



A - Antics



SeptemberFast Photos
Rowdie Racing News
Christmas Party, December 9

Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

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NAMGAR WEB SITE www.namgar.com

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A-ANTICS Published every other month. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of NAMGAR or the Chapter. Every effort is made to use appropriate material. The editor reserves the right to edit material for length and appropriateness. No placement is guaranteed. The entire contents are copyrighted, Michigan Chapter. Permission to use is granted, provided you give credit to both the writer and the club. HISTORY The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was the NAMGAR's first chapter. We are a low-key club, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our MGA's. Anyone is welcome to join our chapter and they are asked to join NAMGAR too.

CHAPTER DUES \$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



December 9, 2006

Rowdies Christmas Party: Philip & Jan Wiltshire host

March 10, 2007 (Note: Date changed!)

Rowdie Business Meeting: Rockford, MI
Mac & Joni McDonnell host

March 14 - 17, 2007

Sebring MGA Reunion: Sebring, FL
Rowdie Racing will be there!!

Cover Photo: A rare 1930 MG Midget on display at MG 2006 in Gatlinburg. (Back cover also)
Dave Goeddeke photo



Last issue's cover drew this caption suggestion:

Gordie, if you throw sand at me again, I'm telling your mom!

Corrections:

In the last issue, we should have printed that Duane & Patsy Van Conant of Peck, MI (not Warren & Marcy White as reported) are interested in selling their very nice MGA coupe to a responsible owner. We apologize for any inconvenience. Check your roster for contact information.

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: December 10

Letters & e-mails

October 10, 2006

Somewhere, MI

Gee, I see Ralph (*name changed to protect the not-so-innocent*) forgot to mention that in Canada, on one of those long, long deserted flat roads my beloved husband ran out of gas, in the pouring rain no less. As he jumped into Norton's (*name changed...*) Twin Cam to find gas, and left all of us behind to wait. He didn't even wave a goodbye. We waited sooo long we thought Ralph & Ed must have found a nice warm bar to find lunch & beer, all without the rest of us. They claim not, but I still have my suspicions. Some nice farmer now owns a brand new gas can. Well sorry for the intrusion on this news letter, but he left it open, and I couldn't help but fill ya' all in. Funny how Ralph failed to mention all this.

Gladys (*name changed...*)

Ed. Note: Wah, wah, wah! These cars are two seater's, Gladys. Only two could go. The men had to make things right.

And Ralph,... Get it together!

October 10, 2006

Jackson, MI

Household Tech Tip:

Victor Pest Chaser ultrasonic rodent repeller. A 4 unit pack is \$31 at ACO Hardware. Claims to keep mice out of the garage using high-frequency ultrasonic sound. The sound is not harmful to humans or non-rodent pets (dogs, cats, etc.). Plug a unit into a 110 wall outlet and the frequency is reported to keep mice from the area. According to the sales person the units have been out for 4 years and the newest models are better. I thought this was interesting so I'm giving them a try. I installed all four in the MG garage!

www.victorpest.com Dave Quinn

Ed. Note: The humane way to deal with mice?

Consumers Energy must love you, Dave.

October 17, 2006

Holt, MI

Friends and Fellow Racers:

Just in case you did not have confirmation on the 2007 Sebring Dates. MGA is the featured Marque, and Mark Barnhart and I are getting # 49 and the trailer package ready. March will be in about three weeks.

Mark learned the other day that Rowdie Racing is a Google site with lots of vintage racing and Club information. We are the first two entries and are also found in other hits following. motorsport.com also has lots of great photos of Dick Powers, Joe Tierno, and other lesser drivers. Go take a look. It is in photos-vintage-wgi 2006-group one. There are also 2005 and best of all 2004 online. The 2004 is the best of the lot with almost 150 racing MG's.

Dave Smith

October 24, 2006

Barrington, IL

I've completed 98% of the Rowdie Web site update. There are a few tweaks I'd still like to make but for the most part it is in its final form. The information is essentially the same, but the look and feel has changed a bit. If there are any corrections, modifications or updates you'd like to see, drop me a note. Diane and I have decided not to renew our Rowdie membership for 2007. Since, for the most part, we're unable to participate in the local events the membership no longer makes sense for us. We've enjoyed our intermittent time with the Rowdies through the years, but ...

