



# A-Antics



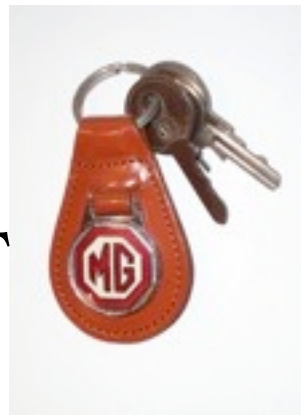
## *IN THIS ISSUE:*

**BARNHART'S CHILI MEET**

**MGA MUSCLE CARS**

**LEMON CREEK BRITISH MEET**

**MAD DOG'S 1937 RAILTON**



**MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NORTH AMERICAN MGA REGISTER**

**Chairman Dave Quinn**  
2929 Wolhaven Lane, Jackson, MI 49201-8268  
(517) 782-9749  
[dlqs2000@comcast.net](mailto:dlqs2000@comcast.net)

**Treasurer Jeff Zorn**  
29311 Aranel, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2815  
(248) 489-1855  
[jzorn@mgcars.org.uk](mailto:jzorn@mgcars.org.uk)

**A-Antics Editor Ken Nelson**  
3126 Brentwood SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
(616) 957-3158  
[kenneth.nelson1@comcast.net](mailto:kenneth.nelson1@comcast.net)

**A-Antics Assist**  
Printing & distribution **Mike McDonnell**  
Database & Webmaster **Larry Pittman**

**Meets Chairman Mark Barnhart**  
101 Peninsula Dr, Prudenville, MI 48651-9461  
(989) 366-8980  
[rowdie92@charter.net](mailto:rowdie92@charter.net)

**Regalia Chairman Brian Beery**  
1769 Minnesota Ave, Marysville, MI 48040  
(810) 364-7949

**Membership Chairman Bruce Nichols**  
629 Portage Ave, Three Rivers, MI 49093  
(269) 273-3118  
[nicholsbm@aol.com](mailto:nicholsbm@aol.com)

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**History:** The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was 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 as well.

**Chapter Dues:** \$20 annually (\$25 for printed newsletter)

**Nickname:** Rowdies

**Motto:** People First!

**Rowdies Site:** [www.mgcars.org.uk](http://www.mgcars.org.uk)

**MG Web Site:** [www.mgcars.uk](http://www.mgcars.uk)

**NAMGAR Web Site:** [www.namgar.com](http://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



**ROWDIES 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DECEMBER 2009

**5 - Rowdies Christmas Party, Sat, Bone Island Grill, Dave & Donna Quinn host, Jackson.**  
Let's Have A Party! Be sure to wash the salt off your MGA after driving here and back.

FEBRUARY 2010

**13 - Rowdies Business Meet, Sat, Gordie & Tracey Bird host.**  
Show up or risk being appointed the new A-Antics newsletter editor.



**She's Real Fine My MGA**

Well I Saved My Pennies For A Lot Of Days (Giddiup, Giddup MGA)  
Before I Knew I Would Hear Them Say (Giddiup, Giddiup MGA)  
When I Would Buy A Brand New MGA (MGA, MGA)  
Well Giddiup, Giddiup, Giddiup MGA (Giddiup, Giddiup, Giddiup MGA)  
Nothing Can Catch Her, Nothing Can Touch My MGA (Giddiup, Giddup MGA)  
When I Take Her To The Track She Really Shines (Giddiup, Giddup MGA)  
She Always Turns In The Fastest Times  
My 4-Speed, Dual Quad, Wire Wheeled MGA (MGA, MGA) B. Wilson, K. Nelson

(See Stories On Page 11 & 15)

## MEMBERS PAGE

Rowdies Website:

Larry Pittman, Webmaster

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

Mac McDonnells Database Report:

72 Active and Paid-Up Members

Welcome New Members:

Members Update:

**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 the raffle to determine each meet's winner.

## Classified Ads

MGA Frame for sale. \$100.00 All floor rails are there. There is some minor rust on the top and bottom 4-5 inches each along the side rails and the back of one battery box is rusted. Photos available via email. Located in Flint MI. Mark Barnhart

<[rowdie92@charter.net](mailto:rowdie92@charter.net)>

989-366-8980

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: Dec. 20th.

E-mail & Address Changes: Send to Editor.

