



## New Views

**Ridgeland MS** – I must admit I've been a map junkie for years. I cling to them and value them as reminders of excursions across the country on four wheels. I have a fairly large box of them safely tucked away in a closet in the house here. When I hear the highway calling or an event that I've just got to make I'll pull out the map box and start rummaging for the best copy I've squandered away. Mind you, some of the maps are very old from my earliest days of being allowed to leave the confines near home. One of my oldest is a Gulf Tourgide Map likely purchased for an early 70's trip to Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana or some new part of Mississippi I hadn't explored. The map is undated but I haven't seen too many Gulf Oil Service Stations in that last decade or so. As testament to its age areas of the map, mainly in the folds are missing entirely so its future usability is questionable and even more so if you look close and notice that I - 10 across south Louisiana and Mississippi have some rather expansive distances with just the thought of a completed interstate represented by a dashed line. Back in the days when this map was mostly correct I suppose those areas were the boonies, likely not that way anymore. In my youth I enjoyed unfolding a continuous map verses a Rand McNally Road Atlas which I suppose was the alternative. The clear open expanses to be covered just triggered more anticipation than the page flipping that had to be done with the Atlas and the smaller window of view just didn't fuel the fire. And the attempts at refolding the classic station map? You might get it once but after getting tossed around folded, refolded and exposed to all manner of abuse your left with a somewhat folded, somewhat rolled map remnant. After the days of the station giveaways they became too expensive at 25 cents to just throw away. They became relics of the road. I've got my maps, you never know when they maybe a last resort.

Recently Dad and I and our better halves were out and about Tuscaloosa Alabama. When we arrived in the general vicinity of our destination Dad pulled out his GPS and began plugging in the address and shortly the lady in the box began telling us which way we should turn and how far we should travel before altering our directions with another left or right. We entered a very large community just north of town that looked as though it was developed in the last five to ten years. The mostly new houses and surface streets with pretty non-descript names give little hint regarding the relationship of the street your on to the past or upcoming streets and with few directional hints there was always the possibility that you'd end up at the end of cul de sac wondering where you should turn now. But the lady in the box came thru leading us directly to our final stop. One wonders if this new area even appears on a paper map. It may just exist in a computer program somewhere beamed to the box that contains the lady.

I suppose that the days of the station maps are gone for good now, gone with stations that use to purvey them and the friendly station attendant that could give you directions in case you got lost....even with the map.

Maybe one day I'll invest in one of these new fangled GPS things. Unfortunately I don't think that the current generation understands the lure of the road and the maps that went along with them or getting lost for the fun of it knowing that you could open the glove box unfold your map and figure out your location without the assistance of a boxed voice.

### **Tech Session 1**

**Vicksburg MS** – On February 19, I was amiss but a good sized group of EMCer's gathered for Tech Session One at Pat and Barbara Cashman's garage. I understand that John Turbeville's B got a good once over.



The Crew at Tech Session 1

Photo Courtesy Tommy Williamson

### **Tops Down**

**Rocky Springs MS** – Eleven LBC's a Corvette, a Porsche and a Miata all made the 2011 EMC Tops Down gathering at Rocky Springs on Saturday March 19. The Jackson area members gathered at the Clinton Welcome Center for a 10:00am departure only it was going around toward 10:30am before we finished kicking tires and loaded up and headed down the Trace

picking up John Turbeville and Jim and Debby Conway at Airport Road outside Raymond. TD Chairman Keith Anderson led the procession down the road and arriving late but having a really enjoyable ride. On arriving I noted everyone mulling around Jim's MGB and the strong odor of rotten eggs after a little head scratching it was determined that the battery was being overcharged which in turn was boiling water and just baking the stew of it. The picnic table was covered and a grand feast was enjoyed by the twenty or so members that gathered around. New EMC member



Steve with his ultra original '74 Midget

Photo Courtesy EMC

Steve Whitlow made the gathering in his very original 1974 MG Midget and Duke Baker thrilled us with the only Triumph at the gathering. After a couple of hours of soaking in the fellowship and tails it was time to return to the saga of Jim's '63 B. I think that every able, mostly able men and possibly some disabled ones got the opportunity to push Jim around in his B as we attempted to get it running sufficiently to make the thirty or forty mile trip home. But to no avail. One gallant steed was left behind to be rescued a day later. Before I go too far with that however I'm hoping that Debby will fill us in on the diagnosis and recovery process.



