

BEHIND THE STEERING WHEEL (where there is always a loose nut)

GSBCC's NEWSLETTER

May 2012

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👉 General Meeting 👈

The 2nd Tuesday of each month Next Meeting: **TUESDAY, June 12, 6:30 pm**, T-Bonz, Hwy 17 Bypass, 21st Ave North, Myrtle Beach.

Guests Are Always Welcome!

Club Website:

www.GrandStrandBritishCarClub.com

Club Calendar of Events:

www.Google.com/calendar/embed?src=hub1tpr_sOrneea57ejo3197oo0@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York&gsessionid=OK

Club FaceBook:

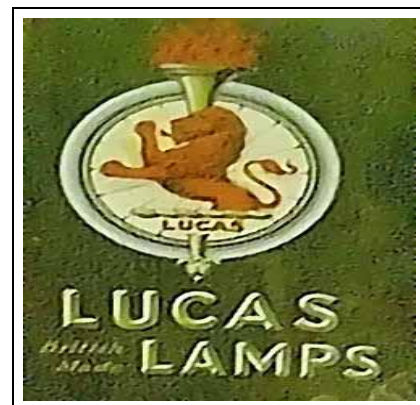
www.FaceBook.com/pages/Grand-Strand-British-Car-Club/344525917851

Lucas, Prince of Darkness, Strikes Again!

(-or- Why It Is Important to Recondition Your Rocker Switches)

by Bill Unger

Last month, I was driving my 1969 Jaguar E-type home from our GSBCC meeting at highway speed when suddenly my headlamps extinguished, but not at my command! I live near Brown's Ferry in the far nether region of Georgetown County, and there is no street lighting on the back roads of Choppee and Pleasant Hill, so when I say that it went dark, I do mean DARK! Fortunately, the highway was straight at that point ... I just held the steering wheel steady and instinctively reached for the headlamp switch to toggle back and forth. The lights flicked off-on but would not stay illuminated unless I continually pressed on the switch.



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GSBCC Officers and Committee Chairs

President Jim Hendricks

☎ (843) 902-0491

✉ jimhendrickaas@live.com

Vice President & Website Rod Smith

☎ (843) 651-7644

✉ jrodsmith@yahoo.com

Secretary & Website Felicia Sachs

☎ (843) 455-8273

✉ FELSAC@aol.com

Treasurer Jim Smith

☎ (843) 907-0178

✉ Casper1@sccoast.net

Events Coordinator (open)

Membership Development (open)

Newsletter Editor Bill Unger

☎ (843) 527-7840

✉ BlackRiverExp@att.net

Club Regalia Sales Jim Lewis

☎ (843) 385-0580

✉ JLewis44@rr.sc.com

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Welcome to the Garage

"Welcome" new GSBCC members ...

Raymond Brown

🏠 Murrells Inlet SC

B 1976 Triumph TR6

☎ (843) 299-0266

✉ Gkhan4@verizon.net

Dave Boyles

B 1976 TR6

☎ (910) 209-1103

✉ WriteDave@atmc.com

Reconditioning Lucas Rocker Switches (cont.)

I drove the last 20 minutes with one hand on the switch and the other doing the double duty of shifting and steering. My straightened finger was stiff and numb when I pulled into the garage, but I made it!

Lucas was not known for robust electrical components back then, partly because of the technology of the time, but also because of their construction. I would bet that 99.999% of electrical problems experienced, whether Lucas or Bosch or AC Delco, are due to a lack of continuity. That is, electron flow stops when overwhelming resistance is met.

The Lucas rocker switch replaced the more traditional toggle switch in about 1968 when new Federal mandates deemed dashboard protrusions a danger to driver safety during a head-on collision with an immovable bridge abutment or 70 mph semi-tractor trailer crossing the median. Eared wire wheel knock offs, too, were deemed unsafe for pedestrians as you drove over jaywalkers with 1½ tons of steel. Thus, they were replaced with large nuts. What would we do without a nanny state to worry about the nits!



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My View Through the Windscreen

by Jim Hendricks, President

Hi Members,

I hope you are enjoying the top down weather we have had lately. My new job has kept me from doing just that. I enjoyed seeing all of you that was at the swing bridge. Our next function will be 5/26/12 near the Surfside Pier. I hope to be there.

Pulled my British bike out of storage and rode it a whole 30 minutes today. You have heard the saying ..."Plenty of time but no money" or "Plenty of money and no time." Sure would be nice to have a little of both!



I found this old picture and wanted to share it with you. I would like to have just one in this shape! Can you guess the year?

Take Care!

