



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

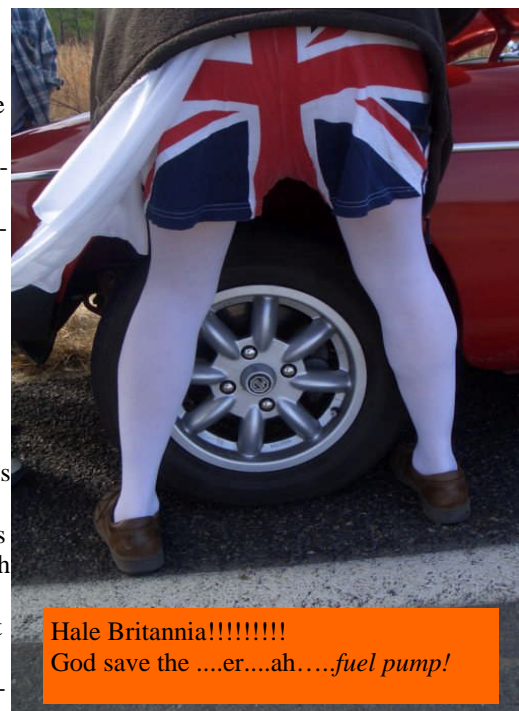
Established in 1989

February 2006

Polar Bear Run 2006

The Annual Polar Bear Run of 2006 was one where many memories were made and new traditions started. The sight of 19 British beauties and 5 'foreign' vehicles cruising down the windy Arkansas back highways was a magnificent spectacle to behold. There were two right-hand drive beauties and a purple hippie-mobile decorated with idioms from the past amidst an assortment representing various British Marques, all partaking in a well planned drive.

The sunny days' adventure began at the LaQuinta/Michaels parking lot in Otter Creek where *Polarized Man & Woman* (aka Ron and Vera) appeared ready to save the day. A pair of hippies (aka Wilma and Jim), a few bundled up like Polar Bear wanna-bes (hey, come on now, even wanna-bes have feelings. ed) and others waited for the event to begin. While waiting we had time to reacquaint with old friends like the Hofers from Memphis, TN. Our host, Empire Marque leader Bob Harris, rounded us up and provided an overview of our upcoming adventure. It was to be a fun trek down the back highways to Hot Springs followed by a refreshing dip in a small pool of water at Gulfa Gorge. If each of us kept the person behind us in sight, no one would get separated. The first part of the drive was uneventful with everyone watching their backside. At times you wondered if the behind was lost but no, it always seemed to come back into view. One time though, the behind just disappeared. Oh no, no one showed up, hmmm, should we? Yes, stop, turn around, lo and behold - we all ended up back at the breakdown in time to see Polar-



keep smiling....now, pirouette left...keep smiling...underwater somersault.... keep smiling....

ized Man and his crew of helpers work their magic. Maybe next time the car will decide to select someplace a bit more civilized so all of us can take a 'pit' stop – bushes don't work for everyone. We were off again and found a friendly gas station to serve us all. Hot coffee for some, cold drinks for others, bathroom for the majority. When it's 50 and sunny on January 21st its hard to decide which beverage best fits the season. A couple bonnets up, more gathering and incantations over the machines only to discover a piece of garden hose (found behind the buildingJ) works as a final fix to the first setback. And while this was happening the discovery of a long lost leak behind an oil pressure gauge was repaired. After the repairs, lots of visiting and camaraderie, we were then off to Gulfa Gorge – yet another adventure you didn't want to miss.



Jim Peckham showed himself to be the true BMCA Polar Bear 2006. The title, first earned by a dip into the pool of icy water, was awarded for performance that could only be beat by a real polar bear. Jim swam and put on a show while all the other brave polar 'cubs' tried to compete. Everyone agreed he and Cookie earned the first \$50 gift certificate from Ron McLeod for the best Polar Bear Spirit. Jim and Wilma Newton accepted a \$50 gift certificate for showing the best costumes by decorating not only their car but themselves to match. From Gulfa Gorge we split into two groups, some back home and others on to the Arlington.

