## THE OCTAGON NEWS



#### Volume XXXVII No. 7

May 2008

#### **Pictures from the Tune-Up Clinic**

#### **New Members**



# From the President

Dave McCann

e're home from Key West. Not exactly as planned but home I ended up driving David's '64 B home as he needed to get back to work sooner. Don't worry Dave G -your land speed record is still intact. I spent the first night in Macon GA. There was a forty degree difference from Sunday to Monday. I finally had to put the top up in KY, good thing too as it started to rain, hard! I'll have more to say about this at the meeting. But would I do it again? You bet!

A couple of weeks ago I watched a program on TV that centered on Stax Records and the Memphis sound of the 50's

& 60's. Stax is a combination of Stewart & Axton the brother-sister founders of this recording studio. (This is going to be way more information than you ever wanted to know, but bare with





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, May 28, 2008

#### **MG Car Club Officers**

Mid Cai Club Officers
PresidentDave McCann
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# Inside This Issue Upcoming Events Featured Car of the Month Sacred Octagon has been Violated! Minutes of the April Meeting

# Upcoming MGCC Events

#### May:

17 – British Car Show at Second St Market

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

31 – June 8 – Drive Your British Car Week

#### Jun:

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

#### Jul:

23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

#### Aug:

10 – Picnic at the Goodmans'

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

me, the ending is cool.). I never heard of Stax, but they had some big names at the time, like Rufus Thomas, Sam & Dave, and Isaac Hayes, but their big draw was Otis Redding (remember Dock of The Bay?). Stax's first hit on the chart was Last Night an instrumental with the Mar-Keys. A nice rift, I remember, the kind of thing I would have spent my allowance on. What makes this noteworthy is that two of the Mar-Keys were white. A bi-racial musical group was unheard of in Memphis at that time. Memphis was so segregated that when an order from the federal government came to integrate the swimming pools in town, the mayor ordered all pools closed. EXCEPT the pool at the Lorraine Motel.--a minority owned and integrated motel. This is where the black musicians stayed when they came to town. Now you all have heard of the Lorraine. You've seen pictures of it. April of 68 Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on its balcony. (Interesting sidebar. You remember back when you had to call the front desk to get an outside line? Well MLK might have received medical attention sooner, but when the clerk heard the shot, she ran

outside, saw what happened and suffered a heart attack.)

So, back to Stax, you remember these two white musicians? They teemed up with a black drummer and a black organist name Booker T. Jones. You remember Booker T. & the MG's and Green Onions. Yea these two white guys were the MG's They claim MG stands for Memphis Group! And now you know the rest of the story.

See you at the meeting.

Octagonally, Dave

## Pictures from the Tune-Up Clinic

Carole Looft





Special thanks to Steve Miller of MG Automotive for again hosting this year's Tune-Up Clinic

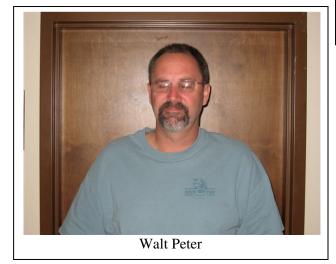
## Welcome New Members

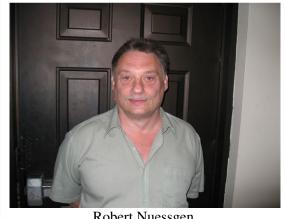
Carole Looft

At our April meeting we welcomed two new club members. Each owns an orange MG Midget.

Robert Nuessgen came across his Midget ten years ago sitting in a yard. It is a 1978 that has 53000 miles. He said he bought the car because his wife really wanted it. He will be the first to say that it is a challenge keeping the car running, but he also says he enjoys tinkering on it.

Walt and Robin Peter have a 1973 Midget. Their car sat in a field for nine years and five years ago Walt started inquiring about the car. Once yearly he would make a point to stop and check on the car. Finally, nine months ago, his persistence paid off.





Robert Nuessgen

He was told he could have the car if he would get it off the property. What a bargain! Obtaining the title after all those years took some time, but after three months, that too was achieved. The Midget is not running at this point, but hopefully it can be without too much effort. As far as other British cars, Walt plans to get a Mini Cooper in the next couple of years and have that as his daily driver.

We welcome our new members and hope their MG experience is a good one!

