

Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

Volume 49 No. 12

December 2007



I Do Have an MGA!



Meeting January 17th 2008 7:30 PM
Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY



Founded 1958

The Marque of Friendship

MG CAR CLUB WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE

PO Box 831, Webster, New York 14580-0831

Web Site: www.mgcarclub.com

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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. 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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*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:

Joeanna 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

There are two ways to look at this—the end of another car club year or the beginning of the wait for the next one. Due to the fact that Doug has started his “count down to spring” I’m going with number 2. I’m looking forward to the next car club year—I’ll get to sit out in the crowd and heckle, I mean ask meaningful, fully thought through questions.

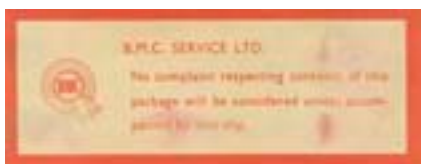
Actually Brooks and Gayle having done a wonderful job have already greased the bearings with some of the arrangements for next years activities, (also - e-mails have started for the Multi-Club picnic), Joeanna has the pennies balanced and in order for next year, Bob’s got the badges for the 50th well under control, AND ALONG WITH DOUG AS TRUSTEE (oh, I forgot Doug’s got his new aids), and along with Doug, as Trustees they’ve thrown in their 2 cents worth of trusted advice. (Did Joeanna count those?) Marlene has done a great job of keeping us honest by documenting all the regular and board meetings, Dan is ready to take over the driving of a great new set of folks that I’m sure will help us keep on truckin’ another 50. (It’s OK, I can say that, I grew up in the 60’s.) And of course, you’re reading this because Allen has again produced another fine issue of the award winning Spokes! Thanks to all of you for two great years.

The day after the meeting I had to leave to end up in Denmark for work. I had this idea of grabbing a few shots of interesting cars to include with this article. Bummer - it’s slim pickin’s. I’ve been here 4 or 5 times now and in all that time the only cars that don’t look like every other one was one white MGB V8 and one red Volvo 445 wagon two years ago. (Geez, wonder why I notice those two?) I’ve seen nothing interesting this trip. The cars are almost all, except for an SUV or two, fuel efficient small 4 cylinder things, all shaped alike. The fact that the cheapest gas is 10.33 Kroners per litre (here - I’ll save you a brain cell or two - 3.7 liters per gallon = 38.22 kroners, 5.8 kroners per dollar = \$7.52 a gallon) may have something to do with that. I’ve seen mostly Saabs and Volvos even though many of the Danes haven’t forgiven Sweden for invading them almost 400 years ago, but, I think they get a ‘next door’ discount. So no pictures of interesting cars, but I’m still looking.

And that’s another reason I too am looking forward to spring so we can start our next season. Keep counting Doug.

P.S. - I can’t wait till the Goodwins find out about the hidden club rule that says if you screw up the score tabulation on an event you have to run it for four more years. But shhhh, wait ‘till after the Holidays.

— V8



The Herald

Allen Hess

This time of the year I adhere to the old saying “Too many cooks spoil the broth.” and keep myself busy tending the fire and fulfilling numerous other requests, but I never venture near the stove. And then I slip away and work on the Spokes now and then. I want to thank all the contributors who sent their articles and photos in a little early this month and provided last minute information so that no one escapes the fame and notoriety of being in the Spokes.

The Fiftieth Anniversary provides the club with the opportunity to create a year long document that tells us what the club is now and of the interesting people and cars that it was built upon. Over time newer members hear the stories— some good ones too, if you are in the right place at the right time. *This is the year for you to share those stories and experiences!* The Spokes needs stories and photographs about people, cars, events, memorable moments and maybe, some events that should be forgotten:

- ▶ ?’s Volvo fell over in an autocross.
- ▶ ? and ? first met at a Watkins Glen race.
- ▶ ? bought a Volkswagen to race because the engine had a lifetime warranty.
- ▶ ? was Soapbox Derby Champion.
- ▶ There were autocrosses in a snow covered field.
- ▶ In his youth, ? raced sidecar motorcycles.
- ▶ ? drives the little British car that his father raced.
- ▶ In addition to Dave Wild, ? drove in the 1959 races.
- ▶ ?, ?, ? and ? were featured in the Democrat & Chronicle.

If you recognize yourself, start writing. If you don’t, we want to hear from you too—new members, old members and

everyone in the middle. What are the stories we don’t know? What are the memories you want to keep alive?

—TRIUMPH!



