

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

"A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK" JOSEPH LUCAS



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## This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

May turned out to be a fun month. Seventeen brave souls turned out for the unauthorized adventure, **AR2018** for 5 days of fun driving in NW Arkansas. More on that later. The Drive Through History was cancelled due to conflicts. In its place 8 folks gathered for a drive from Florence to **Leatha's** BBQ in Hattiesburg. The route taken was via the fun 2-lane roads and avoided the 4-lane roads. All in all a good time was had by all and the BBQ was outstanding as always.

We have a submission from **Erich Connell** about his love for MG's.

Also in this edition is a reminder about memberships and an announcement of the release of **VP Steve's** new Music CD "The Empty Chair" by his Irish band "**Spirits of the House**".

As always, your contributions are welcome! We hope you enjoy your newsletter!



## Membership news

**Bro Clay** say's we are down about 15 memberships.

A reminder to club members who haven't paid. Contact **Stephen Turner** at [stephendturner89@gmail.com](mailto:stephendturner89@gmail.com) to verify.

There are several unclaimed name tags. Pres John's e-mail address [joturbe@comcast.net](mailto:joturbe@comcast.net)  
Decals. **Bro Gene** has a bunch if anyone needs an EMC decal. [jjohnston18@msemc.org](mailto:jjohnston18@msemc.org).

# Important Announcement!

Congratulations, Steve!

**VP Steve** now has his new CD **"The Empty Chair"** by **Spirits of the House**. It is a collection of Irish instrumentals mixed with a few vocals. Here are the details on how to order.

<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritsoftheHouse/> or @SpiritsoftheHouse will take you to our FB page. 'Likes' always appreciated.

Our webpage lets you sample tracks and has media buttons which take you to Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music or CD Baby.

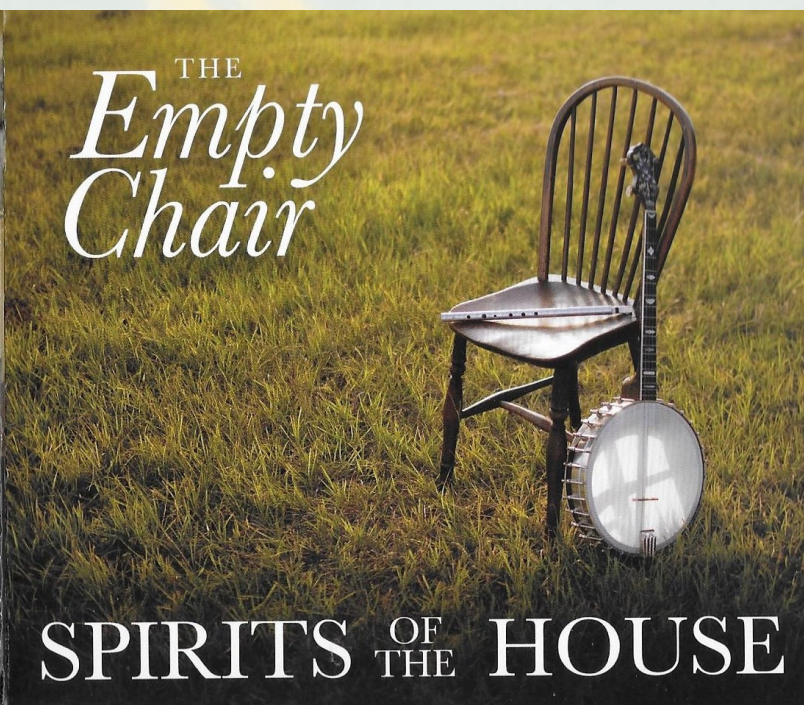
Here's the link. <https://spiritsofthehouse.hearnow.com/>



1. Jon Dodd's / James Murray's / The Butcher's Jig 2. Dunmore Lassies / Four Kisses / Monaghan Twig 3. Shores Of Lough Bran (song) 4. Humours Of Ballymanus / Gort Na Mona 5. Kinvarra Road 6. Micko Russell's / Farewell To Connacht 7. Gallagher's Frolics / Baby Rory's 8. Ever The Winds (song) 9. Humours Of Kilclougher / Martin Wynne's No. 3 / Polly Put The Kettle On / The Linen Cap 10. The Empty Chair



Arrangements: Spirits of the House, 2018, all rights reserved  
Album Concept: Spirits of the House  
Recorded and Mastered: MetroCultural Studios, Jackson, MS





