

# Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

Volume 49 No. 9

September 2007



## "Summertime"

Meeting September 20th 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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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:

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

Fall is around the corner—the weekend at the Glen is next weekend. For the past few years I've taken that as my signal that the end of summer is just about here. I've noticed that fall is not something everyone appreciates - Doug, our "x number of days till Spring" guy never gives us a "x days till fall" report, he just skips right over it. But the signs are there - the Glen weekend, Autocross 4, rumors of a garage tour (which if I didn't give big enough hints - I'M READY!, I have garages now), there's already been planning going on for the holiday party and I start thinking about how I need to drive the MG more. Oh, we had the August meeting and picnic. Which by the way, from what I can tell, with or without the picnic, August is our largest attendance month.

The picnic was a HUGE success (been watching too many car sales commercials). I mean HUUUGGE-UH. Let me wander a little - just think, some years from now someone will say "Remember that Hyundai we had- that was a great little car." Yikes - that will make your antifreeze leak. Anyway - back to the picnic (is it still a picnic if it's indoors?) - Brooks and I talked the day before and thought "we think we'll get 75, but let's go 80 in case we're off a bit". I told Burgundy 80. We blew it. We had 106 people at the picnic! That's great. And the people at the Burgundy Basin Inn did a great job. They called me about 4:00pm and said it was raining crazy there. I looked outside and the trees tops were bent pretty good by the wind. So, we opted for inside. Bummer. By the time I got to the meeting it was a beautiful evening. Even though we were off in our attendance prediction by 25% the Inn served us all including Ginny(?) and her husband whom didn't believe the rule about the people that eat at the head table have to be on the board in some fashion the next year. (Think that will work?)

On a more business note - our meetings are officially our business meetings. That's where we do the business things needed for the club excluding what goes on at those wild board meetings. Well, they are more exciting than school board meetings. Well, no they're not, but ... OK. Their not.

Anyway - our club runs pretty smoothly 99% of the time but there are occasions where issues come up and our monthly meeting is the place for most of them. My policy for of my terms as Chairman, and I would hope it would mirror others when they have the position, is that the clubs information is COMPLETELY OPEN to ANY member. Your board meets every odd month of the year, usually the first Thursday of the month - if not it is always available by e-mailing anyone on the board - and that would be a better place for in-depth discussions on the details of the clubs runnings. That doesn't mean any subject cannot be discussed or would not be discussed but that out of consideration for the families that brought their children and those wanting to attend a picnic, that maybe some other time (like a board meeting) would be a more appropriate time.

— V8

## The Herald

Allen Hess

I think the Western New York Centre has had a very good and busy summer! As summer now begins to wind down, I thought the collage of MGCC events was just right for the September cover.

It's also time to think about 2008 calendar photos. Fiftieth Anniversary themed pictures are encouraged. Take them, find them, send them in.

At the GVACS car show, Elaine found this snapshot in the flea market. On the back it is labled "MG taken at Watkins Glen". The windshield has something the size and shape of a bumper sticker on it. So here is another puzzler for you—can anyone tell us more?

—TRIUMPH!



**2008 MGCC Board  
Elections in November  
Volunteer!  
Nominations at the  
October Meeting**

# Activities

Brooks Schneider

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Summer is winding down, but the activities are still coming.

August 5th was the annual Steak Roast and Rallye at the Rush Firemen's Field. Twelve cars took part in the rallye/poker run created by Henry and Sue Kron (11 sports cars and a Pontiac Vibe - rumor has it the Vibe made a wrong turn into the Rush Firemen's Field lot while looking for Wegmans). Everyone made it back under power and all arrived the same day, so it was a great success. Thanks Henry and Sue for all of your effort in putting it together. There were 64 people at the steak roast, with our well-experienced chefs, John Baum and Leon Zak, demonstrating their culinary skills once again, not to mention bringing both the grill and the steaks. Thanks John and Leon.

August 12th was Autocross 3, with Mike Goodwin serving as the course designer and event organizer. The event came off without a hitch, with the participation about average. Congratulations, Mike. Special thanks to Bill Rampe as well, for hauling the equipment trailer both to and from MCC.

As always, we are looking forward to the annual gathering at Watkins Glen for the Vintage Race weekend on Sept. 7th - 9th. If you are there, remember to stop in for

the annual pizza party at the Seneca Lodge log cabin on Saturday evening.

The final Autocross of the season is scheduled for Sept. 16th, but we need someone to organize it if we are going to pull it off. Unfortunately, the date conflicts with a number of other popular activities, so many of our folks are unavailable. Please let us know if you can help.

We have a number of activities coming up in October. The Fall Foliage Tour is Oct. 7th, the Garage Tour is Oct. 14th, and the Halloween Rallye is Oct. 27th. Details of these events are elsewhere in this issue. Additional stops are needed for the Garage Tour, which is being planned for the general area north-east of the city.

For those who like to plan ahead, hold these dates: Nov. 11th - Brunch at the Rochester Yacht Club; Dec. 8 - Holiday Party.

Just a reminder - This year is the end of the 2-year term for the board, including activities directors. It has been a fun job and has been a great opportunity to get to know a lot of people in the club and for the club to get to know us. If it looks interesting to you, please let anyone on the board know. If we can do it, anybody can.

—MGA

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## ***Betty Langswager sends this humorous story from a Canadian paper—***

My ex-husband had this annoying habit of bringing greasy old carburetors and things into the house to work on. So, last week, when my friend called to tell me this story, my first response was "Where did this guy live?"

Now reassured that I was never related to him by marriage, this really is too hilarious not to share.

