

British Automobile



April 2023

A publication of the British Transportation Museum
321 Hopeland Street, Dayton, OH 45417

<https://www.britishtransportationmuseum.org>

Open Saturdays and Mondays from 10am to 4pm.

Museum tours are available by appointment.

Contact Pete Stroble 937-546-0039 btmpres@gmail.com

The British Transportation Museum (BTM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit charity dedicated to preserving our British motoring heritage through education and vehicle preservation. ©2021 British Transportation Museum. All Rights Reserved

Peter Stroble, President

Tim Bosse, Vice-President

Tim Bosse, Treasurer

Steven Solomon, Membership

Members at Large: Bill Jacobs, James Dean,

Paul Strieby and Steven Solomon

Karl Strauch, Newsletter Editor stlmadmen@aol.com

NEXT MEETING – 7pm April 19 (3rd Wednesday)

British Transportation Museum featured on TV

A Spectrum News reporter visited the British Transportation Museum recently to film an episode of Weekend Pass. Brionna Rivers interviewed museum president Pete Stroble for a 3-minute, 16-second feature about the museum and its collection of cars on display. The segment was shown several times on TV, and may also be seen at

<https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2023/01/25/take-a-trip-across-the-pond-at-dayton-s-british-transportation-museum-#>



**Support the British Transportation Museum.
Become a member (various levels available).**



2023 Ohio Mini Owners show schedule

May 3-7 MINIs on the Dragon, Deals Gap, NC

May 6 Brits at the Museum, BTM, Dayton

May 21 British Car Day, Quaker Steak & Lube, Delaware

June 19-23 TRA - Triumph Register of America Meet at
Hueston Woods Park, Oxford, Ohio

June 20 Minis at the Museum, BTM

Vintage racers stop over for pit stop and tour of BTM

June 23-25 Mid-Ohio Vintage Races Mid-Ohio Race Course,
Lexington, Ohio

June 30-July 3 Mini Meet East, ROC City MINI, Rochester, NY

July 13-16 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Schenley Park,
Pittsburgh 9am-5pm \$20

July 15 MINIs at the Glen, Watkins Glen, NY

July 20-22 Arthritis Foundation Classic Car Show
Metro Park, Dublin

July 22 MINIs Take Geneva on the Lake, Lake Erie, Ohio

Aug 4-5 MINIs at the Mack, St. Ignace, Michigan

Aug 5 British Car Day, Eastwood Lake, Harshman Rd., Dayton

Sept 17 Concourse De Elegance, Carillon Park, Dayton

Sept 19-21 Put-In-Bay Sports Car Races, PIB Island Airport

Oct 4-7 CMU Mods & Rockers Minis, KOA Wytheville, VA
Rockabilly band with an opening 60's group

Oct 14 Performance Charity Car Show, downtown Delaware

Fall - BTM Annual Chili Cook Off and Cruise In

(Calendar updated 3/22/23)

British Transportation Museum Lifetime Members

Steven & Mary Solomon

Pete & Nancy Stroble

Dick Smith & Jeannie Snap Smith

Roger & Dee Dee Bean

Healey Family

James & Erica Dean

Nancy & Jerry Nowak

Robert Hemmig

Paul Carlsen

John Wohlslagel

Robert Luken

Robert Newton

RIGHT-HAND vs LEFT-HAND DRIVE VEHICLES

Hi Karl, I have read your articles about right- and left-hand drive and Roman Canals.

I'll start with saying how much I found it so interesting and informative and hope to hear more.

My home town is Lincoln England and I lived close to the Foss Dyke canal as a kid. Later on, I lived on the Fosseway Roman road in North Hykeham near Lincoln and later on In Newark Nottinghamshire.



On the subject of the left and right hand drive cars I had an left hand drive Opel Kapitän in the UK for many years. I have driven left hand drives on the right and left of the road and right-hand drives on the right and left of the road. It has been quite a pleasure to experience. Once again thank You for your article.

