

The

Minnesota



Group Gazette

May 2000

## Rover Deal Goes Sour

As I'm sure many of you know, BMW has been trying to rid itself of the Rover group, of which MG is part, for several months. The Land-Rover division of Rover has been split off and sold to Ford, and the "rest of Rover" was to be sold to a British venture-capital firm called Alchemy Partners. Alchemy specializes in buying firms that are on the brink of bankruptcy, making them profitable and re-selling them. Often this involves drastic layoffs. Their most notable success was with the Parker Pen Company. Their intent with Rover was to re-name the firm "The MG Car Company" and produce "niche-market" sports cars and saloons. Something like MG was in the pre-war years or like Lotus is today, I imagine. In any event, Alchemy pulled out at the last minute over who would be liable for unemployment benefits and pensions for former Rover employees. Amid speculation that they were engaging in brinkmanship to force a better deal out of BMW, Alchemy Partners tried to re-open talks on Monday, May 1. They were rebuffed by BMW, saying it could "see no reason" to continue speaking to the London-based investment group concerning its bid for Rover.

There is another suitor for Rover. The Phoenix consortium, headed by John Tower, the former head of Rover Group. Phoenix, which has the backing of labor, has promised to maintain volume production at Rover and not cut jobs. Phoenix is scrambling to secure enough credit to offset anticipated operating losses, so they can close the deal. It is thought that Rover is currently losing as much as a million pounds a day. BMW have said that if no deal can be reached they will close the Longbridge plant in a month, and shut down Rover. There are currently no other potential buyers, if the Phoenix deal should not come off.

Interestingly, in Britain, registrations of new BMW cars have fallen off 20% in the last month while Rover sales are almost five times what they were in the same period last year.

For more on the story see: <http://uk.fc.yahoo.com/r/rover.html>

## Presidents Corner

Doug Madson

First of all, a special THANK YOU to Tim & Nancy Crain for hosting the 2000 Spring Kickoff Luncheon. What a great turnout. About 80 MMGger's and 22 cars. That's a record I'm sure. Also thanks to Dave Stovall and Jim Lymburn for sharing their MG model and memorabilia collections. I'll recommend we include that feature in next years Kickoff. I know their are others out there with lots of interesting MG junk. Again Thanks to Tim & Nancy. MG 2001 is just around the corner and I thought I would review how it came about that MMGG will be helping host this great event. We have a number of new members and a review is probably in order. The original idea probably goes back to the MGA GT in 1992 in Kansas City. The first North American MGB Register annual convention had just been held a couple of weeks before in Peterborough, Ontario and the MMGger's attending had really had a great time. Mary and I made it back from Peterborough in good shape with the GT and after clearing the paper off my desk at work, I decided to "blast" to Kansas City in the MGA for the GT along with several other MMGG MGA owners. I also had another reason. I had found an overdrive in Kansas City for a very reasonable price and because I was going solo in the "A", I figured the o/d could be my "passenger" on the way home.

In any case we had a great time at the MGA GT and over a couple of beverages in the parking lot after the banquet, the discussion turned to hosting a national event in Beautiful Minnesota during one of our great summers. We allowed that we had it all. The weather, the Beautiful countryside and cities, the hospitality of our people and deep fried walleye for the banquet main course. We decided to keep the idea alive and look for an opportunity in the next few years. The opportunity came after INDY 96, the first mega meeting of four of the national MG registers. The call went out for bids on the next mega meet five years hence. Dick Wallrich had the idea of using the Minnesota State Fairgrounds for the venue. After all, the street rodders have held the "Back to the 50's" annual

(Continued on page 2)

**Minnesota MG Group Officers**

President	Doug Madson	320-251-0317
Vice President	Simon Bosworth	651-454-7413
Treasurers	Dan & Jeanette Shidla	612-831-0291
Secretary	Cindy O'Brien	612-936-9335
N.L. Editor	Phil Vanner	612-789-4614
N.L. Publisher	Larry Henle	507 -
Regalia	Jim Lymburn	612-780-9241
Tool Control	Roger Karnopp	651-454-1379
Club Liaison	Brian McCullough	651-462-0145
Membership	Tim Crain	612-920.2489
	Jim Pennoyer	651-229-5396
2001 Chairs	Dick Wallrich	651-644-0154
	Dave Stovall	612-894-4203

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Initial membership is \$30 (this gets you up to two name badges- additional name badges are \$5.00 each)

Dues are \$25 per household per year for established members. Includes 1 year subscription to the MMGG Gazette.

