

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 7

May 2020



Phil Johnson's Memory Lives On  
Stay at Home Fun

## From the Driver's Seat

Diana Hodges

**D**ay 1,298 of isolation. Toilet paper almost gone. Only 490 rolls left. The locals are restless. Sam tried starting an MG only to discover that the battery was dead even though it's been on a battery tender for years. When he pulled it out, it had a date of September, 2008 on it. Maybe it's time to replace that one.

I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy. We've been largely at home save for a couple of long-way trips to Krogers to pick up a couple of Click-List orders. Funny how Sam made that 11-minute drive into a 48-minute drive. So, here we are in the new world of social distancing and face masks. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Gov. DeWine recently eased some of the restrictions that have kept all of us at home. Unfortunately, several of the events that we've been looking forward to already have been cancelled. Just recently I saw that Centerville cancelled the annual 4th of July festival.



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:

**Meetings temporarily suspended**

## MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### May:

- 4 – Star Wars Day
- 27 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical – **maybe, but probably not**

### Jun:

- 3 – Repeat Day
- 3 – Repeat Day
- 24 – Meeting at Bennet’s Pubical – **maybe**

### July:

- 4 – Americana Festival - **cancelled**
- 9 – National Sugar Cookie Day
- 22 – **Meeting, what meeting?**

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!! (Ya...right)*

So, assuming that we return to normal sometime soon, we’re going to be on our own. Luckily, we can still get together and social distance at the same time. While we may or may not be able to get a burger and ‘supplies’ after a drive, we should still be able to have a drive and at least enjoy the zombies off in the distance. What, you haven’t seen the zombies yet?

Anyway, it’s looking like our year has been pushed back but not entirely cancelled. Maybe we can still have a Tune-Up Clinic, only maybe sometime in July instead. This brave new world is going to require a little outside the box thinking. So, on that note, I ask that all of you put on your thinking caps and try to come up with fun things for the club to do while keeping in mind the expectations of distancing and any other requirements that might come our way.

Let’s all keep thinking hopeful thoughts, staying as safe as we can, and hope that this is all just an unpleasant memory in the not too distant future.

Diana

## Welcome New Member

Carole Looft

Ray Hughes  
5616 Manchester Rd.  
Franklin, Ohio 45005  
513-465-5722  
[rayhughes@mail.com](mailto:rayhughes@mail.com)  
1957 MGA roadster

## Phil Johnson’s Memory Lives On

Ron Parks

**P**hil Johnson would have been pleased with the MG Car Club’s efforts to restore the British Transportation Museum’s MGA Coupe. And, we are sure he would have been pleased with his estate’s contribution towards that end! Pete Stroble, the President of the British Transportation Museum, sent the following email message to BTM members:

It is with great pleasure, surprise, and a bit of sadness that I get to announce the donation of \$6,276.53 to BTM from the Estate of Phil Johnson. Phil was a long-time member of

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BTM and the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre. He enjoyed his show winning MG TD that he had restored. He also had a V6 powered MGB for a few years.

Phil had donated \$1000 to one of our early building fund drives. His donation helped get us the building we are now in. When Phil was downsizing into a condo, he donated many of his garage tools; jack, jack stands, creeper, etc. to BTM.

Phil passed away on March 17, 2020 due to Alzheimer's disease. Phil will be missed. He was always pleasant and thoughtful. Phil was a past President of the Miamisburg Historical Society. His passion for history was shared with his passion for old British cars.

Rest in Peace, Phil.

Pete

## Stay at Home Fun/Torture

Ron & Linda Parks

One of our stay at home activities was to work this 999-piece jigsaw puzzle. This puzzle was a gift at one of our MG Car Club Holiday parties. It is 999 pieces, not 1,000. That is because sometime in one of the puzzle's prior lives, a dog chewed up one piece. It is in the box, just indistinguishable. Many times, while working on this puzzle, we declared that a piece we could not find was absolutely the one the dog ate! Not so, it turned out not to be one of those pieces at all and did not become evident until near the end. This was one of the more difficult puzzles we have ever worked, with so many black and dark blue pieces and greens & yellows appearing several places. The wire wheels were a real challenge and the red on the car was not as easy as one might expect? We worked on it a little each



time we walked by the dining room table during three (3) weeks. And, just think, this puzzle fun could be yours? Do not be surprised if it shows up at our next Holiday party!





## Pictures From Home

**L**ast month (or was it two months ago?) I asked members to send in a picture of their car at home. Carole and Terry submitted this photo of two of their fleet. Even if you're not driving, at least pull your car out into the sunshine for a few minutes (push it out if the battery is bad because you keep forgetting to buy a new one for the last five years) and send a picture.



## Solid State Voltage Regulator

Ron Parks

**I** replaced the voltage regulator on my Triumph TR4A with a solid-state version purchased from Dean Sprague of Vintage Mecha-tronics ( <http://vintagemecha-tronics.com/> ). Skip Peterson referred me to them, having purchased one for his MGA, after talking with Dean at MG2016 in Louisville, KY. The MGA running with a generator uses the same Control Box/Voltage regulator as the Triumph.

