

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLI No. 4

February 2014



Sweatshirts are In
Exploding Car Batteries

From the President

Ron Parks

As I said last month: Brrrrrrrrrr! It was a real treat this morning to go start the school bus at a temperature above zero degrees! It's sad when we think a day above zero is a warm day! Should have all gone to the winter Olympics in Sochi?

If you have your MG close by, you might want to consider posing it and yourselves for some pictures in the snow for the Moss Motoring Challenge. It might make for some unique entries. But, then again, there is all of that salt dust on the roads.

We as a group need to decide if we want to have our own club Challenge and if so, how we would want to structure the scoring. The simplest method would be to use the Moss Motoring Challenge point scoring. Entrants would send a copy of the Moss Motoring Challenge scoring sheet and photos to our club designee. This would be unambiguous and fair to all entrants. Other methods could work too.



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, February 26, 2014

MG Car Club Officers

President.....**Ron Parks**
phone.....(937) 322-0717
email.....mgdriver@woh.rr.com
Vice President.....**Dave McCann**
phone.....(937) 399-5711
email.....dave@mccannco.net
Secretary.....**Sam Hodges**
phone.....(937) 581-4767
email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
Treasurer.....**Dave Estell**
phone.....(513) 459-0155
email.....destell1@cinci.rr.com
Member at Large.....**Terry Looft**
phone.....937-382-1520
email.....terry@looft.net
President Emeritus.....**Skip Peterson**
Phone.....(937)293-2819
email.....mgbskip@aol.com
Web Master.....**John Scocozzo**
phone.....937-291-1710
mail.....jscocozzo@hotmail.com
Activities Chair.....**Ed Hill**
phone.....937- 461-6688
email.....chillmgb@aol.com
Membership Chair.....**Carole Looft**
phone.....937-382-1520
email.....carole@looft.net
Librarian.....**John Wolfe**
phone.....429-3292
Historian.....**Dick Smith**
phone.....937-434-1750
email.....rsmithomo@aol.com
WebPage.....www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswo

Your Octagon News Editors

Steve Markman 937-886-9566
srmarkman@att.net

Terry Looft 937-382-1520
terry@looft.net

Inside This Issue

3	Winter Driving Pictures
4	MG Factoids
7	Cars vs. Computers
9	Minutes From January Meeting

Upcoming MGCC Events

Feb:

23 – Pub Run @ TJ Chump

23 – Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day

26 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Mar:

11 – Worship of Tools Day

22 – Party at Gribler's home

26 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

Bring your ideas to the meeting for discussion.

Remember, we have our Pub Run at T. J. Chumps, 1100 E Dayton Yellow Springs Rd, Fairborn, OH 45324 on Sunday February 23rd at 5:00pm. So, kill your fever, come on out of the cabin, enjoy a nice dinner and talk of driving our MG s on warmer days to come.

I'm expecting to look out onto a sea of blue at the February meeting, since we all have our new sweatshirts. A big "Thank You!" goes to Carole Looft for working with the printer to get these done for us. Thanks Carole. The shirts look great!

That's all I have for now, here in the dead of winter.

Happy Valentines Day!

Welcome New Club Members

Carole Looft

Robert & Rosalie Orr
511 H. Portland St.
Ridgeville, Indiana 47380
(765) 857-2975
rorr511@comcast.net
1967MGB Roadster

MG Club Sweatshirts

Carole Looft

Don't forget. The sweatshirts that club members pre-ordered have arrived and are ready to be picked up and paid for. I will have them at the meeting on the 26th for those of you who have not gotten them.



Winter Driving Pictures

Taken your MG out lately? Maybe the “good old days” weren’t so good.



