



Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

May 2009

Scottish Fest 2009 Recap

The weather forecast for today is 70% chance of rain, but I being the optimist see it as there is a 30% chance that it will not.



It's 5:00 am Saturday morning, I laid my kilt out on the floor last night (it's a 'Great Kilt' - 21 feet of Tartan folded in to pleats waiting for me to lie down on it, rolling to wrap then buckle it up). The car is ready and soon it's time to meet the rest of our group at that great little Scottish restaurant at McCain and Hwy 167 called McDonalds.

6:00 am and I am pulling into the parking lot. Dressed in my kilt I get out of my TR4 looking for others "in their kilts". Soon there was Lon Smith, Jim Wheeler, Charlie Collins and many kilted friends. We were ready to go inside and order breakfast. The employees were speechless, 10 kilted lads and their fair maidens, here for breakfast.

It's 7:00 and time to leave for Bald Knob to meet others and on towards Batesville. (Still no rain!)

Just after 9:00 am we arrive at Lyon's College and were directed to park on the grass of the Chapel lawn, a much better place, under the trees to display our cars. We had a good showing with 23 British cars and 11 of our very own Scotsmen in their kilts joined by a mixing of fair maidens and Scotswomen.

Oh yes, the bagpipers, the vendor tents, Scottish foods, the Family Clan tents and more Scottish attire and bonnie knees than any other time in Arkansas. "It's like being in Scotland without leaving Arkansas". (Still no rain....)



The Parade of Clans and Opening Ceremony is one of the highlights of the day. Most of our group marched with "Clan McLeod" behind one of the Four Bagpipe Bands. As the ceremony was ending, one noticed a group piping with banners and flags which turned out to be a very elaborate and formal marriage proposal. 'It was very moving'!

About 3:00 one of the security officers said the radar was showing major rain coming, to be here by 4:00. We started gathering our flags and banners and people. Some headed back to their homes but 10 couples went to Heber Springs where we had hotel reservations. (Stopped raining and sun shining) After checking in we went out to eat at Hebers' largest buffet restaurant. You should have seen the faces of all those people as we, in our kilts, came in unannounced. With the whole place

Continued pg 4

The **May Marque event** is scheduled for May 24. We will meet in the Art Center parking lot at McArthur Park (Behind the Art Center towards the freeway). The first car will leave at 2:00 PM so be there by 1:30 for instructions. It is going to be a **Poker Run**, which means you are given cards at various stops and you must build a poker hand. We have found a few decent roads (and some not so decent) for this event. The drive will take a little more than one hour and will wind up at the Ross-Collins complex in beautiful downtown East End, Ark. We'll have hot dogs, and hamburgers and soft drinks. If you want to bring a side dish or dessert, feel free to bring it along.

The drive will take about one and one half hours, and will probably be on some roads you haven't traveled before. If you get lost call me (416-5522) and I'll try to get you back on track.

Prez Sez

(enjoy Doug's comments about the Car Show in 2002)

May 2002 - Prez Says

The "Brits By The Shore" car show was a well produced, well attended, and by most accounts, a quite well appreciated event. Much hard work by many folks resulted in our most lavish car show yet and if rumors are to be believed, a good time was had by all (and a few had a gooder time than others).

All who attended have applauded those who labored so mightily, so I'm going to move on the thanking another less visible group who added much to our car show. We asked a number of merchants to contribute door prizes for the show and their generosity added an extra bit of polish to the event.

We had a glitch or two with the door prizes and for that we ask both your pardon and your patience (we're still on the learning curve) but I hope our lapse won't diminish your gratitude for their generosity. Please keep one word in mind - loyalty.

Let's patronize those folks who helped us out when we asked for help.

Let's take care of those who took care of us. Don't conveniently forget that community merchant in order to save a couple of bucks on a sale flyer from some anonymous mail order catalog. Let's don't be that person (I love this song lyric) with "....a hand full of gimme and a mouth full of much obliged."

When you get right down to it, that "sense of community" that so many say is lacking in our American society is a matter of honoring the tacit debt of loyalty owed – even when it's not convenient.

*Doug Nelson
The Prez*

I guess many of you that have been driving your LBC's around the past couple of weeks have discovered where they leak !!! Just another reason to always carry paper towels, or the real thing.....terry cloth towels, (you can wring them out and re-use).

