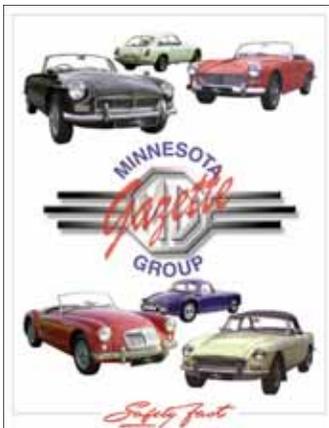




Gazette

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

Valentine Afternoon Tea

Saturday February 16, 2008

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by

Jack and Kathryn Schneider

And

Simon and Lorna Bosworth

See page 5 for details

Tech Session

Saturday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by Dick Wallrich

At Quality Coaches

Guest speaker

Jeff Edington from Valspar Paints

The Minnesota MG Group was founded in 1987 and is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the MG Marquee. Correspondence can be addressed to:

**Minnesota MG Group
1860 West Roselawn St
Falcon Heights, MN 55113**

Visit us on the web at **WWW.MMGG.ORG.**

2007 Club Officers

President

Richard Wallrich
1860 West Roselawn
Falcon Heights, MN 55113
651-644-0154
chartbus@comcast.net

Vice President

Dawn Williams
951 18 1/2 Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-363-5990
williamsd@puc-mn.org

Treasurer

Jon Masley
3947 Bailey Ridge Draw
Woodbury, MN 44125
651-779-8605
jdmasley@yahoo.com

Secretary

Elena Biessener
10793D Falling Water Lane
Woodbury, MN 55129
651-337-0681
embiessener@mmm.com

Intermarque Rep

James Pennoyer
4209 Decatur Ave N
New Hope, MN 55428
762-536-5472
mgadriven@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Tom Belongia
238 Glen Circle
River Falls, WI. 54022
715-425-0189
tom.belong@pressenter.com

Newsletter

Barb Belongia
238 Glen Circle
River Falls WI. 54022
715-425-0189
barb.belong@pressenter.com

Membership Roster

Jon Masley
3947 Bailey Ridge Draw
Woodbury, MN 44125
651-779-8605
jdmasley@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Diane Rindt
4271 North Shore Drive
Eau Claire, WI. 54703
715-832-8316
drindt5953@hotmail.com

New Member Coordinator

Bill McReaken
10905 27th Avenue South
Burnsville, MN 55387
952-890-0102
mgb1969@msn.com

Regalia

Diane Rindt
4271 North Shore Drive
Eau Claire, WI. 54703
715-832-8316
drindt5953@hotmail.com

Past President

Alan Kelsey
15942 Harmony Way Ct.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-891-3452
alan@rarehome.com

The Left Hand Thread

By MMGG President Richard Wallrich



Well, here we are in the dead of winter and about as far away as we can get to driving our cars. However, I almost had the GT out for breakfast at the Peg the other day. Then the weather turned for the worse again and I couldn't get it out. Lets see how if I get anything done on my list this year. The finishing of the shedteau in the backyard has been taking up a lot of time. While that has been going on, there has been a lot happening car-wise, even with the Holidays. Here are some tidbits to get the year going.

Jon Masley has been working with NAMGAR to secure new insurance for us. NAMGAR and NAMBGR have been improving their insurance products to the affiliated chapters. This allows us to have organized drives and other club activities. All they ask in return is chapters like us to support them and to get them some simple paperwork. They are having trouble getting the individual clubs to participate. NAMGAR for example has eighteen chapters that want the insurance. They need 13 local chapters to sign up for their group insurance. However, they have only gotten seven chapters other than us to sign up so far. That's only eight clubs in all of the USA. Hopefully they can turn the screws on five more lazy clubs so that we can get the insurance.

British Car Week is May 31st through June 8th. There is even a web site. Go to <http://www.britishcarweek.org/> for more information.

