# Morris Gazette

March 2006 Published Monthly

# 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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## President's Message

For our members that missed the Plantation cruise promoted by Keith Vezina, well...... It was a fun trip by all that participated. I would hope to continue this event in the future, as there were too many tours to complete in one day. Thanks to Keith.

Our January general meeting was a great success, as more and more of our members are returning to their homes. I think that everyone was glad to see the return to almost normal, what ever that is. We haven't seen as many members since our August general meeting. I spoke with Sheila Simmons last week. She is teaching at a Senior High School in Houston, and misses New Orleans. Sheila lived in the Gentilly area of N.O., and her MGB was completely submerged, still sitting in her back yard. She will be moving back in the future to Tangipahoa Parish.

Car Day #16 is rapidly approaching. Our volunteer schedule is completed, but we could use more help with parking and set up. Keith has the sign up sheet for the show, so please help with an hour or 2 of your time to make this another successful show. With limited hotel space available thru March, I know that it will be difficult for many of our out of town registrants to attend, but we are monitoring the hotel situation, and when it changes, we will inform all of the other clubs. If anyone has any ideas, or has a friend in the hotel business, please contact myself or Bill Breithoff, show chairman.

We are trying to help out Delgado College again this year with car day proceeds. Call your British Car friends that have not participated in a while and ask them to bring their cars for a fun day. at Delgado.

Many thanks to Wally Friloux for compiling our first procedures manual for the car show. For many years the club has been asking for volunteers to help with the many tasks that make this show one of the best. With this completed manual, all job functions are described with a time line for completion. This will surely result in more smoothly run car days in the future.

Several car shows are nearing, including the Pensacola show, and the MG gathering in Gatlinburg in June. Many hands went up at the meeting when asked if they were going. See y'all at Middendorf's on Sunday, February 12!!!!

SAFETY FAST Cliff Hughes

# March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Goodie Bag Party
19	20	21 General Meeting	22	23	24	25 BRITISH CAR DAY!
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Tue Feb 21 General Meeting 7:00 pm Italian Pie, Jefferson Hwy .6 miles West of the Huey P. Long bridge, across the street from Smilie's. *Note the earlier date, due to Mardi Gras!* 

**Tue Mar 7 Board and Car Show Chairs Meeting** – Cathy Greensfelder 5537 Berkley Drive, Algiers 504-392-9261

**Sat Mar 18 Goodie Bag party** –4 pm Lubriport Labs, 1650 Airline Hwy by the airport, behind NAPA. Come help assemble the goodie bags and pre-registration packets for the car show. Many hands make light work and the club provides dinner for all workers.

Tue Mar 21 General Meeting 7:00 pm Italian Pie, Jefferson Hwy .6 miles West of the Huey P. Long bridge, across the street from Smilie's.

Note: the meeting date has been moved up a week due to the car show!

**Sat Mar 25—New Orleans British Car Day**. Delgado City Park Campus. Pre-registered cars admitted at 8am. On-site Registration 9am -noon. Show noon—3 pm. Awards 4-ish

Future Stuff:

Apr 20-23—VTR South Central Regional, Jenks, Oklahoma. http://members.cox.net/gctok/
 Sat Apr 29 Panhandle British Car Association car show, Pensacola FL (entry form p. 7)
 Jun 21–25 MG2006 All Register MG Meet – Gatlinburg, TN. For more information <a href="https://www.mg2006.com">www.mg2006.com</a> There are 6 host hotels. Bill Harris is registered at the Glenstone Lodge
 Jul 19-23 VTR National Dallas TX. More info: vtr2006.com or Jim Thompson (817) 562-1500

## January 31 Minutes

Cliff Hughes opened the meeting at 7pm.

**Past Event:** Karen Murray gave an enthusiastic report on the Plantation Cruise that centered on the excellent shopping. In addition, Karen suggested if you have not seen Houmas House in a while, you should do so. It has changed completely. She also wanted to know if any TR6 members were conducting "fix your car" workshops like the MGB sessions being done by Keith Vezina, because somebody better help Ronnie or they're getting a divorce!! It had been raining on and off all day but on the way home, it *poured*. The driver's-side wiper was not working and rain was pouring down the inside of the windshield. (Ronnie told her that he *had* the \$4 gasket that would keep the rain from cascading under the top at the windshield but had not had time to install it.) They were driving along the highway on the way home and she kept seeing "big cars stopped on the side like they knew something we didn't, but we couldn't stop or we would have drowned". A member (who shall remain nameless) assured Karen that she would not have drowned—Ronnie's car has enough holes in the floor boards to prevent that.

**Future Events:** The upcoming cruise to Middendorf's was discussed. Please note that both the February and March general meetings will be a week early, due to Mardi Gras and the car show respectively.

**Member Projects:** Cliff related a story about another "nameless member" who had Cliff come to the South shore with a trailer to take a flood damaged car to Jim Jones' garage in Covington so Jim could install a new wiring harness. They raised the dead car up on the lift till it was level with the trailer, pushed it onto the trailer, and then drove across the Causeway. When they went to push it off the trailer our "nameless member" discovered that he had left the keys (needed to unlock the steering) in Lakeview. They rolled it straight off the trailer then Jim Jones used a floor jack to lift the front end off the ground to steer Sally Breithoff's pink MGB into the garage.