That leaves an open question: what becomes of the Web site? There are three possibilities:

1. I can work with someone to immediately assume the Web site responsibilities.
2. I can continue to support the Web site, until you can find a suitable replacement.
3. I can just continue work with the Web site - period.

Of the three options, my preference is #3. The Web site does not take a great deal of time or energy. Changes and updates will still come from you and be incorporated in a timely fashion.

My work will be essentially "gratis" unless the complexity increases significantly or exceeds my capabilities as a Web content designer. My one requirement is that the "Designed and Maintained by" statement be left on the site pages.

Let me know which option you'd like to pursue.

Steve Mazurek

Ed. Note: Steve, Say it's not so! You're a real Pro! I think option three is our best bet until we have a chance to kick it around at the Biz meeting in March. Anyone interested in the job out there?



Chairman's Chatter

by Gordie Bird

The leaves have turned and the Ti-

gers are on their way to the World Series. The 2006 driving season is nearly over, but the memories will remain. September is generally a great event month, and this year was no exception.

Septemberfast was hosted by Neil & Thelma Griffin and featured a driving course in the back yard complete with brick piles, tight turns, skills, and blind faith. Great fun, food, and company, thanks for hosting Neil & Thelma.

The very next day was the Battle of the Brits car and bike show. Weather turned out okay and they had nearly 400 cars and 200 bikes. The Rowdies were well represented with and without MGs and Jim Ehlers took home metal for his Glacier Blue Twin Cam.

The Bronte Creek British car show outside of Toronto has always been billed as the largest in North America with 1000+ cars. When friends from Indianapolis said they were planning on attending this year, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to check out this huge show near the shore of Lake Ontario. It certainly is a large show with over 1100 cars on the show field. It was a fun trip although if you've ever driven through southern Ontario, you know the roads are nothing but flat and straight. There were some unusual cars such as a Jowett Jupiter, an Austin Princess limo, and about 45 MGAs. It's a worthwhile desti-

nation in spite of the drive.

September ended with 2 events, Brit Day at Waterford Hills where Brit cars get in free and get parade laps during lunch, and the Butchers and Wiltshires co-hosted The Lake District Drive that ran along the Huron River from Ann Arbor to Milford for tea at "All Things U.K."

Seems to be a void of Rowdie events this October and November. It's not too early to start thinking of the 2007 business meeting and events you'd like to see and/or host. The annual Rowdies Business Meeting will be hosted by Mac and Joni McDonnell in Rockford on Saturday March 10, 2007, so set aside the date right now. It's also an election year, so if you'd like to give some back to the club, consider running for an office. Regardless of how you wish to participate, please attend the business meeting.

Next up is the Christmas Party on December 9th. See ya there!

Safety Fast!

Gordie



SeptemberFast!



1



09.09.2006

3



1) Rob & Ryan Cote' Herb Maier, Curt Smith, Jeff Smith & Stephanie Smith enjoy the action on the course. 2) Rob and Mike Tyler finish the "Blind" leg of the circuit. 3) Bill Weakley passes the "Reviewing Stand" in his MG Midget on the way to the starting gate. 4) A fine selection of MGs showed off at the meet, which included an interesting and fun MG obstacle race course. 5) Gordie & Tracey Bird were the top racing team with a time of 1:15, while Dave Quinn & Matt Houser were a close second with their time of 1:16.

4



09.09.

5





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2



3

1) Hosts Neil & Thelma Griffin showed us a great time at their beautiful estate in Belleville. After a corn roast and dinner in the gardens, we had MG races in the backyard and a little tire-kicking in the garage too. 2) Gordie Bird, Steve Holliday, Curt Smith, Jon Burchwell & Stephanie Smith stretch their legs after dinner. 3) Bruce Nichols spins a few yarns for Bill Weakley and Mike Goeddeke after the competitions. 4) Brian Beery, Rob Cote', Neil and Dave Quinn check on Neil's nearly complete MGBGT project in the garage later in the day. 5) Neil & Jeff Smith, a former Rowdie who came back to visit and have a good time, finishes the obstacle course with a blind fold and his seeing-eye navigator.



