



Clutch Chatter *Newsletter of the Victoria British Car Club*

November 2011

Final words

Well this is the last newsletter of the year, and the last newsletter for Pat and I. We have enjoyed keeping you all in touch for the last few years but now it is time for some new insights and a new voice. The new editor will be Susan Scullion-Hall, who I now is looking forward to putting on the eye-shade!

However, this is the first newsletter that we have sent out electronically, so that is something new at the end of our run. Hopefully, you will all be accessing this via an e-mail attachment sent to you by Ron Hunter, and your feedback in the Spring about this method of delivery will be important for the club executive, and particularly the new editor.

President's Remarks

Thanks for Your Support

I have enjoyed my tenure as President of Victoria British Car Club and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the positive impact. The success of our club is only as good as the people who volunteer their time and expertise to make it function. In my opinion, as a group, we have again moved the yard stick forward. We have run a variety of successful driving functions and 'Brits In The Park' has maintained itself as the Marque event for British cars in the City of Kawartha Lakes. The New Year will bring more enhanced functions to the club web site which will make it easier for registration and club information.

All the best for the upcoming holiday season.

Warren Grant

Fall Run

Organized by Bob and Jane Ellis – October 23rd

19 cars turned up in Bobcageon on that drizzly day. The run featured back roads in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. The lunch stop was at Wintergreen Maple products in Gelert. They produce all their featured food items right there. I bought some spiced crab apples that were delicious - an item that I have not been able to find for quite a while.

Ken and Marg Inglis won the Quiz. Bob and Jane showed up at the start with a 'soft' tire. (They discovered later that it had a nail in it - but filling it with air allowed them to complete the run.) Unfortunately, no-one took any pictures that day as it was so miserably wet. However, of course, the sun came out on our way home.

Many of the participants commented on the amazingly long dry stone wall that is a feature of Balsam Lake Drive which was one of the roads featured.

DeCarlo's Run

A Pilgrimage to Stowe Vermont

As I had noted in a recent edition of the Clutch Chatter, Pauline and I had committed to taking the TR3 to the British Invasion at Stowe VT in September this year. This event most often conflicts with the venerable British Car Days event put on by the Toronto Triumph Club at Bronte, but this year we chose to go to Vermont. We were joined by Chris and Shirley Weekes in their beautiful red TR6.

The departure day was September 15th and the forecast was for cool but sunny weather for four days throughout the area. We were set and I convinced Pauline that it would be pleasant to go with the top down and side screens on (our normal long road trip configuration). We pulled out of the drive at 9:00 AM and it became apparent a short while later that I was far too optimistic about the warmth.



Ready for the off

At Buckhorn Home Hardware up went the top and we were much more comfortable for it. We met Chris and Sheila at Highway 7 and #28 and headed east on #7.

Our route took us through the usual spots on #7 until we reached Perth where we headed south east on #43. This is a great drive that took us along the Rideau Canal through Smith Falls and Merrickville where we stopped to shop and browse. Pauline and I used to boat to Merrickville quite often via the Rideau Canal when we lived in Ottawa and so we were able to show Chris and Sheila all the local sights. Our stop for the night was Cornwall which was a comfortable driving distance for the day. The next day we headed across the bridge and into upper New York State with a route that ran just south of the Canada / US border to the top of Lake Champlain.



A gloomy passage over the lake!

We drove some great roads through Vermont with the culmination being a drive down through the Notch Road at Smuggler's Notch. This road is only open in the summer and has some very sporty twists and turns and steep gradients. I only scared myself once which was probably about the time Chris thought he was going to whack me in a tight turn, but no harm no foul. A stop at the event field on Friday afternoon as we arrived allowed us to pick up our registration packages and gifts as well as coupons for the Pub Tent Reception for all participants.

Friday evening in Stowe during the British Invasion is quite the thing as the main street is closed to all but British Cars which are angle parked on both sides. There was a band playing British Rock in front of the City Hall and all the merchants had their shops open for business. Saturday morning had us at the event field by 9:00 AM and easily parked in our designated spots. There were 51 Classes for the Participants Choice and 7 Classes for the Concours d'Elegance.



Unusual cars on view at the show

The task of voting in the Participants Choice is quite daunting with 51 classes and in some cases with more than 25 or 30 cars per class.

