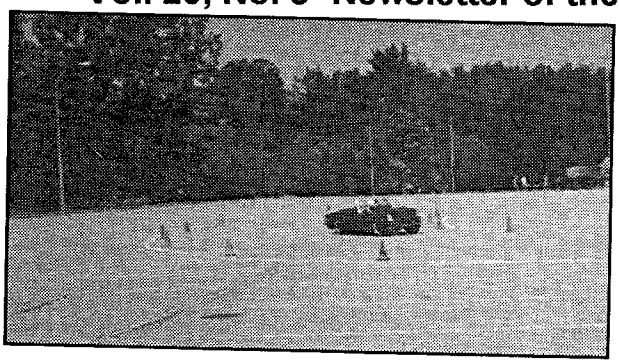
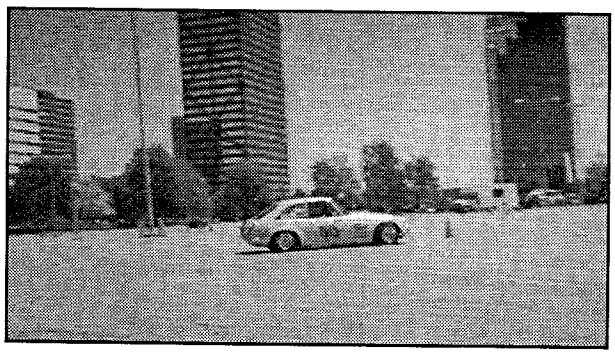
The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 20, No. 5- Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club - June, 2000





Photos: Above left: Darren Murphy in his recently restored Midget navigates his way through a sea of pylons. **Above right: Guy St. John** making good use of MG's motto: Safety FAST!!!

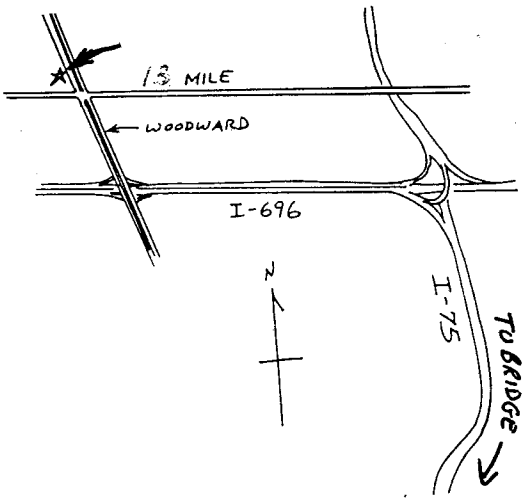
It's Back To Duggan's For Our June 14th Monthly Meeting.

OK, the place is loud and smokey and there isn't much parking and they want everyone's tab on one bill, but right now it's all we have on the U.S. side. If you know of a great place for our U.S. side meetings let one of the Board Members know about it.

In the meantime it's back to Duggan's. At least you'll get to meet friends from the Triumph Club and the Austin-Healey Club there.

Duggan's is located at 31501 Woodward Ave., just north of 13 Mile Rd. It's on the west side of Woodward, on your left if you're driving north from I-696. If you get lost their phone number is 248-549-3659. See map.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. See you there.



Memorial Day Auto-Cross Turns Out Happy

The Indy 500 was delayed by rain. So was the Coca-Cola 600 in Charlotte, NC. But our autocross had a bright sunny sky and mild temperatures.

Actually, I should say the SCCA's autocross had great weather, since we just showed up at their event.

Guy St. John & Darren Murphy ran their MGs and Kim Wilkinson drove his Audi TT. I brought the Midget but didn't run it.

Guy was impressively smooth and fast in his well prepared B-GT. I think the only cars to run faster were the formula race cars.

Darren's Midget got a real initiation as this was his and its first event since a complete restoration. A very proper way to baptize your British sportscar

The SCCA's event at the Lawrence Tech's rolling parking lot is one of the best attended and most exciting autocrosses in the Detroit area.. It's a rather long course as autocrosses go and the parking lot changes elevation by 15 or so feet, making for some "interesting" turns.

