The Can Am CONNECTION

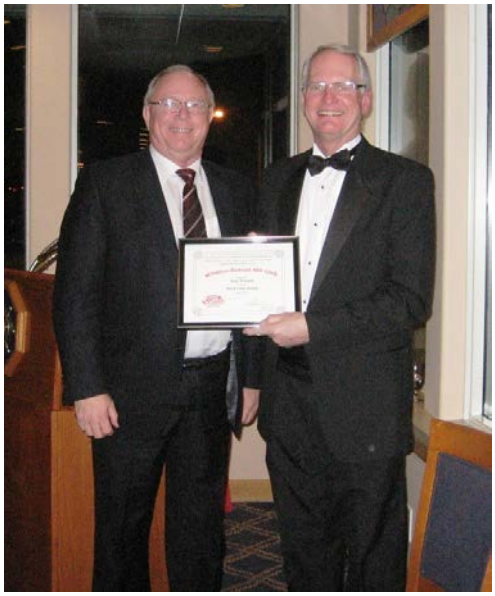
Vol. 36, No. 2 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club March 2014

WDMGC Annual Awards

Presented at the Hibernation Party February 22nd. (Party photos elsewhere in this edition as well as next month's issue)

Rookie of the Year - Chris Gurnee

Navigator of the Year - Judy Finch



Hard Luck Award - John Woodall

Founder's Award - Mick Gedeon

Honorary Lifetime Membership Award - Rick & Anne Astley

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

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½ Page. $16/issue, $100/year

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Dale Brown - Editor

Hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Can Am Connection. I've included photos of the meetings in January and February as well as the two events: The GM Heritage Center Tour and the Hibernation Party. I'll have more photos in the April edition as well.

No updates this month on the progress of my 69 B. Since I don't have a heated garage and this winter has been pretty brutal, I wasn't able to continue with the work. Stay tuned for updates in future issues.

I received a note from Past President Ed Fleming informing me of the Annual 24 Hour Endurance Rally through Indiana. Ed has done that rally in the past with former club member Dan Kirby. It is held this year April 5 and 6th. Ed will have details if you are interested.

For those of you that attended the Hibernation Party, it was a huge success. Unfortunately our outgoing President, Steve Finch took ill and he and Donna were not able to attend. As such, he asked me to take care of the Emcee duties in his absence. He and Donna were disappointed that they could not make it.

Also, Lise and I are planning a cross country trip pulling our travel trailer down south and then hopefully over toward California. I'll still be able to receive your pictures and articles, so keep them coming. I'll publish the newsletter while on the road and maybe even sneak in a little travelogue as well. Unfortunately, we won't be bringing the MG but I'll watch for them on the road. By the time we get back, hopefully we'll all have our cars out of hibernation!

Dale Brown presents the club's "Door " prize to winner Heidi Basinger.

Newly elected president, Ralph Poupard collects the Gavel and the Battle of the Brits trophies at the Hibernation Party.

Presidentially speaking

***The foremost club for British car owners in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario*.**

Ralph Poupard

For those of you who don't know me I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ralph Poupard. I have just been elected as the new President of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club at the AGM. I was also President for 2 years during the mid 2000s. At this time I would like to thank the outgoing board members, Matt Bade, Dale Brown, Rick Astley (who is returning as Vice President), and Steve Finch who inspired everyone with his enthusiasm. They all did a fantastic job. I would also like to thank those who sponsored me to become President. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Hibernation Party, meetings and events.

Safety MG Fast

The 2014 Annual General Meeting

New Ideas, New Bylaws and New Faces

by Rick Astley

President - Ralph Poupard

Secretary - Chuck Wiley

Treasurer - Vicki Bade

US. Regalia - Chris Gurnee

This year the February monthly meeting was also the club's 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Hibernation Party regulars will remember that until 2012 we held our AGM at the party, which often got in the way of the fun. To remedy this, and to enable more effective and open discussion, we decided to move the AGM to one of the early-in-the-year monthly meetings, alternating annually between Canada and the USA.

There were some formal votes that had to be taken at the meeting, but before getting to those, outgoing Club President Steve Finch outlined some of the issues that the Board struggle with and solicited the members present for their ideas, opinions and guidance.

There isn't room here to fully document the proceedings, but if you were unable to attend and have an opinion on any of the subjects below, then please contact any Board member and your input will be considered along with all the valuable comments and brilliant ideas those present provided.

To set the scene, Treasurer Matt Bade gave a financial report, which is detailed elsewhere in this issue. Our Membership Coordinator, Mick Gedeon, then supplied membership statistics, the main takeaway from which was that there is a steady decline in total membership and there are still 65 members receiving paper newsletters. Membership dues bring in income and paper newsletters, together with their rising mailing costs and despite a $15 premium in dues, are still detrimentally hitting our bottom line; so the point was made as to how the membership data impacts the financial numbers.

