The Can Am CONNECTION

WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 18, No. 10- Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club - October, 1998

The Glen

By Otto Pope

A group of eight Windsor-Detroit members just returned from a four day trip to the Watkins Glen Grand Prix 50th Anniversary Celebration. This is the first of a series of Vintage Racing trips we are planning for next year.

We made the 400 plus mile trip and experienced a fantastic MG driving, race watching, camping weekend. Friday was the 50th Anniversary Race Re-enactment Day. The entire town of Watkins Glen was devoted to race and sports car activities. A swap meet, road rally, drivers walk of fame, wine tasting, concour d'elgance, sports car show, "Glen"kana, parade of sports cars, MG "T" Club GOF, and bright sunshine were the order of the day.

The final event of the day was the re-enactment of the first race, the Seneca Cup. The old road course was laid out with hay bales and 12 of the cars and one driver that competed in the 1948 race ran on the course. Other vintage cars then drove the course until dark.

Saturday and Sunday brought two full days of vintage racing and sunshine. The cars were divided into many classes along with feature races, an MG only race, Collier Cup, and endurance races. We watched vintage race cars ranging from a 1920's three wheel Morgan to ground shaking '70s Can-Am cars. We had access to the pits, car shows, and everything else. We also watched the Race Weekend Guest of Honor, Sterling Moss, compete in an endurance race.

Good friends, exciting racing, great weather, the beautiful Finger Lakes Region of New York, and repairing my MG on the 401 made this an outstanding MG weekend. Can't wait 'til next year.

We are planning Vintage Racing trips for next year to Mosport (near Toronto), Mid-Ohio, and a return trip to "The Glen" To keep cost low we plan to camp at these events. If you need more details watch the newsletter and attend the monthly club meetings

The Prince of Darkness

It was a near perfect evening for an evening drive in your MG. Just a little hazy, high in the afternoon near 80 degrees (26 C.). No wind except what you created yourself while diving (I hope that was from forward movement through the air and not from what you ate).

Dave Doolin and I put together a nice simple ralleye with no surprise route instruction and just enough clues to make it a contest.

For the most part the clues were about British or automotive things, A stop at the local Land Rover dealer, a sign on the side of a "Mini delivery van". Most were looking for a small van made by Chrysler, when in fact the sign was painted on the side of an Austin Mini delivery van on a local used car dealer's lot. Two members actually stopped at the lot, looking for another clue and didn't connect the Mini with the "Mini van" clue. Sounded very easy to Dave and me.

And although everyone on the Ralleye was old enough to have watched the Avengers on TV, only Guy St. John correctly identified the cars that Mrs. Peel and Mr. Stead drove on the show.

First place went to **Jeff and Jan Zorn** who only missed one clue. They were the only ones to connect the Mini with the clue.

Second went to **Guy St. John**, driving solo (wife Ann was working late and met us at the restaurant)!

Third went to **Tom and Marcia Greiner** who I thought would get the question about Mrs. Peels car since they've heard the story of me trying to buy Diana Riggs' Lotus Elan which she drove on the show.

Coming in fourth were **Gary and Stacy Fischer** who unfortunately didn't get any bonus points for finishing the quickest.

For the second year in a row, nobody experienced any Lucas problems on our Lucas Rally. We must have appeased the Gods when everyone had an elelctrical problem on this rally a few years ago.

The Can-Am Connection is published 12 times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc.,

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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) (Made out to "Windsor-Detroit MG Club") TO: MIKE DERDERIAN, 2698 BALSAM WAY, STERLING HEIGHTS, MI 48314

Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor

You are what you drive. Or the car makes the man.

The old beater Jetta wasn't going to make it to 300,000 miles. On Monday the ball joint came loose, on Tuesday the master cylinder finally let go, on Wednesday a radiator hose, on Thursday, the right front brake caliper and on Friday the radiator sprung a leak. And steel cord was showing through what was left of tread on three of the tires. It was time to let go.

That weekend we went to my college roommate's daughter's wedding. He just happened to have this clean, 38,000 mile '87 Toyota Corolla. It seemed like a nice interim car to hold me over until the new Jettas came out in January. Everything worked, no big dents, good tires, low miles etc.

