Did You Know?

Did you know? The Channel Tunnel between Folkestone England and Calais France actually consists of 3 tunnels 148 ft deep, 31 miles long and spaced 164 ft apart. Trains carrying passengers and vehicles run in the 25 ft diameter outer tunnels. The center tunnel is 16 ft diameter and is used for special service vehicles. There are service and emergency cross-tunnels every ¼ mile.

O-o-O

Did you know? *Old Speckled Hen* ale that features our famous Octagon on the label does not go back that far. It was first produced by Morland's brewery of Abingdon in 1980 to celebrate MG's 50th year in the town. The brewery has been bought and production moved to eastern England. Maybe that's fitting, the K3 car after which the beer is named, was also not produced in Abingdon.

Did you know? The only 2 tools you will ever need are WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it moves and it shouldn't, use the duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use the WD-40.

Did you know? Early MGs had a simple numeric system for chassis numbering. In 1929 an alpha-numeric system was introduced, but not wishing to start at zero the first number was A0251. The number was chosen because the MG factory telephone number was Abingdon 251. The system continues even today, the VIN number suffix of the newest MG TF being 2101, the last 4 digits of the current MG plant phone number.

"Honey, I know the club's Stratford trip is 3 days this year but I still think you could have brought less clothes!"

Do You Know why the chicken cross the road?

To prove to all the skunks, possums and raccoons that it can be done.

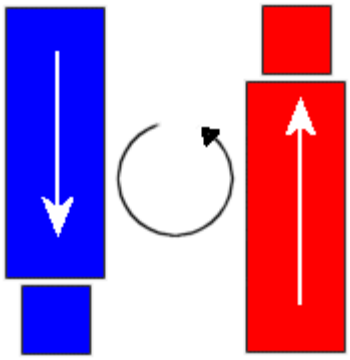
Did you know? While we all know about MG founder Cecil Kimber's enthusiasm for cars, and perhaps that he died in a train crash, his real passion was sail boats; so much so that he had a contracted little finger removed to avoid accidents with ropes. He was also a keen fisherman, an expert skater and accomplished squash player.

Did You Know?

Ontario is about 7 times as big as either Michigan or Florida and 8 times the size of England. It's also over 1½ times as big as Texas and more than 2½ times the area of California.
You may not think it as you drive on the 401 through Toronto, but the population density is only 24 people per sq mile. Compare that to England's 976 — over 40 times the density!

Do You Know why so many tornados occur in North America and why both the USA and Canada? And why both countries should consider switching to driving on the left.

The D.O.T. are so myopic they cannot see the long term savings that would accrue from spending the measly few $billion that would be necessary to make the change. Perhaps the collective force of our 200 odd members could persuade at least the Michigan and Ontario governments to mandate that vehicles drive on the left on their roads.



As most will know, if otherwise undisturbed, water will flow in a counter-clockwise vortex down a drain in this northern-hemisphere in which we live, and the opposite way in the southern hemisphere. This is due to the water being influenced by the force and direction of the rotation of the Earth. Now consider what happens when two heavy-trucks pass one another when driving on the right in the northern hemisphere. A counter-clockwise vortex is set up in the air between the vehicles. This must be so obvious to anyone who has ever stood by a highway as trucks pass that it is insulting to our readership by even having to point this fact out. Given that, surely any fool can see that the Earth's rotation will build on this initial eddy, and that in inclement weather, a tornado will form in no time at all.

Far fetched? Not at all. Have you noticed that tornados are never reported in England? Certainly eddies form when trucks — sorry lorries — pass one another there too. However, they drive on the left and the resulting air-spin is clockwise and the Earth's rotation's tendency to spin the air counter-clockwise soon squelches that out. Pity the poor Australians who chose to drive on the left like their British cousins. They live in the southern-hemisphere and so, just like here, the Earth's spin reinforces the minitornados caused by their trucks and as a result, they suffer some tremendous tornados.

So come on WDMGC members, write to your Department of Transportation and do your bit to stop all these terrible tornados that occur across our state and province! Now all I have to do is sort out how to get the traffic to cross-over when it travels to and from one of our more short-sighted neighboring regions.

RA

Did You Know?

That handbooks for MGBs and Spridgets specify 98 octane fuel. However, that is a Research Octane Number (RON). Look carefully at the pump in North America and it says that the octane rating is (RON +MON)/2. MON is Road Octane Number and is about 10 points less than the RON number. So 98 RON is about 88 MON and (98 + 88)/2 = 93. That still means, unfortunately, these cars need the expensive Premium stuff.

Use a lower octane and the car will ping; a very damaging engine phenomenon. It may also run-on after the key is turned off. Both problems can be solved by retarding the ignition. That will allow you to use cheaper fuel but is not without its own cost in poorer performance.

Did You Know how to Make Someone's Day

Everyone hates driving around Chicago because of the toll plazas every few miles that demand you stop to pay a measly 40¢. Why don't they charge $2 once and leave you alone for the rest of the day?

Just to cheer yourself up, next time you are there, pay the toll for the car behind. You will have done a charitable deed, it will have cost you peanuts and you can enjoy the sight in the rear-view mirror as the toll-collector tries to explain it to the next driver!

Did you know?

