The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 16, No. 10 The Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club Oct., 1996

Photos, left to right: Starting the fun with food, picnic style, Ray Lewis on the teeter board, smiling participants (this was a **fun**kana after all) with full stomachs and ribbons.

Driving With a Bucket Over Your Head -or- Just Call Me Pail-Face

by Mimi (Lois Lane) Sokolowski
(with a little help in parentheses by Dan Zebarah)

This year's funkhana was a lot of fun. I was very excited when I found out about the top three prizes for the winners: 1) An all-expenses paid vacation to California for two; 2) a $500 gift certificate from Nordstrom's; 3) A gift certificate for dinner for two at either the Whitney or Van Dyke Place, to be used before October 1.

(I think Mimi breathed too many diesel fumes after following a semi truck for twenty miles.)

It was a crisp, fall-like day. The sun came out and the rain stayed away, allowing all 128 of us to relax, laugh a lot, and have a good time. Priorities coming first, we all sat down at 40 sets of picnic tables for a fabulous pre-funkhana lunch. In addition to the lobster bake, including king crab legs, corn on the cob, and red skin potatoes, the club was kind enough to supply extraneous hot food items--lobster bisque, escargot, corn chowder with freshly baked corn muffins directly from the Whitney.

(Mimi crashed the family reunion at the next site. The rest of us had cold cuts, fried chicken, and watermelon. She did, however bring back a bottle of Perrier Jouet Fleural champagne (1973), and she let us all sniff the cork.)

Marcia Greiner brought her 16-inch Ginsu knife, explaining that she, in fact, HAD been one of the first one hundred callers, and received a fabulous frying pan, which she had left at home. She said it would help her slice, dice, or chop anything or anyone that got in her way of winning **that trip!**

(Actually, she brought it to cut up the watermelon.)

After lunch, we got down to the matters at hand. Marcia and **Marshall Coulter** were setting up the pylons, trying to make it as difficult as possible while Marcia was chanting her new mantra: "I've got to win that trip to California."

(At that point, it was 60 degrees and overcast. Marcia was actually chanting, "I wish I were in California.")

After the course was set up, Marshall and **Ed Fleming** drove the course, claiming that they were just checking to see if the tasks were attainable--but we knew they were really practicing.

(I can believe that.)

Fran Coulter was whipping around her Tulip Good Fairy/Good Luck Wand (patent pending), praying it would help her in the competition while her husband went on an impromptu earwig hunt. He found one, and Fran gave it her Tulip Good Fairy Wand kill.

(I can believe that, too.)

Ray Lewis was frolicking on the teeter board by himself, seeming to be having lots of fun. Ray's wife Fran was busy pretending not to know him.

Attending were: **Ed Fleming, Tom & Marcia Greiner, Ray & Fran Lewis, Dan & Mimi Sokolowski, Gary & Stacy Fischer, Marshall & Fran Coulter, and Dan, Marla, Lisa, & David Zebarah.**

Special thanks to Gary Fischer who arranged the use of Maybury State Park. (continued on page 3)

----Up Coming Events----

Oct. 9 Monthly Meeting - Dearborn
Oct. 13 Fall Colour Tour-See Page 5
Nov. 13 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Dec. 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

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Contributions are welcome in either written or IBM Wordperfect form.

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Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor, President

This month we have a new guest reporter, **Mimi Sokolowski**. Her report on the Funkana is on page one. Being new at this, she did stretch the truth a little and had a little help from former editor **Dan Zebarah**.

She mentioned a first prize of a trip to California, which many of you probably thought was made up. I'm not sure if it was or not, but **Marcia Greiner** won and said something in passing about a report from California in the next newsletter. We'll see.

