

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLIV No. 4

February 2017



Winter Doldrums Issue

Change to February Meeting Date

## Hot Exhaust

Skip Peterson

As we continue to dodge the snow bullet, I know spring is inching closer. Time to get those lists of things to do on the car together. It won't be long and we'll be back on the road.

Of utmost importance is to announce that the February meeting will be on **THURSDAY, Feb. 23**, same time and location. The Rusty Bucket manager had a sales person book a corporate dinner on Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and he said he just didn't have enough staff to handle both meetings. He was real upfront about it so we took a vote to change the day for this month. He assured me that all other Wednesdays are ours. So join us on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>!

There was a lively discussion at the meeting regarding the rising costs of publishing this newsletter. Terry and Carole Looft handle the printing and distribution, and the costs continue to grow, while our dues have not. I joined the club in 1990 and it was \$18, and in today's economy, various sources list that amount to be worth anywhere from \$34.50 to \$50 today.



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:

**Thursday, Feb 23, 2017**

### MG Car Club Officers

**President**.....Skip Peterson  
phone..... 937-293-2819  
email..... [mgbskip@aol.com](mailto:mgbskip@aol.com)  
**Vice President**.....Ed Wolf  
phone.....937-668-1298  
email..... [ed\\_wolf@trimble.com](mailto:ed_wolf@trimble.com)  
**Secretary**.....Diana Hodges  
phone.....937-581-4767  
email.....[sammgb@earthlink.net](mailto:sammgb@earthlink.net)  
**Treasurer**..... Cheri Farrell  
phone.....937-272-8911  
email.....[chersews@yahoo.com](mailto:chersews@yahoo.com)  
**Member at Large**..... Dave Johnson  
phone.....937-427-9836  
email..... [daydave@hotmail.com](mailto:daydave@hotmail.com)  
**President Emeritus**.....Bob Farrell  
phone.....937-477-9862  
email..... [rfarrell@woh.rr.com](mailto:rfarrell@woh.rr.com)  
**Web Master**.....John Scocozzo  
phone.....937-291-1710  
mail.....[jscocozzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jscocozzo@hotmail.com)  
**Activities Chair**.....Ed Hill  
phone.....937- 461-6688  
email..... [chillmgb@aol.com](mailto:chillmgb@aol.com)  
**Membership Chair**.....Carole Looft  
phone.....937-382-1520  
email.....[carole@looft.net](mailto:carole@looft.net)  
**Historian**..... Dick Smith  
phone.....937-434-1750  
email..... [rsmithomo@aol.com](mailto:rsmithomo@aol.com)  
**WebPage**.....[www.mgcarclubswohio.com](http://www.mgcarclubswohio.com)  
**NAMGAR POC**.....Dave and Lois Gribler  
phone.....937 898-9928  
email.....[drivesmgs@yahoo.com](mailto:drivesmgs@yahoo.com)

### Your Octagon News Editors

Steve Markman 937-886-9566  
[srmarkman@att.net](mailto:srmarkman@att.net)

Terry Looft 937-382-1520  
[terry@looft.net](mailto:terry@looft.net)

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Feb:

14 – Valentine’s Day (hint, hint, guys)

23 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket (note date and day change)

### Mar:

11 – Worship of Tools Day

22 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

### Apr:

9 – Winston Churchill Day

26 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

The newsletter is 12 pages per month and costs .07 per page to print, and .70 each to mail. That amounts to \$16.94 per year, per member. 33 of the 65 members currently get a mailed copy; the others receive it through email. There was discussion about a mailing surcharge for members wishing to receive the newsletter in the mailbox and also about raising the dues, but discussion was tabled so we can address this to the general membership. The club retains all of the membership dues from those who get the newsletter digitally, but only \$1.06 from those who get it in the mail, creating the disparity.

I’m confident this topic is going to come up again at the February meeting. I have also reviewed the club By-Laws, (for the first time in 20 years, I’m sure) and it states that the amount of dues can only be changed by a majority vote of the membership, while an assessment recommended by the Board of Directors can be approved by a simple majority of members present at any meeting.

