



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

March 2009

Thirteen is a Lucky Number - Swap Meet 13

I am another year older, the stock market is down, and my feet stink. Enough with the bad news.... It's SWAP MEET time again! Yes, April 3rd is preview day and Saturday April 4th is BIG Swap Meet Day.

The weather is going to be great with lots of cars for sale, parts to sell and buy, people to meet, cars to see and a cook-out afterwards. What could be better?

This is the 13th Annual BMCA & McLeod's British Cars Swap Meet. THE Place to buy or sell cars and/or parts. More Information: 501-851-2640 1-800-352-5816 Ronnie McLeod

Rust - Smell of Old Gas - Peeling Paint - You got to love it!

20th Anniversary Run 1989-2009

Beautiful blue skies and just the right amount of brisk chill in the air greeted BMCA'ers on February 22, 2009 as they gathered at the Walmart Super Center on Highway 10 to embark on the club's 20th Anniversary run. (Can it *really* be 20 years since our merry BMCA band first caravanned through Little Italy???)



Not only was the weather perfect, but the significance of the event and event-organizer Steve Mers' promotional efforts also spurred a larger-than-usual turnout. *Thirty-three* LBCs took part, along with a half dozen non-British vehicles.

Per the plan, the participants were randomly divided into two groups, with one group circling Lake Maumelle in clockwise fashion via Highway 10 west, Highway 113 north, then Highway 300 back to the Walmart starting point

while the second group circled the lake counter-clockwise in exact reverse order. This particular stretch of highways had served as the locale for the very first BMCA run back in 1989.

The two lines of cars passed each other going opposite directions on Highway 300 north of the lake a bit east of Highway 113. As driver of the second group's lead car, I can report that it was a grand sight when the first group's lead car, Charles and Lisa Hutchison's red TR4, came into view, followed by a long line of fine-looking, fine-sounding British vehicles. Talk about a fun run!



Continued on Pg. 5

Prez Sez

Doug did not have much to say this time, probably spending too much time out enjoying the weather in his TR-4 to write a prez says, enjoy:

March 2002 - Prez Says

It's March! The flowers are blooming. The Bees are at least thinking about buzzing and a young man's fancy turn to how cool he'll look in his top down roadster.

The season is upon us neighbors, and we've got Bobby's (as King and I hereby dub thee Bobby) TSD run coming up this month. Tracy's Buffalo float trip /road/ drive-in movie / culinary orgy and Ron's annual Swap Meet will be here shortly.

Whoa, too much fun !!! Sorry about waxing rhapsodic, but when one reaches the twilight years so little else is. Can you even imagine how revved the Bobs (Carl & Ross) must be in their advanced state of maturity?

**Doug Nelson
Prez**

I know we are all eagerly awaiting top down weather, and it will be upon soon. So get those LBCs ready. Oh, and don't forget the sunscreen.

Brenda

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Spring is almost here!!

It's that time again. Get your Little British Car out, check all those fluids, look at the hoses, wires, tyres and other obvious mechanical components to make sure you'll be able to enjoy the top-down times just around the corner. There are some fun events being planned by this years Marque leaders that you won't want to miss. Other events like Batesville is just around the corner followed by Blytheville, Petit Jean and then it'll be time for Fayetteville. Not to mention the plethora of shows and events 8 hours or less drive from central Arkansas! Take care of your LBC and you'll reap the returns with memories that last a lifetime!

