

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XL No. 4

February 2011

Happy Valentines Day – See Our Newlyweds

Special Bonus – 2011 Membership Roster



## From the President

Terry Looft

Hello MGBers.

There is not a lot to report this month. It's cold, lots of snow, and there seems no end to this particular season. The cold has played into our hands in moving along with our basement project and progress is much better than we ever thought it could be at this point. Every day we move closer to next (this) years holiday party.

It was with a small tear (ok, no tears) that our beloved 1974 MGB was loaded into a transport and is now on its way to Minneapolis. I'm sure the new owner will be very happy with his new car.

Don't forget that the Gribblers will be hosting their annual winter party on March 19 at 7:00. We'll be sending out a reminder email along with directions to their home. Set that date aside and join in the fun evening with everyone.



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, February 23, 2011

### MG Car Club Officers

**President**.....Terry Looft  
phone.....937-382-1520  
email..... [terry@looft.net](mailto:terry@looft.net)  
**Vice President**.....Dave McCann  
phone.....(937) 399-5711  
email..... [dave@mccannco.net](mailto:dave@mccannco.net)  
**Secretary**.....Diana Hodges  
phone.....937-331-8476  
email..... [sammgb@earthlink.net](mailto:sammgb@earthlink.net)  
**Treasurer**.....Glen Marin  
phone.....(937) 898-7891  
email..... [gmarin@netzero.net](mailto:gmarin@netzero.net)  
**Member at Large**.....Bill Hammond  
phone.....(937) 434-9967  
email..... [whammond@woh.rr.com](mailto:whammond@woh.rr.com)  
**President Emeritus**.....Ryan Looft  
Phone .....513-252-4191  
Email..... [ryan@looft.net](mailto:ryan@looft.net)  
**Web Master**.....John Scocozzo  
phone.....937-291-1710  
email..... [jscocozzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jscocozzo@hotmail.com)  
**Activities Chair**.....Ed Hill  
phone.....937-461-6688  
email..... [ehillmgb@aol.com](mailto:ehillmgb@aol.com)  
**Membership Chair**.....Carole Looft  
phone.....937-382-1520  
email..... [carole@looft.net](mailto:carole@looft.net)  
**Librarian**.....John Wolfe  
phone.....429-3292  
**Historian**.....Dick Smith  
phone.....434-1750  
email..... [rsmithomo@aol.com](mailto:rsmithomo@aol.com)  
**WebPage**..... [www.mgcars.org.uk/mgcswo](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/mgcswo)

### Your Octagon News Editors

Steve Markman  
937-886-9566 [srmarkman@att.net](mailto:srmarkman@att.net)

Joe Hooker  
937-426-1128 [twocoloradokids@woh.rr.com](mailto:twocoloradokids@woh.rr.com)

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Feb:

23 – Meeting at K of C Hall

### Mar:

19 – Party @ Gribbler's

23 – Meeting at K of C Hall

By the time you read this we will have dedicated the club sign at the Pub during Sundays Pub Run. This is the one that Skip had made and will be mounted along side the Triumph Motor Cycle Club sign. I hope you were able to make it to the Pub Run.

Terry



PS (As always there is free beer for new members and for anyone who brings a new member to the meeting.)

## Winter Party Date Change

Dave Gribler

The (almost) Annual Winter Party at the Gribler's has been rescheduled for MARCH 19. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Entrées, soft drinks, coffee will be provided.

Time: 7 pm Where: 2228 Settlers Trail Vandalia, OH

### Directions:

From I-75 take exit 63, US 40/Vandalia

Go east on National Rd.

Continue straight on National at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light.

Go past the Living Word Church (at corner of National and Brown School Rd) and Demmitt Elementary (both on the right).

Turn right at Clubhouse Way (1<sup>st</sup> right turn opportunity past Demmitt)

Turn left at Old Falls Dr (1<sup>st</sup> left turn opportunity).

1<sup>st</sup> right is Settlers Trail OR continue on Old Falls Dr. Old Falls becomes Settlers Trail up the hill and around the bend.

