

THE OCTAGON NEWS

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February 2000

MG CARRIES THE MAIL

MG "T" MAILBOX

By Joseph D. Hooker Esquire

Most people look at a mailbox and see just a mailbox. For the last several years, when I looked at a mailbox I saw an MG in there somewhere. I've seen mailboxes made up like John Deere tractors, school busses, Holstein cows, pink flamingos and fire trucks, but none of these provided even a hint of an MG; so I knew I'd have to start from scratch.

A few measurements from our plain old mailbox and the project was launched. Next was a scaled side view drawing and then a cardboard mock-up. Wow, it really did begin to look like an MG. Wooden parts consisted of fenders, bumpers, wheels, gas tank and headlights and they were made of scrap treated lumber left over from a neighbor's deck project. The hood was made from hardware store sheet metal (non-galvanized) and laid out in one piece, bent and soldered at the seams.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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.....	http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html
Online Club.....	
.....	http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are eighteen (\$18.00) per year, payable during September and October. On January 1st. the names of delinquent members are removed from the roster. See Linda Wolfe for further membership information.

MG Car Club Monthly Meeting

The Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the K of C Hall, downtown Dayton, on Bainbridge Street, at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be:

Wednesday February 23, 2000

Inside This Issue

- 2 Events/Tech. Tips & Tricks
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- 5 Editor/Classified
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- 6 Valentine Party Maps

Upcoming Events**February 2000**

- 19 Valentine's Party at Gribler's
 23 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

March 2000

- 22 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

April 2000

- 1 **Fish Fry** at K of C Hall 6:30pm
 26 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall
 29 Tune-up Clinic at Matt Schneider's

May 2000

- 24 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

June 2000

- 15-18 **Cleveland Rocks, MG Roll**
 9TH Annual NAMGB Register International Convention

- 23-25 **Mid-Ohio** Vintage races
 28 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

July 2000

- 17-22 **MGA Register** at Morgantown W. Virginia
 26 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

August 2000

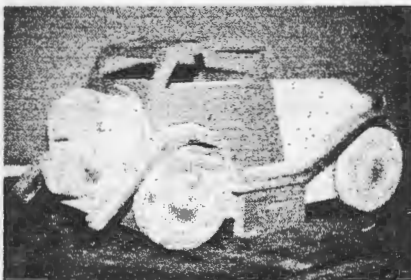
- 5 **BCD2000** at Eastwood Park
 17-20 **Abington Summer Party** Chicagoland MG Club
 23 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall
 TBA **Summer picnic** at Dick Goodman's

**TECH. TIPS
& TRICKS****Adjusting Your MGA Choke**

Mixture adjustment and synchronisation of SUs seem to be widely understood. Of equal importance is the adjustment of the choke mechanism. If set too rich, the choke will fill the cylinders with raw fuel and dilute the engine oil causing premature bearing, piston ring and cylinder wear. If set too lean, the car starts hard, which drains the battery and overheats the owner.

Of first consideration is the fit of the clevis pins in the choke levers. If these holds are worn larger than the pins, the chokes will not operate through their entire range. New levers and clevis pins are the cure for this problem.

Once the new parts are fitted, adjust the slack out of the choke linkage at the interconnector link. Slacken the top and bottom nut so the linkage is