MG Factoids

Charles Wiggins – *Texas MG Register*

By way of *The eChatter*

Official Publication of the Emerald Necklace M.G. Register, Inc

Here are some MG Factoids that might be of interest to club members

1. Why does the MG T series have both metric and imperial threads? Because Morris Motors purchased the Hotchkiss factory that had moved from France to England during World War I. T series engines dated back to the imported metric machinery that was not converted for imperial applications.
2. The famous MG badge first appeared in 1924 in advertising.
3. Old Number 1 wasn't the first MG. It began in late 1924 with the staff modifying an existing Morris chassis. It was fitted with a Hotchkiss engine but was piled in the rear of the work shop for months. Its body was the 48th supplied to Morris Garage for conversion. It was registered on 27th March 1925, in time for Cecil Kimber and Wilfred Mathews to compete in the Lands End Trials to qualifying for a gold.
4. No records exist to show an MG produced before late 1927 had an MG badge.
5. In 1927 the number 251 became associated with MG sportscars.
6. In 1929 The MG Car Company moved into what had been a portion of the Pavlova Leather Company premises in Abingdon. The telephone number at the factory office was Abingdon 251.
7. The slogan "Safety Fast" was adopted as the company slogan, 1930.
8. John Thornley joined MG as honorary secretary of the MG Car Club. 1931.
9. In 1936 the MG TA appeared. An engine change and it became the TB. Production was short lived as World War II started in 1939.
10. Cecil Kimber resigned from the MG Car Company in 1941 following a dispute over a contract to build Albemarle aircraft components. Kimber died in a rail accident on 4th February 1945.
11. In late 1945 the pre-war TB has hastily modified with a 4in wider body and put into production as the TC, due to no budget money and the lack of any future planning or investment capital. Over 2000 were exported to North America with an unknown number being privately shipped by returning American servicemen.
12. The Y type saloon, a late 1930's development delayed by WWII was introduced in 1947. A radical departure it utilized rack and pinion steering and independent front suspension with coil springs, features that were to continue in the MG line until production stopped in late 1980. The YT open touring car version of the Y type saloon was the first MG designed with left hand drive and is considered the parent of all of the MG's that followed from the TD to MGB.
13. The TF, a remake of the TD, was hustled into production to the derision of traditional MG fans and the motoring press.

14. In August of 1955 production began on the MGA. By 1962 100,000 units had been produced. In July MGB production began at Abingdon.

15. John Thornley, the man most responsible for the success of the MG Car Company, retired in 1969 as General Manager.

16. On 9th of September 1979 the Abingdon staff celebrated 50 years of MG with a large festival and celebration. The following day the BL press office announced that the MG factory would close in July 1980. The factory managed to continue production until 23rd October when the last MGB rolled off the assembly line. Production of the “real” MG cars ended.

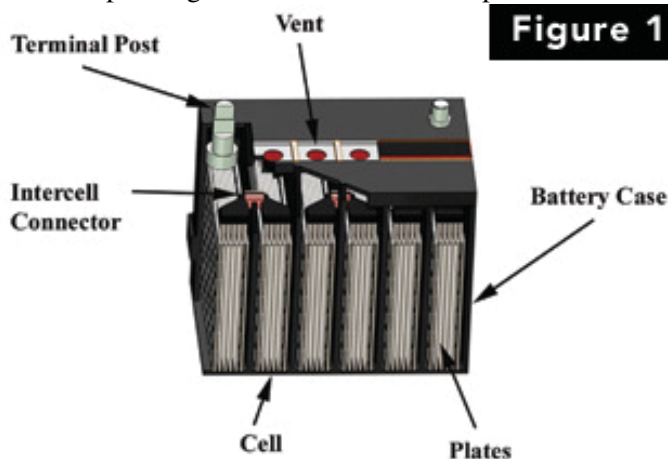
Automotive Battery Explosion

Steve Markman

A few weeks ago, my neighbor called me in a panic. He’d heard an explosion in his basement and the air was filled with smoke and strong fumes. I came running over to investigate. I recognized the smell as sulphuric acid. I asked if he had anything with a lead-acid battery and a charger, although I already knew what was the problem. The battery on his back-up sump pump had exploded.

