The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 29, No. 8 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club September 2007

Whistler Adventure

by Bruce Read

When I started planning my trip to GT-32, I had a lot of questions. Will my car make it, what will the weather be like, what route to take, and most important do I really want to put my self thru the grind of such a long trip?

I planed taking 8 days to get to Whistler which would make it an easier trip than going to Key West in 2 days. The route was primary interstate 90 with side trips to Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone.

The first day was cloudy with a little mist in the air near Chicago, but I managed it with the top down. After my first nights stop in Madison the next 2 days to get to Mount Rushmore were clear and very hot with a shower that I saw coming and didn't care, because I needed to cool off. I made it to the hotel in Rapid City just ahead of a severe thunder storm complete with hail, I was able to keep my car under the overhang in front of the Holiday Inn to keep it out of the downpour and hail stones. On my way up to see Mount Rushmore I discovered what turned out to be my only problem of the trip, my headlights didn't work. It wasn't much of a problem I used my fog lamps to get back to the hotel and the rest of the trip would be during daylight. The only problem I had with the car over heating was going across Powder River Pass at 9666 feet, I had to stop a couple of times to let the car cool down.

Yellowstone was amazing, I was surprised by how many people took photographs of my car and wanted to talk to me about LBCs. Sharing the road with a buffalo was interesting, considering that my eye level was even with his knee.

The rest of the way was uneventful except for the road construction between Vancouver and Whistler - they are trying to widen the entire length of road ahead of the 2010 Winter Olympics. The Delta Whistler Hotel were GT-32 was hosted was super complete with underground secure parking. Everything we needed to do except for the lunch drive was within walking distance. The car show was on Tuesday, and Ralph Poupard won 2nd place in the MGA-1500 class.

On Wednesday we took a 113 kilometer trip to Lillooet for lunch. The road was twisting with hills that had 16% grades. The CAA followed us with a flat bed car carrier in case someone had trouble along the way. The only car that needed to be picked up was for a photo op with the rest of the club members that they traveled with.

The trip home I took US 2 across Northern Washington to Glacier National Park, camping along the way. In all it was a very long tiring trip and I was glad to get back home, but well worth the time and adventure, the reason we have these LBCs.

Peter Tilbury and his crew did a wonderful job putting on this GT, they made everyone feel at home and fun was had by all. The bar has been set very high for the next group in Seven Springs Pennsylvania, for me I'm glad it will only be a 6 hour drive instead of the 6700 miles that the trip to Whistler took.

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Presidentially Speaking

By Jeff Zorn — Club President

BOB hopefully is on your mind and it is not just a name, it is actually Battle of the Brits. In my last column I wrote about it so I won't dwell on it again but we hope you come out in force to represent your WDMGC. VP Cathy Holliday has been hard at work along with Terry Walters the BOB chairperson this year to make this 25th Anniversary very special for both clubs. You can register for the event at www.detroittriumph.org and paypal is accepted. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help with the games, please contact Cathy and let her know you are ready willing and able to help.

The University Motors Summer party for 2007 is now history and for those that attended I hope you had a great time. Several of our members also took the trip to Alden for the car show there. If you were one of those lucky ones to go I am sure you had as good a time as we had last year in Alden. The club puts on a very nice event and it is growing every year.

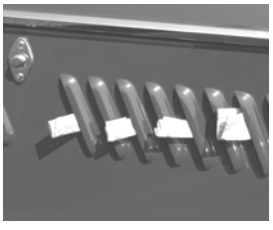
By the time you read this Jan and I will have covered lots of miles in August. We were in Dayton early in the month and then followed that with a trip to the Pocono's for the Triathlon IV.

This was the fifth Triathlon we have attended and they just get better all the time. There were about 90 two person teams there this year and we participated with the Delaware Valley Classic MG Club. With our clubs total points we won the club participation trophy this year. You can read about it at this link http://www.lbcarco.com/cgi-bin/gen5?runprog=lbcshop4&o=&page=/newsletter/news081207.html. The event is a real hoot consisting of a hill climb, fun rally and a crazy car show where bribes are permitted and you don't wash your LBC. For part of our bribe at the show Jan and I presented Jan's Mobile MINI Malt Shop and made cones and milkshakes out on the show field. The next one is in 2009 and is always at an all inclusive resort which really makes it nice.

