

Minnesota MG Group

September Newsletter

WHEELS AND WINGS

Saturday, September 8

Host: Tim Thomas

Phone: 612-729-7125

Time: 8:30 am

Meeting Location: Perkins Restaurant at the intersection of Snelling Ave. and Highway 36 N. in Roseville.

On Saturday, September 8, the Osceola Wheels and Wings 10th Annual community fair will be held. Classic cars and aircraft as well as our own MGs, arts and crafts, weaving, spinning wheels and glass blowing demonstrations will all be available for you to enjoy. Classic Motorbooks will have its all day 15 - 50% off sale. The Wheels and Wings has always been a fun day for us and the sponsors say it will be the biggest and best yet.

We will meet at the Perkins restaurant parking lot, Snelling and Hwy 36 N. in Roseville. Leaving Perkins at 9 am, we will go north on Snelling Ave. (Hwy 51). Through Arden Hills this becomes Hamline Ave. We proceed past I-694 to County Road G (or Hwy 96), turn east and follow this past I-35E in White Bear Lake. You will turn north as Highways 96 and 61 merge into Stickley Blvd. At 12th St. turn right following Hwy 96 and follow that to Hwy 95 north along the St. Croix River. We will follow Hwy 95 north to the Osceola turn off, Hwy 243 into Osceola. At the south end of the business district, turn east on to Seminole Ave. (County Rd. M) and turn left on Industrial Drive to Prospect and a final left to Motorbooks.

The Motorbooks people will hand out show information and direct us to parking. Shuttle buses run continuously to the Middle School,

Fairgrounds, Mill Pond, Airport and Motorbooks. There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast until noon at the airport, \$3.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

LAKE MGB CLUB Schell Brewery Tour and Flandrau State Park September 15 - 16, 1990

Minnesota MG Group members are invited to join the Lake MGB Club for a tour of the Schell Brewery in New Ulm and a visit to nearby Flandrau State Park.

Although the Lake MGB Club is planning this as an overnight, MMGG members are welcome to make a day trip of it: Drive to New Ulm Saturday for the Brewery Tour and dinner *or* drive down on Sunday for a pleasant Fall day at Flandrau State Park with other MG lovers.

Brewery Tour: Saturday, September 15 at 3:00 pm. Dinner and relaxation will follow.

Flandrau State Park: Sunday, September 16.

RSVP: If you think you might attend, please call Lori Behnke, President of the Minnesota Lake club for additional information. Although the original deadline for registration was August 27, Lori reports that the date has been extended and you can still sign up for the fun. Day trippers do not need to register but are encouraged to call as a courtesy.

They do need to know an approximate number of people going on the tour so plans can be finalized. If you have any questions please call Lori as the Lake MGB Club members would really like the opportunity to meet you.

Over Night Accommodations: The Lake MGB Club will be staying at the New Ulm Super 8. Anyone wishing to stay should call Lori ASAP to take advantage of their group discount.

Contact: Lori Behnke. 23 Lake Ave. SW, Box 117. Minnesota Lake, MN 56068. 507-462-3521.

Note: Lori has provided information on the Brewery Tour and other area attractions. If you would like a copy, please call Mike Funck at 612-881-3223 and they will be forwarded to you.

RAMBLING ON

by John Eaton

I'm sure most of you read *Road & Track* magazine. If you don't, you really should. If you are a regular reader you are no doubt familiar with the writings of Peter Egan. Peter's regular *Side Glances* column and his feature articles have, over the years, provided some of my most entertaining, humorous and enjoyable reading.

If, like myself, you are among the *Road & Track* faithful and are a fan of Peter's work, you're probably familiar with his stories of cross country treks made in a variety of vehicles, usually old, sometimes British and not usually possessing a reputation for reliability.

Peter's faithful companion on these adventures is invariably Chris Beebe. Several years of reading Peter's exploits and numerous references to his good friend Mr. Beebe revealed several clues about the vocation and general location of this oft referenced friend. I've often thought, wouldn't it be great to have the chance to meet Peter Egan and sit around and discuss old British cars or whatever for a few hours?

