

# InterMarque Monthly

Vintage Foreign Cars in the Upper Midwest

## Enthusiast of the Year

Don  
Carlson,  
Fargo, ND



## InterMarque Calendar Highlights

Details Inside!  
See pages 2 & 3

### **February 22**

Lucas Flamethrower Rally,  
Red Wing, MN

### **May 18**

Inter-Marque Banquet and  
Car Show, Sherlock's  
Home, Minnetonka, MN

### **June 5-8**

Lake Superior Vintage  
Sports Car Rendezvous,  
Thunder Bay, Canada

### **August 9**

Ellingson's British Swap  
Meet and Car Show,  
Rogers, MN

### **September 6**

Wheels & Wings, Osceola,  
WI

### **September 19 -21**

Road America Fall Vintage  
Races, Elkhart Lake, WI

Hi! Don Carlson,  
Rush chairman. Damn  
glad to meet you!"

Don Carlson, *InterMarque*  
Monthly's 2002 *Enthusiast of the*  
*Year*, has such an irrepressible per-  
sonality that we thought we'd let him  
do his own intro. Is he really the  
rush chair? No (the line is from  
*Animal House*) but he is "damn glad"  
to meet you and he's convinced a  
lot of folks to join the vintage car  
fraternity. That's really why Don  
won the award but let's act like engi-  
neers and point out some other rea-  
sons why he's qualified:

**One, Don was nominated.** This  
is the first step in the awards process  
and no small honor in itself. To be eli-  
gible for the award, you must be nomi-  
nated by your peers. Others in this au-  
gust community are listed on page 4.

**Two, Don builds enthusiasm for  
the hobby.** It's impossible to be  
around this guy for long before it starts  
rubbing off on you. Pretty soon you're

thinking, "Boy, it really wouldn't be  
hard to rebuild this Super Snipe. I  
could probably finish it by the end of  
the weekend. Maybe next weekend,  
tops." Don has that effect on people.

**Three, he's a multi-marque guy.**  
He may be wearing a Triumph tee in  
the photo above, but lately he's been  
seen most often in an MG Magnette.  
A leader in Fargo's British Iron Soci-  
ety, it's said that Don knows the loca-  
tion of every derelict British car in  
North Dakota.

cont. on page 4

# INTERMARQUE CALENDAR

## INTERMARQUE SHOWS & EVENTS

**FEBRUARY ??**

**InterMarque Go-Kart Challenge** ??????????, MN. Hosted by Jaguar, MN.

**FEBRUARY 23**

**All British Swap Meet/Auto Jumble** 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois. Hosted by Chicagoland MG Club. One of the biggest swap meets in the Upper Midwest. Be there early to beat the Richville Kid to all the goodies. Entrance \$5/person. Info: [www.chicagolandmgclub.com/swapmeet/](http://www.chicagolandmgclub.com/swapmeet/)

**MAY 16 - 18**

**Carlisle Import/Kit Car Show** Biggest foreign car swap meet on this side of the pond.

**MAY 18**

**InterMarque Spring Banquet and Car Show** Sherlock's Home, Minnetonka, MN. Hosted by the Inter-Marque Council.

**MAY 24 - JUNE 1**

**Seventh Annual British Car Week** This is the nationally celebrated week when Brit Car owners are supposed to get their cars on the road and spread awareness of them..

**JUNE 5-8**

**Lake Superior Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous** Thunder Bay, Canada. Hosted by the Thunder Bay Vintage Sports Car Club.

**???? ??**

**Gymkhana** Brown & Bigelow parking lot, St. Paul, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club.

**AUGUST 9**

**Ellingson's Swap Meet and Car Show** Rogers, MN. Hosted by the Minnesota MG Group, Minnesota Triumphs (?), Minnesota Minis (?), Minnesota Austin-Healeys (?), Minnesota MGT Register (?), Jaguar Minnesota (?), and the British Iron Society (?).

**SEPTEMBER 6**

**Wheels & Wings** Osceola, WI. Hosted by Classic Motorbooks.

## RECURRING INTERMARQUE EVENTS

**GT Cars Open House** In January, February and March, GT Cars has usually held an open house on the first Saturday of the month. More info next month.

