



Ottawa MG Club

Newsletter

July 2002

Volume: 2 Issue: 4

The Ottawa MG Club event calendar, technical information and event photos can be found on the Internet at www.omgc.net
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MG Folks

If there is a note with your copy of the newsletter, it means that you have not yet renewed your membership. Please send your \$25 renewal fee to Mike Daniels, the Treasurer OMGC

Monthly Meetings Held On 3rd Thursdays

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(at the Science & Tech Museum)
- 3) Wind Blocker Device For MGs
(an 'add-on' with function & feature)
- 4) The 3rd Annual Gumball Rally
(the drive, the dinner, the movie)
- 5) Things For Sale
(also watch the web site for stuff)
- 6) The Route 66 Run
(a new adventure – join in the fun)
- 7) Membership Renewal Reminder
(please send in your dough)
- 8) MGB 40th Birthday Party at CTC
(your invitation is in the mail)
- 9) The Customary Event Calendar
(summer driving fun list)

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT JULY & AUGUST MEETINGS

July 18th Louis' Restaurant 7pm

A summer "Tire Kicker" is a wonderful opportunity to gather and chat over an open boot or bonnet. The June meeting in Bells Corners in the west end attracted almost 20 vehicles; lots of MGers; and a number of passers-by. The weather really did cooperate and with luck in July we can surpass that. Bring your MG and bring your Kicker!

August 15th Cock & Bull Eatery 7pm

The annual "Pit Stop Rally" will be conducted at this meeting. As we have been trying to make each annual event a bit different, this year will see a combination of driving skills and memory skills [for the old folks among us I will permit a handicap point system] Don't miss it! Even if you just come out to cheer on the contestants.

Welcome to new members: Karl Leclerc & Patricia Duperre Kanata '75 B

INVITATION – MGB – 1962 to 2002

Calling All B's

The Ottawa MG Club cordially invites you to a very special party celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the introduction of the MGB. The party will be held at Canadian Tire, Merivale Road at Hunt Club Road on Saturday July 20th 2002 from noon to 5pm.

This annual car show is conducted by Canadian Tire to support the Queensway Carleton Hospital Charity. OMGC is joining this event to celebrate 40 years of MGB, however all makes and models are welcome to join. MG owners should register at www.omgc.net. If you're not online or own a different car, phone 613-224-9330 to register.

B There!

The Liberating Feeling Of Driving An MGB Sports Car

Shannon Lee Mannion

The Ottawa Citizen

Friday, September 07, 2001

Joanne Walsh crossed one line off her life's 'To Do' list last August when she bought her 1979 MG roadster, which still has its original paint.

There's a pristine white 1979 MGB parked in the lot of a strip mall on most sunny days. The top is inevitably down. Owner Joanne Walsh is a hairdresser at May's Cutting Room, and a bit of wind in her hair doesn't bother her at all. She's got everything she needs at work to fix things up. For her, "I love the freedom of owning a sports car." Her blue eyes gleam. "It's incredible fun."

The MGB, the MG standing for Morris Garage, the B being the model designation, was the best-seller of a line of two-seat sports cars that began in 1928 in Abingdon, England. Some 515,000 MGBs, including 150,000 GT coupes, were produced between 1962 and 1980. Later versions of the MGB got a bad rap when, in the '70s, U.S. models were shipped with rubber bumpers in place of the original chrome ones. Subsequently, the suspension was cranked up to meet headlight height requirements and a narrow black bra was added that some say ruined the original front-end appearance. After these changes, naysayers suggested the B was kept around too long.

However, if you own one, you wouldn't say this. No one can deny the solid engineering that is an MG hallmark. Because so many were made, they are still easy to find (try locating a Jaguar E-Type), inexpensive to buy (ditto, E-Type), and simple to maintain (Yikes, 12 cylinders on some of the old Es). Above all, it's a sports car. While the plucky little four-cylinder B doesn't have the gut-wrenching power of a Corvette or the cachet of a Morgan, owners still look good coming and going.

Ms. Walsh bought her MG (with original paint and decals) last August from the car's second owner. She was pleased to be able to cross another thing off her 'To Do' list. "There's another car on my list, the Mercedes SLK Kompressor," she says, pretending to pout. "I'll never get it, but going gliding is on my list and travelling to Ireland, which I did two years ago, was on my 'To Do' list."

She hops into the MG's cockpit and strikes a pose for the photographer. "I cut a lot of hair to buy this thing!" she says. But that's just it. I am pleased that I actually did it myself. This car's mine, bought with my money. If it had just been given to me, I wouldn't appreciate it as much."

Q: Why choose an MGB?

A: I've always wanted a little foreign car. A vintage British sports car is perfect because I love the sound of older cars. People say that they can hear me coming before they see me.

Q: Was it hard to find?

A: My brother, Patrick, knew that I was looking for a toy, and when he heard about this car, he suggested that I check it out. There was no bargaining on the price since the car has a tonneau cover, new roof and new tires, plus overdrive.

