



Smoke in the Wires

Monthly Musings of the Panhandle British Car Association

NON SPECIAL WINTER EDITION

As you have probably guessed, I've had a bit of a sabbatical. Welcome to the winter edition of Smoke in the Wires! Added to the normally busy season has been just an absolute crush at work. Every couple of years we get inspected and every couple of years I have to get a flight evaluation done. Well they all lined up this year. I finished my flight eval (Huzzah!) and rolled right into the inspection. In the weeks



leading up to Christmas I only saw the sun once on my drive home. What's this have to do with British cars? Not a thing, and that's my problem. For a hobby that you aren't supposed to get worked up about, I get worked up when I'm not making headway.

Now prior to the crush, I got real busy with the red paint. There are important projects you do that take lots of time, but leave little interesting

to show. Brake cylinders are a good example. However, there's no substitute for bold, no-one-can-deny-it progress. In my case, I painted my engine frames. They do look good. They are VERY red. I really felt I'd accomplished something even though all I'd done was change the color. Still, up against the never ending cleaning and sorting of fasteners, this was real progress. They too are reposing in the dining room, keeping the bonnet company.

Maybe I can get something done in the days following New Years. Unfortunately, I really can't put off doing more electroplating. I have so many clean parts piled up, I fear a big mix-up is in the works if I don't clear the backlog. We'll see.

The club isn't idle though. We had an outstanding time at the Manske's for Burgers and Brats Night.



Tom Matsoukas led the Blackwater driving tour and a record 55 people attended the revitalized Christmas party and rather ribald Dirty Santa.

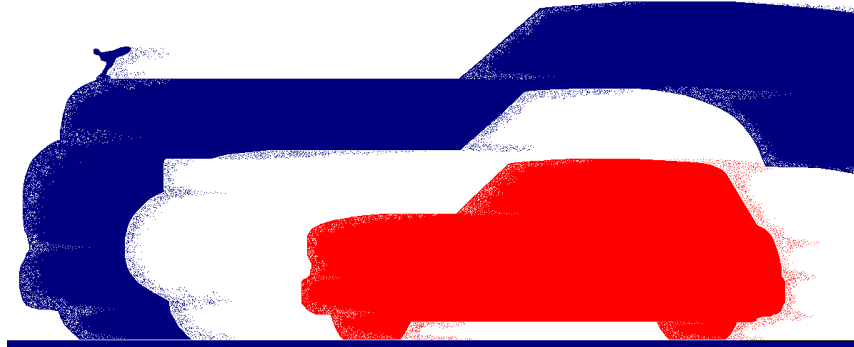
Looking forward, the Executive Committee has set a tentative schedule of events for the new year and the Show Committee has us on track for an even better show with an outstanding venue for our Friday red beans

and rice extravaganza.

Now it's time to risk my neck getting the Christmas tree back into the attic.

Marc Cherry

Editor



MISSING THE MARQUE

This Month's *The British Line* submission for *The Marque* by Richard Lewis

'Tis the Season

Deck the halls, fill the cup and don't say when, Joyeau Noel, break out the Dickens, etc., etc., etc., ad nauseum. You know as well as Your Loyal Correspondent that the holidays loom large, when peace is supposed to reign (good luck with that), the milk of human kindness is flowing, yea, overflowing, by the quart in every vein, and the brotherhood of man is rampant in every breast.

Truth is, much of that does appear around the winter holidays, and cynical remarks like the aforementioned reflect poorly on the grouch who issues them. People do try to be kinder, more generous, and more attentive to others during this time. Well, at least some do, even extending such noble efforts into the New Year, and that helps make up for the rest of us who fail, despite our sometimes good intentions.

So your YLC will put his sharp tongue and petty comments in his pocket and do his best to be what everyone aspires to be, a better person not only during this time of year, but even beyond. He may fail miserably, as he has done so often in the past, but this year, it won't be for lack of trying. He

sincerely wishes the best for you during the holiday season, and that you too will rise to the challenge.

