



A-Antics



IN THIS ISSUE:

ROWDIE CHRISTMAS PARTY
MGA BUSINESS MEETING
"TWO FOR THE ROAD"-REVIEW
TECH TIPS AND THINGS



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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

MG Web Site: www.mgcars.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

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

Send information to editor.

Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: Feb. 20, 2010

Editor's Note: I am planning to run an informal series of brief sketches and photos of various members,

both new and old. See Bruce Nichol's story on page 15 and send me your story and picture today. Thanks, Ken Nelson

E-mail & Address Changes: Send to Editor.

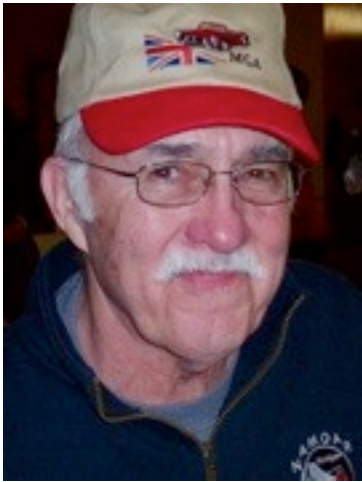
Front Cover Cartoon: Courtesy of Anglo Parts Supply Catalog. Santa's suit supplied by North Pole Tailoring, Inc

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



**New
Rowdie Key Fob**
Buy Yours today
only \$5.00

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER



In the last printing of the Rowdies Tech Manual, the 4th printing of the 3rd edition, we discovered a few errors including missing pages, duplicate

pages, and pages out of order. We were unable to determine if the fault was due to the master copy we sent in or if the printer made the error. The printer offered to do corrections at his cost and Mark Barnhart worked with Joe Pawlak of VIDataPrint to obtain a set of 100 corrections. The club in turn purchased a GBC binding machine off e-bay. Mark and Bruce Nichols used the machine to make corrections to the 82 remaining manuals in our inventory. Thanks goes to Mark and Bruce for resolving this issue after it was brought to our attention. We also have shrink-wrapped corrections ready to mail to the 18 people who bought a manual before the discovery of the problem. Unfortunately we have no record of who purchased the manuals. If you think you may have purchased one, they can be identified by

their bright white cover. You may contact Mark Barnhart with the option of receiving the shrink wrapped corrections and inserting them yourself. I understand this takes about 20 minutes or so. Or you can send your Tech Manual to Mark and he will in turn insert the corrections for you using the machine. Our plans are to resell the binding machine on e-bay sometime later in 2010, so don't delay. Contact information for Mark can be found on page two of the A-Antics.

The Rowdies last meet of the year, the Christmas party, was a really good one. Regalia sales started off with a bang, totaling over \$300, as everyone was pleased with our improved logo and new regalia items. Thanks Philip for a job well done. The Rowdies upcoming annual business meet will be here before we know it. It's February 13th, and in case you missed it, it has moved from the Bird's to Steve and Cathy Holliday's home in Oakland. We don't talk business through out the year. Nope. The Rowdies only have one business meet annually. Office elections are held every two years; since this is an off-year business will be confined to planning. This is where we make all our plans for the entire year - plan our meets, car shows, tech sessions, chat about old business and

new business. I encourage you to consider hosting a meet in 2010, especially if you have not done so before. Bring your ideas on what you would like to see from the club and let us know how you feel it could be made better. The only bad idea is the one you keep to yourself. The national GT in 2010 is just across Lake Michigan so we can take this opportunity to discuss possible savings, such as getting a group rate to take the ferry over. Please help us plan 2010 by coming, but if you can't attend, send me or call me with your ideas. This mid-winter meet is a great time to have fun, since we are not all-business, not even at the business

meet. See you there. Happy New Year.



