

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XXXVIII No. 3

January 2009

Happy New Year!!

Pictures from the Holiday Party



From the President

Skip Peterson

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and Happy New Year to all of you.

Hats off to John and Linda Wolfe for opening their home to host our holiday gathering and to outgoing President David McCann and his wife Linda for organizing the party. What a great evening. The goodies were tasty and plentiful, and the gift exchange was as bizarre as ever. The highlight of the evening, however, likely goes to Lois Gribler. There is no need to order an MG wall clock from the fellow in Florida, as Lois

made her own, and presented each partygoer with their own clock. Mine is mounted on the wall above my desk. Lois, THANKS!

I must say that while 2008 had many highlights, for our group, the end of the year was very trying. I never dreamed that



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club
P.O. Box 20032, Dabel Branch
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

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, January 28, 2009

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Skip Peterson
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Upcoming MGCC Events

Jan:

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Feb:

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Mar:

14 – St. Patrick's Day party at the Gribblers'

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Ron Parks and I would be distributing so many e-mails with bad news. Fast Eddie Hill lost his father shortly after the November meeting. Then came the word that our good friend Jasper Cemino passed. Then Bruce Schieman lost his battle with brain cancer and finally, I got the call from Bill Hammond that we lost Hazel.

Jasper's health hadn't been great over the past few years, but nonetheless, he was always at British Car Day and frequently joined us for our monthly meetings. Never a big talker, Jasper sat at a side table with his cronies, with his cheerful smile and a twinkle in his eye. I always remembered his birthday too, the same as my mother's, Dec. 29, which we discovered when both of their names

appeared in the Dayton Daily News birthday column many years ago.

At Bruce's visitation, his white MGB was parked right in front of the funeral home. As I spoke with his wife Pam, she reminded me how much Bruce enjoyed the club and his cars and one of his favorite shirts was his club sweatshirt. Shortly before he passed, he asked her to make sure he was wearing it when he was buried and Pam told me he was.

The Hammond family held a very upbeat celebration of Hazel's life. There were many wonderful family photos scattered throughout the room, but on prominent display was one I'm sure many of us had never seen. It was a stunning photo of Hazel, perched on the fender of an MGA coupe, looking every bit like a model for a '50's ad for the car.

Then there was the story of Bill and Hazel and the struggles with the same MGA misbehaving on one of their early dates. She chose to stay with Bill and that car and they were married for 49 years.

I left Hazel's celebration not feeling sad, but feeling closer to her, and I was reminded how very lucky we all are to have each other.

Stop and smell the roses in 2009, and dear friends, Rest in Peace.

Skip

Reminder -Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time! Dues can be brought to the meeting or sent to:

P.O. Box 20032
Dabel Branch
Dayton, Oh 45420-0032

Renewals are again \$18/year. If you need to make any corrections or additions to the information we have for our club roster, drop a note along with your payment, and we will update our records.

Those who do not renew will be dropped for the roster.

Three Friends Remembered

Ron Parks

We sadly note the recent passing of three club members, three friends to all of us.

When he could attend, Jasper Cemino always enjoyed our monthly meetings, as he did just a few months ago. He didn't say a lot, but we all could tell that he enjoyed just being there, taking in the bantering back and forth. I always enjoyed talking with Jasper, who advised me on installing my convertible top, as he previously had installed his own. We haven't seen his MG out much in recent years, but in the past he had enjoyed taking his MG to British Car Day and Court House Square. He talked about seeing a funny little car and then purchasing one, his brown MG with the tan top. We will miss Jasper and his friendship. He will be fondly remembered!

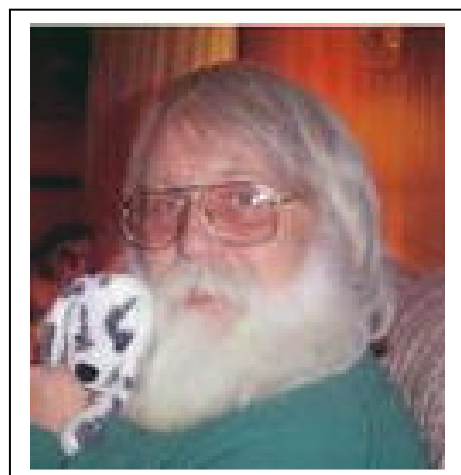


I first met Hazel Hammond in the fall of 1995 when I joined a group of MG enthuse-