The Brits seemed to have invented autocrossing, so if you're looking for something very British to do with your English motorcar, try autocrossing. The MG will fit right in. You'll have a lot of fun in this very "Safety Fast" kind of event.

Don't miss it next year.

The Can-Am Connection is published 10 times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc.

E-mail:
WDMGCC@HOTMAIL.com
Website:
www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc/

President
Dale Brown
(519)258-5987

Vice President
Marshal Coulter
(810) 598-9663

Newsletter Editor
Ed Fleming
(248) 349-3799

Treasurer
Jeff Zorn (248) 489-1855

Membership
Rick Astley
(248) 737-1978

Video Rep.
Chuck Wiley
(734) 586-2500

Regalia-Canada
Roli Sylvestre
(519) 969-2739

Regalia-U.S.
Jay Kolin (734) 455-6949

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Fine Print
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Safety Fast!

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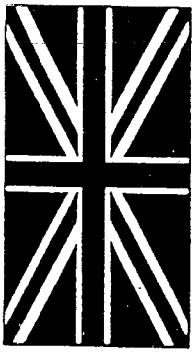

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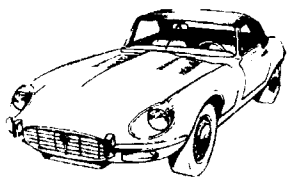

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Presidentially Speaking

By Dale Brown, President

It's been a great driving season so far. Lise and I have been putting the miles on the 69 MG everyday, however in talking to Jeff Zorn, I think he will win the mileage trophy again. (Hey wait a minute; Jeff is in charge of the mileage contest!!!!)

We successfully installed a new convertible top on the 69 (although it took two days of trying to get it just right) and thanks to a new leather kit we bought through Jeff Zorn and with the help of a local Windsor upholsterer, we finally installed the proper 69 seats. Wow, my back will never be the same!!

The month of June will be a busy one. I wish we could do June twice. Lise and I will be attending MG 2000 in Cleveland and might even leave a day earlier on the Wednesday and tour Put Inn Bay or other sites along the "North Coast". MG 2000 should be exciting, as I've heard many members will be attending. We will have to make sure that we bring the Club banner and display it as much as possible. We'll take lots of pictures for the Club Newsletter and also for the Web Site. It's too bad that MG 2000 is on the same weekend as the Club's annual trip to Stratford. Many members are attending that one too. We have never gone but would like to take it in for sure one year. Maybe 2001.

Then for the first two weeks of July, Lise Amelia and I will be returning to Ottawa for some R & R. If we can find a car trailer by then, we will haul the MG with us and try to take some side trips through the Gateneau Hills and maybe even a couple of days up to Montreal and the surrounding countryside. (I wonder if there will be any British Pubs up there?)

In July we're thinking of attending the Roadster Factory's summer party in Pennsylvania. I've been to that one twice and it's one of the best. Plan on that one too if you can. (August 11-13) Then there is always Stowe in September.

Well, I look forward to seeing all of you at Duggin's June 13th. We have made some changes to improve the logistics in hope of having a great meeting. We're going to have a fun MG quiz, so study up on all the MG trivia you can find.

See you on the road and remember,

Safety fast!

Dale

1945 - 1980

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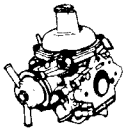

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MGB (HIF)	$350/pr
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Cleveland Rocks, MGs Roll!

MG 2000

The Emerald Necklace MG Register extends an invitation to all MG enthusiasts as we celebrate our 20th year by hosting MG2000 - **The 9th Annual International Convention of The North American MGB Register** in Cleveland, Ohio, June 15 - 18, 2000. Enjoy the splendor of the North Coast as well as one of America's finest metroparks systems.

More information is available on our website at ***www. mgcleveland.com*** or contact Lynne Burgess at 614/899-2394.

We highly suggest booking your hotel rooms now at the Holiday Inn located at I-77 and Rockside Road, Independence by calling direct at 216/524-8050. Please ask for Lisa and be sure to mention MG2000 to get the event rate of $99.00 per night.

ENMGR • PO Box 81152 • Cleveland, OH 44181

June meeting to be held at Duggins on Woodward.

I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about our meeting locations on the U.S. side of the border. As you know, we have not had too much stability during the last several years regarding a location on the Detroit side. The members of the board have discussed this issue many times and have received input from many members on this topic and this appears to be one of the only controversial items currently in the club.

As a board (and also in accordance with the Club's by-laws), we feel that it is important to maintain meetings on both sides of the border. We want to make it fair to our American members as far as their driving distance is concerned. We also need to maintain the club as a true "international" organization.

Some of the requirements we need to have a good meeting spot are as follows:

1. British atmosphere. (After all, we drive British cars don't we?)
2. Central location to minimize driving distance for members
3. Safe lit up parking lot preferably in eyesight of the meeting room.
4. Casual food and even British beverages available
5. Separate room for our meetings and even a Microphone if possible.

So, to our dilemma: Even though the Detroit area is a huge metropolis, we have not yet found anything appropriate. So please speak with any board member or me if you have any ideas for future meetings. A couple of members have given me some ideas that we will check out.

So, for the June meeting we will return to Duggins. Although our April meeting had many problems, the owner is willing to bend over backwards to solve the many problems we encountered. He was even generous to the club financially donating $50. For our June meeting, he has committed to make improvements as follows:

1. He will try to reserve room in the parking lot in one area for the MG cars and also the Austin Healeys.
2. We will have a separate room just for our club.
3. Although there will be one total bill for food and drinks, it will be itemized and sub totaled for each member or group of members in order to make payment simple for all.

So let's give it one more try and have a good June meeting. See you there.

Dale

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Abingdon Summer Party Registration Form (Send To: Chicagoland MG Club, Box 455, Addison, ILL 60101)

Name:_____ Street:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____ Car Year:_____ Car Model:_____

- Abingdon Summer Party Reg. Fee/Car: $25 x No. _____ Cars = _____ TOTAL
- Saturday Dinner & Sunday Breakfast Picnic $30/Person x No. _____ People = _____ TOTAL

Abingdon Summer Party Regalia

Commemorative Henley Shirt: $24/Shirt x No. _____ Shirts = _____ TOTAL (S/M/L/XL/XXL)

Commemorative Cap: $12/Cap x No. _____ Caps = _____ TOTAL

TOTAL PAYABLE AMOUNT TO THE CHICAGOLAND MG CLUB $_____

NOTE: A $10 endurance rally fee is payable at the start of the rally.

If It's The Middle Of August Where Is John Twist?
He'll Be In Abingdon. Illinois, Not England.
Get Ready For the Abingdon 2000 Summer Party
August 17-20, 2000

Since 1987 the Chicagoland MG Club has been hosting the MG Abingdon Weekend of MG enthusiasts gathering in Abingdon, Illinois. Then 1999 saw the last occurrence of the University Motors Summer Party hosted by John Twist. John has been a member of the CMGC ever since its founding, and the Chicagoland club is very active in promoting the use and enjoyment of MGs. Put all this together and out comes the year 2000 Abingdon Summer Party!

"In the Spirit of the
University Motors Summer Party"

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Jumers continental Inn, I-74 East Main St. Exit.
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PARTY FEATURES:

Hosted in a location commemorating the MG factory in Abingdon, England. A low key summer social event devoted to an MG family reunion! Focused on friendship & camaraderie among MG lovers. Abingdon Trial Endurance Rally! Your favorite vendors in a spacious setting throughout the weekend. Technical sessions. Self guided rally/tours. Both concourse and Popular vote car show. "Club Crawl" hospitality suites sponsored by participating MG clubs. The famous Abingdon Gymkhana! special event regalia, shirts and hats. Awards banquet with keynote speaker John Twist. Farewell picnic breakfast.

For gobs more information visit the Chicagoland MG Club's web site at www.chicagolandmgclub.com/abingdon

To attend, fill out the entry form on the opposite page and mail it to the address on the form.

As Flint Is To GM or Dearborn Is To Ford, So Too Is Abingdon To MG
Or, Home Is Where The Factory Is

Abingdon Town Hall

Abingdon was occupied in prehistoric times by settlers of the Bronze and Iron ages. It was a flourishing town in the Roman period, which in turn gave way to a Saxon settlement.

