



British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 20
Issue 5

May 9, 2015

Editor
Lynda Vickery

Website
[www.britishbootsand
bonnets.com](http://www.britishbootsandbonnets.com)

President's Message

May 2015

May is National Smile Month in the United Kingdom and with the arrival of a brand new Princess there is certainly plenty to smile about. A little closer to home, great driving weather has put a smile on the face of this "driving enthusiast". I believe that I also smile just as much when I watch Roxann head out in British Iron with the top down on a nice day. As George Stauffer confirmed last Saturday, it's okay to be passionate about this sort of thing: No Boring Cars...ANYTIME!

Out the window it looks like spring but a quick glance at the club calendar of events in this issue will confirm that lots is about to happen, and soon! For you MG types, Niagara Falls is less than a month away. Sure it's a bit of a stretch, but come on, those make the best stories. And you know the MG-ophiles are very gracious to those of us with other marques.

In case you have not heard, the club long weekend has been slipped one week to September 25th. (Word on the street is that Rick Hamaker obtained a better weather forecast for that weekend.) Make plans now to go "up north" with your friends and enjoy a spectacular outing. This change of plans also frees up the weekend before to enjoy the vintage festival at Elkhart Lake. It's a weekend dedicated to our kind of cars!

Roxann and I look forward to seeing you on the drives.

Rich

*"A new queen among sports cars, bred
in the Alps."* 1953 Sunbeam Alpine



Next Meeting
**Wed.,
May 20, 2015**

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

British Boots and Bonnets Club Meeting - March 18, 2015

Presidents report: Rich Cannistra – The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice President, Larry Eils. There were 29 members present, with no new members, and no visitors

Vice President's report: Larry Eils - No report

Secretary: Marna Grosenick - Barb Buckavekas moved to accept the secretary's report as printed in the Chronicle. Archie Moray seconded – motion passed.

Treasurer: Brian Kobischka - Brian gave the monthly financial report. Lyn Pond made a motion to accept this report, and it was seconded by Connie Frazier. Motion passed.

Membership: Bev Joyce - We now have 70 paid members. Target e-mails and letters have been sent out to those members who have not yet paid their dues for this year.

Regalia: Bruce Beneditz - Bruce and Phyllis modeled a sample shirt and jacket that are available from Embroid This. These were just a sample of what is available to us, and other offerings can be viewed on the link from the Chronicle. The jacket that we saw sells for \$79. The question came up as to whether we want only red, or if we would prefer to also have black, and possibly other colors to choose from. Bruce requests that members check out the website and give him feedback as to what we would like to see offered.

Chronicle/Newsletter: Lynda Vickery - Lynda was not present, but continues to request that you submit pictures and articles for the next issue of the Chronicle.

Webmaster: Hal Zenisek - There were 230 visitors to the website this month. The new regalia page and the survey prompted some of this growth in numbers. Hal reported that the Web Re-design survey will be up for another week. So far there have only been 20 responses (14 male, 6 female). He requested that we take a few minutes and take the survey. He reported the results so far from the seven questions on the survey, as well as additional comments that were offered. He will use this information to help prioritize future decisions about the website re-design.

Sunshine: Phyllis Beneditz - Nothing to report

Past Events:

Eighteen people enjoyed dinner at Ebenezer Brown's Eatery & Pub in Roscoe. The food was delicious, and a good time was had by all.

Men's Lunch was held at the Onyx Restaurant with 11 members attending.

The British Car Swap Meet was held on March 15, with several members attending. The club also had three tables set up for the meet.

Future Events:

March 27 – Men’s lunch at The Olympic restaurant – 1:00

March 27 – Ladies lunch at Egg Harbor at 12:30

April 8 - Drive & Dine – hosted by Phyllis & Bruce Beneditz – at Leombruni’s Italian Village in Byron – 6:30. If you would like to drive together, meet at 5:30 in front of the old Penney’s store in the Mechesney Park Mall.

