THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XL No. 5



More New Members Top Dog-Friendly Cars



From the President Skip Peterson

ennifer and I hit the road in early March, heading to Fernandina Beach for our first visit to the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, some-thing we have wanted to do for many years, but something was always in the way (I was shooting NCAA basketball at UD.)

We've always heard and read great things about this event and we wanted to experience it first hand, plus see what we can learn that we can use at our own Dayton Concours. (We learned a lot!) We were also going to meet up with Amelia veterans Nancy and Mike Edgerton, which helps to take the fear out of the unknown by showing us the ins and outs that comes from years of experience.

There is a road tour on Friday that ends in the quaint town of Fernandina Beach and we headed there late morning. As we stop at the last traffic light on A1A, on the right I notice a building that sort of looks



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

Club Membership Information

Membership dues for 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 27, 2013

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Mar:

11 – Tool Worship Day 27 – Meeting at K of C Hall

Apr:

13 – Blame Somebody Else Day 24 – Meeting at K of C Hall

May:

22 – Meeting at K of C Hall 25 – Drive Your MG Week

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

like a car dealership, and there's an MGA setting in the window. As we roll through the light, I notice an MG TD sitting beside it and a TF in the background.



What???? In the side parking lot are various other models of MG's, from a rusty, rubber bumper B to what is alleged to be a YT.

There also are a few muscle cars, a Harley or two and various other "collectible" machines. Welcome to Amelia Dream Cars. If you check out their website, you'll see that they buy, sell and consign antique, collectible and unique vehicles and their customer base is nationwide and in Europe. OK.... I liked the description of the MG TF... "A perfect project car for the MG

enthusiast! Comes with an MG-A motor that runs/shifts well. No

windshield. Has dash, but no instruments. Good wood and metal. Doors are in great shape. Boxes included are full of parts, 85% complete. Asking \$7,995, OBO." It was in pieces, and the other TF, they said was not completely original, because it had been upgraded with a 289 Ford V8! Time to check out the cars from the road tour!



The Sunday Concours is held on the 10th and 18th fairways of the Golf Club at Amelia, on the grounds of the Ritz-Carlton Resort. It attracts an estimated 24,000 spectators, yes; you read that right, 24,000. The trick is to get there early, and I had secured a media credential because I will be writing about it, so Jennifer and I had early access, a full 2 hours before the gates open. This way we could see the cars as they moved them into place, which is really cool. It's a long hike from the parking to the fairway, but as we walked onto the showfield, we were greeted with a class of 1963 Corvettes, including the concept car for the Stingray.

The very next car I saw, parked right next to the pond, a 1933 MG J2 belonging Ron & Linda



Crowninshield of Asheville, NC. Complimenting the MG on the other side of the pond was the Duesenberg class. There were two other MG's entered, a 1935 PA and the 1933 MG K2 owned by Len Star of Hudson, Ohio, that received an award in the Pre-War Sports Car class. That speaks very well for Star's MG, which was competing against Alfa-Romeo's, Aston-Martin's, Lancia's and a Jaguar SS100 in the Pre-War Sports Car class. I never expected to see MG's when we arrived, much less an award winner, and to be honest, this Concours is so large and has so many significant machines, it's hard to full comprehend the cars that surrounded you.

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Robert Loudon 5429 Hathaway Rd. Lebanon, Ohio 45036 (732) 682-9725 <u>rloudon@envirogen.com</u> 1950 MG TD

Member Featured Car of the Month... Nick & Amy Garman's '72' MG Midget

Nick Garman

eing of the younger generation (under 30) I didn't grow up around MGs or any other British cars. When I started dating my now wife, Amy, her father had a little British car that was in a thousand pieces in his one- car garage. Over the next 4-5 years his car started to take shape and look like a car again, which started to intrigue me. I liked that I didn't see one on every corner, parts were easy to come by, and they were fairly affordable.