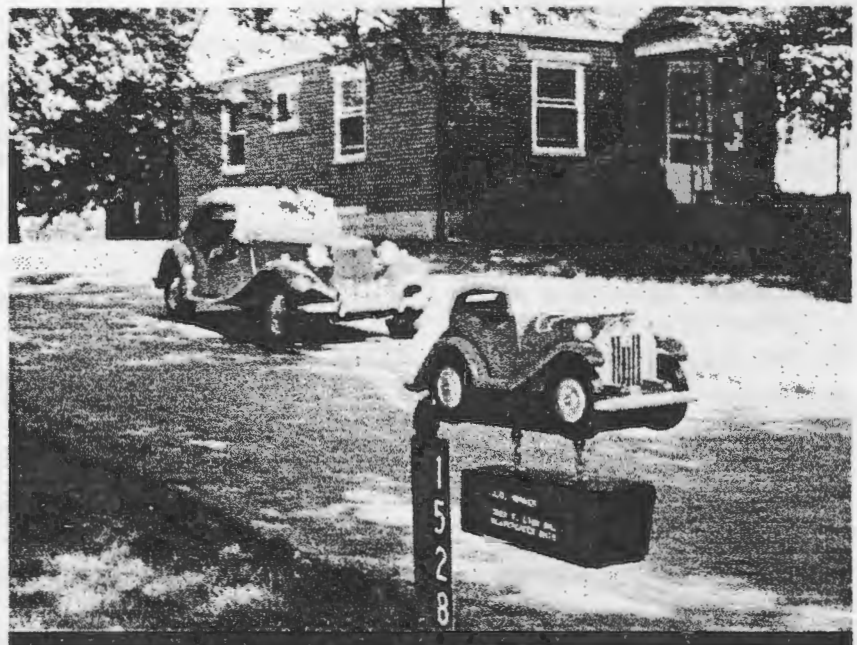


Photos by Joseph D. Hooker Esquire

MG "T" (Cont'd)

Spray can primer and cherry red paint provided the final finish. Stainless steel nuts and bolts were used to hold everything together.

The mailbox now provides a "landmark" for visitors to find our house.

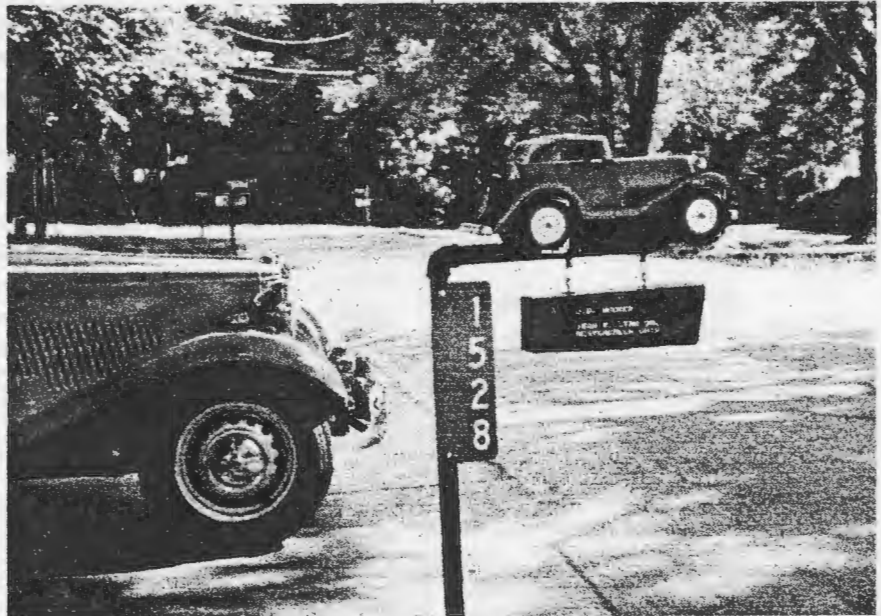


"relaxed", then tighten the bottom nut so that just a bit of pressure is brought to bear on the lever. Do not overcompensate, as this will "pre-load" the chokes and cause over-rich mixtures. Once set to your satisfaction, run the top nut down on the fitting to lock the adjustment. You may want to use an extra nut on the bottom as a lock nut. Now, hook up the choke cable. Give it a turn to the right to help the cable lock work, and don't get the cable too tight; leave a little slack.

The choke cam may be adjusted to suit weather conditions by moving the link rod to the appropriate hole. #1 opens the butterfly a small amount slowly, #3 opens it a large amount quickly. #3 is intended for colder weather, #1 for warmer climes. Yours may be set at #2 where the majority were set to begin with. If so, you may want to leave it alone, as the #2 setting seems to work in just about any climate.

The choke adjusting screws should be set last of all, and should be backed off completely when setting the idle, and synchronizing the carburetors.

Set the screws equally so they are just shy of the cam, about 1/32". Smear a dab of light grease on the cam face. If



the chokes and idle screws do not hold their settings, new tension springs may be in order.

(Reprinted with permission of Moss Motors Ltd. Web site)

Midget **Seat** **Fix**
Just thought that you might be interested in the technical tip that my husband discovered last year before our trip to California for the 1991 GOF.

We were trying to find seat diaphragms to make the seats in my 1972 Midget comfortable and give

me a little more height. We inquired with Moss and were told that they are not made for Midgets; the only part available would be the webbing that was on the car at the time.

