

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 9

July 2020

MGCC Springs Back to Life!
Real Club Meeting Minutes!!



From the Driver's Seat

Diana Hodges

Well, it finally happened. I actually had to go back to being President instead of just telling Sam what to do, that he still wouldn't do anyway. After our Ice Cream Social Distancing Rally, Bennett's was open for us to have our normal meeting. June was the first time since February that we were able to all get together. It was weird being back at the helm.

As we come to grips with the new normal that we're living in, several of our normal summer events have been cancelled. The Cincinnati Concours, the Dayton Concours as well as, and maybe more importantly, Dayton's British Car Day have all been cancelled. We're on the books for 2021, but that leaves us with some time in our schedules for this year. As a result, we've started cobbling together some activities to keep us entertained. We already had the Oxford Drive, and as I'm writing this, the Tune Up Clinic is tomorrow morning. The following



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 22, 2020

MG Car Club Officers

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Upcoming MGCC Events

July:

- 9 – National Sugar Cookie Day
- 18 – Biscuits & Tea
- 19 – Picnic and Halderman Barn tour
- 22 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

Aug:

- 1 – British Car Day - **cancelled**
- 12 – Middle Child Day
- 26 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

Sep:

- 13 – Uncle Sam Day
- 20 – Concours d'Elegance – **cancelled**
- 23 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

weekend will be Biscuits & Tea on Saturday, 7/18, with the visit to the Halderman Barn Museum on Sunday, 7/19. Thank you to Cathy Barnes for planning it! We will be sending an email with more details for the Halderman Barn Museum event.

While these aren't the larger organized events that we've come to know and love, they are, for the time being, our best chance at anything even remotely resembling a normal driving season. The regional event being put on by the Peachtree MG Registry in Dillard, Georgia is looking like this year's new national event. Regardless of what the future holds, we'll figure out the best way to go forward. Whether it's more drives like the Oxford run, where we can all be socially distant but together, or a return to our normal activities, the cars will still be the thing that brings us together and, oddly enough, keeps us apart.

Interestingly, I think that Sam might be looking for some social distancing of his own. After a couple years of neglect, he's been working on both MGBs again and keeps saying things like, "Hey, we can take two cars" with way more enthusiasm than he probably should. I'm going to have to keep an eye on this and report back.

...and maybe stop cutting off his WiFi...

Picnic and Halderman Museum Tour

Art & Cathy Barnes

Familiar territory will be the starting point of the next Pub Run, on July 19 at 1 p.m. launching from Eastwood Metropark. This journey will include some back-road routes to take in a bit of automotive history, then continue on to our annual picnic!

Yes, the MG club's home for the annual British Car Day ... until 2020, that is ... is where we'll create the caravan at 1 o'clock.

Directions will be handed out for a short drive to the Halderman Barn Museum to view the car collection and automotive memorabilia of Gale Halderman, designer of the Ford Mustang. From there, a short drive west brings you to Art and Cathy Barnes' home for the picnic.

Fried chicken, soft drinks and dessert will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish and your favorite flavor of beer or wine. Put in lawn chairs, too. Just RSVP to Cathy (937-206-5860) by July 15 to let us know you're coming and what side dish you'll bring.

Pictures from Tune Up Clinic





Some people really did work!



Some people actually practiced social distancing!

Photos by Ron Parks and Steve Markman

MGA Coupe Restoration Update

Ron Parks

The MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre continued work on restoring the 1959 MGA Coupe that was donated to the British Transportation Museum.

Dave Gribler, Ron Ramer, and Mike Hirsch completed installation of the Brake lines, wiring harness, battery cable and fuel line. As you will see in the photos, installation is done front to back with proper fasteners. Rick Shields had a much easier time getting the brake drums installed on the front, with the correct MGA brake shoes. The Ed's: Hill, and Wolf, continued refurbishing various parts offsite. Steve Powell has the emergency brake handle and will clean and polish it.

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

See pictures, next page.



Front cables and pipe



Rear cables and pipe

Tech Session to be Held at July Meeting

Terry Looft

Tech session before, during, and after the meeting. A very good friend gave me a Snap On digital torque wrench tester. I built a portable stand so we can use it at the meeting. Bring your torque wrench to the meeting and let's check it. Not all are adjustable but we can look and see. If you have paper work on your wrench take a look. Bottom line is to know where your wrench clicks and keep that in mind when you are getting ready to torque that cylinder head or other important bolts/nuts.



