

# Redding

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## British Car Club

**Oct 2020**

**Compiled & Edited by Charles Laurence**

**From your editor** – It was a beautiful evening on Mon, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> when 12 of us met on the lawn of the parking lot next to the rodeo grounds.

Evert told us that our Fall color tour to Lewiston would be this Sat, 10/17. We'll meet up in the parking lot of the Post Office in Old Shasta on 299 at 10:00 and head west shortly thereafter. Charley Fitch brought along his inventory of Club Apparel items which includes sweatshirts, t-shirts, collared shirts and hats. An inventory of items is included in this newsletter.

We have the Vintage Races at Thunderhill Raceway on our calendar for Oct 30<sup>th</sup> thru Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. I checked with Thunderhill and they assure me the races are still on.

The subject of elections came up and if you are interested in serving in some

capacity, please let Evert know at 223-0327.

Charlie Williams told us about an interesting problem he had with his MG-TC. That being his throttle sticking open after a climb up a long hill during which he had the gas pedal all the way to the floor. That prompted half a dozen stories of the same thing by other members. It's amazing how often that happens in old British cars.

I still don't have my MGA yet. We have agreed on a price but they still have not gotten it started. I'm not sending money until they can tell me they've gotten it running.

Our next meeting will be Mon, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> and please note it will now be at 6:00 through the winter months.

### **Upcoming Events**

**Fall Colors Tour** - We leave the Old Shasta post office parking lot 10:00 am Saturday Oct. 17th. We will travel to Lewiston and for those that do not bring a lunch, get a take out lunch from the Mountain Valley Grill. I have menus and we will order prior to arriving at the Restaurant. From the Grill we will go to the campground below Trinity Lake Dam to have the picnic. We then will continue the tour.

Bring chairs, drinks etc. although there are tables available at the campground.  
See you Saturday

## RBCC Apparel

Quant	Color	Style	Size	Imprint	
<b>SweatShirts</b>					
2	Gray	Long Sleeve	Lg	UK w/ Brit Flag on front	\$8.00
1	Gray	Long Sleeve	Med	UK w/ Brit Flag on front	\$8.00
<b>T-Shirts</b>					
1	White	Long Sleeve	Med	RBCC on front	\$5.00
1	White	Ladies Short Sleeve	Med	RBCC on back	\$5.00
2	White	Ladies Short Sleeve	Lg	RBCC on back	
1	Gray	Ladies Short Sleeve	XL		
<b>Collar Shirts</b>					
1	Gray	Ladies Short Sleeve	XL	RBCC on back	\$5.00
2	White	Ladies Short Sleeve	Lg	RBCC on back	\$5.00
5	White	Ladies Short Sleeve	XL	RBCC on back	\$5.00
<b>Hats</b>					
3	Blue/White			RBCC logo	\$5.00



## Recent Events

### Lassen Park Run



Our President, Evert, sent out an e-mail Wed 9/16 suggesting that Sat 9/19 looks like a good day for a drive to Lassen Park. At 10:00 on that morning, there 8 cars lined up, ready to go. There were 5 British cars (3 TRs and 2 MGs) plus 3 daily drivers. It was a sunny 70 degrees as we headed out 44 heading east. Traffic was light as we climbed into the mountains for a pit stop at the entrance of the park.

By this time the temperature was down to a very British car friendly 52 degrees. Then off again following 89 around the mountain to the Lassen Peak parking lot at the 8,500 foot level for another pit stop. The cars just kept running better and better. Next stop was at the south end of the park where it was a bit warmer for our lunch stop. We set up our folding chairs in a sunny spot with proper social distancing. The conversation ranged from recent fires to car problems to recent trips. We wisely stayed away from politics. We were entertained by a small but very precocious squirrel which at one point ended up in Bob's lap. Some decided to go back through the park but I followed 89 south to 36 towards Red Bluff before turning north on back roads that took me to Palo Cedro and home. I covered a total of 145 miles in about 5 hours. A great day.

