

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 10

August 2020

Photos from Recent Activities  
BCD 2020 Photos



## From the Driver's Seat

Diana Hodges

As I sit here trying to put into words the events in the world around us, I can honestly say that if you asked me five years ago where I'd be in five years, this isn't it. Okay, I might have been able to predict the Presidency thing, but all the rest of this? Nope. Un-fortunately, after consulting with several people, including the folks over at Bennett's, we made the decision to cancel the July meeting out of an abundance of caution. So, we're going to keep playing this by ear on a month-to-month basis. Hopefully, there will be some form of normalcy that will allow us to get back to what we all love. Drinking beer.

Now that we've embraced the country life, Sam's lucky that with cellular phones, he no longer has to climb the telephone pole to make a phone call. Of course, he did buy a John Deere tractor. As usual, Sam has now become an expert on John Deere. (I think he found the end of the internet this time.) One of the things that he ran across is the



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, August 26, 2020?**

## MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### 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?

### Oct:

- 2 – National Name Your Car Day
- 28 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical?

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

ongoing right-to-repair battle that John Deere is having with farmers. If you're not familiar, in a nutshell, JD says that despite you spending \$500K+ for a tractor, you don't actually own it because of the intellectual property rights surrounding the software. You only have a license, just like your iPhone. I know that there have been similar right-to-modify issues surrounding new cars as well. I think it's just a matter of time before we get there. Before the release of the new C8 Corvette, there were rumors circulating that the engine ECU would not be able to be modified by aftermarket tuners. As it turns out, GM relented and left the ECU modifiable, but the hand writing is on the wall.

As Sam and I were having this conversation, (yes, these are the types of conversations that we have) he pointed out that we currently own 5 cars that do not have motherboards. That got me thinking that Sam might get his wish of a no-motherboard dream car garage: a 1970 Mercedes Benz 600 for luxury, a 1978 K5 Blazer as our SUV (and an oil well to fuel it), and, of course, the MGs and maybe a pre-computer Corvette for our sports cars. A nice list, if you ask me. He might have a point.

It's not just tractors, cars and phones. Basic things like software are becoming more and more "rented". Ten years ago, I bought Adobe and used it however I wanted. Now, it costs \$9.99 per month for a license to use with no option to buy. The way things are going, old-school low tech just might be the wave of the future. I'm not ready to reinstall a landline telephone yet, but if this licensing thing keeps going, I'm going to start buying more vinyl albums and dust off my record player. I guess this is what they refer to as being a retro-grouch. I'm there.

## Membership Renewals for September

Carole Looft

**A**s a reminder, when September rolls around and it is time again to renew your MG Car Club membership, we have had to increase our dues for this coming year. Membership is \$25.00 for club members who will be receiving the newsletter by email. Those members wishing to continue with a paper copy of the newsletter will need to add an additional \$10.00 to offset printing and postage making their total \$35.00.

In the event we have to continue to cancel in-person meetings, please send your dues to:

MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre  
P.O. Box 20032. Dabel Branch  
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

Remember, you have to be a paid-up member to vote for new officers. We'll figure out how to have elections in the event we still have to cancel meetings.

As we go into a new year, we hope to see some normalcy return so we can get back to enjoying and driving our cars.

## Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Jeff & Barb Fisher  
2093 Hilltop Rd.  
Xenia, OH 45384  
937-422-4139  
[jeff-fisher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeff-fisher@sbcglobal.net)  
1950 MG TD



## Pictures from Halderman Museum Tour

Photos by Ron Parks



## Pictures from July 18 Biscuits and Tea

Photos by Ron Parks



## What is “Top Tier” Gasoline?

Steve Markman

**T**wo things happened in the last few weeks that got me interested in this topic. I’d heard the term “Top Tier” before, but assumed it simply meant name brand from one of the big companies, such as Shell, BP, etc. Turned out that I was wrong.

My local shop always is pushing for periodic use of numerous fuel system cleaning products as a preventative, even if the engine is running just fine. They cost \$10 - \$20 each, with an hour or so labor to apply, and then requiring an oil change since some of the sludge this stuff supposedly cleans out winds up in the oil. It’s not unusual for this to come to several hundred dollars.