Hmmmm....maybe I've got time for a couple more laps in the pool....hooahhh



Continued on next page

Prez Sez

Well Folks, another Polar Bear Run has come and gone. Brrrrrrr. That water was cold (even for a super hero)! I am just getting the feeling back in my toes. What is this about Room 701? And who is Linda? I guess what happens at the Arlington, stays at the Arlington!

Upcoming events include the February Dyno Tech event, the March St. Patty's Run, the April Swap Meet and ending the month of April with the Scottish Festival in Batesville.

All of the above just goes to show how active our club is. If you can't find something to do with the club, it's not the marque leaders' fault!

Next time you are out at McLeod's British Cars and LCYC check out the Morgan project as it progresses and the new light house.

Keeping radiators cool and exhausts hot!
Ronnie McLeod

Continued from previous page

The second half of the polar bear run was just like a car show without having to show the car. We arrived at the Arlington where we were escorted to park our cars in the exhibit hall parking garage. Once the cars were all tucked in safe and sound for the night, we checked in and freshened up. Afterwards we gathered in the center of the Arlington's lobby where the aura of times past lingers in the atmosphere. Off we went for another wonderful experience, dinner at the Brau Haus. If you're a beer drinker this place is heaven – and if not – they have other liquids to indulge in. The food is excellent and entertainment was fun for all. With happy tummies we adjourned back to the Arlington where Suite 701, occupied by MG Marque Leader Jim Stanhope, served as a BMCA hospitality room. The hot tub was a popular spot for many antics as well. After the hot tub closed at 11pm the party continued back in the lobby where dancing and other follies continued well into the wee hours of the morn.

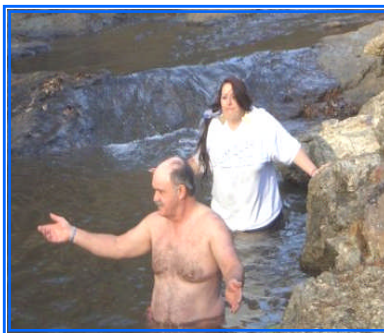
Sunday morning was rainy, a second reason for sleeping in as long as possible before having to head home. Some were up early and met for breakfast while others had breakfast in bed. The plans for flea marketing were spoiled by Mother Nature, so it was time for the weekend to come to an end. It was a most memorable event; you don't want to miss it in January 2007!

Meshell Smith

Hey Jim, the water is NOT parting.....



Think positive.....think positive
.....think positive. It's not
working, I'm still freezing!



If you have pictures you would like to put into the BMCA Album, please send them to me, either by mail, e-mail or leave them at McLeod's. I will see that your pictures are included in the album.

Mail to: Brenda Collins
8920 Clover Hill
Little Rock, AR
72205

E-Mail to: hessdorf@aol.com

Thanks, Brenda

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

BMCA Officers

President Ron McLeod
501-851-2640
President@bmca.net
Vice Pres Judy Ross
501-888-3396
vicepresident@bmca.net
Treasurer Lisa Hutchison
501-312-0302
treasurer@bmca.net
Secretary Wilma New ton
870-367-7558
secretary@bmca.net

Marque Leaders

Austin-Healey Steve Jones
501-225-2086
austinhealey@bmca.net
Empire Bob Harris
501-851-2291
empire@bmca.net
MG Jim Stanhope
501-851-2022
mg@bmca.net
Triumph Dennis James
501-664-4584
tr@bmca.net

Newsletter

Doug Nelson
1327 East Lawson Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72210
501-821-2688 or 554-9108
newsletter@bmca.net

