The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 24, No. 7 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club August, 2004

Mad Dogs and North Americans Go Out in the Kalamazoo Sun

A bright and warm Sunday morning greeted the group of MGers as we left the usual Meijer's parking lot at 7:30 and headed west to rendezvous with fellow club members at US 23 and 9 mile rd. Our group numbered about a dozen or so including a strange but sporty looking MG called a Miata, driven by Dave Torby. The caravan pulled out around 8:30 with maps in hand and we made our way through the pastures and fields of southern central Michigan. We stopped after an hour in the town of Leslie near US 127 to stretch and get a cup of coffee. By coincidence, a group of 50's-70's classic and muscle cars had arrived just before us and had went into the McDonalds. They were surprised, when they came out, to see that they had been surrounded by little British 4 cylinder tykes. This group was headed to a car show in Mason. We admired each others toys briefly and then resumed our journey to Hickory Corners. We arrived at 11:00 am and parked in various spots on the field. Most of our cars fell into the very large category of "chrome bumpered MGs from '62 to '74.

Throughout the afternoon, we explored the grounds, participated in some of the events, voted on our favorite cars, and rode the famous double-decker bus. I learned that the small contingent of Canadian club members had arrived via a separate route and were there as well. They included:

John Brown and his son in their TR6, Ralph and Jennifer Poupard in their MGB and Roli Sylvestre in his TR7.

The Gilmore Museum or "barns" as they're called, have an additional 21 thousand sq. feet of space this year. The Classic Car Club of America has on octagon addition to it's building. Funny, despite being octagon in shape, there were no MGs within it's confines. The Pierce-Arrow Museum has a new barn and the "S" barn has an addition featuring an extensive collection of Hudsons on loan from Mr. Eldon Hostetler . Mr. Hostetler made his fortune in Indiana ,many years ago, manufacturing and then patenting the automatic chicken feeding machine . The barn at the far eastern end of the property features several mint condition Corvettes from '53 to '66 including the rare split window version. You can also find the yellow '67 Ferrari Berlineta previously owned by actor Nicholas Cage. One of my favorites is the lime green "68 AMX with the 340 V-8 and bias ply tires. I had a toy stock car just like it more than a few years ago.

Back on the field, more than 350 British cars of all makes and models were displayed. They included Jag, Triumph, Rover, Austin Cooper and Mini, TVR, Rolls Royce, Lotus, Nash Metropolitan, and of course, MG. Between 3:30 and 4:00 pm, the awards were announced and although we headed home before all of the awards were given, I do know that our own Jeff Zorn won an award for his red MGA.

Just after 4:00, the groups gathered together, said their "so longs" and headed back to the suburbs without incident. I know that myself and others had a great time, enjoyed the hot weather, and look forward to next year's Mad Dogs and Englishman IV.

Story and picture by Matt Bade

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Rick Astley—Editor

My grandfather was a coach painter. I am not sure that everyone will understand what that means, but some light is shed on it when I add that he blamed the introduction of spray painting for the loss of his career. The first cars were made like the horse-drawn carriages and we know that words like dashboard were passed on from one to the other. My grandfather brush-painted both. He was a craftsman and he taught me that when I do a job I should do it with pride and that one way to ensure that I did so, was to think how the next person, who has to later work on whatever you did, would think of your handiwork.

I thought of this last week when Graham Creswick and I hauled the engine out of a car I had bought. The vehicle, which looks superficially great, was evidently put together by contracted people who have a variety of specialties and very different levels of skill. The bodywork looks good but that is skin deep, the paintwork is extremely well done, the mechanical aspects were poorly executed and the electrical system is appalling.

There is no way that some of these people can have given any regard to how others would regard their so-called craftsmanship. They were no doubt paid to do a job and so long as things worked long enough for them to receive payment, that was all that could have mattered.

We removed the engine and transmission on the vehicle in order to fix a mismatch between the engine mounted clutch plates and the transmission mounted clutch actuation lever. In doing so we revealed the otherwise almost impossible to access gearbox mounted switch that operates the back-up lamps. The wiring to this typifies the standard of workmanship found throughout the car. The switch terminals were covered in black adhesive insulating tape, a material that most of us will have learned turns to a sticky mess over time, especially when exposed to heat as this would be in its situation. Under the tape the wires were just twisted onto the terminals. I guess the back-up lamps worked for a while, when the newly stripped wires were bright copper, but it would not be long before oxidization made them into pretty good electrical insulators.

