25th Year
Can Am MG CONNECTION
WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 25, No. 5 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club **June 2005**

"There's No Room At The Inn"

(said Mike Moder)

The rooms were bulging with WDMG Club members (and a few others), as we all came together to pay homage to the last meeting to be held at the Nisbet Inn. It was standing room only, as you can see by the pictures. Kim appreciated the gift we gave her, and sadly we said good-bye. Stay turned...in next month's newsletter we'll announce our new Windsor meeting place.

It wouldn't be complete without looking under a hood!

They're at it again!!

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E-mail
wdmgcc@mgcars.org.uk

Website
www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc/

President
Ralph Poupard
519-776-6228

Vice President
Jeff Zorn
248-489-1855

Treasurer
Matt Bade
248-683-1210

Secretary
Scott Turner
519-254-9510

Webmaster
Lise Brown
lise@wdmgc.com
519-258-5987

Membership
Rick Astley
28404 South Harwich Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
248-737-1978
Fax: 248-538-8339
rick@wdmgc.com

Newsletter Editor
Ellen Stuban
estuban01@comcast.net
248-668-8438

Video Librarian
Tom Newton
313-562-2377

Regalia
Canada: Roli Sylvestre
519-969-2739
U.S.A.: Elvin Davis Jr.
248-960-2296

Membership Tags
Dave Doolin 248-349-2848

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Ellen Stuban — Editor

We have a pretty full issue this month, so I'm going to skip the editorial and go straight to the good stuff.

The unadulterated passion of sports cars

By Marty Gervais

These guys are all liars. They sit at Tim Hortons at Bruce and University Avenue. Just outside the door, you can see their spit-and-polish MG sports cars basking in the sun. Toy cars. All the colours of the rainbow.

I can't wait to pose a question that still burns from my past when my wife once owned a 1967 royal blue Austin Healey Sprite.

"Do you have trouble starting your car when it rains?" I ask, remembering those woeful years of trying to jump start my car, drying out the distributor cap in the oven, or whatever the heck that thing was, and doing anything and everything to get this damn sports car to run. Then being humiliated by the experts -- GM, Chrysler and Ford mechanics -- who told me how these miniature beasts never fire up in damp weather.

So there we are. And the question is on the table to these MG owners, members of the Windsor Detroit MG Club who plan to mark their 25th anniversary in organizing its first big show June 25 for MG owners from all over North America.

400 EXPECTED

Four hundred are expected at Malden Park that day.

Anyway, five poker-faced MG owners sit before me, and one by one, they croon how they never had a problem in starting their car after a rain fall.

"C'mon ... all you need to do is spit on the hood, and those cars won't start!" I argued.

The bottom line is that none of this matters -- even if they won't admit it.

These fellows love their vehicles. They'll pore over them till late at night, tinkering and babying them. They'll swoon insanely over a basket of car parts, and see a whole car, not just its guts spilling out on the garage floor.

One fellow --Ralph Poupard -- tells me how one day he stumbled across a 1957 MGA. A whole car, but in baskets. Fenders, bumpers, starters, a hood and you name it. Or the typical MG owner refrain they know all too well: "Some assembly required."

It took Poupard 10 years to put Humpty Dumpty back together again. It cost him $16,000. And there it is, just outside the door. Cream colour like a Boston Cream donut. Delicious looking.

I step outside, swing open the feather-light aluminum doors, and slip into the deep leather seats. The dashboard array of small gauges gleams like a Disney dream.

A mere 88,000 miles on the car.

"How much do you want for it?" I ask.

Then realize this is like asking how much would you sell your first-born son. Then again, most MG owners might, if given the choice between a son and his sports car.

It raises another question: "How much have you invested in cars like this?"

Poupard, president of the MG club and owner of a 1973 MGB, says if you don't count the enlargement of a two-car garage into a four-car garage, then he might've spent ...

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DON'T KEEP RECEIPTS

But I never get the answer. Dave Hornby, another MG owner, interjects: "That's the one thing you learn quickly: Never keep receipts."

I clarify this: "You mean that's the one purchase item you don't tell your wife?"

Nods all around.

It's a passion, this business of sports cars. And when the good weather rolls in, there's nothing like the sound of an MG rolling out of a garage. You hear the engine fire up. You sit low to the ground. The top is down, and a tiny windshield is large enough to keep the wind out of your eyes.

Life is glorious.

It's a passion.

