

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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



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This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

March was a busy month for the car club. The scheduled Tops Down was rained-out, but the re-scheduled event was a rousing success! Pat Cashman called us all to order with a short reading about Irish generosity. Then he led an Irish toast, and a prayer for the food.

At the end of the month several of our members ventured to the **BMCNO** show in Metairie. MSEMCM members walked away with four awards. Picture and details later in the newsletter.

Upcoming events

Editor Charlie is making plans to visit the newly remodeled and expanded **Camp Shelby Mississippi Armed Forces Museum** on May 13. We will be taking roads less travelled to **Leatha's BBQ** for lunch and then to the Museum. The drive will be avoiding 4-lane roads wherever possible.

<http://www.armedforcesmuseum.us/>

Drive Through History

May 13, 2017

by Charlie Durning

This year the plan is to take the roads less travelled, mostly, for lunch at world famous **Leatha's BBQ** in Hattiesburg and then on to the newly remodeled **Mississippi Armed Forces Museum in Camp Shelby**. The folks at Leatha's are planning something special just for us and the museum will have a guide available for those who would like a guided tour.

We will have a prompt **8:30 am departure** from the **Shell gas station at the corner of 469 and 49 in Florence**. From there we will wind down the 2-lane roads as much as possible on our way to Leatha's. There will be a **comfort stop in Mt Olive**. From Leatha's there will be more 2 lane roads, mostly, in route to Camp Shelby.

For those who wish to join us in Hattiesburg, we are expecting an 11:00 arrival at Leatha's to avoid the teeming crowds and allow the folks at Leatha's to serve us better. The address is 6374 US Highway 98, Hattiesburg, MS.

Leatha's has requested a head count. So please let me know if you plan to attend by **May 10th**. The head count does not have to be exact so don't stay away if you decide to join us at the last minute.

Please Note:

To get into Camp Shelby each car must have current registration and insurance. The driver must have a valid driver's license and each passenger must have a current photo ID or driver's license. That's it.

After the Camp Shelby visit, new member, Nathan Darby has invited us to his garage to see his car collection in Hattiesburg.

Rain or shine, it will be a day well spent. Hope to see you all there.

Exhaust Rattles by Charlie Durning

VP Steve's rubber bumper Midget is finally finished. Steve did an excellent job with the help of Bro Clay and Bro Gene. Now his chrome bumper Midget is in the process of a suspension overhaul.

Bro Gene is experimenting with adding bigger front brake pads using modified MGB calipers. It will be interesting to experience the difference.

VP Steve caught in the act of doing work.



Faye Enzman's rubber bumper MGB Roadster is still available.

Contact Charlie Durning at durningcharles@gmail.com.





Membership News

By Stephen Turner

Please join me in welcoming **Nathan Darby** into the English Motoring Club. He owns a 1952 MGTD, 1972 Midget, 1972 Alfa Romeo Spider, 1981 Ferrari Mondial, 1995 Ferrari F355, 1990-ish Miata Race car, and 1978 MGB.



A Note from the President

John Turbeville



On March 25th Pat and Barbara Cashman and I joined the Mercedes Club of MS on their drive to Columbia to tour the home of our former Governor, Hugh White. The mansion, built in 1925, is notable as an example of Spanish Revival Style architecture, as well as for its park-like grounds and specialized gardens. It is owned by Bill and Ann Simmons who have lovingly restored the home since purchasing it in 1985.

Periods of off and on rain had threatened all day with heavy clouds overhead, but as the Mercedes were positioned in the circular drive for a group photo, the sun came out. A group lunch followed at a local Mexican restaurant.



27th Annual British Car Day

New Orleans by Charlie Durning

9 brave MSEMCO souls wielding 5 cars invaded the BMCNO annual show on March 24th. We walked away with 4 awards in 4 different classes. Good job guys. Though it did rain, storm, and threaten hail, the turn out was great with a nice mix of folks and their cars. The BMCNO folks worked hard to put on a very nice show. Bravo for a job well done!



