



Gateway Relay

Vol XI, No. 6

St Louis Sports Car Council

July-August 2023

Council News & Notes

- Ah, summertime, wonderful time of the year, great for cruising, sight-seeing or even just some spirited driving over your favorite twisty road. Of course, having working air conditioning in your car is an advantage... (and, as this issue of the Relay goes to press, we're enjoying yet another line of major thunderstorms).
- Obviously, we are in full session now with events occurring most every weekend in one form or another.
- We will draw specific attention to one event mid-August. As seen at right, on the 19th the St Louis Region of the SCCA is holding one of its periodic rallies. Whether you're a rally vet or someone who's wanted to try their hand, this is a great opportunity. AND, thanks to the miracle of smart phones and aps, you can download an ap that'll keep track of your progress. Rallymaster Jim Heine will guide you through the process at the check-in site. Give it a try!
- Otherwise, competition opportunities continue with the two autocross series on into the fall and Cars & Coffee's still a hit (a place to be seen?), into October. Plenty to do, so get out there and drive 'em!

Up & Coming

- 5 Aug 23—Cars & Coffee West/SunRise Church**, 7116 Twin Chimneys Blvd, O'Fallon, Missouri, 8-10 AM.
- 6 Aug 23—MG Club of St Louis Pre-Dawn Rally**. Meet at the Gas Mart in Chesterfield at 5:30 AM, plan on a one-hour to 90 minute drive, followed by breakfast at some locale. Monitor <https://stlouismgclub.com/events-calendar/>.
- 12 Aug 23—Cars & Coffee/Fast Lane Classic Cars**, 427 Little Hills Industrial Blvd, St Charles, 8-10 AM.
- 13 Aug 23—SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 4**, Family Arena. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 19 Aug 23—Cars & Coffee/Amp Up**, 13901 Manchester (Home Depot/Fresh Thyme shopping center), 8-11 AM.
- 19 Aug 23—St Louis Region SCCA Tulips Redux 2023 Rally**. Road rally/social event with Monte-Carlo-style touring format. About 50 miles of early-evening route following and Richta GPS checkpoint timing and scoring. Start at the Troy, IL park and ride, 809 S Main Street, \$20 for SCCA teams, \$40 for non-SCCA teams, on-site check-in at 5 PM. End point is Schlafly's Highland Square Brewpub in Highland, Illinois. Register online at <http://msreg.com/STLTulipsRedux>.
- 20 Aug 23—Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 5**, Family Arena, St Charles. Show around 9-9:30, \$50 for six runs. For more information or to get on the email list, contact Racer Steve at sshab@yahoo.com.
- 20 Aug 23—Boone Trail Corvette Club Spaghetti :Factory Dine-out**, details TBA, monitor www.boonetrailcc.com/.
- 20 Aug 23—31st Annual Edwardsville DARE Car Show**, at Edwardsville High School, 6161 Center Grove Rd, 11 AM to 4 PM. Vehicle registration 8:30 AM to 1 PM, \$15 judged/\$10 display, dash plaques to first 300 entries and goodie bags while they last. Rain date 27 August, more info at dare@cityofedwardsville.com.
- 26 Aug 23—Cars & Coffee/Holman Motorcars**, 1 Arnage Dr, Chesterfield Valley, 10 AM-12 Noon
- 26 Aug 23—Caffeine & Chrome/Cause for Paws**, Gateway Classic Cars, 1237 Central Park Dr, O'Fallon, Illinois, 9 AM-12 Noon. No admission fee, come on in and have donuts and coffee.

