

# British Boots and Bonnets



## Ladies Tea



Saturday April 30, 2016

12:00 PM

Brenda Moore will be hosting the annual Ladies Tea at her home on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. We will enjoy sandwiches, cakes, cookies, and plenty of tea. You are welcome to bring a favorite tea cup and saucer. When you R.S.V.P, let us know if you would like to bring a sweet or a savory. Finger food only, please. So don your spring bonnet and join us for some tasty goodies and great socializing.

R.S.V.P. to Sandy Hamaker, co-hostess 815-229-8182

Sandy will give you directions to Brenda's home.





# British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 21  
Issue 4

April 8, 2016

Editor  
Lynda Vickery

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

Next Meeting  
**Wednesday,  
April 20 2016**

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**

## President's Message

April 2016

In one of my former lives I repaired model trains for a hobby shop in Chicago. Pieces coming in for work almost always fell into one of two categories: tired and neglected but original so the repair was straight forward and predictable, or cobbled. With about 98% certainty if it had been worked on previously someone had cut corners, used incorrect parts, or both. I was reminded of this recently while working on the fuel system of my winter project. I was puzzled why two similar connections used different sealing washers and a third used no washer at all. Then the clue bird chirped in my ear. When I consulted the parts book, the plumbing that I had in front of me only sorta vaguely resembled the diagram, sorta.

Most of our cars have been around for a long time now. During much of their lives a proper British repair facility was probably much less convenient than Joe's corner garage. Besides Joe said that he could do the job cheaper, and did he ever! I'm sure the British have a very colorful word for "cobbled". Perhaps Richard or Andy will come to my rescue. Meanwhile, if Joe still owns that corner garage, I wish that he would learn to speak British English.

Rich

### MARQUE ADVERTISING SLOGAN OF THE MONTH:

*"Motor cycle economy, motor car comfort.  
The Morgan world famous three wheeler"*

Morgan 1947



# **MARCH 16, 2016 - BOOTS AND BONNETS CLUB MEETING**

## **Presidents report – Rich Cannistra**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Rich Cannistra, with 34 members present. He introduced our newest members, Chris & Greg Oakes. He entertained us with a few Knock-Knock jokes, then had Don Grosenick display this month's raffle prizes.

## **Vice President's report – Larry Eils**

No report.

## **Secretary – Marna Grosenick**

Motion: Larry Eils moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the Chronicle. Second by Ron Kuhnau. Motion passed.

## **Treasurer – Lee Kindgren**

Lee submitted the treasurer's report. Motion was made to accept this report by Don Grosenick. Second by Mike Moore. Motion passed.

## **Membership: Bev Joyce**

We now have 77 members in the club, 62 of which have paid their dues for this year.

## **Regalia: Jim Vickery**

No report.

## **Chronicle/Newsletter: Lynda Vickery**

Please keep any news, stories or pictures coming to Lynda.

## **Webmaster: Hal Zenisek**

Hal received an e-mail from someone who recently moved to S. Beloit and is looking for a mechanic for his Triumph. He is possibly also interested in joining our club. He also received an e-mail from someone in Iowa who has a 1988 Jaguar for sale for \$9,000. All our current club events are found on our website. Also, check out the pictures of past events.

## **Sunshine- Phyllis Beneditz**

No report.

## **Past Events: Bruce Beneditz**

We had 21 people attend this month's Dine at Altamores in Rockford. It was a wonderful evening with amazing food and hospitality by Alberto Altamore. Thank you to Nancy and Ron Kuhnau for setting this evening up for us.

## **Future Events: Bruce Beneditz**

Both the men's and ladies Friday lunches are cancelled this month because of Good Friday. The Drive & Dine for April is still looking for a host. If no one steps forward to lead, Bruce & Phyllis may be able to arrange for us to go to Tuscan Grill in Roscoe. Watch for further information on this. Start planning for the Swap Meet Autojumble on April 17. We have two tables reserved for our club for anyone who has something they would like to sell.

April 30 – Garage Tour (see Larry Eils for questions)

April 30 or May 7 – Ladies English Tea (hosted by Brenda Moore)

May 14 – Tune-up and picnic at the Vickery's.

May 21 – Our first Saturday drive of the season.

