

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLI No. 11

September 2014



Renew Your Membership and Vote!!
Concours and Picnic Pictures

From the President

Ron Parks

Well, that went fast! Here I am writing my last column already. I will hand over the orange bag containing all of the club's presidential stuff to a newly elected president at the conclusion of the September meeting. It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your president this past year. I have enjoyed it and, along with many of you, we have enjoyed driving our MGs, participating in local events like our tune-up clinic and spring tour and national events in French Lick and Ottawa. Linda and I enjoyed hosting our club picnic. The rain held off for us and we celebrated 90 years of MG with a cake and our MGs forming a large "90" on our front lawn. It has been a full year of opportunities to enjoy driving our MGs together and, it's not over yet. Some of us will be going to the Shenandoah Valley British Car Club's Annual British Car Festival October 3-4 and we have a pub run scheduled for 5:00pm on October 12th at Buffalo Jack's in Covington



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 24, 2014

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Sep:

14 – Concours d'Elegance
19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day
24 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Oct:

12 – Pub Run, Buffalo Jack's in
Covington OH (not KY)
22 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Nov:

19 – Meeting at Buffalo Wild Wings

Dec:

13 – Holiday party at Buffalo Wild Wings
No meeting – Happy Holidays!!
See meeting minutes for other area

Ohio. And, lastly, our Holiday party will be on Saturday December 13th in the Blazin room at BW3, where we hold our meetings.

We will elect officers for the year 2015 at our meeting this month. Only members in good standing, that means your dues are paid, are eligible to vote and run for office. So, please pay your dues and consider running for an office.

Now that the Concours d'Elegance at Carillon Park is over, I will start planning in earnest for our trip to Shenandoah Valley Virginia to attend the Shenandoah Valley British Car Club Annual British Car Festival in Waynesboro Virginia October 3-4. I will keep you updated via email as planning progresses. The website is:

<http://www.wftv.com/events/events/festivals/shenandoah-valley-british-car-club-annual-british-eCCNmG/>

I have included my obligatory fishing picture that our newsletter editor requests each year following my Canadian fishing trip. This wasn't the biggest fish I caught, but it is the one I caught on the day I wore my British Car Day shirt.

The top is going up on our MG soon for enjoyable fall driving. It most likely will stay up until spring. I know, Dave & Lois Gribler are saying, "What top?"

See you on the road or at a meeting.



Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

September is the month for your membership renewal. Renewals are \$18/year for current members. Dues for a partial year are pro-rated only for new members. If you need to make any corrections or additions to the information we have on hand for you, drop a note along with your payment and we will update our records.

Dues can be brought to the meeting or sent to:

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

And remember, you need to be a paid-up member to vote for officers for the coming year. You must be at the meeting to vote, but you do not need to be present to be nominated and voted into office (hint, hint).



MG90 Celebrated at Picnic

Ron Parks

Photos by Steve Markman and Ron Parks

Our president, Ron Parks, and his wife Linda, hosted the club's summer picnic on Sunday August 17, 2014, during which we celebrated ninety years of MG cars. Club members enjoyed a cake sporting the MG90 logo as part of the desert offerings. And, as folks arrived at the picnic, they were directed to pre-designated parking spots to form "90" when viewed from above. The club's summer picnic is a fun event where the club provides meat for the grille, drinks and picnic-ware and everyone brings a salad, snack or desert to share. The MG90 cake enhanced this year's festivities!



Club members' cars parked on the front lawn in the MG 90 formation...kind of, use your imagination.

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More...

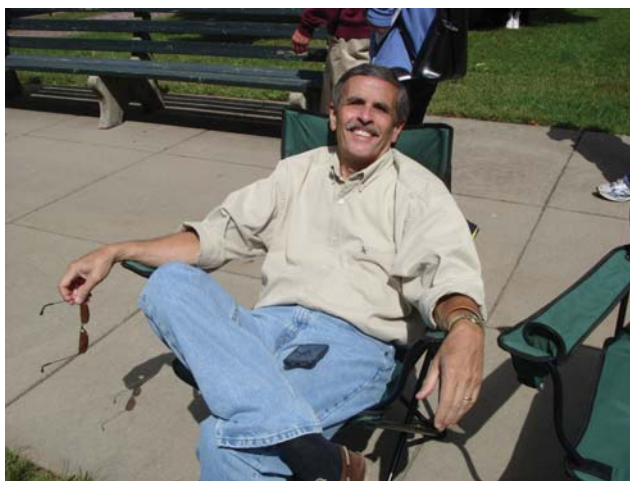


Thanks to Linda and Ron Parks for hosting this year's picnic.