My husband was a little annoyed with this, as he is extremely satisfied with the comfort of the seats in his 1974 MGB GT, which have diaphragms. He looked at both sets of seats and decided to try the diaphragms from his seats on mine. After a lot of grunting, he managed to succeed. Not only do they fit, but they have done exactly what we hoped they would!

So, if you have people wanting seat diaphragms for Midgets, they can use the ones for MGBs, as they do fit. Just remember to warm the diaphragms with a hair dryer to make them stretch, and to get the hooks into the actual frame, use a piece of string with a loop in the end. Hold the diaphragm with the hook pointing toward you until it is over the hole in the frame, and presto!

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S T R I C T L Y



BRITISH

RESTORATION & PARTS

RANDY BALOGH

226 Kirby Road
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

(513) 934-1296
MGBay@AOL.COM

Minutes of January Meeting

By Tony Pareseau

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm on Wednesday January 26, 2000. This is the first meeting of the new year. Minutes of previous meeting approved. Treasury report currently 2679.05/xx motion to accept, approved. Presidents report later in the evening. Vice-President Phil Johnson in India. Charlie and Precilla Avery in Key West. MEMBERSHIP: Herbert & Jean Web, new members, Mike Barton from MG Automotive Parts present. Dugan. We now have fifty eight members in MG Club & list is available with a special edition for Dick Smith. Corrections to be made at Beer Break. NEWS LETTER: Black on white cover with logo centered. There was a mistake on printing prices. We were charged ½ price. This has been corrected. Any articles or tech tips please send to Ron. ACTIVITIES: Valentine Party. 6:30 P.M. February 19, 2000 at the Gribblers. Map in last months news letter. Friday January 28th fish fry- 6:30 to 11:00 P.M. K of C Hall. Need approx 15 people 2 hour shift stagger times. OLD BUSINESS: Paid dues for Chapter membership of MG Car Club. Club was presented with a Bronze plaque for donation to British Museum. Window decals-we will purchase units for inside side window with adhesive. Cost is approx. \$1.75 per unit, one to each member. The pole's for the canopy will be worked on in the next month. Mike Barton from MG Parts brought us an update

on there business. They will give the club a 3% rebate on ordered parts and will try and absorb shipping cost with other orders and pass the savings to the club members purchases. They are a Moss Motors distributor and as such will honor their discounts. They carry all import parts with a 3 to 5 day turn around. Dan Inlow's Father passed away, our sympathy goes out to him. John Clark is being treated at Kettering Medical Center. BEER BREAK- 8:35 P.M. CALLED TO ORDER- 8:50 P.M.

Discussion on Logo passed to Feb. meeting. Terry Looft has established net page in the YAHOO Club section.

([Http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub](http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub)) There is also a DIALPAD.COM for phone calls. There is a British Car Day meeting in March. CLASSIFIEDS: 1970 Black MGBGT contact Mike Skags 431-0482. K of C fish fry Friday Jan 28 2000 6pm. Need 15 people, 2 hour shifts stagger times. MGB Register Cleveland (Cleveland Rocks, MGs Roll), June 15-18, 2000. Holiday Inn, ask for Heather or Lisa. Rooms held in Skip Peterson's name. \$99.00 a night. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The mid-ohio is the week after MGB Register Cleveland. John Zeno brought up the MGA Register 25th anniversary in Morgantown July 17-22. OLD BUSINESS: British Museum of transportation gave the club a Bronze award for \$500.00 donation to the Museum. This is a Tax exempt organization. John & Linda Wolfe's new unlisted phone was given out verbally. Still have t-shirts for sale. Gun ball rally won by John Wolfe.



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Valentine Party at Gribler's

by Lois Gribler

First off—For you new members who may not know, it is a requirement for club membership that you attend this party. You can check the by-laws. Well, don't do that, but do come to the party! That said, here's the deal. We supply the soft drinks meat and lasagna. You bring a salad, dessert or snack item and alcoholic beverage if you'd like. Since it is a dinner party we will begin around 6:30pm. That would be on Saturday, February 19, 2000 at our house, 2228 Settlers Trail, Vandalia, Ohio, phone 898-9928. Check out the maps. Hope to see you here on the 19th! Happy Valentine's Day

From the Editor

Ron Parks

Next month the e-mail addresses section at the end of the newsletter, will display only those addresses that are new or have changed. Not printing these E-mail addresses will free up almost two whole columns for news. E-mail addresses are on the membership list attached this month. Don't lose that list. Tear it off and keep it by your phone or computer.