I suppose the lesson from this is: only use people whom others recommend. A great place to get such recommendations is in a club like ours. Need a job done? Ask around at any club meeting; you will get plenty of advise of to whom to go and not to go, and specify whether you want the best job or the best value for money Also, if you have a job done, it might be a good idea to tell the person who does it that you belong to a club like ours in which people share their experiences regarding how well work is done. That way you might just get a better workmanship.

Careful Where You Park!

At the July MG club meeting at the Nisbet Inn, I parked my Chevy Blazer in the lot across the street and to the east of the Inn. I ,and many of you, have done this yourself many times and without incident in the past. HOWEVER, don't do it in the future, for on this night, a tow truck came and towed my car away. Dave Hornby and I followed the truck, caught up to it, and pleaded with the driver to "gimme back my car, dude". We pulled into an empty parking lot on Ouellette where the driver released my car and relieved me of $80. After telling me how lucky I was and a verbal chastising , Dave and I returned to the Nisbet to finish diner and the meeting.

Now comes the good part. Unbeknownst to me, over the course of the next hour or so, a collection was taken up to reimburse me for outlay. At what I thought was going to be some sort of hazing ritual, a gathering of contributors formed a circle around me in the parking lot and gave me a white envelope. Inside was an assortment of Canadian and American currency equaling about $80.

These guys certainly didn't have to do something as generous and as thoughtful as they did but I am very grateful nonetheless. When they say that the Windsor-Detroit MG club is a great club made up of great people, this is proof of what they're talking about.

My thanks once again to all of you.

Matt Bade.

Parking can be crowded on club meeting night at the Nisbet. Can some one who knows the manager of the Nisbet inquire if she can have a word with the owners of the lot? It is empty after working hours so it seems unreasonable to tow vehicles bringing income to the city. — Editor

Presidentially Speaking

By Ralph Poupard — Club President

It seems hard to believe that it is August already. June and July have dissipated, kind of like that tiny puff of oil smoke that appears sometimes when you let up to shift gears. I've been attending as many events as I can this year, and I have to admit that our lawn is looking a little ragged and the gardens could use weeding, but I have been having a great time. It looks like I may have to change the oil in my MGB several times besides the season starting change.

In early July we attended Mad Dogs and Englishmen XIV at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan. Matt Bade led the convoy from the US. Americans must wake up earlier than us Canadians, since we thought the start time was too early for us, and drove in our own caravan, colour co-ordinate again, this time with all dark red cars. This is the first time I have attended this show, and what a great event it is. The grounds are meticulously kept, and a large collection of all types of automobiles are kept in large barns on the property. The show area was plenty large enough to hold the complete variety of British cars that attended, and the people were friendly. They even have a small oval track with a slalom course set up on it that you can run against the clock.

Jeff Branch admires a 300SL at the RM show

The following weekend we were off to Chatham, Ontario for the RM 25th Anniversary Celebration and Club Barbeque. The Saturday show had a vehicle for just about anyone's taste and almost every era of the automobile and motorcycle was represented. The show was so large that there was no way youc ould see everything in the amount of time we had. Later we gathered at John Brown's home for a barbecue and enjoyed the pleasant summer evening. We had quite a collection of British cars from a Triumph TR3 to an MGB V8t o 2 Bond Equipes! We lined the cars up in John's large back yard for a photo op. Dale and Lise Brown arrived a little later, on their way home from their vacation in the Maritime Provinces, having just driven over 4,000 miles in their '69 MGB!

Next it is up to Muskoka for 2 weeks vacation and escape from the rat race. I should return in time for the next meeting at the Brass Pointe and the University Motors Summer Party Reunion.

Next year will be the club's 25th anniversary and it has been suggested that we host an event/show. I think it would be a fitting tribute, and we would like to have your input and suggestions on this subject. Please feel free to contact any of the board members. Our contact information is on page 2 of each newsletter and our E-mail addresses are in the club directory. Of course we would be in need of volunteers to host a show. It would be a small way of repaying other groups and clubs that have hosted the many shows that we have enjoyed so much as well as celebrate our 25th year.

