

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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Brits on the Bluff 2012

Natchez MS – Friday mid-morning September 21, 2012 could not arrive soon enough. It has been a long hot summer since the spring shows of 2012. The British Car Club of New Orleans did their usual excellent job for the March kick-off and although the show in Pensacola was missed by yours truly but was visited by rain I understand that everyone had a great time at the 20th Anniversary of the Panhandle British Car Club’s Brits on the Bay that ended the local area shows way back in April.



Jag’s at Brits on the Bluff 2012

Photo Courtesy EMC

Richard Hobbs in his TR-6, Steve Whitlow in his Midget and me and the B “Ole Red” met at the welcome center in Clinton for the drive down. The sky was clear except for a few puffy clouds. The cooler temps and the clear morning light filtered thru the occasionally yellowing leaves of approaching fall. We zoomed along at a good clip furling the few leaves that had taken an early departure from their

tree tops. There's something about an exhaust note reverberating thru the trees on a late summer day that's just hard to describe. Arriving at Roux 61 just south of Natchez we met with fifteen other EMC members to plan the day over lunch. The restaurant is new, the proprietors are obviously not, as the kitchen served up a wide range of choices all of which were very good. Add Roux 61 to your list of places to eat when in Natchez.

Following lunch we made our way to the host hotel to rest up and start preparation for the evening's reception at the Bowie Tavern. This is our second year at the Tavern. The hors d'oeuvres and accompanying socializing was even better than last year. Following the reception the entire party moved to the comfort of the pool surroundings at the host hotel. A few made it to their rooms for an early evening in anticipation of a full day on the bluffs.

Saturday morning required early movement to get the show site set up. I know I can't recall everyone that lent a hand in the setup but by the time the cars began arriving most all of the canopies were up, the field was laid out and favorite spots under the oaks had been chosen. Forty three beauties took to the field and there was the merry chatter of participants and visitors alike throughout the day. As in 2011 musical accompaniment was provided, as was a grille full of hot dogs and burgers all thankfully arranged by The Grand Hotel. For desert there was the traditional EMC cake and once again it was the best bar none. By mid-afternoon the ballots had been counted and just in time for the awards announcements the voice of Brits on the Bluff Terry Trovato arrived to present the awards for 2012 and here they are:

Austin Healey 100 - 3000: 1st - Rick Huber, 2nd - Terry Trovato, 3rd - Richard Harris,

Sprite/Midget Chrome: 1st - Jack Orkin

Midget RB: 1st - Steve Whitlow

MG A: 1st - David Hornsby

MG B Chrome: 1st - Blake Sonnier, 2nd - Gene Johnston, 3rd - Tom Warren

MG B RB: 1st - Keith Vezina, 2nd - Rickey & Lynn Hartley, 3rd - Darek Guichard

MG B GT: 1st - Randy Kassud

Triumph TR2-4: 1st - Walter Mashburn, 2nd - Terry Trovato

Triumph TR6: 1st - Johnson Buquet, 2nd - Ken Dolhonde, 3rd - Richard Hobbs

Triumph TR 7: 1st - Barry Schmidt

Jaguar Sport: 1st - Ernie Clarke, 2nd - Bill & Melissa Silhan, 3rd - Keith Anderson

Jaguar Saloon: 1st John Well

Empire Sport: 1st - Mike Glore (Lotus Elan), 2nd - Joe Speetjens (Morgan +8+), Meridith Trovato (Sunbeam Alpine)

Empire Saloon: 1st - Charles Durning (MG Magnette)

Rolls/Bentley: 1st - Richard Branyon, 2nd David Bailey, 3rd - Judy Stahlman

MG T: 1st – Vincent Dantone

Best of Show: Ernie Clark (1969 Jaguar E-Type)

Longest Traveled: Jack Orkin (1974 MG Midget)



Ernie Clark's 1969 Jag E-Type at Euro Fest

Photo Courtesy Steve Whitlow

Post show the committee took no time in breaking down and policing the site then returning to the hotel for clean up and dinner. The New Orleans club always has a unique dinner plan in mind and this year had arranged for the members of the Natchez Garden Club to host them at one of the area mansions for historical tour of the home and they enjoyed a fine dinner. Reports are they had a great time. Twenty or so show attendees tried a little Italian restaurant, Lil Dago's down on Highway 61. The food was great and it was plentiful, some of it making it home for dinner on Sunday.

