

# Spokes

Official Publication of the MG Car Club Western New York Centre

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May 2021



*"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." — Alfred Tennyson*  
*"A slightly older man's fancy may turn to sanding, painting, and other bits of restorative work." — Spokes*

# MG CAR CLUB WESTERN NEW YORK CENTRE

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Website: <https://mgcarclub.com>

*Spokes* is published monthly by the MG Car Club Western New York Centre as a benefit to its members. Please see the inside for a membership form. You may also join via the website. Current and past issues of SPOKES are available in Adobe PDF format on the website.

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**Cover:** John Schwelm pauses during a bit of restorative work on his newly-acquired 1948 MG-TC— photo by Mike Robinson

### **SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME**

Deadline: One week after a general meeting.  
Contact the editor for additional information.  
Send all correspondence and material via email to [spokes@mgcarclub.com](mailto:spokes@mgcarclub.com).

**MEETINGS** – normally held the third Thursday of each month, except December, at the American Legion, 360 Middle Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467. Board Meetings are normally held in odd-numbered months and are open to all members. (During this pandemic, in-person meetings have been suspended.) Contact the chairman regarding the scheduling of the next board meeting and to request your item to be added to the agenda.

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### Add Your Name to the MGCC Endowed Scholarship Plaque

An engraved nameplate is added to the plaque in recognition of donations of \$30.00 or more (engraving fee is \$5.00). This plaque, created by Paul Heaney, is installed in the Monroe Community College Automotive Technology Department. A nameplate can be purchased in the name of the donor for a friend, or as a memorial. There is no requirement that donors of those honored through donations be members of the MG Car Club. If you wish to purchase a nameplate, send a check payable to MG Car Club to:

Frank Stepanik  
13 Fiora Drive  
Fairport, NY 14450

Please indicate exactly how the name should appear on the plaque.



## MG's Corner

**By Spokes editor, Michael Goodwin**

It's the last day of April as I'm writing this, and I'm sitting out on the deck at the Tiny House in Northern California, trying to coax some birds to our newly-erected bird feeder. Somehow, the birds here just don't get the idea of free bird seed. Maybe they've seen too many Road Runner cartoons, and they're thinking that as soon as they fall for that "FREE BIRD SEED" trick –

WHAM! Down comes the anvil! I hope they'll eventually catch on. In other wildlife news, something must have enjoyed a little nesting place in the outer ductwork of the fresh air vents of our MINI while we were gone. When we arrived here after a 3½ hour drive from the San Francisco airport in our rental car, our first order of business was to pop over to our woodsy "carport" (a somewhat ramshackle metal-roofed shed, constructed by some previous squatter on the property), and reconnect the battery, unstuff the steel wool from the tailpipes, and get the car running so we could drop off the one-way rental car. The MINI

started right up, but when we turned on the blower for some fresh air, we were overwhelmed with (a somewhat pleasantly fragrant, in my opinion) earthy, mossy, woodsy perfume. It was as if we had cupped handfuls of damp forest floor debris over our faces and breathed deeply. "HmMMM," I said (or maybe it was "MmMMM"), and "Oh, my!" exclaimed Susan (or something to that effect). So, we had the additional task of cleaning out the moss and duff, and we replaced the cabin air filter (the visiting critter had not nibbled past it, nor used the ductwork as a toilet, thank goodness!). Before we leave Tiny House Land, we'll have to figure out where the air comes IN, so we can block that off when we stow the car next time! (Any new MINI owners out there know where the ductwork starts; where I might be able to block it off?)



*the MINI in our woodsy "carport"*

That's a bit of how things are going for us in Tiny House Land, far away from Western New York. I put out a plea last month for others who spend months far away from Brrrrochester to tell us a bit about how things are going. I received two enthusiastic replies. One, from John and Chris Baum, who sent us a nice illustrated article from (always-sunny?) Florida. (see that article on the following page)

The other was a brief note from Bob Abels, who sends greetings from himself and Georgean:

"Hello club members. It is April 11th, and we are still in Bonita Springs, FL - waiting for our 2nd covid shot. The weather has been about perfect this winter, sunny days and cool nights and NO rain. Hardly any sports car activity. Georgean and I haven't done much of anything due to mobility problems (sciatic nerve pain). Leaving for home next weekend."

(I think Bob might have included a picture of a sports car with his note, but if so, it never reached me through the email. Sorry, Bob!)

As you read this issue, I hope you are as excited as I am to see the number of reminders, updates, ads, and save-the-dates that are included. The increased activity is a nice indication of the beginning of the return to normalcy.

If you haven't already, it's time to get those little cars out. (If they were meant to stay parked, they wouldn't have wheels, right?) WHAT??!! No place to go? Try out the **Motoring Challenge** – there's an update inside and a list of new destinations on the back page.

Wherever your sports car takes you...

**Safety Fast!**  

## Moving the MGB to Florida

By John and Chris Baum

---

Upon retirement and living in Western New York for over 40 years, Chris and I decided to take on a new and different chapter in our lives. We analyzed our options and determined Fort Myers Florida is for us. Among many things, I wondered how the MG would fit into its new home and lifestyle. It seems to be working out well. We had our new home built with a garage that allows it to fit in along with my tools. It is a 2-car garage with a 4ft. extension added to the length, for, as the Floridians call "Golf Cart Parking". The MG fits in just fine along with space for our other two vehicles.

We towed the MG with a U-Haul trailer in July 2020 to keep in storage at a friend's house in Florida, until our new home was ready to move in. In December we parked it in its new space.

My concerns were how it would fit into our new lifestyle. Our first issue was dealing with the overheating at the excessively long red traffic lights we encountered. I then replaced the water pump along with a new fan belt. Adding a fan shroud helped. Now we can make it through a series of red lights while keeping under 212 degrees which is acceptable.

