

The Burble & Squeak

Official Newsletter for Annual Members of the Michiana Brits British Car Enthusiasts © 2026 Michiana Brits, Ltd.

June 2026

About Michiana Brits

This car club is open to lovers and/or owners of British vehicles. All paid members receive this monthly newsletter as part of their annual dues.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos for publication to the

Newsletter Editor at
leonard@dalenberg.org

You may also submit material for the newsletter to the Club president online, through mail, or in person at a general club meeting.

The newsletter's **deadline is the 15th of the month.** This gives me time to put it all together and get it, ideally, eMailed by the 20th. Material is subject to editorial revision. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the 2025 Michiana Brits, Ltd., British Car Enthusiasts. Final review is done by Bob and Larry.

Daily holidays and observances in July 2026

July 1 – International Joke Day
July 2 – World UFO Day
July 3 – Dog Days of Summer begin
July 4 – **Independence Day**
July 5 – International Bikini Day
July 6 – International Kissing Day
July 7 – Chocolate Day
July 8 – Video Games Day
July 9 – National Sugar Cookie Day
July 10 – Piña Colada Day
July 11 – World Population Day
July 12 – Pecan Pie Day
July 13 – Embrace Your Geekness Day
July 14 – Bastille Day
July 15 – National Hot Dog Day
July 16 – World Snake Day
July 17 – World Emoji Day
July 18 – World Listening Day
July 19 – National Ice Cream Day
July 20 – Moon Day
July 21 – National Junk Food Day
July 22 – Hammock Day
July 23 – Vanilla Ice Cream Day
July 24 – Cousins Day
July 25 – Day of the Cowboy
July 26 – Parents' Day
July 27 – Take Your Pants for a Walk Day
July 28 – National Milk Chocolate Day
July 29 – Lasagna Day
July 30 – National Cheesecake Day
July 31 – National Avocado Day



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Board Meetings

(Zoom): July 1 & August 5;
7:30 PM

Monthly Dinner – June 17th,
Lehman's Brewery &
Farmhouse, Buchanan, MI
BIG Auto Show – Saturday
June 27th, Trinity Church &
School; Featured Marque:
Jaguar (British, Italian,
German)

Annual Meeting – Sat. July
25th, Jim & Joyce Webb's
home; noon potluck carry-in

Das Essenhaus Cruise-In –
Featured club August 20th

MG International Show –
August 23rd–27th, Sandusky,
OH

Fall Tour – Sept. 24–27,
Vincennes, IN

Colors Drive – October 17th,
destination TBD

**Membership Appreciation
Dinner** – Nov. 14th, Das
Essenhaus; 6:30 PM

Jaguar XJ220

Though it never got the V-12 engine Jaguar promised, the XJ220 is still a legend — with stunning looks, and for a time it was the fastest car on earth. A fitting star for our Jaguar-featured show on June 27th!

www.michianabrits.com

www.facebook.com/groups/374723067057280

President's Message

As of this writing, the car show is just over a week away. A week ago, it looked like we would be short on several key volunteer positions for show day. The requests went out and you responded. We are now near fully staffed. This is just another example of why I believe our club is so special. The requests go out and you respond. When the need arises, you come through.

