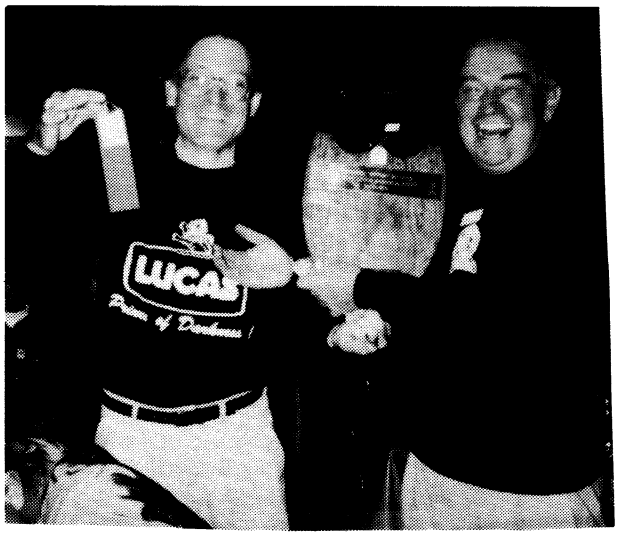
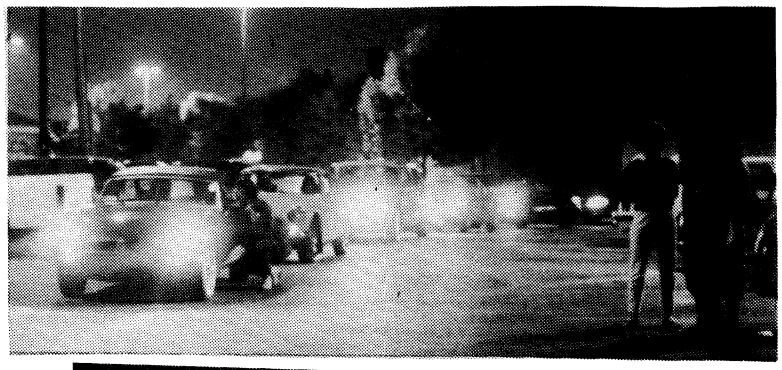
THE CAN-AM CONNECTION

vol. 13 no. 8 Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club October 1993





Above: Ed Fleming & Tom Greiner celebrating as their First Place flickers, dims, then goes to... **Right: Jim, Marlene, & Marcia Greiner** happy with Second Place, happier later with first. **Above right; Marla Zebarah** sends the cars off into the darkness, lights blazing (or is that flickering?).

"Don't Drive After Dark!!!" Joseph Lucas, December, 1902

Going against Joseph Lucaş' famous last words we started this rally on a dark and stormy night. Ok it wasn't stormy, but it could have been and it was dark. It did sprinkle a little before the official start. Everyone and everything seemed to get in the right frame of mind for **Dan and Marla Zebarah's** Joseph Lucas Memorial Rally. On the way to the starting point at the La Trattoria restaurant the turn signals stopped working on my Midget and **Guy St. John's** alternator stopped charging (an omen of things to come no doubt).

Thirty three headlights, some dim, some flickering, on seventeen cars (most of British manufacture) started the rally and everyone finished. Participants included **Guy & Ann St. John, Marcia Greiner and in-laws Jim & Marlene Greiner, Tom Greiner & Ed Fleming, Phil Whiltshire & Jan Tucker, Tony & Dawn Frassetto, Lou & Linda Tortola, Ross & Lauria DiLorenzo, John Downs & Doug Spencer, Stephen & Tricia Battersby, Rose Lieberman & Diane Fifer, Jeanette & Bill Reeves, Harriet West & Keith Nelson, Jim & Holly Bolinger, Dan & Beth Kirby, Dan Stanley.**

Even more than getting into a Lucas frame of mind, one has to get into a Dan Zebarah state of mind for his rallies. For instance, one of the clues asked us to identify a place where Henry Ford would do multiplication. I kept thinking "bedroom" (shows where my mind was, I guess) but the answer was "Ford **Product** Development". Product being the result of a multiplication problem in math. Nobody got that one right. Everyone got the last clue though: "Place where the Greatest Car Club in the world meets the second Wednesday of even months?"_____.

