



Gateway Relay

Vol XI, No. 7

St Louis Sports Car Council

September 2023

Council News & Notes

- As we all know, stuff happens, including circumstances—expected or otherwise—that force rescheduling of an event. We have two major events rescheduled, with details to the right. First one is the St Louis Car Museum & Sales Show & Open House, rained out on its original date and now scheduled for 9 September. Second is All British Car & Cycle Show, hosted by the MG Club of St Louis, which traditionally takes place on the third Saturday of September, will happen this year on the *fourth* Saturday, 30 September.
- Otherwise, three more weeks and we'll be out of summer and officially into fall. There are still plenty of activities scheduled over the next two months before things start slowing down in November, running up to the club holiday parties, so as necessary, grab a jacket and gloves and take advantage of the club drives (the fall colors drives are typically spectacular), shows, cruises and competitive events.
- AND, as always, if you or one of your fellow club members gets photos of said events, feel free to send them in for publication.
- Drive 'em!

Up & Coming

- 9 Sept 23—RESCHEDULED 5th Annual St Louis Car Museum & Sales Show and Open House**, 1575 Woodson Rd, 10 AM. Free admission day of show, donations of canned goods and other non-perishable foods for the St Louis Area **Food** Bank gratefully accepted.
- 9 Sept 23—Cars & Coffee/Fast Lane Classic Cars**, 427 Little Hills Industrial Blvd, St Charles, 8-10 AM.
- 9-10 Sept 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club overnight trip to Casey**, Illinois. Monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 10 Sept 23—26th Annual Walter F. Phillips Memorial Old Cars Against Cancer Wheels in Motion Day**, Westport Plaza, registration \$20 per car, first 150 received a dash plaque. All proceeds benefit the National Children's Cancer Society. Prize raffle, sno-cones, BBQ and drinks, live entertainment. For info call Elliott (314)878-0534 or Al (314)650-7639.
- 14-16 Sept 23—Mid-America Corvette Funfest**, at Mid America Motorworks/My Garage Museum, 2900 N Third St, Effingham, Illinois. Vendors, thousands of vehicles on display, live music and more. Call up www.corvettefunfest.com for more info and updates.
- 16 Sept 23—Annual Gateway VCOA Mid-Missouri Meet-Up**, with the Kansas City club. Meet at 9:45 AM at the I-70 westbound rest area just past Wright City/Exit 109, cars depart at 10 AM for Casey's General Store in Boonville (Exit 103) and a join-up with the Kansas City Volvos. From there, the group will drive to Arrow Rock via Glasgow for lunch at the J Huston Tavern, the oldest restaurant in continuous operation west of the Mississippi. If you plan to participate, please RSVP to Doug Morrell at gateway.vcoa.chapter@gmail.com so he can give the restaurant a head count.
- 16 Sept 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Picnic**, details TBA, monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 16 Sept 23—Gateway Miata Club Picnic** at the Millstadt Flight Park, 4 SW Millstadt at 5941 Bohlesville Rd. The club will provide fried chicken, members should bring drinks and a side or desert to share with others. Monitor <https://gatewaymiata.club>.
- 16 Sept 23—Annual Randi Gori Memorial Kicks on 66 Ultra Car Show and Cruise**. New location: Schon Park, Glen Carbon, 11 AM-2 PM. Gates open for

(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

Plenty of articles and info to feature this month, starting with the August edition of *Classic & Sports Cars*, which features a review of the Jon Presnell's book *Kim: A Biography of MG Founder Cecil Kimber* (Deerfield, IL: Dalton Watson Fine Books, 536 pgs, 2023) and, for you collectors, the story of Matchbox (who as a car collector/enthusiast has never owned a Matchbox car?). Elsewhere, an article on coachbuilder Harrington which, among other designs, produced the fastback Triumph GTR4 Dove. The editors follow up with a write-up on the BMW 2002 Turbo. August's *Octane* in-



Continued on pg 2

show entrants at 7:30 AM, event opens to the public at 11 AM. See www.kickson66.org/ for details and to register or call up Facebook at www.facebook.com/edwkickson66/.

16 Sept 23—Cars & Coffee/Amp Up, 13901 Manchester (Home Depot/Fresh Thyme shopping center), 8-11 AM.

17 Sept 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 6, 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/>.

17 Sept 23—Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri Swap Meet & Car show, Chesterfield Mall, details to follow.

