

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

Volume 27

October 2013



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

Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

On the web at www.msemc.org

Weather, What Weather?

Natchez MS – Dire predictions of rain and lots of it did little to dampen that spirits of the British automobile enthusiast that arrived in Natchez MS for the seventeenth anniversary Brits on the Bluff that went on as scheduled on September 20 – 21, 2013. Four entrants into the show including the MGB of new EMC members Clay and Pat Ellis from Benton MS departed from the Clinton Welcome Center on the



MGB's at Brits on the Bluff 2013

Photos Courtesy EMC

Natchez Trace early on Friday morning for the trip down. We were confident that the days gray skies wouldn't drop their load on our parade and we in fact enjoyed a rain free day on the Trace. There was one close moment, non-weather related, when Steve Whitlow came upon the family of three deer that made a sudden decision that apparently the grass on the east side of the right-of-way was in fact greener. I'm not sure that Steve's quick reaction was all that save he and Bambi from colliding. In total twelve EMC'ers made it unscathed for a great pre – show lunch at Uptown Grocery in Natchez. Toward the end of lunch, as we were discussing weather required adjustments to the show we received the first light sprinkles of

rain requiring a dash to the parking for hood exercises. The Friday night reception was held again this year at The Bowie Tavern. To a full house the voice of Brits on the Bluff Terry Trovato extended a welcome and a thanks to all those that tempted the weather forecasters by attending the show including American MGB Association President Frank Ochal and Vice-President Bruce Magers. The AMGBA designated the 2013 Brits on the Bluff as their 36th Annual National Meet.



Steve Whitlow with towels

Photo Courtesy EMC

Being prepared for the threat of overnight rains I removed the carpets from Ole Red to reduce the amount of drying that would potentially be required on Saturday morning. After long day on Friday of alternate planning I evidently slept thru the overnight downpour as Ole Red did contain a floorboard full of water when I open the door on Saturday morning. The parking lot of The Vue Hotel turned in to the impromptu show site on Saturday morning under overcast and occasionally drizzly skies however by mid-morning we were left with overcast skies but no rain. WAAAWOOO! Everyone pitched in and despite the very British looking day weather wise all had a great time. Keith Anderson did a great job of grouping the cars, Lynn Williams organized the participant list and Faye Enzman displayed and sold club and show t-shirts and caps throughout the day. The EMC would like to thank all thirty-two owners that brought out their steel pets for a day on the bluffs above the Mississippi River. At the end of the day EMC President Charlie Durning and past-president Terry Trovato presented a recognition print to Pat and Barbara Cashman of Pat's TR-6, dealer purchased way back in 1974 for their assistance and service to the English Motoring Club thru the years with Pat and Barbara serving in multiple roles and most recently Barbara as president. As a few spots of blue skies appeared across the river class awards were presented to the owners and with that the 2013 Brits on the Bluffs concluded. Thanks again to all that braved the weather to come for our show. We enjoyed hosting your visit to Natchez.

Here are the awards presented at Brits on the Bluff:

Austin Healey: 1st – Dominic La Valla / 1967 3000, 2nd – Richard Harriss / 1954 BN-1.

Sprite / Midget: 1st - Steve Whitlow / 1974 Midget.

MG – T Series: 1st - Robert Manske / 1955 TF 1500, 1st - John Wilkerson / 1953 TD.

MGA: 1st - Frazier Rice / 1962 A 1600.

MGB - C Chrome Bumper / Roadster: 1st – Clay Johnston / 1972 B, 2nd - Blake Sonnier / 1972 B, 3rd - Richard Bishop / 1962 B.

MBG Rubber Bumper / Roadster: 1st – Grady and Donna Wilkerson / 1978 B, 2nd – Danny Varnado / 1976 B (Modified), 3rd – Armand Beard / 1974 B.

MGB- C GT / GT V8: 1st - Jim Lynch / 1974 B – GT, 2nd - Jim Enzman / 1974 B – GT.

Triumph TR - 2 / 3 / 4: 1st – Richard Willows / 1963 TR – 3B, 2nd – Terry Trovato / 1959 TR – 3A.

Triumph TR – 6 / 250: 1st – Cameron Leonard / 1964 TR – 6, 2nd – Stephen Turner / 1972 TR – 6.

Triumph TR – 7 / 8: 1st - Brad Baumgartner / 1980 TR – 7.

Jaguar Sports: 1st – John Wells / 1995 XJS.

Jaguar Saloon: 1st – Pat Cashman / 1967 420G.

Empire Sports: 1st – Bill Silhan / 1960 AC Ace, 2nd – Kent Turner / 1986 Lotus Esprit, 3rd - David Bailey 2001 Aston Martin Vantage.

Empire Saloon: 1st – Keith Anderson / 1960 Rover P4, 2nd – Charlie Durning / 1958 MG Magnette.

Rolls Royce / Bentley: 1st – Cappy Stahlman / 1973 Rolls Royce Corniche.

Best of Show: Bill Silhan / 1960 AC Ace.

Longest Distance: Brad Baumgartner / Triumph TR-7 / Cooper City FL.

