



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please join Mary and I for the MMGG Annual Meeting on Sunday November 14th at Lincolnshire Links British antique shop in the St Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul. It is located at 2262 Como Ave under Muffelettas Restaurant. We will meet at 10:00 am and plan the MMGG events for 2000. We welcome your input on all club issues and will also be electing new officers for the next year. Tea and scones will be served. (get your coffee fix before coming).

Between 12:00 and 12:30 we will "retire" upstairs for the Sunday Brunch at Muffelettas. Cost of the buffet is between \$6.50 and \$12.50 depending on your appetite. At around 1:30 we will return downstairs for a MG 2001 update meeting. We should be done at about 3:30. Please RSVP to my toll-free number 1(888) 253-0880 by Monday November 8th. Hope to see you there, but if you cannot make it please call me at the above number with ideas about MMGG and our events. Thanks.

Doug & Mary Madson

See map, page 6

## THE FALL COLOR TOUR

9 October 1999. The weather was glorious. Our hosts, Tim and Lori Hausker, Al Webster, and Roberta Armstrong had arranged for us to meet at the Afton Village Coffee Shop in the old village of Afton, along the St Croix River, at nine o'clock. It was so nice that the drive out to Afton was almost enough, but there was more. Some folks got there early, to get a jump on the coffee and pastries perhaps, and by 9:15 the main street and the parking lot were filled with T-types and B's, TR-3's and 4's and 6's, Midgets, that beautiful XK120 and a Volvo wagon and minivan? Instructions were handed out, including a "panic packet," beneath the Minnesota MG Group banner that flew above the Coffeehouse door. The first of many lines for restrooms formed. After a short driver's meeting, we set out from the Squire house gardens at 10:00 AM, 36 cars in all. We wound our way into Wisconsin. As we crossed the bridge into Prescott, observant crews spotted the Citroen Club forming up for their "Tulips and Other Fall Flowers Rally" in Point Douglas Park. It was that kind of day - anybody with any sense and an interesting vehicle was out enjoying the roads. We stopped in Plum City for refreshments and when we left the fish were probably more refreshed than we were. Rumors persist that a

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Doug Madson

### First Annual MG (Major Garages) review.

Garages are primarily "guy" places. A place to hide and commiserate with one's crescent wrenches when the otherwise idyllic relationship with the significant other turns rocky. A place to hide those Moss orders and backorder-4s until the boxes accumulate enough grime to look like they've always been there. A place to work on cars and things mechanical that can be so satisfying when you finally rush down the road and everything works. Garages come in all sizes and shapes. Some are fancy, some simple, but all are functional and the garages of the MMGG are no different. I have been to several MMGG garages and the following are notable:

#### Henle's Haven

Marshall is about as far southwest as you can get and still be in Minnesota. It's possible that Omaha might be a little closer than St. Paul. It's a nice town, home of the Southwest Minnesota State Mustangs, great ice cream (Schwans.) and one great MMGG Garage. Larry Henle's garage is awesome. Featured in a recent issue of NAMGBR'S *MGB Driver*, this garage was purpose built to house two MGs. It's so clean and bright, one could perform brain surgery on the floor. An overnight exodus to Marshall is planned

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## Presidents Corner

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for 2000. Be there and octagonal or be square.

### Iburgs Incubator

Tucked away behind the big garage attached to Dan and Diane Iburg's house in Sauk Rapids is a smaller garage. Several great restorations have hatched from that virtual incubator of things mechanical. It has produced a strikingly beautiful black Jaguar XK 120 Roadster. A really quick fly yellow Bugeye, and, believe it or not, an early 50's John Deere in "plowing green." Off to the side is an unusual and growing collection of vintage testing equipment. All are great looking, but under the skin, they are just as beautiful mechanically. Dan is an artist with things mechanical. MMGG should plan to visit someday soon.

*Dan is an artist  
with things me-  
chanical.*

### Merrill's MG Mansion

The first annual Garage Stuffing at Ken and Diane Merrill's was a great success. Maybe next year, with a small plasma cut here and a sledgehammer stroke there, we can do better. The garage itself is full of very useful and practical features. The Chandelier lighting coordinated with the overhead garage door operation is brilliant, and the telephone/radio volume interplay is straight from *Star Wars*. The thing that intrigued me most was the switch that activated a red light in the master bedroom every time the side entry door was opened. Ken said it was a kind of security light but it has a number of possibilities that I won't speculate further on now. The Stuffing will probably become an annual event. It was fun - don't miss the next attempt.

