

# Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

Volume 48 No. 12

December 2006



## 2006 Comes To A Close



Founded 1958

Meeting  
January 18th 7:30 PM  
Burgundy Basin Inn  
1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY

*The Marque of Friendship*

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# MG CAR CLUB WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE

PO Box 831, Webster, New York 14580-0831

Web Site: [www.mgcarclub.com](http://www.mgcarclub.com)

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### SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME.

**DEADLINE:** One week after a general meeting. Contact the editor for additional information. Send all correspondence and material via e-mail to [Spokes@mgcarclub.com](mailto:Spokes@mgcarclub.com). Alternatively, mail to Allen Hess, 17 Sandpiper Lane, Pittsford, NY 14534 or deliver by hand at a meeting.

### MEETINGS

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, except December, at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY 14534. Board meetings are held the first Thursday of every odd numbered month and are open to members. Contact the chairman for the location of the next board meeting and to request your item on the agenda.

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### ADVERTISING RATES as of January 1, 2002

Copy ready business advertising:

Size		Single Issue	One Year
Half Page	7.5" x 4.8"	\$27.00	\$110.00
Quarter Page	3.6" x 4.8"	\$16.00	\$65.00
Eighth Page	3.6" x 2.3"	\$11.00	\$44.00

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### BRUDNO AWARD LIFE MEMBERS

Desi Benet ~ George Haynes ~ Alex Kopen\* ~ Joe Tierno ~ George & Nancy Herschell  
Gil & Betty Langswager ~ Richard & Bethel Powers ~ Dave & Barb Wild ~ Steve Fitch\* ~ Jim Priestley  
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\*Members Emeritus



### Add Your Name to the MGCC Endowed Scholarship Plaque

An engraved nameplate is added to the plaque in recognition of donations of \$30.00 or more (\$25 + engraving fee \$5.00). This plaque, created by Paul Heaney, is installed in the Monroe Community College Automotive Technology Department. Nameplates can be purchased in the name of the donor, for a friend, or as a memorial. There is no requirement that donors of those honored through donations be members of the MG Car Club. If you wish to purchase a nameplate, send a check payable to MG Car Club

to: Joeanna De Blaere, Treasurer  
8607 North Shore Drive  
Honeoye, NY 14471

*Please indicate exactly how the name should appear on the plaque.*

## From the Chairman

Leon Zak

Luck — comes in both flavors, good and bad:  
I get the garage started in May. Good.  
The contractors truck tips over hauling pieces of the old  
garage and the project goes into a temporary holding  
pattern. Bad.  
Rain comes. Bad.  
Rain stops. Good.  
Contractors brother (also a contractor) has a slow week and  
comes and grades the yard. Good.  
Contractors brother gets busy and stops. Bad.  
Original contractor falls and shears knee. Bad.  
Garage back on hold. Bad.  
Knee is better but he can't get the back hoe. Bad.  
I rent a back hoe. Neither good nor bad, but expensive.  
He starts to dig the footing and we pull up rocks up to 4'  
across. Not a surprise (ask Steve S.) but - Bad.  
Have to switch from poured footing to block because  
the trench is up to 4' wide. (see above) Bad.  
(Notice a trend?)  
Masons are all busy, can do it in a few months - maybe. Bad.  
I remember a mason I used years ago and he can start  
Monday. Good.  
Bad trend broken, that's - Good.  
He shows up and starts. Good.  
He can also pour the floors. Good.  
20 degree nights start. Bad.  
Builders show up and start on time, building gets started.  
Good.  
Beginning of November. Bad.  
My brother says "Why don't you come get my backhoe and  
use it?" (I didn't know he got another working one.) Really  
Good.  
Get started grading around building and yard. (I've gotten  
pretty good at running one of those things.) Good.  
Weather takes a remarkable turn for the better. Good.  
Building structure is up, sheeting is on the roof, they're  
doing the felt today. Good.  
Shingles and windows coming Tuesday - Good.  
Weather looks OK till late Wednesday - Thursday - Really  
Good.  
Starter breaks on the back hoe. Not real bad.  
Pull the starter and see that it was made by Lucas.  
You pick this one.

*Have a great Holiday season,  
Best Wishes,*

— V8

## The Herald

Allen Hess

Elaine and I went to New Orleans and Austin, Texas  
for Thanksgiving. Julia met us in Austin. Our New  
Orleans friend really lives on the northeast side of Lake  
Ponchartrain just west of Slidell. The tidal surge stopped  
about five blocks from their home—they were lucky. His  
neighbor has two Austin Healey 3000s in the garage—  
restoration projects which are on hold. His daughter and  
family had to move in with them after the hurricane. They  
may get back into their home in the near future. On the  
surface New Orleans looks almost normal, but we got the  
grande tour. An overwhelmingly vast area is little changed  
in the past year except that some grass and foliage tries to  
mask the damage. Progress is painfully slow.

We drove to Austin for Thanksgiving. The son of our  
friend there has his TR4. He complained that something  
was wrong with the temperature gauge—it worked and  
didn't work, did, didn't. I showed him where the sending  
unit was and immediately noticed that the spade terminal  
was quite loose—if everything were that easy.

A very nice time with old friends and coming home to  
sixty degree temperatures isn't so bad either.

Another MG Car Club season draws to a close and  
we look forward to seeing everyone at the Holiday Party.  
Plans for 2007 are being made and we have lined up one  
volunteer for the garage tour on the west side.

P.S. Color copies of the January Spokes calendar may be  
ordered from Regalia and don't forget to pay your dues!

—TRIUMPH!





# Activities

Brooks Schneider

---

It's hard to believe that 2006 is nearly over. It is true, however, so it's an appropriate time to look back at the year. Were we busy? You can decide:

- Wine & Cheese Party and Valve Cover Races
- Indoor Go-Karts (twice)
- Steak Roast and Auction
- Swing into Spring at the Old Toad
- Brunch Run and Wine Tour
- Spring Tune-Up Clinic
- Saratoga Springs Weekend
- Vintage Auto Festival
- Autocross (four times)
- Garden Tour
- Nova Scotia Tour
- Pig Roast
- Vintage Weekend at Watkins Glen
- Fall Foliage Tour
- Garage Tour
- Halloween Rallye
- Yacht Club Brunch
- Holiday Party
- Natter and Noggin

Thanks to everyone who attended these events and especially to those who organized them.

