



# British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 18  
Issue 5

May 4, 2013

Editor  
Lynda Vickery

## Presidents Message

May 2013

The saying goes "April showers bring May flowers." We've had the showers and sure enough our crocus, daffodils and tulips are up and blooming. What a pretty site.

Another pretty site was the appearance of several British cars on the garage tour followed by a host of wannabes. Richard Cannistra did a great job of finding a terrific car collection to see and a fascinating behind the scenes tour of the Van Galder Bus Company. We even rode a bus to get the real experience.

At the same time the guys were out, the ladies were enjoying a British Full Tea hosted by Jenny Plymale, assisted by Roxann Cannistra. The tea table was adorned with a beautiful floral centerpiece surrounded by an assortment of delicious treats. To make the day more special everyone brought their special teacup and saucer and shared their story as to how it came into their possession.

Our club is off to a great start. The fun is just beginning.

Larry Eils

PS: The Sharon, WI Ice Cream Shoppe is now open. Marsha and I tried it out - delicious! See you there.

*Words of Wisdom - If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.*



Next Meeting  
**Wed., May 15, 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**

### 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

## British Boots & Bonnets – April 17, 2013 – Membership Meeting Minutes

**President's Report:** Larry Eils called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with 38 members present. He welcomed Ruth and Barry Wier, attending the meeting as Rich and Roxann Cannistra's guests. Nancy Kuhnau introduced new members Candy and Roger Pelkey, who were welcomed by the club. Larry asked members to read the new Driving Guidelines, which were distributed and can also be found in the April Chronicle.

**Vice-President:** No report.

**Secretary:** Connie Frazier substituted for Ginger Spaight and noted that the March minutes should be corrected under New Business to remove Roger Pelkey's name and add David Brickman. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Ron Kuhnau, seconded by Bev Joyce. Carried.

**Treasurer:** Connie Frazier presented the financial report. Motion to accept report was made by John Fleshman, seconded by Roger Buck. Carried.

**Membership:** Bev Joyce reported 75 memberships including new members Bob McNaughton and Roger and Candy Pelkey.

**Regalia:** The "store" was not open.

**Newsletter:** Lynda Vickery invited members to submit stories of their first British vehicles.

**Webmaster:** See Hal Zenisek for information on parts available for a 1950 Riley Saloon.

**Sunshine:** The club welcomed Bob Buckavekas after his absence due to illness. Bob thanked everyone for their assistance, cards, meals, and well-wishes.

**Events Chair:** Rich Cannistra reported on the April 10 Drive & Dine (which turned into a Dine-only due to weather) at the Rockton Inn. Coming events include the April 20 Ladies' Tea and Men's Garage Tour, April 20-21 Classics & Chrome show, April 26 Ladies' Lunch at Rockford's Lone Star Steakhouse, April 26 Men's Lunch at Machesney Park's Crazy Times, April 26-28 Jefferson Car Show & Swap Meet, May 4 New Glarus trip, May 8 Drive & Dine to Duck Inn, May 21-23 Spring Drive to Springfield, June 16 British Car Field Day in Sussex, WI, June 22-23 BBB Drive to Baraboo, WI area, September 13-16 Fall Long Weekend Drive to Door Co.

**Marques:** **MG-** Rick Hamaker, July 13 Mad Dogs & Englishmen, July 17-21 MB 2013 in Corvallis, OR, and August 15-18 University Motors Summer Party with John Twist. **Triumph-** Jake Jaquet, no report. **Jaguar-** Rich Cannistra, July 19-21 Illinois Jaguar Club Concours d' Elegance in St. Charles. **Austin Healey-** Dwain Plymale, June 2 Autocross in Warrenville, IL, June 23-28 Conclave Charlevoix, Quebec, end of July Blackhawk Farms Raceway open event. **Lotus-** Jeff Plummer, no report. **Rolls Royce-** Roger Buck, report on past events. **Minis-** Larry Eils, Mini Meet East Meets West in Milwaukee July 2-6, 2014.

**Classifieds:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:** 2014 Calendar Committee- John Fleshman reported that the committee has met. Calendar theme will focus on events through the year. BBB's Anniversary- Larry noted that the club will be 17 years old in May. The meeting will include a celebration & anniversary cake. SOS Antique Plate- Jake reported that a new "extended use antique license plate" is now available.

