

InterMarque Monthly

InterMarque Calendar Highlights

Details Inside!

May 18

Dari-Ette Drive-In Lunch &
Photo Rally starting in St.
Paul

May 19

InterMarque Spring Car Show
& Banquet in Minnetonka

May 25

Gourmet Scenic Tour from
Prescott, WI to Alma & back

June 1

Brit Day at New Life to Clas-
sics in Mankato

June 6 - 8

Vintage Sports Car Rendez-
vous in Grand Rapids

June 22 & 23

Wisconsin Road Trip to
Chippewa Falls & Eau Claire

July 18

IM Day at National Triumph
Convention in Red Wing

August 10

Ellingson's Swap Meet & Car
Show in Rogers

InterMarque Tour: L'Cars

"Why are you touring a place like that?" some of my Triumph friends asked. "The only way you could afford to have a car done by L'Cars is if you won the lottery." Since they're right I bought a Powerball ticket before I showed up for the event.

The intermarque tech session at L'Cars was hosted by the Jaguar Club of Minnesota. On the day of the event, Daniel (Jag owner) Buchen and I drove my '87 Jetta over to the Perkins where the Jag contingent was assembling. Daniel's E-Type was — ahem — resting up for this summer's activities but he had already scored a ride to Cameron, Wisconsin in Peter Griffin's E-Type. While I probably could have made the 100+ mile drive in my Jetta, I was hoping for something a bit more interesting.

Luckily, Glen Nickleski offered me a ride in his series 1½ Type E roadster. I jumped at the chance and we were off, a half-dozen Jags and one wrong-side steering Lotus Elan. It was a cool day and Glen's heater was sitting on a shelf in his garage. I never noticed. After all, this was my first ride in an E-Type. I got in and the view over the hood took

my breath away. I can't describe this car's curves and bulges in PG terms so I recommend that you experience it yourself.

My second impression was that this was a grand tourer rather than a sports car. To me a sports car is nervous, always on edge, screaming in pleasure or

pain. The E-type, however, was relaxed and quiet, even with an ill-fitting top. It ate up the miles effortlessly and the engine didn't protest even when Glen buried the tachometer. Did I mention that Glen's car has triple Webers? These were to be looked at later in the day because its idle was a bit rough and it spit on the over-run.

Did it ever accelerate,

however. Glen would put his foot down and it would just take off, with more authority the higher he got into the power band.

Three more Jags joined the caravan after we exited I-35 onto Highway 8. This was good because we lost two Jags and the Lotus when they missed the turn-off. They rejoined us at a McDonald's a little ways down the road. We kept going, through Turtle Lake and in to Cameron. L'Cars is on the northwest corner of downtown and we