At our annual meeting, we discussed how to do some service related events this year, to give back something to our communities and to promote our cars to a wider audience. Tom Moerke, who in another life doubles behind our backs as the president of the Austin Healey club, proposed an idea to me

and to Phil Eithier from the Triumph club. The two of them promptly put me in charge of the idea. This is what happens at the Peg when you stop to take a bite of food and for a split second can't talk until you swallow. Anyhow here is the scoop. Our club along with the Austin Healey Club, the Triumph Club and the Minnesota MGT Register will be sponsoring a British Car Night at the Velocity International Motoring Art Show at the Hopkins Center for the Arts on Friday, August 1st. The event will be set up like a Concours de Elegance. This will be a fundraiser for Opportunity Partners in Hopkins. I will give you all of the details by the time the next newsletter comes out. At this time, I want everyone to mark their calendars for this very important night. We expect nothing less than for our club to have 100% attendance that night. We also want everyone in the club to act as the point person for all of the people at your place of employment. This will be a car event that you can bring everyone from work to see what we do on the weekends. We want to get a very large crowd there that evening. The preliminary hours will be from 6:00-10:00 PM. Cars will be on display on Main Street in Hopkins by invitation. We want everyone to bring their cars that night so that we can flood Hopkins with British iron of all types. This will be our biggest event since 2001, so get ready for some fun.

The 18th Annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous *"Rendezvous at Wilderness Edge"*

Now accepting registrations for the event being held on June 5 - 8 in Pinawa, Manitoba. This year's Rendezvous is being held at an all-inclusive venue - your registration and payment will also secure your accommodations and meals at Wilderness Edge Retreat & Conference Centre for this four day event.

For more information including registration form and tentative schedule of events, please view our website at www.britishcar.ca/rendezvous. Hope to see you at Rendezvous 2008!

NOTE: Web site listed above is different from the one advertised at last year's Rendezvous at Sugar Lake Lodge.

Ann Blonski, Event Registrar

THE RUBBER B'S EDITOR'S NOTES TOM & BARB BELONGIA, EDITORS



Happy New Year to all our MMGG friends! 2008 has started off to a "bang" with a fabulous Holiday Party (or was it 2007 coming to an end) and another entertaining MG Bucks Auction and Raffle. Thank you to all the Byboths for hosting this event (and the MG Buck distribution for all of 2007). And thanks to Dawn Williams, Diane Vinar and Cathy LaClair for volunteering for the 2008 Holiday Party and those MG Bucks — wonder what the color will be for 2008?

Special thanks to Andy Anderson for all the photos he provided us from New Year's Eve at the Wallrich's and the 2007 Holiday Party. We received some more photos of the Holiday Party that arrived after our deadline for publication. We'll attempt to get many of these in next month's publication.

Andy was working hard this month on *Gazette* contributions. He designed an MG Crossword Challenge. The puzzle is on page six (answers are on page 11, but don't cheat). He's hinted that more puzzles may be coming for future publications.

We appreciate all the contributions each month. Don't be shy — many of you are great photographers and there is a writer lurking in some of you, too. Or take a different approach such as game or share an article you've seen elsewhere. And don't forget those very important details on events planned for the next month. All by the 15th please so we can compile and publish per our deadlines.

The January thaws have gotten us excited as we are mislead to believe that spring is just around the corner and then the cold front and / or snow front arrives. But that still gives us time for those winter projects so the cars are ready and the days are more carefree as the driving season arrives. Barb found time to complete Part II of her Easing Out the Clutch story. Tom has the throttle return spring bracket installed on the TD and the painter has us in "cue" for making the MGB hardtop Flamenco Red. Now if we can just get the baseboard trim painted and installed in the basement and other "in house" projects completed before spring, Barb will be more "carefree" with Tom. See you next month!



Need Winter Storage?

What we have to offer is classic car storage on winter and summer storage contracts. The storage facility is heated, and secured through a computer controlled key access system. Each participant will have their own card and 24/7 access to their vehicle. Our costs are competitive (only \$475 for a 6-month winter contract from November 1st to April 30th), and our facility is clean and tenanted by fellow classic car owners and several medical doctors who use the top level of our four story facility as indoor parking for their respective medical practices.

