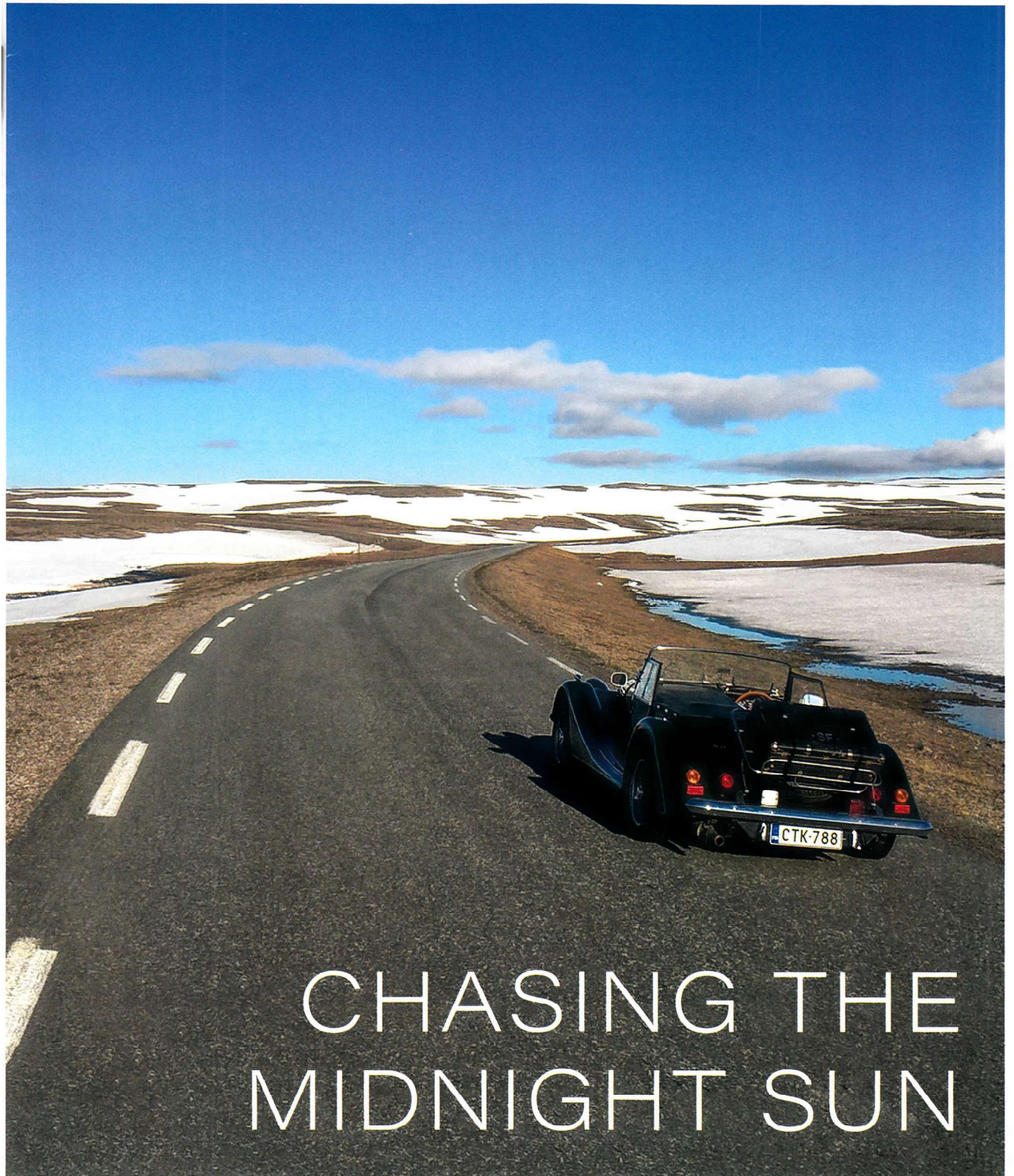




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CHASING THE MIDNIGHT SUN

RACING FROM OULTON PARK AND SPA ■ CHATEAU IMPNEY ■ OXMOG EXPLORE WALES



Chasing the Midnight Sun

by *Harri Tuomola*

(MOG Finland)

My name is Harri Tuomola and I drive a 1996 Plus 4, which I bought at Lifes Motors in 2013. I live in Valkeakoski, which is a small town in southern Finland. Last Friday (July 7) I drove to Rovaniemi to meet a friend. Rovaniemi is the "capital of Lapland" and a big tourist destination due to its location right on the Arctic Circle. It's about 500 miles from where I live. I arrived there around 8 pm and the sun was shining from a cloudless sky. I knew that I could not waste that perfect night and continued driving north in my chase for the most perfect night-time sunlight.

All night I drove towards the sun in the north sky. At midnight I was at the top of Kaunispää mountain which is a popular place to view scenery. A couple of hours later I hit the northernmost point of Finland and the EU (70 degrees 5 minutes North) in Nuorgam. Early morning I reached Båtsfjord by the Arctic Sea in Norway. And sun continued to shine from a practically cloudless sky.

As I had energy and still a friend to meet in Rovaniemi, I headed back to the Arctic Circle. I was there mid-afternoon on Saturday after driving over 33 hours straight! Apart from three hours between 2 and 5 am, the top was open. Sheer exhilaration of open top motoring!

Sunday and Monday I drove back home. Total distance covered was 1972 miles. The car worked perfect and run beautifully. Now it just needs a serious wash as the front is covered by a thick layer of dead bugs!



Photos (all taken between 10 pm and 4 am!):

1. Snow in Norway
2. Top of Kaunispää mountain
3. At the top of Finland
4. Highlands on Varang Peninsula
5. Arctic Circle
6. Heading north towards midnight sun

