

# Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre  
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## Final Run of the Season?

November 16, 2023



# MG CAR CLUB WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE

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*The Spokes* is published monthly by the MG Car Club Western New York Centre as a benefit to its members. Please see the inside for a membership form. You may also join via the website. Current and past issues of *the Spokes* are available in Adobe PDF format on the website.

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**COVER:** L to R: Todd Black, John Schwelm & George Heissenberger – November 16, 2023 – more inside!

### **SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME**

Deadline: One week and a day after a general meeting. Contact the editor for additional information. Send all correspondence and material via email to [spokes@mgcarclub.com](mailto:spokes@mgcarclub.com).

**MEETINGS** – Held the third Thursday of each month, except December, at the American Legion, 260 Middle Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467. Board Meetings are held in odd-numbered months and are open to all members. Contact the chairman regarding the scheduling of the next board meeting and to request your item to be added to the agenda, for either the general meeting or Board meeting.

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## 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 is \$5.00). This plaque, created by Paul Heaney, is displayed in the meeting room at the American Legion in Henrietta where we hold our regular meetings. A nameplate 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:

Frank Stepanik  
13 Fiora Drive  
Fairport, NY 14450

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

## MG's Corner

*By Spokes editor, Michael Goodwin*

In this issue, you'll find not just the essential meeting minutes, attendance record, advertising, and information about the club, but you'll find it's packed with evidence that the members of the MGCC Western NY Centre have immeasurable enthusiasm for the MG marque specifically, sports cars and driving in general, and have a great love of gatherings, get-togethers and other opportunities to develop and share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the Club and all it represents. *Spokes* is a way we document all this, promote our activities, share with each other now, and record for posterity the goings-on of this great club. I've been happy to be the editor of *Spokes* for the past four years as it's given me the opportunity to organize an encapsulation of what we're about and what we've been up to, month by month. Thank you all for the opportunity I've enjoyed.

Let me now introduce the new editor, Don Welch. Don has been a member of our MG Car Club for almost a year (!). He and his wife Marlene have lived in Holley NY for over 50 years; they have two adult sons, and their granddaughter Molly now lives with them. She'll be studying graphic arts at Finger Lakes Community College starting next fall. Don has a 1951 MG TD, and also a 2003 Miata, his "Japanese MG". He enjoys woodworking, building & paddling canoes & kayaks, and is an amateur photographer. I'm sure we'll all enjoy and support Don's editorship!



Don Welch's '51 TD – (D. Welch photo)

***Happy Holidays and Safety Fast!***



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*MG Car Club WNY 2023 Holiday Party*  
*Saturday, December 16, 2023*  
*Glendoveers*  
*2328 Old Browncroft Road, Rochester NY 14625*

Our evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar, artisan sliced cheeses, grilled and raw vegetables with dips.

This will be followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. which is a buffet:

Chef Carved Roast Sirloin  
Chicken French  
Campanelle Pasta  
Marinara and Alfredo sauces  
Herb Roasted Potatoes  
Fresh Vegetable Medley  
Greens Salad  
Ranch & Italian Dressings  
Rolls and Condiments

Cake  
Coffee and tea

**ACT FAST!!!**  
**DEC. 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Sign-up**  
**deadline!**

*Hope to see you there. You can sign up on-line on our website (please sign up each person separately) or by using the form below. The member cost will be \$38.00 per person, the non-member cost will be \$48.00 per person. These prices include the appetizers, buffet, tax, fees and tip. If you have any food restrictions/allergies or any questions please call Celeste Kray at 716-425-2701.*

*Holiday Party 2023*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print

Number of People attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$38.00 per person members \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$48.00 non-member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable TO; MG Car Club. Mail this form and check to:  
David Kray, 3740 Lacrosse Circle, Canandaigua NY 14424.

# Chairman's Corner

By George Heissenberger



Hello fellow club members! The weather was very cooperative for the third week of November and with sunshine and temps in the 60s three of us, John Schwelm, Todd Black and I, drove our MGs to Irish Mafia in Bloomfield for lunch. One last ride for the season? Who knows? More photos elsewhere in *Spokes*. With no snow or ice in the immediate forecast I usually try to keep driving the MG until the first salting of the roads. When will that be?



We had another good turnout for the November meeting of the MG Car Club Western NY

Centre and the Legion staff prepared a dinner before the meeting of warm open face Turkey on bread with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and cranberry sauce. So nice to see so many of you there! The next meeting will be in January and the legion does not yet know what they will have on the menu. Watch for notification prior to the meeting.

November is the club's annual meeting, and we had a successful election of officers for 2024. All of us will be entering our second term, meaning that due to the bylaws this will be our last year for the positions due to two-year term limits. Since there were no other nominations there was a motion to approve the election by the secretary casting one vote for all positions and that was approved unanimously. Thank you all for your support and participation and congratulations to all those elected and appointed for another year.