If you or anyone with an MG ever wishes to tour our facility, we'll be more than happy to set something up, as we are very proud of the premium spaces and facility we that have to offer.

Paul Carroll
The Wirth Companies
615 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402

O: 612-278-9280

F: 612-339-2538

pcarroll@wirthcompanies.com

Need a Nametag?

If you are a newer member and have not received your nametags, or are an existing member and lost yours, please request one from new member coordinator Bill McReaken (952-890-0102). If you leave a message, please be sure to **SPELL** both first and last names for each name tag and leave a phone number at which you can be reached. Lost name-tags cost \$5.00. Send your check to Bill, made out to MMGG.



MG Girl!

MG Girl Regalia (both the above design as well as the new MGT patch) is available from Diane Rindt. Please contact her if you are interested in any of the following items or for special orders.

- MG Girl periwinkle Tank Tops (most sizes)
- MG Girl white Tank Tops (most sizes)
- MG Girl Patches
- MG Girl yellow Tank Top

MMGG Club Regalia

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Hats



Special Orders also Accepted
 Choose from the original MMGG logo
 Or the new MG Minnesota logo (above)

Available from Diane Rindt.



*Valentine
Afternoon Tea*

*Saturday,
February 16, 2008
2:00 to 5:00*

Point of France Condominiums
Lower Level Party Room
France Avenue & W. 66th St.
(across from Southdale Macy's)

*Don your hats, gloves, waistcoats & other finery
to come enjoy a cup or two along with
some fabulous nibblies.*

As in past years, would appreciate assistance with various tasks
at the event. Please contact Jack & Kathryn Schneider at 651-552-1780 (britjack@comcast.net),
Simon & Lorna Bosworth at 651-454-7413 (simon.bosworth@comcast.net),
to inquire.

Everyone - please bring a tea time treat to share!

MMGG Spring Kickoff Brunch

**March 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Levee Café in Hastings**

I love scheduling the Kickoff Brunch on March 15 cuz it gives me a chance to quote from Julius Caesar – **‘BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH’** if you miss the **MMGG Spring Kickoff!** This year we’ll be visiting one of my favorite ‘haunts’ in Hastings – the Levee Café.

Chef Brian promises a splendid array of pastry, fruit, eggs and meats. Coffee and juice are included in the **LUCKY** price of only \$13.00. You won’t have to pay in advance – just call or email me (Elena) by March 11, so that I can give him an accurate count. My email address is elen2b0916@comcast.net and my phone number is 651-337-0681.

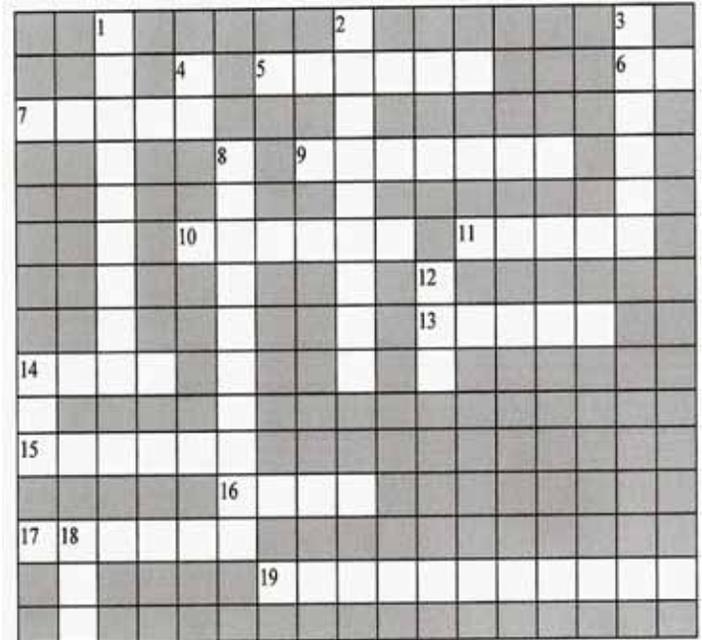
And speaking of “paying at the door” remember to bring your checkbook as this will be your last chance to pay only \$30 for your 2008 MMGG dues. Memberships renewed after the kickoff brunch go up to \$35!

