

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XL No. 7

May 2013



**New Meeting Location**  
British Car Week - May 25 - Jun 2

## From the President

Skip Peterson

**L**ittle did we know when we walked in the Knights of Columbus hall last month, we were entering for the last time. 16 years of calling Bainbridge Hall our home was about to come to an abrupt, and frankly, disheartening end.

Bartender (and brother-in-law) Jim pulled me aside and handed me an envelope, addressed to the MG Club that a KofC officer had given to him, with instructions to see that we received this. Nothing like putting the bartender in the middle, eh?

Inside was an invoice that indicated that our monthly rent had doubled, to \$100 per meeting, effective that evening! Interesting way to do business?

We came to the KofC when the Lithuanian Club fell on hard times and we needed a place to meet. We worked fish fry's in exchange for free rent. We held a couple of cruise-ins in the parking lot,



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 **Buffalo Wild Wings at Town & County Shopping Center**, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

**Wed, May 15, 2013**

## MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### May:

15 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings  
18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> St Market  
25 – Drive Your MG Week

### Jun:

26 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

### Jul:

24 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

supported their steak fry nights, and for a long time, really felt like we had a home.

The Fish Fry deal kind of fell part a while back, but we still felt like we were home, and paid \$25 per month to meet. A year or so back, things were getting tough, or so we were told, and we agreed to pay \$50 per month to meet.

Then comes April, 2013; showing no respect, and even less class, the KofC management chose to raise the rent, yet didn't have the courage or professionalism to meet us face-to-face. They made Jim their "messenger."

It's safe to say that the membership in attendance voted unanimously to sever all ties with the Knights of Columbus, effective immediately. After spending more than 150 Wednesday evening's in the KofC Hall, having a cold beer, telling stories, and generally having a good time, this party is over.

Our new home will be the Blazing Room in the back of the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in the Town and Country Shopping Center on Stroop Rd in Kettering. Jennifer and I met with the manager and the assistant manager, who greeted us with open arms. We have reserved the fourth Wednesday of every month through November, except for this month, when we'll meet on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

There is no charge to use the room, there is no minimum purchase required, and we will have it all to ourselves. You can enter from the door in the rear parking lot or park in the front of the shopping center and come through the front door, go past the bar to the left and you're there.

Since we're saving, at least \$50 a month, I'd like to make a motion that the first round is on the club. Remember, when one door closes, another opens.

## New Meeting Location – BW3 in Kettering

Skip Peterson

**T**hose who missed the last meeting missed another milestone for this organization. Without so much as a "Hi, how are you," the management of the Knights of Columbus gave our member and host, Jim Hinders, an invoice for the monthly rent that indicated it had doubled, to \$100 per meeting, effective immediately. That price is certainly out of line for the facility and for our budget. Jim was frustrated, and you can imagine how the rest of us felt. We discussed after the beer break and in a swift and unanimous vote, we suspended meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall, effective immediately.

The President's Chief of Staff (Jennifer) was on the phone during the meeting and quickly got everything under control. I'm happy to report our homeless situation lasted less than 24 hours. Our new home for meetings will be Buffalo Wild Wings (BW3) in the Town and Country Shopping Center on Stroop Rd. in

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Kettering. They have a private meeting room that seats 70, a full bar, and there is no charge to use the room and no minimum purchase required. Jennifer and I toured it the next morning; it's nice, clean, spacious, has it's own restroom and a private back door entrance. We expect that at least a few people will likely buy a beer or two and food is available off of the menu.

The address and phone number for BW3 is 262 E Stroop Rd. Kettering (937) 424-3999. You can enter through the front entrance of the shopping center, or you can enter the back door from the parking lot in the rear. The back door will be open at 7 pm. They have complete bar and food service, and there is no charge for us to use the room, nor is there a minimum that you must purchase.



Our new home at Buffalo Wild Wings in Kettering

Our next meeting will be held on the THIRD Wednesday in May, May 15, since the 22nd was booked. We reserved the room for the fourth Wednesday of every month after that, except November when we booked the third, to avoid the night before Thanksgiving.

I joked about the President's Chief of Staff, but seriously, all credit goes to Jennifer; she got on the phone during the club meeting, got the info, we met them the next morning, and she sealed the deal with the manager. I think we can sail on through 2013 with a smile.

We spent 16 years meeting at the K of C, and it felt like home. But, as they say... when one door closes, another one opens. I think we made a good move and we'll continue to move forward. I look forward to seeing all of you on May 15th.

