



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

May 2008

Great Scot - What a Day!!



The day started at 6:00 am at that Scottish Restaurant at McCain & Hwy 167 called McDonalds. Gathered there was the hardy plaid clad Scots in their kilts and their kindred. Soon it was time to start our journey to the north in search of the music of bagpipes and a Scottish egg.



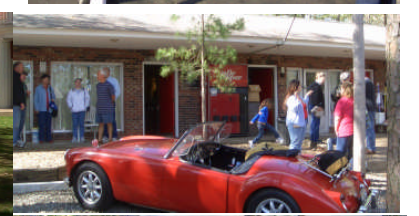
Our little British cars soon brought us to another McDonalds restaurant in Searcy, AR to meet up with others heading for Batesville.



By 9:00 or thereabouts, we arrived at the Scottish Festival at Lyons College in Batesville, AR. It's like being in Scotland without leaving Arkansas!!



We took 13 British cars to display with 7 of our members in their kilts (many for the first time to don a kilt)! After a fine day of being Scottish we took our British cars and headed to Heber Springs where we spent the night before the tour back to our homes and normal lives in our t-shirts and blue jeans!



A Bonnie Gud Time was had by all!

Ronnie McLeod

More pictures on page 4



Prez Sez

A BIG thanks to everyone (and the weather) that helped make the April events a success. The Swap meet was a big success with lots of folks attending and bargains found. And the Scottish Fest had 7 BMCA'ers don the kilts this year.

Mark your calendars for the May 18, MG Marque event, a rally to Pine Bluff. June promises to be a busy month too! The Blytheville Car show is the first weekend and sounds like it will be a fun time full of events for everyone. The Petit Jean Swap Meet and Car Show is Fathers Day weekend. What better present could you give to Dad than to take him to the mountain to find that special gift for himself?

Remember May 31st starts British Car week all around the United States of America. Drive your little British car that week and show everyone how much fun it is!

"Have fun, laugh, and live each day to its fullest"

Brenda

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'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.



British Car Week
May 31 - June 8, 2008
Sponsored by ALL British Car Clubs

Secretaries Minutes - May 6, 2008

Hello again. We had a group of 26 members and 2 guests. Dennis James brought a lady friend, named Lindy Fair. Jack Brashear had his friend, George Wyrick, with him. It has been a long time since we had seen Jim and Elaine Higginson, and Sylvere "Cous" Coussement with his wife, Martha. Nice seeing everyone again. Ms. Pranter having to be out of town sent her budget report with Brenda. After expenses and deposits, the treasury's ending balance is \$5,823.96. The minutes were passed out for all to read. After the correction of Charlie Collins' birthday being on the 10th of April....not Charles Hutchison.; the minutes were approved and passed.

Ronnie McLeod reported on the Swap Meet event. It was definelty better than last year. The weather was so nice for the event. Early evening we had a fish fry with all the extras. We had a great turn-out. Judy said after everything was paid for, the BMCA concession stand had a profit of \$161.06. A motion was brought forth and passed to thank all of the concession stand helpers. Thanks to Deb McCullah for her contribution of food. The next event, which Ronnie also reported, was the Scottish festival at the Lyon's College in Batesville, Ar. We were all surprised with the turnout of 7 kilts, 6 men and 1 female. The weather was great, not too hot, and with just the right amount of cloud cover. At the end of the day, some of us went to Heber Springs to have some fun and relaxation. Charles Hutchison spoke on his trip to the VTR Region meet in Henderson, TX. He said he was shamed to enter into the concourse and won 3rd place.

Our May event, we will be meeting at the Dixon Rd Shell station at exit 3 on Hwy 530 south.. We will go on our nice ride to Grider Field. Maybe, with luck, we will get to go up in an antique airplane. A lunch will be served with a donation jar being passed around. By the way, it was mentioned that Zack has moved back to Louisiana. We would like to thank Lon Smith for stepping up to the plate and take over being MG marque leader at the spur of the moment.

June 6&7 are the days to be at the Blytheville Show. If anyone can make the Blytheville show ,,,Please contact the Wheeler's. There are lots of things planned for the agenda. If not going so far out of time is your plans,,,,June 7th is the workday to mark the individual plots for renting at the Petit Jean event on Father's day weekend. If interested, be at LCYC ready to leave at 7:30 am. Jack Brashear said that the last weekend in June is the 50th anniversary of the Bugeye Sprite at Grand Glaze. This celebration is open to all British cars, especially to all Spridgets. Contact Jack if you're interested in going.