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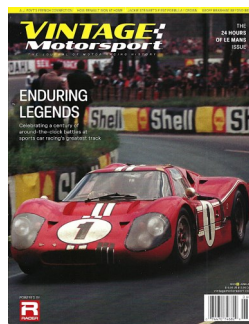
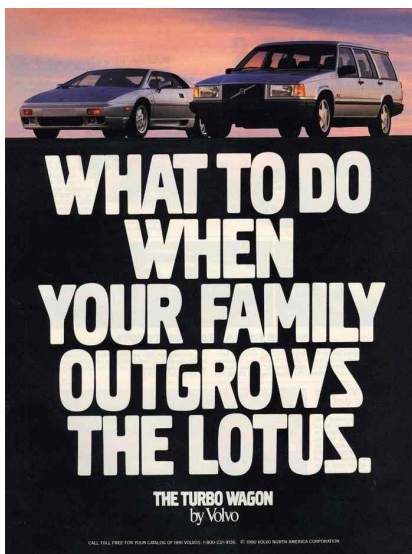
Note: Some club events restrict participation to club members only, primarily for national/chapter insurance reasons. If interested in joining in on a drive or other event, we recommend you contact the club's event coordinator in advance for details.

In Print

We'll start this month with the July-August edition of *Car & Driver*, which presents the "EV of the Year;" the cars considered and tested included the BMW i7. Same issue, a comparison between the 2023 Corvette Z06 ("The most tenacious Corvette ever") and the Porsche 911 GT3, a full test of the 2023 BMW WM hybrid SUV and brief buyer's guide for the BMW i3.

Vintage Motorsports follows up last issue's focus on the Indy 500 with a June/July salute to the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Besides the history, there are the usual photo articles on a number of vintage

Continued on pg 2



- 31 Aug 23**—MG Club of St Louis **RUBCO**, Silver Pancake House, 9983 Manchester Rd, 9:30-11 AM
- 2 Sept 23**—**Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 6**, Family Arena, St Charles. Show around 9-9:30 , \$50 for six runs. For more information or to get on the email list, contact Racer Steve at sshab@yahoo.com.
- 2 Sept 23**—**Cars & Coffee West/SunRise Church**, 7116 Twin Chimneys Blvd, O'Fallon, Missouri, 8-10 AM.
- 3 Sept 23**—**SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 5**, Family Arena. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 3 Sept 23**—**Collinsville VFW Car Show & Vendor Fair**, VFW Kahokian Memorial Post 5691, 1234 Vandalia Ave, Collinsville. Registration 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, judging begins at 12 Noon, award presentations at 2 PM. \$15 per vehicle for judging, \$5 for show. For details/more information, email 5691VFWAUX@gmail.com.
- 9-10 Sept 23**—Boone Trail Corvette Club **Casey, IL Overnight Trip**. Details to follow, monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 9 Sept 23**—**Cars & Coffee/Fast Lane Classic Cars**, 427 Little Hills Industrial Blvd, St Charles, 8-10 AM.
- 10 Sept 23**—**26th Annual Walter F. Phillips Memorial Old Cars Against Cancer Wheels in Motion Day**, Westport Plaza, registration \$20 per car, first 150 received a dash plaque. All proceeds benefit the National Children's Cancer Society. Prize raffle, sno-cones, BBQ and drinks, live entertainment. For info call Elliott (314)878-0534 or Al (314)650-7639.
- 14-16 Sept 23**—**Mid-America Corvette Funfest**, at Mid America Motorworks/My Garage Museum, 2900 N Third St, Effingham, Illinois. Vendors, thousands of vehicles on display, live music and more. Call up www.corvettefunfest.com for more info and updates.
- 16 Sept 23**—**Annual Randi Gori Memorial Kicks on 66 Ultra Car Show and Cruise**. New location: Schon Park, Glen Carbon, 11 AM-2 PM. Gates open for show entrants at 7:30 AM, event opens to the public at 11 AM. See www.kickson66.org/ for details and to register or call up Facebook at www.facebook.com/edwkickson66/.
- 16 Sept 23**—**Boone Trail Corvette Club Picnic**, details TBA, monitor <https://www.boonetrailcc.com/>.
- 16 Sept 23**—**Gateway Miata Club Picnic**, details to follow.
- 16 Sept 23**—**Cars & Coffee/Amp Up**, 13901 Manchester (Home Depot/Fresh Thyme shopping center), 8-11 AM.
- 16 Sept 23**—Annual Gateway VCOA **Mid-Missouri Meet-Up**, with the Kansas City club. Meet in Booneville, take a short scenic drive north to Glasgow, then south to historic Arrow Rock State Historic Site and lunch at J Huston Restaurant. Details to follow, monitor <https://gatewayvolvo.com/page/>.
- 17 Sept 23**—**SCCA autocross/Solo II Event 6**, Family Arena. Event fee \$55, plus a \$15 weekend membership for non-SCCA members; online pre-registration is \$45. For more info, monitor <https://solo.stlscca.org/>.
- 17 Sept 23**—Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri **Swap Meet & Car show**, Chesterfield Mall, details to follow.
- 22 Sept 23**—**Annual Pre-ABCCS Picnic/BBQ**, at Creve Coeur Lake Park. Details to follow.
- 22-24 Sept 23**—**Hagerty SpeedTour Weekend**, World Wide Technology Raceway, Madison, Illinois. Car show open to all classic, vintage, exotic and collectible cars and vintage motorcycles. Car clubs are welcome. \$75 registration includes two weekend passes to the vintage races, touring on the track in your car, VIP parking and full access to the race car paddock. Details including online registration at: <https://speedtour.net/st/?lib=product&pid=674&cat=11&fbclid=IwAR2VcXpLjD4s53weU27dR3sq2xTOGkuthooqoB7feHAOKgPnhaR-0MzYnJk>
- 23 Sept 23 - 32nd Annual St Louis All British Car & Cycle Show**, sponsored by the St Louis MG Club at the Heldman Shelter, Creve Coeur Lake Park. 9 AM to 3 PM, this year's featured marques are Rolls-Royce and Bentley. More details to follow.
- 24 Sept 23**—**Boeing Sports Car Club Autocross No. 7**, Family Arena, St Charles. Show around 9-9:30 , \$50 for six runs. For more information or to get on the email list, contact Racer Steve at sshab@yahoo.com.
- 24 Sept 23**—**36th Annual Oktoberfest Antique Car Show**, Main Street, St Charles. Hosted by the First Capitol Classics Auto Club, 9 AM to 4:30 PM, rain or shine. \$20 entry fee, registration 9 AM to 12 noon; no modifieds, street rods or customs, stocks only 1998 and older. Dash plaques for the first 150 cars. Info at <https://firstcapitolclassics.wixsite.com/autoclub>.