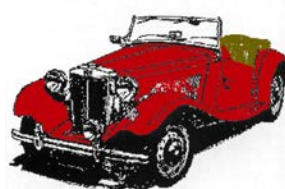
My wrench set for a 60 foot pound break.



Again at it's max of 150 foot pounds. Not bad!

See you at the meeting, Terry.

Editor's note – who's the man with the grey beard?



Dick and Jeannie Smith Featured in Dayton Daily News

HEALTH

Love stays strong amid Alzheimer's

With visitor restrictions Kettering wife shares her feelings over phone.

By Edwina Blackwell Clark
Alzheimer's Association,
Miami Valley Chapter

Richard Roy Smith is a romantic and yes, you have to say his middle name or include his middle initial because there are just so many Richard Smiths.

But this "Dick Smith" is special to his wife, Jeannie Snap Smith. Even though he is in the latter stages of Alzheimer's disease, his wife Jeannie wants to talk about the good times – the times when they were together, the times when he showed her how special and loved she was.

Those times include the 20-second hug. Since they married in 2002, she and Mr. Smith have done the 20-second hug. They would stand in their living room, where they hug each other, and count "One I love you. Two I love you, three I love you ..."

Toward the end, she would say, "I really do love you dear." His response, "As long as the stars twinkle," Mrs. Smith said.

Now that Mr. Smith, 82, lives in the memory care unit at Sunrise Brighton Gardens and COVID-19 has hit, they do their 20-second hug over the phone when the hospice palliative care nurse calls her, she said.

"I tell him 'pretend that I am hugging you.' I said 'I love you.

Dick I will always love you.' "

"He doesn't talk back to me as much," Mrs. Smith, 76, said. But one time, she said, he responded, "Every second."

"He may not remember my name," Mrs. Smith said. "But he knows I love him."

"I do get choked up, I do cry, it's hard," she said. "I am by myself with nobody telling me what to do. I would say the thing that keeps me the best is my connection to God," she said. "I'm too blessed to be stressed and we have to remember our blessings. We cannot dwell on the negative things," said Mrs. Smith, who lives in Kettering.

COVID-19 has changed life for so many, particularly Alzheimer's caregivers. Before the stay-at-home order, she used to visit Brighton Gardens twice a day. As for how she is doing, "I would say better than expected, better than the average person. I know Dick is in a good and safe place ... I have a great spiritual connection and I have accepted what God has given me."

"People want to baby you, I don't want any of that," she said. She said she used to be a school bus driver for kids and she always lived by this motto: "If you have a problem, turn it into a project ... See what you can do about that," Mrs. Smith said.

The Smiths married after an eight-month courtship. She remembers one time when they

Smith continued on E3



Jeannie Snap Smith and her husband, Richard "Dick" Smith. Now that Mr. Smith lives at Sunrise Brighton Gardens, they do their 20-second hug over the phone when the hospice palliative care nurse calls her, she said.

CONTRIBUTED

Smith

continued from E1

were dating, she came to his home and there were stickers, like computer labels, all over the house:

“You are beautiful”

“I love you”

“I want you for my wife”

“He is really so romantic,” she said.

He proposed marriage

pretty quickly. She accepted in May. They were married in August of 2002. “Once we got married, I started noticing things,” she said. “I told his son, ‘Your father has a problem. He has trouble with his memory.’ ”

They sought information and support at the Alzheimer’s Association Miami Valley Chapter. They participated in one of the first early-stage engagement programs. She

still attends a support group. Now the support group meets over the phone. “After you have been diagnosed, you’ve got to go to the Alzheimer’s Association,” she said.

“To be a caregiver is a hard job,” Mrs. Smith said. “I just try to do my best.”

So, she holds on to the memories, like him calling her “sweetie.”

“I told him the average man lives somewhere around 76

years old ... you lived to 76, was very high functioning, you had a good job, a good life, you raised wonderful children ... Dick all you are going to do now is fade, fade away.”

