

Minnesota MG Group

April Newsletter

Tech Session

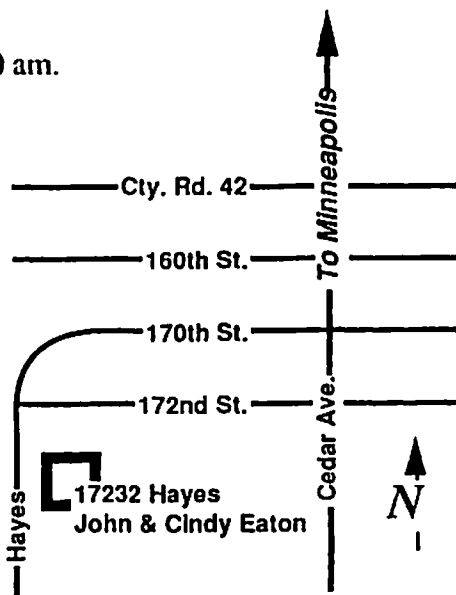
Topic: Seat recovering or anything else that might come up.

When: Saturday, April 20, 1991.

Where: John and Cindy Eaton's home. 17232 Hayes Ave. Lakeville, MN 55044. 612-891-1897.

Time: 10:30 am.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and pop provided. Bring a dish to pass if you wish (call Cindy).



Calendar Notes

A couple of notes about the MMGG Calendar of Events: First, we try to publicize events as far out as possible so that members can plan. Most of us have busy schedules through the short Minnesota MG season so we want to encourage you to write the MMGG events on your personal calendars so that you have your priorities straight in case Aunt Bessie invites you over for meat loaf surprise. Please always recheck date and time as the event approaches. It is not unusual for there to be changes.

Second, you will note that other programs are mentioned in addition to MMGG events. These events are not necessarily endorsed by the MMGG. We just believe that it's a worthwhile service to members to provide news of all types of automotive related programs. Most of the other local clubs welcome our participation in their sports car events just as we welcome them in ours. Some of our members are active in the local autocross scene for example. We hope you agree.

Rambling On by John Eaton

Cindy and I certainly received a lot of phone calls about the MMGG Kick Off Brunch and from all of the new faces we saw at Toby's, it looks as if 1991 will continue to be a growth year for our club.

I wonder how many MGs there are in this area? I have no idea but I wouldn't be surprised if there were as many as 500 or more. Can you imagine that many MGs in one place at one time? Can you imagine how much oil would leak from 500 MGs? Some would probably call it a rolling environmental disaster but the way I look at it, we MG owners are doing our part to replenish one of Earth's natural resources by returning oil to the place from whence it came. And who knows better the importance of a well lubricated garage floor than MG owners?

Though we didn't have anywhere near 500 MGs at Toby's, we did have more than 40 MG owners in attendance and I think it's safe to say that a nice time was had by all.

Octagonally Yours, John Eaton.

Regalia

As the 1991 MG driving season gets under way, don't forget that both you and your MG can sport the latest in Minnesota MG Group Regalia:

MMGG Grill Badges may be purchased at club events for \$9 or by mail order from Roger Karnopp for \$11. Send check to Roger at 1295 Deerwood Dr., Eagan, MN 55122.

Shirts & Caps for the dashing MG driver are available too. Blue caps are \$6 each. Golf shirts in a choice of blue, red or white are \$13. Both have the MMGG logo embroidered on them. Contact Ken Merrill, 851 21st Ave. N. South St. Paul, MN 55075.

