

Established in 1989

April 2009



# Swap Meet and Car Sale 2009

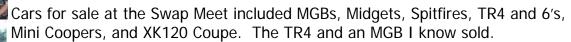
Swap Meet started back in Nov, when we set the date for the event and printed it in the newsletter so everyone can get it on their calendars. Then flyers must be printed to hand out. The newspaper ads must be placed 2 weeks before, and of course, there is the clean up and setup. Friday comes and people are bringing "stuff" and cars in.

The morning of Saturday starts at 5:45 am when I arrive at the "Yacht Club" and found Dena Dixon ready to make breakfast. I am printing out signs, bringing out parts for the McLeods British Cars Booth, etc. I came back in and there was a wonderful omelet with asparagus and pepper bacon, a great way to start the day. Thanks Dena!!!



Soon more and more people were coming, by 8:00 am the area was setup and underway. By 10:00 am the

"Swap Meet" was busy. By Noon, there were people everywhere, some were there just to show their car, even a 1962 Damlier of England which is really rare and really nice.



Best of all it was the mixing and mingling of people that made it a great day. Opportunities to see old friends and meet new ones were just one of the days highlights.

That evening, there was a cookout of tacos and burritos with all the fixings to finish up the annual event. Ronnie McLeod



### Scottish Fest 2009

The time for the annual pilgrimage of the Scottish, Scottish-Irish, partly Scottish or want-to-be Scottish and their British cars to return once again to the Lyon's College Scottish Festival in Batesville, AR. We are expecting 20+ British Cars with 10 or more of us in Scottish attire!!

We will meet this Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at that fine Scottish restaurant (McDonalds) on McCain Blvd at the Other Center in North Little Rock. We will leave at 7:00 am making our way to Bald Knob to meet others then on to Batesville. For more information call Ronnie McLeod at 501-821-2640. See you then!!



One of the nicer days at Ft Riley. Just kidding, we have had some good weather and will be getting better. All the processing is

done and starting the heavy stuff. Just wanted to drop a line, see ya! Parris

# Prez Sez

Consider what Doug had to say in 2002, we seem to be having a repeat of Spring weather.

April 2002 - Prez Says

How does the old saying go? A watched pot never boils. Brings to mind the advent of spring this year. The flowers in my yard are all rolled into little fetal bundles, nervously waiting for the next freeze. I empathize. April is not supposed to be the month for a Polar Bear Run.

The annual British Car Swap meet will be Saturday, April 13th at Ron McLeod's – er, Corvalis Yacht Club on the shore of lovely Lake Corvalis. Whether you can only stay for an hour or plan on all day, don't miss this chance to socialize with your BMCA family. Come buy something, sell something or just haggle for the fun of it. The horse shoe pits will be in primo condition and available for any rookies foolish enough to challenge the pros. Later in the afternoon we will have lots of food beneath the corrosive gaze of St. Rustifer, the patron saint of red nosed roadster riders.

Live long and prosper, The Prez, Doug Nelson

All I can say is put your top down and head on over to Home Depot, pick up some Duct Tape, and then take a nice ride down some back roads and enjoy the warm weather that Ed Buckner promised for this weekend.

(Please be careful and don't run over the Easter Bunny)

Brenda

Caravan to Muskogee, OK. Saturday May 2, 2009

A small group of BMCA'ers will be gathering early on Saturday morning, May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a personal drive over to Muskogee OK to attend a Renaissance Festival then stay overnight and return on Sunday. This will be a fun day and an out of the ordinary experience. If you are interested in going contact Charles Hutchison at <a href="mailto:spoofhound@sbcglobal.net">spoofhound@sbcglobal.net</a> or Brenda/Charlie Collins at hessdorf@aol.com for more details. Rooms at the LaQuinta Inn in Muskogee 1.918.687.9000, ask for BMCA group block/rate. For a preview of the event and pre-purchase of tickets visit http:// www.okcastle.com/renaissance-festivalphotos.html

# Jane Gault and Jim Clark

would be delighted if you would share time with them as they become husband and wife

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 3:30pm Windsong Church of Christ #3 Windsong Drive North Little Rock, Arkansas

Reception at the church to follow

No gifts, please

Your presence is our gift

#### Directions to the church:

From Little Rock, take I-430 North.
Take Exit 10 (Maumelle/Crystal Hill),
Turn right on Ark 100 (Crystal Hill Rd).
Go .5 miles, turn left on Bridgeway Dr.
You will drive over the freeway.
Go .3 miles, then right on Windsong Dr.

