

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XLVI No. 3

January 2019



Holiday Party Photos
Send In Your High School Picture

Starter Switch

Dave Gribler

Happy New Year! I hope everyone survived the holiday season with minimal stress, drama and weight gain. By now I'm sure everyone has managed to blow off at least half of their New Year's Resolutions. A few of us lucky souls received cash gifts, gift certificates or perhaps just a green light to buy a few of those restoration parts, tools, books or motoring accessories that were on the wish-list. The dead of winter is the perfect time to procrastinate on that needed oil change, tune-up or brake pad replacement on the MG. Since you're not racing out to the garage to take care of those things, the least you can do is check on the battery maintainer. The tune-up clinic and driving season will be upon us sooner than you think...just a few winter storms and tax season, then bam-o, we'll be looking for somewhere to go with the top down!

I am in the midst of several projects on the MGA. At the MGC Register meet last



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 23, 2019

MG Car Club Officers

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Jan:

17 – Ditch New Year Resolutions Day
23 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

Feb:

2 – Ground Hog Day
27 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

Mar:

1 – Peanut Butter Lovers Day
27 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

summer I had the misfortune of blowing a head gasket. This occurred on Saturday night when returning to the hotel from the group dinner at a restaurant atop the Duquesne Incline in Pittsburgh. The head gasket replacement job was done in a leisurely 3 hours on Sunday morning and completed in time to rendezvous an hour away at the Frank Lloyd Wright Fallingwater house for our group tour appointment. In the course of doing the work I discovered a missing intake manifold stud and several incorrect head stud washers. Thus part of the winter project was to correct these faults, replace the unraveling throttle cable and have a serious look at the front suspension. The engine work is complete at this point but the front suspension was in much worse shape than I had imagined. A whole mess of parts had to be purchased and a bit of machine shop assistance and powder coating work is still in the works before reassembly can begin. Fortunately none of this is rocket surgery so with a bit of time and

other people's time (AKA money) things will be put right. The only reusable bits were the steering knuckles and spring pans. Everything else was just plain worn out, which possibly explains why I get a little worn out myself from holding on to the steering wheel as the MGA goes down the road. I am looking forward to a vastly improved driving experience following this work.

All those who attended the holiday party will agree that a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Ron and Linda Parks for hosting the event. Prior to the gift-opening portion of the party, I took the floor to conclude some unfinished business from the November meeting. I had started a discussion of possible venues for a potential January Pub Run but somehow veered off course and failed to close the deal. If you were not at the party, be advised the Pub Run will be at Carillon Brewing on January 27 at 5 pm.

I will miss the January 24 meeting so everyone please be kind and understanding as our Vice President, Steve Veris, presides over the proceedings. Think of this as an audition for the next President. No doubt the podium and gavel will be in capable hands. I hope to see many of you at the Pub Run where perhaps we can plan a February Pub Run!

Another Special Picture Feature in Planning

Steve Markman

Many of you may recall that during the winter, when there is little club activity outside of meetings, we came up with some pictorial 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). 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.

Update – So far, I only have one picture...mine. Please get yours to me so I don't have to run all of Ron Parks' fishing pictures or start the *Pet of the Month* feature again.

Pictures From the Holiday Party

Photos by Ron Parks





Cops Grieve Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Lost in NYE Truck Fire

Caleb Parke Fox News

A few Kentucky cops went viral for mourning the loss of a truckload of doughnuts.

The driver of a Krispy Kreme doughnut truck noticed his vehicle was smoking on New Year's Eve, so he called 911.

And while the driver was able to safely escape before fire crews arrived and flames engulfed the truck, the doughnuts didn't make it.

The Lexington Police Department posted a few photos online depicting the heartbroken officers with their heads cast down.

"No words," the officers wrote, and their



tragedy.”

colleagues from across the nation, from Colorado to Chicago, were quick to respond with messages of support.

“We feel your loss,” the University of Kentucky Police Department wrote. “We donut know what else to say.”

A North Carolina cop added his condolences. “In this line of work, some things can’t be unseen,” he wrote. “My thoughts are with @lexkypolice officers at this time of

Other comments online noted the doughnuts were really "krispy" after the box truck fire.

The investigation into the fire is ongoing as the cause is unknown.



Sears Didn't Think the 'Average Man' Should Drive Fast

Gary Gastelu Fox News

Sears is on the verge of going out of business for good, according to reports, which means any hope of it getting back into the car business is likely over, too.

Not that anyone was expecting it to, beyond parts and service, but there was a time when it sold a Sears brand car through its catalog.

