

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

Volume 25

April 2011



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

On the web at www.msemc.org

N.O. BOUND

New Orleans LA – On March the 18th and 19th the usual suspects from around the South East converged on the Big Easy with plans to make a car show. The crowd was so large that the room for the Friday night social was filled to standing room only and that was with a few folks gathered in the hotel lobby. A computer in the reception room showed photos of past events for everyone's pleasure.



Joe Speetjens' Morgan Plus 8+ at British Car Days

Photo Courtesy EMC

The food was above par. The folks in the British Motoring Club of New Orleans know how to lay on a spread and again this year the amount and quality of the hors d' oeuvres were just simply fantastic. It was great to have the chance to visit everyone and recover times since our

last gatherings. Saturday dawned early and bright. Following the usual early morning car cleanings everyone scurried over to the show sight at Delgado College. Following photos the cars were aligned in proper classes. The processing and rolling onto the show field was well organized as usual. A great turn out of one hundred – forty three cars including eight from the EMC was present for the day's festivities. The day was bright with sun in full attendance with the temperatures in the mid 80s. The crowd was one of the largest I've seen in several years. Jeff Zorn (The Little British Car Co.) was in attendance again this year so his tent was a popular spot for those of us looking for new regalia and gifts for that special someone. Popular choice voting was completed about 2:00pm and awards were announced a little after 3:00pm.

Four EMCer's received recognition at this year's show: David Hayden for his recently restored 1954 Triumph TR-2, first in class; Ken "Poolboy" Dolhonde's TR-6, second in class; Bill Silhan's 1951 Morgan +4, first in class; Joe Speetjens' 1995 Morgan Plus 8+, third in class and Ole Red, third in class. The 21st Annual New Orleans British Car Day was a rousing success. Everyone had a great time. The BMCNO did a great job and thanks for all your work on hosting the traditional kick off show for 2011.

Following the show a crowd of close to twenty made a visit to Pascal's Manale for a great evening meal. Pascal's has been a favorite of ours for years and it lived up to everything we remembered. Martha and I couldn't think of a better crew to share the food and good times with than with those in attendance. Thanks Sue Bradley for making the arrangements including pulling a few strings to get our own private dining area. It was truly a memorable evening for all.

Euro Summit

Ridgeland MS – It is lining up to be a very busy automobile year in 2011. The weekend following the BMCNO British Car Days we were able to stay a little closer to home. EMC members Tommy and Lynn Williamson along with member Mike Marsh hosted The Euro Summit at The Renaissance at Colony Park. Several area Euro Clubs hosted the event and about forty cars made the 5:00pm to 7:00pm show a great gathering. Meeting members of other local clubs is a great opportunity to get new ideas for local club activities, cars, parts and repair sources. The location is terrific with food and shopping close at hand and lot's of interested foot traffic always makes for a great time. Thanks Tommy, Lynn and Mike for putting together a great gathering.

And don't forget the October 8, 2011 Renaissance Euro Fest Car show at the same location. Mike has put together a bigger and better show for 2011. For additional details check it out at: <http://www.euro-fest.net>

DSARC / EMC Fun Rally

Lorman MS – Whew! Did I mention that 2011 looks like a very busy year? Early on April 2nd, and I do mean early 20 cars gathered at The Old Country Store in Lorman to start the 2011 Deep South Alfa Romeo / English Motoring Club's Fun Rally. Rally Miester Andy Menapace read off the rules and instructions, sometimes leading and other times misleading to the eager entrants. Beginning at 10:30am Andy and his crew started cars off in about five minute intervals with directions that must have been developed by the most conniving person you'd ever want to meet.



Steve and Karen Whitlow at the 2011 Fun Rally

Photo Courtesy EMC

I've never considered myself or my navigator / co-driver to be threats to the legacy of Paddy Hopkirk and the 2011 event was the real proving ground of our ability or inability to stay on course. We were immediately lost within the first five minutes of our start and must have added two miles and ten minutes to our travel time by exploring the campus of the Alcorn State. Wow, what a missed turn! The rest of the first leg we spent scurry around on the back roads of several counties in Southwest Mississippi finally arriving last for the leftovers at the mid-point stop in Rocky Springs.

On the second stage we may have gotten lost only once, OK, twice but no more but we did have a great time and had a great time traveling some really winding, really back roads of the state to arrive at the final stop at Duff's Tavern and Grill in downtown Vicksburg for some nerve tonic. The final votes were tallied and I was glad to see that Brother Clay and I didn't finish last.

