

The *SPOKES*

Founded 1958



Volume 44 Number 3

April 2002

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre



The Old Toad (talking about the Pub)

April Meeting

April 18 at the Burgundy Basin Inn 7:30 PM

1361 Marsh Road, Pittsford, NY

Dinner before the meeting 5:30 at Tom Wahl's,

Bushnell Basin, Pittsford, NY



The Marque of Friendship

MG CAR CLUB WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE

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The SPOKES" is the official publication of the MG Car Club-Western New York Centre, a not for profit New York Corporation. It is distributed monthly to MGCC members, other clubs, and club event participants.

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Articles, anecdotes, stories, jokes, etc. are welcome from all readers. Materials must be submitted by the last week of a month to be included in the next issue. Contact the editor directly for additional information. Send all correspondence and material to:

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Eight Page	\$11.00	\$44.00		3.6 x 2.3

Copies of "The Spokes" are sometimes available, please write the editor with your request. "The Spokes" is not for sale. Free subscriptions are provided to MG Car Club-Western New York Centre members. An application is included inside back cover.

Cover picture - Old Toad - Desi & Bill Benet's Morgan - photo by Dick Powers

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History has picnics taking place as an excursion into the great outdoors to enjoy a basket brimming with foods and beverages. Usually, tailgate picnics conjure up visions of pre-sporting event dining in the crisp, fresh air of fall or winter. These traveling picnics can range from the simple and basic fare of deli sandwiches to elaborate feasts with grilled meats, chilled seafood, patÉs and chilled champagne.

Eating habits and customs have changed during the past few years and so have our preconceptions of tailgating. No longer do we need a sport as an excuse for gathering with friends and brimming picnic baskets. Adapt and expand your thinking to the possibilities of what constitutes a picnic and go with it.

Picnics are more a state of mind than the unnecessary requisite of a picture-perfect bucolic setting. They can come in all forms and locations. But to guarantee a memorable event, they must incorporate two fundamental ingredients: great food and wonderful company, then all else will fall into place.

What's left to do? Nothing except, plan, pack, go and kick back and enjoy

“TAILGATE PICNIC”

See Page 9 for Details

BRUDNO AWARD/LIFE MEMBERS

Desi Benet	George Haynes	Alex Kopen	Joe Tierno	George & Nancy Herschell
Gil & Betty Langswager	Richard & Bethel Powers	Dave & Barb Wild	Steve Fitch	Jim & Wendy Priestley

MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, except December, at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 Board meetings are held the first Thursday of every odd numbered month, please contact the chairman for the location of the next board meeting and to arrange to get your item on the agenda.

From Your Editor

Leon Zak

There have been a lot of new ideas thrown around the past few weeks - I thought I'd put in my opinions on them this month:

After a lot of thought I have to agree with George Herschell and Dave Wilds suggestion that we update our image and change the name of the club to "MG & Nissan Compact Car Club". At first I thought it was foolhardy but, in looking at the day, it makes sense. Al Costich chimed in with the suggestion that he knew where there was a big Nissan sign mounted on wheels that we could bring along with us to events. Great idea, let's go with it!

Scott Perrys idea to move the meetings out to the Grange in Chili is good one - make the meetings equally distant from as many as possible, there are almost no members living in Chili, so move the meetings there.

Bob Harris suggested that we should start each meeting with a joke and said he had one for the next meeting.

I have to really draw the line and disagree with Dave Chase - I just don't think we'll sell enough of those blue undercar lights by the first of the month to warrant buying 12 dozen of them just to get a 2% discount. On the other hand the fuzzy steering wheel covers with MG imprinted on them was great - just the other day Joe Fazio wanted to know where I got mine.

That's it for the ideas. I did hear a rumor that Gil & Betty Langswager have decided that red is out and this year are switching to Mauve. Always wanting to look coordinated, they're having an MG Painting Party. So if you want to attend, stop at Western Auto and pick up a can of Mauve spray paint. They want to get going early (based on some comment George Haynes said about paint sticking better when there was still dew on the car) so be at their house by 7:00 am, April 1.

Later, Leon

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT ADVERTISING

In a recent board meeting it was decided to suspend adding new advertisers for Spokes. We do not want to increase the current content to advertising ratio. This does not include the classifieds section. We will accept advertising for inclusion as space becomes available due to a change in agreement with any of our current advertisers, or if the number of Spokes pages grows and warrents increased advertising.

If you have any comments on this policy, please pass them to George Herschell, gherschell@mgcarclub.com, 585-872-1194.

From Your Activities Chair

Joan and Paul Heaney

ONE

Information regarding activities & events from clubs other than our own -

We receive many flyers and information from other clubs regarding some very interesting events, places, museums etc. In the future at our meetings the flyers will be placed on the table opposite the sign in table where Betty and Barb sit. These sheets will be spread out for your perusal. There will be scrap paper available for you to take notes if you see something that strikes your fancy.

TWO

The Steak Roast and Funkana (instead of a Steak Roast and Rally) will be held in August this year. For those not familiar with a funkana, it is simply games played while in your car, either driving or in a parked position. I do not know the actual games that will be used this year, but I am sure that everyone involved will have a great time. This steak roast and funkana is taking place in lieu of the road rally. If there is anyone interested in running a rally at a different date this year please let us know. We can set it up as an additional event.

THREE

In April of 2003 we will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of this club. As soon as we have a date you will be notified. We are looking into the end of the month.

Paul and Joan Heaney



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TO THE
May SPOKES IS**

Thursday, April 25, 2002

SEND TO Leon Zak, EDITOR

411 Seneca Parkway

Rochester, New York 14613

(585) 647-6382

**PREFERABLY – Email to
spokes@mgcarclub.com**



Minutes of the MGCC Meeting on March 21, 2002

by Joe DeBlaere

Meeting called to order 7:34 PM.

