



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

March 2007

Feb. Empire Scavenger Hunt Recap

On Sun, Feb 25th, at 1:30 we met at War Memorial Stadium parking lot in Little Rock for a Scavenger Hunt. It was a beautiful day. There was a SCCA race event going on. I had a problem getting my flock in their cars & on their way for the hunt. Two minutes before we were to leave, many were still watching the races. (I really don't blame you guys as I wanted to stay & watch the races myself). Anyway everyone was given his or her list of 15 items to find. They were to meet at Shotgun Dan's Pizza at 4:00. Joyce & I went to Kmart to make an exchange & then headed back to Shotgun Dan at about 3:20. I figured they would be starting to come in a little before 4:00. When I pulled into the parking lot most of the club was there waiting for us. You guys are amazing. Talk about innovative. Definitely Professional Scavengers. Anyway, the first back with all 15 items were Gary & Barbara Anne Bolin. They won the coveted Scavenger trophy. The pizza was good & everyone had a great time. There were about 12 cars & about 24 people. Hope guys enjoyed your beans & bananas. *Bob Harris, Empire Marque Leader*



Prez Sez

Well it looks like spring is finally here. Now is some of the best driving weather that there is so I hope everyone has their LBC in top driving condition so you can enjoy many trouble free driving miles this year. The TR 8 is coming along but I am afraid that the others (*all stored in the same garage*) are getting parts envy so I am hoping to appease each of them with an oil change and a tune up.

The Triumph marque has an interesting run planned for us later this month which I am sure you won't want to miss. Lisa and I hated to miss the scavenger hunt last month, it sounded like fun, but we had already planned a trip to FL. so we just had to struggle thru it. We did go to a local cruise while we were there. There were over 340 cars of all kinds and this happens every Saturday night. Maybe the River Market will grow like this some year.

The swap meet is just around the corner, April 14, so gather up your unwanted parts and trade them for some that you need. Also, we need some volunteers to conduct tech demonstrations, please let Ron or myself know if you are interested.

Until next time keep 'em on the road

Charles

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Is this your LAST newsletter?

- If your name is highlighted on the label for this newsletter, this **will be your last** Bits and Spares newsletter until you renew your dues with the membership committee. Don't procrastinate any longer, you don't want to miss out knowing all the happenings of BMCA with the 'season' just getting started!!

Happy St. Patrick's Day



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

'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

We had a full house this month with 36 in attendance. It was great to see Thomas Melton, Doug's friend, again. By the way, he's looking for an MG. The minutes were read, and approved. Lisa read the treasurer's report with a ending balance of \$2082.71. OLD BUSINESS: Bob Harris reported on the *Scavenger Hunt*. The rules were simple. You were given a brown paper bag, a list of 15 items, and 2 hours to meet at the appointed pizza place. He watched everyone leave, and figured he time to run an errand. When they arrived, Barb and Gary Bolin were already there. Needless to say, they won the *Buzzard Trophy*. (I was tickled to even arrive within the designated time and with ALL my items. Someone even mentioned that we, Jim and I, had smiles on our faces.)

Bob Ross reported on their trip to the Western Sizzlin. He has a copy of the carry out menu if anyone is interested to see it. The salad bar, which includes main course selections also, were under \$10.

They have a variety of meeting room sizes and good parking. It is a few blocks east of the current location off of Hwy 30 at exit 117. It was voted to meet at the Western Sizzlin for April's meeting at the regular time to get the whole group's opinion, then we will meet back at Dizzy's in May to give comment. Make a note on your calendar.

Bob Ross took the floor again to show a picture of our new grill badges. Everyone needs to think about prepaying \$20 now. If you wait until the swap meet, the cost will go up to \$25, and again up to \$30, when they arrive. If anyone would like to buy some extras, they will be sold first on a rotating basis. We have to pay for them up front when we order.

NEW BUSINESS: The March event we will be going to see the Statue of Liberty. Yes, I said Ms. Liberty, but not the one in New York, the one in Pine Bluff. Jim Peckham said that there is a Statue of Ms Liberty at the museum there. We have to be at the Jefferson Historical Museum on 3-25-07 exactly at 2:30 p. m. for a private tour. Look for details under the Triumph marque notes to the editor.

Bill Watkins, with the Brits of the Ozarks, wants our input on changing the host hotel to a different location. There is a Holiday Inn in Springdale, rooms cost \$79. The rooms are \$20 more a night, but it is right off of 540, and easier to get to. It was motioned, and approved to email Mr. Waktins back and give him our approval. Book'em Dano!

By the way, the event has been moved up to September 15th this year, avoiding the football hectic.

