The Can Am CONNECTION

WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 22, No. 3 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club - May, 2002

Cecil Kimber Would Have Been Proud of Us

Snow greeted Philip Wiltshire as he left his home in Milford to meet with the rest of the gallant Windsor-Detroit MG Club members who rose early Saturday April 6th to take part in the annual Kimber Birthday Bash. Having an MGB-GT, he was more fortunate than the rest with roadsters who had to put the drafty top up or in the case of Dave Doolin, drive his TR4A topless; the car that is, not Dave. Guy St. John was the smartest, he came in his Jaguar XJ6; well at least it's British! Unfortunately, although the snow was not on the roads, the reason was salt had been used on them the night before and so a lot of Abingdon steel was exposed to its worst enemy.

For those new to the club, the Kimber Birthday Bash is usually our first run of the season and celebrates the birthday of the founder of MG Cars, Cecil Kimber, born April 12, 1888. Each year we drive to Lansing where we meet with other Michigan clubs for a private showing of a movie and a lunch at the Delhi Café.

This year, the movie was Grand Prix starring the late Steve McQueen. Not the best of movies, in fact some members who had to get up especially early were seen to take a few ZZZ's during the "excitement" of the 24 hour race, fortunately reduced in the film to about 1½ hours.

Later, at the Delhi Café, we ate lunch, listened to some very short speeches and acknowledgements and enjoyed, as we do every year, Cecil's delicious birthday cake, baked and donated by our very own Marcia Greiner.

Shown here at the starting point are: Guy St. John, Dale Brown, Philip Wiltshire, Ed Fleming, Scott Davis, Fran Lewis, Dave Doolin, Kathy Davis, Joe & Ellen Stuban, Ann St. John and Marcia & Tom Greiner.

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

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Rick Astley - Editor

After more years than he cares to remember, Ed Fleming has moved on to other responsibilities in our club and handed the role of editing the *Can-Am Connection* over to me. To have called Ed just an editor was to seriously understate his contribution to our club's Newsletter. He not only edited, but also wrote most of the content and supervised the production and mailing, a very time consuming and difficult task; like painting a bridge, no sooner had he completed the job than it was time to start all over again.

Inevitably, with a demanding new job last year, Ed was unable to produce as many *Can-Am Connections* as in previous years as well as continue organizing events including the Kimber Birthday Bash and Fall Color Tour as he does each spring and fall. While we thank this workhorse for all the years he produced this journal, we are not putting Ed out to graze yet! He will be applying his considerable organizational skills toward planning and running our events. He might also get this job back; I can vouch for the amount of hard work involved after producing just this one issue!

Unlike Ed, I am not a professional journalist. For that reason, while I will edit, produce and write some of the Newsletter content, I hope that you our membership will contribute most of it. So please send me your technical tips, chronicles, anecdotes, opinions and in fact anything you would like to share with other members.

Will a new editor bring changes to the *Can-Am Connection*? Certainly, but there are so many good things in our journal that I will not dare touch, and that will remain very familiar. As the current "webmaster" of the *On-Line Can-Am Connection* I will certainly be bringing the paper and electronic versions more in line, if only to save my having to produce two separate publications. Those members who visit the web-site will have to forgive me if I re-cycle some of its content in the paper version for the benefit of those who do not have on-line access. For those folks who are connected, *Can-Am Connection* will be available on request in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF).

I will also benchmark the *Can-Am Connection* against other clubs' Newsletters, and will not be averse to ripping off any good ideas. If you have a favorite club Newsletter that has features you think we should emulate please lend me a copy. I have also been given permission by the editor of the excellent British magazine *Enjoying MG* to use any of their articles I choose so long as full accreditation is given. I was able to buy 50 back copies on eBay for £5; unfortunately they are so heavy that the mailing charge was going to be over £100! A British friend is sneaking out about 10 at a time to me very couple of months through his company's mail room .

Besides these editing jobs, I am also looking after membership. This entails sending out notices of club dues, reminders where necessary and acknowledging receipt of monies by mailing out a Membership Directory as required by our By-Laws. Is there a member out there who will volunteer to take over this task? A computer and some knowledge of spreadsheets and mail merge is all that is necessary.

