Established in 1989

June 2009

Cars and Cycles Against Cancer Blytheville, AR 2009

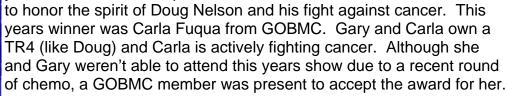
This years show lived up to it's reputation in spite of the last minute requirement to NOT have the show at the park due to the wetlands effect the recent rains have brought. Barry reported over 600 cars and cycles attended. BMCA alone brought 17 LBC's with approximately 30 members participating.

Overall the show is responsible for a donation to the American Cancer Society for almost \$30,000. And that's over and above all the really nice door prizes (even some cash awards) that many attendees went home with.

Being a car show, there is always some sort of awards involved. This year, out of the 600 cars that showed up, BMCA'ers brought home 3.

Jim Peckham got the Mayor's Award for his Morgan Jim Hofer got the best interior Award with his Austin Healey 3000 David McMahon got the "Old Speckled Hen Award" with his MGB GT

A special annual award debuted this year, the "Never Give Up" award created



And we can't forget the Austin Powers Dance, you should have been there!! And Charlie got a special prize for "pole dancing" at the Mini's

Birthday Party. Again, you should have been there!!! Some of the ladies participated in a downtown excursion again this year, there was something for everyone.





Another successful event filled with fun and fellowship and lots of kindred spirits raising money for a worthy cause. Put this show on your calendar for next year now, 1st weekend in June, Blytheville, AR



Enjoy what Doug had to say in June 2002 about Petit Jean, 4th of July Celebration in Jacksonville, the July rally, Camp Clearfork and one of his favorite toys, the Spudgun:

June 2002 - Prez Says

Welcome home Brenda and Charlie. The Collins clan is back briefly from Germany to visit with family and friends and they return to the fatherland on the 16th. Come visit with them and us too at Petit Jean Friday the 14th. The car show and the main day for most things is Saturday the 15th. Our hub of operations and place for R&R will be Tom Hunter's motor home during the day. We'll be having a spaghetti supper Friday night out at Joel and Nancy's place and a steak feast Saturday night. Come on out and eat with us, sit around the fire and listen to Joel's lawyer jokes (he knows all the best ones).

It will soon be July so check out Ted Bland's invitation to Jacksonville on the 3rd.

Bob Harris' TR marque event on the 14th may have the largest attendance of the season if all invitees show up. Have we ever had a 50 car run? I hope to see some worthy challengers at Clearfork for the Spudgun competition. For pictures you'll be proud to show your grandchildren, try the internet for inspiration on a personalized and truly memorable tater tosser.

Doug Nelson, the Prez

It is hard to believe that it has been almost five years since Charlie and I returned to the USA from Germany. We are planning to go back to Germany in September to visit with friends and some of our favorite places we discovered when we lived there. Needless to say, I am excited about the possibility of getting new Birks!!

We have a busy month ahead of us, so get ready and lets have fun.

Brenda

We are having our annual 4th of July party on Saturday the 4th. Mid afternoon until? Bring your fireworks, add to and enjoy the biggest fireworks show in East End.

We'll play croquet, throw horseshoes, swim, and maybe drink a beer or two. We'll do burgers and dogs. You bring whatever.

See you there. Bob Ross

Nita Chenault and Jim Scroggin are getting married July 11th 2009 at Chenal Valley Baptist Church 2:00 P.M. We would like to extend an invitation to BMCA car club members. The wedding and reception will be at 1800 Rahling Rd. off Chenal Parkway. The parking lot is small so you will have to park on Rahling Rd. Please don't bring gifts, just your B.M.C's. Thanks, Jim

BMCA Officers

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vicepresident@bmca.net

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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 - June 2, 2009

Hello again. We had 28 in attendance. Roy and Janet Watkins from Jasper surprised us by coming in. We have a new member, Connie Castlebury with a 73 Spitfire. The minutes from last month were accepted and seconded after Ms. Wheeler corrected last month's balance. Sorry. Ms. Wheeler then handed out and read the treasurer's report for May with \$7,158.36 as the ending balance.

Bob Ross reported on the wet-n-wild Triumph event. There were 13 cars to go on the poker run. Everyone followed a series of instructions that went thru five different stops in which they collected 2 cards, giving them a total of 10 when they arrived at the Ross'. He was proud to say that NO one got permanently lost. After reviewing everyone's best of 5 cards, the first place went to Steve and Melanie Robertson with 4- two's and second place was Jim Peckham with 3- aces.

