


English Motoring Club

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"A gentleman does not motor about after dark." -- Joseph Lucas, attrib.



EMC goes to "British Fun Day"

by Terry Trovato

BATON ROUGE, LA. — On Saturday, September 18th, a "British Fun Day" was co-hosted by Fred Fabre, owner of Carriage House Garage (a Rolls Royce/Bentley restoration shop), and the Mardi Gras T's Club of Louisiana, the latter an MG T Series organization. Mardi Gras T's officer Mike Lewis and Fabre do an outstanding job each year organizing this event, and this latest installment was no exception.

The Carriage House Garage is really much more than a restoration shop in that its two wings contain an astounding assortment of British car regalia and memorabilia. A tremendous collection of British car models is on hand for the visitors' viewing pleasure, along with vintage cameras, electric trains, and countless bins of Lucas and S.U. NOS.

Club members are encouraged to drive their British cars to British Fun Day, but it is not a show as such. Rather, it consists of "bench racing," where members assemble in Fabre's garage auditorium-style to discuss topics of interest to the assembled throng.

English Motoring Club members who took part were Pat and Barbara Cashman, who drove their E-type coupe; John Turbeville and Renee Cole, who arrived in John's TR8; J. T. and Audrey Seale, who motored from Natchez in their MG Midget; and Mike Killeen, who drove his Bugeye Sprite.

Other EMC members on hand were Marc Schmitz and yours truly, who arrived in pedestrian transportation, and guest Parker Hall, who drove his immaculate AC Bristol from Vicksburg. They were joined by members from the Mardi Gras T's and the British Motoring Club of New Orleans.

Fabre and Lewis welcomed everyone to the event, and then Fabre skillfully and humorously led a discussion on "Don't be afraid to drive your British car long distances!"

Fabre advised the group to incorporate the "5-50-500" rule of British motoring discipline when venturing out in a British vehicle. First, he explained, drive the car on *five* consecutive trips of *five* miles each. If everything goes without a hitch, proceed to the next step: five consecutive trips of 50 miles each. "But," he added, "if on your fourth five-mile trip your vehicle quits on you, you must repair the problem and start your first of five trips all over again!" The same rule applies for the five 50-mile trips, "and then, if you complete that portion, take your vehicle on five consecutive 500-mile trips!"

Fabre continued, "If you complete that phase of the 5-50-500 rule with no breakdowns, you can drive your British car anywhere!" Fabre followed this discussion with a checklist of important factors/items to consider to make your vehicle road- and trustworthy.

Then, the discussion turned to "youth in the movement," which all participants agreed was a problem. Much talk ensued, but not a lot of solutions other than to expose young persons to the character, history and fun of British cars. Fred ended the meeting with a poignant comment: "We don't really own our British cars, we are just their caretakers for awhile." They, no doubt, will outlive us.

Our congratulations to Mike Lewis and the Mardi Gras T's organization for arranging this superb event, and our thanks to Fred Fabre for his splendid hospitality. See page 7 for Mike's report on the event.



'BRITS ON THE BLUFF'
BRITISH CAR SHOW AND COMPETITION
October 15-16, 1999
Natchez, Mississippi
Schedule Of Events

- Welcome Reception:** 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15th
"Biscuits & Blues," 315 Main Street
Cash Bar
- Registration and Line-up:** 8 a.m. to Noon, Sat., Oct. 16th
Broadway and State Streets
- Show and Competition:** Noon to 3 p.m.
- Judging Begins:** 12:30 p.m.
- Awards Presentation:** 3 p.m. on the Show Grounds

This will be a Concours d' Elegance (points) judged show with awards and dash plaques presented by Mississippi's English Motoring Club. Entry fee of \$20 per car.

A Fun-Filled Weekend

The show will coincide with the city's Fall Pilgrimage tour of antebellum mansions and its famous Hot-Air Balloon Festival. Our location for the show is superb and just one block away from the Balloon Festival site, where there will be music and food. The house tours and balloon festival run Friday through Sunday.

Overnight Accommodations

Natchez Bed & Breakfasts - For B&B reservations simply call Natchez Pilgrimage Tours at 800-647-6742. Many Natchez B&Bs are restored antebellum mansions; NPT will give you a slate of prices and describe the facilities in detail.

Motels -

The Western Inn 601-442-3686. The EMC has reserved a block of rooms at @ \$45 per night plus tax. Tell them you are with the English Motoring Club. *This motel is now a Super 8. See note in article above.*

The Ramada Inn 800-256-6311 Prentiss Inn (601) 442-9577 Comfort Inn 800-228-5150

Hotel -

The Radisson Natchez Eola Hotel (601) 445-6000. This is the city's grand old hotel downtown.

Because this is a busy tourist weekend in Natchez, by early Summer overnight accommodations will begin filling up. Make reservations now (you can always cancel later if you are unable to attend).

For further information about any or all aspects of the show and weekend call Terry Trovato (601) 442-8684.