REMINDER: Anyone planning on going on the long tour in August – We now have twelve cars going. If you are interested in joining us, extra rooms have been put on reserve for us, but you need to make your reservations soon.

## **MARQUES:**

1. Jaguar- Ron and Nancy Kuhnau are the proud new owners of a 2001 Jaguar.
2. Mini- The Mini club will be holding their monthly meeting this Saturday.

## **Unfinished Business –**

None

## **New Business –**

None

## **Classified –**

None

## **Good Wrench Award –**

None

## **Burnt Piston Award –**

The Burnt Piston award went to Mike Moore for volunteering his wife, Brenda (in her absence), to host the Ladies English Tea this year.

## **Raffle: Don Grosenick**

1. Pink Calla Lily – Lynda Vickery
2. Purple Calla Lily – Brian Kobischka
3. Fluorescent Work Light – Lee Kindgren
4. Battery Maintainer & Float Charger – Rick Hamaker
5. 9 pc. Wobble Socket Extensions – Bruce Beneditz
6. Thunder Bay Bucks - Larry Eils

## **Adjournment:**

Rich ended the meeting with a humorous story, then adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

**Respectfully Submitted: Marna Grosenick, Secretary**

# BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

## 2016 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 13           **BBB Drive and Dine** – Tuscan Italian Grill; Roscoe, IL  
                          Host: Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz
- April 17           British Car Swap Meet & Autojumble 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
                          DuPage County Fairgrounds; Wheaton, IL
- April 20           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- April 22-24       Spring Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet  
                          Jefferson, WI
- April 30           **BBB Ladies Tea**  
                          Hostess: Brenda Moore  
                          Co-Hostess: Sandy Hamaker
- April 30           **BBB Garage Tour and Lunch**  
                          Host: Larry Eils
- May 11           **BBB Drive and Dine** – Frankie’s Supper Club, Janesville, WI  
                          Hosts: Don and Marna Grosenick
- May 14           **BBB Tune Up & Picnic** - The Vickerys’; Roscoe, IL  
                          Hosts: Jim & Lynda Vickery
- May 18           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- May 21           **BBB DRIVE** - Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL  
                          Hosts: Rich and Roxann Cannistra
- May28-June 5     British Car Awareness Week
- June 3-4          The 5th annual British National Meet; The Arkansas Aeroplex  
                          (formal SAC Air Force Base), Blytheville, Arkansas. See  
                          [www.britishnationalmeet.com](http://www.britishnationalmeet.com)
- June 3-5          25th Annual Champagne British Car Festival,  
                          Featured Marque Jaguar;  
                          Bloomington, IL
- June 8           **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
                          Host: Volunteer needed
- June 12-18       NAMGBR Trip
- June 13-17       MG 2016 NAMGAR/NAMGB convention  
                          Louisville, KY
- June 15           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- June 17-19       British Car Show @ Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland  
                          Games; Itasca, IL
- June 17-19       Blackhawk Farms Vintage Races; South Beloit, IL

- June 19 35th Annual British Car Field Day  
Sussex, WI
- June 25 **BBB East Troy Electric Railroad**; East Troy, WI  
Hosts: Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz and Rich & Dee Gibson
- June 26 Michiana Brits British Car Show;  
Notre Dame, IN
- June 26 The Great Race; lunch at Iowa 80 Trucking Museum,  
Walcott, IA & finish at John Deere Pavilion, Moline, IL
- July 10 Mad Dogs & Englishmen's British Auto Faire;  
Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI
- July 10 The Cars Time Forgot Car Show;  
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI
- July 13 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- July 15 **BBB Mail Boat Tour**; Lake Geneva, WI  
Hosts: Don and Marna Grosenick
- July 20 **BBB Club Meeting**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- August 4-8 **BBB Long Weekend** Green Bay Tall Ships; Green Bay WI.  
Hosts: Rich & Dee Gibson and Rich & Roxann Cannistra
- August 10 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- August 14 Botham Vineyards 20th Vintage Celebration  
Barneveld, WI
- August ? **University Motors MG Summer Party Reunion (John Twist)**  
Grand Rapids, MI
- August 17 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- August 20 Rockford Miracle Mile Car Show and Cruise
- August 27-28 12 Annual Wisconsin Jaguars Concours/Milwaukee  
Masterpiece at Veterans Park;  
Milwaukee, WI
- August 28 2016 Geneva Concours d'Elegance,  
featured Marque BMW;  
Geneva, IL
- August 31 **BBB Friends Around the Campfire**  
Hosts: Larry and Marsha Eils
- Sept. 4 **BBB Club Picnic**  
Liberty Farms, Woodstock, IL  
Hosts: El and Luz Lehman
- Sept 11 30th Annual Chicagoland British Car Festival  
Harper College; Palatine, IL
- Sept 14 **BBB Drive and Dine** – TBD  
Hosts: John and Sandy Ward