Discussion on the paper newsletter and its cost spawned some interesting input, some saying it's time to go all electronic, others contending that it's still an important conduit to the club for those who are now less able and who are not connected electronically. Mick's report indicated that 4 of last year's new members opted for the paper newsletter, prompting the idea of making it unavailable to those not grandfathered in.

(cont'd next page)

Steve turned the discussion to membership retention and recruitment, the club having gained 16 members last year, but suffering a significant net loss of 21 because 37 didn't renew their membership. Putting the issue out to the floor together with the question,"Does size matter?" prompted some lively discussion. Most were very positive about the club and what it offers members but some said that attrition was inevitable with an aging membership. Was recruitment of a younger demographic perhaps possible? One club member commented that years ago he was reluctant to join because he found our members standoffish and cliquish; are we — unknowingly perhaps — still guilty of that? Going back to the previous subject, one member suggested that the printed newsletter was a useful recruitment tool for prospective new members because it could be handed to them at car shows and other events not exclusive to WDMGC members. Not everyone agreed that size matters. So what if the club gets smaller? Is there a critical mass below which its viability might be in danger and when we should consider merger with another local British car club? With these and many other comments and suggestions, the Board was given plenty on which to ruminate.

Moving on to our Communications Plan, Steve reminded the meeting of the tools we use today: the Newsletter, Facebook, the Website and broadcast e-mails. The discussion touched how to coordinate, improve and supplement them so as to be sure to reach everyone. Had we, one member inquired, forgotten the value of the telephone, especially to better remind unconnected members of upcoming or impromptu events? Members were invited to look at other web sites and consider whether our club's site could benefit from a professional do-over.

Steve also addressed the subject of the club's Regalia Plan, much of which you can find in his last month's Presidentially Speaking article. He also reminded everyone that the post of Regalia Coordinator had been open for several months and asked for a volunteer to come forward or consider the matter and let him know later. We are very glad to say that Chris and Cathy Gurnee later jointly volunteered for the position and were approved by unanimous vote of the elected Board.

Each subject obviously impacts another and that of *club events* frequently came up, which provided a segue to one of the formal matters in hand: a change to the Bylaws. Club Secretary, Rick Astley, reminded the meeting that the club's Bylaws are in effect like a country's constitution, and as such, the Board follows and respects them as closely as possible. At the last Board meeting in December, the Board agreed on the need for an Events Coordinator and a motion was introduced, seconded and approved, to change the Bylaws to create the position of Events Coordinator as a Voluntary Board Office. This decision required ratification by majority vote of those present at a General Membership meeting, such as this AGM. The Bylaws are published in the back of the Membership Directory that Mick Gedeon sends each member on receipt their annual dues. The addition of a Membership Coordinator requires that Paragraph 17 is amended to add the new *Volunteer Office* and that Paragraph 21 is changed to add the office of Events Coordinator and describe the *Duties and Responsibilities* as:

1. Coordinate and promote an active calendar of Club events, meetings and tours.
2. Recruit club members to suggest, plan, organize or conduct Club events.
3. Maintain and publish an up-to-date calendar of Club events.
4. Ensure that Club events are adequately planned and organized.

The Motion was moved, seconded, the "Ayes" had it and the Secretary declared it as passed. As it happened, outgoing President Steve Finch, who, during his 3-year tenure, had been doing most of the heavy-lifting as far as event organization is concerned, had volunteered to do the new job, and with no other candidates forthcoming, he was later installed as our Events Coordinator by unanimous vote of the elected Board. Steve thus becomes our first Events Coordinator, which takes a big load of our new President's shoulders.

Finally we came to the annual election for *Elected Offices* Our Bylaws term limit these positions to 3-years and our President, Secretary and Treasurer had all reached that maximum while our Vice President had chosen not to run this year because of planned extensive travel. With all the Offices up for change it was time for some new faces on the Elected Board and, if that wasn't possible, some "musical chairs". We were fortunate in already having one nomination for each position, and with no more coming forward at the meeting, the slate of candidates, together with a little about each, was announced as:

•For President: **Ralph Poupard**
Ralph has been a very active member for 20 years, was a previous and excellent President as the current Board are sure he would be again. He lives in Essex, Ontario, which while incidental, nevertheless would ensure that we have a Canadian on the board.

•For Vice President, **Rick Astley**
Rick Astley been a member for 16 years, have served the club in the past in the positions of Newsletter Editor, Membership Coordinator, Webmaster, President and Secretary.

•For Treasurer, **Vicki Bade**
Vicki has been a member of the club for 16 years, is a bank-official and happens to be married to out-going Treasurer Matt Bade, and so will seamlessly be able to takeover this very important post.

