The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 16, No. 9 The Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club Sept., 1996

Photos: **Top,** Tom and Marcia Greiner pointing out how they took Second Place in the Ralleye. **Bottom,** Left to right Dave Hornby, Dan Zebarah, Mike and Kathy Derderian and Otto Pope with their ribbons.

Cooler Heads Prevail At UML's Summer Party

Last year it was the heat, and the humidity. Everyone seemed tired before the day started. This year the weather was near perfect, sunny and mild. And about sixty club members made the trip to Grand Rapids to have fun with their MGs.

Some of us arrived on Thursday, to vend or participate in the Endurance Trail, or get an early start on the festivities.

Dan Kirby and I had 15 teams who had indicated they were going to run the Marathon this year. However, only 6 cars actually showed up for the start. None from the Windsor Detroit club.

Because of all the wimps out there who think their cars will get too many bugs splattering themselves on the grill or whatever, the participants of this event have changed some basics of the run for next year.

For starters, we're going to encourage groups of two or three cars to run as a team. This way, those of you who don't know how to change a headlight can run with someone who does. And we're going to go around Lake Michigan again, so you'll know what maps to bring.

Maybe we'll even make this a 3 or 4 day event so you can get your beauty sleep along the way. No! We're not going to make this too wimpy, you're still going to have to do this in one day.

Those attending and not running in the Marathon Trial (do you think I'm a little disappointed that no one from our club likes to drive their cars?) were: **Ozzie Pillon (and friend Terry), Brian and Enid Collacott, Dean and Flora Wheeler, Bill, Jeanette, Matthew, Brett and Danny Reeves (and Jeanette's mom Rose), Dave Yonkers, Marshall and Fran Coulter, Sonny and Millie Graat, Jay, Mary Kay, Amy, Jenny and Marcy Kollin, Jay Parks and friend Terry, Mike and Kathy Derderian, John and Nancy Zajac, Frank and Patrick Lucente, Otto and Judy Pope, Dan, Beth and Curtis Kirby, Tom, Sandy, Greg and Jeff Newton (and Jeff's friend May), Dave and Lynne Hornby, Ed and Edna Fleming, Tom and Marcia Greiner, Dan, Marla, Lisa and David Zebarah, Jim and Elizabeth Hine, Terry Frisch, Chuck Wiley, Harry Mueller, Jack and Isabelle Renaud, Bill, Pam and Kaitlin Savage, Mo Mellor, Dave Burstyn, Dave Reed, Philip Wiltshire, Dave Naylor, Matt Houser and Ines Nagy, and Roger Melton.** And we gained new members, **Cesi and Ann Paglia.**

Also attending were former members Hayden, Ann, Brad and Leslie Heath, Mark and Jane Osowski and their kids, Drew and Jeannie Hastings, and Chris and Brenda Mann.

(Thanks to Marla Zebarah for compiling the list of attending members).

Of course with that many members in attendance we naturally took home a few ribbons.

Event/Class	Member	Place
Ralleye	Tom & Marcia Greiner	2nd
59 MGA	Terry & Judy Frisch	2nd
62 MGA	Jim & Elizabeth Hine	1st
58 MGA Coupe	Matt & Karen Huff	6th
72 MGB	Mike & Kathy Derderian	5th
74 MGB	Dave & Lynne Hornby	6th
74 MGB	Frank & David Lucente	5th
78 MGB	Dan & Marla Zebarah	3rd
80 LE	Otto & Judy Pope	5th
70 B-GT	Dan & Beth Kirby	4th
73 Midget	Ed & Edna Fleming	6th

Upcoming Events

Sept 8 Battle of the Brits
Sept 11 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Sept 15 Funkana/Picnic
Sept 21 Lucas Rally-Windsor
Sept 22 English Day at the Races-Waterford

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Contributions are welcome in either written or IBM Wordperfect form.

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Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor, President

If it's September, it must be time for our Lucas Ralleye again. And time for another Lucas story in the life of one of your president's many British cars. You may remember the tale of my first car, an Austin Mini with a "bad" Lucas starter, starter switch, relay, generator, voltage regulator etc., until my father discovered the real problem was a chain that every now and then would ground out the battery. Not Joe Lucas' fault at all!