Cliff also reported that after two and a half years his MGA with an MGB engine and Datsun transmission is finished. ("Then move it from Peter Braun's shop. There's a LINE!" yelled Frazer Rice.)

Frazer Rice reported that he sold his flooded MGA to someone in Baton Rouge who plans to restore the car. "There was this tropical wave off the coast of Africa and the next thing I knew there was six feet of salt water..." Frazer went to the DMV in Mississippi to get the car's title stamped "flood" and it took a lot of effort to get them to do it. Frazer hopes to be "getting out this restoration foolishness" and is looking to buy a car that is already restored.

**Show:** We have lost our host hotel to FEMA so the Friday night reception and Saturday night awards banquet have been cancelled. Keith Vezina suggested that if you have a spare room, call someone from one of our neighboring clubs with whom you have become friends and offer to put them up for the show. Hotel rooms are scare and expensive these days.

This year in place of dash plaques we will be distributing car show coffee mugs to the first 100 entrants. Please register your car early! The Daughters of the British Empire will be selling cookies and treats at our show again this year.

Karen Vezina won \$32 in the fifty/fifty drawing. Rodger Tally donated an original TR4 sales brochure to the club which was won by Will Hall. John Roberts won a chocolate bar and Jeannine Richardson and Bill Breithoff both won t-shirts. §

#### Club Officers – 2006

President: Vice President Treasurer Secty/Editor Cliff Hughes Keith Vezina Allen Bradley Cathy Greensfelder 

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North American MGA Register

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## Different Strokes for Different Cars by Jim Jones

I am finally back working on my Morris Minor cars after weeks of Katrina repair & cleanup. I have not been able to continue working on my Morris Minor pick up truck (Utility or Ute in British terms) until the floorboards are replaced. (The British also call the truck bed the "Tray")

I have had a set of sedan replacement front floorboards on hand for some time now since replacements for the Ute are not available. It has been just a matter of Peter Brauen of BMC Restorations having time to do the work.



Peter Braun and Ute floor boards.

Well, that time has come, the vehicle is now at Peter's place, and the work has begun. Here's the catch 22.

The sedan front floorboards are the same shape and size as the stock ones in the Ute, but the floorboards front & rear & the sills in the Ute are all made in one piece of stamped sheet metal. The sills & rear floorboards will have to be fabricated by Peter from new flat sheet metal as sedan replacement spares are not the same as the Ute.



This problem has caused a lot of extra work. Drilling spot welds in order to remove the old rusted parts has been one of those problems. For extra strength, many more spot welds have been used. This is because the Ute is a full frame vehicle and not an earlier type of unibody construction as is case with the sedans and woody Traveller. The Ute's cab/front end and bed can be separately removed form the vehicle's full frame.

The work will continue. It will just take more time than anticipated.

P.S.: The work on my 1949 Austin sedan continues as well. I recently purchased a 1949 Louisiana license plate for the car on EBay. §



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## Tire Iron Troubles by Charlie Ake

Charlie Ake works for a concrete testing company. On the way back from a job in Buras, on a very lonely stretch of highway 23, the 18-wheeler in front of Charlie lost a chunk of iron. It flew back into Charlie's truck, broke the grill, put a dent in the bumper and whipped around the side and blew out the tire. Needless to say, the 18-wheeler kept going.

Charlie needed to change the flat. He took the tire tool that came with the truck and started to loosen the lugs. He removed four without much trouble. While attempting numbers 5 and 6 he broke the tool. After about an hour he found some-



one with a "4-way" lug wrench. (If you don't have one, get one.) Charlie weights 270 pounds and couldn't get the lug nuts to come off even with the 4-way, only managing to round off the nuts.

It was then "MacGyver time". Looking through the debris that was once someone's work shed he found a chisel and went to work on the two remaining nuts. After two hours of this he was able to flag down a passing maintenance truck that had a torch rig on board and burned off the two offending nuts. He drove home with the spare "secured" on four lugs out of six and a ruined wheel in the back. Total losses: around \$150.00 plus missing two other jobs that day. And YES, he did put the chisel back when he was finished with it.

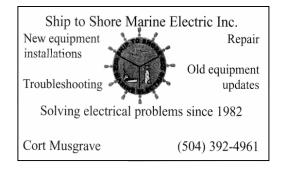
This is not good. While *everyone* should have a "4-way" in *every* car or truck, you shouldn't need a chisel or a torch. TODAY loosen all the lug nuts on all your wheels then tighten them back up. If you can't loosen the nuts, drive the vehicle to whoever you bought the tires from and have them do it. Then watch the mechanic tighten them back up BY HAND or, better yet, you tighten them yourself with your tire tool. Do NOT let the gorilla in the shop put them on with an impact wrench.

TECH TIP: Paint the one socket on the 4-way that fits your vehicle with a day-glow color so you can spot it easily by flashlight in the rain. Or in the blazing sun during rush hour with traffic rapidly backing up behind you!!