I sent the following letter to the Knights of Columbus Council #500 on club stationary:

Mr. Melvin Smolik  
Knights of Columbus Council #500  
267 Bainbridge St.  
Dayton, OH. 45402-2208

April 24, 2013

Dear Mr. Smolik,

Enclosed please find a check for \$50 for our monthly rental fee for the use of the lounge on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, which is full payment based on our agreement. I have also enclosed an invoice we received for \$100 for lounge rental, an amount that we were never notified of, but after reviewing the invoice, the club voted to suspend meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Council #500, effective immediately.

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The manner in which this proposed rate increase has been handled is both disrespectful and unprofessional considering we have met at this location for 16 years and thought we had a solid relationship. This letter severs all ties between The MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre and the Knights of Columbus, Council #500.

Respectfully,

Skip Peterson  
President  
MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre

Cc: Board of Trustees, Knights of Columbus, Council 500  
Jim Hinders  
MGCC, SWOC Secretary

## Photos from Tune Up Clinic

Photos by Skip Peterson and Steve Markman



Ron works on his carburetors.



Steve Miller fixes what Ron worked on.



Most of us drank coffee and ate donuts...



...or just came and had a good time.



Cars outside MG Automotive.



They look even better close up!



Dave McCann watches and enjoys the morning.



Bring your caption for this one to the next meeting!

Thanks again to Steve Miller and MG Automotive for hosting this year's tune up clinic.



## British Car Week - May 25 - Jun 2

Morris Gazette

**S**tarted in 1997, British Car Week is an annual British car awareness week intended for promoting British cars everywhere. This is a time to get your car out, join other friends on drives, and show off your car to the public. It is an opportunity to make potential enthusiasts aware of classic British cars and foster enthusiasm among the next generation of owners. So, get out and drive your car! More information can be found on the web site: [www.britishcarweek.org](http://www.britishcarweek.org)

# Driving in the Dark

By Charlie Key  
St. Louis Metro Gazette

**I**t's time for driving our T cars, a great Easter show has come and gone and spring is in full swing. So, let us address a very common safety problem with our cars; DIM LIGHTS. Your car can be the most beautiful "T" ever known to mankind but at the same time it can be unsafe to drive after dark. Bright, reliable lamps will help to let you enjoy that party or show and still see to drive home.

Dim lamps (headlight or others) are usually caused by poor ground connections. The electrical current is carried to the lamps by wire from the battery, but is transmitted back through the lamp housing, bodywork, and frame. If something impedes the flow of current from one part to another, that circuit will not carry a full load, thus dim lamps and sometimes no lamps. This makes night driving more of a challenge and very unsafe. A simple test to check for a bad ground is to take a length of wire and connect it to the ground side of the battery. Then touch the other end of the wire to the component at various places. If the lamp gets brighter this tells you there is a bad ground and current flow is poor through the housing. In an unrestored car the problem is usually rust, but in the restored car paint is normally the problem.

Once you have found the faulty ground, work backwards to the battery ground. Clean all connections starting with the bulb itself, then the socket, then the bolts mounting the lamp and so on. Sometimes you will need to go back as far as the fender bolts and frame mountings. (I will say that before you get in too deep make sure the battery ground cable is in good order and tight, this might save you some steps).

Now after you have located the problem and corrected the fault, the lamps will work great, however how long will they work? I suggest the use of di-electric grease on all connections, however, this has its drawbacks in some places as it may make things too slick to remain tight. For these connections the use of a star washer is the correct repair. The teeth bite into the metal and give a great lasting connection.

If all of this work does not give you the desired results then the problem might be a bit more complex. The hot side of the circuit may have a bad connection or there might be a faulty switch. This will require the use of a voltmeter or a simple test light to show current. The voltmeter is best because you can measure battery voltage.

First measure the battery voltage itself to get a base measurement. That way as you check the voltages on the hot side of the circuit you can tell if there is a voltage drop thereby isolating the fault that needs repair. Start these tests from the lamp socket first and work your way back to the battery. The most difficult place to do testing is behind the dash at the switches so by working backwards that will be the last place to look. If a meter or test lamp is not available to use, a long piece of wire with a clip on each end can be used as a bypass wire. Simply connect each end to bypass any section. If by bypassing that section there is no improvement then that section is OK, however, should it solve the problem then repair or replace that section or switch.

