



GAZETTE

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Annual Meeting Scheduled for November 13, 2004

Submitted by MMGG Member/President Alan Kelsey

The annual meeting of our club will be held in Apple Valley at the Redwood Community Center, 311 County Road 42, (County Road 42 and Elm Drive) Saturday, November 13, 2004. Directions are on page 3. The meeting will start promptly at 9:00 AM and be over at 11:30 AM (or earlier). Blimpie's Subs will be arriving at 11:30. Anticipated cost of the subs is \$5.00 per member. We have to have the room cleaned up and vacated by 1:00 PM. Please let me or Sharon know if you plan to stay for lunch so we can have an accurate head count. Contact me at MMGG@RareHome.com or 952-891-3452.

I am proposing a change in the bylaws as follows: Article III, Section 5 states:

Membership requires payment of annual dues to the MMGG Treasurer. Dues shall be set by the Executive Board as part of the budget process. Any person paying the required dues shall be granted membership with full rights and privileges. The membership year runs is from January 1st through December 31st. New members joining after August 31 of any given year shall be granted membership for the remainder of that year and the next year as well. Non payment of dues by May 31st will result in termination of membership. Current membership is easily determined by each member looking at their MMGG Gazette address label for the current year dues which have been paid for.

I propose dropping the last sentence ("Current membership is easily determined by each member looking at their MMGG Gazette address label for the current year dues which have been paid for.")



The Gazette is the official publication of the Minnesota MG Group. It is published monthly except for December. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be sent to the editor.

The Minnesota MG Group was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the MG Marque. Correspondence can be addressed to:

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Visit us on the web at **WWW.MMGG.ORG.**

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The Oil on the Dipstick

By MMGG President Alan Kelsey

Ahh ... The Autumnal Driving Season

One thing amazes me, month after month. Just when I think Sharon and I have been on the best drive we could have, we go on another. There have been several "Fall Color Tours" this year. Some of them were organized and hosted by the MMGG and others were planned by another group and we were invited to tag along. No matter which group pulled them together, they have all been marvelous. At Dick and Val's last Saturday, I spoke with Jim Pennoyer who had just put another 200+ miles on his MGA as part of the T Register's drive and thoroughly enjoyed every mile.

However, I have noticed one other thing. The words some people use seem to have meanings that are not the same when I use them. For example, on the fall drives where Sharon and I at least met the group at the start, I noticed people coming with their tops down. They stated it was certainly "warm enough" for driving the car in that configuration. Maybe it's just that my head always sticks up above the windshield, but 48^o F isn't what I would call "open cockpit" weather. Some day I'll have to tell you what it's like racing through a "flock" of June bugs when there is just no way to not be looking *over* the windshield, not through it.

Another phrase I heard came from a member who had just pulled up in a thick cloud of bluish smoke, the engine making that kak-a-KAK thfsst boing ker-**BLOK** [wheeze] sound and finally dieseling to a stop. He said, "Boy it sure is **great** to have her running so well again!" "Yeah it sounds like it" was the response. "Where did you come in from?" "Oh, she ran all the way from the Holiday station this time." "You mean the one in Woodbury?" "Uh, no. That one over there. I had to make another oil stop. I only had four quarts in the trunk when I left home this morning."

One of my students mentioned to me the other day

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(Presodent Continued from page 2)

that his father collected cars. Somehow most everyone over at school knows I have an MG. It could be that I wear at least one MG shirt every week, but I'm not certain. Anyway, he told me that his father had the King of Prussia's Rolls Royce in about a million pieces in his pole barn. All the parts are there, they're just not together. When I asked when he thought it would be reassembled, the student said, "No, you didn't hear what I said. I said my father *collects* cars. He doesn't reassemble them."

I suppose we're getting used to hearing words and phrases used in ways we might not consider to be "normal." After all, how often have we heard, "If you elect me, I'll lower taxes" recently. It really would be interesting to get a definition of the word, "lower."

A couple of things will be happening fairly soon that should have your attention. First, as outlined on page 1, the annual meeting of the Minnesota MG Group will be held in Apple Valley on Saturday, November 13. The meeting will start **promptly** at 9:00 and be over at 11:30. Blimpie's Subs will be arriving at 11:30. We have to have the room cleaned up and vacated by 1:00. The cost will be around \$5 per person for the food.

**P l e a s e R S V P t o
mmgg@rarehome.com so Sharon
and I can have some sort of count
before then!**

Since I have not received any additions by email or any other way, the agenda will be almost exactly what was published last month. So far consists of:

Set the agenda
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Deciding how to send out the newsletter.
Whether by mail, by email, or posting it on the web site
Regalia Report
Intermarque Report

Set up the calendar for 2005

Consider establishing a library of driving routes.

