



# A-Antics



Cover & page 2 photos-D. Quinn, K. Nelson

*Business Meeting Report*  
Tech Tips  
Rowdie Meets Calendar  
*Bruce & Willy Mann's MGA*



**Pictures of Rowdies Business Meet Feb. 25, 2012. Report on Page 12**



*Dave Quinn*



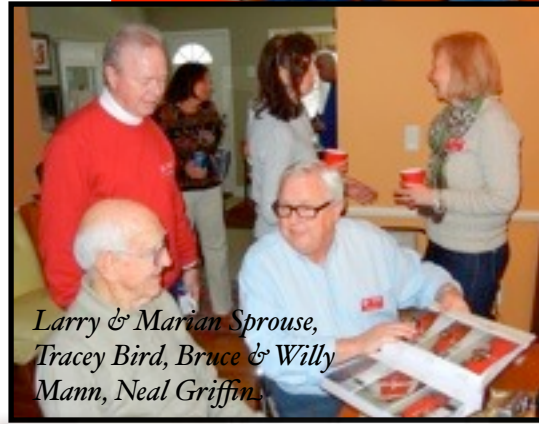
*Left to right: Dave Smith, Larry Pittman, Chari Smith, Bruce & WillyMann, Gordie Bird*



*Marian & Larry Sprouse, Dick Gruszcz, John McMullan*



*Donna Quinn & Phyllis Goedekke*



*Larry & Marian Sprouse, Tracey Bird, Bruce & Willy Mann, Neal Griffin*



*Bruce Nichols & Pat Schwartz*



*Dave Goedekke, Allan Bachelder, Marian and Larry Sprouse, Dick & Dianna Grucz*

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NORTH AMERICAN MGA REGISTER**

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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 content. No placement is guaranteed. The entire contents are copyrighted, Michigan Chapter. Permission to use is granted, provided you give credit to both writer and the club.

**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 (\$35 for printed newsletter)

**Nickname:** Rowdies

**Motto:** People First!

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

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

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

**Past Chapter Chairpersons:**

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

## Members Update:

Rowdies Website: Larry Pittman, Webmaster

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

Larry Pitman's Database Report:

71 Active and Paid-Up Members

**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:** 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 issue/\$135 year; 1/4 page \$20 issue/\$110 year; Business Card \$10 issue/\$55 year.

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

Send Email & Address Changes to Editor.

**Deadline for submitting material for the next issue is: April 20, 2012**

## Letters To Members At Large:

**Dave Quinn wrote last May about an ad for the current MG-6 built by the Chinese SAIC company:**

I'm not sure how sales are doing in the UK (there is a workforce of 400 in Longbridge who assemble this car in the UK from Chinese built parts shipped into the UK), but this ad shows an MGA as one of the highlights:

"Here's a pretty cool promotional video on MG history to introduce the latest MG sports car, MG 6. (Ed. note: There are great pics of an MGA, MGB, and MG-TD on winding roads. If you look quick you'll even see RM Riley's on the assembly line at Abingdon):

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sERBb-wLtl4&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sERBb-wLtl4&feature=player_embedded)"

## Dave Quinn also wrote about MG Safety:

"Gordie Bird sent me this film footage of some early 60's BMC crash testing. They crash a MGB at the 9:30 minute mark. The passenger compartment holds up well. Link to film: <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/bmc-crash-test>"

The video is a painful reminder of my 2004 crash in my MGA of 32

years. My copilot, Mac McDonnell, and I thankfully survived a 45 mph crash in NY but not without some broken bones. This film is a good reminder for recommending 3-point lap belts. At the time of our accident (a



young kid was ticketed for speeding out in front of us) I had lap belts. Without those, we probably would not be here. We both believe that our injuries would have been avoidable or minimal with a 3-point system, as the jack knife effect of our upper bodies suffered the damage. Clarke Spares sells a kit for anyone considering this. Both Mac and I have 3-points in our current cars, and I know a few other Rowdies do as well. Something to think about. {I will get off my soap box now}. **Dave Quinn**

**Matt Wigent** emailed about an MGA Twin Cam for sale:

"I know there is a premium for a twin cam but if any MGA is worth \$82,500 it is great news for all of us." (Ed note: Not if you're looking to buy one, it isn't. You can see it at the link below if any of you are getting a big income tax return check this year.)

