

PM Message 9/08

Well, I can tell that this hot humid summer is beginning to break. You can always tell when Fall is in the air here in North Florida. Football has cranked up at FSU and UF, the Weather Channel gets a real thorough watching as hurricanes track all through the Atlantic and the Gulf and thoughts in the minds of British car drivers turn to drives through the countryside.

I know I've mentioned before the absolutely gorgeous drives we can take in and around Tallahassee. The canopy roads heavy with moss, the rides along the Coast Highway out to Apalachicola and St. George Island, the back roads in south Georgia winding through the stopped-in-time little southern towns all bring to mind the romantic side of owning our little cars. A long drive on a fall afternoon, your best squeeze next to you in the car, the feel of the wind rushing through your hair and the constant music of the motor all are part of why we own and love our cars.

As most of you know, I am now in the process of disassembling Pumpkin for her trip to the beauty spa (more commonly known as the body shop). After all, I have to get her ready for her prom debut at Rendezvous in May. By the way, the plans for Rendezvous are moving along beautifully and we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for the hard work and long hours the Miller's have put into planning. We'll have an up to date report at our meeting on the 18th.

Back to Pumpkin. I started at her back end to begin the dismantling process. I thought the backside would be the place to start cause it looked cute and easy. HA!!! What do I know? It's funny how a 3 hour job can turn into a 4 day project. Spaghetti wiring, nuts and bolts frozen on, some less than OEM pieces in places that aren't supposed to be pieces and plastic that has become so brittle from the Florida sun that a sneeze tends to crumble it to powder were just a few of the surprises I had. And let's not even begin to talk about 32 year old weather stripping. Good thing I decided to go to Harbor Freight and buy a box of 100 plastic gloves. Well actually two boxes..... My hands may get wet in them but they are staying clean.

However, progress has been made. Not only do I now have everything off the car up to and including the interior but also I have sweat off about 10 pounds. I guess there is some benefit of working in a non air conditioned garage. Also, I got a thank you note from the local Walmart because they had to completely restock the shelves with zip bags. Most of what they had is now filled with MG in my garage. So far, I've also filled about 4 pages of notebook paper with parts that I am going to have to replace. Wait till Blair sees this order! Blair also let me borrow a few of the DVD's from his extensive British car library. These particular ones are on "How to Restore Your MGB and Stay Sane". He never told me he had science fiction in the library. I have to believe that anyone who has done this job knows the ups and downs that go with it. But you know, when all is said and done, I am having fun doing this.

If you haven't seen the website for Rendezvous not only would I encourage you to do so but also give nudge to any British car owners you know to take a peek at it. Just go to www.bigbendmgs.com and click on the Rendezvous logo. Many thanks go out to Joe Kaiser for designing the logo and brochure as well as to Vera Darby for setting up the club website links. Mike and Julie have the brochures which are ready for you to pick up at the next meeting and begin to distribute. Speaking of Joe Kaiser, he reminded me that he has a supply of very fashionable BBMG's car badges for sale. If you're interested in one, please contact Joe at josephkaiser@bellsouth.net.

In the fall forecast of things to do is an invitation to a picnic hosted by the Bay British Car Club. The event will be on 10/11 at the lakeside home of one of its members of that club. BBCC has had members drive the 120 miles to be at several of our events this year. If you are interested in going, please contact Terry Kent at tkent@mindspring.com. He tells me that all we have to bring is ourselves and our favorite adult beverage. All the rest is on them.

Finally, there are two drives in the tentative stages of planning. Bill Thompson has whispered to me that he wants to brag on the drive he has planned for Rendezvous by taking us out on it. Possible timing is going to be a weekend sometime in late September or early October. Finally, the NFBMC has invited BBMG's on a drive to Colquitt, Georgia on 10/18.

As I mentioned at the top, it looks like Fall is beginning to fill with some great activity. It's a great time for us so let's get moving and have some fun out there.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 9/18 AT THE OLD TOWNE CAFÉ, 6:30PM