After airing out the basement, we inspected the battery. The top of the battery had blown right off, landing at the other side of the room, and exposing the lead plates, not to mention splitting open the protective case that housed the battery,. I’d heard of this happening, but this was the first time I’d ever seen one. So, why did this happen and what can one do to keep it from happening again?

Let’s look at how a typical lead-acid battery, as used in cars, garden equipment, and backup sump pumps is constructed and works. Figure 1 shows a typical automotive battery. An outer polymer case acts as a container for an electrolyte (sulfuric acid) and lead plates. Each cell delivers 2.1 volts, and connected in series, the battery with six cells produces a total of 12.6 volts at full charge. The reaction between the acid and the lead causes electrons to flow and, in the process, creates lead sulfate, which stays in solution. During charging, an electrical charge is placed across the battery, causing the process to reverse, depositing the lead back on to the plates.



However, during the charging cycle, hydrogen gas is generated and accumulates in the space above the acid. Normally the hydrogen is vented through a small hole in each cell. These gases can be ignited easily by a flame or spark. If the hydrogen is ignited inside the battery, the vent holes cannot relieve the pressure quickly enough and the top of the battery case blows off, showering sulfuric acid in the immediate vicinity along with fragments of the battery case.

The Octagon News – February 2014

So, why should there be a spark inside a battery? During the charging process, a small amount of lead doesn't get deposited back onto the lead plates, but will settle out as free lead particles. Thus, the plates slowly erode away over time, possibly loosening the connections. If the electrolyte is low, exposing the electrical connection to the air and hydrogen in the top of the case, and the connection is eroded, then the charging current can arc across the bad connection, igniting the hydrogen gas. If the electrolyte is at the proper level so that all plates are covered, any loose connection will be below the fluid level and there will be no spark.

How does one prevent either of these things from happening? If your battery has a plug over each cell, check the electrolyte level regularly and make sure it is over the top of the plates. If low, top it off with distilled water only; do not add additional sulphuric acid (let a shop check the density and add more acid if needed). As far as the connections breaking down, there isn't much you can do about that. By keeping the fluid at the proper level, all the connections should be immersed in the electrolyte, so a worn out battery should simply fail with age and not explode. This usually happens in a cold parking lot at midnight (or when trying to start your MG when you're already late for a car show) when you turn the key and hear a click-click-click, or nothing at all, instead of vrooom. There might be enough power to run the lights and horn, but not the starter.

As it turns out, my neighbor's battery was eight years old and he didn't know anything about checking the electrolyte level. Even though it'd never been used except to test the system occasionally, it was well past the age at which it should have been replaced. Even if he'd added water as needed over the years, the plates probably were shot to the point that one or more of the cells weren't producing full power. A word to the wise, check the electrolyte level often and replace the battery after so many years; don't wait for the battery to die or explode.

Thanks for information for this article from Ed Mosher, owner of the former Kettering Automotive.

Picture and additional information came from:

<http://www.propertycasualty360.com/2013/01/23/investigating-automotive-battery-explosions?t=investigative-forensics&page=3>



Cars vs. Computers

Source Unknown

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and state:, "If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating:

If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part):

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.....twice a day.
- 2.. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- 3... Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
- 4.... Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
- 5..... Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
- 6..... The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.
- 7..... The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
- 8..... Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
- 9..... Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
- 10..... You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

New Uses for Vodka

Editor's note – Someone sent this to me in an e-mail. I have no idea who wrote it or if any of this is true.