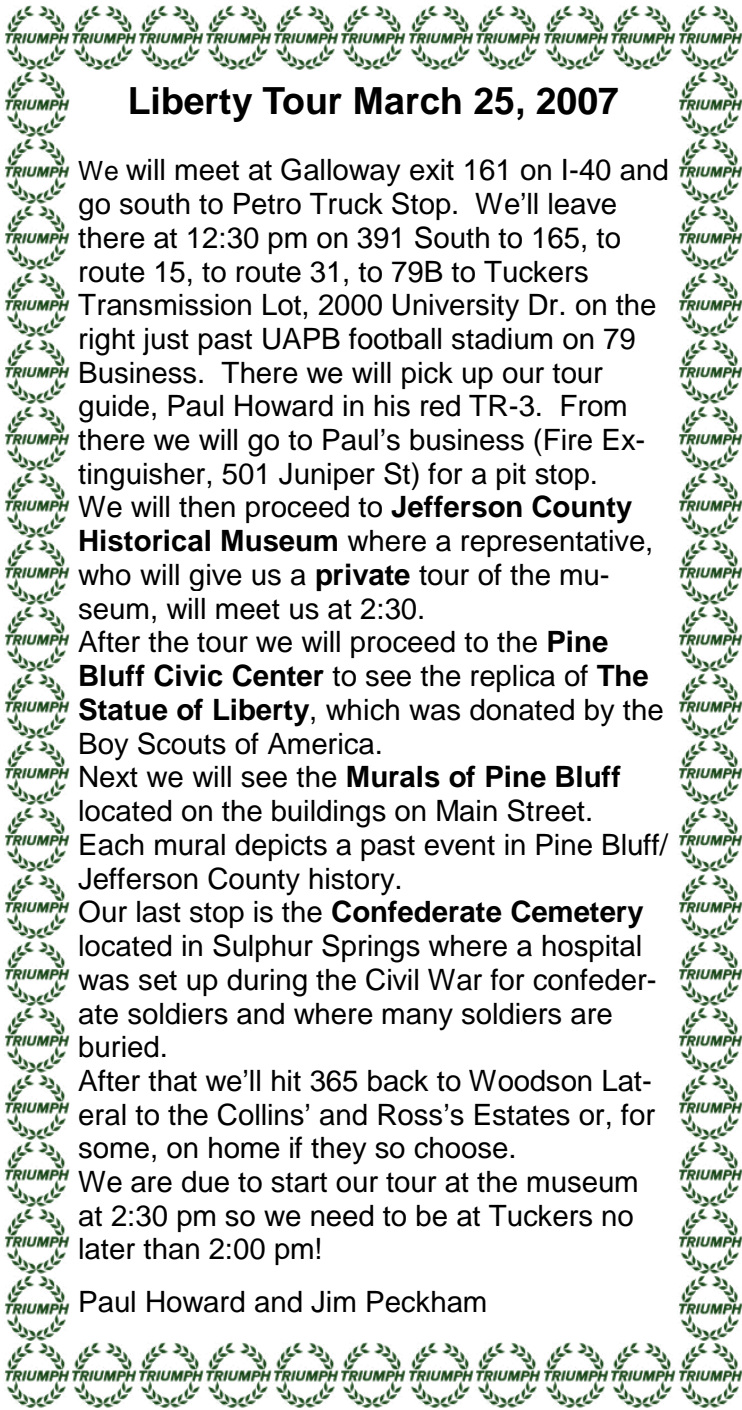
SWAP MEET is around the corner, April 14th. Gather up your extra parts and such and come visit with us. The Tulsa Group is bringing a trailer load of parts, and cars to boot. The British Irons are coming! Are you?

The Scottish Festival is the very next weekend, April 21st. Donne your kilts and meet us at McDonald's on McCain. We leave promptly at 7a.m. for our adventure.

GOTS & GOOFS: Ronnie's car, The Morgan, has been started and she sounds purty. Charles Hutchison got a new steering wheel and other parts for his TR8. Dennis James has been teaching mock trials with a group of about 10 students. It is their 2nd time winning the State championship, and are excited about going to Dallas for the National's. Mary Sue Brashear, Jack's wife, lost her mother just recently. We pass our condolences for their loss. Jack also recounted an incident where he sped up to get a better look at this orange Sprite he caught sight of. Next thing he knew, he had a State Trooper on his tail. Jack just knew he was in trouble, but was surprised when he got a thumb's up signal from the trooper instead as he passed him on by. Lance Felix is restoring a house instead of his car right now.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY'S: Birthdays are Mary Sue Brashear, 3rd; Elaine Jones, 7th; Jim Scoggins, 7th; Michael Ross, 12th; Doug Nelson, 15th; Gayle Nelson, 28th. Our honorary double dipper this month goes to Brenda Collins. Her anniversary with her hubby, Charles, is the 6th, followed by her birthday on the 21st.

