



# Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

February 2007

## Polar Bear 2007

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> literally brought out the Polar Bears (aka Steve & Elaine Jones) who, top down of course, led the pack waving at all the folks watching along the way. And what a site the passed-by'ers had to see. In all there were 22 British beauties and 5 others who partook in a most enjoyed drive to watch the BIG Plunge at Gulfa Gorge. Besides the polar bears, sites included Santa with his Misses (Jim and Wilma) who had hooked up the reindeer and brought a boot-ful of X-mas presents, the Big Frost and his Misses (Ron & Vera) appearing scantily clad, two Little Red Riding Hoods (Barbara Bolin and Cookie Peckham), Grandma Wolf (Jim Peckham), Jim Peckham - *no, not a stutter* (Whit Waller), a penguin (Donna Weatherly), a train engineer (John Peckham) and our very own bird feeder (Lisa Hutchison). All deserve congratulations for the creativity and time it took to don the costumes for this fun event!!

We left the Kroger (Chenal and Kanis) a little after 10:00 am on a cool morning with the group who meandered down some delightfully winding roads amidst the Arkansas countryside between Little Rock and Hot Springs. The roads were a bit on the damp side in spots creating some creative driving challenges for some. No major oops happened along the way but there were a couple interesting stories (with supporting evidence) to be told after the drive was complete.

Gulfa Gorge brought out the best (?) in those few who are wise (?) enough to take the Polar Plunge. What does it take to plunge yourself into water which is surely below 50, especially with the outside temperatures in the 40's and a wind chill of BURRRRRR? Lots of watchers though. While the 'bears' were drying off ballots were passed around, collected and tallied. Steve and Elaine Jones and Jim Peckham each won a \$ 50.00 McLeod's Gift Certificate. After the accolades were done, Gary & Barbara Bolin had a special award for the 'best Polar Bear' based on who actually went in the water. Jim Peckham won his very own Possum Fur Willie Warmer. And Wilma Newton is now the proud owner of a pair of Possum Fur Nipple Warmers. Next year it could be you!!!

The stay at the Arlington lived up to expectations. We were able to park our cars in the event center for the same price as having someone else (a trained valet) park our cars wherever. Jim Stanhope 'rented' room 701 again which served as the BMCA hospitality suite (Thanks Jim!!). Dinner at the Brauhause was an extra memorable occasion. Next time you see Michael and/or Lisa Ross you'll have to congratulate them, as most of us rested between the journey and dinner, they went out and got themselves married. While waiting on our food to be served, Judy and Bob treated us each to a glass of bubbly to celebrate. How special!!! Sunday was a lazy morning where various groups got up and grabbed some breakfast. Some left on their own, some went flea-marketing and the rest headed towards home.

All in all it was a most memorable event. Make plans to attend next year even if you can't stay overnight, the days events are a welcome break to the dreariness of January. *(More pics inside )*



# Prez Sez

I can't believe that January is already come and gone. The years seem to go by faster than they use to. I still have a few projects on the LBC's that I need to get done before spring arrives so I need to get busy. Bill Watkins, the president of the Fayetteville club, announced that their show will be held September 15 this year so mark your calendars. He also emailed that their club's 2006 Brits in the Ozarks show will be featured in the February issue of Classics and Sports Car magazine including pictures of Ken Coyle's Healey, Doug Nelson's TR4 and a paragraph about our club winning the Bob Harris award. I for one am very proud of our club and honored that the Fayetteville club felt that we deserved this award. Be sure and pickup a copy when they come out. The February event is a scavenger hunt which is something that we haven't done in quite some time and I am sure it will be fun so get the LBC fired up and come on out.

Until next time - keep 'em on the road.

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

## MDA Stride and Ride

By Cookie Peckham

Saturday Feb. 10 I will be at McCain Mall walking to benefit MDA. I want to thank each and everyone of my friends in this wonderful club for their donations to MDA. Well I won't be walking I will be riding! Either way, I am very blessed to be in a great club like this. You all put a big smile on my face. I am happy to tell you that with your help I will be giving MDA a total of \$4,442.00.

Ed Note; This was submitted before the event occurred.. There were over 100 people who attended this worthy MDA fund raising event. Cookies team, The Cookie Monsters, came in first for raising funds for the MDA in this event.

Is this YOUR LAST newsletter?

If you have not paid your dues by the end of February this will be your last newsletter. Likewise, if you are an advertiser and have not paid, your ad will not appear next month.

