

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



**“A gentleman does not motor about after dark.”**

**Joseph Lucas**

**August 2022**



**Alan Fearnley, 1996**



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**Editor: Kelly Turner**



# LOTUS WEEKEND AT GLORE'S

By Charlie Durning

Though it was a bit toasty outside, we still had a good turnout for the annual Lotus Weekend. There weren't a lot of LBCs in attendance. It was just too hot to drive without A/C. The best part of the gathering was the conversations. I was happy to see several new faces in the crowd. That is a good thing. After chow was served Past Pres Charlie conducted a short meeting. Mike Marsh announced that Euro-Fest is now open for the September 30-October 1, 2022 show. Mike promises a good time (<https://euro-fest.net/?/ridgeland-entry-form>). Bonnie announced that the Italian Food Fest will be happening, but the date will be announced later. There will be judging and a prize for the best Italian dish. Paul McNeill will be leading a spirited drive along the back roads from Florence to Ellisville. The day promises to be time well spent. After the meeting folks resumed their conversations and some headed to their respective homes. I would like to thank Mike and Alice Gore for graciously opening their "barn" to a bunch of ruffians. We all had a great time. Keep an eye out for any gathering and drive updates on the club website (<http://www.msemc.org/events/>). Our August gathering will be at the Bailey home on Brandon. Hope to see you all there.









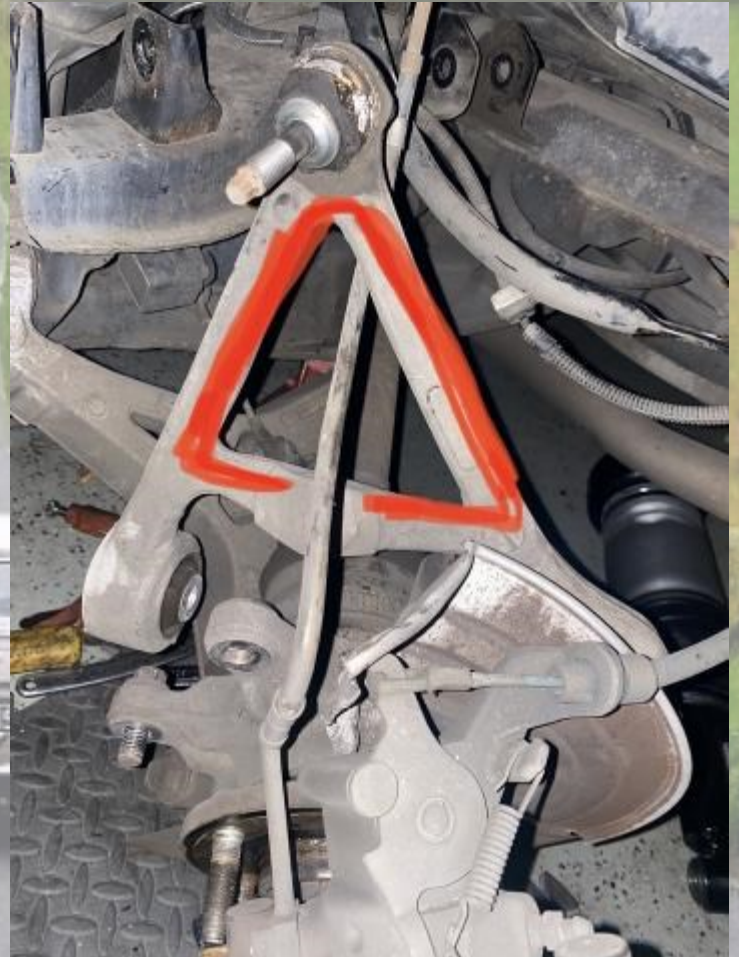
# WHAT WERE THEY THINKING!?

By John Turbeville



As British car owners, you've probably asked this a time or two if you have ever tried to replace a worn out part. Sometimes it is evident why a part is installed the way it is, and if in doubt, we can always consult the repair operations manual for our car, or better yet, consult the internet for better pictures and handy shortcuts that others have figured out. I'd like to start a new section of the newsletter dedicated to those engineers (non-mechanics) for their seemingly stupid thought processes of getting parts assembled. If you have pondered this rhetorical question for which there is no obvious reason why the part or process works, then take a picture and send it in and explain what would make the prudent car-owner ask "What Were They Thinking?"

