



A-Antics



Photo by Dave Quinn.

Weakley's Fall Color Tour
Rowdies Birthday Party
Battle of the Brits
Member's Profile Section
Lemon Creek Winery British Car Meet



MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NORTH AMERICAN MGA REGISTER

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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

MG Web Site: www.mgcars.uk

NAMGAR Web Site: 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
2005-2008	Gordie Bird

ROWDIES 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OFFICIAL ROWDIE events are in “**Bold**” print; other events of interest are in “*Italics*”

NOVEMBER *nothing planned*

DECEMBER

4 Rowdies Christmas Party, Jackson.
Dave Quinn host

JANUARY 2011

Watch the snow pile up on the roof
Charge the battery
Check to see if the mice in the car need more food

FEBRUARY 2011

19 Rowdies ANNUAL BUSINESS MEET, Holt. Dave Smith host

Michigan Rowdies 2010 Regalia

Grille badge with mounting clamp

\$25



Lapel Pin

\$5



Patch

\$5



Tee shirt

\$16



Cap

\$15



Key fob

\$5



To order: Call Phil Wiltshire @248-676-0986 or Brian Beery @ 810-364-7949 or email Phil at pwiltshire@comcast.net

MEMBERS PAGE

Members Update:

It's with sadness I am informing my Rowdie friends of the passing of "Mean" Jean. Jean was in the Rowdies from 1995 to 2003 and served as Treasurer for a period of time. Below is her obit from the Lansing State Journal. Her passing comes as a shock for those of us who saw her earlier this year. Although she battled numerous serious health issues, when last I talked with her she appeared to be in much better health and spirits. RIP Jean.

Dave Quinn

"Evelyn Jean Patchett, passed away on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, from complications of a stroke she suffered two days earlier. Jean was born April 30, 1947 in Genesee County, in Atlas Township, and grew up in Perry where she graduated from Perry High School in 1965. Her sudden passing capped a life full of spirit and loyalty to her friends and family. Jean enjoyed a wide interest in hobbies and activities throughout her life, and was active in many organizations that advanced those interests. Among her various passions were horseback riding, scuba diving, motorcycling, crafts and music. They provided not only a source of enjoyment but enabled her to add to an ever-expanding circle of friends. Jean spent nearly 40 years working at the U.S. Postal Service before retiring in 2006. She was also a member of the National Guard for 10 years, rising to the rank of Sergeant. Over the years, she would do

volunteer work such as providing comfort services for St. Lawrence Hospital Emergency Room families. She was a past choir member and current member of St. Mary's Cathedral in Lansing. Playing flute, occasionally she joined in marching with various local reunion/military bands. She also sang for a time in a local Lansing choral choir. Jean was a long-time member of the Jug and Mug ski club, a member of the Michigan Rowdies for several years, just to mention a couple of the many organizations she was part of."



Jean Patchett (far left) enjoying herself with her Rowdie friends above. Below, Jean keeping scores at one of the OctoberFast driving events.



Rowdies Website:

Larry Pittman, Webmaster

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

Mac McDonnell's Database Report:

66 Active and Paid-Up Members

Welcome New Members

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.

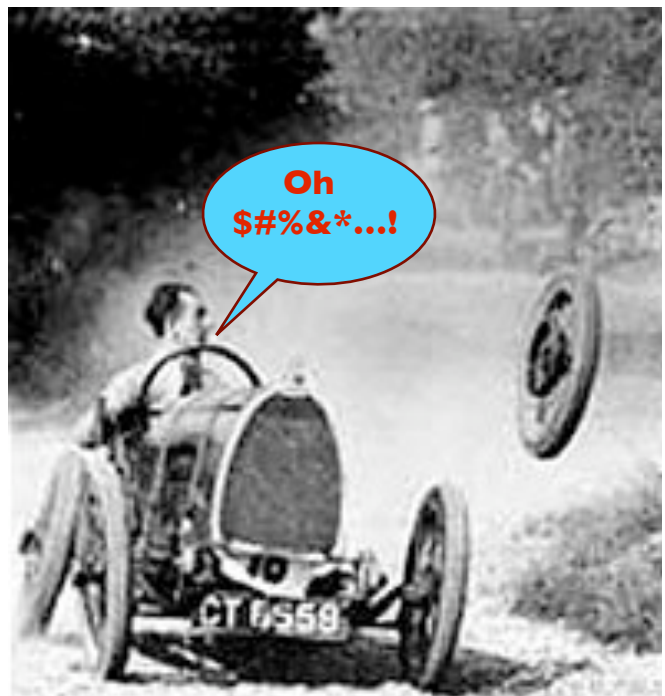
Send Email & Address Changes to Editor.

