



# British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 19  
Issue 8

August 9, 2014

Editor  
Lynda Vickery

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

## President's Message

August 2014

On Sunday July 27, 2014 the Eils pond was part of the Midwest Pond & Koi Society's 2014 Pond Tour. We were surprised at the number of people who drove for hours to see our pond and fish. Now that the yard and pond are looking good, it's time for Friends Around the Campfire. So save the date, Saturday, September 20, 2014. (Rain date is Wednesday, September 24.) The fun begins at 6:30 pm. Bring a campfire snack to share, a beverage of your choice, soft drinks will be provided. We do have some bench seating but to be more comfortable around the fire, feel free to bring folding chairs.

Have you been enjoying the summer by driving your British car? In addition to the club events, Marsha and I have been driving whenever we can because before you know it, it will be time to park the cars for the winter. Take a look at the Events Calendar; pick out some driving events that look interesting and come join your fellow club members on any of these enjoyable drives before the season ends.

So, let's blow some air through those radiators.

**Larry Eils**

Next Meeting  
**Wed.,  
August 20, 2014**

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**



## July 16, 2014, BRITISH BOOTS AND BONNETS CLUB MEETING

**Presidents report:** Larry Eils called the meeting together at 7:11: 43 in attendance. There were two guests: Peggy Schmidt from Rochelle with a '78 Midget and Keith Royce with a TR-3. Two previous members rejoining, Bernie & Jody Bowersock. Larry reviewed the Raffle prizes.

**Vice President report:** No report.

**Secretary:** Minutes as printed the chronicle: Motion to approve by Solveig Maschke, 2nd Marv Proctor, approved.

**Treasurer:** Larry reported for Brian Kobischka. Motion to approve, Ron Kuhnau - Jim Vickery 2nd , approved.

**Membership:** At the present time we have 73 paid members.

**Regalia:** Jake reported the store is open on line. Surplus of pins. \$1.00 each

**Chronicle/ Newsletter:** Lynda will welcome articles , picture and stories.

**Webmaster:** The Free web site will end. \$4.00 for the coming year. \$9.00 next year. The only money spent on the web site has been to retain the domain name which is good through 2018.

**Sunshine:** No Report

**Events:** ◇ Jim Reported on Past events. 37 attended *Drive and Dine* at Big Papa's last Wed.  
◇ Lynda reported on the Saturday Drive to Edwards Ill. On the 19th. Supper in Princeton, Ill.  
◇ Jim reported the Old retired men will drive to Chana Ill., Bar and Grill on Friday 25th.  
◇ Nancy reported the Ladies lunch on Friday the 25th at Granite City at the Cherry Valley Mall.  
◇ August 31 is the annual picnic at Ed & Loz Lehman.

**Marques:** MG -none, Triumph-none, Jaguar- Rich, Annual Concourse Naperville the 26th, Austin Healey, Dwain & Bernie reported on Healy feast in Beloit Aug. 21-24, Lotus – none, Rolls Royce –Andy reported on Annual Concourse - his car won best pre war car, Mini - Larry reported 150 cars in Milwaukee and only one orange.

**Classified:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Good Wrench Award:** Ron Kuhnau for discovering a crack in the frame of Larry's car.

**Burnt Piston Award:** Roxann Cannistra for the use of Rick's Jaguar tools to get her earring out of the plumbing at French Lick. You would have had to be there.

**Raffle:** Guest Keith Royce: Multitool & union Jack duck tape. Duane: Box of shop towels. Ron: Sea Foam & duct tape. New Member Jody Bowersock: Car wash brush. Solveig: Screw drivers & flash light.

**Adjournment:** Larry adjourned the meeting for Dessert by the Moon's: Celebrating Lew's Birthday and their 65th Anniversary.

