

# Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

Volume 49 No. 4

April 2007



Dave Chase's MGA Coupe



Meeting

April 19th 7:30 PM

Burgundy Basin Inn

1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY



Founded 1958

*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)

The SPOKES is published and distributed monthly by the MG Car Club Western New York Centre, as a benefit to its members. Please see the inside of the back cover for a membership form. Current and past issues of SPOKES are also available in Adobe PDF format on the web site.

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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, 2007

Copy ready business advertising:

Size	Single Issue	One Year
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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  
Wendy Dakin ~ Dave Chase ~ Wally Roworth

\*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 (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:

Joanna De Blaere  
8607 North Shore Drive  
Honeoye, NY 14471

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



## From the Chairman

Leon Zak

By the time you get this we will have attended the Swing into Spring at the Old Toad and swung head long into it. (Spring that is.) It brings good and bad. The good is driving weather can't be to far behind, just need a couple good rains to get the salt off the road and most of us can get the cars out and get going. The bad for me is that the snow actually improved the appearance around here. Having pretty much no lawn in the back yard and most of the front yard because of the construction that just made it because of the late arriving winter I now have one big mud pit. It reminds me of when I first picked up all the parts to our B. I had boxes and pieces loaded up and it was very hard to believe this pile of stuff was going to look like anything recognizable! But patience and work, a little more work, then just a touch more work, then — well most all of you know how it goes. In a few weeks it will be worth it. I find the first drive of the year, no matter how short, worth the work and the wait.



If you've ever given or helped with an event in the club please visit the web and review the EVENTS DOCUMENTS page. Review the information in there and edit it (password is "spokes", shhhh - it's a secret) or add to it. If I forgot a event, please add it. If you're interested in helping with an event - please let us know (us in this case being Brooks or Gayle Schneider, bjsbrooks@aol.com).

The board decided that we will award the Phillips Memorial scholarships at MCC this year along with a \$500 gift to Mercy Flight. We're also going to help out a bit more with some of the events. If you've not heard there's a group, headed by Dan Suter, to get the celebration on the way for our 50th Golden Jubilee. If you've ideas about it please contact Dan.

The 1st Multi-Club Picnic in Queenstown Park on June 23rd is coming along. Our club will be involved with the Funkhana and we've got a couple ace Funkhanics lined up as organizers but they really would like some helpers, so let me know.

— V8

## The Herald

Allen Hess

It's Spring! There are lots of ways to tell. The temperature was in the 60's a few days ago. I put the battery in the MGB, also installed my Christmas present to Elaine, a new wood rim steering wheel. (She thinks it is very tony) The engine started right up—do we expect anything less? I went around the block. The steering wheel was off center just a hair to the right. I took the wheel off (didn't put it on that tight—good thinking) and moved it one spline to the left. I went around the block again. The engine was warmed up a little more and it was nice! The steering wheel was off center just a hair to the left . . . nothing is ever easy.

This is the April Spokes—more like Spring than March. This issue is a little light on articles but filled with ads for lots of things to do now and throughout the summer. A big thank you to those who provided articles and photos: Michael Clapood, George Herschell, Jay Lockrow, Dick Powers, Gary Sandusky and our board members. I think this lull is seasonal though until we get on the road.

Left with one blank page I wrote a tech article that has been on the to do list for a while. However, usually I don't create the Spokes, *you do*. I take the parts and pieces sent in by you, bolt\* them together; wash and wax it; send it to the printer. Some contributors have set the bar pretty high writing a column every month for years on end. You don't have to commit to that. Once a year from many would do just fine. Certainly there is that one article you have been thinking of writing, the one restoration tip you discovered through experience. If you want to get to know others in the club better and want others to get to know you, an article is a good way.

Come April 19th there will be another sign of Spring—the parking lot of the Burgundy Basin Inn filled with (mostly) British cars. See you then.

—TRIUMPH!

\*Speaking of bolts, do you know what a *Wedglok* is? I do now. Description and photos next month. (John Thompson and Doug Scribner not eligible for this contest)

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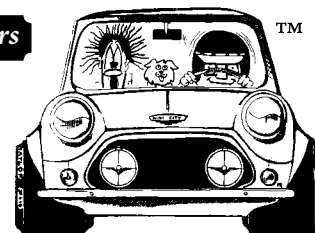
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799 Holt Road • Webster, New York 14580

## Activities

Brooks Schneider

We had it all on March 4th: A little sunshine (very little), a little snow, plenty of wind, heat (inside), and cold (outside). In spite of the weather, we had a great turnout for the annual steak roast and auction at Eyer Park in East Rochester. There were 74 people and 1 small dog in attendance, which was exactly the same as 2006.

One of Murphy's many laws says that no matter which direction you are standing, smoke from a fire will blow in your face. That law was again validated, but our intrepid chefs were able to see well enough through watery eyes to do an outstanding job with the steaks and hot dogs again this year. There was a large selection of dishes to pass, covering the full spectrum from appetizers to desserts. It's hard to imagine that anyone left hungry.

The auction was both successful and very entertaining. At one point, the auction also transformed into a brief fashion show, although that is using the term "fashion" quite loosely. One first-time attendee suggested it might be good to videotape the auction some year and offer copies for sale. At the end of the day, the auction table was cleared and we had a respectable amount to add to the endowed scholarship fund.

An event of this size requires a lot of cooperation to be successful. Everyone in the club did a great job helping throughout the day, from preparing food in advance through

clean-up at the end. In addition, special thanks go out to: Dan Young - Arranging for the lodge, setup, and final cleanup

John Baum - Purchasing the steaks and cooking (out in the cold)

Leon Zak - Cooking (also out in the cold)

Jim Priestley and Doug Scribner - Auctioneers

Dawn Priestley - Courier and money collection

Moose Young - Greeting arriving guests

By the time you have read this, we will have properly greeted the official arrival of spring at the Old Toad. Here's hoping our welcome was warm enough to keep winter from paying us another visit.

The April meeting will feature the annual Basket Auction. There are always plenty of creative baskets to choose from, so please be prepared to place your bids and help support the scholarship fund.

The driving season kicks off in May with the tune-up clinic at MCC, with George Haynes organizing it again this year. The details are elsewhere in this issue.