Activities

Brooks Schneider

It's hard to believe our two-year term with Activities is almost over and this will be my last monthly column. By the time you read this, our final event of the season, the Holiday Party, will either be imminent or it will have already passed.

The Halloween Rallye was an incredible success, with 16 cars in the rallye and 60+ people at the party that followed. Thanks to Mike and Susan Goodwin for a great job organizing it and to all of the volunteers that helped make it fun along the route.

On Nov. 11th, 35 people gathered in the octagon-shaped room at the Rochester Yacht Club for a wonderful brunch. It was a bright, sunny day, so there was a great view of the river and the lake. Thanks to Anne and Gene Faust for once again being our hosts for this event.

Being involved with activities was a lot of fun and gave Gayle and me the opportunity to get to know a lot of club members much better than we ever would have otherwise. We stumbled a few times along the way and seemed to have a natural attraction to Murphy's Laws but, all in all, things seemed to work out pretty well. I'm not sure the jokes got any better along the way, although when starting with "A grasshopper walked into a bar . . .", there's really nowhere to go but up.

We tried some new things, like go-karting in February, and made a glorious return to the 1000 Islands after a 25 year absence, along with many of the time-honored traditions that none of us could imagine not doing every year.

Thanks to everyone for helping make the 2006-2007 activities a success, from organizing them to participating in



All I want for Christmas is a top!

them. As we hand the activities coordination position over to Mike and Sue Harrison, I'm sure you will help and support them as well as you did us. As always, I'm sure they will be looking for ideas, and especially organizers, for new events, in addition to the perennial favorites. One thing that is not among the club supplies is a crystal ball, so it's hard to know what people might want to do without some input, so please let them know.

Speaking of next year, the Wine and Cheese party and Valve Cover races will be coming up on Jan. 13th, so mark your calendars. We're also planning to return to the Inside Track Speedway for go-karts and pizza on Feb. 10th. We'll see you in 2008.

—MGA!

MG CAR CLUB 2007 HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 8, 2007

JACK'S PLACE

1200 KINGS HIGHWAY (DURAND EASTMAN GOLF COURSE)

Social Hour – 6:30 PM Buffet Dinner – 7:30 PM

Menu: cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. Buffet of Sirloin tips, Chicken French, rice, oven roasted potatoes, vegetable, baked ziti, house salad, and rolls followed by assorted cake plate, and coffee.

Optional gift exchange - Bring a gift, take a gift in the \$10 range. Please wrap gifts and mark if for man, woman or either.

Optional toy donation - Bring a new, unwrapped toy, which will be donated to the annual Marines "Toys for Tots" campaign. See <http://www.toysfortots.org> for details.

Sign up deadline is past. If more information is needed contact Brooks or Gayle at (585) 225-5251 or bjsbrooks@aol.com

MGCC Minutes of the Meeting

Marlene Rzepkowski

November 15, 2007

Call to order-7:37 PM

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

New members and guests- Guests: Kristy Graves-MCC representative, Taylor Parks and family- 2007 scholarship recipient, Shawn Graves-2007 scholarship recipient, Steve and Patty Philip.

Scholarship Award Presentation- Leon Zak and Kristy Graves (MCC Automotive Program Coordinator) presented Taylor Parks and Shawn Graves with the MG Car Club Robert Philip MCC 2007 scholarship awards. Along with the award they were given an article on the background of Bob Philip and the scholarship program. Congratulations Taylor and Shawn on your awards!

Treasurer Report- All accounts are doing well. A copy of the club's cash flow report can be obtained from Joeanna DeBlaere, our treasurer.

Membership- Jim Priestley reported he is currently collecting dues for next year and that 2007 memberships are done at the end of December. Renewals can also be done on the club's web site.

Librarian- Alan Costich is still looking for suggestions for car related media to be added to the library.

SPOKES- Articles for the next issue are due next Thursday, November 22, 2007. Photos and stories are needed about any one's experiences in the club from the past 50 years. These do not need to be limited to just the early years of the club.

Regalia- Doug Scribner has begun the Spring countdown with only 4 ½ months to go. Doug reported that many cold weather items are now available. These items include polar fleece, sweatshirts, lap blankets, all weather hats, back packs, car magnets, and mugs all with the club logo.

England- George Herschell told that he is still communicating with the club in England.

Trustee Report- Bob Tescione reported that the 50th Anniversary badges and pins are still available. Clothing commemorating the 50th Anniversary will be coming out soon.

