

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 5

March 2020



Eight Great Pages of Club News
Cecil Kimber Birthday Party April 19th!!

From the Driver's Seat

Diana Hodges

Now that Daylight savings time has kicked in, and the days are getting slightly longer, it's time to start thinking about the spring driving season. Sam started think about it the day after Christmas, but for the sane among us, now seems like a much more appropriate time to start seriously looking forward to driving season. Sam and I met in law school in August of 1997. I still remember him pulling up in his tatty old orange MGB, Martha, and thinking how cool that must be to have a fun little toy. At that time, little did I know that he actually has a car addiction and that he'd drag me into his world. Truth be told, it didn't take much convincing. I've always liked cars. Growing up the only girl with 4 brothers, if I wanted to talk to anyone or hang out with anyone in my generation, I had to learn cars. My brothers always were dragging home old Mopars, their drug of choice, and wrenching on them. I gapped spark plugs, held timing lights, blipped throttles and



Southwestern Ohio Centre -- MG Car Club
P.O. Box 20032, Dabel Branch
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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, Mar 25, 2020

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Mar:

22 – Pub Run at Old Bag of Nails
25 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

Apr:

5 – Read a Roadmap Day
18 – Tune-Up Clinic
19 – Cecil Kimber Birthday Party
22 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

May:

4 – Star Wars Day
27 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

pressed brake pedals. My uncles even used me as the 100 yard target for headlight alignment. I’d go stand about 100-yards away and when the beams both converged on me, they were happy. What Sam didn’t know at the time was that his hobby was also secretly my hobby as well. In law school, I drove a Mustang Cobra convertible that I absolutely loved — 5-speed manual, 305 hp, and a sound system that could make your ears bleed (...and may be responsible for some hearing loss, but back to the story). To this day the girls have fond memories of sitting in the back seat while I zipped through traffic. 6 year old Janet used to talk about how she liked having the top down because it “made her hair crazy.”

Fast forward 23 years and I’m sitting here thinking about which world I like better. On the one hand, there are the vintage cars. The MGAs, MGBs, and all the other cool old cars that we still haven’t owned yet. There’s a 1930 Chrysler that is a regular at the Concours that I absolutely love. On the other hands, there are the modern rocket ships. Sitting in the garage next to two MGBs is a Corvette Z06. Definitely a rocket

ship. As Sam likes to say, if he wants to have fun, he’ll drive an MG. If he wants to go to jail, he takes the Z06. And that is pretty much my take on it as well. The Corvette is an awesome car. Starts every time. Air conditioning. Seat heaters. Nav system. All the amenities of a modern car. But if push comes to shove, I actually have more fun in an MG. When the girls were young, we’d split up and take two cars, I’d drive Tilly with one girl, usually Janet, and he’d take Martha and usually Hilary as his passenger. While the modern cars are great, you have to drive them at ridiculous speed to get the same feeling as an MGB on the right road at 40 mph (*editor’s note...or a TD at 20. Sorry Madam President, just had to add that*). Tilly can be a little cranky to start cold. The heater is either surface of the sun or non existent. As happened the day of the Holiday at Home Parade, Sam had to replace a rear brake line at 7:00am to get the car back on the road, but that aside, the MGs are still my preferred car to actually drive. If I’m trying to get somewhere, then any of the modern cars will work just as well. But if I’m in no hurry, and don’t actually have anyplace to go or be, then a nice vintage car is just the kind of therapy that makes any day into a good day.

My ramblings aside, don’t forget we have a Pub Run at 5:00 on Sunday, March 22 at Old Bag of Nails Pub in Centerville. BTW, bring toilet paper. We’re raffling it off as a new fund raiser. Might bring in more than BCD...

Don’t Forget the Birthday Party and You are Invited!

Carole Looft

Mark your calendar!

Our club members will celebrate Cecil Kimber’s 132nd birthday with a pizza party at Marion’s Pizza on April 19. The club is providing the



pizza, and there will be balloons, presents, party favors, a surprise or two and of course, birthday cake.