<http://www.f40.com/inventorymanager.php?action=view&Id=452705>

Our Price: \$82,500

Call Today: (860) 342-5705

Body Style: American Classic (?!) 4 Cylinder, Manual Transmission. Exterior Color: Blue. Interior Color: Gray. Mileage: 3,824 Miles. VIN: YD3-1578

This vehicle can be seen at: F-40 Motorsports  
464 Portland-Cobalt Rd, Portland, CT 06480

**Steve Finch** emailed Dave Quinn about another rather unique Twin-Cam for someone with money to burn also: "Dave - you might find this interesting from one of my Canadian WDMGC members:  
[http://www.autozone.be/mg\\_mga\\_twin-cam-special/auto/detail.jsp?zoekId=3593978&locale=fr\\_BE&utm\\_content=detailUrl&utm\\_source=mail\\_vriend&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=27/01/2012](http://www.autozone.be/mg_mga_twin-cam-special/auto/detail.jsp?zoekId=3593978&locale=fr_BE&utm_content=detailUrl&utm_source=mail_vriend&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=27/01/2012)

**New Members: Welcome To:**  
Larry & Marian Sprouse:



1501 Platte Dr.-Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
Home: 810-603-1891 Cell:  
586-801-3302  
email: [bigby57@yahoo](mailto:bigby57@yahoo)  
1957 MGA 1500 Roadster

**Michael Bakarich:**  
1745 Glenwood Road-Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Home: 734-846-8125  
email: [jmbakar@umich.edu](mailto:jmbakar@umich.edu)  
1959 MGA 1500

## For Sale or Wanted

Good day Ken,

I am trying to sell off some excess parts! Can you run the following in the newsletter.

NOS MGA front shocks \$210.00

NOS right front fender MGA (call for price)

NOS left rear fender MGA (call for price)

MGTf seat tracks (pr) new \$80.00 for pair

MGTf metal dash used (perfect) \$150.00

I will be coming to Lansing in April and can leave parts with Dave Smith therefore no delivery charges. Many more parts available. Phone 905-7343475 or e-mail [ljbmg@cogeco.ca](mailto:ljbmg@cogeco.ca)

**Len Bonnay**

**FOR SALE**, full set of tires, hubcaps, wheels for 1960 MGA.

I have a set of five tires mounted and balanced on steel disc wheels from my 1960 MGA 1600. The wheels and hubcaps are perfect. The tires are four (4) Dunlop SP20 and one (1) SP4. Four tires have



3/16 of tread left, one tire is unused (the spare), one tire has a slight bubble. Also included is a spare set of lugnuts. I just bought the car and switched to wire wheels; I don't know how old the tires are. The parts are in Ann Arbor Michigan, you can pickup or I will ship (buyer covers shipping). Best offer will be accepted.

**Contact Andy, 617-285-0920,**

## ROWDIES 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEB

- 25 **ROWDIES** Business Meet, Holt, 11:30 AM.  
Dave & Chari Smith host.
- 26 Chicagoland MG Club Swap Meet 8 AM to 3 PM  
<[www.britishcarswap.info/](http://www.britishcarswap.info/)>

### MARCH

- 14-17 12 Hours of Sebring 50<sup>th</sup> MGA Reunion.  
Sebring, FL.

### APRIL

- 14 **ROWDIES** Kimber Birthday Party, Delhi Café,  
Holt, MI. 11:30AM. Dave & Chari host  
afterglo. Cecil hosts the cake and candles.
- 22 British Car Flea Market AH Club, Ancaster,  
Ontario, Canada <[www.ancasterbritish.ca](http://www.ancasterbritish.ca)>

### MAY

- 5 **ROWDIES** Drive Your MG Day. Fenton, MI.  
And GT-40 planning meeting. Larry & Mitzi  
Pittman host.
- 19 **ROWDIES** Brewery Tour, Weberville, MI. Dick  
& Diana Grucz host.
- 18-20 Carlisle Import Show  
<[www.carsatcarlisle.com/events](http://www.carsatcarlisle.com/events)>

### JUNE

- 2 **ROWDIES** Tea Party in The Park, Belleville,  
Neil & Thelma Griffin host. (Benefit for Arts Council  
Belleville-Rain date 6-23-12)
- 3 Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, Ohio <[www.lebcc.org/](http://www.lebcc.org/)>
- 15-17 **ROWDIES** Stradford Festival, Ontario, Canada.  
Philip & Jan Wiltshire host.
- 23 The Great Race starts in Traverse City  
<[www.greatrace.com/news/2012-schedule.html](http://www.greatrace.com/news/2012-schedule.html)>
- 23-24 Sloan Car Show, Flint  
<[www.sloanmuseum.com/car\\_shows.html](http://www.sloanmuseum.com/car_shows.html)>

### JULY

- 7-8 Mad Dogs, Hickory Corners  
<[www.gilmorecarmuseum.org/](http://www.gilmorecarmuseum.org/)>
- 9-13 **NAMGAR GT-37** Dayton, Ohio  
<[www.gt37.namgar.com/](http://www.gt37.namgar.com/)>
- 13 Rolling Sculpture Car Show, Ann Arbor
- 14 Jackson Road Cruise, Ann Arbor  
<[www.jrcruise.org/](http://www.jrcruise.org/)>
- 28-29 Waterford Hills Vintage Races, Drayton  
Plains <[www.waterfordhills.com/](http://www.waterfordhills.com/)>

### AUG

- 11 **ROWDIES** Birthday Party, White Lake, Bruce &  
Willy Mann host.
- 11-12 Alden Sports Car Show, Alden  
<[www.olderide.com/events/5064665.html](http://www.olderide.com/events/5064665.html)>
- 18 University Motors MG Summer Party-John  
Twist, Douglas Walker Park, Grand Rapids, MI.  
<[www.universitymotorsltd.com](http://www.universitymotorsltd.com)>
- 19 MG Vintage Racers focus event, Grattan  
Raceway, Grattan <[www.mgvr.org/](http://www.mgvr.org/)>

