

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVII No. 6

April 2021



In Memory of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
Thank You from Linda and Ron Parks

From Under My Car

Terry Looft

At long last we had a real, in person, meeting last month. Lots of members turned out for the meeting after being cooped up for so long. It was good seeing everyone! I'm hoping the trend will continue.

By the time you get this we should have had a successful and good weather tune-up clinic, provided the doughnuts showed up. We will report on its success or failure at the meeting. The weather being only somewhat cooperative, we have been getting in some little car driving around town locally. Let's hope the weather warms a little more quickly than it is right now. But then, isn't that what Coupes and GT are meant for? Hoping for top-down weather soon, right?

The MGC project is progressing although there have been a few small setbacks along the way. Also things like taxes, broken lawn mowers, yard work, and such is still getting in 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 **twenty-five (\$25.00)** 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:

Next meeting April 28th

MG Car Club Officers

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And special thanks to Ron Parks for proofreading.

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Apr:

- 5 – Read a Roadmap Day
- 28 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

May:

- 4 – Star Wars Day
- 16 – Spring Drive
- 26 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

Jun:

- 3 – National Chocolate Custard Day
- 6 – British Return to Fort Meigs
- 23 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

way. The engine is complete. We still have carburetors and distributor yet to overhaul, but the engine is now mated with the transmission and ready to stuff into the body. It should be coming off of the rotisserie possibly tomorrow and go on to the lift to further work underneath the car with the engine installed. Are we on track for Atlantic City, we shall see?

We should have a good meeting in April, so please try to come out if you can. We do have some things to discuss; BCD is the big one right now. We still do not really know the status of our show. Hopefully Skip will have an update for us.

Our Spring drive is scheduled for May 16th. We will hear more about that when we get together on the 28th. I'm sure we are all anxious to get out and exercise our little cars by then.

One last thing. Cecil Kimber turned 133 on April 12th.

That's it for now, hope to see you at the meeting.

In Memory of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



Welcome Back Former Club Member

Carole Looft

Jeff Opt
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opt13@aol.com
1972 Midget

MGA Coupe Project

Dave Gribler

The most recent work session took place on April 10 with Ron Ramer, Ed Hill, Mike Hirsch and Dave Gribler in attendance.

The project is nearing the end of the initial phase of the restoration with the chassis work nearly complete. The running gear along with the suspension are installed on the chassis. Once the engine is running the focus will shift to the body and paint work.

The valve cover was painted during the previous session but still needed to have the new MG logo and patent plates riveted on. Also the new oil filler cap cable tether had to be secured in the slot below the neck. Once those tasks were completed the valve cover with new grommets and gasket was installed.

Some rectification was required for the new vacuum advance line bracket prior to installation as it was bent in a non-factory configuration. After some straightening the bracket was installed and the vacuum advance line was fitted and eventually connected at both ends after some experimentation with various hand and body positions. We all agree that it is fortunate that the body is not installed on the chassis at this point in the reconstruction as access to various items is much more convenient.

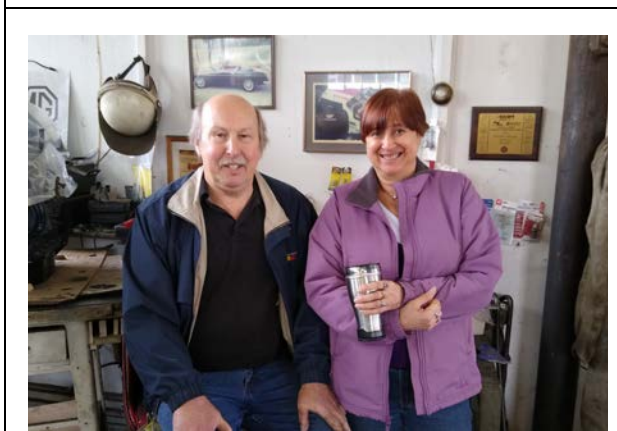
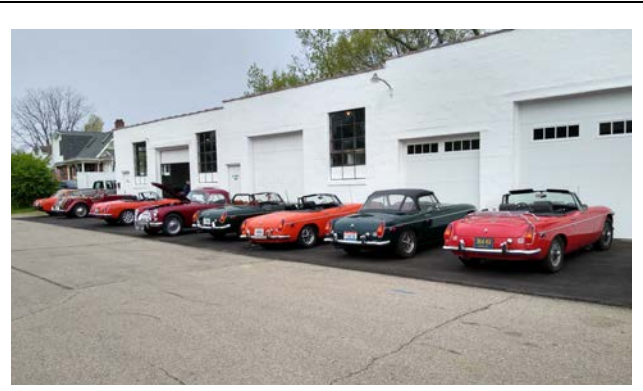
The coil mounting bracket and coil had also been painted at the previous session and were ready for installation. The clamping screw and nut that secure the coil in the bracket have gone missing but were deemed unnecessary at this stage. Hardware was located to mount the coil in its place atop the generator. The distributor point gap was checked and the engine timing set at the 10° BTDC mark with the handy crank handle. The distributor was installed and timed with the points just ready to open and the electrical connections were made to the coil.

