

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXIV No.1

OCTOBER 2000

FALL TOUR OF COVERED BRIDGES

NEW OFFICERS

From the President

Phil Johnson

To all of you who voted for me at last month's meeting, I say Thank You for your willingness to entrust the Presidency of the Club to an acknowledged "rookie!" Skip Peterson is a hard act to follow! and I won't presume to be able to direct this great Club with the same sense of knowledge - and sense of humor - that he has provided over the past 12 months. We all owe Skip and his leadership team (Matt, Tony and Ron) a big THANKS for the great job they have done this past year. We've had some outstanding Club functions and driving activities during the year and I hope that we can continue at this same level of activity during the upcoming year.

One area that I would hope we could improve upon, however, is attendance at our monthly meetings. With a membership of about 65 (and over 100 cars!) I feel we can do better than our current 20 or so that show up regularly for the monthly meeting. It is a proven fact that members in any organization "get involved" primarily as a result of a direct invitation from another member of the group. If each of our "regulars" made it a point to invite just one person to join them at the meeting we



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 October 25, 2000

MG Car Club Officers

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MG News Hotline.....	434-1287
British Car BBS.....	434-1655
WebPage.....	http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html
Online Club.....	http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub

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Upcoming Events**October 2000**15 **British Transportation Museum Tour** (Fundraiser)15 **Red Brick Rally** In Oxford, OH25 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**November 2000**3 **Fish Fry** at K of C Hall22⁹ **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**December 2000**9 **Christmas Party** at Skip & Jenifer Peterson's 7:30p.m.**January 2001**24 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**February 2001**28 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**March 2001**28 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**April 2001**25 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**May 2001**23 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C HallJune 2001 *→ Tour Germantown*27 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C HallJuly 2001 *MG International Minneapolis*25⁴ **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**August 2001**4 **BCD 2001**22 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**September 2001**26 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**October 2001**24 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**November 2001**28 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall**December 2001**? **Christmas Party****Pres. (Continued)**

could easily see 35 or 40 people at each meeting. I would be the first to agree that greater attendance does not in itself indicate a stronger or more vibrant organization. It does, however, give each of us additional opportunities to meet other people with a common interest (British

cars!) and the potential to exchange ideas and technical knowledge. To our members who don't regularly come to meetings, I say "try it - you might like it!" Don't wait to be asked - just show up! We have a great location at the K of C Hall just off E. Fifth Street and only 1 block east of the Oregon District in Downtown Dayton. The K of C

— Directions to Peterson's

offers low cost "liquid refreshments" and free popcorn! In exchange for the use of their facilities, members of our Club are expected to help out at several K of C fund-raisers each year. A "good deal" for both of our organizations!

I mentioned in my opening sentence that I am a "rookie" when it comes to involvement in the MG Car Club. I've been a member of this organization for only about 2 1/2 years and have had my own car (a 1951 MG TD) for just 2 years. Yes! I joined the Club before I even owned an MG! I felt that the Club offered an opportunity to interact with folks who were tied into the "MG network" and could be of real help in my attempt to find "the car of my dreams" That expectation was born out by the numerous leads I received from Club members and which resulted in my purchase of the car I own today. In return for the help I received from the Club, I felt it only fair that I do my part in serving the Club in whatever capacity might come along - last year as Vice-President and this year as President.

I am an Electrical Engineer by training and worked for Monsanto Company for 29 years before retiring from Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg some 8 years ago (at a

British Car

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“very young age”). My wife, Nancy, and I have lived in Miamisburg for 37 years and have two married daughters (Elizabeth and Susan) In addition to the MG Car Club, I am very active in The Miamisburg Rotary Club and The Miamisburg Historical Society and also in my local Church. I was a private pilot for 20 years before giving that up to travel somewhat closer to the ground in my MG!

I look forward to serving the Club in the year ahead and hope to meet first-hand many of the Club members whom I currently know only by their names in the Club Roster.

Phil Johnson

Summer Picnic

By Ron Parks

As evidenced by the photos, a good time was had, amid a great display of the club’s MGs (and Rolls Royce), tempered by the bad news we received about Mike Oricko’s passing.



Dick Goodman’s front & back yard both looking good.

Photos by Ron Parks



Ryan Looft enjoyed the picnic.

Photo By Dick Goodman

Someone counted 18 cars on Dick Goodmans front lawn and one in the back yard, with a beer trailer attached to it. Hats off to Dick Goodman and his daughter Kathy for opening his home to us and putting on a great party. Thank you!