After the sale of my old Chevy pickup I was on the internet searching for a British car. Between Craigslist, eBay, newspapers and word of mouth I spent many hours searching. I knew what I wanted and finally found a 72 MG Midget just outside of Richmond, Indiana. After a few phone calls and work, I jumped in the truck with my father-in-law and headed over to Richmond with some cash in my pocket and high hopes! After a test drive I couldn't wipe the smile off my face and I knew I had to have it. I did my best to put on my poker face and after some friendly negotiation I bought myself an MG midget! It wasn't perfect but I wanted a car that I could drive and restore. I drove it up on the trailer and headed toward Dayton with my new car.

The next day was a scramble trying to get titles, insurance and license plates so I could drive it. It just so

happened that the British car show at Eastwood Park, British Car Day Dayton 2011, was on this same day and I was bound and determined to drive my MG there and enter it in the competition. After registering the MG my next stop was at the MG tent to officially become a member of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre. I drove the car the rest of the summer/fall and after a few breakdowns, lots miles and fun the work began over the winter. Wanting to make the car safe, first and foremost, a complete rebuild the front suspension was first on the agenda, followed shortly by the brakes along with new wheels and tires. I also rebuilt the



SU carburetors and installed a new fuel system. General tune up items were accomplished just in time, with spring just around the corner!

The summer of 2012 brought many miles in the midget with my wife Amy and more often than not my in-laws Rick and Susie Shields in their 73 MGB. We put over 3000 miles on the little Midget last year without too much trouble. Although the Midget is considered a work in progress, I am one of those types of people who enjoy doing as much as I can myself. I like to know where every nut and bolt goes and how everything works together. I still have a lot of work planned for the car, and I don't know that I will ever be done.



Flexible Cables for Your MG or Is Your Car Screaming at You?

Mike Bond Macon, Georgia. MG TC, TD and MGB Southeastern MG T Register, Ltd.

jumped in the TC yesterday morning for a quick spin into town. The garage was very cold and, as soon as the motor started, a high pitched wail blasted from under the car's dash board. It was easy to find that the tachometer cable was the source for all of this noise as the pitch changed with the speed of the motor. You can find these cables newly made or, with a little patience and luck, you can save an old one to get many more years of life out of it.

The speedometer and tachometer cables for the T series and later MG cars are all very similar. They are flexible mechanical assemblies that are designed to transfer energy from the generator, motor, etc. to the instruments on the dash. They all consist of an outer steel or aluminium conduit, sometimes coated with a flexible plastic material, an inner cable and female couplings at each end to fix the assembly onto the instrument and driving ends. One end of the inner cable will have a brass ring attached that acts as a bearing.

The original Smiths and Jaeger cable assemblies are very robust compared to some of the new stuff that is currently being sold. If your speedo/tacho gauge goes dead, determine the source of the problem before replacing any other hardware. You can quickly twist a new inner cable in two by installing one on a locked-up instrument...trust me, I've done it before! The old ones suffer from rusting and a lack of lubrication.

Re-build is simply a matter of cleaning and lubricating the old equipment. This is a dirty job...set up a saw horse or, better yet, a 10' ladder out in the back yard. Remove your cable assembly and clamp it to the ladder about 5' off of the ground. The trick is to get some WD40 or 3 in 1 oil flowing down the inside of the conduit. Now, try to rotate the inner cable by hand; once it is moving, you can use a

portable electric drill motor to spin it a bit. Go slowly, the goal is to get the inner cable spinning freely without undo force. The next step is to remove it from the outer conduit, bearing end first.

Use a 3-M green pad moistened with oil to remove the rust and old grease down to bright metal. Lubricate the cable with lithium grease, slide it back into the conduit and you are done. If you find that your inner cable has corroded into two pieces or, otherwise, it can't be repaired, you may be able to find a replacement. An inner cable alone will be cheaper to purchase than a complete expensive assembly. Look at the web auctions or call around to the MG parts suppliers for a "new old stock" cable, but, be careful that it is the exact length needed for your application. Also, make sure that the square cross sectioned ends of the cable are not too long for the receiving instrument or gearbox. The speedometer cable for the MGB, for instance, is manufactured about 1/4" too long on the gearbox end! The factory provided a small spacer/washer to make-up the difference. Failure to modify the cable end or install this little spacer results in jamming the cable that leads to its early demise.

