



Gazette

Inside this issue:

Presidents Comments	2
October Driving Tours	3
Electronic Newsletter	3
Member Profile	4
Wheels & Wings Recap	6
N. St. Paul History Cruise	7
Regalia	8
Calendar of Events	9
Kinda Classified Ads	11
MMGG Application	12

The Men of Midwest Motor Sports Present

Fall Colour Tour 2002

&

Gourmet Hot Dog & French Apple Pie Dinner

Saturday, October 5th, 2002

We will meet at 9:30 AM at the “Exxon” station at Exit 178 on I-94 at Clearwater, Minnesota. The station is at the SW corner of the exit. At 10:00 AM a leisurely tour through the Fall **Colour** of the Lake Wobegon Area will follow.

The tour will end at our Fine Establishment (Midwest Motor Sports) in Sauk Rapids where an outstanding Gourmet Hot Dog & French Apple Pie Dinner will be served to all.

After dinner we will kick tires and pick the brains of the experts at Midwest Motor Sports (allow 2 minutes for this activity).

You can also walk the beautiful trail along the Mississippi at the Rapids of Sauk. We should end at about 4:00 PM allowing all to be home before dark in case the Price of Darkness should strike.

The cost is \$5.00 per person (\$4.50 for senior citizens over 60) and is payable at the event.

Please RSVP to Midwest Motor Sports at (320) 251-0676 (leave message on weekends) or by e-mail to Dan Iburg at danielmms@aol.com or Doug Madson at djmad41@aol.com by October 2nd.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Gazette is the official publication of the Minnesota MG Group. It is published monthly except for December. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Submissions should be sent to the editor.

Comments From The President

Wheels and Wings, the Fall Color Tour and decreasing temperatures - all signals of a driving season coming to a close. Looking to the Fall Color Tour, Doug and Mary Madson and the Iberg's have planned an excellent event for Saturday October 5. This clearly is a "don't miss" - see details on the front page of this newsletter.

Looking to November, our annual business meeting will be on November 9 at the Fort Snelling Officer's Club - please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Numerous social and business topics are on the agenda, including Phil Galberth's "professional" film of MG 2001. Food and beverage options are in process. The Officer's Club is a great facility that will nicely accommodate our expanded program. Thank you to Bob Reed of the Triumph Club for being our sponsor.

The annual meeting is the time of the year we have an opportunity to step back and review where we are and what we'd like to be doing. This year we have our bi-annual election of officers and 2003 will have a new President and Vice President. A number of our current officers have volunteered for reelection including newsletter editor, Jon Masley, website coordinator Jim Pennoyer and Treasurer Jerry Strand (some very wise people placed a provision in our bi-laws to limit the President to one term). We are still looking for others willing to become involved. Some names have been suggested and we'll be contacting others during the next month to discuss possible interest. One name I'm happy to mention - Elena Pierce has agreed to run for Vice President and head our events activities for the coming year. And for those who might wonder

(Presidents Comments Continued on page 3)

The Minnesota MG Group was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the MG Marque. Correspondence can be addressed to: **Minnesota MG Group, 10305 Morris Road, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437**. Visit us on the web at **WWW.MMGG.ORG**.

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(Presidents Comments Continued from page 2)

who is on Elena's nominating committee I will say the list is long and vocal. We're very happy to have Elena with us. Another need is individuals to work on our web site. Give me a call if you have an interest.

Communications, program development and budgets are major topics we will be discussing November 9. Planning for next summer trips to England / France and St. Louis are already in process. However, much work is needed for the local scene including coordination a few activities with other British Clubs. Tech sessions have been mentioned by a number of members as possible additional activities.

Jon Masley, Jerry Strand, Jim Pennoyer and others have been reviewing alternatives of getting more information to the membership with less costs. Postage and printing etc. costs are concerns and possibly the web site can be better utilized.

Your participation in this planning effort is needed.