There is no on-street parking on the private streets in the Falls subdivision. Please park in one of the off-street parking stalls along Settlers Trail or on Old Falls Dr. There is space for three cars in the driveway.



## Valentine Day Special... Our Newlyweds



Elle and Karl Sparklin June 29, 1996



Dave & Carol Estell, June 16, 1984, on the beach  
at St. Thomas



Dianne and Al Freeze December 10, 1977



Steve and Helen Markman, October 1, 1972





Sam and Dianna Hodges, Oct 14, 2004



Jill and Charlie McCamey, June 24, 1956



Dick & Maurine Goodman, April 19, 1944, a few days after receiving his wings, and a few days before leaving for Europe



Lois and Dave Gribler, August 20, 1977



Joe & Lucia Hooker, June 1957



Skip & Jenifer Peterson, Sept 22, 1990



Michael and Donna Quilter, June 2, 2010



Carole and Terry Looft, March 30, 1974





Hazel and Bill Hammond, November 28, 1959, in their MGA coupe



Torey & Sandra Looft, August 4, 2009



Yvonne Washer and Bob Carson, Nov 4, 2006



Tom and Adriane Lange, December 7, 1985



Linda and Ron Parks, April 3, 1971



FOREVER YOUNG  
(and before dishpan hands)

## Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Our newest club members are Steve Ramsey and Trish Kramer. Steve is the owner of 3 MGs. He owns a '50 TD, a '77 Midget and a '68 MGB. Since the age of 9, Steve can remember MGs being in his life. His father purchased a '73 B in 1980 and after several years of his brother driving the car, it became Steve's daily driver during high school.

Next came a '75 MGB which underwent an eighteen month restoration. Steve had that car for a number of years but it met its demise in 1994. An accident caused the frame to get bent, so the insurance company totaled that car. Now we come to his '68 B. That same year, 1994, Steve responded to an ad placed by an elderly Navy veteran who was selling a black 1968 MGB convertible. After looking the car over, the two struck a deal and Steve towed the car to his parents' house and started the restoration. The car was stripped, rebuilt engine installed, new clutch, new brakes installed etc. It took three months, but the car was ready for his trip back to college in the fall. There is more to this story, but I'll let Ron tell the rest of it when he does his featured 'member's car' article.



Steve and Trish enjoy driving the MG and have put 40,000 miles on the engine since the rebuild. Like all of us, there are minor problems that crop up with the car, but, they can be overlooked because the enjoyment of the car far outweighs any difficulties we encounter. Steve and Trish, welcome to the MG Car Club.

Steve Ramsey  
12 Van Buren St.  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
(937) 238-8002  
[cramsey3@woh.rr.com](mailto:cramsey3@woh.rr.com)  
50 MGTD  
68 MGB  
77 Midget



Trish Kramer and Steve Ramsey

## Member Featured Car of the Month...

### My MG (75 MGB)

Charley McCamey

I purchased my '75' Harvest Gold MGB new from Davis Buick in Centerville, Ohio On Sep 4, 1975, and since then have thoroughly enjoyed driving it through all the years. According to the door tag, it was manufactured in May 1975. Prior to owning this sports car, I had owned a '60' "Bug Eye" Sprite for five years while serving in the Air Force in the Southwest. The fun my family and I had had with that car probably influenced my decision to get the "B."

The day I picked it up from the dealer, I was looking the engine over at home here in Beavercreek, when I noticed that the oil dipstick was missing. I thought that was interesting. (Some "dealer prep"!?) I immediately drove it back to the dealer. They said they would order one for me, but I convinced them to take one from one of the other new cars on the lot instead. A few days later, with about 400 miles on the car, I noticed it was a quart low on oil. When I took it back to the dealer for that problem, I was told by the service manager "that was normal for foreign sports cars". After a little discussion over that remark, they discovered a leaky oil line, which they replaced.

For the first five years of its life, I drove it everyday to and from work, not missing a beat even during the famous Blizzard of '78.' It was very reliable! On a couple of occasions it wouldn't start. The cause turned out to be a bad coil. In fact, on one of those occasions it had been at the Dayton Airport for two days, and had the coil been functioning, the car probably would have been stolen. I could tell someone had messed with the wiring harness and apparently tried to "jump start" it. That was one of the few times I had to tow the car home. The worse part about the above incident is the fact that the would-be thieves stole my maintenance book that I kept in the glove compartment. I pride myself in the records I have kept on the car. So, my detailed maintenance records start Feb 15, 1979, at 47,615 miles.