### SEPT

- 7-10 US Vintage Grand Prix, Watkins Glen Int'l  
Raceway, Watkins Glen, New York
- 8 Round Barn Winery, 17th Annual British Show,  
Baroda, MI (near Berrien Springs)  
<[www.roundbarnwinery.com/](http://www.roundbarnwinery.com/events_classes.php)  
[events\\_classes.php](http://www.roundbarnwinery.com/events_classes.php)>
- 9 Battle of Brits, Orchard Lake  
<[www.detroittriumph.org](http://www.detroittriumph.org)>
- 20-22 Put-in-Bay Road Races Reunion, Put-in-Bay,  
Ohio <[www.pibroaddrace.com/](http://www.pibroaddrace.com/)>
- 23 Orphan Car Show, Ypsilanti  
<[www.ypsiautoheritage.org/events.htm](http://www.ypsiautoheritage.org/events.htm)>

### OCT


- 20 **ROWDIES** Color Tour combined with Bill  
Milliken's Garage Color Tour, Ypsilanti

### DEC

- 1 **ROWDIES** Christmas Party, Jackson, MI. Dave  
& Donna Quinn host.

### 2013

- FEB 23, 2013** **ROWDIES** Annual Business Meet,  
Holt, MI. Dave & Chari Smith host.

**We want your MGA...** 

to be registered with NAMGAR!

Yearly membership is \$37.50 North America or \$52.50 International.  
The application form is available on-line at [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com) or  
from: NAMGAR Registrar, 7522 SE 152nd Ave., Portland, OR  
97236-4861

Members receive *MGA!* Magazine, the bimonthly  
magazine devoted exclusively to the enjoyment,  
care, and preservation of the MGA, Magnette and  
Variants; and an annual Get-Together in various  
locations in U.S.A. and Canada.

2010-11



## Michigan Rowdies Regalia



Lapel Pin  
\$4



Patch  
\$4



Tee shirt  
\$18-\$20 XL



Cap  
\$15



Key fob  
\$5



To order: Call John McMullan @ 586-746-0148 or Brian Beery @ 810-488-1975 or email John McMullan at: [mcmullan.john@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmullan.john@yahoo.com)





## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

Our club Treasurer is enjoying the Florida sunshine until mid-May 2012. That's why you will see him listed as Jeff Zorn, Treasurer Michigan Rowdies, 403 Bayou Village Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 on your dues renewal notices.

A member recently reminded me not everyone knows how easy it is to download a current membership list. I am reminded of that whenever MGA's travel together and I hear someone say, "Give me your cell phone number in case we get separated." Three-quarters of the Rowdies (dare I say all the active members) have already provided their cell phone number to our list. In less than a minute you can have a 2-page list (one, if you know how to do two-sided printing) with name, address, home phone, cell phone, and email. 93% have furnished an email address.

The steps to do this are easy provided you have a computer and printer. Doesn't everyone? I can think of two members that don't. That is why we provide a printed copy once a year with the printed version of A-Antics. Here's how to do it on your computer:

1. Go to the web site at [www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/)
2. Click on "Members Only" in the left hand column.
3. Enter your Last Name, first letter capitalized, in the box provided.
4. Enter your password. Email the Webmaster, Larry Pittman, at [larrypit@chartermi.net](mailto:larrypit@chartermi.net) if you do not recall your password. (Everyone initially was assigned a complex password. Since our system does not allow members to change their password themselves I highly recommend you ask Larry to change your password to something easy for you to remember.)
5. Click on Submit.
6. Click on "Membership Listing" on the line that says To View or Download: Membership Listing.

7. A neat 2-page listing appears, ready to print. Turn on your printer.

8. Print as many copies as you wish using your computer's browser menu. On mine I select "File" and then "Print" from the menu at the top of screen. Personally, I usually print three copies - one for the house, one for the garage, and one for the car.

Reading John Alexander's write-up in A-Antics got me thinking. It wasn't all that long ago - or was it - when a trip to the salvage yard could supply your needed part. The rows of cars would be spread before you. "Yah, you'll find the MGs along the fence on the left side." I've got memories of pulling parts and the occasional surprises that came with the task. The snakes were harmless but they could still get your immediate attention. Wasps and hornets loved living in these old bones and they were substantially more territorial and mean. Most of the yards around Clarkston and Drayton Plains where I lived at the time catered to American iron. However, there was one on Dixie Highway between Pontiac and Flint that had a rather large selection of foreign cars. It was easy to get side tracked because it was always enjoyable from an engineering side to see what was under their sheet metal.

