

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

“A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK” JOSEPH LUCAS



Official Publication of the English Motoring Club of Mississippi

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On the web at [www.msemc.org](http://www.msemc.org)

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## This 'n That

By Roy Schooler

We sure had fun at the annual Brits on the Bluff in Natchez. The Friday night reception was outstanding at Richard's antique shop courtyard. Now we are all getting ready for Mike Marsh's Eurofest on October 10th. After this, the calendar gets thin. The Madison Scarecrow car show has been cancelled, and the Nashville Brits at the Parthenon has been cancelled. No news on the South Alabama Annual Fairhope event yet.



A couple of extra stops on the way to Natchez

# 2020 BRITS ON THE BLUFF

By John Turbeville

The 2020 Brits on the Bluff car show on September 19, 2020, was a huge success. We had 34 British cars and one Miata on the show field. The weather was great with overcast skies and temps of about 80 degrees with a steady wind. We've had really hot days and really wet days before so this year goes down as a perfect day to have a car show. Many thanks are in order to all the club members who contributed so much time and effort to host our show in Natchez. Fifty people attended the reception Friday night at Richard Branyan's courtyard/home/antique repair shop/retail shop/Air BNB. We had food catered from 100 Main and a cash bar with live entertainment from a local guitarist. Having so much outdoor space allowed for social distancing. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Richard for hosting us in such a charming and quaint setting. Thanks to all who brought a car to make our show possible.

**The list of winners for the car show is as follows:**

**MGA** 1<sup>st</sup> place- Cliff Hughes 1960 red MGA

**MGB, C, GT Chrome Bumper** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place tie- Robin Stevenson 1972 red MGB GT

Erich Connell 1970 BRG MGB

2<sup>nd</sup> Place tie-Charles Durning 1974 yellow MGB GT

Roy Schooler 1974 red MGB

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Hank Harper 1969 red MGC

**MGB/GT Rubber Bumper** 1<sup>st</sup> Place -Hugh Coleman 1978 BRG MGB

**MG Pre War** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Dennis Norris 1951 light blue MGTD

**Austin Healey** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Rick Huber 1964 white over blue AH 3000

Triumph TR6

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Stephen Turner 1972 silver TR6

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Jaryl Willson 1973 red TR6

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Danny Varnado 1970 black TR6

**Triumph TR7 & TR8** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Barry Schmidt 1975 brown TR7

**Spitfire** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Benny Stiegler 1976 red Spitfire

**Mini Classic** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Randy Fleming 1981 blue Mini Van Estate

**Photos provided by John Turbeville, Roy and Chris Schooler, Barry Schmidt and  
Charlie and Donna Durning**



**Jaguar Sports 1974-Present** 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Peter LaRocco 2006

Blue Jaguar XR

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Bill and Amy Jacobs 2004 BRG Jaguar XK\*

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Mike and Sarah Hooten 1983 blue Jaguar XJS

**Jaguar Sedan** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Pat and Barbara Cashman 1967 black Jaguar \ 420G

**Mini Classic** 1<sup>st</sup> Place- Randy Fleming 1981 blue Mini Van Estate





Photos provided by Barry Schmidt, Roy & Chris Schooler, Charlie & Donna Durning



















It's not too late to sign up for Eurofest. For more details here is a link to the website and entry form.

**Event is October 9-10, 2020**

<http://www.euro-fest.net/ridgeland/form.php>



# Exhaust Rattles



By John Turbeville

I've been working on my MG brake upgrade that Charlie Durning designed. It converts the front stock brakes to vented rotors for cooler operation and less brake fade using Nissan calipers and Toyota rotors. Labor Day afforded time for Clay Johnston and Charlie Durning to venture up to Jackson to work on the final touches and install some 2 pound one-way valves. These valves keep pressure on the caliper and shorten pedal travel. We were honored by having Will and Jennifer Duncan show up for moral support and general camaraderie. We all broke for lunch by loading up in the Jag XJ8 and heading off to McAlister's in Clinton. We got the brake job completed and after a 10 mile drive I can confirm they stop the MG superbly. They engage quickly and firmly with no drag or pull to either side. I'm very pleased with the outcome. Thanks a million to Charlie for all his fabrication and design work coupled with his machining skills to get this project from a concept to completion.