Here is the first submission to this section: While replacing the rear upper wishbone (suspension component) of my 2007 Jaguar XJ8 due to worn out bushings and knuckle, it became quickly apparent that some engineer had not thought out the brake hose layout. You can see in the attached picture that the brake hose is routed through the center section of the wishbone! The caliper is too big to pass back through the opening, so the only thing to do is disconnect the brake hose. Now instead of just having a suspension job to do, I have a brake bleed job also...What Were They Thinking??





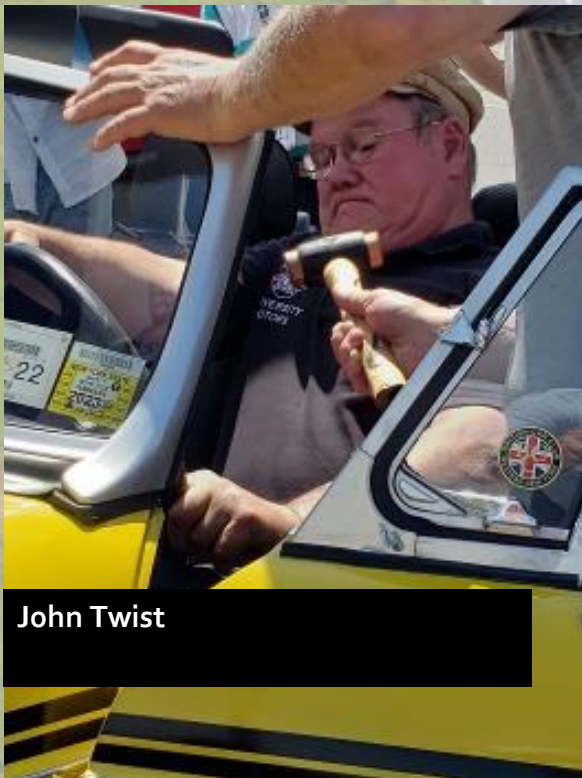
# NAMGBR 2022

By Gene Johnston

Bowmanville-Peterborough ON, CN – June 16 – 22, 2022 – Martha and I stepped across the border into Canada for back-to-back MG events during June. On June the 16th, our fun began with the Vintage Automobile Racing Association of Canada's Vintage Grand Prix at Canadian Tire Motorsports Park. This year's featured marque was MG and with the North American MGB Register holding its annual convention 30 minutes away, we expected a great turn out of MGs. We weren't disappointed. In addition to seeing MGs on track Friday thru Sunday, on Sunday many early arrivers for the NAMGBR convention created an MG Corral and participants were allowed a lap of the track. The weather was beautiful, and the track is amazing.

On Monday June 20, we began attendance at the NAMGBR convention. The host hotel was located on the Otonabee River and a great place to stroll through parking lot parties and for John Twist to host his rolling tech session. On Tuesday, Martha visited a well-known local artist while I was amongst those standing around telling tall tales and watching John Twist work his magic. Next day started the 2022 show in a nearby park. I've not

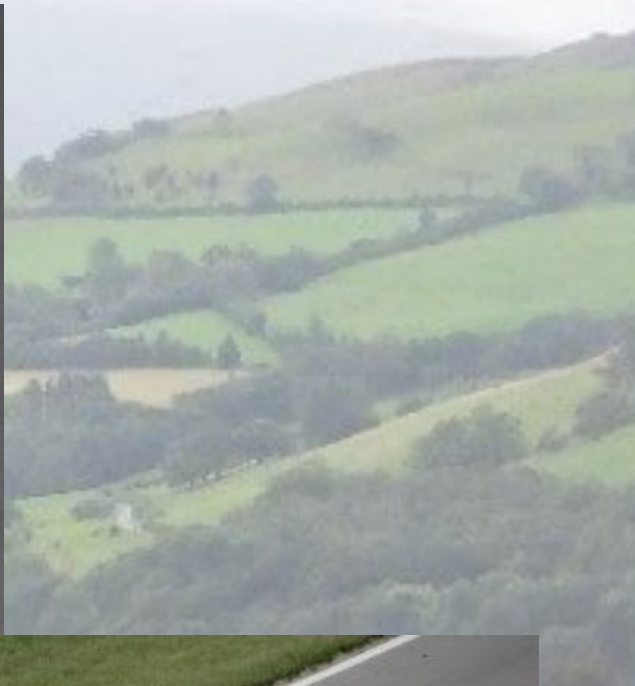
seen a count of cars on the show field, but they were everywhere, well-presented and well organized. There were some beautiful cars at MG'22. Thank goodness for the large trees in the park; the shade was a blessing. Martha and I were glad that we recognized and took the opportunity to attend these two great events.