The way my friend told it, this guy pushed his motorcycle from the patio into his living room, where he began to clean the engine with some rags and a bowl of gasoline. When he finished, he sat on the motorcycle and decided to start it to make sure everything was still OK. Unfortunately, the bike started in gear and crashed through the glass patio door with him still clinging to the handlebars.

His wife had been working in the kitchen. She came running at the noise and found him crumpled on the patio, badly cut from the shards of broken glass. She called 911. and the paramedics transported the guy to the emergency room.

So far, the story is humorous — in "that is what you get for being a big enough lout to bring your motorcycle into the house" kind of way.

But here is where I really split a gut.

Later that afternoon, after many stitches had pulled her husband back together, the wife brought him home and put him to bed. She cleaned up the mess in the living room. and

dumped the bowl of gasoline in the toilet.

Shortly thereafter, her husband woke up, lit a cigarette, and went into the bathroom. He sat down and tossed the cigarette into the toilet, which promptly exploded because the wife had not flushed the gasoline away. The explosion blew the man through the bathroom door.

The wife heard the explosion and her husband's screams. She ran into the hall and found him lying on the floor with his Trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks. The wife again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance.

The same two paramedics were dispatched to the scene. They loaded the husband on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. One of them asked the wife how the injury had occurred. When she told them, they began laughing so hard that they dropped the stretcher, and broke the guy's collarbone. Talk about instant karma.

## **Pizza Party**

*Saturday September 8th around 6 PM*

*Seneca Lodge Log Cabin*

*Watkins Glen, New York*

*Vintage Race Weekend*



# MGCC Minutes of the Meeting

Marlene Rzepkowski

August 16, 2007

Picnic Dinner Served

Call to order-7:40 PM

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

**New members and guests-** New members: John and Ginny-own a Mercedes SL600.

Visiting members: John and Shirley Forrester

**Treasurer Report-** Joanna DeBlaere reported that all accounts are doing well. Leon Zak gave a comprehensive report on the club's finances using a visual presentation so that those in attendance could see where the club stood at this time. There was a period of questions and discussion following this report. Specific details of this report can be obtained from Joanna DeBlaere, our treasurer or Leon Zak, our chairman.

**Membership-** Memberships are still coming in as reported by Jim Priestley.

**Librarian-** Al Costich reported that money is still available to purchase new VHS tapes and suggestions for those to be purchased are always welcomed.

**SPOKES-** Articles for the next issue are due next Thursday, August 23, 2007. Articles and photos of recent events that have been held are needed. Photos and theme ideas are needed for the 2008, 50th Anniversary Calendar.

**Regalia-** No regalia this month due to the picnic but lots of items will be ready for the next meeting.

**England-** George Herschell read a letter that he sent to the MGCC in England, representing his ideas and concerns as a member of the MGCC of Western NY and its involvement with the parent organization. Contact George Herschell for details of this letter.

**Trustee Report-** Bob Tescione reminded everyone that orders are still being taken for 50th Anniversary badges (\$20/badge) and pins (\$3/pin) with a deposit of \$10 per badge ordered. These orders should be delivered starting at the October MGCC meeting.

Bob also stated that he will be setting up a badge display at the research center in Watkins Glen and it can be seen during the Zippo Vintage Race weekend.

**Activities-** Brooks was back and started his report off with a joke. A review of past events was given. See the Activities Report in SPOKES for a detailed list of future events. Mike and Susan Goodwin are organizing the Halloween Rallye but still need volunteers to help with this event.

Dave Wild reported on the events being held at the Zippo Watkins Glen Race Weekend in September. Many events are already filled so get your applications in now.

**Car Show-** Dick Powers reported that finances from the car show are still being sorted out. There was improvement over last year and he is hopeful that the check from the pro-

ceeds of the show will be ready by next month.

**Web Site-** Gary Sandusky needs photos from at least the last three club events and they can be sent to [photos@mgccar-club.com](mailto:photos@mgccar-club.com).

**Vice Chair-** Dan Suter reported that the MGCC 50th Anniversary committee did not meet this month but there will be more updates on this event in the next few months.

## Old Business-

Leon Zak read a letter from Mercy Flight thanking us for our recent additional donation.

In response to a previous suggestion for charitable donations, Leon identified the Medical Motor service as a place that needs car seats and will continue to investigate this as a possibility for a donation.

A discussion was held on our charitable gift giving procedures and the possibility of establishing an informal Charitable Gifts Committee. Leon Zak noted that suggestions for other areas where charitable donations can be made are still needed. Preferably it would be to agencies that deal with some form of automobile/transportation related needs. Ideas can be given to any board member. Other areas suggested for some sort of funding were: West Irondequoit Tech Program (tools were stolen), our 2008 MGCC 50th Anniversary Celebration, and the 50th Anniversary in 2009 of our MGCC involvement with races at Watkins Glen.

Al Costich noted that at one time the MGCC owned a bus for use by the club.



Watkins Glen Express, 1962

**New Business-** No Report.

**Cars and Parts-** For Sale:

MGBGT-cross flow head, overdrive, \$10,000. See Dave Chase for details

1959 MGA Coupe-\$12,500. See Dave Chase for details

1980 VW Beetle from Mexico -\$2000, contact Joe DeBlaere.

Wire Wheel Midget- 14 A near Penn Yan; contact Dick Powers for more info.