Club Members Enjoying Concours d'Elegance

Photos by Steve Markman and Ron Parks





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...and my favorite entry.



Special thanks to Jennifer, Skip, and all the volunteers for their work in making this another great Concours!!

Five Ways to Keep Your Beater Car on the Road Forever

Steven Lang
Morormatic

I could take this car across the country tomorrow without a care or a concern. It does everything I ask of it. This blue Buick Century has never left me on the side of the road. The paint still looks great, and whatever I need maintenance-wise can be had for a reasonable price via the Internet.

We owners of older cars haven't always been so fortunate when it comes to our daily drivers. I remember the bad old days when a "beater" was not just old but a vehicle that would routinely break down with no warning at all. In 1998, my future wife had a 15-year-old Lincoln we called "The Steenkin' Lincoln." Duct tape supported the interior door panels. Thumbtacks and staples held up the headliner. The car came with fuel economy lower than my woeful GPA, and a diagnostic system that could only be read by a mechanic who always charged at least \$50 for the privilege.

Even if your car is half the age of this Century, most of us inevitably get that irritating little itch to test drive something brand new. That \$30,000 average price tag for a new vehicle often doesn't seem to be "that bad" when your payments can be spread over seven years, or even longer.

I say avoid that debt trap. One of the dirty secrets of the business I see as a car dealer is that nine out of ten new-car shoppers don't actually need a new car at all. I routinely see customers curb cars that are worth keeping.

Here are the top five things you can do to make an old car drive new.

Replace suspension components The number one reason why a beater wears out its welcome is because the owner doesn't take care of their suspension. Tie rods, ball joints, CV axles, shocks and struts all wear out over time, yet don't get mentioned as a routinely serviced or inspected item.

The trick here is to avoid dealerships that charge near-extortion prices for these items, and go to a well-established independent repair shop instead. Invest in quality components (go to an enthusiast forum for your specific model if you want guidance), and your old ride may suddenly be comparable to those \$30,000 debt barnacles sitting at the new car store.

Invest in tires A good set of tires not only improves fuel economy. It also makes a night and day difference in terms of ride and the wear on your suspension.

Owners routinely think that cheap tires will simply last the 40,000 miles without adding hidden costs to the price. The truth is that tires made out of high-quality materials shield your car from blunt impacts with road debris. Look for quality first instead of price whenever you shop for tires.

Look beyond the motor oil Motor oil is probably the most exhaustively studied fluid in a vehicle. However it's those other overlooked fluids that make a big difference. Coolant, transmission fluid, brake fluid and other related fluids and filters, will usually have a far greater impact on a vehicle's longevity than just motor oil alone.

In certain cases you may be stuck having old tranny fluid due to internal wear issues. But if you haven't replaced the coolant, brake fluid and power steering fluid, do it. They are the cheapest insurance against maladies that push you into buying a new car such as blown engines, expensive brake repairs and

steering rack replacements.

Yes, your car needs wax A lot of folks invest in a detail and wind up with nothing more than a decent interior cleaning and a cheap glaze of chemicals over their paint.

If you want your car to look new and eventually, classic, nothing beats a good quality wax that you put on yourself. Take an afternoon and try to learn the basics by practicing on your hood and other areas of your car. Once you get the hang of it, you'll never want anyone else to wax your car again.

Invest in the interior Most people think of a nicer stereo system or a back-up camera can bridge the difference between an old car and a new car. These options, along with Bluetooth capabilities, usually cost less than \$200.

However, it is often better to start with your seat and the steering wheel instead, since that's what you touch during most of your daily journeys. Most seats will wear out over time, and steering wheels are particularly sensitive to sun exposure.

The auto recycling world is a literal heaven for these parts. Cars in severe accidents early on in life usually get totaled, leaving a perfectly nice driver seat behind along with door panels, storage bins, and minor interior and exterior parts

As for a steering wheel cover, buy the more expensive ones that require professional installation instead of the cheap rubberized WalMart specials. With seats and steering wheel covers, you can always opt for the work of a professional upholstery shop

Your old ride can usually look and drive like new for anywhere between 3 percent to 10 percent of that new car price — or basically what you lose in depreciation the moment you drive a new vehicle off the lot. Is it worth it? Most beaters of the modern era can last over 250,000 miles if you stay on top of maintenance and invest in the little issues so that they never become big problems.

The question is whether you are willing to spend that time and money up front. So weigh it all in, and see if you can stay debt free.

