



A - Antics



Business Meeting Report & Photos

Days In the Garage, March 28, April 26

Kimber Birthday Bash & Smith Meet, April 11

Michigan Chapter of North American MGA Register

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HISTORY The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was the NAMGAR's first chapter. We are a low-key club, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our MGA's. Anyone is welcome to join our chapter and they are asked to join NAMGAR too.

CHAPTER DUES \$20 annually (\$25 for printed newsletter)

NICKNAME *Rowdies*

MOTTO *People First!*

ROWDIES SITE

www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies

MG WEB SITE

www.mgcars.org.uk

NAMGAR WEB SITE

www.namgar.com

PAST CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

1976-1980 *Bruce Nichols*

1981-1982 *Tom Latta*

1983-1984 *Dick Feight*

1985-1988 *Dave Smith*

1989-1990 *Dave Quinn*

1991-1994 *Mark Barnhart*

1995-1995 *Herb Maier*

1996-1996 *Tom Knoy*

1997-1998 *Neil Griffin*

1999-2002 *Bruce Nichols*

2003-2004 *Bob Sutton*

2005-2008 *Gordie Bird*

2009-2010 *Dave Quinn*

ROWDIES 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 28 - Day in the Garage**, Sat, Steve & Donna Finch host, White Lake.

APRIL

- 11 - Kimber Birthday Bash**. Sat. MG clubs annual kickoff at the Delhi Café, Holt. Dave Smith, host. Starts 11:30am.
- 26 - Day in the Garage**, Sun, Gordie & Tracey Bird host, Orion.

MAY

- 17 - Spring Tour**, Sun, Philip Wiltshire host, SE Mich.

JUNE

- 7 - Orphan Car Show & Meet**, Sun. Show in Ypsilanti followed by gathering at Neil & Thelma Griffin, host, in Belleville.
- 19/21 - Stradford Festival**, Fri-Sun, Philip Wiltshire's annual Ontario trip to see a musical.

JULY

- 12 - Mad Dogs & Englishmen**, Sun, Jul 12. Gimore Museum.
- 13/17 - NAMGAR GT-34**, Mon-Fri, Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- 25 - Pool Party**, Sat, Steve & Cathy Holliday host, Oakland.
- 31 - Meadow Brook Kick-Off**, Fri evening, Matt & Lisa Wigent host, Clarkston.

AUGUST

- 15 - Rowdies Birthday Party**, Sat, Dave & Phyllis Goeddeke host, Livonia.

SEPTEMBER

- 12 - Lemon Creek Winery All British Show**, Sat, Bruce Nichols host, Berrien Springs.
- 13 - Battle of the Brits**, Sun, Campus of Orchard Lake St Marys, Orchard Lake.

OCTOBER

- 10 - Chile Meet**, Sat, Mark & Marji Barnhart host, Prudenville.
- 11 - Ludington Barn Tour**, Sun, Matt & Lisa Wigent host, Ludington area.

DECEMBER

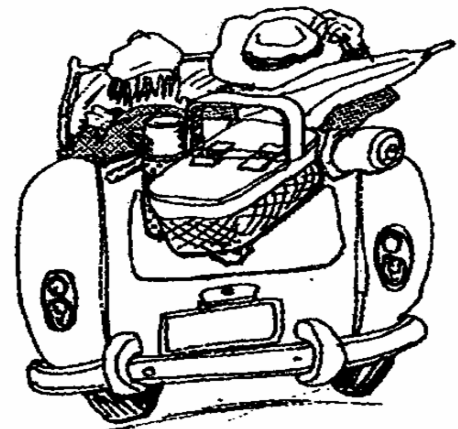
- 5 - Rowdies Christmas Party**, Sat, Bone Island Grill, Dave & Donna Quinn host, Jackson.

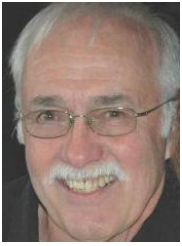
FEBRUARY 2010

- 13 - Rowdies Business Meet**, Sat, Gordie & Tracey Bird host.

Footnote:

- TBD - Rowdies Gymkhana**, pending an approved location





Chairman's Chatter

by Dave Quinn

The elections are over. The votes are in. Your 2009 Michigan Chapter officers are Dave Quinn, Chairman; Mark Barnhart, Meets Chairman; Jeff Zorn, Treasurer; Ken Nelson, A-Antics Editor, Mac McDonnell, A-Antics Assist, Larry Pittman, Webmaster; Brian Beery, Regalia Chairman; and Bruce Nichols, Membership Chairman.