## '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.

## Secretary's Minutes

The BMCA meeting was called to order with 27 members present. We had one new face, Bruce Hurlbut, a new member with a red MGA. The minutes were read and approved. Lisa read the treasurer's report with an ending balance of \$1570.71. Steve Jones reported on the Polar Bear Run. We met at the Kroger on Chenal and Kanis. We had to regroup at Bear Creek. Ken Coyle did a 360 in his big Healey, went off backwards into the ditch. It was reported that the damage to his rear was not as bad as first thought. For the rest of the run, we had a nice drive with 28 cars in tow, three being foreigners. Steve must be taking lessons from Ronnie, our fearless leader missed the turn into Gulpha Gorge. We had 3 to actually go swimming: Jim Peckham, John Peckham, and Ronnie McLeod. Wilma was given reprieve this year, by standing just inside the edge, at the depth of ½ inch. The Polar Bear Award was given to Jim Peckham. The costume award was given to the true polar bear couple, the Jones'. At the Arlington; some rested, some went shopping. Michael Ross interrupted his Mom's shopping by asking her to go see something with him and Lisa. They ended up at the JP. Surprise!! Yes, Michael and Lisa got married. We all found out at the restaurant. We had a great meal, even though we were split into 2 rooms. Back at the Arlington, some went to the hot tub, but all ventured in and out of the hospitality room. Sunday morning, some went straight back home. The others had to go shopping for various fleas. Fun was had by all.

The other old business to discuss was moving our meeting place. Restaurant's mentioned were Julies', Grady's, or Western Sizzlin. Bob Ross asked for a committee to meet with him next Tuesday, 2-13-07, for dinner at the Western to check the place out. Mr. Pranter added for the committee to keep in mind, we want to feel safe driving our little cars.

Empire Marque has the February's event, 2-25-07. Meet at 1:00 p.m., at War Memorial Stadium for a scavenger hunt. We will be given a list of 15 things and 2 hours. We regroup at Shot Gun Dan's, for every 5 minutes you are late....you loose 1 point, highest total wins.

If you have your receipt for NAMGBR membership, see Lisa Hutchison for reimbursement. If you would like to become a member, contact Michelle Smith. NAMGBR is the national organization for MG owners. BMCA receives 'free' liability insurance to cover our events with a minimum of 8 NAMGBR members.

Barbara Bolin wants to know if anyone would be interested in a canoe trip and drive-in movie. She says it would be at the cost of \$60 per person for the weekend of May 18 and 19. This is a group of friends gathering for some fun; but, not an official club event.

The February issue of Classic Sports Magazine, has an article that mentions the BMCA getting the Bob Harris award, and has pictures of 2 of our cars.

Bob Ross wants to remind members about our new grill badges. We need 50 more to be pre-sold before we can order. Think about being a badge sponsor; pay for a couple extra 'pre-sold' badges, and when they come in, yours' will be sold first to the customers that did not take advantage of getting them early. Contact Jack Brashear if you would be interested in purchasing a 1994 Jag XJ6, cheap.

Our MG marquee leader, Lon Smith, was missing for illness, so we didn't have a tech talk. Get better Lon, we missed you.

Gots and Goofs: Brad Beuch's Lotus is down. Charles Hutchison has lights in the shop. Skip Harris has a 73 Morris TC Coop added to his list.

Birthdays and Anniversary's: Eileen Higgason; 6<sup>th</sup>, Jim Stanhope; 10<sup>th</sup>, Bob & Judy Ross anniversary; 16<sup>th</sup>

Rebecca Pranter chose from a selection of British regalia as her door prize.



Off. Ph. 870-534-2579  
email: fess@seark.net

Fax (870) 534-5328

### "FIRE" EXTINGUISHER SALES & SERVICE, INC.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS • AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS  
MARINE SYSTEMS • CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2)

PAUL HOWARD

501 Juniper  
Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601

## MG News

This years Polar Bear run included 5 MG's, good to see you all participating. We need all MG'ers to join in and help make our Marque one to remember. Our breed of vehicle is special and so are we, let's work together to make 2007 a memorable one.

The first MG Marque event this year is in April. This event will be a bit different as we will use it to promote each of our Marques and the BMCA in general at the British Car Swap Meet at McLeod's on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We'd like to see each Marque have a 'booth' area in the lot across the street from McLeod's highlighting the Marques. Hopefully a representation of the various models can be on display along with a table showing and/or selling Marque related things. The booth(s) would need to be manned from 8:00 am to 6:00 (ish) pm. Display cars can be left for the day as someone will be there to watch them. Contact Lon or Michelle to volunteer and or discuss additional ideas. Safety Fast!!