The Pride of France

INTERMARQUE CALENDAR

INTERMARQUE SHOWS & EVENTS

- MAY 18** **Dari-Ette Drive-In Lunch & Photo Rally** 11:30 a.m., 1440 East Minnehaha, St. Paul. Italian or American lunch delivered to your car by car-hops. At 12:30 you'll receive a sheet of photos and a list of questions to be answered enroute. The organizer says the purpose of the rally instructions is to keep you on course, not to trick you. End of the rally will be Gabe's by the Park for scores and dinner. Contact Tom Hazen 612-871-6111 tom_hazen@adp.com
- MAY 19** **Inter-Marque Spring Banquet** Car show 1:30 p.m. Banquet 4:00 p.m. Sherlock's Home, Hwy. 62 & Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. Hosted by Inter-Marque Council. Car show, fun, food, friends, and all kinds of cars. Contacts: Car Show, Bob Reed 952-929-7487 or reedtoo@earthlink.net; Banquet reservations, Sherlock's Home 952-931-0203.
- MAY 25** **Gourmet/Scenic Tour** Start at Prescott, WI and then down through Stockholm, Alma, and other WI locations. Hosted by Alfa. If you don't enjoy the food and the roads in this area, you may well need serious help. Contact: Ed Solstad 612-822-0569 or esolstad@presenter.com
- MAY 25- JUNE 2** **6th Annual British Car Week** National event held at the local level. Drive your Brit car so others can see it. Info: users.arczip.com/zntech/britishcarweek.html
- JUNE 1** **Brit Day at New Life to Classics** 1101 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato. 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring your own picnic lunch. Hosted by New Life to Classics and Minnesota Minis. Info: Dave Wintz 507-387-2277 or Jim Baumann baumann@jkdlink.net
- JUNE 6 - 8** **Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous 2002** Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota Austing Healey Club. This is an annual event that rotates from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg to a site in Minnesota. The Grand Rapids lakeside setting is perfect for a vintage event. The country roads are beautiful and challenging. Rendezvous events are renowned for friendliness and hospitality. Contacts: MAHC 218-367-2168 or bealeymog@yahoo.com and Sugar Lake Lodge (1-800-450-4555)
- JUNE 8** **German Car Fest** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Schaar's Bluff Picnic Area, Spring Lake Park Reserve, Hastings, MN
- JUNE 22 & 23** **Wisconsin Road Trip** This is still in the planning stage but the initial thoughts are to gather for breakfast and then drive to Chippewa Falls and then the Leinenkugel Bakery. After that to Eau Claire and a barbeque. Home on Sunday. Info: Ken or Diane Merrill 651-455-5681 alirora31@aol.com
- AUGUST 10** **Ellingson Swap Meet and Car Show** Ellingson's Auto Museum, I-94 and Hwy 101, Rogers, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota MG Group. Sell the part you don't need, buy the part you do. Plus all makes and models in the show. Contact: www.mmgg.org
- AUGUST 24 & 25** **Mille Miglia Tour and Dinner Cruise** Prescott to LaCrosse, WI. Hosted by Alfa Romeo. Details are still being worked out but the hope is that this will include a dinner cruise on the steam-powered paddleboat Julie Belle Swain. Contact: Ed Solstad 612-822-0569 or esolstad@presenter.com
- SEPTEMBER 7** **Wheels & Wings** Osceola, Wisconsin. Hosted by Motorbooks International. We've received word that this is definitely on for 2002. Huzzah!!!!!!
- SEPTEMBER 8** **British Car Festival (Field Day)** Palos Hills, IL. Hosted by the British Car Union. The 2001 event had over 780 British cars present on a rainy day. There are also some events on September 7. Contact: www.qtb.com/bcu/

RECURRING INTERMARQUE EVENTS

Intermarque Rally School, JUNE 16, JULY 14, AUGUST 4 All schools are at 1:30 p.m. at Sherlock's Home, Hwy. 62 & Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. Rallying is a great way to get your classic out on the best sports car roads in the area. The Rally Masters have spent a lifetime learning where all the twisty-turnies are, and you can enjoy them too. You can be competitive if you want (timing your appearance at check points by hundredths of a second) or you can just run the course as a tour (smelling the roses along the way). A few lessons on how to read rally instructions, however, probably wouldn't hurt. Come to class and learn how rallyists decide which breath-taking road to take. The schools are being conducted by some of the premier rallyists in the Twin Cities Area. Contacts: Ed Solstad 612-822-0569 esolstad@presenter.com; Sean Connolly 651-228-9368; Tom Hazen 612-871-6111 tom_hazen@adp.com; Steve Rixen 715-386-2880 steve@rixen.com

British Built Cars Informal car show **every Sunday through October** 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Sherlock's Home, Hwy. 62 & Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. (p.s., Some non-Brit cars attend.) Contact: Sherlock's 952-931-0203

INTERMARQUE RACES & RALLIES

- MAY 16 - 19** **Johnson Controls Vintage GT Challenge** Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Featuring Trans Am and historic IMSA.. Hosted by SVRA, the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association. Saturday, May 18, is the Road America Tailgate Convention. Info: www.svra.com
- MAY 18 - 19** **BIR Vintage Races** Brainerd International Raceway, Brainerd, Minnesota. Hosted by VSCR, Vintage Sports Car Racing. Info: Rich or Liz Stadther 651-698-1981 or stadther@plink.com
- MAY 18** **Dari-Ette Drive-In Lunch & Photo Rally** St. Paul. Hosted by Minnesota Austin Healey Club. Contact: Dan Wolters 651-488-3468 or dan.wolters@goodrich.com
- JUNE 2** **MOWOG II** St. Cloud. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Contact Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com
- JUNE 8** **Chippewa Trail Rally** Menomonie, Wisconsin. Hosted by LOL. Good roads and glitch free instructions. Info: Dave Fuss 763-494-4925
- JUNE 16** **MOWOG III** Midway Stadium. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Contact Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com
- JUNE 23** **Mearns Meander Rally** Sherlock's Home, Hwy. 62 & Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. Hosted by Jaguars of Minnesota. Contact: Peter Griffin 612-922-3917
- JULY 14** **MOWOG IV** Eau Claire or St. Cloud. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Info: Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com
- JULY 18 - 21** **Brian Redman International Challenge** Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI. Hosted by VSCDA, the Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association. Automotive art and vendor fair, Mecum auction, race car parade, race car concours, Sir Jack Brabham autograph session, dancing under the stars, drive your car on the track, racing, and touring. If you've never been, you owe to yourself to attend at least once. Contacts: VSCDA www.vscda.org and Road America 1-800-365-7223 & www.roadamerica.com
- AUGUST 11** **Svenska Klassick Rally** Minnetonka. Info: Dean Nelson 651-636-3771 or dnelson@machine.com
- AUGUST 11** **MOWOG V** Hennepin Tech. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Contact Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com
- SEPTEMBER 15** **Oktoberally** LaCrosse, WI. Hosted by LOL. Contact Mike Thompson 608-788-5018
- SEPTEMBER 20 - 22** **Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival** Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI. Celebrate Austin Healey's 50th Anniversary. Enjoy fall colors and MGs, Triumphs, Elvas, Loti, Bugattis and more. Hosted by VSCDA, the Vintage Sports Driving Association. Contacts: VSCDA www.vscda.org and Road America 1-800-365-7223 & www.roadamerica.com
- SEPTEMBER 29** **MOWOG VI** Midway Stadium. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Contact Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com
- OCTOBER 13** **MOWOG VII** Midway Stadium. Hosted by the Minnesota Autosports Club. Amateur autocross, vintage, modern, and race vehicles. Contact Dwight McCullough 763-754-7111 or www.mnautox.com