The TECH talk was given by Ronnie McLeod. It was entitled "How to make a sow's ear out of a silk purse." He had several different short stories on how some people (not naming any names) were trying to not reach into their deep pocketbook to do the repairs correctly, and it ended up being a botched job. Thanks Ronnie for not naming the names. Moral of the story: Ronnie's famous words, "British cars aren't for the financially squeamish" and "Most poorly done repairs are the sign of too tight a wallet"; followed by, "It is more than it was. That's just the way it is".



Liberty Tour March 25, 2007

We will meet at Galloway exit 161 on I-40 and go south to Petro Truck Stop. We'll leave there at 12:30 pm on 391 South to 165, to route 15, to route 31, to 79B to Tuckers Transmission Lot, 2000 University Dr. on the right just past UAPB football stadium on 79 Business. There we will pick up our tour guide, Paul Howard in his red TR-3. From there we will go to Paul's business (Fire Extinguisher, 501 Juniper St) for a pit stop.

We will then proceed to **Jefferson County Historical Museum** where a representative, who will give us a **private** tour of the museum, will meet us at 2:30.

After the tour we will proceed to the **Pine Bluff Civic Center** to see the replica of **The Statue of Liberty**, which was donated by the Boy Scouts of America.

Next we will see the **Murals of Pine Bluff** located on the buildings on Main Street. Each mural depicts a past event in Pine Bluff/ Jefferson County history.

Our last stop is the **Confederate Cemetery** located in Sulphur Springs where a hospital was set up during the Civil War for confederate soldiers and where many soldiers are buried.

After that we'll hit 365 back to Woodson Lateral to the Collins' and Ross's Estates or, for some, on home if they so choose.

We are due to start our tour at the museum at 2:30 pm so we need to be at Tuckers no later than 2:00 pm!

Paul Howard and Jim Peckham



MG Marque News



Spring is upon us, it's time to get those MG's out and get them tuned up for the upcoming driving season! Although we missed the February Scavenger Hunt, we heard that 7 MG's participated - **Mighty Good** ☺

April is the MG marque event month. There's already a couple events scheduled for April. The 'official' MG marque event will be used to promote BMCA in general during the Swap Meet on April 14th at McLeod's. We'll clean up and use the lot across the street from McLeod's for a BMCA display area. We'll have the club banner up and, hopefully, a good representation of the various marques and models represented within BMCA. If you are interested in displaying your car for the day, contact your marque leader or Lon Smith or Ron McLeod (pg 2 for #'s). The second event for April is the Scottish Fest in Batesville, AR. See the article on pg. 7 for more details.

Safety Fast!



Saturdays at McLeod's & LCYC (Lake Corvallis Yacht Club)

For those BMCA'ers who like to work on their own cars and/or share in the camaraderie which tinkering with our LBC's brings, Saturday's at McLeod's is the time in which to indulge. 'Official' business is conducted until about 2'ish in the afternoons. The morning begins with a small group of us having breakfast, normally at the Morgan Café, then getting to 'work' around 7:30 to open the doors by 8:00. There are a few regulars who come out to work on their projects, which are varied and extremely educational. There are those who bring in their cars just for a tune-up (by appointment ☺) and or just a question/answer look-see. There is so much to be learned about our beloved LBC's on Saturdays! After a day of vehicle related LBC doings and conversations, the evening approaches and we walk over the foot bridge where the lighthouse greets us heading into the land of Lake Corvallis where it is said 'What occurs at Lake Corvallis, stays at Lake Corvallis'. Not that anything ever happens which couldn't be 'published' per se'. Families gather on Saturday evenings, several generations all at the same time are known to show up on occasion, to join the rest of the 'clan' for dinner, a 'bond'fire outside and an inviting atmosphere inside the 'club' house which only adds to the friendship that can only be described as second to none! The LCYC club house is always open and has all the amenities required to be self-sufficient for an enjoyable evening. If you're not doing something one Saturday and are interested, come join us during the day at McLeod's and/or the evening at LCYC!