*Front Cover Photo: Chili Meet at Mark & Margie Barnhart's, by Ken Nelson.*

*Front Row, L to R: Bill Weakley, Phyllis Goeddeke, Tracey Bird, Cathy Holliday, Brian Beery.*

*Middle Row, L to R: Margie Barnhart, Kathy Nelson, Donna & Dave Quinn, Pam Koch, Scott McMullan, Steve Holliday.*

*Last Row, L to R: Mark Barnhart, Bruce Nichols, Chari & Dave Smith, Dave Goeddeke, Gordy Bird, Tom Koch, John McMullan.*

*Rear Cover: MGA ad from Feb 1961 Sports Cars Illustrated. Submitted by Brian Beery*



Chili Cookoff Runner's Up



Donna Quinn's Winning Pot-The Empty Bowl Says It All!



## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Chairman's Chatter - Nov  
Dec 09

I have a new appreciation for the expression "The first step is the hardest"; especially when you miss it! In learning to live with my new hip I soon realized the harder I pushed myself in rehab the better things went the next day. I pushed hard and tried never to skip any exercise. My car hobby had to be put on hold but within 60 days I was back driving the MG and life began returning to normal. Unexpected events like that certainly give one a greater appreciation of family and friends.

During my car hobby absence the Rowdies had the MG tea run to Holly, Rowdies birthday party, Lemon Creek winery all British show, and the Battle of the Brits. Hopefully, you were able to attend and enjoy one or more of these events. It was great fun for us to be able to attend a meet after a two month absence. It is always extra fun driving to a new location. The rowdies chili meet at Mark and Marjie's offered us that chance. We got to enjoy Michigan's four seasons in one weekend with sun, rain, clouds, and even a couple snow flakes. We stayed at the Riviera motel which proved to be a good choice instead of the cookie-cutter motels that all feel the same. A nice view of the lake included a squirrel that came to our sliding door onto the balcony. He sat very pretty by the glass door begging for a handout and apparently thought the popcorn

was great when Donna gave in. He should have tried the chili. I'm proud to announce that Donna won the chili contest. Those who stayed over enjoyed both a great dinner and great breakfast at local long time restaurants. Sunday morning had the sun shining when Donna and I enjoyed Mark's lakes color tour.

By the time you read this the Webberville car show will be history. Webberville was a late addition to the calendar after the Rowdies received an invite by the city. Their flier was sent out to those Rowdies who provide the club with their email address. This leaves the Rowdies Christmas Party to round out the year. Last year's Christmas party was a huge success, so this year's party will be held at the same restaurant and use the same catering service. To help offset the club's expense, which totaled \$1,200 last year, we will be collecting a \$5 per person donation at the door. Naturally we will have the traditional gift exchange which is always entertaining as the gifts range from the very cool to the very bizarre. Hope to see you there. Dave



Dave & Donna Quinn at the Barnhart's.



DAVE QUINN'S REPORT FROM MAD DOG'S AT THE GILMORE-JULY 2009

It seems each year I attend the Mad Dogs meet I find a car that captures my interest. This is the one for this year. At first glance it looks like a Rolls-Royce in appearance and it's 139" wheelbase. It's a 1937 Railton BWV600.

Upon closer inspection it has some really cool features. The first thing that caught my eye were the three cool luggage cases in the back. They match the color of the car and they slide in and out on the tray underneath that folds up, and then is covered up when the trunk is closed.

Above the luggage is the tool bin with tools, naturally, in matching car color. A glance in the front shows a glass map table that slides out and is illuminated. The tray in the rear seat is very interesting. It holds both a Cognac and Brandy bottle plus four glasses. Silver plated items included a corkscrew, match box holder, cigarette box, sandwich box, chocolate box..... and an aspirin bottle! The car also carries a fire extinguisher and first aid kit.

Finally it had two sliding sunshine roofs over the front and back; reportedly a totally new feature for any manufacturer.

This was a one-off car for Reginald Rippon, owner of Rippon Bros. Coach Builders. It was what we might call a 'concept car' today as it was intended to show the various options a customer could order. It had a straight 8-cylinder engine and was built on a Hudson long wheelbase. It's my understanding every Railton was powered by the Hudson built L-head Terraplane straight-8.

The car is part of Hostetler's Hudson collection in Suipshewanna, IN.