The earliest documents tell of a hamlet called Sevekesham sited at a ford of the Thames. Hean,nephew of King Cissa was granted land for founding a Benedictine monastery called Abbandun (Hill of Ebba) at the same time as his sister Cilla founded the Nunnery of Helnestowe on or near St. Helens Church, the principal church in 675AD. When Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1538, Abingdon Abbey was the 6th richest in Britain.

The Monday market has existed since 1556. The Michaelmas Fair (now known as the Ock Fair) was originally a 'hiring mart' for those seeking employment.

In 1810 the Wilts and Berks canal arrived with Abingdon becoming a key link between such places as Bristol, London,

Birmingham and the Black Country. In 1906 it was abandoned as the canal sides collapsed and the railways offered faster transport. The first link to the railway came in 1856 with a branch connection to Culham and subsequently via Radley. The local station closed in 1963.

Abingdon was the county town of Berkshire, becoming part of Oxfordshire after local government re-organization in 1974.

MG, this famous logo became synonymous with fast, sporty two seater cars, which were manufactured in Abingdon for 50 years until production ceased in 1980.

Since 1946 a number of scientific establishments have been set up in the area including the Harwell Laboratory and the JET (Joint European Torus) project at Culham. Many high-tech industries have been drawn to the area alongside local trades such as printing and brewing which continue to prosper alongside.

Two of the main roads into Abingdon cross rivers - the Thames and the Ock - over bridges listed as ancient monuments. The bridge over the Thames is over 550 years old. The Thames has always been important to the town and today is a focal point for many recreational activities. Riverside gardens attract visitors; anglers fill the riverbanks and pleasure cruisers queue to pass through the picturesque lock.

Abingdon is within easy reach of both the M40 and the M4.

NAMGBR member, W.J. Richard (Dick) Criswell was killed on Friday, June 20, 1997.

He was participating in the 'Brit Run to the Sun' trek to Alaska when his MGB-GT V8 ran off the road, overturned and struck a tree. He was killed instantly. Dick lived in Camarillo, California and was a true MG enthusiast. He passed doing what he loved: driving his MG.

Please set aside an hour on June 20th each year for a drive in your MG (or British Car!) in tribute to Dick Criswell. Get out and drive your MG.....enjoy some open road....and pause for a moment.....it is not the cars....it is the people such as Dick Criswell that make this hobby so enjoyable.

Tips Form The Pen Of John Twist, Hisownself, For Your Driving Pleasure

WINDSCREEN WIPER WHEELBOX THREADS: If the gentle application of heat to the hex or
oct nut on the wheelbox fails, then it is necessary to cut the nut off, allowing the hack saw blade to run
parallel to the threads, slicing a crescent from the nut. Once the wheelboxes are out of the car (use a
3/16" socket to remove the nuts from the rear plates), then use a thread file or a new nut to "restore"
the faulty threads.

WIPER MOTOR REPAIRS: The same old rules apply. Clean everything thoroughly, and it will
work. If the armature is burned, find a shop to rewind it. Give up? My shop does wiper motor repairs.

MIDGET DOOR HINGES: The bottom door hinge on the Midget loves to begin to rust solid. When
this begins, the hinge flange flexes on the body and the metal at the pillar fails. Lubricate these hinges
frequently. If they are REALLY tight, remove the door, heat the hinge and oil it until it is floppy loose.

MGA RADIO ANTENNA (or is that an aerial?): They were often fixed at the REAR of the vehicle
during that time, and swept rearwards, as though not to disturb the aerodynamics.

Calendar of Events

Note: Items listed in **Bold Type are Windsor-Detroit MG Club Events.**

For up to date information on club events call Chuck Wiley at (734) 586-2500, Ed Fleming at (248) 349-3799 or Roli Sylvestre at (519) 969-2739 or see our Website at:

www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc/

June, 2000

Jun 11 Carnival of Cars
Jun 14 Monthly Meeting-Duggan's
Jun 21 Wed. Night Cruise at Duggan's
Jun 15-18 MG 2000-Cleveland, OH (440) 331-4205

July, 2000

Jul 8-9 Mad Dogs & Englishmen-Kalamazoo
Jul 12 Monthly Meeting-Nisbet Inn
Jul 19 Wed. Night Cruise at Duggan's
Jul 17-22 MGA GT25 Morgantown W.Va.

