# THE OCTAGON NEW

### Volume XXXIV No.4

### AUTOCROSS 2001 From the President

Phil Johnson

ack to Reality! Our 7 week-long HOLIDAY in Hawaii is over and its now back to Winter in Ohio. We had a wonderful stay on "The Big Island" of Hawaii - but it is nice to get back home among our friends and family in the Miami Valley and find that the days are already one hour longer than when we left in mid-December. The BIG NEWS is that we have tired of trying to find a condo available for rent in Hawaii during the coldest part of winter - so we have "bitten the bullet" and bought one! Our plans are to use it each January and February and make it available for rent the rest of the year. If you want to check it out, you can find us on the World Wide Web at **Error!** Bookmark not defined. (enter "Kona Makai" in the block labeled Find a Vacation Spot then GO). I'll have pics available at the February meeting if you want to decide for vourself whether or not insanity runs in our family.

Last month's Octagon News had a great article by VP Terry Looft urging members to join him and others in a trek to St. Paul, Minnesota to attend MG 2001 - AN MG ODYSSEY to be held on Julv 2-6.

### BRITISH TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

President.

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 28, 2001

### Insi

Inside This Issue			
2	Upcoming Events/Museum		
3	MG 2001/Autocross 2001		
4/5	Humor/Tech. Tips/Nov. Minutes		
6/7	Jan. Minutes/Editor/Classified		
8/9/10	Party Photos/MG 2001Sched/Museum Car		

Online Club.

	phone	
	email	
	1	
	phone[Cel	1 (513) 226-8523]382-1520
	email	terry@looft.net
	Secretary	
	phone	
		EHILLMGB@aol.com
	Тгеазигег	Betty Shaneyfelt
	phone	
	Member at Large	Bill Hammond
	phone	
	email	wrhammond1@netzero.net
	President Emeritus.	Skip Peterson
	phone	
	email	MGBSkip@aol.com
,	Activities Chair	

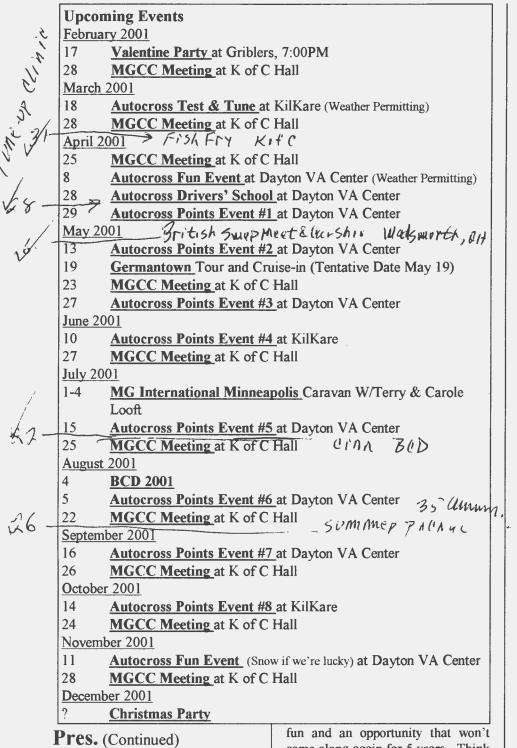
phone			
email	MGBSkip@aol.com		
Activities Chair			
phone			
Membership Chair	Linda Wolfe		
phone			
emaillinda.wolfe@	beavercreek.k12.oh.us		
Octagon News Editor	Ron Parks		
phone			
emailMGl			
Librarian	John Wolfe		
phone			
Historian & DIXMYTH	Dick Smith		
phone			
email	rsmithomo@aol.com		
MG News Hotline			
British Car BBS			
WebPage			
http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html			

February 2001

Phil Johnson

MG Car Club Officers

.....http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub



This will be North America's single largest collection of MGs since MG "96" in Indianapolis which drew 1,300 MGs. It sounds like a lot of fun and an opportunity that won't come along again for 5 years. Think about it! Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find additional information on MG 2001.

For those interested in "T cars," another interesting option awaits you in July (26-29) when the GOF Central (Gathering of the Faithful) will be held in nearby French Lick. Indiana (home of Larry Bird). Even closer to home, remember to set aside Saturday, May 19th for our Club's first driving event of the year. Ernie Streifthou and I are working on a fun driving tour of the "greater Germantown area" to be tied in with the Germantown Cruise-In later the same day. The featured margue at the Cruise-In will be British Cars and we hope to see a great turn out from the southwestern part of Ohio. Plan to attend!

