

Nanaimo Parade – We Win Again!

Well, folks, although we won a prize or two, it wasn't actually a perfect day for a parade. It rained off and on all day that Sunday (22nd May), and the number of bands and floats was down from recent years. Nonetheless, the stalwarts of the OECC were out in strong support. Ten old English cars no less! All looking quite spiffy, despite the raindrops on bonnets and boots. Drivers and passengers were in good spirits, as were the good people of Nanaimo who braved the rain to line the route and applaud us as we went by, showing off our winner's ribbons.

Yes, we won in two categories. At the parade itself we were awarded the 1st Runner-Up ribbon in the Motorized Presentation category (beaten by those pesky vintage tractors again!). Then, the next day, we discovered we took first place in the Classic Cars category. It doesn't matter that we were the *only* classic car entry, what's important is that we took first place! So not a bad showing at all. After the parade, 24 of us gathered at Piper's Pub for a well deserved, if late, lunch, and lots of animated chatter. We must beat those old tractors next year!...*Ed*



The OECC Crew Assemble for the 2005 Nanaimo Parade

Lake Cowichan Run, 24th April

We all prayed that morning hoping that the weather would clear and be nice for the car run through Lake Cowichan, or at the very least not rain on us. With faith in our hearts 24 cars gathered at the Southgate mall, in Nanaimo. It was a long line of cars leaving, to head south to Ladysmith where Nigel and Francis squeezed into the line. The cars wound their way through Boat Harbour to Chemainus. At the Water Wheel Park everyone had a chance to stretch his or her legs. I think Larry & Virginia got a little mixed up with what car club they were meeting because they brought the pink Cadillac and not the Jag. We still encouraged them join us after they explained that the Jag was mechanically challenged at the moment (not running). More fair-weather souls with their cars joined us along the way and I am sure that we turned more than just a few heads as we drove along. The weather gods listened to our prayers and as the day progressed and we snaked our way through the Cowichan Valley the clouds parted leaving us with a sunny day and only a few clouds. The weather gods may have been listening to us but the car gods didn't listen to Dennis and Darla, as their car sprung an oil leak. They were rescued by our Chairman Doug Unia, Doug Bainbridge, Tony Dowell and Bob Cumberland who taped up the oil line and gave them oil. By the time everyone arrived at The Cow Café for an incredible lunch we had 29 cars and 55 people. I must say that we were a little worried that everyone would fit in the café and that we may overwhelm the staff somewhat. The staff were great, well organized and didn't miss a thing. As we departed we thanked them for their hospitality and they said we could return any time, we were a great group to have. Everyone left and found their own way home by different routes. Some chose to go directly home while others visited some of the Vineyards around the area. All in all it was a great day had by all and we are eagerly anticipating the next run...*Candy Francis*

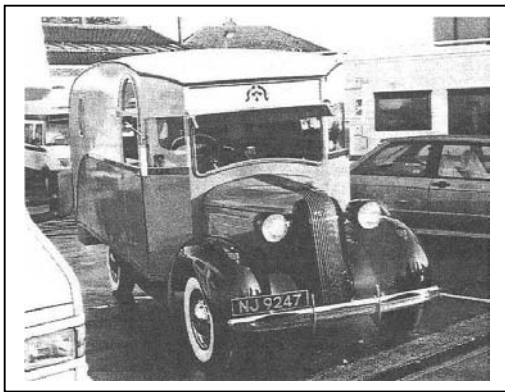
Why Not a Classic Motorhome?

(In the previous two Beansos, we read about Mike and Pat Bull's 1966 Commer Van, their 1972 Ford Transit Landliner and their camping holiday in the UK. Now we can read about an interesting old 1936 Pontiac motorhome Mike found in the UK...Ed)

Coming back to the 1936 Pontiac, this vehicle (cab & chassis only) was shipped to England in 1936 and was collected from the Southampton Docks for delivery to Russel's Coachworks in Bexhill, Sussex - who are still in business today. Russel's built the custom body for a Captain and Mrs. Dunn. Captain Dunn, a Naval Officer, was disabled and so the body interior was built to meet his needs as an invalid. The vehicle was completed and registered on June 16th 1936. Powered by a six cylinder motor, with no power assist at all, and loaded with a mahogany wood interior and cast iron "facilities" - to include a toilet, stove, ice box etc.- the vehicle was slow to move and a bit top heavy. However, it was used for camping but only on a limited basis. Some 60 years after its birth the mileage was only 7000!

