

**BRITISH  
AMERICAN  
CONNEXION**

President : Vincent Wallace

V. President: Ian Cairns

Treasurer : Derek Johnson

Secretary : Jean Wallace

**MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER**

Summer is almost here and thank goodness the weather has turned warmer. The club has quite a busy month ahead.

First up this month is a Coffee Morning hosted by Rita Carlson on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. If you need directions please call Rita and if you haven't confirmed you will attend please do so ASAP.

Our regular meeting this month has been **brought forward one week** as our usual date falls on Memorial Day and Beverly Hills Community Center will be closed, so please mark your calendars **for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> at Beverly Hills 7:00pm until 9:00pm**. We will be holding a "mini Chinese Auction" at this meeting and thanks go out to Olly Bird, Joan Chouinard, Judi Matthews, Lynn Raville and Jean Wallace for donations for this event and we look for the members support to ensure this fund raiser is a success.

A beach picnic is scheduled for Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and we hope to see a good turnout. Remember if you don't want to be bothered making sandwiches, you can purchase food and beverages at the beach. It is suggested that members meet around 10:30 to take advantage of the time of high tide.

Going into June, a visit to the Hudson Show Palace Dinner Theater is planned and if you haven't already signed up for this please let Vince know. The date is Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> Matinee Show, hopefully all who signed up for 13<sup>th</sup> will have no problem with the **change in date**.

All the above information can be found on our website: [www.Britamclub.com](http://www.Britamclub.com)

**Do you make INTERNATIONAL CALLS and have a computer?**

You might like to download the Skype software (it's free) in order to make calls to the UK, or anywhere else for that matter – from your computer. You do need a broadband connection (ASDL) and either a telephone headset or a web camera.

There are two parts, Skype-In and Skype-Out. Both use the same software. Skype-In is where the person(s) you are calling also has the Skype software and all calls are free, even video calls. For video calls you need to purchase a webcam which includes microphone. It may already be built into your computer.

Skype-Out is used when you want to ring a landline or mobile phone. For these you can either purchase a webcam (with mike) or you can use a headset (headphones and mike). There is a call charge with Skype-Out, rates to the UK are \$0.021 per minute to a landline and \$0.253 to a mobile phone. These you pay for by crediting your Skype account up front with (say) \$20.00 and adding to it as the balance reduces. Long distance calls within the USA are the same price as the UK.

This is virtually the same system as Vonage which you may have seen advertised on TV, but they charge \$25.00 plus an International call charge.

The website for Skype is: <http://www.skype.com/getconnected/>

Thanks to Doug Matthews for this information.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

ZIP codes in the United States entered use on July 1, 1963.

"ZIP" stands for "Zoning Improvement Code". It refers to the fact that ZIP codes were an expansion on a system of postal zones that were used in larger cities starting in 1943.

decoding a zip code. The first digit designates a broad geographical area of the US. Ranging from zero for the Northeast, to nine for the far West. The next two digits specify population concentrations within those areas. The last two digits designate small post offices or postal zones in larger zones cities.

ZIP+4 was introduced in 1983. The extra four digits further specify the location. According to the US Postal Service "The sixth and seventh numbers denote a delivery sector, which may be several blocks, a group of streets, and a group of post office boxes, several office buildings, a single high-rise office building, a large apartment building, or a small geographic area. The last two numbers denote a delivery segment, which might be one floor of an office building, one side of a street between intersecting streets, specific departments in a firm, or a group of post office boxes".

Some interesting zip codes: 22222 is Arlington, Virginia; 44444 are Newton Falls, Oh; 55555 is Young America, MN and 12345 is Schenectady, New York.

**NATURE NOTES** by Brian Pasby

Now that the weather has warmed up we are beginning to see insects in abundance. What a successful group they are, some irritating and some beautiful. The basic plan of an insect is a 3-part body, 3 pairs of legs and 2 pairs of wings. The egg hatches into a larva stage which feeds continuously and then goes into another “developing embryo” type stage, the pupa, where the body is completely reorganized into the adult. This is familiar in the butterfly, where the large/caterpillar eats leaves, changes into the pupa/chrysalis and finally produces the beautiful, nectar feeding adult.

Insects don't get very big; they are limited by their breathing apparatus which consists of finer and finer tubes carrying air deep into their bodies. The further the air has to travel the less efficient is the oxygen supply.

Why then, were there much bigger insects in the past?

Millions of years ago, in the time of the great carboniferous forests that gave rise to our coal, there were dragonflies with a 6 foot wingspan. The answer is that there was a much higher oxygen concentration in the air, so their air tube system could function efficient. They can fly and they have the most remarkable sensory systems.

If you put up a “bug zapper” to keep down mosquitoes, you are actually making things worse as you will attract all kinds of insects, some of which eat mosquitoes. Mosquitoes will ignore the zapper as they are attracted to the carbon dioxide in our breath. It is the female that causes all the problems as she needs a blood meal. The male is harmless.

**I am fighting the temptation to make a comment here. (B)**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

We have quite a number of birthdays this month – Happy Birthday and best wishes to:

Vince Wallace (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Jo Pasby (27<sup>th</sup>)

Brenda Thorne (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Nancy Johnson (31<sup>st</sup>)

Olly Bird (8<sup>th</sup>)

Charles Ward (20<sup>th</sup>)

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

Fire and Velvet Zinger

1 lb hot breakfast sausage or hot chorizo	1 onion chopped
1 green or red bell pepper, chopped	1 can (14oz) tomatoes, coarsely chopped
8 oz elbow macaroni or small bow ties (uncooked)	1 cup dairy sour cream
1 cup dairy sour cream	1-1/4 cups milk
2 Tbs sugar	1 tsp salt
1 Tbs chili powder	

In a large skillet brown the sausage, onion and pepper. Add tomatoes, uncooked macaroni, sour cream, milk, sugar, and salt and chili powder. Cover and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until the macaroni is tender. It should still be a little saucy and soupy.

Note: You can substitute mild sausage, but try the hot sausage first. The cream transforms the fire into something quite special.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Tuesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	-	Coffee Morning at Rita Carlson's house.	
Monday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	-	Regular Club Meeting at Beverly Hills Community Center 7:00pm – 9:00pm Mini “Chinese Auction”	
Thursday, May 21 <sup>st</sup>	-	Picnic at Pine Island Beach, meet around 10:30am	
Sunday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	-	Hudson Show Palace Dinner Theater – Doors Open 1PM	Cocktails @ 1:00pm Brunch @ 1:30pm Show @ 3:00pm