



MARCH NEWSLETTER

1989 Membership Drive

In this month's newsletter you will find a renewal/application form for 1989 membership in the Minnesota MG Group. Some of you reading this newsletter are dues paying members of the club and some are not. Either way, I would like to encourage you to renew your membership or to formally join.

The dues remain at \$20 per year. Your contribution goes toward covering the various expenses incurred on your behalf to make the club work and worthwhile. The newsletter is easily the biggest expense. Mailing costs are about \$40 per month to bring you information about club events and other items of interest. We are also spending some money on advertising. This month, for example, ads will appear in the MG section of the classifieds in the local papers to announce our Kick Off Brunch. The idea is to attract new members. New members will help the club to grow and remain vital. A strong club helps make it possible to bring about the kinds of events that most of us seem to enjoy. Along the way, it also helps us to preserve a bit of British motoring heritage and that's not a bad deal either.

Over the past year I have heard many positive comments about our club. Participation in club activities is good and growing and we do not have a great deal of difficulty finding people who will volunteer their time to make things work. Even if you have not been able to personally help with an event, you can still make a difference by joining or renewing your membership.

I'm looking forward to another great year of MG motoring with the MMGG and hope you are too!

Thank You.

Mike Funck

New Member

Phil Schaefer
Ricefield, MN
Yellow 1967 MGB-GT and
Blue 1959 Austin Healy Sprite

MMGG Kick Off Brunch

The first official MMGG event of 1989 is our Kick Off Brunch at the Hudson House.

Date: Sunday, March 19

Time: Business meeting at 10:00 am
Brunch at 10:30 am

Location: Hudson House in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Directions: I94 East from the Cities into Wisconsin. Take Exit 2 from the Interstate. The Best Western Hudson House is visible from the highway/exit. Their phone is 715-386-2394.

To MG or not to MG: That's up to you and the weather. Realistically, it's a bit early and even if there is no snow, there is the dreaded flying sand and grit to contend with.

Hosts: Dave and Laura Lynn Braun. 612-432-5019.

The Millers: A German Family with a British Legacy

by Nancy Miller

Family traits are intriguing -- the customs, the idiosyncracies, the special quirks that bind kin together to set them apart from the rest of the world. For the Miller family, of German stock and Minnesota heritage, the quirks and traits center around a love for British sports cars -- and especially MGs.

Like rock and roll, the British influence converged on the Millers in the mid 60's when the eldest son, Herbert, brought home a 1960 Austin Healy bug eye Sprite. In addition to his first car, he also brought home his first girl friend, Marsha, who drove a 1962 Sunbeam Alpine. The two hit it off and before long, at Herbert's recommendation, Marsha traded in her Alpine for a 1964 Austin Healy Sprite, Mark III.

But the fascination with British sports cars didn't stop there. Herbert's younger brother, John, launched his auto ownership career in 1967 with a 1960 Austin Healy 3000.

Then, wedding bells for the Sprite owners chimed in 1968. They identified a need for a larger, more luxurious vehicle. The newlyweds settled on a brand new \$3,400 1969 MGB complete with overdrive and wire wheels. Meanwhile, brother John bought an Alfa Romeo Sprint Special, and several months later a 1959 MGA. Shortly thereafter, in 1970, Herbert purchased a 1962 Austin Healy 3000 Mark II.

The early 1970's were college years for Herbert and John, which significantly impacted their car collecting. Then, in 1973, with graduation on the horizon, Herbert bought a 1961 Mark II Jaguar sedan. In a surprising move, Mom Miller followed suit and bought a 1969 Jaguar XKE 2+2.

The Miller's British legacy could end here, except for the fact that two more siblings were about to enter the world of car ownership. In 1977, Nancy bought her first car, a 1977 MG Midget. Two years later, she and brother John bought two identical 1979 MG Midgets off the show-room floor.

With MG production halted, the Millers soon realized the need for serious MG collecting. In 1983, Herbert bought an immaculate 1979 MGB. In 1986 John found a mint 1978 MGB, and in 1987 Herbert bought a 1972 MGB GT.

The last Miller to show his true colors was David. His anti-British stance faded in the summer of 1986 when he lived in London. True to course, he called to tell the family of his latest purchase, a 1978 MGB, complete with right hand drive.

A New Addition to the Family

by Mike Funck

About two years have now passed since my joining the MMGG. So far my involvement with the club has been what I would call evolutionary. In 1987, I attended a kick off meeting, the Christmas party and nothing in between. 1988 was better. I attended many events and in the Fall started to get involved with club organization including responsibility for editing the newsletter.

"But, where's your MG?"

Through all of this I have never been seen to arrive at a club event in an MG. Some members doubted that I even owned one and frankly, the answer of "my 73 GT is in the garage and I'm working on it" started to get a bit old. A remedy has been found.

A few months back I decided to look for a roadster in good condition. The idea was to find something to keep my "restoration project" company in the garage. A candidate finally turned up in the form of a 74 MGB roadster listed in the Star Tribune.

Pulling away the car cover in the owners garage revealed a very clean looking bright orange roadster. The body was good, top and tires near new, interior carpets OK and the seats had been reupholstered in leather. Poking around turned up a few items that would need work but overall the car looked good and the price was reasonable.

