



# A - Antics



**Rowdies Come through in the Clutch at Wigent's  
Barnhart/Schwartz' Day in the Garage, May 6  
Ypsi Funkahna, May 13**

## Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

ROWDIES SITE [www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies)  
MG WEB SITE [www.mgcars.org.uk](http://www.mgcars.org.uk)  
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CHAPTER DUES \$18 annually  
NICKNAME *Rowdies*  
MOTTO *People First!*

PAST CHAPTER CHAIRMEN  
1976-1980 *Bruce Nichols*  
1981-1982 *Tom Latta*  
1983-1984 *Dick Feight*  
1985-1988 *Dave Smith*  
1989-1990 *Dave Quinn*  
1991-1994 *Mark Barnhart*  
1995-1995 *Herb Maier*  
1996-1996 *Tom Knoy*  
1997-1998 *Neil Griffin*  
1999-2002 *Bruce Nichols*  
2003-2004 *Bob Sutton*



## Rowdies Calendar of Up Coming Events



### May 6, 2006 Saturday

Day in the Garage: Flint, MI Install engine in Pat Schwartz' coupe. Mark Barnhart host

### May 13, 2006 Saturday NEW LOCATION!

Rowdies' Funkahna: Ypsilanti, MI Curt & Stephanie Smith and Jon & Theresa Burchwell host

### June 4, 2006

The British Return to Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, OH

### June 4, 2006

Orphan Car Show: Ypsilanti, MI

### June 16, 17 & 18 2006

Stratford Festival Trip, Stratford, Ontario

Hosted by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club

[www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmqcc/](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/wdmqcc/)

### June 21-25, 2006

MG 2006: NAMGAR GT 31 and North American Council of MG Registers, Gatlinburg, TN [www.mg2006.co](http://www.mg2006.co)

### July 8-9, 2006

Mad Dogs & Englismen: Hickory Corners MI

### July 9, 2006

Cincinatti British Car Show: Cincinatti, OH

### July 29, 2006

Rowdies Birthday Party: Oakland, MI

Steve & Cathy Holliday host

### August 4, 2006

Clarkston Concours in the Park: Clarkston, MI

Rowdies Calendar, cont.

August 5, 2006

Dayton British car Show: Dayton, OH

August 18-20, 2006

Mid-Ohio Vintage Races

September 9, 2006

Rowdies Fall Meet: Belleville, MI

Neil & Thelma Griffin host

September 9-10, 2006

Watkins Glen Vintage Races: Watkins Glen, NY

September 10, 2006

Battle of the Brits: Sterling Heights, MI

September 16-17, 2006

Bronte Creek British Car Show: Toronto, ON

October 14-15 2006

American British Reliability Run

December 2, 2006

Rowdies Christmas Party: seeking host

February 3, 2007

Rowdie Business Meeting: Rockford, MI

Mac & Joni McDonnell host

Please visit the NAMGAR website for other MG events. [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com)

Cover Photo: Mike Moder and Mike Goeddeke dig in on the finishing touches on Matt's Engine, while Steve Holliday and Gordie Bird lend a hand in the background.

## Letters & E-mails:

Three Rivers, MI

I'm home from the hospital (minus a prostate). Recovery is boring but I hope to be back to my normal schedule in another 3-5 weeks.

I'll contact Lee as I will be attending GT 31.  
Bruce Nichols

*Ed. Note: Great to hear from you Bruce. We are all rooting for a speedy and full recovery.*

## Tech Tips

From Bruce Nichols:

Castrol Oil \$1.79 per quart at Advance Auto stores until August.

From Gordie Smith:

Have you got a wire wheel car? Ever get grease rings on shirts or pants from the hub? I keep a roll of aluminum foil nearby. A quick wrap and it's clean and secure. The same technique works well for masking hoses and small parts for painting. It's forms around any shape and is easily removable.



Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: June 15



## Chairman's Chatter

by Gordie  
Bird

The morning  
of March  
25<sup>th</sup> dawned

with a light coating of snow and temps in the low 30's. Fortunately it was warm enough the snow just melted on the roads, so no salt. Not really a great day, but since I'd not driven an MG since last fall, and I'd just finished the pinion oil seal on the BGT, I was eager to get her on the road. Matt Wigent's Day in the Garage seemed like the perfect little trip. Even on a lousy day it's still fun to drive an MG. Now that the driving season is upon us, I hope you'll be driving yours too. There were about a dozen willing participants to help Matt put a new clutch in his MGA. Matt was fairly well prepared and a few hours later we had it all back together and running. We were only short 1 part and fortunately we had Little British Car Company ([www.lbcarco.com](http://www.lbcarco.com)) as a nearby resource. Since Jeff was home that day, he was more than willing to "open up the store" so we could get our part.