See you at the fall color tour. Note: If your schedule conflicts with our October 5 tour, we have invitations to join tours of other Club's – see the events

FALL COLOR TOURS

Most current information at time of publishing. Call around to get more updated information.

OCTOBER 6 Minnesota MG T Register-Drive starts at 12:30 sharp. Meet in Lakeville, next to the Perkins in the Wells Fargo lot at I-35 and Highway 50, exit 85. 110 miles on all blacktop roads; three hours driving time. One hour stop in St. Peter. Arrival in Chaska at 4:30. Info: Bill and Sylvia Douglas, 952-898-1399.

OCTOBER 12 Minnesota Austin-Healey Club-Meet ????????. Info: Greg & Nancy Lauser.

OCTOBER 12 Minnesota Triumphs 9:00 a.m. Meet at the bandshell in downtown Hudson, WI near the river. The drive will head north from there. Info: Sean O'Brien (715-386-6609).

OCTOBER 13 Jaguars of Minnesota-Meet ????????. Tour leader: Ron Nordwall.

Electronic Newsletter Now Available

Would you like to receive your MMGG newsletter sooner?

Would you like to see it in color?

Do you want a paper COLOR copy?

Would you like the club to save some postage in mailing out the newsletter, using the cash elsewhere? (Beer tasting anyone?)

If so, we now have the ability to send the newsletter out electronically, to your email address. We would send you an Adobe Acrobat file, commonly called a **.pdf** file. You would need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. If you do not have this software, Adobe Acrobat Reader is free to download from the Internet.

Interested?

Here's what you need to do.

1. Advise me of your email address. I will build a distribution list. You would no longer receive a paper copy.
2. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader if you need to. The address to get this software is:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

That's it! You're done!

My email address is JDMASLEY@YAHOO.COM OR JDMASLEY@MMM.COM

Thanks much.

Jon

Member Profile

A Dream Delayed: Stroke doesn't stop former deputy from new goals.

*By Judy Wiff from the River Falls Journal
September 5, 2002*

Tom Belongia has a lot to be thankful for—he's alive, he can walk and he can drive his flamingo red MGB roadster. Seven months ago Tom Belongia would have taken any of those things for granted. Six months ago a stroke left the 50-year-old sheriff's deputy clinging to life and nearly losing his grip.

On Feb. 9, exactly seven months short of his 51st birthday, Belongia developed flu-like symptoms.

Although he was weak and dizzy and couldn't stand up, Belongia wasn't worried. "Of course not. That (time of the year) is the high point of the flu season - who would imagine (anything else)."

The symptoms began on Saturday. His wife Barb was out of town on business. His daughter Maggie had stopped by the Belongias' town of Troy home and stayed to watch over her dad.

He didn't get better. "I tried to get up off the chair," said Belongia. "There was nothing there - I fell forward."

On Sunday morning, his daughter took him to the River Falls Area Hospital emergency room. After an exam, he was sent home.

On Monday, Maggie took him back to the hospital, supporting him as he walked. After a CAT scan, Belongia was sent by ambulance to Abbott Northwestern Hospital.

Tests showed no flu virus in his body. Further tests showed an arterial bleed near his cerebellum.

"There was no tumor, no embolism, nothing," said Belongia. Although there was some effect on his vision, most of the damage affected the lower part of his body.

There would be no surgery. Doctors told Belongia

his body would have to heal on its own.

And they weren't sure he'd survive, much less heal. He was given a 50% chance of living.

'Life-changing' event

For the next few days, Belongia was kept in bed and on medication. He said he was tested from his eyes to his toes every four hours.

"It was definitely a life-changing experience," said Belongia in an understatement. "Since they had no reason for me having the stroke, they could not predict if I'd have another one. There was nothing there that indicated why it should have happened."

Belongia graduated from UW-River Falls in the early 1970s with a bachelor's in education.

But he didn't find a job teaching. Not only was the market flooded with newly certified teachers, but Belongia had hoped to teach kindergarten. Administrators didn't jump at the chance to hire a male kindergarten teacher.

