THE OCTAGON NEWS



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March 2012

CLUB

Automobile Names Do Gas Prices Affect Car-Buying Decisions?

From the President

Sam Hodges

think we're safe. I think winter has pretty much ___passed us by and for the most part, left us alone. Having said that, it'll probably drop a foot on us as a parting shot. Anyway, I've just returned from my 11th (or maybe 12th?) trip to Cleveland having just dropped Janet off her spring break. after Anyway, It's time to dust off the cars, check the air pressure, change the oil and do any of a number of other checks that need to be done to revive our cars from their winter storage.

This year looks to be a big one for the MGCCSWOC. In

addition to all of our normal events (tours, BCD, pub runs, the Concours, etc.) we've got NAMGAR's GT37 to look forward to. As an MGA owner, I promised myself in 2011 that I'd have my MGA back on the road by 2012. Unfortunately, that's not



Southwestern Ohio Centre -- 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, March 28, 2011

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- 6 Gas Prices and Car-Buying Decisions

 10 Minutes of Fall and 22 and Marking

10 Minutes of February 22nd Meeting

Upcoming MGCC Events

Mar:

21 – Meeting at K of C Hall

22 - National Goof-Off Day

Apr:

4 – World Pillow Fight Day

25 – Meeting at K of C Hall

May:

5 – Drive Your MG Day

5 – Cinco de Mayo (when else did you expect it to be?)

23 – Meeting at K of C Hall

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

(dedication?)____ to GT37.

going to happen. (Dave/Ron – is there a class in the car show for 'Best Flatbed & MGA" Combo?)

Anyway, time for the shameless plug. We,



the MGCC, need your, the MGCC's help! One of the comments that I've heard over-and-over over the years is what a nice show BCD is. I've also hear plenty of positive feedback from the Concours participants about how nice that show is as well. While neither of these shows are strictly MGCC events, the MGCC does play a large role in both of those. As co-sponsor of BCD and as endless laborer supplier to the Concours, the MGCC has a presence at both events. Using this wealth of gained knowledge, we're jumping into the hosting end with GT37. What we need is for all of you who have so generously aided in the aforementioned two events, to lend that same expertise and ______

We've done car shows. From the British Museums Second Street Market show, to Cincinnati BCD, to Ft. Meigs, to... (*I could go on*) between all of us combined, we've got something like 1,000 years of collective knowledge at either attending, hosting, crashing, or otherwise being spotted at various car shows. Please, please mark your calendars for July 9th-13th. Go to the GT37 website (http://gt37.namgar.com/) and find an event that looks like something that you'd like to help out with. If we want to make this event as successful as all of the other endeavors that we've done, it's going to take a team effort from all of us in order to make this work.

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

John & Ann Satterfield 2146 Old Vienna Dr. Centerville, Ohio 45459 937-608-7919 jsatterf@woh.rr.com 1974 MGB





Member Featured Car of the Month

Ron Parks

I could in turn write an article about it. PLEASE!!!! If you are a member of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre and your MG has not been featured as Member Car of the Month in the Octagon News, you don't have to wait for me to badger you! Please feel free to write down the story of your car and email it to me on your own. My email address is: MGDRIVER@woh.rr.com. We want to know how you found it, what condition it was in when it became yours, what you've done to improve it, where you have driven it and other details of interest about you and your relationship with your MG. If you're uncomfortable writing the article yourself, please call me and talk with me on the phone about your car. I will record our conversation and transcribe your article for you. It's easy!!! And, your article with additional photos will be enshrined on the club website under "Our Cars"at www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswoc/index.php/menu-ourcars.

So, if we haven't featured your car, let's do that real soon! Every MG has a unique story and we want to hear yours!

What's in a Name? Automakers Could Tell You

Zlati Meyer Detroit Free Press

Editor's note – I don't think the marketing people at MG ever would have considered any of this.

hey are only a 3-inch or so swatch of the vehicle worth thousands and thousands of dollars, a metallic stamp on the rump of any car, truck or SUV on the planet.

