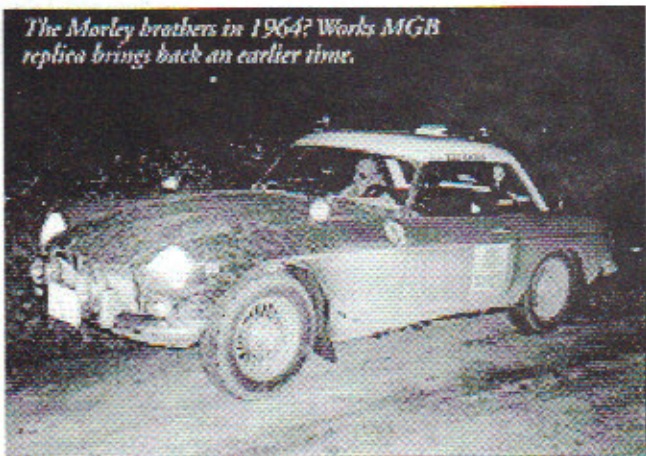


The Morley brothers in 1964 Works MGB replica brings back an earlier time.



Jones/Potvin Vintage winning MGB. Photo from Feb, '98 European Car

Eric Jones, in the MGB just ahead of us on the road (and even more in the score), tells of the lack of deer on this second night. He says they saw about a dozen deer the first night. I mention that we saw none the first night, but have seen 6 or 8 here on the second night. My theory, at the time, was that the sun set a minute later on the second night and thus the deer were near the road that same minute later; for us. After all, Jones and Potvin were exactly one minute ahead of us on the road. The only problem with this theory, is that the sun sets earlier each night between the summer and winter solstices. So that's probably not it.

More stories, of the roads traveled and the near misses, are traded. But most are too tired to tell the really good lies. By this time I notice the deer whistles mounted on the front bumper of the Coughnour/ Folger Cherokee. I tell the Steven Wright joke; about the fact that if you affix the whistles in the wrong direction, the deer will come running out of the woods and down the road after you. (Somehow it seems funnier when Steven Wright tells it).

One last section of nice, dirty, slippery, sloppy, slimy, beautiful roads are left; before the utterly boring 50 mile highway run into Alma. There is light now. But we are still in a haze. Tired, exhausted, but somehow content. We have faced the challenge, and we have met it. We can be counted among the finishers of the Press On Regardless.

The walking dead find their way into the Alma headquarters for breakfast and awards. The workers and competitors gather together again; but the stories are much more subdued. The drain, on everyone involved, shows in their faces and their actions. The animated gestures, loud voices and general revelry are somehow missing. Food and sleep seem to be first on everyone's mind. There also seemed to be some interest in the scores. First though, there were, apparently, two or three disputes about equipment irregularities in a couple of classes. By the time everyone had finished eating, scores are posted and awards are presented.

Freidman and Goldfarb hold on for the win, but after 62 scored controls, their win is by only 19 points. They edge out Coughnour and Folger by a score of 80 to 99. Third, and more than one hundred points back, are Webb and Schneider. Michigan residents take the next three places. Mark Henderson and John Puffenberger take fourth overall and fourth in class E. Shaffer and Moran are next and take the class win in L. Sixth would go to Wittine and Talcott in the "Police Caprice" (not the best of cars for these kinds of roads - but it is some testament to the skill and fortitude of this crew).

Seventh overall and first in Vintage would be, defending class winners, Jones and Potvin. Eric Jones' 1964 MGB is a replica of the Morley Brother's factory car of the mid '60s. In fact, the vehicle registry is the same - 7 DBL (though it's registered in Ohio, not Great Britain). Another replica of a car which competed in the 1964 Monte Carlo Rallye, in Europe, was the Valiant of Fortino and Brandt. They were not able to hold on to second in class and ended third behind the Colt of Harvey/Murphy. The Team Harco Colt is not a replica of anything, it IS the car which fought the PRO Rally wars of the mid-'70s; when campaigned by Scott Sr.

Winning S were Wernberg and Mahnken, which was also good for 15<sup>th</sup> overall. Novice was won by the Alma team of Clements and Wieferich, in their Jeep CJ-5. The "Dead Last But Finished" award went to Camp and Haase in, "Herbie", the love bug ('72 VW Beetle).

