

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No. 4

February 2008

New Bold Cover!

Pictures From January Pub Run



## From the President

Dave McCann

We're not going to talk about weather this month. Nothing good to say. We'll just have to look forward to the future. I saw a billboard the other day that said 45 days till Spring. By the time you read this, we should be close to 30 days. So let's talk about up coming events, and there are plenty. Our first get-together is Feb 24, to work on the trailer. This is a hands on tech session on body work, a learn-as-we-go experience with no obvious experts leading the way. None of us so far have admitted to knowing much about body work, but the trailer needs help. Details will follow. On March 15. we are invited to the Gribler's for the annual St. Patrick's party. Details will follow. Our Spring shows start in early May with Cleveland on 5/04, followed by Columbus on 5/18. Then our local Second St Market event is 5/24. British Car Week is 5/31-6/08. Remember drive your car to



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 *Carole Looft* 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, February 27, 2008

### MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### **Feb:**

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

### **Mar:**

15 - Gribblers dinner Party

26 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

### **May:**

24 – British Car Show at Second St Market

work that week. June starts early with the Ft. Meigs show on 6/01. The National shows are in Pennsylvania starting with NAMBGR at Valley Forge on 6/25 and NAMGAR at Seven Springs on 7/14. By the way the Triumph get-together is in Huron OH on 6/11 (just in case a few turncoats want to know). There is a GOF regional in Auburn, IN on 7/10. It is billed as GOF Central MK XXX. And on that same weekend is the Cincinnati show 7/13. Our own Dayton show is August 2. Later, I'll cover fall events. Looks like a full season ahead. I hope everyone can make a few of these and help out at ours.

Octagonally,  
Dave

## Member Featured Car of the Month

### Keith & Bonnie Hankey's 1973 MG Midget

Keith Hankey as interviewed by Ron Parks

I purchased my 1973 MG Midget on Ebay in the spring of 2006. Since it was located just down the road in Cincinnati, I went to look at the car before purchasing it. I didn't really know much about it except that I knew I liked the chrome bumper models better than the rubber bumpered ones. As it turned out, I paid top dollar for what it was actually worth.

It looked good. The body was in good shape and the engine was good as was the transmission, but I have encountered lots of other problems. I have replaced the brakes, springs front and rear, seat cushions and covers, kingpins in the front end, radiator (the whole cooling system actually). Basically, when something goes bad on it, I replace the whole system. I have a pile of receipts for parts and repair. I don't really trust it for long trips. The longest one we've taken in it was last July when we attended Cincinnati British Car Day and the hood latch kept coming loose on that trip. It seems like every time we take it out something else goes



Keith Hankey and his 1973 MG Midget

wrong. For example, I heard a whining noise that lead me to believe the transmission was going bad. However, after noticing that the noise changed as I turned the steering wheel, I determined that the problem was actually a wheel bearing going bad. So, I replaced the driver side wheel bearing and when you do that, you replace the other one too. Well, then I heard a grinding noise which lead me to replace the kingpin. And, it goes on and on! The car has a single Weber carburetor that needs adjusting. I do most of my own work, but I'm going to get professional help for this task.

When I get into a hobby, I jump in with both feet, so I bought a spare engine, just to tear it apart and become familiar with it, although, I haven't taken the time to do that yet. This winter I'm swapping the rear springs in an attempt to level up the car and I'm installing a sway bar in front in preparation for auto crossing in 2008. I had hoped to auto cross in 2007, but it just didn't work out.

The car started its life as a British Racing Green Midget and was repainted red prior to my purchasing it. We're having fun with our little red Midget and hope to be confident enough to drive the Ohio Tail of the Dragon in Southeastern Ohio and participate in MG Car Club tours and rallies in the future.

## Dick Goodman's New Computer

**Y**ou *can* teach an old dog a new trick! Long-time MG Club member Dick Goodman got a computer. See picture for proof. No, this is not one of your editor's fake pictures. Dick himself sent it in. Dick advised that so far he is doing e-mail. We'll have to teach him how to get on the club's web site, Moss Motors and Abbington Spares, the MG bulletin board, and maybe even e-bay. Congratulations, Dick, and don't let that machine get the best of you (don't forget who controls the power button!).