June 6th is the trip to the Blytheville Car Show. The group that will meet at LCYC will leave at 11:45 am meeting up with another at the big truck stop across from the Petro stop at Galloway exit. Both groups will leave there at 12:30 sharp. Instructions will be given out at the driver's meeting.

June 13th is the clean up day at Petit Jean. We are leaving LCYC at 7am. Bring your hoe or metal detector because some of the little markers are hard to find. The more we get to participate, the quicker we can get the little flags out. Lunch with Petit Jean sliced ham and sandwich makings will be provided. June 20th is the annual Petit Jean car show. Anyone not being able to get a room can pitch a tent in Joel and Nancy's backyard. I have a tent if someone would like to borrow it. Bob Ross will be doing the shuttle from Joel and Nancy's to the park again this year. If you have ever been you know, that unless you enter your car in the show, the parking is horrible. The evening entertainment is fantastic rain or not. Feel free to sit by the campfire and join in on the pickin' and grinnin' with the blue grass band; or you can just hum along.

July 13-17th ...NAMGAR GT-34 in Hot Springs (Mon. thru Fri.) Actual Show day is Wed. Need members to volunteer to help Barry for the BMCA sponsored rally on Thurs, 17th. There will be an area for British cars other than the MGA's which are featured.

July 24-25th is the annual Carthage, Mo. Car show.

Brad Beuch gave an interesting tech talk on some of the things that have gone wrong with trailering a car. He got a cracked windshield from a rock. This other time, after the Lotus was on the trailer, the wheel wells were too high and he had to climb out of the window. Then going down the highway, the air rushing through the open windows blew out the rear window. His favorite story was forgetting about the 3½ inch ground clearance and while taking it off of a trailer, he tore the mufflers off.

Judy Wheeler got the Triumph back from Ronnie.

June 8th is Parris's B'day. The 16th belongs to Barbara Bolin. Melanie Robertson is on the 30th. Steve Bonds and wife, Barbara, will celebrate 30 years on the 30th. Congratulations to all.

Jim Stanhope's badge was drawn for the door prize. He said since he had already won once this year, he gave the honor to our newest member, Connie. She chose detailing supplies.



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Marque Responsibility Reminder				
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NETWORKING

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)

May Event Recap

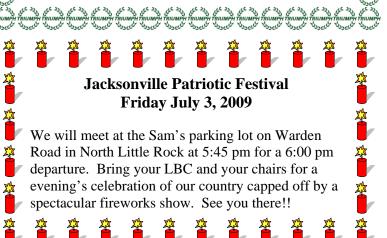
The Triumph Poker Run was rained on a little, wet streets slowed some down a little, but 12 cars completed the run, and nobody got lost for very long. We traveled over some back roads that didn't have much traffic, and some roads that were more roller coaster than road. Jim Wheeler manned the first and second stops and handed out cards to all the players as they came through. He said there seemed to be quite a mix up in the order that people showed up for the second stop. Did somebody miss their turn and get passed by the car behind them? Michael Ross was on the last stop and he had to wait a while for a couple of players that maybe spent too much time sightseeing. (I'm sure they didn't aet lost). We wound up at the Ross-Collins complex, where we gave all the players their last cards and let them build the best hand they could.

We had plenty of food for all. Hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and some fine deserts. Drink was in plentiful supply, and fine company was enjoyed by all. I'm going to be eating apple pie for a few days thanks to generous friends.

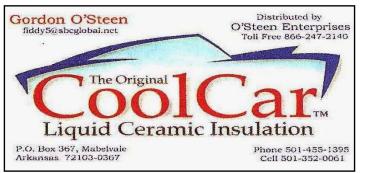
After we all ate we handed out the trophies for the best poker hands. Ronnie McLeod took third place with three kings. Jim Peckham was second with three aces, and Steve Robinson was first with 4 two's.

I hope that everyone else had a good a time as I did. I'm looking forward to the fourth of July party now.

Bob Ross, Triumph Marque Leader











EMPIRE BUILDING



In my never-ending quest to grow the Empire Marque, I have been providing information about those British Manufactures, which are still actively producing cars. With few exceptions all of the classic British manufactures have been bought, sold, merged, diversified or otherwise had their roots pulled from the sand. This month's producer has been slain, gutted, buried and then, what? Re-born....

In response to the 1956 Suez Crisis, with sales of new cars tanking due to petrol rationing and loss of market share to the German manufacturer, Volkswagen, The British Motor Corporation (BMC) was desperate for a car, which would compete with the 'Bug'. Sir Alec Issigonis, BMC's chief design engineer was tasked with and subsequently credited with the original design work on the Mini. This subcompact included a transverse mounted 4 cylinder engine and space saving front-wheel drive which allow 80% of the area of the cars floor plan to be used for passengers and luggage. This revolutionary design concept was to influence a generation of carmakers; in fact, in 1999 the Mini was voted the second most influential car of the 20th Century, falling behind only the Ford Model T.