But also no soul. To me Toyotas are just very well built Chevettes, and this one being built at the joint G. M. - Toyota plant in California, even had signs of the famous GM "engineering by accountants" cheapness all over it. Corners that the Jetta on nearly bald tires could negotiate at 50 MPH with no sweat, the Toyota bounced and protested through at 35 MPH.

Every time I drove it, something new would irritate me. The cheap skinny steering wheel wouldn't let you hold it for the best grip and driving position. There was no communication between you and the front wheels, The braking distances were one and a half times those of the Volkswagen. The dip stick is hidden in the dark recesses of plumbing behind the engine so you need a flashlight to check the oil.

The "sweet spot" for cruising is about 65 MPH (verses 85 on the Jetta).

The result of all this irritation is that I end up driving it like...like a Toyota driver, As in just plodding along with no joy. I've become an old foggy putting down the road.

My brother and I did a survey many years ago to see which cars to avoid getting behind at a stop light, which ones would take the longest to get going when the light turned green and would move the slowest. The slow ones were all driving American Motors products (I said this was a long time ago). We assumed that slow drivers just bought AMC cars. But could it have been that it was the car that made the driver?

Could a normally decent driver become a rolling road block just because he was driving the wrong car? I think so in some cases. Certainly, people who hate driving don't spend a lot of time investigating good cars, or cars that handle well. So they end up in Toyotas and Chrysler K cars and AMC Pacers. But put a good driver in a bad car and it seems that the car slows the driver down. Part of it is mechanical, the fact that the Toyota will only go through the corner 65% as fast as the Jetta, means I drive it slower through there.

But there is also the irritation factor. There's no fun in driving the Toyota. No joy in pushing it near it's much lower limits

Because the "Interim Car" irritates me so much it's effected other parts of my life. Advertising sales were down for only the 5th time in five years for the last issue of my newspaper. The issue I worked on while driving the I.C.

I'm already looking for another "Interim Car" , one that doesn't irritate.. Know anyone who wants a nice low mileage Toyota? Don't tell a friend.

Hold on, I've got to take the MG out for an "attitude adjustment" spin.

Ah, I feel mush better now.

MGing

By Dave Doolin, President

We took over the entire Inn at the Nisbet for our September meeting. There was one other couple that had reserved a table in the Inn that night and they were sitting in the middle of all our tables. They were celebrating their anniversary at the Inn. We tried to leave them alone but on the way out the young gentleman told us about this British sportscar he reluctantly parted with some time ago. You could see that his wife would love to get another one so we gave them a club application and invited them to join.

I had the opportunity to introduce a new member at this meeting, Brian Singer and his son Andrew. Brian is looking to purchase an MG. Now we need to help them find a sound car. Welcome Brian and Andrew!

I forgot to run down the summary of our member's finishes at the Twist Party. Ed published a list of their finishing positions in the September newsletter, and I would like to personally congratulate all of you. The preparation and time that goes into getting a car ready to show is unbelievable and we're a driving club so these cars all get driven to and from and all around, so this makes the upkeep even more difficult. Check out the result and give your fellow members a pat on the back for many years of TLC and work to get their cars to this level. Two of our members also took home a first in the marathon Lake Michigan Rally

We'll be at the Botsford Inn, in Farmington Hills, for our October meeting. We hope that this will allow a little shorter drive for our U.S. members and allow our Canadian members to get a better charge on the battery.

September provided us with a number of opportunities to drive our cars. There were approximately eight hardy members who headed out to Watkins Glen for the 50th anniversary of the Watkins Glen Grand Prix. The original track was a 6.6 mile road course that ran through the center of town and then out through the surrounding countryside. More than 70 MGs participated in four days of racing spread among a field of approximately 375 cars. If you didn't make it this year you'll just have to check out the next big milestone in 2023. I should have my car done by then and I might be out there with you.

The Battle of the Brits was held September 13th at Freedom Hills Park. This is a combination British Car and British Motorcycle event. This is consistently a great show and fine place to hang out with fellow sportscar enthusiasts, with many spots to stand and talk to the owners, tucked away under the trees in the park. There were many fine MGs shown there and our members, in my opinion, owned some of the top cars in the field. I love to take a quick peek at the late 50 and early 60's Triumph motorcycles that look better than the day they came off the end of the line.