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: Nice pair of chrome MGA fog light brackets. These came off my TD after Phil Johnson gave me a spare badge bar with fog light brackets that he had. \$25 or best offer. Call Steve Markman, 937-886-9566, or smarkman@att.net. (9/14)

For Sale: 1977 MGB. Good condition, strong engine, recently updated suspension. Located in Beaver Creek. Asking \$6200.00 Call Dave Lovett 937-429-4527 or 937-974-1244. (8/14)

For Sale: Parts for an MG Midget 1500 (Rubber Bumper) - located in Columbus: 3 engine blocks, 2 transmissions, 3 head assembly, 2 fuel pumps, 2 cam shafts, 3 flywheels, 2 starters, 2 intake manifolds, 2 exhaust manifolds, 3 water pumps, 2 carburetors, misc. air boxes, bearings, clutches, gaskets, rods & pistons, 1 exhaust system, 1 radiator. Josh Hafner, joshhafner@ymail.com. (7/14)

MG Car Club Minutes, August 27th Meeting

Sam Hodges

Meeting called to order at 7:34. President Ron Parks, “The August meeting of the Miami Valley Triumph club is called to...”

President Ron Parks, “Steve and Jayne Powell are still not here.”

Ron continued, “The Summer picnic was at our house. There’s cake left over and it’s not going home (*it was really good cake*). All those MGs in the 9-0 formation is the best my lawns ever looked. Louie’s been there for all 90 years. It was fun, we had a good time. Next month are elections. If you’re interested in running for an office, let someone know.” Skip, even if you’re not, we can make it happen.” Ron, “We’ll nominate you and elect you.” Skip, “It has happened before.”

Ron, “My last official duty will be the annual Holiday party. You can bring cake. The party will be here, at BW3’s. Their official policy is that cake is the only dessert we can bring in here. If you bring Boston cream pie, you’re bringing Boston Cream cake. If you bring Fudge-Nut Brownies, you’re bringing Fudge-Nut cake. You bring, Jell-O, you’re bringing Jell-O cake... *You get the point.*

Vice President’s Report Dave McCann. “Even with the speakers, it was still hard to hear. Otherwise, nothing to report.”

Minutes were next. Ron, “Sam will now read the Minutes from last month in their entirety.” Sam, “Shyeah. Right.” Dar Planeaux motioned to accept the minutes as reported. Bonnie Hankey seconded. Eddie Zeno opposed as usual. Minutes, as reported, approved.

Treasurer’s Report was next. *As has become the norm here lately, our Treasurer, Dave Estell is off on another trip. This time, he’s is in Alaska. The suspicious conspiracy theorists have begun to wonder and start rumors – like the one I’m trying to start right now....* Therefore, Treasurer Emeritus Bonnie Hankey gave the report.

Bonnie, “We had Total Income to the MGCC consisting of: Regalia Sold (\$32.00) + Membership (\$100.00) + Savings Account Interest (\$.02) for a **Total Income of \$132.02**. Total Expenses: Gumball Rallye (\$10.00) + 8-new Corn hole beanbags patches (\$40.57) + Free refreshments beyond the \$50 gift card – reimbursement (\$53.15) Octagon News mailing (\$47.56) + MGCC Picnic Expenses (\$171.75) for a **Total Expense of**

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\$323.03. Total Loss to the MGCC was \$191.01, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of **\$4,448.64** equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$4,257.63** in the primary checking and **\$379.06** in the savings account. Bob Farrell motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered. Skip Peterson seconded. *Eddie would have opposed if he had been paying attention, but by the time someone told him his window to oppose had closed, we'd already moved on.* Treasurer's Report approved.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was off in Alaska. Hmm... *Me thinks me see a trendth here...* Bonnie Hankey, *stepping in as the designated hitter yet again*, "We have 103 members. Rachel & David Johnson of Beavercreek with a 53 MGTD right hand drive are with us tonight." Ron, "I think I see a bright future for Vice President Hankey here in the MGCC." Eddie, "She should be Membership since Carole's going to be the new President." – *Or maybe that's another rumor I'm trying to start...*

Sunshine Committee. Ron, "Everyone's asking about Hammond. He's been moved to a new room on the second floor." Steve Markman, "I saw Reuben about 3 weeks ago at the nursing home. I had lunch and he was supposed to go home that week so he should be back home by now."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman. "Keep the pictures coming in. I've got the annual picture presentation to Louie from the Americana Festival." Louie, "Huh? What I'd do?" Steve, "Every time we turned around there was another woman talking to you." Louie, "It's the hair." Steve, "You were wearing a hat." Steve, "...anyway, this one lady came over and the next thing we saw was her getting into your car, so I grabbed my camera."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "I've got new pics up and more coming, once I get them."

