

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXIV No.6

April 2001

## MYSTERY CAR

### From the President

Phil Johnson

What happened to spring time? We've gone from too cold and too dry to too hot and too wet! At least I've had a few good days to get the TD out onto the roads again and am happy to report that all is well with the car after its hibernation over the long winter. I regret that my travels will take me out of the area again this month and that I'll miss the April meeting of the Club. Not to worry, however, VP Terry Looft will wield the gavel (or whatever) at the meeting on the 25th. Where will I be? you might ask. Way out west - on a "business trip" to Hawaii. This should be my last major trip of the year so I expect to be able to make all of the other meetings this year.

A couple of interesting things happened at last month's meeting that bode well for our Club. Past President Skip gave us an update on costs of several types of shirts having the club's new logo emblazoned on the front (or back?) The costs (assuming a minimum order of 30) were quite modest for T shirts, sweat shirts and long sleeved T shirts and, perhaps, polo shirts. A good bit of discussion followed which indicated a real desire to go ahead with this effort. A show of hands indicated 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 April 25, 2001**

## SPRING TUNE-UP CLINIC

### MG Car Club Officers

President.....	Phil Johnson
phone.....	866-1050
email.....	pjohn1158@cs.com
Vice-president.....	Terry Looft
phone [Cell (513) 226-8523] (937) 382-1520	
email.....	terry@looft.net
Secretary.....	Ed Hill
phone.....	461-6688
email.....	EHILLMGB@aol.com
Treasurer.....	Betty Shaneyfelt
phone.....	293-2230
email.....	bfshaney@ncrinct.com
Member at Large.....	Bill Hammond
phone.....	434-9967
email.....	wrhammond1@nczzero.net
President Emeritus.....	Skip Peterson
phone.....	293-2819
email.....	MGBSkip@aol.com
Activities Chair.....	Tim Oricko
phone.....	434-5928
Membership Chair.....	Linda Wolfe
phone.....	429-3292
email.....	linda.wolfe@beavercreek.k12.oh.us
Octagon News Editor.....	Ron Parks
phone.....	322-0717
email.....	MGDRIVER@prodigy.net
Librarian.....	John Wolfe
phone.....	429-3292
Historian & DIXMYTH.....	Dick Smith
phone.....	434-1750
email.....	rsmithomo@aol.com
MG News Hotline.....	434-1287
British Car BBS.....	434-1655
WebPage.....	
.....	<a href="http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html">http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html</a>
Online Club.....	
.....	<a href="http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgearclub">http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgearclub</a>

## Inside This Issue

2	Upcoming Events
3	Spring
4	Mystery Car
5	Tune-up Clinic/Tech Tips/Indy Events
7/8	Editor/Classified/Map/MG Minnesota

**Upcoming Events**April 2001

- 25 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall  
 28 **Autocross Drivers' School** at Dayton VA Center  
 28 **Tune-up Clinic** at Matt Schneider's 9:00am until?  
 29 **Autocross Points Event #1** at Dayton VA Center

May 2001

- 6 **British Swap Meet & Car Show** in Wadsworth, OH  
 13 **Autocross Points Event #2** at Dayton VA Center  
 19 **Germantown Tour and Cruise-in** (Tentative Date May 19)  
 23 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall  
 27 **Autocross Points Event #3** at Dayton VA Center

June 2001

- 10 **Autocross Points Event #4** at KilKare  
 27 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

July 2001

- 1-4 **MG International Minneapolis Caravan** W/Terry & Carole Looft  
 15 **Autocross Points Event #5** at Dayton VA Center  
 21 **London to Brighton Run** sponsored by Indiana British Car Union.  
 22 **BCD 2001** Cincinnati OH  
 25 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

August 2001

- 4 **BCD 2001** Dayton OH (MG Car Club & Miami Valley TR)  
 5 **Autocross Points Event #6** at Dayton VA Center  
 22 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall  
 26 **MGCC Summer Picnic & 35<sup>th</sup> Anniv.** at Dick Goodman's

September 2001

- 16 **Autocross Points Event #7** at Dayton VA Center  
 21-23 **Indy British Motor Days** Indianapolis Raceway Park Don Haynam 317-887-3867 or email mgdr@Quiknet.net  
 26 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

