The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 36, No. 7 - Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club August 2014

Photos from the July 2014 Club Meeting at The Leaf

Photos by Dale Brown

Photos from the parking lot at the Leaf including members Bonnie and Bryan Brown, Lise Brown, Lynn Hornby, Ralph Poupard, Scott Turner, Mariam and John Woodall and Dave Hornby. The group is admiring Dave's recently acquired 1998 Morgan Plus 8.

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

During the last month, there have been several events that members have attended. I've included highlights in this August edition. Thanks to all those who have contributed. Lise and I attended the NAMGAR GT 39 in Ottawa along with several other club members. I also attended the Ottawa MG Club All British Car Day (ABCD) on the banks of the Ottawa River. As Ralph mentions in his Presidentially Speaking article, he is writing a story about the GT 39 and it will appear in the September edition. Enjoy!

Dale Brown - Editor

Photos from the Ottawa All British Car Day

by Dale Brown

Clockwise from left: part of the showfield that had over 175 cars, an MG TF, a group of MGA's and an MG TC

Presidentially speaking

Wow, we have reached mid-summer and it is certainly flying by. We attended NAMGAR GT-39 In Ottawa Ontario and had a fantastic time. There will be a separate story about the trip coming up. If you like to drive your MG, I can guarantee you will have a great time at any of the North American gatherings, with plenty of stories to tell. You will gain a new found confidence in your MG, and even if something does go wrong, you will be able to test your resourcefulness.

Ralph Poupard

Dale Brown and myself returned on July 19th, taking separate routes. We were just in time for the All British Car Show at the Canadian Transportation Museum on the 20th. I believe we had about 102 registered cars this year. Before GT-39 we spent some time at the cottage with Jeff and Jan Zorn, and afterwards I made another stop when I dropped Kathi off. On July 28th I attended the All British Cruise Night in Windsor put on by the Border City Mini Club. In between all this I worked part time. I am supposed to be retired, but it seems I am only semi-retired for now.

The intermittent starter problem on my MGB that has only occurred on long trips returned on the GT 39 trip. I was able to start the car by turning the key several times, but it was a bit un-nerving. When I returned home I decided to install a new starter that I had purchased on sale about a year ago. I tested the starter with a battery before installing it. After installing I tried the starter, and it cranked the engine slowly. The engine started, but this wasn't right. I suspected a poor ground, so I pulled the starter and sanded the engine back plate where it mounts and installed it again. Then I cleaned the connections on the engine ground strap, as well as the battery terminals and ground connection. Trying it again it seemed slightly better, but still cranking way too slow. Oddly, the starter was cool, not heating up at all. The next day I came out and tried it and all the starter would do was click. Testing it under the car revealed that the solenoid was working, but the motor was not running. So out with the starter again, and testing revealed that only the solenoid worked and it did not spin. I took the old starter and cleaned the pinion that was sticking, and the terminals. As I was back under the car installing the old starter there was a thunderstorm going on outside. As I held it in position attempting to start the first bolt the power went out, and I was left there holding the heavy starter! "Could this be the ghost of Joseph Lucas taunting me?" I wondered. When the power came back on I got the starter installed and it seems to be working perfectly now. So, I had a defective starter (*not* from lbcarco) that caused me a lot of grief and hours of repair. On the positive side all the grounds are now definitely clean. I have a theory as to what was happening with the old starter, but I will wait to see if the problem is cured before sharing it, lest you think I am losing my marbles. I wonder if this escapade qualifies me as a candidate for the Lucky Lucas Award?

A few of the events coming up in August are: The University Motors Summer Party on the 14th to 17th, and Cruisin' Hines on the 24th. Also there is British Car Day in Dayton, Ohio and the Alden Classic British Car Show. Check the calendar events in this newsletter or our website for further details. I will be heading off to the cottage in Muskoka for a few weeks in August. And remember, keep driving those British cars!

Safety MG Fast

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.

WDMGC All British Car Show -Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village July 20, 2014

photos by Dale Brown

Club members and quests enjoying English Tea and relaxing on a beautiful day!

The car show attracted more than 100 entrants as well as many people that just came to admire British cars of all Marques.