DOUBLE MG bucks if you wear your nametag!
TRIPLE MG bucks if you wear your nametag
AND drive your MG!

The Levee Café is located at 100 Sibley Street in downtown Hastings. You can access MapQuest directions on their website at <http://leveecafe.com>.

Another interesting website to check out includes an article about “Haunted Hastings” (and in particular the haunting at the Levee Café). Go to the WCCO website for more information <http://wcco.com/watercooler/ghostbusters.hastings.minnesota.2.414750.html>

Hope to see you all on the Ides of March!
Elena Biessener



MG Crossword Challenge

Across:

5. They’re not just for bicycles anymore.
6. To outsiders, it means excess, but to us it helps engines.
7. We all need a larger one
9. The military has its Pentagon, we have our _____
10. It’s not a mar, it’s a _____
11. A knight we love to hate
13. It’s not MG boys
14. A fun car club in Minnesota
15. A type of insurance all MG owners should have
16. We all need more of it when we own an MG
17. You can put a bee in it, but it’s best to keep it closed while driving
19. We have a lot of, but could use less!

Down:

1. Something to put into a round hole or a place to eat. (2 words)
2. A state that takes a lot of time and money to achieve
3. Whose garage was it?
4. No, they weren’t made in the OK, but in the ____
8. A device to see gauges while driving at night
12. What arrived in 1955?
14. What one gets when crossing an MG with a British hot beverage
18. In 1924, it was know as Old Number ____

Don’t cheat, but answers are on page 11.

Easing Out the Clutch Part II

By Barb Belongia

When I last left you (in this article anyway), I was happy that the cute little aqua Monza had been replaced with an automatic transmission vehicle and I was again unafraid to pull up to a stop sign (and stop) or attempt to stop at the top of a hill.

But then Memorial Day weekend 2001 arrived and Tom has “found” an MGB – his dream car. It’s in good condition, runs and appears to offer us instant enjoyment without extensive work. In the excitement of this find, it wasn’t a matter of concern that I probably had “lost” all my standard transmission skills. I never even took the time to remind Tom that I “couldn’t” drive his dream car. (And he probably wouldn’t have cared at the time.) It was love at first sight and the MGB was part of our car family before the holiday weekend ended.

The first summer there were a few references to me driving the MGB. I think they were polite references on Tom’s behalf. He was much too “in love” with the B to want to relinquish the wheel to anyone else. And I was happy to be a passenger, but somewhat concerned that an event may force me to be behind the wheel.

Thanksgiving came and a striped down car was taken to a paint shop about 80 miles north of us. New parts arrived at our door daily but we but in a holding bay until the car would be returned in the spring.

Then in February 2002, Tom had a stroke and our life took a dramatic turn. Within a week of his stroke, the painter called to discuss the MGB’s color and I was all too soon reminded that the “event” had arrived. We focused on Tom’s recovery and the MGB became part of his therapy. The paint job was finished and on Memorial Day weekend 2002, the MGB came home. We had purchased a trailer – one that I was taught to drive (trailers luckily are transmission free) – and with the help of a friend, I drove the trailer home from the paint shop.

Tom worked every day to diminish as much as possible the effects of the stroke. Planning and installing parts on the MGB was as vital to his recovery as his physical therapy sessions. But I was still the chauffer – Tom hadn’t regained the ability to get

behind the wheel. As the MGB was looking like a car once again, I was worried that I would have to tackle a 4-speed transmission (this one with overdrive – whatever that is). There was no driving the B for most of that summer, but by the time fall arrived, Tom was once again driving and I was in the passenger seat. Distances were limited but the B didn’t need to rely on me for exercise.

