

The Burble & Squeak

Official Newsletter for Annual Members of the Michiana Brits British Car Enthusiasts © 2019 Michiana Brits, Ltd.

April 2019

www.michianabrits.com



Our current club membership is 65

Upcoming Events

May

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 1, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Bob Kerstetter
54573 Gilman Drive
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-259-0330

Monthly Meeting Dinner

Wednesday, May 15 6:30 p.m.
The Brass Rail Bar and Grill
225 N. Michigan St
Plymouth IN 46563
574- 936-7004

Annual Spring Drive

Saturday, May 18

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June

Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Mike Scullion
15525 Carriage Lane
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-252-0511

Monthly Meeting Dinner

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 6:30 p.m.
Ho-Ping House
303 South Dixie Way
South Bend, IN 46637
574-243-3366

Newsletter Submissions

This is the Newsletter of the Michiana Brits, Ltd., Car Club and is distributed to all paid Annual Members as part of their dues. If you would like to submit articles for publication, they are most welcome. The deadline is the 25th of each month. Send all correspondence (electronic submissions are preferable) to the President, bring it to a General Meeting, or send to the Newsletter Editor at mkipete@sbcglobal.net.

Material is subject to editorial revision and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the 2019 Michiana Brits, Ltd., British Car Enthusiasts



Michiana Brits
On the Road Again



Here are your 2019 Board Members

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President's Message

Hello All,

We have a great opportunity to expand. There are multiple owners of LBC's to the East of us who do not have a club and are interested in joining us. We are going to start a Michiana Brits Eastern Region. We have **Dick Birch** to thank for this! The Board is appointing Dick to a new position that gives him the authority to set up monthly breakfast and dinner meetings for the Eastern Region. Please join me in attending at least one of these meetups every quarter. It will be fun meeting new people and trying new restaurants. Both groups will keep each other updated through our monthly newsletter and website.

The spring drive is coming up soon – May 18, 2019. We will be driving to the National Auto and Truck Museum in Auburn, Indiana. Here is a great opportunity to connect both Michiana Brit regions. Perhaps some of the new Brits from the Eastern Region can meet up with us around Warsaw so we can cruise to Auburn together. Several of us have been to this museum. It is near another great auto museum -- the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. I recommend going to NATM's website, <https://natmus.org/> to check out some of the unique vehicles there. Try to carve out some time in your schedule for what will be very enjoyable excursion.

As many of you MGB owners know, NAMGBR is holding its annual event this year in Traverse City, Michigan. While many of the dinners, etc., are already fully booked, we may want to attend, at least for a few days. I think it would be a great opportunity for the Michiana Brits. Perhaps we could convoy there and back. I've been talking to the president of the Chicagoland MGB club and they would like to meet with us around Benton Harbor. We could convoy together to the event. Even if we do not stay for all four nights, we could still have a good time associating with other MG owners. Anyone planning to go please contact me at mlscullion@gmail.com to set up a time and meeting place for the trip to NAMGBR's event.

Also, this may be an opportunity to recruit a few new participants for our show. The NAMGBR trip to Traverse City may be a great way to recruit vehicles to head south to our show. We have a major obstacle to overcome this year. The Senior PGA Tournament is from 6/27/19 to 6/30/19. We will need to use all resources available to compete. Anyone with any suggestions on getting the word out please let us know so that we can take full advantage.

And now for something completely different:

Q: What do you do if your British car is still running?

A: Sell it quickly!

Happy Motoring,

Mike

April 3 Board Meeting Minutes

- Financial – account is healthy, nearly all members have paid their annual fee
- April Newsletter – Mary has Tech Tips, and putting in articles
- Annual Fees – all but about 10 members have renewed their memberships, Larry will send an email reminder to those who have not paid
- Annual Car Show – Herm checking out quotes from T-shirt suppliers; Deb P. & Debbie S. have obtained/made 4 items for a silent auction, Larry confirmed that we can include alcohol items as long as none is consumed; craft table items to be obtained at Saturday's breakfast; first shift Registration will be increased by 1 more Volunteer; bag stuffing on June 24th at 6:30, Larry's house; lapel pin concept to be sent to Ken H.; Beef 'O'Brady's free large room selected for June 29th dinner in Granger; an award to be given for driving longest distance (in an LBC) to car show; Featured Marque adjusted to be MGB/C/GT Chrome Bumper; Mike looking at clubs to be added to media announcement distribution
- Club expansion – Board approved authorizing Dick Birch to begin organizing an Eastern Region of the club centered around the Fort Wayne area; he has a number of interested people
- Meetings/Dinners – May 15 at Brass Rail in Plymouth; June 12th at Ho Ping's on SR 933N, South Bend

Inaugural Michiana Brits Eastern Region Meeting

The Brits Board has approved the organization of an Eastern Region of the club. To be centered in the Fort Wayne region, this Eastern Region of the club will enable existing and new members of Michiana Brits to meet regularly in their general area and participate in some local activities in addition to all of the activities provided by the Brits. This is a good opportunity for the club to expand to the northeastern corner of Indiana which lacks any LBC club (other than some members of the Northern Indiana Austin Healey Club) despite having the second largest city in the State of Indiana.

