

The Burble & Squeak

Official Newsletter for Annual Members of the Michiana Brits British Car Enthusiasts © 2022 Michiana Brits, Ltd.

October 2022

About Michiana Brits

This car club is open to lovers and/or owners of British vehicles. All paid members receive this monthly newsletter as part of their annual dues.

Newsletter Submissions

Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos for publication to the Newsletter Editor at vbloom01@sbcglobal.net

You may also submit material for the newsletter to the Club president online, through mail, or in person at a general club meeting.

The newsletter's **deadline is now the 10th of the month.**

Material is subject to editorial revision. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the 2022 Michiana Brits, Ltd., British Car Enthusiasts.

Website:

www.michianabrits.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/374723067057280

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 22

**Fall Colors Drive
10:00 am EST –
More details
forthcoming**

NOVEMBER 11

**Members'
Appreciation
Dinner
Villa Macri,
Granger, IN –
Cocktails/
Socializing starts
at 6 pm EST,
dinner at 7 pm.**



Happy Halloween!



Fall Tour 2022

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Membership Report

85 memberships; 151 members

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Cheers,

This year's Fall Tour took us to the area around Ottawa, IL. We visited the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center and arrived just in time to watch the water drained from the locks so that a group of barges could continue downstream. We then went to historic Starved Rock State Park and had lunch before exploring the local area.

The next day we headed south toward Peoria along the meandering Illinois River Road. Then something unexpected happened. While leading the group of Michiana Brits on the drive south we rounded a blind curve and I saw that two vehicles, a minivan and a van conversion, had just collided about fifty feet in front of me. Parts were still flying off of the vehicles and bouncing in the street as I came to a stop. Once the vehicles had stopped skidding, I pulled forward far enough down the road so the Michiana Brits behind me could pull over as well. By the time I was out of my car the Michiana Brits had jumped into action.

Using the parking and traffic control skills learned at our annual car shows, teams quickly formed to direct traffic around the accident (and call 911). We were in a rural area, so it took more than a few minutes for the authorities arrive. The three people involved in the accident appeared to not have suffered any major injuries. The Michiana Brits continued traffic control until there were enough authorities on site to take over.

We then continued our drive south, stopping to enjoy lunch at an English pub. We then went to the Wheels o' Time Museum in Dunlap, IL. The museum had claimed it British Invasion Day since the Bentley Driver's Club had also planned a visit that day. While the accident had delayed our travels, we still arrived at the museum before the Bentley Driver's Club had left.

See what you missed by not participating in this club activity? Maybe next year you'll join us.

Finally, the Fall Colors Drive will be on October 22nd. Also, don't forget Friday, November 11, 2022. This is the date of our annual Membership Appreciation Dinner. This year we are holding it at Villa Macri in Granger. Info to follow.

Cheers,
Mike

Board Meeting Minutes

1. Financial – Mike provided an update since Paul could not attend.
2. Membership Appreciation Dinner – Villa Macri in Granger, IN on Nov. 11th at 6pm (dinner is being served at 7pm). Larry will send out more information once the cost and menu are finalized.
3. Newsletter – almost ready to go. Vicki posted trip pictures on the Facebook page.
4. Activities
 - Fall Color drive – **October 22** - Randy is still working on the route, which includes passing historical sites and a short stop at Round Barn. We will most likely be leaving at **10:00 EST** from **CVS** on Cleveland Rd (intersects at Main/Gumwood). Lunch will be at the Red Arrow Roadhouse.
 - Phil briefly answered questions about a car collection in Kalamazoo that we may visit in the future.
5. Car show – the Board decided the 2023 Featured Marque will be the **Jaguar XKE, Series I, II, III.**
6. Fall Elections – both Jim Betz and Jim Webb said they are willing to be nominated. Larry will send out an email soliciting other people. **Interested in serving? Contact Larry.**
7. Monthly Meetings/Dinners: October 12th at Lehman's Orchard Brewery and Farmhouse in Buchanan, MI – 6:30pm – please RSVP to Larry or PJ

8. Next Board Meetings – Wednesday at 7:30 via Zoom – Nov. 2 & Dec. 7.

2021 Board Members	
<p>President: Mike Scullion Phone: 574-252-0511 Email: mlscullion01@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Activities: Paul Dillon Phone: 574-272-7391 Email: paul.i.dillion.3@nd.edu</p> 
<p>Membership: Herm Marrese Phone: 574-360-4938 Email: hmarrese@comcast.net</p> 	<p>Board Member at Large: Richard Birch Phone: 336-309-3847 Email: birchtr6@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Communications: Vicki Bloom Phone: 574-252-0511 Email: vbloom01@sbcglobal.net</p> 	<p>Treasurer: Paul Noeth Phone: 574-274-2842 Email: pnoeth@gmail.com</p> 
<p>Secretary: Larry Palguta Phone: 574-288-3923 Email: palguta@sbcglobal.net</p> 	

Fall Trip to Central Illinois

Pictures by Vicki Bloom, Paul Dillon, Mary Petersen, and Larry Palguta



Please post your photos on our Facebook site!