The distinctive two-door car was originally produced in plants in Longbridge and Cowley, England and at the British Motor Corporation's Victoria Park/Zetland factory in Sydney, Austria. By the mid-sixties the Mini was being produced under license at additional manufacturing plants in Spain, Belgium, Chile, Italy, Portugal, South Africa, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The original Mini Mark I had three major UK updates: the Mark II, the Clubman and the Mark III. Within these basic designs were a series of variations, which included an Estate Car, a Pick-up Truck, a Box-Van and the Mini-Moke - a jeep-like buggy. The Mini Cooper and the Cooper 'S' were sportier versions that were quite successful as rally cars, winning the Monte Carlo Rally four time from 1964 - 1967. It should be noted that the 1966 entry was disqualified following the race due to headlight design, but then so were 4 other British cars that were manufactured to the prevailing UK Safety Standards.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's the British market enjoyed numerous 'Special Editions' of the Mini, which shifted the car from a mass-market item to a fashionable icon.

In 1994, under the leadership of Bernd Pischetsrieder, a first cousin of Sir Alec Issigonis, Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) gained control of the Rover Group, which, at this time, included MG, Rover, Land Rover and Mini. By March of 2000, the Rover Group continued to suffer massive losses and BMW decided to dispose of most of the companies. MG and Rover were sold to a new British consortium, Phoenix and Land Rover was sold to Ford Motor Company, joining the Jaguar brand. BMW retained the Mini name, however, Rover was granted temporary rights to brand and sell the remaining unsold cars and those which were in the production pipeline. The last Mini (a red Cooper Sport) was build Oct 4, 2000 and presented to the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust in Dec. of that year, where it remains on display. A total of 5,387,862 UK Mini's were produced from 1959 - 2000. After the last of the Mini production had been sold the "MINI" name reverted to BMW ownership.

The new 'BMW" MINI is technically unrelated to the old cars. While sharing the Mini and Cooper names, it has been totally re-designed, re-styled, and re-engineered to German standards. BMW retained the transverse mounted 4-cylinder engine, front-wheel-drive and the iconic "Bulldog" stance of the original, but not much else. This vehicle is produced by one of the leading automakers in the world and is unquestionably a magnificent example of German engineering. It is also decidedly Un-British. Should it be accepted into the Empire Marque? That's a question, which will have to be decided by a much higher power than this lowly Marque leader.

Whatever the outcome of that debate, the "New" Mini is one nice piece of machinery. If you don't believe me, talk to Charles or Lisa Hutchison or Jim Peckham ... who knows, they may even allow a test drive so you can decide for yourself.

As always, Be Safe and Happy Motoring. Brad Beuch - Empire Marque Leader

Greetings to all BMCA members from Bert Pranter, MG marque leader

As an MGB owner, I have often wondered: "Why is the MG model B universally recognized as the epitome of British sports car excellence? How can one marque and one model continue to so completely dominate LBC enthusiasts' hearts and minds around the globe?"

The MGB's magical aura is reflected in the following quotes obtained recently from BMCA members:

Brad Beuch: "It's damned hard to get a home-brewed beer perfect. MGB got it perfect. When Barbara and I produce a REALLY FINE beer, we call it an MGB."

Charles Hutchison: "Lisa and I would love to put an MGB in our multi-car garage, but we have our other LBCs' self-esteem to consider."

Bob Ross: "I undergo self-hypnosis when I drive my Spitfire in order to think that I am actually driving an MGB. Many Triumph owners employ this technique."

Brenda Collins: "Absent his MGB, my husband is basically bereft of redeeming qualities."

Steve Mers: "I'm slightly embarrassed to admit it -- not much embarrasses me -- but I tell my Heber Springs neighbors that my Pontiac Solstice is an MGB."

Jim Wheeler: "How did Shakespeare put it? To B or not to B. That is the question."

Judy Wheeler: "There's no question in my mind, Jim. I wish you and Shakespeare would put us in an MGB."

Rebecca Pranter: "What Brenda said."

Judy Ross: "When Bob is at the wheel of our Spitfire, he seems so spaced out, or something. It's almost like he's hypnotized. I wish he'd buy us an MGB."

Michelle Smith: "Lon recently bought a TR6. I have never been so embarrassed in my whole life. We'll not stop wearing our MG attire!"

Lon Smith: "Now wait a minute honey-bunny sugar dumpling poopsie woopsie -- I only bought that 6 to drive while restoring our MGB then we'll drop it in Lake Corvallis to attract fish."