Several people attended events in addition to those organized by club members, including: Carlisle Import Nationals;

Hildene Car Show; GVACS Car Show. Of course, the MG club racers and their supporting crews were constantly on the move as well.

We'll be starting 2007 in the traditional way, with the Wine & Cheese Party and Valve Cover Races. Due to the great turnout in 2006, we will be holding this event on a Saturday again - January 20th. There's still plenty of time to tweak and tune your racer, or even come up with a new creation. If you are building your first one, remember the importance of making it go straight. There are few bragging rights earned by going out of bounds the quickest.

On February 11th, the Sunday between the Super Bowl and the Daytona 500, we will be returning to the Inside Track Speedway for some go-karting and pizza. In an effort to be responsible activities directors, we stopped by there recently to make sure it's still as much fun as it was last winter. It is, so plan to come out and play.

March will feature the annual Steak Roast and Auction, as well as the Swing Into Spring at the Old Toad. And just like that, we'll be thinking about getting those little British cars out again.

As always, we are looking for more event ideas and organizers. At this time, we have nothing scheduled for April - hint, hint. Best wishes for the holidays and we'll see you again in 2007. ◀

## Mardi Gras Party and Wine Tour Adventure

Saturday February 3, 2007  
Village Tavern Restaurant & Inn  
Hammondsport, New York

\$49.99 per person (rain, snow, or shine - tickets are non-refundable)  
Please buy your own tickets, in advance, directly from the Village Tavern (607-569-2526)  
For more information, see [www.VillageTavernInn.com](http://www.VillageTavernInn.com)

The club will not be buying advance tickets, since they are non-refundable. We will provide a sign-up list at the January meeting to assist anyone who wants to arrange car-pooling.

*New Orleans style breakfast  
Escorted winery tours via bus*

Brooks and Gayle 225-5251

# Minutes of the Meeting

Marlene Rzepkowski

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## MGCC Meeting Minutes-November 16, 2006

**Call to order-**7:31 PM

**Minutes of last meeting accepted as written and printed in SPOKES.**

**New members and guests-** All those in attendance were members.

**Treasurer Report-** Accounts are doing well. Specific details can be obtained from Joanna DeBlaere, our treasurer.

**Membership-** Dues for 2007 is now due. A reminder that dues can be paid through Pay Pal on the club's website.

**Librarian-** Al Costich reports that 2 tapes have been lent out.

**SPOKES-** Allen was not at the meeting but sent word that articles for the next issue are due after the Thanksgiving weekend and they can be sent to SPOKES@mgcarclub.com.

**Regalia-** Special sale going on for shirts buy one get one free from a specified group of shirts. Many items still available: Christmas ornaments, embroidered hats, blankets, etc.

**England-** George Herschell is sending a letter to the club in England chronicling everything we did this past year with the hope of getting a response back from them.

**Trustee Report-** Bob Tescione reported that a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MG Car club badge is available for roughly \$30 and he would be willing to take names and order them from England.

**Activities-** As in the past Brooks opened his report with a funny joke. A review of past events was given. See the Activities report in SPOKES for a detailed list of future events.

**Car Show-** No Report

**Web Site-** Gary Sandusky reported that photos from the Halloween Rallye and November brunch are now on the site. Non club event pictures can also be submitted by the membership.

**Vice Chair-** Dan Suter reported on a meeting he held with Kristy Graves, the MCC liaison. Some of the topics discussed were : a need to tighten up steps in the scholarship program, event schedules, how to better schedule events, and a list of MGCC people that may have

contact with those in charge at MCC.

**Old Business-** Dan Suter reported on the progress of the MGCC and NAMGAR initiative committee. Gary Sandusky gave a proposal to Dan and he will review it with fellow committee members Tim Henderson, Gil Langswager, Dick Powers, Gary Sandusky, and Dave Wild.

**New Business-** Leon reminded the membership that the Endowment fund was set up to include: gifts to the club as designated in someone's will, a general gift given to the club but not specifically designated for a certain use, or if someone wants to donate to the fund in memory of a person and wants their name listed as the donor. The minimum cost to have a plaque made in memory of a person is \$30.

MGCC email list- If you do not have access to email anything that is being sent out will try to be posted in SPOKES. If you are not currently on the list send your email address to Leon and he will include you.

**Elections-** Leon asked for any additional nominations for the 2007 MGCC board. The current board was the only nomination given for election. Al Costich made a motion that the secretary enter one vote, which represents those MGCC members present at this meeting, to accept the current board to be in office for 2007. The secretary was then asked to vote and as a result the current board was again elected to office.

The 2007MGCC board as elected:

Chairman- Leon Zak

Vice Chairman- Dan Suter

Secretary- Marlene Rzepkowski

Treasurer- Joanna DeBlaere

Activities Directors- Brooks and Gayle Schneider

Trustee- Robert Tescione

## Cars and Parts-

For Sale:

1962- Austin Mini 857 Deluxe powered by a 1275 engine. Contact Al Costich

Four 15 inch wire wheels with Pirelli tires. \$300 or best offer. Contact Joe DeBlaere

1969- MGBGT with overdrive and rebuilt engine. \$5400 Contact Joe DeBlaere

1974 -TR6 -Royal blue with rare blue interior, 33,000 original miles. Contact Harwood Enterprises

1975- TR6- Delft blue. Contact Harwood Enterprises

1967- MGBGT parts car. Rough shape and rusty. Contact George Herschell

New 45 DCOE Weber carburetor. Intake manifold for MGB

# Attendance

November 16, 2006

Betty Langswager  
Gil Langswager  
Carl Prouty  
Barb Wild  
Dave Wild  
Gary Sandusky  
Alan Costich  
John Zoltner  
Val Zoltner  
Anne Faust  
Gene Faust  
Cynthia Jack  
Doug Jack  
Dawn Priestley  
Jim Priestley  
Bob Tescione  
Brooks Schneider  
Cheryl Baldwin  
Bill Baldwin  
Paul Heaney  
Joan Heaney  
David Asmuth

Vivienne Rizzo  
Tim Rizzo  
Doug Scribner  
Laurie Scribner  
George Herschell  
Nancy Herschell  
Jeff Kath  
Tom LeStrange  
George Haynes  
Beverly Haynes  
Mabel Case  
John Thompson  
Mike Goodwin  
Joeanna DeBlaere  
Joe DeBlaere  
Ann Glanton  
Joe Cameron  
Dan Goodwin  
Hollis Hames  
Frank Stepanik  
Dan Suter  
Dave Engdahl