Lastly, I would like your feedback. What you would like to see, both in the journal and from our club? So write, email or call me, I will be glad to have your input.

And I promise less words next month.

Rick

Presidentially Speaking

By Dale Brown — Club President

Well the 2002 driving season is finally here and it's nice to see that so many of you have your cars on the road already. At our last meeting at the Nisbet in Windsor, the parking lot was full!

Speaking of parking lot, our Club Executive had the opportunity to hold a board meeting at a restaurant in the Detroit area last week and found it to have a great parking area for our cars. So we decided to try yet another venue for our U.S. side monthly meetings. So on June 12, 2002, we will hold our Wednesday meeting at the Brass Pointe in Farmington Hills. Rick tells us that it is the US side geographical center for our members. It is easy to get to (Freeway access all the way), has a nice room for us overlooking the parking area and has British Ale, Labatt's and other U.S. beers on tap. Food is good and prices are reasonable. So will try this one in June. (From the tunnel entrance to the Brass Pointe, it took me 20 minutes to get there. North on the Lodge, west on 696 at the end and south to 10 Mile on Orchard Lake Road… easy!)

At our board meeting we had a lot of discussion about our Monthly Newsletter and have made some changes that you will see over the next several months. I would like to encourage all of you to feel free to submit articles of interest to Rick Astley or myself for consideration. Personal interest stories as well as tech. tips, pictures, etc. would be appreciated. (Hard copy or electronic would be just fine). We even had an idea of awarding participation points for members for their submissions, which could be cashed in for Club Regalia.

We are sorry to announce that Marshal Coulter has had to resign as club Vice President for personal reasons. We would like to thank Marshal for his active participation as a board member and for all the times he had to stand-in when I could not be present at meetings. My work schedule should no longer prevent me from attending monthly meetings, so if there is any candidate out there for the job of V.P., then this is a great chance to be part of the club decision-making without committing to a high work load.

We have a great season in store for all of you this summer and fall. Please refer to the calendar of events and start marking!

So until next time, remember….

Safety Fast

Dale

Cost of Insuring an MG in Michigan Could Jump

Most of us pay very low insurance rates for the pleasures of driving our classic cars, especially if we have a good driving record and limit the number of miles driven per year. Rates in the order of $100 per year are not unheard off, so an increase of over $56 would certainly be noticed, and that is what could happen very soon. Every car insurance premium paid in Michigan includes a fee to the Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association (MCCA). Today that fee is $14.41, but legislation going through Lansing now could raise that to the MCCA's requested level of $71.15.

A bill (HB 4007) has been introduced to amend the insurance code so as to exempt historic cars from the assessment. Hagerty Classic Insurance is running a campaign to urge classic car owners to lobby their state legislators to support HB 4007.

Contact Representative Andrew Richner immediately by phone at 517-373-0154. The toll free number is 888-254-LAW1. Send email to arichner@house.state.mi.us.

After this story was featured on our web site we received the following letter from Hagerty Insurance.

Thank you very much for posting the information about the MCCA Increase and HB 4007 on your website. We do hope Michigan collector car owners win this fight! Unfortunately, the bill is currently in the hands of the Insurance and Financial Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Richner and is on hold. We sent out an email two weeks ago after the first hearing and the chairman's decision not to vote on HB 4007 encouraging our customers to call and write him. As of today, no decision has been made, again unfortunately. Chairman Richner has not decided whether to send the bill to a "study group" or bring it up for a vote. We hope for the latter, but people still need to put pressure on him. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions

Sydney McManus
Marketing and Public Relations Manager
Hagerty Insurance
231-933-3787

WINTER BATTERY STORAGE

By Otto Pope

I have been using the same tried and true methods to store my MG batteries, for the winter, for many years. Take the batteries out of the cars, clean them up, carry them into the basement, and charge them once or twice each month. Worked great for many years.

However, the last few years my wife and I have been spending two or three winter months in Florida. This left my batteries at home with no one to charge them. We also leave our Lincoln LS at home, in the garage, for the winter. It has so much electronic stuff (computers?) that if it is not driven for two weeks the life is sucked out of the gigantic battery in the trunk.