There usually wasn't a lot left on the MGA bare bones chassis by the time I went on my treasure hunts. Still, I never left empty-handed and have to say I miss it. It reflects back to a simpler time. And when you did find a treasure it was the correct part and fit like it should. Along that same stretch of highway was a business called the Whoopee Bowl. A guy could spend the day wondering down isle after isle of car related parts. If it went on a Pontiac or Buick, they had it. It was chucked full of over-stock items, items that had minor flaws, old resale items, and brand new items that somehow found a way out of the nearby factories. Wonderful places like that have pretty much gone away due to community clean up crackdowns, insurance liability, and tighter plant security. I miss those simple times. **Dave Quinn**  
*(Ed. Note: I sure do too. I used to dig up PS pumps for my 1967 Dodge Coronet 383 in junk yards until the late 1980's. They were specific for that year car and engine size & unobtainable elsewhere. I still can't get used to calling those sources 'Salvage Yards' and I know Jim Croce wouldn't have written about mean 'salvage yard' dogs either.)*



## **GT-40 – Update**

I wanted to provide a very brief update on our status for GT-40. This is just an organization update in that all the chairpersons are now in place. There have not been any other changes to the plan. The next major event remains the visit to the Frankenmuth site in May by Carol Shamonsky (NAMGAR vice chair).

Below are the chairpersons who have agreed to take on portions of the GT. I've also listed major areas each is responsible for in case you're curious.

Next up will be figuring out what our schedule of events for the week will be and coming up with a timeline so we understand what needs to be done when. Hopefully, we'll get started on this at a meeting planned for May 5th at the conclusion of the Spring Drive we're hosting. **Larry Pittman**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Chairpersons</b>	<b>Focus Area(s)</b>
GT-40	Larry & Mitzi Pittman	Sign Legal Documents, Oversee Funds, Call Mtgs, Track Schedules/Events, 2014 presentation, Hotel setup OK
Publicity	Dave & Donna Quinn	Logo, Event Announcement, GT Website, MGA! Article
Registration	Jeff & Deborah Smith	Registration Form, Registration Table, Track Attendees, Primary Data Collector
Hospitality	Ken & Kathy Nelson	Door prizes, Hospitality Suite Staffing, Banquet Deco, Farewell setup
Car Show	Steve Finch	Car Show Plan, Windscreen Cards, Car Wash, Trailer Parking, Car Photos
Regalia	Donna Finch	Determine / Preorder Regalia, Vendor Liaison, Vendor Areas
Activities	Gordie & Tracey Bird	Local eating locations / Activities, Technical topics & Speakers, GT Orientation
Food	Dave & Chari Smith	Banquet Menu, Snacks/Beverages/Other for Hospitality Suite, Car Show, Farewell
Finance	Jeff & Jan Zorn	Manage finances, pre-approve expenditures, Financial Reports



# Michigan Rowdies Membership Application

## Michigan Chapter of the North American MGA Register (NAMGAR)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone Cell phone - helpful when group caravanning

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
To receive club announcements and online information like the newsletter (please make legible)

**MGAs:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Provide year & model (1500, 1600, MKII, Twin Cam, Deluxe). Note if a coupe.

**Other MGs or British cars:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nametags:** New members are entitled to two complimentary nametags.  
Print the first/last name(s) exactly as you wish them to appear:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name Spouse's name

**Dues:** We have two annual dues options, please select one:  
◆ \_\_\_\_\_ \$20. Receive the newsletter on-line.  
◆ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35. Receive a printed version of the newsletter with color covers by postal mail, in addition to the on-line version.

**Payment:** Return this application with your check or money order, payable to **NAMGAR Michigan Chapter** and mail both to:  
  
Jeff Zorn, Treasurer  
29311 Aranel St.  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2815

The Michigan Chapter was established August 14, 1976. We were the North American MGA Register's first chapter. We are a low-key club dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the MGA. Our nickname is the Michigan Rowdies. Our newsletter **A-Antics** is published bi-monthly. We urge our members to join the national, NAMGAR, (*voluntary*) as it entitles you to attend national get togethers throughout North America and you receive an excellent magazine called **MGA!** Are you now or planning to be a NAMGAR member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

List any additional details you wish such as children, who referred you, other cool cars, etc:

# MG Race Calendar for 2012



## Many Exciting Races with MGs featured for 2012

2012 is shaping up to be an exciting year for MG enthusiasts in many ways!

\*\*\*\*\*

**12 Hours of Sebring, March 13-17**, Sebring International Raceway, FL.; [www.svra.com](http://www.svra.com)

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MGA's last participation in the Sebring 24 Hour Race. A number of significant *Sebring MGAs* are expected to be on display and racing.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Classic Motorsports Mitty, April 26-29**, Road Atlanta, Ga; [www.themitty.com](http://www.themitty.com)

50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the TR-4 and the MGB. Guests include Kas Kastner of TR racing fame. The largest group of *MGB GT V-8* race cars in recent memory featured. MG-Triumph Challenge!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Canadian Historic Grand Prix, June 15-17**, Mosport, Ontario, Ca.; [www.varac.ca](http://www.varac.ca)

34<sup>th</sup> running. Simms Cup trophy for racing MGs. Small Bore Challenge Cup, an enduro series for small bore vintage and historic racers, including MG Midgets.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, 10-day 2-race weekends**; [www.pvgp.org](http://www.pvgp.org)

**July 13-15**, Historic races at PIRC (formerly Beaver Run), Wampum, Pa. Opening race weekend, MG featured. 2nd annual Spridget race for Midgets and Sprites.

