



Big Easy

New Orleans, LA – The British Motoring Club of New Orleans’s British Car Day for 2010 was a rousing success. This year’s event was the 20th anniversary of the show and as in past years the good times just keep getting better. Everyone arriving for Friday night’s hospitality room was given a warm welcome and a feast fit for a king, or a driver of one of the king’s carriages.

The room was filled with locals and out of towners’ sharing stories of travels recent and in the past along with remembrances’ of mechanical failures and triumphs and all the good times in between. Martha and I settled at a table and had a great time visiting with everyone.

The EMC had a good turnout of cars for the show that began early on Saturday. Clay and Debbie Johnston, Gerry and Jackie Masterman, Bill and Melissa Silhan and Mike Glore all made it onto the field that had around one hundred painted and polished beauties. The organization of the show and the car classes ran like clockwork with no hitches noted. Jeff Zorn and the Little British Car Company made the show again this year for the shoppers and is always a welcome sight particularly those looking for that gift for that special person bite by the British Car bug. Although it looked a little like rain from time to time during the day it held off until the last few minutes of the award ceremony. The EMC made off with a couple awards and are very appreciative of the recognition.

Another great show and congratulations to everyone with the BMCNO that devoted time and energy to making the 20th a memorable gathering.

Deep South Alfa Romeo Club / EMC Fun Rally

Raymond, MS - Or thereabouts. The 2010 edition of the Fun Rally was held on March 27, 2010 and although Rally Master Andy Menapace promised a little shorter run and perhaps a little easier to run route the only persons fooled were the participants. Andy and crew were up to their usual feats of confusion and although no one ended up lost two to three counties away there were more than a few bewildered folks that appeared in the Menapaces’s driveway for the finish, food and refreshments and the awards ceremony.

There was a wide variety of cars at the start with everything from Parker Hall’s 250 GTO to Pat and Barbara Cashman’s 2CV. Traveling the back roads of rural Mississippi the 20 or passing four wheeled wonders seemed to bring a gleam and a waive from those more pedestrian along the route. The mid-way point was the Old County Store in Leflore MS where all travelers got a

break from the mind teasing rollercoaster country road along with a great sandwich with sides. A well trained rally team always knows where to get a good meal.



Duke Baker's start to DSARC/EMC Fun Rally

Photo Courtesy EMC

For the 2011 show the EMC will have to do some studying as 2010 was the second year in a row that members were trounced. 2009 was the year of the Italian makes and 2010 was the year of the German makes. Brother Clay and I ran an improved 9th in 2010 and had a great time doing it I might add.

PBCA's Brits on the Bay

Pensacola, FL – Off work late on Thursday, April 15, Martha and I finished loading Ole Red for the trip down to The Panhandle British Car Club's 18th annual Brits on the Bay. I had just finished the engine, transmission replacement the weekend before with the help of Brother Clay. Everything had gone pretty smoothly however the night before departure Ole Red was still up in the air with the leaking OD solenoid blues. A few swear words and lots of silicone and all was buttoned up tight as we left the driveway. The night was cool and clear and we arrived at the host hotel about mid-night. Wednesday we loaded up with Blake and Carey Sonnier from Lake Charles LA and headed over to the Naval Air Museum. I'd attempted this same feat a few years ago but was mistaken for a subversive when it was determined that my driver's license was out of date and turned away. This year I was successful and got more than I bargained for. The museum is jammed packed from floor to ceiling with vintage planes and displays. More than

you could even glimpse at in the three or so hours that we spent there. A return trip is definitely going on my schedule.

Back on the beach the PROTOADs had set up the usual hospitality room for Friday night. The food and fun went on until 9:00pm or so and we all had a great time visiting and exchanging tales. I think the ringer for the weekend came care of Blake and daughter Abbey who were dive bombed by a pelican on the way to the show. No, it didn't miss them by that much.

Saturday came early and was bright, clear and warm but not hot, perfect weather for the one hundred and four cars that took to the field in Pensacola. The organization of the show and the quality of the entrants continues to improve. At lunch a few of us wandered up to McGuire's Irish Pub for lunch and then back to the show site for judging and awards. The EMC made off with a little hardware from the organizers and are much appreciative of the recognition. The entire day was great and we look forward to next year and the PBCA nears its big 20.



