

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XLV No. 3

January 2018



Pictures from Holiday Party
Art Barnes' MGA Revival

Hot Exhaust

Ron Parks

Well, the Holidays are behind us now and we hope you had as good a time with your families as we did with ours! Thank you Skip and Jennifer Peterson for hosting our Holiday party at Bennett's. Those of us in attendance had a good time as evidenced by the photos herein!

Moving on into the new year, we can be thinking about possibilities for a Pub Run in February. This winter weather will no doubt give us cabin fever by then. We can discuss this at the January meeting and maybe come up with someplace we haven't been for past pub runs?

As you know by now, our January work day at the British Transportation Museum working on inventorying parts for the MGA Coupe is re-scheduled to Saturday January 27, 2018 (9:00am to ?). This session will focus on sorting parts by category; brakes, fuel, electrical, etc. and began determining parts that are missing and assessing



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, January 24, 2018

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Jan:

17 – Ditch New Years Resolutions Day
24 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

Feb:

2 – Ground Hog Day
28 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

Mar:

11 – Johnny Appleseed died, 1845
28 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

the condition of parts to determine what needs to be replaced or repaired.

I have registered for MG 2018 in Gettysburg and have a note of caution. When you make your hotel reservation the system automatically assigns your check-in date as Sunday June 17, 2018 and check-out date as Saturday June 23, 2018. This can be changed prior to completing your reservation by accessing the date selector drop down calendar. I missed this detail and had to cancel my first reservation and make a new one with the proper dates. You can also adjust rooms and number of occupants, etc.

Travel plans for trips to GT43 in Richmond Virginia and MG 2018 in Gettysburg Pennsylvania will materialize with planned overnight stays enroute. The group of members traveling to MG 2018 only, of which I am a part, will most likely leave Dayton on Sunday morning June 17, 2018 and stay overnight somewhere in

Pennsylvania, perhaps the Washington PA area? Return trip plan for both groups would include an overnight stay Friday June 22, 2018 in Wheeling, West Virginia or perhaps Cambridge, Ohio areas?

My personal winter project in this new year is to get my overdrive transmission installed in the B. It's not just that though. Along with installing the transmission I plan to remove everything from the engine bay and have it painted. So, this month is dedicated to removal activities with re-installation hopefully taking place late in February or early March. Offers of coffee and donuts could yield turnouts of members for tech sessions for engine and hood removal and re-installation? Stay tuned.

Stay warm and come to our meeting at the Rusty Bucket on Wednesday January 24, 2018. Hope to see you then.

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Woody & Donna Jee
8806 LeSourdsville Rd.
West Chester, Ohio 45069
513-328-2567
eyjee04@cinci.rr.com
1952 MG TD



Pictures from the Holiday Party

Photos by Ron Parks





MGA Born Again!

Art Barnes & Ron Parks

On the cloudy and dreary Thursday morning of November 30, 2017, Art Barnes hosted Steve Powell and Ron Parks in his garage for an attempt to start his MGA. Prior to this, as you may or may not be aware, Art's transmission had the problem of not shifting into second gear. Following Dave Gribler's and other club members' unfruitful advice and inspections, Art found the solution to his transmission woes at Roger Williams Automotive in Sidney, Ohio. Roger used to race MG's in his automotive youth and he rebuilt Art's transmission for him. A gear was loose on a shaft and after the repair was done, Steve Powell helped Art re-attach his transmission to the engine and re-install the assembly into the car.



So, our task today was to re-attach wires, hoses & fuel lines and attempt to fire it up. Ron, as depicted in the photo was relegated, appropriately, to the least technical job of installing and tightening the radiator hoses. I mean really, what damage could he do there? Well, there was that one pesky hose that may have leaked a little, when engine started? Oh, well! After a trip to neighbor and fellow club member, John Farno's garage to look at his MGB heater hose installation, the hoses were tightened, except for the afore-mentioned one. All-the-while, Steve worked diligently on the highly technical carburetor tuning aspect.