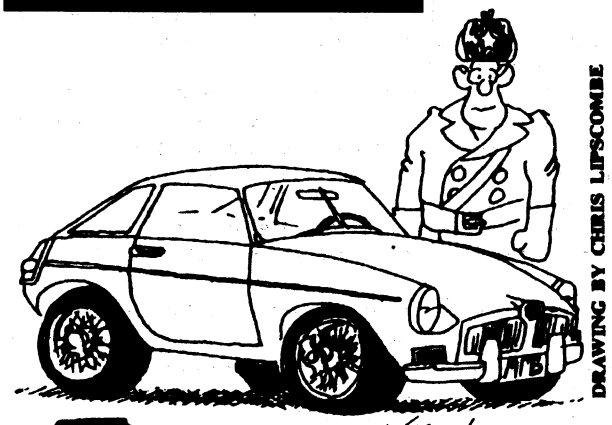
Mimi did such a fine job reporting on the funkana, maybe she'd like to become our next newsletter editor. Speaking of club officers, it's that time of the year again. Time for our club elections. So, if you've thought you would like to get more involved in the operation of this fine club, now is your chance. All you have to do is mention your interest to one of the current board members list at the left.

We have four elected positions; President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Volunteer positions are Editor, Membership, Regalia, British Council Representative, Spares and Parts, and Video Librarian. Plenty of work for anyone who wants to do it.

A few other items of note: Our Hibernation Party has been rescheduled for January 18, 1997. We had talked about moving it to January in the past to minimize conflicts with office and family parties and hunting season. It's also easier to reserve a hall in January. Mark the date on your calendar, more details in next month's newsletter.

We've also found a new location for our Canadian meetings at the Nisbet Inn near the tunnel. It's in an old house that's now a Pub, Restaurant and Bed and Breakfast complete with dart boards. All very British. Be sure to go to the right place for our November 13th Canadian meeting. Maps and exact address elsewhere in this issue.

October's U.S. meeting is still at the La Trattoria Restaurant in Dearborn.



DRAWING BY CHRIS LIPSCOMBE

MG KGB GT

MG 1945-1980 MG

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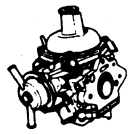

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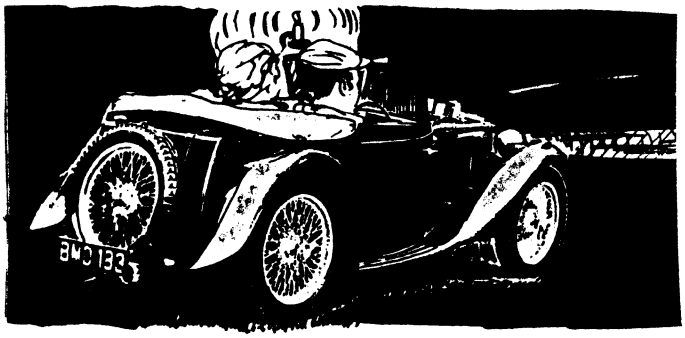


A Perfect Night For Our Lucas Ralleye

It was a dark and stormy night (I've always wanted to start an article like that). A perfect night to test those Lucas electrons. See just how much candlepower those Lucas high beams could produce, how many volts a damp Lucas coil can generate, whether things that should be grounded are and things that shouldn't, aren't, even when wet.

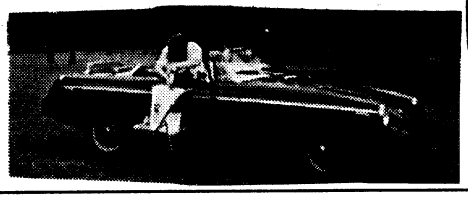
It threatened to rain all day and as I left for the start of the ralleye, it began. Not just an ordinary rain, but a hard, blowing, soaking rain, sure to test the best electrical systems. I wondered how many members would risk (trust?) their cars on a night like that.