Activities- Brooks was not present for the activities report but Dan Suter filled in and opened his report with the customary joke. A review of past events was given as well as a preview of upcoming events. See the Activities Report in SPOKES for a detailed list of future events.

Car Show- No Report.

Web Site- Al Fink will now put photos up on the MGCC web site. Leon Zak will maintain the web site and would like input from the membership on changes that could be made to the site or if it should stay the same.

Vice Chair- Dan Suter reported that the MGCC 50th Anniversary committee is continuing to make progress on the plans for this event. The committee still needs stories, photos, vignettes or anything of interest that involved the MGCC over the last 50 years.

Old Business- Nominations were given and election of new board members for 2008 was held. The nominated board for 2008 was passed by unanimous vote of those MGCC members present at this meeting. The secretary was then asked to enter one vote, which represents those MGCC members voting at this meeting, to accept this board to be in office for 2008. The secretary then voted and the following people were elected to office:

Chairman-Dan Suter

Vice-Chairman- Dan Goodwin

Treasurer- Susan Kath

Secretary- Mike Goodwin

Elected Trustee- Jim Priestley

Activities Directors- Mike and Sue Harrison

Cars and Parts-

For Sale:

1963 Volvo 122S-driveable, contact Al Costich

1957 MGA-contact George Haynes

Wanted:

Allen Hess looking for LH (MGB) overdrive parts.

Miscellaneous Comments-

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Door Prizes – Awarded

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 8:24 PM.

— MG TF

Attendance

November 15, 2007

Betty Langswager
Gil Langswager
Bob Tescione
Cindy Jack
Doug Jack
Charles Swarts
Beverly Swarts
Carl Prouty
Dick Powers
Dick Giambra
Alan Costich
Leroy Hokenson
Mike Harrison
Sue Harrison
Roger Gunther
Anne Faust
Gene Faust
Chuck Schaefer
Becky Schaefer
Dan Goodwin
Cheryl Baldwin
Bill Baldwin
Marlene Rzepkowski
Jeff Kath

Susan Kath
George Haynes
Vivienne Rizzo
Ted Hershey
Rhonda Rizzo
Tim Rizzo
Leon Zak
Joe Fazio
Steve Sangster
Pat Sangster
Dave Chase
Lane Boughton
Brian Fallon
Larry Rausch
Dave Asmuth
Joeanna DeBlaere
Joe DeBlaere
Gene Dinkel
Dan McConnell
Laurie Scribner
Doug Scribner
Nick Zuck
Dan Suter
David Schantz

Jim Davis
Dawn Priestley
Mike Goodwin
Ben Barlow
Al Fink
Dave Wild
Jim Priestley
John Murray
Nancy Herschell
George Herschell
Allyn Wagner
Allen Hess

GUESTS

Kristy Graves
Steve Philip
Patty Philip
Shawn Graves
Rachel Pedersen
Taylor Parks
Sally Parks

Now is the Time to Mail Your Membership Renewal to

Jim Priestley
3326 County Road 40
Bloomfield, NY 14469

\$30 Payable to MGCC Western NY

Or Use PayPal

www.mgcarclub.com

(lower left corner home page)



MG Car Club 2008 Board: Dan Suter, Chairman; Susan Kath, Treasurer; Dan Goodwin, Vice Chairman; Jim Priestley, Trustee; Mike Goodwin, Secretary; Sue and Mike Harrison, Activities Directors

Robert R. Philip Scholarship, Monroe Community College

The Robert R. Philip Scholarships for 2007 were presented at the November 15th meeting of the MG Car Club. Chairman Leon Zak and MCC Automotive Program Coordinator Kristy Graves awarded the scholarships to Taylor Parks and Shawn Graves. Steve Philip also presented each with a biographical article about his father.

The application essays by Taylor and Shawn are reprinted below.

Contributions by the MG Car Club in 2007 bring the amount of the MG Car Club Endowed Scholarship to over \$10,000. In approximately one year Monroe Community College will award this annual scholarship in the name of the MG Car Club of Western New York Centre.



Shawn Graves

Writing an essay about why I deserve to be awarded with a scholarship is going to be a somewhat difficult task. It's hard to write about your good attributes without feeling somewhat egotistical or arrogant. However, I will give it a whirl and see what I can come up with to convince you that I deserve this scholarship.