From North Little Rock, take 1-40 West.
Take Exit 148 (Crystal Hill Rd),
Turn left to cross over highway.
Go 1.1 miles, turn right on Bridgeway Dr.
You will drive over the freeway.
Go .3 miles, then right on Windsong Dr.

#### **BMCA Officers**

President Brenda Collins 501-225-5162

President@bmca.net

Vice Pres Barbara Beuch 501-247-6899 vicepresident@bmca.net

**Treasurer** Judy Wheeler 501-539-9955 treasurer@bmca.net

Secretary Wilma Newton 870-723-1964 secretary@bmca.net

### **Marque Leaders**

Austin-Healey Jim Peckham 501-539-3306 austinhealey@bmca.net

**Empire** Brad Beuch 501-247-6899

empire@bmca.net

MG Bert Pranter 501-312-4172 mg@bmca.net

**Triumph** Bob Ross 501-888-3396

501-888-3396 tr@bmca.net

#### **Newsletter**

Michelle & Lon Smith 1923 S. Gaines Little Rock, AR 72206 501-765-3026, 501-650-0477 newsletter@bmca.net

#### Historian

Shannon & Jim Stanhope 501-851-2022 historian@bmca.net

#### Membership

B.M.C.A Michael Ross 4001 McDaniel Circle Little Rock, AR 72206 membership@bmca.net

\$30/year primary member \$15/year spouse

#### WebMaster

Katherine McMahon 501-837-1108 kathmcmahon@comcast.net

#### '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 monthly meeting. (or anytime!)

### Secretaries Minutes - April 7, 2009

Ms. Prez called the meeting to order. She recognized our returning member and his new wife, adding a pair of MG's to our club; Steve & Melanie Robertson with a 76 MGB and a 74 Midget. It was great to see Randy and Susan Bryant back, long time-no see. Roger Gray came by to have dinner with us. You sure we can't get you into a LBC of your own? Everyone was great to approve a motion to accept the minutes as read in the newsletter, as I failed to copy a set for the meeting. Judy Wheeler read the treasury report, after a deposit, the ending balance was \$6,685.64.

Charlie Collins stepped in for Jim Peckhams absence to report on the AH Marquee event. With ragtops down, on a beautiful day, the drive to this great little antique shop was perfect, except for one minor detail. They were closed. Way to go, Jim! The owners, startled with all these little sport cars appearing on their doorstep, were really nice to let us come on in and do a little shopping. Afterwards, everyone went back to the LCYC for hamburgers and hotdogs.

Next, Ronnie reported on the annual Swap Meet. Dena was at the club house when he arrived (before dawn) with all the fixings for a jam up omelet. Not just any omelet, one with the works. She had sausage, peppered bacon, ham, 3 cheeses, onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, and asparagus. She also had pancakes on the side. Everyone that came in was greeted with their choice. Thanks girlfriend! People started arriving as the finishing touches were being done. By 10:00, we had a good turn-out. The weather played right along with the plan. We had lots of rare vintage cars to show, one: a beautiful rare, red 62 Daimler, a couple of AH 3000. There was an exquisite 1953 Jag X120 for sale, rare price-\$98,000. Bob Ross added that the concession stand had a profit of \$117.31, and wanted to thank all who worked. Ronnie changed speeds to talk about the upcoming Scottish Festival in Batesville. Everyone is to meet at the McDonalds at McCain exit at 6 am, have breakfast, and be ready to leave at 7am. We have 23 cars lined up for the trip, with most of them being accessorized by a laddie donned in a kilt.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is an un-official trip to Muskogee, OK, for a Renaissance Festival. This is another reason to wear your kilts. Contact Charles Hutcheson if interested.

