



A - Antics



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Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

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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!*

ROWDIES SITE

www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies

MG WEB SITE

www.mgcars.org.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*

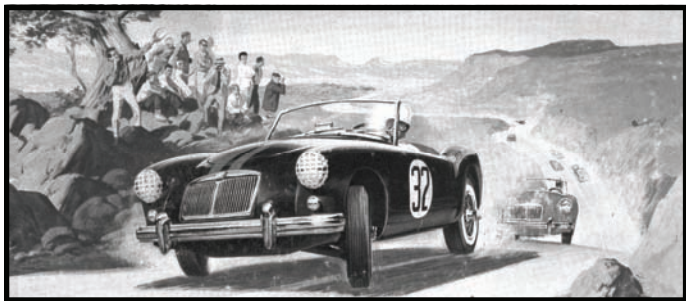
1997-1998 *Neil Griffin*

1999-2002 *Bruce Nichols*

2003-2004 *Bob Sutton*

2005-2008 *Gordie Bird*

Rowdies Calendar of Upcoming Events



September 6, 2008

Canoe Trip, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Rich & Jayne Pollion host

September 14, 2008

Battle of the Brits, Sterling Heights, MI

October 11, 2008

Color Tour, Grand Ledge, 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

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.

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

Cover Photo: Larry & Mitzi Pittman, Gina Read & Lloyd Herring enjoy a good story told by Bruce Read at the Rowdies Birthday Party .
Dave Goeddeke photo

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:

Please help us keep our e-mails up to date

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.



Chairman's Chatter

by Gordie Bird

While many went to GT-33, where a grand time was had, many Rowdies stayed closer to home and went to Mad Dogs in Hickory Corners on July 13. The day was nearly perfect, unlike the scorches of past with temps in the mid 70's and a stiff breeze. Along with us, Herb and Carlene Maier, Dave Quinn (actually drove his A), Neil Griffin, Lloyd Her-ring, Doug & Aileen Butcher, and Rich & Jayne Pollion enjoyed the day on the Gilmore Car Museum grounds. For our part, being a 3+ hour drive, we left at "deer thirty" and had no fewer than 4 deer, 2 rabbits, 2 cats, and one big turtle pass in front of our car. Fortunately the 2 laners afforded slow enough speeds so that there was never a chance of a collision with any of them, especially the turtle. We actually stopped for one little fawn to cross, and after staring at each other for quite a few moments, the fawn changed its mind and disappeared back into the corn field. Herb Maier had small exhaust manifold problem, but a judiciously placed coat hanger was able to support the manifold if not seal it up. Everyone noticed when Herb and Carlene pulled out. Next up was the Clarkston Concours in the Park. We met up with the Cote's and

Holliday's for the annual escorted cruise to the park. After an excellent dinner at the Clarkston Union, we proceeded to enjoy the unique cars, the silent auction, and the ice cream Sundays. Since this was vintage race weekend we were able to get up close to many of the cars that raced over the weekend at Waterford Hills. Congratulations to the Hollidays who took home a 'judges choice' award. The big deal of the weekend was the Rowdies Birthday party and auction hosted by the Quinn's in Jackson. The day was perfect and Rowdies from far and wide showed up. It



Brian Beery, Gordie Bird, Neil Griffin & Herb Maier discuss recent British car club & Rowdie events.

seems that Jackson is less than 100 miles from nearly everywhere Rowdies come from. After some tire kick'n and beer drink'n we got down to the business of eating, and what a spread we had! I think I had two full plates of salad and main course and one full plate of deserts. If

you've never been to a Rowdies 'potluck', well, it's worth the price of the membership dues alone. The auction drew in over \$450 with notable contributions from John Alexander and Jeff & Debbie Smith. In fact, we're pretty sure Jeff & Debbie will be at some future events as an autograph from the driver of the #49 car was promised for the picture they took home, but alas Dave & Chari Smith had to depart early for a visit with daughter Kathy & Ken in Minnesota. Jeff, you'll just have to keep attending events until Dave shows up, and don't forget to bring your picture. A big thank-you to Mike Tyler for his

Cont. on page 5



Mike Tyler, auctioneer & entertainer

excellent job handling the auctioneer duties for this (and future?) years auction. John Alexander is an ex-racer of Waterford Hills fame and is currently driving a beautiful Bugeye Sprite and has an MGA as his next project. I suspect another (or 2) Day in the Garage event in the not too distant future. The Waterford Hills Vintage races were on Sunday the 3rd, and several of us who got free (or nearly free) tickets took in the action. I saw John Alexander, Bill Weakley, and Brian Berry there and I heard (but didn't see) Dave Quinn, Mark Barnhart, Steve Holliday, and Rob Cote' were also there.