## 2024 Elections for Club Officers:

Chairman -George Heissenberger

Vice Chairman -Rod Rodman

Treasurer- Todd Black

Secretary -Dan Suter

Activities -Dave and Celeste Kray

Trustee #1- Paul Osborne

Trustee # 2 -Bob Welch

## Non-Elected positions:

Librarian -Paul Osborne

Regalia -Joe Bellizia

*Spokes* Editor -Don Welch

Webmaster -Leon Zak

Historian -Dave Wild

Car Show Chairman -Leon Zak



# Chairman's Corner

(continued from previous page)

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This club is successful thanks to all of you and your participation in events, get-togethers and meetings! Thanks to all the officers and board members for your contributions and support and for all the little and big things you do. Thanks also to outgoing *Spokes* Editor Mike Goodwin who has done a fantastic job! Congratulations to Don Welch for stepping up to the position! Looking forward to your editorship!

One big announcement at the November meeting was that Joe Bellizia is stepping down as Car Show Chair after two very successful car shows so he can focus more time on his business. Thanks to Joe and all the members who volunteered who helped out at the show and made it a success. We made a nice profit off the 2023 show, so Joe is leaving on top! Good news also is that Leon Zak, with his many years' experience as Car Show Chairman in the past, has volunteered as Car Show Chairman for 2024. Thank you Leon! Leon is counting on the many volunteers from the club to help make a success for next year's show. We've already started thinking of what tweaks and additions to the show might help for 2024!

Membership continues to be strong at around 150 families. Now is also the time to renew your club membership by going to [www.mgcarclub.com](http://www.mgcarclub.com) and selecting membership. The dues have not changed in many years and are \$30 per individual or family. Remember when you join or renew, your significant other/kids under 18 are also considered members!

Note: there is no December MG club meeting. Our next scheduled event will be the Holiday party December 16 and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Glendoveers on old Browncroft Blvd.

There may be a cars and coffee in December, but I would defer to the organizers and watch for notification based on weather! That's all for this month!

Safety Fast! George

**GH**

## Paul's Canvas



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# "Last Run of the Season?"

Photos from John Schwelm and George Heissenberger

[Ed. Note: George and John submitted photos of what might have been the last impromptu drives and lunch outings by club members this year. Todd Black joined the other two for a lunch outing to Irish Mafia Brewing on November 16. George reports plenty of sunshine and 60 °F, John reports simply "It was a beautiful day." They both took pictures, but it's unclear to me who took which, including this month's cover photo. My apologies to the photographers for not keeping it straight! Todd apparently either left his camera home or figured the other guys had it covered.]



Thirty-one days  
hath December.  
Surely ONE of  
them will be a  
good driving day,  
eh?





# Garage Tour at Naomi Wadsworth's November 12, 2023

Photos from Allyn Wagner

On Sunday, November 12, Naomi Wadsworth hosted a tour of her garage, featuring (at least) four special cars, an MG TD, MGA, MGB and another MGB in primer. Several attended, but only a few drove their own special cars.



*Allyn Wagner photo*



*Allyn Wagner photo*



*Allyn Wagner photo*



*Allyn Wagner photo*



*Allyn Wagner photo*

# Garage Tour at Naomi Wadsworth's November 12, 2023

Photos from Richard Powers

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← Dick Powers' MGB &  
Rob Shrader's Fiat X-19  
Richard Powers photo

Paul Osborne's  
MGB GT  
Richard Powers  
photo →



← Naomi's MGA  
Richard Powers  
photo



MGB body in primer  
Richard Powers photo →



← MG TD  
Richard Powers photo

The gathering in the garage  
Richard Powers photo →







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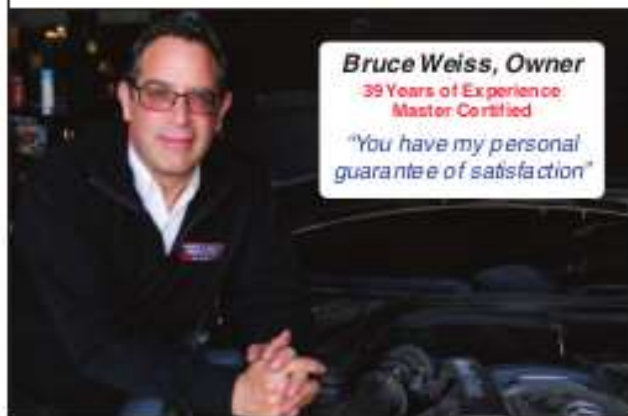


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# Our Membership in the Parent Club – “The Original MGCC”

One of the duties of the Treasurer is to pay the MGCC Western New York Centre’s dues to the parent organization, with which we are officially affiliated. Treasurer Todd Black has made sure we’ve got that covered for 2024!



The image shows a membership card for the MG Car Club Western NY Centre. The card is divided into several sections. At the top, there is a photograph of several MG cars on a racetrack. Below the photo is the MG Car Club logo and the text "THE ORIGINAL MG CLUB". In the center, there is a hexagonal emblem with the text "OUR HERITAGE" and "OUR VALUES". Below the emblem, the text "YOUR MG CAR CLUB MEMBERSHIP CARD" is displayed. The card contains the following information:

**NAME:** MG Car Club Western NY Centre  
**MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:** 67590  
**CENTRE:** USA Surface  
**RENEWAL DATE:** 01 Nov 2024  
**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below the signature line, there is a small text block: "This is to certify that I am a duly elected member paid up to the renewal date of this card and am, therefore, authorised by The Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association Ltd. on the conditions stated below, to take part in all competitions confined to members of this club or defined as Clubman events under Motorsport UK Regulations. I declare that I shall not drive in any part of a competition which takes part on the public highway unless I hold a valid motor vehicle RTA license for cars (other than provisional). I am acquainted with and agree to be bound by the General Regulations of the Motorsport UK."