## Member Featured Car of the Month

## My 1979, Limited Edition MGB

Torey Looft

The door plate states that it was produced in May, '79. Those dates are very significant because I was born on May 21, 1979. I purchased my LE in July of 1997, the summer following my graduation from high school. This was, however, not my first MG. The previous year I had found a very nice Vermillion orange '79 MGB that was for sale in the local area. As many of you know, my parents are MG enthusiasts and would have disowned me if I didn't join in with the family hobby. I have always liked the look of the LE and decided to invest my savings in an MG that I could drive and enjoy.

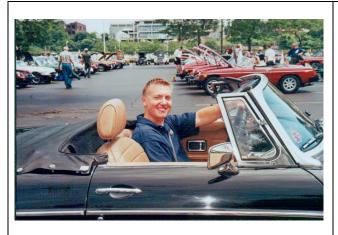
#### The Octagon News – May 2008

My LE was found through a Hemmings ad listed for sale by a fellow in Monterey, Ca. He drove the car only to the golf course (so he said) as he was an avid golfer. His name was Bob Loane, and, come to find out; he had been a professional baseball player in the late 30's and early 40's. I believe he was the second owner of the car. My Dad had a business trip out to that area of California shortly after, and he had a chance to look the car over and drive it. It met with his approval, so we proceeded with making arrangements to have the car shipped to Ohio.

I've been driving my LE for eleven years now. It has taken me to Minneapolis, St. Louis, Gatlinburg, and yearly trips to Grand Rapids. This July I drove it to California when we traveled to the NAPA Valley for the National MGB Meet. A couple of summers ago I watched as the odometer turned the 100,000 mile mark. I know my car has a lot more miles ahead, and I will continue enjoying the ride.

Here are the specifics on my 1979 MGB LE:

Serial # - GHN5UL493357G Engine # - 18V890AEL009364 Body # - GU23T 979575P





## NAMGBR Reminder

Carole Looft

Tust a reminder for anyone who will be attending the NAMGBR and AMGCR get-together in Valley Forge, Pa in June. Registration deadline was May 1, but registrations will be accepted after May 1, but, the amount for registration does increase. Registration can be handled on-line by completing the form on their website. www.mg2008.com.

The following appeared in "Log Book.", the newsletter of the MG Drivers Club. Used by permission

The long held dream of building an MG museum in Abingdon-on-Thames former the MG factory's Administration Building seems to be gone forever. The building, most recently called Larkhill House, has been converted into condominium apartments. The three floor structure has been altered to include six condos ranging in size from 840 sq. feet for US\$ 450,000 to larger units of 1033 sq. feet at US\$ 500,000. The units are all open plan with contemporary design elements and have totally 21st century kitchens and baths. Larkhill now boasts an eight person elevator something that it never had in its day as administrative center of the MG works. The exterior red brick has been covered with raw wood siding and each unit is given its own balcony. Fortunately, the distinctive bow window, facing what was the site of the A Block car assembly building, has been retained as a design element. All of the units are named after famous racing drivers Eyston, Nuvolari, etc. The Eyston unit contains the portion of the building that was once the office of MG's creator Cecil Kimber. Just to the right and behind Larkhill House have been built three two story modern style "Villas." These have been named the Enever, Kimber and Thornley in tribute to three of the giants in the MG story. They can be yours for only US\$ 490,000. The distinctive octagonal plaques placed on the building by the New England MG-T Register and the Abingdon Works Centre of the MG Car Club-UK, in the early 1990s, detailing the building's MG history were removed by the developer and are currently missing. To get a complete look at what has happened to the former MG headquarters, both inside and out, go to www.larkhill-house.co.uk

# Sacrilege, Sacrilege! The Sacred Octagon Has Been Violated

Joe Hooker

In 1998, Lucia and I visited what was left of the MG factory buildings and even walked up the end stairway of the building. We were treated to a tour of Cecil Kimber's office and conference room by Brian Maylan. I sat at the desk in front of the bow window and made a few decisions, but I guess no one listened. I also took a picture of the now-missing octagonal plaque. From the information furnished, it now sounds like the building is unrecognizable. At least they didn't tear it down!



Joe and Lucia Hooker standing on the stairway of the MG factory in 1998.



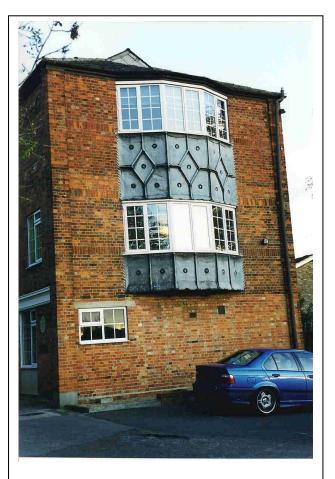
Same spot, about sixty years earlier.



