



# A-Antics



Kimber Party Photos  
*Steve Finch's Day in the  
Garage*

Gordie Bird's Garage Day  
*Wiltshire's Spring Tour*



**MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NORTH AMERICAN MGA REGISTER**

**Chairman Dave Quinn**  
2929 Wolhaven Lane, Jackson, MI 49201-8268  
(517) 782-9749  
[dlqs2000@comcast.net](mailto:dlqs2000@comcast.net)

**Treasurer Jeff Zorn**  
29311 Aranel, Famington Hills, MI 48334-2815  
(248) 489-1855  
[jzorn@mgcars.org.uk](mailto:jzorn@mgcars.org.uk)

**A-Antics Editor Ken Nelson**  
3126 Brentwood SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
(616) 957-3158  
[kenneth.nelson1@comcast.net](mailto:kenneth.nelson1@comcast.net)

**A-Antics Assist**  
Printing & distribution **Mike McDonnell**  
Database & Webmaster **Larry Pittman**

**Meets Chairman Mark Barnhart**  
101 Peninsula Dr, Prudenville, MI 48651-9461  
(989) 366-8980  
[rowdie92@charter.net](mailto:rowdie92@charter.net)

**Regalia Chairman Brian Beery**  
1769 Minnesota Ave, Marysville, MI 48040  
(810) 364-7949

**Membership Chairman Bruce Nichols**  
629 Portage Ave, Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-3118  
[nicholsbm@aol.com](mailto:nicholsbm@aol.com)

**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 content. No placement is guaranteed. The entire contents are copyrighted, Michigan Chapter. Permission to use is granted, provided you give credit to both writer and the club.

**History:** The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was 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 as well.

**Chapter Dues:** \$20 annually (\$25 for printed newsletter)

**Nickname:** Rowdies

**Motto:** People First!

**Rowdies Site:** [www.mgcars.org.uk](http://www.mgcars.org.uk)

**MG Web Site:** [www.mgcars.uk](http://www.mgcars.uk)

**NAMGAR Web Site:** [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com)

**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

## MEMBERS PAGE

Rowdies Website:

Larry Pittman, Webmaster

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

Mac McDonnells Database Report:

73 Active and Paid-Up Members

Welcome New Members:

Name: Roon Junittonen

Address: 7343 Dupre, Dimondale, MI 48821

Spouse: Mary

Home Ph: (517) 646-9626

email: [junttonenr@yahoo.com](mailto:junttonenr@yahoo.com)

MGA: 1960 MGA 1600

Members Update:

Cheri Fant suffered a stroke the last week of February while driving. She was in a coma at an Ann Arbor hospital but she suffered more strokes while there and her condition has worsened. It is now evident that there is brain damage and Cheri has been moved to a long term care facility, but there has been no improvement so far. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send Tom & Cheri a card their address is:

Tom & Cheri Fant

44493 Broadmoor Blvd

Northville, MI 48168-8630



## 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 bring a friend to join. All paid-up members are eligible for the raffle to determine each meet's winner.

## Classified Ads

Personal for sale or wanted classified ads are free to all paid-up members. Commercial ad rates: Full page \$40 issue/\$200 year; 1/2 page \$25 issue/\$135 year; 1/4 page \$20 issue/\$110 year; Business Card \$10 issue/\$55 year.

Total ads may not exceed 12-1/2% (2 pgs of 16); ads accepted on first come, first served basis.

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: June 20th.

E-mail & Address Changes:

Rich & Jayne Pollion; New email is now [je5mucs@yahoo.com](mailto:je5mucs@yahoo.com)

Correction:

The Mar-Apr. issue incorrectly reported Dave Quinn as a Past Chairman from 2009-2010. It should have reported him as Past Sell-By-Date Chairman

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER



Did you ever wonder why the MG T-series went from TD to TF, omitting TE? According to John Price Williams' research he was told that MG management

was sensitive about the age of the 1952 design and they feared that the TE might be known as the "tee-hee".

