

BCF Bits and Bytes

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6200+ Members

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Special points of interest:

- "The badges are chrome-plated solid brass."
- "The (BCF) cards...help promote the BCF and ensure our continued growth."
- "The winner (of the Patch Design Contest) was member GregW."

New BCF Car Badge! By Basil

Back in mid-March, I began thinking about the possibility of a car club badge for the forum. I came up with a design and polled the members to see what level of interest there was. It seemed that enough people were interested to justify the initial expense of having a prototype made. So, I ordered a prototype made and, after seeing the end result, decided to order a batch and offer them to forum members. Once I've sold enough to pay for the initial order, the proceeds from the remaining badges will help to offset the cost of running the forum, help with future upgrades, etc.

The badges are made from chrome-plated solid brass and inlaid with cloisonné colors that are impervious to heat



New British Car Forum Car Badge

(Image shown is of the original artwork submitted for the badge. Actual size is approximately 3.25 inches diameter)

and the elements. They are advertised to not dull, flake, or fade. They are available as a bolt-on (with hardware for affixing to a radiator grill or could be used for a badge bar) and a sticky-backed style that uses a special automotive adhesive.

The initial order is on its way to me and for those who have placed orders, I will get them out the door as soon as I get them. If you are interested in supporting the BCF and would like a BCF club car badge, visit the BCF Store, which can be accessed via the BCF Store forum under the Announcements Category.

Speaking of the BCF Store: If a car badge isn't in your budget just now, you can support the forum by purchasing a set of BCF window stickers and Info cards. For a donation of \$11, you will receive a 10 x

sheets of BCF window stickers plus a 10 x sheet of color BCF information cards. The cards can be handed out to friends and at car shows to help promote the BCF and ensure our continued growth. In the future I may be offering a BCF patch (see below)

BCF Patch Design Contest

The BCF car badge went over so well, I thought it might be nice to have a patch that members could put on their hats, jackets, etc. I decided to have a BCF patch design contest and asked members to submit their designs, then we voted on the designs.

There were many good designs, but the winner was the design by GregW (see picture on right). I am looking into what it would take to have this made into an iron-on or sew-on embroidered patch and hopefully will be offering this as well in the BCF store.



Winning Patch Design by GregW

Retracing Family History By Steve Favill (Steve's Excellent Adventure)

On April 6th 2006, my father, brother and I flew to Brussels to meet a gentleman who was to take us on a tour of the battlefields of the Western Front. Two of my great-uncles had fought there with the British army in the first World War, both members of the 2nd Company, 6th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment. The purpose of the trip was to follow the movements of that unit.

Our trip took us from Belgium into France, in typical European weather, chilly and damp. We were there for ten days, which included a

trip to Brussels and Bruges, and the battlefield of Waterloo. We visited Ypres, the

Somme, Cambrai and a number of other, smaller conflicts.

Graveyards were all over, some isolated in the middle of fields, as they were established next to dressing stations, and the bodies were allowed to rest there after the war was over. Bodies are still turning up, even now.

Throughout our

trip we found the people to be genuinely friendly and welcoming, and the impressions that I gained will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Whilst we were at the site of a crater that used to be a German trench, close to the Somme battlefield, a Bentley rolled up, followed by a number of MGs, and yes, I have photos! It was a tour of the wine region and battlefields set up by an MG club in the UK!

Other than that, I only saw a rubber bumper MG Midget in Waterloo.

Mind you, the weather was crumbly so they wouldn't have ventured out much. The food was magnificent! From

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"...close to the Somme battlefield, a Bentley rolled up, followed by a number of MGs..."

Retracing Family History (Continued)

Belgian chocolate and the magnificent beer, to the evening meals accompanied by many bottles of high-quality wines! Yes I did put on weight, which I am trying to lose.

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*"Whist at the site of a German trench near Somme battlefield, a group of MG's from an MG club in the UK arrives. They were on a tour of the wine region and battlefields."*

*Editor's note: Steve has promised to write a more detailed account of his trip and we will post it in our Articles section (aka "Writer's Corner").*

## Carousel of Arts Car Show By Zack (Howard-the-Duck) (Mom and Son in the Deep South)

Mom and Dad and I have been working on the Carousel of Arts show for the past 7 years. The car show is part of Abbeville's Carousel of Arts Festival that helps showcase area and national artists, musicians, etc.