MCLEOD'S BRITISH CARS

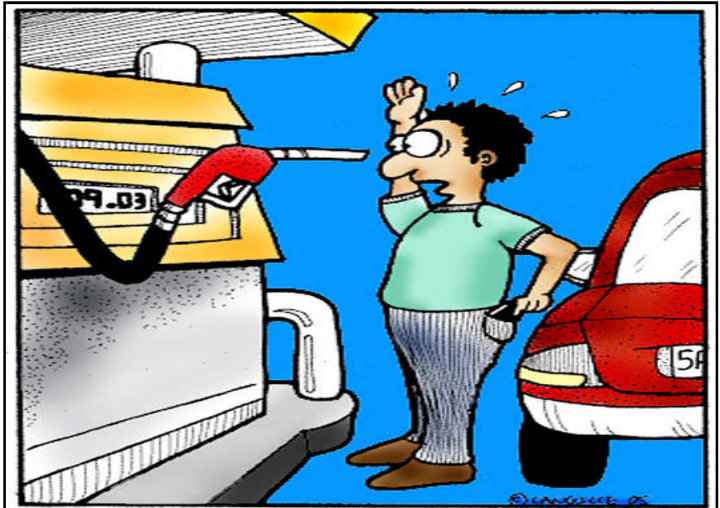
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Swap Meet Time Again!

Join us on the grass and under the trees of Lake Corvallis for the 12th Annual British Car Swap Meet.

Preview day is Friday April 13th and the BIG Day is Saturday April 14th.

Setup time starts at 6:00 am and the swap meets runs from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm.

A cookout will be held starting after 5:00 pm on Saturday.

There is always lots of cars for sale and parts and other related items.

Sponsored by:
McLeod's British Cars
British Motoring Club of Arkansas

For information call: 501-851-2640 or 1-800-352-5816

Fayetteville Show News

At our March meeting Charles passed along some information on the potential change in the hotel for the September event. We have heard from Bill Watkins and the new host hotel is the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale. The show will be in the same place and this hotel is supposed to be more accessible to the show site.



Feeling a Bit Celtic

It is said that 'Wild Scots encouraged themselves in battle by the sound of their bagpipes.'

Once again, on Saturday April 21st, 2007 a hearty band of British Car owners, some in their kilts, gather for their annual trip to Batesville, AR and the Ozark Scottish Festival.

Following the sounds of Scottish drums and bagpipes with a skip-jig in our step and a bit of the Highlands in our heat, we will leave North Little Rock McCain McDonalds at 7:00 Saturday morn.

Whether it be the Highland Games or Dance or Celtic Music ...there is a little bit of Scot in us all.

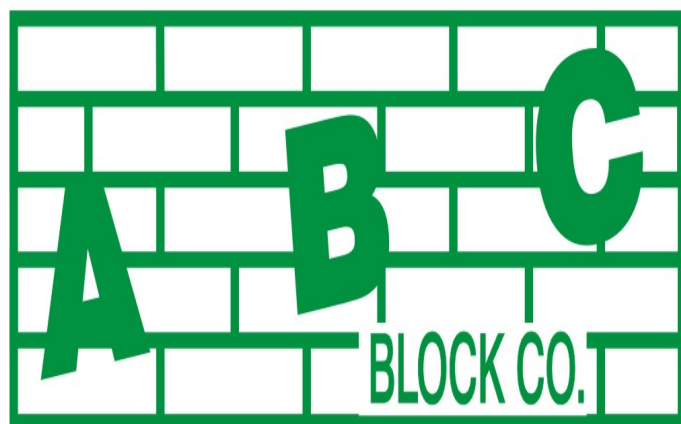
In 1746 the English banned the wearing of all plaid tartan material and the playing of the bagpipes and forced the adoption of trousers as acceptable attire. In 1782 the ban was lifted. So throw off those trousers and flaunt those "Bonnie Knees".

For more info, contact Ronnie McLeod 501-851-2640

From the Antique Car Times Petit Jean Corner

The Winthrop Rockefeller Charitable Trust has approved a one year \$100,000 Challenge Grant for the Petit Jean Automobile Museum. The Challenge Grant is for one year beginning January 1, 2007 and must be matched in full by December 31, 2007 to qualify for payment of the grant. This must be new money, and in addition to any donation you may currently make. If our fund drive is successful, the Charitable Trust may consider a similar grant for 1008 and thereafter. Therefore, we are asking you for a five-year pledge. Our matching funds will then be in place should the trust extend our grant.

Ed Note: We all appreciate the Petit Jean Show every year, and the museum is yet another way to promote the love for the automobile we all share. A one-time donation for this year would be greatly appreciated and help the cause for the current grant endeavor!!



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BILL JACOBS

BMCA Monthly Meeting

The British Motoring Club of Arkansas meets the first Tuesday of each month. The April 3rd meeting will be at Western Sizzlin in Benton, near Wal-Mart off 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 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

Sat April 21 - Batesville Scottish Fest - see article inside this edition

April 26-29 - South Central Regional Trials sponsored by Texas Triumph Register - Houston, TX. Autocross, Funkhana

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

Sat June 9th - 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



British Motoring Club of Arkansas
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