



# Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

July 2009

## Petit Jean 2009

Each year on Fathers Day weekend (and the week preceding said) MOTAA hosts an Annual Swap Meet and Car Show. BMCA adds the 'British' presence to this event which consists primarily of very nice antique American vehicles. MOTAA is very strict in their judging where everything centers on originality. There are many outstanding representations from the world of automobiles represented at Petit Jean each year. And this year, BMCA members again made their mark as you can see:



**Seniors Award (Minimum of 90 points)**  
Ken Coyle.....62 Austin Healey 3000 MK II  
Jim & Jane Clark.....60 Jaguar MK IX



**First Place Winners: (80 points or more)**  
Jim & Jane Clark.....60 Jaguar MK IX  
Gary Neely.....MGA  
Moe & Jeannine Bokaie.....76 TR 6



**Second Place Winners: (minimum 70 points)**  
Jim Peckham.....Mini Cooper  
Ted Bland.....70 MGB  
Jim Wheeler.....74 TR Spitfire  
Ken Coyle.....BSA mortar cycle



**Third Place Winners: (minimum 60 points)**  
Charles Collins.....61 MGA  
Jim Peckham.....62 MGA  
Jean Elwell.....74 TR 6  
Charles Hutchison.....59 TR 3A  
Ron McLeod.....65 TR 4

Congratulations to ALL BMCA'ers and their fine examples of British driving pleasure!!

And then there is the Swap Meet and Arts & Craft vendors all around the car show. AND we can't forget the Taylor estate and the camaraderie which is enjoyed each and every year. Special meals hosted by Joel and Nancy and the BMCA cooking crew (Judy Ross and Wilma Newton) and their many helpers. If you haven't been, you need to mark your calendar for Fathers Day week/weekend 2010 for an unforgettable experience!



# Prez Sez

This is the last of Doug's Prez Says from 2002 that I promised last August I would share with you. Reading them has brought back some fond memories.

July 2002 - Prez Says

*It's been a busy week with the monthly meeting and the Jacksonville Patriotic Celebration and the Pool Party at the Ross/Collins' estate. I'm told that a busy life style keeps us alert and vital. It does, doesn't it? Huh? Please tell me it does. The Jacksonville event was a bit of a surprise for me. Quite frankly, I was paying my dues to a fellow BMCA'er who has been good as gold in supporting other people's events and it was my turn to be counted when he asked. The surprise was the enjoyment I got from the sense of small town America that fit like that old comfortable shirt you wear on Saturday morning. OK, so Jacksonville's not that small and Little Rock's not that big, but the distance between them is more than miles. I got misty listening to the young'uns singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.*

*Clearfork is coming August 16th, 17th, and 18th. This is one of my favorite events of the year. It's a chance to decompress from the city life and enjoy a couple of day of*

*"summer camp." I primed the pump last year with the parts for building potato guns but this year you are on your own. Well, almost. I'd be tickled to assist anyone who asks in building their very own spud chucker.*

*Don't forget the scrumptious meals prepared by Cheryl and her domestic elves. Lots of delicious cholesterol, empty calories, yummy fats and beautiful carbs. Come on, you owe it to yourself once in a while. Bring a fan, some factor 15 sunblock and a can of OFF and you'll be fine. A tip from the ol' Prez: it does get toasty enough to make you break a sweat, bring a bottle of rubbing alcohol. With the fan blowing on you and your sweetie giving you a rub-down with the alcohol you'll be dreaming about a nice warm campfire - or something.*

*Be cool,  
The Prez*

Memories are forever.....Brenda

For those of you interested in the Triumph Trans-America Charity Drive, go to this site and read all about it:

<http://www.triumphtransamerica.org.uk>

BMCA is hoping to host the group when they pass through our area traversing from Memphis to Tulsa. More info to come.

## BMCA Officers

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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!)

## Technical TidBit

Check out this site..... <http://www.tyresave.co.uk/tyresize.html>

If you know the tyre size and aspect ratio it will calculate the overall diameter and allow you to compare the difference between two sizes of tyres.

