

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

“A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK” JOSEPH LUCAS



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This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

Spring has Sprung!

I'm ready for the cold weather to go away and for the days to get longer. Now is the time to get our LBC's out of hibernation and start driving before it starts getting hot for the summer. In March EMC has 2 good opportunities to get out and enjoy a nice drive. **Tech Guy Keith** has planned our annual picnic in Rocky Springs on March 17 and **VP Steve** has spear headed a drive through the back roads on March 31. There are also additional opportunities to show off your pride and joy. Be sure to see the calendar of events both here and on the website.

Exhaust Rattles

by Charlie Durning

Pres John made the decision to install a rear disc brake conversion on his MGB. There were some challenges, but in the end all worked out. It was a good timing since he needed a rear brake overhaul anyway.

Pres John is preparing a report for a future newsletter.



Tech Session Report

By John Turbeville



A small but robust crowd attended the tech session hosted by **Pat Cashman and John Cashman**. **Barbara** was attending a fiber art festival and was not present., but she was missed by all! Lunch consisted of several meat dishes, casseroles, pasta, and desserts. No one should have left hungry, as there seemed to be plenty left over. Two different projects got underway after lunch, which consisted of **Pat's Princess** and **John Turbeville's MGB**. The Princess got a new electrical switch installed which actuates the built-in automatic lifting jacks and the MG got a new stereo installed. Pat had previously installed new hydraulic hoses to the jack and only needed help with the switch. The Princess has 4 jacks that lift the whole car in case of a tire malfunction—you'd just have be sure you were on flat ground. Both projects were deemed a complete success. Many thanks to **Will Duncan, Clay Johnston, and Gene Johnston** for their expertise in stereo installation and kudos to **Keith Anderson, Kent Turner, and Dwight Bailey** for getting their hands dirty installing the switch. Thanks to **Pat and John** for hosting our annual February tech session.





EURO FEST

CLASSIC EUROPEAN

AUTO AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Rosalie Plantation
 Natchez, MS
 April 7, 2018
 Show Begins at 10am
 Awards Presentation at 4pm

Join us in April for Natchez's Pilgrimage Celebration, and enjoy this free family event featuring rare and significant classic European automobiles and motorcycles from across the southeastern U.S.



*Euro and Natchez
 Auto*



*Natchez
 Automotive Society*

EURO-FEST EVENT SCHEDULE

Friday, April 6, 2018

- 4:30 pm Memphis/Jackson and New Orleans/Baton Rouge Caravans Arrive and Parade to the Vue Hotel for the Welcoming, Free, "Pick Up Your Packet" Reception, 5:00-7:00 pm
- 7:00 pm Show Field Opens For Placement

Saturday, April 7, 2018

- 7:00 am Show Field Opens for Continued Placement
- 9:00 am All Entries In Place & Judging Begins
- 10:00 am Show Opens to Public
- 10:00 am Color Guard and National Anthem
- 10:00 am Bagpipers March
- 11:00 am Photo Ops with Pilgrimage Belles, exhibitors and public
- 11:00 am Formation Fly Over by the "Bulldog Formation Flight Team"
- 12:00 pm Concert
- 4:00 pm Drive up "Red Carpet" Awards Presentation
- 5:00 pm Show Concludes and Free, Participants Private Party Begins at Old Train Station Condo

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Driving Details to Follow

For more information visit www.euro-fest.net

March Events

Tops Down March 17

Again, **Tech Guy Keith** has planned our annual picnic at Rocky Springs Park. It should be a nice day with good food and conversation. Be sure to bring something to share. Gathering time is 11:00 am with chow being served at noon. Hope to see you all there. There may be a gathering to caravan to Rocky Springs from Clinton. Be sure to keep an eye on your e-mail for further details.

March 31, 2018 Fun Drive, an Adventure with a Destination

This year **Andy and Bonnie** needed a well-deserved break from the rigors of rally planning. So, in place of the rally, **VP Steve, Editor Charlie, and Bro Clay** have put together a fun drive. **This is not a rally.** The drive will be taking the roads less travelled through at least 4 Mississippi counties. The goal is to avoid the straight 4 lane roads as much as possible. Our lunch destination will be at the Pineville store in Pineville, MS, with an optional dinner destination at the end of the day. There will be comfort stops along the way and gas opportunities for those with small gas tanks, those who forgot to fill up, or those who need to add oil.

