

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



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

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Sun and Brits on the Bluff 2014

Natchez MS – More sun shine and no rain was the weather of record for the English Motoring Clubs 18th annual Brits on the Bluff. From our Friday September 19th departure all the way thru show day and our return home on Sunday we traveled, gathered and had a great time.



Several folks stopped by to visit Richard Branyan's picnic spread

Here are the award winners for 2014:

Austin Healey 100-6 / 3000 Terry Trovato – '60 3000 / 2nd Richard Harris – '54 BN1

Midget – Sprite Steve Whitlow – '74 Midget

MG – T James and Alice Hester – '30 MG M Type

MGB Chrome Allen Bradley – '70 MGB / Clay Johnston - '72 MGB / Clay and Pat Ellis – '73 MGB

MGB Rubber Tommy and Kathy Hart – '80 MGB / Keith Vezina – '76 MGB

MGB GT Gene Johnston – '73 MGB GT

Triumph TR 2-4 Bill and Amy Jacobs – '59 TR3 / Terry Trovato – '59 TR3A

Triumph 250 – TR6 David Nezat - '76 TR6 / Ken Dolhonde – '73 TR6 / Stephen Turner – TR6

Triumph TR6-8 Barry Schmidt – '75 TR7

Spitfire – GT 6 Ted Geiger – '73 Spitfire

Jaguar Sports Ernie Clark – '69 E-Type / Keith Anderson - '80 E-Type / Bill Silhan – '66 E-Type / Julien LeBleu – '71 E-Type

Jaguar Saloon John Turbeville – '07 XJ8

Empire Sports Ken and Becky Turner – '68 Lotus Esprit / David Bailey – '03 Aston Martin DB-7 / Meredith Trovato – '67 Sunbeam Alpine

Empire Saloons Charlie and Donna Durning – '67 Morris Minor

Rolls Royce – Bentley Richard Branyan – '49 Rolls Royce / Cappy Stahlman – '73 Rolls Royce Cornish Convertible



Mary Clark to Keith Anderson “you missed a spot”

Modified and Kits Chris and Linda Richardson – '85 Cobra / Marc and Chesney Doyle - '87 Porsche 911 / Marc and Chesney Doyle – '15 Porsche Cayman

Best of Show Ernie and Mary Clark – '69 Jaguar E-Type



The 1930 "M" Type leaves BotB 2014

Thanks to all that made the trip and we hope that you'll put us back on your calendar for 2015.

You can view show photos here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtT7axRKT0A> or, a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tiki12Z2e6g&list=UUd65tn6ca4lXmYg2wvFkmWw&index=2> both thanks to Charlie (future video star) and Donna (I am the director) Durning.

The Myth of Male Logic

By Steve Whitlow

As men we pride ourselves on our rational thought, our ability to reach decisions not based upon an emotional reaction. Yet in one area our logic fails us on a regular basis. When it comes to following written instructions or attempting diagnostics on British motorcars we tend to throw logic out the window.

This brings us to the case in point. My 1974 Midget had suddenly developed an issue with cranking, namely it wouldn't. Turn the key and it made a strange sound I wasn't familiar with. It wasn't the sound of a weak battery, a tired starter motor or a failure to engage the ring gear. This was a quasi electro-mechanical noise and was that a flash of light from somewhere? Turn the key again and nothing. Umm, the battery was no spring chicken; in fact it was eighteen months past its expected life-*that must be it!*

Regrettably it wasn't. A new battery in the car, but the result was the same. How can a new battery be seemingly devoid of charge after turning the key once and am I seeing things? How can turning the ignition key produce a light flash? These were questions I needed help answering. It was time to call Gene Johnston.

The next weekend we tackled the problem. After listening to my tale of woe Gene rendered his opinion. An opinion no doubt, based upon decades of experience working on MGs and well grounded in Rational Thought, tempered in the fires of Reason. After all, this was the man who had helped on projects too

numerous to mention including putting the doors back together on the Midget 1500 a few summers ago. First, he was a bit skeptical of the flash of light bit, secondly *it could* be an earthing issue but this was the original Lucas Starter motor.



