

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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2020

This 'n That

By Roy Schooler

It was nice to get in a couple of events during August with the Tech Session at the Baileys and the Countryside Drive. Enjoy the photos of both. We were asked how we found Crawbilly's—we actually took a wrong turn in Pelahatchie. I knew the food would be good since he brought his trailer to Brandon for a event downtown years ago.

Be sure to double check any event you plan to attend. So many of them are being cancelled. The Brits on the Bluff event site in Natchez has lots of room for social distancing. We also included a flyer for the EuroFest Renaissance in October. Be sure to get registered for both.

See you in Natchez!

August Tech Session

By Keith Anderson

Photos by Charlie Durning

We had a friendly gathering of seventeen folks at the garage of David and Jo Ann Bailey where we enjoyed plenty of good food and spirited conversation. In addition to the 25+ British and Italian cars in David's collection, it was good to see that the restoration of his Austin Healey BJ8 is coming along fine with the engine having recently completed by Jim Trundle, his British car mechanic. Now David is wrestling with getting the new aluminum body panels shipped from England through the customs department.

We confirmed that our "Brits on the Bluff" car show will go on as scheduled on September 18-19 since it will be outside where proper social distancing can easily be addressed. The welcoming party on Friday the 18th will be held at Richard Banyan's large outside patio. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs for proper spacing.



Brits on the Bluff—

Time is running out to register

Sept. 18 - 19, 2020 Natchez, Mississippi

The English Motoring Club of Mississippi proudly announces its annual all-marque car show and celebration to be held in Historic Natchez, Mississippi, the weekend of September 20th and 21th.

Lower Lodge Antiques – Welcome Reception: Friday evening, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Join us on the outdoor patio of Richard Branyan’s wonderful shop located at 712 Franklin Street, six blocks east of the Grand Hotel. The gathering will include hors d’oeuvres, drinks and a cash bar.

Natchez Bluff Park - Show: Saturday 10 a.m. - At 303 South Broadway Street, just a few blocks from the Grand Hotel, located on a magnificent 200-foot bluff containing shade trees and picnic tables. Awards presentation 3 p.m.

Overnight Accommodations - A block of rooms has been reserved at the Natchez Grand Hotel, located at 111 Broadway Street. The EMC has negotiated rates from \$120 to \$169 plus fees and taxes per night. See natchezgrandhotel.com for hotel information, call 866-488-0898 or 601-446-9994 for reservations, and be sure to reference “English Motoring Club of MS” for the group rates. The number of rooms in the block are limited so please book early.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City St, Zip: _____
Best Phone: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Car Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____
Color: _____

In consideration of this entry, I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against the English Motoring Club, their officers and any sponsors of this event for injury or illness which may result directly or indirectly from my participation. I give my permission for use of my name and/or picture in any published or broadcast account of this event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose check for \$25 per car (\$10 for additional cars) payable to English Motoring Club and mail to: EMC MS, 498 Old Hwy. 49



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 Will Duncan

Photos by Will Duncan and Charlie Durning

After hitting a big bump on a recent drive, I found that I was suddenly tilted slightly to the left. Upon inspection after returning home, I found that three of the hooks on the front left of my seat had pulled through the webbing. I also noticed that the seat would not move in its tracks, which meant that removing it would be a bit of a challenge. I ordered the parts, and as a stop-gap measure, I used the mgexp.com-approved fix: a partially-inflated 8-inch wheelbarrow inertube placed under the seat, which served well on our club drive on August 8th. After describing the situation to Charlie during lunch, we agreed it was a two-person job, and Charlie graciously offered to help with the repair.

It was a cool, foggy morning on the drive down to Magee, promising cooler working conditions, at least until midday. Removing the front bolts on the driver's seat wasn't bad, but since the seat wouldn't move forward, we had to employ Charlie's hydraulic spreader to push the seat forward along the rails while holding the seat adjuster open. This worked very well, and we soon had the rear bolts removed, as well.

With the seat out of the car, we removed the seatback. Next were the upholstery clips holding the seat cover to the bottom frame. With those gone, we were able to lay the foam and cover 180 degrees away from the bottom frame and replace the broken webbing. The prior owner had used some sort of vinyl material that was tacky on one side between the webbing and foam, but instead of putting that side towards the foam, it was facing the webbing and was not fulfilling its purpose of protecting the seat foam from the straps, so Charlie and I took a quick trip to Wal-Mart to find some burlap or canvas to replace it.