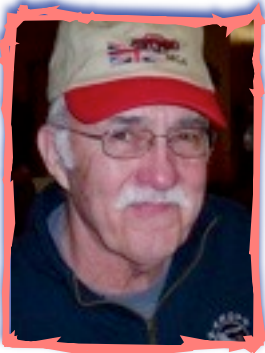
Deadline for submitting material

for the next issue is: Dec. 20, 2010

FOR SALE

1953 MGTD-is going for \$8,000.00 and it is in Attica, MI The number for it is 810-724-1465. It belongs to Paul Hicks (Shirley Noetzold's brother-in-law). It runs good and someone starts it up regularly. They recently spent \$1,500 - \$1,600 on brakes and a new top. It is yellow.





CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

How time flies. Seems like it was yesterday that we were enjoying the color tour at Mark and

Marjie's in northern Michigan. By the time you read this the 2010 color tour at Bill and Mary Ellen's will be history. Mother nature certainly provided us some great top-down weather with temps on some days this fall running as high as 20 degrees above average. Since my summer driving was cut short due to transmission issues, I for one have welcomed the chance to catch-up on my top down driving. I hope you were able to do the same.

One of the best ways you can support the club is to pay your dues on time. Why am I bringing this up? Believe me, it's not directed at any individual. For those who were late this year please do not take it personally; you were not alone. As I write this I am struggling how to bring this up without someone taking it wrong. My purpose is selfish. I am hoping 2011, with everyone's help, will be better. For whatever reasons this year's dues collections involved more work, expense, and second guessing than past years. A number of members fell into the Expired category, yet nearly every single one did renew. I know how time flies. You

get a renewal notice and you mean to pay it. Our dues process has been set up to be extremely accommodating. It would be much simpler if the club simply said everyone's payment is due February 1 for the coming year. Come spring you are either in or out. However, our process ensures everyone gets a full year from the time you join and every 12 months thereafter on one's anniversary date. In addition to your renewal notice we mail a second notice if payment wasn't forthcoming. If ignored, you are flagged as Expired in the database and should be removed from all communications, both printed and electronic.

As chairman I find myself struggling with what to do when long-time members and friends who regularly participate don't send in their dues. It's uncomfortable for them and uncomfortable for me if I say something. To repeat myself, one of the best ways you can support the club is to pay your dues on time. The Chairman, Treasurer, Database operator, Webmaster, and Printer all thank you.

The Rowdies Christmas Party wraps up our year. Based on the success of past years the party will be held at the same restaurant and use the same catering service. To help offset the club's total expense, which exceeds a grand, we will be collecting a \$10/ person donation at the door with children free. We will have the traditional gift exchange

which is always entertaining as the gifts range from the very cool to the very bizarre. The order of the exchange this year will have a new twist! Since the cater requires a pre-

order you must let me know by the deadline if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there.

Dave Quinn

Rowdie Birthday Party Report-by Ken Nelson



Mac and Joani McDonnell were the hosts of our annual Rowdie Birthday Party and auction meet this August, 2010. The day started with rain early on, but this cleared by the afternoon, and we had a beautiful afternoon for socializing and bidding on priceless MGA car parts to raise funds for club and upcoming meet expenses. We had a plethora of MGAs and a wealth of members attending from the east side of the state. Lloyd Herring even drove his Model T "Sportabout" to the event to demonstrate the vehicle a young "gay blade" might be seen driving in the 1920's (and to show how words can change in meaning over 40-50 years).



Our own chairman Dave served as the "Grand Auctioneer" holding out on banging the gavel until the very highest bid was obtained. So skilled was Dave, that he was able to get me to bid \$20 on the very award I was presented with at GT-35 the month before without realizing it! Over \$300 was added to the club treasury before the final gavel came down. The food was great and a fun time was had by all. **Ken Nelson**

More Pictures of the B'day Party.....



Pictures prior page, Clockwise from upper left: The Union Jack greeted us all; Parking area full of MG's; Chairman Dave; Lloyd Herring & Model T. Pictures this page, Clockwise from upper left: Larry Pittman, Mark Barnhart, Dave Quinn; Cathy Holliday, Dave Smith; Mac, Dave Smith, Rich Pollion, Lloyd, Brian Beery; Neil Griffin & Mac's MGA; Herb & Charlene Maier, Neil & Rich; the ladies & Herb. Photos by Ken Nelson.