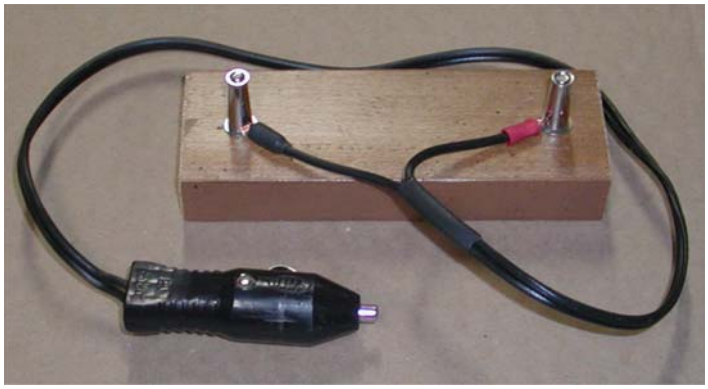
I solved my MG, Lincoln, and tractor battery charging problems by buying 4 devices called 120 Volt Automatic Battery Float Chargers They put out a very small charge only when the battery needs it. They work on batteries from 5 to 125 amps. I have seen them in auto supply stores for $30.00 and up. I bought mine from Harbor Freight for $10.00 each.

I hooked them up to the batteries and plugged them in last November, disconnected them in April, and started all of the vehicles. The batteries were all fully charged. Great little device. I bought a few extra chargers and will be selling them at the next 2 or 3 Club Meetings for $10.00.

The trickle charger uses a wall-block transformer and an electronic module to regulate the charge rate.

More on Trickle Charging ……

I use the same charger as Otto, but unlike him, I don't have the luxury of being a "snowbird" and, weather permitting, use my MGB roadster from time to time during the winter. I needed a way to be able to easily connect the charger to the car without having to lift the rear battery cover panel each time. To solve the problem I bought a cigarette lighter style plug from RadioShack for a couple of dollars, added a short 2 core cable and joined that, using color coded ring terminals, to 2 metal posts attached to an old piece of wood and spaced sufficiently far apart



so the charger's alligator clips cannot touch one another. Now I can simply push the connector into the lighter socket to charge the battery.

By the way, at my electricity rates, leaving this charger on 24/7 costs about 80 cents per month.

Rick Astley

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A New Range of W-DMGC Shirts Now Available

Our US Regalia person, Elvin Davis, has found a source for high quality 100% cotton at reasonable prices. Each has the club logo, bounded by the Canadian and US flags, embroidered above the pocket and is available in a wide range of sizes and colors, in both short and long sleeve versions.

Because of the wide range of sizes and colors, shirt are only made to order, so see Elvin or Roli at the next club meeting or call them, their phone numbers are on Page 2.

Price: $19 US or $25 Canadian

Men's Sizes					
Size:	**XXS**	**XS**	**S**	**M**	**L**
Long Sleeve	30 3/4	31 1/2	32 3/4	34 1/2	35 1/2
Collar	13	13 1/2	14 1/2	15 1/2	16 1/2
Back Length	26 1/2	27	28	31	32

Size:	**XL**	**2XL**	**3XL**	**4XL**	**5XL**
Long Sleeve	36 1/2	37 1/2	39 1/2	40 1/2	41 1/2
Collar	17 1/2	18 1/2	20	21	22
Back Length	33	34	35	36	37

Women's Sizes					
Size:	**XS(4)**	**S(6)**	**M(8)**	**L(10)**	**XL(12)**
Sleeve	30	303/4	31 1/2	32 1/4	33
Collar	12 1/2	13	13 1/2	14	14 1/2
Waist	17	18	19	20	21
Back Length	26	26 1/2	27	27 1/2	28

Size:	**2XL(14)**	**3XL(16)**
Sleeve	33 3/4	34 1/2
Collar	15	15 1/2
Waist	22	23
Back Length	28 1/2	29

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For Sale---1971 MG Midget. Blaze Red (orange). Arizona car (no rust). Fresh paint, new wire wheels, new Michelin XZX tires. Engine, trans, rear end, suspension, and interior all rebuilt/replaced. See photo on web site. $3899 or best offer.
Otto Pope. 248-437-7386.

