



British Boots & Bonnetts Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 23
Issue 2
February 7 , 2018

Editor
Lynda Vickery

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

Next Meeting
Wednesday,

February 21, 2018

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 2018

Welcome to February 2018, it's 9 degrees on our temperature gage with about 6 inches of snow on the ground, winter has arrived with a vengeance. With our trusty LBC's tucked away in their safe winter places with ample amounts of antifreeze, we dream by the evening fire of distant Drive & Dines and long weekend events to come. Lynda Vickery has encouraged us to submit our LBC and related photos so I am attaching pictures (see them on the next page) of wonderful past memories of my 1956 MGA (in which I courted the pretty Lady on board), my white 1957 MGA that I used to drive to college in and my 1965 Austin Healey 3000 MK III (maybe my favorite). The '56 MGA was driven lots in San Antonio where we courted, both the '67 MGA and '65 Healey were driven throughout Rhode Island and adjacent New England states, lots of FUN!!

At our January meeting we elected Mr. Larry Eils as our new Treasurer and Mr. Rich Gibson as our New Events Chair. Thanks to both for stepping up and running for these two important offices, I know you will all support them both with your enthusiasm and volunteering especially in planning and executing our 2018 upcoming event calendar as it unfolds. A reminder, Rich & Roxann Cannistra are hosting February's Dine on the 14th of this month at The Butterfly Club in Beloit, WI. Details are included in the minutes of the January meeting.

Whether you're a New England or Philadelphia fan it was a great Super Bowl game and the Eagles certainly earned the title of NFL World Champions, congratulations to all their fans. Now on to Spring Training and rooting for your favorite team in MLB. Hope to see you all at the February Dine, and even though Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow, I'm hoping that we have an early spring!

John

*Heard on the street: "The first 5 days
after the weekend are the hardest"!!*



Jan 17, 2018 BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS CLUB MEETING

President's Report - John Ward

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by John Ward.

Mike Ackerman's brother, Mark, attended as a guest.

John Ward reviewed the raffle prizes for the meeting.

Vice President's Report - Brian Kobischka - No report

Secretary's Report - Dee Gibson

A motion was made by Larry Eils to accept the November 2017 report as printed in the Chronicle. Seconded by Bill Maschke. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Lee Kindgren

Lee Kindgren presented his final report as Treasurer.

Ron Kuhnau made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Bruce Beneditz . Motion passed.

Membership - Bev Joyce - The BBB Club has 72 members at the end of 2017. Membership dues for 2018 are being accepted now (\$20). Please send your dues membership in if you haven't done so yet.

Chronicle/Newsletter - Lynda Vickery - Several members have made mention that they have articles to submit for the newsletter. The photos taken by Rich Cannistra at the Cookie Exchange and at the Christmas Party are really appreciated.

Webmaster - Hal Zenisek - The Club website has had 1450 visitors in 2017. The busiest months were in September (214); June (191); April (186) and January (131). November and December were the slowest months with only 80 visitors each. The most visited pages were the EVENTS page, the PHOTOS page and the FOR SALE page. Visitors on desktops accounted for 51% of the traffic, Mobile devices were at 43%

(includes iPads). Google searches accounted for 40% of the hits and 38% went directly to our BBB website. The USA hits were at 84% and the other hits were from 30 other countries, including Canada (5%), China(1%), Russia(1%), the UK(2%) and South Africa.

Sunshine - Phyllis Beneditz -

Marc Proctor, in Arizona for the winter, would like to share that Eileen had a minor stroke. She was able to get to the ER quickly and was treated. She was out of the ICU this afternoon (Jan 17). There are no signs of extreme impairment, and she will begin therapy on Jan. 18th. Connie and Phyllis have their address in Arizona if anyone wishes to send well wishes.

Regalia - Jim Vickery - The winter season is halfway finished! It is time to order your Spring things. The hat that we had targeted for the young man who was interested in the BBB Club is now back in our inventory as we have not been able to locate this young man.

Past Events - Bruce Beneditz

A huge Thank You to Mary Jo and her helpers for hosting the Cookie Exchange! Also, a shout out to Bev and the helpers for organizing and hosting the Christmas Party!