Brits on the Bluff is now done for another year. Whew! Thanks for all that assisted in making the 2012 show and kick-off for our fall car shows such a success. The members of the EMC enjoyed hosting the visitors, newbies and regulars alike and hope you'll visit with us again in 2013.

Renaissance Euro Fest

Ridgeland MS – The weekend of October 5 - 7 again heard the sounds of Euro cars at The Renaissance in Ridgeland. Friday afternoon the first event of the weekend kicked off with a drive from the Hyatt Hotel to the Jackson Yacht Club for lunch and then a drive on the Natchez Trace for the afternoon

activity. Friday evening there was an introductory reception held at the Renaissance Euro Fest Hospitality Suite.

On Saturday the founder and director Mike Marsh put the staff to work early locating and placing the gathering of over 100 cars throughout the Renaissance. Before lunch all classes were judged and ribbons placed on those chosen by the judges to be noteworthy of recognition. In its fourth year The Euro Fest has become a number one place to see models of the great marques from Europe with an estimated 15,000 persons cruising the show site during the day.



David and Jo Ann Bailey's 1958 MGA at Euro Fest

Photo Courtesy EMC

Late afternoon and the show participants returned to the Hospitality Suite for the awards presentations for Euro Fest 2012. Here are a few of the awards that were presented to members of the EMC:

Hagerty Insurance "Classic Car Award" / Walter Mashburn – 1960 Triumph TR 3A

Paul Moak "Safety First Award" / Richard Poole - 1965 Land Rover Dormobile

Best of Marque / Bill Silhan - 1960 AC Ace

/ Kent, Stephen and Becky Turner – 1986 Lotus Esprit Turbo

/ Ernie Clark – 1969 Jaguar E-Type Roadster

Race Car / Daniel Blumenthal – 2007 Caterham Super Seven

Governor's Cup / Michael Glore 2012 McLaren MP4-12C

Post show on Saturday evening twenty three members and friends of the EMC met for dinner near the show and hotel site at The Mint Restaurant for a nice mostly quite but certainly not subdued dinner. A

great time was had by all. On Sunday morning, day three of the event the Deep South Alfa Romeo Club laid out another daunting drive thru the country, about eighty miles if you stayed on course down to the



Kent, Stephen and Becky Turner's 1986 Lotus at Euro Fest Photo Courtesy EMC

garage of Michael and Alice Glore. On arriving the twenty five or so that made the drive were allowed to park on the beautifully manicured grounds, the drivers and passengers alike shared a great lunch and said good-byes before heading out for home. Many thanks to the staff of the Euro Fest and Mike Marsh for bringing a great automotive event to the area, all voices indicated they enjoyed the 2012 show and are looking forward to the 2013 event.

Other Exhaust Notes

Included in the photos in this edition of the OSU is the MGA of David and Jo Ann Bailey. My first encounter with the MG marque was my dad's which he maintained until about 1960. When asked what car I wanted when I approached driving age my first choice was an MGA. David and Jo Ann along with assistance from Jim Trunzler and most recently Bryant Anderson have restored the MGA to fine point. Good looking "A" David and Jo Ann!

Thanks all for your support and involvement with The English Motoring Club so far during 2012. We have a couple of more months of great driving weather approaching and there remain several events on the EMC events calendar. Check us out at www.msemc.org. We hope to see you at upcoming gatherings.

The EMC continues to add new members to the roster during 2012 our latest is Bill Jacobs from Brookhaven with I understand a small herd of Sprites. Welcome Bill and we hope to see you at some of the EMC gatherings real soon

As always you don't have to be the owner of a British car to join The EMC. All are welcome if you are looking for a good time with good folk. The EMC continues request for the submission of articles and photographs. Automotive, non-automotive and speculative articles and photos should be submitted to www.jjohnston18@msemc.org for consideration. Please consider contributing.

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

Happy Motoring,

The EMC

Events Calendar

October 20, 2012 – Scarecrow Cruise and Car Show / Madison MS

This show has grown immensely over the last eight years and from looking at the website 2012 should be a doozy. So pack your bag and grab your hat for a great show with the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. Details: www.msclassiccruisers.com, Travel plans with the EMC: Keith Anderson (601) 829 – 2573.

October 19 -20, 2012 – South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope AL

It's a nice drive down to Fairhope AL so join the caravan to the lovely city by Mobile Bay. The Friday night meet and greet is always fun and the food is fantastic. The show on Saturday is right on the bay with a great array of British Cars. Details: www.sabcc.org, Travel plans with the EMC: Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

November 10, 2012 – 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 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 and Bonnie Menapace (601) 857 – 2829.