Dick Goodman hard at work learning to use his new computer.

## Name the Car

I have absolutely no idea what this is, so your guess is as good as mine. Probably even better. I'll run a bigger picture when space permits.





## Pictures From the January Pub Run



I don't have any good captions, so I'll leave it to your imagination to come up with your own!



...

## Upcoming Out of Town MG Events

**April 11-12-13, 2008** - Silver Springs, Florida -GOF XLII 2008 presented by the Suncoast Classic MG Club. Come and have "Fun in the Sun" at the original Florida tourist attraction - Silver Springs - home of the glass bottom boats and where "Sea Hunt" and "Tarzan" movies were filmed. More information is available at <http://www.britishcarclub.net> or [mgrick@mgcars.org.uk](mailto:mgrick@mgcars.org.uk).

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**April 19 and 20 2008** - Missouri Endurance Rallye (soon to be renamed the Missouri Enthusiast Rally). Illinois has passed a law that forbids driving events that tests a driver's endurance. While the MER is not a test of the driver's endurance, it is definitely one that tests the "endurance" of our classic cars and since we're really "enthusiastic" about driving our 25+ year old cars, we'll change the name to reflect that fact. As in years past, the MER is about driving our classic British vehicles with their antiquated systems (none of that electronic controlled, computer assisted mumbo-jumbo for us!) over some great roads while trying to test your navigation skills using only paper maps (no laptops or GPS for us either!). Any British vehicle built before 1982 (with no modern engine swaps or modern engine systems) is welcome. This is all Old School at its best!

There will be a full-version and a mini-version of the rally. You'll be given a list of locations that you must go to (you pick the order and the route to take to all the stops). The team who can successfully navigate the stops while covering the least number of miles – wins. This is not a timed or speed event. All competitors must seal their license in an envelope and if opened or if a ticket is given; the team is disqualified for unsafe driving. Teams must obey all traffic laws and drive in a safe, prudent manner.

If you are interested in participating but do not have a navigator (or a driver/car for that matter), let me know and I will spread the word to see if anyone else is looking for a partner.

For info go to [www.stlouismgclub.com](http://www.stlouismgclub.com).

**May 18, 2008** - Sunday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM

British Car Day - Columbus, Ohio

Location: QUAKER STEAK & LUBE - Columbus, Ohio I-71 & Polaris Parkway - Lyra Drive - behind Shell, Tim Horton's & Arbys \*\*\*\*\* NEW LOCATION \*\*\*\*\*

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Website: <http://www.buckeyetriumphs.org/BCD/bcdindex.htm>

Email contact Info: Tony Burgess - [MinorNews@aol.com](mailto:MinorNews@aol.com)

Snail mail and phone contact info: British Car Day Columbus, 318 Hampton Park, Westerville, OH 43081-5723.

Phone: day 740.363.2203, evening 614.846.2321, evening or fax 614.899.2493

**Sunday, June 1, 2008 Perrysburg, Ohio** Come join the Lake Erie British Car Club for our 10th annual "The British Return to Fort Meigs" British Car and Bike show, located at the Fort Meigs Historical Site, Route 65, Perrysburg, Ohio. While you show your car, you can take a tour of a restored fort from the War of 1812, try a challenging British car quiz, shop at one of our vendors, or sample some tasty delights from one of our food vendors. Voting will be by popular vote. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Ohio Historical Society. Contact: Tony Shoviak. Phone: 419-878-2041. Email: [TennTony@worldnet.att.net](mailto:TennTony@worldnet.att.net). Website: <http://lakeeriebritishnews.home.att.net>.

