



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

June 2007

Blytheville 2007 - MAY EMPIRE EVENT RECAP

The Cars & Cycles Against Cancer event at Blytheville, AR was a success this year. Over \$14,000.00 dollars were raised just in Blytheville on the day of the show. Many thanks go to Barrett Harrison and Michelle & Lon Smith for helping me with this event. They did all of the work. (By Bob Harris)

Lon & Michelle, Judy & Jim Wheeler (with Rebel), Matt Seggo, and Bob & Joyce Harris were the only ones who were able to make the event out of 7 committed. The Smiths in their MGB, the Wheelers with Jim in his Spitfire and Judy and Rebel in the van with Jim Peckham's Mini on the trailer drove up Friday afternoon. After all the planning Bob Harris (then Lon & I) went to in deciding which way to go to Blytheville, the final drivers meeting determined we'd just take the interstate and get there the quickest way possible. WRONG... We were meant to take the scenic route!!! Not long after we pulled out of McLeod's in Mau-melle the radio announcer came on and said if you were traveling east on I-40 to get off and go Hwy. 70. Seeing the trucks and cars slowing down in front of us, we heeded the advice and got on 70. Not 15 minutes later the radio announced that 70 was now blocked and you'd better find an alternate route or be prepared for a long wait. We pulled over and consulted the map. Backtrack less than a ¼ mile and we were on our way again. All together it took us about 4 ½ hours to get to Blytheville.

Once off the main highways, we basically had the roads to ourselves, the sun was shining and it was a most enjoyable drive!! We called Barry as we passed through Dell where he met us closer to his house and escorted us to his craftsman style home. Barry & Lyn live in an impressive, very comfortable home that Barry's grandfather built. They grilled burgers and had all the fixings for visiting BMCA'ers and some of the Blytheville folks who organized and worked the event on Saturday. It was true BMCA style hosting and all we all felt most comfortable and at home.

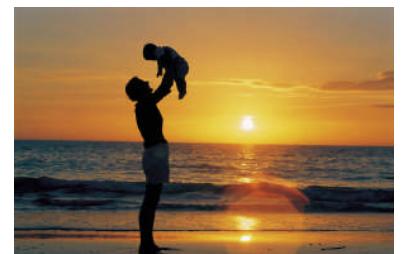
Saturday morning we ate our free (well, almost) restaurant breakfast courtesy of the hotel, then to the carwash and on to historic Walker Park for the show. We were joined by Matt Seggo and his MGB, who drove up by himself on Saturday morning. Bob & Joyce Harris drove up later and joined us for part of the day. Bob & Joyce also took the back roads and commented that it reminded them of Kansas - lots of farmers' fields and combines all along the way. The Memphis group also drove over on Saturday morning (just a little over an hour away for them ☺). Bob & Joyce summed it up well; "What a great group of people, what a pleasure they are. There were a lot of cars & bikes there. Lots of prizes given away all day long. It was a fun time for all." *continued on pg. 6*



BMCA Grille Badges have Arrived

With many thanks to Jim Peckham for advancing the balance of the funds, the BMCA grille badges are here. And they are beeeautiful!! If you've already paid for yours, contact Bob Ross to get yours. He did say he would have them up at Petit Jean, ask about them at the BMCA/McLeod area on the mountain. If you have not yet purchased a BMCA Grille Badge for your British beauty (or other motorcars) you can contact Bob Ross or see Ron McLeod. The badges sell for \$30.00 and are sure to go fast. If you've not seen the badge, it is featured on the cover of this years' roster.

Happy Fathers Day



Prez Sez

Last week was Drive your British Car to work week so of course we had rain. I am sure many of you were not able to get your LBC out, I know I didn't. As we all know most of these cars are no longer driven every day and that the majority of the companies that built them have vanished but these facts were really driven home over the last couple of weeks. I was showing our TR8 to some car guys and they had never heard of it and later that week I had to explain to some other people that Triumph had been a car company. Our LBC's should be on an endangered list as much of the world has forgotten them. So give your LBC a pat on the fender and take it out for a drive and show the world that there is more to driving than just going from point A to point B.

See you on the road.