The festival was the brainchild of Dr. Ronnie Mayard, who, prior to his passing earlier this year, was an influential arts supporter, as well as

parish (county) school board director for the arts in the public school system.

Abbeville, LA is the seat of Vermilion Parish, which is where mom and dad live and work. The car show (April 2<sup>nd</sup> this year) is part of the festival, because, as my mother Randi puts it, "cars are art." There's no charge for bringing your vehicle or for simply walking around.

This year I am proud to announce that we had attendance of over 80 automobiles, and we hope to continue growing the event.

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Editor's Note: Zack and Randi (his mum), are both long-time British Car Forum members who recently suffered the ravages of Hurricane Katrina.



Yes, there are even LBCs at the Carousel of Arts!

"I strong-armed Chuck and badgered him until he caved."

Virtual Rally

The latest Virtual Rally is nearing an end. The last day



for new players was 15 May, and the rally officially ends 31 May 06. The guy to beat is gregw who, as of this writing, is finished with the rally with a score of 103 points!

But wait! There are a number of players in hot pursuit! Can Greg hold on? Only time will tell as the other in the pack close in from the rear!

There were 15 legs in this rally, and we have 60 members playing. The prize this time is a BCF car badge (See front page). *If you are not familiar with Virtual Rally, check it out at BCF. Click the [Virtual Rally Link](#), then click on [Rules and Instructions](#) to learn about this increasingly popular game at BCF.*

Jaybird's "B" in-a-box By Basil (with input from Jaybird)

Member Jaybird (Janel) found out about her latest project, a 1966 MGB, which she affectionately (I think) calls Binabox, through a member in her local car club who knew Tony Barnhill and told her about the car.

"I Talked to Tony a couple times on the phone, strong-armed Chuck and badgered him (who me?) until he caved. He and Kelly rode down and brought her home in early November."

I suspect Jaybird calls the car "Binabox" because, as she puts it, "the majority of 'stuff' was already off the car, thrown in countless boxes in the cockpit and back of our truck."

After some additional disassembly, on February 13th they took Binabox via flatbed

truck to the shop, performed some minor body work, then hauled her to the sandblaster a few days later. At the same time, they were having the engine rebuilt.

After much gnashing of teeth (you may recall her four-month-long odyssey in the MG forum about color choices),



Binabox Before (We'll hope to show you the after picture in a future Newsletter)

she settled on a shade of grey that, while not an original factory color, is very close to Dove Grey. Jaybird has made incredible progress on Binabox, which can be seen at her on-line album (just click the link in her signature in any of her forum posts). She tells us that she expects to be completed with Binabox around the end of may and we hope to publish pictures in a future newsletter.

Editor's Note: We felt we needed to bring you the story of Binabox because Jaybird is such a shy, retiring type that it's really hard to get her to talk about her cars.



Garage-Mahal

Our very own Tony Barnhill (Moderator in the MG forum) was recently contacted by none other than Hemmings Motor News. It seems that they want to feature Tony's MG collection, along with the ever-expanding garage that houses said collection, in their "In Your Garage" feature. How cool is that? You can follow the story

about Tony's Garage Mahal and the Hemmings article, in the "Garage Mahal" thread in the Pub forum at BCF. Also, you can visit Tony's web site dedicated to his Garage expansion at:
<http://www.theautoist.com/garage-mahal.htm>

Folks I visited Tony a couple of years ago while on a busi-

ness trip to Huntsville, AL and his garage was massive even back then! He's been expanding it ever since and I can't wait to read the article.

Tony, you will of course give BCF a plug, right?



Hacked!! By Basil



Most of you regulars know that BCF was recently hacked. The perpetrators managed to FTP a bunch of files to the BCF server which also caused many of the regular BCF files to become corrupted with the Hacker's code. It seems they were trying to re-direct traffic to some web site in China. Thank goodness I do regular backups.

I don't think their code

worked they way they intended, instead, members just saw a strange error message at the top of the forum pages.

I determined the IP address of the hacker's system, and I have notified the company that owns that block of IPs.

