



British Boots & Bonnetts Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 25
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June 8, 2020

Editor
Lynda Vickery

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

President's Message

June 2020

We are now in June and still at home most of the time. We are currently in Phase 3 of the pandemic re-opening. Unfortunately, this does not allow us to have our monthly Membership Meeting or our Drive and Dine. I guess we will have to wait for July for our full club activities. (Fingers Crossed) The Directors have discussed this subject quite thoroughly and looking at all factors, we agreed to cancel our large group activities for the month. This does not mean we should quit enjoying our cars in this wonderful summer weather.

I just contacted Teresa, the manager at Thunder Bay and told her we are planning on having our Membership Meeting on the third Wednesday of July at Thunder Bay. We will have to see what the rules are at that time and see if we can work around them. I think we have to break the ice and start our BBB activities.

Not much else to say at this time. Find excuses to enjoy your cars and for sure interface with your friends in the club. Take a ride for ice cream or take out and park adjacent and have lunch or dinner. Also, don't forget the Drive and Take Out this month. See info in Chronicle. I will leave you with some words of wisdom about making sure your convertible top is up to snuff. Found on page 2!

Next Meeting
????

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

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



"Top Ten Reasons It's Time For A New Convertible Top"

- #10. Calling your convertible a "ragtop" is more reality than slang.**
- #9. You're cruising down the highway with the wind in your hair and the warm sun on your shoulders-- with THE TOP UP!**
- #8. You couldn't see or hear the police cruiser--you know, the one with flashing lights that's been behind you for the last 3 miles.**
- #7. The weather forecast inside your car is at least as bad as that for the outside world.**
- #6. Your spouse is getting suspicious because you keep a half dozen towels in your car.**
- #5. Your insurance company refuses to insure you against pneumonia.**
- #4. You would order a new top, but you can't tell what color the old one was.**
- #3. When it's raining, you avoid hitting the brakes because the puddle under the seat soaks your pant legs.**
- #2. Neighborhood cats won't walk on your top for fear of falling through.**
- And the #1 reason it's time for a new top: You're running out of duct tape!**

Safety Fast - *Lee Kindgren*

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.

British Boots and Bonnets Calendar of Events for 2020

(Please note: Events may be canceled or revised because of the current pandemic,
please watch your email or visit the club website for changes)

All June group driving activities and the club meeting have been canceled,
Except the Mask Pickup for all raffle winners.

June 13 Mask Pickup at Maschke House – starts at 9:00 am

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

July 8 BBB Drive and Dine

Host: Dennis and Crystal Klemm

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

July 12 Rotary Gardens, Janesville, WI – BBB Car Show

“Brits on the Lawn”

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 9 Botham Vineyard 25th Car Show; Botham, WI

August 12 BBB Drive and Dine:

Host: Don and Marna Grosenick

August 15 BBB Saturday Drive

Host: Bruce and Phyllis Beneditz

August 19 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

August 23 Popular Grove Airport and Museum Car Show

August 23 British Car Festival, Sussex Car Show; Sussex, WI; **Rescheduled Event**

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

September 9 BBB Drive and Dine OPEN

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 25-28 Long Weekend – Greater Lacrosse Wisconsin Area

Host: Rich and Roxann Cannistra and friends

September 25-27 Jefferson Car Show; Jefferson, WI

October 10 BBB Saturday Drive – Fall Tour

Host: Larry and Marsha Eils

October 14 BBB Drive and Dine – OPEN

Host:

October 21 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille

November 11 BBB Dine - OPEN

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

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Connie Frazier

Activity for the period of May 1 - May 31,
2020:



North American MGB Register

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North American MGB Register

PO BOX 876 • Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876

Toll-free phone: 800-NAMGBR-1

www.namgbr.org



BBB Anniversary 2020

by Lee Kindgren

At our May monthly meeting, that we could not have due to COVID restrictions, we were going to celebrate the 24th Anniversary of the formation of British Boots and Bonnets. The original meeting was held at The Rathskeller Restaurant in Rockford (which has recently closed its doors). The original meeting attracted about 40 people who were interested in British Cars of which many are still members. We will celebrate our Anniversary at our next Membership meeting whenever we can have one. Congratulations to all and thank you for your Membership.

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TIME TO PICK UP YOUR BRITISH FACE MASKS

Larry Eils, Events Chair



Congratulations to the 30 winners of the British Themed Face Mask raffle. A big thank you to everyone who entered. Now it's time to pick up your pair of masks.

