



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

January 2008

THE PECKHAM BROTHERS MOST EXCILENT ADVENTURE

It seemed like an innocent enough statement at the time. I think I'm gonna buy a Morgan. After much discussion with Ronnie & the usual suspects followed by much perusal of the Internet & navigating thru cyberspace a picture was seen of a baby blue + 8 Morgan that looked like it needed a good home!! Then after some strange looks from my banker & some arm twisting a cashiers check was procured. You would think the hard part was over, but then the discussion of how to get her home was discussed.

Do we trust her to a car hauler or go get her ourselves? Also, spending that much money sight unseen went against the grain. Sooo... Jim and John decided to hook up to the big box trailer and go to New England to make sure "*Muriel the Gooch*" got home in good shape. This all sounded easy enough when you say it real fast or as Whitley would put it "How long could this take?!!" We got on map quest and got what seemed to be an easy route to Copake, NY, which is between Albany and New York City. It was 40 to 81 to 84 to Tocanic Pkwy. to 7A to Morgan Motors of New England. Remember Tocanic Pkwy.



So we hooked up-gassed up and @ 4:00 am Thursday away we went. The first surprise was the gas gauge in my pickup didn't seem to work right. Just the other side on Memphis it showed empty! About 200 miles! So we stopped for gas and sure enough the tank was about empty. It seems the trailer and wind combined cut my gas mileage from 12+ mpg to about 7 or 8 mpg or in fact 200 miles per tank. Knowing the route well



Continued on pg 6

IT'S POLAR BEAR MONTH

The Annual BMCA Polar Bear run is Saturday, January 26th, 2008. If you don't have your reservations at the Arlington, make them today. Call 1-501-623-7771 and tell them you are with the BMCA and you'd like a room on the 7th floor if at all possible. This is always a memorable event!!

One of the initial highlights of this event is the costume aspect. Not everyone dresses up, and that's ok, but there is a prize for the best costume. And rumor has it this year will find more costumed folks than normal.

We will meet Saturday morning at 9:00 at the I430/I630 commuter parking lot. There will be maps available for hand out before we leave around 9:30 for a leisurely drive to Glupha Gorge in Hot Springs for the ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE, somewhere around lunchtime.

After the plunge and following fellowship, we'll make our way to the Arlington to get checked in and comfortable. We should be there early enough to allow those who want to wander the shops ample time to do so. Dinner reservations are for 6:30 at the BrauHaus.

We do have our 'hospitality' suite lined up and there will be gatherings at the hot tub so don't forget those 'warm weather' items!! See you there! Safety Fast!!

Prez Sez

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thanks to Charles and Lisa, many BMCA'ers rang in the New Year together. After a short recovery period from that party, many of us gathered together the next Saturday to help Ronnie celebrate his 60th birthday. I don't think Ronnie will ever recover from that one.

Also, Jim P. had quiet a surprise for us that day, but you will have ask him tell you about it. All I can say is he really looks good in it!

What a large turnout we had for my first meeting as Prez! Thanks to everyone that helped me get through the evening.

I hope everyone has started working on their costumes for the Polar Bear Rally. I have reason to believe that there are going to be some really good ones this year. So mark your calendars for January 26, and *Polar* on over to Hot Springs with us. It will be more fun than you can stand.

Let us never forget what Cookie always said "Have fun, laugh, and live each day to its fullest."

I believe if we resolve to do that, we will have a great '08.
Brenda

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\$30/year primary member
\$15/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 after the meeting.

*** It's Time to Renew ***

A new year is upon us, and this BMCA year promises to be better than ever. If the address label on your newsletter has a red line under your name, it's time for YOU to renew. Get your renewal in now before you miss out on all the BMCA fun & fellowship.

This is a special year for BMCA membership renewals ... 3 years for the price of 2. This special is run once every 3 years and is really a good deal. Especially since dues were increased this year.