**July 21-22**, Schenley Park Vintage Races -only vintage race in North America *on city streets!* MG featured with special MG races, car shows and an all MG race. Wayne Carini, honorary race director, to race his 1934 MG-ND while taping a new segment for his "Chasing Classic Cars" TV show. Many MG car clubs coming!

\*\*\*\*\*

**MG Vintage Racers (MGVR) focus event, August 17-19**, Grattan Raceway, MI

MGVR's 17<sup>th</sup> "Focus Event" is being held in conjunction with John Twist's University Motor's famous "Summer Party". All MG car show and races, tech sessions, etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

**US Vintage Grand Prix, September 6-9**, Watkins Glen, NY; [www.svra.com](http://www.svra.com)

One of the country's largest vintage racing events. Includes all MG "Collier Cup" race. Great spectator event - Friday the race cars go to downtown for a street festival.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Put-in-Bay Road Race Reunion, September 20-22**, Put-in-Bay, Ohio; [www.pibroadrace.com](http://www.pibroadrace.com)

Period sports car races and an island car show. A fun event where golf cars are the primary method of getting from one bar to another.

## Rowdie Business Meeting Report

-Minutes by Tracey Bird

Held Feb 25, 2012 at Dave & Chari Smith's in Holt, MI. See pictures on page 2.

11:30 AM to 12:00 Noon Arrival time  
12:00 noon to 1:00 PM Eat. Southern style chicken, potato dish, pop, coffee and dining ware were provided. Dishes to pass were welcomed and put to good use. Food was excellent, and the company was even better.  
1:00 PM Business meeting began and lasted until it ended. See a full report below.  
After business meeting ended the "Happy Hour, tyre kicking, and tall tale telling time" began. A great time was had by all, and everyone thanked Dave and Chari for hosting another great meet.

## Chairman's Report

### Yearend Membership Data

Yearend membership 68 households. Now 71, with one or more expected yet.

One member dropped: David Terhune.

Recent new members: Andy Hoffman (late 2011), Len Bonnay, Larry & Marian Sprouse, and Michael Bakarich in 2012. Andy Hoffman and Larry & Marian Sprouse attended the meeting and were welcomed by Chairman Dave and the rest of the Rowdies. Allen Bachelder attended from Port Huron as a Rowdie and as our Mquette representative also. Dave gave some statistics about our membership. It appears that most members can be contacted via email for announcements from the club if needed.

93% have furnished an email address  
85% are NAMGAR members  
73% furnished cell phone number  
63% receive printed A-Antics  
37% receive the A-Antics via just online

### Dues Reminder

Everyone's dues should be in to Jeff Zorn, at his FL address, by March 1.  
Bruce Nichols will contact any delinquent

member starting March 15.

The roster will be finalized the end of March for inclusion in A-Antics

### GT-37 Dayton, OH July 9-13th

Should be expecting a good turnout since it's in the Midwest with accessibility for a large number of NAMGAR members. Probably many Rowdies will be attending.

- Dayton, Ohio July 9-13, 2012. Must be a NAMGAR member to attend.
- Marriott host hotel. \$119 before taxes.
- Call 800-228-9290. Group code MGAN. 37% savings.
  
- 1/2 reserved rooms already booked
- You have till 6PM of first day to cancel...so no reason to wait to make a reservation.
  
- Also, avoid NAMGAR \$10/person late fee by registering before May 1

## Treasurer's Report

Jeff Zorn is in FL and was unable to be present. Expenses and income for 2011 were reviewed and details are available on request. The Rowdies expenses were \$2631.74 and income was \$2971.24 for a net gain of \$339.10. A large amount of our expense is in the A-Antics newsletter and in the Christmas Party, which is subsidized about 50% by the club. The rental of the Bone Island Grill next year will go up \$100. After discussion it was voted to increase the member cost of the Christmas party to \$15/person to cover the additional expense.

A question was raised about using PayPal to pay yearly dues. Jeff Zorn was later contacted and stated that PayPal or something similar is not a viable option at this time due to added fees charged. Jeff also requested that if anyone has an expense to be reimbursed by the club to please submit it as a separate item and do not just subtract it from your dues payment.

## A-Antics Editor's Report

Ken Nelson spoke briefly and thanked all the members who had submitted articles or

pictures over the past year. The newsletter is vital to keeping our members involved in the club activities, and Ken requested that as many members as possible take part in writing or submitting anything that is of interest to the members or pertaining to MG's (esp MGA's of course).

It is especially important for someone to write up a brief report of our events to publish, along with pictures of people (first) and cars (second). If someone volunteers at a meet to do a write-up and lets Ken know it makes his job a bit easier.

## **Membership Chairman's Report**

Bruce Nichols stated we have had several new members join recently (see Chairman's Report above) and they were warmly welcomed into the club.