Leon Zak  
Don McConnell  
Allyn Wagner  
Lane Boughton  
Ken Heusler  
Dave Chase  
Mark Gibson  
Gene Dinkel  
Chris Baum  
John Baum  
Stacey VanDenburgh  
George Heissenberger  
Marlene Rzepkowski  
Dick Rzepkowski  
Clif Jenney  
Brian Fallon  
Arnold VanDenburgh  
Wally Roworth  
Dick Powers  
Al Fink

or MGA. Contact Dick Powers

4 Wire Wheels from MGB- loose spokes, need to be trued.

Free. Contact George Heissenberger

Early MGB cylinder head. Contact Dan Suter

MGA Transmission and Carbs- Contact Dan Suter

**Miscellaneous Comments-** Mike Goodwin suggested having some kind of social event with other MG car clubs in the area. He will look into the possibility of doing this.

**Door Prizes – Awarded**

**Motion to adjourn and seconded at 8:11 PM.**

—MG TF

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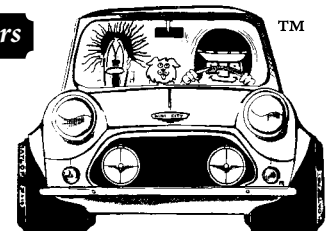
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# **MINI CITY LTD.**

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Saturday January 20, 2007

1:00 PM

Finn Park on Maple Drive (N. of Rt.104)  
West Webster, NY



Bring hors d'oeuvres or desserts to pass; your own wine or beverage and place setting.



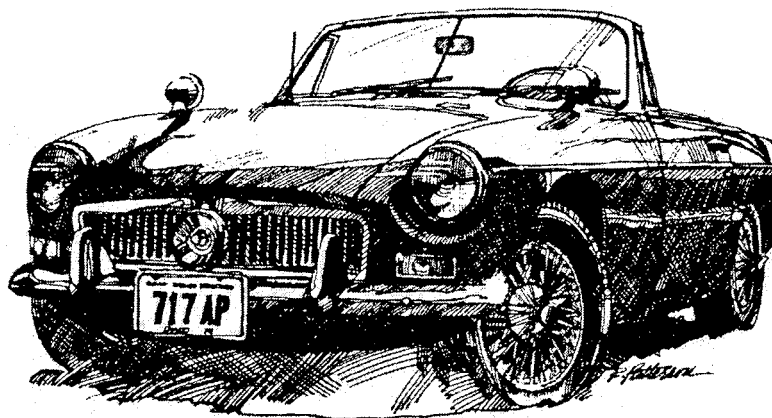
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# Valve Cover Racing Official Rules

Brooks Schneider

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## The Cars:

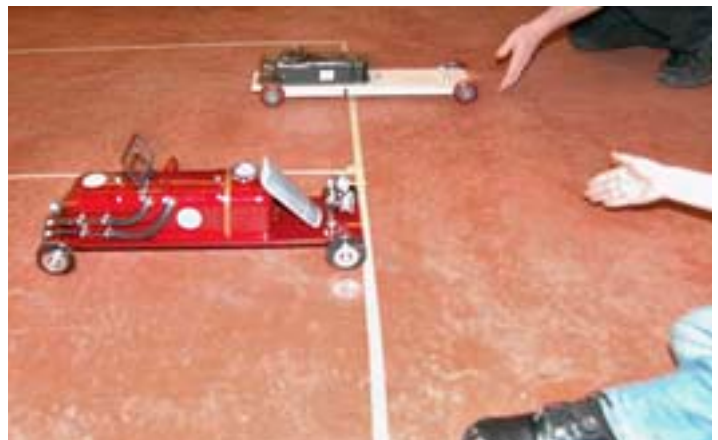
- The cars shall have no power source. All motive force is provided by gravity.
- Cars shall be based on actual rocker cover or cam cover from an MG or British made automobile engine.
- Wheelbase shall be no more than 24 inches. *Note: The staging lane is only 24 inches long.*
- Wheel track shall be no more than 14 inches.
- Cars must have 4 wheels, each no more than 6 inches in diameter.
- Cars shall weigh 12 pounds or less.
- Car design should allow the front wheels to touch a 2 inch high starting gate.
- Any car changed during the races is subject to inspection.

## The Course:

- The course shall consist of a launch incline 8 feet long, followed by a level run of 20 feet.
- Two lanes shall divide the launch incline, each 2 feet wide. The incline shall be 2 feet high at the rear-most part and level with the course at the front edge. The front edge shall be mitered to provide a smooth transition from the incline to the run-out area.
- The official "Starting Line" shall be 2 feet from the rear edge of the incline. A mechanized starting gate, which is 2 inches high, shall be provided.
- The run-out section of the course shall consist of 2 lanes, each 3 feet wide. The lanes shall be clearly marked.
- The finish line shall be marked 20 feet from the front edge of the launch incline.

## The Races:

- Cars will run in heats of 2 cars each.
- The cars are to be launched with their front wheels on the starting line. If your car design does not allow for this, it is at a disadvantage. The first car to have its front wheels cross the finish line is the winner. If neither car reaches the finish line, the car going further within its lane wins.
- If the wheels of a car should touch a lane marker, or cross over a lane marker, the car shall be disqualified. The competing car immediately becomes the winner.
- The winner of the round is the first car to win 2 races.
- Lanes are alternated between races.
- Winning cars will advance to the next round until all are eliminated but 1 car. Scoring is double-elimination to the finals.
- The 1st-place car is the one that is undefeated through all rounds.
- The 2nd-place car is the one that is defeated in only the final round.
- The 3rd-place car is the one that is defeated once prior to the final round, but wins all subsequent rounds.



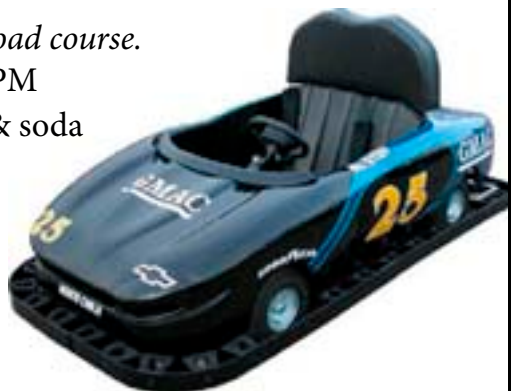
# *It's Winter – So What? Let's Go Racing*

Indoor Go Karts

*Battery powered go-karts on an indoor road course.*

Sunday February 11, 2007 1:30 PM

\$13 per person — two rides, pizza & soda



**Inside Track Speedway  
775 Elmgrove Road**

Rochester Technology Park (Kodak Elmgrove)

1st entrance South of Rt. 531, at the traffic light, left after the median.