Bill & Mary Ellen Weakly take their MG Midget out for a spin.

September will bring us the canoe trip in Mt Pleasant hosted by Rich & Jayne Pollion on Saturday the 6th. Although we have not seen a canoe trip in several years, I recall it being a well attended and very fun event in the

past. See the flyer in this issue for the details. I hope to see you there this year. Then, the following weekend is the annual Battle of the Brits at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights. This is a big show with many unusual Brit cars in attendance along with hundreds of Brit motorcycles.

October will bring us the annual covered bridge color tour hosted by Herb & Carlene Maier. Herb has told us that he has ordered great weather and peak colors, so you won't want to miss this one. It's not too early to plan for our annual business meeting in February where we will be electing new officers, including webmaster, newsletter editor, and chairman. This is a great opportunity to become more involved in your club.

For those of you still awaiting nametags, well, you should have them by the time you read this, and if you don't, contact our treasurer, Jeff Zorn.

The fall brings us some of the best driving weather of the year and I hope you're able to enjoy it.

See you on the road.

Safety Fast!

Gordie



Gordie & Traci Bird thank Dave Quinn for his and Donna's superb hospitality at the Birthday party.

Birthday Party Photos



Bruce & Gina Read
(Congratulations!)



Dave & Chari Smith



Raoul,
Donna
Quinn's
Pool boy



Larry & Mitzi Pittman



Auction Crowd



Joni McDonnell



John Anderson



Mac McDonnell



Jeff Smith, Gordie Bird & Brian Beery



Mike Tyler &
Lloyd Herring
(Nice Bag,
Mikel)



Nice!



Deborah Smith & Traci Bird



Elaina Tyler & Ryan Cote'



Phyllis Goeddeke, Jon & Teresa Burchwell

Silver Springs GT 33

By Steve Holiday

This year's GT was a load of fun. The car didn't really need anything but routine maintenance and even that was pretty well up to date. I just needed to give everything a look and see that all was in order. Now that I'm retired, I had all of the time in the world to prepare the car, but somehow still ended up changing the oil and taking it off of the jack-stands on Saturday night at 10:00. It seems that when retired, there is a sense of "what's the rush" and the number of things to be done on the car seems to increase as other jobs are done. I guess procrastination never changes.

We left on a sunny Sunday morning to meet up with Ralph and Kathi Poupard & Mike Moder at I-94 and Telegraph. As usual, Cath & I were running a little late (remembered something we wanted to take about 2 miles from home and went back).

While making up the lost time, I got stopped and ticketed in Redford on Telegraph for 59 in a 45. As a favor, he wrote me for "impeding traffic". I now have one of the strangest tickets I've ever gotten. Fine, but

no points. We got to our destination about 10 minutes late and took off from there. Nice day for the drive, not too hot, clear until the last few hours of the ride. We went about 50 miles in the rain, but not enough rain to put the top up. All three vehicles ran great and we never had to lift a bonnet except to check and add oil. 250 through Ohio is a lovely road with enough corners to keep you awake.

The GT was different this year in that it was preceded by a Twin Cam and Deluxe



Diane Mazurek enjoys a leisurely cruise around Silver Springs with Princess Di at GT-33.



Kathy & Ken Nelson find some shade with Bruce Nichols at the car show.

Reunion. I've never seen so many Twin Cams in one parking lot at once. There must have been 25. I only saw 3 Deluxes. Terry Frisch brought the recently finished chassis of his newly acquired Twin Cam. It was to be used to point out the differences in a Twin Cam/Deluxe chassis and a standard chassis. It is a good way to illustrate the differences in the two. They did a nice reenactment of the 50th anniversary of the Twin Cam release and picked spectators from the crowd for a ride in the featured cars. From what I heard later, the drivers certainly didn't baby the

GT-33, cont.

cars. Ask Diane Mazurek about that one when you see her.

