

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO



“A gentleman does not motor about after dark.”

Joseph Lucas

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Brits on the Bluff 2022

Our annual fall weekend in Natchez was a great couple of days full of sunshine, a good breeze, and lots of shiny British cars. Winners from the club included:

Peter LaRocca/Karen Messick: 3rd in Jaguar Sports 1974—Present with their Blue 2006 Jaguar XKR

Barbara Cashman: 1st in Jaguar Sedan with her 1967 Jaguar 420 G

Donna Durning: 3rd in Mini Classic with her BRG 1967 Morris Minor 1000

John Turbeville: 1st in Mini Classic with his BRG 1995 Rover Mini Cooper

Stephen Turner: 1st in Mini New with his BRG 2005 Mini Cooper

Joe Speetjens: 2nd in Empire Roadster/Convertible with his Silver 2019 Morgan Roadster

Hugh Coleman: 1st in MGB/GT Rubber Bumper with his BRG MGB

Richard Harriss: 1st in Austin Healy 100-4 thru 3000 with his Green 1954 Austin Healy

Keith Anderson: 3rd in TR-6 with his BRG 1971 TR-6

Renee Schmitz: 2nd in TR-6 with her Ma-roon 1976 TR-6

Barry Schmidt: 1st in TR-7 with his 1975 TR-7

Best of Show: Tom McMillian for his Black 1946 MG-TC

Many thanks to Richard Greene for sending in the nice collection of photos.













FUN & GAMES WITH A LOTUS EUROPA OR HOW THE LUCAS GODS ALWAYS WIN! PART 1

By Richard Greene

It seems that one of my yearly projects is to replace the speedometer cable on my Europa TC. The cable is over 82" inches long and snakes from the rear transmission to the speedometer in the dash. Under the dash is a 90 degree bend and ends with a 45 degree bend at the transmission. The speedometer has never been smooth and jerks around like a deranged hummingbird. It seems that each year the inner cable breaks due to these bends and has to be replaced. The cost of the complete cable (inner and outer) is over \$100 and to me is unreasonable for only getting a year out of it and what little I drive the TC. So, this year I decided to replace the manual speedometer with a GPS driven model. Since the manual speedometer only has one electrical connection (The backlight) it seemed like a pretty standard (easy) job to replace.

I found a GPS speedometer that was almost the same diameter and look pretty decent with a step motor speed dial (Not a digital readout) and ordered it from China. Not sure what to expect and a long wait I was surprised how fast it arrived, and it looked really decent.

It did have a digital readout for the mileage and trip odometer. It also had a left and right turn signal indicators and a high beam indicator light. Now my Europa is a TC and not a TC Special. For this project, the main difference between the two is that the TC Special has a left and right indicator light and the TC uses only one indicator light for both the left and right turn indicators. On the TC between the tachometer and the odometer there are three lights, a blue one (high beam indicator), a red one (ignition light) and a green one (for either left or right turn indicator).



AUTOPSY OF A 1098: PART 5

THE ENGINE GOES BACK WHERE IT BELONGS



By Charlie Durning

Now that the short block is assembled it's time to work on getting the engine mounted in the car. Back when I removed the engine, I discovered that the transmission cross member is held in with 8 bolts. 2 of those bolts would require the removal of the master cylinder. Master cylinder removal in a Morris Minor is a hateful job requiring many 4 letter words.

Not wanting to go there, I took a second look at what I had. HMMM, the oil pan is off and the head is off, this just might work. I was able to sneak the engine out and didn't even have to remove the cross member or the bonnet. Since that worked I'm sure the reverse procedure would work also.

The problem here is the engine and trans can be inserted easy enough by tilting the engine so the pan clears the front cross member, but that places the rear of the transmission under the transmission cross member. The other obstacle is the steering rack rests directly over the engine bell housing and the front cross member does not allow the engine any forward movement.

The decision was made to attach the transmission to the bare short block and sneak the transmission and short block in as a unit. That way the front of the engine could be lowered enough to just clear the front cross member, clear the steering rack, and still have enough room to maneuver the rear of the transmission over the transmission cross member.

Before all of that can happen, the flywheel and clutch have to be installed. No problem. In order to get the clutch installed I would need a clutch alignment tool. After digging around I found my universal alignment tool. Unfortunately the kit wasn't universal enough. I need a pilot that is 1/2" in diameter. The smallest in the kit was 9/16". Since all but the 9/16" pilots show considerable use I felt it was safe to modify the 9/16" pilot since it showed no prior use.



A trip to my buddy Joe's place to use his lathe was now in order. Joe does live an hour away, but at least I can use his lathe for FREE. The modification took about 5 minutes and I was back on the road to my shop.

