

# Minnesota MG Group Gazette

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Minnesota MG Group Sept. /Oct. 1997

## Wheels & Wings Sat. Sept. 6th

Dave Stovall

The time is here...If you have made it to no other event this year (*like a certain newsletter editor that shall remain nameless*) this is the time to get your car out of the garage, dust it off, fill it with oil...(I'm sure it needs it) and join us for THE event of the year Classic Motorbooks Wheels and Wings in Osceola Wisconsin. Last year over 700 vehicles were on display. Everything from farm tractors to armored personnel carriers.

As many of you know the MMGG has received many awards from this unique annual event. Recently a new award has been offered. Largest Participation by a Car Club. It has come down to a competition between us and the Minnesota Triumph club. Last year we tied. (*Yeah, right*) This year we need to WIN. We can't win without you.

**We will meet in the Perkin's parking lot on the SE corner of the intersection of Snelling Ave. and Hwy. 36 in Roseville at 7 am on Saturday Sept. 6th.**

Co-hosts Kevin Healy and Phil Vanner have some great new things cooked up for this years run to Osceola. For those of you who raved about Mearn's May Maneuvers, your hosts have come up with a tulip rallye to Wheels and Wings. Several prizes will be awarded in many different categories, so you won't want to miss this one...to enjoy your time en route, they will start the first car at 7:30 the last car out by 8:15. For those less adventurous...we will have a caravan departure as well.



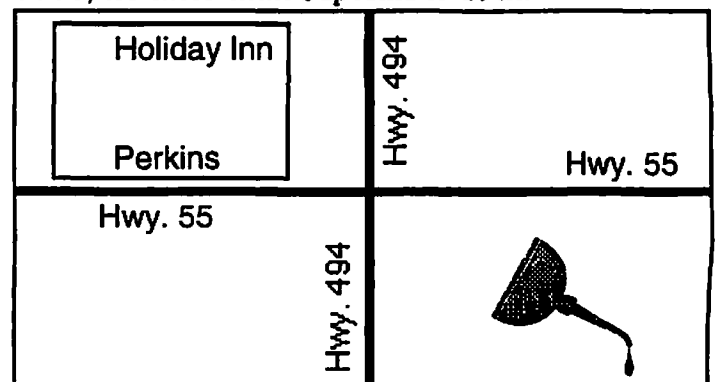
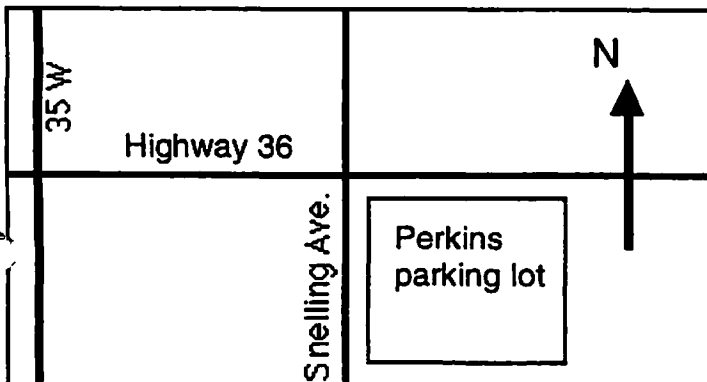
## Fall Color Tour Sunday Oct. 5th

Dave Stovall

"The falling leaves....outside my window..." The beautiful voice of Nat "King" Cole is slowly drowned out as you press the accelerator pedal down to hear the sweet sound of your exhaust note as you power through yet another curve on a fall colored tree lined road. Dreaming? Not if you join us for the final driving event of the year, The Fall Color Tour. The beautiful area Doug Madson has chosen for this years tour is a must see.

We will meet in the Holiday Inn parking lot on the NW corner of the intersection of 494 and Hwy. 55 in Plymouth Sunday October 5th, at 9:30 am. From there we'll depart at 10 am for a colorful drive to St. Johns University. We will have lunch in the cafeteria, lunch is \$6.50 per person. After a leisurely lunch, we will tour the Abbey Church, and then depart for home with a gift from the University to all who attend.

Please R.S.V.P. to Doug Madson at 1-888-253-0880, no later than September 19th.





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**MEMBER APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

Membership dues are \$20 per member/family per year. Includes 1 year subscription to the MMGG Gazette.

