

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

Volume 28

July 2014



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

Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

On the web at www.msemc.org

Two for the Road

By Gene and Martha Johnston

This is the first 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”.

Ridgeland MS - Very early in the am of June 14th Martha and I, having loaded the car the night before struck out north bound on the Natchez Trace greeted by glowing eyes of deer that were not interested in moving possibly due to the cool temps. Starting out with the hood down seemed like a good idea in the wee hours of the morning but within an hour Martha advised that the hand towels that I had supplied for



An Early Morning Stop at Witch Dance on the Natchez Trace

warmth were not sufficient and required a stop to erect the hood. As we continued into mid-morning we chased the crows off the warm asphalt and disturbed their quest for bugs left over from late night and early morning impacts with passing cars. From the early morning stop to erect the hood it remained up

with the windows, including the zip out down for the cooling breeze. Following my mistake of 2006 when Martha was baked within four hours of departing for Gatlinburg with no zip out and not wanting to microwave under a black top with limited venting I was determined that wouldn't happen again. Aided with a cooler stocked with ice, liquids and using those new-fangled cooling bandanas and a water sprayer most of our trip was quite pleasant, at least until we got snarled in traffic but that was a few days away. Stop for night one was in Nashville to attend an outdoor concert with friends before turning in early for our planned early departure on day two. Total miles day one, 372 miles.



Driving an MG =’s smiles all around

Well, the planned early evening wasn't early enough and following a brunch tour of Nashville with some Nashville Cats we didn't get away as early as planned so, on the road by mid-day the temperature had begun to climb. Using the cooling bandanas and making use of the water mister we managed to stay



Crossing The Ohio River near Tell City Indiana

comfortable. We left the interstate system departing Nashville as quickly as possible via Highway 31W, picking up Highway 41 then Highway 431 as we traveled thru Kentucky. We really enjoyed the stately old barns overlooking fields of tasseled corn. The rolling hills and great vistas made for splendid drive as we crossed into Indiana near Tell City. We made a stop for lunch there and then continued east paralleling

the Ohio River on Highway 66 before turning north on Highway 37/145 as we finished the day with a wonderful view of Southern Indiana, traveling thru Hoosier National Park and the end of our second day of travel at the French Lick Resort and home of MG 2014. Arriving about 4:30pm the parking lot in front of the resort was at capacity with MG's, mostly "B"s but with a good contingent of "C"s and Midgets. The parking lot party was well underway. The atmosphere was so electric made it difficult to leave the



The Gilded Dome of the Terrace Garden at French Lick Resort

friends that had arrived before and continued to arrive afterwards as we checked in and relocated Ole Red to the parking garage for the evening. Registration and check in was quick and easy and the first day activities included the meet and greet reception on the patio overlooked by the gilded dome of the French Lick Terrace Garden. Total mileage for day two was 217 miles, a cumulative of 589 miles.

We were looking forward to a few days being spent with other MG owners. We hadn't had a vacation in we couldn't remember when and in spite of the potential for high thermal stresses we'd really enjoyed the time together out on the open road thru two days of travels. Stay tuned to next month's wrap up of our time in French Lick and other excursions that we managed to work in.

Other Exhaust Rattles

As referenced in the June OSU Jaby Denton's Jensen Healy is now posted for sell in the classifieds area of the web-site. Now, if I could only find one more parking space.

Fellow M-Braves fan Kent Turner and I have met at M-Braves Field twice recently. Kent indicates that the engine re-build on their TR-6 has been completed and under new power the TR-6 is a joy to drive. We'll look forward to seeing the 6 in action very soon.

My GT has undergone its supercharger-ectomy and I eagerly await the final diagnosis and return.

Royce, we'd like to see you more often, Boyer reports that he has been driving his Tiger. The Tiger is now in for a bit of maintenance, applying new rear brakes and new front bushings. That should settle the roaring Tiger quite a bit.

Ken Dolhonde our lead man for the October 9 – 12, 2014 Six Pack Trials to be held in Oxford MS indicates that he's improved the reliability of his TR-6 with a Gunst axle spacer/reinforcements kit and while at it took the time to re-build the brake master cylinder. I'm all for a stable suspension and reliable

brakes above all else. If you're looking for updates on the 6-Pack Trials check out their website <http://www.2014trials.com>.

Club president Charlie Durning has turned his attention to the new ride that he and Donna recently acquired, replacing seat webbing and installing a custom gauge panel. Sweet!!!! This doesn't look like your father's Morris Minor. Charlie and Clay Johnston have been combing breaker yards recently. Charlie found some wanted and also some unwanted items for the Chick Magnette. The unwanted was a good case of poison ivy and a round with a wasp nest. Charlie has also rescued a '64 B from the crusher and is offering trim parts and glass to those in pursuit.



Charlie's custom Morris Minor dash

Jim Tunzler indicates that he's got a good inventory of parts available MG's, B's and Midgets, Spitfire and TR-7 parts that he's acquired at his shop down in Crystal Springs. To contact Jim you can e-mail him at trunzlerj@bellsouth.net.

That about wraps it up for this edition of the July OSU. Please remember that the EMC needs you! As we approach EMC's Brits on the Bluff scheduled for September 19 – 20 we need all hands on deck to assist with collecting goodie bag articles and door prizes and assist on the show weekend. We'll begin evaluating our inventory and discussing assignments at the Lotus Weekend July 19, 2014 we hope that you can attend.

Happy Motoring,

The EMC

Events Calendar

July 19, 2014– 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. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231 – 5801.

***Reminder:** Those folks leaving from the Jackson MS area, we'll meet at the Coffee and Cars gathering at Primos on Lakeland Drive in Flowood, 8:00am start time, and depart at 10:00am for a leisurely drive down to Braxton.

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.