There are still plenty of opportunities for additional activities. Please give us a call with your suggestions. We are also looking for volunteers to organize the Garage Tour and the Halloween Rallye, both in October.

—Mini 850

# *Put Yourself in this Picture!*

## Make Plans for the Thousand Islands Weekend Friday July 20th – Sunday July 22nd

Friday: picturesque drive to Alexandria Bay

Friday evening: dinner, pizza, ice cream, souvenirs

Saturday morning: tour on your own

Saturday afternoon: picnic hosted by Brooks and Gayle

Sunday morning: breakfast buffet and boat tour.

Sunday afternoon: picturesque and trouble free drive home.



MG Car Club 1982

For more information call Brooks or Gayle 225-5251

See <http://www.alexbay.org> for accomodations. Book Soon!

# MGCC Minutes of the Meeting

Marlene Rzepkowski

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**March 15, 2007**

**Call to order-7:32 PM**

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

**New members and guests-** John and Pat Richter new members with a 1980 MGB. Returning member Clay Bull with a 1979 Mini.

**Treasurer Report-** No report. In Joeanna's absence Jim Priestley will collect any bills that are due and give them to her.

**Membership-** Dues are still due.

**Librarian-** Al Costich reports that Doug Scribner donated two tapes, "Mini's Across America" and "Morris Minor's Across America" to our library.

**SPOKES-** Articles for the next issue are due next Thursday, March 22, 2007. Cards, letters, photos, and articles pertaining to the club can be submitted.

**Regalia-** Multi season clothing is available. Tonight only, with any purchase of regalia you will be given a MGCC dash plaque. No regalia sales at the next meeting due to the Basket Auction that will be held that night.

**England-** No report.

**Trustee Report-** No report.

**Activities-** Brooks returned with his usual joke as a start to his report. Reminder that at the next meeting there will be a Basket Auction to benefit our scholarship fund. See the Activities Report in SPOKES for a detailed list of future events. Dave Wild spoke about future events at Watkins Glen and mentioned the recent fire at the Glen Club.

**Car Show-** No report from Dick Powers. However, Dave Wild reported that everything is moving ahead and dash plaques have been ordered with trophies to follow shortly. The issue of spectator parking is currently being addressed by the car show committee. George Herschell still needs more help selling advertising for the car show program. Also 2 places (one in Chili and one in Greece) are needed as distribution sites for car show posters and brochures.

**Web Site-** Gary Sandusky reported that the photos from the last club event are now on the site and any new event photos can be sent in.

**Vice Chair-** Dan Suter reported that the MGCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration planning committee met and several events are in the works. More help is needed and the next meeting is April 2nd.

## **Old Business-**

A vote was taken on the proposed changes to the MGCC By-Laws as presented at the last meeting and printed in SPOKES. Both proposals were unanimously approved and the following changes to the MGCC By-Laws will be made:

- Combine the language of Article II number 6 into Article II number 1 of the MGCC by-laws for clarification and continuity. Article II number 1 will be written as follows: ***The elected Officers of this Club shall consist of: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Director, and two Trustees, one to be elected by a majority of the membership at the annual election. A second Trustee shall be the immediate past Chairman of the Club. If the immediate past Chairman declines the position, the second Trustee position will be elected by a majority of the membership at the annual election. The balloting shall be secret.***
- Rewrite the wording for the duties of vice-chairman. The wording will be as follows: ***It shall be the duty of the vice-chairman to perform all the duties of the chairman in his absence and to be a liaison between the board and committee chairpersons.***

A drawing was held to raffle off samples of adhesive backed masks for painting MGB rostyle wheels and heat shield material for MGB's that were given to Dave Engdahl.

Membership lists are available. Also if you would like to update any info on the road side assistance list please contact Jim Priestley via email at [jim@mgcarclub.com](mailto:jim@mgcarclub.com).

Leon reported that as a result of the MGCC doing so well, the board decided to increase the club's subsidy of its club events instead of decreasing the cost of the yearly dues. \$500 has also been donated to Mercy Flight as it has done in the past. In addition to this we will be awarding the annual scholarships to MCC. Any other suggestions for donations can be made to the board.

## **New Business –**

Dick Rzepkowski proposed the following:

The MG Car Club Western New York Center should sponsor a new trophy to be awarded to the top finishing MG Midget racer at the Collier Cup, an all MG race event, at the Watkins Glen Vintage Grand Prix. This trophy is to be named the "Bill Glanville Memorial Cup for MG Midget Racers" sponsored

## Attendance

March 15, 2007

Carl Prouty	Mike Harrison	Steve Stewart
Beverly Swarts	Doug Jack	Jon Richter
Charles Swarts	Tim Paul	Pat Richter
Alan Costich	Susan Goodwin	John Baum
Gary Sandusky	Mike Goodwin	Chris Baum
Jeff Kath	George Haynes	Wally Roworth
Allen Hess	Don McConnell	Sue Keppler
George Herschell	Brian Fallon	Ben Barlow
Nancy Herschell	Dave Chase	Frank Stepanik
Bob Tescione	Sean Seeley	Al Fink
Dawn Priestley	Joe Cameron	
Jim Priestley	Marlene	
Barb Wild	Rzepkowski	
Dave Wild	Lane Boughton	
Betty Langswager	Leon Zak	
Gil Langswager	Steve Sangster	
Dan Goodwin	Pat Sangster	
Brooks Schneider	Hollis G. Hames	
David Asmuth	Dick Rzepkowski	
David Engdahl	Carl Webeck	
Nick Zuck	Clay Bull	
Laurie Scribner	Dan Suter	
Doug Scribner	Allyn Wagner	
Sue Harrison	Jim Davis	

## MGCC 50th Anniversary

Dan Suter

*Are you interested in joining the 50th Anniversary planning committee? In 2008, our MGCC Centre will achieve a wonderful milestone when we celebrate a full 50 years of continuous fun with our Little British Sportscars.*

*This committee will plan several activities in 2008 culminating in an anniversary party. We will also be planning some commemorative regalia and car badge. Please e-mail Dan Suter at @dmesmg@juno.com or call (585)377-1877 to join. This is a chance to help the club celebrate this important milestone!*

*Next meeting April 2nd*

by the "MG Car Club - Western New York Centre". Items in quotes would be engraved on the cup. Cost to the club for the initial "Cup style" trophy on a walnut or other suitable wooden pedestal base is not to exceed \$250, and yearly winner designations are to be added to the trophy on the walnut base and the annual cost of this addition to the trophy is to be covered by the club for a minimum of 5 years. (Or less, only if the Collier Cup race is discontinued before 5 years). After 5 years the membership may vote to continue or discontinue the sponsorship of the trophy, its award criteria, or the method of selecting a person to present the trophy at the annual event.