Happy Cinco de Mayo
Brenda

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June is a BUSY month

The first 3 weekends in June are coming quick and each has an event occurring. June 5 & 6 is the Blytheville Cars and Cycles Against Cancer show. Sat. June 13 is Petit Jean Set up Day where BMCA helps MOTAA with preparing the mountain for the upcoming swap meet and car show. And Wed. June 17th begins the swap meet and the BMCA gathering at the Taylor estate on top of Petit Jean.

'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 - May 5, 2009

Even with the bad weather pending, having 34 present is a great turnout. A motion was made to accept and second the reading of last month's minutes. Judy Wheeler passed out a copy of the treasurer's report with an ending balance of \$6,742.05.

Ronnie was proud to report this year's trip to the Scottish festival in Batesville had the biggest and best show-out ever, having 23 LBC's and 13 kilts along with a few of their maiden fair. Breakfast was at the McCain Mall McDonald's. As our group grew in size, standing around in the parking lot admiring each others attire, the drive-thru business slowed to almost a halt. It was all those guys in skirts that stopped the traffic. With 120% chance of rain, everyone was expecting a downpour just any minute. This year, they allowed us to park our babies on the grass, just to the side of all of the vendors, so we had plenty of on-lookers to admire us. Everyone had a great time. Around 3 that afternoon, the 2 group leaders took control. Those that decided to go home afterwards ended up getting soaked most of the way back. Those that decided to stay in Heber springs only got a few sprinkles. We ended up going to a new restaurant for supper. You should have been there. As we walked in, having so many in our group, we were escorted to the rear of the dining hall to where there were more empty tables. Everyone in the place immediately stopped what they were doing and watched our parade of Scottish desires. You did not hear a sound, not even ice tingling against the glassware. Their mouths all dropped open, and their eyes followed us. As evening fell, we gathered for a pool party, at the tables next to the pool that had no water. No one remembered to bring their suits- darn! The next morning, after breakfast, we gather together, and headed south. The drive back was great. Just as we were nearing Little Rock, we got sprinkles that turned into bigger drops as we entered LCYC. .

Bob Ross explained our next adventure. May 24th, the TR Marquee event will be a poker run. We will meet at the Arts Center Parking lot at Macarthur Park at 2 pm. Leaving at intervals, we will collect playing cards at designated spots along the way, ending up at the Ross'. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize for the best poker hand collected. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Side dishes or deserts will be greatly appreciated.

June 6th is the Blytheville Car show. You need to get registered by May 15th. (Holiday Inn, Blytheville, 870-763-5800) Lots of fun stuff to do. Look for the article elsewhere in the newsletter.

June 13th Clean up day at Petit Jean. Bring along yard tools or metal detectors.

June 20th Petit Jean Car show. Look for more information elsewhere in the newsletter.

Ronnie's Tech talk centered on the woe's of fixing this black MGB. With every repair, there would be another nightmare to appear. He lovingly said it was like having a moved-in relative that you couldn't get rid of. He and Lon got it purring, and it went home. Jack Brashear spoke about the after market filters. Most don't know they have a life span. It was the foam molded rubber filters that stalled the Sprite. The filter disintegrated into tiny pieces and got into every nook and cranny.

Gots and Goofs: Jim Clark **got** his Jag Mark IX from Fayetteville, his previous home. Gave it to Ronnie and they **got** all the leaks stopped. He and Jane **got** married May 2nd.

Elaine and Steve Jones **got** married on April 1st. Congratulations to both couples.

Birthdays / Anniversary's: May 2nd - Jim & Wilma Newton #11; May 8th - Jim & Eileen Higgason #33; May 19th - Ted Bland # 70 B-day; May 22nd Mr. Brandon Smith will be 9.

Jim Clark chose detail brushes for his door prize.





stopped, staring with jaws dropped, we were escorted to an area in the back which could accommodate the group. Everyone seemed excited and pleased. All I heard was compliments, one young man, maybe 14, said 'You have the coolest kilt I have ever seen'. What an experience!! (Still not raining & sun shining).

