



# Bits and Spares

For The British Motoring Enthusiast

Established in 1989

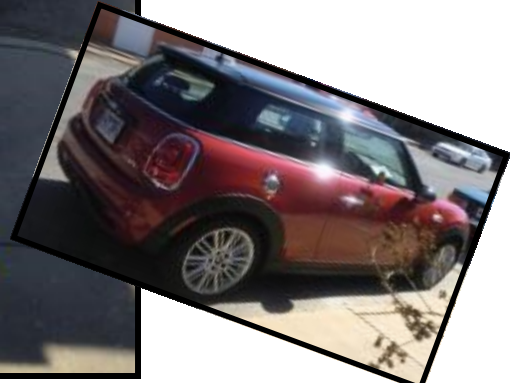
March 2016



Austin-Healey



MINI



## March Prez Says

Hello everyone!

Spring is just around the corner, and it's time to "wake up" our sleepy little LBC's! When your prepping your cars and getting them ready to run, don't forget about our parts supplier, and resident automotive guru, Ronnie McLeod! He has what you need to give your car the little "nudge" it may need. You can call him at 800-352-5816, and he will bring your order to the next meeting. Why pay shipping costs from an online dealer???

For all you MG owners, check out John Twist, of University Motors, on YouTube. He covers just about any issue you may face with your car.

I would also like to say "Happy Birthday" and "Happy Anniversary" to all those celebrating this month! Thanks to Leland Felix for stepping in at the last minute to give the Tech Talk at the last meeting, as well as providing us with a light-hearted moment involving Jack Breshear and a glass of ice water.

Don't forget about our next run, hosted by Jim and Jane Clark, on March 20, and our next meeting April 4. Hope to see everyone there!

God bless and Happy Motoring! Chris Cooper

## BMCA Officers

Pres.....Chris Cooper  
501-617-4696

VicePres..Lisa Hutchison  
501-821-2050

Treas .....Lance Felix  
501-625-3392

Sec.....Wilma Newton  
870-723-1964

## Marque Leaders

AH-Mini...Deborah King  
281- 216-1925

Empire.....Jim Clark  
501-416-4633

TR.....Leland Felix  
501-620-3983

MG.....Eric Weidmann  
501-627-0707

## Newsletter Editor

Brenda Collins  
501-225-5162  
hessdorf@aol.com

## Historian

Vera McLeod  
501-851-2640

## Membership

Ron Kew  
501-815-3459

\$30/year primary member  
\$15/year associate  
Also...3 for 2

## WebMaster

Brian Wright  
847) 691-8236  
Webster@bmca.club

[www.bmca.club](http://www.bmca.club)

We currently have 22 members  
that have not yet renewed their BMCA Membership.  
Please check the address label on this newsletter.  
If it is highlighted in YELLOW,  
that means you are one of these 22.

*(BMCA Member car for sale)*

1977 MG Midget for sale, asking \$3,900.  
Very good condition,  
especially mechanical.  
Will be at the Swap Meet April 23rd.



For more pics and more details,  
email Tom Wilkins at [turbotom99@yahoo.com](mailto:turbotom99@yahoo.com)

## 15' x 55' CAR STORAGE RENTALS

Across from McLeod's British Car,  
Morgan / Maumelle Area  
\$250 per month for BMCA members  
\$300 per month to the public  
CALL: Wayne Thomas, 501) 231-4868

## MITO

*(Minis In The Ozarks)*  
[Ozarkmini.com](http://Ozarkmini.com)  
October 2016  
Eureka Springs, AR

## MARQUE RESPONSIBILITIES

April Event: TR      May Event: MG      June Event: AH/Mini  
TechTalk: AH-Mini      TechTalk: Empire      TechTalk: TR

## March Minutes

We had a small turnout this month. After the pledge, Prez Cooper asked for visitors and/or new members. With no visitors, the floor turned to me. I read the highlights from my minutes, which was accepted and seconded. Lance Felix, our Treasurer, was next. He gave a detailed rundown of expenses and deposits; ending with a balance of \$7, 487.75, which was accepted and seconded.