With the outbreak of WWII, Captain and Mrs. Dunn were evacuated from the East Coast to Wales. The vehicle was put into storage in a stable in 1940. In 1946 Captain Dunn died, but Mrs. Dunn lived on until 1991. After her death the 1936 Pontiac was brought out of storage (after 50 years!) and was sent to Sotheby's auction where it was acquired at a cost of just \$8,000.00 with just 8,700 miles on the clock since new. All furnishings, fittings and lino are original,

and have only been cleaned. The metal parts of the body were stripped, shot blasted and re-sprayed. The woodwork has been re-varnished and the body hand-painted. The brakes were overhauled and apart from all this, everything is original as when it was new. We actually have a video of the Pontiac, including its interior. The dealer-owner was kind enough to start the motor so we could record the sound of the very quiet motor. We were allowed to spend quite a lot of time with this lovely old Camper which today must be almost priceless. The vehicle is used solely to advertise the dealer, known as Kamping Kars, so look for its Ad with a photo of the Pontiac in any British Motorhome Monthly.



The 1936 Pontiac Motorhome

The Classic auto and Classic camper interest in England is quite widespread and we were in fact quite surprised at the huge interest there is for the many makes, and marques, in existence, with most Clubs attracting a strong and loyal membership with nothing done by half-measure either! Submissions by Club members is expected,

and happens regularly and as a result the Club magazines I have seen are of high quality, both as to content and print quality, and are very interesting. I would highly recommend a "camping vacation" in Great Britain (England, Scotland, Ireland & Wales) as there is much to see. Camp-sites are first-class and there are hundreds of Old Car events on every week - Auctions, Swap-Meets, Show & Shines - you choose! We saw York, Bath, London, Stratford-Upon-Avon, the Cotswolds, and a zillion other places, staying at camp-sites which were well run, ultra clean and an average of \$15.00 per night for us two. We joined The Caravan Club which has some 4000 camping locations in G.B. each is listed in their members' guide book which includes a map of how to get to each location, its facilities, price to camp and what's to see locally. It's a non-profit Organization with 350,000 members!

Our Commer restoration continued upon our return to Canada. It was driveable and, since everything worked, we used it to camp-out and had a great time with it. We took a trip to Spokane and on the return journey I said to Pat (the wife) "I wish all of our Old Cars ran as well as the Commer". It was slow as molasses on hills, due to the 4 cyl. 1725 cc. motor which is not quite enough power. However, it does 60mph on the level at 25 mpg. If you'd like more info about The Classic Camper Club, The Caravan Club or perhaps doing a "Motorhome Swap" to the U.K. call this writer at 250- 757-8850, or email mikejbull@shaw.ca

Lake Cowichan Run.....photos by Geoff Francis and Ken Hedges



Nanaimo Empire Days Parade - Lunch...photos by Ken Hedges



What Car is shown in the Photo below???



A generous benefactor has offered a 'valuable prize' to any CIOECC member who can correctly identify the year, make and model of this fine old English car, he owned. Answers/guesses by email only to: abrianthom@hotmail.com.

*What's the prize? Ah yes, it's a free one-year subscription to **Beano!***

This and That

We hear that, at the Rolls Royce Club's Spring Meet in Parksville, OECC member Shirley Greenwood and her 1978 Silver Shadow Mark II won 2nd prize in the "Car in Motion" competition. We hear too that Shirley would have won the 1st prize but for the baffling 'tech' questions that she was expected to answer, as well as having the best-rated car. Well done anyway, Shirley. We think 2nd prize is jolly good. Maybe next year we can get techie Bob Day to give you a few likely tech answers to scribble on the palm of your hand for sneaky reference. Just kidding of course!

We also heard that Nigel Muggeridge, who at press time is travelling in the UK, got the surprise of his life when he spotted a large poster of his bare knees (*see photo below*), displayed behind the bar of a North of England pub – with the sign "**Weeze knees are these?!! – Proof of identity receives a free pint**".



Seems like one of Doug Bainbridge's brothers decided to pull a prank on Nigel as the Muggeridges were passing through Bainbridge country. We hear Nigel had no trouble claiming 'ownership' of the knees - and his free pint, no doubt!

It seems that as the Club grows, we may have to look at how we do our runs. After the Cowichan run, a regular participant wrote: "The Challenge of this car run was

the sheer size of it. Anyone near the front could not see the cars at the back. We lost a few cars at the back without even knowing it. They all made it to the Café for lunch but by a different route." Well folks, any ideas of how we cope with the popularity of our runs and burgeoning numbers? Make your views known at the next club meeting.