Once the clutch was installed, the transmission could be attached.

Though the Morris transmission is small and light weight it is a bit awkward to handle precisely.

Basically it takes at least 3 hands to insert the transmission into the clutch splines, support it so it does not damage the clutch disc, and start a couple of attaching bolts. All at the same time. The solution is to make a couple of long alignment dowels. The dowels were made by cutting the heads off of a couple of long 5/16" bolts and then slotting the ends to make removal easier. That way the process of attaching the transmission could be accomplished with just 2 hands. Bingo, it worked.

The next day Pres John and Bro Clay decided to show up and heckle. But their plan failed and were put to work. Bro Clay was tasked with getting the transmission mounted to the cross member and Pres John tackled the front engine mounts. While they were busy I tackled getting the oil pick up and oil pan ready to go back on the engine. Once the assigned tasks were done Bro Clay and Pres John abandoned ship, leaving me to finish the assembly on another day.

Stay tuned, more in this saga next time.



Modified pilot tool



Modifying the clutch pilot tool



Homemade transmission alignment dowels



Going in



Finally back home





THE PERFECT PICNIC

From Hilda Level's *The Perfect Picnic*

Menu No. 9

Mulligatawaney Soup

Cold Ham & Potato Salad

Yorkshire Parkin

Cream Cheese & Celery Biscuit

Mulligatawaney Soup: Cut an onion in rings and an ounce of ham into dice. Put an ounce of butter in a frying pan and fry the onion and ham in it until golden brown, then add one turnip cut in small pieces, part of a carrot sliced and a small apple sliced, and after that a teaspoonful of good curry powder and half a teaspoon of curry paste and a quart of stock. Leave them to simmer for an hour, then strain through a hair sieve. Put back into the pan and add a tablespoonful of flour mixed with a little cold water and stir till the soup boils and thickens.

Potato Salad: Choose small waxy potatoes and boil a pound in their skins. When sufficiently cooked cut them into slices while warm. Put into a bowl and cover with olive oil and a glass of white wine; add salt and pepper and seasoning and sprinkle with finely chopped parsley and shallot.

Note: The book does not include recipes for either Yorkshire Parkin or Cream Cheese & Celery Biscuits (likely cream cheese and celery on crackers). For those curious as to what “parkin” could possibly be, click this link: [Yorkshire Parkin | BBC Good Food](#)

A LITTLE BRITISH WEATHER IN NORTH ALABAMA

By Gene Johnston



TR6s at Shoals

Martha and I were excited that the Shoals British Car Club show for 2022 was going to be held at Joe Wheeler State Park in Rogersville Al on September 10. We hit the road early on Friday September 9th hoping to miss the afternoon thunder storms that had been reoccurring for several days. We did run into a couple of showers traveling up the Natchez Trace but we were not to be put off. We arrived in time to make the Friday evening receptions and enjoyed the lodge buffet. Saturday was show day British weather style. Although misty and drizzly weather during the day likely impacted the number of cars everyone that made the effort was rewarded with some nice cars in a great setting along the Tennessee River. Following the show a large crowd of attendees gathered in the lodge for a great meal. We enjoyed seeing everyone and hope that we can make the show next year. Thanks to the Shoals British Car Club for hosting a jam up event.

TR7



MGAS





Best of Show



Not all showers at Shoals British Car Shows



UPCOMING EVENTS

October (check for dates, usually the second weekend), 2022 - Brits at the Parthenon Nashville, TN - If you're looking for a nice drive up the Natchez Trace there's no better reason than to attend the 26th Annual Nashville British Car Club Show. Lots to do including taking in the Lane Museum of Cars while in town. A reception is held on Friday evening and the shows on Saturday. Details: www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org.

October 21 -22, 2022 – Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show Location to be updated – Looking for a great weekend auto activity? This local show is in its 17th year and sponsored by the Mississippi Classic Cruisers. For show registration and scheduling check out their web-site at www.MSClassicCruisers.com. If you'd like to park in the Little British Car area contact Keith Anderson. Details: Keith Anderson (601) - 829 – 2573.

October 21 - 22, 2022 – 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 31th year! Details: www.sabcc.org.

November 5, 2022 – 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 3, 2022 – EMC / DSARC Christmas Party Clinton, MS – The EMC has been invited to the home of Will and Jennifer Duncan for the year end 2022 Christmas Party. Make plans to join us to wind down 2022 with the EMCs year end gathering. Details: Will / Jennifer Duncan JenniferLongmireDuncan@outlook.com.

You almost made it. Except
for the language used when
working on your MG

