

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLIV No. 1

October 2016



New Officers!!
Pictures From Fall Drive

Hot Exhaust

Skip Peterson

I'm not sure whether to say thank you, or what the hell were you thinking??? But in any case, I'm happy to serve as your president for the next 11 months. I will try to uphold the strong values of our group (as soon as I determine what they are) and I will continue to support what I call, Everyman's Sports Car, our cool MG's.

By the time you read this, we should have completed an enjoyable Sunday Covered Bridge drive and some camaraderie at the Ye Old Tavern in Yellow Springs.

Next on the agenda is the 50th anniversary celebration at Bennett's Pubical on October 22nd beginning at 6 pm. I encourage everyone to attend, this only happens once and it's pretty amazing that we have been around for 50 years, and we still have 4 of the original members in the club!



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 Rusty Bucket, 2812 Miamisburg-Centerville Road, 45459, in front of the Dayton Mall, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

Wed, October 26, 2016

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Skip Peterson
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Upcoming MGCC Events

Oct:

- 2 – Name Your Car Day
- 26 – Meeting at **Bennett's Pubical**

Nov:

- 5 – Guy Fawkes Day
- 16 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket (Note - 3rd Wednesday this month)

Dec:

- No meeting – Happy holidays

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

We'll return to the Rusty Bucket for our meeting in November, and I already have spoken to them and have reserved the fourth Wednesday of the month for all of 2017. Also, remember to mark your calendar for the November meeting, it will be on Nov. 16, the third Wednesday, due to Thanksgiving. Holiday Party plans are still in the works, and our first meeting in 2017 will be January 25th.

If anyone has any thoughts on giving a brief program at a meeting next year, drop me a note. It could be an extended tech tip, a history lesson, a modification or restoration project; I'd just like to do a few different things if possible.

Now, I'm off to the garage, as I complete putting all new wheel cylinders on the MGA and finally bleed the system. I'll let you know how it goes..



Skip and Jennifer Peterson's grand daughters, Emie and Everly Wheeler, about to take the MGB out for a spin.

New Officers Elected at September Meeting

In case you missed the last meeting, here are our new officers:

President:	Skip Peterson
Vice President:	Ed Wolf
Secretary:	Diana Hodges
Treasurer:	Cheri Farrell
Member at Large:	Dave Johnson

All appointed and volunteer positions remain unchanged. Thank you to last year's officers for their service. See minutes for all the mud-slinging, lies, and counter-lies of the viscous campaigns.

MG Halts Assemble of Cars in Great Britain

Kurt Ernst, Hemmings Motor News

At its peak in the late 1960s, the automobile assembly plant in Longbridge, Birmingham, England, employed an estimated 25,000 workers, building a range of vehicles sold under the British Leyland banner. Today the plant occupies less than half of its former 400 acres and employs roughly 500 workers (including those in research and development), but it still handles final assembly of certain MG automobiles for parent company Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). At least it did until last month: As *The Mirror* (via *Just British*) reports, SAIC has moved all automotive production back to China.



According to MG Motor UK sales and marketing head, Matthey Cheyne, the move is a “necessary business decision... (that) will allow faster access to product and help to meet ever-increasing customer demand, all while maintaining the highest levels of production quality.” Roughly 25 manufacturing employees are expected to lose their jobs, though sales and marketing staff not deemed redundant by the move will remain at the site.

The announcement is hardly the first time the Longbridge plant staff has received bad news. Then-parent BMW sold the Rover Group, and with it the Longbridge Plant, to the Phoenix Consortium in 2000, resulting in a management buyout and the formation of MG Rover Group. By 2005, MG Rover Group was out of money, forced to shutter the factory and fire an estimated 6,000 workers.

Just 90 days after the closure, MG Rover Group and the Longbridge plant were purchased by Chinese automaker Nanjing. Nanjing itself was bought by SAIC in late 2007, and in 2008 the plant resumed final assembly of the MG TF roadster. In 2011, the plant began producing the MG 6, a variant of the Chinese Roewe 550 sedan, from semi-knocked-down kits shipped from China. The MG 3 subcompact entered production in Longbridge in 2012, and plans were in place to build a new MG SUV (again from semi-knocked-down kits) at the plant this year.

