



Ottawa MG Club

Newsletter

January 2001

Volume: 1 Issue: 1

MG FOLKS

January's meeting is at Louis' Steakhouse. A slide show by Shannon Lee Mannion recalls the 100th Anniversary of the London to Brighton run in the UK.

The Ottawa MG Club event calendar, technical information and event photos can be found on the internet at: <http://www.omgc.net>
The hosting of this site has been graciously provided by:



Monthly Meetings Held On 3rd Thursdays

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Mark Evenchick (Past Pres)	et1@netcom.ca	521-3097
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Gilles Leduc (Treasurer)	leducjg@hotmail.com	824-9706
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(The great CHEAPO-CHEAPOh !!)
- 2) Oil Changing Instructions
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(I can't remember who wrote this)
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(The story of a hardtop's travels)
- 6) Installing MGA Upholstery
(The Eric Stephen version)
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- 9) An Events Calendar
(Mostly tentative but read it anyway!)

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS

January 18: at Louis Steakhouse !! 7pm
It's the new year but it's the old meeting place. Shannon Lee Mannion will present slides and pictures of the 100th Anniversary of the London to Brighton run in the UK. The cars will thrill you. The stories will amaze you. Join us for this special peek at history as it was made.

February 15: at The Cock & Bull Eatery !! 7pm
Local car buff Glen Robinson, presents a slide show on "The Cars Of Cuba". A wonderful look at cars from the 40's, 50's and 60's where the political environment has made upkeep and maintenance a real challenge. Glen also will show his automotive literature collection.

Welcome to new members:

Al & Trish Nielsen

Ottawa '74 B

The Christmas Party was a huge success! Thanks to the Evenchicks for the great location! Thanks to Kathy McClure and Helene Moore for the great meal and goodies. Thanks to everyone who brought Food Bank donations! Thanks to Santa Claus, and other great powers that be, for allowing us to share the holiday season with great friends!

Oil Changing Instructions:

WOMEN:

1. Pull up to Jiffy Lube when the mileage reaches 3000 since the last oil change.
2. Drink a cup of coffee.
3. 15 minutes later, write a check for \$19.95 and leave with a properly maintained vehicle.

MEN:

1. Go to auto parts store and write a check for \$50 dollars for oil, filter, oil lift (A.K.A. kitty litter), hand cleaner and scented tree. Go to beer store buy a case of beer.
2. Discover that the used oil container is full. Dump in hole in back yard.
3. Open a beer and drink it.
4. Jack car up. Spend 30 minutes looking for jack stands.
5. In frustration, open another beer and drink it.
6. Place drain pan under engine.
7. Look for 9/16" box end wrench.
8. Give up and use crescent wrench.
9. Unscrew drain plug.
10. Drop drain plug in pan of hot oil; get hot oil on you in process.
11. Clean up.
12. Have another beer while oil is draining.
13. Look for oil filter wrench.
14. Give up; poke oil filter with Phillips screwdriver and twist it off.
15. Have another beer.
16. Buddy shows up; finish case with him. Finish oil change tomorrow.
17. Next day, drag pan full of old oil out from underneath car.
18. Throw oil lift on oil spilled during step 17.
19. Beer? No, drank it all yesterday.
20. Buy more beer.
21. Install new oil filter making sure to apply thin coat of clean oil to gasket first.
22. Dump first quart of fresh oil into engine.
23. Hurry to replace drain plug before the whole quart of fresh oil drains onto floor.
24. Slip with wrench and bang knuckles on frame.
25. Begin cussing fit and throw wrench.
26. Cuss for 10 more minutes 'cause wrench hit Miss December and marked up her the left boob.
27. Clean up; apply Band-Aid to knuckle.
28. Have another beer.
29. Dump in additional 4 quarts of oil.
30. More beer.
31. Lower car from jack stands.
32. Accidentally crush one of the jack stands.
33. Move car back to apply more oil lift (A.K.A. kitty litter) to fresh oil spilled during step 23.
34. Drive car ½ quart low for 7000 miles when it'll be time for another oil change.

