

OFFSIDE UNDO

English Motoring Club  
Jackson, Mississippi

By: Al Adams

We've been so busy doing shows and events this year that we have had very little time to sit down and write about them. Here are some capsule shots of club activities and events since our last posting.

\*\*\* Pensacola Beach Bash and All-British Car Show

Held in late April, this was a first time event for Debbie and me. We always heard it was great fun, but had not been able to attend previously due to other commitments, usually the British Car Gathering at Townsend, TN which is held at about the same time each year.

The show was certainly everything it was touted - maybe even more. The weather and setting were everything you would want a beach show to be and the organizers did a super job. We had pulled an empty car-hauler down from Brandon so we could pick up a '74 MGB GT we recently purchased *again* (this is the second time we have owned this car - but that's another story) and arrived late for the hospitality dinner but early enough to enjoy the camaraderie and the evening's cool gulf breeze. Our youngest son and his family came in the next morning and we were able to spend some fun beach time with them before moving on to the show.

Others in attendance with cars included the Cashmans, Schmidts, Johnstons, Haydens, and Silhans. For the EMCers, the highlight of the show was the well-deserved capture of the first place trophy by Barry and Patti for their TR7. Barry's spirited comment "No longer a bridesmaid" was right on and we were all very happy and proud for them.

\*\*\* Annual "Drive through History"

This year's drive was less attended than usual, but that was expected due to it being an overnight event. Nevertheless, it was a very memorable tour and very much enjoyed by those able to make the trip. Our little group including John Turbeville, Jim and Faye Enzman, Gene and Martha Johnston, Keith and Pat Anderson, Dennis and Mary Katherine Loftin, Pat and Barbara Cashman, and Debbie and me met at the Ridgeland Natchez Trace Visitors Center and headed north early Saturday morning for the long ride along the trace to Tupelo. After stopping to enjoy a traditional Southern breakfast at Gaf's in Kosciusko, we trekked on with very few stops along the way. The idea was to arrive in Tupelo in time to tour the new car museum and take in some of the sights at the first annual "Blue Suede Cruise". Since I'm not much of a hotrod guy, the Cruise wasn't my cup of tea, but was being enjoyed by many. For a first time event, it looked to have a great future. The car museum, however, was a different story. I'm just going to say it was more than worth the drive and I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in old cars or just an interest in history. There are about 125 vehicles there from about 1890 on and all were in fantastic condition. You'll seldom see a collection like this anywhere.

After doing the car things, Debbie and I went to see Elvis's birthplace. We found it fascinating that someone of such great fame could have started in such a humble abode. The very small two-room house was said to have



been built for \$180 by Elvis's father during the depression and had it repossessed because he couldn't pay the mortgage.

The club's favorite honcymooners, Richard and Gigi Crichton drove down from Nashville to join us for a great dinner at one of Tupelo's fine restaurants. After a good night's rest, the Crichtons headed back to Nashville in their new Mini and we motored home with several stops along the way to enjoy some of the Natchez Traces historical highlights. Deb and I left the tour early due to mechanical issues, but the rest of the group stopped at French Camp Academy for lunch at the school cafeteria and a tour of the French Camp Rainwater Observatory. From all accounts this was a very interesting and educational tour and demonstration. The group was surprised to find the telescopes there are the largest between Atlanta and Houston.

The "Tour through History" is definitely a premiere club event. I hope every club member will make an earnest effort to join us next year to find out just how much pleasure these old cars along with good friends have to offer.

### \*\*\* Tech Session at Jake and Susan Weaver's

A visit to Jake and Susan Weaver's home and garage is always a great pleasure. As the home is something that could easily be subject of the feature article in *Architectural Digest*, so any of the cars could be the feature article of *British Car* or *Classic and Sports Car* magazines. One of Jake's two (yes, I said two) gorgeous TR3s was the subject of this year's tech session. The objective of the meeting was to get the car running and enjoy some grilled burgers. To make a long story short, all efforts of the day by some of the best minds in the EMC failed to reach to first goal and everyone left the event mechanically frustrated but gastronomically fulfilled. No amount of timing checks, ignition component inspection, starter fluid squirting, or uttering of expletives could get the car fired up. To everyone but Dave Toney's surprise, Jake was later able to do what the whole group could not. On Dave's recommendation, Jake put in a brand new set of spark plugs and all the problems were immediately solved. The group had inspected and tested the old plugs several times during the session and they seemed to be in perfect condition. This is the third or fourth time I've heard this problem and solution over the last couple of years. So when all else fails and everything looks okay, remember to try a new set of plugs before giving up and selling or crushing the car.

### \*\*\* World of Show and Go

Held at the Trade Mart on the state fairgrounds, this is a big-time annual event including cars of all eras - hot rods, classics, antiques, racers, dragsters, and other things automotive. Barry Schmidt and John Turbeville had attended in 2002 and recommended the show on several occasions over the past year. The EMC made an excellent showing with 10 cars and 9 members on hand. Gene Johnston, John Turbeville, and Renee Cole showed up with their MGB roadsters. Others included Bob Holland (MG Arkley Midget), John Lange (MGTC), Dennis Loftin (XKE), Pat Cashman (Armstrong Siddeley), Barry Schmidt (TR7 modified), Debbie Adams (Rover P4), and Al Adams (Bugeye Sprite).

As it turned out, John and Barry were right on regarding the quality of the show and the publicity it brought our club and our cars. This an easy show - bring your car Friday, leave it inside in a secure dry 72 degree environment, attend when you want, and pick up the car Sunday evening. Meanwhile, thousands get to see and enjoy our cars. We get lots of publicity and appreciation of these great old machines. Our thanks to CarQuest and all the volunteers who really did a great job putting on such an event.

### \*\*\* Upcoming events

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September 20 - trip to Fred Fabre's Carriage House Motors in Baton Rouge. Carriage House Motors is housed in an old automobile dealership and presents a great collection of NOS parts, model trains, autos, and other interesting items. Fred will direct a tech session in a format for those "who don't like tech sessions". A most enjoyable and fun afternoon is promised by those who have attended these sessions in the past.

October 10 and 11 - "Brits by the River" - This year our "really big shoo" will be held across the river from Natchez on the Vidalia (LA) Riverwalk. A block of rooms has been set aside at our host hotel, the Comfort Suites, also on the Riverwalk. Lorraine's restaurant is right there, too. I've completed the taste test and Lorraine's passed with flying colors. Show planning is incomplete, but we will hold some sort of hospitality activities Friday evening as usual and are trying to schedule a pre-show cruise through Vidalia and Natchez Saturday morning. I am told the weather will be perfect this year, so mark your calendar now and show up with something British (running or not). Terry and Meridith, John and Florence, and many others have done so much to establish our show as a premiere British car event that is looked forward to by so many folks, both inside and outside our club. I hope every EMC member will join me in continuing their precedence. This is one event where we **all** need to make a special effort toward participation and attendance - rain or shine.

\*\*\* New Member

Let's all give a hearty "welcome aboard" to our newest member, Dave Kelly of Madison, MS. Dave is a Jaguar (E type) kind of guy who became acquainted with the club after seeing Keith Anderson's E type parked at a shopping center. This marks another reason it is so important to get out and drive these cars.

\* Member submissions

If any club members would like to submit any articles, tech tips, or entries of other sorts to this news forum, please forward them to Al Adams or Pat Cashman via email or snail mail. We will be happy to edit and publish them as soon as possible.