On the right side of the card, there is a photograph of a MG car with the text "100 YEARS OF MG" and "MEMBERSHIP CARD". Below the photo, the text "TO REMOVE CARD BEND BACK AND SLOWLY PEEL OUT." is written vertically.

At the bottom of the card, the text "PEEL, FOLD AND STICK TOGETHER" is displayed. Below this, there is a photograph of several MG cars parked in a row. The text "IF UNDELIVERED: Please return to: The MG Car Club, Kimber House, 12 Cemetery Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1AS." is written above the photo.

# Meet Glen Watkins, One Special Bear

By Chuck Woodworth, photos by the author

---

I started life in 1990 in Watkins Glen, NY. I came from a thrift store sheep skin "bomber jacket" coat that my creator found while accompanying her husband, Chuck, to the Watkins Glen Vintage Festival. Patti Woodworth loved to go to the races where she could spend time with her friends, many of them fellow MGCC members. Shopping was a must as the shops in the village were loaded with treasures. Always on the lookout for things that she could use to make a unique teddy bear, this coat caught her eye. It was far from perfect, but there was more than enough fur to make a good-sized teddy bear. My fur was packed carefully in the limited space of the 1967 Austin Healey 3000 Mk III that had brought Chuck and Patti to the races from Honeoye Falls, NY.



My birth took much more than 9 months, as creating a unique pattern and cutting and sewing the dense fur and strong sheepskin backing was far more difficult than your average bear! As part of Patti's business (Bears by PAW), she was frequently asked to create a "memory bear" from someone's treasured coat. Many times she had to refuse, as the fur backing had become brittle and was impossible to sew.

Once I was complete, I needed a name. Patti gave every bear a unique name and a special tattoo on the foot pad. Her customers would often ask how she came up with the name for each bear. Her answer was always the same. "The bear will tell you its name." Thus, I came into this world as "Glen Watkins".



I acquired a leather "Stirling Moss" style racing cap, sometimes a white silk scarf and a denim vest that displayed the special pins, most race and sportscar related, that I had collected over the years. I showed up at many MG Car Club events, and eventually became a member with my own MGCC badge that I still wear proudly to this day.

When Patti retired to North Carolina in 1998, I also retired from



attending car races. It was far too hot for a bear used to New York winters. I am living out my retirement in an air-conditioned bear museum full of my brothers and sisters. Now that my creator, Patti, has passed away, I am grateful for all the great times we shared together and the memories we created along the way. Happy Motoring to all and "Safety Fast"

---

**Patricia "Patti" A. Wright Woodworth** passed away peacefully on October 25, 2023, with her husband of 53 years, Charles "Chuck" Woodworth at her side. Chuck and Patti were active and enthusiastic members of the MGCC for many years.



A 1966 gift of a teddy bear from her then boyfriend, Chuck, led to her lifelong passion for making and collecting teddy bears. She attended many teddy bear shows and sold her bears under her business name of "Bears by PAW". Her bears are in the collections of teddy bear lovers around the world. While she sold many teddy bears and gave away far more to friends and charities, Glen Watkins is here to stay.

# Minutes for MGCC Meeting – November 16, 2023

By Dan Suter, Secretary

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The Legion team served a turkey & mashed potatoes dinner prior to the meeting that our members enjoyed.

Chairman George Heissenberger opened the October meeting on the dot at 7:30PM. 37 members attended our meeting. The October meeting minutes were approved.

**Guests** – there were no guests or new members this month. There were several birthdays and anniversaries shared, including Dave Kray, Don McConnel, and Al Costich.

**Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer's Report was provided by Todd Black. Todd noted that our balance is good, and now have 150 member families in good standing. Todd paid our dues for our Centre to the MGCC UK. If any members of our club wish to join any of the MGCC UK Registers or groups, our club code is 67590. Todd also noted that dues renewals for 2024 membership are starting to come in.

**Activities Report** by Dave Kray:

Past Events:

- The Thank You tours on Sundays had a lunch at McArdle's in Fairport coordinated by Joe Bellizia.
- Naomi Wadsworth hosted a Garage Tour at her place near Geneseo and shared progress on an MGB restoration as well as her workshop and MGA, MGB, TD, and future project MGA. Thanks Naomi!
- George H noted that we had feedback from Brews & Brats that a noticeable number of participants on the Fall Tour/lunch did not leave any tip at all. This was briefly discussed.

Upcoming:

- ***The sign-up deadline for the Holiday Party is Dec 2!*** The event will be at Glendoveers on December 16 from 6 to 10pm. See details elsewhere in Spokes.
- Early events in 2024 will include Valve Cover Races. Stay tuned.

**Regalia** report given by George H in Joe Bellizia's absence. Joe has started collecting orders for magnetic name badges, at \$26 pre-paid as a single group order. Additionally, embroidered hats and shirts are available.