Activities with Eddie. Someone wake up Eddie... Ron, "There's a show in the Shenandoah Valley in Waynesboro VA coming up. Dave McCann Jr.'s been there before." Dave, "It's a nice area. October should be a really good time of year for that area. They used to have a shuttle to run people to the shops." Ron, "Should be a fun time. We're going to caravan, about 5 cars going down."

Fall Tour Ideas. Bonnie, "Where I thought about going, there's a motorcycle hill climb going on that weekend (October 12th). Maybe a tour to D&D restorations in Covington?" Mike Edgerton, "I think I might be able to arrange that." Ron, "We can always have a Pub Run to Buffalo Jacks." *More discussion is in order...*

Bob Hanseman, "There's a Gathering of the Faithful, September 26th-28th in Xenia. There's going to be some covered bridge drives, a stop by Young's Dairy and a tour of the Westcott House in Springfield. It's actually the Cincinnati T-Group but they're holding it in Xenia because they're hoping to draw some people down from Columbus and Cleveland.

Ron, "Maybe I can get better luck getting someone to motion for a beer brake?" Skip, I will.

Beer Break called at 7:56.

Back from Brake 8:15

Old Business. Skip, "Carole told me that she wasn't going to be at this meeting and we could talk about the patch/decal issue in September." Ron, "That's a good idea." Skip, "We can talk about it right before we elect President Carole Looft." - *Ah. So it's NOT just me starting that rumor!* Ron, "That has a nice ring to it." Skip, "Let's move this off-center. There's a lot of potential in here. Bonnie's doing just fine as Membership chair."

BCD, Skip, "The prairie grass, no-mow zone was an effort to make the park more ecologically balanced." Eddie, "We made it work. The wild west was a lot bigger than we thought it was going to be."

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Skip, “We had 270 pre-register, about 235 actually showed up. Early indications were that it was a successful show. The Sunbeam group wants to come next year and have their regional event in conjunction with BCD 2015. They did it about 5 years ago and it was a success then. Mark your calendars. Aug. 1, 2015 is the first Saturday next year, just be warned.” Charlie McCamey, “Last year we had a port-o-john back in the corner, maybe we want to have another one again back there?” Skip, “After last year, the servicing company said that it basically went unused.” Louie, “I got put into the Premier class but I didn’t win last year.” Skip, “There were some mistakes made. We had too much meat and not enough buns.” Bob Loudon, “Hotdogs on napkins are not good.” Terry Happensack, “You’re not supposed to eat the napkin.” Bob, “That’s how they were served.”

Ron, “Any New Business?” Eddie, “Wait, membership? What’s the number?” Bonnie, “103.” Eddie, “Oooh. Sorry Ron.”

For Sale, Steve Markman, “I’ve got some MGA fog-light brackets for sale. We can haggle on the price if you’re interested.”

A discussion was had by several members who have seen the cars including Terry Happensack, Eddie and some others. Out on Colonel Glenn Hwy there are two MGB’s, one a white rubber bumper, and an older Red pull-handle B both for sale on a dealer lot. Apparently both are in rough shape, but if you’re interested, it’s a start.

Tech Tips. Karl Sparklin. *Apologies’ to Karl. After about 20 years of quoting him as ‘Carl’ he informed me it’s actually ‘Karl.’* “The best thing you can do is have your son buy a really nice tool set and then leave it when he moves away. It almost makes up for all the tools he lost over the years.”

Other. Ron, “Anything else?” Jeanie Smith. “We’re trying to pull together a list of interesting MG/British car websites. If you have any good ones, let us know.” Dick Smith, “Yesterday, the 26th was the 90th anniversary of the original MG...” Jeanie, “...and our second anniversary.” Ron, “Is that why you picked that date?”

Gumball Rallye. Ron, “Tonight’s special: Budweiser t-shirt was won by Ed Wolf. Case No.1 of soda – Dave McCann Jr., Case No.2, Mary Planeaux. Mary, “I won last month, let someone else have it. Case No.2, part 2 – Terry Happensack. Terry, “I’d like to do the same thing.” Case No.2 part 3 - Mimi and Case No.3 – John Scocozzo won the leftover soda. \$10 to Dave Gribler.

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 made by Charlie and seconded by Louie D.

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