Dedicated. This is definitely one word that I would use to describe myself. I am dedicated to my education and dedicated to my evolving career. Fellow students often tell me they wish that they had the discipline and dedication that I have. Working to pay for school and going to school full time makes for a busy schedule, but school comes first. Someday the sacrifice that I make now will be well worth it. I feel that we are in school to learn and the value that is put on our education is something that should not be taken for granted. I try to do as well as I can in all my classes because the more I learn now the better off I will be when I am working full time in the field. Being educated to a higher degree will not only pay off for me but for the customers that I will work with in the future. Having satisfied customers and customers that trust the technician they deal with is very important.

Leadership is another trait that I carry. I have never had a problem filling a leadership role. In high school I was team captain on all three sports teams that I participated in. I have also worked in a management position. I am able to fill a leadership role while in school not only in the classroom but also outside of school. I was recently selected as the student representative for an annual meeting held at MCC between MCC, Toyota, and the service managers from this area. My fellow students looked to me to voice their concerns and I gratefully accepted that role. I am often looked to for personal and professional advice from my class mates, and am always willing to help.

Everyone always ask about my goals for the future. I think that everyone has goals but some people set their



Taylor J. Parks

I appreciate being considered for this scholarship money. I feel that I'm deserving of this honor because of my work ethic, my passion for automobiles both new and classic. I have made the Dean's list both semesters last year and it appears I will make it this semester. I'm punctual, dedicated and very serious about my career. I'm not afraid of getting my hands dirty. Being a member of the Bayside Cruisers Car Club, has given me an understanding of how organizations work and how much fun it is to be a part of a group. I have been vice president and have assisted in club functions and car shows.

I own a 1970 Chevy Pickup that my father and I restored over a period of three years. I still drive it and enjoy it. I'm presently restoring a 1968 Camaro while keeping my truck running. I'm able to keep my hobbies, part time job and capable of completing my schoolwork with high grades. I'm a man of few words, so I'll end this by saying that I'm very proud and honored to be considered for this award and hope you find me suitable for this honor.

Thank-you,
Taylor J. Parks

goals a little higher than others. My goals are set as high as I can see them. I hope to be a certified Toyota master tech in five years, I also hope to be an ASE certified master tech when I graduate in June. I have already taken two ASE tests and did quite well on both. I would like to think that I will graduate as one of the top students in the program and hope to graduate with honors after making the Dean's list in the spring semester of 2007 and on pace to make it again. I hope to be a team leader and a mentor at some point in my career. Currently one of my duties in the dealership I work in is training the students that are new to the field and our dealership. Having the chance to pass on the knowledge that I have learned in school and in the field will be a great reward for years of hard work. People that are coming into this field need people to look up to and to get guidance from and I hope to be that person some day.

I feel that as students in the MCC auto tech program we have a reputation to live up to and we should strive to be the best students and technicians that we can be. Technicians have a bad name among everyday people.

This persona has been around for a long time and I hope to be someone who can change people's minds about the technicians working on their vehicles. Honesty is something we should all practice. As vehicles continue to change year to year and get more advanced the need for trained technicians grows. Customers want to have their cars fixed right the first time and don't want to deal with someone that has to change several things before they get it fixed. So I plan to continue my education throughout my career. If all students put the effort into this field that I try to, I think that we would have a lot of great technicians for the future.

Receiving this scholarship would not only help me financially but it would also be something that I can be proud of. I thank you for considering me for this scholarship and hope to be your selection.

Regards,
Shawn Graves

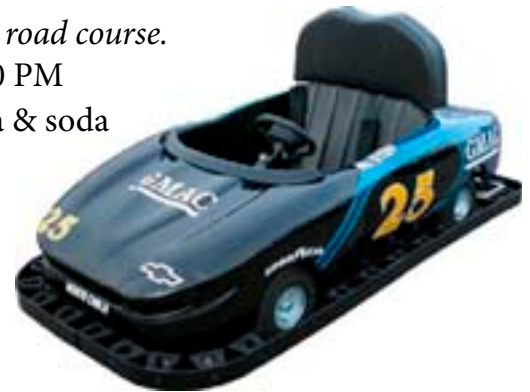
It's Winter – So What? Let's Go Racing

Indoor Go Karts

Battery powered go-karts on an indoor road course.

Sunday February 10, 2008 1:30 PM

\$15 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

Brooks and Gayle 225-5251



Mike Goodwin, Mary Murray, soon to be headless Elaine and Gayle Schnieder

Halloween Rallye

by Michael and Susan Goodwin

On the evening of October 27th the MG Car Club's annual Halloween Rallye was held. The rallye went through the four towns of Chili, Wheatland, Riga, and Ogden for a scary 42 miles of fun. As with any event, the success depends on the kindness of helpers. We want to thank our helpers for making this event fun and scary. Thank you Gayle and Brooks Schneider, Mary and John Murray, Betty and Gil Langswager, Glen Heissenberger, Laura Donagan, Mary Kay and Chuck Twamley, Martha and Mark Foster, Susan Stephany, and Anne and Gene Faust, our rallye starters.

