

President's Message

The weather has finally changed into fall type weather, after a fairly warm September and early October. Our activities continue regardless of the weather. Last Wednesday evening we met for dinner at the Quaker Steak & Lube Restaurant in Portage, IN. Misty rain, low temperatures and early darkness didn't deter us from an enjoyable evening (see page 17).

Below is Part I of a two Part article on the Fall Tour to Mackinac Island. I described how much fun these trips are each year. This Fall Tour did not disappoint.

Next Saturday, October 21st will be our Fall Colors Drive again hosted by Randy and Bev Glanders in Elkhart, IN (see page 4 below). It is the final driving event of the season, so try to participate if you can. The LBCs go into the storage pretty quickly when we get to November.

November 15th will be the Membership Appreciation Dinner at the Bent Oak Golf Course in Elkhart, IN. This very popular venue has been our dinner spot for several years and is always well-attended. Last year 43 Brits attended, by far the largest dinner gathering in a long time. How many will be there this year?

We are looking for someone to host the Christmas/Hanukkah Party in December. The host gets to pick the weekend and day, so here is your opportunity to fit it perfectly in your holiday schedule.

We will soon have an election for three members to the Board of Directors. We could use a couple of nominees. It actually is an interesting and fun group to be part of during the year. Not everyone makes every monthly meeting, but we all contribute and help the club plan fun activities. Let me know if you are interested - I can give you details.

Keep working on your LBCs before they are stored for the winter. Fixing minor items will help get you on the road quicker in the spring. If you need any winter storage information, just ask us. We have a lot of experienced LBC owners who have done this for many years.

Wednesday, October 4th Board Meeting Minutes

- Bob K. communicated that we had money in the account
- Mary is working on the October newsletter
- Fall Tour – another great trip in very good weather, minor car issues
- Fall Colors Drive – October 21 at Glanders' Elkhart residence, show up at 9:30 AM and leave at 10:00 AM
- Elections – candidates are being identified
- November Membership Appreciation Dinner – set for 15th, Larry to arrange menu on October 18th
- Christmas/Hanukkah Party – hosts to be located

2017 Odometer Contest

We are close to the end of our Michiana Brits odometer contest. After some input from members, we made some small changes to the contest rules. I had several members suggest that we make the contest for our vintage LBCs. For 2017, the contest pertains to LBCs built in 1980 or earlier. If you have more than one vehicle, you can still use the miles for all your odometers, as long as the LBCs are all 1980 vintage or older. Be sure to take that picture or write down your odometer reading before you forget. Remember - if you win, you receive the coveted Michiana Brits Motorway Award and a \$50 gift card! How do you win? Send your LBC odometer reading(s) to Bob Petersen at bpete56@sbcglobal.net

Then drive your LBC as much as possible, participate in club events and enjoy yourself and LBC. Odometer readings will be collected in the fall. Good luck to all.

2017 Annual Fall Colors Drive

We will hold our annual Fall Colors Drive on Saturday, October 21st. This will be our FINAL driving event of the season.

Once more this highly popular drive and potluck dinner will be hosted by Randy and Bev Glanders. Our drive will start at the Glanders' house, 28614 C.R. 16, Elkhart, IN 46515 Telephone # (574) 294-8950. The Drive route allows us to arrive earlier for lunch, which will then permit more afternoon driving, hopefully top down.

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:30 AM with your potluck dish. The Glanders will supply the chili and soft drinks. PLEASE CONTACT Bev at 574-294-8950 or bjg0219@yahoo.com by Oct. 19th and let her know what you plan to bring for dinner.

WE WILL LEAVE AT 10 AM and drive through the colorful back roads of Indiana and Southwestern Michigan, and take a relaxing stop around 11:30 AM for lunch at the Fisher Lake Inn, Mendon, MI. Then we will have a longer afternoon drive (tops down, weather permitting) and end at the Glanders home for a potluck dinner, some college football watching, and socializing with club members. For further information, please contact Randy at (574) 294-8950

Open Letter to All Club Members

It is with great regret that I have decided to retire for the third time in my life.

I'll finish up the cars that I have now in the shop. I've had a wonderful time working on people's cars, bonding with them and getting them to join the British car club.

I have 2 granddaughters that have and will be getting their driver's license. They each will have an MGB to drive and I want to take them on trips on the open road.

Ruth and I will be welcoming a new little MGB into the family February 2018. We will be flying many trips to Florida to see her.

We have a chance to fly anywhere in the world for free. Our son flies for United Air Lines and our daughter-in-law will soon be flying for American Air Lines.