asts from the Dayton area to caravan to Indianapolis for the annual British Car show. This was my first out of town event with the club and I really didn't know what to expect. We met at the home of one of the members, Glen Marin, who hosted us with coffee and snacks. I met several new friends that day, Hazel being one of them. I had met Bill earlier that year at British Car Day and at club meetings, but had not had the opportunity to meet Hazel until then. Now, all of you MG Car Club members will not be

surprised at all, that Hazel made me feel very welcome. It's just the kind of club we are and the kind of person she was! She and Jo Ann Zeno both asked about my family, but I wanted to tell them about my MG, of course. Nonetheless, they made me feel welcome. We've been good friends ever since. Hazel always made me feel welcome in her home. She would take time away from manicuring her lawn or doing something in her immaculately clean home to make lunch or get drinks for Bill and me when we were there working on one of his MGs or mine. I will miss her!

We fondly remember Bruce Schieman and his wife Pam driving their Tahiti Blue MGB on some of our tours and events. More recently Bruce acquired an older, white, MGB. Bruce always enjoyed our meetings, Holiday parties and other club events. Bruce's association with the MG Club was important to him as evidenced by his club grille badge being on display at the funeral home. Bruce will be missed!



Pictures from MGCCSWOC Holiday Party



...and more photos...



Welcome New Members!!

Carole Looft

Marion & Alfretta Ware
5051 West Elkton Road
Hamilton, Oh 45011
(513) 726-5125
68 Austin Healey Sprite

Mark Your Calendar for MG2011

The North American Council of MG Registers announced the fourth all-register gathering will be held June 12 – 18, 2011 at Reno-Tahoe, Nevada. Information regarding registration, activities, and hotels is forthcoming. Their website is www.mgcars.org.uk/mgcouncil/index.html. That's all the information we have at this time.

Member Featured Car of the Month...

Jeff Opt's '72' MG Midget

Jeff Opt

Most things surrounding my MG Midget are a little blurry, just because I didn't feel like going back to check my records. It is a 1972 MG Midget, which I bought sometime in 1997 from a person in Beavercreek. I bought it to replace a motorcycle that was totaled in a wreck about a year and a half earlier. I was getting ready to go back to grad school at Indiana University in Bloomington and wanted something fun to drive while I was there and a Midget fit the bill - plus my mom thought it would be safer since it had 4 wheels - personally, I hope I am never in a wreck in it! I tend not to take long trips in it, but still manage to put about 1500 miles on it in the summer - it just turned over 100,000 less than a year ago.

So far it is the only MG I have owned and had I known more about them, I might not have bought this one - but when I was looking my only criteria was that it be chrome bumpered and in my price range. If I remember right I paid about \$1400 for it at the time. Soon after getting it, I had the front suspension rebuilt and the head worked on so that it would run better on unleaded gas. It still needed some work when I got to Indiana and luckily I soon met a great MG mechanic there - Tucker J. Madwick of Autosport Inc. Every time I had some extra money, I'd drop it off at his shop and get a little more done, making the car progressively more reliable. Knock on wood, it has been very reliable and never left me stranded.

It is a pretty rough car, been outside much of the time I've owned it. But it drives well. It has a long list of things it needs - new top, new top frame, new upholstery, new paint (BRG is not its original color - it was a much different blue/teal shade), rust fixed, new tires - well you get the idea - but none of those things will make it run better or go faster. So, the reality is that unless it is a safety or reliability issue, I probably won't fix it. That's not to say that I wouldn't like a nice Midget or MG, just that if I am going to spend the money, I'll start with a car that is in better condition. For now though, this one suits my needs - primarily that the top goes



down and it is fun to drive.

Probably the best modification I have made to it is to remove the radio and install a power amp in the trunk with a plug in for my iPod. I find that 50 watts is more than enough power for most driving conditions and I don't have to worry about someone trying to take my radio when I leave it parked with the top down. The thing I would most like for my MG right now is a hardtop for a reasonable price. If I pay what Moss is asking, the top will be worth as much as the car! So if you know of any good used ones around let me know.