Deborah King, AH/Mini Marquee Leader, stood and enlightened us with the trip to Mustang Sally's in Perryville, AR. After lunch, everyone went to Heifer Ranch, to see the baby animals. She said the drive was absolutely gorgeous.

Jim Clark, our Empire Marquee Leader, was next with his Senior Citizen Large font memorandum of our next event. He was able to talk for himself, so I guess he is all better from Gulpher Gorge pink-i-tis. Everyone is to meet at the Little Rock Historic Site no later than 2:30. At that time, we will view a special film and tour by a Ranger. After the tour, supper is being served about 4:30, at the Clark's house. Desserts will be welcomed.

Jim Wheeler said there wasn't anything new to say concerning the British National Meet in Blytheville.

For our new business; Ronnie McLeod did a double take. April is a busy month for BMCA. The Scottish Festival is the first weekend, the Triumph Marquee event, will be led by Mr. Wheeler because Mr. Leland has to be out of town. As in the past, the first congregating place is the McDonald's near McCain Mall. Departure time is 7am, come early if you plan to eat breakfast. The founders of the Scottish Fest requested BMCA to perform "The War of the One Eyed Woman" centered stage about noon, will be between the McLeod's and the Hutchison's. I heard there might be a search out for non-McLeod's kilts, contact Ronnie for more details.

April 23rd is the Swap Meet. The featured marquee this year is the MG series. Ronnie said besides the regular MG and MGB; he has a TC, TD, and a TF lined up to show. Bring your spare British car parts out; or see what parts you can find. Either way, the Swap Meet is an awesome place to be. Come on out and plan to stay for a while. From walking the midway to setting and conversing with friends, you will have a great time.

In Eric Weidmann's absence, Mr. Leland Felix was asked to pitch hit the Tech Talk for him. Mr. Felix did a fantastic rundown on the pros and cons is answering the question- to Silicone or not to Silicone. I had another learning moment. I didn't know there was that much difference between the two. Original brake fluid is meant more for hard breaking; but, absorbs moisture, which formulates rust on all the metal parts. Silicone is hydroscopic; but, some users have complained that the brakes are more spongy. To make sure that the two are NOT mixed, there are stickers available to adhere to the fire wall next to the reservoir, declaring the specifics. Silicone fluid is purple in color and if mixed with regular brake fluid will turn into a grape jello consistency, which is not good for your vehicle's system. I thought Jack Brashear was excited and wanted to add his own 2¢ worth to the Tech Talk when he jumped up. I will say – he stole the floor from Leland and earned a round of applause for his part.

Birthdays and Anniversary: Chris Cooper's Bday is the 2nd. Mary Sue Brashear birthday is on the 3rd; Gus Kemp has one on the 6th. Elaine Jones, 7th; Michael Ross has his birthday on the 12th; his Auntie, Susan Welch, has her special day on the 16th. Joel Taylor, 14th; Brenda Collins' big day happens on the 21st; Syndi Inscore's birthday is the 25th; Eric Weidmann 26th; and Gayle Nelson's birthday is the 28th. Charlie and Brenda Collins celebrate 46 years of wedded bliss on the 6th. Jim and Judy Wheeler celebrates their 29th anniversary on the 27th.

The first true goof of the evening; Jack proves just because you may be a little on the old side; doesn't mean you can't be quick on the jump; the glass of ice water in his lap, may have had something to do with it. Jerry and Dianne McCullough got a new baby girl; an English Springer Spaniel, named Maggie. His goof: he lost #3 cylinder on the B, burnt valve, and a cracked head. So he's looking for another head.

Jim Clark surprised Jane and got a Nissan 300ZX. June Felix won the door prize, a Starbucks gift card.

### Please Note:

Bits and Spares is the primary communication medium for BMCA'ers.

If your address label on this newsletter is highlighted in yellow, this will be your last newsletter.

Please renew now to keep your name on the mailing list, and remain a voting member.

