

THE ROARS



HOUSTON MG CAR CLUB



www.houstonmgcc.com

Volume 43, Issue 3

March 2014

Sweetheart Rallye Blues

David & Linda Renner

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OA rallye, really? O Exactly what shade of grey is that Pink (æs) building a way? o; O Barber pole? I did not see any stinking barber pole And other comments that can't be repeated were uttered by the fourteen pairs of intrepid clue seekers who wandered (sometimes aimlessly) on February 16, trying to figure out what on earth the obscure directions meant and where they were supposed to lead the un-way travelers.



The teams gathered at 1 pm on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in the Sears parking lot on North Shepherd and were sent off in 2 to 3 minute intervals.

The search for the final destination took approximately two hours, unless the team members tore open the bailout envelope in frustration. The route led from the parking lot through the wilds of Garden Oaks and on to the hidden mysteries of the Houston Heights. Drivers (d) were directed to listen to the navigators (n) and some of them did.

The teams were: Gordon Smith (d) and Fran Schrage (n) – 1964 MGB; Brett (d) and Vickie Cimo (n) – Smart Car; Wayne (d) and Dixie (n) Moore – Sebring convertible; Harvey (d) and



Sweetheart Rallye Blues (continued)

Mary Jo (n) Rutstein – Chrysler Crossfire; John (d) and Cindy (n) Blum – 1971 MGB; John (d) and Nancy (n) Youens – 1947 MGTC; Dwight (d) and Candy (n) Dawson – 1973 MGB; Ray Holtzapple (d) and Mary Dee Neal (n) – 1974 MGB/GT V8; Kerry (d) and Pat (n) Mollere – 1973 MGB; Gordon (d) and Angie (n) Bard – 1973 MGB; Mike (d) and Stephanie (n) Woodward – 1980 MGB/LE; Melanie (d) and Colin (n) Renner – VW Tiguan; Ron Snider (d) and Melly Merrit (n) – 1976 MGB; and Marisa Miller (d) and Patrick Renner (n) – Honda MGRX.

Rallye masters Linda and Dave Renner sent the teams off and then headed to the end point at the parking lot next to Gen's Antiques on 19th Street. As he so often does, Greg Fleischer drove his 1971 MGB and recorded the event with photos. He and Linda went out on the route to ambush the participants as they drove the course.

By 3:30 pm, all of the teams reached





Sweetheart Rallye Blues (continued)

the destination and the final tally was eagerly awaited. The scoring counted 67 clues along with the closest mileage to the organizers' 18.7 mile total. While the scoring was computed, the weary participants visited, walked to a nearby Menchie's Frozen Yogurt shop for refreshments, shopped at the Penzey's Spice Store next door, perused Gen's Antiques for bargains or looked at the classic flamed 1962 Corvair pickup truck





Sweetheart Rallye Blues (continued)

classic flamed 1962 Corvair pickup truck that is owned by Gen's proprietor.

The final count was made and the winners were announced. Three progressively larger boxes of Valentine candy were presented to the winners. Third place went to Kerry and Pat Moller, second place to John and Nancy Youens and first place went to Melanie and Colin Renner. No demands for a recount were made, though





Sweetheart Rallye Blues (continued)

many good natured complaints were filed about interpretations of clues. However, all of the decisions by the judges were final.

Mea Culpa – Our apologies to all of the rallyeists who sought in vain to find the phantom barber pole. After the event, Linda and I went to check it out only to find that the owners WRAPPED IT IN A BLACK GARBAGE SACK SHROUD after we saw it Saturday night when we did our final run, totally obscuring it from view. I guess because it is neon, maybe needs to be protected during the day? Honest guys, you could see it the night before the rallye! Dave and Linda



Photos by Greg Ulrich



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HMGCC MEMBERS RETURN FROM CRUISE ON NAVIGATOR OF THE SEAS

On February 23, eight members of the Houston MG Car Club set sail on the club's fourth cruise to the Western Caribbean. This time the club sailed on the newly refurbished Royal Caribbean's *Navigator of the Seas* to three ports in the Caribbean. The ship looked magnificent and sparkled like new from its February 2014 refurbishment. Several British touches were found throughout the ship including a well stocked English style pub, a 1935 Bugattireplicar complete with and MGB engine and half a Mini Cooper imbedded in a wall near the teen arcade (see accompanying photos). Sailing on the cruise were Cindy and John Blum, Linda and Terry Myers, Dottie and Greg Ulrich and Lavelle and Ken Yielding. Also on board with a group of their friends were Gloria and Mark Trosper from the Texas MG Register. Texas MGers



were well represented and many pints of English Ale were consumed.



