The Can Am CONNECTION

WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 32, No. 10 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club **November/December 2010**

Colour Us Happy

By Ed Fleming

Well, the weather was very Autumn for our Colour Tour. The temperature early in the morning was 35 degrees (2 C) at the starting point, warming up to the mid 60s (18 C) by mid afternoon. The sun came out and the jackets were stored in the boot.

A great crowd of 21 MGs, 1 Triumph Spitfire, one '64 (?) Ford Falcon Sprint and my '85 VW Camper showed up at the Meijer parking lot for a slightly different Colour Tour.

This year we headed North by Northwest to Spicer's Cider Mill near Fenton, Michigan. Allen Spicer is a cousin of former member Ann St. John so I made arrangements for club members to park at Spicer's house rather than with all the "commoners". More shade and less dust.

Question, did Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint drive an MG in the movie North by Northwest?

In planning the route to Spicer's I tried to incorporate twisty sports car roads, but almost all turned to dirt eventually, so the compromise roads were very straight as a result.

We did drive down General Motors Blvd. where it was reported that one member tried to drive the route backward so that the MG logo on his car would read "GM". No Goats, Wildcats or Impalas were harmed in the attempt. We circled the General Motors Proving Grounds but no top-secret vehicles were observed circling the track. A Chevy Volt with a Manufacturer's plate was seen at Spicer's Cider Mill though. I tried to find the driver to have him park next to the MGs so we could get a picture of GM electronics next to Lucas electronics or have a contest to see which cars

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Matt & Vicki Bade and Marty & Sue Hunt do the roller coaster, hands in the air thing before the big drop going down the Kensington Hill.

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E-mail
wdmgc@wdmgc.com

Website
www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmgcc

President
Rick Astley
248-737-1978

Vice President
Scott Turner
519-254-9510

Treasurer
Donna Finch
248-685-8488

Secretary
Dale Brown
519-258-5987

Newsletter Editor & **Webmaster**
Lise Brown
519-258-5987
lise@wdmgc.com

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

Video Librarian
Tom Newton
313-562-2377

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

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Lise Brown - Editor

A few days ago a co-worker complained that she hadn't finished wrapping her Christmas gifts… we were still in October. If that wasn't a wake-up call I don't know what is. I'm the first to acknowledge that I'm procrastinator extraordinaire, but all wrapped up by October? That nudge was all it took to remind me that planning ahead is important, especially for a club such as ours.

And one event that needs your help now is the Hibernation Party/Annual General Meeting, held this year on the US side. Anne Astley, who has been organizing the US event for the last 4 or 5 years, is looking to hand off the duties to another member or members. Anne has done a phenomenal job each and every year, and we thank her profusely, but it's time for other members to step up to the plate! If you would like to help, simply contact Anne or any board member.

Our 2010 calendar presented many opportunities for get-togethers and I hope you took advantage of them all… or as many as you could. But now we look forward to 2011.

Speaking on behalf of the Board, our biggest challenge is filling the club's calendar with WDMGC events and activities; in other words, activities that are organized by and for our members. These can be driving events or social gatherings/activities. Think about how you can contribute and contact us with your ideas.

As for this edition of the newsletter, I know you'll enjoy Ed Fleming's colourful recount of the Fall Colour Tour, as well as the other stories and pictures members have submitted.

Final thought, remember that we're having our holiday gift exchange at the December meeting – it's always a great night. Rules are simple, bring a gift in the $10 range, wrapped and suitably "marked" if gender-specific… just add fun!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays…

Lise

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

Presidentially speaking

Rick Astley - Club President

If I were asked to name the two most time consuming jobs in our club I would say without doubt, newsletter editor and webmaster. Well as you'll read elsewhere in this edition, Lise Brown has been doing both for quite a while, but she's about to get a little more freedom as Steve Finch gradually takes over responsibility for the club's web site. On behalf of the club, I want to thank Lise for her hard work in the design and management of the site over the last 6 years and for her continuing editorship of the newsletter. Webmaster is a board position, so at the same time we welcome Steve Finch to the WDMGC board.

