



# British Boots & Bonnetts Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

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Editor  
Lynda Vickery

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

## President's Report

October, 2020

I think October is one of the best months of the year. The leaves are turning color, probably the last time we have to cut grass, and the temperature is great for taking the British Car out for a scenic ride. Oh, I forgot, Halloween where candy is king. Unfortunately, this is not going to be a normal October. Apparently, the Covid situation is getting worse in our area. Just this week, not only did the President of the United States and his wife come down with Covid but the Governor of Illinois closed indoor dining and bars in our area. This has been nine months of staying away from events and group activities. It would be so much fun to have a regular Monthly Meeting, driving event, or even Old Fart's without worry of getting sick. Maybe 2021?

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, we had a Director's Meeting to discuss the situation going forward. The results of our meeting are as follows.

1. September, October, and November Monthly Meetings will be cancelled. The next anticipated meeting will be scheduled for January at Thunder Bay.
2. The Christmas Party has been cancelled for this year.
3. Driving events have been cancelled if they require indoor activities. We still have the October 10<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Extravaganza and the October 14<sup>th</sup> Drive and Dine with a Twist on the schedule for this year.
4. Since we elect officers at the January Meeting, we will email a ballot for voting with directions for returning. If we have a January Meeting, we will allow in person voting as well.
5. The celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be held at a future Monthly Meeting. Jim Vickery is working on a window sticker with a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo.
6. The Board is working on a form letter which can be sent to potential members who have expressed interest in the club to personally invite them to join the club.

..continued on page 2

Next Meeting

Wednesday,

Sept. 16, 2020

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



Time for some humor. I think we need some.

Two old and bitter rivals, Jeremy and Richard, happen to get into a car wreck on a deserted road far from town. They get out, check the damage then confront each other. Jeremy speaks up, “You know, old foe, this wreck has made me realize: we’re lucky. This fighting is so trivial compared to the beauty that is life. Let’ end it. Here, have a drink on me. Take a mighty swig.” He pulls out a flask and hands it to Richard.

Filled with emotion, Richard gladly accepts. He takes a good, healthy pull of the booze and hands it back to Jeremy. But Jeremy caps the bottle and throws it in the ditch.

“What are you doing?” Richard asks. “You’re not going to have a drink?”

“Nah, I think I’ll just wait for the cops to go through their breathalyzer tests first.”

*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

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

## OCTOBER *DRIVE AND DINE WITH A TWIST* – LAST TIME AND BONFIRE EXTRVAGANZA – LAST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Larry Eils, Events Chair

Well, it's October and our club has experienced an incredible year. We just were starting to enjoy the driving season when it was taken away from us by the pandemic, COVID-19. With the help of some creative thinking by our members we did enjoy a few events, "Brits in the Garden", several *Drive and Dines with a Twist* and one *Drive and Dine/ Picnic*.

As you know the Board has canceled the remainder of the club meetings for the year as well as the Cookie Exchange and our Christmas Party. **HOWEVER**, October still has two events scheduled, so we can hopefully, end the year with a bang.

***Bonfire Extravanza:*** The Eils are inviting you to their place to enjoy an old fashion bonfire, pandemic style, on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 pm. There will be a huge fire to keep you warm and chase the virus away. Social distancing will be maintained in the seating around the fire. We do ask that you wear your masks as you enter and leave the bonfire. Please bring your own bonfire snacks and beverages. We will provide instant hot chocolate, hot water and cups. Dress warm, bring blankets and chairs to sit on, some seating will be provided. Let's hope for a nice evening. Please text or email Larry you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

***Drive and Dine with a Twist:*** our last *Drive and Dine with a Twist* is going to be held on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Until then, Be Safe. See you on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions, please email or text Larry.

**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)**

**October 10 BBB Bonfire Extravaganza**

Host: Larry and Marsha Eils

**October 14 BBB Drive and Dine – With a Twist**

***October 21 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grill - Canceled***

**November 11 BBB Dine – CANCELED**

***November 18 Club Meeting, Thunder Bay Grille - Canceled***



Too bad the people who  
REALLY know how to  
run the country spend  
all their time working  
on OLD CARS!!