Still, still, that won't keep him from, just a little bit, protesting the injustice meted out at the October 19 Rally through Milton and Bagdad, followed by the great dinner at Nichols' Seafood. Let YLC set the context so you too will see how cruel and heartless was the injustice heaped upon the head of YLC and his loyal navigator, Major Mickey McNair. Perhaps you will recall the triumphal victory realized by YLC and Major Mickey at the September 28 Dog Days Rally, when precision driving and flawless navigation won for them the hero's crown.

Having honed the TR 6 to a fine mechanical point and Major Mickey having studied all possible routes and locations in the Bagdad/Milton area, both of us were ready to recreate our recent victory and, once again, the event saw Juan Fangio-style driving and Lewis and Clark-style navigation on our part.

When it came time to look at the submitted route sheets, organizer and past president (he whose name must not be spoken and therefore shall forever remain nameless), no doubt eaten with envy over our recent triumph, subjected our document to microscopic scrutiny, nitpicking and pettifogging over

every detail, even penalizing us for handwriting. Gall and wormwood! He even brought his lovely, unsuspecting, and delightful wife (whose name is also sequestered) into his perfidious scheme, innocent child that she is.

Shocked as we were, should we protest such actions? No, and again, a resounding No. Instead, we rose above such mean-spirited actions. We generously congratulated the putative winners, holding our heads high, and, recognizing that such injustices were heaped on Dreyfus, Socrates, Scopes, and other heroes, let it pass, like gentlemen. Still, still....

Despite this peccadillo, the last month has seen lots of activity, and most of it above-board.

Recent Events

October 25-26- 23rd Annual South Alabama British Car Club British Car Festival-Fairhope, Al. This show is always a much-awaited event for area enthusiasts. The grassy tree shaded campus of Falkner College is a beautiful setting for this prime British car show. 119 cars were entered in the show and that was an all-time high for SABCC.

PBCA was well represented with over 18 cars on the field and the club won the Best Attendance Award. 16 trophies were taken home by PBCAers:

Peoples' Choice and 1st in Britannia Sports, Bill and Melissa Silhan, 49 Triumph 2000

1st Place: Tom and Jeanne Schmitz, 59 Bugeye Sprite

1st Place: Tom and Jeanne Schmitz, 55 MGTF1500

3rd Place: Tom and Jeanne Schmitz, 68 MGB

1st Place: Richard and Donna Cunningham, 64 Jag E-type FHC

2nd Place: Bob and Margaret Henson, 67 Jag E-type, OTS

2nd Place: Nancy Darby, 67 Jag 240 Sedan

2nd Place: Curt and Midge Derby, 53 MGTD

2nd Place: Mike Darby, 59 MGA

1st Place: Mark Huber, 66 MGB

2nd Place: John Mahone, 73 MGB

3rd Place: Al DeWeese, 02 Jag X Type

3rd Place: Rich and Darla Willows, 63 TR3B

2nd Place: Bob Manske, 08 Jag XK

3rd Place: Jerry Crompton, 07 XK8 Coupe

Among other PBCA members attending the show were: Mike Japp, Triumph Spitfire; Jon Gosnell, TR6; Gus and Ann Fell whose Mustang was denied entry. Apologies to other PBCAers we may have missed.

Oct 29- Breakfast at the Broken Egg- Simply an early morning get together, with no driving, no contests, no tech session, brought out some fifteen PBCA members and guests. Theresa Hemmert again organized this pleasant event at a truly exceptional restaurant. Good show, Theresa, and thanks.

Nov. 2- Stop Diabetes Marathon and Car Show- Mariners Park was the site of this fund-raiser to benefit diabetes victims. Approximately 100 cars participated. PBCA showed up with six cars: Rich and Darla Willows, TR3B; Michael Lindley, TR6; Russ Pasco, Healey 3000; Michael Scordato, Model A Ford; new PBCA member Michelle Van Dusen, XJ6 Jag; and Tom Schmitz, MGTF 1500 which took the Trophy for the British cars.

