

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XL No. 11

September 2013

Vote for New Officers at Next Meeting!!

Pay Dues at Next Meeting



From the President

Skip Peterson

August was a busy month, and we ended it with a club meeting that again broke some new ground. After a motion from the floor and much discussion, the club voted to hold the annual holiday party at our new meeting place, BW3's. There was a lively discussion, many pro's, some con's, and I do feel in the end, we came to an agreement that we're all happy with, at least for one year. We're trying this as an experiment, and we'll see how it goes and evaluate in January. The date is Saturday, December 14th and the club will be providing the food, per the agreement at BW3's. You'll be buying your own beverages and we'll also have the traditional GAG gift exchange.

We had a good turnout at the 5th annual Pub British Car Cruise In at the Greene, and it appeared almost everyone won a door prize. How many sets of Bass glasses will turn up as gifts at the holiday party? The following week a number of members ventured



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, September 25, 2013

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Sep:

15 – Concours d'Elegance

25 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Oct:

30 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Nov:

20 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings
(note – one week early)

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

down to the Taj Ma Garaj to “crash” a Porsche Club cruise-in in honor of John Dixon, who was battling cancer. Dixon has been a great friend to the MG Club, and for background, his Taj Kreuzers Speedfest events raised over half a million dollars for local charities. Dixon used his passion for cars to corral his friends to do things that gave back to the community.

He was a leader with a twinkle in his eye that could sell ice cubes to Eskimos, and he did this work with a passion for sick kids and to help others less fortunate. From the car shows to the Mini Grand Prix, the wine tastings and garage tours, John Dixon hosted these events, and made sure all of the money stayed in the community. He looked for groups that had low overhead and made good use of the funds.

A man with a building full of cool Porsches, and VW's, he was most comfortable wearing faded blue jeans and a t-shirt, and enjoying a cold Bud Light, and nothing but Bud Light. He was fiercely loyal, right down to his beer.

John Dixon lost his battle with cancer one week later, on Saturday, Aug. 31. He passed away peacefully at home with his family beside him. His daughter wrote that while John was many things, he was best at being a husband, father and grandfather. Can't think of anything that tops that.

We've lost a good man, a good friend, and a giving person who truly cared about the quality of our lives, and embraced it through cars and community service. One of his last days of getting out was attending British Car Day; he was committed to be there to give the Taj Award. We'll toast him next year, and remember how lucky we were that he touched our lives. Witty, irreverent, self-deprecating and always smiling, John Dixon was truly one-of-a-kind. His favorite quote was, “If you can't make fun of yourself, you can't make fun of anyone else.”

Pay your dues, we'll be holding elections for new officers on Sept. 25th, and I can hardly wait!

Welcome New Member

Carole Loof

James Pesta
2468 Timbercroft Ct.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239
513-532-1795
autographics99@hotmail.com
1955 MG TF

Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

September is the month for membership renewals. You can pay at our next meeting on Sept 25, or mail them to:

P.O. Box 20032
Dabel Branch
Dayton, Oh 45420-0032

Renewals are \$18/year for current members. Dues are only pro-rated for new memberships. **You need to be a paid-up member to vote in our next election on the 25th.** If you need to make any corrections or additions to the contact information we have on file, drop a note along with your payment, and we will update our records. Thanks.

Kettering Holiday at Home

Three MGCC members participated in this year's Kettering Invitational Car show held in conjunction with the Kettering Holiday at Home festival over the Labor Day holiday. Louis DiPasquele, Charlie McCamey, and Steve Markman entered their cars. WTDN, Chan-nel 2, took video featuring Charlie and Steve's cars and used it on the evening news. Louie took third place in the import class, and keeping with tradition, got his photo taken with the festival queen and her court.



