

October, 2008
PM Message

I am sitting here looking out the window as I try to break the writer's block that seems to have overtaken me. Today is a good day to be inside and just watch the gray and cloudy sky. Gray and cloudy you say! In Florida? Well yes we do get some even if there is no hurricane out there. However, it brings to mind that the beastly hot weather is pretty much behind us for this year and it's time to once again get our LBC's out and running.

As you all know, my Pumpkin is being disassembled in prep to take to the body shop. What a job that's turned out to be, especially in my undersized, one-car garage which also serves as a garden shed and laundry room. Not only that, I sure don't remember it being so hard to get in and out of all the places that have nuts and bolts to loosen. After all I can still do anything now that I could do when I was 19. What I found though, is that it takes a WHOLE lot longer to recover.

There's something to be said for a car that has spent all its life in the Sunshine State as things were detaching pretty easily and I haven't found much rust at all. And then I ran into the heater box..... Seems if there is a place that is going to hold the screws tight it's going to be right around the heater box. I tried the normal way first. I sprayed the bejeebers out of the screws with WD40. You know, they say that all you need in your tool box is 2 things, WD40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, spray it with WD40. If it moves and shouldn't, duct tape it! Anyway, after a liberal dousing of WD40 (enough as to where I was chasing the mosquitoes out of the garage) the slots in the fasteners just kind of gave way to the screwdrivers and became craters in the screw heads. So then I tired my drill. I had to bend WAY over the fender to line up the drill. With feet off the ground I was teetering on the fender and there wasn't much leverage, so all the drill bit did was dance around the crater.....and slipped out once in a while. (I may have to use Bondo on the heater box) Next came the late night TV solution. "Our \$19.95 screw extractors can take a rusted bolt out of a battleship". "But wait, don't call yet....." Yeah, sure. I guess if you don't own a battleship you'll have to watch more late night TV. All these things did was make the craters larger. So now I am just about ready to take a big ol' hammer or an air chisel to the situation and beat it into submission when I remember I have a Dremel and Lowe's has the cut off bits. So now I am going around the heater box and cut the heads of the screws off one at a time. My feet are still off the ground and I am getting bruised hips but that little high speed cutter is doing the trick. The whole time I'm thinking, "why do I need a heater in Florida anyway.....but as I look outside right now, I know it can get chilly.

Speaking of working on the cars, you'll remember that Rob Barfield retrieved his car from Raphael's garage in many pieces. Bill Thompson has suggested and I think it a great idea that we have a tech session either the last weekend of this month or the first one next month to sort thought the parts and try to determine what Rob has and needs. We will discuss the timing at the October meeting.

Also for discussion at the October meeting will be the latest on the Rendezvous planning. Mike and Julie will bring us all up to date on their progress but I think it's time to start ratcheting up the marketing and we need ideas on how to accomplish it.

November brings the Jamboree in St. Petersburg. I strongly encourage anyone interested to line up and go. Glenn Lenhard has already told us he will participate at the Rendezvous and I think a show of support on our part would be thanks to him. Moreover, because this is a major event with participation from all over the Southeast, we need to spread the Rendezvous brochures liberally while we're there. Besides, I hear this event is a real hoot.

Additionally in November, the monthly club meeting will be on a weekend morning (to be determined) at Bill and Nancy Thompson's house. We are going to have a drive over the Rendezvous tour route and then chili and beer. How can anyone resist that? Also, I want to remind all the club members that Joe Kaiser can order car badges with the club logo. The cost is very reasonable and if you are interested, please contact him at josephkaiser@bellsouth.net or let me know at the next meeting. These badges are a great way to get the BBMG's logo out there and noticed.

Finally, it is that time of the year when we have to consider nominations for the club offices. Wow, where did the year go?

This month's meeting will be at the Old Town Café at 6:30PM on the 23rd. See you then and in the mean time let's have fun out there.