Respectfully Submitted: Lewis Moon, Secretary

# BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

## 2014 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- August 13 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Flight Deck Bar and Grill; Rochelle, IL  
Hosts: Bev Joyce and Brian Kobischka
- August 15-17 University Motors MG Summer Party Reunion (John Twist);  
Grand Rapids, MI
- August 17 Orphan Auto Picnic; Kendall County Fairgrounds, Yorkville, IL  
August 20 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- August 23-24 Wisconsin Jaguars Concours/Milwaukee Masterpiece  
Veterans Park; Milwaukee, WI
- August 24 2014 Geneva Concours d'Elegance; Geneva, IL  
August 31 **BBB Club Picnic**, Liberty Farm; Woodstock, IL  
Hosts: Ed and Luz Lehman
- Sept 3-7 **BBB Long Weekend** - Lake Michicagn Crossing on the SS  
Badger; Manitowac, WI to Ludington, MI; Sault Ste. Marie,  
MI; Menominee/Marinette  
Hosts: Rich and Roxann Cannistra
- Sept 7 28th Annual Chicagoland British Car Festival  
Harper College; Palatine, IL
- Sept 10 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- Sept 12-14 VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival  
Road America; Plymouth, WI
- Sept 17 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- Sept 20 **BBB Saturday Gathering** - Friends Around the Campfire  
Host: Larry & Marsha Eils
- Sept 26-28 Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet  
Jefferson, WI
- October 4 **BBB Saturday Drive** - TBD  
Hosts: Volunteer Needed
- October 8 **BBB Drive and Dine** –Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- October 15 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- November 12 **BBB Dine** –Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- November 19 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant
- December 10 **BBB Cookie Exchange**  
Host: Mary Jo Schoening
- December 17 **BBB Christmas Party** - Lino's Restaurant

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

**2014 Officers & Contacts:**

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CONGRATULATIONS TO LEW  
ON HIS RECENT BIRTHDAY  
AND TO LEW & DELORES ON  
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY!

## 2014 MINI MEET

by Larry and Marsha Eils



On July 4th morning Marsha and I headed to Milwaukee, WI in the "Pumpkin" (Marsha's 1976 Austin Mini 1000) to participate in the East Meets West 2014 Mini Meet. Over a continental breakfast we met mini owners of both classic and new minis from all over the country. The weather was perfect with blue skies, the sun shining and a temperature in the low 70'.

The first event of the day was a Kettle Moraine Drive using the rustic roads north and west of Milwaukee with breathtaking views of Holy Hill, the Basilica. Some 75 minis lined up for the drive. The classic minis were given the prestige placement as first in line followed by the newer minis. There were about 35 classics ready to go. We have never seen this many classic minis in one place, it was great.

There were two stops along the way. One was a rest stop at a gas station so everyone on the drive could catch up. The drive organizers did a terrific job of keeping this long line of cars together, for in 5 minutes all the cars were back together.



Our second stop was in the yard of Paul Bobrowitz, Jr. Spectacular Sculpture. Paul takes all kinds of metal, old farm machinery, car parts, etc. and creates the most interesting yard art. The club members who went to North Freedom, WI visited a sculpture artist similar to Paul.



The drive ended at St. Mary's College for the afternoon car show. This

is where we met two other owners who imported their minis from New Zealand. We enjoyed talking with them about their cars and comparing notes. By the way, there were no other classic minis painted orange. We are looking forward to attending next year's meeting.

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](mailto:brian.kobi@yahoo.com)

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

## July Drive & Dine - Big Papas BBQ

by Hal Zenisek & Connie Frazier



Last month's drive and dine event had perfect weather conditions for top down driving. Ten little British cars representing five different marques participated in a caravan style drive under blue skies and 75-degree weather. The short drive on back country roads north and west of Rockford took drivers and navigators on a route selected by the event hosts. All who started the drive finished together, and there were no unscheduled roadside technical assistance sessions.

Many club members were introduced to Big Papas BBQ on North Second Street in Machesney Park. A total of 37 members and their friends enjoyed baby back ribs, sandwiches, and sides. Our thanks go to Kimberly, the manager, and Jenny, the server, for wonderful food and service. A good time was had by all.





Do you enjoy our *Drive and Dines*? Do you have a favorite restaurant under an hour's drive from Rockford? Then why not volunteer to lead the *SEPTEMBER 10 DRIVE AND DINE*? We do not as yet have a volunteer or a location for September and could use your help! Please see Jim Vickery to sign up. Don't worry if you haven't done this before - we will be happy to help you out!