*For more details about Inside Track see [www.insidetrackspeedway.com](http://www.insidetrackspeedway.com)*

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# On The Road Grins and the Glue

Doug Scribner

We had a lot of beautiful weather this past summer, what I like to call “Cruzan weather,” reminiscent of the climate in the Virgin Islands. Clear, sunny skies...warm breezes to blow the bugs away...the air filled with the scents of flowers and coconut oil...we always get a handful of days like this here, but this year it seemed to be more like six weeks’ worth. And this was made all the more enjoyable for us because we were able to get out into it more, driving our MGB, with the top down of course.

It’s been so long since we had a roadster to drive I’d forgotten what it’s like. We’d often allow extra time for our morning commute, taking back roads to stretch the ten miles into fifteen and make the drive more pleasurable, less hectic—and a lot more quiet—than the expressway. Even our furry son Oliver would be grinning. We would welcome any excuse to run errands in the car during the day, and then have another nice drive home in the evening sunshine. Invigorating. Refreshing. Grins all around.

And this was all made possible by the club members whose help and encouragement got the car on the road in the first place, especially Leon Zak with his Magic Meter and experienced mechanic Allen Hess. This is all part of “The Glue,” as George Tennant called it, the shared enjoyment of the cars and friendships that make this club so great.

Now, the MG is all tucked in for the winter, out of sight but not out of mind; I’m still savoring memories of summer days with it, and looking forward to more of the same next year. And, as you’re reading this, Spring is only four months away! ◀



## Now is the Time to Mail Your Membership Renewal to

Jim Priestley  
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Bloomfield, NY 14469

**\$30 Payable to MGCC Western NY**

**Or Use PayPal**  
**[www.mgcarclub.com](http://www.mgcarclub.com)**

(lower left corner home page)



# 2006 MGCC Halloween Rallye

George & Peggi Heissenberger

"It was a dark and stormy night."—Well it really was! Just fewer than fifty brave souls came out in the wind and rain for the 2006 MGCC Halloween rally. The cars started off from the East View Mall parking lot as night was falling and wound their way through eleven checkpoints in and around Ontario County.

Four checkpoints were in graveyards, some with spooks and some spooky on their own! Along the way there was a visit to a monument to civil war dead, the burial place of a famous Seneca woman, plus a haunted train station and courthouse. Throw in a gymkhana checkpoint pushing a pumpkin just for fun. The haunted basement got rave reviews, apparently thanks to Fred and the cackling witch. We all ended up at the big tent behind McGhan's Pub in Victor, for food, laughter, and a pint or two. The propane heater was a center of attraction as well as the great food.

## Rally results:

First place:	Jason and Nichole DeLeo
Second Place:	Amy and Mike Zona
Third Place:	Henry and Sue Kron
MG "Club" award:	John and Chris Baum, Steve and Pat Sangster

Best Costume:	Mike and Sue Harrison
Runner Up:	"Sister" Susan Kath
Most unique costume:	Dick Rzepkowski
Scariest costume:	Beverley Haynes
Best car costume:	Henry and Sue Kron

## Rallyists:

Jason and Nichole DeLeo  
Lindsey and Michael Short  
Amy and Mike Zona  
Susan and Jeff Kath  
Henry and Sue Kron  
Wes and Sue Pittenger  
Dick and Marlene Rzepkowski  
Susan and Michael Goodwin  
Scott and Gail Schipper, Rory Raymond  
Diane Hendrickson, Diane and Brandee Leone  
John and Chris Baum, Steve and Pat Sangster

**THANKS** to the "spooks" and helpers. We couldn't have done it without them:

Dave and Barb Wild	Betty and Gil Langswager
Allen and Elaine Hess	Mike and Sue Harrison
Greta Heissenberger	Mike Deran
Glenn Heissenberger	Laura Donegan
Dan Kester	

This wasn't a difficult rallye. It was designed to fill you with fright and the Halloween spirit. Judging from all the screaming at the spook house, I think it was a great success.



Pat, John, Steve and Chris



Mike and Sue Harrison



Marlene Rzepkowski and Jeff Kath

—Susan Kath



Marlene and Marlene (Lindsay Rzepkowski Short)



Keeping warm: Elaine Hess, Wes & Sue Pittenger, G. Haynes, J. Kath



Steve Sangster, Gil and Betty Langswager



Laurie and Doug Scribner, Jeff Kath

—Susan Kath



Barb & Dave Wild, Dick Powers, Peggi & Geo. Heissenberger



George & Beverley Haynes



Peggi & George Heissenberger



Two guys not to meet in a haunted house.



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☎ Any questions, please contact us at 225-5251 or

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Anne & Gene Faust

—Allen Hess



Carl Prouty, Betty & Gil Langswager

—Gary Sandusky



Gene Faust, Dick & Bethel Powers

—Gary Sandusky



Dave Asmuth, Barb & Dave Wild

—Gary Sandusky



Bill & Cheryl Baldwin, Hollis Hames

—Gary Sandusky



Doreena Hames, Latty & Daniel Goodwin

—Gary Sandusky





# MG (S)Miles and a Sad Farewell Part LXVII (67)

George Herschell

These are the MG (S) Miles that I wish I didn't have to write but they need to be done. Last weekend the MG Community and the MG Car Club lost another loyal member and extremely good friend when Denver Cornett passed away in Kentucky. Denver had been ailing for about two years and finally could no longer fight the battle. I know some of you knew Denver and to those who didn't you missed a marvelous opportunity of knowing one of the finest gentlemen I have ever had the privilege of meeting.

