The Can Am MG CONNECTION
WINDSOR-DETROIT

Vol. 34, No. 1 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club **January - February 2012**

Happy New Year

A great time was had by all at the December membership meeting, Holiday party and gift exchange. We hope that you and yours had a wonderful Holiday Season and will have a very happy and prosperous new year in 2012.

Steve gives Christie, our hostess extraordinaire, a token of the Club's appreciation for her excellent service. .

Carolyn Cox makes her selection with members looking on.

Tom Parent takes a green bag chance.

Anne Astley and Matt Bade. Happy Birthday Matt.

Guy St. John takes comments from the peanut gallery.

Mary Ellen Weakley has a lot to chose from.

Ed Fleming and Rick Astley in a tug over the Guinness.

Sue Hunt checks out her gift. There's that Guinness again.

The Can-Am Connection
is published 10 times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, Inc.

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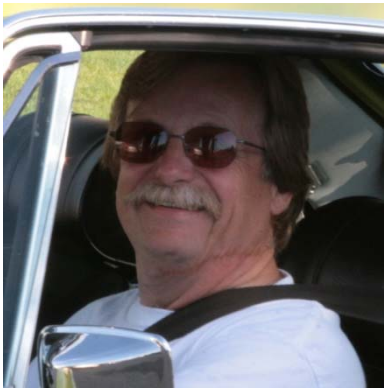
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Steve Finch - Stand-In Editor



Before I wish everyone a Happy New Year, I want to take a moment to remember the great MG year that was 2011. The events calendar started with our annual Hibernation Party and AGM in February. After I got my arm untwisted, I found myself as your President. It really hasn't been so bad; in fact, I have had a lot of fun with it. I want to thank the Board members who served with me this past year. I greatly appreciate their participation and support. I also want to thank Anne Astley and her crew for a great Hibernation Party event.

In March, we held a Tech Session organized by Philip Wiltshire, featuring Doug Butcher on Tyre Tech and Rick Astley on Elec Tech. An overflow crowd enjoyed excellent presentations. My thanks to Philip, Doug, and Rick.

The Kimber Run and Birthday Bash in April kicked off the driving season with Ed Fleming serving as our rallye master. April also saw the start of our monthly British Car Cruise-In at the Kona Grill hosted by Harry MacLean. In May we took a day trip to the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum organized and led by Matt Bade. My thanks to Ed, Harry and Matt.

The car show season started in June at the British Return to Ft. Meigs. Donna and I used this event as the first stop in our MG trip of a lifetime, the *Rallye to Reno* and MG 2012 Convention. We joined the Rallye in Cincinnati and spent the next eight days in the MGA, top-down, traveling across country on US-50. 157 cars paraded into downtown Reno—what a sight. The convention was attended by more than 1,000 MG enthusiasts, with over 600 cars on the show field. The MGA ate its drive shaft in Green River WY and came home on a U-Haul trailer, but I wouldn't trade a minute of the experience for any price. My thanks to Ralph and Kathy Poupard for accompanying us home. June also saw the annual Stratford Theater tour event organized by Philip Wiltshire. I missed it but heard it was great as usual.

July saw a quickly staged Night at the Drive-In for National Collector Car Appreciation Day and the annual Mad Dogs and Englishmen car show at the Gilmore Museum. August featured the Alternate Dream Cruise lead by Rich Wagner and the Victorian Tea at the Holly Hotel hosted by Ailene Butcher. Thank you Rich and Ailene.

In September the Club won the Battle of the Brits car show for the fifth consecutive year. My thanks to all MG owners that attended the show and my thanks to the Detroit Triumph Sportscar Club for presenting this event, their 29th annual. October featured the Fall Color Tour lead by Ed Fleming and in November we enjoyed a Night at the Races at Northville Downs organized by Anne Astley. Thanks again to Ed and Anne for these events.