Phil Johnson

### **British** Transportation **Museum News**

By Dick Smith

\* Our latest Acquisition \*

he Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America announces the securing of the following car for the British Museum of Transportation.

Clark passed away John on September 7, 2000. This car along with a Triumph GT6 went up for auction on Sunday, February 4th, 2001. The Triumph Spitfire has 8300 actual miles on it and except for battery is in total original factory condition. The hard top has never been removed from the car and the soft top has never been raised. (See original news article in back) The Spitfire was purchased at the auction by a private party who has committed placing this car in the British Museum of Transportation. It will be



Spitfire & GT 6. Ist Place, John Clark

on loan to the Museum until such time as the Museum can fund the cost of the car (see below). Please see additional information on HYPERLINK

"halloffame/jchoff.html" John Clark at the Museum Memorial pages.

In order for the British Museum of Transportation to take ownership of this car, we are asking Museum members and friends to contribute to the cost of obtaining this car. As of now, we have a pledge of \$2,000 reduction in the price paid for the car by the present owner of the car (who purchased the car when John Clark's Estate was auctioned off) and an additional \$2,000 from another Museum member towards the cost of the car. We need an another \$5,000 and would like to raise that before the Dayton British Car Days on August 4, 2001.

Donations can be addressed to the British Museum of Transportation, 2304 Wrenside Lane, Kettering, OH 45440-2324.

## MG 2001 Minneapolis

ast week I received a copy of the Emerald Necklace's (Cleveland area) newsletter, The Chatter. They already have 17 cars signed up for the 'tag-a-long' to Minneapolis. Also, at that time, they were saying over 250 rooms had been blocked at the five host hotels. Things are progressing and plans are being made. I have reserved rooms at the Ramada Inn, which is the host hotel for the North American MGA Register. I have included a Schedule of Events page in this newsletter if you are wondering what is on the agenda. I will be bringing applications with me to the February meeting or you can give me a call if you would like one (937) 382-1520. We're still planning to start out on Saturday morning, June 30th and will be arriving in Minneapolis on Monday the 2nd. I will be making room reservations for along the way. We'll start back on Friday the 6th and arrive home early Sunday afternoon. Give it some thought, there's safety AND fun in numbers. If you want to drop me an e-mail its: terry@looft.net.

Тепту

ere is the schedule of

### Autocross Events 2001 By Tom Davis

H events for Autocross this year. Might be worth publishing in the newsletter in case anyone wants to come out. A few more British cars would be fun. Anyone can participate, all that is required is a drivers license and \$20. As you will remember, there are loaner helmets.

Mar 18th - Test & Tune @ KilKare (Weather Permitting) Apr 8th - Fun event @ VA Center (Weather Permitting) Apr 28th - Driver's School @ VA Center

Apr 29th - Points Event # 1 @ VA Center May 13th - Points Event #2 @ VA Center May 27th - Points event #3 @ VA Center Jun 10th - Points event # 4 @ KilKare Jul 15th - Points Event # 5 @ VA Center Aug 5th - Points Event #6 @ VA Center Sep 16th - Points Event #7 @ VA Center Oct 14th - Points Event # 8 @ KilKare Nov 11th - Fun Event (snow if we're lucky) @ VA Center



## The Value of Undies

Submitted By Terry Looft

Here's your weekly safety "brief."

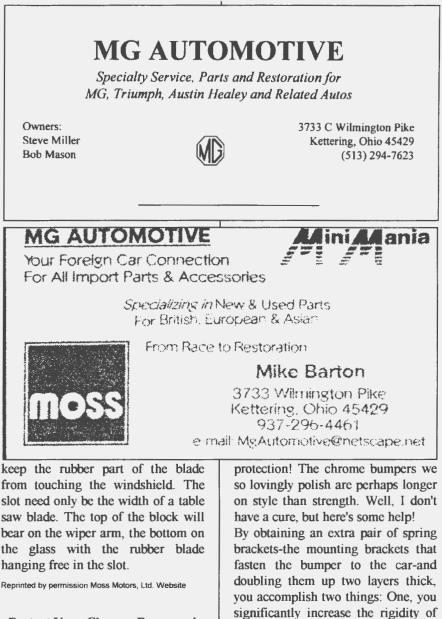
e careful what you wear (or don't wear), when working under vour vehicle...especially in public From the Sydney Morning Herald Australia comes this story of a central west couple who drove their car to the local shopping center only to have their car break down in the parking lot. The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car there in the lot. The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the chassis. Although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned private parts into glaringly public Unable to stand the ones. embarrassment she dutifully stepped forward, quickly put her hand UP his shorts and tucked everything back into place. On regaining her feet she looked across the hood and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by. The mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his head.