1. To remove a bandage painlessly, saturate the bandage with vodka. The stuff dissolves adhesive.

The Octagon News – February 2014

2. To clean the caulking around bathtubs and showers, fill a trigger-spray bottle with vodka, spray the caulking, let set five minutes and wash clean. The alcohol in the vodka kills mold and mildew.
3. To clean your eyeglasses, simply wipe the lenses with a soft, clean cloth dampened with vodka. The alcohol in the vodka cleans the glass and kills germs.
4. Prolong the life of razors by filling a cup with vodka and letting your safety razor blade soak in the alcohol after shaving. The vodka disinfects the blade and prevents rusting.
5. Spray vodka on wine stains, scrub with a brush, and then blot dry.
6. Using a cotton ball, apply vodka to your face as an astringent to cleanse the skin and tighten pores.
7. Add a jigger of vodka to a 12-ounce bottle of shampoo. The alcohol cleanses the scalp, removes toxins from hair, and stimulates the growth of healthy hair.
8. Fill a sixteen-ounce trigger-spray bottle with vodka and spray bees or wasps to kill them.
9. Pour one-half cup vodka and one-half cup water into a Ziploc freezer bag and freeze for a slushy, refreshing ice pack for aches, pain or black eyes.
10. Fill a clean, used mayonnaise jar with freshly packed lavender flowers, fill the jar with vodka, seal the lid tightly and set in the sun for three days. Strain liquid through a coffee filter, then apply the tincture to aches and pains.
11. To relieve a fever, use a washcloth to rub vodka on your chest and back as a liniment.
12. To cure foot odor, wash your feet with vodka.
13. Vodka will disinfect and alleviate a jellyfish sting.
14. Pour vodka over an area affected with poison ivy to remove the urushiol oil from your skin.
15. Swish a shot of vodka over an aching tooth. Allow your gums to absorb some of the alcohol to numb the pain.

And silly me! I used to drink the stuff!

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.

The Octagon News – February 2014

For Sale: 1980 MGB roadster. Restored. Mustang grabber blue (Shelby color). New gas tank, fuel pump, distributor, timing gears. Painted bumpers, LeMans spoiler, louvered hood, luggage rack, American Racing aluminum wheels, carpeted trunk. Very nice. Call Bob Charles, 513-267-1784 (2/14)

For Sale: 1988 Jaguar XJ6. 75,000 miles. Black exterior & tan interior. Excellent interior. Paint and stainless trim very nice. New tires. Has been in storage 6 ½ years. Engine needs a good 100,000 mile servicing. Includes fuel pump, master cylinder, fuel filter and books. Very nice car. \$5000. Call Bob Charles, 513-267-1784 (2/14)

Wanted: Nice, small car for granddaughter to drive to school & college. Will consider a trade for my restored 1980 MGB or my 1988 Jaguar. Call Bob Charles, 513-267-1784 (2/14)

For Sale: Moto-Lite Steering wheel the will fit any MG. The Boss hub that is with it fits 70-76 MG's. This can be interchanged with another hub. Asking \$200. Also, oil Cooler for a MGB. \$50. These belong to a former member who has sold both of his MG's. Call John or Linda Wolfe at 937-429-3292 or e-mail beavercreeklinda@roadrunner.net . (1/14)

For Sale: 77 MG Midget. It is in really good shape and has been restored. Since the restoration completion this car has been garaged and hasn't been out in the rain ... The car has 69,000 on it. I do not have the complete history on the vehicle only that I have owned the car since 2006. Antoinette Seals Phone : 614-888-1960 Fax: 614-888-2942 Aseals@newlifeproperty.com. (1/14)

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)

MG Car Club Minutes, January Meeting

Sam Hodges

Meeting called to order at 7:33.

Dave McCann Sr., "Beer break"

President Ron Parks, "I started the day with a 2-hour delay so the meeting will start at 9:30." President Parks continued, "I want to dedicate this meeting to Bill Hammond for 2 reasons. 1. I'm wearing brown and cream and 2. When I bought my T-car, there's a brace that holds the dash that's actually pretty important. Mr. Hammond fabricated one for me that's probably stronger than the original one." Dave McCann Sr., "In the future, let's just call it 'the red-car'."

Ron, "A big thank you to Skip & Jennifer for organizing this year's Holiday party." Round of applause from the MGCC.

