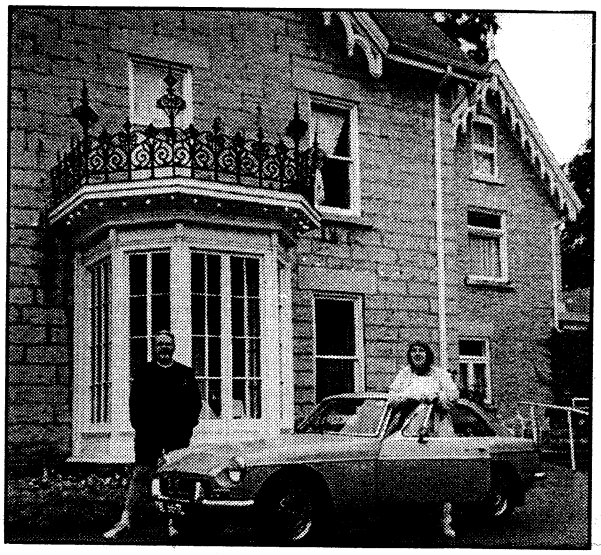
The Can Am CONNECTION

WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 20, No. 6- Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club -July-August, 2000



Photos: Right: Philip & Jan in front of the Westover Inn. **Left: Adam Gucfa** caught by Philip Wiltshire absconding with a foot stool. Philip wanted to trade for some towels.

16th June 2001

by Philip Wiltshire

There, now I've got your attention, let's look back on this year's Stratford trip.

The format of the trip was just about the same as previous years, we moved back to using the K-mart parking lot at Little Mack and I-94 as our first rendezvous point. Remember the Meijer manager threw us out of his lot last year?

Saturday, June 17th turned out to be sunny and cool and just perfect for running MGs, if not a little cold for those in top down cars with no heaters or side curtains.

We had 35 travelers in cars ranging from a 1950 TD (first post restoration trip, and from Grand Rapids!), TF, MGAs, Bs, GT, and GTV8.

All went well and we crossed the river on the little 12 car ferry at Marine City and met with the remainder of our group in Sarnia. Lunch at The Old English Parlor followed an uneventful drive to Stratford. This year's play was an evening performance of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest".

Not all of our party was staying at the Westover Inn in St. Mary's, but we all dined there together and celebrated Kay Zajac's 18th birthday, before heading back into Stratford for the play at 8 p.m. The food and the ambiance of the hotel is just magnificent and so it is easy to see why it has won awards and is one of the top places to stay in Canada.

The play was good, but the English/Scottish dialogue was tough for some of us (including me - I've been gone from the "Old Country" too long!) This version of the play was the original four act presentation from 1896.

We then returned to the Westover for our obligatory Dessert Party and nightcaps.

I even managed to get actor Christopher Plummer to visit the Westover that evening. He always stays there when he is performing in Stratford. Some of you may remember him in his role of Van Trapp in "The Sound of Music", but for me, his acting pinnacle was driving an MG-TC around the English countryside as an RAF Squadron Leader in the movie "The Battle of Britain". Two thumbs up!

Sunday dawned cool and wet, but had cleared completely by 10'ish and the group headed for home in various directions. We took our now traditional route home via Bayfield and then down the coast to the ferry at Marine City, getting back around 7 p.m.

Lunch was at the Little Inn of Bayfield where we competed with a tenor singing Italian opera (must have thought we were the Alfa Romeo Club or something).

Now to next year's trip. We had such a great time, what with MGs, theater, good company and catering that the consensus was to get organized for 2001. So I booked the whole Westover Inn for June 16, 2001. Several members have already made reservations. Please call me (248-676-0986) if you want additional details. A reservation at the Westover Inn (519-284-2977) in the name of "MG Tours" is advised.

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

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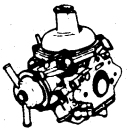
Safety Fast!

1945 – 1980

SU/STROMBERG CARBURETTER RESTORATION



Another UML Bench Service

TC–TD–TF–MGA (H4)	$350/pr
MGB - MIDGET (HS)	$325/pr
MGB (HIF)	$350/pr
REBUSH ONLY	$ 75/pr
AUTOMATIC STROMBERGS	$250/ea

RESTORATION INCLUDES: Aluminium parts glass beaded, threads chased, mating flanges surfaced, bodies rebushed, suction chambers highly polished, air pistons matched, brass linkages buffed, steel parts replated. New: Shafts / Jets / Needles / Grose Jet / Gaskets.