Then one day several weeks ago on a business trip in Wisconsin I remembered from something Peter had written that his buddy Chris lived somewhere around Madison and worked in a foreign car garage. Then the thought struck me that Chris Beebe sure would be somebody I'd like to meet.

So late one afternoon armed with the automobile repair section of the yellow pages I picked

out a likely prospect called Foreign Car Specialists. I drove over, walked in, asked the man behind the counter if he knew Chris Beebe and Bingo! The man said sure, he's in the back. Imposition being one of my specialties, I talked the man into taking me back to Chris's area and there I met the famous Mr. Beebe. I explained to Chris that I was probably Peter Egan's biggest fan and well, you know, I just thought I'd drop by to say hello.

Chris is no doubt extremely busy and has much better things to do than put up with a British car junkie/timewaster like myself. But, rather than shoo me away, he put up with my babble and questions for at least a couple of hours. And a fascinating couple of hours it was. Chris showed me his TC that he and Peter drove from Wisconsin to Georgia or Florida if I remember correctly. We talked about their cross country trip in a Ferrari (Dino I think) in mid-Winter where Peter described the heater output as being similar to a mouse blowing through a straw. We recounted the 2CV trip where Peter wrote about spending a night in a tee pee sitting around discussing old British sports cars much like the plains Indians used to do.

Chris showed me his Lotus 7, Healey 100-4 (originally owned by Augie Pabst) and a car he designed that was the forerunner of the original Datsun 240Z. His current project and their next cross country adventure vehicle that will be chronicled in *Road & Track* by Peter is nothing less than a Lamborghini Miura. Chris is currently in the middle of a full engine rebuild of this 12 cylinder exotic. After looking this motor over it makes the current rebuilding of my MGA motor look like some kind of simple tinker toy. The Lambo 12 is of course all aluminum alloy, has a crank carved from a solid billet, has pistons and cams of Chris's own design and breathes through six twin choke Webers which Chris describes as providing quite a visual and sonic sensation considering their location about eight inches behind your ear drums and visible in the rear view mirror. Of course, me being me, I had to see what it was like sitting behind the wheel. So how did it feel? In a word, exotic! I sure do thank Chris for his time. It was big fun!

Next month: MGA engine rebuild.

Octagonally Yours, John Eaton.

EVENT PLANS

by Tim Thomas

Indian Summer Rendezvous

The MMGG Indian Summer Rendezvous is coming up on October 13th and we need a host. In the past, this has been a drive along the Mississippi to Red Wing or over into Wisconsin with stops for sightseeing, apple buying, picnic lunches and, most of all, seeing the Fall colors from the cockpit of an MG. If you have some ideas for a fun route and would like to host a MMGG event, please call me. Don't worry, no one will say it wasn't a good tour, they didn't have any better ideas. I promise I'll help.

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party, our class event of the season will be held at Toby's on the Lake (Tanner's Lake) in Oakdale off I-94 and Century Avenue in St. Paul. This year I would like to set up groups to each do a small part to make the overall outing great. In the past, all the work was done by one or two people for an event that is as much or more work than all of our other events together.

If you would like to help with either event, please call me, Tim Thomas, at 612-729-7125.

BUSINESS MEETING

by Mike Funck

MMGG Logo Patch. Ken Merrill reported that the club logo patch prepared by Color Weave is now ready. A sample was available for inspection and it really looks good.

The club is proceeding with an order of new golf/polo style shirts with the logo embroidered on them. When ready, they will be available for purchase at \$13 each. This includes cost of the shirt and embroidery. We are also ordering hats in a variety of styles that will be about \$6 each.

Both items should be available at the next event. Anyone interested in having a personal item embroidered with the MMGG logo can contact Color Weave directly to make their own arrangements.

Muscular Dystrophy Drive. Jim Lymburn received a solicitation for club participation in 1991 "MGs Across America" type fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy. This will require further discussion by club members over the next couple of months as to whether we want to participate or not.

Award Plaques or Pins. Tim Thomas raised a question as to whether the club would be interested in creating some sort of plaque or pin to be presented to members as awards or recognition for hosting events, special service, years of membership, etc.

