



Gateway Relay

Vol XI, No. 12

St Louis Sports Car Council

March 2024

Council News & Notes

- Spring is apparently here (fingers crossed) and with it the calendar's filling up pretty quickly. Over the last month the Triumph and Jaguar clubs held their first drives of the year and, as noted at right, the MGs are heading out over this coming weekend. Looking further down the calendar, shows are cropping up and auto-cross season is set to start within the month.
- This year marks the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the St Louis Sports Car Council. The first issue of the *Relay* debuted in September 2011; a rather thin edition (two pages), it provided the basics, ie, a calendar and a photo summary of an event. Over subsequent years we added the monthly feature (April 2013, an article on Mini variations), a couple of clubs have dropped out and other clubs have joined.
- The intent remains the same: enhance local driving fun and opportunities through communication between multiple clubs. We will continue to cover as many events as possible.

Up & Coming

- 16 Mar 24**—MG Club of St Louis **Annual Terry Fanning Rally**. Meet at the Wildwood Dierbergs at Manchester/MO 100 and Taylor Rd at 9:30 AM. Cars roll at 10 AM for a spirited 50-mile round-trip through far west county. Afterwards, enjoy a late breakfast or lunch at the Sunny Street Café or St Louis Bread Co, located at the end point.
- 16 Mar 24** —Gateway Miata Club **St Patrick's Day Breakfast**. Monitor <https://gatewaymiataclub.clubexpress.com>.
- 17 Mar 24**—Boone Trail Corvette Club drive to **Diamond Mineral Springs**. Meet at Mattingly's on Truman Blvd, St Peters, at 10:30 AM, depart at 10:45 with lunch at 12 noon (cash only). For info or to sign up, contact Debbie Doak at (636)373-4850.
- 20 Mar 24**—MG Club of St Louis **Tech Session**, 6-8 PM, everything you want to know about brakes at Brooklands Restorations LLC, 9532 Lackland Rd, Overland.
- 28 Mar 24**—MG Club of St Louis **RUBCO**, at Silver Pancake House, 9983 Manchester Rd, Warson Woods, 9:30-11 AM.
- 30 Mar 24**—St Louis Region SCCA **Autocross/Solo II Novice School**, at Family Arena. For info or to register, call up <https://solo.stlscga.org/schedule/>.
- 31 Mar 24**—**XIV MG-Triumph Challenge for the British Leyland Cup**, in association with the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri annual **Easter Concours**, Forest Park.
- 7 Apr 24**—St Louis Region SCCA **Autocross/Solo II Event 1**, at 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.stlscga.org/>.
- 8 Apr 24**—Gateway Miata Club **Eclipse Run**, see <https://gatewaymiataclub.clubexpress.com>.
- 8 Apr 24**—MG Club of St Louis **Eclipse Drive to Ste Genevieve**, 10 AM. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/events-calendar/>.

(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

The February/March edition of *Vintage Motorsports* presents "15 Indispensable Sports Car Books." The list includes Paul Skilleter's **Jaguar – The Sporting Heritage**, and David Kimble's **Corvette Racing: The Complete Competition History from Sebring to Le Mans**.

The February issue of *Classic & Sports Car* includes a "best of the best" comparison test of notable cars by decade. The 2000s section pits the **Jaguar I-Pace** against the Toyota Prius and Fiat Panda



Stag
A new kind of Triumph.



For years, Triumph has been making fine sports cars for people who love cars. Now Triumph introduces a sports car which loves its return.

To all the things that make a true sports car good to drive, the Stag adds all the things that make a car good to ride in. Stag adds power to Triumph's rack and pinion steering and front disc brakes. It combines more room and comfort with Triumph's road hugging, independent suspension.

The engine is a big, smooth V-8, making the Stag the fastest car in the line. There's true 2 plus 2 seating, electric windows and a solid, padded roll bar even when the top is down.

Big, wide doors make it easy to get in and out, controls are in easy reach of your fingertips, and both the reclining bucket seats and the padded steering wheel are fully adjustable.

The Stag is a new kind of Triumph, a powerful over-the-road car built by the biggest maker of sports cars in the world.

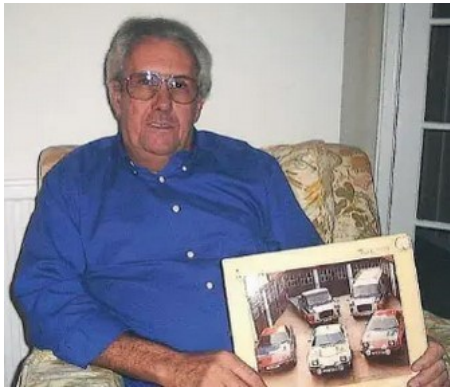
Base price is \$5325 including chrome wire wheels and radial ply tires.