Denver was regularly at Watkins Glen, racing his TC just as he did in September of 1948 at the first race ever at the "Glen". The story of that race is "old hat" to some of you but to those who are not familiar with it. It goes something like this. Denver bought his TC new in 1947 from a dealer in Florida, because there were no MG dealers in Kentucky. He heard about the planned races at Watkins Glen in 1948 and decided that this was something he had to try. He brought that TC to the "Glen" and entered it to race there. On the first lap of the Queen Catherine Cup Race (the first preliminary race of the day) he came through the Old Stone Bridge corner and got a bit wide and lost control on the gravel and flipped the car over. It rolled 2 ½ time ending up upside down in a dry creek bed. Spectators there wondered aloud "if the driver was alive" and according to Denver, his reply from under the car was "why don't you roll the car over and you'll find out". They got the car up righted and Denver got it back to the pits. With a wheel borrowed from Briggs Cunningham and his spare wheel was able to get the car ready for the final race of the day. Starting from last position, not only did he run in that race but finished a respectable 7<sup>th</sup> overall. (The Old

Stone Bridge has since been renamed Cornett's Stone Bridge.) The bug had bitten him and he never lost that love for racing his TC and for Watkins Glen.



I first met Denver in 1996 and was impressed immediately with his warmth and great sense of humor. I was also very impressed with this car and shot some photos of it for a possible drawing. I did that drawing over the winter of that year and presented Denver with a copy of it in 1997. He was thrilled with it and couldn't thank me enough for doing it. He also commented that I had included the small cross that he had painted under the race number 7 on the side of the car. I told him I strived for accuracy and without that it wouldn't be a true representation of the car. I had some limited edition prints made and Denver had promised to sign some for me. The following year in 1998 I took the prints to the Glen on Thursday of race weekend and Denver was true to his word and did sign the prints. They were signed in his trailer (raining hard outside) while he used the hood of his car as a desk to do that signing. I continued to see him at Watkins Glen every year up through 2003 which I think was the last year he was able to attend. In 2004 his son Denny told me his dad wasn't feeling up to coming up that year. When he also missed 2005 and 2006 and I knew something serious was wrong. I got the message from Dick Powers that he had passed on

Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80.

I was very fortunate in getting to ride with Denver in that car around the original course a number of times and it was a thrill I will never forget. He handled the car beautifully and I think he was back in 1948 every time he went around that course. He took great joy in pointing out the Stone Bridge and loved to comment, "let's see if we can keep it right side up this time", as he flew around that corner. He always did though, and I loved his admonishment to other drivers. "If you're going to roll a car over always make sure there is an even number of rolls. That way you'll always end right side up". OK Denver, if you say so. But I'm not about to find out if that's true.

One morning at Seneca Lodge as we were having breakfast he reached in his wallet and pulled out a business card and asked me if it was alright to use them. He had used my drawing along with the number 7 and his name and address for that card. Naturally I told him I was flattered to have him use it.



He was warm and friendly and always remembered his friends. He surprised my grandson the year after I introduced them by remembering his name and asking him how he was. He was that kind of a person.

In doing some research for this article I came across this piece by the writer Mike Davis:

*"Suddenly I had a flash of a long forgotten memory. 'Denny Cornett?'" I asked Glenda. "Yes, he's the nicest*

man. He comes up every year for the Race Reenactment.” “From Louisville?” “Yes he has a farm in Kentucky”. “A little guy wearing glasses?” “That’s right. He’s famous for what happened at the Stone Bridge in 1948”. I had this picture in my mind: this slight fellow driving a windshield-down MG TC, the only one in Louisville, to our Kentucky National Guard meetings at Bowman field. I was a senior in high school. He was older and driving that car created a vast gap between the ordinary and the exotic in the eyes of teenaged boys. People who drove imported sports cars then were a class apart, cut from the cloth of thoroughbred horse owners, polo players, characters from glamorous 1930’s movies, like the Great Gatsby. In a way, these “playboys” were living anachronisms, survivors of a way of

life that no longer existed. Oddly, I’ve no recollection of knowing then that Cornett already was a motorsports hero. The middle class guys I hung around with knew nothing about Grand Prix races in little roadsters someplace in upstate New York.

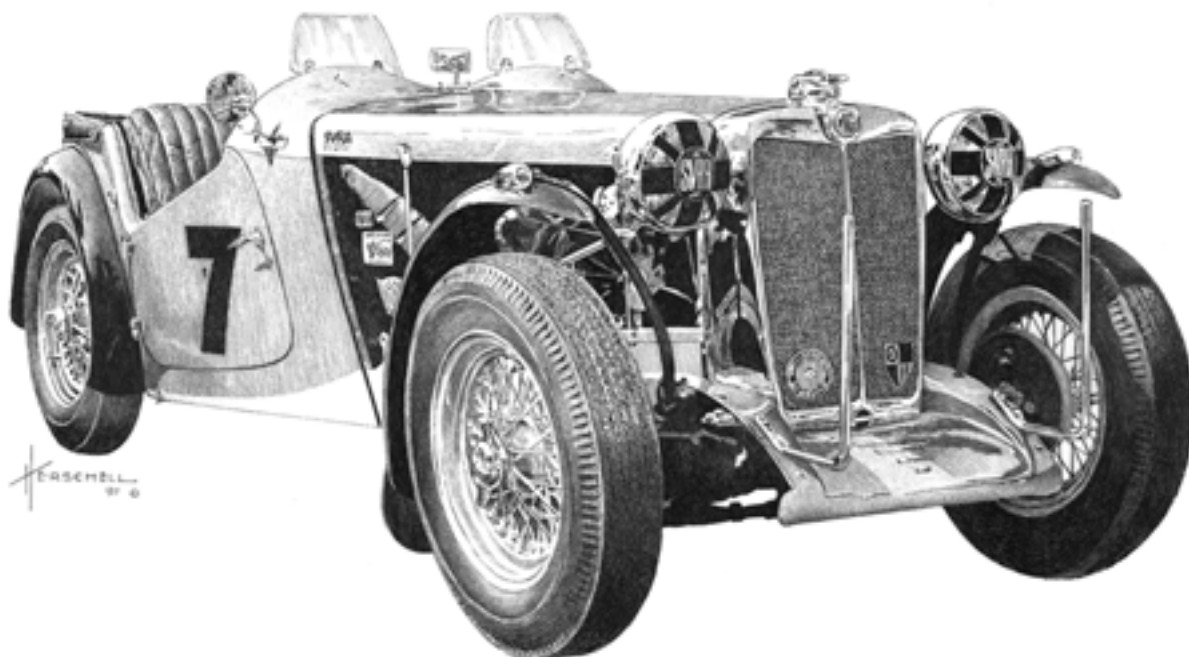
So here was this spare, bespectacled guy from my National Guard unit, Denny Cornett and we never know he was a genuine motorsports hero. All we know was that he was a “rich guy” and drove the only right hand drive, wire wheeled roadster we’d ever seen.