Carrying on the topic of looking back, it is hard to imagine in today's world of PC's and word processors that it wasn't that long ago - in the '70s and '80s - when putting together A-Antics was something all together different than today. Text was done on a now ancient thing called a typewriter. If you wanted the page to look really fancy you did two columns. It would almost look like a professional magazine, well almost. The original copies usually had a splash or two of white out for corrections. Of course you had to leave space for the artwork. Artwork consisted of hand-drawn art done separately, then cut and pasted onto the page using rubber glue because you might have to relocate it again. It was always cool, as editor, if you could find MG related artwork from a professional source that could be cut and pasted into the issue. When it came to photographs it was a very special issue if it had any photographs at all. Photos did not reproduce well on a Xerox machine. Photos came out as a black and white blob. Looking back now, the blessing was the newsletter consisted primarily of articles written and submitted by the membership - stories about trips to or happenings at meets, tech tips, recipes, member profiles,

etc. When it came time to reproduce the newsletter, I recall many an evening staying late at work to run the copies off on the company's Xerox machine. To reproduce the single page front and back layouts meant running all 100 pages through the machine a second time. Since this was not a project with top management's blessing I was always praying the top brass would not walk into the Xerox room and fire me on the spot. In my hurry every now and then I would screw up the double sided printing. Of course, I couldn't just toss the screw ups in the trash as that would leave a trail. I should have sent the company a thank you note when I retired for all the paper they contributed to Rowdies during those days. To reproduce decent photographs meant the issue had to be professionally reproduced at a print shop. It was a big step forward when the club finally had enough coin in the treasury to allow us to use the print shop routinely. Plus, it allowed me to sleep better. But the print shop provided a new challenge; instead of doing 8.5 x 11 inch layouts, front and back, we now advanced to a book format that called for 11 x 17 inch layouts. In other words, four page layouts at a time. Keeping the pages in proper order when doing a 12-page or 16-page issues wasn't always easy. Every now and again even the printer would screw them up. Finally, there were the labels, stamps, and sorting by zip codes to be done before hauling it all down to the post office. So much for the good old days. I'm sure Ken doesn't mind missing out on all that but even in today's slick digital world there are still deadlines and last minute changes, so some things don't change. And, as in days

**CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER** (continued)

past, I know our new editor hopes members will show their support by sending in articles of interest (*Amen, brother! ed.*)

Recently I was telling one of my buddies at the local pub about the modifications done to my MGA - swapping the 1500 engine, rear end, and brakes for 1622 upgrades - thanks to the wonderful efforts of Curt Smith and Jon Burchwell. My buddy asked, "Doesn't that take away from the value of the car?" For the purist I am sure it does but according to my observations modified classics are more acceptable in the 21st century. Changes that enhance usability affect values less as long as they're in the spirit of the car as these were. On the other hand, I can respect Ken Nelson who loves the frailties of original - - where else would he get all that material over the years for his great stories.

Are you ready for this year's GT? Each year our national organization NAMGAR hosts an event that draws MGA lovers from all points of the globe. This year it's in Hot Springs, Arkansas from July 13 to 17. For most Michiganders that is a 900 to 1,000 mile drive. A chance for the MG to stretch its legs. Depending upon the route you select there's some interesting cities along the way. You could check out the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky. And you might want to pay Elvis a visit in Memphis. Everyone knows he once owned an MGA, right? There's no denying he was Rowdy. For those wanting to mix in some non-Interstate travel, just south of Indy is the town of Nashville - the one in Indiana - on the north side of Brown County State Park. According

to AutoWeek this is a great starting point for one of the best driving roads in the state. They suggest taking Route 135 for 100 miles to Mauckport. You'll see hills, rivers, covered bridges, elevation changes and a ghost town. However, going all the way might not be the best plan. Consider jumping onto I-64 near Corydon; heading west takes you to I-57.

'Nuff chatter for one issue, hope to see you on road.

Dave



Dave Quinn on the road again in Dave Smith's #49 Race Car

## FINCH'S DAY IN THE GARAGE

Steve Finch's Day in the Garage was held on March 28 at Steve and Donna Finch's house in White Lake with a good attendance of Rowdies. Included were Neil Griffin, Ken Nelson, Mike Moder, John Alexander, Jeff Crockett, Brian Beery, Steve Holliday, Bruce Nichols, and Larry Pittman. Tasks accomplished were the installation of a Moss Motors new stayfast Tonneau cover, installation of a new bootlid mounted factory replica luggage rack, and partial installation of Todd Clark's 3-point seat belt mounting kit. Seasoned veteran Neil headed up the installation of the "Lift-a-Dot" snaps on the tonneau and was aided by Larry Pittman, Ken Nelson, and "Smilin' Brian" Beery. Steve Finch oversaw the work on the shoulder harness seat point fitting, and carried out the all important measuring and drilling for the holes to mount the bootlid luggage rack. John Alexander and Mike Moder assisted Steve, but thoughtfully stepped back when it was time to put electric drill to freshly painted shiny bootlid surface. Steve Holliday provided a ringside cheering section and kept count of the Old Speckled Hen's as they bit the dust one after another.

