The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 17, No. 2-Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club-Feb., 1997

Photos: Above: Roli Sylvestre receiving the Founder's Award from **Dan & Marla Zebarah,** last year's winners. **Above right:** Members enjoying their dinner selections. **Right:** Many awards were presented to deserving members.

And A Fabulous Time Was Had By All

Marcia Greiner knows how to throw a party and our Annual Hibernation Party had her touch splashed all over it. The whole affair had a comfortable, friendly feel to it. I heard more comments this year about what a grand time everyone was having.

And this truly was Marcia's party. She found the banquet hall, picked the dinner selections (those who chose the salmon (?) should call the Golf Club at (313) 563-9653. That wasn't Marcia's fault). She picked the live music, wrote to the various companies that supplied gifts, rounded up the candles, ribbons and other decorations, snacks, etc. etc. etc.

So the next time you see her at one on our functions, be sure to thank her.

About a 100 members braved the cold and snow, got all dressed up and ventured out to enjoy themselves.

There were prizes, supplied by most of our advertisers and others. **Moss Motors** donated about a dozen prizes ranging from an S. U. tuning book to jacket patches. **Jim Pesta** from **Auto-Graphics** donated a beautiful lap robe, **Victoria British, The Roadster Factory, T & W Autobody,** all contributed the ubiquitous T-Shirts and other prizes. **University Motors** gave us several posters, **Brit Books and British Automotive** donated gift certificates, **S & G** sent a steering wheel cover and "hydro-wipes", **Don Ensley** at **English Motors** sent brake fluids, **Import Auto Supply** supplied us with a very nice large metal BMC Genuine Parts sign, now hanging in a very happy MG owner's garage, and **Michigan Imports** sent us three great Castrol jackets and a radio controlled car, baseball caps and a fender cover.

And everyone attending received a commemorative mug with our club logo and date etched on it.

We also had about a dozen members of the Chicagoland MG Club present. They had taken a train from Chicago to Greenfield Village and added new views and faces to our party. And they invited us to their year end party next year. Anyone for a train ride to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry next December or January?

This wouldn't be a Hibernation Party without a few awards, so "the envelope please". Here are the winners:

Navigator of the Year: **Jan Tucker** for putting up with Phil's obsession with MGs.

Founder's Award: **Roli Sylvestre** for being everything on the Canadian side of the river, from event organizer to Regalia Chairman for the last ten years.

(continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

Feb 9th Whirley Ball with the Triumph Club-see Jan. Newsletter

Feb 12 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

March 12 Monthly Meeting-Windsor

March 29 Tech Session at Sam's Detail Shop-details next month

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Contributions are welcome in either written or IBM Wordperfect form.

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Fine Print

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PLEASE NOTE THE DATE ON THE MAILING LABEL ON THIS NEWSLETTER. THAT IS THE DATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES. IF IT IS GETTING CLOSE, BE SURE TO RENEW AT LEAST A MONTH BEFORE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT LAPSE!

SEND YOUR CHECK FOR $25 (U. S.) OR $30 (CANADIAN) TO: MIKE DERDERIAN, 2698 BALSAM WAY, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48314

MG WINDSOR-DETROIT

Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor, President

Another election, another Hibernation Party, more awards presented to members for service above and beyond the normal effort of being a member.

This year will be my last as your president. Our club has a statue of limitations, no that's term limit, (the statute of limitations applies to my speeding tickets) and this will be my third and final year as President. Which means you can begin thinking now about running for this office next fall. Or running for any of the offices of this club. We can always use new blood and ideas on the board of directors.

In fact we welcome your input at any time. Let us know about your ideas for events or the operation of the club. New is good. And we won't force you to put on the event you suggest. Unless you want to of course.

This year I'm going to enforce a new policy of getting more people involved in the operation of the club. I may just call you to ask you to organize a meeting or help put on an event. Accept the challenge in a spirit of adventure. You'll meet new people, learn new skills, and have a lot of fun.

This year I handed out more than a dozen "Presidential Encomiums" (look it up) at the Hibernation Party to thank members that have helped me run this club. Next year I'd like to double that.

MG MG

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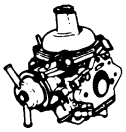

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(**Hibernation Party** from page 1)

Hard Luck Award; **Roli Sylvestre** who blew the engine in his B-GT after spending 7 or 8 years restoring it and driving it for one.