University Motors Summer Party

Carole Looft

The University Motors Summer Party was held in Grand Rapids from August 15 – 18, 2013. A group from our club traveled to Grand Rapids to attend. John Twist, from University Motors has hosted this event since the late 1970's. Some of the activities during the 3-day event consisted of a 24 hour Grand Lake endurance drive, a walking tour of the MG Magnette, parking lot parties, a car show, valve cover races, and a variety of vendors selling their wares. Every year John features one of the MG models, and this year's feature was the MG sedans. There were several hundred cars in attendance this year.



Show winners (l to r) George Chase, Graham Cooper, Eddie Cole, Janet Shoviak, Tony Shoviak, Carole Looft, and Dar Planeaux. Not pictured, Club member, Jeff Fields. Photo by Diana Cooper



Club members around the club banner at the University Motors Summer Party in Grand Rapids. Pictured from left are, Dar Planeaux, George Chase, Diana Cooper, Graham Cooper, Tony Shoviak, Maya Shoviak, Lian Shoviak, Terry Looft, Carole Looft, Janet Shoviak, and Eddie Cole,

At the awards banquet, we were treated with MG stories by Peter Thornley, son of John Thornley, who was managing director of the MG Car Company in the 50's and 60's. We had eight show winners from our club. They received their awards at the banquet.



Oakwood Historical Society Car Show

On August 25th, the Oakwood Historical Society hosted their invitational car show on their front lawn. About twenty cars from a wide variety of classes were selected from various local shows over the summer. Steve Markman showed his MG TD, and the British Transportation Museum showed their 1936 Austin Mayfair and their 1938 Vauxhall Fourteen-Six. No awards were given, just a great afternoon relaxing in the shade of the many mature trees that surround the late-1800s estate on Far Hills Ave. in Oakwood.



British Transportation Museum's 1938 Vauxhall Fourteen-Six



British Transportation Museum's 1936 Austin Mayfair



Steve Markman's MG TD



Joe Hooker's valve cover racer was there, too, perched on the back of Steve's TD!

Pictures from 2013 Concours d'Elegance



Club members take a break just long enough to get their picture taken.



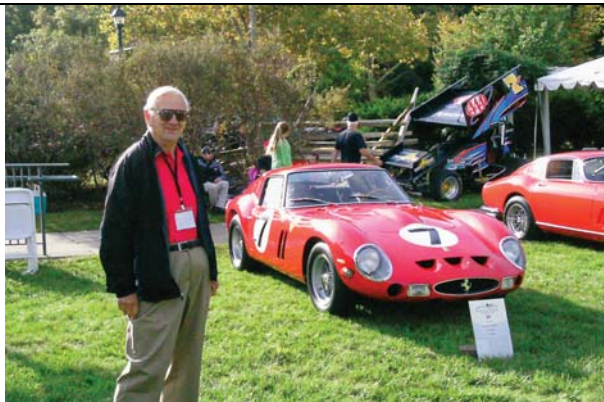
Kathy Goodman, the latest Bond Girl, with the Aston Martins.



Bill Hunter relaxing after making sure his class is in top shape.



Al Freeze guides Jane Powell to her parking spot.



John Wolfe and the Ferrari class.



Skip Peterson delivering lunches. Sure glad they found a job for him so he wouldn't be bored!!

Photos by Ron Parks.

Thanks to Skip Peterson and his team for another great car show. The hard work shows!!

MG TF's 60th Anniversary

MGCC of Toronto

2013 marks the 60th Anniversary of the MG TF, the final iteration of the beloved 'T' car from Abingdon. The first production TF (#0501) was built Sept. 17, 1953. Here is a brief look at the last of the line.

Since the end of the Second World War, MG had been producing a series of cars based on examples derived in the 1930s. The TC was a simple continuation of the pre-war TB, which itself was only a small step forward in design and engineering from its forbearers, but the automotive world was moving on and MG just seemed to be spinning its wheels.

In 1951 MG entered a sleek new form at LeMans, EX 172, which gave the faithful a glimpse of the future, but this car was not yet ready for production. cursory examination of EX 172 shows what would become the MGA of 1955 but the race car was still based on the TD underpinnings. Something needed to be offered to the public in the meantime, so a reworking of the TD was called upon to fill the gap until the new series of cars would begin.