On the Market

WANTED: Four disc style steel wheels for Spridget. Buy outright or trade for Rostyle wheels. Also want two chrome wire wheels for MGB. Phil Schaefer. 612-866-8843. am

FOR SALE: 1979 MGB. "Excellent". This MGB was purchased new in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1980. In 1983 the car was driven to Minnesota. Never driven in the winter. The car is stored in a hanger at the Flying Cloud airport in Eden Prairie, MN. Burgundy with custom hand painted pin striping, tan and black interior, 49,000 miles. \$5,400 firm, Blake Rice. 612-831-7116. am

FOR SALE: 1974 MGB/GT. 44,000 miles. Period sunroof. Not a show car, but an excellent, drivable anywhere example of the marque. \$4,500. John Stebner. 612-455-0229. am

FOR SALE: 1952 MG TD. Has provided me with great fun on sunny Sundays for the last 21 years. Straight 6 Chevy engine. Runs great! Looks great! Needs a new home to make room for (I apologize) a new British Racing Green Miata. Call Tom Brayton at 612-484-2713. \$6,500. am

FOR SALE: Five MGB/GTs. 1970 - 1974-1/2. All complete with title. Some restorable, some part out. Jim McCormick. 612-429-2571. am

Minnesota MG Group Directory

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MODEM: Call for access.

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:* Alan Kelsey

Membership Application/Renewal

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

Remit \$20 check payable to:

Alan Kelsey - MMGG

15942 Harmony Way Court

Apple Valley, MN 55337

612-891-3452

Associate Membership: *Newsletter subscription only.*

Remit \$6 to Alan Kelsey - MMGG

Unless otherwise noted, opinions expressed in the MMGG Newsletter are those of the authors and do not reflect official opinions or policies of the Minnesota MG Group.

University Motors Technical Seminars

by Kevin Mahoney

Owning one drivable MG and restoring another has put me in a position familiar to many club members; always in search of more technical information. This year I decided to attend one of the technical seminars available from University Motors in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

John Twist, proprietor of University Motors, along with his wife, Caroline Robinson, and their staff, put on several two and three day seminars each year. All models of MGs are covered in different seminars as well as ones specifically developed around the process of rebuilding your engine, gearbox, carbs., etc. I chose a three day seminar for MGAs and MGBs through 1967. Three Minnesotans attended and about 15 others from around the country.

We arrived early on Friday morning at University Motors, which is a unique environment for the repair and restoration of MGs. The front of the store is set up like an old British parts counter, which in fact it is. John and Caroline have an EXTENSIVE inventory of new and used parts for most types of MGs. The rear of the building houses the main shop (which is properly immaculate) and the component rebuilding area. (For example, they can rebuild your carburetors to show quality at a reasonable price). Part of the shop had been converted to a classroom for our use.

An MGA and MGB were on the hoists ready to be used as demonstrators. We were each given a large booklet containing over 125 pages of technical articles about MGs written by John Twist. If you've met John you already know that he is not only a nice guy but is a walking encyclopedia of MG information. He is a gifted writer with a talent for writing easy-to-understand technical articles about MGs. His technical booklets contain tidbits of information which can only be gained from years of working exclusively on MGs.

We spent the rest of Friday on such subjects as workshop safety, tools and what John calls "The Complete Lubrication" which is an EXTENSIVE, methodical, point by point inspection and adjustment of the MG.

John had several of his staff on hand all weekend to assist him, and to allow us to break up into small groups and watch procedures being performed on one of several vehicles available to our class. This gave all of us the attention we needed to have our questions answered in detail. That night we all met for pizza, beer and lots of MG talk.

Saturday we spent the day on the "Complete Tune Up" including a distributor rebuild. We learned a lot and gained a great deal of useful information such as, how many clicks of the thumb wheel on the outside of the distributor does it take to change the timing one degree? (11). That night, John and Caroline hosted a lovely banquet at a local hotel and showed several interesting and amusing videos about MGs.

Sunday was spent covering electrics, "The Complete Test Drive" and watching the "World's Fastest U-Joint Change" by John Twist. A representative of British Tool stopped by and took orders for tools unique to the MG. We were all awarded diplomas, said our goodbyes and made our separate ways.

All in all, I felt that the seminar was a good value. I have already made back the price in repairs I wasn't comfortable doing myself before the class. John is an excellent teacher and has a dedicated staff who went out of their way to make sure that each participant went home with the information they needed to solve their individual problems.

