



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37

ISSUE NO.1

JANUARY 1998

CLUB ROOMS:- Rear of "ALVISTA", 21 EDGAR ST., GLEN IRIS. Melway p59 F 8.
MEETINGS:- THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
(EXCEPT DEC./JAN.) AT 8 pm.



J. LAMM - BRMS



COMING EVENTS

JANUARY. FRIDAY 16th

Club Informal Meeting. On the lawn outside the Clubrooms. Come in your Alvis if at all possible. Bring everything except that upon which you will sizzle your snags etc.

JANUARY. SUNDAY 18th

VSCC Opening Rally.

FEBRUARY. FRIDAY. 20th

Club General Meeting.

MARCH. FRIDAY. 20th

Club General Meeting.

APRIL. FRI/SAT/SUN. 17-19th

VSCC Alpine Rally.

MAY. FRI/SAT/SUN. 1st-3rd

CLUB WEEKEND AWAY IN GIPPSLAND

The masthead of this N/L proclaims that it is Volume 37 but the letter from David Caldwell (see inside) tells us that its 34th birthday was achieved in May 1997. This editor has simply added a digit to the volume number each January since he took over. Can anyone explain the discrepancy?

THE PROPER CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR HAS NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED ASAP

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Andrew Bick's TC 21/100. See FSW. Page.



Bill Barber about to give the Silver Eagle (or himself - or both) a drink. Bristol 401 in the background.



A proper look at Bill's Silver Eagle.



DASHBOARDS 1. Firefly. Dale Parsell.

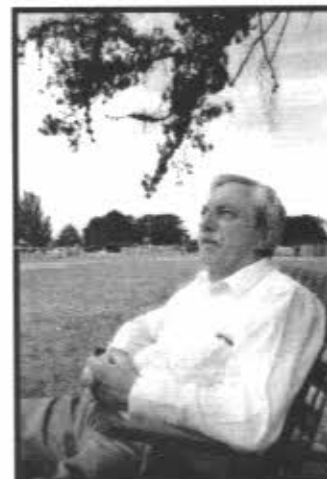


The serious side of motoring. David Wischer checks the result during the recent ACCV/BOCA Bocce Challenge. On that occasion BOCA won, but the tape measure may have been inaccurate.....



Maureen Adnam and Richard Kellock in the TA 14 Tourer.

Bob Graham at Tyab. Looking forward to the next restoration project!



DASHBOARDS 2. TA 14. Maureen Adnam.

TORQUE OF TONKIN

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all our members and their families. I believe that the Club had a good 1997 and your Committee is aiming to make 1998 even better.

1998 Events - The Club's event calendar is presently being finalised. One highlight this year will be a weekend run to Metung, on the Gippsland Lakes, from Friday, 1st to Sunday, 3rd May. **Andre and Dorothy Chaley**, who are locals, are arranging what promises to be a delightful weekend. The plan is to motor to Metung on the Friday, about a 4 hour run from Melbourne, spend Friday and Saturday nights there and return home on Sunday. Amongst the events planned are a sail on the lakes (be sure to replace the door seals on the Alvis), and some pleasant driving around the area, including a visit to the Buchan Caves. I hope we can lure some of the NSW Alvis Club members along. More details in the February Newsletter.

Following the great success of **John and Margaret Hetherington's** Wine and Cheese Night in November, we are planning not only a repeat this year, but a mid-winter Pie and Rough Red Night to warm the cockles of your hearts and/or irritate your ulcers. Guest speakers are also planned during the year and any Club members who wish to share tall tales and true of their restoration projects will be let off supper duty for the year.

We are also planning a series of Sunday outings and other events during the year, so watch the Newsletter and, of course, don't let your subscription lapse !

Newsletter Format - As discussed previously, your Committee is looking at ways of revamping the Old Girl, to give her a facelift, a quadruple charisma bypass, or something in between, that is not going to either cost the earth or drive the editor to more drink than he can safely accommodate. There have already been several suggestions, from leaving well alone, to a National Geographic-style glossy, and the Committee is grateful for those. **Eric Cunningham's** article on the history of our Newsletter, published in the November issue, was much appreciated. Watch this space for further developments.

