


Jan. - Feb. 2012 **74th Edition** **Editor & Publisher: Jim Gislason**

Bill & Val Grace's 1980 TR7



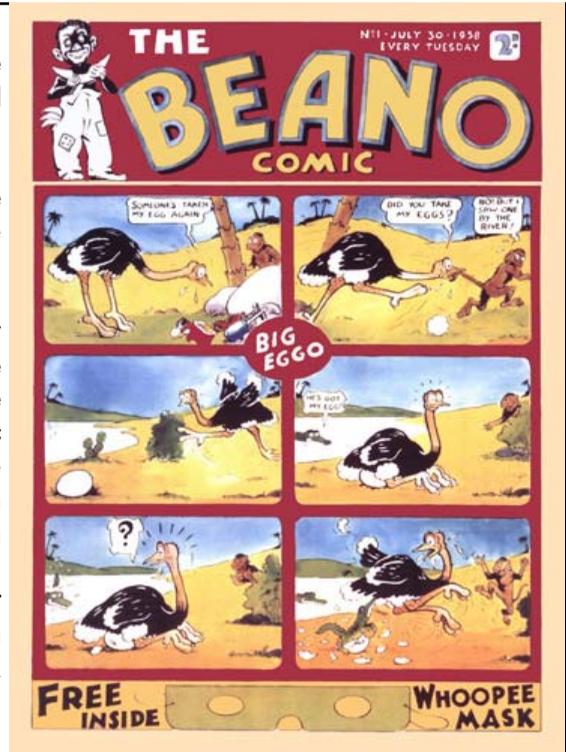
Bill & Val Grace's TR7 is having some engine upgrades in Doug Unia's shop... see the full report from 'Unia-versity' on pg. 6 of this issue...

Notes From The Editor

Nice to see the odd day of sunshine recently... Don't mention the 'S' word and Spring will be just around the corner.

There aren't a lot of car events at this time of the year so I thought I'd just add some miscellaneous ramblings here...

I do a lot of research on the internet (mostly car related) but today I thought I'd Google 'BEANO' to see what I could find.. As some of you 'Brits' already know, there is a comic book in the UK called.. oddly enough.. 'The BEANO comic ! It was first published on July 30 1938 ... had it's 3500th issue in Sept. 2009 and still goes on to this day. An original first edition that sold for tuppence new, was sold in 2004 at auction for £12,100 setting a record for the sale of a British comic !



I recently came across a rather interesting website. It's called "British Car Cottage Industries " and has this description on the website...

"This web site showcases products or services developed by enthusiasts but do not want to bear the huge costs of advertising. Typically the pages showcase "cottage" industries or "one man bands". Their sales are usually by word of mouth and so the BCCI web site helps the word to spread.

The site also caters for some commercial organizations that have developed an item considered to be useful, or even essential, to the British car enthusiast but is not generally advertised. "

There are several products on there that are available from Canada and the 'keeper' of the website is also from Canada. <http://www.britcot.com>

I'm really looking forward to 'Brit's 'round B.C.' this year. It's a part of the province that I've never been to and I'm sure Ric MacDonald has a great route mapped out for us.

I'm also looking forward to our first 'car' event of the year and hope to see many of you on Dave & Linda Harris' Bunny Hop Run on April 21

...*Jim*

Membership Report

I would like to congratulate Mike Minter & Lillian Sly who won the early bird draw at January's meeting. It is that time again to renew your membership. We have a total of 60 paid members so far this year. If you have not renewed your membership, the fee this year is \$25.00 for each membership and your spouse can be put on the membership at no extra charge. I would appreciate, if you would fill out a new membership application if you have a change in information. The membership dues can be paid at the monthly meetings or mailed to Candy Francis, 4325 Ashbury Place, Nanaimo, BC, V9T5S3.

Happy Driving

... *Candy Francis*

3rd Annual Polar Bear Walk Jan. 8, 2012

We had another great success for our Annual Polar Bear Walk, with a record 54 members and 6 dogs showing up at Rath Trevor Park. The weather cooperated very nicely for us and we managed the whole walk without any rain!

There were 4 English cars on the run and we had 3 members participate in the "Shorts Challenge", including Al Ramsay wearing a beautiful Scottish kilt.

Irene Thompson, my loyal and trusty CEO (Chief Exercise Officer) did the honours of making sure the group had adequate warm-up exercises before the half-hour trek. Ray Sabourin presented Dave Harris with a "Walking Motivator" to give Dave the necessary encouragement to complete the walk - a picture of a burger in front of his face, attached by a 2 ft. pole to a hard-hat!

Approximately 46 members went for lunch at Boston Pizza, who did a great job in accommodating such a large group. The OECC Polar Bear was adopted for the year by Melba Nelson, and we raised a total of \$121.00 as a donation to the Canadian Wildlife Federation for the protection of polar bears and habitat – thanks everyone for your support and generosity to this worthwhile cause!

...*Malcolm & Janet*





Garage Tour Doug Unia's TR7 conversion Jan. 22 , 2012

Freezing rain falling in torrents, driven by near gale force gusts of wind, leaden skies promising more of the same. Other than a medical emergency, what would tempt any sane man to leave 'hearth and home'? Perhaps the chance to talk engines and poke around Doug's garage and drink from the fountain of knowledge at 'Unia-versity Motors, (sorry John Twist but I could not resist that one). Having arrived safely, it was good to get out of the elements and into Doug's comfortable, well lit garage where over a dozen club members assembled. Before the presentation started, some of the more inquisitive (read nose) members, myself included, wandered uninvited through the door at the rear of the garage into the workshop. My dear old dad had a favourite saying, "A place for everything and everything in it's place", my dad would have liked Doug.