Turns out 16 members would. **Fran and Marshall Coulter, Steve and Nancy Brown, Dale Brown and Tina Fabischek, Ozzi Pillion and friend Tina (in a TD!), Dave and Lynne Hornby, Tom and Marcia Greiner, Ralph and Kathi Poupard and Ed Fleming and Roli Sylvestre.**

Roli and I made this a simple ralleye. We started at the Tim Horton's Donut Shop on Huron-Church, just off the bridge (our normal Canadian start point) and sent the Rallyist off to two check points on the way to Rover's Return. The object of this rally was to make it to the check points and Rover's Return in the shortest distance. A mini version of the Endurance Trials held at University Motors Summer Party the last 4 years.

Roli passed out maps for people who forgot to bring one. Maps showing streets that crossed expressways (when they didn't) and unnamed roads. With those maps, the darkness and the rain you would have thought a Windsor native would be the only one with a chance of winning.

But, Fran and Marshall Coulter (one of two U.S. entrants) won with a corrected mileage of 46.14. Second were Dave and Lynne Hornby at 46.38 and Third were Ozzi Pillion and Tina in the TD at 46.40. Bringing up the rear at 71.9 miles were Windsor natives Steve and Nancy Brown who actually drove by a friends house and missed a turn along the way.



(FUNKANA, continued from page one)

1996 Funkhana Results

Don't cry over spilt anti freeze: (Driver's name first) (score in tennis ball cans of water)

1-Ed Fleming/Marcia Greiner	2 16/32
2-Gary Fischer/Marla Zebarah	2 10/32
3-Tom & Marcia Greiner	2 7/32
4-Marshall & Fran Coulter	2 5/32
5-Dan & Marla Zebarah	2 2/32
6-Fran & Ray Lewis	1 21/32
7-Dan & Mimi Sokolowski	1 17/32

(Ed. note: notice how much better Marla and Marcia did when NOT riding with their spouses?)

Bucket Head Autocross

1-Dan & Mimi Sokolowski	1:25.97
2-Gary Fischer/Marla Zebarah	1:51.41
3-Dan & Marla Zebarah	2:10.94
4-Fran & Ray Lewis	2:17.28
5-Marshall & Fran Coulter	2:31.82
6-Tom & Marcia Greiner	off course
7-Ed Fleming/Marcia Greiner	off course

Tennis Ball Criss-cross

1-Ed Fleming/Marcia Greiner	50.62
2-Dan & Marla Zebarah	55.16
3-Gary Fischer/Marla Zebarah	56.82
4-Dan & Mimi Sokolowski	57.37
5-Tom & Marcia Greiner	1:04.38
6-Marshall & Fran Coulter	1:05.38
7-Fran & Ray Lewis	1:12.72

Photos, Below: A "pail" faced **Dan Sokolowski** and navigator **Mimi** prepare to run the auto-cross. **Bottom: Fran Coulter** empties the pie pan into the bucket (at least most of it in the bucket).

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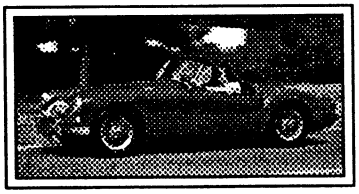

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Cleaning Your Paint, Part One

by Larry Reynolds, Porsche Club of America

Cleaning your paint does not mean washing you car, it means removing oxidation and contaminants, adding emollients or oils back into the paint, and smoothing out the surface of the paint. There are several products on the market that will accomplish one, two or all three of these functions. In fact, there are so many products by so many names that the correct choice may be confusing. Before we start. let's define some broad categories of products.

CLEANER; A cleaning agent may be either friction or chemical. A friction cleaner is usually a silicate or a clay particulate. If you examine your paint through a microscope, it would look like a mountain range with peaks and valleys. The friction or abrasive (don't get nervous at the word abrasive) type cleaner will clip the tops of these mountains off and help fill in the valleys, to approach the optimum smooth plane that offers the greatest depth of shine. Friction cleaners are usually described as fine medium or heavy cut. When in doubt, use the least aggressive product. A chemical cleaner will usually strip equal amounts of hill and dale and thus not help smooth the paint. A cleaner should also remove old wax and other contaminants in the paint. Chemical type cleaners are usually more effective in removing the remains of 100 mph bugs, stains, tree sap and tars. Avoid silicone based products as they are not beneficial to paint and can cause problems down the road.

