

ABCS Newsletter

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NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 8. 2005 – RUSH STREET GRILL

Minutes of the ABCS Meeting for November 10, 2005

Ben Bailey, President, presided over the meeting with 15 members and one guest present.

Ben reminded us of the coming election of officers next month. The nominees so far are:

President: Paul Kern
V. President: Virginia Leamon
Secretary: Juan Dominguez

Al Bradley would like to resign his position as Treasurer; therefore nominations are being taken for that position.

Ben informed us that a prospective member has just bought a new Morgan. Can't wait to see that fine automobile up close.

A few items are left in stores; T-shirts, sweat shirts, and hats. They would make nice Christmas presents and promote membership by displaying affiliation to the club.

A reminder that December 8 is our Christmas Party at the Rush Street Grill. A

small gift should be brought if you would like to participate in the gift exchange.

The program for the evening consisted of Paul Kern showing the "1968 London to Sydney Marathon". It consisted of 10,000 miles of continuous night and day driving through some of the roughest terrain on earth, including Afghanistan, India and Australia. Ninety eight cars started, and only 58 finished.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 8 – Christmas Party – Rush Street Grill at 6:30 P.M. Election of Officers.

Dec. 10 – Night Drive to Bristol Motor Speedway. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot at 6:00 P.M.

Jan. 12 – David Valentine will entertain us with slides from his recent trip to Russia.

ABCS-SMJC MYSTERY DRIVE **12 Nov. 2005 by Gerry Mitchell**

The morning of the “Mystery Drive” started out very cold in the high twenties. But, the day was sunny and clear with a promise of warming up adequately by midday.

My wife, Becky, and one of her llama friends, had agreed to participate in a llama-fiber carding and spinning demonstration at a quilt show at the Addilynn Memorial United Methodist Church at Bristol that day. The friend and her husband had also brought along a pair of llamas who proved to be a big hit at the show. Becky needed to take her spinning wheel along to demonstrate how to convert llama fiber into yarn. The spinning wheel had to be strapped into the back seat much as a human passenger would be and there wasn't enough space in our open two-seat roadster to do this. So, we took our 2002 Honda Civic instead.

After dropping Becky and her spinning wheel off at the church in Bristol, I continued south on US11E to the driver's meeting place in Johnson City, the Sears parking lot on Roan Street. I walked over to MacDonald's next door and enjoyed a breakfast snack with other members of the group who had assembled for the “Mystery Drive”.

When all those who were going on the drive had arrived there were: Sue & Richard Williams in their 1961 Jaguar XK-150 DHC; Clarence (C.C.) Goodson in his 1979 MGB; Natalie and Ben Bailey in their 1975 MGB; Juan Dominguez in his 2003 Jeep Grand Cherokee; Dani and Barry Black in their 1977 MGB; Paul and George (Labrador Retriever) in his 1963 MGB;

Virginia and Ken Leamon in their 1972 MGB; and I in my 2002 Honda Civic. Even though there were a couple of brave souls who bundled up left their hoods stowed, most of the hoods on the open cars remained erected because of the cold temperatures.

The leader of the drive was Ben Bailey who is a member of both clubs and a SMJC board member. We departed Johnson City about 10:00 AM, onto Roan St., then took I-26 southbound onto University Parkway and then onto Cherokee Road. We turned onto Dry Creek Road then got onto SR81 to Erwin, TN for our first pit stop at Hardee's.



Upon leaving our pit stop, we took highway 395 through Rock Creek Park which is part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. While on these perfect sports-car curvy and hilly Tennessee back roads, I was driving directly behind Juan Dominguez in his Jeep Grand Cherokee. Dani and Barry Black in their 1977 MGB were directly in front of him. Suddenly I saw a large doe thrashing about on the roadway in front of Juan's Jeep. My first thought was that the deer had been hit by

one of the cars ahead of me. But , the doe finally struggled to her feet and easily ran up the hill beside the road and into the woods. Judging by the way she was able to run, I concluded that none of her legs was broken. Discussing the event with Juan, Dani, and Barry later, I learned that the doe had actually jumped cleanly over the rear of Blacks' MGB and had fallen onto the road but was not actually contacted by any of the cars.

We continued over the mountain to Poplar, NC, where the road turns into SR 197 through Tipton Hill and Red Hill and leads via SR226 to Buladean,NC, and continues over Iron Mountain and back into Tennessee on SR107 to Unicoi, TN, for our lunch stop at 12:15 PM at Wilson's Restaurant.



We had hoped to see a lot of beautiful fall colors on this drive. While there was still some bright fall color here and there at the lower elevations, the most spectacular of the fall splendor appeared to be most likely past its peak. At the higher elevations the deciduous trees were already bare and dead-looking. The dozen mystery-drive participants enjoyed fine fellowship together at lunch and we all agreed that the food there at Wilson's was indeed very good.



When our leisurely lunch was over, the official portion of our "Mystery Drive" was concluded and the group dispersed for home. As I drove north from Unicoi on I-

26, I was enjoying the rear view of Sue and Richard Williams' Jaguar XK-150DHC. I tried to keep up with tem so that I could continue viewing that beautiful XK-150 as long as possible. But, they really took off and were soon out of sight. Even several of the MGs who were with me at the beginning were soon lost from sight. I arrived back home in Kingsport at 2:30 Pm having driven 150 miles round-trip on the ABCS-SMJC Mystery Drive on good "Drivers" roads with beautiful scenery.