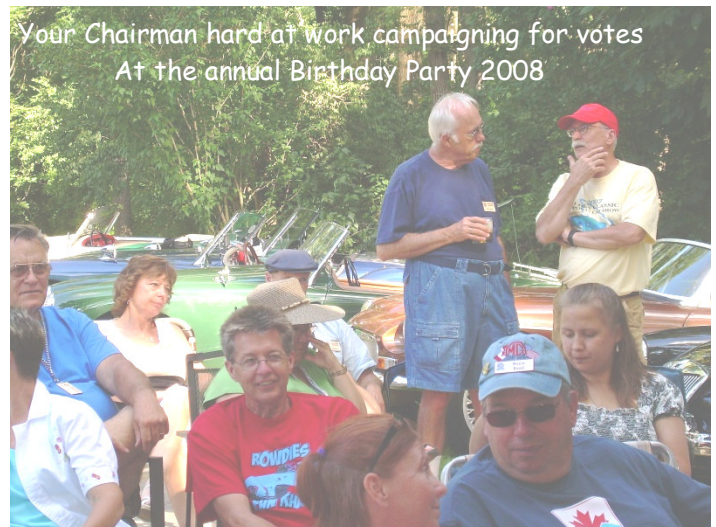
As your new chairman I wish to extend a big thank you to the departing officers - Gordie Bird, Dave Goeddeke, Steve Holliday, and Steve Mazurek for their years of work and dedication. Having held a few of these jobs in the past I know that there can be a lot of behind the scenes work that goes unnoticed but it is appreciated. Every renewal testifies to that. The emphasis in this year's 2009 Calendar planning was to encourage meets at members homes. Home meets provide the best opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of the club, while still enjoying the show & shine meets. I would like to thank everyone who offered to host an event. Events and the newsletter are the glue that holds the club together.

We now have the ability to do an internet on-line anonymous survey. This is a communication feature with great potential to improve the club. I am happy to report we have an up-to-date email address for over 80% of our members, which at this writing number 71. I would love to see us reach 99%. This is the best I can hope for unless Brian Beery finally buys a PC. This survey feature is a wonderful example of why having your email on file is nice. Following the meeting I sent an email notice to the distribution list with our first survey question and already over 50% of the membership have answered the one question survey. The link for the survey is in this issue. Take a second to answer it if you've not done so. The results will be published in the next A-Antics. (see link below & on pg. 5, Members Page) If you have any doubt at all if the club has your current or preferred email address please send it to me. In the subject put " My Email" and send it to dlqs2000@comcast.net. It's that easy. I will check it against my current distribution list. Anything new or different will be updated in our database as well. Should you wish to exclude publishing it in the membership booklet and A-Antics please include that with your note; however I'm pleased to say we

have never had a report of misuse with any club directory information. On the contrary, a member might spread the word on something of interest. For example, members recently received an email with a link to a person with 30 MGA's in a variety of conditions that are for sale.

Brian Beery is pleased to announce Philip Wiltshire will be responsible for promoting the club's clothing. Where possible, Philip will assist Brian in non-clothing regalia as well (world traveler Philip has been known to visit the UK a time or two. Jeff Zorn will continue to place the actual clothing orders. When I joined the Rowdies in the mid-1970's I never dreamed it would result in life-long friendships. I know I'm not alone. Now that I'm the big cheese I can poke my nose into the database. It's pretty impressive knowing so many folks from the decade of the 1970's are still active: Bruce, Brian, Neil, Herb, Ken, Pat, John, Diane, and Don Harms.

We picked up a few more in the 1980's that are still with us: Mark B, Dave S, Philip, Tom B, Jai, Bob D, Dennis J, Garey, Mac, Curt, and Kathy B. The club must have been doing something right because we picked even more in the decade that followed: Todd, Gordie, Rob, Tom F, Dennis F, Dave G, Lloyd, Steve H, Johathan H, Marilyn K, Mark M, Jim N, Tom N, Kevin, Robert S, Mike T, Bill, Holly, Gary W, and Jeff. I hope those of you who joined after 2000 will feel as welcome and stay for the long ride. We have a great team of officers who are going to work at giving you the most enjoyment we can out of the club. Forget the economy. The best way to deal with stress is to keep a positive outlook and enjoy life's little pleasures like driving your MGA and socializing. It should be a great year.



Your Chairman hard at work campaigning for votes At the annual Birthday Party 2008

Members Page

Rowdies Website

Larry Pittman, Webmaster

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

Mac McDonnells Database Report

Two new members since January 1, 2009.

