



# The Dashpot

## March 2021

Future Club meetings and  
all events are cancelled  
until further notice

### This month:

Virutal Tech Session Recap, A Sign of the Mike  
O'Brien Times, It's a Mystery Game, In MG History  
This Month, Old Speckled Hen, Virtual Rally Update

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### Virtual Tech Session Recap

On March 10th, Michael Price hosted a Virtual Tech session, where he showed a number of club members his work on a couple of projects: Making a Bimini Top, and Preparing a Metal Dash for a later model MGB. Mike gave us a walk through of the process, the problems he encountered, and how he overcame them. This was a very informative and enjoyable session —Thanks Mike!

We are sure to have more of these tech sessions later in the spring, so if you'd like to host one, please contact our Tech Director, Ivan Wood [wood\\_ivan@hotmail.com](mailto:wood_ivan@hotmail.com) with your idea.



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](http://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

A sign of the Mike O'Brien Times — Len Fortin

Mike O'Brien joined the Ottawa MG Club in 2008, then for one reason or another, he left and came back in 2013. Mike is a great treasure to this club of OMGC folks! He lives in the Kemptville area. To say he has repaired, fixed up or restored several British cars would be an understatement: 23 MGBs, 7 Jaguars & now is half way through his 2nd MG-TD restoration. His rented workshop is one-half of an old milking-barn (ground & upper floor). And Mike tells me his landlord is a great guy, and a graphic artist who works for a sign company that does vehicle wraps & big signs. Mike also says his landlord is spectacular with wood, and has the other end of the barn for his hobbies and property maintenance work. One day, when Mike came to the shop to put in time on the restoration, he found this great sign on the shelf. The sign has, as its background, a map of the world.... barely visible. The material is plastic with a vinyl overlay. It's now mounted on one of the double doors to the shop. The only thing that isn't correct is the spark plug... it's upside down, and Mike suspects his landlord is just jerking his chain, proving, yet again, that he ain't perfect. Mike also confirmed all his car stuff has been successful because of the dozens of folks, in particular club member Adrian Sawyer, who helped him. On the current MG-TD project his helpers are club member Fergus Groundwater (who just finished his own TD), club member Mark Evenchick (who is an MG T-Type Guru) and another friend, Bob Woods, who just wants to help, and knows a lot about mechanics and is good company. Here is the sign hanging on the double doors to the shop. It's about 3 feet wide by about 2 feet high.



## A Bit Of Information About The Five “It’s A Mystery” Games Offered to OMGC Folks — Len Fortin

Pictures were selected and broadcast via email of an OMGC member’s car OR a picture of an OMGC event from the photo archives; but the photo was modified slightly so it is not be too easy to identify quickly and ten questions about the picture were to be answered by club members who wish to participate; some questions were more difficult than others: Questions such as: Who owns the car?, What was the event? Where was the picture taken? and other questions about the image or the activities connected with the image.

All you have to do to participate is to look at the photo image; conduct your research to answer the ten questions; document your answers and send them to me for verification and scoring [ [fortinlgf@gmail.com](mailto:fortinlgf@gmail.com) ] Some club members may quickly recognize a vehicle, but not recall the event, or an activity. I suggest you use the resources of the club website, such as the Photo Albums, or ***The Dashpot*** newsletter archives, to help you.

[It’s A Mystery #1](#) ß click on this link to view It’s A Mystery #1

[It’s A Mystery #2](#) ß click on this link to view It’s A Mystery #2

[It’s A Mystery #3](#) ß click on this link to view It’s A Mystery #3

[It’s A Mystery #4](#) ß click on this link to view It’s A Mystery #4

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### It’s A Mystery #5

This “Its A Mystery” is different from the first four games, because this game has many individual opportunities to view pictures and answer questions about the pictures and/or the events and/or the people and places involved. But you can do them one at a time, at your leisure.

**There are 26 groups of pictures: group A through group Z; each group has 2 pictures to examine.**  
Each group of two pictures has three questions about the pictures/events/circumstances.