Tomorrow (the 15th) we are off to Scotland for five days to plan our Highlands and Islands 2008 Adventure. It will be really hectic and non stop for the whole time. Once back we may do another show in Cleveland and they for the Labor Day weekend we are off to Portland Oregon for the big 700+ car All British Field Meet there.

Take note of the event on November 10th. Anne and Rick Astley are again hosting a night at the races at Northville Downs. It was a real blast last year and you get a real bang for the buck. Sign up early for this one there will be a lot of members there again this year.

Have a very happy Holiday and see you at the meeting on September 12th at the Dominion House in Windsor.



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Submissions must arrive by the 15th of the month to ensure publication in the next issue.

Vice-Presidentially Speaking

By Cathy Holliday

Well this driving season has been great. A little warm in the Coupe's and GT's, but still loads fun. Also, very busy with all the shows and driving events. The club calendar if filled with exciting events. As I write this article, the ***Alternative Dream Cruise*** is only a few days away. And next weekend, the ***Brake for Brunch*** sounds like loads of fun to get out for a nice drive and visit with some MG friends.

The line up for September fills the calendar too. Beginning with the ***Battle of the Brits Show*** on September 9 at Freedom Hill County Park in Sterling Heights, MI. It is the 25th Anniversary for this event. Originally, it started as a competition between the Windsor Detroit MG Club and the Detroit Triumph Club. We will be bringing back the 2 trophies that have been in storage for several years. The **Participation Award** is a plaque for the club with the most number of registered cars at the event. Also, the **Victors Trophy** for the club winning the most votes on selected cars from similar classes to represent each club. The winning club of each award will keep the trophies for the following year to brag of their success. We hope to take both awards back this year. So come on out and celebrate the 25th Annual Battle of the Brits and vote for your favorite MG. We are also hoping to sponsor some games and prizes.

This will also be a great opportunity to "Talk it up", The 'Club' that is. Tell everyone about the WDMG club. Tell them about all the great folks in the club, the great tech support we all share, the regular meetings, and oh yes the fun driving.

6,000 miles in an MGA (With Altitude)

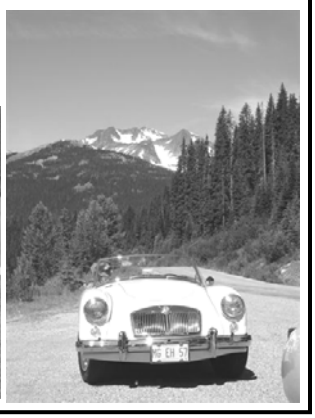
(Part One) By Ralph Poupard

It all started at GT-30 in Mackinaw in 2005. Peter Tilbury, chair of the NAMGAR GT-32 organizing committee gave a presentation on GT-32 to be held in Whistler BC in 2007. Kathi and I started to dream about an epic road trip. I had always dreamed about making the drive out to the west coast, and making that trek in an MG made it all seem more exciting (or crazy). Of course it was not a trip to be taken lightly. We knew the uphill climbs would be steep and the down hills as well! The temperatures would be extreme, and the hours of driving at highway speeds would be grueling. A serious drive train breakdown would turn this adventure into a disaster with a megabucks shipping bill to have an MG shipped back home, and either renting a car to continue, or returning home with our tails between our legs. Not a pleasant thought. We considered buying or renting a trailer to tow the car, but we just didn't have a powerful enough vehicle to tow what would be close to 4,000 lbs. So it was either MGA, MGB, or one of the modern cars. I had requested to take my 4 weeks vacation from work all at once for this trip over a year ago, and Kathi is retired.

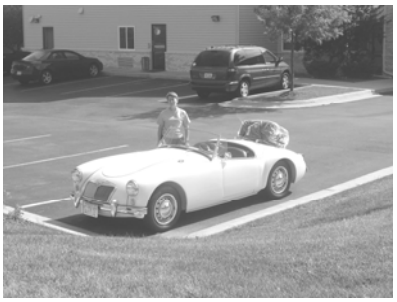
I tossed it around for months. Non MG people remarked: "Are you crazy?" I mentioned the idea of driving the MGA to fellow club member Graham Creswick, and he advised "You'd better bring a lot of spare parts". I had already started massing a stock of parts: belts, hoses, water pump, fuel pump(s), ignition parts, generator, lubricants, brake seals and so on to the point where the pile was becoming larger than the limited trunk space of an MGA! I began stuffing parts under the spare tire, in the spare battery tray, and every nook and cranny. That left space in the trunk for exactly a laptop computer, one sleeping bag and one pair of shoes. The rest had to go behind the side curtain pouch and on the luggage rack. I began to imagine the limited horsepower of the MGA 1500 engine dwindling due to the cargo weight, and the wind resistance of the luggage on the rack. For those who don't know, our MGA it is a 1957 roadster that I rebuilt myself (a scary enough thought!) from a rusted hulk. It is restored to a very original specification with the only modifications being a spin on oil filter, a fan shroud and a Lucas sport coil. This was going to make it very interesting. In the month prior to leaving I checked everything on the car out to the best of my ability. Dale Brown had driven out to Whistler in his Malibu (smart guy!) about a week before we were to leave. Lise had flown out previously and he was meeting her there. He gave us some sound advice and we altered our planned route slightly.

