## THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XXXIX No. 2

November 2009

Thank You, Veterans!

## **Last Chance to Renew Your Membership**



## From the President

Ryan Looft

We continue to have great MG driving weather well into November. The past couple of days have been especially nice. It won't be long until salt will be on the roadways and the snow will be falling and our little cars will have to go in for the winter. I'm hoping to tackle more work on my MG 1100 this winter and I'm planning on driving it up to Canada for the National MGB meet in June. So, in the upcoming months I'll fill you in on the progress I'm making along the way.

A reminder that our next meeting is on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The holiday party will take place on December 12th at Skip and Jennifer Peterson's home. An email will be sent out as the date nears for a reminder, along with directions to their home. Bring a gag gift and a covered dish. Also keep in mind that there will be no meeting held in December.



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 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

Wed, Nov 18, 2009

## **MG Car Club Officers**

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## Inside This Issue

- Veterans' Salute
  Featured Car Steve Markman's MG TD
  Minutes of the October Meeting
- 7 Minutes of the October MeetingThat's it not much going on this month

# Upcoming MGCC Events

## Nov:

18 – Meeting (K of C Hall – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month)

#### Dec:

12 – Holiday Party

No club meeting (enjoy the holidays)

#### Jan:

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

# Last Chance to Renew your Membership

Carole Looft

Last chance to renew your membership before your name is removed from the mailing list. If you haven't renewed yet, your dues can be brought to the meeting or sent to:

> MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre 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 on hand for

you, drop a note along with your payment, and we will update our records. Our new membership list will be out in January.

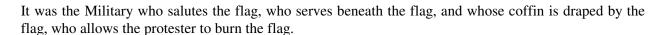
## We Salute our Veterans

## **Never forget that:**

It's was the Veteran, not the reporter, who gave us the Freedom of the press.

It was the Veteran, not the poet, who gave us the freedom of speech.

It was the Veteran, not the community organizer, who gave us the freedom to demonstrate.



Rules for the Non-Military

We know that many of our finest young men and women are excited to join the Military. For those of you who can't join, you can still lend a hand. Here are a few of the areas where we would like your assistance:

1. Regardless of the rank they held while they served, pay the highest amount of respect to all veterans. If you see anyone doing otherwise, quietly pull them aside and explain how these Veterans fought for the very freedom they bask in every second. Enlighten them on the many sacrifices these veterans made to make this Nation great.



- 2. If you were never in the military, DO NOT pretend that you were, like wearing battle dress uniforms or jungle or desert fatigues, telling others that you used to be 'Special Forces. Collecting GI Joe memorabilia, might have been okay when you were seven years old Now, it will only make you look stupid.
- 3. Next time you come across an Air Force member, do not ask them, 'Do you fly a jet?' Not everyone in the Air Force is a pilot. Likewise, not everyone in the Navy served on a ship.
- 4. If you witness someone calling the US Coast Guard 'non-military', politely inform them of their mistake. These guys (and gals) risked their lives, just like the rest of us.
- 5. Next time Old Glory (the US flag) passes by during a parade, get on your damn feet and pay homage. Quietly thank the military member or veteran lucky enough to be carrying her.
- 6. Flyboy' (Air Force), 'Jarhead' (Marines), 'Grunt' (Army), 'Squid' (Navy), 'Puddle Jumpers' (Coast Guard), etc., are terms of endearment we use describing each other. Unless you are a service. member or vet, you have not earned the right to use them.
- 7. Last, but not least, whether or not you become a member of the military, support our troops and their families. Every Thanksgiving and holiday that you enjoy with family and friends, please remember that there are thousands of soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen far from home wishing they could be with their families, also. Thank God for our military and the sacrifices they make every day.

Member Car of the Month...