Regards, Sean Hogan



I have some pictures of the Pyewipe Inn that is on the Foss Dyke. I have to admit that I have spent some time at the Pyewipe pub doing some research on fluid Dynamics (some fluids may have contained alcohol).

RACING ELECTRIC BRITISH CARS – by Karl Strauch

I've been incurably addicted to racing 1:32 scale slot cars ever since the early 1960s when over 3000 race tracks opened up here in the US. Most were similar to Alan Smith's 8-lane track in Tacoma, Washington.



The Southport Model Engineering Society in the UK created the first multi-lane electric slot car course in 1954. Minimodels (UK) created the Scalextric 1:32 scale electric slot cars in 1957. Alan Smith was the Scalextric representative here in the US and graciously set up a 4-lane layout of Blackhawk Farms Raceway for us to race 1:32 scale Minis at East Meets West Mini Meet 2004 in Rockford, IL. He also set up another 4-lane track layout at Mini Meet West 2007 in Hood River, OR (below).



In appreciation of Alan's efforts supporting our Mini Meets, I've bought lots of Scalextric track and cars and set up a variety of layouts in the years since then. Here (below) is my current 4-lane Scalextric analog control layout on a slightly expanded Ping Pong table, featuring a combination pit stop and drive-through confessional looping around St. Thomas church at the far end.



The curved flexible wall base coverings work very well in keeping errant cars on the table.

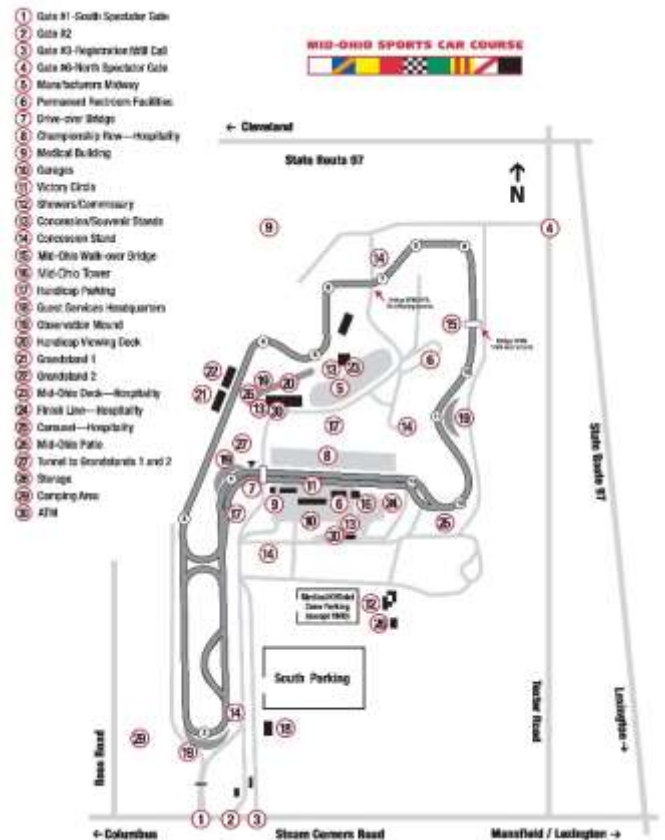
I have a number of slot car models of British cars that I could donate to the BTM if y'all would like to set up a layout somewhere in the museum. Imagine having various clubs race their marques against others.



Here is my digital control layout in my HO-scale model train room with a Carrera 2-lane high-speed oval inside a Scalextric 2-lane road course on two 4'x8' sheets of 2" thick foam board insulation ...



In summary, I've got lots of track and some cars I could donate if anyone would be interested in helping to set up and maintain a slot car course, either simple like mine or larger and more complex like Mid-Ohio ...



Amazing Long-Distance Trips in British Vehicles



Recently I gave a Power Point presentation to the Association of Professional Model Makers Conference on the Museum's restoration efforts. The organizer, Samantha Martinez, shared that her family had made the 5600+ mile trip from London to Sri Lanka (Ceylon) in a used Bedford Van when she was 6 months old. This was in 1964 when there were not many conveniences in many parts of the world.