Send \$20 check payable to:

Dan Shidla - MMGG

10305 Morris Road

Bloomington, MN 55437

(612) 831-0291

Newsletter Submissions and ads

Please contact Dave Stovall

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



# If Microsoft<sup>®</sup> built cars...

Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you'd have to buy a new car.

Occasionally your car would just die on the road for no reason, accept this, restart and drive on.

Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail to restart and you'd have to reinstall the engine. For some strange reason, you'd just accept this too.

You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought a "Car 95" or a "Car NT". But then you'd have to buy more seats.

Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was twice as reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive - but it would only run on five percent of the roads.

The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars which would make their cars go much slower.

The oil, engine, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced with a single "General Car Fault" warning light.

~~People would get excited about the "new" features in Microsoft cars, forgetting completely that they had been available in other cars for many years.~~

~~We'd all have to switch to Microsoft gas and all auto fluids but the packaging would be superb.~~

~~New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.~~

The airbag system would say "Are you sure ?" before going off.

If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened.

They wouldn't build their own engines, but form a cartel with their engine suppliers. The latest engine would have 16 cylinders, multi-port fuel injection and 4 turbos, but it would be a side-valve design so you could use Model-T Ford parts on it.

There would be an "Engium Pro" with bigger turbos, but it would be slower on most existing roads.

Microsoft cars would have a special radio/cassette player which would only be able to listen to Microsoft FM, and play Microsoft Cassettes. Unless of course, you buy the upgrade to use existing stuff.

Microsoft would do so well, because even though they don't own any roads, all of the road manufacturers would give away Microsoft cars for free, including IBM!

If you couldn't afford to buy a new car, then you could just borrow your friends, and then copy it.

August 27, 1997

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

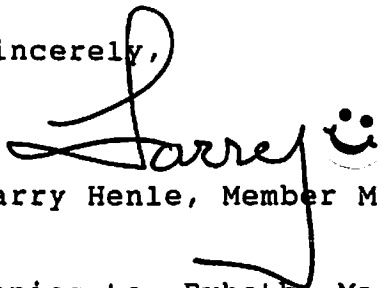
I think your decision to run the article "Nightmare On 49th Avenue" was totally irresponsible and in very bad taste. I do not like to see a member of the Minnesota Patrol portrayed as the village idiot or a babbling buffoon. After all, it is a very respected law enforcement agency.

Something else to remember...a Minnesota Collector's Plate is a special privilege and not a right....and privileges may be removed with the snap of the fingers.

If special interest groups such as ours and the Minnesota Triumphs continue to ridicule Minnesota Law Enforcement agencies we may wake up some morning and find that the Minnesota Legislature has revoked our Minnesota Collector Plate privilege.

I think we owe the Minnesota Highway Patrol a public apology.

Sincerely,



Larry Henle, Member Minnesota MG Group

Copies to: Byboth, Madson, Shilda, O'Brien, Stovall,  
Mearns, Lymburn and Karnopp.

# Minnesota MG Group Membership Application

NAME

SPOUSE

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Please tell us a little about yourself and your car(s):

Annual membership is just \$20.00

Make check payable to MMGG and send to :