A Happy Donna Quinn with a fistful of Dead Presidents from Regalia Sales at the Christmas Party

 <p>GAS PEDAL PLATE FITS ALL SPORT CARS 98c Made of Engine Turned Stainless Steel - Write for catalog-Use - over 25 orig- inal items for foreign cars - write ERNIE HANELINE DEPT. 5 - BOX 141 SUNSET BEACH, CALIF.</p>	<p>JAGUAR OWNERS</p>  <p>DEFINITION ORIGINATOR— Philip Wiltshire's writing and white composition "Booklet" is your essential. Many people have purchased it in their homes. Write for yours \$4.95. Post paid (outside USA) \$5.95. Order to: Philip Wiltshire, 117 Covington Ave., Long Beach 3, Calif.</p> <p>DON ATWOOD 117 Covington Ave. Long Beach 3, Calif.</p>
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95



The rowdies don't have grill guards to sell yet, but Philip Wiltshire did a good business selling some of the new Rowdie Regalia at the Christmas Meet. Here he models our new patch for Bill Weakley as money changes hands.. Keyfobs, hats, and new Rowdie T-Shirts are also available.



Gee, here I got all dressed up for the Christmas Party and I forgot to go. I bet everyone there had a swell time (ed note: Yep, they sure did-see report below) and I stayed home alone. I better remember not to miss it again next year!

Rowdie Christmas Party Dec 5, 2009

This event of the season took place at the Bone Island Grill with a catered meal of ham and turkey and all the assorted goodies. Everyone who was everyone was there (surely that included you as well?). Spirits were high as old friends gave each other a Christmas greeting and shared some old fashioned liquid spirits. Shouts of “Merry Christmas” and “Ho, ho, ho, the Mistletoe” resounded from the rafters along with the traditional “Have you been a good little boy or girl this Christmas?” and “What did you ask Santa for this Christmas?”. We all had to reflect inwardly for the answer to the last two questions and hoped that Santa’s answer matched ours. See the pictures included for a list of many of the guests, but apologies to any of the hundreds of other members whose pictures couldn’t be included due to space limitations.

As you can see, Sheri and Dave Smith helped to make the season bright with their Christmas hats and Mark Barnhart wore his fake (? perhaps real?) Santa Clause whiskers. Mac MacDonald wore his trademark Tam O’Shanter hat and walked around saying “Bah, Humbug” as he drank his Guinness, but still seemed to have a good time. Phil Wiltshire displayed some new Rowdie regalia and, judging by the initial sales, it’s a hit.

Of course, after a sumptuous meal, we all waited patiently for Santa to make his appearance and give out the toys to all us good girls and boys. When that didn’t happen in the first 15 minutes we reverted back to the old number system of choosing presents for ourselves. Sure, we’ve all been naughty, but at least a few of us must have nice sometime this year. Much spirited trading took place, but no one went home empty-handed. See the pictures and comments below to get an idea of who the big (and not so big) winners were.



Clockwise from Upper Left:
Bruce Nichols at the tree of presents,
both future & past; Sheri Smith, Mac
McDonald, Ken Nelson, & Dave
Goeddeke at the bar; Nothing Beats
Michigan "MG" Cherry Pie; Plenty of
good food to eat; Bodington's
Pub Ale goes great with
everything.



Brian Beery

Sheri Smith



The Great Feast



Steve Holliday, Doug & Ailene Butcher, Steve & Donna Finch, Cathy Holliday



Mitzi Pittman, Margie & Mark Barnhart



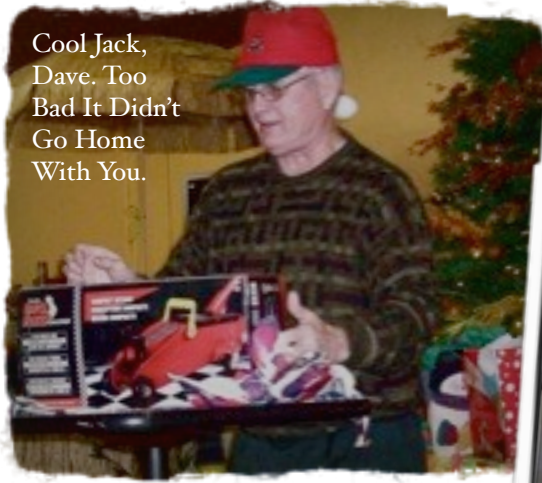
Top Row: Donna Quinn, Stephanie Smith, Deb Smith
Bottom Row: Kathy Nelson, Jayne Pollion



