The Can Am MG CONNECTION
WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 31, No. 8 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club **September 2009**

Victorian Tea at the Holly Hotel

By Phillip Wiltshire

We have enjoyed a variety of weather for our MG events in 2009. Only the day before this event, we enjoyed an inch (25.4 millimeters for the Canadians) of rain. So Sunday August 9 dawned hot and humid with a promise of thunderstorms in the evening. OK, so dry and moist, but we'll take it.

Ailene Butcher had originally pegged the group size to 20, but several folk called later on past her deadline and our ranks swelled to 35. In fact, the Holly Hotel had to use the second floor dining room rather than their smaller one on the ground floor to accommodate us.

Our group met on M59 and Milford Road and consisted of: Steve & Ruth Swarin, Steve & Donna Finch, Philip & Jan Wiltshire, Doug & Ailene Butcher, George & Helen Barton, Jerry & Regina Goodwin, Fran Lewis, Roger Melton & Beverly, Rich & Jayne Pollion, Larry & Mitzi Pittman, Ron & Alice Hale, Ted & Susan Hight, Bill & Mary Ellen Weakley, Richard & Sharon Kubit, Greg Kuhun and Jill Seguin, Colin & Jan Stafford, Steve & Cathy Holliday, and Dave & Pamela Barton.

We proceeded to run a tour of 50 miles around the northwest towns and villages trying to use long and windy roads and keeping stop lights and signs to a minimum on our serendipitous way to Holly, Michigan. This 1 hour 15 minute run went well and the sight of a great convoy of MGs driving around country roads is great. We had the Battle Alley next to the Holly Hotel coned-off for our parking. The convoy of cars fit the alley almost perfectly in an angled formation and looked good in the antique setting.

No longer just an Inn, Michigan's Holly Hotel is a nationally-known American restaurant, listed on the

(Continued on page 6)

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Lise Brown - Editor

Here we are, September already. I don't know about you but I'm not ready to let go of summer yet… my summer wardrobe included!

Seems like just yesterday I was writing about getting ready for our four and an half week road trip. And for the record, it turned out to be closer to six weeks thanks to the extended shut down of the GM Transmission plant where Dale works. Tough times but yes, we got a taste of what summers could be like once Dale retires and I have to admit it was rather sweet. Mind you we did miss not having the B to take out for a spin, especially while in Ottawa, Banff, Whistler, the Okanagan Valley (*especially* the Okanagan Valley) and Victoria. Of course, our numerous LBC sightings didn't help appease our longing much: 8 MGBs; 3 TR6s; 1 MGA; 1 Lotus Super Seven; 1 new Lotus; 1 early 50's Morris Minor; 1 70's Mini; 1 trailer-queen MG-TD: various Jaguars, Bentleys and other sports cars… Who in their right mind keeps such records while on holiday?! As you can well imagine, Dale's brain was (and still is) hard at work trying to figure out how the B could be included in our next cross-country tour…stay tuned.

While it's clear Dale and I missed some great events while we were away, I see that many of you were still around and took full advantage of those opportunities to drive your LBC and socialize with fellow members and other enthusiasts. And the variety of events suggests that there was something for everyone to enjoy: a Sunday drive followed by afternoon tea at the Historic Holly Hotel; a British car show with a concert featuring a British Invasion cover band; a *real* Dream Cruise including dinner; and a Concours d'Élégance! And that's just what I was able to include in this issue. Reports on other events members attended, such as the Alden Sports Car Show, will appear in a future issue of Can-Am Connection, as will other articles I've received this month.

On that note, I want to thank all of you who have submitted articles to Can-Am Connection. It goes without saying that the newsletter could not exist without contributions from its members and believe me all contributions are welcome and appreciated! If you have submitted an article that has not yet appeared, don't worry, it's in the wings so to speak and will be published in due course. MGB Wedding Bells and Cross Border MG Shopping are just a hint of what's to come, not to mention reports on September events!

Do you have a story to share, an experience to relate, a tech tip to pass on to fellow members? The newsletter is your voice and your opportunity to contribute. If you have a great story but need help putting it into words just send me what you have; together we can make your article happen.

Before signing off I want to once again thank Rick Astley (renowned author and WDMGC president/membership coordinator/all-round WDMGC ambassador) for filling in as Can-Am editor last month. On behalf of the entire membership, Rick, thank you!

