

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

“A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK” JOSEPH LUCAS



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

April 2018

On the web at www.msemc.org

Volume 32



This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

March 2018 was busy, busy, busy. The March activities were kicked off by **Tech Guy Keith** with Tops down, then on to the **BMCNO show at Delgado Community College** and then, wound down with the fun drive to **Pineville** for lunch.

April is kicking off with the **Euro Fest in Natchez** on **April 13-14**. **Mike Marsh** puts on one fine show and this year will not be an exception.

In this edition **Editor-et Donna** has put together slide shows of the events for your enjoyment. This month we also have a special submission for **From the Passenger Seat** by **Penny Schooler** about her adventures with **Roy** when they joined the Mercedes Club for the Blues Trail Drive. **Donna** created a special “Bonus” slideshow to go along with Penny’s article.

My thanks to **Barry Schmidt and Bro Gene** for their submissions to this month’s OSU. **Pres John** also submitted a piece on his disc brake conversion. He will give the conversion the acid test in May during a non-sanctioned adventure in Arkansas. More on that conversion in a future edition of OSU.

And as always **Terry and Merideth Travato** have given us a glimpse into EMC past with their faithful Blast from the Past submission.

Your submissions to OSU is what make OSU your newsletter.

A Beautiful Day for a Drive

by Charlie Durning

The March 31st fun drive was a day well spent. Sixteen souls and 10 cars gathered at the strip center next to the Shell gas station in Florence. Most notable, we had 3 new folks joining us for the drive. Unfortunately, I neglected to write down their names, and for that I apologize.

VP Steve was the fearless leader for the first leg via the 2 lane roads to Magee. In Magee we picked up 2 more folks and 2 more MG's. From there **Editor Charlie** led the group along the winding roads to Pineville and the **Pineville Store** for lunch. The food was great and the staff was very friendly. While there, **David and JoAnn Bailey** ran into some folks from their distant past. **David and JoAnn** grew up in the area. **David** would lead the Sunday morning hymns at church and the lady they ran into was the pianist who played the hymns.

After a short visit and filling our bellies, we were off to the next comfort stop in Taylorsville and then on to Magee via Hot Coffee and Mt. Olive.

We ended the day with conversation, chow, and adult beverages at the Lone Star Steakhouse in Pearl .

There was a little excitement as we ended the day. On the way from Magee to Pearl, **Paul McNeill's** Alfa Romeo gave up the ghost in an enormous plume of smoke. We only wished we had a camera to capture the event.

Paul was rescued by his daughter and the Alfa was transported safely to Brian Anderson's for repairs.

From the feedback all had a fun day. The lunch destination in Pineville is a must visit if you are in the Pineville area. And the roads to get there are pretty fun also.

I want to thank **Editor-et Donna** for finding the Pineville Store and **Bro Clay and VP Steve** for their help in planning the route.

Photos at Pineville Store

Courtesy of Barry Schmidt



A Note from the President

By John Turbeville



After seeing **Charlie's** rear disc brake conversion on his GT, I thought I'd like to have that setup, too. He designed a bracket to hold a Nissan Sentra caliper and a Honda rotor, which makes the MG have 4 wheel disc brakes. The rotor needs honing out slightly so we made a quick trip to **Joe Stianchie's** to use his lathe. The rear problems started when it came time for the emergency brake cable to fit the new caliper spring loaded mechanism. **Charlie**, with assistance from **Clay Johnston**, made good progress figuring the system out and fabricating many parts. My impressions of the car's braking ability is good. I've replaced all the hoses and front rotors and pads as well. It stops on a dime with a firm pedal. Many thanks to **Charlie** for his fabrication skills and to **Clay** for lending a hand in this project.





TOPS DOWN at ROCKY SPRINGS!

By Charlie Durning

March is our “**Tops Down**” Gathering to celebrate the end of Winter and bring in some pleasant driving weather. This year’s gathering was no exception. The weather cooperated for a very enjoyable day. Most of the group gathered at the Clinton Welcome Center for a nice leisurely drive down the scenic Natchez Trace.

