



# A - Antics



## *Dave Smith's Day in the Garage Re- port*

Orphan Car Show Photos

## Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

ROWDIES SITE [www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies)  
MG WEB SITE [www.mgcars.org.uk](http://www.mgcars.org.uk)  
NAMGAR WEB SITE [www.namgar.com](http://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 \$20 annually (\$25 for printed newsletter)

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*

2005-2008 *Gordie Bird*



## Rowdies Calendar of Upcoming Events



July 13, 2008

Mad Dogs & Englishmen XVIII, Hickory Corners, MI  
[www.maddogsandenglishmen.org](http://www.maddogsandenglishmen.org)

July 14-18, 2008

NAMGAR GT-33, Seven Springs, PA  
[www.gt-33.com](http://www.gt-33.com)

August 2, 2008

Rowdies Birthday Party, Jackson, MI  
Dave & Donna Quinn host

August 8, 2008

Octagon Party, Ada, MI 8:08 a.m. on 8-8-08  
[www.universitymotorsltd.com](http://www.universitymotorsltd.com)

August 16, 2008

Brewery Tour, Webberville, MI  
Dick & Diana Grucz host

September 6, 2008

Canoe Trip, Somewhere, MI  
Details TBD

September 14, 2008

Battle of the Brits, Sterling Heights, MI

October 11, 2008

Color Tour, Somewhere else, MI  
Herb & Carlene Maier host

December 6, 2008

Christmas Party, Somewhere Central, MI  
Details TBD

February 2, 2009

Rowdies Business Meeting, Clarkston, MI  
Matt & Lisa Wigent host

We honor the memory of Eleanor Herring who passed away on May 23, 2008 after a serious illness. She remains in our thoughts and prayers.



Eleanor & Lloyd Herring at a Rowdies fall driving rally a few years ago.

## Overheard on the Internet

June 30, 2008

Orion, MI

As the GT approaches, I am reminded that the chapter coordinators will be having a meeting with the chapter contacts in an effort to determine what the general membership is looking for from NAMGAR. As NAMGAR's first chapter and one of the most active, we would like to provide Bruce Nichols, our chapter contact, with as much info as we can with regard to our wants and desires (NAMGAR related only).

So, please take a moment and send Bruce an email. Should there be more regional meets, or just smaller meets in general? What would encourage you to attend a NAMGAR meet? Do you like them at resorts where everything is at the resort, or do you prefer a hotel setting with events spread out a bit more? Whatever you would like to see,

please send your desires (again, MGA related only) to Bruce at [nicholsbm@aol.com](mailto:nicholsbm@aol.com). Bruce will get a consensus from the responses that he receives and take it to the chapter coordinators meeting at the GT.

Gordie Bird

June 26, 2008

Livonia, MI

Have you heard about Project Kimber? Look up [www.smartcarofamerica.com](http://www.smartcarofamerica.com) and search Smart Roadster. It appears that Gordon Murray and John Piper have purchased the rights to produce this little tiger again. Is it the new MG or will it be called an the AC?

Dave Goeddeke

**Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: August 20th**

Cover Photo: Dave Smith's Day in the Garage. From left: Herb Maier, Neil Griffin, Tom Koch, Mark Barnhart, Dick Grucz, Brian Beery, Gordie Bird, Rich Polion, Dave Smith, and Ken Nelson. Dave Quinn photo.



## Chairman's Chatter

by Gordie Bird

The event season is now in full swing and, as usual, there is no shortage of MG related functions to attend. With gas prices soaring to record highs almost daily, this is certainly the time to attend some MG events. My MG's gas mileage isn't great, but it's still better than my daily driver. I never thought I would see the day it cost \$40 to fill up my MG, but now it's at \$50!

Events to attend in July include GT-33 in Pennsylvania July 14 - 18 with the Pittsburgh Vintage Races immediately following and Mad Dogs XVIII in Kalamazoo on July 13. August brings us the Rowdies Birthday Party hosted by Dave & Donna Quinn in Jackson on August 2nd and the Michigan Brewery Tour hosted by Dick & Diana Grucz August 16. We'll be joined by the BMC Club of Central MI who have planned a short road trip for all of us prior to the brewery visit. It's not too late to plan to attend any of these events. Make your plans today.