- Sept 16-18 VSCDA Elkhart Lake Vintage Festival at Road America,  
Featured Marque Volvo;  
Plymouth, WI
- Sept 20 Chicago Miracle Mile Car Show & Cruise
- Sept 21 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- Sept 23-25 **Fall Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet**  
Jefferson, WI
- Sept 24 **BBB Pec Wetlands and Famous Fossil Winery Drive**  
Hosts: Jim and Lynda Vickery
- October 8 **BBB Fall Drive ??**
- October 12 **BBB Drive and Dine** –Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- October 19 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- November 9 **BBB Dine** –Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed
- November 16 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant
- December ? **BBB Cookie Exchange**
- December 14 **BBB Christmas Party**

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

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## **BBB BOARD MEETING**

By Rich Cannistra

Club officers met in March to consider several items of club business including:

1. The budget was passed for 2016, and as you have probably noted from the monthly treasurer's report the club is on sound financial footing. If you wish to see a complete breakdown it is available via email from the treasurer.
2. In keeping with past practice, a review of club finances will be conducted in the near future.
3. This May is the club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A commemorative gift to members is planned to celebrate the occasion.
4. In keeping with the original intent of the Good Wrench Award, it shall be presented only in situations where a member gives of his or her time voluntarily (without financial compensation) to help another member.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

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

Lee Kindgren, Treasurer  
British Boots and Bonnets Car Club  
PMB 254  
1643 North Alpine Rd. Suite 104  
Rockford, IL 61107  
leekrkfd@aol.com

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



## MARCH DINE A CULINARY DELIGHT!

by Phyllis & Bruce Beneditz



You don't have to go far in Rockford to enjoy authentic Italian cuisine. Those that attended the March 9<sup>th</sup> Drive enjoyed just that in the familiar surroundings of Altamore Ristorante.



Ron and Nancy Kuhnau did a great job of working with Alberto to organize this event.



There were 21 people that attended and all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

After we had cocktails, we were served fabulous meals by Tina. She even had some help from the boss, Alberto. Alberto had created some new dishes for us and they were incredible.





We all decided that we definitely want to come back next year.



## HOW GOOD IS YOUR CAR HISTORY?

1. What oil company offered the first free road maps?
2. What automobile offered a compass and a camera as standard equipment in 1919?
3. What year was the first automobile finance company formed?
4. What auto company introduced the first hand brake, located on the driver's left in 1924?
5. What state required automobile license plates in 1901?

KEEP ON READING TO FIND THE ANSWERS!

Contributed by Larry Eils

## EVENTS – APRIL NEWS LETTER

It's April and that means two good things for LBC owners. Those of us with Illinois Extended Antique license plates, can drive our cars again, and the rain has washed the salt off the roads. It is time to get on the road and find out if the cars still run or if, somehow, something broke over the winter.

It is during the month of April that things start to get busy for the club with interesting events and opportunities to drive. Sunday, April 17, is the Twentieth Annual British Car Swap Meet & Auto Jumble at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL. I am always amazed at how much junk some people are selling. But I also usually find a treasure that I have to have. I will be there and hope to see you too.

Two events on the 30<sup>th</sup> will wrap up the schedule for April.

- The Ladies Tea, hosted by Brenda Moore.
- The Garage Tour, hosted by Larry Elis.

I personally enjoy seeing collections that far exceed anything I would ever have.

