



A - Antics



Mid-Ohio Race Photos
Covered Bridge Tour Photos
Rowdies Christmas Party,

Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

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NAMGAR WEB SITE www.namgar.com

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A-ANTICS Published every other month. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of NAMGAR or the Chapter. Every effort is made to use appropriate material. The editor reserves the right to edit material for length and appropriateness. No placement is guaranteed. The entire contents are copyrighted, Michigan Chapter. Permission to use is granted, provided you give credit to both the writer and the club. HISTORY The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was the NAMGAR's first chapter. We are a low-key club, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our MGA's. Anyone is welcome to join our chapter and they are asked to join NAMGAR too.

CHAPTER DUES \$25 annually
NICKNAME *Rowdies*
MOTTO *People First!*

PAST CHAPTER CHAIRMEN
1976-1980 *Bruce Nichols*
1981-1982 *Tom Latta*
1983-1984 *Dick Feight*
1985-1988 *Dave Smith*
1989-1990 *Dave Quinn*
1991-1994 *Mark Barnhart*
1995-1995 *Herb Maier*
1996-1996 *Tom Knoy*
1997-1998 *Neil Griffin*
1999-2002 *Bruce Nichols*
2003-2004 *Bob Sutton*
2005-2007 *Gordie Bird*



Rowdies Calendar of Up Coming Events



December 1, 2007

Rowdies Christmas Party, Livonia, MI
Dave & Phyllis Goeddeke host



February 9, 2008

Rowdies Business meeting, Clarkston, MI
Rob & Denise Cote' host

Start Planning!

March 2008 Day(s) in the Garage
April 2008 Kimber Party, Garage Day
May 2009 Funkahna, Brewery Tour
June 2008 Fort Meigs. Stratford Festival,
July 2008 GT-33, Mad Dogs, Wine Tour
August 2008 UM Summer Party, Rowdies Birthday

Members Page

Rowdies Website

Steve Mazurek, Webmaster

URL: <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/>

Mac McDonnells Database Report

3 new members since January 1, 2007.
58 Active and paid-up members.

Cover Photo: A gang of Rowdies assemble on the classic, circa 1890 iron bridge over the Grand River at Portland Michigan, the first stop on Herb & Carlene Maier's Covered Bridge Tour. Traci Bird photo.

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: December 20th

Overheard on the Internet

October 6, 2007

Howell, MI

GOOD MORNING DAVE & GORDIE!
I HAVE BEEN TAKING A LOOK AT MY LONG TERM GOALS WITH MY PROJECTS.
I HAVE A GOOD RUNNING CAR AND HAD THOUGHTS OF SAVING PARTS FROM THE 59 TO FIX OR UPGRADE MY 57.
I HAVE FINALLY DECIDED THAT I WILL NOT DO THAT AND WILL PUT THE 59 PARTS CAR UP FOR SALE. ALL OR PART. IT IS IN A DISMANTLED STATE AS YOU MAY KNOW.
WILL YOU PLEASE PUT A BLURB IN A-ANTICS, AND HAVE THEM CALL ME FOR PARTICULARS 517-548-1035 OR
E-MAIL casacavallo@charter.net. I will be taking some pictures of what I have and can e-mail them to anyone interested.
Thanks. Have a great weekend and see you on the 20th.
Dick Grucz

October 7, 2007
Howell, MI

Here are a few pictures of body and frame. I have to get doors, fenders, etc from the rafters. I have repair parts for the fenders and other repair parts but I have find them to be able to list them. All repair part are from moss several years ago. You can also forward these picts to the rowdies. If you wish

Thanks, Dick Grucz



October 7, 2007
Flint, MI

Due to the amount of good stuff left I am extending my yard sale for one more day. I will be open from 11:00 AM to 3:00PM on Sunday. Most of the items that do not go to a new home by then will be taken to a local scrap yard.

Mark Barnhart

Ed. Note: I'll bet you can still get a lot of good stuff up there in Mark's big back yard.

October 3, 2007
Cleveland, Ohio

I am sending this message at the request of one of our club members. Steve is probably the best British Car mechanic in the Cleveland area but is having health issues and is selling some of his assets. One of them is his 1978 Jaguar XJS. Perhaps someone in your club is looking for a car like this.

Regards,
John Treible - ENMGR newsletter editor

I have set a rock solid no haggle sell price of \$1,700.00. which represents a mere 20% of what I have vested into this 1978 jaguar XJS V-2 with rare one-piece European headlamps.