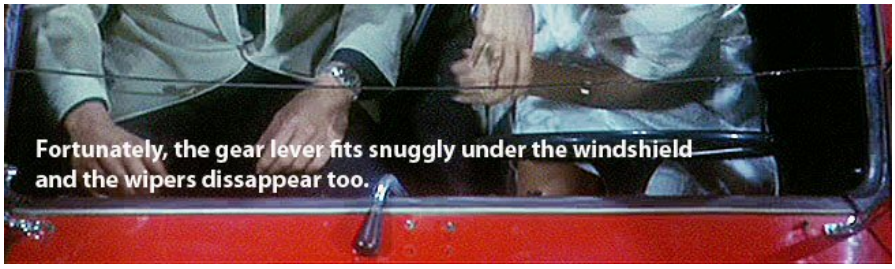
Also, as Dale reminds us in this issue, it's time to think about the four board positions, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, which will be the subject of elections early next year. Because of term limits some incumbents cannot run again, so in those cases Dale is absolutely looking for new blood. Although I've not reached the maximum 3 years of incumbency in my job as president, I've told the board that I won't be seeking re-election, so that position will become vacant too.

Last month I had two experiences I won't want to repeat in a hurry: I had a root canal procedure and I watched the Presley movie *Fun in Acapulco*. They had two things in common: both were agonizing and nauseating. However, while I won't bore you with my dental health, I will have to share some of the torture of the movie, but only because it involves an MGA.

In the October issue, I showed a picture of me standing by an MGA that Elvis Presley drove in the movie *Blue Hawaii*. Coincidently, soon after our friends Roger & Gail returned to England, Roger, who took the picture, happened to be channel surfing and caught sight of Elvis in an MGA. However, Presley wasn't driving and the movie wasn't *Blue Hawaii*; it was *Fun in Acapulco*. What prompted Roger to alert me to the movie was the car; it had a telescoping steering wheel, a frameless windshield and extraordinarily long handbrake and gear levers. "Were those ever on a real MGA?" he asked me.

The movie features a night scene in which Presley's character Mike and a girl named Dolores, played by Elsa Cárdenas, go to a cliff-side site to "make-out" (their words) in her MGA. This in itself is extraordinary. The movie was made in 1963 and it can only be supposed that it was then safe enough in Acapulco to drive an open top roadster. Today it would probably be necessary to use a Sherman tank. I've never owned a MGA, so don't know how difficult making out in one is, and anyway, my memory's too short. I'm guessing it couldn't have been too hard, because the film makers found it necessary to add impediments to the procedure. Delores is first frustrated by the closeness of steering wheel, which she proceeds to slide forward. Then it's the turn of the extraordinarily long gear lever— really, it's like a walking stick — so she moves that forward and *under* the windshield! Finally, the yard long and upright handbrake has to be released and moved down and out of the way. Now they can snuggle, but wait, what does that ominous music foretell? The car is rolling back over the cliff!

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 1)
could go the farthest (Chevy Volt: 75 mile range, MG: ??? range even with the gas engine).

The roads back to the Detroit area were a little more interesting. With one series of 7 or 8 fast sweeping curves through the colour changing woods and a very steep hill (luckily we were going down rather than up) that overlooked a vast expanse of colourful trees.

Next up was Obstbaum's Cider Mill, which won the club's Best Donuts Award a few years ago. Again we were able to park in a nice grassy area away from the crowds.

Then it was off to Karl's Cabin, an old log cabin restaurant just off the M-14 expressway. We had our own room at Karl's and much laughter and conversation was evident throughout the room. Much talk about how great the whole trip was. Near perfect weather, lots of Fall colours, many, many British cars and lots of friendly club members to enjoy it all with. So as we headed back home with the sun to our backs we felt sorry for all of you who missed it. Hopefully we'll see you next year. I'm already planning a more "colourful" and closer to home trip. ■

New Members

The WDMGC welcomes
its newest members

Stuart Shuster & Joann Kallio - Birmingham, MI
1965 Morgan Plus 4, Yellow

Mark Rogers & David Rogers - Romeo, MI
1953 MG-TD Yellow
1953 Jaguar XJ120 Primer
1960 MGA Blue-Silver
1960 Austin-Healey Blue
1962 MGA Blue
1971 Triumph TR6 Light Tan
1974 MGB Vermillion
1978 MGB White

(Continued from page 3)
Luckily, Elvis has his wits about him (after all he's a man, not some silly "know nothing about cars woman" from 1963) and he saves them both by reapplying the handbrake just in time. Phew, the tension, for a moment I really thought they would hit the scenery! The frameless windshield seems to have been used to make filming easier and the car's wiper blades disappear in some shots, probably for the same reason.