Regardless of your technical knowledge or ability, there was something for everyone. The seminar really served as a confidence builder for the at-home mechanic. I highly recommend them to anyone with an interest in MGs. John and his staff are available to answer your questions at 616-245-2141.

Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again. The renewal form for 1991 Minnesota MG Group membership is on the reverse side of the cover. Please respond promptly with your renewal and with notes and comments about yourself and your MG.

Thank You!

Calendar of Events

A P R I L

13. Yucatan Safari Rally. Sports Car Club of LaCrosse. Ed Solstad. 612-822-0569.

13. MAC Autocross School. First time autocrossers & MAC members only. 9:00 am. Canterbury Downs. Phil Ethier. 612-224-3105.

14. MOWOG I autocross. Register: 9:00 - 10:30 am. Canterbury Downs. Drake Anderson. 612-636-7644.

14. Moss Motors Best of Britain Show. Dover, NJ. 201-361-9358.

20. Minnesota MG Group Tech Session. Hosted by John & Cindy Eaton. *Saturday*.

20. MG Car Club, Louisiana Center British Car Day. 504-887-2725.

20 - 21. Owatonna SOLO II autocross. LOL SCCA. Steve Hess. 612-722-1642.

25. MMGG Newsletter submissions due to the editor for May publication.

28. San Marino Grand Prix. Imola, Italy

28. Goodtimes Autocross. Corvettes of MN. Bill Kempe. 612-457-0576.

M A Y

5. MOWOG II autocross. John Krussow. 612-535-5393.

11. New Glarus Hill Climb. AROC - Wisconsin. Manos Protonotarios. 612-566-5354.

12. Monaco Grand Prix. Monte Carlo.

17 - 19. Sportscar Vintage Racing Association race, Road America, Elkhart Lake, WI.

18. All British Car Club Drive & Picnic. *Tentative date*. Sponsored by the Jaguar Club, this event is an annual favorite because of the large turn out of splendid cars and people. *Saturday*. Minnesota MG Group.

18 - 19. Emerald Necklace MG Spring Warm Up. Cleveland. 216-226-7024.

25 - 27. Melee Miglia. MN Alfa Romeo Club.

26. Indianapolis 500

31 - June 2. Heartland Regional MG Festival. Holiday Inn West, Topeka, KS. 816-353-2554.

J U N E

8. Moss Motors MG Marque Day. Goleta, CA. 800-235-6954.

9. MOWOG III autocross. John Krussow. 612-535-5393.

16. Heritage Day Festival & Car Show. Faribault, MN. *Sunday*. Fathers Day Minnesota MG Group.

Official MMGG events are listed in bold type.

Member News

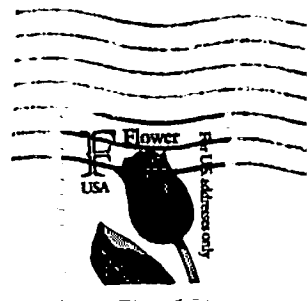
Roger Johnson of Eden Prairie, MN

My other hobbies are amateur radio and flying. I own a Cessna 150 (small two seat airplane). I bought my 1957 MGA from a relative in 1970, drove it a lot. It was my first car. I sold it in 1974 I think and bought a 1969 VW Bug. I always liked the MGA so when the old car bug bit again, I located my old MGA and bought it back from the fellow I had sold it to! I think that was in 1983 or 84. I have started to take it all apart and it is now in a million pieces. I would like to rebuild it and drive it. I am hoping to meet others in the group that could give me some advice on major body fixing. Frame, fenders, sills, pillars, etc. I am dreaming of the day I can drive my MGA with a group of MGs to a meet or get together.

Roger and Jean Johnson own a blue 1957 MGA.



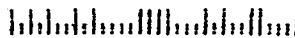
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Minnesota MG Group
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