**Spokes** - Mike Goodwin is currently at his 'tiny' house in CA so shared a written report.

December will be his final issue as Editor—Thank You to Mike! Don Welch has continued cross-over with Mike and will be taking over as Editor starting in January. The feature series on MG TFs in our club will have one more issue and likely finish in January, as the December issue will likely be a retrospective issue by Mike.

*[Editor's note: Mike changed his mind, and is running all the TF articles that have been sent in.]* Mike also thanked all who sent in articles. Deadline is one week from Friday following the meeting.

**Watkins Glen:** Dave Wild had nothing new to report. It was noted that the SVRA website does not show late August for the vintage race weekend. HOWEVER, the downtown Vintage Festival will remain on the Friday after Labor Day (believe Sept 6). Dick Powers discussed the IMRRC (Watkins Glen racing library) symposium event that included Al Isselhard discussing racing superstitions (which included a *\*great\** photo of a stock car on its roof, #13, under the banner of Black Cat Racing)!

**Librarian:** Paul Osborne discussed available magazines and efforts to thin the library of magazine content.

**Website:** In Leon's absence, George H indicated that all is good with the website.

**Car Show:** Leon Zak has volunteered to serve as Chairman for the 2024 Car Show. Let's all support this event and effort. Stay tuned for details.



# Minutes for MGCC Meeting – November 16, 2023

By Dan Suter, Secretary (continued from previous page)

---

**Election of Officers for 2024:** George Heissenberger read the list of nominees (noted in Oct). Nominations include:

Chair – George Heissenberger  
Vice Chair – Rod Rodman  
Treasurer – Todd Black  
Secretary – Dan Suter  
Activities – Dave and Celeste Kray  
Trustee 1 – Paul Osborne  
Trustee 2—Bob Welch

A single motion was made by Ted Hershey to elect all the names above as a single vote. This was seconded and approved.

George Heissenberger also shared the list of non-elected positions for 2024:

Librarian – Paul Osborne  
Regalia – Joe Bellizia  
*Spokes* Editor – Don Welch  
Webmaster – Leon Zak  
Historian – Dave Wild

Thanks to all who serve the club in these many roles.

**Old Business:** George H shared that club business cards have been purchased and are available on the back table for members to take and distribute when they encounter interested British car owners.

**New Business:**

- Lunch at the Irish Mafia was held on the day of the meeting.
- Paul Osborne reminded everyone that free magazines are available on the back table.

**Member Projects:**

- Al Wagner gave an encouraging update on his MG TA and shared a few pictures of the progress that Eric at EM Motors has made. Engine start-up will be in a few weeks!
- Tim Tracey's work on his MGB rebuild continues – steady progress.
- Dick Rzepkowski is seeking a body and paint resource as work continues on his rebuild of his MG Midget race car.

***Spokes* TF Article:** Your Secretary described the recent search to re-locate an earlier article that George Herschell had written in *Spokes*, which after searching through all of 22 years turned out to be in the November, 1999 issue....(a searchable index is desperately needed to make better use of this archive). You can see the article re-run in *Spokes* soon. Dann Valenza spoke up that he knew the previous owner, high-school band teacher Bob Moran, who owned this cream/soft yellow TF prior to George Herschell's purchase. Thanks to Dann for sharing his memories!

Door prizes were awarded, and the meeting was closed.

DS

## Attendance for MGCC Meeting – November 16, 2023

---

Paul Osborne  
Dennis Illig  
Robin Illig  
Ted Hershey  
Dave Chase  
Al Fink  
Rod Rodman  
Dan Suter  
Alan Costich  
Don Welch  
Dick Rzepkowski  
Marlene Rzepkowski  
Tim Tracey

John MacDonald  
Karl Burkhardt  
Bill Baldwin  
Cheryl Baldwin  
David Rubin  
Allyn Wagner  
Bob Welch  
George Heissenberger  
Bethel Powers  
Dick Powers  
Todd Black  
Don McConnell  
Barb Wild

Dave Wild  
Dann Valenza  
Jeff Kath  
Naomi Wadsworth  
Paul Wegman  
Robin Allen  
Frank DeMarzo  
Paul Stella  
Paul Osborne  
Dave Kray  
Celeste Kray  
Hollis Hames

DS

## Upcoming Events – December

By Activities Coordinator, Dave Kray

---



- **December**

- **Holiday Party - Saturday, December 16, 2023, 6:00 – 10:00**
  - Glendoveers, 2328 Old Browncroft Rd, Rochester, NY 14625
  - Look for the flyer in *Spokes*. Use the flyer, or the link on our website to sign-up.  
**Deadline to sign-up is December 2.**

As always, the Event Calendar on the website is up to date and is the last word on events, dates and times.

Respectfully submitted  
Dave Kray

DK

# A little Fall Colour

Contributed by Dick Powers

---

## **Three British Roadsters**

**By William Preston**

Three British roadsters on the road  
were entranced by the colours of fall;  
they marvelled at the tapestries  
of leaves displaying their all.

Among themselves they might disagree  
as to which was the superior mode,  
but all loved American autumns, even  
from the wrong side of the road.



