The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 26, No. 4 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club May 2006

ANNUAL KIMBER RUN

By Rich Wagner

It turned out to be a spectacular day for the 75 mile drive to Lansing for the club's annual "Kimber Run." The hot sunshine and almost total lack of wind made the10:00 A.M. drive even more comfortable than the return trip was in the partly cloudy afternoon. Rain drops only teased us enough to have most of us put our tops up before leaving the restaurant, but my wipers were never used even once. Ed Fleming's directions although adequate, were very brief, relying on mileage only, but occasionally the directions also included: "I forgot to write the mileage down on this one too." It was nonetheless, a very easy and enjoyable route to follow.

I also had the pleasure of watching a half dozen British cars do a U-turn because they relied on the mileage directions and not the traffic sign.

There were 18 British cars in all that left Meijer's on schedule, and the total attendance at the Deli in Lansing from all the clubs was at least 75. Needless to say, the room was filled.

We do love to eat, drink and be merry!

And eat

And eat

Finally...the real reason we got together

The Can-Am Connection
is published 10 times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc.
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¼ Page $8/issue, $50/year
½ Page. $16/issue, $100/year

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Ellen Stuban — Editor

Some information came to my attention a few weeks ago regarding House Bill 4362 in Michigan. Currently, vehicles that are registered as "historic" may only be driven for exhibitions, tours, parades and as participants in club activities. If this bill is passed, our registered historic cars may be driven for other occasional uses, but not as a "daily-driver". While I'm not as conversant in the language of the law, bills, and such, I can deduce that this would not be a good thing for us. Anytime someone presumes the right to tell me how to use property that I've bought and paid for, the hackles of my neck tend to stand up.

I looked up information on this at the official State of Michigan's web site, www.mi.gov, however, I will admit that I didn't understand much of what was written. I was directed by other club members to Hagerty Insurance's web site. There I read about the bill and made contact with Rory Carroll. Mr. Carroll was recently named Legislative Resources Director by the Hagerty Collector Network. So now...back to HB 4362. It was introduced last year by State Representative Howard Walker. Since the bill encountered strong opposition from the insurance lobby group, it never made it out of committee, at that time.

Since that time, the bill has been through numerous drafts, but hasn't yet reached a point where there is common agreement. Hagerty has involved themselves in talks with the bill's opponents and it's sponsors, in an effort to try and find common ground.

Mr. Carroll advises us that we can be most effective if we individually sign up for legislative email alerts at www.hagerty.com/advocacy. You'll only receive emails that deal with legislation within your own state, so you won't have to worry about getting junk emails. When the bill is brought up for consideration in committee, Mr. Carroll plans on alerting as many Michigan hobbyists as possible. Your name on the email alert list will ensure that you're notified.

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ellen@wdmgc.com
Ellen Stuban, Editor
Can-Am Connection

Submissions must arrive by the 21st of the month to assure publication in the next issue.

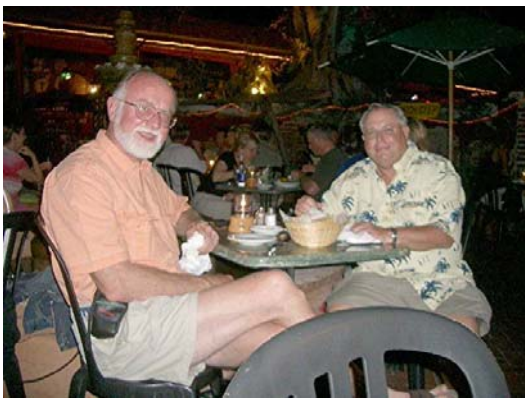
Presidentially Speaking

By Jeff Zorn — Club President

What a month this has been for us. Almost been like one long vacation, with plenty of car activities. First we had our annual trip overseas with a group of 50 British Car Enthusiasts. We spent several days in northern Wales touring castles, and car museums, then nine days in Ireland where we visited more castles, Guinness, gardens, and a quirky car museum and lots of other fun things. The weather was reasonably decent so everyone enjoyed that. We even came across a now defunct MG dealership where we decided to stop and take a group picture. When Jan and I visited last November the dealer was still open with some current MG's, but alas there was nothing now.

