

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLI No. 5

March 2014



Remembering Gary Moore Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest

From the President

Ron Parks

In like a lion for sure and out like a lamb we certainly hope, March so far has seemed a lot like winter! The good news for me is that I get my spring break after all, thanks to the Ohio General Assembly's legislation regarding Snow Day make-ups. Therefore, in my absence, the March meeting on the 26th will be conducted by VP Dave McCann Sr. Linda and I will be in Savannah Georgia, hopefully enjoying warm days.

We decided at the February meeting that our club's local version of the Moss Motoring Challenge photo contest would be to photograph our MGs with the Ohio Bi-Centennial barns in the background. Since then Dave McCann Jr. has put considerable effort into researching which barns are still there and of those, which ones no longer have the Bi-Centennial logo painted on them. You'll notice on the contest rules sheet appearing elsewhere in this issue that there are actually only seven of the eighty-eight Ohio



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, March 26, 2014

MG Car Club Officers

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Mar:

- 11 – Worship of Tools Day
- 22 – Party at Gribler’s home
- 26 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Apr:

- 4 – World Pillow Fight Day
- 12 – Tune up clinic (rain date – April 26)
- 23 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

May:

- 5 – Cinco de Mayo (duh!!)
- 24 – 2nd Street Market
- 28 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

counties that no longer have a Bi-Centennial barn. That’s pretty good considering the Bi-Centennial was in 2003. All the others are fair game for your photographic pursuits. I won’t go into the details of the rules here, but please read them over and direct any questions you may have to Dave McCann Jr. at the March meeting. And, when we actually start taking our pictures, we can kill two birds with one stone, photographing county signs, courthouses and such for the national Moss Motoring Challenge, while we’re in a particular county photographing a barn. This is going to be fun!

A big “Thank You!” goes to Dave and Lois Gribler for hosting our spring party! This is always a good time with club members enjoying each other’s company and good food served on real china with real silverware in a very nice sit-down dinner! I hope you can go! Linda and I are disappointed that we cannot attend this year due to aforementioned spring break.

The tune-up clinic is next month. Let’s get-em out and drive-em!

Annual MGCC Spring Dinner Party

Since it’s too late to have a St. Patrick’s Day party this year, we’ll just call it our Spring Party.

If you are new to the club or don’t get a chance to attend regular club meetings and events, this is a good opportunity to meet and mingle with the “regulars”.

Where: Dave & Lois Gribler’s home
2228 Settlers Trail, Vandalia

When: Saturday, March 22 at 6 pm

What to Bring: Besides yourselves and an appetite, if desired you may bring a starter, salad, dessert or snack item to share and any optional beverage you might wish to consume. We’ll provide: turkey, ham, lasagna, roast beef and soft drinks.

Be advised that on-street parking is not permitted but numerous visitor parking areas are located along Settlers Trail, so plan for a short walk. For those with mobility issues, we can accommodate five MG’s or three “normal” vehicles in the driveway.

Remembering Gary Moore



take a ride with her Dad on his Norton.

Gary was remembered by the Dayton Motorcycle club:

"It is with a heavy heart that we at the Dayton M/C mourn the death of Life Member Gary Moore who passed away last night. Gary had been a valuable member of the DMC since 1967, he had held several Executive Board positions over the years and strived for excellence in everything he did for the club as he did in life. He was a unique and caring individual with a passion for life who lived life to the fullest, he will be dearly missed by all. Godspeed my friend."

We'll miss Gary at our club activities, also.

Gary Moore, a long time member of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre, passed away peacefully at 1:00am on January 24, 2014. Our condolences go out to Gary's wife Judy and the rest of Gary's family.

Gary was a good machinist as evidenced by work he had done on other club members' MGs. He was very detailed in his work. He will be missed.

"Gary loved his MG and being a member of the club." That is a quote from Gary's wife Judy.

