



British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 25
Issue 2
Feb 7, 2020

Editor
Lynda Vickery

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

**Next Meeting
Wednesday,**

Feb19, 2020

Thunder Bay Grille
7652 Potawatomi Trail
Rockford, Illinois
(near East State Street and
Bell School Road)

**Dinner and social hour
at 6:00pm**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February, 2020

Here we are at the first of February and I do not think the weather knows what it wants to do. The weather forecasters say it will snow and it doesn't and when they say it will be nice, we get snow. Punxsutawney Phil apparently did not see his shadow and that means an early spring. That is a nice thought but keep in mind, he is only 50% accurate, so they say. Early spring or not, it is time to get the cars ready for when driving weather arrives.

I would like to thank Connie Frazier for the great job she did as President last year. I hope I can carry on and keep the club on the same positive path.

Two of us are new to the board this year. Dee Gibson will be our Secretary for 2020 and I will be our President. It is very good to know we have an experienced group on the board. We had a very positive Board Meeting and discussed many important subjects. I will mention a couple items. We are looking for someone to take over the task of the Newsletter. Lynda Vickery has graciously agreed to continue for another year but would like to work with the next editor to provide a smooth transition with software, etc. A second item, we recommend that all members review the Driving Rules for our driving events. They are located on our Website.

Just a couple of reminders, the February Dine will be on February 12 at Pino's on North Main Street at 6:00pm and the monthly meeting will be on February 19th at Thunder Bay at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there.

Safety Fast,

Lee Kindgren

JANUARY 2020 BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS CLUB MEETING

President's Report - Connie Frazier

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Connie Frazier. Twenty-eight members were present. Welcome to the first BBB Meeting of 2020. No raffle tonight as Don and Marna could not attend. Elections for the new terms will be handled under **New Business**. No new members or guests were present.

Vice President's Report - Solveig Maschke - No report.

Acting Secretary's Report - Solveig Maschke

A motion was made by Peggy Kitzmiller to accept the November 2019 report as printed in the November Chronicle. Seconded by Dennis Klemm. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Larry Eils

NOVEMBER

Report given by Larry Eils

DECEMBER

Report given by Larry Eils

Ron Kuhnau made a motion to accept the November and December 2019 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Bill Maschke. Motion passed.

Membership - Bev Joyce - No report

NOTE: Please remember that 2020 Dues are due.

Chronicle/Newsletter - Lynda Vickery

Great photos have been submitted by Rich Cannistra, taken during the Christmas party. (Thank you to Lynda Vickery for making them available in the BBB Chronicle and Hal for making them available on the website.)

Webmaster - Hal Zenisek

Hal is building the 2020 Calendar and is requesting that if you come across any regional or state events of interest to the club members, let Hal know so he can add to the website calendar.

Sunshine - Phyllis Beneditz

Rich Cannistra informed the club that Mike Ackerman drove to Florida in his MG, pulling a trailer, to enjoy warmer weather following his recent heart issues. He was in the VA hospital and underwent a heart procedure for an irregular heartbeat.

Regalia - Jim Vickery - No report

Events - Rich Gibson

Past Events

- A huge Thank You to Mary Jo Schoening and for again hosting the BBB Cookie Exchange at her home on December 4th. How long has Mary Jo been doing this? 11 years? More? Approximately 40 people attended. Thank you again, Mary Jo, for opening up your beautiful home to the club. Thank you also to those who stayed after to help put things away and clean up the crumbs!
- Thank you to Beverly Joyce and all the elves for organizing the Christmas Party on 11 December at Linos. Once more, this well-attended event went off without a hitch! Again, how many years has Bev and her group been doing this?
- On January 8th, Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz hosted the January Dine at La Casa Grande in Beloit. Twenty-eight club members attended, with great food and terrific Margaritas! Thank you to both Bruce and Phyllis!