The bay window as it appears today.



# Upcoming Out of Town MG Events



The bay window as Joe saw it in 1998.

**Saturday, May 24, 2008** The Central Ohio British Car Club Council invites all driving enthusiasts, regardless of vehicle make, model or type, to join us on Riverrun 2008. Riverrun is a 300+ mile, all-day driving tour using some of Ohio's most interesting and challenging roads. This year we'll go southeast through the Hocking Hills to Pomeroy. After a meal at a local diner or a picnic on the riverbank (recommended), we'll drive northeast along the Ohio River to the historic riverfront village of Little Hocking. There we'll pickup the ever popular SR 555 to Zanesville and Tom's Ice Cream Bowl. Cars leave the Bob Evans at US 33 and Gender Road, near Canal Winchester, between 8 and 9 am. We should be at the Ohio River around noon and finish by 6 pm., depending on the time spent sightseeing. There is no fixed schedule nor any assigned speeds. This is a tour rather than a rally. Call Eric Jones at (740) 363-2203 or e-mail <a href="mailto:rexkarrs@gmail.com">rexkarrs@gmail.com</a> to reserve your spot. There is a \$5.00 fee to cover expenses. Any profit will be donated to Canine Companions; in 2007, we donated \$200.

**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. Website: http://lakeeriebritishnews.home.att.net.

**June 8 –** GOF in Akron

**June 14 –** Car show at Veterans Administration Hospital

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

### Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1974 chrome bumper MGB. New black top, new exhaust, front end, brakes, and tires on new Panasports. Asking \$6500. 812-934-5463; marweber@etczone.com (5/08).

For Sale: 1951 MGTD \$11,995. Running condition. Like-new upholstery. Body and frame solid. For pictures and details call Bill Kukuk, wkukuk@cinci.rr.com, or 513 423 1778. (5/08)

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**For Sale:** 1972 MGB/GT. In need of restoration. Call Mike McCall for info. 513-320-0779. (4/08)

**For Sale:** 1974MGB. Last year for chrome bumpers. Excellent body, new tonneau cover never used, luggage rack on trunk, convertible top in good condition. Engine, brakes, transmission in excellent condition. Good rubber. Originally titled in California. Taken to Florida then brought to Dayton. Not driven in snow and ice and rarely in rain. Less than 60,000 original miles. Citron color. Asking \$6100.00

CONTACT: Bill or Jan 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT at 937-228-3433 or 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT 937-433-6174. (3/08)

**For Sale:** 1962 MGA MK II. Runs great, but body has usual rust in sills and dog legs. Has rebuilt (approx 10K miles ago) 5-main MGB engine. Front end and brake system rebuilt. 72-spoke wire wheels, including spare. Many spare parts, including inner sill kit from Todd Clarke, outer sills, carpet kit, bumpers, Moss floorboard kit, wire harness. Selling because I want to restore my MGBGT. \$7,500. Car located in Columbus, Oh. Can send further info and pictures. Joe Mercer, mggarage@columbus.rr.com. (3/08)

**For Sale:** 1980 MGB. White with black interior. 62,000 Miles. Weber down draft carburetor. Runs well, but could use new battery and turn signal switch. Hazard lights work, but not turn signals. Located in Cincinnati. Asking \$6500.00. Call Juli or Rob King (513) 598-6134. (3/08) **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. <a href="mailto:billmg@yahoo.com">billmg@yahoo.com</a>. 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, switches, gaskets, parts, 2 rosestyle wheels, 2 wire wheels, short block, 2 heads (both need cracked valve seats repaired, asking \$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.

## MG Car Club Minutes, April 23, 2008

Sam Hodges

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 just so that Terry Looft (acting for our inexplicably A.W.O.L. President Dave McCann) could say that the meeting started on time. The gavel fell again at 8:01 and then again at 8:02 before the rabble settled into their seats.

Dick Goodman, "Hold on, let me get my hearing aide together..."

Right off the bat, Terry welcomed a special guest to the meeting, Mr. Louie DiPasquale, owner of a 1961 MGA. At this point there were tons of Ethyl jokes (*I'm not going to bore you with them as you've heard most of them before*.) Okay, maybe one... Ryan Looft, "Ethyl was probably there at his bedside. That's why he didn't want any of us there." Terry L. "If he was on morphine, everyone probably looked like Ethyl."