Mike McKinnon

CHEAPO-CHEAPO 2001

(aka: CHEAPO-CHEAPOh 1)

**Winter has arrived,
And the cars are put away.
They're waiting the return
Of a warmer, summer day.**

**We surely all remember
Great Club drives of the past
And dream about the next one
'Cause winter just can't last.**

Hi MGers! Here's an annual club drive that has met with great success in the past. With this in mind, Dalton and I are planning for Cheapo-Cheapo 2001. The dates to mark on your calendar are June 2nd and 3rd of 2001. We plan to have a grand drive, around and about the lake country of Eastern Ontario. Then stop over night in a fine country inn located in a village voted as one of Ontario's best.

Got your interest? Well here's what it's all about:

Dalton will lay out a driving route, with no gravel roads, and will lead us on Saturday morning into the Calabogie area and return us to Merrickville on Saturday afternoon to the Sam Jakes Inn. The package price for this outing is only \$240.79 per couple and includes Saturday night dinner, Saturday night lodging and a country continental breakfast on Sunday morning. All taxes and gratuity are included in this package price. The group rate has been negotiated for 25 couples. If you're not certain of your availability for the weekend, but would like to go, I suggest you book now anyway and cancel later if need be. The Inn has a thirty day no charge cancellation policy. Fill up the gas tank and bring along a box lunch before we depart and prepare to have the best Cheapo-Cheapo ever!

**PLEASE ADVISE ME NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15th 2001 IF YOU ARE
CONSIDERING TO TAKE PART IN THIS FUN WEEKEND.
CONTACT: BOB STARK WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.**

snail mail:
R. Stark
25 Kimberly Ave.
RR3 Kemptville, Ont.
K0G 1J0

e-mail:
robber@sympatico.ca

phone:
230-0000 then wait for the dial tone, then dial
258-4636 for no long distance charges.

CHEAPO- CHEAPOh 1

OTTAWA MG CLUB

Financial Statement

Jan 1/2000 - December 31/2000

	2000	2000	1999	1999
RECEIPTS				
2000 Dues	\$1,835.51		\$1,930.00	
Regalia	\$1,238.14		\$1,024.00	
Registration Monte Carleton, Draw			\$121.00	
		\$3,073.65		\$3,075.00
DISBURSEMENTS				
Newsletter, Postage	\$607.40		\$646.99	
Social (food) 2000	\$721.53		\$880.52	
Regalia	\$1,742.86		\$921.44	
Flowers				
Insurance	\$215.00		\$211.00	
Misc. (name tags, trophy, projector re	\$194.60		\$186.30	
Donation			\$50.00	
		\$3,481.39		\$2,896.25
		SURPLUS		\$178.75
		(\$407.74)		
		BAL.FWD. - LAST YEAR		\$1,162.56
		\$1,341.31		
		BANK BALANCE		\$1,341.31
		\$933.57		
Inventory of Regalia & Cash as of December 31		\$1,303.68		\$771.00
Total Assets		\$2,237.25		\$2,112.31


J. Gilles Leduc - Treasurer

MG People Lend A Helping Hand

First, a thank you note from the recipient of the 'Helping Hand':

In the story below, some MG folks who had never met, rose to a challenge and an adventure for another MGer they had never met. Combined, they drove over 13 hours and over 1600 miles round trip. Why? That's a question answered individually and in many different ways - perhaps it was the challenge, perhaps it was the adventure, perhaps it was the feeling of fellowship, perhaps it was a shared common vision, perhaps it was a sense of belonging to something bigger, perhaps it was all of these things, perhaps it was none of these things. Something special was shared which brought strangers together in a common bond - and isn't that what life is all about? Life is full of surprises. Life is good. This will be a story I remember and share many times. A good story about good times and good people. And with it go my continuing thanks. Carl Scheib, November 25, 2000.