Classifieds

For Sale: Gumball machine that resembles old gas pump. 7 ½ feet tall! Two available. Sold for \$1200 new. Asking \$300. Call Bob, 513-267-1784. (10/08)

For Sale: 1976 MGB roadster. Engine runs well. Overdrive transmission. Fuel tank flushed; brakes good; new hoses; nice interior, carpets, dash, glass, and luggage rack. Body needs rear quarter panels and paint. Never wrecked. Converted to wire wheels. Needs rear wheel cylinder kit (which I have), and convertible top. \$1900. Call Bob, 513-267-1784. (10/08)

For Sale: "Rally wheels" from my 1970 MGB. \$250.00 or best offer. Chrome luggage rack for \$100.00 or best offer. I can bring them to a meeting if any one would like to see them. John S Keferl, 236-0093, or Keferl@sbcglobal.net. (10/08)

For Sale: 1976 MG, Model B. We purchased the car in July 2005, for \$5,000. It is in excellent condition, but needs a battery. We would accept any reasonable offer. Located in Columbus, OH. Chuck and Rosie Blake, 614-457-4076 (10/08)

For Sale: Two 1980 MGBs, two 1961 MGAs, and one 1947 MG TC. The passing of a MG enthusiast in northern Kentucky has made these cars available. One white 1980 MGB, build date of 10/79 with 24K original miles. In excellent original condition except for rust just behind the doors (was the owner's daily driver). One orange 1980 MGB, build date of 3/80 with 63K original miles. In excellent original condition but not currently running due to a possible fuel pump problem (owner was working on the car). One iris blue MGA 1600, excellent condition and in running order. One white MGA 1600 coupe in very good condition, turns over but does not start. Both MGAs are very original. One 1947 MG TC, solid body and chassis, not running but ready for restoration. Owner had all receipts for each car. For more information, contact Michael Brundage at 859-445-9885. (10/08)

For Sale: 1961 MGA roadster. Owned since 2002 and driven under 300miles. Rebuilt trans, new floors, carpets, interior panels, master cyl, SS exhaust. Tires, top, sidecurtains VG to Exc. Very sound car found in Kentucky. Engine compartment is correct, car is dry and is a smooth driver. The damage in front did not dent the original grille. Not perfect but a very nice mostly original car. \$7400. Bob Kristof. email questions etc to bobkristof@hotmail.com or call 513-477-8494. (9/08)

Wanted: 1500 Engine for 1959 MGA - can be a strong engine or a rebuildable candidate. Please contact Greg on 614-764-8989 or gregcv240@yahoo.com. . (9/08)

For Sale: Used black top, tonneau, and roll bar for 78 Midget. All for \$150.00. Bob or Cheryl, 937-253-9935. . (9/08)

For Sale: 1974 MGB, butterscotch color, 59,000 miles. It had about \$1200 of brake work done in 1998 and hardly driven since. It also has a hard top and a new battery. Runs just a little rough because of sitting for so long, but otherwise it is a good solid car. Just needs some TLC. \$5,000 or best offer. Carol Ann Williams, 427-2789. (8/08)

For Sale: Used black top, tonneau & roll bar for 78 Midget. All for \$150.00. Call 937-253-9935, ask for Bob or Cheryl. (8/08)

MG Car Club Minutes, November 19, 2008

Sam Hodges

Editor's note – don't blame me for this one. I just print what Sam (or is it Diana, I never remember which of them is the secretary) sends me.

You were all warned! You've been told constantly to pay attention because there would be a test on it 'later'. Well, guess what?! It's 'later'. Time for another MGCCSOC membership test. If you fail, then you'll have to turn in your MG and your secret decoder ring that lets you read the secret messages that are hidden in the newsletter. So, disclaimers aside, let's begin!