In October of 1953 the MG TF was presented at the London Motor Show as the latest from Abingdon. Critics and enthusiasts alike panned the car for the stop gap it was. Collectible Automobile magazine described the TF thusly: It wasn't that the TF was a bad car. It was actually a good car, well-built and thoughtfully equipped by the standards of the thirties-but not the fifties. Road and Track magazine also noted that although the new TF had improvements in performance over the TD, the advancements were not enough for the car buffs. While Jaguar was mid production of the remarkable XK120 and Triumph was introducing the all new and modern TR2, MG had to fall back on reworking the TD.



The TF model began with the same underpinnings as the TD, with slight modifications. The real change was to the appearance. The TF headlamps were removed from their previous location and mounted into the seductively sweeping curves of the front fenders and the radiator housing was tilted back to give the car a more rakish stance. Inside the cockpit, the driver was treated to a completely overhauled set-up. The instrument cluster was set between driver and passenger on the dash (which also made it easier to change production from right to left handed models) and Octagons ruled everywhere. At the rear, the fuel tank was set at a slightly higher

angle, changing the aft perspective of the TF.

Original power was provided by the venerable 1250 XPAG unit, and in July of 1954 the unit was upgraded to a 1466cc ('1500') power plant. In the roughly one and a half years of production, Abingdon managed to roll Out 9600 MG TFs (3400 examples being of the TF1500). All of this came to an end in 1955, when after 25 years of recreating the same car, MG wowed the world with the all new MGA.

But what of the TF? At the time it was introduced the TF was seen as just something to do until the MGA came along, but today, due to it's limited production, smooth handling (compared to predecessors) and seductive looks (for a T-series car) the MG TF has become one of the most sought after of the 'square-rigger' MGs. TFs are a comfortable cruise around car that is unique enough to draw interest and appreciation wherever they are driven. Simplicity and robustness has meant that the last of the T-series cars has earned and maintained its place in the hearts of MG lovers and car enthusiasts worldwide. Sixty years on, the TF has become more popular than when it was introduced, just ask any owner.

(Information was compiled from: MG Sports Cars by John Heilig; Essential MG by Graham Robinson; and Dream Machines MG by Ian Penberthy.

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.*

Wanted: Hood/bonnet for my 58 MGA. I am looking to buy one that is in good condition. Mike Hirsch 937-429-4202 (8/13)

For Sale: 1979 Mg Midget. New paint (red), black hardtop, stock rims, at the stage of fitting headlamp rims. 82k miles. Akron, OH. Asking \$2k. 330-577-6623. Ask for Mr. Vance. (8/13)

MG Car Club Minutes, August 28th Meeting

Diana Hodges

Meeting called to order at 7:32 for the first time... with what can only be called a drum solo of *(insert your favorite tune, but I'd swear it was a really bad Van Halen.)*

President Skip Peterson in his penultimate performance. "What I'm really thankful for is that I only have to do this for one more meeting! Next month I'd like to remind all of you that we'll be holding elections. You need to be a dues paying member in order to run and to vote." Terry Looft, "We need to change that..." Skip, "No, we don't. This is the last chance, tonight. For \$1.50 for one month, and if I can get 11 new members tonight, I can beat Terry. We don't even need a name, just the \$16.50." Dave McCann Sr., "How about getting the staff here at BW3 to join?"

Skip continued, "BCD. We ended up with 208 cars and in spite of the weather. It was a moderate success. I heard no one complaining. We have a few t-shirts left over."

Skip, "Charlie, it's good to see you here tonight." Charlie, "Thanks to the MGCC for all of the support and condolences." Skip, "We really appreciate you being a member and we will miss Jill."

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Skip, “Then we went to the Pub. Everyone won a door prize except me (*and me*). Eddie won two custom made golf clubs.” Eddie, “I’ve got no use for them.” Skip, “I told Eddie I’d buy him dinner for that gift certificate. I’ve now got a lob wedge and an iron coming... I don’t even know what a lob-wedge is, but I’ve got one coming. Last week we had a cruise-in for John Dixon. We had about 20 non-German cars in addition to all of the Porsches that were the focus of the event. John’s battling pancreatic cancer and his time’s not long (Edit: John Dixon passed away August 31, 2013. We will miss you John.)

