

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLI No. 1

October 2013



New Officers Pictures from Fall Tour

From the President

Ron Parks

Well, we're starting another MG Car Club fiscal year and we'll certainly try to avoid dropping off the fiscal cliff. We're actually in pretty good financial shape, probably better than the US Government! I figured I could do this job, since Skip did all the heavy lifting last year, what with our change of venue for our meetings, Holiday party change, etc. What is there left to do? Seriously, I want to thank you for your vote of confidence. I consider it an honor to serve as your president and I will do all I can this year to promote having fun with our MGs.

There will be lots of opportunity for MG fun this year starting with our Fall Tour, which is already history as you are reading this. Hope you had fun! Of course, there will be the usual local events, 2nd Street Market, Perrysburg, Cincinnati and our own BCD. The NAMGAR meet in Ottawa Ontario will draw several of our members too, but probably the biggest event



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, October 23, 2013

MG Car Club Officers

President..... **Ron Parks**
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email..... mgdriver@woh.rr.com

Vice President..... **Dave McCann**
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Upcoming MGCC Events

Oct:

30 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Nov:

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

Dec:

14 – Holiday party at Buffalo Wild
Wings

****No meeting – Happy holidays

*See meeting minutes for other area
activities!!*

for us this year, in terms of participation, is the NAMGBR meet in French Lick, IN. Make your reservations, if you haven't already done so.

Besides Hotel reservations, you can register for the event itself now too on the website: <http://www.mg-2014.com/>. I'm expecting we will have a good turnout for this national meet closer to home.

Some of our members participate in other local events too, such as Holiday at

Home and others; you'll recall that we all saw the picture of Louie with the queen and her court last month. Well, Linda and I had the pleasure of attending one such event last weekend when the Tipp City Mum Festival hosted their



annual Friday night cruise-in. We, along with Steve and Jayne Powell, were there with our MGs (see photos).

Parked together, Mike Maloney's

BMW looked a lot like Larry and Gloria Youngblood's Pontiac Solstice. I'm sure some casual passersby thought they were the same models (see photos)! We had a good time looking at all the different cars there; lots of Chevys, Mustangs and all kinds of cars. There were a few other MGs too, whose owners we did not know. I gave one of them, the owner of a white rubber bumper Midget, our club business card.

Hope to see you on the road and at the next meeting.



New Officers Elected at September Meeting

After an evening of hot debate, back and forth accusations and rebuttals, and multiple ballots resulting from repeated complaints of voter fraud, the following officers were elected for this year:

President: Ron Parks
Vice President: Dave McCann Sr
Secretary: Sam Hodges
Treasurer: Dave Estell
Member at Large: Terry Looft

Congratulations to our new officers and thank you to our outgoing officers for a year of hard work and outstanding leadership.

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Marc & Barbara Masquelier
40 Bobwhite Drive
Enon, OH 45323
937 864-5340
64 MGB Roadster

Not Too Late - Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

If you missed the September meeting, you lost your chance to elect our new officers, but it's not too late to continue your membership for this year. You can pay at our next meeting on October 23rd, 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.* 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.

Pictures from Fall Tour

Photos and Text by Ron Parks

It was a beautiful day for the tour with not a cloud in the sky. Twenty one (21) club members driving nine (9) MGs, almost all with their tops down, and two Bavarian makes drove to Indian Lake and posed with their cars for a group photo. The group enjoyed a nice dinner together at Captain's Point seafood restaurant in Lakeview, OH..



The starting point.



Ladies on the tour.



Rest stop.



The last top comes down!!



The tour stops at Indian Lake.



Dinner at Captain's Point.

Free Up Your Tach and/or Speedo

Guy Snyder.-

Is your LBC project been sitting for a long time and you find out that your tach and/or speedo are “frozen” and your cable is broken? You can send your gauges out for repair or quite simply unfreeze them by taking a piece of the broken cable and inserting it into a drill. Next, heat the tip of the cable with a torch (I use a butane torch with a needle-fine flame) and insert it into the gauge. The heat will melt the rock-hard lubricant that was in there and soon you can spin the gauge and you just saved big \$. The disclaimer of course is that you have to be careful.....It worked for me and is especially handy because getting the shell off of the speedo is very difficult.

It's Scary When Thieves are This Smart...

Editor's Note – I don't recall where I found this. My apologies to the author.