August, 2000

Aug 4 Concours in the Park-Clarkston
Aug 5-6 Historic Races & Meadowbrook Concours
Aug 9 Monthly Meeting
Aug 12 Fire and Ice Rally
Aug 16-20 Abingdon '00 Summer Party, Abingdon, IL. (This event replaces John Twist's Summer Party!)
Aug 23 Wed. Night Cruise at Duggan's

September 2000

Sep 10 Battle of the Brits, Sue Snyder 810-979-4875
Sep 13 Monthly Meeting
Sep 20 Wed. Night Cruise at Duggan's

October 2000

Oct 11 Monthly Meeting
Oct 15 Colour Tour

November 2000

Nov 8 Monthly Meeting

December, 2000

Dec 13 Monthly meeting-Gift Exchange Night

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 Models, business card holders, mugs etc. Hand made and personalized. We've actually won prizes for these things and our stuff is on display at the Morgan factory, Kimber House in Abingdon, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Pewabic Pottery. Call Marcia Greiner (248) 348-1473

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

'68 MGB Can be restored or used for parts. Motor, trans and interior are out of car, but I have all the pieces. Call for more details, will consider any offer. Mark, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., 734-207-7435 (6)

One set of **'69 MGB seats.** Leather no good but hardware and frames just fine. $20 or free to a good home. **One set of '70-'72 MGB seats.** Vinyl no good, but headrests, hardware and frames just fine. $20 or free to a good home. **One set of '70 split rear bumpers for MGB.** $20. Dale Brown, 519-258-5987 or e-mail dbrownmg@mnsi. net

Almost everything to install an aluminum V-8 in MGB, including a 200 hp engine, transmission and adapter, light weight flywheel and an overhaul gasket set, $650 U.S. Gary Howe, 810-939-6851, Email thm4159@compserv.net (5)

Front axle adapter and rear axle for installing wire wheels on an MGB including 5 wheels and tires, $300 U.S. Gary Howe, 810-939-6851, Email thm4159@compserv.net (5)

Midget Parts: Hardtop-$450, very good cond., New front bumper, $220, 2 doors, trunk lid, window frame, convertible top frame, lots of very good tail lights, parking light lenses etc. Lee, (248) 546-4399 or 810-978-1108 (4)

Midget, many new parts, convertible top, brakes, spoke wheel covers, new chrome, tonneau cover, black trim, Porsche orange, new exhaust, asking $4,400 O.B.O. Lee, (248) 546-4399 or 810-978-1108 (4)

'74 1/2 MGB-GT, Rare rubber bumper, BRG, wire wheels, new battery, rebuilt front end & front & rear shocks, no rust, runs & looks great, will E-mail photos on request, $5,495 OBO. Rick Ratzloff <ratzoff@oeonline.com> 248-477-7682 (4)

'74 MGB-GT Chroome bumper, BRG $4,500, Steve Hartz (248) 628-9595 (3)

Great gifts & other interesting items for your MG or other LBC. While supply lasts-licensed MG logo watches $50-$85, halogen bulbs (up to 100% brighter), electronic ignition, MG logo tire valve stem caps & more. Authorized Moss distributor, save $$$. Jeff Zorn at Little British Car Co. (248) 489-0022 or on the Web www.LBCarCo.com

WANTED

Old MG Steering Wheels, any condition. Dave Doolin 248-347-3466 (5)

Car trailer capable of hauling an MGB safely on the highway. Want as small as possible for ease of storage and for pulling behind Chevy Astro VAn. Willing to pay $500 (Canadian) or less. Dale Brown, 519-258-5987 or e-mail dbrownmg@mnsi.net (6)

Chrome bumper MGB project car - rust free with original sills and floors, no major accidents. Not running okay. Call Mike Derderian at (810) 731-4434 or e-mail at derderia@tir.com (5)

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