

Minnesota MG Group

November Newsletter

CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday, December 9

WHEN: Saturday, December 9.

WHERE: Classic Cafe and Bar. 4700 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN. (Same location as last year).

TIME: 6:30 pm - Hors d'oeuvres and Cocktails.
7:15 pm - Dinner.

COST: \$15 per person. (includes dinner, tax and tip).

RSVP: by November 25 please.

EVENT HOSTS: Elmo and Darlene Amundson.

SEE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ENCLOSED FLYER AND REGISTRATION FORM.

INDIAN SUMMER RENDEZVOUS (The Story) by Al Bramer

The morning of 7 October dawned clear and a tad chilly. The finely tuned and precision crafted automobiles of the MMGG sat poised and anxious for the days event. At 9:45, the rally master explained the theory and rules to the assembled drivers. The automobiles left at two minute intervals, most without a cloud of smoke. A scenic course covering both sides of the St. Croix between Hudson and Prescott, Wisconsin had been developed and road tested twice. Thus, no problems were expected. **WRONG!** Due to a failure by the rally master, a couple of turns were incorrectly noted and "S" meant "straight", not "South". However, at the point where this came into play, most of the drivers no longer headed in the prescribed direction.

Meanwhile, after all the cars had ben started, the rally master started on a rather casual drive to the Afton City Park to wait for the thundering MGs to fly into town. Less than two miles into his drive, the rally master was stopped by the Woodbury police for supposedly speeding on Upper Afton Road. After a dressing down that was more appropriate for a

teenager in a "muscle" car, and noting the MGA of Team Sorenson also in the same situation, the rally master was released from judicial purgatory and ambled on down to Afton.

Shortly after the rally master arrived, so did all of the other cars! This was not good. It seemed that everyone had followed the instructions and was suitably lost. So, to fill the extra time, an impromptu drive to a nearby orchard for cider was organized. (lunch is usually not served at 10:30 am!). The staff of the Afton House was very accomodating when 20 people showed up for lunch instead of the eight places that had been reserved earlier. After lunch, since no one except Team Carlson finished the course, all prizes were pooled for one drawing and awarded to the assembled group.

All in all, everyone seemed to have a nice day. The weather turned out just wonderful and the rally master escaped with his life! It was a good learning experience. Just wait for "Son of Indian Summer Rendezvous" next year!

MGA RACE REPORT by Jeff Ingebrigtsen

I finally had a successful season with my MGA vintage racer. It finished the four races that I had entered without a breakdown.

Three of the races were run at Brainerd: one in May, one in July and one on Labor Day. Brainerd is three miles around with 10 corners and has a front straight about a mile long which leads into a banked sweeping right hand corner. The MGA would hit close to 115 MPH running about 6200 RPM. I think there was more left but the engine would begin to sputter at that speed and I suspect the points began bouncing. I could head into that first corner at full throttle and the car would drift to the outside edge of the pavement just as I hit the exit of the corner. The next turn required me to lift off the throttle slightly, make the corner and then full throttle to turn three where I was hard on the brakes with both feet. The rest of the track was mostly third gear until I got back on the main straight.

The best race was on Labor Day when I was able to trim about four seconds off my lap time from previous races. Four seconds sounds small but at

MGA Race Report

100+ MPH, it's a good distance. That weekend I was able to out run two Porsche Speedsters, an Alfa Spider, several Formula Vees and a Corvette (that was the high point).

The other race was at Grattan Raceway in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was held in conjunction with the University Motors Summer Party. That track has 14 corners in a span of two miles with several hills thrown in to boot. Once I got used to that type of driving, I had a ball. MG was the featured marque so we had a 10 lap MG only race with 15 MGs which was pandemonium all the way. I had qualified sixth behind a Twin Cam (on the pole), two other As, a TD and a TF.