## Steve Markman's 1950 MG TD

Steve Markman

've never been a car guy, so I really cannot tell you where, when, or why I fell in love with the MG

TD, just that I've always wanted one. By the late 1990s, I started thinking seriously, not for a real one, but a kit car. I never realized that real TDs were both available and affordable, so was mentally planning out a five-year project to build a replica. After months of internet searches, I finally found the Canadian company that made the fiberglass conversion kits. I also found dozens of adds for TDs, and shifted my thinking away from a fake one to the real thing (BTW – I figured it'd cost me about \$10,000 or more to build the kit version, but completed ones that were for sale seldom went for over \$5,000).



My favorite picture, taken at the 2<sup>nd</sup> St Market in May 2004.



Doug Gillen hands the car keys to me in Sep 2000.

I attended my first British Car Day in 2000. Upon finding the row of TD's, I asked one proud owner how I could buy one. He directed me to a distinguished gentleman in a straw hat standing next to his red TD, who he said was the president of the MG Club. This was how I met Phil Johnson. I repeated the question to Phil, who told me the best thing to do is to join the club, since members usually know of any TDs that come on the market locally.

Within a few months, Phil got me in touch with former member Ernie Streifthau, who knew of a TD for sale in Franklin. It'd

been completely restored by former club member Doug Gillen. Doug had been an active member for many years, but his wife had had a hip replacement a few years earlier and now found it too difficult to get in and out of the TD. Doug continued driving to events by himself, but said it wasn't as much fun without his wife, so decided to sell the car. He hadn't advertised it, but figured he'd part with it when the right person came along. I guess I was that person.

The car's original owner was a doctor in Atlanta. By the late 60s, he sold it to someone in Portsmouth, Ohio. It sat in a barn for the next twenty years. Doug bought it and spent about six years restoring it. (BTW, Doug gave me the name of the original owner, now long deceased. On a hunch one night, I looked up the name and found a doctor with the same name, but Junior, in Atlanta, possibly his son. I called and got a fax machine. I should try again one of these days.).

I drove the car home in September, 2000, only a few days short of what I eventually learned was its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was too embarrassed to tell Doug that I never actually had driven a TD. He probably was shaking his head as I drove off, wondering if he'd made the right decision as he watched me trying to

shift. The first thing that I learned was not to wear wide athletic shoes when driving a TD (you step on your own feet a lot). The next thing I learned while driving the car home was that a lot of nice-looking women you don't even know smile and wave (maybe they were thinking 'Doesn't the dumb s--t even know how to drive a stick?').

While Doug had to replace the wood frame and interior with modern reproductions, all the sheet metal was original. The engine and transmission also were original, although having been overhauled over the years, which is to be expected. The engine and body numbers match. One of the things I liked about Doug's restoration is that it was very authentic. The only changes he made from original were installing red, instead of factory-



Seat belts neatly placed for display. Note the temperature gauge on the bottom of the dash, just left of the steering wheel.

standard black carpet, adapting the engine to take a modern spin-on oil filter, replacing the vinyl on the dash with mahogany, and painting the car red, instead of its original green (since he already owned a green TD).

I've only made a few upgrades to the car in the nine years I've owned it. The first was to add seat belts, as I never felt comfortable without them. The belts have tan webbing to match the interior, and chrome latches. They look completely period-appropriate and I carefully cross them over the seats for car shows. Next came a temperature gauge a few years later (the 1950 model didn't have one). I placed it on the bottom edge of the dash where I could remove it easily for shows where the judges might know that it's not correct. The last upgrade came only last summer, when I replaced my Dunlop bias-ply tires with Kumho radials. The difference in ride and handling is incredible! The car feels like it is twice as heavy and twice as wide; it really hugs the road.

After having owned my TD for nine years, I love it as much as the day I first saw it. I do five or six car shows each summer. While I don't drive it great distances, I still love taking it out on hilly, wining country roads and just having fun.