But I'm sorry, I'm holding up the story. In a huff, Delores drives off, declaring she'll bring a station wagon next time but Elvis calms her down by singing the unforgettable *There's no Room to Rhumba in a Sports Car* (what do you mean you forgot it?) Then, against a sneering rival, he wins a fight and singing and diving competitions, gets the girl, not this one but another one played by Ursula Andress and lives happily ever after until the next year when he does it all over again in his next movie.

If it helps you, I found Tylenol works pretty well for both root canals and Elvis movies.

Safety MG Fast

Rick

Battle of the Brits Afterglow

By Steve Swarin

We had a good turnout, good weather, good discussions, good food and great desserts at the Battle of the Brits Afterglow on Sunday evening, September 12. Elvin Davis and Donna Finch discussed the Awards ceremony at the battle and showed off the participation plaque that the WDMGC captured (again). The attached photo includes most of the people in attendance. ■

Ted and Sue Hight's beautiful black 1958 MG Magnette ZB took third place in the MG-Other category at Battle of the Brits.

WDMGC Photo File

A selection of random photos sent in by members. Be sure to send in your photos from club events, British car shows or miscellaneous British car sightings you think might interest club members.

Janet and Elvin Davis (left) with Jocelyn and David Davis (no relation to Elvin) at the Nashville British car show. *From Jeff Zorn*

The Halloween Hat ladies (Anne Astley, Fran Lewis and Mimi Sokolowski) at the October club meeting at the Brass Pointe. *From Arthur Jackson*

Elections 2011

By Dale Brown - Club Secretary

A reminder to all that in accordance with article 16 of the WDMGC by-laws, elections must be held every year for the following elected positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

"*The term of office for any elected position shall be one year. The maximum number of consecutive terms a member may hold in an office effective January 1, 1995 is three (3). A member who has served three consecutive one-year terms in an office may run again for the same office after a one-year term break. That member may run immediately for a different elected office."*

The elections will take place at our Annual General Meeting, held in conjunction with the Hibernation Party planned for February or March 2011.

If you would like to participate in some other capacity, remember that volunteers are always needed for existing committees, offices or duties. Let any board member know if you are available; any help will be welcome and much appreciated. Please forward nominations as soon as possible to a board member by e-mail, phone, or post (refer to club directory for details), or submit them by hand at the next club meeting or at election time.

Office	**Incumbent *(terms served)***	**Running for another term**
President	Rick Astley *(2 years)*	No
Vice-President	Scott Turner (*2 year)*	Yes
Treasurer	Donna Finch *(3 years)*	No
Secretary	Dale Brown *(3 years)*	No

Nominations should be formulated as follows:

I nominate:_____ for the office of:_____

Nominated by: _____

Seconded by:_____

Club Awards

By Dale Brown - Club Secretary

All right folks, the time has come for you to help determine this year's recipients of our coveted club awards. Please review the awards criteria at right and nominate the member or members you believe are most deserving of an award and why - just a few words are fine, but a funny or compelling anecdote would be even better.

You can submit your nominations to any club board member by phone, email, post or in person at the next club meeting. Board member names and contact details can be found on page 2. **The deadline for submissions is February 1, 2011**.

As always, the awards will be presented at the Hibernation Party, which will be held on the US side in February or March 2011. Details will be published on the website as soon as they become available and in the January/February edition of the newsletter.

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the numerous events that were on our calendar in 2010, and that you kept your eyes and ears open for possible candidates for this year's awards.

Founders Award: Given to the member who has contributed the most to the club over the past year. This person or persons are the most valuable members of the club. They have contributed above and beyond anyone else in the club.

Rookie of the Year: Given to the new member who has contributed the most to the club over the past year. "New member" shall be defined as having joined the club since September 1 of the previous year.

Navigator of the Year: Given to the "Travelling Companion" or "Navigator" who has contributed the most to the club over the past year.