Finally, came the magic moment. Art removed his battery charger from the battery posts and hooked it up. The engine turned over, but would not fire. It was decided that the old battery probably just wasn't powerful enough to turn the engine over fast enough for it to start. Jumper cables attached to Ron's truck battery with the engine running provided enough juice to bring the engine to life. Steve tinkered, tuned, disassembled, cleaned and re-assembled the carburetors; waved his magic wand and like magic: "The smile you see in the photo beamed from Art's face when his engine began purring!"



A failed attempt to get an old MGB tachometer working yielded some Lucas smoke. Ron thinks he knows what was wired wrong and wants to attempt this again, perhaps under the close supervision of Steve Miller at MG Automotive.

The workers were grossly overpaid for the job, when Cathy served them hot chili for lunch! The workers rejoiced! It was a good MG workday!

Current Club Equipment Locations

The following items have been located and are available for use by club members. Please contact Steve Markman if you are safeguarding any other club items:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Engine hoist | Steve Ramsey/ Dan Deutsch/ Bill Hunter |
| Tire balancer | John Wolfe |
| Popup and banner | Ron Parks |
| Supply trailer | Terry & Carole Looft |
| President's gavel | Ron Parks |

The Passing of an Icon – Ken Smith

Carole Looft

Ken Smith, who has been involved with the MG community for as long as any of us can remember, passed away on Friday, January 5, 2018. His wife Barby and his two sons were at his bedside.

Anyone who has been around MGs for any length of time has met or heard of Ken. For so many years, Ken and Barby piloted the infamous Mossmobile and attended hundreds of British Car Shows and events as ambassadors for Moss Motors. They logged over 250,000 miles as they traveled around every state in the lower 48.

Ken was a founding member of NAMGBR and was the first editor of the MGB Driver. He was also co-editor of North American Classic MG Magazine, as well as serving as the current MGB LE Registrar.

Ken and Barby visited us in 2006 and traveled along to the 'five-year' all MG Meet in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. They needed an MG to drive, and we had a nice 74 ½ with A/C that was a perfect fit. They both enjoyed the show and the drive. They were here for a day or two after the show and it proved to be some quality time with two very interesting Brits.

Ken's philosophy was – "MGs were meant to be driven, so, my advice is, don't just show it – drive it – time is too short to have your MG standing in some car park even though a lot of people admire it." These are words from a true MG enthusiast.

Ken's passing is a tremendous loss for the MG community and he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

I've included a picture of Ken, Barby and Ryan that was taken after the Gatlinburg show.



Oregon Admits Violating Rights of Man Fined for Using Math

He was using his engineering background to criticize traffic cameras.

Reese Counts

Back in April, we reported on Mats Järnlström, an Oregon resident who was fined \$500 for using math to challenge the state's traffic cameras. This week, *The Oregonian* reported that the Oregon state board admitted it violated Järnlström's First Amendment rights when issuing the fine. Though Järnlström's \$500 was returned, he and the group at the Institute for Justice aren't satisfied. They're now working to change the regulations that led to Järnlström's fine in the first place.

Long story short, Järnlström was fined because his public critiques of traffic cameras mention his background as an engineer. The problem is that Oregon doesn't recognize him as such because he isn't certified by the Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying. The thing is, Järnlström holds a bachelor's of science degree in engineering. He wasn't paid for any of his critiques and wasn't working professionally as an engineer, just using his background to bolster his reports.

The fine blatantly and egregiously violated Järnlström's First Amendment right to criticize the government. It shouldn't matter if he was certified or not. Using math isn't illegal.

Järnlström wasn't the first victim of the state board's heavy-handed regulations. *The Oregonian's* report mentions Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman. The state board investigated Saltzman because a voter pamphlet called him an environmental engineer. Like Järnlström, Saltzman wasn't state certified. Also like Järnlström, Saltzman holds an engineering degree (two actually).