October 2001

- 6-7 **Easley Vintage Grand Prix**, Indianapolis Raceway Park contact Brett Johnson 356drb@Indy.com  
 14 **Autocross Points Event #8** at KilKare  
 24 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

November 2001

- 11 **Autocross Fun Event** (Snow if we're lucky) at Dayton VA Center  
 28 **MGCC Meeting** at K of C Hall

December 2001

- ? **Christmas Party**

**Pres. (Continued)**

should have no problem coming up with the minimum order in various sizes. The second interesting thing was the fact that we have added four new members to the fold with two or three of them present at this meeting! With those additions, our current membership stands at 60 or 61. Past experience has shown that members become "active members" only if they get involved in the activities and leadership of the organization. My challenge to these new members (as well as to some of our "relatively inactive members") is to GET INVOLVED! There are many opportunities to serve and each opportunity presents another chance to get to know your fellow club members better.

One of our new members (Graham Cooper) drove up from Milford, Ohio and following the meeting he inquired as to how he could get back on to I-75 South. Since I was heading that way too (to Miamisburg), I suggested he just "follow me!" All went well as we worked our way around town and on to Route 35 West - but as we neared I-75, I discovered that the Exit leading to I-75 South was closed (as a result of construction). Not to worry; I proceeded on West with Graham dutifully following behind. At the first opportunity, I exited Route 35 and then entered the highway again this time heading east. To my chagrin, as we neared the exit to I-75 South, I discovered that that exit was also closed (due to construction). By this time I suspect that Graham was beginning to question his judgment in following this "old hand at navigating the streets of downtown Dayton." At this point I backtracked along Route 35 East and exited onto Jefferson and

worked my way over to Patterson Blvd. where I turned south. Checking my rearview mirror, I confirmed that Graham was still behind me - but it appeared that he was mouthing some unintelligible words (probably just as well I couldn't hear him). As we approached Stewart Street I turned right across the bridge, then left onto Edwin Moses Blvd. expecting to use the ramp just beyond UD Arena to enter I-75 South. NO WAY! That ramp was also closed (see reason noted above)- but there was a sign indicating I-75 Detour straight ahead. A left turn onto Dryden Road eventually brought us to an open ramp to I-75 South - which we entered with dispatch! As we merged into the flow of traffic, Graham proceeded to pass me and to wave (?) as he sped off toward home. This entire episode lasted only about 20 minutes - but it seemed much, much longer.

PS: Forgive me Graham. I promise I'll not offer any more advice on driving in Dayton - at least not until the construction work gets completed.

Phil



## MG AUTOMOTIVE

*Specialty Service, Parts and Restoration for  
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos*

Owners:  
Steve Miller  
Bob Mason



3733 C Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
(513) 294-7623

## MG AUTOMOTIVE

Your Foreign Car Connection  
For All Import Parts & Accessories



*Specializing in New & Used Parts  
For British, European & Asian*



From Race to Restoration

**Mike Barton**

3733 Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
937-296-4461

e-mail: [MgAutomotive@netscape.net](mailto:MgAutomotive@netscape.net)

## Spring is Here!

By Terry

Loof

**S**pring is here! Time to get thinking about pulling the MGs out of storage and hitting the road. Also time to be making some real plans for the Minn. 2001 Meet. Departing on June 30th and back on July 8th. At this time we could have five or six cars. Don't forget we have a small (MG) trailer that is up for grabs for anyone who needs to give his or her car a little help to get there. Once again check the MG2001 web site.  
[http://www.mg2001.com/2001\\_main.htm](http://www.mg2001.com/2001_main.htm)

[http://www.mg2001.com/2001\\_main.htm](http://www.mg2001.com/2001_main.htm)

Also stop by the Yahoo Club site and check out the postings, pictures and other information there for the members.

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

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/mgcarclub> Email or call if you have any questions on either.

We can talk a little more about nametags; I have a little more information. (Not good as far as price goes)

Terry.

**What Marque?**

**What Year?**



When you give up, look on page 7 of this newsletter for the answer.

## Tune-up Clinic

By Ron Parks

**T**he annual MG Car Club tune-up clinic is to be held at Matt Schneider's garage. You know, the one with the attached house. Matt has a wonderfully large garage. There is plenty of room both inside and out to work on cars. There is always plenty of help and advice. Actually, there's probably more advice than help, but, hey, it's a fun day and you just might get something done to your car. If we're lucky, Steve Miller from MG Automotive will be there with real advice.