'78 MGB, White, rubber bumper roadster with overdrive, wire wheels, black interior with no tears, new top. Engine completely rebuilt but not put back in car. Couldn't wait and bought a driver and never finished this one! It's up on blocks so bottom is easy to see. Asking $2,500. Also, hard top that needs some attention $150.
DaveBartilson@Comcast.Net for pictures or call 248-354-4447

1974 MGB For Sale. Complete Rebuilt Engine @ 7,000 miles, New Paint Job , Primrose Yellow, Electronic Ignition, Recorded Radiator & new thermostat, Electronic Fan w/ thermostat control, New Alternator, Rebuilt Starter, Gas shocks all 4 corners, New exhaust, New Tires (approx. 5,000 miles), New Rack & Pinion Asm., New Front King Pin & Axle Asm., New Fuel Pump & regulator, New Weber Carb Kit, New Battery, Rebuilt Brakes all 4 corners, Always stored in Garage.
$7,000
734-254-7954 Dave
British Car Posters & Ads
Jay Kollin 734-455-6949

Parts, Parts Parts. Front fenders for rubber bumper MGB $350 each or $600 for both. H.D. clutch kit $165. New LE steering wheel $100. 10 row oil cooler with hoses $100. Lowering kit F & R $70. Rear Spax shock kit for rubber bumper B $200. 2 Weber carbs, one early and one late $250. New radiator '77-'80 MGB $150. Peaco high performance exhaust kit with header $250. R & L doors $50 each. Indicator switch $45. 7/8" front sway bar used $ 50.
Jay Parks 313-402-9448

MGB Parts 74 engine, 2 gearboxes (one overdrive, one not), rear axle, 4 wheels (3 with new tires), prop shaft, GT windows, misc parts from parting out cars.
Fran Lewis 248-681-8420

Wanted - Fuel Gauge Does anybody have a fuel gauge for a '68 - '71 MGB they want to sell? That's the one with the needle pivoted at the top.
Rick Astley - 248-737-1978

'60 MGA 1600 Roadster, VIN GHNLB3089 NAMGAR # 4139. Excellent mechanically, paint & interior done 11 years ago, includes side curtains, tonneau cover & working period BMC AM radio. Also includes approx. $1,000 worth of new restoration parts, tools & manuals. $10,000
David Torby 248-788-1391

'73 Midget. Chrome Bumper, round wheel arch, 1275 cc. Rare Black Tulip Color. Won a couple of 3rd place awards at Twist and Battle of the Brits, starting to show rust on rear fenders. Nice drive when it starts. $2,900 or offer.
Ed Fleming 248-349-3799.

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

MGB Front Fenders for early roadster, one LH, one RH. good condition. $125 each. Also wire wheels $15 each.
Dave 734-434-5990

'61 MGA Coupe. Rare car, complete but disassembled. good body ready for restoration. $4,000.
Fran Lewis 248-681-8420

'90 Range Rover. A classic for restoration or everyday driver. Red, AWD, power sun roof, leather seats. Some rust, 137,000 miles. $8,000.
Fran Lewis 248-681-8420

'59 MGA 15W Coupe Nice older restoration, good cond, red with aftermarket wire wheels. (orig. wheels available). $10,000
Fran Lewis 248-681-8420

'80 MGB. White with black top,. You know what you are getting with this original, unrestored beauty. A must see with only 24K, extras included. $8,750.
248-360-5986, ask for Matt.