Historian

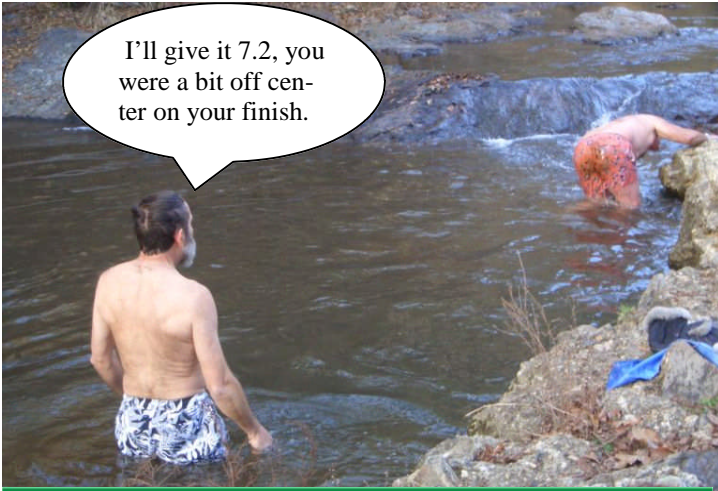
Brenda Collins
(501) 225-5162
historian@bmca.net

Membership

B.M.C.A.
Michael Ross
12231 Maryland Place
Sherwood, AR 72120
membership@bmca.net
\$20/year primary member
\$10/year spouse

'Bits & Spares' is published the first Saturday after every monthly meeting. The meeting is the first Tuesday of each month.

Deadline for articles and submissions is the day of the meeting.



BMCA Minutes for February 2006: The meeting started at 7:30, with 22 in attendance. The minutes for January were passed out, and approved. Thank you Lisa, for the correction on the ending balance for December, \$2346.20. The ending balance for January is \$2489.94.

Bob Harris gave a quick run down on the Polar Bear Run which had 23 cars in attendance.

Feb- Contact Dennis James, Triumph marque leader, if you would like your LBC dyno-tested. He can supply a map, flyer, or any other info. Even if you are not interested in having your baby tested, come by Chuck Blair's and have refreshments. It was suggested to have your car tuned up, top all fluids, check for oil leaks, and torque your lug nuts. All this needs to be done to safely get the best base line on what your car can do. Ronnie said if you wanted to come by LCYC this Saturday, he will help you tend to this list.

Mar- Jim Stanhope, MG marquee leader will take charge in our St. Patrick's Day run, Sunday, Mar.19th. We start at 630 & Shackelford, and end up at Beef O'Brady's in Maumelle. Look for info in the newsletter.

Mar. New Orleans' is having their car show on the 25th. Go on-line to get information or entry form.

April 7 & 8 – Swap Meet. Ronnie is expanding out to draw in the crowd. He and Bob Ross are encouraging our sister car clubs to attend. He wants to set up booths for all marques to show and tell. He is looking into getting different vendors to attend and show off their wares.

April 20 – 23 V.T.R. South Central Regional Convention in Jenks, Ok. See Charles Hutchison for info. April 29th and 30th is the Scottish Festival. This will be an overnight trip.

May 7th- River cruise on the Arkansas Queen.

For our tech talk, Bob Harris read an article of dos and don'ts in changing the lubricants. Don't forget to change the brake fluid!!

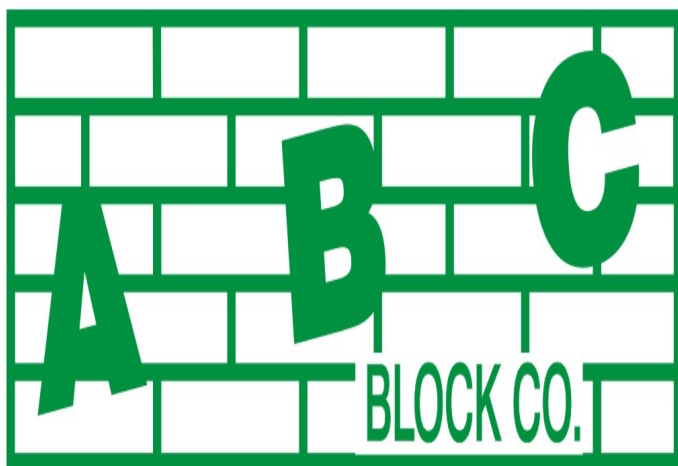
Michelle Smith has a birthday on the 27th. This is also her and Lon's anniversary.