Gary also loved motorcycles as you'll see in the picture of him with his daughter as a young girl getting ready to



2014 MG Car Club Ohio Bicentennial Barn Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest

Here are the rules:

1. The contest is to get pictures of your British vehicle along with a Ohio Bicentennial Barn, the cover of the Moss 2014 contest flyer, and yourself when possible (see rule 6). All items must be identifiable in the picture. The flyer can either be the official printed version or a copy you print yourself (black and white or color).
2. Only the original 88 barns, one in each county are valid. Replacement barns or alternate barns are not valid.
3. Families can compete together or separately, but this must be made clear when submitting results.
4. Digital photos are required. Rename the photo files to include your name and the county name.

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5. Deadline is the November club meeting. Bring or mail a memory stick or a disc containing all your photos. Clearly identify media with your name, so it can be returned to you at the January 2015 meeting or thereafter.
6. Multiple British vehicles are allowed, but the competitor must be in at least one photo with each vehicle used.
7. Dave McCann will be tabulating results and confirming details of each photo, and will not be competing.
8. Club membership is required at the time results are submitted.
9. Please be careful when parking and taking photos; particularly when the barn is only visible from a freeway.

Adams	_____	Hancock	_____	Paulding	_____
Allen	_____	Hardin	_____	Perry	_____
Ashland	_____	Harrison	_____	Pickaway	_____
Ashtabula	_____	Henry	_____	Pike	_____
Athens	_____	Highland	_____	Portage	_____
Auglaize	_____	Hocking	GONE ___	Preble	_____
Belmont	_____	Holmes	_____	Putnam	_____
Brown	_____	Huron	_____	Richland	_____
Butler	_____	Jackson	_____	Ross	_____
Carroll	_____	Jefferson	_____	Sandusky	_____
Champaign	GONE ___	Knox	_____	Scioto	_____
Clark	_____	Lake	_____	Seneca	_____
Clermont	_____	Lawrence	_____	Shelby	_____
Clinton	_____	Licking	_____	Stark	_____
Columbiana	_____	Logan	_____	Summit	_____
Coshocton	_____	Lorain	LOGO GONE	Trumbull	_____
Crawford	_____	Lucas	_____	Tuscarawas	_____
Cuyahoga	_____	Madison	_____	Union	_____
Darke	GONE ___	Mahoning	_____	Van Wert	_____
Defiance	_____	Marion	_____	Vinton	_____
Delaware	_____	Medina	LOGO GONE	Warren	_____
Erie	_____	Meigs	_____	Washington	_____
Fairfield	_____	Mercer	_____	Wayne	_____
Fayette	GONE ___	Miami	_____	Williams	_____
Franklin	_____	Monroe	_____	Wood	_____
Fulton	_____	Montgomery	_____	Wyandot	_____
Gallia	_____	Morgan	_____		
Geauga	_____	Morrow	_____		
Greene	_____	Muskingum	_____		
Guernsey	LOGO GONE	Noble	_____		
Hamilton	_____	Ottawa	_____		

A Car Dealer's Scientific Guide to the Ten Worst Used Vehicles

Steven Lang

Motoramic

Jan 17, 2014

Quality is something we all want when it comes to cars, especially older used ones. But how do we get it?

I have been studying this question in one form or another for nearly 14 years now. I began my automotive career as a car dealer, buying and selling hundreds of vehicles a year. As time went on, I became an auto auctioneer, a remarketing manager and a part-owner of a wholesale auto auction.

I saw thousands of cars come and go through the auction block during the course of each year, and as my worked changed, so did my understanding of quality. The overwhelming majority of the time, cars and trucks considered reliable in their early days would draw the strongest bids. But it wasn't always true; I observed some models experience costly transmission failure just as the odometer rolled past the 100,000-mile mark, while others would exhibit everything from blown head gaskets, to chronic rust issues to inoperative battery packs for hybrid vehicles.

Well-respected publications such as Consumer Reports and J.D. Power & Associates do an outstanding job finding defect trends among new and slightly used vehicles. However, once that specific vehicle is sold by the survey participant, there's no access to the history of the vehicle. As the average car owner over the last decade has typically kept their vehicle for approximately five to six years, a lot of data has disappeared.

Because there is no tracking service covering the problems in these vehicles, the 10-year-old vehicle that everyone assumed had great reliability will at times have terrible issues. Who knew? No one really. Consumer Reports' database goes back 10 years, but the average car and truck is now 11.4 years old.