The shuttering of the Longbridge assembly line ends nearly 92 years of MG manufacturing history in England.

Pictures from Fall Drive

Photos by Ron Parks and Skip Peterson





Congratulations to Sam and Diana Hodges, who celebrated their anniversary with us!!



Congratulations to Ryan and Leeann Looft, who also celebrated their anniversary with us!!



Interesting Facts About Great Britain



Editor's note – I found these on the internet, so of course they all must be true. Believe at your own risk, or check them out for yourself.

North East

1. According to British law, it's still perfectly legal to kill any Scotsman who enters the city of York if he happens to be carrying a bow and arrow.
2. Tyneside's Angel of the North statue is made from 200 tonnes of steel, has a wingspan of 54 meters, and is 20 meters tall – that's the height of four double decker buses.
3. Star Carr near Scarborough in North Yorkshire is home to what is believed to be the remains of Britain's oldest house. The structure would have been 3.5 metres wide, and dates from around 10,000 years ago, when Britain was still joined to the rest of Europe.

North West

4. People from Liverpool are often called 'Scousers'. The name is short for 'Lobscouse', which was a Scandinavian stew eaten by the sailors who visited the port. Local families adopted the dish, and the name stuck.
5. Manchester United has won the FA Cup more often than any other team. However, they've also lost more FA Cup Finals than any team except Everton!
6. You can view a very special type of coloring pencil in Keswick at the Cumberland Pencil Museum – at nearly eight meters, it's the longest in the world.

South East

7. 'Big Ben' doesn't refer to the famous clock at London's Houses of Parliament, but to the bell inside. The building itself is called the Elizabeth Tower.
8. In St George's churchyard in Gravesend you can see a life size statue of Princess Pocahontas, the daughter of a Native American chieftain, who is buried in the grounds. She was visiting the area with her English husband, but sadly died of a fever in 1617 before she could return to America.
9. East Peckham in Kent has a unique claim to fame: it's where the first-ever speeding ticket was issued, in January 1896. Walter Arnold was spotted doing 8mph in a 2mph zone, but was easily apprehended by a policeman riding a bicycle.

South West

10. In 1886, Sarah Ann Henley threw herself off Bristol's Clifton Suspension Bridge after a row with her boyfriend, falling 75 metres on to the mud bank below. She was saved by her billowing crinoline petticoats, which helped to slow her fall, and lived into her eighties.

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11. The last ‘witches’ to be hanged in Britain were three women from Bideford in Devon, in 1682. There was no evidence against them, but other villages accused them of sending the devil to their enemies’ houses, in the form of a magpie and a tabby cat.

12. Athelhampton House, a fifteenth-century manor in Dorset, is said to be one of the most haunted places in Britain. Its ‘ghosts’ include two men fighting a duel, a black-robed priest, a grey lady, a cat and a pet monkey.

Scotland

13. The one-and-a-half mile journey from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkney islands is the shortest scheduled flight in the world. The trip takes less than two minutes.

14. The Hamilton Mausoleum, built in 1842 in South Lanarkshire, has the longest-lasting echo of any man-made structure in the world – a whole 15 seconds.

15. In 1507 Stirling Castle was the scene of Scotland’s first recorded attempt at flight, when scientist John Damian launched himself from the battlements on feathered wings. Unfortunately, he crashed straight into a dunghill and broke his leg.

Wales

16. When it was built in 1286, Harlech Castle was on the coast. Today, it’s half a mile inland. That’s because the land the castle is built on is slowly rising, as it springs back into position after being weighed down during the Ice Age.

17. Bala Lake in Gwynedd is home to a rare fish called the gwyniad, which is found nowhere else on the planet. It’s thought its ancestors were trapped in the waters there at the end of the last Ice Age.

18. A cave in Aberystwyth was once home to the Crown jewels. They were moved there during World War II to protect them from German bombs, along with a copy of the Magna Carta and other valuable documents.

East

19. If you’re visiting Norfolk, watch out for jaspers (wasps), and try not to step on any dodmans (snails). The county has its own words for many things, including ants (pishamires), ladybirds (bishy barney bees) and money (kewter).