71 Active and paid-up members.

Welcome New Members

Steve and Donna Finch

3114 Pine Needle Dr

White Lake, MI 48383-3285

(248) 685-8488

sfinch3114@comcast.net

Cars: 1957 1500 Roadster, 1974 MGB

Allen and Florrie Bachelder

1222 Buhl Rd

Harbor Beach, MI 48441

(989) 479-9829

bachldrs@airadv.net

Cars: 1957 MG Magnette ZB,

1953 MG-TD, 1965 MGB Roadster,

1969 MGC, 1973 MGB-GT

E-mail & address corrections:

Please help us keep our e-mails up to date

Report any corrections or changes

Classified Ads

Personal for sale or wanted classified ads are free to all paid-up members. Commercial ad rates: Full page \$40 issue/200 year; 1/2 page \$25/135; 1/4 page \$20/110; Bus Card \$10/55.

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

The Survey Says...

Please check your e-mail from Dave Quinn on February 13 or click on the link below to participate in the member survey. Press Ctrl key & click on link:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YQglviditC6_2bEeSHSRHJgw_3d_3d

Win \$50

The Rowdies will have a drawing at each meet for a gift certificate worth \$50 in merchandise from Jeff Zorn's Little British Car Co.

We hope to see some new faces at our meets and encourage you to bring a friend to join. All paid-up members are eligible for a raffle to be held at each Rowdie meet. The winner of the raffle will receive the gift certificate.

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

Cover Photo: Business Meeting Photo by Dave Quinn

Business Meeting Report.

Meeting called to order at 2:18pm. Ended 2 hours later

Treasurers report: Jeff Zorn provided the report to all and said that we had net income of \$2112 (up 11%) and can expect annual income of \$1800 - \$1900. Members' dues and the Auction make up 90% and the Tech-Manual sales are the balance. Newsletter expense was down 15% to \$922 due to savings from electronic newsletters. Total expense for the year was up \$1570 or 62% due mainly to the free catered Christmas dinner. The club voted to continue the "free" dinner but with a \$5 donation at the door to defray expenses somewhat. Tech tip manuals cost \$12 to print and we sell for \$27 including domestic media mail shipping. Generally sell 12 -14 per year, sometimes more. Seems to run in cycles. Our current bank balance is \$4779. Treasurers report accepted and seconded.

Regalia report: Brian Berry has cup holders for sale for \$1 each. Stated a need for additional regalia to sell. It was decided that there would be a page in the A-Antics each month to order regalia, including the clothing. Jan Zorn will make up an order form for newsletter.

Newsletter/database: Mac McDonnell stated 71 current members. 50 receive paper newsletter and 21 get electronic. Cost of \$1.80 - \$2 to mail each newsletter. Paper directory will be mailed once a year at a cost of about \$1.80 each. Dues stay at \$20 for electronic and \$25 for paper.

Membership report: Bruce Nichols sends postcards for event reminders and contacts new NAMGAR members who are not Rowdie members. Stated that since he doesn't pay dues that he covers the costs of these mailings as it is only fair. Stated that he has been talking at GT meetings to have a early fall regional. Regionals only take a few people to put on and since they are shorter and closer are a good draw...smaller groups and younger members can more easily attend a 3 day event.

Membership report accepted and seconded.

Club calendars were discussed and were voted down for this year.

Old business: Lisa Wigent to sell Tech Tips manual on E-bay. Bruce Nichols is to send her several manuals so that she can ship them immediately upon being sold. There is a need to create a paypal account for the Rowdies so that payment for manuals can be made into that account.

Dave Quinn looked into a Facebook page for the Rowdies, but after other clubs failures decided not worthwhile. Dave Quinn has scanned approx 400 pictures from the beginning of the club and has identified those in the pictures. Idea is to include all people who have ever been members of the Rowdies. Next step is to burn a CD. Objective is to sell at a minimal cost. Talked about putting music to the CD as well. Mark Barnhart stated that it could be done through i-tunes.

New Business: Decided to take a survey of the membership to see if those electing for paper newsletter would be willing to pay \$30 instead of \$25. Idea is to get more people to get the electronic version to keep costs down. Decided all officers would get the printed version regardless of which they signed up for. Suggested that a little money be asked of the members for the catered Christmas party and it was decided that \$5 per person would be asked and paid at the door.

Gordie brought up the invitation to host a regional at the Mad Dogs show in July. Since the Mad Dogs show is the same weekend as the GT, and usually is, it was decided to pass on this for now. Matt & Lisa Wigent suggested a barn/color tour in Ludington on Oct 11th and Mark Barnhart offered to host a Chili cookoff on Oct 10.

Discussed event flyers that need to be in A-Antics and decided it would be the meets Chairman's responsibility to see that one was sent to newsletter editor in a timely fashion.

