

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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

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A Jaunt South

Pensacola FL – Under steel blue, overcast skies with the threat of rain moving slowly to the east, Steve Whitlow, Clay and Debbie Johnston along with Martha and I delayed leaving home in plans of remaining on the back side of a very wet curtain as we left for the Panhandle British Car Association’s Twenty-First Annual Pensacola British Car Show. We made a delaying stop at the Purple Parrott in Hattiesburg for lunch but the power of our MG’s couldn’t hold us back. Just south of Hattiesburg we ran into the rain front that was predicted to set in across our path and stall over the Pensacola area on Friday April 19, 2013. Monitoring for leaks which really didn’t develop too bad we arrived at the red bean and rice reception at the show site. There we shared a great evening with the organizers and fellow travelers



MG’s at Pensacola British Car Show

Photo Courtesy EMC

in a large tent that provided a unique venue for our start to the weekend. Everyone enjoyed the red beans and rice and sides to numerous to name. Additional EMC travelers that join the evening festivities were Ernie Clark along with Mike and Alice Glore.

Following a long day of travel we made an early evening of it with plans for an exciting show day. Saturday started early with the rain gone but leaving behind temperatures that were cooler than we usually associate with Pensacola Beach. Cars were cleaned by breakfast and we headed for the show site in Pensacola proper. The field that the PBCA has used for several years was none the worse for wear following the prior day's rain. Organization of registration and parking on the show site went as smooth as a well oiled machine. Finding our parking space the top was put away, the final polishing was accomplished and everyone set off for a very nice day under the oaks. Lunch was provided on site, there were vendors including a parts recycling tent for folks to visit and perhaps pick up a few missing or hard to find parts. Beginning at 2:00pm and playing for two or so hours the Beatle cover band Not Quite Fab covered pretty much a full range of the Fab Fours catalog for the enjoyment of the attendees.

Despite the adverse weather that started the weekend the PBCA drew a new high of 146 cars despite a Friday full of rain. EMC'ers that were recognized were Clay Johnston along with the author in the MG class, Ernie Clark for his Jaguar E-Type and Mike Glore for his McLaren MP4-12C. Mike by the way also came away with the 50/50 drawing doing quite well for himself. Saturday night the gathering continued as EMC members along with British Motoring Club of New Orleans members Keith and Karen Vezina wandered down to Flounders for a big meal. Thanks to the PBCA for putting on a great show in 2013. We all had a great time and we're looking forward to seeing you again in 2014. For photos and videos of the show visit their web-site at www.pbca1.com

Stirring Some Dust

By Jim Pace

St. Petersburg FL - Over the weekend of March 22- 24, 2013 Historic Sports Racing (HSR) presented a nice assortment of historic racecars for the fans to see and the racing was exciting throughout the 34 car field. I have the good fortune of driving the orange 1968 McLaren M6B Can Am which is as outstanding as one would suspect. Great styling, good handling and ground pounding thunder when the accelerator is pressed! While on the grid for the single qualifying session Friday the crew chief noticed slight oil leak at the oil cooler of the McLaren. It was in everyone's best interest to not go on circuit with an oil leak. Without a qualifying time the repaired M6B was gridded at the back for Saturday's race with fellow Heritage Motorsports teammate Brian Johnson's Pilbeam, which had overheated in the long slow line from the paddock to the grid.

Race 1 was the first time on track and driving a Can Am car through the field was fun. Brian's Pilbeam suffered a broken shift linkage cable and retired after 2 laps. Race 2 was gridded on fast lap from race 1 which put the McLaren on the front row with my good friend and Daytona Rolex 24 teammate Carlos de'Quesada's Trans Am Jaguar. The Sunday race was again great fun with the old school McLaren dicing with the more modern Trans Ams of de Quesada and John Cloud. It was truly a wonderful weekend for HSR and fans of historic sports cars that attended the St. Pete Grand Prix. The best part is being out there actually racing with these beautiful racecars from another time. The racing was close, exciting and all drivers were very respectful of each other and the unique challenges a street circuit presents.

PS. If you're looking for something to get you going in an automotive way take a ride with Jim out on U-Tube at Jim Pace Motorsports. Ed.

Other Exhaust Rattles

Royce Boyer dropped me a note indicating that while whiling away a vacation in Spain they enjoyed time driving a fabulous little Citroen C3 diesel over some great roads. From his comments, I think he and Sherry are ready for a return trip.

Charles During indicates that he, Clay Johnston and Joe Stianche made it to Hattiesburg on Friday evening, April 5, 2013 for the sprint cars at Hattiesburg Motorsports Park. The sprints put on a good show with a nail biter finish. Lots of noise, the smell of alky in the air, and dirt makes for a good night of racing.

Past EMC President and First Lady Al and Debbie Adams made a visit to re-acquire the MG Midget that Keith Anderson and son Bryant have returned to reliable running order on Saturday May 11, 2013. It was good to see that both are doing well and enjoying retirement, they seem awful busy to be retired in Townsend TN.



Al and Debbie accepting the keys

Photo Courtesy EMC

Beach Reading! Pat Cashman has recommended a series of car mysteries written by Amy Myers, an English writer whose American-born husband is a car buff. The series is called The Jack Colby, Car Detective Series and has ten books in it. They are light reading, but fun, he says. He especially liked the first one as it mentioned the Gordon Keeble among other cars.

Membership! At the end of April 2013 the EMC Membership totaled 67 members! Thanks everyone from the English Motoring Club for your continued support and we hope that you make plans to attend one on the gatherings that we have scheduled for the remainder of 2013. Hard to believe 2013 is almost half way over. It's been a great ride so far. We continue to accept members. Just complete and mail in the membership form which can be located at www.msemc.org

Our newest member, Hilliard Williams joined the EMC during April 2013. Hilliard moved to the Jackson area from California with his '67 Austin Healey 3000 and is making plans on joining us for the Drive Thru History on May 18, 2013. Welcome Hilliard, we look forward to seeing you on the DTH.

If you're not receiving electronic updates of the OSU or other notices, please contact Gene Johnston at jjohnston18@msemc.org.

That's it for this edition of the Off-Side Undo. The weather here in Mississippi other than quite a bit of rain has been perfect for getting your friend out of the garage for a country tour. Hope that you've had a chance to enjoy yours.

Happy Motoring!

The EMC

Upcoming Events

May 18, 2013 – EMC's Drive Thru History

The travelers in the 2013 edition of the Drive Thru History will gather in Ridgeland MS for a 9:00am pull off heading to Indianola for lunch, the BB King Museum then over to Greenville for the 1927 Flood Museum, dinner at Doe's Eat Place and an evening relaxing in The Heart and Soul of the Delta. Details: Tommy and Kathy Hart (662) 820 - 8309.

June 27 – 28, 2013 – Great American Race / Vicksburg – Natchez MS

The Great American Race sponsored by Hemmings Motor News and Hagerty Auto Insurance will be making an overnight stop in Vicksburg on June 27, 2013 and a lunch stop in Natchez on June 28, 2013 on their way from St. Paul MN to Mobile AL. The EMC is working on plans to join in the fun while the participants are in the state. Details: <http://www.greTRACE.com>. Stay tuned for EMC participation information.

July 20, 2013 – EMC Lotus Weekend / Braxton MS

I'm sure we'll find some interesting roads on our way down to the beautiful burg of Braxton. Come and join the drive and the visit with Mike and Alice. Bring a dish and enjoy lazing on a sunny afternoon in the summertime with the EMC. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. Details: Mike / Alice Glore (504) 231 – 5801