

Gene Johnston

From:
To:
Cc:

Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2007 9:57 PM
Subject: EMC / The Off-Side Undo

The Off-Side Undo

September 16, 2007

And The Heat Goes On

No change in the weather here dear. Just more heat, little rain. Well almost.

Although the weather was rather warm and skies threatening at our regular August meeting, eighteen members and friends of the EMC gathered at Barry and Patti Schmidt's for our summer close-out meeting. Barry's TR-7/V-6 is undergoing a body re-hab so it wasn't present for the meeting but everyone had lot's of questions about the new look that will emerge.

Barry and Jim Enzman are also making plans to complete the re-hab on Barry's' MGB that's been under wraps too long. Good to see another man with as many irons in the fire as me. Keeping in mind that both of the gentlemen are on retirement time hopefully their trail to restoration resolution will arrive before mine.

We had a great meal with the center dish of the gathering provided by Chef Barry with sides by his lovely assistant Patti. Additional sides were chipped in by several attendees and once again no one went home hungry.

A brief meeting took place after the dishes were put away with discussions of up-coming regional LBC gatherings as well final planning for EMC's Brits By The River.

9/16/2007

On Saturday September 1, the Cashmans, Johnstons and Johnstons headed over to get their dose of history at the Lauren Rodgers Museum in Laurel MS. Back in ancient history I traveled over to Laurel to review and study their great collection of art work. Thirty something years later I returned to view the fifty or so photos taken by Linda McCartney. The exhibit documented many of the British invasion bands of the 1960's along with some of the great names in American Rock n Roll from the period as well.

The museum and exhibits were in great shape and the photo's of the musical heros of the past were wonderful. You should give the museum a visit next time your in that area.

After lunch in Laurel we all started our return trips to home ports. Just outside Laurel the Johnstons and Cashmans broke off for a quick gas stop or so I thought. I will never be accused by my wife of having too much forethought. Just as we topped the next hill we recognized why we were the only one's blissfully riding along with the top down. Yep, the proverbial bottom fell out just as we started across the flats at Big Creek. Martha, Ole Red and I managed to make to the overhang of a gas station just in the nick of time. The nick being that I only ended up with about a quarter inch of water to dry out of the floor plan rather than the potential two to three.

Other EMC travelers since our last update were Mike and Alice Gore. They left the confines of the state and headed out to the Lotus Owners Gathering 2007 held in Colorado. Here are some of Alice's thoughts a preparing for their "little" jaunt.

True Lies

Here is the truth and not many lies why we did not drive our Lotus Esprit to LOG 27. Having memories of our adventurous trip on Route 66 a few years back, we had to rethink taking a long journey again in our black 2004 Final Edition Lotus Esprit. We never made it to California due to mechanical problems. But my husband assured me we would have a great time this year. So thinking that this would be a good time to finish our western vacation, we decided to continue the trip into Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas after the LOG. We started our engine to plan a month's vacation.

Here we go again. The rules began to mount up just like the other western trip. We can drive the Esprit, IF, and I mean a big IF, we can find secure parking at lodging along the way. Luggage must be limited; no hair dryer, only two pairs of shoes each, nothing on the floor of passenger's side, no pillows. And the straw that broke the camel's back, my purse will be counted as luggage-NO LIE!

Now the car worries-the clearance. We dodged tumble weeds on our last trip and avoided gravel roads. We must have a portable GPS this time since maps take up a lot space when unfolded in the passenger's seat. The Esprit has to stay clean. Dusty Santa Faye gave my husband panic attacks. Windshield repairs were a daily event-NO LIE!

But Honey, this will be fun", was the phrase my husband left we with every morning on his way to work. I was getting worried. I had flashbacks of us finding oil leaking from the Esprit when leaving the parking lot of the motel we stayed at in Durango, CO. -the motel chosen because the car could be seen from the window, not because it was a nice motel-NO LIE!