Louie, "Thanks for the cards. It was awfully lonely in the hospital."

Next up was the most recent **Pub Run**. We had 24 members show up for the pub run to Barlycorn's on Wilmington Pike. There was good food, good beer, and good service. Special thanks to Bill Hammond for setting this pub run up.

**President's Report**: Terry got one from Dave, but it was blank...

On a special note, Kathy Goodman received an award from the Clark County Literacy Coalition for being tutor of the year for her efforts in teaching people to read.

Vice President's Report: ...uh... we just had it...

Minutes were next. Kathy Goodman motioned to accept. Dick Smith seconded. Motions accepted as published. (I have unilaterally decided that since I'm a frustrated author, I will henceforth refer to my minutes as having been "published".)

**Treasurers Report.** Treasurer Kathy Goodman reported that we had <u>Total Income</u> of: Membership Dues (\$1,560.00) [from the 86 new members] + Profit from selling black market pencil erasers (\$2,045) [thank goodness the S.A.T. is coming up] + proceeds from the sale of Louie's Triumph (\$5.05) = **A Total Income of \$3610.00.** <u>Total Expenses</u>: Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Paying Fat Tony his protection money (\$2,000.00) [if you watch *The Simpsons* you got that reference] + Paying to have Louie's car towed away (\$40.00) + Gumball (\$1500.00) [I haven't won since Urban Suburban] + Octagon News (\$2,054.00) = **A Total Expense of \$5,639.00. Total Loss to the MGCC was \$2,029.00**, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$20,506.58 equals a new <u>Treasury Balance of \$18,477.58</u>. Graham Hill motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Jim Clark seconded... If you can't tell I'm bored and making things up...

#### ...here's the Real Treasurer's Report...

**Treasurers Report**. Treasurer Kathy Goodman reported that we had <u>Total Income</u> of: Membership Dues (\$36.00) = **A Total Income of \$36.00**. <u>Total Expenses</u>: Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Post Office Box Rental (\$40.00) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Octagon News (\$77.40) = **A Total Expense of \$167.40**. **Total Loss to the MGCC was \$131.40**, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$2,006.58 equals a new <u>Treasury Balance of \$1,875.18</u>. Jennifer Peterson moves that the report be accepted as read. Graham Cooper seconds. Treasurer's Report approved.

**Membership** was next. Carole Looft reported that the club currently has 92 members as of tonight. Under the subcategory of 'New Members', Walt Peter, owner of a 1973 Midget has joined the club. Welcome!

**Sunshine committee** was next. As reported, Louie's back and... "...the sun was up all day today!" Pam Schieman fell in the basement and shattered her leg during a snow day – she's a teacher. They were hoping to get news that she could put weight back on the leg but it looks like

it's going to be a long recovery, potentially up to a year. Additionally, Jasper's back with us, "Thanks for the cards."

#### **Activities with Eddie** were next.

Tune up clinic is this weekend at MG Automotive on Wilmington Pike

- May 17<sup>th</sup> is the Second Street Market show.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the Kettering Memorial Grand Prix. There's a car show that Sunday at Lincoln Park
- June 1<sup>st</sup> is <u>The British Return to Fort Meigs</u> car show in Perrysburg, Ohio
- May 31<sup>st</sup> June 8<sup>th</sup> is Drive your British car week. Dave Gribler, "If you have a Triumph, it's 'push your British car week'."
- June 8<sup>th</sup> is a Gathering of the Faithful meet in Akron.
- June 14<sup>th</sup> is a car show at the Veterans Administration Hospital. There is officially no charge to enter, but they do ask for a donation of T-shirts or ballcaps with car logos/themes. Terry L., "Do they need stationary?"
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> is the <u>Cruise in for Diabetes</u> at the ITT Tech Institute on Stop 8 Rd.
- MidOhio Vintage car races are June 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. *HOWEVER*...
- MGs at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania is the exact same weekend as MidOhio! Plan your calendar accordingly.
- July 14<sup>th</sup> is the Seven Springs, Pennsylvania meet.
- The MGCC Summer Picnic is scheduled for Sunday Aug 10<sup>th</sup> at the Goodmans'.