Award criteria: Selection of the awardee is the highest finishing MG Midget car and driver to complete the Collier Cup race.

Presentation of the trophy: The Board of the MG Car Club will select a person to represent the Club and present the trophy at the Collier Cup race.

A recommendation made to the board was that Suzanne Glanville be selected to present the cup in its inaugural year (Sunday, September 9, 2007)

A motion was made, seconded, discussion held and passed unanimously with the condition that it met with the approval of Suzanne Glanville. If she did not approve then it would be brought back to the membership with another vote after changes had been made.

### Speakers-

Leon gave a presentation on how to use the MGCC web site. He also showed how to edit the new Event Documents section. This section will be helpful to new members that are not familiar with the different club events that are held throughout the year. This can also be used by those club members that would like to run an event but are not familiar with how they are done. If you've given one of our events please visit and help fill in the information. He asks that you read and edit information on what is involved with an event -where, what, when.

### Cars and Parts-

For Sale: 1962- Austin Mini 857 Deluxe powered by a 1275 engine. No interior fluff plus several sets of tires and wheels. Contact Al Costich

### Miscellaneous Comments-

Doug Scribner reports that Spring is only 2 weeks away.

### Door Prizes – Awarded

**Motion to adjourn and seconded at 9:00 PM.**

—MG TF



Want to make a repair to your car, but would like some expert help close at hand?  
You dream of having a lift?  
You would drive across town for free coffee and donuts?

## **Then come to the MGCC Spring Tune-Up Clinic**



**Saturday, May 12th 10 AM until 4 PM**

Monroe Community College Technology Center, near Friendly's on West Henrietta Road  
(entrance is around behind the building)

Sign-up to work on your car or be a helper—call George Haynes at 585-872-6536

More information at the next meeting



*Are You Looking for NOS? NLA?*

*Something with a little patina?*

*Some spare parts? Just in case . . .*

*Is the journey as good as getting there?*



**Then You Need to Go to Carlisle, Pennsylvania!**  
**The Import and Kit Car Weekend is May 18th – 20th**



As usual, several MGCC members will be operating a Flea Market space and selling our left-over British car parts (well, OK, some of them might not be British). The group will leave on Thursday, May 17th to arrive and get setup before the show begins on Friday. In addition to our own wares to sell, we encourage others to send along any parts they would like to sell, or tell us what we might bring home for you. So look around the garage or basement for something which could turn into cash. Let us know your needs.

For more information or to send along some parts to sell, contact George Haynes at 872-6536. Dave Chase has a block of motel rooms reserved for the weekend, so if you need a room, call Dave at 334-6826. More information at the next MGCC meeting. ◀



# Basket Auction at the April Meeting

Proceeds go to the MG Car Club Endowed Scholarship  
at Monroe Community College

Donate a "basket" of goods or services. "Bid" on baskets of your  
choice by purchasing tickets.

Past ideas include:

Anything automotive: car wash, oil change,  
tune up, rally kit

Anything British: food, beer

Wine

Picnic

Gardening

Food other than British

If you plan to donate a basket,  
please call Brooks or Gayle at 225-5251  
If you don't bring a basket, bring money to bid!

In November 2000 the MG Car Club of Western New York established the MG Car Club Endowed Scholarship at Monroe Community College. The scholarship will benefit students in the Automotive Technology Program. The board has added to the fund every year since its establishment. Vice-Chair, Scott Perry suggested a plaque be created to recognize individual donors. The plaque shown on the Contents page of Spokes was created by Paul Heaney. 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.

Currently the fund is in excess of \$8,194. One year after the fund reaches \$10,000 scholarship money will be available from the interest earned. At this point the endowment will provide scholarships even if the club no longer makes donations or should the club dissolve. For further information see page three.

# “Of Shoes and Strings . . .”

Michael Claprood

ON AUCTIONS AND STEAK ROASTS; A NEWBIE’S VIEWS

*“The time has come” the walrus said, “to speak of many things.  
Of shoes and strings and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings.  
And if the sea is boiling hot and whether fish have wings.”*

—Robert Lewis Carroll

I’ve been to auctions before. I’ve been to car auctions; I’ve been to house auctions, I’ve been to more cattle auctions than I’d care to admit. But I’ve never been to a steak roast and auction so I thought it was time I tried it.

Having made the perfunctory phone call to Brooks and Gayle, I set off early on Sunday morning with my offering to the gods and my bowl of potato salad. Braving the snows of Route 390 at breakneck speeds of 40 miles per hour and above, I finally arrived at beautiful downtown East Rochester just scant minutes after the festivities had begun. Glory! The food had not been consumed yet!

I spent the next half hour or so saying hello to the members whom I recognized. I was warmly received by one and all. Having shed the outerwear and placing my offering on the table full of goodies, I anxiously awaited the main course which was under the watchful eyes of two very

expert-looking burger-flippers, Leon and a member with whom I was not acquainted.

Finally, the moment of truth arrived! I plunged into one of the juiciest steaks I have ever enjoyed. My compliments to whoever purchased those delicious cuts of New York Strip.

But the best was yet to come. Nothing I have ever experienced at any auction prepared me for the hijinks that were to follow. Our Dynamic Duo, Jim Priestly and Doug Scribner, took the floor and proceeded to keep the bidders spellbound with their blend of wit and humor. These guys were like Curley, Larry and Moe all rolled into one, multiplied by two! (Look for the picture of Jim Priestly with an Easter basket on his head, doing his Little Bo Peep routine.) Those who were there will not soon forget Doug Scribner trying to boost the bidding on a microwave oven by saying, “It’s clean inside and...and...and...it’s got a power cord! And it comes with a big cardboard box!” It was worth the drive just to watch these two clowns doing their shtick!

