

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVI No. 2

November 2018

Holiday Party December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Watch Out For Scams



## Starter Switch

Dave Gribler

The white block surrounded by blue is once again on my screen as I wrestle with how to begin the lead-off column for the final 2018 edition of *The Octagon News*. So with that statement out of the way, here goes. If things operate as expected, you should be receiving this right around Thanksgiving Day. As long as you're giving thanks, be certain to include your MG(s), the great people that make up this club, and the fun times we all have with our cars!

While I'm on the topic of having fun with our cars, the Fall Drive finally came together thanks to the efforts of Dave and Rachel Johnson along with a bit of cooperation from the weatherman. It was a bit cool and overcast but we managed to hit 'peak fall color' and the rain held off long enough for everyone to get home. In spite of the cold, and to my great surprise, nearly all of the convertible tops were in the lowered position for the entire run. I don't suppose anyone would be interested in a New Year's Day run?

Only one casualty was suffered as the tail end of the caravan was exiting John Bryan State Park. The smoke had mysteriously



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, November 28, 2018**

### MG Car Club Officers

**President**..... Dave Gribler  
phone.....937-898-9928  
email.....[drivesmgs@yahoo.com](mailto:drivesmgs@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President**.....Steve Veris  
Phone..... 937-299-4850  
email..... [Steve.Veris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Steve.Veris@sbcglobal.net)  
**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**.....Mike Edgerton  
phone.....937-866-5729  
email..... [autoedge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:autoedge@sbcglobal.net)  
**President Emeritus**..... Ron Parks  
phone.....937-322-0717  
email.....[mgdriver@woh.rr.com](mailto:mgdriver@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 Editor and Production Staff

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

### Nov:

- 5 – Guy Fawkes Day
- 28 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

### Dec:

- 1 – Holiday Party at Bennet's Pubical
- 21 – Winter Solstice (shortest day of the year)
- No club meeting – happy holidays!!

### Jan:

- 3 – Fruitcake Toss Day
- 23 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket
- See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

escaped from a Pertronix module and the happy 1-3-4-2 party at the distributor terminals ceased. While that issue was being addressed, a nicely restored Austin A35 stopped by. The occupants, a dentist from Xenia and his mechanic, took note of the roadside commotion and wanted to know if they could be of any assistance. By that time we were well into spare distributor transplant surgery and thanked them profusely for their consideration. We rendezvoused with the rest of the group shortly and enjoyed dinner on Nick's outdoor patio while another contingent retreated to the warmth of the dining room.

Speaking of fine dining, suggestions for the location of a January Pub Run might be an agenda topic at the November meeting. If you have a favorite epicurean establishment you're longing to share with the club, we'll certainly listen and consider your choice. Actually any place will do as long as beer is on the menu and the prices are right. After all, we're all looking for an excuse to get out in the dead of winter.

As another gentle reminder, since you're reading this at

Thanksgiving you may have noticed that Black Friday is not too far away either. This is our national "Go Shopping Day" (or sometimes known as Heck-No-There's-No-Way-I'll-Go-Shopping-TODAY day). The point here is that the club Holiday party is not too far away. You had better get busy NOW to secure that perfect gag gift, or perhaps, locate that wonderful, perfectly giftable item that you went home with last year. You just never know what will turn up again during the gift exchange! So much fun (such sweet revenge!). Specifics for time and place for the party can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

And as long as I'm doing last minute reminders, this is the last chance to renew your membership. In January the slate is wiped clean and only paid members will continue to receive this wonderful publication. Don't miss a single exciting and informative issue. Renew now!

Lastly I once again sadly report the passing of another notable person involved with the local LBC scene. Some of you may have become acquainted with Paul David Bach over the years. He was a British Leyland Master Guild Technician and for many years did service work from his home in Vandalia, primarily on Jaguars, but also MGs. He owned a yellow MGB that appeared occasionally at meets and was also at times a member of our club. I recall attending a gearbox rebuild tech workshop he organized and hosted at his shop back in the '90's that likely gave me the courage to tear into one myself (sometimes with positive results). Paul's interest over the past several years drifted away from British auto repair and moved on to music as a songwriter and front man for a band bearing his name. Paul will certainly be missed by local Jaguar enthusiasts.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. I hope to see you at the meeting and/or holiday party, but if not, best holiday wishes to all.



## Holiday Party Plans

Ron Parks

**T**he club's annual Holiday party will be at Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill on Saturday December 1, 2018. Festivities will begin at 6:30pm. Food will be served buffet style and we can bring our favorite Holiday deserts. As in past years, we will have a gift exchange of very valuable, eh-hum, gag gifts? Some old favorites will no doubt reappear. So, bring a gag gift if you want to be included in the gift exchange.

