

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

"A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK" JOSEPH LUCAS



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English Motoring Club of Mississippi

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THIS 'N THAT

By Charlie Durning

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This month you'll see a new look for Offside/Undo. Editor-et Donna is experimenting with a new format. We hope it meets with your approval. We welcome any feedback or suggestions.

The weather in March decided to not cooperate with Tops Down in Rocky Springs. As of this writing Tops Down has not been rescheduled.

On a brighter note, the show sponsored by BMCNO went on as scheduled. Brother Gene has a write up on the event in this newsletter.

A Wee Wet

By Gene Johnston

New Orleans LA – Martha and I opted for an early start on March 18, 2016. This allowed for options of back roads or interstate in the event our course to New Orleans was traversed by the rain that had been predicted for the day. We exited the confines of the Jackson traffic on Interstate 55 and on reaching Crystal Springs decided that the weather was sufficiently clear that we'd bail on the numbing **interstate travel and made a break for Georgetown off the east via back roads. We made a partial fill up and restroom break in Monticello before striking out on the longest leg of our journey to the tail end of the traffic in Covington LA.**

Once we cleared traffic there was no stopping us, but we did catch just a bit of rain as we crossed Lake Ponchartrain on the Causeway. Nothing too serious, and by the time we reached our hotel the skies had sufficiently cleared that we were able to walk to a nearby restaurant for oysters, grilled and raw along with a beer or two and before hailing a cab for a chauffeured ride over the Friday evening reception.

If you were out looking for food while on the road you couldn't find better offerings than those provided by the British Motoring Club of New Orleans. Although we arrived fashionably late there were still mounds of tasty bites fit for a king and lots of friends to share them with. With overnight rains there was no need to break out a hose to clean up. Just a drying with a soft rag and we were off to the show site. We arrived with some of the earlier arrivers but other EMC'ers **Mike and Alice Gore and Michael Hemsley** must have been up with the chickens as they were well settled in when we were directed to our parking spot on the field. **Clay and Debbie Johnston and Bill and Melissa Silhan** arrived shortly.



This Morris was all jacked up



Keith Vezina and Blake Sonnier nice and dry

Some folks may have decided to forgo the 2016 show but you couldn't tell that to me as the entries on the field climbed right up to the 12:00pm cut off time. Early in the show the level of polish and shine was magnificent. We enjoyed visiting with everyone and the ladies were invited to a very proper 2:00pm tea that was held in the student union building of Delgado College. It was all very proper and an appearance by Lady Alice of the EMC was the highlight. We'd been blessed with pleasant weather however at about 2:30pm another wave of very British weather, a misty rain set in. So what do you do when confronted with lemons, you make lemonade so being the resilient owners that we are the party moved into the student union building and the gathering just continued right on thru the awards ceremony. Great job BMCNO for another excellent show in 2016.



The weather brought out a couple of frogs



A one eye one horn. Oh, you know the tune



A lineup of MGBs



BGT's



Lady Alice at the Tea



Cliff Hughes and friends



The proper way to travel in inclement weather



TR-6's on hand



Mike Hemsley's Austin Devon



T's in Attendance



T's—Another View



Big Healey's in Attendance



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN TURBEVILLE

Spring is the time I look forward to most--my car can come out of winter hibernation. I have to keep a watchful eye out as long as rain showers are in the forecast though as the Brits were not famous for leak proof tops. It does a fair job of keeping out the sun, but water is a different story.

This April is full of outings- I hope to see you at many of these: April 9 --Natchez Euro Fest, April 15-Pensacola Brits on the Bay; April 27-May 1-Men's road trip to Eureka Springs, AR. Although not a club sanctioned event, men from various clubs get together to bond in the mountains and ride the twisty roads.

Update:

I sent my Tr6 half shafts to CA for rebuilding and they look great with new bearing and seals. Now I just need to clean up the differential and install them.

I bought a Leak Down Test Kit from Harbor Freight--hope to have some fun checking out some cylinders in the MG and Tr8.

John Turbeville

Inexpensive Gear Reduction Starter

By Charlie Durning

Those who have this malady will understand, I cannot leave well enough alone. I can't just repair if I see a way to improve. Well this time it's the starter on the Morris.