**Good Wrench Award:** Went to Lynda Vickery for her work producing the Chronicle each month.

**Ed Eggleston Burnt Piston Award:** Went to VP Steve Carter in absentia for forgetting the meeting.

**Raffle:** Pickup tool/cleaning kit to Jake Jaquet, cleaning spray/cloths to John Fleshman, Thunder Bay Bucks to Barb Buckavekas, hand pump to Roger Buck.

**Story-** by Larry Eils ended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Frazier

**BRITISH BOOTS and BONNETS**  
**2013 CALENDAR of EVENTS**

- May 8                   **BBB Drive and Dine** – The Duck Inn; Delavan, WI  
                                  Host: Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz, Jim and Lynda Vickery
- May 15                   **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                                  Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- May 21-23               **BBB SPRING DRIVE**; Springfield, IL  
                                  Hosts: Rick and Sandy Hamaker, Larry and Marsha Eils,  
                                  and Lee & Rita Kindgren
- May 29-June 1           British Car Week  
                                  Hot Springs, AK
- June 2                   22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Champagne British Car Festival  
                                  Bloomington, IL
- June 12                 **BBB Drive and Dine** – La Petite Creperie & Bistrot; Woodstock, IL  
                                  Host: John and JoAnne Fleshman
- June 16                 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual British Car Field Day  
                                  Sussex, WI
- June 19                 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                                  Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- June 22-23              **BBB Drive - Saturday:** Mid-Continent Railway and Delaney's  
                                  North Freedom, WI  
                                  **Sunday:** Circus World Museum  
                                  Baraboo, WI  
                                  Host: Don and Marna Grosenick
- July 2-5                 Mini Meet East 2013  
                                  Kingston, NY
- July 7                   **BBB DRIVE - Cars and Coffee;** Lake Mills, WI  
                                  Host: Hal Zenisek and Connie Frazier
- 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/NAMGB  
                                  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 TBA  
                                  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	<b>BBB Club Picnic</b> 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	<b>BBB Drive and Dine</b> – Location needed Host: Volunteer needed
September 13-16	<b>BBB FALL LONG WEEKEND DRIVE;</b> Door County, WI Host: Larry and Marsha Eils, Ron and Nancy Kuhnau
September 18	<b>BBB CLUB MEETING</b> Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
September 27-29	Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet Jefferson, WI
October 5	<b>BBB DRIVE - Fall Colors;</b> Location needed Host: Volunteer needed
October 9	<b>BBB Drive and Dine</b> – Location TBA Host: Rich and Jackie Bartlett
October 16	<b>BBB CLUB MEETING</b> Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
October 19	<b>BBB Tune Down Dinner</b> - Location needed Host: Larry and Marsha Eils
November 13	<b>BBB Dine</b> – Garrett's Restaurant; Rockford, IL Host: Bob and Joan Tilson
November 20	<b>BBB CLUB MEETING</b> Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
December 4	<b>BBB Cookie Exchange</b> Hostess: Mary Jo Schoening
December 11	<b>BBB Christmas Party</b> Lino's Restaurant; Rockford, IL

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

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## May 2013 Marks the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the British Boots and Bonnets Car Club

...gleanings from our newsletter by Hal Zenisek

The first "charter issue" of the newsletter was produced for the members on July 10, 1996. Here are some highlights for your reading pleasure:

- ⌘ Marv Proctor as President with Orie Nelson as Vice President were elected by the vote of 31 members.
- ⌘ Seven cars were driving to Monroe on Sunday for the first organized club drive. The tour leaders names were Al "I-Don't-Need-Instructions" Hutson along with Beryl "I-Told-You-So" Hutson. What more needs to be said? And the club was off and running!
- ⌘ Club membership was already more than 50 families with over 100 cars represented.
- ⌘ Club meetings were held at the Rathskellar Restaurant on Wednesday night.
- ⌘ The newsletter was yet to be named the "Chronicle" and the 6 pages included a list of members, along with their addresses and phone numbers.
- ⌘ A contest was announced to design the club's logo.
- ⌘ Ed Eggleston was elected the first Treasurer, and was reported to have said he was happy to accept money at any club event.
- ⌘ The President's message was named *Exhaust from the "Pres"* with Marv providing the first message to members.
- ⌘ Jeff Rust was events coordinator and already trying to recruit help for various events.