Someone left his car in the long-term parking at San Jose while away, and someone broke into the car. Using the information on the car's registration in the glove compartment, they drove the car to the owner's home in Pebble Beach and robbed it. So I guess if we are going to leave the car in long-term parking, we should NOT leave the registration/insurance cards in it, nor your remote garage door opener. This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology.

GPS. Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. The car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard. When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it... Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

CELL PHONES I never thought of this..... This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her cell phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.' When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account. Moral of the lesson:

- a. Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc....
- b. And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

c. Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

Purse in the grocery cart scam...A lady went grocery-shopping at a local mall and left her purse sitting in the children's seat of the cart while she reached for something off a shelf...wait till you read the WHOLE story! Her wallet was stolen, and she reported it to the store personnel. After returning home, she received a phone call from the Mall Security to say that they had her wallet and that although there was no money in it, it did still hold her personal papers. She immediately went to pick up her wallet, only to be told by Mall Security that they had not called her. Now you won't believe this...by the time she returned home again, her house had been broken into and burglarized. The thieves knew that by calling and saying they were Mall Security, she'd leave the house soon and knew about how long she'd be gone.

Tech Talk

Barry Rosenberg
Peachtree MG Registry

I thought I would give a few clues to how to make your car perform better this month. Then I found another bad part and thought about ranting against the quality, or lack of, in our replacement parts. So I will do both.

First, a few symptoms and tips to correct them. If you are driving a steady speed around 60 mph and feel a slight surging, your carbs are just a tad (small adjustment less than a little but more than a smidge) lean. If you have SUs, turn the adjustment nut one or two flats down to richen. If you have the later SUs, HIFs, turn the mixture screw in ½ turn. With Strombergs, you need the special Allen wrench to adjust the mixture but ¼ turn should do on them. You may need to readjust the idle and then test drive.

If you have popping and backfiring from your carbs when you accelerate, just add a little oil to the dampener. That backfiring through the carbs means a lean mixture also but more so than the surging. On acceleration, the oil in the dampener gives the mixture the richness it needs. If you get a lot of carb backfiring when cold starting, you either need oil or the choke adjusted to allow a little more gas in when cold. If you adjust the choke, remember to adjust the fast idle also. This is usually a screw that rides on the choke cam on the side of the carb. On carbs with a manual choke, it is best if you press down the accelerator pedal when pulling the choke cable. It relieves some tension on the choke cable because you are not dragging the fast idle screw along the choke cam. It does not put any gas into the carb so no need to pump the pedal. If you have later Strombergs with an automatic choke, you have many options of problems. The easiest to test is to rotate the choke body and richen the mixture that way, but you need to be careful as you can create a water seep or pop the whole choke assembly off the carb as the three retaining screws are often loose. So check their snugness before rotating anything. If you are not very familiar with the automatic choke, you may want to leave that to us pros to screw up. It can be taken apart and repaired and there are a few exact clearances that need to be set to make it work correctly. And there is the smallest "O" ring in there that you have ever seen.

Does your brake pedal feel a little soft but you are sure that you are losing no fluid. Try adjusting the rear brakes correctly. Safely jack up the rear of your car. Back off the hand brake cable a little and then turn your brake adjuster until the wheel rotates with just a tad scraping noise. You do not want them too tight

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so they should be easy to turn by hand. Then readjust the parking cable so that when you pull the handbrake about ½ way, the wheels lock. On some cars, you may need to look by the drive shaft for the cable adjuster. If your cable has stretched and you really do not want to replace it, they make a cable shortener, yes they do, and these work reasonably well.

Do you have a vibration between 55 and 70 mph only? Then get your tires trued, not balanced. Weaver brake and alignment in Marietta has one of the few remaining tire lathes in Atlanta and they will turn the tire perfectly round on the car then balance them. This will cure your vibration from your wheels. And if your wire wheel is not perfectly round, but solid with no loose spokes, the lathe will correct it. It may not be necessary to get new wheels.

I have preached this one before, but have not yet taken my own advice -- if you have halogen headlights, relay them before your switch goes bad like mine. It has been discussed enough on how to do this so read about it and do it.