When the green flag dropped, we all blasted down the straight and when we hit turn one, I was behind the Twin Cam. They had me beat on the tires so they all walked around me in the corners and by the time we hit the main straight again, I was back in fifth place. I was able to stay with that lead pack (it was by far the most intense driving I've experienced) and kept right on the rear of the TF, knowing that if I kept the pressure on he'd screw up and give me an opening to pass. He did just that on the eighth lap just before the main straight. I out ran him down the straight and then drove a "very wide car" the next two laps to finish fourth.

I plan to get some of those sticky tires for next year and solve the sputtering problem to see if my A will "bury the needle" at 120+ MPH. There is a possibility of a spectator race at Brainerd next season and you are all invited if we do.

One thing that becomes very apparent at vintage races is the MGAs potential for being a competitive race car. I have raced against race prepared Triumphs and Austin Healeys and even with my skinny tires I can usually keep up through the turns. And the MG engine has a great deal of horsepower potential as well as good reliability. I ran my white MGA in 12 races and she never missed a beat. So, the upshot is that we should all take pride in being a part of MGs continuing heritage, whether on the street or race track. Our Marque goes back farther than just about any other sports car, has a tremendous racing history and is still "the sports car America loved first". When you represent MG at other car club gatherings, you can hold your head high and be very proud of your ride!

If you would like to "stretch the legs" of your MG next Summer, plan to attend the test day held by the Vintage Car Racing Club. We usually have it at the Owatonna airport which is about a mile around with seven turns. All you need are a helmet, seat belt and

\$20 entry fee. You can drive as many laps as you want as fast as you want. Jon Carlson did just that with his MGA this season and appeared to do quite well. I think he has what it takes to be a vintage racer.

That's about all I have. As President of the vintage racing club this past season, I didn't have time to attend very many MMGG events. But, I hope to correct that this coming year as Anne and I both think the MMGG is tops! So, keep the faith and keep smilin'.
Jeff Ingebrigtson.



ON THE MARKET

FOR SALE: Numerous MGA and MGB parts available. Reasonable prices. Contact Doug Madson, 612-251-0317 evenings. nd

WANTED: Over drive transmission for 1980 MGB. Gordon Matson. 612-937-9161. nd

FOR SALE: 1959 MGA basket case. Pete Gutzman. 612-653-1204. nd

FOR SALE: A veritable cornucopia of various delights for owners of Spridgets and Bugeyes. Well, maybe not. Come and browse in my garage. Luggage rack, suspension parts, ADDCO front sway bar, original front sway bar, 1098 engines and parts, transmission parts, drive shafts, steering racks, Spridget radio and console, MGB radio, original mirror, doors, trunk lids, front fender, rear bumper, door hardware, original "Sprite" and "Midget" chrome identification, SU carbs, windshield frame, window winder mechanisms, wing window frames and glass, tonneau cover to repair or for pattern, electrical parts, top irons and header, headlight ring, seats, much more. Phil Ethier.

TRADE: Also would like to trade my wire wheels and hubs for your 4-1/2" (or wider) four bolt wheels and hubs. I have spare wire wheel half shafts and two MGB wire wheels too. Contact Phil Ethier, 612-224-3105 or 612-298-5324. on

FOR SALE: Side curtains for an MGA. Trimmed in cream colored vinyl. Fair condition. \$25 for pair. Mark Mallander, 1007 W. Nebraska Ave. St Paul, MN. 55117. 612-488-4421. on

BUSINESS MEETING REPORT by Mike Funck

A business meeting of the Minnesota MG Group was held on Friday, October 6 at the home of John and Cindy Eaton. Items discussed were as follows:

CALENDAR

- We will attempt to resurrect the Spring all car club dinner held in early March. This was a Triumph Club sponsored event that everyone enjoyed in 1988 but which was not held in 1989. Dave Hoel of the Triumph Club indicates that there is discussion to do it again in 1990 and the MMGG is offering to help with the organization of the event in any way that we can.
- The MMGG will hold a kick-off dinner or brunch some time in March regardless of the outcome of the all car club event. Since we had the kick-off in Hudson, Wisconsin in 1989, we will try to arrange a location in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities for 1990.
- Jeff Marko has offered to host a Wash and Wax Event some time during the Summer. Date TBD.
- Assuming it is held, we will again participate in the Jaguar Club's British Car Picnic. This has traditionally been one of the best attended outings of the year.
- Wheels and Wings at Osceola, Wisconsin continues to be a popular event and will probably remain on the 1990 calendar.
- Interest remains high for a Tech Session. All we need is a volunteer to host it.
- Dave Hoel of the Triumph Club has told me that they are very interested in participating in the New London/New Brighton program next year with a big turn out of British sports cars. As you may recall, we discussed this as a possible event but did not really look at it very closely. 1990 may be the year to do so.
- Regarding scheduling of event dates, we can't do much about events hosted by other clubs (Jag Picnic for example), but the club will try to set dates in advance for event hosts to work with rather than the other way around. This will enable us to publish schedules well in advance so that all of you can plan. It has been frustrating to get last minute word of an event you really wanted to attend, only to find out that you already have plans that can't be changed. Maybe this will help.

• Doug Madson has offered to work on an August outing to attend the Summer Picnic held by University Motors in Grand Rapids, MI.

DUES

- There was discussion as to whether dues should change for 1990. No strong feelings were expressed so they will remain the same as in 1989: \$20/year for Member and \$6/year for Associate Member.

MEMBERSHIP

- As with 1989, we will begin our drive for membership renewals in May. Members not renewed by August 1 will be dropped from the active member list.
- We are going to look into the possibility of membership renewal premiums. Possible items mentioned are a coffee mug with the club logo or a badge for the grill of your MG. If pursued, these items would be available for full membership only and could also be offered for sale by the MMGG. Doug Madson has offered to work on the grill badge or on a dash plaque.

TREASURER

- Responsibility for the MMGG treasury has been decided. It will formally transfer from Sherrill Carlson to Al and Sharon Kelsey at the close of 1989.

Many thanks to Sherrill for a job well done!

CLUB PHOTO ALBUM

- Since the Kelseys are taking over responsibility for the club treasury, they would like to have another member take over the club photo album that they have been keeping up for the past couple of years. If you would like to tackle this, please call Al or Sharon.

BUDGET

- As promised, Sherrill Carlson prepared some budgets for our consideration. I will try to get this organized so that it can be constructively presented in the newsletter for you.

NEXT MONTH

More TECH TIPS from Doug Madson!

Minnesota MG Group Directory

Events Coordinator: Dave Braun 432-5019
Treasurer: (1989) Sherrill Carlson 423-1761
(1990) Al and Sharon Kelsey.
Newsletter Editor: Mike Funck 881-3223
Newsletter Publication: Jon Carlson 423-1761
Photo Album: Open
Member Data Base: Al Bramer 432-8058
Contributing Editors:
Jeff Ingebrigtsen
Allen Bramer

Newsletter Contributions and Ads

Contact: Mike Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420
612-881-3223

Personal ads for cars, parts for sale, cars wanted, etc. are free to dues paying members. Ad fee is \$10 to non-members. Ads will run two months. Please submit a \$10 check plus your copy by mail.

For commercial ads, please call or write.

Change of Address

Contact: Al Bramer
626 Portland Mews
Burnsville, MN 55337
612-432-8058

Membership Application/Renewal

Annual dues are \$20 per member/family. Includes subscription to the MMGG Newsletter.

Remit \$20 check payable to:
Sherrill Carlson - MMGG
3270 148th St.
Rosemount, MN 55068
612-423-1761

Newsletter Subscription and Associate Membership

Minnesota MG Group Newsletter subscription is \$6 per year. This includes Associate Member status in the MMGG. Remit \$6 to Sherrill Carlson - MMGG

MMGG EVENTS PLANNER

November

No Minnesota MG Group events are planned for the month of November, However, you do need to make sure that your Christmas Party registration is in by the end of the month. Thank You!