The Dine in January at Ciao Bella, hosted by Larry and Marsha Eils, was well attended with 40 degree weather helping out. Thank you to the Eils's,

Upcoming Events

January 26 - Old Farts Lunch at 1:00 at the Olympic Tap.

January 26 - Ladies Who Do Lunch at 12:30 at Longhorn Steak House.

February 14 - Rich and Roxann Cannistra will host the February Dine at the Butterfly Club, 5246 E. Co. Rd. X Beloit, Wisconsin. Although it will be Valentine's Day, the BBB Club will still host the February Dine event on this date!

The National MGB Registry will be meeting in Gettysburg from 17-23 June. Registration is now open.

Classified - None

Unfinished Business- None

New Business -

Giant Thank you's are extended to Lee Kindgren for his work and efforts as Club Treasurer for two years and to Bruce Beneditz for his work and efforts as Events Chairman for the past two years as well!

Nominations were solicited for the vacancy position of Treasurer. Rick Hamaker nominated Larry Eils for the position of BBB Club Treasurer. Jim Vickery seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. A vote was taken, and the vote was unanimous for Larry Eils to become Club Treasurer. Thank you to Larry Eils for volunteering!

Nominations were solicited for the vacancy position of Events Chairman. Bill Maschke nominated Rich Gibson for this position. Larry Eils seconded the motion. No other nominations were offered. Rich Gibson commented that this position requires a great deal of devoted time and that he was unsure if he could do the position justice if elected. He would be willing to be part of a committee of at least 2-3 persons. The following BBB club members offered to assist: Roxann Cannistra, Bruce Beneditz, Larry Eils, Jim Vickery, John Ward, Sandy Ward, Leon Kitzmiller, Don Grosenick. Any other club members are very welcome to join in as well! Please contact Rich Gibson (dynamiteboss@comcast.net). Nominations were closed. By unanimous vote, Rich Gibson was elected to the position of Events Chairman. Thank you to Rich Gibson!

An Events Planning Meeting will be held in late February or early March. Please come forward with your ideas and plans! Share information you hear or read about with Rich Gibson (dynamiteboss@comcast.net).

A motion was made by Rich Cannistra that the current officers in place continue in their positions for 2018. Don Grosenick seconded. The motion passed.

The 2018 calendar is ready and looks great! A huge Shout Out to Dave Brickman for putting this together. Each club member is welcome to a free calendar.

Burnt Piston Award- John Ward was nominated for leaving the Burnt Piston Award and the Good Wrench Award at home. Sandy Ward seconded. Motion passed.

Good Wrench Award - None

Raffle - Don Grosenick

1. LED Sidekick Pick-Up Tool - Lee Kindgren
2. Digital Multimeter - Ed Nichols
3. Power Air Horn - Jim Smith
4. MicroFiber Auto Cloths - Bev Joyce
5. GOJO Hand Cleaner - Rich Gibson
6. Valentine Wall Hanging - Nancy Kuhnau
7. Picture Frame - Solveig Maschke
8. Candle - Marna Grosenick
9. Pitcher - Larry Eils
10. Pink Vase - Leon Kitzmiller
11. British Clock - Hal Zenisek
12. Thunder Bay Bucks - Rich Cannistra

Adjournment

John Ward told a story about a guy being "whacked" on the head.

Larry Eils made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Don Grosenick. Motion passed and the Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Dee Gibson, Secretary

BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS 2018 CALENDAR of EVENTS -

TENTATIVE - The 2018 Events Committee has not yet met, so the BBB events listed below are all tentative. A few other car events are listed, but the dates and/or locations are not yet known.

February 10-19	2018 Chicago Auto Show McCormick Place; Chicago, IL
February 14	BBB Dine - The Butterfly Club; Beloit, WI Hosts: Rich & Roxann Cannistra
February 21	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
March 14	BBB Dine - TBD Hosts: Ron & Nancy Kuhnau
March 21	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
March 18	22nd British Car Swap Meet & Autojumble; DuPage County Fairgrounds; Wheaton, IL
April 11	BBB Dine - Stone Eagle Tavern; Rockford, IL Hosts: Dwain & Jenny Plymale
April 18	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
April 27-29	Spring Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet Jefferson, WI
May 9	BBB Drive & Dine - Hosts:
May 16	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
May 26 - June 3	British Car Awareness Week
June 13	BBB Drive & Dine - Host:
June 15-17	Blackhawk Farms Vintage Races (Father's Day); South Beloit, IL
June 20	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
June 17-22	NAMGBR 2017 Convention - Gettysburg
July 11	BBB Drive & Dine - Host:
July 14	BBB Day at the Lake with Rich & Dee
July 18	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
August 8	BBB Drive & Dine - Host:

