

Winter, Still, Really ?!

I'd like to report on the weather this newsletter again. Last month it was snowing and it has stopped, but it is still cold. Not much has melted yet with overnight lows still in the minus teens. Last year this time we were driving our LBC's, golfing and washing our car outside. How much longer must we wait this year?

I believe a lot of members have the itch to get out and do some top down driving. I did see a few motorcycles on the road, but that's just crazy with the sand and ice still out there. Ann saw a Ural motorcycle and sidecar parked in front of Ozzy's in the Village on the first day of spring – must have annual rite of spring even though there were snow all over the place.

I believe once the snow does start to melt, members will be able to come on out to my private island in the Red River for a boat ride. We will see what happens on that side of the weather.

I have talked to Ted Moorby and he has been busy bouncing around some club members' places helping get cars ready for June's Rendezvous. Ann and I have our room booked and plan to register any time now. We will find out what groups are leaving for the trip down. It's a great destination for an event like the Rendezvous – easy



day drive to Grand Rapids, great roads to take you there, wonderful facility at Sugar Lake Lodge. Check out their web site at <http://www.sugarlakelodge.com/>. If you're a first timer take a couple days off work (or retirement!) and go – the Manitoba club members travel as a group (or depending on numbers, groups) and look out for each other – no one is left behind.

Ted and I (mostly Ted) have been setting up the Annual Garage Tour slated for Saturday, April 20th. Bus to leave Tom Pearson's place at 9:00 am (Tim's breakfast sandwich & coffee included). Lunch is still undecided at this time. The tour will return to Tom's where we will be having a Chili Dinner starting at approximately 4:00pm. Come spend the day with some entertaining conversation and company. See what some members have in their garages, shops and businesses. It's always a good day out. Cost will be \$20 per person (includes meals and bus rental) or \$5 for chili dinner only (spouses invited) or those how cannot attend the full day.

Be sure to check out the Events Calendar on our web site and emails for the Sunday Morning Breakfasts that will start in May. Also Hugh Arklie has been setting up some drive and dine events. Be sure to attend at least of one of these events to help make it worthwhile for

AHCM

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organizers and, who knows, some fun might break out.

Jim Jackson sent in an article for this month's *Healey Happenings* and it includes a photo from a few years ago. If anyone else has a picture to share, or maybe one of the ladies would like to email a pic of their husband with a car from years gone past, please do so. Wouldn't that be a surprise to see in print?

Here's hoping the upcoming forecast for snow is wrong... Happy Spring!

Coats of Many Colours

(my MGA's many facelifts)

- Jim Jackson

Forty-five years ago, summertime in the swingin' sixties, my friend Larry had a beautiful new Mineral-blue '68 MGB sporting wire wheels and overdrive. He also had a full time job to support her. Naïve me, a struggling student, love-struck by the MGB figured he could swing his own little British sports car on his summer job's salary (almost \$300/month!). \$235 later the MGA was all mine, weak battery, smoky engine, badly cracked red paint, dodgy 2nd gear synch ring, cracked bias-ply tires on ratty disc wheels, etc., etc. Love is blind.

What a great way to learn about cars. Usually the price of buying tools for a repair was less than paying the mechanic, that shiny blue MGB got new oil every 3000 miles so guess where its old oil went? Best of all were helpful fellow Brit-smitten enthusiasts who helped with the inevitable engine and gearbox rebuilds over the next year.

Cosmetics were not a priority but somehow I was convinced the cracked paint had to come off. Days of scraping and quarts of paint stripper later I had clean metal. The car was outside at a friend's. I was stupid. Two weeks later I came back to a spotted rust coloured MGA and no money to fix. Lots of sandpaper and about a dozen spray cans resulted in a marginally presentable primer-grey coat.

"Marginally presentable" overstates it a bit- the body work was anything but smooth. Over a

couple more years I strategized how best to make it prettier. Yellow cabs in Winnipeg those days had awfully bad bodywork. Despite that they didn't look half bad, at least from 20 feet or so away. A strategy was chosen (however unsound) and a local paint shop slapped on a coat of '71 Chrysler Super-Yellow. That's the yellow beauty with me in the picture.