## Change to February Meeting Date

Skip Peterson

**I**n cooperation with the Rusty Bucket, we voted to meet on Thursday, Feb. 23 rather than Wed. the 22nd. Same time and location. We were assured this is a one time event this year, and all other meetings are confirmed for Wednesdays. See you on the 23rd!

*Editor’s note – I lifted the following article from the Dayton Daily News, as usual, without permission. If I ruffled anyone’s feathers, I assume Skip will get me out of hot water.*

## The Art of the “Machine”

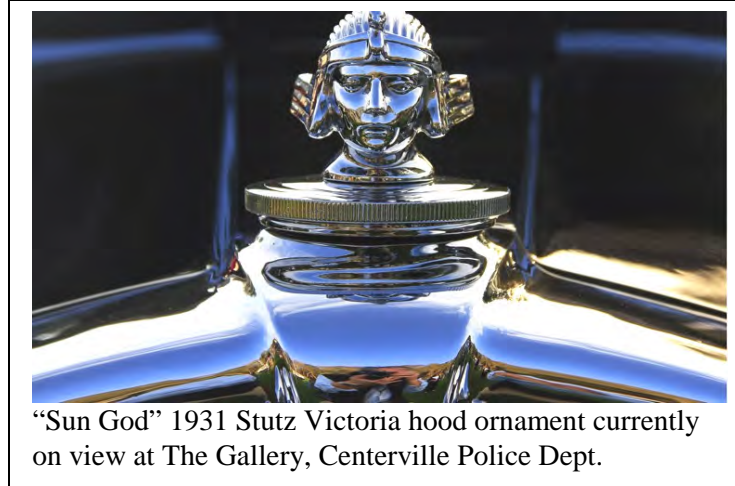
Dayton Daily News  
Pamela Dillon

**A**utomobiles as fine art? That premise is easy to prove when you view Skip Peterson’s classic car images at the Art Gallery of the Centerville Police Department on Spring Valley Road.

“As a photojournalist, I never really thought of myself as an artist,” stated Peterson, who retired as chief photographer in December 2006 after 34 years at the Dayton Daily News. “I made photographs to communicate with the masses as information, but as I photographed various cars I began to see the art in the designs and the metal.”

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The viewer can, too. Peterson's talent of achieving the perfect angle, focus and cropping is an art in itself. A blue sky, green trees and brilliant sun are reflected in a side view of chrome components and hood ornament in a 1931 Cadillac V-12 Sport Phaeton for "Sky Blue." The grille of a 1930 Duesenberg Model J takes center stage as chrome elements reflect the surrounding landscape in about 10 areas, including the photographer himself, in "Duesey."



"Sun God" 1931 Stutz Victoria hood ornament currently on view at The Gallery, Centerville Police Dept.

Peterson focused in on the elegant contours of a swan hood ornament on a 1951 green Packard, and allowed the sun's rays to define it again on the green finish in "Cormorant." He zeroes in on the beauty of a 1957 Jaguar XK 140, encapsulating the stylized grille and the name of the classic automobile boldly proclaimed below in "Red Cat." He remembers when he longed for an updated version of that model.

"It was in 1961 when Jaguar introduced the XKE. I thought it was the most beautiful car ever built, and I still do," said Peterson. "If I could afford it, I'd have one now."

Actually, Peterson has a small fleet of cars that would make many others envious: a 1972 MGB roadster, a nearly restoration-complete 1959 MGA, and an Infinity EF35. He and his wife also enjoy driving a 2006 BMW 325 convertible. He fondly remembers the details of his first car, a "1953 Ford coupe with a flathead V8 and 3 speed on the column."

This exhibit also shows off the architectural details of the following: 1920 Miller-Durant race car, 1927 Miller Indianapolis 500 racer, 1937 Bugatti Type 57C roadster, 1931 Miller V16 engine, 1937 supercharged Cord 812, fuel injector stacks on a McLaren Can-Am racer, 1960 Mercedes-Benz 300SL, and a 1931 Stutz Victoria hood ornament.

"Many cars are rolling works of art, something for every taste in style and shape," stated Peterson, whose go-to camera is a Canon EOS 7D. "I found myself focusing on a certain piece or part of the machine; a shape, a tone, and the way the light played on the design or shape."