Mad Dogs & Englishmen – Sunday July 13th 2014

by Philip Whiltshire

Matt Bade had set me up very well with maps and insight into the route that he put together some years ago. For just once, he wanted to attend the German day at Hickory Corners and then meet us on Sunday, so I was able to offer to lead the convoy on his behalf. Of course, he only "loaned" me the maps, as I am sure Matt will be leading the charge to the event once more in 2015.

In true Michigan style, the weather was perfect leading up to the Sunday, but things started to deteriorate early on in the day and Jan and I experienced some "dew" as we headed to the Meijer's parking lot on 8 Mile for the 7 am saddle-up. We were speculating about if we might be the only participating vehicle; but I should not have worried, as we had a half dozen MG die-hard's rounded up once we left at 7am. Jan and I were driving the GTV8, freshly out shopped after Rick Astley's help in exchanging it's distributor for one where the contact points actually opened and closed; so nothing was going to stop us putting some miles onto our steed with it's new lease on life.

Matt's route takes us through some great southern Michigan farm counties and picturesque towns, but the increasing amount of rain was blurring those images. We stopped in Pinckney and collected more MG's and then finally 2 more MG's and a Jaguar XK8. The convoy totaled 12 British classics.

As we headed west towards Hickory Corners, we drove out of the wet weather and it seemed that the west side of the State had not seen any of the rain, so things started drying up quickly. Our one rest stop at Leslie was quickly designated a "top down" event. Guy St John was able to demonstrate that he only put his top up for show as he had more "critter bites" than top, so his drive had been damp all along.

Apart from a "low coolant" warning on the Jag (they all do this….) we pressed on to Hickory Corners and covered the 115 miles with no issues. I believe the WDMGC convoy was the largest of the day and we then split up to slot into our various classes on the field. Matt Bade met Jan and I on the field and demanded assurances that his route had been followed to the last instruction. I was able to confirm this – phew!!

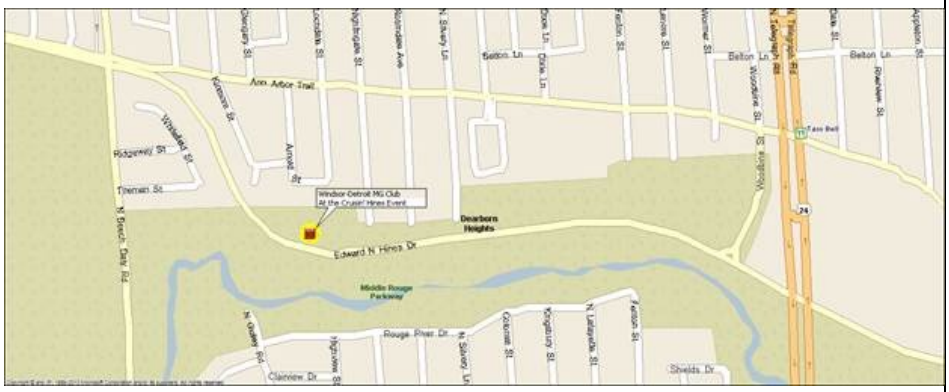
I had not visited Hickory Corners for some years; the museum has been upgraded nicely with more exhibits and better facilities. I strongly recommend that you plan to follow Matt to Mad Dogs and Englishmen in 2015. It's one of those events where the journey is equally as much fun as the destination. WDMGC took away some prizes as well…..
The list of participants was as follows: Philip and Jan, Jack and Andy in two Midgets, Arthur and Maxcine Jackson, MGB, Russ Lafevre, Elvin and Janet with their 1 ½ MGB with "B" trailer, Guy St.John with his "Rat-rod"(rat top) MGB, Jim and Shelby McCotter, George Diehl, Robert Turrall and Alan Evans, Les Stiner in the Jag, and George and Helen Barton in their MGB.

WDMGC 2014 Cruisin' Hines Event

The 4th Annual Cruisin' Hines Event is Sunday, August 24, beginning at 9am.

Windsor-Detroit MG Club has reserved an area for up to 50 cars. The location is between Telegraph Rd and Beech Daly Rd on the North side. Look for the WDMGC awning. All British cars are welcome.

All Cruise Vehicles must enter the Park from the Ford Rd entrance west of Evergreen Rd in Dearborn. For more info see www.cruisinhines.com.