Q: Would you say this car fits in with your personality?

A: I love being a girl in this car. Success for me was to be able to write the cheque myself, to actually be a little bit frivolous in the sense of Wow!

Q: What do your friends think?

A: When I first got it, everybody wanted to go for a ride. One time, I'd just done a client's hair and we went for a ride. I reminded her about her new hairdo but she didn't care.

Q: Has your social life improved since you got this car?

A: I don't know about social life but people come up to me in parking lots to talk about my car. Someone in an orange MGB, a little older than mine, approached me in Bells Corners. And then I ran into someone with a similar car to this. I've discovered that you don't notice MGs until you own one.

Q: Have you had to do anything to the car?

A: I had some minor bodywork done and I had the rims glass-blasted and brought back to original black-and-grey and they were top-coated. They even painted my ashtray.

Q: Do you think a blond in a sports car is every man's fantasy?

A: I think that's true. Men have this stereotype, but that's what it is, just a stereotype.

We welcome your nominations for cars and people to profile in Auto-Biography. Write to Wheels, The Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., P.O. Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. E-mail: wheels@thecitizen.southam.ca Fax: 726-1198. © Copyright 2001 The Ottawa Citizen

Evolution Of Wheels

On Sunday July 7th, 2002 the Canada Science and Technology Museum will be holding "Evolution of Wheels", an event which explores the development of the Canadian automobile industry, while allowing visitors to appreciate the evolution of automobile design by viewing the automobiles on display. An exciting element of this event will be the all-makes car show held in Technology Park. Visitors will have the chance to view many automobiles including a Brickland, a Packard 501 Roadster and a 1908 Model 10 Buick Roadster, just to name a few. If you would like to display a show car, please respond to jcritchley@nmstc.ca. Please include your name and the make of the car you would like to display.

Other activities....

- Tours will be conducted throughout the "More Than A Machine" automobile exhibit bringing visitors back to the early 20th century to describe the evolution of the automobile. Featured cars include the 1927 McLaughlin Buick royal tour car.
- Tours of the museums' warehouses will also be held for visitors who opt for a behind the scenes look at the museums' collection.
- Our Museum staff will also be demonstrating a 1926 Ford Model "T".

FOR SALE AND OTHER SUCH STUFF

Wind Blocker for MGB & Midget

The Little British Car Co. in Michigan is now stocking a wind blocker similar to that currently sported by our distinguished President. Go to: www.omgc.net/links/ Windblocker For MGB and Midget

I Gots Tires!

I have five Michelin tires, PR175 14s that I will sell for \$10 each or \$40 for all five. Just pried them off my car. Lots of tread left. Not on rims.

Shannon Lee Mannion
(613) 594-9128

Workshop Manual For MGB

I have an original Workshop Manual for an MGB. It's in pretty good shape although it does show some signs of wear and tear as I have put it to good use over the years. I no longer have the MGB and I would like to find a good home for the Workshop Manual. I understand they can be worth up to \$40 when in very good condition, if you can find one at a car show or a used bookstore - but I'd like to give the opportunity to acquire it to someone in the Ottawa MG Club who will give it a good home. Call me and we can discuss a price and figure out how to get it into a good home.

Peter Rotzal pbrotzal@yahoo.ca 613-489-2004

1953 MG TD

This car was rescued from a barn 4 years ago and was rebuilt (not restored) with new parts. It is a TD, not a replica car, however it is not original. It has MGB running gear, wire-wheels, axles and rear end. The engine runs well, is an MGB 18V (1800 cc) that has not been rebuilt. The transmission is a 4 speed MGB gearbox. The interior has been completely redone with MGB individual seats. The dash is a combination of original switches and Jaguar gauges. The two-tone paint is an official colour scheme for a 1953 MGTD shipped to the US. Asking \$15,000

Mike O'Brien RR#2 Mountain, Ontario, 613-989-1342 va3mgt@achilles.net



[Note from OMGC member Jim Bloomfield – “I've seen this and it is a beauty, even if not 100% original.”]

The Gumball Rally - 2002 Edition

With a list of about 20 questions and some driving instructions with a map, a bunch of brave MGers took off for the Annual Gumball Rally from Kemptville on Saturday June 15th. And among our numbers were a couple who had traveled all the way from Espanola, Ontario (driving a lovely wee Midget). It was obvious, that although the weather might not have been ideal for such a rally, Bill and Joy Curnoe did a wonderful job of getting this super event into the MG history books. And like so many other MG events, it was sad to see it end - regardless of the weather.

So did you figure it out yet?? Yes, it rained!! However, although it did rain and we talked about the rain, it didn't do a thing to hurt the wonderful MG driving spirit. We all had a ball. At the meeting place at Tim Horton's the drizzle was more than a drizzle but throughout the day the

skies would dry up a bit and then pour a bit. Even the grand BBQ that Bill put on was unaffected by the rain - although Bill had to strategically position the BBQ at the back door so he could do the cooking while standing under the roof overhang. The burgers and sausages were tasty and the salads were magnificent.