**Benton Air Park** - The annual classic plane & car show was held in a reduced format on Sat, 10/4 at Benson Air Park in Redding. It was much smaller than in previous years and featured the usual cars & hot rods from the 50's & 60's as well as a few exotics including a couple of Cobra's and a Ford GT-40. The lone British Car was a Triumph Spitfire owned by our own Mark Pion. He had the bonnet open and the finish of the engine bay was very impressive indeed.

Aircraft on display included a CHP helicopter, a Med Evac helicopter and several WWII aircraft in which you could pay for a ride.



**Fall River Run** – It was 70 degrees and smokey on Sun, 10/5 at 9:30 in the morning as a group of us met in the Palo Cedro Holiday Market parking lot. There were 4 BC's (3 Triumphs – a 3, a 4 and a 6) and a Mini as well as 2 daily drivers. Traffic was light as we headed east on 44 then a north on 89 with a quick pit stop at the entrance to Lassen Park. Out 89 through Hat Creek to turn east toward Cassel and Fall River Mills. Then back west on 299 to a campground on Hat Creek where we stopped for lunch. We never did get out of the smoke but it was lighter then when we started and did not bother us at all. Over our lunch break we solved most of the world's problems to include Covid19 and the forest fires. It was an easy 1 hour drive back on 299 for a total of 150 miles.

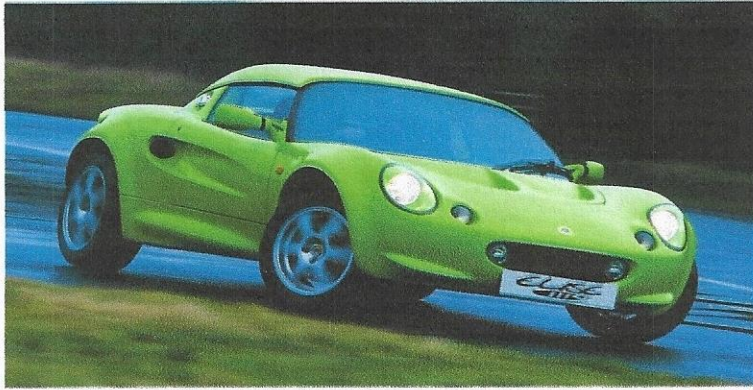
## **8 amazing cars you can import in 2021 under the 25-year rule.**

We have a certain rule here in the States, and it's often frustrating. To get an exemption from the various forms and regulations that allow a car to be registered here, the Department of Transportation requires vehicles to be 25 years or older. That means we've had to watch with envy from afar as enthusiasts in Europe, Japan, and elsewhere enjoy cars that are effectively unobtainium for us, at least until the clock runs down on them. Our neighbors up north, in Canada, also have a 10-year head start on us with their own 15-year import rule.

If there's a silver lining to the [25-year rule](#), it's that every 12 months we get a crop of classic cars that are, to us anyway, fresh and exotic. Exemptions are also granted according to a car's production date rather than model year, which means there is a rolling list of vehicles that become newly available as the months press on.

Below are eight cars we've had an eye on from the class of 1996 that will be eligible to import at some point in 2021. Keep in mind, however, that your results may vary depending on what state you live in. If you want to register one of these cars in California, for example, you're out of luck.





## Lotus Elise (Series 1)

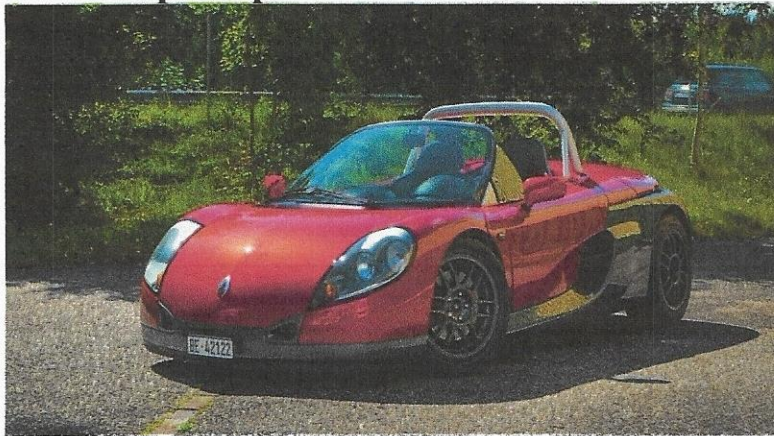
Lotus brought the [Series 2 Elise](#) to our shores in 2005, although it took some safety exemptions from the Feds to get it here (thanks, NHTSA!). This was the most exciting new Lotus we'd seen in a generation, but across the pond the Elise had already been a track day and back-road favorite for nearly a decade. Initially intended as a limited-run vehicle to promote Lotus

