



The Dashpot

September 2020

This month:

Presidents Report, Le Mans Hardtop MGB, The Paul Williams Memorial Run, Smoke Theory of Electronic Devices, The longest owned Rolls Royce, Winter Storage tips

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Future Club meetings and
all events are cancelled
until further notice

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Presidents Report

As there have been no meetings since February, and few activities at which we could meet our newest members, I'd like to take this opportunity to say an official "hello" to those who have joined us in 2020: **Andrew Bain, Marlene Cullen, Martin Cunningham, Andy Desgroseilliers, Tim Dietrich, Scott Duncan, Dan Lynch, Fred McKay, and Herb White.** Welcome to you and your navigators, and we look forward to meeting you, and checking out your cars I'd like to say "soon", but I think it's more likely "one of these days". Believe me, in normal times, there's always something going on, and we really are a very social group of people.

One of the few events that did take place was the Paul Williams Memorial Run to Stirling Lodge in Newboro in late August. Many thanks to Terry Haines for making that happen – very much appreciated by the participants, and by all accounts, a good time was had by all.

The cancellation of the Fall Colour Run – our last official drive of the season – is so disappointing, but the health and safety of our members, and their families and friends, takes precedence over our desire to get together for a big end-of-season bash. If Jordan and Sarah hadn't cancelled, we would have been cancelling it now, in light of the government's crack down on numbers allowed at events, indoors and outdoors.

We've already had some nights with frost warnings, which means it will soon be time to think about putting our cars away for the winter. Before you do that though, make sure you've taken all your Scavenger Hunt photos, and send them to Sarah by Dec 1 at the latest, clearly identifying the theme for which they are intended. Here's the link to the original explanation of the idea, including the 12 themes.
<http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/?newsletter=omgc-attn-members-old-and-new-reminder-the-great-omgc-photo-scavenger-hunt>

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Copies of this edition of "The Dashpot", along with copies of "The Dashpot" going back many years, can be found on the website: www.omgc.info / News and Events / Dashpot – and you'll see that you can also check on Broadcasts that you might have missed, or need a reminder about.



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register

Found something that would
interest other club members?

Send to [The Editor](#) for a future issue.



North American MGB Register
Including MGC, MG Midget, 1100/1300 MG, and Modern MG

Presidents Report (cont'd)

I thought it would be fitting to dedicate a page of our calendar to celebrate the members of our communities who have been out there on the front lines providing essential services: emergency first responders; medical and health care personnel; bus and taxi drivers; those delivering goods to the stores – and those working in the stores, making sure we have our everyday needs (remember the toilet paper shortage?); farmers; care-givers; teachers; etc., etc. Here's another opportunity for you to get creative with your cameras, and if you'd like to add a short note about the inspiration behind your photo, we can include that too. Looking forward to a calendar as memorable as our 2020/21 calendar – with your continuing help!

WANTED: President and Vice-President

At the 2019 AGM, the members of the Executive were elected for 2 year terms, and I was elected for a 1 year extension, as there was no-one to step into the role of President at the end of my 2 year term. Our Vice President unfortunately had to resign due to an increase in workload in his professional life. Therefore, at this year's AGM (Nov 19) we are looking to elect a President to serve a 1 year term, and a Vice President to serve a 1 year term and then take over as President for the usual 2 year term. Details of their respective (non-onerous!) responsibilities are in the following link. Please let me know if you are interested in either role.

http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/conventions/pdf/OMGC_Executive_Portfolio_Activities_List.pdf

Take care out there, and keep well.

Trish [tadams500@gmail.com – tel: 613 258 9008]



Ashley Hardtop equipped MGB

Len Fortin posted an article on the development of the Ashley Le Mans GT Hardtop shown above, taken from the August 2020 edition (issue 94) of the North American Classic MG magazine.

See the full story here:

http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Ashley_Le_Mans_GT_Hardtop.pdf



The Paul Williams Memorial Run – August 2020 - Len Fortin

While getting prepared to jot down a word or two about the recent "**Paul Williams Memorial Run to Stirling Lodge**", I thought it best to go back through the files and peek at the things that led us all to this point in time.

For those that may NOT remember, the first so called "**Ottawa Valley Jog**" was actually called "**The Opeongo Run**".... back in 2006. Norm Peacey & Terry Haines led us all over the places that were, in some way, shape or form, part of a route taking anyone who dared to go, to the Best Western Motel in Pembroke. It was, as I recall, a one-off event conjured up at the time by the two leader gentlemen and likely never to be conducted again. This route basically traces the historic Ottawa and Opeongo Road route which was established by the Canadian government in the 1850s to lure European settlers into the hinterland. Well, the 2006 trip was a bit less rustic than the mid-1800s pioneers experienced, but it did hold its own little bits of excitement for MG Drivers & Navigators. Great driving roads; great place to overnight; great food; great entertainment; great friends! And the event idea did NOT come to an end after 2006.

And as one fast-forwards through the years, the "**Opeongo Line Run**" transformed into "**The Ottawa Valley Jog**" [or *OVJ*, for short] and allowed us to visit all kinds of great roadways; great places to overnight; great food; great entertainment; and enjoy great friends! And when we ran out of routes that stayed close to the Ottawa Valley, we modified the event name again into "**An Overnight August Event Formerly Known As The Ottawa Valley Jog**" [it didn't have a short form.... and I don't know why we didn't just make one up?? (maybe *AOAEFKATOVJ*)].