A motion to accept the last minutes was made & accepted.

New members introduced themselves (see new members at the end of the attendees list).

Treasurers report: we made a few bucks on the Steak roast & auction, the total assets are growing, as expected this time of the year due to dues coming in (if you haven't paid them, please do so NOW). If you would like to see more details of the in/out cash flows contact John Baum who brings such detail to the meetings.

Regalia, Dave Chase, not much new. People who have ordered name tags please pick them up, he has over a dozen.

SPOKES articles are due one week after the meeting to Leon Z.

Activities, Joan Heaney spoke of upcoming events, Old Toad this Sunday (payment due today, 3/21), Brunch Run, Tailgate Picnic, Chicken Sacrifice (to appease the rain gods on car show Sunday & meet the Lions Club members), Tune up clinic. See SPOKES for further detail on each activity within this and upcoming issues.

Car show, Charley Searles spoke. We will have 2-3 special displays featuring car restorations. Golf carts will only be rented for 1 day instead of 2 to cut costs. We sent 6600 mailings last year (judged to be way too much- like some people with 4 cars got 4 mailings), the data base will be cleansed and we expect to cut down the number of mail sent without cutting the responses. We have had over 2000 different cars register in the last 4 years. Presale tickets are printed and will go to club members, shortly, for sale. Remember, advanced sale tickets are half price & proceeds go directly to MGCC. People are still needed for jobs at the show, information sharing people (where is what) and traffic directors folks. So if you want to get more involved in the club please consider donating a couple of hours of your time to the club at this our major event—call Charley Searles (585-586-2806). You won't regret it.

Old Business-none.

New Business- the board has recommended an associate member category be created to get an electronic SPOKES to those members beyond a 300 mile radius of Rochester- that way they can still be members and participate as warranted and see what is going on with the club (long distance). Al Costich will lead a committee to bring the proposal back to the next meeting.

Early May the MGCC has been invited to High Falls to participate in a portion of the Cannonball Run (sponsored in part by city & High Falls brewery), more details to follow in SPOKES article.

Joe Fazio collected \$200 towards the MCC endowment fund from Aratari Auto, Rochester Auto Dealers and Joe Neri. Thanks for the effort Joe!!!! Thank you notes will be sent under separate cover to these dealers.

George Hershell and 10 club members shared with us his dinner meeting with MG club England rep. Tony Bugbird, who got an ear full and now understands our position (which is that they have been basically ignoring and out of touch us for about the last 5 years). Hope he now knows we exist. More to follow. He said "they" may bring an MG to the US for sale-TBD.

Cars & parts for sale-Al Costich has an old Volvo & one of the new members had an MGB tranny free(it was gone before the end of the meeting). See Cars for sale for more detail.

Awards were presented.

Meeting closed about 9:00.

Dick Powers gave a wonderful slide show and talk of both Watkins Glen race track & it's history as well as Road America track. It was well received.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe DeBlaere, Secretary

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Tuesday, May, 21,

Cocktails 6:00 pm Dinner 6:30 pm

Checks made out to MGCC

Contact Charlie Searles

57 Washington Road

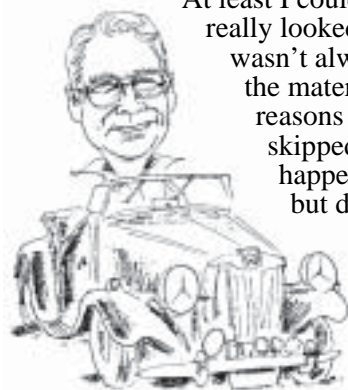
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586 2806

Prior to May 19

Forty Years Ago

by Mr. Gil



There was no April, 1962 issue of "Spokes"! At least I couldn't find one in my files. And I really looked. I do know that back then it wasn't always easy for the editor to get the material, or there were other reasons why an issue might be skipped. I guess maybe that's what happened. I looked ahead to may but don't want to use any of that because I've got to have do something for next month. My "Chairmans Corner" column mentions the April meeting so I'll proceed from there.

The April meeting was stormy, I wrote, with much controversial discussion. As a result of that I got several complaints. It's not the climate in which meetings are to be held, I said. It seems there was disagreement over the scoring of the yearly championship. As a result, revisions were made in the scoring procedures. I promised there would be no more rhubarbs at the next meeting.

The April Rallye, "Partly Paved" had a disappointing 16 entrants. It rained (it was April). There were many visual clues which, to the rallye masters eyes, were unmistakable and clear when seen. In reality, more than half missed the first checkpoint. In this write up on the results, the rallye master explained some of the clues but didn't apologize. He said one of them was a four foot diameter sign which may have been too far from the center of the course to be seen. Anyway, the winning score was 1467 with the next closest being 1926. So much for a fun afternoon.

Lots of work was being done to prepare for the "Western New York Invitational Rallye" in May. This was our big event of the year and required a major commitment from all our members. I'll have a full report in the May article.

Another interesting event for May was a "Splash Party." This would be at the Maplewood YMCA with an after party at the Wylam's. Report next month.

So there you have a brief documentary of life in the MG Car Club 40 years ago.

All British Gathering at Grand Island July 26-28, 2002

Reminder: When calling to register for your room at the Holiday Inn of Grand Island, phone: 1-800-465-4329 or 716-773-1111, please mention that you are with the MGCC/WNY to receive the discounted room rate.

SPRING TUNE-UP CLINIC MAY 11

George Haynes

**Don't forget the Spring Tune-Up Clinic
on Saturday, May 11!**

It's at MCC's Technology Center on West Henrietta Road
(near Friendly's), from 10 AM until 4 PM.

