

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVI No. 6

April 2019



Photos of Recent Activities

Don't Miss Tune-Up Clinic and Brits in the 'Burg

## Starter Switch

Dave Gribler

Well, I seem to have procrastinated long enough. I'm up against the deadline to submit my monthly column to the Editor and still have not set the MGA front alignment. Nor have I done any further troubleshooting on the MGC fuel gauge, tach and speedo issues left over from last fall. The weather is finally spring-like, the annual yard preening activities have begun and Lois got out yesterday to wash the window screens. I need to get moving to clear out some of the backlogged projects so we can take a ride with the top down before winter sets in again.

Nine souls attended the final MGCC winter Pub Run at the Troll Pub on March 31. I can see another Pub Run occurring at this venue in the future. There is ample seating in the main room with a varied menu and a great selection of brews. They even had hockey on the TV's to take our minds off of NCAA basketball (ask Terry!).

If you aren't planning to attend the April meeting (why not?) and you're wondering what lies in store for the next few weeks you're reading the right column. Saturday following the meeting, MG Automotive will host the



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, April 24, 2019**

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### Inside This Issue

3	Recent Club Photos
3	Don't Miss...Brits in the Burg
4	Another Hidden Car Surfaces
9	Minutes from March Meeting

## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Apr:

- 13 – Auto Jumble at BTM
- 18 – National High Five Day
- 20 – Biscuits and Tea
- 24 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket
- 27 – Tune-Up Clinic at MG Automotive

### May:

- 4 – Star Wars Day (May the 4<sup>th</sup> be with you)
- 4 – Drive Your MGA Day
- 4 – Biscuits & Tea
- 18 – Brits in the Berg
- 19 – Drive Your MG Week
- 22 – Meeting at Rusty Bucket

### Jun:

- 3 – Repeat Day
- 3 – Repeat Day
- 23 – MG 2019
- 26 – Meeting at rusty Bucket

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

2019 edition of the MGCC Tune-Up Clinic. Rumor has it that there might be coffee, donuts, tire kicking, yarn splicing, possibly some non-truthful utterances and an amateur tire kicking demonstration. This event is held to ensure attendees, or rather the attendees vehicles, can expect to reliably take part in the full slate of events in the month of May. The following Saturday is "Drive Your MGA Day". The annual British Transportation Museum show, now known as "Brits in the Burg" will be held on May 18 and an MGCC "Spring Tour" is planned for May 19. Check the **MGCC Events** sidebar (usually located) next to this column for more detail.

Continuing on the "British Car Myths" article in *Moss Motoring News*, Myth #3 was the topic British Cars Leak Oil. This is not a myth. It is actually a true statement, however one must realize that just about any automobile built before the 1990's would leak oil at some point in its life. Sealing technology has made steady advances with improved gasket and seal materials that are much more resistant to the fluids they are trying to contain. The design of the sealing surfaces has also changed, relying much less on flat surfaces and paper gaskets. Cork just isn't used anymore, but if you buy a engine gasket set for your MG you'll find cork everywhere - valve cover, tappet covers, bearing caps, oil pan and even the thermostat cover.

With these built-in design disadvantages it is still possible to keep things from leaking with just a few precautions. Make sure any old gasket materials are removed completely and the sealing surfaces are as clean and smooth as possible. If you wish, use a sealing compound

that is appropriate for the fluids the gasket is containing. In many of John Twist's University Motors videos, he will advise the application of a heavy grease to the gasket. I have been using a Hylomar sealant with good success. Part of the decision to use a sealant is to ensure the gasket stays in place during assembly. The last key to a good seal is to carefully position the part and torque the fasteners to the correct specification. Harbor Freight sells some pretty good click-type torque wrenches in multiple sizes for under \$20 that are worth their weight in precious metals. *(Editor's note – After watching oil drip from my valve cover for about ten years, I smeared blue silicone sealer on both sides of the gasket. Works like a charm, but have a replacement gasket handy whenever you plan to remove the valve cover.)*

Sometimes though things will leak no matter what you do. Here I recount my experience driving the MGA home from a NAMGAR GT where I got an envious 200 miles per gallon. Unfortunately that was an oil consumption rate. Oil simply blew out through every possible orifice because the piston rings in the tired, old engine were completely shot. The excessive blow-by pressurized the crankcase so there was no hope that the oil would stay where it belonged. This condition, along with the inherent design of the front and rear seals lead to a great mosquito slaughter from Virginia to Ohio that summer. For the record, the MGA timing cover seal is a simple felt ring that just lays in a channel in the cover with plenty of clearance. Oil is supposed to drip back into the crankcase from the oil soaked felt. There is no rear seal at all on the MGA engine. The oil is supposed to be persuaded to stay in the crankcase by the gentle breeze ("windage") created by a reverse scroll on the rotating crankshaft.