Now, the story of the 'Helping Hand':

As you know, postings on most web-site BBS (bulletin board services) are generally for help of a technical nature. One person with has a problem and several others try to provide a solution to it. Recently, on my favourite BBS, (<http://www.mgb.bc.ca>) however, there was a plea for help of a different kind.

Carl, who posted the request for help, explained that he had bought a hardtop for his MGB and asked if anyone could help to transport it from the point of purchase to his home in Indianapolis. In true LBC spirit, strangers raised their hands, to accept the challenge and to offer help. The myriad of details involved in such a venture was worked out between the parties via email and a plan was set into motion. The project was nicknamed 'The Pony Express'. This "Pony Express" method of transport, invented in the 1800s, was combined with 21st Century technology to move a bulky item that would have been very costly to ship in the usual manner and even more difficult to ensure that it arrived safely. The plan involved seven people from Locust Grove, Virginia, to Indianapolis, Indiana. Each would transport the hardtop on their respective MGs from one pre-arranged pick-up point to a location agreed to by the next in line. The distance covered amounted to 1600 miles (2574 km.) Each 'rider' drove his B from pick-up to drop-off point, passed on the 'package' and returned home a better person having made the acquaintance of someone they had previously known only by name. This may not seem like such a big deal, sitting and reading about it. And maybe it isn't. What it does represent, however, is the camaraderie that I'm sure exists amongst car owners of all makes and marques. Here we have an example of communication, organization and achievement by total strangers to achieve a small goal, their only compensation the personal satisfaction of helping a fellow in need. Personally, I envy those who were directly involved. Had I been closer to the action I too would have volunteered, if for no other reason than to have been a part of, what I believe, to have been a landmark event. The rebirth of the true meaning of 'Friendship'.

Graham Ayers
OMGC

V8 Pads for a 'Standard' B

For those of you who use the wee buggy regularly, you will at some point or another undoubtedly have had to replace your brake friction material. This may be front or rear or both. My tale is about the front pads for my 1974 'B'.

It was one of those glorious Summer evenings at Louie's that I mentioned to our (then) resident 'Mr. Techie' that the pads on the B needed replacing. I should have twigged to the far-away look and glint in his eye that immediately overtook Jordan, but I guess I missed it. "Well, old-man", he said. "How would you like to improve the braking capability of your car by 25% for just a few pence? I have just the solution to your problems. Did you know that the brake pads for the MGB V8 fit nicely into the calipers on the 4 cylinder B? No modifications required. They slip right in. I can get you some from England for a few pounds (no longer just pence...) Dirt cheap! MUCH cheaper than you can get them here. What say? Want to try them out and write an article for the rag?" How could I resist? What a sweet talker! "OK Jordan!", I complied. "If you procure the pads for me, I will install them and write the article."

It was only about two weeks later that the pads arrived and Jordan passed them to me. Good thing too. The pads on the B were now wearing quite thin. I jacked-up the front of the little sweetie, put the jack-stands under the frame and removed the front wheels. According to the book, the old pads should pull right out once I removed the cotter pins, the retaining clips and pushed the caliper cylinders back in. All went well. Everything came out according to the book. H-m-m-m-. I started to think something was up. This was just too easy! Oh well..... To continue.

Before I installed the new pads, I took a few moments to compare them to the old ones. They were indeed larger. Not only did they have a larger surface area, but they appeared to be quite thick. I looked at the disks/rotors. Although they had a bit of rust on the inner and outer extremes, I thought they would be fine. After all, if the pads did happen to run on the rust it would wear off quickly and all would be grand with the world. Well, almost. I wiggled the new pads into place, replaced the retaining clips and installed new cotter pins. The folks at Miniman had these in stock and they are quite inexpensive. After replacing the wheels and lowering the car I was ready for the test drive.

Now, what was that I read about new brake pads? They should be given a short period of gentle braking so they can set. Ok. I can do that. I cleaned-up and headed out on the road. Gently! Gently! It felt good. Quite good. But when would I be able to feel if they were giving me better stopping power?

Skip forward two months.....