But they cost millions to find, invent, vet and advertise.

Car names.

Weeks after the North American International Auto Show, automakers are out there promoting their latest motoring monikers. Acura and Infiniti, for example, went the archetypal luxury-brand alphanumeric route with ILX and JX, respectively, while Buick went with a classic word reassignment by using Encore for its new SUV.

And Chrysler went old-school – dusting off "Dart" for its new compact.

"In general, what you want is for the product to reflect these zeitgeists to the greatest extent possible, whatever the mood or spirit of the times is as experienced by the target market – the design visual and the name to reflect that and the people's ideals and aspirations," explained University of Michigan – Dearborn marketing professor Aaron Ahuvia.

When Buick needed a name for its new compact crossover SUV, the automaker headed for a dictionary to look for a word that began with "en," like the brand's popular full-size crossover SUV, the Enclave.

General Motors Co., Buick's parent, was lucky. The word, Encore, hadn't already been trademarked by a competitor. Nor did it mean something bad in another language. (*Editor's note – Chevrolet must have wondered for years why the Nova never sold well in Spanish-speaking countries.*)

These are challenges an automaker faces when assigning a name to a new vehicle – a vital part of a marketing plan, though a behind-the-scenes process, often aided by outside branding agencies, that starts as much as two years before the car hits the showroom floors. It must tell the story of the car as it identifies with the primary market, marketing experts say. Denally, another name for Alaska's Moount McKinley (sic), fits on a rugged GMC, but not on a compact car, for example.

Does the name jibe with the design and styling? Is it pleasant to the ear?

"We get a list of names and think about what's appropriate for the vehicle and for the brand overall, and (how) we think it speaks to the target consumer. That's the largest judgment call," said Craig Bierley, director of advertising and promotions for Buick and GMC.

Buick and GMC, for example, look to maps, minerals and seasons for inspiration; for example, "Verano" means summer in Spanish. Nissan will sometimes use pre-existing words that fit the company's image for the vehicle, like the toughness of the Titan and the agility of the Juke. The latter, though, could be a partial fauz-pas, though, because Juke means "cockroach" in Arabic.

"You want to make sure a name has neutral or positive associations. If you have negative associations, you want to ask, 'Can I change it?' said Mark Perry, director of product and advanced planning for Nissan Americas. "'Pinto' as a name might be fine, but the association is negative."

Some have uninspiring back stories; the Toyota FJ Cruiser was an internal model code used in the 1950s and 1960s. A design studio's name or a development code, like the MR2, can stick, too.

When cars were first invented, they were identified only by their makers' names, as the manufacturers weren't making many styles, according to writer and lexicographer Paul Dickson. As lines expanded, trends cycled through – far-off places and warm destinations after American GIs returned stateside (Chevy Biscayne), the galaxy during the Cold War space race (Mercury Meteor) and words that screamed independence (Ford Maverick) as the counter-culture grew more popular.

Some car companies prefer to use what works, like Toyota which has used "Camry" and "Corolla" for decades.

"One of the arguments or discussions you do in naming: Do you lose equity in a name if you keep changing it?" Mike Michels, Toyota's vice president of communications, pointed out.

Ford uses the same series with its Mustang and F-series, according to Rick Novak, Ford's global cross vehicle marketing strategy manager.

"We're going to use names already seen as icons in the industry. You want to make sure you're already (playing up) your assets," he said. "It has a history and heritage people know. It's about connecting with the consumers."

But the company did the opposite with the storied Taurus – renaming it the Five Hundred, only to change it back later. Novak declined to discuss that chapter in Ford's history.

Million-Dollar Fender Bender

Marco R. della Cava Yahoo! Autos

28 July 2011 -- Monte Carlo's Place du Casino was the site of exotic automotive Armageddon. Nothing in Monte Carlo is understated, from the baubles to the yachts to the bank accounts. Now add traffic pileups to that list.