# Polar Bear Run 2007



## DRIVE-IN \* CANOEING

MAY 18 AND 19, 2007

**The 2007 Buffalo River float trip is being expanded to include a night** at the Kenda Drive-In movie theater in Marshall! Check with your friends to learn how much fun this float trip has been in the past. After a fun Saturday on the river, we head over to Tracey Gerlach's, where he and Melinda greet us warmly with a fantastic dinner (BYOB and monetary donations welcome).

**But in 07**, we will leave on Friday to cruise the Marshall Drive-In movie!

There are three cabins reserved each of which sleep six in groups of two. These cabins are clean, comfortable and situated in a wooded area. The Buffalo River Cabins require reservations for two nights on weekends from May through September. This presents us with the opportunity to include the night at the movies. Honestly, how many times have we sat around and talked about going up to the Drive-In. Let's do it!

**Reservations must be 100% absolutely confirmed by April 8, 2007, in order not to be charged for the cabins. If all spaces are filled, the price will be \$30 per person per night: \$60 for the entire weekend per person. This includes taxes.**

The April BMCA club meeting will be on April 3. Any cabins not reserved by Sunday the 8th will be cancelled on Monday morning. Invitations are extended to BMCAers and their friends. Go to [www.buffalorivercabins.com/family.htm](http://www.buffalorivercabins.com/family.htm) for more information on the lodging accommodations, we have cabins 1, 2 and 3 reserved. Go to [www.driveinmovie.com/ar.htm](http://www.driveinmovie.com/ar.htm) to read about the theater.

Confirm your reservations with Barbara or Gary Bolin at:

Home: 501-225-1555 or e-mail: [barbara.anne.bolin@fnf.com](mailto:barbara.anne.bolin@fnf.com)

Triumph News  
Jim Peckham - Marque Leader

Last month I got out my TR3 for a ride to Mayflower. On the way back to Ron's it started running real sour. I mean nasty sour. Upon arriving at Ron's and some discussion we did a compression test. One, Two and Three cylinders were at 150, but for some reason number four was Zero. After much consultation with Ron, Lon and Whit we voted that this was a bad thing. So I decided to remove the head to see what I could see. You can imagine my dismay when I saw that number Four piston had melted! Needless to say the engine came out and is off to the machine shop now. Cuz as must of you know you can't fix just one piston. You must put in all new pistons and liners. Then of course if your going to do that you might as well replace the cam and cambearings. At which point there is no reason not to get a new timing chain, timing chair gears and timing chain tensioner. Oh, don't forget new lifters to go with the new cam. You can all see where this story is going. Probably having been there yourself. I will continue this story next month.

**News from British Iron Touring Club  
of Northwest Arkansas (Fayetteville Club)**

Y'all need to be sure to pick up the February issue of Classic & Sportscar (300SL on the cover). 2006 Brits in the Ozarks gets lead story treatment as well as the monthly column in the "Clubs" section. Pictures of Ken Coyle's Healey and Doug's TR4 appear as does a paragraph about your club winning the Bob Harris award.

Bill Watkins

Ed Note: The Fayetteville show will be Sept. 15 this year. Mark your calendars now!!!

# Monthly Marque News

February Empire Event  
Bob Harris - Marque Leader

On Sun, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:30, we will meet at War Memorial Stadium parking lot in Little Rock. From there we will go on a Scavenger Hunt. You will be given a list of 15 items. After 2 hours we will meet at Shotgun Dan's on Markham Street. For you people that were at the Feb. meeting you were told that we were going to leave at 1:30 & meet at Shotguns at 3:30. This has been changed. We will leave at 2:00 & we will meet at Shotguns at 4:00.

1:30-2:00 War Memorial Stadium Parking Lot:

1. Pick up a paper bag & put your name on it.

2. Synchronize your watch with mine.

We will leave at 2:00 sharp.

3. As you collect your items, put them in the bag.

4. You have 2 hours to collect. The hunt will end at 4:00 at Shotgun Dan's Pizza on West Markham St.

As you drive in the back of the parking lot, the time will be written on your bag.