Gary Bolin had an interesting tech talk titled "Keeping the smoke inside your wires." He did a light-hearted rendition on how and why it is not good when you see your wires smoke. The easiest fix is to put in an in-line fuse between your ignition switch and head lights. He passed out a brochure explaining what to do and why.

May 2nd was Wilma and Jim Newton's anniversary. Elaine and Jim Higginson celebrated their wedded bliss of 32 yrs. on the 8th of May. May 19th is Ted Bland's B-day. Barb and Gary Bolin will be together for 18 yrs on the 24th of April.

Bob Ross still has grill badges - if interested

Doug Nelson came out of surgery all right. They moved part of his intestine to a different part of his stomach so he could eat again. All of our prayers are with you & Gayle.

Jim Wheeler took a package of spot lights, a selection of wire brushes, and a mini wind sock for his selection of door prize..

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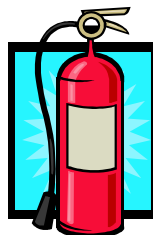
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Marque Responsibility Reminder

Month	Event	Tech Talk
June	AH	Triumph
July	Empire	MG
August	Triumph	AH

Swap Meet 2008 Report

It's been raining for the last month and it rained Thursday April 10th and the mud is hubcap deep to a Bugeye sprite and this weekend is the BMCA 13th Annual Swap Meet and Car Sale.

Friday morning arrived a bit cloudy but no rain!! By midday the sun was starting to dry things out. We had put off setting up because of the rain and now we had to get it all done. Cars were coming in for sale and pickup loads of parts showed up.

Saturday by 8:00 am the swap meet was underway. The sun was shining and lots of people coming and going. With good food and drinks, a wide assortment parts and quite a few cars for sale, there was something for everyone.

Yes, this was a very good happening. The day ended with a fish fry, many thanks to the cooks, Charlie Collins and Doug Nelson, and a gathering of friends from near and far. And the day was good.....

MOTAA & Petit Jean Show News

Most BMCA'ers are familiar with the June Swap Meet and Car Show as it is a special event each of us looks forward to each year. Are you aware that BMCA is one of over 20 associate members of the **M**id-**A**merica **O**ld **T**ime **A**uto **A**ssociation, Inc.?

This year is MOTAA's 50th anniversary. MOTAA was conceived in 1958 by a group of antique car owners living in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi who found the major national antique car clubs located too far away. The concept of the organization was to bring together the several local antique car clubs in the region for mutual support and cooperation, but to allow the member clubs to retain individual autonomy. It was incorporated as a Tennessee non-profit corporation in January 1959. MOTAA is dedicated to vehicle preservation and restoration.

The June Auto Show and Swap Meet has been held on Petit Jean at the Museum of Automobiles since 1968. The museum serves as the national headquarters for MOTAA but is a separate organization dependant on its own funding. It is not a state-funded organization and is operated only through various donations and fund-raising efforts. Although the museum is dedicated to ALL antique cars, there are usually at least one or two British beauties on display at any given time!

This years swap meet and show begins on Tuesday June 10th and continues through Saturday June 14th, the day of the car show itself. The swap meet set up begins on Tuesday and the real sales events begin on Wednesday. The mountain gets busier as the weekend draws nearer with Friday and Saturday always being the BIG days. On Friday there is a Ladies Shopping Tour of Morrilton in addition to the swap meet and craft sales on the mountain itself. You can get more details and registration information at motaa.com



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Austin Healey News

G'day again all you Austin Healey wannabes. In my whole life no one has ever accused me of being brilliant. There's a good reason for that: I'm not!! Sorry, I just got busy and forgot the April Healey Marque report.

Let me again remind everyone of the June Austin Healey event. It's gonna be the Petit Jean happening the weekend of June 13-16. The BMCA has participated in this for many years and it's always loads of fun, fellowship, and there are always some really cool cars. There's a lot going on in June and I can't participate in everything. So, I plan to go to Petit Jean with Ron and others Saturday morning June 7 to help set up the motor home and the BMCA spaces. That's the same date as the Blytheville show. Please, Healey folks, do something that day...help out at Petit Jean or attend the Blytheville show.