The Hope Diamond of fender benders unfolded yesterday in possibly the most conspicuous stretch of asphalt in the .75-square-mile principality — the round-about in front of the James Bond-worthy casino —



when three blondes in a jelly-bean blue Bentley Azure (\$363,000) scraped the rear of a white Mercedes-Benz S-Class (a paltry \$91,000). And that was merely the appetizer.



Served up for the main course were a hapless black Ferrari F430 (\$186,000), which was hit nose-first by the 2.7-ton Bentley. Then, like two tankers mashing in the fog, a four-door Aston Martin Rapide (\$228,000) crunched into the Azure's passenger door. The cherry on this metal, plastic and carbon-fiber shattering souffle: a stray Porsche 911 (\$77,000).

In all, a Titanic mess in mere moments, involving nearly a million dollars of primo

automotive machinery. How did this happen? A quick photo-based forensics of the scene based on knowledge of the Place du Casino offers many clues.

What's evident is that these five vehicles did not all converge on each other in one massive supercar big bang. The Bentley clearly was at fault. Its nose is pointing straight at the casino's entrance, an entrance where fine cars are routinely valet-parked diagonally. It seems that the Bentley's driver thought she could

sneak past the white Mercedes, then swerved right when she realized they were going to collide, which in turn clipped the Rapide coming up on her right. The Ferrari and the Porsche were collateral damage - parked directly in the Bentley's now diverted path.

Any chance that the trio responsible for this mess — whose damage tally will easily hit six-figures — would get to



scamper off anonymously after a quick chat with Monaco's famously efficient and ever-present white-gloved police were dashed given both the coordinates of the crash and the time of year. If there ever was a season when this moneyed retreat is more crowded than Times Square on New Year's Eve, it's summer. Photos of the crowd, gleefully gawking and photographing the impromptu car show run amok, only go to show that when rich people do dumb things in a big way, the masses are more than happy to snicker.

This Time, Pricey Gas May Not Spur Small-Car Sales

Mark Rechtin Automotive News

t happens nearly every year: Gasoline prices rise in the spring and sales of smaller cars spike through the summer. Pundits declare that car-buying habits are changed for good. Then gasoline prices fall, and consumers go back to buying full-sized SUVs and cars with larger engines.

Some industry trackers believe 2012 will be different because *this* time Americans will realize that cheap gasoline isn't coming back. But increasingly automakers seem to doubt that a permanent change in consumer behavior will ever occur.

As a result, they are focusing more on boosting the fuel efficiency of the entire vehicle lineup and not just adding small cars.

"I don't see this reshaping the buying public," said Bill Reinert, Toyota national manager of alternative fuel vehicles. "We've been through these cycles for two decades, but it's never really taken. I don't see this as a chance for a sales boom for the [Chevrolet] Volt and [Nissan] Leaf."

Shopping behavior tracked by Compete Automotive in Boston shows that sudden spikes in gasoline prices lead to a sharp rise in demand for small cars. More gradual increases in the prices have less effect, "but at some point, even a gradual creep to insane prices is likely to drive behaviors," said Lincoln Merrihew, Compete's managing director.

Reinert says that the sales-weighted fuel economy of new Toyotas has gradually increased over the past several years, basically following the trend of gasoline prices. But sudden purchase spikes in fuel-efficient cars have been repeatedly followed by troughs once gasoline prices fall again. Reinert says that charting Toyota Prius sales in relation to gas prices bears this out.

Retail sales of the redesigned Ford Focus compact were up 123 percent in February in California, a market that bore the brunt of suddenly higher gasoline prices. But will that sales rate hold should gasoline prices decline?

"We saw increases in small cars and fuel-efficient vehicles move in tandem with the price of gas," said Erich Merkle, Ford's U.S. sales analyst. "Volatility shifts buyer behavior."

A lot depends on how much and how quickly gas prices recede in the fall.