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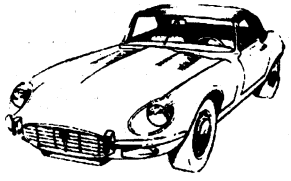


WE WORK ON ALL MAKES AND MODELS

Best Prices In Town For All MG Club Members

Presidentially Speaking

By Dale Brown, President

We're now coming into the best part of the summer for driving our MGs. Lise and I returned from MG 2000 just fine and it was a pleasure to see so many of our members in attendance. We have some photos elsewhere in the newsletter and also on the web site. When I get the film out of my camera I'll post others.

We were able to have a reserved spot in the hotel parking lot complete with chalk markings on the pavement identifying our club. The weather was mostly dry although the Friday night parking lot party had to be held in doors and those of us who went on the boat cruise ended up boating through a monsoon. (Well is seemed like that anyway.)

The Cleveland downtown area was very exciting. We toured the flats, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, saw the football and baseball stadiums and my brother Stephen said he had lunch with Drew Carey. (I don't know whether to believe him or not.)
All in all it was an enjoyable four days.

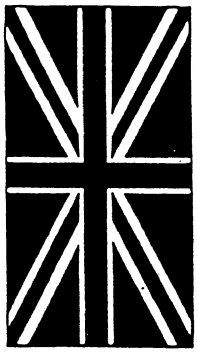
A short note about a great way to put some miles on your MG. Lise and I left a day earlier for Cleveland and drove around to Katawba Ohio and took the Miller Boat line over to South Bass Island. We booked a Bed and Breakfast through the Internet in advance and had a wonderful day and night on the island. It was great driving through the quaint island in the MG and experiencing a lot of what the island has to offer. A word of caution though, Go during the week. The weekends are apparently all for boaters and huge crowds.
The Mad Dogs and Englishmen car show is July 8 and 9. Even if you can make only one day, plan on attending the show just outside of Kalamazoo on the Sunday. I attended that one a couple of times and it is one of the better ones on grounds that are very impressive. Lots of well done museum items and a pioneer village as well.

On Friday night August 4th, an excellent British Car event takes place in Clarkston Michigan. Many of our members attend with some even entering the Concours. It's kind of a Strawberry Social with wandering through the very nice park and the quaint town. There's usually entertainment and the best part is that it's free. You'll see lots of nice British cars and many exotic cars too. (Like Ferraris etc.) We plan on going again, so mark it on your calendars.

Well its back to the Nisbet for our July meeting and we'll keep you posted for the location for our August meeting. Some of our members have some other ideas for possible meeting locations in the Detroit area.

See you soon and remember,

Safety fast,
Dale



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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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For Reservations: 800-285-8637
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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.

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.

The Month Of August Is Full Of Driving Events, Get Your Calendar Out Now And Mark These Dates Down Now!

Tour d' Elegance Ralleye and Cruise, Friday Afternoon, August 4th

The Meadow Brook Concours d Elegance is one of the top three concours in the world and it's held right here in southeast Michigan.

It all begins with thee Tour d' Elegance Cruise and the Concours In The Park in Clarkston, a few miles north of the Waterford Hills race track.

The evening starts with a Ralleye and cruise to the Concours in the Park. The Ralleye starts at 2:30 in the Canterbury Village (south lot) on Joslyn Road, 3 miles north of I-75. The Ralleye ends back at Canterbury Village in time for the Cruise.

The Cruise leaves from Canterbury Village at 4:30 p.m. and winds up at the Concours in the Park in Clarkston.

Concours In The Park Friday Night, August 4th!

The Concours in the Park take place at Depot Park in downtown Clarkston Friday evening. You'll see 100s of classic sports cars, a live band, juried automotive art show and a silent motorsports collectibles auction.

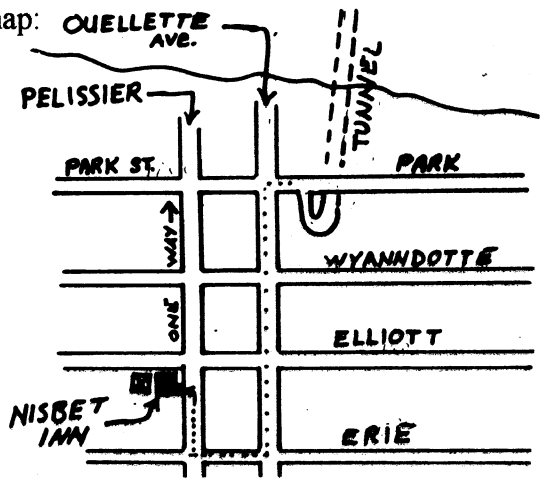
And there's always the ice cream social.