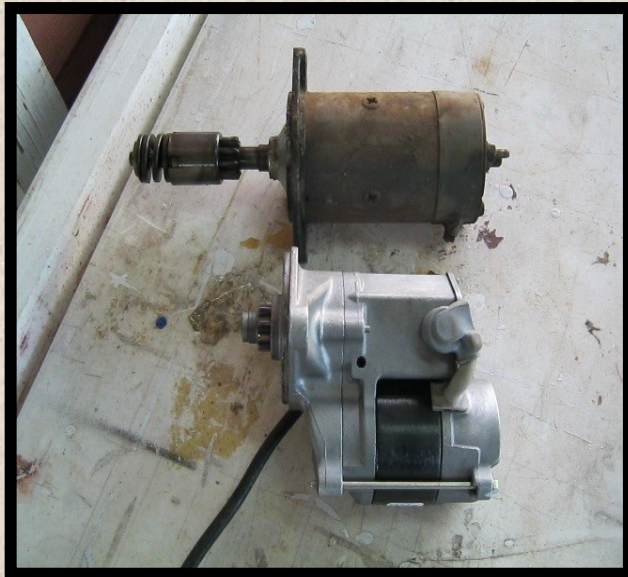
Though the starter on the Morris is OK, I really like the gear reduction starter I have on the Chick Magnette. I reasoned a gear reduction starter could be an improvement. What I didn't like about it is the cost. Another issue I found is some of the converted starters have issues with the adaptor flange breaking. There must be another way if I could read between the lines.

I did do some research. In doing so I ran into the usual naysaying purists, and those who have their favored supplier of expensive adapted starters. During the process I stumbled upon a piece submitted by the MG Experience moderator from 4 years ago where he suggested using a Denso starter for an Isuzu Trooper. To my surprise there was no follow up conversation. HMMM I decided to look into this.

Using that information a whole world of possibilities opened up. Some of the info was confusing, to say the least. In spite of that, I decided to take the plunge. It came down to 2 possible starters. A part number 16878 identified with a tin end cover and 17155 with a cast end cover. As near as I can tell most of the folks who convert starters use a starter like the 16878. Further research revealed that most of the complaints for premature failure looked like starters based upon the 16878. I found very few complaints on starters based upon starters like the 17155. The starter on the Chick Magnette looks similar to the 17155, so I chose that version.

As for availability, my local NAPA store stocks both starters. That is a good thing. I bought the 17155. The cost including the core charge is less than ½ of the converted starter and about the same as a "crash" starter. I also found that it is available on eBay and Amazon.

The complaint about the 17155 starter is a shallow pinion engagement on the fly-wheel ring gear. That is a concern I wanted to investigate. Since I have a Midget engine in the shed I mounted the starter on that engine to see for myself. When compared to the wear pattern on the original "crash" starter the engagement looked to be similar. I'm satisfied with what I found.



Next step was to work out the electrical connections since they are different. The new starter has an integral solenoid whereas the solenoid for the "crash" starter is remote. That is resolved by making a jumper wire to go between the large stud where the battery cable would connect and the solenoid terminal.

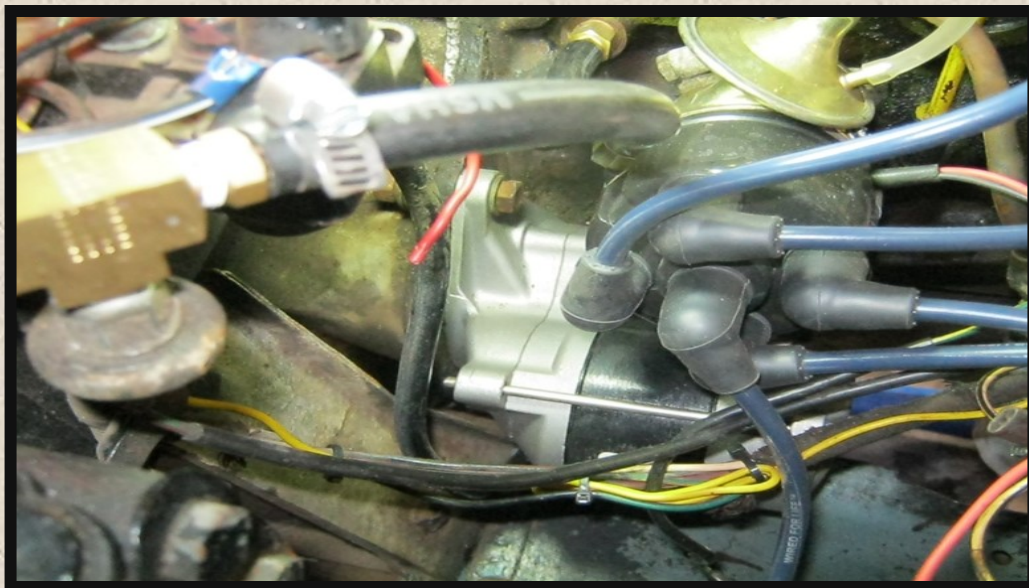
That way the original solenoid will be retained. The other electrical issue is that the starter end of the battery cable has a 90 degree bend and the new starter would use a straight connection. Not a problem. I just put the 90 degree end on the remote solenoid and the straight end on the starter.