We're planning two fall Colour drives, stay close to the calendar. September 19th was our annual Lucas Rally. I should have been a prime candidate to participate in this as when we went out to test drive our MG tonight, I flipped on the light toggle and our head lights didn't come on. After popping the bonnet and reaching under the bonnet latch, I moved the wire harness and on came the lights. Total fix time, approximately two minutes. Going to have to take a closer look at that one of these nights, but tonight was too beautiful to waste tracing an intermittent problem. Rather do that on the road or some nice cool January night.

Oh, mark January 23rd on your calendar for the Hibernation Party. This is always our best turnout for the year. If anyone knows the name of a band that we can have for this party, give me a call. We're trying to run down the band we had the last time at the Dearborn Heights Golf Club, so if you can recall where he was out of, I could use the phone number. We think the band's name was Harvest Gold Entertainment.

See you out on the back roads!

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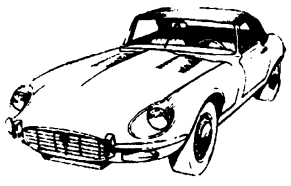

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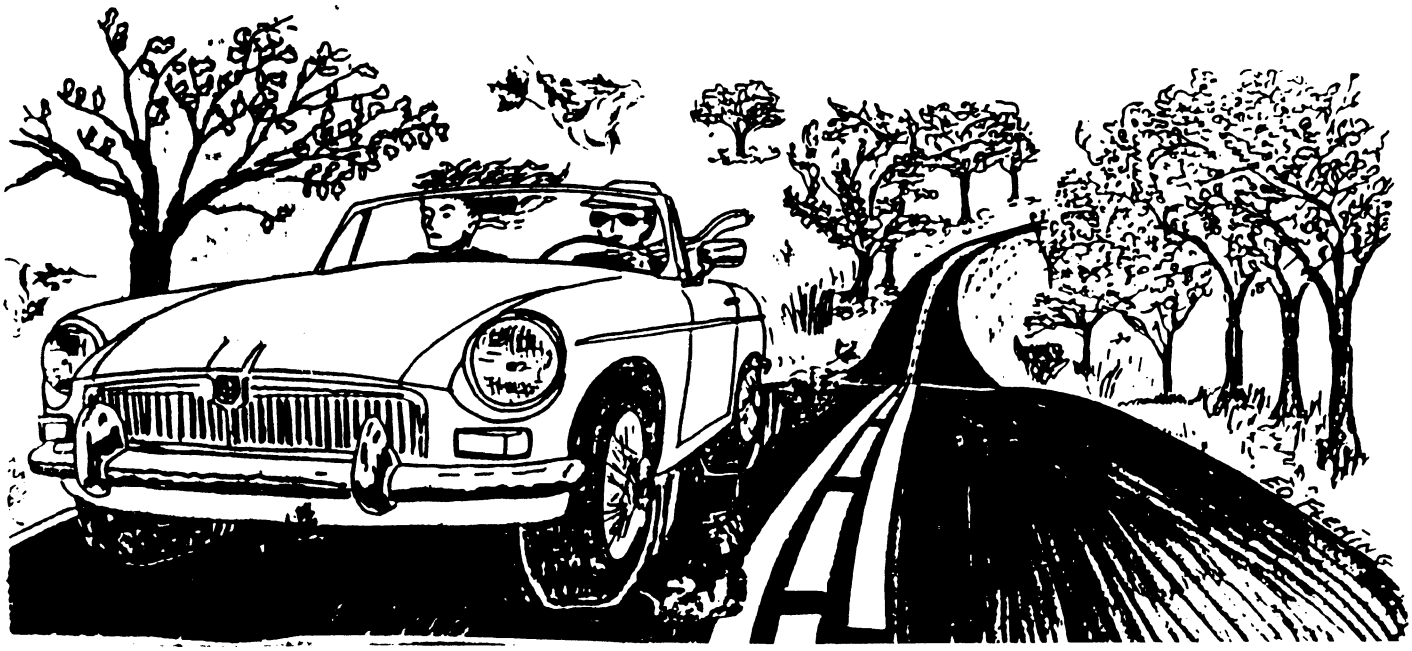
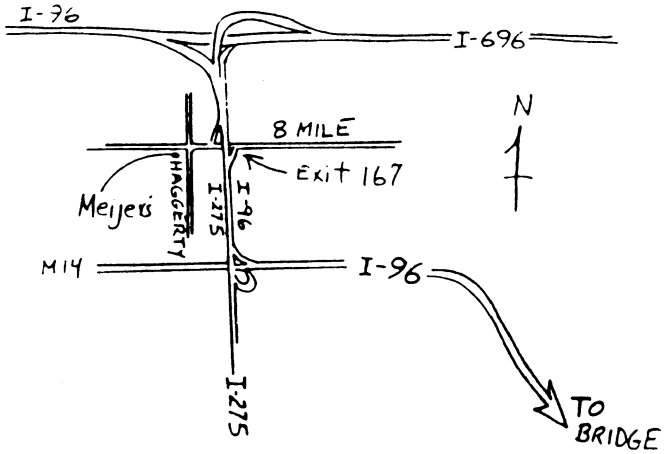


