



British Boots & Bonnets Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

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Editor
Lynda Vickery

Website
www.britishbootsandbonnets.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT April 2024

Hi all,

April is here! We have had some fairly nice days for you to get out and wrench on your cars. If not, then hopefully you are able to take some time out and start now.

Most of us have many projects in the works that seem so hard to get finished. I am hopeful that with it staying daylight outside longer, then I could get some of my projects done. The key word is "hopeful."

In looking at the events calendar, we have April 10th open for a Dine and Drive or just a Dine. Share your ideas with Ron to get your event scheduled.

The Regional event for NAMGBR 2024 is on April 21st in Katy, Texas. Crystal and I would have liked to attend this event, but with work and other obligations, NAMGBR 2024 had to take a back seat. Maybe next year!

Lucas factory motto: " Put in a good day's work, then head home before dark."

Dennis

Next Meeting
Wednesday,

April 17, 2024

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

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

Meeting begins at 7:00pm



MARCH 20, 2024 BRITISH BOOTS & BONNETS CLUB MEETING

President's Report - Dennis Klemm

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Twenty-six members were present. Dennis welcomed a guest, Bob, from Sussex, England who is visiting Rockford for two months. Dennis reviewed the raffle prizes brought by Don and Marna Grosenick.

Vice President's Report - Bill Leese - No report

Secretary's Report - Dee Gibson

Connie Frazier noted that a correction needs to be made to the minutes printed in the February Chronicle. A motion was made by Connie Frazier to accept the February report with the date change. Seconded by Chrystal Klemm. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Connie Frazier

Connie shared the latest financial report for 2/21/24 – 3/20/24 with members present. The Club provides financial information to members only. A motion was made by Dee Gibson to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Chronicle. Seconded by Nancy Kuhnau. Motion passed.

Membership – Ricky Palmer

Two new members have joined since last month. We have a total of 81 club members at present. 71% of the members have paid their 2024 dues. A letter will be going out to those who may have forgotten to pay.

Chronicle/Newsletter - Lynda Vickery - Please get your input to Lynda as soon as possible. Lynda will be leaving on a trip shortly.

Webmaster - Hal Zenisek

An email was received from an individual named "Jerry" in Eureka, Missouri who has a 1968 Triumph Spitfire for sale. He has owned it for 20 years. He is asking \$11,000 or best offer. Let Hal know if you would like the seller's contact information.

Sunshine - Phyllis Beneditz – No Report

Regalia – Bruce Beneditz – No Report

Events – Ron Kuhnau

Thank you to Bill and Solveig for hosting a very successful “PIE Day”!

March 24 – Chicagoland Swap Meet will be held in Wheaton from 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

April 21-24 - MG 2024 Gathering in Katy, Texas.

July 14 - Janesville Rotary Gardens Car Show. Please have your car there by 11:00 A.M. to get parked and ready for opening at 12:00. There will also be music from 12-2.

August 18 – Poplar Grove Fly-In / Drive In.

April -Dine Open Please help out and sign up to host.

May – Drive and Dine Open

June – Drive and Dine Open

July – Drive and Dine Open

August – Drive and Dine Open

Men’s Lunch: 1:00 Friday, March 22 at Busters. (Cancelled due to weather)

Women’s Lunch: 12:30 Friday, March 22 at Jessica’s. (Cancelled due to weather)

The Historic Car Museum is rearranging the museum and is closed at present. If there is interest Ron will arrange a date to revisit.

Marques – No New Information

Classified – None

Ron Kuhnau Good Wrench Award – None

Burnt Piston Award – None

Raffle -

1. Bunny Egg Dish - Solveig Maschke
2. Pair of Bunny Bells - Dee Gibson
3. Bunny Cup with Spoon - Lynda Vickery
4. Umbrella - Nancy Kuhnau
5. Go-Jo Hand Cleaner - Dave Wakefield
6. Set of 5 funnels - Crystal Klemm
7. Outdoor Portable Lamp - Don Grosenick
8. 12-Volt Battery Tester - Hal Zenisek
9. Pocket Pi3ck-Up Magnet - Phyllis Beneditz
10. 12-Volt Battery Charger / Maintainer - Tommy Leese

Adjournment – Ron Kuhnau made a motion to adjourn. Hal Zenisek seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dee Gibson, Secretary

2024 EVENTS SCHEDULE

BRITISH BOOTS AND BONNETS EVENTS:

