



OTTAWA MG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2000

Volume:0 Issue:2

The Ottawa MG Club event calendar and event photos can be found on the internet at:

<http://www.geocities.com/motorcity/downloads/7189/omgc.html>

Monthly Meetings 3rd Thursday @ Louis' Steakhouse, Cyrville Rd.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Debi Fortin (President) | dfdesign@passport.ca | 821-3140 |
| Mark Evenchick (Past Pres) | etl@netcom.ca | 521-3097 |
| Jordan Jones (Vice President) | jordan@compmore.net | 8391821 |
| Len Fortin (Newsletter) | fortinl@passport.ca | 821-3140 |
| Gilles Leduc (Treasurer) | leducjg@hotmail.com | 824-9706 |
| Dave Moore (Technical) | | 836-1381 |
| John Dallaire (Regalia) | jjdallaire@sprint.ca | 725-1536 |
| Mary Attwell (Social) | mary_attwell@mitel.com | 831-8989 |
| Eric Stephen (Webmaster) | estephen@ncf.ca | 825-1091 |

In This Issue:

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(MG people have fun all year long)
- 2) Notes of Thanks to Folks and Places
(To tell people we appreciate them)
- 3) Cars For Sale Information
(If you are in the market for a vehicle)
- 4) A Notice From The TIZCC
(For fast, safe driving thrills)
- 5) The Starter and the Clock
(A story by our own Randy Ward)
- 6) A Reminder About The OVTC Darts Match
(It's Sunday, April 2nd)
- 7) News About March and April Meetings
(More good things to see and do)
- 8) The VW Pool & Pizza Event report
(With warm thanks for a good time)
- 9) An Events Calendar
(So you can be there when things happen)

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT MARCH & APRIL MEETINGS

March 16:

March has traditionally been a meeting for videos, photos and the stories that go with them. The videos and photos are real and believable but some of the stories may be a bit stretched. Come and enjoy a 15 minute video of MG '98 at Hagerstown MD where Dave & Lise McDonnell won a prize for their DAM MGB. See a 15 minute version of the MGB story on 'Legends Of Motorsport'. See some of the club's best photos of cars, people and events. Bring photos from your books. Bring the story that goes with it. Bring a smile!

April 20:

There is something about this month that just gets my spirit going. Usually it's because the winter has stretched all through March and left it's mark in April; but there is a wee hint of MG 'Spring' in the air This monthly meeting will be our first "Tire Kicker" of the year 2000. For a tire kicker, we need cars and people to attend. Can we count on you? Open the bonnet and open the boot and tell us what makes your MG special, different, exclusive, wild or wonderful. And if it's none of the above... lets just take a peek!

Note: There was some recent discussion about holding future meetings at Hemmingway's Restaurant in Bells Corners. Two weeks ago it closed it's doors and is in mid-renovation. So until further notice, the meetings are at Louis' Steakhouse on the Cyrville Road.

Thousand Island Zed Car Club

TIZCC
Lapping 2000
at SMP on Thurs. May 4th



Join us on the Fabi circuit

at Shannonville Motorsport Park for a full day of open lapping. Test and tune or just come for a run and have some fun. Informal instruction in basic car control and performance driving will take place in the morning for novice drivers.

Take the Marysville exit #566 off 401, south to hwy 2, west approx. 5 km to track
 All makes and models welcome and encouraged

Requirements:

Valid drivers licence
 snell rated helmet
 mechanically sound vehicle

Cost:

\$125.00/vehicle (non members)
 \$115.00/vehicle (TIZCC members)
 \$50.00 deposit required by: April 21
 Driving instruction limited to 10 persons

Schedule:

Gates open: 8:00AM
 Drivers meeting (mandatory): 9:00AM
 Lapping ends: 5:00PM

Please fill out bottom portion and mail with deposit before April 21

Make cheque payable to:
T.I.Z.C.C.