For those who are sitting on the fence about coming out on a winter day, I suggest that you throw your cares to the wind and make the pilgrimage. You’ll be glad you did!



Doug surveys the wares

—Gary Sandusky



Leon and John wait for the fire to get hot

—Gary Sandusky



John, time to cook . . .

—Gary Sandusky



The steaks are done

—Gary Sandusky





*A recurring dream . . .*



*Wally and Dick celebrate birthdays*

—Gary Sandusky



*A picture of the Queen with her phone number*

—Gary Sandusky



*First item—a Rostyle wheel*

—Allen Hess



*Dawn Priestley delivers the goods and collects the money*





*This is a manly vise*



*Only \$1 more, just a dollar*



*Going once, going twice . . .*



*Henry Kron wins the vise*



*Can you read that?*



*Leon and Doug Jack*



*Can't have too many pictures of Jim in a basket*



*A good time was had by all.*





6 LOCAL BRITISH CAR CLUBS ARE JOINING TOGETHER  
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 10 YEARS  
TO BRING TO YOU THE  
**1ST ANNUAL MULTI-CLUB PICNIC**

DATE: Saturday, June 23, 2007

LOCATION: Queenston Heights Park (Queenston, Ontario)

TIME: 10:00am-4:00pm

Featuring lots of activities including Valve Cover Racing, Funkhana, Car Show and Picnicking. This is a great opportunity to come out and enjoy a day out with the family in the scenic Niagara Region meeting new friends from all over the Great Lakes area.

The 6 clubs involved are committed to bringing you an enjoyable event, come see friends and cars old and new.



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# MG (S)Miles and a Passing of the Torch (hopefully) Part LXX (70)

George Herschell

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LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS OF MG OWNERSHIP and driving I went back to two events of 1982 and 1984. I fondly remembered that Nancy and I drove the TD to North Conway, New Hampshire in 1984 (alone) and had a wonderful time. This was to a T Registers event and we loved the area and the region. The drive was beautiful and prompted us to do it again in 1984 when they decided to hold the event at the same place as they did in '82. Only this time we drove the TF, Jim and Sue drove our TD and Charlie and Irene Searles drove their TF. Those two trips were written about in my MG (S)Miles number 3 and number 7. Needless to say it was a great time at both events and we vowed that sometime we had to go back.

In 1990 Nancy and I decided it was time to return to that area with the MG but this time we thought it would be nice if others wanted to join us on this trek. So the 1991 New England Mountain Adventure was born. We planned the trip and thanks to Don Stahl got all the maps we needed. My daughter in law Sue typed all the pages for the route books and George Haynes got all the copies made courtesy of Xerox. (Only I'm sure they didn't know it at the time.) Fifteen cars (ALL MG's) made the trip and there were no major breakdowns along the way. We went to the car show at Hildene in Manchester Vermont to start the adventure and then over to Gerry Gougen's Museum in Westminster, Vermont where he and Doris hosted a wonderful breakfast for us. From there it was up to North Conway New Hampshire. One of the nights in North Conway we all went to the Scottish Lion for dinner and much to our surprise the group had planned an impromptu Anniversary Party for Nancy and me. It was a great night, complete with a "wedding anniversary cake" and waitresses singing Happy Anniversary. From North Conway we went over to Stowe, Vermont and finally to Lake Placid and home. The total mileage for all the cars was 19,298 miles with the Potters logging the most miles of anyone at 1,544.

In 1993 being a glutton for punishment we (I) decided we would do it again and we limited the number of cars to 15. It was a good size group to work with and we felt that more cars would only cause logistical problems. One thing we always stressed on these trips was this was a "do your own thing" sort of adventure. We gave restaurant and sight seeing suggestions but never insisted that we all had to be tied at the hip. I suggested that people group up with others who preferred to drive at certain speeds and those that wanted to drive slower or faster were more than welcome to do so. We did seem to gather in the evenings and discuss the days events and who went where, and what they did while there.

NEMA MK II saw 15 cars make the complete adventure with another 8 couples joining us just for the first weekend. This was the adventure where I had alternate routes for those who wanted to explore some of the areas off our primary route more closely. A group of us also went up to Stowe for the British Invasion that fall, and later to Gerry Gougen's for his Fall Auto Jumble.

In 1994 we went to Hildene again and also to Stowe. Added to this was another trip to Gerry Gougen's but these were not Mountain Adventures. That was the year we won the two airline tickets to the UK raffled at the British Invasion. Keep that point in mind as it has a bearing coming up.

I guess I twisted Nancy's arm far enough for we hosted another NEMA in 1995. We had been in the UK for three weeks in May and I did have to do some hustling to get everything ready but it came off without a hitch and again we all had a great time. Once again in the fall we went back to Stowe and also to Gougen's Autojumble a few weeks later. Now to the in interesting part of that years driving. We calculated that we had driven about 8,000 miles that year in four different countries, driving three different cars on both sides of the Atlantic and on both sides of the roads. It's no wonder we were tired in September but not enough to miss the British Invasion at Stowe or Gerrys Gougens Autojumble.

Once again in 1997 we hosted NEMA IV. This time we had ten cars signed up and the trip went off without a hitch. We again did the Stowe trip in the fall and also were in the UK again for three weeks in May. This was another year with "too many miles in too many cars on both sides of the ocean on both sides of the roads" etc. etc. etc.

We said that was going to be the last and urged someone else to take up the gauntlet. I had offered to help where I could. I had the information for the route books finished and would gladly give the computer disks to anyone that wanted to host such a trip. I had my fingers crossed but sadly no one took up my challenge.