Looking forward to May there are some BBB events to watch for. The BBB Tune Up & Picnic, hosted by Jim and Lynda Vickery, will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> and what should be a fascinating Saturday Drive to Cantigny Museums, hosted by Rich and Roxann Cannistra, will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The May Drive and Dine, hosted by Don and Marna Grosenick, will be to the Stagecoach Inn in Fort Atkinson, WI.

I am pleased to report that there are 22 members signed up for June 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday Drive to the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum for the Burger and Beer Dinner Train. Tickets have been purchased for those signed up but there is still an opportunity for you to join us if you haven't signed up. You can buy your own tickets for the Themed Train at <http://www.easttroyrr.org/themed-trains---new.html> . At the time I wrote this there were still tables available in our car, dining car 25. Let Bruce Beneditz know if you will be joining us so that you will be included in future communications about the event.

British Boots and Bonnets thrives on being active with many people volunteering to make it happen. Contact the Events Chairman, Bruce Beneditz, to host an event, have an idea but don't know how to get it going, or if you have any questions. Together we can make this a fun and memorable summer.

Safety Fast,

Bruce Beneditz

# AUTO JUMBLE 2016

by Archie Morey

Good day folks. The Twentieth Annual, All British Auto jumble is April 17, 2016, at the same place it has been since I first went some ten years ago. The place: Dupage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL. The Time: 8a.m. to 2 p.m. The movement of the date is nice as the past has been testing to say the least.

Several years ago, my daughter Alex, and her friend Victoria, wanted to go with me to the swap meet. The swap meet, at this time was still held at the end of February. So I loaded the truck and trailer the day before. We set out before the sun came up. It was snowing and ice covered the roads. Pulled into West Chicago around 6 a.m., stopped and got breakfast, and an hour later we were at the Dupage County Fairgrounds. We were rather early based on the scene of an empty parking lot. Figuring I would get choice parking, I pulled around the front of the building to turn around, and that is when I see it, in all of its glory. The Marque out front said "WELCOME TO THE DUPAGE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, ALL BRITISH SWAP MEET: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2013." The three of looked at each other and laughed hard, as it was Saturday, Feb 23. 7a.m. and I could park anywhere I wanted! We pulled back out of the fairgrounds and headed home. We did have a nice trip and breakfast though. The roads were just as bad on the way home. Sunday, February 24 5 a.m. and I am headed back to Wheaton, alone, as Saturday's adventure wore out the girls. What, they have to get up that early, TWO days in a row?

Personally, I am glad they moved the date, as the chance of snow and ice are less, the average temp is warmer, and the metal items that make up most of my parts, are easier to handle. So gather all the parts and pieces you are tired of moving around in your Garage; research pricing to sell. Sell. Sell! This year, as in years past, the BBB has several tables in which to sell your stuff. Just bring your stuff, come on out and join the BBB members at the tables. If you do not want, or cannot, go to the Swap meet, there are members who will take your wares and market them for you. With that being said, some things to keep in mind if you want someone else selling your stuff. #1: Tag all items with suggested price. #2: Your name on the tag will ensure the funds created by selling your stuff will get to you. #3: A separate sheet of paper with the lowest you will go on any particular piece. (After all, we are here to sell, Sell, SELL!)

Past years have been very good to me, and others; I spent more than I made. There is usually a good number of BBB members passing through looking for those items we need or just cannot pass up. There are two buildings full of new and used parts, posters and automobilia galore, wide body kits for Midgets and Bs alike. The Sebring kit on a B/ GT is just an awesome looking car. Once again, I have a trailer load set to go as I am clearing space, pooling funds. This year's goal is the B with the 215 C. I. V-8 with 5 speed, to be going down the curvy back roads, autocrosses and gymkanas. The meet is less than two weeks away, so get the boxes and storage bins out, gather all the extra starters, transmissions, engines, seats, wheels, and the stuff your other half questions why you have, load up and head to the All British Swap Meet @ The Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL. On SUNDAY, April 17, 2016. Choice parking available on Saturday. Hope to see a good number of BBB members at the tables and shopping. Hope it is not snowing!

## **BBB – APRIL DINE EVENT**

by Bruce Beneditz

Everyone seems to have enjoyed the Italian cuisine at the Dines in February and March. So why mess with a good thing. The Dine on April 13th will be at a new, yet strangely familiar, Italian restaurant in Roscoe.

