

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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



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This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

Though July was a hot month, it was not hot enough to dampen the spirits of our hardy members. **Tech guy Keith** has a report about bringing a MGC out of its 15 year coma. **Will Duncan** submitted a report detailing how he brought his MGB back to life. **Editor Charlie** updated **Editoret Donna's** Morris Minor with a PCV. **Erich Connell** got some leaks fixed on his MGB. And, **Bro Clay** got around to installing his DIY rear disc brake conversion on his MGB. And on top of all that the EMC had a successful gathering at **Mike and Alice Glore's** barn. All in all a great month for EMC.

Don't forget that **Brits on the Bluff** plans will be finalized the end of August with the EMC gathering at **David and JoAnn's** place. This is a fun gathering with David's projects on display and the food is delicious.

Brits on the Bluff is September 15 and 16 in Natchez, MS. A flyer is attached. The host hotel is the **Natchez Grand**. Rooms are going fast, so get your reservations in early. I hope to see you all there.

I hope this month's Offside/Undo meets your expectations. As always, comments and submissions are welcome.

Lotus Weekend at the Glore's



Mike and Alice Glore

Mike and Alice know how to put on a party. This year the gathering was shared with the local Mercedes folks. As a result, the place was packed. Not to worry—there is plenty of room in the barn to wander around and kick tires admiring **Mike's** eclectic collection of cars. Unfortunately Mike's latest addition, a Fiat 850, was not present. After chow, **Pres John** brought the meeting to order. Most of the discussion concerned this year's Brits on the Bluff. The decision was made to not provide goodie bags and instead focus on door prizes. The final planning will take place next month at the Baileys. After the business was completed we grazed on remaining desserts and headed out. Many thanks to the Glore's for being gracious hosts!



Photos courtesy of Billie Ford (Mercedes Club) and Charlie & Donna Durning





From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



I took these lemon bars to Mike & Alice Gore's in July. I really wanted y'all to think they were a lot of trouble to make, but I confess— they are SO EASY! !! These lemon bars are especially good to make when you are squeezed for time! I hope you enjoy them! -DD



Lemon Bars

- 1 package Duncan Hines Signature Lemon Supreme cake mix
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, melted
- 1 large egg
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350 °F.

Stir together cake mix, butter, and egg.

Spread mixture evenly into bottom of a 13x9-inch baking dish.

(This will be your crust.)

Blend together sweetened condensed milk and lemon juice.

Pour this over the cake mixture.

Bake for 25 to 35 minutes at 350 °. *(I have a gas stove and mine always takes 35 minutes.)*

Cool completely.

Cut into bars and enjoy!

Exhaust rattles

Will Duncan now has his MGB back on the road. It had been garaged due to massive oil leaks from the overdrive. All is well now.



Erich Connell has been spending time chasing oil leaks on his MGB. The latest was the pinion seal. He now has a leak free rear end.

After years of procrastination, **Editor Charlie** finally took the plunge and added a PCV to **Editor Donna's** Morris Minor. The project entailed changing the intake manifold in order to accommodate the Smiths mushroom valve. Once back together and a simple carb tune the Morris runs better than ever.



Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



A Very Wet BOTB



Back 20 years ago or so the EMC hierarchy decided the best month to host **Brits on the Bluff** in Natchez was October. Why? Because the Farmer's Almanac stated the driest month in Mississippi was October. So, little or no chance for rain, right?

Well in 2001—some 17 years ago—Mother Nature played a very dirty trick on us. The October beautiful sky we were planning on unloaded on us with a Fall Deluge. The Heavens let go and we got drowned. The show that year was scheduled for the grounds of the Rosalie Mansion but the Daughters of the American Revolution, who own the house, would not let us bring the cars onto the grassy area, so we had to stay in their gravel parking lot. Not at all attractive but the best we could do under the circumstances.

Tom Schmitz, South Alabama British Car Club, best summed up the day when he remarked: “We go to so many British car shows they all just become a blur, but not this one. We will remember the ‘Rain Show’ for a long time.”

New EMC Member

Submitted By Keith Anderson

Our new EMC member, **Steve Sampson**, purchased a '73 MGC at an estate auction that had been sitting in a garage for about 15 years. We could not get the engine to turn over using the fan, and the crankshaft nut is not accessible on the MGC. So we let the engine rings marinate in a concoction of **acetone**, **Marvel Mystery Oil** and **automatic transmission fluid**, a formula well known in the restoration field. After a couple weeks we pushed the car with the plugs out while in 4th gear and the engine easily turned over. So now the hard work can begin.



An Overdrive Adventure

By Will Duncan

As some of you may remember, a couple of years ago my MGB blessed **Pat and Barbara's** garage floor with a generous puddle of oil that had slowly dripped off the undercarriage after a group drive over from Jackson. **Keith and I** determined it was coming from somewhere around the transmission and tightened a couple of suspect areas, but it happened again after I got home. After cleaning things up and driving it again, I was able to pin it down to the general area of the overdrive. Then I got sidetracked with a few things like getting married, buying and selling houses, and moving. Now, it's time to get back on the road.