Charles

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\$10/year spouse

The 2007 BMCA Rosters are Done

A benefit of your BMCA membership includes a roster including all current BMCA members. This guide should be kept with all your other important phone numbers. You'd be amazed how many times you reference it. There are members contained in there who will be more than happy to help you with your car. More than likely someone has already experienced the 'irritation' your LBC has presented you with and would be happy to share the knowledge. BMCA is comprised of a network of good people who own, have owned or want to own a British motorcar. The roster is your personal guide to this network.

Each member should find their roster enclosed with this months newsletter. Some rosters were distributed to those attending the June meeting (thanks for saving the postage!). Additional large print rosters are available from Bob & Judy Ross for the nominal fee of \$1.00.

'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.

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

Secretaries Minutes - June 5, 2007 meeting

We had a good turn-out this month. Brianna, daughter of Brad and Barbara Beuch, visited with us, making our attendance total 24. The minutes for May were read. After making the correction of Marty Davoren having a MGA instead of a Spitfire, the minutes were approved. (Sorry Marty!) Ms. Lisa gave a detailed account of our budget with an ending balance of \$1897.87.

We discussed the canoe trip. I survived being dumped over. Yes, I had a panic attack, but I'm ok. In the middle of the night, strange noises awoke the cabin residents. Barb Bolin's guide dog, Keeper, had gotten stuck under her bed, and was scratching and whining to get out. Since the Bolin's had forgotten their nite clothes-it was a sight to be left unseen. The canoe trailer survived little damage. Good time was had by all.

Lon Smith reported that all major hiways to Blytheville were shut down due to accidents on their trip. The convoy of 3 cars ended up having to go thru Hazen and Jonesboro. They were met by Barrett Harrison and escorted on into Blytheville. The car show was opened to all, especially hot rods and motorcycles. They attended a cookout hosted by the mayor for show officials' on Friday night. BMCA'ers were treated really good and had a great time. Everyone attending got a participation award and was mentioned in the awards ceremony. The Smith's got the longest driving distance award. The BMCA was awarded a special plaque with the key to the city attached, and the key opens up beer bottles. It was noted that this year, \$14,000 had been collected for the American Cancer Society at this show. Their show is always the first week of June, so put it on your calendar for next year.

Bob Ross said the new grill badges are on their way. He may have them this weekend. Ronnie reported this Saturday, 6-9-07; we will be taking the motor home up to Petit Jean to get it set up. We also help set out the flags for MOTAA, so if you want to go and help, be at the Morgan Café at 6am. The Petit Jean trip is the following weekend, 15th thru the 17th. It will be the same as years before. Both Fri. and Sat. evening filled with food, friends, and fun at Joel and Nancy Taylor's. The car show itself is all day Saturday. Contact Ronnie for more info for either trip. Dewey Davis and car is pictured on the front cover of Antique Car Times, with a nice article inside, published by MOTAA. BMCA is also highlighted as their club of the month.

July event- Jim Peckham, Triumph marque leader, is planning a short run, ending back at his house for ice cream and pool party. Date to be announced. June 24-28th Austin Healey annual conclave. This year it's international, and being held in Burlington, Vermont.

Ted Bland invited us to the July 4th Spectacular at Jacksonville. It is on the 3rd of July, at 8pm. Special parking for those in their LBC's, inexpensive food bar, 80+ member choir singing praises designated to the Armed Forces. Fireworks at dark-30. The club voted to change the July meeting date to the 10th to allow BMCA'ers to participate in the Jacksonville event. July 4th at the Ross's - contact Bob or Judy for information. Contact Joseph Kaiser at josephkaiser@bellsouth.net if you are interested in the MG show in Tallahassee, Fla. Date unknown at this time. GOBMC in Carthage, Mo is July 27-29

Tech Talk: Lon said most of the wiring problems that people experience come from NOT reading the directions. Even simple electronic ignitions have instructions to follow. Not reading the book in fixing a certain starter problem caused a wiring harness burning up in several places and taking 4 hours to be cut and repaired. Finally, always double check everything before putting the battery cables back on.