And then, a few things that have not changed much in 17 years, including the following:

- ❖ No report from the Vice President.
- ❖ Marv Proctor was looking for MG parts then and now.
- ❖ Membership was \$20
- ❖ 13 of our current member families also appeared on the first published roster. Congratulations go out to the Andersons, Carol Eggleston, Frazier/Zenisek, Hamakers, Harris', Jaquets, Kuczeks, Leeses, Lewis', Moores, Narettas, Marv Proctor, and the Vickery's.

Congratulations to all as we celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club!

Food for thought: sources on the Internet report the average price of gas was \$1.23 per gallon in 1996!

# ROCKIN IN THE ROCKTON INN

by Rich Cannistra

While it may have been blustery outside, The Rockton Inn was warm and inviting for the April 10th Dine. Although scheduled as the first Drive and Dine of the year, cold temperatures and all day rain put paid to the thoughts of driving. Thirty four club members made an easy decision to head straight for the Inn and leave the elements behind.

Hosts Ron and Nancy Kuhnau had reserved the upstairs of the Inn, and it didn't take long for our group to liven it up. Everyone's needs were well attended to, and the extensive menu featuring steak night made it a delicious evening. Time melted away with good friends and good food. Stuffed and happy we finally said our goodbyes and headed for home.

Surely LBC driving weather will be here by May... although I do hate it when someone calls me Shirley 😊





## GARAGE TOUR SHOWCASES WIDE VARIETY

by Rich Cannistra

From pedal cars to 40 foot motor coaches and just about everything in between, the garage tour had something for everyone. The participants met at Caffiend then proceeded to rural Woodstock where the owner of a large private collection graciously opened his garage doors for us. In addition to the amazing variety of cars the collection also included trucks, motorcycles, tractors, a fire truck and enough signs and memorabilia to fill a museum.



Departing Woodstock we enjoyed lunch in Darien on the way to Janesville, WI for a behind the scenes tour of the Van Galder Bus Company. In addition to the tour of the maintenance facility, fueling station and wash bay, we were treated to a ride around town in an executive motor coach. Our knowledgeable host answered many questions giving everyone a whole new perspective of the complexity involved in that type of operation.



Despite the chilly temperatures, five British cars were on the road for the tour, marking an official start to the driving season. FINALLY!!!!



## BBB LADIES AFTERNOON TEA

by Roxann Cannistra

*A dusting of snow overnight did not cool the warm and friendly gathering at the annual ladies tea. A sunny sky and blooming daffodils made a cheery and inviting setting for the elegant get together. Many beautiful tea cups, each with a special story, fueled lively conversation during the enjoyable afternoon. With tempting tidbits abounding and a varied selection of wonderful tea to choose from, time melted away as friends enjoyed the relaxing time together.*



*Jenny Plymale graciously hosted the event, which lent an unquestionable air of authenticity to the traditional gathering. Thank you Jenny for the wonderful day!*



### Editor's Comments...

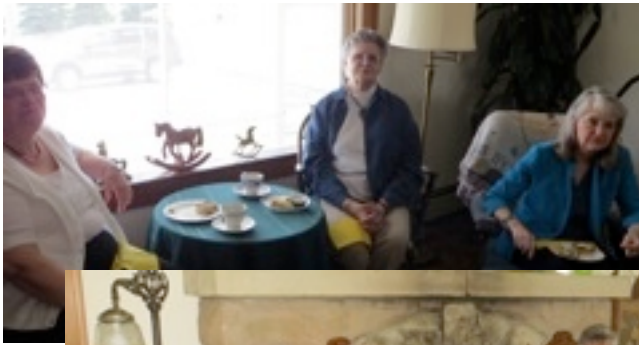
The Ladies of the Club were remembering some of our previous Teas and trying to decide when the first one was held. So I reviewed all of the Chronicles from 1996 and came up with the following.

The first tea was held April 15, 2000. We have had one every year since then,

except for 2003. (Don't remember what happened that year.) Every year someone volunteered to host the tea in their home except in 2011, when we met at the Hope and Anchor. That was the year William and Kate were married and we enjoyed watching a recording of all the royal festivities while partaking of British tea and goodies.







The following ladies hosted or helped with our tea parties: Lynda Vickery, Nancy Kuhnau, Marie Naretta, Jackie Bartlett, Connie Frazier, Nancy Proctor, Bev Joyce, Sandy Hamaker, Jennie Plymale, Marilyn Kramer, Joan Tilson, and Roxann Cannistra. If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize. Some issues of the Chronicle were missing, and my memory isn't what it used to be. I do know we have had wonderful gatherings, enjoying each other's company and doing things British! - Lynda Vickery

## TWO BBB MEMBERS BRING HOME HONORS

by Rich Cannistra

At the recent Classics and Chrome Car Show in Machesney Park, two of our club members were rewarded for displaying their beautiful cars.

