



# British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 18  
Issue 3

Mar 11, 2013

Editor  
Lynda Vickery

## Presidents Message

March 2013

Spring will arrive on March 21<sup>st</sup> and soon it will be warm enough to work on your car in the garage. I hope you're paging through your parts catalog making a list of the parts you will need come the warm weather, I am.

Please read the article about the "British Marque Car Club News" to learn more about this interesting publication. When reading about the activities of other British car clubs in America you will realize just how active **your** club is. Copies of the "News" will be available at the March meeting for you to take home and read at your leisure.

Plans are underway for our mid-week trip in May to Springfield, IL. We will visit the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (said to be *the best* presidential library in the country) along with other Lincoln sites and some famous Historic Route 66 spots. So save the date, May 21 through 23. Hope to see you there.

Larry Eils

*Words of Wisdom - No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.*

**2013 DUES ARE  
DUE!  
Have you paid yours  
yet?**



Next Meeting  
**Wed., Feb. 20, 2013**

Thunder Bay Grille  
7652 Potawatomi Trail  
Rockford, Illinois  
(near East State Street and  
Bell School Road)

**Dinner and social hour  
at 6:00pm  
Meeting begins at 7:00pm**

[www.britishbootsandbonnets.com](http://www.britishbootsandbonnets.com)

## British Boots & Bonnets - February 20, 2013 - Membership Meeting Minutes

**President's Report:** Larry Eils called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with 44 members present. He welcomed back members we had not seen for some time. He asked for a volunteer to chair the 2014 calendar committee, mentioned that we are now a participating member of the British Marque Car Club News, and told members of the Moss Motors Epic Scavenger Hunt.

**Vice-President:** not present--no report.

**Secretary's Report:** Corrections: 40 people in attendance and Connie Frazier was here to give the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Bev Joyce and seconded by Archie Morey to approve the January minutes with corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** 2013 budget will be in next month's Chronicle. Report presented by Connie Frazier. Motion made by Ron Kunhau and seconded by Rich Cannistra to approve.

**Membership:** Bev Joyce reported 64 paid members for 2013, with no new members.

**Regalia:** Jake Jaquet reported that the blue light special is still clocks at \$10 and \$15. There are still grill badges available, and the store is open.

**Newsletter:** Lynda Vickery asked everyone to feel free to contribute articles.

**Webmaster:** Hal Zenisek reported that the 2013 calendar is up to date. If you have local or regional events, please e-mail him. He is trying to get pictures of all members.

**Sunshine:** No report. We will need another volunteer who's here during the winter months while Delores is gone.

**Event's Chair:** Rich Cannistra reported on the Dine Only on Feb. 13 at Poison Ivy. 27 members enjoyed, thanks to Bob and Barb Buckavekas. He reminded us of the Annual Swap Meet on Feb. 24. March 13 is the Dine Only at Murphy's Pub at 510 N. Perryville at 6:00. May 4 is the New Glarus Hill Climb sponsored by the Madison Alpha Romeo Club. Men's lunch Friday, Feb 22, at Fibs, Rockton, at 1:00. Women's lunch, snowed out. Coming events include a 1 night (either Saturday, Sunday or both), 2 night in spring to Springfield, Il, on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and 3 night to Door County in Fall on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There was a video review of 2013 events.

**Marques:** MG-Rick Hamaker, no report. **Triumph:** no report. **Jaguar:** Rich Cannistra reported 2 jaguar cubs were born at the Milwaukee County Zoo, the first since 1975. There is a contest to name them. **Austin Healey:** Dwain Plymale reported the Midwest Winter Dinner to be held on Feb.23, at Emmitt's Restaurant in Dundee. 50 people are expected to attend. **Lotus:** no report. **Rolls Royce:** No report. **Minis:** Larry Eils reported the will be a winter picnic on March 23. Details to follow.

**Classified:** Rich Cannistra has Austin Healey 3000 parts to sell.

**New Business:** We will re-register with MG Registrar Club in order to get free insurance.

**Good Wrench Award:** went to Ed Lehman for putting us in touch with someone who made free banner for BBB. **Burnt Piston:** went to Bob Tilson who forgot to return the burnt piston from last month.

