



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

October 2007

Brits in the Ozarks Adventure by Bruce Hurlbut

Having joined the BMCA within the last year I hadn't had a chance to participate in any long distance events before our drive up to Fayetteville in September. When I purchased my red MGA in August '06 I had visions of frequently tooling through the Arkansas countryside, breeze blowing through my hair as we headed for picnics in the mountains (you know, all that ideal British car stuff!) But, after getting the car, reality quickly set in: I was generally limited to tooling around Little Rock, chauffeuring the boys to soccer and football games with the occasional run out to McLeod's for repairs. Needless to say, by the time Brits in the Ozarks '07 rolled around, I was itching to stretch the MG's legs, but very apprehensive about its ability to make the long drive through the mountains.

We left Little Rock Friday at 9:00 under cool, cloudy skies, perfect for a top-down drive. In fact, it was so unseasonably cool, several of the cars were battened down with tops up and windscreens attached. I had my top down, revs up, and a big grin on my face as Steve Jones headed us out Kanis Road for the first leg of the trip to Perryville. It was a great sight seeing a dozen British cars snaking through the hills of west Pulaski County. As the Little Red Rocket purred along I started to gain confidence that I really was going to



make it to Springdale in one piece after all. We made it to Perryville without incident and in Morrilton were joined by three or four other members of the club. About 11:00 we pulled into What-a-burger in Russellville and parked all the cars side-by-side, taking up much of the restaurant parking lot. Most of us gained a couple pounds of ballast at lunch for better road holding on the remainder of the trip! Me, I just sat there smugly thinking I had this trip licked - the Little Red Rocket was flying, and nothing was going to stop her. (Ha!, somehow I failed to realize that the trip had just begun and we were still 20 miles south of the Ozarks!)

After lunch we headed north on Highway 7 and started into the Ozarks, weather still beautiful and cars still humming along. Onto Arkansas 164 west toward Hagarville I noticed my temperature gauge starting to rise - hmmm, maybe I should back off a little. Just then, I noticed raindrops on the windshield - thank goodness its going to rain and cool down the car! No such luck - those "raindrops" were tinted yellow. Before I knew it I was spewing steam and coolant from under the bonnet. Those rain drops were coolant, not rain! I had overheated in a very big way. Thankfully, God conveniently provided an empty Church parking lot to pull into. Even more thankfully, God provided the helpful members of BMCA. Charlie and Brenda Collins, John Peckham, Parris McCullah and others pulled over to help diagnose the problem. Tools, gloves and parts were quickly produced from various boots (the other kind of boots) and the culprit was determined to be a faulty hose clamp. After crafting a large hose clamp from two smaller clamps, and burning arms and fingers getting it installed, we were back on the road.



Continued on Pg. 5

Prez Sez

I hope everyone had as much fun in Fayetteville as I did. This show just gets better every year and what a turn out they had. I really enjoy seeing rarer cars that come to this show. I wish to extend my thanks to the British Iron club for their hospitality and to Steve Jones for organizing our travel plans and for picking some of the best driving roads in the state for us to enjoy with our LBC's. I also would like to thank Tracey & Melinda for the wonderful lunch that they put together for us and to Wilma, Judy and everyone that helped with the hospitality room. Doug, Cookie, and Charlie helped out procuring and delivering beer to keep the hospitality flowing.

Remember that the officer elections will be held at the November meeting. Just in case you are thinking about not showing up remember that there are places for write-in candidates on the ballots. So you just might get elected to an office if you're not there to campaign for someone else.

One last note there will be a board meeting at Ron's on Saturday, 10/20/07, at 4:00pm.

Charles

BMCA Officers

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\$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.

2007 BMCA Officer Induction Ceremony & Annual Christmas Party

November brings the election of BMCA Officers and Marque Leaders for 2008. The following month we do not have a regular meeting but we do have a gathering you won't want to miss. Buy your tickets now, they go up next month.

Oct. adult \$16.00

Nov. adult \$20.00

Dec. adult \$25.00

Same place as last year: Reynolds Center on Aging Will eat around 6:30. If you would like to donate a door prize please bring to the next meeting or leave at Ronnie's. You may purchase tickets at Ronnie's or sent check payable to

BMCA
Judy Ross
3809 McDaniel Circle
Little Rock, AR 72206

Secretaries Minutes - October 2, 2007

We had a good turn-out, with two couples as new members; David and Bonnie Weekly (72 Spit), and Walter and Kay Gardner (03 Jag). Our visitors were Cheryl Jones' friend, Steve, and Steve Bonds. With my voice as it was, having the minutes down on paper were appreciated for once. The treasure, Lisa, read her report with an ending balance of \$2085.55. She also mentioned that she has in her possession \$109.63 that was designated for the Petit Jean fund. This brought about a discussion on the annual charity fund. It was voted to put the conversation on the charity and Petit Jean monies onto the back burner for now. A board meeting will be announced to discuss this matter.