They said the number of cars at this GT was the largest they've ever had at 201. I know the parking lot was full and a good distance from the hotel. You had to look down the rows and go "not my car, not mine, not mine, there it is." We saw many familiar faces from all over the US and had a splendid time.

Steve & Cathy Holiday take a break in the air conditioning with Todd & Connie Binz before the GT-33 Banquet.



The accommodations were very nice. We stayed in the hotel the first night and then shared a 4 bedroom condo with 3 couples we know from Indy. It cut the room cost considerably. We were a few miles from the main action, but didn't have to get on any public roads to get there (handy after the hospitality suite). The car show was in a lovely park on a lake and the banquet at the hotel was well done and delicious. They arranged for the Twin Cams and race-only vehicles to be driven to the show on the streets and do a lap of the show. That was loud and a lot of fun.

The Rowdies were mentioned for being one of the two clubs with the most members

in attendance, but most of the usual suspects were missing this year. We saw Dave and Chari Smith, Todd and Connie Binsz, Ken and Kathy Nelson, Mike Moder, Ralph and Kathi Poupard, Bruce Nichols, Steve & Diane Mazurek, Mark & Cindi Michalak and Jeff and Jan Zorn. If we all go to Arkansas next year, we would be by far the largest group there.

We were going to attend the vintage races in Pittsburgh on the way home, but watched the weather and consulted the race schedule. No racing until Saturday, which meant we would be driving home in the rain. We made the decision to wait until next year to see the vintage races and made it back home by about 7:00 on Friday. We had so much fun that we signed up to drive to Key West next April for the last regional there.

Steve Holiday



Ken & Cathy Nelson admire one of the featured MGs in the Exhibition Hall.

I dunno' this one just fit here! (Birthday Party Photo)