- Apr 10 BBB April Drive & Dine - Dine Only at Tavern on Clark
755 Clark Drive Rockford at 6:00 PM. RSVP to Ron Kuhnau by Monday.
- Apr 17 BBB Club Meeting, Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00
Thunder Bay Grille, Rockford, IL
- May 8 BBB May Drive & Dine OPEN
- May 15 BBB Club Meeting, Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00
Thunder Bay Grille, Rockford, IL
- Jun 12 BBB June Drive & Dine OPEN
- Jun 19 BBB Club Meeting, Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00
Thunder Bay Grille, Rockford, IL
- Jul 10 BBB July Drive & Dine OPEN
- Jul 14 BBB Rotary Gardens Show, 11:00-2:00, Janesville, WI

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS:

- Apr 6 Cars & Coffee Rockford 2024, 9:00 - noon
Fifth Avenue parking lot of Rockford Public Schools Admin Bldg.
Corner of 7th St. & 4th Ave.,
<https://www.carsandcoffeerockford.com>
- Apr 21-24 NAMGR MG2024, Katy, TX
<https://namgar.org/events>
For contact: INFO@MG2024.ORG

Apr 26-27 47th Annual Spring Jefferson Swap Meet & Car Show,
Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave.,
Jefferson, WI
<https://www.madisonclassics.com>

May 4 Cars & Coffee Rockford 2024, 9:00 - noon,
Fifth Avenue parking lot of
Rockford Public Schools Admin Bldg.
Corner of 7th St. & 4th Ave.,
<https://www.carsandcoffeerockford.com>

May 16-19 SVRA Road America Speed Tour
N7390 State Hwy 67, Plymouth, WI 53073
<https://www.roadamerica.com>

May 31-Jun 2 Champagne British Car Festival, (Aston Martin, Austin
Healey featured marques),
Davis Mansion, Bloomington, IL
<http://iflbcc.club/2024-cbof-overview>

June 1 Cars & Coffee Rockford 2024, 9:00 - noon,
Fifth Avenue parking lot of
Rockford Public Schools Admin Bldg.

MG2024 ...from the MG2024 website

The 2024 annual convention is being hosted in Katy, Texas from 21st to 24th of April 2024. What's the annual convention? Well, it's a multi-day (3 or 4) celebration of all things MG and a gathering of MG enthusiasts from around the globe. Some fly in, some drive their MG or other British car, or some bring an MG or British car on a trailer. Although things change, each event has its own unique character and flavor. MG2024 is supported by our affiliated chapter, the Houston MG Car Club and this will be a multi-day MG extravaganza. Jump to our [Events/Convention](#) page to learn more. Registration is open now at <https://mg2024.org>.

DID – U – KNOW

by Facia Nearside

Geoffrey Taylor liked the sound of the word Alberta, as in Alberta Canada. In 1929, when the 27-year-old began building cars, he chose a contraction of that name for them: Alta. Taylor was a hands-on engineer, and he began by making parts of the car on his own kitchen table. He then went on to build his own 1.1 litre engine with an aluminum block and shaft driven twin overhead camshafts. With the engine finalized he turned to designing the remainder of the car.

The Alta Car and Engineering Company set up operations in Surrey England, which today is a part of greater London. The 1.1 L engine powered the first thirteen cars before capacity was increased to 1.5L and 2.0 L. The cars became popular among club racers and sold steadily because they could easily be converted from 1.5 L to 2.0 L and back. This allowed drivers to contest more than one class without buying a second car.

In 1934 Taylor designed his first Alta to be intended purely for competition. The single seat voiturette (small car) developed quite a reputation in hill-climbs, time-trials, and sprints. Based upon this competition success Taylor continued to improve upon the design. In 1939 a third generation voiturette with a straight 8 and fully independent suspension was nearing completion when war was declared halting production.





During WWII, the firm manufactured aeroplane components. After the war a 2 litre Alta saloon was offered, but road cars never really interested Geoffrey Taylor. In 1945 Alta developed the engine for an Alta GP model using a revolutionary Meehanite block casting. Unfortunately, it proved to be quite troublesome due to two stage supercharging, however the HWM Formula 2 team used it with good success when running unblown.

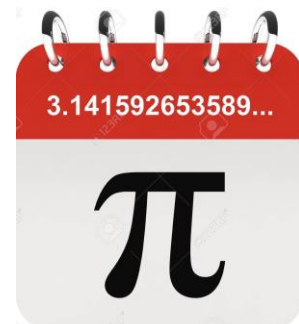
In 1951 Alta produced their own Formula 2 car using their GP chassis. In 1954 the car was further developed to 2 ½ litres for Formula 1 but was never used in competition. The engine went on to be quite successful, however. In 1955 it powered Tony Brooks to the first all British Grand Prix win since Henry Seagrave in 1923.