## Triumph Marque

The April event is the Triumph Marque event and the response from the club was to let the Batesville Scottish Festival be our activity. Brother McLeod has already planed the route and Brother Jim Wheeler has agreed to lead the group as I will be in Dallas at a seminar on prosthetics. I believe Ron has given a copy of the route to Mrs. Brenda to put in the Bits and Spares and Jim assures he is well aware of the route and promised not to loose anyone. I may not be with all of you in body but I will be thinking of you in spirit. Just remember to keep the painted side up and the rubber side between the ditches. Chris has promised to eat my share of Haggis and Ron Kew wants my helping of Kidney pie (thank God for that).

### Scottish Festival

Batesville, Arkansas April 9, 2016

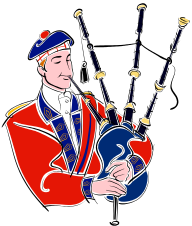
**6:30 am**.....Meet at McDonald's near McCain Mall

**7:00 am**.....Depart for Bald Knob

**7:45 am**.....Pit Stop at McDonald's in Bald Knob

**8:15 am**.....Depart for Batesville

**9:00 am**.....Arrive at Lyons College



<https://www.lyon.edu/scotfest>

### REACTION TIME COUNTS WHEN A TIRE BLOWS OUT

Last week I was driving in one of our Hot Spring streets and ran over a piece of scrap angle iron. In an instant I had a blow out on the front right tire and remembered this "Safe Driver tip" and I wanted to share it with all -

The primary goal if you experience a rapid loss of tire pressure or "blowout" is to keep the vehicle under control. Do not panic or over react and remember these do's and don'ts.

First, remember the two things you should NOT do:

1. Do not step on the brake. As instinctive as it may be, it's the worst mistake you can make. Applying the brakes will reduce the vehicle's stability.
2. Do not abruptly release your foot from the accelerator. This is the second - worst mistake you can make. Rapidly releasing the accelerator causes the vehicle to transfer more of its weight from the rear tires to the front tires. With a flat tire, this can lead to loss of control.

Instead, you should follow these 3 steps;

- \* Gradually release the accelerator.
- \* Correct the steering as necessary to stabilize your vehicle and regain control. Determine where you want the vehicle to go and steer in that direction.
- \* Once your vehicle has stabilized, continue to slow down and pull off the road where and when you judge it safe to do so. You are probably going to ruin one of your tires, but what the heck it had a blow-out and isn't going to be worth anything anyhow.

Happy motoring from your Triumph Marque leader Leland or "Felix the Cat" if you wish

## Empire Marque

We are looking forward to the March Empire Marque event that is being held on Sunday, March 20th. Information on the event was posted in the February newsletter so I won't repeat it here. This event would not be possible without the work of my most able assistant, my wife, Jane. If you couldn't already tell, Jane is the brains in the Clark family. She has great ideas for events and she happens to be a great cook to boot. So, after touring Central High School in Little Rock, we are gathering at our home for a good, ole fashion picnic. Since daylight savings time will be in full effect there will be plenty of sunshine to go around. After dark we will light-off the fire pit. Some great stories are told around the fire pit so come on out for some good food, good fun and maybe some good stories.

It is always fun to have folks over to our house. The garages are usually full of cars to look at; some collectable, some not-so-much. There has been one car missing from "the collection" for the past 4 months and I hope it is back home in time for the March 20th party.

Our 1960 Jaguar Mk IX was involved in an accident back in late September. It was a beautiful day so I decided to take the car out for a brief run and a stop at the store for a few items. While sitting at a stop light, the car was hit from behind by a "lady" who evidently was not paying any attention to driving at all. Fortunately no one was injured but this massive old Jaguar took the brunt of the hit. The woman told the police officer that she was "tending to her phone" and the next thing you know, WHAM, she hit the back of the Jaguar.

The damage didn't look too bad at first but upon further inspection the trunk lid was bent, trunk latches broken, trunk hinges bent/broken, bumper bent beyond repair and major body work needed under and around the impact area. The "lady" asked how much it would take to replace just the bumper on the Jag. When I told her the cost her comment was, "that's more than my whole car". That's right, so just wait until your insurance company gets a load of the bill for these repairs!