That's what this club is all about. Twenty-five years in operation. Twenty-five years of showing off your prize.

And motoring to shows all over the country.

By the way, you don't even have to own an MG to belong, says Marty Hunt who joined having owned only a trunk lid of an MGA. He has since gone through many other sports cars.

As far as starting these British cars in the rain, I take one last look at them lined up in the parking lot at Tim's, and notice that a black 1980 MGB doesn't have windshield wipers.

"I rest my case," I tell Scott Turner, its owner.

"You don't need them . . . because your car won't start! Right?

This article first appeared in The Windsor Star on Monday, May 16, 2005, and is reprinted here with permission of Marty Gervais and The Windsor Star
Marty Gervais can be reached by e-mail at mgervais@thestar.canwest.com.
Marty Gervais 255-5760)

Presidentially Speaking

By Ralph Poupard — Club President

The weather has been kind of erratic this spring. We have had nice top down weather, and then a relapse of winter in late April. However, I have been able to use the MGB quite a bit, and the MGA is now running. I had to change the clutch slave cylinder on the MGA this spring. When changing the oil I noticed a drop of liquid on the head of one of the bolts that mounts the slave cylinder. A small spot on the garage floor and low hydraulic fluid in the master cylinder confirmed it. I must have been lucky last season, since it surely must have been leaking near the end, and with a car that was built the same year that I started school, a little luck never hurts. The change was not completely uneventful. It has something to do with the dreaded previous owner (DPO) and lag screws. It's a long tale and if anyone is curious I can explain it over a pint some day. I have taken the car on several runs lately and all systems appear to be go. (Not that an MGA has *that* many systems) On Saturday, May 7th we met at our favorite parking lot at Meijer's at 8 mile and Haggerty for the Rivertech run. A warm sunny day greeted the turnout of approximately 15 cars. About half of the group took the "scenic" route arriving at Rivertech about 30 minutes later than the remainder of the group. There was an Alfa Romeo tech session scheduled for later in the afternoon, with a car in progress, several of the Alfa twin cam engines, and transmissions laid out. After a great lunch at the Sidetrack, some of the members visited the Miller Motors Hudson Museum across the street, and others left for the day. On our way back to Canada we hit a huge traffic jam at a construction site on I-94. I guess we should have looked up the Michigan Department of Transportation website that was noted in the last newsletter. Lesson Learned.

On Wednesday May 11th we held our final monthly meeting at the Nisbet Inn. We had one of the best turnouts I can remember. The lot was filled to capacity with British cars. During the meeting we presented the owner Kim D'Amore with a club fleece sweatshirt and a framed collage picture, in appreciation for putting up with us for all these years. Thanks to Lise and Dale Brown for the photos and Bryan Brown for creating the picture. Things appear on track for our move to The Dominion House for the July meeting. We will keep you informed on the website, the next newsletter and at club events between now and the date of the July meeting.

Last Tire Kicking Session at the Nisbet Inn

For upcoming events we have the London BBC Classic in London, ON – Sat. June 4th; the British return to Fort Meigs, Perrysburg OH — Sun. June 5th; British V-8 meet in Terra Haute IN, - Thurs. June 9th to Sun. June 12th; Fun on Wheels, Essex, ON — Sun. June 12th; and the Stratford Festival Tour, Stratford, ON — Sat. and Sun. June 18th and 19th. Next there is our club event British Marques in the Park on June 24th (Friday evening) and Saturday June 25th at Malden Park, Windsor, ON; Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Kalamazoo MI,- Sun. July 10th; and NAMGAR GT-30 in Mackinaw City MI, Tues. July 12th to Sat. July 16th. As usual, check for details elsewhere in this newsletter and on the club website.There are plenty of outings to take part in, so get out there and enjoy your British car the way it was meant to be. As they used to say: "there is fun designed right into every MG"

So, if not before, we'll see you at British Marques in the Park....

Safety MG Fast

Ralph

May 7th 2005 – Trip to Rivertech Engineering

By Philip Wiltshire

We had another winning weather day; consisting of blue skies and 60's temperatures. No-one had confirmed that they intended to ride with me, so l was impressed to see 17 cars already at the Meijer's parking lot, gleaming away in the morning sunlight. We had a good cross-section of MG's present including several Canadian cars. This was especially complementary as they had to negotiate all that downtown construction to get there.