20. The skies above Lavenham in Suffolk inspired the song, ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’. The words were written in 1806 by 23-year-old poet Jane Taylor, who lived in Shilling Street in the village.

21. The thousand-year-old Bowthorpe Oak in Manthorpe, Lincolnshire, is the largest living oak tree in Britain. It measures over 12 meters around the trunk, and 39 people can fit comfortably inside its hollow interior.

Northern Ireland

22. Ballygally Castle in County Antrim is said to be haunted by the ghost of Lady Isobel Shaw, who knocks on doors at night and then disappears. Legend has it that Lady Isobel was locked in her room by

her husband and starved, until she leapt to her death from a window.

23. Northern Ireland has more young people than anywhere else in the UK. Children under 16 make up nearly a quarter of the population.

24. Northern Ireland's Tayto crisps are made at a 500-year-old castle in County Armagh. The brand's best-selling flavor is cheese and onion; it's so popular that earlier this year, Tayto even brought out a cheese-and-onion-flavoured chocolate bar!

Midlands

25. In the 14th century babies in Herefordshire were baptized in cider, on the grounds that it was cleaner than water.

26. If you visit the graveyard of St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury, you might be excited to find the grave of Ebenezer Scrooge. Unfortunately, it's not real. The gravestone is a prop left over from the 1984 movie 'A Christmas Carol', which was filmed in the local area.

27. Birmingham is the second largest city in the UK, but there are 30 other places called Birmingham around the world. There's even a crater on the moon with the same name!

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. srmarkman@att.net or 937-886-9566.*

For Sale: Electric radiator fan, 10 in. Best offer. Danny Mortensen, agsdanny@aol.com or 859-384-7821. (10/16)

For Sale: '79 MGB black, excellent condition, 74,700 miles, \$ 6,500.00. Rick O'Cull, 937-669-3399 fax 937-669-9602, Cell 937-623-0759. (10/16)

For Sale: 1948 TC which I must sell. It is titled a 1948 though the number 8915 seems to indicate late production. The car is solid, in un-restored condition, has been maintained over the years and was stored in N Michigan for many years. It is in running condition, front brakes need attention and ????. Asking price is \$18,200, obo. Bob Lakemacher, 614-846-9613 (10/16)

For Sale: Set of black vinyl side curtains (set of 4) for a TD. Excellent condition. Best offer. Danny Mortensen 859-384-7821 or agsdanny@aol.com (9/16)

For Sale: Sixty+ years of collecting British motoring memorabilia. 16 West Elm St in Monroe. Clearing out everything with bargain prices. Some of it for free, even:
1980 AUSTIN/ROVER MINI COOPER S. 3 998cc engines ZEMAX body enhancements, walnut dash & door sills 13" alloys extra parts & pieces sub frame carb sets alarm brite metallic green w/gray cloth interior new tyres throaty exhaust. A real looker and show winner. Ready for road, show or autocross \$9500.

1979 VW Beetle Cabriolet. Triple white low miles ready for summer touring when the B is laid up \$11,500. (O.K., not exactly British, but I know Steve is a nice guy.)

1986 REGAL Express cruiser Ambassador 255XL. 260HP Mercruiser I/O Fully outfitted: head w/shower, portapotty, gas range, fridge, hot water, AM/FM stereo cassette sound, sleeps 6, will tow skiers with ease. Come see it where is, as is, 16 West Elm in downtown Monroe. \$8900. (O.K., not even a car, but like I said above...) Larry McCart. 513-310-0313 or 539-7406 (8/16)

MG Car Club Minutes, September 28th Meeting

Sam Hodges

'Tis the election season after all...

The final MGCC meeting presided over by President Bob Farrell was called to order for the last time (for now) at 7:37.

President's Report. "Welcome to everyone here. Does anyone know about this wheel?" (Pointing to a wire wheel sitting on the couch, enjoying a cocoa by the fireplace, while gently humming Burl Ives songs...) President Bob continued, "There were 5 of us who went to Stowe, Vermont. Cheri & I, Dar Planeaux and the Loofts. We only had one problem. My light rheostat took a dive on the first night. Terry was nice enough to figure out the hot-wire it to keep it working."

Bob, "I'd like to thank..." (President Bob thanked someone, but I missed it... Whatever we did that was planned by someone who did a great job, Thanks!)