The "Lucas Electronic Scoring Machine" showed the following results: **Tom Greiner and me first, Marcia, Marlene and Jim Greiner second, Guy and Ann St John and Jim and Holly Bolinger third (tie), and Jeanette and Bill Reeves last.** Of course after giving the Lucas machine a stout smack with a spanner, the correct results were obtained. **Marcia, Marlene and Jim Greiner FIRST, Tom Greiner and Ed Fleming SECOND.** The other places (still flickering) stood.

This rally is becoming one of the best attended rallies the club puts on. To paraphrase a law professor of mine it was like a good skirt: long enough to cover the subject, but short enough to be interesting. Long enough to provide enough clues to separate the serious ralliers from the cruisers, but short enough to get us back before bedtime. I for one had a great time. Of course until someone smacked the Lucas scoring machine I thought I won. Great job Dan and Marla! And a special thanks to **Greg Newton** for test running the rally beforehand to eliminate any "Lucas" induced errors.

Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor

"And now, class," she announced ominously,"we shall commence a unit on American poetry. Be prepared to share your favorite poem next week. Class dismissed.

I figured I'd better get to the library and find the poetry section, which it turns out was the 811s. (Good emergency number; Need Poetry? Dial 811!). Before long I found a perfect poem: It was about sports cars, or close enough. I couldn't wait until English class.

I had practiced the poem carefully, since it was laid out funny on the page and when my turn came I launched into it like an Honor Roll student:

she being brand new
and you know consequently a little stiff...
i was careful of her and
(having thoroughly oiled the differential
joint tested my gas felt of
her radiator made sure her springs
were O.K...
i went right to it
flooded-the-carburetor cranked her
up, slipped the clutch (and then somehow
igot into reverse she kicked
what the hell...)

I glanced over at the teacher when I read this part, back when I was in high school the word "hell" was never used in the classroom, but I figured it was ok in the pursuit of Poetry.

next minute i was back in neutral
tried and again slo-wly;bare,ly
nudg. ing (my lev-er Right-oh...

I was having a certain amount of trouble reading these odd groupings of words and punctuation, but I figured it wasn't **my** fault the poet obviously flunked his English class; it was every man for himself, and I intended to pass mine.

and her gears being in A 1 shape
passed from low through second-in-to-high
like greased lightning...
just as we turned the corner of Divinity
avenue i touched the accelerator and give
her the juice,good...
was the first ride and believe i we was
happy to see how nice she acted
right up to the last minute
coming back down by the Public Gardens...
i slammed on the internalexpanding
& externalcontracting brakes
Bothatonce and brought allofher
tremB
-ling
to a:dead.
stand-
;Still)

I stood at a dead stand-;Still myself, beaming, waiting for the recognition that was sure to come. "Please see me after class", she said.

(continued on page 4)

The Can-Am Connection is published 9 times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc., 8905 Napier Rd., Northville, MI 48167, USA. Contributions are welcome in either written or IBM Wordperfect form.

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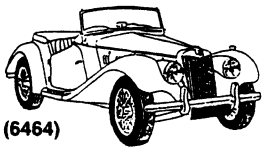

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Behind the Wheel

Guy St. John, President

Regrettably, it would seem that, one of the best driving summers in recent memory is finally coming to a close. But that doesn't have to mean the end of great MG motoring. Grab a hat and scarf, fold that hood down, and get out and enjoy what the Great Lakes areas does best - Autumn!! There is nothing like driving top down in the Fall with the colour of the trees, the smell of the leaves, the cider, the donuts, well you get the picture.

Please make a special effort to join your fellow club members and our friends from the British Car Council on Sunday Oct. 10th for our annual colour tour and Apple picking and final driving event of the year.

All of the September driving events seem to have had a little rain mixed in, but in the usual WDMGC tradition "we get rained on but never rained out".

Ed and I along with new members Beth and Don Kirby saw a few sprinkles on our Labor Day trip (Midget Caravan) to the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum and Kruse Car Auction in Auburn Indiana.

The usually large turnout at Battle of the Brits was cut in half by a steady drizzle and the threat of some precipitation may have cut into the number of ralliers paying homage to the Dark Prince (Big thanks to Dan and Marla Zebarah for another fun event), and finally the turnout for a rainy English Day at the Races seemed to have been about half of last years as well but it sure did make for some interesting racing.