Fill out the form on page 3 and send it with your check payable to "MMGG" to:

Dan Shidla  
10305 Morris Road  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Newsletter Submissions and Advertisements:

Phil Vanner  
1811 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418  
Call 612-789-4614 for FAX information or  
E-mail philv@pclink.com  
**NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS**

All statements are the opinion of the persons expressing them, and not necessarily the official opinions or policies of the Minnesota MG Group.

Visit us on the internet at: [www.mmgg.org](http://www.mmgg.org)

**President's Corner**

*(Continued from page 1)*

event and several National Conventions there over the years. A great venue with lots of trees for shade and neat buildings with award winning architecture. Dick put together a great proposal and after getting the blessing of our members at an annual business meeting, Randy Byboth and I gave our pitch at the meeting of the four national MG registers at the Carlisle Import Swap Meet in May of 1997. Our proposal was well received, but we didn't get the nod initially. Finally in late 1998 after a meeting of the four registers at John Twist's Summer Party, Randy received a letter indicating we had been selected to host the 2001 meeting of the four main MG registers.

Since then, we have had several meetings, including hosting the chairs of the four registers a year ago at the Fairgrounds. Dick Wallrich and Dave Stovall are our local chairs and at the national level Tony Burgess of Cleveland is the executive director. Tony is doing a great job getting things off the ground and plans at the local and national level are well under way. MMGG and our Minnesota MG T Register partners are the local hosts.

It will be a great event. We are hoping to be hosting 1000 MGs. The main car show will be on the Fourth of July and many events are being planned on both the local and national level including a reunion of some of the great MG race cars of the past and present. As the next year unfolds Dick Wallrich will be calling several meetings of the local local co-chairs and anyone else who would like to help make this event the best one yet. Many of the local MGER's have volunteered and more help will be needed. If you are interested in helping host MG2001, give Dick a call. It will be a great time.

See you at the Mearns' Maneuvers and Multi-Marque Banquet, Doug

***It will be a great event. We are hoping to be hosting 1000 MGs***

**Contents**

<i>Rover 's fate in Question</i>	1
<i>Presidents Corner</i>	1
<i>Intermarque Banquet</i>	3
<i>Maps</i>	4
<i>Classifieds</i>	4
<i>Great River Road Rally</i>	4
<i>Mearns Meander</i>	7
<i>Membership Form</i>	7
<i>2000 Schedule</i>	8

## Intermarque Dinner/Rally Sunday, May 21, 2000

This year's Intermarque Dinner, co-sponsored by the Minnesota MG Group, the Minnesota Austin Healey Club, and the Minnesota Triumph Club, will be held Sunday, May 21, 2000 at the

Oak Marsh Golf Club  
526 Inwood Avenue North  
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128  
Ph. 651/730-8886

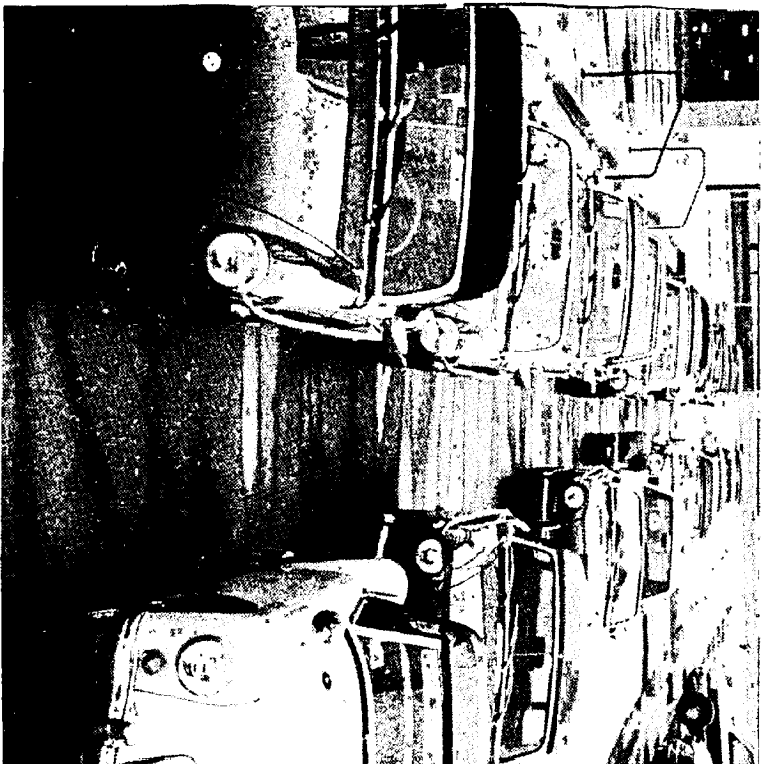
Dinner will begin at **5:30 PM**. Cost for the dinner, an Italian Buffet, is **\$16.50** per person. This price includes two entrée's, Caesar salad, green beans, garlic bread, foccacia bread, petit pain rolls, and a beverage of coffee, tea, or milk. Make your check payable to the MMGG