Seven Spitfires all in a row Brits by the Bay 2010

Photo Courtesy EMC

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance / By Pat Cashman

I had never been to the Amelia Island Concours before so I jumped at the chance to go with EMC member Mike Marsh and guide Parker Hall. Parker is a regular attendee at this, Pebble Beach, Cavalinno and other big events so I knew we would meet some interesting people.

After checking into our motel we drove over to the Ritz Carlton where the auctions and show are located. Wow! I was told the room rate is \$425 a night with a three day minimum.

While taking a tour of the vendors selling automobile art, books and things we saw Denise McCluggage. She was gracious to say that she remembered sitting at our little folding picnic table at the Fayetteville British show a couple of years back. At that time I said I'm sure you know Parker Hall and she said of course she did. It happens everywhere.

On Saturday we sat in on the RM auction where there was a great variety of cars. Bob Jenkins bought a 1960 Abarth 850 Allemano coupe. A Ferrari 275 that was restored by Greg Jones, one of Parker's friends, sold for \$1.5 million. Greg has a hawk head parrot named Claude who sits on his shoulder that really was the best chick magnet I've seen in a while. Just about everyone had to come and talk to the parrot. Spirited bidding drove up many cars well past their estimates including a BMW Isetta that went for more than \$60,000.

Since I was not bidding and tried not to scratch or wave to anyone I got up after a few hours to go have a peek at the show cars being placed on the concours field.

While I was looking around Gus and Ann Fell came up to say hello. They were both working at the show and had to get back to work.

Sunday morning dawned a bright and sunny but windy day with as many cars as were on display I found something to look at each turn. Bob and Betsy Jenkins brought a sparkling MG Tickford which was parked next to an Alfa Romeo.

I really liked a 500cc Cooper and a Ferrari 500 Superfast. It was really difficult to pick out a few favorites from such a selection.

A really neat car was the gas turbine show car from Ghia. It was started up and toured around the show site. Let me tell you that it really isn't a good idea to stand behind it.

There was a fashion display where models in period clothes got out of cars as they stopped in front of the grandstands. Some of the cars were in motion all day which was great to hear the engines.

All too soon we had to gather up and get back on the road for our ten hour drive back to Mississippi. If you can get make time for it Amelia Island is a weekend that is sure to please.

Other Exhaust Rattles

While the Johnstons and Cashmans were off in at the Pensacola Show Mike and Alice were off at the Live Oak Concours d'Elegance near Baton Rouge LA. Mike indicates that the car selection was great and the show included one of my all time favorites a Chaparral 2E 'Flipper'. The show even included flyovers! Gentlemen and ladies, please start your engines.

The March 31 target for membership has come and gone and looks like where about even with 2009's membership. Thanks everyone for signing up and remember if you're just getting this reminder it's never too late.

We've added one new member, Jim and Varie Lynch from Brandon entering with an MGB GT and J.K Wright from Madison has re-joined the ranks. Thanks to all and we hope that you can make one of the EMC's remaining events during 2010.

That's it for this month's OSU. I've included some upcoming dates here but be sure to check the calendar at www.msemc.org for the events further into 2010.

Hope your car repairs are completed, the wind is behind you and the road ahead is clear.

Happy Motoring,

Gene Johnston

EMC

2010 EVENT CALENDAR

May 15 – 16, 2010 – EMC Drive Thru History / Locations Pending

David Crawford has re-up'd to layout some hidden sites along the roads of the state in 2010. In 2009 he mapped a great tour of some of the prettiest court houses in central Mississippi and rest assured that you'll enjoy what he's found in 2010. Stay tuned for additional details. Details: David Crawford (601) 317-0569

June 19, 2010 – Jake's Picnic and Tire Kick'n / Clinton MS

We'll be halfway thru the 2010 EMC calendar and there's plenty more. The food is great, Chef Pat is back in full service so the burgers and dogs will return to their usual level of tastiness so you don't want to miss the 2010 edition of the party at Jakes. Bring a dish or side and get a free burger or dog. What a deal! Lunch starts about 12:00pm. Details: Jake Weaver (601) 924-4367

July 17, 2010 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS

Travel down to the Piney Woods to Mike and Alice's place in the woods. A great trip is in store for the drive down and as well as a great meal and lots of fun and frivolity. Bring a dish and enjoy whiling away a lazy afternoon with the EMC. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231-5801