Primary membership is \$30.00 per year. The associate membership is only half of the primary at \$15.00 per year. The 3 for 2 special this year brings the cost down to the same rates as we've had for the past forever number of years. Take advantage of the special rates now as they won't be offered again for another 3 years. Get your renewal form (pg 7) mailed in today!!!

Secretaries Minutes - Board Meeting - Jan 5th 2008

The first BMCA board meeting of 2008 was Saturday, Jan 5th at the Lake Corvallis club house. With all officers and marque leaders present, as well as several others, our new president, Brenda Collins, called the meeting to order. New membership renewals were passed out as well as the Budget for 2008 and the BMCA calendar of events. Ms Hutchison went over the budget, item by item, with good explanations of the 2007 expenditures next to the 2007 budget, which in turn set up the 2008 Budget recommendations. She did this with a beautiful smile and happy heart since she then passed the Treasurer's responsibilities to Rebecca Pranter. It was motioned to bring forth the budget recommendations to be voted upon by the entire membership at January's meeting. 2008 will be a '3 years for 2' membership promotion. Remember the dues have increased to \$30 for members and \$15 for associates. Pay your dues ASAP.

Prez Collins spoke of an e-mail that she received from BMCA member Barrett Harrison of Blytheville to reminding us of the June show and encouraging our participation as a club as there will be other British car clubs from surrounding states in attendance. This is an Arkansas show and we don't want the out-of-stater's to out-British the Arkansans! The show is the first weekend in June and it benefits the American Cancer Society. Jack Brashear mentioned this is the 50th anniversary for the Sprites and Midgets, commonly known as Spridgets. Happy Anniversary!!!

Ms. Smith mentioned she is trying to get the BMCA website updated. It has been stagnate for quite some time and is needed to help promote our club as well as give members a place to reference for events and other related things. While on the topic of websites, Bob Ross made it clear to advise us to put the BMCA name on any auto related mailing lists as it is great advertisement for the club and possible shopping for prospective new members. Marque leaders from 2007, remember to bring your membership books to pass on to the new marque leaders. The first board meeting was short, sweet and productive. Good job Brenda.

BMCA 2008 Budget

Expense Category	2007 Expenditures (minus any income)	2007 Budget	2008 Budget Recommendation
Administrative	68.00	200.00	200.00
Regalia/Advertising	201.03	250.00	250.00
Charity	400.00	300.00	300.00
Christmas Party	151.73	500.00	500.00
Monthly Door Prizes	54.53	220.00	220.00
Historian	0.00	200.00	200.00
Insurance	120.00	250.00	250.00
Marque Events	6.40	300.00	300.00
Hospitality Room	136.94	300.00	300.00
Newsletter/Rosters	25.47	750.00	750.00
Petit Jean & Swap Meet	(123.17)	150.00	150.00
Totals	\$1,040.93	\$3,420.00	\$3,420.00

Notes:

2007 is the 3rd year of the '3 years for 2' membership promotion.

We received \$1615 in membership dues for 2007

Deposits and expenses for grill badges (\$2050 deposited for 2006 & 2007 - \$2068 paid out)

T-shirts (\$1337 deposited - \$1307 paid out) and koozies (\$353.10 paid out) to better

represent the general 2007 expenses.





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Empire's Trash Trip

On Sunday March 23, the BMCA is invited for a springtime drive to Greers Ferry, where we will learn how one man's obsession with trash led him off into a new horizon. Overlooking Greers Ferry Lake we will visit with our hosts Craig and Lee Hoskins. Craig, a mechanical engineer and his bride of less than two years will let us peek in to three of his current goings on, one of which is a new workshop. You might want to pack an extra hammer and keep that chain saw handy. Tune up the cars and mark the date. More details will be available in February's Bits And Spares. If any of you were enthralled with January's Tech Talk and need to remove specs of LBC rust before the event don't forget to give Gary a call. Dorothy had the Tin Man; I have the Rust Man! Keep driving with both eyes open; one on the road and one on the beautiful Arkansas scenery. Barbara Anne Bolin

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~~~~~ **New Member Corner** ~~~~~

Hi! I am Ed Neth a new member as of the Christmas party. I am hoping to enjoy some fun at the Polar Bear run this month. I thought I would send a picture of my 77 Midget. I have done a little work on it since purchasing it and am learning a lot real fast. Thanks to Ron and Lon I am well under way to making this car very dependable and fun to drive.