Start planning for longer excursions

Election of officers, including the newsletter editor (Jon is retiring)

So that the meeting might run as efficiently as possible, please bring the published calendar with you so you can see what events are already on our schedule. Additionally, please come prepared with any other business already in mind so we can set the agenda at the start of the meeting.

The other event coming up fairly soon is the January Holiday party, hosted by Glenn and Annette Fisher and Jack and Kathryn Schneider. Look for more information elsewhere in the Gazette. It has always been an event where the food is fantastic and the fun is even better.

See You Behind The Wheel,

Alan Kelsey

Here are the directions to the Redwood Community Center from most locations.

- 1. Take either I-35E or T-35W going south.**
 - 2. Take the CR-42 exit.**
 - 3 Turn LEFT onto CR-42 E. and proceed about two miles**
 - 4. Turn LEFT onto ELM DR.**
- The Redwood Community Center is at Elm and County 42.**



"it's easy, lady...just follow the oil leaks!"

Some Comments From Your Editor

Jon Masley

Well, this is my last issue as your editor. After doing this for four years I am ready for a change. I have enjoyed putting together each issue and really, really appreciate all the photographs and articles MMGG club members have provided. Without your contributions, our club paper would be very small. Fortunately for us, Tom and Barb Belongia have volunteered to take on the editorship of this publication. I know they will do a great job and please continue to give them your suggestions, articles, and photographs. As for me, I have agreed to be a candidate for club treasurer.



At our annual meeting I am making a recommendation that we no longer mail out the club newsletter. Rather, I propose we put the newsletter out on our web site and members go there to get the newsletter. This change would eliminate the costs associated with printing and mailing the newsletter; eliminate the need for volunteers to stamp, attach mailing labels and staple the newsletter prior to mailing; eliminate the need for the editor to maintain a distribution mailing list; eliminate the follow up the editor does when emails fail due to members mailbox's being full, etc.; eliminate the problem of not being able to use large email distribution lists by internet service providers (spam worries). Some members do not have email. This needs to be addressed. I am seeing a trend to go this route. The Ohio MG club does this, as does the Arizona club, our local Mini club and the local Intermarque group. The process would have to be set up, etc. Come to the annual meeting and let your voice be heard.

Thank you again for your past contributions. It has been a real pleasure working with the great people in this club. It is one of the main reasons I hang around.

Rendezvous, 2005

*From our friends in the
Minnesota Austin Healey Club*

Start planning your next Rendezvous now

It's never too early to start thinking about summer – summer 2005 that is. The Minnesota Austin Healey Club is hoping to see you again June 16-19 when it hosts Rendezvous 2005 – Rally at the Rapids – at beautiful Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids, Minn.

Those who attended Rendezvous 2002 know what a great setting and sumptuous food the lodge provides. A dozen rooms have been added to the main lodge building and we are planning some new wrinkles among the events, ensuring that there will be something new for everyone to enjoy.

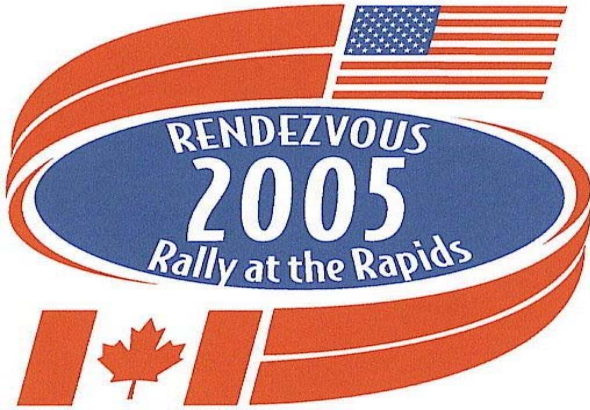
For the first time, we'll have two car shows. The Friday popularity event will be in the center of downtown Grand Rapids around the Old Central School Square. The public will be encouraged to attend and vote for the best in each marque with ballots cast in the form of \$1 bills. All proceeds will be donated to a local community service group – Bridges Kinship Mentoring, a program for children 5-17 years old who, for a variety of reasons, need to develop trusting relationships with adults who can provide positive role models for their lives.

Saturday's lakeside car show will have owners of one marque selecting the most popular cars in another marque, so everyone will have the opportunity to appreciate and vote for vehicles from a marque they don't drive to Sugar Lake Lodge.

There will be Friday and Saturday driving events – optional driving tours, a rally and elapsed-time speed contest – a special Ladies Tea and plenty of parking lot tech talk.