Lately, we've had a Day in the Garage at Dave Smiths where we ate hot dogs (all), bled brakes (Tom Koch), installed a top (Ken Nelson), a set of carbs and a distributor (Dick Grucz), and even repaired a door on a Jeep (Brian Beery). We even got to paw through a pile of free stuff Dave S was giving away. I think everyone came away with at least one treasure, and Tom Koch won the Rowdie Raffle for a \$50 gift certificate to Little British Car Company. With only one explosion (no injuries) and all cars leaving on their own power, I'd say it was a successful day. There was also the Orphan car show in Ypsilanti. I hear that the Hollidays had to impersonate the Wiltshires in order to enter the show. How's your Brit accent Steve?

The show in Rochester on Memorial Day weekend ran in conjunction with their Heritage Festival. There were about 100 cars but twice that many vendors/ displays of crafts of every kind. I learned that the '63 Plymouth Sport Fury convertible that I received as a graduation present was actually one of only 3800 made! Some of you may remember the push button automatic transmission. And to think I promptly

traded that car for a TR4. Atlanta Rowdie Brad Dryden was in town and joined us for this event as did the Hollidays. Only pre-registrations were eligible for awards, so Hollidays were display only. Even though I had a prime spot right next to Paint Creek, I was competing with an E-Type, Healey 3000, Lamborghini 400, and a Shelby GT350, so there was little chance of an award. The GT350 took 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by the Jag and then the Lambo. This is a worthwhile show, the venue is great and is within walking distance of downtown Rochester and all it has to offer, not to mention the vendors. They even had an all you can eat pancake breakfast. Maybe next year we can get an MGA there that could actually take home a trophy.

On a sad note, I am sorry to report that Eleanor Herring passed away on May 23rd after a lingering illness. Those of you who knew Eleanor will agree that she was a wonderful person and will be missed. Our condolences go out to Lloyd and the rest of the family.

Remember that when you renew your Rowdies membership that you have to decide if you want the electronic A-Antics (\$20) only or the traditional paper newsletter (\$25). If you chose the e-A-Antics, please remember to include your email address.

See you on the road.

*Safety Fast!*

Gordie



# Dave Smith's Day in the Garage

## A Day In The Garage or "Fire In The Hole!

By Ken Nelson

Dave Smith's "Day In The Garage" was held May 17th this year and turned out to be a very productive afternoon for the dedicated band of Rowdies who drove out either to work on their cars or to sit around drinking beer and eating hot dogs while watching others work on theirs. Our own Dave Quinn came along as an unofficial photographer since once you own a "trailer-queen" I'm sure that you either have no work left to be done, or you simply sign a check to be sure it gets done. Oh well, I suppose any of us could simply become jaded as well, and at least Dave can still remember the old days when he actually drove an MGA.

For the other Rowdies there who are still forced to drive their cars to meets, there was work to be done. Ken Nelson (ye humble author of this story) brought along a new vinyl top to install on his car after removing the original 30+ year old top that it came with in 1978.

After shedding a slight tear in remembrance of its faithful service all those years, he had removed it the evening before to be sure the wooden header piece was still serviceable. Neil Griffin and Rich Pollion helped out to make the measuring and stretching of a new top go much quicker. Ken stopped at Lowe's on the way and purchased an electric staple gun that also made the job easier.

Neil proved to be a veritable wizard when it came to

making a first class tight front corner looking as good as any I've seen elsewhere. He must have been good at making up his bunk with crisp military corners in the past also.

Placing the "Lift-A-Dot" fasteners was easier than I expected since no dedicated punch was available. Using a circular punch for the center and a sharp knife for the four prongs worked almost as well, and the job was accomplished without a hitch.

Unfortunately, I couldn't say the same for the work on Dick Grucz's car. He drove in planning to replace the distributor and carburetors with rebuilt units he had at home. That was done, but nary a sputter was available from the engine after the job was finished. Gordie Bird, Dave Smith, and Dick spent much of the afternoon rechecking and replacing parts until, after finally resetting valve lash, carb float bowl settings, and distributor timing, they were rewarded with the smooth firing of a 1500 cc engine.