Denver will be sorely missed by all who knew him and it will be along time before we find another to compare with his warmth and friendliness. He phoned me one time and Nancy answered the phone and told him I was out. They had a great and long conversation and

Nancy said she felt she had known him for a long time. He was that kind of a person. You could not help but like Denver. We also had the opportunity to meet his wife Sheri at the presentation at the Motor Racing Research facility at the “Glen” and found her to be just as warm and friendly as Denver. They must have made a great team.

His son Denny (Denver III) did say that the car is going to stay in the family and will eventually be given to his son Denver Cornett the IV. That will be some time though as young Denny is only 5 now. Denver is survived by his wife Sheri, and sons Denver III and Christopher.

I’m sure we all extend our heartfelt sympathy to the entire Cornett Family at this most difficult time. ◀



# Denver Cornett 1926 2006

Dick Powers

## *Remembering A Friend*

It's still hard for me to believe that my friend and member of our Western New York Centre, Denver Cornett, has passed away. Denver was one of those people I felt would just go on forever. He had great vitality, was still very competitive on the track, fun to hang out with and a real friend. I hope you had a chance to meet him at the Vintage Races at the Glen. If you did, you know why I feel the way I do.

In 1948, a then 22 year old Denver Cornett, was on the starting grid of the first post WWII road race in the US at Watkins Glen. Denver was there in his new #7 MG TC. It was #7 because Denver had the 7th competition license issued by SCCA. He raced his TC till 1955, during the beginning of the Golden Age of sports car racing in America. At that time, most race cars were driven to the track, raced and then driven home. This was the era when the cars on the track were very close to the cars on the road and when racing success depended more on the seat of your pants than the power under your foot. Denver was a great driver and after 1955 moved on to other cars including Porsches.

Besides being in the first US post WWII road race,

Denver was the first dealer of imported cars in Kentucky at Cornett International Motors. He was also a founding member of the Kentucky Region of SCCA and a life member of SCCA too.

But possibly the "1st" he's most famous for is being the first person to roll a car in modern US road racing. During that first race at the Glen, Denver rolled his TC at Stone Bridge. He was fond of telling the story about going off at Stone Bridge and the crowd that gathered around his overturned TC that said: "I wonder if the driver's dead?" To that Denver shouted out: "If you turn the damn thing over you might find out!"

Feisty then and even 50 years later. I'll never forget the time at the 1998 SVRA driver's banquet when Suzie Keppeler wanted to get Denver's autograph on a special Glen 50th Anniversary poster the MG Vintage Racers had made. She asked me to go in the Glen Club with her to ask Denver. When we entered, Bobby Rahal (two time Indy 500 winner and former F1 driver) was speaking to an audience of about 200. We spotted Denver and he came over and happily signed Suzie's poster. He told her she should get Otto Linton's autograph too. During the poster signing, Denver was commenting about his racing and rolling the



*After the roll over at Stone Bridge, 1948*

*—collection of Dick Powers*





*Dick Powers, Jim Carson, Frank Mount, Jack Archibald —Geo. Herschell*

TC at Stone Bridge. Evidently we were speaking a little too loudly for someone and so we moved to the back of the room to finish our conversation. Well, Denver must have been in very good voice while talking to Suzie, because the same guy came back to complain again. We nearly had a fist fight in the Glen Club that night and I'm sure Denver would have decked this younger guy with one punch! Denver was still feisty at 72 and a little flirty too.

I first met Denver and his lovely TC at the Glen in 1994. It was at the wonderful MGVR 40th Anniversary Collier Cup event successfully organized by our own Joe Tierno. That was Denver's first time back to the Glen with his TC since his races in 1948 & 1949 and my first time vintage racing my MGA at the Glen. Becoming friends with Denver and his son Denny was another one of those real blessing in my life, one that would repeat itself in an interesting way 10 years later.

In March of this year, it was my honor to help organize part of the Denver Cornett Tribute held at the IMRRC in Watkins Glen. I was fortunate to have Jim Carson, Jack Archibald and Frank Mount speak on what it was like driving and racing a TC back in the "good old days". Unfortunately Denver couldn't be with us due to his failing health, but

many of our WNYMGCC members were there along with Denver's TC, his lovely wife Sherry and son Denny. This was a wonderful event that truly honored Denver's 58 years in racing.

The last time I saw Denver was in 2004 at the Glen. We had two Collier Cup races that year since 150 racing MG came for the 50th Anniversary of the Collier Cup for MG's.

During the Collier Cup awards presentations in victory circle, Denver turned to me and with a smile on his face and in his voice said: "Dick, you better go up there because you won the Collier Cup!" Denver just had to tell me before it was announced.

I'll sure miss him as will his friends here and around the world. His spirit though, will be with us forever.

Denver is survived by Sherry, his loving wife or 51 years, and his two sons Denver Cornett III and Christopher Cornett.

Memorials may be made in his memory to the International Motor Racing Research Center, 610 S. Decatur St., Watkins Glen, NY 14891-1613 or to Hospice and Palliative Care of Louisville, KY. ◀



*Denver Cornett at Stone Bridge*

*—Robert Harrington*



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# The MG Car Club Scholarships

Elaine Hess

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*Originally published in Spokes November 2002 with additions December 2006*

Currently we sponsor two scholarships which support students at the Monroe Community College.

The first, which is funded yearly, was established in 1993 to honor the memory of Robert R. Philip. In November of 2002, George Hershell provided me with the following description:

“When Bob passed away 10 years ago, the membership was very distraught that nothing was ever done to recognize his contribution to the club while he was alive. It was decided (during Ted Hershey’s tenure as Chairman) to begin the Philip Scholarship at MCC and that it should be awarded to a student in the Auto Tech Division. We worked directly with Tom Fitch who at the time was director of that division. Nothing was written and it was just an agreement between the club and MCC. I made the plaque that hangs in MCC and included 10 plates, to be engraved each year, with the current recipient’s name. It was decided that after 10 years we would re-evaluate the Scholarship and the club would decide what to do about it for the future.

The scholarship was for \$600.00 per award. After a number of years the club voted to increase the award to \$1,200 per year . . .