Tech. Tips - I know some of you have devised or discovered little tricks to keep your MGs running in tip top shape. And, no doubt you've shared those with some of us. Please share them with the entire membership. If you have some little tips, tricks or ideas for repairing MGs, please send them to me for inclusion in the Tech. Tips & Tricks column.

You may have noticed the British Car magazine ad in this issue? This is our part of their ad exchange program. Our club info will be in the Club Directory section of British Car Magazine in exchange for our running their ad in our newsletter. The listing will be in #84, which subscribers will be receiving about the first week in March. The newsletter editor gets a complimentary subscription as part of the deal too. I'll donate that to our library, since I already have a subscription. We can thank Skip Peterson for discovering this through his correspondence with British Car magazine.

Remember any and all contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

You can mail them to me at 4101 Grossepoint Street, Springfield, OH 45502. Or if you prefer the information super highway, my E-Mail address is: MGDRIVER@prodigy.net. Either of those methods will work fine or you can call me at home (322-0717) or at work (445-4623) and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview.

* Classified *

1977 Rubber Bumper "B" Rubber bumpers are painted red to match the rest of the car. It has a total of 116,000 miles on it but only 10,000 since a rebuild of the engine. Has a Webber carb, a "mild" cam and headers. Previous owner installed a roll bar ("for safety reasons") and current owner indicates "the car has never been raced." The car is originally a "California car" and has no apparent rust. It needs a new soft top but has a nice fiberglass hardtop (black) which is textured to resemble a cloth top. It has after market mag wheels (Mangel) and a brand new catalytic converter (was required to pass a recent E-Check) Asking price (firm?) is \$5,500. Contact Pete Belue in Miamisburg @ 937-866-1565

1988 Jeep Wagoneer, Best Offer
Call Tim Oricko (937) 434-5928

Antique and Classic cars for sale. They belong to Don Gingrich of Red Lion, OH who is clearing out his building full of collectible cars. Each of the 10 cars are marked with a suggested price and "Make an Offer". After many years of collecting, he is liquidating his inventory and leasing out his building to another business venture.

1960 Mercedes 190SL, 1976 Mercedes 450SL Roadster (2 tops), 1929 Rolls Royce Sedancia, 1969 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow, 1910 Hupmobile Roadster, 1980 Auburn Boat Tail Speedster (Replicar w/1974 Ford chassis and running gear), 1905 Reo Roadster, 1927 Reo 4 Door, 1914 Cartercar 4 door touring, and 1966 Mercury S55 Convertable (big engine). Don is located at 2316 SR122 just 1/4 mile west of Red Lion. He can be reached at (513) 746-4645

1970 MGBGT Black. Call Mike Skaggs (937) 431-0482

1978 MGB I have a 1978 MGB for sale. 67,000 original miles. 98% rust free!! Runs excellent. Always garaged. Interior is in great shape. New convertible top. Both covers in great shape. Original wire style wheels. Converted to dual carbs but I have all the original parts. Color: Orange with black bumpers. Bumpers are in excellent shape. I am selling it for \$3350 Must Sell!!! If you happen to know anyone who might be interested call 513 738-3359
or email: **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1950 MGYT Chassis in good condition—motor was stolen. Per a dealership in Winter Haven, FL, it was recommended to us to contact an MG Car Club up north to see if there are any collectors interested in this car. The owner was going to have the car restored as a gift for his alma mater's Project Graduation since his son is graduating with the class of 2000, this was to be his donation. The restoration process has been turned down by local shops, due to the uniqueness of the vehicle. Now this family would like to sell or trade the car chassis

for another, preferably American, small size or compact car to be given for this project. If you have access to anyone who would like an excellent condition chassis to go with a workable motor, please have them contact Ron or Suzanne Harrell at 863-324-5967 or 863-676-7619, or give me further information through **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Wanted: 1962 MGA Mk II roadster.

