

## British car collector starts club for WNC

By Tula Andonaras  
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The driveway of Tom Boscarino's Arden home shines with British pride as two MG's reflect the loyalty of their owner.

Boscarino has been interested in the cars since 1975 when he purchased the first one.

"There's something about an MG that fascinates people," he said. "It's a sports car with all of the class, even of a Rolls Royce, but with a much more reasonable price tag."

Used MG's can be purchased from a few thousand up to \$10,000, depending on their condition.

Boscarino likes the challenge of buying the car in a worn condition and turning it into a prize-winning show piece.

"It's a hobby for me to buy it, fix it and sell it to buy something else," he said. "I enjoy restoring them."

Boscarino's interest in the MG developed out of the necessity to find a hobby to relieve the stress of teaching. Five years ago, he retired from a 31-year post as a high school science teacher on Long Island, New York.

When Boscarino purchased his first MG, he thought it was a

"cute, fixable car." It took him a year-and-a-half to fix and, in that time, the car became an obsession. The MG, he said, "has a mystique. It's a classic car that's affordable and fun to drive. You see one of these cars and you fall in love with it."

While German-made cars are made for racing, British cars are made to show and to enjoy, Boscarino said. Take, for example, his 1968 MGC, one of the 9,000 made in 1968. "It's a real collector's item," Boscarino said. "And I've put a lot of pride into that car. Last summer, we took it to Toronto (Canada) for a meet."

Boscarino is so enthused with the model, that he founded the American MGC Register in 1980, the only register of its kind nationally or internationally. He also produces a newsletter, "The American MGC Register," in the basement of his home. More than 1,100 subscribers support the publication which is filled with letters from fellow MG owners, hints on tune-ups and repairs and where to get parts, notices of cars for sale and a national calendar of events.

Boscarino is also putting together a book, "The Best of 'C' Notes," which is a collection of 14



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Tom Boscarino bought his '51 MG TD in pieces in 1978. He completed assembly of the car last April and it remains one of his favorite MG ventures. A retired high school science teacher, Boscarino became interested in MG's in 1975. He's inviting anyone who shares his enthusiasm for any type of British car to attend the first meeting of the British Car Club of Western North Carolina. The gathering is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Denny's Restaurant on Patton Avenue.

years of MGC technical articles and tips.

Another aspect of being a British car owner is the friendships that are formed. "You make friends at meets and shows no matter where you go," Boscarino said. "And you keep in contact. When I lived up north, we had a lot of members in the British car club. And I'm trying to start the same thing in Asheville."

The British Sports Car Club of Western North Carolina will have an organizational gathering beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. fol-

lowed by a meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Denny's Restaurant on Patton Avenue. Boscarino said he welcomes owners of any type of British car, whether it's an MG, Jaguar, Sunbeam or whatever to join.

"The MG is a working hobby for me," he said. "It's affordable and you don't have to be rich to do it. The challenge is to keep the car running."