## **Meets Chairman's Report**

Mark Barnhart was unable to make it to the meeting due to the heavy snowfall that occurred starting the evening before. Dave Quinn filled in for him and a calendar of events was decided upon as listed in this issue of A-Antics. Andy Hoffman suggested a Saturday meet at Bill Milliken's Garage in Ypsilanti and this was to be combined with a Fall Color tour in October. Bruce Nichols informed us that the previous Lemon Creek Winery tour has now been moved to The Round Barn Winery in September but they still have an excellent 50's RockaBilly Band that performs. Ken and Kathy Nelson mentioned that Phil & Jan Wiltshire's Stratford Meet is still scheduled and is a wonderful chance to drive your MGA thru beautiful country with a convoy of MG's and enjoy food and drink and a play for the weekend. See the full listing.

## **Regalia Discussion**

### **Regalia Accessibility – Is this an issue?**

Brian Beery is limited to a cell phone and has no Internet, no email, and no way to share ideas online with vendors.

Discussion ensued about having someone with

internet access assist Brian. John McMullan kindly volunteered to take on this position with Brian. Philip Wiltshire had originally been helping Brian, but is now working and staying in South Carolina/Georgia all year, so is unable to continue. Steve Finch has Philips supplies and will transfer then over to Brian and John.

It was noted that we are out of Grill Badges and question was raised about ordering more. We have paid a one time \$220 pattern fee already, so any more will cost about \$22 to the club. Several members expressed interest in buying one if a new batch is ordered.

### **Vendor Options**

Our current vendor is "Quality Lapel Pins", Gary Konwinski, Littleton, CO. 800-952-0305

The Windsor Detroit Club uses "EmbroidMe" 27857 Orchard Lake Rd (12 mile & Orchard Lake), Farmington Hills, 248-994-0105. Daryl & Adria Veit. [www.embfh.com](http://www.embfh.com). Catalog ordering with 3-4 week turn around. Would need to carry a certain amount of inventory still to have some examples on display at a meet. Discussion ensued about "impulse buying" when the item is ready for immediate purchase, vs how many people would be willing to pay at a meet and wait for a mail order to arrive at their home in 3-4 weeks?

The S2000 Club uses "Corporate Casuals", Concord MA. In business since 1999, 30 employees. 866-369-5935. Catalog ordering, no minimum and 3-4 day shipping. Club members order direct with a small discount... However, the club receives no profit.... But the club does no work and carries no inventory.

A consensus was reached that we do wish to make a reasonable profit from sales for the club. Decision was made to see what items we have left and review Philip's record of sales to see which items sold the best and to help decide on items and vendor later. Consideration has to also be given to how much effort and expense is involved if club has extensive inventory to bring to individual meets.

### **Regalia Pricing – What's best?**

- Current pricing in March 2010 set at just above cost. Idea was to promote club, not make a big profit.
- What should the margin be in future? Near cost? 10% 20% 30%? This tied in with which vendor we may wish to use. Decision was made to mark items up by 20% if club sells directly. Most commercial establishments mark up 30%, so this would be a benefit to members as well as provide some income to the club.

### **Pop-Up Tent – Good idea or not?**

The Pros and Cons of obtaining a club tent were discussed as follows:

1. Tent Objectives
    - A focal point which makes club's presence known
    - A shady gathering spot for members
    - A regalia sales point (earlier survey showed 27 members willing to work table)
    - A place for new member promo & applications
    - A focal point at GT40 lot
  2. Key to buying Tent
    - Someone must commit to haul to MI's four key events or arrange for backup.
    - Events: Mad Dogs, Twist Meet, Rowdies Birthday Party, and Battle of Brits.
    - Must store, haul, setup, and take down
    - Must forego driving MG or take on luggage rack
    - Must be or co-ordinate with regalia chairman
  3. Tent Cost
    - Costs run from \$90 (Harbor Freight) to \$500 for a quality light weight one
    - A free used tent available in May. No graphics. Condition unknown.
  4. Things to consider in purchase of Tent
    - Hauling, light weight with short poles
    - Recognition, 8 graphics
    - Bag for hauling, often separate cost
    - Windy day, ability to stake down
    - Size, 10x10 is norm but 8x8 may be sufficient
- A consensus seemed to be that having the tent be light weight and compact (and thus more expensive) would be very important. Commitment and ability to haul this to meets is critical as well. Gordie Bird will check with Jeff Zorn about his offer of a used tent and we may try this out

initially. Bruce Nichols said proper storage and drying after use is crucial to keeping usable for at least 3 years. We may run a poll in A-Antics for more member input before considering a future purchase. Club name and graphics on tent also felt important.

### **Christmas Party Cost**

Room rental to go up \$100 to \$350 for the day. Total club dues last year were only slightly over \$1k. Can we still afford this?

2011 Expense Breakdown:

Meals	\$566	
Room	\$250	
Misc	\$ 20	out-of-pocket
LBC	\$ 25	club portion of drawing
Total	\$861	
Less	\$343	door collections
Club cost	\$518	

Room rental cost up another \$100 next year.

After discussion it was voted to continue the party at the Bone Island Grill as before but increase the member cost to \$15 per person.