Ten cars (20 people) went on the fall trip



Illinois serves BIG pork tenderloin sandwiches. That poor bun is tiny 😊
Kim Betz at Blue's Café, Kankakee, IL

Due to a detour, we did not arrive until after 3pm for our 2:00 planned visit to the Weber House & Gardens. The owner, Ted Weber provided a fun and interesting tour. He was a former radio personality in Chicago who has met many celebrities.

His extensive gardens, which he tends himself are styled in the arts and crafts style of the 19th and early 20th.





The "Cat House"





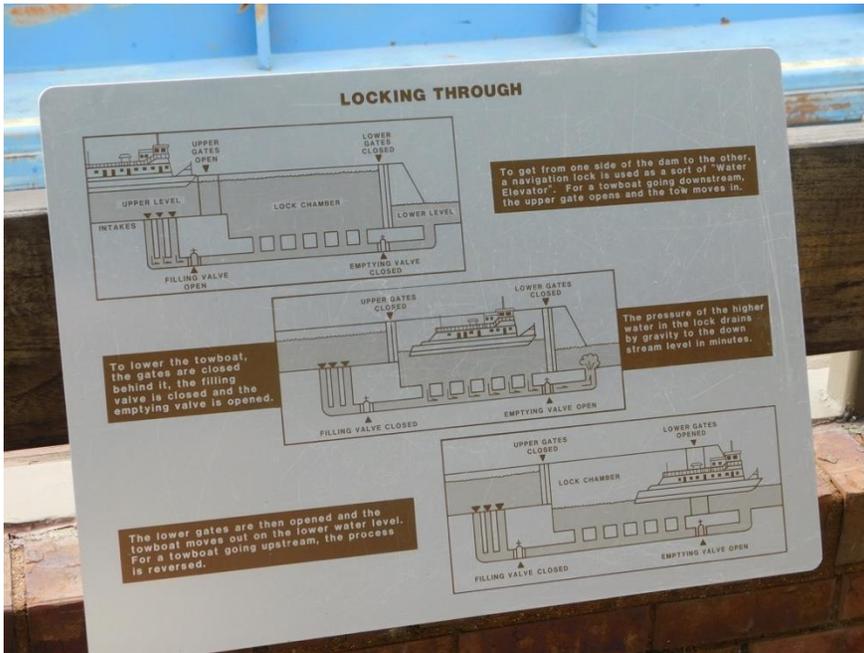
His storybook house is filled with memorabilia. The entryway, which is named “Shadow Hall” after “The Shadow,” a popular radio crime drama in the 1930s and ‘40s. Weber said when Bret Morrison, who, at one point portrayed the Shadow, passed away, he inherited the walking sticks that originally belonged to Lamont Cranston, another actor to hold the role. Those can be seen right inside the red entrance to the home.



Just past Shadow Hall lies the dining room, better known as the Myrna Loy room. Loy, a famous American stage and film actress, visited the Weber House on multiple occasions.

Weber tells a story of how she was known as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's favorite actress and it made front page news when he stated, on multiple occasions, he wanted to meet her. Whether he was able to or not, she was later named as a delegate to the United Nations with Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, by President Harry Truman. He also has a postcard from then Vice-President Nixon that he received as a young reporter and a signed book by Leon Jaworski, the Watergate special prosecutor, among his many treasures.

On Friday, we quickly drove through Ottawa – passing the Reddick Mansion and Lincoln murals. Ottawa was the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debates.



Then we visited the I&M Canal Visitor Center Waterway and saw the water being drained from the locks in order to let the barges by.



Afterward, we headed to Starved Rock State Park, eating lunch at their lodge. It's known for its steep sandstone canyons formed by glacial meltwater. Due to the drought, we could not see any of the usual waterfalls.

On Saturday as we headed to Peoria, we saw the aftermath of an accident between two vans. The Brits contacted 911 and handled traffic control for a good 1/2 hour before we were relieved by the fire department and EMT. Mike saw the tail end and provided a report to police. A team effort among our good Samaritans!





As we headed to Peoria, we drove the famous Grand View Drive, a mansion-lined street overlooking the Illinois River. President Theodore Roosevelt deemed it “the world’s most beautiful drive.”