Just after 10 am, we set off on the 25 mile back road journey to Rivertech. For those of you who have not heard of the Rivertech facility, this is a former manufacturing plant that my friend manages for storing "interesting" cars in a warm and safe environment. They have a club for sharing rebuild and technical information, and have regular open days at which the covers are pulled back from the stored cars for all to see and enjoy.

On arrival at the plant, it was clear that part of our convoy was missing. A couple of phone calls cleared the matter up; a wrong turn had been made and the lead car, full of confidence, had enticed the remainder of the convoy into a slight detour. They got to Rivertech about 20 minutes later.

This Saturday, the Alfa Romeo club was having a technical session in the afternoon, so a selection of interesting Alfa's was on hand for the event. The Alfa guys also had a vehicle, or most of a vehicle on a trailer; the extensive corrosion allowed one to really view the body structure of this sad car.

The selection of cars on show was as varied as usual. From early 30's up to a stored 2005 T-Bird. There was three MG's resident; a TD, a TF and an MGA. The A is Bill Black's and he restored it fully in 2004. We then drove on last year's Michigan Reliability Run with him and covered a thousand miles with the top down for charity. (By the way – do not forget to support this years 3rd Reliability Run)

We spent an hour walking around the Jag's, Merc's, Ferrari's and American Iron. We then drove to downtown Ypsilanti's historic district and parked in the lot of the Hudson dealership and Museum. We lunched next to the railroad on the Sidetrack Restaurant's patio opposite the Hudson dealership.
After lunch, many of us toured the Hudson Dealership and then headed home mid afternoon. Perhaps next year, l will add more of a tour so that we can ride around the countryside a lot more before we visit Rivertech.

British Marques in the Park

by Lise Brown

As the ***Windsor-Detroit MG Club*** enters its 25th anniversary year, we are marking the occasion by hosting a celebration of British cars and motorcycles in Windsor, Ontario Canada, and in the spirit of giving back to the community, the event will also be a fund raiser for the *Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation - Oncology Program.*

Friday, June 24

Here are just a few of the activities planned:
Winery tour of Award winning Essex County wineries
Funkhana in the parking lot of the host hotel, the St Clair Residence and Conference Centre.
Evening BBQ and get together at the host hotel.

Saturday June 25

We'll celebrate our beloved British cars and motorcycles at the event show field in Malden Park. The show will include awards, dash plaques for the first 200 registrants, door prizes, a silent auction, and much, much more. And of course, vendors, food and beverage providers and lively entertainment will be on hand to round out the event.

Event Regalia

T-shirt $12 with your pre-registration and $15 after the cut-off date and at the event.
Commemorative poster (artist Marty Hunt) $5 while quantities last.
Ordering details for T-shirt and poster are on the event registration form.
Please don't hesitate to contact us for any additional information.
Before June 1, 2005:
$15 for first vehicle and **$10** for second vehicle registered by same owner (no charge for additional vehicles registered by same owner.)
After June 1 and at gate:
$20 per vehicle. The first 200 registrants will receive a dash plaque so register early (one dash plaque per registrant, not per vehicle.)

Vendor fees:
$25 flat rate (plus event registration fee if applicable, i.e. if registering a British vehicle) Be sure to indicate space requirements on registration form.

Our host hotel, the St Clair Residence and Conference Centre, is offering a special rate to event participants who reserve by **May 1 2005**. In addition, for *each* room booked for this event, the hotel will donate $5 to the Windsor Regional Hospital Foundation.

$69.95 (plus taxes) **per night for a suite** that includes:
2 private bedrooms; kitchenette; full 3 piece bath; desk/workspace with data port; free local calls and voice mail; air conditioning; cable TV; continental breakfast; and ample free parking (especially handy if you're towing your British vehicle.) Visit the web site for the full list of amenities.

Call toll free: 1-877-225-8664
E-mail: clcstclair@campuslivingcentres.com

Fax: 519-966-9501
When booking, please quote confirmation number **014723** and mention our event to get the special rate.
(Special rate guaranteed if booked by May 1, 2005)

British Marques in the Park

All British Car and Motorcycle Show

June 24-25 2005, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Hosted by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Registration fee
Before June 1, 2005: **$15** for first vehicle, **$10** for second vehicle registered by same owner (no charge for additional vehicles registered by same owner.)
After June 1, 2005 and at gate: **$20** per vehicle.