April 25 - Ladies Tea – hosted by Bev Joyce and Sandy Hamaker, at Bev’s house – 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet was sent around, but if you have not signed up yet, please give Bev or Sandy a call to let them know you are coming, and what food item you will be bringing.

May 2 - Garage tour and lunch – hosted by Rich Cannistra and Ron Kuhnau. The ladies are also invited to attend this year.

June - MG Conclave in Niagara Falls, Canada

Marques:

MG – None

Healey – None

Lotus – None

Rolls Royce- None

Mini- None

Triumph – The first car to arrive at a club function this spring with the top down (at Ebenezer Brown Pub)

Jaguar – None

Morgan –None

Unfinished Business –

There are still calendars available for sale.

New Business – None

Classified – None

Good Wrench Award – None given

Burnt Piston Award – None given

Raffle: Don Grosenick

1. Dead Blow Hammer – Kyle Cook
2. Wire Ties – Bruce Beneditz
3. Collapsible Work-light – Lyn Pond
4. Burlap Bunny – Brenda Moore
5. Spring Welcome Sign – Barb Buckavekas
6. Thunder Bay Bucks – Carol Eggleston

Adjournment:

Larry ended the meeting with a story about the Illinois State Police and their new penalty for speeding. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Marna Grosenick, Secretary

BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

2015 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- May 13 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Frankie’s; Janesville, WI
 Host: Don & Marna Grosenick
- May 16 **BBB Tune Up & Picnic** - The Vickerys; Roscoe, IL
 Host: Jim & Lynda Vickery
- May 20 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
 Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- May 29-31 24th Annual Champagne British Car Festival
 Bloomington, IL
- May 30- June 7 British Car Awareness Week
 Drive your LBC!!
- June 4-12 **BBB Dream Vacation** to MG 2015
 via Michigan
- June 8-12 MG 2015 NAMGAR/NAMGB
 Niagara Falls, Canada
- June 10 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed
 Host: Rich & Jackie Bartlett
- June 17 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
 Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- June 18-21 Blackhawk Farms Vintage Races; South Beloit, IL
- June 19-21 The Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland Games;
 Itasca, IL
- June 21 **BBB Sunday Drive** - 33rd Annual British
 Car Field Day; Sussex, WI
 Host: Volunteer needed
- July 8 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed
 Host: Volunteer needed
- July 12 **BBB Sunday Drive** - The Cars Time Forgot Car Show;
 Lake Lawn Resort, Wis.
 Host: Volunteer needed
- July 15 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
 Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- July 18 **BBB Saturday Drive**
 Host: Volunteer needed
- August 2 Coffee in the Park; Lake Mills, WI
 Host: Volunteer needed
- August 7-9 University Motors MG Summer Party Reunion (John Twist)
 Grand Rapids, MI

August 9 Botham Vineyards 19th Vintage Celebration
Barneveld, WI

August 12 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed
Host: Volunteer needed

August 19 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

August 22-24 2015 Geneva Concours d’Elegance;
Geneva, IL

August 22-23 Wisconsin Jaguars Concours/Milwaukee Masterpiece
Veterans Park; Milwaukee, WI

August 26 **BBB Friends Around the Campfire** - The Eils;Harvard,IL
Hosts: Larry & Marsha Eils

August 29 **BBB Saturday Drive** - Crossroads Blues Festival; Lyran
Park; Rockford, IL
Hosts: Bev Joyce & Brian Kobischka

Sept 6 **BBB Club Picnic** - Liberty Farm; Woodstock, IL
Hosts: Ed & Luz Lehman

Sept 9 **BBB Drive and Dine** - Duck Inn; Delavan, WI
Hosts: Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz

Sept 13 29th Annual Chicagoland British Car Festival
Harper College; Palatine, IL

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

Sept 17-20 VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival
Road America; Plymouth, WI

Sept 25-27 Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet
Jefferson, WI

Sept 25-28 **BBB Northwoods Long Weekend**; Eagle River, WI
Hosts: Mary Jo Schoening, Rick & Sandy Hamaker