Upcoming Events

- The February 12 Dine is in need of a host. Please contact Larry Eils if you can do this.
- Rich and Dee will host the March Dine, location to be determined.
- Katie's Cup has contacted the club to welcome us back in 2020.
- Poplar Grove Airport welcomes us back to their Drive In/Fly In Breakfast and show on August 23.
- February 10 is "Drive Your Triumph Day"

Rich wants to extend a HUGE thank you to Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz for guiding him through the first months he held the Events position and for hosting his first Events Planning Meeting at their home.

Rich wants to thank Rich Cannistra and Larry Eils for filling in for him during his travels and for guiding him through potential pitfalls on the calendar such as Mother's Day, etc.

Rich also wants to thank his wife Dee for answering his never-ending questions, spelling help, computer emergencies.

Lastly, Rich wants to thank everyone that helped out by hosting Dines, Drive and Dines, Saturday drives and other events. This is what makes our club fun and special. Thank you all.

Classified - None

Unfinished Business

- 2020 Elections

At the November 2019 meeting, a slate of 2020 club officers for nomination was presented to the club. They are:

- President - Lee Kindgren
- Vice President - Solveig Maschke
- Secretary - Dee Gibson
- Treasurer - Connie Frazier
- Events Chair - Larry Eils as Board member, joined in Events responsibilities by Rich Cannistra and Rick Palmer
- Newsletter Editor - Lynda Vickery
- Regalia Chair - Jim Vickery
- Membership Chair - Bev Joyce
- Webmaster - Hal Zenisek

No additional nominations were presented. No absentee ballots were presented that differ. Rich Gibson made the motion to close the nominations, seconded by Ron Kuhnau. No objection by those present was made to voting on the officers as a slate, rather than individually. Phyllis Beneditz made a motion to elect the officers as presented in the slate for 2020. Nancy Kuhnau seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Congratulations to our new 2020 officers. We look forward to the year ahead and thank you all for being willing to serve the club.

New Business -

- Leon Kitzmiller created the 2020 BBB wall calendar which has been printed and is available for \$10. A very big thank you goes to Leon, who was assisted by Rich Cannistra (photos) and Larry Eils.
- Larry Eils presented Connie Frazier with a VISA gift card in appreciation for her service as BBB president during 2019.

Why do we have a British Car Club? Some might say that we enjoy and care about British cars. Certainly that is true. But Connie's experiences with the club have taught her that the real reason to have the club is that we enjoy and care about the people in the club. The cars aren't the club - you are.

So, Connie would like to take a moment to thank all of you who have helped the club remain strong and active during 2019. Whether you volunteered on a committee, hosted an event, helped a fellow club member with British Car challenges, attended club meetings and events, or simply cheered others on, your participation mattered.

Connie would also like to express her gratitude to the 2019 officers and committee chairs who are a remarkable group of folks, dedicated to the club and ready to take on whatever is needed. It was her pleasure and an honor to work with you.

Good Wrench Award - Rich Gibson nominated Mary Jo Schoening for hosting the Cookie Exchange in her home. Nancy Kuhnau seconded. Motion passed. Mary Jo will receive 5 raffle tickets at the February meeting.

Burnt Piston Award - None

Raffle - None

Adjournment

Connie retold the Ten Commandments for the British Car Lover
Peggy Kitzmiller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phyllis Beneditz.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Dee Gibson,

Secretary

Non Club Related: Bill Maschke reported that February 15 is the American Legion Annual Chili Bingo Night, sponsored by the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club. Contact Bill for more details.

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
PMB 254
1643 North Alpine Rd. Suite 104
Rockford, IL 61107
rpeonygarden@gmail.com

Include \$20 annual membership dues plus a one-time fee of \$18 for name tags.



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES
ARE NOW DUE! PLEASE
FORWARD YOUR DUES
TO THE CLUB AT THE
ADDRESS ABOVE.**

The February Dine will be held on
February 12th at Pino's on Main
2511 N Main St, Rockford, IL
6:00PM

Please let us know by Tuesday
evening you will be attending.
We can be reached by e-mail or phone.