## **TECH. TIPS** & TRICKS

#### Distorted Wiper Blades

Do you ever have flattened or bentout-of-shape windshield wiper blades after storing your car for a long period of time? These are a thing of the past if you make a support for the blades.

A block of wood, about 1"x1"x1" with a slot cut halfway through will



from touching the windshield. The slot need only be the width of a table saw blade. The top of the block will bear on the wiper arm, the bottom on the glass with the rubber blade hanging free in the slot.

Reprinted by permission Moss Motors, Ltd. Website

#### **Protect Your Chrome-Bumpered** MGB

Our lower rear body panel, between the boot lid and the bumper, has probably been dented in the past. Even now you may be sporting the marks that result when a careless parallel parker gently nudges your overriders forward into the body of the car. Let's face it, the guys in pickups aren't fastening MG bumpers to the backs of their rigs for better

significantly increase the rigidity of your rear bumper; two, the extra thickness moves your bumper about 1/4" farther from the rear of the car, affording just a bit more room before the overriders touch the paint. This worked beautifully on my 1969 MGB, I didn't even have to enlarge or elongate any of the mounting holes. It was a simple bolt-on modification, easily reversed, and invisible to all but the most practiced and knowledgeable eve.

Unfortunately, the job might not be as easy on the split rear bumper fitted to the 1970 model cars, or likewise the late 1974 model with its one piece bracket, but if you're handy with tools, it will be worth investigating.

For a clearer idea of what's involved, look at page 46 of your Moss catalog, and reference item 28, 39, 46 or 53 as appropriate. Just imagine another identical bracket sandwiched together to the one you're looking at...as a matter of fact, taping them together makes assembly easier. Just bolt everything back together the way it came apart, treating the doubled bracket as if it were the single one you took out. The whole job takes only a few minutes, and the cost is well worth the few dollars that you'll add to your next Moss order! I'll see vou on the road!

Reprinted by permission Moss Motors, Ltd. Website

### **Minutes of Nov.** Meeting By Ed Hill

he meeting was called to order by President Phil Johnson at 8PM. Hard copies of the October meeting minutes were handed out and approved.

The Treasury started with \$622.07 and ended the month with \$817.18. There is a check coming from BCD \$1250. for In the Presidents report; the Fish Fry for the K of C hall was well supported by the club. There was more than a handful who turned out to work the event. Somebody won a raffle too. At this time, there are no other dates set for more fish frys. There was a wrap-up meeting for BCD 2000 on November 14. Overall,

there were no complaints from entrants so there is no reason for any big changes. Maybe more classes. The first planning meeting will be sometime in March. Skip Peterson is this Chairperson the vear. Vicky Gearhart was introduced as a guest. She does not own an MG but is looking for one and figured this the place to find one. was WELCOME

President Johnson is planning a spring tour to possibly include the Germantown car show. More details later.

Ron Parks then informed us that he and Steve Powell are working on a Dam tour. Again, more details later. One of the things that President Johnson wants to stress during his term is the sharing of MG knowledge. There is a world of know-how in this club and we need to find a way to funnel that knowhow to those in need of it. Last year we published a list of members and their cars.. Calling another member or attending meetings are other possibilities.

Christmas party The will be December 9 at the Peterson's. We will have our traditional GAG gift exchange. With the key word being GAG. BYOB and your favorite desert or finger food and the club will provide pop.

#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

There was no Vice-Predential report. He was in Texas. There was no Sunshine committee report.

The membership report was covered as previously noted with Ms Gearhart.

The newsletter editor reported that January is the month he normally stops sending newsletters to unpaid members. Is there some way we can contact these people and see if they still have an interest? Dick Goodman then volunteered to work with Ron and call those club members. It was brought up in discussion that the new officers are responsible for establishing the phone tree. And editor Ron Parks is always in need of material for the feature car of the month. Send him anything you may have. Just a picture and a couple notes.