The title is clear and ready for transfer, and ~ as touted, the Jag S is drivable ~ but before you go cross-state or cross-country, just go across town to become familiar with it and by all means, as it begs for anything, being the committed new owner you are, give it the TLC it is deserving of to keep it safe, reliable and enjoyable. O.K.? I have a file of receipts that will accompany the sale. If you are interested, contact Steve Chivington at 216-251-2269 for further details or to arrange to meet. The Jaguar may only be briefly road tested on the side street because it is not insured and it does not have current license plates.

Ed. Note: I could not confirm at press time that this car is still on the market.



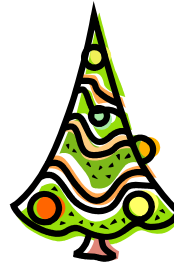


**Chairman's
Chatter**
by Gordie
Bird

What a great fall it has been. Unseasonably warm and dry weather makes for some great driving days. It was just that sort of day for our Covered Bridge Color Tour on October 20th. Herb & Carlene Maier put together a great route from Grand Ledge to Lowell. Although two of the covered bridges had been replaced by more modern means to cross a river, the old buildings and two other covered bridges, not to mention the vibrant reds and golds and yes, greens made for some spectacular sights. There should be some great pictures of this event as I saw a lot of cameras in action. In Lowell we had a room reserved at Kaisers restaurant for lunch. If you're ever in the area stop in, they have some great blueberry pie, just ask Neil Griffin. The Rowdie Raffle was held and Mark & Margi Barnhart won the \$50 gift certificate from Little British Car Company, congrats! Thanks Herb and Carlene, and the 26 Rowdies who participated. Although the weather has been great, it's just a matter of time until it turns cold and it's time to tuck the MG away for the winter. When you're stuck inside because it's cold outside is a great time to review your pictures from the year and remember the great times we've had. When you're looking at your pictures, make sure to copy your calendar quality pictures to a location that's easy to find. Yes, the Rowdie calendar is on the agenda again. We will have it run our 'event year' from March through February and will make it available to the membership (or anyone else who wants one). Unsure of the cost at this time, but should be about \$10 or slightly less. Start scanning, cropping, or simply finding your pictures and we'll give you upload details by the annual business meeting in February. If you didn't get to many (any) events this year, get a calendar and see what you missed. Maybe you won't miss next years events. Overheard this fall is that Rowdie Racing is planning on racing at Leguna Seca next March. Plans include a cargo container to ship cars out. How great would that be to have your MGA at Laguna and our own Dave Smith racing? Sounds like 2008 is already shaping up.

Next up is our Christmas Party on Dec 1 hosted by the Goeddeke's. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR RIGHT NOW. There will be another Rowdie Raffle and another host to add to the \$100.00 hosts raffle at the Rowdie Birthday Party next summer, not to mention the famous White Elephant gift exchange. Hope to see you soon.

*Safety
Fast!*
Gordie



**Win
\$50**

The Rowdies will have a drawing at each meet for a gift certificate worth \$50 in merchandise from Jeff Zorn's Little British Car Co.

