

March-08 PM Message

Last month, I had the wonderful opportunity of flying to Canada to visit with Loretta (many of you met her last summer) and spend a week getting my cold and snow fix. Funny how little many Americans know about our Great White North neighbor. At the Tallahassee airport on the way out, the TSA (you know the TSA, our first line of defense against all the air evils that lurk around us) asked, "Where is Sask.....er.....Sacka.....uh.....Sakatchwhat? I thought the explanation of where I was going would have probably caused a major meltdown. So, I just said, "up north and out west". He looked at me like *I* was the crazy one but passed me through.

However, just before going to the airport, I had the great pleasure of attending our February meeting and get-together. On the 16th, BBMG's, the Bay British CC from Panama City, the NFBCC, and the Temple of Triumph all met for lunch at the Cross Creek Restaurant and then spent the afternoon at the Tallahassee Car Museum. In total, there were 17 various British cars of many vintages and types accompanied by about 50 people.

Now that all sounds like an outstanding turnout and it was. However, when the restaurant is only expecting 20-30, the fun begins. I was a bit skeptical of the ability to handle the overflow when the college kids at the door said they, we weren't expecting THIS many. "We're only set up for 20. I dunno if we can get anymore in here". I had visions of 17 vintage British cars polished, gleaming in the beautiful Florida spring sunshine, sounding like the starting grid at Silverstone and all lined up at the McDonald's Drive-Thru.

However, Mike Miller dug into his past and created a miracle. Not only did he manage to talk the restaurant into seating all of us, but also he became the waiter, busboy, host and cook. I wasn't sure whether to hug him or tip him. In any event, lunch was served albeit a bit slow but during that time all the various club members got the chance to know each other a bit better. After lunch we all crossed the street and visited the museum. It is a magnificent place and worthy of spending more afternoons just wandering through the exhibits. The idea has been floated that we have next year's Rendezvous at the car museum and I can't think of a better place in all of Tallahassee for it. More on this as plans progress

One of the other ideas mentioned at lunch (credit here to Terry Kent the president of the Bay British CC) was a joint drive to through the wonders of the Apalachicola National Forest and then a picnic at Wakulla Springs. Personally, I like this idea (for not the least reason is that I live only 3 miles from Wakulla Springs) but it also will give us another opportunity to gather with good friends. Because March and April are such busy months, we are going to try to get this organized for May 17. We should have all the plans together in plenty of time for you to reserve the date so we can have a great turnout.

Unfortunately, the progressive dinner we wanted to organize for March will have to be put on hold until a future date. Yours truly forgot to check the calendar and it was

pointed out to me that March 22 falls on the Easter weekend. I found in the responses I received that many of you will be out of town or entertaining that weekend. SO, instead mark your calendars for our regular monthly meeting to be held at Food Glorious Food on March 20. In addition to our regular monthly meeting there is a long list of events taking place in March and April. Shows in Winter Haven, Ocala and Key West will all have BBMG representation. Closer to home, the Tallahassee Scottish Games on April 17 has asked to have a display of British motor cars on site during the games. Charlie O'Connors has entry info and if you are interested, please contact him at charlieoc@comcast.net or 539-1104.

On March 8, I went to the Amelia Island Concours and enjoyed a perfect car day there. If you have never been to this show, you are missing one of the truly great events in all of the automotive world. Literally \$100's of millions of all types and vintages of collectors' cars in one place. This year focused on the Trans-AM cars that ran in that racing series during the late 60's and through the 70's. I was standing next to a George Folmar Boss Mustang when it started up. I think I felt all 400 HP in my chest and it took about an hour for my hearing to return to normal. I also got ushered along after drooling on the XK-SS and SS-100 Jags. I've included a few of the MG's on display and I have a LOT more photos of the day. However, one of the real highlights of the day for me was the privilege to be invited to dinner with a group of MG people from around the country. As you would expect, we all talked MG. But while I was talking MGB they were talking T and P series. Ah, one of these days. One thing though, I found out that Blair Engle is one of the best known guys in the MG world. A mere mention of his name brought smiles and nods of knowing. Kudos to Blair.

This month Blair will be publishing his bio in our newsletter. However, we need a volunteer to have their MG life story printed in the April newsletter. This is a great way for everyone in the club to get to know our fellow members and talk up the cars we have. Please let me know if you'd like to participate in this.

In any event, I hope to see you all at our monthly meeting on 3/20.