



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

February 2009

Sunday February 22, 2009 - BMCA 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY RUN

We will be leaving at 12:00 (High Noon) . We'll all meet at the Walmart parking lot at Chenal & Hwy 10. The event will consist of a short run where you will be in one of two groups who will trace the route taken on the first official BMCA run 20 years ago. It should take no more than an hour for the actual run. At the completion of the run we will crusade, either individually or as a caravan, over to LCYC for hot dogs, chips and sodas. Memories around of 20 years worth of camaraderi-eship and adventures will be shared. A special birthday cake is being provided by the MG Marque.

Cost is only \$10 per Car which includes the eats at LCYC after the drive. Tickets will be available at the event or at LCYC if you wish to join us there afterwards (around 2'ish).

March Healey Marque Event

We're going antiquing to Morris Antiques in Keo. We'll leave the yacht club at 1:00 pm on March 8th. We'll go to the Galloway Petro truck stop and pick up anybody that want to meet us there at 1:30. We'll leave shortly hereafter. Maps will be handed out at both rendezvous points. We'll spend approximately (??) an hour there. If you want to stay longer you're welcome to go home at your convenience. Bring your stimulus check because I've been told they've got lots of GOOD STUFF! Jim Peckham

TR Marque Changes

Parris McCullah, our current TR Marque Leader, is being deployed to Afghanistan and has passed his marque leadership for the rest of this year to TR member Bob Ross. Bob graciously volunteered to assume the TR marque responsibilities while Parris is partaking in the defense of everyone's right to world-wide freedom, something we in the USA are so privileged to enjoy.

Bob - Thank you for stepping up and being the 2009 TR Marque Leader.

Parris - Stay safe, our thoughts and prayers will be with you as we will await your return.

Prez Sez

Sit back and enjoy what Doug had to say about Springtime:

I have this favorite memory from childhood in Arkansas about February. When my brother and I were kids, one of our tasks was to slice up potatoes for planting and this always happened in February. So after the nasty weather of December and January, potato planting time toward the end of February was sort of our unofficial beginning of spring. How can you place that slice of potato with its eye ready to "bloom" in the furrow without thinking of SPRINGTIME?

Rejoice, dear hearts; spring is almost here. Think – "convertible weather", and just like the gardener, the LBC'er needs to take care of business.

Most of our runs in the winter are short and sweet. With spring and summer come more lengthy rallies and some of them are out of towners. Now is the time to check over our cars for frayed, cracked, rusty or just plain old worn out. When spring fever really hits you big time on that perfect April morning, that is not the time to be performing surgery on your loved one (car, that is). Look her over really well, make a to-do list and take care of business.

Doug Nelson
Prez

What a treat it was to have the NAMGAR Chairman, Vice Chairman, and GT-34 Chairman at our February meeting. They are looking forward to our helping with GT-34, and so am I.

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 monthly meeting. (or anytime!)

Scottish Fest 2009

The Scottish Fest is Saturday April 18. The central and southern Arkansas group will gather at that famous Scottish restaurant (McDonald's) across from McCain Mall in North Little Rock to leave at 7:00 am. We will cruise to Search where we meet at the famous Scottish restaurant to pick up additional BMCA'ers to join the group. We'll make our way to Batesville arriving at about 9:00 am, set up our cars for display, put our chairs out and enjoy the day.

Don your kilts, dresses and other Scottish attire (not required but a fun part of the day) and join us for a memorable day. Contact Ron McLeod or your marque leader for additional details and stay tuned for more news next month.

Secretaries Minutes -February 3, 2009

WOW! Did we have a great turn-out at the February's meeting? We had 45 present with 4 being visitors. Ronnie invited new member, Gus Kemp. Katherine McMahon brought a friend, Dr. Kim Miller. We were surprised with the attendance of 3 NAMGAR GT-34 members, Ken Langford, George Meriwether, and Bruce Woodson. The minutes from January were passed out, read, and approved. Ms. Wheeler passed out a copy of the treasury report, with an ending balance of \$6,341.03. Ronnie reported on the last rally, the Polar Bear run. This year, we had 30 cars, approximately 60 people - with most in costume. After the beautiful drive, 10 took the full dip, about 3 got wet up to their knees for the 'Polar Plunge' at Gulpha Gorge. I had another female to join me this year. YEAH! Lon had to add that there were 11 MG's to 7 Triumph's.