# BROWN SUGAR & BACON PUFF TWISTS

Sent in by Richard Greene

## INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 of a 17.3-ounce package Pepperidge Farm® Puff Pastry Sheets(1 sheet), thawed
- 9 slices uncooked bacon
- 3 tablespoons grated or shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper



## DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Sprinkle **half** the brown sugar on the work surface. Unfold the pastry sheet on the work surface. Sprinkle the pastry with the remaining brown sugar. Roll the pastry sheet into a 14x10-inch rectangle. Cut the pastry sheet in half lengthwise. Cut each half crosswise into 18 (3/4-inch wide) strips, making 36.
3. Cut the bacon slices in half lengthwise, then crosswise, making 36 (about 5x1/2-inch) strips.
4. Place 1 bacon strip on each pastry strip. Twist the pastry and bacon together and place on the baking sheets, pressing down the ends. Stir the cheese and cayenne pepper in a small bowl. Sprinkle the pastries with the cheese mixture.
5. Bake for 15 minutes or until the pastries are golden brown and the bacon is crisp. Let the pastries cool on the baking sheets on wire racks for 5 minutes.
6. *Ingredient Note:* Bacon varies in size from brand to brand. Depending the brand you use, you may have some leftover pieces after cutting the strips needed for this recipe.
7. *Recipe Note:* Parchment paper keeps the pastry from sticking to the baking sheet and also makes for easier cleanup. If you don't have parchment paper, you can spray the baking sheet with cooking spray instead. However, cooking spray may cause the bottoms of the pastries to brown more quickly, so begin checking for doneness 5 minutes early.
8. *Make-Ahead:* To make ahead, cover and freeze the unbaked pastries on the baking sheets until firm. Remove the pastries from the baking sheets and store in a gallon-size resealable plastic bag in the freezer for up to 1 month. To bake, place the pastries onto baking sheets and bake as directed above.
9. *Flavor Variation:* For *Cheddar & Rosemary Puff Twists*, substitute shredded Cheddar cheese for the brown sugar and minced fresh rosemary for the cayenne pepper.



# Autopsy of a Noisy 1098

## Part 3: Trials and Tribulations

After some delays and forgotten parts, all of the parts needed have finally arrived.. The adventure will be test fitting available parts that are not originally for a 1098 engine. In the end, there will be some much needed improvements. The 1098 engine is the “middle child” of the A Series engines. Some features are leftover features from the 848 and 948 “small block” engines, and some of the 1098 features were adopted by the 1275 “big block engine”. And the A+ engines share features from all of the A Series engines and have some of their own unique features. It will take a mix of parts from all of the engine series to get the step-child 1098 back on the road.

The good part is the parts unique to the 1098 engine installed without incident. The pistons had a good fit at .003” clearance, the rings had a .013” gap, and the main and rod bearings came in at .0015” clearance. All are within spec for the engine. That was the easy part. The new lock tabs for the main cap bolts did not fit. Those were easily modified by drilling the holes to size and trimming the excess material.



**Drilling the tab to size**



**Trimming the tab**





## AUTOPSY PART 3

The next challenge is with the camshaft. The original cam has what is called a pin drive for the oil pump. Unfortunately, nobody offers a pin drive camshaft anymore. That means the oil pump has to be changed to a slot drive to mate with the new camshaft. That would be just fine, except there are at least 5 different oil pumps for the A Series engines and on top of that there are variables with the oil pump drive shafts. In addition some pumps use 2, 3, or 4 bolts to mount to the engine block. The 1098 engine uses 3 bolts. After some head scratching, I came up with an oil pump for a 998 A+ engine. An order was placed.