David Brickman showed his 1971 E-Type Jaguar and was awarded runner up in the sports car class. His car, fresh from a total restoration, looked stunning with its new paint and interior. Bob McNaughton entered his 1984 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit in the show. His car also sparked much conversation. Visitors were impressed with its immaculate condition and Bob was awarded best in class for his effort.

Congratulations to both of these gentlemen for showing what a beautiful British ride is all about.



## **MAY DRIVE AND DINE - DUCK INN**

by Lynda Vickery

Are you getting tired of the rain and flooding? Do what the ducks do - visit the Duck Inn! Are you ready to get away from the daily grind and spend an evening with good friends and good food? Duck into the Duck Inn. Our next *Drive and Dine* will be Wednesday, May 8th, hosted by Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz and Jim & Lynda Vickery.

Plan to meet at Roscoe Middle School on Elevator Road, Roscoe, for a departure at 5:45pm. The group will then tour (avoiding puddles and detours) up to the Duck Inn, N6214 State Road 89, Delavan, WI (608) 883-6988.

If you want to drive separately, please call Bruce at 815-543-0026 so that he can let the folks know at Duck Inn how many to expect.



## **BBB SPRINGFIELD-LINCOLN TOUR**

The Springfield and New Salem, Illinois tour has been planned for mid-week, May 21-23, and the activities planned should be of interest to everyone. There is still time to join the tour! Please call Comfort Suites, 217-753-4000; ask for Justin Hamilton and mention BBB. There is a block of rooms reserved, either a king size, or two queen beds for \$89.00 plus tax per night. A great deal!

Planned tour sites include the Old State Capitol, Lincoln's Tomb, the Lincoln Presidential Museum, a stop on old Route 66, a visit to New Salem, and an evening ghost walk. There will still be free time to visit other sites as well. The Lincoln Museum will provide a guided tour, so a headcount is needed ahead of time to secure our spot.

Hosts for this event are Lee and Rita Kindgren, Larry and Marsha Eils, and Rick and Sandy Hamaker. Please contact Sandy with any questions.

## **WISCONSIN TRIP SET FOR JUNE**

by Don and Marna Grosenick

A weekend trip to the Baraboo/North Freedom area just south of Wisconsin Dells has been planned for June 22 and 23rd. Activities are being arranged so that members can participate on either Saturday or Sunday or stay for both days. For those wishing to stay overnight for the two day event, hosts Don and Marna Grosenick have arranged for a block of rooms at the Cedarberry Inn.

Room Choices include: Queen \$84.30, 2 Queens \$94, Queen deluxe suite \$94, King suite \$99.30, Whirlpool suite \$132, or 2 room suite \$158 Just tell them you are with BBB. A discount is also offered for AAA, AARP, or 55 and older. The Cedarberry Inn can be reached at 608-643-6625 with rooms being held for us until June 8th.

Weekend activities include the North Freedom Railway Museum. Forevertron, Circus World Museum, dinner at Dorf Haus, and more.

Call early to ensure that you get your desired choice! Any questions? Please call Don and Marna Grosenick.

## New Antique Vehicle License

### Plate Law

by Jim Vickery

At the April meeting Jake Jaquet brought up the subject of license plates now available from the State of Illinois called Expanded Use Antique. The Expanded Use license plate allows an antique vehicle 25 years old or older to be used for the months of April 1 through October 31 with no restrictions. For the months of November 1 through March 31 the vehicles using those plates have the same restrictions as the standard antique plates. (i.e. going to and returning from an auto show, an exhibition, or for servicing or demonstration)

The fees for these Expanded Use Antique plates are as follows:

First time issuance \$51.00  
Annual renew \$51.00  
Vanity plates, first issuance \$145.00  
Annual renewal \$64.00  
Personalized first time issuance \$98.00  
Annual renew \$58.00

I've contacted the Illinois Secretary of State Police regarding using historic plates. Historic plates are by definition a plate from, or representing the model year of the vehicle. In this case the Expanded Use Antique plates must be carried in the vehicle and available for inspection.

