

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

December 2017

On the web at www.msemc.org

Volume 31



This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

Another year has come to an end. Our club finale at the Cashmans' was a good time of fun, food, and conversation.

Our next gathering will be the annual meeting and awards banquet at **Berry's Fish House in Florence, January 20 at 11:30**. Hope to see you all there.

Exhaust Rattles

by Charlie Durning

I've been ignoring a massive oil leak on the front of Editor-et Donna's Morris Minor. Over Thanksgiving weekend I decided it was time to tackle the problem. Because there was quite a bit of noise emitting from the front cover I suspected a loose timing chain may have worn a hole in the cover. Since oil was everywhere, it was difficult to confirm the exact source of the leak.

The front cover will be coming off of the engine to repair the leak, so I decided now is the time to update to the improved A+ chain tensioner and front cover. The retrofit was easy with only 1 new hole to drill and tap in the engine front plate.

Donna's Morris now has a new front cover, a timing chain tensioner, and timing marks on top. No more noise, no more leak, and no more crawling under the car to check the ignition timing.



A Note from the President

By John Turbeville



Winter project underway

Earlier this year my MG guru friends, **Keith, Charlie, and Clay** came over to pull my engine and replace the rear main seal. After every drive I'd leave a small puddle of oil and constantly have to add oil. The rear main seal replacement stopped all that leaking. I thought the problem of having to add oil had stopped, but after driving to the Natchez show, I burned a quart and a half in 200 Miles. So it seems I had two problems happening at once—leaking oil and burning oil.

My winter project has been to take off the cylinder head and see what's been happening in there. In the attached pictures you can see oil pooled up on the top of number 3 cylinder and number 2 is carboned up. So I took the cylinder head to **Milton's Cylinder Head Service** for a valve job. Milton's is a one man shop. He worked 24 years at Massey and is quite capable of reworking this little 4 banger cylinder head. I bought the valves, bronze guides, seals, and keepers and he installed them. I picked it up this week and it looks great. I hope to get it back on soon. Machine shop charges, all parts including new oil, filter, spark plugs, and shipping came to \$350. Can't wait to see how it runs now.



Turkey Day Travels

By Gene Johnston

For our 2017 Turkey Day weekend Bro. Clay, Debbie, Dr. Word, Robin, Martha and I traveled over into Louisiana. Bro. Clay and I met in Natchez on Wednesday night and bright, but not so early on Thursday we re-traced some of the 2017 DSARC/EMC Fun Rally over into Louisiana.

First stop was only a brief stop waiting for the Duty/Enterprise ferry to pay our \$1.00 charge to cross the Ouachita River. We were a bit surprised to see the ferry in operation but the cheery tenders seemed to be happy to have some activity.



Duty/Enterprise Ferry

On our arrival, there was one SUV that had exited the north side of the river. From our fording, we headed upstream to Columbia to the Watermark Saloon for a visit with the purveyor and some much-welcomed refreshments. We were offered the turkey left overs from the prior evening but politely declined the offer.

From Columbia, we traveled down to Breezy Hill to travel over to Natchitoches, LA thru the Kisatchie National Forest. For those that travel Arkansas looking for scenic roads one of our favorites is AR Hwy 123. I was pleasantly surprised to find that LA Hwy 123 just as pleasing. The road was in good condition, easily navigated with gentle bends thru the pine belt forest. My guest passenger I think was also pleased with the gentle bends. To date she's not had the pleasure of experiencing AR Hwy 123⁴



LA Hwy 123

From Dry Prong we drove on to Natchitoches where we met Dr. Word and Robin for our Thanksgiving dinner at the local Huddle House which was in easy walking distance of the hotel. I think the Huddle House was the only open restaurant within 50 miles of our location on Thanksgiving Day.

Friday and most of the day on Saturday we knocked around Natchitoches visiting Oakland Plantation, Kaffie-Frederick General Store. The Oakland Plantation tour was very much enjoyed, and well, if you need it, I bet Kaffie-Frederick General Store has it, and after all, Christmas is just around the corner. Lunch on Friday was the much mentioned Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant and it was one not to miss and certainly made up for the short comings of our Thanksgiving dinner.



Johnston Family Photo Thanksgiving 2017



Esso sign from Oakland Store

The Christmas lights were on along the Cane River downtown. The walk along the river walk on Friday night was cool but much enjoyed. The lights were great.