22-24 Sept 23—Hagerty SpeedTour Weekend, World Wide Technology Raceway, Madison, Illinois. Car show open to all classic, vintage, exotic and collectible cars and vintage motorcycles. Car clubs are welcome. \$75 registration includes two weekend passes to the vintage races, touring on the track in your car, VIP parking and full access to the race car paddock. Details including online registration at: <https://speedtour.net/st/?lib=product&pid=674&cat=11&fbclid=IwAR2VcXpLjD4s53weU27dR3sq2xTOGkuthooqoB7feHAOKgPnhaR-0MzYnJk>

23 Sept 23—Gateway Miata Club First Day of Fall at Ted Drewes, 5 PM.

23 Sept 23—St Louis Chapter BMWCCA Tire Rack Street Survival 2023, 7 AM-3:30 PM. At Element Church, 100 Mall Parkway, Unit 500, Wentzville. Joint venture with St Louis Region SCCA and St Louis Porsche Club of America where we teach advanced driving skills to new teen drivers. Volunteers needed, please sign up at <https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/coach-registration-street-survival-school-element-church-bmw-cca-st-louis-635488>

24 Sept 23—Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 7, 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.

24 Sept 23—36th Annual Oktoberfest Antique Car Show, Main Street, St Charles. Hosted by the First Capitol Classics Auto Club, 9 AM to 4:30 PM, rain or shine. \$20 entry fee, registration 9 AM to 12 noon; no modifieds, street rods or customs, stocks only 1998 and older. Dash plaques for the first 150 cars. Info at <https://firstcapitolclassics.wixsite.com/autoclub>.

24 Sept 23—Annual Jim Butler All-Chevy Show, Jim Butler Chevrolet, 759 Gravois Bluffs Blvd, 9 AM-3 PM. Registration 9-noon, judged \$25, show \$15, awards presentation at 2:30 PM. Dash plaques to the first 100 entries.

28 Sept 23—MG Club of St Louis RUBCO, Rooster, 3150 S Grand Blvd, 9:30-11 AM

29 Sept 23—DATE CHANGE Annual Pre-ABCCS Picnic/BBQ, at Creve Coeur Lake Park. Details to follow.

30 Sept 23—DATE CHANGE 32nd Annual St Louis All British Car & Cycle Show, sponsored by the St Louis MG Club at the Heldman Shelter, Creve Coeur Lake Park. 9 AM to 3 PM, this year's featured marques are Rolls-Royce and Bentley. Details including registration at <https://allbritishcarshow.com>.

30 Sept 23—Gateway Miata Club Moonlight Ramble, in honor of the first landing on the moon in July 1969. Through St Charles area including two ferry crossings, 7:30 PM to midnight, monitor <https://gatewaymiata.club>.

30 Sept 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.

Oct 23—Annual St Louis Triumph Owners Association Fall Colours Drive. Starts at the McDonalds in Alton off the end of the Clark Bridge, more to follow.

1 Oct 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 7, 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/>.

7 Oct 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Corvette/GM Charity Show, Calvary Church, 3998 Mid Rivers Mall Dr. Registration 8-10 AM, judging 10 AM-noon, 50/50 drawing, basket raffles. Entry fee \$25, all proceeds benefit the TREE House of Greater St Louis. Pre-registration deadline 25 September. Info/flyer available at www.boonetrailcc.com/charity_show.pdf.

7 Oct 23—Last Cars & Coffee West/SunRise Church of the season, 7116 Twin Chimneys Blvd, O'Fallon, Missouri, 8-10 AM.

7 Oct 23—Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 8, 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 ssha@yahoo.com.

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

cludes an article on the Goldie Gardner 1946 MG TC, followed by a story on Gardiner's roll in the development of several record-breaking MGs.

Road & Track's still in publication and the August/September issue continues the magazine's current emphasis on theme issues, in this case, highlighting contemporary collectables. One of the highlighted vehicles: the "sport-sedan icon" E-39 BMW M5, which is tested against a Cadillac CTS-V Blackwing. Over at September's *Car & Driver*, an article which may help you decide on jumping into the EV market. It features a comparison test between the 2023 BMW 760i xDrive with twin-turbo V8 and the all electric 2023 BMW i7 xDrive60.

Finally, September's *Thoroughbred & Classic Cars* focuses on the Le Mans-winning 1988 Jaguar XJR-9, including a test drive. A buyer's guide to the Triumph Spitfire follows.

In 1952, a still rebuilding BMW introduced its first new design post-WWII car, the 501. Designed by Peter Szymanowski, the car's flowing lines gained it the nickname *Barockengel* or "Baroque Angel." It was solid, well built, roomy and comfortable, but the vehicle had a couple of strikes against it. One, the selling price was close to DM15,000 (about \$3571). Two, the car was heavy at 3100 lbs; the 2-liter, 64 hp straight six engine could not move the BMW 502 (photos via Barn Finds) 501 in anything more than a sedate, stately fashion.