The Sears Motor Buggy was launched in 1908, the same year Ford started selling the Model T. One turned out to be slightly more successful than the other.

The base price for a Motor Buggy was \$395, and a model without a roof or fenders was offered for \$370. Oil lamps could be replaced by then-high-tech acetylene lights for \$12.95.



The cars were manufactured by the Lincoln Motor Car Works and powered by a two-cylinder engine with 10 hp that gave them a top speed of just 25 mph.

“We do not believe that the average man deserves to go whirling through the country at 40 or 50 miles per hour,” Sears proclaimed in advertisements for what it pitched as a practical car guaranteed to “run through mud, sand, over ordinary city and country roads and take all reasonable hills.”

Cars were delivered with some assembly required and a gallon of oil. Customers just had to screw it together and add gasoline. There weren't many of them.

According to RM Sotheby's, Sears sold just around 3,500 of them through 1912, when it discontinued the vehicle, admitting it lost money on every one. The tally was a far cry from the over 15 million Model Ts eventually built by Ford.

The few remaining Motor Buggies are worth a fair bit more today, with fully-restored examples selling at auction for up to \$35,000.

It wasn't the only time you could find a car in the Sears catalog, however. From 1952 to 1953 the retailer collaborated with Kaiser-Frazer to offer a version of its Henry J sedan called the Allstate for a starting price of \$1,528.

It didn't fare much better than the Motor Buggy, though, as only about 2,400 were sold.



Classifieds

For Sale: 1978 MG Midget. New top and interior. Box of other new parts included. Asking \$3,000. Call Bob at 937-253-9935 and leave a message. (1/19)

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. (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 (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 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 or 937-886-9566.



Minutes from November Club Meeting

Sam or Diana Hodges
One or the other

The November 2018 MGCC meeting was called to order by President Dave Gribler promptly at 7:30, and he actually managed to get the club to settle down.

President Gribler, "We got our usual monthly mail for our annual contributions to our normal charities. Our last event was the Fall Drive. Many thanks to Dave & Rachel Johnson for planning the Fall Drive. I want to clarify that it was Dave McCann, Jr. that had the distributor issue, not me. His car died leaving John Bryan park and we ended up diagnosing it as his Petronix ignition dying out. I carry a spare distributor and we swapped that in and that fixed the problem. I was hoping that Dave Jr. would be here tonight so that I could get my distributor back." Several jokes about British electronics... "...that's what Lucas stands for..." etc.

President Gribler continued, "Our next club event will be the annual Holiday Party, Saturday, Dec. 1." (Wow, did you miss that one if you weren't there!) President Emeritus and party MC Ron Parks, "We're all set. The food is ordered (It was good). We'll have close to 40 people (We did). You can bring your favorite Holiday desert (they were tasty)." At this point Ed Wolf arrived a little late... Ron, "Since Ed Wolf came in late, he'll be bringing his own food. Drinks are on your own, but food will be provided."

President Dave continued, "My personal project report. I fired up the Midget planning on driving it on the Fall drive and for some reason it wouldn't run. After some investigation, it turned out to be electrical. I switched the distributor leads and after pulling the plugs and cleaning them, it's running fine now, but it's snowing. I also fixed some minor issues on the MGA. Discovered I was missing a stud and had some incorrect washers that I fixed as well."

Vice President Steve Veris is not in attendance. Former V.P., no Pres. Dave Filled in, "I got nuthin."

Secretary's Report Swans next. Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Ron Parks seconded the motion. The MGCC voted. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$92.00) + BCD Profit (\$1,100.00). We had total expenses of: October Gumball (\$10.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$10.00. Monthly total expenses when subtracted from gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$1,182.00. When added to our beginning balance of \$2,511.34 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$3,693.34 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$380.31. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,093.65. Bob Farrell, "I'd like to add that Cheri & I are going to the Bahamas in December." Jennifer Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mike Edgerton seconded. MGCC voted and approve the Treasurer's Report.

Membership was next. Membership Chair Carole Looft, "I would like to start out by welcoming our guest. Bob Heiser from Miami County, up near Troy. He has a 1974.5 MGB. Bob, "I just got it, only driven it twice." Carole continued, "We had 4 renewals and 1 new member, Charles & Stacey Hahn, owners of a red MG Midget. We currently have 58 members. Birthdays this month (November) are: Steve Miller, Sam Hodges, Steve Markman, Kathy Barnes and Sandra Looft."