Club Owned Books, Tapes and Tools. Tim also raised the question of whether the club members are interested in setting up a "library" of reference books, videos and special tools. This topic has been raised a few times in the past and always seems to dry up when issues of responsibility, "misplaced" club property, etc. are raised.

Source Listing. I asked if members might be interested in creating some type of club directory which lists sources of information, parts, expertise, service, etc. The idea is to have a "Who do I call? Where do I find? How do you fix? Who works on?" kind of a listing that would benefit members. Is there a member interested in organizing this? One way to get information is to request it on each years membership renewal. Please speak up at the next club event if you are interested.

Name Tags. Tim Thomas asked about having new name tags created. He will look into the possibility of having some nice ones made up and report back to the club. Depending on cost, it may be possible to include a name tag as a membership benefit.

1991 Events Planning. Tim suggested that we get started on our plans for the clubs core events for next year. We have had success with an events planning meeting in the Winter of each year and will do the same in early 1991. This process will work best if everyone comes forward with their ideas and preferences.

Some event ideas to consider include:

- Hare and Hound Rally.
- War Bird Air Museum Tour at Flying Cloud Airport.

- Beer Tasting Party.
- Brewery or Winery Tour.
- Faribault Heritage Days Car Show (Those of us attending this year really enjoyed it).
- Progressive Dinner Drive
- Aquatennial Concours
- Vintage Races at BIR or Road America (WI)
- University Motors Summer Picnic
- Wings and Wheels
- Car Wash and Wax
- Fall Color Tour
- Overnight to Duluth (or similar destination)
- Autocross

Event Host Needed. The club needs a volunteer to host the *Indian Summer Rendezvous* and the *Holiday Party*. If you would like to host or help, please call Tim Thomas at 612-729-7125

Grill Badges. They are here and they look great! Roger Karnopp unveiled the MMGG grill badges we ordered some time back. The quality is very good and all should be pleased to display one on their MG.

Cost to club members is \$9 if you purchase one at a club event. Badge mail order will be available from Roger for \$11 (includes postage and handling).

Thanks! To Ken and Diane Merrill for organizing and hosting the Business Meeting and for providing superb refreshments. They did a great job!

MEMBER NEWS

Michael Pasek of Coon Rapids writes:

I enjoyed the Newsletter, especially the piece about the drive to St. Cloud. My parents had a 1960 (or was it 1961?) Renault Caravelle, I wish I had it now!

I finally retrieved my '77 Midget from my brother's place up near Duluth. We had a heckuva time trying to get it started but in retrospect, it wasn't that bad. When we first cranked it over, after dumping a little gas in the carb, it fired right up. Of course, this was after I bought a new battery (the old one had cracked a couple of winters ago). However, after that first promising BRRRRRRM!, it was "no go".

Pulling one of the plugs out, it was quite fouled (this was after many attempts to start - we certainly had flooded it!) While the plug was out, we checked the spark and it was almost non-existent. Revering my brother as the god of things mechanical, when he suggested that perhaps it needed new spark plug wires, I accepted this as a given... off to the auto parts store. I picked up the plug wires and on the way back I thought to myself, "I should have told him not to take the old wires off until I got back with the new ones". Of course, when I returned, he had the old ones removed. Did he remember which ones went where? No.

We fiddled with different combinations until I finally decided I'd better run down to his shop to pick up my *Complete Official MG Midget Manual* (the extra copy that I keep at his place). After getting the new plug wires connected correctly, we proceeded to "try, try again." Still "no go". We checked the spark again and it was still very weak. Well, even though we only needed to clean off a couple of years of corrosion from the contacts in the distributor cap, at least I have new plug wires. So, with a good spark, we tried a few more times. Hmmm, plugs were still getting fouled. Checking the carb, the problem became obvious. The piston had seized up. So we took the carb off, disassembled, cleaned and reassembled it. (I've got to get a new gasket one of these days). This time, it fired right up.

I drove it back to the Cities (after filling the tranny with oil...that was fun!). I occasionally drive it to and from work but it needs a lot of mechanical-type work (which I can't afford right now), like alignment, shocks, etc. so I try to keep the mileage down. I've got my "Victoria British Wish List" all filled out...