**June 25<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>** MG 2008, Valley Forge, PA

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 79 MGB for parts (questionable title). Bought off ebay but then had title signed too many times. Bad title. Ran when parked. California car. Great donor. More pics to SERIOUS buyer. \$1600 delivered to NE Ohio or Chicago area. I never tried to run it. Have keys. Needs top. Nice example to restore or reshell your rusty car. Complete. [billmg@yahoo.com](mailto:billmg@yahoo.com). The price is firm. \$500 deposit and \$1000 CASH upon delivery.

**For Sale:** Early MGB parts. \$50. takes all of it! 1 Early B starter (62-67), condition unknown, but includes rare and often missing shaft cap (worth \$85. to Moss as a core). 2 early B half-shafts and wire wheel hubs (fine thread) 1 inner sill repair panel. 1 beat-up front bumper. 1 Super Sport bias ply tire in good condition (would look great as the spare in your restored early B boot). Kent Miller 937.299.3837.

**For Sale:** 1976 MG Midget convertible with hardtop attachment, 30,000 miles, has always been in garage, no rust, needs some interior repair. Exterior condition excellent. Will negotiate price. Located in Canal Winchester, OH. Ellen Taylor, 1-614-882-4188.

**For Sale:** 67 MG Midget. 62,000 original miles. 2<sup>nd</sup> owner. Recent frame-up restoration. New: undercoating and hardened sealer, chrome everywhere, brake cylinders, rotors, pads, battery, solenoid, etc, etc. \$17,000 or best offer, Kirk Kubik, 562-209-1234.

**For Sale:** MGB parts ; many new and used hoses, swithes,gaskets, parts, 2 rosestyle wheels, 2 wire wheels, short block, 2 heads (both need cracked valve seats repaired, aking \$400 obo, also an engine stand asking \$25 obo contact Bob Fletcher cell (500)500-4511 or home (500)225-9306 location Lagrange KY (20 mi E of Louisville).

**For Sale:** 1959 MGA 1600. Not running but not in terrible shape. It's been garaged since it was last driven in the late 70s; a perfect vehicle for a restoration. Asking \$2000. (937)416-7167.

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# MG Car Club Minutes, January 23, 2008

Sam Hodges

Meeting called to order at 8:00 (...*actually it was 8:01, but I'm willing to give it to him...*).

President McCann, "Welcome. I think we had a good turn out at the pub run to the Pub..."

Carole Looft, "We had 36 members show up and 2 guests also attended."

**Pres. McCann's Report:** "We got a call that said that the Pub wanted to close for a private party for the employees. The manager called back and let us have our party in conjunction with theirs and it turned out to be a nice quiet event. There were two e-mails sent out, one that said we were cancelled, and then another that said weren't. (*If you didn't get one, the other or either, then it's because we don't like you!*) [The views expressed in the previous sentence are STRICTLY those of our deranged Secretary and do not reflect the view of the MGCCSOC.]

Louie D., "I didn't get an e-mail..." Pres. Dave, "We need to do something about that e-mail." (*For the unenlightened, when Louie sends e-mail, it involves a little white van with red and blue stripes that stops at the box at the end of his driveway and picks it up for him...*)

Pres. Dave, "I got a couple of badges here, one that says President and one that says Past President for Ron. First Son David stated that he should be careful. He doesn't know enough about MG's to actually wear them out in public."

**Vice President's Report:** "We're getting close to the beer trailer party. Within the next 2 weeks, the building should be fully insulated and we'll be able to work comfortably." February 24<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday that Terry will be in town and the shop should be put back together enough by then. There aren't any bathroom facilities except the trees out back. Eddie Hill, "You should see the art work out back... lots of yellow snow." We're just going to jump into the project and see what's there. Terry, "I've got the tools needed to destroy it sufficiently so that should be covered. Most of the time's just going to be taking it apart to see what's there." Pres. Dave, "A torch will heat Bondo to the point that it'll come right out." Hammond, "With enough Bondo, we can make it look like a triumph." The club then decided that by 9:30 there should be coffee and doughnuts and (*if we're lucky*) by 1:30 there will be beer. Louie, "Can I bring Ethyl..." Terry, "Can we all do Ethyl?" Louie, "Watch your mouth..." (*After that exchange, I've got nothing...*)