The past year WDMGC was *Celebrating 30 Years*. Sales of our heritage logo anniversary shirts have gone a long way to restoring a healthy fund balance. Thanks to Philip Wiltshire, Donna Finch and Roli Sylvestre, our Regalia Committee for their efforts and thanks to all the members who attended meetings and events, and supported the club by purchasing regalia.

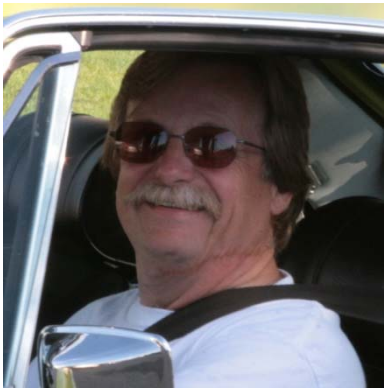
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club (WDMGC) was founded in 1980 by four men, two Canadian, two American. They saw the international border not as a barrier, but as a link for MG enthusiasts in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario. This international camaraderie is what gives the WDMGC its unique character.

It was indeed a very good year. I hope you took advantage of your membership and attended a few meetings and events. And I sincerely hope that all of you and yours had a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

To help ensure publication in the next issue, please submit items me by the 15th of the month. Email to Steve@WDMGC.com.

Presidentially speaking

Steve Finch - Club President



And so we now turn the page and begin 2012.

This year we begin the celebration of *50 Years of the MGB.* The first pre-production MGBs were built in May of 1962, first production cars were built in June 1962. The MGB was officially unveiled at the press preview for the London Motor Show in Earls Court on 20 September 1962. The line inside the October 1962 edition of *"Safety Fast"* magazine read: 'This month's cover: Formula for fun! - sunshine, a pretty girl and a brand new sports car that sets new standards in comfort and effortless performance—it's the new MG Series MGB'. The MGB would go on to an 18 year production run of 512,243 cars. That's a long time and a lot of cars.

The events calendar kicks off with the Hibernation Party and Annual General Meeting to be held on February 19 at the Windsor Yacht Club. It promises to be another great event as usual. The AGM will include election of Board Members and I encourage all members to consider serving the club in a leadership position—its not that hard. I am also looking for nominations for the annual club awards—Founders Award, Rookie of the Year, Navigator of the Year, Lucky Lucas and Hard Luck Awards. Please contact any Board member if you want to serve or want to nominate some worthy member for election or award. I hope to see you at the Hibernation Party and AGM. Maybe you will win the coveted "Door Prize".

The first driving event will be in mid April (14?) for the annual Kimber Run and Birthday Bash. That event will be our first official celebration of the *50 Years of the MGB* in conjunction with the Heritage Motor Centre (UK), the MGB 50 Events Committee, and their MGB 50th Birthday Run. We will meet in Lansing with the other Michigan MG Clubs, eat birthday cake and sing happy birthday to Cecil Kimber, the creator and first general manager of the M.G. Car Company. He was born 12 April 1888 and 2012 is the 124th anniversary of his birth.

Other significant events to consider for a great 2012 MG experience include:

- NAMGBR MG2012 Convention, Dillard, GA—June 6-12
- Stratford Theater Event, *"The Pirates of Penzance"*—June 15-17
- NAMGAR GT-37 Convention, Dayton OH—July 9-13
- University Motors Summer Party Reunion, Grand Rapids MI, in conjunction with the Vintage MG Racers Focus Event and the VSCDA races at Grattan Raceway, Belding MI—August 17-19
- *AND MOST IMPORTANTLY*—The 30th Annual Battle of the Brits featuring a celebration of *50 Years of MGB,* Orchard Lake St. Mary's - September 9

The initial Calendar of Events for 2012 has been posted to the website. Additional events are being planned including a tech session in March, other recurring driving events and some new events too. More on events as plans are finalized. We need more Canadian events. Any suggestions or volunteers for new events are appreciated.

And remember to attend the monthly meetings alternating between Farmington Hills and Windsor.