**Raffle Items:** Crescent wrench with twisted handle to Doug Cameron, bundle of cable ties to Joan Tilson, fleece throw and pillow and rapid dry and microfiber towels to Luz Lehman, Turtle Wax care kit to Mike Werkel, Igloo cooler to Ginger Spaight, and Thunder Bay Bucks to Margaret Morey.

**Story:** by Larry Eils ended meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginger Spaight



July 10 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Maxon Riverboat Dinner Cruise; Oregon, IL  
Host: Jake and Donna Jaquet

July 17 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

July 17-21 MG 2013 NAMGAR/NAMGBR  
Corvallis, OR

July 19-21 Illinois Jaguar Club Annual Concours  
Pheasant Run Resort; St. Charles, IL

August 11 **BBB Drive - Botham Vineyards Vintage Celebration;** Barneveld, WI  
Host: Rich and Roxann Cannistra

August 14 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Lee and Rita Kindgren

August 15-18 University Motors MG Summer Party Reunion (John Twist);  
Grand Rapids, MI

August 21 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

August 25 **BBB EXTRA DRIVE - 2013 Geneva Concours d'Elegance;** Geneva, IL  
Host: Volunteer needed

September 1 **BBB Club Picnic**  
Host: Ed and Luz Lehman

September 5 KANDU Industries Cultural Cuisine Night – 6 course English Dinner  
Janesville, WI  
Host: Ginger Spaight, Don and Marna Grosenick

September 6-8 VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival  
Road America; Plymouth, WI

September 8 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicagoland British Car Festival  
Harper College; Palatine, IL

September 11 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed

September 13-16 **BBB FALL LONG WEEKEND DRIVE;** Door County, WI  
Host: Larry and Marsha Eils, Ron and Nancy Kuhnau

September 18 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

September 27-29 Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet  
Jefferson, WI

October 5 **BBB DRIVE - Fall Colors;** Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed

October 9 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed

October 16 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

October 19 **BBB Tune Down Dinner -** Location needed  
Host: Rich and Roxann Cannistra

November 13 **BBB Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Rich and Roxann Cannistra

November 20 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

December 4 **BBB Cookie Exchange**  
Hostess: Mary Jo Schoening

December 11 **BBB Christmas Party**  
Lino's Restaurant; Rockford, IL

## **“BRITISH MARQUE CAR CLUB NEWS”**

A Newspaper Like None Other  
By Larry Eils

At our February Board meeting Rich Cannistra introduced the Board to the “British Marque Car Club News.” This is a 40-page tabloid newspaper format, in both print and on-line Editions, that contains news from participating car clubs across America and the United Kingdom. Each month the Editor of the “News” picks articles from car club newsletters or prints articles submitted by clubs. Pick up a copy of the “News” to read at this month’s meeting.

The BBB has become a Participating Club, at no charge, allowing us to do two things. First, we can submit articles for printing and, secondly, we can offer our members a reduced subscription rate of \$16 per year (a \$10 discount), or you can subscribe to their on-line Edition for \$12 per year. Please see the subscription form contained in this Chronicle.

Should you have any questions, please see Rich or myself, we would be glad to answer them.

## **VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR THE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

By Larry Eils

Our Sunshine Committee provides a little sunshine to club members who suffer a short illness, have an accident, are hospitalized, have a significant anniversary or the passing of a loved one. Dolores Moon is our chairperson of the Sunshine Committee and is doing a wonderful job. However, she spends winters in Arizona, making it a little difficult to contact. Thus, your Board would like to have another volunteer to help Dolores particularly while she is away. This committee has a budget from which to purchase cards, flowers, or whatever is appropriate for the occasion. If you would be interested in helping your club, please let me know.



### **BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL**



This month BBB hats that we have in stock are on sale at a price of \$10.00. They normally are \$13.00. We have 6 hats of various colors and lots of visors (khaki) also. The visors are normally \$13.75. Both the hats and visors are on sale for \$10.00. Since daylight savings time started March 10th, it will be lighter later in the evening. When the sun is lower in the sky and in your eyes when you take that little British car for its first spin of the year, you'll need that BBB headgear!