It's been great to see so many of the new members at the recent events.

This year's Hibernation Party Dinner Dance and General Election moves back to Canada and the Sicilian Club again and it looks to be a great ending to a jam packed year. Please make plans to attend and bring your photo albums or just a snapshot or two of your favorite MG event of the year.

I know it's no fun to think about putting your pride and joy in storage for another winter, but just because we can't drive doesn't mean we can't get together. Starting with the Hibernation Party we plan to have at least one event per month this winter plus our regularly scheduled meeting in Dearborn and Windsor.

Don't forget: October meeting at La Trattoria on the 13th and:

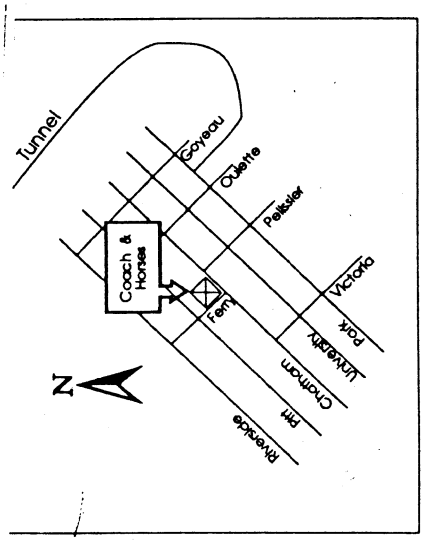
I'll see you on the Road

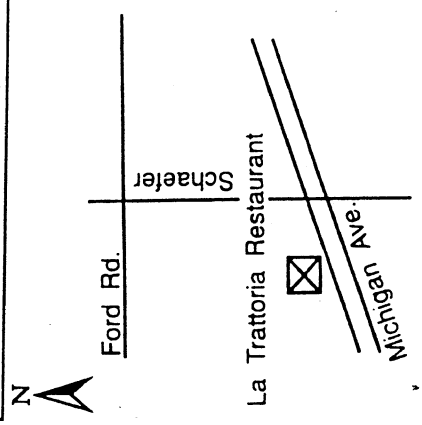
Safety Fast - Guy

P.S. Congrats to new GT owners Harriet West and Otto Pope.

P.P.S. A short commercial message: Let me know if you will have any major mechanical repairs I can do for you this winter. I'm making up my schedule now. My space is limited, call anytime, (313) 349-3649.

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.: Even months at the La Trattoria Restaurant, 13736 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, west of Schaefer, and in odd months at the Coach & Horses Pub, in the basement of The Old Fish Market Restaurant, 156 Chatham Street in Windsor just off the tunnel.





Newbies. GTs, Midgets and the Mini is back.

by Marla Zebarah

We would like to welcome the following new members to our club. These members bring our total membership up to 162 families!

Pat and Kathy Allsteadt live in Clarkston with their son, **Jeff**. They own a 1972 White Midget. Pat is a Sales Manager. **Ed Fleming** told them about our club.

Dave and Sherry Burley live in Milford with their two sons, **David Jr. and Adam**. Dave is a Parks Supervisor. They are looking for a MGA, B or Midget. **Tom Shipley** told them about our club.

Henry and Marjorie Caroselli live in Northville. They own a 1978 BRG MGB. Henry is retired. They are friends with **St. John's**.

Brian and Enid Collacott live in Windsor. They own a 1978 Inca Gold MGB, and a 1968 Maroon MGB-GT. Brian is retired. **Dave Hornby** says he FINALLY got him to join the club.

Dan and Beth Kirby live in Farmington. They own a 1975 Orange Midget. Dan is an Engineer Manager. Dan is one of the people that went on the University Motors Tour around Lake Michigan before Summer Party. He and his brother also won Donna Hathaway's rally at Summer Party. Looks like we'll have some more competition in the rallies! **Ed Fleming** told him about the club.

David Legel lives in Dearborn. He owns a 1962 White Midget. David is a student. **Greg Newton** told him about our club, and he joined at the August meeting.

Harry and Dorothy MacLean live in Troy. They own a 1978 Blue MGB. Harry is a mechanic. **Guy St. John** gave them their application at Battle of the Brits, and they came with us on the Lucas Rally.

