

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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SOUTH TO PENSACOLA

Pensacola FL - The Panhandle British Car Association held their 19th annual Brits on the Bay show under sunny skies and comfortable temperatures on April 15 thru 16, 2011. I'd been keeping my eye on the weather for several days in advance watching an ever increasing chance of rain. We completed packing the night before our departure which was a good decision. Early on Friday morning I turned the key on Ole Red. I could tell immediately that he was ready also.



MG's on the field at Brits on the Bay 2011 Photo courtesy EMC

We blazed a trail south bound on Highway 49 just as the rains began in earnest around home. We got a few spits of rain to see us off but nothing torrential.

Arriving at the host hotel in Pensacola Beach about mid-afternoon we were greeted by the early arrivers who had driven in from Louisiana and Georgia. At dusk the red beans and rice reception started and as in New Orleans a month prior the food was great and the reception room was packed with PBCA members and participants from all over enjoying the excellent company and banter. Saturday came early after the late night on the Gulf. I placed Ole Red in the clean up line to knock the road grime off from the previous days travel and after doing the same Martha and I tooled over to the show site. The members of the PBCA did a wonderful job of getting one hundred and six automobiles under the large oaks overlooking Pensacola Bay. The morning and afternoon weather was great as was the interest from the locals that stopped by for a visit. Mississippi members of the EMC that made the trip down included Clay and Debbie Johnston and Joe Speetjens. At midday a crew of us made it over to McGuire's Pub for our obligatory cup of Senate Bean Soup and a Ruben that's so large it has to be split. We wandered back to the show site after lunch and after peering under and around the cars on the field submitted ballots of our choices for each of the twenty five classes. Joe Speetjens with his Morgan captured third in his class as did Ole Red. Congratulations and thanks to members of the Panhandle British Car Association for putting on a great, as always car show in 2011. We look forward to seeing you again in 2012. For info check out their web site: www.pbca1.com

EMC'S Jeff Busby Picnic

Pat and Barbara Cashman made the 2011 EMC picnic. Thanks to Barbara for the update on the activities.

We set off early Saturday morning around 8, stopping to top off our tank on the TR 6 with unleaded straight no ethanol gas, being a bit wiser now after our ill fated trip back from the New Orleans show in the Mark 2 Jag and the troubles the ethanol gas had given us. We were on our way to the meeting place at the reservoir overlook for the EMC picnic/drive May 14, 2011. It was a very gray and overcast day, not the one the weather girl had forecast the night before. Foolishly believing her, we set off with the top down. I had wisely outfitted myself with a jacket, though not nearly warm enough, hat and a wool blanket to wrap across my lower body. Pat though was clad optimistically in a short sleeved shirt and cargo shorts.

We arrived at the designated stop to find Steve and Karen Whitlow, our drive leaders, in their wonderful MG Midget, Mike and Alice Glore in their white Lotus and new member Richard Hobbs, alone in his MG B, and Skip and Linda Warren in their Mini. After some waiting around to see if any other slackers would arrive, we set off, the three older British cars with their tops down. The Cooper and the Lotus wimped out, tops up. During the stop, I had pulled out a quilt stored in the boot to add to the wool blanket.

We set off then on a nice drive up the Trace, viewing the downed trees strewn along the

road side left by the tornado a few weeks ago. The only wildlife we spotted were two turkeys on the right side of the road as we motored happily along. After a potty stop at River Bend, which turned into a standing around telling old stories and getting further acquainted venture, we set out once again. The Glores and us were the only old hands on this trip and it was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the newbies.



The line-up at EMC Picnic 2011

Photo Courtesy Michael Glore

Around noon we arrived at the Jeff Busby picnic area and campground, the gas station being closed, so if you are planning on getting gas there, forget it until further notice. This area was called Little Mountain nearly 50 years ago when I was at Mississippi State and we used to go there to get away from the strict oversight of the powers to be and sow a few wild oats. After viewing the panorama from the top, we retired to the picnic area and restrooms a bit further down for a delectable lunch shared by all. Of course it was interspersed with car stories and bits of hilarity. Hey, Mike was there. It was revealed that Steve and Karen play Irish music, he the flute and she the accordion. We definitely need to get them to perform at some of our future events. After a very enjoyable couple of hours, we all headed separately home to various areas. Though it had a small turnout for this one, we should thank Steve and Karen for putting together a very enjoyable event.

Pat and I stopped in Bolton to do a splash and dash. Add some more gas, this time with ethanol and a potty break. As I was leaving, I overheard a guy ask how to get to Greenville as he had tried to go up 61 N in Vicksburg and had been turned away because of the flooding.

I told him, the guy outside in the cute yellow car could assist him. He followed me out and it turned out he was moving to Greenville. He was in a U-Haul truck pulling a trailer with a Mercedes AMG 12 cylinder. He had his priorities straight. He was moving his garage first. His name was Carl and he races vintage Lotus. We chatted for a while. We gave him our map with the route to Greenville with back roads highlighted and our phone numbers. Hopefully he will be a prospective member of the EMC. Once again, a fun day passed enjoying our British iron and the serendipitous occasions it sometimes brings.

Other Exhaust Rattles

With Brother Clay and John Turbeville's assistance the engine in my GT was removed during late April. What started out as doing a little minor maintenance looks as though it will turn into a series of might as wells. Thanks for the assistance fellas and especially John who took the time away from his TR-6 project that he's making good headway on.

A couple of weeks ago I stopped by Jim and Faye Enzman's to check on them. Both are doing fine, Jim is completing garage repairs and both are enjoying their newest family addition, their granddaughter, Tatum. Both grandparents are beaming.

I understand that Keith Anderson and friends made it over to The Mitty I believe on April 7, 2011. I haven't tracked down a traveler in the group to get the scoop on their times at the event.

Brother Clay indicates that we've completed the 2011 membership rally with a total membership of sixty-four. During the last month or two we've added new members Skip and Linda Warren, Mini and Richard and Brenda Hobbs, MGB. Thanks for joining us and for making the 2011 EMC Picnic which I understand was an un-characteristically cool event. Times not up. If you are interested in becoming a member of the EMC check out the membership information at www.msemc.org for details.

Please give a thought and a prayer to folks along the Mississippi River that are being impacted by the historic floods. I understand that several members in the Natchez area are being impacted.

On a sad note, I am sorry to report that Sherilyn Durning passed away on April 27, 2011. A service of celebration was held on April 7, 2011 in Magee. She will be greatly missed by family, friends including members of the English Motoring Club.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. Thanks everyone for your involvement and don't forget to check out the Events Calendar below and:

Happy Motoring,

The EMC

Events Calendar

June 4, 2011 – Euro Summit / Ridgeland MS

Another Euro Summit is scheduled for June 4th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Renaissance at Colony Park in Ridgeland. We had a great turn out at the first gathering so make plans to attend another.

Details: Lynn Williamson (601) 853 – 1042 or lynnwm@comcast.net

June 11-12, 2011 – EMC Drive Thru History / Homachitto National Forest

This is a new date for the DTH. The EMC is working with our friends in the British Car Club of New Orleans for a day of travels in Southwest Mississippi. We'll meet up in with the BMCNO in McComb for lunch, a visit to the McComb Rail Museum, then travel the less traveled roads over to an evening in Natchez. Plans are still in the making so stay tuned. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601)638-3240

July 16, 2011 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS

Travel down to the Piney Woods to Mike and Alice's place in the woods. A great trip is in store for the drive down and as well as a great meal and lots of fun and frivolity. Bring a dish and enjoy whiling away a lazy afternoon with the EMC. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504)231-5801