The Queen's Tea

by Donna Durning

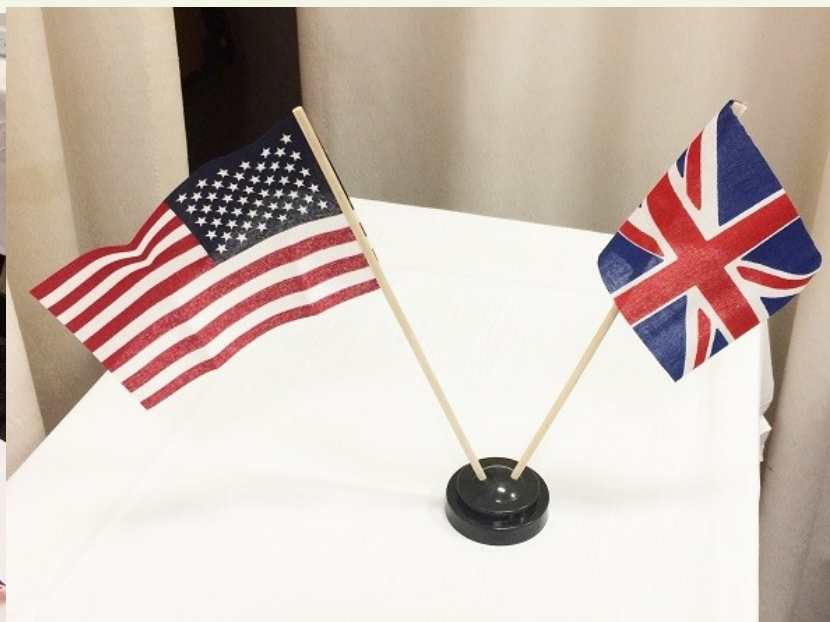
The Queen's Tea, hosted by the ladies of the British Motoring Club of New Orleans, was a very special treat! Delightful English scones, cupcakes, and hot tea were served in delicate china tea cups. Many thanks to all of these ladies, and especially to **Karen Murray** who organized the event, baked and packaged the tea-cup cookies, and did countless other jobs to make this show a great success!





Special guests at the tea were the Queen herself, along with James Bond and James Bond!

Thank you, New Orleans Club for a great show and a lovely tea! It was enjoyed by all!





I enjoyed talking to you about our upcoming MGB Coast-to-Coast Adventure that will traverse America on US Route 80 (I-20 and I-8) from Savannah, Georgia, to San Diego, California, where we'll attend NAMGBR's MG2017 event. Our numbers are growing as we approach our start at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean on Tybee Island on Friday, June 16th and I anticipate that we might have between 20 to 25 MGB sportscars by the time we arrive in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on Sunday, June 18th. I am attaching our entire itinerary that includes highlights of the various overnight stops and identifies the host hotels along our route. We'd love to get together with members of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi while we are in Vicksburg and hope you can help us in organizing a get together with some local members. Thanks for your support.

Dick Lunney

2017 MGB Coast-to-Coast Adventure

Put a tire in the Atlantic and tire in Pacific at the beginning and end of a historic MGB road trip of 8 days taking us across the southern United States to NAMGBR's MG2017.

Our tentative plans include using a southern route of secondary roads and some high speed interstates. Of course MG fans across the nation can join in anywhere. This plan has a couple short days for touring local sights. These short days also allow for catch up if anyone was delayed for unscheduled repairs. Our model is the Rally to Reno in 2011 but with a more southern/southwestern flair.

To save having to call every hotel we will use, we have set up a single number you can call to set up reservations for all the hotels at once. 800-228-9290 - Can book all nights

Starting Point – Savannah, GA, Friday, 6/16/2017

The City of Savannah is a place with so much history it is too much to list. This city was spared by General Grant at the end of the Civil War during his famous “March to the Sea,” so the beautiful antebellum homes fill the streets just as they did in the late 1800’s. In addition, the Eight Air Force Museum, probably the best air museum outside of Wright Patterson AFB or the Smithsonian Air Museum, chronicles the U.S. Air Force’s roll in defeating Nazi Germany during WWII. Finally, just outside Savannah is the renown Roebling Road Raceway, a 2.2 mile winding and challenging course where we might start our journey west with some laps on this track. Our tentative Saturday itinerary includes:

- 1) Morning tours of the Historic 22 squares in Old Savannah
- 2) Lunch and tire in the Atlantic on Tybee Island, Noon until 2:00 pm
- 3) Dinner and concert in nearby Bloomingdale GA.

Marriott Courtyard Savannah Midtown

6703 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405
912-354-7878
\$136.00/night

Day Two – Saturday, 6/17/17 Savannah, GA to Montgomery, AL (355 miles) US Route 80

Our drive across Georgia will take us through Macon with a lunch stop, then Columbus and on to Montgomery, Alabama. Uncover Montgomery’s pivotal role in major moments in American history. The shots that started the Civil War and acts of courage that led to the Civil Rights Movement. Watch as over 1,000 Hyundai vehicles are made daily by 2,700 Team Members on a guided tour of the state-of-the-art Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama plant.