**Door Prizes -** Awarded

**Motion to adjourn and seconded at 9:14 PM.**

— MG TF

## Attendance

August 16, 2007

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Gil Langswager	Joe DeBlaere
Betty Langswager	Peter Pegoni
Jeff Langswager	Dave Engdahl
Dave Asmuth	Valerie Zoltner
Sue Harrison	John Zoltner
Mike Harrison	Beverly Swarts
Kelly Fallon	Charles Swarts
Brian Fallon	Don McConnell
Steve Sangster	Linda McConnell
Pat Sangster	Brooks Schneider
Leon Zak	Alicia Schneider
Rhonda Rizzo	Gayle Schneider
Tim Rizzo	Elaine Hess
George Herschell	Allen Hess
Nancy Herschell	Jim Davis
Harriette Hokenson	Allyn Wagner
Mabel Case	Phyllis Wagner
John Thompson	Susan Krobusek
Ellen Baxter	Bruce Krobusek
Carl Baxter	Carl Prouty
Linda Fazio	Dick Powers
Joe Fazio	Gary Sandusky
Tom LeStrange	Kathleen Greer
Mary LeStrange	Bill Greer
Ned Paulsen	Laurie Scribner
Alan Costich	Doug Scribner
Chris Baum	Beverly Mack
John Baum	Michael Mack
Sean Seeley	Mary Murray
Jessica Seeley	John Murray
Liam Seeley	Dawn Priestley
Sarah Seeley	Jim Priestley
Joeanna DeBlaere	Susan Kath
Leroy Hokenson	Jeff Kath
Steve Stewart	Dick Rzepkowski
Linda Stewart	Marlene Rzepkowski
Susan Goodwin	Tony Makepeace
Michael Goodwin	Eileen Makepeace
Barb Fink	Beth Sardone
Al Fink	Chris Sardone
Dan Suter	Suzanne Glanville
Shirley Forrester	Julia Daykin
John Forrester	Dave Wild
Frank Stepanik	Barb Wild
Gene Faust	David Leete
Anne Faust	Bess Kopen
George Leopard	Joan Fowler
Gene Dinkel	Jack Fowler
Bob Tescione	
George Haynes	
Dave Chase	

## A Reply from the UK

George Herschell

---

George,

Apologies for the delay in replying I have been on holiday and working hard this week to hit the next mag deadline.

Thank you for your kind comments on the new look of Safety Fast! I have been in contact with Mike Hawke, he actually popped in to the office the other day. Mike has very kindly offered to come to the office once a month to look through all of the overseas publications that we receive and write a page or two for Safety Fast on the goings on around the world. This will be a regular feature appearing monthly in the magazine. I have also been in contact with a few of the editors of various magazines to see if we would be possible to re-publish their articles in SF! from time to time.

I think publicising American MG Events within Safety Fast is a good idea, this time of year (coming to the end of our Summer) the calendar does look rather thin I guess you have still got a lot of events to come over the following months until our season gets going again in February. I shall have to go through the various websites and make notes for the rolling calendar. Also if you have any press releases on events please feel free to e-mail them across and I'll try to make space for them in the news page

If you need to contact anyone at Kimber House please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the new General Manager Richard Jones. Richard is also keen to establish a relationship with our overseas members and affiliated Clubs.

Thank you for the offer of sending Spokes. Please send it to Andy Knott, The MG Car Club.

Best Regards

Andy Knott  
Editor Safety Fast!

### 2008 MGCC Board Elections

It's time - Fall is the time for our elections. September is the month we start getting ready for our elections. Your current board has been in place for two years and it's our time to move on and make way for YOU! Please let anyone on the board know (addresses and phone number on the inside cover) that you're ready to step up. What experience does it take - heck - I'm convinced because I was in the club less than a year when I was Chairman the first time that the criteria for being on the board was "breathing and being able to spell MG". So if you would like to know more - call or email a board member and we'll be glad to explain what each job entails. There is NO better way to get to know the other members than this.



# 1000 Islands Weekend

Brooks Schneider

What could go wrong? Friday, July 20th we woke to a rainy day, with the temperature stuck in the low 50's, a strong north wind, and a flock of LBC's heading our way. "Don't worry, the forecast says it will get better." Let's double-check the reservations. "What do you mean you don't know anything about a reservation for 20 people tonight?"

Despite numerous potential problems, the weekend turned out great. We had exceptional weather on Saturday and Sunday, more than enough food for the Saturday picnic (way more than enough), and everyone seemed to find plenty to do to keep entertained throughout the weekend. It's not every day that a backyard at Clear Lake is the parking area for MGB's, a Midget, a TD, an MGA, a TR4, a Wolesely, and a Volvo P1800, so our impromptu car show attracted a fair bit of attention. We wound up with almost nobody falling in the lake (just one) and first aid was required only once, so things were pretty tame by summer picnic standards.

The St. Lawrence river was cooperative on Sunday, so breakfast in the floating restaurant and the subsequent tour boat ride were both comfortable. We witnessed some club members joining many others rushing to the railings to see what the tour guide said we were crossing. Once they were all straining to see, he mentioned it was the US/Canada border. If anyone took a picture, we'd be curious to see what color they painted that line on the bottom of the river.

We had a lot of fun sharing the area and are looking forward to future return trips. ◀



*View at the motel — Saturday is Gorgeous!*



*Ziprrrz Racing CEO and CFO dreaming about a new acquisition*



*Perfect day for a picnic*



*Croquet champion Tom LeStrange*



*Our wonderful hosts, Brooks, Dusty, Gayle and Alicia Schneider*



# A Two Castle Weekend

Betty Langswager

Gil & I toured two castles in one weekend at Alexandria Bay. The first castle is a little known castle called “Singer Castle” that just opened to the public in 2003. I had read about it and wanted to go exploring. It was a most beautiful day for a boat ride. Got our tickets, up on the top deck and we were on our way. We talked John & Mabel Thompson into going with us. It’s always fun to have someone to go with on these excursions.