Since November 80, I have driven the car essentially from April to November of each year, and stored it in the intervening winter months. For nine straight summers (1986 thru 1994), my daughter, Kathy, and I drove it to Grand Rapids, MI, with no problems, to participate in the University Motors Summer Party in August. That round trip is approximately 700 miles from Dayton OH. I'll never forget the first time we went and saw a total of approximately 250 MGs

on the same field at one time; all makes and models. It was truly an amazing and exciting experience!

When I stored my MG this past November, it had 170,980 miles on it. When it was new, I had it Ziebarted which certainly helped to keep it from rusting. This has been a plus for preserving the car, but at the same time, all that undercoating in the engine bay has prevented me from showing a "clean" engine at car shows I have attended.

Some interesting maintenance items:

- The original water pump failed at approximately 20,000 miles and I am still driving on its replacement.
- The original fuel pump lasted for 78,503 miles and I am still driving on its replacement.
- A Weber down-draft carburetor/header system was installed Jun 10, 1985, at 82,823 miles (after I had re-built the Zenith numerous times).
- The clutch was replaced at 86,175 miles
- The battery has been replaced five times (fortunately, the first replacement had a life-time guarantee so I have had to pay only for that one)
- The top has been replaced twice
- The car registered 100,000 miles on Jul 28, 1988; and, it was repainted in Nov 1994 (original Harvest Gold color).
- The engine was re-built in March 2003 (151,672 miles) by Steve Miller of MG Automotive.

Each spring I really look forward to taking it out of storage and driving it throughout the summer and fall, particularly on those warm summer nights with the top down. It is the first MG I have ever owned and will probably be my only one, considering my attachment to this car.

## British to Invade Ft. Meigs, Again

The Lake Erie British Car Club will be hosting their 13th annual car show "The British Return to Fort Meigs" at the Fort Meigs Historical Site, Route 65, Perrysburg, Ohio, on June 5, 2011. The show, near Toledo, runs from 10 am to 3 pm. After viewing and voting on your favorite British vehicles, you will have opportunities to tour the restored fort from the War of 1812, try a challenging British car quiz, shop at one of the vendors or sample some tasty food. Voting will be by popular vote.

Dash plaques to the first 200 registered, goody bags, and lots of door prizes. Pre-registration is \$12.00, day of show is \$15.00. Event shirts will be available. Contact: Tony Shoviak (419-878-2041) or [tenntony@roadrunner.com](mailto:tenntony@roadrunner.com). Website: [www.lebcc.org](http://www.lebcc.org).

## Tech Tip

Submitted by Steve Veris

Over time, new brake fluid becomes contaminated with water. Brake fluid may contain 1 to 2% water after just one year. Water lowers the boiling point. Hydraulic brake systems stop working if the brake fluid is boiling. Something to think about especially if descending a steep grade with a heavy trailer. DOT 3 brake fluid boils at what temperature new and with 3.7% water contamination?

Answer: A. 401° F (205° C) new, 284° F (140° C) with 3.7% water

(source: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/research/reports/fullreports/434.1.pdf>)

## Classifieds

**Free classified policy:** We are happy to run your auto-related ad for three months free of charge, but may cut older and non-MG related ads as space requires. Please contact the editor when your item sells or if you wish to continue the ad for an additional three months.

**For Sale:** new main bearings (10 over) for a 53 MG-TD. Will sell at half-price. Danny Mortensen [agsdanny@aol.com](mailto:agsdanny@aol.com) 859-384-7821. (1/11)

**For Sale:** "Gertrude," 73 MGB Conv. Roadster, blaze with dark blue interior, has always been garaged, 3<sup>rd</sup> owner, repainted and engine restored in 98 by Steve Miller-MG Auto. Have original bill of sale, MG Handbook, Passport to Service Maintenance record book w/metal Identification Plate, w/British Leyland original solid state am radio (yes it works), also comes with black hard top. Asking: \$7,000: Betty / Fred Shaneyfelt, 937-371-8223, [bfshaney@aol.com](mailto:bfshaney@aol.com). (10/10)

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Members receive *MGA!* Magazine, the bimonthly magazine devoted exclusively to the enjoyment, care, and preservation of the MGA, Magnette and Variants; and an annual Get-Together in various locations in U.S.A. and Canada.