New Members - New members are vital to the continued existence of any club. With clubs such as ours, there is the problem (which you may have noticed), that the cars haven't been made for thirty years, the odd one is sold interstate or overseas or is lost in a bushfire, so we have a gradually diminishing stock of vehicles. There is also the problem that not all Alvis owners want to be involved in the club. We need to try to accommodate those people and to make the club and its activities interesting and relevant to all Alvis enthusiasts, not just those that we see regularly. Having said all that, it is a pleasure to welcome back into the fold **Alistair Cannon (12/50)** and to greet **Peter Briese and wife Beverley (Speed 20)**. Both Alistair and the Brieses regularly campaign their cars and we hope to see them on the track, at the Clubrooms and at our outings during the year.

RICHARD TONKIN

Dear John,

The Bristolean's battle chant to the tune of the Marsaillaise led me to think that we should have a counter attack: -

Set to the tune of "The British Grenadiers" I would suggest that this should make the "Small Bristols" tremble. ("Small Bristols have 2 litre engines rather than the Chrysler V8. They, of course, are Big Bristols.)

Some dream of a Lagonda
and some the small MGs
Of Bentleys and of Alfas
And such great cars as these.
But of all the world's great motors
There's none to rival this
That glorious red triangle,
The wonderful Alvis.

Sunday at Merricks North was a very pleasant day.
Best Regards

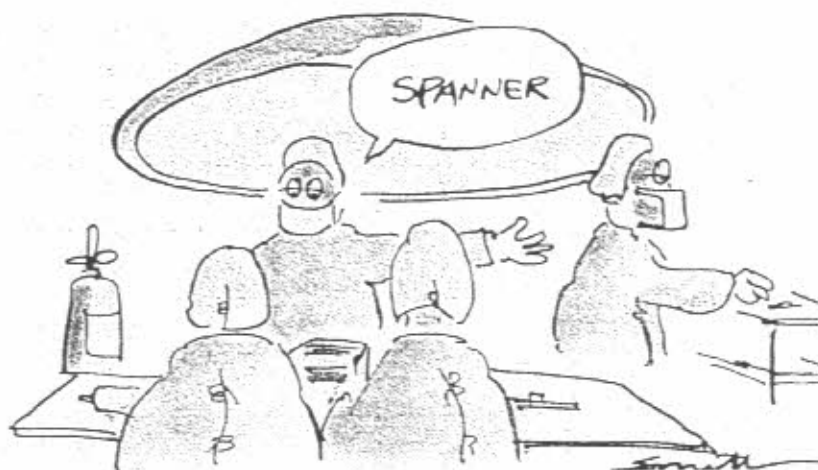
BILL BARBER

(the Editor will use his best endeavours to find out if any member of the Bristol Owners Club has two big Bristols.)