While that group was having fun in the garage, Bruce and Jeff meandered outside to the driveway to examine Jeff Crockett's original black MGA, bought 'nearly new' by Jeff's dad in 1962. It has been in the family every since. Jeff described freeing up the seized engine after a couple decades of storage by pulling the head and having the valves redone by a machine shop, and then patiently soaking the 4 cylinders with lubricant and repeatedly nudging the crank for a few months until they freed up again.

The engine has run well since, but needed some carburetor synchronization and tuning to restore some of its original power. Fortunately the sun was shining by then so Bruce and Jeff didn't have to lay in mud or snow under the front of the car to find the timing mark on the front pulley and check distributor timing. Bruce's dwell meter worked fine to reset the ignition points once he determined that the car was still positive ground and had not been converted to negative ground.

With that much work accomplished, it was time to eat, and Donna did a great job of feeding this group with homemade chile and corn bread and brownies for desert. All in all a very productive day for Steve's red MGA roadster, and a safer car for the trip to GT-34 in Hot Springs, AK in July.

Todd Clark's Shoulder Mount Kit installed:





Finch's Garage-The Motley Crew  
Neil, Jeff, Brian, Steve H, Mike, Donna, Larry, Steve F, John, Bruce



Smilin' Brian



Brian, Bruce, Steve H



Larry



Jeff & Bruce tuning



Measure Twice...

# THE TWISTY BITS TOUR

Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2009

This tour was last run July 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, where we had 22 cars running. It starts at 10.00 am at Meijer's parking lot on the Ann Arbor-Saline Road, just south east of I94 at the exit #175.

We will drive about 50 miles around some nicely curved roads. All roads are paved, although some might be classed in the "uneven pavement" category. We will drive through much of the German-settled area of southeast Michigan, plus see some small lakes and two small towns typical of the area.

We will stop at the historic and restored 1835 Sharon Mill and participate in a picnic lunch. So either bring your wicker hamper from home or purchase something just prior to leaving the Meijer's lot. Last time many MG's had their wicker picnic hampers tied to their boot racks and we enjoyed a splendid hour sitting on the grass at the mill.

Then we will continue through the countryside for another 50 miles, ending up back at the Meijer's lot.

The tour distance is 101 miles and we should finish around 3 pm, so we can all get home before the Lucas bewitching hours of darkness.



Please call Philip Wiltshire at 586 354 8855, or e-mail at [pwiltshire@comcast.net](mailto:pwiltshire@comcast.net) with any questions or to let me know that you intend to drive along with us.

This is a joint W.D.M.G.C and Michigan Rowdies (MGA's) event.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR CECIL....

One Hundred and Twenty One years and still counting! Cecil Kimber's B'Day has once again come and gone and the Rowdies together with Windsor-Detroit MG Club and the Michigan Chapter of the MGT Register celebrated it on April 11th in Holt, MI at the Delhi Cafe. We couldn't have had a more perfect day for the event with sunshine and temps up to the 50's. Lots of MG's adorned the parking lot, and somehow even a Triumph Spitfire snuck into the event. Plenty of spirited talk about



Holliday as he posed alongside the sturdy machine and wondered if it might be a more reliable mount to get him all the way to Key West and back for the upcoming regional MG meet.

See the next page for some more pictures of the meet.



upcoming events took place at the tables over lunch as we all eagerly awaited the traditional blowing out of the candles before cutting the cake. It took 3 people to blow out all the candles and I'm sure that if Cecil could have made the wish he would have asked for another chance to walk and not board the train at King's Cross station in 1945. After a bit of tire-kicking in the parking lot, many of the Rowdies drove over to Dave Smith's house in Holt to extend the celebration a bit. Dave was kind enough to supply some liquid refreshments as he offered valuable tips on rebushing the rockers of a Midget engine. Mark Barnhart and Dave then demonstrated a pit stop racing wheel change on a Ford 8N tractor. "Run what ya brung" said Steve





Neil



Dave, Donna, Stephanie, Curt, Bruce, Teresa, Jon, & Neil



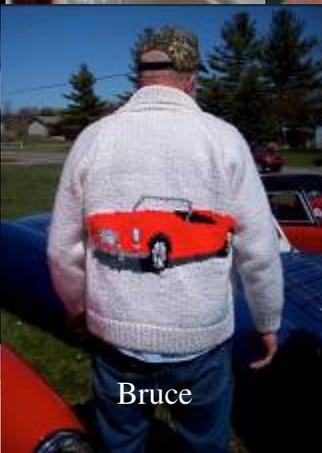
Dave, Cheri, Diana, Dick



Bill & Mary Ellen



Brian & Steve



Bruce



Steve, Bruce, Neil, Jon, Curt, Mark, Dave Q.