Prefer a nice original, but will look at others. I'm also interested in Mk II parts. I've owned MG's since 1967 and am located in northern California. Please call (707) 942-0546 or e-mail scottton@napanet.net

MGB Roadster. Call Mike Skaggs (937) 431-0482

E-Mail Addr

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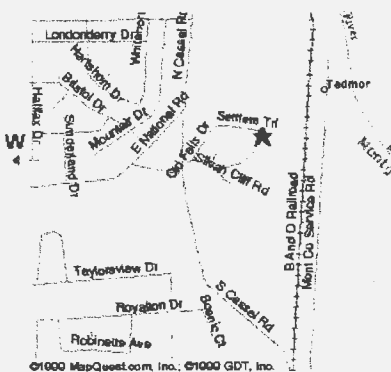
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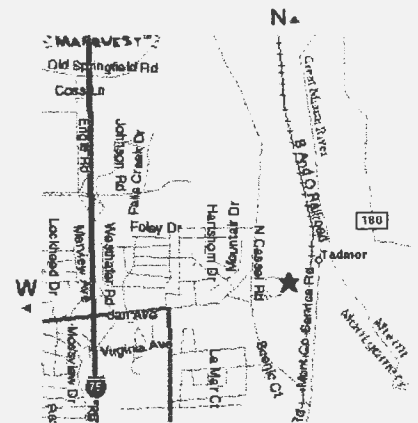
John Zeno

MGFAST@aol.com

“Valentine Party at Griblers”

2228 Settlers Trail, Vandalia, OH 4

Zoom Out <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>>>>>>



----- Press Release -----

Chicago Illinois, February 2000

From August 17-20, 2000, MG's will celebrate their 'Homecoming' to Abingdon ILL. The Chicagoland MG Club has announced that its traditional 'Abingdon Weekend' will be held on these dates to fill the void, created by the discontinuation of the University Motors MG Summer Party.

The weekend will mix the traditional elements of the original University Motors MG Summer Party, held 23 times in Grand Rapids MI, with the key features of the family get-away Abingdon weekend, hosted by the Chicagoland MG Club since 1987 in Abingdon IL.

<p>The preliminary program is as follows:</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> August 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start Abingdon Trials Long distance rally <p><u>Friday</u> August 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish Abingdon Trials• Technical Sessions• Self Guided Rally• Club Crawl <p>Hospitality Suites hosted by MG clubs</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> August 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Abingdon Sterling</u> Award for superior concours MG's• Popular Vote Car show• Self Guided Rally• The <i>Famous</i> Abingdon Gymkhana• Awards Banquet Trophies <p>Key note address by John Twist</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> August 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farewell Picnic Breakfast	<p>Mr. and Mrs. Twist (John & Caroline for MG friends) have issued the following letter of recommendation, which may indicate the significance of this event.</p> <p>Dear Fellow Enthusiast</p> <p>We are pleased to announce that the <u>Chicagoland MG Club</u> has offered to pick up where we have dropped off! The <u>Abingdon Summer Party</u>, scheduled August 17-20 will be held in Abingdon, Illinois (an aptly named site!) in 2000.</p> <p>No, it will not be the same as the University Motors MG Summer Party, No, it won't be in Grand Rapids and No, it is not just a bigger version of their original Abingdon Weekend.</p> <p>But it's the same date, and there will be many of the same people. (Caroline and I have accepted to be 'guest of honor' and key note speaker)</p> <p>We invite you to join us and try this historic and exiting new location!</p> <p>See you in <u>Abingdon</u></p>
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Registration space is limited and will be strictly issued on a first come, first serve basis. Request your registration forms soon.

Write, e-mail, or call:
Abingdon Summer Party
Chicagoland MG Club
P.O. Box 455
Addison, IL 60101

- Bill Mennell e-mail wmennell@yahoo.com
- Jim Evans Phone (630) 858-8192

The Chicagoland MG Club is one of the oldest and largest local MG Clubs in the U.S.A. Founded in 1978, as a local chapter of the American MGB Association, the club is presently about 350 members strong and is formally affiliated with the North American MGB Register, the (International) MG Car Club Ltd., and, through the Council, also associated with the North American MMM, New England MG "T", North American MGA & American MGC Registers.

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We are proud to announce our Moss Motors club reward program. Mg automotive will give a 3% discount on all Moss Motors orders, (*) placed by a club member to our parts department. The 3% from each order placed between January 1st and December 31st 2000 will be presented to the treasury of the MG Car Club Southwestern centre.

Hopefully this will allow us to help support the ongoing efforts of the MG Car Club in bringing us all together to enjoy the cars that we all hold so dear.

Thank you

from MG Automotive

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