The run was a very pleasant one - good job Bill! The driving guide was easy to follow, although the group used the "2nd driver drop to the back" technique so that everyone could stay somewhat together. The pit stop at Rideau Ferry gave those that like to shop the opportunity to do so in the wee stores at the gas bar. And when we all passed through Merrickville, we did exactly that - we all passed through Merrickville without a stop - but I'll bet you there were a few of the MG folks that wanted another "pit / shopping stop".

And later in the afternoon when the food was eaten and the place was cleaned up, Bill put on the movie that bears the name of this annual run (or is it the other way around?). Good flick! Thanks again to the Kemptville Curnoes for such a great day.

ROUTE 66 RUN

Hello to all you MGers! Perhaps you remember the catch phrase 'heading down Route 66' from the famous US highway and maybe you even remember the TV show that went along with that feeling of wind in your hair while you traveled down the open road. Well, whether you do remember or you don't remember; you are invited to join us for the Ottawa MG Club ROUTE 66 RUN.

The run will be held on Sunday, July 14th. Lets meet at The Brig Pub in the Kanata area [it is located at then corner of Hazeldean Road and Young Road] The meeting time is 9 am and we shall get away at about 9:15 am - so don't be late!

After the run is done, we'll meet at Dave & Helene Moore's place for a bar-b-que. Dave & Helene's place is at 43 McLennan Way in Kanata. Be sure to bring your favourite refreshments, a chair to park yourself on and an appetite! And also be sure to bring your dancing shoes as we will host a dance party where you can jive and bop to some great 50's music on the jukebox.

We really want you to come out to this event so let us know if you are able to attend by calling us at 613-836-1381 or send us an email at moorehd@magma.ca

Hope to see you on July 14th.

Get Your Kicks On Route 66!

OTTAWA MG CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR 2002						
→ MG Club Highlight and Feature Events ←						
	Month	Date	Day	Event	Time	Contact
	Jun	20	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Cock&Bull Eatery (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7pm	Jordan
		23	Sun	Sporting Classics Richmond Car Show	9am	OVTC
		28-30	Fri-Sun	Boot'n'Bonnet Prince Edward County Tour		B'n'B
	Jul	1	Mon	Canada Day Car Show in Arnprior Canada Day Car Show in Morrisburg Canada Day Car Show in Alexandria	10am	
		2-5	Tue-Fri	NEMGTR GOF in Nova Scotia		Mark
		3-6	Wed-Sat	NAMGBR 2002 in Grapevine Texas		Len
		6-7	Sat-Sun	Blues Fest Car & Motorcycle Show - Lebreton		
		7	Sun	Evolution of Wheels @ Science & Tech Museum	9am	Shannon
→		14	Sun	OMGC Route 66 Run (meet at The Brig Pub on Robertson Road – Kanata)	9am	David
		20	Sat	MGB 40 th Birthday Party Canadian Tire – Merivale at Hunt Club Queensway Carleton Hospital Charity	Noon - 5 pm	Jordan
		17-21	Wed-Sun	NAMGAR 2002 in Charlottesville VA		Len
		18	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Louis' Restaurant (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7pm	Jordan
		27or28	Sat-Sun	White Lake Splash		J&J
		27&28	Sat-Sun	Grande Island, NY Sesquicentennial – Auto Event MGCC WNY www.isledegrande.com/2002/		Len
	Aug	3	Sat	Graffiti Night / 10 th Annual Cornwall Olde Car Club – A&W Drive In Vincent Massey Drive Hwy 2 West Games – Prizes – Dance - \$3	4pm	Len
		4	Sun	VWFest in Embrun	10am	VW
		15	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Cock&Bull Eatery (Pit Stop Rally IV)	7pm	Jordan
		18	Sun	Crysler Heritage Park Show and Shine Cornwall Olde Car Club – Upper Canada Village \$5 per car – Awards – Dash Plaques	9am	Len
		25	Sun	B'n'B All Brit Car Day @ Kingston	10am	B'n'B
→		25	Sun	OMGC Monte Carleton Run	9am	?
	Sep	7-8	Sat-Sun	Watkins Glen Racing		?
		19	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Louis' Restaurant (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed)	7pm	Jordan
		20-23	Fri-Sun	British Invasion @ Stowe, VT		?
→	Oct	6	Sun	OMGC Fall Colour Run	9am	Jordan
		17	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Cock&Bull Eatery	7pm	Jordan
	Nov	21	Thr	Ottawa MG Club Meet @ Louis' Restaurant (Annual General Meeting)	7pm	Jordan
	Dec	7	Sat	OMGC Christmas Party	6pm	?

The Cornwall Olde Car Club holds 'Cruise Nights' every Wednesday at the A & W Drive In Restaurant on Vincent Massey Drive / Highway 2 West. For info: 1-613-931-2087 or cruzin66@sympatico.ca