We all had to give a little

Wrapping Up The Rowdie Christmas Party With The Gift Exchange Always Seems To Sum Up The True Spirit Of Christmas Giving, As We Get To Watch The Ecstasy Of Victory And The Despair Of Defeat While Gifts Get Passed Around From One Winner To Another Through Our Numbered Raffle System. In The End Though, We Are All Winners, Because We Belong To Such A Great Group Of "People First" And "Cool MGAs" Second!

SO LET THE GAMES BEGIN, AND THE WINNER IS.....



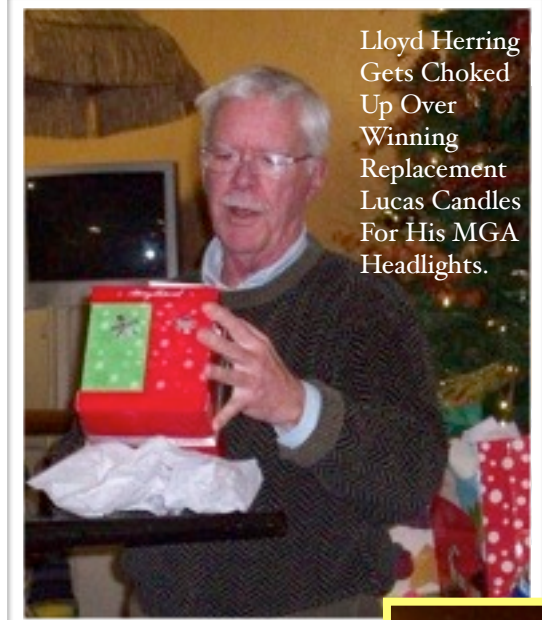
Cool Jack, Dave. Too Bad It Didn't Go Home With You.



Here's The Gift That Keeps On Giving. The Woofers Doing "Little MGA"



Jeff Smith Was Lucky Enough To Be Able To Take This Neat "Travelling Jewelry Case" Home With Him. Congrats, Jeff!!!



Lloyd Herring Gets Choked Up Over Winning Replacement Lucas Candles For His MGA Headlights.



Austin Powers Says "Shag Me, Baby" To Steve Finch



Deb Smith Gets "So Excited" Over Her Brief Ownership Of One Cool Hat



Mike Tyler Sees Something Good Under All That Wrapping



Aha! Another MG For The Garage!