"It's a seasonal variation, and consumers are remaining a little skeptical that any price rise is going to be permanent," said Donna Miller, analyst with market researcher GfK Automotive. "We are not seeing a structural shift between the segments because consumers are conditioned to five months of gas price increases, followed by seven months of decreases."

Compact and subcompact cars represented 24 percent of the light-vehicle market in February, up from 19 percent last year, Merkle said. That continues a long-term trend toward smaller vehicles, up from 13 percent in 2004, with buyers cascading from larger cars to vehicles with smaller footprints or staying with the same nameplate but buying the smaller engine offering.

Eric Fedewa, director of global powertrain and components for IHS Automotive, says there are two tipping points.

When gasoline purchases reach 3 to 3.5 percent of consumer disposable income, consumers begin reducing their miles driven and choose the smaller engine in the car they want. But when gas surpasses 3.5 percent of disposable income, consumers choose smaller cars, Fedewa said.

The national average for gasoline purchases was 3.27 percent of disposable income in January, and higher in some states, he said.

Some analysts say gas prices don't have the effect on the pocketbook that they once had. Oil industry consultant Peter Wells of Neftex Petroleum said that when adjusted for inflation and gains in household incomes, gasoline prices would have to be \$6.20 a gallon to equal the impact they had in 1985.

These days, automakers are positioning fuel-saving technology more as a cost-of-ownership benefit. Ford is pushing its EcoBoost turbocharged engines. The best-selling model in the F-150 full-sized pickup lineup has an EcoBoost engine. Later this year, the EcoBoost will arrive in the Explorer, Edge and Escape crossovers and the Fusion sedan.

"Internal combustion engines are getting so much better that there's not much of a difference [with hybrids] any longer," Merkle said. "The next-generation hybrid has to be better from a fuel economy and pricing perspective. It's a game of leapfrog."

Installation of turbochargers, the primary means of generating more horsepower from smaller engines, is expected to increase from nearly 21 million global units in 2011 to almost 40 million units in 2017, according to IHS Automotive. Europe dominates the turbocharger market, but rising U.S. corporate average fuel economy standards means the U.S. installation rate will triple during the time frame.

"The entire industry is much better prepared for \$5 gas than it was for \$3 gas," said Al Castignetti, Nissan Division general manager.

And while zero-emission cars like the Leaf are part of Nissan's strategy, solutions such as weight-saving technology and better standard powertrains will give the entire lineup better fuel economy, Castignetti said.

Green-car skeptics point to weak demand for the Chevrolet Volt, which halted production for the second time in three months because of inventory overstock.

Chevrolet had 6,300 units of the Volt, or a 154-day supply, on March 1, according to the Automotive News Data Center.

Thayer Chew, Honda senior manager of product planning, said Honda owners cite "value for money" as their No. 1 reason to buy -- up from 6 percent a decade ago to 20 percent today. Fuel economy as the top purchase reason routinely bounces between 4 and 8 percent, although it jumped to 12 percent during the summer 2008 gas hikes.

Given upcoming corporate average fuel economy requirements, Honda "needs to maximize the fuel efficiency of our overall fleet," Chew said. "Some buyers need to have larger vehicles for large families or for towing. People are trending toward more fuel-efficient vehicles overall."

Word Definitions

- 1. ARBITRATOR: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonalds
- 2. AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do
- 3. BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage
- 4. BURGLARIZE: What a crook sees with
- 5. CONTROL: A short, ugly inmate (I had to think about this one...but got it!)
- 6. COUNTERFEITERS: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets
- 7. ECLIPSE: What an English barber does for a living
- 8. EYEDROPPER: A clumsy ophthalmologist
- 9. HEROES: What a guy in a boat does
- 10. LEFTBANK: What the robber did when his bag was full of money
- 11. MISTY: How golfers create divots
- 12. PARADOX: Two physicians!!
- 13. PARASITES: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower
- 14. PHARMACIST: A helper on the farm
- 15. POLARIZE: What penguins see with
- 16. PRIMATE: Removing your spouse from in front of the TV!!
- 19. SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does
- 20. SUDAFED: Brought litigation against a government official!