When we arrived back at Charlie's, Clay was waiting to offer some additional hands. We cut the canvas to fit, sprayed it with adhesive, and turned our attention to the seat foam. As a temporary diversion, we speculated about how old the foam might be because of its appearance and the old AHH**** part number embossed in it. After a quick coating of spray adhesive on the foam and a little setting time, we applied the canvas to the foam, pulled the seat cover back in place, replaced the upholster clips, and declared a lunch break, sharing some good home cooking at Zip's.

Once back, we tested the sliding action of the seat rails on the frame and found that they were a bit bent, causing them to rub in places as they traveled back and forth. While Charlie and Clay straightened those, I replaced the broken wooden packing strips that go between the seat rails and the carpet, as well as the metal spacers that go between the seat rails and the floor. Charlie and Clay also discovered that the seat rails were scrubbing against the back edge of the seat frame in certain positions, so we fabricated some packing strips out of aluminum stock Charlie had on hand and placed them between the seat frame and the rails. Problem solved. Then we reattached the seatback and placed the seat back into the car, where Clay and I wrangled the seat into position and spent several minutes aligning the bolt holes, which gave us a bit of trouble keeping the seat rails true as we tightened the bolts. Once we were done, we declared the results good enough and moved on to the passenger seat.

The passenger seat was much easier to remove because, while it didn't slide freely, it did slide with just a little persuasion, no hydraulic wedge needed. It also didn't require nearly as much attention, probably because my wife is a fair and dainty thing, and possibly also because, while there always has to be a driver, the passenger is optional. The seat webbing was in great shape, and the rails were generally straight and required only minor adjustments, although they did exhibit the same tendency to scrub the back of the seat in the same places. Since there was no more aluminum stock to make a set of packing strips for the passenger seat, Charlie and Clay got creative and did a tiny bit of grinding at those two points on the seat frame. While they took care of that, I replaced the wooden packing strips and the spacers on the passenger side. Replacement took Clay and I less time, as well, and the seat was back in no time.

After thanking Charlie and Clay for their help, I was about to leave when Clay remembered I had mentioned checking the idle. After some initial tweaking and a quick warm-up run, Charlie noticed some smoke when we popped the hood, which we quickly traced to the back of the valve cover. Apparently, the silicon gasket that was just installed less than two years ago was not doing its job. While checking for the source of the smoke, we also noticed a slight leak at the heater hose, which was quickly remedied. With that fixed, rather than fiddle with the old gasket, Charlie offered a spare cork gasket and bushings for the valve cover nuts, and Clay prepped the engine surface while I prepped and sealed the gasket to the cover. Since we had some time to kill while the sealant set, we watched some old *Top Gear* on the TV in the garage. We replaced the cover, hooked up Charlie's tach, finished our idle adjustments, and called ourselves done for the day. The seat was noticeably more comfortable on the way home, and the idle at lights was much improved.

As always, thanks to Charlie and Clay for all their help and surprise parts and invaluable advice and assistance!



A NICE DAY TO DRIVE YOUR FRUSTRATIONS AWAY

By Barry Schmidt

On a gorgeous Saturday morning a total of ten cars and about eighteen brave souls gathered at Ramey's Food Market in beautiful downtown Brandon Mississippi for an anticipated Saturday drive thru the back roads of Rankin County. What a great way to break up the monotony of being cooped up at home.

Roy and Penny Schooler picked a scenic route for the first leg of the journey, and we wandered thru parts of Rankin County that I did not know existed. The roads for the most part were smooth with plenty of curves and void of traffic. For most of the first leg of the drive I was completely lost and cursed the fact that I left my GPS at home. Anyways, it was a very pleasant drive with the top down and not too hot yet but that would definitely change later on. We eventually arrived at Crawbilly's, a local eatery in Pelahatchie, hidden behind the police department and along the railroad tracks parallel to highway 80 and enjoyed a relaxing lunch on the back deck of said restaurant. The highlight of the lunch stop was the owner of the restaurant demonstrating how to use a common handsaw as a musical instrument. Not being a born and bred Mississippi Redneck, I had my doubts about his claim, but had to eat my words after he played a very recognizable rendition of Amazing Grace on it.

After the lunch and saw concert, only four of the original participants elected to continue the remainder of the route. I will admit that by this time it must have been in the middle 90.s with 200 percent humidity making for a typical August day (unbearable). As we headed south over the railroad tracks with a right and left turn thrown in we crossed under Hwy 20 and made a right onto Shiloh Road and I was elated that I knew where I was and was convinced I was not going to get lost. That was short lived as we made an immediate left turn and we traveled back into the twilight zone. I again cursed myself for leaving my GPS at home and vowed never to leave home again without it. After some great hills and curves we finally crossed under Hwy 20 again and wound up on Hwy 80 headed back to Brandon. The only reason I knew we were on Hwy 80 is because we Passed the Rankin County Co-op where I have shopped. About ten minutes later we were in downtown Brandon again.