Engineering (the part of the company that actually made money), the Elise was the car with which Lotus finally moved away from the backbone chassis. Instead, Lotus designed and patented a system for building a frame out of bonded extruded aluminum that is both very light and very strong. Also, no rust.

### Lotus

Cutting-edge chassis aside, the rest of the car was a back-to-basics package in the classic Lotus tradition—fiberglass body, no-frills interior, a small smiley-faced grille, and of course some parts bin bits like Rover Metro mirrors and Peugeot switchgear. The 1.8-liter Rover K-series four, also found in the MGF, provided 118 horsepower in a car weighing fewer than 1800 pounds. These were the days when Romano Artioli, who also owned Bugatti, was the boss at Lotus. He kept with the tradition of Lotus road cars by giving the new model a name starting “E,” but did so with a personal touch. Elise was the name of his granddaughter.

## Renault Sport Spider



A bare-bones bug-eyed racer for the road, the Sport Spider hails from the country that does automotive oddities better than any other: France. Built from 1996-99 at the Alpine factory in Dieppe, the Sport Spider came with an aluminum chassis, plastic composite body, a rollbar, and that's about it. If you

wanted to keep the bugs out of your teeth, you had to pay extra for a windshield. Same for a radio.

At 2050 pounds with a 148-hp, 2.0-liter four from the Clio Williams and a five-speed manual, the Sport Spider can hit 60 in less than six seconds, but you buy a car like this because it's a corner carver, not to win any drag races. (And because it's French high-performance at its weirdest, and possibly best.) Renault sold about 1800 of these cars and they mostly stayed in Europe, although a few have made it to Canada.





## Nissan Skyline GT-R LM Limited

Nissan

R33 Skylines became eligible to import last year, and boatloads of them have already pulled into port for eager American JDM fans. If you're already lusting after an R34 you'll unfortunately have to wait until 2024 to bring one in, but there

are a few special editions of the R33 GT-R (1995–98) coming down the pipeline that might be of interest. One, built very briefly in the spring of 1996, is the GT-R “LM Limited.”

The GT-R isn't known as a Le Mans winner, mainly because it wasn't. Despite four tries with the R33 GT-R, Nissan never could eke out a class win at La Sarthe with Godzilla, despite the car's domination elsewhere. Nevertheless, Nissan celebrated its efforts at Le Mans by selling 188 GT-Rs in LM Limited Trim. All wore Championship Blue, featured special decals, and got a carbon spoiler blade as well as different cooling ducts and bonnet lip.

## Tatra 700



Tatra built some of the world's most advanced and interesting cars in the 1930s, and although the Czech company mostly paid its bills by selling heavy trucks, it had a decent side hustle building limousines for Party bigwigs during the communist years. For decades, the formula for Tatra cars didn't change much. They typically featured a distinct

shape, a rear-mounted air-cooled V-8, and a roomy interior. The T700, which turns 25 next year, has all of the above. It also bears the unfortunate distinction of being the very last Tatra.



By the time the 1990s arrived, Tatra remained an independent company and was selling trucks, but it didn't quite have the funds to develop an all-new car. Instead, Tatra opted to overhaul its 613 model that dated way back to 1974. All hand-built, these T700s feature a 3.5-liter air-cooled and Bosch fuel-injected V-8, a five-speed manual transaxle, and pleasing walnut trim on the dash.

Unfortunately, the T700 wasn't much of a hit. Many Czech buyers, now free to buy Western cars, preferred something like a Mercedes or BMW. Tatra built fewer than 100 T700s, and in 1999 the company ended car production after a 102-year run, to focus on the truck side of the operation. Good luck finding one, but if you do, you'll have a friend waiting. There is one lone T700 that somehow made it to the U.S. already, and it's at the [Lane Motor Museum](#) in Nashville.