If you run historic plates the officer recommended you carry a copy of the law, Number 625 ILCS 5\3-804.01. I found this by googling that law. Carrying the copy protects you if a police officer is not familiar with this law.

Application forms for Expanded Use Antique plates are available at [www.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.com](http://www.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.com). While online You may also check to see if the personalized or vanity plate you wish to purchase is available.

With the expanded plates removing the restrictions on driving in the summer, you may want to check with your insurance company because some of them limit the number of miles or have other restrictions on use of your antique vehicle.

Thank you, Jake, for bringing the subject up. I'm certain there are some members who were unaware of this law and would like to make use of it.

### DID-U-KNOW

by Facia Nearside

In 1962 Her Majesty's Agent 007 became the most famous spy in the world but it was not until two years later in Goldfinger that his favorite ride made it's first appearance. The 1964 silver-birch Aston Martin DB5 has remained an icon through six different James Bonds and 49 years of movies. Did it finally come to an end in the 2012 movie Skyfall when the car was reduced to a pile of rubble on screen? Is it gone forever or was that just Pinewood Studios (Hollywood)?

Actually two cars were used in Goldfinger, one of which was stolen in 1997 and has not been seen since. The other (registration BMT 216A) was sold in 2010 for the princely sum of \$4.6 million and is now in a private museum in Ohio. Expensive for a car? Maybe. Or maybe you missed out on the bargain of a lifetime. You see, some experts believe that next time the car changes hands it will easily be worth twice that!



The Blue Light Special for May is the maintenance record book produced by Mr. Sinclair, a Canadian car fan. This booklet is a neat item to keep track of the maintenance on your little British auto. The original price of \$5.00 has been reduced to \$2.00. Don't miss out! See me at the meeting - Jake

**From Moss Motors to Triumph and All British vehicle car clubs.** The information is especially pertinent to TR6 owners considering the purchase of an exhaust system.

Yesterday a number of us from Moss attended the Queen's English Car show and Swap Meet in Woodley Park, just north of LA. I had the pleasure of three hours of driving the Moss TR6 test mule to the show and back. It's quite a trip especially when you get to follow Al Moss' TC, driven by Robert Goldman at a pace I know Al would've appreciated.

The TR6 had our newest stainless steel exhaust system. I'll say a few words from my experience and then link you to a press release that has a video so you can hear it yourself ... If you have members who would find this information useful, you are invited to share as you please.

Impressions:

I remember driving onto the show field in the quiet hours of the morning having to resist the urge to blip the throttle. It was too early to make a scene, but even at idle or slowly pattering along there is more than a hint of bass and muscle coming from the tailpipe.

Driving on the city streets from corner to stoplight is so much more fun when it feels and sounds like the car is into the drive. And the long drive on the highway was ... really nice, actually. I'd say the sounds were appropriately balanced. Not stressful or droning. The telltale good sign was pulling off the highway and still wanting to wind out the motor on Rutherford Street back to Moss.

It's clear that whoever first designed the original exhaust really cared. It's angled and dual stacked and obviously not an afterthought. Our guys spent a lot of time getting the new system to carry forward the legacy of the original. Pride begets pride, I think.

The press release and video:

<http://www.mossmotors.com/SiteGraphics/pressrelease/TR6-stainless-steel-exhaust-system.html>

Thank you!  
David Stuursma  
Moss Motors

# MY FIRST TRIUMPH

by Jake Jaquet

Many years ago (more than I want to admit) I was in the U.S. Army stationed with the 123rd Signal Corp in Wurzburg, Germany. My wife and 15 month old daughter came to Germany two months after I arrived. We lived in lovely (by German standards) ground floor apartment in the little village of Underbach outside of Wurzburg. During our time there we became friends with a guy from the Boston area. He was much older than us and was called up from the National Guard because he stopped going to meetings. That is a no no with the Guard.

He bought a brand new 1968 Triumph Spitfire a few months after he arrived. Until that point he bummed rides off of us as he had no form of transportation off the base. I fell in love with that wonderful white little Spitfire. It had wire wheels, luggage rack and a new bigger engine that Triumph came out with. He would let me take it here and there on short runs as a way of repaying us for the kindness of giving him rides when he had no car.