While waiting for our part the conversation turned to racing and MGA movies. Dave Smith said he had a copy of Hideous Sun Demon which features a man that turns into a lizard, and frequently does so driving his MGA! A must see MGA movie I hear. Steve Holliday said that many racing movies are available on DVD. It seems that Lemans and Rendezvous are readily available (contact Steve), but that Grand Prix is not. With a little internet searching I found a website

that has a petition you can sign to encourage Warner Home Video to release it on DVD. You can check it out at: <http://www.putgrandprixondvd.com/>. The Rowdies even have a racing video titled 50 Years of Racing.

Actually, the Rowdies have a selection of tools and other items available for use by members in good standing (you've paid your dues). The problem has always been what are they and where are they. Starting in this issue of A-Antics we'll begin a regular column of the Rowdies Tool Chest. In it we'll list what the item is and who currently has it. In order to borrow a tool, simply contact the person listed who currently has it and make arrangements to use it. Then, when the exchange takes place, the person last listed as in possession will contact the club Librarian with the name of the member who now has the item. The following issue of A-Antics will then contain the new contact information for the item. Your editor, Dave Goeddeke, has volunteered to be the club Librarian.

Contact information for Dave is [xenon2000@earthlink.net](mailto:xenon2000@earthlink.net) or (734) 425-5254. The Tool Chest may contain more items than are listed, if you have an item that is club property and it's not listed, please contact the club Librarian.

Now that the driving and event season is upon us, I hope to see all of you at this years many Rowdie events and on the road!

*Safety Fast!*

*Safety First!*

Gordie

## Matt Wigent's Day in the Garage

Seventeen Rowdies showed up to help Matt pull the engine and replace the clutch.

All of us got a little grease on our hands (not as much as Matt) and most of us learned a little more about our cars

I wonder if I can get these guys over to my garage?



Matt & Gordie wrestle with the generator and carburetors while re-installing the engine after replacing the clutch.

Above: Larry Pittman and Tom Newton look on as Matt and Dave Smith are "all in" as they install a new throwout bearing on the transmission spline shaft. Others assisting were Neil Griffin and Al Partington & Dick Gruszcz.

Right: Cathy Holliday enjoys the scene as Matt shows off his Fred Flintstone reserve engine.



## A DAY IN THE GARAGE FOR THE LADIES

It started out to be a brisk cold day, and then began a pretty good snowfall, this stopped, and stayed brisk throughout the day. The ladies of the garage didn't care though because we were snug inside next to a roaring fire, margaritas in hand. Of course the conversation ran from this to that as oft times it does with the lady folk.

The most interesting part of the day was a step back in time. I hope Matt & Lisa won't be offended, but Matt's grandmothers house is stuck in a time warp. As Lisa put it, it was like stepping back to the sixties. I told her it was more like the 50's to be exact, but Lisa is way too young to even have been born in the 50's. I myself only have a small child's remembrance of this era. But I do know the colors of 50's, and the furniture that was hip then. If you ever thought about having your home done in retro furnishings and colors, perhaps you should visit Matt's grandma's house. You might just change your mind, ...or not, depending on your outlook.

The property is located on a lake though, and is beautifully nestled in among trees and such, a gorgeous location to live in. It had a feel of almost being up north, or you could at least pretend that you were. The swans were extremely rude as we watched them with their constant head dunks to get to food. They didn't realize that we'd rather watch their lovely s shaped heads rather than their egg shaped behinds.

Lisa did a great job serving up some fine chili, snacks, and to her credit, pies specially made for Neil G. (we all know what a pie guy he is, he wouldn't let us forget that).

When I arrived, Lisa asked for my expertise on pie making. Too bad I don't have any, but then Diana Grucz arrived and bailed us out. I'm sure Lisa and I would have figured it out, but just like the guys in the garage, three heads are always better than one. Then Lisa's mom, Sheila, arrived (a new member of the Rowdies by the way) and made at least me feel really inadequate with her black bottom banana cream pie. Hopefully she has sent her recipe in to A-Antics as I advised. Believe it or not, the two pies Lisa, Diana and I made, and Sheila's pie all disappeared in no time after the boys had dispensed with the rest of the food. It looked like those guys hadn't eaten for weeks.