In choosing new connectors by which to make your repairs, I would recommend staying away from those wonderful crimp connectors. Those wonders have caused many problems in car wiring, the idea is OK but they are usually not installed with the correct crimp tools and will give very intermittent connections. If you have to use a crimp type connector, solder it on, that is the only way to make it reliable. In fact, the very best way to solve electrical problems is to use solder on all connections even if it is a screw

connection. In that case the tips of the wire should be tinned then the screw will hold tighter and continue to keep a good connection.

The new wire looms sold for our cars are a great way to rewire but these do not have the wire ends tinned. These bare wire connections will be good for some time but will loosen from wire collapse and become a bad connection.

This type of fault can be very hard to find because you may move the wires while getting to them for testing and the faulty connection will be good for your test so the puzzle will not be solved.

A little story about doing it the right way; my son Adam and I were driving a rally when we came upon a fellow competitor alongside the road in his newly restored car. At first it appeared that the fuel pump had gone out; it was new but must have been faulty. Two other people had stopped to help and two other pumps were tried with no successful results so the tow truck was being called. I convinced the gentleman to let us take a look, so we started to check it out. A quick test of the circuit found no current, however the ground was good so we started to trace it back to the power source. Very soon we noted that a .new wire harness had been installed with the use of crimp connectors for all the connections. A jumper to the hot side of the fuel pump showed that indeed that was the issue. All this trouble for an eight cent part installed incorrectly on a newly restored car that, in my opinion, should never have had a crimp connector used in the first place. That kind of story is told so often when having old cars as a hobby. The point is that first you need to sort out wiring problems with a logical method of tracing and finding the problem and then make the repairs with the right, high quality equipment installed correctly.



Dave McCann wants to thank everyone for all their thoughts, cards, and visits while he was in the hospital. From this picture, we can see he'd obviously been there way too long.

“KEEP YOUR LAMPS ON BRIGHT”

## Mercedes MBRACE Tech Tracked Boston Marathon Bombers

Jim Henry  
Automotive News  
April 29, 2013

**C**arjacking a Mercedes-Benz M class proved to be a critical mistake for the alleged Boston Marathon bombers. When the driver escaped and called police, officers were able to track the vehicle using the crossover's factory-installed GPS system.

Police decline to give details, but Mercedes-Benz USA confirmed it was contacted April 19 during the hunt for Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Mercedes was asked to help find the vehicle using the Stolen Vehicle Location Assistance function on the crossover's mbrace telematics system.

After authenticating the request, Mercedes turned on the tracking feature, said spokeswoman Donna Boland. "The authorities asked that mbrace be activated and ... it was," she said.

Last week Mercedes-Benz USA CEO Steve Cannon proudly tweeted: "Just found out that our mbrace2 technology in the stolen Mercedes helped locate the Boston terrorists! Thanks to our amazing law enforcement."

Boland said that the vehicle was a 2013 ML350, and that the owner's mbrace subscription was active. She declined to provide more details.

According to a Boston Globe story that cited "the marvels of the Mercedes-Benz ML 350," the 26-year-old carjacking victim got free from his leased Mercedes at a filling station. When officers took his story, he told them the car could be tracked by his iPhone and the Mercedes satellite system.

The shootout in which Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed occurred about an hour later.

## Don't Overlook Insurance Coverage When Buying a New Car

First Command Financial Services, Inc.,

**A**uto dealers make it easy to buy a new car these days. And they don't necessarily let the details of your insurance coverage get in the way of a sale. In many cases, you need to provide only an ID card showing proof of liability insurance and off you go. While this practice can make it easy to get behind the wheel, it can also make it easy to overlook proper insurance coverage on your new vehicle.

The good news is all auto insurance policies provide some automatic coverage on newly acquired vehicles; however, not all policies provide the same automatic coverage. Looking to buy a new vehicle? Here a few important points to keep in mind before you drive off the lot.

1. Know that your policy only provides coverage on new vehicles purchased or acquired by you (or your spouse) and that you are the "named insured" on your current policy. If you are going to acquire a new vehicle for a child or other relative and intend to issue the title in that person's name, there is no automatic coverage on the policy.

2. Automatic coverage applies only to certain types of vehicles. Cars, pickups, vans and SUVs with a gross vehicle weight of less than 10,000 pounds are covered as long as they are not used for transportation of goods in a business. (Some policies will cover new pickups, vans and SUVs up to 25,000 pounds.)



3. Not all policies automatically provide “full coverage” on newly acquired vehicles. The coverage you get may depend on whether or not you have a trade in. For example, one auto insurance policy sold in Texas only provides the level of coverage currently on the traded vehicle. If the traded vehicle is a “clunker” covered only for liability, then liability is all you would get on the newly acquired vehicle, even if it’s a brand-new car. There are other policies that provide comprehensive and collision on newly acquired vehicles even if none of the other vehicles on the current policy carry that coverage.