Gary Bolin

## Secretaries Minutes - July 7, 2009

Hello again. It was great to see the 36 smiling faces in attendance. Trent Ross visited with his Grandparents, Bob and Judy. This beautiful TR3 drove up. I ran out and aggressively introduced myself and asked him to come and join us for our meeting. I didn't know he was waiting on Ronnie. I didn't scare him too bad for he, Gus Kemp, is now a new member. After welcoming members and guest, Brenda embraced a moment of sympathy to Ronnie and Jim Higgason with the passing of their family members. The minutes were passed out and approved. I apologize for misspelling Connie Castleberry's name.

Jim Wheeler gave the budget report for his wife Judy. He did a great job reading her itemized list with an ending balance of \$7,004.66.

Charles Collins gave an excellent detailed talk on what he called "The Trip from Hell", along with "expletive" points of interest. (You had to be there to understand it. \*Smile\*) Gayle Nelson driving one of Mr. Peckham's vehicle, ran out of gas, after passing 2 stations and being 5 miles away from the third. He lovingly said that his wife, Brenda, while driving from the back seat, gave wrong directions. The show was great! Gayle Nelson has started an annual award to be given away. The 'Don't Give Up!' award is to encourage owners to not give up in fixing your cars. It is in memory of her husband, Doug, in his never giving up in his battle with cancer. This year, it was awarded to a couple that both are fighting their own medical conditions, Carla and Gary Fuqua along with their TR4 (like Doug).

Bert Pranter said there were 19 who showed up for the cleanup day at Petit Jean. He now understands why the choice of tools is needed. With the large group working, it didn't take long to complete the job. He continued to tell about the Petit Jean show itself. We had 13 cars and 1 motorcycle out of 78 showing. We took home 14 trophies, details elsewhere in the newsletter. Charlie Collins stepped back up to report on the Jacksonville fireworks show. He said only 4 LBC cars showed, but the good program was filled with great fireworks. Bob Ross said he counted about 40 being at the Collin-Ross estate for potluck and fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The food was abundant and lip-smacking good.

The fireworks were not bad either. A visitor to the Rosses from California, Jim, from California where fireworks are prohibited, was like a kid in a candy store.

Charlie received an email from Parris, which he read at the meeting. Look for Parris' email address elsewhere here.

July 11<sup>th</sup> – Jim Scoggins and Nita Chenault will get married at the Chenal Valley Baptist Church at 2pm.

July 13-17- NAMGAR GT-34 show in Hot Springs. A poker run will be part of the festivities.

July 19<sup>th</sup> AH marquee event will be a short drive followed by pool party around 2:30 pm.

Discussion on what to do August 7<sup>th</sup>, concerning the Triumph Trans-American Charity Drive will be put on the back burner until next month. You can check in on what's going on – [www.TriumphnTrans-AmericanCharity.org.uk](http://www.TriumphnTrans-AmericanCharity.org.uk)

Bob Ross did an interesting tech talk on what to do in getting your LBC ready for summer (or storage).

Charlie GOT a new motor for his MGA.

Birthdays- Barbara Buech & Nita Chenault - 4<sup>th</sup>; Connie Castleberry - 14<sup>th</sup>; Wilma - 18<sup>th</sup>; Judy Ross - 19<sup>th</sup>; Jim Wheeler - 22<sup>nd</sup>; and Bob Ross - 24<sup>th</sup>.

Charles Hutchison chose a tire gauge and mini light for the door prize.

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## A Note from Afar

Well ya'll, just checking in. Got here safe and after not having ANY baggage for about a week and not having any idea where we were going, we found a temporary home in the west. Wonderful weather, everyone is talking about how we are having such a cool summer, it is only 109 at 1400 hrs in the afternoon, make me happy, yea. We could be worse. I do have an address now:

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THANKS FOR ALL THE FRIENDSHIP, PARRIS

AARP wants to help us save money on our automobile insurance rates with the AARP Driver Safety Program. Arkansas requires insurance agencies to provide a discount to persons over the age of 55 who complete the four-hour course - agencies may vary on the amount of discount offered.