Rookie of the Year: **Dale Brown** who was one the few who attended our spring rally, not just once but twice.

Lucky Lucas Award: **Ed Fleming** for all the problems with my Lucas starter motor (when it was really just dirty cables).

In addition to the regular awards the club presents every year, I gave out several Commendations to members who have helped me in operating this club.

These people were:

Roli Sylvestre
Frank Lucente
Jay Kollin
Phil Wiltshire
Marcia Greiner
Tom Greiner
Chuck Wiley
Dan Zebarah
Marla Zebarah
Gary Fischer
Fran Coulter
Marshall Coulter
Brett Altman
Sue and Dave Snyder
Vince and Chris McQueen
Dan Kirby
Mike Derderian

These members did more than their allotment of work for the club. Be sure to thank them when you see them at one of the events.

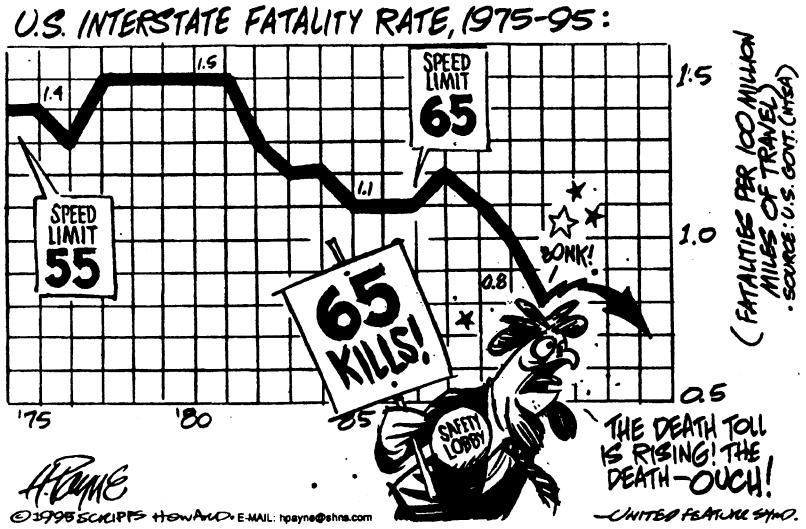
And finally, there is that "Loose Nut" Award that Brett Altman presented to me a few years ago after I showed up at Michigan Imports in February, in my Midget, with the top down, in the snow.

I then gave it to Dan Kirby after he ran the first "Round the Lake" ralleye at Twist's. We then gave it to Mike Derderian after he flew out to Oklahoma, bought an MGA sight unseen and drove it back to Michigan.

This year we gave it to **Bill Larson**. Bill and Hilda drove to Newfoundland on a little vacation in their TD, after driving it to Strattford and Niagara and before driving it another 600 miles to Indianapolis. Just a little spin in the TD, what's a few thousand miles in a TD to a "loose nut"?

Next year, our Hibernation Party is to be held in Canada again and John Cherwak has already offered to host it at the Essex Golf Club. He was standing at the bar when he made that statement so we won't hold him to it, but when you see him, remind him.

Photos: Top: Members of the Chicagoland MG Club inspecting the goodies at our Regalia table. **Bottom: Bill & Hilda Larson** with the "Loose Nut" Award.



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Spousal Arousal

By David Deutsch. Stolen from "MGB Driver", the Journal of the North American MGB Register

(Ed. Note: Valentine's Day is February 14th!)

You've got a beautiful family, the financial future is looking bright and you have found a few hours at the end of each week to pursue a hobby. Always wanted a Little British Car, so you go and find yourself one. Maybe it needs a little TLC so you take that extra time and begin improving upon your new toy. Who has it better than you?

I thought I had it just as good until one day while working under a '77 MGB project car, a voice said, "Hey you! Maybe if you spent as much time under me as you do under that, we'd have a really great marriage." Oh man! What happened? It was all going so well....

I know that I'm not the first to drive down this road. Someone on the MG Internet recently stated that MGB stands for "Marital Grief Begins!" Scott Hower of Pennsylvania told how after 3 years of restoration work on his '73 MGB he was taking his wife out for the first drive. Upon the starting the engine she gasped, "What's that noise?" They started down the road and the aroma of the new header heating up for the first time permeated the cockpit. "Yuck! What's that smell?" Followed by, "Is it always going to be this bumpy?" "I'm cold, does the top go up?" "It's made a real mess of my hair." Scott returned to his driveway feeling like his heart had been removed with a rusty pair of vise grips.