Battle Of The Brits

Rowdie Report By Tracey Bird

Battle of the Brits Sept. 2010

What a beautiful and perfect day it turned out to be for this year's show. I believe I heard someone say they had a record breaking # of cars this year. Oh, what a fine selection of cars to see! We got there right on time and got an ideal spot not too far from the loo's, and close to the beer & chili tent. The event is held at St. Mary's in ??, and they have a fund raising chili cook off going on in conjunction with the car show, Genius idea !! Last year I never got to try any chili, but this year we tried to taste most of the entries. At least most of the "reds" & 1 "green" chili was really superb. I later found out they also had salsas, but either missed that all together or that contest was some other time. (We had to look at cars too, ya know, only so many hours in a day.) Lots of spicy Rowdies showed up too.

We had a caravan of two with the Hollidays, and also showing face was pres. Dave Quinn, and in no order intended, Brian Berry, Tom Fant, the Zorn's of course, always busy at work, and Larry & Mitzi Pittman, and Steve and Donna Finch. Excuse me if I left anyone out. Hey, did we ever draw a name for the \$50.00 gift certificate? Gord & I also ran into some old friends from our Audi rally days and another German car lover & owner of Monk's motors in Waterford whom I hadn't seen in a while; Chris Braden and his wife. They drove their funkadelic VW bus all painted with 60's flower power & peace signs.

The MG's won the battle of the Brits of course- don't we always ??? How could we not, we luv our little MG's and are always eager to go to a show and have a good time. The best part of the whole day was when 6 MGA's had a tie for first place, we were 1 of them, WOW. Can you believe that ? We got a cute beer glass with battle of the brits 2010

etched into it. Just what I needed, another unmatched glass that can't be washed in dishwasher if you want to maintain its letter quality (of course I jest) !! I walked away before this announcement because quite frankly I was getting tired of standing there, but know others were there to hear what exactly happened, I believe Hollidays may have been there if you want to get the low down, or go to www.detroittriumph.org. to see results of the day.

So after a beautiful sun filled day and plenty of chili and beer, we headed for home & ready to face another week of work. As I write this on Sept. 23rd, I am sitting in Arizona visiting my 90 & 91 year old Mom & Dad at their home in Rio Verde. Still on their own, I am so blessed. It has been record breaking 3 digit degrees here since I hit the ground a week ago. (111 when I stepped off the plane last Sat.). I

wish you all could have felt what I did when I stepped out of the airport to get my shuttle, It cannot be described, you have to experience it. Good thing I adore heat !!! I am getting pretty brown with all my pool sitting, nothing else to do when you are visiting 2 - 90 year olds, in the middle of the desert !! I will be home in a week (here now as I rewrite this). Hope to see you all soon, and hope you are all well. Safety fast, as always.

Tracey Bird



PS Ken maybe you can get Gord to send you some pixs too. I'm not that good at that, but I do have some if you'd like. He told me to write story, so he can at least send you pixs, don't you agree??? *Tracey (Agreed, Ed!)*



Pictures: Prior page-Tracey Bird, Cathy Holliday, & Gordy Bird at Battle of the Brits.

This Page-Above and clockwise- Tracey Bird & Cathy Holliday; Brian Beery, Gordy Bird, Dave Quinn, and Steve Holliday; Tom Fant.

Photos by Dave Quinn & Gordy & Tracey Bird

Lemon Creek British Car Meet-Sept 11, 2010

The Lemon Creek Winery show started out with rain. Then it rained some more. After that it rained some more. Finally it stopped after

popular voting. Carl and Betty Young took first place . Steve and Diane Mazurek took second place with Michalak's coupe taking best of show. This was



the show began. Due to the weather the turnout was down. There were 40 to 45 English cars present.



popular voting only by people who drove an

About six MGAs. Even with the rain the Rowdies had a few hardy souls there. Ken and Kathy Nelson, Carl and Betty Young, Mark and Cindy Michalak, Rich and Jane Pollion, Steve and Diane Mazurek, Dave Quinn, and Bruce Nichols. Ken/Kathy, Carl/Betty, Mark/Cindy, Steve/Diane and Bruce brought MGAs.



English car through the monsoons to get there. Not too bad considering the stiff competition (cont. next pg).