Options include a detachable hard top with a heated rear window, automatic transmission, air conditioning, and the pleasure of test driving the Stag at your nearest Triumph dealer.

Stag

- 13 Apr 24**—Boone Trail Corvette Club **drive to Glasgow** for lunch. Meet at the I-70 Wright City rest stop (milepost 199) at 10:30 AM, back roads drive to lunch at Beckett's Restaurant, 510 1st St, Glasgow at 1 PM. Limited to the first 40, please contact Melissa Dean at melissa428@charter.net or (314)605-7165.
- 13 Apr 24**—**Park Plaza Motel Neon Sign Relighting**, at the Holiday Inn SW, 10709 Watson Rd, 8 PM, sponsored by the Route 66 Association of Missouri. Rooms available at the Holiday Inn, RSVP to Ava Smith, (573) 733-6686,
- 14 Apr 24**—**Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 1**, 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.
- 14 Apr 24**—**Farmington Rallye**, hosted by JAGSL. Spring dust-off rallye, taking back roads towards the beautiful Hermann wine country. Meet at 9:30 AM at the QuikTrip, 1617 Gravois Rd in High Ridge, lunch at the Herman Wurst Haus. After lunch, feel free to stroll through town or visit the Hermannhof Winery, the Hermann Wine Trail or the historic Stone Hill Winery. Please RSVP by 1 April to event organizer Nathaniel Leonard at (314)685-5951.
- 14 Apr 24**—MG Club of St Louis Annual **Pinewood Derby**, at Bar K dog park, 4565 McRee Ave, St Louis (Forest Park southeast), 2-4 PM. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com>.
- 20 Apr 24**—MG Club of St Louis **Founders Day Picnic/Cecil Kimber's Birthday**. At Babler State Park campground, 18301 Rieger Rd, Wildwood, 11 AM-1 PM. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com>.
- 20 Apr 24**—**Cars & Coffee/Amp Up**, 13901 Manchester Rd, 8-11 AM.
- 21 Apr 24**—St Louis Region SCCA **Autocross/Solo II Event 2**, at 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.stlscga.org/>. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For info or to register, call up <https://solo.stlscga.org/schedule/>.
- 27 Apr 24**—**Wings and Wheels Fly-In and Cruise-In**, presented by SaltRiver Automotive, Smartt Field, 6390 Grafton Ferry Road, Portage des Sioux. 7 AM-2 PM, spectator admission is free, rain date is 4 May. Vehicles and planes arrive at y7 AM, awards at 1 PM. Pre-registration is free with purchase of a t-shirt, \$10 day of the event. Proceeds go to Unlimited Play, register at <https://wingsandwheels.givesmart.com>.
- 27 Apr 24**—**Lake of the Ozarks Car Club Car Show** at Margaritaville Lake Resort, 494 Tan Tar a Dr, Osage Beach. Boone Trail Corvette Club participating, monitor <https://boonetraillcc.com>.
- 3-5 May 24**—**All Swedes Spring Fling in Eureka Springs**. Hosted by the Tulsa Chapter of the Volvo Club of America, join us for a cruise through the Ozarks in the springtime! SWEDISH only event, bring your Volvos, Saabs, Polestars, even Koenigseggs if you've got 'em, but your buddy with the Fiesta ST will have to stay home or ride along. Limited to the first 50 cars, RSVP at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1132677368091284/>; if not on Facebook, contact Joseph Wallis at gcvolvos@volvo.com.
- 3-5 May 24**—St Louis Region SCCA **CAM/Extreme Challenge/Solo II Event 3**, at 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.stlscga.org/>. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For info or to register, call up <https://solo.stlscga.org/schedule/>.
- 4 May 2024**—MG Club of St Louis annual **Missouri Endurance Rally**. Details to follow, monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/events-calendar/>.
- 10-11 May 2024**—**WWTR Speedtour**, at World Wide Technology Raceway, Madison, Illinois, hosted by Sportscar Vintage Racing Association. Info at <https://svra.com/events/2024-wwtr-speedtour/>.
- 11 May 2024**—Boone Trail Corvette Club **Lou Fusz Display**, Lou Fusz Chevrolet, 5120 N Service Rd, St Peters (rain date 18 May). Monitor <https://boonetraillcc.com>.
- 17-19 May 24**—Heartland Vintage Racing/NASA MidAmerica inaugural **race/vintage weekend** at Hedge Hollow Raceway, Adrian, Missouri (~one hour southeast of Kansas City). First vintage event at this brand new track, info at <https://members.drivenasa.com/events/4519> and <https://www.hearlandvintageracing.com/event-info/>.
- 18 May 24**—**Cars & Coffee/Amp Up**, 13901 Manchester Rd, 8-11 AM.
- 18 May 24**—**Car-ing For Veterans Car Show**, at World Wide Technology Raceway, noon to 9 PM. Proceeds benefit Fisher House of St Louis, info and registration at <https://forms.donorsnap.com/form?id=4F625A57-74C4-4905-AC82-57C1D2803551>.
- 19 May 24**—**Spirit of the Midwest Rides For Guides Car Show**, IAM District Lodge 837, 212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood. Registration (\$25 show, \$15 display) 8 AM-12 Noon, Show 10 AM with judging at 12 noon. All proceeds benefit Guide Dogs of America and Tender Loving Canines. Registration available at www.spiritofthemidwest.org.

