

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



“A gentleman does not motor about after dark.”

Joseph Lucas

January 2023



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

Online at www.msemc.org/club-news/

Editor: Kelly Turner

DECEMBER 2022 MEETING

By Jennifer & Will Duncan

Thank you to everyone who made it to Clinton for the Christmas party! While the kitchen remodel was not complete, it was functional, and the food was great and so was the company. Everyone mingled for an hour or so, then Clay blessed the food and everyone dug in. No one does a pot luck better than the EMC. For the second year in a row, the weather was unseasonably warm and even obliged us by staying dry, so some chose to eat outside to enjoy the patio and the lake, and even get in some knitting. We hosted, but this was truly a group effort. We were so glad for the food and fellowship, and we hope to see everyone back in Clinton on Saturday, December 2, 2023!

Mini Tech Session on Seat Belts

As things were winding down after the party, Gene, Charlie, Clay, and I adjourned to the workshop for a quick look at the new seat belts I bought for the B. I'd been looking for some quality three-point static seat belts similar to the original Kangols for a couple of years, and I even bought a set of originals shortly before this year's Brits on the Bluff planning to restore them. However, I had also found a set of new belts very similar to the originals, with the only difference being an aircraft-style buckle instead of the magnetic catch the Kangols have. We agreed that they appeared to be of good quality and were pleased that they even came with all the hardware to replace the existing studs on the rear deck, complete with a spring-loaded metal retainer button to keep the end of the belt from coming off the stud as opposed to the original plastic retainers. After some test fitting, it became apparent that, while the new posts would certainly be sturdy, the metal retaining button required a large fender washer under the stud to prevent the spring supporting the button from ruining the paint around the post. For aesthetic reasons, I decided to go with the somewhat newly-available reproduction plastic retainers so that I could continue to use the

original mounting points on the back deck and avoid having to use the fender washers. Since then, I've also purchased a set of seat belt guides that attach to the headrest posts so that the belts fit properly and are easy to find when we're ready to use them. Now I just need to find a good time to install them, and we'll be all set for driving season!



DECEMBER MEETING



TECH SESSION SEATBELT



A EULOGY FOR JOHN SIMMERS

By Pat Cashman



John Simmers. Well, Barbara and I met him when we were both in SCCA. We were looking for a SCCA chapter as Barbara had done timing and scoring of races and also corner working. This was in the early 80s and since we were raising small children, we did not do a lot with the group. A 1979 Chevy Malibu with F-41 sport suspension and a transplanted 350 V-8 was not what most SCCA guys wanted to see. I did have my 74 TR6, but it was my daily driver and not set up for auto crossing or racing.

At first meeting, John came across to me as an arrogant know it all. I remember talking to my wife (her first sports car was a 427 Cobra) and pointing out that it was stupid to live in the same town and belong to the same club with the same interests and not be friends. I decided that I would be his friend. After a while, we did become friends and he was an anchor of what was to become the English Motoring Club.

John was the Rally Master of many of our well-known for a while Empire Trophy hare and hound rallies around Vicksburg. John did it all by himself. We had people come from Memphis and New Orleans and farther afield for these events. John had us do team judging rather the usual popular choice voting at our shows.

He was later what he called “chief,” not president, of the club. He was very proud of his Scots heritage (Lindsey Clan on his mother’s side.). Their tartan was a lovely mauve and turquoise plaid and he wore his kilt at every occasion. He and I carried flags for the Highland Games for many years. We joined the Caledonian Society at his urging and attended their annual Robert Burns dinner in full regalia.

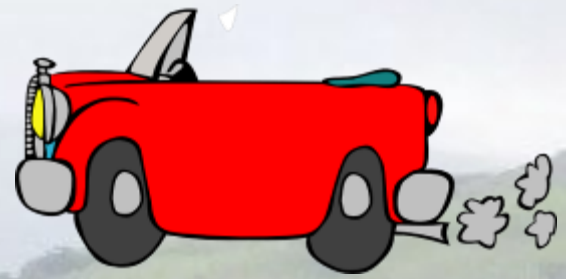
In 2004, Barbara and I loaded up the Armstrong Siddeley on the trailer with her full wardrobe of vintage clothing and head to the Roadster Factory Summer party. We stopped by the Simmers’ homeplace for a few days on the way up and back. They were gracious hosts and I will miss him greatly.



EXHAUST RATTLES

The GT's Engine and Transmission Gets Exhumed

By Charlie Durning



Opportunities abound when there is a need to exhume the engine from a car. To name a few, fixing oil leaks, inspecting the clutch, and refreshing engine mounts comes to mind. In this case it was none of those. Sure I replaced the transmission, clutch, engine and trans mounts, as well as addressed some leaks. In this case, it was to use both new and old “special” tools.

