

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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Two for the Road (Part II)

By Gene and Martha Johnston

This is the second part of our adventure to MG 2014 in French Lick IN. We had a great time and hope that you'll enjoy the ride with us. Come along for our “Drive into the Gilded Past”.

Monday thru Wednesday the NAMGBR and the host clubs, Southern Indiana Region British Car Club and Indiana Flat Land British Car Club made it difficult to sleep late with so many interesting activities to



The magnificent West Baden Hotel Lobby

choose from. An early start each day was easy. Monday was probably the latest day we slept and we still managed to make an Ole Red fluid check. All checked out OK and we traveled a mile north to visit the West Baden Resort. Touted at one time as the eighth wonder of the world when the 200 foot atrium was constructed during the early 1900's, the hotel lobby remains a beautiful structure with a wonderful history.

Mid-afternoon on Monday we followed Brits on the Bluff attendees Jack and Kathy Orkin from Grayson GA in their Midget to the evening dinner at Spring Mill State Park. The drive up was interesting as I thought on more than one occasion on the way up that Jack was going to end us up in an open field. Dinner was great and we had a great time visiting the historic mill area of the park prior to returning to



MGBs from most every state at Spring Mill

French Lick. Total mileage for day three was a meager 66 miles. Tuesday was cleanup day in anticipation show day so after a wash and a bit of polishing on Ole Red I met Martha for lunch then a stop by John Twist's rolling tech session. It was scheduled to start at 10:00am and run until 3:00pm. When we



John Twist early in a long day offering advice and assistance

visited at 1:00pm on our way to the Indiana Rail Road Museum and French Lick Historic Rail Road there was a long line of cars awaiting service. My understanding is that John was able to wind up about 7:00pm. We enjoyed the ride on the rail excursion but it was hotter I think than Ole Red at mid-day in the

middle of Southern Indiana. We capped the evening by joining members of the MG Experience for dinner at 33 Brick Street, a local shrine to French Lick's favored son Larry Bird. Other than rail, total miles day four was 0!

Show day, Wednesday broke clear with few clouds in the sky and the temperature rising into the high



“C’s” on the hill at MG 2014

80’s. The “B” register was thoughtful in giving the grassy areas to the “C”s, Midgets and a few other decedents of the marque while the B’s were placed on tarmac that took in and reflected a lot of heat.



Line-up of Midgets

A total of 363 cars were reported in presence on show day and of course the majority were “B”s. I got my tour and voting in early but continued to circle the cars throughout the day checking into shady areas to visit with friends from around the country that had made the trek. The day was great. I enjoyed the visits and seeing the MG’s from across the US. Wednesday was capped off by the awards banquet. During

registration I'd reserved our place at a table with friends that I thought had good potential for class awards and I didn't miss with an award going to Jack and Kathy Orkin for their Midget. Congratulations guys!



One of the "B" line-ups at MG 2014

There were several other award winners in our area with several Georgia and Tennessee friends receiving recognition in their classes. We enjoyed sharing our time in French Lick with old and new acquaintances. Thanks for allowing us to tag along. There's a reason that MG is known as the Marque of Friendship and MG 2014 was a shining example of why the MG will always be favored in the world of LBC's. Total miles day five, 0!



BARN STOP!

While making plans for a few days away, something that Martha and I don't get a chance to do often enough, I was able to convenience my better half that a trip thru St. Louis to catch a Cardinals game

would be right on our return route home. We started Thursday's drive traveling along the back roads of Indiana. Our start was early enough that you could see the clouds of corn pollen rising up with the warming of the morning. We traveled west toward St. Louis primarily on state highway 50 stopping in Vincennes Indiana on the banks of the Wabash River for lunch and laundry detail before traveling to the highway construction area that surrounds The Gateway to the West. We arrived in construction zone, mid-afternoon, bumper to bumper traffic for about an hour and a half to traverse to arrive at The Missouri Athletic Club. As we pulled into the parking lot of I was sure that Ole Red's clutch had given up in



We managed to get closer to The Man than The Gateway

protest of the extended period of stop and go traffic. We just had time to a shower have a cool drink before heading off to the ball park. After the stop and go stress and no runs for the home team during the game we returned to the hotel for last refreshment and then off to bed. With the traffic delays the mileage seemed much higher, total miles day six 230 miles.

