CAN-AM CONNECTION

vol. 9 no. 2 | Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club | March-April 1989

Calendar of Events--1989

APRIL

5 (Wed.) Meeting at Chili's--Ford Road west of Southfield Freeway. See details at right.

30 (Sun.) Tech session & swap meet at T&W Auto Body, 2301 Dixie Highway, Pontiac. See page 4 for details.

MAY

7 (Sun.) BSCC Spring Rallye.

17 (Wed.) Meeting at Casey's in Windsor. Huron Church Road.

JUNE

11 (Sun.) Carnival of Cars, Utica, Mich.

14 (Wed.) Meeting-Location TBA

JULY

15 (Sat.) Meeting: HOMECOMING! Picnic on American side. Bring an old member!

AUGUST

4 (Fri.) Meeting: Hot August Night, Cold Canadian Beer! Rally on Canadian side.

20 (Sun.) English Day on the Green, Crossroads Village, Flint.

25-27 (Fri.-Sun.) University Motors Summer Party, Grand Rapids.

SEPTEMBER

6 (Wed.) Meeting: Cruise Night! Starting at A&W in Windsor, at the foot of the bridge.

16-17 (Sat.-Sun.) Battle of the Brits, Historic Fort Wayne.

24 (Sun.) English Day at the Races, Waterford.

OCTOBER

1 (Sun.) Apple Picking, Location TBA.

4 (Wed.) Meeting: U.S. side, location TBA.

NOVEMBER

3 (Fri.) Detroit BSCC Stroh Nite at the Strohhaus, $4.50 per person.

? (???) Hibernation Party. Details TBA.

This month's meeting:

Warm up at Chili's!

April's meeting will be held April 5 at Chili's Bar & Grill, 5707 Southfield, Dearborn, at 7:00 p.m. Chili's has your typical burgers, plus various chili dishes. It's an informal place for an informal meeting.

To get there from Windsor: Follow I-94 west to Southfield (M-39) north to the westbound Ford Road exit. As you cross back over the freeway, it will be immediately on your right. This is the most direct (not the shortest) route. Don't forget: The southbound Lodge is closed under Cobo Hall, so plan your way home around the detours!

We need your help. We need your support. Most importantly, we need your attendance at these meetings to make this club work. After all, without its members, the WDMGC is nothing but an acronym!

Behind the Wheel

by Hayden Heath, President

The spring weather is COMING!! I know you're all itching to get those MG's out and about...and feel the "SAFETY FAST" sun and fun with the hood down! I know Ann and I are ready...

As you may already be aware, your MG club officers (some past and present) met in Greektown at the Pizza Papalis Taverna restaurant on March 15 (boy, that pizza was enormous...). Our agenda included: establishing meeting dates, locations, shows, events, membership, regalia, and just general brainstorming of ideas for club meetings. In this Can-Am Connection, is a 1989 season calendar of events with a tentative meeting schedule, too. Our first club meeting date, on the U.S. side, is Wednesday April 5 at Chili's Bar & Grill on Ford Rd. at the Southfield Freeway.

In the meantime, I will be talking to Ed Zaleski of the Triumph Club to find out what we can do to help the Battle of the Brits event be a success this year. Also, I will be in touch with Greenfield Village (maybe they would like us to come back) and Heritage Village in Ontario to discuss possible events for 1990.

In addition, I would like to thank the club officers and their spouses who attended the organizational meeting for all of their input and support to get this season off to a great start! Also, I apologize to Dave Clarke and Dave Hornby for not getting their invitations to the meeting. Blame it on "Safety Slow" mail...

In conclusion, I would like to thank Dave Clarke for the terrific report and knick-knacks from his recent trip to England.

I hope to see you all in April!!!

The Litter Bag

by Dan Zebarah, Editor

USED MG PARTS--REAL CHEAP!!

Now that I have your attention, let me insert another phrase, centered, and in bold type:

CAVEAT EMPTOR

For those of you who never took Latin in high school, allow me to translate: If you're going to throw your money away, throw it at me (or something like that.)