'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 - March 3, 2009

Hello again. Even with the pending bad weather, we still had 29 in attendance. The minutes from last month were passed out, accepted and seconded. Judy passed out the treasurer's report, which was also accepted and seconded. After the deposits and expenses, there is an ending balance of \$6,385.64. Bert gave a good account on the BMCA's 20th Anniversary Run, which happened to be a carbon copy of the very first rally that the BMCA members did as a club. It was a beautiful top-down day for 33 British cars and ½ dozen non-Brits to have lots of fun. After the driver's meeting, the odd numbered members left and drove one way up the mountain, while the even numbers went up in the opposite direction. Half way through the run, both groups met head on, passing each other, with their car horns honking and hands waving with excitement. Afterwards, everyone met at the yacht club for refreshments. The drawing for the beautiful BMCA watch went to Parris McCullah. Many thanks to Steve Mers for arranging such a great day!!!! J

The board recommended that we extend the 3 for 2 membership due policy to be available to all existing and new members each year. Discussed was the fact, as the 3 for 2 comes to an end- the treasury gets a little low. At this point in time, the policy is only in effect once every 3 years. New members may have to wait for 2 or 3 years to take advantage of the special rate. Changing the policy will assure more income each year, instead of a large lump sum to stretch out across 3 years. Michael Ross said as he records membership due payment along with the year it is paid, it would not be any more trouble for him. Let it be known, the 3 for 2 membership due policy was discussed, and approved by a majority vote to be extended every year.

With much regret, one of our members has to do a tour of duty in Afghanistan. Parris' surprise party got moved up abruptly, since he was given less than 48 hours to report to base. He is expected to be away for 15 months; but with his new watch, he will always be on BMCA time with us. Many thanks to Bob Ross, who has volunteered to take over as TR Marque leader.

March is AH marque month. Jim Peckham has planned a day of antique shopping. Don't worry about the truck and/or trailer; they deliver, so just bring your check book and enjoy the drive in your LBC.

April 4th is the annual Swap Meet. Ronnie promises a great time for all who attend- rain or shine. Volunteers to help with the clean up or setting up, get with Ronnie. Also, if you have a moment of inspiration for fun, let Ronnie know.

April 18th is the Scottish Festival in Batesville. Celtic love is in the air. Don your kilt or other fashion flair. Join us for a high old time. Maybe more fun than you can bare. The Colonial Inn in Heber Springs is booked. Brenda is looking into another venue. More info later.

Bert did the tech talk. He told us a story of one of our members who wanted their MGB to go faster. After much deliberation, it was decided. To make this LBC go faster, the driver would have to disengage the parking brake while driving. Duh? Jack Brashear told us about the trouble he had trying to put an after-market emergency brake on one time. After going through ALL of his tools (antique Wentworth's, too), the wrench he needed, he didn't have. He ended up having to carefully file @ 1 mm off of a Craftsman 19 mm open ended wrench to make it work.

GOTS & GOOFS: Dennis James got a divorce, then he and Linda goofed by getting married. Congrats.

Jim Peckham got a new 2006 Cooper 'S', silver-blue in color.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARYS: Jim and Judy Wheeler will have 22 years together on the 27th. Charlie and Brenda have 39 yrs on the 6th. Mary Sue Brashear Bday, 2nd; Bill Blankenship, 11th; Michael Ross, 12th; Brenda Collins, 21st; and Gayle Nelson is the 28th.

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HEALEY HISTORY

Donald Healey and Sir Leonard Lord

In October 1952 Donald Healey showed at the "Earls Court Motorshow" a new 4-cylinder 2.6 litre engined sports car called the 100. Named after the top-speed of 100 miles per hour. This was the start for the success of the Austin-Healey sports cars for the coming years. The car was at the time the star of the motorshow. Barriers were erected to keep back the crowds. The design of the car was made by Gerry Coker who clearly had been inspired by Italian styling. The technical engineering was the work of Geoff Healey, Donald's son. Sir Leonard Lord, president at the time of the Austin company, saw a great sales opportunity and made the night before opening of the Motorshow a deal with Donald Healey. The 100 would be produced in the Austin works at Longbridge. It was the first car to be made under the British Motor Company (BMC) banner. The name of the car and badges were changed to Austin-Healey 100 the first day of the show!

AUSTIN HEALEY 100 (BN1)

In April 1953, the first car came on the market. It was named the Austin-Healey 100 type BN1. The car was powered with a 2,660 cc push rod 4-cylinder engine that was also used in the Austin Atlantic. This engine gave the car a 0 to 60 mph sprint time of 11.0 seconds. Because of the short period of time between the design and the market introduction and limited resources for development, there were a number of rolling production changes in the first two years to correct some problems. In total a number of 10,010 cars BN1 type cars were produced until August 1955.