Jim Hendricks

Monthly Meeting Minutes

by Felicia Sachs, Secretary

The Monthly Meeting was called to order Tuesday, 6:30 pm, May 8 at T-Bonz Restaurant by Rod Smith, Vice President. Jim Hendricks, President, could not attend. Last month's meeting minutes were presented by Felicia Sachs, Secretary, as written in the newsletter and approved. Jim Smith, Treasurer, reported a balance of \$1163.43. A bill of \$260.96 was paid for shirts and Koozies. \$150 was received from participants at the Socastee Heritage Festival. \$25 club registration fee was paid to the Socastee Heritage Fund. The Board will discuss further donation to Socastee Heritage Fund. Paid membership to date is 46. Rod will check his list with Jim to confirm the current member list.

Rod discussed the Members Address Book. Only one ad has been sold for \$25, but there is no application form to sell ads at this time. Cost to make the last members booklet was \$300. Felicia suggested selling as many ads as possible to cover the costs. Bill Unger presented 2 objectives: website with PDF format with ads in the back. People can print themselves or do a color slick printout for \$500. Motion by Bill for latter was seconded by Felicia but voted down. Next motion by Bill Unger was for a website PDF with club printing it for those that could not utilize the computer or website, seconded by Rod Smith, and carried by vote. A new committee to sell ads for newsletter and create PDF was formed with Carolyn Ross appointed Chairman, and members Sandy Benson, Bill Unger and Jim Smith as members.

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Meeting Minutes (cont.)

The Gathering Car Show in Dobson, NC, was attended by Bill & Lisa Unger, Rod & Myrna Smith, and Dennis & Rhonda Oldland. There was a record number of cars there including 20+ TR3's. A wonderful show not to be missed next year.

Socastee Heritage Festival had 16 great looking British cars.

Upcoming Events:

Tomorrow at Advanced Auto on Hwy 17 Business in Murrells Inlet is their Open House 11am - 3pm. Come out & show your British cars off! Free food and drinks!

May 26 at Surfside Pier Memorial Day Festival. 30 British cars needed. Registration \$20 8am - 11am. 3 Trophies will be awarded.

June 6-10 MG Show in Georgia. See Jim for details.

July we'll arrange to be at La Belle Amie Winery for the Parrot Head Event. Felicia will arrange to be around the lake as we did last year.

Bill Unger announced he needs articles or pictures for our newsletter. If you have a special project you are working on or completed, send Bill the info (copyable text) and photos (JPEG best) by email!

Tech session by Bill tonight was on converting Lucas tail lights to LED by Classic LED. Cost around \$158 plus electronic flasher unit. It reduces the load on the battery and alternator. Makes for a very bright difference, too.

Jim Smith discussed having 3 cars on tee shirts to have for sale at our tri-club gathering in the fall. Details to be worked out.

No further business. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. Respectfully submitted,

Felicia Sachs

Reconditioning Lucas Rocker Switches (cont.)

The Lucas rocker switch can be easily reconditioned for continued use until its next blackout. Access the back side of your switch panel, in the case of the E-type, a convenient drop-down panel in the middle of the dash.



Disconnect the wires from the back side of the switch by pulling the spade connector off the tab. You may need a needle nose pliers to firmly grasp. Note the position of the wires. Look carefully, and you will see numbers molded into the back side of the switch housing at the base of the spades. Depending upon what appliance is controlled by the switch, it may be critical to exactly reposition the wires upon reinstallation to maintain proper functionality such as for two-speed heater fans or wipers.



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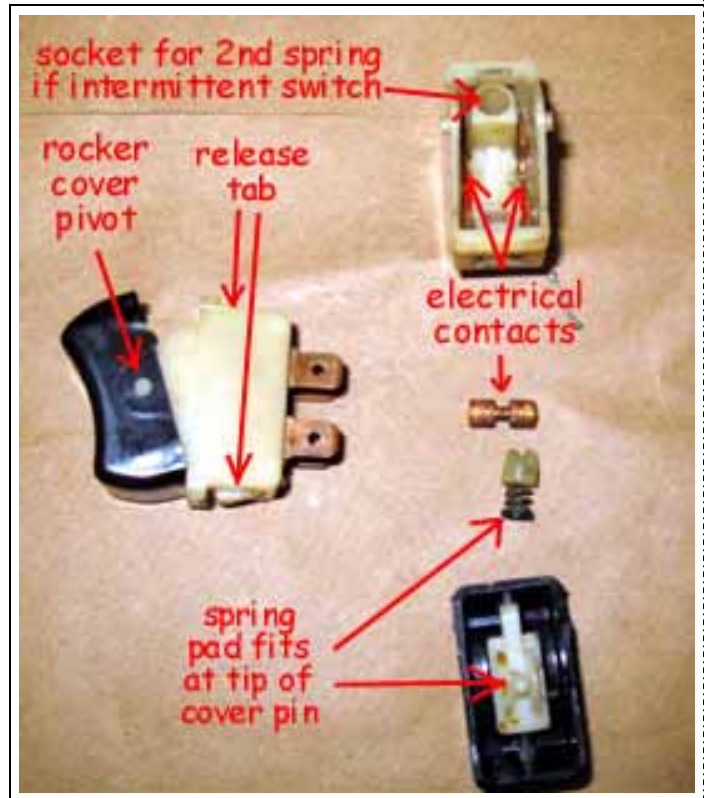
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Reconditioning Lucas Rocker Switches (cont.)

