

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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A Rally of our Own

By Clay Ellis

There are two sayings which tend to be true: There are no coincidences and Mississippi is really just a small town on a large scale. This summer’s events have lead to things that make both of these sayings true, yet again.

It started back in the early summer at the time of the Jerry Clower Festival in Yazoo City. The festival sponsors like to have car enthusiasts bring their cars to show while the event is happening to attract



Goodie bag stuffing at the Bailey’s

people. At the last minute I entered my MG B and found a spot in the shade on Main Street and settled in for the day. A Mr. Bob Summerlin stopped by and we talked about my ‘B’ before he mentioned that he had a good sized collection of British cars in various states of operation. He went on to say that he had

been a member of the English Motoring Club at one time and would be interested in possibly rejoining. He gave me his name and phone number and he and his wife, Ruth, moseyed on.

When I went to find his number days later to make sure I logged it in my contacts I couldn't find it. Hoping that I would find it soon I just went about life. Just the other week it popped up and I called him to make contact and to let him know that I hadn't forgotten him. Then a notice came about an upcoming EMC event and I called him back to invite him and his wife to the event. However, I didn't call the host for directions to the event until the morning of the event and only got a machine. While I left them a message, I decided to check the address via the White Pages, cross checking the phone number to the name.



Keith Anderson and Bob Summerlin share early EMC memories

We drove over to Bob & Ruth's house which was a 45 minute drive out into the country going northeast of Canton. Then the drive would be somewhat straight south to below the Ross Barnett Reservoir. While I had been planning to drive my B, it was going to be simply too hot that day for the better part of 3 hours in the B. We switched to their normal car so we could all ride together. I was the navigator in the right front seat and the ladies were in the back. My printed directions differed slightly from my back up navigator's iPhone so a slight bit of confusion ensued. Meanwhile our drive took a turn off the state road we were on that I didn't anticipate which added to the fun. I realized that we were doing our own version of a sports car rally. We arrived at what was indicated to be the correct address however; there was just one white pickup truck out front versus a lot of English sports cars. What to do?

My rally partners urged me to go up to the door and ask for help. Why not? As I looked in the side window I saw pictures of semi-teens and the look of a house that they lived in. I pushed the door bell and a man in his 30's came to the door. I explained my predicament and he said, "You are looking for my parents, David and Joann, who used to live here" Whew, at least the day was salvaged! He not only gave us directions, but on hearing that my wife's iPhone was out of power offered his portable charger what we could leave with his parents.

On finding our actual destination we pull up to a house with sports cars and pulled around back to the garage. It was a 4 garage bay door stand alone building. Upon entering where cars would normally be

were long buffet tables and chairs to seat the club members already having lunch as we were about 45 minutes late with our 'detour'. Our host and hostess were great in making us comfortable. He asked about my guest and upon hearing that he was actually a founding member of the EMC asked if he would like to say a few words about the early years of the EMC. If I had heard from Bob that he was a founding member it hadn't registered. Bob did about the friendships he had made while a member of the EMC and ended with the fact that another early member that he maintained contact with had fallen on hard times. Bob and Ruth brought a card of well wishes and members gathered around to sign the card sending wishes for better days.

Another early member of the EMC, Keith Anderson, and Bob had a great time together and we all enjoyed hearing them reminisce about the early days of the EMC. It was great to see.

Once we got back to Bob's home, he took us on a tour of his 'junkyard': a pasture with cows and MG's, pick up trucks from the 40's & 50's as well as farm equipment.

We had a great day with Bob and Ruth. They are wonderful to spend time with. In looking back over the day, it was funny that while wandering around trying to find the event, Bob had good naturally said that he has been in similar situations himself with a great big smile. We had a great time on a rally of our own.

Everyone had a great time doing the swag-bag shuffle! And the food, a LBC club mark of excellence was wonderful. Thanks to Jo Ann and David Bailey for hosting the EMC event. The members enjoyed looking over their collection of cars, the good times, food and good cheer.