Pictures by Dave Quinn

## October Chili Meet at Barnhart's

The Rugged Rowdies who braved a somewhat “chilly” (as in brrr...) Saturday recently to drive to Prudenville, MI for the chili (as in hot, hot, hot) meet were treated to some beautiful Fall Colors along the way. Mark and Margie live near the south end of Houghton Lake and invited the Rowdies to spend the afternoon kicking tires and sampling chili, along with the occasion beer or two. As in years past, everyone seemed to have a great time catching up on recent events, such as Chairman Dave's recent bout in Rehab. Before you get the wrong idea, this Rehab stint was to learn how to “Walk Like A Man, My Son” again after recovering from a broken hip. He's doing well, but not quite comfortable enough to show up in his award winning white MGA. Perhaps he'll be able to drive it to the Christmas Party? (See flier in this newsletter.)

Attendance was good. Besides Mark and Margie, there were Dave & Donna Quinn, Dave & Phyllis Goedekke, Dave & Chari Smith (seems that all MGA's are red, and all owners are named Dave, doesn't it?), Tom & Pam Koch, Ken & Kathy Nelson, Steve & Cathy Holliday, Bruce Nichols, Bill Weakley, Brian Beery, Gordy & Tracy Bird, and John & Scott McMullan.

Most Rowdies showed up in modern cars with good heaters, but 3 MG's were in attendance: Bill Weakley drove his MGC, Ken & Kathy drive their MGA, and Bruce

Nichols drove his shiny blue MGA. Mark had his “Jake's Stable” green MGA parked outside in a show of support for the other MG's. Ken and Bruce were both very happy to have the windows in and top up. Quite a change from the 98 degree temps they encountered all the way to Hot Springs, AK last July for GT-34.

After suitable reminiscing the group moved inside to Margie's kitchen for the “piece de resistance” of the meet: The Chili Tasting. The competition was fierce, and I saw quite a bit of Washington style lobbying going on as each chef tried to convince the assemblage of the merits of their particular recipe. Crackers, cheese, chips, and sour cream were consumed in quantity, and all washed down with beverages of choice. After most of the pots were largely diminished of their contents, the voting took place.

Donna Quinn turned out to be the overwhelming winner, and a spontaneous cry arose from all assembled to find out the “secret ingredient” of her recipe. Dave Quinn tried in vain to constrain Donna, but she freely offered it to all: Tomato Soup. Everyone quickly scribbled it down in an attempt to remember for next year's event.

After the obligatory group photo was taken outdoors (with that much chili inside 21 Rowdies it was considered only proper to carry on with the Post Chili Flatus Contest outside of the kitchen) some of the members loaded up to head for home. Ken & Kathy had to get back home that evening and headed out about 6 pm. Unfortunately



it had started raining lightly then. Fortunately it stopped raining soon when it began snowing. Which it did almost all the way home. Along with the snow the windshield quickly fogged up, but not to fear; MGA's originally exported to the US all had the optional heater/demister unit supplied. So Ken drove home peering through the golf-ball sized patch of windshield that it cleared, but made it safely.

Most of the other folks stayed overnight and enjoyed a good breakfast the next morning, and a color tour around Houghton Lake with Mark, before heading for home. Everyone had a good time, and we're all looking forward to doing it again next year, but perhaps with just a little more Global Warming Effect being in evidence! Ken Nelson



*Pictures by Ken Nelson & Dave  
"You-Know-Who" Goedekke*



How Do You Say MG?





Ready For The Snow



Bruce, Brian , & Chairman Dave



Mark Barnhart, Brian Beery, Ken Nelson



Cathy Holliday, Tracy Bird, Pam Koch





Steve Holliday with 2 extra beers in case this is one of the hot chili's



Kathy Nelson & Phyllis Goedeke



Chari Smith

Dave Goedeke



Bill Weakley



Margie Barnhart

Tracy Bird



**LEMON CREEK BRITISH CAR MEET-GREAT CARS, GOOD WINE, COOL MUSIC-REPORT BY BRUCE NICHOLS**

What a day for a meet. Seventy five and sunny. The drive there was excellent and I was almost sorry when we arrived. The cost of entering the car went up to \$25 but it included lunch for two (brats, sweet corn, and chips), a bottle of wine, and all the wine we wished to taste. Entertainment was furnished by the Bellaires, an excellent 50's/60's group. I even managed to get a picture of the upright bass for Ken.