Roger Deacon



Stagman's Tech Tips

By Roger Deacon

Last month I said that I'd talk about speedometer cables. I received a 1972 MGB to do a brake job and change all fluids. With that done, I took it for a quick spin and discovered the speedometer wasn't working. So on the hoist it went. I disconnected the speedometer cable from the 90 degree angle drive. I found that the speedometer cable was broken in the 90 degree angle drive. No problem, I quickly changed it, hooked the speedometer cable to it and took it for another drive. Didn't work.

Back on the hoist the car went. I disconnected the cable from the angle drive and saw that the cable was again broken in the angle drive. I hooked an electric drill to the inside cable. I set the drill on reverse, pulled the trigger on the drill and the whole cable wound up. The inside cable had rusted to the outer cable. I ordered a new speedometer cable along with a 90 degree angle drive and installed everything when I received them. I then took the car for a spin and everything worked.

Next time when I check for a speedometer that doesn't work, I'll check the cable first with a drill. Just spin the cable backwards or left so you don't break the speedometer or gears.

Another tip. When you look at the catalog picture of the 90 degree angle drive, you will also see a part number to order for a small washer the goes between the transmission and the angle drive. This is to keep from over-loading the angle drive and breaking it. I checked the Triumph parts books and the washer isn't listed.

Safety Fast

2017 Fall Tour to Mackinac Island

Part I

“Time Well Wasted”

By Larry Palguta

Early on the morning of September 21, 2017, seven LBCs of Michiana Brits met just north of South Bend at Eleni's Restaurant on SR 933N for the club's annual Fall Tour. This year's destination was famous and scenic Mackinac Island located in the strait between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and between the Upper and Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. The Tour group included Keith & Mary Wishmeier (Spitfire), Roger & Ruth Deacon (MGB/GT), Paul & Gail Noeth (MG Midget), Tom & Debbie Shumaker (TR-7), Mike Scullion & Vicki Bloom (MGB), Randy & Bev Glanders (Spitfire), and Kai Shepherd & Larry Palguta (Mini Cooper). A lunch stop was planned at Chase, MI where David & Judy Dean (TR-8) and Jim Betz (Mini Cooper) would join the group. After a hearty breakfast at Eleni's where tour leader Keith Wishmeier is a regular customer, we actually left the parking lot at 7:55 AM, not only an on-time departure but a few minutes early, almost unheard of for Fall Tour drives.

In preparation for the long drive, everyone had checked their LBC to ensure it was in shape for the trip. About 5 miles north, the caravan stopped at a red light on the south side of Niles, MI, and under the watchful eye of a local constable parked next to the road. The light turned green and none of the LBs moved an inch. Knowing how our LBCs can be a bit finicky, everyone sat through one cycle of the traffic light while Keith Wishmeier tried to start his Spitfire. Before the light again turned green, the Spitfire belched a big cloud of black smoke and started, so we then proceeded through the light when it turned green. Keith had experienced either 1) a massive passing of gas, 2) the fog generated from lighting one of his infamous cigars, or 3) the Spitfire blowing out a bunch of crud from its exhaust system. The caravan was moving so no one much cared which one had occurred.

Driving was smooth on SR 140 to our first bio/fuel stop near Watervliet, MI. After relieving and topping up, we were ready to leave but Randy Glander's Spitfire wouldn't start. Everyone dismounted their LBC and waited for the outcome - this being a typical event for LBC driving. After removing the air cleaner and fiddling with things, the Spitfire fired up. This was an omen that things would be different on this Fall Tour. The Spitfires have been among the most reliable LBCs during a long string of Fall Tours.



The Glanders' Spitfire receives "hands on" attention

The Tour followed I-196 through South Haven and Holland, then onto US 31 to Muskegon and I-96 to the north side of town where we picked up SR 120. We jogged on SRs 20, 37 and 10 to Chase, MI and our lunch reservation at the Chase Creek Smoke House just off SR 10. The Smoke House is a large log cabin style structure with a faux four-blade propeller hanging over the middle of the large dining room. They switched on the propeller and it rotated slowly above us.

Although we changed our reservation to an hour later, it didn't matter because we were most of their lunch crowd for the day. David and Judy Dean were waiting for us, and Jim Betz somehow ended up at what had been the initial lunch stop before the itinerary was changed. We ordered for him and when he arrived his lunch was served with no waiting time. The smoked meats were really good and the portions large. Lots of draft beer for your selection. We highly recommend that you dine here if you are travelling on US 131 which is just a few miles east by Reed City.