Just prior to finishing Dick's car, however, we were all treated to the pyrotechnics of our former Michigan Fire Marshall, Dave Smith, who proved that carb cleaner is indeed inflammable in spite of whatever you may have been told in school.

Day in the Garage cont.

But that was nothing compared to the treat that Gordie provided for everybody. It seems that all his fiddling with the distributor and points trying to start the car resulted in quite a bit of fuel being pumped into the four cylinders and not being used to much effect. Gordie changed all that when he pulled the plugs out and decided to see if the coil was making a nice big fat spark like it should. So, with four pots full of gasoline vapor and a nice opening for a spark to travel through, he placed the coil wire alongside one of those holes to serve as a ground to test the spark. Well, I've got to tell you all that when that spark did hit, it had about the same effect as hitting the touch-hole on one of the 22-pounders that Captain Bligh must have carried on the Bounty.

Unfortunately, Dave Quinn hadn't had his camera ready for the big money shot, but I believe it must have been heard for a mile around. If the bonnet would have been down on the car, I'm sure it would have been airborne, but then again Gordie wouldn't have lost all the hair on one arm when it went "whoosh".

So there's always a trade-off for everything. I believe we all learned a big lesson about the explosive powers of gasoline in a confined space that afternoon. I know I did.

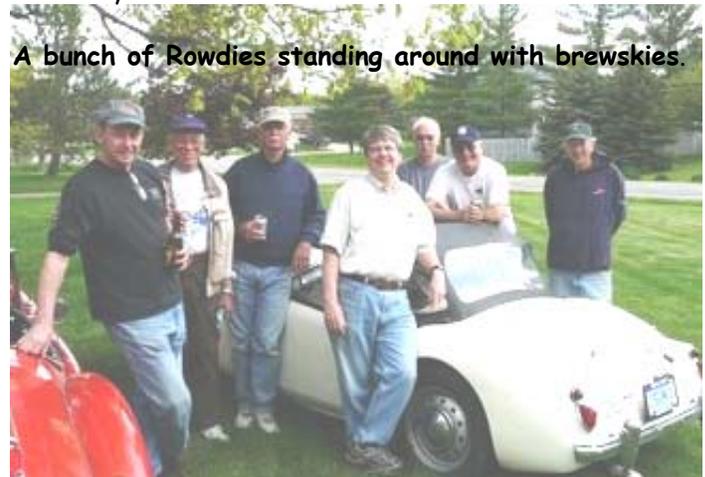
Kind of like the military training book I read that said "once you have pulled the pin on Mr. Grenade, he is no longer your friend."

But as with all good and true Rowdie stories, this one had a happy ending. Dick drove home with a smooth running car, Ken had a nice new convertible top with a clear rear window and no holes, and Neil managed to



Carlene Maier gives a smile as she cooks up some dogs for the Rowdie men-folk.

reattach the exhaust system on his "A" which had worked loose on the way over. All who attended had a good time, and that included Herb and Carlene Maier, Mark Barnhart, Brian Beery, and Tom Koch in addition to the previously mentioned cast of characters. So come along and join the fun next time. Who knows, it might be your car that we get to try the cannon trick on next year!



A bunch of Rowdies standing around with brewskies.



Dave Smith and his infamous transmission shaft. Is that anything like a spiral jack shaft?



Tom Koch power flushed his brake and clutch system as originally advertised by host Dave Smith.

# Orphan Car Show, Ypsilanti, MI

It was a stunningly beautiful day for the show with 230 cars. Several Rowdies were in attendance. Steve & Cathy Holliday showed their awesome MGA shinned to perfection. Jim & Pam Neal showed their beautiful REO (pictured right). Others taking in the great day included Curt & Stephanie Smith, Jon & Teresa Burchwell, Dave Smith, Neil Griffin, Roger Melton, Mike Moder, and Dave Quinn.

