



British Motoring Club New Orleans

December 2008

Published Monthly

President's Message

BMCNO is affiliated with

North American MGB Register (NAMGBR) and Vintage Triumph Register (VTR)

If you are member of these or any other national club or register, please let us know.

We strongly encourage all members to join the registry for their marque!

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December 7th - 30th Anniversary & Christmas Party

All current and past members of BMCNO and The LA Center Of The MG Car Club are invited!



As the summer heat (along with the after dinner daylight) has faded to a distant memory, my MGB has been getting quite a bit more use. The dry, sunny days and cool evenings have been an absolute joy in my un-air conditioned roadster. Well, this week was the proverbial icing on the cake. Yesterday I was paid \$0.59 a mile to drive (top down, of course) from Kenner to Belle Chasse and today I traveled to Gonzales. Getting paid to cruise around in a British sports car during working hours – life's good!


But soon that haughty attitude creeps toward guilt and I start to think about some of our Yankee friends. Friends like Willie Wittkopf and his wife, who drove their 1978 MGB from Appleton, Wisconsin (a distance of 1352 miles) to our car show last spring. Today they will be experiencing a high of 42 and a low 34 with a wintry mix of rain and snow; or Jim Gilchrist, who drove his 2000 Jaguar XK8 from London, Ontario, Canada to our show. His weather will be 42/30 today. Doesn't that sound like fun in a drafty, old rag-top?

With the mercury approaching 78 degrees in New Orleans today, the guilt deepens. Passing a mini-van on I-10 with kid's smiling faces plastered to inside of the windows helped bring back some of the smugness and their gleeful responses to my wave completed my rehab from the guilt trip. "It's not my fault that they live in Wisconsin", I rationalized.

So while our northern brethren tuck in their British cars for a long hibernation, now is the time that we GRITS and BRITS (Girls & Boys Raised In The South) start enjoying ours.

Keith

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 North shore Gathering 7:30PM	5	6
7 BMCNO 30th Anniver- sary & Christ- mas Party 5:30pm	8	9	10 B.O.D. Mtg. 7:00pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 No membership mtg. in Dec.	24	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

December 7th - 30th Anniversary & Christmas Party

Thursday, December 4th -7:00 p.m. - North shore Area Gathering - Abita Brew Pub

Sunday, December 7th - 5:30-9:30 p.m. - BMCNO 30th Anniversary & Christmas Party at The Bocce Italia Club, 2340 Severn Dr. Metairie, LA. All current and past members of BMCNO and The Louisiana Center Of The MG Car Club are invited!

Wednesday, December 10th - 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors/Car Show Committee Chair Meeting - Allen Bradley

No December Meeting! Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Season's Greetings!

Club Officers – 2008

Board of Directors

President:	Keith Vezina	504-443-5056	president@bmcno.org
Vice President	Karen Murray	504-236-7509	karenmurray@cox.net
Treasurer	Allen Bradley	504-888-6887	abmgbtr6@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Cathy Greensfelder	504-392-9261	secretary@bmcno.org
Editor	Ronnie Palmisano	504-454-3461	ronniep@cox.net

Members at Large

Wally Friloux	985-845-8216	twofrilouxs@bellsouth.net
Robert Rougelot	985-809-7007	rcrougelot@charter.net
Robert Phillips	504-896-2304	rp826union@aol.com
Harold O'Reilly	504-289-6982	haroldor@bellsouth.net

Coordinators

North American MGA Register	Frazer Rice	504-314-1157	ricefrazer@yahoo.com
North American MGB Register	Henry Bourgeois	985-893-7610	bayouboo@hughes.net
Vintage Triumph Register	Harold O'Reilly	504-289-6982	haroldor@bellsouth.net
Webmaster	Keith Vezina	504-443-5056	webmaster@bmcno.org
Baton Rouge Area Coordinator	Rick Huber	225-926-6946	mlandrick@gmail.com
Lafayette Area Coordinator	Dave Hayden	337-937-4929	dandmhayden@cox.net
North shore Area Coordinator	Patrick Park	985-710-2941	ppark5960@yahoo.com

Membership Info- Club membership is open to anyone who owns or has owned,, drives or is interested in British motor vehicles.

Annual Dues: \$24 per year (July 1st to June 30th).

Dues are prorated for the first year at \$2.00 per month.