Lunch was served at noon and we settled in for some nice conversation. After lunch, **Pres John** called the meeting to order. It was reported that the club is solvent and future events were discussed. **Pres John** also noted that 30 rooms are blocked at the **Natchez Grand Hotel for Brits on the Bluff** instead of the usual 40. He advised getting reservations early.

The day was not without some excitement. While surveying our rolling stock, a flat tire was discovered on **David and Joann Bailey’s Bentley**. **Last count it takes 11 folks to change a Bentley tire.** →



That change was unsuccessful. Apparently the hub caps require a special key for removal. That key was not available.

No matter, **Bro Gene** came to the rescue with a plug kit, quickly found the leak, and got it plugged. Once aired up the Bentley was ready to roll.

The other excitement was a gas leak on **Editor Charlie’s GT**. **Pat Cashman** had the right tool for the job and the leak was curtailed.

Tops Down was another EMC success. Our thanks to **Keith Anderson** for spearheading the event.



Click the link below for more images from Tops Down! Thanks again to Gene Johnston and Barry Schmidt for sharing their photos!

[Tops Down at Rocky Springs 2018 slideshow](#)

A Return to the Field

By Bro Gene

Metairie LA – Nine members of the EMC made it to the **British Motoring Club of New Orleans’ 28th** Annual British Car Day held at Delgado Community College on March 24, 2018. It was a wonderful day and the members of the BMCNO thru a great show. After several years of being relocated the school parking lot due to wet fields the weather cooperated and the college was kind enough to allow us back on the grass field. The spread the entrants out onto a previously unused portion of the grounds which was a blessing as the turnout of cars filled just about every corner of the previously used area.

The day started with a “British Breakfast” and garage tour hosted by **Bill and Violet Nix**. Everyone attending arrived at the show field with smiles on their faces and ready for a full day. And what a day it was. Mid-afternoon the ladies attended the **Queen’s Tea Party** which keeps growing and gives the ladies some out of the sun and heat time although both were very mild for this years show. For 2018 the club arranged seminar “A Celebration of St. Pepper” presented by noted Beatle expert and author **Bruce Spizer** which was very well attended. Lunch trucks were provided with several dining options. The food was very good. I don’t think anyone went away hungry.

And beautiful cars...well, just take a look.





A big thank you from the EMC to our friends in the **BMCNO** for all of the attention to throwing a great party. We really enjoyed the visit.

Images captured by **Bro Gene and Barry Schmidt**. **More photos of this event are in the slideshow. Click link below!**

[British Motoring Club of New Orleans 28th Annual British Car Day Slideshow](#)

Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



MGBs turn in out in force for Brits on the Bluff 16 years ago. The show that year was held on the grounds of the Rosalie Mansion under perfect blue skies.



From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



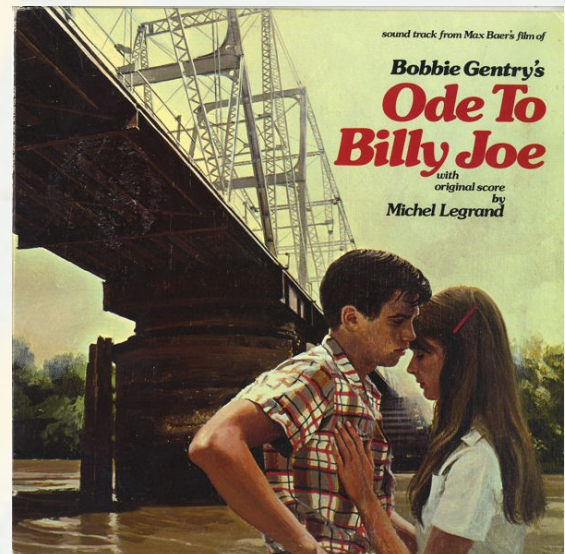
Many thanks to Penny Schooler for this article! Penny and Roy decided to embark on an adventure with the Mercedes Club of Mississippi. It sounds like fun was had by one and all and many historic sites were visited! The first photo in Penny's article is an image of their MGB between two German cars. We must remain friends with the other countries, right?