### Toyota Classic



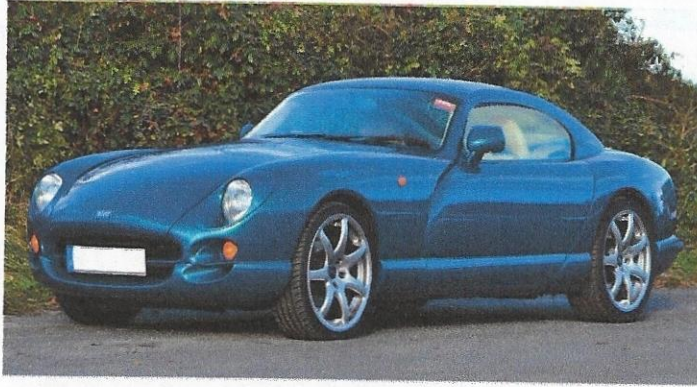
In 1996, Toyota had a big birthday to celebrate. It had been 60 years since the company built its first automobile, called the AA. According to Toyota, it was also the first all-Japanese-built passenger car. While not a groundbreaking design (the engine was copied from Chevrolet and the body aped from [DeSoto's](#) Airflow) it was

still a big milestone for what would become the world's largest carmaker.

Given that this was '90s Japan and retro-styled cars were in vogue, Toyota marked the occasion with the aptly named "Classic," a modern take on the car that started it all. Toyota sold just 100 examples, all in two-tone black and dark red with a wood-rim steering wheel, wood trim, woodgrain dashboard, and leather seats. And although it looks like a '30s sedan on top, the Classic is all Toyota Pickup (a.k.a. Tacoma) underneath.

It's not exactly pretty. Certainly not fast, and probably not fun to drive, either. It is, however, an ultra-rare piece of Toyota history, and as of next year you can have one. It will definitely be the only one in town.





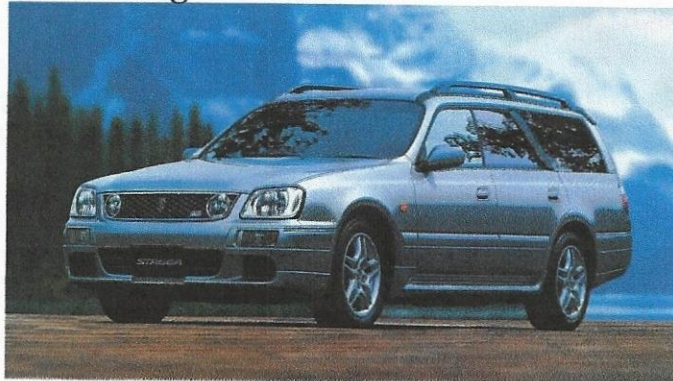
### TVR Cerbera

We recently featured the Cerbera on our list of the [craziest factory steering wheels](#), but the rest of this car is just as wild. Of course it is, because TVR made it. The doors don't open with handles, but by small buttons under the mirrors, and from inside you open them with buttons in the door pockets.

The rest of the swoopy, leather- and aluminum-trimmed interior looks like something out of *Star Trek*. As for that steering wheel, it has two minor gauges sitting below the column, along with buttons that operate the wipers and horn. There's also a large air vent in the middle pointing right at your face, handy on a hot day. And that's just the interior.

The Cerbera, named for Cerberus, the three-headed dog that guards the Underworld in Greek mythology, was TVR's flagship model during some of the company's best years. *Autocar* called it "one of the fastest, hardest production cars ever made." It was also the first TVR to use the company's proprietary engines, bringing with it significant pluses and minuses. The so-called "AJP" (named for designers Al Meling, John Ravenscroft, and Peter Wheeler) engine is a compact, racy 75-degree V-8 with a flat-plane crank and forged pistons and rods. In the Cerbera, it ranged from 4.2 to 4.5 liters and from 360 to 440 horsepower in a 2+2 coupe weighing less than 2500 pounds. That's about 800 pounds less than a [Viper GTS](#), by the way. TVR also sold a few Cerberas with its 4.0-liter "Speed Six" straight-six, which itself was far from a wimp at 350 hp.