Back at the hotel for socializing until about 10:00 PM (yes, we're getting older). The next morning the sun was shining. We ate breakfast at the hotel and were ready to depart about 10:00 am. Everyone was ready to leave, but someone couldn't find his car keys after

looking everywhere, twice. Finally, he found them in his sporran. Now we are all gassed up and ready to go again, except the one who now needed gas. They said "Go ahead and leave and they would catch up". So we did, but we got to feeling guilty and waited for them at the Hwy 5 turn off. (Still not raining & sun shining).



The next stop was El Paso, AR where some went on down Hwy 5, the others went right through Vilonia. Our group was coming up on Mayflower, AR and it started to sprinkle and the closer to Lake Corvallis we got the more it started to rain.

It just goes to show that you can't always believe the weatherman or you just might miss a wonderful weekend with friends in our Little British Cars. A Bonnie Time was had Ronnie



Hey BMCA'ers,

Look how much fun I had at the Scottish Festival with my mom and dad...

getting a free ride...

hey, that's not a LBC...



face painting...



guys throwing things...

my Pops + GRanny...



look, it's my buddy, Ronnie...



and the end to a exciting day with BMCA...



a man with his dogs and sheep...



lots of LBCs...

...Who's this guy and what's that he has...

Thanks BMCA...
Newly Knighted, Sean



Do you have a tool kit in your lbc?
 If not you may want to consider getting one together. Even if you aren't a super mechanic you can still have some tools and repair items on hand for someone that stops to help you.

First, a few tools. Pliers, regular and needle nose. Screwdrivers, both straight and Phillips. A few wrenches will come in handy. 3/8, 7/16, 1/2 and 9/16 will take care of most roadside repairs on most lbc's. A cheap socket set is always handy. If you don't have that then I suggest you carry two of each size wrench. A small crescent wrench is pretty handy too. If you don't carry a pocket knife then a cutting tool of some kind will help. That is a basic tool kit that won't take up much space or cost very much to purchase.

I would recommend a few feet of electrical wire and a roll of insulating tape. You may want to get some tubing to match your fuel line and vacuum line sizes. Tie wraps in various sizes are handy also.

If you want a few more items to include in this kit, then get an extra set of points for your distributor, some extra spark plugs, and a small roll of duct tape.

This tool kit should help you get your car running again if you have miner trouble out on the road. If you need more than this to get running you probably need a garage to repair your car.

