

Lucas Brothers Great Dixie Brit Car Rallye

By Robert Delmar,

2016 JCNA 1st Place in Class M2 Rallye Driver

View Fun Photos at www.tinyurl.com/DixieBritCarRallye



Sybil Bradley & Bob Hickey seemed much more confident.



In addition to meticulously detailed information previously emailed, Lucas Brothers, Dave & Harold, seemed to anticipate the attention span [or lack thereof] of participants.

WHAT? Who in the automotive world would dare call themselves the "Lucas Brothers," then invite other car guys & gals on a road "Rallye"? Well, about eight years ago, Jaguar Car Club of North Florida (JCCNF) members, Harold Kelly and David Simes, did just that. "It gives us an easy out if anything goes wrong," explained Harold. "Besides, we didn't want folks to have high expectations". He smiled and added, "After all, we had never done a Time-Distance-Speed rallye before!"

After a hiatus of over three years, having produced annual rallyes in 2011-2013, the 'Lucas Brothers' (related only in their love for Jaguars) are back at it and working to rejuvenate interest among JCNA affiliates and other car clubs across North America.

Their *Great Dixie Brit Car Rallye* was a great success, primarily attributable to charting out good routes, designing a computer program to quickly process the results, having enthusiastic friends and neighbors as 'volunteers,' ...and inviting other Jacksonville area British Car members to join the fun!

Registrations were limited to 30 British vehicles and were quickly filled: 11 JCNA members + 19 from other car clubs, including three presidents of their respective clubs.

This Rallye started at Jacksonville's monthly Cars & Coffee which often attracts over 400 cars of all different makes and models, plus thousands of fans. With the British flag flying high over our Rallye cars, many spectators came over to see "Britain's Finest."



Ed Lewis (right) drove from Fernandina Beach, FL to compete in his early '50s Rolls Royce!



Jill Casiple, Navigator in Delmar's 2011 Jaguar XK Coupe

Stick-on, "meatball" vinyl numbers were provided for every competing team.

Lining up the cars and reviewing rules of the road were among the most fun times of the day. It allowed opportunities to meet and greet friendly competitors and admire exotic cars like Peter McMenemy's gorgeous 1998 'Plus8' Morgan:



Mother/daughter team, Terry & Cathy Sopher, seemed to have doubts in #1 car leading position:



RallyeMasters, Dave Simes and Harold Kelly, provide and repeat final 'Rules of the Road'.



Drivers & Navigators listened attentively.



Harold stopped traffic at the start to our 2 1/2 hour adventure. Literally hundreds of cheering onlookers attending Cars & Coffee waited along the highway to cheer and give us a rousing sendoff. ...almost like racing at Le Mans!



Gail & Dyaarl Anderson, JCCNF secretary and president, were ready for a cool drive in their 1971 Regency Red Jaguar XKE OTS.

Probably to the delight of their wives, Dave and Harold spent many Saturday mornings planning the routes of those initial rallies, selecting checkpoints and choosing memorable objects to be recognized along the way. But with current computer mapping programs and GPS, 90% of that can now be done on-line. So, only road-testing the routes for those last minute touches is required.

Many folks are of the opinion that northeast Florida is flat as a pancake, mostly swamp and populated by alligators and mosquitos. Soooooo, little argument. However, Lucas Brothers can always be expected to find the unexpected. This trip was no exception. Twisty, narrow roads and even some hills were discovered – to the great delight of those of us with stick shifts and paddle shifters.

Our first checkpoint was near the St. Johns River and allowed a “pitstop.” It just happened that one of the “scavenger hunt” items was just down the road but cleverly disguised:



Nope, it wasn't the pink pig atop the local Bar-B-Q. Did anyone spot the woodpecker painted on the building? Our next checkpoint was in the beautiful riverside village of Green Cove Springs, FL.



Our tireless checkpoint timekeepers had a worthy assistant.



With our RallyeMasters calling themselves the ‘Lucas Brothers’, it was not surprising to see several competing vehicles traveling in the wrong direction. **OR WERE THEY?**

What was likely the most memorable excursion turned everyone around in a cul-de-sac, so we were passing one another going in opposite directions!

It should be noted that a JCNA sanctioned Rallye is supposed to be **FUN!** Everyone entering the turnaround smiled and waved at “the idiots” leaving in the wrong direction.

After almost 2 ½ hours of fun-filled driving, we arrived at Mojo Smokehouse Bar-B-Q and Blues Bar at Fleming Island. (“Bar” was the operative word for many of us). Harold and Dave picked it as one of very few places that wasn't filled with TVs and patrons for Saturday college football. Not an easy task in Florida! But they knew we would provide our own noise !

After “Dutch” dining on really great food and perhaps a few libations, our RallyeMasters presented trophies.



1st Overall: Allison Young & Jeremy Chase in 2011 Mini Cooper Countryman with penalty of just 4:16 minutes.



2nd Overall: Craig Kerins (right), JCNA Southeast Region Director, and Joe Parks in a 2013 Jaguar XKR Coupe with penalty of just 6:26 minutes.



3rd Overall: Davine Roberts & Cathy Sopher in 2018 Mini Countryman with total penalty of just 9:29 minutes.

Only one question seemed to be asked by most all Lucas Brothers Rallye participants:

“When will be doing this again?”

In fact, if you didn't have a *great* time at this JCNA sanctioned Rallye, it's only because you weren't there!

See more award recipients and view more Fun Photos online at:

www.bccnf.net/2019-gdbcr-results