After eating it was back to the fire for the girls and to the garage for the boys. Cathy Holliday spent more time out with the boys than with us. That's probably a good thing; someone has to keep the boys out of trouble. When Katie & John, the Wigent's children, began to grate on the women folks nerves, it was time to go (Just a little joke. I had to mention those adorable, ever moving, talking children). The women folk that attended were Lisa Wigent, hostess, Tracey Bird, Cathy Holliday, Chari Smith, Diana Grucz, & Sheila Partington.

Thanks for a great day by the fire Lisa & Matt.

Tracey Bird  
*Ed Note: Sounds more like a day at the cottage than a day in the garage, but I'd hate to disturb the status quo. You-all take good care of us men folk as long as we stay out of your way. You can bring back Sheila and her Black Bottom Banana Cream Pie any time, but she's still holding out on the recipe. Thanks to all of you.*

# Day in the Garage at Mark & Marji Barnhart's Saturday, May 6th, 11:00 a.m.

8083 Corunna Rd. Flint, MI

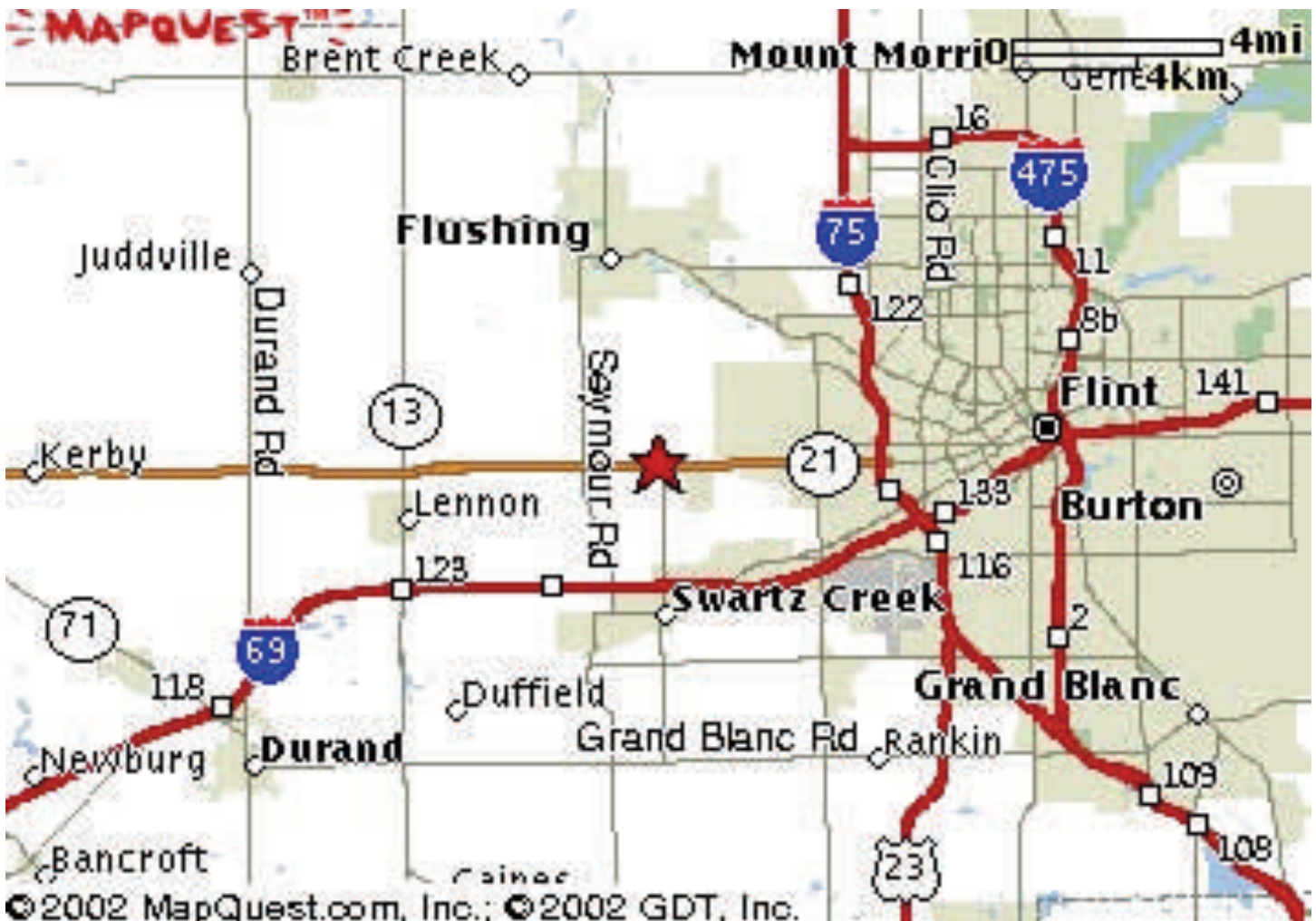
810-635-7420 Mark or 810-364-5352 Pat

We will install a rebuilt motor into Pat Schwartz' MGA Coupe.

