The Can-Am Connection

1980 WINDSOR-DETROIT 1995 15th Anniversary

vol. 15 no. 4 | Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club | June 1995

1995 SummerFast Slated For June 18

Auto Cross? Tell It a Joke!

This Father's Day, why not spend some time with your baby? No, I don't mean your children, I mean your other baby—your MG! The fourth annual SummerFast Autocross is being held Sunday, June 18 in the parking lot of the Motorsports Hall of Fame and Museum in Novi.

For the uninitiated, an autocross (or gymkhana) is an event where a driver tries to navigate a course laid out by those lovely orange (blaze red?) pylons against the clock. No real high speeds are attained, but an extreme high rate of fun is acheived. We have invited members from the Michigan Rowdies (NAMGAR) and LAMGA (Lansing Area) MG clubs to participate with us.

There will be three classes competing: Performance, Stock, and Ladies. Registration will begin at 10, with a driver's meeting and a course walk-through at 10:30. The first car on the course will be at 11:00 and runs will continue until about 3:00. The cost is $5.00 per driver. All cars MUST have functional seat belts in order to participate! Participating cars MUST be British, with MGs only being eligible for awards. If there is enough time left, fun runs will be available at a cost of $1 per run, so you can see if your family station wagon will handle as well as it does in the commercials.

Once again, event organizer **Guy St. John** promises that this will be a challenging course, and he also says that autocrossing is the most fun one can have in an MG *(unless, of course, you're a contortionist).*

Happy Birthday, Dear Cecil

by Ed Fleming

Cecil Kimber would have been 107 years old this past April 12th and if you add 1+0+7 you get 8 so Cecil, with his fetish for the number 8 should have appreciated this birthday. *(Editor's note: Ed, you're reaching!)*

For the second year in a row we had great, if a very little bit cool weather for our first driving event. And the weather for this event has foretold the weather we'll have for the rest of the events of the summer, so this should be a great driving season.

About 27 members (all in MGs) made the trip. I would list those attending but lost my notes and would be sure to miss someone. You all know who you are. Most rode with the top up against the cool temperatures but a couple got into the spirit and drove top down.

We took the same twisty back roads we used last year but the cooler temps and possibly the wind directions saved us from the barn yard smells of last spring. Another good omen for this year's driving events.

Fourteen or fifteen MGs, great two lane roads, fellow MG club members from all over the state, a delicious birthday cake (baked by **Marcia Greiner** again) and sunny weather. Who could ask for a more perfect way to start the 1995 driving season? I can't wait for June, July and August.

We Want YOU!

Volunteers Wanted!

As summer draws near, so do the major club events: The Family Picnic, Car Picnic, and UML's Summer Party. As always, we need your help to make these events a success.

For the picnics, we are in need of some ideas for activities for children and adults (big children). If you would like to see something, or better yet, be in charge of something for either of these events, please contact any of the club officers, either in person or by telephone. This is the first year for the Car Picnic (Funkhana), so any input will be welcome.

If you are going to Grand Rapids to Summer Party, there are many ways to spend that extra five or so minutes on your hands *(editor's note: This is Summer Party!: Who needs sleep?)*. The club needs people to work the club table, shop *(that's right, I said SHOP!)*, schlepp stuff around, and just be there if needed.

If you're looking for something a little more high-profile, you could volunteer to help John Twist. An event of this magnitude requires a lot of people, and you can do your part by helping the UML staff with the registration, field setup, photos, or the awards dinner. Check the "I'll help" space on your registration form.

Coming up . . .

3-4 (Sat-Sun)	**WDMGC Trip to Stratford, Ontario, to see "The Gondoliers". For details, contact Philip Wiltshire, (810) 932-0072.**
11 (Sun)	**Carnival of Cars, Waterford Hills**
14 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., La Trattoria, Dearborn.**
18 (Sun)	**Father's Day! Hope you didn't give him another tie.**
18 (Sun)	**SummerFast! Autocross, details TBA**
18 (Sun)	**Wheels of Freedom Car Show, Belle Isle**
26-30 (Mon-Fri)	**MG '95, NAMGBR convention, Lake Tahoe, CA. For info, call (800) NAMGBR-1.**

For the latest information on club meetings and events, call the Club Hotline at (810) 305-9364

Safety Fast!

by Ed Fleming, President

If this is the only sports car club you belong to, you probably aren't aware of just how good this club is. I currently belong to five car clubs (and in a former life belonged to about 10 or 12 more), so I have a fairly large data base for saying that the Windsor-Detroit MG Club is a great car club.