4



5

Rowdie Racing News

Rowdie Racing was pretty quiet in 2006. With many family and work demands, # 49 sat in the garage until rolled out for Watkins Glen 2006. This was a must participate event as we were lucky enough to win the Bucher-Decker Cup for first MGA in 2005. I felt the need to go and try to defend the cup this year. On Friday the car was running well, but the driver was rusty. The lack of seat time had taken it's toll, not to mention Father Time clicking in another lap on the Age-O-Meter. On Saturday, it was apparent that several of the cars were much faster this year, and only a miracle would keep us in the chase for the cup.

This year we had a new paddock, which was paved, and in the company of Joe Tierno and Dick Powers. Chari's new right knee was working great, and gave her mobility to climb in grandstands and walk over to the false grid. The weather was near perfect with sunny 70's in the day and crisp 60's at night with clear skies. In the evenings we went out to dinner with crew chief Mark Barnhart and crew Jose Tapia. As usual both guys worked diligently to keep # 49 in top running order. All weekend, it was noticed that # 49 was always "ready to go" started cleanly and was quite quick. Many of the other cars were "hoods up" when not on the track. However we do not get smug, as the dark side of the force can beset us too, as it did in 2005. The Friday night trip downtown was a huge event with 40-50 thousand people in the village. The 150 race cars in the recreation



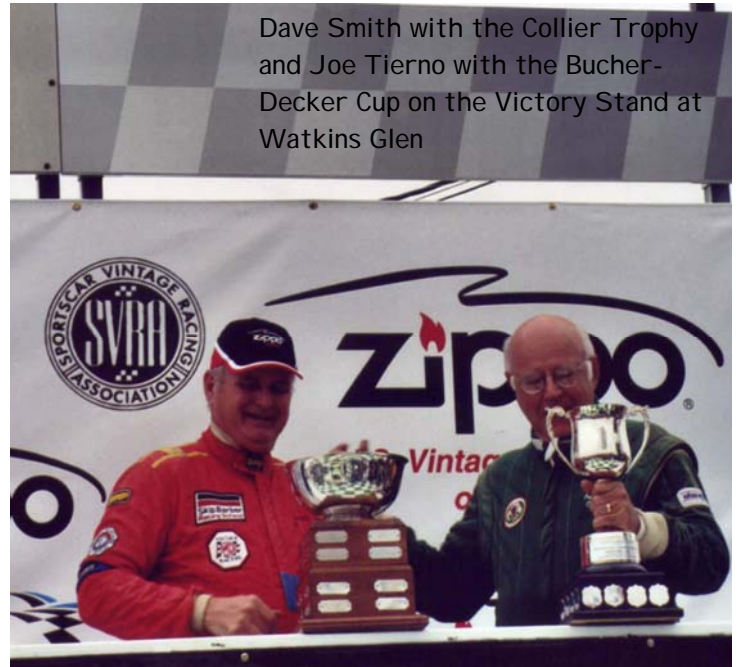
event always draw a lot of interest. This year, the engines fired off, but the group did not pull out. We soon learned that a lady had fallen from a Pre-War car that had cut away doors and no seat belts. The accident was quite grim, and the subsequent investigation prevented the recreation

laps. As # 49 was not in the lottery this year, Mark, Chari and I were able to drive the modern iron back to the track. Mark and I were on the patio-roof of the Glen Club when the 150 cars returned to the track at dusk. All of the drivers and passengers were in good cheer, all things considered. We learned later that the lady will have a full recovery. On Saturday morning, Good friend Denny Cornett brought Denver Cornetts 1947 MGTC over to our paddock. He said the tank was full, and he was sure that his dad would want us to enjoy this historic car at this venue, where it first raced in 1948. Denver's health is not the best, and he could not come to the track this year. Otto Linton was also onsite and said that we should take the car around the compound. Mark Barnhart and I immediately got in and drove the entire infield. Literally dozens of people came up and chatted or waved. this is a WELL Known car in racing circles. I also was able to take Chari for a nice ride, and then turned it over to Joe and Bridget Tierno with Denny's permission. This was a Very Special treat, as Denver Cornett is a great friend and fierce competitor. It was our honor to have this rolling display. Sunday is Race Day. The weather was again