Pizza and soft drinks will be provided, but BYOB.

Any Rowdies who have never been to Mark's MG parts shop will be impressed by the all the stuff he has accumulated and has managed to restore over the years.

C'mon up to lend Pat a hand, and enjoy the pleasure of a day in the garage with a bunch of Rowdie guys & gals.



Attention! New Location! Attention! New Location! Attention!

## Funkhana Driving Meet

Saturday, May 13, 2006

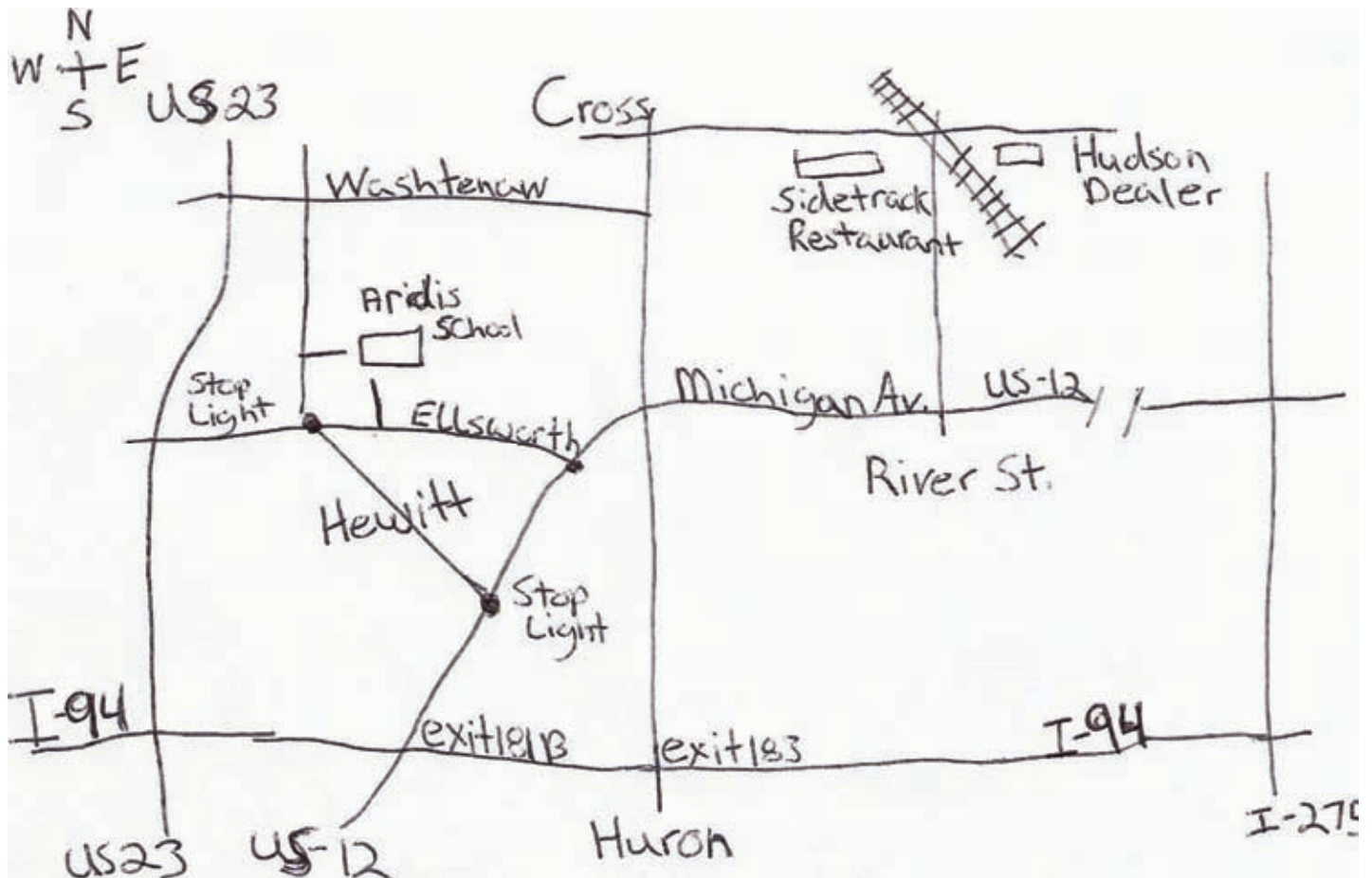
Ardis Renaissance Academy Parking Lot – 2100 Ellsworth

**Attention: This is a new location!** It is one mile south of the previous location. Look for red balloons tied to a post – we'll put them at the end of the driveway so it's easy to see.