Here is the drill, you either send your old Voltage Regulator core or pay a little extra to purchase the entire control box. I chose to send mine to have it converted. All the internal components were removed and replaced with circuit boards.

It is now installed on my Triumph and It works fine. As expected, the amp gauge goes all the way positive for a short time until the computer chip comes alive. Dean told me that my old voltage regulator was going to fail sometime soon anyway. He found some melted insulation inside. This may have occurred when my horn shorted out last year. Dean told me that this new, solid state regulator checks 60 times per second to adjust the charging, so as not to overcharge the battery nor overwork the generator. Both should last longer. My lights still dim somewhat, at slow idle, but not as much as before and they recover quicker. I am pleased with the conversion and feel that this upgrade was well worth the money.



## MGA Coupe Restoration Update

Dale Katzfey

While most of you are NOT working on the museum MGA, I took some parts home and have been working on them. The dashboard is done! The other picture is of the door panel backing. The one that came with the car is severely warped and falling apart, so I cut a new one. I will put the vinyl on later this week. I also have replaced the backing wood on one of the interior panels. Looking good.

I am also working on MY MGA coup. I just sent in the front shocks for rebuilding. I have stripped and am



cleaning the frame from the firewall and back getting it ready to paint.

Staying home has its advantages when working on an auto!



## My MG Slot Cars

Larry Youngblood

As a child growing up, I had an Aurora FX slot car set on a 4' x 8" sheet of plywood. I spent many hours with the neighborhood friends racing and having good times. I stashed it under the bed and when not being used. During my teenage years, there was a slot car store in Vandalia that had slot car setups. I believe it was 1/25th scale cars. I enjoyed many hours there spending my paycheck from Frisch's.



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Prior to Christmas 2019, I had to visit The Hobby Shop on Springboro Pike for supplies. The wife was with me so I pointed out a Scalextric slot car set and asked her if she could arrange for Santa to bring one to me. Well by golly, she must have good contacts because Santa did indeed deliver a set to me.

I set it up on my office floor as the usual oval shaped track. Then, I started browsing on the internet and decided to expand. I moved it out to the garage, got a 4' x 8' sheet of plywood and extras to make a table mounted to the wall. Then, I purchased more track and accessories from The Hobby Shop and online. Now we are starting to do some real racing.

At some point, I noticed that I had an extra 2 square foot or so of adjoining table so I decided to expand the track in that direction. Wise decision, as it makes for a much more enjoyable track experience. BUT...I still would like to expand...will have to figure out how to go up, now.



As money allows, I'm now looking for the Scalextric Control tower, Pit Garage, etc. I won't go crazy with landscaping and greenery. After all, I still have real MGs and need to save a few bucks for replacement parts for them.

I did not lose any space by setting this up in the garage. The table is high enough that I can store a lot of my large items underneath and still have easy access to them.

Of Course the bulk of the slot cars are MG's. Five MGB's and two MGA's. I also have a Caterham, Austin Healey, Astin Martin (trying to keep it British!) and a Porsche 356. The Porsche turned out to be worthless so I will be making it into a wreck alongside the track. I also have a small RC

helicopter sitting in the corner ready for emergency medical evac or security.

Most of the Scalextric cars have working headlights and tail lights. Headlights are not bright or directional enough to race in the dark but those red tail lights sure look neat when the garage lights are off.

The track is open most every day and evening. Some neighborhood kids have been over a few times but it seems they enjoy crashing the cars more than competing. I now have junkers that I let the kids race...no more MG's for them!



Club members are welcome to stop by and try out your racing skills. It can be-come addicting. Bring along your own 1/32 scale MG, if you have one, flip a coin for lane choice and lets see what happens.

My passion for scale British cars doesn't stop with slot cars.



My brother-in-law lives in Florida and spends a great deal of his time visiting the local flea markets. Along with his many other finds, he located this Polistill 1/16 scale MGA Twin Cam model and thought I would like to have it.

The model was missing a part or two and the windshield was broken. I already had two other Polistill MGA's in my collection that had been "restored" so I decided to make a drag racing version out of this one.

I also collect GMP/Acme die cast hotrod and gassers so I had a few extra parts laying around. I put racing slicks on the rear and smaller, skinny tires up front. Under the hood is a big supercharged hemi engine. I made the headers using 1/8" solid solder.



Since the windshield was broken, I simply cut it down. Less wind resistance.

The interior has an aluminum dash insert with all the needed gauges. Roll bar made from plastic stock. No racing harness/seat belts yet. Still looking for a set. May have to scratch build those.

Also looking for a set of Dzus fasteners for the hood and maybe some more racing decals.

Now I just have to find a safe place to display all of my models...