June 8th - 47th anniversary for Ted and Martha Bland

June 25th - 45th anniversary for Dewey and Betty Davis

Gots & Goofs: Dewey's email address is printed wrong in the roster. Make this correction: dewey-davis@sbcglobal.net. Steve Jones' Bug Eye got painted and some motor work done. Jack Brashear is assembling parts for Gary Bolin's AH. Let's welcome Jim Stanhope into the 21st century with his first email address. It is: mgb78jsstanhope@yahoo.com Larger print rosters are available - \$1 ea.

Brenda Collins is requesting any pictures you may have from the last 3 events that she had to miss for the club history picture book.

Jim Scoggins won a gift certificate as the door prize.



Float Trip 2007



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PAUL HOWARD

The

TILE GUY

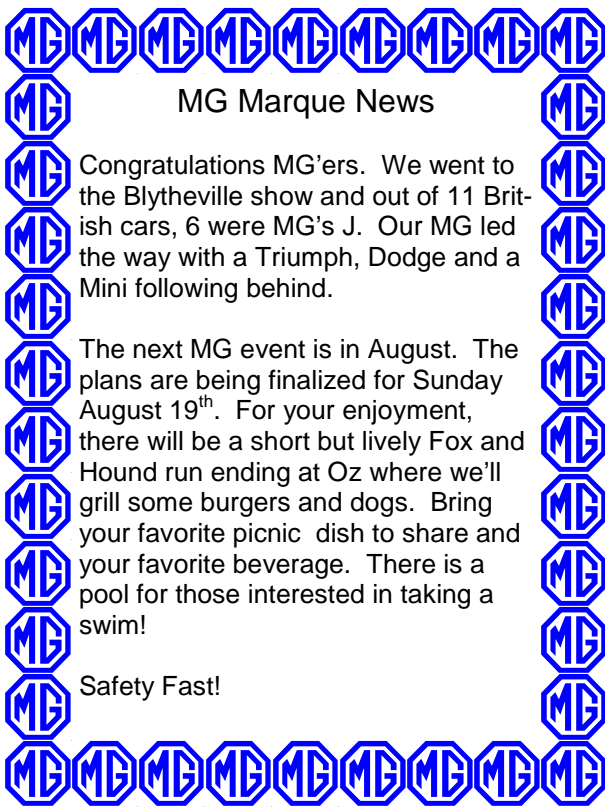
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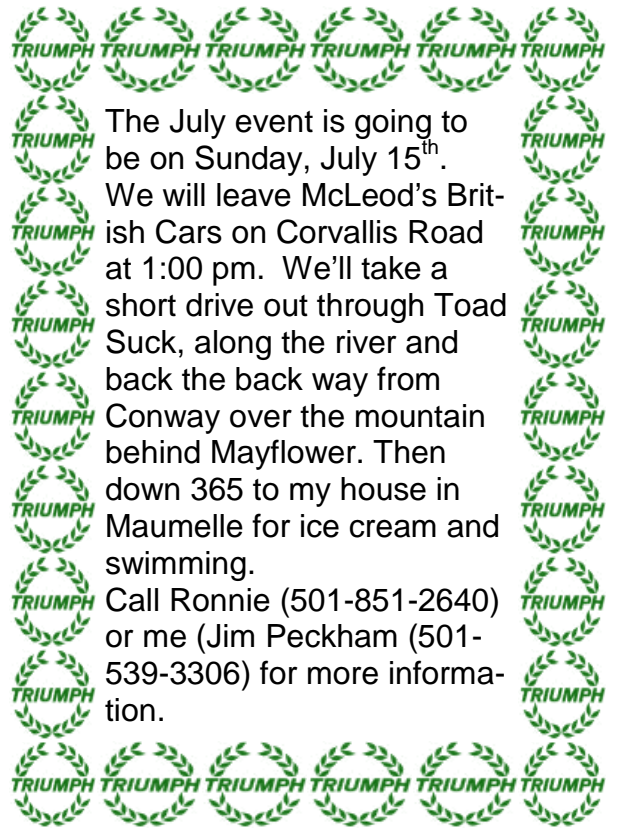


MG Marque News

Congratulations MG'ers. We went to the Blytheville show and out of 11 British cars, 6 were MG's J. Our MG led the way with a Triumph, Dodge and a Mini following behind.

The next MG event is in August. The plans are being finalized for Sunday August 19th. For your enjoyment, there will be a short but lively Fox and Hound run ending at Oz where we'll grill some burgers and dogs. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share and your favorite beverage. There is a pool for those interested in taking a swim!