Skip, “For the upcoming Concours d’Elegance, all of you who are volunteering, thank you in advanced. Ferrari, Aston and the C2 (1963-1967) Corvette are the featured marques. We’ve got a 1908 Indian – maybe one of the earliest ever built coming. BCD next year will be our 30th event. We’re going to try to come up with some ideas to make it special. This year Indianapolis and Cleveland both scheduled their British car shows the same day. We’ll see if we can’t avoid that next year.”

Skip, “One more month, and we’ll have someone else and I’ll be glad to turn over the gavel and the orange bag. It’s been an interesting year. 10:00 a.m., Saturday, October 5th is the Hooker estate auction. It’ll be held at the Greene Co. Fairgrounds. Administered by Danny Finchum Auctions. All of his vehicles will be for sale, the 1953 MG TD, the 1969 Honda motorcycle, a 2002 Vespa scooter, and other miscellaneous items. They wanted to have it at his house, but there’s no way to park all those cars on the street.”

Vice President Ron Parks. “I did my job this month, so there’s nothing to report.” Skip, “I think we can fix that next month.

Minutes. Motion to accept the Minutes as published. MGCC votes and Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report was next. Bonnie Hankey gave her report. We had Total Income to the MGCC consisting of: (\$0.00). We therefore had a **Total Income of \$0.00**. Total Expenses: Gumball Rallye (\$10.00) + Octagon News Fees (\$60.14) + Oberer Flowers (\$101.60) = **A Total Expense of \$191.74**. **Total Loss to the MGCC was \$191.74**, that when subtracted from/to our existing Treasury balance of **\$4,726.16** equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$4,564.42** in the primary checking and **\$378.99** in the savings account. Jennifer Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Dave Estelle seconded. Report approved.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, “We’ve got 2 new members. Charles Anderson owner of a 1952 MG TD sitting at the bar. Tell us about it?” Charles, “It’s robin’s egg blue and I’ve owned it about 3 years. I only get it out if I’m sure it’s not going to rain. I’m only the second owner.” Skip, “Thanks for coming. There’s a lot of knowledge in this room, feel free to call upon it.” Our Second new member is Jim Pesta from years ago. He lives in Cincinnati and he’s quite knowledgeable with the T-series. We’ve known Jim about 30 years. Jim, “It was the first event outside of Cincinnati. I didn’t know anyone but up walked the Loofts. They’d just bought an MGA but had never driven it. I offered them mine to take a ride. They gave me their sons to watch in part exchange while they went for the ride.” Skip, “When they didn’t come back after 15 minutes, you started thinking you’d been screwed. Now you’ve got 2 kids.” Jim, “Oh yeah. I was worried for a minute.”

Carole continued, “That leaves membership at 110 members. Next month, dues are \$18/year, but it’s only pro-rated for NEW members. Renewal is \$18 whether you pay it in September OR June.” Dave McCann, “Can we vote for people who aren’t here?” Terry Looft, “Vote for them? If we pay their dues sure we can vote for them.” Skip, “Absolutely yes! So that’s why it’s important that you’re here to accept or decline any possible nominations.” *I’ve seen it done. Heck, I think that I got snookered into this deal in the first place...*

Regalia. Carole, “I think we need to think about sweatshirts.” Skip, “It’s 94 degrees outside right now...” Carole, “...yes, but it’ll be 71 next week.” Skip, “Carole’s been regalia and membership chairperson for a while and since it’s not an elected position, she’s in it for life. There’s only one way out Carole.” Skip, “If we do sweatshirts, do we want to do the big logo or the small logo?” The consensus from around the room is a mix of big and small logos. Lois Gribler, “Big.” Dave Estelle, “Small!” Terry, “Is there something you’re compensating for?”

