



# British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 21  
Issue 3

March 11, 2016

Editor  
Lynda Vickery

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

Next Meeting  
**Wednesday,  
March 16, 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

March 2016

Roxann and I just returned from Green Bay, Lake Geneva, East Troy and Wheaton. In between those high points we had some nice dinners at local restaurants, a picnic or two and a glass of wine with friends around a campfire. Returning to reality I should say this is because we visited all of those places while sitting around Bruce and Phyllis's dining table with some other BBB friends. We could feel the warm sun, smell the air after a summer shower and see the flowers blooming as we all drove along with our tops down.

While gardeners look at seed catalogs and dream, we driving enthusiasts look at road maps, event schedules and restaurant reviews with the same longing. Check out the updated and enhanced BBB calendar of events in this issue. There are plenty of destinations to start planning for and a few that are still waiting for your input.

Although a little snow may still be lingering, the first day of spring is only two weeks away. If that's not reason enough to be optimistic remember that Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow after all, so it's a done deal.

Rich

### MARQUE ADVERTISING SLOGAN OF THE MONTH:

*"You don't need a big one to be happy"*

1978 Austin Mini



## **Feb 17, 2016 Boots and Bonnets Club Meeting**

### **Presidents report – Rich Cannistra**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Rich Cannistra. There were 35 members present.

Don Grosenick was asked to showcase the raffle prizes for this month.

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

Larry reported that all current advertisers for the Chronicle are paid up. Also, an inventory has been taken of all club property, and it is all accounted for.

### **Secretary – Marna Grosenick**

Motion was made by Ron Kuhnau to accept the minutes as printed in the Chronicle. Second by Larry Eils. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer – Lee Kindgren**

Lee presented the financial report. Motion was made to accept this report by Lynda Vickery. Second by Lyn Pond. Motion passed.

### **Membership - Bev Joyce**

Lee Kindgren gave the report tonight in Bev's absence. At this point we have 76 members (54 of which have paid their dues for this year).

We have one new membership tonight – Chris & Greg Oakes.

### **Regalia - Jim Vickery**

No report

### **Chronicle/Newsletter - Lynda Vickery**

Please keep any articles or pictures of club news or events coming to Lynda.

### **Webmaster - Hal Zenisek**

Hal reported that he received the following e-mails to the website:

1. From Donald Morrison: Information about the 2016 British Car Show at the Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland games. (June 17-18)
2. From Larry Birks: Brits in the Ozarks – 2016 Show and Benefit (Sept. 10)
3. A contact about a 1966 Triumph TR4A for sale

Hal also reported that we have been averaging 207 visits a month to our website since last August. 82% of these visits were from a desktop, and 17% were from a mobile device. Of the Mobile visits, 62% were Android, and 37% were from I-Phone.

Great job, Hal! Thanks.

### **Sunshine - Phyllis Beneditz**

Phyllis reported that Marv Proctor had surgery on his shoulder, but that he is doing well.

Eileen Meier reported that she heard from the Moons who are wintering in Arizona. They are doing well and enjoying the warm weather.

Roxann Cannistra reported that they had lunch with Bob & Joan Tilson recently. Bob is improving, and they had a very nice visit.

### **Past Events - Bruce Beneditz**

Jim and Lynda Vickery hosted the February 10<sup>th</sup> Dine at John's Restaurant in Rockford. We had 31 people attend, and they all enjoyed a delicious Italian meal. Thank you Jim & Lynda!

### **Future Events - Jim Vickery**

1. Friday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – The men's lunch group will meet at "Poison Ivy" in Roscoe at 1:00.
2. Friday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – The Ladies who do Lunch will meet at "Stone Eagle" in Rockford at 12:30.
3. March 9<sup>th</sup> - The Dine will be at the popular "Altamore's Restaurante" in Rockford. Social will begin at 6:00 with dinner to follow at 6:30. Cost is \$35./Person or \$70./Couple. Checks should be made out to British Boots & Bonnets, and given or mailed to Nancy Kuhnau.
4. The April Dine is still open, so if you would be willing to host it, please contact Bruce Beneditz.