**Minutes** were next. Skip motioned to accept the Minutes. Pat Wasserman seconded. Eddie 'Zeno' is back and a most decided "maybe" was registered. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report was next. Last month Pres. McCann forgot about the Treasurer's report until he was reminded by Treasurer Kathy Goodman. Pres. McCann, "I make one mistake and no I'm still reading about it in the minutes." Skip, "And you're different how?" Ron, "Yeah, what makes you think you're special?" **Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Goodman reported that we had Total Income of: Membership Dues (\$345.00) + Regalia (\$66.00) = **A Total Income of \$411.00.** Total Expenses: Donation to the Salvation Army (\$50.00) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Octagon News (136.57) = **A Total Expense of \$236.57. Total Gain to the MGCC was \$174.43,** that when added to our existing Treasury balance of \$2340.23 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,514.66.** Louie Dipasquale motioned to accept. Bob Charles seconded. Eddie Hill upheld his duties as official Nay-saying nay-bob. Treasurer's report accepted and approved.



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**Membership** with Carole Looft was next (*Isn't that a local access cable TV show?*) Carole, "We're up to 86 members." Terry, "Now that they've heard that Ron's not Pres. anymore they're coming back." Ron, "My relatives aren't re-upping..."

**Sunshine Committee** was next. Joe Hooker was at the pub run Sunday so he wasn't doing all

that bad... According to Charley McCamey, Jasper Cemino (83) has a tumor on his stomach and they think that this might be why he's been losing blood. He's been in the hospital three times in the past six months but he's at home as of the meeting. He was scheduled to have it removed sometime in the very near future. Both Bob Knupp and Linda Wolfe are having knee surgery soon and Walter Reid Army Medical Center has released a report stating that President Dave McCann is about to have his shoulder operated on. Terry L., "If I had knee surgery, I'd want a Hov-a-round." Ryan, "Does that come with a big-block?"

**Newsletter** was next. Everyone got a hard copy because Ron forgot to get the list of paper copy deletions to Steve and Joe in time. Someone asks if there's a deadline for removing the "for sales" from the newsletter?" Steve reports that he removes the old ones as the new ones come in, limiting to no more than one page of adds, but will start taking them off after six months.

Terry Looft reported that he's had a bit of spam (*not the canned-meat Louie, it's internet tech-talk*) come into the MGCCSOC e-mail addresses. There shouldn't be any bleed through to the personal accounts of the officers, but still, be alert to any new spam coming into your e-mail accounts.

**Webmaster Ron**, "I've got more MG backgrounds to try out. (*Personally, I like the one that's on the site right now the best of all so far.*) Dars' car is going to be the next member car and that's a feature that's supposed to be growing. Eventually, we will have old newsletters as well as for sale on the website.

Skip, "How many people will still get the paper copy?" Ron, "58 are still getting paper. Basically cut it in half." Ron will put the newsletters on the website a couple months behind their being sent out to the members.

**Activities** with Eddie were next. Eddie, "I got nuthin! Nada..."  
The Gribblers' Spring Party is coming up March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars.



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Dar is planning on driving to GT 33 in Seven Springs so if anyone wants to go, let him know. GT-33, also known as NAMGAR's Annual 'Get Together' will be July 14-18, 2008.

MG 2008 is scheduled for Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> in Valley Forge, PA. Early reports are that the Hotels are a bit unreasonable so plan your stay carefully.

May 24<sup>th</sup> is the Second Street Market show. Hammond, "That's the Queen's birthday." (*Thank you Bill.*)

**Museum** business was next. Dick Smith reported that the MGB raffle is going well. Hemmings Motor News is supporting them now and the museum is going to make a little money off of the raffle, all of which will go into the building fund. Recently they went to Akron and got another Rover. They're going to either fix it and sell it or just sell it outright in support of the building fund. They also got a Humber Super Snipe from Cincinnati. It's nicer than the Humber they have so guess which one will be sold... The museum's trip to the Detroit auto show was a nice outing and a good time was had by all who attended.