Best of all, will be the camaraderie among those attending. Plan now and send in the accompanying reservation form and fees to Fran Stein (her email and street addresses are on the reservation form).

Make your room reservations early by calling Sugar Lake Lodge at 800.450.4555. We'll "Rally at the Rapids" for Rendezvous 2005!



RENDEZVOUS 2005

15TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF VINTAGE
SPORTSCARS

JUNE 16-19

SUGAR LAKE LODGE, GRAND RAPIDS
MINNESOTA

Thursday – 3 p.m. Registration begins & 7 p.m. Hospitality
Friday - Driving events & Charity Car show in Grand Rapids
Saturday - Driving events, Popularity Car Show, Tea, & Awards Dinner
Sunday - Breakfast, Tours, & Goodbyes

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____
(Print first and last name/names as they should appear on badges)

Children Attending _____
(Include names & ages of each child)

Street _____ City _____

State/Province/Zip Code _____ Club _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____
(If you want a confirmation of registration, include e-mail address – none will be sent otherwise.)

Vehicle/s to be registered _____

(Year)	(Make)	(Model)
(Year)	(Make)	(Model)

Registration Fee: \$45.00 After 5/15/05: \$50.00 (All fees in U.S. \$) \$ _____
(Basic registration fee includes one vehicle, two adults, one child under 18 & one free T-shirt.)

Each additional person: \$5.00 x _____ \$ _____

Each additional vehicle: \$5.00 x _____ \$ _____

Free shirt size _____ 2nd shirt _____ 3rd shirt _____ Added shirts: _____ x \$10.00 \$ _____
(T-Shirt Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL) (For XXL– Cost is x \$12.00)

Saturday Awards Banquet: \$28.00/adult x _____ \$ _____
\$15.00/child under 13 x _____ \$ _____

Number Attending Saturday's Complimentary Ladies Tea _____
Total \$ _____

Make checks to MN Austin Healey Club (U.S. funds) and send with completed form to:

Fran Stein, 6483 Bowman Circle, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Registration questions to: frannie.s@comcast.net Other questions to: glauser@presenter.com

Cancellations before May 15, 2005, are subject to a \$10.00 fee. No refunds on or after May 15. After May 15, registration packages will be sent to those who paid but were unable to attend.

Call Sugar Lake Lodge directly for room reservations @ 1-800-450-4555.

This event is being hosted by the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club

UNIVERSITY MOTORS LTD

WINTER STORAGE

Ask a dozen MG owners how each of them stored his MG last year and you will receive a dozen different answers. Methods range from abandoning the MG under a tree in the front yard, to complex routines involving raising the MG off the ground and removing the seats. There is not a "proper" method as each owner has slightly different considerations and requirements -- yet there are basic rules to follow in any storage procedure that will reduce the probability of damage during storage. In addition to the normal precautions for freezing temperature, some thought must be given to location, access, traffic around the stored MG, humidity, rodents, etc. It is important to develop a plan that you can easily follow and that you implement before winter shows its icy Artic fury.

DAMAGE WE HAVE WITNESSED!

Damage during storage results from neglect or abuse – and we've "seen it all!" Cars stored without antifreeze resulting in cracked blocks, burst radiators and heaters; old gasoline evaporated until all that's left are giant, hardened blocks of varnish knocking around inside the tank; gasoline lines, fuel pumps, and carburetors plugged with gooey aged petrol. Dented fenders, cracked glass, perforated soft-tops caused by carelessness or accidents from adults and children. Corroded chrome, frozen brakes, scaly undercarriages, and mildewed interiors from damp storage. But the damage from rodents is most pervasive – those nasty creatures burrow into the seats, the bonnet insulation, the interior – even the exhaust pipe. We have found nests in the boot, fender wells, pedal boxes, inside the heater boxes and air cleaners, in the folded tonneau...nearly everywhere. We disassembled an engine once to find a mouse next INSIDE a cylinder. This past spring a baby mouse fell FROM the heater onto the mechanic's foot during a test drive!!

BASIC RULES

Freezing temperatures require a 50/50 solution of antifreeze and water to prevent the coolant from freezing in the engine block, radiator, or heater. A full tank of gasoline reduces the amount of water that can be absorbed by the petrol and slows the rate at which the gasoline turns to varnish. Fresh oil in the sump reduces bearing etching, caused by dirty, acidic, contaminated oil. Topped off master cylinders reduces water contamination in the hydraulic lines.