Tuscan Italian Grill  
5506 Clayton Circle  
Roscoe, IL

Reservations are for 6:30. We will be in a private room off the main dining room.

Phyllis and I went there with friends a few weeks ago to check it out and everyone really enjoyed their meal. Besides Italian they have steaks and seafood. Phyllis had the ½ rack of ribs and eggplant parmesan special and really liked it. I had chicken parmesan and it was excellent. If the location seems familiar, it is. BBB has dined there several times over the years. Previous names you may recognize are: The Sicilian, The Rusty Putter, The Gun Club, and Amici Italian Grill.

Weather can be iffy this time of year so there is no planned drive with this event. Consider it our first self-guided Drive and Dine of the year. If the weather is good, get in your LBC and find some back roads to wind your way to Roscoe for a good time with good friends and good food. If the weather isn't so nice, it will be a short drive in your "other British car".

Please let Bruce Beneditz know if you plan on attending so that the restaurant can be prepared for us.

Call 815-543-0026 or email at [bruce.beneditz@charter.net](mailto:bruce.beneditz@charter.net).

Hope to see you there, Bruce

## **TWENTIETH ANNUAL BRITISH CAR SWAP MEET & AUTO JUMBLE**

by Bruce Beneditz

The club has again reserved two tables for members to display and sell any extra car parts, memorabilia, etc. that they can part with. It is also a good chance to stretch your legs after a long winter and spend time with other LBC enthusiasts. You can also look for the parts you need to fix those things that mysteriously broke over the winter. This event is held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL. The date is April 17 and the hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. I'll be there with a bunch of Midget parts left over from the parts car and Jim and I bought a couple of years ago. Hope to see you there.

The event is sponsored by the Chicagoland MG Club. Entry fee is \$5 and parking is free.

## **LADIES TEA**

As you have seen from the invitation on page one of this month's Chronicle, plans are underway for our annual Ladies Tea to be held Saturday, April 30th. Please join the BBB ladies for an English Tea with plenty of teas, savory (not sweets) and sweet treats at the home of Brenda Moore.

Please call Sandy Hamaker at 815-229-8182 to let her and Brenda know you plan to attend, and if you know what you plan to bring that will help in their planning.

If you would like to car pool, please talk to Lynda Vickery, and we will combine car rides to Brenda's.

Cheerio!

## **GARAGE TOUR 2016 “PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES”**

by Larry Eils and Mike Grunewald

Our tour is planned for Saturday, April 30, 2016. We will meet at the Roscoe Middle School on Elevator Road at 8:45 am with a 9:00 am departure. We will be going to Harvard, IL and Lake Como, WI.

Among the many landmarks that contribute to the rich cultural texture of Harvard, home of Harmilda, none fly as high as Dacy Airport our first stop. Once a family farm, John Dacy started having airplanes around the farm in 1933. Soon other local people brought their airplanes to the farm. Finally, Mr. Dacy built an airport with grassy runways making it well suited to the tail-dragger Stearman planes, many of which are hangared there today. After World War II, it was licensed as a commercial airport and has been in operation ever since. Dave Dacy, John's son, started doing aerobatic flying when he was 17 years old. Today, he has the nation's longest-running air show touring company in the history of the air show business, based in Harvard. It's call Dacy Air Shows and features multiple members of the Dacy family, brother and sister, as well as several well-known professional air show performers include wing walker Tony Karzian from Harvard.

Our second stop is the garage of Mike Grunewald, our tour host. Mike specializes in repair and restoration of exotic British and American cars. You never know what you will see when you stop at Mike's garage.

Lunch will be across the street at the Stanchion Pub in the historic Starline Factory. In 1883 Henry Ferris invented and patented the hay carrier. Charles Hunt and his father-in-law, Nathan Helm, suggested Ferris move his shop into the basement of their hardware store in Harvard, IL. Soon they were selling the hay carrier in the store along with other merchandise. So, the Hunt, Helm & Ferris business began. Through the years they manufactured more than 50 products under the “STARLINE” name and acquired more than 250 patents on equipment to streamline farm work. More than a decade ago, Orrin Kinney rescued the building from demolition. Kinney's vision to restore and repurpose the old factory has been remarkable. There will be a tour of factory by Mr. Kinney after lunch.