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Mrs. Sunshine Jennifer Peterson gave the Sunshine Committee report. "Nancy Edgerton's wearing a boot." Mike E., "It's an injury from our extreme ballroom dancing accident."
Dave, "She probably hurt herself from kicking you."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman. "Sometime before driving season, dig into your old boxes (...during the meeting, my iPad autocorrected 'boxes' to 'boxers' - I almost left it...) stashed in the garage or attic and find your high school picture for this year's throwback winter newsletter, unless you'd like to see more pictures of my cats, dogs, and fish."

Webmaster John Scocozzo, "We've got some photos from the Fall Tour up. Otherwise, nothing to report."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie's not here, which explains why nothing's been objected to. Someone pointed out that January 3rd is Fruitcake Toss Day. Lois Gribler, "Is there any interest in a Pub Run to the Carillon Brewing Company?" After about 5 seconds of discussion because someone said 'beer' the MGCC replied, "Of course!" Stay tuned to your email for details about a possible pub run. Skip P., "If you like warm beer made the old fashioned way, this is the place to be."

Beer Break called at 7:47.

Back from Beer Brake at 8:00. (Kind of got cheated on that one!?!)

Old Business. Charlie's not here.

New Business. President Gribler, brought up our annual charitable donations. Going back about 10-years, we used to give \$500. \$250 to Food Bank and \$250 to the Salvation Army. In 2012 we started giving \$1,000, but that was also the year of GT-37 and we were flush with cash. Since that time, we've been steadily dwindling the account balance and last year we cut our donations back to \$750. Lois Gribler, "Because of the GT, we were flush, but this year, BCD was lower than normal and we should cutback even leaner."

Skip, "That year we earned \$6,000 from GT37. I think that we should protect our position financially and in case of another bad year at BCD." Skip, I'd like to make a motion that we give away \$300 or 25% of what we took in through BCD." Terry Looft, We went to the National NAMGBR and they had \$95,000 in their account and they give away a small percentage of their car show intake. Our membership is shrinking, not size wise, but numbers wise. Size wise we're growing." Lois G., "Are you calling me fat?" Terry, "If the shoe doesn't fit."

Skip, modified his motion to give \$250.00 in annual donations. Marcia Irvin seconded. Eddie we're sure would have opposed. Dave G., "Now, where is it going to go?"

Bob Farrell, "I vote that we donate to the Food Bank, it seems they do the most with the money." To Skip, "That's like 50 meals for them." Dave, "They just got some good press about their efforts." The MGCC unanimously voted to approve the donation.

NAMGBR. Carole Looft. "The meeting was good. Getting back to the money, I asked them why they don't decrease the costs. They made \$17,000 off the last National event. I asked them why they didn't reduce the show fees and got no feedback or answer. It is what it is. Next year's show will be in Traverse City, Michigan and the year after will be Calgary. The hotel in Traverse is the Great Wolf Lodge. The car show is about 5 miles away at an old insane asylum (how fitting). Terry, "There's a big grassy area behind it." Carole, "They've renovated the asylum and now there are shops." Terry, It's an easy drive. All back roads."

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Dave Gribler, "Speaking of which, NAMGAR is looking for a computer programmer. It's a paid position." If you know SQL, LINUX, etc, contact Dave Gribler for more details. Terry Looft, "Do I have to own a computer?"

The British Transportation Museum. Mike Edgerton, "We have located a building on Stanley Ave. It used to be Angel Mfg. It is 1 floor with a 2-year old roof. It's been vacant for 2 years but it looks promising."

BCD. The website's been updated to make it clear that the date has been changed to the second Saturday. Everyone's been notified that the date has been changed. Carole Looft, "NAMGBR and Hagerty have a youth vote car show system. Is that something that we could do here?" Skip, "We'll need another chairperson. They have a dedicated system to how they do it and it's actually pretty involved." Carole, "I'm busy." Lois G., "That'll be a great thing for Ryan & Leeann to run." (SURPRISE! - See. You too can be a volunteer, even if you're not here to volunteer!)

Tech Tips. Steve Markman, "The TD Fuel pump died and now it's off to Tom Ball in Akron for a rebuild." Dave. G. "He's done about 4 pumps for me from various cars." Ed Wolf. "On the differential drain plug on an MGB, the filler and the drain are both the same 1/2 inch. However, I was having trouble getting a 1/2 inch extension to fit. The online advice was to buy a cheap extension and file it until it fits. Seems to work just fine then." Lois, "I discovered that my Midget oil filter is the same filter as a Toyota Camry."

Gumball Rallye was won by Lois Gribler. Lois, "I'm not refusing to take it."

Meeting adjourned 8:37.

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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