1. What time was the meeting called to order?
 - a. 8:00 sharp
 - b. 7:59
 - c. 8:02
 - d. It doesn't really matter since the Secretary forgot to record what time the meeting actually started.
- 2a. Where was the meeting held?
 - a. Urban Suburban
 - b. At the Knights of Columbus, like it always is!
 - c. In the big hall since our normal hall was otherwise preoccupied
 - d. Lithuanian Social Club
- 2b. When was the meeting held?
 - a. On the same night that it's always held
 - b. On the third Wednesday since the forth Wednesday would have been the day before Thanksgiving
 - c. At 8:02
 - d. None of the above
- Not 2b. The next item on the agenda was Louie's spaghetti dinner held at the Sons of Italy Hall. Which of the following were comments made about that event?
 - a. "Louie you run a tight ship"
 - b. "You're the only one I know that can be around spaghetti in a yellow shirt and not spill a drop of sauce on yourself"
 - c. "Your meatballs were small and shriveled" (Possibly said by Terry Loof))
 - d. "Like You" (Possibly said by Louie in response to Terry)
 - e. None of the above

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- 3c. The Holiday party was supposed to be?
- Held at the Goodman's at 7:00
 - Moved to the Wolfe's after some last minute changes
 - If you arrived at 6:30 you'd be cleaning the bathrooms
 - All of the above
 - Some of the above
8. We're ordering more news letter covers and they have been changed to include a new block for mailing preference.
- True
 - False
7. Which of the following are statements made about the ordering of new newsletter covers?
- Ron, "We can get them for \$90.00 and we get 2000."
 - Terry Looft, "How much to hand write it on?"
 - Dave McCann, "How much to rubber stamp it? I figure that I only have to do 100 per year for the rest of my life..."
 - Carole Looft, "I think it's worth the money."
 - Terry Happensack made a motion to accept
 - Terry Looft seconded the motion
 - Eddie "Zeno" Hill of course opposed.
9. President Peterson ran out of things to talk about at ____.
- About 8:10
 - Just before beer break
 - Trick question – when has Skip ever run out of things to say?
 - None of the above.
10. Vice President Ryan Loofts' report was next. What did Ryan report on?
- Nothing.
 - His recent trip to the Bahamas (Just do a YouTube search for "U.S. Customs Drug Dog").
 - The new Triumph TR250 that he just purchased.
 - That his new year's resolution is to give up beer.
11. Minutes from the October meeting were motioned on by Louie D. and seconded by Ron Parks.
- True
 - False
12. Eddie Hill was asleep.
- True
 - False
 - His snoring rattled the windows
 - Louie tried to draw on him with a Sharpie marker
13. Short Essay: Treasurer Glen Marin reported that the MGCC had _____. (Please explain in 100 words or less the amount of money that the club has in the Treasury account, the largest contributor to that figure, Glen's shoe size, the date of the next total solar eclipse and if a train leaves Detroit traveling at 100 mph, how long will it be before it will hit its first possum?)
14. Carole Looft was next with the Membership report. How many members does the MGCC currently

have?

- a. We're up to 69
- b. 189
- c. 2,349
- d. Trick question – the meeting hasn't been held yet so I don't know what the group is "currently" up to.
- e. No, really it's 69.

15. Jennifer Peterson stated, "Are they allowed to come to the holiday party if they haven't paid?"

- a. True
- b. True
- c. All of the above

Sunshine Committee was next. On a serious note, at the time of the meeting, we had just received a letter from Jasper Cermino. He reported that while he was still under the weather, he was still hanging in there. Unfortunately, on Tuesday, November 25th Jasper Cermino passed away. The last couple weeks of November and the first week of December were a difficult time for all of us as, unbeknownst to us, Jasper was just the first. Mike Malone's mother died the week of November 17th. On Wednesday, November 26th, MGCC member Bruce Schieman passed away. As if that weren't enough, on December 3rd, long time member Hazel Hammond also passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of the family and friends of all of our lost comrades. On a more positive note, Barb Smith is back home. She's having a hard time keeping food down, but otherwise she's okay.

16. Newsletter editor Steve Markman reported that he's taken a new job working for Oprah Winfrey as the head of her publishing empire and will be soon moving his operation to Chicago and he'll be taking over the publishing of the magazine "O".

- a. True
- b. False
- c. None of the above
- d. All of the above

17. Newsletter Editor Steve Markman reported that he was happy and that he had nothing to gripe about.

- a. Red
- b. Twelve
- c. The hypotenuse of the sum of the angles
- d. Johnny Cash

18. President Skip reported that,

- a. He didn't know that the calendar was what it is
- b. He just found out that he was elected President
- c. He went to click on the President's information and sent himself an e-mail
- d. All of the above

19. Terry Looft reported that he just bought a new computer that has Vista as the operating system. The MGCC website is the only website that he can't get to.