Fast forward to 1995 and my '73 Midget. Along about Lucas Ralleye time last year, the Lucas starter motor began to act up. First just struggling to turn the engine over, then the day of the ralleye giving up all together. We took the Miata instead.

So I got rid of that Lucas starter and put a new one on the car. Still wouldn't start. Many club members helped me push start the Midget on the Fall Colour Tour. Winter was coming and I decided to do a Scarlet O'Hare and worry about the starting problem another day.

Another day arrived sooner than I thought the next spring. Letting the car sit all winter didn't fix the no start problem.

Midgets being ah, small, and light weight, are very easy to push start. Just run alongside for two or three steps, jump in and pop the clutch. So the no start problem became more of a nuisance, an inconvenience. I would get around to fixing it "eventually".

The Kimber Birthday Bash. Lots of understanding MG people in the parking lot to help me start the car. Not a problem.

The Spring Rally. My check point was at Webster Church which conveniently sat on a big hill. And the parking lot at the end of the rally at Zukey Lake Tavern had a nice slope to the drive. Not having a starter wasn't much of a problem there either.

Carnival of Cars and the rain! Problems. It's hard to "jump" into the Midget when the top is up. By the time you crawl into the driver's seat the car has usually stopped rolling. Luckily (for me) a few other members showed up to add some heft to pushing the Midget on the wet grass. A few slipped and landed in the mud when I gave the car too much gas on start-up. Sorry guys!

At the club picnic I was able to park on **Snyder's** driveway with a good downhill run to the street. "Gravity is my Starter" became my motto.

About this time **Chuck Wiley** gave me a Lucas solenoid, which I eventually installed, with no improvement. Still, **Dan Kirby** and I put about 800 miles on the car, planning our Endurance Trials Rally, without much of a problem.

All this while I had many "looks" at the problem, but couldn't figure a cause. Electricity seemed to be getting everywhere it was supposed to be at the time it was supposed to be there, with the result being no starting.

Last weekend I was cleaning up the German Beater, which included scraping the crud off the battery terminals. **Guy St. John** had suggested I do that to the Midget a week or two before (I had cleaned them up in the spring when the car came out of storage). So while I was in battery cleaning mode I cleaned the terminals on the DieHard in the MG.

WA LA... Starter problem fixed! Once again one of my "Lucas" problems wasn't a Lucas problem after all. Just a vehicle maintenance problem.

Guess I owe all you fine members who helped me get going this past year a beer at our Hibernation Party (we are going to have an open bar aren't we?).

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Silliness Is Never Far From The Heart Of An MG Owner

I know I wear my silliness pinned to my sleeve like a note from my mother. OK, maybe I wear mine under my sweatshirt (boy that pink bra sure itches).

Anyway, it's time for our second (annual?) Funkana. A chance to be silly with your car. No serious contests here. Just things like driving around with a pie pan full of water, or driving with a bucket over your head. Fun stuff, just ask anyone who attended last year.

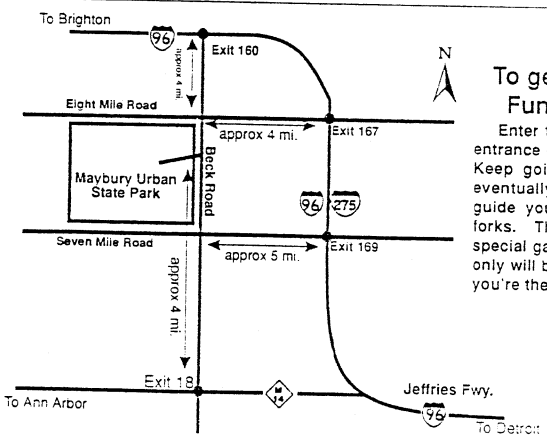
And Food! Bring a picnic lunch.

This will all take place at Mayberry State Park off Beck Rd, between 7 Mile and 8 Mile. (Same place as last year).

We'll have our own private area for the picnic and fun, with a large pavilion in case it rains. There's even a hill for those without working starter motors, although mine is finally fixed so I won't need it this year.

