The Can Am CONNECTION

Vol. 40, No. 1 - Newsletter of the Windsor- Detroit MG Club January/February 2018

1974 MGB Roadster—Owned by Bob Gibbs of Birmingham, Michigan

The car is a 1974 MGB that I have owned for over 20 years. It was built in 73 but registered as a 74.
20 years ago, John Twist completed an extensive overhaul of the mechanics and also installed a custom leather interior and wire wheels. The car is a nice driver and is regularly driven by my 2 sons. I have been a club member on and off for 20 years, but don't get to participate in many events due to my business travel. The photo was taken at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills.

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The Windsor-Detroit MG Club
The International Local Club

Can Am Newsletter Editor, Dale Brown

Well, it's finally that time that we are able to publish a free form newsletter that will now allow us to add content without being limited to 12 pages in length. As such you will see in this issue, a significant change to the way it is laid out.

I have looked at other newsletters and tried to modify the WDMGC Newlsetter in a way that is more common throughout other Clubs around North America. I've had suggestions from some of our members and I intend to incorporate those ideas over time.

Some of the changes you may notice include a front cover page, this second page will consistently include the Club Executive panel to the left with other information as usual and my editor's column but now I will include a Table of Contents and New Member Welcome and Anniversaries.

I have set up the rest of the newsletter with groupings of Club Business, Member Events, Stories and Tech articles submitted, member classified ads, commercial ads and finally the Calendar on the last page.

I hope you like the changes. Feel free to send me comments and also continue to submit photos, articles and other items that might be of interest to our members. Submit to Editor@WDMGC.com

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Welcome!

To our Newest Members

Pete and Kathy Hart, of Royal Oak, MI. They have a Black 1955 MGTF, a Green 1959 MGA, and a Red 1965 Sunbeam Tiger.

Randy and Kate Hasselhuhn, of St Clair Shores, MI. They have a Black 1979 MGB.

Congratulations!

On Recent Membership Anniversaries

10 Years	Lee and Karen Jacobsen of Dearborn, MI
15 Years	Bob Krzewinski and Sally Lunn of Ypsilanti, MI

Presidentially speaking

Vicki Bade - Club President

I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday & Wonderful New Year!

We had a lot of fun at our December Meeting/Gift Exchange even though our first good snowstorm of the year had us needing to postpone it a few days. As mentioned on the website Bob Fougere had generously asked that the proceeds from the sale of his Star Trek collection be given to the club upon his passing. He told me the last time I saw him that he would like the money to go in his name to some event for the club, so I am sure we can come up with something he would be proud of this year.

It's a wicked cold snap we are currently going through and so far my Mini has not had a good time of it. Between getting the snow tires put on a week late and having to try and get around our unplowed subdivision the week prior (Wow do I realize now what a difference those tires make!) then dealing with this cold it is being a little tempermental-like some MG's I know. At least we managed to find a winter home for Matt's "B" so his Dodge Charger could get the other spot in the garage in plenty of time for this nasty bit of weather. We made a day of it shortly after our Thanksgiving holiday and got his baby all tucked in to a nice storage facility around Oxford.

Our Annual General Meeting will be coming up in February-so get your nominations in for our club awards to one of the board members. The list of awards we normally try to hand out is on the website and this newsletter along with a description of each. Please have your picks turned in ASAP. We will also be holding the nominations for the Board Members for this year.

As it had been reported previously due to the declining numbers of members getting the mailed newsletters and it not being cost effective anymore, along with an inquiry from the vendor that does the printing and mailing, we are going to discontinue the paper NL as of this Jan/Feb edition. Mick Gedeon is informing members as their renewal reminders are sent and confirming the lower price for their membership.

Although the New Year is starting off rather cold I believe 2018 will be a wonderful year for the club and I am looking forward to the activities that will be planned in the warmer months. Keep an eye on the calendar on the website for upcoming events.

Stay warm and drive safe.

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

Safety MG Fast!