In 1902 Frederick Gilbert Bourne, fourth president of Singer Sewing Machine Company, purchased a six acre granite island in the St. Lawrence River called Dark Island. He commissioned noted architect Ernest Flagg to create a “Hunting Lodge” on the island.

In the summer of 1905 he took his family out to visit the new retreat. It was an architectural marvel with granite walls, turrets, a dungeon, 28 rooms with hidden grates for watching people, lots of secret passageways and an elaborate clock tower that was five stories above the St. Lawrence River.

We all managed to climb up all the stairways to the fourth floor. It has always been a private residence until it was opened to the public in 2003. Many of the furnishings are original to the castle.

If you’d like to be King & Queen for a day or a weekend you can stay in the royal suite. You’d be served catered dinners and breakfasts. You’d be treated like royalty and have the run of the castle during your stay. I’ve got the phone number, do we have any takers? Sounds like fun. It’s only \$700.00 a night – mere change!

The next day we toured Boldt Castle. Beautifully restored first floor and second floor balcony. A long way to go for it to be finished, but what has been restored is absolutely a beautiful masterpiece.

Two perfect days for castle touring! ◀



*The landing at Boldt Castle*



*Jim Priestley angling as Jeff and Susan return from paddling*



*Jeff Kath disembarks from the paddle boat (someone had to do it!)*



*A vintage 1000 Islands tour boat*



*Jim Priestley narrowly escapes Jeff’s fate*

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A “Heluva Good” Fall Foliage Car Tour is Coming !

Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Meet at Earthtones Coffee House

1217 Bay Rd. near Empire Blvd.

9:00 Depart on Tour

11:00 Leg Stretch

1:00 Lunch

Cost: \$15 per person

**Please send checks no later than Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> to:**

Tim & Rhonda Rizzo

245 Blackwalnut Dr.

Rochester, N.Y. 14615



# 2007 Bonneville Speed Week

George Haynes, photographs by Jeff Kath

Regular readers of Spokes may have seen my notice for MGCC members who wanted to drive to Speed Week at the Bonneville Salt Flats in August. Quite a few expressed interest but only three of us actually made the trip. Because the “group” was so small, we chose to fly and rent a car, rather than drive the entire distance.



So it was that Jeff Kath, Tom LeStrange and I left Sunday morning, August 12, for Salt Lake City and Speed Week. Not much to report about the flight westward except that Jet Blue misplaced Jeff's bag and he had to mooch some toiletries from the hotel and purchase a shirt and some BVD's. His bag was delivered to our hotel in Wendover about midnight the following evening. We rented a Pontiac Vibe, a small SUV that was plenty large enough for us and got over 30 mpg. Much to his credit, and our gratitude, Tom thought to bring a portable cooler, big enough for ice and a dozen bottles of various drinks. Tired from the flight and looking forward to an early start on Monday, we dined at our hotel in Salt Lake City and retired early.



Despite the hot temperatures (90-105) we had heard that the salt was soft in places and that turned out to be so. After driving the paved road into the Speedway, there

was a large puddle to ford before getting to firm salt. This meant that all but trailered vehicles were covered with white salt, especially the fenderless street rods. Think off-roading in the mud, but white instead of brown. Because of the salt's condition, the race tracks were moved from previous locations to firmer and flatter surfaces.

It was obvious to me that Speed Week has grown a lot since I was there in 2001; nearly doubled, it seemed. Where there had been two straights, for speeds under and over 175 MPH, now there were two of each. I heard that the organizers, the Southern California Timing Association, had considered a fifth lane for cars and bikes going slower than 100 MPH, but there apparently wasn't enough good salt to permit this.

There also seemed to be a lot more motorcycles this year. Perhaps the movie, “The World's Fastest Indian”, influenced the turn-out of bikes. Of interest was an old “Wizzer” motorized bicycle that set a record in its class of something like 38 MPH, delighting the crew and a small crowd of fans.



Examining the record book later, I found an entry for B. Munroe, who had set a record of 183.586 MPH in 1967 with an Indian motorcycle. This prompted me to look for other records held by Indian motorcycles. There were a few, but none that fast, so it's still true that Burt's is, The World's Fastest Indian!

British cars were few. One Sunbeam Alpine, and a very extended Berkeley, running an injected Chevy small block engine to something over 200 MPH.

A Fiat X1/9 with a chopped top was running a 1100cc motorcycle engine for it's first season, just to get the bugs out. The owner said it handled badly at speed but would be corrected and return next year with a blown 2000cc motorcycle engine.

At the start lines, it was possible to mingle with and





chat with everyone waiting their turn. Each was anxious to talk about their results and problems. One guy said they usually run over 300 MPH but managed only 216 in second gear the last time; he hoped to get into third this try. No two vehicles were the same, from 50cc bikes to huge streamliners running on fuel. Two Hydrogen-powered streamliners with crews of college students drew a lot of interest, but were disappointing in that they made no noise as they raced away from the start with their electric motors. The diesel-powered trucks were more impressive, with lots of noise and black smoke all the way down the track. The 16-cylinder, 4-turbocharger Freightliner had gone 228 MPH in the past. We spoke to a guy racing a tiny Honda 600cc sedan. He and a Crosley sedan were battling for honors - at well under 100 MPH. There's something for everyone.



There were a bunch of street rods, or Rat Rods as many are known. Aptly named, they often had no fenders, no paint, no upholstery and no side window glass. Humor and ingenuity were present everywhere from the cars to the T-shirts. A Model A roadster/sedan and its small trailer had plates saying "STUPD CR" and "STUPD TR". These cars are built to drive and enjoy, not polish and show. Most of the street rods we see in Rochester would never consider driving on the salt. ◀



# *Garage Tour*

*Sunday, October 14th*

I am organizing the Garage Tour for Sunday, October 14th, and could use your help in identifying people willing to show their workshop and or collection during the tour. The plan is to focus on the North East quadrant - Rochester to Ontario/Williamson, South to Rt. 441. The tour will end with a (late?) lunch at my shop and showroom in Ontario, near Rt. 104. Please Help!! George Leopard – 585-746-1848.