Brits member Dick Birch is leading the organizational effort. He lives in Avila, IN which is located north of Fort Wayne, a bit west of Auburn. Dick has already received a number of responses from people interested in being part of an Eastern Region of Michiana Brits. We will keep you apprised as this effort proceeds.

The inaugural Eastern Region meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 23, at 6:30 pm. The location is:

On The Square, 111 S. Main St., Columbia City, IN 46725

If anyone from South Bend would like to attend, please let Bruce Woodward (formerly of the Northern Lakes club) know for headcount purposes. You can reach him at britcardriver@gmail.com.

2019 Spring Drive to National Automotive & Truck Museum

The Spring Drive will be on May 18th and the destination is the National Automotive & Truck Museum in Auburn, IN. Look for an announcement of the rallying location and time, and the restaurant for lunch. This prestigious museum was toured by Jay Leno and has hundreds of vintage cars and trucks – there is something to interest everyone.

April Tech News

It is that time of year when we uncover our LBCs for the summer. If you parked your LBC on cardboard like I do, the first thing that I do is look under the car to check for any leaks. Having none is a good sign.

Next up is to pop the hood and check all fluids. Water, oil, carburetors and brake fluid in the brake and clutch reservoirs. You might find your brake and clutch fluid low but there is no fluid on the cardboard or concrete floor.

Pull the boot seal back on the brake, clutch and slave cylinder. Finding none you will have to remove your rear wheels and brake drums. Pull the rubber boot off the wheel cylinders a little to see if any fluid leaks out. If some does on one cylinder, check the other side. If none comes out of that cylinder, you can do one of two things. Change it along with the other side or forget it till it starts leaking. If all fluids are ok, check the fluid in your slave cylinders to see if the fluid is black/dirty. If they are dirty, I remove all of the fluid out of them. Put in new fluid and bleed all systems until you get clean fluid.

As a matter of course, John Twist recommends bleeding out your systems every five years in case you have water in the slave cylinders and brake cylinders.

I haven't been loafing while down here in Florida. I met a guy when we were working at the 12 hours of Sebring race track, who bought a MGB and doesn't have a clue. He has joined NAMGBR. I have fixed him up with Moss and Victoria British and answers to his questions.

I recently purchased a car with 28,160 original miles on the clock, two days before leaving for our Florida home. While driving it home, a few times the clutch would not release. I had to stick my toe under the clutch pedal to get it back up. This tells me I have a problem with the clutch cylinder or slave cylinder. I will bleed out the clutch system and see what happens and check for leaks. I'll also check out the brake system per the above paragraph.

This car is in pristine condition. It looks like I just drove it off of a dealer's show room floor. Paint, interior, engine compartment and tires. The car was driven only during summers and kept in a climate controlled garage with a heated floor and air conditioning. It has a 2.8 liter, 6 cylinder fuel injected engine with electronic ignition. Two carburetors, power steering and power brakes. It has

electric windows and mirrors. Cruise control and air conditioning along with a vintage radio.

Now that I have wet every one's appetite for what I bought, I call it a 1979 MGD-GT. I have rebadged it as that is what they do in England and China. Pictures below of the car.

Roger Deacon



Craft Table Parts Needed

The Brits are planning to have a craft table for kids at our car show on June 30th. We will have parts available so young children can make a race car out of painted toilet paper cardboard tubes and plastic or metal lids (ie., milk jug lid). **NEEDED:** two parts – toilet paper cardboard tubes, plastic or metal caps (any size up to about 3 inches; obviously matched pairs would help). Please bring any parts you have accumulated to the next monthly meeting.

For Sale 1972 MGB

- Rust Free
- 123,052 Miles
- Good Condition
- Dark Green

Roger Deacon 574-292-0004

Meet the Brits

Roger Deacon

This month **Roger Deacon** was chosen to share his answers on being a Michiana Brit. This will be a monthly article. If you are one of the oldest members of the club or someone brand new, we would like you to share. Please participate in this. You can send them to Mary Petersen mkpete@sbcglobal.net

When did you join or how long have you been a member of Michiana Brits?
Ever since the Michiana Brits was started.

What is your favorite aspect of the club? Helping members working on their cars and bonding with them.

What is your favorite car club event? Our 4 day drives. Car show and club meeting at the lake cottage.

What cars do you drive? Own? I have driven almost every car that I have worked on. MGB, MGB-GT, MGC, Midgets, Austin Healy, Bug Eye Sprite, Cars that I own 71 MGB-GT, 72 Triumph Stag, 79 Datsun 280Z

What is your dream car? English Beauford kit car. It has 2 spare tires mounted on each fender, wire rims, long hood looks like a Duesenberg.