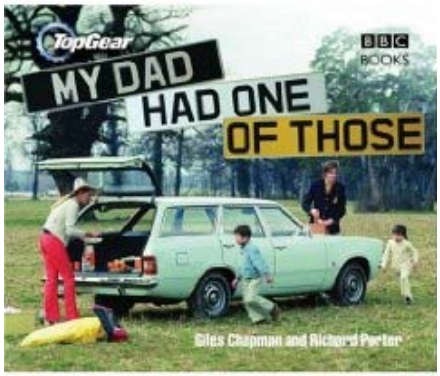
Lise

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

Presidentially speaking

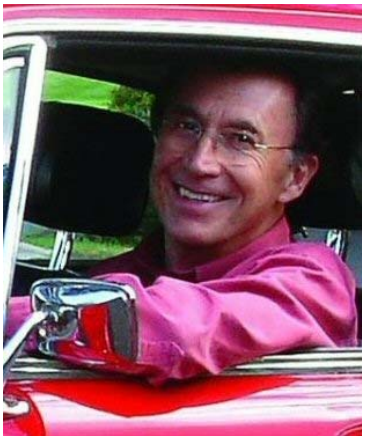
Rick Astley - Club President

My son recently bought me a book titled *My Dad Had One of Those*. The book looks back at European cars of the 50s through the 80s and "My Dad" in this case meant my son's dad — me. Leafing through it, it's surprising how many of the cars I did drive: the Ford Escort, Cortina, Capri, Sierra and Granada, Morris Marina and Mini, Austin Princess, Vauxhall Viva and Cavalier and the Citrően GS (no MGs are featured). This era coincides with a period of rapid decline in the British motor industry and, as they look back, the book's authors are rather scathing about many of the British cars they have chosen to include. At the time I thought some of the cars they disparage were great and while it's true, some were lemons, so were many from other countries, but it seems the British revel in self-denigration. I was reminded of this when watching British actor/comedian Stephen Fry on BBC America. He related how, when in America, he hears the phrase, "Only in America", where it means something novel or extraordinary has happened of which the speaker is usually proud. In contrast, when using the term, "Only in Britain", Brits are referring to waiting in line, poor service or general inefficiencies. I can only agree that, like the back-axles of the cars they drove in the 80s, Brits are a nation of whiners!



This year, one common subject of complaint we've had in common with the Brits is the early-summer weather. Owning little British cars makes us all cherish the driving season and as a result, this year's cool and wet conditions have certainly become a subject of discussion whenever our members get together. For my part, I've used my roadster very little this year, preferring to use the GT whenever MGing, just because I didn't want to get caught in rain.

Despite the cool air temperature, the sunshine has made my garage quite hot, and I suppose I'd forgotten the effect that elevated temperature has on a car battery, especially one that is a few years old, like that in my roadster. All lead-acid batteries self-discharge to some extent, but the rate of discharge approximately doubles for every 18°F or 10°C temperature rise and may double again every year of a battery's life. Forgetting those facts was my mistake. When at last late-July gave us a warm day, Anne and I decided it was time to enjoy what we look forward to all winter, a balmy evening ride in our open-top car. The roadster started fine but we stopped and restarted the car a couple of times and, as dusk fell, it eventually became necessary to use the headlights. We finally decided to stop at a mall and pick-up something we needed but on trying to re-start the car I heard the dreaded click-click that told me immediately that my battery was dead. It was only then that I remembered I should have charged the battery and that my jumper-cables were in the GT. Fortunately, we were only a short distance from the home of club member Bob Fougere, who had to call on me at least a couple of times last year when he had starting problems. It was time to ask for a return of the favor and fortunately my cell-phone was charged and I found Bob at home. It wasn't long before he and his jumper-cables came to our rescue and we were on our way home again. I must admit that I pulled the choke out a little just to keep the engine running at a speed that kept the alternator charging and minimized the risk of an accidental engine stall.



Something I didn't forget was my Membership Directory. I always keep one in the car and had Bob not been available, I could have resorted to calling other nearby members, although in the case I suspect I'd have eventually found someone in the parking lot fit enough to give me a bump-start. We only provide one copy of the Directory to each member but if you have more than one car, or for any reason would like an extra copies and you have a computer, let me know and I can send you the file so that you can print as many as you like.

At last we have a proper summer, but as a born and bred Brit, I feel duty bound to complain that it's now too hot! As I write, there are still lots of WDMGC events on the calendar and plenty of cruise nights in the region, so I'll look forward to seeing you at one of them.