Back in the garage, Judy made a cameo appearance, with a warm greeting, hot coffee and baskets of prize winning carrot muffins, (can you say gracious hosts? I knew you could). On a sheet of plywood placed over a bench,, not one but two Triumph engines lay, stripped down to their component parts.

Doug's Sprint engine to the left, Bill Grace's TR7 engine to the right, their respective engine blocks attached to engine stands at either end of the bench. This was a rare, if not unique opportunity to compare the differences between the two engines. The pursuit of extra horsepower is not for the faint of heart or weak of wallet! Much research, careful choices, knowledge, experience and ample amounts of skill and patience are all essential components to a successful outcome. An air of confidence and "Been-there-done-that" was both obvious and apparent and I for one can't wait to see the finished product. The presentation over, questions were invited, many were asked. I could wax lyrical over what I consider the educational value of things like this, but I think the comment made by the professional engineer in our midst, who was heard to say



"Well I've learned something today", just about sums it up.

I drove home in a reflective mood. I was living in England at the time these cars were manufactured. Doug had touched on the defects of manufacture, rough, unfinished casting apertures where the oil and water pump bolted to the block, restricting the volume of circulating lubricants and coolant. A lack of pride and general apathy fuelled by labour unrest were systemic throughout the British auto industry. The juggernaut that would become the Japanese auto industry was nothing more than a distant rumble. In the next two decades it would beat the UK's car manufacturing into submission and bloody the nose of the US 'Big Three'. With a little foresight one wonders if it could have been avoided. Doug, Judy, I'm sure I'm the voice of all who attended as I thank you for a most enjoyable afternoon

... Al King



Minutes of Jan. 19th , 2012 General Meeting

Chairman, Malcolm Hargrave opened the first meeting for 2012 at 7 p.m. with 24 members present.

Minutes of the November meeting had been circulated by email and as there were no changes or revisions, it was motioned by Al Thompson to accept the minutes, seconded by Roger Tarry (**Carried**).

Treasurer, Bill Grace reported the bank at \$XXXX including \$XXXX in prepaid dues. There is a current surplus of \$XXXX. It was questioned what we would do with the money and of course I got excited thinking new equipment for the club in the form of an iPad. Someone suggested subsidizing an event. Since costs are increasing, dues to Branches increased by \$2 per membership, Malcolm suggested not to spend at this time.

Vice Chair, Candy Francis informed us that we have 53 members registered and 44 are eligible for the Early Bird Draw. Congratulations to Mike Minter and Lillian Sly, winners of the 2012 Free Membership Draw. Candy introduced new member, Dave Sampson, owner/appraiser of Oceanside Auto Appraisers Ltd. Dave also provided information about the Specialty Vehicle Association of BC, they represent all car clubs to various Government Departments to preserve the hobby.

Events Coordinator, Howard Lockhart reported Malcolm and Janet Hargrave's 3rd Annual Polar Bear Walk had a record number of 54 members participate! Members were asked if they wanted to see links to other clubs and events i.e. North American. It was decided that members will seek these out on their own. Future Events include: Bunny Hop run in April – Linda and Dave Harris, Empire Days Parade in May – Al Thompson. Howard asked for a volunteer to arrange the annual Bowling in February, no one would step forward. However, a few days later Al Thompson agreed to organize the event on February 19th. Members are reminded to check the website for upcoming events.

Malcolm relayed a message from Cathy Gislason that BRBC updates from Ric are put on the website as they are received. Those who are interested in going can keep an eye on the Branch Events page for updates, latest was posted January 10th. Judy Unia announced that Vests are now available as well as Name Tags for those who need them.

Steve Wareing/Adrian Rice confirmed Brits on the Beach takes place July 15th. The vendors from last year as well as Octagon Motors are planning to be there.

Steve Wareing will update the list of tools available for loan to members. This Tools Inventory will be available at the March meeting.

Marilyn Tarry won the 50/50.

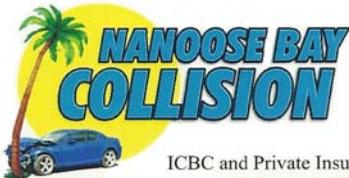
The Technical presentation will be held in Doug Unia's Garage on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. featuring Doug's Sprint conversion – TR7 8 valve to Sprint 16 valve cylinder head.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The Branch would like to thank the following businesses for helping out with the annual banquet :

White Spot - Woodgrove Centre
Harris Kia
Iris - Parksville
Thompson Machine Works
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Lantzville Village Pub
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Upcoming Events

Feb. 19

5 pin Bowling at Brechin Lanes
Wagonmaster Al Thompson

April 15

Heritage Acres Restoration Fair & Swap
Meet. See SIB for details

April 21

Bunny Hop Run
Wagonmaster Dave Harris

May 20

All British Field Meet-VanDusen Gardens
Vancouver

MAY 21

Nanaimo Empire Days parade

June 22-23

AGM in Vancouver - to be confirmed

June 24

Brits 'round B.C.
Wagonmaster Ric MacDonald

Upcoming Monthly meetings...

Feb. 16, Mar. 15, April 19

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