Thanks, Randy

June 3rd Board Meeting Minutes

- 1. FINANCIAL** – bank account balance, we have money – Jim Betz
- 2. NAME BADGES, ONLINE DUES PAYMENTS:** 5 non-renewals; we have 10 NAMGBR and 9 VTR memberships – Jim Webb
- 3. CAR SHOW ITEMS:**
 - Show date is the last weekend of June – June 27, 2026.
 - Featured Marque – Jaguars; Leeper Jaguar lapel pin design, 100 pins received for the Goody Bags – Jim Betz.
 - Paul Dillon has arranged three food vendors: Who Gives A Crepe, Porta Vallarta and an Ice Cream Truck (Pink Cow as replacement ice cream truck).
 - Trinity contract requires 3 weeks of car-show notices on their electric sign – Bob to check with Tom that the sign ad is up and running.
 - VTR insurance certificate received; Jim Betz to give to Randy.
 - Paperwork & Volunteers – volunteer signup is slow; calls for volunteers to go out several times before the show; all documents emailed to Bob with copies to the Committee; hard copies for day of show to Bob on 6/17; before 6/20 Bob will continue email solicitation – Larry.
 - Mark Firnhaber has lined up 8 sponsors – Anderson Windows, Riverbend Industrial Solutions, 1st Source Bank, Car Guys, Eurasia Imports, Auto Import Specialists, Tire Rack (gift certificates for the 50/50 Raffle), and McCarthy Insurance (Mishawaka agency); sponsors assigned to award classes; clubs contacted: Porsche, Alfa Romeo, BMW.
 - Two Featured Marque awards: Jaguar Pre-1975 and Jaguar 1975–Present, each marked Best of Featured Marque for that class; 18 classes set, awards being made – Jim.
 - 22 online pre-registrations; poster updated on pre-registration pages; shut-off date is day-of-show – Bob, Jim Betz.
 - Spectator Ballots – provided at the PA Announcer's table; Jim located 500+ ballots.
 - Publicity – new sign out at the 933N/Cleveland intersection; two or more of Paul, Randy & Bob will be on WNDU Ch.16 to promote the show on Wednesday the 24th; PJ checking an ad for WZOW 97.7.
 - 50/50 Raffle – ticket winners pulled for Tire Rack certificates, then half of cash collected to a ticket winner; Wendy needs a helper.
 - Tag Sale to be removed from this year's show.

- Class Signs for the show field – Bob has them ordered, delivery expected 6/12.
- Bag Stuffing – June 24th at Bob Petersen's house.

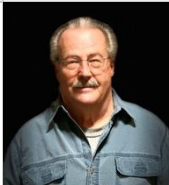
4. CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- Car Show – Saturday June 27th, Trinity Church & School.
- Annual Meeting – Jim & Joyce Webb hosting Saturday July 25th, noon potluck; Randy to pick up Martin's chicken.
- Das Essenhaus Cruise-In – Featured club August 20th (Philip).
- MG International Show – August 24rd–27th, Sandusky, OH (added to the schedule).
- Fall Tour – September 24–27, Vincennes, IN (Philip got a block of 10 rooms).
- Colors Drive – October 17th, destination TBD.
- Membership Appreciation Dinner – Das Essenhaus, Saturday November 14, 6:30 PM (Philip).

5. MONTHLY MEETINGS/DINNERS:

- June 17 – Lehman's Brewery & Farmhouse, Buchanan, MI (reservation made);
- Brass Rail, Plymouth reserved for August 12th;
- Lindy's to be scheduled for early fall – Larry.

6. NEXT MONTHLY BOARD ZOOM MEETINGS – July 1, August 5.

2026 Board Members			
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Photos from *the Brit's June 16th Dinner Meeting*

Submitted by Larry Palguta

Our scheduled June Dinner Meeting coincided with a forecast of very rainy and severe weather. That did not deter the Brits from showing up for dinner and drinks at Lehman's Brewery and Orchard in Buchanan, MI. We did have heavy rain during the drive to Buchanan, but the severe weather didn't materialize.



Lehman's Brewery & Farmhouse, Buchanan, MI



Judy & David Dean, Paul Noeth waves

Our group of 14 had a good dinner and pleasant conversation while the rainy weather passed by Buchanan. And some plans for our June 27th BIG Car Show were fine-tuned for that event.



President Randy Glanders relaxes after dinner; he is the PA Announcer at the Car Show.



Paul Price, Leader of the Ballot Counting Team at the Car Show.



Next to Ruth & Roger Deacon, Bob Paul is happy to attend the dinner.

The Annual Meeting will be on July 25th at Jim & Joyce Webb's home near Huntington, IN. That will be followed by the August 12th monthly Meeting Dinner at the Brass Rail Bar & Grill in Plymouth, IN.

Das Essenhaus Cruise-In

Submitted by James Webb

Featured Club — Thursday, June 4th



Michiana Brits British cars on display — our club was the featured marque at the June 4th Das Essenhaus Cruise-In.

Photo by Jim Webb.

ABOUT British Sports Cars

A Salute to the Best British Sports Cars Ever

With our BIG Auto Show and its Jaguar featured marque just around the corner on June 27th, it seemed the perfect month to celebrate the cars that made Britain famous. The U.K. is responsible for some of the greatest sports cars the world has ever seen — here are a few favorites, drawn from Road & Track's "24 of the Best British Sports Cars Ever."

Jaguar E-Type — Ask people to name the prettiest car of all time and many will say the E-Type. It remains one of the most stunning road cars ever built.