The starter installed with ease. The pilot is correct for the Morris and the bolt holes are in the correct place, just like it was made for the Morris. Further, there is plenty of room all around the starter so no other modifications are necessary.

The acid test is: Will it work? Yep it did.

In the end, the Morris is treated to a modern 1.2kw gear reduction starter without the expense of a converted starter and no issues with possible conversion flange failure.



Will this starter work on other BMC products that use the "crash" starter? I have no idea, but this or a similar starter just might be worth the investigation.



A Blast from the Past

by Merideth & Terry Trovato

A decade or so ago, the EMC show committee would invite owners of British motorcycles to enter Brits on the Bluff, and here are two examples from the early 2000's. Both Triumphs, the one on the right dates to c1916 and sports a wicker sidecar.



*Welcome New
Members!*

*Jim & Debbie
Conway*

and

David Neelly

VotW – MG's Magic Midget

You can click the link below to see the Video of the Week.

<http://justbritish.com/votw-mgs-magic-midget/>

Posted on March 16, 2016 by [Michael Carnell](#) in [Classic Cars](#), [MG](#), [Racing and Competition](#), [Video of the Week](#) // 0 Comments

.Our video his week takes you back, way back. Back to the 1930s when MGs were fierce competitors in racing around Europe and the world, and the Midget, the original Midget, was the car to beat. This film, titled "*The Magic Midget*" was produced by British Leyland to celebrate the racing pedigree of the MG and possibly transfer some of that aura of speed and success to the more modern incarnation of the MG Midget.

From its earliest days MGs have been used in competition and from the early 1930s a series of dedicated racing cars such as the 1931 C-Type and 1934 Q-type were made and sold to enthusiasts who received considerable company assistance.

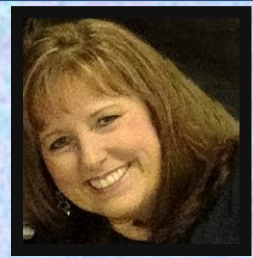
This stopped in 1935 when MG was formally merged with Morris Motors and the Competition Department closed down.

A series of experimental cars had also been made allowing [Captain George Eyston](#) to take several world speed records. In spite of the formal racing ban, speed record attempts continued with Goldie Gardner exceeding 200 mph (320 km/h) in the 1100 cc EX135 in 1939.

After World War II record breaking attempts restarted with 500 cc and 750 cc records being taken in the late 1940s. A decision was also taken to return to racing and a team of MGAs was entered in the tragedy-laden [1955 24 Hours of Le Mans](#) race, the best car achieving 12th place.

From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



This month I'd like to share a simple recipe that I came up with for Charlie. He loved it, so I thought I'd share it with you!

Charlie's Special Chicken

1 bag of frozen chicken breasts

2 cans cream of mushroom soup

1 cup Plain Greek Yogurt

Wright's bacon

Wrap each chicken breast with 2 slices of bacon. Place in casserole dish. Mix soup and yogurt and pour over chicken. Cover tightly with heavy-duty foil. Bake 3 hours at 350 degrees.

I hope you enjoy Charlie's Special Chicken!



Contact Me

If you have an idea or an article for "From the Passenger Seat", please let me know. I'd love to feature yours!