I look forward to the next Newsletter and I hope to get together with other MMGG members at upcoming events and/or meetings. I'm certainly glad that my roommate noticed the ad in the paper for the brunch this Spring!

Keep Them Running Forever!

Michael and Robin Pasek

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

S E P T E M B E R

8. MMGG/WINGS AND WHEELS. Tim Thomas hosting.

9. BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL. Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL. 708-885-7789.

9. Italian Grand Prix, Monza.

9. Gorp-O-Nap Autocross. 3M Center 3MSCC. Mark Utecht. 612-739-2980.

15 - 16. Lake MGB Club Tour of Schell Brewery (15th). Flandrau State Park (16th). Lori Behnke, 507-462-3521. MMGG members are invited to attend.

16. MOWOG V Autocross. Anoka-Ramsey Comm. Coll. John Krusow. 612-535-5393. MAC.

22 - 23. SCCA Trans Am & CART 200. Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI.

23. Portugese Grand Prix, Estoril.

24 - 25. MAC DOES BIR. MN Autosports Club sponsored autocross at Brainerd International Raceway. Randy Williams, 618 Dresden Circle, Chaska, MN 55318. 612-448-2655 for registration or info.

26. Deadline for submissions to the October Newsletter.

30. Spanish Grand Prix. Jerez de la Frontera.

O C T O B E R

13. MMGG INDIAN SUMMER RENDEZVOUS.

14. Hayshaker Autocross. Corvettes of MN. Mike Reid, 612-739-5613.

21. MOWOG VI Autocross. Canterbury Downs. Randy Williams. 612-448-2655.

28. Long John Autocross. 3M Center. 3MSCC. Mark Utecht. 612-739-2980.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

David Bjork
Mounds View, MN

Rick and Liz Borken
St. Louis Park, MN

Allen Bramer
Burnsville, MN

Harry and Ann Carlsen
Golden Valley, MN

Christophe and Karen Cordier
Sauk Rapids, MN

Amie and Jan Court
Eden Prairie, MN

Todd and Susan Engel
Eagan, MN

Gary and Mary Hargreaves
Fridley, MN

Mark Hoganson
St. Paul, MN

Jeff and Anne Ingebrigston
Maple Grove, MN

Roger and Pat Karnopp
Eagan, MN

Mark and Darlene Levenson
St. Paul, MN

Jim and Jolene Lyburn
Spring Lake Park, MN

Ed and Kay McMillan
Elko, MN

Nancy Miller
Bloomington, MN

Howard Rod
Lauderdale, MN

Verl and Ada Wilkins
Hopkins, MN

ON THE MARKET

FOR SALE: MMGG GRILL BADGES. May be purchased at club events for \$9 or mail order from Roger Karnopp for \$11. Send check to Roger at 1295 Deerwood Dr., Eagan, MN 55122.

CLUB LOGO PATCHES: Very attractive embroidered patches with the MMGG logo. Contact: Color Weave, 8020 University Ave. Fridley (3 miles north of I-694) 612-784-0708. Mary Ann is our contact there.

WANTED: Winter storage facility for MGs. Mike Funck, 612-881-3223. so

FOR SALE: 1968 MGB-GT. One owner. First time out of California. Maintenance records for the past 20 years. NO RUST EVER. Over drive and wire wheels. Front end tight. Runs beautifully. BRG/Red. \$5,500. Call Mike Soltis after 3 pm: 612-926-9243. so

WANTED: Rear sway bar and other suspension pieces for Midget. Also, have extensive inventory of parts to sell or trade, ranging from near-junk to very nice. Phil Ethier, 224-3105 or 298-5324. so

FOR SALE: 1975 MIDGET. Texas car, body is excellent. 64,000 miles. Mechanically sound. Steel wheels. Green. \$2,250. Gary Thyren, 612-437-1546. as

MGB CAR SEATS

by Scott Fisher

There is at least one MGB with a kid seat - mine. Yes, kids love sports cars. (Note that very young children, however, are sometimes more prone to ear infections and should not have the wind whipping by their ears at 40-50 mph. Keep the top up, or get Petunia a hat. I think a pudding-basin helmet with leather flaps over the ears would be a big hit.)