Events: Please see calendar for events and hosts.

Ballots passed out for new officers and voted on. New officers are as follows:

Dave Quinn - Chairman
Jeff Zorn - Treasurer
Mark Barnhart - Meets Chairman
Brian Berry - Regalia
Larry Pittman - Webmaster
Ken Nelson - Newsletter Editor

9:58 PM

01/28/09

Accrual Basis

Michigan Rowdies Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison

January through December 2008

	Jan - Dec 08	Jan - Dec 07	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Auction	480.00	382.00	98.00	25.7%
Membership Dues	1,423.00	1,299.00	124.00	9.6%
Tech Manual - A-Antics	209.00	219.00	-10.00	-4.6%
Total Income	2,112.00	1,900.00	212.00	11.2%
Expense				
A-Antics Newsletter				
Misc	37.09	0.00	37.09	100.0%
Postage	380.94	510.52	-129.58	-25.4%
Printing	503.78	575.94	-72.16	-12.5%
Total A-Antics Newsletter	921.81	1,086.46	-164.65	-15.2%
Calendar	1,553.02	974.80	578.22	59.3%
Door Prize 50/50	250.00	75.00	175.00	233.3%
Gifts Given	0.00	100.00	-100.00	-100.0%
Hosting Event	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0%
Meeting Expense	1,174.81	109.03	1,065.78	977.5%
Membership Directory Printing	0.00	86.92	-86.92	-100.0%
Membership Supplies	0.00	8.10	-8.10	-100.0%
Miscellaneous	0.00	-10.00	10.00	100.0%
Name Tags	101.00	0.00	101.00	100.0%
Total Expense	4,100.64	2,530.31	1,570.33	62.1%
Net Ordinary Income	-1,988.64	-630.31	-1,358.33	-215.5%
Net Income	-1,988.64	-630.31	-1,358.33	-215.5%

Michigan Rowdies Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison

As of December 31, 2008

	Dec 31, 08	Dec 31, 07	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Peoples	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%
Total Checking/Savings	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%
Total Current Assets	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%
TOTAL ASSETS	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Equity				
Opening Bal Equity	3,390.54	3,390.54	0.00	0.0%
Retained Earnings	3,171.97	3,802.28	-630.31	-16.6%
Net Income	-1,988.64	-630.31	-1,358.33	-215.5%
Total Equity	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	4,573.87	6,562.51	-1,988.64	-30.3%

Dryden's Coupe Engine Installation-by Gordie Bird

When Atlanta based Rowdie Brad Dryden said that his 58 coupe restoration was ready for the motor & trans to be installed, he called on 2 other Rowdies to help with the installation and first running of the motor. I've heard more than one comment about the expertise of Steve Holliday and myself, but they usually go something like; "well, they've certainly made all of the mistakes", which ultimately proved untrue! Maybe Brad said it best when stating that I had to be there for the installation since I built the motor! Now that's confidence in your engine builder! Upon arrival in Atlanta we were treated to a great dinner out for Valentines Day (no burgers on the menu, only Valentines Day entrées). We got up the next morning and hit the garage. The first thing we noticed was Brad's air conditioning and alternator set up bolted to the 1800cc 5 main motor sitting on the engine cradle. It was an impressive set up with several fabricated parts. But, true to Holliday and Bird form we had to point out what he had done wrong. After several disassemblies and re-assemblies, not to mention 2 trips to the hardware store, we felt that the AC/alternator assembly was worthy of installation in the beautiful black coupe whose body and frame had been done by Carl Heide-man at Eclectic Motor Works in Holland. Brad had to agree it was better, so we hoisted it all up with the engine crane and it dropped right in. But, Oh, we have to provide a rear mount for the 5 speed transmission that was bolted up to the motor. While Brad and I provide for the trans mount, Steve started work on the exhaust manifold and carbs...his self-proclaimed assembly side of the motor. Once the trans was mounted, we had to make a decision. You see, Nisonger still had the oil pressure gauge that was to be used in the new coupe, so we either had to pull the gauge assembly out of his '56 roadster or run up to the auto parts and get a cheap gauge and fittings to adapt in place of the stock one. Since it was late in the day, we decided that steak, beer, and the hot tub was a better way to spend our evening; the next day would leave plenty of time to sort it all out. The steak was great and the beer cold, but with the



temperature dropping into the 40's for the night, we decided against the hot tub and all turned in early. The next morning, refreshed from a good nights sleep, we decided a generic oil pressure gauge would be the way to go, and with a list of parts, off we went to visit the hardware and Checkered Flag Automotive (where many in the Atlanta area get their LBCs repaired). Scott the owner was very accommodating and even made a distance piece that we needed for the alternator installation.