Of course the really neat thing about this show is the rare cars that you see among the Wings & Things. One of the cars drawing a lot of attention was a 1948 three-wheeled car called the Davis Delta ; this streamlined car was #2 of 13 made (pictured below). Another interesting car was a 1928 Marmon race car that looked like it had just pulled off the track. And then there was the 1928 Brush, and the rare .... you get the idea; just loads of neat stuff.

Some of us finished up the day with a patio lunch in Depot Town watching the history drive by and these old timers were heading home. It was really neat to see how many were not trailered but actually driven there.

Dave Quinn



Theresa & Jon Burchwell, Curt & Stephanie Smith, & Dave Smith enjoy the the show in Ypsilanti.



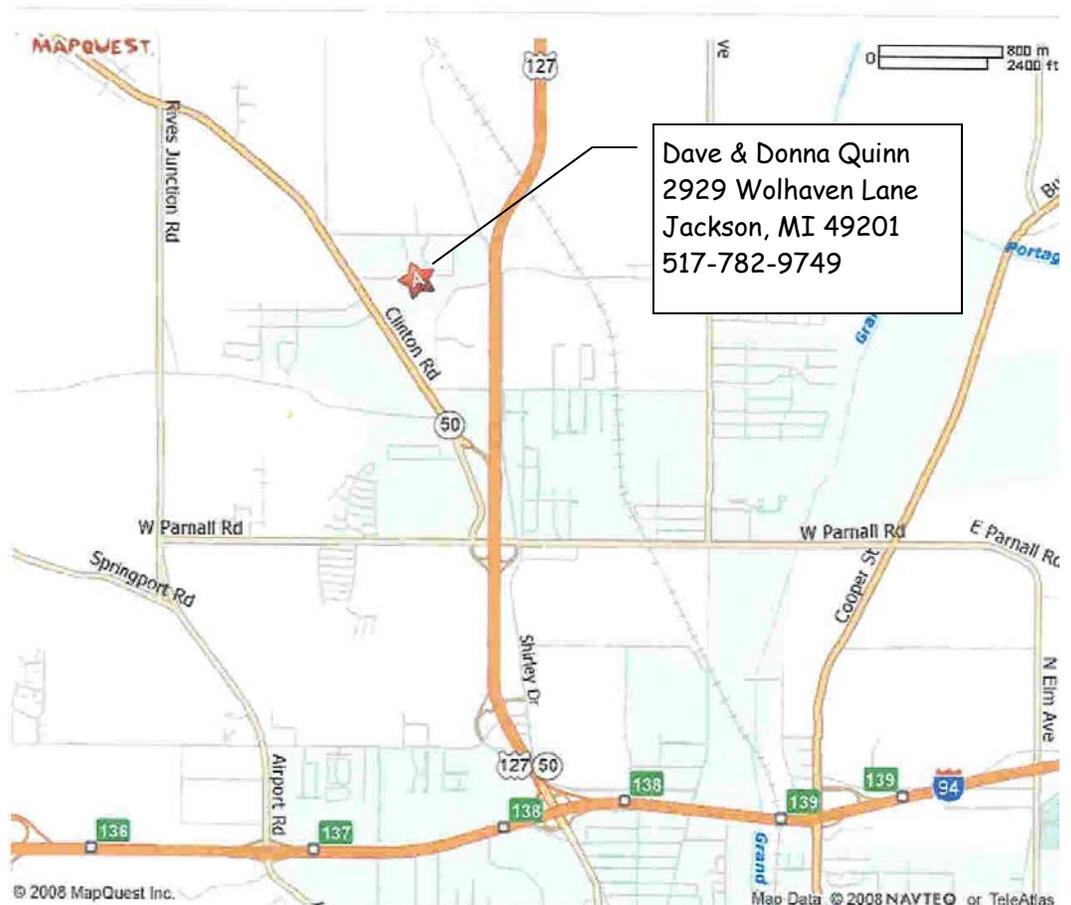
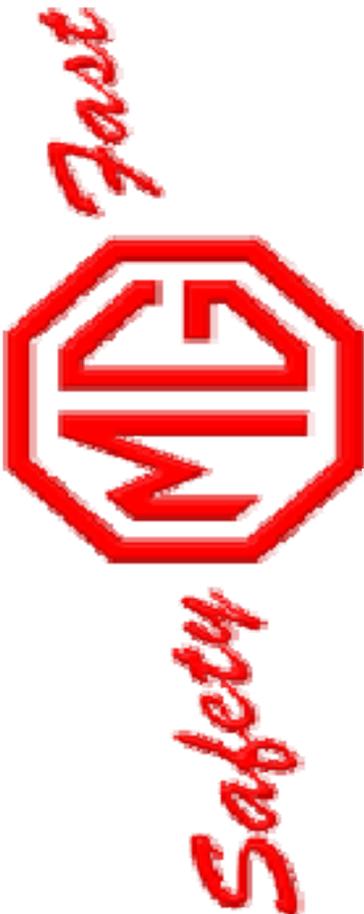
# Rowdies Birthday Bash & Auction

