

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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“A gentleman does not motor about after dark” Joseph Lucas

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Tops Down Days

Fairhope AL – Bright and early on October 9, 2012 Ole Red was set to go to the last scheduled show of 2012. Sharp as a tack the engine celebrated the coolness of the morning by cranking on first start. The South Alabama British Car Clubs 22nd Annual British Car Festival has been the traditional last gathering of the year to meet and share the field with other automobiles manufactured across the Atlantic. The meet includes owners from across Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida.



MG Bs on the field a SABCC British Car Festival

Photo Courtesy EMC

I met Steve Whitlow along with his Midget near downtown Jackson and we made good time to Covington County for a brief stop gather to up Brother Clay. We made good time thru my hometown and back onto Highway 49 South's freshly laid asphalt to our next rendezvous in Hattiesburg. We gathered up Jim

Enzman in his very yellow B GT and after a great lunch we let the horses out and sped down to our final destination, Fairhope Alabama. The day of driving was great, bright sunny sky in the morning, a bit of cool temp in the morning that warmed nicely into a tops down day. Arriving at Baron's by the Bay, our home away from home when we visit Fairhope we were greeted by familiar faces from the parking lot party to the hotel host. The Friday night reception was held on the grounds of Faulkner College and was once again a hit with all in attendance with a feast fit for us travelers and some very nice door prizes for those with a lucky ticket.

Those that didn't arrive early on Friday were busy very early on Saturday with breakfast and getting the spit and polish finished for the days show. Late evening on Friday one of the support vehicles, Karen and Megan Whitlow's Mini was found to listing to the starboard a bit and following inspection was determined to have accumulated a laceration to the right rear tire. This necessitated an early Saturday morning for Steve who got busy chasing down a replacement tire which was located, mounted and back on the car by mid-afternoon. Things worked out for Steve, I don't think he missed a beat during the day. Some pit work there Steve. He was even awarded a trophy in class for the second year.

The SABCC made the wise choice of naming the MGB as the featured marque seeing as the B is in its 50th Anniversary Year and in response the owners came out in droves. I didn't get a count of the total number of all of the iteration of the Bs on the field but they made a brilliant display in all their finery. The EMC contributed to the celebration with three MGBs in attendance.



Dashing Details

Photo Courtesy Steve Whitlow

There were more give aways during the day and as usual, a great lunch offering was provided on site. At the end of the day ballots were counted and awards were presented. Thanks to the South Alabama British Car Club for organizing a very neat show that ran like clockwork.

Sunday morning three little British cars headed north for central Mississippi and home. With fall in the air and temperatures that you'd love to have year-round everyone was traveling top down. Just north of Beaumont we were rocking along at the posted speed limit when a Mississippi Highway Patrol officer whipped in behind me with blue lights flashing. I slowed, looking for a pull off spot finally coming to a stop wondering why he pulled over all three of us! Sitting there in wonderment the officer bounded out of his car apologizing for bringing our progress to a halt. It seems that the officer had been, in his youthful years, the proud owner of not one but two MGBs. You could tell by his enthusiasm that he was definably a future prospect for LBC ownership and perhaps EMC membership. After the officer escorted us back on the road we made good time home tops down with few worries and a lots of good memories.

Tech Session IV / Chili Fest

Ridgeland MS – The November 10, 2012 weekend was a busy one with chili cooking and gathering parts for tech session four. A crowd of thirty or so passed thru the garage on their way to the kitchen where all sorts of great food was in waiting while Keith Anderson and I were bent over the work bench rebuilding a set of MG B calipers. Well, that didn't last long before we were also drawn away to the party in the kitchen. Martha had the chili warmed up and although the weather outside was more burgers and hot dog weather everyone pitched in to lower the level of chili residing at the Johnston's place. The deserts just about made it impossible to return to our labors in the garage but with the support of many in attendance Keith and I were able to accomplish our assigned duties.

Other Exhaust Rattles

EMC member Mike Glore went in for a bit of an overhaul during November. Alice has indicated he's now home re-cooperating and I'm sure outlining his next high jinks. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mike and good luck to Alice with keeping Mike inline for the next few weeks during his at home recovery.