Safety MG Fast

Rick

British Car Show in Kingsville

By Sue Hunt

Yet again the weather held up… what a crazy summer, eh? Despite the threat of a huge thunderstorm - that had us pretty worried for about 45 minutes - it turned out to be a beautiful day for the All British Car Show held Saturday July 18 at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village in Kingsville, Ontario.

A total of 72 cars showed up, 14 of which were from the WDMGC. The local Mini Club also had a strong showing. Among our club members' cars were Gord and Susan Wallace's E type Jag, Ralph Poupard's 1957 MGA, Dave Burstyn's 1960 MGA and Richard Winterburn's 1968 Morgan 4/4 4-seater… just to name a few.

There were 6 Morgans in all, including 2 +8s, an aluminium-bodied 1967 4/4 Super Sport that has been off the road for twenty years owned by Bruce Fenn and Richard Winterburn's 4/4. The interesting thing about these two cars was that their production numbers were one off each other, as were the +8s, very close to one another.

The Peoples Choice Award went to Richard Winterburn's 1968 4/4 4-seater. The car has recently been restored by Richard and friends and is a gorgeous "Ford Mustang" blue with a tan interior.

Other highlights of day were a 50/50 draw, door prizes, a car boot sale, as well as cars for sale, which reminds me, we have a… never mind, just check out the newsletter and web site classified ads. Also, tours of the museum and village were offered for only $2 (if you brought a car) and both are definitely worth visiting. There was also plenty of food on hand with an afternoon BBQ and an evening buffet, both of which were great.

The weather was still beautiful in the evening for dancing under the stars to the music of British Beat 66, a local band that belts out the best of the British Invasion tunes. For those of you who could not make this event, we hope to see you next year!