Send this completed form along with a check or money order (payable to *British Marques in the Park*) to:

Scott Turner
2348 Gladstone Avenue
Windsor, Ontario N8W 2P1
Canada

If you require further information you can reach Scott by phone or email.
Telephone: 519-254-9510
Email: scott@wdmgc.com

Participant and vehicle information/registration

Name _____

Address
_____

_____

Telephone _____ Email _____

British vehicle(s) entered
Marque _____ Model _____ Year

Marque _____ Model _____ Year

Marque _____ Model _____ Year

(If more than three vehicles, list on back of form) **Registration fee total $** _____
Optional purchases
Event T-shirt $12 with pre-registration, $15 at event. Indicate number of T-shirts per size.

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ **T-shirt total $** _____

Event poster $5 (while quantities last) Quantity _____ **Poster total $** _____
Total amount enclosed (registration fee plus any optional purchases) …… ……. **$** _____

What some of our members say they'll miss the most about the Nisbet Inn.

Mike Moder will miss being crowded??

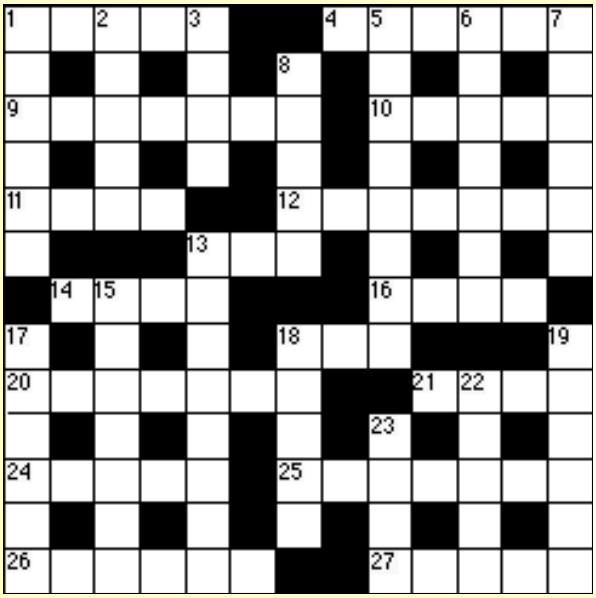
Lynn Turner will miss it's "Englishness".

Dale Brown will miss the filled parking lot, the jam packed members, and he won't miss having to leave every 15 minutes to tell people to move their cars so that non-MG members can get out!

Nancy Brown will miss the ambience.

Jeff Branch has been coming to the Nisbet Inn since before he joined the club and will miss the location—it's an easy drive from the east side of Detroit.

The Windsor - Detroit MG Club Crossword Compiled by Rick Astley



Across

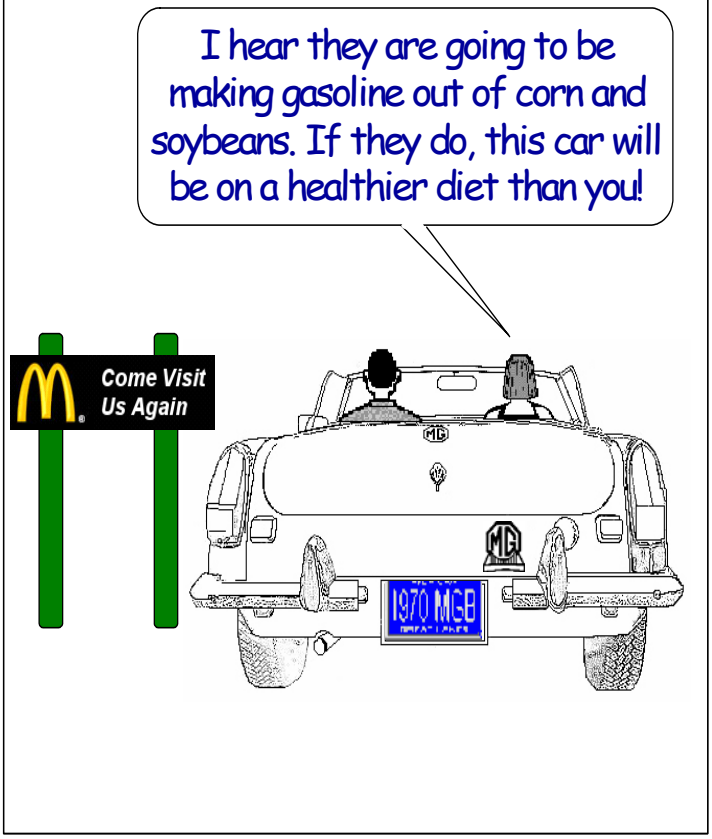
1 & 10 Ontario hockey team
4 Hitchcock movie
9 Avis and Hertz cars
10 See 1 across
11 Multigrades?
12 Long passenger vehicle
13 They can be classified
14 One spot playing cards
16 New old-world currency
18 & 24 Michigan hockey team
20 Larceny
21 40's Abingdon product
24 See 18 across
25 Québec petrol
26 Vertical parts of stairs
27 Craftsman tool store