Edwina Blackwell Clark is director of communications of the Alzheimer’s Association, Miami Valley Chapter. She can be emailed at edblackwellclark@alz.org.

Malfunctioning Speed Camera Clocks Ford Focus Going 437 MPH, Driver Ticket Nearly \$1000

Michael Ruiz Fox News

An Italian woman driving a Ford Focus down a coastal highway received a ticket for going hundreds of miles an hour over the limit after a speed camera malfunctioned and police failed to pick up on the error, according to a local report.

The camera recorded her speed at 703 kmph, or almost 437 mph, according to a translation of an article on the Italian car site Autoappassionati. That’s closer to the speed of an airliner than it is to a race car.



And it’s about 100 mph more than the Devel Sixteen – a 5,007 horsepower supercar among the fastest in the world, according to the luxury product publication Luxe Digital. For comparison, the 495 horsepower 2020 Corvette Z51 tops out at 184 mph, Car and Driver reported in October.

The version of the Ford Focus available in Europe can reach a top speed of 155 mph, according to the automotive review site Motor1.

The Autoappassionati report said local police failed to double-check the camera’s findings before mailing the woman a ticket – which placed 10 points on her license and carried a fine of 850 euros, or just under \$1,000. Giovanni Strologo, a transportation spokesman for the community of Offagna, in Ancona province, where the incident happened, advised the driver to appeal to the local government for compensation, according to the report. In a Facebook post, he noted that police should have checked the details before sending the driver a ticket and joked that “even with a missile” the car could not possibly reach speeds that high.

Aston Martin Selling New 007 “Goldfinger” DB5s for Millions

Gary Gastelu Fox News

Automaker Aston Martin is working with the special effects supervisors from the James Bond film franchise, to develop 25 recreations of the iconic DB5 as seen in the 007 film 'Goldfinger.' The coupes will be equipped with functional smoke screen generators, simulated oil slick spreaders, recoiling machine gun barrels that emerge from the front corner lights and feature illuminated flashing tips and a smattering of other gadgets as well.



The continuation cars are powered by a 4.0-liter inline-6-cylinder engine and are equipped with a functional smokescreen system, simulated oil slick sprayer, deployable bulletproof shield, revolving number plates and simulated reciprocating machine guns that deploy from the corner lights, among other features.

The interiors are outfitted just like 007's car with a radar screen, switch panel for all of its special features and an ejector seat button hidden in the gear lever – but no ejector seat. There is, however, a removable roof panel over the passenger seat for effect.



The cars are also the most expensive in Aston Martin's current line at \$3.5 million each, and they come with one major caveat: they're not street legal.

The only DB5 from the film whose whereabouts is known was sold at auction for \$4.6 million in 2010, while a second was stolen from Boca Raton Airport in 1997 and never seen again.

Editor's note: I saw one of these cars at the Spy Museum in Washington D.C. in 2011. It's still there, according to their website. Great museum, btw.



Classifieds

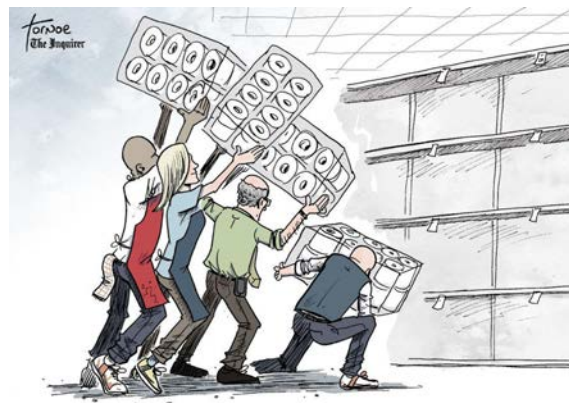
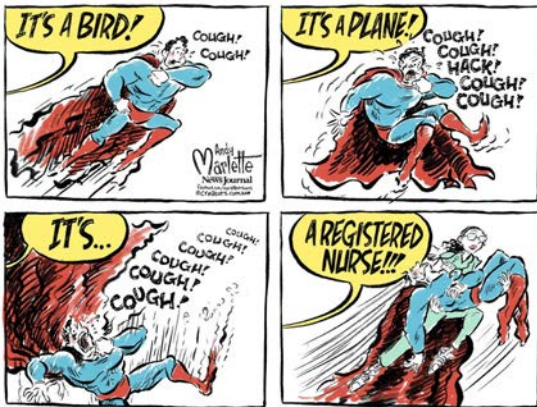
For Sale: 1977 MG Midget. Excellent condition, regular tune-ups & oil changes, Weber carb, runs great, no rust, fresh paint (BRG). 54,500 miles. \$3500. OBO. Call Clay at 937-558-2589 or e-mail hclaywhite@usa.net (7/20)

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. (7/20)

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)

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.