St Louis Car Shows and Cruises: www.stlouiscoachmen.com/car-shows-special-events

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In Print (Continued from page 1)

events around the US, including this year's 1988 "Vette Fest" at the Rolex Motorsports Reunion at the WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca. *Octane* for July incorporates a feature article on two Belgian coach-built Jaguar XK120s, the Flying Jaguar Coupe and Oblin XK120.

Finally, August's *Thoroughbred & Classic Cars* compares "80s Fast Movers." The cover article pits a BMW 635CSI E24 against a 1998 Vauxhall Astra GTE Mk 11 16v, 1986 Audi Quattro 10v/WR, 1986 Ford Sierra RS Cosworth and 1990 Ferrari Testarossa. Towards the back of the pub, an article on a 1937 Frazer Nash-BMW 319/55.



NMOT's Chrysler Turbine at Forest Park, 17 April 2022

Most everyone's familiar with the Chrysler's 1963-1964 gas turbine; the National Museum of Transportation has an example which shows up regularly at the annual Forest Park Easter Concours.

Then there were the famous Indy turbines; Parnelli Jones almost won the 1967 500 and, in 1968, STP sponsored three Lotus 56 gas turbines (none finished). British manufacturer Rover-BRM ran turbine-powered cars at Le Mans in 1963 and 1965.

But, we digress...the main emphasis here is on passenger cars equipped with gas turbines and again, the Chrysler is probably the most recognized and memorable. The cars still draw crowds when they go on display.

However, going into the 1970s and in the face of increasing environmental regulation for cars coupled with increasing mile per gallon standards, several manufacturers worked up and tested a wide variety of alternative power plants and drive systems. Some took another look at gas turbine power for both passenger cars and trucks; these included General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Chrysler – which continued R&D efforts into the 1980s – and Volvo.