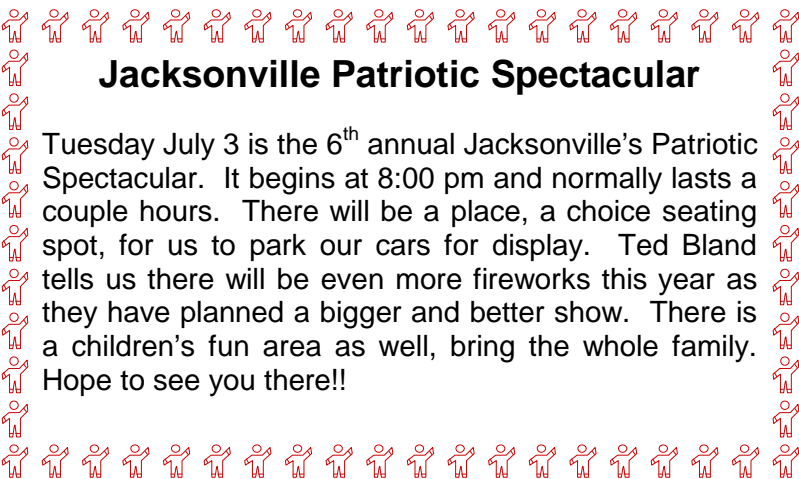
Safety Fast!



The July event is going to be on Sunday, July 15th. We will leave McLeod's British Cars on Corvallis Road at 1:00 pm. We'll take a short drive out through Toad Suck, along the river and back the back way from Conway over the mountain behind Mayflower. Then down 365 to my house in Maumelle for ice cream and swimming. Call Ronnie (501-851-2640) or me (Jim Peckham (501-539-3306) for more information.

Cookie's New Van

This past Saturday evening, June 9th, there was a gathering at Lake Corvallis Yacht Club to congratulate Cookie Peckham on her new go-mobile, of which she was totally unaware she was to be receiving that evening! Cookie, due to her battle with ALS, is becoming more dependent upon her electric chair and was finding it harder to get in and out of her car. Jim found a beautiful Chrysler Town & Country van which has been converted to an 'Unlimited Mobility' van having an automatic ramp that deploys allowing her to drive her chair right in and up to the steering wheel. Cookie is on the road again :-)



Jacksonville Patriotic Spectacular

Tuesday July 3 is the 6th annual Jacksonville's Patriotic Spectacular. It begins at 8:00 pm and normally lasts a couple hours. There will be a place, a choice seating spot, for us to park our cars for display. Ted Bland tells us there will be even more fireworks this year as they have planned a bigger and better show. There is a children's fun area as well, bring the whole family. Hope to see you there!!

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Blytheville continued from pg 1

Memphis also enjoyed the show and said they are going to propose making it an annual event for them. We at BMCA should do the same. I know those who attended this year will go back next year!! It's always held on the 1st weekend in June. Everyone was pleased to see the British presence and basically challenged us to have a bigger presence next year!

What a show it was. British iron, American iron and motorcycles consumed a good portion of the park. There were 127 cars & trucks (including 11 British) and 63 motorcycles. There was a combination of hot rods and beautifully restored classic cars. One motorcycle even had a custom trailer fashioned as a corvette! The show organizer and MC, Steve Southard did an outstanding job keeping the entertainment flowing all day long. There were many exceptional door prizes, a silent auction, as well as several other items auctioned throughout the day, including a motor-scooter and a shotgun. Each participant was mentioned and awarded a very nice plaque. There were some special awards passed



2 American Crosleys

out to best paint, best in restoration, etc. Also, there were two 'Key to the City' plaques awarded, one to the Piggott Car Club and the other one to BMCA. This was awarded to the clubs who made this show their official club event of the month. Our plaque was later presented to BMCA president, Charles Hutchison, by Lon Smith at the June meeting. There was such a variety of cars and things to do, the day went by fast. There are lots of big old shade trees at the park and all the vehicles and booths were distributed amongst them. We had to move our chairs a few times as the sun traveled along it's way but it was a very comfortable place to have a car show!!! Saturday evening, Barry & Lyn again treated Lon & I and Jim & Judy to a wonderful dinner. Barry's Mom joined us and we had such a pleasant evening it was difficult to have it end. Sunday came and it was time to head for home. We brought back many good memories of the weekend and felt good knowing we contributed to such a worthy cause. Our heartfelt thanks go to Barrett Harrison, the Mayor of Blytheville, and Steve Southard, show organizer and president of 'The Cotton Classic Car Club' for inviting BMCA to participate with them in this wonderful annual event benefiting the American Cancer Society. (by Michelle Smith & Judy Wheeler)