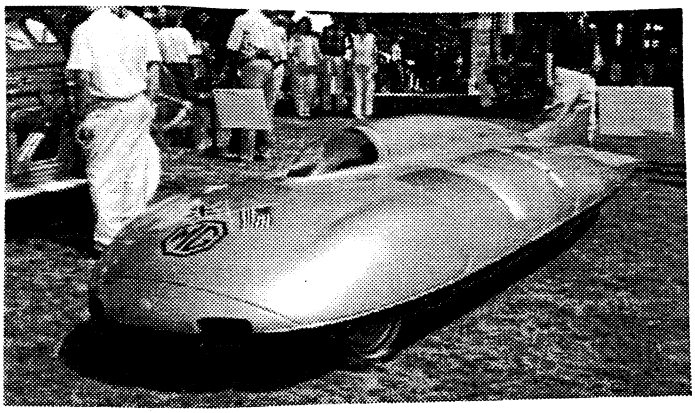
What: Funkana Mark II
Where: Mayberry State Park, Beck Road between 7 Mi. and 8 Mi. (see map)
When: Sun. Sept. 15th, Noon to 4PM?
What to Bring: Your car, a picnic lunch (there are grills and running water at the site -bring your own charcoal). Friends and kids are also welcome.

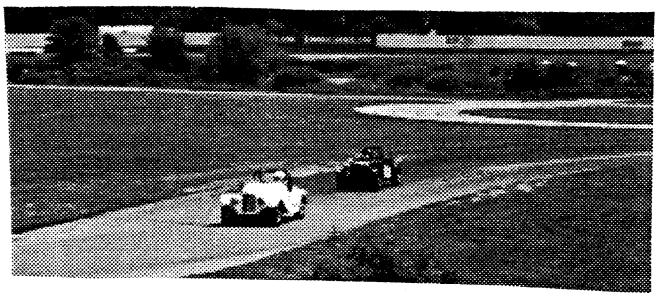
How Do You Get There?



To get to the Funkhana:

Enter the park at the entrance on Beck Road. Keep going; there will eventually be signs to guide you as the road forks. There will be a special gate where MGs only will be let in. Once you're there, have fun!





PHOTOS FROM MEADOWBROOK: **EX-181** on display at the Meadowbrook Concour. A TF leads a TD at the Vintage Races at Waterford. Your Editor behind the wheel of an MGF. **Dick Bremer** was able to "borrow" this left hand drive MGF from Ford Motor Co. for display at the various Meadowbrook weekend functions. Don't hold your breath, but he's also trying to get it for our October 9th monthly meeting.

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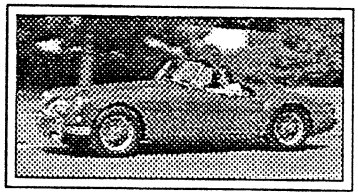

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Lap Robe " " " ".....	$45	$58
T-Shirts.....	$10	$12
Baseball Caps.....	$ 5	$ 6
Sweatshirt.....	$15	$18
MG Christmas Tree Ornaments.....	$ 5	$ 6
Grill Badges (new design).....	$20	$28

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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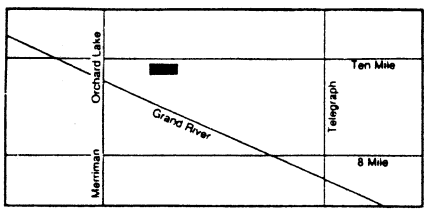