AN INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO  
**British Marque CAR CLUB NEWS**

*British Marque Car Club News* is a 40-page monthly tabloid newspaper featuring the news of dozens of British car clubs coast to coast. Did you know that our club is now one of over 100 official *British Marque* Participating Clubs? It's true — and members of Participating Clubs are entitled to all sorts of benefits.

For one, you can subscribe to either the Print Edition or On-line Edition of the *Marque* at a **37% discount over non-member (regular) rates**. Both Editions have the same 40 pages of event listings, columns, classifieds and special features. Either way, you will receive 11 issues a year.

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**PLACE FREE CLASSIFIED ADS, TOO!**

Each subscriber from a Participating Club is also entitled to place **one free classified ad** (up to 20 words) per issue, whether you're selling or looking for something British car-related.

Additional 15¢ charged per word over the 20-word limit. Photos may be included for \$7.50 each. Free classified ad benefit available only to individuals, not businesses.

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Attach cheque or money order payable in U.S. funds to Enthusiast Publications, LLC, and send to address above.  
Form and cheque must be received by the 20th of the month to receive the next month's issue.



## POISON IVY WAS CONTAGIOUS

Beautiful February weather found 27 diners at the Poison Ivy Pub on Wednesday February 13th. The pub lived up to its reputation for having a wide variety of food at reasonable prices, including fresh seafood. We found the lively atmosphere of the pub to be contagious and time flew by quickly. Steve Quies, the owner, turned out to be a fellow gear-head and regaled us with stories of his two Corvettes. We smiled, nodded, and decided to save his enlightenment to the merits of British Iron for a later date.

Thank you Barb and Bob Buckavekas for a great dine location. The arrangements were perfect and the food was wonderful. We will look forward to catching Poison Ivy again in the future.



## SEVERAL BBB MEMBERS TAKE HOME THE GREEN

The All British Car Swap Meet was once again an enjoyable success for BBBers. The club tables were overflowing with treasures and attracted many interested buyers. Garage cleaning must have gone well because as fast as items sold there was plenty added to keep the tables piled high.

We also had members who were successful in the hunt. Kyle Cook was seen heading for home with a two carburetor setup for an MG. He was mumbling something about "lookout Triumphs, here I come". John Fleshman was rewarded as well, with a nice luggage rack for a TD. There is also a report that one unidentified club member sold an entire car. This rumor has not been confirmed, however it was noted that as Archie was leaving for home he was whistling a happy tune and grinning from ear to ear.





## GET A JUMP ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

It's the month to think green, be it British racing green or Leprechaun green. With that in mind our March dine is at the very Irish Murphy's Pub & Grill in Rockford. Murphy's is located at 510 S. Perryville Rd., just a shamrock's throw away from Thunder Bay.

Your hosts Rich and Roxann O'Cannistra have arranged for the luck of the Irish to smile upon you as you enjoy an evening of food and beverage with friends. Murphy's offers a fine selection of sandwiches and dinners including Irish specialties like corned beef and cabbage, of course. One of the Wednesday specials is a half price Reuben, and there is always pizza for those with an Italian bent.

Wednesday March 13th at 6pm and Murphy's is the place to be. In case of inclement weather we plan to have another pint of Guinness while waiting for the weather to change. See you there!

## SAVE THE DATE! GENTLEMEN'S GARAGE TOUR & LADIES' TEA

Despite the fact that I just plowed 7 more inches of snow today, spring is just around the corner...somewhere. It is a time honored tradition of the fine ladies and dapper gentlemen of the British Boots and Bonnets to usher in spring with a tea and a garage tour respectively. Both will take place on Saturday April 20th, and the plans are exciting! Details will be spelled out in the April Chronicle for the garage tour, and Jenny Plymale, this year's Tea Hostess, has already given us some details for the Ladies' Tea - read on! Be sure to clear your calendar and plan to attend. - Rich Cannistra

First off some information on the **English Tea**; High Tea is often a misnomer. People think afternoon tea is High Tea, as it sounds lofty

and regal, when in reality High Tea is dinner. The afternoon tea as we know it is also called low tea, usually served in the sitting room on small tables, (hence Low Tea).