Gently press on the plastic tabs that hold the switch in position and pull the switch out from the front of the panel.



The switch can be disassembled by squeezing the sides of the white switch housing to release the black rocker cover. Note the internal components of the switch as they tumble out onto your workbench. Don't do this in the yard or over a gravel driveway if you want to find all the pieces again!

If the switch operates as an intermittent, such as for the windscreen washer, it will have a second spring in a socket at one end to return the rocker cover to the "off" position. Otherwise, there will be only one spring device in the center with a pad that fits over the center pin of the cover and a fork at the opposite end that fits into a groove in the center of a copper bar. The action of the spring flicks the copper bar to each end of the housing to affect or break electrical contact between the side contacts as the rocker cover is pressed.

If the internals are badly burned or if overheating has melted the plastic housing, then toss the mess into the trash and replace with a new switch. Otherwise, if everything looks intact, the contacts can be burnished with a Dremel-type rotary tool and emery cloth to renew the contacts.



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Reconditioning Lucas Rocker Switches (cont.)



If the rocker cover has dulled or turned chalky, try buffing with various fine metal polishes or toothpaste at low speeds to prevent melting the plastic. This will bring back the rocker switch cover's luster and brighten up your dashboard.



Dab in a bit of dielectric grease as a corrosion preventer and to lube and protect the contacts, and reassemble the switch. Final test for continuity with an ohmmeter before reinstalling in the switch panel.



Now you are back on the road. Happy motoring!

Submit Your Photos

(your car ... not you!)

The Ole Bull and Bush Pub & Eatery (Hwy 17 Bypass, one traffic light south of McDonald's at the backgate "Market Common" intersection) has requested club car pics so that they can be framed and displayed at their restaurant. Any size pic is okay but 8"x10" preferred. So far we have approx. 25 on display, but we need submissions from our newer members! Send your photo to Jim Smith at Casper1@sccoast.net, and he can adjust the size for framing.

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Upcoming Events

On the Starting Grid

19-May-2012 "16th Annual Triangle British Classic Car Show" North Hills on Six Forks Rd., Raleigh, NC, registration \$25, more info at NCMGCC.org or email GLMMGB@yahoo.com.

26-May-2012 "Surfside Beach Memorial Day Car Show" at the pier parking lot, registration from 8-11am for \$20 with 30 spots reserved for GSBCC, 3 trophies for British cars! For more info, contact Andy Vargo at andrewsvargo@aol.com or tel. (843) 446-8850.

23-Jun-2012 "Georgetown Harborwalk Car Show", more info to follow next month.

26-Oct through 04-Nov-2012 "Hilton Head Island Motoring Festival & Concours d'Elegance"

03-Nov-2012 "Car Club Jamboree at Hilton Head", sponsored by Hilton Head Car Club with special recognition of the 50th anniversary of the MGB. More info at www.hhiconcours.com/event/car-club-jamboree. Contact Bill Schmitt tel. (843) 298-3038 or redhhvette@yahoo.com.

Long Range Planning

11-Dec-2012 6:30 pm, GSBCC Christmas Party and Annual Elections, T-Bonz, Hwy 17 Bypass at 21st Ave North, Myrtle Beach.

Gots and Wants

1973 MG Midget Engine for sale or trade. Contact Jim Smith for info at (843) 907-0178 or Casper1@sccoast.net.

1975 MGB Silver Anniversary Edition for sale. John Twist rebuilt engine & interior, body panels 100% disassembled, refurbished, repainted, dual carb & cam conversion, stereo, XM radio, app. 113,000 miles. Ave. selling price approx. \$5k-6k. Will accept any offers in price range. Car must sell. Contact Dennis Pieschke at dpieschke@hotmail.com for pics.

Wanted - Water Pump for 1976 MGB
Contact Tim Roper at tel. (865) 765-8171 or tim.ropermail@gmail.com.