*Welcome to the BMCA Ed. Thanks for introducing yourself. We look forward to seeing you at the Polar Bear Run on Jan 26th.*

DEAR HEALEY MARQUE,  
THANKS TO YOU FOR LETTING ME SERVE AS MARQUE  
LEADER IN 2008. THE LAST TIME I DID THIS WAS 2001  
SO I GUESS IT'S MY TURN TO GET US THROUGH ANOTHER  
YEAR. THANKS TO STEVE JONES FOR HIS MARQUE LEADER  
WORK UP TO NOW. YOU KNOW THAT AUSTIN HEALEY IS BY  
FAR THE MOST DISTINGUISHED AND RESPECTED OF ALL  
BRITISH CAR MARQUES.

THE WAY THE MONTHLY EVENTS PLAY OUT THIS YEAR, OUR  
MARQUE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE. THESE WILL BE  
FEBRUARY, JUNE, AND OCTOBER. THE JUNE EVENT WILL  
BE PETIT JEAN MOTAA. I'M WORKING ON FEBRUARY  
RIGHT NOW BUT HAVEN'T SETTLED ON ANYTHING YET.  
AND, SINCE I'M A HOPELESS PROCRASTINATOR, OCTOBER  
IS JUST A FOGGY BLANK. WE MIGHT LOOK FOR A PLACID  
RUN OVER TO A PARK SETTING IN HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE  
FOR A PICNIC FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO THEIR INCREDI-  
BLE ANTIQUE CAR RESTORATION FACILITY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MARY SUE AND I OWN FOUR BRIT-  
ISH CARS AND THEY ALL RUN AT THE SAME TIME. I  
GUESS I'D EXPECT THAT FROM A 2006 MINI COOPER S,  
BUT BOTH '62 HEALEYS AND THE '73 MARINA ARE ALIVE  
AND WELL TOO!! BY THE WAY, FEEL FREE TO ASK ME  
ABOUT HOW WE INSURED THE MINI AND I'LL TELL YOU  
HOW AARP SAVED US A BUNDLE.

HOPE TO SEE Y'ALL HEALEY FOLKS AT THE POLAR BEAR  
RUN THE 26TH. IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO SEE THE BRAVERY  
OF WILMA, RON, AND JIM "MOBY DICK" PECKHAM AT GUL-  
PHA GORGE CREEK. LET'S TRY TO KEEP ALL HEALEYS  
BETWEEN THE DITCHES THIS YEAR. PLEASE KEEP IN  
TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER IN THE MEANWHILE!!

JACK - JANUARY, 2008

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ BMCA Christmas Party ★  
★ & Officer Induction Ceremony ★  
★ Saturday, December 8, ★  
★ 2007 BMCA held their an- ★  
★ nual year end event at The ★  
★ Reynolds Center on Aging. ★  
★ Approximately 53 ★  
★ BMCA'ers attended and ★  
★ enjoyed catering by Catfish ★  
★ City. Many, many thanks to ★  
★ Judy Ross and her helpers ★  
★ for yet another memorable ★  
★ BMCA event. ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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Ronnie*

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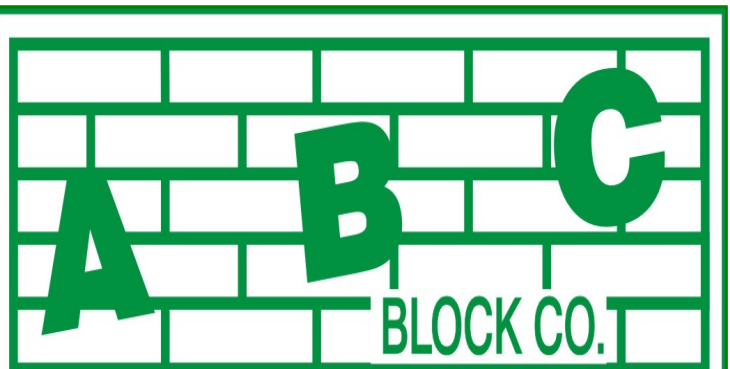
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## TRIUMPH SPITFIRE/GT6/TR6 CARB CHOICES WHAT IS BEST?