Bud Miller lives in Farmington with his son, **David**, who is his travelling companion. Bud owns a 1968 Yellow MGB-GT, a 1976 BRG Midget and a 1978 Flamenco Red Mini. Bud is retired. **Brett Altman** told them about the club when they bought Brett's Mini!

Robert Ruppe and Beth Kaufmann live in Beverly Hills. They own a 1979 Yellow MGB. Robert is a die maker. They heard about the club from **Otto Pope**.

Roger and Ellen Warren live in Orchard Lake. They own a 1965 Powder Blue MGB. **Dan Zebarah** told them about the club at Carnival of Cars.

Finally, we would like to welcome **Larry Berger and Susan Busch** to the club (at least I THINK we want to welcome them). Larry owns a 1974 1/2 Teal Blue MGB. He describes his occupation as "President for Life- MGCC Washington, DC Centre". He says he found out about our club by "Seeing a sign on wall of the mens room". Seriously, though, he found out about us on Prodigy, through **Dan Zebarah**. He also wants us to hold our meetings closer to home. We do, Larry, close to the majority of our members homes!

Hope you enjoy being a part of our club!

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

Erika Ferguson	Oct 15	Kathy Allsteadt	Nov 6
Harry MacLean	Oct 18	Edna Fleming	Nov 6
Jim Hunter	Oct 19	Mike Principe	Nov 6
Jeffrey Gora	Oct 24	Roberta Sand	Nov 6
Mary Kay Kollin	Oct 24	Ben Kosbab	Nov 7
Kristin Owens	Oct 26	Patrick Trofin	Nov 9
Dan Leighton	Oct 27	Beth Fischer	Nov 10
Amanda Sill	Oct 27	Michael Hacker	Nov 10
Edna Elfont	Oct 28	Greg Keating	Nov 10
Nichole Hunter	Oct 28	Keith Nelson	Nov 10
Ozzie Pillon	Oct 28	Emily Murphy	Nov 11
Paul Sandie	Oct 31	Robert Ruppe	Nov 11
Tony Werderitsch	Oct 31	David Legel	Nov 12
Bill Lustig	Nov 4	Kerrie Pinten	Nov 13
Kenneth McQueen	Nov 4	Joyce Pinten	Nov 13
Patrick Werner	Nov 4	Susan Schultz	Nov 13
Christopher DiLorenzo	Nov 5	Peter Tortola	Nov 13
		Bruce Ridley	Nov 15

Safety Fast, continued from page 2:

"Could you tell me," she said finally, when everyone else was gone, "exactly what that poem was about?" "Well, sure," I said, frowning a little. "It's about this guy who buys a brand new car and I don't think he's ever HAD a brand new car before, so it means a lot,see, and-"

"Have you read," she said, "a lot of e e cummings?"

"Cummings? No, I mean, oh, yeah, that's the guy who wrote it, the poet! Yeah, I read a lot of his stuff, especially when he writes about MGs!"

She blinked a couple of times. "I see," she said. Then she didn't say anything for a minute; she just looked at me. Then she said, "That will be all. You gave a very fine reading." That is how I got an A in English that time. I have to tell you, though: I made up the part about the MGs. Hey when you have trouble with Higher Levels of Meaning, you do what you can to get by.

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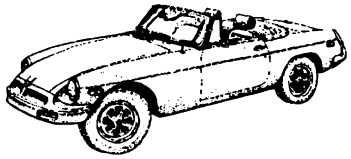

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Thomas Shipley

The leaves are turning red, orange, brown and gold. It's time for our annual...

Fall Colour Tour
Sun, October 10th
1:00 P.M.

Enjoy cider & donuts, the pumpkin patch, apples and other fresh fruits, apple picking, hay rides, petting zoo, dried flower arrangements, the gift shop, crafts and more, including reserved MG parking at...

