

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No.1

October 2002

NEW OFFICERS VALLEY VINEYARDS DINNER

From the President

Ron Parks

And so begins another year of fun club events beginning with the fall tour on October 13th, which is actually now history as you are reading this. My hope is that we participated in this tour and it came off without mishap. I'm working hard to get our MG completed as much as possible for the tour. The next event, besides our October meeting is the fish fry at the K of C hall on Friday November 1st. The MG Car Club volunteers to work at these fish fries, dealing cards, serving food, selling raffle tickets, etc. Besides being a fun event, this is our clubs way of paying for our use of the K of C's Bainbridge Hall for our monthly meetings. If you haven't worked one of these fish fries, you're missing a good time, as well as a good fish dinner, free! There is also a caravan to dinner at Valley Vineyards scheduled for November 16th and the Christmas party in December.

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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:

Wed Oct 23, 2002

MG Car Club Officers

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

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Upcoming Events

OCT:

13 - Fall Drive/Poker Run
23 - Meeting (K of C hall)

NOV:

1 - Fish Fry (6:30 K of C hall)
? - Meeting (K of C hall)

JAN:

31 Fish Fry

MAR

28 Fish Fry

Congratulations to New Officers

The following new officers were elected at the September 2002 meeting: Ron Parks, President, Linda Wolfe, Vice President, Sam Hodges, Secretary, Dave Estell, Treasurer, Skip Peterson, Member at Large, and Carole Looft, Membership Chairperson. Terry Looft moves into the long-awaited position of President Emeritus, and Joe Hooker volunteered to be the newsletter co-editor. Thanks to all of our past officers for jobs well done, and congratulations and best of luck to the new (remember...good luck comes with hard work!).

From the President (con't)

I hope to meet many more of you this year. We did not participate in as many club events this year as this was a year of restoration for our MG. Many of you have, I'm sure, participated in Pub Runs and tours where I may have missed an opportunity to meet you. It was noted at last month's meeting that our club had 99 members at the end of the club year 2002. That's great! However, there certainly weren't 99 folks in the room at the time. It's true that not everyone attends meetings. Some join for other reasons such as this monthly newsletter, touring, camaraderie and technical help and expertise (of which there is a lot in this club and willingly shared). The main reason to be a member of this club, as I see it, is to have fun with our cars and other people who love our cars. You're a great bunch of people! I heard this over and over as I talked with people in producing articles for the Octagon News during the years when I was editor, and I agree. It's my honor and privilege to serve as your President for the coming year.

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Valley Vineyards Dinner

We've made reservations for dinner at Valley Vineyards on November 16th at 6:16 p.m. We'll caravan down (meet at K-Mart on Indian Ripple Road by 675 at 5:15 p.m.) or meet us there. The address is 2276 East U.S. 22-3, Morrow, OH 45152 (513) 899-2485.

You will get salad, bread, vegetable, your own steak to grill, baked potato, dessert and wine. Each couple gets a bottle and if you are by yourself you will get two glasses. The cost is \$22.50 per person or \$45.00 per couple.

Come join us for a great time!

More New Members

Welcome our latest new members. They are Richard and Carol Cutright - 1242 Cheatham Way - Bellbrook, OH 45305 -848-4145. They have a 1970 MGB.

Who Were Those Cooks at BCD?

By Carole Looft

This month I'm going to tell you a little bit about two members who are relatively new to the club but who have been pretty visible the last couple of months. Dave and Carol Estell joined the club during the summer and immediately volunteered to help at BCD. Knowing that we would be needing help with the cooking, they both took on that task which turned out to be a long day over those hot coals. You had to wonder if we'd ever see them again after

going through an ordeal like that!!! But, they did come back.