Down

1 Car's rear viewer
2 Instrument follower
3 Lotus model
5 Muffled?
6 Combustion place
7 What many do over their cars
8 They changed to Exxons
13 Insurance judge
15 Beach shelters
17 MG-TA era *(3-3)*
18 U-Haul competitor
19 Small bolts
22 Be going to *(Slang)*
23 Concordes

Solution below

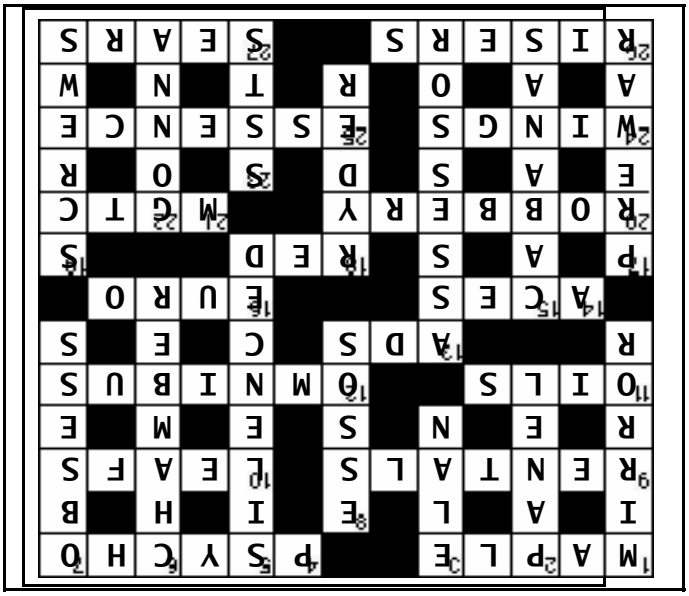
On the Borderline



We'll keep this in for another month...just for Ralph.

Ever wished that you could find out about road closings and construction before you left the house? Well, you can. The Michigan Department of Transportation website will give you that information. Thanks to Harry MacLean for the following URL . Copy and paste it into your browser before you leave the house to get the latest information.
http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/LaneClosure/

The European Space Agency's spacecraft Smart–1 uses and ion drive that only produces a thrust equivalent to the weight of 2 pennies. However, being gentle on the gas, in this case xenon gas, has its benefits. The craft is now in orbit around the moon after traveling 50 million miles (it took the long route) in 13 months and using only 130 pounds of xenon.



EnjoyClassicCars.com

A Regional Website for the Classic Car Enthusiast

If you have access to the Internet, check out this web site and become part of the circle. The site is run by MG and Italian car enthusiast Peter Pleitner who is a professor in the vehicle restoration portion of Washtenaw Community College and who facilitates our annual trip to Rivertech

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If you are interested in borrowing a DVD called, "The MGB Experience" please contact Paul Lester. He will loan out the DVD for anyone who wishes to view it.

If you don't know how to contact Paul, please email me at estuban01@comcast.net with your contact information and I'll pass it on to Paul.

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In order to receive sponsorship from Co-operative Insurance Group, we need to provide them with names and policy numbers of at least 6 members who have insurance through them. If you are a current Canadian customer, please contact

Dave Hornby
519-735-3567

CALENDAR NOTES... CALENDAR

50/50 Cash Draw winner for May

Congratulations to **Greg Fast**, winner of our 50/50 cash draw for May The next draw will be on June 8, 2005 at the Brass Pointe Restaurant.