Our members did well in the

Pictures clockwise from upper left: Ken Nelson, Rich Pollion, Bruce Nichols; Dave Quinn, Steve Mazurek, Kathy Nelson; Ken & Kathy christening "Princess Di"; Cindy & Mark Michalak, Diane & Steve Mazurek with awards. Pictures by Ken Nelson.

Even with the rain we had an excellent time. The winery had tents set up with seating and tables. The company was great and the wine flowed with the conversation. The “rockabilly” quartet

(The Bellaires) did some great old 1950-60 rock and roll favorites and brats and burgers were on sale for lunch. **Bruce Nichols**

Rowdies Survive Trip to Hell and Back- Story Below



ROWDIES GO TO HELL

By Bill Weakley

On Saturday, October 16, Mary Ellen and I hosted a color tour and wiener roast for 29 Rowdies. The weather was as perfect as a mid-October day could be, with sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s. Everyone gathered at our house between 1:00 and 2:00, then we left for a 45 mile drive through the countryside west and north of Ann Arbor. We

started with Huron River Drive all the way to Dexter with lots of views of the river. There were kayakers, canoeists and swans on the river.

At Dexter, we passed the Dexter Cider Mill. Some were lured to stop by the smell of fresh doughnuts. Others went on to Jenny’s Farmers Market west of Dexter, where the same smell overtook a few more. The rest went on north past Portage Lake and then to Hell – Hell, Michigan, that is. *(continued next page)....*

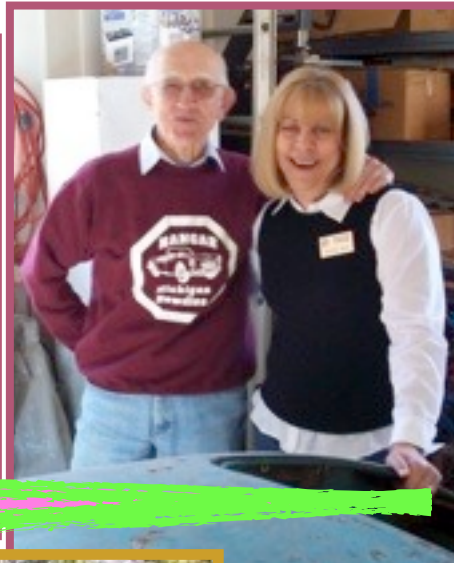
As it turns out, Hell is actually quite a pleasant place, with a gift shop, ice cream shop, miniature golf and a biker bar. There were a lot of others enjoying Hell that day, so the line at the ice cream shop was pretty long. A “Blues Brothers” style singer was crooning Halloween parody songs to no one in particular but doing a very creditable job of it.

Leaving Hell (Yes, you can leave anytime you like.), we travelled south on Hankerd Road, which all the drivers, if not the passengers, enjoyed greatly – plenty of curves and dips through the trees. Arriving back at the Weakley homestead, the early finishers started the bonfire and were roasting wieners before the last cars returned.

There was a nicely balanced (in flavors if not nutrition) selection of side dishes and desserts to go with the dogs and sausages. My opinion is that Thelma’s apple cake had a little high test secret ingredient that made it taste so special. Even so, nearly everyone had at least one hot and gooey S’more.

Everyone hung around the fire long enough to go home smelling of smoke. Thanks to everyone for coming and bringing such great food. It was a really fun day. **Bill Weakley**

Pictures below, Clockwise from top left: The route planner; Neil Griffin & Debbie Smith; Mitzi & Larry Pitman; The backyard bonfire; Chow-time; Bill & Mary Ellen Weakley. Pics by Ken Nelson.



ELECTRICAL TECH TIPS-

REPRINTED FROM HEMMING'S SPORTS & EXOTIC CARS



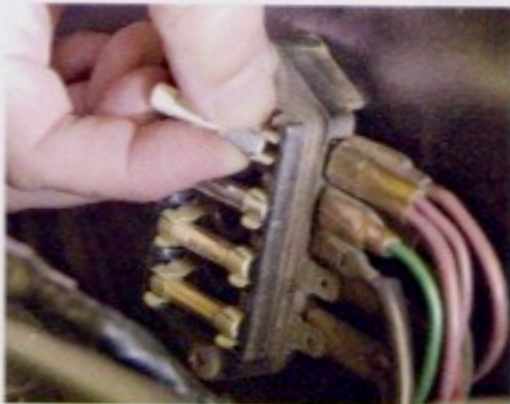
Most starting problems can be traced to the battery's terminals. White deposits are a sign that the connection is poor; the terminals and clamps can be cleaned with nothing more than hot water, then allowed to dry. A coating of battery terminal grease will ward off future problems.