We had 15 cars to show up for the Men's Health Fair Car Show. The weather was great and everyone had a great time.

Since Steve Jones was in Canada, Ronnie McLeod gave the report on the trip to Fayetteville. We had 20 cars with 40+ people, running in tow. We happened to meet at "What A Burgers" right at lunchtime which was an event all in its own. Some of us had to get gas and watched as the others left without us. After paying for fuel, we left driving like crazy, trying to catch up with the others. (Boy! Was that fun!!!) Arriving in Fayetteville, we found out we somehow passed the others while someone was broke down. We ended up with 32 BMCA cars out of the 160 cars that showed. Our benefactors were planning for only 140 cars, so they ran out of food Friday night and goodie bags for the entries. The weather ended up great for the show. The food at the banquet was fantastic. With the charity of choice being ALS, our own Cookie Peckham was honored at the banquet. We ended up with 15 or so trophies. Sunday, we all left for Marshall, to the home of Tracey and Melinda for little lunch. HA! HA! Anyone who knows Tracey, knows he doesn't do anything little. He had a feast for a King (or Queen).

Bob Ross reviewed the cost of the Christmas Party tickets. For the rest of October, the cost is \$16 for adults, \$10 for children 4-12, and under 3 free. If you wait until November, the cost will be \$20 for adults, \$12 for children 4-12, and under 3 still free. Adult tickets will be \$25 at the door, so it would be to your benefit to pay for your tickets in advance. See Ronnie or one of the Ross' for tickets.

October's event is the Memphis car show on the 5 & 6. The Wheeler's are leaving 9:30 am from Prothro Junction. Gary Bolin will lead a second group up on Saturday morning. You need to contact The Wheeler's or Bolin's for more information.

There is a trip going to Texarkana to visit Moe and Jeannine. They will be leaving the commuter parking lot at Dixon road at 9 am on the 10th of November. This is a 2 day trip. They are researching the best availability for rooms in Texarkana, watch for more info in the newsletter.

We did the nominations for next year's officers. For President- Ron McLeod or Brenda Collins.

*For Vice-President – Jim Stanhope or Barbara Beuch *I, Wilma Newton, volunteer to be Secretary for another year IF you will have me. *Triumph Marque leader – Parris McCullah *MG marque leader – Zack Ard, Shannon Stanhope, or Burt Pranter *Empire Marque leader – Bob Harris, Gary Bolin, Barbara Bolin *Membership- Mike Ross *Historian – Brenda Collins or Jim Stanhope *Newsletter – Michelle & Lon Smith

Birthdays & Anniversary's John & Meryl Ketcham will celebrate 41 yrs of bliss on the 23rd; June Felix and Charles Hutchison on 10-3; Jack Brashear 10-4; Vera McLeod on 10-28.

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Cruising the Ozarks

by Ronnie McLeod

On the morning of Friday the 14th of September 2007, 30 British cars were assembling to leave for the trip to Springdale, AR and the British Iron "Brits in the Ozarks" gathering. At 9:00 we headed north on Hwy 9 to end up at Russellville for lunch at the World Famous "What-a-Burger".

After lunch the pack split up in three groups up Hwy 7, Hwy 164, Hwy 123, Hwy 21, 23 and 16. (Great roads for sports cars!!) All of our cars made it under their own power, with a only minor mishap (or two).

At the Springdale Holiday Inn British Cars and their owners were gathering for the Welcome party & cookout. Then on to our hospitality room to socialize the rest of the evening.

Saturday morning we're off to the U of A Agri Park for the car show. More people & cars showed up than expected (their biggest show in the 6 year history). The BMCA brought 32 cars of the 166 total to attend.

The Greatest Prize was just being there!! Our club won awards as follows:

1 st	Barry Harrison	Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite
2 nd	Jim & Bunnie Hofer	Austin Healey 3000
1 st	Ken Coyle	Austin Healey 3000
2 nd	Gary & Barbara Bolin	Lotus Elan
2 nd	Charlie & Brenda Collins	MGA
1 st	Ted & Martha Bland	MGB (Chrome Bumper)
1 st	Whit Waller	MGB (Rubber Bumper)
1 st	Chris & Ames	TR3
2 nd	Doug & Gayle Nelson	TR4
1 st	Parris & Deb McCullah	TR6
2 nd	Jim & Judy Wheeler	Spitfire
1 st	Shirley & Jim Larch	Spitfire

There was also an Early Bird Award presented to Jim Peckham. Saturday Nite was the Awards banquet where Cookie Peckham was a guest speaker. Then back to our hospitality room for celebrations and companionship.