It's the time of year where all of us are scrambling to get our cars on the road. For most of us (present company included) this means we are trying to start that project which we were going to start last fall but never found the time. Now is the time for all British car owners to scour the countryside, looking for that one part which will magically transform that ratty old MGB into a car which will not only win every show entered, but will be the feature car of the year in every enthusiast magazine across the country. It might as well be the Holy Grail, because you're never going to find it.

After checking every local parts store in the area, where you have to explain to the clerk that you own an MG and not a GM, or worse yet, have to spell MG for him, you start looking through the piles of catalogues that you receive. After 350 long-distance phone calls, you discover the part you need is: a) no longer in stock; b) no longer available; c) no longer being manufactured; or d) available at a cost slightly less than a new Boeing 747.

Now comes the fun part: Looking through the want ads. As a public service, I will provide you with the REAL definition of phrases you'll see in these ads:

LIKE NEW: The fire barely touched it.
LARGE SELECTION: I really don't have it, but maybe you'll buy something else.
FITS ALL MGS: Except yours.
EXCELLENT CONDITION: Good condition.
GOOD CONDITION: Needs work.
NEEDS WORK: Forget it.
NEEDS ADJUSTMENT: Only dropped twice.
STILL IN BOX: I'm using it as a wheel chock.
FACTORY CONDITION: Doesn't work.
$XX.00 FIRM: I paid too much for it, and so will you.
NO REASONABLE OFFER RE FUSED: Who are you trying to kid?
LOSING STORAGE: My wife threat ened to leave me unless I cleaned the garage.

In addition, be wary of the seller who, after looking at your wife, says, "Maybe we can work out a deal."

Now, if you'll excuse me, I've got a line on some V8 wheels that will look just fine on my MGB. Does anyone know the exchange rate on the Cambodian Baht?

The Passenger Seat

by Ann Heath

After dinner I stood at the stove making sauce for lasagna, (tomorrow's quick dinner before choir practice), and ran, mentally, through the remainder of my evening. Hayden, off to a choir board meeting; Brad, bathed but still in need of P.J.'s and a trip to bed; at least 1 1/2 hours of school paperwork; a "Passenger Seat" column to write, (how does Erma Bombeck meet these deadlines?); and, of course, the dishes. Our lives are so busy. I'm sure this, with a few minor variations, could be anyone's schedule.

So, next month yet another time consuming, schedule demanding, priority making hobby comes out of storage. What gets dumped then? Lasagna? P.J.'s? Dishes? It is my firm belief that it can all fit together quite nicely, if we stop and think honestly about what means the most to us.

As an elementary school teacher I see the effects of various home situations in my students. Statistically, in 1988, in North America, 68% of all school-aged children came from "non-traditional" home settings. That is to say only 32% belonged to "Ward and June Cleaver". I cannot pass judgment on either side of that percentage, but I will say that with so many families under of the stress of reorganization, in one way or another, it is time to sit back and evaluate when and how our "quality time" is spent. We must endeavor to choose family activities which include our whole family, (grandparents, kids, dogs, whomever).

After sitting in on the first pizza...er...board meeting and listening to the types of events our board wants to plan for the following year, I am excited for the board, for the club, for the cars, and for our families! We'll have many opportunities for family social time, (and some "just the adults" time, too!). Please talk to the board members and give them your ideas. What would you like to do with your sports car this summer?

As our "safety fast" season begins, let's make a commitment to say "yes" to those events, (MG or otherwise), which will bolster our family "quality time". Likewise, please say "no" to the MG club, or to anyone or anything which, in your heart, makes you feel short-changed of that "quality time".

Here's to a super season. I look forward to meeting, talking and sharing with all my new "car buddies".

In the Headlights

We would like to welcome the newest member of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club - **Natila Louise Lucente**. She joined the club on March 10 of this year. At the time of joining, she weighed 6 lbs, 11 ounces and was approximately 29 centimeters long (Daddy Frank could not remember for sure - We bet Mommy Linda would have known!) Congratulations, Frank and Linda from all of us!!