I Still Have a Half Page to Fill, So Here Are Some Good Pandemic Cartoons



Minutes from June Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

The third actual MGCC of 2020 was the June meeting and it was called to order at 7:35 by President Diana Hodges. There were 26 Members in attendance who braved the zombies.

Diana, "It's been a while. I'll let social hour run a little bit." Terry Looft, "I'm not sure that the actual meeting is going to be as fun as the meetings we've been having according to the Minutes. I think we should tack on the meetings she missed onto the end of her term."

President Diana, "It's been a long time, 4 months since the last meeting. We had a lot of fun during the Ice Cream Social Distancing drive. Sam took us down to Oxford on some of his favorite twisty back roads. That's all I've got."

Vice President Terry Looft, "I'm looking forward to having historically correct Minutes instead of the hysterically correct version we've been getting." Secretary Sam Hodges, "Some of it happened, some of it, well..." Carole Looft, "I'd like a correction. Someone actually contacted me over the 4XL t-shirts that were mentioned in one of the prior Minutes. We don't actually have any 4XL." Terry Motioned to accept all the prior Minutes without change. Cathy Barnes seconded. Minutes approved. *(HA! It's official. I don't have to unload the dishwasher!)*

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Bob Farrell, "We've still got some money. The MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$98.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$98.00. We had total expenses of: Website Expenses (\$136.04) + Postage & Misc. related printing expenses (\$139.33) + Erie Insurance (\$240.00) + Mother Club Dues (\$71.74) + POst Office Box Renewal (\$106.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$693.11. Monthly total gains when subtracted from losses means a loss of \$595.11 to the MGCC. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$4,234.06 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$3,638.95 in the primary checking account. The Savings account has been on a run and now has \$381.08. with cash on hand of \$40.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,060.03. Sam Hodges attempted to submit a reimbursement voucher for the battery that Diana authorized. I think there are some MGCC members who are STILL laughing. Ron Parks, "At the last real meeting, I won the Gumball Rallye, but I never got paid." Dave McCann, Jr. motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Art Barnes seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer's Report approved as reported.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, "We have 66 members on the books right now. We have 1 new member, Ray Hughes, owner of a 1957 MGA roadster *(the best year!)*. Ray, "I bought it when he was in college in Oxford around 1975. Sometime around 1979 it was parked. It's been stored inside and now I'm trying to get it back on the road." Carole, "Welcome to the club. We've got a number of people with MGAs, so if you need any help, we're here."

Carole continued. We missed some birthdays while we've been away. March Birthdays were: Nancy Edgerton, Ron & Linda Parks, and Rachel Johnson. April birthdays: Linda McCann, Tim Dunham, Dave Estell, and Mike Maloney. May birthdays: Sue Scocozzo, Leeann Looft, Mary Planeaux, and Torrey Looft. June birthdays were: Tony Shoviak, Steve Veris, Diana Hodges, Cherri Farrell, and Kathy Goodman.

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer Peterson is missing. Eddie Hill, "We're all here so I assume we're all healthy." Everyone agrees. Since we're all present, everyone's healthy.

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Newsletter was next on the agenda. Sam Hodges, “I’m going to make this announcement even though I know I’m going to regret it. Steve sent me an email that he wants pictures of me for a future article on how great I (Sam) am.” Several members took pictures of me. This will not end well. *Editor’s note – dum de dum de dum dum...*

Website Administrator John Scocozzo is also absent. Much like the Sunshine Committee report, we all agree that since the internet is still working, the website is good.