ALVIS AGNITIONS

Welcome to another year of Alvis interest. It is good to hear comments from various members that more competition between members is desirable and that Alvises should be seen more often. There is a lot of competition involving Alvis cars going on, but most of it is under the aegis of the VSCC. See the report on the Mt. Tarrengower Hillclimb by **JOHN & KAY BALL** for instance. **RICHARD & PAULINE TONKIN** entertained the Club for its annual break-up barbecue at the beginning of December. At least, Richard did. Unfortunately, a trip to hospital made for Pauline's absence on the day but she is now well on the way to recovery, thankfully. Richard put on good weather, a good venue, some interesting cars and good company - for all of which we are thankful. The Editorial 12/50 has just changed from full registration to vintage plates. That meant a roadworthy test, whose need caught the Editor by surprise. One tyre was a bit close to bald and notice was short so in the back of the shed was found a well treaded tyre which was fitted and the test passed. Only when the tyre got to the barbecue did its brand name - **BARNET GLAS** cause much merriment. Apparently the company went out of business in the 1950's! **ALAN MCKINNON** told me that the Barnet Glas family mansion was near the Tower Hotel in Heidelberg Road. He should know where tyres come from! It's still a good tyre The recent suggestion that changes be made to the format of this Newsletter has provoked quite a correspondence. There have been more letters on this subject than any other than I can remember. The keen interest in the Newsletter is most encouraging for an Editor. Please keep it up and back it up with more contributions. The single best way of improving the quality of the Newsletter is to improve the quantity of the contributions. In the last Newsletter **BOB GRAHAM** posed five questions about differentials etc. No comments have been received by Bob or by the Editor in response to those questions. It cannot be that every member has a perfectly functioning differential in their Alvis which has never given them any trouble, so they have never had cause to consider the subject and therefore have no interest in it. Bob's CWP has recently gave trouble but has been fixed. Likewise **ANDRE CHAYELER'S**. Three years ago **SIMON RAMSAY** kindly used Land Rover power to drag the Editorial Speed 20 back across Bass Strait after its differential cross shaft rent itself asunder at Somerset. That's three in three years. There must be others. Has nobody any questions either general or particular about differentials? If you have, please raise them in this Newsletter. Somerset is such a dreadful place that having seen what damage it wreaked upon a nice Alvis, **ANDREW AND FRANCES MACDOUGALL** planned their escape to Victoria - arriving a couple of months ago. Unfortunately, the 12/50 has not yet followed them across the Strait. Let's hope it does so soon. The November Newsletter was enveloped and posted by Mr. & Mrs. Ed. in the absence on holiday of **JOHN & KAY BALL**. We made a mess of it and the Club sustained a surcharge (\$3.00!) from Australia Post. A good example of hoping that if you do not do a job well, you will not be asked to do it again! **MURRAY AND CLAIRE FITCH** kindly entertained us and the Ball's to lunch recently. The hospitality was, as usual, great and the Silver Eagle is looking very nice. It is now back home with its aluminium skin on which gives it a particularly pretty shape. Murray is presently fettling the windscreen frame and then it will be painting time. **REX ROBERTS** organised the VSCC Two Wheel Brake Rally which was held just before Christmas. That is the penalty paid for winning it last year! **GORDON SUMMERS** and family have returned to England, thereby halving the Victorian 12/40 population. The Editorial Speed 20 is back on the road and is continuing its tradition of breaking down on every outing. It is an SC model with the beautifully cast aluminium radiator cooling fan. The bearings were noisy so they were replaced. (In this district of fruit canning factories, the bearings were available off the shelf.) On its first outing with new bearings the pulley at the back of the arrangement stripped its spline. Whilst that was being repaired severe fuel starvation developed and the cause for that has, so far, remained elusive. Then the boot lid jammed shut because a bit of panel work within the boot came loose. When it did open the paintwork was damaged by a jagged edge. One day it will convey us to our destination and bring us back without any problems! Will it really? I promise to let you know when that happens, but I don't think I will be Editor then.

ED.



For three weeks during October, Margaret and I visited Brisbane courtesy of Qantas to see our daughter Mandy and son-in-law Tony Adams (aka an architect). As my elder sister lives in Boorburum hard by Mt. Tibrogargan in the Glasshouse Mountains we also spent time with her.

While in the Glasshouse area we drove across to Palmwoods to catch up with Des and Edna Dennon. Both appeared in excellent health with Edna busy between visitors (not us). Des kindly took us on a tour of the avocado empire which is now ^{also} growing custard apples, li-chee and pecan nuts. The Speed 20 is segregated in a garage of its own, hard by a more general space which is shared by the Sunbeam, the ex Paul Conrad 12/50 and the 12/50 tower. All three were advertised in the November issue. The Sunbeam has a fabric body and is superbly restored.

Later we were treated to an excellent barbecue along with Mandy and Tony by Dean and Christine Prangley after a tour of hilly Indocroptilly in the Grey Lady and then the Speed 20. Great fun and a most enjoyable evening.

We also had an all-tee-shirt time on the last day with Dale Hanley due to a combination of factors - the fact that we had no car and Dale being shuffled round by the TAFE organisation. The 3 1/2 litre drophood is in storage until Dale can arrange shelter for it at his new address at 64 Creme St, Mt. Gravatt East. Dale is putting out an appeal for a crankcase for a 250 c.c. New Imperial SuperSports motor cycle which I think is probably mid- or late-twenties in date. Does anybody know of one?