Ah, Brisk Autumn Air, Your Favorite Sports Car, Your Favorite Traveling Companion, Colourful Landscapes, Other Like Minded Sports Car Travelers, Exciting Country Roads! What More Could You Ask For?

Fall Colour Tour Sunday October 18th, Color It Fun!!

The leaves are turning Russet Brown, and Damask Red which means it's time for our annual cruise though the countryside. This year we'll again travel down those great roads north and west of Detroit. Some of the best MG roads around. We'll stop at not one, but two cider mills and generally have a delightful day.

What: Fall Colour Tour
When: Sunday, Oct. 18th, 1:00 PM
Where: Starts at the usual Meijer's parking lot at 8 Mile and Haggerty (see map)



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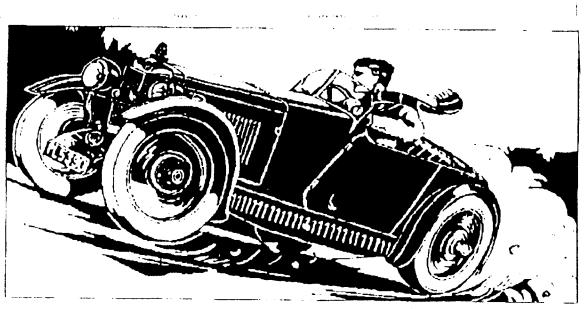
Don't Forget, New Meeting Place For October 14th

Beginning with our October Monthly Meeting, we'll meet at the Botsford Inn in Farmington on even numbered months.

It's located at 28000 Grand River Ave. just north of 8 Mile Rd. Look for the map elsewhere in this issue.

The meeting starts at 7:30, but get there sooner if you want to have dinner there. The kitchen closes at 7:30.



We're Looking For A Few Good Men And Women

Elections for club officers will be held at our Hibernation Party in January. If you'd like to become more involved in the activities of the club, this is your chance to run for one of the elected offices or volunteer for one of the other officers of the Board of Directors.

To run for office (President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasure) or to volunteer for one of the non elected offices (Membership, Newsletter Editor, Regalia) just contact one of the current board members, listed in the box on page two of the newsletter.

Mileage Contest Coming To An End, Get Out There And Drive!

Our first club mileage contest is coming to an end. You have to report your mileage to Jeff Zorn by the December 9th Monthly Meeting at the Botsford Inn.

The contest runs through November 30th. Call Jeff at (248) 489-1855 evenings or weekends or via E-mail at his new E-mail address: MGAJeff@aol.com

If you've driven the most miles, you'll win a terrific trophy (so says the artist), to be awarded at the Hibernation Party in January.

New NAMGAR Website

MGA owners or anyone else interested should check out the new NAMGAR website at their new address of http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar

There is a new message board, chat room and many other features and updates so you can find out about upcoming events.

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Hours
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Sat 8:30-5:00
Sun 10:00-3:00

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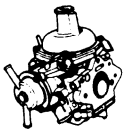

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Other Hat Pins.....	$ 3	$3.50
Sweater with embroidered club logo....	$40	$52
Golf Shirt " " " ".....	$30	$39
Lap Robe " " " ".....	$45	$58
T-Shirts.....	$10	$12
Baseball Caps.....	$ 5	$ 6
Sweatshirt.....	$15	$18
MG Christmas Tree Ornaments.....	$ 5	$ 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, Chuck Wiley at (313) 586-2500