I have now put over 4,000 miles on the B with the new pads in place. I can state unequivocally that they do seem to stop better than the old pads. I don't have any scientific proof, but they do feel better. I have had to make a few quick stops over the past 60 days and the front just locks up at the touch of the pedal, if you want it to. All is not roses though. I realize now that I should have had the rotors turned before installing the new pads. They squeal like the dickens. And I have black whitewalls! There is enough brake dust coming off the pads to blacken a good many faces for Halloween!! I noticed too that the rotors are a bit discoloured now. Almost like they are blued from excessive heat! Jordan mentioned that this MIGHT happen. I will be watching them closely and will be alert for any changes to the sensation of the brakes and their stopping capacity. Despite these few irritants, they still stop well and seem to be wearing well.

All-in-all I think the V8 pads are a good investment. They do indeed give you more stopping power, though I am not sure if the 25% figure is correct. You might want to try them the next time your pads need replacing. Oh, by the way. Jordan can get you the best price on the planet for them. So he's your man for the 'stuff'.

November 1999 - Update: I now have over 14,000 miles on the pads and they are performing spectacularly. They no longer squeak and they stop the B on a dime. The rotors are not any bluer than they were the first time I noticed this slight discolouration. The pads still throw off a lot of dust though. I find that I have to clean the whitewalls about once a month.

Installation Instructions: MGA Upholstery Replacement Kit / Covers Designed to Fit Standard Model MGA

1. Remove the seat cushions and backs from the car. Only one old seat cover should be removed and replaced at a time. This will serve as an example while installing the new seat cover.
2. Remove the tacks holding the old covers by placing the blade of a screw driver under the edge of the tack at right angles to the tack body and strike it with a light hammer. Pull out any staples with pliers.
3. If the old padding is broken down or missing, build it up, as desired with cotton batting.
4. To install the covers on the seat bottoms, place the proper cover over the cushion. (the covers are marked on the back LH or RH). Turn the seat upside down and be sure the cover is centred on the cushion. Tack the cover to the seat bottom at the front centre. Note: Keep these tacks near the edge of the material so as not to damage the material if re-location is necessary. Press down on the cushion and pull the cover taut to the rear. Tack at the rear and check to be sure the cover is straight on the cushion. If not, remove and re-align. Now, alternating front to rear, side to side, tack the cover into place with tacks placed about 1" apart, 1" from the edge, pulling wrinkles out as they form. Trim off excess material.
5. To install covers on the seat backs, pull the proper cover over the seat back (the covers are marked LH or RH on the inside of the cover). Pull the back side down taut until the beading on the top edge is lined up on the corner. Tack the back in position on the bottom. Now stuff any needed padding, and tack down the side strips. Fold the corner flaps around the mounting leg and tack down. Tack the center flap in position.
6. Before re-installing the seats, cover the arm rest. You may install the replacement over the original cover or if you wish, remove the old cover. Pad up where necessary. Pull the sides down taut, drill with a #39 (.099) or punch a hole with a #8 box nail and install sheet metal screws. Be sure to locate the replacement cover properly. Do not install screws along the front edge, install screws along lower rear edges only.

Eric Stephen

The Hugo Leech Memorial Award Is Presented At The November 2000 Monthly Meeting

At the November meeting of the Ottawa MG Club, it was a pleasure to see a very special trophy presented to some very special club members. The Hugo Leech Memorial Award was presented to Heather & Jordan Jones for the year 2000. Heather & Jordan have been members since 1994 and have participated in and hosted many club events. They have continuously demonstrated two of the main Ottawa MG Club member characteristics that were initiated and nurtured by Hugo:

- driving British sports cars for enjoyment, and,
- having fun among other people of similar thinking.

The spirit of the Ottawa MG Club continues; in part, through the contributions of people like Heather & Jordan, and, in part, by the original direction setting by people like Hugo Leech and Jim Nunn. Congratulations to Heather and Jordan. You are fine MG people!