May 24<sup>th</sup> Bob Ross is planning a poker run. We will meet at the Arts Center parking lot at Macarthur Park. June 6<sup>th</sup> Blytheville Car & Cycle Show against Cancer. June 13<sup>th</sup> is clean up day at Petit Jean. The Petit Jean swap meet is the following week, cumulating with the car show itself on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bert Pranter did an interesting tech talk. Everyone got a handout which listed the items that Rick Wesley had published in the "Chicago Chapter MGA Association." He also made us chuckle with the top 10 reasons to keep duct tape handy.

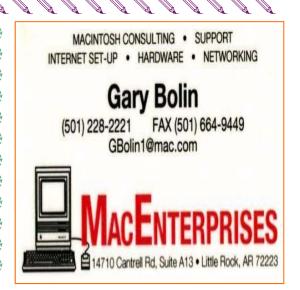
Got and Goofs The Stanhopes have a new grand-daughter, Hanna Grace. Brad Beuch took Barbara's rabbit coat and made himself a sporn. He will have a few more if you are interested. Dennis James got a TR4 at the Swap Meet. Jack Brashear has his AH Sprite back on the road, purring.

Birthdays Charlie Collins.10<sup>th</sup>; Brad Beuch, 19<sup>th</sup>; Jim Newton, 21<sup>st</sup>; Shannon Stanhope, 22<sup>nd</sup>. Steve and Melanie Robertson will celebrate 5 yrs also on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle Smith won the door prize and chose a collection of auto tools.

# A Fun Run Planned for May

There are a few changes in the May event. We will meet at the parking lot behind the Art Center in McArthur Park on May 24. The first car will leave at 2:00PM so be there by 1:30 for instructions. It is going to be a poker run, which means you are given cards at various stops and you must build a poker hand. We have found a few decent roads (and some not so decent) for this event. The drive will take a little more than one hour and will wind up at the Ross-Collins complex in beautiful downtown EastEnd, Ark. We'll have hot dogs and hamburgers and soft drinks. If you want to contribute a side dish or dessert, feel free to bring it along.



### **Empire Building**

The Empire Marque is growing, if not in members the number of vehicles is increasing. The acquisition of modern Mini's illustrates the continuing strength of the Empire Marque. As promised in the Feb. Newsletter, this month I will provide you with a brief history and information about another Empire manufacturer' line of vehicles, let's talk LOTUS!

The story of Lotus begins in a small lock-up garage in North London. It was Oct 1947 when Colin Chapman, an engineering student at University College, was buying and selling "old bangers" to supplement the stipend he received while in school. The British government cancelled the basic patrol ration causing the market for used cars to crash and forcing young Colin to liquidate his inventory. When all was said and done Colin Chapman broke even financially and was left with a broken down, rusted 1930 Austin 7 Fabric Saloon for his efforts. His friends all joked that the only thing the car was good for was an anchor, or trail marker. During this period, Trial Runs, early off road rallies, were popular in Britain. Goaded by his closest mates, Colin decided that they were right, the car would go to the trail runs, however, he had another idea... The car was striped. The frame was strengthened boy boxing the "U" members, the suspension was modified using parts from the wrecked Morris, the steering and brakes were cobbled together from Ford and MG components and a custom body was crafted. Instead of donating the car as a marker it was reregistered as a custom "7" and christened as a Lotus MK 1. In the first set of Trail Runs Colin entered his Lotus MK 1 took 2 first place finishes and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall – The LOTUS was born with a winning tradition.

From 1948 throughout 1953 a total of 8 more modified vehicles were built by Chapman. In 1953 at the urging of drivers and other race teams, the first production car was marketed by Lotus, the MK 6. Designed and originally distributed as a kit car, sales far outpaced the meager manufacturing facilities that Chapman operated. That changed when investors were courted. From 1955 through 1960 13 additional models of Lotus were produced revolutionizing the racing world. Expanding into street legal high end sports cars was a natural progression. In 1960, the Lotus Elite which morphed into the Elan appeared. From early trial cars to formula racers to Indy cars, as well as high end sports cars, today Lotus ranks alongside Ferrari and Porsche as one of the great names in the world of motor racing, the engineering design pioneered by Lotus in the area of steering, suspension and power trains are standard on many manufactures top of the line vehicles including Toyota, Lexus, GM, BMW and Mercedes.