But by summer 2003, I was again being pressured to learn to drive the B. It was “fun and much easier than the Monza”. I should give it a try. I had all the excuses in the world for not getting behind the wheel and managed to escape for another year. Although secretly I could see the fun Tom had in driving the B – a fun I never witnessed with the Monza and the practical side of me said, I need to know how to drive this car if I ever HAVE to drive this car.

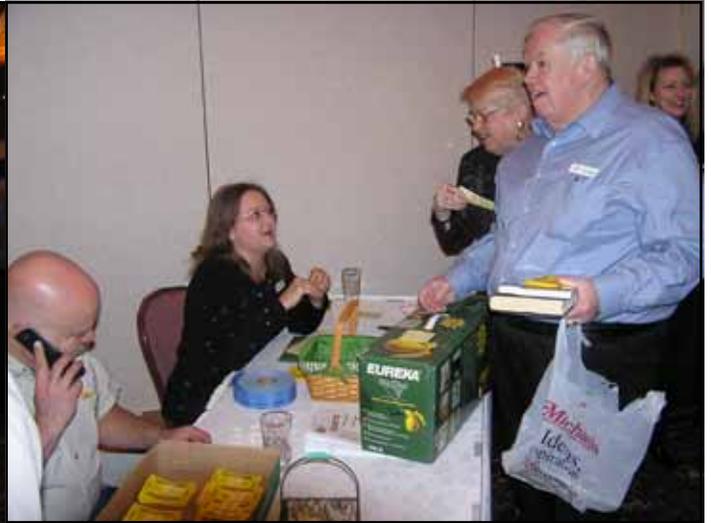
By the summer of 2004, I was beginning to feel the need to experience the fun behind the wheel of the B. So our lessons were reinstated. I reminded the “instructor” that I knew the basics of “easing out the clutch” and the instruction should be based on how to move the seat forward, explaining the purpose and “how to” of overdrive and being “supportive”. We found a new “learning track” — through the roads of the Troy Burne Golf Village. There were no kids and no dogs in the back seat — also no back seat. And anyone that witnessed the lessons was so impressed with the car and a woman driving, they didn’t notice any “jerking” when the clutch was being eased out.

Although the lessons were mostly successful, there were no “solo” experiences in 2004. The lessons during the summer of 2005 were a refresher course from 2004. And then August arrived and another “dream” car entered our life — the MG TD. Now I had advanced that I could be trusted to drive solo. Although the experiences were limited, I had received an advanced degree in “4 Speed Transmission with Overdrive” and I was off. Wind in my hair and “shifting” felt right! I’ve been on my own to car shows, other events and sometimes I just get to drive the B. I have to be honest though, I still plan my routes to avoid stopping uphill, but there are a few “smaller hills” that I’ve grown to experience in more comfort.

Perhaps 2008 will offer me the opportunity to try my “double clutching” skills on the MG TD but I doubt I’ll advance to “solo status” with this car.

HOLIDAY PARTY PICTURES

PHOTOS BY ANDY ANDERSON





HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008!

PHOTOS BY ANDY ANDERSON



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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 - Brian McCullough 651/462-0145

Bodywork - Open

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Appointment, Brett Campos 651-398-9434
jeff & ne'ce 612-724-5267 JeffJamesPaint@yahoo.com

Calendar of MMGG CLUB Events

Let's have some fun!

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.