Yes, Volvo, noted builder of solid, safe and not particularly exciting cars (well, there were the P1800, 1800ES and C-30). At one point, Volvo installed gas turbines in a couple of vehicles developed from the 260 and 780. The company topped the effort in 1991, when it turned two 850s fitted as hybrids, featuring a combined gas turbine and electrical system to power the car.



Volvo 850 turbine-electric (photo: Bonhams)



Volvo's Environmental Concept Car (ECC) (photo: Volvo via Autoweek.

According to Mark McCourt with Hemmings, Volvo undoubtedly built the cars to serve as engineering proof of concept vehicles for the company's Environmental Concept Car (ECC), which debuted in 1992. The effort was totally in house; company automotive engineers worked closely with their counterparts at Volvo Flygmotor, a producer of aircraft engines and aerospace components.

What resulted was a sedan fitted with a gas turbine up front; it didn't run on JP5 (or JP8 for that matter), but on diesel fuel. The engine ran a high-speed generator which delivered electricity to a drive motor which put power to the road via the front wheels and tires. The turbine/generator combination also charged the nickel-cadmium batteries, perched in the trunk along with a substantial amount of wiring



(Photos: Bonhams)

and electrical components. The system was highly flexible, allowing the driver to select turbine-only propulsion, turbine/electric, or battery only.

Volvo estimated an all-electric range of around 93 miles; in hybrid drive mode, the package produced 95 horsepower, good for a 0-60 time of 12.5 seconds. According to Volvo, "Although minimum emission levels remain the main priority today, optimum fuel economy, comfort, driving performance and handling are other considerations."

Two modified 850s were built, registered as 1993 models and put into a test program. Reportedly they ran up about 4000 miles prior to retirement; one wound up with a private owner in Italy while the other remained with Volvo.

Why didn't the gas turbine/hybrids go into production. As had happened with Chrysler and other manufacturers who dabble in turbines, they consistently got lousy gas mileage. Also, Volvo management had concerns about servicing requirements for an exotic turbine engine, training required for mechanics, and the like.

In February 2022, Bonhams auctioned the privately owned 850 gas turbine at February's *Les Grandes Marques du Monde à Paris*. Advertised as "Property from the collection of a Gentleman Driver, A unique example of pioneering automotive technology," the car sold for €62,100 or about \$71,100.

Unique and pioneering, indeed..

Sources: Mark McCourt, "Prototype Volvo Gas Turbine/Electric Hybrid-Engine 850 to be Auctioned by Bonhams in Paris," *Hemmings*, 2 February 2022; "Les Grandes Marques du Monde à Paris," Bonhams Cars, 3 February 2022; Ben Branch, "A Gas Turbine/Electric Volvo 850: The 1993 Factory Prototype," *Silodrome*, 2 February 2022; Peter Holderith, "Wacky 1993 Volvo 850 Turbine Hybrid Prototype Being Auctioned at No Reserve," *The Drive*, 2 February 2022; "Jeff Peek," "Volvo's turbine-electric hybrid was a '90s wonder box," *Hagerty*, 21 January 2022; Elana Scherr, "Turbine Cars: Past, Present, and Future," *Motor Trend*, 7 May 2015.

Featured Events

First Day of Summer Ice Cream Social

Gateway Miata Club—21 Jun 23



Photo courtesy of Gateway Miata Club

Meeting/Annual Picnic

MG Club of St Louis—12 Jun 23



Photos by Glenn Owens

NOTE: The MG club's Greg Knapp took several photos of the MGs participating in this year's The Great Race during the event's stopover in Joplin. A large number of cars and competitors took part in this year's run from St Augustine, Florida, to Colorado Springs, Colorado, including a number of Corvettes, Jaguars, a Volvo and a BMW. Full info on the event is available at www.greatrace.com/.



Photos above by Greg Knapp. Other photos via The Great Race



RUBCO

MGCStL—29 Jun 23

Photos by Glenn Owens and Andrew Ackerman





Photo by Rachel Rosen



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BMW Car Club of America St. Louis Chapter