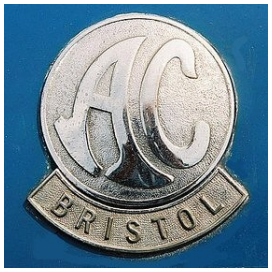


Let's show off our classic British motorcars!

MGeometry

Celebrating 90 Years of MG Motoring and of the MG Badge. By Rick Astley

According to an article by Jonathan Wood, published in *Enjoying MG* in June 1997, the famous MG Octagon was designed at MG founder Cecil Kimber's request by Edmund (Ted) Lee in 1924. Wood's article quotes Lee as saying, ".....I drew out this badge with a little ruler I'd brought from High School. I was good at art and have painted for years. Kimber saw it and said 'that's just the thing'." Wood's article goes on, "I was interested to know why Lee had opted for the eight sided shape and he said there was no particular reason for choosing it. But it should be remembered that such angular designs were very popular in the nineteen twenties and they are what we know today as Art Deco style." There have been suggestions that Kimber was influenced by other Art Deco car badges such as that for Standard Swallow or he just wanted a 2-letter badge like AC, a company for which Kimber had once worked. (Standard Swallow, by the way, changed its name to Jaguar Cars in 1945, because of the connotations to the Nazi SS).



AC Badge

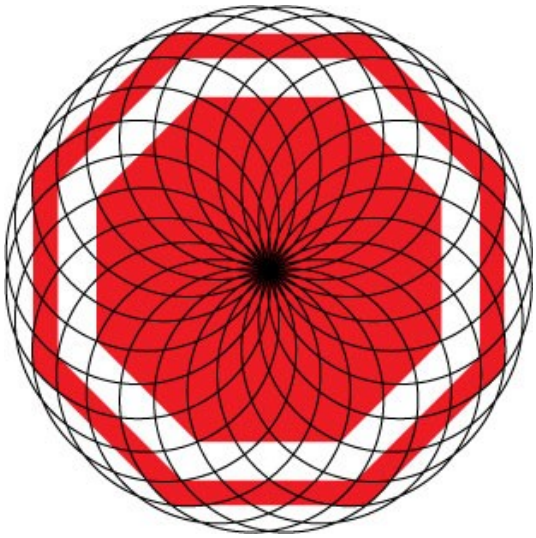
Standard Swallow Badge

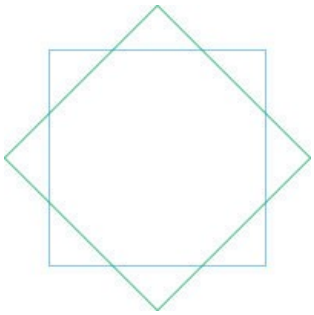
If indeed Lee worked using a "little ruler", it would explain why some of the dimensions of the MG Octagon appear arbitrary, as shown in *MGeometry - Everything Octagonal*, which was re-published at a poster distributed at the *University Motors 20th Annual MG Summer Party* in August 1996 and from which I ripped the title of this article. However, I believe that Lee worked with more than a "little ruler", he had a good compass too, some sophisticated knowledge of geometry and I further think that the dimensions of the MG Logo are not so arbitrary after all.

The MG badge is fundamentally based on 3 octagons with a common center. The outside 2 form the border and the inside one defines the frame in which the letters MG are contained. *Everything Octagonal* describes the size of the inner 2 octagons to be 94% and 80.07% of the size of the outer one; hence the apparent randomness of the of the relative dimensions. However, in my view at least, making a geometric figure pleasing to the eye is more easily achieved if there is a natural proportionality. Unlike Lee, I have a computer that can more accurately draw complex figures than could his ruler and compass, and with it I sought-out a possible way in which he could make the figure truly geometric, and hence seem right to the human eye, even if the person viewing it didn't know why it seemed correct.

The main elements of the MG badge are contained within the 3 blue octagons.

There are a number of ways of accurately drawing an octagon, the simplest of which is to put two identical squares on top of one another and then rotate one 45º so that an octagon appears in the middle, as shown in the image on the right. A much more complicated method involves making 24 circles, each displaced 15º from one another and with their touching circumferences rolling around a central point. That produces a figure like that on the left. This figure allows a number of different size octagons to be made by joining intersects that are an equal distance from the center. In this image I've joined the 3 outermost intersections and find we end up with 3 octagons with the correct relative proportions for the MG badge. More than a coincidence I think, or perhaps, being an artist as well as a technical illustrator, Lee just understood how to draw things in proportions so that they seem "just right".