•For Secretary, **Chuck Wiley**
Chuck has been a member of the club for 22 years. He's owned, torn apart and reassembled innumerable MGs and the current Board couldn't be more delighted that he has at last been nominated to join the board.

The current Secretary moved that each of them is appointed by acclamation. The Motion to elect was moved, seconded, the "Ayes" had it and the Secretary declared each candidate as elected.

Steve Finch, our outgoing President moved to close the meeting at about 9:15.

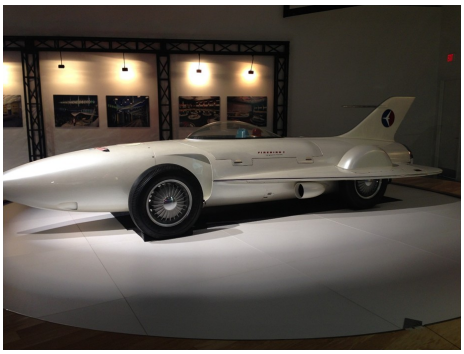
GM Heritage Center Tour

By Bill Reeves

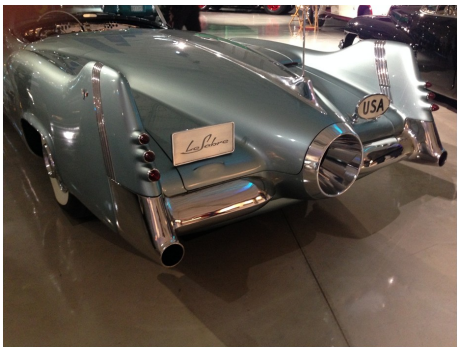
On January 31st we had a private tour of the GM Heritage Museum Friday afternoon. The weather held off and we had a great turn out with over 145 people attending. There were multiple British Car clubs from Southeastern Michigan, Ohio and Canada. There were groups of people that drove in from Cleveland, Toledo, Sarnia Ontario and the Canadian Transportation Museum as well as the Detroit Metro Area. Thanks to Steve Finch and Matt Bade to help me organize the event. This was scheduled in the middle of winter to scratch your car hobby itch before spring.

The collection consists of over 350 cars of historical significance to GM. There were about 160 on the floor with the remainder in other storage buildings. The best in my opinion are the concept cars. Harley Earl's Buick Y job is the first concept car which set the standard for displaying the future program products.

The Buick Y



The Firebird 1



The Cadillac LeSabre

Also on display was the Mako Shark Corvette, Cadillac LeSabre, Firebird 1, Firebird II and III. A special vehicle was on display that introduced the first self-driving car over 40 years ago and it won't be long until this feature will be ready for sale to the public. The technology is here now. The first electric car was on display, built into a van along with the EVO and a new Cadillac ELR Hybrid. The floor is full of "first of" cars and "last of" cars.

After the tour we were guests of the Commonwealth Club, a social club for all Brits. On Friday they offer a "Fish 'N Chips" dinner open to the public. The food was very good and tasty. Mushy peas were served as one of the side dishes. We overwhelmed them with more than 60 for dinner. One of the members said it was good to see the club this full with people. There were good craft beers on tap also. Thanks to everyone who made this event extremely successful and a lot of fun!

(Editors note: The Club wishes to thank Bill as well as others he has mentioned for organizing this event.)

Photos from January and February Club Meetings

*Ruth & Steve Swarin, Marcia Greiner & Debra Lonegan enjoying the cocktail hour at this year's **Hibernation Party at the Windsor Yacht Club**.*

Elvin Davis (with help from Janet) announces the quiz winners.

Lise Brown, Rick Astley & Terry Pillon

Mary Ellen & Bill Weakley

The Joan Charette Quartet provided the entertainment

Emcee Dale Brown with his wife Lise.

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Club Calendar

March Meeting at The Leaf

The March club meeting will be Wednesday March 12 at The Leaf Bar & Grill 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

Windsor Detroit MG Club
Profit & Loss
January through December 2013

	Jan - Dec 13
Income	
Advertising Income	330.00
Hibernation Party Receipts	2,058.17
Interest Income	0.93
Membership Fees	5,068.35
Raffle	366.00
Regalia Sales	424.63
Total Income	8,248.08
Cost of Goods Sold	
Can-Am Connection	
Postage	828.82
Printing	1,938.11
Total Can-Am Connection	2,766.93
Hibernation Party	
Dining-Food	1,707.01
Entertainment	550.00
Other Expenses	125.86
Prizes	106.40
Total Hibernation Party	2,489.27
Total COGS	5,256.20
Gross Profit	2,991.88
Expense	
Board Meeting Expenses	87.23
Gift Expense	408.95
Groceries	191.37
License and Permits Expense	250.00
Name Tags	125.89
Postage and Delivery Expense	437.50
Printing and Repro. Expense	469.44
Total Expense	1,970.38
Net Income	1,021.50

