



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

January 2007

Dues are Due

Each January your prized BMCA membership come up for renewal. It's such a small amount to pay for all the benefits, some of which are absolutely priceless! You receive a newsletter each month to help keep you 'in the know' of club associated activities. There is the membership roster - how many times have we each referred to our roster for a name & number to get some advice? There are the monthly meetings with fellow BMCA'ers to get the very latest details (not that anything ever changes ☺) and enjoy a tech talk followed by an opportunity for a door prize. Even if you can't make the meeting, there's always the monthly marque event where you & your British car (other 'foreign' vehicles are always welcome) do something fun with others who enjoy some of the same interests as you. Only \$20.00 a year for a full membership. An additional \$10.00 per year pays for an Associate memberships which provides voting rights among other things (a second newsletter is not sent to associates). If your name on this newsletter's mailing label is highlighted, send your dues to Michael Ross (info under Membership on page 2) as soon as possible. It's sure to be an exciting year and you don't want to miss knowing about and participating in all of the events and happenings!!

BMCA Monthly Meeting Location

With a new year upon us we want to make sure our club meeting location fulfills the needs of the membership who are able to attend the monthly meetings. We have been meeting at Dizzy's in Benton for several years now. Does this location work best for you? Would you be more inclined to attend meetings if they were held at another location?

Meeting room requirements include: A restaurant who wishes to honor a long term commitment on the first Tuesday of each month allowing a group of 30 to 70 people to gather in a closed room where at least half of those attending normally order a full meal; Parking is a consideration as well - would you feel comfortable parking your unattended British car there for an hour or two?

Suggestions made at the January meeting included: Browns off Hwy 30 near Benton; Dizzy's in Benton; Julie's just off I-630 on Shackelford in Little Rock; Grady's Pizza, Mississippi exit in Little Rock; Western Sizzler in Benton.

This is your opportunity to have a say in where we meet each month. Contact any of the BMCA officers or Marque leaders with your input as soon as possible. This will be discussed at the February meeting with a general membership vote to make a final decision for this year.

BMCA Logo & Regalia

'Way back' in 1989 when BMCA was founded, a group of the founding members got together and created the BMCA Logo. Over the years an assortment of items have been made & sold with the BMCA Logo on it. At the year end board meeting a committee was formed to explore updating the club logo and come up with a plan to determine the wants and desires of the membership in regards to club shirts (T-shirts, sweatshirts, denim shirts), jackets, hats and other apparel type (or other) items. More details will be published next month. In the meantime, think about what items you would like to have with the BMCA logo on it. There are very few items left for sale with the current logo on it. If you're interested, check with Ron at McLeod's or ask any BMCA officer or Marque leader.

Prez Sez

Greetings and Happy New Year to all.

Now that the holidays are behind us and we are planning for the next year, I was reflecting on the events of the past year. Wow, there were a lot. There was something happening somewhere almost every week. I want to thank the club officers of last year for all of their hard work and dedication to the BMCA. I also want to thank the volunteers who pitch in and do whatever it takes to make things happen. That is what makes this club a family to many of us. One issue that I hope to work on this year is how to bring younger people into the club. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. We joked about having the Christmas party at the Center on Aging as a sign of things to come but it is true and I would hate to see our club disappear like so many have before. Just a few years ago at Petit Jean you would find twenty five or thirty model A's on the show field. Last year there may have been five. What will happen to our beloved LBC's?

The winter is time for many of us to catch up on some of the maintenance for our LBC's and prepare them for the next driving season. But with the mild winters that we enjoy here in Arkansas it is also a nice time to get out and explore the state. So even if your LBC is out of service, jump in the family car and join in the fun. The Polar Bear Run will be here before you know it and you don't want to miss that. So make your reservations now, see the AH article for more details. We have several new events planned for the upcoming year as well as some old favorites so get out and play. Remember that this is your club and the more that you put into it the more you will get out of it.

Charles

BMCA Officers

President Charles Hutchison
501-821-2050
President@bmca.net

Vice Pres Judy Ross
501-888-3396
vicepresident@bmca.net

Treasurer Lisa Hutchison
501-821-2050
treasurer@bmca.net

Secretary Wilma Newton
870-367-7558
secretary@bmca.net

Marque Leaders

Austin-Healey Steve Jones
501-225-2086
austinhealey@bmca.net

Empire Bob Harris
501-851-2291, 501-570-9386
empire@bmca.net

MG Lon Smith
501-375-0157, 501-765-3026
mg@bmca.net

Triumph Jim Peckham
501-539-3306
tr@bmca.net

Newsletter

Michelle & Lon Smith
1923 S. Gaines
Little Rock, AR 72206
501-375-0157, 501-765-3026
newsletter@bmca.net

Historian

Brenda Collins
(501) 225-5162
historian@bmca.net

Membership

B.M.C.A
Michael Ross
4001 McDaniel Circle
Little Rock, AR 72206
membership@bmca.net
\$20/year primary member
\$10/year spouse

'Bits & Spares'

is published the first Saturday after every monthly meeting. The meeting is normally the first Tuesday of each month. **Deadline** for articles and submissions is the day of the meeting.



