The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 36, No. 4 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club May 2014

Photos from the April 2014 Club Meeting at The Brass Pointe

Photos by Rick Astley

Steve Finch receives his Lucky Lucas Award from Club President, Ralph Poupard

Former club member, Jeff Branch (far right) rejoins after returning to the Detroit area from a work post in the "Choo Choo" City down south. Welcome back Jeff!

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

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

In this edition, I have made room for lots of photos of events and meetings that have already occurred early in this driving season. Hope you enjoy them and thanks to those of you who sent them to me.

Lise and I are now back from our extended trip that took us from coast to coast in warm, warm weather. I've included only one page this month about our trip and will finish in the June newsletter.

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

I started up the 72 shortly after we got home and I'll be anxious to be out on our next event. See you then!

Kimber Run - 2014

By Ed Flemming

Our first event of 2014 was great. Great weather, great roads, great turnout, and great company.

The weather was sunny with temps in the low 70s. The roads included one of Car and Driver's best roads in Michigan. And we had a record turnout of Windsor Detroit members plus many members from the other Michigan MG clubs.

Windsor Detroit members included Bob Fougere, George Diehl, Fran Lewis, Russ & Marlis LaFevre, Mick & Lori Gedeon, Bill McCaffery, Marcia & Tom Greiner, Ralph Poupard, Maxeine Jackson, Steve Finch, Chris and Cathy Gurnee, Ed Fleming, Tony Kaluzny, Jim Smithbauer, Robert & Paulaq Turrall, Rick & Anne Astley, Bill Weakley, Steve Holliday, Matt Bade, Guy St. John, Philip Wiltshire and Jan Tucker, Tim and Nancy Shaw ,Richard Kubit & Shanon Hadder.

I think you meet people here you only see this time of year. I finished a conversation I started last year and started a few that will be finished next year. This year it was a real fun time.

Marcia Greiner again baked her award winning birthday cake for Cecil's 126th. Because of the great weather she made some extra cake, figuring we'd have extra people. There were and all the cake disappeared again.

We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Cecil again (if you can call the sounds emanating from the restaurant music).

Not only was Cecil another year older, We all are another year older! Oh no!

Presidentially speaking

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

Ralph Poupard

Well, I got working on our MGs this month, and they both seem to be running well. Hopefully this is a sign of a good driving season ahead.

Ever since I was in my mid teens spring has flooded my mind with thoughts of sports cars. My friends and I loved British sports cars, especially MGs. We visited Windsor's British car dealer, Downtown Motors often, so often that the sales staff only gave us a quick glance before returning to their newspapers. In the spring of 1973 my dream came true when I bought my Damask red 1973 MGB. Owning this car has been a fantastic experience. I had no idea that it would carry on through the decades, 176,000 miles, and countless smiles.

Kathi and I went on our honeymoon in this car. I drove our daughter to her wedding ceremony in it and it is like a mechanical member of the family.

In the fall of 1993, I bought a basket case 1957 MGA roadster which I restored over a ten year span. Kathi and I have driven this car on a number of long distance trips and it has been a blast to drive.

The familiar sports car feeling comes back every spring and the maintenance tasks are an enjoyment, not a chore.

The Kimber Run and Birthday bash was very well attended. The weather was ideal for top down driving. At the restaurant, when we asked the WDMGC members to stand, to the surprise of everyone about 2/3 of the people in the room rose. Well done! Thanks to Ed Fleming for planning the route and Marcia Greiner for the traditional birthday cake. Thanks also to the Lansing Area MG Association and the Michigan Rowdies for making it a great day.

Several special upcoming events are: Drive your MGA Day on Saturday May 3rd. On Sunday May 18th we have the second annual Spring Gathering and Picnic at Camp Dearborn. May 31st to June 8th is Drive Your British Car Week. June 1st is the Fort Meigs event. June 15th to the 19th has the NAMGBR MG2014 in French Lick, Indiana and July 14th to 18th brings the NAMGAR GT-39 in Ottawa, Ontario. July 20th is our All British Car Show at the Canadian Transportation Museum in Essex, Ontario. These are only a few of the variety of events in our Club Calendar in this newsletter and on our website. So there is plenty of opportunity to get out in your British car and have some fun.