Of course, seeing people that we don't see very often was the highlight of the show. Mark and Cindy Michalak were there with their red coupe as was their son Mark Jr., also with his coupe. Carl and Betty York drove their red roadster. I ran into two former Rowdies who promised to rejoin without any arm twisting.

There were around 85 cars present from TD's right up thru MGC's. Six MGA's were present as well as three or four Jags and a couple of TVR's. Austin-Healey's had the biggest group in attendance with all models represented on the field.

There was one interesting MGB present. The owner had the tail lights modified and the whole car painted bright orange; interior, exterior, engine bay, and the engine were all brilliant orange. It sounds horrible, but it really looked sharp.

The meet was over at three PM with the awards (popular vote by owners) handed out. Mark & Cindy Michalak won Honorable Mention. They were the only winning MGA.



Carl Young



Cindy, Mark, & Mark Michalak



Jim & Pam Keller



Try fitting one of these in an MGA for the drive home!

*Pictures by Bruce Nichols*





# Rowdies Christmas Party

## Saturday, Dec 5, 2009

### Starts 2:00 p.m.

#### Bone Island Grill

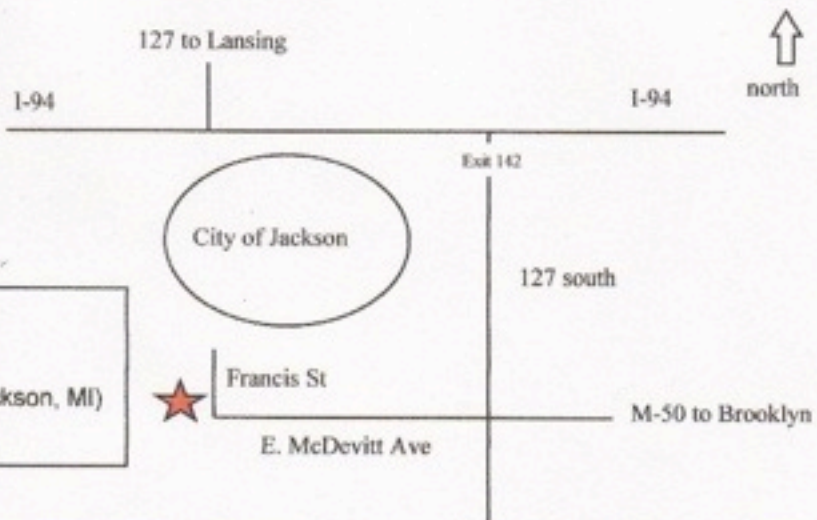
#### Summit Township, MI

Buffet dinner by Davis Catering at 4:00 p.m.

RSVP Dave Quinn at 517-782-9749 upon receipt of this flier to ensure we preorder properly.

**\$5.00 per person donation at the door.**

Please bring a wrapped gift per person for our traditional fun exchange. Bring your favorite Christmas brew (BYOB) or if you prefer, buy your drinks at the adjoining bar/restaurant.



Bone Island Grill  
4614 Francis St  
Summit Twp, MI  
(just south of Jackson, MI)  
517-783-2144

Directions: From I-94 (exit 142) take US-127 south 6.3 miles to the M-50 exit. Drive west on McDevitt about 1.5 miles. McDevitt makes a 90 degree right to become Francis St. Bone Island is immediately on your left. The owner asks us to please leave the parking near the restaurant for their regular business customers. The entrance to our space is the door on the far left.



Reprinted from Columbia Gorge  
MGAnnouncer October 2009....

Columbia Gorge MGA Club

## Movie Review — Sherman's Way

By Ken and Carol Hieter

Carol and I just watched a nifty movie based around a MGB and I thought that I would write a review about it for the club.

"Sherman's Way" is a great way to spend an evening.