**Slot drive cam**



**Pin drive cam**

Though the oil pump is physically different, the pump casting had provisions for mounting with 2, 3, or 4 bolts, the pump received was drilled for 3 bolts. The new oil pump bolted right up, sort of. It was then it was discovered that the bolts for the new oil pump need to be ¼" shorter than the original bolts. A stack of washers would not be an acceptable solution. Order for the special bolts was placed and the new pump was installed without incident.



# AUTOPSY PART 3

To mount the engine on the engine stand, the engine back plate must first be installed. No problem. The new gasket was slathered with gasket sealer and attached to the back plate. A little trimming of the gasket needed to be done around the tin can oil pump cover. That should have been a sign. Sure enough, the back plate would not fit over the new oil pump. Rats!! In the infinite wisdom of BMC, they apparently didn't confirm that the hole in the back plate would align with the oil pump pocket in the back of the block. The alignment was off by around 1/4". As near as I can tell, BMC never rectified that fault for the 1098 engine. After doing some research and calling in some favors, a solution was found. Grind down the offending ears on the oil pump. Now the back plate fits but the back plate gasket was spoiled. Replacement gasket ordered.

Nonconcentric with oil pump cavity in block



Oil pump backs



Trimmed oil pump housing

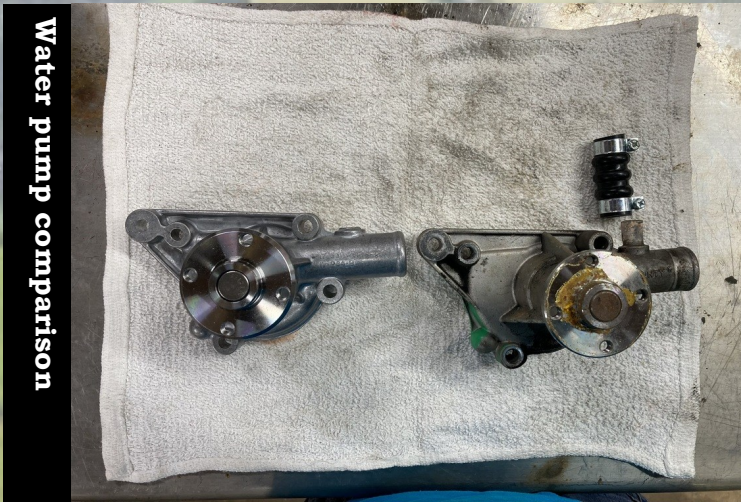


Oil pump drive ends

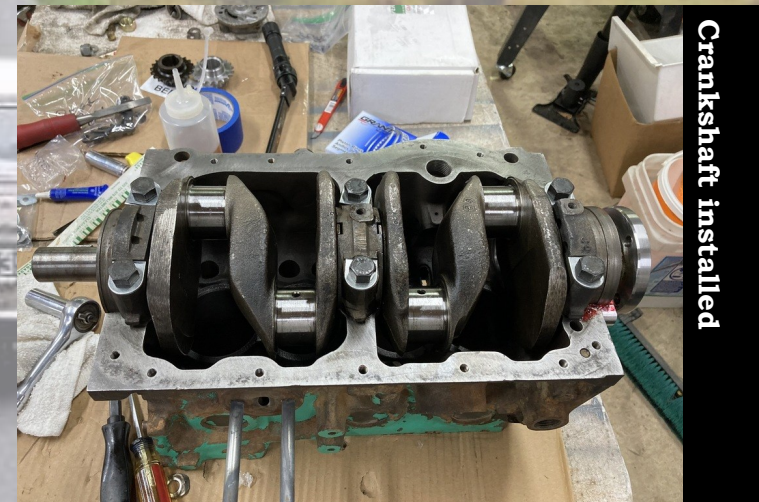


# AUTOPSY PART 3

While the engine is out and the head is off I decided to convert the head for the A+ water pump. Fortunately, the A+ water pump conversion went smoothly, sort of. To make this work a tube for the bypass hose must be removed from the head and a blocking plug installed. No problem, just order the plug. Rover does make a plug for the purpose of blocking the hole in the head. For some reason unknown to modern man, the plug has a thread size and pitch of 5/8-16. That's right, not a typo. The correct plug does have a part number, but nobody stocks that plug. For some reason the usual suppliers only stock a plug with 5/8-18 thread. That is just too Rube Goldberg for me.