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## WEBMASTER REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2020

Greetings all,

BBB has a new car for sale on our website. The listing is for a 1955 Austin Healey 100-4 BN2 2.7L in excellent condition and ready to drive. The car can be viewed at Motor Works in DeKalb and member Marty Fay has more details. Please contact him directly if you have interest. Click or touch the following link for details: <https://www.britishbootsandbonnets.com/for-sale>



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## DID ~ U ~ KNOW

by Facia Nearside

For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Coventry, England was the center of the textile industry. However, by the 1890s this began to change as foreign competition undercut the home market (DUK2020/5).

William Hillman was an engineer working for the Coventry Sewing Machine Company at this time when the company determined it should diversify into velocipedes (bicycles). Hillman and an associate patented a new bicycle called the "Ariel", followed by the "Kangaroo". So successful was this venture, Hillman was a millionaire by the turn of the century allowing him to fulfill his ambition to become a car manufacturer.

William Hillman teamed up with Breton Coatalen and produced the 24hp Hillman-Coatalen. The car was entered into the 1907 Tourist Trophy and although a crash put it out of the race it was considered a successful design. When Coatalen left in 1909 to join Sunbeam the company was renamed the Hillman Motor Car Company.



From 1910 until 1928 Hillman produced a range of large saloons which were very much the fashion of the day. Then in 1928 Hillman came under control of the Rootes Brothers. Under the Rootes umbrella Hillman became the small car division, and perhaps the most successful branch of the Rootes empire. The Wizard, Hawk, and Minx of the 1930s paved the way for the Husky, Hunter, Avenger, and Imp following WWII.

**DID ~ U ~ KNOW** continued...

When the Imp debuted in 1963 it was Roots' answer to the BMC Mini. It was the first mass-produced British car with an engine block and cylinder head of cast aluminium. It was also the first mass-produced British car with the engine in the rear, and was considered ahead of its time. Unfortunately, it suffered from reliability problems which tarnished its reputation and ultimately led to Roots being taken over by the Chrysler Corporation. Despite this the car soldiered on until 1976 by which time almost 500,000 Imps had been produced.



As a result of the Chrysler takeover the Hunter and Avenger ranges were rebadged as Chryslers. Then in 1979 Chrysler sold its European division to Peugeot. The Hillman Hunter was dropped and the Avenger was rebadged once again, this time as a Talbot, with production continuing until 1981.

Hillman's Ryton plant in Warwickshire, a former Roots Shadow Factory (DUK2019/2), continued to assemble various Peugeot models until 2007. Today the rights to the proud Hillman name is still owned by Peugeot.

DUK2020/10

...reprinted from the Jan. 6, 2002, Volume 7, of the Chronicle.

## **BBB - JAGUAR EXPERIENCE EXTRAVAGANZA**

*What do a XK140 Jaguar, McCormick Place and Cable TV have in common? Well, one would probably think nothing in general until you marry a a new Cable show that is going to be kicked off at the 2001 Cable TV Convention and Trade Show being held in Chicago with the fact that they wanted an upscale cobblestone setting for their display with a cherry XK140 Jag as the centerpiece. Since you don't find that sort of Jag on just any street corner; well rather than for me to tell you, read the following article submitted by "I Nearly Busted My Buttons" Don Huebschen!  
.....Marv Proctor, Editor.*

While sitting at home one evening and paging through one of my favorite automotive magazine, I received an interesting phone call. At first I thought it was another one of those irritating telemarketing calls, but soon found out the caller had been conducting a rather exhaustive search trying to find a particular model classic Jaguar.

The pleasant woman with the southern accent explained that her boss was a production manager for one of cable television's most successful networks. The firm, called Scripps Networks out of Tennessee, produced three well-know channels, and was adding a fourth in January 2002. The three existing channels were Home & Garden TV, the Food Network, and Do-It-Yourself TV. The new channel was to be called Fine Living. She proceeded to explain that their company was coming to McCormick Place in Chicago for a huge cable TV convention and trade show, and were planning on an elaborate display to showcase their new show. They wanted to create an elegant setting with a cobblestone street and fountain, and the boss wanted an eye-catching British car to set it all off, so he started paging thru a book of classic Jaguars. The woman explained that he spotted an XK140 roadster in the book, pointed it out to his staff, and that was it. All over....nothing else would do. So the search began.

A few British car clubs were located by first calling Jaguar dealerships in the Chicago area, but no solid leads on a clean XK140. Then one of her contacts mentioned knowledge of a Wisconsin Jaguar club, and a few calls later, she had the name of the club president, Mike Korneli. Mike gave her my name so here she was making the umpteenth call, going the extra mile late in the evening for her boss. Did I have such an animal? What was its condition? Was I willing to help? Did I have pictures? How much would I charge? Whoa!!!!