Regards to all and DRIVE SAFE!

Top 10 Dog-Friendly Cars

from gayot.com

e dog lovers take our pets seriously. In fact, we take them so seriously that our four-legged friends are as much a part of our family as our children. So it's no surprise that when we hit the road for a family outing, we often bring our pups along for the ride. Yet some rides are better than others when it comes to carting around canines. From spacious SUVs to sporty, budget hatchbacks, here are our picks for the top ten vehicles best-suited for dogs and their drivers.



Kia Sportage Crossover Despite being the oldest member of Kia's American fleet, the small and sprightly Kia Sportage continues to look cute and fresh. Its compact frame imparts the ultra-small crossover with car-like handling, while its roomy interior and ample cargo space make it perfect for pets.

Honda Element The Honda Element is a robust four-passenger crossovers that aims for the basics, offering a boxy, utilitarian-styled body and two convenient clamshell doors. Carpooling with canines is also not a problem with the Element's Dog Friendly package, which adds a built-in kennel, stowable ramp, and even a spill-proof water bowl to this already versatile vehicles.



Subaru Impreza WRX 5-Door Hatchback Grey-

hounds will love this fast hatch, which comes standard with a 265-horsepower turbocharged 4-cylinder that shoots it to 60 in just 4.7 seconds. However, horsepower isn't this Subie's only selling point. With Subaru's symmetrical all-wheel drive, nearly 45 cubic feet of cargo room and 60/40 fold-flat rear seating, the WRX 5-Door makes for a great all-purpose, dog-friendly vehicle.





Volkswagen Jetta SportWagen TDI Station Wagon Fitted with an ultra-efficient turbocharged clean diesel engine, the Volkswagen Jetta SportWagon. TDI allows you and Rover to roam the countryside without worrying about your fuel reserves. And with 66.9 cubic feet of cargo room with the rear seats folded flat, feel free to bring along your pup's pals along with all their toys, as well!

Mercedes-Benz ML550 SUV Mercedes' entry into the midsize luxury SUV market combines the brand's renowned German engineering with a keen eye for passenger comfort and even more safety features than previous iterations. The ML550's 4.6-liter biturbo V8d engine provides ample torque for towing loadeddown trailers, while dogs riding in the rear will appreciate the sport ute's 4MATIC all-wheel drive and AIRMATIC air suspension, which impart it with a smooth, surefooted ride.





Infiniti EX37 Crossover This luxurious crossover SUV combines the cool looks and performance capabilities of Infiniti's stylish G sedan with the utility and versatility of a family wagon. The EX37's plush leather interior and advanced electronic amenities ensure passenger comfort, while the crossover's quick handling and road-gripping available all-wheel drive make it ideal for backcountry romps with Rover.



Hyundai Accent Hatchback Earning a classleading 34 mpg combined and offering up to 47.5 cubic feet of storage space, this economical 5-door hatchback is perfect for family trips with Fido in tow. The addition of decent acceleration, a low starting price and a surprising amount of standard equipment make the Hyundai Accent a day tripper's dream.

Jeep Patriot Latitude 4x4 SUV Combining cutting edge off-road technology with comfort-enhancing features and a carpeted rear cargo area perfect for mutts and bulldogs, the all-new Patriot is as at home on city streets as it is dirt roads. However, no matter how you and your pooch plan to use the Patriot, this SUV's low point of entry and class-leading 4x4 fuel economy are sure to keep you satisfied.



Acura TSX Sport Wagon Station Wagon Featuring bold lines and a bevy of standard luxury features, the Acura TSX Sport Wagon is one family-friendly vehicle that isn't afraid to attract some attention. Offering up to 66.2 cubic feet of cargo room and plenty of versatility, even the big dogs will enjoy car rides in this cavernous wagon.





Suzuki Equator Crew Cab Pickup Truck Modeled after the Nissan Frontier, this mid-sized pickup compensates for its lack of originality with sheer utility while off road. Sporting a 261-horsepower V6 engine and a five-speed automatic transmission, this roomy backwoods tank can haul all kinds of weekend adventure gear (including dog crates and beds!) and comes with a wide range of **optional features.**

Bounce This Along

All this time you've just been putting Bounce in the dryer!

