The Can Am CONNECTION

WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 16, No. 8 The Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club August, 1996

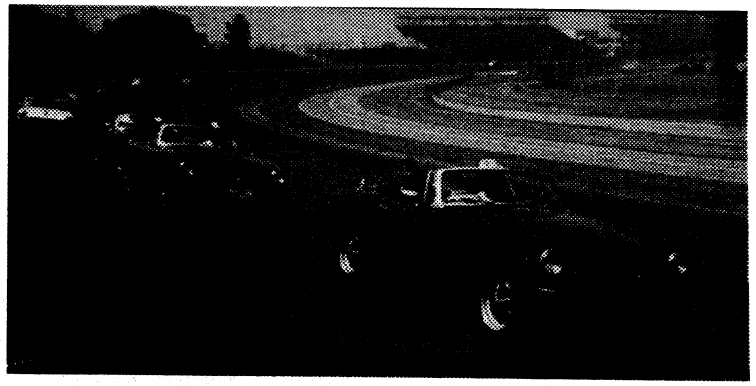

Photo: Bill, Pam and Kaitlin Savage at "speed" at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

MGs Converge on the Brickyard

by Dan Zebarah

Indianapolis has been conquered by the British! British cars, that is. Over 1300 MGs assembled at the home of the Indy 500 for a weekend which can only be described as FANTASTIC! Well, it could also be described as HOT! The temperature for the entire event was in the mid 90s (mid 30s Celsius).

MG International, or Indy '96, was probably the most intense MG weekend that could ever be imagined. For four days, MG enthusiasts from around the world gathered for over 40 events, culminating with a parade lap around the famous Indianapolis Speedway.

Wednesday was basically a "welcome" day, with a few events scattered about and ending with a parking lot party complete with a disk jockey playing British invasion music. Those with a different taste in music enjoyed the Symphony on the Prairie.

Thursday was the real start. From 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., there was enough going on that nobody could do everything, but there was something for everybody, from a seminar on troubleshooting for the novice mechanic to an author signing with Anders Ditlev Clausager, historian for the British Motor Heritage Trust.

Friday was the day for looking at the cars. Well over 800 MGs gathered on the field at the Ropke Military Museum for the various registers' shows. Rumor has it that there were more than 400 MGBs alone! The weather was hot and humid, and there was no shade to be found save for one tree in the middle of the field. Although most entrants left a little early, nobody left disappointed.

The big day came on Saturday. It had to be quite a sight for the locals: 1300 MGs, ranging from the Midgets and Magnas of the early 1930s to 1980 MGB Limited Editions clogging the streets of Indianapolis en route to the speedway. There were people at curbside with their video cameras and folks at garage sales stopping in mid-dicker to stare at the long parade of Abingdon's finest.

The air was alive with anticipation, most of which was from drivers wondering if they were actually going to make it to the track before they overheated. After waiting in queue for at least 45 minutes, I finally got my glimpse of the famed Brickyard.

Hoping to wind it up to at least 50 mph (I figured it would take at least that to get my temperature gauge out of the red), I was disappointed to learn that I would never get my car out of second gear as the procession never exceeded 15 mph. Once we pulled off the track, everyone got the chance to look over the cars one more time. An added bonus was the Cavalcade of Cars; one example of almost every model MG produced, including the MGB design experiment produced by Aston Martin in an effort to continue the MG marque in 1981.

The long distance award went to 5 cars driven from Vancouver to the meet; a distance of over 2600 miles. The absolute longest distance travelled was covered by three attendees from New Zealand. They spent more time on a plane than I did on the road (at least my food was better).

The awards ceremony, held at the track, seemed long and disorganized. No one from the club won an award, but former members Hayden Heath and Drew Hastings took home awards in their respective classes.