On a different tack, I read with interest Eric Cunningham's complimentary remarks concerning the A.C.C.V. Newsletter in the November issue. The Newsletter is a little older than he imagines, however, as it turned 34 years of age last May. The A.C.C.V. Newsletter began life in May 1967 as a single-page announcement to members of the fact of founder the death of founder and sole spruce registrar Basil Bowes and committee arrangements re spares in transit, paid for and unpaid for, etc. This was the first Newsletter edited (written) by David Caldwell who edited it until Feb. 1969. A list of subsequent editors may be of interest - a sort of Honour Board, if you like - and is appended.

David Caldwell	March '63 to Feb. '69
Ralph Chivers	March '69 to Feb. '70
John Whiting	March '70 to Aug. '70
Ralph Chivers	Oct. '70 to Feb. '71
Marga Wilson	Mar. '71 to Feb. '73
Ron Wilson	Mar. '73 to Aug. '75
Ian Guthrie	Sept. '75 to Dec. '77
Horrie Morgan	Jan '78 to Nov. '78
Bill Barber	Dec. '78 to Nov. '82
Graeme Steinfert	Feb. '83 to Oct. '83
Ian McLennan	Nov. '83 to Nov. '84
Ron Wilson (Acting)	Feb. '85 to Jun. '85
Richard Creed	July '85 to Jan. '87
R. Creed/J. Hetherington	Feb. '88 to Nov. '89
John Hetherington	Dec. '89 to Present

THE ALVIS - BRISTOL RUN TO MERRICKSSUNDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER

Yet another premier event organised by the Dynamic Legal Duo - **Steven Rosten** from the Bristol Club, and your President. The weather proved most acceptable as we motored from Brandon Park to Tyabb, to inspect the antique market. I understand that some of the Alvis wives are thinking of approaching Treasurer **John** ("you won't get a cent out of me!") **Twomey** about an advance from the "Rainy Day Fund" to import a TA14 Shooting Brake (otherwise known as a "woody"), from New Zealand, so they can collect their antique purchases on future such runs and take them home the same day.

On arrival at **Moira and David Wischer's** lovely property at Merricks, a total of nine Alvises and eight Bristols were noted as present although, to be fair to the Bristoli, one of the Alvises was the Presidential TA 21, on loan to Steven Rosten and friends. For those desperately vying for the **Andy Hannam Trophy**, the Alvises were **Maureen Adnam and friend Richard (TA 14 Tourer)**, **Bill Barber (Silver Eagle)**, **Bob Graham (Speed 20)**, **John and Margaret Hetherington (12/50)**, **Dale and Maritta Parsell (Firefly)**, **Rex and Sue Roberts (12/40)**, **The President and Mrs. Tonkin, with Stephen Mayer (Crested Eagle) and John White (TA 14 DHC)**. The Rules Committee is presently considering a protest re the **Hetheringtons**, who are reported to have, after a couple of chardonnays, broken down and confessed that they had trailered * the 12/50 down from Shepparton to their Brunswick Town House, driven it on the run and then reversed the process. Hardly cricket, chaps - the next thing, you'll be entering concours !

During lunch, the result of the 20 Questions, a little test of observation on the way down to Merricks, was announced. As the winner was about to be declared, there were cries of protest from, amongst others, **Rex and Sue Roberts**, alleging that the clues were wrong, the organisers had moved the signposts, it was all rigged, etc, etc - the usual complaints. These mutterings only partially subsided when it was announced, notwithstanding all of the above, that the Roberts had won the quiz. This must be the only organisation where the winners still protest, even after winning !

In The Great Bocce Challenge, the club was represented by **Maureen Adnam, Rex Roberts, Margaret Caldwell** and your President. Despite putting up a great fight in very trying conditions (somebody - probably a Bristoli - kept refilling our glasses), we were narrowly defeated. Or, as Billy Snedden said after the 1974 Federal Election, "We didn't lose, we just didn't get enough seats to win." Oh, well, there's always next year.

Many thanks to **Moira and David Wischer** for a most pleasant day.

RICHARD TONKIN

(the next wine and cheese night organized by Mr. and Mrs. Ed will have available just as much wine and cheese as can be fitted into the editorial 12/50 after the weekend's luggage has been packed in. The President will be compelled to drink, on an evening of 35° C heat all the chardonnay that the 12/50's refrigeration system has not quite chilled to perfection and eat all the blue vein cheese! ED.*

MT. TARRENGOWER - SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER.