1974 MGB Chrome Bumper Roadster for sale. Very good condition, runs real well, carbs recently rebuilt, electronic ignition, engine professionally tuned. Located in Pawleys Island, asking \$5500. Contact Gary Clifford at gcliffor@nycap.rr.com.

Misc. For Sale Parts from 1977 BRG MGB LE battery cover \$15, doors w/ handles \$50, doors w/o handles \$40, vent windows \$30, windshield in frame \$75, wheel beauty rims \$10 ea, retro wheels \$10 ea, hood \$100, trans center mount \$25, rr sway bar \$50, copper heater pipe \$15, conv top frame \$50, fr shocks \$25 ea, rr shocks \$20 ea, fr rubber bumper \$75, MGB-GT fr rubber bumper \$75, MGB-GT rt fr fender \$50, LE wheels, Delco alternator, Advance distributor, Pertronix coil. Contact Bob Puttbach at Puttbach@yahoo.com or tel. (910) 575-1258. (continued on next page)

Gots and Wants

1978 MGB for sale. Real good condition. \$7000.00. Come see it and make offer. Contact Rick Chandler at (843) 340-1017



Misc. For Sale Late TR3 / Early TR4
New 2 each ball joint assemblies with nut & boot part # 200772 \$44 ea; new 4 each trans synchro rings part # 1X113431 ABOOIF9 \$41.60 set; new Lockheed rear brake hose part # GBH122 \$16; new Timken front bearing kit part # 07100-S, 7210X, 99401, 0393 \$80; used UNI-SYN Mod-A \$20; used SU Carb German Tuning Tool Set part # 885094 \$20; used very good condition chrome interior door handle part #608454 \$20; used good condition Jaeger 0-120mph speedo with glass & chrome trim ring \$75. Contact Ron at rpc5@sc.rr.com.

1953 MG TD for sale. Real solid car! Check out any time. Rick Chandler (843) 340-1017 or rac1219@yahoo.com. Asking \$22k.



(Send your "Gots and Wants" to BlackRiverExp@att.net)

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Club Stuff For Sale

by Jim Lewis, Club Regalia Chair

Remember that when you purchase any club paraphernalia, the price not only pays for the cost of the item, but any profits will benefit you by helping to offset GSBCC sponsored event expenses. Won't you please give? And give often? Okay, so here are your choices:



T-Shirts \$15

Sweat Shirts \$25

These shirts are top quality USA made Guildan, preshrunk, cool 100% cotton, with a large GSBCC logo on the back and a small GSBCC logo above the left breast pocket.

sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X to XXX Large

T-shirt color: Olde English white

Sweat Shirt color: Morris Garages gray

Driving Caps \$15

Traditional ball cap style which you wear on your head (forwards or backwards) to look "way cool" and to announce your car club affiliation with the GSBCC logo embroidered above the bill.

sizes: only one but it is adjustable

cap colors: British Racing green, Coventry blue, Morris Garages light gray (all with black bill)



Stickers FREE!

(with shirt or cap purchase)

No, they don't cost a quarter, but it gives you an idea of the size. And get both logos on each sheet. They peel off to apply on the inside of your vehicle's glass without any wetting or other adhesives. But do they ever stick ... even through repeated cleanings! Cheap enough to go in all of the windows in your cars and your house!

I will have all of these items available at all club meetings and events. So purchase them then or give me a call to make other arrangements.



Membership Application

New _____ Renewal _____

Member Name _____

Spouse or Friend _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

If no email address notifications will be by snail mail

Car Information for Membership Directory

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Make/Model</u>
1.	_____	_____	3.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	4.	_____	_____

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$25.00 annually (January to January)

New members joining after October 1st will be credited for the following year

I give my permission to list my phone and Email address in the membership directory to be accessible to members only. YES___ NO___

I agree to allow GSBCC to publish my photo(s) in print or electronic media including the GSBCC website and facebook page. YES___ NO___

As a member of GSBCC, I agree to hold GSBCC, its Board of Directors, Officers, and organizers of events free from all liability for any accident or injury which may occur in connection with club events

Signature _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Date: ____/____/20__

Please make your check payable to: **Grand Strand British Car Club**
And mail to: 1413 Highway 17 South, Unit #193, Surfside Beach, SC 29575
Visit us on Face Book or Contact Jim Hendricks, President at 843-902-0491

Join the GSBCC Today!



SAVE THE DATE!

**MG2012 June 6-10, 2012
Dillard, Georgia**

The Peachtree MG Registry will host the
NAMGBR Annual Gathering @
The Dillard House
In the mountains of North Georgia

*Inviting all NAMGBR members(MGB, Midget & 1100/1300
owners) and other types of British Cars and Motorcycles*

INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE @
WWW.PEACHTREEMG.COM OR
WWW.MG1012.COM