Click on the link below for a BONUS slideshow! I created this to sort of "set the mood" for the Blues Trail Drive!. Penny and Roy visited the Tallahatchie Bridge on the Blues Trail Drive. This bridge rose to fame when the song "Ode to Billy Joe" was released in 1967 by Mississippi singer/songwriter Bobbie Gentry. It was later made into a movie. Hope you enjoy!-DD

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE BONUS SLIDESHOW!](#)

[Ode to Billy Joe—Tallahatchie Bridge Slideshow](#)

BONUS!!!



Blues Trail Drive with the Mercedes Club of Mississippi

The Mercedes Club will Adopt Anything—even a **baby MGB!!**

By Penny Schooler

We took advantage of the invitation, packed, checked weather and packed jackets, checked oil in **Baby B**, packed oil, and headed north to meet our traveling group at **Pocahontas Indian Mound** smack in the middle of Highway 49. I think there were eight Mercedes and one Porsche (with **Tommy and Lynn Williamson**, EMC members), one Honda and **one lonely Baby B**.

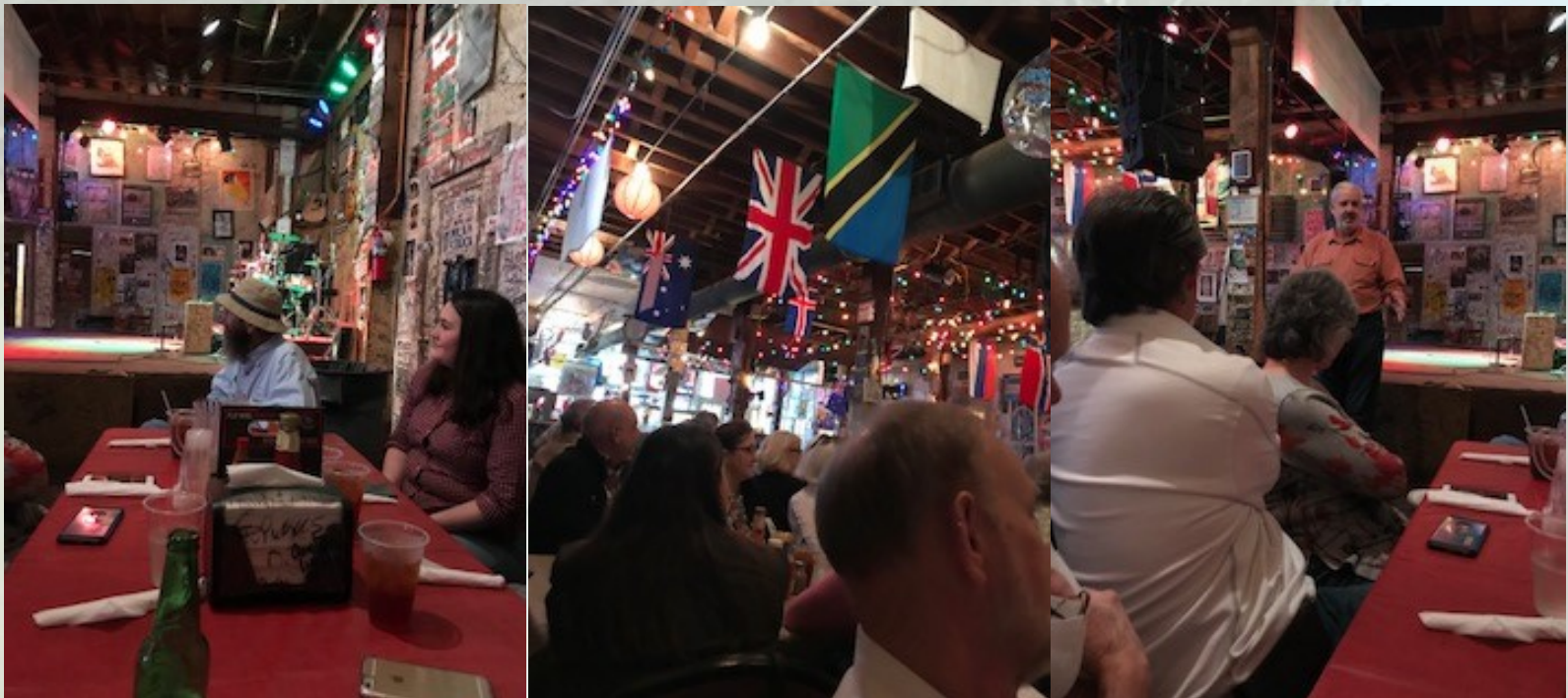


After meet and greet and photos, we departed Pocahontas to north of Greenwood to **Little Zion Church on Money Road** to **Robert Johnson's gravesite** – photo stop.



(Remember this is a blues trail drive) Then on to **Money, MS** and crossed the **Tallahatchie Bridge—where Billy Joe McAllister jumped**, then on to **Glendora and Tutwiler**, where **W.C. Handy** was first inspired by blues music while waiting at the train station.

Then to **Ground Zero Blues Club** in Clarksdale for great lunch, history lesson from Bill Luckett and guided tour from Mr. Birdsong for the walking tour of **Clarksdale** to legendary clubs, hotels, radio stations and other significant historical locations and the Blues Museum. Then on to check in at the **Shack Up Inn** – what an adventure. (or as our tour leader said “be brave and trust it is a cool place”. Our “cool” place was called the **Gunny Shack** from Gunnison, MS).



We headed back to Clarksdale for **dinner at Levon's and live music**. Morning began at 8 with muffins, sweet rolls and fruit on the **Adams' porch** and then a photo shoot and this time **Baby B** was included or as **Mike Marsh, President of the Mercedes Club** said **"The Mercedes Club will adopt anything."** (Baby B smiled)