As oft happens with the MGCC, it quickly devolved into a quagmire of big v. small... Linda Wolfe (*tossing in a new grenade*) “A lot of us already have the gray, so it might be nice to have a new color.” Dave Gribler, “Pink?” Bill Hammond, “I think that the grey matches our hair much better.” Skip, “What about an off-white or khaki color?” Lois G, “ALMOND!” Skip, “Why don’t we think about it and we can revisit the topic next month right before the election (*and he can pass the buck to the next President*). This’ll give us new business to talk about.” Terry Happensack, “When you have these screens made, do you keep it or do you have new ones made each time?” Skip, “We typically have them made.” Lois and Terry H., “Why?” Skip, “The cost goes up. To save the screen, we’ve got to buy the frame and other places don’t want to use other screens that aren’t their own.” Charlie McCamey, “Can we get 18 big and 18 small logos?” Skip, “No, they only do one size per screen.” Ron Parks, “If you want the small logo, you can always have it embroidered for \$8.” Terry Happensack, “The artwork, is that available to any club member?” Skip, “Yes, for \$50, and a signed, non-compete agreement... Seriously, we can arrange it.”

Moving on, **Newsletter** was next. Steve Markman, “Nothing new this month. Keep those articles coming in or else there will be pictures of the pets.”

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer, Carole, Linda? Combined, “We got nothing.” Linda, “The other thing, Reuben’s here tonight.” Hello to Reuben! Welcome back!

Webmaster, Mr. Scocozzo. John, “Nothing new...”

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “There’s some car show at Carillon Park next month. You should know more about that than I’ve got. The newsletter mentioned a fall tour. Maybe after beer break we can find out more.” Carole Looft, “I want to mention again NAMGBR at French Lick 2014. We’ve got t-shirts to model.” Terry, “We know the future (standing up)...” Skip, “Terry, sit down. I’ve been wanting to say that for years.” Terry, “Most people just say shut up.” Skip, “That too.” Carole continued, “We’re planning a scenic caravan down. If there’s enough interest, we’ll take the beer trailer.” Skip, “This place is a resort. They’ve got 700 rooms. I’m taking Eddie’s golf clubs.

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Ron will be doing a free-form sunrise covered bridge tour.”

Beer Break called 8:13.

Back from Brake at 8:33

Skip, “We’re going to have to move this along...”

Old Business. Skip, “This has nothing to do with members, it’s about things we’ve already talked about. Besides, Hammond’s in the restroom...”

Dave Gribler. “After BCD, each club should make about \$800 after the split. We did make a little money.”

British Museum of Transportation. Dick Smith, “We’re looking at options as the City of Dayton’s dragging their feet. We did get a 1938 Vauxhall convertible. It was at the Taj Kreuzers cruise in.

New Business. Skip, “Do we have a Fall Tour date?” Steve Powell, “We’ve set the date for Sunday, October 6th. We’ll probably meet in Tipp City at the McDonalds at exit 68, since that’s where we live. We have friends who have a restored distillery (Buckeye Distillery?) in Tipp City. Cover charge is \$10/per person which includes a whiskey tasting. We’ll have dinner in Tipp City at Harrisons.” Skip, “Let’s make it 1:00 so we can pull out at 1:30.” Steve, “For those of you who live south of the river, there is life north of the river.”

Next we turned to what turned out to be a rather touchy topic. Carole Looft, “We have talked in the past about the possibility of holding the holiday party at this venue. I think we should talk about it.” Lois, G. “We can’t bring in food, so what’s the point?” Carole, “It’s a big room where we can all get together.” Lois, “I like to go to people’s houses and the mixing and mingling. I like the food, the decorations.” Carole, “Here there’s good parking, you can have everyone in one room, you can see the gift exchange.” Terry Happensack, “What are the pros-n-cons?” Dave McCann, “I’d like to try it at least once. I came this close to getting shot the night I accepted the Presidency.” The club then created a list. Pros: good parking, everyone in one room. Cons: there aren’t side rooms and there’s going to be noise issues. We have to have it catered. It’ll be \$270-350 to have a buffet catered at BW3’s. There would be the food, but drinks would be on us. Terry Happensack, “I think we should be the host.” Dave Estelle, Jennifer Peterson and others, “We think since it’s an MGCC event, it should be a club vote.” Dave Estelle, “Can I make a motion that we have a vote?” Eddie, “I have more discussion... I enjoy a lot of the other food that people bring to our parties. It’s outstanding food. I enjoy Mable’s famous beans & weenies.”