So I decided to test my guesses about used vehicles by using data from auto auctions and the problems dealers themselves disclose. As a frequent buyer and seller, I started my study with what I consider the key quality question for most car owners: "At what point does my car become so undesirable that I am willing to accept a wholesale used price for my vehicle?"

Trade-ins are a great measurement of that emotional question. Most consumers who trade their vehicle will get a price hundreds to thousands of dollars less than retail. Car dealers not only know the wholesale market, they know the retail market as well, and are often able to get cars repaired for a lot less than most car owners.

This isn't always the case. Clean cars can sometimes be traded-in at a retail price, and then financed to a sub-prime car buyer for even more money. Dealers who specialize in a given car brand are usually more effective in marketing and selling that specific name, and they also get a greater share of trade-ins from the brand — along with a better selection of clean vehicles.

To remove this bias, I decided to gather data on trade-ins sent to wholesale auctions by large used-car retailers such as Carmax, J.D. Byrider, Drivetime, and other regional used-car retailers that don't cater to

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a single automaker. This way there wouldn't be an over-representation of a given brand. I also employed the help of Nick Lariviere, a statistician capable of creating visuals that would make all this real-world used car data easy to understand.

One year and nearly 300,000 vehicles later, we have developed a new quality index that you can find here. For now, we are focusing on brands and models. As the study continues to pool more vehicles, we'll gradually introduce specific model year data, and even powertrain combinations, so that used car buyers can figure out where to find that older used vehicle that has truly earned its quality reputation.

So what out there is truly low quality? As far as those cars with the highest defect level at trade-in time, here are the 10 worst:



10. Volkswagen New Beetle (automatic transmission issues and cheap interior components; diesel models with 5-speed manuals are by far the best powertrain option.)

9. Mazda 626 (automatic transmission issues, all models.)

8. Lincoln Aviator (a gussied-up, unpopular Ford Explorer that had unique sensor and software issues which negatively impacted the overall powertrain and electronics)

7. Jaguar S-Type (Extensive transmission and engine issues on all V-6 and V-8 models. Along with Limited edition models with ungodly replacement costs.)

6. Lincoln LS (Same basic powertrain as the Jaguar S-Type with nearly identical results.)

5. Mazda Millenia (Engine issues, transmission issues and cheap interiors that just don't wear well.)

4. Land Rover Discovery (Expensive parts. Expensive powertrains. Electronics that are apparently the spawn of Beelzebub.)

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3. Mini Cooper (Bad transmissions that are unusually expensive to replace. Cheap interior parts. Cheap hydraulics.)

2. Land Rover Freelander (A cost-cutting exercise that went way past the bone.)

And a true shocker, the single worst used vehicle at the wholesale auctions when it comes to overall defect rate at trade-in time is....

1. Mazda CX-7 (Engine issues on these vehicles are legion with nearly a third of these vehicles sold with "Engine needs service" announcements at the auctions.)

No list can be perfect, and it wouldn't be right if I didn't offer at least a couple of important caveats here. There are cars out there that are worth so little money now that they go straight to the junkyards instead of the wholesale auctions: Older Chryslers with defective 2.7-liter engines, older Suzukis and Kias, and the aquatic late '90's Ford Tauruses sometimes fall straight into the crusher once a major problem takes hold.

Also, if the vehicle appeared to have reliability issues, but didn't have enough of a sample size at this point (for example: Mercury Mystique, Isuzu Axiom, Suzuki Forenza), I have kept it off the list for right now.

Finally some models, like the VW New Beetle, may have a pearl of quality in a specific engine/transmission combination within the overall swamp of trouble. This is one of the reasons why we are going to delve deeper as this study continues to take shape.

Traffic Jam in Xian, China



Severe pollution has hit much of northern China for the past six days, with some particle readings well over 10 times the internationally accepted safety limit. Here vehicles are stuck in a traffic jam in heavy smog in Xian after the traffic lights broke down.

Editor's Note – When's the last time you saw smog like that in the U.S...even in Los Angeles?

Things You Should Know, But Probably Don't!

Editor's note – The following has nothing to do with MGs, British cars, or even cars. Nor do I have any ideas if any of this is true.