The Bedford Van was actually built from two that were at the scrap yard. It was modified into a basic camper by her father and uncle. The van had only sleeping accommodations for baby Samantha and her parents Rex and Rani Arseculeratne. The uncle, Festus, and a friend, Peter DeSilva shared a tent for the trip. Kitchen functions were rough with a basin for washing, a large jug with spigot to dispense water, and a single burner kerosene stove. There was no refrigeration or insulated cooler.

Samantha's Grandfather had insisted that they buy new tires for the trip but her father wisely kept the older, better-quality tires as spares. The "new" tires were in ruins about half way and the older tires saw them through the rest of the trip.

The group was accustomed for camping days at a time in their home country when they went on church pilgrimages. But, nothing could have prepared them for the 2 ½ month trip through 12 countries in difficult conditions. They endured the approaching cold season and the mechanical, geopolitical, and logistical challenges along the way.

Samantha hopes to write a book about this great adventure and revisit some of the sections. BTM heartily supports and encourages her to do so. Good Luck Samantha.

To show how the times have changed, D&D Classics, a high-end restoration shop prepared a 1949 (?) Ford Sedan to go on the Paris to Dakar Rally experience maybe 6 years ago. They upgraded the suspension for the rough roads and lowered the

compression for the expected lower quality fuel. They found out that the roads were great and the fuel was top quality. Their one suggestion if they did it again is to bring lots of toilet paper!

It was a "thing" after the War to get an old London Taxi and travel around the world. A couple did this and unfortunately separated after the journey. She was in New England and he was in Texas with the Taxi their now grown son. Their adventure restoring the Taxi and driving it to New England to reunite was featured in a documentary titled "Driven". BTM invested a small amount of money in the production of the film. Darn if I can find my copy!

A more recent book about a long trip is "It's On the Meter". Three friends bought a 1992 London Taxi named "Hannah" in 2011 and decided to set a world record for longest trip in a Taxi. Over 15 months they covered 67,716 km in their trip from the UK to Australia. They ran into a variety of problems but they had a very robust social life along the way.

In my old age, I live vicariously through the writing of others.

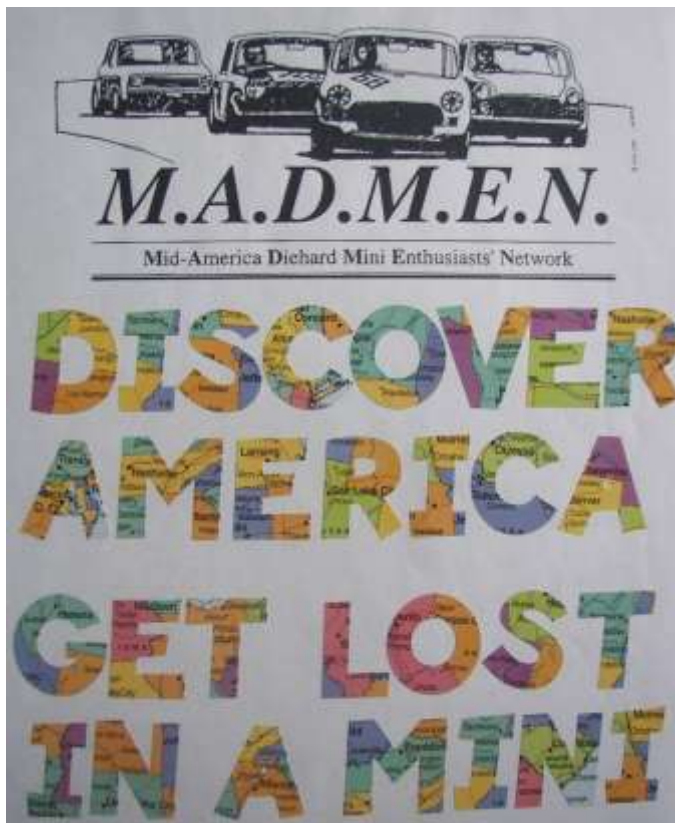
Pete Stroble

Speaking of Long-Distance Trips in British Vehicles ...