Jim and Debby's forlorn '63B

Photo Courtesy EMC

After all of the exercise we determined that it was just too nice a day to head for the confines of home so four of us jumped in behind Tommy and Lynn Williamson for a drive about down Old Port Gibson Road. Although it's a little early for spring it sure seemed that it had arrived to me. Cool breezes and the light green of new foliage flashing by at a goodly clip as I attempted to keep up with the rear bumper of Joe Speetjen's Morgan was just what the doctor ordered to finish of the day. Thanks everyone for turning out. Let's do it again next year.

### **Other Exhaust Rattles**

Jim Enzman continues repairs on his B's hoping to make the New Orleans British Motoring Clubs 21<sup>st</sup> Annual British Car Day show March 18 – 19, 2011. From the talk at Tops Down and from e-mail chatter I've received recently it looks like the EMC will have a pretty good turnout this year.

Mike Glore and Andy Menapace were sent on a mission to Amelia Island for the weekend so they missed Tops Down. We're looking for a lengthy report from them to be in our in bin soon.

I'm glad to report that Sherilyn Durning is doing better per the e-mail I receive from Charlie over the weekend. I sent a note back that we were all pulling for her recovery and we missed both of them and hope they'll be back in our company soon

Also, over the weekend I received a note from Royce Boyer apologizing for missing Tops Down however Royce is in a husbandly way marrying Sherry the weekend prior. Congratulations Royce and Sherry. Hope you can make it out to a gathering soon.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. Hope your wheels are greased and ready to go. Spring is just around the corner. We hope that you can make it out to one of the upcoming gatherings or if you just get a whim and want some good Car-ma drop me an e-mail with your idea and we'll get the word out.

Happy Motoring

### **EMC's Events Calendar**

#### **March 18 – 19, 2011 – New Orleans British Car Day / New Orleans LA**

Grab your coat and hat and join the EMC for the 21st Annual New Orleans British Car Day. They throw a Friday night shin ding that always includes great food, good times and fun in the Crescent City. The EMC will caravan into the Big Easy so make plans on joining us. Details: [www.bmcno.org](http://www.bmcno.org). Travel plans with the EMC: Gene Johnston (601)607-7021

#### **March 26, 2011 – Euro Summit / Ridgeland MS**

Tommy and Lynn Williamson have put together this gathering and it looks like a fun time for drivers of cars from the right side of the pond. Gathering time is from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the parking lot at The Renaissance near Sweet Peppers. Details: Lynn Williamson (601)853 – 1042 or [lynnwm@comcast.net](mailto:lynnwm@comcast.net)

#### **April 2, 2011 – Deep South Alfa Romeo / English Motoring Club Fun Rally**

If you didn't get lost last year and you weren't thrilled by touring the scenic twist and turns of a Mississippi Rally done right, here's another chance. The questions will baffle but there's always a way home if you get in a jam and find yourself out of the way. I can think of no greater and sometimes trying way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Details: Andy / Bonnie Menapace (601)857-2829

#### **April 15 - 16, 2011 - Brits on the Bay / Pensacola FL**

Winter's over and it's time for the flight south to The Panhandle British Car Association's 19th Annual Brits on the Bay Show. Travel down to Pensacola with the EMC to join us for this yearly migration to sunny Florida. Enjoy the beach and the weather while viewing one of the nicest gatherings of Her Majesties' iron works around. The Friday night gathering is a do not miss so make plans early. Details: [www.pbca1.com](http://www.pbca1.com)