Vicki

Club Business

2018 WDMGC Board Member Nominations and Election

The WDMGC By-Laws require that an annual election be held for the club's elected offices at a General Membership Meeting (GMM). The offices are:

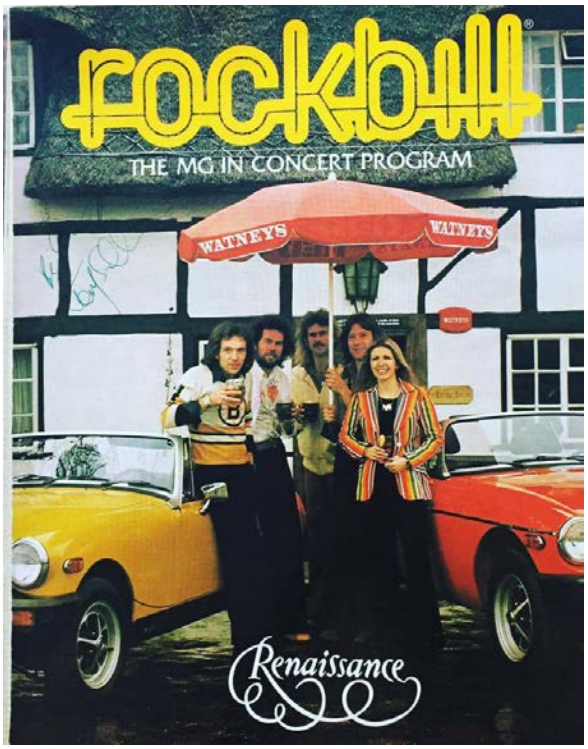
- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer.

Year-to-year, we alternate the election GMM between Canada and the USA. For 2018, the election will take place at the February 14th meeting in Farmington Hills.

All positions are open and anyone can nominate themselves, or another club member, to any of the positions. So far we have 3 nominations:

- President (incumbent) - Vicki Bade
- Vice President (incumbent) - Jean Paul McGraw
- Treasurer (incumbent) - Cathy Gurnee

If you would like to nominate someone and/or vote, you can do so either at the meeting or by contacting me, the current club Secretary, beforehand. My contact details are on page 2. *Rick Astley*



2018 Awards

It's time once again to ask for your to help in determining this year's recipients of our coveted club awards. Please review the award criteria below and nominate the member or members you believe are most deserving of an award and why. Just a few words are sufficient, but a funny or compelling anecdote is even better.

You can submit your nominations to any club board member by phone, email, post or in person at the next club meeting. Board member names and contact details can be found on page 2. **The deadline for submissions is January 9th, 2018.**

Founders Award: Given to the member who has contributed the most to the club over the past year. This person or persons are the most valuable members of the club. They have contributed above and beyond anyone else in the club.

Rookie of the Year: Given to the new member who has contributed the most to the club over the past year. "New member" shall be defined as having joined the club since September 1 of the previous year.

Navigator of the Year: Given to the "Travelling Companion" or "Navigator" who has contributed the most to the club over the past year.

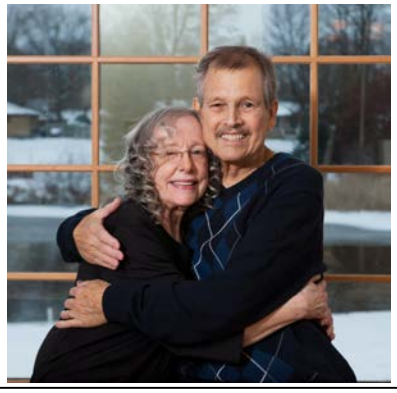
Hard Luck Award: Given to the member who has had the most problems with his/her British car during the past year (or suffered a notable loss or hardship in that regard.)

Lucky Lucas Award: Given to the member who has had the most electrical problems with his/her British car during the past year (or a combination of electrical and general malfunction.)

Sonny Straley

We were very sorry to learn that our friend Sonny Straley had passed away January 8th at the age of 73. Sonny, real name Charles, and his wife Sherri of 52 years (who were of course known as Sonny and Sher) joined the club in October 2015 immediately after acquiring a 1977 British Racing Green MGB, previously owned by another member. His MGB soon became Sonny's passion, so much so that his and Sherri's attendance of events in their first full year with the club, resulted in them receiving the Rookies of the Year award for 2016.

Sonny had prostate cancer some years ago that he had thought he had beaten, but which unfortunately returned with a vengeance. If anyone could be said to have truly fought cancer, he did. He would arrive at meetings sometimes bald, sometimes sallow, but other times with a good re-growth looking and acting robust, hale and hearty. He even sent an apology for being unable to attend the December meeting because his doctor wouldn't let him, but if it were up to him, we know he would have been there and enjoyed taking part and being with friends.



Sonny was a Vietnam Veteran who proudly served his country in the United States Army. Before retiring he had worked at General Motors for 30 years, most recently at the Lake Orion Assembly Plant. He was buried at a private service in Holly January 17th.

We will miss Sonny at our events and meetings and offer our sincere condolences to Sherri and the Straley family.