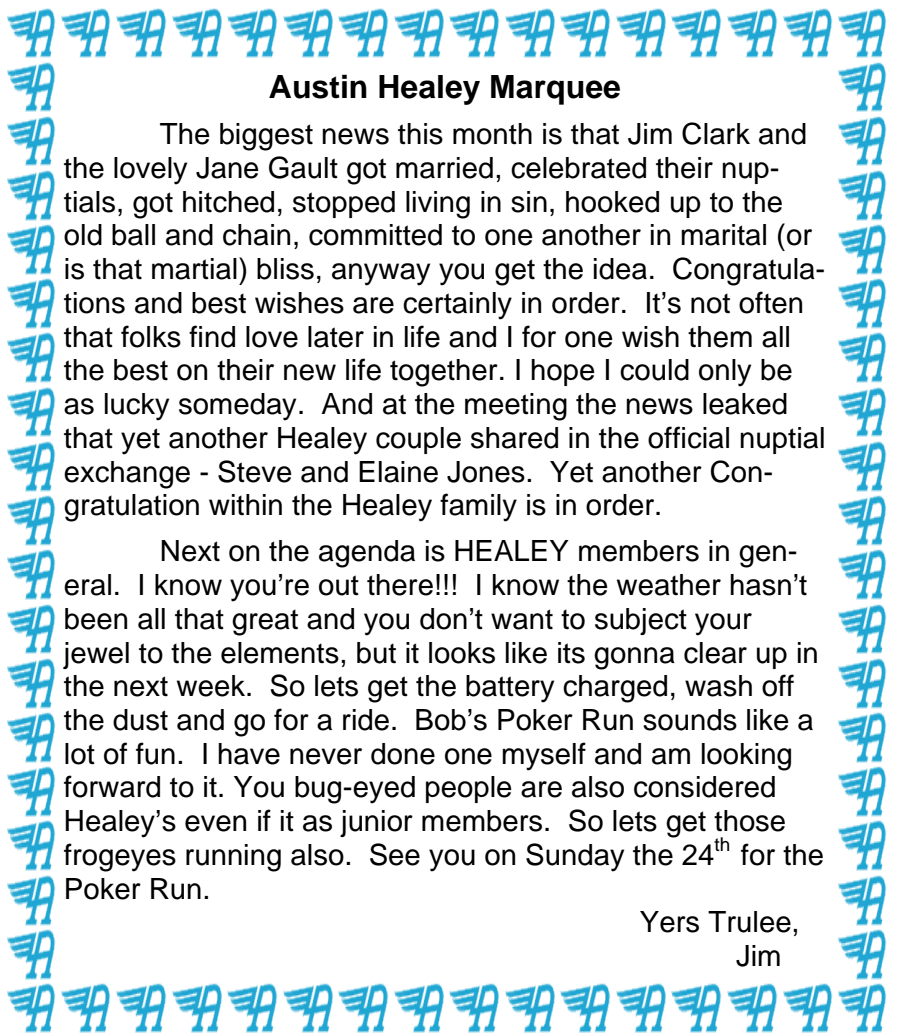
Bob Ross
 TR Marque Leader

Austin Healey Marquee

The biggest news this month is that Jim Clark and the lovely Jane Gault got married, celebrated their nuptials, got hitched, stopped living in sin, hooked up to the old ball and chain, committed to one another in marital (or is that martial) bliss, anyway you get the idea. Congratulations and best wishes are certainly in order. It's not often that folks find love later in life and I for one wish them all the best on their new life together. I hope I could only be as lucky someday. And at the meeting the news leaked that yet another Healey couple shared in the official nuptial exchange - Steve and Elaine Jones. Yet another Congratulation within the Healey family is in order.

Next on the agenda is HEALEY members in general. I know you're out there!!! I know the weather hasn't been all that great and you don't want to subject your jewel to the elements, but it looks like its gonna clear up in the next week. So lets get the battery charged, wash off the dust and go for a ride. Bob's Poker Run sounds like a lot of fun. I have never done one myself and am looking forward to it. You bug-eyed people are also considered Healey's even if it as junior members. So lets get those frogeyes running also. See you on Sunday the 24th for the Poker Run.

Yers Trulee,
 Jim





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MGA

When the thoroughly-modern, smooth and sexy MGA first appeared in 1955, it must have come as quite a shock to MG aficionados who had become accustomed to the pre-war look of the company's sports cars. Even the revamped MGTF left no doubt about its 1930's-heritage design. The MGA was a complete departure in styling for MG. Its beautiful streamlined body was right up to the minute in terms of appearance, and it was powered by a new, more powerful 1489cc engine.

The car already had a competition background as testimony to its pedigree when it was introduced. This did much to ensure its acceptance by enthusiasts who might have been reluctant at first to say goodbye to the old-fashioned traditional looks of the classical MG T-series.

The chassis for the MGA had more widely spaced side rails to allow for a lower seating position to fit in the new sleek bodywork. This not only put the driver and passenger in a more sensible position in relation to the proportions and height of the body, but it had the added advantage of lowering the center of gravity, thus improving the cornering ability of the car.

Little about the MGA bore the slightest resemblance to any of its predecessors. From the scuttle, the body fell in one constant curve to the radiator grille, blending into the full swept front wings on each side. The line of the front wings was taken back past the cockpit with its cutaway doors, to where it merged into the rear wings. These tapered almost to a point at the rear and were blended into the rear portion of the bodywork that curved down from the back edge of the cockpit. The wings blending into the bodywork and each other produced a stunning aerodynamic design, one that continues to turn heads.

The MGA remained in production through 1962.

A review of the BMCA 2009 Roster indicates that 10 members are proud MGA owners. Check it out.

Thanks to the Chicagoland MG Club website (chicagolandmgclub.com) for information used in this article.

Bert Pranter, MG Marque Leader

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Empire Building

Before I start talking about cars I want to thank all the folks that dressed up, showed up and participated in the events at the Scottish Festival and made the group run up to Batesville, AR on April 18th, this event which was designated as a Empire Marque event, is actually the "Love Child" of Ronnie McLeod and he deserves the credit for it's success. For those that have never been I can only suggest you mark your calendars and make plans to be there next year, you will not be disappointed. I mean, when you're in a kilt, even a stiff wind can be exciting!