Alvis cars well represented.

We had not been to Mt. Tarrengower before and were quite unprepared for the event. Together with John and Margaret Lang we were very impressed with the location, the many and varied viewing positions, the number of spectators, the cars and the noise.

Mt Tarrengower is situated near Maldon in central Victoria. The Hillclimb has been held annually with a few exceptions since 1928. It is a picturesque bush setting with good facilities for picnics and barbeques.

The climb is almost a mile long and rises 600 feet from start to finish. Alvis Cars were well represented. Taking part were Andrew Green (12/50), Alister Cannon (12/50), Geoff Hood (Supercharged 12/50) and Dale Parsell in the Firefly.

I gather from Geoff Hood that actual times are not all that critical but that joining in and having a go is important. However, Geoff also reports that the Alvis cars returned creditable times.

All in all, a very enjoyable day and well worth a visit.

JOHN & KAY BALL

VALE GEORGE SMITH

George died on January 4th after a short final illness.

As a Club we extend our sympathy to Shirley and her family.

THE ANDY HANNAM TROPHY - PROGRESSIVE RESULTS

As previously announced, the Andy Hannam Trophy will now be awarded to the Member who attends the most Club Events during the year in their Alvis. Those silly enough to have more than one example of the marque can interchange Alvises. The year runs from AGM to AGM - ie, from 1st November to 31st October. The Committee has the discretion to adjust points to make allowances for country members and other unfortunates who can't get their cars to the Club Monthly Meetings.

The progressive total so far is :-

Monthly Meeting 21/11/97

Bob Graham (Speed 20), Dale Parsell (Firefly) Richard Tonkin (TA21 DHC), John White (TA14 DHC).

Alvis-Bristol Day 23/11/97

Maureen Adnam (TA14 Tourer), Bill Barber (Silver Eagle), Bob Graham (Speed 20), John Hetherington (12/50), Dale Parsell (Firefly), Rex Roberts (12/40), Richard Tonkin (Crested Eagle), John White (TA14 Tourer).

Annual Barbeque 7/12/97

John Ball (TA21), Bob Graham (Speed 20), John Hetherington (12/50), Geoff Hood (Silver Eagle), Alan McKinnon (12/50), Rex Roberts (12/40), Richard Tonkin (The Fleet), John Twomey (TA21), John White (TA14 DHC).

TOTALS:

3 Points - Bob Graham, Richard Tonkin, John White.

2 Points - John Hetherington, Dale Parsell, Rex Roberts.

1 Point - Maureen Adnam, John Ball, Bill Barber, Geoff Hood, Alan McKinnon, John Twomey.

The next eligible event is the Informal Monthly Meeting and BBQ in the garden behind the Club Rooms at 7.00pm (note earlier time, to take advantage of the longer daylight hours - don't worry, Bob Graham, it isn't true that Daylight Saving fades the duco), on Friday, 16th January - BYO tables, chairs, food, drink, utensils.

BRING OUT YOUR ALVISES!

RICHARD TONKIN

Dear John,

Your Editorial in the November Newsletter is most interesting, as was your photo. of the gravestone of Major C. M. Harvey. You referred to Alvis's Works driver and service manager as "Cyril" Harvey and certainly his first names were Cyril Maurice, but I understand that he was known to his friends as Maurice. I cite p. 41 of "The VINTAGE ALVIS" but am sure that there are also many contemporary references in the motor sport journals of the period which will support my contention. (Another bit of pedantry from Cunningham. Oh dear!)

Time permitting, I shall respond to your comments that Alvises are not selling quickly in Australia.

Keep up the good work in 1998!

Yours sincerely

ERIC CUNNINGHAM

Thanks for the exhortation. Pedantry allowable in the interests of accuracy, Eric. Please buy yourself a new typewriter ribbon.. An old hand like you should know that copy capable of photocopying straight into the publication will likely be dealt with just like that. If it has to be retyped it can be easily edited and even altered..... Not that this editor would do such a thing

ED.

VSCC KNOX TO RACV HEALESVILLE RUN, 12th October. Seven Alvises were present. Alister Cannon 12/50. Dale and Maritta Parsell Firefly. Richard Tonkin Car not stated. Peter Fleming Firebird. Andrew Green 12/50. Rex and Sue Roberts 12/40. Gordon Summers 12/40.

