The Can Am CONNECTION

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The August Club Meeting at The Brass Pointe

photos by Rick Astley

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Thanks to everyone that contributed towards this September issue of the Can Am Connection, I have produced this edition with lots of content. In fact, as I'm finishing it up Battle of the Brits will be going on so I'll have lots more material for the October issue.

Enjoy.

Can Am Newsletter Editor,
Dale Brown

More photos from the August Meeting at the Brass Pointe

Presidentially speaking

Vicki Bade - Club President

Well-the summer is winding down which is always sad. It has been a nice one this year and we have had some good events.

Philip did a great job on our Twisty Bits tour. We had a decent turnout of around 11-12 cars with some of the Rowdies joining us, 2 in their MGA's. It was a beautiful day for a ride and the park was lovely.

We have the Battle of the Brits coming up on Sunday Sept. 10th at Camp Dearborn and although it has been advertised as a gathering more than a car show it should be a lot of fun. They suggested coming early if you want to reserve a spot for your group, so I will be getting there around 9:30 am to pick an area for the club. I have the club banner and awning, but could use some help getting it set up since I have never done it before. So if anyone can join me early to help it would be greatly appreciated. I will be there in the Mini and Matt will be joining me in the B. Hope to see you there!

As you probably know by now Steve and Donna Finch have traded the snowbird title for a permanent residence down south, so although we will probably see Steve here and there he has decided to resign as Events Coordinator. That leaves us looking for a replacement, so anyone that is interested can contact the board to let us know. You are not expected to organize every event, but help with some and hopefully get a few interested people to come up with ideas for events throughout the year.

We had a recent Board meeting where the subject of how to move forward with the printed NL came up for discussion. The number of people still getting the printed version has declined to the extent that it has become costly to print and mail. As that number drops the cost will continue to rise and it has been suggested by many club members that now is the time to go fully electronic.
It was proposed that we would phase out our mailed NL sometime in 2018 and I would like to reach out to those that are still receiving the printed version that if it is a hardship for you to not get it mailed I would like to hear from you, so that we can see what alternatives we can come up with to help.
This topic has been discussed many times through the years and so it is not a decision we take lightly. We value all of our members and want to hear your opinions. We do believe that this change will be in the best interest of the club going forward.

As always everyone is free to express their opinions and/or concerns and is encouraged to email myself or the board at any time.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will see you at the next meeting Sept. 13th at the Parks & Rec Gastropub in Windsor.

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Vicki

Coast-To-Coast Cruise to MG Convention 2017 - San Diego!

by Janet Davis

The thought of driving to San Diego from Michigan in a MGB was daunting at first. But Elvin was determined to do so. We decided to drive south to join the Coast-To-Coast group. The group's itinerary had them leaving Savannah, Georgia on Friday, June 16, and arriving in San Diego Sunday, June 24, with stops in Montgomery, Vicksburg, Shreveport, Waco, Carlsbad, Las Cruces, Tucson, and Yuma.

We left for Nashville, Tennessee early on the morning of June 18. After a night's stint at a chain hotel we set off to meet our fellow cruisers in Shreveport, Louisiana the afternoon of June 19. The biggest excitement…we took I-49, a new freeway, not downloaded onto our gps. The little car on the gps was just stuck in the Twilight Zone. Tense moments: we were low on gas, but without customary highway signs, we didn't know where to exit. CBs were created for moments like these and Elvin freely used his to contact a northbound trucker to get the info. Good thing he did, because it was the only fuel stop.

We met Gavin Bailey, Dick Lumney, PJ Lenihan, Mary Beth & Steve Dupus, Roger & Shirley Goebbert, Mary Ellen & Terry McClain, Larry & Gayle Norton, and Sue & Mike Cook, and Ralph Ratta at our designated hotel in Shreveport. Brothers Mark & Rick Huber of Baton Rouge temporarily joined us.

Next stop – Waco, Texas. Although the drive was hot, many of us sported our Coast-To-Coast shirts signifying unity and determination. Or to others it may have signaled lunacy. We stopped at a Denny's for breakfast. In Waco, we were guests of the Texas MG Register Club at a jovial Mexican restaurant – Ninfa's.