Well, I guess the folks that enjoyed these trips so much managed to twist my arm far enough and I said we would host another one in 2001. We used the same routes again and visited the same places and once again it was a great trip. I can't remember exactly how many folks went on that trip but it had to be at least 12 cars. We did have a bit of a problem in Manchester getting rooms together due to the popularity of the Hildene show but we managed to split up the group and stayed in a few places and we made out fine. The rest of the trip was fine and there were

no problems with accommodations. We were surprised again with another impromptu anniversary get together in Stowe Vermont on the deck at Ye Olde England Inne. Chris Francis a good friend to some of us had set everything up and it was again a surprise for Nancy and me. Somewhere along the course of these adventures we got the nicknames of "Mom" and "Dad" and we wear those designations with a great deal of pride. Once again we did the same route but did stop at Peter Markowski's RPM Motor Sports in Vergennes, Vermont to see his shop and the cars he had in there for service. After a few hours of drooling it was back to reality and on to the ferry for the trip over to New York State. I vowed after that trip that I would not host another one but last year we did travel the same route with the Potter's and Colegrove's on an unofficial NEMA. That made six times that we've done that total route and each time it is just as good as the times before. (Except for our incident, with the MG going off the road. That I could have very well lived without.)

Unless you have traveled in the New England areas that we have, you really don't know what you are missing. There are some wonderful sports car roads and the scenery is breathtaking.

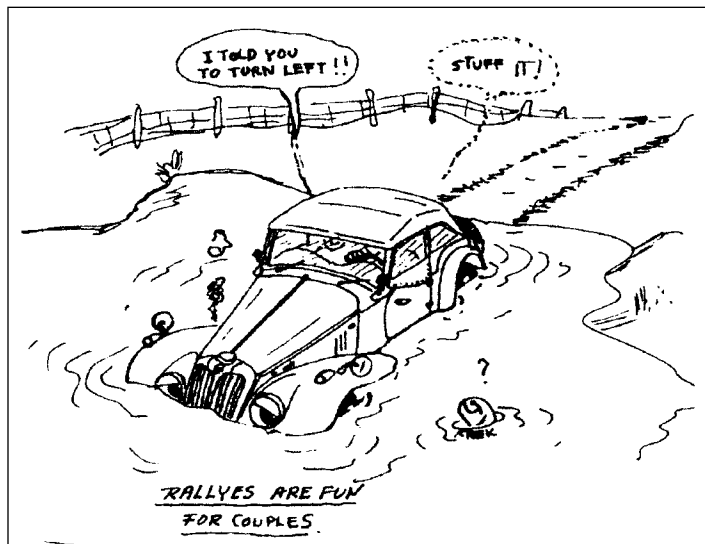
**S**O JUST WHERE AM I GOING WITH ALL THIS? I guess I am hoping (and have been for some time) that someone would take up the challenge and host another Mountain Adventure. It really is not all that difficult. I have all the routes on a computer disk and would be willing to share that information with anyone who would like to do this. The hotels know us and are always happy for us to return, and it is not all that difficult to plan. The registration cost per car was \$15.00 and that covered the dash plaques, postage, and misc. odds and ends needed. The money that was left over always went to buying snacks and munchies for a BYOB party at the Green Granite in North Conway. This was a good time and place to go over the various stories everyone had to share about their days events and where they went and what they saw or bought. (Husbands should not read that last part because there is a fair (?) amount of buying on these trips). I know that Nancy is guilty of that and on the first trip she managed to find a beautiful Icelandic full length coat on our first day out which she just had to have. Needless to say it went home via UPS. Don Stahl told Pat, on the last NEMA that they attended, at the end of the trip the only thing she could buy was a pair of earrings and those she had to wear home because there was no more room in the TF. AND their UPS bill was staggering. Also ask Gil about the difficulties he had

getting something Betty had purchased into the back of the MGC. Dick Powers shot a wonderful video of the entire trip that year, with that as one of the "featured pieces".

But getting back to planning the trips, a couple of phone calls to the hotels are sufficient and I always sent two lists of the participants names to each of the hotels. One had the names and credit card numbers for the hotels use, and the other without CC numbers, came back to me signed by the hotel as a conformation for all the rooms. A copy of that went into each route book so each person had a confirmation in their possession. It was really a simple way to work and all the places were more than happy to oblige. The restaurant and sight seeing recommendations are still pretty much the same and I would be willing to help anyone update the ones that need to be changed. But the most important thing is if anyone plans on doing this it should be started in the fall of the year preceding the tour. The starting point could be from anywhere but we usually started from our house but that is up to whomever is hosting the trip. I am still more than willing to help anyone taking on this trip and will offer as much or as little advice as needed.

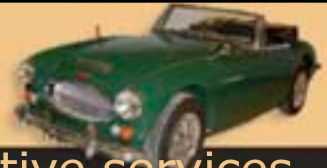
Just one bit of advice or caution, I would plan the trip to take place before the school year ends because New England in the summer can get very crowded and the hotels fill up fast. Added to that, is the fact that North Conway in the summer is a complete zoo as far as tourists and accommodations are concerned. The Friday following our car show was the best time to start the trip. The original idea for the trip was to relax and have a good time after the show was over. So will someone think about this? PLEASE !!!

Krek's Korner



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# Soon It Will Be June!

Dick Powers

---

## The Sports Car and Vintage Auto Festival Needs You . . .

As I write this, we are only a few months away from **Sports Car & Vintage Auto Festival XXXVI**. I'm happy to say that the core team of MG and Lions Club folks is doing another great job for our 2007 show.

To date, the dash plaques, trophies and shirts have been ordered and the printing is taking shape. Also for 2007, we have another outstanding **George Herschell** MG rendering to adorn all our SC&VAF materials. We are very fortunate to have a great artist like George provide *free* world class art for the show!

Other major areas are coming along well too. The show field, vendor spots, car corral and judging requirements are all in order. We have also taken steps to lower some operating costs and **Chris Williams** even found a way to get us *free* show information/message phone service.

Your MG team is doing everything they can to make this the best Sports Car & Vintage Auto Festival we've ever had, but the **Auto Festival Needs You!** I know many of you will be lending a hand again this year helping to set up the field; judging; working the car corral, registration, and security; directing entrants to their proper class locations; and entering your car, too. The show couldn't run without all your efforts; but if you haven't helped in the past or are a new club member, please lend a hand this year. We always need more help in every area and you'll be teamed with experienced folks so don't worry about lack of experience.