Our club put on or participated in 34 events this last year. In variety they ranged from a weekend trip to Stratford to a swap meet, from an autocross to a luau, from rallyes to a picnic. Really, something for just about everyone.

In comparison, the local Miata club holds 9 or 10 events a year and gives members one newsletter. The Michigan Sports Car Club has about 15 events on the calendar of which 8 are autocrosses.

Still it's never good to be complacent and it's always fun to try something new. This year **Guy St. John** came up with our newest event - the Pinewood Derby which was a great success (in my opinion, but then, I won). Do you have an unusual idea for a club event?

With over 300 members (including spouses, kids, and pets), there are probably thousands of ideas floating around for new, exciting, interesting, maybe strange events.

If you've ever had that little voice wandering around in your head waving its hand like crazy and saying "Me, me, me, call on me, why doesn't the MG club do so and so?", now is your chance. All you have to do is mention your idea to one of the officers listed on page two of each newsletter. You don't have to do anything more if you don't want to.

Last year **Chuck Wiley** had an idea for a picnic and rally to Hidden Gardens but had never put on a rallye. Fellow club member **Tom Greiner** stepped in to show Chuck how to set up and run a rallye. Not hard at all, right Chuck?

If you think your idea is too weird to mention, call me (810) 349-3799. I seem to be the receiving point for strange ideas (the weirder the better). It all started a week after I bought my first car, an 850 Morris Mini. Six members of the Thurston High School track team and I went cruising up Woodward Avenue packed in that little 10 foot long car making pealing out and varoom-varoom noises out the windows. Hey I just had an idea, lets have a "how many club members will fit in an MG contest!" I'll bring it up at the next board meeting.

Meanwhile, if you have an idea, let us know.

The Litter Bag

by Dan Zebarah, Editor

Alright, all you fathers, listen up! Welcome to the first class session of Dad's Day 101. Today we will discuss the proper way to react to your Father's Day present.

I know that some of you THINK you already know the material, but there is more to this than just "ooh-ing" and "aah-ing" over any and all gifts. Any idiot can tell you're just being facetious and really don't like the gift at all. This can be traumatic if your kids are young: They will eventually end up appearing on a talk show raving about how rotten a father they had. We don't this to happen, do we?

I will offer a short list of potential gifts with both the right and wrong responses:

REALLY GROTESQUE NECKTIE:

This is an all-time classic.

WRONG: "What a lovely tie! I think I'll wear this to work."

You liar! *You really don't intend to wear this tie any farther than the end of the driveway, where you'll switch the tie with a decent one. You will eventually get caught and have some serious explaining to do (especially if your wife picked it out).*

RIGHT: "What a lovely tie! I think I'll put this on right now, and, since I feel so good, I'll treat everyone to dinner at the Italian restaurant up the road."

This is the proper course of action. This gives you the golden opportunity to slop red wine and spaghetti sauce on the tie, rendering it permanently stained, i.e., unwearable. If you're lucky, your kids will deem you an incorrigible slob and never buy you another tie again. Anyway, there are sure to be at least 5 other fathers wearing ***their*** *really grotesque ties eating with their families, so you won't even stand out!*

AFTER SHAVE OR COLOGNE:

Another favorite.

WRONG: "Excellent! this is my favorite brand!"

As I said before, ***YOU LIAR!*** *You are now trapped to go into work smelling like a hooker on a date, setting off the carbon monoxide detector in your house, and having your dog sniff your face with the same look in its eyes that it has when the*

(continued on page 4)

The Can-Am Connection is published nine times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Contributions are welcome in either written or typed form, or on computer disk using an IBM compatable word processor.

