



British Boots & Bonnetts Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 18
Issue 6

June 9, 2013

Editor
Lynda Vickery

President's Message

June 2013

This has been an interesting spring so far. One day it's cold, top up; the next day it's hot, top down. If that's not enough, add rain or thunderstorms to the mix and you have the makings of a slow start to the driving season.

Our first drive of the year experienced all of the above weather during some portion of the day's drive. A misting rain, a down-pour and then the sun came out turning the afternoon into a warm day. Despite the weather, a great time was had by all.

The Springfield drive also experienced weather related problems. The severe weather forced postponement of this great trip. The planners are hoping to reschedule this event at a later date. Let's hope the weather settles down as we enter summer and our driving season gets into full swing.

June is a busy month for the club, starting with the Champaign Car Show and ending with our weekend trip to central Wisconsin. We hope to see our new members at these events. This is a great way to meet your fellow club members and enjoy a wonderful drive in your British car. There's nothing like driving with 6 or 7 other British cars down the highway, what a sight.

Larry Eils

Words of Wisdom: Some of the greater things in life are unseen; that's why you close your eyes when you kiss, cry and dream.



Next Meeting
Wed., June 19, 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 Bonnetts Car Club
5411 E. State Street, PMB 394
Rockford, IL 61108
cfrazier9@yahoo.com

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

British Boots and bonnets - May 15, 2013 - Membership Meeting Minutes

President's Report: Vice President Steve Carter called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with 36 members present. He welcomed guest, Delores Moon's sister from Iowa. There is a new member who is not present tonight.

Vice President: No report.

Secretary's Report: Motion made and seconded to approve. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Connie Frazier reported on club finances, and the report was approved.

Membership: Connie reported, in Bev's absence, that our membership was 77 members, and that number was brought to 78 with the new member.

Regalia: Lynda Vickery reported in Jake's absence that the Blue Light Special is the same as in the Chronicle, the Owner's Log Book, originally sold for \$5, now \$2. She was willing to take orders.

Chronicle/Newsletter: Lynda Vickery is still looking for articles. Send as Word document.

Webmaster: Web site is up and running. We've received correspondence from individuals and other clubs.

Sunshine: Jim Vickery is recovering from surgery very rapidly.

Events: Lee Kindren reported for Rich Cannistra. The Drive and Dine to The Duck Inn on May 8 had good weather, thanks to Jim and Lynda Vickery. Good ride and food thanks to Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz. Ladies Tea hosted by Jenny Plymale. She thanks Roxanne Cannistra for help, and all who attended. Garage tour visited 5 or 6 garages full of neat cars, and rode in the Van Galder Bus Co. executive coach. The May 4 New Glarus ride was a rainy day. The occupants of the 3 cars enjoyed shopping at The Shoe Box in Black Earth, and had lunch afterward at the converted Mill in Mazomanee. Upcoming events: Spring drive to Springfield, Il, will be fun 3 days, May 21-24, seeing historical things and eating good food. Don Grosenick talked about the June 22-23 ride to North Freedom (train museum) and Baraboo (Circus World Museum). Dinner will be at Dorf House. Make reservation by June 8, at The Cedarberry Inn. June 12 Drive and Dine hosted by John and JoAnn Fleshman to La Petite Creperie in Woodstock, IL, will be followed by Concert on the Square.

Marques: MG-Lyn Pond reported National Meeting will be in North Carolina 6/10 to 6/14.

Triumph: no report. **Jaguar:** no report. **Austin Healey:** Dwain Plymale reported the Autocross will be in Warrenville, IL on June 2, Track Day at Blackhawk Farms on 7/26 will cost only \$115 per car, Conclave to be held in Quebec. **Lotus:** no report. **Rolls Royce:** no report. **Minis:** no report.

Classified: MGTF (with spare parts), contact Marv Proctor.

Unfinished Business: Men's lunch, 5/24, Jim Vickery will get an email out.

Special Announcement: Marv Proctor, the first president, told about start of BBB 17 years ago. First meeting was on May 15, 1996, at The Rathskeller Restaurant. There were 48 members present. The first roster included 52 members of which 13 are still active. The first drive to Monroe, WI, including 11 cars, was a visit to a restaurant., second drive to White Pine included 17 cars. The contest to name the club was won by Mark and Andy Harris.

Good Wrench: none

Ed Eggleston Burnt Piston Award: Archy Morey for forgetting Raffle Items.