The Driver Safety Program will offered once a month beginning on July 11 at the Reynolds Institute on Aging. Regular monthly classes are available on the second Saturday morning of each month from 8:30 until 12:30. Cost of the program is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members.

The Driver Safety Program is a good way to get together with friends, learn/refresh some driving skills and save money - what a deal! Call or e-mail Marsha M. Hines, Reynolds Institute on Aging, at 501-526-6553 or hinesmarsham@uams.edu to reserve your spot.



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### Marque Responsibility Reminder Chart

Month	Event	Tech Talk
August	Empire	MG
September	TR	AH
October	MG	Empire

## 2009 Cars & Cycles for Life - Blytheville, AR

Right at the crack of dawn, well ok, maybe sometime 'round Noon-thirty or so, a respectful string of 9 LBC's, lead by Charlie and Brenda Collins, left the Petro station at Galloway and I-40 with a pair of Spitfires on trailers pulled by a couple of vans, and "14 hippies in a chartreuse Micro-bus" ... no wait, that was Katherine McMahon in an RV with a pair of shaggy little dogs, no hippies (other than Ronnie) and no chartreuse micro-bus. Anyway, as we roared east on Hwy 70 and then north onto Hwy 49, generating smiles and waves from the locals, the group got an education, yep we learned two new things: First, some rotten B\*#%@\$ moved the McDonald's in Brinkley from the north side of the I-40 overpass to the south side, causing our illustrious little group to miss our planned stop for lunch, well the gas station did have bathrooms and crunchies, and that's almost as good as a Quarter Pounder w/Cheese. The second thing learned was that you should, every once in a while, look at that little gauge on your dash that's labeled FUEL. Maybe because it was a digital reading, or maybe the dash was just too full of other distractions, who knows, but we learned that a New Modern Mini, will stop all by itself and go no more, if you fail to give the car a drink every once in a while. Thankfully Jim Peckham and Jim Wheeler swooped in like Batman and Robin and rescued our stranded fair maiden, and we were again underway making it into Blytheville about 5:00 PM without further incident. After settling into the hotel, the usual merriment got started. One of the girls found that mass quantities of MOJITOS consumed before dinner can make one pretty silly, and perhaps a bit fuzzy come morning. Now everybody knows that cold beers, wine and multiple shots of single malt scotch have never had that effect on anybody. Right?

Saturday morning came and by 9:00 am or so the group made its way through town, under Police escort (Not always a bad thing, Ms. Wilma), and out to the site of the show. Our group had grown with the arrival of several more cars; a total of 15 represented the BMCA. The cars were lined up in a pair of neat little rows where drivers wiped them down so the only thing brighter than the sun reflecting off their sparkling paint was the reflection of the quite white legs of Charlie and Charles, beneath their kilts. Speaking of Charlie Collins, he may have shown more beneath his kilt than any of us wanted to see in the process of competing, and winning, a pole dancing contest with Austin Powers. Other winners that day included: Jim Peckham who took the Mayor's Choice Award for his Morgan; David McMahon was awarded the Speckled Hen Award for his MGBGT; Jim and Bunny Hofer's refurbished Austin Healy took best interior in a foreign car; Barbara Beuch won a model Mini for answering a trivia question; and rumor has it Charlie Collins took home a pocket full of cash, winning one of the many raffles held that day. Following the awards about half the group headed for home, arriving back in Little Rock without major incident. Jack Brashears blew out a 30 year old tyre on I-40, but who in their right mind runs thirty year old tyres? The rest of us headed back to the hotel, got cleaned up and made our way to Lynn and Barry Harrison's home for a catfish dinner with all the trimmings. The evening gathering was opened to all British car owners and visiting clubs, and as usual, was a fun and relaxing way to unwind at the end of the day.