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With the sad passing of Del Lines, who created Triumph Stag estate and saloon cars that arguably BL should have built, I would like to pay tribute.

With his brother he ran Atlantic Garage and noticed Triumph 200/2500s were being rallied with some success so in 1970 he bought a 2.5 PI which he modified substantially. He was also getting fine reputation for being able to sort Lucas fuel injection which the Triumph main agents seem unable to do. Customers were soon bringing cars to him instead of the Triumph dealerships – a process Del called “de-agenting!”

Around this time he removed the tired engine from his trusty 2000 Mk1 Estate tow car and noticed the chassis legs were identical to the Stag one – the idea of a Stage-engined 2000 was born.

He later built up a PI bodyshell with an engine tested by Richard Longman. It was road tested in 1973 by *Motor*, which gave it an outstanding report. The sporting estate market was in its infancy so Del started ordering new ‘shells from BL and fitting Longman or Downton-built engines, selling them for £3000 when a new PI cost £2502. BL noticed and requested that he not use Stag and V8 badges. He continued anyway until BL stopped selling him ‘shells, at which point he started converting customers’ cars.

Del turned his attention to the new TR78 and in business partnership with Ian Giles, commenced rallying one with a Sprint engine, winning the Dukeries Rally team prize first time out! He went on to develop the TR8 and in the early Nineties rallied ex-works Rover 3500 SD1s.

He will be forever remembered as a great character.

Mike Menhenitt

Triumph 2000/2500/2.5 Register

Thoroughbred & Classic Cars, January 2024

Whoa, waitaminit...a Triumph Stag estate (station wagon) and saloon (sedan)? Never heard of those particular variants of the star-crossed Triumph grand tourer? Well, amazingly enough – and as Mr Menhenitt’s letter indicates above – they do exist.

Ian “Del” Lines had quite a career as a rallyist, automotive engineer and fabricator. Born in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, he got interested in cars at an early age. Over the years he rallied a varied assortment of vehicles, while also repairing/modifying/upgrading Triumphs via his company, Atlantic Garage, in Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.



Stag Estate (photo via Retro Wheels)

At some point during his work on Triumph 2000/2500/2.5s, Lines determined the mounting points for the front clips matched those of the Stag. Hmm... add the 3-liter Stag V8, swap out the front end and you have a Stag estate.

Utilizing 2000 estates provided by Triumph, Lines and his crew grafted on the sports/GT’s front end plus the V8 engine, widened the rear flairs to handle wider wheels, added an electric sunroof installed by Bristol coachworks and upgraded the brakes. He built a total of 25 before Triumph cut off his access to the 2000 donor bodies but reportedly Lines followed up by modifying customer cars to Stag estate standard.



This one needs a little work...(photo via *Bring A Trailer*)

Del’s Atlantic Motors subsequently modified TR7s into TR8s, including eight rally cars. In the early 1990s he returned to rallying himself, driving former works Rover 3500 SD1s. He then retired to Spain but moved back to England late in his life. Lines died from Alzheimer’s on 24 September 2023; as stated above by Mike Menhenitt, “he’ll be forever remembered as a great character, well known in rallying circles and the man who built the car BL should arguably have built.”

(Continued on page 4)



There are four known survivors: three estates and one saloon. In 2009, Alan Chatterton located and purchased one of the surviving estates from an owner in Switzerland (in mid-winter!) and had it fully restored. Once stripped down, the restoration crew found major rust and a lot of filler in the body, which they corrected. Chatterton also had bigger brakes installed on the car.

The refurbished Stag estate passed its MOT inspection in May 2015 and made its public debut at the 2000/2500/2.5 Register National Weekend in Ashbourne, Derbyshire in June 2015. You can read about the restoration at <https://www.practicalclassics.co.uk/articles/restoration-projects/resto-hero-triumph-stag-estate/>.



Photos by Jonathan Jacob/*Practical Classics*

Want more? How about a Stag fastback?

During the late 1960s, during the development of the Stag, Triumph sent a body to Michelotti in Turin, Italy for modification. The design studio's craftsman fabricated the fastback top and sent the car back to Triumph for evaluation and consideration. Michelotti followed with a second prototype, while Triumph employees built a third.