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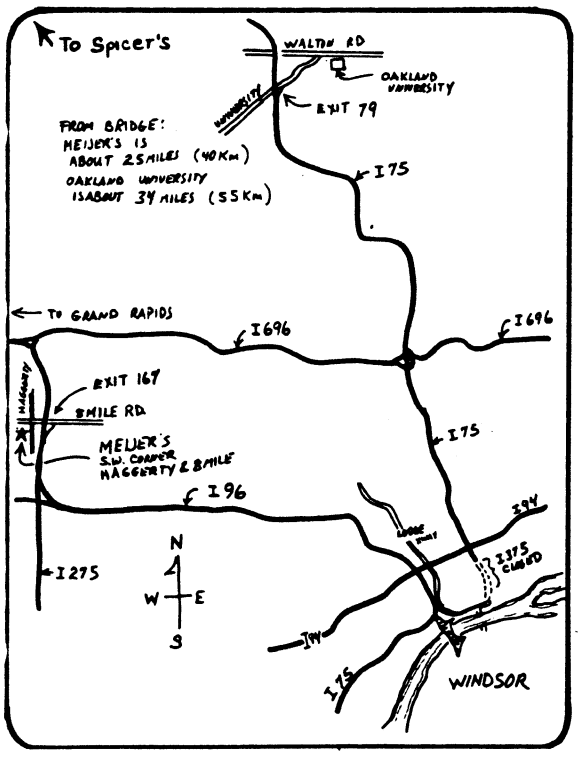
East side: Meet at Oakland University Parking Lot, Walton & E. Oakland Drive, Rochester. Call Mike Derderian for details, (313) 979-4234

West side: Meet at the Meijer Parking Lot just west of I-275 and 8 Mile Road, Northville. Call Guy St John for details, (313) 349-3649



It's not too early to start thinking about our November event...

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club Hibernation Party & Elections, Sat. November 20th

Place: Sicilia Club, Windsor.(same place as 2 years ago, Map in Nov. newsletter)

Times: Cocktails 6:00PM
Dinner..... 7:00PM
Awards..... 8:00PM
Dancing.....10:00PM

Price: $21(US), $25(Canadian) each. Make U.S. checks out to Marla Zebarah and send them to her at 1327 Austin Ave., Lincoln Park, MI 48146-2002.

Make Canadian checks out to Frank Lucente and send them to him at 3514 Byng Rd., Windsor, ON N8W 3H8.

Special Notes: Because we have to notify the Sicilia Club of the number attending, **we will need your money for this event by Nov. 10th,** the day of our November Monthly Meeting.

We will be holding elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Club Secretary, as well as several Bylaw changes. If you would like to run for one of these offices, call me at (313) 349-3799 by October 20th so I can include your name in the November newsletter and on the ballot.

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'75 Midget Runs & drives excellent, rusty rockers, $1000. Doug Spencer, Home; (313) 563-0146, Work: (313) 271-3160.

"78 MGB, Brooklands Green, no rust, exc. interior, tyres, engine and trans. New paint & top. Performance cam. $5700. Ken Allen, W. Bloomfield (313) 737-4842.

'73 MGB-GT Wire wheels, new tires, in storage $1400 Gary Howe (313) 939-6851.

'75 Midget, orange, very good condition, $3800 or best offer. Plus miscellaneous Midget parts for sale. Vince McQueen (313) 383-4036.

'77 MGB Roadster, tonneau cover, red/black 74,000 miles, runs good, s.s. exhaust $2,000 OBO. Alan Dlogoss (313) 937-4464 after 4:30

MGB Rostyle wheels (4) & paint mask, $75. MGB Tonneau & bars, $60. **MGA parts**; 4 wire wheels,$150, 1 steel wheel,$30, 1 front hub (wire wheel) $50, rebuilt rear axle $200. Mike Derderian (313) 979-4234

Various MGA bits; Top frame, generator, starter, voltage regulator, etc. Also back issues of "MGA!" Vol 14 #2 up to Vol 18 #3. My price:Cheep Will Zehring (313) 885-4180

'72-'76-'77 MGB's Tons of parts, rebuilt heads, interior & exterior parts. Must sell, too many parts, too little room, any reasonable offer. Chuck Wiley (313) 586-2500.

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Back issues of Can-Am Connection to complete my collection: Jan/Feb '87, Nov '87, Dec '87, Sept '86, June '85. Issues prior to Oct '81. Roli Sylvestre (519) 969-2739

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News Briefs:

English Car Owners Battle Rain at Battle of the Brits

Thirteen Windsor-Detroit MG Club members braved heavy rains to attend the Battle of the Brits Car and Motorcycle Show September 12th. Out of 100 pre-registered cars, only 50 showed up. Those, combined with about 25 cars that showed up that day made this one of the smallest battles in recent Battle of the Brits memory.