Keith Anderson was kind enough to assist me with some parts recovery during the last month hopefully moving the GT a little closer to its return to road worthiness.

Clay Johnston and Steve Whitlow made a run down toward Monticello a couple of weekends ago to check on some wayward Midgets. They found three that were in need of more TLC than they had to offer but if you are interested I'm sure they can update you on what they found.

Other notes of progress: John Turbeville continues progress on the disassembly of his TR-6 while Jake Weaver contemplates the status of his. Bryan Anderson continues work with David Bailey's cars and garage addition.

Kimberly Vezina along with dad Keith made their first visit to Euro Fest here in Ridgeland Mississippi this past October 6. We had a great time visiting with Keith and Kimberly and Kimberly was kind to provide us with her perspective on the 2012 Euro Fest event. Hope that you enjoy her article and thanks for the submission Kimberly.

That's it for this edition of the Off-Side Undo.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

Calendar of Events

There's not much left on the calendar for 2012 but stay tuned. So far this fall the weather has been quite warm. Last year our last drive was on December 30, 2011 but you can never tell when a nice day will hit you with the urge to get out and warm out the LBC in your garage. If it hits you, let us know. I'm sure there will be at least a couple of folks that are willing to see what lies just around the next curve in the road.

December 1, 2012 – EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Raymond MS

In 2012 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 location for 2012 will be with our fine hosts, Andy and Bonnie Menapace. Bring a dish and join what's become a great gathering. The party starts at 5:00pm. Details: Andy / Bonnie Menapace (601) 857 – 2829.

And before we go, believe it or not a couple of events have already popped up on the 2013 calendar.

April 13, 2013 Mike Marsh has scheduled the First Annual Towne Center Classic European Auto and Motorcycle show in Baton Rouge LA. Start checking for information at www.euro-fest.net.

Also, I've been alerted that The Great Race will overnight in Vicksburg Mississippi on June 27, 2013 heading down to Natchez en-route to Mobile Alabama, the final stop for 2013. For details check out: <http://blog.hemmings.com/index.php/2012/11/09/cities-announced-for-great-race-down-the-mississippi/?refer=news>

Cool for Cats at Euro Fest

By Kimberly Vezina

Ever since I was a little girl I have been tagging along with my dad to car shows; most of them held in the Gulf South. I have been to many nice, well managed car shows but none like Renaissance Euro Fest. Euro Fest 2012 was a fantastic, organized car show that was held in Renaissance at Colony Park. This venue is an elegant old-world design that sets architectural artistry against luxuriant landscaping with beautiful water features. There are plenty of shops including Cold Water Creek, Cache', Material Girl, Apricot Lane, Ann Taylor and many more. They also have restaurants like Ruth's Chris Steak House and Mint the Restaurant. The staff of the show was helpful and readily available and most of all kind and genuine; just like the owners and families of the featured cars.

Euro Fest and its high standards were able to gather some of the most elite Italian, German and British cars in one show; including Ferrari, Porsche, Rolls Royce, Mercedes Benz, MGB, MG Midget, Alfa Romeo, Austin Healy's, Aston Martin, BMW, McLaren, Jaguar and Lotus, only to name a few. This made for an exotic, classy and breath taking setting. Every single car had a personality and a story of its own. The owners of these unique automobiles were able to watch as on-lookers appreciated and admired their hard work and dedication.

The opportunity for some quality time with my father was the best part of this incredible experience. I got to share his passion for cars and had the pleasure of meeting some really fabulous people at this show. Because my dad was and still is a car enthusiast, I have grown to truly appreciate cars and their history. I understand firsthand the hard work and pure passion



One cool cat at the Euro Fest

Photo Courtesy Kimberly Vezina

someone must possess in order to own and maintain these cars to complete perfection. The time, energy and money spent to keep these timeless cars looking the way they do, does not go unnoticed.

Everyone who was a part of Renaissance Euro Fest 2012 shared the common love and appreciation for the unique yet extraordinary automobiles and motorcycles that were present. To all of those individuals who showed their beauties, job well done. They were absolutely stunning; a truly priceless moment for anyone who loves cars. This show was definitely a sight to see! If you missed it this year then you need to make sure you go next year; it is well worth the drive.