I offered to borrow the digital camera from work and take pictures of the car the next day, then e-mail the shots to her boss. The woman was happy. The following day I received a phone call. The boss is blown away by the car. It's perfect....even the color is ideal for their set. He praised her hard work. The woman is ecstatic. I tell her I can imagine the boss writing up her promotion papers as we speak. Director of Production at least! Big bonuses. Fancy perks. Maybe stock options, too.

Now the sixty-four dollar question, how much? This is starting to get fun!! I decide to be a nice guy (for once). I tell her it will cost absolutely nothing. Zip, zero, zilch! She can't believe it. I mention that all I need is my expenses covered and I'd be happy. Tell me when the car is needed there, and I'll get it done. I tell her that this isn't some snooty West or East Coaster she's dealing with. No, this is a naive, stupid, but friendly mid-westerner that has had plenty of people do nice things for me. So I mention that if she ever gets a chance to help someone out, do the same. We arrange for me to take the car to McCormick Place on a Sunday, and pick it up the following Wednesday. I've driven the Jag into Chicago a few times before, and it is always a bit unnerving, but here goes.



All is quiet for a few days, and then another call from Scripps Networks. “Do you and your wife enjoy an occasional night out in Chicago?” Of course we do. So I’m told to check into the Palmer House Hilton on Sunday after delivering the car. (The delivery process is a story in itself as the Teamsters have a contract requiring them to move all display items into and out of the trade show. Much paperwork later, I’m exempted, driving the Jag thru the loading docks and past some of the toughest looking fellows I’e ever seen, but thankfully getting a lot of thumbs up.) I park the Jag on the cobblestone tiles just laid down in front of the fountain, while the setup crews continue to unpack shipping crates. They’ll be working all day to finish the display in time for Monday’s opening.

Trish, Colin and I checked into our beautiful room at the Palmer House, and waiting for us was an exquisite tray of exotic cheeses, French wine, raspberries and chocolate covered strawberries. There was even a bottle of high-class root beer sitting on ice for Colin. Next to this fine presentation was a picnic pack with its assortment of place settings, flatware, bottle of wine, etc, for us as a gift. Scripps Networks also arranged dinner for us that evening at an expensive and very chic downtown restaurant. We had a blast.

The following day we headed to McCormick Place, and using our entry passes provided for us, took a look at the finished product. The display was attracting the big executives from the cable networks just as planned, and Scripps personnel were busy selling their new channel, claiming it would be just as successful as their previous three offerings.

It was time to leave and head for home. Like comforting a youngster being left with a babysitter, I patted the old girl and told her I’d be back in a couple of days. Sitting under what looked to enough lighting to consume a megawatt of power, the old Jag looked magnificent!



## A SPECIAL STORY FROM LEW MOON

*Each month I send out a story like this about the month to my family. Since we have been able to get together, Maybe this could be shared with B & B.*

"Every person is a story teller. A few do it well with words and gestures. The rest of us by the lives we live and the stuff we collect"

October is the Octogenarian month, Even though it sits as the 10th month of the year. The month of October is without a doubt the most colorful month of the year. Most other years, Dolores and I would be making our annual trip to see the Moon family on the East Coast. We would choose this time of the year because we know that we would see glorious seasonal color somewhere, coming or going. We would be driving through Ohio, or the Allegheny mountains of Pennsylvania, the Catskills of New York or the White mountains of Vermont. We know that at this time of year, the sky will be it's bluest and the rivers and lakes will mirror all those colors and invite us back at another time, When we have more leisure, perhaps to loiter..

Much of our trip will be on secondary roads, through picturesque towns and quaint villages. We prefer to drive past the front yards where people live, rather than speeding along, avoiding populations and habitation. Making 'good time on the road', is not the purpose of our trip.

October, in the east is also the month of "tag sales". (That is; 'Garage sales', for those of us in the city and Rummage sales where I grew up.) Former valuables will be sorted and tagged with a price that does not represent the 'value' WE have invested in that item, but rather what we think the "market will bear". It may be a favorite jacket with plenty of wear and warmth, but has been replaced with something that is more in style and is now a better fit. It may be an old lawnmower or some tools or a piece of furniture we no longer need. Some items are still new. These are 'gifts' that have never been used and are sure to be a bargain for someone. It is true; "one man's trash is another man's treasure".