In retirement, Peterson has stayed busy writing an automotive column for the DDN, and captures images for The Associated Press, Reuters, and other local corporations and non-profits.

*Peterson has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University. He served as lead photographer/photo editor for "Military Medicine, Unnecessary Danger" that won a Pulitzer Prize in national reporting in 1998. He won First Place in Sports Photography in the U.S. "1985 Pictures of the Year" contest. In addition to hundreds of newspapers, his work has appeared in LIFE, Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and many other periodicals.*



# Safe Driving Tips & Some Very Sound Advice

## **WARNING # 1:**

SITUATION... While driving on a rural end of the roadway on Thursday morning, I saw an infant car seat on the side of the road with a blanket draped over it. For whatever reason, I did not stop, even though I had all kinds of thoughts running through my head. But when I got to my destination, I called the Canton PD and they were going to check it out. But, this is what the Police advised even before they went out there to check...

"There are several things to be aware of... Gangs and thieves are now plotting different ways to get a person (mostly women) to stop their vehicle and get out of the car.

There is a gang initiation reported by the local Police Department where gangs are placing a car seat by the road...with a fake baby in it....waiting for a woman, of course, to stop and check on the abandoned baby.

Note that the location of this car seat is usually beside a wooded or grassy (field) area and the person - woman - will be dragged into the woods, beaten and raped, and usually left for dead. If it's a man, they're usually beaten and robbed and maybe left for dead, too.

**DO NOT STOP FOR ANY REASON! DIAL 9-1-1 AND REPORT WHAT YOU SAW, BUT DON'T EVEN SLOW DOWN.**

## **WARNING # 2:**

Oh yea, about the EGGS:

If you are driving at night and eggs are thrown at your windshield, do not stop to check your car, do not operate the wipers, and do not spray any water because eggs mixed with water become milky and block your vision. You then would be forced to stop beside the road and become a victim of a criminal.

## **WARNING # 3:**

It was about 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon, and Lauren was driving to visit a friend. An UNMARKED police car pulled up behind her and put his lights on. Lauren's parents have always told her to never pull over for an unmarked car on the side of the road, but rather to wait until they get to a gas station, etc.

Lauren had actually listened to her parents' advice, and promptly called 911 on her cell phone to tell the police dispatcher that she would not pull over right away. She proceeded to tell the dispatcher that there was an unmarked police car with a flashing red light on his rooftop behind her. The dispatcher checked to see if there were police cars where she was and there weren't, and he told her to keep driving, remain calm and that he had back up already on the way.

Ten minutes later 4 cop cars surrounded her and the unmarked car behind her. One policeman went to her side and the others surrounded the car behind her. They pulled the guy from the car and tackled him to the ground. The man was a convicted rapist and wanted for other crimes.

Especially for a woman alone in a car, you should not pull over for an unmarked car. Apparently police have to respect your right to keep going on to a safe place.

*Editor's note – I don't know how true any of these are, but let me tell you a personal experience. About two months ago, I was in Beachwood Ohio, a very upscale suburb of Cleveland. As I turned into the drive of my Dad's assisted living complex, I saw an elderly woman on her hands and knees, right in the middle of the street. Naturally, we stopped immediately to help her. She'd just been carjacked a minute earlier. The hoods bumped her car, and when she got out to look, the driver of the other car threw her to the ground and took her car, with the keys in the ignition, and her purse, which contained her home address, house key, and credit cards. The hood's accomplice drove off in their car.*

*We helped her to her feet, sat her down in my car, and called the Beachwood police. While the officer was taking the report, they got a call that an identical carjacking just happened a few miles away.*

*We left the lady with the police officer. Understandably, she was afraid to go home; the thugs had her address and the house key. The car was a new Mercedes. I'm sure they figured she lived in a nice home with lots of expensive things for the taking. The police took my name as a witness, but I never heard back regarding the incident.*

*If I hadn't come by that minute, I'm sure someone else would have passed by soon and helped. But, the irony is that we were in Cleveland for my dad's funeral the next day.*

## Countries That England Invaded

Countries that England invaded are shown in tan. Countries they never invaded are shown in white. I'm sure this is accurate...I found it on the internet.