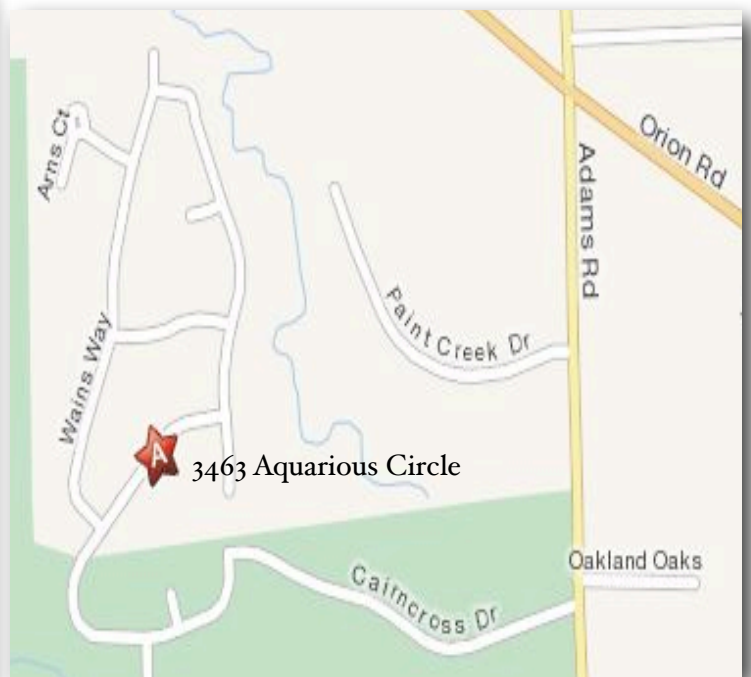
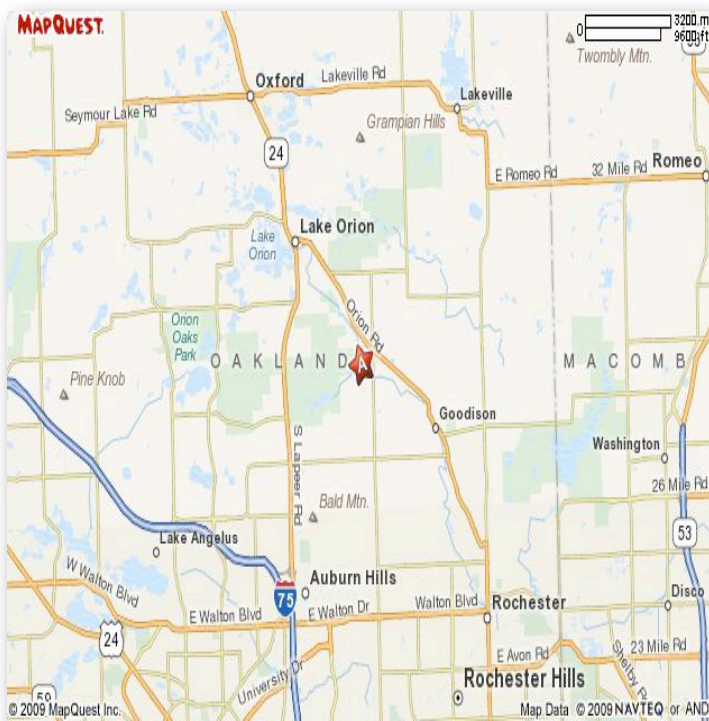
Ryan Cote Wins a Groovy Tree Ornament. Mom says, "that's no gift for a red-blooded American boy!" He goes home with Mike's toy MG. Attaway to go, Denise! Rowdie, Rowdie!

Pictures by Ken Nelson.

COME TO THE ROWDIES BUSINESS MEETING

FEBRUARY 13, 2010
or risk becoming an officer

Hosted by Gordie & Tracey Bird but located at the home of Steve & Cathy Holliday.
Bring your ideas, drinks, and a dish. We'll eat at 1pm and start the meeting at 2pm.
Gordie & Tracey – 248 391-2395
Steve & Cathy - 3463 Aquarius Circle, Oakland, MI 48363. 248 693-1382



Ho, Ho, Ho! Come on along to the business meet boys and girls, and I may even show up with some left-over toys on my sleigh from Christmas to give away to any good little Rowdies (can you think of anyone like that?)

Movie Review- "Two For The Road" -Ken Nelson

Any Audrey Hepburn or Albert Finney fans out there will undoubtedly have seen this trilogy film made in 1967. It is a romance-comedy-drama of two people at 3 stages in their life and relationship; initially as penniless students traveling through France, next as impoverished newlyweds driving their MG-TD on a honeymoon trip through France, and finally ending as a rich middle-aged couple with grown-up kids traveling in an expensive Mercedes through France.

Along the way they encounter quite a few bumps in the road, as well as in their relationship, and the movie traces the development of that relationship including both the good and the bad. All in all, the human side of the story is both interesting and believable; lots of people today go through many of the same ups and downs, and the outcome is never assured or certain. The acting by both Finney and Hepburn is outstanding. He is a wonderfully self-confident, cocky, cynical, self-absorbed individual, and Audrey Hepburn is, well, Audrey Hepburn. The scene of her imitating a crossing signal is a classic, and she is charming, innocent, delightful, and beautifully alluring all at once throughout the movie. Can you tell I'm a bit of a Hepburn fan here?