MARQUE NATIONALS

- JUNE 20 - 23** **Sunbeam Invasion II** Sunbeam Alpine Owners Club of America, Dayton, Ohio
- JUNE 23 - 28** **Healey International Open Roads 2002** Austin Healey Club of America, Lake Tahoe, California. Over 500 already registered. Info: www.healeyclub.org
- JULY 3 - 6** **North American MGB Register International Convention** Grapevine, Texas. Info:

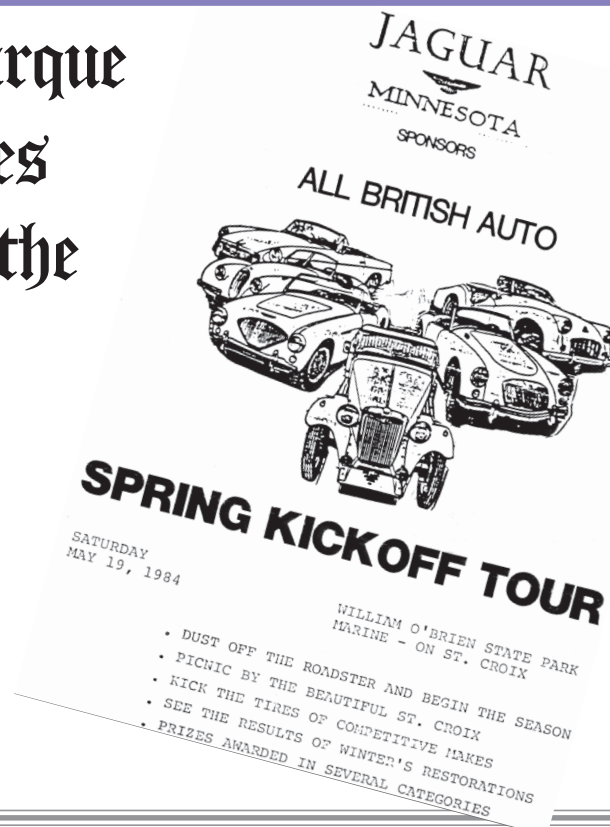
www.mg2002.com

- JULY 4 - 7** **Alfiesta 2002** Alfa Romeo Owners Club USA, Newport Beach, California. Info: www.aroc-usa.org
- JULY 11 - 13** **Gathering of the Faithful - Central** MG T Register. Moline, Illinois
- JULY 16 - 19** **VTR 2002** Vintage Triumph Register. **Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Red Wing, Minnesota.** Hosted by Minnesota Triumphs. Info: Bob Lee 715-425-2580 or www.vtr.org. Intermarque day is July 18.
- JULY 17 - 21** **North America MGA Register Get Together** Charlottesville, Virginia. Info Bruce Woodson CVMGA@aol.com
- JULY 19 - 21** **Fiat Freak Out 2002** Fiat Lancia Unlimited national convention, Niagara Falls, New York. Info: www.flu.org
- AUGUST 9 - 11** **International Citroën Car Club Rally** Amherst, Massachusetts. The first international to be held in the USA. Info: www.icccr.org
- SEPTEMBER 7 - 8** **AMGBA National Meet** Palo Alto, California. Info: www.mgclub.org
- SEPTEMBER 20 - 22** **LOG 22** Lotus Owners Gathering, **Lake Geneva, Wisconsin** Info: www.lotuscarclub.org