Our final stop on the tour is a short drive to Lake Como, Wisconsin to visit a “Man Cave” housing a variety of vintage cars. It is also the home to a “Ferret”. I hope everyone will Google this so you know, we are in store for a unique look into the past and perhaps even a ride.

Let's hope for some great April weather.

### **ANSWERS TO CAR HISTORY QUESTIONS**

1. Gulf Oil Company
2. The Templar Touring Roadster
3. 1915
4. Packard
5. New York

DID - U - KNOW  
by Facia Nearside

Thrust2 is the British jet propelled car which held the land speed record (633.5 mph) from October 1983 to September 1997. Designed with a single turbojet engine in the center of the car, the driver's cockpit was set off to one side. Considering symmetry of both shape and weight important for stability, designers simply put an identical cockpit on the other side of the car. Driver Richard Noble seized the opportunity and rented out that other cockpit to help offset expenses. All was going quite nicely until Thrust2 experienced brake failure with a journalist on board. That put an immediate end to the passenger rides, but presented a problem of uneven weight distribution. In order not to delay testing the team simply went down to the local grocery store and rebalanced that exotic machine with...several sacks of potatoes!

**Membership Dues Reminder!**

Most members have renewed their 2016 dues, but if you are one of the few who haven't, please remit your membership fee of \$20.00 to:

Treasurer  
British Boots and Bonnets Car Club  
PMB 254  
1643 North Alpine Road, Suite 104  
Rockford, IL 61107



## NEWS FROM THE WEBMASTER

by Hal Zenisek

The inbox from the website is full this month, and contains several interesting emails to the club. I thought a few words on these were worth sharing with everyone. Event organizers from Arkansas e-mailed us about their car show and festivities planned for British Car Week. The webmaster from the Michigan-Indiana car club emailed us about a '73 Triumph Spitfire that is for sale by one of their members. A gentleman in Iowa contacted us about selling his 1988 Jaguar XJ-S coupe. The club received email and club flyer from the Quad City British Automobile Club. The event organizer for the Chicago Scottish Festival and Highland Games sent us a reminder and more details about their June car show & 30th anniversary event. The gentleman from Italy who contacted us earlier in the year has sent follow-up information about the 4th MG Meeting in the Dolomites (of northern Italy) which they have planned for September. Finally, a father-son team from the Chicagoland MG Club is traveling the country in an MGA (nearly 2 years and 74,000 miles), and contacted us about the possibility of attending one of our events or perhaps a monthly meeting as they pass through the area.

All this to say, if you are interested in any of this information just let me know, and I'll forward these to you. You can use the new email system on the updated website at [www.britishbootsandbonnets.com](http://www.britishbootsandbonnets.com) and I'll respond asap. Or, the webmaster's contact information is also on the club's roster.

That's it for April - the website is up to date and current. Bruce & the event hosts are doing a great job communicating all the club event related details with me; so you may use the monthly events calendar on the website for more information about anything planned in the future.



## REGALIA APRIL 2016

### BBB REGALIA ONLINE STORE

Non-clothing related club merchandise is available directly through the BBB Regalia Page. These items can be purchased online or by contacting Jim Vickery.

BBB Grill Badge - \$30

BBB Hat Pin - \$1

BBB Logo Wall Clock - \$15

All other regalia can be purchased online via our BBB Regalia Page. You buy online, securely pay with your credit card, and select one of the following delivery options:

Shipped directly to you (there is an additional charge)

Pick up at EmbroidThis (no charge)

Pick up at Club Meeting (no charge)\*

\*I will be happy to stop by EmbroidThis and pick up your order. It is right on the way to our meeting location. Just let me know!

Remember EmbroidThis is in their new location at 8018 N 2nd St , Machesney Park , IL 61115. Next to Al's Carpet at 251 and Harlem Rd.

I welcome your ideas and thoughts for the Club's Regalia!