Vice President's Report. V.P. Dave Gribler, "For the 11th almost consecutive month, I got nuthin."

Minutes were next. Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Lois Gribler seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved. Eddie Zeno opposed.

Treasurers' Report. Treasurer John Scocozzo. "The MGCC had total expenses of: Carole Looft Postage, Handling & Shirt Order (\$104.56.) + Lois Gribler Picnic Food Reimbursement (\$23.00) + Erie Insurance Renewal (\$240.00) + Art Barnes MGCC Picnic Reimbursement (\$62.05) for a loss to the MGCC of \$429.61. The MGCC had gains of: Membership & Regalia (\$158.00). Total loss to the MGCC was (\$271.61). Monthly Total loss when subtracted from our beginning balance of \$2,560.85 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,289.24 in the primary checking account. Gumball cash-on-hand was \$10.00 after payment of the Gumball Rallye. The Savings account currently has \$379.69. Bob, "So, in another 20-30 years, the savings account might hit 380?" Dave Estell, "Well, maybe not. If it's compounded, maybe sooner..." Total ending balance of all accounts was \$2,678.95. Terry Looft motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Skip Peterson seconded. Eddie held true to form and refused to object on the grounds that it was a matter involving money. Terry Looft therefore opposed in the name - and a questionable vocal impersonation - of Eddie. Treasurer's Report approved.

Membership Chair Carole Looft. "We gained no new members so we're closing you out at 87 members. Birthdays this month: Dave Gribler, Fast Eddie, Dave Estell, Dave, "I object to that!" Ryan Looft, Terry Happensack.

Sunshine Committee. Ron Parks, "I saw Dave McCann Sr. the other day. He's still in rehab and his knee

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is doing better. Somehow they took out the knee hardware and have him pinned together for now. He's still in rehab but his insurance is running out so he's getting sent home and will be getting chair lift. His knee's much smaller than the basketball size it used to be. It's better, but still not good."

British Museum of Transportation. Jeanie, "We're having a chili cook off. Saturday, October 22 from 4-7. Tickets are \$8. Contact the Museum for more information. We got a set of antique cabinets from Larry and Marsha McCarte that we're going to put to good use."

Newsletter. Steve Markman, "Nothing new to report." Dave Gribler, "It's all been reported before in the newsletter, presumably."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "Ron sent me some pictures from the picnic that are now on the website."

Bob, "Old Business? Well if we don't have any, then Beer Break!"

Beer Break called at 7:50.
Back from Brake at 8:09.

Bob, "In keeping with my many challenges of being President, I was told that we should have talked about our 50th Anniversary gathering. Lois Gribler, "Cathy Barnes, Bonnie Hankey & I took this on at the last meeting. Cathy did a lot of work on this but she's in Europe right now. We wanted to wait on the meeting tonight to make sure that we could get the finances approved."

It will be a sit down dinner on October 26th at Bennet's Publical in Miamisburg. It's a fixed menu that'll cost \$17/person, plus gratuity and tax. The intent is to charge \$5/person and Bonnie will take care of the reservations. Dinner will be at 6:00 with our regular meeting starting at or about 7:30. We wanted to do Wednesday night since we all have that night and time set aside anyway. We found out that the original plan of doing an appetizer style buffet dinner wasn't going to be any less expensive than the sit down dinner. We felt that it would be a better deal to do the sit down."

Skip motioned to approve the plan. Dave Estell seconded. Eddie opposed. Ron, "Since you opposed, you can't come."

Holiday Party. Bob, "We talked to Rusty Bucket and they don't do Saturday night parties, So we either need to make it an earlier Saturday affair, or find another venue." Skip, "You're the Prez, it's your prerogative as to where we have it." Bob, "I'll send something out later."

President Bob, "Any more old Business?" Skip, "Can I talk about the Concours? For all of you who were class hosts, thank you. You're the face of the show and we all got high marks. We had over 6,000 through the door and whatever you're doing is clearly working." Dave Estell, "Any ideas about next year?" Skip, "It's tentative, VERY tentative but we've already thought about maybe making Camaro & Firebird the featured marques since it'll be their 50th Anniversary."

Tech Tips. Jennifer P., "Don't we have to vote?" Bob, "Who's running this show?"

