The Can Am MG CONNECTION
WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 31, No. 10 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club November/December 2009

Fall Colour Tour a Treat

By Rich Wagner

With Orange Barrels along most highways, 14 MGs assembled at Meijer's to begin the club's annual Fall Colour drive. The weather was beginning to cool down because clouds were blocking the sun; so none of us were foolish enough to make the drive topless. This time, we would all be comfortable, well, at least as long as we were inside our cars.

New this year was a stop at "Three Cedars Farm," a family friendly place, with lots of activities and as to be expected, it was already pretty crowded when we arrived.

Two things were much different from previous cider stops. One, there were no bees (or wasps) on this chilly day and two, there was even heated indoor seating to get out of the cold. Guess you could say that it was a perfect day after all.

The group visited the Country Store which featured barrels of candy from years ago and even sold those little Coca Cola bottles, the kind that were around when we were kids.

From there we took a slightly different route down tree covered roads over to Zukey Lake Tavern, the group arriving just before 3 PM.

We were soon seated in a circle of booths (a nice change, I thought, from long tables). Another nice surprise was the acoustics, because the noise level, even with everyone talking, was quite low.

All in all, 25 people and 15 MGs made the entire drive, and nineteen of us stayed to enjoy a late lunch, early dinner together. Joining Adrienne and myself were the following:

From Canada, we had Marty & Sue Hunt, Dave Connor, and Dale & Lise Brown.

The rest of the group included Ron & Alice Hale, Fran Lewis, Bill Reeves, Matt & Vicki Bade, Mike Moder, Jim & Carolynn Cox, Guy St. John, Russ Lippitt & daughter Eryn, Marc Weitzman & friend Richard McDonald, Jason & Stef Atherton, and Steve & Ruth Swarin (who had caught up with us at the farm). My thanks to everyone for the great turnout again this year. ■

1st stop, Three Cedars Farm

Arriving at Zukey Lake Tavern

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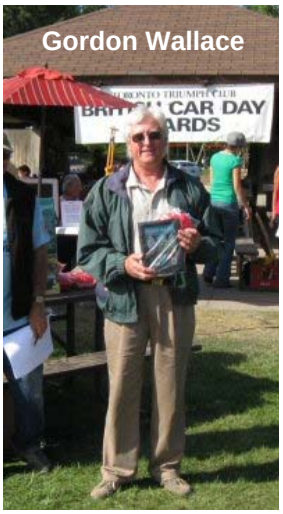
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Lise Brown - Editor

As I was putting the finishing touches to last month's issue of the newsletter, I was also busy packing (or worrying about packing) for a whole week away in the MG. We were leaving the next day for our annual fall trip to the Niagara area for winery tours and British Car Day at Bronte Creek Park. The difference this year was that we were staying on for the rest of the week as Dale had a conference to attend in St Catharines. I should also add that in the two weeks leading up to this, the B had been having serious carburetor problems, so yes that was on my mind as well. The thought of a long distance drive in a fuel-spitting MG did not appeal, particularly since I would be on my own with the B the following week. In the end Dale agreed it might be wiser to leave the B at home and drive the Malibu, thank goodness… not to mention more room in the trunk for clothes and wine!

Hosted by the Toronto Triumph Club, British Car Day at Bronte Creek Park is undoubtedly the largest single day British car event in North America. It draws over 1000 British cars with attendees from across Ontario, the northeast United States, Quebec, Michigan, the Maritime Provinces and Manitoba. Though it's all about the car show for some, the vendor area is also a great place to spend time (and cash) with something for everyone. Obviously there are the usual car parts and products vendors, but if you're looking for something different you'll find that too: beautiful wax jackets and hats, books, posters, jewelry and more. One of the first vendors I visit each year is Kim Chevalier (she does our club hats and shirts) where there are always great deals to be had on shirts, jackets or other items bearing your favourite British car marque; this year I got two jackets and a hoodie. Another great vendor is the British food purveyor where I always try a new flavor of Walker's crisps; this year it was their "award winning" Builder's Breakfast, supposedly the flavour of egg, bacon, sausage and beans - I was glad to let Dale finish the bag. Of course they offer a lot more than crisps including one of my favourite treats, Taveners fruit drops. And if you're a fan of British film or TV comedy and drama, a great place to browse is the Heritage Associates booth where you'll find an amazing selection of British videos, DVDs and CDs. I've picked up a few MG related DVDs in the past but this time I purchased a movie that I've heard a great deal about and can't wait to watch: Kinky Boots.