Practice runs will start at **10:00 A.M. sharp!** Results will be based on your best time of three runs. No experience needed. Test your driving skills and the limits of your MG at low speeds and enjoy the tire squealing.

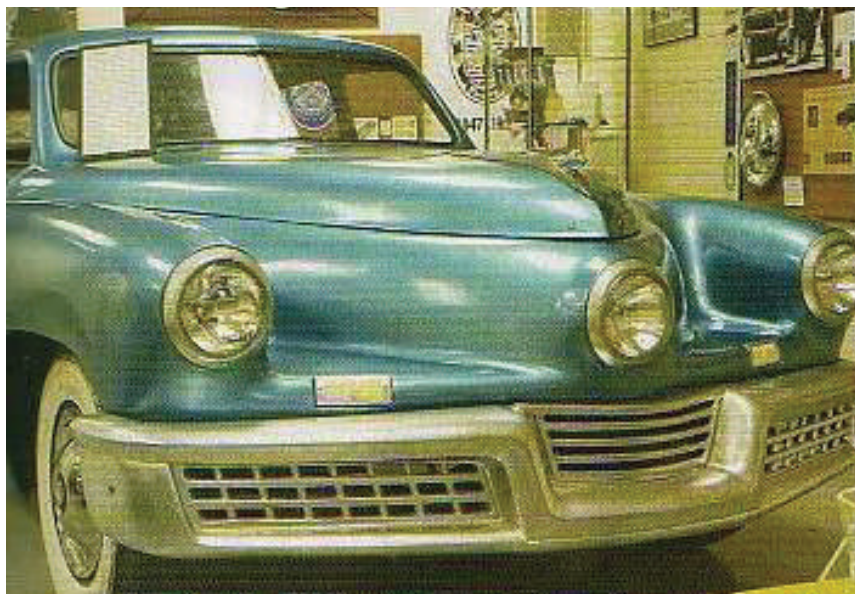
Following the funkhana, participants will proceed to the Side Track Restaurant. Parking is available behind the Hudson Dealer museum a short distance away.

Questions or additional information: Jon Burchwell (734) 487-5366 or Curt Smith (734) 697-4363.



Attention! New Location! Attention! New Location! Attention!





Check out the Kaisers, Frazers, Tuckers & Hudsons at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum is located down the street from the Side Track Restaurant at 100 E. Cross St. Visit [www.ypsiautoheritage.org](http://www.ypsiautoheritage.org) or call 734-482-5200.

# CORNETT MG TC AT INTERNATIONAL MOTOR RACING CENTER

by Dave Smith

Watkins Glen, NY March 4, 2006 More than 50 MG enthusiasts attended the "Conversation" to initiate the display of Denver Cornett's 1948 MG TC #7 Race car. The car, artifacts, and photo displays will be on display until June.

Among the presenters at Denver Cornett's Tribute were Jim Carson, Frank Mount, Jack Archibald, and Bill Green. (Not necessarily in that order below)



The enthusiasts were welcomed by Council member J.C. Argetsinger and advised that this "Conversation" was the largest of its type to date. Considering the Luminaries of world class racing that have been the topic of prior events, this was a great compliment to Denver and Family and the MG racing community. J.C. stated that his father Cam Argetsinger bought a red MG TC in January 1948, and at the 1948 Indianapolis 500, announced that a road race was going to be held that fall in Watkins Glen.

During that summer, a significant number of American and Canadian MG TC were observed driving the proposed route "with enthusiasm". Apparently it did not take much encourage-

ment to get the new MG owners excited about a road race.

The next presenter was MGVR member Dick Powers. Dick had arranged for and also introduced the MG TC panel of Jim Carson, Frank Mount, and Jack Archibald. Jim related that his first Glen race was memorable, but his main memory was the 9 hours tow of his TC to Philadelphia by Otto Linton. The tow was by rope, but after many failures, they stopped and found a piece of cable to complete the trip. Those early racers were frugal AND tough. Jim also talked about coming down the long hill into Milliken's Corner. That section of track was "breathtaking" while braking at the bottom.