It should be fun. You won't want to miss this.



WHEN: April 19, 2020 5:00 PM

WHERE: Marion's Pizza – 50 E. Stroop Rd. Dayton, Ohio

Car (song lyrics) of the Month

Keep Away From The Fellow Who Owns An Automobile

Words and melody by Irving Berlin

Recorded by Ada Jones in 1909

1st verse:

There's a certain flirtin' man with money in the bank
The man I mean owns a machine, the kind you have to crank
His great delight is to invite a girlie for a whirl
In his machine and I just mean to kind o' warn each girl

Chorus:

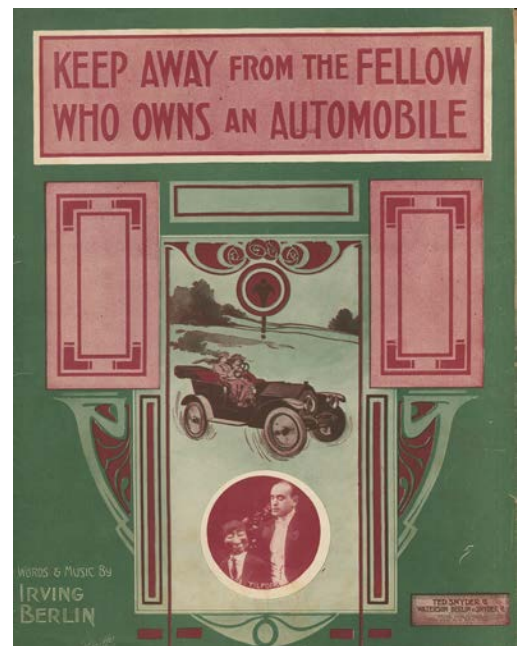
Keep away from the fellow who owns an automobile
He'll take you far in his motor car
Too darn far from your Pa and Ma
If his forty horsepower goes sixty miles an hour say
Goodbye forever, goodbye forever
There's no chance to talk, squawk or balk
You must kiss him or get out and walk
Keep away from the fellow who owns an automobile

2nd verse:

Mary White went out one night in Harry's new machine
They rode quite far when Harry's car ran out of gasoline
The hour was late and sad to state no gas could Harry get
The latest word I overheard is that they're walking yet

Repeat chorus

Editor's Note - This is a real song. Honest. You can find it on Youtube.



MGA Coupe Restoration Update

Ron Parks

The MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre is continuing work on restoring the 1959 MGA Coupe that was donated to the British Transportation Museum. A radiator has been offered by Dar Planeaux, to be made available when he returns from Florida in May. Thank you, Dar!



You'll see in the photo that the new floorboard rails have been welded into place. We are grateful to British Transportation Museum member, Tim Bosse for doing the welding for us. Dave McCann is pictured shaping one of the wood floor pieces to fit into the new rails. Bill Hunter with help from Mike Hirsch & Dave Gribler are pictured assembling the front brakes. Pete Stroble confirmed that the fuel sending unit works and that the fuel tank has been lined with vinyl. Dave Gribler checked out the fuel pump and the decision was made to send it out to Tom Ball to have it rebuilt. The two Eds, Hill and Wolf, continue to clean and paint small parts. Next, we will begin installing the brake lines, continue fitting the wood floorboards and

continue refurbishing and painting small parts. Our intention remains to create a running chassis prior to setting the body on



the frame.

We continue with our schedule, working from 10:00am to Noon on Saturdays, so as not to tie up anyone's whole day. Thank you to all who have helped; it is much appreciated!

...and in motoring news from the U.K.

Firefighters Rescue Man With Hand Stuck in His Car's Trunk Lid

Gary Gastelu Fox News

How many firefighters does it take to change a lightbulb?

A fire brigade in Kewstoke, U.K., recently had to come to the rescue of a man who got his hand stuck while working on the taillight on his car.

Photos show the man, whose identity was not released, with his arm reaching through an opening in the trunk lid that houses a portion of the rear light cluster.