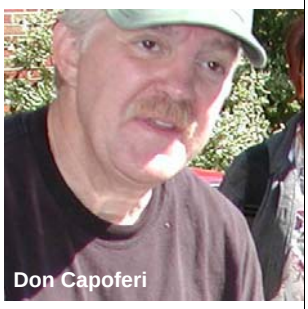
When we returned it was time for the annual Kimber Birthday Bash near Lansing. That was a busy morning as I had made an appointment to take my motorcycle driving test on the east side of Detroit. I was off early and decided to drive the old Mini over there. Passed the test after feeling like a little school boy all nervous and worried. Then it was a quick drive home and picked up the MGA for the drive to Lansing and the luncheon. This was the largest turnout I can recall for the Kimber Birthday, the parking lot was packed with MG's when I arrived and we used two of their rooms for the lunch. I would guess close to 70 people or more were there. The weather cooperated until around 3PM so that could be a good reason for the large turnout, everyone wanted to get out in the MG for the first run of the season. (Article and Pictures elsewhere in the Connection)

The following day my friend Dave Jonker for the Michigan Rowdies and the DTSC flew off to Tampa for some R & R and golf.. On Wednesday, we headed south to Key West where we were going to attend the NAMGAR Regional GT. We spent a night in Marathon, Florida where everyone gathered for the caravan to Key West with a stop at Pigeon Key for a drive over the old 7 Mile Bridge and lunch at Pigeon Key. What a site with all the cars on the Bridge, it was beautiful. I hope to have some picture of that too, since they had a helicopter take His car really was beautiful and I have attached a picture of it during our participation in the Conch Republic parade on Thursday night down Duval. Street. All the MG's were lined up 2 abreast for the 45 minutes ride down the street. Beads were tossed back and forth just like in New Orleans. What a sight to see several of the MG's steam coming out from under the hood and the smells of burning clutches since the drive was stop and go. Finally with about 2 blocks to go and our temp and oil gauge showing about 1 o'clock, steam started to pour out from under the hood.



Saturday again dawned a beautiful day in Paradise and we headed out to the car show at Hurricane Joe's Marina and bar where we spend the better part of the day displaying all our little LBC's.

A Topping Tech Session


Don Capoferi

Back in September of 2003, Don Capoferi kindly offered to run a Tech Session; fitting a top to Gene Johnson's MGB-LE. It was well attended and much praised, even though everything did not go quite as planned. Unfortunately, Gene's car's fuel pump decided to be uncooperative and he arrived late. Then, during fitting, a poorly sown seam came apart and it was not possible to proceed further. Instead, Don turned his attention to re-fitting a badly installed top on Rick Astley's car.

Gene exchanged the faulty top but never did get it fitted, so Don will install it during a new Tech Session this month.

There were at least 3 versions of MGB tops during the production life of the car, and although Don will demonstrate on Gene's 1980, everyone with any age or model MG, or indeed British sports car, will find something to take away from this session.

The Tech-Session will take place **9:30 am (but try to be there by 9:00) Sunday May 21st** at Don Capoferi's home at: **2412 St. Joseph St., West Bloomfield, Michigan.** (248-738-9218).

For those unfamiliar with the region, Square Lake is at about 18 mile and Middlebelt is 3 miles west of Telegraph. From Middlebelt Road, turn left onto Square Lake and 1st right onto St Joseph Street. Don's house is the 5th on the left, just after Littletel Avenue.

This event is weather dependent. Don needs to have some sun heating to make the top supple and the anticipated attendance will mean that there is no room to work in the garage. Please call Rick Astley's cell phone at 248-760-7531 after 4:00 pm, May 20th when weather forecasts should be accurate enough to give us a go or no-go decision.