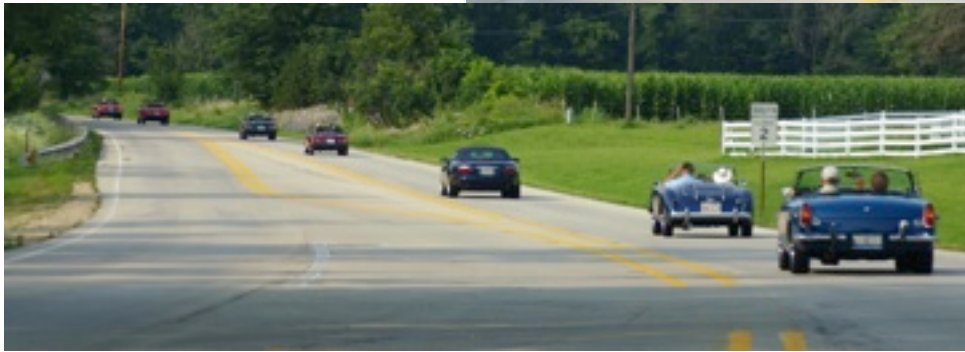


# JULY SATURDAY DRIVE

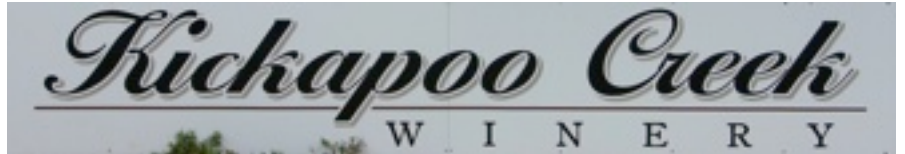
by Lynda Vickery

The weather could not have been nicer as 10 LBCs left from the Dairy Queen parking lot on the south side of Rockford for a scenic tour down to the Peoria area. Route 2 was a showcase of green - trees, grass, corn and beans.

Following the Rock River, as always, is a beautiful ride.



Our first stop was at the Kickapoo Creek Winery & Cafe for lunch and wine tasting. Pre-ordering our lunches was a good thing. There was a variety of food offered, and everyone had something they enjoyed. Those that did the wine tasting had the opportunity to try local Illinois wines. By the time we left, the wine tasting and cafe room was quite busy. A good time to continue on our day's journey.



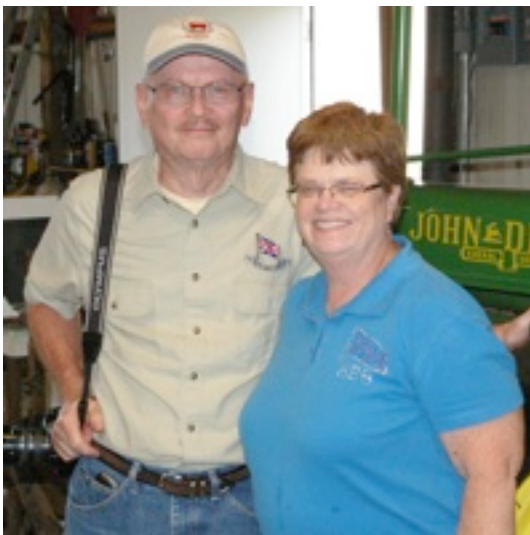


The Wheels O' Time Museum is located in Dunlap, Illinois, and was just a short drive from Kickapoo Creek. This museum was started by two men interested in preserving a part of history. Many displays showcase the early days of Peoria. We were surprised to learn that there was a car manufacturing business for a time. The outside display of a locomotive and train cars was interesting, and we could climb up and into them for a first hand view. There was one building that is maintained and sponsored by the Peoria Early Ford V-8 Club. They change their exhibit monthly. Currently it's tractors and next month will be Mustangs.



One of the volunteers showed us a Theiman tractor that was sold as a kit for \$150. The farmer then put in his own engine (usually a Ford) and drive train.