I wrote to Bob Halderman, who writes a column in the Wheels section of the Saturday Dayton Daily News. His advice was that this cleaning is not necessary as a preventative, and only needs to be done if the engine starts running roughly or I notice other abnormalities. It’s my assumption that if deposits start

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to form, the engine's computer can make minor adjustments to keep the engine running smoothly up until it can't adjust any more, at which point you might start noticing a change in the engine performance and notice the "check engine" light might come on (or you might not, depending on how much attention you pay while driving).

Then, the Car Talk article in the August 8 Dayton Daily News talked about gasoline. It stated:

Modern fuel-injected cars run best (over a long period of time) on what are called Top Tier gasolines. Those are gasolines that have a higher level of detergent additives than the EPA requires.

The whole Top Tier thing was started by a group of manufacturers that felt that gasolines weren't doing enough to keep their advanced engines clean. So they pestered a bunch of major oil companies into raising their standards. And that's how Top Tier gas got started.

Top Tier gas has extra additives, especially detergents, that (sic) reduce deposits in the fuel system and help keep expensive parts like fuel injectors clean. And today, the vast majority of major brand gasolines sell only Top Tier gas. Those include well-known brands like Arco, Amoco, BP, Citgo, Chevron, Exxon, Mobil, Phillips 66, Shell, Sunoco, Texaco, Valero, and others you've heard of. Plus some you may not see advertising like Kirkland Signature Gas from Costco.

To see a full list, go to <https://toptiergas.com/licensed-brands>.

To save you the trouble, here's the list:

<u>76</u>	<u>Fast Fuel</u>	<u>Ranger Fuel</u>
<u>ARCO</u>	<u>HFN - Hawaii Fueling Network</u>	<u>Ranger Mustang</u>
<u>Aloha</u>	<u>Harmons Fuel Stop</u>	<u>Ranger Stallion</u>
<u>Amoco</u>	<u>Hele</u>	<u>Ranger Thoroughbred</u>
<u>BP</u>	<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Reeders</u>
<u>Beacon</u>	<u>Irving Oil</u>	<u>Road Ranger</u>
<u>Break Time C Stores</u>	<u>Kirkland Signature Gasoline</u>	<u>Rutter's</u>
<u>Breakaway</u>	<u>Kwik Star</u>	<u>Shamrock</u>
<u>CITGO</u>	<u>Kwik Trip</u>	<u>Shell</u>
<u>Cenex</u>	<u>MFA Oil</u>	<u>Simonson Station Stores</u>
<u>Chevron</u>	<u>Marathon</u>	<u>Sinclair</u>
<u>Conoco</u>	<u>Metro Petro</u>	<u>Texaco</u>
<u>Costco Wholesale</u>	<u>Mobil</u>	<u>Tobacco Outlet Plus Grocery</u>
<u>CountryMark</u>	<u>Ohana Fuels</u>	<u>Valero</u>
<u>CountryMark PLUS</u>	<u>Phillips 66</u>	<u>Value America</u>
<u>Diamond Shamrock</u>	<u>QT</u>	<u>WOW</u>
<u>Express Mart</u>	<u>QuikTrip</u>	<u>Win Win</u>
<u>Exxon</u>	<u>Ranger</u>	

*Editor's note – My two favorites, Kroger and Sam's Club, aren't on the list. Neither is Speedway, but it's owned by Marathon, which is on the list. I'll look into this and hopefully let you know in the next issue.*

## BCD 2020 Photos



Registration



Show Field



Concession Stand



Vendor's Row



Parking Lot



Play Ground

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:srmarkman@att.net) or 937-886-9566.

## Minutes from July “Meeting”

Sam Hodges

So, after a brief attempt to return to normal, and a spike in National coronavirus cases, the July 2020 meeting was cancelled out of an abundance of caution. I can tell you that based on the comments received, it was a 50:50 split between those in favor of cancelling and those who wanted to press on with the meeting. Heavy lies the head that wears the conductor's cap. So, on that note...

The July 2020 meeting of the MGCC was called to order promptly at 7:30. President Diana Hodges, “What? The dishwasher is STILL full!?” Secretary Sam Hodges, “Hey, at least it's clean now.”