### Nissan Stagea



We can never have enough fast wagons, and next year we'll get one more: the Nissan Stagea. When Nissan debuted in 1996, it aimed this car straight at the Subaru Legacy. Underneath this car is a lot more interesting than it sounds; the Stagea shares lots of parts with the R33 Skyline. Because of that, many of the

common upgrades for the Skyline also work on the Stagea.

All Stageas got a version of Nissan's famous [RB-series straight-six](#), from a 2.0-liter normally aspirated version all the way up to the legendary 2.6-liter RB26DETT from



the GT-R. The hottest version from both a collectibility and performance standpoint is the 260RS sold by tuning company Autech. In turning the Stagea into something like a five-door GT-R, Autech took top-spec Stageas using the RB26DETT, five-speed, and ATTESA E-TS all-wheel drive system from the GT-R. Then came Brembo brakes, BBS forged alloys, handling upgrades, a GT-R steering wheel, and other interior improvements. Otherwise, most people bought their Stagea with all-wheel drive (rear-drive was available), a four-speed automatic, and a less potent engine.

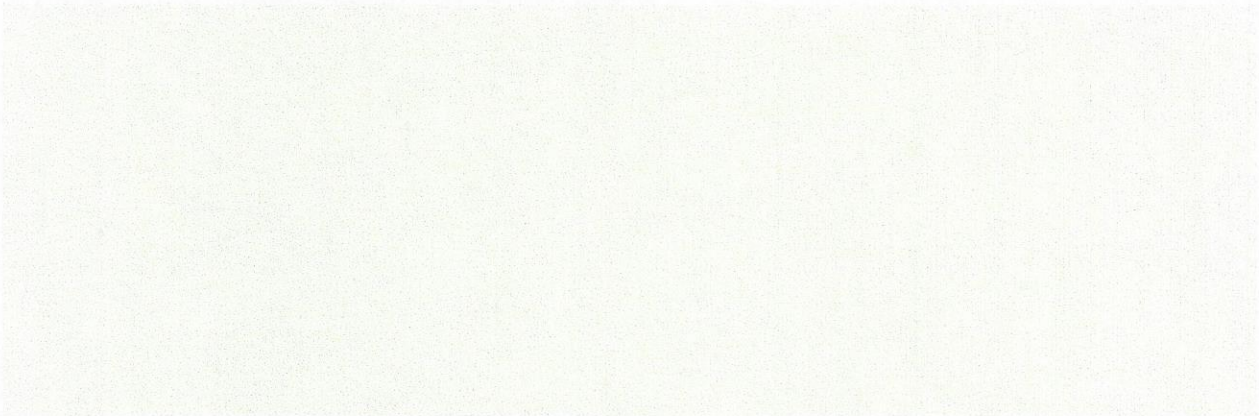
### **Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IV**



Americans didn't see a Lancer Evolution in the showrooms until the [Evo VIII](#) of 2003, but we were keenly aware of what remained out of reach. This all-wheel-drive dynamo had already been making a name for itself for a decade on the road, on the stages of the World Rally Championship, and

in video games like *Gran Turismo*.

In 2021, the Evo IV will be the next one eligible for import. Compared to the Evo III, the IV got a larger intercooler and new twin-scroll turbo for more power out of its 2.0-liter 4G63T engine. It also got newly designed multi-link rear suspension. The Evo IV was also the first to use Active Yaw Control to enhance cornering performance and braking stability, and its taillight design would become a signature feature on future Lancer Evolutions.





Shaw called England and America two countries separated by the same language. This quiz will show it's really different idioms to blame!

Average score for this quiz is 15 / 20. Difficulty: **Average**. Played 5,832 times. As of Sep 26 20.