Since the distance from Detroit to Indy was only 325 or so miles (350 Canadian), we had quite a few members in attendance: (note: we didn't actually see all of these folks, but they were registered.) **Mike Derderian, Dan Kirby, Ed Fleming, Marcia Greiner, Bill & Hilda Larson, Jim & Elizabeth Hine, Jim & Diane Zielinski, Dan, Marla, Lisa & David Zebarah, David & Alyssa Torby, Rich & Adrienne Wagner, Bill, Pam, and Kaitlin Savage, Guy & Ann St. John, John & Joyce Cherwak, Dick & Dorothy Bremer, John & Nancy Zajac, Roli Sylvestre, Czzie Pillon, Jeff & Janice Zorn, Brian & Enid Collicott, and Dave, Lynne, Christopher, and Allyson Hornby. Also spotted were former WDMGC President Hayden Heath and former Newsletter Editor (among other things) "Uncle Joe" Kidwell.**

The various registers are considering doing this again, this time in Pennsylvania, in 2000. With one already under their belt, the next one should be even better (and hopefully cooler).

---UP-COMING EVENTS---

Mark Your Calendars Now Before You Forget

Fri Aug 2 Cruise Night-Drayton
Fri Aug 2 Concours in the Park
Fri Aug 2 Artist Reception-Troy
Sat Aug 3 Vintage Races-Waterford
Sun Aug 4 Vintage Races-Waterford
Sun Aug 4 Concours d'Elegance
Wed Aug 14 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Thu Aug 15 Marathon Rally
Aug 15-18 University Motors Susmmer Party-Grand Rapids, MI

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Contributions are welcome in either written or IBM Wordperfect form.

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Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor, President

A few interesting observations on traveling to and from "Indy '96". Since Marcia Greiner and I were vending our ceramic wares at the show and the starter still isn't fixed on the Midget, I took the beater German car to Indy. The one that feels very comfortable cruising at about 82 MPH on the expressway.

Because of it's preferred cruising speed I ended up passing a lot of cars, traveling to and from the event and I noticed that Indiana drivers by and large tend to move over when you come up behind them in the fast lane. This made for very smooth and safe driving. No need to constantly switch lanes to get around those inconsiderate "left lane bandits". In fact when a bottleneck occurred, it was almost always caused by an Ohio or Michigan driver.

One of the other car clubs I belong to is the National Motorist Association, The group who almost single handedly pushed for the elimination of the dreaded and ignored 55 MPH national speed limit. Now that states don't have to set their maximum speeds at 55 or 65, the NMA is pushing for more rational speed limits based on what people really drive. But along with raising speed limits we're also trying to make the flow of traffic more efficient through polite or correct "lane usage".

I had assumed that people driving slowly in the fast lane was an American phenomenon, but after the trip to Indy it was obvious that some states must train their drivers to drive more considerately. It wasn't just a few polite Indiana drivers, just about every car with an Indiana plate was driven courteously. The question is how do we get the rest of the drivers to drive that way?

Do we have any members who grew up in Indiana? Took driver training there? Or know how they train their drivers down there?

In the meantime, we can start by being more courteous drivers ourselves. When a driver comes up behind you on the expressway, move over so he can get by smoothly and without having to slow down. Better yet, keep right except to pass as the roadside signs used to say. And in casual conversation with friends, discuss correct driving etiquette. Maybe we can start a trend. A trend where we can travel safely and fast. It's the MG thing to do.

Be sure to check the Regalia information on page 6. We have several new items. Glass mugs, coffee cups and pop glasses and new Christmas tree ornaments. All etched with our club logo or the MG octagon. Only $8 to $13.

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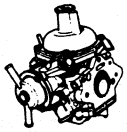
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Great Food, Great Cars, Great Friends, Great Fun, Great Picnic!

Perfect weather (once again the storm clouds held off until after our picnic), near perfect cars (ok Tom Shipley's MGA and host Suzanne Snyder's LE might actually be perfect), great company, great food, GREAT FUN!

That's become the hallmark of our annual club picnic, and a crowd of 30 some members arrived at **Dave and Suzanne Snyder's** house for the festivities, despite the lack of a good map in the newsletter (Ed. note: It's been 30 years since my map making class in the army).