"I thought I was going to be unique myself," said Belongia. He and Barb married in 1972. He worked from 1972 to 1979 at Andersen Windows.

Belongia had uncles and cousins working in law enforcement, and it seemed natural for him to move in that direction too. In 1980 he took a job in the St. Croix County Jail.

After working as a jailer for four years, Belongia became a civil process officer.

"I did everything from serving subpoenas to evictions," said Belongia. He also did routine patrol work -- monitoring traffic, writing tickets and helping at accident scenes.

(Dream Continued on page 5)

(Dream Continued from page 4)

The most unpleasant part of the job was handling evictions, said Belongia. He began at a time when a lot of farmers were losing their land.

"That was the hardest part: going to evict people from their farms. They didn't like to see me at all. I was not your favorite law enforcement officer during that time."

The job sometimes turned dangerous, especially when he was called upon to serve domestic abuse restraining orders. On several occasions, he took along a back-up officer, said Belongia.

"The majority of the time, it was merely serving the papers for the process to begin," he said.

Having the right attitude helped, said Belongia. "That took years to develop."

"Basically I took the attitude that the person or people didn't do anything wrong at that moment."

Paper service indicates that a legal action has been started, said Belongia. "What you're doing is just advising them of that. You don't want to make it worse than what it is."

He added, "Some officers have an air about them. I tried to avoid that."

Road to recovery

But his job was the last thing on his mind as Belongia lay in the hospital bed at Abbott.

The Friday after he was admitted, he was transferred to Sister Kenney Rehabilitation Institute to begin therapy.

That involved relearning to walk.

"Learning how to put my right foot in front of my left foot and my left foot in front of my right foot," said Belongia. "I had to learn to walk all over again... My brain at that point was not connected to my legs."

While still in the hospital, Belongia set his first goal -- to leave on his own two feet.

"I went in on a gurney and came out with a walker," he said.

Once home, Belongia went for therapy three days a week at RFAH.

"I went from a wheelchair to a walker to a cane in six months," said Belongia. "My therapist called that 'attitude.'" He still has no sense of equilibrium or balance.

"When I'm sitting, I'm great," said Belongia. But he needs something to stabilize himself when he stands.

"I have no concept of what's up or down or if I'm upside down," said Belongia, explaining that he has to depend upon visual cues, orienting himself with walls and the floor, to know what position he's in.

"If I close my eyes or the lights go out, I'm in trouble." This summer, while continuing therapy three days a week, Belongia set another goal.

Last year he bought a 1977 MGB convertible roadster. He had the car repainted over the winter. Everything that didn't need to be painted had been stripped from the exterior of the car.

Belongia decided that his therapy project for the summer would be to reassemble the car, "one day, one piece at a time."

Through the summer, working a couple of hours at a time, he reattached door handles, trim, the dash, headlights, tail lights, the trunk and other parts. Friends helped with the bumpers and other heavy parts.

His goal was to finish the car by the time he could get his driver's license back. He met that self-imposed deadline.

In August he accompanied his wife, who is foods service sales manager for Norlake, on a 10-day business/ pleasure trip to California.

"I walked Disneyland," said Belongia proudly, "with a cane. I refused to take the wheelchair. I

(Dream Continued on page 6)

(Dream Continued from page 5)

said, 'When I get tired, we will sit.'"

Changing course

After 22 years in law enforcement, Belongia realized he won't ever be able to return to work.

Retirement caught him off guard, said Belongia. "I really thought there would be a time when I could go back to work."

He has now accepted the fact that he won't drive a squad car again. Belongia's job involved investigating crimes involving computers. He has taught technical college classes in that area and worked with an assistant attorney general teaching civil process procedures.

He said his disability won't stop him from returning to that work. "I'm not an idle person."

Belongia has another big goal. He paused for a minute to compose himself before talking about that.