Matching the paint on this car was a real challenge since it was last painted in 1988 using lacquer paint. After months of rounding up parts, chroming and repairing broken latches and significant paint and body work, I think the old Jag may be ready to return home by the time you read this.

Maybe there is a lesson from this incident for us all: put your phone down and just drive! Accidents can happen so quickly.

When I am out in an LBC I don't even try to answer the phone. A phone call can wait and an accident can happen to any of us with just a moment's distraction.

Be safe out there but continue to drive your LBC or BBC (Big British Car).

Having fun is what it is all about.

Cheers, Jim



## Austin-Healey/MINI Marque *Marque Leader....Deborah King*

There are some photos going around in MINI Cooper circles these days, showing the growth in various models. The one I've copied here is for the 2016 Clubman. This car was introduced at Parker MINI a couple of months ago, and it is truly a totally redesigned car compared to the previous model. We're actually considering it for a replacement of our 5-series BMW wagon. Surprisingly, the interior dimensions are virtually the same as the 5-series, except for the length, which is only about a foot shorter--it's a big car!

So, how did the Clubman get to be this big? Let's review a bit of its history. Back in 1969, Mini, then produced by British Leyland, developed a new model to sell alongside what would be considered a "hardtop" in today's parlance. About 4" longer than the typical Mini, it sported a 1275cc engine, vs. 998 for the same year's hatchback. In appearance, the Clubman Estate looked something like the VW Squareback of the same general era, but one of the distinguishing features was the twin "barn-door" boot still seen on today's model. It borrowed some of the turn signal parts of the Austin Maxi, so it wasn't entirely new even when it was! In overall configuration, it was much like what Americans call a station wagon, and what the Brits call an estate. It wasn't especially popular upon introduction, and production eventually ended in 1980, long before the original hatchback's demise.

In the '90s, BMW assumed control over the Mini line, and began production of the hatchback (now called a hardtop). In 2008, the Clubman name was revived, and other than the classic barn door hatch and a little more length, it wasn't all that different from the 2 door hatchback of the day. Well, there was one difference--it had an extra door on the right side! Intended to facilitate access to the rear seat, the third door had a peculiar "suicide door" configuration, and could only be opened when the right front door was open. From the front, the car had pretty much the same dimensions and appearance as the hatchback, but was about 10" longer. It was only about 200 pounds heavier than the hatchback of the same year, so it drove pretty much the same, too. Cargo capacity was considerably larger, though--enough that NAM (northamericanmotoring.com) soon featured a thread titled "Will That Fit In A Clubman?" with over 325 tales and pictures of unlikely items carried in their Clubbie, ranging from full sets of racing tires to various band instruments and electronics to complete the ensemble. I haven't gone through the entire thread, but my guess is somewhere someone has photo'd their pet cow on board their Clubman, something that definitely wasn't an option with the original Clubbie.

The Clubbie was totally redesigned for 2016, and as I said, it's more like a 5-series BMW, only a little shorter. The base model is missing a cylinder, but both base and S models are now turbocharged, so performance is similar to the F56 hatchback/hardtop. It's comfortable, too--it now has the fit and finish of a BMW, at a bargain price.

So, where are we now? Well, from the late '60s model to now, we've added about 3 feet. And the 0-60 time has gone down from about 24 seconds to about 7, with the automatic 1/10 of a second faster. Safety has been improved in the past 45+ years, both inside and out. Many of the configuration and size changes are due to new European pedestrian protection regulations, in fact. Surprisingly, with all the advances in engine performance, including advanced fuel injection, fuel efficiency is about the same. (Then again, my old '69 Saab Sonett got 36 mpg in routine use, something my latest-and-greatest F56 can't match!) There are now 4 full-sized doors...and one big set of barn doors in the boot, electronically triggered by your foot, if desired. Will we get one to replace our Bimmer? Undecided--need to check out a few more cars first.

*Photos on next page.....*



AH/Mini Marque  
Rally  
Heifer Ranch



February 13, 2016



## MG Marque

This past week I went and looked through the BMCA Roster and noted that there were quite a lot of MG owners, a lot of you that I've not had the honor or privilege to meet. In my first article I told you about my experience with the MGA that I bought while still in the navy. It was the first of many British cars that I've owned over the years.