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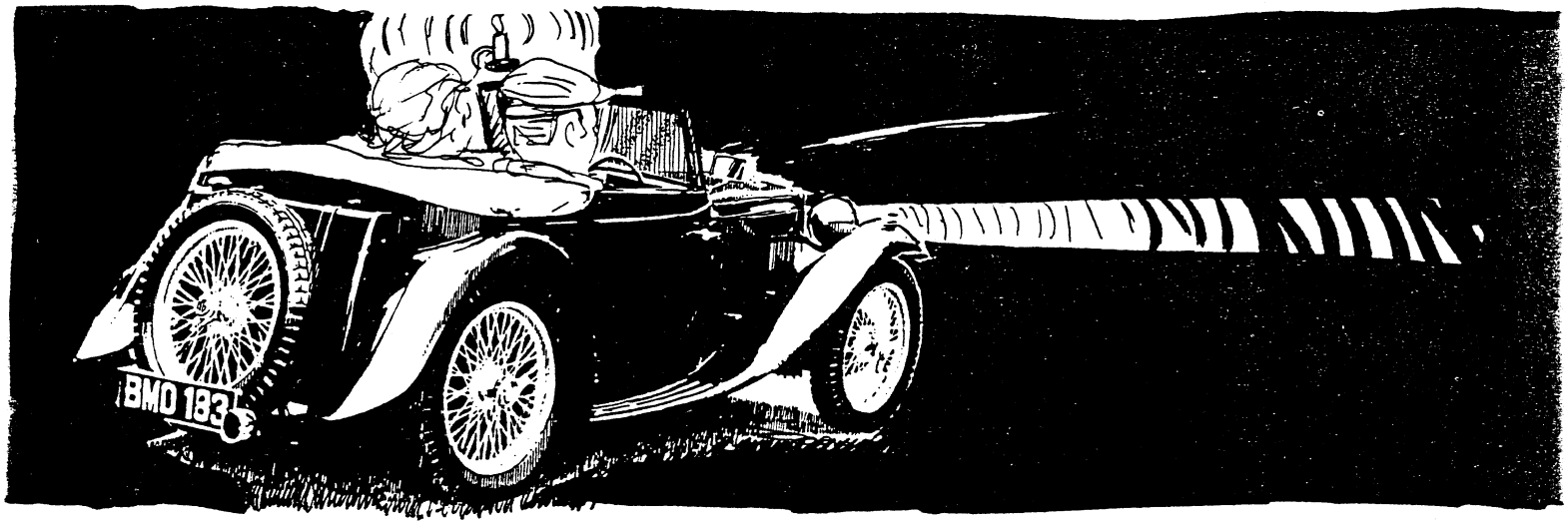
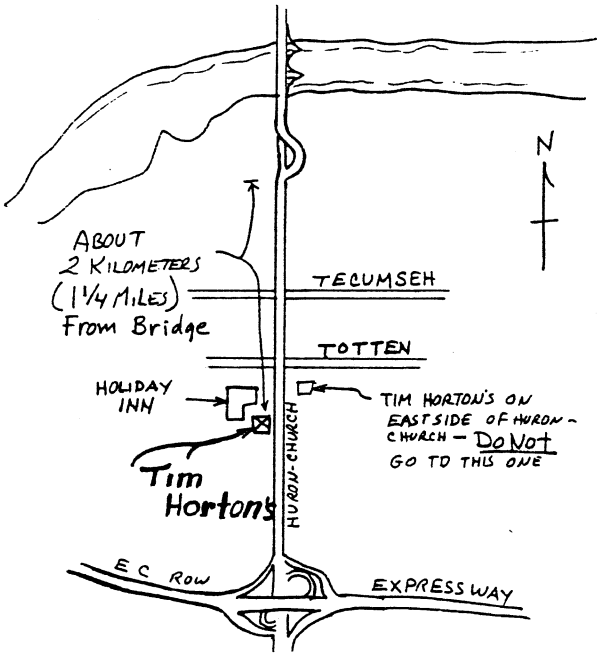
Quickly Into The Darkness- It's Time For The Lucas Night Rally



Experience the pleasure of a top down evening drive, the aroma of burning electrical devices, the excitement of suddenly having no headlights at 50 MPH, the frustration of hunting for clues in the darkness. And relief when everything actually works out as planned.

Time: Saturday September 21st
-6:30PM (at night)
Place: Tim Hortons Donuts, Huron
-Church Rd., just South of
the Bridge. See map.
Bring: A working (non-Lucas?)
flashlight, notepad or
clipboard, pen or pencil.



The Colourful World of Lucas

Stolen from the Emerald Necklace MG Register Inc.,who stole it from the MG Club of Central Florida.

The colours of the electrical wires on MGs tell us a story. If you are looking at a group of wires that are going to various places on the car there will be a rainbow of colours.

