

Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

Volume 49 No. 6

June 2007



Founded 1958

Tune Up Clinic at MCC



Meeting June 21st 7:30 PM
Burgundy Basin Inn
1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY

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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Eighth Page	3.6" x 2.3"	\$11.00	\$44.00

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BRUDNO AWARD LIFE MEMBERS

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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:

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

WELL HERE WE ARE AT THE START OF THE BUSY SUMMER months. A quick check of the events calendar and we have the Car Show on the 3rd, the Autocross and novice school on the 10th and the Multi Club Picnic on the 23rd. July brings us the Autocross 2 and the 1000 Island Weekend. And don't forget the local cruise nights. There's one every weekday within the Rochester area. A good place for listings is <http://www.holtononline.com/topsdown/carshows/cruise.html>

News on the Multi Club Picnic - it started with an email from the Toronto club asking about interest in a picnic. 6 clubs answered that they'd be interested in this. Well it slowly grew into a larger more complicated event. But, with emails from a few of the clubs (ours included) it was brought back to the original thought - a picnic. Bring your own picnic, bring your VALVE COVER for racing, and your skills for the Funkhana (directed by our own Funkhana experts - Betty & Gil). The cost is only \$5 payable when you arrive at the park. It would be real nice if we took home the Valve Cover Racing prize. It would definitely give us some bragging rights! So meet me at the K-Mart Plaza on Ridge Rd West - we'll leave at 8:00 am for a nice drive out to Queenston Heights Park just across the Rainbow Bridge. Either bring a picnic or buy food at the park services.

Speaking of rocks - I've got a couple available. The yard has dried up enough for me to get out there with the backhoe and not sink so I've been pushing, shoving and placing them in artistic formations which on occasion has brought forth "Why'd you pile them there?" I also found out that it is possible to snap a chain link rated at 3000 lbs fairly easily if you've got big rocks.

Rumor has it that I'm supposed to be able to start painting the walls in the back garage this weekend and it looks like one wall "Tool Box Red" is going to happen. I was thinking of doing all four walls that color but the idea made our illustrious editors face go into a contorted look emulating "Yuck!" The concrete floor is ready for doing whatever I'm going to do to it - I've not decided on what type of coating to put on it so I'd appreciate your opinions - email me or let me know when you see me next.

Phil Parisi will be moving away from us this summer. We thank him for all his involvement with the club over the years. It was appreciated by us all. Phil's latest role was that of running the Autocross so we need someone or a team to take that over. Phil has it all organized so this would be an easy job to take on. Give Brooks or anyone on the board a call or email.

That's it for now — go drive your car . . .

— V8 Mega Squirt

The Herald

Allen Hess

ON SATURDAY MAY 5TH ABOUT 3:30 PM I pulled the switch and 40 MPH on the speedometer jumped to 50 MPH! Pushed the switch in, 40 MPH! The newly rebuilt overdrive transmission was in the car and hooked up temporarily with jumper wires, a heater fan switch and the speedo cable going from the engine compartment over the windshield to the transmission.

It has gone back together smoothly (pretty much) too. I made a "saddle" for the floor jack to hold the transmission. This made a world of difference—not one swear word or scraped knuckle. It's nearly back together now, there was also a new water pump, hoses and battery, but now the heater water valve is leaking. It was leaking last year too, now that I look closely at the traces on the exhaust manifold. I've only had one short road test but I expect to still have time to polish and wax for the car show.

—TRIUMPH!



Activities

Brooks Schneider

THE MCC TECHNOLOGY CENTER WAS THE PLACE TO BE on May 12th, with a good turnout for the Spring Tune-Up Clinic. Thanks to George Haynes for organizing it again this year, as well as to the many experienced club members who were on hand to offer advice and assistance.

By the time you read this, the June 3rd Sports Car and Vintage Auto Festival will likely be in the history books, so there will be a lot to report on that huge undertaking in next month's Spokes. To the best of everyone's ability, every potential complication was addressed by the committee in advance. While I don't know the complete history, eating chicken during the weeks prior to the show has become connected with having good weather. Whether fact or superstition, there were probably hundreds of pounds of chicken consumed in May, so thanks for doing your part. Attending the Steak Roast on August 5th would be a suitable way to reward yourself, so hold that date.

There are a number of dates to mark on you calendars for June. Autocross 1 (and novice school) will be held on June 10th at MCC. The Triumph gathering, organized by Doug and Cindy Jack, will be taking place the weekend of June 16th and 17th, and the multi-club British car event will be

held on June 23rd. Details of all of these events can be found in this issue.

As those who attended the May meeting are aware, Phil Parisi is unable to continue organizing the autocrosses, beginning immediately. We have a need to fill this role, both on a short-term basis and longer term. If you enjoy having these events, we need your help. All arrangements have been made with MCC for 2007 and Phil has a notebook of information on how they're run. Thanks for all of your years of work with these events and other activities, Phil.