The car finally looked pretty good until the rocker panels started to leak rust a few years later. A north-end back-alley painter quoted a low price on patching the rockers and refreshing the rest of the paint. Our budget couldn't stretch to pay for a good job so I left the "A" in the north-end one afternoon. Two days later I got a call - it was ready but there was "a problem". Yes, there was a problem. The paint supplier got the mix wrong and they'd painted my car beige! The painter was hoping I'd like it and take it away. The next day he ordered the right paint and soon after Super Yellow shone again over intact rocker panels. The car looked ok for a few more years.

1981, after 13 years with me, the MGA's body finally got the good paint job she deserved. A February at the original McDonald's Auto Body saw her returned to a beautiful red (76 Pontiac/Cadillac) coat of lacquer with all rust repaired and wobbly panels straightened. Long overdue, but finally looking great.

Nothing lasts forever and another 30+ years have cracked the lacquer, sunk the filler, and let some more rust out. A little plastic surgery on the body isn't all she needs- the chassis hasn't seen daylight in 54 years and is starting to sag, along with the floorboards (yes, plywood too sags with age.) Even the leather's cracking and showing the strain of too much sun, and too many leatherique touch-ups.

It's now time for a full body-off restoration starting next fall!

The MGA will soon have its 7th coat of paint, colour negotiable.

This & That

- Jean Caron

Dyrk Bolger's BJ8 chassis is now at his home, painted and now the process of installing brake lines, wiring harness, fuel line and suspension parts is just starting. While it is a relatively long and detailed process, the nice thing about it is that every part, bolts, clips that one installs, the progress is immediately seen, unlike the fitting and removing of the fenders or doors multiple times and the adjustments required to make everything fit. Sometimes after a whole day of that, it does not look any different than when you started.

I was reading an article in a magazine yesterday about the smallest car ever produced by the Austin Company and no it was not the Austin Seven. It was the Austin J40 pedal car. This kid's pedal car started production in its own factory at Pengam, Wales in 1949 and continued until September 15, 1971. Approximately 32,000 of these little cars were produced. These had a working bonnet and boot as well as a dummy engine with real spark plugs discarded from Champion, upholstered seat as well as working lights and horn. They were suitable for children from around age 7 to 11. I have seen one of these

before. Larry Paterson of Okotoks in Alberta has one that he totally restored, quite impressive little car. I have never seen one here in Winnipeg, but according to the article, a good portion of them was sold to North America so there has to be a few still around in some corner of someone's garage. Interestingly the article reveals that one of the engineer in charge of designing this car measured his daughter and made a cardboard scale figure with moveable joints to get the size of the car, position of the pedals etc. As it turned out his daughter is now the serving president of the Club for J40's. Check this site for more information on these very interesting cars: www.austinmemories.com and www.austini40pedalcarclub.org.uk

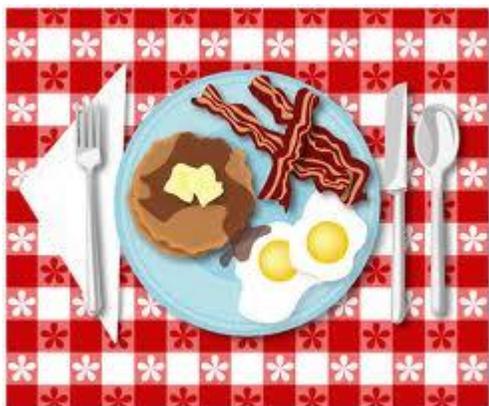
Many events are in the planning stages for the upcoming summer, whenever it arrives and although no plans are finalized, check the website under calendar of events to view the most up to date list.

I still have not made it to Bill Sullivan's place to see his Triumph being put together, but I learned that his place will be on the upcoming Garage Tour being planned for later this month.

I also just learned that for those interested in attending the Austin-Healey Conclave in Quebec this year, that booking early will give you the opportunity for a draw to win driving one of the Formula 1 driver in this year's Driver's Parade just before the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal. Pretty nice prize if you are a Formula 1 fan.