Story: by Steve Carter ended meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginger Spaight

- 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 Tune Down Drive**
Host: Larry and Marsha Eils
- October 9 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location TBA
Host: Rich and Jackie Bartlett
- October 16 **BBB CLUB MEETING**
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- October 18-20 **BBB SPRINGFIELD TOUR**
Host: Rick & Sandy Hamaker, Larry & Marsha Eils,
and Lee & Rita Kindgren
- November 13 **BBB Dine** – Garrett's Restaurant; Rockford, IL
Host: Bob and Joan Tilson
- 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

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

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New Glarus Drive

by Nancy Kuhnau

What happens when 3 couples meet for coffee at Caffiend and make plans for a drive to New Glarus in the rain? Well-----plans can change. We decided if it was still raining in New Glarus we would just head north to Black Earth and go shoe shopping at the famous Shoe Box. What fun!! Six people walked in with umbrellas and walked out with 8 boxes of shoes.



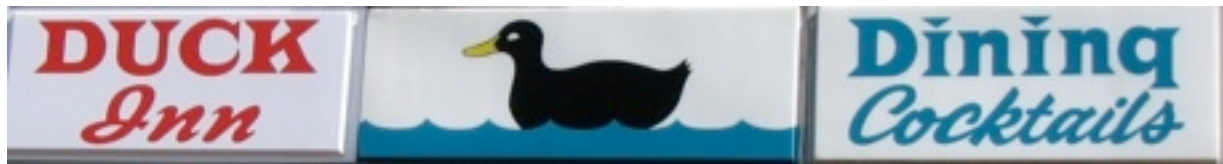
It was still raining and also time for lunch. Ron and Nancy knew of a restaurant in Mazomanie called the Old Feed Mill Restaurant. We once again headed North or was it West? The old sandstone Grist Mill dates back to Pre-Civil War 1857. It became a restaurant 17 years ago and has been featured in many magazines. Great food! Great history.



The sun finally came out as we headed back to New Glarus with a quick stop at the New Glarus Brewery.

Lee and Rita
Larry and Marsha
Ron and Nancy





MAY'S DRIVE & DINE A SUCCESS!

By Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz

On May 8th, after a long winter and a slow arriving spring, 21 BBB'ers made the back road trek to the Duck Inn Supper Club near Delavan, Wi. Before we left from the parking lot of Roscoe Middle school, there was some business to attend to. The drive was hosted by Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz and Jim and Lynda Vickery. However, Jim and Lynda were unable to make the drive. It was agreed by all, that in their absence, they would be given the credit for the beautiful weather we had for a top down evening drive. The second order of business was to suspend the newly drafted driving rules. Without Jim and Lynda's B, and with Bruce's Midget still in the garage, all Bruce and Phyllis had to drive was their Japanese Miata. The rules clearly state the non-British cars must go to the back of the field. It was agreed by those present that this was a special case and the non-British car could lead and not have to "push" the group all the way to dinner.

At the Duck Inn we were seated in a private dining room where we enjoyed fine food, good conversation, and good friends. Thank you to all who participated in the drive and made it a fun event. It is good to have the cars back on the road



BBB is Seventeen!

by Connie Frazier



At BBB's May meeting, we celebrated the passage of seventeen years, to the day, since the first organizational meeting of what was to become the British Boots and Bonnets Car Club. Marv Proctor, the club's first president, shared a bit of the history of the club's founding, including selection of a name, logo and membership growth in the early months. Other charter members offered their memories from the early days and the event was celebrated with an anniversary cake.



JUNE 12th DRIVE AND DINE TO HISTORIC WOODSTOCK, IL

by Rich Cannistra

Enjoy a fantastic night out as we dine at La Petite Creperie & Bistrot, located on the beautiful and historic square in Woodstock, IL. We will meet at Roscoe Middle School at 6 p.m. and depart shortly after for a country drive to the restaurant. Weather permitting, dining will be on the outdoor terrace to the accompaniment of the City Band Concert taking place just across the street in the square. The restaurant features an extensive menu of dinner and dessert crepes as well as sandwiches, hearty entrees and nightly specials. Of course an extensive wine list is also available.

La Petite Creperie is located at 115 N. Johnson St. which is the northeast corner of the square. If you plan on meeting at the restaurant, reservations are for 7 p.m. This is a beautiful setting, and an historic location, rounded out by an extensive menu. See you Wednesday June 12th.

P.S. Cash is King at the Creperie. Pay with cash and receive a 7% discount off of your entire bill.

Wisconsin Weekend Trip on June 22 & 23

by Marna & Don Grosenick

This will be a weekend trip to the Baraboo/ North Freedom area, just south of the Wisconsin Dells.