Dave and Carol make their home in Mason, where Dave works for WorldCom Telecommunications and Carol is a beautician and skin care specialist. They have owned their '78 MGB for about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. The story goes that Carol found it in the newspaper and it was for Dave's 50th birthday. (Now we know how old Dave is!) Dave admits to owning a TR6 in high school and while in the Navy drove a '62 B around the Panama Canal Zone area. Their '78 is a good-looking British racing green that seems to be in tip-top shape. It has hiccupped a couple of times for Dave at local club functions. That, in itself, is a running joke.

In their spare time, both enjoy sailing and scuba diving and I know Carol has a knack for landscaping and anything that can be planted in the ground. Dave's keeping his eyes open for an older MG, maybe something in the '49 or so era. Something that he could restore.

Dave and Carol bring an enthusiasm with them to the club that is good to see. We welcome them and hope we measure up to their expectations.



Welcome to new members Carol and Dave Estell

Ron's MGB Restoration Update

By Ron Parks

It's come home! I drove my MG home from the body shop last Tuesday after a stop by MG Automotive for Steve Miller to adjust the carbs, help me get the brake lights working and discover which wire to the fuel gauge was not hot. Had to solder a wire direct to get it to work. My main concern was the temperature gauge, which gets its power from the fuel gauge. Neither was working. Please don't get the mistaken impression the dash board is in just because I have gauges working. (Duct Tape) I stopped to get gas on the way to MG Automotive and it's a good thing I did. It took 10 Gallons. I knew there was almost a full tank of gas in the car when I took it to the body shop last March. I guess between evaporation through the rag we had stuffed in the gas tank hole while painting was going on and running the engine and driving it up and down the alley, more fuel was consumed than I thought. Anyway, I made it home sitting on my newly upholstered driver side seat rather than the one I had borrowed from Skip Peterson, for use in the event the car was ready for the trip home before my driver side seat reupholstering was completed.

Since the car has been home, where I can work on it anytime without driving anywhere, I've made a lot of progress. I'm concentrating on essentials for the Fall Tour on October 13th. The passenger seat is now done. This is an essential item for the tour, from my wife Linda's point of view. All the hardware for the top is on the car. Skip Peterson, having recently replaced his top, has graciously consented to help me put mine on next Saturday. Yes, that's right, one day before the Fall Tour. You don't want to rush these things, you know. Some of the carpet pieces and panels in the back had to be installed before the brackets that hold the top frame could be mounted, which is why carpeting and interior

panels are a priority for the tour. Top and seats are a must for the fall tour, while a dash board is not, although I hope to have it installed by then. Well I guess it remains to be seen whether a top is actually necessary for the Fall Tour or not? The windshield wipers are reinstalled and working. Tip: reinstall the windshield wipers before reinstalling the defroster hoses and nozzles as well as the air vent hoses, unless you just enjoy taking things apart and reassembling them? The mirrors are mounted and turn signals & brake lights are working. I've cleaned up the horns and painted one. They will be in the car and functioning, if I can find the missing bracket for the one on the passenger side. I hope get the headlights working and adjusted soon, so I can install the chrome rims.

That's the state of my restoration at this point. It's been a year since I started. I began dismantling the car the week following the Fall Tour last October. Frankly, the car would not be done, had my employment situation not changed, a mixed blessing for sure. I'm told a restoration of this magnitude normally takes about two years. Next month will be the last restoration update article you'll be subjected. Hurray! You say? I will include a picture of my restored 1974 MGB as well as a compiled list of lessons learned. I will also reprint an article by Richard Prince, titled, "Ten Common Mistakes Restorers Make (and how to avoid them)." Scott Powell of S&S Loy's Autobody gives a copy of this article to all his restoration customers. It pretty much hits the nail on the head. I made some of these mistakes and did well with others.



Overheard From the MG Bulletin Board...

Compiled by Steve Markman

Question:
Is it better to replace the choke cable at \$30 rather than go to the trouble of repairing? Surely the reason we have a T series and not a MX5 is so we can tinker and repair - just as owners would have done in the 50s.