So, to participate, all you have to do is to send an e-mail to [MYSTERY@OMGC.INFO](mailto:MYSTERY@OMGC.INFO) with **one letter from the alphabet in the SUBJECT line**. Only 1 letter of the alphabet at a time please. No other text is necessary.

The pictures and questions for that LETTER will be sent to you via reply email.

Once you look at the pictures, and do a bit of thinking and research, and find the answers, send your answers back by replying to the message. Your answers will be reviewed & judged for accuracy.

This way, you don’t have to attempt every opportunity in the alphabet all at once – just work on them one at a time; perhaps one every couple of days (to keep busy during the COVID-19 restrictions).

Go ahead, give it a try; the [MYSTERY@OMGC.INFO](mailto:MYSTERY@OMGC.INFO) email address is waiting.



***Tuesday 27th March 2007— 13 years ago***

The first Chinese-built MG sports cars rolled off the production line in the eastern city of Nanjing. State-owned Nanjing Automobile had bought the assets of collapsed UK firm MG Rover in 2005. The MG7 saloon and the MG-TF sports car, priced at between 180,000 and 400,000 yuan (\$23,300 - \$51,700; £11,800 - £26,300), were launched to the sound of music from the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra against a video wall showing shots of Tower Bridge and Buckingham Palace.



**Old Speckled Hen : The story behind the brew**

Here is a short article about the Old Speckled Hen [ connecting the car at the MG Factory to the beer by Morland in Abingdon ]

[http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Florida\\_Sunshine\\_MG\\_Car\\_Club\\_March\\_2021\\_6-6.pdf](http://www.omgc.info/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Florida_Sunshine_MG_Car_Club_March_2021_6-6.pdf)



## A Bit Of Information About The Three Virtual Rally Runs Offered to OMGC Folks — Len Fortin

Over the last 10 months you may have seen the various broadcast messages about Virtual Rally Runs for Ottawa MG Club members. These Virtual Rally Runs were created to encourage club members to participate in “stay-at-home driving rallies”, as the actual gathering and driving such rallies wasn’t a wise thing to do, considering the COVID-19 situation. One such rally was offered in April/May 2020; another in November/December 2020 and the third in January/February 2021.

The April/May 2020 “**MG Rally Without Actually Driving Your MG**” had half a dozen participants venture into the Internet with Google & Google Maps & other tools to “drive” the course and answer the 20 questions along the way.

Participants & Results (out of a possible total of 45 points):

Mike Daniels - 32	Tony Edge - 40	John Baldwin - 40
Mike Renton - 35	Trevor Whitehouse - 34	Michael Cooke – 39

The November/December 2020 “**An Ontario Virtual Rally For Members Of The Ottawa MG Club**” went further out into Ontario and had a bunch of questions and bits of information to find along the way. Again, the Internet and Google & Google Maps & other tools helped participants “drive” the route.

Participants & Results (out of a possible total of 23 points):

Dave Sankey - 19	Michael Cooke - 21	Bill Bradley - 21
Mike Renton - 19	Todd & Jen Steeves - 21	Barry Winch – 20

The recent “**Tulip Diagram Virtual Rally For Members Of The Ottawa MG Club**” offered participants the opportunity to polish up their Tulip Diagram reading skills, and follow the route, acting on the Tulip Diagram instructions as they monitored distances travelled. There was a 3-way tie for First Place, each with a perfect score of 36:

Barry Winch	Doug McClure	Ken Park
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You can view these 3 Virtual Rally Runs on the Ottawa MG Club website. Once you have logged in to the site, click on Driving Routes under the News & Events tab.

Or click on these links to see the PDF instructions:

[MG Rally Without Actually Driving Your MG](#)

[An Ontario Virtual Rally For Members Of The Ottawa MG Club](#)

[Tulip Diagram Virtual Rally For Members Of The Ottawa MG Club](#)