Another midget is on his or her way to join the club!! **Dave and Gayle Clarke** are expecting a new arrival sometime around July 11. Congratulations and good luck!

We want to wish a BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following people:

Maurice Mellor	January 1
Nancy Allen	January 3
Linda Thorton	January 4
Gayle Clarke	January 8
Ann St. John	January 15
Dave Begin	January 16
Greg Bondy	January 17
Joy Gora	January 25
Doreen Kuhn	January 30
Ann Heath	February 6
Frank Lucente	February 6
Harold Brough	February 11
Terry Schultz	February 11
Dora Kaija	February 19
Ian Naylor	February 19
Kevin Thorton	February 20
Katie Clark	March 2
Al Kuhn	March 9
Bonnie Nickels	March 9
Natila Lucente	March 10
Dave Gora	March 15
Frances Lewis	March 17
Jo Ann Begin	March 18
Marc Pillon	March 20
Laura Schultz	March 20
Denelle Gora	March 21
Janice Mellor	March 26
Robert Moore	March 26
Rich Nader	March 26
Douglas Clarke	April 1
Lisa Zebarah	April 3
Bonita Kuhn	April 7
Christopher St. John	April 8
Jeanette Nevin	April 11
Ruth Stewart	April 11
Sean Sylvestre	April 14
Clark Hunter	April 21
Brian Thorton	April 25

And a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all of these people!!

There have been a few suggestions made for events that we have not put on the calendar. A suggestion has been made to spend a weekend in Stratford, Ontario. If you are like me, you have not been there since you went with your high school english class! Well, the Stratford Festival is still going strong; and if anyone shows an interest, we could get a calendar from them and find out what is playing this year.

Another idea was to possibly go to a Tiger Baseball Game. Of course, most of us would not want to take our MG's, but it might be a lot of fun.

If you are interested in either event, please let one of the officers know. If enough people show an interest, we will definitely set it up.

FROG
Foreign Auto Parts
19050 W. Warren • Detroit, MI 48228
FOREIGN CAR PARTS ARE
OUR ONLY BUSINESS
JIM•KEN
Phone 271-3160

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: MG floor mats, black, $30. 1 Dunlop tire mounted on Rostyle wheel, $60. Boot cover, $60. Rostyle wheel caps, $3.00 each. Lug wrench and jack, $64. Hayden Heath, 291-5637.

FOR SALE: MGB wire wheels, rough, $15.00 each. Octagonal wrench for wire wheels, $5.00. Aftermarket hard top with hardware, good condition, $300.00 or best offer. Dan Zebarah, 382-6715.

WANTED: Writers and photographers for small car club newsletter. No experience necessary. Call Dan or Marla, 382-6715.

The Can-Am Connection is published nine times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club. Unsolicited articles are welcome!

PRESIDENT: HAYDEN HEATH
10701 Mt. Vernon #201
Taylor, MI 48180
(313)291-5637

CLUB REGALIA: DAVE NAYLOR
(U.S.) 2551 Ripple Way
Milford, MI 48042
(313)685-7563

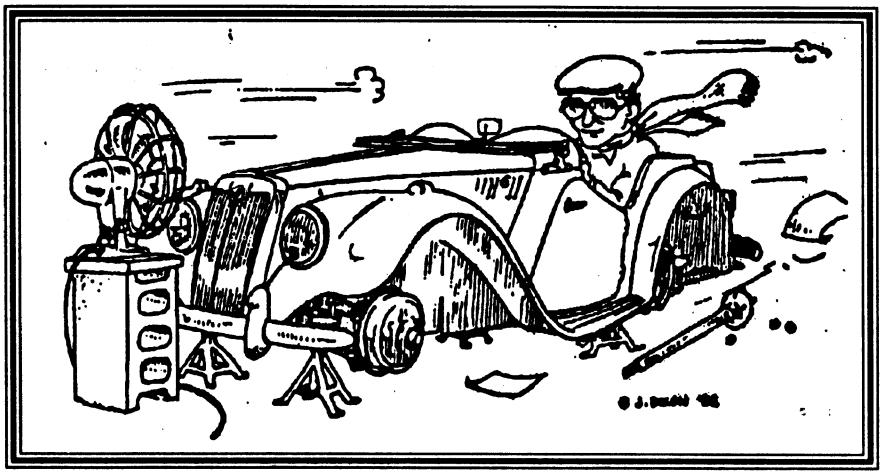
MEMBERSHIP: DAVE CLARKE
3996 Longfellow
Windsor, Ontario N9B 2E4
(519)966-3449