NAMGAR GT 39 - Ottawa, Ontario July 14-17

photos by Dale Brown

Club members in attendance were Jeff & Jan Zorn, Bruce Read, Lise & Dale Brown, Kathi & Ralph Poupard, Steve Holliday and Mary Ellen & Bill Weakley

Show field at the National Science & Technology

WDMGC Club member award recipients: Kathi & Ralph Poupard in the MGB class, Jeff and Jan Zorn in the MGA 1600 class and First Place winners of the Ralleye, Dale & Lise Brown

Cars lining up for a guided tour of Ottawa and the surroundings.

Anniversaries

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

25 Years	Tom and Sandie Newton of Dearborn
20 Years	Terry and Judy Frisch of Waterford
15 Years	John and Miriam Woodall of Windsor
10 Years	Marshall and Frances Coulter of Macomb
10 Years	Jean-Paul and Pearl McGraw of Windsor
10 Years	Doug and Diane Pohlod of Linden
10 Years	Bill, Danny, and Matthew Reeves of Warren
5 Years	Dick and Chris Michaels of St Clair Shores

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:

Colin Copley and Carol Tomes of Windsor who own a 1950 BRG MG-TD and a 2012 Brown/White MiniCooper S

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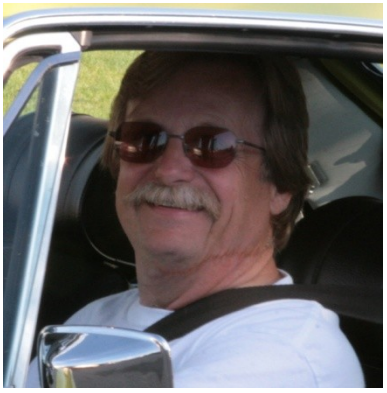
Events

Hot August Nights

"Pack up the babies and grab the old ladies." - Niel Diamond

Steve Finch - Events Coordinator



I just saw the WDMGC Facebook post from our friend Harry Mac. He posted, "Went to a car show today and showed my car." "Out of 260 cars, mine was the ONLY MG there." "Get those cars out there. Drive 'em, don't hide 'em."

Harry, I couldn't agree with you more. So here is the perfect opportunity to show off our classic British motorcars. Join WDMGC at our tent at the 2014 Cruisin' Hines Event. See Page 5 for details.

And a new opportunity has been added to the calendar by Philip Wiltshire. He will rallyemaster a pleasant Autumn Twisty Bits Tour on Sunday, October 5, starting in Howell, cruising around newly paved roads in Livingston and Washtenaw counties, and ending at Central Park in Milford across the street from the new micro-brewery and pub. Stay tuned for more details.

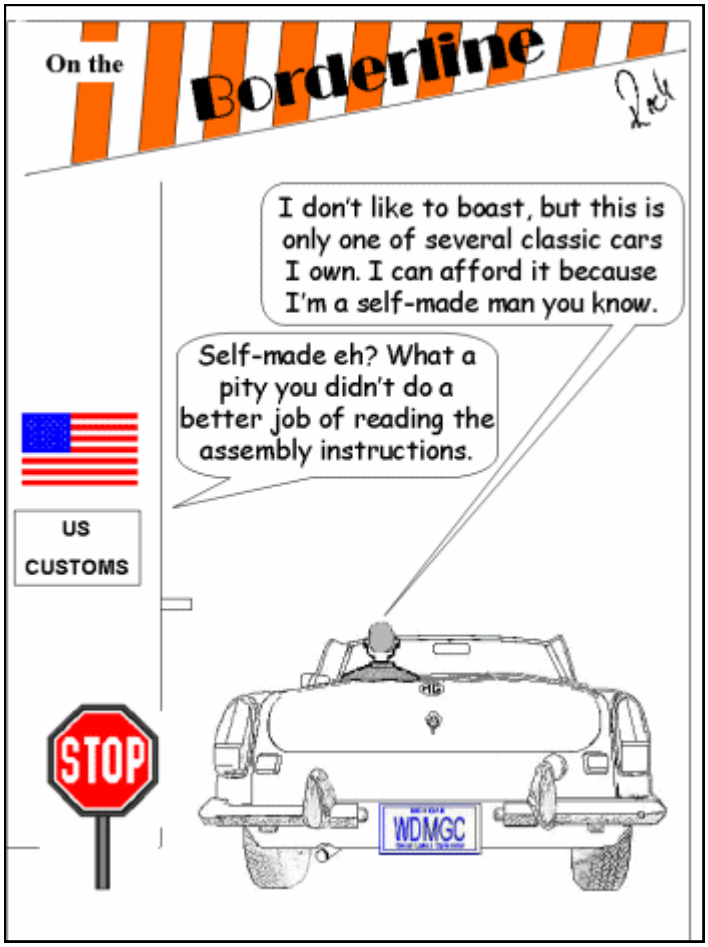
As Harry says, "Drive 'em, Don't hide 'em!"