5. For every correct item that you have you will get (1) point.

6. For every 5 minutes that you are late, (After 4:00), (1) point will be taken off of your score.

7. A trophy will be awarded to the winner with the most items & the shortest time.

8. You will have to buy your own pizza or split one with a friend. We will meet in the back room.

## Little British Cars in Kiwi Land

Gary and I missed the BMCA Christmas Party this year because we spent December 2006 in New Zealand. We barely arrived home in time to bring in the New Year with some of you at the Hutchison's. Thanks so much for the black eye peas! 2007 should be as lucky as peas can make it.

What we did get to do in December, might be of interest though. We contacted the NZ Southern Lotus Registry and were invited to their Christmas party. Incredible, the entire club is made up of Lotus owners. You will just never guess what we all talked about.

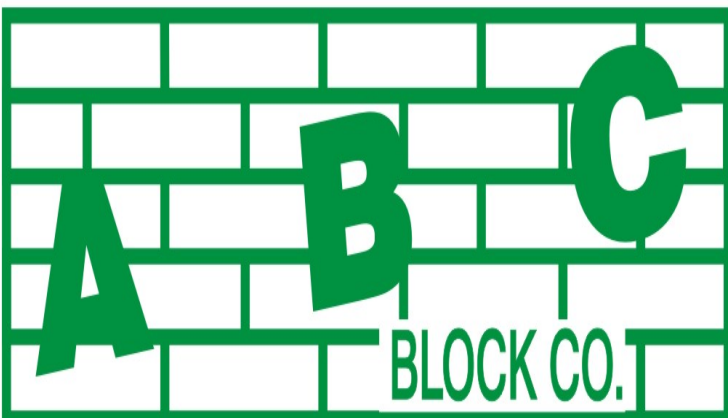
The following week, the Christchurch based club put together a Dawn Run for us. Can you just imagine our club getting up at dawn? We drove on the volcanic based mountain roads over to Littleton on the east coast of the South Island. Oh, we should have such roads in Arkansas! Keeper and I rode with Ray in his Lotus Elise and Gary was in a Lotus 7 with Robert. Several other Lotus 7s were also along. The weather was misty, so Ray erred on the side of caution and only took the turns a "wee bit" fast. Look up the Kiwi definition of "wee bit" if you are not sure of that term. The words small, tiny, slow, or little never appear in it. Hot chocolate and coffee wrapped up the morning and then it was time to find breakfast. After a "wee" serving of Eggs Benedict, we went with Ray to a car auction. An exotic car dealer in town was going out of business. Some of the cars were going cheap enough to actually make it affordable to have one shipped back to Arkansas. No, Gary didn't buy one, but Ray did. His father had been seriously looking for a Peugeot 406 station wagon and there it was; Just what he wanted. We did hear later that his father was very pleased with the car. However, Ray made the typical mistake with his bidding; He started too high and no one bid over him. He'll never know just how cheap he could have gotten it.

Gary spent a few hours at John McGregor's garage. This is John, of McGregor Lotus 7 type cars, if you know the name. Contact Gary if you want to order one. He has all the details. <http://www.mcgregormotorsport.co.nz>

Later in the month, Harry, another Lotus Lad, hosted a small dinner party for us. Harry then passed us on to Iain, another Lotus lover, who lives in Blenheim. Gary left some drool on Iain's Turbo Esprit and took a wonderful ride in his Elan S3.

While at the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre (designed by Peter Jackson), which is an absolute "MUST SEE" if you find yourself in Blenheim, we met Dave, the museum director. In addition to his wife also using a dog guide, we had Lotus in common. His Lotus 7 MK4 was in the parking lot. He offered Gary and me to take it for a spin. You will no doubt be listening to Gary lament his regret for years to come.

Aside from New Zealand being full of Little British Cars, it also has people that are a "wee" bit friendly and generous. That is what we found the first time we went there. And that is why we went back. Get "going to New Zealand" moved up to the top of your To Do list and we can put you in touch with some very entertaining LBC folks. I promise, they will show you a wonderful time. *Barbara Bolin*



Little Rock      Ft. Smith      Harrison  
Russellville      Searcy      Springdale  
Hot Springs      Fayetteville

**1-800-455-2027**



14310 CORVALLIS RD. MAUMELLE, AR  
(501) 851-2640 • 1-800-352-5816 • FAX:(501) 851-4513

EMAIL - [McLeodCo@swbell.net](mailto:McLeodCo@swbell.net)

*"Arkansas' Classic British Car Specialist"*

The  
**TILE GUY**

CERAMIC TILE & HARDWOOD INSTALLATION  
WALLS • FLOORS

COUNTERTOPS • SHOWERS

*YOU PICK IT...I'LL STICK IT!!*

**352-5009**

**BILL JACOBS**

# 2007 Heartland MG Car Regional

Saturday June 9 2007

## Friday Night Hospitality: 5 PM

Free Hospitality Cook-out at our host hotel... the newly renovated Holidome in Overland Park, Kansas. Come and enjoy burgers, hot dogs and a cold beverage while you make new acquaintances and see old MG friends. For those staying over, throw in a refreshing dip in the indoor pool! We'll have an early registration desk there for your convenience as well.

