The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 36, No. 3 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club April 2014

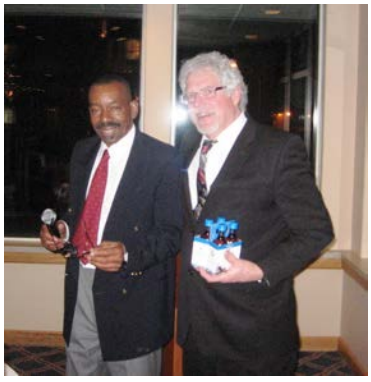
More Photos from the February 2014 Hibernation Party

Guests mingle before dinner

… and relax after a wonderful meal

A full raffle table (left) is inspected.

Sue Hunt closes her eyes to pick the next ticket while Matt Bade announces the previous winning number. Lise Brown helps out. (right)



Stephen Brown accepts the winning Music Trivia prize from Elvin Davis.

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

I'm producing this month's newsletter while Lise and I are halfway through our adventure travelling across the United States towing our travel trailer. So today I'm finishing off the edition in warm Palm Springs, California.

I want to thank all those who have sent me articles and photographs. I even received enough to use in the next edition as well. So keep them coming.

Dale Brown - Editor (Sitting in a 2014 Corvette Stingray at the 12 Hours at Sebring)

During our trip we have been lucky enough to see some private collections of MG and other British cars, so I've included those and other highlights of our trip as well.

Jimmy_The Door

by Heidi Basinger

Attending the Hibernation party was pretty exciting for my husband and myself this year. February 22 was not only my birthday but, the night that I won the "door prize". You could hear the whole room exhaling with relief when they heard my name being called. Evidently the "door prize" has been a running joke in the club for about 20 years. The winner keeps it for the year. You get to embellish it. Your own personal touch before it gets passed. I have decided to give the door a name and a personality. He is Jimmy The Door, with his own email; JimmyTheDoor@WDMGC.com and his own Twitter account; Name Jimmy_TheDoor. I plan on posting photos of the door at car related events. I would also like to write short stories about the doors history. That includes what previous winners did with their year with the door. Where did all the stickers come from, and other things attached to the door? Did you hide it in your garage? Or take him with you? I would like to know. You can email me at JimmyTheDoor@WDMGC.com, or call me, Heide Basinger (Find my number in the Club Directory.) I want to hear from you.

Jimmy having a pint at the Leaf

Club president, Ralph Poupard with Jimmy at the last meeting in Windsor

Presidentially speaking

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

Ralph Poupard

Some might claim it as “Cold Concrete Floor Paranoia”, “Greasy Hands Aversion”, “Post Traumatic Skinned Knuckles Syndrome”, or “Revenge of Lucas Apprehension”, but for a combination of the above and a few other reasons having to do with the long, cold winter, I have to admit that I don’t have my cars ready for spring yet. How about you?

We decided to postpone the March monthly meeting by 1 week because of the severe winter weather on March 12th. Our second attempt on March 19th was well attended. Heide Basinger brought along a friend, “Jimmy the Door”. (What you do when you lock your keys in your car) Jimmy has an E-mail address as well as a Twitter account. Our new shirts celebrating 90 years of MG motoring were announced at the meeting by Chris and Cathy Gurnee. Check the newsletter for more details.

The Club Calendar is filling up with events that promise to develop into a great driving season. I won’t attempt to repeat the entire calendar here, but a few notable approaching club events are The Kimber Run and Birthday Bash on April 12th and The Spring British Car Gathering at Camp Dearborn on May 18th. On July 20th we have our All British Car Show in association with the Canadian Transportation Museum, held on the museum grounds. Look for the Calendar and further event information in this newsletter.

Participating in events is the best way to have the maximum fun with your car(s). They were created as fun machines, and I can’t think of a better way to enjoy them than gathering with other enthusiasts. It doesn’t matter whether your car is perfect, or not so perfect, every car is appreciated. Every person attending is appreciated. You will meet and make new friends, gain technical knowledge, garner new ideas, and generally have a good time. When Kathi and I joined the WDMGC we didn’t know anyone. We were shy at first and now we have made many friends, and also joined the North American MGA and MGB Registers, with more friends there. I never dreamed it would happen, but we have driven our cars throughout Michigan and Ontario, and across North America. We have seen sights and gone places where we never would have gone, and had the time of our lives doing it. And it all started with an MGB, a Monthly Meeting, a Kimber Run, a Club Picnic etc.