1. It will chase ants away when you lay a sheet near them. It also repels mice.

2. Spread sheets around foundation areas, or in trailers, or cars that are sitting and it keeps mice from entering your vehicle.

3. It takes the odour out of books and photo albums that don't get opened too often.

4. It repels mosquitoes. Tie a sheet of Bounce through a belt loop when outdoors during mosquito season.

5. Eliminate static electricity from your television (or computer) screen.

6. Since Bounce is designed to help eliminate static cling, wipe your television screen with a used sheet of Bounce to keep dust from resettling.

7. Dissolve soap scum from shower doors. Clean with a sheet of Bounce.

8. To freshen the air in your home - Place an individual sheet of Bounce in a drawer or hang in the closet.

9. Put Bounce sheet in vacuum cleaner.

10. Prevent thread from tangling. Run a threaded needle through a sheet of Bounce before beginning to sew.

11. Prevent musty suitcases. Place an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.

12. To freshen the air in your car - Place a sheet of Bounce under the front seat.

13. Clean baked-on foods from a cooking pan. Put a sheet in a pan, fill with water, let sit overnight, and sponge clean. The anti-static agent apparently weakens the bond between the food and the pan.

14. Eliminate odors in wastebaskets. Place a sheet of Bounce at the bottom of the wastebasket.

15. Collect cat hair. Rubbing the area with a sheet of Bounce will magnetically attract all the loose hairs.

16. Eliminate static electricity from Venetian blinds. Wipe the blinds with a sheet of Bounce to prevent dust from resettling.

17. Wipe up sawdust from drilling or sandpapering. A used sheet of Bounce will collect sawdust like a tack cloth.

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18. Eliminate odors in dirty laundry. Place an individual sheet of Bounce at the bottom of a laundry bag or hamper.

19. Deodorize shoes or sneakers. Place a sheet of Bounce in your shoes or sneakers overnight.

20. Golfers put a Bounce sheet in their back pocket to keep the bees away.

21. Put a Bounce sheet in your sleeping bag and tent before folding and storing them. It will keep them smelling fresh.

22. Wet a Bounce sheet, hose down your car, and wipe love bugs off easily with the wet Bounce.

23. Put a sheet of Bounce in your suitcase when traveling, it will help keep mites or any other critters out of it. While you are at it, travel with several Bounce sheets and run them up and down your bed linen before getting into bed, it will cause all the critters already in your bed to run. Keep a sheet in your suitcase even after you have unpacked to protect your suitcases from bugs nesting in it.

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: 1979 MG Midget, Carmine Red with tan interior. Runs smoothly, mostly original, 41K miles. New exhaust piping, garage kept and has a clean title. Wheels and wheel wells have spots of minor corrosion at the edges, otherwise very little rust. Interior is in good overall condition. Original owners manual included. Located in Dayton. Call Jon at 585-278-0779. (3/13)

For Sale: 1980 MGB Fresh paint, new fuel pump, fuel tank, distributor, and timing gears. Also features Lemans spoiler, painted bumpers, carpeted trunk (i.e., boot), American Racing wheels, with new caps and bolts, and luggage rack. Overall, a very nice car..Bob, 513-267-1784. (2/13)

For Sale: Chrome luggage rack for MGB. \$75. Also, four new wire wheel knock offs. Never been on car. Bob, 513-267-1784. (2/13)

For Sale: 73 MGBGT Freshly painted & well sorted. New fuel tank, new fuel pump, new exhaust, rebuilt carbs, replacement gearbox, new clutch, new windshield rubber seal, new steering rack boots, new brake hoses, brand new paint job. Runs great, oil pressure is 50-60 psig, engine is very responsive, gear change very smooth & precise. No oil leaks. Interior & chrome in very good condition. The dash has been fitted with a dash cap. The underside of this car is very solid, the only corrosion visible is in one of the battery boxes. Asking price is \$6,500.00 Contact Bill at greenwoo.william@att.net or 614-397-7074. (1/13)