October 3 **BBB Fall Drive**
Hosts: Larry & Marsha Eils

October 14 **BBB Drive and Dine** –Location needed
Host: Volunteer needed

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

November 11 **BBB Dine** –Location needed
Host: Volunteer needed

November 18 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
Thunder Bay Restaurant

December 2 **BBB Cookie Exchange**
Host: Mary Jo Schoening

December 16 **BBB Christmas Party**
Host: Bev Joyce

DRIVE & DINE FEATURES

LEOMBRUNI'S RESTAURANT

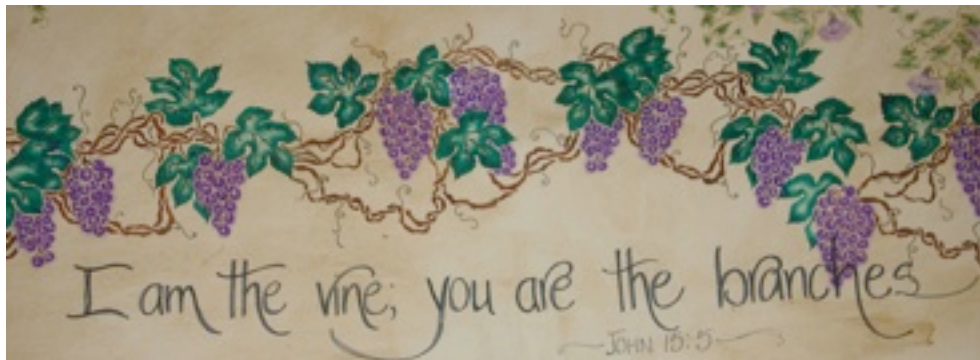
by Lynda Vickery

As expected, our first Drive and Dine was a great start to our driving season. Even though the temperature was a little nippy, Rick and Sandy Hamaker drove their beloved MGB. The rest of the 21 attending opted for their warm American iron. Bruce and Phyllis had mapped out a new route, which brought us into Byron from the northwest, and we found "downtown" with no problems.

Bruce has had some eye issues over the last few weeks that prevented him and Phyllis from leading and attending the event. We are happy to report that he is getting along well now and is getting back into his normal routine. As is Phyllis!

Leombruni's was a new restaurant destination for most in the group, and offered a variety of home made Italian dishes which everyone enjoyed. Our primary waitress, Angie, did a great job of setting up and serving, as did the entire staff there that night. We enjoyed having an area to ourselves which enabled us to chat both before and after dinner. Leombruni's will be on our list of favorite places to go.





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

2015 Officers & Contacts:

Rich Cannistra, President	rcannistra@yahoo.com	608-876-6768
Larry Eils, Vice-President	rpeonygarden@gmail.com	815-943-4720
Marna Grosenick, Secretary	mgrosenick@att.net	608-752-7092
Brian Kobischka, Treasurer	brian.kobi@yahoo.com	815-871-5202
Bev Joyce, Membership	Andsewon53@comcast.net	815-975-0857
Jim Vickery, Events Chair	jim.vickery@yahoo.com	815-623-5611
Bruce Beneditz, Regalia Chair	bruce.beneditz@charter.net	815-543-0026
Hal Zenisek, Webmaster	hzenisek@tds.net	815-397-3653
Lynda Vickery, Newsletter Editor	jim.vickery@yahoo.com	815-623-5611
Phyllis Beneditz, Sunshine	phyllisquilts@charter.net	815-543-1741