That's it. The first annual Major Garage review. Rumor has it that the O'Byboths are building the next Taj Mahal of garages. The MMGG can be proud of the places we spend most of each godawful winter getting ready for the next spring. Next year our schedule will include visits to several. See you in an MG at an MG(major garage.)

Safety Fast. Doug

P.S. A special thanks to Al Webster and Roberta Armstrong, and Tim and Lori Hausker for the Great organization that made the 1999 Fall Colour Tour a big success. The weather was beautiful (one of those days that makes living in the Upper Midwest special) and the route through the alphabet soup of Wisconsin country roads was a great drive. The intermarque turnout was great too, with British sports cars of several makes winding down the roads together. What a great day. Thanks.

President	Doug Madson	320-251-0317
Vice President	Simon Bosworth	651-454-7413
Treasurers	Dan & Jeanette Shidla	612-831-0291
Secretary	Cindy O'Brien	612-936-9335
N.L. Editor	Phil Vanner	612-789-4614
N.L. Publisher	Larry Henle	can't get rid of it
Regalia	Jim Lymburn	612-780-9241
Tool Control	Roger Karnopp	651-454-1379
Club Liaison	Brian McCullough	651-462-0145
Membership	Tim Crain	612-920.2489
	Jim Pennoyer	651-229-5396
2001 Chairs	Dick Wallrich	651-644-0154
	Dave Stovall	612-894-4203

### MEMBERSHIPS

Initial membership is \$30 (this gets you up to two name badges- additional name badges are \$5.00 each)

Dues are \$25 per household per year for established members. Includes 1 year subscription to the MMGG Gazette.

Fill out the form on page 3 and send it with your check payable to "MMGG" to:

Dan Shidla  
10305 Morris Road  
Bloomington, MN 55437

### Newsletter Submissions and Advertisements:

Phil Vanner  
1811 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Call 612-789-4614 for FAX information or  
E-mail philv@pclink.com  
**NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

All statements are the opinion of the persons expressing them, and not necessarily the official opinions or policies of the Minnesota MG Group.

Visit us on the internet at: [www.mmgg.org](http://www.mmgg.org)

## The Ridge-Road

Phil Vanner

I always loved the winding roads  
By the Delaware Water Gap.  
Out on the edge of Jersey,  
If you're looking on a map.  
Open roads and rolling hills,  
A driving man's delight,  
But those roads, they have their tales to tell,  
On dark October nights.

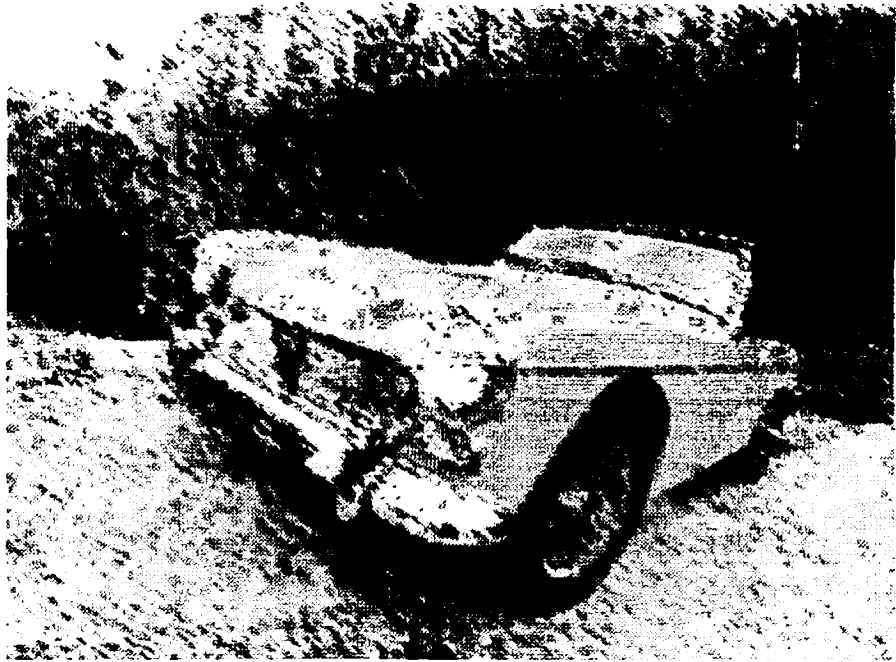
Brewster used to be a racer there,  
He fixed our cars to pay his bills.  
He had a shop just north of Millbrook,  
In those Kitatinny hills.  
Mostly he did sportscar work,  
And though he no longer raced,  
He let us run our hillclimbs  
On the ridge behind his place.