Activities for the weekend include:

- The North Freedom Railway Museum, with an optional 7 mile, 55 minute round trip ride through rustic rural setting in a restored 1915 coach pulled by a diesel locomotive.

- There are also many railroad displays and restored railroad cars on display. Cost for the ride is \$18.00. (Saturday)
- Forevertron, a sculpture made completely out of metals and rusted machines, all of which are between 50 and 100 years old. Standing 120 feet wide, 60 feet deep, 50 feet tall, the sculpture weighs 320 tons. It is the world's largest scrap metal sculpture. There are also a variety of other sculptures in the park, including a 70 piece bird band that incorporate wind chimes and actually play music. (Saturday)
- A very scenic drive through the Baraboo bluffs and hills. Be ready for hills, steep grades, curves, narrow roads and single lane bridges. (Sunday)
- Circus World Museum – located on the original Ringling Brothers Circus Winter Quarters. We will see antique circus wagons, a Big Top Circus Performance, and many animals and exhibits. (Sunday)

We will be staying at the Cedarberry Hotel in Sauk City. They will hold a block of rooms for us until June 8th. They have a variety of rooms available ranging in price from \$84.30 – \$158.00 for a two-room suite. When you call (608-643-6625) for your reservation, please let them know you are with the British Boots and Bonnets group. They will also give a discount for AAA, AARP, or Senior Citizens 55 or older.

We will meet in the park along the river, across from the Eclipse Center on Riverside Drive in Beloit at 8:00 on Saturday morning, and plan on leaving by 8:30.

We are hoping to see many of you on this trip. It should be a good time. If you have any questions, please contact Don & Marna Grosenick (608-752-7092).

COFFEE & CARS

by Hal Zenisek

Sunday July 7th Show is 7 – 10 AM
Lake Mills, WI

Depart 06:00AM from Caffiend in Roscoe
(5066 Rockrose Ct. Roscoe, IL)

Depart 06:45AM from the Janesville Mall
(by the mall entrance sign off Milton Ave.)

Coffee & Cars is an informal once-a-month gathering of car enthusiasts around the main town square in Lake Mills to drink coffee and talk cars. What a better way to enjoy a summer morning in southern Wisconsin! And from the pics on their website, it looks like some very nice cars are often on display.

Please join us for one of our BBB July driving events as we try to add a bit of British flavor to the July coffee brew. We'll caravan from the Rockford area leaving promptly at 6:00AM from the Caffiend shop parking lot in Roscoe. This group will meet up with some of our club members from the near north at the Janesville Mall at 6:45. Then we'll take the quickest route to Lake Mills for the event and fellowship. After the show wraps up around 10AM, we'll find a couple back roads for the trip home, and plan a stop for either a late breakfast or early lunch. Note that while there are a couple food options in Lake Mills, reports tell us they are crowded and with long waits in some cases, so you may want to pack some snacks to sustain you until after the show.

This is an early-to-bed and early-to-rise occasion, and yes, it would not be very British to not welcome tea drinkers with open arms. Please consider joining us for this event. Contact Rich or Roxann Cannistra, Hal Zenisek, or Connie Frazier, if you have any questions.

PLANNING AHEAD:

**DOOR COUNTY IN SEPTEMBER

by Nancy Kuhnau

The five year wait is over and we are once again making plans for a trip to Door Co. We have a block of rooms reserved under BBB Car Club at the Open Hearth in Sister Bay, Sept. 13-16. The price including tax is \$307.00 for the 3 nights.

When calling for a reservation they will request a deposit of \$103.00. If you need a ground floor room please ask for it at that time. 1-920-854-4890 or 1-888-795-5726. Any rooms not booked will be released on August 1.

Open Hearth has a nice website if you wish to check it out. More information will follow.

Larry & Marsha
Ron & Nancy

**SPRINGFIELD TOUR

.....(RE-SCHEDULED)

by Rick Hamaker

It seems unusual that a club event is postponed or re-scheduled, but that's what is happening to the Springfield Tour. It's as though Springfield in May just wasn't meant to be. So,--this creates a great opportunity for those of you who couldn't make the tour fit your May schedule. The planning committee for this event has decided that it should be moved to October 18-20. The weather will be great and there is likely to still be some fall color in central Illinois.

Planned activities include visits to the renowned Lincoln Presidential Museum, the Old State Capitol, Lincoln's tomb, New Salem

Historic Site, and a Lincoln Ghost Walk. We've also planned some very interesting places to do what we do best—eat!

