

# Annual Trip to Clovis, California 2025

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valley British Auto Club Car Show in Cowboy Country

We commenced our annual journey to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valley British Auto Club car show in Clovis, California, with high hopes and with anticipation of reconnecting with old friends and establishing new acquaintances. This year, I installed an odometer/trip meter app on my i-phone to enable me to be a better navigator on the Saturday morning run.

**THE JOURNEY NORTH.** Our expedition began in the bustling city of Los Angeles, where we meticulously packed our individual duffle bags with essentials, including snacks, soda, and water bottles. The GT's duffle bag was packed with 3 quarts of oil, brake fluid, jumper cables, hoses, belts, a distributor, ignition wire, a heater valve, and a spare fuel cap. With the car lightly loaded and our spirits high, we embarked on the road trip that has become a cherished family tradition. This year we drove the restored red 1971 MGB-GT. We were prepared for all weather conditions except snow. The GT's recently installed air conditioning system was tried and tested. Fortunately, the weather was sunny, cool, and breezy as we traveled north on Interstate 405, transitioning to Interstate 5, and finally onto Intrastate 99. There was no need for us to turn on the air-conditioning system.

While navigating the busy lanes of Interstate 405, we observed the iconic sights of Los Angeles recede into the distance from the rear-view mirror as we transitioned into the Santa Clarita Valley. Upon transitioning to Interstate 5, the urban spread of hillside housing developments gave way to rolling hills and verdant valleys. With the highway stretching ahead, it promised an adventure through the heart of California's cowboy country. The sun's rays cast a golden hue over the fields, creating a picturesque view that was both calming and invigorating. Where the Tejon Pass becomes the Grapevine of Interstate 5 at the 4,000 feet level, the traffic was surprisingly moderately light which allowed us to appreciate the scenic beauty of Southern California's rolling hills. The patches of brilliant orange poppy flowers on the mountainside were missing today because of the wind. As we continued north, we engaged in enthusiastic discussions about our plans for the forthcoming days in Clovis. The further we were away from our home, the more we relaxed. Eventually, the stress of the city disappeared into the ether.

Our final leg of the journey north led us onto Intrastate 99, a road less traveled by fast paced cars and trucks, to an area rich in charm and calmness. The air grew

fresher, and the scenery became more rustic. We passed through quaint towns and meticulously planted vineyards. At each rest stop one could see and smell the beauty of the diverse tapestry of crops, orchards and groves.

As we approached Clovis, the excitement grew palpable. The small town, nestled in the San Joaquin Valley, greeted us with its warm hospitality and friendly faces. Clovis is known for its rich history and vibrant community, always exudes a sense of familiarity and comfort. This time we were housed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the hotel which afforded a better view of the parking lot's early arrivals of British cars.

After checking in, we went for a stroll down 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues which contained antique shops. The area where we stayed was once an active train station/supply area for miners and cowboys. It is truly an old town. You feel like you have traveled back in time to a slower paced period where there were no fast automobiles. The charming streets are lined with antique shops, boutiques, and cafes, each with a unique story to tell. We spent hours wandering through the historic district, soaking in the ambiance, appreciating the town's heritage.

**SATURDAY MORNING TOUR THROUGH THE SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST.** Saturday morning was the Annual Clovis Roundup Tour that occurs in the foothills of Clovis along the winding, twisty roads of the countryside. I set the app's tripmeter to zero. Then I realized it would not reset. I tried to close the app and finally shut down the app to zero it out. The app would not restart to zero. By the time I finally got the app reset, we were long past the "zero" start point. Since there were more than 50 cars participating, and the organizers split the group into three tour groups, there was no need to be vigilant about the tripmeter. Just follow the car in front of us.

On the Tour, we passed cattle grazing and horses prancing in their fenced-in pens. We had so much fun laughing, trying to remember this is not a race and to stay on the tour route as written. It was easy to get lost without the tripmeter. At one intersection there were British cars from our groups approaching in all four directions! It was hilarious, yet adventurous. Somehow, we all ended up at the MR5 Market, the designated rest stop. By the time we reached the MR5 Market, I turned off and deleted the tripmeter app. The app did not respond quickly enough on the reset and was not intuitive enough for me to figure it out on the fly.

On the way back to the city for lunch, our exultation increased as we drove through the Sierra National Forest. The air had a fresh smell, and the meadows of white and

purple flowers added to the tranquility of the moment. Just looking at the majestic trees, the glass-like lake, the flowing rolling streams and the trails provided a perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life in my hometown.

I look forward to going on the route again. Each time we have driven the Clovis Roundup Tour, the roads traveled were different. Hopefully, next year, I will have my car's tripmeter working.

All 70 of us sat down for a nice lunch together after the drive. Afterwards Doug and I went for another stroll through the old town streets containing the antique shops. These shops were filled with treasures, waiting for their next home. We spent the remaining daylight hours wandering through the historic district, soaking in the ambiance and appreciating the town's heritage, while eating ice cream.