August 15	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
August 25	Crossroads Blues Festival
Sept 9	British Car Union; Harper College, Palatine, IL
Sept 12	BBB Drive & Dine - Host:
Sept 14-16	British Invasion; Stowe, VT
Sept 19	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
Sept 28-30	Fall Jefferson Car Show & Swap Meet
Oct 10	BBB Drive & Dine - Host:
Oct 17	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
Nov 14	BBB Dine - Host:
Nov 21 ??	BBB CLUB MEETING Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
Dec ??	BBB Cookie Exchange Party ???
Dec 12	BBB Christmas Party

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

2018 Officers & Contacts:

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Dee Gibson, Secretary	54321kaboom@comcast.net	815-871-5200 (C)
Larry Eils, Treasurer	rpeonygarden@gmail.com	815-382-3547 (C)
Bev Joyce, Membership	Andsewon53@comcast.net	815-975-0857 (C)
Rich Gibson, Events Chair	dynamiteboss@me.com	815-494-0838 (C)
Jim Vickery, Regalia Chair	jvickery.jv@gmail.com	815-623-5611 (H)
Hal Zenisek, Webmaster	webmaster@britishbootsandbonnets.com	815-397-3653 (H)
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Phyllis Beneditz, Sunshine	phyllisquilts@charter.net	815-543-1741 (C)

NAMGBR MEMBERSHIP - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE CLUB

by Larry Eils

The North American MGB Register is a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and expanding interest in Britain's most popular sports car - the MG. Members receive "The MGB Driver," a very informative Journal every other month and are able to attend a yearly convention catering to MG owners. The newest membership benefit is that you can receive a 5% Hagerty Collector Car Insurance Discount. If you are a NAMGBR member just call Hagerty at 800-922-4050 and request the discount.

However, there is another benefit many BBB club members are not aware of. If eight members from our club join NAMGBR, our club receives free Chapter Event Insurance. We have been taking advantage of this feature for several years because more than eight of our members currently belong to NAMGBR. This is why we remind MG owners to renew their NAMGBR membership every year and suggest to new BBB members with MG's they should consider joining NAMGBR. If you not currently a member you can find out more information by visiting their website - NAMGBR.org.

WEBMASTER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Greetings all,

As shared with all present at the January club meeting, here is the 'traffic report' from the BBB website for last year. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- We saw 71 unique visitors and 81 visits last month with 226 page views
- We averaged 128 visitors monthly in 2017 and 1,536 for the year
- For 2017, the months with the highest traffic were September at 214, June at 191, April at 186 and January at 131 (November and December were the slowest months with only 80 visitors each)
- Popular content areas are events, event photos, newsletters, and for sale
- 51% were on desktops and 43% on mobile devices
- 40% searched on Google to find us and 38% went direct to the site
- 84% of the traffic came from the US; followed by 5% from Canada; 2% from the UK; 1% from Russia and 1% from China. The balance came from over 30 other countries.

Looking forward, I'm seeking suggestions for our events calendar for 2018. If you know of any state, regional or national British car related events that would complement what we do for local/club activities, please send me an email with your suggestions. Thanks to everyone who has contributed photos last year from drives/events, members and cars, and the home page. I appreciate these and believe they help the site (and club) look dynamic, active, and updated.

Thanks, your webmaster Hal Zenisek

EVENTS UPDATE!

Hello all,

We are your new Events Committee for 2018: Rich Gibson (Chairman). Advisors, Consultants & shoulders to cry on: Rich & Roxann Cannistra, Bruce Beneditz, Larry Elis, Jim Vickery, John & Sandy Ward, Leon Kitzmiller, and Don Grosenick. I thank all of these “assistants” for coming forward to ensure that your Club has an outstanding lineup of things to do and places to go in 2018.

