvette Club





**Polar Bear Run**  
St Louis Triumph Owners Association —19 Feb 23



Photo by Doug Morrell, GVCOA





21 Feb 23



MG Club of St Louis RUBCO

23 Feb 23



All photos this page by Andy Ackerman



**Gateway Relay** is published monthly for the member clubs of the St Louis Sports Car Council ([www.stlsc.org](http://www.stlsc.org)), copyright 2022, all rights reserved. Photos used in this newsletter and the StLSCC web site are the property of their respective clubs. Send electronic articles, photographs, queries and information of interest for the affiliated clubs to the StLSCC Coordinator/Chief Flack/Editor, Mark Morgan, at [stlscce@gmail.com](mailto:stlscce@gmail.com).