For folks who want to proceed at light speed to each stop, there will be written turn by turn instructions. For those who need to return home before the day is over, there will be opportunities for an easy return home.

The drive will end with a dinner destination at the Lone Star Steakhouse in Pearl.

We will begin gathering at 8:00 am next to the Shell station in Florence at the intersection of Hwy 49 and 469. **VP Steve** will lead the gathering at 8:30 am. For those who are running a little late, give **Editor Charlie a call at 601-668-7909.** He will make arrangements to wait or meet along the way.

Be sure to fill up and turn on your GPS.

Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



Just when you think you own the nicest example of the marque on the planet, one like this shows up to burst your bubble: A 1963 Austin-Healey 3000 owned by **Lou and Patty Ballard**, which in this photo is awaiting a parade through Natchez during Brits on the Bluff activity in 2002.

In conversations with the Ballards back during this era, we learned for fun they had shipped this car to Europe where they drove it all over the Continent with certainly no results of wear and tear. The **“Ballard Healey”** was a crowd pleaser at British car shows across the lower Southeast some 16 years ago.



From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



While I was growing up in Mississippi playing dolls, riding bicycles, and jumping rope, my future husband, Charlie Durning was in California building race cars, dune buggies, and learning about engines. Much to his mother's dismay, he usually had a "project" going on in the driveway.

Charlie's dad was responsible for introducing him to British cars when he bought a brand new MGTD convertible. The family of 6 would pile in and take off motoring down the road. This began a life-long love affair between Charlie and British cars.



Some things never change. Charlie now has a garage of his own and has regular “play dates” with other guys who share his passion.

Yes, he has been known to bring an old rust-bucket car home and break it down to glean rare parts. Now this is a fun day!



It is sometimes hard for me to understand what could be so much fun about installing disc brakes, putting in an engine, and any of the other things they do when they have their heads inside the bonnet of a car. But they seem to get satisfaction from it!



When I see my Charlie's face after a day of fiddling in the garage, it makes me happy because I know he is happy doing what he loves. It is the same face he has when he eats ice cream cake!

Sometimes I peer through the window and catch a glimpse of him as he makes his way through the project of the day. I know it is a labor of love as he continually makes little improvements to the cars. He often thanks me for "putting up with him and his mania". But, I wouldn't have it any other way.



This is my "Passenger Seat" story, and I'm sure you have some of your own. Your stories are always welcome in YOUR newsletter. I'd love to hear about the view from your "Passenger Seat"! -DD

Email me at durning.donna@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2018 Calendar

***** We are looking for a volunteer to organize the 2018 Drive Thru History in May. *****

March 17, 2018 EMC Tops Down / Rocky Springs MS - For 2018 the EMC will be meet down in Rocky Springs for with a hope of an early spring and a celebration of St. Patrick's Day, so you might consider wearing a wee bit of green to avoid a pinch. Bring a dish and enjoy. Those leaving from the Jackson area will depart from the Clinton MS Visitors Center (on the Natchez Trace) at 10:00am. Details: **Keith / Pat Anderson (601) 829 - 2938.**

March 23 - 24, 2018 New Orleans British Car Day / New Orleans LA - Get your registration in early for the 28th annual BMCNO British Car Day. The BMCNO has promised another great show in the Big Easy so have your bags packed and ready to go. Travelers from Jackson area can give me a ring. Watch their website for show details: www.bmcno.org. Travel plans with the EMC: **Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 948 - 4892.**

March 31, 2018 EMC Drive / The Saturday Turn-Around / Pineville MS - Charlie Durning and Steve Whitlow will be the leaders of the pack. **Steve** will lead the travelers from the Shell Station on Hwy 49 South in Florence MS with a departure time of 8:30am. We'll make a rest stop at the Love's Truck Stop on Hwy 49 North in Magee before heading to the back roads over to Pineville Store our lunch stop. The drive will end for a dinner destination at the Lone Star Steakhouse in Pearl. Don't let anyone tell you that all of the roads in South MS are sub-par, these definitely aren't. Cinch up the belts and join us. A head count for lunch is requested. Get your head count to: **Charlie Durning at durningcharles@gmail.com. Details: Charles Durning (601) 668 - 7909 or Steve Whitlow (601) 918 - 9947.**

Spring is coming up if it's not here already.

We hope that you'll join in the EMC events for 2018.