Here's the plan: Your MG (or other British car) needs a tune up, oil change, new muffler, or just a Spring check-out. You bring the plugs and points, quarts of oil or new muffler to the Tune-Up Clinic, where dedicated advisors will assist with the task and share their expertise. Several lifts are available for those overhead jobs. It would help to bring some hand tools and the Olde Shoppe Manual for specifications, where necessary.

To reserve a place or to ask questions, call me at 872-6536.

Brunch Run Foggy Bottom

Center of Mendon Route 251
\$12.00 per person

**Tour following brunch to:
Art Gallery and Upbeat
Antiques Mall
Sunday April 28, 12:00 pm
Checks made out to
MGCC**

**Joan Heaney
364 Lanning Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
624 8182**

Reservations Prior to April 24

MG ORIGINAL sales brochures showing all MG models, interiors, and features for the year. Great for Restorations or Gifts! 1950-59. \$35.00 each year; 1963-68 \$25.00 each year; 1969-70, \$18.00 each year; 1971-80, \$15.00 each year. Add \$3.50 shipping. VISA/MC. Specify year & model. Have literature all other years, plus all cars/trucks worldwide.
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Web www.autolit.com Museum of Automobile History now open in Syracuse. 315-478-CARS.

Spring is here, it's time to get the cars out and enjoy driving them again. Time to finish those winter projects we've been hearing about. A few weeks ago we were able to go for a ride on a Saturday in the MGB with the top down and woke up to a blizzard Sunday morning. We love Rochester!

Dixon Schwabl Advertising provided the following information for the Cannon Ball Run promotion being held at High Falls Festival Site. It may be an opportunity to promote the car show and our club. There is room for 60 cars so let's show Rochester that we are the car club of choice.

Monday May 6th -4:00 pm (or as close as you can get)
Car Show runs from 5pm-7pm (or dark)

Set up cars within the High Falls Festival Site located behind Jillian's

Directions: Take the inner loop and get off at State St. exit

Take a right onto State St. and then a right on Commercial St. and follow that until you run into the Fest. Site

- Jillian's will provide food and music, High Falls draft trucks will be on hand and local radio stations doing live remote and handing out goodies

- Opportunity for a large attendance of primary audience of men 25-54; signage opportunity at the show (to promote our car show)

- There will be a radio campaign combined with public relations that will promote the car show for the club
- This week long of events is part of the Cannonball One Lap of America, a national event that will have national coverage from ESPN and other media

Hope to see you there.

EVENTS FOR

April

18 - Meeting

28 - Brunch Run

May

11 - Tune Up Clinic 16 - Meeting

17-19 - Carlisle 28 - Brunch Run

21 - Chicken Sacrifice

25 Tailgate Picnic 26 Autocross I



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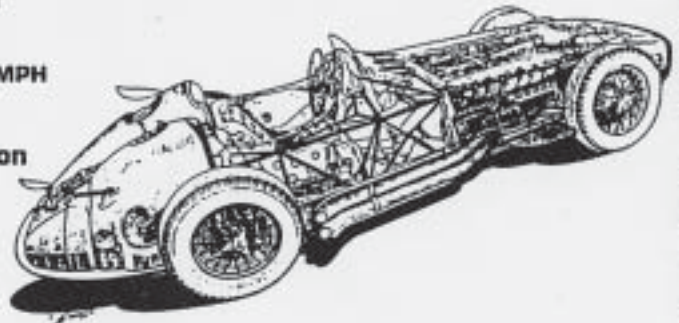
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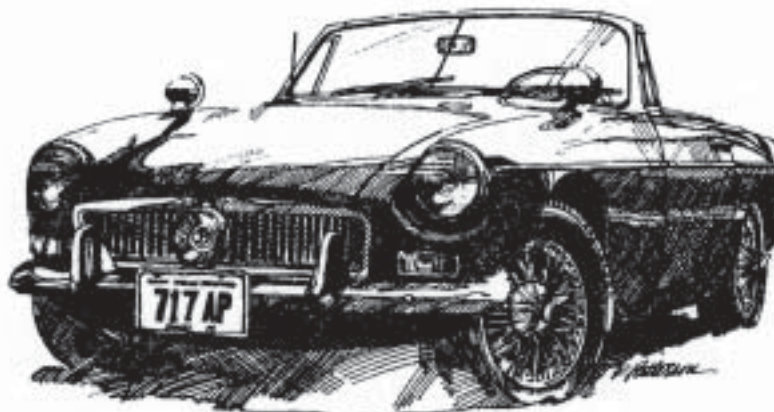
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A NOTE TO THE MG CAR CLUB

I don't exactly know when it first happened, but something seems to have changed in the car club. 10 years ago, when my wife Gail and I first joined the car club, I concentrated on learning & remembering who had what cars. But as we got to know the car owners and even went on some of the great road trips/events with many of them, we started to think more and more about what a great "people club" it had become.

This new view of the club was further enhanced when I recently got many get well cards/wishes following a couple of back surgeries. It is truly amazing how these expressions of friendship can improve your outlook, even when you feel lower than the ground clearance of an Austin Healey Sprite.

"Thank You" seems like an insufficient response, but please know that it is deeply felt.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN A REALLY GREAT CLUB !!!!

Jim Colegrove

"TAILGATE PICNIC"

Honeoye Falls Fireman's Field

Saturday May 25

Set up 11:30 to 12:29 pm

Judging 12:30

Eating 1:00

Be Creative Prizes will be awarded for:

Most Authentic

Most Creative

Most Comedic

Most Elegant

Most Colorful

Best of Picnic

If you do not wish to participate in judging, Simply pack a lunch and join us anyway. You may get inspiration for next time.