Ricky- Rdpalmer88@gmail.com

815-979-9500

Hannah Hkindell93@gmail.com

815-608-0289

BRITISH BOOTS AND BONNETS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

February 12 BBB Dine – Pino’s on Main; Rockford, IL

Host: Rick and Hannah Palmer

February 19 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

March 11 BBB Dine - TBD

Host: Rich and Dee Gibson

March 15 All Sports Car Swap Meet; DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

March 18 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

April 8 BBB Drive and Dine

Host:

April BBB Garage Tour

Host:

April BBB Ladies Tea - Host

Host:

April 15 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

April 24-26 Jefferson Car Show; Jefferson, WI

May 13 BBB Drive and Dine -

Host:

May 20 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

May BBB Saturday Drive

Host:

May 23-31 British Car Awareness Week

May 29-31 Champagne British Car Festival. Bloomington, IL
see www.champagenbritishcarfestival.com for information

June 10 BBB Drive and Dine

Host:

June 17 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

June BBB Saturday Drive

Host:

June 21 British Car Festival, Sussex Car Show; Sussex, WI

June 28 – July 1 MG 2020 - Calgary, BC; see www.namgbr.org for information

July 8 BBB Drive and Dine:

Host:

July 12 Mad Dogs and Englishman Car Show; Hickory Corners, MI

July 12 The Cars Time Forgot; Delavan, WI

July 15 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

July 18 BBB Day at the Lake – Hosts: Rich and Dee Gibson

August 1 BBB Cars and Coffee Car Show, Rockford, IL 9 am to noon

August Botham Vineyard 25th Car Show; Botham, WI

August BBB Saturday Drive

Host:

August 12 BBB Drive and Dine:

Host:

August 19 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

Sept 6 BBB Labor Day Picnic –Hosts: Dennis and Crystal Klemm, Orfordville, WI

Sept 8 BBB Drive and Dine –

Host:

September Long Weekend

Host:

September 12 12th British Car Festival; Harper College, Palatine, IL
see www.britishcarunion.com for information

September 16 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

September 25-27 Jefferson Car Show; Jefferson, WI

October 14 BBB Drive and Dine -

Host:

October 21 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

October BBB Saturday Drive

Host:

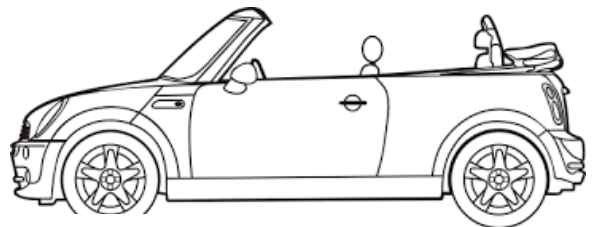
November 11 BBB Dine -

Host:

November 18 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

December 9 BBB Cookie Exchange – Host: Mary Jo Schoening

December 16 BBB Christmas Party - Lino's, Rockford, IL



www.Trisolor.com



BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS CAR CLUB 2020 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT: 815-299-2110	Lee Kindgren leekrkfd@aol.com
VICE PRESIDENT: 815-623-8861	Solveig Maschke twiggy_2@charter.net
SECRETARY: 815-871-5200	Dee Gibson 54321kaboom@comcast.net
TREASURER: 815-397-3653	Connie Frazier cfrazier9@yahoo.com
REGALIA: 815-623-5611	Jim Vickery vickery.jv@gmail.com
EVENTS: 815-943-4720	LARRY EILS rpeonygarden@gmail.com
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NEWSLETTER: 815-871-5623	Lynda Vickery vickery.jv@gmail.com
WEBMASTER: 815-397-3653	Hal Zenisek hzenisek@comcast.net
SUNSHINE: 815-543-1741	Phyllis Beneditz phyllisquilts@charter.net



The 2020 Club Calendar Is Here

The 2020 British Boots and Bonnets Car Club calendar is now available. It is full of wonderful pictures from our club events in 2019. Relive some fond memories of the Dines, Drive and Dines and the many drives and events the club held in 2019. Our thanks goes to Leon Kitzmiller for putting this calendar together. We also want to thank all the members who submitted pictures for the calendar. Without your help there would be no calendar. Calendars are \$10 and can be purchased at the club meeting. There is a limited supply, so don't wait. See Larry Eils to purchase your calendar.