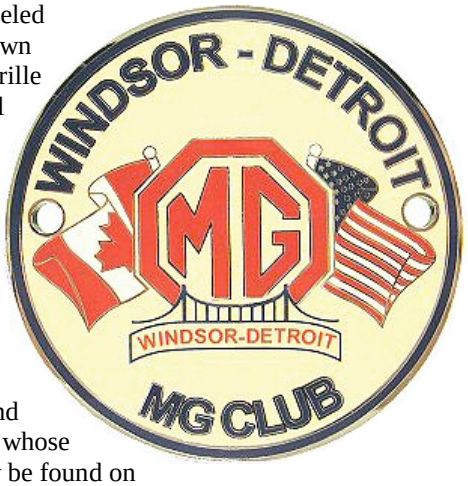
Improve Those Leaky SU Carbs

If your car has one or more SU carburetors then the constant movement of the throttle shaft in the body can cause the holes through which it passes to oval and result in air leaks. The effect is poor idling and a generally weak mixture. An oversized shaft can solve the problem but a special reamer, designed with a long lead-in section to keep the holes parallel and allow the new shaft to pass through, is needed. Even though HIF-4 carbs have replaceable bushings, unless oversized shafts are already fitted and the bushes are worn out, reaming is a simpler fix. Check yours my putting oil on the shaft as it exits the body. If, with the engine idling, the oil gets sucked in immediately, you may need to install an oversized shaft.

The club owns a reamer for replacing 0.31" shafts with a 0.01" oversize version. Jeff Zorn's LBCarCo sells the oversize shaft for a little over $15US each. If you need the reamer, contact Rick Astley who is its caretaker.

Wear the Proper Attire

Are you and your car are properly dressed for the next event? You aren't, unless your car has a club grille badge and you have a club lapel pin and key fob. All three carry the same style of enameled medallion, that shown here being the 3" grille badge. The 1" lapel pin and key fob look similar apart from having no fixing holes.



All are available from our regalia coordinators Elvin Davis and Roli Sylvestre who attend most meetings and whose contact details may be found on page 2.

Prices are:

Grille Badge	$25US	$30CA
Lapel pin	$ 3US	$ 4CA
Key fob	$ 5US	$ 6CA

Need a Lift? Use the Club's Crane

Don't forget, if you need to pull and engine, or as shown above an engine and transmission, the club owns a 4,000lb crane that members may borrow. It has a very useful leveler that facilitates removal and installation by allowing fine adjustment of the tilt angle. The crane does fold but is nonetheless quite space hungry and it is certainly no lightweight, so if you want to borrow it, bring something bigger than your MG!

To arrange to borrow it, call Rick Astley 248-737-1978 .

Cruisin' USA in a Little British Car

We are fortunate in both our motor cities in having lots of cruise nights through the Daylight Saving Time months. At least that's my view, but some club members have told me they don't like them because there is too much American iron there. Well, we can do something about that by making sure that the MG we drive to a cruise night is not the only one there.

Last year, Bob Fougere and I spent several fun Monday evenings at the Grand River Cruises at the Village Commons Shopping Center on the north side of Grand River, just east of Farmington Road. They are being held there again this year through to October. Weather permitting we'd call each other up on a Monday afternoon and see if the other could make it that evening. Bob lives nearby and would always arrive first, saving a spot for me.

I discovered that owners of American classic cars are just like us, in fact many of them are us; lots of our members owning BACs as well as LBCs.

Farmington may be too far for you to travel but there is bound to be a cruise night near or in your city. Why not consult your Membership Directory to find other members close by and call them up to see if you can make it a party? Or send a note to Ellen and Lise if you would like to use the newsletter and web site to help organize a clutch of MGs in your bailiwick. If you can get to Farmington, call Bob or me. We are both in the directory and my number's on page 2 as well.