Behind every item is a story, and the story is more valuable than the item. But you can not charge for the story. So after the haggling is over and the price is paid, the buyer may be heard walking away saying; "Boy!, we sure got a bargain". But the truth is, the 'story' remains behind. They might have gotten a deal on that old steamer chest, but they might have been connected with an immigrant family's first experience with America. Or, that little rocking chair we couldn't afford 'But had to have', when our first child was born.

Stories collect on the stuff of our lives and it is the story that connects us to each other. We don't have room in our van to collect much 'stuff' as we travel through the east and as we stop at 'tag sales'. But now, as we are about to leave our Octogenarian years, the accumulation of stories is immense, and those stores we can carry with us..

Just maybe; It is our stories that make up a part of eternity. Stories never die. What is hard for us to realize, and to remember, as we think of all the people who make up our story, is that each of us are also an important part of a lot of other folks' stories. Keep telling stories.

"In the beginning was the word and it made a story. That story, became flesh, and dwelt with us, full of grace and truth and we have seen the glory of it."

## COVID-19 AND THE EMBROID THIS PRINT SHOP

Like many small businesses, our business operates much like a family. We lovingly call it our “work family” here at Embroid This. There's some squabbling, some yelling, but mostly laughs and inside jokes. And the best part, we make sure to try and take care of each other when times are tough. Facing a global pandemic was no different.

Back in January, we thought it an annoying inconvenience scrambling to fulfill promotional product orders as factories in China kept shutting down due to something called “the Coronavirus.” It made us feel the impact of the reliance on a global economy as small as we are. Something that will continue to affect our industry well into next year as apparel production stalled for many months into the summer.

Traditionally, the first couple months of the year are always a little more relaxing for us. We have more time to change up our showroom, prepare for our regular, large ordering events, and contemplate new ways we can grow. We've been in business for 12 years and have only ever been in growth mode. That's why it was such a shock to us in March, as we were just getting production ramped up for the spring events, to have our customers call to cancel their orders mid-production. It was only a matter of days afterwards that the Governor declared a 15-day lock down to “flatten the curve.” So Ace, the owner, declared that we too would comply, shut down for a bit, and “ride this out.” He gathered some checks out of the register and rushed off to make a deposit at the bank.

Myself and the other employees didn't realize how long he had been gone since we were contacting customers and frantically trying to complete every order we had in our store. When he finally returned after an hour and a half, he opened our two large side doors and ordered us to start filling our order bins with the truck-full of groceries he purchased while out! He wasn't sure what was going to happen to our paychecks and certainly wasn't sure what was going to happen to the business, so he at least was going to make sure we had enough food and cleaning supplies for the shutdown. I took photos of how much food he got us and posted it on my Facebook profile, showcasing how much Ace cared about our wellbeing and to remember the little guys, small businesses, when we get to open back up. The post got shared 320 times and reached many people!



Ace opened up his doors again in early April. At first we only had a few people coming in here and there to make some orders and ship them out. I helped make ad videos and did some emailing while at home. Many events we normally do at that time of year had been cancelled, including Vets Roll – a yearly veteran-centered event we prepared for by pre-decorating hundreds of the jackets they get to wear on their trip. Honestly, the ingenuity of small business is what helped us get through May. We made at least 500 or more yard signs celebrating the 2020 graduates, school teachers, anniversaries, and birthdays! We also started decorating on masks and face coverings. By June, we were back on track to growth as restaurants opened for outdoor dining, sports teams went back to practice, and businesses opened back up! We've been so busy since that we had to hire three new people, and we were able purchase some new equipment to improve our quality and efficiency.

Sadly, not every small business' story has the happier ending ours did. Small businesses mostly support other small businesses; we all grow together in a way. With the elections and other recent events seeking to divide us, we really are stronger when we come together to support our fellow local businesses and our fellow human beings.

-Dani, Embroid This Manager



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**Welcome to  
Sunshine  
Corner!!**



Phyllis  
Beneditz

Hello Again,

Fall is in the  
air and it seems time is just flying.

No one has contacted me about any club members who might be under the weather. Please if you hear of anyone, let me know so that I can send a card from the club.

Enjoy the beautiful Fall colors!