The school selected a person they felt deserved to get the scholarship and that person along with either Tom or Les attended an MGCC meeting where the check was presented to MCC for that persons use. . . . Eventually it got difficult to find someone in the Auto Tech division so we amended our original idea to include someone in the Machine Shop division, as Bob Phillip was an excellent machinist.

Later, Tom Fitch moved to another division and Les Smith took over. . . .”

Late in 2001 it came to our attention that MCC had been funding the Philips Scholarship from their general scholarship fund for two years. The money we sent had been placed in a Philips Scholarship account where it had earned interest. In January of 2002, the board decided that it was not proper for the club to have that money distributed as if it was ours, since to do so would not be the result of our generosity, but rather, we would look good because of a mistake made by MCC. We wanted to distribute the money to the students expediently, meet our responsibility to MCC and uphold the spirit of the Philip Scholarship. In 2006 our plan to use the money in the account, plus any required additional money to fund

our original promise of 10 years of scholarships should be completed.

Later in 2002 we realized that scholarships had not been awarded that year. An investigation showed that both Les Smith and Tom Fitch believed there was a stipulation on the scholarship that restricted the award to students in the evening part-time program. Reflecting the fact that the award was open to all students the Criteria of the Scholarship was amended to expand eligibility to day or evening students.

Many of you know that I teach at RIT and every year I watch students struggle to meet the cost of college. In 2000 I moved into that phase of life where I could expect people I cared about to pass away. Further, the club had little money and there were discussions as to whether even one of the Philips Scholarships could be funded that year. At a monthly meeting I suggested the creation of an endowed scholarship in order to alleviate the problem of identifying targets for our charitable gifts, the dependency of fostering knowledge of the Marque on our yearly income, and the need for a place which we could use to commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of every club member. The scholarship profile below was developed by the board and approved as a scholarship separate from the Philips Scholarship by the membership at a meeting.

Perhaps most important to the discussion at the July meeting, the donor to the Endowment is listed as:

- MG Car Club Western New York Centre, Inc.
- Individual club members may donate or may choose to leave a bequest.

The board has added to the fund every year since its establishment. Vice-Chair, Scott Perry suggested a plaque, which Paul Heaney made, be created to recognize individual donors. He also suggested that the money raised from events including the March Steak Roast and Auction go to the fund. Further, he created a number of events like the April basket auction, and a post Fall Tour bake sale to create ways for the members to have fun and help build the Endowment.

The Endowed Scholarship Fuel Gage, showing our current achievement toward the \$10,000 goal is on page three.

—The Endowed Scholarship profile is continued on next page

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chair or faculty member of the Auto Technology  
department to recommend to the Office of Financial Aid

ACCOUNT TYPE: Endowment

DONOR: MG Car Club Western New York Centre, Inc.  
Individual club members may donate in memory of other  
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Rochester, NY 14604

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FUNDING: \$500 initially with ongoing contributions by the  
club or individual members

SCHEDULE OF AVAILABILITY: Scholarships may be awarded  
when the \$10,000 minimum for an endowment account has  
been reached and interest has accrued for one year.

AWARD AMOUNT: To be determined from the interest/  
dividends generated from the endowment account

AWARD CRITERIA:

Full-time MCC student majoring in Automotive  
Technology Recipient must have a 3.0 GPA  
Award may be used for tuition, equipment or supplies

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# Bury Me In An Old Mowog Parts Box

Jay Lockrow



For about the last hour or so I have been rummaging through the archives trying to ascertain when I started writing MOWOG on a monthly basis. I hate to admit, and believe it or not, if my contract is renewed in 2007 I will start my eighteenth year of MOWOG. Figuring eleven columns a year that comes out to 187 not counting 2007. Before that I would write an occasional story for the newsletters but never on a monthly basis. It was George Haynes of the Western New York Centre that twisted my arm in 1989 to do this. If I had him in front of me at the moment I think I would hit him good and hard with an old connecting rod or some such item. On the other hand we have relived a lot of wonderful old memories and nudged a few out of the forgotten corners of my mind. I certainly hope I have entertained some of you over the years with all this drivel as I have really enjoyed writing it and bringing back some of the good times. If the contract is renewed I guess I have no option but to continue.

All sorts of cars have been covered over the years including new cars, old cars, antique cars, sports cars, stolen cars, race cars, good cars, bad cars and ugly cars. Over the years we have taken a few tangents and talked about steamboats, outboard motors, stationary engines but mostly we have stayed with the four wheel variety. To clarify one thing, I did do a column on a Morgan three wheeler so that really couldn't count as a four wheeler.

As in the past I would like to ask you the reader if you would like anything special. After all you are the ones that read this. I have a few ideas lined up for 2007 but believe me I am always open to ideas or suggestions. This time of year it is particularly difficult because sporty type cars are put to bed for the salt season and in a way out of site out of mind. For example it is about time to run another contest as I haven't done that in a while just to

see who is reading the column. If you have a suggestion or two e-mail me at [jaylock@localnet.com](mailto:jaylock@localnet.com).

Many of you know that this column is syndicated so it goes to four newsletters. It is not always published in one but the rest run it on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Unfortunately there are numerous members out there that I do not know especially in the Western New York Centre as traveling to an event there is an all day affair. The same with the British Saloon Car Club, as much as I would like to get to their events it is a good hike from Hamburg. If you see me with a name tag on somewhere by all means introduce yourself.

Car wise I still have the same two as I started with several years ago. The MG TC I have now owned 41 years and although not a record I think I might be getting close. The TR6 has been in the garage for 23 years and for some strange reason I still like them both.

I'm going to leave you with a very clever story I received the other day on the internet. Seems three sports car drivers all passed away and went up the pearly gates. One at a time St.

Peter interviewed them to see if they would be allowed into heaven. The first one to be interviewed was a Ferrari driver. St Peter looked at his clip board and said "You always drove too fast, cut other drivers off. Ignored red lights and were inconsiderate" St Peter told the Ferrari driver to go to hell.

The next driver interviewed was a Porsche driver. St Peter checked his clip board and also told him he drove way too fast, was inconsiderate and ignored traffic laws. He too would go to hell.

The last driver up was an MG-TC driver and St. Peter allowed him in without saying a word. After entering St Peter said "You experienced hell for years driving the MG-TC without a heater in the winter, no air conditioning in the summer, terrible hard ride, no windows, leaky top and side curtains and slowest car in traffic. All TC owners go to heaven."