The author of the *Moss Motoring News* article also mentioned the worst leaker he had ever encountered—the Chevrolet Corvair. I concur based on personal experience, although some relief was had by upgrading the push rod tube o-rings to viton (what the heck is a push rod tube anyway?).

I'm guessing there will be no pet or fishing pictures in the newsletter again this month. There will be yet another British Car Myth next month. Until then, best wishes to our V.P., Steve Veris. He has been delegated the reigns again in April as Lois and I spring break on a sandy tropical beach with an umbrella drink in hand. See you in May!

## Welcome New Members

Come on, folks...tell your friends how much fun it is to drive an MG and be part of our club!!!

## Coming Soon...Brits in the 'Burg.

Mike Edgerton

Don't forget the 16th Annual *Brits in the 'Burg*, coming Saturday May 18, 2019 at Riverfront Park in Miamisburg, Ohio. For information contact: Tim Bosse, event coordinator at 937-974-4076 or email at [timbuk1@aol.com](mailto:timbuk1@aol.com). or check the BTM website: [www.britishtransportationmuseum.org/](http://www.britishtransportationmuseum.org/)

## Photos of Recent Club Activity

Photos by Ron Parks



Nancy Edgerton minding the store at the British Transportation Museum's Auto Jumble Saturday April 13, 2019.



Pub Run on Sunday March 31, 2019, at the Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse in Dayton.



# Car Hidden From Nazis in Shed in 1940 Rolled Out for Museum Exhibit

Fox Automotive News

*Editor's note - The Bailiwick of Guernsey and Bailiwick of Jersey are two British Crown dependencies in the English Channel, near the coast of Normandy. They were invaded by the Germans and occupied throughout WWII.)*

A classic car saved from being seized by the Nazis on the Channel Islands after it was hidden in a shed by a wealthy widow is to go on display for the first time. The 1926 Trojan Tourer was hidden after Helene Gacon ordered her gardener to park it in a building in her vineyard on Guernsey.



The car was built by Leyland in Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey, had a 10 horsepower engine and produced a large amount of torque for the time. It was able to ascend hills many vehicles of the period could not attempt.

Germans invaded the island in July 1940, banned all cars for private use. They they were seized and moved to France. But Helene, who was 49 at the time, couldn't bear to lose her the vehicle and it was hidden away on her land in Les Nicolles. The Nazis kept records and knew she had a car and arrived at her property to try and requisition it - but searches left empty-handed.

The vehicle, which no longer runs, is now on display at the island's German Occupation Museum. Mechanics hope to have the engine running again ahead of the 75th anniversary of the Nazi's leaving the island on May 9 next year.



Richard Heaume, the curator of the German Occupation Museum, said: "Mrs. Gacon, recently widowed in 1938, had no intention of giving her car up to the Germans." "Being a grower, she asked her head gardener to hide the car in a shed on their vinery at Les Nicolles, Forest. "The Germans had car registry records so they came to Les Nicolles to look for Mrs. Gacon's car but were unable to locate it and so she got away with it."

## The Octagon News – April 2019

The island was liberated in May 1945. Mrs. Gacon took the car out to St Peter Port, the island's capital and main port, for the Liberation Day parade after the war had ended.



Mr. Heaume personally knew the defiant Mrs. Gacon - and says she kept herself and neighbors updated on allied progress throughout the war.

He said: "I knew her in the 60s. "She was a very defiant woman who kept, at least, three crystal radio sets throughout the war to keep herself and her neighbors up to date on allied progress."

Mrs. Gacon sold the car in 1958 and it was bought by Owen Le Tissier. Mr. Le Tissier kept the car for a year before selling it on to Michael Marshall, former owner of the Manor Hotel. The car remains with the Marshall family and is now owned by Mr. Marshall's daughters.

It was last used in the Liberation Day Cavalcade in 1990 but has remained locked away for 30 years because it no longer runs.

Mr. Heaume added: "The hope is to be able to get the Trojan running again in time for next year's 75th Liberation Day celebrations and, mechanically, that shouldn't be too difficult, the engine only has seven moving parts."