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 John Simonson
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 Doug Scribner
 Arnold VanDenburgh
 Joe Tierno
 Nona Kraus
 Richard Shineman

Guests

Mark Gibson
 George Greene

On Collecting

by Chris Williams

"You are such a PACK RAT!" We were in the loft, unpacking boxes, and one of my (many) boxes of Things I Can't Part With had come to light. In a rare moment of emotion, Eileen had uttered an uncharacteristic outburst. She was, of course, not far from the truth. However, I mused, as I tactfully avoided a reply, was it only because she just hadn't seen "the light" yet?

There are times, of course, when under only mild pressure, I would have to admit to having pack rat tendencies. Yes, I'm fully aware of the fact that in the loft of the Macedon barn I have a fine original aluminum valve cover for the '76 Datsun 710 station wagon which was once (and never more) my daily driver. (There used to be a time when I operated under the "trickle down" theory of vehicle procurement. Buy a new one for my then-Bride, while I take the old one. Chivalrous, to be sure, but limiting in choice of options.) HOWEVER – did anyone stop to consider that this very same valve cover, the one which is safely stored in the Macedon barn, also fits the '80 Datsun pickup, which I will likely never part with?

Hang with me here. Suppose that some day I am overcome with a desire to show the '80, and I become convinced that a polished valve cover would be just the thing to garner prizes with. Suppose further that I need to also drive the truck while the valve cover is being polished. Surprise of surprises, I can send the cover from the barn out to get polished while I drive the truck. Then it's a trivial matter of four 6mm bolts and I can quickly change covers – even at the show grounds. See how this works?

OK, so maybe that's a slight "stretch." But wait – what about the spare set of original wheels which fit the '83 Toyota pickup, now serving as the official Phoenix Acres Plow, Farm and Utility truck. Does anyone else appreciate the fact that these very same wheels, complete with pre-balded tires, also fit every other Toyota truck I own? (2 more to be exact.) Talk about having "ready spares," which don't require that little winch under the bed to function in spite of all the salt spray it gets exposed to. (Actually, this one might be more of a stretch, since I'm pretty religious about checking those winches to make sure they work. However, I have used one or two of the "ready spares" when I was in a

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hurry.)

Still don't buy it? Maybe it's a Car Guy Thing. I think it comes from experience, wherein there have been more times than I would care to remember that the thing I really want, really need, right now, went out in the trash because I was sure I'd never need it. This is, of course, a rude occurrence, but the rudest of all is when I realize that I put it in the trash just recently. OK, this doesn't happen very often, but there definitely have been times when I know that I used to have something, and I know where it used to be, and it's not there.

It's not just that I have to get another one. I have to "get another one," in which I have to call around to find one, most likely stop what I want to be doing, maybe clean up a bit because the face, hands and shop clothes have accumulated a half day's worth of Honest Grime, drive somewhere to get what I need or worse order one to be here the day after the weekend is done. In the meantime the goal I was pursuing for the weekend becomes still more elusive. Ergo, having one in my shop or loft is worth three or more on the Dealer's shelves. In fact, given my belief that the First Rule of Mechanical Maintenance is "always have a spare for almost everything," it can't come as much of a surprise that I've tended to accumulate a lot of Stuff I Can't Part With over the years. Or perhaps, in the interests of accuracy, it's Stuff I Shouldn't Part With.

There are, I suppose, a few emotional attachments, but not many. Much of my Stuff is stuff which, instead of being Perfectly Good, is Perfectly Almost Good. If for some strange reason Midget wheel cylinders become scarcer than hens' teeth I have a pair I can send out to get bushed and then rebuild. Same for a Midget brake master cylinder. Same for a brake master cylinder I don't recognize but which I'm sure fits something I own or maybe used to own.

And the beat goes on. In only some seriousness, I suspect there's a "sweet spot" for keeping Perfectly Almost Good stuff around – based on projected utility, projected approach to "rare, expensive and hard to find" status, and projected price points over, say, the next 40 – 50 years that someone might care enough about a car to try and keep it operational. In honest truth, I have no objective way to establish that. However, there's an "easy out" – which is to never part with anything that has a remote chance of becoming important some day.

Ah, but there's the rub. If we can't tell what could become important, then everything has a potential to become important – or at least almost everything, and thus the logical conclusion is that I should never part with almost anything. I love it when I can rationalize myself into the position I want to be in anyway.

A quick look in my shop would be revealing. Mea Culpa, yes I have been indiscriminately setting things on the bench because quite frankly there's no place else to store things right now. Come the warmer weather, it will be time for one of those cathartic experiences wherein one spends the entire day in the shop, with no projects completed but the shop looks a lot neater. I'm about ready to buy one of those rotating nut and bolt storage bins, since my nut and bolt collection continues to expand. With the move to Marion the normal suppliers have gotten "farther away," and thus I find myself now buying extra nuts and bolts for a particular job since it's smarter to spend a few pennies more than it is to clean up and go get just one more. In the meantime there are cans of nuts and bolts in temporary disarray.

Over on one side are the wheels for the B. Given the

projected lifetime of the newly extended "put this B on the road" effort, I might as well haul them over to Macedon and let them take up space there. Maybe the same for the B seats and tracks, other than I need to schedule the tracks through the shop for a cleanup and repaint. There are some other things that could maybe move to longer term storage to help free up space.

Another alternative is the creation of a storage deck above the shop and garage. This holds a lot of appeal for me, since I could put all kinds of exotic Perfectly Almost Good spares up there and have them out of sight. This is one I might do over the Summer, prior to adding the insulation I'll want before the weather turns in the Fall.

It may be possible to notice a trend here. I'm not at all frustrated about having so many Things I Shouldn't Part With. The frustration is that I'm slowly running out of places to put them. And from my perspective, the issue is not one of discarding old stuff to make room for new stuff. The issue is that I still need MORE STORAGE SPACE.