North to Florence AL

Florence AL – Clay Johnston arrived just in time for me to complete the final cleanup on the GT, Morrissey and load her up for our September 5, 2014 trip up to Florence AL and the Shoals British Car Clubs 17 Annual Brits of the Shoals car show at Joe Wheeler State Park. During the week ahead rain



Midget's on the Shoals

chances were high however on the day of our travels chances had been reduced to a comfortable scattered showers only level. This was my first outing with the GT since the refurbishing of the engine compartment and rehabbing of the interior. The drive north on the Trace was as always wonderful and the heat wasn't too overwhelming and we on hit rain in a couple of spots after turning east off of the Trace and those

were hard but brief storms. This year a short cut found us and we were able to travel the country side south of Florence and arrived a couple of hours prior to the meet and greet party on the banks of First Creek just off Wheeler Lake. Saturday morning the cars received spritzer baths and after a full breakfast in the lodge



Alan Apel's GT-6+

we stopped by for registration and photos before moving to the field. The weather was great for show day and forty to fifty cars were out on the field. We had another great visit this year with participants and attendees that made it out for the day to look at the cars. There was a very nice collection of big Healey's on site as well as a large contingent of MG As, Bs and Midgets. Triumphs were well represented by TR-6s, Spitfires and a very nice GT-6+. As the show wound down the fun was just starting with the 2:00 start of the funkhana. A good crowd of attendees had a great time watching the antics of the participants as they ran the cones and accomplished various task. The awards banquet was well attended on Saturday night with both Clay and I receiving awards. Thanks to the participants for the recognition. Above all we had a great time visiting with everyone.

Other Exhaust Rattles

Charles Durning sent along this note:

Got attacked by the "might as wells" today. The day started out to change radiator hoses on the Morris and while there might as well change the bypass hose. Well the hose that is supposed to be one that could be changed without taking the engine apart didn't fit, too long. To shorten the hose all would be left is the bellows. Might as well pull the water pump and install a straight hose. While the pump is off might as well install the high volume water pump I have on the shelf. To get the pump off I had to remove the radiator. While there might as well paint the rusty fan and pulley. And while the radiator is off might as well convert to the 40 amp alternator I have on the shelf.

Changing the crusty and cracked hoses just gave confidence in driving the car. The biggest difference was getting rid of the gen and installing the alternator. With everything electrical turned and my GPS plugged in, the head lights are still bright. WOW!! What a difference.

John Turbeville continues progress on his TR-6. Now the cleaning has started:

After being inspired by a Moss Motoring DIY article I decided to try it on my TR-6. My Civil Engineer friend, Kyle, came over last night to give it a go. It failed to stay upright on its own --our geometry is off. We noted in the article that there is no picture of theirs on its side showing it worked either. It works as long as Kyle props it up! Oh well, made for a fun evening of playing with cars.



John's tub and Kyle in the supporting role

Fine tuning continues on Morrissey the GT in my garage and Ole Red remains down with master cylinder replacements well under way.

Larry Spencer is the newest member to the English Motoring Club and hails from just up the road in Madison. Welcome to the EMC Larry. We hope that you're able to make one of the remaining gatherings during 2014. We look forward to meeting you.

The events calendar remains full, check it out at www.msemc.org. And on that note I've checked some of the area clubs and most all have an entry listed for the 6 Pack Trials to be held in Oxford MS October 9 – 12, 2014 for additional information visit www.2014trials.com. This folks is a national gathering and will be first class. If you have never had the opportunity to make national event this one is close by and is in a great location. You'll see some well prepared cars and you'll enjoy the fellowship and fun.

As I complete this edition of the Off-Side Undo the 18th annual Brits on the Bluff is just around the corner on September 19 – 20, 2014. If you bring a car for entry or just come down to visit we think you'll enjoy your visit to Natchez. It's a great venue and we look forward to hosting area clubs for the weekend.

That's it for this edition of the OSU.

Happy Motoring

The EMC

Upcoming Events

September 9 – 13, 2014 - Vintage Triumph Register National Convention / Dodson NC -
Details: www.vintagetriumphregister.org.

September 18 – 21, 2014 – Southeast British Car Festival / Dillard GA - Details:
www.peachtreemg.com or Jack Orkin jack.orkin@emory.edu.

September 19 - 20, 2014 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS - A bit of rain didn't dampen our spirits at the 2013 BOTB as a matter of fact it was all very British. It's promised to be all sunshine and roses for 2014 so we're looking for a great turnout. We hope that friends from near and far will join us. Details: [BotB Info/Registration](#), John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801.

September 20, 2014 – Coffee and Cars / Flowood MS – This is the final 2014 gathering on the schedule at Primos in Flowood arranged by Mike Marsh. Additional details: Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

October 4, 2014 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS - The 2013 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 2014. 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.

October 9 – 12, 2014 – 32nd Annual Six-Pack Trials / Oxford MS - Details:
www.2014trials.com. EMC Rendezvous info: Ken Dolhonde (601) 876 – 0031 or Stephen Turner sdturner@juno.com.