Dan Shidla - MMGG  
10305 Morris Rd.  
Bloomington, MN 55437

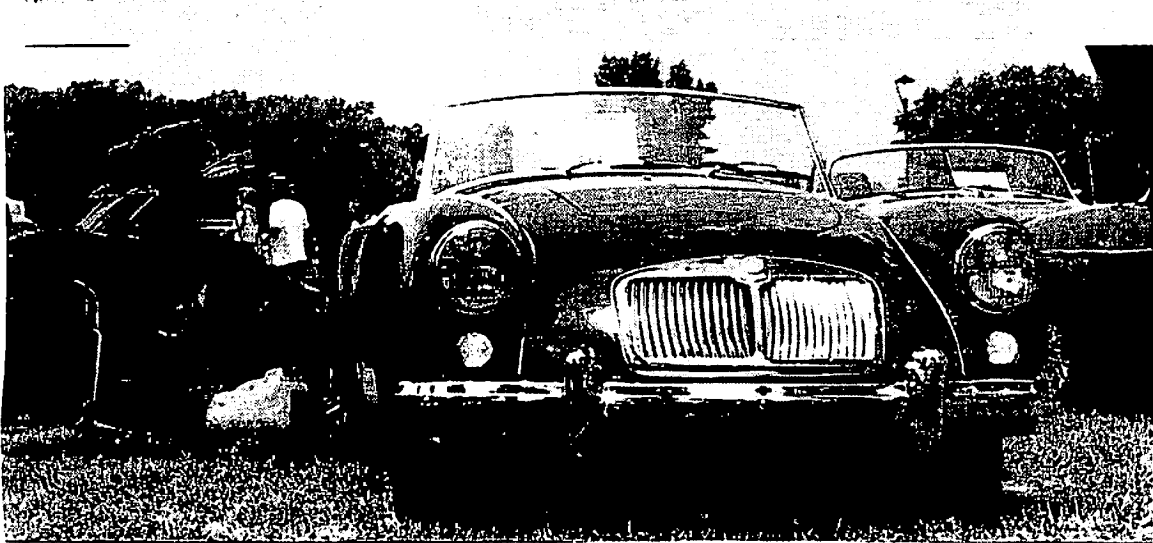


**FOR SALE** - Complete wire wheel front and rear axle assemblies for MGB. Shocks, steering gear and suspension components. Includes 5 painted wire wheels. \$300 or best offer. Larry 464-2609 lv. msg.

**WANTED** - All members of the Minnesota MG Group to show up in their MG's in the Perkins parking lot in Roseville on the morning of September 6th to participate in a very fun event...Wheels and Wings. Hope to see you there!

*All MMGG Marketplace ads are free to MMGG members, non member ads are \$5 All MMGG Marketplace ads will run for three issues unless notified otherwise.*

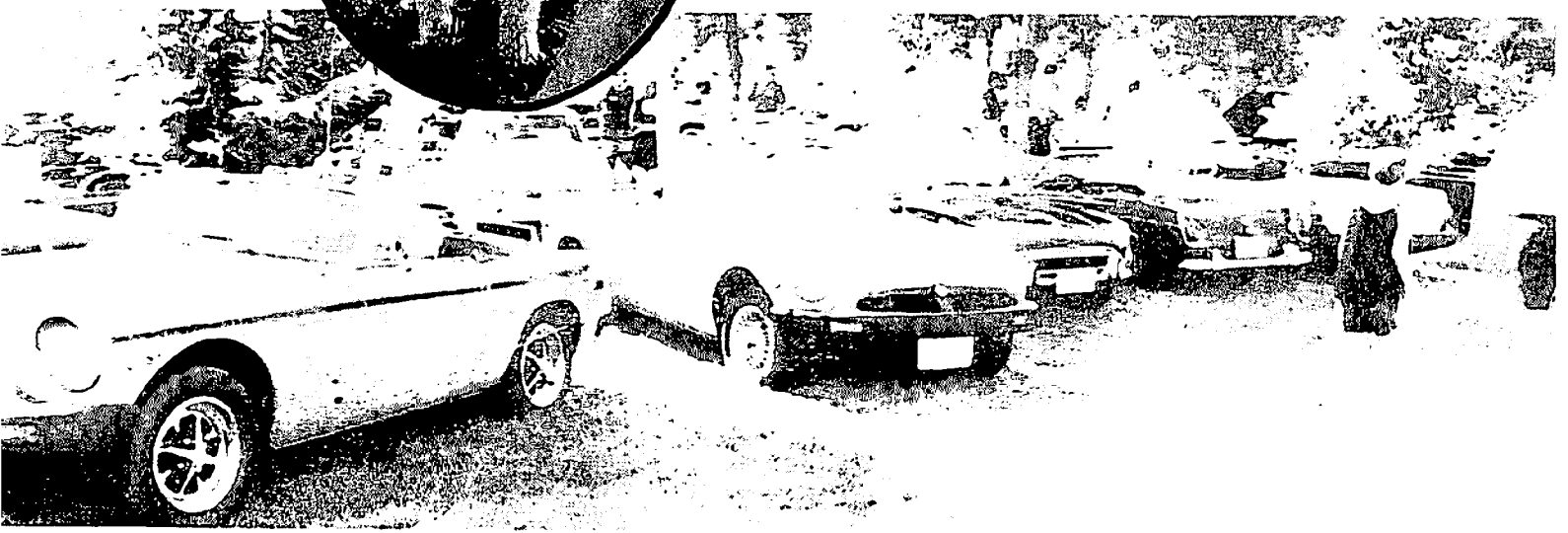
**DESPERATELY NEEDED** - Storage space for my 66 Austin Healey Sprite MKIII. As I have an apartment with no covered storage, my baby has sat outside for the summer. I need winter storage space somewhere in the greater metropolitan area for little or no cost. Mostly restored, new paint, drivable condition, fully insured, no leaks, 11'5" long. Please help, I'm getting worried. Curt Carlson (H) 721-8667 (W) 931-3936.