Sixteen cars participated and below are the scores. The target time was 92 minutes (guess we planners were a bit speedy!). Total scores were based mainly on time difference, right answers, and correct collection of tokens, with a bonus point given for driving a little British car and another if the driver was wearing a garlic necklace at the finish line. We used the difference from target time as the tiebreaker for cars with the same score. ◀

Place	Team	Score	Time difference
1	Schaefer	148	+ 0:07
2	DeBlaeres	135	+ 0:14
3	Krons	135	+ 0:16
4	Pittengers	134	+ 0:21
5	Scribners	133	+ 0:16
6	Heissenbergers	131	+ 0:15
7	Rzepkowski, Marlene & Dick	131	+ 0:24
8	DeLeos	130	+ 0:26
9	Bulls	128	+ 0:20
10	Keppeler & co.	128	+ 0:21
11	Rzepkowski, Kris & Tricia	127	+ 0:17
12	Hesses	123	+ 0:30
13	Heaneys	122	+ 0:24
14	Hokensons	121	+ 0:24
15	Kaths	120	+ 0:34
16	Zonas	113	+ 0:31



Starters Gene and Anne Faust —AH



Henry Kron's MG accessory —AH



Our Activities Directors at the end of two years . . .

—AH



Sue Keppler and friends

—AH



Betty?

—Brooks Schneider



Laurie Scribner, Carl Prouty

—Susan Kath



Judge Susan and Count Michael Goodwin

—AH



Winners Chuck & Becky Schaefer

—AH



Winner of the "Club" . . . err maybe not



Kris & Tricia Rzepkowski

—Susan Kath



Jeff & Susan Kath

—Susan Kath



John Murray and Dick Rzepkowski

—AH



Powers and Wilds

—Susan Kath



Joe & Joeanna Deblaere

—Susan Kath



Tricia, Geo. Heissenberg, Kris Rzepkowski

MG (S)Miles and It's That Time Again Part LXXV (75)

George Herschell

THANKSGIVING IS OVER AND AS THE WEATHER GETS colder it's that time of year once again to put on the thinking cap and try to decide just what to do. What am I referring to? That annual "scratch your head and come up with something new and different" for a Christmas Card. A long time ago I got the brilliant idea (well at the time I thought it was brilliant) to do my own Christmas Card instead of just going to a store and buying them. I thought I could do as good a job as the professionals and I would try to make it MG friendly. So . . . the first year we used a photo of our the MG TD. It was one I shot at a site across the road with a nice barn for a backdrop but in my haste I forgot to include more of the barn. Oh well it was a nice shot anyway and folks that got it (either were kind or lied through their teeth) said it was really nice and different.



The first card was done in 1971 and this is now 2007. If my arithmetic is correct, (which many times it's not) that means I've been doing these for 36 years. This year was particularly demanding because I knew exactly what I wanted to do but try as I would I couldn't get the photo to come out as I had expected it would. Thankfully I used a digital camera this year so the 87+ shots I did, that I was not satisfied with, went in the recycle bin and it didn't cost me a fortune as it had in the past using film. (Sorry EK Alumni) I finally got what I wanted and was satisfied with the result. Now all I had to do was get the 100+ prints made to send out. With the prints made, they have to be attached to the base of the card, also something I design every year and print on my computer. I also do an electronic version to send to friends that I know have E mail especially the ones outside the US. It does save a bit on postage.



Bolstered by this we (I) decided to try again the following year. This time we used the same setting but with the TF and this time I remembered to incorporate the barn. Again folks were kind and said they liked this one also. The die was cast and now we had to come up with something new every year.

I'm not alone in this mess I created for myself but rather have to look to my friend Jay Lockrow who does the same thing. Only he DRAWS the cards every year. (Show off!) I have to resort to photography to do mine, although one year I did use my drawing of my TF. Jays cards are really a joy to get and every year the car is part of the theme. I have every one of those cards and treasure them not because they are from a friend but one that is just as nuts as I am to continue to do this. We both have said we don't know how much longer we will be doing this but every year we manage to come up with something new and different. Not to be outdone by Jay I decided one year do a drawing of my TF. See the following shot. [above right]

A few years ago I did a "Christmas Wreath" (which was really the MG logo) using my model MG's as the sides and letters. That one had me talking to myself to get it just exactly the way I wanted it. I did the "M" using all green cars and the "G" using all red cars. It worked very well and again the recipients were very kind with their comments.