# Exhaust Rattles

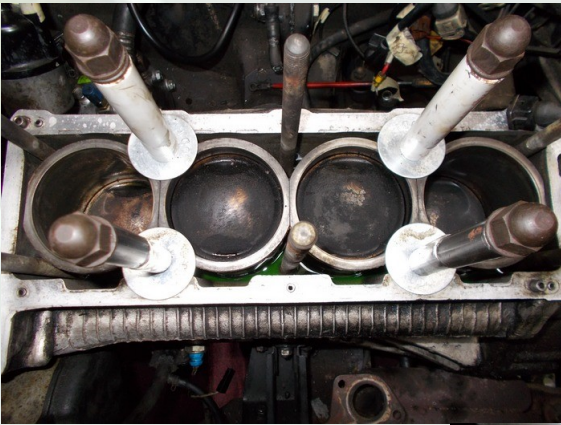
This is not a LBC, but **Paul McNeill** is a faithful member and he had an unfortunate event while participating in an EMC fun drive.

On the way home from the March fun drive Paul's Alfa went up in smoke. **Brian Anderson** is in the process of getting it back on the road.

Note from **Tech Guy Keith**:

Paul's 1986 ALFA engine only had a blown head gasket. Luckily, the head and block are not warped.

The main and rod bearings are the factory original Clevite brand bearings, standard size. In order to increase the oil pressure, all the bearings and oil pump will be replaced. That should get Paul's ALFA back on the road for many more enjoyable years.





# AR 2018

## An Unauthorized Adventure

AR 2018 is now in the books. At the peak we had 17 brave souls and 13 cars. Five had never experienced the fun that can be had in NW Arkansas. The newcomers were **Albert Jacob, Steve Collins, Danny Varnado, and Joe & Barbara Stianchie**. I'm not sure Barbara was prepared to experience AR2018 with a bunch of rowdy guys, but she was a good sport anyway.

Total mileage ranged between 1300 to over 1600 for the round trip. There were only a couple of inconvenient issues with the cars. Those were remedied quickly. **Editor Charlie** lost his oil fill cap and a wheel center cover, and **Danny** had a fuel pump failure. The oil fill cap was repaired with an almond nut bag and a zip tie. The oil fill cap was later found, by **Bro Gene**, on a post when we returned to the Arlington Hotel. Danny's pump was repaired on the road with a pump **Bro Gene** had in his boot.

Here is a link to a video that **Editoret Donna** put together back in 2014 of one of the most challenging and fun roads, **AR Hwy 123**.

### [AR Hwy 123 from 2014](#)

I also found this video where **Danny Varnado's** MGB was featured on **My Classic Car**. Danny's feature is at about 5:10.

### [Danny Varnado's MGB in My Classic Car](#)





Here is a link to pics **Pres John** captured from the event

## [Pres. John's pics from AR2018](#)

Images were captured by **Pres John, Danny Varnado, Joe Stianchie, Bro Dr Word, Editor Charlie, Rick Huber, and Bro Gene.**

**Bro Clay** has posted this collection of photos that were captured by **Bro Dr. Word**. You may have to copy and paste into your browser.

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM-PRX2ed\\_R5nPmObKMawnNOWo8\\_V\\_5Oi0qzD6xSJJMmOjZVtfMu0kx6MGiisruSA?](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM-PRX2ed_R5nPmObKMawnNOWo8_V_5Oi0qzD6xSJJMmOjZVtfMu0kx6MGiisruSA?)





















**A Backward Glance. For the record....the Johnston Brothers chose the lovely accommodations for AR 2010. Looks very romantic.**





# Suzy-B, My Latest MG!

## What Makes One Buy an MG?

By Erich Connell

Let's begin where most likely many of us did, when reaching the age of getting my driver's license in 1972, I fell in love with the car. I sent off to British Leyland in NJ for a brochure and the pricing of the MGB and that was the beginning of my dream of owning the sports car. I had saved enough money to go to college by the time I graduated from HS, 1974 but it was either "college" or the new beautiful sports car, and being the practical person that I am, I chose the college route. That is how it all started.

I did however manage to drive an MGB for the first time when I got my girlfriend's maroon B running again in 1979. Upon graduation from College in 1980 I had a second chance to consider an MG so I went to a Texas foreign car dealer in Houston and test drove a B, but it was so dramatically slower, had those rubber bumpers, and was seriously underpowered, that I felt depressed and walked away from it.