He had a lovely daughter, Mary,  
Who was nearly twenty-two,  
And the boys that tried to win her hand,  
They had a job to do.  
You see, she'd worked the hillclimb start  
Back in nineteen sixty-five:  
And as she watched the boys go up the hill,  
She knew she had to drive.

So dad taught her a thing or two,  
And she drove his old TD,  
Now any man that sought her heart,  
Would have to drive as brave as she.  
So they brought their cars to Brewster's place,  
And not just for his skill;  
For they always took their one timed run,  
Up Kitatinny hill.

Then in October sixty-seven,  
A young man came to see her dad.  
He had an MG Midget  
That was running really bad.  
But Brewster turned an expert wrench,  
And soon the motor purred,  
And the boy began to wonder,  
If it was true what he had heard.

He couldn't just come out and ask,  
For that would be too rude.  
Then Mary asked if he would drive her  
"Up to see the view."  
So this young man, to be polite,  
Offered her an open door,  
And fired up his engine,  
Like so many had before.



As the beauty slipped in by his side,  
His heart was filled with joy,  
If he could turn the magic time,  
Then he would be the boy.  
He popped the clutch, and gravel flew,  
He started up the mile.  
The old man laughed, and waved good luck,  
And shook his head and smiled.

The young lad's foot was to the bulkhead,  
As he worked it through the gears,  
He braked deep at every corner;  
And he showed no trace of fear.  
He drifted round a hairpin,  
As he pressed on with the race,  
And by the look in Mary's eyes,  
He knew that he was on the pace.

He drove it even harder,  
And his heart was filled with pride.  
Perhaps he'd finally be the man  
Who took Miss Brewster for a ride.  
Then, distracted by her laughter,  
He faltered on a shift.  
And howling past the redline,  
The Midget sailed off the cliff.

The shriek of tires, then the silence,  
Filled Brewster full of dread  
And when he made it up the hill,  
He found his daughter dead.  
Mary lay along the roadway  
As if stretched out for a nap,  
The boy beside his fallen Midget,  
On that hill beneath the Gap.

Brewster sat beside the road,  
And cried awhile and then,  
He drove off in his old TD  
And was never seen again.  
Time went by, the old place changed,  
They proposed to build a dam:  
It would have flooded that whole valley,  
And covered Brewster's land.

So the towns there, they were closing down,  
And the people moved away  
And the ridge-road was abandoned,  
And so it is today.  
In the end, they never built the dam,  
And it all became a park.  
Yes, they left behind the twisty roads;  
But, be careful after dark.

For if you like to drive those hills,  
On autumn nights, alone.  
Be sure to keep your wits about you,  
Be sure to keep to routes well known  
For if you turn off by that old garage  
Where the ridge-road now lies still  
You'll find that it's your final run  
Up Kitatinny hill.

