

President's Message

It is now early August and I'm usually writing something about the Dog Days weather of summer. But not this year. July was only the 11th month without a day of at least 90 degree weather, in the last 130+ years. Last Friday it was downright cold and then Saturday and Sunday turned out to be beautiful days. Northern Indiana weather can be something to behold!

We are coming into some of the busiest times of our LBC driving year. Wednesday 9th, we have our monthly meeting/dinner at Zeke's in Dowagiac, MI. The 27th is our annual meeting/potluck lunch at the Deacon's cottage on Twin Branch Lake near Howe, IN. Both are fun activities and provide a nice long drive in your LBC, usually in good top down driving weather. In September, we will have our monthly meeting/dinner at a new spot for the club – Villa Macri at Toscana Square, Granger, IN. Plenty of parking and it's a large restaurant with a lot of room for our club. And then on September 21st – 24th, the road warriors are off on the Fall Tour to Mackinac Island and nearby sights of interest. If you haven't joined in on a Fall Tour Drive (and the vast majority of you haven't!), you've missed a lot of fun, great driving, very interesting local sights, LBC related activities, and fun dining at a variety of eateries. And did I mention – we have a fun time.

Once we are back from the Fall Tour, we will begin planning the schedules for October through December. There will be the annual election for spots on the Board of Directors. This year we will elect three members. Consider being on the Board – it isn't a taxing experience and the Board is a collegial group that often visits well after the club's business is discussed.

October will include a Fall Colors Drive and dinner meeting possibly at a new location. November includes a Membership Appreciation Dinner, and then the December Christmas/Hanukkah Party at a location TBD.

Get involved now in the club's activities – college football practice has begun, Labor Day will be here soon, and we'll be deep into the fall before you realize the LBC driving season is approaching an end.

Wednesday, August 2, Board Meeting Minutes

- Financial : Bob K. reported the amount in the club's account
- August Newsletter : Mary is working on the Newsletter
- Fall Tour : before August 30th, Keith will forward the rally point for dissemination
- Annual car show: 2017 show - \$75 balance of lease fee paid; \$225 down payment for 2018 show submitted with signed contract; Board decided that MGA will be the 2018 Featured Marque
- Herm will be Larry's backup while he is on vacation
- Annual Elections to Board – there will be three Board spots up for election
- Monthly Meeting/Dinner : August 9th – Zeke's in Dowagiac, MI; September 13 – Villa Macri, Toscana Square, Granger, IN; October – determining date of Fall Colors Drive so date of meeting/dinner and location can be set
- Annual Meeting : August 27th , 11:00 AM at Deacon's lake cottage near Howe, IN
- Board Meetings : September 14th – Herm's house; October 4th – Roger Deacon's house; November 1st - Bob K's house

Michiana Brits Annual Membership Meeting Sunday, August 27th

The Club's annual membership meeting and Pot Luck lunch will be held at approximately Noon on Sunday, August 27th at the Deacon's Twin Lakes cottage. Call Ruth Deacon at 574-679-4332 to let her know what you are bringing to this potluck lunch. The club will provide the meat (fried chicken). Email Roger at rogerdeacon61@yahoo.com so he will have a head count and know how much chicken to buy. Lunch will begin at approximately noon, *so plan to arrive earlier*. Roger has requested that people bring their own lawn chairs due to the minimum number at the cottage and also bring their own drinks although some soft drinks will be provided.

Roger and Ruth Deacon 1785 W. 570N Howe, IN (Call 574-292-0004 if you get lost)

There are 3 ways to get to the Deacon's cottage:

1) East on the Toll Road: east to the Sturgis/LaGrange exit. Leaving the Toll Road, turn right at the stop light onto Hwy 9, go approximately 2 miles to the next stop light and turn right onto Hwy 120. You are at the south edge of Howe, IN. Go 2 miles until you are about 1000 feet past the Twin Lakes Resort and Campground, and turn right onto Road 185 West. Go straight in, up the hill until it dead ends and turn right, go down the hill until you come to a cul-de-sac. Keep going onto a white gravel drive bearing left around a tree. You have arrived.

2) East on McKinley Hwy: go to Elkhart, turn right at the Chevy dealer when you go across the river, turn left at the next stop light and follow this road through town. At the edge of Elkhart, you will come to the R.R. tracks and a stop light, keep going straight until the next light and go straight. Do not take the right fork to the right. You will now be on the south side of the St. Joe River and eventually Hwy 20. Follow this through the town of Bristol past Hwy 13 and past Hwy 5 which goes to Shipshewana. You will go about 5 miles and across the Pigeon River about ½ mile and the first road you come to on your left will be Road 185 West. Turn left and go straight in, up the hill until it dead ends and turn right, go down the hill until you come to a cul-de-sac. Keep going onto a white gravel drive bearing left around a tree. You have arrived.

3) East on Hwy 20: go until you come to the town of LaGrange. At the light, turn left onto Hwy 9 and go about 6 miles to the town of Howe. At the intersection/light of Hwy 120 on the south side of Howe, turn left and go 2 miles until you are about 1000 feet past the Twin Lakes Resort and Campground and turn right onto Road 185 West. Go straight in, up the hill until it dead ends and turn right. Go down the hill until you come to a cul-de-sac. Keep going onto a white gravel drive bearing left around a tree. You have arrived.

