

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XLIV No. 7

May 2017



Tune Up Clinic Photos  
Back to 12 Full Pages of Exciting News!!

## Hot Exhaust

Skip Peterson

I'm just back from a week on the beach in Siesta Key, and I did not see a single MG while I was in Florida. However, somewhere in Tennessee, a truck passed me towing an MG TD, set up for racing and packing a Ford flathead V8 under the hood! I'd like to see that TD on the track, but I'm not sure I'd want to drive it.

Ron Parks has a great spring drive planned for Sunday, May 21. Watch your email for complete instructions as we head north toward Minster.

We pulled off another "Tune-Up Clinic" in April and I'm happy to report that all cars that arrived under their own power also left that way. Actually, Ron Parks worked on a boot hinge and Dave Johnson did some rear axle gasket work, and other than that, we drank coffee, ate donuts and told each other how hard we were working on our cars at home.

Even though MG's have not been available in the US since



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:

**Wednesday, May 24, 2017**

## MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### May:

- 18 – Dirty Dishes Day
- 24 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket
- 27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Market

### Jun:

- 2 – National Doughnut Day
- 28 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

### Jul:

- 13 – Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
- 26 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

1980, our marque is still alive on the other side of the pond, and after all these years, the company has discovered the cure all for the oil leaks. From an Autoweek report:

*MG, the former British automaker once known in the U.S. for its affordable sports cars, is not only alive and well, it's reportedly about to introduce something far more advanced than the last car it's remembered for in the States. The now-Chinese-owned marque is rolling out the MG E-Motion electric sports-car concept at the Shanghai auto show, previewing a possible halo model*



*for the reborn brand.*

*Autocar reports the E-Motion concept has a claimed range of 310 miles (hitting the all-important 500-km mark for other markets), but can also sprint from 0-62 mph in less than 4 seconds. MG has not shared details about the battery or the motor, though the range and performance is plausible, given the car's size.*

*The concept features butterfly doors, cameras instead of side mirrors and a fairly adventurous design, reminiscent of recent Mazda concepts. The details are a little wild, as you would expect on a concept vehicle, but MG is taking this technology demonstrator seriously.*

An MG that goes 0-60 in less than 4 seconds? I don't think that ever crossed Cecil Kimber's mind.



# Tune Up Clinic Photos

Photos by Ron Parks and Steve Markman



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Looks like some serious work actually got done!!

Thanks to MG Automotice, Steve, and Mimi for hosting this year's Tune Up Clinic

## Traveling to California in our MGs

Carole Looft

**T**his June four of us will be caravanning to California to attend two national MG events. The MGA meet is being held in Solvang, California, and the MGB gathering will be in San Diego. Terry and I, along with Dar Planeaux and Kathy Goodman will be heading West and traveling the majority of the trip on Route 66.

There are portions along Route 66 that are suspended in time, and we will be experiencing a good many of those sites. Our first night we will be staying at the Wagon Wheel Motel, a historical, renovated ninety-year-old motel, well known for attracting visitors along the route. There are numerous restored period gas stations scattered among the towns and cities that we will be driving through. One section of the original highway in Oklahoma is only nine feet wide and there is another area in New Mexico that is called 'The Singing Highway'. By driving 45 MPH over this section with well-placed rumble strips, the song *America the Beautiful* can be heard as you drive.

Better known attractions along the way that we will be seeing are; The Petrified Forest, The Painted Desert, Meteor Crater, and a drive through a portion of the Grand Canyon. One night we will be staying in Winslow, Arizona – I'm sure we will find a corner to 'stand on'! (*Editor's note – hint: Take it Easy by the Eagles*) Another small detour we will be taking is to Lake Havasu City, Arizona the home now of 'London Bridge'.

I think the highlight of the trip, though, will be our scheduled night's stay on the Queen Mary, docked in the Long Beach harbor. We have a couple of days between the two shows, and have planned to tour the ship and spend a night there imagining the grandeur of sailing on this majestic vessel. It should be memorable.