Mask pickup day is Saturday, June 13, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am and ending at noon. The masks can be picked up at Solveig and Bil Maschke's house, 11304 Havenswood, Roscoe. When you arrive the masks will be outside on a table or in the garage if raining. Solveig has found some 12 different British-themed designs. Pick the design you like. Blow your horn and wave to Solveig and Bil as you drive away.

The Board wants to thank Solveig for making these masks for our club members. It has been suggested she should be nominated for the Good Wrench Award at our first meeting since the pandemic restrictions were imposed.

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JUNE *DRIVE AND DINE* WITH A TWIST – ONE MORE TIME

Larry Eils, Events Chair



In April I suggested holding a *Drive and Dine with a Twist*. Since we could not meet in person, I asked members, who felt comfortable doing this, to visit or do business with their local restaurants that have drive thru or delivery. A number of members participated and shared their experience with us.

Since we were still being requested to stay-at-home in May, I suggested holding a second *Drive and Dine - With a Twist* on Wednesday, May 13th. Once again, a number of members participated and shared their experience with us.

Even though we have entered Phase 3 we are only allowed to gather in groups of 10 or less. Thus, one of the reasons to cancel our normal *Drive and Dine*.

With that in mind, I am suggesting we hold our last (let's hope) *Drive and Dine with a Twist*. Once again you can do one of two things: First, visit your favorite restaurant using their drive thru; or Second, order from your favorite restaurant and have them deliver it to your house. Not only are you supporting your favorite eating establishment during this tough time but will also show your support for shopping locally.

Please take a picture of you picking up your food at the drive thru or when it is delivered to your home. Then send your picture to Lynda Vickery and Hal Zenisek so they can be published in the Chronicle and on our web site. Send an email or text message to Larry Eils, Events Chair, with the name of the restaurant and city it is located in so we can compile a list of restaurants to place in the Chronicle.

If all goes well, Illinois should enter Phase 4 at the end of June and we will be able to do our normal *Drive and Dine* as well as have a meeting in July. Until then, Be Safe. Should you have any questions, please email or text Larry.

MAY DRIVE WITH A TWIST

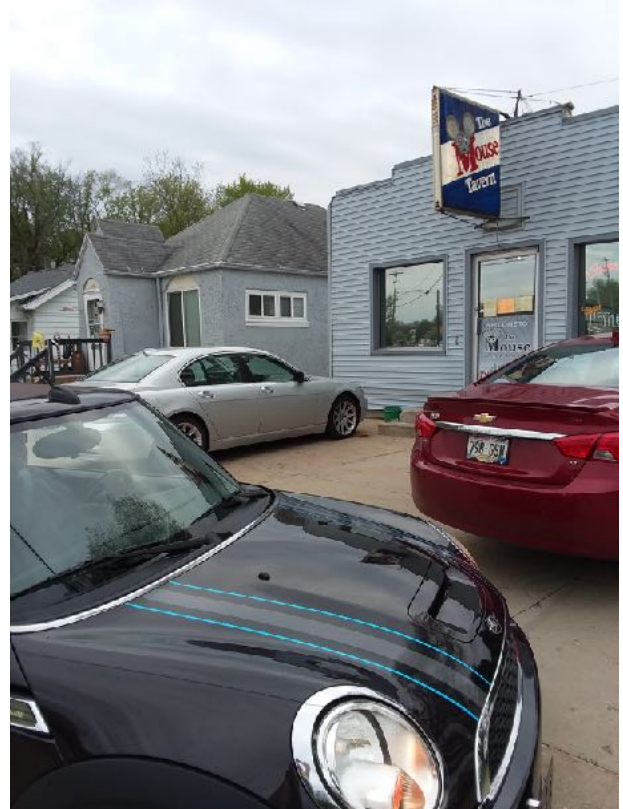
by Lynda Vickery

Several members enjoyed Drive with a Twist. And the weather was better! Bruce and Phyllis Benetitz enjoyed ribs from Louies. Rich and Sandy Hamaker watched Mama Mia; then decided gyros from Uncle Nick's were in order. Solveig and Bil Maschke enjoyed Sabrosa while Don & Marna Grosenick took carry out from Hacienda in Janesville.



Continuing with May Drive with a Twist...Rich and Roxann Cannistra ventured into Janesville and a stop at Barkley's. Larry and Marsha Eils enjoyed their favorite pizza at Rosa's in Capron. David and Gillian Collier picked up from their local Chick-Fila. And Jim and Lynda Vickery drove up to Beloit to try the burgers at The Mouse Tavern.

Join us in June for another Drive & Dine with a Twist!