"I want to be around to see my grandkids," said Belongia. "It tears me up every time I say that, but I'm taking all the precautions I need to be here."

September's Wheels and Wings and N. St. Paul History Cruise were Great Events.

September 7th was our annual trip up to Osceola, Wisconsin for Wheels and Wings, sponsored by Classic Motorbooks. What a great time! And it sure was hot! Hot cars and hot temperatures. Andy Lindberg, British Car owner (but not an MG) prepared the following article about the event.

1. Attendance. (7 out of 10 points) There were, by the InterMarque Monthly unofficial count, 173 vintage foreign cars at this event. (We did not count the numerous muscle cars or even the Duchess kit car whose license plate said 52 MG TD.) It ap-

peared that overall attendance was down from last year but that is only a quesstimate. MGs were the most numerous, but there were also nice showings by Triumphs, Loti, Datsuns, Minis, Citroëns, and Ferraris.



2. Weather. (3 out of 5 points) It might have been September but the weather was more like the dog days of August. The high was in the 90's, the humidity was right up these also, and there was no relief from the blazing sun.

3. Off-the-Bell-Curve Cars. (3 out of 5 points) There were two Amphicars, one BMW Isetta bubble car, a Marcos, a Saab 95 wagon, a Citroen Avant, an Opel GT, a Sunbeam Alpine, and three TVRs.

4. Amenities. (3 out of 5 points) There



(September Activities Continued on page 7)

(September Activities Continued from page 6)



didn't seem to be more satellites, but the lines to use them were nonexistent this year. The local Lions Club also was able to handle the noon

time rush for burgers and dogs with no problem.

For the non-auto types, free buses were available to the downtown celebration or out to the airport.

5. Vendors. (2 out of 5 points) Only one vendor was present, Classic Motorbooks, and they sold their wares all day long. Books under the tent sold at 50% off; volumes in the warehouse were discounted 15%. A good deal if you were looking for a particular tome for your library. If not, a few cars sported "For Sale" signs.

6. Cost. (5 out of 5 points) It was free!

7. Ambiance. (3 out of 5 points) By 10:00 a.m., when the star-crossed InterMarque staff arrived, there were no lines to enter and most marques had found a location where their vehicles could congregate. The largest exception was the Jaguar contingent. They were scattered all over the Motorbooks acreage.

8. Other. (2 out of 10 points) A fair number of trophies were handed out, and the "Rocking Hollywoods" performed for an audience numbering in the high single digits. Other than that, most people spent their time looking for a place to sit in the shade.

Summary. (28 out of 50 points) This is the biggest intermarque gathering in the area and it is worth attending for that reason alone. It's a great opportunity to meet old friends and see some new (old) cars. It is also a great opportunity to pick up some very good books at very good

prices, with no shipping charges. We would, however, like to see

Motorbooks provide some sort of attendee involvement so that the parking lot did not empty by 1:00 p.m.

September 13th about 15 MG cars and one TR6 arrived in downtown North St. Paul. We parked, showed off our cars, and had a great time just hanging around. Later, everyone was invited to Elena Pierce's house to continue the socializing.



CLUB REGALIA

The following items are available for sale by contacting Rich Leslie at 763-754-2965 or via email at **rich-debathome@aol.com**. Do you have new ideas for club regalia? Let Rich know your thoughts.

Item	Quantity.	Description	Size	Cost
T-Shirts	Adult 1	Green w/maroon MG	XL	\$10.00
	1	Light blue	XXL	\$10.00
	Kids various	Call Rich		\$7.00
Polo Shirts	Adult 2	Cream	Med	\$15.00
	1	White	L	\$15.00
	1	White	XL	\$15.00
	4	Grey 2001	Med	\$15.00
Denim Shirts	Adult 1	Long Sleeve	Med	\$29.00
	4	Long Sleeve	XL	\$29.00
	1	Long Sleeve	XXL	\$29.00
Bumper Stickers	137	2001 Odyssey		\$0.25
Can Coolers	235	Grey w/red MG letters		\$1.50
Grill Badges	53			\$22.00
Other				
		MG 2001 Dash Plaques		See Dan Shidla
		MG 2001 Convention Pins		See Dan Shidla

