The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 24, No. 6 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club July, 2004

Fun on Wheels

By Ralph Poupard

As seems to be the trend for 2004, the skies on Sunday, June 13th were threatening with dark clouds, and rain looking imminent. Despite this 4 MGs (all white) a motorcycle, and one SUV met at the Tim Horton's. We arrived at Heritage Village in the procession of all white MGs. We were joined later by a green TR6, a red TR7, and my red MGB. Overall attendance at the event was down slightly, with more cars arriving later in the day after the weather had improved. We ended up parking between the church and the railway station in an area that seemed to hold the majority of the foreign cars at the event, with Volkswagen Beetles, a Mercedes 190 SL and a London Taxi. At the show we also found a '53 MG TD, a '79 MGB for sale, an MG TF for sale, and an Anglia. Despite all of the recent rain there were only a few spots that had soggy soil, but there was no danger of cars getting stuck.

There was a vendor's area with many parts for domestic vehicles, but also some vendors with books and car care products that were more general in nature. One of the vendors had an Austin America for sale, which required a restoration of epic proportions. We also toured the Transportation Museum on the site, which happens to have a rubber bumper MGB in it's collection.

In the afternoon the temperature rose and it became very muggy. The sound of rumbling V8s with performance camshafts, and the smell of unregulated hydrocarbons were in the air. Later in the afternoon it began to look like it was going to storm. but the rains held off for the rest of the show.

We are planning to return to Heritage Village at the end of October for the Murder Mystery. We'll hope for better weather then.

Stratford 2004 – The Count of Monte Cristo

June 19th/20th 2004

The weather was our biggest worry this year. How to keep 66 people happy if it's thundering with inches of rain falling……..

Although it rained on Friday evening, this proved the last wet stuff until we were returning on the ferry on Sunday and got splashed a bit with lake water.

On a bright Saturday morning, we had our usual assortment of MG cars, including several MG TDs and a TF. The distance award going to Ken and Kathy Nelson who travel every year from the other side of Grand Rapids in their TD to participate in the event. We met the majority of travelers at the intersection of M59 and I94. Others were to join at the ferry in Marine City and at Sarnia. Some had traveled to Stratford the previous day to take in other shows.

The group was so large that we split it into two and the Butcher's led the first group off in their red MGA Coupe while I waited for one or two stragglers. The ride from the M59 start to Marine City, across the blue water of the river to Canada, up the Canadian riverfront to Sarnia went smooth and uneventful.

With a full compliment of cars, we set off for Stratford

This year's Westover dessert creation

(Continued on page 5)

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

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Classified Ads:
$5.00 for 3 months
Free to members

Display Ads:
Bus' Card $5/issue, $30/year
¼ Page $8/issue, $50/year
½ Page. $16/issue, $100/year

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Rick Astley—Editor

When my wife, (then) teenage son and I moved to Michigan in 1996 it was as a result of a job transfer and so, apart from colleagues in my company's small local office, we knew nobody here. A few months later, when we moved into our house, we were disappointed to find our neighbors to be, well, rather less neighborly than we had encountered in the other places we have lived and we were beginning to fear that making friends and acquaintances would very difficult. We had owned an MG both in Canada and the UK and so I looked to the web to find a local club. I called Mike Derderian, who was then in charge of membership, and he persuaded me that the Windsor-Detroit MG Club was the one to join. I guess you could say that we have never looked back, the club having provided us with the opportunity to meet a lot of people, many of whom we are now proud to call friends.

I was reminded of this last month when I was considering bidding for an MG on eBay. I was able to turn to our club's membership for help and advise on the subject of bidding, snyping (submitting a last second bid) and the merits of the particular car itself. When I decided to go ahead, and eventually won the bid, I had to find some way to get the car from Virginia to Michigan. If I had to I was prepared to fly down, pick it up and drive it back, a risky business with a 34 year old vehicle I was buying sight-unseen. I need not have been concerned, Jeff Zorn offered the use of his Excursion and trailer and himself to share the driving. Gordie Bird then volunteered to come along too, so we had 3 drivers for our 24 hour round trip. I could not ask for more generosity.

Of course I hope I can individually return favors to Jeff, Gordie and everyone else who helped in some way or another. However, I also want to repay the club, without which I would never found such a great bunch of people. I trust am doing this already to some extent with the time and effort in producing this newsletter and administrating the membership. In addition, from time to time I have been able to use what technical skills I have, apropos MGs electrics, to help others with their cars, doing so in full knowledge that I may have to call on the assistance of other club members when I need help. Indeed, the car I bought has an Oldsmobile V8 engine and Rover transmission of which I know nothing, but I knew that club members such as Graham Creswick and Harry Mac Lean could be turned to for help and advice and I was not disappointed.