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club is probably the first and possibly the only local car club in North America to enjoy membership and events in two countries on a regular basis. I highly encourage members to crossover and attend meetings on both sides of the border. Crossing the border is not that big a deal—I do it all the time and have done it since we joined the club. Participation with like-minded MG enthusiasts is membership's greatest benefit: *the MG spirit!*

So, Auld Lang Syne and all that stuff. 2011 was a very good year. 2012 promises to be even better. I can't wait to get another fresh engine in my MGA and get my MGB/GT out of hibernation. April cannot come soon enough for me.

I hope you will join us at meetings and events, and on the road for a drive in our MGs.

Here's to a great new year, 2012—
Celebrating 50 Years of MGB.

Safety MG Fast!

Steve

Join us for the 2012 W-DMGC Hibernation Party

February 18th, 2012
Windsor Yacht Club
9000 Riverside Drive East in Windsor

5:30 pm –6:30 pm Cocktails
6:30 pm Dinner

Menu

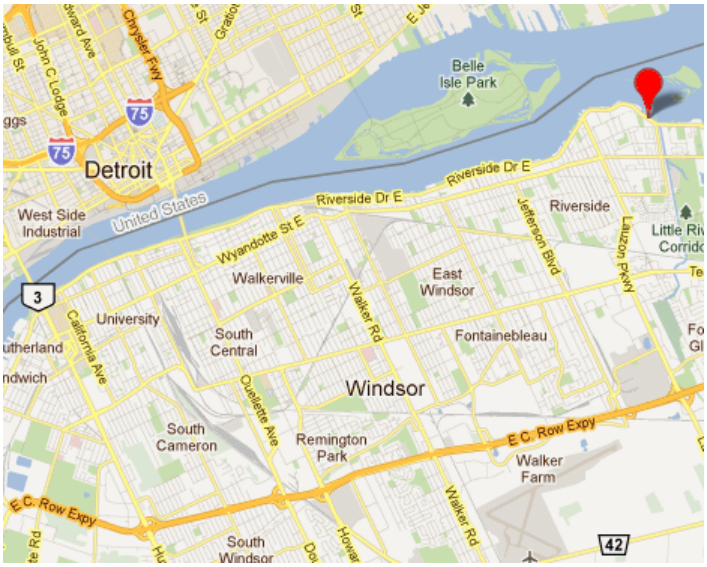
- Assorted baked rolls with whipped butter
- Chef's salad

Your choice of one of the following entrées

- Roast prime rib of beef slow roasted au jus
- Roast Chicken with Olives, roasted with Mediterranean flavors, finished with a reduction of Balsamic vinegar.
- Salmon Salsa Verde, finished with a caper wine sauce.

- Roasted red skin potatoes and seasonal vegetables
- Warm Apple Tart with Ice Cream
- Tea and Coffee

Be sure to get your dinner reservation form and payment to us no later than Feb. 4th.



Raffle Prizes

The donation of prizes or gifts from members and or their companies is always appreciated. If you can help out in this regard, please contact Lise Brown or Anne Astley.

Entertainment

Following dinner, the band will get the party started withmusic that is sure to keep the dance floor hopping, so have your dancing shoes ready!

Cash Bar

Cocktails, beer and wine will be available. Terms are cash (Canadian currency) or credit card if running a tab.

Dress

Anything from smart casual to tuxedos.

Party Time

Cocktail hour begins	5:30 pm
Dinner will be served	6:30 pm sharp.
Awards and elections	7:30 pm approx.
Music and dancing	8:30 approx.

Getting there from the Tunnel

On exiting the tunnel:
Turn right onto Park Street East
Turn left onto Goyeau Street
Turn right onto Riverside Drive
Continue eastward on Riverside to the Windsor Yacht-Club, which will be on your left.
The WYC is about 10km (6.2miles) from the tunnel exit.

