

THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

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English Motoring Club of Mississippi

Vicksburg, Mississippi

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‘A gentleman does not motor about after dark.’ —Joseph Lucas

EMC Holiday Gathering

by Gene Johnston



The club's Holiday Gathering at Logan's Smokehouse BBQ. Photo courtesy EMC FLORENCE, Miss.

December started and ended as a slow month for the EMC, but there was a good turnout for our Holiday Gathering — lunch at Logan's Smokehouse BBQ in Florence on Saturday, December 7th. However, we were a bit short on LBCs. As I recall, Richard Greene was the only person driving a car with origins in the British Isles, his Lotus

Esprit. Though short on LBCs, we had a very lively group of 20 members and friends who did attend and enjoy the Holiday Gathering. The grub and gab were shared, and we all had a great time wishing everyone Merry Christmas for our last club outing of 2024!

EMC Polar Bear Run 2025 — a day well spent

Text and photos by Charlie Durning

Those who did not participate in the Polar Bear Run missed out on an ideal day for a drive. Sure, it was a bit chilly when we gathered at 9:30 a.m., but the day warmed up nicely with clear blue skies. For me, my day started at 8 a.m. The temperature in the garage was 36°. So, I decided to crank up the MGB GT to get some heat in the engine and the cabin of the car. After 10 minutes of running the temp gauge was still pegged at "C." Hmm, perhaps the temp gauge decided not to work. A little trouble showed that the temp gauge worked. Then I touched the top tank of the radiator. It was not cold nor was it warm. Hmm, the hoses and the cylinder head were about the same. To solve the problem, I placed some cardboard in front of the radiator.



Within minutes the temperature began to climb, and the cabin began to warm up. Apparently, the aluminum radiator and the upgraded heater are very efficient at keeping

the engine cool on cold days! A compromise was reached by cutting the cardboard in half (see photo above). That worked well at keeping the engine and cabin at just the right temperature for the rest of the day. For what it's worth, Bro Gene had the same issue with his MGB GT. Though Gene's solution was better executed, brilliant minds do think alike. Though it was crisp at the meeting time, about 12 brave souls turned up.



Sorry, I didn't get an actual head count, so you will just have to believe me. Same with cars. There was an international mix of Brit, Italian, Japanese and German cars. In addition, there was a minivan. The spirited drive along the roads less traveled went smoothly. There was no traffic, the roads were clear and in good condition, and nobody got lost. I must say that the food at the Pineville Store was excellent. Along with the food



there was an energetic exchange of conversation. Eventually it was time to say our goodbyes and head home our own way. We will be back to Pineville again and the folks there will be happy to see us again.

EMC's Fairwell to 2024 and Welcome to 2025

Florence MS – January 18, 2025. Twenty-four members and friends of the EMC gathered at Berry's Seafood for your 2024 awards and 2025 kick-off. There was a dearth of LBC's in the parking lot. My excuse was that I was in the midst of a cold and was attempting to stay out of drafty cars until fairer weather and health prevailed. There were twin Lotus Elises in the parking lot, Richard Greene's and Stephen Turner's present and accounted for. Stephen got the award for traveling the furthest distance. Driving in from Vicksburg.

The meeting began with the clang of a cup and Steven Whitlow's call to lunch. If you were in the way there was a strong likelihood of getting run over as the group swooped in on the buffet.

As the dining came to an end the business meeting started. There was a unanimous vote to maintain the club officers as it for 2025, John Turbeville President, Steve Whitlow as Vice President Keith Anderson and Tech Chairman, Clay Johnston as Treasurer, Stephen Turner as Membership Chairman and Charles Durning as the Off-Side Undo Editor and yours truly to maintain the web.

It was agreed that EMC membership dues will remain at \$30.00 for the year 2025. Please submit your payments to Stephen Turner. Details and instructions are posted on the website at: <https://www.msemc.org/membership-information>

The 2025 Events calendar was reviewed and has been updated to the website at: <https://www.msemc.org/events> Please stay tuned for short notice gatherings including tech sessions and drives during the year.

Next, we moved onto the recognition portion of the program with a couple of perpetual awards going to Jim Hart and Hal Fleming for their support of the EMC during 2024. They made just about every EMC gathering during year. Everyone enjoyed their participation and contributions. Charlie Durning was recognized as the EMC Renaissance man during 2024 for his contribution to keeping our LBC's on the road, developing new and innovative ideas and bringing them to fruition. On top of that he writes them up! Charlie has had four articles that I recall published in the MG Driver with the November-December issue containing three of those! That's a grand slam on any score board. PS. I have just received my MG Driver 2025 Tech Issue, and he's had yet another tech article published to kick off 2025. He is certainly on a roll! Everyone eagerly awaited the award of the Eager Beaver for 2024 and with great anticipation Richard Greene passed the Beav on to Mike and Alice Gore for their support of the EMC during the year. Thanks to all that made the year-end 2024, kick-off 2025 meeting. We had a great time and are looking forward to another fun and LBC filled year in 2025.





In recognition of their continued dedication, Hal Fleming and Jim Hart received special awards for their consistent participation in club activities throughout 2025. The club also took a moment to honor Will and Jennifer Duncan for their remarkable recovery and support during 2025, highlighting their resilience and commitment to the EMC community.



Charlie Durning, EMC's 2025 Renaissance Man
Recognized for mechanical and writing skills shared
during 2025



Richard Greene awarded forward the Eager Beaver award to Mike and Alice Glore for 2024.

Happy Motoring to all during 2025 and we hope that you can join us!

The EMC