Marriott Fairfield Inn Montgomery Airport South

7560 Mobile Highway
Montgomery, Alabama 36105
334-281-6882
\$94.00/night

Date Three – Sunday, 6/18/2017 Montgomery, AL to Vicksburg, MS (285 miles) US Route 80/I-20

We leave Montgomery and head west through Selma then on to Alabama where Route 80 parallels Interstate 20 through the state capitol, Jackson. From the Civil War Battle of Vicksburg to the antebellum Mansions overlooking the Mississippi River, Vicksburg history is alive and well. From early 18th century Natchez Indian and Choctaw tribe battles and the Mississippi steamboats that made the city a center of trade in the 19th century to the nation-changing events such as the 47 day Siege of Vicksburg in 1863, few cities can claim the number of captivating contributions to U.S. history. Once we arrive at this historic city we'll be met by members of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi who can assist with dinner plans or help with minor mechanical issues.

Courtyard by Marriott

1 Underwood Drive

Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

601-636-8788

\$136.00/night

Day Four – Monday, 6/19/2017 - Vicksburg to Shreveport (200 miles) US Routes 80/I-20

Today's drive is one of our shortest of the entire trip allowing some extra sightseeing in Vicksburg before driving across Louisiana. Shreveport-style stuffed shrimp are a local delicacy. Large shrimp are stuffed with Creole dressing, deep-fried and served with spicy tartar sauce. Try them at Eddie's Restaurant, Brother's Seafood or C&C Café in Shreveport. See vintage aircraft and U.S. Air Force memorabilia at Barksdale Global Power Museum located on nearby Barksdale Air Force Base.

Marriott Residence Inn Shreveport Airport

4910 W. Monkhouse Drive

Shreveport, LA 71109

318-635-8000

\$97.00/night

Day Five – Tuesday, 6/20/2017 - Shreveport to Waco, TX (265 miles) US Routes 79/69/84

In order to miss the congestion and traffic in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolis, we'll depart Route 80 and head to Waco. The City is the [birthplace of Dr Pepper](#), the [Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum](#) and the [Texas Sports Hall of Fame](#). Waco is also home to the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#), a 100-plus acre stretch of wooded parkland along the Bosque River. The site provides a glimpse into the lives of Columbian mammoth bones discovered in Waco along the Bosque River and is part of the National Parks System. Local Waco MGB owners, Ralph and Fay Ratta, have offered to host us at a local restaurant for dinner and will be joining us for the remainder of the adventure to San Diego.

Marriott Courtyard Waco

101 Washington Avenue

Waco, Texas 76701

254-752-8686

\$123.00/night

Date Six – Wednesday, 6/21/2017 - Waco to Carlsbad, NM (450 miles) US Routes 84/67/87/62/180

Our longest day of the entire trip takes us across west Texas to Carlsbad, New Mexico. After touring the famous caves, make sure to stick around until sunset for [Carlsbad Caverns National Park's Bat Flight Program](#). Each evening from mid-April to late October, visitors gather at the Bat Flight Amphitheater to learn all about the fascinating bat species that live inside the cavern from a park ranger before watching thousands of them fly out of the cavern in search of insects to eat. It is a memorable experience that should not be missed.

Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites Carlsbad

2525 South Canal Street

Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

575-887-8000

\$124.00/night

Day Seven – Thursday, 6/22/2017 - Carlsbad, NM to El Paso, TX (165 miles) US Routes 62/180

A short drive will give everyone a few hours at Carlsbad Caverns before a wonderful drive through the southwest Arizona Mountains. Historic El Paso Mission Trail is located in El Paso's Lower Valley. This Trail is rich in history dating back 400 years. Sure to take your breath away these three adobe churches remain as living testaments to the faith of our Spanish and Indian ancestors. Established in 1682 the Ysleta Mission is the cornerstone of the Ysleta del Sur Indian Pueblo. Two miles east lies the Socorro Mission. The architecture of this mission reflects the culture, politics and insurmountable spirit of the early settlers of this vibrant town. Established in 1789 the San Elizario Chapel is an amazing paragon of late adobe church architecture in West Texas and New Mexico. It is an exquisite reflection of European architectural styles on the earlier, simpler box-like missions of the region.

Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites El Paso

7514 Remcon Circle

El Paso, Texas 79912

915-875-3100

\$119.00/night

Day Eight – Friday, 6/23/2017 - El Paso, TX to Tucson, AZ (320 miles) TX Route 9/AZ Route 80/I-10

A fantastic drive on great MG roads through the mountains of southwestern New Mexico past the Pancho Villa State Park into Arizona and the Coronado National Forest through the historic western town of Tombstone will take us to Tucson. *New York Magazine* called Tucson [“the Southwest’s next foodie destination.”](#) *Wine Enthusiast* named Tucson one of 2016's [Top Under-the-Radar Food Towns.](#)

Tucson Marriott University Park

880 East Second Street

Tucson, Arizona 85719

520-792-4100

\$133.00/night

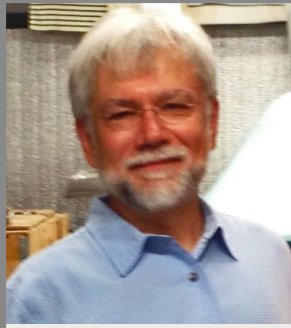
Day Nine – Saturday, 6/24/2017

Tucson to San Diego (470 miles) AZ Route 86 to I-6

Probe the cosmos at [Kitt Peak National Observatory](#) just outside of Tucson before heading to San Diego.