This is the big event for the kids in the club and the following kids all had a great time: **Kaitlin Savage, Jenny, Marcy and Amy Kollin, Sara and Matthew Greiner, Alyssa and Michelle Torby, Erin and Lee Anne Muroch** and of course your faithful editor **Ed Fleming.**

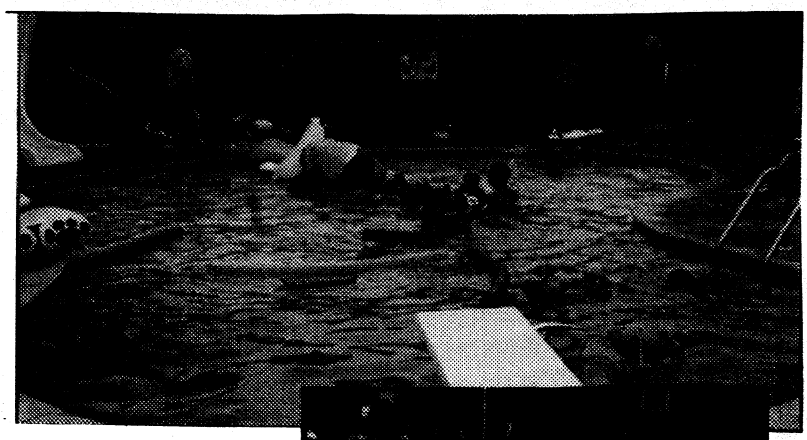
Adults attending were **Bill and Pam Savage, Jay and Mary Kay Kollin, Edna Fleming** (the designated adult in the family), **Marcia and Tom Greiner, Tom Shipley, Dave Reed and Marti Reinhard, Dave and Sheryl Fraidenburg, Vince and Chris McQueen, Darrell and Jeanne Maurel, Dave and Joyce Torby, Allen and Linda Murock, Fran and Ray Lewis, Dave Jonker and Mary Harms, and Ray and Jackie Wright.**

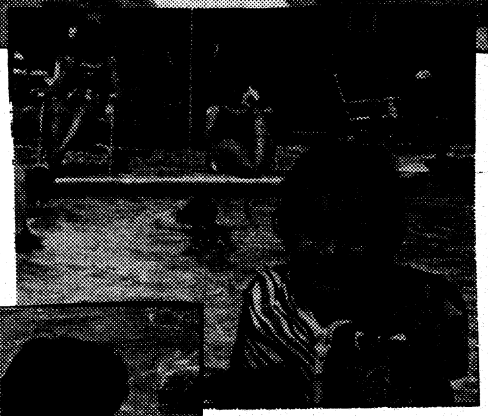
After the dismal turnout at our Ralleye(s) and Carnival of Cars, I was beginning to wonder if anyone was interested in participating in this club. The picnic restored my faith in you, more members turned out this year than last, and were rewarded with a great time.

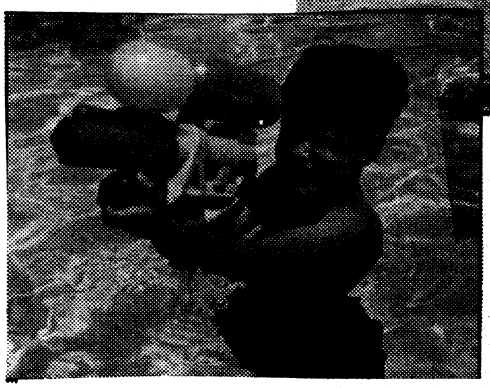
The Snyder's have more pool toys than anyone I've ever known, from an eight inch Pterodactyl to an eight foot killer whale (Willie), an alligator, turtles, "noodles" you name it, it was there. I had tossed Willie over the fence last year and freed him, but he was back again this year.

While the kids were having a great time splashing in the pool some of the adults were out by the cars discussing "car stuff", particularly Bill and Pam Savage's neat arrangement for carrying daughter Kaitlin in their B roadster, using a seat cushion from a B-GT. The GT cushion fits perfectly and only one hole had to be drilled for the seat belts.

A perfectly swell time was had by all, plan to join in the fun next year.







Photos, Top to Bottom: Club members hanging our around the pool. The pool full of toys (& members). **Kaitlin Savage** looking a little cold, while **Mary Kay Kollin** and **Edna Fleming** sun themselves in the background. **Matthew Greiner** takes aim with one of the many pool toys.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen

by Chuck Wiley

Mad Dogs and Englishmen marked its 6th year under beautiful skies in cozy Hickory Corners, just north of Kalamazoo, Michigan, at the Classic Gilmore Car Museum.