At the June get-together at **Keith's** house, **Charlie and Clay** offered to give me a hand troubleshooting the OD leak, and they drove up to **Clinton** a few Saturdays ago with **Charlie's** extra-tall jack stands and **Clay's** pressure gauge to see what we could find. Once we got the car high enough in the air to check things with it running, **Clay** and I did some cleanup with a few liberal sprays of brake cleaner. After engaging the OD, **Clay** confirmed the pressure was good and immediately spotted the issue—a large leak from the solenoid cover plate. **Charlie** also found a secondary leak in the rear OD oil seal. We made a quick inventory of the necessary parts and agreed to reconvene the following weekend once they had arrived.

The next Saturday, we replaced the rear seal and the O-rings on the solenoid assembly and confirmed the leaks were gone and the OD was still operating smoothly. However, after the car warmed up, **Clay** spotted a new puddle. Seems some of the solder joints in the radiator developed a leak while the car was idle. Also, while we were reinstalling the driveshaft, **Charlie** noticed that the front U-joint was seized. Since he had an extra at home, **Jennifer** and I followed **Clay and him** (with a stop for a little BBQ in Richland) back to his place in Magee. While **Donna and Jennifer** visited, we tussled with the frozen slip yoke for a while, but eventually convinced it to come off. After cleaning up the slip yoke and installing the new U-joint, we reassembled everything and declared that job done.

Afterwards, **Charlie and Clay** installed some new LED instrument lights in **Charlie's** GT, then reinstalled the speedo, giving **Clay** the chance to play a few rounds of everyone's favorite game, "**Now Where'd That Nut Go?**" **Charlie** won't have any trouble seeing those gauges anymore! Finally, we spent a while checking out some of the improvements **Charlie** has made to his GT, including an OD status light, additional running lights, and an aluminum radiator. After I got back home, I reinstalled the driveshaft, and everything looks good. Now I'm just waiting to get the parts to replace the radiator and make a couple of other minor repairs, then she'll be ready for a test drive.

Much thanks to **Charlie and Clay** for all their assistance!



Bro. Clay Gets Rear Disk Breaks!

After test driving **Editor Charlie's** MGB GT with rear disc brakes, **Bro Clay** decided to give the rear disc conversion a try on his roadster. The conversion is easy enough to do and the parts are easy to make. For the main adapter bracket he had Leonard's Metals laser cut the brackets from 3/8" steel using a CAD drawing commissioned by Editor Charlie. Since there wasn't a CAD drawing for the second bracket, Bro Clay got to experience making those from some 1/4"x3"x7" flat steel.

Using a drawing of the second bracket, Bro Clay laid out the hole locations on the flat steel and then drilled a series of pilot holes with a drill press. From there (4) 10MM and 1) 3/8" holes were drilled. Then he used a hole saw to cut out a 2.5" relief for the caliper. For the next step he used a chop saw to remove any unnecessary metal from the bracket.

To complete the conversion Bro Clay needed 2 Nissan rear calipers, 2 Honda rotors, 2 new brake hoses, and some miscellaneous fittings and bolts. The next step was to mock up the conversion on a spare rear axle housing. Once the fit was confirmed, all of the parts were boxed up and ready to install on the back of his MGB roadster on another day.

The Honda rotors needed to be modified to fit the MGB axle flange. The issue here is the diameter of the pilot hole and the location of the 2 tapered set screws. Using a locating fixture to center the rotor and guide a hole saw, Bro Clay artfully bored out the rotor pilot to 3". Then a spare hub was mounted to the rotor and used for locating the 2 set screw holes. Within few minutes the rotors were ready to install.

After all of the parts were ready it was time to make sure all will fit as planned on a spare axle housing. Once the wheel ends were installed it was time to make the brake hard lines and make sure the flex hoses could be routed properly. Once the fit was confirmed, Bro Clay took all of the parts home for paint.

Bro Clay did have some concerns about the rear axle in his car. He was able to find a good used axle to use instead. That axle did need some TLC that included a thorough cleaning along with fresh paint, new washers for the diff gears, and a wheel bearing inspection. Now the refreshed rear axle equipped with disc brakes is ready for service in Bro Clay's very nice MGB.

There will be a follow up after Bro Clay has a thorough evaluation of his new found stopping power.





Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2018 Calendar

We hope to see you at an upcoming EMC event for 2018!

August 17 – 21, 2018 – Vintage Triumph Register Convention / Lacrosse WI - A bit of a ride for those from the Deep South however if you've never made a national event and happen to be in the area drop in. Go ahead run to the land of cheese. Make plans early. Details: www.vtr.org

August 18, 2018 – 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 2018. 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 dates), 2018 – 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. This show will be celebrating the 22nd gathering. It's a laid back gathering on the banks of Wheeler Lake. Everything including rooms, meals and Friday night's reception are within walking distance. Details: www.shoalsbritishcars.org.

September (check for dates), 2018 - 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 16th Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: www.britshironnwa.org

September 14 - 15, 2018 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS – We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 21th Annual BOTB. 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. Information and registration information will post about 30 – 60 days in advance. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 941 - 4892.