Store the MG with the hood (top) up, windows and vents closed. The folding hood (or soft top) can develop nasty creases when left folded throughout the winter. Closed vents and windows make it more difficult for small furry creatures to foul or devour parts of the MG. It's always nice to clean the MG's interior prior to storage -- discarded bottles and cigarette butts do not enhance the interior bouquet. Ensure that the boot (trunk) is dry. The boot seal is not always positive and some moisture can collect on the floor. Left to nature throughout the winter, this can rust the floor or inner fenders about the boot area. Discharging an entire can of WD-40 (or similar product) on all the engine components, especially the bright metal or aluminium parts (carbs, coil, anti run-on valve, etc) easily protects the underbonnet (engine-bay). A large piece of plastic on the floor protects the underside of the MG from moisture rising up through the concrete

Finally, take the MG on the last run of the season allowing it to heat up fully. A half-hour run is wonderful. This will evaporate all the moisture in the exhaust and engine. Park the car in its winter home and leave the handbrake OFF. If you will not see the MG until Spring, it is necessary to remove the battery to prevent freezing. Should the battery freeze and burst, sulphuric acid will cover everything around the battery area. If you cover the MG, use cloth, never plastic.

STORAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following questions and make your own storage plan from these concerns:

(Storage Continued on page 7)

(Storage Continued from page 6)

1) **Location** -- Will the MG be stored close to home or in a barn forty miles distant? Will the MG be stored inside or outside?

2) **Access** -- Will the MG be locked in a building to which you will have little or no access, or will it be available every day? Will it be possible to drive your MG during the winter or will it be positioned in the corner of the garage?

3) **Traffic** -- Will the MG be isolated from movement, or will the family Vista Cruiser discharge four energetic, careless children who will open doors against it?

4) **Humidity** -- Will the storage area be very dry or will there be a puddle of melting snow forever swilling under the MG?

5) **Temperature** -- Will the storage temperatures be room temp, just above freezing, or dead cold?

6) **Animals** -- Will the family cat use the soft top as a springboard, will Fido jump against it, are there furry rodents which may use the MG as a hotel or find the leather seats tasty at mealtime?

7) **Owner Maintenance** -- will you really have the opportunity, inclination, time, and resolve to visit your MG every week or month?

INSURANCE

Insurance is a **MUST** -- even on your stored MG! Always keep a theft/damage/vandalism/fire policy in effect on your MG. MGs are still stolen; garages collapse under the weight of snow; nasty neighborhood children may wish to redecorate your MG --or worse; and fire is always a possibility. This comprehensive insurance is very inexpensive and you simply cannot afford to be without it. Be certain to establish the value of your MG with the insurance agent before the loss!

SYSTEMS PROTECTION

1) **ENGINE:** Fresh oil will adequately protect the engine for several months of relatively dry storage. If you are going to store the MG longer than the winter, or if the humidity is high, then start the engine at regular intervals and allow it

to warm up (with the garage door open, please). If this is not possible, introduce oil into the cylinders (perhaps six squirts from a normal oil can). Turn the engine over slowly, before replacing the plugs - - by the crank in the earlier models, or pushing while in fourth gear -- as this moves the oil throughout the head, pistons, and valves. Cover the tailpipe outlet with duct tape to prevent moisture from entering the exhaust system. Cover the air inlets at the air cleaner(s) with tape to keep moisture from the carb internals and cylinder head.

2) **IGNITION:** Normally there are no preventive measures, but if you are going to store the MG for several years, oil the distributor cam.

3) **COOLING:** Ensure the cooling system is filled with a clean 50/50 solution of glycol anti-freeze and water. Some owners suggest that Armorall or a similar product can extend the life of the radiator hoses.

4) **FUEL:** If you plan just a winter's storage, then a full tank of gasoline with the addition of a can of "dry gas" or "Stabil" is satisfactory. If you plan to store the MG for a year or more, then drain the float bowls to prevent a build-up of varnish and oxidation of the metering needle. Gasoline purchased years ago seems to last forever; gasoline purchased today goes bad after a year or so. Starting the MG with "old gas" or "bad gas" requires fresh gasoline in the carburettor just to get the engine to start running. Sometimes starting fluid (carburettor cleaner or ether) is necessary. Once warm, the engine will run on old gasoline.

5) **CLUTCH:** Two problems can occur in long term storage: the clutch hydraulics can leak; and the clutch disc can rust to the flywheel or pressure plate. Exercising the pedal on a regular basis can avoid these trouble spots. Damp storage is a real problem with the clutch and aggravates this rusting. Start the MG and drive it fore and aft -- even a couple of feet -- every so often!