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1970 MGB owned by former member Chuck Irvin. I'd love for someone in the club to give it a good new home. It was stripped to bare metal and repainted in the original British Racing Green in 2010 and has been garaged ever since. 5-speed transmission was installed two or three years ago. It has a fairly new brake system, new fuel pump, new temp gauge, new speedometer, and the wire-spoke wheels

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were tuned recently. Asking \$14,000, (937) 371-7324. If you're not interested, perhaps you know someone else who might be. Also, I will be hosting an estate sale May 21st and 22nd at the 7445 Yankee Street. I'm selling the signs, manuals, parts, or anything else you might find in the garage. (5/20)

**For Sale:** Small tag along trailer originally purchased at Harbor Freight. Works great with MG's. Could even work behind a Triumph! Towed it behind my MGB and the Midget. \$150 OBO. Trailer hitch and wiring harness available at reduced price if you help me remove them from the B. Larry Youngblood, [lyngblldoh@yahoo.com](mailto:lyngblldoh@yahoo.com) or (937) 689-6995. (5/20)

**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](mailto:jgierke87@gmail.com). (1/20)

**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](mailto:thawkins2@woh.rr.com). (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](mailto:srmarkman@att.net) or 937-886-9566.*

## Minutes from April Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

The April Meeting of the MGCC was called promptly to order at 7:30 at the Hodges' home by President Diana Hodges.

President Diana Hodges, "Did you remember to unload the dishwasher?"

Secretary Sam Hodges, "Um...no."

President Hodges continued, "This month's MGCC meeting is going to be a short one as Secretary Sam Hodges has already wandered off to the garage." Diana follows...

President Di, "What are you doing? When it makes that wheezing, dying sound, you've killed the battery. Also, I think you've flooded it. I smell gas."

Sam, "I don't know why. Stupid thing's been on the charger all winter. I just had it running a month ago. Don't know why it won't start now. And the gas smell is from what I spilled filling the lawn mower. Not



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related.”

Diana, “Maybe the battery is just dead. how old is it?”

Sam, “Sticker on it says September, 2008. They’re usually good for 7-8 years.”

Diana, “Um, math. How old does that make it?”

Sam (looking for the calculator on his phone because that’s higher math that would otherwise require the use of a couple of toes in addition to all 10 fingers), “that would make it 11ish years old.”

Diana, “So, then 11 is older than the 7-8 that you previously stated batteries are usually good for, right?”

Sam - Blank stares back.

Treasurer’s Report. The President authorized the Secretary to spend the money necessary to buy a new battery for the ‘77 MGB. All members of the MGCC present voted. Motion approved. Sam was authorized to buy a new battery, but was told that it was coming out of his miscellaneous fritterings allowance so nothing else new for the month.

Next up was Sunshine Committee. Diana had a bit of bronchitis. For a couple of days, she was Fred Sanford and the reaper was at the door and it was Covid for sure. Then her doctor gave her the usual Rx for the annual bout of bronchitis that she always gets and she got better.

Webmaster stand-in Sam Hodges did a lot of surfing. He found a couple of MGC GTs for sale as that’s what he’s been looking for as his next toy. President Diana reset the router password. Sam was sad.

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, “I need your input this week.” Then a couple days later, “Not so friendly reminder, I need your input for the newsletter ASAP.”

Beer Brake was called by President Di at 7:37 because Sam was really starting to give her a headache. President Diana made a supplemental motion to change ‘Beer Break’ to ‘Gin & Tonic Break’ for this month’s meeting.

Back from Gin & Tonic Break at 7:39.

Old Business was up next. President Diana, “Why are the dishes still in the dishwasher?”

New Business, Secretary Sam Hodges bought a new battery for the ‘77 MGB and found out what the new router password is. He’s back to surfing MGs and Corvettes. I just configured a new 2021 C8 online. It’s pretty.

Old Business update, President Diana reset the password for the router yet again.

For Sale. Sam has a slightly used battery for sale. Only used in one car, well cared for.

Tech Tips. If your battery is 11+ years old, it might not work very well.

Meeting adjourned 7:45.

# Car (Song Lyrics) of the Month

## Chevrolet DJ

By Cole Swindell

*Hear it on Youtube*

The volume knob is a little tricky  
Sometimes it gets a little sticky  
From your lip gloss  
It likes to rub off your pretty pink painted fingertips  
One and two are preset to country  
Three and four well that gets it bumpin'  
Got some Willie  
Got some Nelly find you one you like girl  
And give it a spin  
Play it again  
With your Ray Ban sunglasses  
And my Braves hat turned backwards  
Got you winking at me baby it's your show  
I'm driver's side VIP front row  
Keep turning it up and turning me on  
You're a rockstar girl and I'm singing along  
It's like you know what you're doing to me  
Every time you press play  
Yeah, you got me fallen in love my little Chevrolet DJ  
Nights like these are made off the highway  
Stealing kisses as another song plays  
Waking up  
Calling you up  
Tomorrow...



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