For additional future events, please see the Events Calendar.

### **MARQUES:**

**MG – MG2016 will be held June 13-17 in Louisville, KY.**

Mini – Has their annual banquet coming up.

### **Unfinished Business & New Business:**

None

### **Classified:**

Leon Kitzmiller has a 1964 Right-hand drive Midget for sale.

Dave Brickman still has several limited collector edition copies of this year's club calendar for sale (only \$7. Each). See Dave soon before they are all gone!

### **Good Wrench Award:**

Carol Eggleston nominated Lyn Pond for helping her with problems she was having with her Mini. John Ward nominated Steve Carter for helping him restore his MGTF.

Club member's vote ended in a tie, so both Lyn and Steve received five raffle tickets.

### **Burnt Piston Award:**

None

### **Raffle - Don Grosenick**

- Gray Cable Knit Throw - Jeff Plummer
- Thinsulate Gloves – Ron Kuhnau
- 1.5 AMP Battery Charger – Don Grosenick
- Absorber Drying Skin – Connie Frazier
- 13 Watt Trouble Light – Lyn Pond
- Thunder Bay Bucks – Marv Proctor

### **Adjournment:**

President Rich closed the meeting with a story about a Police Officer, and How to Get Out of a Speeding Ticket. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted: Marna Grosenick, Secretary**

# BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS

## 2016 CALENDAR of EVENTS

- March 9           **BBB Dine** – Altamore Ristorante; Rockford, IL  
                          Hosts: Ron and Nancy Kuhnau
- March 16           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- April 13           **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
                          Host: Volunteer needed
- April 17           British Car Swap Meet & Autojumble 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
                          DuPage County Fairgrounds; Wheaton, IL
- April 20           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- April 22-24       Spring Jefferson Car Show and Swap Meet  
                          Jefferson, WI
- April 30           **BBB Ladies Tea**  
                          Hostess: Volunteer needed
- April 30           **BBB Garage Tour and Lunch**  
                          Host: Larry Eils
- May 11            **BBB Drive and Dine** – Stagecoach Inn; Ft. Adkinson, WI  
                          Hosts: Don and Marna Grosenick
- May 14            **BBB Tune Up & Picnic** - The Vickerys'; Roscoe, IL  
                          Hosts: Jim & Lynda Vickery
- May 18            **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- May 21            **BBB DRIVE** - Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL  
                          Hosts: Rich and Roxann Cannistra
- May28-June 5    British Car Awareness Week  
June 3-5         25th Annual Champagne British Car Festival,  
                          Featured Marque Jaguar;  
                          Bloomington, IL
- June 8            **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
                          Host: Volunteer needed
- June 12-18       NAMGBR Trip  
June 13-17       MG 2016 NAMGAR/NAMGB convention  
                          Louisville, KY
- June 15           **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
                          Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL
- June 17-19       British Car Show @ Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland  
                          Games; Itasca, IL

June 17-19 Blackhawk Farms Vintage Races; South Beloit, IL  
June 19 35th Annual British Car Field Day  
Sussex, WI

June 25 **BBB East Troy Electric Railroad**; East Troy, WI  
Hosts: Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz and Rich & Dee  
Gibson

June 26 Michiana Brits British Car Show;  
Notre Dame, IN

June 26 The Great Race; lunch at Iowa 80 Trucking Museum,  
Walcott, IA & finish at John Deere Pavilion, Moline, IL

July 10 Mad Dogs & Englishmen's British Auto Faire;  
Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI

July 10 The Cars Time Forgot Car Show;  
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan, WI

July 13 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed

July 15 **BBB Mail Boat Tour**; Lake Geneva, WI  
Hosts: Don and Marna Grosenick

July 20 **BBB Club Meeting**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

