

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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“A gentleman does not motor about after dark” Joseph Lucas

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## Tops Down 2012

*Vicksburg MS* – Twenty members of the EMC gathered for the Mississippi Classic Cruiser’s afternoon of fun and delight in Madison for a leisurely drive over to Vicksburg for an afternoon of garage visits. Heading out on Hwy 63 west bound with the rising sun at our backs we made good time to the intersection of Hwy 22 and thru the rolling hills of west Mississippi headed for the bluffs above the big muddy. On our way to the first stop cruise coordinator Bob Jackman had arranged stop at the Hampton Inn on the way into Vicksburg for a visit with a couple of the early arrivers from the Model T Club of America who where participating in the March 17 thru April 4 trip up The Natchez Trace to Nashville then thru the roads less traveled south to Mobile and then back into Vicksburg before loading up in their moderns and heading



Pat and Barbara Cashman’s XK 140

Photo Courtesy Steve Whitlow

back home. MTCA members Harry and Carla Hart had trailered in from Las Vegas NV and were so impressed with the planned stops they dropped their plans for the day and joined our merry caravan for the afternoon. We early enjoyed their company during the day and wished them safe and fun filled travels as we departed.

First garage stop was at EMC members Pat and Barbara Cashman's garage. Our little band now approaching 40 or so strong enjoyed the cool breezes drifting slowly over the fine predominantly British Iron in the garage and lifting the aroma of Castrol new and old. Besides the automobile interest, part of our reason for gathering on this fine spring day was to celebrate EMC's traditional passage into Spring with our Tops Down combined with this year's St. Patrick's Day so our host on this stop had provided smoked salmon and of course the required corn beef and cabbage. No snakes were noted and from what I could tell everyone had sufficient warning on the required attire for the day to avoid getting pinched.

Next stop was an arranged lunch at the Mid-Town Dinner. Chairs were gathered around the tables in the main dining room and orders were placed. A bit frantic, orders were placed and served by the staff and with elbows up and pinkies out everyone dug in. A split of the desert and we were off to our next stop. Everyone in Vicksburg stopped as our caravan wound thru town with grins and waives as we passed by.

On our way down to Parker Hall's garage we passed a sight I'd long heard of but never witnessed. There on the flat bed of an old snub-nosed lorry was a very presentable MGA Coupe. I'd heard stories of this car for several years and seen the heads shake with shame when informed that the owner was not interested in selling. Perhaps one day before the tin worms take over it'll be delivered out of its current dilemma of being ignored.

Parker's carriage house was the perfect final stop for our day. Anyone with an 89 or higher octane of interest in automobiles enjoyed the view from the garage, overlooking the bright work on his Buick Woody or the smooth lines of his Ferrari's to the Mississippi River. Parker provided personal reflections on his involvement and background with each of his cars that kept everyone glued to the set. A perfect finish to the day was spent on the deck watching the barges being pushed back and forth and the flow of the river below.

Thanks Bob, the MCC and our host for a perfect Top's Down kinda day.

### **BMCNO British Car Day**

*New Orleans LA* – March 23, 2012 was the start of an exciting weekend as members of the EMC crossed the state line into Louisiana for the 22<sup>nd</sup> British Motoring Club of New Orleans British Car Day at Delgado College. Steve Whitlow, Martha and I had made plans for an early departure however as usual having a day away from the office is just too good to hurry thru. Besides, I was receiving text messages from Mike Glore indicating there was no need for hurry as N.O. was in the midst of a monsoon so we agreed that lunch was in order. Arriving in the Fondren area we happened into early arrivals for the Zippity Doo Dah Festival and really got a kick of the adornment fashioned for The Potato Queens. It's not often that you have the opportunity to see multiple ladies wearing head gear that resembled lamp shades. Oh, those are lamp shades! We enjoyed the start of their weekend as much as we looked forward to ours.

In search of "off the beaten path" we traveled south to Florence then down to Georgetown passing the Green Brothers Gravel Micado 2-8-2. Making a left we continued south to cross Lake Pontchartran

arriving on the south side just in time to catch oysters at a favored spot of ours Drago's. After a couple of dozen and a pint or two we made haste to the host hotel and the as usual wonderful food and visiting with the local members of the BMCNO and others that had made their way into The City for the show. In bed before mid-night the next morning arrived early along with the pre-requisite car cleaning. Temps were mild and the sky was a bright blue for show day. Due to extensive rain the prior day the show site was moved to the parking lot on the school campus. The turnout of cars was fantastic with several seldom seen and new additions to the entry list. Jeff Zorn (Little British Car Co.) made his usual appearance with his trailer of goodies and during the day the BMCNO provided tours of the campus automotive technical school. A jolly good show!



Bill Silhan's AC Ace

Photo Courtesy the EMC

As the hours wound down everyone gathered in the student union building for the awards presentations and I must say that the EMC was well recognized for the cars that we presented. Thanks BMCNO for hanging in there. There were a lot of last minute adjustments due to rain and balky restaurant reservations but you pulled off another magnificent show. Thanks from the EMC!

### **Blast from the Past**

Keith Anderson was quick to identify those strangers in last month's Blast from the Past as Keith in disguise as himself hiding behind the beard. Mike Lewis is donning the "beer helmet" in front of his TD race car and the wiser than most Manley Ford looking on in amazement.

### **Other Exhaust Rattles**

One other note regarding our travels to and from The British Car Days in New Orleans is in order. As they say, the trip is half the fun and the down and back this year was no different. Traveling basically by internal compass and everyone can attest to my magnet being off, Steve and I traveled to the out of the

way location of Bogalusa both down and back. Passing thru going down Steve's eagle eye caught an ethanol free station that we visited in both directions. Ole Red really seemed to run much better without the addition thank you. Also on the return trip we spotted the old Bogalusa Rail Depot and well, we just couldn't resist checking it out.



MG's at the Depot

Photo Courtesy of the EMC

John Turbeville has employed the assistance of Brother Clay and together they have installed a canvas top on John's MGB for upcoming travels. Shortly thereafter John's B fell ill and required a replacement battery but I understand the patient is now recovered and fully road worthy.

Trey Decell continues progress on his V-8 project check him out his postings in the MG Experience at <http://www.mgexperience.net> in the MG Engine Swaps area.

The EMC has collected our first new member for 2012. All the way from Clinton MS Jason Brown has signed up with his 2004 Mini Cooper. Welcome aboard Jason.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. Hope that you are enjoying the mild weather. It's great for travel so get your four tired friend out and enjoy.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

### Events Calendar

The events calendar published here is copied from the web-site. Additions and changes are made and sent via e-mail out when noticed. Some events may not appear on the web-site so please check your e-mails

for updates. If you have questions regarding an event listed please contact the individual listed for the event. Thanks.

**April 21, 2012 – EMC / DSARC Fun Rally**

It's on for 2012. The EMC with the assistance of the DSARC will hold another fun rally. Time to see some great sites in the state and answer some puzzling puzzlers. Have a great time with folks that love to drive. The route remains in the works so stay tuned. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288.

**April 20 - 21, 2012 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL**

Winter's over and it's time for the flight south to The Panhandle British Car Association's 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](http://www.pbca1.com).

**May 19, 2012 –BMCNO / EMC D-day Museum Tour / New Orleans LA**

The British Motoring Club of New Orleans will host the 2012 Drive Thru History. The EMC will be traveling down the back roads for a second 2012 visit with the folks in the Big Easy. Initial plans include the D-day Museum and The Cars of Yesteryears Collection. Details will be distributed as they become available. Details: Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.