Replies:
Some of it is a matter of personal preference. It may be a hassle to repair a choke cable, but if you enjoy the work, then why not. Plus, the appearance and quality of many replacement parts is not up to snuff. I haven't looked for this particular part, but it may not be correct for the car. Possibly the handle on the replacement part does not look correct, so if you really really want your car to look original, you'll go to the extra trouble to mount the original handle on a new cable. I haven't got this kind of time to devote to my own car, but I really appreciate this kind of effort when I see it on a car at a show. When I replace a part, I try to save the worn-out bits if they're original, in case I want to go back, but mostly to provide some info on the car's original equipment.

I agree that keeping things original when possible is the best route (repair rather than replace). However, there are times when it is not practical to try and repair an item (time to repair, or the repair being unsafe or prone to another failure), or a good replacement is available (looks original and is more reliable). I replaced my choke cable a few years ago. The previous owner had replaced the choke cable at some point it was pretty obviously a replacement (larger diameter, different profile, etc.). The replacement (from Moss) was the same size and profile as the original starter pull (at least I assume that it is original, could have been replaced at any time over the last 51 years), giving me a more

"original" look.. I, by no means, advocate the out-right replacement with new parts for everything on the car. In most cases, if a repair of the existing original part works, than by all means, go for it.

Question:
My TF has a tan canvas hood. It has some brownish stains that appear to have resulted from contact with metal or something in the boot, and some whitish stains possibly from water. Otherwise, the fabric is relatively clean and in good shape. I would appreciate some tips on cleaning (I think the manual says to use plain water - I haven't done anything yet). Also, the plastic window is dirty and fogged, same with some of the side curtains. I haven't tried to clean/polish them, yet, either. Any Tips? Thanks.

Replies:
I've had the same problem, I used a foaming carpet cleaner which worked fairly well. For the plastic windows, the Novus plastic polish sold by Moss can't be beat. They have a plastic cleaner & shine or for tops in worse shape, a fine scratch & heavy scratch remover.

I have the tan Stayfast top on my TF. I use a little Woolite Cleaner in cool water for the top. I use Novus plastic cleaner and polish for the top's rear window and the side curtains.

Count the Octagons

Steve Markman

How many octagons are on your MG and where are they? Only original octagons count, not aftermarket octagons. E-mail your answers to me at stmarkman@aol.com, and I'll print the responses next month. Don't forget to look in the interior, in the engine compartment, maybe even under your car. I don't even know how many octagons are on my TD, let alone any other model, so your responses are as good as mine!

Classifieds

Looking to buy an MGB. Please contact Ray Flanagan, Cleveland Ohio, Tel.440-236-3985

'79 MGB for sale from second owner of the car, which is all original. 21775 original miles, pageant blue and in excellent condition. There is a small dent on one fender. Ron Hilen of Hilen Classic Cars appraised the car at \$8500, which is the asking price. Located in Troy. Susan Fogt, 937-339-3232.

1977 MGB. It is in very good condition. Also some spare parts. Steve at MG Automotive is familiar with the car. Contact Tom Williamson, twilliam@enr.udayton.edu.

Orange 1971 MGB for sale, 58,000 miles and runs and drives pretty well but needs a little work. There is some minor nose/hood damage and 3rd gear synchros might be starting to go. Asking \$3400. Numerous other vehicles for sale, including a 1967 Sunbeam Tiger, asking \$8000, a 1940 Cadillac Series 40, restored, \$18,000, a 1968 Cadillac, fresh paint, \$3,000, and a

partially restored 1936 Chevy tow truck, engine and transmission appear done, with numerous other parts ready to go in, \$2,000. Terry at 937-426-5600.

White 1962 MGA Mark II for sale. New mechanicals, hydraulics, tires, interior, and chrome wires. Dry storage in Cincinnati. Call 937-339-7236, or dav_men@msn.com.