By 3:00 PM the results were all tallied and awards were being presented. Much to our surprise Pauline and I managed to take a third place in the TR3 Class which had 20 entrants.



And the winner is.....

An evening out for dinner at a local Pub concluded a very full day for the four of us.



The hard part of the trip.

Sunday morning we were back at the event field for the Competition of Colours where cars were grouped by colour rather than by Marque for participant choice. This was also an opportunity to run the back seat driving competition where the driver is blindfolded while the co-pilot provides instructions on how to navigate through a course of pylons placed on the Centre field.



What woman isn't a good back seat driver ?

It was quite hilarious to watch and was far more difficult than anticipated. Winners from each of the Classes of the day before would conclude the day's event with a drive by at centre stage.

With the cars all packed up, Chris and Sheila and Pauline and I headed out of town mid day Sunday and basically retraced our steps to get home. However, we chose not to drive the Notch Road which would have been more like an old fashioned hill climb but took the Interstate north past Burlington VT. We arrived at the Bridge crossing at Cornwall about 3:00 PM but it took about an hour and a half to get

across. My clutch leg was cramping up and the rad was being tested for its effectiveness but we made it. It was a great weekend event and I recommend it to anyone who is up to the 800 mile round trip.

British Car Links

Globe and Mail

This was a very interesting article about some of the most attractive British cars and how the writer became, and stayed interested in them. Click on the link to access the story , and click again on the site (the red e-type jag) to see photos of ten of his favourites.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-drive/car-life/cheney/when-britain-ruled-the-road/article2206822/>

Two other websites to peruse on winter afternoons while the car sits idle in the garage.

www.bootnbonnet.org

www.britishmotoring.net

AGM -November 13th at Coboconk Canadian Legion

Meeting News

As usual, there was a great turn out for the meeting on this cold but clear day in November. 58 delicious roast beef lunches were served by the ladies of the legion, followed by a choice of homemade pies! Thanks to Pat and outgoing President Warren for arranging this final event of the year, which was a great success, and which gave everyone a chance to have a final get together with other club members before the parting of the ways for the winter season.

The first item of business was the **introduction of new members**

- John and Marie Bennett - 1960 TR3A - Red
- Ian and Jane MacNab - 1970 MGB Midget - Green
- Cathi and Ted Smith - 1971 Jaguar E-Type - Nightwatch Blue (and other cars)

It's great to see that the club still attracts new British car fans and we welcome them into the fold.

Next, the ever entertaining Roger Hunter went over the **Financial report**, including a run-down of the **Brits expenses**, as well as an overview of the **Membership information**. We closed the year with 60 members.

Unfortunately there were no entries in the **photo contest** this year, so club members at the lunch competed for the gifts based on their birthdays! Bonnie Hancock questioned whether we should continue with the competition, and there was some discussion about moving it to the new web site so that people could download a photo and then there could be online judging throughout the year.

We approved Donna Hunter's **minutes** from the last meeting, and then Warren provided an overview of **recent recommendations from club executive meetings**. The highlights of this follow.

Brits in the park Review

As usual there was some thought after this event about ways to continually improve our already very successful event. Here are some of the suggestions.

Pre-registration.

This idea presents a number of aspects for consideration. One is the idea of the website being ready to handle the pre-registration, and the other is whether to set up a pre-pay system, with different prices for those who pay on the day. This would require another entrance to the park, but would certainly cut down on the work of dealing with entrants on the day, and also waiting for many of those arriving. Bob DeShane commented that they do pre-register for Brits on the lake but they do not pre-pay.

Slot Car Track - in the plans for 2012.

Automotive Flea Market on Victoria Street

There are 29 parking locations for vendors at \$50 per spot available, and there will be a concerted effort to fill them all next year and turn this street into a profitable (for us) and interesting venue for those coming to the show.

Doug reminded us of the "Attaboy" Award he had created for Brits and talked about the kind of registrant that should be considered for this special prize.

Car Run Suggestions

Introduce a Technical night during the year

Rally events have been requested

(note: Jim and Bonnie Hancock may well be planning such an event for next year!)