1. Money isn't made out of paper, it's made out of cotton.
2. The Declaration of Independence was written on hemp (marijuana) paper.
3. The dot over the letter 'i' is called a 'tittle.'
4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
5. Susan Lucci is the daughter of Phyllis Diller.
6. 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.
7. 315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled.
8. The 'spot' on 7UP comes from its inventor, who had red eyes. He was albino.
9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents, daily.
10. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine are brother and sister.
11. Chocolate affects a dog's heart and nervous system; a few ounces will kill a small-sized dog.
12. Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedoing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.
13. Most lipstick contains fish scales.
14. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
15. Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.
16. Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower' because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters.
17. Leonardo Da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time, hence multi-tasking was invented.
18. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
19. There are no clocks in Las Vegas gambling casinos.

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20. The name Wendy was made up for the book Peter Pan; there was never a recorded Wendy before!
21. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with: orange, purple, and silver.
22. Leonardo Da Vinci invented scissors. Also, it took him 10 years to paint Mona Lisa's lips.
23. A tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion will make it instantly go mad and sting itself to death.
24. The mask used by Michael Myers in the original 'Halloween' was a Captain Kirk's mask painted white.
25. If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar (good to know).
26. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you can't sink in quicksand (and you thought this list was completely useless).
27. The phrase 'rule of thumb' is derived from an old English law, which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
28. The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was the Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
29. Celery has negative calories! It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with. It's the same with apples.
30. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying!
31. The glue on Israeli postage stamps is certified kosher.
32. Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.
33. Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a space suit damages it.

Classifieds

Free classified policy: We are happy to run your auto-related ad for three months free of charge, but may cut older and non-MG related ads as space requires. Please contact the editor when your item sells or if you wish to continue the ad for an additional three months.

For Sale: 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)

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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)

MG Car Club Minutes, February 26th Meeting

Sam Hodges

The February MGCC meeting is called to order at 7:36. ...as Terry Looft throws the gavel away... President Ron Parks, "Does that mean I've been impeached?" Dave McCann Jr. "You don't get that lucky."

President Parks continues, "As those of you who get the email know, we lost a member last month, Gary Moore. We were out of town but I understand that the memorial service was well attended. We also had a Pub Run last month. It was lightly attended – 14 members - but those who were there were very enthusiastic. We might as well discuss this now, since its' been brought up. When we decided to have the Holiday party here, it was a test run. So, we need to have the discussion as to whether we want to continue that trend." Lois Gribler, "NO!" Terry Looft, "I was under the impression that it was 'President's option' as to where to have the party." President Ron, "Well, if it's the 'President's option', then I'm going to go ahead and reserve this room just to save the date." Bill Hammond, "I think all the people involved did a great job and it was a learning process. I think we should continue on and see how it goes." Jennifer Peterson, "We ordered too much of some things and not enough of others. Like Bill said, it was a learning process."

Vice President Dave McCann. Dave Sr., "Everything's stable with the McCanns'. We had talked about going to Hocking Hills for an overnigher, but that's going to be awfully close to the French Lick NAMGBR. I think we should hold off on the overnigher and maybe do it another time.

Minutes were next on the agenda. Skip Peterson, "I make a motion that Sam read the minutes in their entirety..." The next minutes will not be kind to you... – Charlie McCamey motions to accept the Minutes as reported in the Newsletter. Skip seconds the motion. Minutes approved and accepted.

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Treasurer's Report was next. As our Treasurer was not in attendance – some rumor about being in Florida – our report was given by _____ (I was too busy getting the numbers to note who actually gave the report. Let's just say... Mary Planeaux.) [I'm not sure why you let that hack take Minutes!?! – Di]

We had Total Income to the MGCC consisting of: BCD Revenue (\$625.00) + Regalia Sold (\$308.00). We therefore had a Total Income of \$933.02. Total Expenses: unreported = A Total Expense of \$0.00. Total gain to the MGCC was \$933.00, that when added to our existing Treasury balance of \$4,111.85 equals a new Treasury Balance of \$5,044.85 in the primary checking and \$379.01 in the savings account. Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered. Terry Looft seconded. Eddie, awake this week, opposed in the name of John Zeno.