So – am I a Pack Rat? Well, I'll argue "maybe." I don't, for example, keep things that for me will be of little potential value. I've nothing against string collectors, for example, but my assumption is that I'll always be able to buy string when I need it, and I further assume that the price of string will not escalate to the point that I'll wish I had a big ball of it tucked away some place. So for me, string collecting is not a necessary support function for my car hobby, and collecting string is not a hobby. Ergo, I freely admit to not having a String Collection.

On the other hand, if there's a chance that some dusty part retrieved from a dusty corner of the shop or barn will be the difference between an affordable repair now vs. taking a car off the road, there's no question in my mind of the perceived value of Perfectly Almost Good parts. And thus I collect these as an essential support function for my car hobby.

How's the logic so far? Where, might you ask, would I draw the line between clear thinking and obsessive behavior? Well ya know, I don't know. I'll leave that for someone else to judge. I do commit to sorting out what I have over time as we get the new shop organized. I also acknowledge having a lot of stuff. But I'm OK with this. If being a little conservative on making sure there's enough inventory on hand makes me into a Pack Rat, then I have two thoughts to share.

Guilty as Charged
And proud of it.

Ya know, this rationalization stuff can be catching....

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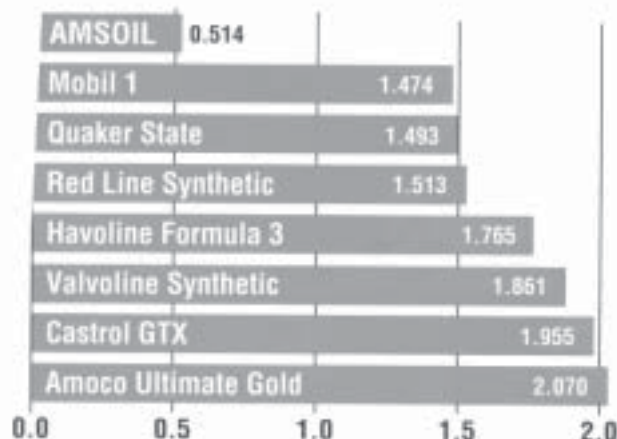


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A letter to MGCC

In June of 2001 Nick and I (Gwenn & Nick Poulton) joined the MG Car Club Of Western New York. We have had the best time, meeting great folk and enjoying events with people who have wonderful toys and a fabulous sense of humour.

All of the events that we have attended are novice experiences for us, from the car show, All British Gathering and so forth.

The latest event we attended was The Steak Roast & Auction. This was the most fun so far. Thanks to Joan and Paul Heaney for organizing the day. A huge thanks to Jim & Sue for grilling steaks in gale force winds, they were delicious! The table of plates to pass made you pause and wonder where to start and did you have a big enough plate.

Then, the live entertainment came as Jim Priestley and Doug Scribner wrung nickels and dimes out of the audience. Next year I will make an even bigger effort to bid and not just enjoy the show. I will be returning the three foot trophy (for auction) I was required to buy to get the shelf that I did want.

Thank you to everyone who made a cold wet windy day in March a truly fun day.

Gwenn & Nick Poulton

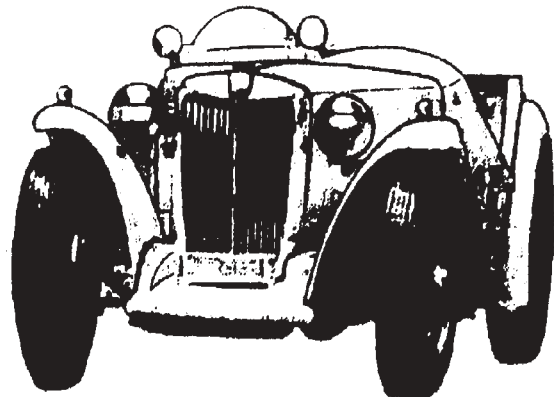
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H Allen Smith, the author, wrote a wonderful book some years ago called *The Complete Practical Joker*. For those of you like me who have a twisted sense of humor it is required reading. A person who must have read this was the late Alan Funt of *Candid Camera* fame. I remember watching his TV show all the time and what a riot some of the situations were. One in particular, sticks in my mind, to this day, only because the practical joke shown was carried on by a friend and myself. The story goes like this:

A woman goes into a garage and asks for a lube, oil change, and also to have the air in her tires changed. "Change the air in your tires" asked the attendant. Yes indeed came the reply, haven't you worked in a gasoline station very long have you? You should know that the air in the tires has to be changed periodically. It was a riot and I laughed for a long time that night over that. The following day, when I got to work, I asked my friend Bernie Weis (Peirce Arrow Society Historian) if he had seen the show and we both laughed about this. At the time we had a young man working with us (Ray) who was extremely gullible but thought he was very suave and urbane. He also loved his car and took extremely good care of it. Even to the point of asking his girlfriend remove her high heeled shoes not to mark the floor mats. He came in the office later that morning, sat down at his desk and we started the day's work. About an hour later, Bernie gave me a wink (which Ray didn't see) and asked "George, how often do you change the air in your tires?" I picked up on this immediately and answered "about every 2000 miles"

(From here on I will give you the rest of the story in Q & A's.)

B. "I've been doing it every 5000 but maybe I should do it more often".

G. "Well that's up to you, I do it every 2000."

B. "Ray, how often do you change the air in your tires?"

R. "What are you guys crazy or something you never have to change the air in your tires."

B. "Do you mean that you never change the air?"

R. "NO. What do you think, I'm stupid or something?"

At this point we let the subject drop. About 20 minutes later Ray turned around and seriously asks, "Do you really have to change the air in your tires?"