You would have to think that almost anything would be better than a Zenith Stromberg carburetor with water controlled "choking." This was the remedy that Triumph chose for the Spitfire in order for them to continue sales to the US market. The Zenith Stromberg CV carburetor is a pretty good unit in itself. After all the GT6 and TR6 came with these carburetors in paired sets, and with very few complaints. Years later when the emissions rulings came into effect, the oh so reliable manual chokes would have to be scrapped for a tamper proof system that was beyond the operators control. (I guess some of us were leaving the chokes on longer than they would have liked.) The rules called for an automated enrichment warm up circuit. The choice made by Triumph was a choke that was controlled by coolant temperature. As perfect as this concept seemed, (as it is still being used today in all fuel injection systems,) it was its layout that was so poorly executed. It hardly had a chance being located directly above the blistering hot catalytic converter. This newly fitted warm up circuit would plague these cars to their very end. Upgrading the water choked Strommy to an aftermarket replacement would not only alleviate all the problems it created, but add smoothness and power as well. Don't get your hopes up too much, giving those Miatas a run for their money will take more than just a carburetor change.



So what are all of the options available for the Spitfire and GT6 anyway? How does one choose what is best for them? What is the best performing system out there, and what can I expect from it? Will I be able to get parts easily if need be? Will I be able to tune it, or will I have to take it to a professional? These are only a few questions one might ask themselves when considering a new induction system. Options? Lets see, there is electronic fuel injection from Electromotive and TWM, single or paired two barrel side draft carburetors by Weber, single two barrel down drafts from Weber, (progressive or non progressive) and new to the scene are Japanese high performance quad and paired carburetor systems from Mikuni, and Keihin (Kay-hin).

We will go through these options one at a time and try to make it a little more understanding, hopefully giving a clearer picture for a more conscience choice. Next issues will discuss +'s and -'s of EFI Electronic Fuel Injection, SU Carburetor, Zenith Stromberg Carburetors and Weber Carburetor. Information credits go to Spitfire/GT6 Magazine.

Continued from pg 1



from experience, it was just a matter of putting the miles behind us and matching our kidney capacity to gas tank capacity. Knowing that the weather can be chancy at best in early January, we were fortunate to hit between snow storms and had clear roads all the way. Though we certainly saw evidence of same on the side of the roads and in one Walmart parking lot there was a pile of snow taller than me.

We arrived at Poughkeepsie at 1:00 am. We looked at the map and taking the Toccanic Pkwy we were only 35 miles from Copake. Remember Toccanic Pkwy?? Being tired by now we decided this was easy so we decided to get a motel room and finish in the morning. EASY HUH!!? We got up at 6:30 had

breakfast and headed to Toccanic Pkwy. Again how hard can this be?? Up the road 5 miles is the entrance to Toccanic Pkwy there appears a scary sign "CARS ONLY", well we are just a pickup truck and trailer and that's pretty close so we took the exit. At the entrance ramp is another worse sign, "NO CAMPERS OR TRAILERS"!!! NOW WHAT? Back on to 84 and on to the next exit. This is where it really got interesting!!!

