



Crown Wheel and Opinion

The Newsletter of the Calgary MG Car Club
Volume 2 – Number 1.5 – April 1, 2022

Beyond MG -the Competition Focus of British Leyland – Group 44 Triumph Race Cars



The Politically Correct Issue! We now have to cover everyone





Crown Wheel and Opinion - volume 2, number 1.5

Editor's Letter – April 1, 2022

– Dean Harrison

I have always said that the Crown Wheel and Opinion would publish quarterly unless circumstances required the preparation and distribution of a special issue. Well – that time has come in the form of new provincial legislation that will have a drastic impact on everyone involved in the Automotive Hobby. The legislation in question, the Automotive Inclusion Mandate, (AIM) decrees that specialty automotive interest groups must include all marques and offer all forms of motoring activity to all their members.

In response to the directive from Alberta Transportation that single marque car clubs would no longer be allowed to operate in the province, I have updated the Crown Wheel and Opinion to reflect (on the surface) the new inclusion mandate on all car clubs in Alberta. At least that is what I am telling everyone. If you haven't seen the provincial directive I have included key points from it in the Driving and Politics Section of the Newsletter. (Also do not forward this issue – the encryption will prevent anyone outside the club from reading it)

For what it's worth, CMGCC did receive an honorable mention from the Transportation Minister, Rajan Sawhney for our ongoing acceptance and recognition of other marques, particularly British ones in our membership. The fact that we have members who own Jaguars, Morgans, Minis, Triumphs and even cars with extensive modification gives us special recognition under the directive. Thank heavens for Ford powered Triumphs. We managed initially to stay under their radar.

In recognition of this, we have broadened our membership to include all British Leyland vehicles. However, we may have to extend this further. Hence the changes to our cover and Masthead this issue. Regardless, there will be massive change in the club direction and operation in the next few months. I have tried to cover some of these so you can plan your year and decide which events to make a part of your automotive calendar.

Reaction to the directive has been swift across clubs and automotive enthusiasts alike across the province. It has also been both positive and negative. Some are welcoming the change while others are adamant they will continue their traditions related to their favorite automotive interests. Officially, CW&O will endeavor to present a balanced view of the discussions among club members, opinions from other clubs, input and comment from other provinces and associated groups along with any fallout from the legislation and keep you abreast of changes to our own car club. Unofficially, we will be supporting the club efforts to ensure the ongoing traditional activities of the club, enhance our love and advancement of British motoring tradition and preserve our friendly outgoing nature to all who have interest in our events and comraderie.

Till next time - *Safety Fast* – Dean

Crown Wheel and Opinion

Our club objective is “to enhance the concept of motoring with style and the preservation of any marque that supports it”

CW & O is the ‘official’ publication of the Calgary MG Car Club (or whatever name the membership decides on in the next few months). It is normally published four times per year although special issues will be produced when club activities warrant, or content is available. The material herein is the responsibility of the editor and cannot generally be blamed on the club executive or any club policies.

Questions, comments and even rebuttals are welcome. Letters (email) can be sent to:

Newsletter@calgarymgcarclub.org

Who knows, the editor (Ed.) may even publish them! – With or without comment – it all depends

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On the Cover this Issue: British Leyland Competition in later years of the company. Next month we may have to move further afield with competition entries from Trabant and Skoda. We will try and involve everyone as we are able.

Newsletter Quiz number 7:



Anyone have any idea what this car is?

Submit your answer to Newsletter@calgarymgclub.org

This vehicle is tougher than it looks – it will be used as the club staff car when dealing with Alberta Transportation

Look for the answer to quiz number 7 in the April 2023 Issue. (If I remember)

Presidential Ponderings –



"As we work to 'comply' with the new directive from Alberta Transportation, we must undertake some major changes to both how and where we operate. In order to maintain our tradition of an MG centered British Motoring Club we will undertake and pursue an 'underground movement' style of operating and move this clandestine operation of the MG Car Club to a more appropriate location.

First of all, . look for some entirely new events on our calendar this year. Charles has devised some new forms of competition that will require developing new driving and navigating skills. And the Fuzzy Bugger has a couple of unique ideas to throw into the mix. Suffice is to say, be on the lookout for more interesting and challenging events other than staid drives, repeat ice cream runs and car shows in 2022.

Second, according to Dick Averbs, the possible changes to our events will result in Next Gen growth for the club. The new events will attract a much younger group to our club and keep us or successor organizations vibrant into the future.

Finally, we have been offered a new venue in which to meet. News from Nancy and JP in Kelowna; the Board of the Wedgewood Condominium in Kelowna BC has offered us both space in their Recreation Room and an invitation to their weekly Happy Hour events. I know this will involve some hardship initially for our members, what with having to relocate to British Columbia, but at least we have British in the name of the location. And what could be more English than a place called the Wedgewood?

Where we can, we will try and continue some of our old fashion events but under the new legislation even those have to change. Case in point, we will hold back on the 60th Anniversary of the MGB and in the interest of inclusion celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Triumph Spitfire.