The accommodations have not changed. If you plan to go, contact the Comfort Suites Springfield by September 30th to make your reservations. Ask for Justin Hamilton at 217-753-4000 and mention BBB. The rate is \$89.00 plus tax for either a King suite or for a double Queen suite. When you make your reservations contact Rick or Sandy Hamaker so we can keep you informed of itinerary details.

We're still very excited about this tour, and we hope many of our car club friends will plan to join us.

The Springfield Tour Committee: Lee and Rita Kindgren, Larry and Marsha Eils, Rick and Sandy Hamaker.



Words of Wisdom from the internet:

1 * Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

2 * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

3 * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

4 * Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

5 * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

6 * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

7 * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

8 * Never buy a car you can't push.

9 * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

10 * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

11 * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

12 * The second mouse gets the cheese.

13 * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

14 * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

16 * Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

17 * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

18 * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

19 * Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

20 * Save the earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!!



The Blue Light Special for June will be a 15% - **YES, a 15% discount** - on any Regalia stock on display at the meeting June 19th. Be sure to check out the Regalia Corner. There will be many bargains so bring your checkbook! - Jake Jaquet

Lee's Mighty MG takes on the challenge!



AN MG MIDGET IS THE AUTO EQUIVALENT OF AN ADORABLE PUPPY.

by Bruce Beneditz

You can't take them anywhere without embarrassing yourself.
They attract attention with their lovable looks.
Children and women find them adorable.
You can't get them to fetch.
You can't get them to go hunting.
You can't use them to buy anything larger than a six pack.
They need constant attention.
If you leave them in the garage they leave a puddle.
When they want to lay around, you have to shove them to get them going.
However, puppies grow up. MG Midgets don't.



MG BITE AT FIRST SIGHT

by John Fleshman

I may have aged just a tad bit and with that aging sometime memory fades but I still distinctly remember the first time I saw a MG. I was enrolled at Illinois State University in Normal. On the south edge of the campus was a small used car lot its' size not permitting the display of many cars. Walking by one day I spotted what I thought was an unusual, but really neat looking car. It was a small convertible with two seats, big front fenders, large, bulging headlights and a large chrome radiator that gave it a very distinct look. I would have loved to have the car but the poor financial status of a college student meant that I had barely enough money to take Jo Anne on a date and buy a hamburger. Spending money on a car, no matter how much it may have been desired, was not realistic.

My first real experience with a roadster came while stationed at Fort Sam Houston in the U.S. Army. I met Clancy, he owned a 1964 Triumph. We were not supposed to have a car while we were in training. Clancy would park the car hiding it on the base. At night we would stuff our bunks with our duffle bags, sneak off base drive into San Antonio and visit local pubs. Fortunately, our bunks were on the second floor at the end. We learned the night guards only shined lights on the bunks to see if they appeared as if someone was in them and we never got caught.

Finishing school at I.S.U. Jo Anne and I took up residence in Lake County teaching. After a year or so we purchased a Fiat Sport Spider and began to enjoy the freedom of a life with employment and no children, driving about with the wind in our hair. A few years later we let go of the Fiat and turned to a yellow, black topped convertible V.W. Karman Ghia. We kept that Ghia until it rusted out under us and having started a family knew that a two seater was not a practical automobile. However, raising our two wonderful boys we never lost the love of the roadster. The boys grew into the teenage years, had jobs and less interest in taking long vacations with their aging, embarrassing parents. My mind began to yearn for the open road, wind in the hair experience and I remember telling Jo Anne that since the boys had cars to drive perhaps our next new car would be a roadster. That desire was heightened when in 1990 Mazda manufactured and began to sell a new model, a true roadster, the Miata the first new roadster to be seen on the roads for a long time. We purchased a Mariner Blue roadster and spent the next few years driving it from coast to coast on two lane roads. It saw the shores of Acadia National Park in Maine, the hills of San Francisco, the plains of Canada, Yellow Stone National Park, Southern California, the Space Needle in Seattle. After spending over 150,000 miles with our 1990 Miata we purchased a new 1997 and continued our voyages.

When the boys were just tots we had relocated to our home on the Chain of Lakes in Antioch. It was there that I met a man who would become like a brother and be a large part of my turning to the enjoyment of working on automobiles. Tom and I would often spend Saturday nights in the stands of the



Wilmot Raceway watching the sprint cars, modifieds, and street stocks battle for the checkered flag. We talked about having a race car of our own and one day opportunity knocked on our door. I had acquired a series of stencils that were used to decorate the outside of store windows at Christmas. We embarked on a business venture utilizing the stencils and eventually accrued enough money to realize our dream. Over the next few years we had two cars. Our favorite was our second car, number 11, an alcohol powered straight axle modified with an engine that measures showed was well over 500 h.p.