Still, **Jay Kollin** brought out the club regalia and sold over $123 worth of T-shirts, hat pins and Christmas tree bulbs. And although **Brett Altman** didn't attend, his Mini did. New member **Bud Miller** who recently bought Brett's Mini, entered it.

Those who weathered the weather were: **Frank Lucente, Roli Sylvestre, Guy St John, Keith Nelson & Harriet West, Matt Oles, Mike Derderian, Jeff Monroe, Gary Howe, Dan & Beth Kirby** and another new member **Harry MacLean.**

The Battle with the Rain Continued at English Day at the Races

Again, thirteen members braved the rain again to drive around the Waterford Hills race track and watch the last races of the year at the track. Because the track is about a half mile down a dirt road there were probably a dozen or so MGs getting washed that afternoon also.

The rain actually made for some very exciting racing, with the cars getting a little more sideways in the corners and sliding farther when they left the course. By the time the last races were being run the sun was making its first appearance of the day.

Attending were **Guy St. John, Ed Fleming, Jay Kollin & brother-in-law Bob, Rich Wagner, Matt Oles, Eric & Eileen Ozar, Fran & Ray Lewis, Russell & Julie Ledford, Doug Spencer and Gary Howe.**

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Time to tuck the baby away for the winter. Here's how.

I know it seems like it was just last week when you took the MG out for that first drive of spring. Now the leaves are turning and the temperature is getting close to freezing and it is time to put the sports car away for another long winter's nap. Here is a list of things to do to make that nap, and the condition of your car next spring, much better.

1.. Change the oil and filter. If you can find some 20w20 Break In Oil use that. Break in oil sticks to the metal surfaces more tenaciously than regular oil so it protects bare metal longer.

2. Clean the car, top to bottom, inside and out, as if you're heading to a car show. After washing the car, drive it briskly for several miles to shake and blow all the water off the car.

3. While you're out on your "blow dry" drive, fill the gas tank. Before gassing up you might also want to add a gasoline stabilizer such as Sta-Bil, sold at auto parts stores.

4. Repair any nicks, stone chips or rust spots and apply touch up paint to keep moisture off the bare metal.

5. Apply a coat of wax to the body and a coat of petroleum jelly to the chrome. Armorall all the rubber pieces.

6. Inflate the tyres to 55-60 PSI (4 BAR Canadian). If you store the car on its tyres (as opposed to on jack stands) rotate the tyres every month to keep from flat spotting them.

7. Lubricate all suspension and steering components to remove dirt and water from the bare metal areas.

8. Check the anti-freeze. Even if you store the car in a heated garage, anti-freeze is needed for its anti corrosion qualities.

9. Remove the sparking plugs and squirt about 2 tablespoons of engine oil into each combustion chamber. Crank the engine with the starter motor for 5 to 8 seconds to spread the oil around. Do not operate the gas pedal while doing this. Reinstall the sparking plugs. Another way to lubricate the upper cylinder is to use a Fogging Oil in a spray can, available at auto supply stores.

10. Remove the battery and store it in a cool dry place (65 degrees Fahrenheit-18 Centigrade is ideal). Everything I've read on storing batteries says not to store them on a cement floor but nobody has been able to tell me why. Recharge the battery every month or put it in a car you're going to drive during the winter.

11. Remove the fan belts and store them in a sealed plastic bag in a cool place. This will keep them from drying out in an oval shape.

12. Disengage the clutch so that the clutch lining doesn't stick to the clutch plate.

13. Make all engine openings air tight. This includes all vents, PCV hoses, exhaust pipe, carbs etc. Use plastic wrap and duct tape. On cars with vented oil filler caps it is best to remove the cap and seal the opening.

14. Spray the engine compartment and engine with a wax preservative or light oil, again to repel moisture.

15. Jack up the car and support it with jackstands under the suspension.

16. **Do not** apply the handbrake.