The fall Healey event will be this October (date to be announced later) and it will be a trip to Texarkana to feast on BBQ provided by BMCAers Moe and Jeanine Bokaie. Yum, yum.

Again, let me remind you to look out for those smallish local auto shows that pop up at churches, city parks, schools, health fairs and so on. They're usually nearby, short, free, and fun.

Lemme remind you again, if you see a white Healey or an orange Sprite on the streets, please honk and wave – it's probably me!!!
Jack



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MG MG MG MG MG MG
MG May is MG event month **MG**
MG Sunday, May 18 BMCA'ers **MG**
MG will gather at 11:30 in the **MG**
MG strip mall by the gas station **MG**
MG (next to the commuter **MG**
MG parking lot) at the Dixon **MG**
MG road exit on Hwy 530 in **MG**
MG Little Rock. We will leave **MG**
MG at 11:45 for a drive to Pine **MG**
MG Bluff. We will arrive at **MG**
MG Girder Field in time to dis- **MG**
MG play our cars and partici- **MG**
MG pate in the EAA Air Show. **MG**
MG The EAA will provide ham- **MG**
MG burgers with all the trim- **MG**
MG mings and drinks with a **MG**
MG donation jar for your contri- **MG**
MG bution. After the show we **MG**
MG will return to our respective **MG**
MG abodes. Bring the kids, **MG**
MG grandkids and everyone **MG**
MG else you can think of, it's **MG**
MG sure to be a fun-filled day **MG**
MG to remember. **MG**
MG MG MG MG MG MG

Lucas Electrical - Don't let the smoke out
 by Norman Nock, British Car Specialists, Stockton, CA

The wiring on early British cars runs under the car and then passes into the trunk. These wires are exposed to damage from rocks and items in the trunk. The harness is attached to the body or chassis rails with clips, and if one of these clips is knocked out of alignment by foreign objects, the clip will cut into the wires inside the harness, causing a short circuit.

The wires to the tail light and to the electric fuel pump were not fused in early 50's and 60's cars. The SU fuel pump circuit never got fused. The tail light circuit from about 1965 on started to be fused, with the fuse installed at the factory in various locations on the car - behind the panel, under the hood, etc. Later it was incorporated into the fuse box.

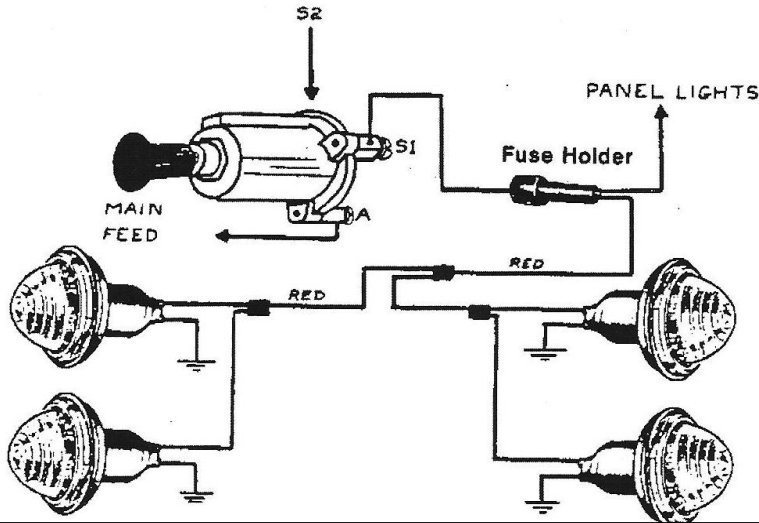
The damage caused by an electrical fire can be very extensive. If you want to avoid an electrical fire ("keep the smoke in the wire"), then fuse the fuel pump and tail lamp circuits. A fuse can be installed in the SU fuel pump circuit in the white (power) wire leading from under the hood to the pump. If you install the fuse close to the ignition switch on some models, you could be double fusing the circuit. Follow Figure 1 below to install an in-line fuse in the parking/tail lamp circuit in the wire close to the head light switch.

The damage that fuses in the tail light circuit can prevent is demonstrated by what happened to many MGA owners. The MGAs came by ship with wooden bumpers installed. The chrome bumpers were fitted by the local MGA distributor using unskilled warehouse personnel. When they joined the two wires to the license plate lamp, sometimes they reversed the red (power) and black (ground) wires, not knowing that the red wire always went to the tip of the bulb and the black wire went to the side. The lights would work until the paint on the lamp stopped being an insulator. Then one night, with the light on, the new MGA owner had a short circuit and major harness damage (lots of smoke out of the wires).