The trip from Waco, Texas to Carlsbad, New Mexico found us traversing secondary roads under construction. We pushed on at possible peril: the potholes were mini craters ready to swallow our small MGs.

Carlsbad to Las Cruces was a mere 165 miles. We stopped at a small road-side store in Cloudcraft where thirsty travelers purchased freeze pops for 20¢ -- a refreshing and much needed treat. The twisty mountain roads were somewhat challenging. The refreshing lunch at The Lodge, a plush golf course restaurant, was a welcome relief. That evening members of the British Motor Car Club of Las Cruces

The Coast to Coast Group

treated us to a wonderful Mexican buffet dinner at Las Posta.

The next day, three cars (Elvin & I, Gavin, and Larry & Gayle Norton) peeled off from the group to travel to Chandler, New Mexico for a night's stay so that we could arrive in San Diego on Saturday. Ralph stayed in Las Cruces for a diagnosis and temporary repair on his MG. He caught up with us in Chandler that night. I experienced my first Uber ride to Long Horn Restaurant coincidental with slow service, but good food. The stint from Chandler to San Diego was the most arduous: a sheared bolt on our shock (temporarily repaired with zip ties); steep mountain inclines; and overheated engines. The six lane freeway leading into San Diego never looked so good!

Elvin repairing the sheared bolt

The host hotel, Paradise Point Resort was well worth the trip. It featured beaches, several pools, restaurants, bars, a spa, stores, bike rentals, mini-

golf, marina, fitness center, tennis courts and meeting facilities.

We checked into bungalows with assigned curbside parking and beautiful tropical vistas. John, a local resident and MG enthusiast, loaned Elvin a jack so that Elvin could replace the sheared bolts with those purchased from Home Depot.

Carolyn and Elvin with awards

The MG Convention did not fail to please: tech sessions by guru John Twist and others; pleasant Oceanside drives; a first-timers' reception and car show; silent auction; vending by Jeff & Jan (Little British); beachside parties; riverside car show with over 100 vehicles; and of course…the banquet.

We saw fellow Michiganders Sherri & Steve Rybicki and Bruce & Connie Wycoff. Sherri & Steve had flown to the convention and were tooling around San Diego in a rented Mustang convertible. Elvin's sister, Carolyn aka Zelda, a staunch MG supporter and President of the Southern California Club, also attended. We ate with the South Carolina Club at Sardina's Italian Restaurant.

Elvin & Janet Davis with Sherri & Steve Rybicki

We toured the USS Midway, and also joined the South Carolina Club, Gavin, and Mary Beth & Steve Dupus at Hodad's Hamburger Joint -- reminiscent of the 1960s. One evening we dined with David, our Navy nephew, stationed in San Diego. Other relatives from San Diego drove to the hotel to meet Elvin and me for the first time. Our Michigan friends, Pat and Leroy Bray, who were in California to visit a new grandbaby, also lunched and toured San Diego with us.

It was bittersweet to turn over the Thornley Award to Jennifer Orum, the new winner. But Elvin took first place for MGB MKIV (late) 1979-1980 and Carolyn took second place for MGB Mk III 74 1/2 – 76.

About 5 a.m. the next morning we took off for Las Vegas to spend time with our eldest son, Elvin III. In Vegas we ate too much; Elvin gambled somewhat; we toured Elvis' suite; and took in the Motown show. Elvin bravely started the solo drive home and I flew to Detroit Monday morning. On I-40, just before entering Texas, Elvin caught up with Gavin and Mary Ellen & Terry McClain and had lunch with them at a Subway. Subsequently, his trip took a decided turn.