Besides, putting a child into a convertible is so easy: you just lift her (those of you with male children can just read "her" in the generic sense) over the door and plop her into the chair. Then it's on with the safety gear and "Whee! Say whee, Daddy!"

It shouldn't be difficult to devise a way of mounting a child seat to the parcel shelf in a B. The big problem is in the top. Later Bs (like my '71) with the folding tops have the classic problem of two things occupying the same space at the same time, so I'd just have to unbolt the top if I did that. (Hmmm, this is a way that all three of us could go in the car at the same time: maybe I'll work on a prototype.)

Technical problems: Note that the battery cover is a flimsy piece of lightweight metal held on with five Dzus fasteners. It is not structurally suited for mounting anything heavier than a tuna sandwich. The shelf behind and around the battery cover, however, is a fine place to mount anything sturdy - such as a roll bar. My suggestions:

Find the dimensions of the seat you intend to use - width, depth, etc. (Personal recommendation is to get one with a proper 5-point harness, not one of the shield-types.) Be sure you drill the holes wider than the seat so that you have some room to adjust the belt when you install it.

Use aircraft-grade eye bolts mounted through the chassis and held in place with large washers to distribute force around the area in case of impact. (Refer to the SCCA's instructions on mounting safety harnesses, or check a Pegasus Racing catalog for hardware.)

You can use street-quality seat belts, or you can use racing-type lap belts. Some of this will depend on the kind of seat you use; ours has a framework beneath the seat, through which the belt passes, while some are designed to have the car's safety belt go across the child and the seat itself.

Note also that (California) law requires infants to be in rearward-facing seats for a certain time; the rule of thumb is to keep them facing backwards till they are old enough to hold up their heads on their own. Be sure to allow for this mounting possibility when you figure out where to put the seat.

Kids and MGs are entirely compatible. The worst part of the combination is trying to get them out of the car after you're home! "No, Daddy, again, again!"

- Scott "This is what Safety Fast means!" Fisher



MINNESOTA MG GROUP DIRECTORY

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Events Coordinator: Tim Thomas. 729-7125
Treasury: Al and Sharon Kelsey. 891-3452
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Newsletter Contributions and Ads

Contact: Mike Funck
 9517 Portland Ave. S.
 Bloomington, MN 55420
 612-881-3223

Personal ads for cars, parts for sale, cars wanted, etc. are free to dues paying members. Ad fee is \$10 to non-members. Ads will run two months. Please submit a \$10 check plus your copy by mail. For commercial ads, please call or write.

Change of Address

Contact: Al Bramer
 626 Portland Mews
 Burnsville, MN 55337
 612-432-8058

Membership Application/Renewal

Membership dues are \$20 per member/family. Includes subscription to the MMGG Newsletter.

Remit \$20 check payable to:
 Alan Kelsey - MMGG
 15942 Harmony Way Court
 Apple Valley, MN 55337
 612-891-3452

Associate Membership: Newsletter subscription only. Remit \$6 to Alan Kelsey - MMGG

Unless otherwise noted, opinions expressed in the MMGG Newsletter are those of the authors and do not reflect official opinions or policies of the Minnesota MG Group.

TREASURY REPORT

Description	Date	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Balance Forward	7/16/90			\$1675.89
Checking Acct. Chg.	7/16/90		\$1.87	\$1674.02
Prizes	7/16/90		\$35.00	\$1639.02
Polo Shirt	7/17/90	\$15.00		\$1654.02
Newsletter Ad	7/30/90	\$10.00		\$1664.02
Printing Expense	8/2/90		\$50.00	\$1614.02
Membership Dues (15)	8/3/90	\$272.00		\$1886.02
Mailing Labels	8/7/90		\$15.00	\$1871.02
Car Badges Expense	8/20/90		\$780.00	\$1091.02
Car Badges Sale (9)	8/20/90	\$81.00		\$1172.02
Membership Dues (2)	8/20/90	\$20.00		\$1192.02

Treasurer: Alan Kelsey
 August 20, 1990

Minnesota MG Group
Michael Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Y

Randy Byboth
2547 East Second Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109

MIDGET

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Minnesota MG Group
September Newsletter



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