Prez Brenda presented everyone with a copy of the 2009 budget. It was voted on and accepted.

February 22nd is our 20th Anniversary Rally hosted by Steve Mers. In his absence, Mr. Pranter explained it is a repeat of the very 1st rally ever done by the BMCA. We will meet at the Walmart parking lot at Chenal & Hwy 10 at HIGH NOON. If you bought a dash plaque, you were given a number. The 'evens' will leave and drive one way and the 'odds' will drive the opposite direction. Somewhere in the middle both halves will pass each other. If you didn't buy a dash plaque, you can still come and join the festivities, the cost is \$10 per car. Food and drinks will be at LCYC afterwards.

The March run will be on the 2nd Sunday in March, the 8th. We will meet at the LCYC, drive to Morris Antiques. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

Mar. 20-21 Brenda said the trip to New Orleans to celebrate her birthday is still on, but they will not be in the LBC's. Those that want to go can join the trip and follow the Collin's and Ross' in one of their vans.


April is the Swap meet and the Scottish Festival. More info later.

Ken Langford, from NAMGAR, gave a daily itinerary of the planned events for the July event in Hot Springs. Sounds like lots of fun. BMCA is to sponsor a rally Thursday, July 16th.

Brad Beuch gave the Empire marque tech talk. He has 25 years of Lotus LTD. magazines. He was looking over them and noticed an article about a plastic connector in the fuel line. It seemed that the connectors failed, causing fires. Since he has an early Lotus', he went out and looked, and guess what? His connector was still plastic. A few cents to prevent a fire is a small price to pay. Bob Harris was present, and since it has been so long since he had given us one of his enlightened tech talks, Brenda asked him to do one. He got his car out for a rally, going thru the checklist to make sure she was road worthy. He decided to take her for a short run. She died. He went thru the series of items that would make her die like that and could NOT find the problem. He felt really dingy when he found out she was just out of gas.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: Katherine McMahon's B-day 1st and their anniversary is the 14th. Jeannine Boakie- 22nd, Bob and Judy Ross anniversary-16th, Michelle Smith has her B-day- 27th and their anniversary is also the 27th.

Wilma Newton's J badge was drawn by Ken Langford for the door prize. I chose polishing cloths and detailing brushes.



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McLeod's and BMCA Annual Swap Meet April 4, 2009

Gather all those spare parts and other car related items to offer at the Swap Meet. There are attendees slated to be there from several states and something for all!



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BMCA Membership and Advertising Rates

It is renewal time. If you haven't signed up this year, do so now ... Yearly membership is \$30.00 for the primary member and \$15.00 for the associate. You need to have your dues paid by the March meeting to continue receiving the wonderful variety of BMCA benefits.

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.

2009 BMCA Membership Roster Info

The 2009 BMCA Membership Roster will be published within the next 30 days or so. If any of your information has changed (name, address, contact phone and/or e-mail or changes in your LBC ownership), get those details to Bob (bross3396@sbcglobal.net) or Michael Ross (membership@bmca.net) as soon as possible.

Marque Responsibility Reminder

Month	Event	Tech Talk
March	AH	TR
April	Empire	MG
May	TR	AH

Fuse Knowledge for your Little British Car

I have discovered that the British fuses used in our lbc's are rated differently than American fuses that you buy at your local auto supply store. The British rate their fuses for the amperage that will blow the fuse. American fuses are rated for the amperage that they will carry safely. These two values are not even close to the same rating. If you use a fuse with too high a rating you can let all the smoke out before the fuse blows if it blows at all.

First rule: Keep extra British fuses of the correct rating in your car.