"Our rescue pump crew have provided humanitarian assistance to a gentleman with his hand stuck inside a car cluster light, whilst performing maintenance."

Details of the rescue were not shared, but the rescue workers needed to saw through the top of the vehicle's trunk lid and said they managed to release him with "only a minor injury."

An instructional video posted to YouTube by user [bimmermerchant](#) suggests performing the light replacement on an E46-type BMW 3-Series with the trunk lid open.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1978 MG Midget. New top, interior, exhaust, master cylinder, rear bushing, steering wheel, radiator, and a box full of about \$350 worth of other new parts. Garaged. Asking \$3,000. Call Bob at 937-253-9935 after 4 PM. (2/20)

For Sale: 1979 Triumph TR7. Car has 70k actual miles. Rust-free body will need a new slave cylinder installed which I do have and also will need the starter replaced or rebuilt. I did have it running and I do have a video. All of the electronics work. Asking \$1,200 or best offer. Josh Gierke jgierke87@gmail.com. (1/20)

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For Sale: 1980 MGB. Green with tan interior and it is a driver that always has been garaged. Tires are 13 years old, 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, but willing to negotiate. Not driven in a year due to medical issues. Tom Hawkins, (937) 239-4574 (Cell#) evenings only, or thawkins2@woh.rr.com. (10/19)

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. (10/19)

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 or tlooft@earthlink.net. (10/19)

***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 February Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

President Diana Hodges called the meeting to order at 7:31.

President Diana, "Just as a reminder, next month there will be a soccer club in our normal room." Eddie Hill, "Soccer hooligans instead of MG hooligans."

Diana continued, "I have a quick question, does any one know how old the Mother MG Club is? Dave Gribler, you can't answer." Terry Looft, "147?" Skip Peterson, "75?" Ron Parks, "90." Diana, "That's correct Ron." Ron, "I just read that earlier today." Diana continued, "Dave Gribler forwarded an email about the MG Mother Club's related 90th anniversary. I thought we could put our heads together and come up with some way to celebrate. The Mother Club wants every Club and Centre across the world to celebrate in some fashion on Sunday, October 11th. They want everyone to do it as close to noon local time." Eddie Hill, "So it's a wave of celebrations?" Ron Parks, "The wave for cars." Skip P., "How about doing another London to Brighton run? Only in Ohio. We could do 9 covered bridges on the way." Lois Gribler, "I bet Jennifer came up with that idea." Dave Gribler, "Bill Hammond did one once. We could call it the Bill Hammond Memorial London to Brighton Run." After a brief discussion, the MGCC drafted Skip Peterson to be in charge.

Vice President's Report. Terry Looft, "Everything's good. Or in the words of another famous V.P., I got nothin'."

Minutes were next. Ron Parks motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Eddie Hill seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved as reported.

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Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Bob Farrell isn't here tonight. Secretary Sam Hodges has a copy of the Treasurer's Report and read it into the Minutes. Me, "Bob's not here because he's in Aruba. We have no money."

The MGCC had income gains of: Membership Dues (\$155.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$155.00. We had total expenses of: January Gumball (\$10.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$10.00. Monthly total losses when subtracted from gains means a gain of \$145.00 to the MGCC. When added to our beginning balance of \$4,089.06 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$4,234.06 in the primary checking account. The Savings account currently has \$380.76 with cash on hand of \$50.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,664.82. Ron Parks motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Eddie Hill seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer's Report approved as reported.

Membership Chair Carole Looft, "We had one renewal last month. That brings our total number of members to 63. Birthdays this month: Carole Estell, Mark Schneider, and Nancy Edgerton's is March 1st so we'll include her now." President Hodges, "Obviously, Sam & I need to start canvassing the neighborhood, bus stations and homeless shelters for some new members."

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson, "We were just talking about Dick Smith. He's not doing well. His eating is becoming a problem. He's also having issues with walking." Lois Gribler, "I was talking to someone who works at Grace Brethren where Reuben Wasserman lived. According to her, Reuben really looked forward to the holiday parties every year. We will miss him."