When I joined the club my application form described the club as follows: "*The Windsor-Detroit MG Club isn't a bunch of men standing around in greasy coveralls drinking beer (at least not all the time). The international camaraderie is what gives the WDMGC its unique character".* How true that has proved to be.

While on the subject of the membership, I have changed the sign-up and renewal form somewhat since I have been in charge of managing it. In the interests of Political Correctness, it no longer asks for your date of birth and occupation; they are none of our business. While we have removed those questions, changing times have prompted us to add more. For a few years now we have been asking for e-mail addresses so that we can broadcast reminders and changes to upcoming events to at least those who have on-line access. If such messages become a nuisance, please ask me to remove your e-mail address from our list. When you next get your membership reminder, you will also be asked if you want to give us another piece of information — your cell phone number. This is optional and you should be aware that it will go into the club directory that is mailed to ever member. The purpose is for use in emergencies so that you can contact other members, and they can contact you, should you be left behind due to breakdown or other circumstance during a club driving event.

By the way, we welcome all to our club and really only need enough information to distinguish you as a member and to be able to contact you. If your name is John Smith and you would rather be known as Bill Shakespeare, that's your choice and we'll respect it from now onward Bill.

When it comes time to renew your membership, you will receive a form on which is pre-filled with the data we have about you. Please take a moment to check that it is correct and as you want it. When your annual dues are received, a copy of the latest club Membership Directory will be sent to you in acknowledgement. The Directory is updated only once a year, usually in late December. You don't have to wait for your renewal notice to inform us of any changes to your contact information, if you want them included in the directory, just get them to me, Rick Astley, at the address in the sidebar on the left, anytime up to mid-December.

Presidentially Speaking

By Ralph Poupard — Club President

It has been quite a busy month and I hope you have been able to get out for some fun in your British sports car. The weather has been up to it's old tricks, but for the most part we have managed to dodge the rain and storms.

On May 29th we went on the Essex County wine tour. Thanks to Dale Brown for an excellent day. We toured 4 of the smaller wineries in Essex County. This included tours of the facilities and an introduction into the world of wines. And of course we got to sample numerous wines at each winery. MGs, wine, and good food and a few brews afterward at Quigbee's ... it doesn't get much better than that. Hopefully we can run this event again next year.

The next weekend we attended the London Classic British Car Show in London, ON. We met at a select Tim Hortons (meaning we could have selected from many) and caravanned to London. The feature car at this year's show was the MGA, so I got to park in the "VIP" area with the other MGAs. Tim Burston won a first prize for his great Bugeye Sprite. The rain held off for this event also. We were on a roll.

The following day Matt Bade led a group down to the British Car and Motorcycle Show at Fort Meigs OH. I was not able to attend this event, but I heard that a good time was had by all.

Three days later we had the monthly meeting at the Brass Pointe, and the rain and storms finally caught up with us. The turnout was a little light, no doubt because of the impending storms. The storm hit briefly, but by that time it was too late for much of a tire kicking session. I experienced the line ups at the Ambassador Bridge first hand for this meeting in both directions. This is the first time I have had any major delays crossing the border, so I guess I can't complain too much.

On the 13th we attended Fun on Wheels at Heritage Village. At the meeting place (another Tim Hortons) there were 4 white MGs in the lot by the time we were ready to leave. It was heavily overcast and it looked like we were in for a pounding for a while. The rains passed us by and eventually the sky cleared and it became quite muggy for the rest of the afternoon.

The following weekend the MGs invaded Stratford, Ontario for the Festival weekend. This year's play was "The Count of Monte Cristo". The dinner at the Westover was great, as usual, and the following day we attended a back stage tour of the Festival Theatre. Thanks to Phillip Wiltshire again for arranging this trip. As someone once said "If you didn't have fun on this trip there must be something wrong with you".

Club MGs at the Bed & Breakfast in Stratford

Check the calendar for upcoming events in July. Kathi and I plan on attending Mad Dogs and Englishmen in Hickory Corners Michigan, and the RM Classic Car Show in Chatham, Ontario. Then it will be off to Muskoka for a few weeks of relaxation. I am hoping that I might be able to bring one of the MGs up this year. Oh man, there are some great MG roads up there!

Wow, that's a lot of miles adding up, but there's no sense letting our cars collect dust, now is there?