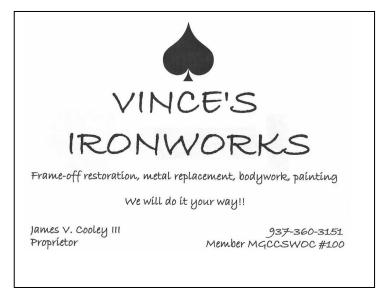
## UK's Lucas Ltd. to Build Electric Car

Submitted by Larry McCart

ne of the United Kingdom's most enduring brands will proceed with plans to build the quintessentially British electric vehicle. Lucas, the world leader in faulty electrical components, has determined after decades of deliberation to finally push ahead with plans for an electric vehicle wholly of its own design.

The Lucas electric car, to be called the "Prince" in homage to the company's founder, Joseph Lucas, who died in 1902, taking with him to the grave his secrets of how to make working electrical parts. Since that time, the company has been awarded more wisecracks than any other.

Lucas has led in many important innovations since, counting the first intermittent windshield wipers, the first self-dimming headlights, and the first antitheft starter interrupt devices among its several inventions. The company has also long extolled safe driving practices, as exemplified by its motto: "get home before dark." Lucas's EV will be based on a design originally conceived in 1968. The company had intended to build the EV in the 1970s but the plans were thought destroyed when the company's then-chief engineer's car caught fire. The blueprints were recently rediscovered in fine shape in a back room, after having been overlooked for decades due to poor lighting.



## Classifieds

Free classified policy: We are happy to run your auto-related ad for six months free of charge, but may cut older adds as space permits. Please contact the editor when your items sells or if you wish to continue the ad for an additional six months.

**For Sale:** 1972 MG Midget; 1275cc engine with twin SU carburetors, 52,000 miles. Cylinder head rebuilt and surfaced, new water pump and thermostat, new style electronic fuel pump, rebuilt master cylinder, new battery, newer top, solid belly pan. \$1850.00. Also have set of extra doors and deck lid. E-mail: besttool@centurytel.net or cell phone; 440/396-8550. (10/09)

**For Sale:** 1976 MGB in great shape Rebuilt engine, new brakes, exhaust, clutch, tires, wire wheels(sandblasted and repainted), new paint, top, carpet, and stereo, all done in 2007. It is a great driver and runs very well. Asking \$7000, but would consider all offers. Located in Columbus. Contact Sean O'Farrell at 614-582-1315. (10/09)

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Jeff Zorn ● 29311 Aranel Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Phone: 248-489-0022 ● Toll-free: 800-637-9640 Fax: 248-489-9665 ● Email: LBCarCo@LBCarCo.com Major credit cards accepted

**For Sale:** 1979 MGB. Original owner, 22,700 original miles. Damask red color with tan interior and top. No rust at all. No rips or tears in either the top or the seats. The dash also is perfect. Luggage rack. \$7900 OBO. For more information or pictures, call Kerry Steed 937-725-8492 or email ksteed2000@yahoo.com (10/09)

**For Sale:** 1950 MGTD, rough shape, not driven for about 30 years, but reasonably complete. Asking \$1300. For more information, contact Melissa Johnson, 937-470-3004, or <a href="mailto:mgaston@amfam.com">mgaston@amfam.com</a>. (9/09)

**For Sale:** 77 B, \$6250 Bernard Wilburn, 614-832-9378, or <a href="http://columbus.craigslist.org/cto/1360223543.html">http://columbus.craigslist.org/cto/1360223543.html</a> (9/09)

**For Sale:** 1974 MGB GT Color-Mirage, 1.8, 4 speed, 62k. Have all history/receipt's. \$7,500 o.b.o. Former MGCCSWOC member. Will negotiate on price with club members. 937-604-6729/937-718-6044. (9/09)

**For Sale:** MGA windscreen with glass. Excellent condition. Located in Solon, east of Cleveland. Contact Bob at 440-248-0861. (8/09)