Photos by R Powers



# MG (S)MILES and a few tears      Part IX

By George Herschell (originally appeared in *Spokes* November, 1999)

---

For some months now I have been talking about our trips in the TD and only mentioned the TF in passing, but it is time to give you a little more information about the TF and how it came into our possession. In the early '70s there was a member of the MGCC by the name of Bob Moran. Bob was a music teacher and musician (trombone) who loved his MG TF and the MG Car Club. He taught at John Marshall High School and had a number of students who were quite taken with his car (those were the days when you could park an MG TF in a parking lot and expect to find it when you came out **and all in one piece**). We got to know Bob quite well and saw him not only at meetings but also on some of our T Series trips. He had a beautiful baritone voice and acquired the nickname of "Bugsy" somewhere along the way. He was Bugsy even to his students and was a marvelous teacher. He told us of the night (some time after he had a heart attack and recovered) that he was under his car working on it in the garage one night. His wife Marsha became worried when he was out there so long and when she went out to check on him found he had fallen asleep under the car. This was Bob Moran.

In 1974 while on vacation in Wisconsin, Bob suffered another massive heart attack from which he did not recover. It was a loss to all of us as he was a good friend and loyal member of the club. Marsha asked Gil Langswager if he would appraise the car as she needed this for the estate settlement. She was adamant though that she would not sell the car as she had two daughters who loved that car and wanted to keep it. She called me and asked if I knew of anywhere she could store it for the winter. I had just put the addition on my garage and the TD was lonesome in there all winter, so I told her to bring it out and store it at my house. I wouldn't hear of any rental charge but was more concerned that the car would be someplace where it could be looked after, rather than buried in the back of a barn someplace. Gil and Marsha brought the car out. We took off the plates and I asked her to leave the

key with me so I could start it occasionally. I had a spare car cover, so I covered it up and it became the stablemate of my TD for the winter.

Spring came and Marsha called me and asked when I wanted the car removed. I told her it is not in my way and to do it whenever she wanted to. I had washed it whenever I did the TD and started it up so it was operational at all times. It could be driven off at any time. But it was not in my way and looked so nice sitting there next to the TD.

Then in August I got a phone call from Marsha. She told me she had talked with the girls and seeing that the car couldn't be cut in half they all decided it was best to sell it. She asked me if I knew of anyone interested in the car. It was now like a member of our family, so I told her I was. She said that Gil had given her two figures on the value of the car, one high and one low. She said that she had to get the high figure, told me what it was, and I had one word, **SOLD**. The following Saturday we went to her house with a check and in a matter of a few minutes my TD now had a partner. We licensed the car and began driving it. There were some things that needed to be done but nothing urgent. I took my time and little by little got the car the way I thought it should be. I replaced the top with a new one that kept the water out, painted the undersides of the fenders (wings) the same crocus yellow color as the car (not red) and had the wire wheels stripped and painted. I did some necessary mechanical work, and the car was fun to drive. It was a lot different than the TD being a little more roomy, and also a little more powerful (1500 cc vs. 1250 cc).

We drove the car to a number of T Register Gatherings, and Jim and I took it up to Oshawa in Ontario on one occasion. Nancy and I did the whole New England Mountain Adventure route in the car all alone and ended up at the Gathering at Killington where we had the pleasure of meeting Jean Kimber Cook (Cecil Kimber's daughter), who remains our friend today.

# MG (S)MILES and a few tears - Part IX

By George Herschell (originally appeared in *Spokes* November, 1999)

The car performed well on all its outings with only one problem on the way home from Vermont. (see MG(S)MILES part VII). It has always been a fun car and one I will never part with. It is a wonderful memory of a good friend.

About three years after I bought the car I was at the show in Victor, and Bob's daughter came up to me to say hello. She said that she had seen the car and approved very much of the few things that I had done to it. She asked if we could go over and see the car together. We did and I know she was thinking of her father as she looked and admired. She noted all the changes with approval and asked if she could sit in the car. I told her, by all means yes. She got in the passenger's seat while I got behind the wheel. She just looked around and smiled. She then asked me if I would start the car. I did and that was all it took. We both "lost it" and had a good emotional few minutes just thinking about a father and a friend. She thanked me and I told her she had visitation privileges whenever she wanted to come over. I think though that day was sort of closure for her as I have never seen her since. I hope she is well because I think of her and that day every time I look at the car.

Many years ago, the TD got the name the "Butter Dish." (I'll explain that later sometime) and the person that named it aptly named the TF

"Buttercup" which is fitting seeing the color and cheerfulness of its personality. The names have stuck for many, many years. The TF has never been restored but rather maintained and cared for. (Looked after, as Al Colquhoun would say) I did replace the clutch once by removing only the transmission. It's sort of like tying your shoes by

reaching down through your pant legs. It can be done but there is an easier way.

While Bob was teaching, one of his students was a young man named Steve Kotzin. Steve's father and I had gone to Franklin High together and Steve loved Bob's car and always hoped someday he would own it. He didn't realize until many years later after he had purchased a TF of his own, that I was the one who bought Bob's car. He and his father gave his TF a complete frame up restoration and made many

trips to our house to check out details on a car that was all together. It also brought back many memories and stories about Bob. Steve's father and Bob had both been members of the Monroe County Parks Band. For a while, Steve was a member of the MGCC.