Do your front brakes squeal when applied? If the pads and rotors are good, remove the pads and cut a piece of roof flashing the exact shape of the pad. Get some brake quieter and spray the back of the pad and not the front. Let it get a little sticky and adhere your shim to it. The roof flashing easily cuts with scissors. Replace your now shimmed pads and bleed if necessary. That should take care of the squeal and last a long time. There used to be some Lucas shims made from soft aluminum but they never lasted very long as they were too soft and the caliper piston cut thru them very quickly. The squeal comes from a vibration between the back of the pad and the piston, not from the pad surface and rotor. The flashing adds a dampening effect and eliminates the noise.

Now for my short rant. I put a brand new Borg and Beck clutch in an MGB last week and this is one where the engine comes out to do it. At the same time, I rebuilt the clutch hydraulics. After putting it all back together and bleeding the system, I found that the clutch did not fully release or disengage. More bleeding, eliminating the play from the clevis pins, the pivot point in the pushrods, did not improve things. So, I pulled the master and took it back apart. Well, I didn't actually pull it this time, I removed the guts only. I took another rebuild kit and compared seals. One was different; the main pressure seal was just a tad too long and was not allowing the fluid to properly fill the master cylinder bore. A quick rebuild again and more bleeding made the pedal feel a little better. Success, I thought. As this car is owned by a short person, about 4', I could not drive it. But I could test it and it still did not work.

By now, I had had enough and decided to pull the engine back out as there had to be a problem with the clutch unit. 45 minutes later, I had the pressure plate off and was comparing it to the old one. All clearances looked correct. I put it in my press and used a big socket to push down on the center section as the TOB does and watched what happened to the clamping plate. There are three holes in the cover that you can see thru. In two, the plate pulled up into the cover, as it should. However, in the third, it pushed away from the cover. That would put more clamping force on the disc and never let it release. It was a bad pressure plate. This was the first Borg & Beck I have ever seen to be bad. And it was new old stock, not something made in the last two or three years. It had been sitting in storage waiting to go into a friend's car. With another new pressure plate in hand; tested before I installed it this time, I had the car running in about 3 hours and all worked, as it should have the first time. Two bad new parts on one car; how lucky can I get. It is getting ridiculous that so many parts are bad. I wasted a day not believing the parts could be bad before pulling it all apart again, another day wasted fixing it. So remember, if the shop you use lets you supply your own parts, be prepared if they have to charge you twice to do the repair. They cannot be responsible for faulty parts they do not supply. If they supply them, they are responsible and should not charge you twice. Just do not get mad at them when they tell you the part is no good. Almost all the parts come into this country thru Moss whether they will admit it to you or not and even

they do not make most of them. Local suppliers do not make them either and can only replace them when they fail. I just wish that labor would be covered as we lose a lot of time and money having to do the job more than once. I guess that I will now check even what I consider the best parts before installing them.

Would you believe it if I said that I do not like to replace condensers in the distributors as so many new ones are faulty. If the car is running ok when it comes in, I will not want to replace a good working condenser with what could be a bad new Lucas one. I would rather use an aftermarket one here.

Bumper Sticker of the Month



This car has a manual transmission.
If I'm on a hill and you can read this,
you're too close!

Editor's note – Submissions of British car appropriate bumper stickers are now being accepted. If you see a good one, try to get a photo, or just jot down the text and send it in.

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: 68 MGC. Red, **automatic transmission.** Meticulously maintained by MG Automotive. Call Reuben at 937 426-7239 or reuben.wasserman@sbcglobal.net (10/13)

For Sale: TD body timbers: bottom right & left main rails, new. Moss part numbers 450-810 & -815. \$150 for the pair. Danny Mortensen. 859-384-7821 or agsdanny@aol.com (10/13)

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)

AUTO REPAIR PRICE LIST	
Ping-Ping-Ping	35.00
Plunk-Ping-Plunk	50.00
Klunk-Ping-Klunk	125.00
Thud-Klunk-Thud	200.00
Clank-Thud-Klank	325.00

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, September 25th Meeting

Diana Hodges

The September MGCC Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

President Skip Peterson, “Here Ye, Here Ye... let’s call this meeting to order. How was that? Can I get a job at the Renaissance Festival?”

Skip continued, “This is a bittersweet day. There are about 35 people here tonight. I want to introduce you to Marissa, our server. Without going into details, she’s much cuter than last month’s Mathew. I’ve got a pretty long President’s report. We’re going to recap the entire year. I’m not superstitious, but I’ve never been a fan of the number 13. In 2013, we got kicked out of our club house. When you think about it, that’s what that was, our clubhouse.”