As time went on he keep talking about his old Spitfire he had in Boston, but he kept talking in past tense as if he did not have the car anymore. One day through conversation it came to light that he still had the old Spitfire, and the car was stored in his sister's garage in a suburb outside of Boston, but there were some problems with the car. The problems were not so much mechanical as they were legal. The car had not run in a year and half but did run fine when it was still running. The old Spitfire needed cosmetic work more than anything. The legal issues were that he still owed \$600.00 to GMAC, the license had run out, and there was no insurance left on the vehicle. In time the subject kept coming up about what he was going to do with old Spitfire. He now had payments on a new vehicle (I don't know he got that loan) as well as money owed on the old Triumph to GMAC. Legally they could not touch him or the car as long as he was on active duty.

One day he asked me if I wanted the old Spitfire. It could be mine if I took over the payments to GMAC. I was getting out the Army 3 months before he was so it would be on my shoulders to contact GMAC to take over the payments, go get the car out of his sister's garage and legally get the car on the road. Sounds dumb doesn't it? But I wanted that old Spitfire so bad I willing to do all of the afore mentioned things.

We went to the local Provost Marshall office of the Army, and the friend signed over all legal rights to the car provided I did all the other half of the deal. I flew home from Germany with the legal papers in hand; got discharged from the Army at Ft Dix New Jersey and then flew to Boston to take possession of my proud Triumph Spitfire. My wife and daughter came home about a month before. Here I am in Boston with no idea of where anything was or how to get there. Thanks to my Army uniform, the locals were very helpful, and I got all the directions on how to get to his sister's house. She knew I was coming and greeted me very graciously. I think she was very happy that her brother's car was going to leave her garage.

I stayed at her house for two nights, and during the day I found GMAC, got some insurance on the car and license plates. All this got done before I even knew if the car would run. With help of the sister's husband who ran a garage two blocks away, we got the beast running and out of the garage. After saying good bye and thanking them for the place to stay, etc. I headed home via the interstate with my fingers crossed that I would make the trip without any problems. It was two days before Easter.

The first hour or two went fine, and then there was this little red light glowing on the speedometer and I did not realize what it was. The car was running fine so I kept motoring on thru the day and into the night getting 40 mpg. I soon found out what the red light was after darkness set in. That's right, it was the generator light, and it was indicating that the generator was not charging. I could drive about two hours, and then I would have to stop and get the battery charged, go potty and fill up with gas. It was the same routine all night long. I wanted to get home for Easter. Every time I stopped I would ask if they knew where I could get a generator but kept getting the same answer. "Are you nuts man at this time of night and what kind of car?" I finally got to Cleveland when it was daylight and asked the same question to a gas station attendant. To my surprise he directed me to a British car dealer. I thought good, my troubles are over. But when I found the dealership, it was closed. Good Friday you know. Right next to the dealership was a gas station that did minor repairs so I went to them. The mechanic said no problem. We will just jump the fence and take a generator off of a used Triumph and get you back on the road. That is exactly what he did. Success was at hand. He guessed at what the generator was worth, I paid the man and got back on the road.

At midnight on Good Friday I drove into the in-laws' driveway where my wife and daughter were staying. I was home at last and completely wore out from lack of sleep. The little Spitfire continued to run without problems for the rest of the spring, summer and fall. It was the only car we had. When winter came I had to buy a full size sedan for the up coming bad weather.

As the years went by there was a house to build and another child came along (our son). The old Spitfire got rolled out in the spring, got driven off and on all summer, and put away for the winter. Finally the old car top rotted out, and then some mechanical issues arose. The Spitfire got put up on blocks in the back of the garage, and there it stayed for fourteen years. I thought about selling it several times but my wife kept putting water on the idea. "Someday you will want that old car" she would say. Well that day came when our son said " I sure would like to have the Spitfire restored and running for the prom in two years". The garage became the restoration shop and the old Spitfire came to life again. It turned into a ground up restoration with new red paint job, new top and all the mechanical issues taken care of. The engine was in good shape, and to this day the engine has never been taken apart.

I still have the old Spitfire, although it doesn't get driven much now days, but it was the start of my involvement with British cars, all Triumphs. I have restored five Triumph automobiles and have four more waiting in the wings to do someday if I live long enough. Our son did take the old Spitfire to the prom that year and loved it. Our involvement with British Boots and Bonnets has been a added pleasure of owning British automobiles. Although the club is mostly MG's we don't hold that against anyone. There is plenty of room for Triumphs, Jaguars, Rolls Royce and what ever British cars are around. Keep Driving them!



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Next Meeting  
**Wednesday, May 15, 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**