- k. True
- h. False
- a. Skip, "It must be the host server in England, it's a Lucas product after all."

Beer Break: Called at 8:29. Back from break 8:49
20. Short answer: Did the Dekalb County, Indiana Visitors' Bureau send us a thank you note for our trip to the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum?

21. Skip reported that the MGCC had received that renewal notice for the Mother Club. What were the reactions?

- a. Louie, "God save the Queen!"
- b. Kathy Goodman, "It's already been renewed."
- c. Eddie, "The old administration actually did something?"
- d. Dave McCann, "We actually did do a little bit of business last year."
- e. None of the above.

Eddie's phone goes off disturbing proceedings (and waking him in the process)...

22. Upon reading the criteria for club accreditation, we discovered that we might not be able to participate. Which of the following will prevent us from being a real club?

- a. We need to be a bona fide office with a democratically elected board
- b. At least twenty five members
- c. A minimum of 75% MG ownership
(Thanks Terry Looft – you put us over that hurdle!)
- d. No Triumph Spitfires may be owned by any club members (Thanks Louie! We're doomed!)

23. Dave McCann would like to do a:

- a. Covered bridge tour
- b. Really bad James Brown impersonation
- c. A London-to-Brighton run
- d. Another term as President

We found Jennifer's brother Jim. For being our bartender all year – except tonight oddly enough – we have a little gift for you... (*I'd report what it was, but I really didn't know. I think it was a gift card of some sort, but don't hold me to that...*)

On another serious note. Charlie McCamey, "I think since we've donated money in the past to charities, I'd like to do that again this year." Dave McCann, "I was going to suggest we make a donation to the British Museum for about \$500.00." Since we're a not-for-profit organization, we should take some money and..., Terry Looft, "...hide it." Charlie, "I think that we should donate to the Salvation Army." Dick Goodman, "The Red Cross Dissater Relief Fund could use the money." Skip, "I know that the local food bank is in need of donations." Louie, "Do we know of any needy families that we could donate to?" Sam, "I'm still paying for a party so all donations are welcome..." Glen Marin, "I propose that we give

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\$200.00 to the Miami Valley Food Relief.” This was seconded by Dick Goodman. Terry Looft, “And we can bring in canned goods for Sam.” After some discussion, Glen Marin withdrew his motion. Skip, “I think that we should take \$600.00, give \$400.00 to charity (\$200.00 to the Salvation Army and \$200.00 to the food bank) and \$200.00 to the British Museum.” Terry, “How much of a cushion do we have to still be comfortable?” John Wolfe retracted his motion on the floor. A new motion that was the same as the old motion made by Charlie McCamey was re-motoned and seconded by Lois. Skip, “I had to actually think. Why didn’t McCann have these kinds of problems?” Pete. “We’re going to go around to all of the other club meetings and challenge them to meet your generosity.” Pete, “We’re going to take the money and invest in Lottery tickets!” Dick Smith spoke on behalf of the Museum. “MGCC has been our strongest supporters and are always willing to help out. Thanks.”

Supply Trailer was next. Dave McCann, “Can we have another work session?” Jennifer, “We have no money left.” Terry Looft, “We could have bought a new one. How about Sunday at 11:00?”

For Sale - Nothing - Monkey Puke’s still for sale. Contact Terry Looft if you’re interested.

24. Who won the Gumball Rallye?

- a. Ron Parks
- b. John Zeno
- c. Lois Gribler
- d. Dave Estelle

25. What time did the meeting end and who motioned to end it?

- a. Louie D. and Dave McCann at an oddly specific 9:31
- b. Terry Happensack and Tim Oricko at 9:45
- c. John Zeno and Skip Peterson at 9:30
- d. None of the above, the meeting’s still going on?

The answers are 1.w, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Yes, 5.d, 6.c, 7.Pickles, 8.a, 9.b, 10.good, 11.False, 12.c, 13.d, 14.e, 15.a, 16.Good, 17.Maybe, 17.Yes, 17.No, 20.c, 21.d, 22.cumquats, 23.the square root of 48. Ending balance for the Treasurer’s report was \$3,591.91 after “typical” income and expenses were factored in.



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