Wednesday, March 12, 2014	Monthly Meeting	The Leaf, Windsor, ON
Saturday, April 05, 2014	Obsolete Automotive Spring Garage Sale	Point Edward, ON
Wednesday, April 09, 2014	Monthly Meeting	Brass Pointe, Farmington Hills
Saturday, April 12, 2014	Kimber Run and Birth-day Bash, Delhi Café	Holt, MI
Sunday, April 20, 2014	Ancaster British Car Flea Market and Car	Ancaster, ON
April 21-25, 2014	2014 Return to Para-dise	Key West, FL
April 25-27, 2014	2014 Speedfest at the Classic Motorsports Mitty, HSR Vintage Races	Braselton, GA

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

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

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
Austin Healey, Riley, Alpha-Romeo, Singer
1964-67 Ford Mustang, Models T & A

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Wanted

Looking for a MG LE wheel used and in good condition. Also looking for a set of the black lug nuts (for all 4 wheels)
Please contact Bob Fougere at 248-872-6677 or e-mail me at fougerebob at hotmail.com

For Sale

Early MGB Disc Wheels with chrome half moon caps. Wheels recently painted silver and in great condition. (5 wheels and 4 caps). Wheel nuts included. Asking $250. Dale at 519-258-5987 or dbrownmg at mnsi.net.

1973 MG Midget parts "free to a good home":
two rear springs (rusty); wind shield frame (includes glass which has delaminated); passenger side door (incomplete; quarter window missing).
Any one interested can e-mail at : vdhoven at uwindsor.ca

Hibernation Party
Raffle Prize Donor List

We wish to thank all those members who generously donated gifts towards the Hibernations Party. (with apologies for those not included)

Dale & Lise Brown
Dave & Lynne Hornby
Marty & Sue Hunt
Roli Sylvestre
Barb & Barry Jones
Sue & Adam Gucfa
Ralph & Kathi Poupard
Jeff & Jan Zorn
Anne Astley
Mick Gedeon
Bob Fougere
Pat Boring
Steve& Nancy Brown
Ruth Swarin
Colin Stafford
Reinhold Kosciuw

WDMGC welcomes New Members:

Jerry and Anna Wallace, Allen Park, MI who drove a 1965 BRG MGB and
Michael Owens and Debra Ruzzin of Ray Township, MI. They have a white 60 MGA, a red 65 MGB, a blue 70 MGB and a red 71 MGB.

1970 MGB Roadster, Bronze Yellow, excellent overall condition, restored several years ago and driven only a few hundred miles a year. Chrome wires, overdrive, very nice vehicle. Pictures available. Asking $7500. Mike Grimm, 734.502.0811, mwg1950@aol.com.

1966 MGB Rdst, Tahiti Blue with black interior. In very nice condition. Needs just a little TLC. Asking $4900. It's located just north of Caseville Mich..For more information and photos call, Mark and Elaine at 248-255-2798

1980 MGB Pageant blue. 75, 200 miles, good clutch, brakes & transmission. Original interior in good shape. New top, starter & battery. An inexpensive rolling restoration. A few small issues, $3600.00. Car is located in Cheboygan. Call Rob at 248-877-6116.

1980 MGB Roadster Inca Yellow. New seat covers, exhaust, tires water pump and more. Great driver, second owner. $6500. Also for sale 5 new Michelin Tires. Contact Dave at: mgdave at sympatico.ca

1980 Triumph TR7 Engine and Transmission
Engine
Heads professionally redone, new values and springs, new water pump, new timing chain. Starter rebuilt, carburetor rebuilt with new TR7 needles, steel headers.
$500.00 or OBO
5 Speed Transmission
Low mileage 45,000 miles
$500.00 or OBO
Both items sitting on trailer ready to go.
Contact Bryan at: xpertsystems at cogeco.ca

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
4058 Twin Lakes Crescent
Shelby Township, MI 48316-1460

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the Month, March 2014

For those of you who attended our annual Hibernation Party, you would have seen a lovely piece of artwork on display. The painting of a1954 MG-TF was painted by member Marty Hunt. Well done, Marty!

Is your car in the club's Gallery on our web site? If not, send one to our webmaster (see page 2) with a little anecdotal information, and not only will we feature it there, you never know, it may become a Car of the Month in the Newsletter too. If your car has already been in the Gallery a while, take a look at it and please check the picture. Some photos are not good enough for printing in the newsletter, but we're betting that you've upgraded your camera since and now have better pictures to send us. Check the story with it too, and update it if necessary.