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Affiliated

In the Headlights

by Maria Zebarah,
Treasurer and Gossip Columnist

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

Bruce Kurth	**June 16**
Katie Zajac	**June 17**
Will Zehring	**June 17**
Doug Balsis	**June 19**
Stephanie Johnston	**June 19**
Manuel Ramirez	**June 19**
Betty Sylvestre	**June 19**
Tony Werderitsch	**June 19**
Joe Ciaramitaro III	**June 20**
Kristy Ciaramitaro	**June 20**
Gayle Pilon	**June 20**
Norm Werner	**June 20**
Chris Mator	**June 21**
Nicole Owens	**June 22**
Fred Raymond	**June 23**
Robin Nunnally	**June 24**
Robin Owens	**June 24**
Erin Nunnally	**June 26**
Pam Shipley	**June 26**
Pamela Dittman	**June 27**
Sheryl Fraidenburg	**June 27**
Frank Baker	**June 29**
Harry Mueller	**June 29**
Larry Enders	**June 30**
Dennis Delap	**July 1**
Isabelle Renaud	**July 1**
Marjorie Caroselli	**July 3**
Amy Sokolowski	**July 3**
Mark Stratton	**July 4**
Flora Wheeler	**July 4**
George Diehl	**July 5**
Pat Harton	**July 6**
Jason McKinnon	**July 6**
David Ruch	**July 6**
Daniel Keating	**July 7**
Don Kobeck	**July 7**
Nickolas Adamowicz	**July 8**
Tom Greiner	**July 10**
Chris McQueen	**July 10**
Connie Trofin	**July 10**
Nancy Zajac	**July 10**
Karry Adamowicz	**July 11**
Marshall Coulter	**July 11**
Frank Gaydos	**July 11**
Rosemary Beaudoin	**July 12**
Suzanne Snyder	**July 12**
Bill Larson	**July 13**
Danna Lustig	**July 13**
Tom Mator	**July 14**
Bud Miller	**July 14**

Be famous! Impress your friends! Submit an article to the newsletter today!

Calendar of Events—1995

Note: Events in **boldface** type are WDMGC or BSCC events!
Events, dates and times subject to change without notice! For the latest information, call the club hotline, **(810) 305-WDMG**

JUNE

3-4 (Sat-Sun)	**WDMGC Trip to Stratford, Ontario, to see "The Gondoliers". For details, contact Philip Wiltshire, (810) 932-0072.**
11 (Sun)	4th Annual Five Club Picnic, Brock Memorial Park, Queenston, Ontario (Near Niagara on the Lake), 11 a.m. For info, call Bob Zimmerman at (216) 678-9394.
11 (Sun)	Carnival of Cars, Waterford Hills
14 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., La Trattoria, Dearborn.**
18 (Sun)	Father's Day! Hope you didn't give him another tie.
18 (Sun)	**SummerFast! Autocross, details on page 1, map on page 4**
18 (Sun)	Wheels of Freedom Car Show, Belle Isle.
26-30 (Mon-Fri)	MG '95, NAMGBR convention, Lake Tahoe, CA. For info, call (800) NAMGBR-1.

JULY

6-9 (Thu-Sun)	MG Car Club of Toronto 40th Anniversary Party, Stratford, Ontario. For info, call Ron Spraggett, (905) 457-0295.
9 (Sun)	Mad Dogs and Englishmen Car Show, Gilmore Car Museum, Kalamazoo. For details, call (616) 671-5089.
12 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., Roseland Golf & Curling Club, Windsor**
16 (Sun)	**Family Picnic at Suzanne & Dave Snyder's house, Sterling Heights**
30 (Sun)	**Funkhana, details TBA**

AUGUST

5 (Sat)	Vintage Racing at Waterford
6 (Sun)	*Concours d'elegance* at Meadowbrook. Featured sportscar:Morgan.
9 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., La Trattoria, Dearborn.**
15-17(Tue-Thur)	NAMGAR GT-20, Lansing, Hosted by the Michigan Rowdies. For more info, call (517) 782-9749 or (517) 694-4856.
17-20(Thur-Sun)	University Motors' 19th Annual Summer Party, Grand Rapids.

SEPTEMBER

10 (Sun)	Battle of the Brits, Freedom Hill
13 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., Roseland Golf & Curling Club, Windsor**

OCTOBER

9 (Mon)	Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
11 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., La Trattoria, Dearborn**
15 (Sun)	**BSCC Fall Colour Tour, hosted by WDMGC**
29 (Sun)	British Autojumble, sponsored by MGCC of Toronto, International Centre, Toronto. For info, call (416) 533-MGMG.

NOVEMBER

4 (Sat)	**Hibernation Party, details TBA**
8 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., Roseland Golf & Curling Club, Windsor**
23 (Thur)	Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)

DECEMBER

13 (Wed)	**General Meeting, 7 p.m., La Trattoria, Dearborn**
25 (Mon)	Merry Christmas! Regalia makes a wonderful gift!
26 (Tue)	Boxing Day (Canada)
31 (Sun)	New Year's Eve! Please don't drink and drive!