ONE YEAR I REALLY GOT CARRIED AWAY AND SET UP A table top of the (models) TD, the TF and the B in front of a series of model pine trees. This was the photo on the outside of the card. On the inside was another photo of the three real cars with our pine trees as a backdrop. The greeting said: Happiness is Christmas toys, year round”.

Nancy’s favorite card is the year we did a collage (or assemblage’ as my friend Leo Kaplan used to call them) of MG related names, items, memorabilia, and some antique wooden type. We sent along with the card a listing of all the items that were there and what they represented. That card generated more responses than any other card we’d ever done and apparently folks liked the challenge of seeing what we used and where it was. I still have the set up and some day may turn it into a table with glass over it or as a wall hanging. Now if I could only find a wall large and strong enough to hold it I’d be all set.



But my all time favorite was the year that I set up this photo. We had been in Vermont and Nancy found a cute English Bull Dog toy and bought it for me as a mascot for the B. We dubbed him Winston and he has traveled with us a great many times. So for Christmas that year Winston was featured sitting in the front of the TD. Of course he looked a little too plain just by himself with no clothing so we found a collar with a pewter MG Logo for him to wear as well as a proper British Cap and a red scarf. (After all it does get cold in December.) We did a number of variations of this card using just Winston. The first card was with the TD. Then we managed to find some smaller versions of Winston and used those along with him and the B for another card. They looked alright on the B but there was something missing that was apparent in the first card. For some reason the TD and the wreath and Winston just seemed to belong together. I’ll let you be the judge of that.



Once again this year the cards are finished, the envelopes addressed and stamped and all that’s left is the personal greeting on each one, then they’re off in the mail to friends all over. Naturally the ones going outside the US have to go first but eventually they will all be sent out.

How long will I keep doing this? I really don’t know. I haven’t run out of ideas yet but . . . They’re getting harder to come up with every year. But I’ll keep trying.

*Thanks for your compliments, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.
Nancy and George*



MG Vintage Racers Invade Mid-Ohio or Racing With a Kinder Mother Nature

By Riccardo d'Solane



—© Daniel Mainzer

LAST OCTOBER 12-14 WAS THE MGVR FOCUS EVENT at Mid-Ohio. Sixty-three MG's were there to support the event hosted by the upper mid-west VSCDA racing group. What a great time, with nearly 140 racers sharing the 2.3 Mid-Ohio track. This was a non spectator event, so we really had the place to ourselves. And Mother Nature, unlike at the Glen, gave us three days of perfect racing weather!

I had been to Mid-Ohio before, but this was my first time racing there. What a wonderful track with so many neat twists and turns, like the full throttle Turn 1 (about 90 in my MGA). Then there's the up hill left hand Turn 7 with the apex at the top just before you fall sharply to Turns 8-11. And 13, 14 (the Carousel) and 15 that lead you back to the front straight. This is a fun track, a little like Road America and there are many good up close spectator locations too.



—© Daniel Mainzer

I was the only racer from our club to do this event, but with 63 MG's there, I had many MG friends to race and party with. Unfortunately one friend, Bob Schoepfle, put a big hole in his 1622 just behind the distributor. That happened on Friday as Bob was turning 6800 rpm with *stock* MOWOG rods. Ouch!

Fortunately there were other MG friends to race with like Storm Field (TV weatherman) and Jim Weissenborn (both in MGA coupes), Don Martine from California, in the Von Neumann #11 MGTD Special and Martin Wolford all the way from England (Laurie Scribner, he says hi!).

222 is running better than at Sebring, but not as good as it did before the engine rebuild. I did have some good racing with a TR-3 and finally got past with late braking at the end of the long down-hill straight.

On Sunday we had a race to honor the memory of a great racer and member of our WNYMGCC, the late Denver Cornett. Denver's son and widow were there to cheer us on too. This was a tag-team race consisting of 3 MG's and a runner on each team. I was teamed with Storm and Reed Yates, but Reed broke something in his TD during the previous race, so Storm and I could only run the first 2 three lap sections. The winners of the **Denver Cornett Memorial Tag Team Handicap Race** were: Butch O'Connor (MGB), Lou Marchant (MGA), Ed Cronin (MGTD) and their runner, Keith Murphy. This race was fun and a fitting way to remember our friend Denver Cornett and end this great Mid-Ohio event. ◀



—© Daniel Mainzer

Valve Cover Racing Official Rules

Brooks Schneider

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. A car is eliminated after losing 2 rounds.