One area we can all help with is securing **Program Ads**. We all have a business or individuals we do business with all the time. The process is very easy and George Herschell

has put together a simple form that even I can use. **Mark Gibson** (388-7488) is the contact for this so please contact him for the forms or pick a few up at the next meeting. If we all secure one advertiser, our Show Program will be larger than it ever has been and our club will be financially better for your efforts. Just try to get one.

Another thing we all have to help with is getting advertising to locations in our respective areas. The material will be at our club meeting so please take some with you to distribute. This year we will also have four locations in the area where extra posters and registration forms will be available.

We are coming down to the last few months before our Sports Car & Vintage Auto Festival. I'll be giving a status report at the April meeting, but we still need your help in every way. Also, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact me (323-2687/ [mgahmogca@rpa.net](mailto:mgahmogca@rpa.net)) or any member of the core team.

MGCC members of the SC&VAF Core Team are: **Dave Wild** (founder/co-chair/registration); **George Herschell** (art/printing/program layout/accounting); **Gil Langswager** (pre-registered organization); **Lane Boughton** (vendor contact); **Arnold Vandenburg** (field marshal); **Bob Tescione**, **George Haynes**, **Chris Williams**, and **Dan Suter** (chief judges); **George Heissenberger** and **Gene Dinkel** (publicity); **Mark Gibson** (program ad sales); **Peter Pegoni** and **Wally Roworth** (car corral); **Leroy Hokenson** (security); **Jim Priestley** (data base); **Leon Todaro** (sound); **Bill Benet** (awards announcer).

Our "Stuffing Party" will again be at Dave and Barb Wild's house on May 30th and after that, soon it will be **Sunday June 3**, so please mark your calendars for **Sports Car & Vintage Auto Festival XXXVI**.





Upcoming lectures at the **International Motor Racing Research Center**, 610 S. Decatur St., Watkins Glen, NY.

**Saturday, March 31**, at 1 p.m. – Mark Donohue's Eagle, celebrating the 1972 All-American Racers Eagle #7225 now on display at the Center, presented by a panel of experts on the car and on Mark Donohue. Free.

**Saturday, April 28**, at 1 p.m. – History of Bugatti in Competition, presented by Richard Day, curator of the Bugatti Trust in Gloucestershire, England. The centerpiece of the talk will be the 1929 Bugatti Type 35B (37A) on display at the Center. Free.

**Friday, June 2**, at 1 p.m. – Fred Egloff discusses his fascinating book on the history of the checkered flag, "Origin of the Checker Flag, A Search for Racing's Holy Grail." Free.

You can find the upcoming events and more at <http://www.racingarchives.org/>

## MGs IN BENNINGTON, VERMONT

How about a three day MG weekend in Bennington, VT on August 2, 3 and 4 of 2007? As you know both NAMGAR and NAMGBR's 2007 events are on the West Coast. For many of us who went to Gatlinburg last year, the real fun was driving those fabulous roads, kicking all those MG tires, meeting old friends, and just seeing a bunch of MGs on the road.

What I have in mind is a low key event: no car show, no banquet, no registration fee, just a designated host hotel, maybe a reception or picnic paid for by attendees, and an opportunity for any MG owner who doesn't plan on driving to California or British Columbia to spend a little time in the company of other MG owners. We have selected the Paradise Motor Inn as the "host hotel." We have set aside thirty-two premier rooms at the special event price of \$90.00 per room. Reservations should be made directly with the hotel: [www.theparadisemotorinn.com](http://www.theparadisemotorinn.com) or 800-575-5784. To get this rate you MUST identify the reservation as: "Event: MGs in Bennington" when making the reservation. There is no registration fee for attending "MGs in Bennington" though we may ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of a reception. As I would like to keep a record of who'll be attending, I'd appreciate your e-mailing me at [mgadavid@yahoo.com](mailto:mgadavid@yahoo.com) or phone: (860) 267-1432.

David Werblow—Connecticut MG Club, Ltd.

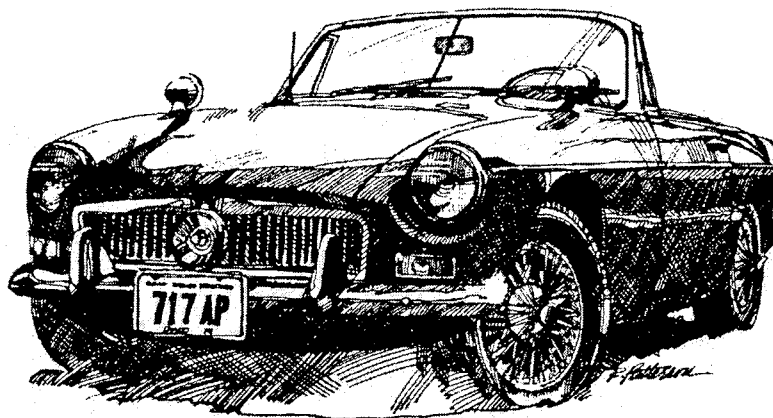
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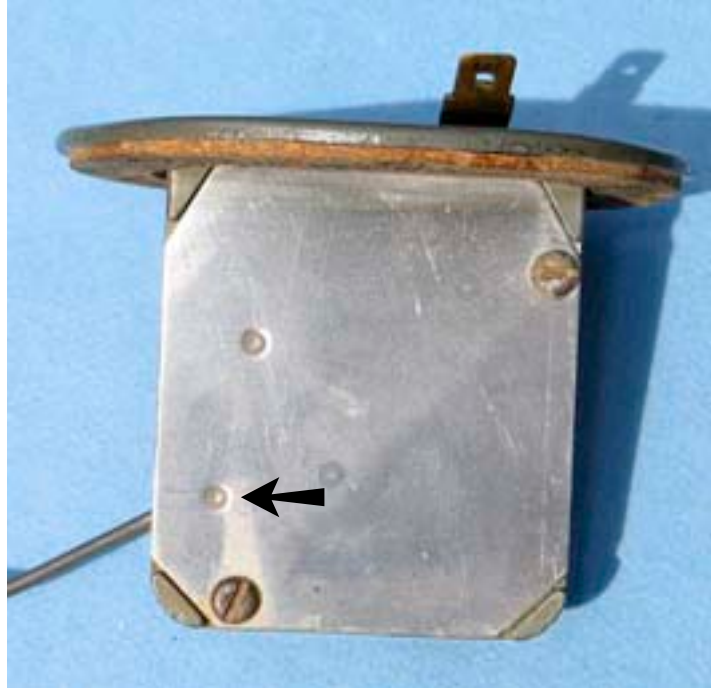