**British Built Cars** Informal car show **every Sunday MAY THROUGH OCTOBER** 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Sherlock's Home, Hwy. 62 & Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka. See you when the snow is off the crocus. p.s., Some non-Brit cars (like Ferraris & Alfas & Citroëns & Datsuns) sometime attend. Contact: Sherlock's 952-931-0203.

## INTERMARQUE RACES & RALLIES

**FEBRUARY 22**

**Lucas Flamethrower Rally** Start/end in Red Wing, MN. Hosted by the Arrowhead Sports Car Club. Rallymaster: Ed Solstad. "Faster than your average TSD, but easier than a ClubRally." For info: [www.arrowheadsc.org](http://www.arrowheadsc.org).

**JUNE 27 - 29**

**VARAC Vintage Festival** Mosport Racing Facility, Mosport, Ontario, Canada. Hosted by the Vintage Automobile Racing Association of Canada. Featured marque is **Triumph**. Info: VARAC ([www.varac.ca](http://www.varac.ca) or [lbmc@nexicom.net](mailto:lbmc@nexicom.net))

**JUNE 12**

**Mearns Rally** Location TBD. Host TBD.

**SEPTEMBER 19 - 21**

**Elkhart Lake Fall Vintage Races** Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI. Not as crowded as July's Brian Redman International Challenge and the weather is usually better also. Several intermarque convoys are going to be organized so you can go to the event with others on your own schedule, on your own favorite route, and/or at your own preferred speed. Details later.

# MARQUE NATIONALS & UPPER MIDWEST REGIONALS

- MAY 1 - 5** **Challenge Championship 2003** Jaguar Clubs of North America. Phoenix, AZ. Hosted by the Jaguar Club of Central Arizona. Includes tour of Jaguar Cars' Arizona Test Facility. Info: [www.jcna.com](http://www.jcna.com)
- MAY 12 - 15** **SpriteSpree 03** Harrisburg, PA. The only, once every five years Sprite convention. Hosted by ??? Info: Rick Moses, 888-5SPRITE or [austinhealeysprite@juno.com](mailto:austinhealeysprite@juno.com)
- JUNE 6 - 8** **MOFLO 2003** Osage Beach, MO. Midwest Outing of Fiat & Lancia owners. The meeting in the middle. Info: [www.miraffiori.com/~kdickson/](http://www.miraffiori.com/~kdickson/)
- JUNE 19** **MG2003** North American MGB Register, St. Louis, MO. Info: [www.british-cars.org.uk/~kimber/namgbr](http://www.british-cars.org.uk/~kimber/namgbr)
- JUNE 20 - 22** **Citroën Rendezvous** Northfield, MA. Hosted by Citroën Quarterly. Info: Michael Cox (617-742-6604 or [CitQ@aol.com](mailto:CitQ@aol.com))
- JUNE 25-30** **Conclave 2003: A Capital Experience** Washington, DC. Hosted by the Capital Area Austin Healey Club. Info: Gary Palsgrove (301-468-0151 or [evorgslapg@msn.com](mailto:evorgslapg@msn.com)), Allen Feldman ([mapper500@starpower.net](mailto:mapper500@starpower.net)), or [capitalhealeys.org](http://capitalhealeys.org)
- JULY 10-13** **American MGC Register** Davis, WV, Blackwater Falls State Park
- JULY 14** **GT28** North American MGA Register Get Together, Welches, OR. Hosted by the Columbia Gorge MGA Club. Info: Pat & Kenny Snyder (360-263-4047), Mark Hadley (503-771-7576 or [markhadley@aol.com](mailto:markhadley@aol.com)), or [www.british-cars.org.uk/~kimber/namgar](http://www.british-cars.org.uk/~kimber/namgar)
- JULY 18 - 20** **Fiat Freak Out 2003** Asheville, NC. Hosted by the Atlanta and East Tennessee Chapter of Fiat Lancia Unlimited. Info: [www.flu.org/ffo2003/](http://www.flu.org/ffo2003/)
- AUGUST 6-10** **Vintage Triumph Register** Armagh, PA. Hosted by The Roadster Factory. Info: [www.vtr.org](http://www.vtr.org)
- SEPTEMBER 4-7** **SAAB Owners' Convention** Hershey, PA. Hosted by the Central Pennsylvania SAAB Club. Info: [www.saabconvention.org](http://www.saabconvention.org)
- JUL 20 - AUG 18, 2004** **Rolls-Royce Centennial World Tour** Baltimore, MD to Monterey, CA. Hosted by the Rolls-Royce Owners Club. Celebrates "the Meeting" of Charles Rolls and Henry Royce on May 4, 1904. Info: Peter Lind (707-967-8202 or [bonpete@earthlink.net](mailto:bonpete@earthlink.net)) or [www.rroc.org/worldtour](http://www.rroc.org/worldtour)

