



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

January 2009

2009 Polar Bear Run

I woke up this morning early with excited anticipation of today January 10th, 2009. It's "POLAR BEAR RUN" day.

Vera and I left in our TR4 to meet a few others at Lake Corvallis before going to the Shackleford Crossing shopping center in Little Rock to meet the rest of the group. As we pulled into the parking lot we knew immediately we were at the right place. We were met by "Jimmy Hendrix" Wheeler and his sniper mate Judy, followed by "Elmer Fudd" Peckham. Soon a flock of Penguins showed up. Even an English "Bobby" chasing "Adam & Eve" in their fig leaves was spotted. A Bunny Rabbit, Al Capon's girlfriend, a portly Jedi, a Bavarian couple, a Shepherd and one of his sheep, the Polar Sprinkling Ice Cap and I was the Abominable Highlander. There were so many costumes this year; it was good to see so many get into the Polar Bear spirit.



It was 9:00 am, 30 degrees, cold and windy - perfect Polar Bear weather. Soon the caravan of around 20 British (plus assorted 'other') cars was off indirectly to Hot Springs. Everyone was caravanning along just fine until an unexpected 'pit' stop caused everyone behind that vehicle to 'pit' stop along with them (remember follow the car in front of you?). The caravan rule of watching for the car behind you and stopping didn't quite work out as planned with this adventure. But with the help of cell phones the final car in the convoy contacted the lead car and news was filtered down. One couple did stop at a schedule road turn waiting for others to either come back or catch up. Again, cell phones to the rescue and they caught up with the first group. At this point we have two groups - until the Owensville Convenience store where we surprised the employees with 30 plus cars and most of their customers in costumes of all sorts (in January).



After taking care of business, we headed to Gulpha Gorge for the annual 'Polar Plunge'. Moe Boakie was the Polar Bears best friend this year as he passed around a special 'blood warmer' to all of those about to take the plunge. There were more Polar Bears this year than ever before - 10 men and 1 woman. After the 'Polar Bears' became their normal selves the votes were tabulated and winners announced. This years Polar Bear Spirit Award was given to Elmer Fudd (Peckham) and the best costume to Jim Scroggins and Nita in their matching Penguin outfits. (Their car even came costumed in the spirit of).



Now we're off to the Arlington Hotel to recoup and prepare for the evening supper at the "Brau Haus" German restaurant. Beverages consumed, dinner was served and the Oompha Band arrived on stage. This couple has been a main-stay at the "Brau Haus" for years. They are great entertainers in German fashion and are great at convincing a group of BMCA'ers to get up and do the 'Chicken Dance'. It is a sight to be seen, even more fun to participate in!!

Back to the hotel - Hot Tub and Hospitality Room. Many thanks to Bob & Judy Ross for volunteering their room to serve as the 'BMCA suite' this year!! Slowly, one or two at a time, folks started calling it an evening. It was Sunday already before the last ones tucked their selves in after an event filled day.

Breakfast was at the Pancake House for most while some fared at the Arlington and others opted to sleep in. Checkout time found us gathered at the 'Parking Room' to ready and leave by 11:00 after the Drivers Meeting (whatever good that did).

Shivering with a smile Ronnie McLeod

(more pics pg 5 & www.bmca.net)

Prez Sez

In August, I started using Doug's Prez Says, as I knew you would enjoy them as much as I do, and since I am around in the Prez position for another year, I plan to continue using them thru July. By then, we will have read all that he wrote during his term as Prez.

January 2002 - Prez Says

At this time of personal resolutions for the New Year, I'd like to share one that I make to myself each year. Those of you who know me well, (I've managed to fool a few) understand why I have to make it anew each year. My resolution is that I will strive for just a little (I'm not greedy) bit of humility. In many ways our lifestyle here in the good ol' USA looks like the "best of all possible worlds." While enjoying a cold one with friends, Charlie Collins and I have often echoed back the other's comment "life is good." It's easy to take this for granted. It's easy to accept the idea that our "hard work and good planning" has earned us this wonderful lifestyle. It's much closer to the truth and more than a little humbling to realize that our comfy condition is due to two hundred plus years of inspired risk taking, innovation and ultimate sacrifice by a few million other folks. I'm sure Wade Shownes could do a far better job than I explaining Who motivated them. All our "hard work and good planning" is more like the curtain call at the end of a five act play. Wow, how do we deal with that? Humility and then charity. Humility tells us that the fruits of our labors are as much a gift from our grandfathers as from the sweat of our brows. Charity is the thought made into deed. It is the bended knee to honor the real heavy lifters. Whew! Got carried away - sorry about that.