Gordon Wallace

There were quite a few club members at the car show this year but only two of them were award winners: Gordon Wallace took first place with his Jaguar XKE Type III and Sue Snyder snatched a first with her Triumph GT6. Congratulations to both.

Since this will be the last newsletter for 2009 I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and to remind you that the December meeting in Farmington Hills is a gift exchange night. For those who wish to participate please bring a wrapped gift (~$10) suitably marked if gender specific.

Lise

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

Presidentially speaking

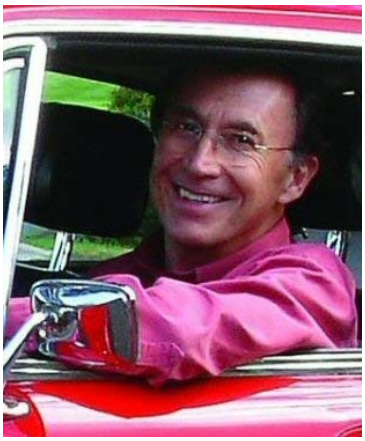
Rick Astley - Club President

As I sit down to write, Anne and I are having withdrawal symptoms after spending three weeks on the other side of the pond, in fact as you'll read, you could say we are going "cold turkey". Although a vacation, it wasn't a trip entirely without some MG interest. First we flew to Heathrow where our old friends Dave & Julie Sharp were kind enough to pick us up and let us stay with them for a few days at their beautiful Gloucestershire home. Dave has a 1968 MGB and it was fun to drive with him through the narrow roads around where he lives. We stopped at the 17h century Cotswold pub, the Swan at Southrop where Dave took the picture you see here, and we promise that although very tempted, we did not go in to sample the ales.

Later in the week I got to see another old friend, Nic Houslip, who happens to own an RV8. I was looking forward to having the opportunity of driving his car so

that I could compare this late iteration of a works MG V8 with my own MGB V8 conversion. Nic and his partner Jackie drove nearly 70 miles to see us, but unfortunately, the weather and distance didn't allow them to bring the MG. For now, I'll have to be content with just the picture of his car that you see here, but next time, maybe I'll drive the real thing.

After negotiating what seemed like a million mini-roundabouts in England, we dropped off our rented Skoda Octavia and headed to Gatwick. From there we flew to Turkey where we, and just nine others, all friends or friends of friends, plus four crew, boarded a kind of ketch called a *gulet*, to sail (well it was truly mostly motoring) along the Asian coast of Turkey. There were no MGs to be seen but our transportation, shown here, was far more fun than we ever imagined. In a week we hit port only once and the shoreline twice when we swam to beachside bars (Hey, we weren't driving this time!). So now you see why, back in chilly Detroit, we are suffering "cold turkey"!



Safety MG Fast

Rick

The 2009 Chili Cook-off Challenge

By Sandy Kuivenhoven

The date - Sunday, September 27th; the place - Northville Recreation Area in Hines Park; the time - 11:00 am; and *the challenge was on.*

Chili started pouring in, literally, to the site at about 9 am so it would be spicy, hot and ready for people to sample later. Thanks to Donna and Steve Finch, the air was filled with the hum of their generator supplying power to all the crock-pots and music for everyone.

Shari Pelic made her famous WXYZ chili and offered a cup of Joose (9.9% alcohol malt beverage with caffeine & ginseng) to get people's vote. Yours truly made chili, cleaned out the refrigerator in the process, and served it over pasta topped with cheese, sour cream and home-grown cherry tomatoes (looked just like a little sundae - so cute.) Donna Finch made her mouth-watering chili, served up with a beer to add to the enjoyable experience. Lou VanKoningveld's sweet chili was a real crowd-pleaser made with brown sugar and just a touch of Kahlua (his secret ingredient). Ruth Swarin served up the most wonderful and spiciest chili of the event, and offered a package of chocolate M&Ms to finish off the sampling. Beverley Martin brought along her amazing white turkey chili; who knew a nice Irish woman could create such a delicious chili! All in all, the crowd had quite a variety of different tastes and bribes to assist them in their voting.