Well, on to the good stuff, because as the owner of a dark green MG-TD, you'll be able to get an idea as to another reason I can relate to this movie. The car is featured rather prominently in the second section of

the movie, and I certainly enjoyed seeing "my" TD being put through its paces. I wish I could state that "no cars were harmed during the making of this movie" but I'm fairly certain I would be lying. For me, I think that is what also added the element of Shakespearean tragedy to the story line. In 1967 I suppose the expense to the filmmakers was a drop in the bucket, and this was long before the era of realistic digital effects.

So, as in life, there is a bit of pathos as well as happiness in the story. I'd recommend this as an excellent movie that will impress your wife or girlfriend will how "in-touch" you have become with that inner feminine side you never like to show. It's great for watching on a snowy winter night when you are both curled up in front of the fireplace. Plus, there are some good car scenes of that MG-TD. And then again, there's always Audrey..... Ken Nelson



Albert Finney at his male-chauvinistic arrogant best in "Two For The Road"

Items to sell

1. Dayton 48-spoke painted wheels. Like new. \$500 for four. Used 4,500 miles. Moss list price Jan 09 is \$920. Dayton Wire Wheel list price 1/5/09 is \$1,144. These wheels were manufactured July, 1990 and purchased at that time prior to a frame off restoration. Used 4,500 miles following restoration. 48-spoke wheels were original factory equipment on the MG TD and TF, early MGAs, TR2 and TR3, AH100 and early AH3000.
 2. Pertronix Ignitor "Positive" ground Electronic ignition. Never installed. \$45. P/N LU142AP12. It will fit a 1963-1974 MGB with a **Lucas 25D4 distributor**. Also 1098/1275cc Midgets and Sprites, plus some Mini's and Triumphs. LBC list price Nov 09 is \$90.
 3. MGA black leather seat covers & a **SOLD**, red trim. Like new. \$300. Moss wants \$560 on sale.
 4. MGA lower front fender rust repair panels. \$65. Moss list price Nov 09 for #457-760 and 457-770 is \$65 ea for total of \$130. Bought new and stored since 1993.
- Contact Dave Quinn, 517-782-9749, Jackson, MI. Shipping, if required, at buyer's expense.



Larry Pittman displays the winning award for his MGA at the Battle of the Brits this year. Congratulations Larry for a job well done!



Silicone Brake Fluid

From Dave Quinn: "I came across this on the web. Appears to be an excellent summary on Silicone Brake Fluid."

Silicone Brake Fluid Strengths and Weakness

Strengths:

- 1) It has a high boiling point since it does not absorb water. Therefore, there's no so-called wet boiling point.
- 2) Doesn't absorb moisture.
- 3) Doesn't remove paint.
- 4) The viscosity is more stable over the extremes of temperature.
- 5) With the exception of some formulations used in external boots, silicone brake fluid is compatible with all standard brake components.

Drawbacks:

- 1) It's hard to pour without entraining air bubbles—hence an application will generally have a softer, spongier pedal feel.
- 2) It doesn't absorb water, so any water already in the system accumulates in the lowest point of the system and stays there, causing rust.
- 3) Glycol fluids begin to compress near their boiling points, whereas silicone fluids begin to compress at around 300-350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 4) Additives in the fluid can vaporize at comparatively moderate temperature, increasing the spongy feel.
- 5) Silicone fluids expand significantly when hot.
- 6) Silicone fluid is functionally incompatible with systems that have held glycol-based fluids for any length of time, requiring flushing and seal replacement (there are counter opinions on this, which state that the modern silicone formulations are in fact compatible with only a flushing, rather than a complete reseal). The actual DOT specification requires chemical compatibility, so as far as that goes, the two fluids won't cause reactions if used in the same system, but they certainly won't mix, either.
- 7) It's pretty much incompatible with anti-lock brakes because the silicone fluids tend to be more viscous, which can cause problems with the timing of the pulses that are intended to work with the thinner glycol-base fluid. This sometimes leads to damage of the ABS valving. The rapid pulsing necessary to anti-lock functions tend to cavitate the fluid, as the tiny bubbles collapse and coalesce into larger ones, and then collapse and reform into smaller ones. This tends to counteract the ABS effect and can diminish the actual effective braking. This condition also heats the fluid and can lead to even more sponginess and possible damage to the ABS controller. Thirdly, silicone brake fluid tends to foam when expressed from a small orifice under pressure, reducing its hydraulic effectiveness greatly.