And so it was on Saturday, July 14th we left at 2:00 PM (way later than planned) in the tightly packed MGA. We drove through Michigan on US 12 in the Irish Hills. It was a nice peaceful ride, but that was about to change once we hit the freeways. We drove through Indiana and through Chicago with no delays other than at the toll booths. The MGA was running well and sounded neat going under overpasses and tunnels. Darkness had fallen when we stopped to look for a motel just past Chicago on I-90. The first motel was surrounded by heavy traffic and the front desk person said "You haven't heard about the big Greek Festival?" Well, we hadn't but we then knew we had to push on for a while yet. We finally stopped in Rockford for the night.

The next morning we drove through the remainder of Illinois, Wisconsin, and to Fergus Falls MN with the MGA running fine. The heat was building outside of the car and inside. The engine temperature was about 195 to 198°F, which was usually where it seemed to settle out after about 4 or 5 hours of freeway driving. Kathi fired up our air conditioning - a spray bottle to mist ourselves. This is surprisingly effective but requires frequent re-applications! This was our best driving day of the entire trip, 503 miles. The next morning we drove through the remainder of Minnesota and into North Dakota. As we were driving on I-94 we were gaining on a vehicle ahead that looked unusual from a distance. As we got closer to it we discovered that it was an MGA Coupe towing a trailer, headed to the same place we were. Out of all the cars and roads and miles on the way to GT-32 it seemed incredible that we would come across another MGA on the way to Whistler, by chance. We drove together for about 40 minutes, but they had a different route and timing planned than we did, and pulled off I-94 to head for the border between North Dakota and Saskatchewan one exit before we did.



Next time: Ralph, Saskatchewan and beyond.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Tammy Fejoo
Tom Raymond
37339 Agar Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310-3604
(248) 789-6316
1976 MGB Red

Bob & Gloria Bobrowski
15225 Riverside Street
Livonia, MI 48154-5194
(734) 462-1372
1974 1/2 MGB Orange/Red

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEMBERS ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Marla Zebarah	26 years
Roli Sylvestre & Paula Benoit	26 years
Sonny & Millie Graat	18 years
Suzanne & David Snyder	16 years
David Burstyn & Emily Meleg	15 years
Phillip Kull & Joyce Kiebler	15 years
John & Nancy Zajac	14 years
Jeff & Janice Zorn	12 years
Paul & Janet Harris	11 years
Steve & Nancy Brown	11 years
Tom & Mike Schendel	10 years
David Bartilson	9 years
Steve & Chris Tackett	8 years
Paul & Pauline Blunt	8 years
Marty & Tracie Berghaus	7 years
Mark & Dianne Campeau	6 years
Jim & Carolynn Cox	5 years
Richard & Sherry Dittman	5 years
Connie & John Flynn	4 years
Lee & Carol Karvola	4 years
Jack & Dawn Thompson	4 years
Mick & Lori Gedeon	3 years
Ron & Alice Hale	3 years
Rick & Kathy Dutot	2 years
Diane & Brad Bushey	1 year
Dick Kubit & Sharon Hadden	1 year
John Meconi & Liz LaFleur	1 year
Paul Perakes	1 year
Don & Fran O'Connell	1 year

Tips & Hints

The Irish Tavern, 4703 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan (248) 683-9056, has a wonderful **Bangers & Mash Appe-teaser**!