Rick Astley

Membership Notes

Club membership has really been growing rapidly in recent years. Over the past 5 years it has risen from 158 members to 215, an increase of 36%. More surprising is the fact that much of that growth came from Canada where membership rose in the same period from 28 to 57, a 204% increase! Members residing in Canada now make up 27% of our membership compared to 18% in April 2001.

At a recent board meeting, the relative strengths of the Canadian and US dollars was reevaluated. We bank and pay most of our bills in the US and so will not change dues there but from May 1st, rates for members paying in Canadian dollars fell to $30 with an electronic newsletter and to $35 with a paper version.

The Canadian dollar cost for additional name tags also reduced. This coincides with a different ordering policy and some new options for additional tags. From now forward, please order tags from our US Regalia Coordinator, Elvin Davis. Rates and options are as follows:

- Name tags with pin retainer. $5US $ 6CA
- Names tags with magnetic retainer. $8US $10CA
- Per extra lines to include car owned. $2US $ 2CA

Canadians, please remember the club's bank will not accept Canadian coins, so checks or bills only please.

New members will continue to receive 2 name tags with pins as part of their first year's membership fee. If you never received yours, please contact Elvin.

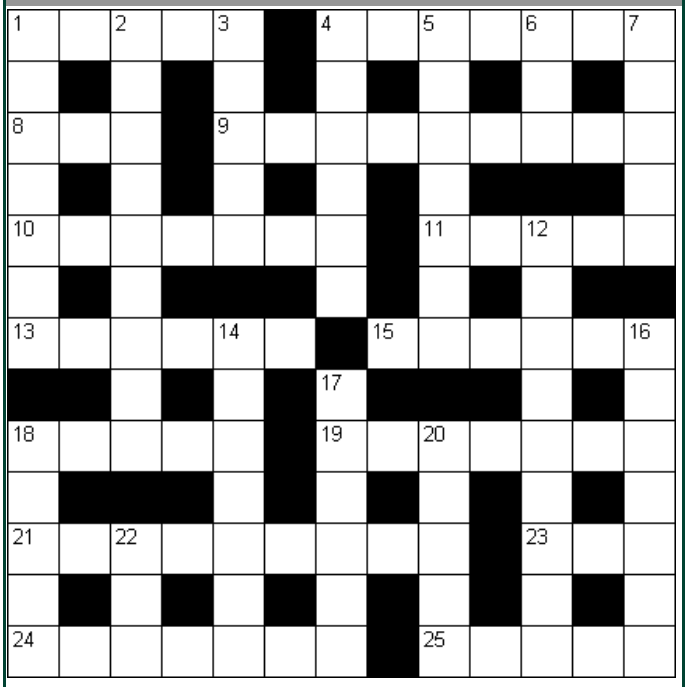
Michigan Historic Registration

Under current Michigan law, vehicles registered as 'historic' may only be driven for participation in club activities, exhibitions, tours, parades, and similar uses, including mechanical testing. Cars sporting the navy blue Historic plates with yellow lettering pay only a $30 license fee every 10 years. Alternatively, you can opt for an Authentic plate. You must first find an original license plate for the same year as your car. Note that each year, up to 1988, had a different plate color that may not look good with your particular car. The fee to register this plate to your vehicle is a little higher at $35 but there are no additional payments for as long as you own the car.

Many of us enjoy the reduced fees yet ignore the usage rules, after all, what cop would be so petty as to ticket someone for such a minor offence? Well one at least. Last year, like thousands of others, I was driving Woodward Avenue, during the week prior to the Dream Cruise, in a car carrying an historic plate. In the spirit of the evening, most drivers were listening to Oldies 104.3 which reported that an over-zealous officer was booking those drivers with cars carrying historic plates on the premise that the official 'parade' did not take place until the following Saturday, and so they were breaking the law.

Michigan Bill HB4362 would allow historic vehicles 'other occasional use' rather than just for parades and other such events. If you care about this matter, contact your representative. You can go to Hagerty.com and click on Advocacy Avenue in order to learn to whom you should write and for some advice on how to lobby him or her.