17. Open any heating or ventilation flaps to promote air circulation.

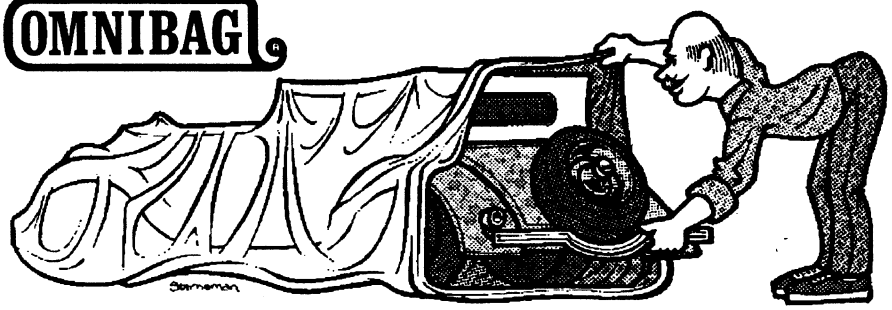
18. Store the car with the windows and top up.

19. Store the car under a roof, preferably in a room with minimal temperature changes and away from dripping water. (In other words in the bedroom rather than the bathroom.)

20. The ultimate storage tool is a large plastic bag produced right here in Bath, Michigan (near Lansing) by Pine Ridge Enterprises (517) 641-6444 The bag keeps moisture, dirt, ultra-violet rays and insects and rodents out and with the desiccant packs provided, eliminates moisture inside the bag as well. The car comes out in the spring exactly like you put it in, back in the fall. I've used one for 3 or 4 years and can testify to their effectiveness. See the ad below.

21. Next spring you'll want to put back all those things you did above, so leave a list or copy of this article in the car as a reminder for returning the car to running condition.

OMNIBAG



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- Indoor use only
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Comments from users:

"The OMNIBAG did a super job of protecting my car. It came out of storage ...the same as the day it was stored - excellent." D.L. in OH, '40 Olds

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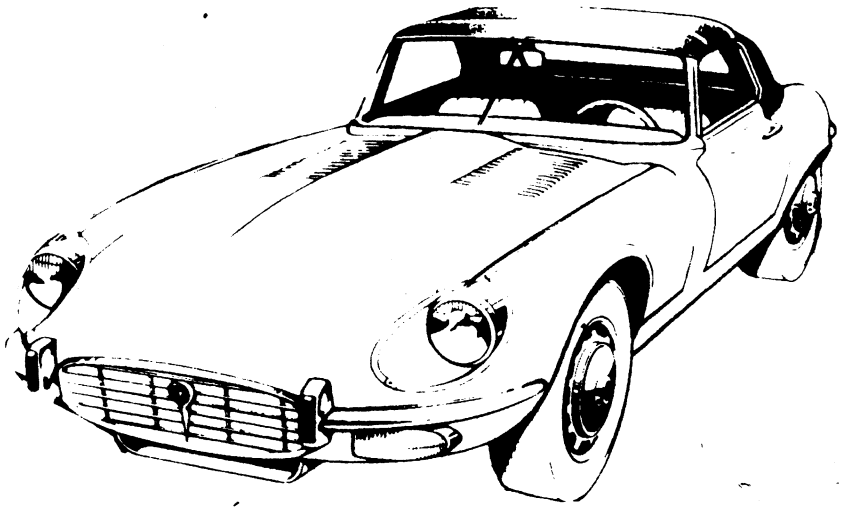

PLEASE CONTACT TOM SHIPLEY IF INTERESTED AT T & W AUTO BODY, INC. BETWEEN 8:00 TO 5:00 MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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Calendar of Events

Items in **Bold type** are WDMGC events. If you want to know more about any of these events call Ed Fleming at (313) 349-3799.