Ron Parks calls for **Beer Break** at 8:32

Back from Beer Break at 8:48 (*What does it say about us that we've elevated the Beer Break to a formal occasion?*)

**Round 2:** Sunshine Committee part 2: Barb Smith had surgery to remove a bunion from her foot and she ended up having a toe shortened.

**Old Business:** We interrupt tonight's regularly scheduled meeting to bring you this Special Presentation...

Ron officially passes the Presidential Painting to new Pres. Dave McCann. Dave, "wouldn't it look good hanging right behind me? But I'm not taking the Pope down..." Louie, "The only thing wrong that picture is that there's no Triumph in it." (*Does Louie really wonder why we pick on him?*)

**Shirts:** Sweat and Tee. Do we want to buy any since we've had requests for sweatshirts? Do we want to put an addendum on the website that says that these items are seasonal? Skip, "We need to buy a minimum of 36 silk screens since our screener won't run a batch of less than that. It works out to be about \$4.50 per shirt. We get the shirts from TSC Apparel in Cincinnati. H&H is the company that we use for the silk screening. They'll mix and match the order, the silk screener doesn't care about the mix as long as it's a total of 36 pieces. So, we could potentially do a mix of sweatshirts and t-shirts." Skip's going to look into pricing and report back. Terry Looft motions that we definitely think about it...

Carole Looft, "That's all fine, but I've got an order for a sweatshirt and no sweatshirt to send. What are we going to do?" Pres. Dave., "We can't order just one or two and it's just a matter of time. We'll get him one as soon as possible. He could always have a sweatshirt embroidered if he wants. During an "America's Next Top Model" moment, Ron modeled his embroidered hat and sweatshirt. Jennifer P., "Now show them your underwear!" Jennifer P. motions to order a mixed order. John Wolfe seconds the motion. We decide to split an order, 36 T-shirts 12 sweat shirts mixed in grey. Something to the tune of 12 L, 12 XL, 6 Med, 6 XXL T-shirts 12 sweatshirts, 3 each in sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL. We left it up to Skip to work out the exact details.

Skip has a proposal. As we all know, the modern low zinc motor oils are not the best thing for the older flat tappet engines that require a higher amount of zinc. Skip has found a source, Motorhead Oil, which can provide us with Motorhead High Z 15W40. This is a high zinc content oil that's being made specifically for hotrods and older flat tappet engines. All that's being made right now is the 15W40 grade

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of oil. It's available in gallons and it sells for \$14.50/gallon. If you buy more than 8 gallons, then it's only \$12.50/gallon. If there's interest, Skip's proposing a group buy. Dick Smith, Bob Hanseman, John Wolfe, Keith Hankey, Reuben Wasserman, Steve Powell, Ron Parks, Graham Cooper, and Louie all expressed interest in the idea. Go to [www.motorheadoil.com](http://www.motorheadoil.com) for more information. As a word of warning, DO NOT use this oil in a car equipped with a catalytic converter - it will just cause the converter to eat itself.

Hammond proposes a potential **pub run** to Barleycorns on Wilmington Pike. Since our February schedule is already pretty full, we decide to sit on this for now.

**TUNE UP CLINIC** is coming and needs planning! (i.e. *If you bring it up at the next meeting, YOU will be planning it!*)

### **For Sale:**

Lois Gribler knows of a 74 MGB with both tops. Asking \$3,000.

There's an MGB GT in the newsletter that Bob Charles knows of for sale.

Steve Powell knows of an MGC GT restored in 1996 that's available for around \$8,000.

Eddie had a Hammond moment. During the Wisconsin tornados, Eddie noticed a rubber bumpered MGB sitting in the background during one of the weather reports.

Hammond wins Gumball Rallye.

Louie Motions to adjourn. Bonnie Hankey seconds.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

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