Natchitoches Christmas lights

On Saturday, the ladies had to make the craft show downtown, more Christmas shopping so I was told, while the guys toured the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. We enjoyed the presentations which were well done and surprised to see a Bonneville Salt Flat speedster that was on display. The remainder of Saturday and Sunday were spent touring the country side on the way back to home. Hope that your Thanksgiving was just as enjoyable as ours.



Hel's Angel *Note although the script on the car indicated it to be "Hell's Angel" the write up indicated that was a late change to the car during a restoration.

The car has a 1956 Thunderbird frame, a 429 Chrysler Hemi with a GMC Blower attached. In 1963 it recorded its fastest speed at Bonneville at 241+ mph driven by the builder L.W. "Knot" Farrington owner of Knot's Auto Service in New Orleans.

Membership News

by Stephen Turner



Please join me in welcoming **David Shivers** into the English Motoring Club. He owns a 1977 MGB and a 1978 Triumph Spitfire.

Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



EMC Brits on the Bluff participants assemble in the Natchez Visitors' Center parking lot prior to a parade through the downtown area in 2002. On the right side of the photo, from left, are **Tom Schmitz** (yellow shirt) and **Gus Fell** from the South Alabama British Car Association and **Dennis Lofton** and **Parker Hall** from the EMC. The black vehicle at the far right is Parker's handsome and rare Arnolt-Bristol.

EMC CHRISTMAS

BY GENE JOHNSTON

Vicksburg MS – 2017 ended in the usual EMC fashion with **Pat and Barbara Cashman** hosting a grand gathering on Cherry Street with representatives of the English Motoring Club, the Mississippi Mercedes Benz Club and the Deep South Alfa Romeo Club in attendance. Sixteen participants, car count, gathered at the Clinton Visitors Center and motored down the Natchez Trace under overcast skies.

The day had started out with spotty showers and fog in the area but our travels were by no means a washout, as a matter of fact the cool temps just let the engines loaf along at a nice pace, the engines purring as we rocked along. We made a right on Hwy 27 and turned toward Vicksburg, just north of Rocky Springs. Everyone agreed it was a nice drive over and after the party, the drive home was even nicer as the sun had made an appearance and at our back just illuminated the fall foliage for us on the way home.



From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



I was given an old, yellowed journal that belonged to my great grandmother. It was filled with her handwritten recipes, notes, and many household tips! Turning the worn pages, I came across this delightful poem in her handwriting. It is a hilarious play on words that shows young wives how to treat their husbands well. In return the wife gets a husband who will stay with you as long as you will have him! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did! It is thought that this story originated in New England in the early 1880's. Since this is hard to read, I typed it below. -DD

How to cook a Husband.

"a good many husbands are entirely spoiled by mismanagement in cooking, and they are not tender and good. Some women keep them too constantly in hot water; others freeze them; others put them in a stew; others keep them constantly in a pickle. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be good and tender if managed in this way, but they are truly delicious if properly treated."

"Don't keep him in the kettle by force as he will stay there himself if proper care is taken. If he should sputter and spit, don't be alarmed. Some husbands do this. Add a little sugar, a little vinegar, that confectioners call "kisses" and a little salt and vinegar or pepper. A little spice improves him, but it must be used with judgement. Do not try him with anything sharp, to see if he is becoming tender. Turn him gently lest he be too long in the kettle and become hard and castles. If you follow these directions, you will find him very palatable. Agreeing nicely with you, he will keep as long as you wish to have him."

How to Cook a Husband

“A good many husbands are entirely spoiled by mismanagement in cooking, so they are not tender and good. Some women keep them constantly in hot water; others freeze them; others put them in a stew; others keep them constantly in a pickle. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be good and tender if managed in this way, but they are truly delicious if properly treated.”

“Don’t keep him in the kettle by force, as he will stay there himself if proper care is taken. If he should sputter and fizz, don’t be anxious. Some husbands do this. Add a little sugar, the variety that confectioners call “kisses”, but on no account add vinegar or pepper. A little spice improves him, but it must be used with judgment. Do not try him with something sharp to see if he is becoming tender. Stir him gently, lest he lie too long in the kettle and become flat and tasteless. If you follow these directions, you will find him very digestible, agreeing nicely with you, and he will keep as long as you want to have him.”

My great-grandmother, and the husband she cooked until he was just right.



Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2018 Calendar

Reminder: **January 20th** will be the annual business meeting and awards luncheon at **Berry's Fish House** in Florence at 11:30 a.m.

***** We are looking for a volunteer to organize the 2018 Drive Thru History in May. *****