Alright, Its time for me to get out to the garage to get those cars going. Spring is here.

Safety Fast,

Ralph

Safety MG Fast

I-96 Closed for Construction All Summer Long 2014

The Jeffries Freeway (I-96) is closed for construction in both directions from Telegraph Rd to Newburgh Rd. It is not expected to reopen until October 2014.

Road Trip Across the Sunny Southern USA — Part 1

by Dale Brown

On the Friday after the Hibernation Party, Lise and I left Windsor with our travel trailer in tow in search of warm sunny weather. We headed south spending our first cool night in Kentucky and continued toward Tennessee. It was already starting to get warmer. We had made plans to meet up with former Club member, Jeff Branch and his wife near Chattanooga but at the last minute, something came up for Jeff and weren't able to hook up.

Our house on wheels for two months

A neighboring camper travelling in style

After Knoxville we headed to Savannah Georgia where we experienced a nice Sunday afternoon festival in their historic downtown area.

After several overnight stops in southern Florida, we made it for a few days in Key West. Eventually, we returned to the Kissimmee/ Orlando area where we spent more than two weeks. During that time, I was able to attend two days of the 12 Hours at Sebring. One of the highlights of the "day before" races was a historic race which featured sports cars from the 50's, 60's and 70's including many British cars. I follow the new Tudor Race series especially the Corvette Racing Team. Unfortunately, although one of their cars lead their class for a major part of the race, a spin out and some mechanical issues, they ended with a very frustrating finish.

Later on during our stay in Florida, we visited our friends Jan and Jeff Zorn. They are still members of our club and Jeff was treasurer and president for many years. One afternoon, after enjoying lunch on a beach in St. Pete's Beach, we met up with friends of Jeff and Jan who own a British car business in England but also have a Condo in St. Pete's. We went to their place for tea but also viewed his many MG's stored in his garage including and automatic MGCGT, an A and several other B roadsters. Great afternoon!

Jan, Dale, Lise & Jeff at an Italian market. (Standing in front of two Italian cars)

MG's in a condo garage

After leaving Florida and also making other overnight stops along the way, we were in New Orleans and by pure coincidence met up with fellow club members Ozzie and Terry Pillon who were there for the New Orleans British Car Show. (Small world isn't it?)

Can you spot three more MG's?

As the trip progressed westward, we visited San Antonio and saw the Alamo and the wonderful River Walk. Eventually we made it to San Diego.

In San Diego, we visited friends Wayne and Dee Johnson and spent the day touring the city in their 1959 MG Magnette. What a great experience! Thanks Wayne and Dee.

A Mini on the streets of New Orleans

Wayne and Dee took us to several landmarks including the USS Midway aircraft carrier which is now a museum on the waterfront and also to Point Loma which overlooks San Diego Bay and the US Navy base on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other side. Wayne admits he is a very lucky MG owner. He has a large garage which houses several MG's and some projects. He is currently restoring a MG WA which is apparently one of only 12 left in the world. It sure will be awesome when complete. I've never seen an MG that big.

Our tour vehicle for the day, a 1959 MG Magnette

Wayne, Dee and Lise

Wayne and Dee's other Magnette, an award winning 1958

Their MG WA undergoing restoration

Our next stop for several more days was Palm Springs, California. We were able to go on a nice day long ride on our bikes around the city. You can see from the pictures that we came across another British car.

A Sunbeam Alpine on the streets of Palm Springs

I'm finishing Part 1 of this story from the shores of the Pacific about an hours drive north of Santa Barbara. We'll be here exploring highway 1 between LA and San Francisco for several days. It also just so happens that the next Tudor Race series happens in Long Beach in the middle of April. Hmm. I wonder if I can get to that one too!

We'll be watching out for more British Cars and events. Stay tuned for Part 2 next month.

Just to stay in the British flair, here's Lise with her vintage Raleigh bicycle

Museum Collections Centre Project Gets the Green Light

This from the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, UK on March 26, 2014:

The British Motor Industry Heritage Trust, based at the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire has been awarded a Round Two grant of £1.45 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for its Museum Collections Centre project. The award is the culmination of more than two years work to develop plans for a new building in which to store and display more than 200 historic British cars from the collections of both the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust and its partner the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust.