Over 200 British cars participated in this years event, which included tests of driving skills, judging by popular vote and a wedding. T. W. Lane, the organizer of this event married Susan Marie Smith during the car fair. The ceremony went off in proper English tradition and all were invited.

There was a great mix of British cars on hand, including MGs, Triumphs, Jags, TVRs, a right had drive Mini, and much more. Three WDMGC members made the trip, **Dale Brown, Gordon Wallace** and **Chuck Wiley.**

In addition to the British cars on display, you can also wonder through the Classic Car Museum. The museum is housed in several barns on what was once a large dairy farm. The barns have all been restored and filled with a large variety of classic cars. One shack has nothing but classic old Cadillacs in it (appropriately name the "Caddy Shack"). The museum is worth the trip by itself.

I recommend everyone to attend next year for it's a well organized event which all will enjoy.

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Dan,"Ok the road's washed out, but if we drive through this farmer's field, we can shave a 1/4 mile off our distance!"

Put Some Adventure in Your Life!

OK, you couldn't find time to train for a spot on the Olympic team. You couldn't find a boat to compete in the Port Huron to Mackinaw race. But you do have an MG and you are planning to take time off to go to University Motor's Summer Party aren't you?

Well there you have it, a perfect way to put some adventure into your life. Enter the University Motors 4th Endurance Trial. A thousand mile rally Thursday and Friday August 15 & 16.

You have no excuses. I'm a 50 something diabetic with a bad back and Dan Kirby and I ran this thing in my irritatingly loud Midget with bad shocks. Top down all the way. No problem, it was an adventure. In fact it was so much fun Dan and I drove his Midget to Missouri to run a thousand mile rally down there. Another adventure.

Since Dan and I won this event last year, we get to put it on this time, and we'd like to see a strong showing of Windsor-Detroit members compete.

All you'll need are a few good maps, a stop watch, flash lights, a clip board, pen and paper and the normal stuff you take on trips in your MG.

Stop being a boring person, do something adventurous. Call Dan Kirby (810) 442-8862 or me, Ed Fleming (810) 349-3799 for more details.

Didn't Quite Overdose on MGs at Indy? You'll have another Chance at UML's Summer Party, August 15 to 18!

John Twist's Summer Party in Grand Rapids is about half the distance that Indy is and there will be about half the number of cars. But everything is more centralized, more convenient, and you've probably been there before so you know the routine.

Maybe this year you could do something different. "Like what?", you say?

Like helping John put on this great show, help at registration and meet interesting MG owners, get some early morning exercise setting stakes at the park, help direct traffic to their parking spaces. Call John at (616) 682-0800 to let him know you want to help.

Or this year run the Saturday morning ralleye. Or build a valve cover racer. Or enter one of your photos in the photo contest. Or run the Endurance Ralleye put on by Dan Kirby and me.

The club will have a table for registering new members, Jay Kollin will have club regalia for sale, and we'll have our club hospitality area with food and drinks for members.

This is always a great event, the weather has always been sunny, and everyone enjoys the party. Plan to be there.

This year's featured car is the MG V8. Thinking about making your MGB go a little faster, this is the party to find out how.

Application Forms were in last month's newsletter. If you cana't find yours call me at (810) 349-3799 for another one.

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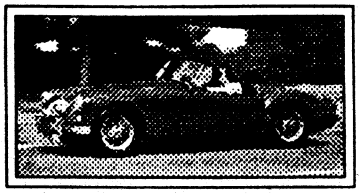

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Welcome to our new members

Ahh, driving season brings out the cars and new members.

We welcome **Peter Pleitner and Cynthia Hayward** of Ann Arbor. Philip Wiltshire brought this multi car owner into the club. His cars include a: '48 TC-Green, '66 MGB-GT Blue, and '66 E-type Roadster, Blue. **David Jonker** of St.. Clair Shores joins the club upon Dave and Sue Snyder's recommendation. They are another 3 car family which include 1960 MGA, 1974 TR6 Pimento and a 1940 Jensen Healey, Orange.