All in all, it was a great day with great fellowship and even after all my complaining I can't wait to do it again.

Photos provided by Barry Schmidt, Charlie Durning and Roy Schooler

We were promised shady roads



A real surprise stop for lunch





Crawbilly himself entertaining us

A Little Forgotten British Car History

By Richard Greene

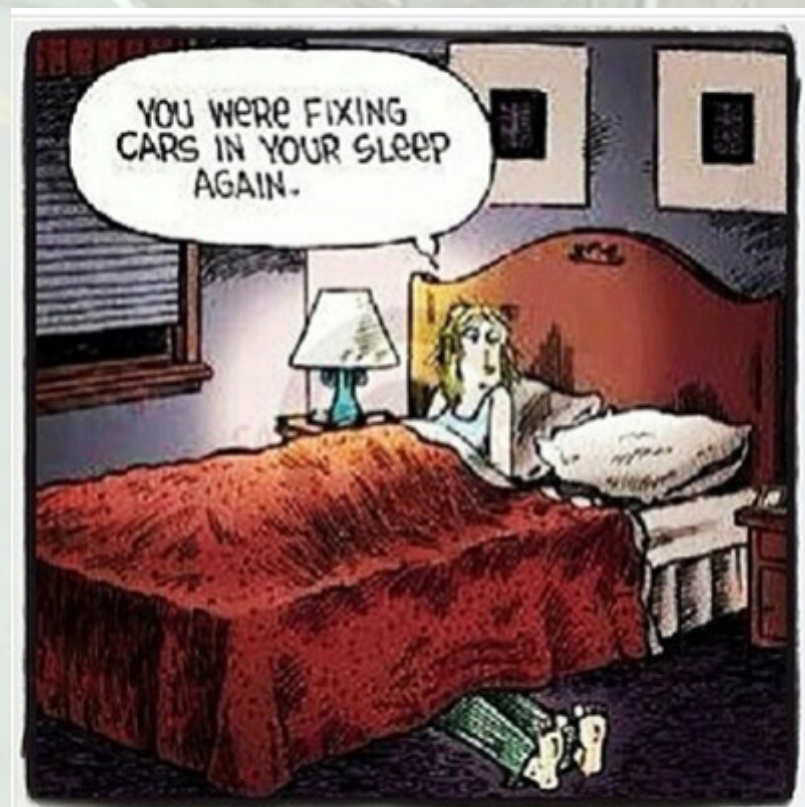


In 1905 Sir Hillary Von Klippenstein and Joseph Lucas partnered Sir Hilary's carriage business with Lucas' fledging electrical component business to form the "Von Lucas Motor Company. Their mission was to produce the most elegant auto known to the British Car World at the time. After three years of planning, testing and just general tea and crumpet time, the company presented to the auto public the 1908 Elegantstro. Featuring open air cabin, tea bag brown patina, a bi-lateral cross milled rear end, British simulated vinyl interior, rear child compartment. Only the prototype was produced due to the time needed to fabricate the body design. Sir Hilary was the design lead and Joseph Lucas was given charge of the running gear and electronics. Immediately on release problems arose. First and foremost, the car was terribly slow and, on the road, bicyclist would pass it by and yell taunts at the occupants: "Who died?," "Your Brass is dull (Silent B)," "I've seen better hubcaps on my sister!", and the prevalent favorite: "Even the Queen would refuse a ride!". While these were somewhat of a distraction, the main problem turned out to be the electrical systems which constantly either quit or went up in smoke. Any outing with the Elegantstro in the city would end up with the local fire department following along in a haze of smoke. Routine Maintenance would be the Elegantstro's downfall. Once a week all electrical wire needed to be replaced and the brass needed to be polished by hand. It was estimated that it would take 3 sober Irishmen workers 36 hours to polished all the brass. Actual time was considerably longer due to the fact that no sober Irishmen could be found. This meant the process took over a week.

"Von Lucas Motors" spent all of their remaining capital in advertising, promotions and publicity stunts. In the end they were not even able to donate to anyone due to lack of interest. The car was eventually pushed into the Liverpool River where to this day it still is considered a water hazard to boating.