We hope to see some new faces at our meets and encourage you to





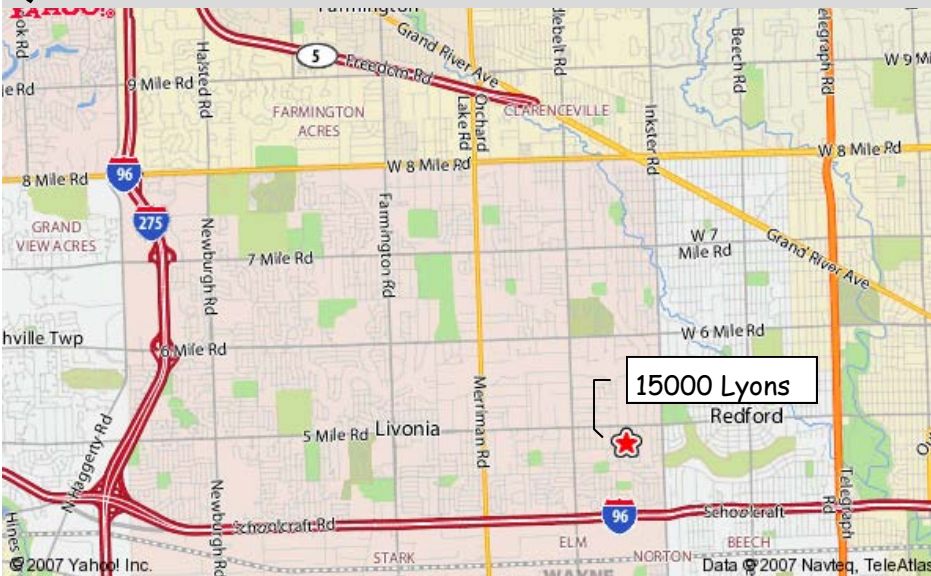
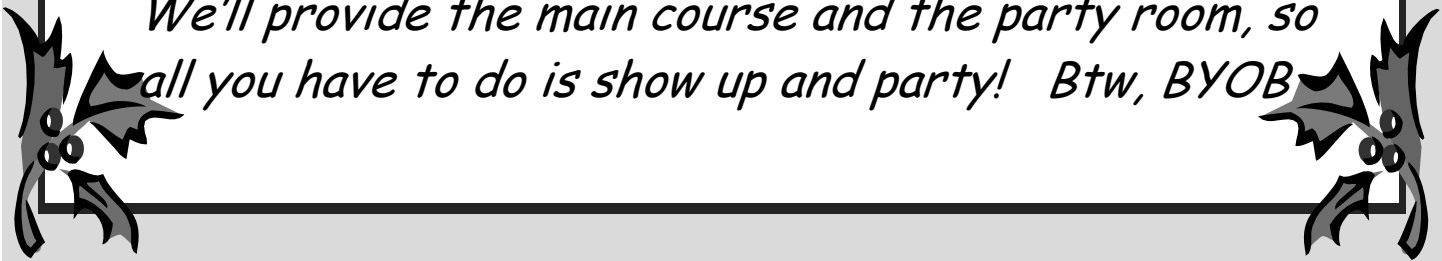
It's going to be a Rowdie Christmas Party!

C'mon over to the Goeddeke's on Saturday, Dec. 1st at 2:00 p.m for our annual Holiday get together!

15000 Lyons, Livonia, MI 48154, ph.734-425-5254

Bring a delicious dish for our yuletide buffet and one gift per participant for our traditional gift exchange.

We'll provide the main course and the party room, so all you have to do is show up and party! Btw, BYOB



Exit I-96 at Middlebelt Rd. in Livonia and proceed North on Middlebelt one mile to Five Mile Rd. Turn right onto Five Mile and proceed East one half mile to Lyons St. (1 block west of traffic signal at Harrison). Turn right on Lyons and proceed South about 10 houses to 15000 Lyons on the East side of the street.

MG Focus Event at Mid Ohio 2007

By Dave Smith

This story begins in March 2007 at the 50th Anniversary of the MGA at Sebring. The MGVR Newsletter editor Chris Meyers approached me and asked if I would be interested in the Focus Event Chair for the 2007 Focus Event. Chris went on to explain the event had been planned for Mosport, but due to FIA regulations, followed in Canada, some of our MGVR racers would not be able to race without significant safety upgrades. Fuel cells, Roll bars and five point harnesses are impossible to put in a 1930-s or 1940-s car without changing the design and appearance.

The Midwest based VSCDA, chaired by Phil & Judy Cull had been contacted, and it appeared possible that all of the MGVR cars would be allowed to race at their Fall Festival at Mid Ohio in October. Chris was quite forthcoming in that a lot of work needed to be done to make this proposal into reality. One years work needed to be finished in

six months. I thanked Chris for his vote of confidence (or presumption of gullibility) and went to discuss this with Chari. She asked some good questions, but said that if I wanted to do this, she would give me 100% support. I contacted Chris and said that he had his chairperson.

Greg Prehodka did a marvelous job of pre event publicity to start building excitement and send me a database of the current MGVR

members. As the chairman, I had a free hand to suggest the theme for the weekend and any specialty races. As this event was one year after the passing of my very good friend Denver Cornett of Kentucky, I suggested a Denver Cornett Memorial Race. Denver was known around the racing world as one of the first racers at Watkins Glen after WWII. Denver had always raced his 1947 MG TC, with his last race in 2001. Denny Cornett and Ms. Sherri Cornett were invited to attend this memorial race and immediately accepted. The race format was designed to be a tag team race, with the T series cars running the final three laps and go for the checker flag. The teams were matched up so that at the final turn of the last lap, all cars should be converging on the finish line at the same time.

Amazingly, this worked out quite well, with the winning margin being under 3 seconds after 20 minutes of racing.

The weekend began on Thursday afternoon, with 100 race cars going thru Tech Inspection from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The first car was a 1969 Corvette owned by Stan Fowler. The last car through was the 1950 MG TD "Von Neuman Special" owned by Don Martine. Kudos to Mark Barnhart and the VSCDA Tech staff for this outstanding effort.