2017 Odometer Contest

We are in the middle 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



Round Barn Winery Sports Car Show Sept. 9, 2017

This exclusive Sports Car Show held at Round Barn Winery on Saturday September 9, 2017 is the only one known in the Northern Indiana / South West Michigan area. There are quite a few attendees from last year that identified this event as their most favorite car show of the year. One of the strongest reasons they liked this event was for the ability to invite friends that may not share the same level of excitement about sports cars as you may, but enjoy the ambiance of a being at a Winery and listening to live music while enjoying cars. Some of the sports cars that attended were Ferrari, Porsche, British, German, Swedish, French and Japanese Sports Cars. We have signs to organize cars by their country of origin. This event has no registration or awards, just show up and enjoy a beautiful day of Sports Cars, Live Music with Round Barn's own Wine, Beer, Spirits, Food, water and soft drinks. Most car owners arrive before Noon and can leave anytime later. Car tours are encouraged to this event and are a great way to make it a club event by winding through the beautiful wine country of Berrien County.

Once you arrive at Round Barn proceed down driveway to paved parking lot and drive to gate just East of Round Barn and an attendant will let you in. Vintage clothing is also encouraged.

Fall Tour to Mackinac Island - Sept. 21-24

The 2017 Fall Tour, to occur September 21-24, has a destination of Mackinac Island. We will visit interesting sights around Petosky and Charlevoix on Saturday after going over to the island on Friday (when there are fewer tourists).

Keith Wishmeier arranged a block of 10 hotel rooms for the club on the south side of the bridge at Mackinaw City. The rooms are split into two groups - 5 lakeside rooms (with a view) and 5 court side rooms (hotel parking area, etc.) Thus, the group rate room prices vary and also vary according to the nights reserved (no control over that). We will be there 3 nights, September 21-23. Google it and check out the amenities.

Below is information about the hotel. As of July 15th, 8 rooms have been reserved; two court side rooms are left but several lakeside rooms are still available (they will book more than 10 rooms since rooms are still available).

Best Western Plus Dockside Waterfront, 505 South Huron, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 1-800-944-1615 (toll free)

**REQUEST YOUR ROOM FROM THOSE RESERVED FOR MICHIANA
BRITISH CAR CLUB**

The rooms will be held until August 31st, and then released back into the general inventory.

Lakeside rooms; Thur. \$119; Fri. \$129; Sat. \$169, for a total of \$417 before taxes, etc.

Court side rooms: Thur. \$89; Fri. \$99; Sat. \$139, for a total of \$327 before taxes, etc.

Hotels tend to have high occupancy rates at this time of year (e.g., no rooms were available in Petosky)

Still time to join in on Fall Tour 2017 and make your room reservation. We always have a good time on these 4 day trips.

THE FEATURED MARQUE FOR THE 2018 MICHIANA BRITS CAR SHOW WILL BE THE MGA.

Michiana Brits Name Badges

After some research, Herm Marrese located a vendor that would make the club name badges for a much lower cost. Due to this low price, the club will pick up the cost for the badges. More details later.

Stagmans Tech Tips

By Roger Deacon

Nobody gives a thought to their clutch until it quits working and leaves you beside the road. The first thought is the clutch Slave cylinder. Next thought is the Master clutch cylinder. The worst thought is that the clutch has gone out which could put a big dent in your retirement plans.

Always check the fluid in the Clutch Master cylinder. Bleed the clutch Slave cylinder and replace the pin in the push rod coming from the clutch Slave cylinder to the clutch fork - it might be badly worn. Grease this pin with a thick grease to keep it from wearing.

Now that all of the above has been checked out, go to your bank and cash in some of your 401k funds. It can run from \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 to pull the engine in order to change out the clutch.

I was recently working on an MGB that needed a lot of work. I asked the owner how the clutch was working. He told me no problem - it was working OK. Now this car has 134,000 miles on it and near as I can tell the engine had never been out of the car. I told the owner that in 20 more minutes the engine could be pulled and checked. If it wasn't pulled now, it was going to cost \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 to pull it later to change the clutch. He said OK pull the engine.

We pulled the engine and split the tranny from the engine. Took a quick look at the throw-out bearing and pulled it out. 1/3 of the throw out bearing was GONE! The 2 retainer hooks that keep the throw-out bearing coupled to the throw-out fork were missing. I have never seen a throw-out bearing this bad and still working.

The things that need to be done when you replace the clutch is: first, unbolt the flywheel and take it to South Bend clutch to get refaced. \$25.00 cash and they do it right then when I take it in.

Next, replace the Pilot Bushing in the end of the crank shaft and grease the new one. Buy a new bushing and bolt for the clutch fork. After installing these items, grease them both so they don't wear like the old ones. And last, buy a new clutch assembly. If buying from Moss, the throw-out bearing and retainer keepers come with the clutch kit: \$200.00 plus shipping. Order all of the small parts when ordering the clutch kit because it saves on shipping.

When installing the flywheel, there are 2 holes drilled in the flywheel. These need to be at the top of the engine when Number 1 and number 4 piston are top dead center. A lot of mechanics don't know this and don't know where the holes are drilled in the flywheel.

Last... always read the Haines or Chilton Manuals whenever you are working on your MGB. I also have the parts book open just to check how everything goes back together again.

Safety Fast

Roger Deacon



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(\$6.00 SANDWICH, CHIPS & DRINK)

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 11AM TO 3PM

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NORTH SIDE OF AIRPORT ON C.R. 6



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ATTENDING PILOTS AND DRIVERS TO VOTE THEIR CHOICES