Come Sunday morning the remainder of the group made ready for our trip home. The folks that made their way to Blytheville on their own found their own way home. The rest of us, putting our fate into the hands of Jim & Judy Wheeler, formed up and hit the road. Our route took us first to Osceola where we paraded our sampling of cars for Steve Bonds parents. After rightfully impressing the senior Mr. Bonds, and assorted neighbors, we headed for Hwy 14. We were going got cut straight west to Newport then south to Little Rock on 67/167. Who would of thunk that with GPS units in the Wheeler van AND the McMahon RV, we would make a tour of Northeast Arkansas that included Parkin, Wynne and countless other small towns before the eventual finding of 67/167 at Bald Knob? To add excitement to the trip, the modern Mini demonstrated it's superior technology with a warning that the tyre pressure was wrong. With the five pound difference between front and rear tyres corrected we were on the road again. Brad Beuch driving Mr. P's MGA fought the entire trip with the car running hot, couldn't run any faster than 45 to 50 MPH without risking overheating. Six hours after leaving Blytheville, the Mini and 'A' were back at home and intact, the sunburned occupants rewarded themselves with cold drinks.

Yes! Another fun filled successful BMCA event has been completed. Our support for this show has grown over the past several years and is greatly appreciated by the City of Blytheville, the American Cancer Society and Barry Harrison with his Blytheville team who put the show together. Once again our participation and enthusiasm set the standard for the show; no other club or organization came close demonstrating the grace and commitment to the event that our club continually shows. Let's keep the support going! After all was said and done, the show generated in excess of \$58,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Brad Beuch



## Markin' the Scene at Petit Jean



On the morning of Saturday June 13th, nineteen hale and hardy BMCA members converged on Petit Jean mountain to carry out the annual "Markin' of the Scene" (not to be confused with the "Wearin' of the Green").

The Mid-America Old-Time Automobile Association (MOTAA) each year counts on the fine folks at BMCA to uncover the small discs in the ground that delineate each location on the entire event field where individual vehicle displays and vendors will set up shop.

The multi-day MOTAA car show ran from Tuesday June 16th to Saturday June 20th, with Saturday being the big day, including car show and automobile judging.

The disks can be a bit tricky to locate from year to year, given the weather conditions on the mountain. The primary tools of the trade employed in this effort are metal detectors to help find the disks, and hoes to uncover them if they have been covered by soil, pine needles, or leaves since the previous year, as most have.

It's sorta like an Easter egg hunt where the Easter eggs are buried just below the surface.

Once the disks marking the corners of each site have been located, small row-and-number location flags are inserted into the ground so all displays and vendors can readily find their spot on the field.

It was a good, productive time enjoyed under a blue sky by all the BMCA members who participated.

Thanks to MOTAA for providing lunch. And thanks to BMCA'er Jerry McCullough's grandson Bryce for helping out with a metal detector. Not very many years from now Bryce will no doubt enjoy being behind the wheel of Jerry's mighty fine '72 MGB.

Keep 'em rollin!  
Bert Pranter, MG marque leader



## AH Recap



It's July!! The year is half over. You wonder where the time goes. Then you stop for a moment and look back at the polar bear run. What a hoot that was even though a little cold. That's nice to remember now that it is over 90 degrees most days.

February Steve Mers put on a great event. The 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary run was well thought out and prepared. There were more cars in one spot then there was the first year and none broke down which certainly wasn't the case the first go around.

March was the antique run. My first event of the year. This was also well thought out and thoroughly prepared. With much research and preplanning done. I just forgot one minor thing, calling ahead to see if Morris antiques would be open when we got there. They weren't. Luckily before the group formed a lynch mob the owners who lived next door showed up and graciously opened the store for us. It was really interesting; Steve bought something as well as Dena. She bought an armoire then took it home to put fairies in.

April was the swap meet. Which was a rousing success as usual. Though it was hard for me cause I always remember Doug doing most of the cooking and complaining all the while but still enjoying himself anyway. Then the Scottish festival at Batesville. It gets to be a bigger event for us ever year. Had 23 British cars from BMCA. I didn't get to go, but some of my cars did so I was there in spirit.