Chris and I are taking Covid 19 seriously, while most in Florida are not, which means we have been unable to get around as much as we would have liked. Now that we have been fully vaccinated along with most people, we joined the British Car Club of Southwest Florida (BCCSWF). The people we have met are nice, with similar backgrounds and interests as us. They are filling us in with directions and ideas for rides, that we can take to explore our new surroundings in the MG. So far, we went on one organized event of Blueberry picking, followed by lunch. The club also has monthly meetings, of which we have attended one so far.

At this point we are looking forward to all the "endless summer" activities Southwest Florida has to offer.



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B





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**! Save the Date !**

**Friday, September 10, 2021**

**Grand Prix Festival of Watkins Glen**

Featuring **Alfa Romeo**

Planning is currently underway  
Every reasonable effort will be made  
to hold the Festival safely for all  
under Schuyler County & NY State  
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In September!!*

Info: Terrie Sautter [alfagirl56@gmail.com](mailto:alfagirl56@gmail.com)  
Registration: [www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com)

## Chairman's Corner

By Bob Welch

---

Thanks to all 20 or so of you who joined us for the monthly meeting on Zoom this past Thursday. For those who missed it, please check out Annabelle's report here in Spokes. Several new matters were discussed.

- Dan Suter has proposed an MG driving event with suggested date of June 5, a Saturday. This will not be competitive but rather will be akin to Fall Foliage Tours we've had in the past. A mid-morning start point is proposed, with a stop somewhere for lunch. This promises to be a pleasant drive in the countryside.
- Another event of interest is Eurocar 2021 scheduled for June 20 in Lafayette, NY. The sponsor is the European Motor Club (formerly MGCC of Central NY). Here's a link: <https://europeanmotorclub.com>
- In the regalia discussion, George Heissenberger's suggestion to add nylon windbreakers with the club logo and MG octagon was very well received. We had a run of these in the cream-crackers colors (and also blue) back around 1990 and they were popular. Joe will look into this.
- The Hilliard U.S. Vintage Grand Prix will take place at Watkins Glen September 9 through 12. Featured marque is Alfa Romeo. We have a block of 19 rooms reserved at the Seneca Lodge and 13 are spoken for. If you want a room, contact Dan Suter. *[Ed. note: also see elsewhere in this issue for an update on rooms from Dan.]*
- On our website, 19 years of Spokes issues are available. Thanks to Annabelle and Leon for making this happen.
- We are still planning to resume in-person meetings in July. Stay tuned.

In closing, I want to share a festive photo, showing the versatility of MG's. I found this going through a huge collection of color slides my late father had taken. He couldn't resist this late model MGB roadster at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Mission Viejo, CA.

Safety Fast! RW



## Vice Chairman's Notes

By George Heissenberger

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Well, by now I have been out and about with our little cars at least some of the time, but as I write this it's pouring rain so not today. Get out and enjoy them when the weather allows! I am enjoying looking up the car club challenge locations and driving for photo opportunities so I can send them to Mike. Ever since COVID hit last year and shut down so many activities I had been spending a lot of time online and enjoying working on cars vicariously on YouTube, watching car related content. Some of my favorite content is the situations where someone finds an old, abandoned car/ truck/ tractor/ construction equipment and gets it to run. Other times they do repairs or restorations. Some of my favorites on YouTube include **Budget Buildz** since they work on MGs, among other cars. Here are two of my favorite videos:

"Dragging a 1971 MGB out of the woods after 20 years." There are three parts to this so be sure to watch them all. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYOd1TzhvY&t=3s>

"1976 MG Midget sitting for 13 years, will it run?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnuhHoLunKE>

Another is the kind of car restoration videos where they speed up the camera and complete the restoration in stages. One of my favorite series is **JNH classics** and is called "A forgotten Model T". The host posts weekly updates and is on episode 14 or 15 now. He obtained a 1926 Model T fordor and slowly takes it back to original, with the exception of the body paint which I'll let you see for yourselves how he handles that. He also is working on a wrecked Porsche 356 and an old Toyota FJ. The Model T is fun however since it really was in horrible condition and to see it start run and drive after he restores each part of the sub systems is really interesting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v929yjF2jrw>

I also watch a series called **This week with Cars** where the host Steve takes you through various fixes and overviews on a variety of foreign cars, mostly British, including Austin Healy Sprites, Big Healeys, Morris minors, MG B's, MGTD, TVR's and Sunbeam Alpine and Tigers. He even did a show on his DKW two stroke car. Steve has 40 or more cars in his collection and there are so many episodes I have enjoyed, it's hard to think of just one or two, but here are some fun ones. In one series of episodes he bought six bugeye Sprites from a barn find and details the results of each one as he brings it back to running and driving, then sells them.

"What surprises are hiding in this Big Healey" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyrN75S5Cx8&t=22s>

"What horrors are there in this 1952 MG TD engine" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfQw7l2p0bA>

"71 Jaguar XJ6 barn find, will it run?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGHbzKtTGZY&t=1s>

"1972 TVR2500M, will it run?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWcxjYtBUSE>

"1960 MG MGA 1600, will it run?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpA1ohzcZys>

"I found six Frogeye Sprites in one barn!" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp7ou-w19tY>

"Driving the 328cc Two Stroke Berkeley SE328." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deL1Si9REjo>

I also have a subscription to Motortrend TV and besides watching Wheeler Dealers and Mike Brewer working with Ant or Ed to fix up sporty cars, I like to see what is going on at Restoration Garage featuring the Guild of automotive Restoration in Canada with owner David Grainger. David is also a pilot and occasionally they will feature one of his airplanes. I also enjoy Roadkill Junkyard Gold, where the host Steve Magnante walks through a junkyard and points out notable vehicles, showing you what they would have looked like new and what features they had. I enjoy a good junkyard tour so that is right up my alley! I hope you try watching one of these shows I have suggested! Let me know what your favorite car related shows are next time we see each other at a meeting or event!