Lifetime Membership: \$240

Please pay your dues promptly to avoid missing any issues of the *Morris Gazette*. Mail renewal checks payable to "BMC-NO" to: Treasurer, PO Box 73213, Metairie, LA 70033



Club Regalia - Contact the Club Treasurer Allen Bradley for information.

License Plate Frame \$5.00 (2 for \$9.00) Windscreen Transfer \$ 1.00 T-shirt \$10.00

Newsletter Submissions - Electronic article submissions are greatly preferred. Email to ronniep@cox.net, bring to meeting, or mail to P.O. Box 73213, Metairie, LA 70033



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October 28 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was conducted by vice president Karen Murray. President Keith Vezina was out of town on business. Guests included Greg Matu-soff, a firefighter on Engine 1, Magazine Street. Greg had several little Italian cars that all drowned in 2005. He now has a Mini Cooper. Two new members joined at the last North Shore get together on October 14. Bill Jackson of Cov-ington has a 59 Austin Healey. Billy Avery lives in Baton Rouge and was an original MG mechanic and work with Elliot Evans in the 1960s.

Joe Cruthirds, chair of the Delgado Automotive Department, spoke. (See article p8)

Past Events: Allen Bradley told everyone about Cruisin' the Coast. (See article p6 November) Al-len turned 60 recently so Mary Lynn Huber presented Allen with a late birthday present of a large, yellow rubber ducky.

Cliff Hughes reported on the South Alabama Brit-ish Car Club show in Fairhope. Cliff and Tommy Boudreux of New Iberia were the only BMCNO members able to attend this year. Between sick relatives, out of town guests, weddings and bro-ken cars, no one else from our club was able to make it. Cliff said the show was beautiful (if slightly smaller than usual). The weather was fantastic – he actually had to turn on the heater on the way home Saturday night.

Robert Phillips reported on the Austin Healey Southeast Classic. (See p5 November) His Healey blew a head gasket as he was putting it on the trailer to go to the show. He has ordered a new aluminum head which weighs 65 pounds less than the original iron head. It will add significant horsepower!!

Future Events: Plans for the E.E Reynolds were discussed. Returning member Jack Kennedy was one of the four founding members of BMCNO along with Eldridge E. Reynolds. Eldridge was the driving force behind them applying for a national charter from MG. They needed five MG owners for the application and only had four so they made up the fifth member. Eldridge was killed in a car accident in his Chevelle several years after the club was formed. The annual No- vember rally is dedicated to his memory. The Christmas / Anniversary party was discussed. The party will be held at the Bocci Club in Met-

airie.

Club Business: Keith Vezina has proposed a change to the bylaws reducing the number of members required for a quorum from 20% to 10%. The proposed change has been published and read once. It will be published and read a second time before for it is voted on.

Karen Murray opened the floor to nominations for the offices of Member at Large, Editor, Secretary and Treasurer. There were no additional nomina- tions and all nominees were running unopposed so the nominees were elected. Karen then turned the meeting over to Cathy Greensfelder temporar- ily. Cathy called for nominations for vice presi- dent. No additional nominations were forthcom- ing so Karen Murray was elected. Karen called for any nominations for president in addition to Keith Vezina. Sally Breithoff nominated Roy Richardson. The nomination was seconded by Anne Friloux. There were no more nominations so ballots were passed out to the 23 members pre- sent. Members were instructed to write in Roy's name then circle their choice. The Members At Large counted the votes and Keith Vezina will be elected.

President	Keith Vezina
Vice President	Karen Murray
Secretary	Pete Weber
Treasurer	Harold O'Reilly
Editor	Ronnie Palmisano

Member At Large	Wally Friloux
	Robert Rougelot
	Robert Phillips
	Cathy Greensfelder

Member Projects: Robert Phillips recently bought a 2,700 sq. ft. air conditioned warehouse / garage in Harahan and is looking for renters. (See November newsletter)

Robert Rougelot won \$27 in the 50/50 drawing. Mike Anderson, Floyd Friloux, Stuart McKen- drick, Robert Phillips and Dan Melesurgo won t- shirts.