The body ground is often overlooked, but can cause enormous grief. If this ground is poor, the electricity will find some other way to complete its circuit—say, through the horn wire, or the accelerator cable. The heat generated can melt insulation and the wires themselves, and is a fire hazard.



Engines are usually held in place with rubber mounts, which are excellent at absorbing vibration but equally good as electrical insulators. For this reason, the engine needs its own ground strap, one beefy enough to handle the current to the starter. Check that its connections are tight.



If twisting a fuse brings circuits back to life, the connection has become oxidized and needs cleaning. Wrap a piece of fine emery cloth around the end of the fuse, rough side out, and rotate it in the clips until everything is bright and shiny.



The oxidization of the inner surface of the spring clips is caused by having too little spring tension on the clips. A new fuse block is the best permanent fix, but it's possible to minimize the problem with some dielectric grease, a non-conducting grease that keeps out moisture.



The spades on the back of the fuse block are held to the clips by rivets, which can loosen over time. If they can be twisted from side to side, the connection is no longer corrosion-proof. They can be tightened by supporting the top side of the rivet and tapping the bottom with a nailset.



While you're under the hood, look for places where wires rub against other parts, such as this steering column, or pass through sheetmetal without protective grommets. Repair or replace damaged wires, and reroute them, if necessary, to keep them from being damaged.



Bulb sockets corrode, which can wreak havoc with turn signals, brake lamps and such. Clean them with a wire brush (disconnect the battery first!) and apply dielectric grease to the bulbs. Solder a separate ground wire to the bulb holder, and 99 percent of your lighting problems will be history.



Even the simplest sports car has a lot of bullet and/or spade connectors, but you'll be doing yourself a big favor if you carefully disassemble each one, clean away the corrosion and apply some bulb grease before connecting everything back together.

We have been re-introducing the Rowdies to long-time members as well as new ones through a member profile section. I will plan to run 2 brief member profiles each issue with some photos as well. We started with Bruce Nichols. Now here are some more familiar faces. Please send me a brief story & photo upon request as I work my way through our membership. Thanks, Ken Nelson, editor-in-chief

Member Profile- Mark & Marjie Barnhart



From the time I was in my very early teens I developed a love of all things automotive. My very first car was a 37 Ford that my dad purchased and had delivered to our back yard. I was 14 at the time and my dad told me if you can get that thing running by the time you get

your drivers license (at 16) you'll have a car to drive.

During those two years I not only got the Ford running, but thanks to two neighbors who were members of the SCCA and both had sports cars, I learned to enjoy them and road racing as much as the hot rod. One of those neighborhood

mentors happened to be a driver instructor at Waterford Hills Sportsman's Club and let me take drivers school in his '57 Alfa at age 14 and a half.

When I started college I bought a '57 MGA. It was summer so I didn't even notice that it did not come with a top. That first winter driving to school was fun. I wrapped up in an old blanket and scraping ice off the inside of the windshield with one hand while steering and shifting with the other.

A lot of sedans and station wagons and 4 kids later, I finally bought another MGA. I heard about a summer MG get together in Grand Rapids Michigan and decided to drive over to see what it was all

about. I met some guy named Dave Smith who told me I should join a club. I really didn't want to be bothered with a club. A couple of weeks later my wife Marjie and I were out for a ride towards Holly and I remembered Dave had told me about a meet this club was having at the State Park there. We decided to go have a look. What a great time and great people. I joined the ROWDIES that day and the great people and the fun just keep coming.

I have enjoyed the wonderful friendships and the cars. I also enjoy serving as a club officer so I can help others get the same enjoyment from their membership that Marjie and I have found.

Mark Barnhart



Photo of a younger Mark & Marjie at a University Motors Summer Picnic Meet, on prior page. More recent pics above and to left this page.