George 



# Minutes for MGCC Meeting via Zoom, April 15, 2021

Recorded and submitted by Annabelle Tescione, MGCC Secretary



**ATTENDANCE – ROW 1:** Bob Welch, Annabelle Tescione, Ron Stone, Paul Osborne, Allyn Wagner

**ROW 2:** Mike Robinson, Dan Suter, Susan & Mike Goodwin, Barb & Dave Wild, Robin Allen

**ROW 3:** Jeff & Susan Kath, Bill & Cheryl Baldwin, Leon Zak, Dick Powers, Wendy Dakin

**ROW 4:** Peggi & George Heissenberger, Frank Stepanik, Joe Bellizia, Steve & Pat Sangster

**Audio only:** Bill DeVos

**Pre-Meeting,** Hellos and chit-chat, of course, but also a camera tour of Mike and Susan Goodwin's famous "tiny house" in California. Very fun to see it!



**CHAIRMAN,** Bob Welch called the meeting to order at 7:40pm. We will continue with Zoom meetings for the next few months but have a target date of July for return to in-person meetings if the COVID situation allows.

The minutes from the March meeting were motioned and accepted.

**TREASURY/MEMBERSHIP,** Frank Stepanik reported that the treasury is stable and checks are still coming in. We have three new memberships this month. We are about half paid from the 104 members and also 11 Brudno winners and non-paying club friends. Frank has been added as officer to our bank accounts and has the post office box key so will be managing both of those going forward.

**ACTIVITIES,** The Activities Coordinator position will remain open this year and different individuals will setup events. We have several safe events planned that do not require close contact.

- Dan Suter is organizing a Spring Driving Tour and proposed the date of June 5<sup>th</sup>. It will use one of the routes from a previous rallye with modifications where necessary. It will follow all COVID safety recommendations including an outdoor driver's meeting and an optional restaurant stop at the end.

# Minutes for MGCC Meeting via Zoom, April 15, 2021

(Continued from previous page)

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## **ACTIVITIES** Cont,

- Moss-style Safe Driving Challenge organized by Mike Goodwin and Chad D'Angelo. Mike will add new destination challenges this month in Spokes as well as recently submitted photos from contestants.
- Fall Driving Tour organized by Mike Robinson. This has been a very popular event in past years.

**REGALIA**, Joe Bellizia gave us some updates on what is available and ideas for what can be ordered. Hats, shirts, mugs and custom water bottles can be produced. A suggestion was made for unlined windbreakers and several people were interested in those. Our logo has been created by the company that customizes the items so almost anything can be made, quantity orders will lower the price. Joe and Dan Suter will work together on some ideas.

**SPOKES**, Mike Goodwin told us that members have been coming forward with contributions for Spokes and it's important that they continue that for future issues. He asked for any suggestions or ideas for topics for Spokes in the coming months.

**LIBRARY**, Al Costich was not present, no report.

**WATKINS GLEN REPORT**, Dave Wild gave confirmation that the Alfa is the marque for the Vintage Grand Prix. He also said that SCCA is trying to establish an H-Modified class for small-but-fast cars.

Dan Suter has been taking Seneca Lodge room reservations and there is more information in this Spokes. So far 13 rooms are filled and 4 open spots remain. Non-club members may be able to get those rooms, contact Dan for more information.

Bob Welch mentioned that the UK CEO (Richard Ford) of a company he used to work for races Alfas and sponsors Alfa racing in the UK.

George Heissenberger mentioned the NYS Governor has approved limited, in-person attendance at motor and horse racing venues so that may impact how the Vintage Races are this year.

**WEBSITE**, Leon Zak, vacationing in Florida, assured us that the Club website is in good condition. There are 19 years of Spokes available online. He also pointed out that our Cars and Parts section is tied in with the Central NY European Motor Club so there is a wide audience plus many hits on the website from around the US and internationally. The central NY club will be holding their car show on June 20, additional information at their website [European Motor Club | Formerly the MG Car Club of Central New York](#).

## **OLD BUSINESS**, none

**NEW BUSINESS**, Jeff Kath mentioned that he will be going to the Carlisle swap meet again this year and said anyone with anything to sell should contact George Haynes. See more information on the event in a separate notice in Spokes.

Dick Powers mentioned that the UK MGCC is seeking a new artist for their organization.

It was also mentioned that Kas Kastner, a talented and successful Triumph racer died recently.

Joe Bellizia recommended the movie Ford vs Ferrari and several people recalled that Bill Benet attended the Le Mans race featured in the movie and wrote an earlier Spokes article about it.

**CARS & PARTS FOR SALE**, Joe Bellizia has Weber Carbs for sale after he swapped to easier-to-adjust SUs.

**PROJECTS**, Dan Suter spoke about his MGB-GT V8 that is on its way to having a freshly rebuilt engine, the work being done at a local shop that Dan has been very pleased with. Also, Ben at British Auto has completed the work on the rear axle and did a great job with it.

Bob Welch ordered an exhaust for his MGB-GT from Abingdon Spares but it is back-ordered, expected in a week or two.