Back to the Dryden Bed & Breakfast so that we could complete the component installation on "my" side of the engine and get ready to fire it up. But first, we have to make sure we have oil pressure. After a few electrical false starts, the engine spins over wonderfully, but we've yet to see any oil pressure. After a couple of hours of intermittent spinning and no oil pressure, we decided to do as one Internet source suggests in such a situation; put fuel and fire to it and start it up. Just don't let it run too long if you don't immediately get oil pressure. But first, better put some fuel in the tank and check the fuel system. Whoa, fuel every-

where, so off come the carbs for a disassembly and re-assembly and the second time was a charm. Twist the new Pertronix distributor to about where it may start and crank it over. Cough, cough, cough, but won't quite catch and run. Mess with the timing and a couple of other things with the same result. Oh, wait, the carbs are not synced, connected, nor is there any throttle! Turn throttle screws on each carb to allow some fuel/air mix into the intake and vrrroooooom, engine takes off (not literally), but alas still no oil pressure, so after about 15 sec we shut it down and further ponder the oil pressure issue. After checking everything possible, it is determined that the oil pan will have to come off. Since this decision was at about 9pm on the second night, we decided that I would look into it in the morning while Brad took Steve to the airport. Steve and I had to take different return flights with Steve's being in the morning and mine in the afternoon. It didn't take too long to get the oil pan off and oil pump out of the block and once I did, I knew immediately what the problem was. Seems I'd used a 3 main oil pump

gasket on the 5 main block. Wasn't going to work. As to why I did that, well, since it was nearly 2 years ago that I built the motor, I can conveniently not remember! On our way to the airport we stopped by Atlanta Import Parts who conveniently had both oil pan and oil pump gaskets and when Brad dropped me off at the airport, he was going back home to re-install the pump and pan and fire it up!

As I am on the airplane now, I cannot attest as to Brad's success just yet, but I have complete confidence. During my testing of the oil pump I gained a complete understanding of exactly how it works and have come to the conclusion that the need to prime the oil pump is a fallacy. This is a positive displacement pump and as long as there are no air leaks (which the 3 main gasket causes) on the intake side, then it will prime itself within 10 or so revolutions. It will take considerably longer to displace all of the air in the remainder of the system, but the oil will be pumping almost immediately.

By the time you read this, he may well have even driven the new coupe! It's always a great time visiting the Dryden's in Atlanta, especially in the winter! The MGA work seems to include new challenges as well. This trip, we discovered that Brad has some special tools. For any bolt larger than a 1" wrench will service, or any bolt that is not either SAE or metric, he has a fairly complete set of adjustable wrenches, with the pride being the battery powered! We now know what we tell Kathy he needs for next Christmas.

Brad still has the interior, dash, and other misc areas to complete, but it won't be long until it is roadworthy and he has promised to bring it to Michigan and hopefully to a Rowdies event.

We'll all be looking forward to the completed project, and in the meantime, we'll be ready if he needs the Rowdies expertise for any additional work.

Addendum by Brad Dryden:

Addendum: It seems that the problem of no oil pressure was in fact the oil pump gasket. After replacing and starting it as my two Rowdie buddies advised, the oil pressure took off to 40 lbs after the second 20 second crank. But alas, problems still arose in the form of a huge puddle of oil under the pan. Now my first thought was that the oil pan was not on tight. But after a roll of paper towel to clean up the mess, I discovered it coming from the spin on filter,

specifically at the area under the filter head where it screws into the block. Seems Gordie got the wrong size oil pump gasket, but I completely forgot about the \$1.75 seal between filter head and block. Hey Jeff, I need another part from LBCarCo.! And my education and fun goes on. By the way, this was the best couple of days I have had in a long time. Thanks guys!