With concerns that I might have to either seek a shop for clutch work on Friday as we started home or content with St. Louis traffic without the benefit of a clutch I was up at 4:30am. After finding no evidence of clutch fluid dribbles I began by wondering if it was all gone only to be assured when I checked the

reservoir that all of the fluid was on the correct side of the seals. I cranked Ole Red and eased out of the parking garage using the clutch rather gingerly. After testing in the hotel parking lot and feeling assured that the clutch was present we packed luggage and wandered around St. Louis until we determined that we wouldn't get a photo of Ole Red under the arch, shucks. We located the nearest onramp for I-55 south to Memphis. The drive from St. Louis to Memphis was our longest interstate mileage and with the early start wasn't too bad allowing us to travel at a relaxed 65 to 70 miles per hour which was an agreeable pace for Ole Red and old us. We made one stop for gas and turned off the interstate and onto Highway 61, The Great River Road and made it into Greenville late afternoon. As much as we wanted to eat at Doe's Eat Place the available setting at 8:15pm was just too late for the two of us. We short noticed Tommy and Kathy Hart and enjoyed drinks and dinner with them prior to calling it an early evening. Total miles day seven was 450 miles.

On our last day our urge to return to the familiarity of home was too great. We ate an early breakfast and reloaded Ole Red for the final time. We set the compass to home and made it home in time for lunch. The total miles on day eight was 112 and for the eight days, just over 1,400 miles. My tush hurt as did my back and my well, just about everything.

We had a great time traveling to and from and our time in French Lick for MG 2014. It was a real treat to be in the company of so many others that are smitten by the MG marque. The organization of the meet and the activities were excellent as were the accommodations. Ole Red has traveled a lot of miles with little or no complaints, the clutch seems to be hanging in there, see notes below. With two 1,400 + mile trips during 2014 Ole Red seems ready for another trip at any calling. Let's see, MG 2015 is in Niagara Falls, Ontario Canada. I've already checked the map and it's only 1,132 miles to the host hotel. Martha has already informed me she'd be thrilled to go...if we can fly.

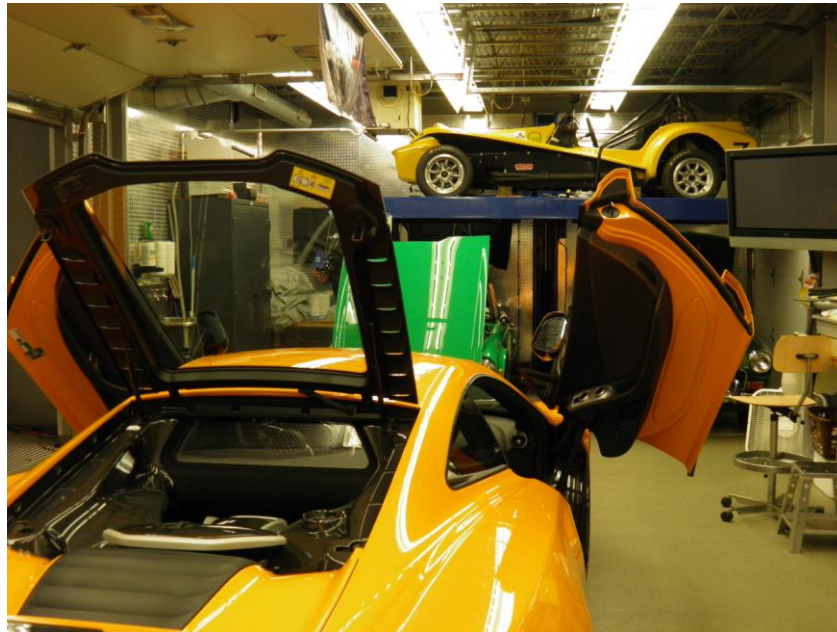
A Lotus Weekend

Braxton, MS – Although the weather was a bit foreboding, on July 19, 2014 fifteen members and friends of the EMC departed from the Coffee and Cars gathering at Primos on in Flowood for the drive