Paul Williams in his MGB

Anyway, it was during one of the intervening years of the *AOAEFKATOVJ*, that participant Paul Williams coined the phrase, "**Up Your Opeongo Line!!**" to anyone who he felt the need to. Paul was an award winning writer; a long-time member of the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada; an avid collector of British sports cars. He loved wine and cheese, a hot cup of coffee and a good mug of beer. He liked to camp; discuss politics & photography; listen to music and go antiquing. He loved to tell stories. And what an incredible sense of humour! Time spent with Paul often involved lots of laughs. Paul was a first class individual in every respect. We felt deeply sorrowed when we lost Paul in January this year.

So "**The Opeongo Run**" was modified again into "**The Paul Williams Memorial Run Of An Overnight August Event Formerly Known As The Ottawa Valley Jog**"..... and retains all of the best things MG Drivers & Navigators can enjoy..... driving routes, food, entertainment, friends and especially memories.

Driving route instructions from the 2020 Paul Williams Memorial Run:

http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OVJ_2020_PWMR_Driving_Route.pdf

Photos from the 2020 Paul Williams Memorial Run:

http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/index.php/nggallery/2020-photos/The-OVJ-2020---Paul-Williams-Memorial-Run?page_id=4947

The Smoke Theory of Electronic Devices

Shared with us in November 2018 by member, Phil Carney, and well worth repeating. Phil is no longer with us, but he's still raising smiles from that place where MGs always start, gas is free, and Lucas electrics never fail – probably having a few laughs with Paul too.

Introduction

From the basic concept of transmission of electrical energy in the form of smoke, a better understanding of the mysteries of electrical components, especially those manufactured by Lucas, a British manufacturer, is provided.

Theory of Smoke

Smoke is the thing that makes electrical circuits work; we know this to be true because every time one lets the smoke out of an electrical system, it stops working. This has been verified repeatedly through empirical testing by countless EE212 students.

When, for example, the smoke escapes from an electrical component (i.e., a Lucas voltage regulator or a 741 Op Amp), it will be observed that the component stops working. The function of the wire harness is to carry the smoke from one device to another; when the wire harness "springs a leak", it lets all the smoke out of the system. Once this happens, nothing works afterwards. For example, starter motors were frowned upon in British automobiles for many years, largely because they consume large quantities of smoke, requiring very large wires.

Conclusion

It has been noted that Lucas components are possibly more prone to electrical leakage than either Bosch or generic Japanese electrics. Experts point out that this is because Lucas is British and all things British leak. British engines leak oil, shock absorbers, hydraulic forks and disk brakes leak fluid, British tyres leak air, and the British defense establishment leaks secrets ... so, naturally, British electrics leak smoke.



A rare NOS replacement smoke kit

The longest privately owned Rolls in history—and it's still going strong!

The 102 yr old man in the photo below drove the same car – a 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom I – for 77 years.



Born in 1903, M. Allen Swift of West Hartford, Connecticut, received – at the age of 25 – a brand new 1928 Phantom I S273 FP as a graduation gift from his father. This particular Rolls Royce was built in Springfield, MA by Rolls Royce of America, where 2,944 vehicles were produced.

Mr. Swift drove it up until his death in 2005 ... at the age of 102! During this long period, he clocked more than 172,000 miles and maintained the car accordingly. In 1988 the car received a full body restoration and engine rebuild. It still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent at any speed, and is in perfect cosmetic condition.



In 1994 Rolls Royce Motor Cars presented Mr. Swift with a crystal statue of the Spirit of Ecstasy for holding the record of the longest ownership of one of their automobiles.

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The longest privately owned Rolls in history—and it's still going strong! (cont'd)

Just two months before he passed away in October 2005, Mr. Swift donated US\$1 million to the Springfield Museums for the purchase and construction of a museum of innovation. Upon his death at the venerable age of 102, the Phantom was bequeathed to the museum, and is now the centerpiece of the Wood Museum of Springfield History's transportation exhibit. It sits next to a 1925 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Piccadilly Roadster owned by S. Prestley Blake, co-founder of Friendly Ice Cream.



PS: Swift and Blake are in good company – Howard Hughes, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, Jack Dempsey, and Woodrow Wilson all owned Springfield-built Silver Ghosts, and Fred Astaire, Joseph P. Kennedy, and Charlie Chaplin owned Springfield-built Phantoms.

Winter Storage Information and Tips! - Ivan Wood

Winter Storage Information and Tips

It will soon be time to start thinking about winterizing our cars and putting them away for the winter – at home or in a storage facility. Here are three links to articles about prepping your car for it's long winter sleep.

<https://www.hagerty.com/media/maintenance-and-tech/best-tips-for-winter-car-storage-and-care/>

<https://www.hagerty.com/media/maintenance-and-tech/mythbusting-seasonal-storage/>

<https://www.hagerty.com/media/archived/essential-pointers-for-safe-winter-car-storage/>

Here is a link to a list of facilities, some of which OMGC members have used in the past. This list goes back quite a few years, so you may find that some of them no longer exist, or ownership has changed, and prices/terms and conditions/in and out dates have changed, so it is recommended that you do your own due diligence before you entrust your precious toys into the care of them.

<http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/?p=16680>

Please pass any feedback, positive or not so positive, to Ivan Wood, Technical Director – ivan_wood@hotmail.com – so that we can update our information accordingly.