After observing how the rocker studs bend during engine extraction, I thought there had to be something better than the usual “L” shaped brackets. The solution was to make a bracket that did not introduce a bending moment on those studs while the engine was suspended.



To make the bracket I dug out a piece of angle iron and some scrap short pieces. I marked the angle iron and drilled holes so the angle iron would fit over the 5/16” rocker studs. Then, I welded a tab on each end of the angle iron. Holes were drilled in those tabs in line with the holes for the rocker studs. And lastly, shackles were installed through the tab holes. The end product will allow a hoist to be attached for lifting the engine without introducing and bending moment to the rocker studs. It worked on both the GT and the Morris.

The old tool that was used is my 55year old pilot bushing puller. I know that on popular TV shows the hosts will fill the cavity with grease and then pound in a dowel to remove the bushing. That does work but all creates an unnecessary mess. The bushing puller is simple and easy to use.

The third “special” tool used during the process was a homemade clutch alignment tool. Sure, I could have used the universal tool that I used on the Morris, but this was different. What I had was a spare first motion shaft from a 4 synchro transmission. The weight and size of the gear in that shaft makes it awkward to use as a clutch alignment tool. The gear was cut off, a nut welded to the end of the shaft, and a bolt from the goldmine was used as an extension. In the end, those tools made the process of exhuming and servicing the engine much easier.



Lifting bracket



Bushing removed



Converted first motion shaft



Extracting the bushing



Bracket fit to engine



Bushing puller



THE PERFECT PICNIC

From Hilda Leyel's *The Perfect Picnic*

Menu No. 13

Stuffed Pimentos

Roast Pork & Sauce Robert

Potatoes in Jackets

Cream cheese, Black Olives, & Cream Crackers

Stuffed Pimentos Take green or red pimentos or some of each. Cut off the tops, chop them up and fry them in butter till soft and brown with two sliced onions, season with salt and pepper and add a teacupful of water, two tablespoonfuls of tomato juice and a teacupful of half-cooked and well-drained Patna rice. Add a little butter and strain the sauce, keeping aside the liquid that comes from it. Stuff the pimentos with the mixture and cook them in oven in a casserole with the liquid poured over until soft, about 15-20 minutes.

Roast Pork Choose a nice piece of neck with the outer skin or crackle. Put it into a hot oven for the first 5 minutes and then lower the heat and cook very slowly, basting well till finished. Leave it to cool. This should be served in one piece and is very delicious with cold apple sauce and Sauce Robert. The dish should be decorated with sprigs of parsley.

Sauce Robert Chop up several onions and fry them in two ounces of butter in a closed pan for fifteen minutes. Then remove the lid, stir in a dessertspoonful of flour with a wooden spoon, and when it has become soft and brown, pour over it half a pint of hot stock. Season it with a teaspoonful of made mustard, a teaspoonful of red wine vinegar and salt and pepper to taste. Reduce the sauce a little by further boiling, and stir all the time.

Potatoes in Jackets Take as many large potatoes as are required. Cook them in their skins in the oven and, when cool, cut off the tops, keeping them carefully, and scoop out all the potato. Mix in a bowl with pepper, salt, butter and a little milk into a smooth puree. Half fill the cases and break an egg into each. Put into the oven to set the eggs, and then fill up with the puree and put on the ends and serve cold.

SATURDAY MORNING TINKERING

By John Turbeville



On a cool Saturday in December, Keith Anderson found time to spend the day playing cars with me. In particular, my 69 TR6 which is undergoing a frame-off resto. I bought the car from Al Adams before they moved to TN. It ran some but not smoothly, and the paint was hastily done, showing sanding marks. It simply needed a restoration to bring her back into top-notch shape. My research on the red car included purchasing a British Motor Heritage Certification which said it was once Royal Blue. It also indicated that it was number 1672 off the assembly line making it an early car. Restoration has been slow as the years seems to keep passing by. The goal of this project was to learn how it all works to make a classic car move down the road and acquire skills along this journey. Keith has been so faithful to lend his expertise as we are now assembling the engine. Hopefully in 2023 it will go back into the car and we get to hear that 2.5 liter engine roar to life. Then Keith and I will learn about a Toyota 5-speed transmission conversion and the power steering unit I have waiting patiently to be installed. Keith, do you think we will have her in a paint booth in 2023? ...Keith? ...Keith? ..hello?



Fun and Games with a Lotus Europa

Or

How the Lucas Gods Always Win!