Following last months article, providing a brief history and availability of Lotus cars, I was somewhat surprised that there were not 3 or 4 new Elise SC's or Exige 260's running around Little Rock. Maybe this Empire manufacturer will pique your interest.

In the early part of 1922, Sir William Lyons and William Walmsley, a pair of motorcycle enthusiasts, founded the Swallow Sidecar Company. For the next 10 years the company produced a line of motorcycle sidecars, which were compatible with several different manufacturers motorcycles. In 1935 the company expanded introducing a 2.5-liter luxury saloon (the SS90) and a sports coupe (SS100) which were the first cars that carried the name SS Jaguar. The company continued to produce cars and motorcycle sidecars until the start of WWII. When production was restarted 1945, the company changed names to Jaguar Motors, dropping the SS designation for obvious reasons, but it was not until the 1950's with a series of elegantly style sports cars and luxury saloons that the Jaguar name came into it's own.

In 1960 Jaguar bought the Daimler Motor Company and for the next 6 years their top of the line luxury cars carried the Daimler name. Daimler was eventually sold and relocated back to Germany. It was in 1966 that Jaguar merged with the British Motor Company and the Austin-Morris Company forming British Motor Holdings, and two years later with the additional merger of Leyland, which included Triumph, Land Rover and Morris Garage, British Leyland Motor Company was formed. Severe financial difficulties in 1975 lead to the nationalization by the British government and the company became British Leyland LTD.

In 1984 Jaguar was floated off as a separate company as a part of the Thatcher government's privatization initiatives. In 1989 the company was bought by the Ford Motor Company. Ford continued to build the Jaguar for the next 19 years, incorporating design and engineering from Ford and Jaguar into both lines. Jaguar became the anchor of Fords Premium Auto Group in 1999. With Ford facing its own financial crisis the company was again sold and on June 2, 2008 it became a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Motors, LTD of India. The company currently is headquartered in Coventry, England and operates independently from Tata Motors, as a part of the Jaguar Land Rover Group.

In the almost 75 years that Jaguar has been manufacturing cars there have been over eighty different models produced, the luxury and executive saloons have been coveted by the rich and famous for their rich appointments and exceptional ride. However to this enthusiast it is the sports cars which make my heart a-flutter. Some of the notable sports cars include XK120, XK140 and XK150's produced from 1948 - 1961, favorites of the Hollywood elite and playboys the world over, not to mention Ms. Jessica Rabbit; the E-types produced from 1961 - 1974, who can forget Twiggy in that classic favorite "The Blues Brothers" or Martin's spaceship in My Favorite Martian; and of course, the XJS produced from 1975 - 1996. XJS and E-types are readily available on e-Bay and from other classic car sources, for "reasonable" but still significant prices. The earlier XK's are harder to find, and in the words of Ronnie McLeod, "... require a much thicker wallet." For those in the market for a new car, Jaguar currently has four models available, the XK is available in a coupe or convertible with prices listed from £ 60,000 - 77,000; the XJ a full size Luxury Saloon for £ 43,000 - 82,000; the XF a mid-size Executive Saloon for £ 33,000 - 55,000; and the X Type compact Executive Saloon for between £ 21,000 - 31,000. The nearest Jaguar dealership, serving central Arkansas, is Jaguar of Little Rock located at 25 Colonel Glen Road in Little Rock.

Until next month, Buckle Up, Drive Safe and never forget how good it feels to make a kitty cat purrrrrrrrrrr!!!!!!

Brad Beuch - Empire Marque Leader

Don't know how many of you are planning to attend the Cars and Cycles Against Cancer Show in Blytheville the first Saturday of June but the poster below has just one more reason for it to be an interesting and fun show. And just so you'll have an idea of what to expect:

Most of the club members going will leave out on Friday – exact time and where from yet to be determined. I understand some will stay over both Friday and Saturday nites and some will only stay over Friday nite. Late Friday nite is usually spent in the hotel parking lot oohing and aahing at (and sometimes drooling over) the beautiful cars that are there....both British and other nationalities....as well as visiting with their owners. On Saturday Barry will have a tent just for us "British" (and that's where Mr. Levy will be set up during the show). There also are lots and lots of shade trees at this venue to gather under and relax and enjoy ourselves if there are too many of us to fit under the tent. And there are food vendors on site if you don't want to bother bringing your own. And you won't want to miss the debut of the BMCA Dance Team doing the *Austin Powers Dance*. Paste this site into your browser if you want to see exactly what it is we're suppose to do in response to several challenges from other car clubs: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO0-acQFRYk> Barbara Buech is our team leader. There will also be a special award (Never Give Up) to be presented in memory of Doug Nelson. For those that are staying over Saturday nite (or not leaving too early) Barry has issued an invitation to his house for dinner (supper???) at 6:00 p.m. That gives us plenty of time to visit, eat and relax before the "Elvis" Party at the hotel. Then we'll leave fairly early Sunday morning to come back.

If you haven't already made plans for this show, I hope you are able to go with us. It is a really fun event. And the best company you can keep.

Judy Wheeler (judy.k.wheeler@sbcglobal.net)

YEAH BABY, YEAH!

British Cars & Cycles Against Cancer

5-6 June 2009

Historic Walker Park, Blytheville, AR

Annual gathering of British car clubs to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The weekend will include entertainment by the Terry Mike Jeffery Band, raffles, auctions, food and a \$5K giveaway. The Chamber of Commerce will raffle off a 1980 Corvette.

We are expecting over 700 cars this year from as many as six states. Mini Cooper USA says they will be there to help celebrate the Mini's 50th birthday and Austin Powers is coming to help with the party!

The big news this year is the Sports Car Club of America, which will host two national events: the Eastern States Championship the previous weekend and a ProSolo event the weekend of the show. They plan to help us raise money to fight cancer.

Be one of the first 500 to pre-register and receive a couple of special gifts! For information, call up the web page or contact Barrett Harrison at (870)763-9043 or via email at barrett1@sbcglobal.net. We look forward to seeing you in Blytheville!



I hope YOU will join me to help raise money for the American Cancer Society and to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Mini Cooper!

Austin: "Your spy car's a MINI?!"

Nigel: "It's not the size, it's how you use it!"

www.carsandcyclesagainstcancer.com

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Burt in the original #003 Reventlow Scarab at Roebfling Road

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Look for ol' varmint "BS" and his books at the Blytheville Car & Cycle Show June 6th
& at the SCCA Pro Solo Runoffs at the Arkansas Aeroplex June 7th

and be sure to check out the Jay Leno interview & the "Ride with Burt" videos at www.lastopenroad.com

Burt Levy would like you to join him in Blytheville Arkansas June 6th for The Cars and Cycles Against Cancer Car Show and the Sports Car Club of America Pro/Solo Event. For more info go to www.carsandcyclesagainstcancer.com or www.scca.org and Burts site www.lastopenroad.com

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June 5-6th, 2009 Blytheville, AR

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****Sports Car Club of America National Event****
Same Weekend at Arkansas Aeroplex in Blytheville—June 5-7

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1980 Corvette

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Denise Henderson ** denisem623@yahoo.com

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Entry: YEAR _____ MAKE _____ MODEL _____ COLOR _____

ELVIS TRIBUTE TICKETS \$5.00 EACH: Number of tickets needed _____ please include payment!

LIABILITY RELEASE: The Relay for Life organization, the organizers of the Cars & Cycles Against Cancer Car Show, or anyone else connected with the presentation of this event are not responsible for known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, Judgments of claims from any causes whatsoever that may be suffered by participants to his/her property or person.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Mail Registration to: Cars And Cycles Against Cancer:

Att: Denise Henderson

518 Leigh St., Blytheville, AR 72315

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION New Web Site: Carsandcyclesagainstcancer.com

VENDOR Reservations: Contact Steve Southard

BMCA Monthly Meeting - Tuesday June 2, 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

Sun May 24, 2009 - TR Marque Rally and Cookout - see pg 3

Sat June 6, 2009 - Cars & Cycles Against Cancer - Blytheville, AR - see pg 5 - special BMCA challenge!

Sat June 13, 2009 - Clean up Morning at Petit Jean - contact Ron McLeod if you plan on helping

Sat June 20, 2009 - Petit Jean Antique Car Show and Swap Meet - make plans now.

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

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

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



British Motoring Club of Arkansas
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