I've been doing a lot of thinking on this subject and I think I might be able to explain and maybe help someone avert a similar experience. Before I get started here let me say this is not gender specific. I've met plenty of lady car fanatics who have had similar experiences with husbands and boyfriends. I've made a few major mistakes while pursuing my new hobby and here is what I feel I did wrong and what I would do different and what I do now.

First thing we need to realize is that, in most cases, this is a very selfish hobby. I wanted a sporting roadster, and with very little discussion, I went out and got one. I should have explained to my wife, Eileen, the way driving an MGB roadster makes me feel. I am blessed to have a loving, beautiful, intelligent and understanding wife, and know that she would never try to deny me the pleasure I get from my MGs. If you are a good provider to your family then you have earned the right to do something for yourself, but communication is an important thing! Don't expect that your spouse will always be in full agreement and completely understanding, but if you know in your heart that you deserve to do something for yourself, then (as the advert. says) just do it. You have a right and a duty to be as good to yourself as you are to your loved ones, and if they have a problem with that then they are the ones being selfish.

Initially, my need to drive one of these cars was for the feeling of freedom it gave me. I then found that as the feelings of new ownership wore off a little, it was nice to share the feelings with my wife and children. I find the secret to success in a happy ride with my wife, is to cater to her needs. I ask her if she would prefer the top up or down, and check on her comfort periodically, making heat, vent and window adjustments as required.

When I drop off or pick up my children, Adam and Sara, in the MG their friends always comment on how cool their father must be. There is nothing cooler than looking cool. "Image is everything!" This is important because many times your mate will be a little more tolerant when the car of the moment is appreciated by all the family.

I attend a lot of car shows and swap meets and I've also learned that it is always to my advantage to invite my wife to come with me. It is also important to discourage her when I know she will not have a good time! Examples are the spring and fall shows at Moss Motors or S.I.C.P. These are what Eileen refers to as "parking lot shows" and would prefer it if when I invite her to come, that I tell her it is one of "those". On the other hand she loves to join me on ventures to shows in parks, especially if the ride there and back is scenic. We also have a large circle of friends in the MG community, so knowing that John and Donna or Dave, Sue, Kari and Gial will be accompanying us to a meeting is always an incentive.

Whenever I am about to do something to improve the cars, I ask my wife to look at what I'm going to fix or change and then show her the final result. She always gives me the "Why are you showing me this." look, but the fun part is when I see her at a show pointing to the carburetors and telling a curious passer-by, "You should have seen these before they were cleaned up!"

And now I impart to you the most important part of MG ownership, and being and staying married and that is ...romance! I take my wife out on dates in my MGs on a regular bases. I'll call her at work and invite her out to dinner. Her usual reply is, "I have a very busy schedule and in the future you may wish to call in advance, instead of at the last minute all the time. However, you're lucky because my date for tonight is fog bound in London and therefore unavailable."

I always open the MGB's door for her and once in the car make a comment on how lovely she looks that evening. I make a point of finding things in the sky to show her. Many times comments like, "Look at that yellow bellied sapsucker over there." "Doesn't that cloud look like an elephant?" or "Was that a shooting star?" has saved me from having to put the top up! Upon pulling into the driveway after an evening out I always invite my wife in to "look at my dash plaque collection". The more fond memories Eileen has that can be associated with the MGs the happier she is about me owning them.

We've come a long way since that day I was under the car and Eileen's comment made me feel like I was going to have to choose her or the MG. I'm glad things have worked out because I would have missed her very much. Recently I was having some "cash-flow" problems and mentioned to my wife that I might sell one of the cars to help alleviate the problem. All she said was, "Those cars are not for sale-so forget about it!" There's no better feeling I could have than the one I get when I'm in my best car with my best girl. On second thought, there is one better feeling and that includes my wife also. The only love I have which is stronger than my love for my MGs is for my wife (and occasionally my children).

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Going Stir Crazy? Want To Drive An Open Top Roadster And It's Winter? Join The Club At Whirly Ball!

It's that time of the year again. Time to play Whirly Ball with the gang at the Triumph Club.