For Sale: 1952 MG TD . Full restoration in 2002. Two tone green in Almond and Woodland Green. Was an original British Racing Green. New Biscuit Tan interior. A little over 27,000 miles on the odometer. Serial # is TD/9311. Body Type 22381. Body number 8701. Very detailed and highly maintained. Shows only a few blemishes from driving. Please call Nick Winblad at 937-938-1869. (1/13)

For Sale: 1979 MGB. California Car. Engine rebuilt in 2005 with a little over 3,500 miles on engine. Repainted in 2005 British Racing Green. New Canvas Top in 2005. All Wheels and Convertible Top frame Powder coated Gloss Black. New Carpet in Trunk with Wheel cover. New Panasonic radio/CD

player and speakers. New Brakes 2010. New Exhaust front to back. Too many other new items to list. Best Offer. Moving must SELL Daniel Bentancur. Cell 937-422-2335 Work 937-904-7383 (1/13)

For Sale: 1951 MG TD Viper red paint job. 8000-9000 miles since purchased in 1998. Complete frame off restoration by previous owner which included replacement of the original differential by one from an MGA, which raised the final drive ratio by about 20%., improving cruise performance. Splined chrome wire wheels. The interior features very good door panels and carpeting and what appear to be original leather seats. Also included is a full toneau cover, good canvas top, good side curtains and a good car cover. Consistently placed at the top against other TDs in the area. Other items included in the price are two boxes of trophies along with 2 boxes of MGTD parts. \$23,500 Phil Johnson, 937-885-5661, or pjohn11858@yahoo.com. (1/13)

MG Car Club Minutes, February 27th Meeting

Diana Hodges

ois Gribler opened the meeting with a public service announcement from the Gribler Foundation. Lois, "If your smoke detectors are over 5 years old, you need to replace them – even if they're hard wired. After our recent fire episode, we discovered that even our old hard wired smoke detectors didn't work properly and the reason why was that they all have a finite shelf life, even the hard wired ones."

President Skip Peterson, "Let's get the meeting started. Hi, my name's Skip." MGCC, "Hi Skip!" Skip continued, "I knew, as I've always known, that Ron could fill in for me admirably. He's now sitting in his backyard with a double barrel shotgun waiting for intruders. I made my deadline this month. I read the whole newsletter cover to cover since it was out early." Terry Looft, "That's because we have good people finally doing it."

Skip, "The interesting thing (*turning to me*), I didn't know that you had an MGA since 2000. Is it running?" Sam H., "It runs but I wouldn't trust it down my drive way. The picture in the newsletter was taken in 2000 and if I took another picture today, it'd pretty much look the same." Skip. "Is there any sort of race to get either of them going?" Me, "Nope..." Skip, "Good." Terry Looft, "Now there's a race you can win." Jennifer Peterson, "How about just getting our running." At this point, the MGCC flood gates open. Lois Gribler piles on... Terry Looft, "I'm just waiting for an open spot." Skip, "Ron, you want to take over."

Vice President Report by Ron Parks, "I've only got two things. I brought 2 Christmas gift. If you drink Corona or Old Speckled Hen, you might need one of these... (Ron pulled out a Craftsman bottle opener). *I totally missed the "other" thing on the list of two... I think it was Triumph related. No loss.*

Minutes were next. Minutes were approved as reported.

Treasurer's Report was next. – Skip motioned Lois

Membership with Carole Looft followed. Carole, "We had a new member join us for tonight's meeting. We now have 104 members."

Newsletter. Steve Markman, "Thanks to Sam for submitting the Car-of-the-Month article. I thought that I had an article, and then it fell through. Just when I was planning on running an article about cats, I received the article from Sam, so thanks. About a month ago I got this neat email that was a quiz about

all these really great cars. I spent an entire evening reformatted it to use in a future newsletter and low and behold, someone who shall remain nameless sent the exact same e-mail out to the entire club. (At this point, Ron got a very embarrassed look on his face)." Steve continued, "I had to cut & paste all the pictures and answers on the quiz..." Ron Parks, "Did you at least have an enjoyable evening doing that?" Skip, "Yeah. Just hit 'forward', 'send'..."