**For Sale:** 1955 MG TF "1500" \$27,500. One of the few remaining 3400 made. This great car is a multi-award winner in the Tri-State area, and has received invitations to participate in many Concours D'elegances. This "TF" was purchased in 2000, and since then has had many upgrades. I have

documentation on this vehicle going back to 1963. For a complete listing of upgrades and photos, contact Jeff Fields, 440-315-6380, or 440-355-MGMG. (8/09)

**For Sale:** 1977 MGB, white, runs well. New Weber carbs, new top, tires, and paint. Also, hundreds of spare parts, such as wheels, electrical items, gauges, interior parts, and more. All for \$6550 or best offer. Bob, 502-225-9306 or <a href="mailto:bndf@juno.com">bndff@juno.com</a>. (8/09)

**For Sale**: Used radiator from "78" Midget, set of inertia reel seatbelts and wash container. All for \$25.00. Call Bob at 937-253-9335. (8/09)

Wanted: Louvered Hood for MGB, steel or aluminium. Call Bob, 513-267-1784. (8/09)

**For Sale**: New MGB spider super sprint monza type exhaust system for emissions cars. Complete pipes resonator and muffler from cat on back. \$150.00. call Mike Sonderman, 937-286-2198 (7/09)

**For Sale**; 1958 MGA coupe. Needs restoration. All there except missing front windsheild, seat cusions and some small chrome pcs. \$3,500.00. call Mike Sonderman, 937-286-2198 (7/09)

**For Sale:** 1959 T-Bird, 65,000 miles, restored to an all original condition. 350 CID V-8. White exterior, red/white interior. Entire interior is new, including carpeting, headliner, console and all it's trim, the dashboard, door panels and their trim, and trunk matt. New tail-light lenses, new exterior trim and emblems, and all the engine accessories under the hood. The original clock even works! Also included are an all stainless steel dual exhaust system, and an original NEW factory air conditioning. It also has the original T-Bird hub caps. Power steering and power windows round out the luxury interior. The transmission and engine also have been restored. \$14,500. GBrahm@sbcglobal.net (7/09)

**For Sale:** 1959 MGA, wire wheels, located in western New York. Purchased in 1968. Never driven winters. Stored in garage since 1972. 37,721 original miles. Photos available. Interested parties should contact Paul Albanese <u>palbanes@kent.edu</u>. (7/09)

**For Sale:** MGA Black w/red interior. Recently restored. Located in LeSoursdville. Contact Devin Baldridge at <u>devin-b@prodigy.net</u>, home 513-772-3584, or mobile 513-319-4497. (6/09)

## MG Car Club Minutes, October 28th Meeting

Sam Hodges

Editor's Note – Yes, it really is Sam this year, not Diana.

The October meeting was called to order at 7:31.

New **President** Ryan Looft reported. Ryan, "Thanks to the Loofts' for planning the fall drive." Terry Looft, "Actually, Carole did all the work." Ryan, "Okay then, thanks to Carole for planning the fall tour." Linda Wolfe, "It was great day." Ryan, "There were 22 cars and the drive was just the right length, the fall colors were nice too." Ron Parks, "Just the right amount of roadkill." Ryan, "I thought that the questions being scrambled was a fun, interesting twist."

Ryan, "I went out to Topeka, KS to get another MG 1100 that we bought. I did 900+ miles out to Kansas and back to St Louis." Linda, "Is your name Gribler?" Ryan, "I was in a driving mode and I don't stop unless I have to."

Vice President's Report. Dave? Dave's not here man! No, I'm Dave. Really? Dude, there's been some guy lookin' for you... (from a Cheech & Chong bit). Due to national security issues, newly elected Vice President Dave Gribler has been sequestered away from President Looft due to some rumblings coming from the Triumph club about 'take-overs' and 'overthrows.' Dave did send in his report and he states that he's hasn't received many response from people willing to take a committee for the possible upcoming NAMGAR GT 2012. He's looking for people to take charge of a committee. Dave's probably going to need more of a commitment at that time. Kathy Goodman, "It's too much of a time commitment. I'd be more than happy to be a grunt, but I can't chair a committee." Bill Hammond, "I'd be happy to help, but I can't find the meetings."