Mmm Mmm Good!

There were hot dogs grilled, a line of MGs to look at and kick tires around, a 50/50 draw, prize giveaways, a "Guess how many Nuts, Bolts & Screws" contest (won by Donna Finch, who came closest in her guess - there were 1,118 items in the bottle), great conversations and perfect weather for the event. Everyone had a fire-breathing good time, great food and only a little gas (and I don't mean petrol) later.

Oh yeah, want to know who won the challenge and received the trophy? you should have been there! ■

Top Down Weather for the 10/10 Colour Tour

By Mike Harris

Twelve MGs left Dearborn headed to Northville's Deadwood Bar and Grill under brisk conditions this past October 10th. Along the way we picked up a thirteenth car as Lee Jacobsen and his MGTD joined the group. Lee also demonstrated to the group how to enact emergency braking procedures with "great aplomb" as he saw us passing west as he was headed east to meet us on Hines Drive!

The drive was picturesque as many sugar maples were blazing orange - or maybe they were Blaze Red or Bracken. The sun decided to hide behind the clouds along the way but the contrast against the sky was still beautiful.

We arrived at the restaurant and had the whole adjoining parking lot to ourselves. It was quite a sight as thirteen MGAs, MGBs and Lee's TD were all lined up in a row. It made for quite a picture opportunity!

We were able to sit outside under a heated canopy, which at times became almost too warm. Drinks and food were quickly ordered and an MG trivia contest was held with some of the questions stumping those present; everyone now knows what color Aconite is along with what British beer is named after an MG. The restaurant staff was pleasant and efficient and the afternoon drive and dinner was judged a success.

Thanks to Chuck and Karen Fehl, Steve and Donna Finch, Rich and Adrienne Wagner, Connie and John Flynn, Harry Mac Lean, Gary Odor, Bill Reeves, Rick Astley (fresh from vacation!), Mike Moder, Lee Jacobsen, and Dale Brown for joining in the fun. ■

There were fall colours all around

An impressive line up of MGs outside the Deadwood Bar and Grill

New Members

The WDMGC welcomes its newest members

Frank and Judi Blaydon
Milford, Michigan
1950 MGTD, Red
1959 Triumph TR3A, Red

Dave and Jean Miller
Royal Oak, Michigan
1953 MGTD, Red

Long Road to Recovery for Tom Burke

By Colin Stafford

Some two years ago after retirement, Tom and Gloria Burke (past members) sold there condo in Troy, Michigan and purchased a motor home with the idea of traveling the whole USA, and wintering in a warm climate. Tom's 1952 TD was prepped for storage in Royal Oak at his son's home so off they went on a lifetime odyssey of discovering the sights and sounds of North America.

This past September, after a day of traveling through the Badlands of South Dakota, they stopped for the night at a campground near the town of Murdo, SD where they were the only residents. That evening Tom had a stroke and was paralyzed on his left side. They were an hour from a hospital in Pierre, SD. At 90 mph the EMU raced to Pierre where a medical team was waiting. A CAT scan showed Tom needed a neurosurgical intervention. Next he was airlifted to Sioux Falls, SD, some 150 miles away, where a medical team was waiting to perform the emergency surgery.

Fortunately Tom survived the two trips and the surgery, but he has a long road to recovery ahead.

Cards and letters can be sent to:
Tom and Gloria Burke
Sanford Health
1305 W. 18th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

You can also go to the Burke Adventure web site for daily updates on Tom's condition.

http://www.mytripjournal.com/BurkeRVAdventure ■

Milford Car Show

By Philip Wiltshire

Here was the line up of the English contingent at the Milford Car Show in September 2009.

Steve Finch BGT; Donna Finch MGA; Doug Butcher MGA Coupe; Ailene Butcher MGB; Stephen Swarin Frog Eye Midget; Philip Wiltshire MGA.