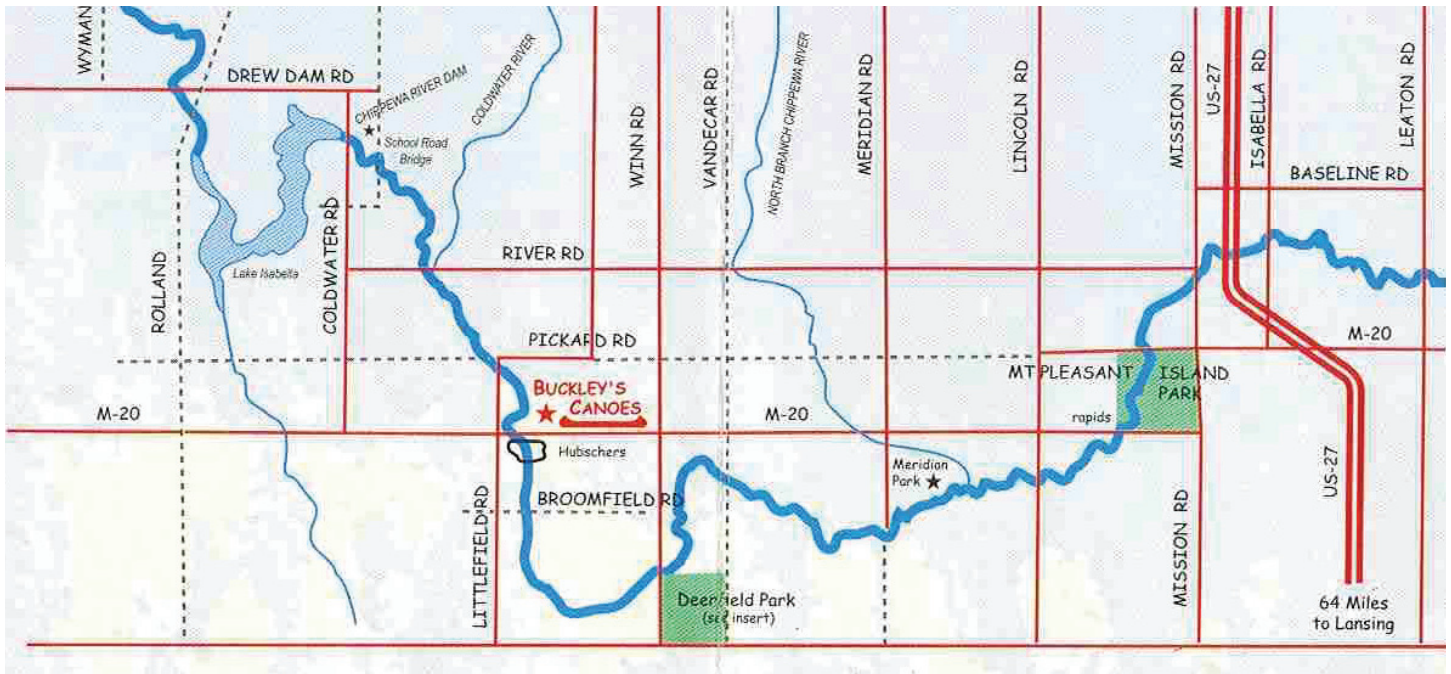


Rowdies Chippewa River Canoe Trip

Saturday, September 6th, 2008

Departure 12:00 Noon

4700 W. Remus Rd. (M-20), Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858



CONTACT Buckley's Direct to Reserve A CANOE ^{\$36} OR A KAYAK ^{\$20⁰⁰} AT 1-800-776-2800 AND MENTION MG CAR CLUB. PLAN IS TO DEPART LIVERY AND END AT DEERFIELD PARK AND END WITH A BRATWURST PICNIC. BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGES, NO GLASS CONTAINERS BOOZE PERMITTED. TO HAUL YOUR CANOE ^{\$12⁰⁰} KAYAKS ^{\$7⁰⁰}.

CONTACT JAYNE OR RICH POLLION AT 989-644-7035 TO BE INCLUDED FOR PICNIC AT \$5.00 PER PERSON, TO ADD OR DROP, CUT OFF IS WEDNESDAY, SEPT 3, 08 BY 11:00 P.M.

LOCATION: 5 miles West of Mt. Pleasant OR 10 miles EAST OF Remus ON M-20
4700 W. Remus Rd (M-20)

Fall Color Tour

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Departure 10:00 a.m. from MacDonald's parking lot
at N.W. Corner of M-43 & Jefferson St., Grand Ledge, MI
Herb & Carlene Maier, Tour Guides

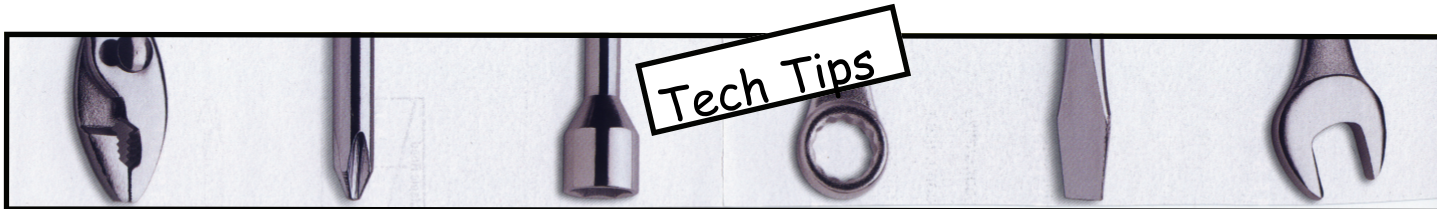


The Fall Color and Bridge Tour will start at Grand Ledge at the North side of MacDonald's in the parking lot. MacDonald's is just North of M-43 on Highway 100 (Jefferson St.), next to Felpausch's Market. EASY TO FIND.

(Maybe have breakfast)

Grand Ledge is about 4 miles West of the intersection of I-96 and Highway M-43 West of Lansing. The tour will begin about 10:00 A.M. and end in Lowell about 1:30—2:00 P.M. Lunch will be waiting for us at Keisers Restaurant in Lowell.

Detail directions and maps will be provided. This will not be a timed event, only an enjoyable tour. Hope to see all of you there for another day of Rowdie fun.