Friday was a non-timed practice day with cool but dry weather and abundant track time. MGVR had distributed a "Fast Lap" by Don Munoz to help the first time racers try to master this challenging track. Don held the E Production lap record at this track, so is very qualified to coach us amateur racers.

Saturday was timed practice and the last race of the Day was "Safety Fast I" In this race were Les Gonda's incredible MGB GT V8, MGB, MGA, Midgets, and some rather quick T Types. This race had great battles throughout the field for position, and all were winners at the end.



Sunday morning featured the "Safety Fast II" race for the T Types, T based specials, J-2, PA and NA MG's. Again, the battles for position went throughout the field. The engine sounds of all of these Historic MG racers at top speed going into Turn Six was incredible. Again, all of the participants were winners at the checker. One footnote, unknown to Steven Konsin, leading at that point, was a rather obese woodchuck crossing the track in the middle of turn one. The woodchuck had only cleared the racing line, when Steve came thru turn one at near triple digit speed and on the very edge of control. Good Job Steve! As described earlier, the Denver Cornett Memorial race came off without a hitch as the Featured (and last) race of the weekend. Thanks to the thirty drivers that gave up an early departure home to partici-

pate in this race. Denny & Sherri Cornett were at the Podium to present the Pewter Mugs and champagne to the winning team of Ed Cronin (TD), Butch O'Conner (MGB) and Lou Marchant (MGA). This was the largest Tag team race held in over 30 years, and was fun for all watching or racing.

The 2007 Focus event at Mid Ohio was very popular with all that attended. We had 141 race cars with 62 being MG's. We had one driver from England, and entries from Canada to California, and all points between. My appreciation to VSCDA, Chris Meyers, Greg Prehodka, Manley Ford, Tony Burgess, Mark Barnhart, Chari Smith, Tom Baumgardner, John Targett and Jim Austhof and so many others for all their efforts. Look for coverage of this Focus event in most Vintage and car enthusiast magazines in the coming months.



Photos #1 through 3) Some great MG photos from the Mid-Ohio races taken by Tom Koch of Williamston, MI. 4) Dave Quinn poses with his prize winning MGA on a beautiful day for racing. 5) Three MG Vintage Race cars and their Vintage Drivers wait their turn on the track. 6) George Pardee wears the Marque proudly with his 1954 MGTF as he eyes the competition from a distance. Tom Koch photo.



A Step Back In Time

By Ken and Kathy Nelson

Last Saturday the Rowdies hit the Jackpot big-time with Herb and Carlene Maier's scenic fall color and covered bridge driving tour. Anyone who wasn't there missed cruising some beautiful twisty roads while viewing gorgeous red, yellow, brown, and orange colored leaves in the hardwood trees weaving a canopy of branches over the driver's heads. The roads were just right for some nice road-hugging little British cars to swing right and then left through a series of S-curves weaving in and out of a patch of forest or alongside a river bed before coming out to farm-fields running down to meet the two-lane blacktop. Time has taken its toll on some of the ancient structures and at least two of the planned tour bridges exist today only in modern cement and steel guise instead of oak and hickory or riveted wrought iron girders as before. But nothing slowed down the camaraderie of the group of Rowdies as they met up in Grand Ledge to assemble for the drive.

Earliest on the scene at the McDonald's in Grand Ledge were Herb and Carlene, Gordy and Tracy Bird, Dick and Diane Grucz, Dave and Phyllis Goeddeke, and Dave and Chari Smith, followed soon after by Ken and Kathy Nelson who rolled up in their British racing green MG-TD to add a little variety to the models of MG in the parking lot. Just as Herb and Carlene were commenting on their earlier concerns about whether anyone would show up for this event, it looked as if the skies had opened up and started spitting out MGA's and they arrived in droves. Dave and Donna Quinn showed up in, of all things, their award winning MGA and in quick succession Mark and Margie Barnhart pulled in along with Curt and Stephanie Smith, Phil Wiltshire, Rob and Denise Cote, Richard and Jayne Pollion, Neal and Thelma Griffin in their newly restored MGB-GT, and Bruce Nichols who had flogged his blue MGA all the way from Three Rivers to make it by the 11:30 am deadline.