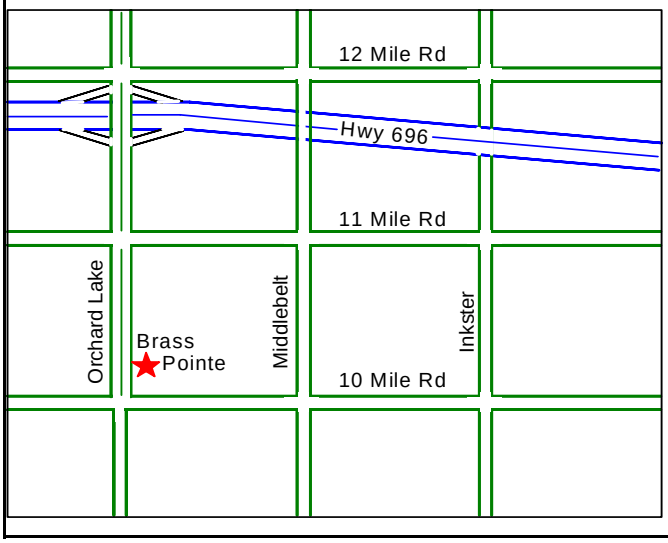
Just a reminder, tickets are $1 each or 3 for $2, and the winner gets half of the night's receipts plus half the pot. The other half is then added to the amount collected at the following meeting thus increasing the amount to be won each month. Have your cash ready when you come to the next meeting; you could be the next lucky winner.

Winners to date: Dave Torby, Jack Renaud, Anne Astley, Ted Hight, Drew Hastings, Mark Wallace, John Woodall, Michael Gedeon, Greg Fast.

Do you know where your name tag is? Bob Fougere does. If you can't find yours, contact Dave Doolin at 248-349-2848

June Meeting

June 8th — Brass Pointe Restaurant
24234 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan



Calendar of Events

■ - **Windsor-Detroit MG Club Event**
☐ - **Organized participation by W-DMGC members**

June

☐	**Sat. 4th**	**London BBC Classic Car Show** **London, ON**
☐	**Sun. 5th**	**The British Return to Fort Meigs** **Perrysburg, OH**
■	**Wed. 8th**	**Monthly Meeting - Brass Pointe**
☐	**Thur. 9th** **Sun. 12th**	**British V8 Meet—Terre Haute, IN** www.britishv8.org/index2.htm
☐	**Sun. 12th**	**12th Annual Spring Fun on Wheels** **Essex, ON**
■	**Sat. 18th** **Sun. 19th**	**Stratford Festival Tour** **Stratford,ON**
■	**Fri. 24th** **Sat. 25th**	**British Marques In The Park** **Friday evening Brit Fest: St Clair College Residence - Windsor, ON** **Saturday Show: Malden Park** **Windsor, ON**

July

☐	**Sun. 10th**	**Mad Dogs and Englishmen - Kalamazoo, MI** **(Matt Bade)**
■	**Wed. 13th**	**Monthly Meeting– To Be Announced** **Windsor, ON**
☐	**Tue. 12th** **Sat. 16th**	**NAMGAR GT-30** **Mackinaw City, MI**
☐	**Sat. 16th**	**All British Car Day** **Ottawa, ON**

August

■	**Wed. 10th**	**Monthly Meeting– Brass Pointe** **Farmington Hills**
☐	**Thu. 18th** **Sun. 21st**	**University Motors MG Summer Party** **Homecoming**
■	**Sat. 16th**	**Alternative Dream Cruise — MI**
☐	**Thu. 25th** **Sat. 27th**	**Rally In The Valley — Holcombe, WI**

Classified Advertisements

1951 MG-TD and 1967 Midget--TD apart and Midget is mostly together but doesn't run. Some spare parts. Both have been garaged for over 15 years. Located in Plymouth, MI. Prefer to sell both as a package for $6500.
Call 734-604-0378 (Away first 2 weeks in March)

1959 MGA Mid-restore, all needed parts plus many spares and NOS included. Engine already done with about 3,000 miles on it. Owned for 35 years, driven for five, in storage 30. All exterior rust conquered, frame solid, some interior panel work (inner fender) to complete. Asking $7,500. Contact Richard Alan, Grand Blanc, MI; Phone 810.695.2045 or wesson@triton.net

1977 MG Midget Parts Complete engine, dash with gauges, 2 leaf springs, 1 trunk, 2 jacks, glove box door, 2 tail LT lens, "midget" letters, Lucas Alternator, starter, new spark plug wire set, 2 chrome headlight bezels, exhaust manifold & pipe, master cylinder, turn signal, horn & wiper lever, roll bar hardware, mirrors, drivers vent window, new flex channel weather-strip, PH 922 A oil filter, plus misc box of parts, would like to sell as one complete package.
Greg at W - (248)689-3300 or H - (248)650-9727.