July will feature Autocross 2, the 1000 Islands weekend, and the GVACS show at RIT, along with numerous cruise nights and car shows. Please pass along details of any upcoming events you think may be of interest to club members.

There are still plenty of opportunities for additional activities in 2007. Please give us a call with your suggestions. We are also still looking for volunteers to organize the Halloween Rallye in October.

—Mini 850

2007 Autocross Series

Sunday! Sundaay! Sundaaay!

June 10 Novice School

July 8

August 12

September 16

Course and Technical Inspection 9:30 – 10:15 AM

First car off at 10:30 AM



Monroe Community College
Park in Parking lot M-1, Course on lot G
(the big one!)

Members \$10, Non members \$20

FUN!!! Rain or Shine PRIZES!!

Novice Instructors and Tech Inspectors Needed
A new Autocross director needed Urgently

MGCC Minutes of the Meeting

Marlene Rzepkowski

May 17, 2007

Call to order-7:34 PM

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

New members and guests- Aldis and Janet Lemisis returning club members.

Treasurer Report- Report given by Joe DeBlaere in Joeanna's absence. All accounts are doing well. Specific details can be obtained from Joeanna DeBlaere, our treasurer. Leon Zak passed around a certificate of recognition from Mercy Flight acknowledging our recent donation. He suggested that if the car show does well the board will consider another donation to this organization later on this year.

Membership- Renewals are still coming in along with new memberships. Updated membership and road side assistance lists will be available at the next meeting.

Librarian- No report.

SPOKES- Articles for the next issue are due next Thursday, May 24, 2007. Cards, letters, photos, and articles pertaining to the club are always needed. Gary Sandusky broke his ankle and as a result more people are needed to take photos at the car show and submit them to SPOKES.

Regalia- Different styles of clothing are now available as well as hats and fire extinguishers.

England- No report.

Trustee Report- No report.

Activities- As usual Brooks opened his report with a funny story. A review of past events was given. See the Activities Report in SPOKES for a detailed list of future events. There is a need for organizers for the Halloween Ralleye and the Autocross events. See Brooks if you are able to help out with these events. Dave Wild reported that help is still needed for some of the events at the Zippo Watkins Glen Race Weekend in September and to see him if you want to volunteer.

Car Show- Dick Powers reported that things are moving ahead on final arrangements for the car show. They have resolved some of the parking issues from last year and a shuttle service has been added from some of the lots to the show field. A race car class has been added to the list

of judged classes. Judges have been called, vendor spots filled, publicity is underway, and the programs are finished. Every advertiser will receive a program and a dash plaque as well as the sponsors receiving a thank you plaque for their support. Everything is well under way for the show but additional help for the day of the show and the Saturday work day is needed. The stuffing party will be at Dave and Barb Wild's house on Wednesday, May 30, at 7 pm. After car show party will again be held at Chris and Eileen Williams house.

Web Site- Leon Zak asks that if there is anything questionable noticed on the website to please notify him.

Vice Chair- Dan Suter reported that the MGCC 50th Anniversary Celebration planning committee is making progress on plans for this event. Funds have been secured to purchase regalia and a final decision on the banquet facility is forthcoming.

Old Business- Jim Priestley asked for a report on the status of the Bill Glanville Memorial trophy that was approved by the club. A full report will be given in the near future. Leon Zak reminded those present that there will be a picnic dinner at the MGCC August meeting. Thanks to being subsidized by MGCC funds the cost to members will be \$5 a person.

Miscellaneous Comments- Due to a prior commitment Phil Parisi needs someone to help run the autocross on June 10. Also, Phil will be moving to Florida and as a result someone is needed to run the rest of the autocross events for this year. Please see Brooks if you want to volunteer.

Cars and Parts-

For Sale:

MG Midget-\$5000, contact Mike Harrison for details.
Parts washer, engine hoist, and MGB- contact Phil Parisi.
TR3a- contact George Leopard.

Door Prizes – Awarded

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 8:30 PM.

—MG TF

Attendance

May 17, 2007

Betty Langswager
Leon Zak
Steve Sangster
Pat Sangster
Gene Faust
Anne Faust
Dick Giambra
Valerie Zoltner
John Zoltner
Lyn Smith
Georgian Abels
Bob Abels
Carl Prouty
Roger Gunther
Dan Goodwin
Beverly Swarts
Barb Wild
Dave Wild
Cheryl Baldwin
Bill Baldwin
Vivienne Rizzo
Tim Rizzo
Wes Pittenger

Sue Pittenger
Chuck Swarts
George Herschell
Nancy Herschell
Cindy Jack
Douglas Jack
Allen Hess
Brian Fallon
Laurie Scribner
Doug Scribner
John Thompson
Clay Bull
Mabel Case
Marlene Rzepkowski
Joe DeBlaere
Mike Harrison
Sue Harrison
Dave Asmuth
Chris Baum
John Baum
Sean Seeley
Jessica Seeley
Dan Suter

Tim Paul
Sam Paul
Sue Keppler
Gayle Schneider
Brooks Schneider
Don McConnell
Joe Cameron
Allyn Wagner
John Murray
Jim Priestley
Tim Henderson
Dick Powers
Aldis Lemesis
Janet Lemesis
George Leopard
Mary Murray
Gene Dinkel
Al Fink
W. Brorein
Phil Parisi
Hollis Hames

50th Anniversary Regalia

The design of the new logo for our club's 50th Anniversary Regalia was presented at the April meeting. It is an octagonal design in dark green and gold done for the club by George Herschell.