Fast forward to 2000, and I see something under a tarp in a driveway and find out it doesn't run. The owner tells me it was heading for the junk yard. I make an offer of \$400 and tow it to my garage in Stillwater, OK a few days later and have my first MG.



This was a 1971 chrome bumper Golden Bronze with wire wheels. Got it to run, changed the wheels to Rostyle and 2 years later had it about as good as it could be without going overboard and purchased a second one. The idea I had was to take the best of both cars and make one better car. Never finished that project because I purchased a third "dead in the garage" low mileage (28,000,

miles) never been wrecked, Carmine Red 1980 B with wire wheels for \$2000.



The 1980 was under boxes at the time in a garage and had not run in many years. It had unknowingly been used as a cat litter box. Got rid of the second one and the first one and kept the low mileage 1980 and moved it from OK to North Carolina. I bought a fourth MG-B in 2005, a white rusty 1974 with Rostyle wheels that I wanted to put on the 1980 B.

Then some changes in my life....that required a “fire sale” of the MGB, also known as a divorce. Less than a year later could not do without and bought a fifth MG; a 1980 Limited Edition for \$1000 from a friend who did not complete the project. I got it running, just barely, and then I too sold it because I had nowhere to work on it.

When I moved to **Mississippi** I wanted to have another sports car and looked around, but what I was looking at was not very good, until I found the **EMC**, and joined! I asked if anyone knew of a MGB that was looking for an owner and that brings me to my current car, a 1976 MGB, that I purchased on May 9, 2017, from former EMC club members, the **Enzman's**.

I went to see the car in Bude, MS and liked it. A week later got a trailer and towed it back to Hattiesburg where the car now resides.



It took me nearly 2 weeks of every day fiddling with the car to get it started. I had exchanged many emails to **Keith Anderson** (whom I had not met at the time) and then joined in by other members of the EMC, until finally one frustrating Saturday morning, while I was sitting in my garage totally dumbfounded that this car would not start.....I got a call on my cell phone! “I hear you are having trouble getting your car started”. And I thought which neighbor has been watching me and noticed I was in the garage with this car that I couldn’t get to run. I asked, how do you know I cannot get my car started? And then **Clay Johnston** said in his kind southern voice, “I am a member of the car club and we heard about your situation!” Next thing you know, 45 minutes later, after **Clay and Charlie Durning** came down from Magee, Mississippi and got the car running in the next five minutes.... As you know, these two guys can make any MG sing and I now I have one that does just that!





What I had originally hoped was something I could drive around and have some fun with grew into something far more meaningful, as I have spent numerous Saturdays and a few Sundays at the **DG (Durning Garage)**. I've made friends with **Steve, Clay, Charlie** by way of being auto mechanics. I've met other members as I have started to attend various events. This club has been a wonderful find, and if there is anyone who wants an MG or another British

car, you would find the EMC of Mississippi a great bunch of good folks to hang with! That is what I hope, to do more of, as the time goes on!

I have owned my car now for a little over a year, driven it as much as 700 miles in two days, and learned that the car is still as beautiful and satisfying as I had imagined in HS. I've tuned the carbs, set and polished the valves, adjusted the timing, changed the oil, replaced the radiator, messed with wires, spilled oil everywhere, brought it back to original wheels (apparently I have a thing for Rostyle wheels).





And I'm still trying to get the oil to stop leaking— something that brings on a laugh among MG owners! Still have that as a goal!

I named my car "**Suzy-B**" and drive her regularly, have an appreciation for the car, but more importantly, an appreciation of the people who own them. Cheers + Very cool and get an MG if you don't already have one!



***"Safety Fast" – Erich Connell***



# From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



# Happy Father's Day!

This page is dedicated to my wonderful daddy, Charles Barrett. I'm so very blessed to have you as my dad. Don't forget that Father's Day is Sunday, June 17th! I love you, Daddy! Your daughter, Donna





# Upcoming Events

## English Motoring Club 2018 Calendar

**June 16, 2018 – 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 21, 2018 – 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 18, 2018 – EMC Garage and Food Tour / Brandon MS** - David and Jo Ann have a way of throwing a great party in lead up to the EMC show. Come on out and see what David has added or improved on for 2018. 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. Gathering starts at 11:00am. Lunch starts as 12:00pm. Details: David / Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 – 8566.

We hope to see you at an upcoming EMC event for 2018!