Send to: Marc Guilmont
 975 Bristol St
 Kingston, Ont.
 K7P 2L3

For more information call Marc
 at: 613-384-4597
 email: guilmont-m@rmc.ca
 fax: 613-542-8612

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov: _____
 Postal: _____ Phone: _____
 email or fax: _____
 Car make and model: _____
 Year: _____ Stock or modified: _____
 Prior lapping experience: _____
 Will you be participating in the school? Yes ☐ No ☐

THANKS!

This special word of thanks goes to Tammi for her recent help in the review of the fiscal records of the Ottawa MG Club. At the January meeting our treasurer, Gilles, asked for a volunteer to listen to the financial process he follows while conducting club transactions and briefly review some of the values recorded, to confirm that the methods and values are reasonable. Thanks to all who offered to help out. Graciously, Tammi spent some time to review

Some of you may remember, a couple of years ago, stopping for a wee break at a home near Kemptville as we were on our way to North Lancaster for a Spring Run. It was a Sunday morning and there were not too many places open where one could conduct a pit stop. As we were stopped at this bungalow in Kemptville, I seem to recall, Penny & Karl bought all kinds of Girl Guide Cookies from the 'Brownie' youngster there, leaving none for Heather & Ihor. Well, that was my brother's place. Todd is the local chapter President of the Thousand Island Zed Car Club (TIZCC). He sends this notice to us, in case there are MG folks that might like to participate in this Lapping event. I have full sized registration forms if you are interested.

Remember... Safety Fast!

the club's financial picture. However, I didn't get her last name. She was supposed to join the club that night but I didn't get a membership form to her in a very timely fashion as I was doing the Engines Express shop tour with several other MG folks. Until she comes to another meeting, is there anyone who knows who she is, so we can extend our thanks to her for her efforts.

Thanx!

The 2nd Annual Ottawa MG Club Ski Weekend

Lots of planning and preparation went into this version of a wonderful winter event. Thanks to all those that took part and many, many thanks to VP Jordan for making all the arrangements. It was supposed to be a ski and relaxation weekend for everyone, and it was - except for Emmett. He lost his ski poles out of the trunk of the car somewhere between Ottawa and Gray Rocks and so he didn't set foot on a cross-country trail or a down-hill slope even once. All for the best, says Connie, as Emmett recently injured his back and should have spent more time in the bar than on skis anyway. (And this would be a problem how???)

For those that travelled up on Friday, the afternoon weather was a bit cloudy. Jordan & Heather were already onsite when Debi & I and Connie & Emmett arrived. Within a few minutes of the unpacking of all our gear, we were relaxing in the living room of the condo and chatting about the potential that Saturday would hold. With a fire in the fireplace and some good easy listening music all about us, we sipped on some wine and munched on goodies. This was the life! Soon it would be dinner time and all we had to do is call the front desk and they would send a shuttle van to take us to the dining room. What service! The staff and management of the Gray Rocks Inn did a fine job in taking care of us. It is really a wonderful place for a vacation weekend! After a late dinner we were shuttled back to the condo where we spent more time by the fireplace before turning in for the night. Saturday was planned to be a ski day - for all except Emmett - he was going to relax a bit and then take a bit of a walk-about and later meet us at the 'you-know-where'.

Several other MG folks came up on Saturday. Mark & Heather, Doug & Kathy, Karl & Penny, Glen & Diane and Eric & Terri. The weather was much improved and the sun was shining. Great ski conditions. A bunch went skiing on the downhill slopes. Some went cross country. Some went ski blading. You must ask Kathy about her ski blading experiences, as she has never before been fond of skiing - but somehow the ski blading seemed to be the right thing for her. The down-hillers had some grand runs and they were sad to see the afternoon come to a close, but, as Mark said, there was beer in the bar for those that returned in a timely fashion. And for the cross country skiers there was a bit of a laugh. Remember last year when Emmett took a roll and tumble on the most gentle of slopes??? Well, this year, as he was unable to participate, Connie filled in quite well with a spectacular "topple over the fence" act near the end of the run. It was all we could talk about after we met Emmett at the Golf & Country Club bar.