4. Even if a policy provides “full coverage” on a newly acquired vehicle, the automatic coverage only lasts for a few days – as long as 30 days on some policies but as short as 4 days on others. You must call your current insurance agent before that period ends in order to finalize the details.

If you are thinking about buying a new vehicle, start by calling your current insurance agent for a review of your policy.

## 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:** 1988 Jaguar XJ6 Sedan. Nice paint, chrome, interior. New tires. Just out of 6-year storage. 75,000 miles. Overall, very nice car. \$6000 or best offer. Bob Charles, 513-267-1784. (5/13)

**For Sale:** 1947 TC that is in kit form. It is mostly there. The engine is assembled and thought to be in good shape. The body tub is all new wood and assembled; it only needs to be skinned. New panels seem to be there. Asking \$11K. We can deliver most anywhere within Ohio. Car has many pluses but it will be a project for rebuild. Call Dave Zyp 513-922-8076. (5/13)

**For Sale:** Complete Shurock Supercharger for a TD. It came off a running car and works very well. Increases power, greater speed. Asking \$3.5K. Call Dave Zyp 513-922-8076. (5/13)

**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

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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. (4/13)

**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)

## MG Car Club Minutes, April 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Diana Hodges

Monthly meeting called to order at 7:30. *Actually it was 7:35 but since I told him to wait and see if Vice President Parks showed up, I'm giving him credit for being on time.*

7:33 Ron Parks arrives...

7:35 - Meeting called to order. Karen & Larry Callahan arrived – causing a bit of a stir... Skip, “Larry & Karen Callahan haven’t been to a meeting in...” Karen, “15 years.” Ron, “If you saw the NAMGAR awards, Larry made them.”

Skip, “Tune-Up Clinic. Eddie, Nice job. You handled the donuts like a pro.” It was as successful as it’s ever been because the only 2 cars that got worked on are still running. 18 other people stood around and offered advice. Dave McCann Jr. So you’re saying the advice didn’t hurt?” Skip, “Didn’t say it helped either.”

Skip, “As a token of our appreciation, we have a bunch of vests from the Taj Kreuzers. But this one, (*a lovely day-glo lime green one*) – is reserved for the chairman, you Eddie. We’ve ordered the koozies but they were not delivered. They should be here by the next meeting. We’ve re-upped with the Mother club for £45 because, well, she’s our mother. £45 is roughly \$68.

On the subject of patches, Embroidery.com has not delivered theirs either. On an interesting note, June 5-8<sup>th</sup> 2013 the second National Covered Bridge conference is coming to Dayton presented by the Covered Bridge Society of America. Jennifer is the grand marshal. Skips going to drop her off at the Keating bridge...Jennifer, “Look, floor, roof, they all look the same. Move on.” Skip, “There are 43 breakout sessions with 70 speakers.” Terry Looft, “Seminar on the metallurgy of the nail.”

Skip, “With that, I’m done.”

**Vice President** Ron Parks, “I was planning on going to Perrysburg, but I guess now I’ll go to this instead. Thanks to Steve Miller for his advice and opening his shop. My air cleaners are still on. That’s all I got...”

**Minutes** as published looked to be reasonably accurate. Dave McCann motions to accept the Minutes as reported. Dick Smith seconded. Eddie Hill “nayed” with a very lovely sign.

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**Treasurer's report.** Bonnie Hankey, We've got \$5,573.53 in the main account. Bob Charles Motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Dave McCann Jr. seconded. Report approved. Bonnie makes the suggestion that we make a summer donation to a worthy charity since we're flush with cash.

**Membership** was next. Carole Looft, "We're at 106 members, you didn't do anything last month. You've got to work a little bit harder if you want to get to 120." Terry, "At least no one asked for a refund." Lois Gribler, "It's only \$6 from now until the end of the year..." Dave McCann, "How many relatives you got?" Skip, "I'm looking for a last ditch push at BCD when I can sign 'em up for \$1.50. Maybe the Triumph people. Cross pollinate, cum-bay-yah and all..."

**Newsletter.** Steve Markman, "Nothing special. Just keep those articles coming in." Skip, "I thought the last issue was just chocked full of stuff." Terry Looft, "How about a recipe for goldfish of the month in the next issue?"