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** MGB Biscuit color, Vinyl seats. These seats are in good shape with less than normal wear as, the foams, webbing, covers & head rests all replaced in 2002, when car was restored. A good buy at \$300, if you're looking for nice biscuit colored seats for your MGB. Contact Ron Parks with your offer, by phone at 937-207-9009 or email [MGdriver@woh.rr.com](mailto:MGdriver@woh.rr.com) . (4/19)

**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. (3/19)

**For Sale:** Factory hardtop to fit late model Midgets. Black in color with original old fiberglass patina on the interior panel. All rubber in good shape. Located in Union, just north of Englewood. 689-69955 [lyngbldoh@yahoo.com](mailto:lyngbldoh@yahoo.com). (3/19)

**For Sale:** 1953 MG-TD \$4,000 to \$8,000. Located in West Liberty. Left-hand drive. Car No. 28359, Engine No. 28941, original to the car, still turns by the original crank but hasn't been started since the car was put on blocks 35 years ago. Current owner bought the car 37 years ago, installed new brake lines and tires, then put it on blocks for the winter ... and it's been in a heated garage for 35 years! Brakes, tires and shocks likely have dried out and all need replacing. Dashboard gauges and interior are complete and original. No tears in the leather upholstery but shows wear. The horsehair stuffing may have survived 65

years but foam probably has deteriorated. The wooden floorboards are rotted, but two floor replacements are included. Car body is virtually rust-free, including undercarriage. Minor dent on the left-front fender. Original side-curtain frames are intact but plexiglass needs replacing. Similarly, the vinyl convertible top looks serviceable. Phone Bob Harrison at (937) 844-8549. (2/19)

**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 March Club Meeting

Sam or Diana Hodges  
One or the other

President Dave Gribler called the March 2019 meeting to order promptly at 7:30. "I received a motion to renew our insurance." After some grousing by Lois Gribler about the cost of insurance, Bob Farrell motioned to renew the insurance policy. Lois Gribler seconded (apparently her issues were more theoretical than actual). The MGCC voted to renew our insurance.

President Dave continued, "We also got our renewal for membership in the Mother Club. I will take care of that with a credit card and present the bill to the Treasurer. Once it clears, we can find how much American that is."

President Dave, "Are there any MGA owners that do not belong to NAMGAR? Sam? Don't you have an MGA?" Me, "Yes..." Dave, "Are you a NAMGAR member?" Me, (fearing a high pressured sales pitch that would have me owning a time-share in Boca...) "No..." Dave, "We actually get 2-copies of the monthly magazine. Here."

Dave Johnson, "When I requisitioned the weather for Biscuits & Tea, I had a choice between 'warm & wet' or 'cold & sunny'. I took cold & sunny. We had 11 cars show up.

Dave G., "Apparently there's been some off-site, unauthorized meetings going on in Florida." Eddie Hill, "No collusion!" Terry Looft, "There was collusion, but it was a gin & tonic." Terry, Looft continued, "We had a nice trip with the Estells' and the Planeauxs' in Florida." Dave Gribler, "Oh, there's been two episodes. I was talking about Skip and Jennifer. There's no project report for this month so on to..."

Vice President's Report. Dave G., "He's going to be surprised when he finds out that he has to run the meeting next month." (SURPRISE!)

President Gribler, "I will entertain a motion to accept the Minutes." Ron Parks, "I have a correction. I edit the newsletters for Steve and I made a joke to take out any disparaging comments about me. To my surprise, Steve did." The original Minutes had a comment about Ron being drafted to plan the Spring Tour. Something like, "Spring Tour. No one's jumping up and down. Dave McCann, Sr. "Let's call Ron Parks. Ron will do it, He'll do anything." Terry Looft, "All in favor of Ron doing it?" MGCC voted And unanimously approved Ron planning the Spring Tour. (Sorry Ron, but you know what happens when you miss meetings. We have high hopes that this will be a fun filled, covered bridge-less Spring drive.)" Correction made. Eddie Hill Motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Lois Gribler seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved.

## The Octagon News – April 2019

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "The MGCC had total gains of: Membership Dues (\$54.00). We had total expenses of: February Gumball (\$10.00) + Postage Expense (\$46.74) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$56.74. Monthly total gains when subtracted from losses means a loss of \$2.74 to the MGCC. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$2,877.94 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,875.20 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$380.41. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$3,305.61. Eddie Hill motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Bob Farrell seconded. (As his wife is Treasurer, he actually was quick to be the first to Motion, but we made him wait). MGCC voted and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership. Carole Looft, "No new members, no renewals. 68 members." Terry, "In fact, I think some left."