The sole surviving Stag fastback (photos via *Silodrome*)



Unfortunately, British Leyland management killed the project in September 1970. A number of reasons have been forwarded concerning the cancelation, including worries about the impact of the fastback on Stag convertible and Jaguar XJS sales. Also, the Stag was already racking up substantial warranty claims. So, regrettably, the car did not go into production; said chief engineer Spen King, quoted in a Hagerty article, "I thought it was a nice, sensible car, much more useful than an ordinary Stag."

The two Michelotti-built cars were scrapped, leaving the single example built by Triumph's Les More. According to an article by Ben Branch, personnel at the Canley plant completed and fitted out the car over time, finishing it in March 1971. One of British Leyland's directors subsequently used it as his personal car.

At some point the car went into storage; it remained there until discovered by Alan Hart in 1985. He had it completely rebuilt and put it on public display at the 1989 NEC (National Exhibition Centre) Classic Motor Show in Birmingham. Bonham's offered the car for auction at the 16 April 2023 Goodwood Member's Meeting; it sold for £53,475 (\$67,593).

The fastback survives and, as stated by Gavin Braithwaite-Smith, writing for Hagerty in advance of the 2023 auction sale, "...represents another missed opportunity for the British car industry."

Sources: Mike Menhenitt, "Stag estate creator remembered," *Thoroughbred & Classic Cars*, January 2024; J. Walshe, "Resto Hero – Triumph Stag Estate," *Practical Classics*, 24 June 2020; "1-of-20 1970 Triumph Stag Estate," *Bring A Trailer*, 22 August 2013; Ben Branch, "The Last Surviving Triumph Stag Fastback Prototype," *Silodrome*, 15 April 2023; Gavin Braithwaite-Smith, "Triumph Stag Fastback expected to set auction record at Goodwood," *Hagerty*, 29 March 2023; "Goodwood Members' Meeting Sale," Bonhams, n.d.

Featured Events

Annual Awards Dinner Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis—13 Jan 24



Photos courtesy of the Jaguar Association of Greater St Louis





Photos courtesy of the MG Club of St Louis

In Print (Continued from page 1)

(yes, you read that right). The editors follow with a comparison between two former British police cars: an **MGA 1600 Mkl** and Daimler SP250, which marked "...a new era of high-speed traffic policing..." Back of the magazine, an article on the reunion of three former Rootes Group **Sunbeam Tiger** rally cars at the 25th Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique.

Octane for February includes material from Steve Saxty's book on **BMW** design and stylist Paul Bracq, focusing on several proposals from the 1970s. You can read more about the book and see additional BMW design proposals in an online *Car & Driver* article ("BMW behind the Scenes' Takes Bimmerphiles Where They've Never Been,' Brett Berk, 28 January 2024). Call up <https://www.caranddriver.com/features/a46538753/bmw-behind-the-scenes-book-review/>. March/April's hard copy *Car & Driver* features the magazine's 17th annual "Lightning Lap" competition, ie, which car is fastest around the track at Virginia International Raceway. The competitors include the **BMW M2**, **BMW M3CS**, **BMW X5 M Competition**, and Chevrolet **Corvette E-Ray**. Elsewhere, a quick review of the 2024 **Jaguar F-Type R75** (Jaguar's last internal combustion engine sports car...at least that's the plan) and if you're into **LBCs** in general, read Elana Scherr's column on pg 28: "Can a car be haunted? A Jensen Interceptor is proving to be demonically difficult. Time to call the exorcist" (and yes, she mentions Lucas).

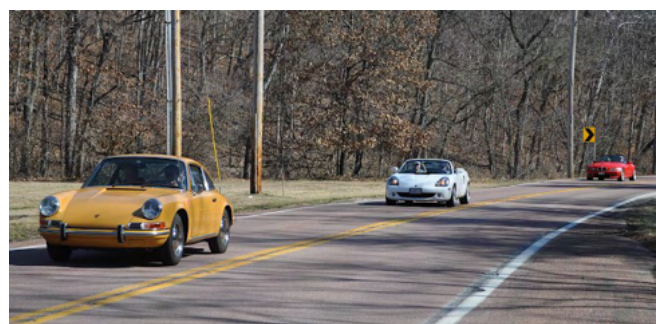
March's *Thoroughbred & Classic Cars* takes a look at three **BMW** turbocharged 5-series-based Alpina "autobahn annihilators": the 1981 E12/Alpina B7 S Turbo, 1984 E28/Alpina B7 Turbo, and the E34/1991 Alpina Bi-Turbo. This issue also incorporates a buyers guide for the **Mazda MX-5 MkII**.



The Bear arrives...



Photo by Doug Morrell





"Discover the wonder down under"

Photos
Courtesy of
JAGSL



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