We need a headcount of those planning to attend for ordering the food items for the buffet. Therefore, please send me an email message [MGdriver@woh.rr.com](mailto:MGdriver@woh.rr.com) if you plan to attend the Holiday party, indicating the number of people in your party. Please respond no later than Saturday November 17, 2018.

Bennett's Publical Family Sports Grill <http://bennettspubical.com/> is located at 67 S Main St., Miamisburg, Ohio 45342.

## Heads-UP: Watch Out for Scams

Steve Markman

**O**ver the last year, our treasurer received numerous requests, appearing to be from our club president, to pay a bill on behalf of the club for which she'd be reimbursed. As newsletter editor, I also received such a request a few months ago. Apparently, the slime-bags scour the internet for club newsletters and websites that list their officers and send such requests. Using spoofing technology, the return address even appears to be from the club president, but any reply will go directly to the schmuck running the scam. ***Be warned and don't fall for this.*** If you receive such a request, there's about a 99.9999999% chance it's bogus, but you can verify via phone call to the officer that appears to have made the request.

Skip Peterson also reports that he read in MG Driver that the NAMGBR has also been the subject of the exact same money scam that they tried on us. Same tactic used, fake vendor, emails looks like it came from a club officer, etc. They indicate that this is going on among car clubs that have a website with links to officers, and have a newsletter that you can access online to see the account balance from previous months.

Luckily we didn't fall for it...

## Another Special Picture Feature in Planning

Steve Markman

**M**any of you may recall that during the winter, when there is little club activity outside of meetings, we came up with some pictoral themes for the newsletter that featured pictures of our members. In the past, we've had military pictures, wedding pictures, and first car pictures. Here's one I don't think we've done before—high school graduation pictures!! The best way to get it to me is to scan it and email it to me ([srmarkman@att.net](mailto:srmarkman@att.net)). If you can't scan it, feel free to bring it

to the next meeting or send it to me via snail mail. I'll return it promptly. I'll run the pictures some time this winter. Good luck finding where you stashed it. I know mine is here in the house somewhere.

## Pictures From Fall Drive

Photos by Ron Parks





Additional photos by Skip Peterson



## MGB 2019 Traverse City

Carole Loof

**W**e have a bit of information that we would like to share with all of you on the MGB National Meet next year in Traverse City, Michigan. The meet will begin on Sunday, June 23 and continue through Wednesday, June 26. It will be held at The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City.

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Terry and I drove up to attend the Annual General Meeting at the end of October and were able to tour the facility. It is a grand hotel with approximately 280 rooms on four floors. We were told that the national meet will have roughly 75-80 percent of those rooms. It is a 'kid friendly' hotel that is centered around a gigantic indoor water park.

The hotel will be blocking off two parking areas for our MGs, one on each side of the hotel. The 'car show' area is not on the hotel grounds, but is only an easy five-minute drive away. That will be held on the grounds of an old mental hospital campus which closed years ago. There has been a partial renovation of portions of this hospital which now houses shops and eateries. It looks to be a pretty nice venue for the car show.

Registration is **not** open at this time, but were told that sometime in December the website should be up and running. As in years past, you need to register for the meet before you can get a room reservation.

Our drive to Traverse City took us about eight hours. It is around 450 miles, so it will probably need to be driven in two days.

I can't think of much else to tell you – If we find out more, we'll pass it on. It should be another very nice get-together of MG enthusiasts, so plan on driving along with all of us to Michigan!

## British Company to Build Electric MG Roadster

In Garage

However, these aren't old MGs turned into electric cars -- these are brand new cars.

British company RBW is the latest to jump on the electrification bandwagon and will soon offer an electric MG roadster. RBW has partnered with the British Motor Heritage to build new body shells and recreate the MG roadster as a purely electric vehicle.

The company says it wants to secure the future of driving by creating zero-emission versions of historic sports cars. MG is certainly a good place to start.

Details on the electric powertrain are slim, but the batteries and other running gear will come from Zytek,



RBW's electric MG roadster will start delivery next year.  
|RBW photo

a subsidiary of Continental. Zytek most notably provides components for Le Mans racers and Formula E.

It's unclear how much power the electric MG makes or what the estimated range rating is.

From the looks of the roadster, the car retains its popular design — MG sold 520,000 of them — but we sped a few changes. RBW badging is present on the exterior, the headlights are trimmed with LED, and a modern gear selector sits where a manual gear selector would sit in

an original MG. It also appears the roadster gets an updated gauge cluster, perhaps fully digital.

RBW plans to build just 18 roadsters in 2019 and each will cost \$130,800, including applicable taxes. They'll come in right- and left-hand drive and the company is now taking deposits. Those interested will pay \$10,900 up front, but the figure is fully refundable until the customer test drives a production RBW roadster. The first test drivers are scheduled for May 2019.

After the test drive, the customer can then decide whether he or she would like to proceed. If the answer is yes, delivery will take place in summer 2019. RBW also plans to build an electric Jaguar XKSS, so look out for that model in the near future.