Planning was underway. I was booking B & B's at every interesting site along our planned route; calling in advance to be sure the parking was just right. I purchased travel space bags to vacuum seal our clothes; found travel sizes of all our toiletries even fold-up toothbrushes and found that large purse for the other items my husbands said I could not bring. NO LIE!

Then the planning slowed down. While leisurely driving (??) home in the Lotus Esprit one Sunday evening, my husband had an enlightened encounter with a Louisiana Swamp. The mad dash for repair had my husband out of control. Order parts, clean the car, check it out— A reflector arrived in a box labeled for the right side and turned out to be for the left side... NO LIE! Reorder!! Working in a body shop in the heat was not what my husband wanted to do. He just wanted to drive!!

Bringing the Esprit home gave him some relief from his tension. Now it was time to dismantle and clean every teeny tiny part and every large black part of the car. He found out the bump attacked to the underside of the hood was there to prevent non-thinking parents from accidentally putting their babies in the empty area of the hood compartment-NO LIE! Leaving work early to resurrect the car was a daily event. His new phrase was, "It's looking good!" During one evening's work session something fell off the car that he was NOT working on. In a low voice, I hear, "Maybe we should take ANOTHER car."

After helping him reattach the roof panel the next evening, I hear a soft, "Maybe we should take ANOTHER car." After cleaning and repairing for another week, I hear, "Oh, my back, oh, my knee." And a little louder now, I hear, "I guess we should take ANOTHER car."

I'm getting so excited thinking about ANOTHER car-comfortable and adjustable seats, XM radio, GPS, and YES, a large trunk! But in the back of my mind I think comfortable ride-but NO FUN. But a month in a Lotus might not be that much FUN! NO LIE!

Another week passes and no progress. In a Great Big Voice, I hear, "We MUST take ANOTHER car!"

So here we are, Not in our LOTUS ESPRIT but comfortable in ANOTHER CAR-NO LIE!

Thanks Alice for the update. Glad to hear that I'm not the only one of the male gender that has a hard time judging rain potential, estimating the amount of time it will take to complete mechanical task as well as to confines of packing in an LBC!

PLEASE NOTE! We've made a few alteration to the calendar here at the end of 2007. I know forethought...forethought....please update your calender accordingly.

Dennis, Jim and I completed the pre-run of the 2007 show this past week. The folks in Vidalia are really looking forward to our joining the Jim Bowie Festival on September 28-29, 2007. We'll begin on Friday night at The River View Campground from 5:00pm to 7:00pm with our welcome party. The Festival organizer's have put together some fantastic entertainers for Saturday afternoon including Wayne Toupes and Zydecajun. There will be entertainment in front of the hotel on Saturday night also.

Barry and Pattie are still looking for stuffers for the goodie bags so get yours in now!

Registrations forms can be found at our web site: www.msemc.org.

Details: John Turbeville (601) 940-5288. Gene Johnston (601) 607-7021.

Change number one for the remainder of the year. Martha is still working on the menu for the gathering so be sure that you bring something for a side. As always the Colonel will be fine with us. I'll find a project in the garage if noting more than sweeping.

Wrenching begins at 11:00am, lunch break about 12:00pm.

Details: Gene Johnston (601) 607 - 7021

Martha and I've made plans for this great gathering again in 2007. Fairhope is always a great end of year gathering so make your plans now!

Please note change number 2! Dennis and I've seen the preview. Jim and Faye's knock me down if it ain't yellow MGB GT is coming together. Jim just needs a couple of extra hands to help with the final pieces. Join us for a nice day in the Mississippi center for all things LBC and a great meal to boot.

Wrenching begins at 11:00am, lunch break about 12:00pm

Details: Jim and Faye Enzman (601) 532 - 6293

Make plans to kick-off the 2007 holiday season with the EMC. As always expect a great time in the garages of Pat and Barbara and all the members of the EMC. Bring a dish and have a wonderful time to close out the 2007 season.

Starting time will be 12:00pm.

Details: Pat or Barbara Cashman (601) 638-3240

That take us thru the end of 2007. Here's to great rides during the rest of 2007!

Happy Motoring

Gene Johnston

EMC