



The Off-Side Undo

English Motoring Club of Mississippi

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"A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK." -- JOSEPH LUCAS, ATTRIB.

NOVEMBER 2001

Drips on the Bluff!

Natchez show soggy, but successful

by Terry Trovato

NATCHEZ, MS — Oh, the weather outside was frightful, but the cars, they were delightful.

On October 13th, under what might be considered by some to be correct "English Bog" weather conditions, the English Motoring Club of Mississippi hosted its 5th Annual "Brits on the Bluff" British Car Show and Competition in historic Natchez.

This year's edition of Brits on the Bluff was dedicated to the memory of Susan Simmers, daughter of EMC members John and Florence Simmers, who passed away recently.

Fifty-four examples of British automotive history, with headlamps on and windscreen wipers doing the best they could, courageously followed a police escort in the rain from the Ramada Inn Hilltop parking lot to the grounds of the historic antebellum mansion "Rosalie" to begin the day's activities.

A Concours d'Elegance-styled, points-judged show, the annual event coincides with the city's Fall Pilgrimage Tour of mansions predating the War Between the States.

Rarities on hand included a 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster, a 1960 Armstrong Siddeley Star Sapphire saloon, and a 1962 tri-carb Austin-Healey 3000. The Healey was a right-hand drive rallye car in pristine condition, not judged, just displayed in an enclosed trailer.

Judging commenced at 12:30 p.m. with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m. The results were as follows:

Best of Show — Walter Murphy, 1959 TR3.

Show Stopper — Bill Silhan, 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster.

Special awards included:

Mayor's Choice (Chosen by Natchez Mayor F.L. "Hank" Smith) — Bill Silhan, 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster.

Best Red Car (Chosen by Natchez Fire Chief Gary Winborne) — Tom and Jeanne Schmitz, 1957 MGA Coupe.

Rough Rider (worst driving experience coming to the show) — Richard Crichton, whose low-beam headlights quit during night-time motoring.

Long Distance Traveler — Larry and Barb Henle, who drove an MGB GT 1,500 miles from Minnesota to the show.

Austin-Healey Sprite/MG Midget — 1st, Al Adams, 1960 Bugeye; 2nd, Jim Watson, 1968 Sprite; 3rd, J. T. Seale, 1976 MG Midget.

Jaguar — 1st, Richard Branyan, 1999 XJ8; 2nd, Bob and Margaret Henson, 1967 E-type Roadster; 3rd, Bill and Marianna Graham, 1968 E-type Coupe.

MGB/C/GT — 1st (3-way tie), Larry Henle, 1969 BGT; Richard DeCrevel, 1974 BGT; John Simmers, 1969 CGT; 2nd, Ted Glover, 1970 BGT; 3rd, Gene Johnston, 1973 BGT.

MGB Chrome Bumper — 1st, Jim Snyder, 1970; 2nd, Allen Merrill, 1970; 3rd, Jerrell Engle, 1964.

MGB Rubber Bumper — 1st, William Harris, 1980; 2nd, Renee Cole, 1976; 3rd, Dan Gilchrist, 1975.

Triumph Spitfire — 1st, Michael Ross, 1978; 2nd, Bob Ross, 1973.

Triumph 3-250-6 — 1st (tie), Jeff Herndon, 1957 TR3A, Nicky Edrington, 1975 TR6; 2nd, Ron Hynek, 1968 TR250; 3rd, David and Menda Hayden, 1958 TR3.

Triumph 7-8 — 1st, Bill Breithoff, 1980 TR8; 2nd (tie), Roy Richardson, 1981 TR7, Barry Schmidt, 1979 TR7.

Empire (Open) — 1st, Ted Glover, 1985 Morgan Plus Eight; 2nd, Bill Silhan, 1949 Triumph 2000 Roadster; 3rd, Merideth Trovato, 1967 Sunbeam Alpine Roadster.

Empire (Closed) — 1st, Tom and Jeanne Schmitz, 1957 MGA Coupe; 2nd, Barbara Cashman, 1960 Armstrong Siddely Star Sapphire; 3rd, Keith and Pat Anderson, 1959 Rover 90 P-4.

Ancient Age (age of car plus age of owner) — Tom Schmitz, 111 years.

Rare Breed — Barbara Cashman, who had the rarest car, a 1960 Armstrong Siddely Star Sapphire.

Club Trophy — British Motoring Club of New Orleans, six entrants.

Outstanding Hospitality — Cheryl Branyan and the staff of "Rosalie."

The English Motoring Club wishes to thank all participants for making this year's show a success, with a special tip-of-the-hat to Cathy Greensfelder of the British Motoring Club of New Orleans and Tom Schmitz of the Panhandle British Car Association for their ongoing enthusiastic support of the event.