Attention.... NAMGBR/BMCA members

Did you know that BMCA will reimburse you for your yearly membership dues to NAMGBR? BMCA's club liability insurance is through the NAMGBR association with a minimum of 8 paid NAMGBR members. Contact Lisa Hutchison (see Officer list) for reimbursement information. Also, please send a quick e-mail to the newsletter editor who keeps track of all BMCA/NAMGBR members for insurance purposes.

Read 'Bits & Spares' online www.bmca.net

Secretary's Minutes - January 2, 2007

The first BMCA meeting in 2007 was brought to order by our old (uh)-revamped-new leader, President #1, Charles Hutchison. As it was explained to me, all past presidents beware; you know your re-issue date of presidency is around the corner. We had only 23 in attendance, probably because of the new venue, Brown's Restaurant. Dizzy's took an extra day off from work.

The minutes from December's Christmas party and the minutes from the new years officer's meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer, Lisa, also followed suit having both of the ending balances. November's ending balance being \$2451.58, after deposits and expenditures stated, leaving an ending balance of \$1397.84.

Lon Smith discussed our last driving event, our trip to Petite Jean Mtn. for lunch with Joel and Nancy Taylor. We started out with 18 cars, picked up a few on the way, since it was such a beautiful day for a drive. We spent some time out at the fire pit. We broke up into 2 groups for the trip back. Some of us had to get a double dose of the crooks and turns on the way home.

Judy Ross recapped the Christmas party. We had 56 in attendance. The searching for car parts as a party breaker was a great idea. The entertainment with help from Felix and Dennis James was delightful. Trophies were awarded to Ronnie; 'Which way do we go?'; Doug; 'No Big Lip'; Jim Stanhope; 'The Big Bang'; Felix; 'The Helping Hands'; Lon & Michelle; 'Back into the Grove'. And the best news according to Judy, this was all done *under* budget.

The next event we have will be the Polar Bear Run, Jan. 27. We will leave from the Kroger at Channel and Kanis at 10 o'clock sharp. A map was given out with directions, also a copy of our contract with the Arlington, incase of a dispute of the group rate. When you acquire your room, please tell the attendant that you are with the BMCA to insure you get the group rate set forth. There is a prize of \$50 for the best costume, and \$50 for the Best Polar Bear at Gulpha Gorge. The dinner at the Brauhause, for 7:00p.m., has been reserved for at least 50, so please plan to stay.

The 2007 budget was brought forth and accepted. Knowing what our standard expenses are, and the beginning balance of our budget, it was noted that our monies will be short for the year 2007. The motion to amend the newsletter amount from \$1,500 to \$750 was approved. There was a discussion on changing the amount of dues from \$20 up to \$25. Another possibility would be to not do the 3 years for 2 in due collections because the third year is always slightly shorted in funds. This was put onto the back burner until we had more of our members on hand for a full discussion. It was mentioned in the officer's meeting that a regalia committee was formed to look at revising the club's logos for new badges, hatpins, and window decals. This would transpire to our new shirts, hats, etc.

Another motion to take the back burner was to change the venue of our meetings from Dizzy's to some place else. The places mentioned were Julie's on Shackelford; Grady's Pizza; Brown's; exit 118 (where we met this time); and/ or Western Sizzlin'. Look for more info elsewhere in the newsletter. This discussion will be brought forth in February, so please be present at Dizzy's for your input.

Tech talk was done by Jim Peckham. He showed us what bad (old) antifreeze will do to our aluminum parts.

Ucky!!! It is advised to change your antifreeze every 2 years. It seems that antifreeze turns acidic with time and eats the aluminum.

Jack Brashear mentioned that 2008 will be the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Austin-Healy Sprite and the MG Midget. There is a big show planned for June at the Lake of the Ozarks. More info coming.

Gots and Goofs Brenda got Charlie home for good. Gayle Nelson got a new kitchen. Jack Brashear got his new 26' X 30' building done.

Birthdays John Peckham; 1st, David Fritchman; 5th, Ronnie McLeod; 8th, Steve Jones; 25th

Door Prize was a BMCA antenna flag won by Elaine Jones.