Jaguar F-Type — The E-Type isn't the only great Jaguar. The marque's modern two-seater is wonderful as well — and we can't get enough of that V-8 soundtrack.

Jaguar XJ220 — Though it never got the V-12 Jaguar promised, the XJ220 is still a legend; for a time it was the fastest car on earth.

MG Midget — The 1960s were a golden age for British sports cars, and the lightweight, simple — and, as the name says, extremely tiny — Midget was the perfect car for the discerning enthusiast.

Triumph Spitfire — Like the Midget, the Spitfire was a fun two-seat droptop you could truly enjoy on a back road. It was built for 18 years, so it isn't terribly hard to find one today.

Sunbeam Tiger — Want a V-8-powered British roadster developed by Carroll Shelby but can't afford a Cobra? The Tiger brings the same kind of smile for far less cash.

Lotus Elan — There's a reason the original Miata borrowed so heavily from the Elan. This Lotus had a featherweight body and wonderful chassis balance, making it one of the most enjoyable cars on the road.

McLaren F1 — One of the greatest cars of all time, period. A center driver's seat and a naturally aspirated V-12 are just a couple of the features that make the F1 a legend.

Morgan 3-Wheeler — We know, it isn't exactly a car — but it still belongs on the list. It's a fun two-seater you can enjoy at any speed, and you'll wonder why anyone needs more in a weekend runabout.

See you at the show on Saturday, June 27th — and bring your Jaguar! Adapted from Road & Track, "24 of the Best British Sports Cars Ever," by Brian Silvestro.

ABOUT Your Tyres

Don't Underestimate the Role of Your Tyres!

submitted by Philip Wiltshire

Even though we've lived in the USA for 30-plus years, it still galls me to see how flippantly tyres (not tires!) are treated here. We came from a continent that mandates good tyre condition, but here anything goes. I've seen pickups pirouette on I-85 in South Carolina when icy conditions or heavy rain hit the highway, climbed out of the wreckage, and noticed many vehicles had hardly any tread left — yet it didn't seem to matter.

Growing up in the UK with tough rules for motor vehicles, it became ingrained in me that tyres really count. So imagine my horror when I found a big tear across the tread and down the sidewall of one of my nearly-new MGA tyres. On closer inspection, all four had splits and tears at the base of the treads.

I checked the DOT Tire Identification Number on the sidewalls and found the tyres were 15 years old. I hadn't put many miles on the MGA, so they still looked new — or so I assumed. It goes to show how even Philip Wiltshire, the most radical tyre-quality fiend, can get it very wrong.



A tear across the tread and down the sidewall.



Splits and tears at the base of the treads.

The UK MOT tyre check

Motor vehicles in the UK over three years old must pass an annual inspection (the “MOT”), though classics over 40 years old are exempt. The MOT tyre check is a good checklist for our classics at the start or end of any driving season:

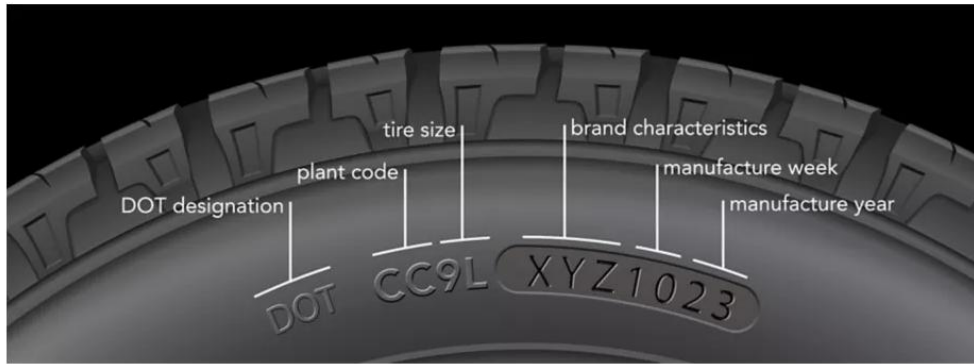
- Inspect tread depth to ensure it meets the legal minimum of 1.6 mm.
- Check for visible damage, such as cuts, bulges, or punctures.
- Assess tyre pressure to ensure it is within the manufacturer's recommended range.
- Examine the sidewalls for signs of wear or cracking.
- Verify that all tyres are of the same type and size, including the spare.
- Ensure the tyre condition is safe for road use, with no excessive wear patterns.