## Minutes for MGCC Meeting via Zoom, April 15, 2021 (Continued from previous page)

Meeting end: 8:30pm [AT](#)

**Post-Meeting**, Bob Welch gave us a wonderful photo show of some of his excellent photos from around England.



This red MGA is in fact an MG Works rally Twin Cam, with the Abingdon-issued registration PRX 707. It was the first Twin Cam competition car prepared by the factory soon after the model was announced in mid-1958. It ran in the August 1958 Liege-Rome-Liege rally driven by long-time works driver John Gott and co-piloted by Ray Brookes. In this inaugural outing on such a grueling event, it finished a creditable 9th overall.

Phil Richer, seen here with the car, discovered it in a derelict state and restored it in the 1980s. Phil was a great Twin Cam enthusiast and worked on the MGCC Twin Cam Group committee for many years.

*Car info submitted by Dan Suter*





## A few upcoming events:

Hello- Our non-profit organization, the historic Williamsville Train Depot, 86 S. Long St., Williamsville NY 14221, is having a car cruise on Saturday, July 17 from Noon-4 pm.

There are no registration fees, best in show trophy awarded, all proceeds from will benefit the restoration of the depot. We would like to invite your members to attend.

Can this be included in your event calendar?

Thank you!  
Paul (716) 445-1411

**! Save the Date !**



**September 10, 2021**

[www.grandprixfestival.com](http://www.grandprixfestival.com)

Event Registration, updates

Info: Terrie  
alfagirl56@gmail.com

## Lima Engine Show – May 15, 2021

submitted by Paul Osborne (*images taken from the Lima Engine Show Facebook page*)

Here's an event lots of us may be interested in. It promises to be a nice chance to meet some club members and others in (possibly!) good weather outdoors in Lima, NY.

The 3rd annual show is scheduled for May 15, 2021, on the grounds of Lima Baptist Church, Rt 15 A, Lima NY.

*If it has an engine and you would stop and look  
because it's cool, bring it to the show!*

Old engines, motorcycles, cars, tractors,  
snowmobiles, and more!



**Starts at 8:30 AM with coffee and donuts.  
Stay until you have had too much fun.**

## Seneca Lodge Room Requests for 2021 Vintage Race Weekend - **UPDATED**

From Dan Suter

---

*Hi everyone, we have received 13 requests (out of 17 available) for rooms at Seneca Lodge for the 2021 vintage race weekend. So, anyone who has requested a room by the 3/30 deadline will have a room. I will do room assignments in the next few weeks, so look for an e-mail for me.*

*If anyone additional would like to request a room, please contact me at 'dmesuter - at - rochester.rr.com'.*

*Thanks,  
Dan*

**Save the Date!**  
**June 5, 2021**

### **Driving Tour!**

*I will publish details of the event (start/end location, starting time, etc.) via the club distribution list. The event will nominally run 9:30AM to 2PM on that date and will consist of a brief driver's meeting, and a driving tour through scenic countryside. At the end there will be an optional lunch at a restaurant.*

**Keep checking your email for details!**

*Dan Suter*

*Submitted by Jeff Kath:*



The dates are May 13 – 15. George Haynes and crew will be leaving Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> before dawn. 872-6536 is the number to call for George. Price your parts with asking \$ and lowest accepted \$. Or, make a list with the particulars. PA taxes will be deducted by George, as he has a PA Tax #.

Do a cleanout of spare parts! Or send a list of parts desired.

[https://www.carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=import+and+performance+nationals&urlname=buy-sell-or-trade-the-parts-you-need\\_3](https://www.carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=import+and+performance+nationals&urlname=buy-sell-or-trade-the-parts-you-need_3)



## NAMGBR MG2021

Are any club members planning on going to MG2021 to be held in Atlantic City, NJ this June? Dates are June 14-17. Details can be found on NAMGBR's home page: <https://namgbr.org/>

Every 5 years all of the national North American MG Registers combine their annual events into a joint meet. The MMM Register, New England MGT Register, MGA, MGB, and MGC Registers and Midget group, and of course the Magnette group all participate.

I have been to a couple of the previous ones, most recently in Louisville in 2016, and they do an excellent job of hosting a fun event with tech sessions, car show, tours of local items of interest, themed dinners, and endless opportunities to walk around the parking lots and meet fellow MG owners.

We can organize a group drive down (on interesting roads) if there are others interested in going. It will probably be less than 7 hours, and around 420 miles each way.

Please contact me at dmesuter - at - [rochester.rr.com](mailto:dmesuter@rochester.rr.com).

Thanks, Dan

**From:** European Motor Club, Central New York  
**Subject:** EUROCAR 2021, WE'RE BACK!

We're back with our annual Eurocar show! It's time to get your cars out and dust them off and head to LaFayette, NY for the EuroCar show, sponsored by the European Motor Club of Central New York. The show will take place on Father's Day, June 20th at the LaFayette Apple Festival Grounds on Rt 20 in LaFayette.

Attached to this email [next page in Spokes, ed.] you will find the registration form. We are now capable of taking registrations at our website, [europeanmotorclub.com](http://europeanmotorclub.com), or you can print the registration form and mail it with your remittance to the address shown on the form. If you registered and paid for Eurocar in 2020 your registration is still valid for 2021.

We hope you will join us on June 20th and look forward to meeting both old and new participants.

The Eurocar 2021 Committee

**EUROCAR 2021**  
Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 9 AM-3 PM

**Classic European Car & Motorbike Show**  
**LaFayette Apple Festival Grounds**  
Corner of Rt 20 & Rowland Rd, LaFayette, NY  
**Classic Car Show Eurocar 2021**  
with Vendors, Food, Ice Cream, Music,  
and the Newest in European Technology  
Spectators Free!