Once we left a foggy Galveston Island, we enjoyed 7 days of bright sunshine and near perfect 75-80 degree temperatures. The southern most port was Coxen Hole, Roatan, Honduras. Here Greg led several members to Half Moon Resort in West End where they lounged, snorkeled and enjoyed a scrumptious seafood lunch. A private boat picked up John Blum and Dottie and Greg Ulrich for a diving trip to the sec-



Members Return from Cruise (continued)

ond longest reef in the world. The crystal waters contained hundreds of live corals, sea turtles, and bright aquarium like fish. Other activities, enjoyed by Lavelle and Ken, included a 12 station Zip Line course.

Our second stop was in Belize. Here our ship anchored a couple of miles offshore and passengers were tendered to shore. Our group went different ways and visited Mayan ruins on both sides of the country of Belize as well as touring Belize City. Local lunch included beans and rice made with coconut milk with



HMGCC members enjoying Roatan, Honduras

highlight was a magician/

pork or chicken.

The final stop was Cozumel. This was the port for shopping and several of our ladies came home with new bling. One member (who shall not be named-see photo) came back on board with a tattoo on her leg. Other members visited the beautifully restored

Tulum Mayan ruins with over 60 structures located on a bluff 40 feet above the sea.

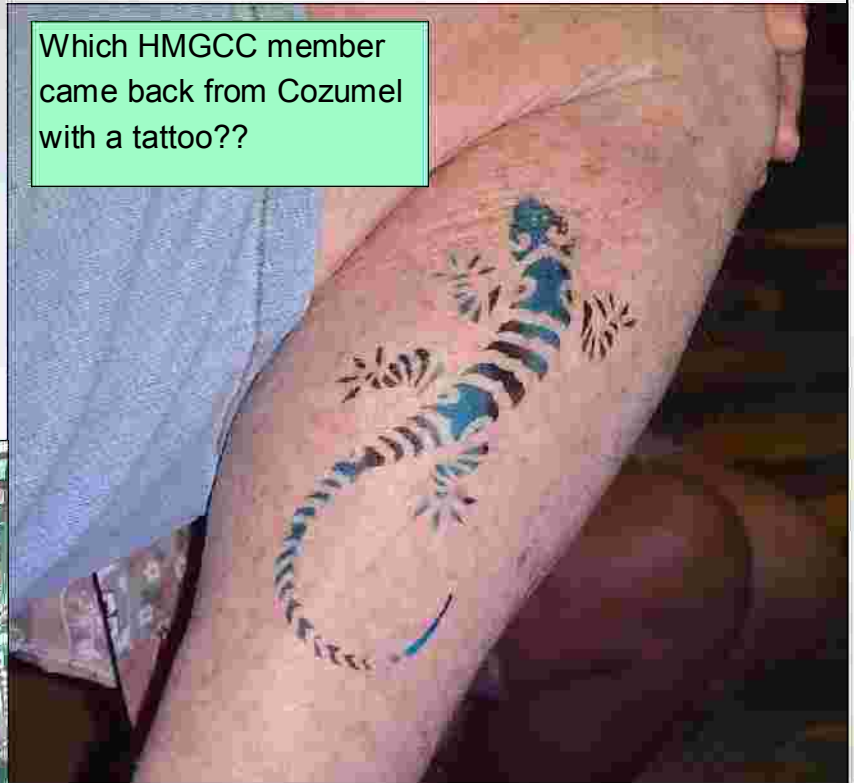
Entertainment on the ship was the best we have seen at sea. The



Members Return from Cruise (continued)

comedian from Katy, Texas and the appearance of the Texas Tenors. Our local Texas singers brought the house down and appeared all over the ship greeting their legions of fans. A professional ice dancing show and a rowdy circus parade on the Promenade also added to the fun. All in all, this was an outstanding cruise to several favorite ports in the Western Caribbean.

Which HMGCC member came back from Cozumel with a tattoo??