Before we went to dinner we met in Karl & Penny's room to raise a glass and toast some very special people and events. Karl & Penny were celebrating their recent 25th wedding anniversary. And we also raised a glass for Mark & Heather's 25th wedding anniversary late last year. And to cap it all off we toasted each other - friendships and events like this are the very core of our club. Following a fabulous dinner, we gathered in a special room provided by the hotel. With a fireplace to add a bit of atmosphere, Mark and his guitar led us in a bunch of songs - among them, the special song we sang at our Christmas party to help commemorate Christmas, Y2K, MG's and special friends. And when the late hour beckoned, we wished each other good-night.

Sunday, after a wonderful brunch, we went our separate ways. Some right away back to the big city. Some to more winter sports. Some to the shopping and sites of St. Jovite and Mont Tremblant. And eventually all back to the work-a-day world we escaped from on Friday. On our way home we watched for Emmett's ski poles but they were never found. Who would buy white ski poles for winter sport anyway? Oh well!

A Few Words About The January & February Meetings

Hope you folks enjoyed the Pat Dolla / POR 15 meeting in February. Pat is very confident about the products he offers and many among us can confirm the high standards POR Canada meets. You may not remember all the funny stories he told, but for sure if you use POR15 on your restoration project, you will remember the quality of the product! Thanks to Pat!

Thanks to the folks at Engines Extra! The January tour of the facilities was great. There is never enough time to see all the tools and machinery in the shop but the things we did see confirmed the skills of each staff member and the commitment to a quality job that each of them makes. Thanks to Garth and his team!

Cars For Sale

1980 MGB

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| British Racing Green | New paint and interior | New overdrive transmission |
| New clutch | Dual SU carbs | Lots of new parts / to many to list |
| Spent \$13,000+ | Valuation \$10,000 | A great 'driver' car |
| Call: Steve (613) 841-5749 | (514) 330-9608 pager | 926 Como Crescent, Orleans |

(Note: for a sneak preview, Len has photos of this car)

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| MG | Asking Price: \$9,000 firm. | 1977 Mark IV Roadster | 4 Cylinder 1798cc |
| | 62.5 horsepower | dual carbs | black roof |
| | complete body restoration | British Racing Green | interior: Saddle Tan |

Engine rebuilt by Miles Import Rebuilders (Edmonton, Alberta) November 1990
Paint and body work completed May 1991 by Brothers Auto Body (value \$5,500)
Currently have a list of receipts of over \$10,000 that has gone into this car.
Anyone interested in having a look , please call Karen Proud at 599-6518

MG Midget (1977)

Interested in a 1977 MG Midget (with hard top)? The car has never been driven in the winter.
It is in good condition.
Daniel Ringuette, CGA danielr@nb.sympatico.ca
10 Angers St. St-Basile, N.B. (506) 735-6631 home (506) 739-2334 work

1977 MGB

A shoulder injury requires that I no longer drive a stick shift. This is the first offering of my green 1977 MGB convertible. Since I purchased this car in 1987 it has always been garaged. I have always had it maintained by a man that worked on the MG assembly line in the U. K. before it closed in 1980. It has always been adult driven and very well maintained. Service records since 1987 available. New O/D transmission in 1995 has less than 12,000 miles on it. If anything has needed adjustment or repair, it has gotten it. Mechanically sound, engine has about 60,000 since rebuild and has always been given premium EXON gas and MOBIL 1 oil. Interior and exterior are outstanding. Rear Michelins and master cylinder are less than 2 months old. This car gets an honest 19-22 MPG combined local and highway driving. Great daily driver, solid road car, easily capable of 100+ MPH. California car, no rust.