**THE ANNUAL CAR SHOW.** As the weatherman promised, there were intermittent showers Sunday morning. It rained until almost 8:45 am. We were able to get the cars set up for display by 9:30 am and thereafter we were granted a cool sunny day to shop at the antique fair and look at beautiful British cars. Everybody was drying the rainwater off their cars. One Jaguar owner even had a small air blower drying his car.

This year the featured marquee was Jaguar. Half of the cars present were those famous cats that looked like they were ready to pounce. The field was diverse. We even had two McLaren's on the show field. Also attending were Aston Martins, Austin Healeys, Austin Cooper, Mini Coopers, MGBs, MGB-GTs, MGAs, a Bull Nose Morris, a Rolls Royce, Range Rover, Triumphs TR2, TR3, TR5, TR6 and TR8, a Jaguar Mark 5 Limo, Lotus, Spitfire, a Morris Truck, a Morris convertible sedan and two DeLorean's. Seventy cars were in attendance at the Car Show this year.

As our time in Clovis drew to a close, we took a moment to reflect on the experiences and memories we had created. Clovis, with its charm and warmth, had once again provided us with an unforgettable adventure.

**THE JOURNEY SOUTH.** As we traveled home, we reflected. One of the highlights of our annual excursion is reconnecting with old friends. The bonds we share have only strengthened over the years, and each reunion is a celebration of friendship and camaraderie. Each trip we create new memories to cherish.

Meeting new friends was equally delightful. The Valley British Auto Club of Fresno members are welcoming, and we inevitably find ourselves forming connections that

we know will endure. The spirit of friendship and camaraderie remains ever-present amongst British car enthusiasts.

The annual trip to Clovis is more than just a vacation; it is a celebration of the love of British cars that connect us. With hearts full and smiles wide, we eagerly anticipate next year's trip to Clovis

**STATISTICS FOR THE CAR SHOW.** Of the 88 cars registered for the car show, 70 cars were placed on the show field. Over 250 individuals attended our show field, viewed the cars, purchased raffle tickets, and subsequently visited the Antique Street Fair. We know that there were more than 1,000 people attending the fair including vendors.

Best Vintage British Vehicle (Pre-1980).....	1959 Jaguar Mk IX Simon West
Best Modern British Vehicle.....	2020 McLaren 720S Darrell Vincent
Best Unrestored British Vehicle .....	1923 Morris-Cowley Bullnose Ray Davis
Best Restored British Vehicle .....	1958 MGA Twin Cam Scott Johnston
Best Jaguar.....	1959 Jaguar Mark XK150S Ken Fritz
Participants' Choice Award.....	1961 Morris Minor Pickup Robert Ramsey
President's Award .....	1956 Jaguar XK140MC David Langley

**A BIG THANK YOU** to Jon Brothers and his crew of Valley British Auto Club members, for once again putting on a wonderful weekend event in support of our Veterans.





## **Best Modern British Vehicle**

2020 McLaren 720S  
Darrell Vincent

## **Best Restored British Vehicle**

1958 MGA Twin Cam  
Scott Johnston



## **Best Unrestored British Vehicle**

1923 Morris-Cowley Bullnose  
Ray Davis

**President's Award**

1956 Jaguar XK140MC

David Langley



**Participants' Choice Award**

1961 Morris Minor Pickup

Robert Ramsey

## SATURDAY MORNING TOUR



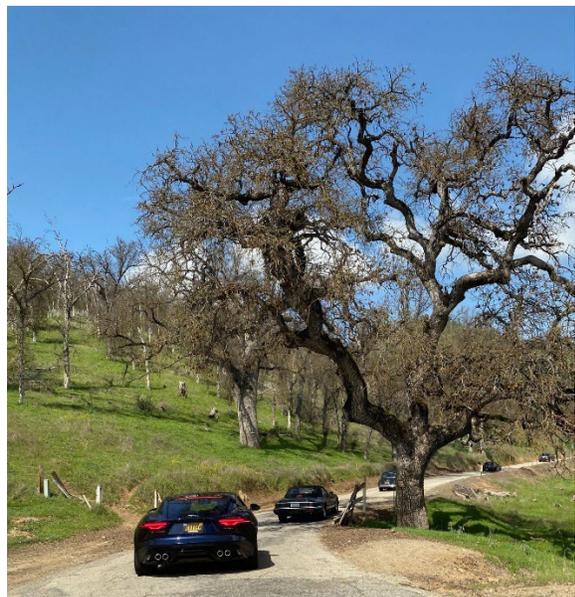
At the beginning of the tour, British cars are waiting for their turn to line up.



The air was cool as we drove around the lake. The glass-like appearance of the water was awe inspiring. I wanted to stop and put my toes in the water.



There were meadows and white and purple flowers. This hillside of orange poppies was a sight to behold.



It is not a good tour if you do not end up on a 1 ½ lane road!

**SUNDAY MORNING CAR SHOW . . . Just a few cars on the show field.**







Zelda's Choice