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Tech Tip of the Month

The story of the great ordeal and adventure of painting center caps on a TR6. This simple project started out about two weeks and 6 painting sessions before penning this recap for your enjoyment. Starting with Krylon primer over a completely sanded center cap; then sanded with 2000 grit sandpaper and painted with Krylon 1403 silver paint. Looked great, and then comes the problem. The 1403 Krylon Silver was flat and needed a clear coat to make them pretty and glossy. After lightly spraying a clear coat, every one of the caps cracked and orange peeled. Trying to figure out what happened, the experts surmised that too much clear coat was added. One more time, stripped, painted Krylon 1403, cleaned with alcohol and enamel clear coated. The exact same thing happened. Man, now what? Back to the experts, try a different clear enamel, nope, same outcome. We all (me and the experts) tried different variations 3 more times and 3 different sprayers. This simple process can not be this hard to do for a simple spray job! To make a short story long, I finally had a chemical test completed at PPG Paint Company and in their opinion, all the road grime and chemicals that come off the road and gathered up around the shops, imbedded into the plastic center caps from the outside and throughout the inside of the caps. This was news to all of us! In order to achieve an acceptable paint surface on older plastic parts; (Lucas, Price of Darkness strikes again); you are required to seal the plastic with a Urethane/hardener activated primer, (\$19.99 per can, also can be bought for a sprayer). Stripped one more time, sealed with Urethane Primer and let dry overnight. The next day I painted the center caps with PPG Gloss Silver spray paint that closely matched the Krylon 1403. No clear coat this time, but could if I wanted a deeper shine. The PPG silver gloss dried to the finish that I was trying for - for the previous 2 weeks. Learned something again, scary! P.S. Prepped an additional cap with the silver and PPG clear coat, beautiful but too shiny for my old British car. Maybe this information will save you some time when you want to do a simple touch up on your center caps. Go Brits, nothing but the best used to build (and maintain) British cars!! Parris McCullah

Marque your calendars now.
This promises to be an event to
remember - and close to home!



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The advertisement for McLeod's British Cars features a central logo with a Union Jack flag, two red lions on either side, and two classic cars. The text is arranged around the logo, providing contact information and a tagline. The overall design is colorful and emphasizes the company's long history and specialization in classic British cars.

Monthly Marque News

TR Team News

Two years ago when I was Triumph marque leader, I didn't know what I was doing, and so didn't do as good of a job as I would have hoped. This year I plan on trying harder to do a better job. Having said that, I want to solicit ideas from other members of the Triumph marque and will be calling you. So you guys need to help me be thinking about what we might have for events in the upcoming months.

Mike Ross has informed me that some of you haven't paid your dues and we really need the money. So lets go ahead and give the club the support it needs. We all enjoy the benefits and the dues are very reasonable for what we get in return. Enough said for one month. So again, call me with any ideas for marque events you have. I really need the help and input from all of you. I will try, with your help, to make this year as enjoyable as possible.

Jim Peckham

February Empire Marque Event

The New Year is here again already. Seems like I just did the Polar Bear Run 2006. Time flies so fast. My first event this time falls in February and I'm thinking about doing something different. Doug Nelson said that we haven't done a Scavenger Hunt in many years. Sounds like fun to me. After the hunt we can all meet somewhere for something to eat & to see who won. How about the 25th of Feb. (Sunday)?? Is there anything else going on that might interfere? If so, let me know so that I can change the weekend. My email address is rlh@windsordoor.com.

I'm also talking to the Porsche Club about a Dyno Day at Blairs British Cars in Feb. If we do, you need to get your cars in top condition before this event. More on that in the next newsletter.

Bob Harris

Attention Marque Leaders

Did you know there is a notebook for each marque which contains lots of information and helpful hints for being a marque leader. If you don't have yours, check with the marque leader from last year.

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Annual BMCA Polar Bear Run is here!

On January the 27, 2007, it will be time for THE POLAR BEAR RUN, so put on your driving gloves and your costumes (your and/or your cars). We will leave the Kroger parking lot at the corner of Kanis and Chenal Pkwy. at 10:00 A.M. We will be going west out Kanis to its intersection with Highway 9 at Paron; south on Highway 9 to Crows and the intersection with Highway 5; then into Hot Springs on Highway 5. We will stop at Gulpha Gorge to get wet (or not) when we get to The Spa City; then it's on to the Arlington Hotel for rest and relaxation until we meet for dinner (Dutch treat) at 7:00pm at the Brauhouse in Downtown Hot Springs. Then back to the Arlington to enjoy the evening

If you don't have your reservations made, make them now by calling the Arlington at 1-800-643-1502 and ask for the BMCA group rate with a room on or near the 7th floor, pool wing. Even if you can't stay overnight join us for the run and Polar Plunge :-)

BMCA Polar Bears - Eat your heart out!