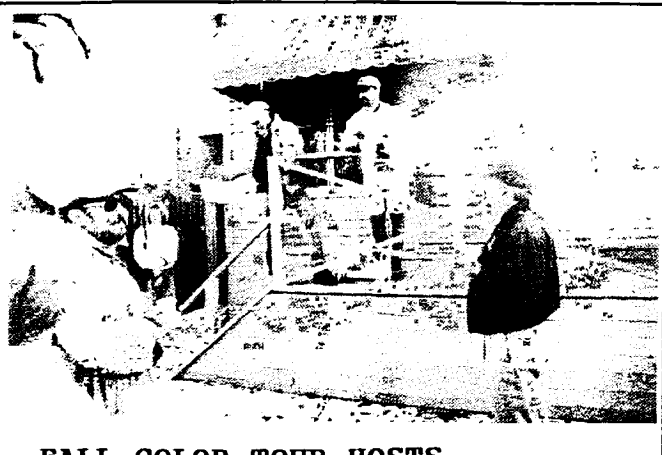
You can smell the Castrol burning  
You can feel the shadows pass;  
Above the roaring of your engine,  
You can hear a young girl's laugh.  
Headlights flicker faintly through the trees,  
Like moonlight on the water,  
When you join the spirits of the night,  
To court the ghost of Brewster's daughter.

# The Fall Colour Tour

*(Continued from page 1)*

finger went missing owing to a cleverly disguised piranha. At the Conoco Station where we needed to collect a receipt, another line formed: the morning coffee's work was done.

The main lunch stop was at the Creamery, where an excellent Scotch can be had for \$4.00. (just one, thank you we're driving) Due to the high turnout, we overflowed our reservation and some people lunched at Easy Creek Bistro in Arkansaw, some in the Inn in Downsville, and several of us at the Acoustic Café in Menomonie. Lunch ran a tad late but it gave us all chance to socialize. Then the Corvettes showed up. Apparently they had the next reservation at the Creamery and, as they pulled into the crowded parking lot amongst the Little British Cars, we set out for the return leg of the trip amidst smiles and waves and much automotive admiration.



**FALL COLOR TOUR HOSTS**

In Ellsworth the county road crews introduced an end-of-the-week hazard by graveling County road J much to the dismay of all taking that route, and to the demise of Kevin Healey's gas tank, which suffered a puncture. Tim and his family in the FCT '99 sweep vehicle (not a Saab) performed a rescue. With that exception it was an excellent day



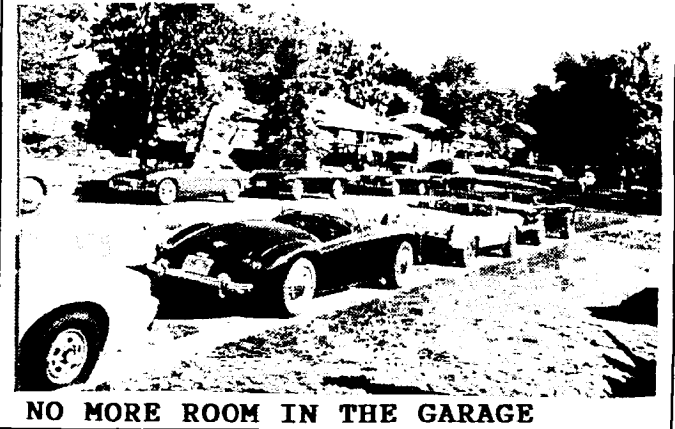
**FALL COLOR TOUR, ALMOST 50 brits**

- high in the upper 70's - brilliant sunshine - falling leaves - otherwise perfect roads.

Thanks to the following businesses in Afton, Arkansaw, and Downsville for their donations: The Afton Mercantile - Gift Certificate; the (Afton) Barbershop - beard and moustache trim; Squire House gardens in Afton - 25% off certificate; Lerk's Bar and Grill in Afton - two of their famous Lerk Burgers; The On-shore restaurant in Afton - Gift Certificate; The Easy Creek Bistro and Bar in Arkansaw - Gift Certificate, and the Creamery in Downsville - one night's stay in their B&B.



**FEEDING FISH ON FALL TOUR**



**NO MORE ROOM IN THE GARAGE**

And the answers to the questions were: (now the challenge is to remember the questions)

Highland cattle (there was a sign at the intersection of Trading Post Trail and 42<sup>nd</sup> St.)

Afton Apple Orchard

Carpenter nature Center

Big River

Lavender Rose

Any description of the fish frenzy would do.

Easy Creek Bistro and Bar

(and the one we're all waiting for)

Eau = Water (Everybody got that part) and Galle = Wales

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Classifieds

### FOR SALE :

**1975 MG Midget.** 23,000 miles. Excellent condition. Price Negotiable.

John Lauzon  
Bessemer, MI  
(906) 667-0051  
(Bessemer is on the U.P. near the WI border)

### FOR SALE :

**1961 MGA Roadster.** Parts car Missing mainly seats and one door. Quite rusty but no real damage. \$650 Also new Drivers side door pocket for MGA. \$30.