This time though, we're going to split the teams up with MG Club and Triumph Club members on each team. We'll have an MG-3 team and a TR-B team.

This will encourage members of each club to meet and socialize with members of the other club. It's always nice to become better acquainted with other British cars owners, and the Triumph Club has some really nice people.

And they are getting tired of losing to us.

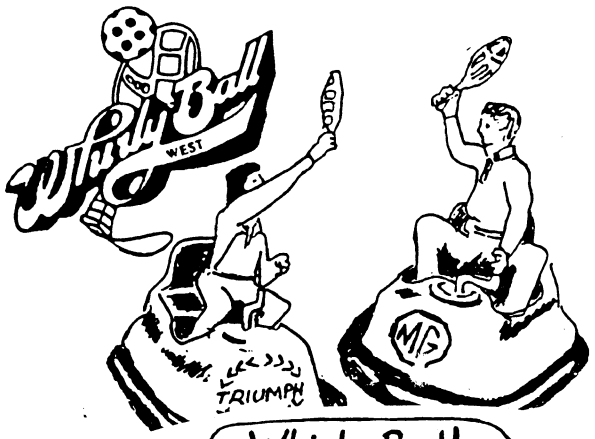
Afterward we'll head over to Roosevelts Billiards, Bar And Grill at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Roads, for more socializing and story telling.

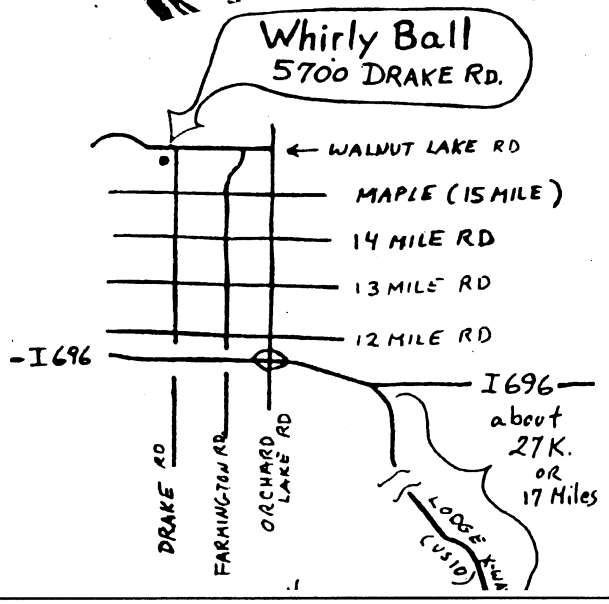
What: Whirly Ball

Where: Whirly Ball West, 5700 Drake Rd., south of Walnut Lake Rd. (see map) (810) 788-8900

When: Feb. 9, 1997. Starts at 3 pm, get there about 20 minutes before. Whirly ball will last until 5 pm. Socializing at the restaurant until??

Cost: $5.00 per person.





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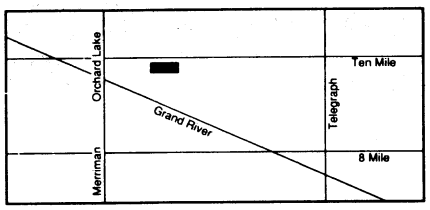

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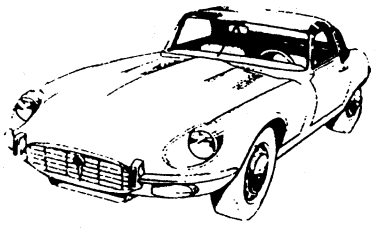

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Other Hat Pins.....	$ 3	$3.50
Sweater with embroidered club logo....	$40	$52
Golf Shirt " " " ".....	$30	$39
Lap Robe " " " ".....	$45	$58
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Sweatshirt.....	$15	$18
MG Christmas Tree Ornaments.....	$ 5	$ 6
Grill Badges (new design).....	$20	$28