A True MG Enthusiast

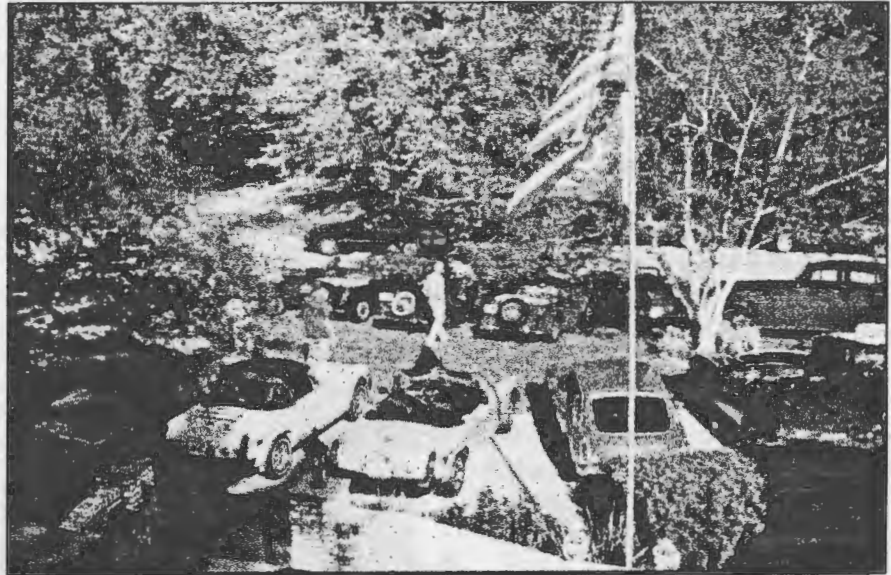
by John Zeno

The North American MGA Register (NAMGAR) requested an article about John Lucente for their magazine. This article, written by John Zeno was submitted.

In Memory of John Lucente

John Lucente and John Zeno met at Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club, NAMGAR Chapter in Dayton Ohio. John L. owned a tool shop and was a master tool maker. He was semi-retired and John Z. was a retired engineer and they both enjoyed working on and repairing so called non repairable MG parts in John L.'s shop. It was a challenge at times, but we always prevailed. Our philosophy was if we could not drive the MG to events, we would not go. Trailing was out as we felt the fun was driving the MGs.

John L. had done a ground up restoration on and owned an MGTD, an MGA and a 55 Tbird. His pride and joy was the MGA and he always loved driving the MGA over the other cars he owned.



Arial view of picnic scene.

Photo By Dick Goodman

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Our first long trip together was to the GT18 1993 in Niagara Falls. We liked to take the side winding roads and it took us 14 hours to get to Niagara Falls. We kind of underestimated how long it would take us, but we saw a lot of small towns and winding MG roads. He won 3rd place in his class. The next year, 1994, we drove to Winston Salem GT19. We went by way of the Blue Ridge Parkway. We spent 3 days on the parkway and had a wonderful time (a true MG road). We got off the parkway at Winston Salem to attend GT19. He won 4th place. Then we drove back to the Parkway to drive to the end. At GT20 1995 in Lansing Michigan, he won 2nd place in the rain. In 1998, at GT23 in Chattanooga Tennessee he won 2nd place and we had a lot of fun driving around the mountains. It was a little warm and the women complained, but we still had a great time.

After GT23 we decided we would go to GT24 1999 in Lake Tahoe and take a month or more touring the West. We talked to our better halves and they insisted they would not ride 4,000 miles out and back in the MGs. We relented without too much discussion. So, the question was how to do this? We decided on tow bars for the two MGs. John L. was going to try to win first place at GT24 and he thought he had a good shot at it. Through the winter, we designed and built tow bars that were easy to unhook without taking the bumper or anything off, so that we could drive them around, hook them back up and go to the next tourist spot. They worked out great and we had no trouble. After leaving Colorado Springs on our way to GT24, we slowed down to look at buffalo along the road and the guy behind John L. did not. He hit John's MG on the back of his car, caving it in, breaking

the tow bar and caving in the front. John L. was devastated and his blood pressure went sky high. He spent two hours in the ambulance until it came down. This ruined his chance for 1st place. The MG ran all right, but it took two days to get the tow bar welded back on so we could continue to GT24. We still had a great time driving the MGs around in the mountains and all the tourist spots. After we got back, John L. had his MG repaired and it took all winter at a cost of \$8,000. It looked as good as it had before the accident.

