

President's Message

Our 2018 LBC driving season closed with our October Fall Colors Drive. It was too cold and wet to drive the LBC's to the annual Membership Appreciation Dinner in early November, and by the time of our annual Christmas/Hanukkah Party, most LBCs were in winter storage. The club ended up having a good year of activities and membership growth, and financially finished solidly in the black.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board members – Roger Deacon, Mary Petersen and Keith Wishmeier. We know that these seasoned Brits will contribute to another fun and exciting driving year in 2018. During the January 9th Board meeting, the Board will decide who fills each of the Board positions – President, Communications, Membership and Activities. The Treasurer and Secretary are positions appointed by the President (non-Board members usually fill these two positions).

Next year will bring some changes to the annual car show at Saint Mary's College (Sunday June 24th). Hopefully the Dalloway Green club house will be vacated and fully available for use during the show, the admission fee for vehicle entrants will be increase to \$23, and the MGTC class will be combined with the MGTD/MGTF class (sorry, John Bushnell!). For those who want to start detailing their LBC now, the Featured Marque is the MGA. And I'm thinking of moving the class parking locations around on the field so the entrants get a chance to be in another part of the show field.

January begins the once-a-month Saturday morning breakfast meetings of the club. On January 20th, we hope to see you at Pegg's (formerly Le Peep's) in downtown South Bend. The snow birds get the warmer weather while those who winter locally get the camaraderie of the monthly meetings.

If you have suggestions for car drive destinations, please send them to one of the Board members. We will pick destinations for the Spring Drive, any drives in July and August, the Fall Tour, and any other September and October drives. There are still locations in this region that we have not visited.

Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah and Holidays to everyone.

Michiana Brits Motorway Odometer Award

by Bob Petersen

I would like to thank all those that participated in the 2017 Michiana Brits Motorway Odometer Contest. We had 8 members submit their miles driven for the 2017 season. The total for those 8 participants was 13,354 miles. I am sure the results would reflect many more miles had everyone submitted miles large or small. The following are the top three places:

3rd place went to Mike Scullion and Vicki Bloom

2nd place went to Keith and Mary Wishmeier

And 1st place went to Paul and Gail Noeth

I tossed the note with the actual miles by drivers (sorry about that); it was a close race. Less than 90 miles from 1st to 2nd.

Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed their miles.

Remember, when you pull your LBC out of mothballs next spring, write down your miles so you too can contribute to our group total, however large or small.

I would like to have suggestions from the group on ideas to make this competition more fun and exciting. Feel free to let me know your thoughts, all ideas are welcome.

Thanks,

Bob

STAGMAN'S TECH TIPS

by Roger Deacon

As Paul Harvey used to say "Now for the rest of the story." Before Joe Opferman and I removed the head, we gave it a compression check. All cylinders checked out to 120# per cylinder. In the car's 52 year history, it hadn't had much maintenance from one end to the other. It soon became a job rebuilding the whole car's mechanics.

After Joe came home from vacation, we removed the old head and installed the new head along with the rebuilt rocker shaft that runs the valves. After getting everything installed along with a new water pump and fail safe water thermostat, the car was now ready to start. We gave the head another cylinder pressure check and all cylinders now checked out to 140# per cylinder. After running for awhile, everything was checked over and Joe drove it home. I got a call from Joe and he said that the car wasn't running right. I asked him to bring the car over the next day.

Joe came over the next morning and it looked like it was Christmas under the hood. The thermostat wire was shorting out the coil. We tied the thermostat wire back out of the way. The car ran somewhat better but was still not running smoothly. As I started to remove each spark plug wire one at a time, I was shocked each time. I pulled number 3 cylinder wire and there was no change to how the engine ran. I pulled the spark plug and found that it wasn't firing so we got new spark plugs and spark plug wires. The car now ran perfect and it is now ready for another trip. Joe and Ardith can't wait for summer to come so they can finish all the trips that they had previously started.

I'm now telling everyone that hasn't changed their old water thermostat to order a new fail safe thermostat. They are a lot cheaper than getting a new head and rocker shaft.

We want to wish everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. The next Tech Tips that I'll be writing will be from our home in Sebring, Florida.

Roger & Ruth Deacon

Christmas/Hanukkah Party of 2017

By Mary Petersen

The evening of December 9th sure looked like Christmas when the Michiana Brits met for their annual Christmas/Hanukkah Party. We met at the beautiful home of Ardith and Joe Opferman in Granger. There were a few inches of snow fall during the day, making the evening festive. Joe and Ardith are brand new members of the club and were very gracious in hosting the party this year.

The evening started out with appetizers, drinks and conversation. It was nice to visit with everyone. Dinner was next. Club members brought dishes to share and everyone outdid themselves. All were very tasty! There was also delicious ham and chicken provided by the club.

After dinner, dessert was served. There were many scrumptious desserts. Of course, one needed to sample all of them because you couldn't pick a favorite.

Larry announced the new Board members for 2018: Keith Wishmeier, Roger Deacon and Mary Petersen. Bob Petersen announced the winners of the coveted Michiana Brits Motorway Odometer Award. Congratulations to Paul and Gail Noeth for driving the most miles this year!

Next, the event all waited for... the gift exchange. Each couple brought a gift for a guy and a lady. The ladies went first. Each lady drew a number. Number 1 started. She picked a gift from under the tree. The gift was opened and shown to the group. After the last number chose her gift, it was time to pick numbers again. This time the largest number was first. That person could either choose to keep her gift or exchange it for another. The guys repeated the process. This is always so much fun!

Thanks so much Ardith and Joe for your hospitality and opening your home to the club!



Rosie and Wendy wearing their new hats?



Having a good laugh!



Checking out one of the funnier gifts



Conversing before the gift exchange



Larry explaining the gift exchange rules



Have a blessed and wonderful Holiday!!!!