OCTOBER

Oct 3 Auto Jumbo, International Center, Toronto
Oct 10 Club & British Council Colour Tour
Oct 13 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

NOVEMBER

Nov 10 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Nov 20 Hibernation Party-Canadian Side

DECEMBER

Dec 8 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

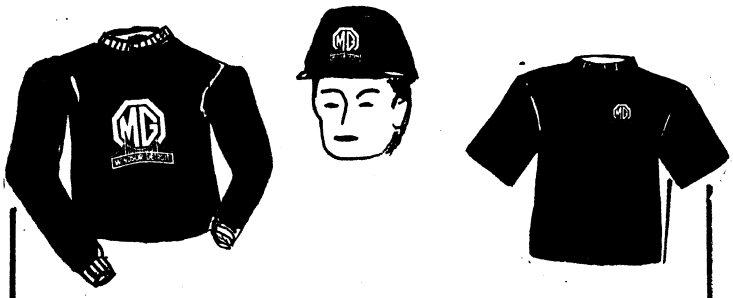
1994

Jan ?? Whirly Ball MGs verses Triumphs
Feb ?? Club Luau at Lucente's?
June 23-26 NAMGBR Convention, Washington D.C.
July?? Club Picnic at Shipley"s?
Aug 19-21 University Motors Summer Party-Grand Rapids

Video Library

The following videos are available to club members. You can rent these videos for **one month** for $5.00. Contact **Greg Newton** at (313) 562-2377.

Behind the Wheel with Jackie Stewart (Jackie Stewart teaches you how to drive smother and better)
SU Carb Rebuild and Tune
MG Engine Rebuild
Battle of the "B"s (MGB Racing in Great Britain)
MGB Experience
Rendezvous (A ride though Paris at 125MPH. One of Car & Driver's 5 best car films)
Gran Turismo Jaguar with Paul Newman
Jaguars at Le Manns
Drive to Win with Mario Andretti
La Carrera Pan America with Pink Floyd (The reenactment of the classic Mexican race with musical background by Pink Flloyd)
The Italian Job (Michael Caine uses Minis in bank robbery)
Mig Welding
Winning (Paul Newman drives Indy cars. The movie that got Newman interested in racing)
Plus more videos being added each month



Windsor-Detroit Club Regalia

Item:	U.S.	Canada
T-Shirts	$10.00	$12.00
Baseball Caps	$5.00	$6.00
Sweatshirts	$15.00	$18.00
MG Christmas Ornaments	$5.00	$6.00
Magnetic "Please Don't Touch" Signs	$9.00pr.	$11.00pr.
Hat Pins	$3.00	$3.50

(many **new pins** have just arrived-check them out)

Check with your Regalia Chairman for the latest goodies and prices. Canada: Roli Sylvestre (519) 969-2739 or U.S.: Jay Kollin (313) 455-6949. And watch this space for information on our new embroidered jackets and shirts.

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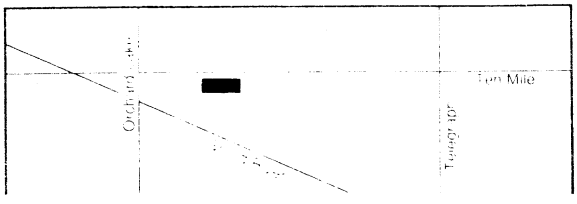
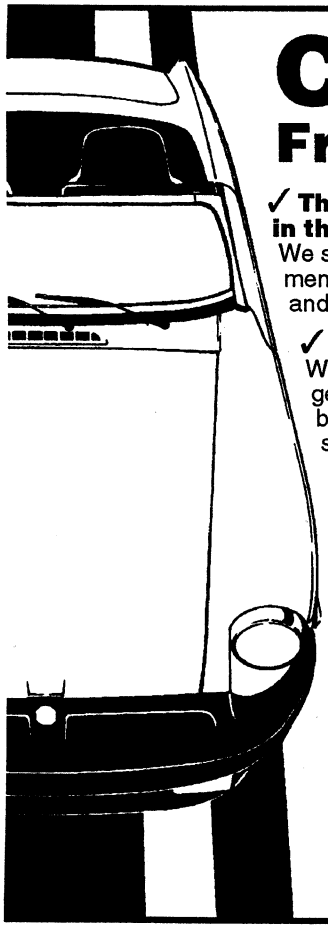


10 Mile, East of Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills (313) 474-7744



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TODAY - Send Check to Marla Zebarah or Frank Lucente for Hibernation Party
Sun. Oct 10th Fall Colour Tour
Wed. Oct 13th Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Wed. Nov 10th Last Day to reserve seating for Hibernation Party - Get check to Marla or Frank.
Sat. Nov 20th Hibernation Party!