BBB WEBSITE TRAFFIC REPORT FOR 2019

JANUARY 2020

Greetings from the Webmaster,

This month's report is a recap of traffic on the BBB website from last year. Frequently referred to as the BBB traffic report, here's a summary for the calendar year 2019:

- According to our hosting service Squarespace, www.britishbootsandbonnets.com had 1,752 unique visitors, and 2,126 visits during January-December 2019. This gives us an average of 177 visits per month. The 2,126 visits are how many were on the site more than once.
- Those visitors viewed 5,980 webpages on our site, or 498-page views per month on average.
- June-September were the busiest months, averaging 253 visitors/month. September saw the most traffic with 308 visitors.
- Winter months were the slowest, averaging 126 visitors/month. Spring and fall months fell somewhere in between.
- Overall, 2019 traffic was down 3.9% from 2018 but up 15% compared to 2017.
- The 5 most popular content areas were the Events Calendars, Newsletters, Event Photos, About Us, and For Sale webpages. Other popular content were the webpages for Member Cars & Photos, Favorite Links, Current Officers, Membership Info, and our links to the British Car Union and State of Illinois car shows.
- Technology-wise, 54% of our visitors were on a desktop computer, 34% used a mobile device, and 12% viewed our site on a tablet. Google Chrome and Chrome Mobile were the most frequent browsers used at over 60%. 45% of our visitors were Windows users.

- 93% searched for BBB directly, with 6% referred to us from other sites and 1% coming from various social media.
- Traffic patterns are relatively stable, and consistent when comparing specific months year after year. In short, top down weather means more traffic on the website.

We know some new members found us via the website and joined last year. We also know a couple former members reconnected again. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or feedback about the website and our club's web-based strategies.

If you haven't checked out the club's website recently, I encourage you to look see this winter. Last, many thanks for all your support and contributions, I could not do all this alone!

Hal Zenisek, BBB Webmaster

Steve's British Connection CARS WANTED

Very serious buyer for:

- Jaguar, XK-XKE,
- MG "T" series, MGA,
- Triumph TR-2-3-4-250
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Steve Krantz

sbcinc@aol.com or (630) 553-9023



FIRST "DINE" IN 2020

The 2020 dining season started out with a turn from the ordinary supper club and went south of the boarder for Mexican food. Well, technically we went north of the boarder to Wisconsin to dine at La Casa Grande in Beloit on Wednesday, January 8th. Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz hosted the event and were joined by about 22 of their BBB friends. The food was good, the service was great, and a good time appeared to be had by all.





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Did - U - Know

By Facia Nearside

Looking at the Scottish dictionary, the term “scamp” means “to roam about in an idle manner”. Making it easier for the average person to roam about is exactly what Scottish Aviation had in mind 50 years ago when they decided to go into the car business.

Founded in 1935, Scottish Aviation were busy through WWII overhauling military aircraft. However, by the 1960s government cutbacks on defense spending led to economic difficulties in the aviation industry. As luck would have it, about this time the British government was becoming concerned the popularity of private autos would lead to traffic congestion and pollution in the future. Dr. W. G. Watson at Scottish Aviation believed he had the answer to both problems as well as the future of his company, an electrically powered microcar. Dr. Watson obtained backing from the Central Electricity Generating Board in 1964 and set to work to develop his idea. The result was a four wheel, two seat, fibreglass body vehicle driven by two electric motors. He called it “Scamp”. The box-like body was two meters long and one meter wide which easily satisfied the goals of highly maneuverable and easily parkable, but not much more! Powered by four Lucas Industries batteries the car had a range of only 18 miles on a full charge, and although it could accelerate from 0-30 mph in 10 seconds, top speed was just 36 mph. Undeterred, Scottish Aviation took the car to the Motor Industry Research Assn. near Coventry for testing. During trials the boot flew open and the spare wheel fell out on the track. Next the suspension broke leaving the little car stranded. Noting these troubling issues the Electrical Board pulled their support from the project.