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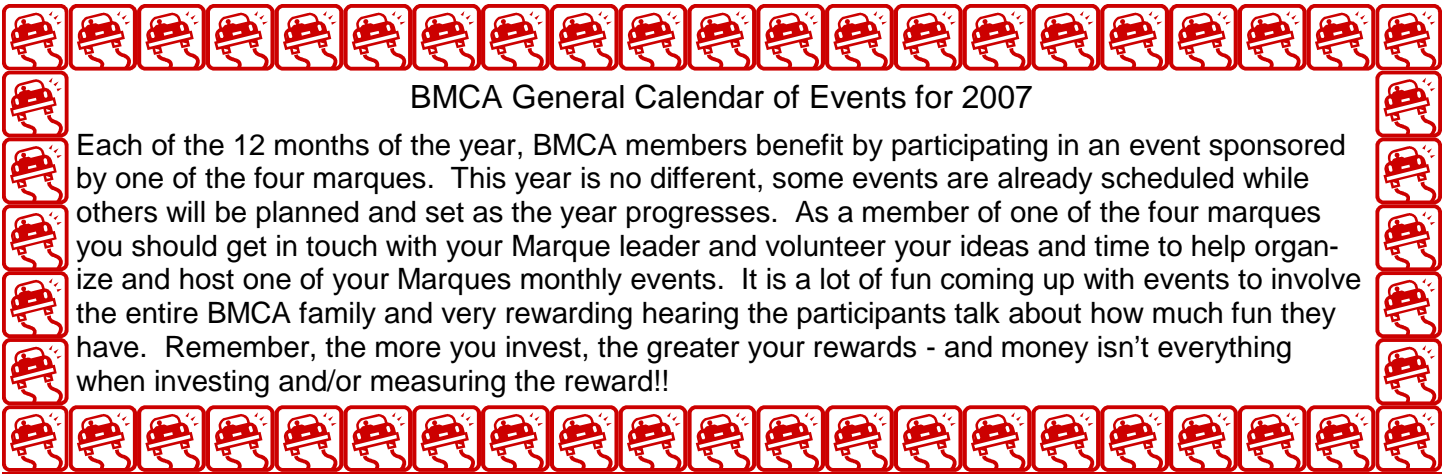
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(501) 228-2221 FAX (501) 664-9449
GBolin1@mac.com



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BMCA General Calendar of Events for 2007

Each of the 12 months of the year, BMCA members benefit by participating in an event sponsored by one of the four marques. This year is no different, some events are already scheduled while others will be planned and set as the year progresses. As a member of one of the four marques you should get in touch with your Marque leader and volunteer your ideas and time to help organize and host one of your Marques monthly events. It is a lot of fun coming up with events to involve the entire BMCA family and very rewarding hearing the participants talk about how much fun they have. Remember, the more you invest, the greater your rewards - and money isn't everything when investing and/or measuring the reward!!

Month	Event	Event - Marque Responsible	Meeting Tech Talk / Marque Responsible
January 27th	Polar Bear Run	Austin Healey	Triumph
February		Empire	MG
March		Triumph	Austin Healey
April	Swap Meet	MG	Empire
May		Austin Healey	Triumph
June	MOTTA Show / Petit Jean	Empire	MG
July		Triumph	Austin Healey
August		MG	Empire
September	Fayetteville Show??	Austin Healey	Triumph
October		Empire	MG
November		Triumph	Austin Healey
December	Christmas Party	All	None



Pride in Belonging

Do you have a BMCA decal on your car windscreen? How about a BMCA Union Jack antenna flag to decorate your car with at shows and displays? Maybe a couple BMCA can cozies to keep those beverages cool? See Judy Ross to get yours today!!

BMCA Window Decals	\$ 2.50
BMCA Hat/Lapel Pins	\$ 3.00
Mickey Mouse Union Jack Pins	\$ 10.00
BMCA Cozies	\$ 3.00
BMCA Antenna Flag	\$ 5.00
BMCA Grille Badge (Pre-Prod \$)	\$ 20.00

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BMCA Monthly Meeting

The British Motoring Club of Arkansas meets the first Tuesday of each month at Dizzy's Grill in Benton, near Wal-Mart on I-30, at 7:00 PM. Excellent food, lots of parking and good company. Come a little early to enjoy a meal, stay a little late to kick the tires of all the British cars in the parking lot.

January 27-28 - Annual Polar Bear Run - All the details on pg. 6

February 6, Tuesday - 7pm at Dizzy's Grill in Benton for the monthly meeting

February 25th - Empire Marque Scavenger Hunt - *Tentative* - more information next month

April - Swap Meet and British Extravaganza - Start gathering all your parts for trade or sale.

Do you know of an upcoming event? Send the information to bmcanewsletter@gmail.com



British Motoring Club of Arkansas
1923 S. Gaines
Little Rock, AR 72206