- February 16, 2008** **Annual Valentine's Day Tea** Hosted by the Bosworth's and Schneider's
See page 5 for details
- March 1, 2008** **Tech Session** Hosted by Dick Wallrich at Quality Coaches. Starts at 10am
featuring a guest speaker, Jeff Edington from Valspar Paints.
- March 15, 2008** **Annual Kick Off Brunch** Hosted by Elena Biessener. Spring Kickoff Brunch
at the Levee Café, 100 Sibley Street, Hastings. Reservations required to Elena by
March 11. Email elen2b0916@comcast.net or call Elena at 651-337-0681. Cost
is \$13 (payable at door).
- April 18, 2008** **Gourmet Dinner** Hosted by Jon and Haidi Masley. Once again the Masley's
will host dinner at Le Cordon Bleu. More details in next months issue.
- April 26, 2008** **Tech Session** and Open House at Midwest Motor Sports. Hosted by Dan Iburg.
- May 10, 2008** **Driving Event** Hosted by Dick Wallrich
- June 28, 2008** **Picnic** Hosted by the Galberth's
- July 20, 2008** **Garden Party** Hosted by the Bosworth's and Schneider's
- July 26, 2008** **Grand Round Tour** Guide and Host needed
- August 9, 2008** **Ellingson's Car Show and Swap Meet** Hosted by Jim Pennoyer and Brian
McCullough
- September 12, 2008** **Wings & Wheels** Hosted by Tom and Barb Belongia
- September, 27,2008** **5th Annual Fish 'n Chips** Hosted by Tom and Barb Belongia
- October 4, 2008** **Fall Colour Tour** Hosted by Diane and Ken Merrill
- October 11, 2008** **Fall Colour Tour** Hosted by Keith and Phyllis Galberth
- October 25, 2008** **Halloween Party** Hosted by Bob and Lori Jensen
- November, 2008** **Annual MMGG Meeting** Date and Location to be determined.
- December, 2008** **Pre-Holiday Event** Date and Hosts needed
- December 31, 2008** **New Year's Eve Party** Hosted by Dick and Val Wallrich
- January, 2009** **MMGG Annual Holiday Party** At Tartan Park Club House. Hosted by Dawn
Williams, Diane Vinar, and Cathy LaClair

NOTE — All information for upcoming events — both Club Sponsored and Other Events — is due by the 15th of the month for publication in the next MMGG Gazette. Event hosts are responsible for supplying all the information for the event for publication. Please don't forget this important step in hosting your Specific MMGG event. tom.belong@pressenter.com

Calendar of Other Events

Support Our Friends!

**On Going
Saturday Mornings
All Year Round**

Saturday morning British Breakfast at the Square Peg Diner, 2021 East Hennepin Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (most people get there early). Open to all lovers of British cars. Proprietor Phil Vanner, a British car owner, welcomes you. New expanded dining room too! After breakfast we linger in the parking lot, weather permitting, to “show off” our cars.

MG Girls meet the second Saturday of each month at the Square Peg too.

**East Ender’s Breakfast
1st and 3rd
Saturdays**

A group of MGers have started a semi monthly East Enders Breakfast group. For those MG (and any other) enthusiasts that want to breakfast a little later and not drive to Minneapolis. Join us on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, 9 a.m. at the Best Western Hudson House Inn located in Hudson, WI on Crestview (South Frontage road) west of I-94 Exit #2. The phone number is 715-386-2394 should you get lost. Sorry, checks are not accepted. All are welcome.

May 17, 2008

Inter-Marque Spring Kickoff Saturday, May 17, 2008, Radisson Hotel, Plymouth, MN Vintage Foreign Motor cars 1987 and older. Car Show at 10:00 a.m. and Banquet at 2:00 p.m.

May 31– June 8, 2008

British Car Week go to www.britishcarweek.org for more information

June 5-8, 2008

Rendezvous 2008 Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada See pages 3 & 11 for more details

June 25-29. 2008

NAMGBR Annual Gathering Valley Forge, PA

July 4, 2008

Chetek Car Show, Chetek, WI

July 8, 2008

Square Peg Benefit Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hosted by Phil Vanner

July 10 -13, 2008

GOF Central MK XXX Auburn, IL. Hosted by the Olde Octagons of Indiana. Activities include Afternoon Tea T Time, First Timers’ Display, Raffle and Auction, In Line with the Classics Car Show and Banquet and Awards at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. For information kkubick@iquest.net or momsmg@comcast.net.