CROSSWORD COMPILED BY RICK ASTLEY

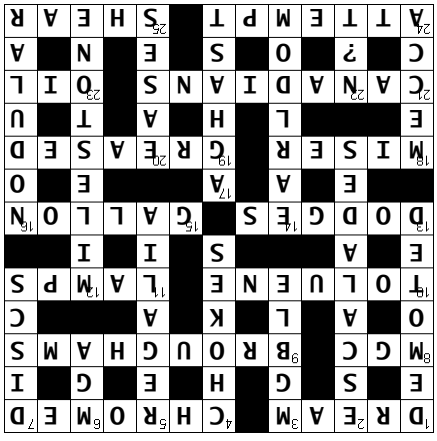


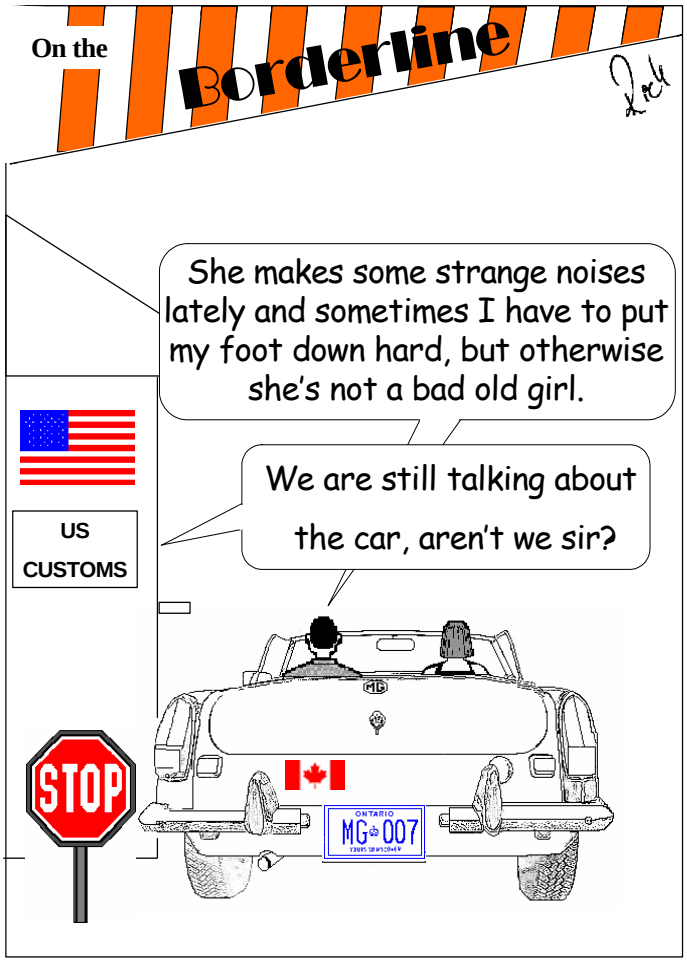
Across

1 Woodward cruise
4 Like pre 1974½ bumpers
8 6 cylinder club car
9 Open limos
10 Solvent and octane booster
11 Illuminators
13 Avoids a Daimler-Chrysler?
15 Imperial fuel measure.
18 Tightwad
19 Used thick lubricant
21 People of Ontario
23 Petroleum derivative
24 Try
25 Break by parallel forces

Down

1 Reduced in rank
2 Some Cadillacs
3 1980 club car
4 Starting aids
5 Club paraphernalia
6 1950's club car
7 Brake rotors
12 Old time distance marker
14 Estate of a certain nobleman
16 Having a lumpy surface
17 Struck with amazement
18 A center of activity
20 Makes effortless
22 Bolt's mate





Car Talk on Public Radio

There cannot be many club members that have been driving and scanning the FM band on a Saturday morning and have not come across 'Car Talk' presented by Tommy and Ray Magliozzi, a.k.a. Click and Clack the Tappet Brothers. Anyone who is interested in cars or just wants an hour of laughter should listen in to this show. It can be found on Michigan Radio at 10 am each Saturday by tuning to 91.7 Ann Arbor, 91.1 Flint or Detroit Public Radio 101.9. I can listen to 91.7 right out to Chatham but for some reason it is really weak in downtown Detroit and Windsor, so 101.9 is a better bet there.