***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**

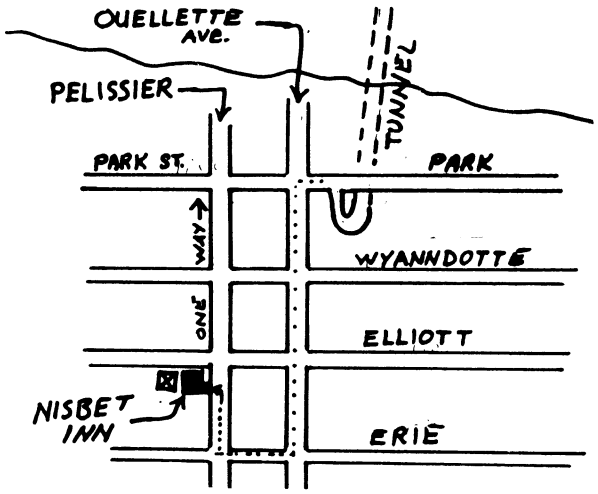
***The MGB Video.** "Short but good"

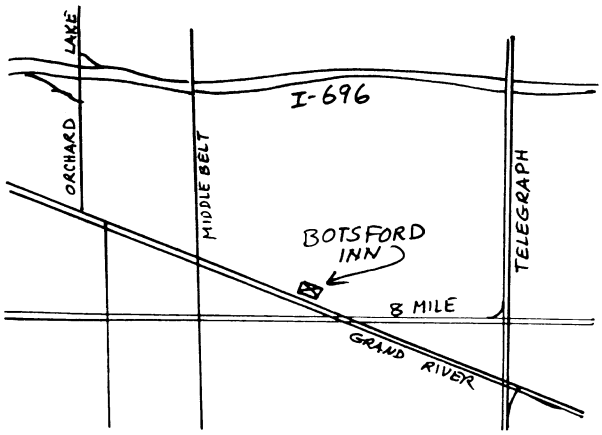
MGB Experience.

***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.





The Windsor-Detroit MG Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Even numbered months at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River Ave. just north of Eight Mile Rd, in Farmington Hills and odd numbered months at the Nisbet Inn, 131 Elliott, West, just west of Ouellette, south of the tunnel. See maps.

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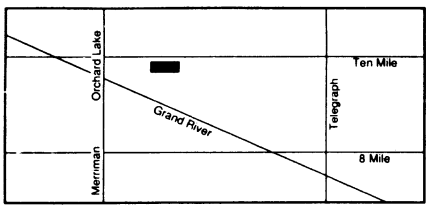


31151 Ten Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336 (248) 474-7744

It's The Big Event Of The Year And Hardly An MG In Sight!

It's Our Hibernation Party...Saturday, January 23rd!

We had such a great time at the Dearborn Hills Golf Club two years ago that we're going back again. And once again you have no excuses, no conflicts with hunting season or office parties or family Christmas parties, because once again it's in January!

This is our dress up event of the year. Time to leave that "T" shirt with the MG logo at home, put on your Sunday, go to meeting best on and have fun.

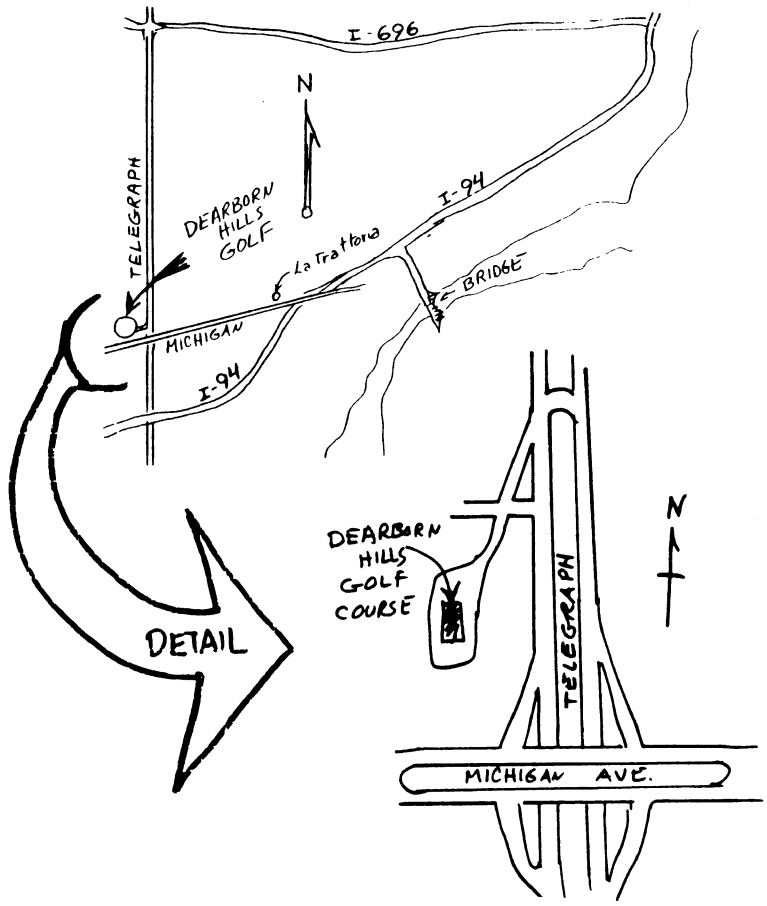
We'll have a delicious sit down dinner with your choice of beef, fish or chicken, Prizes, awards and our elections.