There was a large display of old cars - all in good shape - from a Model T to an Austin Healey 3000 to a limo. There were shop displays, old household appliances, airplanes hanging overhead, musical instruments, and a room full of mostly working clocks.



This is a private museum run mostly by well versed volunteers who obviously love their work. We all learned a lot about a lot of different things!





Starting towards home, we followed the Illinois River on the west side up to Princeton, Illinois, and Wise Guys Bar & Grill where we had reservations for dinner.

We were given a private room off the main diningroom where we enjoyed dinner. We were hoping for German Specials, but they won't have them until fall. Maybe that calls for a return trip!



It was getting dark as we neared Rockford, and everyone was ready for a rest after a busy driving day.



*British Marque*

Last year British Boots and Bonnets joined the "British Marque Car Club News". This newspaper has over 100 participating clubs including three from Canada and one from the United Kingdom. Each month includes articles from these various clubs as well as English car related ads. If you haven't joined yet, visit their website: [WWWbritishmarque.com](http://WWWbritishmarque.com) and check them out! Then sign up as a participating club member to receive their monthly issue. Every month there are interesting stories of club activities and their members. You will find our own BBB included in many of the issues.

## **DRIVE AND DINE AUGUST 13, 2014**

Bev and Brian are hosting this drive to The Flight Deck Bar and Grill at the Chicagoland Skydiving Center Campus of the Rochelle Municipal Airport. We will gather at 5:45 at Kegel Harley-Davidson, 7125 Harrison Avenue, Rockford and depart at 6:00 PM.

If the weather is right, we may see some skydiving going on just outside the dining room windows. We need to let the Flight Deck know the number of people attending on Tuesday, so please call (815- 975-0857) or e-mail Bev at ([andsewon53@comcast.net](mailto:andsewon53@comcast.net)) with your reservation by Monday night.

## **UNIVERSITY MOTORS SUMMER PARTY**

by Lynda Vickery

John Twist's University Motors Summer Party is just around the corner! Starting Thursday, August 14th, the Hilton Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be the center of activities for all things MG. The BBB Car Club has had a significant presence at this event over the years. Just ask some of our "old time members" for stories of some of the fun times enjoyed in Michigan.

This year's featured models are the Post Abingdon MGs (Grand Lake Endurance Challenge (24 hour - 1000 miles) starts at 6:30 am on Thursday. Friday will include vendor sales, a showing of the post Abington models, and the annual parking lot party. Saturday is the main event, starting with breakfast at the Hilton, caravanning to Douglas Walker Park, and the car show event.

Visit [www.universitymotorsltd.com](http://www.universitymotorsltd.com) for more details.

## **2014 GENEVA CONCOURS**

### **D'ELEGANCE**

by Lynda Vickery

The 2014 Geneva Concours d'Elegance will be held in Geneva, Illinois on August 22-24. After Friday evening's welcome party, there will be hanger party at the DuPage Airport, celebrating the 100th year of the Maserati. Sunday caps the concours with a car show on Third Street in Geneva. If several BBB members are interested in attending the car show, there are car club display areas available for \$20.00. Please speak with Jim Vickery before August 14th. The beneficiaries of this year's events are the Pediatric Programs at Cadence Health and the LivingWell Cancer Resource Center, located in Geneva, Illinois. Check out [www.genevaconcours.net](http://www.genevaconcours.net) for more details and registration forms. Jay and Jackie Coffey recommend this show as they have attended in the past. They will be happy to answer any questions.