ROWDIES DAY IN GARAGE

STEVE FINCH'S MARCH 28TH, 2009

Hosted by Steve & Donna Finch

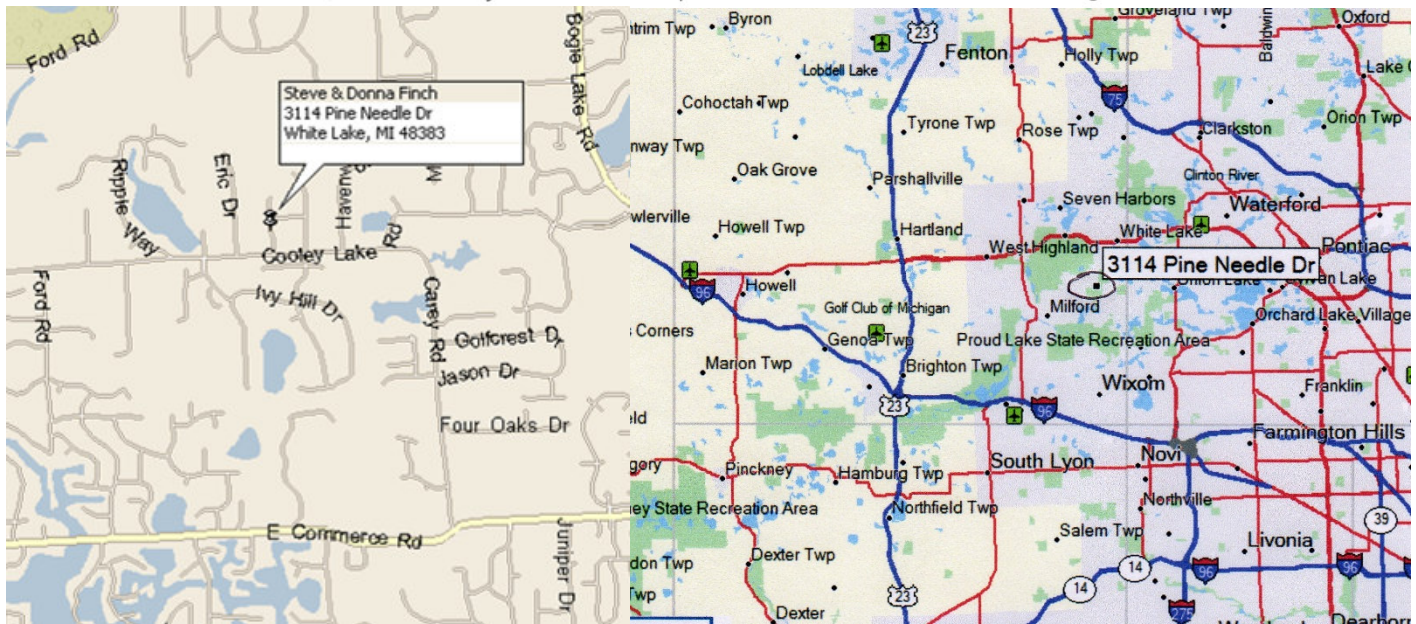
3114 Pine Needle Dr.

White Lake, MI 48383

(248) 685-8488

The fun starts at 10 a.m.

From Commerce Rd, go north on Carey Rd. (at the light near Zoner's Greenhouse). Carey Rd runs north, sweeps left 90 degrees and becomes Cooley Lake Rd - stay straight, now going west. Past Brentwood subdivision, go to Tamarack Hills subdivision and turn right on Mystic Valley Dr, going north again. Go to Ridgewood, turn left. Go to Pine Needle Dr, turn left. My house is the pink brick, third house on the right.



I have a reasonably supplied garage with air compressor, some air tools, jacks, jack stands, creepers, and a fairly complete collection of standard hand tools.

Projects considered: Install a new tonneau cover and lift-a-dot posts; install new Moss factory optional luggage rack (Moss); install 3-point seatbelt mounts.

Donna is planning a menu of chili and cornbread.

I have a garage frig stocked with OSH, Labatt's Blue, and pop.

I hope the weather cooperates.

My garage is not heated. I have one 20# propane sunflower head heater. If it is cold, we may want a few additional

portable heaters brought by volunteer participants.

As new Rowdie members Donna and I look forward to hosting this event and a long association with the Rowdies.

Steve and Donna



Cecil Kimber's 121st Birthday Party

Saturday April 11, 2009

11:30 a.m.

Delhi Café, 4625 Willoughby Road, Holt, MI (517) 694-8655

Get that MG out of the garage and join the Rowdies, the Speckled Hens, the Lansing Area MG Club, the Windsor-Detroit MG Club, and the British Motoring Club in the first get-together of the year. Arrive at noon to have lunch and socialize with a wide variety of British Car enthusiasts at this annual warm-up to our driving season. We all order from the menu and pay for our own, and then hang out in the parking lot for a while afterward to kick the tires. The Windsor - Detroit MG club brings the Birthday Cake, but you have to come and get it.



Dave & Chari Smith have invited the Rowdies to a Kimber "Afterglow" following the Delhi Café activities. Just proceed East on Willoughby 1.3 miles then South on Pine Tree Rd. to their home. Please bring your favorite beverage, and we'll chip in for pizza or carry-out if folks hang around long enough. The phone is 517.694.4856 if you have questions.