GLAZE: A glaze usually denotes a superfine friction type of cleaning agent, usually with essential emollients and lubricating oils and may even contain some mild chemical cleaners. Glazes will usually remove mild swirl marks, scratches, refresh the paint with oils and smooth out the finish.

POLISH: A polish is normally a non-abrasive product based on a nutrient oil matrix and may or may not have a chemical cleaner as part of the package. Most polishes use fillers to help cover swirl marks.

COMPOUND: A compound is the coarse sandpaper of the paint cleaning world. This should be used only if the paint is in serious trouble and all else has failed. If you are one step away from 1-800-NEW-PAINT, then you may consider a compound.

CLAY: Literally a clay/polymer mixture used to smooth new paint and remove overspray. This type of product must be used with lots of lubricant. The technique of using a clay is a learned skill. Use too little lubricant or get contaminants in the clay and you have moved into scratch city. This is one product that is the fast lane to trouble if not used with extreme care.

CLEANER/WAX: A combination one-step chemical cleaner and a wax. I am not a fan of these types of products as they are required to perform two very diverse functions simultaneously. A cleaner should remove old wax, sos how does it simultaneously apply a new coat of wax? You may wish to use this type of product only in emergencies or on your Yugo.

WAX: There are two broad categories of wax - organic and polymer based. The organic waxes may be derived from plants such as carnauba or from varmints such as bee's wax. Some of the K-mart specials contain paraffin refined from dead dinosaurs.

DEGREASERS/TAR/BUG REMOVERS: These products are solvents designed to dissolve surface contaminants such as road tar or bugs. There are tow broad classifications of solvents - petroleum distillates and citrus based. Try to avoid the petroleum products. The quality citrus products tend to be more gentle on the paint. Any degreaser/bug remover will also remove wax, so after you have rid your car of the remains of Billy Bee, rewax the area.

How often should you clean the paint? The correct answer is based upon several factors. If you car is a "garage Queen" and only sees the light of day once a weed or so, then once a year is usually often enough. If it is a daily driver and sits outside all day then two or three times a year may be required.

Power tools and fine finishes, in my humble opinion, do not mix. There is nothing that a power buffer can do that you can not do by hand. The advantage of power is speed. This also applies to getting yourself into trouble. the edges of you body panels and raised areas of the sheet metal have the thinnest layer of paint. When the body is painted the liquid paint will tend to flow away from these raised areas. A power buffer will concentrate its energy on that thin area. This is another way of saying hello to your primer.

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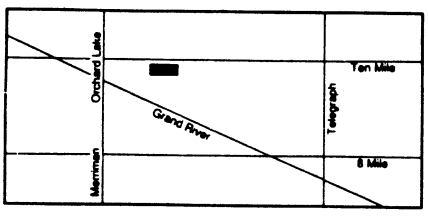