And finally, the shameless plug segment. If you can, please donate to the Michigan British Reliability Run. I hear that Car 30, a Damask Red '73 MGB from Essex could use your help.....

Safety MG Fast

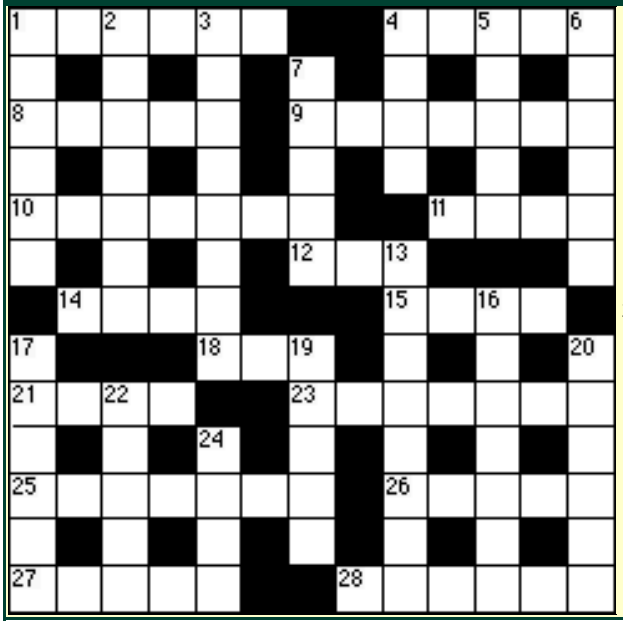
Ralph

Tom Newton's 1961 MGA 1600 and 1980 MGB LE

Tom is currently in the process of installing an early 5-main 1800 rebuilt engine and a modern 5-spd trans in this MGA. He bought the car in 1991 from Frog Motors in Detroit and has been doing the required rebuilds since. The original color of the car was Alamo Beige, a nice color Tom says, but not for him. Someone changed it to LA Fire Dept. red before he bought it so he'll stick with that for now.

Tom purchased the MGB-LE in 1990 through a Flint, Michigan newspaper ad that read, "black MGB with silver strip on the side, $3,500 OBO". It appears to be a southern car. The front end and brakes have been rebuilt and a new top added. The Zenith carb. was scrapped for a down draft Weber. It's a sound car and needs some TLC.

