

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 8

June 2020



MGCC Coming Back to Life!
Biscuits & Tea, Ice Cream Social Rallye

From the Driver's Seat

Diana Hodges

Well, it's that time again. Wait, there's never really been a time like this, so I guess this is all new. As spring progresses into summer, more and more events are being shutdown by Covid 19. At the same time, other things are opening up.

So, we've decided to take things into our own hands. By the time you read this, we will have had our first MGCC Ice Cream Social Distancing Rallye. As I write this column, the actual drive is still upcoming. By the time you read this, we had great weather, ate some ice cream and a fun time was had by all. So, while Sam is fighting with what appears to be a bad starter motor, I'm thinking about the future. With so many events having been cancelled, it's looking like the rest of the summer is going to be largely the same. While restaurants are starting to re-open, finding a meeting place is still proving to be a challenge. For a brief moment, I actually thought about having a rolling MGCC monthly meeting. While



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

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Upcoming MGCC Events

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?**

Aug:

- 1 – British Car Day - **cancelled**
- 12 – Middle Child Day
- 26 – Meeting – **what’s a meeting?**

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

hesitant to use Zoom initially, unless we find another option, that might be our best solution.

Meeting troubles aside, I’m now asking you to put on your rallye caps and think of things for us to do. While we might not be able to have our normal meeting, if we dust off some of the old drives that we’ve done in the past, we might just find out that we can all get together, spend a Sunday afternoon terrorizing the local citizenry and still adhere to all of the social distancing and gathering restrictions that are now in place. Our new monthly meeting just might become the monthly driving meeting. I think that’s one of the interesting side effects of the times. Being a car club, we can still get together, be social, but by being in our own cars, we’re still social distancing.

I hope that everyone is staying safe, physically, emotionally and mentally. These can be trying times but I’m sure that when the new normal asserts itself, we’ll adopt and adjust and carry on.

MGA Coupe Restoration Update

Ron Parks

Progress was made this month when the masked men of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre resumed work on restoring the 1959 MGA Coupe that was donated to the British Transportation Museum.

Dave Gribler, Ron Ramer and Mike Hirsch bent and installed the Brake lines and attached the wiring harness front to back. Rick Shields tried everything he could to get the brake drums installed on the front, only to learn that we had the wrong brake shoes. I had neglected to check the part number on the brakes shoes that were donated to the effort, assuming they were correct for the MGA. Turns out they were MGB brake shoes and they did not have a notch allowing them to fit over the adjusters. This was sorted, when Skip Peterson asked the question, “What is the part number for these brake shoes?” Oh well! The correct MGA brake shoes have arrived allowing us to complete assembly of the front brakes at our next work-day. Dave McCann and I completed installing the wooden floors. And, lesson learned, if we had it to do over; we would order the pre-cut floorboards. We bought a piece of exterior plywood for less than \$10 and cut the floorboards using the old ones as templates. It took some grinding and drilling to make them fit, but it’s done! The Ed’s, Hill and Wolf, continued refurbishing various parts offsite. Steve Powell cleaned and polished the yoke for the steering column and painted the spiral steering column cover. The reconditioned fuel pump is being shipped back to us by Tom Ball.

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Continuing our efforts to stay safe from the coronavirus, we will be scheduling volunteers a few at a time as we progress towards achieving a running chassis.



Dave Gribler and Ron Ramer installing brake lines



Rick Shield wrestles with brake drums



Ron Parks - Actually doing some work?



- Floorboards installed



Ice Cream Social Distancing Rallye

Diana Hodges

We had a great turnout and perfect weather. We had 12 cars at the start and added a 13th along the way. Ryan and LeeAnn had some car trouble, so they skipped ahead and met up with us in Camden. We enjoyed the drive and even found where deer catch the bus. We mostly social distanced, but I think the pictures show otherwise! Carol and Dave Estell won the scavenger hunt. Carol thanked us for supplying her gag gift for the Christmas party. We ended by having dinner at Bennett's. Ron and Linda Parks joined us for dinner. Looking forward to our next event. Stay tuned for details.