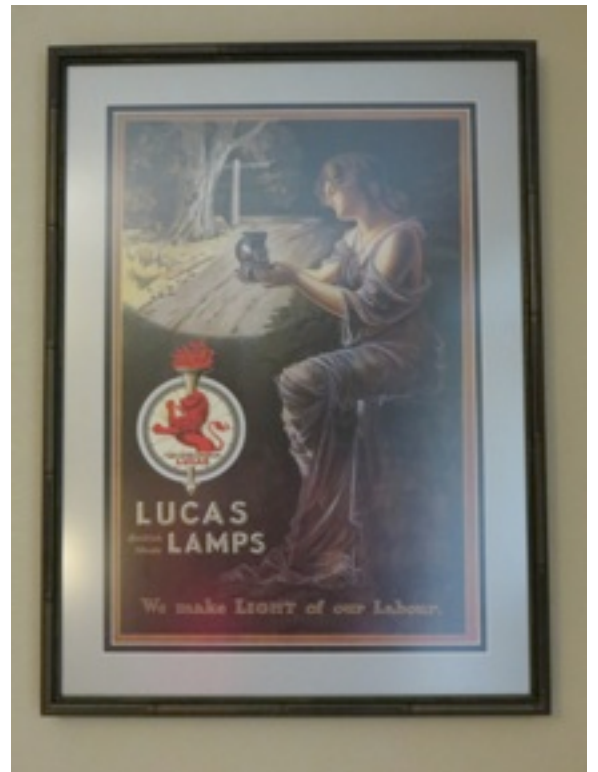
LADIES TEA HELD ON A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY!

by Bev Joyce

Nine members and Sandy Hamaker's daughter, Melinda, gathered on a Saturday afternoon in April for our annual English Tea. There was a variety of finger foods including scrumptious desserts, and choices of hot Teas. It was a relaxing time to visit and try each other's recipes. There were enough leftovers for everyone to share and take some favorites home for later.

Thank you to everyone for contributing your goodies and those who shared their favorite teapots for making the tea.





2015 GARAGE TOUR

by Rich Cannistra

If driving weather could be bottled and then poured out on demand, Saturday May 2nd would have been the day to cork up a vat. That fact was not lost on 25 BBbers who headed north to tour two amazing locations.

First stop was at Full Circle Restorations and Rods in Madison, Wisconsin. The shop is dedicated to pre-1973 American classics and there were certainly plenty to see. Owners Dave and Kerry Larson showed off the wide variety of projects that they are involved in. Everything from custom hot rods to exacting restorations were in progress. A real crowd pleaser was a 1950 Nash, whose owner we met when he drove up in a 1951 Nash to check on current progress.





Lunch was an informal affair with about half of the crowd opting for the Aztlan Mexican Grill in Mt. Horeb, WI while others chose one of their favorite eateries along the way.



Refreshed, and ready for a new adventure, we moved on to see part of the collection that George Stauffer has put together. Always an impeccable gentleman, George took the time to answer everyone's questions and chat about the wide variety of items which have found their way into his care. One might say that the eclectic mix is almost out of this world.



With plenty of daylight remaining, members headed off to enjoy the great weather. All in all, two widely varied and interesting locations as well as the famous weather put the 2015 garage tour in the league of: Ya really should'a been there!

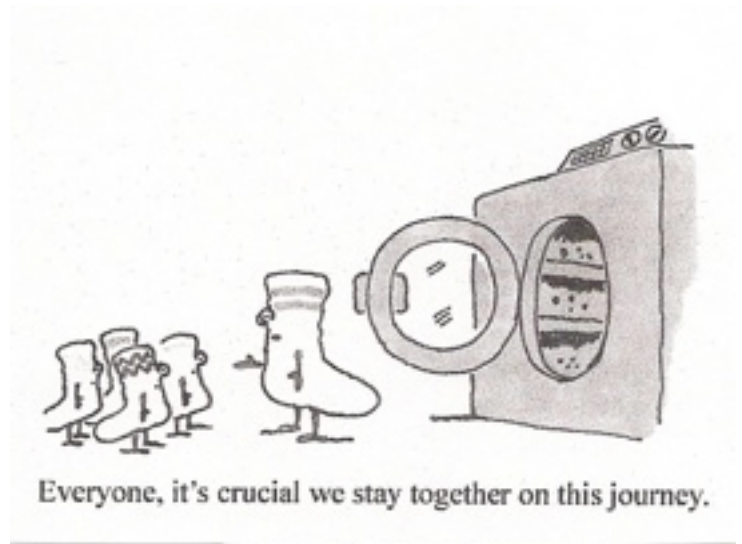


BBB DRIVING GUIDELINES

Larry Eils

Now that our first driving event of 2015, the Garage Tour, has been completed it occurred to several of your BBB Board members, it is time to remind everyone to review the three BBB Driving Guidelines adopted by the club last year.