Nov. 9- Chumuckla Airport Picnic-Hosted by Mitzi and Dick Maddux in their hanger/workshop where several Triumphs have gained a new lease on life, this event saw about thirty-five folks show up for exceptional food and conversation, and that even included some airplane rides for those courageous enough (or slim enough to fit in some really small cockpits) to soar above some fluffy clouds on a beautiful day. Thanks, Maddux, for your good work and your always present hospitality.

Nov. 13 and 14- Executive Board and "Brits on the Bay" Meetings agendas, on consecutive days, included planning for club activities and the upcoming April 25-26 "Brits on the Bay" show. We are counting on exceeding the 146 cars which showed up last year, as we strive to make this the premier show in the entire area.

Nov. 15-"Brats and Burgers Cookout", hosted by Risa and Bob Manske at their beautiful home in Milton, welcomed a bumper crowd of 36 PBCA members on a balmy November night. The crowd was complemented by the generous hospitality of the Manskes as well as some excellent burgers grilled by Bob and outstanding Brats prepared Tom Matsoukas. A number of members brought some

great desserts just loaded with calories. Thank you, Bob and Risa.

Nov. 23-Blackwater driving tour through the beautiful Blackwater Forest. Organized by Tom Matsoukas. See pics below.

Dec. 7- PBCA Annual Christmas Party- 6 pm at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Pensacola. This year, we had 55 people attend an elegant evening and our traditional Dirty Santa.

Dec. 11- "Brits on the Bay" Planning session at Seville Quarter.

Dec. 15- Executive Board 2014 Planning Session at the Lewis home to plan our events and activities for next year.

In the meantime, don't let Santa's reindeer eat your seat covers.



PBCA Officers for 2014:

President	Richard Lewis
Vice President	Tom Matsoukas
Vice President	Marc Cherry
Secretary	Therese Hemmert
Treasurer	Tom Schmitz
Newsletter Editor	Richard Lewis
Club Regalia	Mickey Kay
Technical Advisor	Mike Darby
Webmaster	Mike A. Japp
Show Committee Chairman	Bob Henson
Show Committee Chairman	Tom Schmitz

Members At Large:

Pensacola:	Bill Weeks
Alabama:	Bob Henson
Pace, Bagdad, Milton:	Mickey McNair
North Pensacola:	Joe Stephens
East Coastal:	Tabor Tompkins



Smoke in the Wires is a publication of the Panhandle British Car Association
Contact Marc Cherry redshirt98@att.net for questions or submissions

PBCA 2014 EVENTS SCHEDULE DRAFT

**JANUARY THROUGH APRIL
(REMAINDER OF YEAR WILL BE OUT END OF THE JANUARY)**

All PBCA Monthly Meetings will be 6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Meeting at Sonny's Bar-B-Que, Navy Blvd at US Hwy 98, Pensacola and will feature a Program, Door Prizes, 50/50 drawing until further notice by email and website.

***All Executive and Show Committee Lunch Meetings** are always open to the entire membership and participation is encouraged. For new members it is a good way to meet active members and get involve in either a small or larger way. Be a part of the club. You will be enthusiastically welcomed.

*Details for events will be sent by email and posted on the
PBCA Website www.pbca1.com prior to the event.*