A number of regalia items commemorating the 50th Anniversary will be available. A grille badge and matching lapel pin were announced at the April meeting. Before production of the badge and pin begins, the committee requested that a commitment be made for the badge, by signing up ahead of time and placing a \$10 deposit for the badge. We will begin accepting deposits at the June club meeting.

For members only, the badge will sell for \$20.00 and the pin will sell for \$3.00.

We are planning to have the badges available in the fall.

Bob Tescione

For the 50th Anniversary Committee



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Triumph Register of America 2007 Update

The days are getting longer, the sun warmer, beautiful flowers are dotting the landscape . . . it must be almost time for the local cruise nights and car shows to start up.

ON THURSDAY JUNE 14TH, THE TRIUMPH REGISTER OF AMERICA will hold its yearly show in Geneva New York with headquarters at the Ramada Inn. To date 32 cars are registered but we expect about twice that number when all the registrations are in. Beginning at 8:30 in the morning and continuing until early afternoon, the parking lot at the Ramada will be a hubbub of activity with owners and judges alike overseeing the program. About 75% of the entrants participate in the Participants Choice part of the show with the other 25% undergoing a complete judging by a panel of judges. Owners pay a registration fee which includes four days of activities. There is no charge to the general public. We look forward to seeing you there.

JUNE 12-17, 2007 ALL TRIUMPH MODELS WELCOME.
Watkins Glen Track & Lunch ♦ Winery Tour & Picnic ♦
Corning Glass Museum ♦ Driving Tours ♦ Banquet & Auction ♦
For Registration information call Cindy Jack (585) 248-3872
and the web at www.triumphregister.com





The 1st Annual Multi-Club Picnic will be at the Queenston Heights Park (Queenston, Ontario, just near Niagara Falls) on June 23. The event starts at 10:00am and runs until 4:00pm.

It will feature lots of activities including:
VALVE COVER RACING, FUNKHANA AND PICNICKING.

This event is aimed only at sports car enthusiasts and guests. It is not being promoted as an event for spectators. This is your opportunity to meet new friends from all over the Great Lakes area with a love for our cars. There are 6 clubs involved. Our club is handling the Funkhana.

Bring your own picnic, bring your VALVE COVER for racing, and your skills for the Funkhana (directed by our own Funkhana experts - Betty & Gil). The cost is only \$5 payable when you arrive at the park. It would be real nice if we took home the Valve Cover Racing prize. It would definitely give us some bragging rights! So meet me at the K-Mart Plaza on Ridge Rd. West 7:00 AM and we'll leave at 7:30 AM for a nice drive out Route 104 to Queenston Heights Park just across the Rainbow Bridge. Either bring a picnic or buy food at the park services.

There is a web page at <http://www.mgcarclub.com/multiclubpicnic> where you can signup. Map, directions and info at the meeting.

—Leon



Tune-Up Clinic?

An Editorial by George Haynes

On Saturday, May 12, the MG Car club held another of its Spring Tune-Up Clinics at Monroe Community College. Although we had a reasonable turn-out, there should have been twice as many. There was a time when we had to scurry to be finished by the announced 4:00 PM closing time; occasionally we stayed later. A great variety of mechanical and electrical tasks have been undertaken in the past. No one has had to tow their car home from one of our Tune-Up Clinics.

More recently, this event has been rather poorly attended, and I don't understand why. We have the use of a modern new shop facility with several lifts. We have several very experienced "Instructor/Advisors" on hand to coach and assist anyone through a challenging task. It seems to me

that this venue, and the expertise available, would make a very desirable club event, so why am I not swamped with attendees? Why wouldn't more members like to change their fluids or check their brakes or install a new exhaust system, or any number of tasks?

Pleased to report, Tune-Up Clinics are not going away. As long as MCC is willing to host these events at their facility, and half a dozen members show up, I'll gladly be the coordinator. Perhaps I'm not promoting the event enough. Perhaps more and more members are choosing to pay others to do the work on their MG's and Triumphs. I don't have the answers and would be happy to discuss this subject at greater length. So, what's it gonna take?