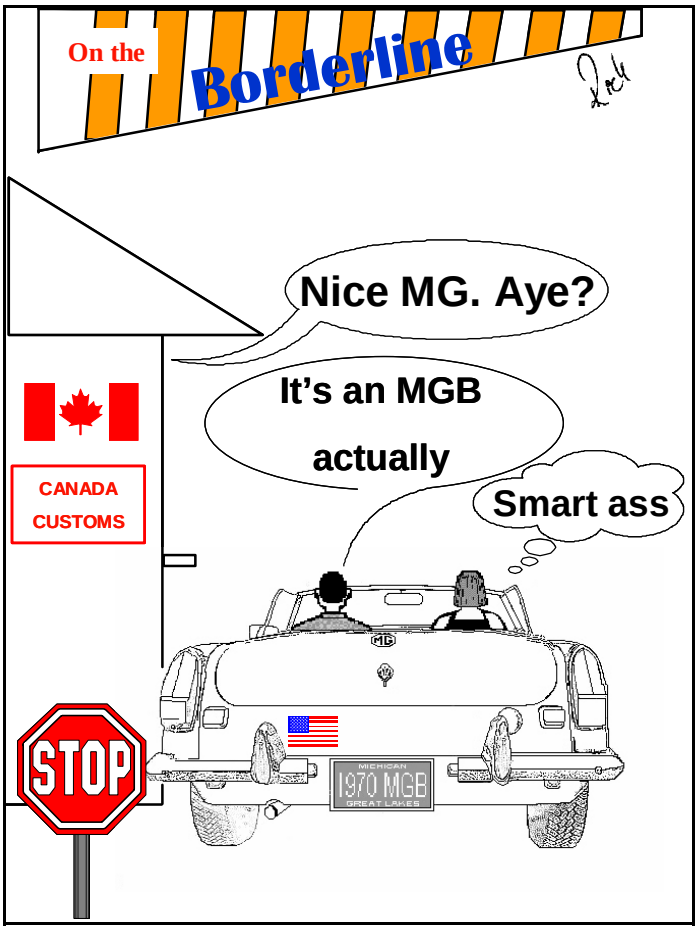
MGC Parts: Non overdrive gear box, rear axle, engine block, cylinder head, steel wire wheels. Fran Lewis 248-681-8420

The Little British Car Co Announces Sweepstakes

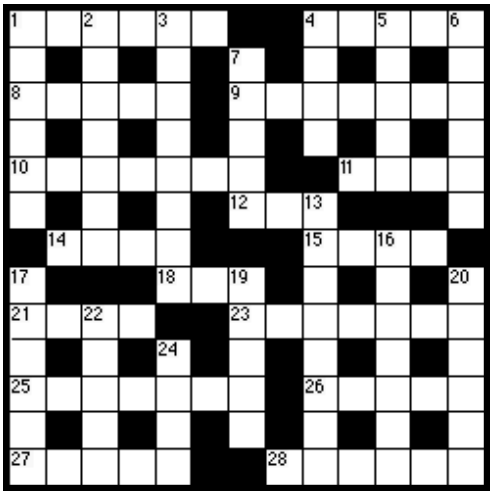
The Little British Car Co., Ltd has announced the "Win with LBCarCo 2002 Sweepstakes". Each time a customer orders from The Little British Car Co. on their secure server, they are automatically entered in the sweepstakes for a chance to win one of several prizes. The grand prize is a Trip to London, England, including airfare, hotel accommodations, London Underground pass and spending money.

LBC also announced other sweepstakes prizes too, along with quarterly drawings and prizes. Their website is at www.LBCarCo.com has complete details and prize listings (no purchase is necessary).

The sweepstakes runs from January 1, 2002 to midnight December 31, 2002.



W-DMGC Crossword



Across

1 Detroit jumper found in an engine (6)
4 Bright spark (5)
8 Force into motion (5)
9 Crimson British fender on ice perhaps (3-4)
10 Make mincemeat of (7)
11 Prince Charles' sister (4)
12 Hydraulic oil number (4)
14 Oxford, England river (4)
15 Tick over speed (4)
18 UK insult; N.A. turf (3)
21 Point Pelee's lake (4)
23 To diesel (7)
25 Street pig?
26 Hoist (5)
27 Sounds like dripping onions (5)
28 Mint condition (6)

Down

1 Distributor contacts (6)
2 Sucks gasoline perhaps (7)
3 Good feature in the sump, bad on the driveway (8)
4 Hot brake phenomenon (4)
5 Steering gear instruction (5)
6 Loftier (6)
7 MG's, the best of the - (5)
13 Wheel lever (4-4)
16 English trucks (7)
17 British gas (6)
19 Daimler-Chrysler brand (5)
20 You're kidding! (6)
22 Vacuous (4)
24 So (4)

Solution on next page

Monthly Meetings

In the absence of having had a suitable USA venue, we have usually elected to meet at the Nisbet Inn, Windsor through the months of April through September. This is a departure from the policy of having meetings in the USA on even months. However, as Dale mentioned in Presidentially Speaking, we will try a new US place, The Brass Pointe, for our June 12th meeting.