While I try not to waste too much time apologizing for my good fortune, it is helpful to mentally list some of the forces which make it so and for which we can take little or no credit. One example is: the nation, the state, the community in which we live make it possible to have an avocation which allows an LBC (little British Car) (e.g. a really sexy, baby blue TRIUMPH TR4), a pretty good vocation to pay for same and the leisure to enjoy the excellent company of like minded individuals whom we are fortunate to call friends. Pretty cool, huh? Seems right that the BMCA should participate in that "humility and then charity" thing, huh? Since the club was formed in 1989, we have committed a portion of our funds each year to local, community-based charity. This year we increased that amount. The Rescue Mission goes one-on-one with the down and out, hard luck folks who need help. It gives the bare essentials to set up a "home" to those who are willing to make some effort in a positive direction. Often, it offers "rescue" to whoever walks through their doors while making no demands at all. Many of those people would be sleeping beneath interstate underpasses if not for the selfless efforts of the hard working, poorly paid folks who run the show. We in the BMCA can say "life is good". Let's continue to pay homage to the source of the good life with our charity.

*Happy Trails and simper fi,
Doug*

FYI.....In December, BMCA again donated \$300 to the Union Rescue Mission

Enjoy Life
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!)



Secretaries Minutes - January 6, 2009

Hello again, everyone. Being the first at the restaurant, I started the introductions of our newest members, Jerry and Dianna McCullough, with a 72 MGB. It was great to have Jim Scoggins back with us, and he brought a lady friend, Nita Chenault. Glad to have you join our fun. We had 33 members present to welcome them with grace, style, and our famous camaraderie. (Boy- is that an oxymoron. J)

The minutes of the Board meeting on Jan 3rd, were passed out and accepted. Judy Wheeler, our new Treasurer, recited the beginning budget and ending balance of \$6,146.03.

Barbara Beuch , Vice Prez, reported on the Christmas party. We had 58 in attendance. It seemed all had lots of fun and good food. Many thanks went out to the volunteers that donated the door prizes. Special thanks went to her BIG elf, Brad.

On Jan. 10th, a call is going out for all polar bears to assemble at Cracker Barrel, at exit 5 on 430, also known as the Shackelford Mall. Site-seer's were also welcomed to join. Driver's meeting, with maps and directions would be a 9 am. After a beautiful drive through the countryside, the true polar bears will show the how they dip at the Gorge. On to the Arlington, the arrangement have been made ahead of time, to let them know of our arrival, so that we can drive on back to the exhibit area, so that we don't stop and boggle the other hotel traffic. Remember there is a \$12 fee for parking in an enclosed, locked area. Small price to pay for peace of mind.

February 22nd, is the 20th Anniversary Rally. Steve Mers says it is a repeat of the very first rally done by the BMCA. Buying a dash plaque, either gave you a even or odd number. The even numbers will drive one way and meet the odds driving the other way. It isn't as confusing as you think.

March 20-21 there is a car show in New Orleans. Some members are planning to attend in honor of Brenda's 60th Birthday. They remember the blast of her 50th, and want to do it again.

April is full of fun. With the warmer weather (we hope), we have the Swap meet on the 4th, and the Scottish Festival on the 19th. More information will be in the upcoming newsletters.

Ronnie did the tech talk, named De-engineering VS. Re-engineering. This car drove in and ran, but had no power or 4th gear. It was a site to be seen. The distributor had no counter weights in it. It was all wired together to make it run. That is what you get when you have someone that doesn't work on British cars get a hold of yours.

Charles Hutchison has a Got and a Goof. Charles got a new Mini that Lisa is now driving, which is how he got his goof.

Jack Brashear got a new toolbox for his new garage. Transferring tools is such a hard job. There were several that gave him advice on how to accomplish it with the least amount of steps taken.