Frank Stepanik changed fluids and worked on hydraulic clutch



George Haynes helps Al Costich with tuning



Doug Rivers of MCC learns about SUs from Al and John



Al Costich's latest MGB and Doug Rivers



Brooks and Roger Gunther discuss MGAs



Hollis Hames admires Roger's MGA



Jeff Kath checks things out while the oil drains



Gil Langswager helps Charlie Swarts with his TR4



Leon assures Al Fink that he won't get a face full of oil



Doug and Leon . . . you know that circlip for the brake cylinder?

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.



For more information call Brooks or Gayle 225-5251

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

Annual MG Car Club

Steak Roast and Rallye Sunday August 5, 2007

1:00 PM

Rallye preceding the Steak Roast with details to follow.

Rush Fire Department Pavilion

Rt. 251 at Rt. 15A in Rush

Cost - Steak \$7.00 Hot Dog \$1.00

Please bring a dish to pass.

Please bring your own table service and drinks.

Advance sign-up is required so we know how much to buy. Sign up at the June or July meeting or send a check payable

to "MG Car Club" to: Brooks Schneider
463 Drumcliff Way
Rochester, NY 14612

Any questions, please contact us at 225-5251, or by E-mail at bjsbrooks@aol.com

Sebring 2007 Once More at 64, Part II

The Rest of the Story by Dick Powers

In last month's Spokes I tried to give you a feeling of the Fun and Frustrations I had at Sebring this year. Without a doubt, even with all the trouble I had with my MGA, this was a great time to race at Sebring since we were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of MGA's racing there and because all my MG Vintage Racing friends were there too. Great MGA history, great cars, great fun and great folks to race with, that's Sebring 2007 for me

Well, no man or car is an island (to paraphrase a line) and that saying rang very true about 5 short days before my MGA left Webster for points South. As I remember, it was about the coldest few days of the year and Bob Tescione let me borrow his heater. That was a convection unit that did a good job, but with temps about 5 above we were still cold and getting the motor back in the car alone would be bad enough even if it was 40 outside.

Fortunately for me and 222, a group of very talented hands showed up a few days before I had to leave. George Haynes, John Thompson, John MacDonald, Gil Langswager and Bob Tescione arrived early on a cold Wednesday to help get things back together. John Thompson even brought his 20,000 BTU Salamander heater. That warmed things up fast!


With all that experience in the warm garage things moved along quickly and by late afternoon the motor was



mated to the trans and new clutch parts, radiator back in and carbs, intake and exhaust manifold back on. At times folks were over, under, around and in the car all at the same time. Given how late my engine builder got the motor to me, I would have never had things back together in time to load 222 on the truck.

Thanks guys, I am forever in your debt for all your help and hard work to get me ready for Sebring.

Now you know the rest of the story. No man or car is an island, especially if you race an MG. ◀



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10th Annual Bugs in the Garden Volkswagen Show and Shine

Saturday July 14th from 9AM–3PM
Rose Garden Restaurant and Grove
2753 Wehrle Drive, Clarence, (near
Buffalo) New York

Registration is free, vendors are free, and parking is free.
The only thing to pay for is the German/American food and
beverages at the Rose Garden.

Sponsored by the Volkswagen Association of Western New
York, this is a friendly gathering of Volkswagen and other
German car enthusiasts- not a judged show. All are welcome
regardless of year, type, cooling or condition. Bring your resto,
custom, project, bus, bug, GTI, whatever. Brand new cars are as
welcome as classics.

*If similar car clubs would like to join us for the day please
contact us and we'll reserve a section of the grove
for you and yours.*

For further information contact
Ray Ball: rayzor30@adelphia.net

Genesee Valley Antique Car Society 47th Annual Show

Sunday July 29, 2007
Rain or Shine 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Rochester Institute of Technology
Jefferson Road
Henrietta, New York

*Registration forms at the MGCC
meeting. Pre-registration deadline
July 18th.*

More information:
Gerd Herrmann 624-1071
www.gvacs.com

The MG Car Club of Central New York invites you to



EUROCAR 2007



Featuring European Motorcars and Motorcycles
Sunday, June 17, 2007 9 AM to 3 PM
Lorenzo State Park, Routes 13 & 20 Cazenovia, NY

Judging begins at Noon sharp, Awards at 3 PM

Tops up, hoods & trunks open for judging

Dash plaque and goody bag to the first 150 entries, door prizes for entrants
Bring the family! Music-food-face painting-vendors, Spectator admission is free

A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to the
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of CNY in memory of Phil DiMatteo

Presented in cooperation with NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

For More Information and Registration Forms

[Http://www.mgcarclub.com/cny](http://www.mgcarclub.com/cny)

Or Call (315) 342-3234

★ CANNONBALL ★

House & Car Tour

at the *Yates Farmstead*
in Wyoming, New York



The chance to meet authors **Pamela and Brock Yates**, tour their historic home, and view a world class automobile collection will occur when “The Farmstead,” one of the most impressive estates in Upstate New York, is opened to the public.