P.S. Dave prefers there be no garage fires this year

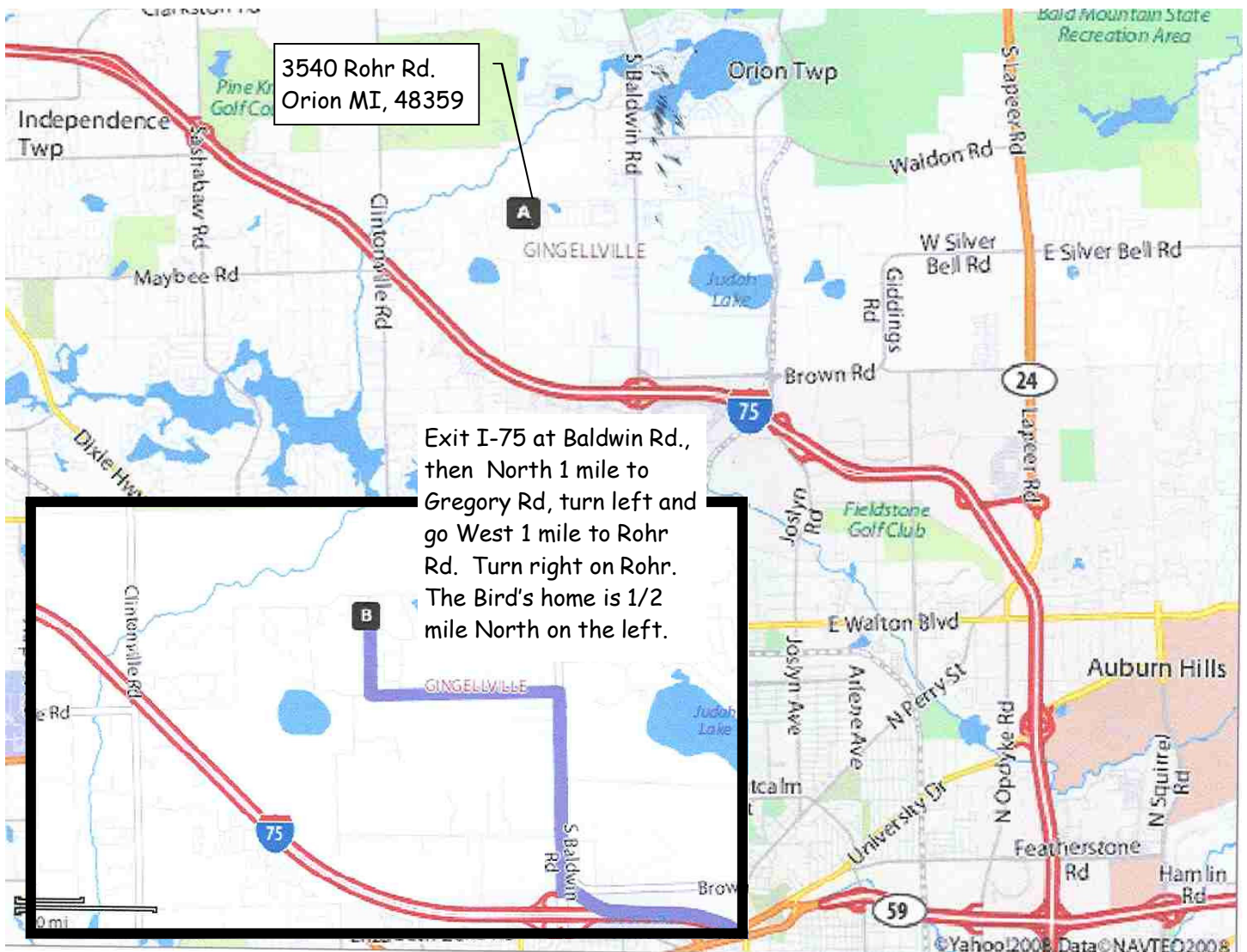
Bird's Day in the Garage

Sunday, April 26th, 9 a.m.

Come on over to Gordie & Tracey's and enjoy a wonderful (!) Michigan Spring day working on your MGA, or helping another Rowdie fix up their little beauty. Gordie hopes to get some help aligning his passenger side body body panels which he was unable to complete when he restored the car a few years ago. If you have a challenging project and you want some help, call ahead so we may be able to bring the correct tools or recruit a resident expert for your project.

3540 Rohr Rd, Orion MI 48359. Telephone 248.391.2395

See ya' there!



Biz Meeting Photos



Phyllis Goeddeke, Thelma Griffin & Marji Barnhart chat in the Kitchen



Brian Beery & Mark Barnhart weigh in on an important scheduling issue.