Rowdie Racing, cont.

perfect. # 29 MGA driven by best buddy Joe Tierno was in row four on the outside. Rowdie Racing # 49 was in row five on the inside. The Collier Cup race was in Prime Time at 11:30 AM. The starter flag station had been moved about 200 yards closer to Turn One to help the NASCAR guys try to get around turn one. This made a big difference in controlling the large field of MGs in the race. The two MGBGT V8s of Les Gonda and Jerry Richards were on the pole and P2. I knew it would be a quick start with 400+ horsepower on tap. When the field was about halfway to the new Starter Stand, I heard the roar of the V-8s. It WAS going to be a quick start. I immediately punched the trusty 1622 to 7700 rpm in second and again in third. At that moment, the inside cars in row Four and Three both moved further inside. This left a small opening up the middle. I pulled fourth gear and moved up to Row three on the Start. Careful not to overcook Turn One on still cold tires, I was able to hold this position, and head off to the Climbing Esses. This is the same spot where the Big NASCAR wreck occurred this year. Threading thru the traffic, I checked all gauges and was in P1 for the Bucher-Decker Cup. After About four laps, I saw Joe Tierno's MGA go into my draft. This allowed him to close up, and then late brake into the inner loop. As He had made the pass, I dropped into P2 for the rest of the race. Joe's car in 1959 had been driven by Bob Bucher, and won the Collier race that year against his best friend Sherm Decker. Deja Vu all over again. On the cool off lap, I followed Joe into the false grid, and saw Jack Whoerly point Joe into Victory Lane. I was very happy for Joe, as he drove a great race. Then Jack was pointing # 49 into Victory Circle. At First I

thought it was a mistake, but Jack was quite emphatic that I turn right. I pulled into Victory Circle behind Joe and Manley Ford pulled in with his MGTC. Then I realized that the only award remaining was the Collier Cup. Bill Green, Track Historian and Mark Barnhart ran up, and began congratulations. Soon Joe Tierno and his wife Bridget and my wife Chari were also in the group.



Dave Smith with the Collier Trophy and Joe Tierno with the Bucher-Decker Cup on the Victory Stand at Watkins Glen

The awards ceremony was a blur, and both Joe and I were very emotional to receive the Bucher Decker and the Collier Cup in the same year. As we are also both Jake's Stable cars; named after Bob Bucher. That only added to the moment. After the track ceremony, Joe and I were interviewed on television. This will be part of a special telecast in New York State. The crew said that we would get a complementary copy. As Joe and I were too charged up to leave, we hung around for the Group 1 race at 5:00 PM. By this time, the 1622 was really showing her age. I have been running this engine for over five years and in well over 100 races. It has been a great five years, and the engine

Rowdie Racing, cont.

ran well, all things considered. Joe and I were able to toss the cars into a controlled drift thru the corners, which is always the best feeling in motorsports.

After that race, we had calmed a bit, and decided to celebrate at Seneca Lodge. This is where ALL the legendary drivers went after the US Grand Prix races. The walls are loaded with Garlands, and other memorabilia from the 50's and 60's. There is also a lot of modern era NASCAR stuff too. Just to go here on Sunday night is something an MG owner needs to experience. We soon decided that the cups were an excellent vessel from which to consume beer. In fact MANY people decided that this was the intended use of the cup. It was a great week of racing and a great way to wrap it up.

Holly & Jeremy's Wedding

August xx, 2006



1) & 2) The bridesmaids were chauffeured to the affair in a fleet of MGs. 3) Curt Smith and the beautiful bride. 4) Stephanie, Holly and Curt Smith share one of the high points of their lives. 5) Lucky Jeremy gets away with Curt's daughter and his car.



Joe & Dave put their trophies to good use at the Seneca Lodge

I would like to Thank NAMGAR for hosting the Bucher Decker Cup, Mark Barnhart for his dedication and expertise with improving and maintaining # 49, Jose Tapia for his great support at the track, Joe and Bridget Tierno for their friendship and great competition, Chris Meyers (MGA Twin Cam) for managing the MG Vintage Racers and Chari Smith for her wonderful support and companionship.