## **Save the date! Saturday, October 27th (evening) Halloween Road Rallye and Party**

**Prizes for best costumes, best rallye scores, etc.  
Graveyard fun! Pranks! Goblins! Trolls! Vampires! Who knows?  
Lots of scares and a few giggles**

**We'll start at the Chili K-Mart; ending spot not yet nailed down (like a coffin lid).**

**Details under development by Mike & Susan Goodwin.  
More information and signup sheet at  
the September meeting.**

**Call with any questions and offers  
to help! (889-2646)**



**See you there !**



# August Rallye & Steak Roast

Rallye by Sue and Henry Kron

Steaks by Zak and Baum



*Rallye line up*

—Henry Kron



*Joan and Paul Heaney*

—Henry Kron



*Marlene and Dick Rzepkowski*

—Henry Kron



*Dawn and Jim Priestley*

—Henry Kron



*Steaks are ready!*

—Henry Kron



*And the rallye winners are . . .*

—Allen Hess



*Rallye organizers Sue and Henry Kron*

—Allen Hess

## MG (S)Miles & A Visit From Some Really Nice People Part LXXIII (73)

George Herschell

Over the almost 50 years of our affliction commonly known as MG Ownership we've come across some really wonderful people and last week was no exception. For some time now I've been a "member" of the BBE web site which is a sort of chat room for MGB owners. I've come to know a lot of these people by name and photos but have met very few in person. There are a few that regularly attend the British Invasion at Stowe in September, and a few also who attend the Hildene show in June. But other than that most of the contact is via e-mail and the web site.

One of the couples I have come to know through the site is Janel Demick and her husband Chuck from outside of St Louis. Last year they just finished the restoration of a '66 MGB. Of course the talk all during that restoration process was about her car and what color and what to do here and there. We all followed the story from beginning to end. The car was purchased and brought to their home on a trailer in boxes and got the name at the time of a B in a box. We all followed the complete story of that restoration and the car was finally finished and was done in a light gray, with a red interior, top and carpets. The only thing Janel didn't get for the car was the wide white walls she had hoped for, but they did put in an overdrive gearbox. The photos of the car finished were really nice and they did a great job restoring that car. The work was done by Janel, Chuck and a friend who has a shop. They took the car to Gatlinburg last year for the MGB Registers national meet and drove it on the Tail of the Dragon. ("318 curves in 11 miles") The attached photo shows Janel driving and Chuck "hanging on for dear life." As we all kidded her.



This year (a few months ago) the talk about John Twists Summer Picnic arose and Janel and Chuck decided they would like to go. They also decided that they would like to do an extended tour after that event. As the route plans were progressing some of our friends from Canada convinced

them they should "pop over" to Canada and spend a few days there. From there they decided that they would like to see Niagara Falls. When that came up I suggested that they should either drop in on us or we would drive up there to see them. Janel was interested in the Finger Lakes region so the decision was made for them to visit here.

When they left home in St Louis they were traveling with two other couples all in MG B's. They stopped for breakfast and while in the restaurant someone came in and asked who was driving the MG. They asked "what color" The fellow said "gray" and Janel said "that's my car." He then told her had backed into it and wrinkled the front drivers side fender. He was driving an SUV and said that he never saw the car. He did say that he would take care of all the damages and that he was very sorry for the accident. The damage was not serious enough so the car was not drivable but it didn't look as nice as it did when it left their home. It did get a bandage and the word "ouch" on the dent.



They went on to Twists (and did get to meet Gil and Betty) and from there went up into Canada.

They left Niagara Falls on Tuesday morning and after about an hour hold up at the Queenston Bridge were on their way. I had been in contact with them and gave them a route I thought would be nice and they followed it and were very pleased. Chuck is a fisherman and was lusting over the views of Lake Ontario on his left as they drove the Ontario Parkway. I told them to call me on the cell phone when they got to Hamlin Beach Park and we would meet them at the Stutson Street Plaza. As luck would have it we pulled in at almost the exact same time. From there I led them through Durand Eastman Park, over to Route 104 and then down Bay Road to Lake Road and to our house. They loved the roads and were impressed with the beautiful scenery along Lake Road. We had a really nice dinner that night and talked about the route they would take from our house. Her original idea was



to try to get to Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall Of Fame. (They are AVID St Louis baseball fans) But still wanting to see Watkins Glen and the wineries they decided to skip the hall of fame on this trip.

On Wednesday afternoon after a bit of driving and sightseeing in our area (including a trip to Casa Larga) we sadly said our goodbyes and they headed for the Finger Lakes areas. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit with them and it only solidifies my thinking that MG people are the nicest folks you can meet. At about 4:30 that day I got a call from Janel asking me if I knew anyone in the Geneva area that could fix a flat tire on a wire wheel. I called my friend Dan at Geneva Foreign and Sports and asked them if they could do it. His answer was no but there was a shop very near by that could. I got the phone number and called Janel back. About a half hour later she called me and thanked me and told me they just squeaked into the shop before closing and got the tire repaired and it only cost them \$14.00. She said it would have been a lot more than that in St Louis.

They did get to Watkins Glen the next day and met another BBE member who was taking his daughter back to college in Ithaca. She did get to drive the new track for three laps behind a pace car and I still haven't had the whole story from them on how she did that. She did tell me that she got lost trying to find her way around the old course and I think

she didn't bear right after the RR underpass but went straight instead.