## If You Like Tinkering, Old British Cars Can Help

Mate Petraný

Sorry, but I lost track of the source

If you're 21, your schoolmates may not understand why you spent your weekend under a Mini, or an MGA. But that's okay.

When it comes to the battle of generations, baby boomers often team up with the armies of Generation X to complain about how millennials are always on their phones, getting terrified when a check engine light comes into play. Luckily, if at the age of 21, your choice of transportation is either a 1958 MGA or a 1962 Austin Mini, you'll definitely prove them wrong. Chances are you don't have hours to spend on social media, while you're probably also aware that a randomly flashing oil pressure bulb doesn't necessarily mean the end of the world, at least when it comes to BMC B-series engines.

You have your friends to help and can learn with them, you always carry some extra oil in the back, and at the end of the day, you certainly have the coolest cars in the school's parking lot. An MGA with its curves, wooden dash and the peppier engine out of an MGB is a California dream come true, while an early Mini is cuteness overload with its basic interior, external door hinges and tiny taillights. And with that rubber suspension doing its thing, talk about a bouncy ride!

On the rare occasion that both of your cars are working, videos can be produced, inspiring other teenagers to get busy wrenching. After all, your phone won't work in 55+ years, but at twice that age, a 1962 Mini will, as long as one cares for it. And that's really cool.

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** Rust free 1979 MGB for sale. Brought from the West coast several years ago. It has a factory installed overdrive unit with 98,000 miles. Color is Inca Yellow. I have been storing the car for the owners and they now want/need to sell it. \$7500/OBO. [tlooft@earthlink.net](mailto:tlooft@earthlink.net). (11/18)

**For Rent:** Car storage in Wilmington, Ohio. \$30/mo for one car, \$50/mo for two cars for club members. Non-club members \$35/mo per car. Indoor heated and dry. Electric for battery maintainers. Terry Looft 937-527-7353 [tlooft@earthlink.net](mailto:tlooft@earthlink.net) (11/18)

**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

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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. (10/18)

**For Sale:** 1953 MGTD in very good condition. Total brake system replaced in June. New tune and all fluids replaced. \$16,900 or best offer. Photos on request. 937-299-5453. (8/18)

**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.*

# Minutes from October Club Meeting

Sam or Diana Hodges  
One or the other

Newly elected President Dave Gribler called the meeting to order at 7:30 exactly.

President's Report. Dave Gribler, "We received junk mail from Chase and our normal letters from the Food Bank and the Salvation Army. We also received this month's Safety Fast. As I mentioned in my newsletter article, The Rusty Bucket has been reserved for all meetings next year, on the 4th Wednesday of the month, including next month's since Thanksgiving is early this year."

President Gribler continued, "My MGA fuel gauge issue isn't the sending unit, but as it turns out, it's the gauge itself. I put a thermostat in the E-Type that's been sitting for several years since it always overheated. Come to find out, that I'd previously replaced the thermostat with a bad thermostat. Like the MGC, The E-type takes a special type that has a bypass. If you put in the wrong type, as I apparently did, it's always on bypass and never going to the radiator."

Vice President's Report. V.P. Steve Veris, "If I can quote the former V.P., 'I got Nuthing'. I was supposed to evaluate the Metal Rescue rust remove gel, but it requires but it requires wrapping the part. All my rust isn't wrapable." Lois Gribler, "Will it work on my knees?"

Secretary's Report was next. Pres. Dave, "Any revisions or denials?" Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Ron Parks seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved. Eddie Hill, "What? Huh?"

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$583.00). We had total expenses of: September Gumball (\$10.00) + Postage and Handling (\$42.60) + Picnic Expenses (\$80.89) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$133.49. Monthly total loses when subtracted from gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$449.51. When added to our beginning balance of \$2,061.83 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,511.34 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$380.28. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$2,941.62. Lois Gribler motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Bob Farrell seconded the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer's Report approved.

President Dave Gribler continued, "I'd like to thank the various committee chairs for their past efforts, and although I haven't really reached out to them, I'm hoping that they'll continue, Jennifer & Carole for Sunshine, Steve doing Newsletters, Website maintained by John. I hope all are on board for another round.



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Membership. Carole Looft, "Renewals are coming in. We're currently at 51 members. That's about normal for the first month." Mike Edgerton, "Is that good or bad?" Carole, "It's about normal." Carole continued, "Birthdays this month are: Steve Powell, Graham Cooper, Mike Edgerton, Dar Planeaux, Dick Smith, Ellen Sparklin, and Tom Dworsky."