December

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Saturday, December 9.
Classic Cafe and Bar.
Hosts: Darlene & Elmo Amundson.

Please return your reservations to the Amundsons by November 25.

1990

February

DEAD OF WINTER BOWLING PARTY.
Host: Mike Funck.

March

Tentative: ALL CAR CLUB DINNER OR BRUNCH.

MMGG SPRING KICK-OFF DINNER OR BRUNCH

May

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE for 1990.

July

FINAL DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL is August 1.

September

WHEELS AND WINGS

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Plans for the 1989 MMGG Christmas party are underway and we hope you can join us for an evening of good company, food, drink and door prizes. The details are as follows:

When: Saturday, December 9, 1989
Where: Classic Cafe and Bar
(same location as last year)
4700 Excelsior Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN
Time: 6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres
Cocktails
7:15 p.m. Dinner
Cost: \$15. per person, which includes tip and tax
For those who are interested, the Classic Cafe has a dance area downstairs for dancing after our dinner.

We are requesting RSVP's if you are planning on attending. Please detach this section, indicate one dinner selection for each person attending and return to us by November 25.

Send to: MMGG
c/o Elmo and Darlene Amundson
1715 Traymore Road
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Questions: Call 545-7905

of people attending

Dinner selections: Please indicate your choice(s). The dinner includes - Hors d'oeuvres, a glass of wine with the meal, Classic's house salad, hot garlic toast, baked potato with sour cream, Coffee / Hot or Iced Tea

- _____ The Franklin - A superb 8 oz. filet mignon topped with sauteed mushrooms.
- _____ The Buick - Walleyed pike. Broiled almondine style or beer battered and deep fried.
- _____ T-Bone steak - Broiled to perfection.
- _____ The MG - Broiled 8 oz. chicken breast served one of three ways - Teriyaki, Bar-B-Q or Cajun style. Served on a bed of rice.
- _____ The Auburn - Classic's very special Cajun pork chops. Two 8 oz. pork chops country style breaded and pan-fried with just the right touch of spice.

Note: Do not send any money. You will be billed for your dinner at the party.

Name(s) of those attending _____
Phone number: _____

Minnesota MG Group
Mike Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

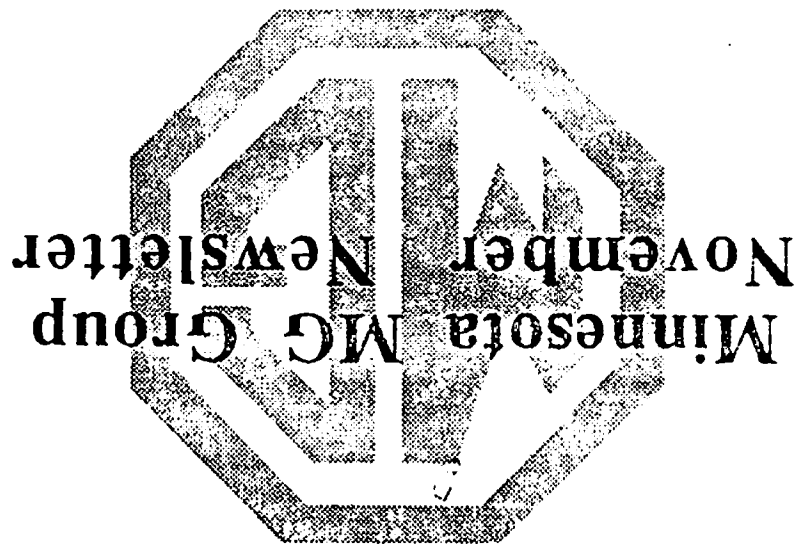


FIRST CLASS MAIL

Y
Dave Braun
7138 Lower 170th Ct.
Rosemount, MN 55068

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