I hatched an evil plan. I'll just plug the existing fitting. First the fitting must be removed from the head. Sounds easy. Well the fitting was very stubborn. The way to remove stuck fittings is with fire. The torch did its job and the fitting was removed. With the fitting out of the head I was able to whack off the tube and then braze in a plug. That solved that problem and one source of a water leak is now abated. Hopefully the rest of the engine overhaul will go smoothly. More on that later.







# THE PERFECT PICNIC

From Hilda Level's *The Perfect Picnic*

## *Menu No. 7*

*Tomato Cocktail*

*Veal & Ham Pie*

*Lettuce & Cucumber Salad*

*Glacé Grapes*

**Tomato Cocktail** Add to a cup of strained tomato juice a teaspoonful of finely chopped onion. Press through a fine sieve and mix with a tablespoonful of lemon juice, a tablespoonful of wine vinegar, a teaspoonful of finely chopped celery or half a teaspoonful of celery seed; half a small bay leaf and a level tablespoonful of sugar. Let it stand two hours in a cool place, then strain and put in the refrigerator.

**Veal & Ham Pie** Cut into small pieces a pound of lean veal from which all the skin has been removed, a quarter of a pound of lean ham and bacon, cutting it into neat strips. Mix together with some finely chopped parsley, pepper and salt and the thinly grated rind of half a lemon and a little water. Arrange in the dish with slices of hard-boiled egg and cover with parsley. When the pie is baked, heat some good jelly stock and pour it through the hole at the top of the pie with a funnel. Leave it to get cold. For the pastry, see the chicken pie recipe in Menu No. 1.

**Lettuce & Cucumber Pie** Wash the lettuce and leave it in a wire basket to drain. Then dry it further by wrapping it in a clean towel and patting it. Take off the outer leaves and use the inner ones, breaking them with the fingers. Arrange them in a salad bowl. Slice part of a cucumber after peeling it very thinly, and mix it with the lettuce. Then add a few chopped gherkins and dress the salad with oil and vinegar, pepper and salt.

**Glacé Grapes** Put two teacupfuls of white sugar into an enamel saucepan with a cup of boiling water and half a teaspoonful of cream of tartar. Heat to boiling water. Boil without stirring until syrup begins to discolour, which is 310 degrees F. Wash off the sugar that adheres to the sides of the pan. Remove the saucepan from the fire and place in a larger pan of cold water to instantly stop boiling. Take the grapes in small clusters from the bunch and dip in the syrup and remove to oiled paper.



# AN MGB FITTED FOR A QUEEN



By John Turbeville



A contestant in the Miss Mississippi beauty pageant, Rachel Graham, contacted our club via our webpage asking if anyone had a convertible that she could use in the parade of contestants. It was to be in 12 days in Vicksburg, MS. I responded that I'd not done this before and my car needed some work, but I could get it done and I'd be her chauffeur in the parade.

My 1977 MGB had had a blowout while driving the curvy mountain roads in Arkansas the prior month. A small

chunk was created in the alloy rim and I was determined to repair this myself. I had this repair in process when Rachel called, but time was of the essence to finish the necessary sanding and painting before the big parade. Not only did the wheel need repairing but the car was still grungy from the road trip so it needed a full detail and wax job.

The back valence where Rachel needed to sit was not designed to hold a person. She had also mentioned that her dress would be sequined, so not wanting any scratches on the paint nor her weight on the valence, I began to think she needed a special made seat that rode above the valence. I called on Mac Culpepper to discuss parades and queens in an MG. Mac's creative juices started flowing and he started sketching designs made from PVC pipe with legs in the front and supported in the rear by the luggage rack on the trunk deck. A trip to Home Depot to gather the necessary supplies to construct this seat netted 1 1/2 inch pipe with plenty of bends and straight pieces to give fruition to Mac's design. Over the next few days, it took shape and Mac came over to my shop to do the final assembly by gluing it all together. He was eager to give a try to see if would support his weight...and it did! Total success.