Safety MG Fast

Ralph

Bob Fougere's "Pumpkin" 1977 MGB

Over the last few months we have been asking members to tell us both about their cars and about any names they give them. Well Bob Fougere has rolled both subjects into one.

When we tell you Bob calls his car Pumpkin, you may think that's the pet name, however, that's just the colour Bob decided

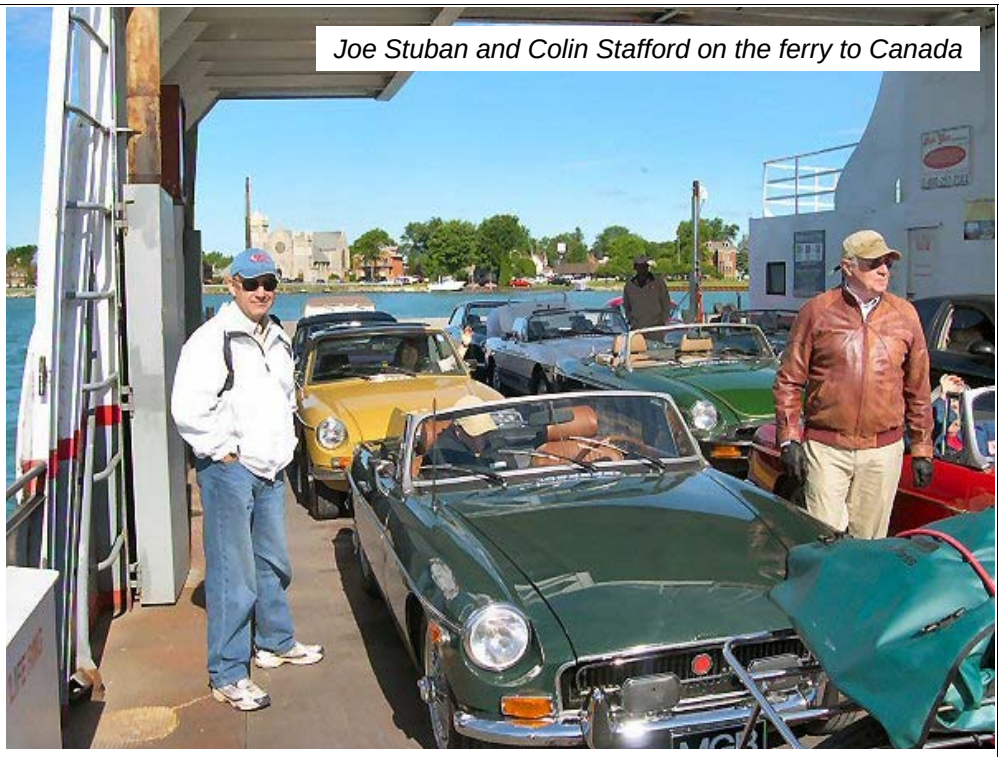
best describes the car, although we suspect that the colour is what MG called Sandglow. No, Bob calls his car "Thee B" and has the license plate to prove it.

Bob tells us that Thee B is his third MGB, purchased in October 2002, he had been looking for another one on and off over the years, sometimes wondering why he was doing what he was doing. Bob is the 3rd owner of this car. He found her in Keego Harbor and, top was down on a cool October day, took her for a spin around the lakes and was hooked — again. The past year and a half has been spent replacing and upgrading equipment. One of the early "Upgrades" was to get a plate with his pet name for the car, which seen in the picture.

Bob says, "Guess that you could say that I have had my third childhood - again. Most recently, a set of dual carbs were put on by Guy St John. Thank-you for letting me share my thoughts on my summer toy!"

(Continued from page 1)

along our now traditional route, making sure not to travel on any kind of Inter-state/province road. At one stage, I was able to look back along the convoy and see 24 MG cars stretching back for nearly ¾ of a mile. A great sight!!



Joe Stuban and Colin Stafford on the ferry to Canada

By the time we were crossing the Canadian countryside heading towards Stratford, the temperature had not increased much. In fact, we learned later that although dry and sunny, the wind made the temperature 20°F (11°C) below normal and convertible tops and sweaters were added at one or two opportune stops.

Our dinner at St Mary's Westover Inn was as nice as ever. A group of our Canadian members also joined the dinner and we ended up with 66 in attendance. Don't worry, the Inn could take another 30 for dinner. This year's specialty MG dessert was as creative as in previous years. This time it was a wire wheel with the MG logo balanced on top; all in various chocolates and sponge cake. Never did rubber taste so good!!