6) **SUSPENSION:** Winter storage causes

(Storage Continued on page 8)

(Storage Continued from page 7)

no problems with the suspension. Very few MG owners place their MGs on jacks for the winter -- but if this is done, place the stands under the outer portion of the front A Arms and under the leaf springs where the U bolts surround the axle and spring. This keeps the suspension from dropping away from the body and straining the shocks and the rebound rubbers/straps. If you place the MG on stands, then reduce tire pressure to 10-15lbs. Whether on stands or on the ground, be certain to move the wheels a couple of times during storage. Several rotations work well to prevent the bearings from rusting.

7) **BRAKES:** Rolling the MG back and forth prevents the brake pads from rusting to the rotors (just as the clutch disc can rust to the fly-wheel). Operate the brakes on a regular basis to prevent the cylinders from freezing. Some owners back off the adjustment on the brake drums so that there is no chance of the shoes rusting to the drums --this also allows the cylinders to move farther while exercising the pedal. Exercise the hand-brake, too! Rapidly work the handle, up and down, to keep the cable and linkages free. Store the MG with the handbrake OFF!

8) **BATTERIES:** No battery will hold its charge forever. If the battery charge is reduced far enough, the electrolyte freezes, the case cracks, and the battery is ruined. If you store the MG in freezing temperatures, then you must charge the batteries several times throughout the winter. Use a "trickle charger" or run the engine to recharge the battery(ies). Sometimes it is easier to remove the battery! On the 1977 and newer MGBs with the electric clock, remove the bottom fuse in the fuse-box. This stops the drain (albeit tiny) caused by the clock. Next to the coolant in the radiator, the batteries are one of the two most important considerations in winter storage.

9) **BODY:** To prevent oxidation or scratching, cover the MG with a cloth mitten. Plastic is NOT suitable. Plastic does not allow the MG to breathe, and can exacerbate oxidation and rusting. If you plan to store the MG in a heavy traffic zone

(the family garage, for example), then additional protection is in order. Thick cardboard, a suitably supported piece of wood, or even an old mattress suspended from the ceiling prevents damage from winter tools and car doors. If the bonnet or boot lid will be used for a shelf (even if just to place groceries in transit), then more protection (such as a thick blanket) is in order. Humidity is the body's enemy. Make every effort to keep the floor dry!! If you plan to store the MG outside, then keep the car well ventilated and do not allow snow to pile up, under and around the car. Park the MG on a large sheet of plastic to keep the MG dry. You can park your MG in a large, specially prepared bag -- a hermetically closed environment. This "bagging" is a wonderful solution for some enthusiasts!

10) **INTERIOR:** Low winter humidity dries leather seats, allowing them to contract and crack. Prepare the leather with LEXOL to keep the hide supple. Mice cause the greatest damage to interiors! They eat the seats, the foam, the carpeting, the wiring insulation -- they eat EVERYTHING!! Close off access to the interior. Keep the vents tightly closed. Erect the hood (soft top). Close the windows. Some owners remove their seats prior to storage. Several dishes, filled with mothballs, in the footwells, on the battery compartment, in the boot and in the bonnet will repel most mice. Use the "Old Fashioned" mothballs -- naphthalene.

Develop your plan and store your MG carefully! We'll see YOU and YOUR MG next summer!

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Safety Fast!

A Tale of Two Tours

September's Tour

On September 25th, Minnesota MG Group members met in the parking lot of the Hudson House in Hudson, Wisconsin for the first of two fall (colour) drives. Twenty four cars were ready (mostly) for this tour of western Wisconsin.

Tour organizer Ken Merrill (aka Dr. Frankfurter), along with assistance from Tom Moerke, had laid out a 85 mile route. Ken's son referred to the trip as the Time Warp Tour. Hum? To get us started out right, a light breakfast of fruit juices and cookies was spread out on the bonnet of Ken's B. This was very much appreciated, especially if you hadn't had breakfast before arriving.



Weather was cool and cloudy and very foggy as you crossed the St. Croix river. The day warmed up very nicely and MMGG members agreed conditions were perfect for the drive.



(September Tour Continued on page 10)

October's Tour

On October 2nd, 2004 Minnesota MG Group members, along with members from the Minnesota Austin Healey Club met in the parking lot of the Perkins restaurant in Hudson, Wisconsin for breakfast before starting out on the 2nd fall colour tour.

Along with members from both clubs, we had 2 Jag's, 1 old Mini and a new Chrysler 300M (to replace Elena's B which did not want to go into reverse this morning). I counted 30 cars. A nice number and we drew stares, especially when we stopped in a group.



Tour organizer Tom Moerke, along with help from Wayne Soderbeck, plotted out a very nice 95 mile run ending in Alma, Wisconsin.

Weather was sunny but cold. I was happy to be in my enclosed GT.