Scott Helms of www.britishcarweek.org puts it so well "There's no mistaking, historic British cars are a special breed of automobiles that have played an important role of shaping automobile design as we know it today. Even though they have characteristics that are not easily replicated, car manufacturers of today are constantly struggling to create the same kind of excitement that British car designers of the past were able to accomplish so naturally…" So check your tyre pressures, top up those dashpots, and I hope to see you at some events.

Remember - Drive Your British Car Week is May 31-June 8.So, drive your MG all week long! *(editor's note : I drive mine all week anyway!)*

Ralph

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 2

by Dale Brown

When I wrote the article that appeared in the April edition of the Can Am Connection, Lise and I were relaxing at our Campsite along the Pacific Ocean between Santa Barbara and Monterey. We took a day trip to Monterey along the Pacific Coast Highway. What beautiful scenery and a perfect MG road. (Wish I had mine.)

The view along the Pacific Coast Highway south of Monterey

While shopping near our campground near Pismo Beach, Lise spotted this nice MGA complete with vintage suitcase on the rear luggage rack.

The beautiful beach and harbor in Santa Barbara

On our bike ride in Santa Barbara, we came across this early MGB. A little rough, but had great wheels and tires!

A couple of days later we took another day trip into Santa Barbara. We had a chance to ride our bikes again along a really nice bike lane along the ocean. Great beach areas and a cruise ship stopped for the day. We enjoyed sitting on the roof deck of a nice restaurant on the pier and watched the ending of the Santa Barbara weekly sailing races.

On our way back to Pismo Beach from Santa Barbara, we took a ride over to Moss Motors which was only 15 minutes south. It was closed by that time, but still light enough for a photo opp.

It was sad to finally leave California and the beautiful weather but we didn't miss the heavy traffic. Soon we were on our way after a few stops to a nice campground resort 10 minutes from the strip in Las Vegas. Wonderful weather again and we extended our stay to 5 or 6 days just to have time to relax at the campground. (Two pools, hot in ground spa and even a restaurant. They don't make campgrounds like they use to!

Standing in front of the Moss Motors office just south of Santa Barbara, California.

Next month I'll finish off my story including a trip to the Corvette Factory and Corvette Museum. So stay tuned!

Photos from Kimber Run 2014

Ralleye Master, Ed Fleming addressing the drivers and Jimmy the door.

Along the route

A record turn out at the Delhi Café.

The cars being watched by Jimmy the door while members enjoy lunch.

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 11am – 4pm

Camp Dearborn

1700 General Motors Road, Milford, MI 48380

The Windsor-Detroit MG Club is proud to sponsor the second annual Spring British Car Gathering & Picnic at Camp Dearborn in Milford, MI.

No registration, no formal car show or class parking, and no awards; just an opportunity to share our passion with fellow British car owners and clubs, and to get to know one another.

We have reserved a large grassy and well shaded area at Camp Dearborn in Milford. We will have access to a large drum grill fired-up for anyone to use. BYO picnic lunch, something to throw on the grill, beverages, etc.

The park entrance fee is only $3 per car.

NEW THIS YEAR – BOOT SALE

Have some spare parts, tools, etc. that are cluttering your garage? Bring them along and offer them for sale from the boot of your car. We are not looking to host a full blown swap meet, so please no trailers full of stuff. Whatever you can get in your car or bring pictures of larger items that you want to sell.

For more information contact us at Board@WDMGC.com
or contact Steve Finch, Events Coordinator at (248)343-1614
The Camp Dearborn Web Site is www.campdearborn.com

ALL BRITISH CAR SHOW
& Parts Sale
Sunday, July 20th, 2014

Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village
Essex, Ontario

9:00 ~ 2:00 pm
Show Cars ~ $10.00
General Admission ~ $5.00
12 and Under ~ Free

NEW Parts Sale

* Diner opens 8 am until 2 pm*
Boarding House Food available (in village)

Beer Garden 11-2pm
Door Prizes 1-2pm

From Detroit
Follow Huron Church South to HWY #3
Follow HWY #3 Leamington to County Rd 23, turn right
Museum is 6 minutes on right