Goodbye Ken

NAMGAR has heard from Moss Motors that Ken Smith, an MG legend, passed away on Friday, January 5th. His wife, Barby, and his two sons, Trevor and Kevin, were by his side. Ken worked for Moss Motors for 25 years, and was often seen at NAMGAR GTs driving the Moss RV.

"After retiring from Moss many years ago, Ken stayed permanently active, promoting the enthusiasm and sharing his knowledge of the MGB. Even while in the hospital Ken would find MG fans and give doctors and nurses copies of his book "Aspects of Abingdon."

"There is much to be said about Ken and his fervent commitment to the MG hobby, and we here at Moss hope you'll share your stories of Ken, too. Ken will be dearly missed by all of us here and by his friends all around the world.

"We made this **short video** a few years ago when Ken sold his last MGB. It gives a little glimpse into his life and passion."

Photo provided by Just British.

Club Events , Photos and Meetings

2017 December Meeting and Holiday Gift Exchange - FINALLY!

For almost as long as the club has been in existence, the December meeting has also been our Gift Exchange night, and despite the season, and as far as anyone can remember, the weather had never forced us to cancel the event. But, there's a first time for everything and the morning TV weather forecast for December 13th was dire, with a winter weather warning in effect all day and an advisory to stay off the roads.

Secretary Rick Astley texted club President Vicki Bade and between the two of them, they decided that first: it would be unsafe for members to travel to the meeting, and second: not many would attend anyway.

It was decided to broadcast an email to all members cancelling that night's meeting but to tell everyone that we would contact the Brass Pointe as soon as it opened and ask the management if their meeting room was available within the next week, so that the Gift Exchange would only be postponed.

As it turned out, we were able to secure the room for the following Monday, and we rescheduled the event to that night. With much improved weather and road conditions we had a good attendance and lots of fun.

In addition to the gift exchange, we had a short business meeting. Dan Sokolowski took the floor to explain he had a discussion with Bob Fougere before he passed away early November. Bob had asked Dan to sell his Star War memorabilia and to give the proceeds to the club to share somehow between members. Bob gave proceeds of $250 to President Vicki Bade, who has yet to decide exactly how to use it.

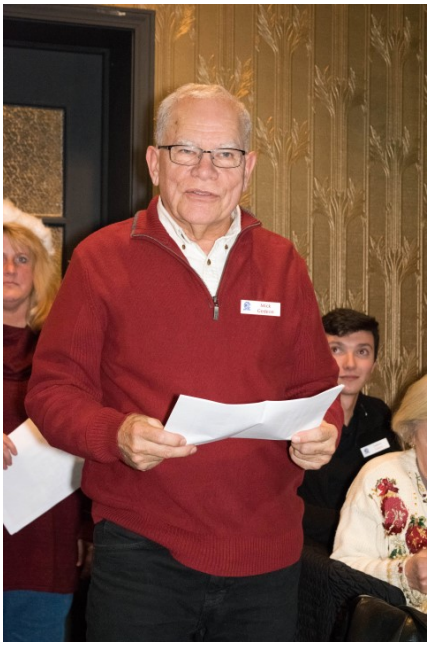
We also heard about an offer from a recent member who was cleaning out his stable of cars. He offered any member of the club first dibs on a few of his cars.

Guy St. John knew some history of the cars and shared it with the club members. In addition, Ian Kempf shared one of his positions as Eastern Michigan State Fairgrounds manager. Ian offered the club the opportunity to use the facility as a location for an event sometime in the next year. He talked about the possibility to piggy back onto an already existing event.

HOT FINGERS

A COMPLETE KIT
HOW TO HOST A
BEER
TASTING
PARTY
IN YOUR OWN HOME
CARLO DEVITO

MG



"OLD SPECKLED HEN"

Photos from the January Meeting at Parks & Rec Gastropub

photos by Dave Hornby

Member Stories and Tech Info

CRUNCH!

Anybody who owns a car they care about knows that they should beware of parking under trees because of the damage that sap can do to the paintwork. However, as Bob Krzewinski learned, there are bigger tree hazards to be concerned about rather than sap!

Somehow we missed this story at the time but when Hurricane Sandy hit the east coast in October 2012, peripheral winds of over 50 mph were experienced in Michigan with the result that a lot of trees came down, one of them on top of Bob's 1979 MGB.

Bob only had to replace the bonnet, valve cover, a few hoses and bent studs, but the biggest drama was the fact that the car wouldn't start. Late model North American MGBs had an inertia switch that cuts power to the fuel pump and it had done its job. With a simple button press the switch was reset, the pump purred again and the car ran — and it still does.