Have a very Merry Christmas. ◀



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Jim Davis  
3 Chris Baum  
4 Richard Coleman  
4 Sean Seeley  
6 Nancy Chase  
7 Beverly Lockrow  
9 Sheridan Cornett  
10 Norman Wright  
11 Georgean Abels  
12 Dick Giambra  
15 Ann Coleman  
16 Ann Lenweaver  
17 Don Lovell  
18 Betty Langswager  
19 Doug Avery  
19 Hollis Hames  
20 Jim Bartasevich  
24 Robert Abels  
27 Dezi Benet  
28 Arnold Van Denburgh  
29 John Forrester  
31 Paul Lilley

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
EVERYONE!!**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 Nicholas Zuck  
4 Gregg Gleba  
6 Dan Suter  
8 John McGrady, Jr.  
9 Jeffery Langswager  
10 Judith McBride  
11 Jim Dix  
13 Lloyd Potter  
14 Steven Hess  
14 Michael Mack  
14 Paul Wheeler  
15 Leon Zak  
15 Joeanna DeBlaere  
15 Bernadette Foster  
16 Susan Potter  
17 Margret Brorein  
17 Mary Fitch  
18 R. Scott Wells  
19 Sondra Franzen  
19 Diane Neatrou  
20 Roger Gunther  
21 Bernice Black  
21 Cindy Jack  
25 Bob Joslyn  
26 Kathleen Wells  
28 Gilda Parisi

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
EVERYONE!!**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4 Lindsey Short  
5 Robin Christ  
6 Phil Parisi  
8 Jeff Miller  
8 Liz Colquhoun  
8 Mary Ellen Suter  
9 Willard Brown, Jr.  
11 Douglas Jack  
11 Barb Wild  
12 Nick Dosch  
12 Allen Hess  
13 Ned Paulsen  
13 Vickie Odegard  
14 Fran Calkins  
15 Michael Palermo  
16 Ed Haefner  
17 James Franzen  
17 Cheryl Baldwin  
21 Henry Kron  
21 Gil Langswager  
21 Sue Quackenbush  
22 Stephanie Haynes  
22 Scott Schipper  
23 Bill Baldwin  
23 Steve Behlke  
25 Krystyna Todaro  
26 Steve Philip  
28 Teresa Alba

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
EVERYONE!!**

**JANUARY  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

1 George & Mary Ann Shetterly  
5 Barry & Robin Christ  
9 Mike & Sue Harrison  
12 John & Linda Spencer  
26 Dezi & Bill Benet  
26 Brian & Kelly Fallon  
27 Michael & Karna Palermo  
29 Phil & Gilda Parisi

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL!**

6 Carl & Ellen Baxter  
6 Steve & Patricia Philip  
12 Thomas & Lia Glanville  
28 Tim & Susan Henderson

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL!**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Joe Oster**  
428 Sundance Trail  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-246-4523  
1951 MG TD

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

14 Dave & Nancy Chase  
19 Dennis & Mary Costich  
20 Tom & Ann Lenweaver  
20 Joseph & Paulette Schultz

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL!**

*Official Regalia*

## MG Car Club Western NY Centre

Car Badge . . . . .	\$25.00	Tote Bag, embroidered . . . . .	15.00
Badge Clip . . . . .	5.00	Bumper Sticker . . . . .	1.00
Patch, embroidered . . . . .	2.50	Name Badges w/MG . . . . .	15.00
Key Fob, large leather . . . . .	4.00	MGCC Cookbook . . . . .	5.00
Pin, cloisonné . . . . .	3.00	Sport Cap, embroidered . . . . .	12.00
Dash Plaque, 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. . . . .	4.00	Vehicle Log Book . . . . .	6.00
Sticker, front adhesive . . . . .	1.50	Fire Extinguisher . . . . .	12.00
Sign, magnetic (10") . . . . .	15.00	Pendant, silver . . . . .	15.00



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Also available is a wide selection of clothing items (shirts, jackets, etc.) embroidered with the club logo. Prices shown are for members only.

All items are available for purchase at our monthly meetings, or delivery can be arranged.  
Contact: Laurie Scribner 585-872-5133 (weekdays).

## MG Car Club Western New York Centre, Inc.

### Membership Application

Annual Family Membership Dues \$30.00 — All memberships expire December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ New ☐ or Renewal ☐  
Cars owned & Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Club Interests: Racing ☐ Gymkhana ☐ Rallye ☐ Restoration ☐ Car Show ☐ Social ☐ Touring ☐ Other ☐  
Other hobbies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Available for Roadside Help? No ☐ Yes ☐ Days ☐ Evenings ☐ Nights ☐ Weekends ☐

Make checks payable to MGCC of Western NY, Inc. Mail form and payment to:

Jim Priestley  
3326 County Road 40  
Bloomfield, NY 14469



# MG Car Club Western New York Centre      Calendar of Events 2007

*For the latest information visit our web site [mgcarclub.com](http://mgcarclub.com)*

<b>January</b>  4 Board Meeting 18 Meeting 20 Wine & Cheese, Valve Cover Races	<b>February</b>  11 Go Kart Races 15 Meeting	<b>March</b>  1 Board Meeting 4 Steak Roast & Auction 15 Meeting 25 Swing Into Spring	<b>April</b>  19 Meeting
<b>May</b>  3 Board Meeting 12 Tune-up Clinic 17 Meeting / Carlisle 30 Stuffing Party	<b>June</b>  3 Vintage Auto Festival 10 Autocross & Novice Sch. 9-10 Hildene Car Show 21 Meeting	<b>July</b>  5 Board Meeting 8 Autocross 2 19 Meeting 20-22 1000 Islands Weekend — GVACS Car Show (RIT)	<b>August</b>  5 Pig Roast and Rallye 12 Autocross 3 16 Meeting
<b>September</b>  6 Board Meeting 7-9 Watkins Glen 16 Autocross 4 21 Meeting	<b>October</b>  — Fall Foliage Tour — Garage Tour 18 Meeting 27 Halloween Rallye	<b>November</b>  1 Board Meeting — Yacht Club Brunch 15 Meeting — Elections	<b>December</b>  — Holiday Party No Meeting

**Coming Up!**  
**January Wine & Cheese Party and Valve Cover Races**

## Spokes

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