BMCA Anniversary Run *(from a new members perspective)*

The BMCA 20th Anniversary Run around Lake Maumelle was my first outing with my ancestral British Heritage family. There were MG's, Triumphs, Jaguars, Austin Healeys and me. And I was sooo excited.... God Save the Queen!! Riding shotgun was Dena Dixon with her fingers on my CD's, John Peckham gripping my steering wheel, and Dirk, the English bull dog in the back seat with his head on John's shoulder.

At a side-ways glance, I'm roaring like a rocket! My muscle is motoring, my passion is pushing, and I'm feeling the sun on my hood and the wind in my grill - really, really in my grill. My S-Sport exhaust intake was blowing and going with John the Driver, a former world renowned go-cart driver, with my mini-lights a-flashing all 208 of my horses



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Marque Responsibility Reminder Chart

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

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Continued from Pg. 1

Everyone re-convened at the Walmart parking lot briefly at the end of the run before motoring on to McLeod's to enjoy hot dogs, drinks, and a special BMCA 20th Anniversary cake. No breakdowns occurred, but Jerry and Diane McCullough's beautiful green 1972 MGB did develop a speed-reducing sputter on the way to McLeod's.

Special note: The drawing for a BMCA-logo watch just before the run commenced was won by none other than our BMCA-buddy-in-uniform, Parris McCullah. As we all know, Parris left Arkansas February 28 on his way to serve our country for 12 months in Afghanistan.

On behalf of everyone who took part in the BMCA 20th Anniversary run, I extend a big *Thank You* to Steve Mers for planning it all and pulling everything together.

Bert Pranter, MG Marque Leader



Some of you know that Parris is preparing to go to Afghanistan, and I have taken over as marque leader for Triumph; now everybody knows. The next event for Triumph is in May, and we are going to practice one of the old military traditions by playing poker.

We will wind up at the Ross residence for a cookout. The event will be on May 24 at 1:00PM. We will meet at the commuter parking lot on the Pine Bluff highway at Dixon Road. We will send the first car off at 1:00 PM, and other cars at 2 minute intervals. You will receive two cards there and be sent on your way to find the first stop where you will receive two more cards, second stop and two more cards, third stop and so on. The last stop will be the at the Ross-Collins complex where you will receive the final two cards. You then make the best hand you can from the ten cards you have with a little final twist thrown in just to keep you off balance

We should have a nice drive down some decent roads and a fun cookout at the end. I hope nobody gets lost.

Parris is going to be in Afghanistan for 14 months, but is planning on returning to our wonderful group upon completion of his tour. He needs our prayers and support while he is over there so hold his memories close and send him an e-mail now and then.

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Save the Date!! Brits in the Ozarks returns for its 8th edition on September 12th, 2009.

The host hotel will again be the Holiday Inn in Springdale. The hotel will be the location for the Friday night (September 11th) cook out and the Saturday night dinner. Our guest speaker will be MG guru Dick Knutson.

The car show will take place at beautiful Agri park in Fayetteville from 10:00 until 3:00. There will be a silent auction and concessions will be provided.

See www.britishironnwa.org for more information and to print off a registration form.

Scottish Fest 2009

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Come Out of the Closet

Rumor has it that many a closet Scotsman can't stand it any more. Longing for that regimental breeze between their legs, the urge of the too long suppressed warrior Highland, longing for the beckoning sound of bagpipes and the rhythm of Celtic dance.

Yes, it's the annual pilgrimage of the Scottish, Scottish-Irish, partly Scottish or want-to-be Scottish and their British cars returning once again to the Lyon's College Scottish Festival in Batesville, AR.

We are expecting 20+ British Cars and 10 or more of us in Scottish attire on Saturday April 17th. We meet at that fine Scottish restaurant McDonalds on McCain Blvd at the Other Center in North Little Rock to leave at 7:00 am.

