

Prime Minister's Message
February, 2008

I have to admit, I had a great time at our January meeting/Holiday Party. The motor in my Pumpkin had just been reassembled and was running as well as ever. The drive we all took to Bradley's was a showcase of all the beautiful scenery that North Florida has (AND without the heat), the food was fantastic and food is my favorite, and, of course, the company was as warm and friendly as always. I hope everyone has found just the right places for the gifts. We do have a great club.

But now it's February in North Florida and while most of the country still has another month or two of winter, thoughts of spring are boinging in our heads. Soon the dogwoods and magnolias will be blooming and thoughts of outdoor activities will fill our minds. With the warm, sunny weather we'll start having, it's time for us to get out there and show the BBMG colors.

Our monthly meeting is going to be a little early this month on **February 16**. However, it will be a special occasion. On that date, we are going to be getting together with the Bay British Car Club from Pensacola for an afternoon of fun. At **1:00**, we are all going to get together for lunch (and our monthly meeting) at the Cross Creek restaurant on Mahan Dr near I-10 and then go across the street for a tour of the brand new Tallahassee Car Museum. The Museum is becoming one of the premier attractions of the area and the BBCC is driving in specifically to see it and to meet with us. Isn't it always the rule that we don't realize what we have in our own backyard until someone else points it out to us. Anyway it promises to be an afternoon of fun. Just think, on the inside of the museum is the Batmobile and on the outside will be all these beautiful British automobiles lined up just glistening in the sunshine. It'll be another attraction for the visitors of the museum and a chance for us to show off BBMG. We all have Mike Miller to thank for arranging this unique experience for us.

One of the ideas that was brought out at the January meeting was that of a progressive dinner. It's another great way not only to get to know the club members but also to show off the machinery. I'd like to get that set up for March. 22. So, if you want to participate as a destination for the evening, please call me or e-mail me by March 10 so I can finalize the arrangements, set the route and get out the invitations.

One of the other ideas that was brought out was to have each of the club members/families write a short bio so that we all get to know each of us a little better. I volunteered to be first. So here goes:

As most of you know, I was drafted into the position of PM and accepted humbly. I joined BBMG during the summer of 07 after having purchased my orange 77 (hence Pumpkin) B in May.

I grew up in St. Petersburg having moved there from Upstate NY in the late 50's (OK now you know why I have the gray hair). In my teens and early 20's, I got addicted to British sports cars and owned 2 MGA's one of which I autocrossed and raced, a Jag XK-150S (now THAT was a car), and a (real) Mini. I also was involved with several British car clubs in the Tampa Bay area at that time. It was then that I learned how to work on those cars. What British car owner of that era didn't? The big difference is I enjoyed doing it.

I moved back to NY to attend college in the early 70's and kind of got removed from sports cars. Most of them in that climate had rusted away by the time I got there anyway. In the meantime, I gathered a college degree in Economics and an MBA in Finance from the State University of NY in Albany and went to work in commercial banking. Over the years, my financial career has taken me on several paths. Corporate/Commercial lending officer to all sizes of companies, a privately owned business, municipal bond management, risk management and now consulting. I currently work for a company here in Tallahassee known as Member Business Solutions. We provide consulting to credit unions which are just now getting into the commercial lending business. Our job is to make sure they don't crash and burn like the S&L's did in the early 80's when they tried to be commercial lenders.

I spent my spare time raising two wonderful children who are now out on their own (wow, I must be having fun). My daughter graduated from college in Montreal, spent 2 years in the Peace Corp. stationed in Cameroon, Africa and now is with a family owned charitable foundation in New York City. She just returned from Southeast Asia on a business trip and I am waiting for the photos.

My son graduated from Jacksonville University where he set several records playing football. He then attended Johnson and Wales University in Denver and is now working at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on Amelia Island. I'm angling to see if he can sneak me into the car show this year.

I live out in the woods down in Crawfordville about 3 miles in a straight line from Wakulla Springs. I had the house built for me in 2006 and one of the items I insisted on was having a garage. I knew then I'd need it and now that garage is now filled with orange MGB sitting on a big piece of cardboard. I bought the B on impulse, probably because those memories of the late 60's and early 70's never really left my head. Funny how memories can obscure the reality and I figured, if I am going to own another MG, I need to associate with those who can commiserate with my plight. That's why I showed up unannounced at the June BBMG meeting and have been active since. It's been a 30 year, around the block trip for me to own another MG but it's been gratifying to me to know that my tools still work and my fingernails can get just as dirty as they did then. I just don't remember it being so hard to crawl out from under the car though.....