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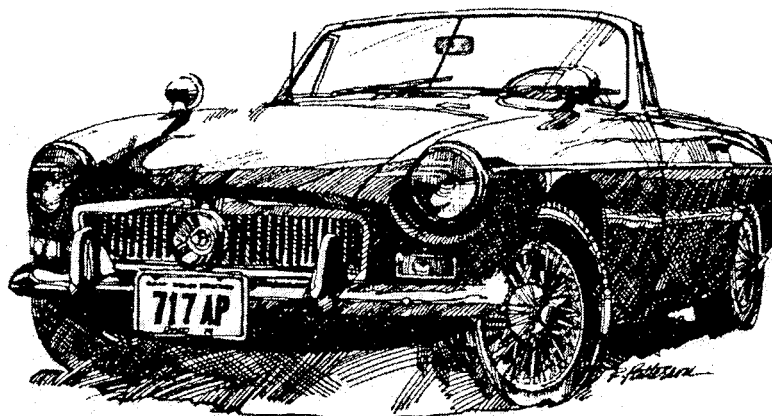
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WANTED: MGB in good driving condition; need not be perfect, but not a major project, either. Chrome-bumper roadster preferred but will consider all. Call Hollis Hames at 585-271-7754.

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WANTED: MG-T series parts—TA thru TF—any and all. Cash money paid. Please call George or Bev Haynes at 585-872-6536.

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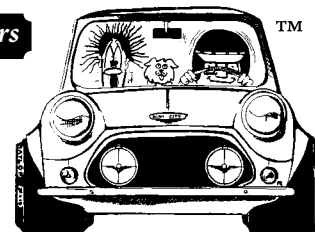
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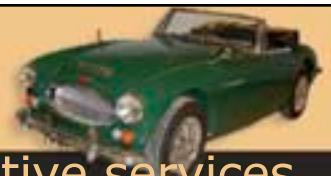
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Bury Me In An Old Mowog Parts Box

Jay Lockrow



Over the past two weeks I have been watching the new Ken Burns series on PBS called "The War." I saw an interview with Ken Burns shortly before this new series debuted and he mentioned he wanted to do this series before all the World War II veterans passed away. They are quickly disappearing at the rate of several hundred a day so time is of the essence. Take my own dad for an example (now gone 15 years). He was drafted in WWII at the age of about 35 with a wife and two children. He went into the Navy and served in the Mediterranean and Pacific theatres, among others, aboard the USS Delta AR9. The Delta was a repair ship that went with the fleet. To put it in layman's terms, a floating machine shop, and according to what my dad said these guys could make or fix just about anything. His most interesting experience (missed by Ken Burns) was his tour of duty aboard the Imperial Japanese Battleship Nagato in Tokyo harbor. This occurred just after the U.S. fleet went into Tokyo harbor shortly after the surrender. For twenty eight days he unscrewed everything possible and sent it home and if you have never seen my museum in the back hall you are missing a good deal of WWII.

But I digress; Ken Burns's series are most entertaining. I liked the one on the Civil War but got a little lost as it seemed to go on forever. I was also disappointed in the fact that I watched the whole thing and they never touched on the weaponry of the time. This is one of the reasons I watched it and it was a period of history where weaponry made some of its biggest technological advances such as the change from muzzle loading muskets to things like the Spencer carbine. Truly fascinating stuff and one quick mention of weaponry in the whole series. A whole series could be done on this alone.

I'm not much of a sports fan but enjoyed the one on Baseball but my favorite was the one on Jazz which I thought outstanding. Now if anyone knows this Ken Burns character do you think we could get him to do one on America's love affair with the automobile?

This has been touched on lightly off and on in the past but never a really good in depth look at what it is all about. There are so many facets of automobile lore that most people have never so much as heard of less seen. For example Vintage Racing! I mentioned I didn't want to miss the Vintage Races at the Glen to a gal one day while making an appointment and she had heard of Watkins Glen but had no idea whatsoever of what Vintage Racing was or what it was all about. I recall mentioning Formula One at work more than once when I was in the work force and you might as well have been talking about hair coloring. Ever try telling a NASCAR fan that stock car racing is really the "Johnny come lately" of auto racing? Most of the others were around long before stockers were thought of. Stock car racing got

its start with the rum runners cars out performing the revenue cars and then competing against themselves on old fairground tracks. Dirt track oval racing was around ages before this (Foremost, they were the guys that built the cars that out ran the revenue cars) and so was road racing in Europe but not so much on this side of the pond until after WWII.