The round trip should be about 5500 miles for us. We're still busy working on the cars, and probably will be right up until we are ready to leave. But, isn't that the fun of owning an MG?

*...and for the really adventurous:*

## 2017 MGs in the Dolomites

**T**his invitation is directed to MG-drivers all over the world and for this reason hopefully there will be a mix of entrants from throughout Europe and a variety MGs, like on the past events.

There will be scenic, non racing, drives and stunning mountainside views to enjoy. Be assured that it is specially planned, because I understand that it is a long journey for you to reach us here in the Dolomites. I am sure you will enjoy some unforgettable drives in our mountains.

This event will be divided in two parts. The first part will be based in Sottoguda (BL) in the Italian Dolomites. The second part will take place in Hergiswil / Switzerland.

It will be held from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.  
Deadline to enter is 30<sup>th</sup> may 2017

The participation is limited to max. 30 teams and we will stay in two very nice hotels.  
Contact details are below:

Webpage = <http://www.mg-dolomites.info/>

contact - email = [mg.dolomites@gmail.com](mailto:mg.dolomites@gmail.com)

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## British Get No Respect

Steve Markman

**A**s British car enthusiasts, we all know what the British flag looks like. I guess not everyone is as knowledgeable. Here are two examples I spotted recently. Do you think the Brits would get our flag wrong as much?



*Editor's note – See picture on Page 2 if you don't remember exactly how the red and white diagonal stripes are supposed to be arranged.*

Editor's note – The following article was copied from Hemmings Sports & Exotic Cars and used without permission. It was submitted by Bruce Miller, so don't blame me.



## 1953 MG TD

Ken Law  
Brockville, Ontario, Canada

When attending high school at Agincourt Collegiate in the 1960s, I would see an MG TD driving out of a carport across from the school each morning, and I would dream of owning such an MG—the car many consider to be the quintessential British sports car. As I got older, I would occasionally look at cars that were offered for sale, but never found the right one until a very interesting thing happened.

In late 1996, while visiting my wife's cousin in St. Catharines, Ontario, her husband and I were looking through a Toronto newspaper and saw the following advertisement: "1953 MG TD... Has not run in many years... body dismantled requires total restoration." I "patiently" waited until 8 a.m. before calling the owner, and learned that the car was located in Lakefield, Ontario, northeast of Toronto. Since we were driving home to Brockville that day, we agreed that I would go up and look at the car on our way home.

Upon arriving at the owner's home, it became evident the term "disassembled" was an understatement. It took the owner and me over two hours to find all of the major components that were located in his garage, workshop, storage room and crawl space. Having done a body-off restoration of our Healey as well as Triumph TR3A, which I also bought as a pile of parts, I was game to tackle the MG TD, since it appeared all of the major parts were there. After assessing the condition of the "car," I made what I considered to be a fair offer, and it was accepted.

While the previous owner and I searched for parts and moved them to his garage, my wife spent time in the kitchen with his wife and talked as his wife baked a birthday cake for her grandson. During their socializing, my wife found out the couple had lived opposite Agincourt Collegiate prior to moving to Lakefield. Yes, it turned out that this was the actual car that I had seen and daydreamed about while in French class at high school over 30 years before.

After transporting all of the parts to our home, I started the restoration process. The TD is a prewar design that was updated quickly to start produc-

tion after the war. The body is "coachbuilt," with a wooden frame and body panels then nailed to the wooden frame. Fortunately, the previous owner had kept all of the original wood components, even though they were in very poor condition. I used these as patterns to make new parts and ultimately completed a new body. The car received a complete mechanical overhaul along with the rebuilding of the engine and transmission. In the spring of 1998, after 18 months of very enjoyable work, I was able to get the car back on the road. I completed all the work myself other than the final painting and engine machining.

My efforts were rewarded in 2001 when our MG TD received the Meguiar's Cup from a field of approximately 700 cars at the British Invasion in Stowe, Vermont.