**NEW** 

BUSINESS Last year the club made a donation to the British Museum of Transporation from the BCD earnings. The idea was brought up that the club do it again this year. It was noted that we have less in the bank this year because last year was an expensive year. We purchased a canopy and banner along with stationary and other items making it a rather costly year. Therefore, it was decided to table the idea until January. NAMGBR is requesting that we send them 2 newsletters. John Zeno is investigating our insurance coverage with the various clubs we are affiliated with. Expect a report soon. The club picnic is planned for Sunday August 19, and since this is a special anniversary year, what about having a pig-roast? Gilbert's party barn was mentioned as a possible site. Several people volunteered to check with possible vendors for cost. Carol Looft reported that her husband Terry had set a tentative itinerary for traveling to Minneapolis 2001. He is planning to leave Saturday, June 30 and arriving there July 2. And he plans to leave Minneapolis Friday, July 6. Dick Smith is checking into the possibility that we are the oldest continuously active club in the states. The Coucours d'Elegance has named Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg as the

featured American marque and Austin-Healy as the foreign marque. There was nothing for the classified since Ms Gearhart already had numerous leads for a car The next meeting will be January 24. Maurice Riggins won the gumball Rallye.

Meeting adjourned 9:30.

### Minutes of Jan. Meeting By Ed Hill

he meeting was held on the 24th and was called to order by vice-president Terry Looft at 8PM. President Phil Johnson, who is on holiday in Hawaii, sends his warmest regards.....

Minutes of the November meeting were handed out before the meeting and were approved as submitted. Misspellings and all The Treasurers report was short and Starting balance simple. was \$2172.45 and there were no expenses or income . Ending balance was \$2172.45

The Sunshine committee, says with a smile, that everybody is well. Except John Zeno feels like ..... Membership reported that we have two new member. Bob and Sandy Kristof have three MG's. They have a 61A, and a 69C and a 74B.VP Terry's ears just perked up. We also had a guest at the meeting. Neighbor Jeff has a 71 Midget. Who ended up with "The Hat" from the Christmas party? Steve Powell admitted he did and that it had a place of honor sitting atop his MG. There was no report from editor Ron Parks. He was on a business trip. But he is always looking for cars to feature in the newsletter each month. Send him anything you may have.

Even if it's just a couple of pictures and scribbled notes. The activities report began with a thank you to Skip and Jennifer for hosting the Christmas party. Steve Powell said he would wear "the hat". Look for it on the next tour. Dave and Lois Gribler are hosting what has become our midwinter/Valentine party on February 17. Map and directions are in the January newsletter. Bring your favorite side-dish and BYOB. Dinner is 7 o'clock SHARP ! ! ! ! So come a little early. Lois will provide the main course. If you haven't been to this before, it's a very nice evening with a wonderful sit-down dinner and maybe some musical entertainment. Next, Terry Looft told a story. It seems he was in San Diego recently. and he was out enjoying a brew, when he thought he saw somebody he knew. Nooooo way, have another sip and sure enough, it is, it's Fred Shaneyfelt. 2000 miles from home and here comes Fred. It is a small world

In Tech Tips it was recommended to plant corn early. Also, do not use 10w40 oil in the carb. dashpots. In cold weather it's too thick for the piston to move freely. Bill Hammond reported that he has possession of C-Notes volumes I - X. A brief count and it was determined

that there are 6 MGC's in the club. January is the month for updating The Octagon News mailing list. The idea was brought forth to raise the club dues to \$20. After a short discussion, the idea was rejected.

BEER BREAK Under old business: Regarding insurance, we have not had any success obtaining additional information from the MGA Registry. Phone calls and e-mail have run into brick walls. Louie DiPasquele then volunteered to give it a try and said he would contact the marque clubs for info. the It is felt by the members that we still need our own insurance policy in addition to anything offered by our affiliations. Our policy cost the club \$228 last year and the one day rider for BCD cost an additional \$15. This ic considered reasonable. The K of C hall is having their next Fish Fry on Friday January 26th. And after that, the next fish Fry will be Saturday March 31st. And rumor has it the Popemobile will be at the March event. There was no report on the proposed Pig-roast.

There was no report on whether we MGCC. are the oldest There was on the no report cruise-in/tour. Germantown



Approximate date is May 19th. Stave Powell reported he was working on the Dam tour. Maybe run counterclockwise ? ? ? it Terry Looft inquired about interest in MG 2001. He has a route laid out and already has reservations made for the stops enroute. This will be a week long trip to Minnesota to attend MG 2001. For more information on MG 2001 visit them at MG2001.com. The Tune-up clinic will be April 28th at Matt Schneider's home in Bevercreek.