Ryan, "It's going to take a core group to step up and take charge." Terry Looft, "Is there a drop dead date for committing?" Ryan, "NAMGAR is probably going to need something nailed down by the first of the year." Ron Parks, "Since the Chamber of Commerce initiated this, is there anyone there who could help?" Steve Powell, "That's three months of MGing that summer from June-August and the Concours." Ron and Dave McCann talked about being the Rally Masters. Linda, "There's a rally and a tour so we can have both." Contact Dave Gribler if you have any interest in chairing a committee. Bill Hammond, "Does that mean that if you chair a committee, then you can take all the glory and assign them all of the work?" Terry Looft, "If you can find people to work." Linda, "We need to have another meeting. I volunteer my house." Bill Hammond, "Oh Geez..."

After some discussion about possible times, it's decided that November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Wolfe's house will be the next meeting. Linda, "Yeah, we don't go to bed until 10:30 so that's a good time."

Dave McCann, "Out at Seven Springs there were only about 7 or 8 people that actually ran that whole show." Linda Wolfe, "Jeff Fields has said that there are about ten people from the Ohio Buck-A's that will help." In Valley Forge, the Triumph club helped out with that show so maybe we can tap some of them as well.

**Minutes** were next. Motion to accept the Minutes as reported by Dick Goodman, seconded by Dave McCann Jr. Approved as reported in the newsletter.

**Membership**. Carole Looft, "It's slowly being renewed. Right now we're at 59." Ryan, "I've been recruiting. I've been at the bar trying to get people..." Carole, "This past month, there were stickers put on the mailed Newsletters that reminded people that it was time to renew."

Treasurer's Report was next. Bonnie couldn't be here tonight, Keith Hankey, "Bonnie had to work but she'll be more than happy to meet with Glen to do a signature and account transfer." Former Treasurer Glen Marin reported that, "Kathy Goodman found a \$487.00 error in her records that will be to our good. The BCD check was also received and deposited to the tune of \$2,200.00. Another \$387.00 from dues was also deposited." The monthly Hall rental fee of \$45.00 should also have been paid. Glen, "Apparently, Kathy received dues money in cash and wrote a check to deposit the amount." Kathy, "When I was going through the records, I found out that the check has never actually been cashed." Dick Goodman, "I move that we move our bank accounts to someplace that understands the banking business. It's ridiculous that they don't send out regular statements." Glen, "I second Dick's motion." Linda Wolfe, "First, we need to finalize our situation before we say, 'hey we're done with you' to the credit union."

Glen, I changed the mailing address back to Dabel Branch P.O. Box." Dick Goodman, "I have a motion on the floor; we need to at least investigate our options." Club voted on the modified motion to investigate the banking options available to us after we straighten things out with the Credit Union. Vote passed.

**Newsletter** editor Steve Markman was next. Steve, "If any of the new officers have any corrections to be made to their information, let me know. With the end of the driving season keep the pics coming if you don't want pet-o-the-month pictures to return." Steve, "Remember the movie 'Dumb and Dumber'? Not only did Louie DiPasquale get this picture (holds up a picture of Louie with the Kettering Holiday at Home Queen and her court, then presents it to Louie) taken with these ladies, but he also got a phone number and a name... and then he gave them to me!" Terry, "Wouldn't that technically be 'Assault with a dead weapon'?"

Joe Hooker, "We mailed out 65 newsletters, down from the 140+ that we used to mail out before we went electronic."

**Sunshine Committee**. Dave McCann's back! Dave McCann, "I was in a roto-prone bed for 3½ days. The nurses called me 'Rotisserie man'." *Someone*, "Did you expect to be in the hospital for three week?" Dave, "No. I had acute respiratory syndrome and they spent that time trying to drain my lungs."