Part 4

By Richard Greene



So here's where I am at this point: The high beam indicator works. The right turn signal indicators stay on and do not flash. The left turn signal lights only the indicator on the dash (and does not flash). I now believe that tying the left and right indicators on the speedometer to the single indicator on the dash was causing cross flow of some type. I decided to rewire the speedometer turn indications directly to the turn signal wires rather than together on the DP10. Again with my head under the dash, sweat running into my eyes and the blood rushing to my head. I believe that I actually saw a giant head of Colin Chapman floating in front of me as I hallucinated. Finally got the wires sorted out, sat in the drivers seat to clear my head. Turned the key on and tried the turn signals.

Everything finally worked. **NOT**. Now the left turn signal only flashed in the new speedometer and the right did nothing.

So now, I decided it was time to check all connections and traced all the wires from the source to the termination. After exhaustive study, I found that 3 or 4 turn signal bulbs were bad and that a ground connector came off at the rear indicator & brake. Since the grounds are shared and cross at the bulbs, it made sense that everything was haywire. Luck would have it; I had some spare bulbs and replaced them on the spot. Connected the ground wire back to the housing and hoped for the best.

Now, with the key on all the signals worked as they should, the indicators on the dash and the new speedometer were in sync and the backlight came on with the lights. Hip, Hip, Hooray. Queue the theme song from "2001 A Space Odyssey". Time to install the speedometer into the dash and move on to another project. Got the speedometer installed into the dash and re-checked signal functions. Everything was fine and worked, as they should. Happy Days are here again. Well, not quite.



FROM THE PASSENGER SEAT



By Kelly Turner

Even though I don't particularly care for smelling like gasoline after riding in the TR6, I can't deny it's LBC charm, and neither, apparently, can my sister, a photographer who recently purchased a Polaroid camera. Eager to try it out (even more than she had on our family already), she suggested a photoshoot with it and specifically requested that we have the "fancy little car" (her words, not mine) in the shots. You decide — were we the subject of the photos, or did the car steal the show?



Correction on November 2022 article (“Offside Undo?”):

It was Alex Wade who officially named the newsletter *The Off-side Undo*, not the Cashmans.

Membership Dues: It's that time of year again. Please send in your membership dues to Stephen Turner at 104 Southpark Dr. Vicksburg, MS 39180. He will also be at the January kick-off meeting if you would like to give it to him in person. Dues are \$25.00 for the year. Checks can be made out to MS Eng-

EMC 2023 CALENDAR

*EMC hosted events are posted in red.

January 21, 2023 - EMC 2022 Awards & 2023 Kick-Off / Florence MS - The EMC will be meeting At Barry's Seafood at 11:30 am for our annual Business Meeting and Awards Banquet. Barry's is located at 2942 US 49 in Florence, MS. We will be discussing future events for 2023. Your input is requested. We are always looking for someone to lead a drive along the roads less traveled to some out of the way place for lunch. Additionally, there will be awards! An award can be given to anyone for anything. Of course, there are the perpetual awards. For those who have a perpetual award, we will see who gets them next. The EMC's Eager Beaver will be looking for a new home, so it's recommended that you are present to ensure The Beav goes to a deserving new home. So, make plans to join us for a good time of conversation, good food, and some fun. Hope to see you all there. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Charlie Durning (601) 668-7909.

February 18, 2023 – EMC Tech Session / Vicksburg MS – The EMC will start out 2023 with a tech visit to the garage of Pat and Barbara Cashman. Pat will check around for a project or two, we'll eat some good food and share some time together. This party's always fun. Bring a dish and join the wrenching at 11:00am and lunch at 12:00pm. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601) 630 - 7837 or (601) 831 - 0063.

March 18, 2023 - EMC Tops Down / Rocky Springs MS - For 2021 the EMC will be meet at Rocky Springs MS on the Natchez Trace with the hope of an early spring and a celebration of St. Patrick's Day so you might consider wearing a wee bit of green to avoid a pinch. Bring a dish and enjoy the afternoon with the EMC family and friends. Those leaving from the Jackson area will depart from the Clinton MS Visitors Center (on the Natchez Trace) at 10:00am. Details: Keith / Pat Anderson (601) 829 – 2573.

March 25, 2023 – New Orleans British Car Day / New Orleans LA - Get your registration in early for the BMCNO British Car Day. The EMC will join the BMCNO in the celebration of British Car Day. The EMC hopes for a good member turn out to enjoy the celebration with our friends in Louisiana. Watch their website and click on the calendar for show details: www.bmcno.org.