Jayne, Rich, Kathy



Pooh-Bear

Pictures by.....(insert your name here after sending in some pics for the next issue)

## ROWDIES 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

**28 - Day in the Garage, Sat, Steve & Donna Finch host, White Lake.**

### APRIL

**11 - Kimber Birthday Bash. Sat. MG clubs annual kickoff at the Delhi Café, Holt. Dave Smith, host. Starts 11:30am.**  
"Happy Birthday to you...."

**26 - Day in the Garage, Sun, Gordie & Tracey Bird host, Orion.**  
You Break It, Gordy'll fix it!

### MAY

**17 - Spring Tour, Sun, Philip Wiltshire host, SE Mich.**  
Picnic in the Park With Philip.

**30 - Rowdies Gymkhana,**  
Curt Smith & Jon Burchwell host, Ypsilanti.  
"Run What You Brung" as long as it's an MG.

### JUNE

**7 - Orphan Car Show & Meet, Sun. Show in Ypsilanti followed by gathering at Neil & Thelma Griffin, host, in Belleville.**  
Birth Certificates Optional

**19/21 - Stradford Festival,**  
Fri-Sun, Philip Wiltshire's annual Ontario trip to see a musical. Good chance to test your repair skills with over 20 MG's driving to a foreign country and back on a weekend.

### JULY

**12 - Mad Dogs & Englishmen, Sun, Jul 12. Gimore Museum.**  
Fun in the Midday Sun!

**13/17 - NAMGAR GT-34,**  
Mon-Fri, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Anyone up for a caravan?

**25 - Pool Party, Sat, Steve & Cathy Holliday host, Oakland.**  
Swimming lessons included.

**31 - Meadow Brook Kick-Off, Fri evening, Matt**

**& Lisa Wigent host, Clarkston.**  
Cruise with the best of them.

### AUGUST

**15 - Rowdies Birthday Party, Sat, Dave & Phyllis Goeddeke host, Livonia.**  
If you think Cecil is old, check out some of the original Rowdies attending.

### SEPTEMBER

**12 - Lemon Creek Winery All British Show, Sat, Bruce Nichols host, Berrien Springs.**  
Great cars, good wine, and a Rockabilly Band to Boot!

**13 - Battle of the Brits, Sun, Campus of Orchard Lake St Marys, Orchard Lake.**  
"And the winner is...."

### OCTOBER

**10 - Chile Meet, Sat, Mark & Marji Barnhart host, Prudenville.**

Awards for the best "hottie"

**11 - Ludington Barn Tour, Sun, Matt & Lisa Wigent host, Ludington area.**  
Nothing beats a beautiful Fall Color Michigan day for a drive in an MGA.

### DECEMBER

**5 - Rowdies Christmas Party, Sat, Bone Island Grill, Dave & Donna Quinn host, Jackson.**  
Let's Have A Party! Be sure to wash the salt off your MGA after driving here and back.

### FEBRUARY 2010

**13 - Rowdies Business Meet, Sat, Gordie & Tracey Bird host.**  
Show up or risk being appointed the new A-Antics newsletter editor.



Newsletter Editor's MGA-Nepotism Is Good!

**THE CAR THAT GOT AWAY (BUT I GOT IT BACK AGAIN.....)**

My story concerns our 1965 MGB GT. I



had always lusted after an MG. No real opportunities to buy one as in 70's England, as a young Engineer, I was basically penniless and running an old Vauxhall Viva HB from day to day just trying to keep it running. (Luckily this vehicle was never exported to the US!)

Anyway, work was thin on the ground in North London and so I moved my tool chest to Peterborough in the east of England, which had recently been designated a "New Town" thus allowing many start-up companies to benefit from Government grants and tax-free status. In my first week, I glanced around the car park and saw a (mainly) British Racing Green MGB GT. I found out that the owner Paul worked in the same shop as me and one day we kicked tyres and he took me for a ride in her. I was hooked, but what to do except

more lust..... She got away from me.