31ST ANNUAL E.E. REYNOLDS RALLYE by Menda Hayden



Fred Stokes (MGBGT) and Dave Hayden won the 30th annual rallye last year. We did this knowing the consequences, but we really wanted it. After discussion with the board, we decided to hold number 31 in Houma, La. It's not a bad drive from our area or the greater New Orleans



area on Hwy. 90. After postponing the Funcana due to Gustov and Ike we really wanted to put on a great rallye. (The Funcana is coming in February). Fred and I spent the last weekend of October driving the Houma area scouting out the best roads in an



area that neither of us was familiar with. We mapped out a 59.4 mile mix of town and country roads, it even included two trips thru the tunnel under the intercoastal waterway. We drove it and re-drove it, checking every detail. This rallye was a time, speed, distance run with 6 questions and pictures thrown in for extra points.

Eight cars showed up to try their skills. Fred, my daughter Cara, and I got all the cars off in one-minute intervals with no problems. Fred and Cara headed off for the first checkpoint and I headed off to the finish checkpoint. Thirty eight miles into the run the rallye crossed the Intercoastal Waterway on a pontoon drawbridge. The first check point was a tenth of a mile past the bridge. I had reached my checkpoint and had heard from Fred; he and Cara were set up at mid point. My phone rang, it was Keith, and he was at a drawbridge that was out of order. I confirmed that he was not lost. The rest of the pack would be there soon. Fred and I conferred to try to work out and alternate route that would cross the Inetercoastal and get everyone past the checkpoint. Fortunately Dave Dupre, who lives in Houma, was participating. He led the pack on a detour that got them back on track and past the

checkpoint. Fred and Cara joined me at my checkpoint in time to see all the cars pass and get times. We ended a couple of miles later at the Nifty Fifties Café. Everyone finished, (we made it too easy) the food was great, and everyone had a good time.



The eight cars that participated were: D. Mike Anderson N. Herb Forsythe, D. Keith Vezina N. Karen Vezina, D. Wayne Aucoin N. Joyce Aucoin, D. Dave Dupre N. none, D. Howard Darlington N. Will Darlington, D. Allen Bradley N. Sue Bradley, D. Ronnie Palmis-



ano, N. none, and D. Robert Rougelout N. Josh Kentzel.

Third place went to Allen and Sue Bradley with 70 seconds.

Continued on page 6

E.E. Reynolds Rallye continued from page 5

.Second place went to Ronnie Palmisano 14 seconds. And first place went to Robert Rougelout and Josh Kentzel with 0 seconds. Incidentally all three got

the same amount of bonus points, this was won with driving skill. We look forward to Robert's rallye next year. By the way, he came in second last

year and was upset because he wanted to plan the rallye this year. Congratulations Robert, careful what you wish for. Good Luck.



Allen and Susan Bradley
Third Place

Ronnie Palmisano Second Place

Robert Rougelout and Josh
Kentzel First Place

Delgado Tech Session by Susan Bradley

On Saturday, Nov. 8, Delgado's Automotive Department offered a seminar and use of their equipment for front-end alignments. Joe Cruthirds and Instructor Eric Babcock were there for our British car club members. Allen Bradley brought his 1970 MGB and 1971 TR6, with Pete Weber driving the TR6. Keith Vezina brought

his 1976 MGB. Instructor Eric Babcock gave us a one hour lecture followed by a video. This was required before we could use the Hunter front-end alignment machine. This equipment cost \$30,000.00. We all were so interested and amazed that we would be using this computerized machine.

Keith drove his car on the rack first. Then Eric demonstrated the operation of the equipment. The car was raised and Keith made the correct tow-in adjustments on his MGB. Next, Allen's MGB. This time we were allowed to set up the machine, while the instructor observed our work.

Continued on page 7

Delgado Tech Session continued from page 6

The alignment heads had to be installed on all four wheels. The last car was Allen's TR6. We aligned the front-end and the rear. We were able to do the rear because the TR6 has independent rear suspension. In order to do the rear end adjustment for correct alignment, Keith, Pete and Allen had

to remove shims from the trailing arms of the suspension.

We found that all 3 cars were in need of some adjustments. We also noticed a big difference; the car does not pull and drives much straighter.

This was really fun and interesting to do on our cars. All of

us really enjoyed learning how to do the alignment. We appreciate Delgado's efforts, especially giving up their Saturday to open for our club.

Of course, we ended the tech seminar at Parkway Bakery with a roast beef po-boy.



