

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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

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## Travels in Alabama

**Rogersville AL** – The coffee pot was on early at the Johnston’s residence on Friday, September 6, 2013 and I was on the run getting last minute details tended to prior to a trip to Joe Wheeler State Park for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show hosted by the Shoals British Car Club of North Alabama. I was really looking forward to the visit as it had been six or seven years since I’d made the trip up the Natchez Trace to the North Alabama area.



James Hester’s 1930 MG M-Type at Joe Wheeler State Park / Photo Courtesy EMC

First to arrive at the house was Mike Glore in his MP-4 next was Clay Johnston followed by John Turbeville in quick succession in their MGBs. We had planned a late get away time of 9:00am and we were on the road on time. The morning run of three hours to Tupelo on the Trace was a great early morning cruise. The temperature was just perfect after we cleared the local traffic. Arriving in the boyhood home of The King we stopped for an excellent lunch at The Grille. Post lunch we continued

north. I was a bit behind the rest of the group as I made a right turn when I should have traveled straight a left but made good time catching up. The stretch of the Trace from Tupelo to our final exit just west of Florence is one of the best along it's 444 mile length and I enjoy it whenever I get up to that end. The road is curvy along with some great views and large rocks seldom interrupted by traffic. Driving east thru Florence was a bit of a challenge with Friday traffic but we were rewarded on the winding entrance to Joe Wheeler State Park and welcomed by a large number of deer that were present to greet us. They were very polite staying off the right of way. After ridding ourselves of road grim up we attended the Friday night reception on the lodge's deck area. We received a warm welcome, great food and then we were off for an evening rest from the day's travels.

Early the next morning we did a bit of bug removal from the automobiles. Following a great breakfast at the lodge we motored to the show field and a day of renewing friendships, making new ones and enjoying the large crowd of sight seer's that came out to view the cars on display. There was a turnout of around forty or so cars a few you don't see too often including an Allard, Triumph GT-6 an MG M Type and a Triumph Herald. I was impressed with the number and quality of cars in attendance. A jolly good show!



Line-up of Bs at Joe Wheeler Lodge

Photo Courtesy EMC

All too soon our day in the sun was over at least on the official show field. Several of the participants migrated to the parking lot of the lodging area and we continued the inspections of vehicles in that area until time for clean up for the awards banquet which started at 7:00pm. Once again, the food provided by the staff of Daniella's in the Park Restaurant was excellent and following the meal introductions were made, participants from other clubs got the opportunity to pitch their shows, the winners of the silent auctions were announced and the winners of the popular choice awards were announced.

I was pleased that Ole Red garnered a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place from the large number of MGBs present and Mike received an award in the exotic class for his McLaren. Following the banquet it was off for a night

of restlessness as we anticipated the return ride on Sunday. Before I leave the activities of the car show I'd like to congratulate club president Jean Mammen and all of the members of the Shoals British Car Club for the quality of the show. They are a small club but the location, the organization and hospitality shown was tops. We all had a great time and hope that we can enjoy the 18<sup>th</sup> annual show in 2014.



The Frisco Line caboose, Sulligent Alabama

Photo Courtesy EMC

Mike departed in the early hours headed west and was well down the road I think by the time Brother Clay, John and I went down for a final breakfast with the host club and other attendees. We finished loading the B's and headed back into Florence and down to Russellville past Dismals Canyon to Hamilton and thru Detroit, Alabama that is, and a brief stop to visit the Frisco Line caboose in Sulligent before crossing the state line headed for lunch in Bulldog Country, Starkville.

Although I'm a hard-core hood down traveler I relented on leaving Starkville. With the high in the upper 90's and a couple of more hours of traveling in very bright sunlight the hood was snapped in place the rear-window zipped out and plenty of cool water was consumed as I cruised the final leg home. It may take a couple of days to get the feel of the highway out of my system but the memories will be a snapshot of an enjoyable times spent with others that appreciate seeing the country and sharing good times with like minded lovers of the British automobile. That snap shot will last much, much longer.

## Tech Session II

**Brandon MS** – I was called away on other duties over the weekend of August 17, 2013 and wasn't able to attend the annual pre – Brits on the Bluff gathering at David and Jo Ann Bailey's garage I understand that there was a great crowd again, with about 30 members in attendance and all had a wonderful time. Report is that David is making good use of a recent add-on to his garage. Following a big meal along with an extensive amount of tire kicking and story fabrication the swag bags were stuffed in preparation for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual English Motoring Club's show. As I complete the OSU this evening I'm informed that we've

received 32 pre-registrations. The 2013 show looks like it will be a great show for the EMC and we look forward to our involvement with The American MGB Association this year.

### **Other Exhaust Rattles**

I received word from Steve Whitlow that his Midget 1500 has been returned from the Dent Doctor better than ever. Good to hear Steve. We can hardly wait to see the MG back in good order post hail storm.

To bring everyone up to Jaguar speed, EMC members Ernie and Mary Clark along with Pat and Barbara Cashman and Mike Marsh made the rollout of the new Jaguar F Type at White Oak Plantation near Baton Rouge Louisiana back in July. The Clark's and the Cashman's Jag's were present on the field for the unveiling.



Jags at White Oak Plantation

Photo Courtesy Ernie Clark

If you get the opportunity to get your hands on a copy of the Life in the Delta magazine our trip to Delta along with information about The EMC and British automobile ownership was documented in an interview with Tommy and Kathy Hart. If your news stand doesn't carry the article let me know and I'll pass along my electronic copy. Great work Tommy and Kathy on our 2013 Drive Thru History.

The lump is back in! That's correct, you heard it right! The engine is back in the B GT. Brother Clay and I tackled the job over the Labor Day Weekend which I might add had to be one of the hottest days to that date for the summer of 2013. Stay tuned for more running adventures.

Charlie has been preparing for Brits on the Bluff with a polishing wheel I understand. Someone must have been mistaken as in his own words I've heard Charlie exclaim that he hates body work. Perhaps polishing doesn't qualify.

Al and Debbie Adams are now short one MG having sold their Midget recently and from what I've seen on e-bay Keith Anderson is in the process of removing a project car from his property. Good luck Keith!

We've added two new members to our rooster this evening, Clay and Pat Ellis. Welcome to the EMC Clay and Pat, we hope to see you at one of our events soon.

Please be sure that you keep an eye on the events area of the web site at [www.msemc.org](http://www.msemc.org) for upcoming gatherings and if you're not receiving e-mails, please let me know so we can attempt to correct.

That's it for this edition of the Off-Side Undo. We hope that if you're within traveling distance that you'll be able to make The EMC's Brits on the Bluff 2013. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

## **Events Calendar**

### **September 20 - 21, 2013 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS**

We had such a good time returning to Natchez the last 2 years that we could resist the invitation to return. We're looking for a great turnout for The EMC's 2013 show. We hope that friends from near and far will join us. Event brochure along with the entry form is located here; [BotB 2013](#). For questions or additional details contact; John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801

### **October 5, 2013 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS**

The 2012 Renaissance Car Fest was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2013. 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)

### **October 12, 2013 - Nashville British Car Club Show / Nashville TN**

Nashville British Car Club's Show at Nashville, Tennessee's acclaimed Centennial Park. Friday evening reception for Saturday's show participants. Car show open to the public for viewing 100+ British cars on the lawn of Nashville's full-sized Greek Parthenon replica! Pre-register to save money, help establish car classes, and to qualify for a unique door prize. Get complete info at [www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org](http://www.nashvillebritishcarclub.org) . Details: Mike Long @ 615-790-2169 or email [myriley4@bellsouth.net](mailto:myriley4@bellsouth.net)