And this weekend, teach your loved ones how to properly change a tire. Triple-A does no good if the car is in a cell phone "dead zone" or it's going to be 3 hours before the tow truck can get there. §





Class	Car No.			
(Do not fill in)				

#### **REGISTRATION FORM**

#### PENSACOLA BEACH BRITISH CAR SHOW

#### April 29, 2006

Show Registration:

- Received by April 26: **\$20.00** (**fee \$5 more at show**)
- Additional cars/bikes: \$10.00. <u>If you register on Friday or Saturday, the fee is: \$25.00</u>
- Ballots and dash plaques will be put in drivers seat of car at approx. Noon. Turn in by 2 pm.

Card slip with your car number is for the door prize drawing. If you want to take a chance on the raffle prizes displayed, buy raffle tickets from ticket vendors.

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Name (Last, F	First)		Email	
Address				
City/State/Zip	•			
Phones(s)				
	Year	Marque	Model	Color
Car/Bike #1				
Car/Bike #2				
I plan to atte "Red Beans a		riday night Social (Free):	<b>Yes←No</b> Nur	nber attending:
Make checks pa	ayable to "	PBCA" & mail it with t	his printed form to:	
Tom Schmitz, I 9609 Soldiers ( Lillian, AL 365	Creek Driv			
nify the organis and separately my guests whil that the Panha tain my registr	zers, supp , from any le participa andle Briti ration fee s	orting sponsors, and the and all liability from po ating in the 2006 Pensa sh Car Association, Inc.	ersonal injury or property cola Beach British Car Sho , reserves the right to revo ess, dangerous, and/or uns	ssociation,Inc., collectively damage incurred by me or ow. I understand and agree oke my registration and re-
Signature			Date	
PBCA is an A	ffiliate of	The North American	n MGB Register.	

### For Sale

#### **PARTS**

MGB 5 main engine \$100. MGB cross member, chrome or rubber \$25. MGB overdrive transmission \$450. MGB flywheel \$10. Austin Healey 100 block \$75. John Roper (985) 893-2413

#### WANTED

Boot (trunk) lid & factory hard top for TR6. Ronnie Palmisano (504) 319-8506 (2/06)

#### **OTHER**

Haynes MGB Manuals, 2 almost new hardback editions. \$ 18.00 each. Cliff Hughes (985) 845-8709 (3/06)

#### **Newsletter Submissions**

Electronic submissions are greatly preferred.

Email to editor@bmcno.org or bring to meeting.

(MSWord or plain text please.)

Bring written articles to meeting or mail to P.O. Box 73213 Metairie LA 70033

### **Membership Info**

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

Annual Dues: \$30 first year / \$25 subsequent years.

\$15 corresponding membership (newsletter only) available outside Greater NO area.

Lifetime Membership: \$300

New members receive a name tag and either a club license plate frame or T-shirt at their first or second meeting (shipping extra). All members receive the monthly club newsletter.

Your membership expiration date is printed on your newsletter mailing label. 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



License Plate Frame \$5.00 (2 for \$9.00)

Windscreen Transfer \$ 1.00

T-shirt \$10.00

#### official entry form British Motoring Club—New Orleans

# **Annual British Car Day**

Please	e print						
Name	е			Guest (for name tag)			
Addre	ess		Т		I		
City				State		Zip	
Oity				State		Zip	
Telep	hone			Email			
							_
Club	Affiliation	ns (used to calculate club participation a	ward)				
		Cars e	ntered	#20 00 ofter 2 06 06		Total	
	Year	\$25.00 early registration  Make / M	odel / Type	\$30.00 after 3-06-06	Entry Fee	Total Fees	\$
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	Ī	\$10.00 each additional o	ar			- -	
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3							
4						_	
In consideration of this entry, I waive any and all claims for me and my heirs against the British Motoring Club New Orleans, Delgado College, their officers and any sponsor of this event for injury or illness which may result directly or indirectly from my participation. I also give my permission for							
use of r	my name	e and / or pictures in any broadcast, telec	east or any other ac	count of this event.	тту рапісіра	alion. Talso give	my permission for
Signature:Date:							
9							
Maka	obook						•
Make check payable to British Car Day  Mail to: Car Day, P.O. Box 73213, Metairie, LA 70033							
	Pre-registered cars will be admitted beginning at 8 a.m.						
On-Site Registration is from 9 a.m. to Noon.							

Voting will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our host hotel has been co-opted by FEMA to house emergency workers and we will **not** be able to have a Friday night reception. Hotel rooms are available at other hotels around the city and the situation is changing daily, so please call around. Also, we will be unable to have an awards banguet on Saturday night after the show. Awards will be given out in the afternoon as soon as the votes can be tallied and engraved plates for the winners will be distributed at a later date. This is a temporary situation and we plan to be back to normal for 2007.

For more information visit our web site: http://www.bmcno.org

Or call:

Cliff Hughes: (985) 966-0492 Keith Vezina: (504) 722-5777

#### The Morris Gazette

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Visit us on the Web

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March 2006



Saturday, March 25—British Car Day Delgado - City Park Campus