**1. What do Britons use in place of 'hood', as in car hood?**

- ☐ busby
- ☐ bonnet
- ☐ bowler
- ☐ topper

**2. And what is the British English term for car trunk?**

- ☐ boot
- ☐ rear entrance
- ☐ back door
- ☐ shoe

**3. What is the British term for what an American would call a cookie?**

- ☐ a scone
- ☐ a biscuit
- ☐ a wafer
- ☐ a snap

**4. And a druggist or pharmacist?**

- ☐ drug seller
- ☐ shopkeeper
- ☐ interne
- ☐ chemist



**5. What do the British call their thicker version of American French fries?**

- ☐ potato sticks
- ☐ sliced potatoes
- ☐ chips
- ☐ julienne potatoes

**6. Here's a wild one! What fish did the English once use as another name for a joke or mock-something?**

- ☐ mackerel
- ☐ cod
- ☐ flounder
- ☐ sardine

**7. And what about 'cock-up'? (Don't worry! It's not what you think!)**

- ☐ being awoke by a rooster
- ☐ getting drunk on cocktails
- ☐ being cocky
- ☐ mess, fiasco

**8. What do the British call an elevator?**

- ☐ a lift
- ☐ a sky-car
- ☐ a dumb waiter
- ☐ an air-box

**9. Britain's umbrellas were once named after which Charles Dickens character?**

- ☐ Sarah Gamp
- ☐ Peggotty
- ☐ Sam Weller
- ☐ Herbert Pocket



**10. What did they once call vending machines?**

- ☐ Ha19000s
- ☐ milk machines
- ☐ fruit boxes
- ☐ slot machines

**11. And what do they call one-armed bandits?**

- ☐ fruit machines
- ☐ penny bandits
- ☐ quid eaters
- ☐ shilling thieves

**12. What non-sexual meaning did 'knock up' once have in England?**

- ☐ knock someone out
- ☐ promote someone
- ☐ wake someone up
- ☐ boost a person

**13. And their 'screw'?**

- ☐ turnbuckle
- ☐ wage or salary
- ☐ screwball person
- ☐ 'beat it!'

**14. What is the British word 'torch' equivalent to?**

- ☐ a welding torch
- ☐ a kleig light
- ☐ a burning torch
- ☐ a flashlight



**15. What do the Brits call suspenders?**

- ☐ hangers
- ☐ braces
- ☐ pants-holders
- ☐ pants-uppers

**16. If they call a trunk a boot, what used to be a trunk call?**

- ☐ summoning an elephant
- ☐ elephant's trumpet
- ☐ long distance
- ☐ luggage request

**17. How about a flyover?**

- ☐ a tarpaulin
- ☐ a transoceanic flight
- ☐ a highway overpass
- ☐ a pesticide

**18. What animal has long given its name to British pedestrian crossings?**

- ☐ zebra
- ☐ snake
- ☐ tiger
- ☐ raccoon

**19. And what is the phonetic name for letter Z?**

- ☐ Z
- ☐ zed
- ☐ zizz
- ☐ izz



## 20. What do they call the period (in punctuation)?

- ☐ dot
- ☐ point
- ☐ punct
- ☐ full stop

### Classified

*This section is for you. It's meant to list anything (British Car related) which you need (parts or cars), or have for sale.*

**Help** - Phyllis Morris in Oroville, 530-693-4612. [phyllisg.morris@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisg.morris@gmail.com) , has a 59 MG-A coupe that she is having resorted. The fellow doing the work has stopped and she wants someone to finish the work. She is willing to pay for the work. Apparently the wiring and upholstery are to be done yet.

She is also open to selling the car. If you can help, please contact her.

**For Sale** - Got a call from a lady in Redding who has 5 cars. Her husband passed away and she wants to sell the lot. Porsche's, TRs and spitfire. Here's her (530) 945-9938

**Wanted** – We have a new member George Rogers who is looking for anybody that might have an engine stand for testing a running engine that he might borrow. If you wish to contact George you can reach him at: [grogers3199@charter.net](mailto:grogers3199@charter.net)

### Upcoming Events

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Wed - Fall color tour Lewiston

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> - Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – Fri - Sun – Thunder Hill Vintage Races

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Sat - Christmas party at Cattlemens Restaurant – Redding