

British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 21 Issue 6

June 5, 2016

Editor Lynda Vickery

Website www.britishbootsand bonnets.com

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 15, 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

June 2016

With Memorial Day behind us there is no disputing that it is now summertime. I hope part of enjoying your holiday weekend included remembering why our country has set this day aside. For those on the recent outing to Cantigny there were some sobering reminders in the First Division Museum.

Although many of us live in this part of the country by choice, that fact seems to fly in the face of our British car hobby. While the weather just got warm enough for top down motoring, in only 13 weeks it will be Labor Day weekend! These are the days that we wait all year for, to enjoy being driving enthusiasts.

The May drive to Cantigny was well attended and a great start for our driving season. Looking ahead at the BBB calendar of events, it is obvious that Bruce Beneditz, with the help of other club members, has put together a fantastic schedule for our summer enjoyment. Now is the time to go out and participate.

See you on the road,

Rich

MARQUE ADVERTISING SLOGAN OF THE MONTH:

"Heavy on the fun. Light on the budget."

1978 MG Midget



BOOTS AND BONNETS CLUB MEETING MINUTES - MAY 18, 2016

Presidents report - Rich Cannistra

Rich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with 58 members present.

Two new members were introduced: Carolyn Hudon and Frank Reiss.

Vice President's report - Larry Eils

No report

<u>Secretary – Marna Grosenick</u>

Motion – Ron Kuhnau made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Chronicle.

Second – by Lee Kindgen – motion passed

<u>Treasurer – Lee Kindgren</u>

Lee gave the monthly financial report.

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Phyllis Beneditz Second by Brian Kobischka – Motion passed

Membership: Bev Joyce

As of tonight we have 79 paid memberships. Bev is working on a new format for our member-ship roster. It will be easier to read. Copies will be e-mailed to members as soon as it is ready.

Regalia: Jim Vickery

No report

Chronicle/Newsletter: Lynda Vickery

Please send any news articles, pictures, etc. to Lynda as soon as possible.

Webmaster: Hal Zenisek

Hal reported that our online membership form seems to be working well, as he is hearing from new prospective members.

All past and future events are up to date and listed on the website. Be sure to check them out.

Sunshine-Phyllis Beneditz

- 1. Polly Carter's mother recently passed away.
- 2. Joyce Pond has been diagnosed with cancer.
- 3. Lyn Pond became ill on the golf course, and will be having some tests to determine the cause.
- 4. Jim Vickery is a patient in the hospital.
- 5. Bob Tilson is not doing well. (He has since passed away. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 24th at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rockford).
- 6. Bob Nelson has had a hip replacement. He is now in rehab and hopes to go home on Friday.

Past Events: Bruce Beneditz

- April 30 Garage Tour, led by Larry Eils. It was a rainy day, but everyone still had a great time.
- April 30 Ladies English Tea held at Brenda Moore's house with 15 ladies present.
- May 11 Drive & Dine at Frankies in Janesville, hosted by the Grosenicks. We had 17 members present for this dinner.

May 14 – Spring Tune-Up and Picnic at Vickery's house. It was a cold rainy day, but 15 people came and enjoyed lunch and fellowship.

Future Events: Bruce Beneditz

- May 21 Our first Saturday drive of the season: going to Cantigny Park, The Acquaviva Winery, and dinner at Nat's on Maple in Sycamore. Meet at Kegel Harley-Davidson at 8:00 for an 8:15 departure.
- May 27 Ladies Lunch Graystone Restaurant at the Aldeen Golf Course at 12:30 p.m.
- May 27 Men's Lunch Hanson's Bar and Grill in Beloit at 1:00 p.m.
- June 25 Burgers & Beer Trolley Ride East Troy
- Aug. 27 Crossroads Blues Fest Led by Bev & Brian

MARQUES:

- 1. Healey event in Warrensville, June 1-2
- 2. Jaguar Champagne British Car Festival, Bloomington, IL, June 3-5 The Jaguar is the featured car this year
- 3. MG June 12 16 Louisville, KY
- 4. Rolls Royce –Car Show at the Vanderbilt in July
- 5. Triumph Harvard College Show (all margues welcome)

End of Business Meeting

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

President, Rich Cannistra opened the celebration by giving a description of how the club actually got its start 20 years ago. In 1995 Marv Proctor realized that there were several people who worked with him at the Sunstrand Company that had an interest in British Cars. So he and his friend, Orrie Nelson decided to hold a meeting to see how much interest there would be. They placed an announcement in the newspaper, saying the June meeting would be held at the Rathskeller, and everyone was welcome. They ended up with a near-overflowing capacity crowd – 32 people showed up for the meeting.