We headed down Highway 1 and south to **Rosedale** where **Robert Johnson actually met the devil** at the intersection of Highway 1 and Highway 8 in Rosedale (One of the tales) . It was here that he **traded his soul for a whole new music style** and skill of guitar playing. Before this encounter he was a good harmonica player and terrible guitarist.

Then we drove on to **Cleveland** for lunch at the **Senator's Place** and to the **Grammy Museum next to Delta State**. Another Photo Shoot. Our last stop was at **Dockery Farms** where **Bill Lester, Curator of Dockery Farms Foundation** told us the plantation's history and the legendary blues performers that came out of that location including **Howlin' Wolf**. This was the last photo shoot with cotton gin in the background.

You can tell we had great hosts with **Mark and Gina Adams** who took care of every detail from dinner reservations to the guides, and were driving a really nice 1962 Mercedes. Thank you Mike for inviting other clubs and Mark and Gina for all the research and planning. It was a very full weekend and so much fun.

Membership News

by Stephen Turner

by Stephen Turner



Please welcome new members **Mike and Sarah Hooten** to the EMC!
They bring a 1959 Austin Healey Sprite to our club. We are looking forward to seeing you at many club functions in the future!

Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2018 Calendar

April 13—14, 2018 – Natchez Euro Fest / Natchez MS – Ring leader extraordinaire Mike Marsh has put together an outing for lovers of everything automotive. Show site will be on the grounds of Rosalie overlooking the Mississippi and Mike has arranged a weekend full of activities. Details: www.euro-fest.net Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

April 20 - 21, 2018 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL - For the 26nd 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: www.pbca1.com

May 19, 2018 - Drive Thru History / Cleveland MS - Come out and ride with the EMC. We'll depart from some new location. Stay tuned for details. Details Gene Johnston (601) 941- 4892 / Clay Johnston (769) 798 - 1454.

May (check for dates), 2018 – Springtime in the Smokies / Townsend TN - The 31th 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 www.blountbritishcars.org

June 16, 2018 – 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 / Pat Anderson (601) 829 - 2573.

We hope to see you at an upcoming event!