JUNE, 1996

27-30(Thur-Sun)	All MG Meet, Indianapolis, Indiana.

MOG Honours Charles Morgan August 3

The Morgan owners group will have a dinner honoring Charles Morgan on Thursday, August 3 at CarRail, Richard Kughn's personal automobile and Lionel train museum. They have opened up the dinner,catered by the Whitney, to other British car clubs and to the general public. Price is $75 per person. call Larry Moss at (810) 540-3733 for ticket info.

The Litter Bag

(from page 2)

Labrador next door goes into heat.

RIGHT: "Wow! This is really fancy. I think I'll only wear this on special occasions!"

Like when the Jamaican bobsled team wins a medal.

TOOLS:

Since there are so many kinds of tools, I have broken them down into three categories: Small tools, power tools, and household tools. Each has its own proper response.

SMALL TOOLS:

WRONG: "Just what I needed! A (reading off package) combination tape measure, level, calculator, compass, digital clock, notepad and tire pressure gauge with handy belt hook."

*Any dolt can see that **you** don't know what it is, either.*

RIGHT: "Will you look at that? It's truly amazing that they can put all these things together in such a small package. It will fit right in my glove compartment."

Where it will never be seen again.

POWER TOOLS:

WRONG: "Wow! A carbide-tipped, universal arbor circular saw blade! But I don't have a circular saw."

*Now you've done it. Your kids probably dragged your wife all over the tool department at Sears (or, more than likely, Crazy Benzy's) and convinced her that this was exactly what you wanted. You should be ashamed of yourself for crushing their fragile little egos. The only way out of this is if the next box actually **contains** a circular saw. Lotsa luck.*

RIGHT: "Hey, a circular saw blade! Now I'll be able to cut down that bedroom door so it won't drag on the carpet."

*After the festivities are over, collar your wife and explain that you don't **own** a circular saw, but you didn't want to disappoint the kids. Since you mentioned cutting down that door, you will probably get a saw for your birthday (if you don't get the green light for purchasing one yourself sooner).*

HOUSEHOLD TOOLS:

These are actually things that your wife wants you to have: Carpet shampooers, floor buffers, etc.

WRONG: "Wow, an electric painting system! Isn't this the one which cuts painting time in half?"

*No, dummy. It's the one which will allow **you** to paint the entire house in one day (while she is on a field trip with your kids' school). Do you really want to work this hard?*

RIGHT: "Wow, an electric painting system! I hear that this is so easy, that the children can do it."

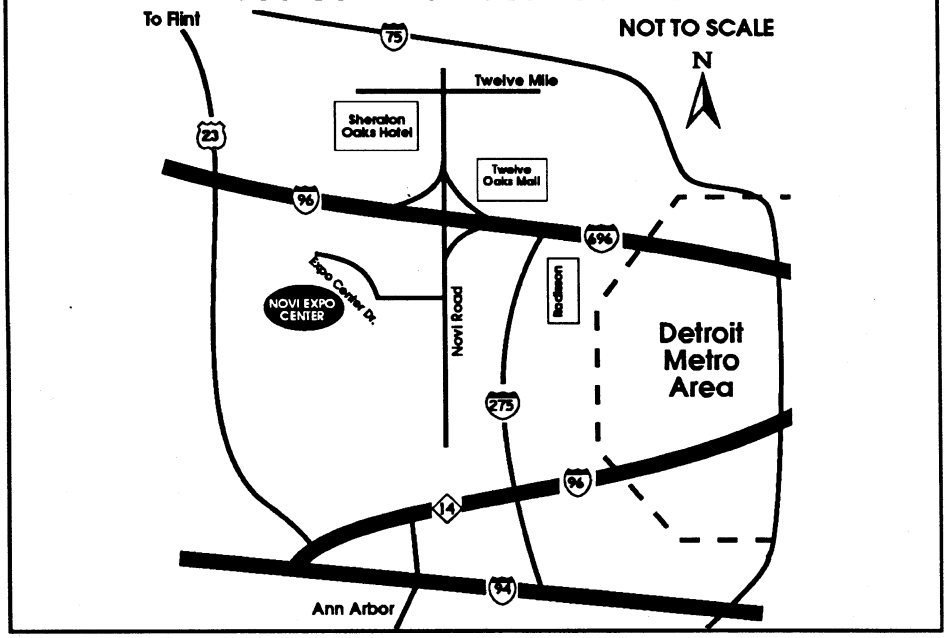
So let the children do it. Who cares if you have to buy new carpet? You got out of painting, didn't you?