May was the poker run. Thank you Bob Ross and associates. I had never been on one before and I had the most fun I've had in a long time running around and around then ending up back where I started.

June was Blytheville, Cars and Cycles Against Cancer. I've never been to a car show that big. There were cars, and show cars, clunkers and beauties and everything in between. British cars were well represented by nearly 100 entries. Most marques showed up. At least the more popular ones. BMCA had 15+ entries and 3 trophies. Barry Harrison did a fine job arranging the show. He took time he didn't have to try to greet everyone, and was a great host. This is another show I will probably put on my must go list for next year. Then it was off to Petit Jean. One weekend to help with setup. The next weekend was the show itself with 12 British cars and 13 trophies. Pretty good huh? Just one hectic month for sure.

As I said you wonder where the time went? Well as for me it went by having a good time, with good friends, doing good things and I look forward to more of the same in the next six months.



## It's all about the Preparation

Let's discuss getting your car ready for driving in the Spring and getting it ready for storage in the winter. This is just general information about storing your car if you don't want to drive it for a few months. You may find some of these steps unnecessary and you may find other steps you want to take.

Here is a thorough procedure to get your car ready to store for the winter.

Wash the car carefully. Clean underneath and in the wheel wells. Wax the car. Vacuum the carpets. Take the old McDonald's bags out of the trunk. Empty the ice chest that has been in there since summer. The cleaner your car is now, the easier it will be to get it ready in the spring

Drive the car long enough to get it fully warmed up. Change the oil and filter. Fill the gas tank FULL to eliminate as much air space as possible to prevent condensation. Adding Sta-bil to the gas is a good idea too. Check the antifreeze. Put the car up on jack stands. Cover with a breathable car cover. A tarp or solid cover will trap condensation and could cause your paint to turn white in spots. If you have a trickle charger for the battery hook it up. If not then disconnect the battery and store it in an area that is not going to freeze.

Now let's bring the car back to life in the Spring.

Uncover the car. Air up the tires. Raise the hood and check all the fluids, (oil, water, battery, brakes, clutch, carb damper)

Everything should be good, so take the car off the jackstands, put it in neutral and try starting it. If it's a Triumph it will fire right up and be eager to get on the road. But don't go for a drive just yet. Check and make sure you have oil pressure, and are not showing any warning lights on the dash. Now push in the clutch pedal and see if it will shift into gear. If you hear a grinding noise stop trying to engage a gear and let the car idle in neutral. You have a frozen or stuck clutch. We'll discuss how to unstuck a clutch some other time.

After the clutch is working properly, drive the car for a few miles and let it warm up fully. Check all the fluids again, clean and polish as desired and enjoy a nice drive.

This is a very good time to get the car lubricated, rotate the tires, polish the chrome, clean up the interior, check the wiper blades, make sure all the lights are working properly.

Bob Ross



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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 published as available and space allows.



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## BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday August 4, 2009

The monthly meeting is held at **Western Sizzlin** in Benton, 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

**July 13 - 17, 2009** - NAMGAR GT-34 Hot Springs, AR - Need help for BMCA sponsored Rally Thurs 7/17

Show day is Wed, with an area for all British Cars. [barrett1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrett1@sbcglobal.net)

**July 19, 2009** - **BMCA Annual Ice Cream Social and Pool Party - AH Marque Event**

**July 24 - 26, 2009** - GOBMC 10th Annual Car & Cycle Blowout. [www.gobmc.org](http://www.gobmc.org) [mgguythorn@yahoo.com](mailto:mgguythorn@yahoo.com)

**Sept 12, 2009** - British Iron All British Car Show benefiting ALS - Fayetteville, AR [www.britishironnwa.org](http://www.britishironnwa.org)

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

**Sept 23 - 26, 2009** - MOTAA Fall Swap Meet & Military Vehicle Show - Petit Jean Mountain

*Do you know of an upcoming event? Send the information to [bmcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bmcanewsletter@gmail.com)*



British Motoring Club of Arkansas

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