Saturday, August 2, 2008

Bring a dish to share with the Rowdies and something to drink for yourself.

The Party starts at 1:00 p.m. and lasts until Dave throws us out. Don't forget to bring some good stuff for the Auction and a few extra bucks to snag some great deals on things MG and other desirable collectibles.

The Quinn estate is North of Jackson, just off of US 127. Take the exit for M-50 North, drive a couple of Miles to Wolhaven Lane and turn right. The Quinn's are on the right side at 2929 Wolhaven Lane. For additional details or directions please call 517-782-9749



# Michigan Brewey Tour

LUNCH & TASTING AT 12 p.m NOON FOLLOWED BY A BREWERY TOUR. EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN LUNCH TAB..

A 10% DISCOUNT IS OFFERED AT THINGS BEER FOR BEER & WINE MAKING SUPPLIES AS WELL AS T-SHIRTS AND BREWER-YANA. (PINT GLASSES, SIGNS, MIRRERS ETC.)

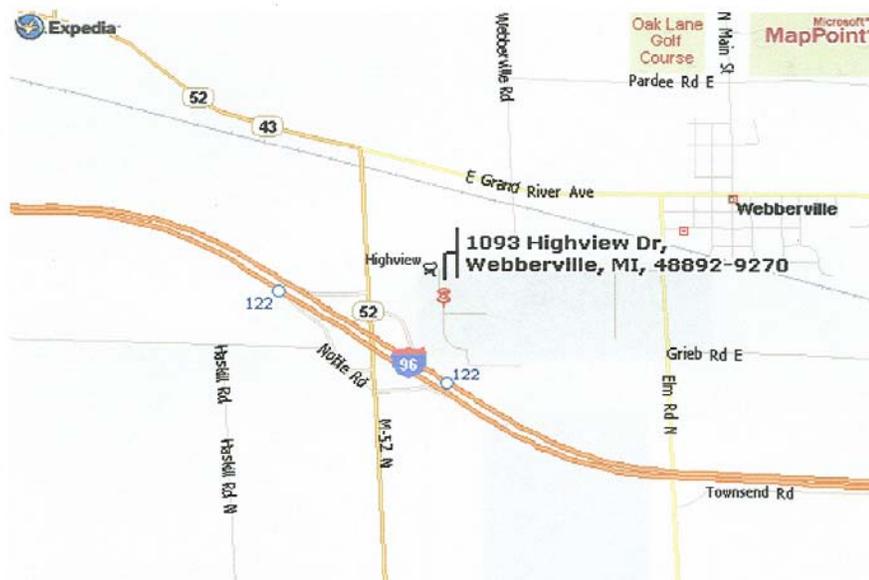
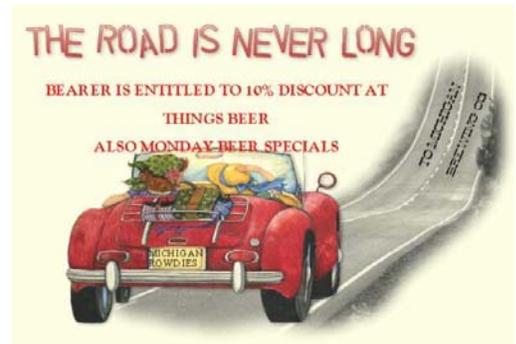
BEER TO GO AT SPECIAL MONDAY ONLY PRICES FOR THE GROUP. 6-PACK \$6.00 12-PACK \$11.00  
24-CASE \$20.00 A CASE IS REGULARLY \$28.00  
THERE WILL BE A COUPON FOR ROWDIES TO GET THE DISCOUNTS.



