

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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## Drive Thru History 2014

By Charles Durning

Photos by Donna Durning and Steve Whitlow

**Vicksburg MS** – The day, June 17, 2014, couldn't have been better. We had a good gathering of folks, an eclectic array of cars, and beautiful weather. The day started with a gathering of 12 cars and 22 folks



The Jag 120 was the DTH leader for 2014

at the Bo Gro Texaco in Bovina. After a period of glad handing, tire kicking, and telling tall tales, organizers, Pat and Barbara Cashman announced “forward ho” and precisely at 9:00 Pat and Barbara led our group for a leisurely drive along the two lane roads to our first stop. As an added bonus our fearless leaders provided us with 5 pages of detailed directions and guide to points of interest along the way.

Our first stop was a visit to Richard Lane's WWII military vehicle collection. The collection was amazing with everything from a lowly Ford GPW to massive 5 ton trucks. Richard is British and hails from Yorkshire. He gave an informative presentation of the vehicles and permitted those who were interested freedom to climb on and explore the details of each machine.



One of the many vehicles in Richard Lane's collection

Our fearless leaders rallied the troops for a leisurely drive to the Mississippi Welcome Center, the next destination. There, Pat Cashman gave a history lesson about how Vicksburg was of strategic importance during the Civil War. Pat went on to explain how Grant's Canal rerouted a portion of the Mississippi River so troops could bypass Vicksburg. Many folks took the opportunity for photo ops with the Mississippi River Bridge as the backdrop. Off again Pat led us west onto I-20 for our next stop at the Grant's Canal monument. There were several markers explaining the importance of Grant's Canal. After that short stop we headed west again to our next destination in Tallulah, LA.



P-51 at the Southern Heritage Museum

The short drive took us to the Southern Heritage Museum at the Tallulah Regional Airport. By this time our group had grown to 25 folks and 15 cars. The Southern Heritage Museum has an impressive collection of aircraft and memorabilia. The museum host gave us a short presentation of the features and



Let me see....one, two three four....

the collection of the museum and its purpose. One room was dedicated to former Mississippi Governor Kirt Fordice and his accomplishments as a business man, aviator and governor. We were given free access to all of the hangar areas where we could look and ask questions. Of special interest was the service hangar where numerous antique aircraft were stripped down for their annual service. It is fascinating to see the unusual mechanics and construction used in aircraft over the years. Of particular interest was a Rolls Royce V-12 aero engine on display. That engine was used in the P-51 Mustang. Reluctantly we packed up and traveled east to our next destination, FOOD.



Pat points Charlie toward the lunch stop

Next stop was Rusty's for lunch. The place was very busy so we ended up seating wherever space could be found. The food was good as was the conversation. I'm sure there were many tall tales retold.

Our final 2 destinations were within walking distance from Rusty's. The first of those was the Lower Mississippi River museum. The displays were interesting. There was also a self guided tour of the MV

Mississippi. Unfortunately the lower deck that we most wanted to see was not opened on the day of our visit. Shucks, I wanted to see the pair of Nordberg engines that powered the boat. Perhaps we'll get in on another day. Our last visit was the Old Depot Museum. The Old Depot was filled with interesting artifacts including models of iron clad vessels. Frankly, I never knew so many had been built. The variety is amazing. In addition there were several interesting rail road displays. All in all DTH2014 was a day well spent. Our thanks go out to Pat and Barbara Cashman for their hard work.

Here is a link to a short video of the day's activities:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRTYyijpVms>

### **Other Exhaust Rattles**

Bad news first! The B GT after a very few miles has developed a super charger oil leak that will require a SC-ectomy. RATS! However the interior is in and hopefully after the ectomy it'll be on the road to continue the break in process. Good news is that following a tech session Clay and I got Ole Red ready for the June 14 trip Martha and I will take to French Lick Indiana for MGB 2014.

Two members of the EMC were nationally published in the Moss Motoring magazine (Issue 2, 2014). Ken Dolhonde made the press from his thoughts on the masculine ruggedness of the TR-6 gleaned from the 6-pack website: <http://www.6-pack.org/j15>. Charles Durning was awarded a \$25.00 gift for a submission expressing frustration with our dear friend, fiend? Lucas. "I cut it off twice and it's still too short." Way to go guys!