But, the batteries were flat and it could not be started. I did not have the time (on a long "lunch" break from work) to investigate further so promised to return if the owner would charge the batteries so I could get it started and have a chance to judge the mechanical condition.

The next Saturday I returned with John Stebner and John Eaton along as my professional "evaluation team". (Thanks guys!) Their more experienced eyes located many items I had missed but overall the car was judged a good buy if the mechanicals were sound. This proved impossible to evaluate as the owners promise to charge up the batteries had fallen through.

Guessing that a sale might be difficult if the car could not be started, the owner had the car towed to a nearby garage where new batteries were fitted and the car was started. That was the good news. The bad news was that the engine is sick. Compression was way down and the mechanic suspected a burned valve and bad rings. Clearly, an overhaul was probably needed.

Still, everything else about the car looked good and if a price could be negotiated that considered the obviously major repairs needed, it might be worth it. The negotiations did go well and I was able to make the purchase.

The car does run so I was able to drive it home on one of the few nice days available recently when the roads were clear and the temperature was above freezing. It was a white knuckler though as I expected something to go wrong all the way. The car held up however and I pulled into my driveway with a great sense of relief. At that point, the MG stalled as I was trying to get my garage door open. It would not re-start so I pushed it the last 20 feet into it's new home. Somehow that seemed a fitting end to the days adventure.

Next on my agenda is getting the repair work done in time for some Spring MG Motoring. More chronicles next time in the MMGG Newsletter!

For Sale

1975 MG Midget.

Texas car recently transported to the Twin Cities. New tires. Body in very good condition, no rust. Green. Top in good condition. Needs new carpeting. 62,000 miles. Needs engine work. \$1500. Contact Pat Collins @ 944-6175 after 4pm.

Events of Interest

August 25 - 27: University Motors Summer Party. Featuring MG Sedans and Saloons. Grand Rapids, MI. Contact: University Motors. 614 Eastern Ave., SE., Grand Rapids, MI 49503. 616-245-2141.

March Business Meeting

A brief business meeting will be conducted prior to the Kick Off Brunch in March.

Events Calendar Update

All British Car Club Kickoff

The All British Car Club Kickoff dinner in March has been cancelled. The MMGG Kick Off Brunch is still on as scheduled.

Food Drive

The Food Drive event scheduled for June has been changed. We will still be sponsoring a food drive but the format will be a little different. John Stebner will have the details in the next newsletter.

Drive/Dinner

We are tentatively adding a Drive/Dinner event in June. John Eaton is working on the plans now and that too will be detailed in the April newsletter.

Autocross Optional Event

The 3M Sports Car Club is conducting an autocross in April and has welcomed MMGG members to attend. This is a good opportunity for us to learn about this driving event and members who wish to may participate.

Saturday, April 15: Novice Autocross School.

Registration: 9:30 - 10:30 am

Training and practice until 4:00 pm

Cost: \$3.00

Sunday, April 16: Rubber Ducky Autocross.

Registration: 9:00 am

Practice: 9:15 am - noon

Timed runs: 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$12.00 to 3MSSC non members.

More details next month.

New London to New Brighton Run

We don't know much about this yet but Dave Braun is checking it out for a possible optional event in August.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail your letters or other MMGG Newsletter contributions to:

Mike Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

If you have questions, please call: 612-881-3223

Have You Moved?

If you have moved and would still like to receive the MMGG Newsletter, please contact Al Bramer at 432-8058 and provide him with your new address.

Minnesota MG Group Directory

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Newsletter Publication: Jon Carlson 423-1761

Membership: Al Bramer 432-8058

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John Stebner 455-0229





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Events Planner March 1989

<p>March 1989</p> <p><u>Kick Off Brunch</u> Sunday, March 19, 10:00am Meeting, 10:30am Brunch. Hudson House Hosts: Dave & Laura Lynn Braun</p>	<p>April 1989</p> <p><u>Drive & Picnic</u> Saturday, April 29. Hosts: Nels & Dru Aarrestad, Paul & Joan Good</p>	<p>May 1989</p> <p><u>All British Car Picnic</u> Hosts: Jerry & Sue Sood</p>	<p>June 1989</p> <p><u>Hare & Hound Rally</u> Hosts: Ron Bertsch & Mike Funck</p> <p><u>Drive & Dinner</u> Hosts: John & Cindy Eaton</p>
<p>July 1989</p> <p><u>Trip to St. Cloud & Tech Session</u> Host: Doug Madson</p>	<p>August 1989</p> <p><u>Stillwater Picnic</u> Hosts: Jon & Sherrill Carlson</p> <p><u>New London to New Brighton Run</u> August 26</p>	<p>September 1989</p> <p><u>Swap Meet</u> Event Host Needed</p> <p><u>Wheels & Wings Festival</u> <i>Lunch Somewhere McCormick??</i></p>	<p>October 1989</p> <p><u>Indian Summer Rendezvous</u> Hosts: Al Bramer, Dave & Deb Sorenson</p>
<p>November 1989</p>	<p>December 1989</p> <p><i>Elna Darlow 9th SANDERSON</i></p> <p><u>Christmas Party</u></p>	<p>NOTE: MMGG Events and schedules are subject to change. Please check the MMGG Newsletter for the exact time and place of each event.</p> <p>Revised: 3/4/89</p>	<p>January 1990</p> 

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