2010-11

**For Sale:** Four (4) early MGB wheels & tires. Ron Williams, 260-438-5337 (9/10)

**Wanted:** One wind wing for 1953 MG TD. Russ Berry, 937-673-5218. (9/10)

**Wanted:** Good passenger side fender for a 78 Midget. Todd Robbins 740-739-3241 (9/10)



# MG Car Club Minutes, Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Sam Hodges

The meeting was officially gaveled to order at 7:29... Skip Peterson, "My watch says that we're starting early." President Terry Looft, "I'm going by the Secretary's computer... So let it be said that the meeting was started on time. Now go back to whatever you were doing." Skip, "We were talking about you."

**President's Report.** President Looft, "Unfortunately we have to start off with a little bad news. We lost Mel Finch. And we'll miss seeing him at BCD. I hope that we sent a donation to his church." Treasurer Glen Marin, "We did indeed." Terry, "Keep Mel and his family in your thoughts."

**Holiday Party.** Terry, "I want to thank Carole and Me for having the best party we've had in a while." Skip, "The surveys are still out..." Jennifer Peterson, "We're still rating it." Terry, "Next year's party will be... the same place. December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Al Freeze, "Dec 10<sup>th</sup> is our anniversary. I expect something."

Carole Looft, "Why do we call it a 'supply' trailer?" Skip, "Insurance... shhh..."

**Vice President's Report.** Dave McCann, "The Rally to Reno will pass through Cincinnati on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Even if you're not going all the way, you're welcome to join in for as long as you want to go. We have a few months to make plans and work out the details." Terry, "We're planning the more scenic northern route – Wall Drug, Cheese Palace, etc. We've been through Kansas enough."

**Minutes.** Kathy Goodman motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Dick Goodman seconded. Minutes approved as reported.

**Treasurers Report.** Glen Marin, "In spite of rumors to the contrary, we went to Virginia on our own dime. Right now we've got \$378.86 in the savings account and \$4,145.02 in the business account leaving us with a current total of \$4523.88, but this is not taking into account the donations to the Salvation Army and the local Food Pantry."

**Membership.** Carole Looft, "Right now we have 88 members. We do have guests here. A lot of us are familiar with the woman; she's been our waitress for many years. Trish & Steve owners of a 1968 MGB about 90% restored, 1977 Midget (*what is up with all the Midgets!?!?*), and a 1950 right hand drive TD." Hardcore! Terry, "Welcome, the bar is on me tonight." Jack Bantle, "Hey, wait a minute. I didn't get that when I joined." Terry, "I didn't know anyone would take me up on it."

**Activities with Eddie.** Ed Hill, "We had an activity last Sunday that I did not attend. The Gribler's annual sit-down dinner is March 19<sup>th</sup>, check your e-mail for directions and updates (which I know you have because I've got it as of the submission of the minutes). Pete, "What time is their party?" Eddie, "6:00ish?"

**Sunshine Committee.** Seeing as how I am technically Diana this year, I reported to the Sunshine Committee that I had a laparoscopic hernia repair done on January 14 down at MVH. I ended up having to spend a couple more uncomfortable days in the hospital due to a secondary complication, but I'm doing just fine now, just a little tender. Jennifer, "What about Louie?" Terry, "I've got a bunch of Triumph jokes that are going to waste..." Eddie, "Ron's still here." Terry, "Yeah, but they're still going

half to waste..." Louie is apparently at home and doing better. We'll have an update, hopefully from Louie, in the next Newsletter.

**Newsletter.** Steve Markman, "If you didn't read last month's newsletter, since February is Valentines Day, we're doing wedding pictures (*look up about 2 pages, you should see them...*). Get them to me via mail, e-mail, passenger pigeon, and I'll get them back a.s.a.p.