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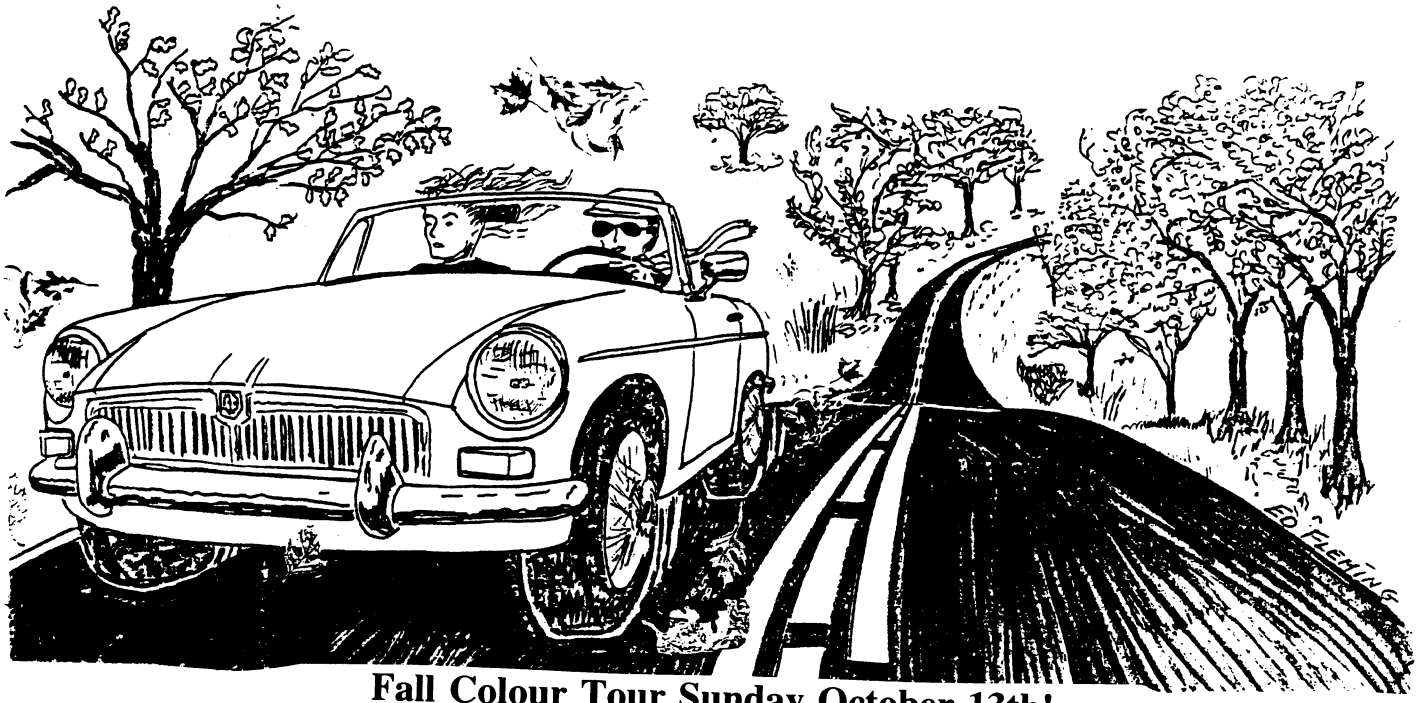
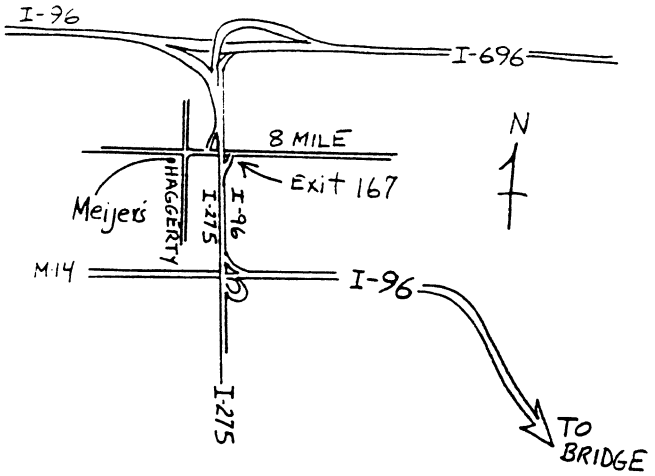