There are three basic types of Afternoon, or Low Tea:

- Cream Tea - Tea, scones, jam & cream.
- Light Tea - Tea, scones & sweets.
- Full Tea - Tea, savories, sandwiches, scones, sweets, & desserts. (in small portions).

Full Tea is the one that we will enjoy if you join me, Jenny Plymale, at my home at 5780 Porter Rd, Rockford, on April 20th at 12:30pm.

Bring your favorite teacup & saucer ( maybe a story why it's special), a teapot if you have one, & some treats for us all to enjoy.

Please R.S.V.P. by phone 1-815- 968-5387 or e-mail [jdplymale@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdplymale@sbcglobal.net).

P.S. Many of you have attended this event hosted by the ladies in the club. For new members that would like to participate, this is a fun event to come to.

You may wear a hat, but it is not necessary.  
- Jenny Plymale

### Welcome New Members

New membership applications are available on the club's website.

Register by sending your completed application to:

Connie Frazier, Treasurer  
**British Boots and Bonnets Car Club**  
5411 E. State Street, PMB 394  
Rockford, IL 61108  
[cfrazier9@yahoo.com](mailto:cfrazier9@yahoo.com)

Include \$20 annual membership dues plus a one-time fee of \$10 for name tags

## Spring to Springfield

By Larry Eils

The planning is underway for our mid-week overnight trip to Springfield, IL. Lee and Rita, Sandy and Rick, along with Marsha and I met and worked out a tentative itinerary for this 3 day trip to the Land of Lincoln.

We'll leave bright and early on Tuesday, May 21 for our drive to central Illinois. After checking in, there will be time to explore Historic Route 66 visiting Shea's Gas Station Museum and The Cozy Dog Drive In.

Wednesday morning we will visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. After lunch we will tour the Old State Capital to see where Lincoln practiced law. The rest of the afternoon is open for you to explore other Lincoln sites or the many other attractions in Springfield. A list of attractions will be provided in the April Chronicle.

As we head for home on Thursday, we will stop at the cemetery where Lincoln is entombed to see the large bronze bust of Lincoln. Then we travel to New Salem, IL to see where Lincoln grew up and worked while self-educating himself to be a lawyer. After lunch we will head for home.

So, mark your calendar for this BBB mid-week event, May 21 thru May 23, to visit the library and museum of one of America's greatest presidents.

### DID-U-KNOW?

by Fascia Nearside

One of the earliest international motor racing events in Europe was the Gordon Bennett Cup Race. The route of the race changed each year because the starting location was in the country of origin of the car which had won the previous year. Thus in 1902 the route was from Paris, France to Innsbruck, Austria, a distance of 565km. Day two took the competitors through Switzerland where motor racing was banned, so cars were required to adhere to a speed limit of 15mph until reaching the Austrian border. Representing the Automobile Club of Britain and Ireland, Selwyn Edge drove a Napier to victory, marking the first ever win for a British car in international racing competition. For Great Britain the victory must have seemed especially sweet because no other car even finished that year!

### FOR SALE

◆1971 MGB with wire wheels. Great complete original car. Needs assembly, but all parts are there! Does not run. Engine good but needs clutch. Car is in Rockford for easy pick-up. All offers welcome.

◆1987 XJ6 Sedan in Navy Blue, with grey interior. looking to get \$4000. The car is in Roscoe for inspection.

Call Jim Dunkel at 864-722-5072  
or Mary at 815-218-3866.

## MY FIRST BRITISH CAR

By Rick Hamaker

Authors note: I was happy to see Jim Vickery's great article about his first British car in the February Chronicle. It's an idea that I've been kicking around in my head for quite some time. There must be many similar, and interesting, stories out there waiting to be published. I'd like to see this become a regular feature in the Chronicle. So get that story out in print so we can all enjoy it! Here's my contribution:

It was my mother's fault, really. It was 1964 and we both worked in the same place. Mom had her heart set on a Ford Thunderbird, so when she discovered one available she asked me to go with her to see it in case she needed a driver to get the second car home. After work off we went to Tom Arnold's car lot over on Broadway. And there it was-- a really nice 1960 silver four-seater. She was smitten!