"Sherman's Way" is another rich-kid-comes-of-age-with-the-help-of-a-washed-up-sport-has-been movie. Sherman (Michael Shulman, at his snooty best) is a very rich, spoiled college grad who is a "third generation unlicensed New Yorker who never learned how to drive". Sherman and the MGB are both a work in process. Sherman has a very hard time being spontaneous and the MGB needs a lot of love and attention as well. Sherman's first attempt at spontaneity drops him right into the passenger seat of the MG with The Bomber (well acted by James Le Gros). Sherman learns to drive a car and grow up while he and all his new friends restore a 1975 rubber Bumper MGB. I may sound a little cynical but in reality this is a pretty good flick. The Bomber has a spiffy side kick (Sparky the cat) that helps to flesh out the movie. The real attraction of course is the '75. There are tons of carzy scenes and watching the car morph from a 1975 rubber bumper pile of yuck into a chrome bumper show car in the space of a week is a true wonder to behold. Another thing that I liked is the fact that the MG engine noise is not some Ford muscle car overdub, it is real MG engine noise. I gave

this movie a big 4 out of 5 on the VROOM VROOM meter. I don't want to give the whole movie away, but Carol and I believe that this is well worth the \$15 or \$20 we paid on Amazon.com. So ahead and squeeze out the bucks for this one. As a final note, I will leave you with this great quote from The Bomber... "nothing says I love you like a MGB roadster". Man! Ain't that the truth.

This flick is a real boot in the boot.



*After reading this review in the Columbia Gorge MGAnnouncer newsletter I decided to check this flick out myself. I use Netflix and was happy to be able to find it available from them, so Kathy and I spent a couple of hours in front of the TV last night watching it. We'd both recommend it as an enjoyable comedy with appeal to a non-car person, but enough focus around a 1975 MGB to keep a MG person focused through the "Lessons of Life" part. It has an upbeat ending, great pics of the MGB on winding California roads, and enough views of the restoration process to realistically portray a rebuild of the car (especially since in California the bodywork consists of nothing more than pulling out a few dents, filling some scratches, and repainting). Sitting in a Michigan winter made me envious of the California climate as I watched them do all the car work out of doors, with Sherman sleeping comfortably outside on a couch under a car-port. The protagonist (Palmer the "Bomber" who is a washed up near Olympic ski champion) is played admirably by James Le Gros and shows the trade offs encountered between the life of a free-spirit, able to capture and enjoy the moment, and Sherman who rigidly plans each step years in advance and whose life so far has never involved having to sleep outside on a worn couch. Check this flick out; you won't regret it.*

Ken Nelson

PS Did I remember to mention the skinny-dip scene with Sherm's new California girlfriend Addy? You can always "fast-forward" here if it's boring.

# Hot Tech Tip For The Day

Reprinted from "BackRoads" The Texas MG Register Newsletter Nov. 2009...

How about a LUCAS Replacement Wiring Harness Smoke Kit?! This item was on eBay a few years ago, and the questions and answers are priceless!! You might want to mention the web address in your column so our members can enjoy it as much as I have.

[http://www3.telus.net/bc\\_triumph\\_registry/smoke.htm](http://www3.telus.net/bc_triumph_registry/smoke.htm)

Enjoy! Tim Moorhead



*Editors Note:*

*As I was getting ready to go to press with this issue of A-Antics I was a bit disappointed to not have any tech tips to publish for the members. Then I came across this great item of value to almost every MG owner out there. Be sure to check out the website address above for viewers arcane comments. It is priceless. be sure to send in some of your hot tech tips for the next issue also. It is helpful items such as this that keep our little beloved cars on the road and running strong. KEN*



## MGA Muscle Cars!

Three MGAs were entered in a NASCAR sanctioned race at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston-Salem in August of 1962. The track is a flat, quarter-mile oval. The race was the NASCAR Winston Cup "International 200" and had a 24 car starting field. 3 MGs, 1 Austin Healy, 3 AH Sprites, 1 Alfa., and 16 of Detroit's finest.