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: DAN ZEBARAH
1327 Austin
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
(313)382-6715

CLUB REGALIA: ROLIE SYLVESTRE
(Can) 3493 Church St.
Windsor, Ontario N9E 1V6
(519)969-2739

SPARES & PARTS : FRANK LUCENTE
854 Hall Ave.
Windsor, Ontario N9A 2M3
(519)977-5346

BRIT CAR COUNCIL : GARY HOWE
12243 Corvair
Sterling Heights, MI 48077
(313)939-6851



HELP!

The Triumph Club asked us last year at Battle of the Brits for help with this years event - they have run it for several years in a row all by themselves, and thought that it was time again for us to share in the fun! The event will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, September 16 and 17. Volunteers will be needed in a lot of different categories, from getting donations for door prizes to actually signing people in at the door. Anyone who has any interest at all, please call either Gary Howe (313)939-6851 or Hayden Heath (313)291-5637. Even if you can only give a couple of hours, we could definitely use it!

BSCC Tech Session on April 30

It must be spring! The British Sports Car Council is holding their Spring Kick-Off British car tech session/swap meet at T&W Auto Body in Pontiac, Sunday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For those with a garage full of extra parts, this is the place to turn those parts into cash. There is no charge for admission, and beer will be provided at no cost courtesy T&W Auto Body. Donations for charity will be accepted at the door.

There is no charge selling space; however you must bring your own table. T&W Auto Body is located at 2301 Dixie Highway, north of Telegraph (US-24) on the west side of the road. If you have any questions, call Rick Case at T&W, 334-3119.

Under the Bonnet

It's the Wheel Thing: Restoring Rostyles

Members of our club are no doubt amongst the most informed and observant of the motoring public and as such will be aware of the importance of good looking wheels and the considerable impact they have to the visual appeal of any vehicle. In spite of this they are often a neglected and much abused part of any car.

Car designers and stylists too have long been aware of this important fact and for many years have produced attractive styles, particularly for the more "up-market" models available. During the 1970's this trend produced the popular rostyle wheel which was fitted to many cars with sporting aspirations including the MGB and Midget.

For reasons of cost and mass production techniques the material used was painted steel which had the inevitable rust bug built in. However, there is a plus side to this as the wheels are strong and easy to restore when they begin to look drab.

I restored the wheels on my MGB one wheel at a time starting with the spare in order to keep the car on the road. The most difficult part of the whole job is the initial preparation of the surface by removal of all rust and loose flaking paint (preferably all paint). The amount of work involved in this operation will obviously depend on the condition of the wheels to begin with. In my own case, preparation was done using an electric drill and small grindstones and wire brushes. This produced acceptable results but does take a fair amount of time and effort.

An easier method would be to take advantage of the bead blasting services offered by many specialists these days but with the obvious cost penalty.

Having obtained a satisfactory surface, the next thing to do is to give the surface as much protection as you can to postpone a repeat of the operation for as long as possible. I applied a rust killer first to take care of any remaining rust. The tire was to be left on the rim so the next job was to mask the tire using tape and newspaper on both sides. Two coats of Finnigans No. 1 were then applied using a good quality brush in order to achieve a heavy covering thickness. This is essential to gain the maximum rust inhibiting properties from paints of this type.