For the sports car enthusiast looking to add a Lotus to his stable of cars several classic models are available with the most popular being Elan, Europa, Elite II and Eclat. A quick check of e-bay and a couple similar sites found 65 classic Lotus' for sale ranging in price from \$1000 for a parts car to \$79,000 for a 2008 2-11 Racer. For those with deep pockets that want to purchase a piece of pure automotive excitement Lotus currently produces 6 models of vehicles including Elise with a list price of \$47,250; the Elise SC at \$54,990; the Exige S 240 at \$65,690 and Exige S 260 at \$74,995. The other 2 models are both special editions and including the California (SpecEd Elise \$51,770) with a total production of 50 cars worldwide distribution and the Club Racer with 20 cars slated for US distribution and a list price of \$87, 995. The planned release in 2010 of the Evora is sure to rock the sports world.

If you are in the market for a new Lotus the nearest dealer is: Lotus of Memphis, 3020 N. Germantown Rd., Bartlett, TN 38133, (901) 379-9997. For more information about Lotus try searching the internet or visit your local library. For first hand accounts Gary Bolin and Brad Beuch both own Lotus'.

Next Month I will highlight another active manufacturer...Hummmm, which one will it be? Brad Beuch, Empire Marque Leader

### It's Time to Get Ready .....

Now let's get your car ready for Spring and Summer. First, wash it to get all the dirt and grime off. Wax it if you want. Vacuum the interior, and get out the Armorall for the dash and all the other vinyl. If you have a leather interior then you need some leather preservative of some kind to help your leather last.

Now to help you be a safe driver, let's take a look at wipers and lights. Inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are not split or too stiff to work properly. If you can't remember the last time you changed them they probably need to replaced now.

Turn on the parking lights and walk around your car to make sure all the side marker lights, parking lights and tail lights work. Turn on the headlights, both high and low beam to make sure you will be able to see if you drive at night. Don't forget to turn the lights off after you have checked them.

Turn the ignition switch on and check to see if the turn signals still work front and back. Sometimes the turn signals will not flash properly just on battery power so you may need to start the car before they will function.

Start the car and put the emergency brake on. Now try to drive away. If you can then the emergency brake needs adjusting. Let the emergency brake off and drive to an area were you don't have to worry about other cars. A remote country road or a large parking lot will do. Drive about 25 or 30 MPH and hold the steering wheel lightly. Now brake hard, but don't lock up the tires. Does your car pull to one side? Does one wheel lock up easily? If so then your brakes need attention. Either take it to a mechanic or check them yourself to see what needs adjusted or replaced. Brakes are the most important thing on your car, so make sure they work properly.

Finally check the air pressure in your tires. Tires lose pressure slowly all the time, so make sure your tires are inflated properly. Your car will be safer and your tires will last longer.

You are now ready to enjoy your drives this Spring and Summer.

Bob Ross, TR Marque

Hello BMCA Members!!

Since we don't really have a car show I'm going to call the one in Blytheville the BMCA car show.

I hear several of you already plan to make the trip but I wanted to write and encourage more to do so. The show is for a great cause. The American Cancer Society. Last year, thanks to many of you, we had net income of just over \$27,000.00. It was a great show.

Looks like this year will break all records. We expect over 700 cars.

The Sports Car Club of America will be in town having a Pro/Solo event, "Austin Powers" will be here to help celebrate Minis 50th birthday, The Terry Mike Jeffery Band will be on stage Saturday night, all day long live entertainment, door prizes, great food, auctions and this year two big raffles. The first for \$5000 cash and the second is for a 1980 Corvette. I know its the wrong make but heck you can use it as a down payment on a cool British Car.

Saturday, after the show and before the entertainment, I plan to feed the British car owners that stay the night. The meal will be for all the British Car owners but in honor of the members of BMCA. Because of all that's going on Saturday night we will eat a little early this year, 6PM.

Once again the Brits will get a police escort to the show. Remember, this year Gayle Nelson is giving an award in memory of Doug. I hope we can have a good bunch of BMCA members to help present that award.

British cars coming from GOBMC, British Iron, KC Healey Club, Memphis, Nashville, Blount and Chattanooga TN Clubs, St Louis Jags, MG's and Healeys all sending cars, Jackson MS, and Minis coming from as far away as Florida to celebrate the Minis 50th birthday.