Hard Luck Award: Given to the member who has had the most problems with his/her British car during the past year (or suffered a notable loss or hardship in that regard.)

Lucky Lucas Award: Given to the member who has had the most electrical problems with his/her British car during the past year (or a combination of electrical and general malfunction.)

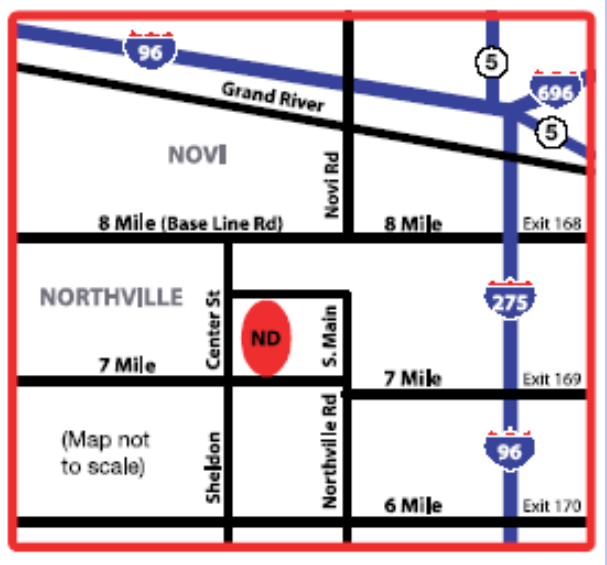
A Night at the Races

November 13, 2010 - 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 6.
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.

WDMGC Hibernation Party Help Wanted

The club is looking for someone to organize the 2011 Hibernation Party that this year will be held on the US side of the border, probably in late February or early March.

We need to get started on the arrangements in early December, so if you'd like to volunteer, please contact a board member before the end of November. Anne Astley, who has previously managed the last several US parties, will be pleased to give any assistance necessary.

MG 2011 RENO • TAHOE A WESTERN EXPERIENCE

Save the date: June 12-18 2011
The North American Council of MG Registers presents the fourth All Register gathering in Reno-Tahoe Nevada
More details to come

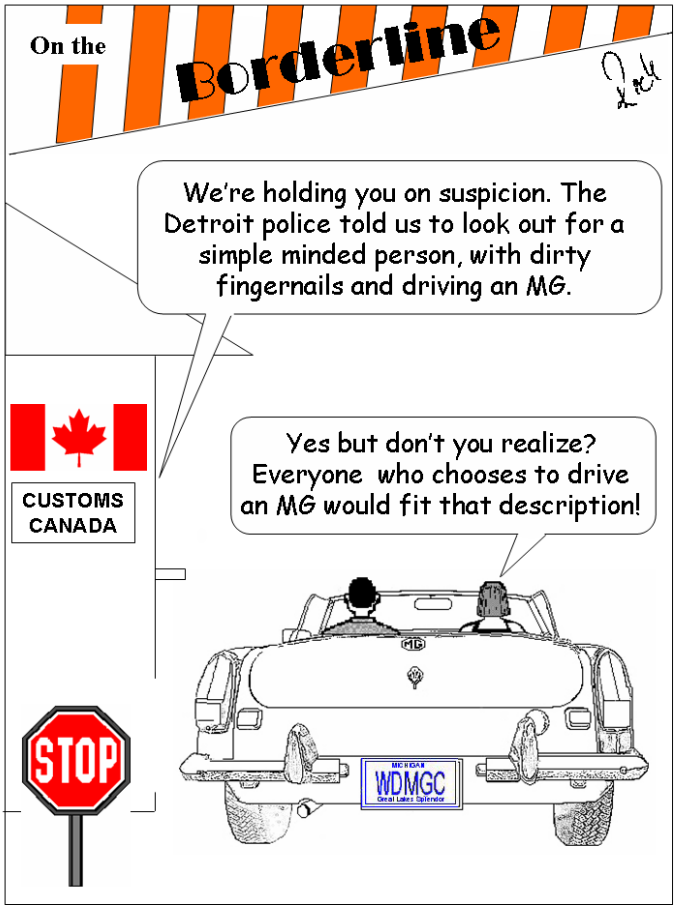
Club calendar

■ - WDMGC event
☐ - Organized participation by WDMGC members

	November	
■	Wed. 10	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON
■	Sat. 13	**A Night at the Races** - Northville, MI *See p.7*
	December	
■	Wed. 8	**Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI
	January	
■	Wed.	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House** - Windsor, ON
	February	
■	Wed.	**Monthly meeting, Brass Pointe** - Farmington Hills, MI