Schedule a driving event during September

Ask club members for suggestions on stop locations for drives

Website changes

Since we have had some unexpected grant income, the executive has decided we can upgrade the website to a CMS (Content Management System) and Ron Hunter has undertaken this process. These changes will mean that the website will allow for on-line payments, calendar of events, run details and maps, newsletter collaborations, a secure section for membership lists and profiles, and possibly photo galleries. It's a new age folks! Our cars may be old, but we are on top of this computer stuff!

New Business

The Club Executive was acclaimed as presented:

President - Frank DeCarlo
 Secretary - Donna Hunter
 Treasurer – Roger Hunter
 Brits Chair – Tim Hall
 Director at Large – Ken Inglis

Committee Members:

- Jim Wilshaw
- Mike Muir
- Gord Sloan
- Ron Hunter
- Sue Scullion Hall

2012 Calendar of Events

- May 6th - Annual Spring Meeting - Gord Sloan
- June 3rd Opening Car Run - Bev and Peter Newman
- June 17th Mosport - Roy Smith
- July 15th Brits in the Park - Tim Hall
- July 29th Car Run - Ann and Don Holloway
- Aug 5th - Brits on the Lake, Port Perry - Bob Deshane
- Aug 19th - Golf Classic and Corn Roast - Helen and Doug Fowler
- Sept 8-9th Overnight Run - Marg and Ken Inglis - one night to Geneva Park
- Dept 16th Bronte
- Oct 7th Fall Colour Tour - Steve and Nancy Burell
- Nov 4th - Final meeting (AGM) Pauling and Frank DeCarlo

Note: At Mosport in 2012, at the VRAC event, there will be a fundraiser for Wounded Warriors which will allow cars (for a fee) to tour the circuit at 70 m.p.h. behind a pace car! Sounds exciting. More details later, but get your Racing Suits and goggles out of mothballs.



Tech Tips

OIL

Amsoil has synthetic motor oil now for classic cars, Z-ROD tm. It is a high zinc, high phosphorus formulation specifically for classic cars. It provides extra protection for flat tappet cams, lifters, and rockers. Unique blend of rust and corrosion inhibitors ensure maximum protection during long term storage. Like all oils from Amsoil, it is not cheap but if it works it could be worth the price. It comes in 10-30w and 20-50w grades.

WINTERIZING

Well, it's that time of the year again to get the old girl ready for winter - no I don't mean buying boots and fur coat for the missus! Go to this website and read the 10 top tips for making sure that your British beauty comes out of the garage as good as she went in.

www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-drive/car-tips/maintenance-and-repairs/prepping-your-car-for-winter-hibernation/article2240030

Racing News



The F1 season is nearing its end with Vettel already champion for this year. However, both McLaren and Ferrari are closer to Red Bull in performance so let's hope next year will be more competitive for the drivers. With just the Brazil GP left this season let's hope that someone other than Vettel can get pole and win this final race.

Moto GP - Casey Stoner of Australia leads the series with 350 points riding for Honda.

World Super Bike - Carlos Checa of Spain leads this series with 505 points riding for Ducati.

World Rally Car - Sebastian Loeb of France leads the series with 222 points driving for Citroen.

Photos from the AGM



The New Pres! Still smiling so far.



Dave's OK



Socializing with Ken



That's what I've been waiting for



"Attaboy" Doug!



The Wilshaw's were paying close attention



Let's get the serious stuff done.



Thanks Warren - a great meeting and meal – the roast beef slice was that big was it Jane?



The webmaster!

Final Words

Three 40 something ladies were having a girly lunch and the subject of their love life's came up.

The first one, who was married to a toy boy 20 years her junior, said it was like a exotic Italian sports car - fast, exciting, sometimes temperamental but always different

The second one, who was married to someone the same age, said her love life was like a Japanese saloon car - safe, reliable but a little unexciting

The third one who was married to someone 20 years her senior said her love life was a bit like a vintage motorcycle - you had to start it by hand and jump on whilst the going was good!!

In Russia, a worker goes to buy a new car. The salesman tells him that he can pick it up in ten years.

The worker asks what time after ten years can he pick it up.

The salesman, surprised, asks "In ten years, what does it matter?" to which the worker responds,

"I have to know - the plumber is coming over that morning."