Plain solid colours like red, white, brown, black, purple, green and blue tell you which circuit they belong to:

Black (B)	Ground (Earth)
Brown (N)	Always HOT, not fused
Purple (P)	Always HOT, fused
White (W)	HOT with ignition ON, not fused
Green (G)	HOT with ignition ON, fused
Blue (U)	Head light main feed, not fused
Red (R)	Parking/Tail lights, not fused (one should be used)

The above wire colours may also have a thin line of colour running through them, known as a tracer. For example, **blue** with a **white** tracer (UW) is saying that the main colour blue is part of the headlight circuit and the tracer color says "I am for the high beam circuit".

Red/White (RW). The red wire is Parking/tail lights, the white tracer is for Panel Lights. **Blue/Red** (UR); The blue wire is Headlights, the red tracer is for low beams. **White/Black (WB);** The white wire is Ignition, not fused, the black tracer goes from the coil to distributor. **Green/Yellow (GY);** The green wire is HOT with ignition on and fused, the yellow tracer is for the right directional indicator., **Green/Blue (GU):** The green wire is HOT with ignition on and fused, the blue tracer is for left directional indicator. **Purple/Black (PB);** The purple wire is always HOT and fused, the black tracer is for the horn button (late cars). **Green/Black (GB);** The green wire is HOT with ignition on and fused, the black tracer is for the fuel gauge from the gas tank.

With this information and a little detective work on your part, you can now identify and track down all the wires on your car.

Looking for Mister Troust

by Dan Zebarah

It all started at last year's UML Summer Party. My daughter, Lisa (9 going on 32) was watching the queue of cars heading out to Donna Hathaway's rally. On the way to the park, she asked if she could navigate on the next rally. I really didn't see any problems with that, I told her.

This meant for the next twelve months at EVERY MG event, Lisa reminded me that SHE was going to navigate us to victory. Not only that, but she was going to be the youngest inductee in the Navigator's Hall of Fame and her image enshrined with the likes of Meriweather Lewis and Fr. Marquette.

"Don't forget 'Wrong Way' Corrigan," I said to myself. After all, I've been on one of Donna's rallys and they're HARD!

So, on Saturday morning, we walked out of the hotel towards the MG: Lisa with all the confidence of a wrestler who has read the script and me with a road map and a cooler full of snacks in case we had to survive on our wits for a few days.

We received our clues and immediately pulled over to unscramble the street names. While doing so, I gently informed my co-pilot that our objectives would be: 1) to have fun; 2) to get to the park sometime before the voting ended; and 3) to have fun. Nine-year-olds have this notion that they have to win everything they try. If they don't, it's either a stupid idea to begin with or it's someone else's fault.

Our route promptly took us through a subdivision. Since one of the clues read, "Where does Walt Troust live?", we started looking a mailboxes. After the fourth or fifth residential section, she started shouting to passers by, other cars, and the occasional stray animal, asking them where Mr. Troust lived. In the meantime I was trying unsuccessfully to keep a straight face. Shortly, we were both laughing like fools (Think about it. Two people, one an adult, in an MG cruising around a neighborhood at 10 mph yelling, "Mr. Troust! Where are you? Olly olly oxen free!").

We actually spotted one or two of the clues, the obvious ones that Donna puts in to keep participants from getting despondent and calling Dr. Kevorkian on their cell phone. When those momentous occasions occurred, it was a sight to behold.

"THERE'S ONE, DAD! THERE'S ONE! Bagel Street was adopted by the Sesquehanna Hat Company! DON'T SLOW DOWN! All the other MGs will see us and get the clue!"

"Uh, Lisa," I said, "the sign is nine feet high. They can probably see it from the space shuttle."

All in all, we only got spun around once because the clip on Lisa's clipboard covered up one of the directions. The road we were on turned into a gravel road. I reached for the map to retrace our route. In her most serious voice she confidently announced, "We're lost. Did you bring lunch?"

We got back on track and headed for the park. On the way, I told her that we shouldn't leave any blank answers. She read them back to me.

What's Bill Stewart's wife's name? I know! Mrs. Stewart!" she said.