## “I thought I had half a tank . . . ?”

Allen Hess

I thought I had half a tank of gas—we’ve only gone a few miles and now the gauge reads a quarter! I leave the house with 5/8 of a tank and the next time I glance at the gauge it is 1/2 and then 3/8 and then 1/2 again. So after a few more drives with the same exclamation to myself, I procured a suitable fuel gauge stick. The TRIUMPH makes this exceedingly practical because it is a “straight shot” from the filler to the bottom of the tank. Diagnosis and repair postponed for now. Sometime later I heard Leon Zak and John Baum talking about the fuel gauge sending unit. I said “tell me more”. It turns out that John was having the same problem with his MGB. Leon says to take the sending unit out, remove cover and carefully clean the coil wires—not hard.

It’s not hard, just cheap labor (you) and maybe a gasket. Of course you must take all necessary precautions for draining the fuel tank, having good ventilation and so forth. I am providing these photographs so that you may have a better idea of what you are getting into and see that it may be an easy fix and not \$25–\$50 for a new part.



resist the temptation to bend the wiper arm so that it exerts more pressure on the windings unless you are sure it is necessary and even then use moderation. Remember that the pivot moves back and forth in the housing so “seat” it before you check the wiper arm contact.



*This is the typical sending unit. The wire holding the float (not in the picture) hits the two stops for full and empty.*

Two small self tapping screws hold the cover plate. Use the right sized screw driver since these may be tight due to corrosion. Note the dimple in the cover (marked with an arrow). This locates the pivot in the housing and consequently the wiper contact on the windings. (photo top right)

I used an old toothbrush and solvent to **gently** clean the “crud” from the wire windings. You may also see that the wiper arm has caused some wear to the windings. I would

Finally, with a couple of jumper wires you can hook it up still out of the tank and by moving the float arm and watching the fuel gauge verify if you have been successful. Contact me if you have any questions. It’s not that bad, really, Leon said so. ◀

# Oil Change Instructions for Women & Men

Forwarded by Jeff Kath

---

## ***Oil Change instructions for Women:***

- 1) Pull up to Jiffy Lube when the mileage reaches 3000 miles since the last oil change.
- 2) Drink a cup of coffee
- 3) 15 minutes later, write a check and leave with a properly maintained vehicle.

Money spent:

Oil Change: \$20.00

Coffee: \$1.00

Total: \$21.00

## ***Oil Change instructions for Men:***

- 1) Wait until Saturday, drive to auto parts store and buy a case of oil, filter, kitty litter, hand cleaner and a scented tree, write a check for \$50.00.
- 2) Stop by 7/11 and buy a case of beer, write a check for \$20, drive home.
- 3) Open a beer and drink it.
- 4) Jack car up. Spend 30 minutes looking for jack stands.
- 5) Find jack stands under kid's pedal car.
- 6) In frustration, open another beer and drink it.
- 7) Place drain pan under engine.
- 8) Look for 9/16 box end wrench.
- 9) Give up and use crescent wrench.
- 10) Unscrew drain plug.
- 11) Drop drain plug in pan of hot oil: splash hot oil on you in process. Cuss.
- 12) Crawl out from under car to wipe hot oil off of face and arms. Throw kitty litter on spilled oil.
- 13) Have another beer while watching oil drain.
- 14) Spend 30 minutes looking for oil filter wrench.
- 15) Give up; crawl under car and hammer a screwdriver through oil filter and twist off.
- 16) Crawl out from under car with dripping oil filter splashing oil everywhere from holes. Cleverly hide old oil filter among trash in trash can to avoid environmental penalties. Drink a beer.
- 17) Install new oil filter making sure to apply a thin coat of oil to gasket surface.
- 18) Dump first quart of fresh oil into engine.

- 19) Remember do rain plug from step 11.
- 20) Hurry to find drain plug in drain pan.
- 21) Drink beer.
- 22) Discover that first quart of fresh oil is now on the floor. Throw kitty litter on oil spill.
- 23) Get drain plug back in with only a minor spill. Drink beer.
- 24) Crawl under car getting kitty litter into eyes. Wipe eyes with oily rag used to clean drain plug. Slip with stupid crescent wrench tightening drain plug and bang knuckles on frame removing any excess skin between knuckles and frame.
- 25) Begin cussing fit.
- 26) Throw stupid crescent wrench.
- 27) Cuss for additional 5 minutes because wrench hit bowling trophy.
- 28) Beer.
- 29) Clean up hands and bandage as required to stop blood flow.
- 30) Beer.
- 31) Dump in five fresh quarts of oil.
- 32) Beer.
- 33) Lower car from jack stands.
- 34) Move car back to apply more kitty litter to fresh oil spilled during any missed steps.
- 35) Beer.
- 36) Test drive car.
- 37) Get pulled over: arrested for driving under the influence.
- 38) Car gets impounded.
- 39) Call loving wife, make bail.
- 40) 12 hours later, get car from impound yard.

Money spent:

Parts: \$50.00

DUI: \$2500.00

Insurance Increase: \$5000.00

Impound fee: \$75.00

Bail: \$1500.00

Beer: \$20.00

Total: \$9,145.00

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## Classified Ads

**Wanted:** Pre 1985 *Automobile Quarterly*, pre 1961 *Road and Track* and *Sports Cars Illustrated*, books with photos on Classic American /European cars of the 20's and 30's. Nick Zuck fnzoatka@frontier-net.net or (585)889-5280.