Still not ready to throw in the towel, Scottish Aviation enlisted the services of Stirling Moss to promote the vehicle. Even celebrity endorsement however could not mask the obvious flaws. In an odd twist of fate, when Scamp was finally shown to the public in February 1967, Scottish Aviation had already decided to cancel the project!

Of the 13 Scamps built only four are believed to survive, three in museums and one in private hands. Perhaps the idea of a little electric car designed to “roam about” was just too far ahead of its time.



DUK2020/2

A Christmas Present

By Char Thompson

In 1996, my husband and I went home to Washington state to spend Thanksgiving with my mom. As I love antiques, I took him to a nearby town which was known for its great antique stores. The next day he went back on his own to do some Christmas shopping. When he returned, he said he thought he had found the perfect Christmas present for me, but he wanted me to look at it before he bought it.

I was surprised when we entered what appeared to be an antique toy store, as I wasn't interested in antique toys. We went down the old steps to the basement, and back to a distant corner. Behind a large display window, there was a life size display of a vintage gas station, complete with a mannequin dressed as a car mechanic standing next to a tiny red MG Midget Roadster. The car was "For Sale"! The back wall of the display was old garage doors, leading out to a driveway.

I took the car for a test drive, while my husband waited with the owner. I used to drive those winding country back roads to work, and I knew them well. They were a perfect drive for a small British roadster! By the time I returned to the shop almost 45 minutes later, my husband and the owner were worried, thinking that something must have happened to me. But they could tell by the smile on my face that everything was Fantastic!



As we didn't live in the area, he wouldn't accept a personal check; so we paid for it with our Visa credit card. My husband made arrangements for it to be shipped back to our home in Alaska. He picked it up in Anchorage after it arrived via barge up the Marine Highway. By the time I returned home from work, he had it washed and polished and wrapped in a BIG bow!

When he went to DMV to register it, he was told there were only four MGs registered in Alaska. At the time, a common Mat-Su Valley saying was you knew it was spring when the "hogs" (Harleys) were on the roads, and that would include us out riding on

our Harley. Well, after we bought the MG, we knew it was spring when I was out driving the MG! There were times when the temperature was in the 40s, but if the roads were clear and it was a beautiful blue sky day at the end of a long cold winter, I'd take it out of the garage and go for a drive. It was great therapy for Cabin Fever!

Our ninth anniversary was on May 1st, and we took our first road trip with the MG down to Land's End Hotel in Homer. That was a 270 mile drive one way. It was barely springtime in Alaska, and the drive was pretty cold at times through the Chugach Mountains. I'm sure the snowmobilers at Turnagain Pass were quite surprised to see a tiny red convertible driving along the highway! Some of the snowmobiles were longer than the car! Since my husband was 6'4", we couldn't close the top, even if we had wanted to, so we were bundled up in warm coats, scarves, hats and gloves. It was the first of many memorable drives in my lovely MG Midget!!! Although it is small, it was large enough to even go camping in Alaska.

Driving anywhere was a joy, even to work. All my management stress was blown away during the 50 mile drive home from Anchorage, and I would be Smiling! During the years, I've often thought of what my sea kayaking instructor in Alaska said, "*The Journey IS The Destination!*"

I traveled a lot during these past 23 years, including long trips to various places all over the world. I was lucky to have friends and a great brother who at various times stored the MG for me. The first time I left, a good friend in Alaska offered to store the Midget in her horse barn. When I returned a long time later, I found they had built a box around it and stored the horses' hay bales on top! My brother stored the car inside one of the sheds his sled dogs used for shelter. It was the perfect sized carport for the Midget!