The £4 million project received initial support from HLF in 2011, and the latest HLF grant, together with match funding from Jaguar Land Rover, the Garfield Weston Foundation and both Trusts, will enable work on this exciting new project to begin in the spring of 2014.

The new Museum Collections Centre will enable people to view many cars from the reserve collections of both Trusts for the first time, in a purpose-built facility which will also include a vehicle restoration and conservation workshop and space for enhanced learning programmes.

Once complete, the building will be open every day for you to look inside and a new group of tour guides will be available to give you a closer look behind the scenes, by appointment or on special open days. You'll also be able to see how the Trust's Workshop staff look after the collection when it's not on display.

Tim Bryan, Head of Collections & Interpretation at the Heritage Motor Centre said: "We are delighted that, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Jaguar Land Rover and our other partners, this exciting project will become a reality. It will allow us to make our collections far more accessible and will enable people to learn more about the motor industry, which has played such an important role in the West Midlands".

The factory Corvette Racing Team, cars # 3&4 take turn 1 at Sebring International Raceway

Battery Tender

by Dave Burstyn

As any prudent sports car owner would do, I purchased a high end battery tender which provides a 1 amp trickle of power to the battery of my Vette. It is designed to turn off when the battery is fully charged and when it senses the battery drop in amperage will turn back on to keep the battery topped up.

This is not a cheap Walmart charger but a top of the line Black and Decker unit.

Upon entering my garage this morning as I always do, I noticed a strange smell. Upon further investigation there was a puddle under my Vette.

Opening the hood, there were bits and pieces of plastic and labels throughout the engine compartment The top of the battery was completely missing exposing the bare lead fins inside.

Obviously the battery blew up.

After dumping multiple pails of water over the car and engine compartment it was flat bedded to a heated shop where it received a complete spa treatment.

There does not appear to be damage to paint etc. even with the hood slightly ajar.

The shop thinks the battery broke open down low expelling the acid before the explosion. I lucked out!

I guess what I am trying to do is warn you not to depend on these battery tenders. There could have been extensive damage to the car, or even caused a fire which could have burned my house to the ground.

Arghh, spring will be here soon.

Lake Erie British Car Club

The British Return To Fort Meigs

Sunday, June 1, 2014
16th Annual Event

British Car Show

Fort Meigs Historical Site
Route 65, Perrysburg, Ohio

10am to 3pm
(Registration 10am till noon)
Rain or Shine
Pre-registration $12 Day of show $15
Pre-registration deadline 5/23/14

For more info, visit our website at: www.lebcc.org, email to LakeErieBritish@lebcc.org or call Lake Erie British Car Club at 419-855-8567. **All vendors please email or call in advance.**

----------Cut and return bottom portion with your payment for shirts and entry fees----------

--- **ONE VEHICLE PER FORM, PLEASE** ---

EVENT T-SHIRTS Quantities will be limited day of show

Size	Quantity	Price	Size	Quantity	Price
Small		$ 11.00	X-Large		$ 11.00
Medium		$ 11.00	XX Large		$ 13.00
Large		$ 11.00	XXX Large		$ 13.00

Name_____ Phone_____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Car Club_____ Email _____

Entry _____ ☐ Auto ☐ Motorcycle
Year Make Model

I hereby release Lake Erie British Car Club and its affiliates from any loss, liability, or damage that may occur to me or my property. My cancelled check is my receipt; no confirmation will be sent.

Signature _____

Make checks payable to LEBCC and mail to:
2985 N Huss Blvd., Genoa, OH 43430
Pre-registration deadline May 23, 2014.

Registration Fee $_____
T-Shirts $_____
Total Enclosed $_____

The Club would like to acknowledge the following members on the anniversary of their WDMGC membership:

25 Years Guy and Debra St. John of Ann Arbor

20 Years Jim and Diane Zielinski of Troy

15 Years Marty and Sue Hunt of Windsor
Steve and Ruth Swarin of West Bloomfield

10 Years Bryon and Bonnie Brown of Windsor
Mike and Debbie Grimm of Plymouth
Gary and Roberta Odor of Plymouth

5 Years Beth McClure of Milford

Thank you for the support you have provided to the Club through the years.