Germany takes it further

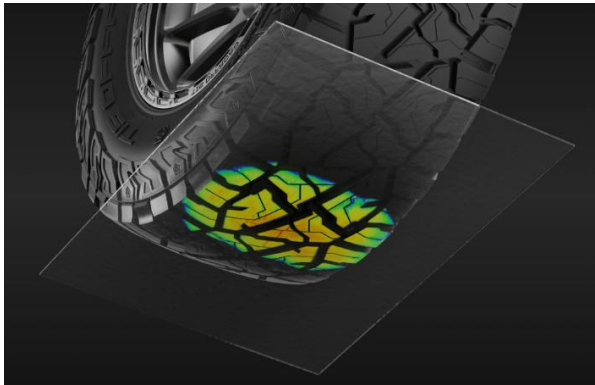
When I worked in Germany, driving between plants at autobahn speeds in snowy conditions, our cars were shod with the correct tyres in good condition. There:

- Winter tyres are mandatory during winter conditions (snow, ice, or frost).
- The legal requirement is to use appropriate tyres for the weather conditions.
- Fines can be imposed for not using winter tyres in adverse weather.
- Winter tyres improve safety and handling in cold temperatures.
- It's recommended to switch to winter tyres from October to Easter.
- All-season tyres may not match the performance of dedicated winter tyres.

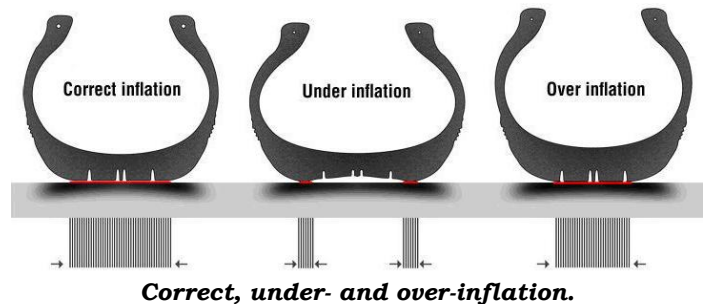
DOT Tire Identification Number



Reading a DOT Tire Identification Number.



The contact patch — all that connects you to the road.



Correct, under- and over-inflation.

How long should tyres last?

There are many variables — treadwear, stopping distance, repairs — but age is a huge factor in tyre safety. There is no exact formula, but you can defer to the manufacturers' recommendations:

- Vehicle manufacturers recommend replacement at 6 years.
- Tyre manufacturers' warranties expire at 6 years.
- Tyre manufacturers recommend replacement at 10 years, regardless of tread depth.
- Many tyre-servicing businesses will not service a tyre over 10 years old.



I felt much better once these new tyres and inner tubes were fitted. Now I'm ready for the road — but only for six years, max!

New tyres and tubes — ready for the road again.

Featured British Brew

Old Speckled Hen — The Ale Born in an MG Factory

Submitted by Robert Petersen

If you have ever raised a glass of Old Speckled Hen, you have toasted a piece of MG history. This amber British ale was first brewed in 1979 by the Morland Brewery in Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire — the very town that was home to the MG car factory — to mark the 50th anniversary of MG's move to Abingdon.

What's in a name? The beer takes its name from an experimental MG called the Featherlight Saloon. Its body was a wooden frame covered in gold-speckled black fabric, and it served as a runabout for workers at the factory, who nicknamed it the “owd speck'ld 'un.” When MG asked Morland to create a commemorative beer, the name — and the octagonal, MG-style label — was born.

Brewed at a gravity of 1050 to denote the 50th anniversary, the first batch was just twenty-five barrels. It proved so popular that it long outlived the Abingdon factory, which closed in 1980. Since 2000 the ale has been brewed by Greene King at Bury St Edmunds and is now sold in more than twenty countries.

The Hen family: Today Old Speckled Hen has hatched a whole flock — including Old Crafty Hen, Old Golden Hen, Old Hoppy Hen and a low-alcohol version — but the original amber ale, at around 4.8% ABV, remains the favorite.

Adapted from Wikipedia; submitted by Bob Petersen.



An original “Old Speckled Hen” Anniversary Brew bottle, bearing the MG 1929–1979 emblem.

FUN Photos

Celebrating the marques of our BIG Auto Show — British, Italian & German:



Jaguar E-Type (British)



Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa (Italian)



Porsche 911 (German)

Photos via Wikimedia Commons.