AT A GLANCE

2014 Houston MG Car Club Events Calendar

March 22 – Hemi Hideaway, 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
1172 Wilpitz Rd, Brookshire, TX 77423

April 5—President's Social / Fajita Party, 11:00 am. Food served at 1:00 pm. Youen's place in Magnolia

April 26 – MG Spring Thing VII, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Villagio Town Center, 22756 Westheimer Pkwy, Katy, TX 77450

May 9-11 Spring GOF in Salado

June 21—Celebrating MG90—Movie matinee with Inside the Octagon 1 & 2 on the big screen.

July 19 - Pinewood Derby Gran Prix.

August —Teahouse of the August Moon (Asia Society Museum, Japanese Garden) (tentative)



Hemi Hideaway

Dave Renner

The Houston MG Car Club has been invited to visit the **Hemi Hideaway**, a unique automobile collection at 1172 Wilpitz Rd, Brookshire, Texas 77423, on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

We have a reservation for 1:30 pm to see the cars and auto memorabilia with a meal to follow at 3:00 pm. The invitation is for 60 to 90 car lovers to see a one of a kind group of '60s and '70s vintage Chrysler hemi engine muscle cars (Dodges and Plymouths).

We are inviting other British car clubs to join us for the event, so let me know if you want to come early so I can put you on the list.

Contact **Dave Renner**, HMGCC Events Coordinator to let me know if you want to come. Call 713-301-7620 or email: drenner@sbcglobal.net

For more info about the venue, look at the website at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hemi-Hideout/576273492417063>

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www.annexhouston.com

Anyone who would like to host an event in 2014, please contact Dave Renner to discuss and get on the calendar as soon as possible. 2014 is shaping up to be a very busy year!

*****Also, the club needs a new events coordinator for 2015. If interested, you can help Dave plan the Nov. 2014 event.*****

Dave Renner

cell phone: 713-301-7620

email: drenner@sbcglobal.net

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Hot Springs Convention Center

Thursday May 29, 2014 - Saturday May 31, 2014

From The British National Meet website, www.britishnationalmeet.com:

"This is our third year to host an "All British" National Meet in Hot Springs National Park. We understand there are already many opportunities, each year, to attend some GREAT car shows. We also know most National Clubs already put together fantastic conventions and meets for their members. But, since those shows are usually model and/or brand specific, we thought there should be at least one organized effort, each and every year, to bring everyone together. So, no matter what British Marque you personally own, drive, show or dream about we invite everyone to join us in Hot Springs National Park May 29-31. Cheers!"

For more information:

Hot Springs Convention Center

1-800-543-2284

hscvb@hotsprings.org



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Rebuttal: To name or not to name?

John Youens

Great article in last month's newsletter, Dave!

As you probably know, I'm a believer in not naming cars. This is a viewpoint that I shared with Tim Moorhead. My two (totally loved) TCs are known as number 2742 and 4438, as God and Cecil Kimber intended. Or as the British licensing registry intended; JGO 532 for the green TC and LVT 650 for the cream TC. The next



John and Nancy in JGO 532

Spring GoF will require a name for your MG as part of the social event. The only name I could come up with for my TC was "Lola" because of the phrase "Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets". I have used this phrase several times while talking to Nancy when I was ordering the best parts available to repair or upgrade TC 2742. According to Wikipedia:

Whatever Lola Wants is a [popular](#) song, sometimes rendered as "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets". The music and words were written by [Richard Adler](#) and [Jerry Ross](#) for the 1955 musical play [Damn Yankees](#). The song is sung by Lola, the Devil's assistant, a part originated by [Gwen Verdon](#), who reprised the role in [the film](#). The saying was reportedly inspired by [Lola Montez](#), an Irish-born "Spanish dancer" and mistress of King [Ludwig I of Bavaria](#), who later became a [San Francisco Gold Rush](#) vamp

2014 MG Driver Standings

Dave Renner

Driver(s)	Events	Points
Bard/1973 MGB	**),2),3),4)	5.54172
Snider/1976 MGB	**),2),3),4)	4.48228
Woodward/1980 MGB/LE	1),2),4)	3.56554
G Smith/1964 MGB	2),4)	3.45828
Fleisher/1971MGB	2),4)	2.5152
Youens/1947 MGTC	4)	2.44118
Hausmann/1948 MGTC	2)	2.229
Mollere/1973 MGB	4)	1.7928
Blum/1971 MGB	4)	1.74624
Sandy/1971MGB	2)	1.5432
B Wiggins/1953 MGTD	2)	1.4
Robbins/1973 MGB/GT	2)	1.2
Dawson/1973 MGB	2),4)	n/a
Holtzapple/1974 MGB/GT V8	2),4)	n/a