The only modification I have made to the car is fitting a 4.3:1 ratio MGA crown and pinion to replace the original 5.1:1 differential ratio, which was great for pulling tree stumps, but made the long-stroke engine work at even moderate highway speeds.

With our vintage suitcase strapped to the back of the car, my wife and I have enjoyed many trips throughout Ontario, Quebec, northern New York and New England. The MG's 1.25-liter engine only develops 54 horsepower, so our trips are slow and leisurely, often finding the winding scenic routes to make the most of the car's excellent handling characteristics.

We do about 800 miles per year in the car, since our garage also contains a



1960 Austin-Healey 3000 BN7, a 1962 Triumph TR3A and a 1962 Jaguar Mark 2, which allow us to typically do a total of 5,000 miles per year in our British cars. The 63-year-old MG TD continues to perform well and allows us to live my past dreams at a leisurely pace. 🌐

### WIN A CAP!

Tell us about your adventures with cars, and if your story is chosen for publication, we'll send you an official Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car baseball cap. Submit 500-600 words and one or two good-quality digital images (300 dpi or greater, please) to [dlaChance@hemmings.com](mailto:dlaChance@hemmings.com); you can also put the story and photos into an envelope and mail them to My Car & Me, Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car, P.O. Box 904, Bennington, Vermont 05201. Thanks!



## Waco and MGs

Ron Parks

In July of 2011, several members of the British Transportation Museum and MG club took their cars to the Waco fly-in in Troy. One of the aircraft on display matched the colors on Ron Parks' British racing green MGB and and Bill Hunter's Old English white MGB, so they all posed with the Waco and one of its owners.



## Perks of Reaching 60 or Being Over 70 and Heading Towards 80 or Beyond!

Source: email from a friend

*Editor's note: When I came to my first MG Club meeting about fifteen years ago, I was surprised to find myself the youngest one there by at least a few years. As I approach seventy, I'm finding I can relate to most of the following!!*

1. In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first
2. No one expects you to run --anywhere.
3. People call at 9 PM (or 9 AM) and ask, 'Did I wake you?'
4. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
5. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
6. Things you buy now won't wear out.

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7. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
8. You sing along with elevator music.
9. Your eyes won't get much worse.
10. Your investment in health insurance is beginning to pay off.
11. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
12. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
13. You forget it's the fourth Wednesday of the month.

*Editor's note to Ryan: Don't worry if you don't get most of these. You will in a few more years!*

## 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.*

For Sale: 1952 MG TD. Green. Same owner since 1954. Great shape, everything works except clock (which is typical). Call Steve Markman for details. 937-886-9566. (5/17)

For Sale: 78 MG Midget. New top, interior, and other new parts. Asking \$4,500. Call Bob, 937-253-9935. (5/17)

For Sale: '61 MGA, British Racing Green, Frame-off mechanical restoration by MG Automotive, professional body and paint restoration, For those that knew Louie DiPasquale, this is the car that he won multiple show and Concours events with. Only serious offers will be considered. Asking price, \$30,000. Please contact Tag McGough 937-572-5014, or email [tag@midwestmtrs.com](mailto:tag@midwestmtrs.com). (4/17)

For Sale: Michelin X Redline radial tires, 185-15, with tubes, would make excellent spares. \$150 takes all, cash-and-carry. Vic Snively, Vandalia, OH 937-620-5582. (4/17)

For Sale: 1969 MGB GT – Troy OH – restored in 2014. No rust – Damask red paint with clear coat finish. All new interior, new chrome, new wheels and tires. Has electric overdrive. Looks and runs great – have \$12,500 invested in it. asking \$11,250. Have many photos. Email Greg Cox at [gregc@coxspecialty](mailto:gregc@coxspecialty). (4/17)

## MG Car Club Minutes, April Meeting

Sam Hodges

MGCC April Meeting called to order at 7:32...for the first time.