Frank Mount entered his MG TC in the 1959 and 1960 All MG races. He recalled that the eight Canadian TC & TD were considered "modified" by the race promoters and were given their own class which was lots of fun. At that time in Canada the race fuel was supplied at the track, and he had not planned on money for fuel. Once the locals found that out, they took up a collection and gave him \$10.00 for fuel. Joe Tierno remembered that the Canadians at that race did have lots of "beverages", so their planning was actually not faulty. Joe also remembers how quick the Canadian cars were on the track.

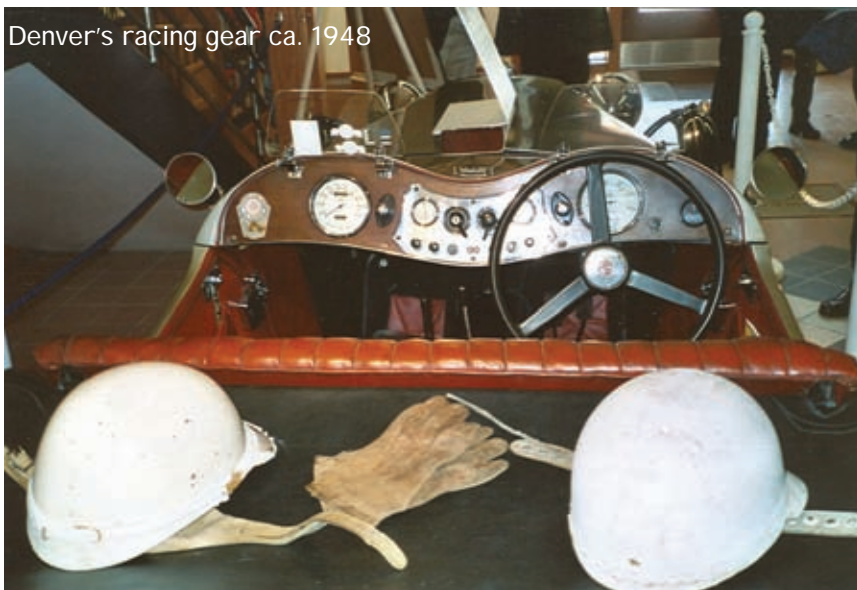
Jack Archibald said that he always considered Jim Carson to be "more mature" until he found out that Jim is younger than he by a

*Denver Cornett, cont. from page 10*

few months. Jack first came to the Glen as a spectator in 1950. He immediately decided that he needed to become a racer. He found a MG TC in Lewiston NY in the same year, and owned that TC for 54 years, recently selling it to a collector in Amherst NY, which is about 10 miles from Lewiston. While a 1950 graduate student, he went to England and specifically to Abingdon. While standing in the MG Parts department to get some factory parts for his TC he met Harry Lester. In 1951 Jack took his TC to Bridgehampton, and Like Denver, rolled the car in his first race. The friendly Canadian racers loaned him two spare tires, so he could run again. Unfortunately the TC was a bit too damaged, and Jack needed two years to put it right. Later Jack married and had a family and racing the TC was not possible. However, once vintage racing became popular, Jack got the TC race ready and entered the 1998 WGI 50 th anniversary race. This was actually his first track time at WGI, where he had started his career as a spectator some 48 years earlier. Jack won the Collier Cup in that race, and said that was the absolute highlight of his MG TC racing career. In response to Jack's stories, one of the audience remember how hard the TC would shake under braking on the downhill. Jim Carson agreed with that observation.

Bill Green gave the Tribute to Denver Cornett. Bill stated that Denver was 22 years old in the 1948 race, and rolled his TC into the riverbed at the Stone bridge on the second practice lap. While inside the inverted car, Denver heard the spectators wondering

out loud if the driver was dead. Denver said "Why don't you get the car off of me and find out"? Apparently they thought that was a fair plan, and quickly put the TC back on it's wheels. One of the photos in the display shows Denver standing on the right side of the car. If you look closely, you can detect a white blur, which is discernable as a helmet at a high rate of speed, and about to impact with the inside of the left door. Apparently Denver was done with the helmet for the moment. Denver was loaned two wheels from Briggs Cunningham and ran the remaining races without further incident.



In 1950 Denver entered the DUPONT SPECIAL, which was a flattie V-8 in a Indy Car chassis. The car was quick, but suffered a disabling shunt in that race. Denver returned to his roots, and ran the MG TC annually thru 1955 and retired from racing in 1963. Denver did not forget his roots, and when Vintage racing became popular, he restored his # 7 TC and returned to race at the Glen in 1996. Apparently that race kindled great memories, as Denver continued to campaign his TC at other SVRA events, such as Road America.