These guys really know their cars and the show ostensibly is for listeners to call in and ask questions about car problems and motoring issues. They do get answers but not without a lot of humorous diversion which is why this local show from Boston went national in 1987 and has remained popular ever since.

Is the advice any good? They don't give any guarantees but they say it is as good and useful as you get from any doctor, as Tommy pointed out in a typical show last month. He reported how he went to see an ENT specialist because he had ringing in the ears. After a hours of expensive tests the doctor declared that Tommy had Tinnitus.

'What's that?' asked Tommy,

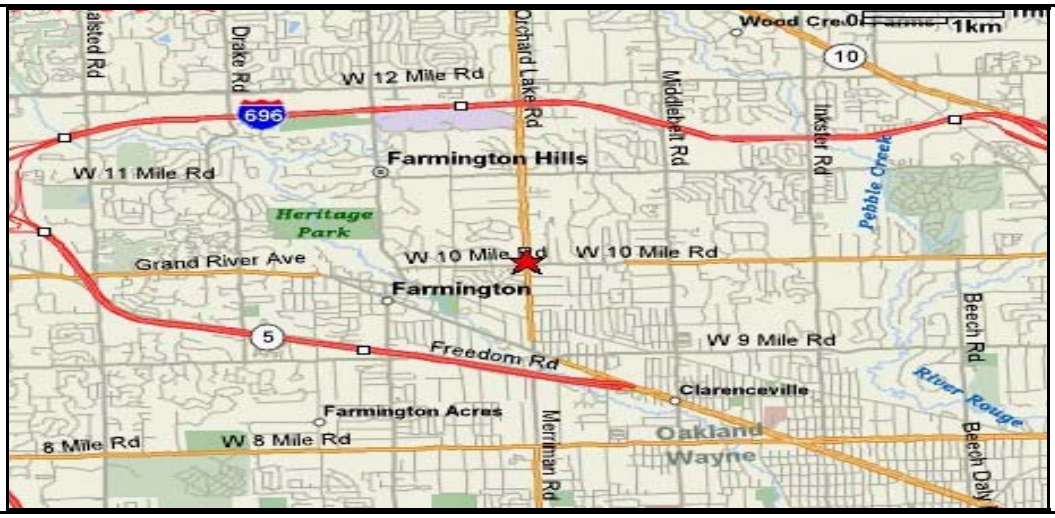
'Ringing in the ears', revealed the doctor.

'What causes it?' 'Is it serious? Tommy wanted to know.

'We don't know," replied the doctor, 'but don't worry, it's probably nothing – although it could be a brain tumor'.

June Meeting

Wednesday, June 14
Brass Pointe Restaurant
24234 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan



July Meeting

Wednesday, July 12
The Glasgow Moate
6124 Tecumseh Road East
Windsor, ON Canada

The pub is on the northeast corner of Tecumseh and Jefferson. The easiest way to get there from the tunnel or bridge is to head east on Tecumseh, turn left at Jefferson (there is a turning lane and traffic lights), then turn right into the front parking lot. Although Jefferson does run from Riverside Drive to Tecumseh, a traffic island precludes any left turn from Jefferson into the front parking lot. If you would still rather take The Drive, you'll need to turn right on Pillette, continue south to Tecumseh, turn left on Tecumseh, then left again on Jefferson (about 10 streets down) as mentioned above. The pub is roughly 9 to 12 minutes from the border crossings.