(507) 455-0243 Jerry Hudrlik Owatonna

### FOR SALE :

**1974 MGB Roadster.** Hardtop and ragtop. Excellent mechanical condition. British Racing Green with detailing. 4speed, luggage rack. \$3500 or best offer

(612) 828-9931 Marlene or LeRoy  
Eden Prairie

### FOR SALE :

**1970 MG Midget.** Stored in garage for years, also complete 948cc A-series engine (correct for very early Midget or Sprite) Make offers (612) 755-9212

### FOR SALE :

**1968 GT6** Runs great no rust, \$4200 also Alfetta GT runs - needs paint \$2500  
Walter - (320) 240-9559 St. Cloud

## Fall Colour Tour

(Continued from page 4)

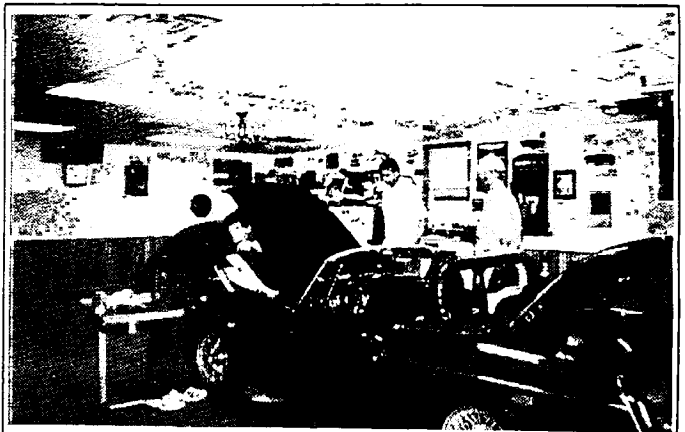
(the original intent was probably "Welsh")

English Lutheran

and

Point Douglas Park

Congratulations to everyone who got the right answers. Creativity for other answers was appreciated and those answers were add to the pot as well. (The cattle, by the way, graze in the Pasture of Al and Roberta.)



### GARAGE STUFFING TECH SESSION

#### SERVICE:

**Motoring Goodies** will soon have an open bay available for your MG work. Complete restoration or major renovation a specialty. Benefit from my years of experience with T-series MG's. Highly competitive hourly rates and the highest quality workmanship is my guarantee. For your appointment, please call Bob Figenskau at 612-935-7909

### FOR SALE :

**1969 MGB GT.** Red. For parts or full restoration. Complete car, interior rough, wire wheels, some rust, cracked head. Parked 5 years.