## 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](mailto:srmarkman@att.net) or 937-886-9566.

Nothing? This is a slow month!!

# MG Car Club Minutes, January Meeting

Sam Hodges

**J**anuary meeting was called to order at 7:33 as Dave McCann Jr. tries sneaking in the back door. Skip, "Dave, (Gribler) could you let Dave in?"

President Skip Peterson, "I'd like to thank Ed Wolfe, he's not here, but I know where he lives (BTW - Ed was very Presidential in his conduct last month). He did a great job. We got a letter from The Salvation Army and The Food Bank both thanking us for our donations. According to the letter, our donations helped feed almost 2,000 people. In addition to the form letter, we also got a very nice hand written note from the Salvation Army thanking us again for our donation."

Skip continued, "The President's Report is extremely brief this month, and we should try to continue it. I called Brian here at Rusty Bucket to confirm that we were going to be here tonight, obviously we are. But, that leads us to another issue. Turns out that RB Corporate has booked this room for a Corporate event next month (February). So, what are your feelings about changing the night, just for next month? The room is open either Tuesday or Thursday. Do we have any objections to a Thursday, February 23rd change? After some discussion, the MGCC decided that Thursday, February 23rd will be the next meeting.

Question from the front, "Do we still give an extra Gumball Rallye ticket to those who drive their cars?" Carole Looft, "Yes we do."

Vice President's Report. Ed's not here tonight so we decided that this would be a good night to nominate him for President for 2017-2018. Sorry Ed, you were too good as a stand in...

Minutes were next. Motion made to accept the unedited Minutes was made by Ron Parks. Eddie seconded. MGCC approved the Minutes as reported. Dave McCann Jr., "You can't oppose the motion you seconded." Dave Gribler, "Sure you can. The seconding wasn't a vote..."

Treasurer's Report was next. Again, there was some discussion as to whether we should make this a two-year detail. Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "The MGCC had total expenses of: Newsletter Postage (\$27.88) + Christmas Party (\$435.18) + Food Bank donation (\$500.00) + Salvation Army donation (\$500.00) November Gumball (\$10.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$1,473.06. The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$283.50) for a total gain to the MGCC was \$283.50. Monthly total gains when added to losses means a loss to the MGCC of \$1,189.56. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$3,921.12 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,751.56 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$379.79. Cash on hand was \$20.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$3,131.35. Dave Estell motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Eddie Hill seconded. As it involves money, Eddie cannot object.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, "we currently have 67 members. We also have a new member with us tonight, Bill Klein. Bill owns a 1960 MGA." Bill, "I've had it 3-months now and I'll need a lot of advice. It's been fun so far." Welcome to the Club! Birthdays this month are Ed Wolfe, Dale Birch, Lois Gribler and Bob Kraft. Terry Looft, "You'd better start hitting the Walmarts now." Skip, "No kidding, tell a buddy, bring a friend."

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Newsletter. Steve Markman, "I've got nothing new, but I did receive a nice bumper sticker 'I love Parks' from someone thinking I was going to make a donation. I'll give it to Ron. Otherwise, keep the articles coming."

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson, "The sun has not been out for days." Carole Looft, "Mary Planeaux is going to have knee surgery in February." Skip, "In Naples?" Carole, "Yep." Skip, "They probably have more practice. down there." Dave G., "They do a lot of them." Dave McCann Jr., "They're putting my father's (Dave Sr.) knee back in on Tuesday, January 31st."

Webmaster. John Scocozzo, "Speaking of knees, I usually use a knee pads when working on cars." Bob Farrell, "Is that a tech tip? As for the website?" John continued, "I've got some more photos up, but otherwise, nothing new."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie, "I got nothing, it's winter." Skip, "The Dayton Racino wants to do a cruise-in on April 23rd. They want to get 500 cars and are offering \$10 off on food in the dining room."

Skip continued, "The MGA story that was run in the Newsletter was from Hotrod magazine. It's now been in the MGA magazine as well." Jennifer, "You're going to get sued." Skip, "As long as you give proper credit, they don't really care."