The following year the remaining assets of the “Von Lucas Motor Company” were auctioned off by for local authorities for back taxes. The Duke of Farmington, Sir Running Brooks purchased the remains for the price of 14 pounds, 67 shillings, 23 pence and 12 bowls of liver pudding. An inventory consisted of: 34 rolls of burnt wire, 67 cans of brass polish, 25 feather dusters. 4 masks to hide the identity of the car occupants 25 feet of rope for pulling the car by horses back to the garage and a booklet explaining the proper procedure for running away when the car caught fire.

The Duke would later go on to produce the Famous 1911 Brooks Swan Car, but that’s for another time.



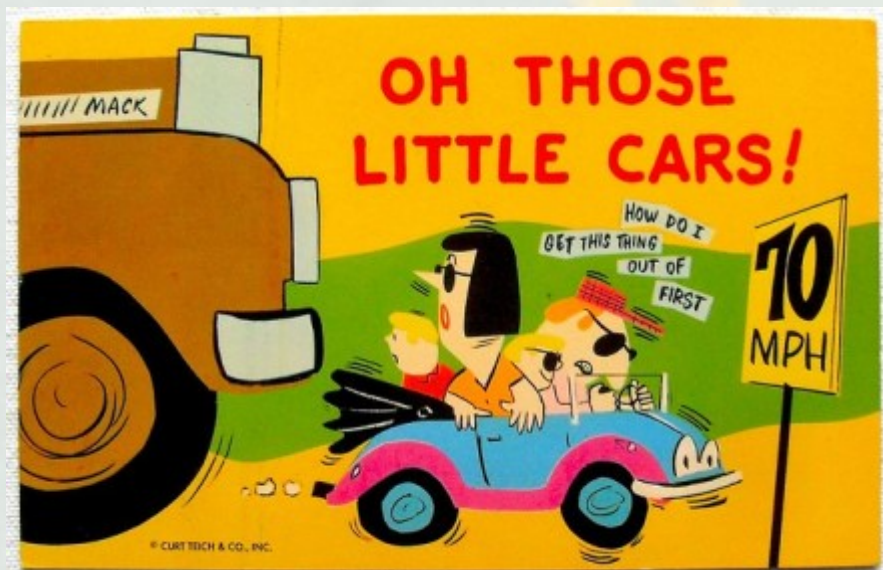
Just a Penny's Worth



Thanks to everyone who sent in all the photos—and articles. Some months I wonder if we will have six pages and it always seems to be 12-13 pages. Billy Bearden of Crawbilly's asked for some of our photos so he can place them on his website. I think we will go back over there soon for lunch. I may ask him to bring his food trailer to Brandon again for the December Car Show. I remember him there several years ago and the red beans/rice was great.

Please keep the articles and photos coming—they make a terrific newsletter. We have some great writers. Thanks for continuing wearing the masks.

Be Safe!



Upcoming Events

English Motoring Club 2020 Calendar

These are some calendar entries that have been posted to the EMC web site www.msemc.org for 2020.

September (check for dates, usually the first weekend), 2020 – Shoals British Car Show / Florence AL
CANCELLED If you haven't had the pleasure of visiting the Shoals British Car Show at Joe Wheeler State Park in Florence AL you should. This is your kind of show if you're looking for a relaxing setting and days spent with friends. It's a laid-back gathering on the banks of Wheeler Lake. Everything including rooms, meals and Friday night's reception are within walking distance. They'll be celebrating their 24th year in 2020. Details: www.shoalsbritishcars.org.

September (date varies, usually in September), 2020 - Brits in the Ozarks / Fayetteville AR -
CANCELLED Still looking for excuses for a mountain drive? Here's another chance to see the Ozarks in all of their colors and have a car show at the end of your drive. The 19th Annual Brits in the Ozarks will be there waiting for you. Details: www.britshironnwa.org

September 17 - 20, 2020 - Southeast British Car Festival / Dillard GA - For those interested in a drive to further regions the Peachtree MG Registry will host their event in the North Georgia Mountains. Lots of cars and driving adventures are scheduled with lodging at the Dillard house. Details: <https://pmgr.clubexpress.com>

September 18 – 19, 2020 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS – We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 23th Annual BOTB. Hang out on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River starting with our Friday night party and spend Saturday with us under the oaks at Bluff Park. There will be lots to do on your visit with us. Information and registration information will post about 30 – 60 days in advance Details: John Turbeville (601) 940 – 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 – 0801. **SEE FLYER IN NEWSLETTER**

October 9 - 10, 2020 – Renaissance Euro Fest Car Show / Ridgeland MS – Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 12th 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 Mike Marsh (601) 946 – 1950.

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