

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVI No. 9

July 2019



Register for BCD (form is on last page)

Pictures from GT-44 and MG 2019

Starter Switch

Dave Gribler

The theme this month is surprises. Just when you think you have things in hand, wham! What was that?? Oh, a Surprise!. A few days before the June meeting at our new location, I get an email from my faithful VP that he will be unable to attend the meeting and is looking for a volunteer to run the meeting in his place. My understanding is that technical issues with the calendar on Steve's phone caused the oversight. I've experienced similar circumstances when changing handsets and know that missing calendar events can catch one by surprise. On learning that neither the Prez or VP were available to conduct the meeting, my first instinct was to consult the club Constitution and By-Laws. I knew I had received a copy of these documents many (many) years ago and had carefully filed them away. Much to my surprise, the document I found was a purple ditto copy (remember those?). That dates the document to sometime in the last century.



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, July 24, 2019

MG Car Club Officers

President..... Dave Gribler
phone.....937-898-9928
email.....drivesmgs@yahoo.com
Vice President.....Steve Veris
Phone..... 937-299-4850
email..... Steve.Veris@sbcglobal.net
Secretary.....Diana Hodges
phone.....937-581-4767
email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
Treasurer..... Cheri Farrell
phone.....937-272-8911
email.....chersews@yahoo.com
Member at Large.....Mike Edgerton
phone.....937-866-5729
email..... autoedge@sbcglobal.net
President Emeritus..... Ron Parks
phone.....937-322-0717
email.....mgdriver@woh.rr.com
Web Master.....John Scocozzo
phone.....937-291-1710
mail.....jscocozzo@hotmail.com
Activities Chair.....Ed Hill
phone.....937- 461-6688
email..... chillmgb@aol.com
Membership Chair.....Carole Looft
phone.....937-382-1520
email.....carole@looft.net
Historian..... Dick Smith
phone.....937-434-1750
email..... rsmithomo@aol.com
WebPage.....www.mgcarclubswohio.com
NAMGAR POC Dave and Lois Gribler
phone.....937 898-9928
email.....drivesmgs@yahoo.com

Your Octagon News Editor and Production Staff

Steve Markman 937-886-9566
srmarkman@att.net

Terry Looft 937-382-1520
terry@looft.net

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Jul:

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

Aug:

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

Sep:

- 15 – Concours d' Elegance
- 19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 25 – Meeting at **Bennett's Pubical**

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

No matter. I can honestly recall only one amendment to these documents in the last twenty years so nothing much has changed. Scanning through the By-Laws, it was no surprise to learn that this very issue was meticulously addressed in the section describing "Duties of the Officers". After exchanging a few emails the matter was settled and our elected Secretary, Diana Hodges graciously took her place on the podium. Thank you, Diana, for heading off a major "Constitutional Crisis". I will note that I was not surprised by murmurs of a "coup" in the works. I assume this is only an idle threat since my term as President is rapidly approaching its conclusion.

The 1200 mile round trip to Traverse City (including side trips) to attend NAMGBR MG 2019 was our first journey in the MGC of more than 20 miles from home. No surprise that there are just a few more little details that need to be worked out. I'm happy with the reawakening of this "Brutal Aggressive" after a 30+ year sleep. The passenger door lock repair seems to have been successful but now the driver's door does not always cooperate.

The speedometer fault was remedied with surprising ease by simple replacement of the speedometer pinion gear. At present there is no power at the cigar lighter/power port. A little tightening of things on the bottom of the overdrive unit was required to remedy a slow oil drip. In all, these are minor troubles considering the car is celebrating its 50th birthday this year.

The SWOCMGCC was solidly represented at MG 2019 with nine awards in seven car classes, two photo contest awards and a junior valve cover race winner. A report on MG 2019 with further details and photos is likely included elsewhere in this issue of the *Octagon News*.

The MGC tallied another 700 miles this past weekend. The destination was Kalamazoo to attend the American MGC Register Association CBA 39 and Mad Dogs and Englishmen British Auto Faire. CBA's are normally small, low key events and this was no different with 30 people and eight MGCs attending. Saturday was occupied with a sight-seeing drive to the west coast (of Michigan) to visit the resort towns of Saugatuck and South Haven. Sunday was the Auto Faire at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners. The first surprise of the day came when the familiar voices of Steve and Mimi were encountered while I was preparing the MGC for the show. I simply could not find time to visit any of the museum buildings as I was thoroughly occupied trying to see and vote for cars on the show field. I was pleasantly surprised when the MGC-GT received third place awards in both the Auto Faire MGC class and the CBA MGC-GT class. The day concluded with the CBA banquet at Gilmore's Heritage Center among the museum's impressive Duesenberg collection.