It'll take place at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course at Telegraph and Michigan Ave., about 5 miles west of our old Dearborn meeting place (La Trattoria). See map.

We have to let the Country Club know how many are attending and what dinners they want by Jan 13, 1999 so mail in your order from soon.

Fill out the order form, indicate which dinners you want and mail it to Ed Fleming, 8905 Napier Rd., Northville MI 48167 or Roli Sylvestre, 3493 Church St. Windsor, ON N9E 1V6. Cost is only $15.00 (U.S.) or $24.00 (Canadian).

What: W-DMGC Hibernation Party, Awards, Elections etc.
Where: Dearborn Hills Golf Course, 1300 Telegraph, just north of Michigan Ave. (313) 563-4653.
When: Saturday January 23, 1999,. Starts at 7:00 PM, lasts 'til about midnight.
Cost: $15.00 (U.S.), or $24.00 (Canadian).
What to Bring: Party attitude.
What to Wear: Dress up, most people wear suits and ties or evening gowns. But if you come in T shirt and jeans, we won't kick you out.



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Hibernation Party Order Form

Sign me (us) up for a great time at the Windsor-Detroit MG Club Hibernation party, Jan. 23, 1999 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State/Province_____Zip/Postal Code_____

Phone Number (_____) _____

Number Attending_____

Dinner Selections

A. New York Strip Steak
B. Orange Roughy
C. Marinated Chicken

Dinner Selections for each person:

1._____

2._____

3._____

Make check payable to the Windsor-Detroit MG Club and mail it to: Ed Fleming, 8905 Napier Rd., Northville, MI 48167 or Roli Sylvestre, 3493 Church Street, Windsor, ON N9Y 1V6. Cost is $15.00 (U.S.) or $24.00 (Canadian) per person.

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 (248) 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 has been on display at the Kimber House in Abingdon, England, the Morgan Factory, Royal Doulton Dealers the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Pewabic Pottery. Marcia Greiner (248) 348-1473

British Car Brochures & Ads. Jay Kollin (734) 455-6949

R.F. Fender for rubber Bumper B, VG Cond. $150. Chuck Wiley, (734) 586-2500 (10).

'70 MGB-GT, wire wheels, runs and drives, some assembly required, $1500, call for details, Chuck Wiley (734) 586-2500 (10)

'74 MGB for parts, call for particulars, Chuck Wiley (734) 586-2500 (10)

MG Models - The Classic Sports Car MG-TC 1/16 scale, 164 pc plastic kit $25 (US). Yesteryear MG-TC 1/43, metal $17 (US). Corgi MGA Rdster 1/43, red, metal $20 (US), Corgi MG-TF 1/43, green $25 (US).. Brian Collacott (519) 969-7187 (9)

Whitworth Taps and Dies, wood box set (Warrior - Made in England) 2 size die holders, 6 dies, 10 taps. $50 (US) Brain Collacott (519) 969-7187 (9)

'64 MGB Complete running original engine. If you like the early Bs this car has great promise, $1500. Dave Doolin (248) 347-3466 (9)

'57 MGA Roadster, in primer, good frame, body has just had new sills, A and B posts replaced(both sides) and is ready to be pulled for frame off. I have an extra 1800 3 main block with new machined 1800 head, rebuilt carbs and many, many new parts, too many to list here, $3900. Dave Doolin (248) 347-3466 (9)