Other hearty lads and lassie's drove with the tops down (but wore their winter layers).

Most of us enjoyed lunch at the Pickle Factory in Pepin. They handled our crowd very nicely and we were happy to be inside a warm building.

Our sincere thanks to Tom and Wayne for such a great drive.



Tech Tip: Tire Pressure

Submitted by Ernie & Rhea West
Proprietors of Dead Lake Motors

Most of this information was gleaned out of a car magazine. I never gave it much thought till I read that story, but it makes sense.

The tire pressure recommendations that are on the doorpost, glove box lid, or in the owner's manual are a middle of the road suggestion. According to that magazine article, many tire installation companies' set all passenger car tire pressures at 32 pounds. The reason for this is that in all but extreme conditions this is a safe setting. If you stop and think, rarely are driving conditions exactly the same day after day. A full size sedan could be transporting six big people one day, at 75 MPH, on a 100-degree day on a mountain road. The same car may be used a week later with just one person, in town on a 60 degree day. Two extremes, but real world occurrences.

Most automakers want a safe vehicle but will push the safety margin to its lowest limit to give their customers the most comfortable ride. I'll bet most of you, just like me, aren't positive that your tire pressures are within three pounds of what they should be. Unfortunately three pounds less than these recommended settings can turn a tire into a bubble gum consistency mess on a 100 degree day.

This magazine article also stated that never should you exceed the maximum pressure that's printed or stamped on your tire sidewalls, but many times in extreme load, speed, and temperature conditions you would be safer having close to those maximum pressures in your tires.

Remember to check your pressures with an accurate gauge, and only at cold tire temperatures (less than a mile of driving). If you regularly rotate your tires every 5000 to 6000 miles, you should be able to tell by tire wear if your settings are too high or too low.

Happy Motoring!!!

Doctor Ernie

Tech Tips are provided by Ernie and Rhea West, proprietors of Dead Lake Motors. Dead Lake Motors is located 13 miles southwest of Perham, Minnesota. Ernie and Rhea can be reached at erwest@arvig.net or by calling 218-758-3344. If using email, identify yourself on the subject line of your note or it may get deleted as junk mail.

(September Tour Continued from page 9)

Earlier gossip had talked about Val Wallrich having a singer. People were not sure if that meant Boy George, Frank Sinatra or a sewing machine. As it turned out, it meant a nice, rare LBC, a Singer Gazelle. Pretty!

About 30 miles into the route we stopped to regroup, take a potty break, and visit a antique store. Patrick McCarthy, part of the Eau Claire contingent, found himself a unique tin man ornament. The half way point was Red Wing, Minnesota. Some time for more shopping and then back on the road. We ended the tour in River Falls, Wisconsin, having a late lunch at the Westwind Restaurant.



We only had one problem on the entire trip. Bob and Lorie Jensen's A developed float problems. With help from Jim McCarthy, Steve Rindt, and Randy Byboth, Bob was able to fix the car well enough to get home.

Great Drive and Great People!

Garage Warming

Submitted by MMGG Member Jon Masley

Garage warming parties are always fun. On October 15, 2004 MMGG members helped brake or break in Tom and Barb Belongia's garage addition. What a nice garage! The new addition has plenty of space to park their MGB and store the car trailer (which, by the way, is a very practical buffet table). Earlier that evening Ken Merrill, in a powerful attempt to improve the garage aesthetics, hung a classy chandelier next to the garage door opener. Tom was seen quivering with excitement.

Everyone brought a dish to pass and our hosts served English fish and chips, Wisconsin style. Cheese curds were present, as were numerous desserts, chips, salsas, beer and wine.

We were asked to dress in the year of our car. Since my year is 1967, I thought hippie was appropriate. I wore a groovy Army field jacket with headband. The roach clip added a classy touch. Far out! Others displayed tasteful polyester slacks and coats, white go-go boots. Oh we were so cool!



Thank you to our hosts who made sure everyone had a wonderful time.



Michelin Man

The smiling Michelin Man has a history that's nearly as complex as his name. Edouard Michelin happened to notice a stack of tires one day, and observed that the pile resembled a man. He commissioned an artist to draw a man made of tires, and the result was Bibendum. Who? That's the official name of the rubbery guy.



His name was inspired by a poster showing a barmaid hosting a tray of beverages, with a caption that read "Nunc est bibendum!" ("Now is the time to drink!") Someone on the staff saw a corollary between the poster and the company's then-slogan ("Michelin tires swallow up all obstacles"), and thus Bibendum was christened. Today, Michelin insiders and folks in the know refer to the happy tire man simply as "Bib."



Calendar of Events

Let's have some fun!