PICTURE  
PAGES

The Minnesota MG Group outing to Red Wing was a good one with a large number of cars turning out. The weather co-operated and there was a lot of good food and friendship available. Group photos by Sam Mearns.



# What Does The Law Say?

Minnesota Statutes, 168.10, subd. 1c. Collector's vehicle, collectors license.

"Any motor vehicle, including any truck, that is at least 20 model years old and manufactured after 1935, or any motor vehicle of a defunct make as defined as any car or truck originally licensed as a separate identifiable make as designated by the division of motor vehicles, and owned and operated solely as a collector's vehicle, shall be listed for taxation and registration as follows:

An affidavit shall be executed stating the name and address of the person from whom purchased and of the new owner, the make of the motor vehicle, year and number of the model, the manufacturer's identification number and that the vehicle is owned and operated solely as a collector's item and not for general transportation purposes. The owner must also prove that the owner also has one or more vehicles with regular license plates. If the registrar is satisfied that the affidavit is true and correct and the owner pays a \$25 tax, the registrar shall list the vehicle for taxation and registration and shall issue number plates.

The number plates issued shall bear the inscription "Collector," "Minnesota" and the registration number or other combination of characters authorized under section 168.12, subdivision 2a, but no date. The number plates are valid without renewal as long as the vehicle is in existence. The registrar has the power to revoke the plates for failure to comply with this subdivision.

## Subd. 1f. Equipment:

Any pioneer, classic, collector vehicle, collector military vehicle, or street rod shall have all equipment, in operating condition, which was specifically required by law as a condition for first sale after manufacture.

No law requiring any particular equipment or specifying any standards to be met by motor vehicles shall apply to pioneer, classic, collector vehicles, collector military vehicles, or street rods unless it so specifically states.

## Subd. 1g Original Plates:

A vehicle registered pursuant to subdivision 1a, 1b, 1c, or 1d may in lieu of being issued number plates by the registrar, display original Minnesota number plates issued in the same year as the model year of the vehicle on which they are displayed. The number of the original plates must be provided to the registrar.

The original plates must be in good condition and shall be used in pairs, one to be displayed in the front of the car and one in the rear, except for an original plate issued in 1911, 1944, 1945, or 1946 which may be used singly and displayed at the rear of the vehicle.

Original Minnesota number plates shall not be used if the number on the original plate is identical to a number on any current street rod plate or any other plate in a numbering system used by the registrar. Any person currently using plates issued pursuant to subdivision 1a, 1b, 1c, or 1d, shall return those plates to the registrar before substituting original plates.

*So now you know, I'm sure this has cleared up all the questions you have ever had regarding collector's plates. Seriously, this is an extremely vague law, open entirely to personal opinion.*

*Read the following unfortunate but true story of what happened to a fellow British car owner in the Minnesota Triumph's club, John Paone from their July newsletter "Triumphs & Tribulations. -Ed.*

## Nightmare On 49th Avenue

The nightmare began on Father's Day weekend of last year. My ex was nice enough to allow my 3 year old son to spend the weekend with me.

She was unaware that I had recently purchased an unrestored '80 Spitfire to add to my collection of boy toys. A 4X4 pickup, a Harley Davidson, a 4 seater airplane. I'd been in love with Spitfires since I bought my first MKII back in '69.

The '80 Spit was neglected and rotting but almost rust free. My goal was to drive it over the summer then start restoring it in the fall.

The catalytic converter was broken, so rather than have to replace it and hassle with the emissions people, I opted for collector plates. I rubbed out the paint, tossed some seat covers over the rotted seats and removed the convertible top to repair a small tear.

When my son saw the car he wanted a ride so I strapped him in his car seat and we took off for the gas station. My plan was to attend the Father's day Car Show on Nicollet Mall.