*Denver Cornett, cont. from page 11*

In 1997 Denver decided that the Collier Cup overall race winner should be given recognition, and donated the Cornett Cup Trophy for that purpose. This cup has been awarded annually. It usually goes to a MGB or MGB GT V8 entrant.

Mrs. Denver Cornett was the next presenter and gave her deepest thank you on behalf of herself and Denver. Sherry was clearly very moved to see and hear the appreciation and high regards given to Denver's racing career at the Glen.



Denver Cornett III recalled that his dad loved powerful engines, and his earliest memories were of roaring engines in the family garage. Denver also loved great cars, and even delayed his wedding to Sherry until they could take a Mercedes Gull wing on their honeymoon. Denny said that Denver bought his 1948 TC in Florida and raced it for many years. When the TC was retired in 1963, it was put on Jack Stands for about 20 years and nobody was allowed to touch it.

When Denver was invited to the 1998 race the car was renovated and returned proudly to the streets of Watkins Glen. During the reenactment, Denver told Denny that when he was on the Glen circuit, he was again that 22 year old man. Denny also recalled that Denver was very close to Otto Linton, and always stopped by Otto's Dealership on the way home from the Glen.

At this time the "conversation" was opened up to the audience. Artist Robert Gillespie recanted the year that Denver offered to give him one circuit of the Old course in the reenactment. Denver said "They don't want me to stop, so you need to be ready to jump in quickly". Once in the car, Denver drove with "gusto" and Robert said that lap and all the thousands of people waving at #7 and it's driver is a memory that Robert will never forget. Denver was waving back, but still took the Stone Bridge turn with great enthusiasm.

Joe Tierno remembers when he was putting the 1998 event together. He obtained Denver's phone number. When he called, Denver's quick answer of the phone caught Joe off guard, and he could only think to say "I thought you were dead" Apparently that was not a problem for Denver, as he immediately agreed to come to the 1998 event. Ironically this was fifty years after the 1948 race, when the fans at the Stone Bridge also thought Denver was dead.

Dave Smith has many recollections of Denver Cornett. I first met him at the 1998 Banquet, and immediately liked his manner. At the vintage races then and later, he would always stop by the MG paddock in the evening. His not too subtle message that he would "really" like to drive an MGA were impossible not to

*Denver Cornett, cont. from page 12*

enjoy. However, once the offer was extended, he would wistfully say "maybe next race". He was a wealth of information about the English car dealership process, and his trips to England to find cars for his dealership. He was also a great promoter of Fine Kentucky Bourbon, and how to "properly" enjoy the beverage. He often asked fellow MG racers to visit his home in Bagdad KY. He was very pleased when I and my wife Chari did visit on the way to VIR for the MG Focus event. He and Sherry were great hosts but all too soon it was time to leave for the track. He and Sherry asked several times if we could stay just a bit longer. What great hosts they were on that visit. Getting to know the Cornett family has been a very big part of my vintage racing experience.

Notable Attendees at the event were Rich-



Dave Smith shows off some of Denver Cornett's memorabilia on display at the Center.

ard Knudson, George & Nancy Hershel of NEMGTR, Robert Linton & daughters, son of Otto Linton, Bob Williams and Dave Garrison of SVRA. Sam Argetsinger, who will be storing the TC after it's display. Cameron & Jean Argetsinger, President of the IMSR Center, and Dave Wild, who was involved in the 1959 and 1960 All MG races hosted by the Western NY chapter of the MG Car Club.

Jim Carson takes the wheel of Denver's car for a pose with Sherry Cornett, and Denny Cornett alongside.



## ROWDIE TOOLCHEST

Rowdie tools and other property are available for members use. If you would like to use any of the items listed below, please contact the person believed to be in possession (as of the most current newsletter) of the item. Once possession changes, that change will be reflected in the toolchest on the Rowdie website [www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies) or in A-Antics.

If you give an item to another club member, please contact the club Librarian (Dave Goeddeke, 734-425-5254, [xenon2000@earthlink.net](mailto:xenon2000@earthlink.net)) and provide the name of the member who now has the item.