Mrs. Yates will offer personal tours through the elegant home while sharing its fascinating history. Then stroll the gardens overlooking the Wyoming valley while sipping a glass of wine and enjoying live music. Or partake of a brew in the carriage

house while admiring Brock's collection of race cars and hear about his experiences as creator of *The Cannonball Run* race and movie and as longtime editor of *Car & Driver* magazine. It promises to be a day to remember.



June 9, 2007 ★ 3 pm to 7 pm

\$25 per person, \$20 for ACWC members
includes live music and refreshments

Tickets and information available from:

The Arts Council for Wyoming County
(585) 237-3517 info@artswyco.org www.artswyco.org



TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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Ten Years Ago June 1997

Wally Roworth

The Cover: "Best of Show" 1955 MGTF 1500 owned by John Walker.

EDITORS Note by Cindy Capaccio, who mentioned the loss of Steve Fitch but there were three new babies last month. Victor Car Show with all the anxiety over the new field, but it worked out and everyone had a great time. It's a great pleasure to work with such a Great bunch of people. They really make it happen.

FROM THE CHAIR by Phil Parisi In May I insured my "B" Now to register it. He then talked of the Geneva PBA \$500.00 to largest participating club. Let's do it! See you on the road. (May, 2007 Meeting - last Thursday He told the gang that he's moving to Florida. Good Bye Phil, you'll be missed.)

MINUTES-JUNE, By Dan Suter: A quorum at 7:44 PM May Minutes accepted as written. Jim Priestley reported for Matt Ribis May and June activity continue in good order. Suzanne Glanville did the Activities: New England Mountain Adventure with George Herschell and Victor Car Show. Then Sodus Bay Gourmet, Buffalo NAMGBR and the Autocross II at MCC. Then Streak Roast, visit Walter Millers Shop in Syracuse. Geneva, RIT Car shows and Watkins Glen Vintage Races. Vince Capaccio, as editor thought it would be a good thing if we wrote up our small day trips or larger activities. It's always interesting! Phil reported the show for Tom Sergeant. 944 Total and 744 on field. Despite conditions and weather we did fairly well. Same place for next years Show. Some progress on the Money Market Account. Meeting called at 8:43 PM.

CARLISLE By Wendy Priestley. Lots of car parts in a mile long flea market. Fun cars all over, there's a dream car for everyone for sale at Carlisle. MG Ladies produced a batch of cookies for the occasion. If you like to travel in REAL sports car fashion Take Rt. 34 off of 15 to Carlisle.

June Meeting night is ending up in a Photographers Photo Nite. Prizes for Most car photos, Largest photo, Favorite car photo and the ugliest one. Jim also told of the July Meeting, Chrome Plating night. How it is done, where to have it done, a video will show us the process. Show Chrome is 3 layers - Copper, nickel and chrome. We are always looking for Good platers.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO by Mr Gil. It started out with Bob and Ruth, Philip and Betty and me and several others took the trip to the Grand Prix at Monaco. A two week itinerary. We flew to New York and on to Brussels. A guide with a bus took us to Liege and Spa Francorchamps. Picturesque road course on a rolling country side something like Watkins Glen.

We wandered through the paddock and vantage points. Six of us finally settled in just beyond the start/finish line. Bob and I went for "hot dogs". He got some really hot sauce

and burned his mouth and to top it off he turned his ankle (Hurts on both ends). The races were exciting and it was good competition. It's a dangerous course requiring driver's skills. Native son Jackie Ikyx was the favorite, of course. Betty' favorite too. She chased him across the paddock, elbowing her way right up to him and got his signature. Of course he gave her that smile that she said made her melt She just floated away on her cloud. After the races our bus made its way back over the narrow roads. Those drivers are crazy! Passed on hills, forced other drivers off the road, cut in and out, drive extremely fast, and I thought Rochester drivers were bad. (Present company excepted). Sightseeing included a guided tour of the "Bishop's Palace" (Courthouse, now). Our guide was the Chief of Police.

The days between Spa and Monaco were open for touring. We rented a VW Bus. Going to Nice we went by way of Rhine River, through Luxembourg, the Autobahn a short stretch. 85 kph was the maximum kilometers for the load and it was probably governed. We stopped at Chitachel a small castle on the Rhine across the river to a small town in the Black Forest. Then over the Swiss Alps into Southern France and on down to Nice. Turned the bus in and went to our hotel. We hadn't been registered. So we walked around and found a place to stay. The next day a 20 minute train trip to Monaco. Lots of umbrellas, boxes and such. We located under the royal palace and watched the practice day events on the Hairpin turn, a magnificent turn. It rained all day and we watched a slower, more cautious but exciting Grand Prix Race at Monaco. We flew back to Brussels at an elevated altitude due to some military maneuvers. My worst flight ever. When we got to the airport for our flight to New York there were police with sub-machine guns. Everybody and their luggage were searched. Dick Powers had bought some crystal which he carefully packed. That too was inspected and left for Dick to repack. The travel agent problems were resolved — we now had our memories for a lifetime.