The cap on the valve cover needed replacement, so Elvin detoured to Lenexa, Kansas to Victoria British to buy one. Just to be sure, he bought two. Afterwards, he made it to Nelson, Missouri where the MG pretty much died. AAA took him to Colombia, a small college town where he was able to rent a U-Haul. Not to be outdone, Elvin backed the MG trailer into the U-Haul and secured it; then hitched the MG to the U-Haul and drove to Michigan. Meanwhile, Arthur (an MG enthusiast who at the last minute, couldn't make the trip) left his car at our house. He drove Elvin's truck to meet Elvin at Guy's house in Ann Arbor. (Guy St. John is a MG mechanic). The MG trailer was hitched to Elvin's truck. Elvin drove the U-Haul to Farmington to return it. Arthur followed so that Elvin would have a ride home. The MG was left with Guy with whom it'll reside for some weeks.

This was a wonderful trip and a great convention. I say to my fellow cruisers, not au revoir, adios, sayonara, or masalamee, but rather, "Till we meet again." I'm sure we'll make the trek to Gettysburg in 2018. But 2020 in Calgary? Not so much.

Steve and Donna Finch Awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Steve and Donna Finch joined our club in April of 2006 and were soon recognized with our Rookies of the Year award for their many attendances of events and meetings on both sides off the border within their first year of membership. It wasn't long before Steve had volunteered to be our Video Librarian, soon to be joined on the WDMGC Board by Donna as they became our joint Regalia Coordinators for the USA. Over the years following, Donna became our Treasurer and Steve our Webmaster, Newsletter Editor and finally, for a total of 5 years, club President. In addition, since joining the club Steve and Donna have been presented with almost every one of the club's annual awards, including Steve being honored with the club's most prestigious annual award, the Founder's in 2014.

Last month, Steve and Donna sold their home in Michigan and moved to South Carolina. Before they left the state, the Board decided that it wanted to show its gratitude to Steve and Donna for their unprecedented service, by presenting them with Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Current club President, Vicki Bade, had hoped to present the award at last month's Brass Pointe meeting, but sadly, although she announced the award, Donna, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatment, was too unwell, and neither she nor Steve could attend. Instead, Club Secretary Rick Astley presented them with the official certificate at a later date.

To all of the Members and the Board of Windsor-Detroit MG Club

Donna and I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for the Honorary Lifetime Membership recently awarded us. Our involvement in the Windsor-Detroit MG Club these past ten years has been among the greatest experiences of our lives.

Last year we bought a condo in Myrtle Beach and intended to be snowbirds for a number of years. Upon returning to MI in May we found the real estate market too hot to ignore. The house sold before we could even get it ready to go on the market. We closed on August 10th with immediate occupancy to the new owners.

We had intended to be at the August meeting despite all going on with the house and move, however Donna was not feeling well enough to allow that to happen. In addition to all the disruption, Donna has contracted breast cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy - thus the cute pink hat in the pictures. She found it early and the prognosis is good, but the treatment is intense. Imagine our surprise to learn of this award. We are sorry to have missed its presentation. More than that, we are most sorry to have missed the opportunity to see you all another time before we left for SC.

But you can't get rid of us that easily. We are already making plans for a summer rental in MI for next year. And you will always have a friend in Myrtle Beach. We hope to see you again soon.

Safety fast,
Steve Finch

The Twisty Bits Tour – Sunday August 27th 2017

Photos and story by Philip Wiltshire

Yes, I think it was Smokey and the Bandit or one of the James Bond movies that got me thinking if we could make the jump, but more of that later.

We had not run the Twisty Bits since 2011, so to ensure error-free driving instructions, Jan and I ran the route a few weeks back. Within the 100 or so miles of the route, it was encouraging to see that some road resurfacing had taken place, but there was and is, some pretty rough stretches of "road".

As the Saturday date approached, the local council controlling our picnic spot, Sharon Mills, advised us that a wedding party had purchased the Saturday and that it would now be closed to the public. So a quick scramble and all was re-arranged for the Sunday.

The weather was also cooperating, with a promise of low 70's and dry. Pretty good driving weather for MG's and a whole lot better than the Hurricane that hammered Texas that week.