We have talked about a new logo resembling the MG 2001 logo that was used this past summer at the MG 2001 event. After talking with the people that have made our clothing in the past, we are going to offer a new logo along with the original one. They are going to remove the "2001" from the trees and change the "St. Paul" to "Group". We will also have the option of putting your name on the shirt. Call me with your order. It will take about 2 weeks to get them after I turn the order in. Here are our options and costs.

Blue Denim shirt, long or short sleeve, Safety Fast on sleeve	
With original MG logo on shirt above pocket	\$24.00
With new MG 2001 logo on shirt above pocket	\$27.00
Name embroidered on front of shirt, other side	\$4.00
For XXL and XXXL sizes add	\$5.00
Shipping (would rather hand out at meetings)	\$3.00

Any questions please call me.
Rich Leslie 763-754-2965

Calendar of Events

Editors comments: This calendar will be continually modified and updated. The MMGG club is working closely with other British car clubs on a variety of activities. You are encouraged to attend any car club event.

Ongoing Event	British Built Cars. Informal car show every Sunday through October. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sherlock's Home, Highway 62 and Shady Oak Road, Minnetonka, Mn. Contact Sherlock's 952-931-0203.
October 5, 2002	Fall Colour Tour hosted by Doug and Mary Madson and Dan and Dianne Iberg. Route through the woods and dales of central Minnesota. Details to follow.
November 9, 2002	Annual Meeting of the MMGG. Hosted by Dan and Jeanette Shidla. Details to follow.
January 4, 2003	Annual Holiday Party and MG Bucks Auction Hosted by Simon and Lorna Bosworth and Al and Sharon Kelsey. Location will be 3M's Tartan Park Club House. Time to get crazy with our MG Bucks.
February, 2003	Open
March, 2003	Open
April, 2003	Open
May, 2003	Open
June 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2003	The Lake Superior Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous. Annual rendezvous will be held in 2003 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. This year's (2002) event was <u>great!</u> Plan on attending. More information as it becomes available. For now contact Roger Rickards, 807-473-4882, email miniowners@sympatico.ca or visit the web site at www.tbvscc.ca .
June 19, 2002	MG2003 North American MGB Register, St. Louis, MO. More information at www.british-cars.org.uk/kimber/nambr .
July, 2003	Open
August, 2003	Open
September, 2003	Open
October, 2003	Open
November, 2003	Open
December, 2003	Open
January, 2004	Annual Holiday Party and MG Bucks Auction. Hosts needed

MMGG Technical Advisors

The following people have expressed a willingness to answer questions and offer advice about these cars. Take them up on their offer.

Triple-M - Lew Palmer 651/436-7401

T-types - Bob Figenskau 952/935-7909

MGA - Mike Hirschman 763/391-5769

MGB - Randy Byboth 952/936-9335

Midgets—Dewey Frier 763/424-3286 or Brian McCullough 651/462-0145

Bodywork - Dewey Frier 763/424-3286

Club Equipment Available

Our MG club has some excellent equipment for club member use. Dick Wallrich at Park Bus/Columbia Transit Company in St. Paul keeps our welders, engine hoist, pressure washer and tent. His telephone number is 651/644-1100. Our bull-horns, overhead projector and microphones/amps are available through Jerry Strand at 715/386-5930. For specifics, please refer to previous newsletters, our website or call for details.

You might be an MG owner if...
you have ever said

"I actually like the smell of mildew."

Or

"Darling, I'll have it fixed in a minute."

Foreign

Domestic

Midwest Motor Sports, Inc.