Automobiles with straight axles are not designed to easily turn left and dirt race tracks are oval shaped requiring four left turns. Working with the mechanics to facilitate racing on an oval with this type of car was educational. Additionally, with the construction and weekly maintenance of the car one learned its' every characteristic, bolt and nut size, fully understanding its' character. In life other issues arise and experiences are often time limited. Such was the case with racing but the racing experience taught lessons that would prove valuable to future endeavors with my MG.

Employment takes up many hours of a person's day. As I approached retirement I knew I would have to find something to fill the hours taken up by my work schedule. Watching television all day seemed a total waste of time and energy. While travel was on the "do list" travel could not be done every day and for long, long periods of time. The home we occupied was styled with one small garage and an enclosed car port that ran the length of 30 feet. I began to entertain the thought of restoring a car. Space available would not easily permit restoration of a large car and I remembered the wind in the hair experiences of driving top down in a true roadster. Utilizing both the garage and car port the restoration of a smaller car was possible. I began my research and search for a restoration project. My first thought was a 1950's vintage Triumph. I liked its profile, low slung doors and open mouth like front grill. However, my aging memory kicked in and I remembered the MG I had seen on that lot years ago in Normal, Illinois. After a search that took me to all areas on the states on the internet I discovered an MG for sale in Silver Springs, Maryland. It was a 1950 right hand drive. The price was reasonable. Our youngest son was employed as a consultant with a company based in Washington D.C. and I asked him to look over the car attending to a series of details I had provided to him. He telephoned giving me his feedback and I agreed to the purchase. Jo Anne and I drove out to the East Coast, gave the car a final inspection, drove it about a bit, closed the deal for a purchase and towed it home pulling it on a rented U-Haul trailer. As we headed toward home folks would pass flashing a "thumbs up". We knew we had an eye catcher. Arriving home I took it off the trailer and parked it in the drive.



I drove it about the area for a couple of weeks trying to become more familiar with its character. One day as I was leaving the subdivision I pressed on the brake pedal and it went to the floor. The master brake cylinder had gone kaput. I went home using the hand brake to stop, parked in the drive, stood at the rear of the car, staring at its bulk. I knew that now I had a project. I remember that the first thing I removed was the rear bumper. Almost three years later, with much help from books, the internet, fellow MG owners and hours of simply sitting, staring and thinking it was done.

Initially I joined the Chicago Vintage Club. I continue my membership. The club meets far from this area and meetings include car owners, not other family. They have family outings but I wanted something closer to home. Much to my delight I discovered a little club that met in Rockford, the British Boots and Bonnets. The welcome at the first meeting was warm, friendly, encouraging. The club was active with folks who owned a variety of British cars. Most importantly, it was a family kind of atmosphere. Jo Anne and I happily joined and have never looked back. In the past few years being part of BBB has brought Jo Anne and I more enjoyment than we would have imagined.



Driving on outings always includes friendly waves and smiles from folks in other cars and at the roadside. Kids always shout, "Nice Car"! If you need help, someone from the club is always there. If you are ill, they care. If your spouse has passed away you are wrapped in the warmth of friendship that encourages life. While Jo Anne and I have many interests in our lives and do not participate in all club activities as much as others may do, being part of British Boots and Bonnets and experiencing the folks who comprise the membership, has added to the spirituality and fullness of our lives. For that we are blessed!

DID-U-KNOW?

by Facia Nearside

Following some of the grimmest years in history, the British Motor Show returned to Earl's Court in London in 1948. Great Britain and the world were eager to put the war years behind, resulting in an exceptionally large number of new models.

Two shone so brightly however, that they virtually eclipsed all the other entrants that year. Both became icons, but at opposite ends of the automobile spectrum.

One, the Jaguar XK 120, was an overnight sensation with celebrities and race car drivers alike because of its stunning styling and incredible speed. The other, said Lord Nuffield, looked like a poached egg. It was called Moggy or Mosquito before finally borrowing its name from a 1928 fabric covered saloon. When production ended in 1971, 1.3 million had been produced making it one of the major success stories of the British motor industry. What is the unchallenged star of the "people's car" hall of fame in post war Great Britain?

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**Steve's British Connection
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- Jaguar, XK-XKE,
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North American MGB Register

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Mailing Label Here



Next Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 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