

PM Message - Dec 08

It is that time of the year when all of our thoughts and energies go into planning for the holidays. I don't know about you, but I have already covered a few thousand miles to visit relatives and to shop. Well all right, my fingers have covered a few thousand miles. I just love the internet for shopping. It makes Christmas a lot easier on my feet, back, nerves and the car.

For all of you who missed the November meeting you missed a great one. It started as a drive to Monticello on a beautiful sunny day. Yeah, it was cold - JP, Wanda, Tom and (the other) Wanda can attest to that and we all know how good the heaters are in these cars. But you have to hand them the bravery award for driving in 40ish temps with the tops down. Now how much more British car can you get? Still, you have to wonder how they could move as bundled up as they were.

To turn heads on the Rt 90, we had Bill Thompson and the Streit's in their MGB's, Nancy Ayotte in her TD, the Phares' in Earl, the Brown's in their Midget and a VW. Yeah, a VW. But I could pretend it was my LBC and at least I was warm. I also got lost. I got caught up in all the Saturday afternoon rush hour traffic in Monticello and missed a critical left hand turn. I did have a nice view of the dog track as I turned around in its parking lot. I could hear the dogs barking, "Who let the people out?" By the time I got back to Tallahassee, everyone had gathered at the Thompson's house for chili and all the fixin's. Nothing is better than warm chili with cornbread on a cold day.

Speaking about events, hopefully by now you all received the e-mail I got announcing the Milestones 09 event at the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona on January 29. This sounds like an outstanding event and very reasonably priced. If anyone in the club is considering a trip over in your car, please let me know. If you have room, I'd like to hitch a ride since my car will be no where near ready to drive by then.

The trials and tribulations of an amateur restoration continue. My LBC now sits in my garage, completely stripped down and waiting to go to the body shop. My little garage has gotten smaller and smaller as the parts came off. I've had to lose weight just to walk around the car. I also went through two boxes of nitrite gloves and three boxes of zip lock bags. However, I found a real handy tip about using pictures to maintain a record of where things fit together. So I took it to the next step and put the pictures in all the zip lock bags with the parts. Hopefully, these pics will still be good enough after I empty the bags that I can use them as a record of the restoration. I have to tell you, my office has started a pool on how many parts I'll have leftover when the car is reassembled. I've taken a few boxes in the pool myself.

I reported to you last month that one of our club members, Rob Barfield had gathered all the parts of his '77 roadster from Raphael's old garage and that Bill Thompson and I had helped him sort out all the bits. After hard and long (as well as emotional) consideration, Rob has decided that the cost of rebuilding the car to the standard his Dad left it would be prohibitive given his current budget. He is considering parting out the car. Bill and I were able to determine that most if not all of the pieces are present and accounted for and Rob has said he will give first consideration to club members who may need some replacement or spare parts.

During the November meeting/party, we elected the officers and directors for next year. Mike Miller will be PM, Yours Truly accepted the open position of VPM, Julie Miller will be Treasurer and Jane Streit will remain as Secretary. Tom and Wanda Phares will join the Board of Directors. As you all know, 2009 will be a critical year for us and all of your help is needed and greatly appreciated. Let's all get behind our officers to maintain the excellence of BBMG's and make the Rendezvous an event to be remembered.

There will be no December meeting and the January meeting will be our annual holiday party and officer installation. The date and place are yet to be determined but will be forwarded to everyone as soon as the plans are finalized.

In the meantime, I wish all of you the safest and best of holidays. I also want to thank all of you for the support I received as your PM this year. I know that 2009 will be a significant year for BBMG's and I know the officers and directors can count on all of you to help make the year one to remember.

And HEY, let's all have fun out there.