Skip, "It's time we start thinking about the Annual Tune up Clinic. Usually it's in April. We also need to think about a Spring drive to see if the Tune Up clinic worked." Ron, "We could make the cruise in on the 23rd our spring drive."

Skip, "We've killed 25 minutes before Beer break. Should we give the old MGA magazines to the new MGA owner member?" MGCC – "Yes!"

Beer Break at 7:55

Back from Brake at 8:12.

Old Business. Charlie, McCamey, "No old business!" Skip, "Let the record reflect, that Charlie said no old business. Oddly, my notes said the same thing."

Skip, "I'm going to go out of order a bit. British Museum News - Is there anyone here from the Museum? No. MG Facts. The MGB GT began in 1965. They were only imported from 1965-74 but they stayed in production until 80 in the U.K. 47,188 U.S. models we're built. Only 1,773 MGC GT's were built." Bob Farrell, "When we were in Stowe, there were only two BGT V8s."

New Business. Terry Looft, "We've had some price increases. Postage has gone up. A newsletter is now \$1.54/issue. We've got a \$400 bill right now. We're mailing 33. At the height of membership, we print 43 copies for about 85 members. What it amounts to is that we have to make an adjustment. We're spending \$16.83 out of the \$18.00 dues just to mail newsletters. Either we go all electronic or we have an adjustment for those who want a paper copy." Skip, "Maybe we need to adjust the dues."

Lois Gribler, "I want mine in hard copy and I think that those people should pay more. I'd be willing to pay more to get a paper copy." Skip, "In this day and age, we need to look into it. At the current rates, we're getting \$1.17 for the treasury after the printing costs of the newsletter." Terry, "I was thinking a \$10/year surcharge for paper copies." Bonnie Hankey, "I suggest we raise the dues to \$20 for everyone and \$30 for hard copy Newsletter delivery." Skip, "We call it processing and handling." Steve Powell, "Why don't we just raise everyones dues to \$25?" Lois G., "We need to make it a number divisible by 12 for the prorated portion of the dues."

Eddie, "Is there anything in the bylaws about this?" Skip, "Carole gave me a copy of the bylaws, and I've

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lost them already." Carole, "Sheesh Skip..." Carole produced another copy. After a brief viewing of the bylaws, it only talks about prorating the dues of NEW members. Jennifer, "We need a lawyer. Sam?" Sam (Me), "I've been staying quiet for a reason! The way the bylaws are written, it only says that they'll be prorated \$1.50. We wouldn't have to technically change them to make the dues change." As an aside, IF we do change the bylaws, we only need to have them say that the dues will be prorated on a 1/12th basis.

John Scocozzo, "I would motion a premium of \$10 for hard copy newsletter and leave the dues the same." Skip, "Bylaws. Do we need a Constitutional Congress on the bylaws? I think the Treasurer should be a 20-year position. Cherie are you smiling?" Bob Farrell, "Can she live with you?" Dave McCann Jr., "Can I pay more and avoid this discussion all together?" Dave Estell, "Can we have A Board of Directors meeting to adjust the bylaws? When was the last time we had a B.o.D. meeting?"

Tech Tips. Steve Powell came up with a pedal extension for his MG clutch since he's short. For anyone who might need something along those lines, Steve Miller has them at his shop and they're \$40.

For Sale. Cars or anything else? Bob, "I've got a partially inflated basketball signed by Greg Brady, a 1952 MGTD Green machine license plate frame, a fix-a-flat kit. Carol Estell, "You might want to hang onto that last one." Bob, "I'm taking bids on all of it." Dave Gribler, "Is that basketball partially inflated or deflated?"

Next meeting is Thursday, February 23rd at the Rusty Bucket.

Gumball Rallye - New member drew Cherie Farrell for the \$10. Jayne Powell, Graham Cooper and Dave McCann Jr. all won fabulous BCD t-shirts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43.

	<b>MG AUTOMOTIVE</b>
	Parts, Service and Restoration for MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos
	<b>Steve Miller</b> 3733 Wilmington Pike Kettering, Ohio 45429 (937) 294-7623 e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

**ONE FINAL REMINDER—February meeting date changed to Thursday, Feb 23!!**