## REGULAR CLUB EVENTS

- British Iron Society** Informal gathering, every Saturday morning at CashWise in Fargo. Info: Don Carlson 701-293-6882
- Lotus Owners of the North (LOON)** Informal gathering, third Sunday of the month at Sherlock's Home. Info: Terry Pitts 651-450-0921 [tlp50@earthlink.net](mailto:tlp50@earthlink.net)
- Minnesota Austin-Healey Club** Pie With the President, first Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Bakers' Square, Highland Village, St. Paul. Info: Tom Hazen 612-237-1883 [tom\\_bazen@adp.com](mailto:tom_bazen@adp.com) or [www.mnbealey.com](http://www.mnbealey.com)
- Minnesota MG T Register** MG Luncheons, every Tuesday, 11:15 a.m. Frenchman's, 1400 E. 66th Street, Richfield. Info: Bob Figenskau 952-935-7909 or [www.mnmgtr.com](http://www.mnmgtr.com)
- Minnesota SAAB Club** Monthly Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., the Ground Round at the Har-Mar Mall in Roseville. Info: Chris Luick 507-252-1888 or [www.mnsaabclub.org](http://www.mnsaabclub.org)
- Minnesota Triumphs** Monthly Meeting, second Thursday of the month (except Nov. & Dec.), 7:00 p.m., Fort Snelling Officers Club. Info: Bob Lee 715-425-2580 or [clubs.bemmings.com/mntriumphs/](http://clubs.bemmings.com/mntriumphs/)

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**Four,**  
**neither**  
**Don nor**  
**wife Carol**  
**know how**  
**many cars**  
**he owns.**

C a r o l  
thinks he

only has three buildings to store them. But she's not entirely sure he doesn't have another barn someplace north of Mandan filled with British products.

**Five, Don is a driver.** He doesn't enter concours. It's not because he doesn't admire those cars and people, but because he lives for the drives to far-off locations and the camaraderie of his fellow enthusiasts. He's usually off having fun when the judges come round with their white gloves. In the picture to the right we see Don and cohorts at one of these fun sessions, trying to remedy his Magnette's ills.

**Six, Don is an enthusiast, not an investor.** Not for him the flat floor E-type, the Healey 100M, the MGA twin-cam, the TR3B, the boat-tail Duetto,



Don Carlson, vintage enthusiast extraordinaire, JMM's 2003 Enthusiast of the Year. Congratulations! You deserve it.

or even the Mini-Cooper. Don just returned from a trip to Milwaukee to pick up a Mayflower, Triumph's answer to the Pontiac Aztek. Of this car, wife Carol says, "It's nice, not a rust bucket like some of his other cars." Which brings us to:

**Seven, Don has a great family.** Wife Carol, a school teacher, supports him but is no pushover for schemes to resurrect the British motor industry in upper Dakota. Son Brent just graduated from Stanford with a double major in Chinese and international law while daughter Dana is interning in pediatrics at Chicago Memorial. And don't get Don going on grandson Christian.

**Seven, Don goes the extra mile for other enthusiasts.** Get home from work, drive 100 miles to Grand Forks, winch a TR6 out of the flood waters, trailer it another 100 miles to Dead Lake Motors, and then (while you and I go to bed with a good B.S. Levy book) drive 80 miles to home. All in a days work? No, but it is typical of Don.



## Other Nominees-- People Who Also Deserve an Enthusiast Award

1. **John Kallaus, MN Triumphs.** Besides knowing more about overdrive trannies than anybody whose last name isn't de Normanville, John is also the Good mechanical Samaritan of the Triumph club and a great event organizer. He owns and drives a TR3 and a TR4, and has a LaDawri at home.
2. **Tom Politiski, MN Austin-Healeys and MN Morgans.** Like Don, Tom doesn't hail from the Cities. He's up in Richville and always seems to have a new restoration special on his flat-bed trailer. When he's not transporting something, Tom is most often seen in his Morgan or 5-speed Spridget. You saw him take on a major role at last summer's Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous.
3. **Gary Ronning, MN Austin-Healeys and MN Triumphs.** Gary is an all-around nice guy, polite almost to a fault, but deeply committed to vintage sports cars and their preservation. He splits his driving time almost equally between a Healey 3000 and a TR6, and some people say he's got a Spridget stashed under his deck.