Some Stuff For Sale and Looking For Other Stuff

Call Paul McGowan At 613 599-5551

Stuff For Sale: 1971 18v engine \$300 obo gear box 1962-67 complete with drive shaft \$200 obo early starter \$50 grill \$25 early spare wheel \$25	Looking For: dash (complete, or not) for 1969 MGB Roadster front chrome bumper and front apron (metal piece under bumper) for 1969 steering wheel assembly for 1969
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OTTAWA MG CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR 2001 (tentative and unconfirmed)

-----> MG Club Highlight and Feature Events <-----			
date	event	time	contact/info
January 18	Thr Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant	7:00 pm OMGC	

(Slide show and pictures with Shannon Lee Mannion - 100th Anniversary of the London to Brighton run in the UK)

	31 -	Wed -			
February	- 4	-Sun	International Auto Show @ the Congress Center		
	15	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Cock & Bull Eatery (Glen Robinson presents a slide show "The Cars Of Cuba")	7:00 pm OMGC	
----->	16-18	Fri-Sun	Ottawa MG Club 3rd Annual Ski Trip		OMGC
	24	Sat	VW Pool, Beer & Pizza Party at ??	2:00 pm	VW
March	3-4	Sat-Sun	Toy & Train Show Nepean Sportsplex		
	15	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant (Picture & Video Night)	7:00 pm OMGC	
	30 -	Fri -			
April	-1	-Sun	Autorama Show @ the Civic Center		
----->	1	Sun	Triumph Club Darts Match @ ??	1 - 5 pm OVTC	
	19	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Cock & Bull Eatery (tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7:00 pm OMGC	
----->	28	Sat	Spring Tune-Up at Miniman	9:00 am	OMGC
May	12	Sat	Duck Race for CHEO at Hartwell Locks	10:30 am	Corvette
	17	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant (tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7:00 pm OMGC	
----->	27	Sun	MG Run To North Lancaster	9:00 am	OMGC
----->	June	03	Sun	Byward Market Classic Car Show	9:00 am
----->		02-03	Sat-Sun	Cheapo-Cheapoh 1	Shannon
----->		9 or 10	Sat/Sun	MG Spring Run with ??	9:00 am
		12	Tue	British Cruise Night, Snack Shack, Kemptville	7:00 pm OMGC
----->		17	Sun	Another Event With the Virago Club	OMGC
		21	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Cock & Bull Eatery (tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7:00 pm OMGC
----->		24	Sun	Sporting Classics Richmond Car Show	10:00 am
	29 -	Fri -			
July	- 1	- Sun	Boot'n'Bonnet Prince Edward County Tour		B & B Club
	1	Sun	Arnprior Canada Day Celebrations & Car Show		
	1	Sun	Greely Canada Day Celebration & Car Show		OMGC
	2 - 6	Mon-Fri	All MG 2001 in St. Paul, Minnesota		OMGC
----->	8	Sun	OMGC Croquet Match in Greely	1:30 pm OMGC	
	19	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant (tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7:00 pm OMGC	
----->	28 or 29	Sat/Sun	White Lake Splash	10:00 am	OMGC
August	5	Sun	VW Volksfest in Embrun	10:00 am	VW
	16	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Cock & Bull Eatery (Pit Stop Rally III)	7:00 pm OMGC	
	19	Sun	Boot'n'Bonnet All British Car Day		B & B Club
----->	19	Sun	Monte Carleton Rally	9:00 am	OMGC
September	8-9	Sat-Sun	Watkins Glen Racing		??
----->	15-16	Sat-Sun	Bronte Creek British Car Day		OMGC
	20	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant (tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7:00 pm OMGC	
	21-23	Fri-Sun	British Invasion at Stowe, Vermont		OMGC
----->	October	07	Sun	Fall Colour Run (tech & craft)	10:30 am
	18	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Cock & Bull Eatery (Indoor Rally III)	7:00 pm OMGC	OMGC
November	15	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meeting at Louis' Restaurant (Annual General Meeting)	7:00 pm OMGC	
----->	December	08	Sat	Ottawa MG Club CHRISTMAS PARTY	7:00 pm OMGC