\$1000 or best offer

(612) 941-0884 Denny Eden Prairie

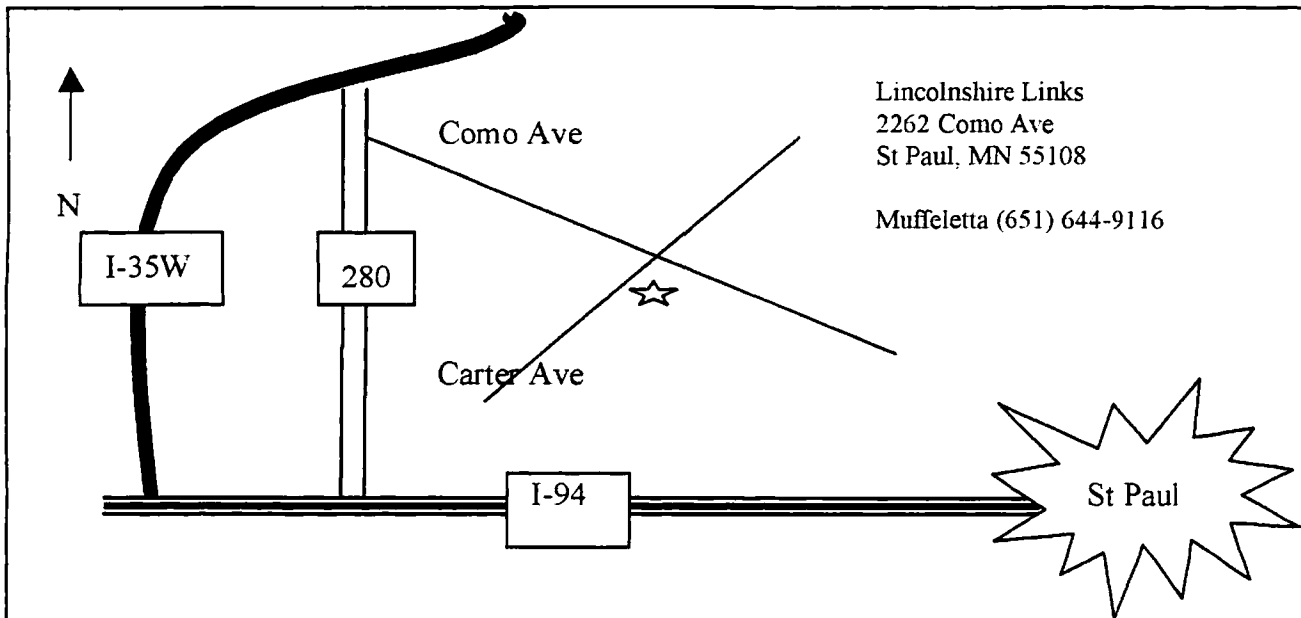
### FOR SALE :

**1973 Midget,** Blue. New top, nice interior, steel wheels, runs OK.

\$1500

(612)241-8300 Paul Elk River

## Just One Map This Month:

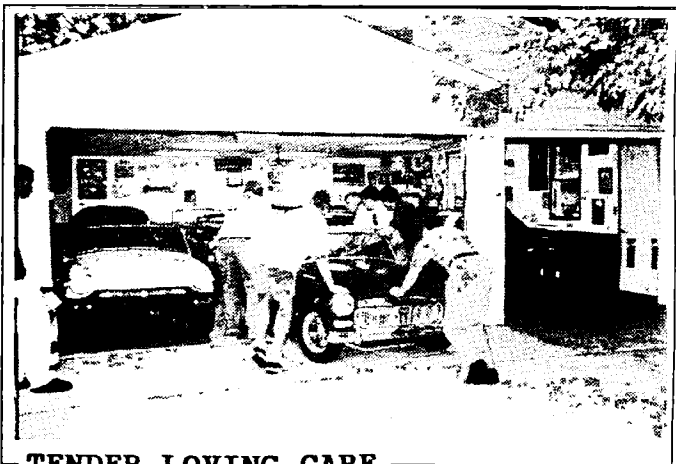


Use 35W to get to 280 if you are coming from the north. From the south, it is easier to use 94 (no 280 exit off 35 from that direction.) Note that 280 is a left exit from 94 if you approach from the west. Go east on Como and you can't miss it. (Famous last words.)

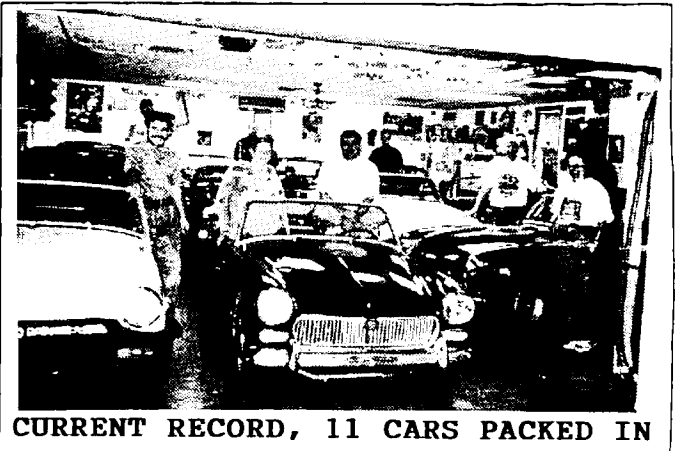
## Garage Stuffing (or a Bundle of B's)