CARS & PARTS FOR SALE AND WANTED

10.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

COPY DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY

28th JANUARY 1998

THE CLUB CARRIES A LARGE SELECTION OF SPARE PARTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB AND TO MEMBERS OF THE ALVIS CAR CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES. ONLY REPRODUCTION PARTS CAN BE SUPPLIED TO NON MEMBERS AND A SURCHARGE WILL BE APPLIED. MEMBERS CONTEMPLATING THE MANUFACTURE OF SPARES ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE CLUB TO SEE IF OTHERS NEED SUCH A PART OR IF IT IS FEASIBLE TO ORDER SOME FOR CLUB SPARES.

To enquire about spares please contact the appropriate SPAREPERSON listed below:-

VINTAGE

Geoff Hood
37 Thomas St.,
E. Doncaster
Vic 3109
03 9842 2181

PVT

Austin Tope
8 Wimba Ave.,
Kew
Vic 3101
03 9817 5163

TA14

Bob Graham
15 Clarke Ave.,
Caulfield
Vic 3162
03 9571 3886

3 LITRE

John Ball
P O Box 26
Murchison
Vic 3610
03 5826 2518

CLUB

EAGLE RADIATOR CAP MASCOTS. A batch of 10 low wing radiator mascots for Speed 20 cars has been made and all were snapped up by eager purchasers. Thanks to Austin Tope and Bob Graham for doing all the hard work and the organizing. Also to Richard Stanley of "Coachcraft" for silver-soldering the studs in place. Another batch will be made if sufficient orders are received. Contact Austin Tope (03 9817) or Bob Graham (03 9571 3886).

BUMPER BARS FOR THREE LITRE CARS. \$1,000 each. Brian Rowle. Contact Richard Tonkin. *(The Editor apologizes for this cryptic quasi information. He has is a note containing that information and none other, scribbled during the November Club Meeting.*

PRIVATEERS.

HARE MASCOTS. John Lang is having some cast and intends to donate the mould to the Club afterwards. Thank you, John

FOR SALE 1954 TC 21/100 DHC "Grey Lady". Fully restored. Excellent condition. Been in the family since new. Full registration. Wire wheels. Offers invited. Andrew Bick 03 6260 2660 or 0418 370 560. (see picture on photo page. - Ed)

FOR SALE Offers are invited for the purchase of 4 Alvis books. All with dust covers and in excellent condition. (Will not separate.) 1. "The Vintage Alvis" by Hull & Johnson (The Red Book.) 2. "The Alvis Car" by K.R. Day. 3. "The Story of the Red Triangle" by K. Day. 1981 Edition. 4. "The Story of the Red Triangle" by K. Day. 1989 Edition. Offers in writing to Ron Wilson, 22 Park Close, Vermont. Victoria 3133.

FOR SALE. 1925 Alvis 12/50 currently arranged as a race/hillclimb car.
1924 Alvis 12/50 Ducksback SC model.
1928 Sunbeam 16.9 HP.

These cars were described fully in the November 1997 issue of this N/L.

Des Donnan. 07-5445 9981 Ph or FAX or email: donnan@ml40.aone.net.au

FOR SALE. For Silver Eagles. "New" Bonnet Catches and Hardy Spicer Universal Joints. Eric Nicholl 03 9754 5412

WANTED Speed 20 Crown Wheel and Pinion, 4.55 ratio. (9 x 41). If other owners want to get together and make a batch of CWP's, I would be a starter. Bob Graham. 03 9571 3886.

WANTED - BRAKE CLEVISES. Up to half a dozen of those "Y" shaped bits that connect the brake rod to the brake lever on 12/40s & 1250s. Frank Corbett, P O Box 218, Kenmore. 4069. Tel 07 3378 7280.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Alvis Car Club of Victoria (Inc.), its Officers or its Editor. Whilst all care has been taken neither the Club nor its Officers accept responsibility for the availability or quality or fitness for use of any services, goods or vehicles notified for sale or hire or the genuineness of the advertiser or author. Other car clubs may reprint only articles originating from our members. Acknowledgment will be appreciated.