April 14-15, 2023 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL - For the 29th 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. The Friday night gathering is a do not miss so make plans early. Details: www.pbca1.com

April 20-23, 2023 – MG GOF South / Gainesville FL – GOF-South 2023 welcomes all MG cars from the Marque's production conception in the Abingdon Works, a few Later Models, and nominated Classic Variants. In addition, we have teamed up with the North American MGA Register to Showcase the MGA series cars by featuring a NAMGAR Regional Event within GOF-South 2023. Details: <https://www.gofsouth.org>

April 20 - 23, 2023 –The Natchez Concours d'Elegance / Natchez MS - 1st Annual Natchez Concours d'Elegance. Show date is Saturday April 22. Open to all European Cars over 20 years old and all ages of Rolls-Royce and Bentley's and all ages of European "Exotic" cars. Meet Hotel / The Natchez Grand Hotel. Details: www.natchezconcours.com or Richard Branyan (601) 807 – 4081.

June 12 -16 2023 – NAMGAR GT- 48 Memphis TN – If you are into extended driving in your MGA join this group of drivers/riders for the 2023 Gathering of the Faithful. Just a hop and skip up the road and you'll be glad you made the trip for the 48th annual national gathering. Details; <https://namgar.com>

June 17, 2023 – 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.

July 17 – 20, 2023 – NAMGBR 2023 MGs in the Foothills / Calgary, Alberta Canada – Make plans to attend the 2023 North American MGB Registers annual gathering. For 2023 it will be held in Calgary Canada. If you're follower of the marque and you've not made a NAMGBR event this is the upcoming event for you. Make plans early. Details: <https://mg2023.regfox.com/calgary>

June 18 – 23, 2023 Triumph Register of America National Meet / Oxford OH - A bit of a ride for those from the Deep South however if you've never made a national TR event make your plans early. and happen to be in the area drop in. The TR always fills the calendar with events during their annual meet. Make plans early. Details: <http://triumphregister.com>

July 15, 2023 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS - I'm sure we'll find some interesting roads on our way down to the beautiful burg of Braxton. Come and join the drive and the visit with Mike and Alice. Bring a dish and enjoy lazing on a sunny afternoon in the summertime with the EMC. Gathering starts at 11:00am with lunch at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231 – 5801.

August 19, 2023 – EMC Garage and Food Tour / Brandon MS (Tentative) – The Bailey family throws a great party in lead up to the EMC Brits on the Bluff car show. Come on out and see what has added or improved on for 2023. Always lots 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: Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

August – September (Dates TBA), 2023 – Vintage Triumph Register North American Challenge / (Location to be announced). If you're looking for a national convention to attend this one is a bit closer to home. Tech sessions, vendors and autocrossing along with all sorts of other fun. Details: <https://vintagetriumphregister.org>

September (Dates TBA), 2023 - 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 19th Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: www.britshironnwa.org

September 15-16, 2023 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS – We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 26th 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 Bluff Park. 2023 information and registration form will be posted approximately 60 days prior to the event. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

October 13-14, 2023 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS – Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 15th Annual Renaissance Car Fest. The 2022 event was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2023. 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 Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

October (usually the first or second weekend. Dates TBA), 2023 – Nashville British Car Show / Nashville TN - If you're looking for a nice drive up the Natchez Trace there's no better reason than to attend the 28th Annual Nashville British Car Club Show. Lots to do including taking in the Lane Museum of Cars while in town. A reception is held on Friday evening and the shows on Saturday. Details: www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org.

October (usually the third weekend. Dates TBA), 2023 – Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show / Madison MS – Looking for a great weekend auto activity? This local show is in its 19th year and sponsored by the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. For show registration and scheduling check out their website at www.MSClassicCruisers.com. If you'd like to park in the Little British Car area contact Keith Anderson. Details: Keith Anderson (601) - 829 – 2573.

October 20 – 21 2023 – South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope AL - It's a nice drive down to the fair community of Fairhope AL so join the caravan to the lovely city by Mobile Bay. The Friday night meet and greet is always fun and the food is fantastic. Join EMC members to drive and celebrate this show in its 33rd year! Details: www.sabcc.org.

November 4, 2023 – EMC Tech Session / Ridgeland MS - We'll have the chili on the stove and a wrench ready for stirring. We'll put together a project or two or perhaps take one apart. Hope you can make the final tech session of 2020. The garage opens at 11:00am and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

December 2, 2023 – EMC Christmas Party / Clinton MS – The EMC has been invited to the home of Will and Jennifer Duncan for the year end 2023 Christmas Party. Make plans to join us to wind down 2023 with the EMCs year end gathering. Details: Will / Jennifer Duncan JenniferLongmireDuncan@outlook.com.