The three Guidelines are 1) Event Driving Guidelines for Participants; 2) Event Leader Guidelines and 3) Non-Member Participation Guidelines. During a rainy day take a few minutes to read through each of the Guidelines. All of them are short and list a number of points to make driving in a group easier. If you can't find your copy of these Guidelines, please visit the club website, www.britishbootsandbonnets.com and click "Current Officers" to view and/or print these Guidelines. As the cartoon says "Everyone, it's crucial we stay together on this journey."



WEBMASTER REPORT FOR MAY

by Hal Zenisek

The club's website is active and current. The club had roughly 150 visitors last month and received email inquiries from 2 potential new members. In addition, we've had follow-up contacts from other clubs regarding summer car shows and events. Work on the new website design and layout continues as well. Our web developer & consultant is actively working on our project and I'll have more details to share at a future date. Event related pictures are welcome and appreciated - especially as we explore options for a new website. Please send them my way if you happen to snap any good shots. Email any questions or comments to Hal Zenisek at hzenisek@tds.net or phone if you prefer.

ICE CREAM REPORT!

by Larry Eils

On average, people in the US eat 48 pints of ice cream per person per year. This is more than any other country. (This should be no surprise to the members of this club.)

MY HISTORY WITH BRITISH CARS

by Jim Vickery

In 1967, Jack, a high school chum of mine, bought a 1957 MGA with a frozen up engine. It was, for both of us, our first adventure of digging into the innards of a British car. Fortunately the car came with a workshop manual. Taking the engine out and getting it apart was all new to us. We had to boil the pistons in order to get the rings out of the grooves. After about a month or six weeks of working on the engine we got it running. It ran well enough that he then drove it to Minneapolis to visit his girlfriend who had recently moved up there.

After he returned, he diligently started to try to convince me that I *needed* a British car. My wife was just as diligently trying to convince me that we didn't need one. After all, what did a man with three small kids and a wife need with a two seat car? Well guys, you know that sometimes testosterone overcomes common sense. Actually often.

I started to comb the newspaper and visiting car lots (yes, you could actually find British cars on lots at that time). I was having a hard time finding a car that was in my budget range. Did I mention three small kids and a stay at home wife?

Finally I found one that the ad said it was four seats. I thought that should work, the kids are small, we ought to be able to get five people into four seats. (have you ever seen the back two seats in an Austin Healey?) Well I went to look at this four seat car and immediately fell in love with it, tiny rear seats and all. The car was a bit ragged, but, heck, it was in my price range. I negotiated a price with the owner, and my friend Jack followed me home.



For two years I drove the heck out of that car with very few problems. I did have to replace the front brakes. It was the first car I had ever had that had disc brakes. I was really dreading changing them until I started. I took all of 15 minutes because I didn't have to change the rotors. Rotors cost money you know.

Well, as things will go for young people with three small kids and a stay at home wife, I ran upon financial hard times and could not justify a "toy" car. I put an ad in the newspaper and a young couple came and bought the car for \$800. As they were backing out of my driveway I made up my mind that would have another Healey.

About a month later my friend Jack, (the scoundrel), said he saw a "Bug Eye" on East Drive in Loves Park for sale. Of course I had to go look at it. It was only \$400. That I could afford. That was in August of 1970. It is the same one that I have now. Many things have happened in my life since 1970, however I made up my mind the Bug Eye will always be in my life.

DRIVE AND DINE FOR MAY AT "FRANKIES ON MAIN"

by Don & Marna Grosenick

Frankie's on Main is a new classic supper club, located at 12 S. Main St., downtown Janesville. It is based on a Rat Pack theme, and its brick walls are lined with artwork featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr.