Some months later, I heard that Paul had handed in his notice. Oh No - what about the MG? Lost to me forever?? But no; Paul and his family were emigrating to a new life in the USA and so the car had to go. I sold the Viva for scrap and found enough cash to become the proud owner! The 14 year old MG was in need of much TLC as the damp British weather kills cars. This picture shows the condition of the car in 1979; but to me she was and is perfect.

Ted Hight purchased the MG from me in a moment of weakness, but I was able to purchase her right back just 4 years later. She almost got away from me for the second time.

As a footnote, Paul immigrated to a place called Kalamazoo, Michigan. I have often wondered if I should drive around Kazoo for a day and see if Paul is still there. Here is the car he gave up 30 years ago, all present and correct. She got away from him – poor guy.

Philip Wiltshire

*Phillips Car At The 1986 London to Brighton Regency Run in 1986. There is one example of every MG made in that run and Philip's car was chosen for the MGB-GT class. The car had just recently been restored and had leaked Waxoyl out on everyone's shoes the week before when he took it to an event at the old Brooklands banked circuit!*



### Results of Rowdies Dues Poll

**Question:** If you currently receive the A-Antics newsletter in paper format your dues are \$25, an increase of \$5 over the \$20 cost for members who elect to receive the newsletter in electronic format only. Would you still elect to receive the newsletter in a paper format if your dues were increased to \$30?

**Replies:** Total 34. Yes: 8. No: 17. Don't receive paper now: 9.

Along with the replies we received these comments:

"I often print it in color from the website, electronic is fine with us."

"Problem with my program on computer."

"I would pay \$30 anyway, just so there would be more budget for more events, like the Christmas Party. I like paper better, it's easier to read and share. But, I would settle for online only, since printing and distributing newsletters is work and becomes another burden on the time of our volunteer officers. I am thankful for all of the hard work the officers put in, and so do not want them to have to do the extra work of creating and mailing hardcopy."

"I hope we don't increase the dues every year due to the cost of the newsletter. We paid an increase last year."

"With next renewal, I will go to electronic only."

"Are you trying to price people out of membership!"

"\$30 for a local club is a little steep. In fact, I do not know of any local club at this level aside from the MI CCCA."

"Not sure why I am receiving paper, but you can certainly send electronically."

"Please send me the electric one."

"Stamp=\$.42, 4 sheets paper=\$.08 why cost \$10?"

"I would think the savings from the 25% getting the electronic version would offset any increase for the remaining 75% but if dues must go up, it's ok."

**Dave Quinn Responds:** I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote and comment. A response rate of 48% is good. The purpose of the question was to gauge membership interest in keeping the paper newsletter. At the business meeting strong opinions for both methods, electronic and paper, were expressed. The club was not and is not planning to raise dues. I repeat, we are not planning on raising the dues. 68% of those who voted and get paper now said no thanks to any increase. That's good to know, so the club won't spend time looking at a better grade of paper, adding color, or anything else that might drive up printed costs. And 28% expressed a willingness to pay more. That's good information too. That tells us that there is still strong interest to continue the printed format. Some commented they are now interested in switching to electronic only. You don't have to wait for your renewal notice to switch. Send a note to Mike (Mac) McDonnell to let him know that he can remove you from the printed mailing list. His email address is [cleanmac@aol.com](mailto:cleanmac@aol.com) and I know he'll be happy to hear from you.

## “RUN WHAT YOU BRUNG” GYMKHANA



**ATTENTION ROWDIES!**

**BACK BY POPULAR  
DEMAND . . .**

**THE ROWDIES’  
GYMKHANA!**

**Now is the time to dig out  
your driving gloves and hat!  
This is your chance to show  
your driving skills! This is  
for all genders! Prizes will  
be awarded at the end of the  
event at lunch afterwards.**

**We will meet at a local  
restaurant to be announced  
that day. Driver’s meeting at  
10:30 a.m. and timed event  
starts at 11:00 a.m. on  
Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.  
See you there!**

**Directions: From US-23 to  
East I-94 to Exit 183 and go  
south ¼ mile to Bosal  
Industries on the right.  
(Building sits back . . . watch  
for the MG sign.)  
From I-275 follow I-94 west  
to exit 183 and go south ¼  
mile. Bosal Industries is on  
the right. Watch for MG  
sign.**