Source: superchevy.com



**Hot
Tech Tips For The
Day. First comes the
smoke.....Then comes
the fire.**



TECH TIP-STEERING WHEEL CHANGES

Ever try to change your steering wheel? For the first 31 years of ownership of my MGA I studiously avoided taking the steering wheel off the steering column of my car. Once I discovered that I could easily remove the adjustable column extension (remove the pinch bolt and collar at the dash and then pop out the locking key at the side and it slides right out) with the steering wheel still attached, I gave up even trying to take the wheel off the shaft. I painted and added a leather cover to the original steering wheel this way. But I finally decided that I wanted to try a fancy Moto-Lita type wood and aluminum wheel on for size. I had easily avoided this for 31 years due to the price of a company on ebay in England (Watford wheel and boss for 1/2 the price, wheels come in 13" thru 15" than the original 15-16 inch a bit more leg room the car. I opted to try for although I was not have the proper



When it worried because it than the factory come head to head problem of getting of the steering single nut was easy- MG medallion hub. the only way to loosen with a socket. And a *BIG* 1/2" and a 1 1/4" socket but size is 1 5/16". Also turns out that to 1 1/4" size. So I had to hunt around get a bit pricey. Harbor Freight came to the rescue finally with an 8-piece 3/4" impact socket set from 1" to 1 1/2" in 1/16" increments for only \$26.95 (item #02561) and a 3-piece 1/2" to 3/4" adapter kit for \$4.99 (item # 02117). A *single* socket from S-K would cost that much or more, so this complete set was a bargain.

When I tried the nut (which was undoubtedly placed there 53 years ago at the factory) I got ready for a struggle. But a 3/4" socket can provide a whole lot of torque, and it came off easily. Then I looked at the tiny little splines holding the wheel on, and found I had no way to pull this loose. But when I removed the wheel and extension shaft together, I found that a light tap with a hammer and piece of wood popped the shaft loose easily also. What a deal! Plus, the new wheel slipped right on and tightened up easily. I was impressed!

But, how would it feel? Well, I'm here to tell you it feels like one nicely made and good fitting wheel. So far I'm enjoying it more than I thought I would. Steering requires a bit more effort with the smaller wheel, but it also feels "tighter" on the road and quite pleasant so far. So if you have a steering wheel change coming up in your life, you might check out Watford Classic Cars on the internet, and Harbor Freight for some cost-effective larger sockets. But I'm going to continue to keep the same "nut" behind the wheel of my MGA, even though Kathy does say he drives like a maniac at times!

Safety Fast, Ken Nelson

This is the first in a series of member articles on Influential and Famous Rowdies through the ages, current members, and/or new members, starting with NAMGAR's first Chapter's 1st Chairman, Bruce Nichols.....