We all departed for the theater and watched the Count of Monte Cristo with swash buckling swordplay. No musical this year as the Festival has only matinée musicals at this time. Back at the hotel, we "kicked tires" about the show over cups of coffee.

The Sunday dawned as bright and sunny as we could have hoped for. Still a bit cool, but this time I had my long trousers on as a talisman against cool weather. Good weather for running MGs though.

After a full breakfast, most of the group headed back to the Festival theater in Stratford for a "behind the scenes" tour. This is something we arrange every 5 years or so. The tour reminds you of the hundreds of people it takes the Theater Company to make each of the shows and plays work so well for us, the audience.

At this point, the group divided up, some electing to drive home (Father's Day), others to explore Stratford and the Art in the Park artists exhibitions. We led a small convoy back to the Ontario coast and to Bayfield for a lunch stop and a walk through the various stores in the little village.

We fuelled all the MGs and headed down the coast past Sarnia to Sombra to cross the river to Marine City. So, by 5 pm we had returned to the U.S. where the group finally split up and headed for the barn.

Next year's date is already cast in stone – it's June 18th 2005. We have no idea what will be playing in Stratford, but I'm sure something good will be on for us to see!! Why not come along this time. It's a lot of fun with the group being easy going, and making a low stress run across a small part of Canada. Call me and talk it over!!!

Philip Wiltshire

MGs by the river Avon

Belle Isle Photo Shoot

by Bill Reeves

A few weeks ago I attended an outing with the Detroit Triumph Sportscar Club. One of the members is a professional photographer. The event was a photo shoot at Detroit's historic Belle Isle park. Sunday morning we met at a local parking lot and drove together to Belle Isle, picking up members along the way. We were provided with maps of the Island pointing out the best locations to use as a backdrop

We rallied at the fountain at the South end of the Island. We were provided with about 10 min. of instruction on lighting and position of the cars. I was lucky enough to catch a freighter in the background while parked on the grass. Other good locations included the GM bldg and Detroit Skyline in the background over the Detroit River. The weather was cool and overcast. The conditions were great to take good photos. Too much sun will overpower the shot and take away from the subject. We went off on our own for two hours to shoot and explore the island. There were very few people there other than a group of bike riders.

Another member was able to get us in to the DYC for Lunch. We enjoyed a good meal and fellowship before heading off about 1 pm.

The photos are posted on the Triumph's club web site. At lunch we were informed that Dutch Mandel a noted automotive journalist will view the shots and pick a winner for a "just for fun contest". I would like to see what the other people came up with.

Guy's Garage, Inc.

Service & Repair for the Vintage British Motor Car

Guy St. John
Phone: 248..349..3649
email: guystjohn@comcast.net

Hours: M – F 8:30 – 5:30
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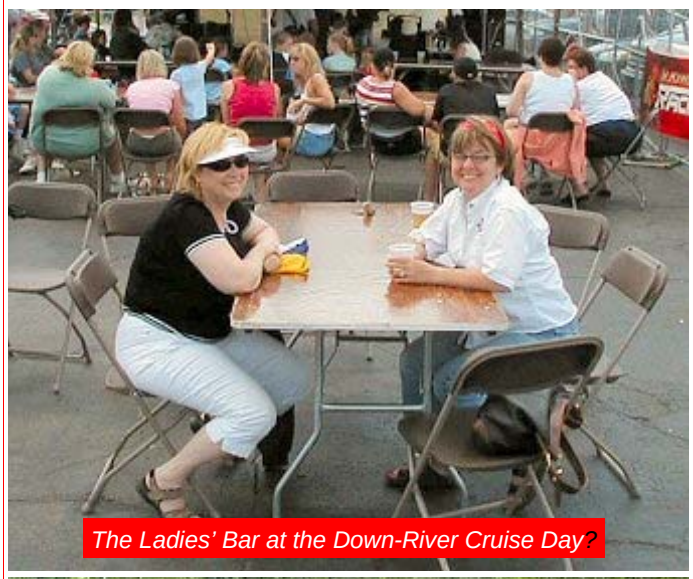
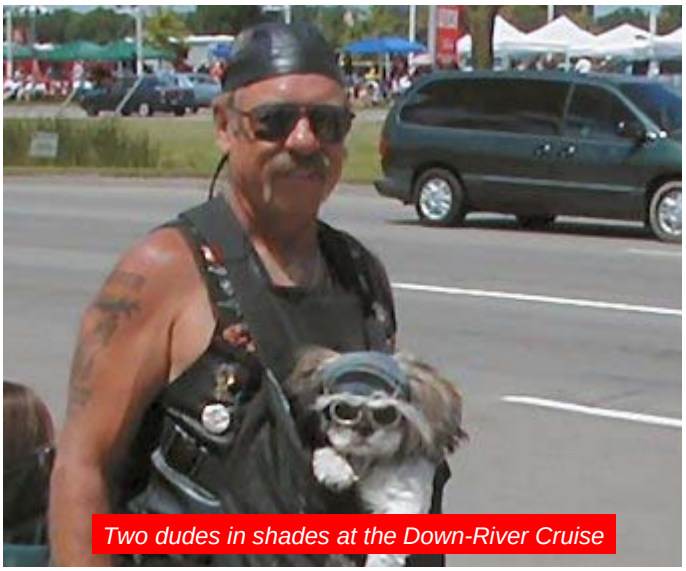
Pictures From Other June Events