Lunch at Chase Creek Smoke House in Chase, MI (one prop blade arched downwardly just above the roof of the bar opening)

Just east of the restaurant, we picked up US 131 for the long drive to Petoskey, MI. A few hours after bio/fuel stops, we went through Petoskey at the afternoon rush hour and connected to US 31, which did not pose any problems since there is but one main road through town and US 31 is the route to our hotel

in Mackinaw City, MI. We arrived at the Best Western Plus, Dockside Waterfront Inn, in Mackinaw City a little past 6 PM.

After checking in at the Best Western (located at the beach front and adjacent two of the ferry boat lines), we gathered and headed to downtown Mackinaw City in search of dinner. We found O'Reilly's Irish Pub & Restaurant which was just the north end of the large Dixie Saloon, were advised the Pub could not accommodate our large party, so we tried the Dixie Saloon which is connected to the Pub. A party of 15 had a reservation for about ten minutes after our arrival, failed to show up, and we were seated as a group after only a brief wait time. The food was good, beer tasted great, and a long day was finished as planned.

The next day, Friday 22nd, our itinerary called for a visit to Mackinac Island. The Brits always plan on visiting the main attraction on Friday when the number of tourists is smaller, and then visiting local sites on Saturday where the number of visitors is much smaller. However, first was breakfast - either the hotel's complimentary breakfast buffet or directly across the street to Toast A Go-Go which offered 24 hour breakfast, lunch and dinner. Starbucks was just up the street.

The Dean's decided to drive up to Saulte Ste. Marie for a drive into Canada and back, the Noeth's would cross the bridge to Gustafson, MI to buy beef jerky for their son and smoked fish for Keith before heading to the Island, Mike Scullion and Vicki Bloom scheduled lunch at the Grand Hotel, and the rest of us purchased tickets at the hotel for the Star Lines Ferry. It turned out that the boat dock was not right next to the hotel, but a shuttle was called and we rode about a ½ mile to the actual ferry dock. Sales receipts were exchanged for actual ferry tickets, and we boarded the 10 AM catamaran ferry. The catamaran had three decks and traveled quickly (20 minutes) to the dock on Mackinac Island. Our boat trip was uneventful – the weather was sunny, calm and the water smooth as glass. The group decided to meet for the 4:30 PM return ferry ride.



Star Lines ferry headed into the Mackinac Island dock

The Brits split up into groups & couples and headed out for a day on the Island. Kai Shepherd, Jim Betz and myself, three wild and crazy guys, decided to hang together for our day on the Island. We decided that some type of activity had to be accomplished during our visit, so we headed up to the fort that overlooks the downtown area. We slowly trudged up the long ramp type walkway to the fort entrance, viewed some of the buildings, watched a demonstration of Springfield trap-door rifle firing, and then looked for a place with cool drinks. Despite the high of only 81 degrees, the temperature felt a lot warmer and was aggravated by almost no air movement. It was a very calm day on the lakes and ashore.

We quickly found the café and sat down to cold beverages and some good conversation. The view from the café, basically a terrace along the front of the fort, was spectacular as we looked out over the town, bay and adjoining Round Island with its iconic lighthouse. After about a ½ hour, we decided it was time for lunch, and since nothing was moving including us, we told the waiter we were

staying for lunch and let's have another round of drinks. The lunch was quite good, with large sandwiches and fruit on the side. And cold beverages.



Great view from our Café perch at the fort

After eating lunch and enjoying the view for about 1 hour, we selected a destination for our next stop. Directly below the fort, at a corner of the main street, is a small park with benches, shade and water fountain. The photo above shows the park located at the corner. It was the obvious destination for our group.



In the fort, Jim and Kai discuss the risks of walking downhill

We trudged down the walkway and found an open park bench to occupy while people watched. The time spent in the park was well-spent as we relaxed and revitalized ourselves for a foray into town. After an appropriate long lapse of time, we thought a search for ice cream should be pursued but only along the shady side of the street. Off we went, but did not make much progress because the shady side of the street included a bench that needed occupying. Paul and Gail Noeth came by, having completed their buying trip to Gustafson's Smoked Fish, and were on a walkabout of the island.

With adequate time on our hands, we headed down the street, window shopping until we entered the Pink Lady fudge and ice cream shop. The selections of ice cream were great and cooled us off a bit after the seemingly lengthy window shopping spree. We discussed whether or not we should leave and in ten minutes take the 2:30 PM return ferry, just back up the street a short distance. But again nothing was moving including us, so we decided to stay and enjoy the ice cream.