Membership was next. Carole Looft. "You've got 92 members right now. We did get a new member Robert and Rosa _____ owners of a 1967 MGB who live in Ridgeville, Indiana." [Really?!? You missed the last name? You've got one job! – Diana]

Sunshine Committee. Reuben and Pat Wasserman have moved into assisted living facility – Sycamore in Miamisburg. It's an adjustment but they're getting along.

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman was absent tonight. Ron, "Keep the stories coming as we don't want more pet stories."

Webmaster was next. John Scocozzo, "Nothing new to report. It's out there, take a look."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, "Let's just start at the top: Custom Car show at the Dayton Airport Expo Center – 'Dayton World of Wheels' March 21, 22, 23. The Gribblers' Annual party is that same weekend, March 22nd. Lois, "See, come to the car show, stay for dinner." Steve Miller has selected Saturday April 12th for the Annual Tune-up Clinic. Rain-date is April 26th. May 24th is the annual 2nd Street Market show from 9:00-3:00. First week of June is Drive-your-British-Car week. And of course June 15-18 is French Lick."

Ron, "Do we need a March Pub run to cure cabin fever?" After a brief discussion it's decided that March 23rd is as good a day as any. Bring your sleeping bag and go to a pub run the day after the Gribbler's party. Pub Run will be at Fox & Hounds in Beavercreek at 5pm.

Beer Break – Graham Cooper motioned at 8:04 at the behest of Ron...

Back from brake at 8:21. Ron, "I have a motion for the end of beer break..." Dave Estell, "LIAR!"

Old Business. Dave Gribler, "Louie's not here. Ron, "Hammond is..."

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The conversation turned to the Moss Motoring Challenge. There are some copies of the entry form from Moss. It lists all of the things you need pictures of. Ron, "Maybe we can do something like that here in Ohio. Ohio Barns? Counties?" After some discussion, we decided to have our own internal contest and we're going to try to get the Ohio Barns in each County for our own internal contest. If you can wrangle it so that you can also take a picture that qualifies for the Moss contest, then don't pass up the opportunity. Start taking pictures. Dave McCann Jr., "It's not a money making venture, but it is an excuse to get out and drive your car."

New Business. Skip, "Mike Joy apparently owns 19 MGs. Let's see if we can invite him to BCD. Apparently during the rain delay of the Daytona 500 he made a comment about how if he leaves one of his MGs out in the rain, he has the same type of electrical issues that some of the Cup cars were having trying to start after being left out in the rain."

For Sale. No one has anything. Dave Gribler, "I'm looking for a beauty rim for a 14 inch MGB wheel. Dave McCann Jr., "I've got one." Dave Sr., "Is that coming off of my car?"

Tech Tip. Terry Looft, "Over at 283 S. Detroit in Xenia is a lock shop that can create almost any key you need."

British Museum of Transportation. Dick Smith, "We did the Detroit car show in January. Everybody had a good time. The driver did a great job in the snow & ice on the way back."

Gumball Rallye – lots of drawings...

7-XL t-shirts, 2-XXL t-shirts and a 2003 poster from The Concours.

Carole Looft, Dave McCann, John Scocozzo, Robert Nuessgen, Graham Cooper, Dave Gribler, Skip Peterson, Bob Loudon, Lois Gribler and Mike Maloney all won shirts.

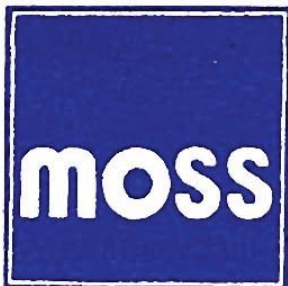
Dave McCann Jr. won the poster

Bonnie Hankey won the \$10.00.

Motion to adjourn 8:52 by Dave McCann Sr. Seconded by Bob Loudon. Meeting Adjourned.

The logo for MiniMania, featuring the word "MiniMania" in a stylized, bold, black font with a white outline. The letters are slightly slanted and have a jagged, hand-drawn appearance.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, featuring the words "MG AUTOMOTIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is underlined.

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