Meadow Brook Concours d'Élégance

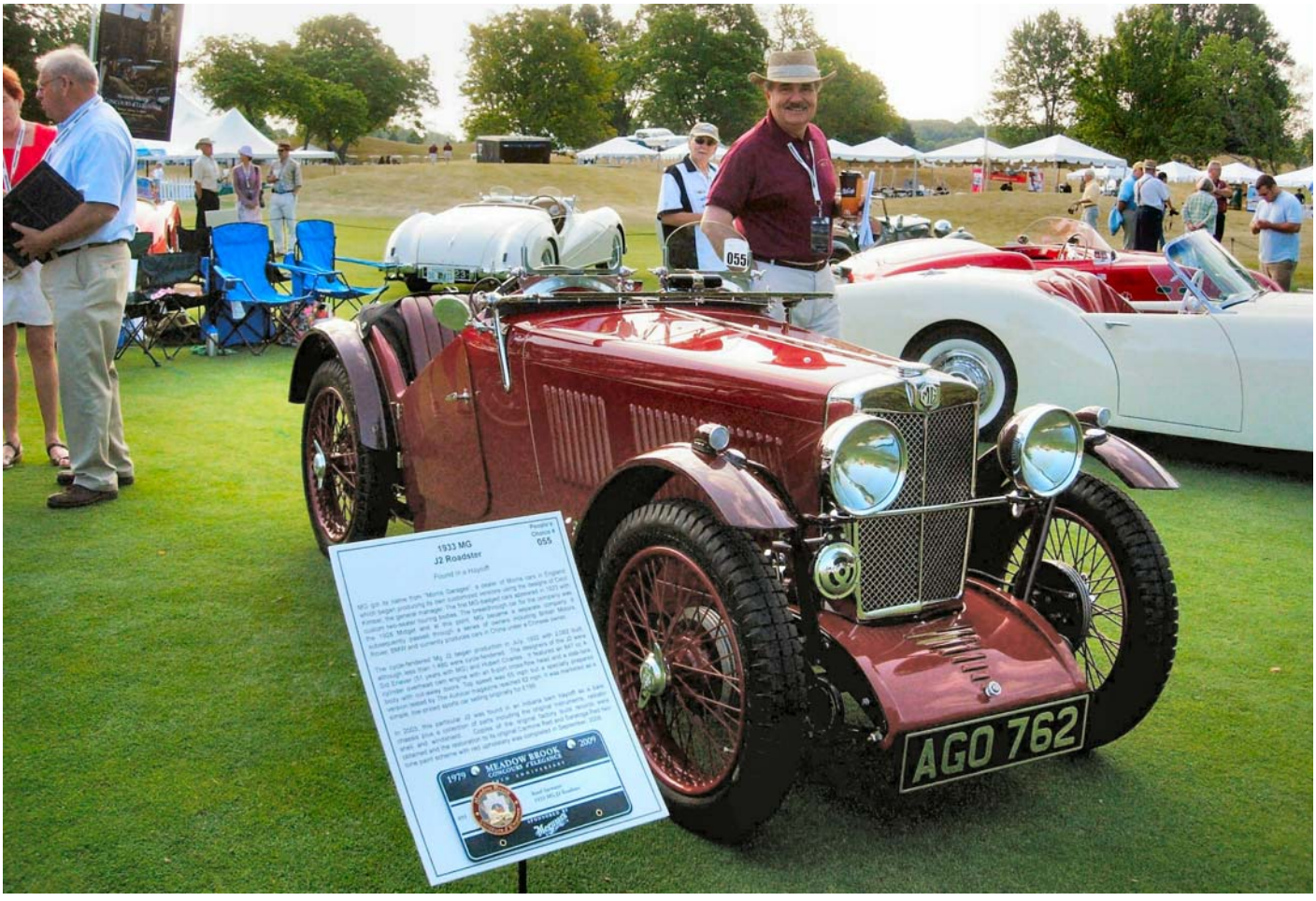
By Steve Finch

It was a beautiful day for a car show but 5 am came awfully early. The 30th annual Meadow Brook Concours d'Élégance was held at Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University in Rochester on Sunday August 2. This show ranks as one of the most prestigious in the country, right up there with Pebble Beach and Amelia Island. Over 250 cars were on the field including a special display of McLaren race cars celebrating McLaren's 40th anniversary, a dozen historic drag race cars including *"Color Me Gone"* and other special feature cars and motorcycles.

Club members Dan Sokolowski, Tom Shipley and I volunteered to be on the field by 6:15 am to work the show as Ringmasters. Ringmasters are the key contact between the show and the car owners. They are responsible for greeting the owners, getting the cars properly placed in the ring, setting up story boards, assuring that the show runs smoothly, and providing information and assistance to owners through the day.

Tom and I were in the ring with post-1956 sports cars that included a 1958 AC Aceca, a 1966 Abarth 1000 SP Barchetta Tubolare, a 1962 Jaguar XKE Roadster, three Morgans, an authentic 1966 Cobra 427 Shelby, and an Austin Healy 3000, along with the usual Ferrari, Mercedes and Porsche entries. Dan was in the ring with pre-1955 sports cars that included a 1954 Jaguar XK 120 SE Roadster, a 1948 MG TC, and a stupendous 1933 MG J2 Roadster, as well as other rare and unique early sports cars.

The 1933 MG J2, which won a Blue Ribbon for Best in Class, was a very special car with a remarkable story. In 2003 the car was found in pieces in a hayloft in Indiana. The frame was naked and a few body pieces, windshield and gauges had survived. Copies of the original factory build records were obtained and the restoration to its original Carmine Red and Saratoga Red two-tone paint scheme with red upholstery was completed in 2008. The new portions of the car body were fabricated by hand and many NOS parts sourced or fabricated to complete the car. The result was simply breathtaking, as you can see below.



Our Dream Cruise

By Rich Wagner

It might have been warm - it certainly wasn't hot - but there was little humidity to dampen the near perfect conditions when eleven MGs gathered in Commerce Township for the Club's 9th Annual alternative to that traffic mess on Woodward. Participants joining Adrienne and I included: Russ & Marlis LaFevre, Ruth & Steve Swarin, Gary & Roberta Odor, Fran Lewis, Rick Astley, Jim Zielinski & daughter Karrie, Mike & Cheryl Moder, Ron & Alice Hale, Tony & Kathy Kaluzny and Randy Lioz & his father Larry.

We headed through town to where the real scenic drive soon began on Orman Road. Although some cars were soon separated from the group, we continued straight through into Fenton, where I stopped to allow the cars to reassemble, thinking we could all make the final part of the drive together. Great idea until a 'Sunday Driver' managed to separate our little convoy. As Rick Astley later told me, "The guy couldn't keep his foot off his brakes!" Wouldn't you know it; it turns out that this older gentlemen was heading to the very same place and became an obstruction for some all the way to Snapper's.