While headed south (on the shady side of the street, of course), we came to a small park where we could watch a huge cargo ship move quickly through the passage between Mackinac and Round Islands. Nearby was a typical horse-drawn wagon used for cargo deliveries on Mackinac Island.



Packages awaiting delivery while the horses idle

By now it was mid-afternoon and deemed safe to walk on the other side of the street. Interestingly, there seemed to be a number people, some dressed formally, passing out political literature and signs in the entire downtown area. Kai asked a local gendarme what was going on. The constable answered, somewhat wearily, that every two years the Republican Party of Michigan holds its annual convention on Mackinac Island. This was the arrival day for the delegates, supporters, etc. and it added noticeably to the number of people on the street. Apparently we were on the “right” side of the street, because we walked by the horse-drawn carriage for the Grand Hotel.



Ride in style to the Grand Hotel

Our meander down the new shady side of the street was not without purpose. That purpose was the laudable search for good Mackinac Island fudge. Everyone has their opinion as to which business sells the best fudge – we selected Joann’s essentially because they let us walk in side and start sampling the numerous flavors of fudge.

Joann’s fudge is very good and they have a large selection of flavors. We tried the sample plate next to the cash register, asked to sample other flavors, made insightful comments after the tastings, and confronted the age old problem of how to select from so many good flavors. The young ladies behind the counters understood our task and offered more samples. Eventually, we did finish our task and I purchased three flavors – double dark chocolate, dark chocolate toffee, and dark chocolate espresso.

While window shopping on the main street, we saw a lot of knick-knacks, decorative items and T-shirts for sale. One T-shirt had something about Old Geezer on it - we felt it didn’t match our style and panache. But one T-shirt had the most fitting expression for our eventful day on Mackinac Island – “Time Well

Wasted”. That is the one we should have purchased – but, as usual, nothing was moving including us.

We returned to the dock for the 3:30 PM return ferry and met the Deacons, Noeths, and Shumakers (and a small group of Jehovah’s Witnesses who spent the day offering pamphlets). The remainder of our group returned on the 4:30 PM ferry as planned. The Brits hiked, rode bikes, shopped, and walked all about the Island. Our group of three enjoyed our activities and found the other activities ... well, ... inspiring.

Upon returning to the hotel, we assembled in the fireplace room and decided on the evening’s activities. Many Brits wanted to take a 6 PM two-hour trolley tour of Mackinaw City, over the bridge, St. Ignace, and back over the bridge. So tickets were purchased, the trolley summoned, and off on the tour went the Brits, minus our group of three and the Dean’s who had not yet returned from their trip to Canada. As the trolley passed by us, we were heading down the street to the Irish Pub & Restaurant where we had a good dinner and cold beverages. After the trolley tour, that group went down the street to the Nonna Lisa’s Italian Restaurant which turned out to be basically Papa Zo’s Pizza place. Part of the group got served, part did not and ended up ordering their pizzas delivered to their rooms.

THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE:

Part II

Off-Roading, Mushroom Abodes, Polish Cuisine

Quaker Steak & Lube Dinner - Oct. 11

By Larry Palguta

On a misty and quickly darkening evening, 7 cars of Brits met in the parking lot of Meijers on the northwest side of South Bend. No LBCs in sight – 6 Detroit iron and Ken Geljack's Porche. This was not unexpected in view of the wet and cold weather.

The 7 cars caravanned mostly along US 20 to and around Michigan City, then took US 12 through the Indiana Dunes State Park. We reached the Quaker Steak & Lube restaurant in Portage, IN right on time, to find the Petersens, Deans, Eaise's and Peterka's waiting for us. The Petersens arrived the earliest due to seeing no one in the Meijers parking lot and mistaking the arrival time at the parking lot, resulting in their leaving South Bend early. This venue was a good opportunity for our far western members to attend a dinner meeting.

As advertised, the restaurant is heavily automotive-themed. It took a while for our group of 19 to get drinks, order dinners and then eat, but no one was in a big hurry to go back outside into the dark and cold evening. Larry announced that the Membership Appreciation Dinner is November 15th at the Bent Oak Golf Course, Elkhart, IN, cocktails at 6:30 PM, dinner at 7:00 PM (EDT). Everyone had a good dinner, a good time visiting in a fairly noisy atmosphere, and headed back home after a good evening.



Bob Petersen & Randy Glanders talk next to the car rack



Our U-shaped table configuration had all 19 sitting together