And while on the subject of Charlie and Donna Durning, Donna loved it and wouldn't let Charlie leave without. They now have a newly acquired bouncing Morris Minor in their collection. From the descriptions and photos it looks to be a real beaut!



The new bouncing Durning Morris

Speaking of new accusations Steve, Karen and Megan Whitlow, and mostly Steve I think, are getting accustomed to their replacement Mini a 2006 model purchased following the accident a month or so ago. The car was purchased in Europe for import to the US by the original owner and has some unusual features. Next time you're around, ask Steve for details.

Mac Culpepper and several friends attended a Vintage and Classic Car Cruise In that took place on the Brick Streets of Old Towne Clinton in May. It was a beautiful day and was a lot of fun for all. This was the first time that we have been to get all the cars together in one place. Mac indicates his Midget still is in need of a clutch and doesn't veer far from Clinton. After the event, they took to the streets to find a place to eat. With full stomachs and after telling about the next LBC projects that they wanted to do they said "goodbyes" and headed back to their respective homes with smiles on their faces.



Cars in Old Clinton: 70 MG Midget (Mac Culpepper), 64 Triumph TR4 (Jim Smith), 63 MGB (Jim Conway) and 69 MGB (David Neeley)

Keith Anderson has been busy during retirement replacing the hood on his TR-6 with great results. He is now laying plans to correct the "professionally installed top that went awry on his E-type. Stay tuned.

The interior on Dominic LaValla's big Healey continues. Dominic and Martha anticipate, and are hopeful that they will see the fall leaves from the cockpit of their pride and joy.

Recent new EMC member Jaby Denton has a spare Jensen Healey that he's looking to depart with. From the photos it looks to be in great shape. Jaby's indicating that he'd like for it to go to a new owner that will appreciate and care for it. I anticipate it will appear in the EMC classifieds soon however if you're interested in an early preview let me know and I'll put you in contact.

Michael Hemsley ran across Mike Glore and his McLaren during the June 7 Euro Car Show held annually at the Naval Air Base in Pensacola FL. Michael reports that there was an excellent showing of her majesties' finest. In addition to Mike's MP4 was a nice MG-TF, Jag 120 Coupe and a '56 Lotus 11

that saw race duty under the reigns of Michael during '70-'71. I believe that I also caught a glimpse of Bill and Melissa Silhan's Triumph 2000 on the field. The photo of the Jag in particular caught my eye and I'm sure it that it will yours.



Jag 120 Coupe at Pensacola Naval Air Base Car Show

I got a quick e-mail a couple of weeks ago that Pat and Barbara Cashman. After hosting the DTH they made tracks up to Hot Springs Village for the May 29 – 31, British National Meet. Post event e-mail indicates that in spite of rain every day they had a great time and their Gordon Keeble was awarded “Crown Jewel” in class. I can hardly wait to hear of their adventures in and around Hot Springs, one of my favorite places to visit.

Following the EMC members trip to the Shoals British Car Show in Florence AL I've receive word that there will be a reciprocal visit from several of the members to Brits on the Bluff 2014.

Speaking of car shows, the 2014 Brits on the Bluff is not too far off, September 19 – 20, 2014. We'll return to one of our favorite hoteliers in Natchez, The Grand and are expecting a big turnout. The EMC is looking for assistance in several areas for this year's show so please, don't be shy. Advance preparation includes tracking down door prizes and items for goodie bags. Please be on the lookout for these items as we approach the show date.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. We hope that you've been able to repair every part that needed it and you've been able to cover many miles of open road so far in 2014. Keep it running. We'll be looking for you out there.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

### Events Calendar

**June 21, 2014 – Coffee and Cars / Flowood MS** – Mike Marsh has organized a great addition to the early morning Primos breakfast gathering with an open invitation to join other car enthusiast in the

parking lot that is shared by Primos and Antonelli college out on Lakeland Drive. It's fun and it's free and you can come and go and enjoy a great breakfast outing. From 7:00am to 10:00am. Details: Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950 or [mike\\_marshall@bellsouth.net](mailto:mike_marshall@bellsouth.net)

**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.

**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 with in walking distance. Details: [www.shoalsbritishcars.org](http://www.shoalsbritishcars.org).