My Blue B

story by Harry Mac Lean

We go back to the year 1990 maybe late 89 I kind of forget the years. Originally I had gotten a ride in an MGA when I was 15 yrs old. It was really a blast for a kid of that age. The car had just been restored and the guy took me for a ride and ended up on a gravel road sliding around sideways . It was really fun. In the years 89/90 I was kind of looking for an MG maybe a project car. I had a hankering to get into one and they were very affordable, least to my tastes as I figured I could fix most all on the car. It was Tahiti Blue

So I found this one in a junkyard off of Dix hwy In Detroit I think it was. I bought it and had the guy tow it to my house in Troy. The engine only had a block with a crank and timing cover,water pump on it. The body wasn't in to bad of shape. Searching around I found an engine at a person who parted out MG's. He wanted $650 for a complete engine which I thought was to much, I ended up paying him $400 for the engine with out head and manifold. The engine wasn't in very good shape as it had large ridges where the rings stopped so I figured they were pretty worn out. But hey I figured I could run it for a while anyhow. I found a head WITH an original hardtop in decent shape for $100 in Pontiac as a guy was getting rid of parts that he had. Put the engine and parts in the car and got it running. I found the remaining parts I needed in trunk of car after having to break into it. The car smoked a bit on startup but after getting it driveable it soon ceased to smoke as much. I joined the Windsor Detroit club in 1990 Guy St. John was president and they met in Dearborn at the time. I drove the car like that for 2 yrs .it used about a quart of oil every 300 miles between burning and leaks lol. After that I overhauled the engine block I had from car purchase. Then removed old engine . After 4 yrs I took a body school and used the MG as a Guinea Pig. I fixed most of the stuff on it except rockers. I kept it for two more years then sold the car. 5 yrs later I got the bug again and bought another one also a project my current car.

British Sports Car Hall of Fame announces 2018 inductees

Visitors at the 2017 induction ceremony.
Photos courtesy British Sports Car Hall of Fame.

Established in 2016, the British Sports Car Hall of Fame's mission is to "preserve and perpetuate the legacy and impact of these legendary vehicles and to honor the men and women responsible for their success." In June 2017, the inaugural class, consisting of 23 honourees from seven distinct categories, was inducted at the facility's Petersburg, Virginia, home, and on June 2, 2018, 19 new members will be recognized as the class of 2018.

Inductees are selected using a formula that blends popular vote with input from a Selections Committee, and priority is given to living nominees so that their contributions may be publicly recognized. For consideration, a candidate must "have made a significant and lasting impact on the British sports car industry and hobby." The seven categories from which honourees are chosen include Automobile Clubs and Associations; Automobile Dealers and Distributors; Aftermarket Suppliers, Parts Manufacturers and the Service Industry; Executives, Engineers and Designers; Journalists and Historians; Competition and Racing; and Special Contributors and Pioneers.

For 2018, the inductees are Friends of Triumph founding member Joe Alexander; Austin-Healey Club of America founding member Chuck Anderson; race car driver Clive Barker; Bentley Motors founder W.O. Bentley; Aston Martin owner and visionary David Brown; Lotus Cars founder Colin Chapman; British Motor Industry Heritage Trust archivist and author Anders Ditlev Clausager; carburetor expert Joseph Curto; racer and British automaker executive Richard "Dickie" Green; engineer and racer Geoffrey Healey; rally and racing legend Paddy Hopkirk; Swallow Doretti expert Tom Householder; race car constructor Joe Huffaker; Moss Motors founder Al Moss; five-time European Ladies Champion rally driver Pat Moss; author and historian Bill Piggott; racer, automaker and promoter Carroll Shelby; British car champion and Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance co-founder Kjell Qvale; and Aston Martin mechanic, North American competition director and operations manager Rex Woodgate.

Housed within Moss Motors' Virginia warehouse, the British Sports Car Hall of Fame features exhibits of cars significant to British motoring history. Vehicles on display are changed to reflect the careers of those being inducted, so expect to see a different array at this year's ceremony. Though complete details will be announced closer to the ceremony, we expect that this year's induction ceremony will also include a meet and greet opportunity with honorees, as well as an autograph session. As in 2017, space will be limited; for tickets or additional details, visit BritishSportsCarHall.org.