After gassing up, we proceeded east on I-94 toward Minneapolis. Then it looked like it might rain, so I decided to go home and reattach the convertible top.

I exited the freeway on 49th Avenue North. When I stopped for the sign on Bryant I noticed a sate Patrol car was behind me. I started through the intersection and he hit me with the lights. I pulled over.

He got out, adjusted his gun belt and approached

my car. "Gimmie yer license and insurance!" I handed him both cards. He asked where I was headed so I told him I was going home. He asked where I was coming from, so I told him I was giving my son a ride.

"You can't joyride with them plates! They are for shows and parades ONLY!" He went to his car and came back. "This insurance card says 1990 Toyota truck. This aint no Toyota truck." I thought to myself.. "Geez, I gave this guy the wrong insurance card."

I explained that the insurance card for the

**"You can't joyride with them plates! They are for shows and parades ONLY!!"**

Triumph must be in the truck only two blocks away. "If you will follow me home just two short blocks, I'll provide the proper card."

He refused to follow me home. "You don't have insurance...do you?" I once again tried to explain to this Herman Munster sized moron with a badge and an attitude. "Ya know" he said. "If I call your agent and find out you don't have insurance, you are going to jail and I'll put your boy in Juvenile Hall."

By this time my Italian blood was boiling. "Do with me what you want"" I yelled "But, so help me you even touch my boy and i promise that will be the last thing you'll ever do!"

He backed off, went and sat in his car for what seemed like a lifetime. My son was terrified over all that was happening.

All of a sudden, a tow truck pulls up. I ask what is going on. "You aint drivin' this car without insurance." He hands me two tickets and tells me to get my boy and walk home.

Then he demanded I leave the key in the ignition. I did but I opened the bonnet and pulled the distributor cap off. Nobody was driving my car.

The convertible top was still in my garage. The car spent the weekend in the impound lot in the pouring rain with no top. My son and I were cheated out of a good time and I was really pissed.

The following Monday I went to court with both tickets.

1. Driving without insurance.
2. Illegal use of collector plates.

I produced the proper insurance card (all State Farm cards look alike) and the judge tore up that ticket. Then he told me the trooper had no right to tow my car because I had TEN days to provide proof

of insurance.

As for the collector plate issue, he read a few paragraphs out loud then mumbled something about the law being so poorly written that it's up to the discretion of whomever is reading it as to what is what. He tore up that ticket too.

To recap: The trooper threatened me with jail, terrorized my son, and illegally towed my car. I got a waterlogged Spitfire and a \$140 towing bill.

I filed a complaint with the State Patrol Internal Affairs Department against this idiot. Three month's later I was interviewed, but nothing ever happened.

I sued the state for reimbursement of the towing charges and a new carpet set. They refused to take responsibility and suggested I go after the towing company because..."They towed your car...not us!!" Duhhh.

A word to the wise from one who knows. If you use these plates, stay away from Target and Rainbow, and don't drive it to work.

If you get stopped by the State Patrol, tell the trooper you're on the way to a show or parade. And if his badge number is 357...Good Luck, you'll need it!

## Atlanta Chosen to host MG 2001

Dave Stovall

Well boys and girls, we were close. We made the final cut...it was down to the two of us...Atlanta and St. Paul. So close I could already see the endless streams of MG's as they entered the fairgrounds...driving around the protected streets, parking together by marque... But it wasn't meant to be I guess. Congratulations to the selection committee for choosing the beautiful city of Atlanta Georgia as the host city for MG 2001.

If for one will lead the way to Atlanta in 2001...I'M GOING...I still haven't stopped smiling about INDY 96 and that was a year ago... The MMGG board of directors has some tricks and ideas up their collective sleeve...something to make the dream of hosting a national event for this young 10 year old club a reality.

We'd like to share them with you, the membership. **The next MMGG Business Meeting will be held on SATURDAY NOV. 1ST AT 10 AM AT BRIT'S PUB ON 11TH AND NICOLLET AVE.** will be discussing the recently proposed bylaws and future plans for hosting a national convention. Hope to see you at Brit's Pub on Saturday.

Sat. Sept. 6th  
Wheels & Wings  
Sun. Oct. 5th  
Fall Color Tour



# Minnesota MG Group

MGA

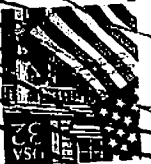
MGB

MGC

Midget

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