Meeting Guest Speaker Joe Cruthirds by Cathy Greensfelder



Joe Cruthirds, chairman of the Delgado Automotive Department, spoke at the October 28th meeting. He expressed his regret over the last month's cancelled tech session. The alignment machine has been fixed and the session rescheduled. He requested that any cars brought for an alignment

have good tires and good parts – sound ball joints, tie rods, etc. If the front end isn't sound, they can't do an alignment. Also, if you've got a manual, bring it. And be forewarned that some of our cars may be too small to fit on the rails of the machine.

Joe wanted to express his heartfelt thanks to BMCNO. Our car show has been great for the Automotive Department in many ways but especially for the scholarships. His department has struggled for years to get scholarships. Joe is so happy it has finally happened.

Joe invited all of us to come by and visit the department. The new paint booth is almost ready and Joe's very excited about it. For years, they ran the collision department out of a "closet". The new 6,500 square foot space is great! They were blown away by the participation in the shop tours at our last show. They plan to give tours again and hopefully the new paint booth will be

ready.

Joe was pleased that enrollment is up but last year they had problems placing graduates with manufacturers. Delgado has two manufacturers' programs, the Ford ASSET program and the General Motors ASEP program. However, the fuel crises of the past summer had local dealers worried about layoffs so they weren't hiring. Hopefully that will not be the case by next May.

One of our members asked if Delgado needed a car for a project for the students. Joe replied, no. The industry has been changing very rapidly and the students need to work on new vehicles, not old ones. The technology is totally different between a modern car and one of our 30 year-old classics.

The collision program has classes meeting four nights a week and two BMCNO members are in the program this semester. The collision program is primarily taught by George Torlage and Dave Manno. George, as we know, is the paint guy. Dave is primarily a metal guy – his teaching area is body and fender. Currently, Delgado is offering two sessions on MIG welding, one daytime and one evening. George teaches the paint and body class. He wants to split the course into two separate courses. The fall semester would be body work, with just enough paint technique to do the priming. Then George wants to do the serious painting in the spring semester. That would require two semesters for our members whose cars need body work. But tuition is only \$350 per course, \$60 for students over 60 years of age!

From the North Shore....

We are actively looking up the bayou for more North shore British car owners and enthusiasts. The gatherings are just plain fun with lots of Stories around food and

drink at the Abita Brew Pub in Abita Springs. The address is 72011 Holly Street, Abita Springs, LA 70420

Our next North shore gathering will be on Thursday, December 4th at 7:30 p.m. Come on over!!! You'll be glad you did!!!!

Memories!



At Iberville Antique and Classic Car Show 3-21-1987



Christmas Party at Jimmy Bruno's house 12-12-1987



3-21-1987 Roger Talley, Mike DeLacerda, & Bill Geisler



6-20-1987 - Clearview and Veterans Blvd - Fort Jackson Tour



11-6-1988—Eldridge Reynolds Rally



Christmas Party 12-10-1988



British Car Day in City Park 10/2/1987



1987



British Car Day in City Park 10/2/1987



British Car Day in City Park 10/2/1987

"30th Anniversary" / Christmas Party



To all current and former members of
BMCNO and The LA Center Of The MG Car Club:

You are cordially invited to attend the
British Motoring Club – New Orleans
“30th Anniversary” / Christmas Party
celebration on

Sunday, December 7, 2008

from

5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

at the

Bocce Club of GNO

2340 Severn Ave.

Metairie, Louisiana

RSVP: Keith Vezina, President at president@bmcno.org 504-443-5056
or

Karen Murray, Vice President at karenmurray@cox.net 504-454-3461

Bring your oldest BMCNO t-shirt

Classified

Storage Space Available: Climate Controlled garage on Hickory Ave. in Harahan. Includes access to four post auto lift, sandblasting booth, and a two stage air compressor. \$175 per month- contact Robert Phillips (504)270-5292 rp826union@aol.com

For Sale: Late MG Midget Bonnet- Fits all MG Midgets with 1500 engine. Perfect condition, new metallic BRG paint, no body work needed, either remount or respray to match your car. Make Offer-contact Robert Phillips (504)270-5292 rp826union@aol.com

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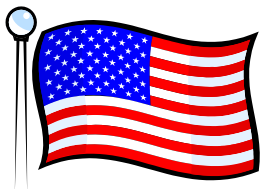
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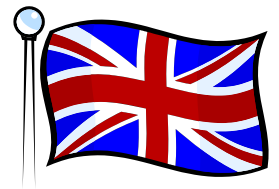


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December 2008



December 7th
30th Anniversary
&
Christmas Party