Marc Danile of Royal Oak, may be seen in his Green 1975 MGB. This mutual Fund Wholesaler heard about us from Import Auto Supply - Farmington and Ed Fleming. **Richard and Linda Ratzloff** of Livonia are another Chuck Wiley find. This Cost Estimating Supervisor drives a 1974 1/2 Green MGB-GT.

Arnold and Valta Welther of Oak Park have plenty of time to drive since they are retired. They can be seen driving their 1976 Black MG Midget to car shows. They heard about the club at a show from the Coulters. **Marc, Diane and Julia Alexander** of Livonia all share this engineer's Ivory 1958 MGA. Welcome to the club and enjoy the fun of the open road. Perhaps some one should plan a green car rally near March 17.

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

Patrick Lucente Aug 15
Mimi Sokolowski Aug 15
David Burley, Jr. Aug 16
Nancy Whalen Aug 16
Bill Reeves Aug 17
Dave Naylor Aug 19
Seth Stern Aug 19
Shannon Wiley Aug 19
Colin O'Brien Aug 22
Kathi Poupard Aug 22
Kaitlin Savage Aug 22
John Cherwak Aug 23
Brian Hacker Aug 23
Matt Fisher Aug 24
David Reed Aug 25
Chuck Wiley Aug 25
Mary Wiley Aug 27
Nina Chiaravalli Aug 29
David Derderian Aug 30
Donn Raganiemi Aug 30
Bill Bastien Aug 31
Allyson Hornby Sep 1
Linda Lucente Sep 1
David Zebarah Sep 1
Julie Green Sep 2
Diane Howe Sep 2
Larry Kovacic Sep 2
Nicole Waugh Sep 3
Ian Huff Sep 5
Jerry Bennett Sep 6
Susan Riddell Sep 6
Heather Kosbab Sep 9
David Snyder Sep 9
Felicia Tortola Sep 9
Tony Adamowicz Sep 10
John Peralta Sep 10
Basil Palombo Sep 11
Linda Bastien Sep 12
Alyssa Torby Sep 13
Alexander Darr Sep 14
Jennifer Kollin Sep 14

14th Annual Battle of the Brits Coming Up Sept 8th!

The last big British car (and Motorcycle) show of the year returns to Freedom Hill Park Sept 8th. Not just MGs, but all sorts of British motorcars, from Austins to Zephyrs. Food will be available or bring a picnic lunch. Big prizes will also be given away, including a colour TV!

Cost is $10 per car (before Sept 1st) or $15 after that. And this year we received the registration forms early so it won't just be the Triumph club getting the early registration discount. Send yours in today.

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YEAR	MAKE	MODEL

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Registration includes a T-Shirt to the first 150 entrants, Dash Plaque, and Door Prize Ticket.
Vendors are encouraged to participate and will only be charged the participants registration fee per vehicle.
NO TELEPHONE REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED

THERE IS A $5.00 FEE FOR NON-PARTICIPANT PARKING. (PAY AT THE GATE)

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Other Hat Pins.....	$ 3	$3.50
Sweater with embroidered club logo....	$40	$52
Golf Shirt " " " ".....	$30	$39
Lap Robe " " " ".....	$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

To Purchase Any Of These Items Contact Your Regalia Chairman

Video Library

The following videos are available to club members. Contact our Video Librarian, Brett Altman at (313) 326-0764.

***La Carrera Panamerica.** (1987) Open road race across Mexico with music by Pink Floyd and **Silverstate Classic** - the fastest open road race in the world across Nevada.

***Winning** with Paul Newman. Fictional story of Indycar racing. The movie that got Newman interested in racing.

***The Italian Job** Michael Cain stars with several Minis in a big bank robbery.

***Drive to Win** with Mario Andretti

***Battle of the Bs.** Club racing MGBs in England.

***SU Carb Rebuild**

***'66 and '69 Le Mans Races**

***Formula One 1979, 1980, 1982**

***Gran Turismo Jaguar.**

***The MGB Film Library**

***The MGB Video.** "Short but good"

***MGB Experience.**

***The Roadster Factory Summer Party 1993**

***Behind the Wheel with Jackie Stewart.** Stewart shows you how to drive with finesse.

***Rendezvous.** A ride through the streets of Paris at 100 MPH plus. Short but great! A cult classic and one of Car & Driver's top 5 car films.