Member Profile- Dave & Chari Smith

The Smith profile begins in 1957 when my brother bought a 1957 MGA 1500 white roadster. I can remember riding in this car with the smell of the English leather, even with the top down. At that time I decided MG's were cool cars, and I would have one some day. Fast forward to 1977, when I bought an MG TD from my other brother. It was not your father's MG, as it had a 450 HP small block Chevy with a Muncie four speed. It was a drag race car, painted gold metallic, so it caught a LOT of attention on the street. I found that carrying the front axle thru 3rd gear was wildly popular with Laura and Kathy, but not so much with Chari, so out came the small block, and in went a Volvo engine & tranny and MGA rear axle. The gas mileage improved a bunch, as did the fun factor of passengers. After a couple years, I decided I was not a T series guy, and found a 1959 California MGA in storage in Imlay City MI.



It belonged to a Navy Officer, and blew the 1500 while enroute from San Diego to Selfridge Field in Mt. Clemens MI. The officer had later transferred to Norfolk Base, and had no hope of retrieving the MGA. I bought the car and brought it to our

home in Washington, MI. I found a running 3 main 1800 and Tranny for \$100 and a MGB 3.90 rear axle for \$60. These quickly got the A into running condition. Daughter Kathy and I spent many hours in the garage doing detail work. These are some of my best memories with Kathy as a early teen age mechanic.

Utica, Michigan held an event called Carnival of Cars, where I met RB Hart. He gave me a A Antic's newsletter, which was full of information on GT-7. I was amazed that there was more than one MGA in Michigan. Also amazed that I could drive MY MGA on the Indy track. I joined the Rowdies and sent in my application for the GT.

As Chari could not get time away from Beaumont Hospital, daughter Kathy willingly volunteered to be the navigator. At the event we met all of the Rowdies, and dozens of NAMGAR's finest too. Due to the extreme heat of the day, Kathy and I decided to drive home after the banquet, and arrived home at sunrise. To this day, that drive at 74 degrees is still one of my favorites of all time.

Many GT's followed, as did a stint thru the chairs of the Rowdies and Namgar. We also hosted GT-10, 20, and 30. Where does the time go? In 1996, Chari and I were "doing" a lap of Lake Michigan in our MGA, when I saw a flyer in Sheboygan, WI about the vintage car races at Road America. We (I) decided this would be a nice outing. As soon as I arrived at the track, I saw Ed Henning's beautiful MGA, and heard the stories of how he had passed Corvettes the day before. Then Chari and I met Joe & Bridget Tierno with his incredible BRG MGA. However the car's speed did not match it's awesome preparation. Joe had hired a team mechanic, but the challenges exceeded his experience. This began a lifelong friendship with the Tierno's and



soon I took over the team's mechanical challenges. We had great success for many years, but eventually I decided that I wanted to be a Car Owner and Driver.

In the Fall of 1996, Mark Barnhart and I, and many Rowdies began a frame up construction of a serious vintage race MGA. Mark graciously agreed to share the name Rowdie Racing, and with a Kent Prather engine, off we went to Road America in May 1997. That first outing is still a vivid memory, and winning the Group three race on Sunday was incredible. I had a great dice with a sky blue Austin-Healy 100-4 to take the checker.

The entire Vintage race experience has been well worth the time and resources. The only down side is that without winning the lottery, my faithful 1959 red roadster has been parked since 2001. Chari and I have attended many Rowdie events in our Swedish Iron, without too many jabs from the club members.

Chari and I cannot imagine how being a Michigan Rowdie and meeting so many great people has impacted on our lives. We consider ourselves very fortunate.

Dave & Chari Smith



Rowdies Christmas Party

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Festivities start 2:00 PM

Bone Island Grill, Summit Township



Davis Catering buffet dinner at 3:30 PM. Slow roasted hand pulled turkey, honey glazed roast ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, macaroni salad, appetizer trays & desserts.

Sign-up deadline is November 20th.

You must let Dave Quinn know how per person. Children free.

Each attendee, including children, is *fun* gift exchange. Bring your favorite adjoining bar. Coffee & pop provided.



many are attending. The cost is \$10.00

asked to bring a wrapped gift for the beverage or buy drinks from the

Bone Island Grill, 4614 Francis St,

Jackson, MI. 517-783-2144.

Directions from I-94. At exit 142 take US-127 south 6.3 miles to the M-50 exit. Drive west on McDevitt about 1.5 miles. McDevitt makes a 90 degree right turn and becomes Francis St. The Bone Island Grill is immediately on your left. Keep an eye out for Santa on the way there.





Curt & Stephanie Smith on their Color Tour Drive.



A Clean Machine. They never came from the factory this nice. Dave Quinn's beautiful 1622 Engine in his prize winning MGA.