

British Car Club Southwest Florida November Meeting

Ft Myers, FL The monthly meeting for the British Car Club began at 7:00 pm, November 11, 2014, Veterans Day. President George Krause began by honoring our member veterans and asking for a brief moment of silence for our veterans who have fought valiantly for our freedoms.

George turned the mike over to Harry Hartwell, who introduced our guests and speakers, Judy Hartwell, Suzy Lewis (Vice President) and Michael Piggott (President), of Pink Heals SWFL Chapter, Inc. a 501c3 organization, the group that sponsored the recent Pink Heals Parade in Ft Myers. Michael thanked us for the great turnout at the parade on November 1st. He explained that the organization sponsors fund raising efforts to assist area residents who have and are being treated for cancer. One of their activities is a home visit to someone with cancer. The visits consist of coordination with the local police officers and fire fighters, who go to the patient's home in their equipment, followed by the pink fire truck, with representatives (some of whom are police officers and firefighters) in pink firefighting gear. Sirens blare on the street to create awareness of the organization's effort to assist those fighting the terrible disease of cancer. XXXX relayed a story of an 8 year old patient with terminal cancer who, when the firefighters and police officers came to his home, wanted to operate a fire hose. The boy's mom was concerned that the frail boy wouldn't be able to handle the fire hose, but he convinced them to let him try. With three firefighters assisting him, the boy managed to handle the water spewing hose and took great delight in spraying a few of the bystanders with water, followed by the firefighters then spraying the boy. He was delighted with the activity, having more fun than he'd had in a while. Mike asked that we continue our support and participate in their annual event again next hear.

Ken Oehler (in his wife Jan's absence) conducted a rousing version of singing Happy Birthday to members Cecil Carter, Bill Newman, Linda Lawrence, and Rich Lesinski who celebrated birthdays in November. In fact, Linda was celebrating her birthday that day. Happy Birthday to all.

George introduced new member John Welch, who joined that evening and stated that while he presently does not own a British car, he is looking for a Jaguar. Rich Lesinski explained that he met John at last month's breakfast at Mimi's Café, when John was admiring the British cars in the parking lot, and encouraged him to join our club. Welcome, John.

George noted that John Liversedge's minutes had been printed in the current issue of The British Marque. Jackie Hill gave the Treasurer's report.

Bruce Skaggs, the nominating committee chairman, announced the slate of officers for 2015:

Dr. Cecil Carter, President

Harry Hartwell, Vice President

Treasurer, Lauren Welch

Secretary, Rollie Welch

Activities Director, Gary Dworkin

Following this announcement, Bill Newman made a motion that the nominations be closed, the motion was seconded and passed. The nominated officers were elected by unanimous vote. Welcome and good luck to the incoming officers elect.

George noted that this was the last business meeting for 2014, as the next event will be the holiday party on December 9th. Holiday Co-chair Cynthia McKinley requested that all members planning on going to the party must have their check and form to Co-chair Isabel Munoz by December 4th. Please make check out to BCCSWF. The party promises to be a memorable one, with live entertainment, refreshments at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:30pm.

Dennis McKinley announced a car show at Veterans Park in Cape Coral Veteran's Park on Saturday, November 15th, from 10am to 2pm. No need to RSVP – just show up if you want to go.

George reported that the car show at Safety Harbor, FL was a great event and well attended by members of our club. We had 14 cars registered and their owners took 6 trophies. George noted that member Susan O'Brian drove her Mini Moke all the way on Hwy 41 and other surface roads, through every small town up to the Tampa area. She vowed to never do that again as it took nearly 4 hours.

Peter Sales announced that he and Pam attended the St Petersburg Yacht Club's car show the following Sunday, driving there in the rain in their '56 Austin Healey 100. Side curtains do not keep all the rain water out of the car. He noted that there were over 12 LBCs there, and that a 1930 Ruxton took the Mayor's Award – a truly beautiful car. Peter also described the event, highlighted in an accompanying article.

Susan O'Brien noted that she was in the Sydney, Australia airport 2 years ago on Veterans Day, and that at 11am, the entire airport went completely silent, every person there totally silent, for several minutes to honor their veterans.

Bill Newman stated that he and Mary were at the Savanna HSR, racing his Spitfire coupe. In the first practice race, he lost 3rd gear, then the synchro in 2nd gear, yet qualified with 4th gear. He was last in his race group, but still got 3rd place award due to others washing out. He's now getting a new transmission. Kenny Taylor raced at Sebring in October, weather was good, finishing all three times. Congratulations to you both, our stalwart racers.

Jackie Hill asked Glenn Vrooman to draw the 50/50 raffle ticket – Cynthia McKinley was the winner.

Jackie Hill announced that members of the Gold Coast British Sports Car Club were travelling to Captiva island on December 5 – 7, and asked if any of our members would like to join them for dinner on the 6th. Since they didn't know the island, they asked for suggestions on where 30+ people could be accommodated. After an active discussion, it was decided to suggest Doc Ford's restaurant. Ken Oehler would correspond with Melanie Hale at GCBSCC and also send a reminder to the members about the event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Ken Oehler, Secretary