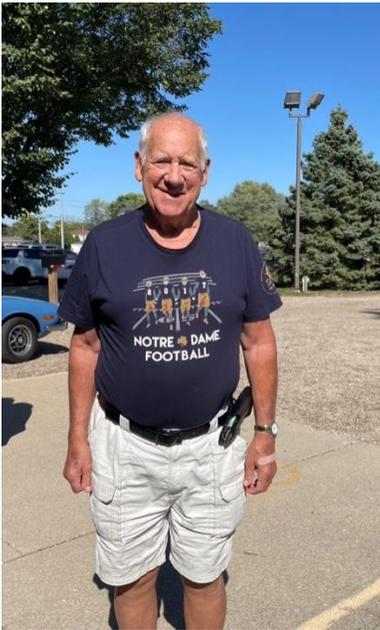
After lunch at an English pub, we drove to Dunlap, IL to the Wheels O’ Time museum. Other British car lovers showed up – the Chicago Bentley club and the owner (who volunteers at that museum) of a red Sunbeam Tiger.





Wheels O' Time houses a hodge-podge of items, from vintage Ford V-8s and a Pacific type locomotive to old jukeboxes, fire engines, clocks, and vintage kitchen and woodworking tools.





Since it was college football Saturday, some of our members (Roger Deacon, the Petersen's and Glander's) displayed their team spirit



Here we are receiving last minute instructions from tour leader, Mike Scullion, before heading out.

Karma, A Wedge Story

By Mark Mihalo

I have been meaning to write an article about having my car serviced along with my impression of the repairs, but this has warped into more than that, so let me explain. First my little British car (LBC) credentials. I drove a 1976 TR-7 in high school, and I currently own a 1980 Triumph TR-7 Drophead and a 1980 TR-8 Drophead. Yeah, I'm a Wedgehead. I refurbished the TR-7 in 1996 and

enjoyed driving it until 2010 when I completed the refurbishment of the TR-8. Now the 7 sits in a corner of the garage with a 1983 Yamaha Seca 750 trying to gather cobwebs which I faithfully clean off. Once the TR-8 was completed, it became my primary fun summer car until the 2017 Mad Dogs and Englishman gathering outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan, when the car overheated on the way home from the show. Some would say the ghost of Lucas showed his powers when both electric cooling fans failed along with melting a corner of the fuse block on that fateful drive home. The TR-8 was parked in another corner of the garage and life went on without LBC's.

Flash back to a couple days after New Year, 1980. A college freshman is driving his TR-7 back to Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana on a Saturday evening with carload of groceries freshly stolen from his parents and a 7 week old unnamed kitten. Driving east on Indiana 26 the engine shuts down in the City of Alexandria and the car is coasted into a closed gas station. Although the engine would turn over it would not start. After locating a payphone and using the Yellow pages (Remember those?), a flatbed tow was arranged to complete the final 20 miles and the car parked for a week until there was time to check it out. The first turn of the key and the car immediately started and ran. Since it was a cold January day the car was left to idle for almost half an hour. (something I would NEVER do in the summer with any Triumph). It then shut down. Once again, the engine would turn over, but would not start. After some research, the following day the car was driven (without any issues) to the G. W. Bartlett Co. for repairs. Yes, Jaguar owners, it is the same G. W. Bartlett's that did those sumptuous leather interior restorations. The car was diagnosed with a bad Lucas ignition and replaced with a Crane electronic unit. I named the kitten Alexandria (Alex) and at spring break the car was sold to a coworker of my brother after getting him sufficiently drunk.

Back to 2022. I have always been a person that likes to maintain his cars as close to stock as feasible. The dual electric cooling fans on AC equipped TR-8's are specific for that car and not interchangeable with a TR-7. Needless to say, the electric fans are made from unobtainium. Trying to maintain stock appearance and with help from the Triumph Wedge Owners Association I decided to replace the fans with early model Porsche Boxster fans. The fans fit the original Triumph cradle with minimum issues and worked when jumped to the battery. Not willing to do a deep dive into the original fuse block I decided to finally farm the car out for repair, but who would want to work on a 42 year old car that had a worldwide production run of 2500 and then the company shut down? I immediately thought of G. W. Bartlett Co. A web search revealed the company is now doing business as Muncie Imports and Classics and still does original specification Jaguar interiors along with full car restorations and

repairs. On a cold February day, the 8 was flat bedded out along with a list of issues besides the fuse block to be repaired. (The original power steering rack sported it's Type F ATF, yes that's what they use, all over the garage floor in 2015 so I took the belt off and kept driving the car. The air conditioning wouldn't hold a charge. The 5 year old gasoline needed to be flushed before attempting to start the car and other less major issues).