(Editor's Note – No apologies for the groaners. When no one sends me stuff, this is what you get.)

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: 4 wire wheel rims, 14" 60 spoke, silver color. Call Tom, (937) 235-0952. (1/12)

Wanted: "Good used radiator for a 1975 MGB." Also looking for an MGB parts car. Greg Isaacs. .937-456-1989 (1/12)

For Sale: Full set of tires, hubcaps, and wheels for 1960 MGA 1600. Mounted and balanced on steel disc wheels. Wheels and hubcaps are perfect. Tires are four (4) Dunlop SP20 and one (1) SP4. One tire is unused (the spare). Also, spare set of lugnuts. Tire age unknown. Parts located in Ann Arbor Michigan. You can pickup or I will ship (buyer covers shipping). Best offer will be accepted. Contact Andy, 617-285-0920, ajhoff@umich.edu. (1/12)

For Sale: Austin Healy Sprite driver's handbook. BMC factory publication mk3 with mk2 supplement. Used condition. Came with the car new. 5.5 by 8.5 inches packed with must know information on the Sprite. Same as the MG of this vintage. \$20.00 plus postage. Racing poster from the Glen for Indy car racing. There were MGs in the parking lot. Measures 6 foot by 3.5 foot with eyelets. Hang in the garage and tell large tales of your days racing Mario, \$60.00 plus shipping. MG TC Maintenance Instruction booklet. This is a factory publication dated Dec. 1947 that came with a new TC. 4.5 by 8 inches 18 pages plus covers. Not bad condition for this old. I have never seen another. \$450.00 plus shipping. Bob Gressard 330.626.1835 robert.gressard@att.net (1/12)

For Sale: MG TC steering box and shaft, MGA transmission, MGA early driveshaft, MG TC luggage rack, MG TF luggage rack, 15 inch wire wheels, MGB disc wheels, T series valve and side covers, rebuildable T series water pump and starter. Buy all as a package or separately. Steve Powel, 937-667-5390 or 937-470-8962. (1/12)

Wanted: Parts for restoration of my 1959 MGA Twin Cam. Need the following items: 1) MGA Twin Cam engine complete with manifolds and carbs. 2) Twin Cam Oil Cooler system. 3) Twin Cam cooling system including the radiator, overflow tank, fan and any pipes need. 4) Twin Cam exhaust system. 5) Twin Cam deluxe seats or frames. Ralph Vrana, MGRalph@vrana.us, 216-401-6594. (1/12)

For Sale: Factory dealer sign for MG Austin Healey. It measures 2 foot square, lighted, metal frame, double sided. Make an offer. Bob Gressard, robert.gressard@att.net, 330.626.1835 (1/12)

For Sale: 77 Midget at. The paint was recently refreshed, but overall this is an original and rust-free car. It has never been in an accident nor patched or repaired. It is all original steel. The interior is original as well and shows its age, but is in very good condition.



Excellent mechanical condition and is a strong daily driver. 44,000 original miles. The car currently is located in Charleston, WV, but can easily be moved to Dayton for inspection. \$7200. Stephen Ramsey 937-238-8002. (1/12)

MG Car Club Minutes, February 22nd Meeting

Kathy Goodman

Called to order by President Sam Hodges at 7:31PM

President's Report: Check out AutoWeek.com. There is a great article with pictures of Dayton Concourse.

Vice President's Report: Not present, no report

Minutes: Motion to approve Jennifer Peterson, Second Charlie McCamey. Motion approved

Treasure's Report: Current balance \$3,466.79. Motion to approve Bill Hammond, second Dave McCann. Motion approved.

Membership: We have 111 members. We have a new member present, John Satterfield. A warm welcome to John.

Sunshine: Pat Wasserman in the hospital again. There is no information on why. Our prayers and best wishes are extended to Pat

Activities:

March 17 – St Patrick's party at Gribler's at 6:00. I am sure we all had a great time.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Key West 4/22-27

A date for the Spring tune up clinic has not been set yet.