The Windsor - Detroit MG Club Crossword



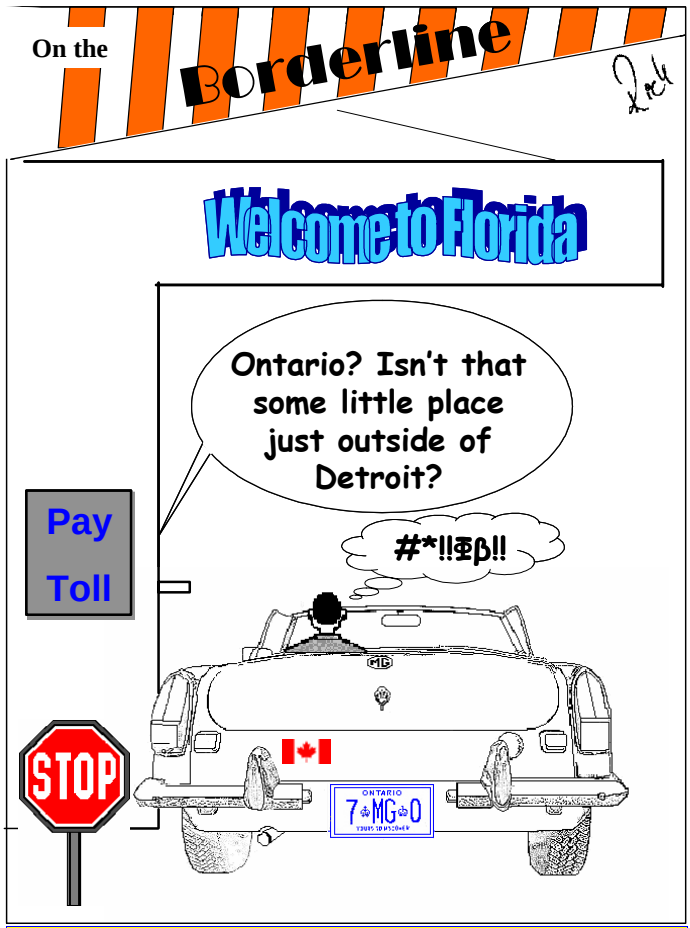
Across

1 Make severely hungry
4 American blokes
8 Not flexible
9 Full load of gasoline
10 Not a toll road
11 Group of three
12 One turn around the race track
14 & 18 Work instrument set
15 Covered in SAE 10W-40?
18 See 14
21 Wheel shaft
23 Disconnect the trailer
25 Take part in the race
26 Noble Brits
27 Having a lot of tin worm
28 Parking valet of old?

Down

1 A long way away (3-3)
2 Rotating ignition system
3 A pavement to the Brits
4 Small dent
5 Put off
6 British sedan
7 Fuel usually made from grain
13 Hazardous road surface defects
16 Sideways related
17 Stock Car Racing Org.
19 Adjusted the engine
22 Long cars, in short
24 Impose a fee

Solution below



Did You Know?

Ontario is about 7 times as big as either Michigan or Florida and 8 times the size of England. It's also over 1½ times as big as Texas and more than 2½ times the area of California. You may not think it as you drive on the 401 through Toronto, but the population density is only 24 people per sq mile. Compare that to England's 976 — over 40 times the density!

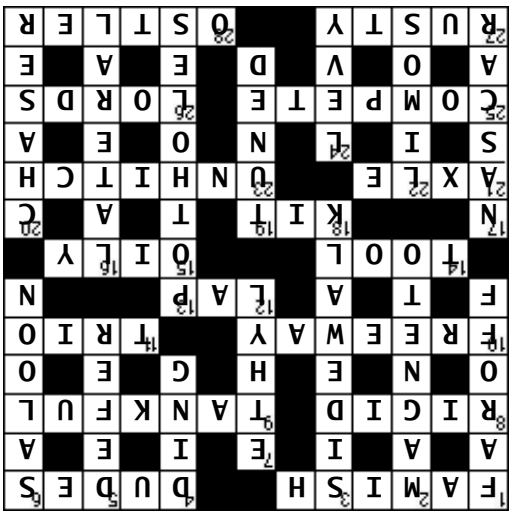
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club Welcomes its Newest Members

Jean-Paul McGraw - Windsor, Ontario
1971 Red MGB

Doug Polod - Linden, Michigan
1971 Red MGB

Greg and Juanita Fast - Address TBA
1961 Old English White MGA Coupe
1968 Green MGB Vintage Racer
1969 MGC

Peter Knoll - La Salle, ON
1972 Red MGB-GT
1974 Yellow MGB-GT



CALENDAR NOTES... CALENDAR NOTES... CALENDAR NOTES...

ALTERNATIVE 'DREAM CRUISE'

Saturday August 21st

The 'Woodward Dream Cruise' is less than three weeks away and once again, Rich & Adrienne Wagner will be hosting their own "Dream Cruise" the very same day.

If you like, check out the 'Woodward Cruise' with all of it's traffic and people early and then come and take a different kind of cruise through some of the nicest back roads in North Oakland County.

With a brief stop half way to stretch our legs and maybe have a Dairy Queen, the route will take us North and East keeping the sun on our backs as we travel to our final destination..

The restaurant is located just two miles north of I-75 & M-15 (Clarkston Exit), making it easy to return home.

Meeting place: Wind-Lake Plaza Parking Lot located at the Northeast side of Pontiac Trail and Haggerty Rd.
Time: Meet at 3:30 with departure at 4:00 pm latest.

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. August 18th is the next date.

Gentlemen and Ladies...Start Your Engines!

Ferraris, Lolas, Audis, Porches, Corvettes, etc.; see them race during the American LeMans Series that comes to Mosport Raceway http://mosport.com/ just north east of Toronto Ontario, Friday, Saturday and Sunday Aug 6-8. Dale Brown will be travelling up on Thursday during the day with the intent of camping right on the infield (washroom and shower facilities are at Corner #2). There are many other races and time trials that go on during the 3 day weekend as well.