and send by **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, to  
Minnesota MG Group  
c/o Jon Masley  
3599 Gershwin Court North  
Oakdale, Minnesota 55128  
Ph 651/779-8605

This year we are very pleased to have **Mr. Paul Brand** as our featured speaker. Mr. Brand is the Twin Cities' "Car Guy". Since 1981 he has been heard on KSTP AM 1500 with "Autotalk", and writes a motoring column for the Star Tribune which appears each Saturday. Since 1996 he is also heard in Detroit with a live "Autotalk" show. In addition Paul is also seen on Channel 5 as the fill-in "traffic" guy in the morning, and as their automotive reporter. Mr Brand's background includes winning the 1980 SCCA National Championship in the E-Production Class. Paul has taught racing for the Skip Barber Racing School since 1984 and has been teaching law enforcement performance driving since 1989. Paul will be speaking at 6:30 P.M.

The **Mearns Memorial Rally**, hosted by the Minnesota MG Group, will be held just prior to the Intermarque Dinner. All marque's are invited! First car out will begin at 1:30 PM from the parking lot at Oak Marsh. For more information contact Phil Vanner at 612/789-4614, e-mail at [pvanner@pclink.com](mailto:pvanner@pclink.com)

*Directions to Oak Marsh are as follows: East on Hwy 94 approximately 1 mile from intersection of Hwy 94 and 694/494. Take Radio Drive exit. Left on Radio Drive (over Hwy 94) approximately 1 mile. Left into Oak Marsh. Watch for signs of Lake Elmo State Bank. Oak Marsh is directly behind the bank.*



24 MG's on the road had to a record for Bruhch. The event h Tim and Nancy Crain The sampling of the and Wines was delig sociability was 're event was held at E Bloomington. It was the faces of so man It proves for sure MG Group is alive a



Paul

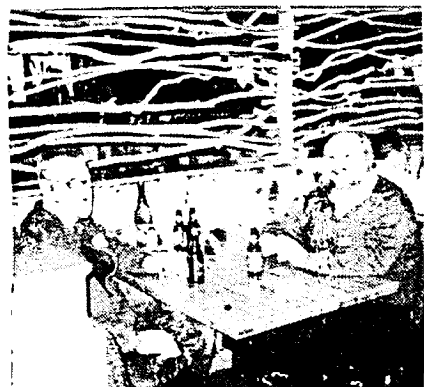




on March 26th  
the Kick-off  
osted by  
was a beauty.  
Aussie Brews  
htful and the  
n letter. The  
illabong's in  
nice to see  
y new members.  
the Minnesota  
nd well.



2001  
MG



## Classifieds

### SERVICE:

**Motoring Goodies** will soon have an open bay available for your MG work. Complete restoration or major renovation a specialty. Benefit from my years of experience with T-series MG's. Highly competitive hourly rates and the highest quality workmanship is my guarantee.

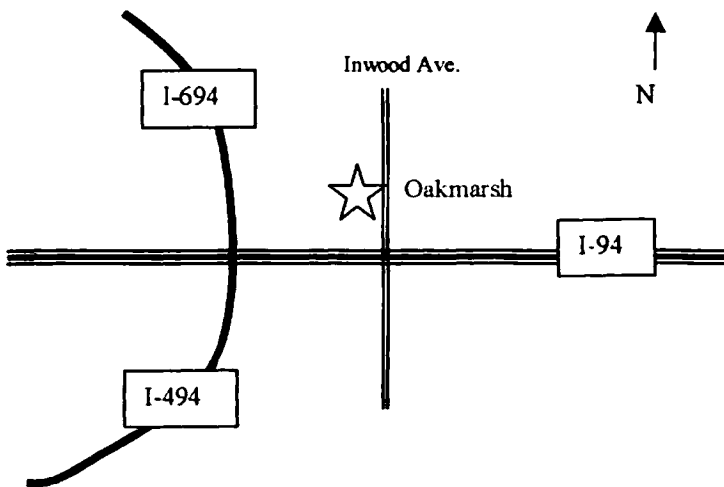
For your appointment, please call Bob Figenskau at 612-935-7909