### **New Business**

Dick Grucz mentioned that he could probably arrange for Michigan Brewing Co. to do a limited run of several beers with a customized GT-40 label printed just for our GT in 2015. There was loud and prolonged vocal support for this.

Larry Pittman gave an update on his plans for GT-40 so far. He has appointed several volunteers to head up various committees for planning for the GT. See list and comments on page 9. Everyone who has an interest in helping with plans is encouraged to talk to Larry. As time gets closer we will hopefully be able to call on almost all the Rowdies attending to assist and make GT-40 truly a Rowdie Club affair.

Carol Shamonsky from NAMGAR will be coming up sometime in May to visit Frankenmuth and the Bavarian Inn with us to finalize a contract.

Larry is organizing a meet at his house May 5th for "Drive your MG Day" and will discuss further planning with committee members then also. We're all getting fired up to produce a "blow-out" meet for GT-40, but much work is yet to be done.

# SPRING DRIVE On Drive Your MGA Day

*Saturday May 5, 2012*

Meet at our house at 11:00 a.m. for departure at 11:30 a.m. sharp. We're very close to US-23, exit 77, about midway between I-69 and I-96.

The drive will be about 50 miles of country roads ending at a nearby restaurant for lunch. Then feel free to return to our house afterwards. Please join us for the first drive of the season. Hopefully, the weather will treat us well.


Address: 11406 Majorca Place  
Fenton, MI 48430

Our house sits on a corner with our driveway on  
Englishman  
The "shop" is off Majorca.

hosted by Larry & Mitzi Pittman  
Home: 810-750-0047, or Cell: 810-348-9318



**Ken:**  
*I see you're looking at a leaky rear axle...the attached article appeared in the Hoosier A's newsletter in 1985, written by Bob Kaskey (who sadly passed away a few years ago), offering another way to solve the problem of leaking seals. See what you think...  
 Bill Gallibugh  
 Hoosier A's*



## TECH TIPS

REAR WHEEL SEAL LEAK  
by Bob Kaskey

The left rear seal on my A has been leaking on and off since the car was bought in 1970. I've already replaced the seal on it once but the darn thing started leaking soon after and until recently I'd adopted the "ignore it and it may go away" attitude. After cleaning layers of gunk off the spokes last summer for the fifth time, I called a friend, "Wedge" Rafferty, who teaches the auto shop at Rensselaer Central High School. Wedge has been my "main man" in all the restoration work on my A and he solved my problem with a little research.

As a little background, I should mention that Wedge worked on A's (and many other foreign car types) in South Bend when he was with an M.G. dealer and our cars were new. He's a founder of that city's A.S.C.A. and even raced A's on the circuit. (His last racing A was named Marietta after his wife).

Anyway, wedge remembered that one of his tricks at that time was to install a wheel seal with a slightly smaller inside diameter and that seemed to do the trick. The specs are as follows:

Old Seal - (The one you'll get at NAPA if you just tell them you want a rear seal for an MGA) is part #66555. It's the same seal for 1957 models through the youngest MGB. The sizes are 70mm O.D., 49.2mm I.D. and 9.5mm wide. DO NOT BUY THIS SEAL.

New Seal - is NAPA replacement part #47609. The O.D. is still 70mm O.D. and 9.5 mm wide, but the I.D. is only 49mm. This translates to about 20 thousandths smaller in diameter and should do the trick. The cost is about \$6.00 for this size seal.

***Is your side curtain rubber brittle and cracked? Dave Quinn found a solution.***

"I bought older unused side curtains from Art Lewis in GR. I believe there were three different OEM side curtains plus several after-market brands. These are after-market. According to Todd Clarke these were made by Knolls Tool and are considered a little better than the other prominent supplier at the time, AMCO. AMCO are nearly identical except they have a mitered aluminum corner in the front top edge. The rubber that was in these curtains was terrible - brittle from aging even without use. The tops and sides were way too wide, so I bought Todd Clarke's side curtain rubber kit for under \$50. The rubber only required trimming where the joints come together. More importantly it was very soft and installed easily. The joints are a little tricky but the Loctite glue that comes with it worked great (of course time will be the real test). The rubber has a natural curve to it. You install so it tips inward to deflect water." **Dave Quinn**