WDMGC Hibernation Party - Dinner Reservation Form

Use the form below (or a facsimile) to reserve your place at the party. Please make sure that your form and payment reach us by **February 4, 2012 at the latest.** Unfortunately, forms and cheques received after this date may be returned. Forms will be dated upon receipt and in the event that the party becomes over-subscribed, they will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Return completed form and payment to Lise Brown or Anne Astley:

Lise Brown
1970 Loraine Ave.
Windsor, Ontario N8W 1P4 Canada
tel: 519-258-5987

Anne Astley
28404 South Harwich Drive,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-4281 USA
tel: 248-737-1978

Raffle prizes*:* Donations of prizes for the raffle table are always appreciated and will be duly recognized. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prices quoted below are *per person*

	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	**Roast Chicken with Olives**	**Salmon Salsa Verde**
Member and one guest (per person)	$30 (Cdn or US)	$30 (Cdn or US)	$30 (Cdn or US)
Additional guests (per person)	$35 (Cdn or US)	$35 (Cdn or US)	$35 (Cdn or US)

If a special diet meal such as vegetarian is required, please indicate "**Special**" in the form and price as other meals. ***Please indicate what this special requirement is.***

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

_____

	Names	**For each person indicate Beef, Chicken, Salmon or Special (with details)**	**Price**
Member			$30.00
Guest			$30.00
Additional Guest 1			$35.00
Additional Guest 2			$35.00
		Total value of cheque enclosed:	

Cheques payable to ***Windsor-Detroit MG Club***

Member contributions

THE GREAT RACE

by Heide Basinger

"The Great Race." Those words stir up images from my childhood. I can remember sitting in my living room in front of the Zenith television with my brother watching "Saturday Afternoon at the Movies." The 1965 movie "The Great Race", starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Natalie Wood, was a fun, slapstick favorite of ours. I still have vivid images of driving teams in open top cars, wearing newsboy-style caps and aviator glasses. The good guys wore white; the bad guys were in black.

That same childhood excitement stirred in me when I heard that The Great Race for 2012 is coming through Michigan, making a stop in my hometown. On July 1, Jack Miller is expecting as many as one hundred racing teams. Jack is the curator of the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum and is known for being the owner of the last Hudson dealership in the world. While the teams are enjoying a private lunch with Jack, the cars will be on public display. To see them, just go toYpsilanti's historic Depot Town. They will be parked on East Cross Street between North River and North Huron.

The original Great Race of 1908 is easily the most grueling race that automotive history has ever seen. The goal of the race was to promote the usefulness of the automobile. It was not uncommon to drive cars seasonally in warmer conditions and in the colder months use horses for transportation. That is why the race started in the winter, February 12, 1908. There were six cars representing four different countries: France, Germany, Italy and The United States. The race went from Times Square, in New York City and traveled about 22,000 miles west around the world ending in Paris, France. After driving to San Francisco, the cars were shipped to Valdez, Alaska. That leg of the course took the racers over 1200 miles of frozen land to Nome, Alaska, where a steamer took the cars across the Bering Strait to the East Cape, Siberia. From that point their charted course led them on an eleven thousand plus mile trip to Paris, through Irkutsk, Moscow, Petersberg, and Berlin It took 169 days to declare as winners Schuster Sr. and his team from The United States, driving a Thomas Flyer built by Mr. Schuster. The Thomas Flyer had a 4-cylinder engine and held 125 gallons of gas.

A German team had crossed the finish line first but was given second place. They incurred a 15-day penalty for shipping their car by rail from Utah to Washington. The German car, called a Protos, had a 4-cylinder engine and held 211 gallons of gas. Italy placed third with a Zust 4-cylinder car with a 132-gallon capacity. The French had three teams, none of which finished. Two cars broke down while crossing the USA and the third French team withdrew while crossing Japan. The details of how they ended up on the island country are a bit sketchy.