Tire Date Code

It is easy for us guys in the Old Car hobby to stretch out tires since they get such limited use. The tires on my MGA, which I had meant to check for aging as I had a paper somewhere explaining how, are now 11 years old!! All were brand new with only 100 miles on them when I bought the car but they were already 8 years old due to a lengthy restoration and storage.... and I added 3 more to that.

I checked my other MG tires from other cars and found one was 16 years old (thankfully I never drove it, just used it as a garage spare). The tires on my red MGA were just 2 years old when it was in the accident but now even those tires are 6 years old. Where does the time go.

Be sure to check each tire. On my truck I found one 5 years and one 7 years; the other two were new this year and their dates confirm they were only 2 months old when bought.

I'm disappointed to learn the RE01R's I bought from the Tire Rack for the S2000 were 1-1/2 years old when I bought them last October.

Here's a link to ABC's story of tire aging and how to read the code. They say the limit is 6 years and go into a full explanation on how to check.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4826897>

Here's how the code works: The code is the last group of numbers in the long string normally found on the inside of tire. Examples are 414 means 41st week of 1994, 4202 means 42nd week of 2002, and 231 means 23rd week of 1991. Again, they say **6 years is the recommended limit**. Some of you will no doubt say that's bull but I'd hate to see any of us end up in that guy's garage in TX. Remember no matter how good they look, they are susceptible to dry rot and "tread separation". Probably good to spread the word.

Dave Quinn

Remanufactured Brake Pad Alert!

In the Jul/Aug MGA! magazine Mike Ash put out an alert there are rumors a vendor is selling remake brake parts that do not fit properly. Reliable sources have verified this. The story we are hearing is the unnamed vendor was alerted about the bad fit months ago when a Boston area repair garage first questioned the pads. Reportedly, brake parts manufactured under the COUNTRY brand may be slightly under-sized. You should insure that the brake pads you are installing are the correct size. I would not want to be the first to find out, should they fail due to their size. Improper disc pads make a clunking noise when the brakes are applied because the H clip does not hold the pads firmly. Scarborough Faire (Cecelia) has the proper brake parts available.

Also:

Moss lists the early MGB coil springs as a replacement for the MGA coil springs. MGA coils are listed as "not available." One of the Rowdies tried installing these and discovered the replacement springs sent to him by Moss were 10-1/2". The proper spring size should be 9-1/4". The difference in spring size added 10+ percent to the ride height. I do not recommend changing the ride height. We have confirmed that Scarborough Faire has the proper springs for MGAs.

Thanks go to Cecilia for her continual quality control in a time when more and more remake parts seem to be questionable.

Dave Quinn

Congratulations to Dave & Phyllis Goeddeke on winning the \$100 gift certificate for hosting the Christmas party last year. All Meet Hosts for the past year, since the last Birthday party, were eligible in the raffle. Dave promptly contacted Jeff for a few fender repair panels and trim parts for the ongoing restoration.

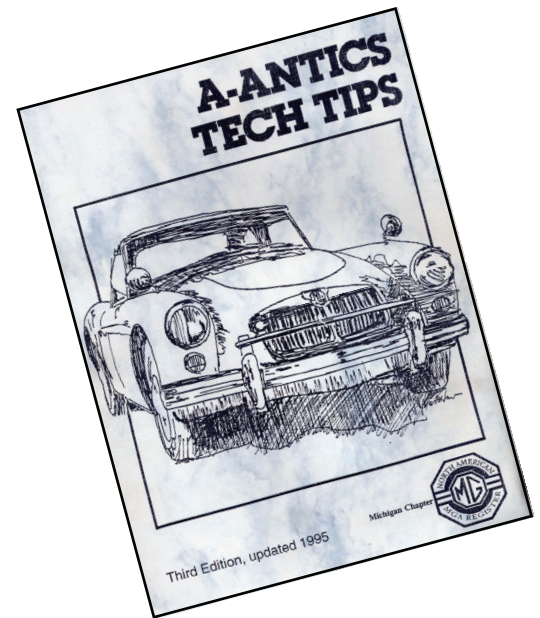
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