THE WINDSOR-DETROIT MG CLUB WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

MIKE AND MICKI ABROSIMOFF
AMHERST, ON
1968 MGB RED

"MG International 2006" in Gatlinburg

Time is running out to make your driving plans to Gatlinburg in June. If you're up for a two day drive on the backroads leaving June 20, and returning home on June 26, we need to hear from you by May 15th. This group will travel through Ohio to Portsmouth on the first day and continue on to Gatlinburg on the second. To sign up or for questions; contact Rich Wagner at the link below.

If anyone is interested in taking a two-day drive to the MG Event in Gatlinburg, you are welcome to join myself and Adrienne on June 20th. We've scheduled a driving trip to coincide with the event and Tentative Plans are as follows:

The main purpose of this drive is to avoid as much freeway traffic as possible. We'll begin early Tuesday morning from the usual Meijers at Eight Mile and Haggerty Road. Plans are to take M-50 South into Ohio and drive only through Ohio on the first day (this will be about 350 miles). Tentatively, lunch will be at an authentic roadside diner we discovered on another drive and the first nights lodging (and dinner) will be in Portsmouth, Ohio (right on the Kentucky border). Day two will be a slightly shorter drive to Gatlinburg arriving in late afternoon, just in time for those attending the event to register and freshen up. Since this will be an entirely 'back-road' experience, it may take a little longer, but you can expect lots of scenery. We will keep on schedule, but the intent of this trip is to enjoy the drive.

The Return trip will begin early on Sunday, June 25th using the same route to return that we followed coming down.

If you and your car are ready for a 650 mile trip over two days, you are welcome to join us. Because of the distance, should our group exceeds five cars, we may divide into smaller groups with the same itinerary so that we don't become a caravan. For further information contact Rich Wagner mgslovetrs@aol.com

Calendar of Events

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

MAY 2006

■ Wed 10 **Monthly Meeting** - Glasgow Moate, Windsor, ON

■ Sun 21 Tech Session, 2412 St. Joseph St., W. Bloomfield, MI **(Weather Dependant)**

☐ May 27 to June 4 British Car Week - Drive your British Car to Work

JUNE 2006

☐ Sat 3 London Classic British Car Show - London, ON

☐ Sun 4 The British Return to Fort Meigs Perrysburg, OH

☐ Sun 4 Orphan Car Show - Ypsilanti, MI

■ Wed 14 **Monthly Meeting** - Brass Pointe Farmington Hills, MI

☐ Sun 11 13th Annual Spring Fun On Wheels & Auto Flea Market - Essex, ON

■ Fri 16 to Sun 18 **Stratford Festival Tour** Stratford, ON

☐ Sun 18 to Wed 21 2006 British V8 Meet Townsend, TN

☐ Wed 21 to Sun 25 MG International 2006 Gatlinburg, TN

☐ Sun 25 Sportscars to Saline

JULY 2006

☐ Sun 11 Mad Dogs and Englishmen, Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, MI

■ Wed 12 **Monthly Meeting** - Glasgow Moate, Windsor, ON

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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Classified Advertisements

1975 MGB, with rebuilt motor and more. Call Rich Wagner (248-624-9573) or check it out on line at: http://community.webtv.net/OurMGandTR/MGB

1970 MGB, white, for sale in Detroit area. Mechanically in excellent condition and body and interior in good to very good condition. Dayton wheels. Relatively new top and tonneau. Approximately 5,000 miles on "completely" rebuilt engine. Pictures available on request. Email John at jdhertz@hertzbergpc.com, or call my office at 248-540-3200 if you are interested."