First Biscuits and Tea Gathering Under Threatening Skies

Photos by Steve Markman





Rare Stainless Steel Ford and Lincoln Cars Being Shined Up For Sale

Gary Gastelu | Fox News

Tesla soon will be sending its futuristic Cybertruck to take on the F-150 in the pickup segment, but you'll be able to buy three different stainless steel Fords before it does. The vehicles are not new; Ford and a company known today as Allegheny Technologies worked together in past collaborations to promote the metal.



The 1936 Ford Deluxe Sedan, 1960 Ford Thunderbird and 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible were all manufactured with the Pittsburgh-based steel company's product on their existing assembly lines. Six Deluxe Sedans, two Thunderbirds and three Continentals were built. The cars were all used in the real



world to help promote and test the durability of the rust-resistant material, and the bodies held up better than their conventional counterparts before they were finally parked.

Despite their success, stainless steel hasn't found common usage in car manufacturing because of its cost and the difficulty of shaping it with machine tooling. The latter is a large part of the reason why the Cybertruck and iconic Delorean DMC-12 feature boxy designs. Stainless steel is also hard to paint, which is why Tesla will be providing color options by offering vinyl wraps.

The cars are all currently owned by Allegheny Technologies and will be offered in September at the Worldwide Auctioneers Auburn, Ind., auction. The

company, which made a profit of over \$258 million last year, says it's selling them in the hopes that they'll end up in a collection or museum where they will be more widely appreciated. Worldwide hasn't issued an estimated price for the lot, but another one of the Deluxe Sedans received a high bid of \$550,000 at a Mecum Auctions event in 2010, which wasn't enough to meet the reserve price, according to Autoblog.



Editor's note – The Crawford Auto and Aviation Museum in Cleveland has a 60 Thunderbird and a 66 Lincoln Continental convertible in their collection. I seem to recall that the placard with them stated that these always were the last few cars made during the production year, as stamping the body parts in stainless steel distorted the moulds, making them unusable again.

History of the Drive-Thru:

The innovation that changed the way Americans eat

Michael Hollan | Fox News

Based on recent events, the drive-thru might be one of the most important inventions for the foodservice industry. While they've been around for a long time, drive-thrus are seeing a huge surge in usage during the coronavirus pandemic. After all, most restaurants across the

country still aren't allowed to offer indoor dining, and people looking to get out of the house for a bite to eat don't have to go much further than their car.

But while it seems that almost every fast-food restaurant has a drive-thru lane, there was a time when people actually had to — gasp — get out of their cars every time they wanted to order a burger and fries. The drive-thru has its origins tied to a chain of restaurants called the Pig Stand, which is credited with opening the first drive-in restaurant in Texas in 1921, according to History.com. Customers would park and a carhop would serve burgers and fries directly to their cars. A Los Angeles location of Pig Stand eventually offered the option of bagging up meals for takeout starting in 1931, laying the foundation for what later became the drive-thru.



Red's Giant Hamburg in Missouri opened what is generally considered to be the first true drive-thru in 1947, Money.com reports. A year later, In-N Out Burger opened a drive-thru that used a state-of-the-art (at the time) two-way speaker box. Then, in 1951, Jack in the Box opened in San Diego as a drive-thru only restaurant, coinciding with the growing popularity of car culture in America.

The popularity of the drive-thru has since had a huge impact on the fast-food industry, and not just in how the parking lots were designed. Restaurants that wanted to cater to the car crowd began to focus on easy-to-eat foods like burgers and bone-free pieces of chicken. French fries also became popular, albeit without any messy toppings, per History.com.

But drive-thrus didn't just change how people ate — it affected the design of the automobile itself. Before drive-thrus, cars were rarely designed or manufactured with cup holders. By the 1980s, the feature was considered a must-have in every car.

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 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, lyngbldoh@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. (1/20)

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 April Club Meeting

Sam Hodges
(as inspired by Steve Markman)

President Diana Hodges called the meeting to order at 7:35. President Diana Hodges, “I want to thank Sam for all the great work he's done not only for me, but also for the MGCC and the world in general. He's the most wonderful person that I've ever known.”