Ron, "We received a thank you letter from Maj. Tom Dupree of the Salvation Army for our donation of \$500."

MG2014 in French Lick, Indiana. As of November, there were only 10-15 rooms were still available. The discount code is - 0614NAM.

The Octagon News – February 2014

Ron, "I want to thank Carole for forwarding all the emails we receive since my old computer crashed."

Vice President Dave McCann. "I'm here but I can't seem to get the newsletter in my email." Dave Jr., "He's getting it, he just can't find it." Dave Sr. Continued, "Dave Jr. came in 3rd in the Moss Motors photo-contest. He only missed first by 2-points. I also want to bring up the idea of doing a Spring Tour. We can bring it up and discuss it more during new business." Terry Looft, "Any covered bridges?"

Minutes were next. Dave Estell motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Linda Wolfe seconded. Minutes accepted as reported.

Our Treasurer's back from Grand Cayman. Dave Estell, "I'm here but I'll be in Florida next month, so..."

We had Total Income to the MGCC consisting of: Membership Dues (\$212.00) + Regalia Sold (\$68.00) + Interest Earned (\$0.02) + Advertising Fees (\$50.00). We therefore had a Total Income of \$330.02. Total Expenses: Charitable Donations (\$1,000.00) + Holiday Party (\$578.97) + Regalia Purchase (\$646.00) + Shirt Mailing (\$7.36) + Octagon News Costs (\$26.40) = A Total Expense of \$2258.73. Total loss to the MGCC was \$1928.71, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$6,040.54 equals a new Treasury Balance of \$4,111.85 in the primary checking and \$379.01 in the savings account. Bill Hammond motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered. V.P. McCann seconded. Eddie was apparently asleep. We had to remind him to oppose.

...Ron's phone rings with a call he has to take... it was another 2-hour delay for Springfield tomorrow... Ron, "I'm glad I took that call."

Membership was next. Carole Looft, "", you've got 84 members. We've got a new member at the meeting tonight. John Moscolin (sp?) owns a 1961 MGA. John joined at the end of the year, but it's the first meeting he's been to." Someone asks John about his car. John, "I've had it for 10-12 years. Every time I was transferred I drug the car along. It's in Texas right now, but once the weather gets better, I can bring it up and get it on the road. I've got a lot of questions." Dave Sr., "We've got a lot of opinions... can't say they're all right. Or helpful."

Sunshine Committee Linda Wolfe, "I haven't heard anything from anyone." Carole, "How's Linda's ankle?" Ron, "We drove up to D&D to get some fuzzy-stuff for the channels and on the way back to the car, she took a bad step off the curb and twisted her ankle."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, "Nothing new to report." Carole Looft, "There's a postage rate hike coming up. It's currently about a dollar to print each newsletter. If anyone who's getting a paper copy could switch to the electronic version, that would be great for the MGCC. Between postage and copy costs, it's creeping up on us."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "Nothing new to report. The website is up to date with the latest Holiday party pics so check it out."

Museum of Transportation's Genie, "We worked long and hard to get out our mailer. We started in October but it didn't go out until January. We learned a lot and had a good time."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie, “It’s cold as January. Our calendar’s empty so let’s all start thinking Spring. Do we want to do a Pub Run in February? Between the Super Bowl and Daytona 500 that leaves Feb. 9 th & 16 th . Then we get into March. Lois Gribler, “Between the wedding, swim meets and all the other things, the only day that we have to hold the St. Patrick’s party is Saturday, March 22 nd .” Eddie, “That’s up to you to establish the date. Are you telling us that you’re having a party?” Lois, “Yes. Party’s on Saturday, March 22 nd . Ron, “Back to the Pub Run. Does the Daytona 500 impact that many people? How about February 23 rd ?” Dave Sr., “How about T.J. Chumps on Dayton Yellow Springs Road?” After some discussion, it’s decided that 5:00, Sunday the 23 rd at T.J. Chumps is the next Pub Run.