To make sure all was well, Jan and I ran the route one more time, the day before the event. We found that Construction Season was in full swing. During the drive we encountered several diversions for road resurfacing and barrier repairs. That's a lot of Flagman! We talked with these crews and they assured us that there was no Sunday working, so all would be good for the run.

The one that really got us was taking the bridge out the day before, on Ridge Road. That guy was not going to be fixed any time soon. We drove up and scoped out the situation. It's on a small stream with smooth banks. I reckoned, with a good run up to it, we could have got the V8 and MGC's across, but not the A's, standard B's and Midgets.

Frantically, an alternative was sought, but the original route was using the only blacktop roads in the area, so a short length of dirt road was inserted into the instructions – sorry everyone.

As promised, Sunday's weather was exactly as forecasted; 11 MG's showed ready and willing to tackle the twisty bits of southern central Michigan. The first half of the run (it's a figure eight, with a stop in the middle for a picnic lunch) went well apart from Bruce Mann's MGA suffering a slight misfire. In fact, we had several Michigan Rowdies out of the 11 cars. We stopped at the impressive Sharon Mills park which is a totally restored mill complete with modern restrooms. The wedding marquee was still up in the park and we did sit in there for a while until the contractors cam to take it away. So we ate outside al fresco as originally intended.

Looking at the MG's in the mill parking lot, it was good to see a sparkling selection of A's, B's, BGTV8, and Midget.

We completed the other half of the figure eight with no issues and wound up back in Ann Arbor with a 102 more miles on the clock. A great ride, using the cars for a gentle run around some great twists and turns.

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Club Calendar

■ WDMGC event.
To be sure you are up-to-date with all events, times and meeting places, visit www.WDMGC.com

September 2017	
Sun Sept 10	Battle of the Brits, Camp Dearborn Milford, MI 2017 10 am - 5 pm
■ Wed Sept 13	**WDMGC Club Meeting** Parks and Rec Gastropub. Windsor, Ontario 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sun Sept 17	Toronto Triumph Club British Car Day 9 am - 4 pm
Sat Sept 30	Dr. Smiles Charity Car Show 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
October 2017	
■ Wed Oct 11	**WDMGC Club Meeting**. Brass Pointe, Farmington Hills, MI

August Meeting at the Brass Pointe

September Meeting at Parks & Rec Gastropub

The September club meeting will be Wednesday Sept. 13 at The Parks & Rec Gastropub 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. (Click on hyperlink in the Calendar for website)

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Your contributuion's for this newsletter,.

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For Sale

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@uwindsor.ca

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Priced at $18,500 Pictures available. Contact: Tom Newton at 313-407-7334 or newts2u@gmail.com

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1970 MGBGT I have owned this car since about 1977. No rust, rockers have been replaced. Needs paint, Tires. Engine has totally been rebuilt, touring cam, 10 over pistons, New fuel tank, needs some work to complete. Extra engine, Transmission, overdrive unit, Heated backlight. $4000.00 art.krygowski@gmail.com

Phone or text: 58 six-2 nine 8-8 three 98.

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On Recent Membership Anniversaries

5 Years	Phillip Smith and Scott Blaser of Dearborn Hts, MI
15 Years	Richard and Sherry Dittman of Tecumseh, ON
20 Years	Tom and Mike Schendel of Brighton, MI
25 Years	David Burstyn of Essex, ON
	Phillip Kull and Joyce Kiebler of Monroe, MI

Welcome!

To our Newest Members

Brian Jansen and Erica Dougherty of Madison Hts, MI. They have a 1973 Yellow Midget.

Ron and Lynn Martin of Sterling Hts, MI. They have a 1976 Carmine Red MGB.

Ken and Cheryl McGuire of Livonia, MI. They have a 1949 Citron Austin A50 Devon and a 1975 Black MGB.

Windsor-Detroit MG Club
2094 Cliffside Drive
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Car of the Month - September 2017

Member Kurt Ill missed the August meeting as he was picking up his new ride. It’s a 1972, Tahiti Blue, MGB. It needs some TLC, but don't they all. He believes it's all original. Engine still has all the emission control equipment installed.