From Toronto
Follow 401 W turn left Belle River Rd (County Rd 27)
Follow 27, turn right on County Rd. 8, then next left on 27
Follow 27, through Cottam, cross HWY 3, follow until road ends
Turn Left on County Rd. 23 (Arner Townline)
Museum is 5 minutes on right

In association with the Windsor Detroit MG Club
www.wdmgc.com

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519-776-6909 www.ctmhv.com

Annual Trip to Ancaster

Photos and story by Marty Hunt

A group of our members drove up to Ancaster, Ontario on one of the few nice days lately on Sunday April 20th. Besides all the new and used British Car parts for sale, there were many nice cars in the parking area to view as well. (more photos of great cars next month)

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 $_____

Anniversaries

This month the Club acknowledges the following members on the anniversary of their WDMGC membership:

15 Years Elvin and Janet Davis of West Bloomfield

10 Years Maxcine and Arthur Jackson of Farmington Hills

Thank you for your many years of membership and the support you have provided to the Club through the years.

The WDMGC welcomes new members:

Herb Jensen of Wayne, MI. He has a yellow 1966 MGB

Ken Moody and Chris Chambers of Grosse Isle, MI. They have an MG-T series and a yellow 1976 TR-6

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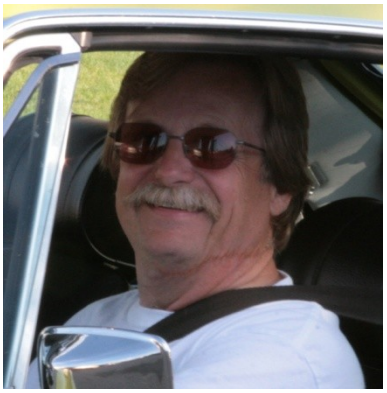
Gotta Get Back In Time—An Amazing MG Trip to the Classic Motorsports Mitty at Road Atlanta.

Steve Finch - Events Coordinator



Where to today Mr. Peabody? Sherman, set the Wayback Machine to 1978. Today we are going to relive the SCCA National Championship Runoffs.

My brother, Neal, and I took a fly-away trip to Road Atlanta for The Classic Motorsports Mitty vintage sportscar races the last weekend of April. We arrived on Friday and started walking thru the pits talking about the things that we recognized and what had changed since last we were there. That was in 1978 when we crewed for the Bob Owens Sports and Imports MG Midget at the SCCA Runoffs. We won the 1978 2nd Place National Championship Trophy for F Production sportscars.

Bob Owens Sports and Imports was the MG, Triumph, Austin, Jaguar dealership in Westland MI from 1958 - 1980. Many of the cars in our Club were first bought from that dealership. Neal, our roommate Louie, and I crewed for that car at Waterford Hills for a number of years in the mid-'70s. Neal was a mechanic, Louie was service write-up, and Barry Hartzel was the Service Manager. The car was owned by Bob Owens (Jr) and Barry was the driver and chief mechanic. We lost track of Bob Owens and the car when the dealership closed in 1980.

And then, right there in front of us, was the Bob Owens Midget. *WOW! I can't believe it. Here's the same car!* Hanging on a pole of the pit awning was a picture taken on the false grid before the race in 1978. We walked up and started talking to the guy in a driver's suit. Neal told the guy that he worked for Bob Owens back in the day and that we crewed for this car at that race. He told the driver that the guy with the cowboy hat in the picture behind the car was our roommate Louie. The driver said that's right, that the car is a re-creation of the original, and asked who we are. Neal said his name and the guy said "Oh my God, Neal Finch, I'm Bob Owens." It's been over 35 years since we all raced together.

Needless to say the rest of the weekend was arguably one of best weekends in the last 35 years of my life. *(Ok, I got married in '76 so I can still say that.)* We got crew and hot pit passes and I got to do my old job again of Aesthetics Control Manager (I kept the car clean all weekend—clean is fast.)

See. You never know what you are missing when you pass up going to an MG event. Hope to see you all at the Spring Gathering and Picnic on Sunday May 18 at Camp Dearborn in Milford, MI.