NAMGBR MG2017 June 25 – June 28

NAMGBR’s 2017 annual convention will be in San Diego CA and is being hosted with the support of the San Diego MG Club from Sunday June 25, 2017 to Wednesday June 28, 2017. We have a fantastic event in store for everyone and you’ll hopefully find all the information you need here and on the dedicated event website <https://mg2017.namgbr.org>.



Fun With Midgets - 11

By Steve Whitlow

With the Midget 1500 back on the road it was time to rebuild the suspension on the 1974 RWA Midget starting with the rear first. The car is in amazing condition and only has 41k miles but the years, forty-three of them to be exact, have not been kind to the rubber suspension bushes. Once again I'll be using Super Pro polyurethane bushes. Their complete car kit has everything needed including anti-sway bar mounts.



New front eye bushes and shock links were installed and after only two weekends the rear suspension was back on the car. *Am I getting faster at this?*

Up next: The front suspension.

I'm hoping the lower A arms are in good condition, and with low mileage I don't plan to disassemble the stub axle and king pin assemblies. Fingers crossed!

After removing the spring assemblies I cleaned and painted the fuel tank and rear banjo axle. The hand brake assembly was cleaned, undercoating touched up, and the inner wheel arches were painted with Eastwood rust encapsulator for good measure. After wire brushing spring assemblies, they were also given several coats of paint. Here's a photo of the 'silent block' rear spring mount partially reassembled.



Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



The EMC Entourage proudly unfurls The Colors during the annual Panhandle British Car Association's show in **Pensacola circa 2001**.

From left, **Terry Trovato, Merideth Trovato, Barbara Cashman, Pat Cashman, Tammy Toney, Dave Toney, Rene Cole, unknown female, Florence Simmers, John Turbeville and John Simmers.**

The group is posed in front of the Cashmans' 1966 Vanden Plas Austin-Princess.

Tops Down at Rocky Springs 2017

by Charlie Durning

Tops Down was another MSEMC success. It was well attended, the grub was great, and the weather cooperated. **Pat Cashman** called the group to order with a reading about Irish generosity, an Irish toast, and a prayer. From then on, the schedule called for chowing down, conversation, and looking at cars. The food quickly disappeared.

Part of the tire kicking turned to **Pres John's** MGB. He had some questions about tune and asked for some opinions. All was deemed to be in working order. As a special treat Pres John displayed that his MGB no longer leaks massive amounts oil. Good job John. The rest of the tire kicking was mostly "I'll show you mine if you show me yours".

Editoret **Donna** has prepared a slide show and short video. Here is the link.

Select Ctrl+Click to see the video below: [MSEMC 2017 Tops Down Rocky Springs](#)



Thanks to **Barry Schmidt** for providing some great pictures of the cars that we used in the video.





From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



The Other Side of Rocky Springs

People who love antique cars can appreciate how quickly things can deteriorate. Too often vintage cars and historical places crumble and disappear right before our eyes.

Some of you may have heard that I recently retired. I have been learning photography! My real passion is “capturing the past before it perishes”. I want to capture as many images of things from days gone by as I can. We need to look ahead, but we also need to remember our past and our heritage. Here are some photographs I made after the Tops Down picnic at Rocky Springs. These photos were taken at the Methodist Church built in 1837 that is “off the beaten path”, and adjoins the Rocky Springs park. It is well worth the short walk to see this old church and cemetery. If you’d like to see more images, you can go to my website. **Ctrl+ click here** DDShots.com

I hope you enjoy the photographs! -

Donna Durning

DDShots Photography





DDShots Photography



DDShots Photography



DDShots Photography



DDShots Photography



DDShots Photography

Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2017 Calendar

May 13, 2017 – EMC Drive Thru History / Hattiesburg MS - Details: Charles Durning (601) 668-7909.
Lunch at Leatha's Bar-B-Que Inn and visit the museum at Camp Shelby

May 28, 2017—Oxford Euro Fest, Details Mike Marsh

June 17, 2017 – EMC Tech Session / Brandon MS - Details: Keith / Pat Anderson (601) - 829 - 2573.

July 15, 2017 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS - Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231 – 5801.

August 12, 2017 – EMC Tech Session / Brandon MS - Details: David / Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

September 15 - 16, 2017 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS - Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

October 7 - Renaissance Euro Fest , Details Mike Marsh

November 4, 2017 – EMC Tech Session / Ridgeland MS - Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 607 – 7021.

December 2, 2017– EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Location to be determined