Their next stop was Corning and from there they drove to Cleveland on Saturday. Sunday morning they left Cleveland and drove home to St Louis. Nine hours of expressway driving got them home safe and sound. Their total mileage was 2500 miles (in 12 days) and other than the ding in the fender and the flat tire (picked up a drywall nail) they had no problems.

We had a short but great time with them but look forward to seeing them again. They are a great fun couple and wonderful MG friends. But then again aren't most MG people. Below are some photos taken while they were here. ◀



Janel and Chuck Demick in their 1966 MGB

—George Herschell

# 2007 Autocross Series

*Sunday! Sundaay! Sundaay!*

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



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# Autocross III Results August 12, 2007

Wally Roworth

*"Squashed Silverstone" by Mike Goodwin*

CLASS	BEST	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
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## MGB

Mike Goodwin	2:06.72	2:09.47	2:08.75	2:06.72
Allen Hess	2:01.40	2:04.15	2:01.40	2:02.15

## Under 2 Liter Prepared

Julia Daykin	2:01.66	2:04.40	2:02.06	2:01.66
Russell Daykin	2:06.78	2:09.32	2:08.72	2:06.78
Steve Stewart	1:53.78	2:03.72	1:56.21	1:53.78

## Over 2 Liter Stock

Bill Bethune	2:15.66	2:06.93	2:18.56	2:15.66
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## Mini

Elaine Hess	2:06.75	2:06.93	2:66.23ccc	2:06.75
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## Modified

Will Arlo	1:44.93	2:06.13c	1:65.72c	1:44.93
Wm Barkley	1:45.19	1:45.19	1:48.20cc	- - -
Matt Handy	1:53.94	1:53.94	1:72.38c	1:54.91
Bill Arlow	2:04.35	2:01.53	2:13.12	2:01.53
Dan Wimer	2:16.59	oc	2:36.25	2:16.59

## Overall Times

First	Will Arlo	Kart	1:44.93
Second	William Barkley	FM racer	1:45.19
Third	Steve Stewart	'02 Miata	1:53.78
Fourth	Matt Handy	Lotus Kit	1:53.94
Fifth	Allen Hess	'71 MGB	2:01.40
Sixth	Julia Daykin	'72 MG Midget	2:01.66
Seventh	Bill Arlo	Kart	2:04.35
Eighth	Mike Goodwin	'78 MGB	2:06.72
Ninth	Elaine Hess	'05 Mini S	2:06.75
Tenth	Russell Daykin	'72 MG Midget	2:06.78
Eleventh	Bill Bethune	Corvette	2:15.66
Twelvth	Dan Wimer	Kart	2:16.59



Mike Goodwin



Julia Daykin



Steve Stewart



Bill Bethune



William Barkley



Matt Handy



Elaine Hess

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**1971 Porsche 911T Targa** – Very nice driver, could be show. Dark gold/black. Rare Mahle wheels and sport seats

**1972 Porsche 911T** – Older white repaint in good shape, 93K original, 10K on engine, new brakes, webers. original pan.

**1991 Audi Avant 20V Turbo Quattro** – 300 HP, 5-speed AWD station wagon – the first of the S spec Audis –very rare. 114K, original paint. Refined driving, excitement on tap. Has some needs, being addressed – my car for 10 years

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# I Found It!

Alan Costich

---



The wiring harness in my '71 MGB let all the smoke out last week. I pulled the dash out and started tracing the melted wires.



I found where I think the problem is. It somehow shorted to ground behind the wiper motor and burned a hole in the base of the wiper motor mounting bracket.

Now the fun begins.

## Automobile Electrical Theory or A Treatise on the Importance of Smoke

Joseph Lucas

---

Positive ground depends on proper circuit functioning, which is the transmission of negative ions by retention of the visible spectral manifestation known as "smoke". Smoke is the thing that makes electrical circuits work. We know this to be true because every time one lets the smoke out of an electrical circuit, it stops working. This can be verified repeatedly through empirical testing. For example, if one places a copper bar across the terminals of a battery, prodigious quantities of smoke are liberated and the battery shortly ceases to function. In addition, if one observes smoke escaping from an electrical component such as a Lucas voltage regulator, it will also be observed that the component no longer functions. The logic is elementary and inescapable!

The function of the wiring harness is to conduct the smoke from one device to another. When the wiring springs a leak and lets all the smoke out of the system, nothing works afterward.

Starter motors were considered unsuitable for British motorcycles for some time largely because they consumed large quantities of smoke, requiring very unsightly large wires.

It has been reported that Lucas electrical components are possibly more prone to electrical leakage than their Bosch, Japanese or American counterparts. Experts point out that this is because Lucas is British, and all things British leak. British engines leak oil, British shock absorbers, hydraulic forks and disk brake systems leak fluid, British tires leak air and British Intelligence leaks national defense secrets. Therefore, it follows that British electrical systems must leak smoke.

Once again, the logic is clear and inescapable.

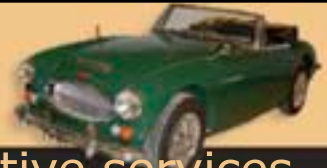
In conclusion, the basic concept of transmission of electrical energy in the form of smoke provides a logical explanation of the mysteries of electrical components - especially British units manufactured by Joseph Lucas, Ltd.

"A gentleman does not motor about after dark." Joseph Lucas (1842 - 1903)

*The preceeding article comes from somewhere far away on the Internet, courtesy of George Herschell.*

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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.