Activities with Eddie. Ed Hill, “Everything’s cancelled.” Terry Looft. “We’re going to the Peachtree MG Registry, Southeast MG Festival.” Dave McCann, Jr., “It’s currently scheduled for September 17-20 in Dillard, Georgia. It’s a regional event for NAMGAR and NAMGBR.” Terry Looft, “We figure we’ll take 2 days going down and make it a relaxing drive.” Ryan Looft, “It’s a regional event that’s turned into an unofficial national event since everything’s been cancelled everywhere else.”

Jim Carson, “The Hamilton, Ohio Classic Car Show & Parade is accepting entries. The Cincinnati British club was invited. It will be held July 25th. Postwar cars are \$10. On a related to Sunshine Report note, the last time I saw you I had a bad knee and no car. Well my knee’s been fixed and my 1973 MGB is across the street.”

President Diana continued. “We all got word from Skip that BCD 2020 has been cancelled by the Dayton Metroparks. Our money is refunded and they’ve got us on the calendar for the first week of August in 2021.”

After scheming with Mimi, Diana, “The Tune Up Clinic is July 11th with a rain date of July 25th.” Dave Johnson, “Biscuits & Tea will be the following Saturday, July 18th at 10 a.m.” Diana, “The Tune Up Clinic is at 9:00 so the coffee should be flowing sometime around then.” Eddie Hill, “I’ll do the donuts if the donut shop is open. Stan’s has been closed.”

Beer Break called at 7:53. New Member Ray, “I’ve never been in a club with a beer break before.” Back from Brake at 8:09.

President Hodges, “Who’s Old Business tonight? Who’s going to take the mantle?” Ryan Looft, “I think it should be Dar.” Dar, begrudgingly accepted the mantle.

New Business has been covered by discussions of the Tune Up Clinic.

Cathy Barnes, “I’d like to propose another pub run with a twist. The Halderman Barn Museum. I’ve contacted them and they’re okay with us doing a visit. The plan is that we’ll go to the Halderman Mustang Barn and then go back to the Barnes’ house for a picnic on Sunday, July 19th. We’ll meet at Eastwood Park at 1:00, road trip up to the Barn and then go to the picnic.” (*You should have already received an email with more information.*) Gale Halderman was the designer of the Ford Mustang. This is the focus of his collection. Terry Happensack motions to have the MGCC pay for the main dish food. Diana, “Do we want the MGCC pay for the main dish and then bring our own sides?” Jim Carson and Lois Gribler second the motion that the MGCC pays for main dish (Chicken) and we bring sides. The MGCC votes and approves. (*Apparently, Eddie also doesn’t object if it involves food. Interesting to know.*).

British Museum of Transportation. Ron Parks, “I want to thank those who’ve been showing up. We’ve made a lot of progress. We got the brake lines installed, wiring harness and floors are in. Dave & I organized all the fasteners. We should be putting the engine and transmission back in pretty soon.”

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Tech Tips. Terry Looft, “How many people have a torque wrench. I’ve been gifted a torque wrench calibration machine. I can bring it to the next meeting and set it up so we can see where they break.” Steve Veris, “You’re gonna break my torque wrench?” Terry continued, “This is one of the good machines used for certifying torque wrenches for aircraft repairs. I’ll set up it up. I’ve got to mount it on a base, but that should be easy.”

Dave McCann, Jr., “I recently purchased this tire pressure monitoring system called ‘TPMS’ fittingly enough. It’s a small unit that can be either solar or battery powered. There are pucks that go onto valve stems to monitor pressure. The system is \$50 from Amazon. They also have sensors that can be mounted inside the tire as well.” Terry Looft, “What’s the range? Can I monitor my car at home if I’m out?” Steve Veris, “What’s the battery life?” Dave McCann, “It’s supposed to be several years.”

For Sale. Ron Parks, “I have 2 biscuit colored seat. \$150 for one or two for \$300.” Ryan Looft, “I was just told I’m for sale.” Diana to Leeann, “Quarantine getting to you?” Leeann, “Ryan. The kids. Buy one get one free.”

Gumball Rallye was won by Leeann Looft. Carole, “I told the kids if you won that they could split it.” Leeann, “Grandma was being silly.”

Motion to adjourn made at 8:28. Meeting adjourned.



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