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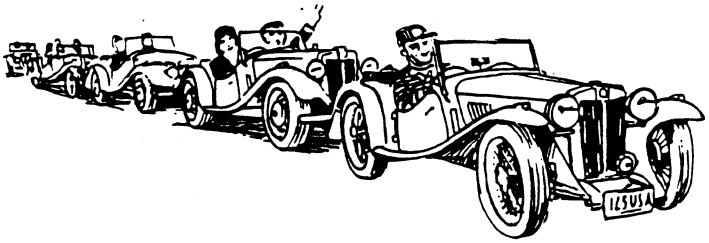
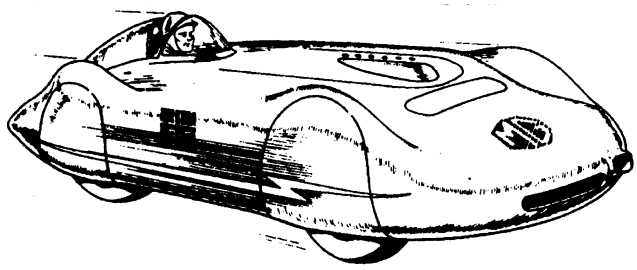




Video Library

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.**

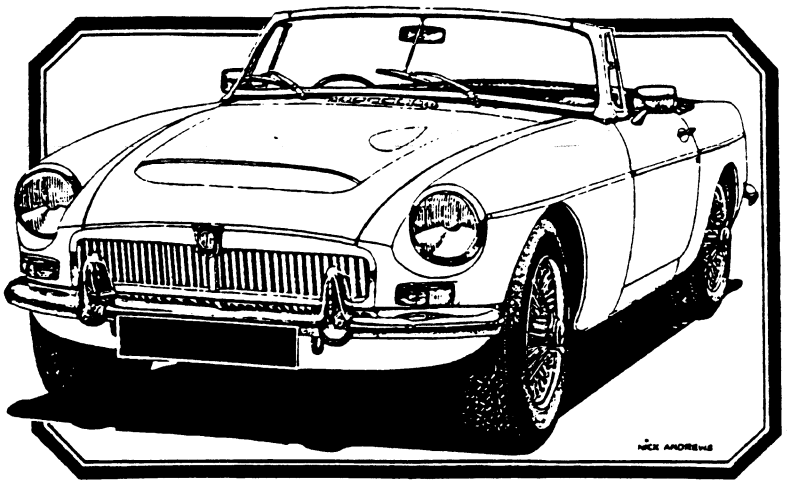
***The Roadster Factory Summer Party 1993**

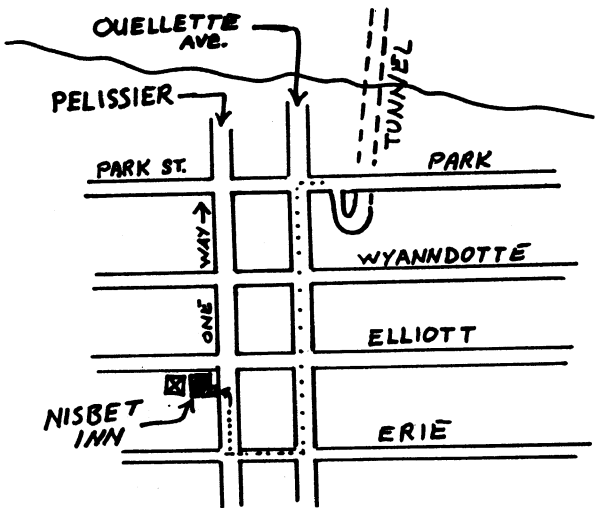
***Behind the Wheel with Jackie Stewart.** Stewart shows you how to drive with finesse.

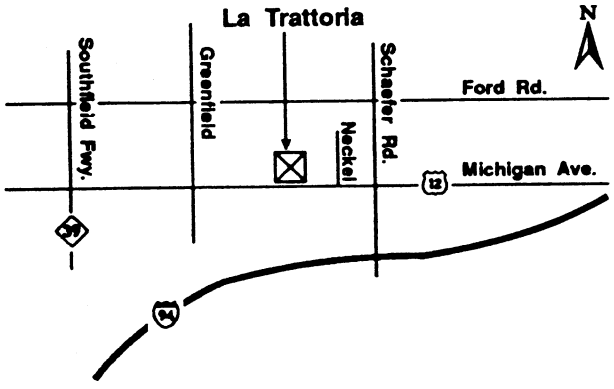
***Rendezvous.** A ride through the streets of Paris at 100 MPH plus. Short but great! A cult classic and one of Car & Driver's top 5 car films.

***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*****







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.