CLUB MEETINGS

September Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 12, 2007

The Dominion House Tavern
3140 Sandwich Street
Windsor, Ontario

October Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Brass Pointe Restaurant
24234 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan

HALLOWEEN
HAT CONTEST

Due to space restrictions,
see the Windsor/Detroit MG Club website:
www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc/ for detailed directions.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale: Tandem Axle Open Trailer. Great for LBC. $800. Also, will sell 1958 MG ZB Magnette "Maggie" for $7,500. Package price? Ted Hight (248) 682-84078

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BRITISH CAR CRUISE-IN

Where: Anton's Island Grill
2891 E. Big Beaver
Troy, Michigan 48084

When: Thursday May 17, 2007
Thursday June 21, 2007
Thursday July 19, 2007
Thursday August 16, 2007
Thursday September 13, 2007

Time: 5pm - 8:30pm

Come and join fellow LBC enthusiasts

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HMac483017@aol.com

D.T.S.C.

The Detroit Triumph Sportscar Club

"Summer British Knights"

A series of seven British-only Car Cruise-in Nights to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, April through October, 2007. Evenings, from 6PM. Each Cruise-in will be held at a different location for 2007.

September 19, West Side - Brann's Steakhouse
39715 6 Mile Rd., Northville Twp., MI 48168, (734)420-1400

October 17, West Side - Brann's Steakhouse & Grille
39715 6 Mile Rd., Northville Twp., MI 48168, (734)420-1400

All British car clubs and owners are cordially invited to join the Detroit Triumph Sportscar Club in enjoying these summer evenings in the company of fellow British car enthusiasts, while also enjoying great food, spirits.

For more information contact Dave & Laurie Carlson: davida49@aol.com or Dave & Sue Snyder: snydleydog@yahoo.com
(248) 426-0124 (586) 979-4875

DTSC Fall Colour Tour
Saturday, September 22nd, 2007

The Windsor/Detroit MG Club, along with other S.E. Michigan British car clubs, are invited to join in the DTSC Fall Colour Tour.
Participants will be treated to a full day and evening of fun, festivities, food and comradaries. Gathering at:
Roger Cotting's Home, 56050 Eight Mile Road, Northville, MI at 12:30 P.M, departing promptly at 1:00 P.M.
In addition to the scenic drive, participants will be able to compete in a Poker Run. The route will cover approximately 80 miles and will wind through some scenic roads in Washtenaw County. The drive will conclude at **Baker's in Milford (2025 S. Milford Road, Milford, MI** 248-685-0505/248-685-3300). Expected conclusion time is 5:30 P.M.
All participants of the Fall Colour Tour will be invited into a reserved banquet room for cocktails,. Winners of the Poker Run will be recognized. After cocktails, DTSC will have their annual Year End Party.
For more information on this event, visit the Windsor/Detroit Club website: www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc/ for details.

THE BORDER CITY Mini CLUB & JOSE'S NOODLE FACTORY present *British Only* cruise nights .

We would like to invite all British car or motorcycle owners for 2007 British only cruise in nights to be held at Jose's Noodle Factory at 2731 Howard Ave in Windsor on Monday September 24th 2007 from 6pm until ??

Hop in your British car, cruise on down and enjoy an evening of fun with awesome food, great cars, make some new friends, door prizes and 50-50 draw with proceeds to charity.2526+9+63.

The Bridge to Happiness

A man was driving his MG up the California coast road when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.

The driver pulled over and said, "Please build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want." The Lord replied, "Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. Of course I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."

The driver thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand women; I want to know how a woman feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

On the Borderline

THE ALTERNATIVE DREAM CRUISE

By Rich Wagner

Adrienne and I were quite surprised to find several others waiting for us when we arrived right on schedule for the 7th Annual (real) "Dream Cruise.

In attendance for at least the first half of the drive were, Gordon & Tracy Bird in their 62 MGA, Mick & Lorraine Gedeon in their 71 MGB and John & Hilde Dean in their 79 MGB. Rodolfo & Vania Rasche came down in their 79 MGB from Ann Arbor for their first club outing, as did non-members, David & Wendy Clements, who came along with their children in a Van. The kids were especially glad that David's car is still in transit as they might have otherwise missed out on the yummy ice cream at the first stop.

Regulars in this group of Dream Cruisers were Fran Lewis in her 69 MGC-GT, Ron & Alice Hale in their 76 MGB, Jim Zielinski in his 70 MGB and Janet & Elvin Davis in their 80 MGB. Finishing up the list of participants were Mike Moder in his 62 MGA, Doug & Ailene Butcher in their 59 MGA and Bob Fougere in his 1977 MGB**!** Steve & Cathy Holiday came along in their 58 MGA, as did Philip Wiltshire, who not only brought his (Bambi killer), but also Jan and five other hungry mouths to feed.