What advice would you give a new member? The advice I give everyone is to buy the best rust-free body because all of the mechanicals can be rebuilt. It is cheaper to buy an \$8,000.00 car verses a \$4,000.00 car that you will have to repair. You will spend the same amount of money plus you get to start driving it.

Healey Racing at Gingerman Raceway Saturday May 4, 2019:

Stan Mason Northern Indiana Austin Healey Club Member revised 3/18/19

As many of you may know, Donald Healey's life of racing was always important before his car company existed and even more so after he had his own car company. Before the war, as a race driver he rallied Riley's, Invicta's, Triumph's and other cars successfully all over Europe. After WWII, he started to manufacture his Healey Badged Cars with racing as part of the strategy. The Healey Silverstone in particular had a major focus on racing pedigree. The Sports Car Boom in the USA was influenced by the GIs that returned from the European Theatre after seeing these cool, little 2 seat sports cars and wanted one in their driveway. DMH certainly recognized this opportunity when the Healey 100 was developed. The Sebring Florida 12 hour endurance race was the premier USA Sports Car Race that received International attention. In 1953, a Healey Silverstone with a Cadillac V8 was entered and placed a 41st overall along with a Nash Healey that was entered, but did not start. After receiving a Contract with Austin and initiating production with the Austin Healey 100, the next step was to promote it at the 1954 Sebring Race. The all-alloy bodied Austin Healey 100S placed 3rd overall with the team of Lance Macklin & George Hunton, which was an amazing feat knowing how little race experience they had with this new product. Big Healey's continued to race through the 50s and into the 60s at Sebring. In 1959 a year after the Austin Healey Sprite was introduced, it too was entered at Sebring for the same US promotion strategy and did equally as well taking the top 3 places in it's GT4 class and an overall 31st position, which was very impressive

for this new, small bore Healey. Below are some pictures of those cars from the Sebring 12 Hour Endurance Race.



There is an opportunity to enjoy locally the same Healey Racing Spirit during the Saturday, May 4, 2019 Vintage Sports Car Races at Gingerman Raceway, near South Haven Michigan. This is the closest Vintage Race near South Bend. I am hoping to have a great NIAHC / Michiana Brits turnout like we have in the past. You can expect to see many Racing 50 and 60s

British Sportscars wheel-to-wheel along with Pony Cars and Formula Cars

NIAHC's and Michiana Brit's own Jeff Freers and Stan Mason, respectively, will both be racing their Sprites and welcome the Austin Healey Club and Michiana Brits to join in the fun. Saturday's races have practice in the morning, qualifications around noon and races in the afternoon. Please sign in at the front gate entrance (usually around \$20 per person). Bring a chair and refreshments. There will be many street Vintage Sports Cars parked though out the Paddock. The main gathering point is where you will find all of us under canopies in the Sprite Compound. You can park in this field area if not too wet. Join us for some brats at lunch. At the end of the races, we will have a Cape Of Good Hope British Pub set up for beer, wine and pop that you are invited to. We will toast Donald & Geoffrey Healey along with the Queen. Alcoholic beverages cannot be drunk in the Paddock during the race, but there are other areas where you can if interested. The NIAHC website has pictures from 2012's fun

<http://tricarb.com/gallery/gingerman050512> . If you want to do the Touring Session in your street British Car or Healey during lunch, you need to arrive before 10 AM so your car can be technically inspected. This is for an hour long session and is typically \$35 which is donated to charity. You are welcome to store any extra loose items in my trailer while you are on the track. Look for Stan Mason's BRG Green Racing Bug Eye with wire wheels and Red Thicko Race Car Enclosed

Trailer you can gain additional information on

<http://www.gingermanraceway.com/> <http://www.vscda.org/races/gingerMan.php>



Please let Stan Mason know how many are wanting to attend so we can have enough brats for lunch; contact me at StanBMason@AOL.com.

Monthly Meeting/Breakfast at Yellow Cat Cafe

By Mary Petersen

Saturday, April 13th was a sunny but cool morning when the Michiana Brits met for their monthly meeting/breakfast at the Yellow Cat Café on Colfax Street in South Bend. There were twenty-one members present.

The menu was filled with many tasty breakfast items and also a few specials. I was very surprised at how much food was served on your plate. So if you went hungry, it was your own fault. The service was very fast and there were endless cups of coffee served.



Mike Scullion addresses the club; Paul & Janet Dillon visit with friends



Mike stands for the meeting; Dick Birch & Paul Dillon listen

Mike Scullion held a short meeting. We discussed the car show and the Spring Drive. He also announced that we will have a new Eastern Region of the Michiana Brits!

Dick Birch will organize and lead this group.

Everyone is excited to start driving their LBCs. The weather is finally getting nice so we will be out and on the road before too long!