Editors comments: This calendar will be continually modified and updated. The MMGG club is working closely with other British car clubs on a variety of activities. You are encouraged to attend any car club event.

- On Going**
Saturday Mornings until further notice.
- November 13, 2004** **Saturday** morning British Breakfast at the Square Peg Diner, 2021 East Hennepin Avenue, from 8:30 am to 11 am (most people get there early). Open to all lovers of British cars. Proprietor Phil Vanner, a British car owner, welcomes you. As the weather warms up, hang out in the parking lot.
- November 13, 2004** **Annual Meeting** hosted by Al and Sharon Kelsey. More details as they become available.
- January 15, 2005** **Holiday Party.** Hosted by Jack and Kathryn Schneider and Glenn and Annette Fisher, we will again party at 3M's wonderful facility, Tartan Park in Lake Elmo, Mn. FFI: Schneiders at 651-552-1780 or Fishers at 651-458-3878.
- February 12, 2005** **Tea Party.** More detail to follow.
- June 16 - 18, 2005** **Rendezvous 2005** at Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Hosted by the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club. Another must attend event. More information as it becomes available.
- June 17 & 18, 2005** **Brits on the Bricks.** The MG Car Club of Toronto invites you to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their club. Guest speaker is Mr. John Twist. There will be an evening soiree on Friday and on Saturday there will be a British car show on the brick walkways of *The Historic Distillery District*. FFI: www.mgtoronto.com or contact econte@rogers.com to placed on the mailing list.
- July 7-10, 2005** **MG2005 in Olympia, Washington.** Make your plans now to attend this event. The Olympia club (WWW.MG2005.COM) has a great event planned including sailing on a schooner in the Puget Sound, trips to Mt. Rainier, trips to the Lamay Car Museum, and much more. The Red Lion Hotel, where the show will be based, is a lodge-type facility overlooking the beautiful surrounding scenery. More information as it becomes available.
- August 25 - 27, 2005** **Rally in the Valley, 2005.** Steve and Diane Rindt have secured the entire resort, *Paradise Shores*, for this event. 43 rooms! We used 22 this year. Plan on attending NOW! Watch the newsletter for more details as they develop.
- June 22—25, 2006** **MG2006!** Save this date for the 5 year gathering of all MG's. Location to be announced soon (east of the Mississippi). FFI: INFO@MG2006.com

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Just north of Forest Lake, Minnesota.

The Buffalo Theory

(In one episode of 'Cheers', Cliff is seated at the bar describing the Buffalo Theory to his buddy, Norm. I don't think I've ever heard the concept explained any better than this...)

“Well you see, Norm, it's like this..A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster more efficient machine. And that, Norm, is why you always feel smarter after a few beers.”

MMGG Technical Advisors

The following people have expressed a willingness to answer questions and offer advice about these cars. Take them up on their offer.

Triple-M - Lew Palmer 651/436-7401

T-types - Bob Figenskau 952/935-7909

MGA - Mike Hirschman 763/391-5769

MGB - Randy Byboth 952/936-9335

Midgets - Brian McCullough 651/462-0145

Bodywork - Open

Need a Nametag?

If you are a new(er) member and have not received your nametag(s), or are an existing member and lost yours, please request one from new member coordinator Brian Walsh (651-731-6921). If you leave a message, please be sure to **SPELL** both first and last names for each name tag and leave a phone number at which you can be reached. Lost nametags cost \$5.00. Send your check to Brian, made out to MMGG.

This and That

Reminder: Minnesota MG Group Annual Holiday Party January 15, 2005-Plan to Attend Now!

The party will be held at 3M's Tartan Park clubhouse in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. Directions will be provided in a future announcement. We will be having a buffet dinner with dessert and choice of beverage. The evening starts at 6 PM with a social hour (cash bar). Dinner starts at 7 PM.

The cost will be the same as last year, \$25 per person. Please send your checks, **no later than January 5, 2005**, made out to **MMGG**, to:

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Fisher
6223 Lynnway
Woodbury, Minnesota 55129

Don't forget to bring your MG Bucks to bid on fabulous, (and some not so fabulous), merchandise.

Note Auction Items: If you have something to donate to the auction/door prizes, please call Jack and Kathryn Schneider at 651-552-1780.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Total Amount Sent (\$25.00 per person)-made out to MMGG: \$ _____

MGA Book to Consider

Club members, this is a very good book. And as we're getting more "A"s in the club, it would be worthwhile. Mike Ash who wrote the book, does a column in the MGA magazine each issue and is an officer in NAMGAR. *Dick Wallrich*

Now Available!