'59 MGA Fantastic driver, great looking (dark red), mechanically excellent. New head with hardened seats and valves, rebuilt carbs, new shocks and sway bar, factory style luggage rack, driving light painted wires, new tires, windscreen washer, tonneau, side curtains, new interior and carpet. Sharp at only $10,500. Jeff Eve, (248) 489--1855, fcjeff@aol.com (9)

Garage Sale. Brand new MGB windshield, still in the box from NOS Locators. New bottom seal and windshield post rubber $75 for all. MGB windshield frame $30. MGA boot lid with luggage rack, $70. MGA crank $50. '72 MGB rear axle $60. Mike Derderian (810) 731-4434 or E-mail at derderia@tir.com (9)

'73 Midget, red, wire wheels, fair cond. top and tonneau, runs fairly well, needs a little TLC $2500, John Northrup (248) 753-5152 days, (248) 651-4506 eves. (9)

'74 MGB-GT, Rebuilt engine, new gas tank, rusty fenders, rockers and floor $1500. Mark Stratton (248) 349-2771 eves. (8)

'76 MGB, fair condition, older paint job, steel wheels, runs good, red with black interior $2300. Chuck Wiley (313)586-2500 (8)

'59 MGA, looks sharp, runs great, wire wheels,, older restoration, red with tan interior, $8500, Chuck Wiley (313) 586-2500 (8)

'74 MGB Rdstr, Excellent Cond. 45K , $9500. Bob Gibbs (248) 647--8513 (8)

'50 Singer 4A Roadster. Mint Cond., shown at Meadowbrook in 1996, maroon body, black fenders, car cover, tools, original sales documents and service records etc. $15,000 OBO. Pat Bremner (248) 540-9503 (7)

Project Cars: '79 Mini, '63 MGB, '74 MGB-GT, '76 MGB. Mostly disassembled. Call for details, Brett Shelley (519) 736-2301 (6)

'63 MGB wire wheels, restoration, project, all there, fairly solid runs, $1500 Wyatt, (517) 645-2637 (6)

'67 MGB-GT, Blue, original Spec. Ed., no rust, new interior, rebuilt OD/close ratio transmission, rebuilt wire wheels, new tires and hubs, good driver. $6500. Peter Pleitner (734) 662-3487 (6)

'73 Midget, nice car for the money. Needs a little TLC & minor adjustments. Road worthy as it sits, new tires, $3700 invested, will sell for $3200 OBO Ted (313) 292-0818 (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

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 Chuck Wiley at (313) 586-2500, Ed Fleming at (248) 349-3799 or Roli Sylvestre at (519) 969-2739.

October 1998

Oct 4 Sunday Fun Run - East Side

Oct 14 Monthly Meeting-Botsford Inn Farmington (new location)

Oct 18 Fall Colour Tour

November 1998

Nov 11 Monthly Meeting-Windsor

December 1998

Dec. 6 Club Board Meeting

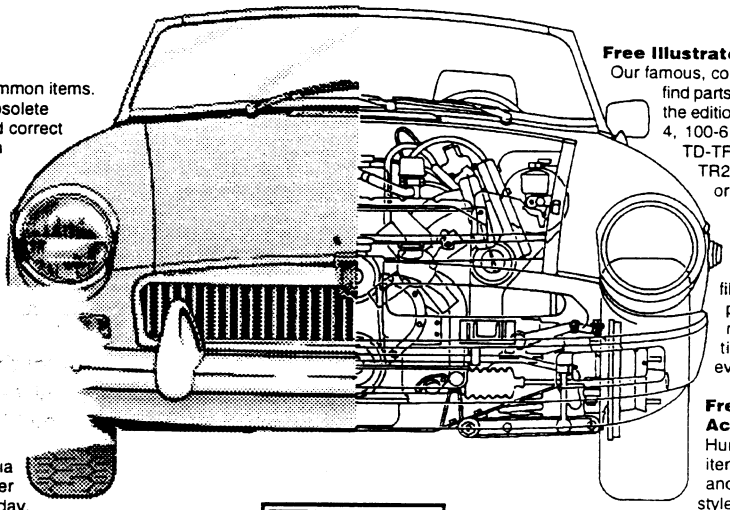
Dec 9 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn (Gift Exchange Night)

Jan 1999

Jan 13 Monthly Meeting-Windsor

Jan 23 Hibernation Party-Dearborn Golf Club

We Know MGs Inside & Out



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