November Meeting at the DH

Our next club meeting will be Wednesday November 10 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 meeting and Holiday Gift Exchange will take place Wednesday December 8 at the Brass Pointe Restaurant in Farmington Hills, Michigan. The meeting will start around 7:30 pm followed by our gift exchange. 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

MGA 1959 convertible. Good engine. Complete car for restoration. Engine runs but needs bodywork and general restoration. $3,950. Phone 586-337-5166. Located in Michigan

1980 MGB Good condition. Includes new carpet and a soft top. Has a battery cut off switch in the rear package tray which makes for a great security device. Has a radiator from another vehicle of unknown origin and works just fine. Have original radiator but needs to be re-cored, and electric cooling fans that will go with the car. Some rust in the front fenders and dog legs and car could use a coat of paint. Good candidate to do a rebuild or rolling restoration. Located in Ann Arbor, MI Asking $3,000. Rick Eisele, 734-761-1877, HAN5L778@comcast.net.

1980 MGB Very nice car, needs some work. Factory hard top, and over drive transmission. 10,171 original miles and have all paperwork from when it was sold new in Wisconsin. Car sat for 13 -14 years without being driven or started. Was undercoated when new so very little rust, only right side dog leg shows rust through and the underside has some surface rust and scale. Have a replacement dog leg that will be included. Have not tried to start the car because I have no idea what might be in the gas tank or lines, but I did change the old oil and the motor does turn over by hand. $3,500 firm. Located in Ann Arbor, MI. Rick Eisele, 734-761-1877, HAN5L778@comcast.net.

Four wire wheels with tires $100. Tires are Michelin radial 165SR14 with good tread. Call John at 734-427-1345 or email at flynnjay69@att.net.

1977 MG Midget project or parts car. Rough condition. Engine never started since I have had it. Some extras included such as right wing. $900 OBO. Located in Milford, MI. 734-546-1946

MG parts Never been on a car. Non headrest Tonneau cover, light blue. Size is 471/2" L x 50" W $200. Non headrest Tonneau cover, black. Size is 50" Lx 51" W $100 Good condition. Body parts for MGB all in primer - Bonnet, Fender (has sidelight opening), Door with or without glass and regulator and Fiberglass Hardtop. Bob 517-672-6145 or rmatt684@aol.com

MGB luggage rack complete all parts included. Good condition $65.00 plus shipping. One ribcage trans with 948 engine hooked on up front. (pick-up only) running $75.00. Couple sets of SU carbs need work. $45.00 each No shipping. Tel: 1-800-743-1025 or thomasheckman@att.net

69 MGB-GT and 68' MGB Parts Cars. Call 519 -791-5502.

1979 White MGB I have owned it for the last 21 years and it has been kept in a garage it's entire lifetime. It has less than 50,000 actual miles on it. This is a project car and is located in Rochester Hills Michigan. It is currently not running but will take a small effort to change that. The fuel pump is the immediate issue and the contacts most likely just need to be cleaned. I did have it running last summer. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. brant_veilleux@yahoo.com

1979 MGB carmine red, dual SU's, O/D, 83,000 miles. always pampered. $7000.00. mgbv8542@ yahoo.com

69 MGC GT Purchased in S.Carolina 1992 and all info logged since then. Rust-free and running well at 92k miles. Overdrive, SS exhaust, leather seats etc. No dents, scratches or other damage. Recent repaint in original Tartan Red. Lots of pics available. Contact Adrian 613-258-0234 near Ottawa ON. Adriansawyer@cogeco.ca

MG midget hard top for $300 call scott 586-484-7173

1974 MGB Beautiful chrome bumper MGB. Restoration over 90% complete. Please contact Joe 734-658-9268

66 MGB-GT dark blue, 1.8 L, with overdrive, everything works fine, no rust, solid frame, good Michelin tires on new spoke wheels, been under John Swift's care once for a complete "overhaul". I drive it to work when weather is good, store it in winter, in my third (heated) garage. Asking $6,500 (been told it is worth more...), or best offer, for the right buyer. Contact Rodolfo rasche@med.umich.edu