Now, about that Drive.....

With fourteen British cars (and two vans), everything went fine until we came to our turn at Cooley Lake Road and discovered that it was closed!

Not wanting to chance driving through, I didn't attempt it, but with Mike Moder's help, we had the whole group turn the opposite way and park along side the road. One neat feature of these little wide-open-cars that we drive is we can so easily talk to one another without having to stick our heads out the window.

I just about talked myself hoarse as I walk past each car telling them to follow me, but the effort really paid off when David Clements' wife, Wendy suggested an easy way to circle around and get back on the route. Of course, I had to repeat those instructions nearly fifteen times as I went back up to my car, but then the group was off on our second attempt to reach the Dairy Queen. Other than yielding for several emergency vehicles, it was smooth sailing the rest of the way.

I kept hoping that we'd have our usual good luck at the Dairy Queen, and that the sun would come out before leaving for the restaurant, but I had to put my jacket on to keep the chill to a minimum. This would have been fine weather for the Fall Colour Tour, but in August?

When we finally arrived, all the parking around the restaurant was filled, and there were barely enough spaces in the larger public parking lot down below for everyone to find a space.

Everyone seemed please with both the service and the food, and the dining experience was quite good, despite the rather noisy atmosphere coming from the other side where a benefit was being held. We were all seated as a group, and the waitress who took care of us did a fine job, even providing separate checks (always a sticky issue with group seating).

Just as we were finishing, word came that it had begun to sprinkle and most everyone had their tops up when heading for home on their own.

DAN ZEBARAH
Long Time Member and Newsletter Editor Dies

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club lost one of our longest serving and active members August 23rd when Dan Zebarah lost his gallant fight against cancer.

Dan was one of the earliest members of our club, joining the club in it's first year of existence after finding a flyer under his MGB's wiper.

Dan bought his first MG in 1980. It was a brand new yellow (BMC still had dealers back then). It was stolen in October of 1987. Dan took the insurance settlement and bought the Brown MGB that everyone associates with Dan (and wife Marla).

When Marla met Dan in 1983, the MG was Dan's daily driver. No trailer queen for Dan. Dan took Marla to a couple of club meetings which consisted of 5 or 6 guys sitting around a table discussing how to tune the carburetor which was sitting on the table.

For Marla say "Boring"

Never the less they became very active members. In fact there might not be a Windsor-Detroit MG Club today but for the efforts of Dan back in the early '80s. At that time there were about 45 "members", but the club had no money and no good way to notify the membership to pay their dues. Dan and four other members pooled their "dues" and Dan published one of the first newsletters, mailed it out and asked for dues from the rest of the members thus putting the club on good financial footing. The Cam-Am Connections started rolling off the presses and the rest, as they say is history.

For the next ten years or so, Dan was the newsletter editor and he and Marla put on many of the club's events. By now they had a son (David) and a daughter (Lisa) who took up more and more of their MG time. Boy Scouts won out over the Color Tour. Dan loved and enjoyed Lisa and David. They still managed to get to our Hibernation Parties, the Funkanna and other family friendly events, just not as many.

About 10 years ago, Dan and I both ran for President of the club. In the last 40 years of various sport car club memberships I can only remember 2 or 3 times when two people actually competed for an office. Dan and I said we were running to <u>not</u> be newsletter editor since we each agreed that whoever lost would do the newsletter. I won and Dan again served the club as newsletter editor. And don't forget, Marla was the membership chair and club treasurer. The Zebarahs have both given this club a lot of needed service.

In August of 2006 Dan was having terrible headaches and problems with his vision. Doctors discovered a tumor near his brain stem. The cancer had spread from his lungs. Last October they operated but couldn't get it all. Chemo pills were tried but they too couldn't get it all. By July Dan had to quit work and in August Marla took a leave of absence from her job to take care of him.

Dan refused to go into a Hospice unit and died at home.

Although not very active in recent years, Dan leaves a record of service to this club that should be admired by us all. He set a great example of enjoying and serving this club and he definitely will be missed.

And Marla, if you need that carburetor tuned or a navigator for a rallies you have many friends in the club that can help. Just ask.

So David now 18 has responsibility for the Brown MGB. David, be sure to bring mom or sister Lisa to our rallies, picnics and other events. We'll have a lot of events that Dan would have liked.

Ed Fleming, fellow former newsletter editor

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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