Meetings usually start around 7:30 PM, but the earlier you arrive the more likely you are to eat comfortably at a table. Please help the Nisbet out by obeying Ontario law and not taking alcoholic beverages outside the building.

The Nisbet Inn from The Windsor - Detroit Tunnel
Exit Canada Customs and turn left onto Park St.
Turn left at the first light onto Ouellette Avenue.
After about 0.5 miles (0.8 km) turn right into Erie St.
Turn immediately right into Pelissier St.
The Nisbet Inn and parking lot are on the left, at the junction with Elliott St.

The Nisbet Inn from The Ambassador Bridge
Exit Canada Customs and go straight onto Huron Church Road.
Take the second major left turn onto Wyandotte St. West.
Follow Wyandotte for 1.7 miles (2.8 km) then turn right onto Ouellette Avenue.
After about 0.4 miles (0.6 km) turn right into Erie St.
Turn immediately right into Pelissier St.
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Solution to Crossword (see pervious page)

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2002 Calendar of Events **Bold Text Indicates W-DMC Events**

May	
Sat. 4th - Sun. 5th	25th Annual British Swap Meet and Car Show - Wadsworth, OH
Wed. 8th	**Monthly Meeting - Nisbet Inn**
Thurs. 16th - Sun. 19th	Springthing 2002 - Corydon, IN
Fri. 17th - Sun. 19th	Import Car Swap Meet - Carlisle, PA Contact Dale Brown for possible caravanning
June	
Sat. 1st	**London Sports Car Club Annual Show - London, ON**
Sat. 1st	The Brits are Back - Fort Washington, PA
Sun. 2nd	The British Return to Fort Meigs - Perrysburg, OH. Contact Dale Brown for possible caravanning
Sun. 9th	Concours d'Elegance - Cincinnati, OH
Wed. 12th	**Monthly Meeting - Brass Pointe**
Sat. 15th - Sun. 16th	**Stratford Festival Philip Wiltshire will provide details**
July	
Sun. 7th	Mad Dogs & Englishmen - Hickory Corners, Kalamazoo, MI
Wed. 10th	**Monthly Meeting - Nisbet Inn**
Sun. 21st	Brits in the Park - Lindsay, ON
Sat. 27th	**Summer Picnic - Pelee Island, ON**
August	
Sat. 3rd	Concours in the Park - Meadow Brook, Rochester, MI
Sat. 3rd	British Car Day - Dayton, OH

TBD = To be determined

August	…. continued
Fri. 9th - Sun. 11th	The Roadster Factory Summer Party - Indiana, PA
Sat. 10th	**A Midsummer-Night's Rally**
Wed. 14th	**Monthly Meeting - TBD**
Thurs. 15th - Sun. 18th	**Abingdon Summer Party - Abingdon, IL**
Thurs. 22nd	**Summer Evening Run - Michigan**
September	
Sun. 8th	**Battle of the Brits - Freedom Hill Park, Sterling Heights, MI**
Wed. 11th	**Monthly Meeting - Nisbet Inn**
Sat. 14th - Sun. 15th	**Trip to Put-In Bay - Lake Erie, OH**
Thurs. 19th Sun. 22nd	British Invasion - Stowe, VT. Contact Dale Brown for possible caravanning
Fri. 20th - Sun. 22nd	Indy British Motor Days - Indianapolis, IN
TBD	**Lucas Night Rally**
October	
Wed. 9th	**Monthly Meeting - TBD**
Sun. 13th	**Fall Color Tour**
Sat. 26th	**Murder Mystery - Heritage Park, ON**
November	
Wed. 13th	**Monthly Meeting - Nisbet Inn**
December	
Wed. 11th	**Monthly Meeting - TBD**
TBD	**Hibernation Party - Venue TBD**

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