

## BEHIND THE WHEEL (From the right hand side)

July was a really interesting month for British Iron. The first adventure began on July 14<sup>th</sup> when I received an email from Larry Roe advising me that we didn't have Agri Park secured for our September 16<sup>th</sup> car show after all. This despite the fact that Larry had followed normal procedures, talked to the person then in charge and reserved the park for us back in January. The problem was that the U of A seems to run its calendar system on the school year and the "new" calendar for the 2017 - 2018 school year was not up and running when Larry reserved the park so "the person then in charge" just wrote a note to herself. This was the same process that had always worked in the past. Then "the person then in charge" retired.

So, after the person in charge retired the new person never got the note and gave the park to someone else on our date. To make a two week long story short, after exploring several options, including the Whitaker Equine Center just across from the park (and being told "no") we were down to the hotel parking lot and one other possible location. At that point Jennifer Necessary with the ALS office started working her U of A connections and suddenly the "no" for the Whitaker Equine Center turned into a "yes". And at the same \$100 rate as we usually pay for Agri Park.

Larry Roe and Brad Esslinger toured the Whitaker facility to determine just what we will have to work with and came back with a very positive report. Some participants will have to be placed on pavement, but many will be on grass. There is an air conditioned kitchen / concession stand and air conditioned bathrooms. It looks like we are going to be OK.

The really good part about this location is that it will minimize confusion. Anybody coming to Agri Park looking for us will find us just across the street. I felt bad for Larry Roe in all of this since he had followed normal procedures per past practice with the U of A yet it still blew up on him. Many thanks to Larry for hustling around to identify optional locations and the Brad for assisting in the final determination. Mostly a HUGE thanks to Jennifer Necessary for pulling strings at the U of A and getting us the best possible solution.

The next adventure had to do with the Brit Stop. We turned out for Social Night on July 28<sup>th</sup> to discover that the power at the shop was out and appeared to have been off for some time. That, of course, meant that the freezer and the refrigerator ceased functioning and all of the joy that goes along with such things. Worst - no cold beer!! Many thanks to the brave David and Linda Farrell for cleaning out the freezers. I talked to our landlord the following morning and she was surprised to hear the power was out and wondered if it may have been the result of recent nearby utility work.

I have not heard back from the landlord about it this week and I have followed up this morning via e-mail, but my guess is that this may be the end of the road for the Brits Stop at that location. I am betting that she will find out that restoring the power will require spending money - on a building she will soon ask us to vacate so that she can have bulldozed. If I am her I am not going to spend that money. So, we need to be ready to have a moving day in the near future. Fortunately Neil Crozier has volunteered to allow us to move the lift and diagnostic equipment to his shop space. Not sure about the tools, freezer, and refrigerator, but we can work that out. Maybe we should hold a yard sale for the benefit of the club treasury for stuff we don't want or simply can't keep. Who knows.

So, it has been an adventure! I hope to see you at the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Bill Watkins