Plan on meeting us at 5:30 for a 5:45 departure time from the front parking lot at the Schnucks Food store on Hononegah Rd. in Roscoe. For anyone who would like to meet us at the restaurant, we will have 6:30 reservations.

Please call Don or Marna Grosenick at 608-752-7092, or e-mail mgrosenick@att.net if you have any questions, or to let us know you are coming.

We hope to see you there for an evening of fun, fellowship and good food and drinks.

The Madison Classic's Spring Jefferson Car Show and Auto Swap Meet is one of the largest car shows in the Midwest!

BBB SPRING TUNE UP & PICNIC

by Jim & Lynda Vickery

Is your LBC ready for a busy summer of driving? After attending the Garage Tour do you have a couple of things you need to check out? Drive over to the Vickerys anytime after 10 AM on Saturday, May 16th and use their garage (with a lift) to check out your car, do some maintenance, and use the opportunity to

compare thoughts and ideas of other club members. Our club has a wealth of experience, and everyone is always ready to help out.

Then, around noon, Jim will fire up his new grill for hamburgers and brats to start the picnic part of the day. Ladies, if you have other errands or things to do in the morning, please join us for the picnic! Bring a dish to pass, and maybe a couple of comfortable chairs. Surely the rainy weather will have moved out and leave way for a nice gathering in our backyard!

EAGLE RIVER WEEKEND

(The Details!)

by Rick Hamaker

- ✦ Travel and arrive: Friday September 25.
- ✦ Depart Eagle River: Monday September 28
- ✦ Accommodation Rates at Eagle Waters Resort:
 - 2 Bedroom (includes private bath for each bedroom): \$203.00 per night, plus tax.
 - 1 Bedroom Unit: \$140 per night, plus tax.
- ✦ Make your reservations as soon as possible.
- ✦ Telephone 715-479-4411 Ask for Lori Smith (there's more than one Lori there), and mention BBB.
- ✦ Please contact Rick Hamaker when you have made your reservations so we can add your name to the list of attendees.
Rick's cell: 815-703-0132
E-mail: richardhamaker@sbcglobal.net.
- ✦ We're planning a fun and relaxed British car weekend, so I hope you all can join us.

FUTURE EVENTS

Champagne British Car Festival in Bloomington - May 29-31. In the past BBB has been well represented. If you plan to attend you will have a great time! Ask at the May meeting if anyone else is planning to go, and maybe caravanning will work.

MG2015 in Niagara Falls via Michigan - June 4-12. Again, BBB has been well represented in previous years, and this year is no exception! Talk to Rich or Ron.

BBB Drive and Dine - June 10 - Hosted by Jackie and Rich Bartlett. (We don't think it will be in Florida!)

Welcome New Members!

New membership applications are available on the club's website. Register by sending your completed application to:

Brian Kobischka, Treasurer
British Boots and Bonnets Car Club
PMB 254

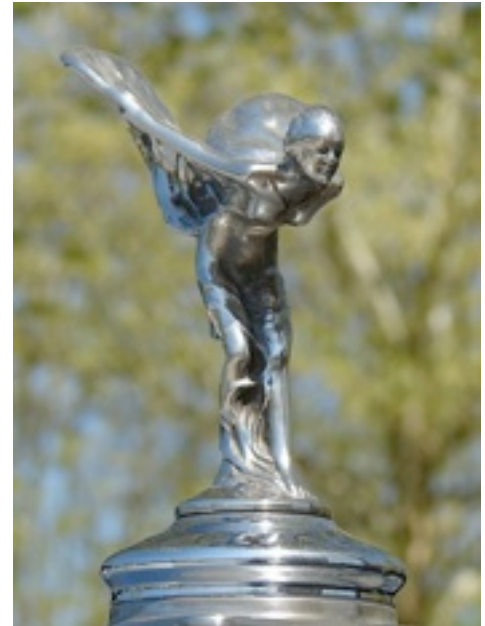
1643 North Alpine Rd. Suite 104
Rockford, IL 61107
brian.kobi@yahoo.com

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

◆Lee Kindgren may have a lead on a 1979 MG. If you are interested he can give you some details.