Of the many marques of Britain sports cars in the 1920s and 30s Alta developed a solid reputation for producing some of the most fun, high-performance cars available. Geoffrey Taylor died in 1966. His son attempted to revive the Alta name but was unsuccessful. Few of the pre-war sports models and single seat competition models survive and they always draw an admiring crowd when they show up at historic races or the Goodwood revival.

DUL2024/4

MARCH 2024 DRIVE AND DINE (DINE ONLY)

On Thursday, 3-14-2024 (Pi Day) Solveig and Bill Maschke sponsored a dine event at John's Pizza on 11th St. Eighteen members met at a very nice restaurant for a wonderful dinner. Several BBB'ers had pizza pie for dinner to help celebrate Pi Day. While we waited for our dinner, Bill led the group in a game of Pi trivia. Everyone had a good laugh at the answers that involved the word Pi and no math. After the great dinner and wonderful conversation, we all were treated to either apple or cherry pie and more conversation over dessert. And for the record, one British car was observed in the parking lot. Photos from the event are posted on the BBB Website. A good time celebrating Pi Day with friends was had by all!







LBC's
by Dee Gibson

The Jaguar is a Superstar.
The Triumph spits its style.
They boast their glories one by one
Across the Em'rald Isle.

The Rolls affirms it has the class
That sets your heart afire.
The MG rolls 'round hills and vales.
Designs that we admire.

We note the Lotus's sleek design
From bonnet to her boot.
The poshy Morgan holds her own
That none would dare refute.
The cuteness Mini Coopers ooze
Make people stop and stare.
While Morris Minor's looks and charm
Will lure you and ensnare.

A British Rover's giant hulk
Stands guard amongst the lot.
But look! An Austin slides 'longside.
A coupe that time forgot!

Sure seems these Little British Cars
Are fav'rites by a mile.
Each shimmering jewel and treasured marque
Brings praise 'long with your smile

My First British Car

Bruce Beneditz

The story begins 47 years before buying a British Car. As a teenager I was a big fan of all things racing, especially sports cars. I subscribed to Road & Track and Car & Driver magazines. At that time, I was a big Formula 1 and CanAm fan.

I shared this passion with my friend Stewart. We built slot cars and raced them weekly at a local hobby shop. Stewart and I rode our bikes everywhere and when we were 15, we found ourselves at the local MG dealership in Schofield, WI. The only car on the floor was a 1965 MG Midget. It was the closest thing to a race car that I had seen. There was no one else in the store and the salesman let us sit in it. I sat there and went through the gears like I was racing it. I was a lover of small sports cars from that moment on.

Fast forward to 2011. I retired and was looking for something to do. When I was single, I purchased and restored a 1969 Datsun 1600. (A Japanese copy of an MGB.) I began thinking about doing that again. I was good friends with Jim Vickery and admired his British cars. Through Jim, I also became aware of British Boots and Bonnets. I liked that BBB was a social group with a common interest in British cars. It was not just a car club.

It may have been to Jim's regret, but he offered to help me pick out a car and restore it. I decided to look for a Mark III Midget made between 1966 and 1972. The requirements were that it must have a 1275 motor and it did not have round wheel arches.

The idea filled three needs.

1. I would have the small sports car that I fell in love with in the 60's.
2. I would have a project to begin my retirement.
3. Phyllis and I would join British Boots and Bonnets and have a new social opportunity to fill our time.

So, the story begins with me finding a basket case of a 1970 MG Midget in Wisconsin. I took many pictures of it and consulted with Jim. He said go for it and I bought it. Some of the parts literally did come in bushel baskets.

You can tell by Phyllis' body language in the first picture that she was not thrilled with the choice.



It took at least 17 body panels from British Motor Heritage and countless other fabricated parts to get all the rust and bent panels fixed.



When the body work was done, it got painted in my garage.



I was very pleased with the result. It is not a show car. But it sure is fun to drive. A lot better than just sitting in that Midget at the MG Showroom in 1965.



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

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



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**BRITISH
BOOTS & BONNETS
CAR CLUB**

2024 OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

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EMBROID THIS
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info@embroidthis.com
815.623.2200



BBB REGALIA ONLINE

APRIL 2024

Regalia club merchandise is available by contacting Bruce Beneditz. This includes:

BBB Grill Badge - \$35

BBB Hat/Lapel Pin - \$1

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)

Bruce, bruce.beneditz@charter.net

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



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Social hour and dinner at 6:00pm.