B. "Sure you do, did you ever let the air out of tire and get a sniff of it. It smells terrible and that's eating away at the inside of your tires. You have to change the air every so often to get rid of that stale air."

R. "I still think you guys are crazy."

G. "Well you can think what you want but it's your car and your tires not ours. Just don't come crying when they wear out before you think they should"

The subject dropped and we worked until lunch. Bernie and I, as was the case, went out together and when we got out the door started laughing about the crazy conversation and how much we had Ray wondering if it were true or a joke. As we were walking past Frank's Garage, the owner a friend who knew all of us, asked what was so funny. We told him the story and we thought he would fall off his chair laughing at the story, and at Ray for not realizing we were pulling his leg.

After lunch we were back at work and about the middle

of the afternoon, Ray turned around very seriously and said:

"Is it really necessary to change the air in your tires?"

B. "Look, we are trying to tell you something to help you save your car from early wear on the tires and you think we're giving you a song and dance."

G. "If you don't believe us, you trust Frank don't you, well then when you see him ask him what he thinks."

R. "OK I will".

Ray left early that night and Bernie and I were still laughing when we left about an hour later. As we walked past Frank's again he called us, and couldn't contain himself. He said, Ray came by and asked him if he should change the air in his tires and how often? We laughed and I asked Frank what he told Ray, his answer was "about every 3000 miles". He said Ray thanked him and went on his way. Bernie broke out in hysterics, and I doubled over in laughter. We had succeeded in continuing Alan Funt's, charade.

This all happened about 35 years ago. Bernie later left the company to form his own business. Ray worked with me at that company until I retired, in 1988. He retired about 2 years ago. Bernie and I have lunch together often and the subject always comes up about changing the air in ones tires. To this day we don't know what happened but I can just picture Ray going to his favorite garage and asking to have the air in his tires changed. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall there when the attendant heard this one.

Which brings us back to H Allen Smith and his book. He talks about these wonderful practical jokes but stresses that the most rewarding thing is wondering just what happened as a result. It didn't matter that he didn't see the result. Wondering was most important.

So remember, when someone asks how often you change the air in your tires, tell them every 3000 miles, and ponder the outcome of your answer.

(This story is completely true and did happen.)

WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?

Some members keep their organization strong.

While others join and just belong.

Some dig right in, some serve with pride.

Some go along for the ride.

Some volunteer to do their share.

While some sit back and just don't care.

On meeting days some always show,

But then, there are those who never go.

Some always pay their dues ahead.

Some get behind for months instead.

Some do their best, some build, some take,

Some never give, but always take.

Some lag behind, some let things go,

Some never help their organizations grow.

Some drag, some pull, some don't, some do.

Which of these are you???

Tidbits collected by Leroy Hokenson

Chairman Tom Sergeant predicted spring. He also had a Survey that indicated staying at the Ukerainian Home was better than buying a new place, that refreshments were desirable and that we would stay there. There March Auction was lots of help and Mark Kaplan bought a great batch of things. Mark wrote about the Summer/Winter Preparations and it was good. (See later) We met in the large room and had plenty of room at the Ukerainian Home.

March Minutes. Marilyn Sergent made cookies and coffee for the meeting.- VERY good !!

Activities-Anne Faust. Cold weather for the March steak roast/auction. It was felt that April would be a better month for the activity. We agree. Car Tuneup in April at Boces despite the upheaval in Fairport. Steve Fitch is going to try for July 19th at the Spencer Speedway for another autocross.

Ted Hershey will do the Car Corral again but needs help on the frost "heaved" stones.

Dick Powers read a letter from Phil Richer. The MGCCNA has a goal for the older clubs to help the younger clubs and he also noted that this will provide a link between the British Club and the US. Phil will be at the Tri-club (June 14) and Rochester the next day then back on July 2 to 4th.

Desi suggested and the club agreed on giving the Olde Toad an MGCC mug. It was done. There were 47 members and 1 guest at the meeting. Phil picked up his "69 MGB last month.

April 26th saw the gourmet at the Steger Haus in Sodus, NY.

Spring Tune-up was announced to be at Jesse Thompsons Duryea Ford in Brockport on May 9th, 10A.M. to 3 P.M. Dave Johnson was the host.

Ann Faust noted 13 activities for the summer from April 26 thru December 12(Holiday Dinner).

There were 5 out of town activities.

Jay Lockrow in Bury me in an old Mowog Parts Box wrote about Anita Johnsons friend who was restoring a Mercedes Benz 190SL and then he obtained a '59 Maserati 3500 GT. Jay and his dad sold a 190SL several years ago. Jay went to visit her friend (Don Minnik) and looked at the Mercedes that was in pieces along with the pieces of the Maserati- all over the garage. He noted that the Maseratis were made in such a way that you can't take the body off the tubular frame.

Don picked up a 1949 Maserati coupe-very rare, even then. The car was undergoing a complete renovation and the engine was going to be reworked. Jay hoped that it would be finished in time for the Car Show in Victor.

Mark Kaplan wrote a Winter storage preparation article which will wait until fall. He also did the same for the Spring start-up which is here. When you're ready to take the car out for the first time the MOST IMPORTANT thing to do is remove the spark plugs and crank the engine over until you see and oil pressure reading on the gauge. Then reinsert plugs, reduce tire pressure to normal level, start engine and go for a moderate speed drive, testing brakes, clutch and other components.

Finally, why not come out and support the Spring Tuneup Clinic in May and get that old car purring for a long summer season of driving.

April, 1992 was the year that Ted Hershey passed out information sheets that became the beginning of the MGCC WESTERN Car Club Membership Directory. The condition of the cars

was listed 1) Basket Case / Parts Car, 2) It's a runner not much more, 3)Solid car, every day driver, not yet to be restored, 4) Car has been restored. It's a driver and 5) Show Car please don't lean on it. Note: this the record that Jim Priestly presently keeps current.