As it turned out for the sequined dress, a much cooler dress was chosen for the parade as it was in the 90s that day. In the end, my concerns for her weight on the valence and her sequined dress scratching the paint were a moot issue. She did ride higher by sitting on the PVC seat than she would have otherwise and the purpose of the parade was to be seen by the waving crowds the lined the street, so for that fact alone it was worth building.







# TOOL TECH TIP: EASY VALVE ADJUSTER

By Charlie Durning

Adjusting valves can be frustrating at times. Our little cars have a slit for a flat blade screwdriver and a very thin lock nut. Something had to be done to keep the screwdriver from slipping out of place and something to keep the wrench from slipping off of the lock nut. The solution is slip a piece of tubing over the end of the screwdriver. That will keep the screwdriver from slipping off of the adjuster. The other tip is to grind down the side of the box end wrench to eliminate the taper. That will give a better grip and can prevent the wrench from slipping off of the lock nut.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 20, 2022 EMC Garage and Food Tour / Brandon, MS** – The Bailey family throws a great party in lead up to the EMC show. Come on out and see what has added or improved on for 2021. Always lots to see and do along with a great meal what else can you ask for. This will be the pre-Brits on the Bluffs gathering so bring along a dish and enjoy the fun. Gathering starts at 11:00am. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

**August 29 – September 1, 2022 Vintage Triumph Register North American Challenge / Galena, IL** – If you're looking for a national convention to attend this one is a bit closer to home. Tech sessions, vendors and autocrossing along with all sorts of other fun. Details: <https://vintagetriumphregister.org>

**September 2022 Brits in the Ozarks / Fayetteville, AR** - Still looking for excuses for a mountain drive? Here's another chance to see the Ozarks in all of their colors and have a car show at the end of your drive. The 19th Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: [www.britishironnwa.org](http://www.britishironnwa.org)

**September 9 - 10, 2022 Shoals British Car Show / Rogersville, AL** - If you haven't had the pleasure of visiting the Shoals British Car Show at Joe Wheeler State Park in Rogersville AL you should. This will be their 24th annual event. It's a laid back gathering on the banks of Wheeler Lake. Everything including rooms, meals and Friday night's reception are within walking distance. Details: [www.shoalsbritishcars.org](http://www.shoalsbritishcars.org).

**September 16-17, 2022 EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez, MS** – We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 25th Annual BotB. Join us for the Friday night reception and spend Saturday with us overlooking the Mississippi River. Click [HERE](#) for 2022 information and the printable registration form. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

**September 30 - October 1, 2022 Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland, MS** – Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Renaissance Car Fest. The 2021 event was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2022. When posted get your entry in early and make plans to attend. You'll see cars that you don't get a chance to enjoy often and in the surroundings of the Renaissance. It's just magnificent. Details: [www.euro-fest.net](http://www.euro-fest.net) Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

**October (check for dates, usually the second weekend) 2022 Brits at the Parthenon / Nashville, TN** - If you're looking for a nice drive up the Natchez Trace there's no better reason than to attend the 26th Annual Nashville British Car Club Show. Lots to do including taking in the Lane Museum of Cars while in town. A reception is held on Friday evening and the shows on Saturday. Details: [www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org](http://www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org).

**October 21 -22, 2022 Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show / Location to be updated** – Looking for a great weekend auto activity? This local show is in its 17th year and sponsored by the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. For show registration and scheduling check out their web-site at [www.MSClassicCruisers.com](http://www.MSClassicCruisers.com). If you'd like to park in the Little British Car area contact Keith Anderson. Details: Keith Anderson (601) - 829 – 2573.

**October 21 - 22, 2022 South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope, AL** - It's a nice drive down to the fair community of Fairhope AL so join the caravan to the lovely city by Mobile Bay. The Friday night meet and greet is always fun and the food is fantastic. Join EMC members to drive and celebrate this show in its 31<sup>th</sup> year! Details: [www.sabcc.org](http://www.sabcc.org).