ON COLLECTING By Chris Williams. Conning my way through the downtown "esses" on 490 I caught myself setting up for turns, seeking the apex of my lane in each and rolling in the power as I started through, driving to the outside of my lane as I did so. Mostly an unconscious action.

Each car is different and requires planning in different areas: so there are no "intrusions" like Gear ratios which are too far apart and cause the engine to be out of the power band on downshifting or upshifting. Numbness of sloppy steering causing wander and road steer. Worn front end parts particularly worn bushings-culprits. Brakes need to be firm and strong-No ripple or shudder. In a crisis they must haul me down straight and in a hurry. Good shocks

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Ten Years Ago continued:

are essential and gas shocks are the better at absorbing road shock or even acceleration on curves. Lastly, even if the car is right the driver's "head" has to be right as well. This seems to come primarily from familiarity born of recent experience. I found that even my old daily driver, now that I've replaced the worn steering drag link which was causing the numbness in the center, can set me to thinking my way through turns. I would like to think that some day the time will come when I will actually be more "tuned" on a regular basis to one of the collection than to my daily driver. I suspect that this has to wait until retirement—but there are worse goals. Until then I intend to "Keep practicing until I get it right" Regularly.

AUTOCROSS By George Haynes: George mentioned the new facilities at MCC and their host Tom Fitch providing every tool and gadget possible. 26 participants benefitted from this great experience. Our personal advisors Al Costich, John Forrester, Gil Langswager, Dave Wild, John MacDonald, Jim Priestley and Bill Glanville utilized their knowledge and expertise to keep the day humming. Tom Fitch was constantly circulating and providing help. Everyone cleaned up after themselves and it was really appreciated.

The following day was the First Autocross of the season. Mr Autocross, Steve Fitch, and I planned it all winter and it was to be the debut of Steve's 1972 MG Midget. It was also our first attempt at a drivers school for more inexperienced drivers. Steve wasn't with us to drive his new Midget and help with his new school but he has been providing Autocross with good weather for years. Thank you Steve. Event Cochairman Wally Roworth has summarized the events elsewhere in this issue of SPOKES. It was gratifying to see some of our experienced drivers improve and we learned about handling and conducting our next school. I am especially thankful for those who ensuring the success of this event. In no particular order John Forrester, Phil Parisi (who seemed pained without his own MGB) Doug Scribner, Dave Palermo, Guest Instructor Greg Wright, Ted Hershey, Al Wagner, Nick Manuele, Bill Glanville and those I'm overlooking. Special thanks to Wally and Dorrie for planning, organizing and keeping the scores straight. And I must not forget Steve Fitch, for loving input and inspiration to all of us. This one was for you, my friend. A chart reflected the improvements from the school we did have.

BURY ME IN AN OLD MOWOG PARTS BOX By Jay Lockrow. In this rendition he covered what was happening in the lubricant and oil historical camp in the value of oil cans, bottles, pump globes and such. He went into globes from \$300 to several thousands of dollars. An OILZUM sign in perfect condition was \$10,000, Old Black Joe cup grease \$300. We went to Dunkirk on a rainy muddy day and it was pretty slim on information. Some memorabilia

from \$5 for headlight tins to signs \$1,200 to \$1,500 and a MOBILE Pegasus at \$1,000. Oddly enough I have read that sports car collectibles are still very inexpensive. The racing memorabilia, badges, programs and related items still have not caught on like the NASCAR and oval track items. Keep the items you have and incidentally I would like to receive a box with MOWOG printed on its side.

The Auto Festival Results were printed by class and winners. (Two pages) A page of pictures over much of the show was presented. A page of 1997 Calendar Events and '97 PBA Geneva Summerfest were written up.

I hope you had a good Memorial Day ☞.

Selections from Ten Years Ago May 1997 which arrived too late for the May issue.

WORD FROM THE CHAIR Phil Parisi. Last night finished carpeting and door seals on his "B". Set the seats back in and placed panels—Oh Man! My goal is the first Autocross in May. Keep your eyes open for a Mineral Blue '69 MGB it might be me with that great big smile from ear to ear.

MAY, JUNE MEETING NIGHTS Jim Priestley. May 15 is **CAR PAINT TOUCH-UP DEMO**. Stone chips and small nicks ruining the looks of your paint job? Dave Palermo will be giving a demonstration on how to repair small paint problems. It is really quite simple and your car will love you. June 19th is **CAR PHOTO NIGHT** Pictures wanted. And lookers too.