26 South 1st Street
Sauk Rapids, Mn. 56379
(320) 251-0676
danielmms@aol.com

Dan, Mike, Rick, Doug, Dustin
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Brian McCullough
Forest Lake, Minnesota
651-462-0145

For Sale.....Wanted.....Misc.

Kind of classified rules: Minnesota MG Group members ads will run for three months, unless you tell the editor to drop them earlier or run them longer. The month/year the ad was placed is in italics below the ad.

For Sale: 1975 MGB with twin carbs. Runs great. \$3800 or best offer.

Call David Rainerson 763-427-5564

September 2002

For Sale: 1971 MGB-GT, teal blue exterior, tan interior, 76,xxx original miles, 2nd owner, no-od, no exterior rust. \$3500 or best offer.

Call Tom Davison at 763-473-9105

September 2002

For Sale: 1979 MGB same owner 22 years, new twin SU's, new tires, gas tank, turn signal unit, battery alternator, etc. Runs wonderful.

Call Don Raymond 952-926-3060

September 2002

For Sale: 1980 MGB Limited Edition. Mint condition with 24,xxx actual miles. \$12,000 or best offer.

Call John or Marlene 763-497-8100

September 2002

For Sale: 1980 MGB Limited Edition, Blk/Blk with 14,900 actual miles. Excellent Condition! All service done by Ernie West for past 5 years. \$12,750 (Serious only please).

Bill Wickum at 218-847-3764

August 2002

For Sale: 1979 MG Midget. One owner, 28,000 miles, all original, never driven in rain or snow and always garaged. Excellent condition. Have to see it for yourself. You will never find one in this shape for the money. \$10,500.

Larry Steinhaus at 763-241-4858

August 2002

For Sale: 1974 MGB-GT, 77,xxx miles. Partially restored with many new engine and body parts. Runs fine and minimum rust. Needs finishing and painting. \$1,500.

Dave Coslett at 651-738-1421

August 2002

For Sale: 1974 MGB-GT with usual rust, a good interior, not run for 8 years and burned oil then. A parts car or for restoring. \$600.

Call Dale Paterson 715-549-6067

August 2002

For Sale: 1954 MG Magnette Z Type. Very good condition. New paint, brakes, exhaust system, battery. Restored interior. Runs well. \$3800 or best offer.

Call Rees Allison 651-523-2231

August 2002

For Sale: 1972 MGB radiator.best offer; exhaust manifold, \$35.00; center console, \$10.00.

Call Jeff at 651-735-0780

September 2002

For Sale: 1974 MGB-GT, Excellent condition, performance enhanced motor, lots of chrome, new interior, mini lite wheels. Needs nothing.

Call Jon Masley 651-779-8605 \$8,000

September 2002

For Sale: 1976 MG Midget. Clean California body with weber, header. Needs top. Car ran fine 10 years ago. Not started since. Best Offer.

Call Jerry Vossen 651-778-9817

September 2002

Wanted: 45 model distributor for my MGB. Call me with good news. Tom Belongia.

715-325-0189.

October 2002

Patient: "Doc, I can't stop singing 'The green, green grass of home!'"

Doctor: "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome."

Patient: "Is it common?"

Doctor: "It's not unusual."

Minnesota MG Group Membership Application

The Minnesota MG Group was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, maintenance and enjoyment of all MG cars. MG car ownership is not necessary to be a member of the Minnesota MG Group. Membership is \$25.00. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. New members joining after August 31st of any given year shall be granted membership for the remainder of that year and the next year as well. Use this form to join or renew your membership.

Please complete this form, write out a check for \$25.00 and mail to:

**Minnesota MG Group
1092 Golden Oaks Drive
Hudson, Wisconsin 54016**

Name: _____

Name of spouse/partner/significant other: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, & Zip Code: _____

Telephone w/area code: (_____) (_____) (_____)

Email address: _____

MG(s) Owned: _____

Minnesota MG Group
3599 Gershwin Court North
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128-3044

Safety Fast

We're on the Web!
www.mmgg.org