Second rule: Make a copy of this list below and keep it in your car too, so you can buy a properly rated American fuse if you don't have the British fuse.

English Type	Buss Replacement
50	25
35	20
30	15
25	15
20	10
10	5
5	3

This information was taken from issue 99 of the Vintage Triumph Register magazine. If you would like to read the original article I'd be happy to make you a copy. Bob Ross

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I attended the last BMCA meeting that I will be able to attend for a while. Last night was one of the best meetings yet and even though the guest speaker talked about MGA's, I guess they are proud of the few that do run! Hee Hee. We will ask them again what they think when they get (if they get) to the top of Petite Jean Mountain, that should take care of those few that are running. I have greatly enjoyed being the Triumph Marque Leader for the last year and one half and owe the success to all the members that help and always had fun doing it. I will be back before ya'll know it. The next Triumph Marques run will be to the Scottish Fest in Batesville. (Point em and let em rip). I finally have my own Kilt and stuff and won't be able to attend this year but my knees will be there by proxy. I would encourage everyone that goes the Scottish Fest get into the spirit to participate (DRESS UP) in the festivities. I guarantee that you will enjoy yourself. Get into the fun and learn what the Scottish traditions is all about and each year that you attend will always the best and continue to get better. Parking is great and close, we are right in the middle of the Clans gathering place. It is a great day and night for all if you plan on staying the night and returning Sunday. As to my replacement for Triumph Marque Leader, remember if you are fortunate enough have a Triumph, you represent the finest British Car made that stands out over the rest of the slower British cars, just ask Wilma. Oh sorry getting carried away. What were we talking about? Oh Yea, Replacement, Lead By example and lets find a good winery to go to. Triumph owners unit and pick one. I am really going to miss you guys. Thanks for all your warm friendship!!!! I SHALL RETURN, darn that one was taken! See ya later.

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Austin Healey Marque News

This is gonna be short because I've procrastinated too long and don't have time to write much. I mostly want to say I'm looking forward to being the Healey marque leader and to this summer.

We've got quite a few big Healeys that are being worked on. I'm going to try to update everyone on their progress in the next newsletter. Also some Sprites we haven't heard from lately. March is the Healey event so you Healey owners need to get your cars ready to go and show our club that there's more than just one or two Healey members.

Thanks for your support! Jim Peckham

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**45th Annual
West Tennessee Antique Car Show & Swap Meet**

Saturday, May 23, 2009 in Downtown Jackson, sponsored by the West Tennessee Antique Car Club. Located in Courthouse/City Hall area, Main Street at Highland Ave. (US 45). 9 am till 4 pm. Registration until 12 noon. 25 judged classes. Registration \$20 for first vehicle, each additional \$10. Spectators free. Food available in show area. For more information, call 731-668-2863; 731-427-6633.

Empire Building

Lord Admiral Nelson may have mis-spoke when he said "The sun shall never set on the British Empire", he would of been right, however, if he had been speaking of the Empire Marque, alas, just another example of nation building gone wrong - or is it an example of quality auto manufacturing gone right? I prefer to think of the latter....

When speaking of the four British marques, only the empire marque continues to produce new model vehicles, granted MG is attempting to rise from the dead, under Chinese ownership, and the Triumph names still appears on the tanks of motorcycles, but the Little British Cars made by Triumph, MG and Austin Healey, are limited to the ones that have found homes or that are hidden away in barns, rusting in fields and being used to keep others alive. We all mourn their passing!

Since only cars associated with the Empire marque are still being produced - that obviously means that empire cars RULE! You lesser marque members will just have to be content drooling over the Morgans, Jaguars, Rolls Royces, Minis, Rovers, and yes, the Loti's.

To aid all you non-Empire owners in reaching your goals, of being part of the empire marque, each month I will be providing a brief history of the empire manufacturers and what it currently being manufactured for distribution in the United States.

First up, in the March edition, Lotus LTD, so sit back, buckle up and hang onto your wallets! Until next month....