We decided to go to the MGB Register 9th annual convention in Cleveland in June 2000 and then go to GT25 in Morgantown W Va. John L. became ill and was diagnosed with cancer of the liver. We had to cancel out Cleveland. The beer for the Beer trailer had already been purchased and one of the club members welded a trailer hitch to his MGC GT and towed it to Cleveland. Since the trailer is made out of the back ends of two MGBs, they entered it in the car show in the "Other British" class. They talked or bribed every body to vote for it. The trailer won first place and they presented me with the first place plaque at the next club meeting. John L. thought that was great! John L. was a real beer drinker and we had fun towing the beer trailer to different shows.

John L. was operated on hoping to be able to go to GT25. He did not make it and died of complications. We canceled out of GT25. This was just too much for all of us and it would not have been any fun without John. The MGA was John's pride and joy. He really loved that car. He will be missed, not only by his family, but by the membership of the MG Car Club. We lost three members this year, all of whom were devoted to the MG

marque and the MG Car Club. They will all be missed

TECH. TIPS & TRICKS

Rough idle problem solved.

By Ron Parks

Of course when your car is idling rough and seems to be missing on one cylinder, the first thing that comes to your mind is probably ignition. That's where I started looking. I played with the timing, replaced spark plug wires, I even replaced the engine mounts, that needed replaced anyway. An article that appeared in this column some months back, suggested that bad engine mounts can cause rough idle at low rpms. Well, it did stop the engine from jumping around quite a bit. Next I replaced the distributor, which helped some and which I do not regret doing at all. I replaced my old Lucas 25D4 distributor with a Lucas 45D4, European spec, distributor, for much improved performance, at least after I got the real problem solved.

I had already ruled out carburetion, because all the plugs looked good and about the same color. Next I decided I'd better check the compression. Using the test kit I had borrowed from a friend, I found that cylinder #1 had no compression. Oh no! Engine rebuild time? Finally, I heeded some advice from Bill Hammond and Tom Davis to check the valve clearances. Well, guess what? #1 valve had no clearance at all, meaning it wasn't allowing the valve to close at all. Hence no compression. I adjusted it and about 3 other valves that were slightly off. Boy does it idle smooth! And power,

wow, what a difference! The book says to check the valve clearances every 6,000 miles. I plan to check that #1 valve a little sooner for a while, in case threads are stripped or there is something causing it to tighten up. If you're getting spark to all cylinders and it's still missing, you might want to check the valve clearances.

Fuel problem solved

By Skip Peterson as relayed to Ron Parks

Those of you who were at the meeting last month may recall that Skip didn't drive his MG to the meeting because it wouldn't start. Everyone was guessing fuel pump? Wrong! It was pumping fuel all right, but none was getting into the back carburetor. Skip found a tiny piece of rubber blocking the inlet. It must have broken off from the hose when it was connected to the carburetor.

Fall Tour

By Ron Parks

We had a beautiful day for the fall tour of the covered bridges of Preble County Ohio on Sunday October 16, 2000. John Wolf planned and executed a very enjoyable tour. This tour was a fundraiser for the British Museum of Transportation.

There were two MGTDs, four MGBs, one MIDGET, one MGC GT, one MGA and a Triumph Motor cycle participating. That doesn't count the Talon and Dodge. There were no breakdowns or mishaps except for Joe Hooker's Grandson Brandon eating all the food in their car. It was a fun day!. If you didn't go, you missed a good one. Thank you John and Linda Wolf for a good tour.

September Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2000

By Tony Pareseau

The meeting comes to order at 8pm. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurers report: At the moment we are in the Black. \$818.56 with expenses of \$76.95, income of \$217. Treasurers report accepted.

Presidents report: With the passing of Mike Oricko, John Clark, John Lucente, and Carol Smith it has been a very trying year. With this said we will take a moment for silent prayer.

Vice President Phil Johnson speaks: "Saturday is the Orphan car show held at Oxford," This is a major cruise in Oct.15th, other then that it is a quiet month. Membership:

Annual renewal of chapter affiliation cost \$76, is on hold, it should be mailed back by Oct, 16. Contact through Dave Dorch or Dee Zimmerman. We have 26 paid members. News Letter: There was a discussion on the length of the News letter, should we have 10 printed pages or less. With this amount we can mail the letter for thirty-three cents. Should we be cost conscious or keep up an excellent news letter?