EBY 810

by Dennis Klemm

In the May Chronicle Rich Cannistra shared pictures of the British Motor Museum which he took in 2015. Fellow club member Dennis Klemm spotted a car in those photos which had very special meaning to him. The following story shows how a chance encounter led to a quest which has come to fruition after thirty years in the making. Thank you Dennis for filling us in about the tale of two beautiful MG SAs. Lynda

In 1989 my family and I made a visit to the UK. We were picked up at Heathrow Airport by a fellow MG enthusiast and taken directly to an MG Car Club show. At that time, I was deeply into MGBs, MGAs, and MG1100s. I enjoyed all those great cars but was drawn to other larger MGs that I had never seen before. My mouth must have been wide open and one of the owners walked up to show me his gorgeous red and black SA saloon. This car, EPH 216, is now in the British Motor Museum. He tossed me the keys and said "take her for a spin". Shaken, I got in, started it up and very, very slowly drove it among those beautiful MGs, too scared to even try to shift gears. That was it...I was hooked, had to have an SA!

Over the years, I had been able to find various VAs, but not an SA. Then in December 2016, word came that an SA was for sale from an estate in Ohio. My son and I made a visit to check it out. (Only a 10 hour drive.) We picked it up on February 26, 2017. My SA was finally found, EBY 810! She was dispatched from the factory on the eighth of November, 1938 and first registered in April, 1939. It was the 2596th MG SA built out of 2761.



The first owner had been the Mayor of Croydon (a borough just south of London). Next the car was owned by a Mr. Tipping who sold it to an MG enthusiast near Edinburgh, Scotland. In about 1966 the car was put into the Myreton Motor Museum near Aberlady, Scotland. Next William Tompkins from Dayton, Ohio bought the car from the museum and brought it to the United States. It was then purchased by Bill Henry who found it rotting away in a back yard. He set about restoring the car at which time it was almost lost when the body shop doing the work caught fire. The car was saved but it took years to get rid of the smoky smell.

Having bought the car from an estate in Ohio just over three years ago the restoration goes on, as any car collector knows it's never quite done. However EBY 810 has made a good account of herself and received many awards. It is quite nostalgic to see pictures of EPH 216 in the British Motor Museum, the very car that started my SA journey.



First time I sat in a SA since 1989



Welcome to Sunshine Corner!!



Since we haven't been together for awhile, I thought I would use this space to let you know about a couple of things.

Steve Carter's mom passed away in April. They were not able to have a service due to Covid-19. I sent a card on our behalf.

On June 1st Jim Vickery had a heart valve replacement done with a catheter, so only overnight in the hospital. He is home and doing well. I sent a card on our behalf.

If you know of someone who is ill, having medical issues, or has lost a family member, please let me know and I'll send cards for the club. I can be reached by phone, or by email, or by texting. (see Officers List)

Bring a little sunshine wherever you go and brighten someone else's life by calling a friend you haven't seen in awhile!!

Phyllis Beneditz

DID ~ U ~ KNOW

by *Facia Nearside*

British engine manufacturer Coventry Climax opened its doors in 1903 as Lee Stroyer, and then became Coventry-Simplex in 1905. Before WWI Coventry-Simplex was producing light weight petrol engines recognized for their reliability. These were used in automobile production by GWK, by Lionel Martin to power the first Aston Martin, by Ernest Shackleton to power tractors for his Antarctic expedition, then during WWI to power searchlights.

Following several acquisitions in 1919 owner Pelham Lee changed Coventry-Simplex to Coventry Climax. During the 1920s and 30s the company supplied engines to many automobile manufacturers including Albatros, Crossley, GWK, Morgan, Triumph, Swift, and Standard. They also supplied engines for buses and David Brown tractors. Going into WWII, Coventry Climax used their marine diesel expertise to develop engines for two British tanks, the Chieftain and Challenger.

After the war the company moved away from automobile engines and into engines for fire pumps and forklifts. This proved to be an incredibly fortuitous move for reasons no one could have foreseen at the time. The British government sent out an ambitious request for a portable fire pump weighing only half the weight of their existing pump but pumping twice the water. Two brilliant young engineers who had recently joined Coventry Climax, Harry Mundy and Walter Hassan, delivered the goods. The pump engine was designated FW for "Feather Weight". When it was displayed at the London Motor Show it instantly attracted attention from the racing sector due to its extraordinary power to weight ratio. Colin Chapman and Sterling Moss showed interest leading Pelham Lee to conclude that competition success could be very good for company business. The outcome was the FWA engine, "Feather Weight for Automobiles". Soon the FWA became popular in sports car racing and even appeared at LeMans in 1954. Next the FWB was used in Formula Two racing followed by the FWF in Formula One where Sterling Moss scored a victory in 1958. About the same time an FWE was produced for Lotus Elite. In the early 1960s Coventry Climax was approached by Roots to mass produce the FWMA version for a compact family car. The project came to fruition as the Hillman Imp with over 400,000 units produced.