REGULAR CLUB EVENTS

- Minnesota Austin-Healey Club** Pie With the President, first Wednesday of the month (except Dec.), 7:00 p.m. Bakers' Square, Highland Village, St. Paul. Info: Dan Wolters 651-488-3468 dan.wolters@goodrich.com or www.mnbealey.com
- Minnesota MG T Register** Friday MG Luncheons, every Friday, 11:15 a.m. Frenchman's, 1400 E. 66th Street, Richfield. Info: Bob Figenskau 952-935-7909 or www.mnmgtr.com
- Minnesota Triumphs** Monthly Meeting, second Thursday of the month (except Nov. & Dec.), 7:00 p.m., Fort Snelling Officers Club. Info: Pat Holt 612-331-5378 or clubs.bemmings.com/mntriumphs/

Inter Marque Activities Through the Years



The 1984
Spring Kick-
off Tour was
the same date as
this year's
InterMarque Car
Show and Ban-
quet, May 19.

continued from page 1

arrived almost dead-on our projected arrival time.

Bob Lorkowski welcomed us to his shop and showed us to a conference room where he provided coffee and cookies. I wondered whether he brought his clients here to hand them their invoices. If so, the emergency medical equipment for fainting and stopped hearts was cleverly concealed. Maybe it was behind the bookshelves filled with volumes on Rolls Royces, Bentleys, Bugattis, pre-war Cadillacs, and other exotics. I scanned the shelves for a title on Spridgets but couldn't find one. C'est la vie.

Although my hopes of having my Sprite classed as an investment grade vehicle were dashed, I did learn some interesting things about the business at this session. For example, Bob employes 12 to 14 craftsman full-time at L'Cars. He said people kept bugging him to do accident repairs so he had to open a separate facility for insurance work. At the collision shop, a well-trained body man can work forty hours and bill sixty to eighty hours, by the insurance company's book. You have to be good to do that and Bob trains all his people in-house. At the restoration shop, that charges the same \$50/hour labor rate, a craftsman (who likely graduated from the collision shop) can work the same forty hours, but here only about thirty hours are billable. If you do the math on these numbers, you'll see that Bob could be grossing \$18,000 to \$35,000 more per week at L'Cars is he did collision rather than restoration. There must be something more to this business than dollars. They we took the tour of the shop and I discovered what it was.

In order, we visited the upholstery shop, the body shop, the paint room, metal fabrication, wood fabrication, and

the engine enclave. Along the way we learned about Bob's restoration philosophy. If you do it yourself, you don't have to worry about things you can't control. Bob trusts his own craftsmen more than he does outside suppliers. Which came first, L'Cars doing almost all of their work internally or the pride L'Cars craftsmen take in the cars they've completed? It's a chicken or the egg question but both are on exhibit in the shop.

What cars were on the shop floor? In no particular order and with apologies for all the cars I've left out, we saw a 1942 Buick Roadmaster getting its gaps



Bob and the purple Rolls

fixed, a 1947 Dodge Power Wagon, a 1930's Bugatti Type 57, a 1936 Packard, a 1931 Cadillac V-16, and a 1954 Jaguar XK120 having fire damage repaired. Then we went to the garage where the completed cars are kept. All of them are dusty because Bob doesn't believe in car covers (that might scratch the paint) or regular washings (that will take a little off the finish). In addition to Bugatti's and a Nazi-era Maybach, there were several Rolls. One is the car that took first place for New Coach Work at Pebble Beach. Maybe you've seen it. Although this V-12 Phantom III is painted a purple that does nothing for

me, it is based on a French aerodynamique design that is one of the most impressive of the classic era.

Bob started the car and drove it out. Inside the engine compartment are two ignition systems, each firing twelve plugs. There are two plugs per cylinder and the engine idles at 400 rpm. When it was judged at Pebble Beach, first the "A" ignition and then the "B" ignition was disconnected. There was less than ten rpm's difference. By the way, while the cars at Pebble Beach do not include many daily drivers, they do have to run and receive tie-breaker points for participation in a tour on the day before the show. Next stop for the Phantom is the international show in Essen, Germany. It is reputed to make Pebble Beach look like Sunday afternoons at Sherlock's.