Drivers to Braxton kick a few tires and compare notes

down to Braxton to visit with Mike and Alice Glore's garage. Keith Anderson laid out a trek thru Brandon that had more twist and turns than a flat snake after a hot day on the pavement of Highway 49. First time attendee Jaby Denton missed the first turn and gave up the attempting to locate the majority of the party and back tracked to Highway 49 to turn south. Confronted with a leaky clutch master cylinder and what appeared to be all the residents of central Mississippi attempting to make one last visit to the beach prior to summers end we managed to catch up with the rest of the group as they crossed Highway 49 from downtown Braxton to make the short run on Cox Road to our rendezvous point. Following our usual large meal the members got down to the planning phase for the 2014 EMC Brits on the River.



Mike's play room in Braxton

Excellent suggestions for the 2014 event were made and several members agreed to step up to assist with the planning and day of show activities that are required to make the show a success. Following the meeting the 50 or so attendees made one final trip thru the garage area to take in the collection of autos that Mike and Alice are kind to share with members and friends of the EMC. Thanks Mike and Alice for having us in for a visit.

Other Exhaust Rattles

The week before leaving for MG 2014 major repairs were on tap when I realized that the GT would not be available for the trip. The usual ride, Ole Red was called on once again. Following replacement of one of two universal joints, overdrive solenoid rebuild and replacement of a recently discovered leaky gas tank was completed just days prior to departure. I couldn't have made it without the assistance of Brother Clay. Oh, that clutch that I thought was going wonky after an afternoon in St. Louis traffic? Yes, that was the one that gave up the ghost on the way to Braxton. Counting back as best I can tell that clutch master had been in place eight and likely closer to ten years since its last service. It along with the brake master are out now and based on the condition the clutch master was found to be in it must have been hanging on by its last nails to get us home from our trip to French Lick. Ole Red will ride again shortly.

Mike had indicated at one time that he was in the market for a Lotus Europa to complete his Loti collection. I'd noted a nice one on Bring a Trailer during the last month or so. I understand that the Europa has a new home?

Keith Anderson has been assisting John Turbeville in the disassembly of John's TR-6. This TR-6 has been in the EMC for at least as long as I have. John's got some submissions to the OSU due as he completes disassembly and turns the corner to re-assembling. Keith also indicated that he's gotten the top straightened out on his TR-6 which I can attest to after seeing it in Braxton. Keith continues assessing the strategy to re-hood his E-Type.

Keith Turner is nearing paint time on his MGB GT. Pat Lemon has been assisting with elbow grease. Clay Johnston has been re-sealing the pinion seal and rear diff cover on his MGB.

If you haven't taken a look at the web-site lately and are interested in adding to your collection or know someone that is, there are two nice offering there as we speak. Check it out at www.msemc.org.

Brits on the Bluff planning is in full swing. Registrations have been sent out and don't forget that five lucky early registrants will be in the running for a \$20.00 cash prize. Early entries are appreciated. Our next pre-BotB meeting will be on August 16, 2014 at David and Jo Ann Bailey's in Brandon. Please make plans to attend.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. The calendar will start to fill again as we enter fall so take time to check it out and make plans to attend events with your friends in the EMC.

Happy Motoring,

The EMC

Events Calendar

August 16, 2014 – EMC Tech Session II / Brandon MS - David and Jo Ann have a way of throwing a great party in lead up to the EMC show. 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. Lunch starts as 12:00pm. Details: David / Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

September 5 – 6, 2014 – 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. Details: www.shoalsbritishcars.org.

September 9 – 13, 2014 - Vintage Triumph Register National Convention / Dodson NC - Details: www.vintagetriumphregister.org.

September 18 – 21, 2014 – Southeast British Car Festival / Dillard GA - Details: www.peachtreemg.com or Jack Orkin jack.orkin@emory.edu.

September 19 - 20, 2014 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS - A bit of rain didn't dampen our spirits at the 2013 BOTB as a matter of fact it was all very British. It's promised to be all sunshine and roses for 2014 so we're looking for a great turnout. We hope that friends from near and far will join us.

Details to be posted at www.msemc.org, John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

October 4, 2014 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS - The 2013 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 2014. 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.