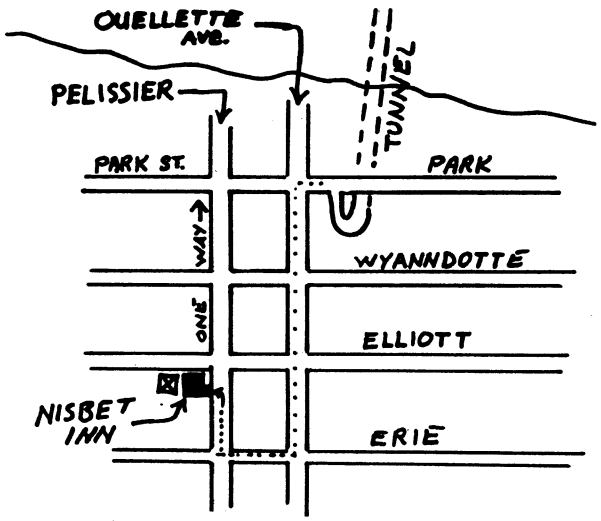
Fall Colour Tour Sunday October 13th!

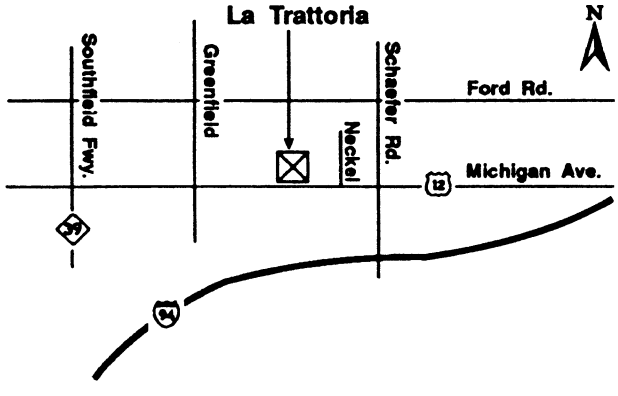
The leaves are turning Russet Brown and Damask Red which means it's time for our annual cruise through the countryside. This year we'll again travel down some of the nicest MG roads in southeast Michigan. We'll stop at not one but two cider mills and generally have a great time.

What: Fall Colour Tour
When: Sunday, Oct 13th. 1:00pm
Where: Starts at the usual Meijer's parking lot at 8 Mile and Haggerty (see map)



The Windsor-Detroit MG Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Even numbered months at the La Trattoria Restaurant at 13736 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn, just west of Schaefer Rd., and odd numbered months at the Nisbet Inn, 131 Elliott, West, just west of Ouellette, south of the tunnel.





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Other Hat Pins.....	$ 3	$3.50
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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

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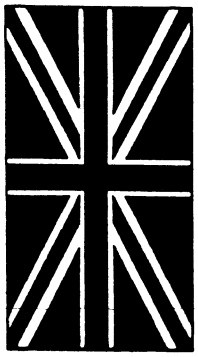

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Video Library

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.

*****More videos being added all the time*****

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

Marc and Diane Alexander live in Livonia, with their daughter **Julia**. He is an Engineer. They own a 1958 Ivory MGA.

Steve and Nancy Brown live in Oldcastle with their 2 children. They own a 1974 British Racing Green MGB. Steve is the Chief Building Official for Amherstburg. They found out about the club from his brother Dale Brown and Frank Lucente.

Greg Fuhrman lives in Dearborn Heights. He owns a 1980 Red MGB. Greg is a Technician. He found out about the club from Brett Altman.

John and Page Gilray live in Bloomfield Hills. They own a 1948 MGTC. They found out about the club from Ed Fleming.

Paul and Janet Harris live in St. Clair Shores. They own a 1980 Brown MGB. Paul is a Police Officer. They found out about the club from Chuck Wiley.

David Jonker also lives in St. Clair Shores. He owns a 1960 Old English White MGA, a 1974 Pimento TR6, and a 1974 Orange Jensen Healey. David is Self-Employed and found out about the club from Dave & Sue Snyder.