August 4-8 **BBB Long Weekend** Green Bay Tall Ships; Green Bay WI.  
Hosts: Rich & Dee Gibson and Rich & Roxann  
Cannistra

August 10 **BBB Drive and Dine** – Location needed  
Host: Volunteer needed

August 14 Botham Vineyards 20th Vintage Celebration  
Barneveld, WI

August ? **University Motors MG Summer Party Reunion (John Twist)**  
Grand Rapids, MI

August 17 **BBB CLUB MEETING**  
Thunder Bay Restaurant; Rockford, IL

August 20 Rockford Miracle Mile Car Show and Cruise

August 24 **BBB Friends Around the Campfire**  
Hosts: Larry and Marcia Eils

August 27-28 12 Annual Wisconsin Jaguars Concours/Milwaukee  
Masterpiece at Veterans Park;  
Milwaukee, WI

August 28 2016 Geneva Concours d'Elegance,  
featured Marque BMW;  
Geneva, IL

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

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

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## JOHN'S RESTAURANT WAS PERFECT FOR OUR FEBRUARY DINE

by Lynda Vickery

Even though it was a typical Illinois Winter night in February, 31 BBB Club Members braved the cold to enjoy an evening at John's Restaurant. We were seated in a private dining area with a couple of seats to spare. Ordering off their extensive menu enabled everyone to have their favorite Italian dish, or try a tempting new entree.

Conversation flowed fast as we caught up with everyone's activities and talked about what club events we would experience this year.

Before the end of the evening, we realized that 4 club members were celebrating birthdays! Steve Carter's was the day before (Tuesday), Bruce Beneditz and Rick Hamaker's were that day (Wednesday), and Marv Proctor's is the next day (Thursday). More than a coincidence, I would say.

Our thanks to the staff at John's for their excellent service and wonderful food! Italian food in Rockford, Illinois, is always a great experience!





## HOW GOOD IS YOUR CAR HISTORY?

1. What automobile offered "tops" as standard equipment in 1915?
2. What year were automatic windshield wipers introduced as standard equipment?
3. What year did the first gas gauge appear on cars?
4. How many mounted spare tires did the 1916 Hudson have?
5. What company introduced the first balloon tire in 1923?

LOOK FOR THE ANSWERS A COUPLE OF PAGES FURTHER ALONG.

Contributed by Larry Eils



## EVENTS – MARCH NEWS LETTER

The warm sunny weather the last few days has me excited to get out and do some driving. My heart says go for it. My mind knows that it is just a trap and it will get cold and gloomy again. Still we can be hopeful and look forward to warm sunny days to come.

One event needs your immediate attention. Hopefully you have seen the email that went out May 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the June Saturday Drive to East Troy for the Burger and Beer Train Ride. This seems like a long way off but I think that reservations need to be made quickly. I already have a list of 10 people that have expressed an interest in going. That nearly fills half of one of the two train cars available. Seating is assigned by table so we need to move quickly to be in the same car. Therefore I will be asking for commitments and payment at the next BBB meeting. (An email with a check in the mail is acceptable too.) The cost for the train and dinner is \$35 per person. To sweeten the deal, Rich and Dee Gibson are making their nearby lake place available for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a pontoon boat ride in the afternoon. This is shaping up to be a great day that you don't want to miss. (There may still be seating available later if you don't sign up now, but there is no guarantee.)

The April Drive and Dine does not have a host. If one doesn't come forward I will pick a local restaurant and we will make it just a dine. April drives can be iffy anyway.

When you look at the Events Calendar you will find one change. The dates for the May Saturday Drive and the BBB Tune Up & Picnic have been swapped. The Saturday Drive to Cantigny Museums has been moved to May 21<sup>st</sup> and The Tune Up and Picnic is now on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

Safety Fast,

Bruce Beneditz



The Events Committee  
hard at work!