5/5 – drive your MG day

2nd Street is 5/19 from 8-3

Ft Meig – 6/3 10-3

Dillard – MGB 6/6-9

6/15-17 Ohio Chapter of New England MGT Registry Inn at Ohio Northern ADA

6/10 Cinci Concourse

Check the web site for additional activities

Newsletter: not present, no report

Web Master: not present, no report

Beer break – 7:45 Reconvene – 8:03

Old Business:

Thinly vague jabs at Louie – You are old business

The final result of the club T shirt survey is: We will go with an ash grey short sleeve t shirt with our 3 color logo on front. The shirts will cost us around \$3.00 each depending on what's on sale; less than \$7.00 complete. We will order 4 dozen in assorted sizes. We will sell them for an as yet undetermined

price with the proceeds going to the treasury. We are currently out of inventory so we do need to reorder. Motion to approve expense by Bill Hammond. Second Jennifer Peterson. Motion approved.

New Business:

Reminder BCD (British Car Day) is 8/4. This year we will be honoring the 50th anniversary of MGB.

A presentation was made to El Presidente from Terry and Carol Looft. A nice large bottle of Presidente Beer, a souvenier from their recent cruise in the Carribean.

The next pub run will be 3/11 at Pub at the Green. 5pm. We all had a great time.

GT37 – Highlights of Dave Gribler's report. 7/9-13

On line registration is open. We currently have 30 registrations. 59 people.

Marriott reservations are at 75% of our commitment.

We have samples of some of the trophies to be presented. They are beautiful.

Bill Meyers did logo and a big thanks goes out to him.

Volunteers still needed for all sorts of jobs.

Sam has written article for MGA magazine.

Volunteer shirts. Who is going to pay for them? Dave reports that they are working on a solution (possibly a sponsor) to cover the cost of the shirts. The volunteers will not be expected to pay for them.

Museum – Dick Smith. Car show at 2^{nd} Street is May 19^{th} . Triumph entries currently out number the MG's 3 to 1. The deadline is 5/15 for preregistration. Dick need volunteers to park cars man the booth and numerous other jobs.

Louie – There will be a spaghetti dinner 4/22 from 12 -5 at Bella Villa with proceeds going to the Museum. The Sons of Italy Bocci Classic tournament is asking for MG's to display on Sunday 7/22. Anyone bringing their car will get a free dinner.

Tech tips: none

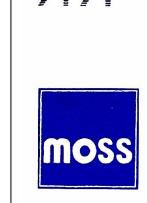
For Sale: Linda Wolfe received an email from Dave Ream. He has an MGA coupe for \$17,000 along

ini **44** ania

with the 49 red TC for \$31,000 currently advertised. Contact him using the phone number in the blanket email recently sent. He will be in Fla until end of March and then returning to the area...

Gum ball: - Dick Smith \$5.00

Motion to adjourn Linda Wolfe, seconded by Bonnie Hankey. Approved. Meeting adjourned 8:42



MG AUTOMOTIVE

Parts, Service and Restoration for MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos

Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike Kettering, Ohio 45429 (937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

British Car Day 2012 Registration

Name				
Address				
City	State	Zip	Phone	
e-mail	Miles Driven to BCD			
Yr./Make/Model	Class			
Club affiliation				
Advance registration (includes f Deadline: Must be received by J t-shirt size s ML_ XL_ X	July 14, 20		\$15.00	
Additional t-shirts (day of show S_M_L_XL_XXL	\$13)		\$10.00	
Vendor registration			\$20.00	
			Total	
Make checks payable to: British	Car Day	2012		
Mail to: BCD 2011, 1754 Linde	enhall Dr.	Loveland,	ОН 45140-2120	
Neither I, nor my heirs, will hold the Miami Rivers MetroParks, or any other sponsors or any damages done to me or by me, my party event.	persons asso	ociated with thi	s event, liable for any personal injuries of	
Signed			Date	