Items for sale included MGA parts, a 60 MGA 1600 for restoration. Mark Kaplan said there were many good parts and the engine is provided with new parts and some body parts. He had too many projects, too little space and too many cars. There was a 1972 MGB Tourer with 80,000 miles and Gil Langswager had a Swivel Bed Tow Dolly.

George Haynes wrote some late information. He attended the wedding of Maria Melanson and David Johnson. He also reported that Bob Philip had been ill for several weeks, sometimes in the hos pital. Early in April Bob and Ruth celebrated their 50th Anniversary. George then reported on a couple of parts for sale. Lastly, he copied the article from the MG-T Register about not joining the North American MGCC. It was hoped that Phil Richer could smooth this over.



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CARLISLE IMPORT WEEKEND UPDATE May 17 thru 19, 2002

May 17 thru 19, 2002 - That's the weekend of the **Import Car Show and Flea Market** in Carlisle, PA.

As in years past, MGCC members will attend and man four flea market spaces to sell our left-over British auto parts. We also offer to sell parts for club members who cannot get away for the weekend, and we can try to locate parts which MGCC members may want/need. Please call me (872-6536) or Al Costich (482-2695) to let us know how we can help.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Accommodations coordinator Ted Hershey has booked rooms at a different motel this year. Details vary from past years, so Ted must know who wants a room **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** Please call Ted at 865-7182 if you need a room.

SUNSHINE PAGE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Dan Demers
1 Linda Spencer
2 Marcy Teger
3 John Coleman
3 Marilyn Sergent
4 Robert DeRider
4 David Johns
5 Gerald Kirchgessner
5 Nick Poulton
5 Debbie Simpson
7 John Thompson
7 Tricia Lucchesi
7 Suzanne Peebles
8 John Cracchiola
10 Elton Schultz
11 Stephen Stewart
13 Bert Maggio
14 Jordan Emerson
14 Marty Mucher
14 Phyllis Wagner
15 Kathy Walsh
16 Bill Rampe
17 Carolyn Barlow
19 Bill Bethune
19 Nancy Least
19 Paul Schroeder
19 Alice Le Brun
20 Elizabeth Freeland
21 George Haynes
21 Robert Tescione
21 Harriette Hokenson
23 Jean Bull
24 Paul Heaney
25 Bob Johnson
27 Billy Cates
27 Paul Masters
27 Mark Porter
28 Denise Dominick
28 Glenn Goodridge
28 Joyce Pegoni
29 Janice Muehlbauer
30 Mary Flesher
30 Fia Lilley
30 Virginia Pursell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!



APRIL ANNI VERSARIES

3 Duane & Carol Garner
3 Daniel & Latty Goodwin
6 Richard & Wilma Stewart
11 John & Gail Borycki
12 Dennis & Ruth Ann Batt
12 Joseph Kozloski & Linda Perkins
13 Gary & Carol Newman
30 Al & Barb Fink
30 Suzanne & Robert Keppeler

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAY ANNI VERSARIES

1 Michael & Beverly Mack
2 David & Cheryl Asmuth
6 John & Sherry Corcoran
6 Lloyd & Susan Potter
7 Stephen & Linda Stewart
9 Denise & Joseph Dominick
13 Joann & William Leone
13 Jeff & Wendy Miller
14 Ken & Marla Jock
14 Joe & Bridget Tierno
15 Dennis Leipold & Jane Shear
17 James & Sondra Franzen
17 Bruce & Susan Krobusek
17 Ben & Virginia Pursell
20 Robert & Georgean Abels
20 John R. & Kris Thompson
23 Dave & Kathy Bugajski
23 Dale & Linda Masters
23 George & Lyn Tennant
24 John & Chris Baum
25 Geoffrey & Susan Briggs
25 Gene & Anne Faust
25 Ron & Deb Hein
25 Clifton & Randi Jenney
27 Jeff & Linda Moulton
29 William & Cheryl Baldwin
31 Tim & Kathy Barstow

CONGRATULATIONS!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jim Bowers
2 Kathy Bugajski
3 Casey Creamer
3 Jean Mucher
3 Sally Zielinski
4 Mary Ann Shetterly
5 William Flesher
5 Nona Kraus
5 Kelly Fallon
5 Terri Fazio
5 Paulette Schultz
5 Laurie Simonson
5 Carol Wood
6 Carl Teger
6 Linda Bethune
6 Diane Ciadella
6 Patricia Hogan
7 George Herschell, Jr.
7 David Ott
7 Kerry Riley
7 Frank Van Vliet
7 Roger Least
7 Ann Palermo
8 Karen Jaczynski
8 Kris Thompson
9 Elliot Eklund
10 Lynne Colvin
11 James Kingston
11 Peter Pegoni
12 Kathy Rampe
13 Linda Higley
13 Jeanne Murphy
13 Wilma Stewart
14 Jessie Cates
14 Nicki Doolittle
18 Roxanne Currie
18 Lyn Tennant
19 Joe Fazio
19 Ron Stone
20 Rick Bray
21 John R. Thompson
21 Dan Viola
21 Pamela Peck
22 Barry Christ
23 Duane Garner
23 Bill Benet
23 Grace Gleba
25 Bill Clicquennoi
26 Rosemary Burke
26 Jane Montgomery
27 Harold Rodman
27 Kathy Barstow
28 Bessie Kopen
28 Monica Maloney
30 John Corcoran
31 Kim Avery

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EVERYONE!!