President Skip Peterson, "Okay, let's try this one more time. Terry (Looft), I see you're wearing a shirt from the Cleveland 2000 event." Terry Looft, "And it still fits!" Many voices from the back of the room groan their disapproval and comments about things bought last year not fitting are bandied about.

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Skip continued, "Thanks to Steve and Mimi for hosting the annual MG tune up clinic. We got a door hinge fixed, and a sort of leaking gasket that's leaking sort of less. My tech tip, if you have rattling from your trunk, look for a loose can of fix-a-flat that might be rolling around..."

"The recent copy of MG Driver has Tony Shoviack was on the cover arriving at the Louisville event. And on the back cover is Carole Looft at the Funkana." Ron, "Their MG 1100 is inside." Skip, "Hmm, well there it is."

Skip, "I went to the Dayton Raceway Casino cruise-in and stayed about 1-hour. It was probably good we don't go as a group. They had 580 cars. It was 4.5 hours of sitting in paved parking lot with a bunch of hotrods, Lamborghinis, muscle cars and '55 Chevys."

In our quest to round out our historical files, we've got newsletters back to 1995. If you have any information about our officers or events prior to that, Please let us know.

Skip, "We have the new Mother Club membership card and are back into their good graces. MG Live is June 17th & 18th at Silverstone. If you're planning on going, we've got a discount ticket order form.

Vice President's Report. Skip, "How we doing?" Ed, "Doing well." Terry, "Great report."

Minutes were next. Dave Estell Motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Dave Gribler seconded. MGCC approved the Minutes as published.

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 (\$18.64) + March Gumball (\$10.00) + Internet Service Provider Website Fees (\$61.52) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$90.16. The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$27.00) for a total gain to the MGCC was \$27.00. Monthly total gains when subtracted from losses means a loss to the MGCC of \$63.16. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$2,254.05 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,190.89 in the primary checking account. \$20.00 cash on hand leaves the MGCC with a balance of \$2,210.89. The Savings account currently has \$379.86. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$2,590.75. Dave McCann, Sr. motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Charlie McCamey seconded. As it involves money, Eddie cannot object.

Skip proceeded to tell an interesting story about our Treasurer. Cherie received an email from 'Skip' with a question about outstanding bills. It was very official looking, more official than we ever actually do, and it was obvious that the scammers had done their homework. They had gotten a lot of information off of our website and used it to try to convince Cherie that they were Skip and that there were outstanding bills. They tried getting \$1,300. Luckily, Cherie smelled the scam and called Skip before she did anything.

Skip, "We actually did get some other bills." Dave Gribler, "For 1,300?" Steve Veris, "Did that cover your beer tab?" Dave McCann, Jr., "Still trying to get that \$1,300?" Skip continued, "In other news, we got a couple of bills this month. Our annual invoice for the P.O. Box Came in. It's \$76." Bonnie Hankey motioned to pay it. Dave McCann, Jr. seconded payment. Motion approved.

Skip, "The insurance bill also came through as well. \$1million in coverage. \$240 annually. Diana Cooper, "As the only insurance person in the room, I make a motion to pay it." Dave Jr. Seconded. MGCC approves the expenditure.

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Membership was next. Carole Looft, "We have 72 members. We had a new member join. Mike Pauley of Miamisburg. He owns a 1966 Austin Healey Sprite. Wants knowledge and camaraderie." A brief discussion as to the differences between the AH Sprite and the MG Midget followed.

Birthdays this month - Linda McCann, Tim Dunham, Dave Estell, and Mike Maloney.

Newsletter Editor. Steve Markman, "Newsletter's been a little anemic, but otherwise it's healthy. With the start of the car show season, it should get back up to full size." Skip, you've probably got a bunch of pics from the Tune-Up Clinic." Steve, "I just need people to write articles. Even if you're not a great writer, Ron Parks and I will clean them up."

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft, "I don't know of anything." Jeanie Smith, "Dick's home from the hospital after a severe GERD flare that was originally thought to be a heart issue."