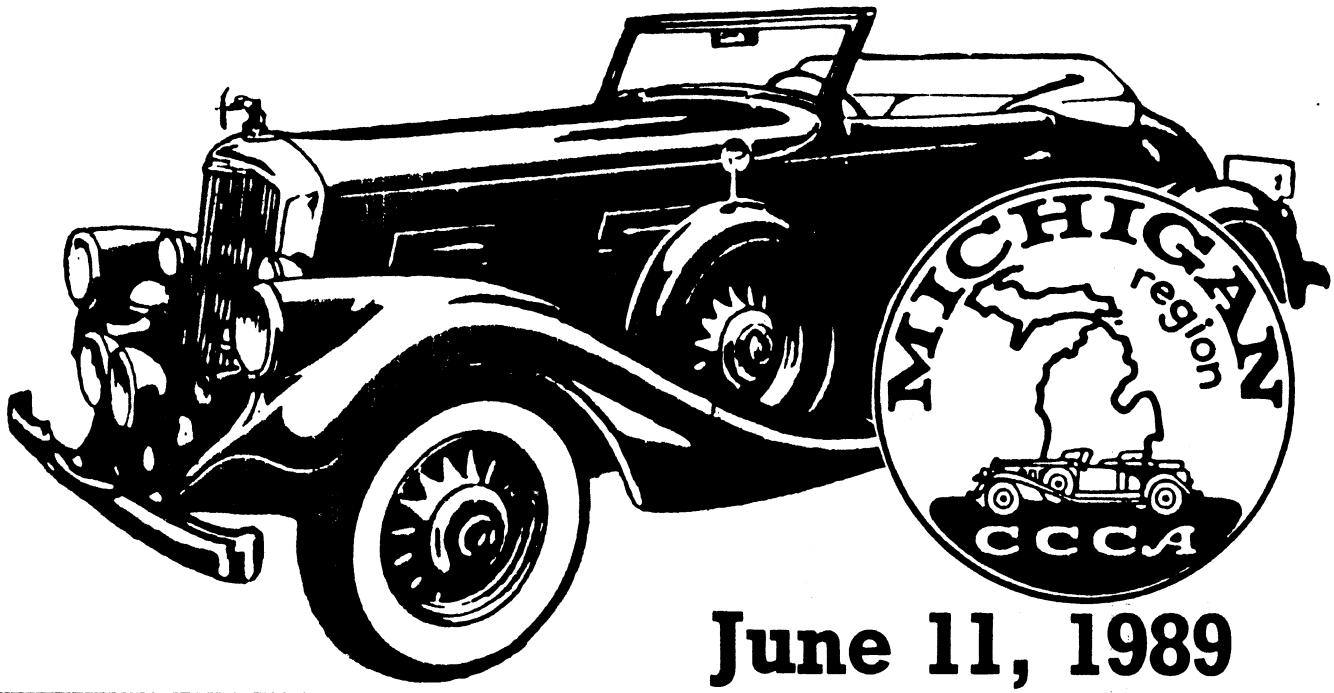
If the quality of final finish is more important than the life of the coating, then it will be necessary to use a spray applied primer. There is a wide choice of top coats available, offering a variety of colors and finish. In my case, I decided to use grey Hammerite for the back of the rims and two coats were applied by brush. On the front of the rims, three coats were sprayed on using a can of "Sperex" 5 wheel spray which gives a close color match to the original factory color. The can proved to be sufficient for all five wheels when used as described but this would not have been the case had the back of the wheels also been sprayed.

To complete the job, the black part in the wheel center was done using an artists camel hair brush, a satin finish black cellulose, and a steady hand.

The results, whilst not to concours standard, were very pleasing and improved the look of the car considerably for a very modest outlay.