If any of the following information is not correct, or if you know of a tool not listed, please contact the acting club Librarian (Dave Goeddeke, 734-425-5254, [xenon2000@earthlink.net](mailto:xenon2000@earthlink.net))

### **BELIEVED TO BE IN POSSESSION OF:**

#### **TOOL**

**Front End Alignment Tool**, electronic

Mark Barnhart (810) 635-7425  
[rowdie92@fastermac.net](mailto:rowdie92@fastermac.net)

**Special Extractor Tool** for removing the rear  
bushing in early (slide-in driveshaft) transmissions

Mark Barnhart (810) 635-7425  
[rowdie92@fastermac.net](mailto:rowdie92@fastermac.net)

**Reamer** for Front End Distance tubes

Mark Barnhart (810) 635-7425  
[rowdie92@fastermac.net](mailto:rowdie92@fastermac.net)

**Pylons**

Curt Smith (734) 697-4363  
[Smith32670@aol.com](mailto:Smith32670@aol.com)  
John Burchwell (734) 487-5366  
[jburchwell@hotmail.com](mailto:jburchwell@hotmail.com)

**Lift-a-dot-fastener/punch**

Neil Griffin (734) 697-7419  
[ntg@earthlink.net](mailto:ntg@earthlink.net) [ntg@earthlink.net](mailto:ntg@earthlink.net)

**Rear Axle Nut Wrench**

Curt Smith (734) 697-4363  
[Smith32670@aol.com](mailto:Smith32670@aol.com)

**Steering Rack Shim Wrenches**

Dave Smith (517) 694-4856  
[mgarace@michcom.net](mailto:mgarace@michcom.net)

**Club Banners**, Royal Blue/White Lettering

Brian Berry (810) 364-7949  
Dave Quinn (517) 782-9749  
[dlqs2000@comcast.net](mailto:dlqs2000@comcast.net)

**Canopy**

Bruce Nichols (269) 273-3118  
[nicholsbm@aol.com](mailto:nicholsbm@aol.com)

**Car Show Signs** silhouette, by model

Steve Holliday (248) 693-1382  
[mgastevah@aol.com](mailto:mgastevah@aol.com)

**Large octagon** made by Herb Hesenclever, 3-4)

Bruce Nichols (269) 273-3118  
[nicholsbm@aol.com](mailto:nicholsbm@aol.com)

Neil Griffin (734) 697-7419  
[ntg@earthlink.net](mailto:ntg@earthlink.net)

**Club Video** "50 Years of Racing"

Dave Smith (517) 694-4856  
[mgarace@michcom.net](mailto:mgarace@michcom.net)

**Video** (VHS) Indy '96

Curt Smith (734) 697-4363  
[Smith32670@aol.com](mailto:Smith32670@aol.com)

# Members Page

## Rowdies Website

Steve Mazurek, Webmaster

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

## Mac McDonnells Database Report

1 new members since January 1, 2006.

85 Active and paid-up members.

74 % NAMGAR members.

## New Member Information

*Please welcome our newest members*

Larry & Mitzi Pittman

11406 Majorca Place

Fenton, MI

[larrypit@chartermi.net](mailto:larrypit@chartermi.net)

## E-mail & address corrections:

*Please update your membership roster.*

Dave Smith

[mgarace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgarace@sbcglobal.net)

Chari Smith

[clsing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clsing@sbcglobal.net)

Pat Schwartz

[peschwartz@sbcglobal.com](mailto:peschwartz@sbcglobal.com)

Mike & Cheryl Moder

5801 Rosebrook

Troy, MI

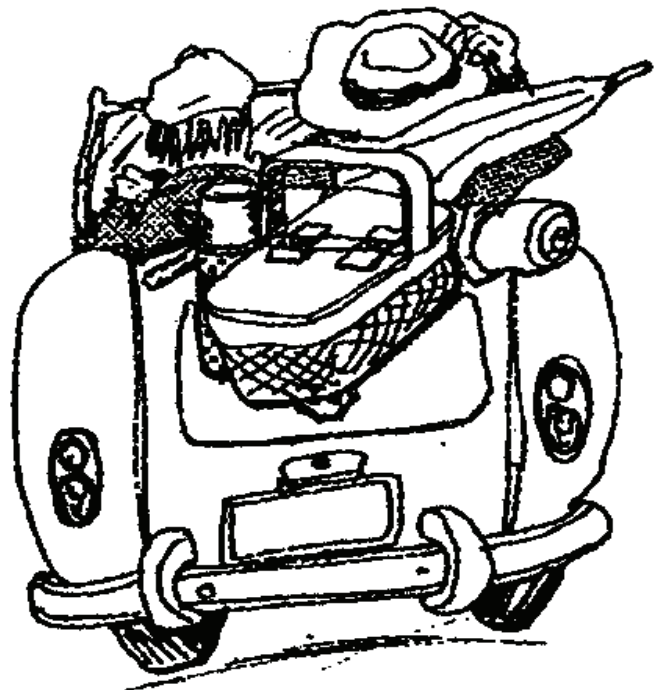
[michaeldmoder@wowway.com](mailto:michaeldmoder@wowway.com)

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

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