I also would like to get ideas from the membership in general. I’m sure many people have thought about places they would like to visit, explore or dine. At this time almost everything is open; Dine & Drives, Saturday Drives, Long Weekend, Garage Tours, etc. Please send any one of us your thoughts. Can’t guarantee we can get all of them into the schedule, but hopefully we can get some.

It is YOUR club. Let’s hear YOUR ideas! 🔥💥🙌😊

Rich Gibson

FEBRUARY DINE

by Rich Cannistra

Do you get butterflies in your stomach when you think of your sweetheart and Valentine’s Day? Then February 14th will be your perfect opportunity to enjoy a romantic evening with that special someone. Although another location was briefly discussed at the January club meeting, plan to enjoy a romantic dinner at the Butterfly Club, 5246 E. Co. Rd. X, Beloit, Wisconsin. Reservations are set for 6:30 p.m. With the extreme popularity of that night, the restaurant wishes to have an accurate count of our group. Please RSVP to hosts Roxann and Rich Cannistra by Monday, February 12th: rrcannistra@yahoo.com or [608-876-6768](tel:608-876-6768).

Valentine’s Day has been associated with romantic love since the 14th century. Even if you have been dragging your feet for the last 700 years it’s never too late to show how much you care. Join us on the 14th.

22ND BRITISH CAR SWAP MEET & AUTOJUMBLE

by Lynda Vickery

There is enough Club interest in having a presence at this event, that the events group decided to reserve space for this year's swap meet to be held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds; Wheaton, IL on Sunday, March 18th. Bruce Beneditz will take care of this as Rich Gibson is still out of the country.

Please contact Bruce if you can help organize: find out who is going to take parts to sell, arrange for early setup that Sunday morning, and whatever else needs to be done.

Bruce can be reached at 815-543-0026 and/or bruce.beneditz@charter.net.

I-PASS INFORMATION

by Bil Maschke

Recently there has been a lot of confusion about I-passes. There are articles that state you need a separate I-pass for each vehicle. I recently went to purchase 3 additional I-passes and was told I only need one. I can switch it between all 4 of our vehicles as long as all license plates are on file. Also the transponder has to be in the vehicle as you pass the tollbooth or you will be charged the full price.

Welcome New Members!

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

Larry Eils, 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 \$10 for name tags.

MY FIRST BRITISH CAR

by Rich Cannistra

When I became old enough to drive, my Dad was a Pontiac man. Remember their slogan: “Wide-Track Pontiac”? Thus it was only natural to fall in lust with John DeLorean’s creation that launched the muscle car era, the GTO. Specifically, I was smitten with styling that lasted only two years, 1966/67.

In 1971 I was completing my third and final summer as a railroad brakeman before returning to college for senior year. My ride at the time was a 1951 Willys Jeep (which I thought was old, heck it was only 20) and had been keeping my eye out for a GTO. One day there was the ad in the paper, “1967 GTO, 400ci, quadrajet, 4 speed manual, gold with black vinyl top”. As fast as I could make it happen 4300 lbs of fire snorting testosterone was parked in my parents’ driveway.

On a Saturday night two weeks before returning to school I went out on a date in my pride and joy. I don’t remember the girl (it was not Roxann) or what movie we saw but I’ll never forget exiting the theater to find my GTO gone! Gone as in stolen, missing, never to be found. Devastated doesn’t even **begin** to describe my state of mind. How was such a horrendous insult possible?

I returned to school that year with no wheels and no idea of what could possibly replace the loss. My college roommate at the time was a bit older than me, had been in the Army, and returned from Europe driving a Fiat 500 hatchback. While discussing my dilemma with him he made a casual comment that I remember clearly to this day, “The most fun I ever had driving was an MG Midget”. For whatever reason the words struck a chord, from that moment I had direction. I would find a British sports car.

I launched into my search with no make or model constraints, and certainly no knowledge. Ultimately the quest ended with a 1965 Austin Healey Sprite. A transmission shop had picked up the car which had a thrashed gearbox. They cut away the bottom of the car, took out the transmission that way, rebuilt it, and then welded it back up. I drove that car about a year and a half before trading it in on a 1967 Austin Healey 3000. In that time the Sprite only stranded me once when the fuel pump quit. Life was simpler in those days and the '51 Willys had taught me to always travel with a toolbox. I just hitch hiked to town, found the British Leyland dealer, got a pump and installed it on the side of the road.