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson, "Is everybody healthy?" Eddie, "Last month she WAS the Sunshine report."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, "With winter coming, since we're running out of driving events, it's time for another pictorial. I was thinking high school graduation pics. So go ahead and send them to me. Sometime this winter when I don't have a lot, I'll run those."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "Nothing new." Steve Veris, "Still insecure? Or is that unsecured?" John, "No, insecure works. We decided not to do anything about it since we don't handle money and don't really have anything personal on the website."

Activities with Eddie was next on the agenda. Eddie Hill, "There's not a lot going on. December is our Christmas party." Dave Gribler, "Dec. 1st is our annual Holiday party." Terry Looft, "We're going to the NAMGBR National in Traverse City, MI this week. Soon after that, registration will be open and we'll let people know what the details are." (Check your email, Carole sent one with said details.)

Speaking of the Holiday Party, President Emeritus Ron Parks, "The party is Saturday, Dec. 1st, at 6:30. Location is Bennett's Pubical in Miamisburg. We'll have a buffet similar to last year. Please RSVP via email (to Ron) with the number of people attending. Bring a gag gift, nothing valuable, something useless. (For those of you who've been to a meeting, this triggered five minutes of useless jokes. Jokes about useless things that is, not that the jokes were useless. Although, some of them were pretty useless...)

Potential Fall Drive (it wasn't potential, it happened and we had a good time if you missed it). Dave Johnson, "About a month ago, we had the charity drive and I want to thank the people who participated. We might be able to a drive similar route over the next couple of Sunday's. Contact Dave if you're interested in participating. Let's pencil in the planned drive for 1:00 since it's the same weekend as the time change. Check your email for further details." (Like I said, you missed it.)

President Dave G., "The National MGB Register meet, MG2019 will be in Traverse City, MI. It's about 400 miles on back roads. NAMGAR is 500 miles in Dubuque, Iowa. For us that's a straight shot. The American MGC register is having their C event for the Brutally Aggressive in Kalamazoo, July 7-8th. It's at the same place as the Mad Dogs and Englishman's, at the Gilmore museum. That's about a 250 mile drive."

Beer Break was called at 7:52.  
Back from Brake at 8:04ish...

For all the promptness of Dave's attempted resumption of the meeting, the rabble seems to be making up for it on the back end. A few minutes later...

Old Business. Charlie McCamey, "We don't have any."

Dave G., "BCD Final results." Skip Peterson, "We made about \$2,200. It was off this year, not sure why, but each club will get about \$1,100. The distribution will be tonight. Our costs are going up, so we're

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raising the fees next year." Dave G., "Typically, after we receive that donation, we usually think about our annual charitable contribution." Skip, "I think that we should be frugal about the donation since we're not exactly swimming in cash."

New Business. John Scocozzo, "Do we want to think about having our meeting somewhere else based on the service that we're getting here tonight?" Skip, "I'd suggest just having a discussion about the service to management." The MGCC seems to agree that for some reason, the service at the Rusty Bucket tonight was abysmal. Carole Looft, "I know that people have been unhappy here, maybe we should at least think about it?"

British Museum of Transportation. Mike Edgerton, "We looked at the old Pepsi building on Kaiser St. It's almost move in ready. The floors were spotless." Dave Johnson, "We can change that..." Mike continued, "Tomorrow we're looking at a building on Kittridge. It's changing daily, so I can't tell you too many specifics." Skip, "Is there some Pepsi involved With the Pepsi building?" Mike E., "Do you really want free Pepsi for life? If it was the Heidelberg building, you'd be all over that."

Jeannie Smith, "The Chili cook off is this Saturday (again, you missed it). If you want to enter a chili, let them know. There's an unofficial cruise-in from 4-7pm." Mary Edgerton, "Ticket price is \$8. There are sample cups that you can sample before you buy your favorite." Bob Farrell, "Is it BYOB?" Mike E. "Sure. Better safe than sorry." Steve Veris, "Matter of fact, just bring one for Mike." Mike, "Sure. Can't hurt." Jeannie continued, "There'll be kids there so,..." Terry, "They're better BBQ'd than in chili."

Other. Steve Miller was approached by someone selling fender covers. Ron Parks, "My wife gave me grief about having too much detail in the article. I left out the fact that at the first stop Dar went No.1, and Terry went No.2..."

For Sale. Terry Looft, "I've got an Inca yellow MGB for sale. It's a west coast car, in good shape." Eddie, "Is it Monkey puke?" Terry, "No, Charlie's is monkey puke. This one's actually yellow."

Tech Tip. Skip Peterson: "Put tape on small screw to help get them started."

Gumball Rallye was won by Dave Gribler but he declined. Dave Johnson was the second ticket drawn, and he didn't decline.

Motion to adjourn 8:24.

The logo for MiniMania, featuring the word "MiniMania" in a stylized, bold, black font with a white outline.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, featuring the words "MG AUTOMOTIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Parts, Service and Restoration for  
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and  
Related Autos



**Steve Miller**

3733 Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
(937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com