Järnlström and the Institute for Justice say the state is trying to close the case without forcing any real change. In theory, someone else could be fined because of the state board's nebulous reading of professional and commercial speech. A U.S. magistrate judge is currently investigating the case and plans to issue a ruling in the next few weeks. Both Järnlström and the state attorney general can issue an appeal if things don't go their way.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1980 MGB . Green with tan interior and it is a driver and has always been garaged. Tires are 12 years old bought new, rust is very minimal on the undercarriage, top seems to be in pretty good shape and new battery. We have owned it since 2005. Interior has a slight tear on the driver's seat (previous owner had a screwdriver in his back pocket and forgot about it when he sat down). We are the 4th owner that we know of. I can mail color pictures on request. 49,000+ miles. \$7500. Tom Hawkins, (937) 239-4574 (Cell#) evenings only, or thawkins2@woh.rr.com. (1/18)

For Sale: 1953 MG TD. Black with red interior and white canvas top. Not driven since 1974, but stored in garage. No rust. All wood in good condition. Pretty much original and complete, including side curtains, hub caps, crank, key, and steel wheels. Tires flat (as would be expected), interior probably

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not savable, but engine turns over using crank. Excellent candidate for restoration. Located in Springfield. Make offer in \$10K range. Shirley, 937-206-1792. (8/17)

For Sale: 78 MG Midget. New top, interior, and other new parts. Asking \$4,500. Call Bob, 937-253-9935. (8/17)

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.*

Minutes from November Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

November MGCC Meeting was called to order at 7:31.

President Ron Parks, "I want to thank the Vice President Dave Gribler for filing in last month. How's the Midget doing now?" V.P Dave Gribler, "Right now, it's taking up space in the garage."

President Parks continued, "Newsletter Editor Steve Markman sent me a draft of the Newsletter and when I read through them I was surprised to see that I won Gumball Rally." Terry Looft, "Don't worry, we went through and took all of your tickets out."

Ron, " Winter project. This year, the Triumph gets stored. I bought an overdrive transmission for the MGB." Skip, "That's appropriate." Ron, "I can go see the Triumph, it's only about a mile away. I can go start it when I want." Terry Looft, "Why?"

Ron continued, "If you're driving to Gettysburg, PA with a full beer trailer with a keg, should you use overdrive or not?" Terry, "No, if it accelerates, it's good."

President Parks, "All of the meetings for next year are scheduled for the Rusty Bucket. Mark your calendars. Interesting trivia I ran across. In the early '60's, like '61, BMC was looking at a front wheel drive sports car. The code nam was ABDO 34. It was front wheel drive replacement for the Midget. It was a development of a Mini based roadster with Cooper engine and Mini wheels."

Vice President's Report was next. V.P. Dave Gribler, "I got nuthin."

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

Treasurer's Report was next. New and previous Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "The MGCC actually had some income again this month. The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$134.00) + British Car Day Proceeds (\$1,5000.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$1,634.00. We had total expenses of: Postage And Shirt Orders (\$173.67) + October Gumball (\$10.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$183.67. Monthly total losses when subtracted from gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$1,450.33. When added to our beginning balance of \$2,513.43 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$3,963.76 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$379.98. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,363.74. Dave McCann, Sr. motioned to accept the report as presented. Dave Estell Seconded. Eddie, "I can't since it involves money."

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Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson, "I got nothing." Dave Gribler, "It's still day outside..." Ron, "So someone might have time to fall."

Newsletter Editor, Steve Markman, "I've got nothing."

Lois Gribler, "I'd like to report that I got an October newsletter in November. Same thing 2-months in a row."

A lively discussion about photo posting In the Newsletter and on the Website ensued.

Ron, "The other thing with the website, Steve has the inventory of all our MGCC tools. Steve will continue to maintain the list and if you need anything, contact Steve. Once or twice a year maybe we can publish the list. I'm getting the engine hoist for use this winter."