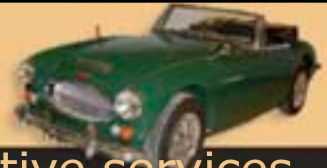
MINUTES MGCC MEETING May 20 Dan Suter Meeting called at 7:33 PM, 77 members and 8 guests and new members. Sue Glanville, Activities. April/May- Ancaster, Ontario, Niagara-on-the-lake, Penn Yans Funcana with other events. Tune-up clinic, Williamson fly-in breakfast, May Autocross and Victor Auto and Antique Show. Future events June 30th Gourmet Event at Connelly's Cove on Sodus Bay, Aug. 24th trip to Walter Miller's Syracuse Auto shop, July 27 Geneva and RIT car shows, and Watkins Glen Vintage races Sept. 5-7. Scott Perry working on Web Page for MGCC. Tom Sergeant gave the Car Show report. John Manuele provided field update. Stuffing party at Wild's. Vendor area looks good to Lane Boughton.

BURY ME IN AN OLD MOWOG PARTS BOX By Jay Lockrow He wrote about the names of cars and if it is a him or her or something in between, an unusual thing is that his 14 year old TR-6 has never gotten a name.

MG's CHOP & ALE HOUSE By Bob Welch. I was in Birmingham, England. I had spoken to Pres. Bill Wallis of the MG Car Club and when I saw him I suggested dinner. I let him select the location. He selected the MG's Chop House and the evening was really enjoyable. You had to watch out for things like SU HS-4 carburetors hanging from the ceiling near the bar. This was on a lower floor and the walls were loaded with MG parts. He mentioned things about R T Horton Ronnie had raced Magnettes in the 30's. Now he owns half of Birmingham. A very nice guy. ☞

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WANTED: 1972 ('69 - '74½) MGB front left fender. Need not be perfect, but better than what I have. Red preferred ☺. Call Laurie 872-5133.

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: Pre 1985 *Automobile Quarterlies*, 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@frontiernet.net or (585) 889-5280.

FOR SALE: 1976 MG Midget. Blue, new top and carpeting. No Rust. \$5,000.00 Call Mike or Sue (315) 483-0368

FOR SALE: 1951 MG-TD. A complete car with solid body but incorrect instruments and bumpers. Owner has given up on this project after working on it in early 1970's. Asking \$3,500, but offers welcomed. Call Frank Burtzell at 334-2673.

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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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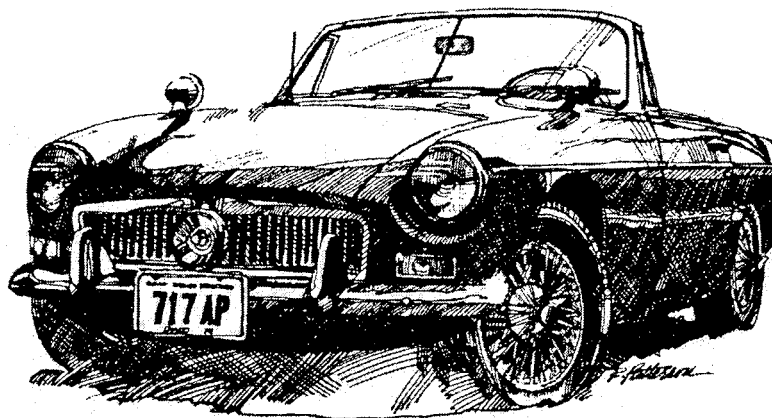
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Bury Me In An Old Mowog Parts Box

Jay Lockrow



One of the bigger fans of MOWOG has requested that I do a story on the Grand Island Grand Prix. I believe I covered this a few years ago when they had the bicentennial but I have gathered a lot of information over the years so I can do a much better job now.

The Grand Island Grand Prix was part of a 1952 Centennial celebration and was supposed to become an annual event. Like many Sports Car Races of that era it just never happened. It was an interesting race and in all reality the SCCA the sanctioning body, along with the Red Jacket Motor Club, was lucky not to be named in a law suit. I don't believe I ever heard if there were any legal proceedings but I don't think there were. I will do my best to bring the whole experience back but you must remember when the race was run I had just turned the ripe old age of thirteen so that's a few years ago.

Unlike Grand Island Nebraska, Grand Island New York is an actual island. In fact it is the largest fresh water island in the world so it takes up a few acres. It is completely surrounded by the Niagara River and is the Western most end of New York State. If you go any further West you are in Canada which is a good reason many of the entries for this event were from Canada.

The course was laid out along the Eastern side of the island, why it was not on the Western side where there was a four lane limited access parkway I will never know. I would have been much safer and probably faster.

The start and finish was on Whitehaven Road and shortly past the pits there was a ninety degree right hander. This was East River Road and the fastest portion of the track. Whitehaven Road was straight but bumpy in spots with a dip about two thirds of the way down the straight over Spicer Creek. From East River Road there was another easy right hand turn onto Harvey Road and a fairly steep upgrade with a ninety degree right hand turn in the road and back to Whitehaven with another ninety degree right. It was basically a triangle with one of the sharp angles lopped off and a total distance of 3.7 miles.