For more information on thee Concours in the Park or to enter your car, call Mike Brady at 248-656-2732.

Monthly Meetings For August and September Will Be At The Nisbet Inn.

As in years past, we'll have our summer monthly meetings at the Nisbet Inn. Hopefully this will give us time to find a new site for our U.S. side meetings.

See map:



Fire And Ice Ralleye Saturday Night August 12th. Bring An Appetite!

The club's first ralleye of the year will involve food, fire, ice and more fire.

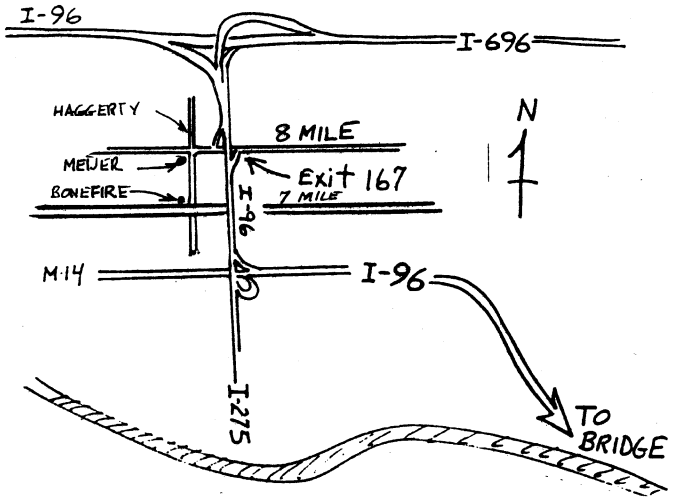
It all starts at the Bonfire Restaurant at 7 Mile and Haggerty Roads. That's about 1 mile south of the usual Meijer start point for our ralleyes.

Get there at 5:00 p.m. for dinner. The Bonfire is a mirco brewery and restaurant.

We'll then travel the blue roads to a "car place" west of Ann Arbor.

Details at the start point.

What: Fire and Ice Ralleye
When: Sat. Aug 12th, Starts at 5 p.m.
What to Bring: Clip board, flashlight, appetite, sense of adventure and excitement. Plan to be out until 9:00 p.m. or later if you plan on participating in "Phase Two" of the Ralleye.
Where: Starts at the Bonfire Brewery and Restaurant, see map:



Cruise Night, Northville to Milford, Tuesday, August 29th

Join us for a leisurely cruise through the interesting countryside. We'll start at the usual Meijer's parking lot at 8 Mile and Haggerty. See map above.

Kim Wilkinson has an interesting route planned out that will take us near the GM Proving Grounds and into Milford for their weekly Tuesday Night Cruise.

What: Tuesday Night Cruise.
Where: Northville to Milford.
When: Tues. Aug 29th. Be at the Meijer parking lot by 7:00 p.m.

The Ten Best Tools of All Time

Or, there are only ten things in this world you need to fix any car, any place, anytime.

This article was pilfered from the Michigan Sports Car Club's newsletter,"Gudgeon Pin" who stole it from the December '93 MG Messenger, the official publication of the Lake Erie Centre, MGCC, who probably plagiarized it from someone else. But information this valuable needs to be spread to as many people as possible, so here without remorse is the list.

Forget the Snap-On Tools truck. It's never there when you need it. Besides, there are only ten things in the world you need to fix any car, any place, any time.

1). **Duct Tape**: Not just a tool, a veritable Swiss Army knife in stickum and plastic. It's safety wire, body material, radiator hose, upholstery, insulation, tow rope, and more in one easy-to-carry package. Sure, there's a prejudice surrounding duct tape in concours competitions, but in the real world everything from Le Mans winning Porsches to Atlas rackets uses it by the yard. The only things that can get you out of more scrapes are two dimes and a phone booth.

2). **Vise-Grips**: Equally adept as a wrench, hammer, pliers, baling wire twister, breaker of frozen bolts, and wiggle-it-'til-it-falls-off tool. The heavy artillery of your tool box, Vice-Grips are the only tool designed expressly to fix things screwed up beyond repair.

3). **Spray Lubricants**: A considerably cheaper alternative to new doors, alternators, and other squeaky items. Slicker than pig phlegm. Repeated soakings of WD-40 will allow the main hull bolts of the Andrea Doria to be removed by hand.

Strangely enough, an integral part of these sprays is the infamous little red tube that flies out of the nozzle if you look at it cross-eyed. (One of the ten worst tools of all time).