Bury Me in an Old Mowog Parts Box



Jay Lockrow

Have you ever been driving down some country road that you have never been down before, rounded a corner and sitting in a field is a Duesenberg with a for sale sign on it? You haven't? Me either, but it has yet to stop me from looking and hoping that sometime I might discover that rare car before someone else. This is not to say that a few interesting cars haven't been found because they have. The Bugatti Type 37 that my dad owned was really discovered by myself but in those days money was a big priority. A few interesting MGs have been uncovered but I'm still waiting for the big find. Classic and Sportscar magazine has a wonderful monthly feature called Lost and Found and it is about interesting vehicles that have been discovered recently in the world. The cars range from rusted out hulks that are mostly parts cars to fairly complete cars that just need a good cleaning. They range from unusual homebuilt specials to sportscars, classics and even rare one off body styles. Even a few cars that have not been easily identified as well as things like Mercedes Benz and Bugattis found in lockups. One story a few years ago relates where someone found two Bugattis under heaps of trash after the owner had died. They thought there was one in the garage but wound up finding two. Not long ago in a lockup behind a butcher shop in Scotland a Mercedes Benz 540K was discovered in original condition. It was sold shortly thereafter for a princely sum, has since been restored and resold in the millions.

This section is one of the first things I turn to every month hoping beyond hope that someone hasn't discovered a Miller or Bentley in a barn a few blocks from me. This circumstance did happen several years back when a ultra rare 1949 Maserati coupe was discovered behind an old gin mill on the other side of town. I had been by the place off and on for years and never saw the car. A friend who was looking for taillight lenses for a 3500 Maserati received a phone call from the owner in Arizona and was offered the car for a very fair sum. Needless to say I felt like a bit of a chump however I had no idea that the car was there and never heard any rumors. As the crow flies the car was about a mile and a half from my friend. He has the car and the restoration is under way as it has been for some time. I really wish to see this car finished.

These are the type of stories that are fun to hear but you also wonder when your time will come. Always keep your eyes open for a front end sticking out

of a barn or shed. You never know it might be the next great find. All leads are worth checking out however it is surprising how so many people can be

fooled. One lead I heard about for a Morgan or MG turned out to be one of the plastic kit cars that bear only a faint resemblance to the real thing. It's amazing people get them mixed up but they do. They look but don't see. Barn finds, as they are often called, are still out there. Where we once were looking for Mercer Raceabouts we now are looking for cars of the 50's or 60's. (Not that a Mercer, in any form, would be turned down if found) A well preserved Jaguar XK140 or MGA would be a wonderful find if purchased at the right price. Always keep in mind that even a rust bucket might have parts worth picking off. My dad once

bought a Pierce Arrow engine, gearbox, frame and front and rear axle plus a few other pieces. The front axle went to Rochester, the engine to a man in Buffalo and I don't recall where the rear axle wound up but it was sold.

Keep your eyes and ears open. I once tracked down a MG TD from a casual remark from a woman who was talking to a friend of mine. A few questions put me on the trail and it was found but not for sale. The woman also did not notice the difference between a TC and a TD. But keep looking, you never know the next one might be the one you have been waiting for. It could be right down that back road around the corner in the field. Or in that old barn down the street. Don't be afraid to ask questions about old cars. Many people still think they have no value and are just junk. Just hope they are the ones that have the Duesenberg, Mercer, Bentley or whatever.



Carlisle - MAY 17-19 - sign up NOW you never know what you'll see there. The picture above is a 1966 Dune Buggy for sale at Carlisle last year, 2001. The picture below is that same dune buggy 25 years ago!. It had the same switches in it last year that I was putting in below. That's me with my daughters Leslie and Jennifer. So far I'm in better shape than the car - at least my bumper is attached. Bigger, but attached. - Leon Zak



THE MG CAR CLUB, WESTERN NY CENTRE, INC.

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Annual Membership Dues are \$30.00 — All Memberships expire December 31st

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Cars Owned & Yr. _____

INTERESTS: Racing _____ Gymkhana _____ Rallye _____ Restoration _____
Car Show _____ Social _____ Touring _____ Other _____

Hobbies, etc. _____

Occupation _____ E-Mail Address _____

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MAIL APPLICATION WITH CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: MGCC OF WESTERN NY, INC. TO:

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Luggage Tag	1.00	Bumper Stickers	1.00
Badge Bar Clips	5.00	Old Fashion Glass	4.00
Sweat Shirts	15.00	Polo Shirts	18.00
British Style Cap	5.00	Color MGCC Decal	1.25
Ladies Pendants	15.00	Club Emb. Patch	2.00
MGB Badge Plates	7.00	Tee Shirts	12.00
Sport Cap w/ emb.	12.00	Club Jacket	36.00
		Club Jacket w/name	39.00

**Dave Chase
689 Erie Station Road
W. Henrietta, NY 14580 (716)334-6826
Call or write for details on mail orders**

WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE MGCC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2002

January	February	March	April
17 Meeting 20 Wine & Cheese	17 Valentine Brunch 21 Meeting	3 Steak Roast & Auction 21 Meeting 24 English Pub	18 Meeting 28 Brunch Run
May	June	July	August
11 Tune Up Clinic 16 Meeting 17-19 Carlisle 25 Tailgate Picnic 26 Autocross I	2 Vintage Car Show 20 Meeting 23 Garden Tour	7 Autocross II 13 Picnic 18 Meeting 25 Kids day - Glen 26-28 Grand Island - All British Gathering	4 Steak Roast & Funkana 13 Meeting
September	October	November	December
5-8 Watkins Glen 19 Meeting 21 Tune-up Clinic 22 Autocross II	13 Fall Foliage Tour 17 Meeting 25 Halloween Party	3 Nov Brunch 10 Garage Tour 21 Meeting	14 Holiday Party No Meeting

For more information visit our web site <http://www.mgcarclub.com>

The Spokes
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