BirthDays this month: Nancy Edgerton, Charlie McCamey, Rachel Johnson, Ron & Linda Parks.

Sunshine Committee. Dave G. "Our sunshine lady isn't here..." Graham Cooper, "Ain't no sunshine when she's gone..." Lois Gribler, "I had a call from Kathy Goodman. Her hip is doing well. She's cleared to drive and wanted to come to the meeting tonight but has a cold." Jeannie Smith, "Dick Smith, our oldest member present tonight, has moved into Brighton Gardens. All are welcome to visit. Just let Jeannie know. He's available for lunch."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, "I had planned to do a picture feature with high school pictures, but based on the number of pictures I received, apparently only 4 of us went to high school. So I'll just save them for a later issue." Lois G., "Or ransom."

Activities With Eddie. Eddie Hill, "This Sunday is the Pub Run to the Troll Pub at the Wheelhouse. Wayne & 4th St. right around the corner from the Dublin Pub." Carole Looft, "And you'll send out the email? We don't want a fiasco like last time." (Dave forgot to send an email and only 7 people were present.)

Eddie continued, "April 27th is the tune-up clinics at MG Automotive. April 13th is the AutoJumble for the British Museum of Trans. May 18th is Brits in the Burg. Last week of May is drive your MG week. May 4th is Drive your MGA day. April 20th next Biscuits & Tea." Dave Gribler, "The National MG2019 is June 23-27. I reported last month that I got shut out of banquet tickets and then I got an email this week that I actually did get those tickets. MG44 in Dubuque, Iowa. July 6-8 is the MGC meet in Kalamazoo in conjunction with Mad Dogs & Englishmen." Terry Looft, "Stowe Vermont 2019 is the same weekend as the Concours. Anyone interested in going, you need to book rooms now. It's a small town but a nice event."

Spring Drive. Ron Parks, ":What do we want? Sunday drive and dinner somewhere? There's a covered bridge in it either way. I was thinking that we could end up at Deer Creek State Lodge. They've got a restaurant down there that is nice. How about May 5th? Sunday the 19th? Meet at 1:00? I want to encourage good turnout.

Beer Break 7:55  
Back from brake 8:05

BCD - no report Eddie. We have received notice from the Park District that they'll be doing bank stabilization during this summer. The Shelter where registration is, might have to be moved to another shelter. Dave, Skip is going to go out and take a look at what's going on. Dave G., It shouldn't be a



## The Octagon News – April 2019

problem, it'll just be different traffic flow. The cars coming in will have to contend with peeps in the parking lot.

Concours d'Elegance. This year's theme will be Brass Era cars and the 50th Anniversary of the Trans Am.

British Transportation Museum. Ron Parks, "The schedule has changed on the MGA coupe. No Thursdays since there isn't anyone there on Thursdays. The new work schedule is Monday's & Saturday's. If you absolutely must be there on Thursday, we might be able to arrange something." Jeannie Smith talked about the Museum building search. Realtor and seller were showing properties that weren't going to happen and they didn't want to come down on price.

For Sale. Ed Wolf, "I've got two old tube TVs for sale. 27 & 32 inch." Terry Looft, "Boat anchor." Ron, "I have something for sale." Terry, "No one wants the Triumph!" Ron continued, "I've got a set of rebuilt MGB seats from my MGB for sale for \$150/seat. I put new Suffolk seats into my car and these are for sale. Biscuit colored." EdWolf, "I think you should give the seats away for free, but the advice on how to get the seat rails back in is \$300."

Tech Tips. Ed Wolfe. "If you're driving down the road and have a wobble at 30 mph that gets worse with speed, you might want to check the torque on the lug nuts on your rear tires.

Bob Farrell won Gumball. Carole, "You sure that's not C-A-R-O-L-E? I don't think that's fair. I never win."

Motion to adjourn 8:23.

The logo for MiniMania, featuring the word "MiniMania" in a stylized, bold, black font. The letters "M" and "n" are particularly large and have a jagged, blocky appearance.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, featuring the words "MG AUTOMOTIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The "MG" is larger and more prominent than "AUTOMOTIVE".

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