**WANTED:** MG-TC parts—any and all. Cash money paid. Please call George or Bev Haynes at 585-872-6536.



**FOR SALE:** 1969 MGB. Mineral Blue. Ten year old restoration, recently new clutch, radiator, tires, wire wheels & hubs, dash, leather seats including foam. The car is a driver with a dependable, strong engine. I've logged about 10,000 miles since the restoration so there are a few dings etc., but from 30 feet she's still a looker. I have several photos so if you want to see more, e-mail me; pparisimg@hotmail.com and I'll send them to you. \$6950 OBO. Contact owner Phil Parisi (585) 764-0445

**FOR SALE:** 1983 VW Beetle, from Mexico, VGC, no rust, runs & looks good. Green. Asking \$1950 Call Bill Wheeler 585-278-4047

**FOR SALE:** 1960 Nash Metropolitan, red over white, body VGC, no rust, recent paint VGC, interior VGC, engine needs overhaul. Asking \$2500. Call Roger Baker 315-986-2242

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Triumph Spitfire. Green with tan interior. Completely restored five years ago; few carefully-driven miles since. A nice trouble-free car. Call Bill Rampe at 585-671-6519 or 585-330-1661 (cell) for more details.

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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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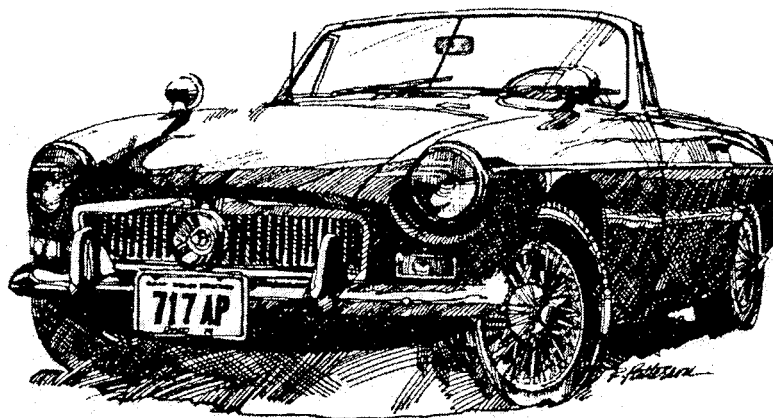
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# Bury Me In An Old Mowog Parts Box

Jay Lockrow



About a year ago I was working on the TC and had the front water inlet off the cylinder head while working on the radiator. When it came time to put things back together I discovered that the gasket was no longer useable. I looked in my parts department where I have tons of gaskets but this one eluded me and I was out of sheet gasket material. I hopped into the car and went down to the one of the local auto parts stores and went up to the counter. I asked for some sheet gasket material. "We don't carry sheet gasket material. What is the car we probably have the gasket?" "I gave him the information and the look is exactly what I expected from one of the late 70s or early 80s generation." If it isn't Ford, GM or Chrysler they don't know. You might get a break on a Honda or Toyota but a 1949 MG TC was a total mystery to this character. After trying two or three other Auto Parts stores I did manage to find some sheet stock and was able to complete the job. I have always had sheet gasket material around for emergencies like this and now it is beginning to be hard to find.

Earlier this spring I went into Sears and went to both the bicycle and auto departments and asked for a tyre pump. They didn't know what I was talking about. So I gave them some sign language and "You know a tyre pump" flailing my hands up and down in a pumping motion. "Oh" said one of the characters. "We haven't had those for years, go to a gas station and pay a quarter and pump up your tyres." Leaving with that piece of priceless information I went to Bert's Bikes (where I should have gone in the first place) and found a tyre pump. I can remember when these came with a car but you don't want to know what I had to pay for one. My old one of course had given up and I had no idea where to get a new leather washer for it. Eventually I rummaged around in my workshop and came up with an ancient eyeglass case. Cut a washer to size and back in business. I should have done that first but at least both pumps work now.

About two years ago the same scenario played out yet again. I was working on my 1938 Elto outboard motor which is a very simple and straightforward machine. The spark plug that came out was old, cracked and had seem much better days. Once again off to the auto parts store. Now this, I believe, is the same plug used on a Model A Ford. I took the old one with me and of course they asked me... "What is it from?" "1938 Elto outboard motor!" Once again I received one of those precious looks of total incomprehension. This does get to be fun at times but sometimes all you want is the part so you can go finish the job. This time he made a phone call and sent me nearby and I was able to get the correct sparkplug.

Fast forward to a few weeks ago I was cleaning the gutters with my leaf blower that has one of those candy cane shaped attachments. I was on a stepladder cleaning one of those

awkward valleys where twigs, leaves etc. collect. Handy me, I dropped the blower so down off the ladder to fetch it. It was still running but now smoking as something was rubbing inside. I put it on the bench in the garage and finished what I was doing. Later I took it in the basement to that operating room and disassembled the thing. It is all plastic and the head where the blower and motor are located in two halves. There must be at least a dozen screws holding the thing together along with little clips and springs. On disassembly I found what I would call a bearing carrier made of plastic that had a leg broken off. Disassembled the motor to get the part out and off to the hardware parts dept where I purchased the thing. Back and forth with the gal in the parts department (she really was pretty good) with model numbers etc. only to find that you can't buy that part you have to buy the whole motor. "I might as well buy a new one" I told her. I checked the prices on a new one before I left and decided before I bought a new one I would take a chance at fixing the old one.