77 MGB, restored in 1995. Original owner. New metal/paint, interior, top, radiator, hoses and belts. Call Tom Padkea, 937-335-3137

57 MGA Coupe, original, garaged, not driven since 1968, 42,000 original miles. Call Chris Kossoudji, 937-890-2958

MG Car Club September Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 PM by President Terry Looft.

Reports:

Terry advised the incoming officers that NAMGBR registration is due including new officer info. NAMGBR provides additional insurance coverage for our club events.

Indy BCD was held on the Circle in downtown Indy. About 300 MGs were in attendance.

Clancy's hosted 14 members for the monthly pub run.

Skip reported on the Concours. MG members were thanked for their excellent efforts as class marshals. The gate was 3050, up from last year. 120 automobiles were exhibited. The Concours will move next year to the second Sunday in September, the 14th in 2003. Our club is being asked to add show field setup next year.

The minutes for the August 2002 meeting were approved as published.

The Treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

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The Octagon News (October 2002)

Membership reported membership as 99 for the past year. Renewals stood at 37 at the time of this meeting.

The Sunshine Committee reported that Tim Oriko is recovering from foot surgery and Jasper Cimino is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery. No newsletter report. And sadly many members had not received their newsletter by the meeting.

Activities: Be sure to check the calendar in THE OCTAGON NEWS for the latest information. The beer break was called at 8:26 PM. The meeting reconvened at 8:44 PM.

Old Business:

Regalia:

Window decals are available from Linda Wolfe. Order name tags from Terry Looft. A form is in the newsletter.

Antenna flags are available for \$5.00 each..

The date for the fall tour through southern Ohio and into Kentucky is October 13. Ryan Looft is route master and Jennifer Peterson has organized a poker run. Meet at Kmart on Indian Ripple at 8:00 AM. A ferry ride across the Ohio River and a lunch stop in Kentucky are planned. The length is 150 – 200 miles, a full MG day.

K of C activities: The first fish fry of the season is November 1. This is fun work and it supports our free use of the K of C hall for our monthly meetings. Mark your calendars for future fish frys on January 31 and March 28 in 2003. Members who brought their cars to the Jimmy Buffett Party were thanked by the K of C.

New business:

The next pub run is to Valley Vineyards. Several dates in October were proposed. Linda Wolfe will confirm the date and e-mail club members. Phil Johnson proposed a November pub run to a new sports bar in Miamisburg.

Tech tips: Ron Parks advised that a length of small rope can be used to properly seat the lip of the windscreen seal on the MGB Roadster. Bill

Hammond advised that pieces of string under rubber seals and grommets eliminate unsightly overspray when repainting.

For Sale: The Zeno beer trailer. Maybe.

The Christmas Party will be at the Looft's on December 7, 2002. Details to follow. Start hunting that special gag gift to amaze and amuse the membership.

Nominations and Elections:

The slate:

President – Ron Parks

Vice-president – Linda Wolfe and Joe Hooker (he declined)

Secretary – Sam Hodges

Treasurer – Dave Estell and Betty Shaneyfelt

Member at large – Skip Peterson

Our new officers

President – Ron Parks

Vice-president – Linda Wolfe

Secretary – Sam Hodges

Treasurer – Dave Estell

Member at large – Skip Peterson

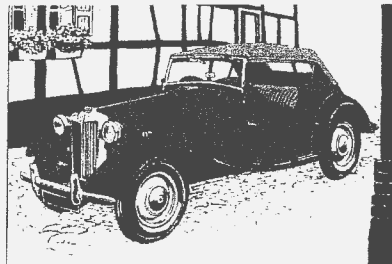
The Gumball Rallye: Jeannie Youngblood won the 2003 membership and \$15.00 cash..

The next meeting will be 8:00 PM, Wednesday, October 23, 2002. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held September 25, 2002

Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club
Knights of Columbus Dayton Council 500
Bainbridge Hall

Respectfully submitted by Matt Schneider,
Secretary, on this date October 9, 2002.



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