The Sykes Formula

Each event is worth **1 point**
 (Average of 25 miles round trip from the driver's house)
 Each additional mile will be worth **.01 points**
 (mileage per GPS routing to null out speedo error and/or circuitous roads)
 To compensate for car age, assume the following coefficients:

TC or older	1.5
TD or TF	1.4
A or Mulette	1.3
CB - B, C, Midget	1.2
RB - B, C, Midget	1.1

We can then construct the following examples based on the formula:
 $(BEP + MC) \times AC = TPV$
 (Basic Event Point + Mileage Correction) x Age Coefficient = Total Point Value

Example: 2010 GOF/ Palestine
 Roger Sykes (MGB) vs. John Youens (MGTC)

Roger's Distance (miles per GPS)
 255 (140 each way = 280-25) x .01 = 2.55, so
 $(1 + 2.55) \times 1.2 = 4.26$ Total value for that event

John's Distance (miles per GPS)
 265 (145 each way = 290-25) x .01 = 2.65, so
 $(1 + 2.65) \times 1.5 = 5.475$ Total value for that event

Formula created by Roger Sykes for the Houston MG Car Club
 01/10/11

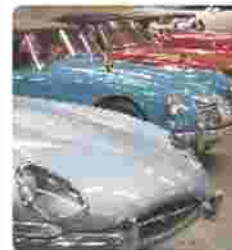
Events to date, 02/25/14:

**) bonus points 2014 Christmas Party

- 1) January Coffee and Cars
- 2) Upholstery Tech Session
- 3) February meeting
- 4) Sweetheart Rallye

Points figured using The Sykes Formula.

Distances figured using mileage reported by drivers or Google/Mapquest maps and published addresses of drivers.



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Pinewood Derby

Dave Renner

In The Workshop

It's 2am. What on earth are you doing???

I'm carving a full sized Pinewood GT to drive to next year's event.



There will be another
Pinewood Grand Prix in 2014!
There will be rules! TO BE ANNOUNCED...

2014 Pinewood Gran Prix Rules

Dave Renner

Last year's inaugural Pinewood Gran Prix was a great success. But as with any success, came suggestions to improve the sport. In answer to numerous requests for rules and standards in place of the open formula of 2013, I am happy to announce the guidelines for the finale Pinewood Gran Prix.

First Rule: Only one car can be entered by each member and that member must construct the car him or herself.

Second Rule: We will adopt the following guidelines used by many of the Cub Scout groups around the United States. If they are good enough for eight year olds, they are good enough for us.

The overall length of the car shall not exceed 7 inches.

The overall width of the car shall not exceed 2 ¾ inches.

The car must have 1 ¾" clearance between the wheels.

The car must have 3/8" clearance underneath the body so it does not rub on the track.

The car shall not exceed 5.0 ounces.

The official race scale that is used at car check-in shall be considered final.

The official pine wood block must be used. The block may be shaped in any way that is desired.

Official BSA wheels must be used. The wheels may not be cut, drilled, beveled or rounded. You may remove the seams and imperfections from the wheels.

The axles may be altered, polished and lubricated.

Only dry lubricant (graphite) may be used on the wheels and axles

Once a car passes inspection and is entered into the race, only race committee mem-

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2014 Pinewood Gran Prix Rules (continued)

and is entered into the race, only race committee members can touch it.

If the car loses a wheel, or is otherwise damaged, the racer shall have 5 minutes to make repairs.

Each car must pass inspection by the official inspection committee before it will be allowed to compete.

The Inspection Committee has the responsibility to disqualify those cars that do not meet these rules.

Final Rule: In the spirit of the Cub Scout system, we have empowered a rules committee to make all final rulings prior to racing. While this may well invite interpretations, the committee's interpretations will be final and binding. The committee members are:

2014 Pinewood Gran Prix Rules Committee:

Ron Snider - track owner and scout leader

John Youens - HMGCC president and racer extraordinaire

Wayne Hardy - reigning Pinewood GP champion

Enjoy building your racer!

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Classifieds

For Sale

1953 MGTD

Car driven very little since engine, /transmission/chassis restoration years ago. Top, side curtains and tonneau cover fitted in 2008. New coil and solid state distributor conversion. New tires. Spin-on oil filter. Runs as good as it looks. Katy, TX. Asking \$18,500.