Keith counsils Dominic on Jag Maintenance during Tech Session I

I had charged the battery and we repeated the experiment with the same result except-no flash of light. I must have imagined it after all. Gene checked a few connections with the ohm meter finding them good and the starter solenoid healthy. The starter motor must have shorted internally that's why it pulling such a load on the battery when the key is turned.

Out comes the distributor followed by the started motor, the mounting bolts of which were not easy to reach and seemed to be several inches long and fine thread as well. The lower bolt could only be reached from underneath the car, what fun!

Once removed from the car, we connected the starter motor directly to the battery where it proceeded to spin merrily, mocking us and all our expectations of it supposed demise. So back on the car go the started motor and distributor. I'm really greasy now. Gene scratches his head and looks puzzled. This can't be good. "Well, I'm not sure..." he said his voice trailing off.

Now we're adrift upon the Sea of Now What, and have entered the Realm of Hunches & Maybes. *Maybe* it's the earthing strap to the chassis. This was removed, cleaned and reinstalled. Same result except this time Gene thinks he sees a brief flash of light behind the battery! Upon inspection we find the negative cable clamp had deteriorated and shorted through the rubber cover trying to ground itself to the firewall. "We probably should have checked this first", Gene said. "I just *knew* it was the starter motor."

We had both made assumptions. We were both proved wrong. When it comes to British motorcars, particularly Lucas electrics, caution must urged before leaping to a conclusion; especially when it requires removing parts that prove difficult and are greasy beyond belief.

After replacing the battery cable, the Midget cranks like a champ and I'm sure we'll never, ever make *that* mistake again. Men are logical creatures, are we not?

When Less Really is More

By Charlie Durning

Over the months Brother Clay and I have been ruminating about how to free up some trunk space with a donut spare tire. After the Brits on the Bluff weekend and Donna filling the Morris with girly stuff I decided to take the plunge. Last night I rolled down to Pull- A- Part and dug around for a nice spare. I ended up with two 105/70-14 tires on 4" space saver wheels for \$12.00 each. The challenge was getting someone to think out of the box and change the tire from the space saver wheel to the Morris wheel.



After a drawn out philosophical discussion, the guys at the Wal-Mart in Richland were finally convinced that a 14" tire is a 14" tire. Whew, that was a job. The end result is the donut tire fits the 3" wide Morris wheel like it was made for it. Brother Clay will be trying his tire on a wider MGB wheel soon.

WOW!

By Mike Marsh

What a weekend we had. The 6th Annual Renaissance Euro Fest was the best ever. We had wonderful weather Saturday and Sunday and thousands enjoyed viewing over 100 fine autos and motorcycles. The winners have been posted on the web site, www.euro-fest.net and soon the 2014 video will be there as well.

For those of you who were not able to join us for the Sunday, "Pistons & Props", drive, you missed a most pleasant journey down the Natchez Trace to the Raymond, MS Airport, where, along with the MS Corvette Club we were treated to an exciting air show. Members of [The Southern Heritage Air Foundation](http://www.southernheritageair.org) (www.southernheritageair.org) on some great fly bys, complete with smoke and exciting maneuvers.

Other Exhaust Rattles

Clay Johnston updated us on membership following this year's Brits on the Bluffs reporting a membership of 77 families. Our newest joiners are Larry Spencer from Madison MS and Cappy and Judy Stahlman re-upped while participating in BOTB 2014. Welcome to all and we hope that we run across you during upcoming EMC events.

That's it for this edition of the OSU. The heat of summer is finally letting up! We hope to see you at one of the upcoming car events.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

Upcoming Events

October 24 - 25, 2014 – 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 2013 show was a high water mark for the show on Saturday 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.

October 31 – November 1, 2014 – L'Auberge Euro Fest / Baton Rouge LA - The enthusiasm for the Second Annual Euro Fest at L'Auberge is building. From last year's report and this year's schedule of cars and activities this is a show that you won't want to miss. This is great time to get your car out and attend a premier event in the southeast. Details: www.euro-fest.net

November 8, 2014 – 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 2014. The garage opens early and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 607 – 7021.

December 6, 2014 – EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Vicksburg MS - We return to the place that started the 2014 EMC tech sessions. Make plans to join us at Pat and Barbara's to wind down 2014 with the EMCs year end gathering. Again in 2014 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 at 2:00pm. Details: Pat / Barbara Cashman (601) 638 – 3240.