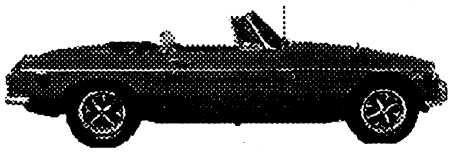
Just remember: Your children have racked their brains thinking of (or making) the perfect gift for you (case in point: I have a decoupaged rock sitting on top of my computer). If you ruin it now, you won't ever get a decent gift after they get jobs and can afford a REAL present.

Class dismissed.

How Do You Get There?

1995 SummerFast Autocross





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Tales From the Driver's Seat

I Wish They All Could Be California MGs

by Tom Newton

Our son Greg moved to San Diego last August to start a new job in the computer animation field. His mom, Sandie, flew out to visit him at the end of September and to help him settle in, as mothers have to do. He arranged to have his 66 MGB shipped out to him. It sure looked small when I drove it onto the car hauler, but it did look good.

Both Sandie and I got a chance to fly out for a visit the second week in March. That was my first trip to the west coast. The big question for me is, "Why are we living here in Michigan when it's so nice out there (aside from earthquakes, rain, mud slides, and fires). We did get good sunny weather, although the reports here told otherwise. I won't bother telling you about all the great restaurants and microbreweries, I'll just get right to the MGs.

We arrived about three in the afternoon and did a quick tour of downtown that ended at "Affordable V.I.P. Classics". Their business cards read, "Specializing in vintage, classic, exotic automobiles, motorcycles, and automobilia." Every vehicle was beautiful. We zeroed in on the two MGAs.

The best buy was a light blue 1961 1600 coupe. The price tag had been marked down twice, from $8900 to the current $7900. It was a do-it-yourself recondition job that looked pretty good. The interior was great and mostly new. The paint was OK, but really needed some sanding. Under the hood was the unfinished story: It had a Weber downdraft carb and needed a complete cleaning, paint and re-do. Overall, this was a great California car, NO RUST. We were seriously tempted to make an offer on this one, but the extra cost of shipping the car back to Michigan (about $900) made us think twice.

We were approached by Rick Wilson (sales associate) when we started to check out the red twin-cam roadster. This was a complete frame-up restoration job and a really beautiful vehicle. The $39,000 price tag and several "do not touch" signs prevented us from fondling and caressing this baby.

In the conversation with Rick, he related how he had started to ask visitors to the showroom about any cars they have and might be interested in selling. He had only been doing this for two and a half weeks but had already collected three or four pages of names and vehicles. Greg spotted a Sunbeam Tiger for $7000 on the list. Rick told us about one person who had a brand new car that had been specially built for Steve McQueen. It was still in the crate; it was never delivered because of Steve's death.

On Saturday, I was able to tag along with Greg to his part-time job at Jim Alcorn's Auto Vintagry restoration shop. They were putting the finishing touches on a Twin Cam Coupe setup for racing. I met Jim and Bill Davis, and had an opportunity to turn a couple of wrenches with the boys. There were three other MGAs and a completed rolling frame in the shop. One was a parts car that was going to provide a front clip for an upcoming project and the other was "the" project. I guess the third was just a space saver. There was an MGB body shell sitting on jack stands that was ready for a complete trim and drive train job.

The jewel of them all was the Tickford Sedan sitting there in all its glory. I had heard the term used a few times, mainly in Grand Rapids. This was the real thing, a real MG classic out of the late 1930s.

We did see a few other MGs while driving around the San Diego and La Jolla areas. All of them were in great shape with the exception of one or two and they were just dirty and tired.

I look forward to the Imported Car Trader Magazines that Greg sends every once in a while. The MGs that are listed are in good shape and priced reasonably. Maybe one of the next trips will be a flight our for a short visit and a long, adventurous drive home in a California beauty.