I am Bruce Nichols, past Chairman of the Rowdies (twice) and one of the founding members of our chapter. I am currently the Membership Chairman and the NAMGAR chapter contact person for the Rowdies. The first four or five years of our chapter I served not only as chairman, but also newsletter editor, and meet coordinator. Back then the meet coordinator set up all the chapter functions. As Editor of A-Antics my phone bill would skyrocket three to four weeks prior to a newsletter trying to coerce articles from our members (*glad to hear that, all, ed.*) As our chapter grew given to others with more talent in these areas. I also have been the Technical Editor for MGA way back around years eight to ten. During this time



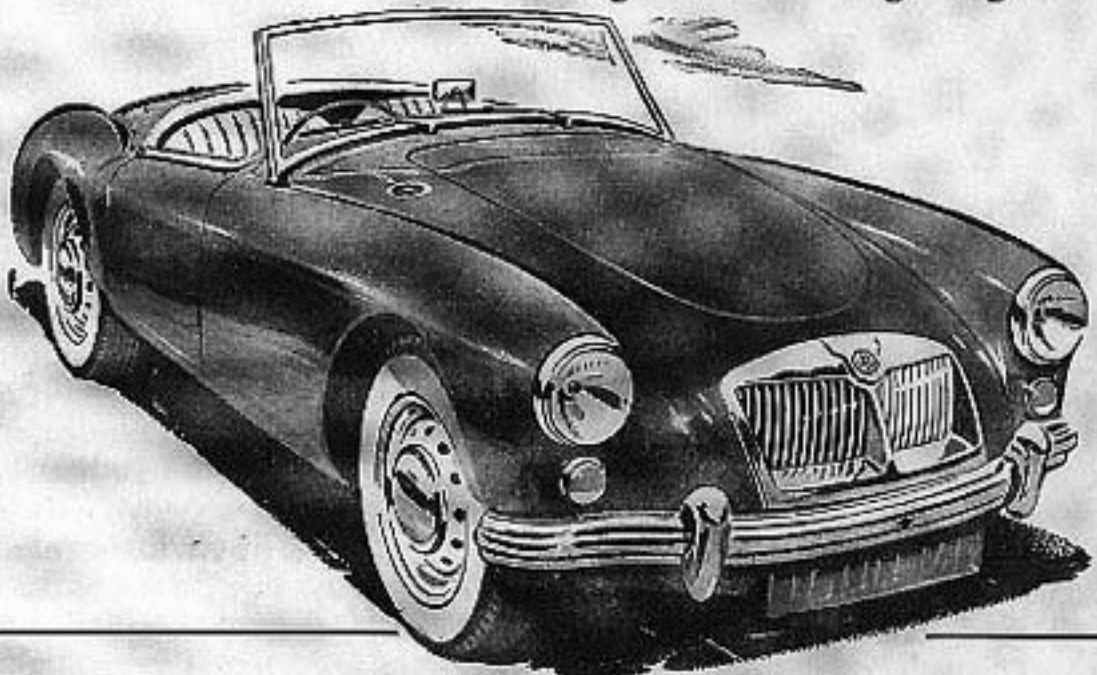
NAMGAR was growing and get in my A to attend chapter meets local interest in NAMGAR. We sure put a lot of miles on that red MGA. Two sleeping bags and a tent on the luggage rack, a full tank of gas, and we were good to go. I was a clinical chemist for thirty years and now I am in my second career as an instructor for a local college. I have four daughters that have been raised attending chapter and NAMGAR functions. Thanks for helping to raise my kids. They turned out just fine. The last 35 years have gone very quickly and I've enjoyed them all. Little did I know when I joined NAMGAR that I would be making so many life long friends.

Bruce (*pictured above wearing his favorite referee shirt and clutching his favorite beverage*)

Now in Bruce's Official Capacity, a message for us all.....

From the Membership/Chapter Contact – Bruce Nichols
NAMGAR will be having the annual board meeting in a couple of months and have asked for member input. This is the time to input directly to the Chairman or Vice-chairman on your concerns for the direction that NAMGAR should take and for the Renkenberger Spirit Award and the Mac Spears Award. An example of direction would be moving the GT's to a time that is cooler such as the 2nd weekend in June. If you submit any ideas send me a copy and I'll see that the other chapters are aware of your idea(s). As for the awards, send directly to the chairman. It would be best if you could get a number of people doing the same for your candidate.

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Put some power back in your life today. Drive to the Rowdie business meet and exercise your right of free speech and vote for the candidate of your choice today!