Those standing on the podium were Gold: Paul McNeil with navigator EJ Blanchard, Silver: Steven Magown with navigator Richard Stowe and Bronze the father and son team of Michael Hemsley Sr. navigated by Mike Hemsley Jr. This was the third year that the EMC has participated with the DSARC to host the Fun Rally with all of the heavy lifting being done by members of the DSARC. Thanks to Andy and Bonnie for hosting such a great and challenging tour of the state. Maybe next year.

New and Remembered Members

We've seen and enjoyed Paul McNeil and his Ferrari 430 Scuderia. Welcome to the club Paul and we hope that you can make many of the gatherings in the future. PS. Paul has got a hook on this rally thing. The 2011 Fun Rally was his second win in three years I believe.

I'd been asking club members where all the Triumph members had gone and Steve Capello recently contacted me thru the website to advise that he was residing in Columbia Maryland and was still active in the hobby. Here's the recent update I received from Steve:

The 3D is a 1962 Triumph T.R. 3B. When I lived in Mississippi eleven years ago, I'd had the 3B since about 1979 or so. I just now got it moved to Maryland where I am now in the beginning stages of an extensive restoration. During the time I lived in Mississippi, Keith Anderson was my neighbor and we worked many late nights on my 3B, his E-Type, and MGA; for a while there we owned a BJ8 that we later sold. A group of us started the Central MS. Chapter of the VTR-the precursor of your club now. I rarely get back to Mississippi, maybe once every five years or so. The next time down, I'll check you web site to see if there's anything going on during my visit. Thanks for the contact.

Great to hear from you Steve and hope you and the Triumph can make it down sometime soon.

Other Exhaust Rattles

I haven't received an update from the gang that traveled over to Barber Motorsports Park in Leeds Alabama over the weekend of April 9th for the Porsche 250 but from what I've seen of the Rolex Sports Cars and the Indy Cars it looked like a great weekend of racing. The weather and the crowds had to have a jam up time over in Alabam.

We ran across Dominic and Martha La Valla at the Euro Summit. Although Dominic was not out in his Healey BJ8 that evening he did indicate that he was keeping in rolling, putting on some miles that morning. Trey Decell made the gathering in his B. We're waiting for him to jump in both feet to the V-8 conversion he plans for his recently acquired MGB GT. Will Duncan also dropped by sans MG and Clay and Debbie Johnston made it up in their B. Joe Speetjens made a

break for a while to join the gathering and Berry Schmidt made it out in his TR7/6 coupe with indications that he's approaching a engine rebuild shortly.

John Turbeville seems to be getting close to an engine pull on his TR-6 from the e-mails I've received. Call when you are ready for a tech session John!

Brother Clay has been gathering membership dues at a pretty good clip. If you haven't signed up for another exciting year with the EMC stop right there and drop Brother Clay a membership form and a check in the still reasonable amount of \$25.00. For a membership form check the web site at www.msemc.org.

That's it for this ed. of the OSU. The weather is great and the times have never been greater to get your British car out and join us in one of the events listed on the calendar. If you can't make it at least drop us a line and let us know what's going on in your LBC world.

Happy Motoring

Events Calendar

April 15 - 16, 2011 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL

Winter's over and it's time for the flight south to The Panhandle British Car Association's 19th Annual Brits on the Bay Show. Travel down to Pensacola with the EMC to join us for this yearly migration to sunny Florida. Enjoy the beach and the weather while viewing one of the nicest gatherings of Her Majesties' iron works around. The Friday night gathering is a do not miss so make plans early. Details: www.pbca1.com

May 14, 2011 – EMC Picnic / Location Pending

April showers bring May flowers so the EMC has moved the date of our annual spring picnic. The temperatures are not sweltering this time of year so we'll have a great time traveling to some place with flowers in our hair. We're working on details to travel north likely on the Trace so stay tuned. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601)607-7021

June 11-12, 2011 – EMC Drive Thru History / Homachitto National Forest

This is a new date for the DTH. The EMC is working with our friends in the British Car Club of New Orleans for a day of travels in Southwest Mississippi. Tentatively will start in McComb with lunch, a visit to the McComb Rail Museum, then travel the less traveled roads over to an evening in Natchez. Plans are still in the making so stay tuned. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601)638-3240