I have spent many hours under the dash repairing the damage caused to wiring harnesses by short circuits caused by damage to the tail light circuit. A little fuse can go a long way to insure that the smoke stays where it's supposed to!

Submitted by Gary Bolin

Figure 1: In-line fuse in the tail lamp circuit is installed close to the lighting switch in the red wire running off terminal S1. Fuse protects the car's wiring from any short circuit caused by damage to the harness running under the frame to the trunk, or to damage to the wiring caused by objects in the trunk



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Blytheville Cars & Cycles Against Cancer event is Here

Less than a month away, the Blytheville show on June 7th promises to be an event you don't want to miss. There will be a large British contingent there from surrounding states representing over 6 different British car clubs including British Iron, Greater Ozark, Memphis Club, Nashville, Chattanooga to mention but a few. Renewal of friendships from afar is only one of the benefits of attending this year's show. The show is on the last day of national British Car Week, what a better way to end the week than driving your LBC up to Blytheville to participate in the days event benefiting the American Cancer Society. An extra \$1,000 will be donated to the ACS that day if 6 British clubs show up with a minimum of 5 cars each. So far, it looks to be a done deal but we need BMCA'ers to show up in great numbers to make it happen for sure!!

This show is held in Historic Walker Park in beautiful Blytheville, AR which has many, many large old shade trees. The grounds are covered in grass and there will be plenty for all to see and do. There is a special tent to be set up for the 'Brits' to gather at with a birthday cake in honor of the Spridget's 50th anniversary. There will be tons of prizes for all participants to win, live entertainment, great food, a tailgate party for those arriving on Friday night, even a private party on Saturday night after the show for the 'Brits' staying over (in honor of the BMCA'ers who make the trip no less!!). How can you NOT be there for this one???

A special treat for the ladies (&/or any who like to shop) will be a shuttle from the show to Main street and back. Pam Blankenship owns a shop called "Sisters at the Crossing". Its an antique store, gift shop and a Tea Room. She will prepare a British lunch if enough are interested. (See invitation below) Also, the only independent bookstore in America that John Grisham stills visits for book signings, is planning something special. Other stores are giving discounts that day to car club members.

SISTERS at the CROSSING would like to invite you to lunch on June 7, 2008. We are located at 223 West Main in a newly restored 1902 building which we hope you'll find interesting, warm and inviting. We carry a broad range of antiques, gifts and home decor as well as providing a wonderful tea room, which has a delightful menu of soups, salads and sandwiches. We are also quite proud of our homemade sandwich breads and desserts, which include scones of various flavors, cookies and cakes. The average price of lunch is ten dollars, if you have dessert, and why wouldn't you?

We are open from eleven until two so please let us know when and if you are coming so that we will be ready to offer you a wonderful shopping and dining experience while you are in Blytheville. Please call us at 870-763-2520. You can also email us: sistersatthecrossing@yahoo.com We look forward to seeing you and your car June 7th

Moss Motors has contributed several of the door prizes which will be given away throughout the day. They also have donated a 10% discount coupon good for 6 months for all the 'British' attendees. There will be a Video Production company taking shots during the day and another guy who will be going around taking pictures of folks with their cars. There will be many, many different cars and motorcycles for all to gander at!!

Registration is the day of the show, only \$20.00. The first 300 cars to register get a dash plaque and T-shirt. There will be two big raffles - \$3,000 cash and \$2,000 cash. Many other prizes and cool things you can only get if you attend!! Contact Barry at barrett1@sbcglobal.net or Judy Wheeler at judy.k.wheeler@sbcglobal.net or Michelle Smith at meshell.smith@gmail.com for more information or plans to rally up to Blytheville on Friday June 6th or Saturday June 7th.

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BMCA Monthly Meeting Tuesday June 3, 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

May 18 - MG Run to Girder Field for Car display & Air Show

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

Sat June 7th - Blytheville Cars & Cycles Against Cancer - *see pg 7* (501.539.9955 or 501.765.3026)

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

June 14 - 2008 EuroMotor Extravaganza - Sand Springs, OK - www.EuroMotorExtravaganza.com

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? PLEASE Send the information to bmcanewsletter@gmail.com



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