Now I would like to hear from you about you first MG .

Was it your first car?  
What model was it?  
Do you still have it?  
Did you buy it as a project car to be restored?  
When did you buy it?  
Have you bought others since then?  
What trips have you taken in it?  
Where you married or single at the time?  
If you no longer have it how was it disposed of and why?

I would like to hear from you by sending me a short paragraph or two in answer to the above questions. My e-mail address will be at the bottom of this article.

At the present I'm in the process of setting up the May run. As of now the roads that I've found seem to be really great for the run. My only concern as of now is the weather. If you remember, last year it seemed to rain almost every day that month.

Come to a meeting and say hell-o!

As I said before my e-mail address is as follows: [ericweidmann@yahoo.com](mailto:ericweidmann@yahoo.com)

Till I hear from you , drive safe! Your MG marquee Leader, Eric Weidmann

Go To  
[bmca.club](http://bmca.club)

For more  
Photos  
Of  
This  
Rally



Mustang Sally's



## 2016 Calendar of BMCA and Regional Events

March 20.....Empire Event (*LR Central High National Historic Site* [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc))  
April 5.....BMCA Meeting  
April 9.....Batesville Scottish Fest (*TR Marque Event*) <https://www.lyon.edu/scotfest>  
April 20-24.....2016 South Central VTR Regional, Norman, OK  
<http://www.triumphsokc.org/#!scvtr-regional-2016/ch5d>  
April 23.....BMCA Swap Meet

### 2016 Membership Roster

Bob Ross is working on the 2016 Membership Roster. Please check your 2015 roster and make sure your info in it is correct. If you have had a change of address, phone number, e-mail address, Anything that you may find incorrect, PLEASE let Bob know.

You can call him at: 501) 888-3396

Or email him at:  
[br3396@gmail.com](mailto:br3396@gmail.com)

### Membership Dues are Due

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER.**

If it is Highlighted in **Yellow**  
**This will be your last newsletter**

Please Send payment to :  
BMCA Ron Kew  
235 Cornerstone Blvd.  
Hot Springs, AR 71913

## MARCH EMPIRE EVENT


### SUNDAY MARCH 20TH

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site  
2120 Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive Little Rock, AR. 72202

*Be there by 2:15 for a special film that starts at 2:30 followed by a guided tour of the museum.*

After going through the museum, everyone is invited to the Clark's for supper  
2 Cambridge Court  
Little Rock, AR 72223

21st Annual British Motoring Club of Arkansas  
British Car Swap Meet April 23, 2016  
501) 851-2640 or 1-800-352-5816



**ABC**  
BLOCK CO.

Little Rock    Ft. Smith    Harrison  
 Russellville    Searcy    Springdale  
 Hot Springs    Fayetteville

**1-800-455-2027**



**ROCKSOLID  
DATA MANAGEMENT**

**David Fritchman**  
President

501.940.9900  
 davidf@rocksoliddatamgmt.com

On Site Document Shredding and Hard Drive Destruction  
 PO Box 242028 • Little Rock, AR 72228

**MCLEOD'S BRITISH CARS**  
SINCE 1971



**14310 CORVALLIS RD. MAUMELLE, AR**  
 (501) 851-2640 • 1-800-352-5816 • FAX:(501) 851-4513  
 EMAIL - McleodCo@swbell.net

*"Arkansas' Classic British Car Specialist"*

<p><b>11601 Kanis Road</b>  <b>Little Rock, AR72211</b>  <b>(501) 223 9700</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Title Co.</u></b>          Title Insurance          Escrows          Loan Closings</p>	<p><b>Elaine K. Jones</b>  <b>Owner/President</b>  <b>elaine@thetitleco.net</b></p>
<p>Buying ; Selling; Building or Refinancing a Home.....We can help with all your Real Estate Closings Needs</p>		



BMCA  
 Newsletter Editor  
 723 Kirby Rd.  
 Little Rock, AR. 72211