Activities with Eddie, "I got nothing." Ron, "We had a work day at the British Museum. We got a good start on labeling and inventorying the parts. We need to do another one." Skip, "I think we can do once a month through the winter. Lets do December 24th." Ron, "No, the 25th works better. December 24th is Christmas Eve." On a serious note, after some discussion, it was decided that January 13th at 9am would be a good day for one.

Carole Looft, "I've got activities. We went to the general meeting for the MG Group in Gettysburg. I've got maps for driving tours of battlefields and some general info. Next summer's show will be basically at the hotel. Not the parking lot, but within a stone's throw. We're on the outskirts of town. One drawback is that the banquet area has to be limited to 220 people. If you're going, get your registration in. As with other years, you have to register for the event before you can book a room. The host hotel is a Wyndham, but there's a Courtyard Marriott right there. The other drawback the banquet is priced outrageously. \$60/person." Skip, "But it's really good chicken." Carole continued, " The website is up." Eddie Hill, "How long of a drive to get there?" Terry Looft, "About 2 hours, but we were in the Porsche." Carole, "In actuality, it's about 7-hours." Bob Farrell, "I drove 466 miles to my daughters house, just the other side from there, and it took 7.5 hours to get back averaging 75-80 mph.

Ron, "I forgot Membership." Carole Looft, "We've got 61 members right now.

Birthdays in November were: Sam, Steve Markman, Cathy Barnes, Mike Malone, and Sandra Looft." Bob Farrell, There's also an anniversary in November. My wife and I are celebrating 50 years." MGCC, Congratulations!

Beer Break called 8:03 - When we come back, we'll have old business with Charlie.

Back from Brake 8:17 - the first time...

Carole Looft continued, "In 2019, the MGB meet will be in Travers City Michigan. No dates yet. Terry Looft, "The fun one is the following year, 2020. It's in Calgary." Skip, "You're going to have to leave in May."

Old Business, Charlie McCamey, "We don't have any." Ron, "I do. I got an email from Dar, "You got me! I didn't have a clue. Thanks for the surprise party and I want to express my thanks to the entire club."

Holiday Party (You missed it). Skip, "This year's Holiday Party will be December 2 at 6:30 at Bennett's Pubical in Miamisburg (You missed it). Side room 1st floor. Bring a gag gift. Dinner is on us, drinks are on you (Did I mention, you missed it?)

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Annual Donations. Ron, "Last year we gave to Salvation Army and Food Bank. Do we want to think about doing it again, and how much do we want to donate? We started giving \$1K after GT37. But, do we want to consider cutting back the total?" Skip, "Each year we spend a little bit more but our balances have been going down steadily." Lois G., "We have to remember that it will rain some BCDs and we'll be lucky to break even. We should go back to \$500." Eddie, "How much? Cut it in half and go \$250/each?" Skip, "Do we give \$250 to 3 groups?" Lois, "There's been some talk about donating to the British Transportation Museum of Transportation." Dave McCann, Sr., "I motion to donate \$250 to three organizations. The Food Bank, The Salvation Army and the British Museum of Transportation." Bob Farrell seconded. The MGCC voted and approved the Annual Donation.

Tech Tips. Lois Gribler, "Make sure your rear stays full of gear oil. We had to order a new 3.7:1 rear gear for the MGC. We took it apart and it's a mess. Goopy stuff came out the back!" (At this point, let your imagination run free with the possibilities for all the 'rear end' jokes that you could possibly think of. And then a few more that you can't.) Steve Veris, "GL4 is what you want. GL5 will eat brass and leak."

For Sale. Ron, "I got an email that'll be in the newsletter. 1980 Green/tan MGB with both sets of wheel hubs - wire & bolt. Check the Newsletter for the email from Tom Hawkins.

Terry, "We're hiring out the English cabs for weddings, proms and anniversaries.

Gumball Rally. Jennifer Peterson won the traditional \$10. Dave McCann, Sr., Charlie McCamey, Carole Looft, and Mike Edgerton all won T-shirts. Nancy E., "Well now you've got your gag gift for the Christmas party."

Eddie motioned to adjourn. Charlie McCamey seconded.
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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