JANUARY

Saturday 11 – Chili Cook Off , Spanish Cove Clubhouse –; 10:00 am-4:00 pm.
Bring your favorite Chili if you wish or a dessert and your drinks.
RSVP Mickey Kay, mkay@gulftel.com
Wednesday 15 - 6:00 pm PBCA Executive & Show Committees Meeting
Sonny's Bar-B-Q, Navy Blvd*
Monday 20 – PBCA Meeting & Program*
Saturday 25 - Slow Race Rally (Fun Type Rally) Santa Rosa County. Details by email.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 8 - Atmore Rallye. Flyer to be sent by email. Registration 9:50 to 11:00 am
Register in Burger King, Nine-Mile Plaza 2 1/2 miles east of Hwy 29
No fee, no pre-registration. Finish Davids Catfish House, Atmore, AL
Tuesday 11 - "Brits on the Bay" Show Committee Meeting 12:00 Noon Seville Quarter*
Wednesday 12 - PBCA Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm. Sonny's BAR-B-Q*
Saturday 15 - Cookies, Cakes and Pies Contest. Bagdad Museum
Monday 17 - PBCA Meeting & Program
Saturday 22 - Shrimp Boil and RC Races, Bear Lake - 12:00-5:00 pm, bring favorite dessert if you wish, your drinks and lawn chairs for watching RC races.

MARCH

Saturday 8 - Panama City British Car Show
Tuesday 11 - "Brits on the Bay" Show Committee Meeting 12:00, Noon Seville Quarter*
Wednesday 12- PBCA Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm. Sonny's BAR-B-Q*
Saturday 15 – Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival, Fairhope
Monday 17 – PBCA Meeting & Program
Fri-Sat 22- 23 – Pensacola Fairgrounds Car Show
Friday 21 – New Orleans British Car Show Welcome Party
Saturday 22 – New Orleans British Car Show

Saturday 29 - Progressive Dinner

APRIL

Saturday 5 - Mustang Show Pensacola Fairgrounds

Tuesday 15 - "Brits on the Bay" Show Committee Meeting, 12:00 Noon Seville Quarter*

Wednesday 16 - PBCA Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm. Sonny's BAR-B-Q*

Monday 21 – PBCA Meeting & Show Goody Bag Stuffing

Friday 25 – “Brits on the Bay” Tours and Welcome Party, Museum of Commerce, Pensacola

Saturday 26 “Brits on the Bay” All British Car Show, Pensacola

Not Seen in:

MARTHA STEWART
Living

If your Leg Lamp is broken, but you are fortunate enough to have an E-Type bonnet in Christmas colors just lying about, you can enhance your holiday décor scheme with this beautiful and unobtrusive piece of modern art.



Blackwater Tour

23 Nov

Thirty people and 17 cars made it out for a great day. Aces served an outstanding breakfast. After the tour, The Spot didn't open as planned but the group had an outstanding meal at Killmartin's Black Water Bistro.



Our group is known for its legendary organization (and sarcasm).
Here's an example of both!



Lined up and ready!

Here's the sign you came for!

TOOL OF THE MONTH

CHRISTMAS BULB TESTER

BY MARC CHERRY

The November/December Tool of the Month is the bulb tester. No, I'm not talking about a tester for your British car, I am talking about a clever device that will let you finish an important holiday job and get back to your garage while the rest of the decorating happens magically—without you. The Christmas tree bulb tester is certainly a worthy labor and sanity saving tool.

Before the bulb tester became available, there were only two tried and true methods of fixing failed strings of lights. The first method was going one bulb at a time swapping out every single bulb until the strand lit. This method would eventually work unless two bulbs were bad or the fuse was bad. The other method was to just throw the damn thing away and get a new set of lights. Of course the advent of the pre-lit Christmas tree has put an end to the trash and replace method.

These days, there are a myriad of different testers out there. The very best testers available can even sense bad fuses, bad sockets, and trouble in the wires. We ended up with the super-digital tool last year as a premium when we bought a new tree. It's great, but somewhat finicky. I still prefer our original bulb tester. This tool has been in my family for years. Its exact origins are unknown—it seems it's always been there, yet, I still remember having to troubleshoot bulbs the old-fashioned way.

The thing is, it wasn't until about two years ago that we realized that the Chinese designers had a sense of whimsy. Despite using the Santa tester for years, we never realized how rude it was. Apparently, Santa is a lot more excited about troubleshooting strands of lights than I am. Can you say, "Santa with your ____ so bright, won't you test my bulbs tonight?"