I hope to see you in Blytheville June 6th.....but I do need you to pre register so I know how much fish to have at my house Sat night.

For more info go to www.carsandcyclesagainstcancer.com

Thanks!!

**Barry Harrison** 

### **BMCA Dance Troupe News**

As per our last newsletter, Barbara Beuch is acting as the chairman of the BMCA Dance Troupe. Our first act will take place at the Cars and Cycles Against Cancer Car Show in Blytheville, AR on Saturday, June 6, where we will compete against other car clubs in attendance.

So that you'll know a little bit about the dance we are going to do, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO0-acQFRYk

After you finish laughing and get up off the floor, you'll have to ask Barbara when we are going to practice. And trust me, if you plan to allow me to dance we will need lots of practice

This is the message received from Barry Harrison, our club member from Blytheville who helps put their show on:

You guys better start practicing. There has been a challenge issued. Please forward this to anyone making the trip to Blytheville. Mini Clubs have issued a challenge to the VW clubs and that has turned into one to all the Brits. I've also heard the Germans might come back with a chicken dance challenge. Anyone know that one?? I hear Ron McLeod does!!

Judy Wheeler, Co-Chair (as so ordained by Barbara)

Marque Responsibility Reminder			
Month	Event	Tech Talk	
May	TR	АН	
June	MG	Empire	
July	АН	TR	



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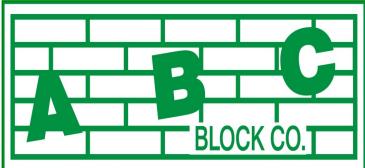
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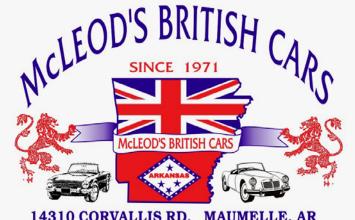
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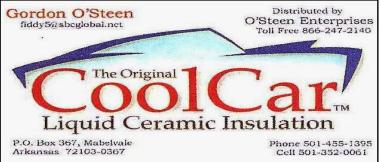
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# **BMCA Membership and Advertising Rates**

Yearly membership is \$30.00 for the primary member and \$15.00 for the associate. Yearly renewal deadline is March each year.

Advertising in the Bits and Spares is available to members and non-members alike. (Members do get a discount of course!)

One Month/One Year\* Non-Member Rate
Eighth Page \$5.00 / \$48.00 \$10.00 / \$60.00
Quarter Page \$9.00 / \$86.40 \$18.00 / \$120.00
Half Page \$16.00 / \$153.60 \$32.00 / \$220.00
Full Page \$30.00 / N/A \$64.00 / N/A
\*Yearly rate must be same ad, 12 issues.

Classified ads (items for sale or trade) for members are free. Non-members may submit an ad for \$5.00 per month. Classified ads will be published as space allows.

## 

### "Model-T" Enthusiasts at BMCA?

Sure. But a British car lover's enthusiasm might not be for the old Ford Model-T, but rather for MG's legendary T-Series. The MG T-Series is believed by many to represent the benchmark in classical sports car design.

The T-Series models and a bit of production information are as follows:

### Model Years of Production # Vehicles Produced

7		
TA	1936-39	3000
TB	1939-40	379
TC	1945-50	10000
TD	1950-53	30000
TF	1953-55	9600

In 1955 the T-Series was replaced by MG's sleek new entrant into the sports car arena, the stylish MGA.

A review of the 2009 BMCA Roster reveals that eight BMCA members are "Model-T" owners.

Check it out. Bert Pranter, MG Marque Leader

### <del>DOPODODODODODODODODODO</del>

Off. Ph. 870-534-2579 email: fess@seark.net

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# Real Horse Power!



Jennifer and Bobby Ahart (AKA Tristan's parents and David & Katherine McMahon's daughter & son-in-law) brought three of their miniature horses to visit at the April Swap Meet. Blue, Sky and Stormy showed what "real" horse power was all about. During the day, these three patient and friendly animals provided much entertainment and education for children and adults alike. A miniature horse is not a pony, but rather a full grown small horse. They range from around 26-38 inches at the withers as adults. The Aharts got involved with showing miniatures almost a year ago and several of their horses are being trained as therapy pets. This wonderful creature will bring comfort and smiles to ----kids as well as adults.