The course used public roads which had to be closed for racing. This being the case there was only one practice

session from six to eight PM on Friday evening for all competitors. The four races planned for Saturday were the ten lap Niagara Frontier Trophy event for novices, (no driver's school in those days.) two ten lap qualifying races for sports cars under and over 1500cc. The feature race was to be a two hour Centennial Grand Prix for all cars that qualified from the shorter races. In those days they ran "sports cars" and were classed by engine size and ran with lights, fenders,



Tom Hoan driving an MG TC and class winner

self-starter, windscreen, doors and a minimum of two seats. There was also an unrestricted class which was a catchall for everything else like Bugatti single seaters, old grand prix cars etc. There were none of these at Grand Island.

There were however over seventy entries and roughly twenty of these were TC and TD M.G.s including several MkII models, one TC I can remember was fitted with a Ford V8-60 engine. There were several Jaguar XK120 Jaguars, four Allards, including the cream colored one now owned by Gary Dryer, two Ferraris, probably the first I ever saw, Morris, Singer, Ford Riley, Porsche, Frazer Nash, Lea Francis, Bandini, Austins, Siata one of which was driven by Walt Hansgen who later raced at Indianapolis and other more famous venues.

The first qualifying race for cars under 1500cc was red flagged just as the leaders completed their second lap. The Porsche mentioned was attempting to pass the M.G. TC run by Tommy Hoan (this car is also owned by Gary Dryer) when he hit the dip at Spicer Creek and became airborne and rolled eleven times. He went over several spectators and landed on a spectator's car demolishing the Porsche. To this day I can remember seeing the remains of that car being brought back to the pits. I don't believe there was a panel on it that was salvageable. (see picture) The driver broke an arm and leg and another spectator was slightly injured. After about a two

hour delay the race was restarted and was won by Tommy Hoan. The second qualifying race was run but shortened to eight laps and was won by Bill Spear.

Before the feature there was a drivers meeting and the race shortened to one hour from two. Also for safety reasons there was a no passing zone over Spicer Creek.

Bill Spear won the Grand Prix in his Ferrari America beating out Jim Kimberly by about thirty feet. The two Ferraris lapped all of the other cars and ran twenty laps. Tommy Hoan won his class and completed eighteen laps. I can recall looking over that car in the pits after the race and noting the now famous oil cooled rear brakes the TC was famous for. The right rear seal had let loose and the right rear wheel was totally coated in oil.



The Porsche, Grand Island Grand Prix 1952

It was a beastly hot day as I recall and we went to a friend's house on the river for an hour or so before trying to come home. The bridge (only one in those days) was backed up for about two hours. All and all a good event but the accident that fall at Watkins Glen put an end to racing on Public roads. ◀



Jim Kimberly leading Bill Spear, both in Ferraris

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Madeline Moodie
 2 Annabelle Tescione
 6 Latty Goodwin
 10 Janet Lemesis
 11 Charlotte Wright
 12 Ben Barlow
 13 Rosemarie Stepanik
 14 Ellen Baxter
 15 Julia Daykin
 23 Carl Prouty
 24 John Baum
 25 Bob Austin
 25 Eileen Williams
 26 Gene Dinkel
 27 Tony Makepeace
 28 George Shetterly, II
 30 David Asmuth
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 30 Valerie Zoltner

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 2 Leroy & Harriette Hokenson
 5 John & Mary Murray
 7 John & Margaret Cook
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 13 Jeffrey & Susan Kath
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Other hobbies, etc. _____

Occupation _____ E-mail address _____

Available for Roadside Help? No ☐ Yes ☐ Days ☐ Evenings ☐ Nights ☐ Weekends ☐

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

Jim Priestley
3326 County Road 40
Bloomfield, NY 14469

MG Car Club Western New York Centre Calendar of Events 2007

For the latest information visit our web site mgcarclub.com

January 4 Board Meeting 18 Meeting 20 Wine & Cheese, Valve Cover Races	February 11 Go Kart Races 15 Meeting	March 1 Board Meeting 4 Steak Roast & Auction 15 Meeting 25 Swing Into Spring	April 19 Meeting
May 3 Board Meeting 12 Tune-up Clinic 17 Meeting / Carlisle 30 Stuffing Party	June 3 Vintage Auto Festival 10 Autocross & Novice Sch. 9-10 Hildene Car Show 21 Meeting 23 Multi-club meet, Canada	July 5 Board Meeting 8 Autocross 2 19 Meeting 20-22 1000 Islands Weekend 29 GVACS Car Show (RIT)	August 5 Steak Roast and Rallye 12 Autocross 3 16 Meeting
September 6 Board Meeting 7-9 Watkins Glen 16 Autocross 4 21 Meeting	October 7 Fall Foliage Tour 14 Garage Tour 18 Meeting 27 Halloween Rallye	November 1 Board Meeting — Yacht Club Brunch 15 Meeting — Elections	December 8 Holiday Party No Meeting

Spokes

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