EUROCAR is brought to you by:  
**EuroCar**  
European Motor Club  
of Central New York

Registration: <https://europeanmotorclub.com/>





## **Eurocar Show Vehicle Entry Form**

**Father's Day ~ Sunday, June 20, 2021 ~ 9 AM to 3 PM**

LaFayette Apple Festival Grounds, Corner Route 20 & Rowland Rd,  
LaFayette, NY

### **~~EUROCAR CLASSES~~**

1 MG T&F Series	11 Volkswagen, air-cooled
2 MG A	12 Volkswagen, liquid-cooled
3 Austin Healey, All	13 Other than European 2-Seat Open Sports Cars, All Years
4 MGB, MGC, MG Midget	14 Other than European 2+2 and GT's, Pre-1996
5 Triumph, 4-cylinder	15 Micro Cars All Years, All Makes
6 Triumph, 6 and 8-cylinder	16 Concours, European Pre-1996
7 Jaguar	16a Preservation, European Pre-1976
8 All other European	17 European Motorcycles, Pre-1996
9 Porsche, air-cooled	17a European Motorcycles, 1996 to Present
10 Porsche, liquid-cooled	

**PRE-REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Judging class \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Car club affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your email address will be kept confidential and used only for Eurocar.

Return to: **Terri LaVergne**

5858 E. Molloy Rd, Ste 181  
Syracuse, NY 13211  
(315) 299-4351

**Pre-register by June 1<sup>st</sup> . . . . . \$ 10 per entry**  
**Concours/Preservation . . . . . \$ 20 per entry**  
**Day of Show: June 20<sup>th</sup> . . . . . \$ 15/25 per entry**

**Checks payable to: EMCCNY**

I agree to release & discharge from any liability, losses or damages, the show staff, officers, management & all others connected to this event of the European Motor Club of CNY, LaFayette Apple Festival Grounds, Route 20 & Rowland Rd, Lafayette NY. This release must be signed before entry to the field.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Restoration of my MG BGT V8 – Resumed

By Dan Suter

I have been working on the restoration of my 1973 MG BGT V8 again. Of course, most people in the club will be familiar with this car, right? After all, it was most recently on the cover of *Spokes* –in **September 1988!**

At this point it is probably fairly obvious that this is a long-stalled restoration project. I can't entirely explain why I let this car sit in a partially restored state, but work is actively underway again.

I bought my V8 when I was studying abroad in London. About 2 months before I left for London, I learned about the existence of the BGT V8 model. WOW, I had to have one.

Every Wednesday, the Exchange-and-Mart came out and I would go over to the newsstand and get a copy first thing in the morning. If there were promising ads, I would return to the dorm and start calling to set up appointments. (Classes? Not on those days!). Riding the subway and trains I visited 5 or 6 V8s for sale all over the South of England.

After about 2 months of looking, I bought a bright red example down on the Channel coast town of Chichester. It is safe to say in my inexperience, I bought one with hidden rust issues. The couple selling it were very nice and helpful, but they hadn't owned it long. Like nearly all factory BGT V8s, it was a RHD Home Market model, with tinted windows and overdrive.

I recall being inexperienced about moving money, and my dad eventually had to do a transfer to my London bank account to pay for the car. My sister Chris was over visiting me the week we had to pick up the car and deliver it to 'Rola Shipping' for the journey to the USA. The day we had to go to Chichester, there was a Tube strike, so we walked halfway across London to get to the train station. After paying for the car, we set off to the nearby shipping terminal in a torrential rainstorm. We arrived safely and I have a picture of me standing

next to my V8 and two Jag E-types that were being shipped to America as well.

My dad and brother Jamie collected the car from the docks in Newark, NJ. My dad had hired a Customs broker who used to work with my grandfather at the Rochester office of US Customs. The car was bonded, and the import application paperwork was processed.

While I was still in the UK, Dad and Jamie flew to Newark on a 6AM flight one Thursday in April 1984. They started at Newark Customs near the docks; had to take a taxi to downtown Newark to file

other papers, and returned to the dock to complete the release around 11:30AM. By now it was starting to rain, and they couldn't find the VIN plate on the car. The Customs agent declared he was going inside for coffee, and if Dad and Jamie didn't find the VIN on the car within 30 minutes, Customs would ship it back to England. Dad even called George Herschell seeking help, but George did not have knowledge of this model. To his huge credit, Jamie located the VIN plate, with the correct VIN number stamped, on it, right where it is supposed to be (partially obscured by part of the wiring harness and the factory remote oil filter bracket....). Once released, they filled up with fuel and proceeded to drive 325 miles to Rochester on the British registration plates. They saw several police cars en route including one at a rest stop, but no one ever asked about the British plates.

Dad was a little uncomfortable with the RHD arrangement and all the power the car had. He kept telling me later, "that thing is a rocket ship!". Jamie was fine with it! After 6 ½ uneventful hours, they arrived home safely to Irondequoit.

The next chapter involved registering it and all the Federal paperwork. NYS gave me a non-transferable registration initially. I obtained a one-time EPA exemption for personal import (rules have since changed), and spent a fair amount of the summer of 1984 typing a 74-page report for



*The cover of Spokes – September 1988*

NHTSA documenting features that were already identical to the USA-spec BGTs, or where I had converted to bring it into compliance. I submitted the report in August, and waited.

While I was home from college for Thanksgiving break in 1984, I received a letter from US Customs saying that they were scheduling an appointment to come seize the car to \*crush it\*, because they had not heard from NHTSA that it was approved for the safety report. I panicked!

However, my dad remained calm and instructed me to contact NHTSA.

The agent there was helpful, noted the report was 'in review' status, and could I please give him a week to locate and complete it?

NHTSA sent me a letter a week later

saying the car was approved. (To this day, I don't think they ever actually located my report, but simply declared it approved...). I submitted the completed NHTSA form to Customs, and they issued their release and returned the bond.

