



January—2014

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Vice President:

David Boger

Secretary:

Bruce Bizzoco

Treasurer:

Dean Drinkard

Oil Spot Editor:

Howard Beckner

Members-at-Large:

Alan Apel

Jim Roberts

Jack Weiss

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Positively Grounded—**The President's Message, John Viviani**

Let me start off by apologizing. Howard had the newsletter ready to go and due to someone, namely me, it was delayed. For some reason 2014 has been the year of John can't get the date right.



First off the club will meet at Carrabba's on 280 this time around. After that we are thinking of trying to go back to the last remaining Dale's located in Hoover. Nothing is set and suggestions will still be taken.

Now allow me thank everyone that came to the Christmas party, at Fiat of Birmingham. I think the night went well. The food from majestic Catering was wonderful, very few gifts were stolen during dirty Santa, and we had a wonderful renewal rate for members. This means we can start planning 2014 right now.

For those who have yet to renew for 2014, please do so. It allows us to make plans for the year and figure out our budgets. Our financial statement is elsewhere in this issue and while we had a loss, I think no one will deny the money was well spent. If the picnic hadn't rained out we might have done a bit better. Also you need to renew your membership by January 31st in order to continue to receive the Hemming's Sports and Exotic Magazine the club provides. I have to have the subscription list to them by mid-February and we can only add or remove names at that time.

A couple of events happen right out of the box for the New

Year and will be detailed elsewhere in this issue.

The big point for “Grounded” this month is to remind everyone this is election year! Time to get rid of the old and put in the new. We will be having a few board members stepping down and positions will be open. So be thinking if you wish to help guide the club the next two years, if not you who might you think would be up to the task? With that said the board does feel we should drop a few positions. Right now the board has 8 members which is better than 10% of the club and almost 30% of our active membership. It is felt things would be more efficient to eliminate the Member at Large offices. This would leave President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. This is the first official announcement of this proposed change and a vote should happen during March’s general meeting.

-Be seeing you

Calendar

January

14th—Regular Club Meeting—Carrabas 280. 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting

18th—BMC Eskimo Jaunt—Meeting at Cracker Barrel in Moody at 8:30 am

February

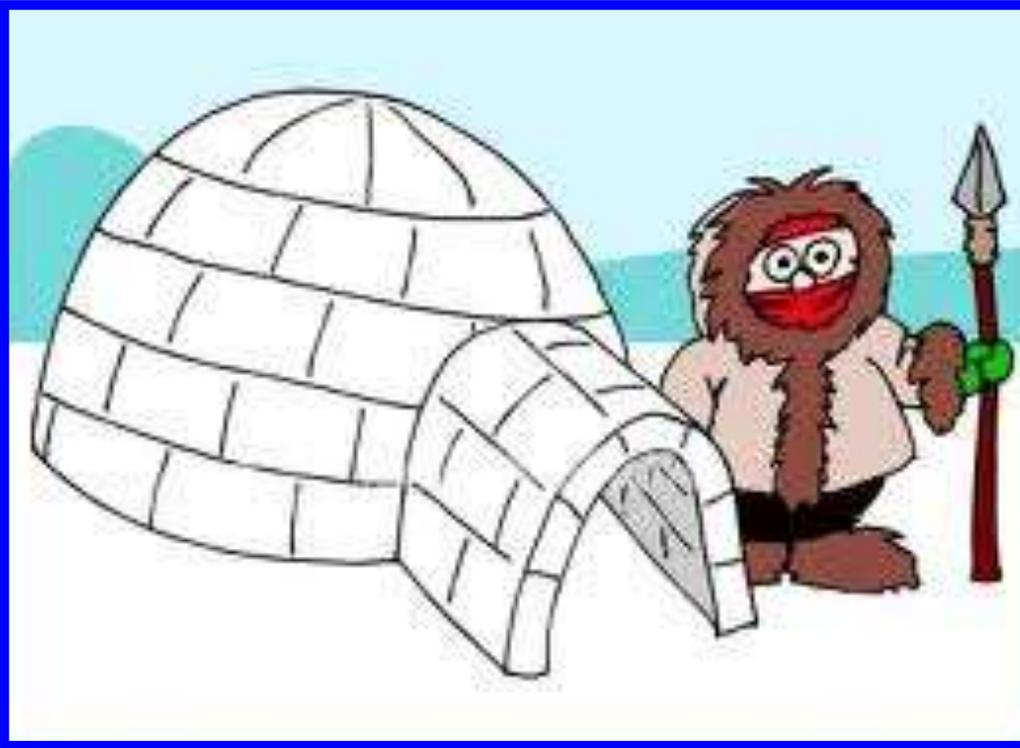
8th—Love of Lotus Party

11th—Regular Club Meeting—TBA



BMC Eskimo Jaunt 2014—John Viviani

Every year since I moved to Birmingham, there was a multi-car-club drive known as the Polar Bear Run. A few years back the Polar Bear Run was cancelled due to the cold. Ever since then the drive hasn't been the same. This year the Birmingham Motoring Club is doing a drive in the spirit of old. All clubs/car people are invited.



We will leave Cracker Barrel in Moody about 8:30 AM on Saturday January 18. The drive will take us via back roads. (All paved, mostly 2-lane, most in good shape. there are a few areas that have some surface damage, but all will be manageable for all but the lowest of cars) to Hokes Bluff to Big Oak Garage, a

street rod shop owned by a former classmate of mine. They have built many award winning show cars and trucks. While there are many ongoing projects the star is a Dodge Dart with so many modification I don't even know all after many shop visits. (think GTR door handles, custom headlamp units, raking the roof 2 degrees). They will provide some coffee and doughnuts for those who don't get to Cracker Barrel in time for breakfast.

After the shop visit we will head to a place to eat in downtown Gadsden. (Jeffersons is at the top of the list right now). After, there are all kinds of routes back from interstate, route 411, or back roads. You choose. The drive to the rod shop will be about 1hr45 and about 60 miles. (these are a one way figures) For questions inbox me or [magiccitymotoring @Gmail .com](mailto:magiccitymotoring@gmail.com) (without the spaces. This drive is rain or shine.

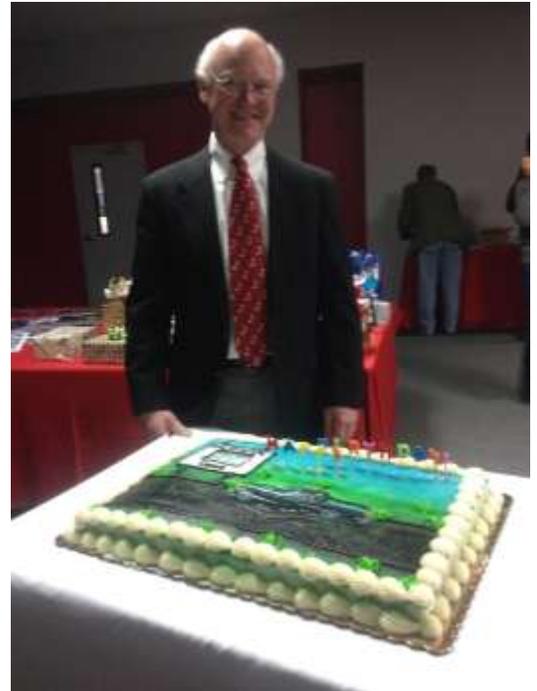
BMC Christmas Party



BMC Christmas Party



BMC Christmas Party



WinterFahrt—James Roberts

In spite of torrential rains the night before a large group gathered at the Barber Museum on a January morning. The rain stopped by 7am, and as we departed at 9am we could see blue sky.

This has become an eagerly awaited traditional event for not only our MBCA members but also our friends in the Porsche Club.

Our schlang (snake) of 30 cars was challenging to manage, but everyone kept up except for one Austin-Healey from the British Club. It's hard to understand this, as these cars cruise easily at 70+ mph with their two overdrive gears.