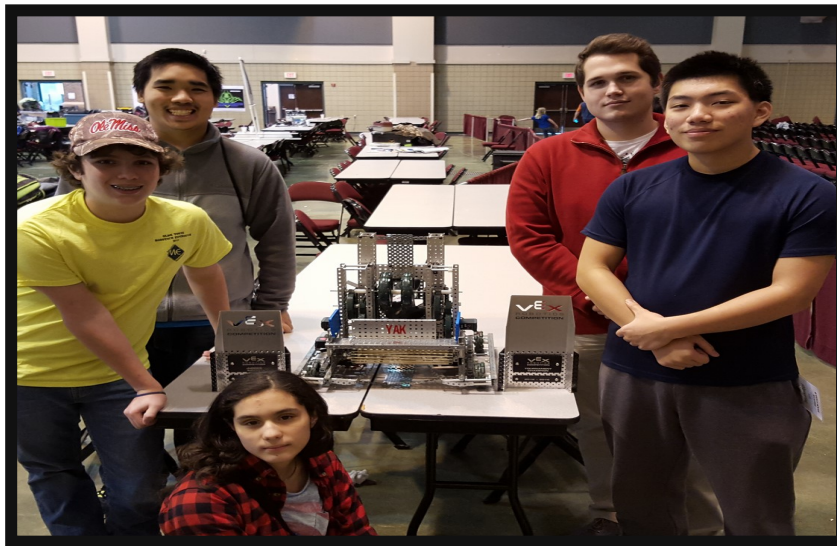
durning.donna@yahoo.com

(601) 953-1194

**Vlad Greene &
His Robotics
Team!**

Vlad Green, son
of **Richard and
Elena Greene**,
sent the club a
nice thank you
note for our con-
tribution to his
team's trip to
the Robotics
World Champi-
onship in Louis-
ville, Kentucky.
Congratulations
to this team on
making the fi-
nals! We will let
you know any
updates when
we get them.

**Way to go,
Vlad!**



Vlad Greene is pictured top right in the red shirt.

Vlad Greene

1013 Elm's Cove

Titan Robotics

Ridgeland MS, 39157

To the English Motoring Club and all of its Members,

I'd like to personally thank the English Motoring Club of Mississippi for their generous contribution to the Ridgeland High School Titans Robotics team. It is an absolute honor to have the Car Club and its members sponsoring this trip. Your donation helps us pay for the travel, registration, and lodging cost of our upcoming trip to compete at the VEX Robotics World Championship held in Louisville, Kentucky between the dates of April 19th-24th. This will also make sure that the Ridgeland Robotics Team is able to be as competitive as possible in this international competition which hosts 850 teams from 36 countries. We will send pictures back after the trip showing the team's adventures and how we did, and we will also put the English Motoring Club logo on our shirts. Thank you for allowing us to go out and represent the great state of Mississippi!



Lotus News
By Stephen Turner

Keith and Brian are working on getting the Lotus back in tip top shape. We got the hood on the Porsche repainted from it's oil/ antifreeze mishap back in October. Finally the MINI had it's power steering replaced due to a recall.

We are planning on attending the 2nd annual Barbers historic races in Birmingham May 20-22. We went last year and had a blast. They had a variety of different classes from a Datsun 1600 to a 1967 Lotus Type 49. If anyone would be interested in following us over or meeting us there they can give me a holler or check out the Barber's website.

April 15 - 16, 2016 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL - For the 24th annual show they'll fill the field with friends, fun and automobiles. Make plans to attend a great weekend this time promised to be in the sun. Travel down to Pensacola with the EMC to join us for this yearly migration to sunny Florida. The Friday night gathering is a do not miss so make plans early. Details: <http://www.pbca1.com>
Travel plans with the EMC: Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

May 13 - 15, 2016 – Spring time in the Smokies / Townsend TN - The annual event takes place in the shadow of the Great Smoky Mountains. Friday night hospitality is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. There will be time after the show and before trophies are presented to drive over and around the hills enjoying a little of what east Tennessee is famous for. Details: Jim Watson, spridget@charter.net, or Richard Lockhart, (865) 548 – 9891 or <http://www.blountbritishcars.org>

June 3 - 4, 2016 - British National Meet / Blytheville AR - Details: <http://www.britishnationalmeet.com>

June 13 – 17, 2016 – MG 2016 / Louisville KY – This is the big one folks. The all marque's show will likely gather a count of MGs from around the country in excess of 1,000. Make plans early. Details: www.mg2016.com EMC Travel Details: Gene Johnston (601) 941 -4892

June 18, 2016 – EMC Tech Session / Brandon MS - If our Tech Guru calls for a tech session you know it'll be a real challenge. Join us to see the answer to whatever puzzle Keith has up his sleeve. Wrenching starts at 11:00am and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Keith and Pat Anderson (601) - 829 - 2573.