The map didn't match what we saw, North is not North to Northerners. A map is just an illusion they fabricate to confuse people that shouldn't be wandering around in their neighborhoods anyway. We turned left which seemed like a good idea at the time. Then found ourselves 8 miles down the road in the wrong direction. At least we knew which way not to go. So we turned around and set off the other direction. Wandering around pig trails for awhile we passed an old insane asylum along the way. We finally saw a road sign that said we should be getting close. Passing through a small town slowing to a crawl we saw a small postage stamp size sign marking the back way into downtown Copake, NY. which is about the size of Morgan, AR. where McLeod's is, in other words a four corners that thinks it's a town. The proprietors of Morgan Motors of New England, *Larry and Linda Eckler* were great folks and we spent 4 hours talking and looking at a barn full of various and sundry Morgans. Finally decided we had to leave. We stopped to see our family in Cortland, NY. 3 hours away and spent the night. Got up at 4:00 am again and proceeded to do the same thing in reverse. Back to Little Rock @ 1:00 am Sunday the 30th. Then we had to try to keep it a secret, HA HA, till the next Saturday, Ron's birthday, at the club house.



So ends THE PECKHAM BROTHER'S MOST EXCILLENT ADVENTURE...OR...Is it just the beginning?!!!!

## BMCA General Calendar of Events for 2008

Each and every month BMCA members benefit by participating in an event sponsored by one of the four marques. This year promises to be event filled and then some. There are more & more car shows and benefits requesting British car (& member) participation. Watch the back page of the newsletter for a list of upcoming events and try to attend at least one a month, even if your car can't make it, your fellowship will be welcomed!

| Month         | Event                                                | Event - Marque Responsible | Meeting Tech Talk / Marque Responsible |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| January 26th  | Polar Bear Run                                       | MG                         | Empire                                 |
| February      |                                                      | Austin Healey              | Triumph                                |
| March 22      | Trash Run                                            | Empire                     | MG                                     |
| April 11 & 12 | Swap Meet                                            | Triumph                    | Austin Healey                          |
| May           |                                                      | MG                         | Empire                                 |
| June          | Blytheville Cars & Cycles<br>MOTAA / Petit Jean Show | Austin Healey              | Triumph                                |
| July          |                                                      | Empire                     | MG                                     |
| August        | Ice Cream Social                                     | Triumph                    | Austin Healey                          |
| September     | British Iron/Fayetteville Show                       | MG                         | Empire                                 |
| October       |                                                      | Austin Healey              | Triumph                                |
| November      |                                                      | Empire                     | MG                                     |
| December      | Christmas Party                                      | All                        | None                                   |

### British Motoring Club of Arkansas

#### Membership Renewal Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**British Cars Owned** (First car listed will be your marque association)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Make / Model</u> | <u>Color</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| _____       | _____               | _____        |
| _____       | _____               | _____        |
| _____       | _____               | _____        |

Mail to:  
Michael Ross  
4001 McDaniel Circle  
Little Rock, AR 72206

| Annual Dues      | 1 year  | (2008 only) |
|------------------|---------|-------------|
| Primary Member   | \$30.00 | \$60.00     |
| Associate Member | \$15.00 | \$30.00     |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## **BMCA Monthly Meeting Tuesday January 8, 2008**

The monthly 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 reasonably priced 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 on the British cars in the parking lot & visit with fellow BMCA'ers.

### **Calendar of Events**

**Sat/Sun Jan 26/27 - BMCA Polar Bear Run** - Will you take the plunge? - see pg. 1

**March 23rd - BMCA Trash Run to Heber Springs** - see pg 4

**March 29th - British Car Day - New Orleans, LA** [www.BMCNO.org](http://www.BMCNO.org)

**April 11 & 12 - 12th Annual BMCA Swap Meet & Car Sale**

**April 19th - Scottish Festival, Lyons College, Batesville, AR**

**May 31 - June 8 - British Car Week** - Plan on driving your LBC during this week

**Sat June 7th - Blytheville Cars & Cycles Against Cancer** - Plan on attending this one!!!

**June 11 - 14 - MOTAA Swap Meet & Car Show** - Petit Jean

**June 26-29 - Spridget Golden Anniversary Celebration** - Lake of the Ozarks

**Sept 13th - Brits in the Ozarks Car Show** - Fayetteville, AR

**Oct 4th - MOTAA Fall Car Show** - Benton, AR

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



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