***History of the Indy 500** The story of the 500 from 1911 to 1989. Great footage of earlier races.

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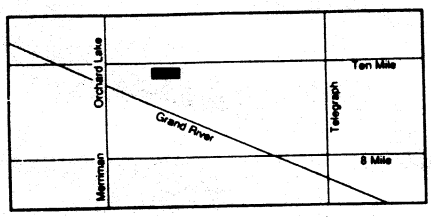

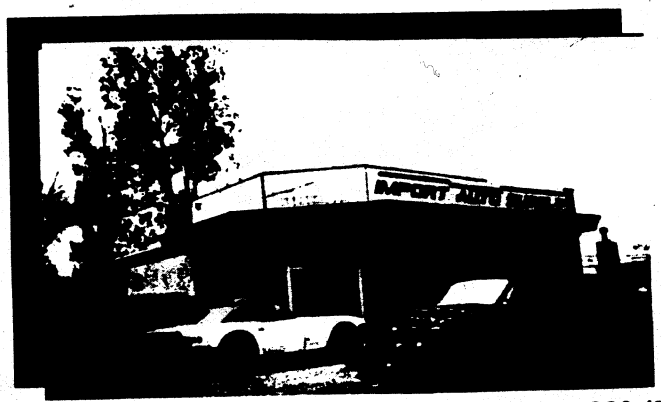

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Unclassified ads run for three issues or for however long I feel like running them. They are free for members and $5.00 for non-members. Call Ed Fleming at (810) 349-3799 to place your ad.

FOR SALE

Ceramic Car Models, business card holders, mugs, bowls etc. Individually hand made and personalized. We've actually won prizes for these things and our stuff is on display at the Morgan Factory, Royal Doulton Dealers and Pewabic Pottery. Marcia Greiner (810) 348-1473

British Car Brochures & Ads. Jay Kollin (313) 455-6949

'75 MGB Just back from 3400 mile trip, last chace to buy before I sink $2000 into body & paint. $4500, Rich Wagnewr (810) 624-9573 (8 only)

'71 MGB Roadster, restoralbe or good parts car, many spare parts $1000 OBO. Mark Pilecki (313) 869-0062 (work). (8)

'48 MG TC All original, completely restored, new tires, freshly painted wire wheels, $25,000 OBO. John A. Gilray (810) 644-3298 (8)

Factory Hardtop for Midget, $275, Dan Kowal (810) 548-4165 (8)

'79 Midget Good engine and trans, wire wheels, needs finest work, $750 firm, chuck Wiley, (313) 586-2500 (8)

Rostyle wheels with tires (set of 5) $250 Rich Wagner (810) 624-9573

S.W.M.G.B. with great body seeks kinky relationship with Midget, love to go topless, no smokers need apply, for a good time call (810) 305-9364

B Motors: '69 $250, '74 (low mileage) $350, '76 $350. Used & rebulit heads for B & 1275 Midget, Chuck Wiley (313) 586-2500 (8)

'79 MGB Looks great, recent restoration, passed Ontario safety inspection, $9000 invested, $8000 Canadian. Mike Freeman, (519) 948-0684 (8)

'56 MG 1500 Engine and transmission, complete, in good condition, will fit MGA and others. Walter Malesko, (810) 752-9308 (7)

185-75-14 Bias Ply Tires and tubes, almost new (1500 miles) FREE, I want them out of the garage. Bill Larson (810) 656-4992 (7)

'57 MGA Older restoration, solid no rust car, good driver, great shape $8000, Penny Sage (810) 737-1864 (7)

'69 B-GT & '74 MGB. GT 80% restored, painted by Tom Shipley, only needs interior, Roadster bought new, 77 K miles, factory hardtop, 20 years of spares, $5000 takes both. Ron Harmon (313) 326-1217 (7)

'55 MG-TF Ground up restoration just completed, dark grey with black leather interior. Immaculate, **"A beautiful example of the marque"**, John Twist, University Motors. $20,000, Rob Ellis (616) 942-0203, Ada, MI (7)