When I moved to Stockton, Illinois, I was concerned about finding a mechanic who would know how to work on the Midget. That had been a major problem in Alaska, as most mechanics wouldn't even consider working on it. I thought it would be impossible to find someone in the rural Midwest! So I left the Midget stored in the dog shed carport in back of my brother's home until I could find a mechanic. In trying to locate a British sports car mechanic in the Rockford area on Google, I discovered the British Boots and Bonnets website! I emailed the webmaster, who was very helpful in providing Ron Kuhnau's contact info. When talking with Ron, I was thrilled to find out they had lots of experience working on MGs, including Midgets!



Once I found a mechanic, it didn't take long for my brother to ship my Midget to me; and it's first destination was Ron and Lyn's garage. They had a few challenges on that first visit, since I never had a mechanic in Anchorage who knew what he was doing with classic British sports cars! There were lots of little and big things that needed to be taken care of. When the Midget was stored at my brother's home, my brother and nephew had tried to fix some problems for me. But they were used to working on semis and fire engines, and at 6-1/2' tall, they could hardly get into the Midget. From my sister-in-law's description, they almost needed a can opener to pry them back out of the car once either of them got into the driver seat!

Lyn and Ron have been fantastic to me over the past years. I can't really express how much they helped me enjoy driving my Midget during these past years. Because of their attention to detail, whenever they worked on the car, I knew that anything that needed fixing had been fixed. I could relax on my drives, knowing that the car was well maintained. I enjoyed getting to know BBB members at events. Although I lived far enough away that I didn't attend many BBB club events, I really enjoyed the ones I was able to attend!

This summer I moved from a large home with a three-car garage into a smaller home in town. I made the difficult decision that it was time to find a new home for my Midget. We've had a lot of great times over the past two decades. She was the most stable part of my life for the past 23 years! She was always there waiting for the next drive through divorce, changing jobs and houses, and even traveling around the world. We went on many great drives this summer, knowing it would be my last summer with her!

On Labor Day Weekend, a young couple drove up from Mississippi, as the wife was interested in buying it. I immediately knew that I had found the perfect new owner for my beloved car. When I asked her if she would like to take it for a test drive, she said she couldn't, as she didn't know how to drive manual transmission! But she was going to learn! I took her out for a lovely drive up Massbach Ridge Road, and we talked quite a bit. She had wanted a MG Midget since she was twelve years old, and she could now afford to buy it! They had been looking for the perfect one, and this was the one. When we came back from the drive, I expected her husband to take it out for a test drive. Well, he could tell she wanted it, and that's all that mattered. The test drive apparently was not necessary, as with the care Ron and Lyn gave to my Midget, not only did it look fantastic, it ran and drove great! After they trailered the Midget back to Mississippi, she sent me a picture of the Midget in her new home. I know that they will have many wonderful road trips and memories in the years to come.



I wish you many wonderful drives and memories with your British Cars!

I Wish You Joy in Every Journey!

Remember ~ The Journey Is The Destination!

“Keep ‘em On The Road”

JAMIE C/S
1966 Triumph TR4A

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**BBB REGALIA ONLINE
FEBRUARY 2020**

Regalia club merchandise is available by contacting Jim Vickery. This includes:

- BBB Grill Badge - \$30
- BBB Hat/Lapel Pin - \$1
- BBB Logo Wall Clock - \$15 (2 left)
- BBB visors - \$10 (1 left)
- British flags for cars - \$5

All other regalia can be purchased online via our BBB Regalia Page found on our Club's website.

You buy online, securely pay with your credit card, and select one of the following delivery options:

- Shipped directly to you (additional fee)
- Pick up at Embroid This (no charge)
- Pick up at Club Meeting (no charge)*

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

Jim Vickery

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



Next Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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