Matt will have coffee and donuts ready around 9:00am. Bring a snack item or lunch type goodie to share. There is usually no shortage of food. Well, I guess that could be said of any club event.

Some examples of jobs that have been accomplished at past tune-up clinics: Rear leaf spring replaced, Valves adjusted, Carbs rebuilt, brakes replaced, brakes bled, door seals replaced, Tune-ups, timing set, new toneau cover installed and many other projects.

Come on out for a fun and productive day. Matt's address is 1511 S Longview Street, Beavercreek, OH 45432. Phone (937) 427-0074 Email [mgschnc@attglobal.net](mailto:mgschnc@attglobal.net).

(See Map on page 6)



# British Car <sup>TM</sup>

**THE ONLY AMERICAN MAGAZINE FOR BRITISH CAR ENTHUSIASTS**  
 Technical Information • Historical Articles •  
 Club Events • Buyers' Guides •  
 Classic Profiles •  
 Restoration Advice

1 year (6 issues) \$22.95  
 2 years \$39.95

Mention this ad and get an additional issue free. Your satisfaction guaranteed. Cancel at any time and get cost of all unmailed issues refunded.

**TO SUBSCRIBE,**  
**CALL 800-520-8292\***




PO Box 1683  
 Los Altos, Ca 94023  
 FAX: 650-949-9685  
 \*Canada Call 650-949-9680



## TECH. TIPS & TRICKS

### MG T-Series Bonnet Hinge Pin Removal

Hold on to your hat, because I'm going to tell you about the easiest way you've ever seen to remove the hinge pins from your T-Series bonnet, without marking it up or otherwise making it impossible to reinstall.

Soak the hinge pins overnight with a penetrating lubricant. Using a suitably sized punch or drift, knock the pin out either end about two inches. Chuck the end of the pin in a hand held drill (unplugged) and tighten. You can then use the drill's grip to slowly tighten, then slowly rotate the pin, as you withdraw it from the bonnet. The same procedure can be used for replacement.

### Blown Head Gaskets

Head gaskets blowing on MGBs are well-known to many owners with the familiar bubbles showing between the second and third spark plugs. On my own car, every 12,000 miles, I was forced to replace the head gasket,

surface the head and check the block deck for distortion, especially near the head bolts. Finally, in desperation I replaced the head bolts (Moss #328-950 & #328-940) and the nuts (#310-280), and knock on English burl walnut—I've had no further problems after 50,000 miles!

Reprinted by permission Moss Motors, Ltd. Website

## Indy Events

By Skip Peterson

Saturday, July 21

London to Brighton Run, sponsored by Indiana British Car Union.

Indy British Motor Days- Sept. 21-23  
 Indianapolis Raceway Park

For further information, contact Don Haynam 317-887-3867 or [mgdr@quiknet.net](mailto:mgdr@quiknet.net)

The Easley Vintage Grand Prix, Indianapolis Raceway Park, Oct. 6-7  
 Car Clubs will be offered discount tickets, club parking corral, club tent areas, laps around the track etc.  
 For more information, contact Brett Johnson, [356drb@indy](mailto:356drb@indy).

## 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: MGDRIIVER@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 \*