Another benefit to relocation is quicker access to all those mountain roads BC has to offer. Even in the face of the new laws – there is a silver lining – you just have to be prepared to pay for it, probably in gold. This may definitely tilt our options in favour of moving!

Ghostwritten for John Towler for this issue only, Ed.
Calgary, AB

2022 tour prepared MG – these changes
better meet the need of our new
provincial event requirements



Club News

Membership

Club news is restricted by political events and will resume after the implications of the new legislation are determined.

Driving and Politics Section

First of all, I want to dispel the rumour circulated that the changes to the constitution and operation of the MG Car Club were as a result of an attempted coup by the Triumph owners in the group. This change would have included renaming the newsletter to the Standard Triumph Herald.

While they did have some thoughts about changing the club to reflect the newer image and direction of British Leyland and the car industry in Britain, they recognized the value of the MG Theme “The Marque of Friendship” and voted to remain an integral part of the MG Car Club. I wish to thank them for their support in our club activity particularly now when our unique existence is under threat.

Automotive Inclusion Mandate (Selected Provisions)

Slated to be given royal assent and be implemented by July 1, 2022, the Alberta Automotive Inclusion Mandate (AAIM) seeks to ensure that all automobile related clubs and associations adhere to new provincial inclusion guidelines. As mentioned:

- Single marque car clubs are no longer permitted under the regulations. Club and association names must not exclude other brands. This will require a name change to the CMGCC. Further clubs cannot restrict marque membership by period or year designation.
- Clubs may not just focus on single event types. For instance, if your club supports drag racing or road racing, you must also provide car shows, solo events or other types of gatherings. Clubs that primarily organize tours, drives and shows must include competitive sections in events or full-on competitions as part of their mandate.
- Automotive Dealers must also include historical, classes and competitions elements in new car shows to ensure compliance. Clubs will be required to support all dealers shows.



John dressed to meet with
Alberta Transportation

Other provisions will place more restriction on club activities, but these appear to have the most impact to CMGCC. The executive will need to develop an approach quickly to get us out of this situation.

USVAA Input

I have reached out to SVAA (or USVAA as it is now known) for additional input, but I have not heard back from Jim Herbert as of publication time for this issue. My understanding is that the association is dealing with its own internal and external issues as Alberta Transportation has directed them to form a broader association that will eventually incorporate all the specialty interest auto groups into a single organization.

Based on this pressure, there appear to be indications that they may combine operations with their BC counterpart to broaden their influence. They also do not wish to be or appear to be equipped to the primary organizers of all automotive events in the province.

Technical Updates

I am holding off on technical articles until our status under the new laws is determined. We will have updates later. Possibly an LBC Lift-Kit Comparison Article.

Events:

Meetings

Meeting locations will be kept under wraps for the time being and communicated by encrypted email to all members as they are set.

Updated 2022 Plans:

Our Events Chairman is still warming his bod in the Florida sunshine these days but he assures us he is working on both new ideas and our traditional events for next year. In keeping with the new mandate however we are posting some pictures from an event that is a plan for some of our 2022 activity.

2022 Tours

Some of our members have already started their



spring plans to equip their vehicles for the new style of tour planned for the coming year. Since we needed to broaden our participation we have engaged with the Off -Road vehicle groups to have

our tours include the passage through the McLean Creek special vehicle area in the route. To this end we can see some of the changes to members vehicles for this new activity.



Future events will have to include rally-cross courses, trials routes and Alberta race circuits. All events will have classes for vintage and classic vehicles, purpose-built competition cars as well as sports/exotic cars and even military

vehicles.

Other Competitions

A plan for one of our later events is to set up a combined parallel drag-racing/slalom event with a unique format. Cars will line up side by side at the start/finish line, race to pylons at the 1/8th mile mark, make a 180° turn around the pylons and race back to the finish. This has the advantage of needing less space than a full drag race as well as the interest of making drag racers turn corners. Even if it is only one per race. Since the cars turn away from each other at the pylon – the have to learn to turn both right and left. Steerable drag pictures next time!



Spy-shot – we think this may be Andy and Richard Hardy's new competition Midget

Who knows what we can get up to next year? We can hope to be free of COVID and all its variants and can maybe gather a little more easily than last year.

Please look to our calendar for upcoming events – with new laws, we are still day to day as far as event planning is concerned. The calendar is the best source of the most current information and confirmation of what is on the schedule. Go to the main web page and scroll down to events.
<http://calgarymgclub.org/main.html>

What to Look for in Upcoming Issues:

Coming Up:

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Triumph Spitfire! Look for the special Issue.

Tour Suggestions: - where you can go in your LBC and play on pavement or in the mud.

Association updates – USVAA Constitution, look for excerpts and rules updates from the new province wide automobile Association.

The Back Page:

The Stealth Technology MG – just don't let it get dirty!



This is an actual MG Ad produced with the help of 2 scientists from the factory: Professor C. Thru and Dr. Avril Fuell. I thought it would be a fitting finish to the April 1st Issue of the Crown Wheel and Opinion for 2022. Besides as long as it is kept clean – you should be able to drive it however you like – anywhere!!!

April Fool Everyone!!

Hope you enjoyed it!