I went to World of Wheels this weekend and while there were some nice cars with excellent paint jobs, I would have found it difficult to fit in even if our Club would have had a display. I don't have an arm full of tattoos, I do not sport metal shrapnel emanating from every possible orifice on my face and while my hair is no longer black, it does not have enough green, pink or blue to fit in with this crowd and lastly my car fails to have flames on its fenders. Other than that, all was good. I am glad I had complimentary tickets 'cause it was not worth paying to see this. There was an original Mini tucked out of the way in a corner. The nicest display was that of Javelin and AMX in my opinion aside from the latest version of an AMX, based on an AMC Hornet just before the company folded.

2013 Saturday Breakfast Schedule



Thanks to Jean Caron for organizing the 2nd Annual AHCM Breakfast Tour! We're sure it'll be popular drive and dine (or dine and drive) club event again.

May 4, 2013: Meet at Deacon's Corner, A & W parking lot at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for **Frantz Motor Inn** in Steinbach.

May 25, 2013: Meet at the Co-Op parking lot gas station in Headingley at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for the **Elie Hotel & Restaurant** in Elie.

June 15, 2013: Meet at Graeme & Joyce Lowden's place at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for the **Harvest Moon Restaurant** in Garson. Bear in mind that the *Harvest Moon is a CASH ONLY place.*

June 29, 2013: Meet in the parking lot of the Lower Fort Garry at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for **Janet's Place** in Matlock.

July 13, 2013: Meet at Deacon's Corner, A & W parking lot at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for the **Red Wing Diner** in Grunthal.

July 27, 2013: Meet at **L'Arche Tova Cafe**, 119 Regent Ave W. Winnipeg at 9:30 am.

August 10, 2013: Meet at the Esso Station in Oak Bluff at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for **Bridges Golf Course** near Starbuck on Hwy#2.

August 24, 2013: Meet at **Ricki's All Day Breakfast** in Lockport at 9:30 am for breakfast. We

will then go for a drive afterwards.

Sept. 7, 2013: Meet at the Winnipeg Mint parking lot at 8:45 am to depart at 9:00 am for the **St. Pierre Hotel**, St.Pierre-Jolys.

Sept. 21, 2013: Meet at Main Street in Dugald at 8:30 am to depart at 8:45 am for the **Spicy Radish** in Elma

More Club Events

See Calendar page on our club's website <http://www.ahcm.ca/calendar/calendar2013.html> for complete listing of all AHCM events

We also included inter-club events found on Triumph Driver's Club web site <http://www.triumphdriversclub.com/events.htm>

Apr 20 Annual Garage Tour – meet 9:00 at Tom Pearson's, concludes with Chili Dinner at Tom's, \$20 includes meals & bus transportation, call Mark Rogers for more info.

May 6 Club Meeting - 7:30pm, Fern & Bill Sullivan's, Winnipeg

May 17-20 Clear Lake Weekend @ McTavish's-contact Jodi Bolger for more info

May 19 Start of Sunday Night Cruise Night-Pony Corral, Grant & Wilton

June 3 Club Meeting - 7:30pm, Waltra & John Gilbert's home, Winnipeg

June 6-9 23rd Annual Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous - Grand Rapids, MN www.mnhealey.com/rendezvous

June 23 Sunday Drive, Church and Lunch-Attend the church service at *St. Andrews-on-the-Red* followed by lunch at the restaurant at Lower Fort Garry.

Jul 6(Sat.)Club Meeting & Barbeque - Joan & Bob Wilkinson's, near Bird's Hill Park, BYOB and lawn chair and bathing suit!

- July 14 Annual All British Car Show at The Forks** – hosted by Mid-Canada Mini Group, more details to follow.
- July 20 Saturday Drive to Bob Diemert's Friendship Field in Carman.** Meet at the Petro Can at McGillivray and the Perimeter at 9:00 AM. Lunch in Carman. Home by 4:00 PM
- Aug 11 British/Euro Car Show** at Headlingley Museum, more details to follow
- Aug 17 Ponemah Beach BBQ** – hosted by Brenda & Brian Lanoway, more details in an email closer to event
- Aug 17 Visit to Uncle Bill's Vavavoom Garage near St. Lupicin** - meet at 9:00AM at the PetroCan at McGillivray and the Perimeter