August 1, 2008

British Car Night at the Velocity International Motoring Art Show, Hopkins,

Additional Events for 2008 — Thanks to everyone who came with ideas and volunteered to host events for the MMGG membership in 2008. There are still open dates on the calendar, events that need hosts or space for other events. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to host an event — they’re fun and easy to host. Please discuss your ideas and dates with Dawn Williams to prevent any overlap of events and get your information into the *Gazette* with as much advance notice as possible to assure everyone is aware of your event and can plan to attend. Please include all the details!

The MMGG *Gazette* welcomes all articles, features and letters. Please submit all as Microsoft Word documents. All articles, features and letters will be subject to editing but all efforts will be made not to change the meaning of the submitted document.

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

Kind of classified rules: Minnesota MG Group members ads will run free 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. Commercial Ads as follows: Business Card—\$10.00 issue; 1/4 page—\$20.00 issue; 1/2 page—\$30.00 issue; full page—N/A. All commercial ads must run a minimum of 6 months and must be paid in advance. Send to Tom Belongia, 238 Glen Circle, River Falls Wisconsin 54022. Or at: tom.belong@pressenter.com. Make checks payable to the MMGG.

For Sale 1976 MGB Roadster. 55k Miles. Rebuilt engine, Red with black interior. Includes soft and hardtop. Has seen no winters and no issues. Call Glenn Nickleski at 651 439 3948.

Sept 2007

For Sale 1980 MGB LE, 90k miles. 4-speed with overdrive. Tires good, some rust on the rockers. Motor has been replaced. Fiberglass top, radio, tonneau, but needs a new soft top. Contact Dave at 612 852 3088.

August 2007

For Sale 1974 MGB very solid, all original, great driver. \$9500 obo. MGA parts, hood, doors, windshield surround with brackets, wire wheels, transmission apart, rack, spindles, brake drums, top bows, etc. Mark @ 218-590-4364

October 2007

Wanted 65-67 MGB "18" head with casting numbers 12H1326 AF1.

Jerry Hudrlik 507.455.0243 jjhudr@msn.com

Feb 2008



For Sale 1976 MGB Roadster. Red with black interior. Weber carbs, new brakes (rotors, pads, and shoes) master cylinder, and new battery. 77k miles. Some rust on the fenders but runs good. \$ 2975. Call Dave at 612 414 2823 leave a message.

Sept 2007

For Sale 1979 MGB Green with Tan. Weber carb, 4-speed with overdrive. Mag wheels with new tires. Rust free from Washington state. Price reduced! \$7,995 OBO

For Sale 1979 Orange with black interior. Rosestyle wheels. 85k miles. \$5,995 OBO

For Sale 1967 MGB Roadster Green with tan. Texas car. Wire wheels, stow and go top and Tonneau. \$9,750.

For Sale 1962 Midget, MK I Green. Mag Wheels with a 1275 engine. This is a distressed sale. \$6,000

Call Mark on his cell phone at 612-306-0044



For Sale 1979 MGB Red with black top. No Rust, engine rebuilt at 79057 miles. Has over-drive, rebuilt transmission, new cam and lifters, timing chain etc. Oil cooler. Weber carburetor, electronic distributor, header exhaust. Fuel pump, hoses, brakes, clutch and master cylinder, starter, alternator, water pump, suspension and new shocks all rebuilt or new. New tires Dunlop and roll bar in 06. \$8990. Call Curt Robinson at 612 825 9068.

October 2007

Minnesota MG Group Membership

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 \$35.00 with a \$5.00 discount if paid before our Spring Kick Off Gathering (mid-March). 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 \$35 (or \$30 if paying before mid-March)

**mail to: Minnesota MG Group, 3947 Bailey Ridge Draw,
Woodbury, Minnesota 55125
jdmasley@yahoo.com**

New Renewal Changes

Name: _____

Name of spouse/partner/significant other: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, & Zip Code: _____

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

Add your Email Address here for your newsletter, and club notifications:

MG's) Owned: _____

Minnesota MG Group
238 Glen Circle
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

Safety First!

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