DIRECTIONS ARE: I-96 EAST OR WEST BOUND TO EXIT 122 (M52) AT WEBBERVILLE. NORTH TO HIGHVIEW DR. ( AT McDONALDS) TURN RT AND FOLLOW AROUND TO THE GREEN ROOFED BUILDING. SIGN IN FRONT (MICHIGAN BREWING / THINGS BEER. )

If you are coming from West or Central Michigan areas you may wish to join the British Motor Club caravan leaving at 11:15 from the MDOT Park & Ride lot at Okemos Road and I-96. The route is a well planned scenic drive on two lane roads. Please arrive no later than 11:00 a.m.

Please RSVP to Dick Grucz at [cassacavallo@charter.net](mailto:cassacavallo@charter.net) or call 517-548-1035 about the number attending so sufficient staff is available to make this a memorable event.



# THE 2008 UNIVERSITY MOTORS OCTAGON PARTY

## **Official Party Hotel**

Hilton Hotel  
4747 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508  
(616) 957 0100

## **Registration**

Thursday afternoon, August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Hotel.

## **Friday Activities**

Caravan to Kirk Park, 8:00am on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
Bring a picnic lunch for a day at the beach!

## **Saturday Activities**

Vendors, special tours throughout the city

## **Regalia**

We are working to have T-shirts available!

The 2008 University Motors Octagon Party is designed to be a low-key event, reminiscent of our first summer party in 1977. Rallyes, award plaques, a special guest, a large banquet, a featured model, a panoramic picture, individual photographs, ribbons, will all have to wait for another year! Our special guests this year will be those who attended our first party in 1977!

# Members Page

Rowdies Website

Steve Mazurek, Webmaster

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

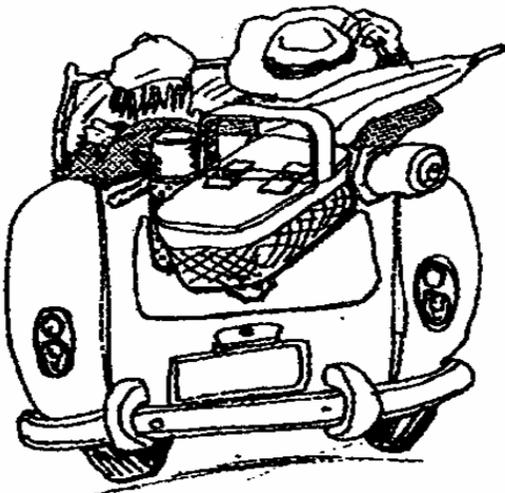
Mac McDonnells Database Report

No new members since January 1, 2008.  
70 Active and paid-up members.

E-mail & address corrections:

Mark & Marji Barnhart  
101 Peninsula Drive  
Prudenville, MI 48651-9461  
989-366-8980  
[rowdie92@charter.net](mailto:rowdie92@charter.net)

*Please help us keep our e-mails up to date*



## 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 \$25/135; 1/4 page \$20/110; Bus Card \$10/55.*

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

# 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.

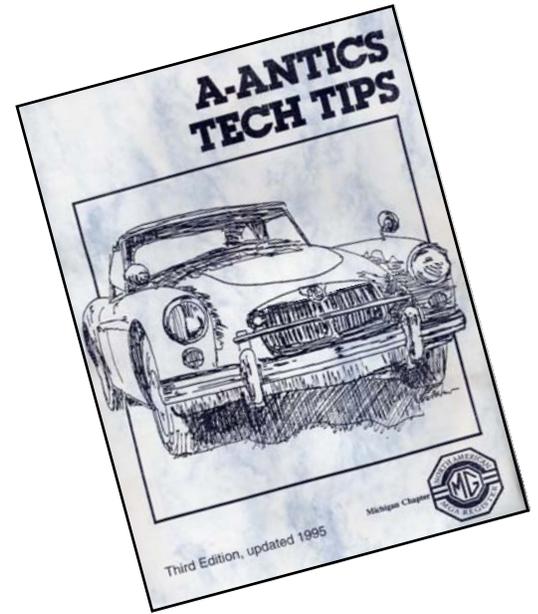
*We hope to see some new faces at our meets and encourage you to bring a friend to join. All paid-up members are eligible for a raffle to be held at each Rowdie meet. The winner of the raffle will receive the gift certificate.*



Smart MG?