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, "Now that everyone knows how Phillips screwdrivers and screws got their name, I challenge you to find out how plywood got its name. (I know and I'm not telling!) Mike Edgerton, "There's a drink called the Phillips screwdriver. OJ, Vodka & milk of magnesia." Ed Wolfe, "I'm going looking for a plywood tree."

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, "The Annual Tune-Up Clinic is scheduled for April 18th after talking to Steve & Mimi. The rain date is the following Saturday." Diana H. "Who's supplying the donuts? Eddie, "Don't know." Terry Looft, "It's bring your own donut." Jennifer P., "I know who's going to have the coffee though." President Hodges continued. "Spring Tour is coming up. Sam? Do you have anything to report?" Me, "We've been together the entire time and you know as well as I do, I haven't had time to plan anything yet. But I will." Eddie Hill, "Dave Johnson is going to start up Biscuits & Tea again. Cecil's birthday party is going to be at Marion's Pizza on Stroop & Far Hills." Carole Looft, "I've reserved the room. There's going to be cake, balloons, and favors. You're providing your own drinks, and there's a mystery game. Sam H., "But bring a change of clothes." Cecil would have been 132 years old.

Skip P., "Art contacted me about a tour of the Rick Grant collection. I talked to them and they suggested April but we're not tied to that date." After some discussion by the MGCCSWOC about the best date, (Someone - Missed who's idea it was so I'll give it to Bill Hammond since he's already been brought up) "Why don't we move it into June? I was thinking that we could do 2:00 on a Sunday in June and then maybe go to a Pub Run after that." Carole Looft, "Looks like Skip is planning another one." Skip, "No, this one is on Art, I'm just an intermediary." Eddie Hill, "June 14th is the Cincinnati Concours." Skip, "They'll all be there, so that's not going to work." The MGCC decided to table the choosing of a date until next month.

The next thing on the agenda was Beer break. Diana, "Want to just press on through?" Unanimously, "Lets just go on."

Old Business. Charlie's not here so we must not have any.

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New Business. A March Pub Run. Carole suggested Old Bag-o-Nails in Centerville. The tentative date is Sunday March 22nd. As of the meeting, we weren't aware that the NCAA tournament would be cancelled and we were a little hesitant since that would have been a game day. Now however, we should have Old Bag-o-Nails to ourselves.

For some reason, President Hodges circled back to the Spring Tour. as earlier, the planner of the Spring Tour, me, hasn't done anything yet. Give me a break!?! (After she reads the Minutes, I might be getting a different kind of break...).

British Museum of Transportation. Ron Parks, "I brought this MGA banjo steering wheel to verify that this is actually an MGA wheel." The MGA owners all agree, it's an MGA wheel. Ron continued, "We're going to have a new wood wheel made using this wheel as a pattern. We've got the body ready for the body shop, they just don't have a spot for it. We've got the frame underway as well. The brakes are done, we're making good progress on the restoration. I motion that we make a donation to the Museum's go-Restore me page." Carole, "I'm not sure it's prudent to make a donation now. November is when we discussed financials and our annual giving." Jennifer P., "We should make that decision in November." Nancy Edgerton and Skip, "We should table this decision until at least after BCD so that we will have a better picture of our financial situation."

Tech Tips: Ed Wolfe, "I was thinking that until the steering wheel gets restored, we can drive the MGA with a pipe wrench." Ron, "That's an upgrade from the vice grips there now."

For Sale: Sam Hodges knows of a 1953 MG TD for sale. See Sam for more details. I have not had a chance to see the car, but I did talk to the owner. It's a driver car that he's selling because he needs to make room for his new toy, a Nissan GT-R. 77,000 miles, needs wiper motor, asking \$12,500.

Gumball Rally was won by Ron Parks in what was obviously a rigged competition.

Motion to adjourn 8:14ish. Meeting adjourned.



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