Remember the current issue of *Beano* is now on the Club's website at <http://members.shaw.ca/cioecc>. Have a look at it there. The photos look great - much better than on paper...*Ed*


Also Remember ***Brits-on-the-Beach, at Ladysmith's Transfer Beach, 17th July.***

Flogger's Corner

MG Midget Engine, 1500cc \$500. Phone Oscar Taylor 753-0229.

1976 BMC Mini 1000, Mayfair interior, 10" Dunlop mags with new Yokohama tires. Spare engine & transmission, \$5,500. Phone Doug 756-2207.

1974 Rubber Bumper MGB, dismantled. Most parts for sale. John Bower 250-701-0162.

	ROYAL LEPAGE Nanaimo Realty Ladysmith Branch Coronation Mall #13 370 Trans Canada Highway Ladysmith, B.C. V9G 1T9 Bus: (250) 245-2252 Fax: (250) 245-5617 Res: (250) 722-3322 Email: vmfourn@island.net EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED
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Don't miss photos of our own Al Campbell in his Amphibious "Amphacar" – coming up in the next Beano

Club Meeting 19th April 2005

A goodly crowd of 35 people were present. On behalf of Treasurer Adele, Ken Hedges reported that we have \$1,548.38 in the bank. Registrar Mike Bull told us that 51 members are paid-up for this year, and then went on to tell us about the Parksville Swap Meet coming up on 12th June, and the need for volunteers to 'person' the club's booth. Geoff Francis gave us info on upcoming events, including the Lake Cowichan Run on 24th April. Nigel Muggerridge gave an update on the 'Brits Round BC' tour that will start from the Father's Day Picnic in Victoria 19th June. The Beano Editor reported that, with the invaluable help of Roger Killin, and our Webmeister Doug Bainbridge, the Beano was now on the Club's Website. Chairman Doug Unia told us that the Society-wide Newsletter, "The Spanner" was being resurrected; support from our branch will be considered. Tony Dowell informed everyone that the Wednesday evening classic car gatherings at the Longwood A&W have recommenced, with free burger and rootbeer for those arriving with a classic car. Al Campbell described the old Amphacar he used to own, and promised a photo for the Beano. Merv's T-shirt of the month was of a Triumph Spitfire. Following some technical overviews e.g. on Triumph engines, the meeting was closed at 8:35 pm....*Ed*

Club Meeting 17th May 2005

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm., 26 members attending. Treasurer's report: \$1,298.71 currently in the bank and \$598.31 Net Income. Registrar's report: we have a membership of 54. Event Organizer's report: the Empire Day's Parade in Downtown Nanaimo is on May 22 and begins at 1:00pm. After, we are meeting at Piper's Pub on Hammond Bay Rd. for lunch. Mike Bull: Swap Meet at the Parksville Community Centre June 12, 8am – 3pm. Brit's

Around BC: on June 19 will be meeting at the Canadian Tire parking lot, North

Nanaimo at 4:00pm for the leg of the run up to Comox. AGM: June 18th with a Mini Monte on the Sat. morning. The dinner theme is WWII England. Information and registration is available on the OECC website The "Spanner" Newsletter proposal, put forward by Steve Diggins, for a magazine to serve all branches of BC, is to be voted on at the AGM. This is not made to replace but complement each club's newsletter. Format is quarterly, 16 pages of 8 ½ X 11. The cost of 300 copies is \$250 plus tax or approx \$1 a copy. This cost is to be split 50/50 with the Society. The Society will pay for shipping and handling. Our club branch voted to accept this proposal. Two new Awards Proposal: OECC Restoration Award and the OECC Preservation Award. Car Show: Jaguars on the Island, August 5 & 6 in Victoria. For information contact Doug Ingram at jaguarclub@shaw.ca or call (250) 370-2820. Merv's T-shirt Car of the Month: Jaguar XKE. Leo Etienne: told everyone about Hunter Classic (*see Ad below*). Brits on the Beach: Tony Mantel is trying to get SUN 97FM on location. There will be no entry fee this year. We are hoping to have a local service group run a stall with magazines and books. Rotary Club is again offering to have a BBQ for us. It is suggested that a nominal fee be charged and donated to the Rotary Club. The 50/50 winner was Adele Hedges. Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm...*Candy Francis*



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