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], $7,500. Dave Reed 586-781-2716

1971 MG Midget
Red -New convertible top. Interior is in good condition. Has extra doors and windshield. Starts, Runs, Drives Great! Can email pictures on request.
$2,000 OBO
Call Brian at 586-665-1417

Trailer, flat bed with ramps, 6.8 wide X 15 8 inches off ground, ideal for MG or Midget. New tires came with a car and I don't need it anymore.$500.00 Call for details or pictures. Ron Pruette 248-821-8670 email: rpsurfr@flash.net

1966 Midget. Black/white. Good condition.
Moving to Florida. Must sell. Car located in S.E. Michigan.
$4,000 o.b.o.
Mike Sowards 313-383-8156 or 313-715-0817

Wanted. Laycock LH Overdrive. Either full transmission or O/D unit alone. For 1980 MGB.
Perry Burford 519-737-6424 pburford@sympatico.ca

1969 MGB Rds.
Originally British Racing Green / black interior
Wire wheels about 65,000 org miles
In storage since 1986
Some reparable floor rust rest of the car is excellent
Very complete car missing no parts
Also over $1000 worth of new parts included, carbs, brakes, radiator, shocks, and Lucas Hi performance ignition system, shocks
Price for all $1,500 USD-------Also rubber nose for late MGB Great condition bought back in 1988 to use but never did (is used) $200 I can be reached at 586-506-1732

1974 1/2 MG roadster. White, Mini Lite wheels, new carpet, good driver. $4500. Contact Elvin.at ejdavis2@peoplepc.com.
Home: 248-960-2296 cell phone: 248-613-5939

1967 MGB Very nice condition, runs great $8,000
Call Bill Larson 248-656-4992

1960 MGA - Red. Good condition. Make Best Offer. Call George Uridge at 248-474-6392

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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Let me overhaul your 4 speed Transmission
FOR YOU
40 Yrs experienced mechanic
John Twist schooled
Call
Harry Mac Lean

248-641-5011

I am well on the road to recovery from hip surgery and hope to be driving MG's again very soon. Many thanks to our club members for their good wishes and encouragement at April's meeting. Note the handy MG pouch on my Zimmer frame courtesy of Cathy Holliday.

Regards,
Philip Wiltshire

MICHIGAN LOCAL EVENTS

Ever wished you had information on events going on locally at your fingertips? This page has been provided to our club members as a service for non-car events. If any of our Canadian members have information for local events across the border, please send them to ellen@wdmgc, and they'll be included next month.

ROYAL OAK

For a full event schedule view the web site at http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/city/events.html

May 29th, "Memorial Day Parade".

July 8-9th, "Outdoor Art Fair". Memorial Park (Corner of Woodward Avenue & 13 Mile Road) on Saturday, July 8, 10am - 6:00pm & Sunday, July 9, 10am - 5:00pm. For more information, call the Royal Oak Recreation Department, 248-246-3180

July 15-16th, "31st Antique & Garage Sale". The 31st Antique & Garage Sale will be held in the Lafayette Ave. parking structure between 5th & 6th St. For more information, call the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce for more information, 248-547-4000

Where: (**new location**) Lafayette Ave. parking structure between 5th & 6th St.
Whwn: Saturday, July 15 from 9:30 am - 6 pm
Sunday, July 16 from 9:30 am - 5 pm
Admission: $1 admission for 12 and over. Under 12 free

Rain or shine! Over 300 vendors selling everything under the sun (and some items from other planets!)

HOWELL

For full event information view the web site at http://www.michiganchallenge.com/

June 23 - 25, Michigan Challenge Balloonfest. In its 22nd year, the event is one of the premier summer-time activities in Michigan with balloon launches and entertainment for the entire family. There's even a Classic Car Show!

BIRMINGHAM

June 2 - 4, Village Fair. Shain Park; for more information call Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber at 248-644-1700.

July 5, In The Park Concert. Shain Park 7:00 pm—10:00 pm.

FARMINGTON

For more information, view the website calendar at http://www.ci.farmington.mi.us/

June -*every Thursday, starting June 15th, Stars In The Park Concerts. Heritage Park*

July 21 - 23, Art On The Grand/Founders Day Festival,

TROY

For more information, view the website calendar at http://www.ci.troy.mi.us/

July 15, MOTORING MEMORIES, Troy Museum. "Classic Car Show at the Troy Museum. Music by The Classics, model car exhibits, special children's activities, door prizes. Park at Walsh College ride the free shuttle to the Museum."

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