**WANTED: 2 or 3 MGCC members** to share a road trip to *Bonneville Speed Week* (August 11th thru 18th). Approx. 3-4 days each way and 3-4 days there, watching speed runs on the salt flats. Current plan is for 4 to 6 to travel in one (air conditioned!) van, sharing driving and expenses, but other possibilities would be considered; more vans if more want to go. Let me know if you're interested. George Haynes 872-6536

**WANTED: MGA carb parts**, choke linkages, front fuel bowl (pn/3496) and front and rear fuel bowl tops. Dan, 585-377-1877 or dmesmg@juno.com

**For Sale:** Pair of SU HS6 1 3/4" carburetors with chrome pots and throttle linkage \$200.00 Dave Asmuth 315-587-2117

**FOR SALE: 1952 MGTD project car.** Many new parts but the car is still apart and I ran out of time/money. \$6000 or B.O. Call Allyn at 585-924-5251

**FOR SALE: MGB 1977ish**, rubber bumper, red roadster. California car, not much rust. Good top & Interior. Paint fair. Engine block cracked. Make offer. Call Jim Moran. 585-747-2273. Tell him Joe sent you.

**FOR SALE: 1963 MGB tourer.** In a barn for 26 years. Has wire wheels, overdrive and factory hardtop. Needs floors and general restoration. \$1,500.00.

**1971 MGB.** Orange paint needs redone. Fresh engine with a Weber carb and SU's come with it. \$2,000.00. Call Vince at 865-2410 or VMC166@aol.com

**FOR SALE: 1998 Chevy Pick-up**, 2 wheel drive, V-6, auto, CC, A/C, ext. cab. bed liner, class 3 hitch, remote start, new brakes, rotors, 117K, good condition, \$5900/BO Jim 334-6081

**FOR SALE: Hard top for 1961-'80 MG Midget** convertible. This is an aftermarket 1976 Midget hard top in excellent condition. Asking \$650.00. Jim 585-943-6353.

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**FOR SALE: Wire wheels & tires.** Set of 4 (15 inch, 48 spoke, 4 inch wide) with like new Pirelli 155R X15 tires. VGC silver wire wheels (not chrome). 3 other wheels, same size, in average condition included. Fit TD & TF's, MGA's and early Healeys. New lower price \$300 OBO. Call Joe at 585-229-2230.

**FOR SALE:** I have found a line of **165R15 tyres** suitable for MG-T's, MGA's and other British cars. Don't pay Coker's price for Michelins (about \$125. each). Call me first! George 585-872-6536

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# Bury Me In An Old Mowog Parts Box

Jay Lockrow



It is March 5th and as I sit at my computer I am completely dry as to what to write about for April MOWOG. Many times I have been in this same situation and I usually come up with something at the last minute but I have been snowed in, frozen in, or just so much shut in for so long my mind is numb. I need a good long dose of some weather that is well above freezing so I can thaw out the brain. Last night here in Buffalo we set a record low at the local landing strip, zero. I can well live without that so let's hope it goes away in a few days.

Anyway enough of that. I've decided to bring you all up to date on MOWOG. If you have done your math you will now know we are in our eighteenth year of this column. What you might not know is that it has been picked up a few times by other publications and reprinted there. I have mentioned before that one column was picked up and printed in the magazine *Safety Fast* the organ of the MG Car Club of England. At least one column was reprinted in *The Sacred Octagon* the magazine of the New England MG T Register and one in *Pur Sang* the magazine of the American Bugatti Club. Just recently the column I wrote on my dad's S series Mercedes Benz was picked up and run in the Mercedes Benz Club magazine from around Omaha. This one was a complete surprise when I received a request to reprint it from the editor. As usual I was more than happy to let them run the article as it always gets more information out to the public. If only I could capitalize on it I might be motivated to come up with even better columns. This obviously will never be like winning the lottery but I can dream.

Last month I told about the book *Offenhauser* by Gordon White that I had just finished reading. At the moment I am deep into another book and it is around 650 pages. It is the autobiography of William F. Milliken called *Equations of Motion*. I am about one sixth of the way through having just started it the other night but his life story so far (he is 96 and still very active) is fascinating. I have progressed through the push car or coaster car era of youth and also the powered cycle cars. I have just completed the chapter where he builds and flies his own airplane.

It flew once and he then realized the mistakes he made in design so it was put away. It still exists in the Owls Head Transportation Museum in Maine (<http://www.ohtm.org/>).

Bill is one of those people who will never totally retire. If you are not familiar with him he is the same one that Milliken's corner at Watkins Glen is named after and Bill was head of flight research at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory in Buffalo for many years. After being forced out at a mandatory retirement age he started his own research business and has done race car and vehicle dynamics for a good number of years. He has written a book by the same name *Race Car and Vehicle Dynamics* that is now the "bible" or textbook of the engineering students in these programs. I know it went through at least two printings because of this and possibly more. Much of this is very highly technical and way beyond us backyard mechanics. I do find it interesting and believe it or not I do understand a little of it such as pitch, yaw, and sideslip which all have to do with stability. This is true with both aircraft and automobiles. The big difference is if something fails at 10,000 feet it can very well be all over. With an automobile you are at

least still on the ground and hopefully upright. That is not to say you can't find you end in an automobile but just drive a new car and compare it to

a car twenty or thirty years old and notice the difference in handling characteristics. How they go about solving these problems or doing the math is something else. I won't go into this but in a future column I will try to give you a better review of the book. I might not finish it by next month but I will plug away at it.



Be prepared . . . Spring is coming!!! ◀

*In 1927, inspired by Lindbergh's flight, 16 year-old William F. Milliken began designing an airplane which evolved into a parasol monoplane with a motorcycle engine. Finally, in 1933, Milliken took the M-1 to Old Orchard Beach for tests. It flew, but landing took three attempts ending when the M-1 flipped over on its back. Specifications: span 25 ft.; length 16 ft. 10 in.; engine 27 hp. Heath-Henderson water-cooled in-line four-cylinders (modified Henderson motorcycle engine).*



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# 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 23 Multi-club meet, Canada	<b>July</b>  5 Board Meeting 8 Autocross 2 19 Meeting 20-22 1000 Islands Weekend — GVACS Car Show (RIT)	<b>August</b>  5 Steak 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>  7 Fall Foliage Tour 15 Garage Tour 18 Meeting 27 Halloween Rallye	<b>November</b>  1 Board Meeting — Yacht Club Brunch 15 Meeting — Elections	<b>December</b>  8 Holiday Party No Meeting

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