Gayle Nelson thanked Ronnie and all the gang who came to her rescue. Her hot water tank blew and flooded her basement with 2 in. of water. They got furniture up off of the floor, carried boxes out to the garage, and took out the wet carpet. Been there and done that, it's a chore all of its own.

Jan birthdays: Ronnie McLeod and Elvis share the 8th. Mike and Lisa Ross- their 2nd anniversary
Jim Stanhope won the door prize and chose car accessories.

The 2009 Annual BMCA Board meeting commenced a few minutes late on Saturday January 3 because our lovely Ms. Prez was being detained in traffic from her travels. She arrived 90 minutes sooner than her estimated time of arrival, according where she told us she was. I think she was trying to fool us.

Ms. Prez went over the 2008 budget, and the recommendations for the 2009 expenditures. (Special thanks was given to Jim Peckham for his donation of printing and postage for the newsletters.) A sheet with contact numbers of board members was passed around to give Brenda a direct number to reach any of us that she may need. Copies of the BMCA by-laws were passed out to all board members present. We also went over the calendar of events for 2009, with detail being discussed about the NAMGAR meeting in Hot Springs this July. The event will be discussed again at a later date. The NAMBGR insurance was discussed, making sure there were still 8 policies on the list. Michelle Smith discussed the advertising space available in the newsletter, along with cost.

It was brought before the board to make the "Web Master" a board position. The discussion that followed was directed toward all the steps it takes to change the By-laws legally. With that respect, Barbara Beuch motioned and it was seconded to make "Web Master" an official volunteer position.

The motion to adjourn was seconded, and the visiting began.

BMCA Membership and Advertising Rates

It's renewal time. If your name is highlighted on the mailing label (pg 8) ... 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.



Polar Bear 2009 shirts are still available. Order yours today... Only \$20.00 for your very own quality embroidered long sleeve shirt with the 2009 Polar Bear logo. The February meet-

ing is your last chance to get yours ordered. After that the logo will be retired making your shirts all the more valuable... Contact Katherine McMahon at flyingstitchez@comcast.net.

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Have you been out to the BMCA website lately? If not, next time your surfing, check it out! Our new webmaster, Katherine McMahon is doing a fantastic job bringing the site up to date. There are many new features. A forum was created for people to discuss British Car issues. The Photo Gallery has been updated and you can find photos from various BMCA events, including this years Polar Event. Events - both current BMCA as well as others around the country can now be found with little more than a click... Add this site to your favorites and visit it often as she maintains it regularly. If you have pictures, other contributions or suggestions for the web site, Katherine would love to hear from you. She's as close as the contact link on BMCA's newest world-wide presence.



Marque Responsibility Reminder

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

BMCA POLAR BEARS 2009



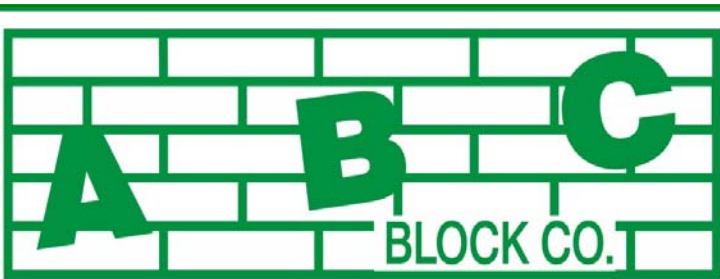
**IT IS TIME for the
BMCA 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY RUN**

SUNDAY February 22, 2009. Starting time is High Noon. We'll all meet at the Walmart parking lot at Chenal & Hwy 10. This will be a short run tracing the route taken on the first official BMCA run way back when. It should take no more than an hour for the actual run. At the completion of the run we will crusade over to LCYC for hot dogs, chips and sodas. There will even be a special birthday cake provided by the MG Marque.

The first 30 registered paid participants have been entered into a drawing which will result in one of the early registrants winning an extra special BMCA keepsake. Although the dash plaques are gone, you will still want to join us for this most memorable event.

Cost is only \$10 per Car and this includes partaking in the eats at LCYC after the drive. Steve Mers will have tickets at the Feb. meeting and at the beginning of the run itself.

It will be great, you don't want to miss this trip down memory lane!!



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PAUL HOWARD

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BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday February 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 BMCA'ers.

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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