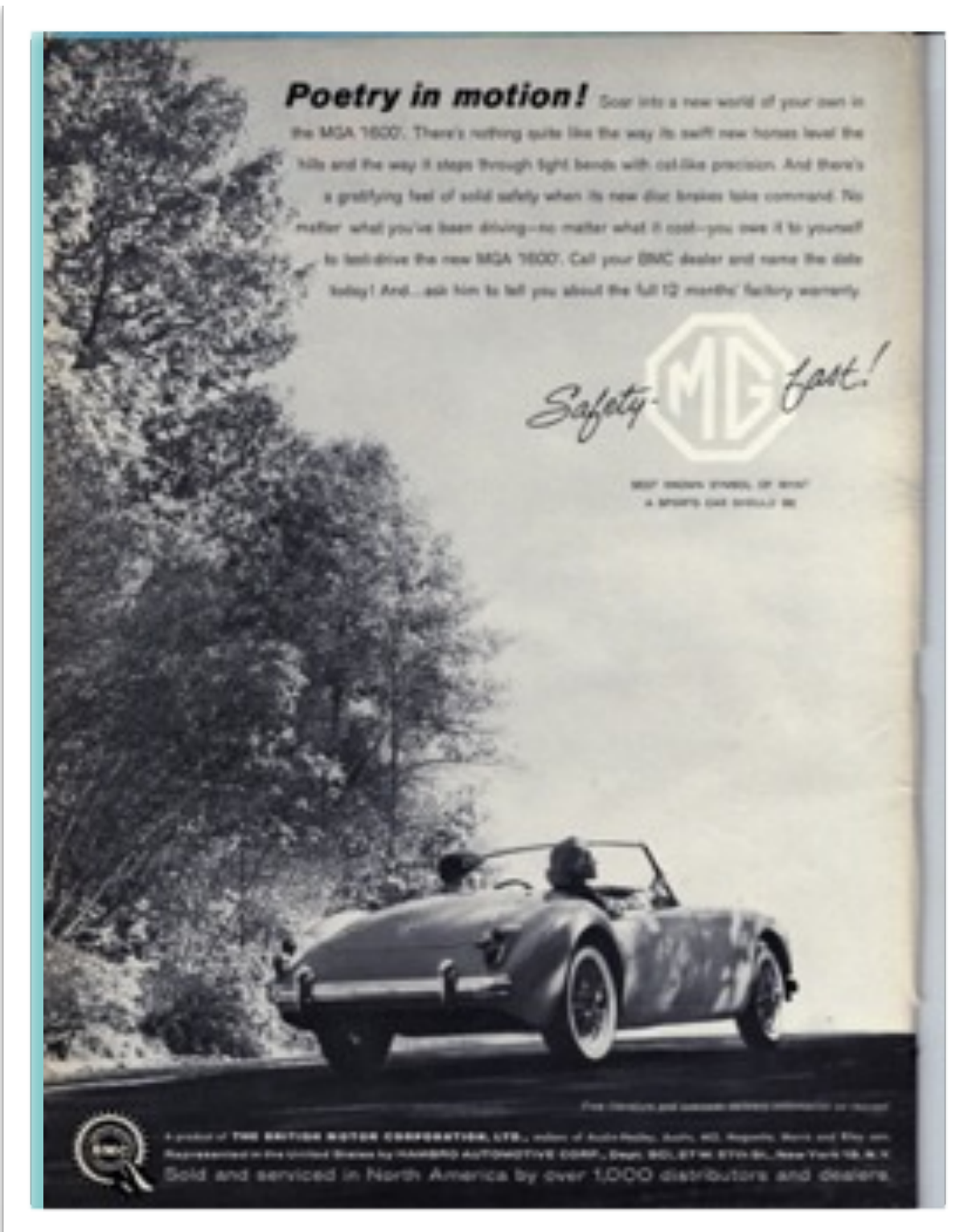


This is Bob Samyn's MGA racer which was drag-raced by him back in the 1960's with a Chevy Corvette 327 engine. It ran the quarter mile in 10.68 sec at 127+ mph. This car has been to some Rowdy and NAMGAR meets in the past.

Bob English's MGA (with Chevy V8 engine)

Another type of racing that can be informative is the Drags. With just 1320 feet to get their work done, these cars have to be well thought out. Whichever sanctioning body the particular strip works with (NHRA, AHRA, or IHRA), all the cars must conform to rules which are put in place for safety first and foremost. You can feel confident using these ideas. Some won't be applicable for a British V8 car, but some are worth your consideration. For example, many classes are required to have a battery disconnect on the outside of the car so the starter (the man who controls the tree) can reach over and kill the electrical power in case of trouble. You may not want it accessible to the public, but a switch like this can save a car when there's an electrical problem. Many of these cars have the battery hidden in the trunk so pulling the cable would be difficult.





**Listen to your Inner Self and Get in Touch with The Poet in You. Drive to a Rowdie Meet Today!**