4). **Margarine Tubs with Clear Lids**: If you spend all your time under the hood looking for a frendle pin that caromed off the peedle valve when you knocked both off the air cleaner, it's because you eat butter. Real mechanics consume pounds of tasteless vegetable oil replicas, just so they can use the empty tubs for parts containers afterward. (Some, of course, chuck the butter colored goo altogether or use it to repack wheel bearings).

Unlike air cleaners and radiator clips, margarine tubs aren't connected by a time-space worm-hole to the Parallel Universe of Lost Frendle Pins.

5). **Big Rock at the Side of the Road**: Block up a tire. Smack corroded battery terminals. Pound out a dent. Bop nosy know-it-all types on the noodle. Scientists have yet to develop a hammer that packs the raw bonking power of granite or limestone. This is the only tool with which a "made in India" emblem is not synonymous with the user's maiming.

6). **Plastic Zip Ties**: After twenty years of lashing down stray hoses and wires with old bread ties, some genius brought a slightly slicked-up version to the auto parts market. Fifteen zip ties can transform a hulking mass of amateur quality rewiring from a working model of the Brazilian rain forest into something remotely resembling a wiring harness. Of course, it works both ways: When buying used cars, subtract $100 for each zip tie under the hood.

7). **Ridiculously Large Standard Screwdriver with Lifetime Guarantee**: Let's admit it. There is nothing better for prying, chiseling, lifting, breaking, splitting, or mutilating than a huge flat-bladed screwdriver, particularly when wielded with gusto and a big hammer. This is also the tool of choice for oil filters so insanely located they can only be removed by driving a stake in one side and out the other. If you break the screwdriver (and you will, just like Dad or your shop teacher said) who cares? It's guaranteed!

8). **Baling wire**: (or old wire coat hanger, Ed.) Commonly known as MG muffler brackets, baling wire holds anything that's too hot for duct tape or ties. Like duct tape, it's not recommended for concours contenders since it works so well you'll never replace it with the right thing again. Baling wire is a sentimental favorite in some circles, particularly with the MG, Triumph, and flathead Ford set.

9). **Bonking Stick**: This monstrous tuning fork with devilishly pointy ends is technically known as a tie-rod-end separator, but how often do you separate tie-rod-ends? Once every decade, if you're lucky. Other than medieval combat, its real use is the all-purpose application of undue force, not unlike that of the huge flat-bladed screwdriver. Nature doesn't know the bent metal panel or frozen pipe that can stand up to a good bonking stick. (Can also be used to separate tie-rod-ends in a pinch, but does a lousy job of it).

10). **Two Dimes and a Phone Booth**: See #1 above.

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/

August, 2000

Aug 4 Concours in the Park-Clarkston
Aug 5-6 Historic Races & Meadowbrook Concours
Aug 9 Monthly Meeting-Nisbet Inn
Aug 12 Fire and Ice Rally
Aug 16-20 Abingdon '00 Summer Party, Abingdon, IL. (This event replaces John Twist's Summer Party!)
Aug 20 Brit. Car & Motorcycle Show, Car Boot Sale & Flea Market, London, ON - (519) 268-7841
Aug 23 Wed. Night Cruise at Duggan's
Aug 29 Tues. Night Cruise to Milford

September 2000

Sep 10 Battle of the Brits, Sue Snyder 810-979-4875
Sep 13 Monthly Meeting-Nisbet Inn
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.

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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

1973 Midget Parts, hard top, chrome bumpers, doors, trunk, windshield frame & more. Over $1500 value, take all for only $500. Lee, days (248) 546-4399 or eves. 810-978-1108 (7-8)

One set of '72 MGB-GT seats, good condition. Tan fabric and vinyl. Best offer, Call Guy St. John, 248-349-3649 (7-8)

'53 MG-TD, lots of new parts, everything there, all body parts, except tub & frame dipped, needs to be re-assembled, unable to finish restoration. Complete car - not a basket case. Mark Maretka 248-641-7615, or E-mail: msquared@/.net (7-8)

Wire Wheels, 15 ", 48 spoke, $15 each. 14 wheels all together for $150. Tom Fant, 248-347-6607 (7-8)

'74 MGB, white, wire wheels, good cond. excellent driver, $4,500, Ernie Edick 248-682-7289 (7-8)

'53 MG-TD, Excellent Cond. BRG, Biscuit interior, $12,500, Ernie Edick 248-682-7289 (7-8)

'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)

'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)

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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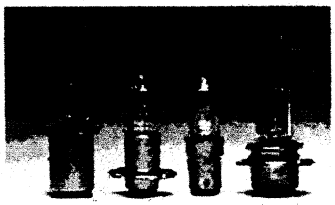

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