You know how it is when you're in a car lot. You go around kicking a few tires, and you look in a few windows. That's when I saw it-- a neat little (and I mean little!) black convertible with a red interior. It was a late 1963 MG Midget with just 7400 miles on the odometer, and it still had that new car smell inside - which, as you know, is different in a British car from an American car. I was intrigued. So I took this little honey out for a spin around a few blocks. WOW! Mind you, I was used to driving a '56 hot rod Ford with a 352 cu. in. T-bird engine. I knew what it was like to go fast in a straight line, but now I began to discover what real driving could be. That's when I became smitten!



Needless to say, I committed to the MG as soon as I got back to the car lot. I would figure out where the \$1500 was coming from the next day. So, when I got home I called my fiancé to tell her what I had done. You could have cut the silence with a butter knife! "You did WHAT?" She thought she was reading the writing on the wall. Fortunately for me, when she saw the car she fell in love with it too.

We had such great fun in that car! There would be the long rides--sometimes in the rain with the top off. At least the full tonneau cover kept her dry. The TSD rallies put on by SCETA were great fun, as were the Sunday morning slalom runs at Windsor Raceway. We did manage to win a rallye that was put on by the Ill-Wis Corvette Club. They invited us to never come back.



That MG was a great little car, but it did have some problems. The most serious was that it was still the era of mostly big cars, and the drivers of such cars just didn't watch for smaller cars. The first incident happened when we were in a line of cars waiting for a parking space behind the library. We were on our way to see Cleopatra at the State theater. A young guy in a '56



Chevy in front of us decided to back up, and in spite of my screaming and honking smashed into my little jewel, crushed the grill and bent the wings. What a helpless and frustrating feeling! It happened again when I was attending Rock Valley College. In those days the campus was located in the old Naval Reserve Armory on 15th Ave. I came out of class one day to find an oil delivery truck had backed up and smashed the front end again. You can imagine how my insurance agent loved me!

Other problems with the Midget were that it had side curtains instead of roll up windows, it had no radio, and it didn't have wire wheels. Subsequently these problems were resolved by selling the black MG in favor of a brand spanking new '66 MG Midget with all the aforementioned items. But this isn't about my second British car.

You know?--I wish I still had my first British car.

Boots & Bonnets Chronicle is a newsletter published monthly by the British Boots and Bonnets Car Club of Rockford, Illinois.

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**NEW BBB MEMBER  
PROFILE: KYLE &  
MARY ANN COOK**

Beware the future when following a classic car! Especially when that car is driven by Don Grosenick, and you follow him into the parking lot of an Advance Auto Parts store.



After some pleasant conversation and information about his MGB, he mentions a certain British car club and some mechanics - who are also members - that could give me advice about these wonderful automobiles.

So after some very valuable advice over the phone with Ron Kuhnau, which steered me away from some questionable Spitfires (that, and my wife noticing how I "didn't look comfortable squeezed in there"), I visited the repair shop for some hands-on, visual advice. While there and talking with Ron, Lyn and Jim, the conversation progressed to "I know a guy who knows a guy who might be selling his MGB." A few phone calls and another visit resulted in our owning a nice little '78 MGB. A starter kit for the British car enthusiast.

With a thorough inspection up on the lift and some needed maintenance/repairs, I brought it home in time for some cool autumn driving. Mary Ann and I even drew the attention of a small boy in the Target parking lot one evening. "Cool car!" he yelled while his parents led him into the store. That's the idea. So now we plan to spend many hours and miles cruising around town in our cool car.



As driving time arrives, don't forget to start taking photos of your beloved LBC for submittal to the Moss Motoring Challenge!

*From Moss Motoring:* It's been said there are no new lands to discover. To that we cry, "BOLLOCKS!" We simply have the advantage of paved roads to get to where we've never been before! Moss Motors is proud to be the host of a grand Motoring Challenge for owners of British sports cars. It's a Challenge of adventure and discovery—one in which folks with sharp eyes, a camera and love for road trips have a chance to win prizes, including a \$1,000 Moss Gift Certificate!

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