Next the tour included a trip to one of L'Cars' client's homes. Actually it was his second home; the neighborhood covenants didn't allow him to build a garage of sufficient size so he built a second home and turned it into a garage. In here we saw two 1929 Dusenburgs, an L29 Cord, a 1921 Studebaker Touring, a 1948 Lincoln

Continental, and, for the Anglophiles, a 1932 Alvis Speed 20 Touring. The latter's three SU carbs looked like they could have come off an MGB.

Following lunch, we went to Del's Repairs. Del Hanson is the guy who made sure the Phantom idled correctly (and also ran perfectly all the way up the power band. Outside, Del's looks like any small town garage; inside there's a 30's Rolls up on the lift and a Clayton Chassis Dynamometer. Glen drove in his E-Type and positioned it on the dyno. Del attached the ignition and exhaust sensors and went to work. On the ignition side, Glen was getting a

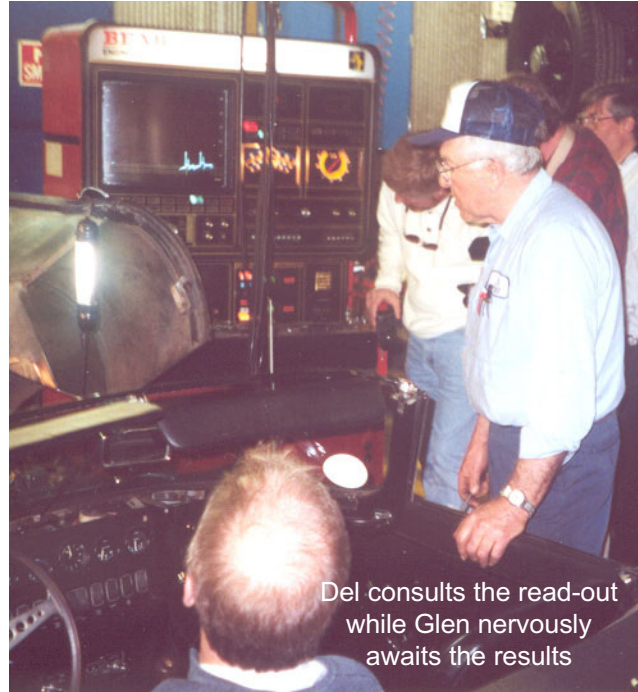
good long burn, excellent performance for a car with an old points system. With respect to the carbs, Del first adjusted the idle speeds; this got the CO emissions down from 4.0 to 0.7. Next he replaced an O-ring on the center carb and replaced the cruise jets's 165 size with 145. This helped cure the overly rich condition at cruise speeds (where we had gotten the backfires on the way up), but the Webers still could have used a smaller size. Unfortunately we didn't have anything smaller so Glen was pronounced good to go.

It was also time for us to end our visit. Glen was heading to Stillwater so I managed to get a ride in Dave Meeks' XK150 drop head coupe. Dave and his wife were only able to buy this vehicle after being interviewed by the former owner's widow and her family. He, a young college professor, bought it to impress her parents. Apparently it worked and apparently the Meeks passed their interview because they are now the

proud owners of a beautiful machine. Unfortunately when we stopped for gas a few miles down the road, it wouldn't restart. Luckily Glen and his son Todd stopped at the garage also. They showed us how to fool the electric

choke (actually not a choke but an extra gas device) by lifting the pistons on the SUs to let more air into the flooded engine.. It worked very much like the screwdriver I used to jam down a GM four barrel and the car fired right up.

After this small incident, the trip back to New Brighton was without incident. The 150 is even more of a touring car than Glen's E-Type; its top is lined on the inside and it's running "only" two SU carbs. The carbs seemed to be H6's, the same size as found on a TR3 or 4 with about sixty percent the capacity of the Jag's engine. We had no trouble keeping up with traffic on I-35 and I soon arrived back to the reality of my fifteen year-old Jetta with 225,000 miles. Even if you can't afford it, it's fun to sample these kind of things once or twice. That way, if your Powerball comes through, you'll know what to do with all the money. Mine didn't but at least now I'm prepared for when it does.



Del consults the read-out while Glen nervously awaits the results

Member Clubs of the InterMarque Council



Citroën Car Club of Minnesota
 Jaguar Club of Minnesota
 Minnesota Austin-Healey Club
 Minnesota MG Group
 Minnesota MG T Register

Mini-Sota Minis, Pizza Eating, and Psychiatric Self-Help Assn
 Minnesota Morgans
 Minnesota Triumphs
 Stella del Nord Chapter Alfa Romeo Owners Club