July 16, 2016 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS - I'm sure we'll find some interesting roads on our way down to the beautiful burg of Braxton. Come and join the drive and the visit with Mike and Alice. Bring a dish and enjoy lazing on a sunny afternoon in the summertime with the EMC. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231 – 5801.

August 20, 2016 – EMC Garage and Food Tour / Brandon MS - David and Jo Ann have a way of throwing a great party in lead up to the EMC show. Come on out and see what David has added or improved on for 2016. Always lot's to see and do along with a great meal what else can you ask for. This will be the pre-Brits on the Bluffs gathering so bring along a dish and enjoy the fun. Gathering starts at 11:00am. Lunch starts as 12:00pm. Details: David / Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

September (check for date), 2016 – Shoals British Car Show / Florence AL - If you haven't had the pleasure of visiting the Shoals British Car Show at Joe Wheeler State Park in Florence AL you should. It's a laid back gathering on the banks of Wheeler Lake. Everything including rooms, meals, Friday night reception and Saturday's Awards Banquet are within walking distance. Please check web-site to verify dates. Details: www.shoalsbritishcars.org.

September 9 - 10, 2016 - Brits in the Ozarks / Fayetteville AR - Still looking for excuses for a mountain drive? Here's another chance to see the Ozarks in all of their colors and have a car show at the end of your drive. The Fifteenth Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: www.britshironwa.org

September 16 - 17, 2016 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS – Hang out on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River starting with our Friday night party and spend Saturday with us under the oaks at City Park. There will be lots to do on your visit with us. Stay tuned for registration information. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

October 1, 2016 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS - The 2015 Renaissance Car Fest was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2016. When posted get your entry in early and make plans to attend. You'll see cars that you don't get a chance to enjoy often and in the surroundings of the Renaissance it's just magnificent. Details: www.euro-fest.net.

October 3 – 7, 2016 – North American Triumph Challenge / Pottsboro TX - Bigger in Texas, better in a Triumph is their call out to join other lovers of everything in the land of Triumph for 2016. Make plans early. Details: www.vtr2016.org

October (check for date), 2016 - Brits at the Parthenon / Nashville TN - If you're looking for a nice drive up the Natchez Trace there's no better reason than to attend the Nashville British Car Clubs Annual Show. Lot's to do including taking in the Lane Museum of Cars while in town. A reception is held on Friday evening and the shows on Saturday. Details: www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org

October 21 - 22, 2016 – South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope AL - It's a nice drive down to Fairhope AL so join the caravan to the lovely city by Mobile Bay. The Friday night meet and greet is always fun and the food is fantastic. The 2014 show was a high water mark for the EMC's final travel and show each year. Although moved to a new location the 2014 show remained within easy walking distance of all that downtown Fairhope has to offer. The show organizers put on a well organized show so make plans to attend. Details: www.sabcc.org. Travel plans with the EMC: Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

November 5, 2016 – EMC Tech Session / Ridgeland MS - We'll have the chili on the stove and a wrench ready for stirring. We'll put together a project or two or perhaps take one apart. Hope you can make the final tech session of 2016. The garage opens early and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 607 – 7021.

December 3, 2016– EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Vicksburg MS - We return to the place that started the 2016 EMC tech sessions. Make plans to join us at Pat and Barbara's to wind down 2016 with the EMCs year end gathering. Again in 2016 we will be sharing the table with the Deep South Alfa Romeo Club so bring a dish and join what's become a great gathering. The party starts as 2:00pm. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601) 638 – 3240.

EMC Officers

John Turbeville, President

Steve Whitlow, Vice President

Keith Anderson, Technical Chairman

Clay Johnston, Treasurer

Stephen Turner, Membership Chairman

Faye Enzman, Regalia Chairman

Charles & Donna Durning , Editor—Offside Undo

Terry & Merideth Trovato, Historians

Gene Johnston, Website

**As always, we welcome submissions,
suggestions, and comments. If you
have an idea for the newsletter, please
let us know!**

Until next month....

Happy Motoring!