# Back by popular demand:

The most popular MGA  
tech tips manual ever.

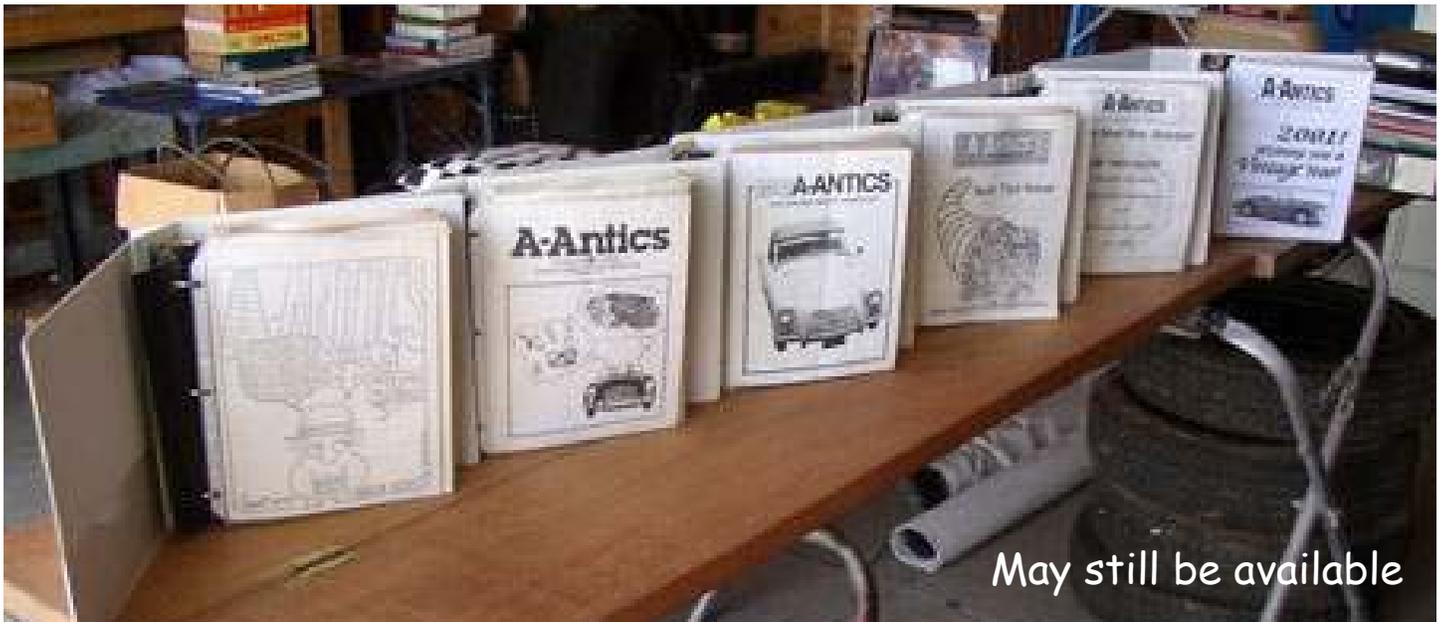


The Michigan Rowdies have reprinted 100 copies of the Third Edition, dated 2008, to enlighten new MGA owners on tips you will not find anywhere else. 246 pages!

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 international, Includes shipping



I have a collection of A-Antics news letters that cover from 1977 to 2005. There are a couple of issues missing so it is not 100% complete. I have 150 issues. They are in six 3 ring binders and in sheet protectors. I have \$30.00 invested in the sheet protectors and binders, and that's what I'm selling. You get the A-Antics free with the binders and sheet protectors for the \$30.00.

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rowdie92@charter.net