For those who *REALLY* like to plan ahead, MG 2009 will be in Breckenridge CO. June 24-28<sup>th</sup>. *If* you *T-series drivers leave next Tuesday, you just might get there in time...* 

A **British Museum of Transportation** update was next on the agenda. The Second Street Market show is coming along nicely. There are three XK Jags pre-registered. **Dick Smith needs volunteers for the show**. Contact Dick if you can help. The museum's getting an Austin 20

limo. It runs and drives but needs work. Books, manuals, jacks, etc... all come with it. Terry Looft, "Put it to work, start doing weddings..." The museum has three new members as well.

## **Newsletter Editor's report**: Steve's not here now...

Carole Looft: "Beer break!" Terry Looft, "My watch slow?"

Supplies Trailer: It's in



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primer but it needs more work. Apparently paying customers take precedence over our charity case (the nerve of some people! There's beer,... er,... oops, um... supplies involved!). We don't know when it will be ready, there's an old MGA holding up the show, but rest assured that a certain Ex-President's Triumph TR is not holding up the show in the slightest. Terry L., "How's the MGA?" Dave G., "I haven't been up there in a couple of days." Skip, "If you make it an insurance job, it could be done in a couple of days." Terry L., "We could probably make it a comprehensive job."

Beer Break called at 8:21 Back from break at 8:40

**Old Business: Insurance**. Kathy Goodman talked to our insurance agent John Shirley. Apparently Metro Parks requires us to carry insurance and many years ago, we didn't have insurance at all. Now we have a liability only policy for \$1 million. Discussion about insurance and whether or not we should increase our liability coverage from \$1 million to \$2 million went on for a few minutes. A motion to pay the insurance as is and not lose sleep is made by Skip Peterson. Eddie Hill seconded. Motion voted on and approved.

**Valley Forge**. We need to put together a plan. The show's June 25-29<sup>th</sup>, the same weekend as the vintage races at Mid-Ohio. The Loofts are leaving Tuesday and are planning on taking a day and a half to get there. Lois Gribler, "It's just in the next state!?!" For the uninitiated, the Gribler's MG's are all fusion powered and capable of Warp factor 6. They left Dayton on a Friday at about 7:30 p.m. and arrived in Whistler, B.C. Monday at 2:30 a.m. after averaging 48.5 mph in their MGA – and they took flack for being slow compared to their normal driving style.

**BCD**. The MGCC website has the new BCD flyer. We've already got 6 cars pre-registered. Price has been raised to \$15. Skip's working on a deal whereby we can get a truck for (hopefully) free. This way, everyone can drive their British cars to the show and Jennifer P. will race the truck. Lois G, "Could we have some flyers to take to the MGA Meet? It's only in the next state." Eddie, "Let me get that knife for you Skip..." Terry L., "We also need flyers for Perrysburg."

The **Concours de Elegance** has signed Miami Valley AAA as the title sponsor for the next 2 years.

**Pub Run** for May – we're too busy... talk to us again in May about June...

The British Museum is sponsoring the Taj Ma Garaj Covered Bridge Tour in the western Ohio counties on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

A round of applause for Ron Parks for the **website**. Check the website for the member's cars section.

**Tech tips**: A warning about new parts from China. Make sure that you chase the threads before you start using them. Terry L., "Don't suck on them either... lead." Skip, "I ruined a bolt trying to

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put on a Moss bumper over rider. Make sure that the threads are clean before you try to use them or you could ruin some parts of your own."

**For Sale**: Bill Hammond (*Is this REALLY the first I've mentioned Hammond!?!*) has a complete clutch set (clutch, pressure plate & throwout bearing) for an MGB for sale..

It's here that Bill made the unfortunate mistake of misspeaking. He stated that he had a "pressure prate..." *You KNOW what came next...* Terry L., "Pressure prate?!?" Dave Gribler, "Maybe it's actually for a Japanese car..." *They went on, I stopped typing.* 

Dick Smith's neighbor has a 1974 MGB for sale. Terry L., "How old is the car?"

Bob Charles has a 1970 BSA Thunderbolt – 90% complete. Terry L. "You know what BSA stands for right, - BSA = Bike Stopped Again." Bob, "It doesn't leak oil because it doesn't have any oil in it yet."

Next meeting is May 28th

Gumball was won by Gary Moore.

Kathy Goodman motioned to scat. Bonnie Hankey seconded. Meeting adjourned. Eddie Hill opposed – *I guess he's still there...* 



## **MG AUTOMOTIVE**

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#### **Steve Miller**

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