All 16 years of Mike Ash's columns - complete as originally printed in **MGA!**

400 pages on all mechanical and electrical aspects of the MGA. Over 1000 illustrations.

Order on-line at:

www.namgar.com

\$45.00 plus shipping



For Sale: 1967 MG Midget - moving to Gemany - need to sell asap. Hard top & 2 soft tops all in great condition, 5 wire wheels (2 are snow tires), good condition seats, tow bar, lots of chrome including chrome bumpers. Needs body & engine work but runs. Interior black, exterior rose. \$1000 or best offer. Will sell accessories separately. Call Tammy Lynn 612-825-2369 or 952-836-1041.

November, 2004



For Sale.....Wanted.....Misc.

Kind of classified rules: Minnesota MG Group members ads will run free for three months, unless you tell the editor to drop them earlier or run them longer. The month/year the ad was placed is in italics below the ad. Commercial Ads as follows: Business Card—\$10.00 issue; 1/4 page—\$20.00 issue; 1/2 page—\$30.00 issue; full page—N/A. All commercial ads must run a minimum of 6 months and must be paid in advance. Send to Jon Masley, 3599 Gershwin Court North, Oakdale, Mn. 55128-3044 or jdmasley@yahoo.com. Make checks payable to the MMGG.

For Sale: 1969 MGB Black, wire wheels, & stow-away top. \$6,000. Also 1964 MGB, Green California car. \$7995.

Call Mark or Val at 612-824-4155.

November, 2004

For Sale: 1969 MGB White with black interior. 1 owner car. 37750 miles. Well maintained with new top, carpet, and recovered seats. Tons of receipts with work done by Quality Coaches. Appraised at about \$10,000 but price negotiable. Call Jack at 612-869-6671.

September, 2004

Free: MG1100 parts-come get them before they are scrapped. Del Fankhauser at 651-439-7966.

October, 2004

For Sale: MG TD 1952 Replica made by British Coach Works. Beautiful yellow MG TD was made in 1985 for the Schweppes Sweepstakes for \$19,500. There are only 6800 miles on it. There is a Chevette 1.6L motor in it and it gets really good gas mileage. No problems with it. There is a new FM/AM Cassette Stereo. It is so much fun to drive. I have all the papers. Asking \$6500. Home phone 651-436-8637. Cell phone 651-428-8637.

September, 2004



FOR SALE 79 MGB. One owner for 24 years. Car is in excellent condition and has been well maintained. New SU carburetors installed by Quality Coaches. If someone is interested in a good car this would be worth checking out. Don Raymond 952-926-3060.

September, 2004

Wanted: Hood for my MGB-no dents please. Call Rich Leslie at 763-754-2965.

August, 2004

For Sale Tonneau Cover. I am trying to find someone who might need an original tonneau cover for a 1975 MGB. The cover is in black and in excellent condition. I checked with a restoration company and found that new ones go for \$200 to \$240, depending on whether or not they have the headrest pockets. I am asking \$75. Call Joy at 763-783-9675 in the evening or by email at jsramaley@aol.com.

September, 2004

MGB USED PARTS FOR SALE: Bonnet- two to choose from, non-over drive transmission, GT rear hatch-with glass, rear end, steel wheels-5, windshield frame, many other parts-cheap. Herb Miller (612) 860-8067 or hgmiller3@qwest.net.

October, 2004

For Sale: 1977 MGB, Red. One owner car. 32,000 miles. All original and like new condition. Always garaged and never driven in winter. No rust. Asking \$8800. Call Don at 651-454-4520.

September, 2004

For Sale: 1966 MGB Good mechanical, body rusty, interior needs work Clutch shot. **For Sale:** 1967 AH Sprite Good mechanical, body rusty interior OK. \$2,000 each or \$3500 for both. Kevin 612-501-9662.

October, 2004

Minnesota MG Group Membership

The Minnesota MG Group was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, maintenance and enjoyment of all MG cars. MG car ownership is not necessary to be a member of the Minnesota MG Group. Membership is \$35.00 with a \$5.00 discount if paid before our Spring Kick Off Gathering (mid-March). The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. New members joining after August 31st of any given year shall be granted membership for the remainder of that year and the next year as well. Use this form to join or renew your membership. Please complete this form, write out a check for \$35 (or \$30 if paying before mid-March) and mail to:

Minnesota MG Group, 10305 Morris Road, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437
(952-831-0291 or ddpss@worldnet.att.net)

New

Renewal

Changes

Name: _____

Name of spouse/partner/significant other: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, & Zip Code: _____

Telephone w/area code: (____) (____)(____)

Email address: _____

MG(s) Owned: _____

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