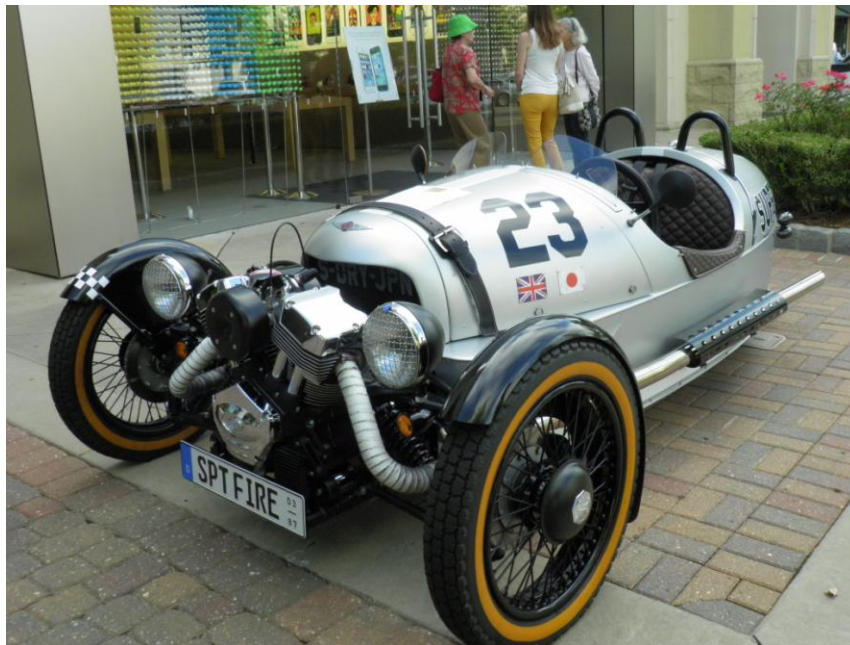
Hard Luck: Tom Schmitz & Richard Harris / Mini vs. MGB.

Euro Fest 2013

Ridgeland MS - Participants at the 5th anniversary of the Renaissance Euro Fest were rewarded over the weekend of October 4 – 6, 2013 with mostly great weather and a great crowd. Approximately thirty automobiles took part in the Friday drive from the host hotel at The Renaissance Center touring the Madison County countryside and arriving at the Mermaid Restaurant at Lake Caroline for lunch. Following lunch the group returned to Ridgeland and a rest prior to the reception hosted by Lee Michael's Jewelers. Many new and many familiar faces were present and Saturdays gathering would offer an equally diverse group of automobiles. Introductions were made and a moment of silence was held in remembrance of Ed Wettach for his love of the automobile and support in making the Renaissance Euro Fest a must attend show in the south east. Before the attendees were dismissed for the evening, door

prizes provided by Lee Michael's were distributed to those lucky enough to have their name drawn from the hat.

Saturday started early with a free breakfast and lots of hustling to get cars in place before the crowds gathered to take in all of the four, three and two wheeled jewels that were placed along the streets and walkways of the Renaissance Center. By late mid-morning the judging of cars had been completed so that during the remainder of the day the ribbon winners proudly displayed their recognition. The weather was predicted to be iffy for the weekend however, other than an overcast sky that turned partly cloudy during the mid-day hours and back to overcast by late afternoon only light sprinkles developed as the show was winding down. During the awards ceremony organizer Mike Marsh was recognized with the Ed Wettach "Love of the Automobile" award and rightly so. Mike started the Renaissance Euro Fest five years ago from an idea, developing the Euro Fest group of shows now totaling three, to one of the great gatherings automobiles in the southeast.



Jorge Menes' 2013 Morgan 3 Wheeler at Euro Fest Photo Courtesy EMC

Members of the EMC were recognized including: David Bailey – 2003 Maserati, Joe Speetjens – 1995 Morgan +8+, Pat Cashman – 1956 Jaguar XK 140, Barbara Cashman – 1972 Citroen 2CV, Kent Turner – 1986 Lotus Turbo Esprit, Bill Silhan – 1951 Daimler Empress, also "The Art of it All Award" winner.

The rain finally caught the revelers overnight and the scheduled meet up of historic and experimental air craft with the automobiles scheduled for Sunday had to be cancelled but I'm sure that event will be included in the future. All in all another excellent Euro Fest. Be sure that you keep an open calendar to participate in one of the Euro Fest events near you. Additional information is available at www.euro-fest.net.

Other Exhaust Rattles

At the time of our first encounter with Richard Greene he was operating his Nash Metropolitan. Richard made the entry at Euro Fest 2013 with his Lotus Europa. A work in progress Richard is enjoying the one on one-therapy sessions.

During Euro Fest Thomas Whitfield and his son David, owners of a TR-6 re-joined the ranks of the EMC.

Mike Glore is awaiting delivery of an Alfa Romeo Zagato Jr. delivery. Mike indicates he's always wanted to have a little taste of Italy in his garage.

Some EMC members will be traveling in October but I'm sure there will be plenty going on in the state. If you hear of a gathering of interest, let me know and I'll pass the word along.

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

Happy Motoring,

The EMC

Calendar of Events

October 25 - 26, 2013 – 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 on the campus of Faulkner State within easy walking distance of downtown. The show organizers put on a well organized show so make plans to attend. Details: www.sabcc.org. Travel plans with the EMC: Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801

November 9, 2013 – EMC Tech Session III / 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 2013. The garage opens early and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 607 – 7021

December 7, 2013 – EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Raymond MS

For 2013 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 2013 will be with our fine hosts, Andy and Bonnie Menapace. Bring a dish and join our season ending gathering with friends. The party starts at 5:00pm. Details: Andy and Bonnie Menapace (601) 875 – 2829