The 2011 event ran from Coker Tire Company's headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee to the Hemmings Motor News headquarters in Bennington, Vermont. It was won by a 1911 Velie. Three of the 59 entries were British cars: a 1957 Arnolt-Bristol, a 1960 Morgan Plus 4, and a 1961 Morris Minor. None of these cars completed the race.

The Great Race of 2012 is a time, speed, distance rally sponsored by Hemmings Motor News and is scheduled to travel around most of the Great Lakes. It will begin in Traverse City on Saturday, June 23. I have it on good authority that the Twin Bays British Car Club has committed volunteers to work with Hagerty Insurance, a race sponsor. The journey will take cars through the straits of Mackinac, and into Canada through Sault Ste. Marie. They will continue around Lakes Huron, Ontario, and Erie, driving through Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio before re-entering Michigan. The race will end at The Henry Ford in Dearborn.

If you would like more information on The Great Race of 2012, you can visit http://www.greatrace.com/. Check your WDMG club newsletter for a club event related to the race. We are tentatively planning a club gathering to meet the cars in Ypsilanti at lunch time.

Ballad

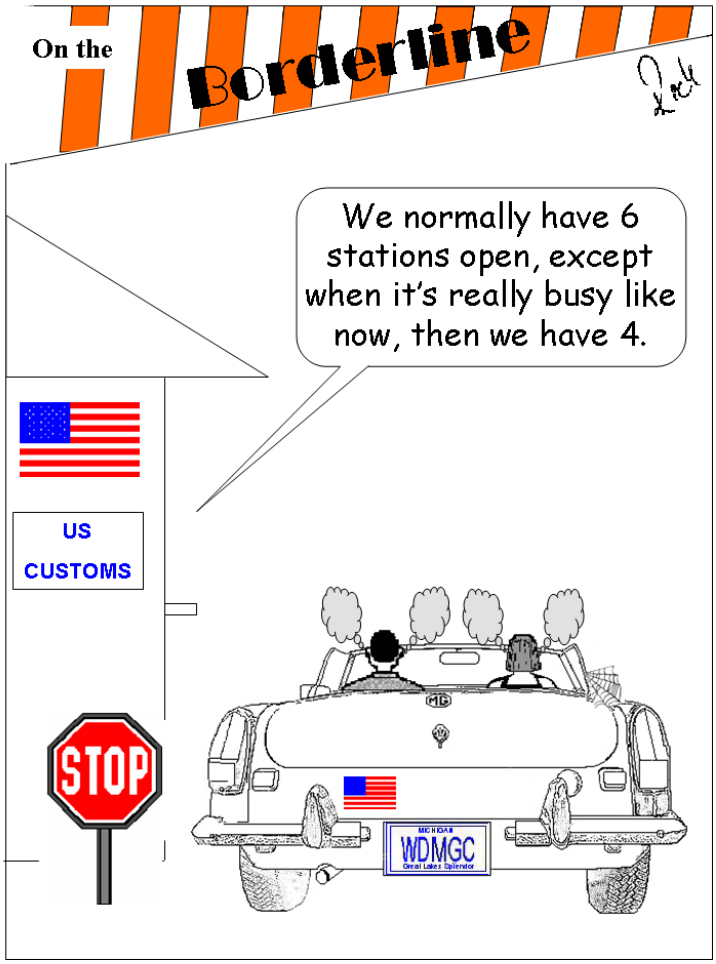
(Based On the "Ballade" by François Villon)
By
Adrian Van Den Hoven

Tell me where, in which junkyard,
lies the F-Type, that beautiful Abingdonian;
the Magnette and the Riley 4/68
who was her first cousin;
muffler that now sputters
because its engine croaked;
who had such beauty and looked more than human?
Oh, where are the MGs of yesteryear?

Where is the very fast GT-V8
for whom was gelded, and then made dull,
the Rover manufactured in Solihull?
For its love it suffered this sentence.
Similarly, where is the MG C?
Who was it that ordered this vehicle be
tossed in the Thames by BMC?
Oh, where are the MGs of yesteryear?