We talked to the manager here at BW3’s and we can bring in homemade desserts for the Holiday Party. We’re also booked for all of next year’s monthly meetings here at BW3’s. If the next President wants to change that...” Terry Looft, “How about if it’s in Wilmington?” Dave Gribler, “You’re sounding presidential, Terry.”

Skip, “I called Oberer’s flowers much more than I ever wanted to this year. We lost some people. Thank you to all of you who helped at the Concours. It was a hell of a day.”

I think we have a Fall tour planned for next Sunday. Ron Parks, “They’re not here.” Skip, “SH!T!” Ron, “We’ve already got it set up. McDonald’s in Tipp City at 1:00, depart at 1:30.”

Skip, “The Saturday before that, October 5th, is the Hooker estate auction.” In the background the sound of a mug being filled... Terry, Looft, “I thought that was Louie.”

A plug for dues being paid. Campaign speeches will be limited to 20 minutes per candidate and costs will be limited to the cost of 1 round of quality beer. Dave Gribler, “Define quality?” Skip, “Anything over \$3.00. Seriously, it’s been a pleasure. At some point in the future, the distant future, I might do it again.” A round of applause for Skip from the MGCC.

Vice President Ron Parks. “Again this month, I did nothing, so I did my job. I’d like to use some of my 20 minutes, and I’ve got a running mate (holding up Dave McCann’s arm). At our age we’re running on the ‘Pee-party’ ticket.”

Minutes were next. Dave McCann motioned to accept the Minutes as published. Bonnie Hankey seconded. MGCC voted to accept the Minutes as reported. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report was next. Bonnie Hankey gave her final report. After some adjustment to account for some accounting errors made by the now defunct accounting firm Arthur Anderson (*some say we were the cause of their downfall. Others blame Enron*) the MGCC now has a new **Treasury Balance of \$4,800.00** in the primary checking and **\$378.99** in the savings account. Dave McCann Jr. motioned to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Bob Farrell seconded. Eddie neighed. Report approved. Skip, "GT37 made us money, BCD made us money. This upcoming year won't be quite like last, but it should still be okay."

Membership with Carole Looft. Carole, "The official tally was 110 members for the Peterson/Parks administration. The record was 121." Skip, "Aw, c'mon. Terry had 11 guys that he found cutting grass join." Skip continued, "I had to look back at the Minutes to see what was up with Regalia. Can we bring that up next month?" Carole, "Real quick on sweatshirts and t-shirts, we have a person who can do tee's for \$7.50 and sweatshirts for \$11.50." Skip, "You seem to have this under control so why don't you go forth. I motion that you deal with it." Carole, "I'll come up with colors and prices etc..."

Newsletter. Steve Markman, "I have no new concerns about the newsletter. On an unrelated, but important note, we have a tradition where a certain member of the MGCC (Louie) always gets his picture taken with the Holiday-at-Home Queen. This year, the Holiday-at-Home committee came looking for us!" Steve presents the annual picture of Louie with the Queen to Louie. Steve also reported that the newsletter posted on the website initially contained the wrong date for the October meeting. It was updated before most members read it, but note that the correct date is Oct 23rd.

Skip, "Remember, there is no meeting in December. The November meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday due to the 4th Wednesday being the day before Thanksgiving.

Webmaster John Scocozzo. John, "I've got some BCD pictures going up, so check out the website. Otherwise, nothing new."

Activities with Eddie. Skip, "Marissa, don't go anywhere. You're about to become very popular. Matter of fact, just go ahead and pour me a tall Miller Light. See! This is where you want to be. You get the 1st beer." Terry Looft, "I want to run!" Eddie Hill, "The Fall Tour date is set for Sunday, October 6th. We'll meet in Tipp City at the McDonalds at exit 68. Then we'll visit the restored 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. We're meeting at 1:00 so we can pull out at 1:30. The November meeting is Nov. 20th. Skip,

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do we want to take what we have left in the treasury and go try to buy Hooker's TD? It'll be the MGCC Club Car." Skip, "I'm pretty sure it's going to take more than that. Mark your calendars, the Holiday party is December 14th at 7:00? (*He said with some trepidation. As usual, show up early and you're cleaning toilets... think carefully about that this year!*)

Beer Break called at 8:08

Back from Brake at 8:31

Skip, "We're going to resume this debacle whether we like it or not. We had a sidebar meeting. We've coughed up a copy of the bylaws that were last modified in 2004. Officers can't run for another office..." Terry, "At least under their own name (*aka 'The Hodges Rule'*)." Skip continued, "No officer can run for any office after being an officer. We need 30 days' notice in order to change the bylaws and then we need a ¾ majority vote by those members present in order to officially change the bylaws, should we ever decide to do that."