As for the scum that stole my GTO. Lo these many years later I wish I could shake his hand and thank him (after I kicked him in the teeth of course). Ten British cars later it is a passion I would never otherwise have known.



One day at a stoplight a guy pulled up beside me and said “Hey buddy, your girlfriend looks like a dog!” As you can see, he was right.

Ciao Bella

JANUARY DINE WITH SPRING LIKE WEATHER

Hosted by Larry and Marsha Eils

Mother Nature was nice to the 31 BBB club members that ventured out on January 10th for the first Dine of the new year. Our dine took place at Ciao Bella Ristorante on E. Riverside in Loves Park. The temperature at 6:00 pm was 45° F. Hard to believe since just 3 days earlier the temperature was 10° F.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful Italian meal with many indulging in Gelato for dessert. Our two servers were incredible. No one went home hungry. A fun time was had by all.





DID - U - KNOW

by Facia Nearside

At the dawn of the 20th century when motor car development was in its formative stages, many people were just as open minded about new ideas as they are about self-driving cars today. Motor racing was banned on English roads and the Motor Car Act of 1903 raised the speed limit to only 20 mph. The Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland was keen to hold a race but was unable to persuade the government to allow racing in England. The decision was made to hold the event on the Isle of Man which had successfully hosted the Gordon Bennett cup. The course chosen was 52 miles long with 420 corners and elevation ranging from sea level to 422 meters.

A basic premise of the race was for cars to be representative of touring cars that were available to the public. As such they had to be available for general sale for at least one month after the race, had to be able to carry four people, had to compete carrying a load of 950 pounds, and could weigh no more than 1600 pounds empty. The fuel requirement was perhaps the most difficult however, only one gallon (Imperial of course) per 22.5 miles of racing was permitted.

The first race of what became known as the International Tourist Trophy took place on 14 September, 1905. Due to the very strict fuel limitations cars were towed to the starting line with horses, then the 42 competitors started off at one minute intervals. Crashes, breakdowns, and running out of fuel eliminated 24 cars by the end of the four lap event. John Napier won driving an Arrol-Johnston with a time of 6 hours 9 minutes. Second place went to a Rolls-Royce only two minutes behind; while the last place finisher was a full three hours longer.

Times have changed and motor racing is now allowed in England. In 2017 the International Tourist Trophy was contested at Silverstone, the winning car being a Toyota TS050. Still being awarded more than 100 years on makes this the longest running trophy in motorsports.

February Car club Members for Our Puzzle Lovers!

B B F U N A W T K B Q S V C H
U R J J C A T L U W K I T R X
C I Q M J E M C R E I L L O C
K C M Y L P K T A S F L I R D
M K S T N A A E L T S E F I F
V M R J V N W R S A C B E C P
K A R E U O R Y T O E T H O H
B N K H L S K C O S R E W O B
B A G I O R W K L I I W C Z D
S A E G E E B F C S Q N E I G
O A G T N D Y H L L U D N O N
F B R P I N F J S O G N T A Q
W A O J L A B E N E D I T Z C
C B E R U G J G Z W I G R A N
Y X O E K I Z W A R K I S S L

ALTMAN

BARTLETT

BORK

BUCK

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DIETRICH

ANDERSON

BELLIS

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BUCKAVEKAS

COLLIER

DULL

BAGIO

BENEDITZ

BRICKMAN

CANNISTRA

COOK

—Compliments of Larry Eils—



BBB REGALIA ONLINE
NOVEMBER 2017

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
- two BBB visors - \$10
- 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 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!

Jim Vickery



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EmbroidThis.com

Here are samples of BBB regalia that can be found on the Club's website, BBB Regalia Page. There is a nice selection of clothing. Even when winter is here and we tuck our LBCs away, there are several winter sweaters and jackets available. Ace will be happy to help you!

Jim Vickery



MG MORGAN TRIUMPH



LOTUS JAGUAR AUSTIN HEALEY

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Next Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

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(near East State Street and Bell School Road),

Dinner and social hour at 6:00pm.

Meeting begins at 7:00pm