AUTOMOTIVE TRIVIA

Q: What is the Spirit of Ecstasy?



A: The official name of the mascot of Rolls Royce, she is the lady on top of their radiators.

And for our Pickup lovers...

Ford, who made the first pick-up trucks, shipped them to dealers in crates that the new owners had to assemble using the crates as the beds of the trucks.

The new owners had to go to the dealers to get them, thus they had to "pick-up" the trucks.

And now you know the "rest of the story"

DID - U - KNOW

by Facia Nearside

When William Walmsley moved to Blackpool and began making motorcycle sidecars in his garden shed, his 20 year old neighbor, William Lyons, took notice. Lyons was not only a motorcycle enthusiast but he also had a keen eye for style. Walmsley called his sidecars "ot-as-ell" and with their bullet shaped octagonal body they were unlike anything else on the market. Lyons immediately saw the potential, but it took a bit of persuading before Walmsley entered into a partnership in 1922 and the Swallow Sidecar Company was born.

The sidecars sold so well that soon a larger manufacturing location was needed. In 1927 Swallow also began building car bodies, creating the immensely popular Austin Seven Swallow. Fueled by this success, custom bodies for Standard, Swift, Fiat, Wolseley, Morris and Alvis soon followed. The Swallow Sidecar Company became the Swallow Sidecar and Coachbuilding Company. In 1935 William Lyons bought out his partner to become sole owner and Swallow designed and produced their first car under their new name SS Cars Ltd.

Following WWII, an advanced new twin overhead cam engine was introduced which not only elevated the company's saloons and sports cars above the competition but also powered the way to five Lemans victories. William Lyons became recognized as a styling genius and was knighted for his contributions to the British Empire.

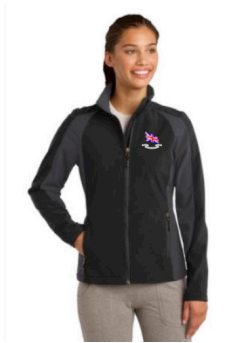
Almost 100 years on, the company is perhaps more successful than at any time in it's past. You will not, however, find Swallow Sidecar or the letters SS related to any postwar products, as those letters have developed sinister connotations. More likely you have heard of Sir William Lyons Car Company by its current name...
Jaguar.

BBB REGALIA ONLINE STORE

by Bruce Beneditz

If you haven't had a chance to check out the new Regalia site on our Club website, these are our newest items available. It may be time to refresh your selection of BBB regalia.

The Tri-Mountain Jacket selection has been expanded to include more color options. Instead of just being available in Red / Black it is now available in 7 other color combinations.



A Soft Shell Jacket has been added that is available in both men's and women's styles. The men's is available in 6 color combinations and the women's is available in 4. It features 100% polyester woven shell bonded to a water-resistant laminated film insert and a 100% polyester microfleece lining.

For men there is a new 1/4-zip Slub Fleece Pullover in multiple colors. Slub fleece is not like the light weight fleece you might be familiar with. It is more like a heavy sweat shirt fabric.



A women's Puffy Vest has been added in addition to the existing fleece vest. The new vest is available in 6 colors.

We are continuing to look for a good Sun Visor to add to the collection and hope to have one available in time for the warm weather.

Take a few minutes to visit the new Online Store by following the Club Regalia link on the BBB website, BritishBootsandBonnet.com. By partnering with Embroid This in Roscoe, we have a convenient and easy way to select and purchase club related items. Select "All Products" or "Club Wear" to see all of the items.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

MG MORGAN TRIUMPH



LOTUS JAGUAR AUSTIN HEALEY

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North American MGB Register

Lynda Vickery, *Chronicles Editor*
British Boots & Bonnets Car Club
5549 Gray Eagle Road
Roscoe, IL 61073



Next Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

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