**Webmaster** Ron Parks "Pictures from the Fall Tour are out there on the website. There's also a change in date of Holiday Party. Skip and Jennifer had a conflict. The new date is December 12<sup>th</sup>. I'm going to make tech tips two areas. One will be restorations and the other repairs." Terry Looft, "If you look around on Moss Motors, they've got links to YouTube that tell you how-to on a ton of repairs. John Twist similarly has dozens of those videos as well but his are longer and more elaborate. Both are good sources for information." Ron, "Like I said, there are plenty of tech tips on the web so I'm not going to put any on our website..."

Reminder: The November meeting is the third Wednesday of the month due to Thanksgiving.

Caving to peer pressure, mostly Carole shouting "Beer Break", we take the **Beer Break** at 8:05. Back from Beer Brake at 8: 22, Ryan, "Time to get going... I forgot how much I liked banging this gavel."

Ryan, "We'll start with Museum business with Dick and Pete." Dick, "I'm going to let Pete do the talking..." Pete, "Looks like we've got a very good lead on the West Third St. building that used to be Westside Chevrolet. The building is located at 800 W. Third in the Wright-Dunbar District. Mike and I are scheduled to take some grant writing classes with the city of Dayton and the Wright-Dunbar folks want us to partner with them. They're very good in taking care of the grants and building issues. Additionally, we acquired a 1960 Peerless GT, No. 220 of 295 of the series I GTs. The car was donated. It's all Triumph TR3 running gear." Terry Looft, "Don't you mean Triumph non-running gear?" Louie D., "Did you hear that Terry?" Terry, "No, I didn't." Louie, "Open your ears." Steve Powell, "He was playing with his laptop." Terry, "I just sleep back here."

**BCD wrap-up**... Dave's not here man... but he left the check.

Ryan, "Any more old business?" Terry, "Just Louie..."

Ryan, "We need to get the annual gift certificate for Jim." Linda makes a motion to get a gift certificate. Louie seconds. The Petersons have to get the gift certificate.

**New Business**. Holiday Party. Standard rules apply. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share, BYOB, a gag gift for every person wishing to participate in the gift exchange, and if you show up early, you're cleaning toilets. Ryan, "Bill, you live right around the corner, don't you?" Terry, "We'll send someone to get you."

Ryan, "Anything for sale?" Al Freeze, "Diane wants to know who wants a free kitten?" Terry Looft, "Are there three of them? I'm working on my juggling. Are they big enough to eat yet? I love cats, but I just can't eat a whole one."

Ron Parks. "I know this is more of a tech tip, but, I had a clunk in my rear end" (At this point the club took what by now is 'the usual' detour whenever someone makes a statement like this.) Louie, "Did that come after the busted toilet?" Ron, "I had it looked at (more jokes) and it turned out to be the thrust washers."

Charlie McCamey, "This month's MGB Driver has a good tip for taking care of the rubber bumpers on MGBs." Bill Hammond, "Yeah, take them off and put on chrome."

Steve Powell, "There's a guy I know in Arcanum that has 2 midgets that are for sale for \$1,000 for the pair. Another friend, Neal Walhun (*sp?*), has a garage full of British car parts that he's looking to get rid of. The whole lot goes for \$1000. He's not looking to pick and choose. \$1,000 for the whole lot; no dividing. Bring a large truck to make it all go away. I've also got an early B-series engine block and transmission for an MGA for sale."

Joe Hooker, "Dick Alcory (sp?) in the Healy Club has an MGA bonnet for sale for \$100.

Ryan Looft, "There's an original owner, Damascus red MGB for sale that was in the newsletter."

Gumball Rallye. Pete Strobel wins the Gumball Rallye. Kathy Goodman then Louie DiPasquale motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:38.



## **MG AUTOMOTIVE**

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