Old Business. Ron Parks, "Did we talk about business cards?" Skip, "We have them here and they're coming out the wazoo! Carole had some printed." (*WAIT! We didn't have anyone make the obligatory Louie or Hammond are old joke when we brought up Old Business! We're slipping...*)

Regalia. Skip, "Carole is going to address that next month."

Skip and Eddie both gave "Thank you to the Concours staff" speeches. Kathy Goodman, "Thanks to Skip and his planning staff because she heard tons of kudos from spectators about how nice the show was."

Bill Hammond made his yearly proclamation that we need to change the MGCC colours to brown on beige. The MGCC made its annual eye-roll at Bills suggestion.

British Museum of Transportation. Mike Edgerton, "Nothing new."

Dave McCann Jr. made the official presentation of the Mac Spears award to Dave Gribler. It was a large framed picture with a plaque and a picture of the Gribler's MGA with them in the car.

Tech Tips. We had a tech question from Chuck Irvin, "I'm trying to use silicone brake fluid but I'm having a devil of a time getting pressure." Terry Happensack, "I went to a silicon master cylinder." The MGCC then had a discussion on the merits/problems of silicon brake fluid. The final determination, purge the entire system and change your seals before you try using silicon because it's so slippery that it can bypass the seals.

For Sale. Dave McCann Jr., "Just the Presidency."

ELECTIONS: Skip, "We're going to open the floor..."

Dave McCann, "I've been paid very well to nominate **Ron Parks** for **President**." Dave Estelle seconded the nomination. Eddie Hill, "I motion to close nominations." (*You all should see how this is going to go...*). Jennifer seconded the motion to close. The MGCC voted on the only candidate. Eddie opposed. Congratulations to Ron Parks, the new and former **President** of the MGCC for 2013-2014.

Vice President Ron Parks, "I nominate **Dave McCann Sr.** for **Vice President**. Jennifer Peterson seconded the nomination. Eddie Hill, "I motion to close nominations." Jennifer seconded the motion to close. The MGCC voted on the only candidate. Terry Looft and Eddie Hill opposed. Congratulations to

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Dave McCann, the new **Vice President** of the MGCC for 2013-2014. Ron, “BTW, I’ll be absent the next three meetings.”

John Scocozzo, “I nominate **Sam Hodges** for **Secretary**. Bob Farrell seconded the nomination. Eddie Hill, “I motion to close nominations.” Jennifer seconded the motion to close. The MGCC voted on the only candidate. Sam Hodges and Dave Gribler opposed. Congratulations to Sam Hodges, the new and former **Secretary** of the MGCC for 2013-2014.
Sam & Dave Gribler Neighed.

Bonnie Hankey, “I nominate **Dave Estelle** for **Treasurer**. Jennifer Peterson seconded the nomination. Eddie Hill, “I motion to close nominations.” Dave McCann Jr. seconded the motion to close. The MGC voted on the only candidate. Eddie Hill opposed. Congratulations to Dave Estelle, the new Treasurer of the MGCC for 2013-2014.

Member at Large. **Terry Looft**, “I’ll be a large member.” Eddie, “I’d like to nominate someone who’s really good at doing nothing, Mike Edgerton.” Dave McCann Jr. seconded the nomination. Nancy Edgerton moved to close nominations. Eddie opposed. MGCC voted. Congratulations to Mike Edgerton, the new **Member-at Large**.

Skip, “I’d like to introduce the new President, Mr. Parks. I will tell you that the most interesting thing was the night we walked into the K of C and got hit with that new bill...”

Gumball Rallye. Cash winner: Carole Estelle.
Free membership winner: Bonnie Hankey.

Motion to adjourn Dave Estelle. Dave McCann Sr. and Jennifer simultaneously seconded.

End of the Peterson Presidency occurred at 9:07.



MG AUTOMOTIVE

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