Back in the mid-1990's, Rick Higgs from British Columbia, Canada created the North American Classic Mini Brigade. Membership was free. All you had to do to qualify was to drive your classic Mini over 5000 miles on a trip in any direction anywhere in North America.

The Mid-America Diehard Mini Enthusiasts' Network (a.k.a. the MADMEN) supported Rick's efforts by hosting cross-country scavenger hunts between the west and east coast Mini Meets for three years in a row: 2006 – Prescott, Arizona to Frederick, Maryland 2007 – Alcoa, Tennessee to Hood River, Oregon 2008 – Orange County, California to Bethel, Maine Each of those years you could take any route that you wanted between those two locations but you had to stop in a "tourist trap" in each state you drove through and buy a souvenir from that state. Rick won the award in 2006 for his "endangered feces" display featuring candy that looked like various animal droppings. By the end of 2008, there were 41 Mini enthusiasts who had qualified and been inducted into the NACMB Brigade !!



Every 5 years on the anniversary of the creation of the Mini in 1959, hundreds of Mini enthusiasts from all over Canada and the US gather together in a West Meets East Mini Meet between our July 1-4 national independence days to celebrate our independence from the Brits. "What fools we mortals be, eh." The rule for our MADMEN Scavenger Hunt for 2009 was simply take any route from your home to the combined 50th anniversary Meet in Minnesota, and buy a "treasure" in each state and/or province that you drove through. Since Alaska was also celebrating 50 years of statehood in 2009, one of those "treasures" had to be bought in Alaska on your way to Minnesota.



Several of the certifiable MADMEN from Florida "drove the extra mile" and bought their Florida "treasure" all the way down at Mile 0 in Key West !!

BTM Cars FOR SALE

1987 Jaguar XJ6 Series 3 runs, but needs head gasket?



1961 Humber Super Snipe runs but needs RR wheel cylinder.



1965 TR Spitfire runs but leans and has a gnarly front bumper.



1979 MGB needs the cracked windshield replaced.



Contact btmpres@gmail.com for details and pricing.



British Car Meet at the Museum Sat. May 6, 2023
REGISTRATION FORM -Show held Rain or Shine-

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Make _____ Model _____ Year _____

Pre-registration: \$15.00 _____

Registration after May 1: \$18.00 _____

BTM Membership: \$30.00 -not required _____

(New members, please fill out BTM membership form)

BTM Member Discount: -\$5.00 _____

Vendor Registration: \$10.00 _____

Total Enclosed _____

Make check payable to and mail to:

British Transportation Museum
321 Hopeland St. Dayton, OH 45417

PLEASE READ AND SIGN

The undersigned, Registrant, agrees to release, discharge, waive and hold harmless the Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America Inc., The British Transportation Museum, members, any sponsors or persons associated with this event from any and all liability, including but not limited to, personal injuries and or property damage caused to me, by me, my party and or my vehicle while attending this event or while traveling to or from this event. I certify that I have full coverage insurance on my registered vehicle as required by law.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The British Transportation Museum will hold its 18th Annual British Car Meet on Saturday May 6, 2023. The Location will be at 321 Hopeland St. in front of the Museum. The show will be a People's Choice Judging event. The Meet runs from 9AM to 3PM. Registration will be limited to the first 100 cars.

Come visit the 62 vehicles in the Museum collection plus tons of memorabilia.

Autojumble!

Bring out your spare parts for sale.

Bring Family and Friends.

Spectators are welcome free of charge.

The Coronation of King Charles III is this day.



Join in the celebration!

Expect a few surprises!

For more information, contact Adam Wilcutt 937-671-3128 or Pete Stroble 937-546-0039 or email the Museum at btmpres@gmail.com.

Visit the Museum web site at:

www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org