The Ladies' Bar at the Down-River Cruise Day?



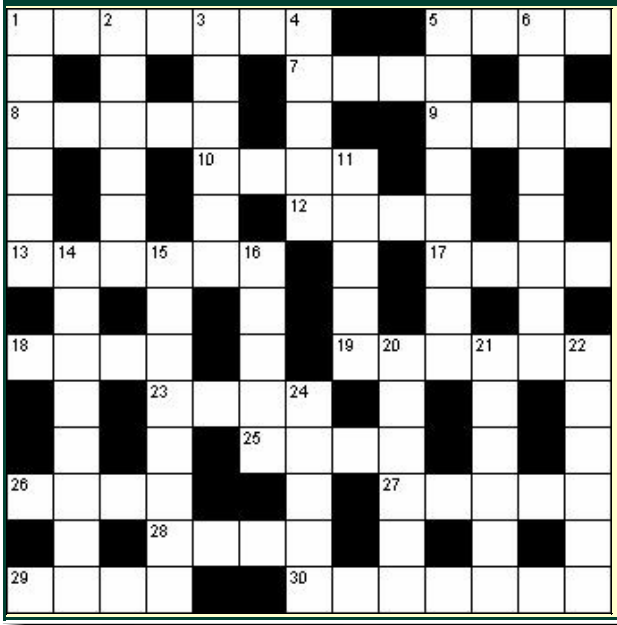
Two dudes in shades at the Down-River Cruise

The Ypsilanti Orphan Car Show

The Ypsilanti Orphan Car Show

Here and below: Essex County Wine Tour

The Windsor - Detroit MG Club Crossword



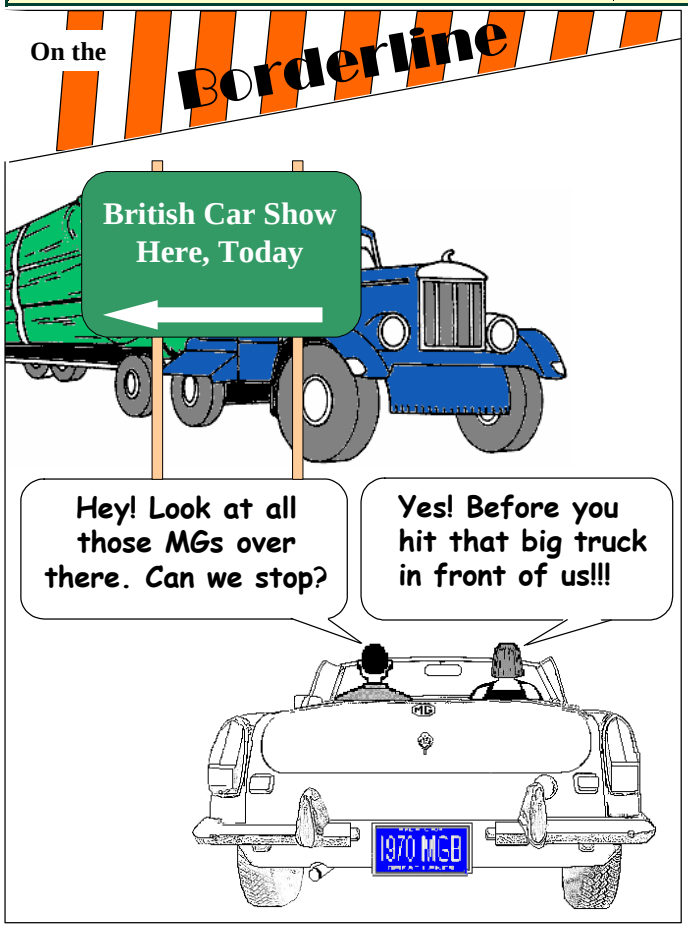
Across

1 & 5 Automobile smoker
7 Miles per ——
8 Cog wheels
9 Lubricates
10 Heaviness
12 Cab
13 Improves by editing
17 Join end to end
18 Gear lever end
19 Modifies
23 Flat water craft
25 & 26 Certain MGAs
27 Some Daimler UK sports cars
28 Caffeine nut
29 Honda and Hyundai home
30 Steering swivel device (4-3)