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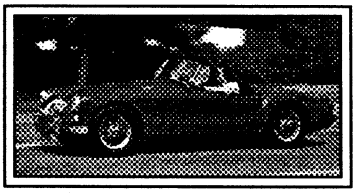

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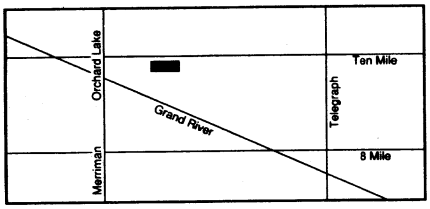

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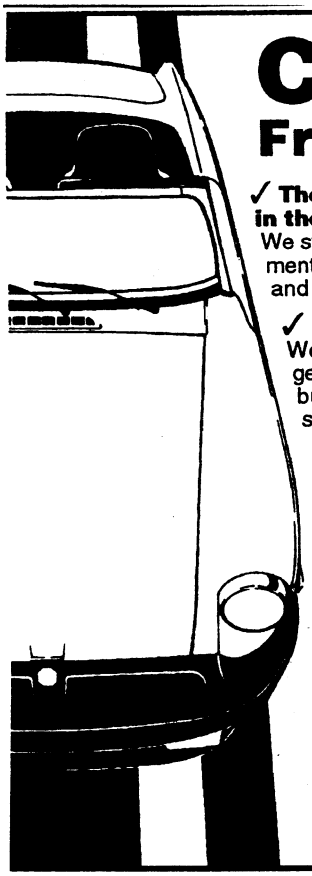

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FOR SALE: 1977 MGB, some rust, bad ignition switch, sitting for about 8 years. Bob Moricz, (313) 595-6575, after 11 am. (2/3)

FOR SALE: 1978 Midget, 29,700 miles. No rust, runs excellent, bright blue with black top & tan interior. David Stone, (810) 683-5577 (1/1)

FOR SALE: 1974 Midget for parts. Body no good, engine runs, carbs rebuilt by UML, $400. Neil Hoagland, (517) 486-4007. (2/3)

FOR SALE: Front & rear bumpers for 74 1/2 to 80 MGB, with front brackets. $500 obo, Dennis Mefferd, (313) 278-7553. (2/3)

FOR SALE: 1 pair HS4 Carbs complete with intake manifold, 1968 trans, 1978 trans, 1967 radiator & diaphragm, 62-67 rebuilt starter, 62-67 rebuilt generator, 62-69 tail lamp assembly, Lucas 25D distributor, clutch slave cylinder, octagonal knock-off wrench, 67 steel fan & pulley, Tecalimit oil filter assembly, and other miscellaneous parts, best offer in U.S. dollars for entire lot. Brian Collacott, (519) 969-7187 (3/3)

FOR SALE: Radiator for '68-'76 MGB. Never used since repair, $75. Rich Wagner, (810) 624-9573 (1/3)

FOR SALE: Wire wheels, 15 inch, 48 spoke, no rust. Set of 4, $80. Rich Wagner, (810) 624-9573 (1/3)

FOR SALE: MGA gas tank and sending unit, moist around sender. Make offer. Philip Wiltshire, (810) 932-0072 (1/3)

WANTED: Chrome bumper MGB, no rust, not a lot of work needed, good driver. Mark Lazzara, (810) 268-3525 (1/3)

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

WANTED: Emission control equipment; gulp valves, air pumps, Strombergs, etc. Dan Zebarah, (313) 382-6715 (ufn)

Local Car Hauling, reasonable rates, USA & Canada, Frank Lucente (519) 966-9146 (ufn)

Looking for something? Selling something? Remember, these ads are FREE to all members! Contact the newsletter editor at (313) 382-6715 for details.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members to our club:

Eric and Terry Blauwaert live in Rochester with their child, Ryan. They own a 1977 BRG MGB. Eric is a Program Manager. They found out about the club from member **Mark Lazarra**, who works with Eric.

Dave and Nancy DeCook live in Farmington Hills with their daughters, **Renee** and **Natalie**. They own a 1974 Brown MGB. Dave is an Engineer. They found out about the club from member **Guy St. John**.

Hope you enjoy being a part of our club!

As of the day I'm writing this (May 18), we have 170 member families in the club.

Club Regalia

Item	U.S.	Canadian
Club Logo Hat Pins	$3	$3.50
Other Hat Pins	$3	$3.50
Club Stickers (same as grille badge)	2/$3	2/$4
Sweater with embroidered club logo	$40	$52
Golf Shirt with embroidered club logo	$30	$39
Lap Robe with embroidered club logo	$45	$58
T-Shirts	$10	$12
Baseball Caps	$5	$6
Sweatshirt	$15	$18
MG Christmas Tree Ornaments	$5	$6
Grill Badges (new design)	$20	$28

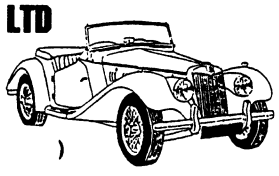
For purchase, contact either of our regalia chairmen at the phone number listed on page 2.