Reprinted from Enjoying MG

CARNIVAL OF CARS



June 11, 1989

You're Invited!
to the 26th Annual "CARNIVAL OF CARS"

sponsored by

MICHIGAN REGION
CLASSIC CAR CLUB OF AMERICA

Sunday — June 11, 1989 — 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Rain or Shine
at the Ford test track, Van Dyke Road, north of Utica

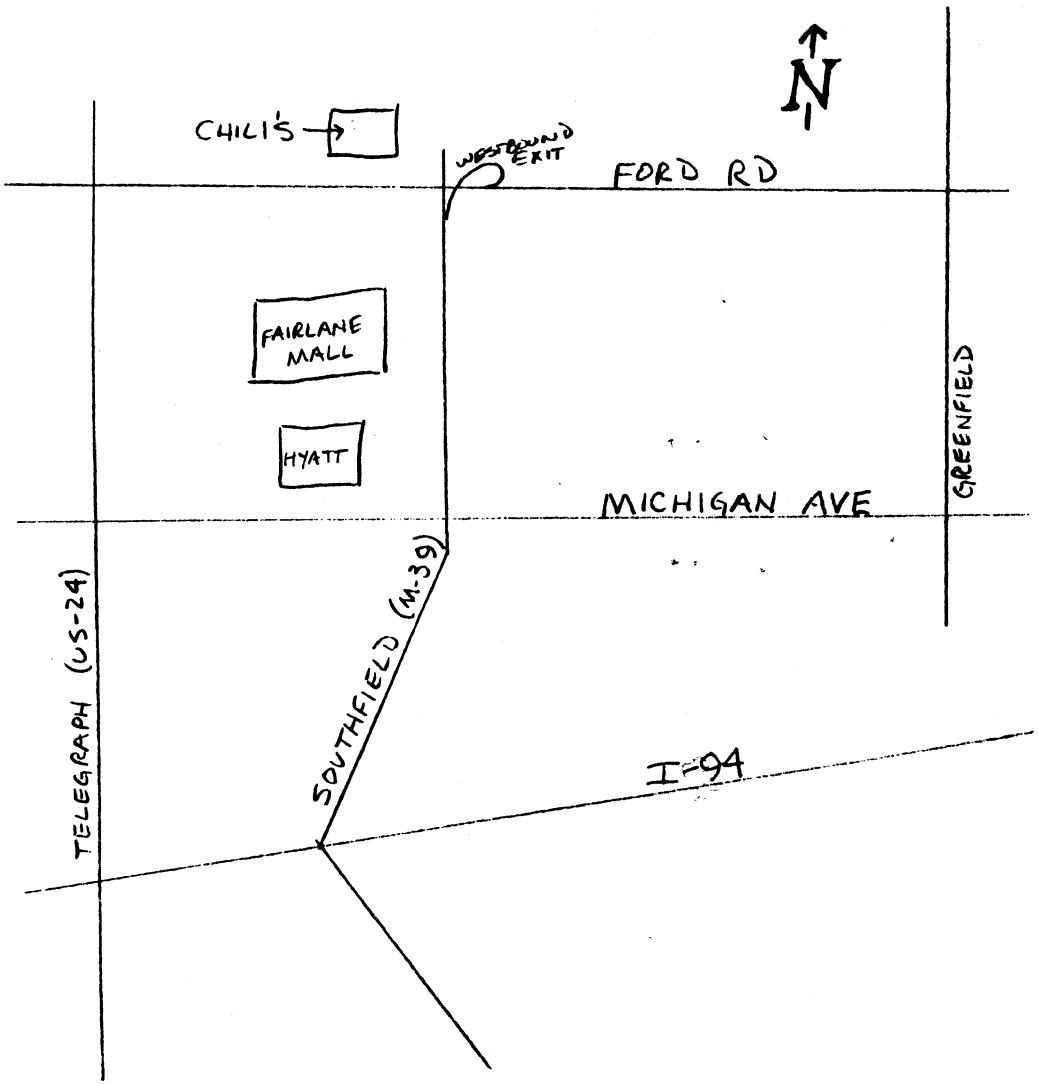
Again through courtesy of Ford Motor Company, we are privileged to enjoy our old car hobby at the former Packard Motor Car Company proving grounds—an important part of the American automobile story.

June Pacitti, Car Registrar
(313) 563-1448

Dave Dolby, Flea Market Registrar
(313) 557-5126, evenings

Katie Robbins, Coordinator
(313) 563-0621

Larry Seyfarth, Director
(313) 563-1448



The Can-Am Connection
1327 Austin
Lincoln Park, MI 48146