Sunshine Committee. Bob Ferrell had a blood clot behind his knee that broke apart and got into his lungs. He was in the hospital for 4 days. He was at the meeting to give us the report on his condition, so everything worked out well there. Ron Parks continued, "Dave McCann fell while he was out getting a pizza and hurt his knees. He's laid up for at least the next week."

Webmaster John Scocozzo. "Nothing new. Our GT37 website is now down so the pictures that were there will be moved over to our regular website at some point in the future."

Activities with Eddie. Skip, "I guess we're not having any activities tonight." Lois, "Oh yes we are!" Skip, "Well aren't you a little fired up tonight?!?" Lois, "I'm bigger than him (*Eddie*), I can handle this." Lois, "I have two beef roast, a 22 pound turkey, a spiral ham and lasagna to go around. BYOB and maybe a desert/dish to share IF YOU WANT. March 16th at 6:00. Parking is at a premium so be careful." (*Since I'm typing these ON the 16th, I KNOW you missed it if you weren't there.*)

Skip brought up the idea of a Pub Run to the Pub and after a BRIEF discussion it was decided to table the Pub Run to the Pub since we want to do that when it's warm. It was suggested that we do it after the tune-up clinic so that everyone's cars are running. Now if only we knew when the tune-up clinic was...



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Back from beer break at 8:12

Skip, "I made a small error. All of these magazines are mine and they're here for the taking. I don't want to take them home, so feel free." John Wolfe, "Did you WANT to get rid of those magazines, or did you have help deciding to get rid of them?" Skip, "No, the pile was just getting too big." Terry, "So you had help."

Old Business. Skip, "We've gone through at least 2 MGCC EZ-Up tents, so we've been discussing the idea of maybe spending more than \$39.95 for The British Museum of the next one. Transportation got a nice deal on theirs and so I called Graham Shelton at EZ-Up this morning. Their basic 10x10 canopy comes with a 2-year warranty and it sells for \$259+shipping." Lois, "We can afford it." Skip, "If you want the logo, it's another \$72-\$220 depending on the size of the Logo." Steve Veris, "How many times do we fly over the tent to see the logo?" Skip, "It's visible to drones AND people walking by." Terry, "Why not just get a 10ft banner made to stretch across the back and forgo the embroidery." Skip, "That's kind of what I thought as well. All of our problems

have been due to the frame breaking, not the canvas tops wearing out." Lois, "Which of the possible options has the better frame?" Skip, "The Enterprise is good for professional use and is designed to be used daily. The Express is the hobbyist/weekender for \$259 + shipping." Lois moved to buy an Express 2 with blue top. Linda seconded. Terry, standing in for Eddie opposed. Club votes to buy the Express and drafted Skip to take care of it.

BCD. Skip, "We've got our permit. Everything's fine with the Park District. We're good to go." Bill Hammond, "We're not affected by sequestration?" Skip, "Nope. The Park District is requesting the liability insurance waiver. We renew our insurance policy in May so when we renew we'll forward a copy of it to them then.

Skip, "Any other old business?" There's a Louie joke in there somewhere...

May 25th - June 2nd is Drive your British car week. Our pub run will be our effort to drive our cars that week.

New Business. Skip, "Beer Cozies. Do we want to get some with the club logos? We'd have to buy 100 @ \$1.48/per. It'll fit either a bottle or a can. If we buy 200 they're \$1.44." Terry Looft, "How much for 1000?" Skip, "They're \$.88 for 1000. Discount Mugs.com." A brief interlude as John Scocozzo goes out to the website to check pricing for two sided printing (*theme of Jeopardy playing in the background*). After intermission, John reports back that it looks like there's no extra charge for two sided printing. Skip, "We'll look into it and we can discuss it more next meeting."

British Museum of Transportation. Dick & Pete aren't here so no one knows.

Terry Looft. "Jim Pesta contacted me and wanted to know about setting up a T-Series tech session at BCD this year. He just wants it to have a formal time and to be published ahead-of-time." Skip, "That's shouldn't be a problem. We can do that."

Tech Tips. Skip, "Who's in the garage working on stuff?" Bill Hammond, "It's too cold."

For sale?