**"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!!

**MGB Parts For Sale** I've 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.

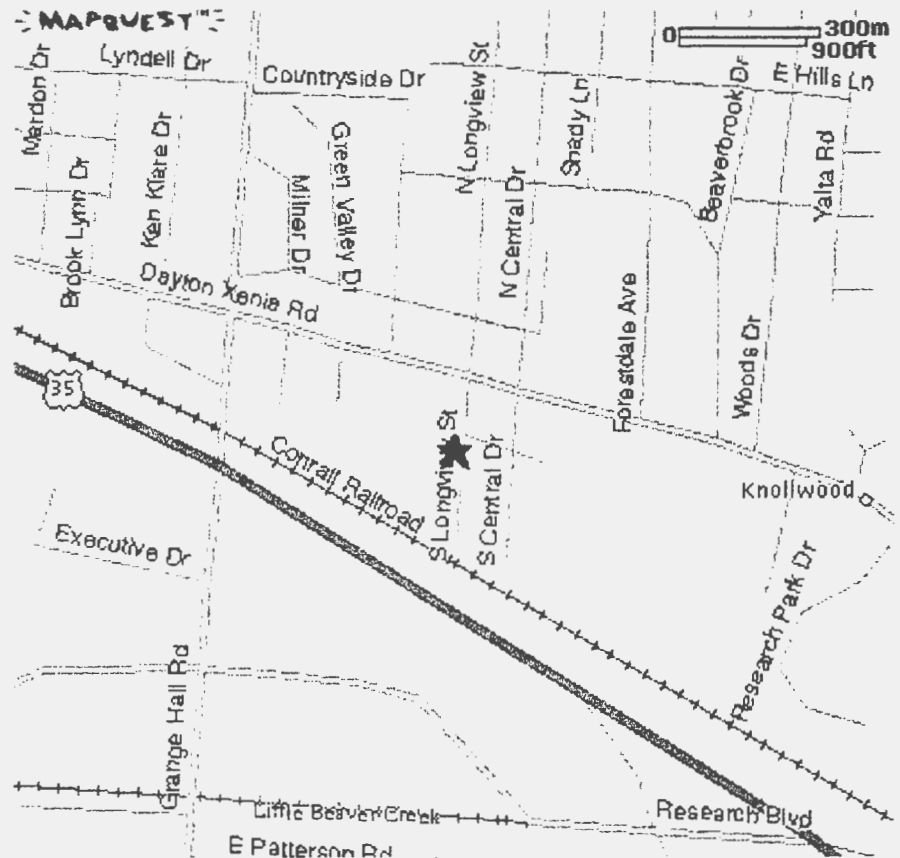
It is a 1958 MGA 1500, red with a black interior. The paint is good with a few scuffs. The engine runs great. New minilite wheels Interior is very good (little use since installed). The only gauges that work are the tach, oil pres, and water. Never saw the need for the rest anyway. It has a perfect wood 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 =;^)). 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

★ 1511 S. Longview Street, Beaver Creek, OH 45432-2912



## Mystery Car

By Phil Johnson

The "mystery car" was seen at The Tallahassee Antique Car Museum by yours truly during a recent stay in that city (the capitol of Florida; where all of the old ballots from the last election are stored).

According to the information supplied by the museum, this car was specially built at the Ford plant in England at the request of Henry Ford as a present for his grandson on his 15th birthday in 1939. The name plate on the radiator identifies it as a FORD - but a look into the interior reveals its real origin as a somewhat modified MG TA or TB. The dash appears to be identical to an MG TC but with left hand controls since it was intended for the American roads. Other modifications include a slightly different radiator grill, along with different front and rear fenders and bumpers. I didn't have an opportunity to check under the bonnet - but suspect it was equipped with the standard XPAG engine.

Too bad old Henry didn't follow up with this car for the domestic market. Who knows; it could have been the original "Pony Car" 25 years sooner!

Phil



Tom Davis' and Ron Parks' cars came out to play one Saturday.



# Schedule of Events

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday, July 2</b>		Walleye Raffle 1:00-5:00 Exhibitor and Vendor set-up	<b>Register activities at host hotels</b>
	Registration	Registration	Registration
<b>Tuesday, July 3</b>		Welcome Ceremony	Minnesota Night "Ya Betcha" and MG2001 Talent Show 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
	Self-guided Tours		
	MG University - Tech Sessions		
	Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble		
	Registration	Registration	"British Invasion" 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, July 4</b>		MG2001 Car Display and Voting 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Valve Cover Races - Noon	Fireworks Display
	Self-guided Tours		
	MG University - Tech Sessions		
	Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble		
		<b>Awards and Display of Show Winners 10:00 am - Noon</b> <b>Best of Show Voting 1:00 pm</b>	Fan Auction and Raffle 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
<b>Thursday, July 5</b>		<b>MG Race Cars Hall of Champions 10:30 am - 2:30 pm</b> <b>Individual Register activities</b>	
	Self-guided Tours		
	MG University - Tech Sessions		
	Vendor Exhibits and Auto Jumble		
	MG in the Race Track Noon - 1:30 pm		Closing Awards banquet 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
<b>Friday, July 6</b>		Self-guided Tour 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 A Village.

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