Back to the operating room and cleaned up the plastic bearing carrier best that I could. Out came the epoxy and fifteen minutes later had it stuck back together. Let it sit for a few hours while we had dinner and went back. Assembled the thing, dozen screws and all plus little clips springs etc. and then the big test. I plugged it in and was back in business. The whole point of this column this month is "Why can't you buy the things you need?" In the case of the leaf blower I'm sure most people would have just purchased a new one. The gasket material I would have thought would have been a stock item and same with spark plugs. The problem arises when things change but people like us do not. But dammit I'm not going to join the throwaway society. One time I was with my dad and he needed fender welting for his TC. We stopped at an auto parts store and I told him I think you are wasting your time. I had given it a little thought and the last American car to use fender welting would have been about 1947. He asked anyway and the guy had no idea what he was asking for. He said "Must be a dealer item sir!" We did get some mail order from somewhere but you have to look for things. Sometimes a hardware store or auto parts store that has been there since the pilgrims landed might have NOS or new old stock items. In the meantime keep the epoxy, gasket material and the soldering iron handy by gosh, you might be able to save it yet. ◀

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2 Vivienne Rizzo  
 5 George Leopard  
 5 Gary Newman  
 7 Irving Black  
 7 Daniel Goodwin  
 7 Michael Goodwin  
 7 Leon Todaro  
 12 Richard Shineman  
 13 Gayle Gibson  
 13 Nancy Herschell  
 14 Irene Searles  
 15 Kathleen Greer  
 16 John Borycki  
 17 Susan Avery  
 19 Linda Fazio  
 20 Wendy Miller  
 23 David Avery  
 23 Gayle Schneider  
 25 Allyn Wagner  
 25 Jessica Seeley  
 27 Lia Glanville  
 27 Christine Rodman  
 28 Rhonda Rizzo  
 29 Beverly Mack  
 30 Joseph Cameron III

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS****John & Ginny Fowler**

6672 Ann Lee Drive  
 North Rose, NY 14516  
 315-483-8150  
 1955 MG TF 1500  
 1957 AUSTIN HEALEY  
 1962 TRIUMPH TR4

**Will & Karen Salisbury**

PO Box 37  
 Clayton, NY13624  
 315-686-0015  
 1959 MGA  
 1973 MG MIDGET

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Paul & Joan Heaney  
 2 John & Valerie Zoltner  
 5 Suzanne & John Cordeiro  
 7 Al & Liz Colquhoun  
 9 Richard & Bethel Powers  
 10 Don & Madeline Moodie  
 12 Allen & Elaine Hess  
 12 Peter & Joyce Pegoni  
 13 Dan & Mary Ellen Suter  
 13 Nicholas & Michele Zuck  
 15 Leon & Barbara Zak  
 16 Bob & Kathryn Joslyn  
 19 Ben & Carolyn Barlow  
 25 Joseph & Joeanna DeBlaere  
 25 Hollis & Doreena Hames  
 29 Robert & Terry Welch

**CONGRATULATIONS!****OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

? Sean & Jessica Seeley  
 1 Brooks & Gayle Schneider  
 8 Robert & Annabelle Tescione  
 10 Dave & Barb Wild  
 12 Karen & Roger Jaczynski  
 14 Scott & Gail Schipper  
 15 George & Beverly Haynes  
 16 Joe & Linda Fazio  
 18 Brian & Julie Smith  
 20 Wally & Doris Roworth  
 26 Julia & Russell Daykin

**CONGRATULATIONS!****OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Eileen Makepeace  
 2 Sue Kron  
 4 Patricia Giambra  
 5 Barbara Kingston  
 7 Brian Fallon  
 9 Rob Duffner  
 9 Will Salisbury  
 10 Dick Rzepkowski  
 10 Brian Smith  
 10 Linda Masters  
 11 Jim Priestley  
 11 Doreena Hames  
 11 Beverly Swarts  
 12 Kay Johnson  
 13 Shirley Forrester  
 15 Roger Jaczynski  
 16 William Brorein, Jr.  
 16 Bruce Krobusek  
 16 David Russell  
 16 Gail Colegrove  
 17 David Leete  
 17 Donald Sweeney  
 17 Susan Krobusek  
 21 Susan Henderson  
 22 George Heissenberger  
 22 Mary Sweeney  
 25 Timothy Paul  
 26 Joan Heaney  
 28 George Tennant  
 28 Bridget Tierno  
 29 Al Colquhoun  
 30 Suzanne Keppeler

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!**

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**coming soon:**  
**MGCC FALL TOUR**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

*Official Regalia*

## MG Car Club Western NY Centre

Car Badge . . . . .	\$25.00	Bumper Sticker . . . . .	1.00
Badge Clip . . . . .	5.00	Name Badges w/MG . . . . .	15.00
Patch, embroidered . . . . .	2.50	MGCC Cookbook . . . . .	5.00
Key Fob, large leather . . . . .	4.00	Sport Cap, embroidered . . . . .	12.00
Pin, cloisonné . . . . .	3.00	Vehicle Log Book . . . . .	6.00
Dash Plaque, 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. . . . .	4.00	Fire Extinguisher . . . . .	12.00
Sticker, front adhesive . . . . .	1.50	* * * * *	
Sign, magnetic (10") . . . . .	15.00	<b>50TH Anniversary Badge . . . . .</b>	<b>20.00</b>
Tote Bag, embroidered . . . . .	15.00	<b>50TH Anniversary Pin . . . . .</b>	<b>3.00</b>



*Members prices, advance orders  
being taken now for Fall delivery.*

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

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

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

### Membership Application

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ New ☐ or Renewal ☐

Cars owned & Year \_\_\_\_\_

Club Interests: Racing ☐ Gymkhana ☐ Rallye ☐ Restoration ☐ Car Show ☐ Social ☐ Touring ☐ Other ☐

Other hobbies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Jim Priestley  
3326 County Road 40  
Bloomfield, NY 14469



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

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

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

## Spokes

P.O. Box 831  
Webster, NY 14580-0831



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*"The Minis are coming!"*