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## *FLORENCE LAWRENCE - ACTRESS AND INVENTOR*

*The following article was found by Larry Eils at the Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) website. This features silent film star and pioneering automotive inventor, Florence Lawrence. Never heard of her? Lawrence invented the first mechanical turn signal AND mechanical brake light, yet she was almost penniless when she took her life in 1938. Check out the full story.*



Her exact birthdate, like the recognition for the woman herself, is seemingly lost in time. What is known is this: Florence Lawrence was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in either 1886 or 1890. Her father, George Bridgwood was a carriage builder. Her mother, Charlotte “Lotta” Bridgwood, was a vaudevillian actress so, naturally, Lawrence found herself drawn to acting from a young age. Working under her mother—known professionally as “Lotta Lawrence,” the leading lady and director of the Lawrence Dramatic Company— young Florence made her motion picture debut in 1906. The next few years would see her rise to become what is generally regarded as the first movie star.

### **The Biograph Girl**

Starring in nearly 300 films throughout the course of her career, Florence found herself on the receiving end of the financial windfall that was the burgeoning movie industry. Earning around \$500 a week from Biograph Studios—a company that refused to put her name on the credits—she nonetheless became a familiar face to fans, who dubbed her “The Biograph Girl.” With a constant flow of work, Lawrence was soon wealthy enough to purchase an automobile—a somewhat extravagant rarity for women at the time. Finding a sense of freedom and enjoyment behind the wheel she’d never before experienced, Lawrence took to driving much as she had to acting.



FLORENCE LAWRENCE SITS BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A LOZIER OPEN TOURING CAR WITH 1912 PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE PLATES. [PHOTO CREDIT: WISCONSIN CENTER FOR FILM AND THEATER RESEARCH]

Delving headfirst into the world of the automobile, Florence sought to learn all she could about the vehicle's various mechanisms in between enthusiastic drives. She became so invested in the relationship between driver and car that at one point she reportedly described her vehicle as "almost human"—something that, in her words, responded "to kindness and understanding and care, just as people do." This love for the automobile led Lawrence to explore additional safety measures to ensure the vehicle's continued practical use.

### **The Actor Turns Inventor**

In 1914, after years of learning about and tinkering with automobiles, Lawrence devised a mechanism that served as a signaling arm for drivers wishing to turn. Through the simple push of a button, her simple invention raised and lowered a flag on the rear bumper of the automobile to inform other drivers where the car was headed next. Along with this, she developed an equally simplistic and ingenious device to alert fellow motorists of an upcoming stop. Upon depressing the brake, a small sign reading "stop" would pop up in the rear of the car. Though rudimentary in design, her inventions would ultimately prove invaluable on the road. Unfortunately for Lawrence, however, she failed to patent this creation or her next—the first electric windshield wiper, which began selling in 1917 under the Bridgwood Manufacturing Company. Lawrence's mother would later try to remedy the oversight, but by then it was too late as other companies were quick to claim ownership and receive patents for similar designs. While she failed to claim the first patent and, some would argue, was not even the first to devise such a system (that honor going to a Percy Douglas-Hamilton in England), Lawrence's ingenuity and passion for the automobile was something of an anomaly at the time. The fact that she performed all her own mechanical work and devised these safety measures put Lawrence at the forefront of what could be viewed as an early form of women's liberation, one for which she's largely since been forgotten, but is by no means diminished in significance. Amazingly, it wouldn't be until 1925 that anything resembling Lawrence's design would see a patent, one turned in by the larger auto manufacturers.



### A Tragic Death

After suffering severe burns in a studio fire in which she was attempting to save a fellow actor, Lawrence's work in films began to dry up. Despite plastic surgery to attempt to repair the damage, she found herself more and more relegated to work as an extra. And while she had accumulated a great deal of wealth during her days as "The Biograph Girl," the majority of it was lost in the stock market crash of 1929. Her career at a standstill and her fortune having all but disappeared, Lawrence was left with little consolation. Adding insult to injury, she had also been married three times over the course of her life—once to automotive salesman Charles Byrne Woodring—and saw each relationship end in either death or divorce. Alone and with no children or family to comfort her, Lawrence took her life on December 28, 1938 after calling MGM to let them know that, due to illness, she would not be able to perform the extra work for which she had been cast that afternoon. The following year, Buick began installing turn signals as a standard feature.

The mission of the Historic Vehicle Association (HVA) is to promote the cultural and historical significance of the automobile and protect the future of our automotive past.





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