President Diana continued, “Tonight's meeting of the MGCC is going to be a short one. There isn't really much to cover. We'd like to thank Art & Cathy Barnes for planning and hosting the Halderman Barn Museum Drive & Tour and the picnic afterwards. Unfortunately we weren't able to make it that weekend. On another note, keep watching your email. There's a London to Brighton Tour currently being planned that we'll be tackling later as our Fall Tour.”

Vice President was next. As neither of us heard from the Looft's this week, it's safe to say that V.P as well as Membership have nothing to report.

Secretary's Report was next. Secretary Sam Hodges motioned to accept the Minutes as reported in the last Newsletter. Diana rolled her eyes, but didn't object, so I'm taking that as a second. MGCC voted. Minutes approved.

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Treasurer's Report was next. We had some money, we spent some money, we got some money (maybe?) On a somewhat money related note, I bought a new trunk floor mat for the Corvette. It's embroidered with Z06. Looks nice. Both MGB's are running fine, which is ironic since I don't really have anywhere to go. The MGA has stalled since the pandemic hit and I've been using that to get out of doing a lot. Di, "I need you to go to the store..." Me, "Can't. Pandemic." Di, "Can you at least get the mail?" Me, "Can't. Pandemic." Di, "There's NO excuse for not unloading the dishwasher," Me, "Can't Pandemic." Yeah, I know I'm pushing my luck.

Membership was next. Were you not paying attention two paragraphs ago? I haven't heard from Carole, so I don't know.

Sunshine Committee was next. While mounting a 60lbs wheel weight on the back of the big John Deere (2320), I accidentally dropped it on my foot. No real damage was done. The weight is still good. My foot broke the fall. There's a small scuff, but I think the weight will be fine. Otherwise, everyone is doing fine.

Newsletter was next. Despite the lack of a meeting, that hasn't stopped Newsletter Editor from sending out his "friendly reminder" followed by the "not so friendly reminder" when I fail to get my input to him by the "deadline." At this point, I'm afraid that if I'm ever early, Steve will have a heart attack, and I doubt we ever could replace him. Steve's been writing our newsletter since 2003, when Ron Parks passed it off to him after complimenting him on an article he wrote (smart move, Ron).

Website. Secretary Sam still has the WiFi password and was actually ordering various parts and items not only for the MGs, but also the Corvette as well. I fear that my access is not long for this world.

Old Business. Since Diana's older than me, and there are no other members present, Diana is old business. Diana, "HEY!"

Martini break called at 7:35. Didn't it take me long to drive her to drinking...  
Back from Martini break at 7:45.

President Diana, "Since I've just been thoroughly insulted, I'm going to ignore you and move along.

Sam, "In that case, I make a motion that we extend Diana's tenure as President to cover all the meetings that she's missed. Hey Di, can you come here a second (knowing full well her standard reply...) Diana, "Okay, a second." Sam, "HA! you said it. You just seconded my motion." All in favor, It was a one for/one against vote. In the event of a tie, the Member-At-Large is the tie-breaker. In this case however, I think that shovel in her hands is the REAL tiebreaker.

Other new business, as mentioned, Dave McCann has planned a London to Brighton drive so look for more details in an email coming soon.

In other new business, it looks like I'm going to need a place to socially distance from my wife for a little while, as I'm not sure that I'm safe at home. She's sleeping with that shovel under the bed! Between me using the pandemic to avoid doing anything, the age joke and that motion stunt, I really don't blame her if she does plant me out back like a fern. I kinda have it coming.

Tech Tips: Sam, "If you're stuck at home with your significant other, happy wife, happy life."

For Sale: Diana, "One pudgy, middle aged lawyer. Not house broken, but somewhat useful with a

wrench. Will trade for a loaf of bread, preferably marbled rye.”

Motion to adjourn 7:55.

(Good grief... Nothing better ever happen to him. I'll be facing hard time if anything does... -Di)

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## Miscellaneous Automotive Photos

Collected by Steve Markman

Again, I've got a bit of space to fill, so here are some photos I've saved from numerous emails over the years. Hope you enjoy them.





air conditioning at Texas drive-in restaurant, 1958