

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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Drive Time

Ridgeland MS – If your residing in the southeast you’ve enjoyed some great driving weather the last few weeks. Starting with our drive down the Trace to Brits by the River 2011 the temps have grown milder and we’ve had a sustainable amount of rain. Not too much and not too little. The sun is sinking lower in the southern sky and the leaves are putting on a great show. I’ve enjoyed cutting a path thru all shades of fading greens, reds and yellows watching the camouflage of the sunlight thru the trees on the road in front and the swirl of the colors in the mirror. The cooler temps seem to strike a perfect ratio when mixed with the correct amount of fuel. Ole Red picks up at least ten or more horses and we travel with no particular agenda.



LBC’s to Natchez 2011

Photo Courtesy Steve Whitlow

Ok, it feels like ten anyway. With much of the sound deadening now lying on the ground the

sound of the exhaust takes on a more resonate quality and it's hard to stay within the posted when out and about. I've enjoyed some great driving this fall, perhaps the best in several years. I hope that you've had a chance to enjoy your drives this fall. There are still a few weeks of technicolor driving available. If you've got a drive planned or if it's spur of the moment pass along the details. Perhaps there are a few EMC'ers out there that would like to join you.

Fairhope AL – Three drivers from the Jackson area made the trip down to Fairhope for the South Alabama British Car Clubs British Car Festival on the weekend of October 21 thru 22, 2011. This year we joined in with their celebration of fifty years of the Jaguar E-Type. Mr. Midget Steve Whitlow and I acquired Brother Clay as we passed thru Mt. Olive and made lunch in Hattiesburg with Jim and Faye Enzman as we passed thru Hattiesburg. Jim thumbed a ride down with me. We made good time under cool clear skies for the parking lot gathering at our usual abode away from home in Fairhope, Baron's on the Bay.

After settling in we made way over to Faulkner College for the Friday evening social. The bar b que was particularly good this year and the party was a roaring success with door prize drawings for those lucky enough make the Friday night gathering.

Saturday came bright and early and after a trip to the local eatery for some early breakfast and coffee we did a brief car cleaning and off to the new show site on the grounds of Faulkner College. A great turn out of cars was present with eight to ten very nice E-Types there to celebrate their birthday. It's often that we get set in our ways but you couldn't tell it by the organization of this show. Although the SABCC had been at their location on the bay since 1999 the set up and timing of the show at the new site ran like clockwork. Thanks members of the SABCC for putting on a great show. The new location is great. Oh, EMC award winners! Brother Clay was awarded first in class with his MGB and Steve took home a first with some very high complements from his first place co-winner. Congratulations to both.

Meridian MS – The transport bug hit again a couple of weeks later when Steve Whitlow, Ernie Clarke and I caught the A Train, directionally anyway, and headed east bound for Meridian and the 2011 RailFest / Soule' Museum Day in downtown Meridian. Amtrak provided Heritage Locomotive #156 for the event in celebration of the fourteenth anniversary of Amtrak. I really enjoyed seeing the locomotive along with the visit to the Meridian Rail Road Museum nearby.

Just up the street the Soule' Steam Engine Feed Works was in full swing both inside with the fixed exhibits of steam engines and machining tools and for blocks around with the rolling engines and that were there for the festival. Also in present was the Carousel Organ Association of America's Fall Rally providing music for the day. There's nothing like the sound of a steam whistle and to see all of the whirling parts that were developed to power all types of machinery. Mr. George Soule' opened the machine works in 1892 and the company produced steam engines thru the lumber boom with the last engine sold in 1996. The walk thru the Soule' shops were a real adventure back in time. Check them out at www.soulelivesteam.com



The Crescent heads for New Orleans

Photo Courtesy EMC

After a bite to eat and a trip down to the tracks to see the Crescent depart for New Orleans it was time for our little engines to pull us back toward the Capitol. A great ride and a great event.

Other Exhaust Rattles

On a down note, shortly after our arrival in Fairhope EMC'er Jim Enzman missed a step and took a fall. Jim's weekend unfortunately was spent at Thomas Hospital where he underwent hip surgery on Saturday. The surgery went well and by the following Tuesday Jim was released to home for recuperation. Get well soon Jim.

On the mechanical side, Richard Hobbs, Steve Whitlow and I had a brake rehab Saturday a couple of weeks back. The repairs went well however the "might as wells" struck and there are a few additional projects now underway on both Richards TR-6 and Steve's Midgets.

A whole passel of folks including Pat Cashman, EMC president Charlie Durning, Brother Clay and Keith Anderson on the same weekend were digging in to Andy Menapace's Alfa engine finding issues that Andy wasn't ready for. My understanding is that strategies for an engine rebuild are now being developed.

Dennis Loften's Jag developed some strange sounds on departing The Renaissance Festival a few weeks ago. Ace mechanic and tool guru Keith Anderson has spent some time under a few E-Types and in short order diagnosed the trouble as relatively minor. A broken spring mount is much easier to take than the preliminary one of a broken universal joint. Parts are enroute as we speak.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. Hope that you get out and about while the weather is so fine. Don't miss the opportunity.

We've got a couple of more events on the calendar for 2011 and planning for 2012 is underway so please stay tuned and stay involved in your EMC.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

Events Calendar

November 19, 2011 – EMC Tech Session IV / Ridgeland MS

We'll have the chili on the stove and a wrench ready for stirring. We'll put together a project or two or perhaps take one apart. Hope you can make the final tech session of 2011. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601)607-7021

December 3, 2011 - EMC Christmas Party / Vicksburg MS

We return to the place that started the 2011 EMC tech sessions. Make plans to join us at Pat and Barbara's to wind down 2011 with our year end gathering. Again in 2011 we will be sharing the table with the Deep South Alfa Romeo Club so bring a dish and join what's become a great gathering. The party starts as 2:00pm. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601)638-3240