Member Classified Ads

Classified Advertising

Please contact the editor if you no longer want your ad to run. Ads will run in the newsletter for three months and then may be removed to make room for newer entries. Ads will run for six months on our website. The date following the ad is date of placement. See the Classified page at our website for more ads. www.wdmgc.com

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

Midget Mk I parts for sale from '64 donor car. Seats (for refurb), dash, 1098 engine w/trans (working condition unknown), radiator, wire wheels (for refurb), suspension, windshield, bumpers, steering column and more!. Call/text Scott 513-240-3221 or scottolman@gmail.com"

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 back-light. $4000.00 art.krygowski@gmail.com

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

1963 MGB. Fully restored, excellent condition, no rust, runs great, owned it for 21 years, garage stored, Iris blue, black interior, has black top and tonneau cover, original tools, manuals, radio, new battery, new seats. Also including spare hood, original seats, and any spare parts my husband had for it. Chassis number GHN3L13495 Engine number 18GUH13558 and I have the British Motors Heritage Certificate.
Also, mileage is original at 60,625.
Asking $19,500 but price is negotiable. Car is in Washington Township, Michigan.
trombleycathy@comcast.net ph: 586-484-0337

Car Capsule

Perfect for hibernation storage. Model CC22, $325 (new was $485) www.carcapsule.com
Size 22'L – 7.5'W – 6.7'H, Mfg date 10/2014.
Item is located in Grand Rapids, MI
Contact Steve@wdmgc.com or 248-343-1614 (leave a message).

MG Magnette for Sale in Ontario. Call Colin at 519 284 2103

1976 MGB Peacock Blue with the tan interior and black top. Approximately 76, 000 miles. Good condition. Paperwork for most repairs. 7,000.00. Give a call, we'll talk, you'll look, we'll see. I'm also thinking of selling my '72 'westie'. Launey at 1.313.345.6435 or lapyke3@ gmail .com

1972 MGB Roadster. Runs, But Needs Work, $1,500
Runs and drives, but will need substantial rust repair. This will be a project car before it's a good driver again and the low price of $1,500 firm reflects that.
One owner since 1995. Mileage unknown, but only 5,000 miles since engine rebuild in 1997. Four-speed transmission. Needs wiring work and rust replacement of rockers, frame rails, plus some repair in fenders and floor panels. Improvements in last 20 years include new front bumper, distributor, starter, radiator rebuild, Delco alternator, ignition switch, new gas tank, convertible top. (See website for photos) john_a_magee@yahoo.com
248-234-3789

Wanted

I am looking for a used 15" steering wheel for MGA. Please email picture and price topernot10@gmail.com

Cool!

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CARS WANTED

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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

Entire collections possible

ANY CONDITION - ANY LOCATION

Generous finders fee. WILL PAY THE MOST!
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European and American made

STEVE'S BRITISH CONNECTION USA

Tel: 630-553-9023 email: SBCinc@aol.com

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

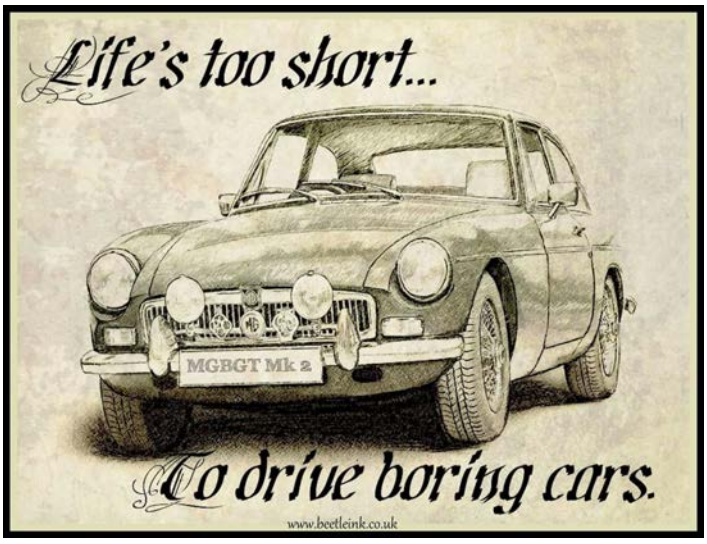
Your contributuion's for this newsletter,.

You will be Well Rewarded

Club Calendar

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

February 2018	
Wed Feb. 14	**WDMGC Club Meeting**. Brass Pointe, Farmington Hills, MI . AGM will take place.
March 2018	
Wed Mar. 14	**WDMGC Club Meeting** Parks and Rec Gastropub. Windsor, Ontario 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sun Mar. 18	Swap Meet and Autojumble - Chicago Area (*See ad to the right*) Hosted by Chicagoland MG Club 8:00am—2:00pm



February Meeting at The Brass Pointe

The February club meeting will be Wednesday February 14 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 at around 6:00 pm. The Annual General Meeting will take place at this meeting. (See Vicki's comments Page 3)