'78 MGB Roadster, orange, car is in excellent shape, 29,500 miles, many new parts. Brian Schwartz, Plymouth, (313) 420-0059 (7)

'52 MG-TD Good cond., $9200 OBO. Frank Gaydos (810) 474-6811 (7)

'72 MGB-GT White, started to restore, have parts, new tires - must sell (lost storage) $650. Gary Howe (810) 939-6851-Leave message (7)

'78 Midget, bright blue, black top, tan interior. Less than 31000 miles, runs great, exc. body. Call after 6pm. David Burley (810) 685-2591 (7)

'73 Midget 75% restored-in primer, needs brake repairs and paint-good condition, asking $1350. Call Jim (810) 791-6565 (7)

'74 1/2 MGB restorable but needs sheet metal work. Run good, includes hardtop. Call after 6pm David Burley (810) 685-2591 (7)

"86 Viking Camper Sleeps 6, 3 burner stove, sink water tank porta potti, awning, roof rack, ice box. Like new $1950. Call after 6pm. David Burley (810) 685-2591 (7)

'78 B Roadster Fresh engine, extra sheet metal, factory hardtop and all parts. $1800. Harry MacLean (810) 689-0851 (6)

'75 Midget/'74 Midget-removable Hardtop. Large assortment of restoring parts. $2500 for all/will separate. (810) 239-1624 Flint (6)

'75 MGB Completely restored in '94. Engine fully rebuilt in '94 also. New windshield, window, door, trunk & hood seals, new carpets. New tires in '95. Wire wheels, tonneau. Have detailed pictures & receipts for restoration. U.S.$5950, Greg Keating (519) 676-0186. (6)

WANTED

Back Issues of the 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

Emission Control Equipment, gulp valves, air pumps, Strombergs etc. Dan Zebarah (313) 382-6715

MISCELLANEOUS

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

----Calendar of Events---

Note: Items listed in **Bold Type are Windsor-Detroit MG Club Events.** Those listed in *Italic Type are British Sports Car Council Events.*
For up to date information on club events call the **Windsor-Detroit MG Club Hot Line at (810) 305-WDMG (305-9364).**

AUGUST

Aug 2-4 Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance-Featured Sports Car-MG
Aug 14 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Aug 15-18 University Motors Summer Party-Grand Rapids

SEPTEMBER

Sep 8 Battle of the Brits-Jeff Myer (810) 528-2975
SEP 11 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Sep 15 Funkana
Sep ?? Lucas Night Rally Details coming
Sep 22 English Day at the Races-Waterford Race Track

OCTOBER

Oct 9 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Oct 5? Autocross
Oct 13 Fall Colour Tour (Also BSCC Event)

NOVEMBER

Nov 13 Monthly Meeting-Windsor

DECEMBER

Dec 7 Hibernation Party-U.S. side Marcia Greiner and Fran Coulter
have some new fun things planned for this event- watch this space for more details
Dec 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (Gift Exchange Night)

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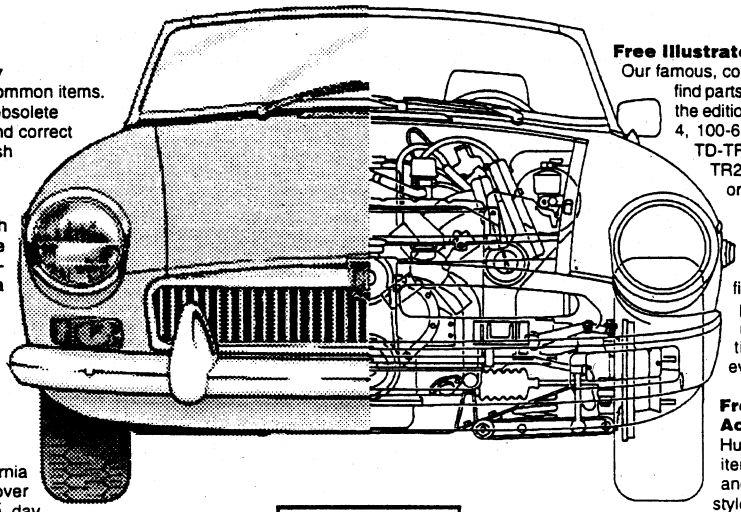

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