Snapper's is a casual tavern featuring simple, affordable choices at better than average prices. My favorite is their BBQ pork sandwich with a generous helping of freshly made potato chips, but looking around the tables, it seemed that there were lots of other choices made by the group. We were seated inside, our waitress made the dinning experience problem free, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that my beers only cost $2.50 apiece.

After a relaxing meal and of course, more than half the group decided to continue on to Cook's Farm Dairy in Ortonville, some 30 miles away, for ice cream. The drive we took towards Holly and then down Grange Hall Road to M-15 to Cook's is a favorite stretch of road for me. It's been part of every 'Dream Cruise'.

With the beautiful weather becoming more pleasant as the day went on, it was no surprise to find that the line was already outside the door with customers, waiting to get their ice cream. The good news was that they moved us all through quickly, and in just minutes we had our tasty treats in hand.

Cooks Dairy is usually where we all parted company, but as nighttime approached, I led two MGs back to the starting point in Commerce and to M-5 for their return home.

(Continued from page 1)

United States Register of Historic Places. The hotel is the essence of award-winning regional and classical cuisine, with late Queen Anne Victorian architecture, and a loyal following since 1891. The interior is very “English” with its dark period décor and furniture. A good English setting for afternoon tea. We enjoyed a set tea of three elegant courses, served on traditional English china and steaming hot imported tea is served in fancy silver and ceramic pots.

After a very pleasant hour in the Hotel’s coolness, a contrast to the outside 90-degree warmth, we went and kicked tires in the Alley. The oldest car there was Roger Melton’s beautiful 1951 MGTD; the rest of the MG models displayed ranged through A, Midgets, Bs and GTs including V8 and C variants.

Many thanks to Ailene Butcher and Jan Tucker for organizing this event and let’s hope that they can be persuaded to run it again in 2010.

Fall Color Tour

Saturday October 17

It’s that time again… Summer's officially history, but with the club's annual 'Fall Color Tour' on Saturday, October 17th, there's still one last chance for a top down drive down tree covered roads, some of the prettiest in Michigan.

Beginning as usual at the 8 Mile and Haggerty Meijer's parking lot, we'll be repeating the scenic 100 mile (round trip) route. While I can't promise we'll have 80 degrees and sunshine, the Dexter Apple Festival (which caused so much confusion last year), will not be held the same day again this year.

Two stops are planned; first for cider in Dexter, and then we'll regroup to wash up (and check our cars), at a service station, before the long excursion through the woods on deserted roads to Zukey Lake in Pinckney.

With the shorter daylight hours, plan on assembling by 11:00 AM for the usual photo opportunity before the cars get rolling. Drivers need to assemble at 11:30 AM to exchange cell phone numbers and get further instructions.

Cars should begin rolling by 12:00 Noon to allow lots of time for the scheduled breaks.

Sunshine, warmth and fall color? It happened last year; it could happen again!

All English

Battle of the Brits

27th Annual

Car & Motorcycle Show

Sunday, September 13th

NEW Location

Campus of Orchard Lake St Mary's at the corner of Orchard Lake and Commerce Roads in West Bloomfield Township.

- Register early to ensure that WDMGC wins the "Most Registered Award".
- Free T-Shirt given to all those registering before September 1st.

Quick links to DTSC web sites and forms:

On-line registration:	wdmgc.com/bobr
Mail-in form (pdf)	wdmgc.com/bobm
Flyer (pdf)	wdmgc.com/bobf

The Border City Mini Club and Jose's Noodle Factory Present

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We would like to invite all British car or motorcycle owners to the 2009 British Only Cruise Nights at

Jose's Noodle Factory
2731 Howard Ave in Windsor
Monday September 28, 2009
from 6 pm 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 Transition 2 Betterness cancer research

For more info contact Wayne at
Bordercityminis@cogeco.ca

OFFICIAL CHILI COOK-OFF CHALLENGE

The New England MGT Register Michigan Chapter has respectfully challenged **the Windsor-Detroit MG Club** to a chili cook-off!

Date: Sunday September 27, 2009
Time: 11 am - 4 pm (hot dogs being served from 12 - 2 pm)
Where: Hines Park near Seven Mile Rd at Northville Recreation Area
Directions: www.waynecounty.com/parks/northville_area.htm

Everyone is welcome to attend and cast a vote for their favourite chili, a great opportunity to drive your MG along the parkway and enjoy some fire breathing good eats!
Parking for LBCs will be provided on the grass away from the parking lot for safety.