Skip, “There’s nothing in the bylaws that says that the President has to have the party, but it’s a very strong tradition.” Jennifer P., “My thought, when I first brought it up, was that it’s a big open room. We can still have the party at our house, I’m not against it, I just thought it would be nice to try it here.” Bill Hammond, “Since this is the year of change, why don’t we try it here one time. We can always go back to the old way if we don’t like it. And we can always blame it on Skip’s presidency.”

Charlie McCamey, “It’s been a deterrent to having new Presidents. I come from a family of 7 and we’ve had get-togethers for holidays and we’ve always had them in places that could hold all the people, not just someone’s house.” Dick Smith, “As the honorable historian, when we first started having the party at the President’s house, it was when we only had 30 members. The MGCC’s grown and there are a lot more people. If every member actually came, there’d be 200 people.” Eddie, “If we’re saving money over the Knights of Columbus, then why don’t we splurge and get steaks for everyone?” Jennifer, “Are we having it at your house?” Eddie, “Sure, as long as we do it in shifts of 6 at a time. ‘Fast Eddies - Eat fast and get out’.”

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Bill Hammond, “What’s the capacity of this room?” Jennifer, “It’s 70, we’re okay.” Terry Looft, “Yeah, especially as long as Skip’s President.”

Skip, “We need to renew Estelle’s motion to have it here.” Terry Looft “Seconded.” The MGCC then took a vote on whether to have this year’s Holiday party at BW3 or not. The MGCC voted. Majority votes overwhelmingly in favor of trying to have it here. Lois Gribler votes against. Twice. Therefore, the 2013 MGCC Holiday Party is tentatively scheduled for December 14th at BW3’s. Skip, “We need to confirm the date, make sure BW3’s is on board, and we’ll put it in the Minutes.” (*No one’s corrected me yet, so it must be the correct date...*)

Hammond (*who’s on fire tonight*), “Any action on getting new business cards with the new address?” Carole, “I have some, but I forgot to bring them. I’ll get you some.” Linda Wolfe, “You can get like 1,000 printed for \$10.”

At this point, the floor is turned over to Jim Pesta who talks about his life with the T-series. Jim, “I quit the Cincinnati British group a while ago because they’re not really drivers. We started a Dayton-Cincinnati centered T-series groups that focuses on actually driving our cars. So far we have 11,500 T-car miles driven by the Cincinnati T-cars. If you own a T-series and are interested in actually driving your cars, give Jim a call.

Skip, “Any other new business?”

Tech Tips, Skip, “Lubricate your cars...”

For Sale: Reuben Wassermann, “Reluctantly, my wife has to sell her 1968 MGC automatic roaster. It’s been maintained by Steve Miller, Steve Powell, and Terry Looft. Skip, “You might want to leave out that part about Looft working on it. Reminder that membership in the club is not contingent on owning an MG.”

Eddie, “I spoke to a guy who has an Austin Princess that’s for sale. David Hill is the owner. He’s been using it as a vintage limo for some time and now wants to sell. It’s appraised at \$25K, he wants \$30K.” Skip, “Yeah, if we all got what we had into the cars, we’d be rich.”

Gumball Rallye. – Mimi wins \$10.

The Grismer Tire gift certificate for a free 5 qt. oil change goes to Bob Farrell – who recently welcomed a new addition to his family in the form of a grandson, James Richard Farrell. Congrats!

Meeting adjourned at 9:29. Long meeting.

MiniMania

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