Down

1 Motor
2 The last car you ride in
3 Tireless?
4 Anti —— device
5 Forbid
6 Smokey vehicle?
11 Florida city
14 Very small vehicles (4-4)
15 Omaha's state
16 Change 8 across
20 England and Ontario city
21 Catch with radar?
22 All —— tires
24 Make a small adjustment

Solution below



This month's *On the Borderline* idea came from Isabelle Renaud and was submitted by husband Jack. Isabelle is an accomplished artist so I hope she will not be offended by the rendering of her joke.

Jack also let us know that Isabelle's birthday is in July, so this will be a surprise for her.

Happy Birthday Isabelle!

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club Welcomes its Newest Members

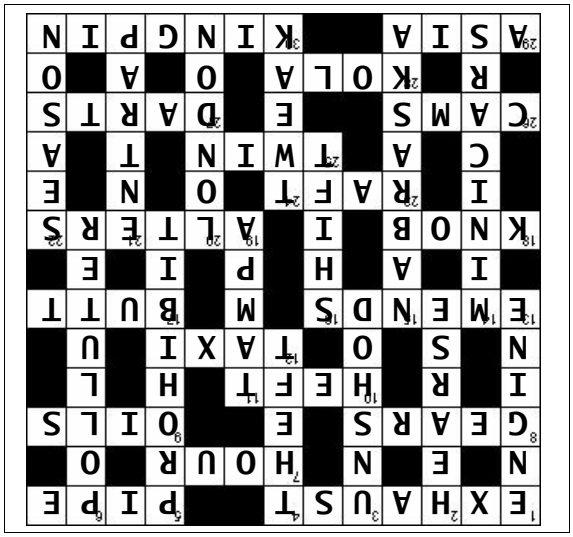
Charles & Theresa Zichichi - Windsor, Ontario
1977 BRG MGB

Ron & Marj Garant - Essex, Ontario
1977 White Midget

Stephen & Debbie Funtig - Windsor, Ontario
1961 Red MGA

Dave & Tracy Lempke - Northville, Michigan
1974 Dk Blue MGB, 2000 Dk Green Land Rover, 2003 Topaz Jaguar

Tom & Andrea Booth - Farmington Hills, MI
1976 Gold MGB



Classified Advertisements

2 MGBs and 24 years of Parts. Selling as 1 Lot.
1969 MGB-GT Primrose. Body and Paint by Tom Shipley. 70% restored.
1974 MGB Roadster Blaze Orange. 77,600 miles. One owner. Good Condition, runs well. Factory hard top.
Ron Harmon. 734-676-1514

1960 MGA Red. Very good condition. New battery, nearly new clutch. .
$13,000 or near offer.
George Uridge 248-474-6392

1978 MGB, dark brown/tan top, tonneau, car cover,excellent appearance and mechanical condition, 2nd place winner in class 2 yrs at Battle of the Brits, must be seen to appreciate. Stored in barn. Drive away for $9,950. Farmington Hills, MI.
Only serious buyers- contact vsnider@mbia.org

WANTED LH (driver's) door for an MGB rubber bumper. Must be in good condition. Can I really get lucky and find a black door with silver LE strips?
E-mail iofnewt@provide.net. or call
Tom in Dearborn @ 313-562-2377.

1976 MGB. Must sell. Red, well-maintained & stored winters. $4,000 o.b.o. Call 269-849-0756. (SW Michigan)

1950 MG TD Original, fair condition, runs and drives very well. Solid body and frame. All electrical works. Has new brake pads, brake lines and re-built brake cylinders. Also new tires, fuel pump, flywheel ring gear, clutch pad, and battery. Needs canvas, interior, paint and TLC. Has not been regularly driven since 1967. Garage kept. $5,500. Davison, Michigan. Call Dave at 810 658 3732 after 4 pm or e-mail dreid@gfn.org. I can provide pictures if interested.

British Car Posters & Ads
Jay Kollin 734-455-6949

1978 MG Midget. 31,000 miles; no rust, new paint/carpet, long time owner, many updates. $4,200 or best.
734-522-7336 after 6 anytime weekends. Or email 58beau@comcast.net. Garden City, MI.