## Great River Road Rally

On Memorial Day weekend will be the \_\_\_th running of the Great River Road Rally. As we did last year, several of us are considering volunteering as a checkpoint crew during this event. It is a lot of fun, it gives you a front seat to watch the fine old cars go by and it's chance to let the participants see our MGs out in their element, the open road. Usually checkpoint crews assemble at Point Douglas Park on Saturday morning at about 8:00 AM. For more information or to volunteer (and register for lunch etc.) go to [www.grrally.com](http://www.grrally.com) Contact me if you have any questions about an MG checkpoint.

On the Friday night before the rally will be the Parc Expose car show. Don't let the presence of those high-dollar Italian Sports cars intimidate you, it's a very egalitarian gathering. Last year we saw a Volvo, my lowly Midget and several other more common cars out there. The show is in Kellogg park along the river in downtown St. Paul and doesn't cost anything to enter, it's just a chance to park your car downtown and look at some of the fabulous cars that come out for the GRRR. If you can't bring your car, you can at least come down for a look.

### The Map:



### FOR SALE :

or trade MGB wire wheel hubs and rear axle for MGB Rostyle hubs and rear axle.

Also have 5 wire wheels. Call (612) 892-3519 or e-mail JKDSH@cs.com. Kevin Healy.

### FOR SALE :

1979 MGB 58,000 mi. Excellent driver, minor rust, all original and working, red, new tires, brakes, generator, alternator, fuel pump, and battery. \$3800 or best offer, 763-531-1722

### FOR SALE :

MGA Carbs  
 S U Carburetor Set for an MGA  
 Excellent Condition; Includes Heat Shield  
 \$350.00 or Best Offer  
 Call Tim Crain at: 612-920-2489  
 or E-mail: [ncrain@sprynet.com](mailto:ncrain@sprynet.com)

## MMGG Technical Advisors

T-types: Lew Palmer.....651-436-7401

MGA: Roger Karnopp....651-454-1379

MGB: Randy Byboth....612-936-9335

BGT: Mike Hirschman..612-391-5769

### Midgets:

Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

Brian McCollough.....651-462-0145

### Bodywork

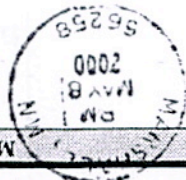
Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

If you want to know - Ask! These people have expressed willingness to answer questions and offer advice about these cars, whether you are looking to repair or purchase, it always helps to know more.



Randy Byboth Cindy O'Brien  
5041 Beacon Hill Rd Pd00  
Minnetonka MN 55345

Minnesota MG Group  
10305 Morris Road  
Bloomington, MN 55437



Minnesota MG Group, May 2000

**2000 Schedule** (most dates are tentative - events in bold are official MMGG events)

Date	Event	Host	Place
May 21	<b>Mearn's Maneuvers</b>	Phil Vanner/Ken Merrill	Oak Marsh Country Club Oakdale
21	<b>InterMarque Banquet</b>	Jon Masley	"
26	Parc Expose Car Show	Various	St Paul
27-29	<b>Great River Road Rally</b>	MN ALFA Romeo Club	St Paul and South
June 10	<b>Brit Day</b>	Dave Wintz	Mankato
9-11	Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous	TB Vintage Sports Car Club	Thunder Bay, Ont
15-18	MG 2000	Emerald Necklace MG Register	Cleveland, OH
July	<b>Picnic/Car Show</b>	Bosworths/Olsons	St. Paul
18-21	<b>GOF</b>	MN MGT Register	Duluth
	Chicago Historics		Elkhart Lake
Aug 5-6	<b>The Marshall Plan</b>	Larry and Barb Henle	Marshall, MN
12	<b>Swap Meet Show</b>	Vanners/McCulloughs	Ellingson's, Rogers, MN
Sept. 9	<b>Wheels and Wings</b>	Jerry and Nancy Strand	Osceola, WI
16	Mercedes event	Dan and Jeanette Shidla	Linden hills, Mpls
Oct 6 or 7	<b>Fall Colour Tour</b>	?	Owatonna?
Nov 4	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	Doug and Mary Madson?	
January '01	<b>Holiday Party</b>	Jon Masley	

If someone is planning a meeting place for the drive to either Thunder Bay or Mankato for the June events please contact me so I can put the information in the June Newsletter. If I don't get facts I'm going to make something up.