After greetings all around followed by a late breakfast, for some, of Chicken McNuggets or fish sandwiches washed down by coffee, a brief drivers meeting took place and instructions were passed out to all participants. Ken and Kathy, along with Mark and Margie,

had been the only two brave (foolhardy?) couples who arrived with their tops down in the 50 degree fall temperature, and Kathy promptly petitioned to put the top up for the rest of the trip. Just as Ken was getting ready to erect his, he turned to see most of the other cars taking theirs down. Never one to let on to the foolishness of the male sex, Ken promptly accepted the challenge and remained topless for the entire journey. The rallying cry of "circle your wagons" was heard, and the thunderous roar of at least ten mighty four-bangers was heard through the mist of blue smoke which hovered over the little caravan. Amidst the crunching of gears, someone shouted "Tally-Ho" and the group was off!



First bridge on the tour was a wrought iron girder truss bridge in Portland built long enough ago to be everyone's grandfather, and still doing daily service over the Grand River. The Groton Bridge Company of Groton, New York built this in 1890 and it has been nicely restored. Everyone got out long enough for a group picture of the Rowdies on the bridge with, of course, a few foolhardy souls hanging by their prehensile thumbs from the girders. No names will be men-



Covered Bridge Tour cont.



tioned. After some spirited driving, the group reassembled in the parking lot of a church alongside some picturesque farmland, and Denise Cote did a fantastic job of herding a bunch of unruly Rowdies and cars into a semblance of a semi-circle for more photo ops. (Good work, Denise, I didn't think Rowdies were even trainable enough to form a herd!)

After further spirited driving, including a bit of washboard gravel road (sorry about the stone chips,

nice job of seating 20-some Rowdies and serving up good food relatively quickly, so no-one left hungry. For once the meet ended up on the west side of the state, and Ken and Kathy had it made in the shade with just a 20 mile jaunt home. The rest of the east-siders had a bit longer to get home but the sun shone all day long to help out. Mark Barnhart won the \$50 gift certificate among the attendees.



Dave!), the group came to White's Bridge constructed in 1869 as a wooden covered bridge over the Flat River in Ionia County, and still open to vehicular traffic today. Just a few miles away the entourage visited the third and last historic covered bridge on their tour at Fallasburg Park. This covered wooden bridge was built in 1871 and again crosses the Flat River and may be driven over at a pace "no faster than a walk" for fear of invoking the \$5 fine listed at the entrance to the bridge. After a few more pictures, stomachs were growling and bladders were straining, so the convoy headed to scenic Lowell, Mi for some lunch and relaxing. Keyser's Kitchen did a



Combining a beautiful sunny fall day with a good group of Michigan Rowdies and some nice MGA driving was enough to make this meet one to look forward to next year again. It's hard to beat a fall driving event to blow out the cobwebs from the exhaust one more time before storing the cars for the winter. When you can order up weather as beautiful as this was it's just that much more icing on the cake! See you all soon.

October 20, 2007



Covered Bridge Tour cont.



1) A crowd of Rowdies led by Jane Pollion, Diana Grucz, Chari Smith & Dick Grucz step out of their cars in Portland to have a closer look at the iron bridge over the Grand River. 2.) The MG rally takes a right turn after the cornfield on the right. We only took two or three wrong turns all day! 3) Rob & Ryan Cote', Curt Smith, Neil Griffin and host Herb Maier take break at White's Bridge over the Flat River. 4) Ken & Kathy Nelson get ready to take off on a breezy ride in their handsome MGTD after pleasant stop at the bridge. 5) Rob, Denise & Ryan Cote' strike a family pose before the Fallasburg Bridge over the Flat River near Lowell. Very Nice! 6) MGs line up on the road behind a farm tractor between Ionia and Lowell. The colorful cars were well complimented by the autumn colors and beautiful blue sky.



Covered Bridge Tour cont.



1) Gordie Bird, Curt Smith & Stephanie Smith with their cars at Fallasburg Bridge. 2) Rob Cote' admires Neil Griffin's custom hybridized MGB GT. 3) Mark & Marjie Barnhart enjoy the sunshine at the photo stop. 4) Phyllis Goeddeke admires Ken & Kathy Nelson's nice ride. 5) The whole Rowdie gang on the chow line at Kaiser's restaurant in Lowell. 6) Dave Goeddeke, Traci & Gordie Bird, & Stephanie Smith study their menus. 7) Gordie Bird, Kathy & Ken Nelson, Phil Wiltshire & Phyllis Goeddeke enjoy the stimulating post-rally conversation with Dick Grucz and Jane Pollion (foreground).



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Jeff Zorn, Treasurer
29311 Aranel St.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2815



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Below: George Pardee makes a few final adjustments to his MG TF Vintage Racer before the race at Mid-Ohio.

