

British Automobile



July 2025

**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

Jimmy Dean, Vice-President

Dean Anderson, Treasurer

(vacant), Membership (Your name here?)

Members at Large:

Bill Jacobs, Caroline Shinkle, Paul Strieby, John Koval

Nathan Vaughn, Newsletter Editor

Have a relevant story to share? Send it over!

Thanks to Caroline Beauregard Shinkle for contributing to this issue.

NathanVaughn303@gmail.com

Next Meeting Wednesday August 20th. Always the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Aston Adventure Across America

by Caroline Beauregard Shinkle

Seven rare and exotic Aston Martins made the approximate 2,700-mile trek from Liverpool, England to Halifax, Nova Scotia to begin a nearly 3,100-mile journey across Canada and through 13 U.S. states to attend the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Miami and culminate in Goldeneye, Jamaica.

Over a year in the planning, the journey from across the pond took place to commemorate the 60th

anniversary of the James Bond classic, *Goldfinger*. The stunning, sleek, and shiny Astons, all of which are right-hand drive, and whose owners are part of London's esteemed Area00 Aston Martin owners club, were joined by U.S.-owned Astons, including my 1998 Aston Martin DB7 Volante manual.



The Astons lined up at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach that was featured in the 1964 film *Goldfinger*.

Astons on the journey included a Virage volante, two Vanquish volantes, including a Carbon Edition, three DBSs, one of which is a manual six-speed once owned by the King of Saudi Arabia, and a classic 1963 DB4 Series 5, in Mendip Blue with a red interior.



The group of Aston owners arrive in Jamaica.



An Aston formerly owned by the King of Saudi Arabia leads the caravan through Times Square.

The U.S. part of the trip began with events such as a welcome party hosted by Aston Martin Boston before driving to New York City. Highlights of the Big Apple portion of the adventure were a champagne soirée at a private residence on Central Park South (featuring Bollinger, Area00's favorite bubbly), dinner at the New York Athletic Club, and a nightcap with a jazz band at the Freedom Tower, 78 stories above the Manhattan skyline.



The author in her Aston that features the logo, Mayfair to Miami, specifically designed for the trek.

The following day included an exclusive reception at Q, the NYC Aston design studio where you can customize and view your bespoke Aston in a larger-than-life 360-degree panorama before it is built using AI technology, and cocktails on the Peninsula Hotel's rooftop. The capstone NYC experience was the private black-tie dinner at the Harvard Club of New York City.



F1 fun in Miami!

A pre-dawn drive and photo-op around Manhattan gave the group an opportunity to enjoy the city's iconic streets and boulevards free of (as much as possible) traffic in the city that (allegedly) never sleeps. After breakfast at the Manhattan Car Club, it was off to drive through an array of other states before the final U.S. stop in Miami. Stops along the way included Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Savannah, Daytona, Orlando, Cape Canaveral, and Key West. The challenging curves of the "Tail of the Dragon" in Tennessee tested the maneuverability of the Astons—which all performed beautifully, as you might expect!

In Miami, the Astons were showcased in prime spots at the Epic and Fontainebleau Hotels. Cocktails at the Aston Martin Residences were followed by a black-tie dinner at the Epic. The only

blemish on the trek was Aston's dismal (15 th and 16 th place) finishes at the F1 race.



The author welcomes the group to Boston.

From Miami, the Astons were shipped back to England before we headed on to Goldeneye, Jamaica, where Ian Fleming wrote many of his novels that featured James Bond. It was fitting to conclude this grand cross-country tour in the paradise where so much of the lore connected with Aston Martin began



Toasting all things James Bond in Goldeneye, Jamaica.

Editor's Note: Caroline Beauregard Shinkle is a board member of the British Transportation Museum, Aston owner, and Aston enthusiast. She frequently attends and participates in car-related events in the U.S. and Europe.

BTM at Mini Meet East

By Pete Stroble

BTM was well represented at the 50 th Anniversary of the first Mini Meet East at its birth place in Reading, PA. Of the 19 BTM members in attendance, 4 had been at the original Meet and brought 3 of the original Minis with them. A real tale of survivors!

Three vehicles rolled out of BTM to attend the Meet. The 1960 Auto-X Mini of Pete Stroble was one of the originals and much pressure was applied on him to get it there.



BTM wooden Moke replica at MME Concourse

Editors note: What kind of pressure? Blink 3 times if you're in danger, Pete. I'll tell my connections at the mob to lay off.



Three of the Minis originally at first MME 50 years ago

The red 1968 Mk II Mini driven by Amanda Hawker had its brakes bled and adjusted before the trip.

The third was the wooden Mini Moke replica usually found in the “Kid’s Area”. The Moke had been donated to BTM by the UK Moke Club. This donation had been facilitated by Rich and Debbie Franks and its attendance was in memory of Debbie’s passion for Minis.

The Meet had several scenic drives in the hilly countryside around Reading. A Concourse, Auto-x, Lawnkana, and RC races plus nightly social gatherings in the parking lot; filled out the agenda. A great time was had by all!

The Auto-X had some stand out moments with Amanda taking first place in her class over some very experienced drivers. A Mini Police car did the Auto-X with its sirens and lights going. This led to a chase run with Terri Tate-Mingst’s Mini being chased by the Police car on a fun run. It was an awesome spectacle probably to be found on video somewhere.



Police Mini on Auto-X

A side note was the donation by Doug Scribner and Rich Franks from “Mini City” of a metal British bus stand schedule from Hastings and a canvas bus route scroll from South Hampton. Who else but BTM would enjoy, honor, and display such neat items. Now, we just need a double decker bus to compliment them.

Next year’s MME is in Ashville, North Carolina. It would be wild to take the BTM Ice Racer to that July event. The only ice will be in people’s drinks.



Amanda at Auto-X



Amanda's First Place in Auto-X



Bus route scroll and bus stop schedule