Hot dogs will also be served from noon until 2 pm. There will also be car games, raffles, music and other activities to enjoy.

This is a BYOB event. For more information contact Sandy Kuivenhoven 248-894-7123

Please mark your calendars, rain or shine (we have a picnic shelter) and plan on a hot time in the old time of Northville, Michigan.

THE CHALLENGE IS ON!

Club calendar

■ - WDMGC event
☐ - Organized participation by WDMGC members

September

☐	Sun. 6	Fall Fun on Wheels, Canadian Transportation Museum - Essex ON
■	Wed. 9	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON
☐	Sun. 13	Battle of the Brits - Orchard Lake, MI *See details p. 7*
☐	Sun. 20	British Car Day at Bronte Creek - Oakville, ON
☐	Sun. 27	T-Club Chili Cook-off - Northville, MI *See details p. 7*
☐	Mon. 27	All-British Cruise Night, Jose's on Howard - Windsor, ON *See details p. 7*

October

■	Wed. 14	**Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI
■	Sat. 17	**WDMGC Fall Colour tour** - Northville, MI *See details p. 6*

November

■	Wed. 11	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON
■	TBA	**A Night at the Races** - Northville, MI

December

■	Wed. 9	**Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI

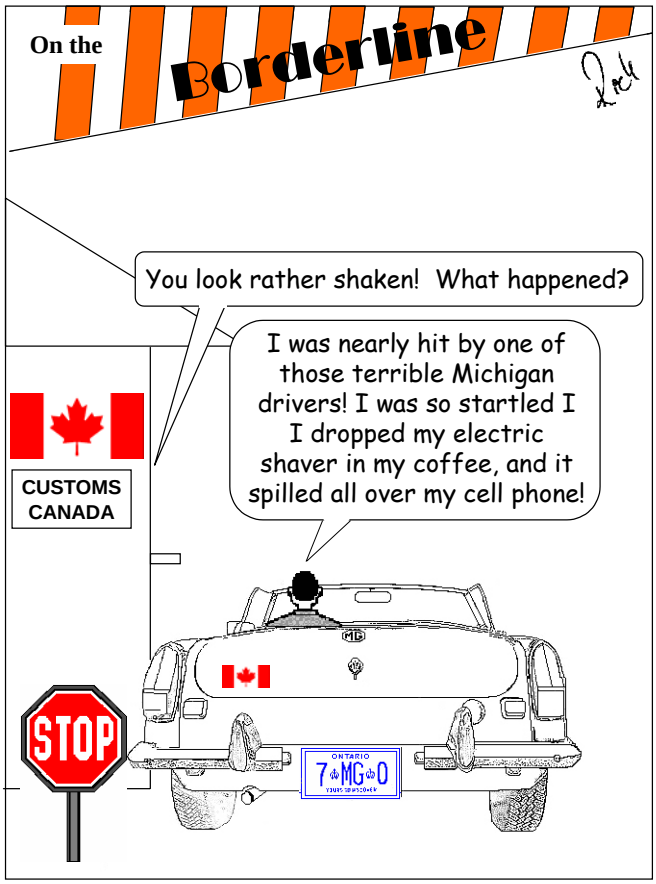
Do you have an idea for an activity or event other members may also enjoy?

Let us know … and if you're unsure as to how to organize an event , contact us. Collectively we have loads of experience, tips and hints to share.

Remember, the off season offers great opportunities for get-togethers: let your imagination be your guide...

September Meeting at the DH

Our next club meeting will be Wednesday September 9 at the DH in Windsor, Ontario. The meeting starts at around 7:30 pm but join us earlier if you plan on having dinner. Most people start arriving at around 6:00 pm.



Advertisements

Classified ads

Please let us know if for any reason you don't want your ad to run in future issues. If your ad has been running for 3 months and you want it continue to appear, please let us know as it may otherwise be removed to make room for later entries.