*"...the TF from when we had to tow it out of dad's garage to its new home"*

*(photo from Jim Herschell)*

# MG (S)MILES and a few tears - Part IX

(continued from previous page)

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His TF won its class at the T Register meets and also won a National Senior First in AACA judging. A few years ago, Steve moved to Orlando and married and is raising a family there. We will probably see him when we go to Orlando in October. He told me he did the car as a tribute to his friend and teacher Bob Moran. Bob would have been proud of the results. The car is done in a beautiful shade of (light) green with a tan interior and top. It is magnificent in every way,

but especially so in one respect. Out front it proudly sports an authentic British number plate that simply reads: BUG Z.

A fitting tribute to a fine man from an equally fine and sensitive young man. I'm sure "Buttercup" and Bob approve.

GH

*Additions from Jim Herschell, current owner of this 1954 TF, HDP46/1589: I attached a photo of the TF from when we had to tow it out of dad's garage to its new home. Since the last time the car was registered was in 1982, I have some serious work to do to get her back on the road, but the engine turns freely with the hand crank. Luckily it's not seized up. As you know dad bought the car from Bob Moran's wife after Bob passed away. I only remember the car being driven a few times, as you mentioned once to the GOF near Killington Vermont, I also remember it was driven to a GOF in North Conway but not sure what year that was. I do remember one time at the RIT car show, Bob and Dad were parked next to each other. They became good friends first through the cars and then through their love of music. Bob was a horn player and had a very deep voice.*

JH



# Some Additional MG TFs in our Club History

By Dan Suter

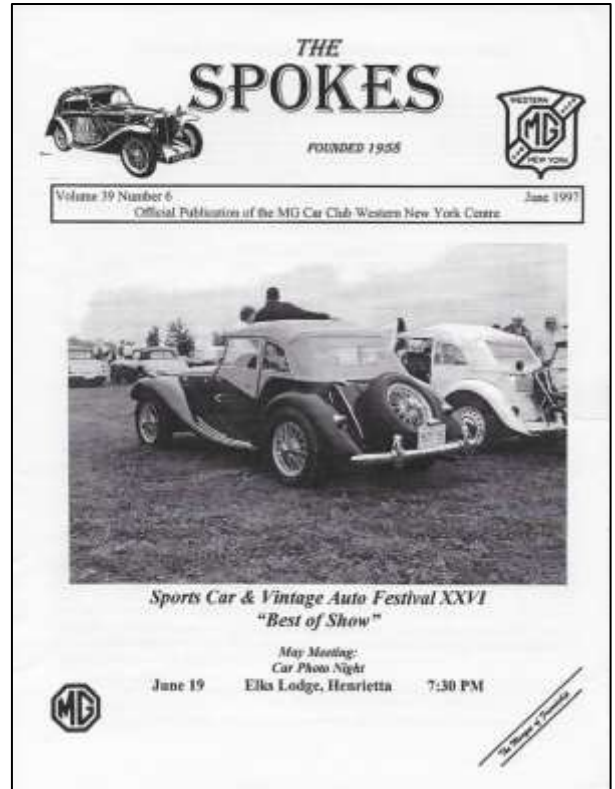
I hope everyone has enjoyed this series on MG TFs in our club history. In October 2023, we featured the TFs of current club members Mike Robinson, Dick Rzepkowski, and John Thompson. In November, we featured the former TFs of John Forrester, Paul Heaney, and Steve Philip. This month we are featuring the TF of Jim Herschell. There are a few additional cars and photographs to share.

1. HDB46/9467. Black TF 1500 owned by John Walker of Thorold, Ontario Canada. I found this picture on the cover of *Spokes* July 1997 where this car was Best MG of Show at our Victor Car Show that year! In perusing *Spokes* in that timeframe, I see that John Walker joined our club. Thorold is just west of Niagara Falls, Canada. I found the Car Number via the Registry below.
2. HDA46/4294. Black TF 1250 owned by John Leone of the Syracuse area. John is a member of the European Motor Club (formerly MGCC Central NY Centre) and is friends with our club member Frank Gordnier. John brought his beautiful TF to our show this past August. John said he did a rear axle ratio conversion on the car and finds it is better at expressway speeds now.
3. Black TF from Fairport that attended our car show in 2019. (Car No. unknown). Mike Robinson captured this picture of this TF parked next to Gil and Betty's red TD at our 2019 show. It is not wearing TF 1500 badges in the photo, so is likely a 1250cc car. Hopefully we will get a chance to meet up with this TF owner sometime soon and see if they might like to join our club!
4. HDE43/2192 Charlie Searles, Pultneyville. I was unable to connect with Charlie in time for this series but hope to do so in the future. Charlie has owned this TF for decades and has thoroughly enjoyed this car at MGCC events and New England MGT Register events as well.
5. Another TF, in tan/brown colors, is in the Webster area. I hope to have further details on this car in the future.

There is a great online Registry for MG TFs at the following web address:

<http://www.ttalk.info/PayneTFReg%204.htm>. With a full production run of 9602 TFs, including 3400 TF1500 models, this Registry is an ambitious undertaking, but it is nicely laid out and gives an idea of which cars survive.