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BRITISH MOTOR TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Buffalo River Chain Saw Massacre

The destruction was calculated, deliberate and swift. To everyone's amazement, at the center of the fracas was the usually more level headed, younger Peckham brother. It might have been more comprehensible had Jim been behind the demolition; but John? Who could have imagined?

In the late hours of early Sunday morning, John tramped through the camp site brandishing an electric chain saw. An untold number of trees were literally cut down in their youth. No regard was given to their never being able to provide shade for humans and food for animals. With the constant grind of the motor, they were systematically destroyed.

Over the sound of the chain saw could be heard the laments of Deb McCullah, as she stood frantic, not knowing the affect all this would have on her portable Arkansas home. Would it survive?


Then the rest of the Peckham Pack showed up. They assisted the ringleader to dispose of the evidence. The trees were drug off to be buried among the surrounding bushes. No one will ever find all the limbs and branches.

At the end of it all, Parris McCullah slinked into the RV, staying clear of Deb. He precisely followed the commands to move the vehicle a little left, more to the right and STOP! Finally, with no harm to human life and no work created for the body shop, he expertly drove away with the RV that had been held hostage by those young radical trees for nearly one hour. Our relief was palatable as the Peckham Pack and bystanders alike drove over to a memorable breakfast with Tracy and Melinda.

You just had to be there! Barbara Bolin

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BRITISH SPEAK ("Proper" English)

To own a British car, you have to translate a little, so here are some transliterations:

In the U.K. , you say....

In the U.S., it means

Bloody
Bit (also Bits)
Boot
Bonnet
Carburettor
Drophead
Earth
M.O.T.
Pariffin
Petrol
Saloon
Smeg (Variation = "Smegin")
Spanner
Spares
Sparking plugs
Strangler control
Tyres
Vat (V.A.T. or Value Added Tax)
Windscreen

@&*^%#& (Get the drift?)
Part(s)
trunk
Hood
Carburetor
Convertible
Ground
State Inspection
Kerosene
Gasoline
Sedan
***\$*&% (Another of "those" words)**
Wrench
Spare parts
Spark plugs
Choke
Tires
Sales tax
Windshield

BMCA Monthly Meeting

Special Meeting Date for July - Tuesday July 10

The British Motoring Club of Arkansas will hold it's July meeting one week late allowing members to attend the Jacksonville July 4th Spectacular on the 3rd. The meeting will be at **Western Sizzlin** in Benton, near Wal-Mart off I-30 beginning at **7:30 PM**. A variety of food, lots of parking & good company. Come a little early and enjoy a meal, stay a little late to kick the tyres of all the British cars in the parking lot.

Calendar of Events

Fri-Sun June 15-17 Petit Jean Mountain Swap Meet and Car show - See you there

Sun June 16 - Planes, Trains and Autos Arkansas Air Museum grounds at Drake Field in South Fayetteville Call Marsha Ralston 479-841-1983 cell or 479-527-7020 work.

June 24 - 28 - AH Club of America International Conclave in Burlington Vermont

Sat June 30 - British Car Showdown - Lexington Ohio www.midohio.com or cbuce@midohio.com

Tues July 3 - Jacksonville Patriotic Spectacular - see page 5

Wed July 4 - BMCA Gathering at the Rosses - see page 2

Sun July 15 - Triumph Summer Run, Ice Cream Social and Swimming Party - see page 5

Fri-Sun July 27-29 Carthage Mo Show - Contact Jim or Judy Wheeler (501) 539-9955

Sun Aug 19 - MG Fox & Hound Run - See page 5

Fri - Sat Sept 14 & 15 - 2007 Brits in the Ozarks.

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

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