They held a second meeting in July at the same location, but then decided they needed to look for a larger meeting place for the next month. They also decided on the name "Boots and Bonnets Chronicle" for their club newsletter. In August the meeting location was moved to "Lumpys". They also had a contest for club members to create a club logo. In September, the winning logo was chosen – it was the one created by Marv Proctor – and that is the same logo that is still being used today. In October they closed out the season with a Tune-down picnic and participation in the Turkey Testicle Festival.

Several charter members of the club volunteered to stand up and tell a little bit about how they got involved with the club back in its beginning days.

- **1. Marv Proctor** talked about how the club first started. He was not only the one who came up with the idea, but also the first club President.
- **2. Rick Hamaker** talked about when he and Sandy first joined the club. He told a story about how the Club got its name.
- **3.** Hal Zenisek talked about the first car show the club hosted, in 1999. It was held in the YMCA parking lot with 15 cars attending. (The last car show the club hosted was held at the Poplar Grove Airport, with 140-150 cars attending).
- **4. Jim Roberts**: a charter member, has had eleven British cars over the years. He hold a story about how he got his first one.
- **5. Carol Eggleston:** also a charter member with her husband, Ed. Told a couple humorous stories about their 1952 MG road trip, How the Burnt Piston Award came to be named for Ed, and how they acquired their "Princess".
- **6. Lewis Moon:** was an early member with his wife, Delores. They joined eighteen years ago with their 1970 MGB that Delores gave him for their 50th wedding anniversary. He talked about what makes this club so special.
- **7. Connie Frazier:** charter member talked about remembering club members who are no longer with us.

Larry Eils gave each member present at the celebration a Power Bank (car charger for electronics) as a commemorative gift. It was engraved with "British Boots & Bonnets: Celebrating 20 Years of Driving!"

We had two beautifully decorated cakes for everyone to enjoy, but first, a picture of all the charter members was taken, standing around the cake.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marna Grosenick, Secretary

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.

BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

2016 CALENDAR of EVENTS

June 8	BBB <i>Drive and Dine</i> – The Village Supper Club; Delavan, W Host: Rick and Sandy Hamaker		
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 – Heritage House, Harvard, IL Host: Rich and Jackie Bartlett		
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 <i>Drive and Dine</i> – Location needed Host: Volunteer needed		
August 14	Botham Vineyards 20th Vintage Celebration		
August ?	Barneveld, WI 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	Crossroads Blues Society Festival;
	Lyran Park, Rockford, IL
	Hosts: Bev Joyce & Brian Kobischka
August 27-28	12 Annual Wisconsin Jaguars Concours/Milwaukee
_	Masterpiece at Veterans Park;
	Milwaukee, WI
August 28	2016 Geneva Concours d'Elegance,
J	featured Marque BMW;
	Geneva, IL
August 31	BBB Friends Around the Campfire
3	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



ROBERT R. TILSON 1932—2016

Long time British Boots and Bonnets member, Bob Tilson passed away Friday, May 20, 2016, at the age of 84. Bob was born to parents, Robert and Lena Tilson on April 4, 1932, in Asheville, NC. He grew up in Burnsville, N.C. and graduated from Burnsville High School in 1950. He worked his way through college and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1959.

He worked as a Mechanical Engineer for General Electric, TRW and Reliance Electric in the 50's and 60's. A fuel pump patented in his name sits in a B-70 bomber in the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. He graduated from Case Western University with a Master's degree in Business Administration in 1971.