British Car Repair and Maintenance. North Oakland County area. Complete service available. Very reasonable.
Also available for computer repairs and virus scans.
Gordon Bird 248-391-2395. Email. gobird@comcast.net

1978 MGB moved here with me from BC in 2003. Kept inside over winter. Brand new paint job and brand new Pirelli tires. I would like $6,500 Cdn.
Evenings at 613-544-8449 or via e-mail,
alexander.mitchell@sympatico.ca (Kingston, Ontario).

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

1975 MGB, Tahiti Blue/Black interior; engine rebuilt by John Twist. $7,500.
Rich Wagner 248 624-9573

1976 MG Midget. Less than 1,000 miles on rebuilt motor; restorable condition or use for parts; top; tonneau cover included. $900 or best.
248-366-1092 for details. (Commerce, MI)

1979 MGB. excellent condition, 7,000 ORIGINAL miles; garaged, summer-driven only; all original (excepting replacement parts). Asking $15,000. Only serious buyers please.
Contact shauna_matthews@msn.com. (Lansing, MI).

Please let us know if for any reason you don't want your classified ad to run in future issues. Please also let us know if your ad has been running for 3 months and you want it to continue to appear, as it may otherwise be removed to make room for later entries.
Contact the editor if you wish to respond to an e-mail-only contact, but have no access yourself.

New Regalia Available

For all regalia items, please see Elvin Davis or Roli Sylvestre at the next monthly meeting, or contact them at the numbers given on page 2.

Grille Badge. 3" / 7.5 cm approx. dia. Supplied with hardware necessary for fitment to grille. Badge bar clip not included. $25US / 25 CAD

Lapel Pin. 1" / 25 mm dia.
$4US / 6 CAD

Key Fob. $5US / 7 CAD

Mad Dogs and Englishmen XIV Saturday July 10th.

We're off to Gilmore near Kalamazoo, so it's an early start so as to both get there in good time and beat the heat and humidity that often accompanies this July event.

We'll have a couple of meeting places:

- 7:30 at the Meijer's parking lot on 8 mile and Haggerty in Northville
- 8:15 at the gas station on the corner of US23 and M36 (9 Mile Road) Pinckney exit.

The second start points allows those who live the western suburbs an alternative departure point. We will stop at least twice along the way to allow for leg stretching and rest stops.

We should arrive at the show around 10:30. This should give everyone plenty of time to participate in the show, check out the various fun events, and enjoy the barns/museums which are included in your entrance fee. As a bonus, there 3 additional museums since last year including Hudsons, Pierce-Arrows and cars manufactured in Kalamazoo .

After the various results of the show are announced, around 3:30, we can head back the way we came although I know that some folks will opt for the freeway home and that's fine. The trip is about 110 miles through some of the most scenic and enjoyable roads that the club gets to drive all year. The featured marque this year is Lotus.

The museums are worth the trip alone. Food vendors are excellent. I encourage everyone who can make it to do so. If you're a car nut, either British or domestic, and who isn't, you'll enjoy this day.

Participants wishing to ensure they stay in touch please note my mobile phone number: 586-291-8043. Before the event please feel free to call with questions at: 248-683-1210 (H) or 248-674-1200 (W).

Matt Bade

Metro Detroit Road Closures

Last month we warned about the closures of I-96 ramps to and from roads between and including Telegraph Rd and the Southfield Freeway. These are ongoing

Closure of the M10 Lodge Freeway to replace aging bridges over I-94 is slated for this summer, but no dates have been announced. This is a major route to and from both the bridge and tunnel so try to check before leaving.

www.michigan.gov/mdot/ is a good source of information.

Summer British Knights. Our good friends at the Detroit Triumph Sports Car Club have once again invited us to join them the 3rd Wednesday of each month. This year, Summer British Knight will be at Gatsby's, 45701 Grand River, Novi. July 21st is the next date.

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JULY 16 - 18 2004 · CHATHAM, ONTARIO, CANADA

Celebrating 25 Years of Vintage Automobile Excellence

The Windsor Detroit MG Club is invited to attend the RM Classic Car Anniversary Weekend in Chatham, Ontario. Events are scheduled for all three days. Check out their website at http://www.rmcars.com/25years/index.cfm . You will note there is a Custom and Classic Car show on Saturday that you can participate in for a nominal fee.