Walt and Juliann Malesko live in Leonard. They own a 1950 Red MGTD and a 1956 Matchliss 500 Single. Walt raced cross country for 25 years. He is now retired. **Cesi and Ann Paglia** own a 1974 Blaze Red MGB and a 1978 Sandglow Mini. They live in Windsor with their children, Anthony and Nicolas. Cesi is an Auto Painter. They found out about the club from Frank Lucente.

Rick and Linda Ratzloff live in Livonia with their children Scott and Mike. They own a 1974 1/2 Green MGB-GT. Rick is a Supervisor of Cost Estimating. They found out about the club from Chuck Wiley - he sold them MY old car.

Dan Schumann lives in Dearborn. He is an Engineer; and owns a 1971 BRG MGB-GT. He found out about the club from the Battle of the Brits and through Newport Brits Parts & Restoration.

Jerry and Gerrie Sulak live in Livonia. They own a 1976 MGB. Jerry is an Accountant. They found out about the club from Chuck Wiley.

Dave and Gayle Clarke rejoined the club with their three children, Katie, Douglas and Sarah. They live in Maidstone. They own a 1972 Red MGB. Dave has put on a couple of rallyes for us, even when he was no longer a member.

We hope you enjoy being a part of the club! As of September 15, we have 208 member families.

Unclassified Ads

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

MGB, MGB-GT Parts: Dash for '72-'76 MGB, excellent cond., $75. Rear bumper for MGB with lights in overriders, good cond., $25. MGB rear springs-good cond., $40/pr. MGB-GT doors with glass, fair cond., $20 each. Dan Zebarah (313) 382-6715 (9)

1968 MGC-GT Automatic! Wife says it's the car or me - must sell! Mechanically sound (I drive it to work). Nice appearance, some undercarriage rust, needs some detail work. I am second owner and have owned it for 15 years. $3500 OBO Bill Fisher, (313) 277-1293 after 8:30pm (10)

'76 MGB Primarily original equipment, burgundy, 65,000 miles (seldom used since 1986) Excel. cond. $5,000, Jeff Vincent (810) 229-0314 (10)

'58 MGA Coupe Green, 1000 miles since complete body off restoration. Must sell $8500 OBO. Matt Huff (810) 363-3948 (9)

'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 or best offer. Dan Kowal (810) 548-4165 (10)

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 & rebuilt 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., Best offer. Frank Gaydos (810) 474-6811 (10)

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

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

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).**

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Nov 13 Monthly Meeting-Windsor (New Location)

DECEMBER

Dec 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (Gift Exchange Night)

January 1997

Jan 8 Monthly Meeting-Windsor

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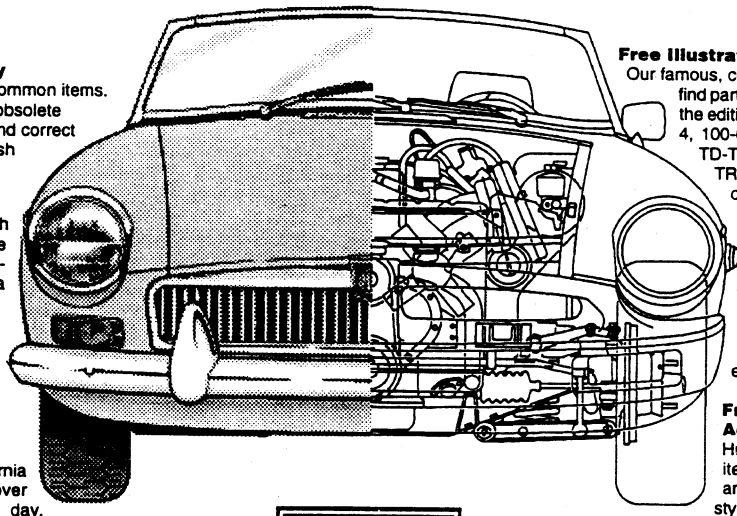

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