For Sale

1978 MGB roadster deep red with black interior. Daily driver, new clutch, master cylinders, bushings, kingpins and front shocks. Newer top and interior, dual SU carburetors. Stored winters, acceptable tonneau cover. $6500 Cdn. Call Marty 519-948-8730 mhunt@agw.ca (09-09)

MG 1300 salon This vehicle is a yard find and a genuine parts donor. Could be a 1967. The title has been lost. It was used for many years as a jungle cruiser (aka ORV) in northern Michigan. The top has been cut off, so there is no windshield. Not much in the way of an interior. There are several extra wheels. The dual SU carbs. indicate a 1275cc engine. The transmission is manual and the engine can be turned. The bonnet and boot lid look decent. Check out some history for this neat little MG series from the mid 60's on the web. It has a Hydroelastic suspension similar to the Mini. Owners seem to have loved them. You'll have to pick it up near Caseville Michigan. $500 Pictures are available. Email fastmgs@yahoo.com (09-09)

1978 MGB Excellent Condition Just over 36,000 original miles, maintenance records, orange w/ black racing stripe and black interior. No Rust, newer top and cover. Must see to appreciate. Can send pictures on request. $9,995 OBO John 248-568-9298 or email to j_zinn@yahoo.com (09-09)

1978 MGB One owner, 47,000 miles, runs great, good rubber, webercarb, header, needs paint, sacrifice at $ 2,500 located at Clio MI, just north of Flint. Call for details, 810-280-053 (09-09)

1973 MGB convertible in excellent condition, professional 3rd party evaluation at $9,750, will sell for $8,500 to a good home. 82,000 mi, engine, body, mechanics/brakes etc. all excellent shape. Located Toronto area 416-274-3687. Will send copy of evaluation and more pics upon request paul.Fournier@rogers.com (09-07)

1979 MGB sitting next to abandoned house, could be a great project car. If interested, would need to inquire about ownership rights. For more info call Randy 516-655-0698 or email rlioz11@gmail.com (09-06)

1977 MGB right side door skin for sale or trade. Looking for some upgrade parts. Contact Bob Fougere, at fougerebob@hotmail.com, or 248-872-6677 (09-06)

MG Midget Parts Two SU carbs with heat shield and intake manifold (note: one ear of the intake manifold is broken off.) One Mallory dual point dist. with coil. Two rear shocks with complete lever arms, shocks have been rebuilt once. All parts were on a 67 midget. Just an honest offer will fine. thomasheckman@att.net (09-06)

MGB aluminium hood slightly damaged, no holes $50. Located near Windsor. Contact Brian at 519-674-2957 (09-04)

1974 Midget parts Some original and some brand new. There are too many to list here. For further info, please contact Larry at 313-893-4338 (09-04)

Wanted

Fuel Pump for a 75 MGB. Contact Tony tony_dorego@sympatico.ca *(09-06)*

Malfunction switch Turn, horn, headlamp for MGB '77 thru '80 Contact Bob Fougere 248-872-6677 or email fougerebob@hotmail.com (09-08)

Advice needed

Baby restraints Does anyone have any experience concerning fitting baby seat restraints to an MGB (1980)? Please contact Kim Cedar 519-251-1048 kim_cedar@gecdsb.on.ca (09-08)

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Aug. 09

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Very serious *buyer* for:
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Triumph TR 2-3-4-250
Mercedes 190-220-230-250-280 SL
All open cars Porsche 356-911-914
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1964-67 Ford Mustang, Models T & A

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Aug. 09

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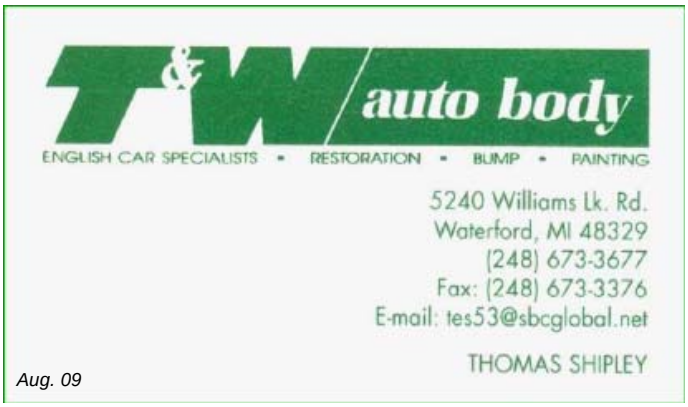
Aug. 09



WANTED

Dead or Driveable

Your Car Picture

Let us have a picture of your car and some anecdotal information so that we can feature it in *Can-Am Connection* and the club web-site gallery.

Also Wanted

Pictures of members with their "ride" in their childhood or as young adults for our **The Young and the Reckless** feature.

You will be Well Rewarded

Perquisite Pics

A priceless MG at Meadow Brook.

The Holly Hotel tea party .

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
28404 South Harwich Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334 USA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the month, September 2009 - Tom Heckman's 1967 MG Midget