**Webmaster.** *John's not here, so I get to make something up. Therefore, a question?*

If Ron Parks leaves Baltimore traveling west in his TR-4 at its top-speed of 40 mph and Skip leaves Los Angeles driving his MGB traveling east at 60 mph, what Midwestern city will they both break down in at the same time?

- Neither car will make it to a Midwestern city
- Baltimore, Maryland
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Budapest, Hungary

Going into beer break, Pres. Looft reported that, "...we sold Monkey Puke, so beer break is on me!"

(*For the uninitiated, Monkey Puke was the rubber bumper B that Terry bought that his neighbor said looked like monkey puke due to the harvest gold paintjob. The name stuck...*)

**Beer Break called:** 7:53

**Back from break:** 8:14

Jennifer, "Will you bring that pitcher of beer in?" Terry, "Hey, hey, hey, I didn't pay for pitchers!" *Oddly, a pitcher DID appear... I thought it was a joke...*

Ron Parks gave the report on **GT-37**. *Dave's not here man...* Ron, "Dave and I met and we talked about what we need to get accomplished. There are some things that need to be done with contracts, but otherwise we feel everything is coming along." Terry, "We're hospitality. We do what we know." Skip, "The Regalia committee hasn't done anything yet!" Terry, "The Fun-kana committee is starting to bleed over into hospitality."

**Reno 2011.** Terry, "June 13-16<sup>th</sup> we've got reservations at Circus Circus Hotel. This is really a nice trip. It's looking to be affordable. I'm taking a trailer with lots spares so don't be afraid. We'll call AAA for you." Dave McCann, "...and we can pick you up on the way back" Al Freeze, "I just want to tell Diane where to come get me." Terry, "As far as the travel time, coming back we did Olympia, WA in 3 days, but that was a Gribleresque effort."

Terry, "I'm still thinking of what club items to spend that money on. When do we want to do the Pub Run for February?" Skip, "The 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 at The Pub at The Greene. It can be a Valentine's Day fire-up." Terry, "And if your car breaks down, you can say that you got screwed." Skip, "I'll take care of talking to

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## The Octagon News – February 2011

Nathan.” Eddie, “While you’re up there, pull down the Triumph sign.” *At the Pub run, we’re planning on hanging the MGCCSWOC club sign that we recently had made, don’t miss this Pub Run... although by the time you read this, it will have already come and gone.*

**Tech Tips.** Steve, “I don’t have a tip, but I have a question. In the latest Moss Motoring magazine, they talked about the ‘top-engine oiler’. I was wondering if anyone knew anything about that?” Jack Bantle, “A lot of planes have a pre-oiler that squirts oil so that it saves on wear at start up. Could be the same thing.”

Dick Smith. “I just want to apologize for missing the last 3 meetings. Barb’s in radiation therapy now. Two a day for 60 treatments. May 21<sup>st</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Market show. Location will be slightly different and we’re calling it the British Car Meet the Market. Instead of the front, we’re now going to be in between the two buildings. Additionally, the Museum lost the 1947 Triumph roadster because the grand daughter of the original owner wanted it back to get it running again. We’re getting a lot of help from Dayton SCORE in terms of trying to get a building. A lot of people think that we shouldn’t be looking in downtown Dayton.” Skip, I saw that the old Main Auto in downtown Centerville is a 2-story building and it’s for lease.” Dick, “We’ll have to look into it. Thanks.”

Having exhausted our legitimate topics, the next meeting is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Gumball Rallye. Jennifer Peterson won \$5. T-Shirts – two were given to our new members. Then Terry spent another painful 5 minutes pulling names of people who weren’t there since you needed to be present to win the t-shirts. Carole, “Honey, just pick the red ones. Those are the meeting tickets.” Terry, “I didn’t know that.” *Ignore the fact that I totally missed who actual got the shirts.*

Charlie McCamey motioned to adjourn. Terry, “Let’s get the hell outta here...”

*Answer to the web question was: it’s a trick question. Triumph TR-4’s can only go 30 mph.*



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3733 Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
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