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 Motors: '69 $250, '74 (low mileage) $350, '76 $350. Used & rebuilt heads for Bs & 1275 Midget. Chuck Wiley (313) 586-2500 (2)

'64 Triumph TR4 Extra engine with overdrive transmission, lots of new parts still in boxes $4,000 (US) Frank Lucente (519) 966-9146 (2)

'77 MGB Front Fenders Just a little surface rust, $175 for pair. Ron Bodrie (313) 379-5604 (2)

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Parting Out '69 MGB-GT & '72 Roadster. 2 engines, trans, wire wheels etc. Call with needs, Drew Sheppard, Lansing (517) 882-8390 (1)

Parting Out '74 MGB GT, 45,000 miles, body rough. Knock off front suspension complete, $100, Knock off rear suspension, complete, $125, '70 MGB dash, complete with gauges, $100, wire wheels, $25 each, MGB windshield, $35, MGB radiator, new $75, 4 speed trans $50. Plus taillights, steering wheel and misc. parts for '67. Brian Eritano, Flatrock (313) 782-0126 (1)

MGB, MGB-GT Parts: Dash for '72-'76 MGB, good cond., $50. MGB rear springs-good cond., $40/pr. MGB-GT doors with glass, fair cond., $20 each. Dan Zebarah (313) 382-6715 (1)

Two Austin Healey Bug-Eye Sprites for sale, 1961 and 1958, parts galore, $6000 firm. Dave at (810) 541-4024 (11)

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

Weber Side Draft Carburetor 45 DCOE, used about 500 miles, includes manifold for MGA $200 OBO. Matt Huff (810) 363-3948 (1)

Factory Hardtop for Midget, $275 or best offer. Dan Kowal (810) 548-4165 (10)

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

'52 MG-TD Good cond., Best offer. Frank Gaydos (810) 474-6811 (10)

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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

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----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).**

February 1997

Feb 9 Whirley Ball with Triumph Club
Feb 12 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

March 1997

Mar 2 Ice Run??
Mar 12 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Mar 22-23 Missouri Endurance Ralleye (810) 349-3799
Mar 29 Tech Session-Sam's Detail Shop, Farmington

April 1997

Apr 9 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Apr 27 Cecil Kimber Birthday Bash

May 1997

May 14 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
May ?? Spring Ralleye?

June 1997

Jun ?? Stratford Trip?
Jun 8 Carnival of Cars/English Day on the Green
Jun 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Jun ?? Autocross?

July 1997

Jul 9 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Jul 13 Mad Dogs & Englishmen-Hickory Corners Featured Car Healey
Jul ?? Club Picnic?

August 1997

Aug 1-2-3 Meadowbrook Concours
Aug 13 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Aug 14-15-16-17 University Motors Summer Party & Tour Around the Lake Ralleye

September 1997

Sep 10 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Sep ?? Lucas Night Ralleye?
Sep ?? Funkana?

October 1997

Oct 8 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Oct 12 Fall Colour Tour

November 1997

Nov 12 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Nov ?? Hibernation Party Essex Golf Club?

December 1997

Dec 10 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (Gift Exchange Night)

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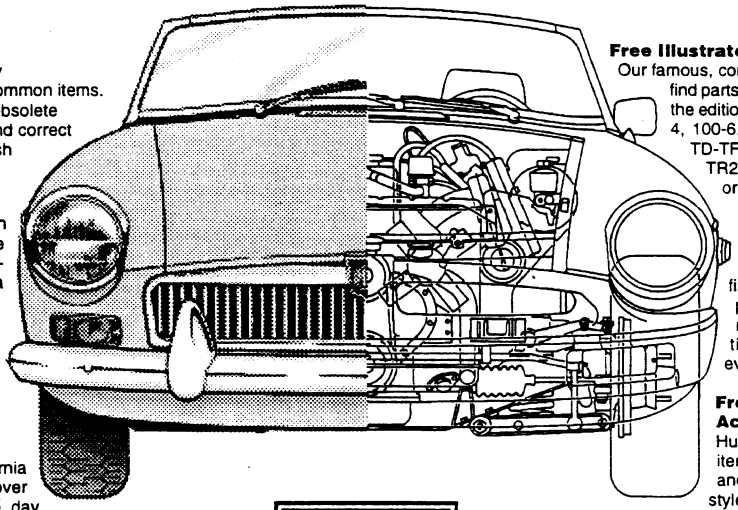

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