Also in my research for this series of articles, I stumbled on another website that highlights original features of TFs as well as some personal histories of TFs that have remained in one family over decades.



*June 1997 Spokes cover, featuring John Walker's TF 1500*



*Black TF 1250 owned by John Leone of the Syracuse area*



# Some Additional MG TFs in our Club History

By Dan Suter (continued from previous page)

I enjoyed many of the stories and photos, as it really seemed that these TFs had become important parts of the family to their owners. <https://www.mg-cars.org.uk/mgtf/>

Lastly, several long-time members of our club provided details to me of other former TFs:

From Gil:

- Here are some more TF's that were in the club. Bob Jeffers had a black 1500 named "Maggie". He worked for General Dynamics. Left in the late 60's & moved to New Hampshire. He was quite active in the club. He & I did a lot of work on cars together.
- I can't remember his name, but he was an early member with a gray TF with red wheels. It is pictured in the scrapbook at a Funkhana in the early 60's.
- Tom Maracle lived in Webster, near George Herschell. George knew him. He went to a GOF with us & bought a TF which Betty drove back for him. He was only in the club for a short time then sold the car. That was in the late 60's.
- Bill Lang lived in Greece & had a nice red TF in the mid 60's. Only a member for a short time.
- Chuck Heindl & I used to buy & sell MG's. He bought a black TF that he loaned (or gave) to Rich Palumbo which was used as a pattern for the Victor TF. I don't know what happened to that car.



*Gil & Betty Langswager with their TD, parked next to a black MG TF at MGCC WNY 2019 Car Show  
(Mike Robinson photo)*

From Al Isselhard

*(Dan note: it appears the same black TF that Gil describes above was first purchased by Al Isselhard):* The TF was a real project car and I bought it to flip. I owned the TF that was eventually purchased by the group in Victor that used the car to make a TF kit car. I think one of the guys involved was a fellow named Rich Palumbo who sold us life or house insurance. I think we bought the TF in the late 1970's from a country guy who had stored the car in a barn in Genesee County, maybe near Elba. Some time after, we sold the car.

This closes out our TF series. Thanks to Mike Robinson, Dick Rzepkowski, John Thompson, John Forrester, Paul Heaney, Jim Herschell, Steve Philip, Gil Langswager, Dick Powers, and Al Isselhard for preparing and sharing material.

DS

# December Sunshine Page



## December Birthdays

01	Jim Davis
01	Kenneth Witt
04	Notch Miyake
06	Nancy Chase
06	Jim Herschell
07	Beverly Lockrow
08	Stephen Lewandowski
11	Georgian Abels
12	Ken Barlow
12	Dick Giambra
13	Bud Sinnott
16	Bobbie Sinnott
18	Betty Langswager
19	Doug Avery
19	Hollis Hames
21	Kevin Noaker
24	Robert Abels
25	Bill Donish
31	Melissa Barnard

## December Anniversaries

12	Janey & Michael Wagner
14	Naomi Wadsworth & Ray Rossbrought
31	Kristi & Bud Briggs



**Congratulations!**



**Happy Birthday!**

*If you think you've been mistakenly left off either list above, check to see if you've paid your dues.  
If you still think it's a mistake, send a note to the editor at [spokes@mgcarclub.com](mailto:spokes@mgcarclub.com).*



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# Al Isselhard gives “Racing Superstitions & Bizarre Events” presentation at the Argetsinger Symposium

By Dick Powers (with photos taken by Dick Powers during the presentation)

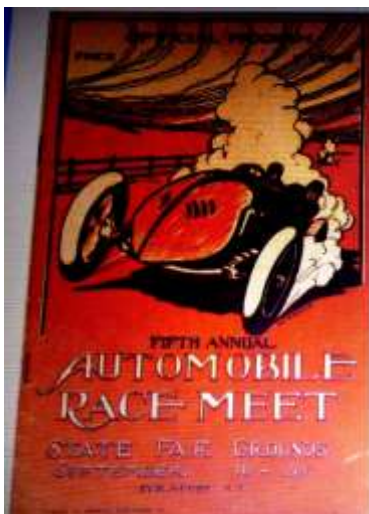
Long time MGCC member and founding member of the WNY Morgan Owners Group, **Al Isselhard**, gave a presentation about *Auto Racing Superstitions and Bizarre Events* last November 4 at the 7th annual IMRRC Michael Argetsinger Symposium on International Motor Racing History. Al started things off with a well-received presentation.

For a number of years, he was curious about where racing superstitions like the color green, #13 and peanuts came from. Al said the color green superstition may have started at a race on the Syracuse oval in 1926 after Lee Oldfield’s “green” racer blew a tire and ended up in the infield where many spectators were located.

The number “13” has long been associated with superstitions and racers are no exception. According to Al, Indy



*Audience at the Glen Media Center*



*Flyer for the 1926 race at the Syracuse, NY oval that may have been the reason for the superstition to “green”*

officially banned the use of the number 13 from 1926-2002.