After a rousing round of applause, the Vice President's Report was next. Vice President Terry Looft, “I got nothing, other than I think Sam's 'okay'.”

Reading of the Minutes was next. Diana made a motion to correct the Minutes from last month to point out that I'm great and she's wrong about everything that we've ever disagreed on. MGCC members present voted. Minutes approved. Eddie opposed. No, seriously. He sent me a text opposing. I have NO idea how he knew I was writing these?!?

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer (I forget. Is it Bob or Cherri right now? It's been so long. Doesn't matter...) Bob Farrell motioned to reimburse Sam for the battery he just bought since he's just such a great guy. Sam that is, not Bob. Not that Bob's not a great guy, but in the context of the sentence, it was meant to say that Sam was the great guy. MGCC had some money, shouldn't have spent very much money. So we should still have some money. MGCC members present voted. Treasurer's Report approved.

Membership was next. Sam is one of our most best, most enthusiastic members.

Birthdays were next: Sam's is in November, so there are no birthdays this month. None! Not even yours!

Sunshine Committee was next to report. Sam is in great shape for an over weight, middle-aged lawyer. He's completed two metric centuries (100kms) so far this June and is gearing up for his first century (100miles) of the year. He's eager for another driving season to start.

Newsletter. Steve thanked everyone for sending in dozens of their favorite pictures of Sam. He'll save them and run a pictorial feature to show our appreciation of all that Sam does from the club sometime in the future when not much else is going on. Steve concluded with “I can't think of anyone more deserving of this honor.”

Webmaster. Sam has been so good, that Diana has given him the password to the WiFi again. He's very happy.

Activities with Eddie. Saturday June 13th is the first Biscuits & Tea. Sunday June 14th is the MGCC Ice-Cream-Social-Distancing Rallye. Otherwise, I have no idea what's going on anywhere other than my

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driveway. I did manage to wash the Mercedes, put the battery into the '77 MGB and fix a bad trim strip on the Buick.

Bourbon Break called at 8:30 (since I'm not driving anywhere, its a bourbon break this month)
Back from Brake with a fresh E.H.Taylor at 8:32.

Old Business. Since President Diana thinks Sam is such a terrific husband, person, philanthropist, mechanic, carpenter, and gardener, she actually unloaded the dishwasher herself. She also left enough money on his debit card that he was able to buy a bottle of E.H.Taylor in addition to the battery. That's how great she thinks Sam is.

New Business. Sam just opened a bottle of E.H.Taylor. Yum! He also recently made a trip out into Zombieland to restock his severely depleted supply of bourbon. The world looks so different now. Hoards of large lumbering vehicles called SUVs marauding the roads. People texting and driving at the same time. And the Zombies of course.

Tech Tips: Be careful pouring your bourbon. To spill is a crime. That spot on the counter might have something to do with this being my second, but who's counting. Also, neat is the preferred preparation but if you must, a single cube of ice is also acceptable, barely. *(Editor's note – Sam once was asked if he'd rather have Parkinson's or dementia when he gets old. After thinking a minute, he answered Parkinson's. The reasoning was that he'd rather spill half of his glass of E.H. Taylor than forget where he put the bottle.)*

For Sale: Sam still has a slightly used, vintage car battery for sale. Original, one owner, pampered. Never seen snow. I also have a limited edition, collector grade empty bottle of Larceny Small Batch bourbon available.

Gumball Rallye: Sam won a T-shirt that he found in the dryer and \$5 he found in the couch, that I'm pretty sure was mine all along.

Meeting adjourned when Diana woke me up from the MOST WONDERFUL dream I was having and reminded me to unload the dishwasher.

Editor's note – The March newsletter correctly stated that Ron Parks won the Gumball Rallye, but failed to point out that the treasurer was absent, so Ron never received his award. We stand corrected.

MiniMania

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Parts, Service and Restoration for
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