Bob Harris: "When I grow up I definitely plan to buy an MGB."

Jack Brashear: "When I bought my car I thought it was an MGB. Oh well."

Parris McCullah: "The very first thing on my agenda when I return home is to buy an MGB."

Deb McCullah: "The very second thing on my agenda when Parris returns home is for him to buy an MGB."

Jim Stanhope: "When I'm at the wheel of my MGB, everyone notes my strong resemblance to Robert Redford in his prime. Away from the B, I tend to be compared to Alfalfa of the Our Gang series. Could it be my singing?"

Wilma Newton: "Darlin', do you think Jim's gonna turn my sexy self loose on the steamy streets of Monticello in an MGB? I don't think so."

Whit Waller: "My dog ate my MGB. But you can be certain I'll get another one."

BMCA Family News

Eileen Higgason, who has lived with Parkinson's Disease for the last 26 years, is in Good Shepherd Nursing Home near Baptist Hospital in Little Rock. Prognosis is not good.

Corinne McLeod (Ron McLeods mother) passed from this life early Saturday morning June 13, 2009.

David Fritchman battle/victory with Transverse Myelitis celebrated it's first anniversary last month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with each of our BMCA families struggling with health issues at this time.

Petit Jean MOTAA Time is Upon Us!

(Petit Jean annual Petit Jean antique auto festival and swap meet sponsored by MOTAA is HERE! Petit Jean Mountain, here we come! Seems like you turn around, and a year has passed. This is a grand thing when the BMCA annual events provide so much enjoyment and produce so many wonderful memories.

When does it all start, at least for some of us? On Saturday, June 13, a BMCA band of volunteers will roll away from McLeod's at 7:00 a.m. to motor mountainward to help MOTAA mark the swap meet and vendor areas and help clean up the area in preparation for the big event. We'll also set up the McLeod/BMCA Swap meet area. This work should be finished by noon, with MOTAA then providing a Petit Jean ham lunch for all volunteers.

MOTAA, by the way, is celebrating its 51st anniversary. The Mid-America Old Time Auto Association was formed in 1958 by antique car, not necessarily British, owners in Arkansas, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee. MOTAA is dedicated to antique vehicle preservation, restoration, and appreciation. The British Motoring Club of Arkansas is proud to be one of more than 20 associate members of MOTAA.

Those who don't have reservations at Petit Jean Lodge will be staying at the estate of BMCA'ers Nancy and Joel Taylor, whose hospitality each year well serves us all as a learning experience in what sharing and conviviality are all about. As always, exemplary victuals - aka great grub -- and live music of some sort can be counted on. Expect great times at the Taylors' on both Friday and Saturday evenings. You won't be disappointed.

The 2009 Petit Jean MOTAA auto show and swap meet officially begins on Tuesday June 17 and continues through Saturday June 20. Additional details are available at motaa.com. Friday and Saturday are the BIG DAYS.

This event always draws a large crowd, with parking spaces hard to come by, especially on Friday and Saturday. HOWEVER, transportation to and from the BMCA site from either the Taylor estate or Petit Jean Lodge and back can be obtained by calling Bob Ross at 416-5522. Bob will pick you up and set you down, all because he is a gentleman and a schooner – a kind and thoughtful gentleman and a most effective (III) transportation schooner where this kind of transportation is a vital part of the success of the event from the BMCA point of view. THANKS BOB.

For those of you who want to show your car, remember that you only have to be a MOTAA member and your car be deemed an antique. If you wish that your car be not only shown but also run through the judging, so be it. Or if you elect to only show your car, bear in mind that this will give you a wonderful parking space at an event where parking spaces are hard to come by.

Again, all who want to take part in the initial clean-up and set-up on the mountain need to be at McLeod's ready to roll at 7:00 a.m. Saturday June 13. Safety Fast! Bert Pranter - MG Marque Leader



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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.

BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday July 7, 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

Sat June 13, 2009 - Clean up Morning at Petit Jean - contact Ron McLeod if you plan on helping
Fri June 19, 2009 - Petit Jean Prelude - Spaghetti Supper and fellowship at Joel & Nancy Taylor's
Sat June 20, 2009 - Petit Jean Antique Car Show and Swap Meet - Dinner at Joel & Nancy's
Fri July 3, 2009 - Jacksonville Patriotic Festival - see article pg 4
Sat July 4, 2009 - Annual 4th Gathering and Fireworks Event - see article pg 2
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
July 24 - 26, 2009 - GOBMC 10th Annual Car & Cycle Blowout. Www.gobmc.org mgguythorn@yahoo.com
Sat Sept 19, 2009 - St. Louis MG Club Annual Show

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