Happy Motoring! Brad Beuch

A very interesting article about wiring from the Moss Motors Tech section submitted by Gary Bolin

Starting in the Wet Lucas, Prince of Darkness, A Bad Rap?

I have driven my 1960 Bugeye Sprite since 1961, when I bought it new. I'm not totally convinced that Lucas should be blamed for wet-starting problems. My Sprite will start and run when even a relatively new piece of Detroit or Japanese iron won't.

If your car runs fine once it starts, but won't start in the rain or fog, chances are you have a very easily solved problem.

Most likely you have bad high voltage ignition wires. Replace them. If they are relatively new, take off your distributor cap with wires and run them through your dishwasher. For your own safety, I would suggest you do this sometime when your spouse is at the mall or somewhere else. (A wipe-down won't do as well, since the wires will still have a film of oil which will attract and hold moisture leading to a short.)

After the wash, rinse and dry cycles, make sure the carbon brush is still in the cap. Now remove the wires from the cap, clean the distributor and fire it up. If you have done it well, and you have no other problems like a defective coil, bad points, or cracked cap, etc., your engine will now start and run regardless of the weather.

I wash my wires every year or so and my Sprite and Triumph will fire right up, even after a long winter's nap, regardless of the weather.

Tom K'Burg Salem, NJ

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Your Contribution could be Here

Bits and Spares is the primary communication medium for BMCA'ers. Most of us look forward to each months edition and the news and knowledge it contains. Do your part and send something in today - an article, a classified ad, ANYTHING you think other BMCA'ers would find of interest. (Contact information on Pg 2)

The History Of The English Flag

If you look at the Union Flag (or Jack) closely, you will see that it is actually made up of three different flags! One for England, one for Scotland, and one for Ireland. The English flag of St. George is a red upright cross on a white background, and was used as long ago as the 13th century in the crusades.

The Flag of St. Andrew of Scotland is a white diagonal (or to use the terminology of flag heraldry – "saltire") cross on a blue background. It was added to the St. George's flag on the unification of England and Scotland in 1603.

The flag of St. Patrick of Ireland is a red diagonal cross on a white background. It was added after the Act of Union in 1801. These three flags form the Union Jack we know today.

The flag is always flown with the broader white diagonal upright, nearest the top of the flagpole. If it is ever flown upside down, with the broad white stripe at the base, it is usually taken as a sign of distress! While this distress signal was usually limited to the high seas, it was also used when the English forces were under siege, as in the Boer War, or during the fighting in India in the late 18th century.



Ponderings to Share

I came across this phrase recently: "FENDER SKIRTS".

A term I haven't heard in a long time and thinking about "fender skirts" started me thinking about other words that quietly disappear from our language with hardly a notice like "curb feelers". Do You Remember these terms???? And "steering knobs." (AKA) suicide knob.

Since I'd been thinking of cars, my mind naturally went that direction first. Any kids will probably have to find some elderly person over 50 to explain some of these terms to you.

Remember "Continental kits"? They were rear bumper extenders and spare tire covers that were supposed to make any car as cool as a Lincoln Continental.

When did we quit calling them "emergency brakes"? At some point "parking brake" became the proper term. But I miss the hint of drama that went with "emergency brake ."
I'm sad, too, that almost all the old folks are gone who would call the accelerator the "foot feed."

Didn't you ever wait at the street for your daddy to come home, so you could ride the "running board" up to the house?

"Coast to coast" is a phrase that once held all sorts of excitement and now means almost nothing. Now we take the term "world wide" for granted.

Submitted by a BMCA'er



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BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday March 3, 2009

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

Calendar of Regional Events

Sun Feb 22 - BMCA 20th Anniversary Memory Lane Tour - see pg 4

Sat. March 21, 2009 - New Orleans Annual British Car Day - www.bmcno.org

Sat April 4, 2009 - Annual BMCA/McLeod's Swap Meet - start gathering those items for sale!

Sat. April 19, 2009 - Batesville Scottish Fest - More details next month

Sat. June 6, 2009 - Cars & Cycles Against Cancer - Blytheville, AR - Special BMCA

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

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

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



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