BMW 502 (photos via Barn Finds)

BMW 502s ran the XIV Mille Miglia. Arthur Heuberger of Switzerland, driving solo (ie, sans navigator), placed 28th and first in class; Walter Löffler and Carsten Johansson placed 46th. A total of 310 cars started the race, 172 finished. The following September, Paul Metternich and Wittigo Einsiedel entered another 2.6L 502 in the VI Tour de France. There's no record of them finishing the event.

The solution? Stuff a V8 in the front end. The resulting model, with increased trim, standard fog lights and a more luxurious interior, debuted at the 1954 International Auto Show in Geneva, Switzerland, as the BMW 502. BMW offered the new car as a sedan, coupe and drop-top cabriolet; it served as a direct competitor to Mercedes-Benz.



The engine was the key. The 2.6L aluminum alloy V8 with cast iron cylinder liners and single two-barrel Solex carburetor constituted the first production of a V8 by any German manufacturer post-war. It was also the first alloy V8 offered by any manufacturer. Producing 100 bhp, it propelled the 502 to a top speed of 99 mph, making the 502 Germany's fastest production car. In 1955, BMW unveiled a new, 120 hp 3.2L V8, capable of 105 mph. The same engine went into the BMW 507 sports car and the 503 grand touring car.

Unfortunately, like the predecessor 501, early sales suffered due to the high cost of the car. At DM 17,000/\$4047, the 502 was one of the more expensive vehicles on sale in Europe. Still, BMW continued to produce the vehicles with periodic upgrades.

In 1957, the company introduced the 160 bhp 3.2L "Super" with twin-Zenith carbs – good for 118 mph – and front disc brakes. Within three years the discs became standard across all 502 models. Over 1961-1962, the model designations shifted to 2600L, 3200L and 3200S, with an optional four-speed floor shifter replacing the original "four-on-the-tree."

Competition use? Limited, which is probably no surprise for a large, heavy luxury sedan or coupe. On 12 May 1957, two



The cars went out of production in 1963, with approximately 22,000 502s/2600s/3200s sold. BMW, financially ailing, replaced the big vehicles with the 700 series of small vehicles, in and around continued production of the really small *Isettas*. At the 2015 Amelia Island RM Sotheby's auction, a particularly rare – only 57 built – Baur cabriolet sold for \$341,000.

While the 502 never really challenged the offerings of Mercedes-Benz, the cars are still remembered fondly. As one automotive writer put it, they served as "the main breed of

(Continued on page 4)



One of the rare cabriolets (photo via ConceptCarz)

BMW vehicles that ruled the road from 1951 until 1964...Maybe not the most glamorous of models, these heavy and efficient machines were sturdy and efficient for middle class buyers."

Sources: Jessica Donaldson, "1956 BMW 502," *ConceptCarz*, n.d.; "1955 BMW 502 'Barockengel,'" *Supercars.net*, n.d.; "1955 BMW 502," *Classic Driver*, n.d.; Jay Ramey, "Rare BMW 502 V8 Sedan Emerges From Slumber and Heads to Auction," *Autoweek*, 2 September 2016; "BMW 502 and 3.2," *Motor Car.net*, n.d.; Michelle Rand, "BMW's First Post-War V8: 1960 BMW 502," *Barn Finds*, 14 January 2023; "BMW 502 Limousine/Saloon Models (1954-1963)," *My Auto World*, n.d.; *Racing Sports Cars*.

Seen!

Hey there! Are you looking at pushing the boundaries of collectible cardom and are in search of an affordable Italian vehicle? Well stand up and cheer, because one of our field correspondents turned up this Maserati Biturbo. Yeah, it would appear it needs a little work and yeah, the "executive grand tourers," following their introduction in 1981 proved a tad...shall we say, "finicky." But, if you can find a good one, you probably won't have to spend a lot of money in acquisition (maintenance and repairs might be another issue). A less-than-good-one? Even more affordable!

Be advised this Biturbo was spotted in the "bomb depot" (the used car lot) at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Obviously, transportation will be required; we don't know if it comes with the trailer.



No, not a Maserati (obviously!) but we thought we'd run this outstanding, soothing photo of a Volvo on San Francisco Bay, courtesy of Doug Morrell with Gateway VCOA.



Featured Events

British Invasion of Silky's MG Club of St Louis—16 Jul 23



Photos by Andrew Ackerman



Featured Events continued

BSCC Autocross 4

23 Jul 23



Pre-Dawn Drive

MG Club of St Louis—6 Aug 23

Photos by Andrew Ackerman





Featured Events continued

Cars & Coffee—Amp Up


19 Aug 23



St Louis Car Museum Show

26 Aug 23 (Rescheduled!)





Gateway Relay is published monthly for the member clubs of the St Louis Sports Car Council (www.stlsc.org), copyright 2023, 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.