## **HEAD TO БЕЛОIT FOR HEALEYFEST 28**

by Lynda Vickery

Healeyfest 28, sponsored by the Midwest Region of the Austin Healey Car Association is being held this year in Beloit, Wisconsin, August 21-24th. There are several self-guided tours planned for several attractions in the area - Lensing Auto Museum, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Spotted Cow Brewery in New Glarus, and the Butterfly Club for dinner on Friday. It seems Ken Olendski is planning a rally on Saturday - prizes included! A British Dinner is planned at the Country Club of Beloit for Saturday evening. Sunday morning will find the group caravanning to Beckman Mill Pavilion for a catered breakfast/brunch and awarding of prizes. Please contact Bernie Bowersock with any questions: Bernie Bowersock at [berniebowersock@gmail.com](mailto:berniebowersock@gmail.com)

## **LABOR DAY PICNIC ON SUNDAY AUGUST 31ST**

by Larry Eils & Lynda Vickery

Our annual "Labor Day Picnic" will be held on Sunday, August 31st, one day before Labor Day Monday. Be sure to mark your calendars. Ed and Luz Leman wanted to once again host this get together at Liberty Farm. If you have not attended one of the Lehman's picnics, please plan to this year. You are in for a treat!

Hamburgers, brats and soft drinks will be provided along with all the fixings. The club requests that you bring a dish to pass. For beverages other than soft drinks please bring your own. A corkscrew and glasses will be provided.

Plan to arrive anytime after 1:00 p.m. for lunch beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please help us to plan the food for this event by sending an RSVP to Larry Eils at [rpeonygarden@gmail.com](mailto:rpeonygarden@gmail.com) or phone 815-943-4720 by Sunday, August 24th.

On the day of the picnic, please bring lawn chairs. (There will be picnic tables, but it's nice to gather around in lawn chairs too.) And, if you have a lawn game you would like to share, be sure to bring that along. We will line up our beautiful LBCs along the Lehman's drive for our own show and tell.

## **BBB MICHIGAN ADVENTURE 2014**

by Rich Cannistra

There are 11 couples signed up to travel the Lake Michigan circuit September 3-7th. It's not too late to join the group, but don't wait any longer! The SS Badger reservations are limited, and that's how we are going to cross Lake Michigan. The first day of our trip to Michigan is critical because the boat is going to sail from Manitowoc with or without us. We plan an early departure to arrive at the dock two hours before sailing. More details will be available at the August club meeting. This is going to be a 1,000 mile trip in total, so think of the things that are not looked at real often. (air in

the spare tire, fluid level for the clutch, corrosion on battery terminals?) Doesn't this sound like fun?? Thank you for joining us, we are looking forward to a GREAT roadtrip!

## **BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL**

by Lynda Vickery

The British Car Festival will be held on September 7th at Harper College, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois. Over 500 British cars and cycles are expected. This has been a longtime staple of the mid-west area British car shows, and if you have not been to one over the years, this might be just the ticket for you. In addition to beautiful examples of British cars and cycles, there will be parts and food vendors. Check out their website: [www.britishcarunion.com](http://www.britishcarunion.com) for registration forms and more details.

### **HEADS UP!**

After the first of the year, when our cars are all snug in their winter beds, there are fewer Club activities than in the Summer months. I have been thinking about having a British Boots & Bonnets "Put & Take Sale". Let me explain. Jim and I have a couple of BBB shirts that we don't wear because of the fit - not that we are putting on weight! And we may have other BBB or car related things that we don't use. I don't like the idea of donating these things to charity because of the regalia. So, how about if we all collect what we don't want, and bring them to our Put & Take Sale? Ideally, you bring something and take home something else. WE DO NOT want to have anything left afterwards, so if your item(s) are still there at the end of the night, you get to take them home again! So, what do you think? Interested? Any other suggestions??

Lynda Vickery

## **CAR INSPECTION - MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK!**

by Larry Eils

I brought my "B" to the garage to have the splash guards in both front wheel wells replaced. With the car on the lift Ron Kuhnau began poking around the wheel wells to see if there was other rust present. After removing some rust proofing Ron noticed something on the frame. Further scrapping revealed a crack in the frame right behind the bolts holding the front end to the frame, see picture. The crack was large enough to stick the blade of a putty knife into it. The crack actually came down one side, across the bottom and only part way up inside the engine compartment.

Good News - the crack could be fixed. Both Ron and Lyn Pond worked on welding the frame on the wheel side and across the bottom. The welds were ground smooth and then plates were welded over the side and bottom cracks. The inside crack will be welded over this winter when the car goes in for some body work and a new paint job.