NYS finally issued me a transferable title, and the paperwork saga was over with.

Over the next 5 summers, I thoroughly loved this car. I often drove it to work (although the parking lot gates and pass-swipe system was a challenge with the RHD), drove it on dates with Mary Ellen, day trips to the Finger Lakes, concerts, MGCC rallies, car shows, gymkhanas, and other events, and generally enjoyed it. Getting on 590 in Irondequoit and winding it out through the gears was great fun!

About a year after I bought it, I discovered that the wheels on my car were from the same family of Dunlop alloy + steel designs from that era, but were the wrong version for a BGT V8. The former owner had not been aware of it either, but helped purchase a good used set of used V8 wheels and

shipped them to me. I also discovered the bright red color (essentially 1972 MG Flame Red) was incorrect and that my car was originally Harvest Gold—in fact, it was Harvest Gold with navy brushed nylon and vinyl interior.

The overdrive gearbox required a rebuild, and I took the opportunity to clean and repaint the engine compartment. I also learned how correct and original this early V8 (number 30 off the line) is –

original engine, gearbox, overdrive, steering rack, exhaust manifolds, carbs, radiator, gauges, rear end with the 3.07 gears, and all correct factory V8



*The V8 sits with my dad's TD and my former primrose 1970 roadster in Irondequoit, circa 1984*

parts except the re-paint color and wheels. I learned from the V8 Register that my car was a pre-production pilot car, and had a second role to be on-hand at a major London dealership the day the car was announced, in August 1973. All of the first 200 factory V8s were either Damask Red, Glacier White, or Harvest Gold, all with navy interior.

In 1985, while it was parked outside my apartment at college, an 18-wheeler dented the LF fender when swinging out of the parking lot across the street. The police found the driver, but he denied it and there was no red paint on his bumper, so I had no recourse.

Between the dent and the now-visible rust issues, the car was starting to look a little worse-for-wear. So, I thought I would take it apart, get the body restored, changing to the year-correct maroon Damask Red as the new color. The plan was to do this project and quickly put it back together. Not quite.

*\*In the next installment, I will describe the body and paint restoration, and a few of the obstacles that I allowed to bring this project to a halt. \**



*From the Toronto  
Triumph Club*



**September 19, 2021**



[www.BritishCarDay.com](http://www.BritishCarDay.com)



*The E-type is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year ... let's hope we get a chance to see a few more in September. Photographs courtesy of Ian Grant.*

# Paul's Canvas



Marine / Auto and  
Outdoor  
Upholstery

Paul Osborne  
Lima, NY  
585-255-0531

# 2021 MGCC WNY Motoring Challenge

## Photos by contest participants

**At the time of publication, scoring is as follows:** Mike & Susan Goodwin (11), Ron & Ev Stone (10), Tom & Mary LeStrange (6), Leon & Barb Zak (5), George Heissenberger (5), John & Chris Baum (5), Allen Hess (3), Dick Rzepkowski (3)

We added a couple of participants this month, and some got out during some brief spells of brilliant weather to capture some destinations and score some points.

One of the best efforts was demonstrated by John and Chris Baum, who (while in Florida) got a picture of their MGB with a small jar of snow! (Okay, it's melted snow, reportedly delivered to them by Leon and Barb Zak who traveled south recently. (Just because it melts, does it stop being snow?))



2021-01 J. Baum with melted snow



2021-13 J&C Baum with at least 3 British cars



2021-04 the Stones with Emmeline the Bear, who would not turn her head to face the camera



2021-09 Heissenberger (with garbage truck WAY in the background)

Can anyone see the driver of the garbage truck in George Heissenberger's photo? (Hmmm, I didn't think so.)

For the latest update on the rules and how to enter, see the next page. For the list of destinations and details on ways to score, see the final page of *Spokes*. For more photos from the past month, see page 21.

UPDATE!

## 2021 MGCC WNY Motoring Challenge

Throughout the 2021 driving season, we are continuing to run our new Motoring Challenge for all members, and it's easy to jump in and have some motoring fun that will last through the driving season. We've started in April, but **it's not too late to jump in**. We'll wrap it up around the end of October and announce the winners and **prizes** shortly thereafter. (Not a MGCC member? See elsewhere in Spokes or on the website regarding how to become a member – it's quick, easy, inexpensive, and you need not own an MG to join.)

To participate in the **Motoring Challenge**, simply:

Find the list of destinations elsewhere in *Spokes*.

- Drive to one or more of the listed destinations.
- Snap a picture of your car there, *preferably* with yourself or your teammate in the photo. (We need **AT LEAST ONE** photo that includes a good likeness of you. Let's get to know each other, eh?)
- Send the photo(s) by email to [challenge@mgcarclub.com](mailto:challenge@mgcarclub.com).
- Enjoy the monthly updates in *Spokes*, where you'll see yours and other competitors' photos, and get updates on scoring along with the challenges for the new month.

You'll score 1 or more points for each destination. Points may vary, based on the difficulty or the creativity required. Additionally, early-bird bonus points may be given occasionally for photos received before a certain date, so pay attention monthly to get the most points possible. (Late photos won't get the early-bird bonus, but they aren't worthless, just worth a bit less!) There's no monthly cut-off date, (we'll accept March destination photos in September, for example!) but all photos will be due before the final tally sometime around November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Some of the destination photos will have special requirements. Any such requirements will be listed each month. For example, if the destination is "Your Favorite Restaurant", we may require that the photo include a sign showing the name of the restaurant. Or, if the destination is "Outside of NY State", we may require a sign (like WELCOME TO NEW JERSEY) or other clear evidence (like the Gateway Arch or Grand Canyon, for example) be shown in the photo.