The TD white as a lily
who sang with a siren's voice;
the Montego of the big foot, Maestro, Metro;
and the MG TF Type, last seen in China;
that the English dropped in 2005;
where are they, oh sovereign Daimler?
Oh, where are the MGs of yesteryear?

Austin Princess, ask not this week
where they are – neither all of next year,
lest I bring you back to this refrain;
Oh, where are the MGs of yesteryear?



Welcome to New Members

Tony & Dianna DuFault
Amherstburg, Ontario
1972 TR6 Maroon
1979 Spitfire 1500 color TBD

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.

MGB Lowered Through Abingdon Museum Window

BBC News, 1 December 2011 -

An MG sports car has been lowered in through the window of an Oxfordshire Museum. The car was the last one to come off the production line at the Abingdon factory in the 1980s. Half a million other MGB Roadsters were produced at the factory in the town. The car will be one of the exhibits in the museum, which is being renovated to reopen next summer.

The car was disassembled down to the body shell, attached to a cradle positioning it on its side, then inserted by crane into the middle of one of those second floor windows. The car was then reassembled inside the building to be put on permanent display. The picture on the left was taken “back in the day” by our very own membership coordinator.

Check out the incredible video on the web at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-15994147

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Club Calendar

■ - WDMGC event
☐ - Organized participation by WDMGC members

January

■	Wed. 11	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House—** Windsor, ON. *Post-holiday gift Exchange*
☐	Sat. 21	University Motors 37th Birthday Party - Grand Rapids, MI.

February

■	Wed. 8	**Monthly meeting, - Brass Pointe** Farmington Hills, MI.
■	Sat. 18	**Hibernation Party & AGM, Windsor Yacht Club** - Windsor, ON**.** *See this issue.*

March

■	Wed. 14	**Monthly meeting, Dominion House—** Windsor, ON.

2012 Stratford Theatre Tour

June 15—17, 2012

The Pirates of Penzance

Event details are now available at WDMGC.com

January Meeting at the Dominion House

Our next club meeting will be Wednesday January 11th at the Dominion House in Windsor. 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 meeting will be a little special in that we will be exchanging post holiday gifts and having plenty of fun doing it. Members wishing to participate should bring a gift of value between about $5 and $10 and wrap it, disguising if necessary, so that its contents are not obvious. Only if the gift is gender specific should it be marked “His” or ”Hers” as appropriate.

February Meeting at the Brass Pointe

The February club meeting will be Wednesday February 8th at the Brass Pointe 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.

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club is a chapter of
The North American MGA Register & The North American MGB Register

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For Sale

1977 MGB Roadster convertible. Navy Blue exterior and Black interior. Body in excellent condition; however, floor needs repair. Stored for past 20 years, covered. Was drivable prior to being stored; currently not running, needs TLC. 37,000 miles. Pictures available upon request. $1,500 OBO. Vehicle must be picked up from Brighton, MI area. Call 810.623.4256 or email daylilly50(at)live.com.

1968 Morris Minor 1000, Almond Green four door coupe. Car is in excellent original condition inside and out, runs perfect, $7500. Call Richard Hensley at (734) 262-5590. *2012-01*

1972 MG Midget used for autocross by the previous owner. Body is in very good condition with little, if any, rust. Paint needs some help. Engine and transmission included, but currently not in the car (will probably need rebuild). Comes with 6" wide Chevy Vega wheels with wide tires. Seats will need to be re-covered. Top in fair condition. Interior in average condition (needs to be cleaned, probably needs new carpet). Top dash cover is not cracked or broken. This is a nice car and good candidate for restoration. $1,500 or best offer. Also have other items for this car: set of 5 Rostyle wheels sandblasted and painted, $150; set of 6 Rostyle wheels that need to be painted, $50; set of reconditioned rear springs in good condition, $75. Car is located in Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Rick at (734) 761-1877 or email to RichardE50 (at) Yahoo.com. *2012-01*