Dave Smith

ROWDIES CHRISTMAS

at the Wiltshire's
December 9th



3105 Exeter Dr
Milford, MI 48380
248-676-0986



2:00 until ?
Bring a dish to pass
Bring a gift for the
Rowdies Gift Exchange

Good Nutrition

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth, after all the conflicting medical studies:

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausage and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like.

Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

Murphy's Lesser-Known Dictums:

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

He who laughs last, thinks slowest.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.

The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.



Bill Weakley gets Neil Griffen & Jeff Smith out of the gate at the SeptemberFast meet.

A couple good lookin' late '50s Jags at the Battle of the Brits





A huge DOHC power plant with three SU Carbs in a '50s era Jaguar at the Battle of the Brits.



A beautiful 1957 Jaguar on display at the Battle of the Brits.



A couple of sleek TVI's at the Battle of the Brits.

One of Neil Griffens latest projects, a 1931 Alfa-Romeo Monza, detailed model seen at the SeptembeFast meet.



Classified Ads

For Sale: **1967 MGB Roadster**, mineral blue, wires, metal dash, older restoration, tonneau, hartop available, 109,000 miles, \$7,995 OBO, David L. Harnish, 12131 Millpond Dr NW Grand Rapids, MI 49534 616-677-0070
dlharnish@tds.net

For Sale: **1959 MGA 1500 Roadster** (Red on Red. Very Good Condtion. Professionally painted in 1999. Very original conditon, but presently fitted with a 3 Main MGB 1800cc engine. Fitted with Ronal aluminum wheels (minilite style). Original engine also comes with car. \$22,000 Cdn, OBO
Joe Robertson, Plattsville ON. 519-684-7772

For Sale: **1973 MGBGT**
Teal Blue. Strong running car. Good conditon. Very original. Mileage 52,000. \$6,000 Cdn OBO
Joe Robertson, Plattsville ON. 519-684-7772

Personal for sale or wanted classified ads are free to all paid-up members. Commercial ad rates: Full page \$40 issue/200 year; 1/2 page \$25/135; 1/4 page \$20/110; Bus Card \$10/55. Total ads may not exceed 12-1/2% (2 pgs of 16); ads accepted on first come first served bases.

Members Page

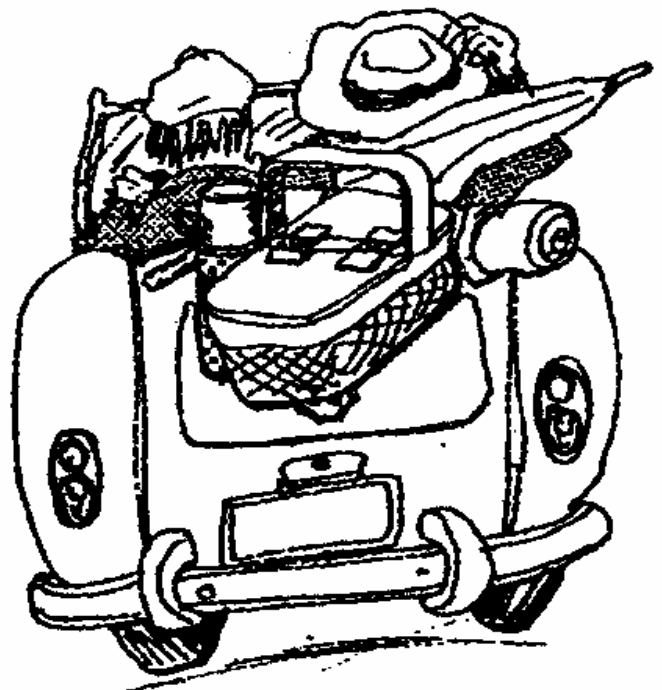
Rowdies Website
Steve Mazurek, Webmaster
URL: <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/>

Mac McDonnells Database Report
2 new members since January 1, 2006.
77 Active and paid-up members.
74 % NAMGAR members.

E-mail & address corrections:

Niel & Thelma Griffen
ntgriff@sbcglobal.net

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1930 MG Midget