Sunday morning found us headed back by way of Tracy & Melinda's at Marshall, AR and a 'little lunch' (where there is NEVER just a LITTLE lunch). Then it was time to make it to our own individual homes finishing off a great BMCA weekend with our "Little British Cars".

Many thanks to Steve Jones, AH Marque leader who organized this trip.

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Continued from pg 1

Or so I thought! 20 miles later, climbing the big hill up to Ozone on Highway 21, the temperature gauge spiked again and it all let loose one more time. Same routine as before, there happened to be a convenient pull-over area on the very narrow road, and those helpful hands moved into action. This time Charlie and John suggested it might be a loose fan belt and, after adjusting the belt, we were on our way. Beautiful drive! I quickly regained my confidence as we summited the Boston Mountains and drove the ridges of Highway 16 from Fallsville to the intersection of Highway 23. This, for me, was the highlight of the drive! Highway 16 is a beautiful ribbon of smooth pavement with high speed curves, wonderful scenery and almost no traffic. It is absolute sports car heaven! There is no better way to experience the Ozarks than from the cockpit of an open British sports car - even an overheating British sports car!

Finally, after 8 hours! (and one more radiator incident) we pulled into the Holiday Inn Springdale to be greeted by a hundred other sports cars and their enthusiastic owners. The first cold beer was one of the best I've had! It was so refreshing to pull up a chair and relive the events of the day, stroll the parking lot and view the cars, and talk to fellow owners who I'd never met before, but shared this unique interest in sports cars. The entire weekend was a continuation of this. More cars, the friendliest folks, good food and warm fellowship. The Brits in the Ozarks show was great: 160 cars, more great weather, and several awards won by our BMCA members. The best part was that the event raised \$12,000 for the Arkansas ALS (Lou Gherig's Disease) foundation, and Cookie Peckham (Jim's wife) gave a moving message on behalf of ALS patients.



Heading home Sunday we traversed the northern tier of the Ozarks on Highway 74, high above the Buffalo River as we made our way to Tracy Gerlach's home in Marshall for a delicious lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches. Finally, after starting back to Little Rock, on Highway 65's last hill, just north of Greenbriar, the Little Red Rocket sighed again, and the radiator blew one last time. I coasted down the hill into (another conveniently placed) gas station where John Peckham was there w/ tools and Cheryl Jones and her friend Steve offered ice cream and encouraging words. We cooled the car down, added water and were on our way again to Little Rock. Throughout the weekend, the Rocket had sputtered and coughed, but she never gave up. At 50 years old she has a load of spunk, but just needs some of kinks worked out! Thanks to the helping hands of the many BMCA members who sacrificed tools, time, parts and skinned knuckles, we made it home. Can't wait till next year!



Happy
Halloween





Car facts

The first British mass produced car to have disc brakes as a standard fitting (on the front wheels) was the Triumph TR3 from the autumn of 1956.

MG did not use its famed octagon badge on a car before the 1928 model 14/40.

Previous MGs used a round badge based on that of the 'donor marque' Morris & carrying the words 'MG Super Sports'. The octagon, used in advertising as early as 1924, was inspired by the shape of MG founder Cecil Kimber's dining table.

In 1924 Ford boasted that a boat load of iron ore arriving at the Rouge Plant at 8 a.m. on Monday would be a complete car by 9 a.m. on Wed. and in the hands of the dealer by noon – a conversion of raw material to cash in approximately 33 hours.

Left hand or Right hand drive??

Sweden was the last mainland European country to retain the left-hand rule of the road, switching to the right in September 1967. The change over was eased by the fact that most Swedish cars were left-hand drive anyway. Iceland followed suit in May 1968.

Those who advocate that the United Kingdom & Ireland should do likewise would do well to reflect on the fact that the right-hand rule of the road – like the metric system – sprang out of the desire of the French revolutionaries to prove that they could order the universe better than God. Because the left-handed rule of the road had been sanctioned by Pope Boniface in the Middle Ages, the Revolutionaries decreed that the opposite order should henceforth prevail. Revolutionary republics like the United States followed suit and other countries gradually switched over. But many countries – including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan (The worlds leading car producer) and much of the former British Empire – still observe the left-hand rule.

In Britain, it was long believed that left-hand driving was a legacy of the preference of passing an approaching horseman or carriage right side to right side to facilitate right-armed defense against sudden attack or that Continental positions were mounted on the rearmost left horse in a team and thus preferred to pass left side to left side. Oddly enough, in 1911 France's Commission du Code de la Route (Highway Code) proposed that France should drive on the left 'because it is instinctive'. Until the start of the Mussolini era, Italy had a wonderfully eccentric rule of the road. Motorist drove on the right in the country & on the left in towns until the law compelled a universal right-hand rule on Dec. 1923.