## A “Oh No” Moment

By Bill Jacobs

It was one of those “Oh no” moments! One of those instances when you say to yourself, “did I really do that?” Or maybe more descriptively, you just yell out to no one in particular, “Oh Hell! What did I just do!”

I have been watching Bring-A-Trailer.com (BAT) over the years throwing a few bids for the fun of it. Last year I got serious and put my eye on a low mileage 2003 Jaguar XK8 convertible in Florida. I set a budget and began doing my due diligence on the car.

I had already learned that successful bidders wait until the last day to place bids -- in reality the last fifteen minutes! My first bid was quickly surpassed. The second bid remained on the leaderboard a little longer. With five minutes to go I threw down one last bid -- it was over my self-imposed budget, there was a small mechanical issue that made me uncomfortable, but what the heck I thought, with a few minutes to go, I posted a stronger bid. The clock starting ticking down and I was the top bidder for the last five minutes.

Reality or may be a bit of buyer’s remorse kicked in and I started rooting for someone would outbid me! With one second to go, someone did just that! BAT resets the clock for one minute to combat such sniping tactics. I was already over my budget so I decided to just let it go.

The mind plays tricks some times, I began second-guessing myself for not throwing down one last bid on that Florida XK8 -- Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda!

Fast forward and three and a half months into the COVID quarantine and a beautiful British Racing Green 2004 XK8 convertible popped up on BAT. I did my due diligence. All of the regular problem areas had been corrected but at 64,000 miles it had more miles than I liked. On the sale day, BAT conveniently reminded me it was the day!

I pulled it up to review the situation. It was below my budget! The car was in St Louis, which was three hours away from where Amy and I were celebrating the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. It would be an easy drive to pick it up. What the heck, I will be in the area, thus no real travel cost, so I threw down a quick bid on the no reserve auction.

It was four hours before the closing time and undoubtedly I would be easily outbid. After all, it was a pretty nice looking car – the owner had put just over 4,000 miles a year on it since its original purchase in 2004. It was a take it or leave it situation for me.

Ten minutes before the auction closed, I checked on the Jag’s status. To my amazement I was still the top bidder! The adrenalin was pumping. Five minutes later, I as still the top bidder. The seller was getting nervous and was posting encouraging messages to anyone who might be interested. “Ok this will be another last second Florida situation,” I said to myself to calm my nerves. The counter kept ticking – 60 seconds, 30 seconds, 10 seconds, 9, 8,7...

Suddenly, the BAT messenger ticker commented WOJACOBS was the winning bid!



The seller immediately posted, his surprise! Wow, he commented, “never have I seen a bid stand for four hours! WOJACOBS you have literally stolen this car! Excitement than buyer’s remorse started rearing its ugly head! “Ok, what did I miss,” I said to myself. I read and reread the comments and questions posted for the prior seven days looking for missed clues.

Driving to Tennessee a few days later for the Fourth of July holiday, I mentioned to Amy that we would need to make a side trip to St Louis to pick up something up!

It was a wonderful drive home, cruising the back roads of Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi, me in the lead with Amy following behind. The quietness and peacefulness of the wind blowing through my hair with the top down, there is nothing like a convertible to clear ones head. I kept getting interrupted in my solitude with rings on my cell phone – “When do I get to drive the Jag,” Amy would say.

“In due time dear... in due time. I need to sort her out a while longer.”





# LBC Vs WBL

By Richard Greene



I

have recently added a WBL (White British Labrador) to my stable of LBC (Little British Cars) and felt that a comparison would be of some interest for the British motor-ing public. Points are awarded to the winner of each category with the total tally be-ing the winner!