They sublease the IPs to other companies and this particular IP belongs to an ISP in North Carolina. I will con-

tact that company and see if they think this was one of their customers or (more likely) someone's computer had been taken over by the real hacker in order to cover their tracks. Sorry for the downtime, but it took awhile to restore things. **There's no truth to the rumor that CO₂ produced from hyperventilating members when the BCF was down caused increased Global Warming!**



May- June 2006

What's on in BCF-land

SOME KEY EVENTS FROM THE BCF CALENDAR

- May 19-21 Carlisle, PA
Import/Kit Nationals
www.carsatcarlisle.com
- May 19-21 Carlisle, PA
TVR Club "Out of the Woodwork"
www.tvrcna.org
- May 26-28 Champagne, IL
Champagne British Car Fest
www.wbscc.org/cbcf/
- June 2-3 Louisville, KY
All British Bash
www.Britishbash.com
- June 3 Land O' Lakes, FL
Driving Pink all British Car Show
to benefit Susan Koman Breast
Cancer Foundation.
www.Britishcarclub.net

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Carlisle, PA	20 Carlisle, PA
21 Carlisle, PA	22	23	24	25	26 Champagne, IL	27 Champagne, IL
28 Champagne, IL	29	30	31	1 Jun	2 Louisville, Kentucky	3 Louisville, KY Land O Lakes, Florida
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Highlights from the BCF Calendar

The calendar here highlights just some of the great British Car events around the country in May and June. Only those events which are listed in the BCF Event Calendar online, and which have links to informational websites, are listed here. There are more events in the BCF Event calendar online, but you will need to

check there for more info. Be sure to check the calendar online often because new events are always being added.

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Show off your baby in a car show in your local area! Check the BCF Calendar often!

### Do you have an event coming up?

If you are involved with a British car event in your area, be sure to visit the British Car Forum and add your event to our Events Forum as well as the events calendar.

#### How:

You must be a BCF member (its free), then while logged on, click the link titled Calendar in the upper navigation menu, then click the Add New Event Link. For a subject, enter the location of the event (for example "Denver, CO" then in the body, enter the name and details of the event. You can include email address and web links to direct people for more info.

#### Also:

If you enter an event in our Events Forums (again, use the location as the title of the event), then check the "List as Event in Calendar" box and select the date of the event. Be sure to make your event "Public" in the calendar so that everyone can see it. (If you make it Private, then only you can see the event listing).



## BRITISH CAR FORUM

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Jaguar and Rover Parts

[www.xks.com](http://www.xks.com)



[www.rat-co.com](http://www.rat-co.com)

## The Story of BCF By Basil (Who Else?)

Skip this if you've heard the story of BCF before, but since we've had a lot of new members, I thought I'd regale you all with the tale of BCF once again. It all started in the winter of 2000. I used to belong to a couple of mailing lists for two of my British cars, but at the same time, I belonged to a "forum" for one of my American cars. The mailing lists were fine, don't get me wrong, but I personally found the forum format much easier to deal with—for one thing my inbox wasn't filling up all the time.

So, I started looking for a good forum that would cater to both of my British Marques at the time. To my surprise, I could not find any really good, general purpose British car forums. So, being a computer geek extraordinaire, I decided to try starting a forum myself. Thus, on Christmas Day, 2000, the British Car Forum was born!

Finding a decent forum program, renting some server space and getting it officially "online" was the easy part. Getting members to join - now that was the hard part!

I beat every bush I could find trying to get folks to give BCF a try, but in those early days it was a catch-22 situation.

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## The Story of BCF (Continued)

People didn't want to participate because there wasn't much activity, but there was not much activity because people didn't want to participate.

I will be honest—there were a few times that I considered hanging it up because, despite my best efforts, growth at first was painfully slow. In fact, you can see from the graph that it took nearly 2 full years just to get the first 500 members, and 4 years to reach 4000!

But slowly, over time, the word got out about BCF and the membership started growing to the point that I've had to upgrade my server size and bandwidth capacity at least twice now. We are currently close to 6200 members and growing at about 130-150 new folks per month. Not bad!

### Advertise @ BFC!

Vendors, if you are a supplier of British car-related parts or services, and would like to support BCF and help us become the very best British car discussion forum on the planet, then consider advertising with a banner linked to your site. Details available via the "Advertise" link on BCF. (limited spots available)

### British Car Forum Growth



[www.caswellplating.com](http://www.caswellplating.com)