*John & Lynn Twist, Ken Nelson.*



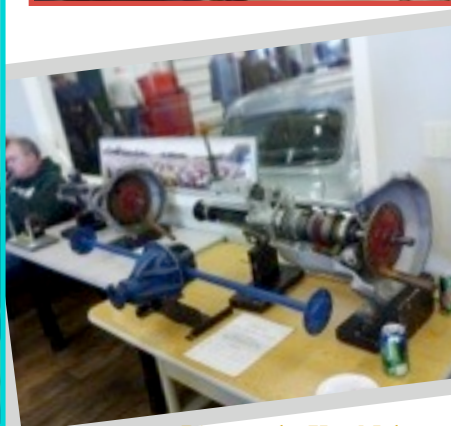
*Dave Quinn, Doug Kniff*



*Marv, James, and Ron-prior University Motors employees*



*Doug Kniff, ?, and Dave Smith kibitzing.*



*Kathy Nelson and Dave Quinn.*

*Pictures by Ken Nelson.*

## JOHN TWIST'S WINTER UNIVERSITY MOTORS PARTY SAT FEB 11 GRAND RAPIDS, MI

## MGA Reunion Set For Amelia, Sebring



Sebring, FL -- Nine known surviving factory team MGAs will reunite in Florida next Spring to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the last MGA teams that participated in the 1962 Sebring 12 hour race. Participating cars include a 1957 MGA 1500 roadster, a 1959 MGA Twin Cam coupe, the entire 1960 team trio of Twin Cam roadsters, the entire 1961 two-car team of 1600 MkI Deluxe coupes and a pair of the surviving 1962 Mk II Deluxe coupes.

The commemoration activities kick off at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance on March 8-11, where a special ex-Sebring MGA class will be featured. The major event with seminars, auctions, auto tours and automobilia sales, culminates on the golf course with the Sunday concours.

The cars and their owners will then head to Sebring International Raceway for events surrounding the 12-hour endurance race weekend March 14-17. One or more of the MGAs will be on display at the Sebring Gallery of Legends display at the circuit, and the remaining cars will be pitted together in the vintage racing paddock. Some of the cars are also slated to compete in the SVRA historic races scheduled during the weekend. Enthusiastic owners will be on hand with the cars at both events to share their cars' histories with fans and friends.

Additional information regarding the MGA reunion will be posted as it becomes available at the website of the North American MGA Register: [www.NAMGAR.com](http://www.NAMGAR.com).

Tickets for both Florida events can be purchased at: [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org) and [www.SVRA.com](http://www.SVRA.com).



Sebring 1962. John Colgate Jr. Donald Healey and Steve McQueen pose with 9251 WD (the MkII Sprite McQueen drove in the 3-Hour race).



Stirling Moss chats with team-mate Steve McQueen before the start of the 3-Hour race. Sebring 1962. Moss drove MkII Sprite - 9254 WD in this event.

## Bruce & Willy Mann's MGA Rebuild-Part 3

Well, it has been a while since writing about the status of the MGA restoration. Today is March 1 2012; it has been almost 3 years since we started this project. As you may remember it was a leaky master cylinder causing all the problems. Well we pulled it out and bought a new one, in June 2009. What we found underneath was most of the paint removed from the old non synthetic hydraulic oil. It dripped through the hole over the brake and clutch petals onto the floor and had a negative impact on that area as well.

We bought a new master cylinder almost 3 years ago and it is now on the car, bolted in with new hydraulic lines but not yet activated.

What seemed like a simple fix, replace the master cylinder, and has turned into quite a project.

I did this back in 1976 but not to this extent, and being much younger it seemed much simpler. Took most things off and told the painter/fabricator make it look good. I was busy with a job and the car exterior had minor rust but was in need of a good paint job. So \$700.00 later I was putting most things back on.

Well, that was then and this is now, a complete restoration. Sounded simple but as most of you know very difficult and time consuming. It is a good thing I am retired and have a partner who enjoys working on the car with me

The car is now nestled into the garage at home, and is in re-assembly. We have had most of the family, and now including my granddaughter Allison (Al) during Christmas break, at different times involved in putting her back together, but not without some issues.



Well, we are working everyday, making good progress, but not without issues. Our problems have been with fit up. The sills and rocker thickness, due to excessive mig welding, has caused many issues with door closure. I learned a little too late that the sill area with 4 pieces of steel needed to be .125-.135 thousandths. We had upwards of .300 in the corners and .275 on the horizontal area between the "A" and "B" pillars.

We had to grind the sills down to a tolerance of about .140 to .150, and repaint the area. We went from SF to Clarke Spares weather stripping and that alone wouldn't do it either. The interior side panels were recovered in leather and with the material thickness of those being in excess of .250 thousands, it caused more stack up issues. We had to modify those as well. We had to finally make a tough decision, one that I did not want to make, but cut the rubber off the Clarke Spares weather stripping. We'll have to live with that issue. So we did, and put on the felt stripping and the door panel, and the door finally closed. I guess I will not be able to drive in the rain, but who thought I would anyway?

Oh, by the way, we got the car back in December, and it had to go back to the body shop, after all the time away, to have the "B" pillar modified to accept the shut face. That was another big issue. Amazing how you forget those things.

We are about 90% complete with the assembly of the car. Got to make that GT coming up! We have now attended 3 annual Rowdy meetings, and numerous events, and have met a lot of nice and talented people.

I would like to thank all of you for helping me, whether on the phone, pictures sent on the internet, in the garage or just in conversations we have had at numerous events. It is all appreciated.

I will need some help with getting it going, and hope to count on some of you experts to assist in the firing of the engine.....Until then, Thanks again,

**Bruce and Willy**



**Also...  
Look for the ongoing  
saga of John  
Alexander's MGA  
rebuild in the next  
upcoming issue of "A-  
Antics" coming to your  
mailboxes in May!**