Our gracious host Lisa Wigent relaxes for a moment after Lunch.



Lloyd Hering, Pat Schwartz, Mark & Marji Barnhart, Donna & Steve Finch listen intently to a proposal for one of the upcoming meets.

Thanks to Matt & Lisa Wigent (and his Grandmother) who provided a great location with a beautiful view for our annual Business Meeting. Lisa prepared a great luncheon for the Rowdies,

including some great deserts. Thanks to all who participated and brought food to share.



Steve Holiday listens as Treasurer Jeff Zorn presents the financial report while Cathy Nelson & new A-Antics newsletter editor Ken Nelson makes a point..



Diana & Dick Grucz look forward to a great driving season with lots of Rowdie Meets

Living La Dolce Vita or "It don't get no better than this" says youthful MGA driver



Young driver Matt Nelson was interviewed shortly after winning the local rally at a popular MGA car club meet held at RB Hart's West Side driving range. "It really was nothing" said the humble young man as he leaned nonchalantly on the door of his low slung racing machine. "I let my dad do most of the driving because he needs the practice, but I made sure he paid attention and didn't miss a turn". Indeed, the young lad and his assisting father finished the course in record time, climbing John Ball Park hill in just 6.7 seconds to set a new world record for that particular part of the course.

Photo Credits: A very young Ken Nelson with a 1962 Brownie Hawkeye deluxe camera using 126 Kodak film ASA 25

"I'm Going to Let My Dad Help Me Rebuild This MGA" says young aspiring MGA mechanic



Young Mya Nelson isn't afraid to get grease under her fingernails if that's what it takes to get the job done. And that job may be anything from welding up a rusted out MGA body to tearing into the innards of a worn out 1500 cc engine to resurrect it to a new useful life as the heart of this 1957 MGA that she recently purchased. "I thought it would be a good chance to spend some quality time with my dad and teach him how to properly torque up an engine head" said the pretty young lass.

The Youngsters of The Rowdies-the next generation of drivers and custodians of our LBC's. Do You have any interesting pictures or stories of your kids and your cars? Submit them for publication. Fanciful embellishment encouraged. Let's help show our children how to have fun with the motto "Safety Fast"!

Technical Tip for Early MG Gearboxes.

After rebuilding my MGA three synchronizer gearbox, I could just barely feel some roughness when rolling the third motion shaft and holding the first motion shaft still. Disassembly and inspection found the bearing surfaces were in great condition, and the needle bearings were clean and undamaged. I had used a light grease to place the needle bearings while inserting the third motion shaft assembly in the case and into the first motion shaft. All other functions were good.

Running out of ideas, I used my micrometer to check the diameter of the 18 needle bearings taken from the transmission. The diameter of the needle bearing was .117 to .118. This made sense out of nonsense. The needles were all turning at a slightly different rate and were rubbing instead of rolling. The roughness was the rubbing action caused by the variety of diameters.

Digging thru my Transmission building kit, I came up with 100 or so needle bearings. As it was a nasty cold day in Michigan, I sat at my workbench in good sunlight and measured every last needle bearing. When all was done, I had sets of: .117, .1175, .118, .1185 and a few odd balls that I threw out.

This time on reassembly, I tried the .1175 set, as this tranny has had over 300 races in the last 12 years. The rolling action was smooth & quiet, but I felt that there was a bit of wobble in the nose of the unsecured 1st motion shaft after all was assembled. I took the unit apart, and tried the .118 set. Again very smooth and quiet, and noticeably less wobble in the first motion shaft.

After installation of the front cover and shifter bits, I put the CR transmission back in # 49 MGA. That weekend I ran the Alfa Romeo Track Day at Grattan. After 10 laps of aggressive 4-3-2 and 2-3-4 the unit was performing better than before.

I cannot explain the variety of dimensions, but did turn that to my advantage with a custom fitting of this most important bearing.

Dave Smith



Editors Note: As the first newsletter put out by your new editor, I just want to end this issue with a great big "Thanks" (capital T intended) to our editor for the last 4 years, Dave Goeddeke. His assistance has been invaluable, and I will do my best to keep up his, and prior editors, excellent work. Any glitches along the way are un-intended, and any resemblance to persons living or dead are likely purely intentional! Remember, this is the communication, information, and technical source of news for all of us, so please take the time to write and send in a report of events or interesting items for the members. Photos are also appreciated, or even a copy of a pertinent article found elsewhere. As mentioned, I'd like to get some interesting bits and photos about our junior members to include as well. Ken Nelson



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The chorus line at last years Brewery Tour in Williamston. Brian Beery photo