We tucked ourselves into the Central Park away from the crowds to allow for a little culture amongst the muscle cars…! ■

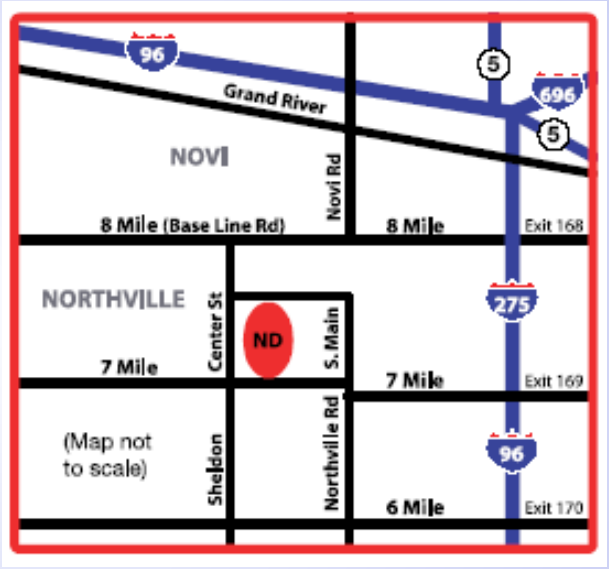
A Night at the Races

November 21, 2009 - 6:00 pm

Treat yourself to a Saturday night of fun at Northville Downs harness racing track.

For $25.00 (US) per person you can enjoy:
- Entrance to the track.
- Live harness racing.
- Our own reserved table in the club house.
- All you can eat buffet. (Carved top round of beef, 3 hot entrées, potato & vegetable, full salad bar, cheese tray, relish tray, rolls & butter, dessert table, coffee or tea).
- A race named in honor of the WDMGC.
- Salute and welcome by the track announcer.
- Our club name up in lights on the infield matrix display.
- All taxes and gratuities included.
- Drinks and bets extra.

Pre booking is necessary.
Deadline is November 14.
Please send checks, payable to the **Windsor-Detroit MG Club** to
Anne Astley, 28404 South Harwich Drive,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248-737-1978),



Event location
Northville Downs is at: 301 South Center St, Northville. Phone 248-349-0600.
The location is on the NE corner of 7 mile Road and Centre Street, 3.5 miles west of I-275.

The 19th Annual
North American MGB Register Convention
Belleville, Ontario, Canada
June 23-27, 2010

A very exciting and fun-filled few days are planned:

- A reception party on Wednesday the 23rd.

- A guided tour of Prince Edward County on Thursday the 24th, with lunch at a winery and a stop at Lake on the Mountain (Lake on the Mountain is a natural curiosity having a constant flow of clean, fresh water, with no apparent source, 60 metres above Lake Ontario). We will close Thursday with a Bar-B-Q bash.

- Track Day (lap sessions - no racing) and a Funkhana at Shannonville on Friday the 25th.

- The car show, MG Olympics and Awards Banquet on Saturday the 26th.

For the ladies, we are looking into a winery tour and luncheon, a presentation from a cosmetic supplier and a silver jewelry show and sale. The Host Hotel, Ramada Inn Belleville, has two pools, a waterslide, a sauna, car washing facilities, and a car show venue. This facility and three additional hotels have rooms blocked and we have negotiated a very favourable rate between $99 and $119 (Canadian) per night.

For up-to-date details and registration information, please visit **www.mg2010.com**