Bravo goes to Ron Parks, for the fantastic job being done on the News Letter, let us go for the quality. Oct. 15th is the fall tour, we will meet at the Dayton Mall around 2pm. Bring lunch or supper which ever you prefer. We will go to Fort ST. Clair and then five bridges in Preble County. There will also be a poker run. This is a fund raiser for The British Museum of Transportation.

\$10 on day of event, and it is open to all cars, it will be a three hour drive and we should be home by 630 or 7pm. We all thanked Dick Goodman for the great time we had at the Pick-a-nick, this will also be the location of next years event. Our thanks go to Dick Goodman. Great job! Next year it looks like BCD will be



Fall Covered Bridge Tour 2000

Photos By Skip Peterson

Aug.4th. Thank you for all the help on the Concours d' Elegance !!!!!!! John Zeno raised his hand to speak, then forgot what he wanted to say. There was a mention of the people from the Austin Healey Club being interested in joining the MG Club. Remember your dues are due! The Christmas Party will be the 9th of Dec. 730pm, bring a covered dish. It will be at Skip & Jennifer Peterson's. The Valvoline Run Offs will be Sat, at Mid-Ohio. The F Production will be at 11am. A weekend pass is \$30, this is good for Oct. 5th 6th 7th and 8th. Warm ups start at 8am, Beer Break 830pm called back at 845pm. Jim Henders and Tom Drake of the Knights of Columbus announced that there will be a fish fry on Nov. 3rd, and they need 12 people. Be there before 630pm say 6pm or come in at 8pm the event will be over by 1030pm.,or 11pm. There will be three fish fries Nov. Jan., and March. Cars on canvas is selling Art work. Contact Kengreco@aol.com There is \$19 left in the beer fund. Classified: MGB parts-740-881-1173. Report of income from BCD, \$4400. we will split \$2600, This will be finalized shortly. Our club will be in charge next year. It was brought to our attention that the club will be 35 years old, which may make us the oldest active chapter in America. Dick Smith has agreed to do an article for MG Driver. We discussed having a Pig Roast at Dick Goodman's for a 35th celebration. We will have the Gumball ralleye early this meeting as there will be a free membership involved and \$15. Won by Louie DePasquallie. Fred Shantyfelt sent in a nomination for Terry Looft as vice-president and Betty Shantyfelt for Treasurer. Elections were held, results are: President Phil Johnson, vice-president Terry Looft, Secretary. Ed

Hill Treasurer. Betty Shantyfelt. Member at large Bill Hammond. Congratulations to all the outgoing officers. The next meeting will be on the 25th of October. The meeting was adjourned.he club received a thank you card from Patty. The minutes were moved to be accepted.

MEETING ADJOURNED
9:30 P.M.

From the Editor

Ron Parks

You might have noticed the volume number changed for this issue. This is issue number one of the club's 34th year. Yes, for those of you who are conversant in Roman Numerals, last month's newsletter did say volume 32. We failed to bump up a year or dropped back a year at some point, but that is now corrected.

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 (322-0717) and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview.

* Classified *

1976 Tahiti Blue Midget
Reduced Price \$3,700
Passed Ohio E-check!

34K. It has no rust. New tires. It could probably stand to have a new muffler, although my brother thinks it sounds pretty cool.

MG Midget, '76 Beautiful Tahiti Blue Conv. 34K, runs great, must sell, \$3,700 /obo (513) 522-8599

~~67MGB Roadster For Sale \$5,000 OBO~~ Red with black top, black interior, painted wire wheels. No rust, no dents, runs good. Was bought 2 years ago from Lebanon and was maintained by Randy Balogh "Strictly British." Reason for selling: new baby. Available for inspection at 369 Oakview, Kettering, OH. (937) 294-9317.

"53 TD" All body parts except the tub and frame have been dipped, zinc chromated and primed. This is a complete car not a basket case!! I drove it home from Illinois where I purchased it. Price: \$8,500. Call me, Mark Maretka, for more details: (248) 641-7615 or email msquared@flash.net I have owned 3 TDs and this one is well on its way to being a very nice one!!

73 MGB, British Racing Green, overdrive, two sets of wheels - knock-off mini-lite's and painted wire. A very nice car! Reasonably priced at \$5,500. Call Tom Davis (937) 882-9606 email tkdavis@glasscity.net

MGB Parts For Sale: Transmission and other assorted parts for cheap! Call Phil Keller (740) 881-1173



Fall Tour Pictures



Photo By Skip Peterson



Photos By Ron Parks



Photo By Ron Parks