Rather than filling out a form or marking a checklist, each month, one or more destinations will be listed in *Spokes*, and each will be identified with a destination number. When you submit your photos, be sure to include the corresponding destination number for each. Remember, each photo must:

- show your car
- show the destination (and/or other requirement) clearly

Though not always REQUIRED we'd like it if you include yourself in each photo)

Some of you might have more than one special car you'd like to use in the Motoring Challenge. This is permitted, but we strongly encourage participation using only your special car(s). The point is to encourage driving and having fun with these special cars; it is NOT our intention to award points for driving around in your daily-driver 2019 RAV4 or your 2017 Honda Accord or even your 2013 Ford Focus.

HOW TO ENTER: No forms to fill out, just email us your first photo(s)! We need:

- 1 – Your name(s)
- 2 – Year, make, and model of the car(s) you intend to use for the challenge
- 3 – Attach your photos, identified with the DESTINATION NUMBER.

That's it! It's easy to get started! Jump right in!  
Safety Fast!

**(You'll find this month's destinations on the last page of *Spokes*.)**

One last note - the MG Car Club WNY Centre reserves the right to use your photo(s) in Spokes and on the club's website – and we look forward to doing so!



# 2021 MGCC WNY Motoring Challenge

More photos by contest participants



2021-02 Heissenberger



2021-05 Stone



2021-04 Goodwin



2021-12 Goodwin



2021-09 Goodwin



2021-03 Heissenberger

# *Sunshine Page*



## *May Birthdays*

15	Gary Wilson
16	Nancy Bauder
19	Ron Stone
23	Bill Benet
24	Chris Russell
25	Bill Clicquennoi
25	Jan Langswager
27	Harold Rodman



*Happy Birthday,  
everyone!*

## *May Anniversaries*

1	Patricia & Dick Giambra
20	Georgian & Bob Abels
21	Jan & Jeff Langswager
24	Christine & John Baum
28	Susan & Michael Goodwin
29	Cheryl & Bill Baldwin



*Congratulations!*

*(If you think you've been mistakenly left off of either list above, check to see if you've paid your dues. If you still think it's a mistake, send a note to the editor at [spokes@mgcarclub.com](mailto:spokes@mgcarclub.com).)*



Official Regalia

## MG Car Club Western NY Centre

### Some of the Current Items Available



50th Anniversary Badge	\$20.00
50th Anniversary Pin	\$3.00
51st Anniversary sticker	\$1.50
MG Stickers Black / Silver	\$1.50
Sticker - front adhesive	\$1.50
MGCC Mug	\$5.00
Car Badge	\$20.00
Badge Clip	\$5.00
Patch Embroidered	\$2.50
Key Fob, large Leather	\$4.00
Pin, Cloisonne	\$3.00
Dash Plaque - Last years 2019	\$3.00
Dash Plaque - 40th Ann	\$2.00
Sign Magnetic 10"	\$15.00
Bumper Sticker	\$1.00
Club Name Badge (to be ordered)	\$20.00

**Notes** Also available a large selection of clothing items (shirts, jackets, caps, etc) with our club logo embroidered on them, by letting us know what you would like. Most specialty items are available with a small order of only a dozen. Please contact Joe Bellizia with any questions by calling (585) 749-9263 or emailing me at [blitz7711@gmail.com](mailto:blitz7711@gmail.com)

Joe Bellizia has been working behind the scenes (where else does anyone work these days?) to put together some interesting possibilities for nifty regalia for the 2021 season and beyond. He'd love to have your input and suggestions – particularly for ideas for items that a BUNCH of us want (even if we don't all know it yet)!

**Some great ideas are on the next page!**



## MG Club Members Personalized Items we can Order if we have enough interest!

### Would You Order One of These??



Customized Water Bottle approx. \$20.00  
(includes Shipping & NY Tax)

MG Club New Era Cap \$25.00  
(Embroidered w/ our  
logo as shown)



MG Club Member's Personalized Water Bottles  
(W/ Club Logo & Your Name & Individual Picture)  
25oz Stainless Steel Bottle with Screw top & Carabiner

**Notes** I am including a New Feature in Spokes showing New Items we could order if we get member input and start a pre-order commitment list started. Bottles have a (48) Minimum Order and hats (12) minimum as they are Custom to our Club and YOUR Car!

Contact Joe Bellizia with any questions by calling (585) 749-9263 or emailing me at [blitz7711@gmail.com](mailto:blitz7711@gmail.com)



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## MG Car Club Western New York Centre Membership Application

Annual family membership dues \$30  
All memberships run calendar year January – December

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Friend: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: MGCC of Western NY

Mail form and payment to:

Membership – MG Car Club, PO Box 92556, Rochester, NY 14692

## Classified Ads

*(Please inform the editor when your ad should be removed)*

---

**For Sale:** MGTD parts.

- Windshield frame including side supports and cowl brackets \$225.
- One pair of chrome headlight buckets and rims with medallions \$75.
- Original false nose (re-chromed) and MG medallion \$75.
- Red & Green dash light lenses and accessory switch \$15.
- Hood strip \$20.
- Lucas NOS windshield wiper blades \$12.
- Lot of Miscellaneous fasteners & fittings \$35.

Will email pictures on request.

Contact: John at [ross@frontiernet.net](mailto:ross@frontiernet.net) or  
585 248 5361

**For Sale:** 1957 MGA "project" car for restoration or parts.

Car is complete having 1500 motor, transmission, rear end and has wire wheels. Included are new rockers and a vinyl interior for the seats.

For total restoration or parts - asking \$2000.

**Also,** MGB 3-main short block - asking \$250

If interested, contact Dick Powers: [mgahmogca@rpa.net](mailto:mgahmogca@rpa.net)  
or at 585-410-4500.