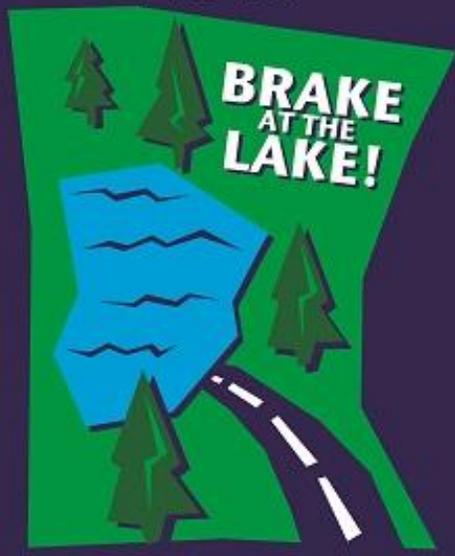


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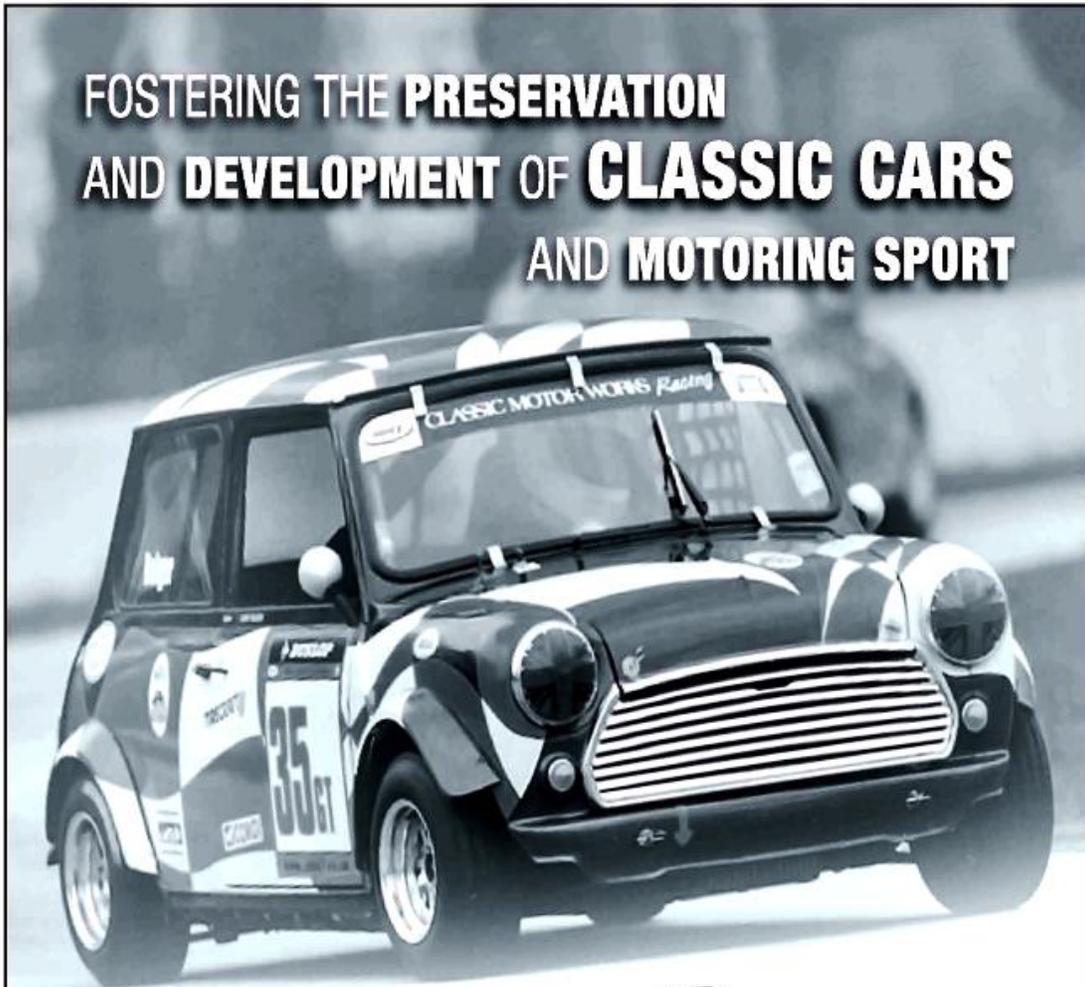
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