So don thy kilt and spend a bonnie fine day with us. More information 501-821-2640

Ronnie McLeod

Austin Singer



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)

Jon-Tam's
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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.



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Hello, all you Groovy Car Club Cats!

It has come to my attention that you have been officially CHALLENGED by some of the MINI COOPER drivers, to an "AUSTIN POWERS" DANCE CONTEST, to be held on the day of the Cars and Cycles Against Cancer Car Show (June 6th, 2009). Well, I think that will be simply smashing, baby, yeah!

I invite you ALL to check out this really happening video clip of me teaching and doing this "Austin" dance at another event, so that you can get a head-start on how to do it, BEFORE the day of the event:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO0-acQFRYk>

No worries, though, I will be on-hand to teach everyone the dance right there at the event. It's very easy to learn, so even if you are not a great dancer, you will be able to do this, I promise!

Practice makes perfect, as they say, so go and learn it NOW from that clip, so that when the time comes, you will all be EXPERTS! Although I will be there leading the festivities, the crowd is going to judge the winner. YEAH, BABY, YEAH!,

Cheers,

RICHARD HALPERN (The Fake AUSTIN POWERS)

PS: See you ALL in Blytheville, baby, yeah!

For more info visit www.richardhalpern.info and www.carsandcyclesagaincancer.com

BMCA'ers Note: To meet the challenge, Barbara Beuch has been appointed head of the BMCA dance team. As you already know, "Austin Powers" will be here that day for Minis 50th Birthday. He plans to get groups from each club on stage to dance. Let's show them what we've got!!

Hey everyone,

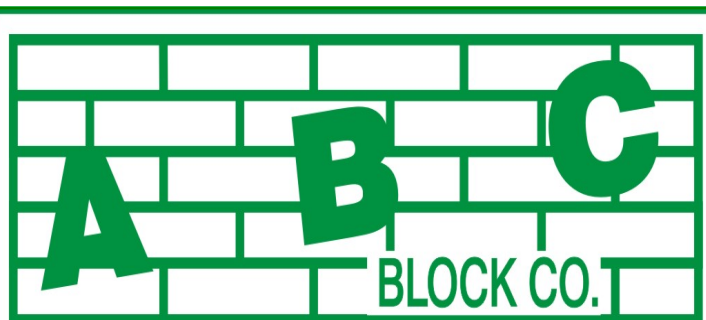
Our annual trip to the Arkansas Ozarks is on again! We're adding one day to make it a long weekend this year, leaving on Thursday (late forenoon) May 7th, and coming home Sunday May 10th.

The Inn at Mountainview is our Bed & Breakfast retreat, and their # is 800-269-4200. Their web site is www.innatmountainview.com Room rates are reasonable, and vary room by room, but most are \$96/night - two larger suites are more. As a special treat, we've arranged for our innkeepers to provide a dinner for us this year; cost is \$25/person, and it will be Friday evening at 6:45 p.m.

You're in for a driving and relaxing treat, if you haven't been with us on the trip the past couple of years. Especially if you appreciate skilled musicians - the park adjacent to the B & B fills with impromptu mountain music jam sessions on weekend evenings, so visitors stroll around the park stopping to listen to one group, then another. Area roads are a delight to drive, and invite a spirited approach to touring the picturesque hills and valleys of the Ozarks.

The B & B has a limited number of rooms (11 or 12), and some are spoken for already. So, give them a call, and let Sharon or me know that you will be joining us on a welcome spring adventure.

Jim Duke



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BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday April 7, 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 BMCA and Regional Events

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

Sat April 4, 2009 - Annual BMCA/McLeod's Swap Meet - see pg. 1

Sat April 19, 2009 - Batesville Scottish Fest - Details pg 6

Sun May 24, 2009 - TR Marque Rally and Cookout - see pg 5

Sat June 6, 2009 - Cars & Cycles Against Cancer - Blytheville, AR - see pg 7 - special BMCA challenge!

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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