Everyone seemed to enjoy the rally and are already talking about next year. Even Kevin Clemens, in the vintage Volvo, had enough fun to claim that he will return. The promise of more party-time and a less intense schedule has the competitors anxiously awaiting the 49<sup>th</sup> running of the POR. Chairman, Gene Henderson, is calling the 1998 running of the POR a "dress rehearsal" for the 50<sup>th</sup> running in 1999. He plans to spread the rally over three days and nights, but with less early morning driving. A kinder, gentler POR?

The POR for 1997 was not the car-breaker or even the performance (PRO) rally it was in other times. It was however, true to the brisk endurance nature of its current format. With the promise of somewhat kinder hours, the same great roads and brisk speeds for the next few years; this would be the ideal time to become involved. (If you're not already so afflicted).

Written by Scott Harvey, Jr. Photos by author, unless otherwise noted.

Results of:	Total POR 1997	Alma - Boyne City - Alma	September
12-14	62 controls scored		
1/1E	Mike Friedman/ Marc Goldfarb - NH/NH '90 Eagle Talon	#2	80
2/2E	Dan Coughnour/ Mike Folger - OH/OH '96 Jeep Cherokee	#5	99
3/3E	GARY WEBB/PETE SCHNEIDER ME/NJ '91 MITSUBISHI GALANT VR4	#7	204

4/4E	Mark Henderson/ John Puffenberger - MI/OH	295
	'91 Subaru Legacy Turbo #3	
5/1L	Jim Shaffer/ Rob Moran - MI/MI	330
	'97 Jeep Grand Cherokee #1	
6/5E	Randy Wittine/ Les Talcott - MI/MI	370
	'91 Chevrolet (Police) Caprice #4	
7/1V	Eric Jones/ Bill Potvin - OH/OH	415
	'64 MGB #13	
8/6E	David Miller/ David Bruce - KY/OH	668
	'89 Honda CRX #8	
9/2L	Ken Kovach/ Mark Rinkel - OH/OH	1521
	'91 Ford Escort #11	
10/7E	Walt Kammer/ Jackie Adams - NY/NY	1604
	'91 Eagle Talon #12	
11/2V	Scott Harvey, Jr/ Bryan Murphy - MI/MI	1760
	'75 Dodge Colt GT #14	
12/3V	Chuck Fortino/ Jim Brandt - MI/MI	2340
	'65 Plymouth Valiant #17	
13/3L	Herb Spencer/ Mark Hainen - OH/MI	2525
	'88 BMW 325ix #9	
14/4L	Jim White/ Jerry White - IL/IL	3347
	'90 Subaru Legacy #10	
15/1S	Jeff Wernberg/ Brain Mahnken - MI/MI	3356
	'87 VW Golf GTI #23	
16/5L	Jim Prior/ Bill Secrest - OH/KY	3591
	'94 GMC Sonoma #18	
7/2S	Richard Worden/ Martin Golabek - MI/MI	3871
	'96 Saab 900SE #25	
C18/3S	Colin Botha/ James Quaderer MI/MI	4342
G	'87 Acura Integra #21	
19/4S	Mark Kleckner/ Jeff Hribar - OH/MI	4477
	'95 Ford Thunderbird #22	
20/5S	Jon Rhynard/ Larry Richards - MI/MI	5201
	'86 Ford Police Car #20	
21/4V	Kevin Clemens/ John Deikis - MI/MI	6428
	'60 Volvo 544 Sport #15	
22/1N	Terry Clements/ Wayne Wieferich - MI/MI	7044
	'73 Jeep CJ-5 #26	
23/6S	Tom Camp/ Tyler Haase - MI/MI	7115
	'72 VW Beetle #24	
DNF/S	Fred Cochran/ Steve Novatne - NJ/PA	
	'90 Eagle Talon #19	
DNF/V	Bob Pierce/ Becky Koch - MI/MI	
	'65 Mini Cooper #16	
DNF/N	Alan Coulthard/ Ann Vey - MI/MI	
	'97 Ford Explorer #27	
DNS/E	Bruce Fisher/ Tom Bell - MI/MI	
	'89 Mazda 323 GTX #6	

MARK HENDERSON  
JOHN PUFFENBERGER



Frieman/Goldfarb attract a crowd as competitors look for the secret to their success.



"Herbie" gets a little TLC before hitting the road on day two.



Unlikely cast of characters prepares for "day" two. Volvo 544 Sport, Escort GT, Subaru Outback, MGB.