For sale. Windshield from MGB, good condition, $25. Four (4) painted knock off wire wheels for MGB fitted with Firestone tires, 175/70R14 $120 for all four. Contact Doug at (248) 685 8610. *2012-01*

For Sale. Complete Official MGB 1962-1974 Handbook by Robert Bentley. Manual includes the complete coverage of models sold in the UK and North America and provides authentic maintenance and repair information including The Driver's Handbook and the official Workshop Manual. This manual is in very good condition and sells for $150 new. Price: $60. Call Mike at 248-789-0004 or email leadfoot (at) wideopenwest.com *2012-01*

MG Parts for Sale New Victoria British MGA fenders for sale at less than half price. Also other used MGA and MGB parts. Phone Brett at (519) 736-2301 or email b.shelley (at) cogeco.ca. *2012-01*

MGB LE Wheels 4 Used LE wheels. $175.00. They will need to be refinished or powder coated. They came off my MGB LE and have been in my garage a few years. All of the wheels were functional when I removed them. Call between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM Dan @ 248 214 7131 or email mgman1980b (at) aol.com *2011-10-01*

1974 1/2 MGBGT Last year for the GT in the US; rare Rubber Bumper GT. Teal blue with autumn leaf interior. Interior excellent; paint a little thin (no rust). Wood dash and steering wheel. Dual SU as original with all factory running gear; including overdrive. 170,000! miles completely restored/rebuilt in 1993 at 110k; paperwork back to 80k miles. One MG enthusiast owner since '93. Spares, some books; great road car and shows well (some trophies included too). Detroit garage too small. $5,500 obo. Contact Jim Demerath at (608) 335-7304 or email at demerathtax (at) yahoo.com *2011-10-01*

1980 MGB with factory hardtop and overdrive. This car has only 10,175 miles on it. In storage for 15 years. Rust free, fresh Pageant Blue paint, tan interior. Datsun 280Z wheels. New fuel tank, fuel pump, brake and fuel lines. Runs great. Car runs, stops, and handles like car with 10,000 miles on it. Featured in the September Newsletter *"B in the Woods"*. Asking $11,000. Contact Rick at 734-223-0955 or email to han5l778 (at) comcast.net. *2011-10-01*

MGA 1956 convertible. Complete car for restoration. Engine runs but needs bodywork and general restoration. $4,350. Phone 586-337-5162. Located in Michigan *2011-10-01*

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, MI. 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 (at) yahoo.com *2010-08-04*

MGB GT 1966 Great car for restoration, wire wheels, black/white leather seats, stored for 25 years. Daily driver before being stored. Non OD, extra body parts. Can send photos. Local sale (Royal Oak/Ferndale), no shipping. $1100 OBO. Call 248 219 3705 or 248 890 5452, or email dmiller (at) us.stabilus.com *2011-10-22*

1970 MG Midget 75% restored. Body completely restored with a pro paint job. I have 90% of parts (purchased new 1995-2006) to complete project. Pictures of restoration, paint and parts for review. Dearborn MI. Contact: Dave 313-216-9946 davidhavener (at) yahoo.com *2011-10-01*

1980 LE. Originally a collector's car. Excellent condition. Had 10k when I bought it in 1998. Have put an additional 6k on since. Stored every winter. Car runs great. New radio. Maintained by Guy St. John. $12,000. 734-432-0154(h) 734-634-9489(c). 2011-10-01

1963 Yellow MGB. Engine is from a '74 with only 8-9K miles. The body is sound but the paint needs a little attention. $4,500. Call: Ed Pavella 313-565-4685 *2011-10-01*

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the month, — Adrian Van den Hoven's 1973 MG Midget

Here is a picture of the Midget I bought for my wife this summer. The Midget is in pretty good shape except for the convertible top which needs to be replaced and the windshield which is delaminating. (Ed.—Nice car Adrian)