At the end of the day, some good old fashion horse trading was transacted, while I checked out Sky and Stormy for a possible employment opportunity. Keeper was not at all impressed with this idea.

It really is true that miniature horses are currently being trained as guides. There are several advantages to using a horse as a guide instead of a dog. The most valuable one is a horse's longer life. A dog can work for up to ten years, where a horse might provide services for over 30 years. The excellent vision is a tremendous plus. Since horses have eyes on the sides of their heads, they have a very wide range of vision: nearly 350 degrees. This is second only to mothers, who we all know have eyes in the back of their heads. My personal favorite advantage to a horse over a dog, is they eat grass. So not only would I get an excellent guide, it doubles as a lawn mower! Well it is a intriguing idea, but I will stick with Keeper and continue to use dogs. Besides, Gary just bought a riding lawn mower. I sure don't want to take away his fun.

While sitting around the fire at the end of the day, Jennifer said she was getting ready to shave their winter coats off in preparation for summer and the show season. From there the conversation went to spinning it and making club vests. Hey, I knit, anyone out there spin? Thank you for adding this fascinating entertainment to the Swap Meet this year. Check out www.guidehorse.org for more information. Watch for Jennifer's up and coming site (that will be up when her Mom finishes with BMCA's website) <a href="https://www.minidreamsminiatures.com">www.minidreamsminiatures.com</a>. Barbara Ann Bolin

# A Study in the Psychological Effect of Owning A British Car

This all starts when you decide to buy a British Car. Once the transaction is made you realize the car now owns you. If not running, this is the first thing one must do so as soon as possible at whatever expense it takes (irregardless that you just spent all available funds when you bought it.) It is now hard to concentrate on your work because you are constantly thinking of how to fix up your car and how to get the money (robbing a bank is out). But you could Sell your coin collection or borrow from the bank. That next day was a very long day, but you finally home to touch and clean your car. The yard needs mowed but that can wait because the car now comes first. You have already taken pictures to show all your friends. You didn't get much sleep last night for thinking of yourself driving with the top down and the wind in your hair.

Soon you're on the internet searching for anything about your car, but you have got to find a workshop manual. Finally, you stop to check your emails and there is an email from a friend who has another friend who has a British car. Yes the hunt is on, you email your new friend who you have not met yet (oh yes, you include pictures). He emails you back "There is a place right here in Arkansas that has parts, it is McLeods British Cars 501-851-2640 or 1-800-352-5816, or email @ mcleodco@swbell.net. If you are into British cars, you have got to see this place."

Soon you are at McLeods, it is a British car mecca, more British cars than any place in Arkansas, and almost any new parts needed – and they have manuals.

Now, with the manual in hand you read it cover to cover memorizing passages and facts. With this information in hand, the car would soon be running & driving. Its night time again, thoughts of fixing the car running through your head. Yes, another night with little sleep. The next day, work suffered because now you have the knowledge to bring your dream to life (sort of like the Frankenstein Movie)

For hours you have been checking the fuel, setting valves, cleaning the spark plugs, checking the timing and making sure you've got spark. Then it fired off and ran. It was better than sex, well not maybe that good ... but close. The warm sensation of excitement runs through you then you realize it was just the warm coffee you spilt in the excitement.

# 

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 BMCA and Regional Events**

Sat April 18, 2009 - Batesville Scottish Fest - Details pg 1

Sun May 24, 2009 - TR Marque Rally and Cookout - see pg 3

Sat June 6, 2009 - Cars & Cycles Against Cancer - Blytheville, AR - see pg 5 - special BMCA challenge!

Sat June 13, 2009 - Clean up Morning at Petit Jean - contact Ron McLeod if you plan on helping

Sat June 20, 2009 - Petit Jean Antique Car Show and Swap Meet - make plans now.

**July 13 - 17, 2009** - NAMGAR GT-34 Hot Springs, AR - Need help for BMCA sponsored Ralley Thurs 7/17 Show day is Wed, with an area for all British Cars. barrett1@sbcglobal.net

Sat Sept 19, 2009 - St. Louis MG Club Annual Show

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