\$4,400.00 US FIRM! Independent Inspect-A-Car report available for nominal fee. Photos available.
Call 619-888-3322

The Starter and the Clock

(by club member Randy Ward)

This story began last summer when the starter on my "B" finally quit. It was time for a new one. Being one who generally believes, that if something can go wrong with technical things it will, I have a tendency to lean to the side of safety when doing any kind of repair work. This means disconnecting the battery, blocking the tires, all the regular safety stuff, before doing any type of maintenance. I suppose my strong beliefs in safety come from being involved in the aviation industry for most of my adult life. After replacing the starter, reconnecting the battery, and, before start up, I made sure I could disconnect the battery if I needed to. That meant leaving the battery cover off and the terminals loose. This is good general practice, and in this case it saved my car. The car started fine, but the starter did not disengage. It also would not disengage when I selected the ignition key to off. The engine kept running, with the starter engaged. In very short order, there was potential for fire from a hot starter and hot wiring. When something like that happens, the only option available is to remove a terminal from the battery immediately. It should be the ground terminal, but at that point who really cares, as long as you can kill the power. It turned out that the new rebuilt starter had failed internally, pretty rare, but it does happen. That little scenario got me thinking, "I need a remote shut off (kill) switch," in this car. It took a little while to figure out where to install one that wasn't going to include a major re-routing of wires. You don't have many options. I finally chose the battery cover. Granted, the big red key for the switch is now through the carpet on the luggage tray, but it is not really in the way.

I have never put any luggage on the tray, and if I do it would only be a coat. I cut a hole in the battery cover to mount the switch and placed the switch in the ground line. With the size of the batteries in use today, there is plenty of clearance between the switch and the battery. Now, in emergencies I can select it to off, immediately, from the drivers' seat. Whenever I am not using the car I can select the switch to off and know that there is a slight theft deterrent. A person would have to look for the switch to find it, especially if you have the big red key in your pocket. This installation makes items like a clock, and a radio that locks onto stations, redundant. If you are a true British car fanatic, the sound of the engine is music enough, and time doesn't mean anything anyway. I removed the radio and replaced it with an early model blanking plate. The blanking plate says MG and even looks better than the radio. The clock was a little more of a problem until I realised a voltmeter was what I needed in that position. To get the clock out I had to take the seats out, this is because I can no longer turn myself into a pretzel. After the seats came out, and surveying the remains of the carpet, the carpet came out, straight into the garbage. At this point, I figured if I'm putting in new carpet, I need a replacement dash as mine is a southern car and the dash is heat cracked in many places. Now that the steering column and dash are out, the only thing left is the windshield. The windshield was the original and getting smokey in the corners. It's now out also. It's now in the house, disassembled and will be put back together in the next few weeks. I had not planned to paint the car till next year, as a matter of fact, I wasn't even going to work on the car this winter. I have another car to work on, that is now gathering dust. The car will now be painted before I put it back together. Maybe, just maybe I'll have it back together by July. It's funny how this became a project, because all I really wanted to do was replace the clock with a voltmeter. Small tasks seem to, for whatever reason, take on a life of their own, and become major projects. See you on the road, somewhere, this coming summer, maybe. The common refrain of all certifiable car nuts, "I'll be in, in a minute honey, just another fender or two."

The VW Pool & Pizza Event

Top notch congratulations to the Capital City Volkswagen Association on a mighty fine POOL & PIZZA EVENT, held on Saturday, February 26th. It was certainly a daring step to take as a club - changing their traditional annual evening Beer & Pizza get-together at the Prescott Hotel to a fun filled afternoon at Slick's pool hall on Bank Street. I, for one, already look forward to next year's event. Not because I won prizes at this one. Far from it! I was teamed up with Hill Goldberg (of Capital City Diner fame) and if my memory serves me correctly, together, we didn't accumulate enough "points" to travel any further than the refreshment bar. I kept blaming the situation on Hill and he kept passing the blame back to me. But the afternoon was a hoot, with a few MGers and a few folks from the OVTC trying to outshoot the VW people. Rather than regular pool rules, this event was a 'shoot for the points' affair in a round robin set-up. It worked quite well. Lots of excuses were tossed about. A bunch of stories exchanged - automotive; pool shark and other. And photo albums were shared during the games. And later in the afternoon, pizza was served for all to share. In the end, Karl "Minnesota" Koch took the top spot. Somehow, Penny came in at the end of the list of players. A number of prizes were given away including hats, T-shirts and models. You can tell that this VW Club is a class act, the way they took care of their guests at the pool tables and at the dinner table was top notch. Thanks VW!

