



Great chow at the Smokey Mountain Grill!

More BMCNO (Continued from page 12)

BMCNO visits Brits on the Bay

by Rick Huber

Another great weekend in Pensacola! Great weather, great driving, great party, great show! What's not to like? Several of us headed over there on Thursday, April 18th, for the Saturday show.

Some more folks headed over on Friday, in time for the welcome reception at the Museum of Commerce from 5 to 7 p.m. — a meet-and-greet in a very nice environment, with lots of homemade dishes served by the hospitable locals, and entertainment by a bagpiper band. It was a good chance to get together with friends from the Mississippi, South Alabama, Panhandle, Peachtree, and other clubs.

Show day was gorgeous — partly cloudy and a high of about 80°, but it didn't get that hot under the oak trees in Seville Square where all the cars were parked. The count was 102 cars and motorcycles, with 10 more that registered but didn't show up. Makes you wonder if the forecast for heavy rain all day Sunday kept some people away. It didn't help that the Concours in Natchez was the same day.

There was a great mix of cars, from Bill and Melissa Silhan's Best of Show 1936 AC Doctor's Coupe to the modern Jags and Minis, with lots of MGs and Triumphs as usual.

My son Andrew and grandson Jackson from Pensacola were there, and Jackson used my ballot to judge all the classes. He did surprisingly well for his first LBC judging. Overall he had a great day at the show, but for now he still wants a Lamborghini when he grows up — gotta keep working on him.

Allen took 3rd place in the valve cover racing and we had our share of prizes from the eight BMCNO cars entered. Rick, Mark, Terry, Allen and Keith got 1st place in their classes, Cathy a 2nd, and Lee a 3rd.

The music was good, and local restaurants provided a tasty lunch. There were door prizes and a 50/50, and it was just really fun walking around looking at cars and talking to owners on a beautiful spring day.

Thanks, Panhandle British Car Association, for another well done show! We really enjoyed it.

Natchez Concours d'Elegance

by Benny Stiegler

Colin McCormick met me north of Madisonville mid-morning April 19th in his Alpine, and with me driving my Sprite, we headed up maybe a dozen or more back roads on the way to Natchez.

The drive was made for owners of Little British Cars. First to Amite, then Liberty, Miss., and from Gloster up Hwy. 33 to Liberty Road, and through the Homochitto National Forest, reaching Natchez in time for lunch at the malt shop and an early check-in at the Grand Hotel.

The streets around the Grand were the site of this year's Concours d'Elegance, the second year for this show. Richard Branyan and the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club sponsor the event, which has taken the place of Natchez EuroFest.

Hugh Coleman, his girl Mercy and friend Keith Wilmore from Alexandria were there, too. We joined many hospitable members of the Rolls-Royce club and many folks who in March attended our British Motoring Festival. It was a weekend full of fun, food and incredible British and European cars.

British cars more like ours were parked among the many Rolls-Royces and Bentleys. We were next to a beautiful Morris Minor Traveller, and parked nearby were a couple of TR6s, a Jaguar XKE Coupe, and a 1947 Daimler hot rod. Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari were all well represented. And I thought the Maserati was pretty awesome. Who wouldn't?

The weather turned breezy, misty and chilly later in the day. We made it to supper and back before the real rain came through. Then by Sunday morning the skies were clear and we had another great drive on the way home.

We'll most likely drive to Natchez again for Brits on the Bluff on September 21st. It's a great place to spend the weekend. You should plan to join us if you can!

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



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'A gentleman does not motor about after dark.' —Joseph Lucas

Moral: Never believe the Weatherman

by Charlie Durning

In spite of the dire weather forecast, the day turned out to be nice for a drive in the country. Sixteen souls in three Brit cars and four other cars braved the sunshine, great temperatures, good roads, and some new scenery.

The drive was spirited at times and cautious at times. Usually the crew was able to keep pace with the Morris Minor. The drive through the woods was about 45 minutes as we wound our way to Mendenhall. The best part is we were able to avoid Hwy. 49.

We made it to our first destination without incident. The folks at the Smokey Mountain Grill were glad to see us as we arrived. The food and service were given with a smile. I had a yummy pulled pork plate and I heard compliments about the ribs.

After we finished gorging ourselves on the tasty barbecue we had a discussion about heading to Kirk Hill's Model T restoration shop. The decision was made to take the long way through the woods instead of braving the dangers of Hwy. 49 traffic. All agreed and we headed out.

Kirk was waiting for us as we arrived. He had the shop open and ready for inspection.

Kirk's shop is a step back in time. Most of the tooling he uses is 100 years old. He had two Model Ts in his shop and a couple of more awaiting some attention. He also had several engines lying around for our inspection. It's amazing how simple those cars are.

In another barn is where Kirk stores three of his beautifully restored cars. One competed in a nine-day cross-country trip in The Great Race and another was part of the 110th year celebration of the Model T. The 110th was a coast-to-coast trek that took 30 days. The cars were never trailered to, from, or during the events.



Gathering for the drive under cloudy skies. Below: Kirk (center) with club members and the Great Race Model T. Photos by Charlie Durning



All in all, it was a day well spent.



Around Kirk's shop. Anticlockwise, from above: Model T that participated in the 110-year-anniversary Endurance Run; decoration commemorating same; Simplex motorcycle; car restored in 60 days.