The last little surprise I'll mention was near the end of drive home, approaching Greenville. Immediately after encountering a railroad crossing at an intemperate speed, the MGC suffered the dreaded "failure to proceed" syndrome. Fortunately the trouble was simple and straightforward and we were soon on our way after reconnecting the distributor low tension lead that was jarred loose when crossing the uneven tracks.

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We're attending one more event before the July meeting but I have to cede to the tyranny of the Editor's deadline as he needs to publish while we're at NAMGAR GT-44 in Dubuque, Iowa. I will make a full report at the monthly meeting. Hopefully there will be no more surprises.

One last note...don't forget to register for BCD, which is on Aug 10th this year.

Pictures from GT-44 in Dubuque, Iowa

Photos by Carole Looft



...and the winners are:

MGB Class 2nd place: Terry Looft MGB GT Factory V8

MGA 1500 Wire Wheel Class 3rd place: Dar Planeaux

Premier Class: Ryan Looft MG Magnette ZB 1st place

Pictures From MG 2019, Traverse City



Valve Cover Racers (L to R): Maya Shoviak, Collette Looft, Everly Looft, Lian Shoviak, Emerson Looft & Patrick Looft



Winners (L to R): Janet Shoviak; Ron Parks; Linda Parks; Maya Shoviak; George Chase Dave Gribler; Queen Elizabeth II, Everly Looft & Lois Gribler; Leeann Looft, Lian Shoviak; Carole Looft, Emerson Looft, Terry Looft; Dar Planeaux, Mary Planeaux; Ryan Looft & Tony Shoviak.



Above photos by Ron Parks

Winners:

Photography 2nd - Terry & Carole Looft

Photography 1st - Leeanne Looft

MGB Mk I 65-67 1st - Maya Grace Shoviak

MGB Mk II 73-74 2nd - Ron Parks

MGB Mk IV 77-78 3rd - Ryan Looft

MGB Mk IV 77-78 1st - Carole Looft

MGB Modified 1st - Leeanne Looft

MG Midget 61-74 2nd George Chase

MG 1100/1300 1st - Terry Looft

MGC-GT 3rd - Lois & Dave Gribler

MGC-GT 1st - Lian Shoviak

Junior Rocker Cover Racing 2nd - Collette Looft

Americana Festival

Steve Markman

Meanwhile, holding down the fort in Centerville on July 4th, John Scozzo and Steve Markman represented our club at this year's Americana Festival. We parked in a nice spot in the street right front of Bill's Donut Shop, which unfortunately closes every year during the festival. Both of us lost to an Amphicar and a Triumph. I think the voting was rigged, although I admit the Triumph was a nice-looking car.



New Members

Ron Rameir
59 MGA

Jim Carson
73 MGB

Editor's note – my apology if I spelled your name wrong. I just copied what Sam put in the minutes since our membership chair is out of town

Welcome to both of you and we hope to see you often!

Horsepower – What Does it Mean?

Steve Markman

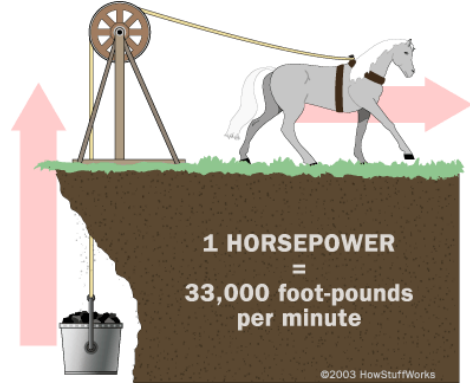
Editor's note – this article is based on one by Marshall Brain that I found on the internet. I added to it to sort of make it my own, but give him credit for much of the text, as he'd already explained it very clearly.

Chances are you've heard about horsepower. Just about every car ad mentions it. But what is horsepower?

But first, we need to understand a few other terms, namely **work**, as a scientific measurement, not just something you do and maybe get paid for, as in working a job. If you push on an object, you are exerting a **force**. If the object moved, the force was applied over a distance, and this is work in a scientific sense. Work is the product of the force times the distance over which the force is applied, and is measured in terms of **foot-pounds**. If the object didn't move, then from a physics standpoint, no work was done. **Power** is the rate at which work is performed and commonly is measured as foot-pounds per minute.

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The term **horsepower** was invented by the engineer James Watt, who lived from 1736 to 1819, and is most famous for his work on improving the performance of steam engines. The story goes that Watt was working with ponies lifting coal at a coal mine, and he wanted a way to talk about the power available from one of these animals. He found that, on average, a pony could lift 220 pounds a distance of 100 feet in one minute, i.e., they did 22,000 foot-pounds per minute. He then arbitrarily increased that number by 50 percent (how much he figured a full-sized horse could do) and pegged the measurement of horsepower at 33,000 foot-pounds of work in one minute. It is that arbitrary unit of measure that has remained through the centuries and now appears on your car, your lawn mower, your chain saw and even in some cases your vacuum cleaner.



What horsepower means is this: In Watt's judgment, one horse can do 33,000 foot-pounds of work every minute. So, imagine a horse raising coal out of a coal mine as shown above. A horse exerting 1 horsepower can raise 330 pounds of coal 100 feet in a minute. But can the horse lift 33 pounds of coal 1,000 feet in one minute, or 1,000 pounds 33 feet in one minute? Probably not, and you can make up whatever combination of feet and pounds you like, but as long as the product is 33,000 foot-pounds in one minute, you have one horsepower.

You can think of many combinations that surely aren't practical or even possible, but still would be true to the definition. You probably can imagine that you would not want to load 33,000 pounds of coal in the bucket and expect the horse to move it 1 foot in a minute because the horse couldn't budge that big a load. You probably also can imagine that you would not want to put 1 pound of coal in the bucket and ask the horse to run 33,000 feet in one minute (which translates into 375 miles per hour). Again, one horsepower, but most probably impossible to achieve.

You also probably hear the term torque frequently associated with horsepower. Torque is a measurement of the twisting capability of the engine. It's related to horsepower, but different engines may produce different torque at the same power and RPM, and I won't get into it at this time.

There are other ways to measure power besides horsepower. For example:

- 1 horsepower is equivalent to 746 watts (an awfully bright light bulb, but not much for a hair dryer). So if you took a 1-horsepower horse and put it on a treadmill, it could operate a generator producing a continuous 746 watts. This may seem like an oddball number, but it's based on metric units, and gives us this number when converted to the English system.
- 1 horsepower (over the course of an hour) produces 2,545 BTUs (British Thermal Units). If you took that 746 watts and ran it through an electric heater for an hour, it would produce 2,545 BTUs (where one BTU is the amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 1 degree F...again, if you use kilogram and degrees C, it comes out to a nice round number).
- Air conditioners are rated in tons, which is how many tons of water the unit can freeze in one hour starting at some given temperature. This measurement also can be converted to horsepower, but I won't bother introducing any more confusing conversion factors.

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So, how do engineers calculate the anticipated power from a new engine design? I don't know! I couldn't find anything on it. As best I can figure, they make a good guess based on past experience, but they don't know for sure until they actually test it. The story has it that the Wright Brothers, after determining the horsepower they'd need to get their airplane to fly, tested their engine. They took a bucket of sand of a known weight, attached a rope and connected it to the engine's shaft. Then they measured how long it took the engine to raise the bucket a given height. You can't get much simpler than that.

Let me leave you with a little story. Back when I was in high school (you guessed it...I'm one of the four club members who attended high school), we had an essay question on a physics exam that went something like: "A physics teacher hired a few neighborhood kids to move a large boulder in his yard. The kids pushed and pushed for hours, sweating gallons of sweat in the hot sun, but the rock never budged. The physics teacher then refused to pay the kids because he claimed that they did no work. Was he correct in his refusal?" Being a public school, not a private one at which they can teach morals, my answer certainly concluded that from a physics standpoint, they did no work, and thus didn't earn the pay they'd been promised. I guess that if there's a moral to the story, it is don't ever work for a physics teacher.

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 June Club Meeting

Sam or Diana Hodges
One or the other

(editor's note – it's Sam...thank you for straightening me out as explained below)

The June 26, 2019 meeting of the MGCCSWOC was called to order by the actual Secretary, Diana Hodges. When I say Diana, I REALLY mean it was Diana. Not Sam (me. Weird, right?! Technically,

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right now, she is the Secretary. When President Dave Gribler, who was in Traverse City with a contingent of other MGCCers, asked her if she could fill in, she was game to give it a try. I (Sam) volunteered to do it, but she was game to give it a go.

Secretary Diana Hodges called the MGCC meeting to order at precisely 7:30. Being new to this, she didn't realize that 7:31 would be the actual start time. Diana, "Dave sent me an agenda. Welcome to Bennet's Publical. If this isn't where you're supposed to be, then I can't help you?" (BTW, did I mention that we've changed locations? The MGCC is now meeting at Bennet's Publical in Miamisburg.)

Diana, "Dave sent a follow up to the LED light discussion, but I'm going to table that until next month." Eddie, "No! I want to know now!" Diana, "Biscuits and Tea?" Dave Johnson, "We only had 10 cars show up due to the British weather we were having."

Vice President's Report. V.P. Steve Veris was also absent, hence the reason Diana's driving this bus tonight.

Minutes. Art Barnes motioned to accept the Minutes as reported in the Newsletter. Skip Peterson seconded. Ghost Secretary Sam disavowed any knowledge of what was going on. MGCC voted. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Cheri Farrell, "Again this month we had no income, but lots of bills. The MGCC had total gains of: Squat. Bill. Zilch. (You get the picture). We had total expenses of: May Gumball (\$10.00) + BCD Liability Insurance (\$240.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$250.00. Monthly total gains when subtracted from losses means a loss of \$250.00 to the MGCC. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$2,311.87 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,061.87 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$380.50. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$2,442.37. Dave Johnson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Skip Peterson seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer's Report approved. Eddie won't oppose.

Membership was next. Jennifer Peterson is standing in for Carole Looft. Jennifer, "We have a new member. Ron Rameir (sp?)." Ron, "I own a 59 MGA in Iris blue. I'm a member of the Cincinnati MG club. I also own a red 1965 MGB push-buttons handle." Jennifer, "Jim Carson also joined." Jim, "I own a 1973 MGB that's being restored by Vintage Restorations in Hamilton."

Sunshine Committee was next. Sam Hodges (yeah, me. Well technically, it should be Diana typing theses, but...) announced that he was on the sunshine report for the month. The Friday before Memorial Day, I suffered a partial retinal detachment. The Tuesday after Memorial Day, I had a procedure called a scleral buckle to reattach the partial detachment. I spent the next 2-weeks discovering this nifty thing called Netflix! Wow! In other news, Diana Cooper was playing pickle ball and fell on her back. The result was the first time in an ambulance. Luckily there were no breaks, just bruising. Now she's on meds. The silver lining however was that she made the cover of 'PickleBall magazine!

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, "We're back to 12 pages thanks to several car shows. I'm still collecting high school pictures for use in a future issue. Based on the response, it still looks like only 4 of us went to high school. I'm also collecting pictures of us doing our other hobbies, just in case any of us have a hobby other than our MGs."

Webmaster John Scocozzo. "Nothing new. I've got some pics that need to go up." Temp. President Diana, "Anything blackmail quality?" Skip, "She's definitely presidential material."

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Activities with Eddie. "The next and final Voss car show of the year is in July (You've already missed it). Americana Festival car show is July 4th (yep. Missed that one too), Biscuits & Tea is the 27th. July 14th is Cincinnati BCD. The entire gate is being donated to the Aubrey Rose foundation." Mike Edgerton, "The British Museum of Transportation is having a Cruise-in July 19th from 6-9 at the Dairy Queen on Wilmington Pike at next to Archers."

Beer break called 7:50. Diana, "How long are these supposed to last?"
Back from break 8:05.

Old Business. Charlie's not here, so next on the list is Dick Smith.

No other old business. So next up is BCD.

Skip P., "Good news, bad news. The Dayton Metro Park district has made more changes. This year, we have to provide a 4-yard dumpster and 5 port-o-johns. We have to get them from Rumpke but they've got a reduced rate program that I did apply for. This year is going to be financially rough. Our costs are going up to about \$900. AAA has dropped out as a sponsor, but we have gotten a couple other sponsors. We're reducing awards by a few because we eliminated some classes. I am concerned that this might be the last year at the park because we're being priced out. This year we also have to rent the Rugby field for parking and the shelters are going up in rental costs as well." There was a discussion amongst the member about possibly raising rates and getting more sponsors. Skip, "We need to ride out this year and see how things go, but if anyone has any thoughts about another venue, let us know." Dave Johnson suggested the U.S. Air Force Museum. Skip, "They get weird about having events like that on the Air Force base due to security concerns," Diana suggested Greene County/Montgomery Co fairgrounds." Cathy Barnes, "There aren't any trees at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds." Eddie, "Sapplings don't provide much shade." (Pres.) Di, "Thanks Skip for the update."

Concours report. Skip, "Everything's fine. Carillon loves us, we love them everything's fine. Dave wanted to thank the MGCC Class hosts for the Concours. He might need one or two more, so run while you can."

NAMGAR 2019 is in Dubuque, Iowa. Anyone interested in going see the Loofts' or the Planeauxs' as Dave & Lois will be Cannon-balling. (Missed that too if you didn't go.)

Di, "Any new business?" Eddie Hill, "Maybe we want to think about a Picnic?" Someone, "The Loofts aren't here, maybe this would be a good time to voluntold them." Diana, "Motion?" Someone motioned to nominate the Loofts to host this years Picnic (names are being withheld to protect the guilty). Someone else seconded. MGCC voted. All approved. Terry and Carole Looft are hosting this year's picnic. Maybe... Stay tuned.

Skip, "For those of you who know Robert & Cheryl Nuessgen. Cheryl is undergoing brain surgery to attempt to lessen epileptic symptoms. Keep them in your thoughts."

Mike Edgerton, "The British Museum is having the Dairy Queen Cruise In Previously mentioned. We also have a bunch of U.D. engineering students who are volunteering at the museum and they've been quite productive. We've got a skid of chemicals, additives, oils, etc. from their efforts." Diana, "Mike, with all these engineering students, is there anyway we can get some new members." MGA Coupe update, Ron's not here...

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For Sale, There's an MGTD that's on FaceBook. Skip, "Mershons in Springfield has an MG TC for \$39K." John Dixon's Porsches and the Taj ma Garaj are for sale.

New member Ron Rameir, "There's an unrestored 1965 MGB in Cincinnati. Disc wheel, pull handle. There's also a rolling body rig for an MGA body. It has all of the attachment points for amounting a body during restoration. Contact Ron R. for more info.

Richard & Mary Miller lost their son Brad to hemophilia. As a way to lock Richard into working on the hemophilia foundation, they named their annual golf outing in honor of Brad. The annual Miller Birdie Buster Golf Outing is coming up August 15th at Beavercreek golf Club. Contact Richard for more information. Richard, "Skip played in it and finished second." Skip, "Yeah, I don't know how that happened."

Tech Tips. Steve Powell, "This is more of a 'don't be stupid' tip. I was excited to find Coker Tires make radial tires for TC's. I ordered a set. The fronts went on fine, but the rears didn't fit. I called Coker and they told me that they don't take returns. After going around and around with them, I was able to prove that the technical information on their website wasn't correct. They acquiesced and took them back but they had to be unused. So, if you want tires, make sure you know exactly what you're getting or that you can return them."

Diana Hodges wins Gumball Rallye.
Skip, "Diana for President!"

Motion to adjourn made by Eddie Hill. Dave Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:41.



MiniMania

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

MOSS

Steve Miller
3733 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 294-7623
e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

Don't forget...meetings now are held at *Bennett's Pubical*



1754 Lindenhall Dr.
Loveland, OH 45140-2120

British Car Day 2019 Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____ Miles Driven to BCD _____

Yr./Make/Model _____ Class _____

Require trailer parking Yes _____ No _____

Advance registration (includes free t-shirt) \$18.00 _____

Deadline: Must be received by July 21, 2019

t-shirt size S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Additional t-shirts (day of show \$15) \$10.00 _____

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

Vendor registration \$25.00 _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to: British Car Day 2019

Mail to: BCD 2019, 1754 Lindenhall Dr. Loveland, OH 45140-2120

Neither I, nor my heirs, will hold the Miami Valley Triumphs; The MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre; Five Rivers MetroParks, or any other sponsors or persons associated with this event, liable for any personal injuries or any damages done to me or by me, my party or my car, while engaged in this event or while traveling to or from this event.

Signed _____ Date _____