Wanted

1968 to 1973 MGB in great shape. I live in Windsor Ont. Contact jcunnin@cogeco.ca

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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

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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

Club Regalia

Do you want to look as good as your car this summer? If your club hat and shirt have seen better days, be sure to contact Elvin Davis or Roli Sylvestre, our regalia reps in the US and Canada respectively, for some new gear. And if you don't already have one, how about a grill badge for your car or a licence plate surround? Call them today or check out the stock at the next club meeting.

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
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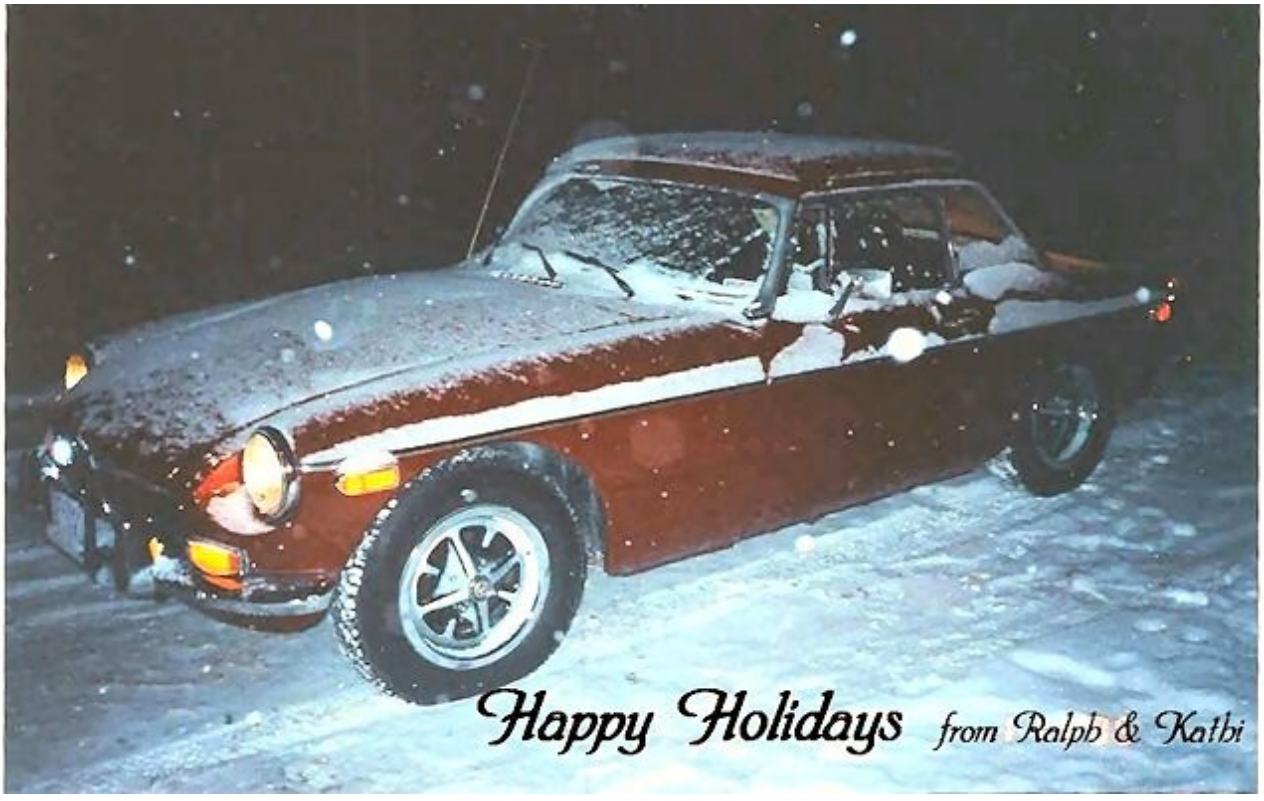

Car of the month, November/December 2010 - Ralph Poupard's 1973 MGB