"That works for me," I replied, "Any others?"

She looked at the sheet. "How much are the brown eggs?"

"The Brown's weren't home. The Green eggs are $1.29." With that, we pulled into the park and logged our odometer reading. We did the course in 44 miles, just 3 miles over. Not too bad for a first rally.

As for the elusive Mr. Troust, we decided he was living in my trunk as part of the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Lisa raced around the car, gave me a hug, and announced, "That was fun. Can we do it again next year?"

Sounds good to me.

1945 - 1980

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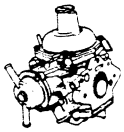

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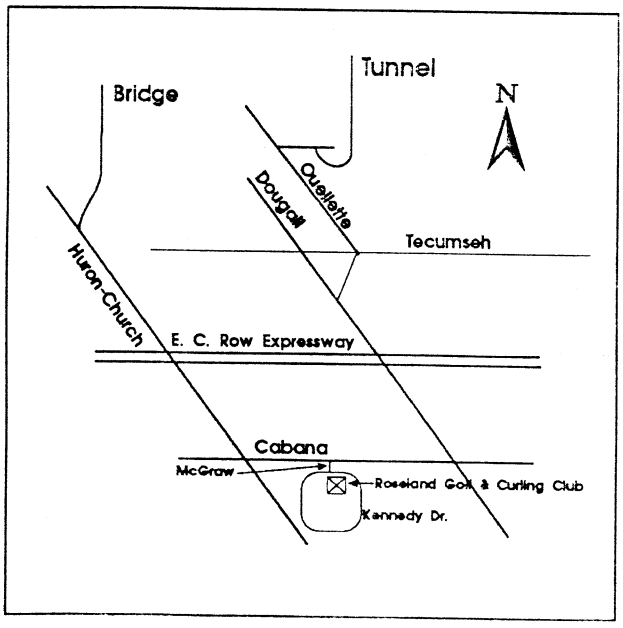
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM: Even months at the La Trattoria Restaurant, 13736 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, west of Schaefer. Odd months at the Roseland Golf & Curling Club in Windsor.



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

Free to a good home. Front crossmember for chrome bumper MGB, complete except for hubs. MGB non-overdrive transmission. MGB steering column with wheel. Dan Zebarah (313) 382-6715 (9)

'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)

Free; 185-75-14 Bias Ply Tires and tubes, almost new (1500 miles), 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)

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).**

SEPTEMBER

Sep 8 Battle of the Brits-Jeff Myer (810) 528-2975
SEP 11 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Sep 15 Funkana Details in this issue
Sep 21 (Sat. night) Lucas Night Rally Details in this issue
Sep 22 English Day at the Races-Waterford Race Track

OCTOBER

Oct 9 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (MGF?)
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 -stay tuned
Dec 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (Gift Exchange Night)

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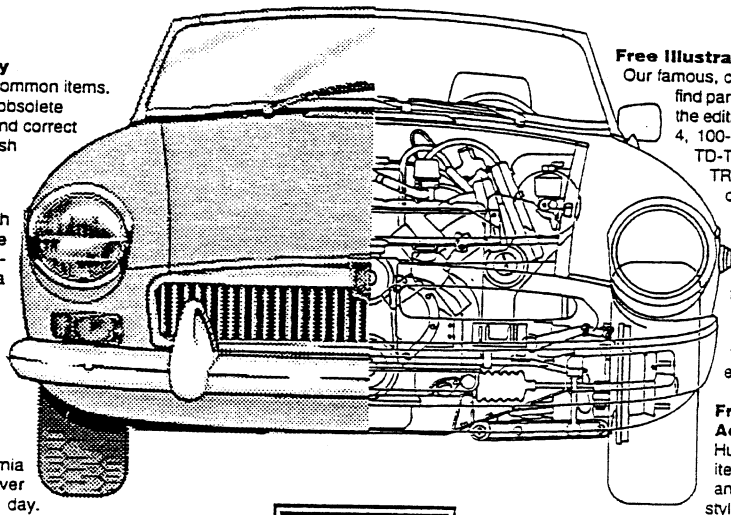

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