The WDMGC welcomes new members:

Jim and Marcia Smithbauer of Canton, MI. who have a 79 Inca Yellow MGB and a 93 Black Jaguar

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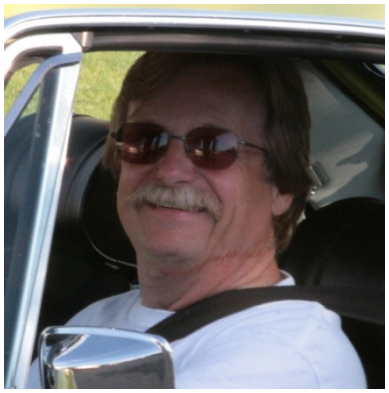
Events

The Past Perfected. Like I need another reason to attend MG2014 in French Lick, Indiana in June?

Steve Finch - Events Coordinator



First I get the latest edition of NAMGBR's *The MG Driver* magazine and find a brand-spanking new MGB/GT is on the cover. Then Tim Burston sends me a link to Frontline Developments. Someone is trying to tell me something.

On The Road Again! *"Well I ain't goin' down that lonesome road all by myself."*

Frontline Developments, in Abingdon-on-Thames, have created the past perfected MGB/GT LE50, a modern MG supercar, commemorating MGB's 50th Anniversary (2013). In 2001, Frontline Developments joined forces with Ken Costello. Click on pic to view the Brochure. *Trust me it's safe.*

The LE50 starts with a new bespoke British Motor Heritage body shell. Then they add 214bhp and 174lb/ft from a Mazda 2.0L I4 aluminium engine, with billet crank, billet rods, Teflon coated forged pistons, solid lifters, and variable cam timing. This is fueled by 45mm direct to head throttle bodies controlled by an Omex engine management system. That is backed by a Mazda 6-spd aluminium manual transmission and a 3.9:1 differential. All this rides on aluminium front wishbones and uprights with adjustable telescopic dampers, and a 5-link rear suspension with fully adjustable coil over dampers and springs. Stopping power comes from billet alloy 4-piston front brake calipers with ventilated discs. Built gross weight is 941kgs (2075lbs). The result is 0-62 mph in 5.1 seconds and top speed of 163 mph. *(I always found my MGB/GT's front end to start floating at anything over 135! Maybe I need a chin spoiler?)* The base price is only £54,900 ($90.6k USD, $101.5k CND) plus s&h from the UK. And you don't need to give them a donor car.

So, back to why this is another reason to attend *MG2014*, June 15-19 in French Lick, IN.

Tom Wilson bought an LE50 and got it in country. I noticed a picture in the article of the car in front of the Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre. I googled to find it in Carmel IN. Carmel IN is only 130 miles from French Lick. Assuming Tom is in Carmel IN, I bet Tom Wilson and Frontline will have his LE50 at *MG2014*.

It looks like the route from Carmel might be the preferred route to French Lick, down SR-37. ***There it is!*** Another reason to go to *MG2014*. ***An MG Road Trip!***

April Meeting at The Brass Pointe

The next club meeting will be Wednesday April 9 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 around 6:00 pm.

Saturday, April 12, 2014	Kimber Run and Birthday Bash, Delhi Café, Holt, MI.	Meet at Meijer's 8Mi & I-275 at 9:30am for the rallye to be there by noon.
Sunday, April 20, 2014	Ancaster British Car Flea Market and Car Show	Ancaster, ON
Wednesday, May 07, 2014	Monthly Meeting - Windsor	The Leaf, Windsor ON
Sunday, May 18, 2014	Spring Gathering & Picnic at Camp Dearborn	Camp Dearborn, Milford, MI
Monday, May 26, 2014	Border City Mini Club - All British Cruise Only Cruise Night, 5:30 pm	Route 42 Dinner & Dairy Bar, 2825 County Rd 42, Windsor, Ontario

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
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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

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.
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$500.00 or OBO
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Contact Bryan at: xpertsystems at cogeco.ca

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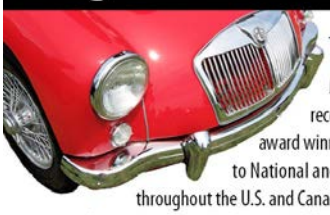
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NORTH AMERICAN MG REGISTER

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the Month, April 2014

The LE50 See Steve Finch's article on the Events page (p9)

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.