The last European country to convert to driving on the right was Sweden in 1967. While everyone was getting used to the new system, they paid more attention and took more care, resulting in a *reduction* of the number of road accident casualties

Did You know that the Pilgrims were great navigators? Well, they must have been. How otherwise, with only a rudimentary compass and the pole star, and no GPS, did they managed to sail from Plymouth, England precisely to Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts!

Did You Know?
Prisoners really do make license plates. In Michigan at the Adrian Correctional Facility and in Ontario at Millbrook Maximum Security Prison.
Oh, they're struck in Folsom Prison
By crooks and scalawags,
Which means the guy who ripped your car off
Most likely made your brand-new tags. (Folsom Prison Blues

Should we feel sorry for all the convicts in the State of New Hampshire, stamping out license plates that say 'Live Free or Die'?

If a man from Michigan is a Michigander why isn't a woman a Michigoose?

How come nobody ever says they are from "downstate" New York?

If Quebec leaves Canada where are they going to go?

Why were so many famous Civil War battles in the U.S. fought in National Parks?

If someone who knows 3 languages is called tri-lingual and someone who knows 2 languages is called bilingual, why is someone who only knows one language called an American?

Do You Know What have these smiling gentlemen to do with our club's main interest?
Clue: Their names are: Donald "Duck" Dunn, Booker T. Jones, Steve Cropper and Al Jackson..

The group is called Booker T and the MGs.
Booker T. Jones began working at Stax Records in Memphis as a saxophonist in 1960. In 1962 Booker T. and the MGs were formed as the house band for Stax-Volt Records.
Sorry to tell that they neither named their group because they liked riding around in little British sports cars nor because the group was formed the year the MGB was launched. MG meant Memphis Group.

Rhyming Slang

Alive and well and living in England

Many people have no doubt heard of rhyming slang, the quaint Cockney locution from the 19th century in which a rhyming expression is substituted for a word, the expression usually then be shortened to a point where it is hard to discern the original meaning. It is said to been invented by pickpockets in order to outwit the police.

While many may have heard that "Apples and Pairs' means stairs, I have yet to hear anyone actually use the expression. However, some rhyming slang is still in common use and very often the speaker does not even realize they are using it . For example, people of all ages might ask to have "a butchers" at something, meaning "a look". It comes from "butcher's hook" but butchers probably stopped hanging their wares from hooks in shop windows long before many people who now use the expression were born. It is also very common to be told to "use your loaf", the speaker usually not being aware that they are using the rhyming slang Loaf-ofbread = head. Other words that still have currency are: sky which is sky rocket = pocket, porkies or pork pies = lies and a Dunlop (tire) is a liar; so a Dunlop tells porkies.

It is certainly not dying out either and although they may not know it, Americans are playing their part in adding new expressions. For example I recently learned the expression "join me for a couple of Britneys". That, if you didn't guess, means Britney Spears = beers!

DidYou Know that a famous group did come from the small town of Abingdon, home of MG?

The group Radiohead was formed there.

Do You Know How many car salesmen does it take to change a light bulb?
Answer: I'm going to work this out on my calculator, and I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Here is something you car buffs probably didn't know.

The 3 Goldberg brothers, Norman, Hiram, and Maxwell invented and developed the first automobile airconditioner. Didn't know that, did ya?

On July 17th, 1946, the temperature in Detroit was 97º. The 3 brothers walked into old man Henry Ford's office and sweet-talked his secretary into telling him that 3 gentlemen were there with the most exciting innovation in the auto industry since the electric starter. Henry was curious and invited them into his office. They refused and instead asked that he come out to the parking lot to their car. They persuaded him to get into the car which was about 130º, turned on the air-conditioner and cooled the car off immediately. The old man got very excited and invited them back to the office, where he offered them 3 million dollars for the patent. The brothers refused, saying they would settle for 2 million but they wanted the recognition by having a label "The Goldberg Air-Conditioner" on the dashboard of each car that it was installed in.

Now old man Ford was more than just a little bit Anti-Semitic, and there was no way he was going to put the Goldberg's name on 2 million Ford cars. They haggled back and forth for about 2 hours and finally agreed on 4 million dollars and that just their first names would be shown.

And so, even today, all Ford air-conditioners show on the controls, the names "Norm, Hi, & Max".

The Bridge to Happiness

A man was driving his MG up the California coast road when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.

The driver pulled over and said, "Please build a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over anytime I want." The Lord replied, "Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking; the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it would take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. Of course I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."
The driver thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand women; I want to know how a woman feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

The Lord replied, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

Geriatric Jets

The average age of the MGs owned by our club members is 38 years old. As we drive them a few inches above the ground, I wonder how confident many us are about their safety and reliability over a long journey. Judging by the number who braved the trip to Tennessee for MG 2006, not many and indeed, in a few cases, their concerns proved justified.

I thought of that the other day as I flew 6 miles above the ground in a Northwest Airlines DC9. NWA, by far the biggest carrier flying out of Detroit, has one of the oldest fleets in the United States, the statistic being heavily weighted by the fact one third of its aircraft is made up of aging DC9s, some of which are 40 years old. Northwest would counter that these planes have been thoroughly refurbished; right, like many of our ultra-reliable MGs!

So if you take a flight out of Detroit within North America, there is a good possibility that you will be relying on a vehicle older than your MG. If that doesn't scare you enough, you may want to think about the fact that some of the flight controls were made by Lucas Aerospace.