**For Sale:** Color Wiring Diagrams 11x17 size; many cars to choose from \$17.95. Further details at  
[www.colorwiringdiagrams.com](http://www.colorwiringdiagrams.com)

**For Sale:** 1969 Spitfire Mark III roadster. Barn find after 25 years. Clean title. 1300cc engine runs; Solid body, with some work needed to repaint. Will need the usual brake hoses and hydraulic work. Has wire wheels. Missing its seats and front bumper. Inexpensive starter project for \$1000.

Call George at 585-872-6536

**For Sale:** Miscellaneous XPAG engine parts and 2 hubcaps for MGTD. Intake and Exhaust manifolds. Both cleaned and painted. - \$20

Starter motor. Working but could use a rebuild. Moss Motors gets a \$200 core charge for a new motor. - \$100

Hubcaps are original/not replacement. - \$30

Contact allyn@mgcarclub.com 585-924-5251

**For Sale:** 1973 MGBGT

Solid car with overdrive. In storage for 20+ years

Call Gary: (585) 464-9482

**For Sale:** 1976 & 1977 MGBs, both need work to start them

Contact Claude Fedele @ [sfedele@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sfedele@rochester.rr.com)  
or 585-899-9388



**For sale:** 1952 MG TD, number 16166, XPAG TD2/16658. It's a 20-year-old restoration and is presentable, but will need some brake work and a good tune up and a few other repairs. It also comes with extra parts. Asking price is \$22,500 but willing to negotiate to sell the car. The car belonged to former member Doug Elam, who passed away in December 2018. If interested, call Doug Elam, Jr. at 315-654-4007.

#### Pop's TD

After WWII 'Pop' (Charles Elam, formerly a carburetor engineer with Rochester Products) was a young man watching vets driving around in these really cool little British sports cars. From that point on he always wanted a T-Series MG. About 20 years ago he found one in PA with enough right with it to run and enough wrong with it to keep him busy.

From that point on the TD was commonly known as *His Mistress*. Instead of just cleaning it up and calling it good, it 'needed' a 12-volt system. Then it was the fuel system; that really did the trick. Those were nice, but, boy wouldn't a new paint-job be great! Not to do anything halfway, all the sheet metal came off and each piece was painted individually. By the time he was done, it was a complete off-frame restoration with all the chrome being sent to Buffalo for refinishing. Every part was labeled with a tag and the smaller pieces placed in zip-lock bags. (While detailing the MG we found one of the tags and left it under the dash for posterity.)

Pop died in December of 2018 and since then we've been downsizing his estate. My sister and I had planned on keeping the TD, but recently came to the conclusion to sell the car as she needed someone to love and pamper her. May the next owner enjoy this beautiful machine as much as Pop did! It will turn heads wherever you go.

#### 1952 MG TD Parts List

- Convertible top with side screens (needs rebuild)
- 2 'Classic Gold' Overriders
- Pad Set for Clutch & Brake Pedals
- Fuel Line Hose (about 10')
- Packing Set
- Crosland Oil Filter
- Oil Filter Adapter Kit with Fram Filter
- Fuel System Parts
- Alternator (6-volt?)
- Starter (6-Volt?)
- Shoebox filled with 'Extra MG Parts'
- 4 Repro Hubcaps



*More photos available on request from the seller*

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# 2021 MGCC WNY Motoring Challenge

Destination Number	Description (pts.)	Special Requirement or Special Note	Early-bird bonus point?
#2021-01	In your garage or driveway (1)	Snow in the picture (1 bonus)	EXPIRED
#2021-02	Barn with a silo (1)		No
#2021-03	* Any Erie Canal lift bridge (1)		EXPIRED
#2021-04	* Emmeline the Bear Monument – Geneseo (1)		EXPIRED
#2021-05	* Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse (1)		EXPIRED
#2021-06	Picture including 3 old men (1)	Define “old” at your own risk!	
#2021-07	Picture including 3 old women (2)	Define “old” at your own risk!	
#2021-08	Picture including 3 children (2)		
#2021-09	With a garbage truck (2)	Include the sanitation worker for an extra point (1 bonus pt.; If he/she is waving, 2 bonus pts)	
#2021-10	* At the Windmill Farm and Craft Market in Penn Yan (1)		
#2021-11	Outside of NY State (2)	Sign required	
#2021-12	At any tattoo parlor (1)	Sign required	
#2021-13	With 3 Little British Cars (including yours) (2)	The 3 cars must all have separate owners	EXPIRED
#2021-14	* At Lugia’s Ice Cream shop (Spencerport) (1)	Include yourself eating ice cream for a bonus (1 bonus)	
#2021-15	* At the Ice Cream Factory (Fairport) (1)	Include yourself eating ice cream for a bonus (1 bonus)	
<b>Destinations below are <u>new</u> this month – older destinations are still valid!</b>			
#2021-16	* At Abbot’s Frozen Custard (1)	At the original in Charlotte (1 bonus); eating ice cream (1 more bonus)	
#2021-17	At a courthouse (1)		
#2021-18	At an electric car charging station (2)		
#2021-19	* Jell-O Museum, LeRoy NY (2)	Holding a Jell-O package; must be clearly visible (2)	
#2021-20, -21, -22	At a brewery of your choice	up to 3, 1 pt. each)#	
Questions? Address them to the Challenge-masters at <a href="mailto:challenge@mgcarclub.com">challenge@mgcarclub.com</a>			

## \* SPECIAL NOTE FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE AWAY FROM THE WESTERN NEW YORK AREA:

You may substitute similar destinations from your area. Please do your best to convince the Challenge Masters and other participants that your substitution is VALID.