Bob Harris-Empire marque

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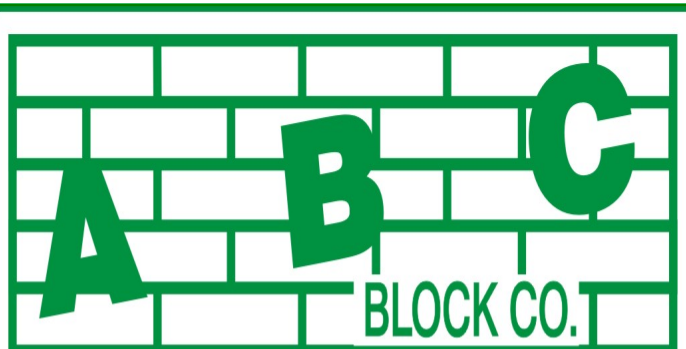
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Look out Texas, Here We Come!

Hey Folks! We are going to Texarkana, TX on Saturday November 10th, 2007. Temporary Transit Visas will be issued at the border but you need to make sure you have your Arkansas passport up to date so there will be no delays getting back across the border into Arkansas. It also might be good to learn a few phrases from the Texas language such as: Dude, Partner, Doogy, George "W"...

Last one to Texarkana is a Rotten Egg!

Saturday, November 10th we will meet at the Dixon Road Commuter Parking lot at 8:30 am. We will leave at 9:00 down Hwy 530 to exit 10, Hwy 46 to Sheridan. At Sheridan we will take Hwy 167 to Fordyce. At Fordyce we will stop at Klappenbauck Bakery for rest stop & Brunch (should be about 10:30 am).

We will leave for Camden about 11:30 on Hwy 79. We will be in Camden about 12:15 or so and hope to see Robert & Bonnie Horton. This will be another rest stop break where we plan on leaving about 1:00.

Leaving Camden on Hwy 79 we will drive to McNeil where we will take Hwy 98 to Waldo. From there we'll take Hwy 82 into Lewisville. We should arrive about 3:00 pm which will give us time to stop and visit with Brenda Collins mother, Helen Hall, who lives at 306 Cherry Street in Lewisville.

Between 4:30 and 5:00 we can be found at the Garland Fish House indulging in a tasty meal. About 6:00 we'll head out to Texarkana to the hotel. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Holidome, 5100 North State Line Avenue, Texarkana, AR 71854 1-866-201-2798. Room rate is \$70.00 for a king size bed. A block of rooms are being held under the name of BMCA Club of Arkansas. Make your reservations now!!

Sunday morning we'll meet at 9:00 am to go to Moe & Jeannine's to socialize with our Texas members and see all the cars. Some sites we can see on the way back are: Hope, AR - Birth Place of Bill Clinton; Birth place of Huckabee; home of 85,000 trailers. We'll stop at Emmet to visit with Donna Hunt Wetherley.

This is the last official BMCA marque event of the year. We hope to see you there!

Official Ballot for 2008 BMCA Officers and Marque Leaders

Officers (vote for one in each office (4 votes in all))

- President** Brenda Collins Ronnie McLeod _____
- Vice President** Jim Stanhope Barbara Beuch _____
- Secretary** Wilma Newton _____
- Treasurer** Rebecca Pranter Skip Harris _____

Marque Leaders (Vote for one in your primary Marque only)

- AH Marque Jack Brashear _____
- Empire Marque Bob Harris Gary, Barbara & Keeper Bolin _____
- MG Marque Zack Ard Shannon Stanhope Bert Pranter
- TR Marque Parris McCullah Lisa Hutchison _____

BMCA Support (Volunteer Positions)

- Historian Brenda Collins Jim Stanhope _____
- Membership Chairman Michael Ross _____
- Newsletter Editors Michelle & Lon Smith _____

BMCA Monthly Meeting
Tuesday November 6, 2007
BMCA Officer & Marque Leader Election night. Come and cast your vote.

The meeting is held at **Western Sizzlin** in Benton, near Wal-Mart off I-30 beginning at **7:30 PM**. Bring the family, there is a variety of food, plenty of space in the meeting room, 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 and visit with your fellow BMCA'ers.

Calendar of Events

Sat Oct 20 - BMCA Board Meeting - 4:00 pm at McLeod's/Lake Corvallis

Fri - Sun Oct 26 - 28 - Southern British Car Day - Chattanooga, TN agmlig@aol.com

Tue Nov 6 - BMCA Elections - See Ballot on Pg. 7

Sat - Sun Nov 11 & 12 - BMCA'ers in Texas - see pg 7 for more info.

Sat Dec 8 - BMCA Christmas Party - Marque your calendar now!!! See pg 2 for info.

January - BMCA Polar Bear Run - Start thinking of your costumes now. Details next month.

April 11-12-13, 2008 - Silver Springs, Florida -GOF XLII 2008 www.britishcarclub.net

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



British Motoring Club of Arkansas
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