The 2010 Convention is hosted by the MG Car Club of Toronto

Club calendar

■ - WDMGC event
☐ - Organized participation by WDMGC members

November

■ Wed. 11 **Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON

■ Sat. 21 **A Night at the Races** - Northville, MI
See details p.7

December

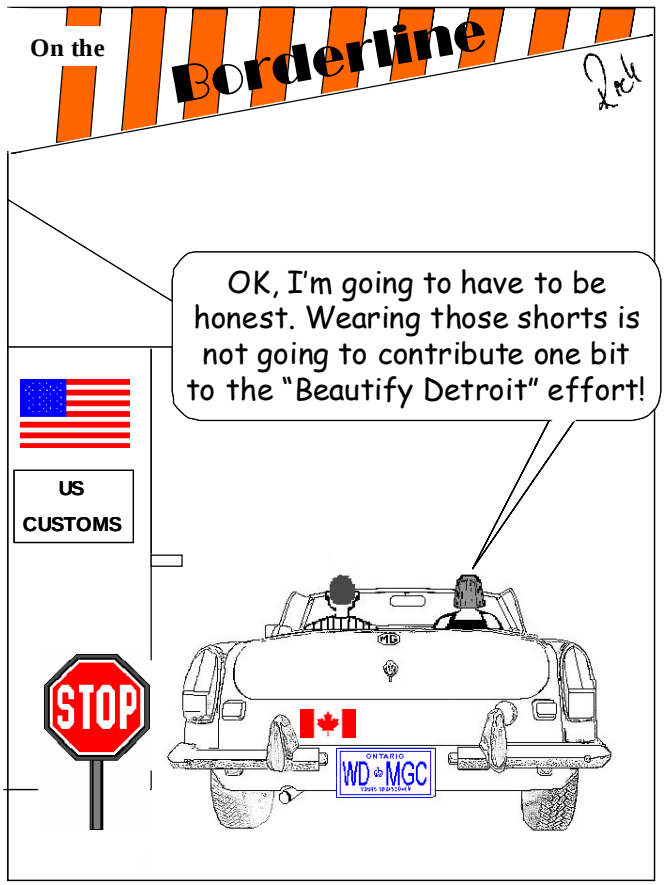
■ Wed. 9 **Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI ***Gift Exchange Night***

January

■ Wed. 13 **Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON ***Gift Exchange Night***

February

■ Wed. 10 **Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI



November Meeting at the DH

Our next club meeting will be Wednesday November 11 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.

December Meeting at the Brass Pointe

Our December club meeting will be Wednesday December 9 at the Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Hills, Michigan. 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.

This is Gift Exchange Night - Those wishing to participate please bring a wrapped gift (value ~$10) suitably marked if gender specific.

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

1979 MGB LE 60000 original miles, black, tan interior, overdrive and BMC dealer A/C, blows cold, never winter driven so no rust, undercoated when brand new, new top, complete interior, tires, detailed engine compartment. 1st owner 28 years. Drives like new. Kim Rutherford, 519 337-8586 or kimrutherford@ebtech.net
(09-11)

1955 MG-TF 1500 fully restored and with new exhaust system and all systems operational. All sheet metal taken down to bare metal, smoothed, primed and repainted to an exceptional quality. Ash frame restored by an expert wood craftsman. Stored under its original MG Mitten in a garage from November to May every year. Complete maintenance record. $20,000. Phone 248-391-9425, e-mail drjet11@aol.com. Pictures available.
(09-09)

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)

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)

Wanted

M.G. Magnette Either one good for restoration (I.e. sills, floors, suspension and dash in good condition), or one already restored. Mike. coefront@shaw.ca
(09-11)

Garage space to store my MG this fall, from November 15 through March 15, 2010. Looking for the Farmington area. If you have the space, or know of some garage space please call Bob Fougere at 248-872-6677, or e-mail fougerebob@hotmail.com.
(09-11)

Advice on 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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The North American MGA Register & The North American MGB Register

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Aug. 09

CARS WANTED

Very serious *buyer* for:
Jaguar XK-XKE, MG T series, MGA
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

Entire collections possible

ANY CONDITION - ANY LOCATION

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Aug. 09

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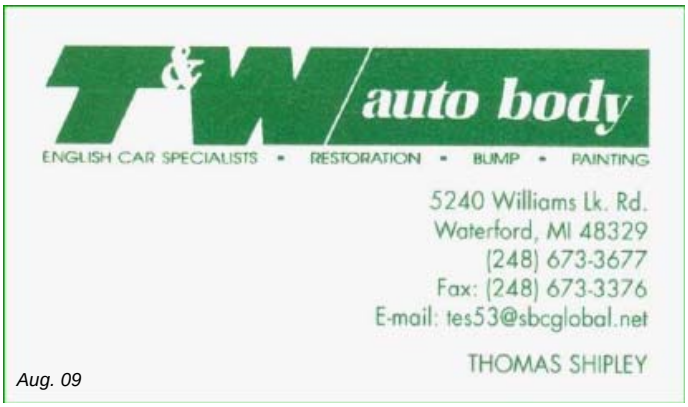
Aug. 09



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

Fall Colour Tour - October 17

Our cars leaving Three Cedars Farm.

Fresh donuts and hot cider were a hit at the Farm.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the month, November/December 2009 - Brian Hannon's holiday-ready 1959 MGA