In 1963 Jaguar bought Coventry Climax. This brought Harry Mundy and Walter Hassan into the fold at Jaguar's Browns Lane facility. Here they joined Claude Baily in perfecting what was only the second production engine design in Jaguar's history, the alloy V-12. Some say William Lyons, owner of Jaguar, acquired Coventry Climax simply to get Mundy and Hassan. Either way he certainly had the last laugh as that V-12 went on to become a legend in its own time.

DUK2020/6



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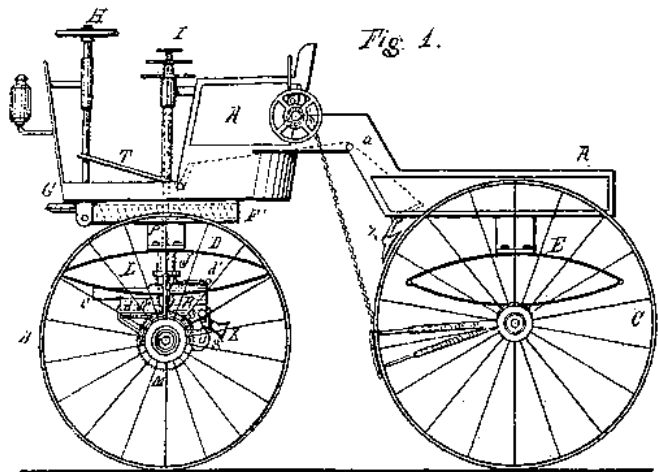
**AMERICAN INVENTOR GEORGE B. SELDEN PATENTED THE
FIRST AUTOMOBILE ON THIS DAY IN 1895.**

George B Selden, a patent lawyer and inventor from Rochester, NY, was granted a US patent (No. 549,160) in late 1895 for an “improved road engine” powered by a “liquid-hydrocarbon engine of the compression type.”

Inspired by George Brayton's internal-combustion engine that was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, Selden began working on a smaller, lighter version. He succeeded two years later in producing a one-cylinder, 400-pound version, which featured an enclosed crankshaft. The announcement took place eight years before the public introduction of the Benz Patent Motorwagen in Europe. The Benz Patent-Motorwagen, built in 1886, is widely regarded as the first automobile.

G. B. SELDEN.
ROAD ENGINE.

No. 549,160. Patented Nov. 5, 1895.



Selden's patent application, originally filed May 8, 1879, included not only the engine but also its use in a four-wheeled car. Several amendments to the application stretched out the process and delayed the granting of the patent until November 5, 1895.

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again
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Grounded.**

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Chris & Greg Oakes took a drive on this sunny, but cold afternoon to Sharon Ice Cream Shop on opening day.

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HISTORIC BRITISH CARS - Part II

By Rich Cannistra

In November 2015 Roxann and I spent several days in central England. Two stops high on “our” list were the British Motor Museum in Gaydon and the Coventry Transport Museum in downtown Coventry. The British Motor Museum bills itself as “The world’s largest collection of historic British cars”. To say that these two museums are spectacular is a huge understatement! Perhaps one day you will have the pleasure of touring them in person. Until that can happen I hope you will enjoy these photos showing some of the finest offerings from the British Motor Industry. This is the second half of our photo selections. Enjoy! (If you missed the first half, please find them in the May 2020 Chronicle.)



1935 Morgan 3 Wheeler



Triumph TR2 and model



MGBGT “open for inspection”





Jaguar XK140



1953 Allard P2 Safari



1935 SS Airline



1965 Morris Mini Traveller



First Morris Minor produced



1974 V-12 Jaguar E-Type
The entry display at Coventry Motor Museum



Austin Swallow



Sunbeam Rapier
(showing ship loading method)



Triumph 2500TC Police Car



1939 Austin K2 Fire Engine



Jaguar XK150



ThrustSSC



**BRITISH
BOOTS & BONNETS
CAR CLUB
2020 OFFICERS &
CHAIRPERSONS**

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BBB REGALIA ONLINE

JUNE 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 - SOLD!
- 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

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



Next Meeting

???

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