I hope you will join us at a meeting, event or for a drive in your MG. Safety Fast! - Steve Finch

Wednesday, August 13	Monthly Meeting - Farmington Hills	Brass Pointe
Thursday-Sunday, August 14-17	University Motors Summer Party Reunion	Grand Rapids, MI
Sunday, August 24	4th Annual Cruisin' Hines	Dearborn, MI WDMGC Tent
Friday-Sunday, September 5-7	US Vintage Grand Prix, 60th Collier Cup Memorial	NAMGAR at the Glen - Watkins Glen
Wednesday, September 10	Monthly Meeting - Windsor	The Leaf
Sunday, September 14	Battle of the Brits, Camp Dearborn	Milford, MI
Sunday, September 21	British Car Day at Bronte Creek Provincial Park	Oakville, ON
Monday, September 29	Border City Mini Club - All British Cruise In	Windsor, Ontario
Sunday, October 5	Autumn Twisty Bits Tour	Howell, MI

August Meeting at The Brass Pointe

The next club meeting will be Wednesday August 13 at The Brass Pointe in Farmington Hills, MI. 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.



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:
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For Sale

MG Parts 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. Reduced to $150. Also Midget luggage rack. $25. Several MGB doors and vent windows, MGB trunk lid and two hoods (one aluminum). Make an offer or could give free for some items. 71 MGB or GT seats in excellent condition including rear bench. $200. 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.

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
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Low mileage 45,000 miles
$500.00 or OBO
Both items sitting on trailer ready to go.
Contact Bryan at: xpertsystems at cogeco.ca

2008 Mini Cooper Convertible. Black with white stripes on the bonnet. 60k miles. Automatic transmission. 5K miles on new Continental tires plus a set of winter tires as well. Driven by Vicki Bade, so miles have been gentle. Power windows, mirrors and door locks. Black power convertible top. Heated leather seats and Harmon Kardon AM/FM/CD radio. Very good condition. Pictures available. Asking $12,500. 248-683-1210 ask for Vicki or Matt. Email Mgbade at core.com.

1977 MGB roadster. BRG. 55,000 miles on chassis, 15,000 miles on rebuilt engine. Recent full body restoration plus lots of upgrades in last 4 years. Excellent top and interior. Garaged year round. $16K invested. Asking $12,500. Bob Hauser 248- 673-0928 (Waterford)

1969 MGC-GT, BRG; overdrive; mini-lites; red leather seats & door skins on front seats; original black cloth upholstery on shelf seat. Car was purchased in California in 1989 & restoration completed 1990. Body and paint in good condition after 24 years of driving & enjoying it. 73,600 (173,600) on odometer. Repair records available. Asking $14,000. Call Fran at 248-681-8420 or, email govlewis at hotmail to view.

1978 MGB Roadster. Good clean condition, needs some tender loving care. No rust, red (recent paint). Road style wheels, luggage rack. Recent engine rebuild with dual SU carbs. Car is located at Commerce Lake. Asking $4500 OBO. Can e-mail photos Call Jim at 248-705-8585.

New MGB camshaft and other MG and Triumph parts. Andy Noestheden 519-980-1946

New Ad **Free Engine Stand.** Like new. Harbor Freight type 61238 but with an oil catcher added. Item comes only with an MGB engine attached. Transportation is not available. Rick Astley rick@wdmgc.com or 248-760-7531.

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
4058 Twin Lakes Crescent
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the Month August 2014

One of several Rolls Royces that came out for our WDMGC All British Car Show

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.