On Saturday July 17th there will be a Club BBQ at the home of John and Rosanne Brown in Chatham. Come spend the day in downtown Chatham enjoying all the events on King Street and in Tecumseh Park and then retire to the Brown's for food, drink (BYOB) and swimming (food and soft drinks supplied by the Club). For those of you wanting to enjoy all three days there are three rooms reserved in Chatham at the Travelodge (contact John Brown 519-351-3498 or tr6@cogeco.ca to reserve a room, note they will be turned back in to the Travelodge prior to the date if no one needs a room, all motels in Chatham are already booked solid for this weekend). Anyone wishing to camp are welcome to use the backyard!

With the summer driving season in full swing this may be a good time to restate the Club rules for traveling with a group of fellow club members.

Rules for a Windsor-Detroit MG Car Club Caravan

The ideal size for a trouble free caravan is 4 to 6 cars. A larger group should be split. When driving in a caravan your responsibility is to the car BEHIND You. The lead car driver is responsible for navigation and keeping an eye on the car behind him/her. The last car driver is responsible for any car that drops out of line and is not seen by the driver in front of him/her. If the car behind you slows down or stops at the side of the road, for any reason, it is your responsibility to slow down and keep the car behind you in sight. IF THE LEAD CAR TAKES A WRONG TURN, AND YOU KNOW IT IS NOT THE CORRECT ROUTE, KEEP FOLLOWING SO THE ENTIRE CARAVAN STAYS TOGETHER. One or more meeting places should be pre arranged, along the route, in case someone gets separated from the group.

If you caravan a lot a CB radio is of great value.

Otto Pope

Thanks Otto. We are also now advising tour members to carry a cell phones if they have one and exchange numbers with the tour leader and other participants. *Editor*

Calendar of Events

Bold Text Indicates Windsor-Detroit MG Club Events.
Italic Text Indicates club participation.

July	
Sat. 10th	**Mad Dogs and Englishmen XIV Gilmore Car Museum, MI**
Wed. 14th	**Monthly Meeting — Nisbet Inn**
Fri. 16th - Sun. 18th	*RM Classic Car Show, Chatham, ON*
August	
Fri. 6th - Sat. 7th	**American Lemans Racing Series Mosport, ON**
Wed. 11th	**Monthly Meeting — Brass Pointe**
Thur. 12th - Sun. 15th	*University Motors Summer Party Reunion - Grand Rapids. MI*
Fri. 13th - Sat. 14th	*The British V8 Show Exel Inn, Grand Rapids, MI*
Sat. 21st	**Alternative dream Cruise**
September	
Wed. 8th	**Monthly Meeting — Nisbet Inn**
Thur. 9th - Sun. 12th	*Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival Watkins Glen, NY*
Sat. 18th - Sun 19th	*British Car Day - Bronte Creek Oakville, ON*
Sat. 25th - Sun 26th	*Michigan British Reliability Run for Charity Info at www.mibrr.com*

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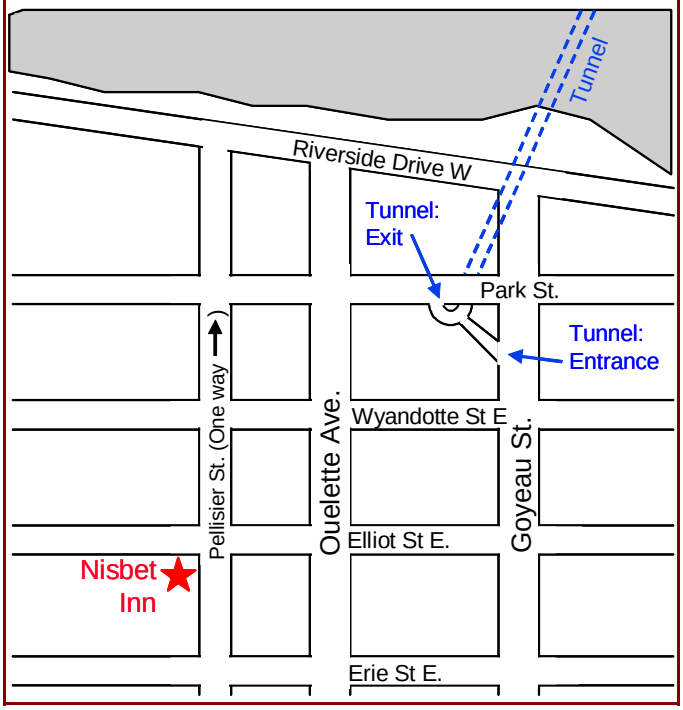
July Meeting

July 14th — The Nisbet Inn



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Happy Trails

Matt Bade spotted this combination at the recent British Car and Motorcycle show at Fort Meigs,

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