OTTAWA MG CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR 2000

-----> MG Club Highlight and Feature Events <-----

| | date | | event | time | contact/info |
|-------|------|----------|------------|--|---------------------|
| | May | 13 | Sat | Duck Race for CHEO @ Hartwell Locks | 10:30 am Wayne E |
| ----> | | 13-14 | Sat-Sun | Cheepo-Cheepo Y2K in Gananoque | Gilles |
| | | 18 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Jay Robertson presents 'waterless' car wash products) | 7:30 pm Eric / Debi |
| ----> | | 28 | Sun | MG Run To North Lancaster | 9:00 am Dalton |
| | | 28 | Sun | British Car Week Celebration in Montreal, Quebec (Likely to connect these two events) | Len |
| ----> | June | 4 | Sun | Byward Market Classic Car Show | 9:00 am Shannon |
| ----> | | 10 or 11 | Sat or Sun | MG Spring Run with Bill & Joy Curnoe | 9:00 am Len / Bill |
| | | 13 | Tue | British Cruise Night, Snack Shack, Kemptville | 7:00 pm Dalton |
| | | 15 - 18 | Thr - Sun | MG 2000 NAMGBR in Cleveland, Ohio | Len |
| | | 15 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed) | 7:30 pm Mark |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|
| ----> | | 18 | Sun | Another Event With The Virago Club | unconfirmed | Karl |
| ----> | | 25 | Sun | Sporting Classics Richmond Car Show | 10:00 am | OVTC |
| | July | 1 | Sat | Greely Canada Day Celebrations & Car Show | 10:30 am | Len |
| | | 1 | Sat | Arnprior Canada Day Celebrations & Car Show | all day | |
| | | 7 - 9 | Fri - Sun | Boot'n'Bonnet Prince Edward County Tour | weekend run | Wes |
| ----> | | 9 | Sun | OMGC Croquet Match in Greely | 1:30 pm | Len |
| | | 17 - 21 | Mon - Fri | NAMGAR GT25 MGA Register Morgantown, WV | | Len |
| | | 20 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed) | 7:30 pm | Jordan |
| ----> | | 29 - 30 | Sat - Sun | White Lake Splash (Saturday event w/onite tenting as needed) | 10:00 am | Janet / John |
| | August | 6 | Sun | VW Volksfest in Embrun | 10:00 am | Micheline |
| ----> | | 13 | Sun | OMGC Boat Cruise / 10 th Anniversary (How about the Cumberland Ferry with Asti Spumanti champagne) | unconfirmed | ? |
| | | 17 | The | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Pit Stop Rally II) | 7:30 pm | Debi |
| | | 20 | Sun | Boot'n'Bonnet All British Car Day in Kingston | 10:30 am | Wes |
| ----> | | 20 | Sun | Monte Carleton Rally (Likely to connect these two events) | 9:00 am | Doug / Len |
| | | 26 - 27 | Sat - Sun | Niagara Wine Country Tour / 10 th Anniversary | unconfirmed | ? |
| | September | 9 - 10 | Sat - Sun | Watkins Glen Racing | unconfirmed | ? |
| ----> | | 17 | Sun | Bronte Creek British Car Day | unconfirmed | Len / Mike |
| | | 21 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Tire kicker topic not yet confirmed) | 7:30 pm | Debi |
| | | 22 - 24 | Fri - Sun | British Invasion @ Stowe, Vermont | | Len |
| ----> | October | 1 | Sun | Fall Colour Run (Technical & Craft) | 10:30 am | Jordan / Debi |
| | | 19 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis' Restaurant (Indoor Rally II) | 7:30 pm | Debi |
| | November | 16 | Thr | OMGC Meeting @ Louis Restaurant (Annual General Meeting) | 7:30 pm | Debi |
| ----> | December | 9 | Sat | Ottawa MG Club Christmas Party | 7:00 pm | Debi |

Welcome to new members: