

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVI No. 8

June 2019



Lots of Photos

BTM Donation in Memory of the Wassermans

Starter Switch

Dave Gribler

Something that life always manages to throw our way when we're least expecting it: change. For starters, a few people had their lives profoundly changed by the Memorial Day tornados. Thankfully I've not received any reports of club members who suffered significant damage. Comparing the tornado tracks to the club roster, I noticed that several members in Beavercreek were close to one of the "hot zones". Of those folks, Kathy Goodman called while she was waiting for her power to be restored and reported roof, awning and tree damage. Other members in the area seem to have been spared from the worst. I'm also sure than many other club members have suffered temporary inconveniences created by electrical and water supply system failures. I wish for speedy recovery from what Mother Nature brought (or took). Many of the Northern Montgomery County communities affected are places that I have frequented during my lifetime. Sadly, memories of these areas in many cases are all that remain following the changes brought about by the tornados.

While on the subject of changes, the location of our monthly



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 **Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill**, 67 South Main St, Miamisburg 45342, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Jun:

- 3 – Repeat Day
- 3 – Repeat Day
- 15 – Biscuits & Tea
- 23 – MG 2019
- 26 – Meeting at **Bennett's Publical**

Jul:

- 4 – Americana Festival in Centerville
- 13 – National French Fry Day
- 14 – Cincinnati BCD
- 24 – Meeting at **Bennett's Publical**

Aug:

- 10 – **British Car Day**
- 12 – Middle Child Day
- 28 – Meeting at **Bennett's Publical**

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

meeting location has officially moved to **Bennett's Publical** beginning this month. Repeated attempts to contact the regional manager for The Rusty Bucket went unanswered until the day after the May meeting.

When the manager finally called and wanted to know what could be done to retain our business, I simply explained that we were just going to move on and left it at that. Bennett's has been the site of the past two Holiday Parties and our 50th Anniversary Celebration so we are not strangers there. If you have not been to Bennetts recently, you'll find a nice new parking lot behind the building with access to the rear entrance through the patio area.

VP Steve will again be manning the podium for the June meeting as a number of us will be representing our club at the NAMGBR MG 2019 meet; nineteen as of the last count. We're planning to take the MGC GT on its first trip of any significant distance. Thus far it has made the 40 mile round trip to the monthly club meeting without incident on a handful of occasions, so it stands to reason that a trip several times longer is at least possible. Things are slowly being sorted out- the tachometer and fuel gauge are again operating properly. The non-locking passenger door latch trouble has been diagnosed and the necessary part ordered. The speedometer malfunction has been isolated to the transmission speedometer pinion gear, which will either be very easy or extremely difficult to remedy.

Lastly, the final "British Car Myth" from the *Moss Motoring News* article. Myth #5 is the topic 'British Cars Are Not Watertight'. The author of the article recalls accompanying his father on a used car shopping trip. His father's criteria was "don't buy a car with a wet floor". Sounds like simple, sound and logical advice. Certainly closed cars, even British ones, are going to stay pretty dry for the most part. That is, assuming of course that the windows are up during monsoon rains. Roadsters on the other hand can present challenges. I'm sure just about every roadster owner has been caught in a surprise rain event at least once during their term of ownership. That sort of thing just happens. Most roadsters will stay reasonably dry with the top up and stationary. This is not always the case when motion is added to the equation. Most of our cars are at least forty years old if not older. If the rubber sealing parts are still original, they are almost certain to be dry, cracked, crunchy and are no longer able to serve their intended purpose. If the car has been rebuilt in the last twenty years, there's still a good chance that the rubber sealing bits aren't doing their job very well. A lot of really bad rubber parts have been sold for years. They fit (sort of) but really aren't proper and don't necessarily do the job of keeping water out. If you're having trouble with water infiltration under your MGA or MGB roadster windscreen seals, the application of a little silicone sealer can solve your problem. With the windshield in place, lift the edge of the seal with a plastic windshield stick (or similar rigid, non-scratching tool) and lay down a bead of sealer. Press the seal back down to cause any excess sealer to ooze out, then wipe off the excess. If you find water dripping on your leg you might check your door seals, the wiper bezel seals and the washer nozzle seals. There are no seals at the top of the windscreen on anything older than a MGB, so good luck keeping the water out. Likewise, good luck with any car with removable sidescreens.

Expounding on that one Moss Motoring News article has given me subject matter for five months of Presidential newsletter articles. Next month I'll have to come up with something new to yammer on about, but that shouldn't be a problem since we'll have attended the NAMGBR 2019 and AMGCRA CBA by the time I have to put pen to paper again. I'm sure the Editor is thankful that he doesn't have to curate a collection of pet and fishing photos to publish. I'll NOT see you at the meeting at Bennett's Publical!

Welcome New Member

Gordon Lindsay
2222 Cincinnati Dayton Road
Middletown, Ohio 45044
513-422-6481
1965 MGB

Spring Tour Highlights

Ron Parks

We had a small, but enthusiastic group of rallye-ers driving with us on our spring tour. There were four MGs, a new Mini and another car driving with us. The McCann family did not drive the tour, but met us at Deer Creek Lodge for dinner.

We traveled the back roads winding our way through beautiful farm country, encountering only one covered bridge. Rallye questions were scattered throughout the first part of the tour, prior to our rest stop at Pettit's Grocery Store in Bloomingburg, Ohio. From there it was a short 10 miles or so to our dinner stop at the lodge in Deer Creek State Park.

The rallye part of the tour consisted of 20 questions to answer, which apparently included some obscure ones, as no one got them all. Fortunately for Terry Looft, he had his wife, Carole, riding with him in his MG. Carole is not color blind was able to help with those questions whose answers were colors. Sorry about that planning misstep, Terry! One of the answers was the color of a bank of flowers by a pond. This bank of flowers was bright yellow when I drove the route one week prior but was solid green on the day of the tour. Terry and Carole Looft won the first prize with 12 correct answers. Cathy and Art Barnes got second place with 10 correct answers and Ryan and Leeann Looft found 6 correct answers to take third place.

It was a nice day for the tour right up until we arrived at Deer Creek State park, when a light rain began. We drove home in rain after a nice dinner at the Deer Creek Lodge. Oh well, as one of our founding members, John Lucente, used to say, "It's just water."



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Pictures From Brits in the Burg

Photos by Dave Gribler



MGA Donation in Memory of Reuben and Pat Wasserman

Ron Parks

Deborah Wasserman, Pat and Reuben's daughter, donated \$1000 to the BTM MGA Coupe "Restore Me" Fund in memory of her parents. Reuben and Pat were members of both the British Transportation Museum and the MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre. The donation will keep their memory alive in the 1959 MGA Coupe restoration for which the MG Car Club has taken the lead.

With good weather, Pat and Reuben were often on drives in either their 1953 MG TD or 1968 MGC (with automatic), or both. Reuben was very meticulous about his cars and kept them spotless and well maintained.

The Club's expertise, now guided by Reuben's and Pat's spirit and funded by Deborah's donation, should help get the restoration rolling again.



Photos From British Return to Fort Meigs

Ron Parks



Jeff fields Award of Excellence with his 49 MG TC (not car in picture).



Dave and Kim Smittle won 3rd place in the Haggerty Youth Judging with their 47 MG TC.



(L to R) Tony Shoviak - Award of Excellence 66 MG 1100, Lian Shoviak - First Place 69 MGC GT, Ron Parks - Award of Excellence 74 MGB, Maya Grace Shoviak- First Place 66 MGB Tourer, Janet Shoviak - First Place 58 MGA Tourer



...If President Trump can operate resorts, why not Prince Charles?

Prince Charles Opens a Bed-and-Breakfast at Scottish Castle

Janine Puhak Fox News

Beyond his duties as a grandfather, philanthropist and future king of England, Prince Charles has taken on a new job: innkeeper. Under the direction of the 70-year-old royal, a new bed-and-breakfast on the grounds of a stunning Scottish castle has officially opened for business to the public.

Earlier this month, Clarence House announced the opening of The Granary Lodge at The Castle of Mey in the Caithness region of the North Highlands, a venture coordinated by Prince Charles' charitable organization, The Prince's Foundation.

"The accommodation will be owned and operated by The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust, and profits raised will go towards maintaining and operating the estate as a tourist destination in the North Highlands of Scotland," reps for the royal tweeted on May 1.



The luxury bed-and-breakfast officially welcomed guests as of May 15, *Travel + Leisure* reports, and it's destined to become a hotspot. Overlooking "the picturesque North Sea," the Castle of Mey received over 30,000 visitors last year between May and September, as per *Today*.



Naturally, the new B&B has historic ties; the Castle of Mey was the retreat and residence for Prince Charles' grandmother Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, for over four decades. The matriarch bought the then-"derelict" property in 1952 and lovingly restored "each and every corner" through 1996, *Travel + Leisure* reports. Upon the Queen Mother's death, she bequeathed the gorgeous grounds to The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust.

Now, her grandson, the first in line to the British throne, has picked up her torch, welcoming fans to live like a royal — if only for the night. "We are delighted that the prince's vision for the Granary Lodge has been realised and hope the development means more people will visit the north Highlands of Scotland to experience its unique offering to tourists," Prince's Foundation exec Robert Lovie told local media at the lodge's opening. "Our team has completed a wealth of hard work in recent months and is pleased with the result, which we hope will encourage people to spend longer in beautiful Caithness — an area so close to the heart of His Royal Highness."

The plush 10-bedroom Granary Lodge is near distilleries and the Achavanich Standing Stones, plus bird, seal and puffin watching, Departures reports. Like any charming bed-and-breakfast, family photos fill the halls — though the people pictured are largely royal. As of this writing, rates begin at \$208 a night.

Retirement Choices:

Unknown Source (someone sent this to me years ago -
It has some references to cars, so I used it)

You can retire to Phoenix, Arizona where...

1. You are willing to park three blocks away from your house because you found shade.
2. You've experienced condensation on your butt from the hot water in the toilet bowl.
3. You can drive for four hours in one direction and never leave town.
4. You have over 100 recipes for Mexican food.
5. You know that "dry heat" is comparable to what hits you in the face when you open your oven door at 500 degrees.
6. The four seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??

OR:

You can retire to California where...

1. You make over \$450,000 and you still can't afford to buy a house.
2. The fastest part of your commute is going down your driveway
3. You know how to eat an artichoke.
4. When someone asks you how far something is, you tell them how long it will take to get there rather than how many miles away it is.
5. The four seasons are: Fire, Flood, Mud and Drought.

OR:

You can retire to New York City where...

- 1 You say, "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.

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2. You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
3. You think Central Park is "nature."
4. You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multilingual.
5. You've worn out a car horn. (IF you have a car.)
6. You think eye contact is an act of aggression

OR:

You can retire to Minnesota where...

1. You only have three spices: salt, pepper and ketchup.
2. Halloween costumes have to fit over parkas.
3. You have seventeen recipes for casserole.
4. Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
5. The four seasons are: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road repair.
6. The highest level of criticism is "He is different," "She is different," or "It was different!"

OR:

You can retire to The Deep South where...

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
2. "Y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
3. "He needed killin'" is a valid defense.
4. Everyone has two first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Joe Bob, Betty Jean, etc.
5. Everything is either: "in yonder," "over yonder" or "out yonder."
6. You can say anything about anyone, as long as you say "Bless his heart" at the end!

OR:

You can move to Colorado where...

1. You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
2. You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home, so he stops at the day care center.
3. A pass does not involve a football or dating.
4. The top of your head is bald, but you still have a pony tail.

OR:

You can retire to Nebraska or Kansas where...

1. You've never meet any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
2. Your idea of a traffic jam is three cars waiting to pass a tractor.
3. You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
4. You end sentences with a preposition; "Where's my coat at?"

OR:

FINALLY, you can retire to Florida where...

1. You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
2. All purchases include a coupon of some kind - even houses and cars.
3. Everyone can recommend an excellent cardiologist, dermatologist, proctologist, podiatrist, or orthopedist.
4. Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
5. Cars in front of you often appear to be driven by headless people.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1974 MGB is offered locally by Tom Stephens after it failed to sell on BaT. He is motivated to sell, asking \$6500.00. He can be reached at 937-293-3037 or Stephens_t@sbcglobal.net. (6/19)

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. (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. (3/19)

***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 or 937-886-9566.*

Minutes from May Club Meeting

Sam or Diana Hodges
One or the other

The May 2019 meeting of the MGCC was called to order by President Dave Gribler at 7:30 promptly. The MGCC was of course having none of it...

7:31... Dave, "A lively crowd tonight. Hump Day. As far as mail, we got something from the Salvation Army. Cheri's not here tonight, so I can't give this to her. The April issue of Safety Fast also arrived. I think we should start something new. Whoever takes the copy of Safety Fast needs to write a review."

President Gribler continued, "Tune up Clinic... Eddie? . Did anyone actually work on their car?" Dave McCann, Jr., "A little work was done." Fast Eddie Hill, "We drank coffee and ate donuts. It was a nice day. We had a nice turnout and no actual work got done that I know of."

President Dave continued, "Brits in the Burg was last month. We had 2 MGCC members, Steve Markman and Lois Gribler, take awards of excellence. There was a TC, 2-TD, 3MGB's, a Midget, but no MGAs. Once again, the Midget stopped on the ride home." Lois Gribler, "We had to take the ride of shame on the flatbed." Dave G., "I have no idea what's going on? I changed the condenser when I got home and it fired right up. Then I changed back to the old condenser and it fired right up."

Spring Drive. Terry & Carole Looft got 12 of the 20 questions right. Due to some questionable weather, there were only 4 MG's do the drive (...if I heard that right. It's kinda noisy in here tonight...)

Pres. Dave, "The MGA is finally drivable again. Now I'm dealing with the MGC. I got the speedometer straightened out, almost. I put a new angle drive on but it's still not 100%. When I was buying parts, I bit on some LED lights that Jeff Zorn had for sale. They were \$90 and they work great."

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Vice President's Report. V.P. (President Elect?) Steve Veris, "I got nothing. But I do have a question. Did you have to do anything else with the LEDs, other than just change the bulb?" Dave G., "Not if you just change the bulbs. If you change the turn signals then you have to do a ballast swap. Got anything else that's not a question?" Steve, "Other than nothing, I got nothing."

Minutes were next on the agenda. Dave McCann, Sr. motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Eddie Hill seconded the motion. MGCC approved the Minutes as reported. Eddie opposed.

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Cheri Farrell was not present. President Gribler read a report prepared by Cheri. Here's where it gets fuzzy. After reading the report, there's some confusion as to whether I received a copy of said report. I have a vague recollection of receiving it, but I've been doing this long enough, that I could be thinking about an episode from 2009. To paraphrase, basically, we had some money, we spent some money, we took in less than we spent and now we have a little less money. Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. John Scoczco seconded. MGCC voted, Treasurer's Report approved.

Membership was next on the list. Membership Chair Carole Looft, "We're now at 69 members. Gordon Lindsey joined tonight. He has a 1965 pull handle MGB.

Birthdays in May: Sue Scocozzo, Mary Planeaux, Leeann Looft, Jeannie Smith, and Torey Looft.

Sunshine Committee. Dave Gribler, "Miss sunshine, Jennifer Peterson." Jennifer, "I haven't heard anything." Skip Peterson, "I saw Steve Miller a couple weeks ago and he's doing better."

Webmaster John Scocozzo. "Nothing new. Internet's working." Ron Parks, "I'll send you some pictures from the Spring Tour."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, "Last month we got almost everything out there. Early June is MGs in Perryburg. June 15th is Biscuits & Tea. July 4th is the Americana Festival in Centerville. July 10-12 the MGAs are in Dubuque, Iowa. July 14th is the Cincinnati British Car Day. Aug. 10th is our very own BCD. Dave Gribler, "There's a Cruise-A-Palooza in Amanda, Ohio. MGCs are in Kalamazoo in conjunction with Maddogs & Englishmen gathering." Skip, "Voss Chevrolet on Loop Rd. hosts 2 cruise-ins a year. MGs really don't fit in with the hotrods and muscle cars, but it's a good show anyway. Friday June 29th is the first one and July 12th is the second one.

Dave, "I've got Beer Break as next on the list as next, but let's just say that we did and just move on."

Newsletter Editor's Report. Steve, "I was hoping to run pictures of members when they were in high school, but based on the response, apparently only four of us ever went to high school." (Someone made a joke about film not having been invented, but I missed who...) Terry Looft, "I've got a picture of my GED." Steve, "So, how about a picture feature of us doing other, non-car related hobbies, if any exist." (You know this group... Yes, it went there.)

This time around, the MGCC was thirstier.

Beer break called at 7:51.

Back from beer brake at 8:06

Pres. Dave, "We're going to skip old business for now because we have something important to discuss. So...

BCD. Skip Peterson, "Before I get into that, I think we should congratulate the new Treasurer of the MGA North American Register, Mr. Dave Gribler. He's done such a great job with our BCD money that he's gone national. Back to BCD. We're moving to the second Saturday in August due to a conflict with

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the Metro Parks scheduling. We're moving the registration tent from the right side of the park to the other side of the park since there's construction to stabilize the river bank. We're going to need some help. We've lost a few people so, whatever you can give us volunteering will be great." Dave McCann, Jr. "Are we going to put up a sign telling people that the show has been moved to Aug. 10th?" Skip, "That's not a bad idea." Lois Gribler, "I think maybe we should put a flyer in the goodie bags alerting people about next year's show being changed back to the first Saturday." Skip, "The Dayton Concours is, as always the 3rd weekend in September. This year will be big Brass-era cars and the anniversary of the Pontiac Trans Am."

Pres. Dave, "We talked earlier about various shows, so who's caravanning to Ft. Meigs? Traverse City? Dubuque?"

Old Business. Dave continued, "I don't see Charlie, so we'll move on to the other old business. A new meeting place." Terry Looft, "How serious are they about throwing us out?" Dave G., "I can't get a callback from Corporate. They feel that they can make better use of their patio during the summer months." After some discussion, we bring up the motion from last month (Carole, "I think we need to address it and if we need to move on, then we need to move on. I'd like to make a motion to start a review of our patronage here." Dave Johnson seconded.) After reviving that motion, the MGCC voted on it. Motion approved. Effective immediately, the MGCC will move the monthly meeting to Bennet's Publical in Miamisburg. Jennifer Peterson, "Do we want to skip next month's meeting?" Skip, "No. We can take the money and have beer break on the MGCC."

British Museum of Transportation. Ron Parks and the MGA project. Ron, "Pat & Reuben Wasserman's daughters have donated \$1,000 towards restoring the MGA coupe in their memory. I have a book set up and Dave McCann, Sr. volunteered to paint the black parts. We're going to have to schedule some work days. Dale Oaks is willing to paint the car for free if we do all of the prep work." Skip, "Did you talk to the Earl of Scheib?" Ron, "There are a couple of dings that need to be worked on. We can go in and work on any Saturday."

For Sale. NOTHING

Tech Tips. Dave McCann, Jr. "I have a for and against recommendation for the Harbor Freight seal driver kit. If you already have a seal driver kit, then this is good for parts to enhance your kit. If this is going to be your only kit, don't buy this one. It's best used for parts."

Gumball Rallye was won by Terry Looft.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike E. and seconded by Eddie Hill. Meeting adjourned at 8:29.

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.The logo for MG AUTOMOTIVE, featuring the words "MG AUTOMOTIVE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are all caps and have a slight shadow effect.

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



Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
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Don't forget...meetings now will be held at *Bennett's Publical*