1977 MGB Parts. Dash with gauges, perfect condition fits 77-80: $150. Luggage rack, nice condition: $35. New rocker panels fit all years: $30 each. Engine, runs great: $350.
Chuck Wiley 734 461-9384

1971 Midget Parts. Good 1200 engine/trans, hood, doors, deck lid, windshield frame, rear axle, and a clear title.
$250 or best offer.
Jason Hogan 734 675-0982 janethogan@sbcglobal.net

1974½ MGB-GT teal blue with only 22,000 miles. $7,000
Location Ann Arbor Call Ron 734 662-4075

1966 MGB parts. Black vinyl tonneau cover, good condition, no tears, zippers work .Duplicate came with the car - fits only vehicle without roll bar. Set of MG mud flaps still in package - MG logo on back. Both parts may fit other years or models. I would prefer to swap them for something rather than sell them
Paul Lester 248 408-6961

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
78,000 miles very nice - new fenders, rockers, black Deltron paint, leather interior, cloth top, Moss lowering kit, downdraft weber carb, stainless exhaust, alloy wheels, [over $8000 in parts], $7500. Dave Reed 586-781-2716

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

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.

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YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

When member Elvin Davis was at a show in New Orleans earlier this year, the last thing he expected was to make a connection with someone half way across the globe. But, as you all know, we MG enthusiasts are a breed apart, and this common ground sparked some communication that surprised Elvin. In May, Elvin received a package in the mail from his new friend, Max Benson, of Liverpool, UK.

Max wrote how much he appreciated meeting Elvin and thanked him for giving him a copy of "MGB Driver" magazine and a badge from our Windsor-Detroit MG Club. He also sent a picture of his own car and a grill badge from his club, the Merseyside Owners Club.

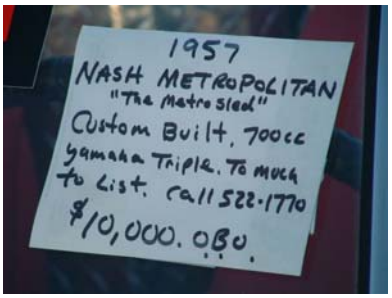
Max calls this a 1971 Roadster—he restored it in 2003.

(hmm….this car looks awfully familiar)

Digital pics don't do this justice. This is actually bright chrome.

PRESENTING THE NASH METROPOLITAN

Do you remember the Nash Metropolitan? It was made for Nash by Austin of England when Nash felt the need to bring out a compact. Here's an example of how versatile those cars can be. And an added bonus—it's for sale!



IS THERE HOPE FOR MG ROVER?

On 5/12/05, an article appeared in motors.thisislondon.com/uk stating that Chapman Automotive Ltd. Is in the final stages of putting together a bid for the MG brand, two-seater sports car, only. The next day, 5/13/05, BBC News ran an article claiming that MG Rover has received a dozen serious offers for parts of the collapsed car maker's business. PricewaterhouseCoopers has asked these bidders to provide proof of funding. It's said that most of the interest shown has been in the MG Sports car model. According to the article, the administrators were to spend the weekend and most of the following week, 5/15—5/20, examining the replies to the proof of funding before considering the next steps. To date, there has been no additional information on the subject, so stay tuned. Perhaps next month there'll be some good news to report.

Fun on Wheels

Sunday, June 12

We'll be meeting at the Tim Horton's on Walker Road, just south of North Talbot Road in Windsor at 9:00 AM. From there we'll caravan to Heritage Village for the show.

This show is mainly Hot Rods and Muscle cars, but there are usually a few British cars there besides our group. This is quite a large event, commonly hailing around 500 plus vehicles. There is a flea market area, mostly North American parts and cars, but with many universal items as well.

Later in mid afternoon for those who are interested, we'll caravan back to Essex to a British type pub named Quigbees. There you'll find a nice patio, and a great menu to match.

To get to the Tim Horton's starting point from the Ambassador Bridge:

Follow Huron Church Road to Hwy. 3.
Follow Hwy. 3 until you get to Walker Rd.
Turn left on Walker, heading north.
The Tim Horton's is about 1/2 mile up on the right, 3998 Walker Rd.

The drive back to the bridge for those from the States is a simple 25 minute trip.

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
2380 Ethel Drive
Wolverine Lake, MI 48390 USA

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