Contact Bus Dowty (bus_n_judy@yahoo.com)



For Sale

1980 MGB

Inca Yellow. 13,700 actual miles. 2nd owner since 1998, driven weekly. Good tires, original throughout with A/C, tonneau, top boot, zipper rear window. Even the clock works!

\$8700

Richard at 281.773.0409

rbabaiian@mdanderson.org



For Sale

1950 MGTD

Left hand drive. Partial restoration (interior, rag top, dashboard, paint, wiring harness, minor mechanical in 1994). Beautiful vehicle needing minor TLC. Best reasonable offer takes her home. 713-523-7352. wmurray.air@sbcglobal.net



For Sale



1970 MGB \$4500 obo

Good daily driver. 93,000 miles, but the speedometer was not working when I got the car. Runs good. The brakes were re-done several years ago along with clutch master cylinder and radiator.

Cosmetically, much of the car was re-done. Paint redone (originally a mustard yellow color). More photos available on request. Durant, Oklahoma
Boyd Nickels 580-916-6146 Boyd212@dishmail.net

For Sale



MG Midget offered from estate sale in Markham, TX. All original, with original engine. Not running. \$800
Also, 1500cc engine, separate. \$250
Louis Kopnick 979.843.5418 loukop@ykc.com



Classifieds

For Sale

1971 B

8000mi since complete restoration in 95/96. Lots of spares. Used as a daily driver for several years. It now has antique plates. Located in Sargent, TX. Matagorda city.

mcculleymj@att.blackberry.net



Very nice condition.



For Sale

1953 MGTD

5 speed transmission installed by Ron Redding. All Maintenance records since Nov. '69. Nice weekend driver. Ask Ron about its condition. \$14,500.

Bill Cook elizycook@comcast.net



For Sale

'70 MGBGT 90% restored (Engine, Gearbox, paint, etc), BRG, \$2500
'74 MGBGT Disassembled (rolling body) but mostly complete, with a very large variety of spare parts, \$1000.

All together \$3500.

John W. Bergeron
Cell (281) 481-4379



For Sale

1956 MGA \$14,500

Runs well but needs some paint work. New interior and Tonneau cover available (not installed). It has been part of my life since 1978 and a continuing work in progress. With too many moves and another one in the works, it is just time to part ways. Please call 281-6764330



For Sale

1958 MGA \$13,500.00

Owned about 5 years. Not pristine but a shiner and easy to upgrade. Motor is strong with new tune up, upgraded oil filter system and oil cooler. I have original wheels, steering wheel, and oil filter system. Some new chrome and parts with mini light wheels and Falken tires. New accessories that are not installed (carpet, carb kit, radiator kit). Kept in the garage and covered. Harvey Votaw 281 796.3767



Classifieds

For Sale

1965 MG-B

Daily Driver. New interior in 2008 in great shape, wire wheels, chrome bumpers, pull handles, new radiator, new gas tank and general engine overhaul. Needs to be painted and some body work. Needs a new home. Will consider any serious offer.

Contact Bill at: 713-582-7756



For Sale

1967 Austin Healey Sprite.

Needs a few rust spots patched. Needs new paint, interior and tires. Runs/drives just fine. It had current stickers last year and driven regularly. Floor pans are sound and rust free. Replacement panels & parts included: wire wheels, corresponding rear axle and front hubs, original seats. Car has less than 49,000 miles. Asking \$2800. Will entertain trades (full or partial).

Call or text: 936-494-5178, Scott



For Sale

MGA 1500 Block

Everything present with exception of pistons, rods and valve cover. Some new parts. Nothing has been rebuilt.

\$1500

Danny-Phu Nguyen

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The Houston MG Car Club is an open marque club dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of motor sports in all aspects. Meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Christie's Seafood Restaurant, 6029 Westheimer, Houston.

Membership dues are \$30 per year. Applications can be obtained from our website and mailed to the club address or to the membership chair. Renewals, change of address and other membership-related correspondence should be sent to:

Gordon Smith
8022 Agora Circle
Sugarland, TX

Club Affiliations

MG Car Club, Ltd.	Abingdon, UK
MG Owners Club	Cambridge, UK
MG Car Club Holland	The Netherlands
New England MGT Register	Ridgefield, CT
North American MGA Register	Portland, OR
North American MGB Register	Akin, IL
American MGB Association	Chicago, IL