Bob married Joan Murphy in 1964, and the couple has three sons. In 1972, Bob brought his family to Rockford to work for Sundstrand working in International Relations, traveling the world. In 1981, he started his own business, Tilson Platinum Group, which grew into a nationally recognized merger and acquisition advisory firm serving clients locally and nationally.

Bob was passionate about Scouting. He and his 3 sons are Eagle Scouts and he served as Blackhawk Area Council President and earned the coveted Silver Beaver Award in 1995. He also served as Chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth, and President of the Board at Burpee Museum of Natural History and was named a Paul Harris Fellow for Rotary International. He was active member in the Rotary Chapter in Rockford. Later in life, Bob loved antique British cars. He loved tinkering with his red 1967 Jaguar XK-E and 1962 Austin Healy and swapping stories with his British Boots and Bonnets & Jaguar Car Club friends.

Most of all, Bob was proud of his sons, their accomplishments and contributions to the world. Bob is survived by his loving wife, Joan; their sons, Rob (Ruth) of Aldie, VA, John (Mary) of Winnetka, IL and David (Alisa) Tilson of Chicago, IL; seven grandchildren, Victoria, Clark, Fiona, Eliza, Thomas, Samantha and Owen Tilson. He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Thomas Tilson; nephew Thomas Tilson II; as well as his cousin, Owen Tilson.

The family is grateful for the condolences. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Bob's name to Rockford Rotary Club (www.rockfordrotary.org) or Blackhawk Area Council of Boy Scouts, 2820 McFarland Rd., Rockford, IL 61107. To share a memorial or online condolence, visit olsonfh.com. Arrangements by Olson Funeral & Cremation Services, Ltd.

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CLUB CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY



By Larry Eils

Our May meeting was a celebration of the Club's 20th Anniversary. After holding an abbreviated business meeting, President Richard Cannistra began the celebration with a brief review of how the club started. Please note, this is a very short synopsis of the information presented by Rich.

Marv Proctor, a British car enthusiast, placed an ad in the Rockford Register Star asking anyone with an interest in British cars to meet at the Der Rathskeller Restaurant on a Wednesday in May. Much to Marv's surprise a large group of people showed up. At the end of the meeting 38 memberships were recorded and the club was born. One month later a second meeting was held and the club's name was chosen from a number of suggestions from an even bigger turn out then the first meeting. At the September meeting a contest was held to pick a club logo using the new club name. There were 11 entries submitted. After a lot of voting, 3 entries were chosen for the members to select one to be the club logo. The 10th entry designed by Marv Proctor and Ron Linderwell was voted the winner.

Rich than asked if any of the club members who were present at the first or second meeting wanted to say a few words about the club. We heard from Marv Proctor, Lew Moon, Rick Hamaker, Hal Zenisek, Connie Frazier, Richard Roberts and Carol Eggleston. Nancy Kuhnau spoke about leading the club's first long weekend drive.

As part of the celebration, club members were given a gift to commemorate this special event; a portable Power Bank. This is a portable battery charger for cell phones to be used when your phone battery is going dead and there is no place to plug your phone into a charger. For those who were unable to attend the May meeting, your gift will be available for pick up at the June and July meetings.

To end the celebration, everyone enjoyed a piece of delicious cake that was decorated with the Union Jack and the inscription "Celebrating 20 Years of Driving." See you at the 25th anniversary.



























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

2016 Officers & Contacts:

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Phyllis Beneditz, Sunshine	phyllisquilts@charter.net	815-543-1741



MAY DRIVE & DINE EVENT

by Don & Marna Grosenick

Although we were well into the month of May, and it should have been a nice warm spring evening, our May Drive and Dine turned out to be a cool and drizzly ride instead. However, that did not dampen the spirits of the seventeen hearty BBB members who made the trek to Janesville to enjoy dinner at "Frankies Supper Club".

This was a return visit to Frankies, where we were welcomed by Jim Elsberry, the owner and Chef. The restaurant has a "Rat Pack" theme, and there were signs of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. all over the restaurant. We listened to their music in the background as we all enjoyed the typical "Wisconsin Steak House" menu. Many of those attending chose the Wednesday night Fish Fry, and declared it "very good". I think everyone had a good time, enjoyed good conversation, and went home with a very full stomach.