Check out the full schedule and pricing at the following Web Sites:
http://mosport.com/roadhome.htm
http://mosport.com/tickets.htm

If anyone is interested in going up and travelling together, give Dale Brown a call at 519-258-5987. He is flexible as far as leaving time on Thursday and intends to drive home Sunday afternoon following the races. Travel time is 5 hours from Windsor.

Classified Advertisements

1980 MGB. White with black interior& top. Original owner. Stored winters. 34,000 miles. Very nice condition. $7,000
Doug Balsis 248-474-0470

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

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

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

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.

1953 MG TD, frame up resto on a very org, low mile car. Old English white w/ red int. Matching #s, new professionally installed interior and new black stayfast canvas top.(not installed). Runs and drives great, wheel cyl. rebuilt, new wiring, org. side curtains w/ no cracks in the plastic. No oil leaks, 150 psi in all cyl., good oil pressure. This is a two owner car and kept in dry storage it's whole life. Paint is glossy and org. looking but has minor flaws and touch ups. I can email pics. $13,900 U.S.
Contact: 248 563 9300 or dmonaghanmi@earthlink.net

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

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.

Calendar of Events

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

August	
Fri. 6th - Sat. 7th	*American Lemans Racing Series Mosport, ON. See opposite page*
Wed. 11th	**Monthly Meeting — Brass Pointe**
Thurs. 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	**The Alternative Dream Cruise See opposite page**
September	
Wed. 8th	**Monthly Meeting — Nisbet Inn**
Thurs. 9th - Sun. 12th	*Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival Watkins Glen, NY*
Sun. 12th	**Battle of the Brits –Sterling Heights, MI**
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*
October	
Sat. 2nd	**Antique Road Show and Colour Tour**
Wed. 13th	**Monthly Meeting — Brass Pointe**
Sat. 30th	**Murder Mystery - Heritage Village Essex, ON**

English Motors, Inc.

ENGLISH CAR REPAIR

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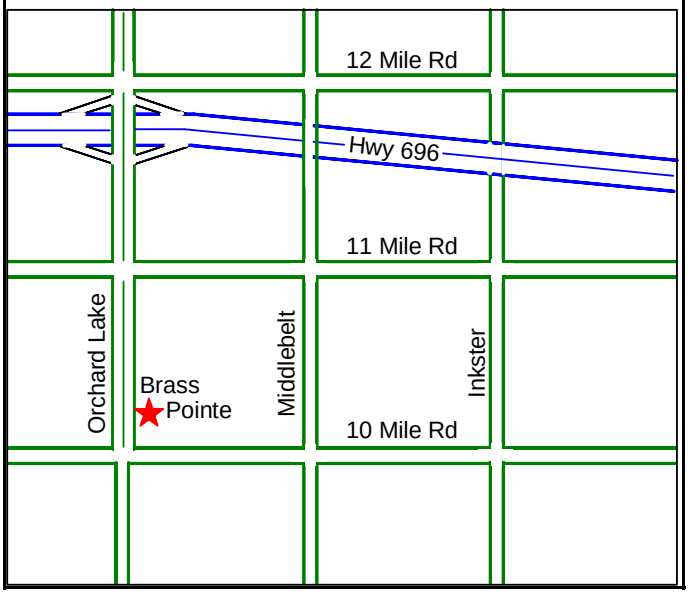
(586) 786-1187
51200 Milane Dr.
Suite D
Macomb Twp., MI 48042

OTHER FOREIGN CARS WELCOME

HOURS
MON - FRI
8 - 5:30

August Meeting

August11th — Brass Pointe Restaurant
24234 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan



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Mini-Mini

Thanks to Paul Lester for this picture of an even shorter than normal wheelbase Mini in the seaside town of Brighton, England.

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At Little British, we know who we are and where our business comes from. As a growing company founded in the late 90's, we take pride in giving you high quality customer service, We will have the parts you need, the convenience you want, and at a lower price than you thought you would pay.

By being an online based company. we are able to keep costs low and maintain a flawless ordering system that is quick and user friendly. We have the parts for most British marques and models as well as fun collectibles and other useful items for the British car enthusiast, Log on to www.LBCarCo.com and see why we excel at what we do.

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