In June the car was ready to go so my wife and I made the 3 hour trip from the Chicago area to Muncie on a 93 degree day. Everything worked properly and so I began the drive home with my wife following. Driving west on Indiana 26 with the AC working perfectly, I stopped in Alexandria for lunch, but before I could pull into the restaurant parking lot the TR-8 let out four loud backfires and stopped. Trying to restart the car was greeted by click, click, click. I first thought vapor lock since it was a hot day and the battery was new, but after waiting over an hour for the car to cool it was still just a click when turning the key. I called the owner of Muncie Imports and Classics, Chuck Crabtree, and he arranged a flatbed tow back to the shop. Chuck had driven the car multiple times before I picked it up, but not a prolonged time on the highway. It was diagnosed that the 25 ACR (65 amp) alternator I thought I installed when I refurbished the car was actually a 17 ACR (36 amp) and between the draw of the AC on high and the cooling fans, the alternator could not charge the battery. Once the battery voltage dropped low enough the Pertronix ignition (yeah, I had learned my lesson and upgraded this car!) just shut down. A 100 amp GM alternator was installed, and I have been driving the car ever since.

I now have a Triumph that is much more trustworthy on trips. It's stock appearance on the outside is fine, but opening the bonnet reveals an engine without its air pump and rails, (so the new GM alternator with modified mounts would fit), an aluminum radiator and cooling fans with black, not yellow blades. Would I use Muncie Imports and Classics again? Definitely yes, with a shout out to The Wedge Shop for the parts that were supplied. Will I drive a Triumph through Alexandria Indiana again? I don't think so. It's just bad karma, but Alex the cat did live 20 years.

Celebrating the Romance of the Road Trip

Philip Wiltshire and Jan Tucker's daughter sent her parents this link. As Philip noted, "it's a good gear head" read and fires the imagination.

<https://detour-roadtrips.com/>

MERCH

All members are eligible to receive a **free Windshield Cling-on** of the club logo. To request yours, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to **Larry Palguta**, 55596 Country Club Road, South Bend, IN 46619. Additional stickers are \$2/each or 3 for \$5.

If you want a shirt embroidered with the club's logo? Go to:



Paige's Custom Lettering
12622 Alexander, Granger 574 277-1631

Closed: Monday Saturday Sunday.

Directions: SR23 to Bittersweet; turn south, continue to Alexander St. Turn right to end; Tan building on left. Beware of potholes on Alexander St.

Costs:

Embroider on your own shirt: **\$15.00**/each
 DTG printing (direct to garment):
 screen. \$20.00/each

The logo looks best on **white shirts**. On grey or blue shirts, there would be additional cost for the background white color.

Paul Dillon modeling the shirt

2022 Michiana Brits Event Calendar		
Month	Date	Event
January	5	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom.
	15	10am EST, Breakfast at Perkins, Elkhart
February	2	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom.
	19	10am EST, Breakfast at Perkins, Elkhart
March	2	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom.
	26	10am EST, Breakfast at Perkins, Elkhart
	27	*All British Swap Meet, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL

April	6 16	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. 10am EST, Breakfast at Perkins, Elkhart
May	4 18 21	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. 6:30pm EST Dinner at the Brass Rail, Plymouth 11:30 am EST SPRING DRIVE: Lincoln Highway drive to Valpo
June	1 4 5 9 19-23 25 26	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. 11:30am EST Wine Tour, Eastern Division *Ft. Meigs Car Show, Perrysburg, OH Essenhaus – Our club is the featured Marque *MG2022 – Peterborough, Ontario, Canada 6:30 pm EST, Pre-Show/Members’ Dinner, Beef O’Brady’s Annual Car Show, St. Mary’s College
July	6 9-10 9 19	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. *Mad Dogs Auto Faire & Rally, Hickory Oaks, MI *St. Joseph 4H Boosters 5th Annual Car and Truck Show 6:30 pm EST, Dinner at Hank’s Tavern, Three Rivers, MI
August	3 13 20 18-20	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. *34th Annual Indy British Day. Annual Members meeting at the Webb’s *Woodward Cruise, Detroit.
September	7 11 14 22-25	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. *35th Chicagoland British Car Festival 6:30pm EST Dinner at The Brass Rail, Plymouth, IN Fall Tour
October	5 12 22	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. 6:30 pm EST Dinner at Lehman’s in Buchanan, MI 10:00 EST Fall Colors Drive
November	2 11	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom. Members Appreciation Dinner at Villa Macri, Granger, IN
December	7	7:30 pm EST Board meeting via Zoom.
<u>Notes:</u> *Not a Michiana Brits Event. Enjoy at your own leisure.		