Skip Peterson, "I've discovered that if you pre-assemble the brake drum pads on a bench complete with springs and then transfer the complete assembly to the car, they slip right onto the hub."

For Sale? Bob, "I have an orange bag for sale..."

Bob, "Now we've reached the low point in the evening, ELECTIONS!"

For the Office of President of the MGCC:

Terry Looft, "I nominate Dave Gribler For President. He's experienced." Ron Parks Seconded. Eddie, "I nominate Skip Peterson." Bonnie seconded.

After a rather nasty campaign where email servers were leaked to the media, election voting 'irregularities' were noticed and Russians vzlomana elektronnaya pochta ACount. Comrades, druz'ya, davayte golosovat...

Oops, sorry about that. Someone got a hold of my Minutes...

President Bob, "Before we count the votes, would you like to debate?" Dave, "I have multiple MGs that are all drivable..." Skip, "How long was that MGC in your garage?" Dave, "How long was that A in yours?"

After a secret ballot vote monitored by U.N. Election officials and counted by the accountants of Arthur Andersen and certified by the law firm of Jenkins Gilchrist, Skip wins by majority.

Congratulations new and former President: Skip Peterson.

Office of Vice President. Ron, "I nominate Ed Wolf." Jennifer seconded. Eddie motioned to close nominations. Bonnie seconded. Nominations closed. Congrats Ed. Ed Wolfe, "Wait? What? Huh?... I accept based on the fact that it appears like I don't have to do anything." (Smart man, you've been paying attention...)

Office of Treasurer. Terry Looft, "I nominate Susan Scocozzo." John, "She won't be able to do it." Ron, "I nominate Dave Estell." Dave declined. Skip, "I nominate Dave Gribler." Dave declined. Dave, "I'm not good with number." Dave, you do know we have these things called computers and calculators, right? Someone nominated Lois Gribler. Lois, "You don't want me. I've only balanced my checkbook once in my life. I know what' sin the account within \$100 and that works for me." Sam H., "You do know that's how the MGCC has always done it, right?"

Someone asked Bonnie Hankey if she wanted to do it? Bonnie can't. This is proving difficult. It's at this point that someone brought up modifying the Bylaws to make the Office of Treasurer a two-year gig. It's also at this point that someone *cough* Dave Gribler *cough* points out that we need to publish 30-days prior to a vote to change the bylaws and that we can't just do it now... Jennifer P. nominates Cheri Farrell. Cheri, "If it'll make this meeting end any sooner, sure, I'll do it." Bonnie seconded. Eddie motioned to close.

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Office of Secretary - Like it's really an issue... Diana Hodges. Eddie, Jennifer, Dave Estell & Bonnie, second that just for official record keeping. Terry Looft, "I have a few questions about this setup." Sam H., "Really? We've been doing this way since 2005 and NOW you have questions?!?"

Member at Large. Ron Parks, "I nominate Dave Johnson." Seconded by unknown. Dave Johnson, "What do I do." Dave G., "Less than the Vice President." Skip, "In the event of a tie, you vote to break it. We haven't had a Board meeting since 1999 and we haven't had a tie since the Lithuanian Social Club days (mid-'90's)."

So, to recap:

President: Skip Peterson

Vice President: Ed Wolf

Treasurer: Cheri Farrell

Secretary: Diana Hodges

Large Member: Dave Johnson

Next meeting is October 26th at Bennett's Pubical. Dinner at 6:00 with meeting to follow at 7:30.

Eddie, Activities. "Do we want to come up with a Fall Tour, maybe Columbus Day weekend?" Ron, "I've got an idea for a covered bridge tour in Lancaster County." Dave Estell, "I think Ron and Skip should do it." Ron, "I've also got one for Louisville that'll work." After some discussion, it's decided that there will be a Fall Tour, October 16th. The start point was the Valero in Start in Spring Valley, with an ending point in Yellow Springs. Meet at 1:00, leave at 2:00. Check your email for the tour you've already missed since I'm writing these for the Newsletter on October 15th.

Gumball Rallye: 1st drawing for the free membership: Jeanie Smith 2nd drawing for the traditional \$10.00: Dave McCann Jr.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51.



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