Back to Activities:

Ottawa is hosting this year’s NAMGAR GT39. It’ll be held July 14 th-18 th (www.oecc.ca/event_ads/2014_namgar_gt39.pdf).

May 24 th is the Second Street Market show.
BCD will be August 2 nd

Beer Break called at 8:05. Ron, “Anyone oppose?” Not even Eddie’s going to oppose that...
Back from Brake at 8:25.

Ron, “Alright, the second half. Do I have a motion for the end of Beer Break?” Carl Sparklin, “You’ll never get it.” Terry Looft, “Opposed!”

Ron, “T-shirts are in. if you have your money, see Carole for your new t-shirt.”

New Business, Ron “Party on March 22 nd ?” Lois, “I don’t know... 6:00?” MGCC, 6:00 it is. Come early and you’re cleaning the bathrooms.” Terry Looft, “Pre-party in the driveway at 4:00?” Lois, “Bring something if you want, but it’s not necessary.”

Dave McCann Sr., “More about the tour... We’d be going down to Hocking Hills State Park. There are a couple of places where we can meet up. Off of 52, there’s a lodge. If we want to make it an overnight affair... affair might not be the best word. We can do it as a fall tour or a spring tour. If Linda and I get stir crazy we might take a car with a proper heater and do a little scouting trip.” Dave Estell, “I think it’s definitely worth looking into.” Dave Estell, “I think an over-nighter is the way to do it.” Dave Estell, “Wait, is this a State park where we can’t have any beer?” Terry Looft, “Beer is the only reason I get up every afternoon.” Bob Hanseman, “There are a lot of log cabin and private rental places where you wouldn’t know you weren’t in the park that we could rent and have as much beer as we want.” Bob

OUR **SERVICE** PUTS US **A-PART** FROM THE REST.

Authorized Distributor for



**Pertronix Electric Ignitions
and Coils**

Vintage Ads

Don Hoods

Mota-Lita Steering Wheels

Gunson Tools

Moss Motors

**Halogen Bulbs for Most British
and American Cars**

Plus many others!



Little British Car Company
www.LBCarCo.com

Jeff Zorn • 29311 Aranel Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Phone: 248-489-0022 • Toll-free: 800-637-9640

Fax: 248-489-9665 • Email: LBCarCo@LBCarCo.com

Major credit cards accepted

The Octagon News – February 2014

continued, “Sometime in the Spring, the MG T-series guys are going to have a tune-up clinic in my barn. I’ll let you know the date.”

Dave Jr. “Moss is doing another photo-scavenger hunt this year. It’s not cost effective to try to win just to get the gift certificate. There is a club division where the most points for all the people in that club and the club gets a trophy.” John Scocozzo, “You actually get a point for a covered bridge.”

For Sale. Linda Wolfe, “Our neighbor sold off an MGB but he’s still got a new oil cooler and new steering wheel that’ll fit a 1970-76 MGB.”

Ron, I’ve got a black convertible top boot cover that I bought but never used. Bob Farrell, are you sure you’ve still got it? You sold one to me a couple of years ago.” Eddie Hill, “He sold one to you too?!?” Ron, “I’ve got to go check. You can pay me and pick it up at Bob’s.”

Bill Hammond, “Does anyone know who has that old red MGC GT that’s been passed around the club?” Mike Rowles had it last but we don’t know where it is now. Any information would be appreciated.

Gumball Rallye – Fast Eddie wins the \$10.00.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Farrell, Dave Estell seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:51.

The logo for MiniMania, featuring the word "MiniMania" in a stylized, bold, black font. The "M" is particularly large and has a jagged, mountain-like appearance.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, with "MG" in a large, bold, blue font and "AUTOMOTIVE" in a smaller, bold, blue font below it.

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



Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike

Kettering, Ohio 45429

(937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com