**Any questions call Curt  
Smith 734-3237712 or Jon  
Burchwell at 733-476-3009.**

**Tech Tip - Suspension Bushings Caution  
Dave Quinn**

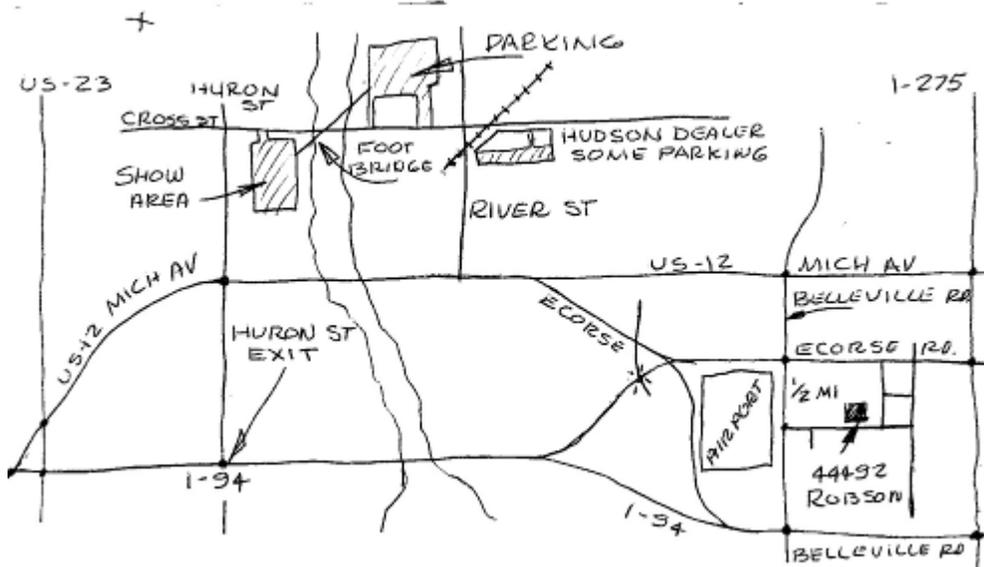
Perhaps you’ve been tempted to install the new red high performance prothane bushings for improved handling and control. I understand these are sold in place of the MGB V8 bushings many of us have switched to as a result of the failings of the original bushings found on an MGA. The claim for the red bushings is they are good for auto cross, fast road use, and long lasting. At least one alignment shop owner would disagree with the last claim. He shared his personal experience when one of the Rowdies who installed the reds went in for an alignment only to find out they were showing wear with less than 6,000 miles. The shop said the new bushings have no give and as a result wear out prematurely. Does anyone else have any experience, positive or negative, with these?

# Rowdies Orphan Car Show

Ypsilanti, MI June 7, 2009

See the cars, trucks, motorcycles, and motor scooters of yesteryear that are no longer being manufactured. Socialize at the Griffins house any time after 12 noon, with hot dog roasting over an open fire, tire kicking, & lie-telling. Hot dogs, buns, and fire furnished; bring your own lies. Dish to pass not required, but gladly accepted.

Neil & Thelma Griffin 44492 Robson  
734-697-7419



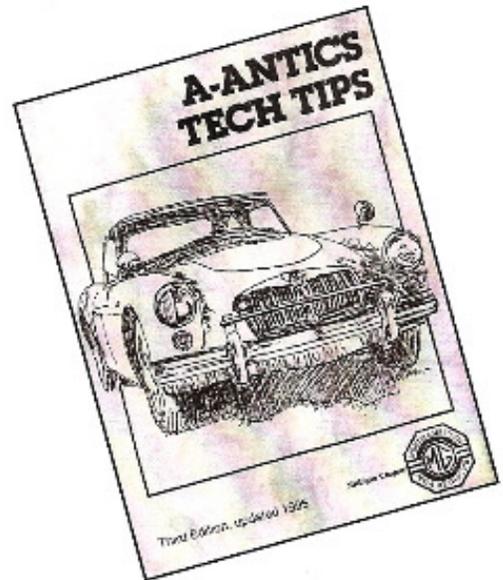
## Back by popular demand:

The most popular MGA  
tech tips manual ever.

The Michigan Rowdies have reprinted  
100 copies of the Third Edition, dated 2008, to  
enlighten new MGA owners on tips you will not  
find anywhere else. 246 pages!

To order your copy send a check payable to  
"Michigan Rowdies" and mail it to:

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



Only \$30 US, \$40 inter-  
national, Includes shipping



*Don't Be An  
Unhappy  
Penguin.....*

*Come To The Next  
Rowdie Meet!*