Antique cars for example, mystify many people. Why would anyone want a car like that? Here would be the chance to show how and why someone is willing to spend countless hours and money on a car that is probably older than the owner. Preserving something from the brass era like a Pierce Arrow or Thomas Flyer is something the average citizen just does not understand. However look at it through the eyes of someone like us that appreciate this sort of thing and we don't understand why there isn't more interest.



Why is it there are millions of dollars spent at auto parts stores on accessories, polishes, oil, parts when you can just take a car to a garage? Why do some people covet these cars like family keeping them out of the rain and foul weather and enjoying them only in nice weather? I can see a series that could last the good part of a month and still not touch all the facets. Will somebody draft this guy and let's put it on opposite one of the countless sporting events that I have no interest in. ◀

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jim Davis
3	Chris Baum
4	Richard Coleman
4	Sean Seeley
6	Nancy Chase
7	Beverly Lockrow
10	Norman Wright
11	Georgean Abels
12	Dick Giambra
12	Becky Schaefer
15	Ann Coleman
17	Don Lovell
18	Keith Gaylo
18	Betty Langswager
19	Doug Avery
19	John Fowler
19	Hollis Hames
20	Mary Murray
21	John Murray
22	David Schantz
24	Robert Abels
27	Dezi Benet
28	Chris Sardone
28	Arnold Van Denburgh
29	John Forrester
31	Michael Barbera

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
EVERYONE!!**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Nicholas Zuck
2	Ginny Fowler
4	Gregg Gleba
4	Matt Handy
6	Dan Suter
6	Judy Knapp
7	Bill Greer
8	John McGrady, Jr.
9	Jeffery Langswager
9	Kay Orchard
11	Jim Dix
13	Lloyd Potter
14	Michael Mack
14	Paul Wheeler
15	Leon Zak
15	Joeanna DeBlaere
15	Bernadette Foster
16	Susan Potter
17	Margret Brorein
18	Mary Fitch
19	Sondra Franzen
20	Roger Gunther
21	Bernice Black
21	Cindy Jack
25	Bob Joslyn
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.
9	Carol Baker
10	Clay Bull
11	Douglas Jack
11	Barb Wild
12	Allen Hess
12	Sandra Barkley
13	Ned Paulsen
14	Fran Calkins
15	Michael Palermo
16	Ed Haefner
17	James Franzen
17	Cheryl Baldwin
21	Henry Kron
21	Gil Langswager
21	Sue Duffner
22	Stephanie Haynes
22	Scott Schipper
23	Bill Baldwin
25	Krystyna Todaro
27	Jeff Zorn

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
EVERYONE!!**

**JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

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

CONGRATULATIONS!!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	George & Mary Ann Shetterly
5	Barry & Robin Christ
12	John & Linda Spencer
16	Clay & Jean Bull
19	Mike & Sue Harrison
26	Dezi & Bill Benet
26	Brian & Kelly Fallon
27	Michael & Karna Palermo
28	Charles & Irene Searles
29	Phil & Gilda Parisi

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FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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19	Dennis & Mary Costich
20	Joseph & Paulette Schultz

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MG Car Club Western New York Centre, Inc.

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MG Car Club Western New York Centre Calendar of Events 2008

For the latest information visit our web site mgcarclub.com

January 3 Board Meeting 17 Meeting 13 Wine & Cheese, Valve Cover Races	February 10 Go Kart Races 21 Meeting	March 6 Board Meeting Steak Roast & Auction 20 Meeting Swing Into Spring	April 17 Meeting
May 1 Board Meeting Tune-up Clinic 15 Meeting / Carlisle 28 Stuffing Party	June 1 Vintage Auto Festival Autocross & Novice Sch. 13-15 Hildene Car Show 19 Meeting Multi-club meet, Canada	July 3 Board Meeting Autocross 2 17 Meeting 27 GVACS Car Show (RIT)	August Steak Roast and Rallye Autocross 3 21 Meeting
September 4 Board Meeting 5-7 Watkins Glen Autocross 4 18 Meeting 27 50th Anniv. Banquet	October Fall Foliage Tour Garage Tour 15 Meeting 25 Halloween Rallye	November 6 Board Meeting Yacht Club Brunch 20 Meeting — Elections	December 2007 8 Holiday Party No Meeting

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