If it's a gaggle of geese and a herd of cattle, what do you call a bunch of MG's? A multitude? That's what we had at Ken and Diane Merrill's on September 25<sup>th</sup>. With the help of fellow MG enthusiasts we managed to get 11 cars into the garage that Ken just built. There were 3 BGT's 2 A's 2 B's and 3 Midgets. What, you say, that's only 10? Well, there was a something back ther that looked like a Midget with suspicious paper octagons taped to it; I think he bribed his way in with cookies. Not only did we stuff the garage, we stuffed the owners and the potluck was a great success, with friendship and tales of Vancouver to keep us entertained. (As if the garage wasn't enough. If you didn't see this, garage, you missed something. This place had so many gimmicks that some of us expected the doors to close and all of our cars to suddenly disappear.)

I have heard that this might become an annual event and I hope it does. We even had impromptu tech sessions. Thanks, Ken and Diane.



TENDER LOVING CARE



CURRENT RECORD, 11 CARS PACKED IN

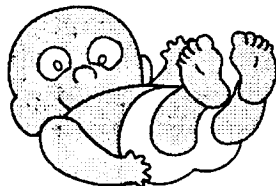
# MMGG Membership Form

Name		Spouse/other	
Home Phone		Work Phone	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Please tell us a little about yourself and your car(s) :			
			Dan Shidla- MMGG
			10305 Morris Rd.
Initial Membership is \$30, make check payable to MMGG and send to:			Bloomington, MN 55437

## New Members?

Who says this is an aging hobby? Some of you may not know this, but there is a race on in the Minnesota MG Group. To see who will add the new member first. As of this writing, on October 20th, Brian and Jennifer McCullough are four days overdue with the birth of their first child, and Darcie and I are three days late with ours. Brian had the foresight to add a small British sedan to his stable before the blessed event and I'm still staring at the Midget wondering how I'm going to get an infant seat in there. (I mean without leaving Darcie home.) I'm feeling really dumb for not buying that 1100 last winter. Is there a BGT or a Magnette in our future? Who knows? But by the time you read this, we may have two new members. Both Jennifer and Darcie are doing great. (we get updates almost daily.) Maybe we'll have our new one stop by at the lunch during the annual meeting on Nov 14th. I hope to see you all there then. I'll be tired but wiser, I'm sure.

I want to invite you all to the MMGG holiday party in January as well, but I have to warn you: last year the party was on January 16th and the McCulloughs were due on 10/16 and we were due on 10/17. You do the math.



## MMGG Technical Advisors

T-types: Lew Palmer..... 651-436-7401

MGA: Roger Karnopp....651-454-1379

MGB: Randy Byboth....612-936-9335

BGT: Mike Hirschman .612-391-5769

Midgets:

Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

Brian McCollough.....651-462-0145

Bodywork

Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

If you want to know - Ask! These people have expressed willingness to answer questions and offer advice about these cars, whether you are looking to repair or purchase, it always helps to know more.



Minnesota MG Group  
10305 Morris Road  
Bloomington, MN 55437



Randy Byboth Cindy O'Brien  
5041 Beacon Hill Rd Pd99  
Minnetonka MN 55345

**In This Issue...** The Annual Meeting, a Halloween Story, and Actual Reviews of Events

## 1999 Schedule

Date	Event	Host	Place
October 9	Fall Color Tour	Al Webster	Afton and points East
23	NAMGBR national meeting	Sheraton Midway	St Paul
November 14	Annual Business Meeting	Doug and Mary Madson	St Paul
January '00	Holiday Party	The Shidla's	

The next newsletter may not be out until December so let me take this chance to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful start to the Holiday Season.

## A New Magazine to be Launched

A bit of news: my counterpart at Minnesota Triumphs, their award-winning newsletter editor, Andy Lindberg, is launching a new magazine next spring dedicated to affordable vintage foreign cars. Sportscars and sedans, classic and quirky, it aims to be "the car magazine for the rest of us" The current working title is Practical Vintage Imports. If the quality of the Triumph's newsletter is any indication, it should be a worthwhile read. I recommend you keep an eye out for it, and Andy has asked me if he might address our club sometime soon regarding his new magazine. I think it's a great idea and wish him good fortune in his new endeavor. As I hope to contribute material now and again, I might ask you if you'd mind having your car in it, and who could turn that down?