Bob and Judy Ross will be celebrating their anniversary on the 16th. Next months meeting will start at 7:00 p.m., so mark your calendar now.

Gots and Goofs: Dennis James found a new MGB in the neighborhood. Stopped and left a calling card and invitation to visit with us. He found out it belongs to Chris Casey.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Sec. *Wilma Newton*



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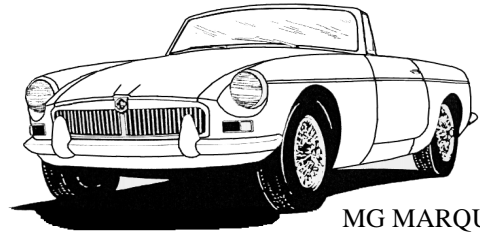
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Monthly Marque News



TR MARQUE



MG MARQUE

This month, the Triumph Marque is hosting a performance oriented event as described on the back of the newsletter. This is by appointment, pre-paid, and pre-registration. Any BMCA member is invited to observe and partake of refreshments, on a drop in /out basis. The Dyno is capable of testing up to 150 m.p.h. As this is a test to observe your cars performance, some consideration should be given to preparation of your car for best results. You will get a snapshot, if you will, of the potential of your car for further improvement of performance. In my view, you would want several matters dealt with before the Dyno, so that your "baseline " of performance is not lowered by things you already know you should have done anyway. So as to not waste this opportunity to get the most out of the Dyno test, you should (at least consider) doing the following: Set your valves, refresh your points, or check your electronic ignition, check and or replace spark plug wires, condenser, battery cables, and all fluid levels. Remember, you will be running stationary on rollers at high speed. You should do whatever you do to prepare your car for the track. Check and top up your tranny and rear end lube and tire pressure. Also, a general inspection might reveal other unexpected problems which could be resolved better before you are on the Dyno!

Ron McLeod has been gracious enough to invite all over to his garage on Saturday, February 11 to sort out any issues, and recommend adjustments, maintenance and improvements. Take advantage of this opportunity to make the most out of this deeply discounted chance to see what brake horsepower your car can produce!

Who knows when an opportunity like this will come again? This is certainly a first for me, and I would like to thank Chuck Blair and Ron McLeod for helping make this event happen. If you have any questions about the bad weather date, call me at 501-350-5022.

Yours in Triumph, Dennis L. James, Triumph Marque Leader

Friends

Over the years that I have been involved with the British Motoring Club Of Arkansas (BMCA) I have seen numerous things in an LBC. There are always lots of ice chests filled with refreshing beverages, extra blankets, sun tan lotion, lounge chairs, candies to be tossed out to the children at a Christmas parade, car parts that fell off somewhere along the road, not to mention the miscellaneous parts and tools to try to keep our cars moving. But each car contains one thing

St. Patty's Run

For the upcoming MG event on Sunday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m., we're starting at the I-630 and Shackelford parking lot. The run ends at Beef O Brady's Restaurant in Maumelle. So come on all you MG members (and all other marques too!) "Dust off your cars and lets go have some St. Patty's fun and Run with the Green!"

MG Marque Leader
Jim Stanhope

in common with all other British cars: Friends.