## MAKING THE CASE FOR MY PREFERRED BRAND OF SYNTHETIC OIL

By Rich Cannistra

There are probably more opinions about the best brand of oil to use than what color to paint the bedroom walls. One area that should not be open to debate however, is the quality and benefit of synthetic versus petroleum lubricants. More than 45 years ago synthetic oil began competing with petroleum oil for a place in the world of lubricants. At the time naysayers were easier to find than proponents but two facts caught my attention. First: only synthetic oil is robust enough to be used in jet engines. A petroleum product simply cannot stand up to the temperatures and pressures in this application. Second: synthetic 2-cycle oil can be mixed at a concentration of 100:1 and still provide proper lubrication. Today the fact that synthetic lubricants are superior is no longer a subject of debate. If you are still on the "petroleum oil is good enough" bandwagon realize one thing, technology has moved on.

When the world began melting down in early March, I remember thinking about how much time I now had to accomplish those long overdue projects, and the many leisurely LBC drives that would be enjoyed this summer. I'll skip the state of the projects and go straight to the many LBC drives...they never happened! How this could be so I still wonder, but it also got me thinking about how few miles were driven since that oil change in the spring. Would I really need to change the almost new oil again simply based on the time it was in the car? Let me regress to look for the answer.

Flat tappet engines, which power LBCs, have different lubrication needs than modern engines. Specifically, zinc used to be added to oil to prevent tappet and camshaft wear. Beginning in 1994 the zinc had to be removed from oil used in modern cars because it was not compatible with catalytic converters. No matter how high the quality of oil, if it does not contain zinc it is not backward compatible and does not provide proper lubrication in an older engine. The second issue is long periods of disuse. When a car is driven infrequently and parked for long periods of time internal rust and corrosion become factors. This situation raises its ugly head both from contaminants in the oil from combustion, and from humidity. Rust and corrosion inhibitors in sufficient concentration must be present in the oil to provide proper protection during periods of non-use.

While there are several high zinc oils on the market, the best solution I have found to solve these two problems is Amsoil Z-ROD. This high zinc 100% synthetic oil is available in 10w-30, 10w-40, and 20w-50 weights to be compatible with any vintage engine. Perhaps more important, the recommended change interval is two years or 5000 miles. Formulating for two years of protection provides convenience and peace of mind during storage periods. Of course, we hope to spend a good bit of time behind the wheel of our beloved classics, after all we are Driving Enthusiasts! But when life throws a curveball, as it has this year, it's comforting to know the LBC is being well taken care of while slumbering, and waiting for the next adventure.

...reprinted from the Aug. 9, 2014, Volume 19, of the Chronicle.

## **CAR INSPECTION - MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK!**

by Larry Eils

I brought my "B" to the garage to have the splash guards in both front wheel wells replaced. With the car on the lift Ron Kuhnau began poking around the wheel wells to see if there was other rust present. After removing some rust proofing Ron noticed something on the frame. Further scrapping revealed a crack in the frame right behind the bolts holding the front end to the frame. The crack was large enough to stick the blade of a putty knife into it. The crack actually came down one side, across the bottom and only part way up inside the engine compartment.

Good News - the crack could be fixed. Both Ron and Lyn Pond worked on welding the frame on the wheel side and across the bottom. The welds were ground smooth and then plates were welded over the side and bottom cracks. The inside crack will be welded over this winter when the car goes in for some body work and a new paint job.

So the next time you service your car and put it up on a lift, take a very good look at the car frame and everything else. You just may find something you weren't looking for.

### **FROM YOUR EDITOR**

Be sure to look back in this issue and find the articles that have been reprinted from our library of Chronicles. The Chronicle was started immediately as the Club was formed, and it is indeed a chronicle of our Club life. Until we get back to "normal" and can report on Club activities, continue to remember back to special times as we include prior articles with each Chronicle.

Also, thanks to Rich Cannistra, Lew Moon, and Dani, from Embroid This, who took time to write special articles that they have contributed this month. Please add your own special story and thoughts as the winter months begin to keep us isolated and inside even more.

### **REMEMBER??**

Curbside tech sessions

Ladies Teas

BBB Car Shows

Jake & Donna's Potato Fests

Millie's Pancake House

BBB Progressive Dinners

Ed Eggleston's Naps



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**OCTOBER 2020**

Be sure to read Dani's article about how Embroid This has managed during this pandemic time. We are proud to have Embroid This as our Goto Place for Regalia.

Regalia club merchandise is available by contacting Jim Vickery. This includes:

- BBB Grill Badge - \$30
- BBB Hat/Lapel Pin - \$1
- 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)

Jim Vickery

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



Next Meeting  
Wednesday, September 16 2020  
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**