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson, "Mary Planeaux is doing fine. Recovering from her surgery."

**Webmaster** John Scocozzo, "Nothing new to report."

**Activities with Eddie.** Skip, "You got anything?" Eddie, "Busy writing, one minute. Yeah, I'm ready..."

- May 18<sup>th</sup> is the Second Street show. \$15 pre-register \$18 day of show. 8-3 Saturday
- Perrysburg June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mid-Ohio Vintage Grand Prix is June 28-30.
- First weekend in Sept, 2014. US Vintage Grand Prix at Watkins Glen. MG will be the featured marque.

Skip, "The Food Bank & Hospice of Dayton sent us another request for donations. We've got a couple of things that are going to be lengthy so we need to cover some other stuff before beer break. The next BCD meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Everything is approved and running smoothly."

Skip then turned the floor over to Dick Smith and the British Museum of Transportation. Dick Smith, "We had our One Stop meeting this morning for the British Museum building. They gather all of the city/county people who have anything to do with buildings together in one place. There are three stages that we're going to go through. The first is bringing the building up to minimum code standards (electrical, plumbing, etc.). Second, is adding things like handicapped access. Third and final is to gain full control and go for it. Each stage takes about 6 months."

Lois Gribler, "I'm still working for Cincinnati Parks & Recreation and if you have any old swimsuits, I don't care if they're faded, as long as they'll stay on a body, that's good." Jennifer P., "Eddie doesn't want to give up his Speedo." Lois, "I'll take his Speedo off..." (*She really said '...off his hands' but it just sounds dirtier this way...*)

Beer Break called at 8:06.

Back from Brake 8:23

Dave Gribler has arrived with the Abingdon Trophy. Skip, "We won this for all those people we brought to town for the covered bridge tours?" Dave Gribler, "We're holding it, kind of like the Stanley Cup, for our work on NAMGAR GT37."

Skip, "Next thing is, we got a little surprise recently. Effective today, our rental of the Knights of Columbus Hall has gone up from \$50 to \$100." Jim Hinders comes in to fill us in. "Our current President

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of the Bainbridge Knights of Columbus Hall, Melvin Smolk made the decision. He said that ‘...they (*the MGCC*) don’t have any other place to go, what are they going to do...’ ”

Skip, “Jennifer has made a few calls and she’s arranged for us to meet at Buffalo Wild Wings (BW3) at Town & Country for free. I’m not a big fan of paying the bill tonight since it was dropped on us with no notice. We were paying \$550 a year and now they want \$1,100.” Dave Estelle, “I think it’s the principal of the thing. We need to walk.” Jim, “You’ve been loyal members of this place for 16 years and this is how they treat you.”

Directions to BW3 will be in the next newsletter. Skip, “For the time being, we’re going to meet at BW3 for next month or 3 while we explore our options.” Eddie, “We should book out 3 months.” Jennifer comes back in. “May 29<sup>th</sup> is available at BW3. The third and fifth Wednesdays are available but not the fourth. It’s the only one though. The rest of the time we can have the fourth Wednesday.” Skip, “This has been in the works for some time and it all came to a head in a crappy fashion tonight.”

Skip, “When I joined this was supposed to be an easy year. No real drama.” Dave McCann, “Things have gone to Hell under you haven’t they?” Eddie, “That’s what we were just talking about.” Lois, “I’ll volunteer to come and look for any stragglers who don’t get the news.” Dave Gribler, “Our business cards don’t have the new address.” Skip, “Damn! We’re going to need new stationery! It was bound to happen, new Pope, new meeting hall!”

Bob Farrell, “Last night our daughter had a baby boy!”

**Tech Tips.** *There was a conversation about blue-goo, gaskets, and silicone, but I honestly missed most of it... Sorry.*

**For Sale.** Bob Hanseman has an SU centering tool for loan. Skip, “I’ve got a thought. We should create a database on our website of unique tools that club members would be willing to share.” Eddie, “An old Speedo?” Skip, “I said tool...” Lois, “Eddie’s tool?”

Back to For Sale. Bob Charles has a 1988 Jaguar XJ6 Sedan barn find. Good paint, chrome & interior. \$6,000.

**Gumball Rallye** – Fast Eddie wins \$10.

Skip, at this point we’re going to wrap up our 16 years at the Knights of Columbus. ...stay tuned...

Meeting adjourned at 9:03.

The logo for MiniMania, featuring the word "MiniMania" in a stylized, bold, black font with a white outline.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, featuring the words "MG AUTOMOTIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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