After that brief autobahn run we turned off onto county roads for cornische ascent of Blount Mountain and a challenging scenic drive among the brow of this mesa. After passing through Oneonta we crossed the newly reopened Horton Mill Bridge which at 70 feet above the stream below is the highest covered bridge in the US. Since only one car at a time is allowed on the bridge (if you look at its tall slender piers you can understand why), it took about 20 minutes to get everyone across.



The beautiful Palisades Park at the edge of Sand Mountain yielded beautiful views of the pastoral valley below and provided welcome relief for those who had consumed too much coffee. At least everyone heeded our admonition to start with a full tank of fuel: not a single car needed to stop for fuel or repairs.

WinterFahrt—James Roberts/Carroll Andrews



Easley Bridge is very short, so there was minimal delay getting everyone across. Just past it, though we saw herds of zebra and llama behind the pristine white fences of nearby farms.

Swann Bridge near the picturesque village of Cleveland is the longest covered bridge in the US, so it took quite some time for all to get across.

More neat roads brought us to the 13th century Tuscan style Church of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a great photo-op, since the landscape around it looks very much like Tuscany.

The Church features magnificent deep bas relief bronze doors, brilliant German stained glass windows, wonderful Italian inlaid stone floors, and a finely carved and gilded altar.

From Tuscany we turned north to the Austrian settled village of Welti. At Berlin we turned west to Alabama's German town of Cullman for a great lunch at the "All Steak" restaurant.

- Jim Roberts

Holly, my friend Carl Smith, and I made the drive. After starting out in moderate rain, the day turned out very nicely for the beautiful drive through mountains with amazing views that I did not know existed this close to home.

We traversed all three of the well-publicized covered bridges of Blount County. There were about 40 people with about 25 automobiles. As was told to me before hand, the Porsches, Benz's, and Mercedes took out like they were in stolen cars, but the Healey (only Brit) in the stable stayed in the hunt. They were in the hurry up and wait mode at every turn, or stop. Even though being the turtle, the hares didn't bother the Healey.

WinterFahrt—James Roberts

After stops at Cascade Park, and a nice visit to the Cullman monastery, all enjoyed a very tasty lunch at the Allstate Cafe. All enjoyed a pleasant day of cruising in our pampered autos.

- Carroll Andrews.





Long Lost Love ... Reunited!

Saturday, February 8, 2014

2:00pm—4:00pm



We are reuniting the museum's newly restored Lotus Mark X with its *original American owner* from the 1950s, Bob Kahmer. Listen to Bob recount stories about racing this magnificent machine, and learn about the restoration.



Free for museum members and volunteers

\$22.00 admission for non-members

To RSVP, call 205-702-8713, or email

jmoody@barbermuseum.org

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Classifieds

I have a 1980 MGB LE I've owned and garaged since 1995. It has approximately 45,300 miles, no rust that I am aware of. It has one spot where the previous owner missed a spot while repainting – I had to sand it down and add paint back and it is obvious. The tires look good, but are old and might need to be replaced if the car is going to be driven at higher speeds. I've attached a recent picture.

If you know of someone who might be interested in buying it, I can be reached on my Birmingham cell phone of 205-307-8999, or on my Tuscaloosa home phone of 205-752-6916, or by email.

Gary Bishop



Classifieds

I have a '76 MG midget that I am looking to sell . I have done some restorative work to the interior and engine. It has been running and in good shape, but now needs some work to the carburetor and I need some space in the garage. It needs a little TLC to look as great as some of the pictures on the web page, but thought you all would see its true value.

Chris Brasher
205-261-5298
Chris.Brasher@Regions.com



Classifieds



1970 MGB/GT

Car completely restored from ground up by Bill Chapman at Alabama Antique Automotive. Restoration included all interior area, hood, fenders, bumpers, doors, front, rear windshields, GT hard top, rear back hatch and all windows. Car has 1980 MGB OEM engine which has estimated 64,000 miles. Engine and transmission are both in excellent mechanical condition. And runs as strong as new. All dash instruments are in first class working order. New Price: \$12,500.

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wlee529@charter.net

Classifieds



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