Webmaster John Scocozzo. "We don't have every month back to 1995, there are some holes. We are doing everything we can to keep the website secure." Terry Looft, "On the bright side, we've got 25 new Russian members."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, "It's the spring-summertime driving season. May 20th is the Oakwood 'That Day in May' car show. It's the Saturday before Second Street Market show. There's also the MG spring drive the following day, May 21. June is the British return to Fort Meigs event. June 22-25 are the Mid-Ohio Vintage races. This is the same weekend as MG2017 being held in San Diego. July 4th is the Centerville Americana festival.

Skip, "San Diego is June 25-28. We're meeting here on Monday and hoping to be there by Saturday..." Seriously though, the Gribblers, Looft's & Dar are actually going. Terry Looft, "We're going to hit Davis-Monthan AFB Boneyard, London Bridge, a bunch of other sites and stay at the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Carole Looft, "Speaking of which, can we move the Newsletter up by a week so that we can get it out before we leave?" Eddie, "We could skip the printed newsletter that month and see if anyone notices." Steve Markman, "Shouldn't be a problem. It's what we do in November anyway."

There was a hat left at the Tune-Up Clinic from the 'Durango & Silverton Railway Museum'. If it's yours, see Skip.

We're also getting the MG magazine 'Safety Fast' again. If you want to borrow one from the library, feel free.

Beer break called for at 7:59.

Back from brake at 8:18.

Skip, "I'd like a motion to accept the Beer Break."

Charlie McCamey, "There's no old business." Skip, "Thanks Charlie. That was the next thing on the agenda. I think we've settled the issue of the Newsletter. In the next month or so, we'll have board meeting to discuss the Treasurer situation."

Skip to Tim Dunham, "This is your last chance to petition for cars for your Oakwood show." Eddie, "Doesn't Oakwood have a limit on the number of cars you can have in Oakwood?" Tim, "If you want to be in the parade, bring a couple bags of candy to toss out at the kids. The Show will be at Shafer & Dellwood, it's behind the Oakwood stadium starting around 11."

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The day after is the Ron Parks MGCC Spring Tour. Ron, "We're going to start at the Meijer parking lot in Englewood. Leaving around 2:30. We're going to have a pub run to the Wooden Shoe in Minster." Skip, Weather is going to be 82 and sunny."

Other new business, Skip, "Please say nothing." Peanut gallery of Dave Sr., Lois and Sam, "Nothing!"

British Museum. Jeanie Smith, "May 27th is the Second Street Market show. There have been some things changed around. We won't be up against the building this year. We will be back towards the tracks and the trailers away from the building. Apparently they think we're taking their parking. We're looking for another place to hold it, so if you have any ideas, feel free to share."

Tech Tips. Carole Looft, "One of the things that's been helpful for me is that aluminum foil can be used to tape off an item. Just wrap it around the item. It works for covering things up." Skip, "When you're gluing down carpet, lay wax paper and work it out from between the contact cemented floor and carpet."

For sale. Carole, in Groveport, OH is a 1978 MGB. It's rough but complete with a clean title. The engine's apart but the body looks good. It's going for a song, as they're only asking \$400. According to the email, it has to go to make room." Skip, "Bring a trailer and a gun." Tim Dunham, "As I'm looking to build a V8, that shell might be the perfect starting point. I'll take that info..."

Interesting facts. Originally the MGB was only offered in 5 colors. Black, Chelsea grey, Iris Blue, Old English white, and red. Charlie McCamey, "1975 was the first year for harvest gold." Terry Looft, "The only color worse than primrose yellow." Dave Gribler, "There's a myth that Alamo Beige was only offered in the southwest. It was actually available anywhere to any one. They only sold a handful and it's now a very rare color. Louie's MGA was originally an Alamo beige car before being repainted green.

Skip, "My list has run dry."

Gumball Rallye was won by Steve Miller.

Meeting adjourned 8:38.

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.

**MG AUTOMOTIVE**

Parts, Service and Restoration for  
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