## **HOST(S) NEEDED FOR APRIL DRIVE AND DINE!!**

### **GARAGE TOUR 2016**

by Larry Eils and Mike Grunewald

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

Our tour starts in Harvard, IL. Our first stop is the Dacy Airport, home of the Stearman Biplanes that perform aerobatics and wind-walking in the summer throughout the Midwest. Our second stop is Mike's garage to see what exotic British or American cars are being restored.

Lunch will be at the historic Starline Factory. This factory has a long history with Harvard and has now been extensively renovated. However, all the huge wood beams, oak floors, high ceilings and even some of the old machinery remain. Lunch will be in Stanchion Pub followed by a tour of the factory led by the current owner of the Starline Factory.

We then take a short drive to Lake Como in southern Wisconsin to visit a "Man Cave" full of cars. You will want to see the "Ferret" for sure.

More information on the garage tour will be provided in the April Chronicle.

## **BBB LONG WEEKEND**

by Rich & Roxann Cannistra

The Club 2016 long weekend will be to Green Bay, WI, August 4-8. This is a Thursday through Monday and, although most of us will be making it a five day event, we realize that not everyone can do so. You are welcome to join us for any or all of those days.

The weekend is centered around 20 Tall Ships which will be visiting the Great Lakes this summer. They plan to be at Green Bay August 5-7 where they will be available for tours as well as some rides. With luck we hope to be there to see them sail in, where they will come down the Fox River to tie up. As always we will be planning other interesting activities, drives, and restaurants to round out the weekend.

A block of rooms is reserved at the Quality Inn & Suites Downtown, 920-437-8771. The hotel has given us a very good discounted rate of \$129/night; tell them you are with British Boots and Bonnets. With our special rate no other discount will apply. After you make reservations please notify Roxann Cannistra so that she may keep an eye on block availability. Although this seems early to be planning for August we realized that due to the location and popularity we needed to move fast or risk being shut out.

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

1. Oldsmobile
2. 1905
3. 1922
4. Four
5. Firestone



## BRITISH MARQUE CAR CLUB NEWS

by Lynda Vickery

# British Marque

## Car Club News

Our club has been a participating club member of British Marque for some time. This monthly newspaper features news of British car clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as articles about our LBCs. British Marque has been very consistent and generous about highlighting activities of our club by printing articles and pictures from the Chronicle, which we email to them each month. And they do this with many of the 100 plus participating clubs.

If you would like to subscribe to British Marque, please visit [www.britishmarque.com](http://www.britishmarque.com) and click on subscribe. A participating club member print edition is \$16.00 per year (11 issues), and the on-line edition is \$12.00. If you have any questions please send me or Larry Eils an email.

### 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](mailto:leekrkfd@aol.com)

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

## DID - U - KNOW

by Facia Nearside

While living in Egypt and managing the Cairo Motor Company, racecar driver Raymond Flower conceived of a plan to begin automobile production in that country. King Farouk was keen to have a car that Egypt could call its own and Flower believed that he and his brothers could develop such a vehicle. The plan was coming together nicely until the Suez Crisis in 1956. Relations between Egypt and Britain deteriorated to the point that Flower was forced to return to England. Once back home he pressed ahead with his idea of mass producing a small, economical "every-mans" car.

The Henry Meadows Company Ltd. agreed and by March 1957 a prototype was on display at the Geneva Motor Show. Initially named "The Bug" (which is about what it looked like), the car eventually went into production as the "Meadows Frisky". Two years later in 1959 relations with Egypt were improving and Flower was approached to see if he could facilitate the project in Egypt as previously planned.

Gamal Abdel Nasser, now president of Egypt, was eager to have "The All-Arab Peoples Car" built in his country. The name Frisky would never do however, it would be called "The Ramses". A 100 acre site near the pyramids was cleared and construction of the assembly plant began. Meanwhile in England, Flower made arrangements to begin shipping components for the first 10,000 cars to Egypt. When Her Majesty's government caught wind of the arrangement the license to ship parts was refused! It had, after all, been Nasser who caused the Suez Crisis in the first place and kicked Britain out of Egypt. Such was the end of any hope for the Frisky to become the peoples car of Egypt.