May Meeting at The Leaf

The May club meeting will be Wednesday May 14 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

Wednesday, May 14, 2014	Monthly Meeting - Windsor	The Leaf, Windsor ON
Sunday, May 18, 2014	Spring Gathering & Picnic at Camp Dearborn	Camp Dearborn, Milford, MI
Sunday, June 1, 2014	British Return to Ft Meigs Car Show	Perrysburg, OH
Wednesday, June 11, 2014	Monthly Meeting - Farmington Hills	Brass Pointe, Farmington Hills
June 15-19, 2014	NAMGBR MG2014 Convention	French Lick, IN
June 27-29, 2014	Vintage Grand Prix of Mid-Ohio	Lexington, OH

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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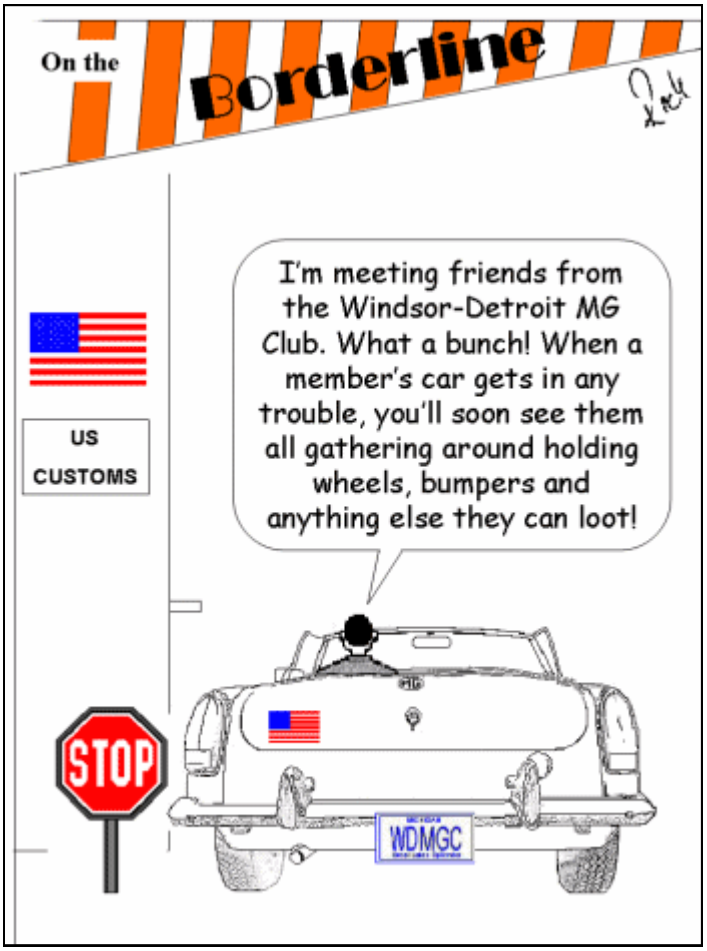
For Sale

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.
$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

1980 MGB Roadster, White with black interior with 45k two loving owner miles. Immaculate original paint, interior, top. New Veredestein Sprint Classic tires and SS exhaust. Always garaged or stored in heated facility. Zebart from new. Great driver, very tight, no issues. Award winning car you must see if interested in a late rubber bumper car. $6,250. Car is located in Farmington, MI. Call Chuck at 248-318-3771 Check out link at www.wdmgc.com/fehl-ad.pdf

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

This is the Bob Owens Sports and Imports MG Midget. It is a re-creation of the original car that won the SCCA 2nd Place National Championship Trophy at the 1978 Runoffs at Road Atlanta. Steve Finch and his brother, Neal, crewed for the original car at Waterford Hills in the mid to late 1970s and at that race in 1978. Bob Owens Sports and Imports was the British Leyland dealership in Westland MI from 1958-1980. Many of the cars in the Club came from that dealership. Steve and Neal found the car at The Classic Motorsports Mitty vintage sportscar races this April at Road Atlanta. The recreation car is being campaigned by Bob Owens (Jr) in HSR vintage racing.

Car of the Month, May 2014

Neal Finch, Bob Owens Jr., and Steve Finch in front of a re-creation of the Bob Owens Midget at Road Atlanta

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.