Outside of club events, I have seen the following wonderful things come piling out of a British car:

- * A gathering of people to celebrate the affirmation of love when members marry.
- * The ecstasy of parent's as their children are born.
- * The celebration of friends who rejoice as the parents breathe a huge sigh of relief as their child graduates.
- * The teasing and jeers of people as members enter the next decade and as they mark each year's passing.
- * The sharing of life's stories as members remodel their homes, or travel, or get transfered to far off countries.
- * Friends who rejoice with a club member as they enter that enviable stage of life called retirement.
- * Friends who donate lots of elbow grease and some much needed supervision to get those home improvement projects done.
- * Friends offering consolation when loved ones pass away.
- * Friends that invite people to spend the night so they do not have to drive long distances to their homes after a late night gathering.
- * Friends who try to aid and comfort a member as they face a serious illness or surgery.
- * Friends who see us for what we are and love us because of or in spite of it.

As I enter the new year of 2006, I am ever so grateful for all those wonderful things that come pouring out of our Arkansas British cars, but nothing as much as the friends. BMCA friends! Aren't You Glad You Got' Em?

Barbara Anne Bolin

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Monthly Marque News



INTERCEPTOR II

EMPIRE MARQUE

We had a large turnout for the Polar Bear run. Had a lot of fun, nice ride, a couple of break downs. MeShell Smith gives the details of the event in this news letter.

Coming up on May 7th (Sunday), we are going on a river boat cruise of about 1 1/2 hours up the Arkansas River on the Arkansas Queen stern wheeler. This will be a sightseeing cruise. Boarding time will be at 11:30, departure time will be at noon. To go on this cruise you will have to be paid up two weeks in advance, no later than April 23. You can pay me or Ron McLeod. We have a list to sign to guarantee you a seat. The group rate cost is \$12.21 per person. Go to arkansasqueen.com for more info. After the boat ride we will take a short British Car ride.

Bob Harris

11th Annual BMCA Swap Meet

- Sat. April 8th – Preview/Setup Fri. April 7th
 - Setup time 6 AM/Swap Meet time 8am to 6PM
 - Buy or sell your British Car
 - Buy or sell new/used Parts
 - Tech Sessions – Diagnostic Analyzer; Tranny Rebuild
 - Food, Beverages, T-Shirts, Brit Paraphernalia, Horseshoes, Billiards, war stories, tall tales & and semi-relevant bs
 - Evening meal around the bonfire
 - For overnighters our host hotel is Comfort Suites 501-851-8444. Ask for the British Car Club rate of \$69.99.
- Info: Ron at 501-851-2640, Bob at 501-888-3396

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.

*******Please note that our meeting time at Dizzy's has changed to 7:00 pm*******

Feb 18th Saturday DYNO Day – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Blairs British Cars in NLR \$10.00 for a dyno on your British baby – Dennis James, TR Marque Leader (501 / 350-5022 cell, / 376-9654 office / 376-8470 fax) or Ron McLeod at 851-2640. Any BMCAers are invited to observe and partake of refreshments on a drop-in/out basis. See Dennis' detailed account on page 4.

April 7th & 8th 2006 BMCA & McLeod Swap Meet. Marque leaders check with Ron McLeod about FREE marque booth spaces and his ideas to highlight your BMCA Marque. Wil Wing will be here from Fayetteville to conduct a tech session on diagnostic tunups. Do you know the difference between primary and secondary ignition systems? Wil is a pro and we are really glad to have him with us at the swap meet.

April 20th—23rd 2006 VTR South Central Regional in Jenks, OK (sort of a suburb of Tulsa) This event will be sponsored by Green County Triumphs. More info at <http://greencountytriumphs.com> Please check out their web page before you decide not to go. This looks to be a really nice drive and great show.

April 29th Scottish Festival – Batesville, AR – All day event – leave early with the group or on your own. Don't miss this memorable event!!

May 7th Sunday: Riverboat cruise on the Arkansas Queen. More details on page 5 from Bob Harris.

June 9th & 10th 16th Annual Heartland MG Regional in Kansas City, MO. Visit their web site at www.heartlandmg.com for lodging info and further details.



British Motoring Club of Arkansas
1327 East Lawson Rd
Little Rock, AR 72210