## Saturday Morning.... Holey Pancakes in the Park, Batman!

All registered attendees will be treated to a pancake breakfast at our Show site, Overland Park Commons, just 6 minutes from the hotel.

Starting at 7 AM, we'll have Chris Cakes cater a pancake breakfast at the park. Bring your car to the show site, have a wonderful breakfast, and still have time to give your little beauty one last shine before the show! Non-registered guests can purchase a delicious breakfast as well. FYI...*Chris Cakes has been featured on the Food Network.*

## Show Starts 9AM

We are very fortunate to have secured Santa Fe Commons Park, in the heart of Historic Downtown Overland Park, Kansas for this year's show site. This beautiful city park is marked by mature trees surrounding a lush park, featuring sculptures, small gazebos and benches. Anchoring the park is a large centrally located old style covered band shell with city maintained natural stone modern restroom facilities... no porta-potties!

## Food, Food, Food... or... What in the World are "Bangers and Mash"?

Because of our great downtown Overland Park location, do we have choices for you! At the park, we will have Werner's Specialty Meats serving up the classic British lunch of "Bangers & Mash". You can't get much more authentic than that! They will also have an assortment of their terrific Polish, spicy Italian and other specialty sausages, sizzlin' on the grill. If your tastes turn elsewhere, there are 8 other restaurants from Chinese to Spanish and Sports Bars to Pizza patios, all within a 2 block radius... so no need to drive, just take a little stroll!

## Judging Ends 3PM

We will start counting the ballots at 3 PM, with trophies awarded by 4 PM! Breaking with previous tradition, the show will end around 5 PM and the rest of the evening is yours to enjoy!

**Please Mark your calendars!!! June 9th, 2007**

## The Heartland MG Regional

[www.heartlandmgregional.com](http://www.heartlandmgregional.com)

Joe Blackwood [chairman@heartlandmgregional.com](mailto:chairman@heartlandmgregional.com)

## Holiday Inn

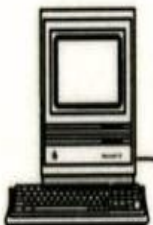
7240 Shawnee Mission Parkway  
Overland Park, KS 66202  
913-262-3010

More details to follow!

MACINTOSH CONSULTING • SUPPORT  
INTERNET SET-UP • HARDWARE • NETWORKING

**Gary Bolin**

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



**MACENTERPRISES**

14710 Cantrell Rd, Suite A13 • Little Rock, AR 72223

**rpMG Group**



*Marina Man*



501 315-6625

**PARTS FOR ALL ENGLISH CARS**

**PERTRONIX**

**SU FACTORY DIRECT**

**LUNATI CAMS**

(and much more)

1107 Angel Drive

Alexander, AR 72002-7015



## 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.

## Calendar of Events

**Sun, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>** - 1:30, Meet at War Memorial Stadium parking lot in Little Rock for a **Scavenger Hunt**. We will leave at 2:00. Contact Bob Harris [rlh@windsordoor.com](mailto:rlh@windsordoor.com) for more info.

**Tues March 6** - BMCA Monthly Meeting at Dizzy's Grill

**Sun March 25** - Triumph Marque is sponsoring a Liberty Run to the Statue of Liberty

**Sat April 14** - British Car Swap Meet @ McLeods - MG Marque event included. Get your parts ready for sale and your money ready to buy. More info call (501) 851-2640 or 1-800-352-5816

**May 12** - Tulsa Jag Club presents All British Car Show at Sand Springs, OK

**Sat June 9<sup>th</sup>** - The Heartland MG Regional, Overland Park, KS call 913-262-3010 for more info.

**June 14-16** Petit Jean Mountain Swap Meet and Car show - more info to come

**Sept 15** - 2007 Brits in the Ozarks. Mark your calendars now - more details to follow.

*Do you know of an upcoming event? Send the information to [bmcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bmcanewsletter@gmail.com)*



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