Other superstitions Al covered, along with the peanut one, were wearing good luck charms, blaming your helmet for problems and a Formula One champion who

wouldn’t race without his “Red Underwear”. I know the last one may be hard to believe, but Al had all the facts. Hmmm, red underwear for good luck. Wish I knew about that one when I was racing.

With this brief description, I’ve only touched the surface of Al’s presentation. If you’d like to see it, it’s on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41WGTxxJZMQ>



RP



## MG Car Club of Western NY Available Regalia 2023 Catalog

Remaining Grille Badges Are in Short Supply Supply as seen on page 2



## MG Car Club of Western NY Centre Pins



Note: Key is just to show size

In between meetings feel free contacting Joe B at [blitz7711@gmail.com](mailto:blitz7711@gmail.com)

## MG Car Club of Western NY Centre Pins



Limited Supply

50<sup>th</sup> Ann. Badge  
\$20.00



Limited Supply

Car Badge \$20.00



Octagon Key Ring  
\$1.50

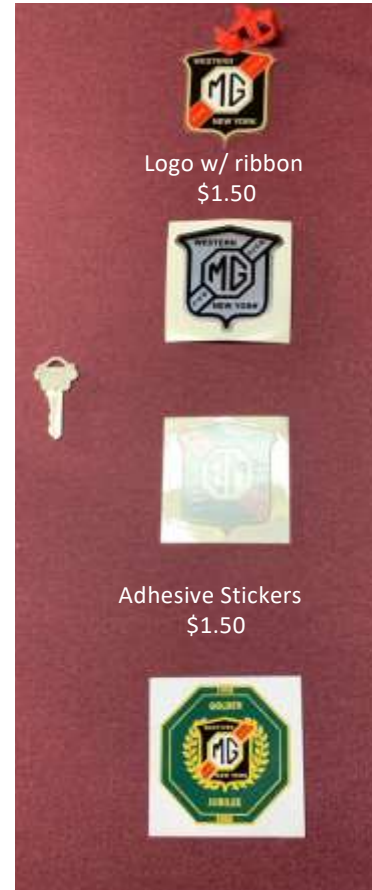


Embroidered patches  
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Logo w/ ribbon  
\$1.50

Adhesive Stickers  
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## MG Car Club of Western NY Centre Bumper Sticker & Coffee Mugs



Coffee Mug \$5.00



Bumper Sticker \$1.00 / 3 for \$2.00

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Port Authority Shirts \$25.00 embroidered

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Green Shirts in Stock!  
(limited sizes)



Model Sported by our new member Frank DeMar  
Frank modeling our NEW Club Shirts for us!



Closeup of Actual Embroidery  
of Logo

Color Choice: Not all colors may be available do to supply chain shortages.  
Feel Free in emailing me if you have a color you want me to check on at [blitz7711@gmail.com](mailto:blitz7711@gmail.com)

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(price goes down the more we order)

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Limited Supply

Note: This is the Logo we are  
had digitized to fit on the hats.  
It is 2" high

Includes Embroidery: \$25. Delivered



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We will be accepting orders here <https://mgcarclub.com/name-badge/> , and at club meetings and when we hit the first 50 orders we will place our initial order.

You will be notified by email when the order is placed and when they arrive.

We are using PayPal to process payments here with the link provided here:

<https://mgcarclub.com/name-badge/>.

You DO NOT have to be a member of PayPal to use the processing service. If you do not know how to use PayPal you can make special arrangements with cash or check with Joe Bellizia. Contact him at [blitz7711@gmail.com](mailto:blitz7711@gmail.com) or call him at (585) 749-9263.

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Join the Club! Use this form (if you like paper) or go on-line to [www.mgcarclub.com](http://www.mgcarclub.com) and click on:

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First Name - Primary Member \*

Email - Primary Member

Birth Month/Day - Primary Member

Last name - Partner

First name - Partner

Email Address

Birth Month/Day - Partner

**You do not HAVE to be on the mail list - but there are many announcements, especially impromptu cruises, that are only announced by way of the list.**

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Anniversary month/day (mm/dd)

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# Cars and Parts For Sale

*Please inform the editor when your ad should be removed*

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Call George at 585-872-6536

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or call 585-872-6536

**For Sale:** 1978 MGB - 47,000 original miles, been in dry storage the last 8 years. \$8,500 OBO  
Please call Mike Sidell at 585-404-1219



I know the whereabouts of an **MG TD & MGTF**. They are in the Lockport area. I have seen the cars. The TD is together, and I think with a good fettle and scrub down fore and aft you might get a presentable driver. I think it has been sitting about four years. The MG TF is a total basket case, but I believe it is all there. You would need to look over all the bits both n the garage and basement. It will be a good project. Both cars have engines in chassis as well as some spares. There is also a MG B engine in the garage. If you or anyone is interested in any or all of the above I can give you a number to call who will set up a visit, Jay Lockrow 716-648-0533

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1979 VW Scirocco: German Specifications, Moon Roof, No Winters, 130K miles, Sport Exhaust, Good Tires, Gold/Beige interior, Runs well. Asking \$10,000 - offers.

Cars are in Western New York. For more information contact Roy Bergman at 716-941-5535

And Finally...

... a collection of John Schwelm's photos of his 1948 MGTC VIN 6948