- WBL leaves puddles just about everywhere, while the LBC only leaves a spot at the parking spot. 1 point LBC
- WBL cannot go with out attention on a regular basic, LBC can usually be left alone for weeks at a time. 1 point LBC
- LBC usually needs to be cleaned and polished on a Monthly basic, WBL some-times weekly or daily depending on the availability of mud puddles, dead fish, wild game do-do and anything else foul that they can roll in. 1 point LBC
- LBC can be put up for the night or even a week without any problems; WBL never goes down for a night and usually complains loudly when forced to. 1 point LBC
- WBL must be fed daily and watered often; LBC can go weeks without a tank refill or added water. 1 point LBC
- LBC will occasionally refuse to start and run properly; WBL will refuse about any-thing and will run wildly daring to be caught. 1 point LBC
- LBC can be parked next to other LBCs and maintain proper composure; WBL be-comes wildly uncontrollable when in the present of other WBLs.
- The exhaust fumes of a LBC can be quite unpleasant but the WBL can leave deadly stink bombs just about anywhere. 1 point LBC
- While maintenance of a LBC can be quite costly, the medical cost of a WBL is constant and costly. 1 point LBC

LBC seldom roll away for where they are left; WBL looks for every opportunity to scamper off looking for mischief. 1 point LBC

The total so far: LBC 10 and WBL 0

Bonus Category :

After a hard day returning home the LBC will be just as you left it while WBL will be joyful, happy, and glad to see you and give you love with just a look into your eyes. 20 Point WBL (After all that is what is important).

**AND the winner is: WBL 20 LBC 10**





# Just a Penny's Worth

## Lost Words

I never heard my grandmother curse but I do remember she had a lot of special words for special circumstances. Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell checker did not recognize it. Heavens to Mergatroyd! Well I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle. So let's illuminate some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. Phrases like: Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Holy Moley! We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China! Life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and the pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap and before we can say, Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle Or "This is a fine kettle of fish!"

Where have all those great phrases gone? The milkman did it. Hey, it's your nickel. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! And I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses. It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has little liver pills. This can be stubborn stuff—Carter's pills are gone too! How many of these words and phrases do you remember?

Thank you for sending in the photos and articles. It makes a great newsletter. Just email them to me at [pschooler@mail.com](mailto:pschooler@mail.com)



**HAPPY FALL YA'LL**



# Upcoming Events

## English Motoring Club 2020 Calendar

These are some calendar entries that have been posted to the EMC web site [www.msemc.org](http://www.msemc.org) for 2020.

**October 9 - 10, 2020 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS** – Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Renaissance Car Fest. The 2019 event was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2020. When posted get your entry in early and make plans to attend. You'll see cars that you don't get a chance to enjoy often and in the surroundings of the Renaissance it's just magnificent. Details: [www.euro-fest.net](http://www.euro-fest.net) Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

**October (check for dates, usually the second weekend), 2020 - Brits at the Parthenon / Nashville TN - cancelled**

**October (check for dates, usually the third weekend), 2020 – Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show / Madison MS – cancelled**

**October 23 - 24, 2020 – South Alabama British Car Festival / Fairhope AL** - It's a nice drive down to the fair community of 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. Join EMC members to drive and celebrate this show in its 30<sup>th</sup> year! Details: [www.sabcc.org](http://www.sabcc.org).

**November 7, 2020 – EMC Tech Session / 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 2020. The garage opens early and lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Gene / Martha Johnston (601) 941 – 4892.

**December 5, 2020 – EMC / DSARC Christmas Party / Clinton MS** – The EMC has been invited to the home of Will and Jennifer Duncan for the year end 2020 Christmas Party. Make plans to join us to wind down 2020 with the EMCs year end gathering. Details: Will / Jennifer Duncan [JenniferLongmireDuncan@outlook.com](mailto:JenniferLongmireDuncan@outlook.com).

If you are not receiving the OSU or monthly calendar notices of upcoming events, please email Gene at [jjohnston18@msemc.org](mailto:jjohnston18@msemc.org)