MAY TUNE UP & PICNIC SURVIVED THE COLD WEATHER

by Lynda Vickery









Weather for the day of the BBB tune up and picnic didn't look promising. We finally relented on Friday and set up the garage for eating our picnic the next day. And it was a good decision because it was really cold and windy. Fortunately, there was no rain!

Fifteen members came laden with food, and there were 4 cars up on the lift for inspections, tweaks, and fresh oil. Cars now ready to face the Club's busy driving season.

As usual, everyone relaxed with a lunch of brats, hamburgers, and of course everyone's delicious contribution of a dish to pass.







BBB MAY DRIVE

by Rich and Roxann Cannistra

Armed Forces Day was a beautiful day for a drive, a fact not lost upon the 16 BBBers who traveled to Cantigny Park. Not only favorable weather but light traffic as well made the trip to Wheaton, IL easy and enjoyable.





Our first stop at Cantigny was in the visitors' center for an introductory movie and a chance to grab another cup of coffee. A short stroll through the beautiful grounds then took us to the Robert R. McCormick Museum for our private tour. What is today the mansion/museum began as a farm house in 1896. Extensively remodeled in 1936, it was the home of Chicago Tribune publisher Robert McCormick until his death in 1955. Our very knowledgeable tour guide made the house come alive with interesting facts and stories.











Lunch in LeJardin Restaurant was followed by a self-guided tour of the First Division Museum. The "Big Red One" has been a famous part of the Army's fighting force since the Revolutionary War, a tradition that still continues today. When Lt. Col. McCormick served with the First Division in WWI he was impressed with its history and pride. This museum is testament to his dedication to preserve that history.





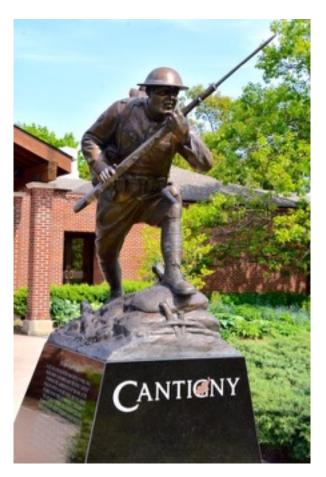














Upon departing Cantigny Park we retraced our steps westbound and stopped at the Acquaviva Winery to relax and refresh. The gift shop with its wine bar was the perfect location for a break from our busy day. Then it was on to Sycamore, IL for dinner at Nat's on Maple. Once again wine was the theme as their "wine room" had been reserved for our group's enjoyment. As Nat's is known for, the food was top notch and plentiful.

With the sun getting low in the sky, everyone said their goodbyes and headed for home. It was an interesting and enjoyable day, and a great kick-off to the driving season.



Hat's On Maple



JUNE DRIVE-n-DINE 2016 Wednesday June 8, 2016

Destination: The Village Supper Club 1725 S. Shore Dr., Delavan, WI

Your hosts: Rick and Sandy Hamaker

We have the distinction of having hosted the only Drive-n-Dine by candlelight. It seems like only yesterday, but it was actually four years ago. It's time to see what the Village Supper Club can do with the lights on! Please join us again for a leisurely drive to one of our favorite dining destinations.

Meet us at Roscoe Middle School, Elevator Rd., at 5:15 for a 5:30 departure. Our reservation is for 6:30. If you plan to meet us there, please let Rick know so we can give the proprietor an accurate count.

Bon Appétit!

Rick and Sandy Hamaker

Rick's phone: 815-703-0132, or e-mail:

richardhamaker@sbcglobal.net

JUNE SATURDAY DRIVE

by Lynda Vickery

June 25th will be rolling around before we know it! There is a lively group signed up for the drive to the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum for the Burger and Beer Dinner Train. We have been assigned to dining car 25 (there are two cars). If you haven't signed up, please contact them directly at eastroyrr.org/themed-trains---new.html. There may still be tickets available.

Bev Joyce & Brian Kobischka have 2 tickets @ \$35 each for sale as they can't attend after all. Reach Bev at andsewon53@comcast.net if you are interested.

Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz and Rich & Dee Gibson hosting this day-long event, and they will be sending emails to the Club membership with further details. Please contact Bruce at 815-543-0026 or bruce.beneditz@charter.net with any questions.

LAKE GENEVA MAILBOAT RIDE JULY 25, 2016

by Don & Marna Grosenick

Friday, July 15th we will be leading a ride to Lake Geneva to take a 2 ½ hour tour of the lake on the famous Mailboat of the Lake Geneva Cruise Line. This is a very busy season for the boat tours, so it is important to get your reservations in as soon as possible to be assured a seat on the boat.

We will be sending more information out as the date gets closer, but we are asking that you call Lake Geneva Cruise Line and make your own reservations now. The price of this tour is \$35 for adults, and \$33 for seniors. There is also a 5 ½% tax on this price. The telephone number to call is 1-800-558-5911.

Please be sure to mention that you will be with the British Boots and Bonnets group. The tour will be from 10:00 – 12:30, with loading beginning at 9:30 a.m. We would also like you to please let us know when you have made your reservation so that we will have a head count for a restaurant for lunch after the cruise. You can contact us at 1-608-752-7092, or mgrosenick@att.net

CROSSROADS BLUES SOCIETY FESTIVAL - AUGUST 27, 2016

by Bev Joyce and Brian Kobischka

On Saturday, August 27, BBB members are again invited to enjoy the **Crossroads Blues Society Annual Blues Festival** at Lyran Park. The live music starts at noon and will go through about 10:00 pm. Performers will be on a stage right along the Kishwaukee River. The seating area slopes at an incline from the stage so the view of the stage is quite good. There will be plenty of space to park our chairs in either sun or shade.

Watch the July Chronicle for more details. This was a great event last year! Contact Bev at andsewon53@comcast.net or Brian at brian.kobi@yahoo.com and they will get you half price \$5.00 tickets.

DID - U - KNOW by Facia Nearside

While Johnny Cash and his "One piece at a time Cadillac" may make you smile, Louie's 1947 Cadillac was "no laughing mattar". Louis Mattar dreamed of long distance driving without the need to stop for, well... anything! Not one to let such an important idea lie, Louie began modifying his 47 Caddy shortly after purchasing it. Five years and \$75,000 later it was a masterpiece of ingenuity.

Mattar's Cadillac could change the oil and refill the radiator-while driving. It could also add air to its tires or even change a tire while underway through the use of hydraulic jacks, rollers, and a slide out work platform. Need a tune up or other maintenance, no problem. The bonnet had clear panels inserted so it could be opened while moving and the driver could still see to drive. Since non-stop meant not even for refueling, the car pulled a trailer which carried 230 gallons of gasoline and 15 gallons of oil. The trailer could be refilled on the go as well.

All of these enhancements for the vehicle would have been for naught if the driver needed to stop so this is where Louie did his best work. His car had a stove, refrigerator, TV, washing machine, kitchen sink, medicine cabinet, shower, ironing board, telephone, and of course a toilet. The car carried 50 gallons of water and the trailer an additional 30.

Did it work? No doubt there were sceptics but to put that to rest Louie and two others drove from San Diego to New York AND BACK, nonstop in 1952. The 6320 mile round trip took 7 days with 3 on-the-go refuelings. Two years later they drove from Anchorage to Mexico City, this time covering 7482 nonstop miles.

Louis Mattar is no longer with us but his 1947 Cadillac is on display at the San Diego Auto Museum. As for that ironing board, history does not record if Mrs. Mattar requested it or Louie just wanted to give her something to do on their long journeys.

REGALIA

JUNE 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!

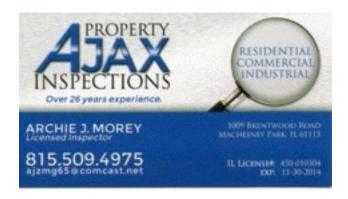
Remember EmbroidThis is in their new location at 8018 N 2nd St , Machesney Park , IL 61115. Next to Al's Carpet at 251 and Harlem Rd.

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

Jim Vickery









BBB members:

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Very serious buyer for:

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



Next Meeting Wednesday, June 15, 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