S-G
IMPORTED CAR PARTS, INC.
Ken Gold
HEADQUARTERS
32214 W. 8 Mile Rd., Farmington, MI 48024
(810) 477-0410

Ann Arbor (313) 769-4900
Warren (810) 759-0800
Berkley (810) 546-6010
Allen Park (313) 383-2500
Bloomfield Hills (810) 334-6700
Waterford/Pontiac (810) 673-2550

20% Discount for all WDMGC Members! Just show your membership card.

UNIVERSITY MOTORS LTD
6490 East Fulton
Ada, Michigan 49301-9006
Phone (616) 682-0800
Fax (616) 682-0801



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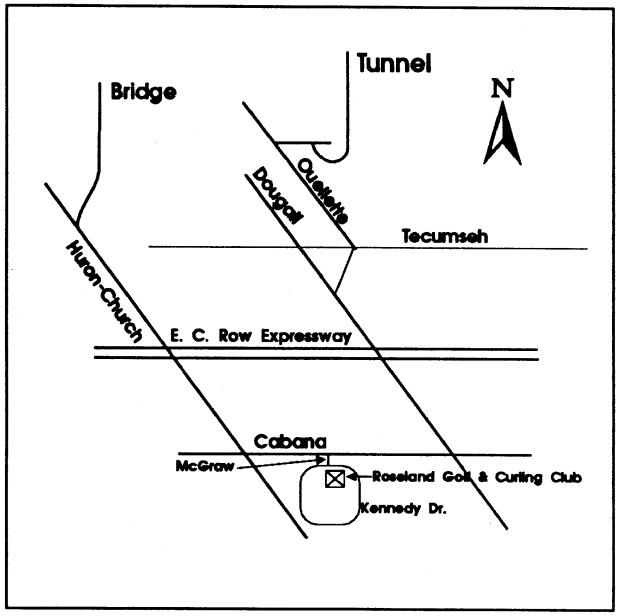
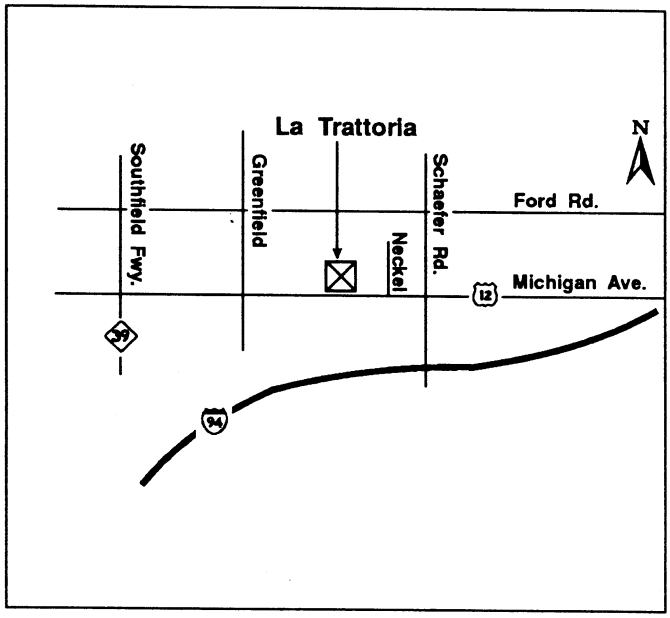
BENCH
Short Blocks • Cylinder Heads • Engines • Rocker Assemblies • Gearboxes • Overdrives • Differentials
Remote Control Housings • SU & Stromberg Carburetters • Exhaust Manifolds • Distributors • Starters
Dynamos • Control Boxes • Wiper Motors • Brake Cylinders and Calipers • Kingpin Assemblies

RESTORATION SERVICES
Repair • Bench • Restoration Services • Soft Tops • Interiors • Carpeting • Rust Repair • Paint • Detailing

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS?
CALL JOHN TWIST • TECHNICAL HOUR 1:00 - 2:00 PM EST
PHONE (616) 682-0800

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 Roseland Golf and Curling Club in Windsor.





Find out the latest information on club meetings and events this month! Call the Windsor-Detroit MG Club Hotline at (810) 305-9364.

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
1327 Austin
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
U.S.A.

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