Next it was reported that we have only a small number of window decals left. Discussion then followed about engraved name-tags. Terry Looft said he would make some inquiries. To organize the phone tree the President and VP will need a current membership list. Linda will make copies for them.

#### CLASSIFIED

Skip has a top frame for a Midget . . . make an offer.

The next meeting will be February 28th.

We had several items the club had acquired and it was decided to give them away for the Gumball rally. Steve Powell won а pin commemorating 70 years of the MGCC. Zeno won a feeler gauge and Rubin won the \$5. Our subscription to MG WORLD magazine is due for renewal. Motion made and approved to renew our subscription.

Meeting adjourned 9:35.

From the Editor

Ron Parks

R emember 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. no rust. New tires.

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

"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 - knockoff 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** Ive sold my "67" MGB and have a number of spare parts remaining around the house. Included are 2 fuel pumps, a master cylinder, a distributor (nice!) and an alternator. Call Paul Ewing at 897-1865.

#### 58 MGA for sale

Well, it's time to lighten the inventory. I have too many cars! Two are LBCs and another is a Miata (need a winter beater). I have decided that the MGA has to go to pay bills. I'm asking \$6500. I am getting pictures digitized soon.

It is a 1958 MGA 1500, red with a black interior. The paint is good with a few scuffs. The engine runs great. New minilite wheels Interior is very good (little use since installed). The only gauges that work are the tach, oil pres, and water. Never saw the need for the rest anyway. It has a perfect wood dash. It has new shocks on the front and a set of new rear shocks comes with the car. A solid 20/20 car - from 20 feet at 20 MPH it looks showroom. However, I would rate it as a great driver and fun car. It won't win any show awards but will never embarrass you in a line up of LBCs. Never ceases to draw attention (the good kind). It is a looker.

What does it need? It needs a new top (new bows are included), the speedo needs a new cable, and the gas gauge does not work (yard stick included =;<sup>n</sup>)). The windscreen has a crack in the lower right. The master cylinder needs rebuilding (leaks a bit).

I just want someone who knows and loves MGs to get this car as it is a nice one. I don't belong to any MG groups but thought I would offer it to MG people first. If the car doesn't sell over the net, it goes in Hemmings in the upcoming months.

Thanks Bart Hamilton bartdude@cyberdude.com



Valentine Party Photos By Terry Looft



# Schedule of Events

#### Walleye Rallye 1:00-5:00 Monday, **Register** activities at host hotels July 2 Exhibitor and Vendor set-up **Mornin**c A HICK a desta Registration Registration Registration Tuesday. Welcome Ceremony Minnesota Night July 3 "Ya Betcha" Self-guided Tours and MG2001 Talent Show MG University - Tech Sessions 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble The state of Evening British Invasion' Registration Registration 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm MG2001 Car Display and Voting 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Valve Cover Races - Noon **Fireworks Display** Wednesday, July 4 Self-guided Tours MG University - Tech Sessions Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble Awards and Display of Show Winners 10:00 am - Noon Fun Auction and Raffle Best of Show Voting 1:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm MG Race Cars Hall of Champions 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Thursday, July 5 Individual Register acrivities Self-guided Tours MG University - Tech Sessions Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble Monning MGs on the Race Track Noon - 4: 30pm Closing Awards Banquet Friday, Self-guided Tour 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm July 6 MG University - Tech Sessions

TRAILERS: Trailers are welcome for those traveling long distances. An unlimited number of secured trailer parking spots are located in the MG2001 Abingdon Village.

LEADED GASOLINE: Leaded 94 octane gasoline can be purchased near the Village There is no need to mix additives in our Village.

MGA! January/February. 2001

### **TV Broadcaster Wins Triumph Spitfire**

Triumphs are popular as Grand Prizes: This 1979 Spitfire hardtop was the highlight of a drawing at the annual convention of the National Association of Television Program Executives. Open to all employees of TV stations, representative firms and advertising agencies, the winner was John Clark, program director of WHIO-TV of Dayton, Ohio, shown behind the car with his wife. The Spitfire was delivered by dealer Jack Walker of Walker Bros. Imports of Dayton, together with sales manager Denny Egger (far left).



Left to right: 1. Denny Egger. 2. Jack Walker. 3. Mr. & Mrs. John Clark.