## Specifications

Date of birth: March 9, 1943 in  
Minneapolis, MN

Jobs: Carlson & Robbins  
Furniture; Johnson Bros  
Wholesale Liquors

Schools: Shandley Catholic  
High School; North Dakota  
State Univ.

Other Interests: Cars, cars, Boy  
Scouts (Order of the Arrow),  
cars, ebay (automotive  
section), cars

Height: Feet reach the ground

Weight: n.a.

# Car of the Year

Our Car of the Year award is different than many COTY awards. For one thing, it covers the year past rather than the coming year.

For another it covers every car every made, not the models newly introduced or the models currently in production.

On the other hand, our criteria for the award are extremely specific: Which car did the most to promote vintage foreign cars in North America during 2002?

There were a lot of contenders.



The new MINI was far from a duplicate of the old Mini. (See the spec sheet.) It does, however, retain the character of the old Morris Mini Minor and

The big Healeys celebrated their fiftieth birthday with over 600 cars at Lake Tahoe. The Triumph TR range also celebrated their fiftieth with 600 cars at Mid-Ohio race-track. The Triumph wedges (TR7's and 8's) finally seemed to have turned the corner from junk yard dogs to collector vehicles. Both Lotus and Alfa teased us with hints of cars that might be sold in the U.S.

The MINI, however, was the car that wowed the masses and brought scores of new people to vintage foreign car events. It started slowly, the first MINIs being purchased by vintage enthusiasts who had stood in line to purchase one. Then, sometime in late spring or early summer, the dam burst.

All of a sudden, vintage events included new people driving new cars.

## Specifications

	BMC* Mini	BMW** MINI
Weight	1407 lb.	2315 lb.
Length	120.2 in.	142.8 in.
Width	55.5 in.	66.5 in.
Height	53.0 in.	55.4 in.
Seating	4	4
Engine	848 cc	1598 cc
Size	34 bhp	115 bhp
Power	*British Motor Corporation, 1959 base model **Bavarian Motor Works, 2001 base model	

Austin Se7en. It's about as small compared to a Ford Ponderosa as the old Mini was to a 1959 Cadillac. It doesn't have 10-inch wheels but it's agile, it's quick, and it has its drivetrain at the same end as its grandfather (unlike the New Beetle).

Well done, new MINI. May many of you soon have an old Mini as a stablemate. You may both fit in the space vacated by that old SUV.

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EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS are sincerely invited. Send them to the e-mail address above.

## Marque Clubs of the Upper Midwest

British Iron Society of Greater  
Fargo (701-293-6882)

**Citroën Car Club of Minnesota**  
(www.citoenmn.com)

**Jaguar Club of Minnesota** (952-474-8498)

Lotus Owners of the North  
(tlp50@earthlink.net)

**Minnesota Austin-Healey Club**  
(www.mnhealey.com)

**Minnesota MG Group**  
(www.mmgg.org)

**Minnesota MG T Register**  
(www.mnmgr.com)

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Minnesota SAAB Club  
(www.mnsaabclub.org)

**Minnesota Triumphs**  
(clubs.hemmings.com/mntriumphs/)

**Stella del Nord Alfa Romeo  
Owners Club** (esolstad@presenter.com)

Vintage Sports Car Racing  
(www.vscr.org)

Vintage VW Club of America (763-421-2705)

Volvo Sports America Minnesota  
Chapter (612-789-0851)

(Clubs listed in bold are members of the InterMarque Council. Others are listed for information purposes only. Want your club listed? Submit info to andylindberg@earthlink.net. No charge.)

## Tech Tip of the Month



Steve Rixen here illustrates a good reason to clean your battery regularly. Note that one lead from the multimeter is attached to the dirty battery's positive terminal; the other is



on the battery's dirt. The result -- voltage flow through the meter.