So the next time you service your car and put it up on a lift, take a very good look at the car frame and everything else. You just may find something you weren't looking for.



## A BIT OF HISTORY: THE BRITISH RYTECRAFT SCOOTACAR

The Stateline News (Beloit newspaper) in their July 23, 2014 issue had some auto trivia about the British Rytecrafft Scootacar that prompted some investigation to find out more about it. "The British Rytecrafft Scootacar, produced from 1934-1940 by the British Motorboat Manufacturing Company, was based on a children's fairground ride converted for road use and was powered by a two-stroke chainsaw engine. Top speed was estimated at 15 mph."

The transmission was single speed and operated by a single pedal which opened the throttle on being pressed down and applied the brake and when released. The clutch was automatic. There were no springs. Drive was to one of the rear wheels and the single brake operated on the other.

The later cars from about 1939 had a larger 250 cc engine, a three speed gearbox and normal pedal controls. Top speed was 40 mph. Two seats were now fitted along with electric lights. A commercial version, the Scootatruck was also made and for publicity some were styled to look like Vauxhall and Chrysler models. All in all, there were only around 1,000 units produced. Several survive and one is on display at the Brooklands museum. One of these little beauties was driven around the world in the 1960s - it must have taken awhile!



HE LAUGHS AT BUDGETS: This midget car, with its 17-yr. driver, was seen in the West End last week. Measuring less than 5 ft. in length, with a 2½-h.p. engine, this car will do 90 m.p.g. and seems to be the perfect answer to the new h.p. tax



The "Peek-a-Boo, Scoot-a-Car," Slips In and Out of Traffic Like a Rabbit and Parks Almost Anywhere.



## DID-U-KNOW

by Facia Nearside

In the early part of the 20th century Britain's largest automobile producer was the Wolseley Motor Company, yet the man whose name was on the cars didn't live long enough to see even one automobile sold. But that is sort of the end of the story, let me start at the beginning.

Frederick Wolseley was born in Ireland but was living in Australia when he designed and built the first powered machine for shearing sheep in 1876. He established Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company in Sydney for production and marketing of the new machines. Englishman Herbert Austin was also living down under at that time and the sheep shearing machine business caused a chance meeting between the two men.

Wolseley traveled to England in 1893 to establish production of sheep shearing machinery on that side of the ocean. Setting up operations in Birmingham, Herbert Austin joined him as manager. Although once again very successful the production of sheep shearing machinery was quite seasonal so Austin began looking for a product that would provide a more constant demand. He became interested in motor cars and built several three wheel versions of his own design but none found a buyer. Wolseley liked this idea however and saw the potential, so he formed the Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Company. Unfortunately Frederick Wolseley died in 1899 and the new board of directors saw no future in automobiles. The motor car company was sold to Vickers and Herbert Austin, now in charge of automobile production, went with it. Under Vicker's ownership, Austin came up with a four wheel design and the success which had previously eluded him was finally realized. By 1906 the Wolseley Motor Company had built more than 1500 cars making it the largest motor car manufacturer in Britain. This number one position continued through WWI and into the early 20s by which time 12,000 cars per year were being produced.

As for Herbert Austin? By now you might have guessed that this is the same Herbert Austin who founded one of the greatest car manufacturers in the world, the Austin Motor Company. But then that's another story. However, next time you see an Austin-Healey, Austin Mini or Austin anything for that matter, remember that it was the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Company that started it all!

## BBB Regalia Korner



Hat Pin - \$5

BBB Car Badge - \$45

BBB Logo embroidery - \$10  
(\$5 each to BBB and Stitches & Things)

Marque Logos - \$7.50

Hats are in stock! (Always a popular item)

Ask about coffee cups, beer steins, & car flags that can have our BBB logo applied.

Below is a list of apparel supplier web sites we deal with.

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Tri Mountain: [www.trimountain.com](http://www.trimountain.com)  
Alphabroder: [www.alphabroder.com](http://www.alphabroder.com)  
One Stop: [www.onestopinc.com](http://www.onestopinc.com)

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