English production of the Frisky in both 3 and 4 wheel models continued until 1961 however. Although no production totals are available, various models included the Frisky Sport, Frisky Coupe, Frisky Family Three and Frisky Prince. And what about that 100 acre factory near the great pyramids? Nasser was incensed at being rebuffed and promptly negotiated an agreement with NSU Germany. Instead of Egypt's first car being a Frisky, the Ramses became a badge engineered Prinz, and they rolled out of that factory for many years. Their marketing slogan: "Drive A Prince and You're a King".



## REGALIA MARCH 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 (additional charge)

Pick up at EmbroidThis (no charge)

Pick up at Club Meeting (no charge)

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

## SS BADGER RECEIVES NHL STATUS

by Rich Cannistra

The last Great Lakes car ferry still in operation was designated as a National Historic Landmark on February 18th. The SS Badger, famous not only as the last Great Lakes (Railroad) Car Ferry, and the last large coal burning steamship in the United States is also famous for carrying British Boots and Bonnets club members and their cars across Lake Michigan in 2014.

Launched in September of 1952, the Badger dumped coal ash in Lake Michigan until an ash retention system was installed early in 2015. Now, with its clean bill of health and new historic designation, it is likely that the SS Badger will be a Great Lakes landmark for many years to come.

## Membership Dues Reminder

It's that time of year again. Please submit your payment to the Treasurer at the January membership meeting or mail it to:

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

- Renew your membership for \$20.00
- You will be assured of up-to-date event schedules
- Monthly editions of the Chronicle
- News about your friends in the club.

## British cars in watercolor: An artist's gallery opens on the Web



FEBRUARY 16, 2016

ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA. — If you like British cars, and insist on good art, watercolor artist George Ellis has lots of fine art prints to choose from. Whether your interest is in MGs, Jaguars, Austin-Healeys, or other British cars, Mr. Ellis offers a growing list of prints featuring the classics.

Mr. Ellis is not new to painting cars; he's been painting for 15 years. What's new is that he is now offering Open Edition and Limited Edition prints of his work at his Web site, [www.GeorgeEllis.com](http://www.GeorgeEllis.com). The prints are produced to the highest standards.

At the George Ellis Gallery online, visitors are greeted by a light green SS-100 Jaguar in a beach scene. Clicking the first of the links at the left of the screen, one reads "About the Art," which offers a brief synopsis of the artist, the art, the prints, and how to order prints through the site.

The prints come in a variety of sizes: most are 11x14 inches, some are larger (up to 16x20 inches), and some are available as 5x7 inch prints. They're produced with archival inks on watercolor-type paper to hold their true colors well over time. It's expensive to make prints this way, but fine art is meant to last indefinitely.

Mr. Ellis's art looks attractive on the walls of any home, garage, shop, office, and of course "mancaves." Limited Edition prints in particular represent an investment in art that can be expected to gain in value over the years.

To visit the George Ellis Gallery online, go to [www.GeorgeEllis.com](http://www.GeorgeEllis.com). The site accepts major credit cards and PayPal, and it offers "old school" customers the low-tech option of printing out a paper order form. If you have questions or would like to leave a comment, use the Contact form in the links list. The Gallery also accepts commissions; e-mail inquiries to [George@GeorgeEllis.com](mailto:George@GeorgeEllis.com) or call the Gallery at 631-757-3722 during business hours for details.

**[www.GeorgeEllis.com](http://www.GeorgeEllis.com) • 631-757-3722 • P.O. Box 112, St. Augustine, FL 32085**

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**North American MGB Register**

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



Next Meeting  
**Wednesday, March 16, 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**