After testing a number of the loose batteries in the museum work bays we finally found one with enough usable amperes. Ed Hill provided a set of jumper cables to substitute for the battery ground cable that we didn't have and power was applied to the starter. Unfortunately the needle on the oil pressure gauge never disengaged from zero after multiple attempts. One last attempt was made with the hose from the engine block to the gauge disconnected but no oil would spew forth. It was close to noon so we voted to adjourn for the day. We'll recalibrate our situation and figure a way to prime the oil pump before our next session. This can usually be done by running oil down the oil filter line at the back of the block and turning the crankshaft counterclockwise.

At this point we're really close to the goal of getting the engine to run. Once we get the oil pump primed and can generate oil pressure, there are just a few fairly simple things that are needed: top off the cooling system, install the plugs, distributor cap and wires, add fuel to the tank, apply power and let fuel pump

pressure up, check for fuel leaks. Finally once all of these items are sorted out we should be able to pull the start switch and see the engine spring to life!

Pictures From Tune-Up Clinic



Thanks again to Steve and Mimi of MG Automotive for hosting this year's Tune-Up Clinic

Thank You! Form Linda and Ron Parks

We would like to thank everyone for the anniversary cards and well wishes! You made celebrating our 50th Anniversary very special and lots of fun! While we could not have an in person party because of the pandemic, our daughters' notifications to everyone made going to the mailbox a fun daily event! We are grateful for your sharing in our celebration.



Ron and Linda then.



Ron and Linda now.

Microfiber Towels

Steve Markman

Dry off your car the right way.

After washing your car, you need to use the right towel to wipe away excess water and soap. Even if you go to the trouble of using the finest wash products, using a bathroom towel to dry your vehicle will risk scratching your vehicle's paint. Prevent this by using a microfiber towel.

What is a microfiber towel? It's a piece of cloth made of polyamide, polyester, or a combination of these fabrics. Each fiber used in the towel is smaller than a single silk strand and about 1/100th the diameter of a human hair. This gives a microfiber towel its extreme durability, preventing it from shrinking, wrinkling, or stretching after repeated use. The polyester used in a microfiber towel also allows it to absorb lots of water yet dry quickly. These properties also help prevent the formation of mildew, as the towel never remains wet for long.

But their real advantage is preventing abrasion to your car's painted surfaces. As their name suggests, their "micro" fibers are so tiny that they can grip and lift dirt into the towel away from the surface of the vehicle. Regular towels made of materials like cotton typically will just spread dirt around when they are wiped across the surface of a car. In addition, when a microfiber cloth's fibers rub together, it creates a static charge. The static charge improves the cloth's ability to clean even more, because the charge attracts dirt particles. The more polyamide in the blend, the softer the towel will be and more appropriate for sensitive surfaces like your car's paint. Not only are the towels not abrasive themselves, they also lift dirt away from the surface. This reduces the chance of debris scratching the surface as the towel is wiped across the vehicle.



There are several features to consider in a microfiber towel, including:

Pile height: Microfiber towels can come in short, medium, and long pile heights. The shorter the pile, the more all-purpose the towel. You'll notice that short-pile towels are more rigid, while long-pile towels are soft and plush. Generally, you want to use a short pile on non-sensitive surfaces like dashboards or plastic trims, a medium pile for applying or removing car wax, and a long pile for buffing and drying your vehicle.

Material ratio: As previously mentioned, microfiber towels are usually a combination of polyester and polyamide. The best microfiber towels are at least 80% polyester and 20% polyamide. This combination makes the towel super soft while still absorbent. Towels that have a higher amount of polyamide may be more absorbent but less soft. But, a super high polyester towel may produce more lint.

Texture: Some microfiber towels are waffle weave, while others are suede smooth. Waffle weave towels are more absorbent and better to use when drying, while suede smooth ones are better for polishing.

Before you buy, consider your planned usage for a microfiber towel. For example, if your main goal is to polish and buff your car, you might want a suede smooth towel with a long pile. However, if you're interested in detailing or drying off your plastic trim, try a short-pile towel with a waffle weave texture. You may want to keep different types of towels on hand.

Finally, think about buying your microfiber towels in bulk. This way, you'll always have a clean one ready to go—and it's usually cheaper.

Sources: Truecar.com and Automotivetrainingcentre.com

Car (Song Lyrics) of the Month

Build Me Up, Buttercup Baby
Recorded by the Foundations, 1968



Why do you build me up (Build me up)
Buttercup, baby
Just to let me down? (Let me down)
And mess me around
And then, worst of all (Worst of all)
You never call, baby
When you say you will (Say you will)
But I love you still
I need you (I need you)
More than anyone, darling
You know that I have from the start
So build me up (Build me up)
Buttercup, don't break my heart

"I'll be over at ten", you told me time and again
But you're late, I wait around and then (Ba-dah-dah)
I went to the door, I can't take any more
It's not you, you let me down again (Hey, hey, hey)

Baby, baby, try to find (Hey, hey, hey)
A little time and I'll make you mine (Hey, hey, hey)
I'll be home, I'll be beside the phone waiting for you
Ooh ooh ooh, ooh ooh ooh

Repeat first verse

O.K....I know this isn't a car song, but it's featured in the latest Geico motorcycle insurance ad on television, and most motorcycle riders love their motorcycles as much as we love our MGs. Every time I see it, I can't get the song out of my head for hours. I guess that's what a good advertisement is supposed to do. Sure beats the commercials featuring the silly green lizard with the phony British accent, at least.

Steve Markman's Ship Model Exhibit

Steve Markman

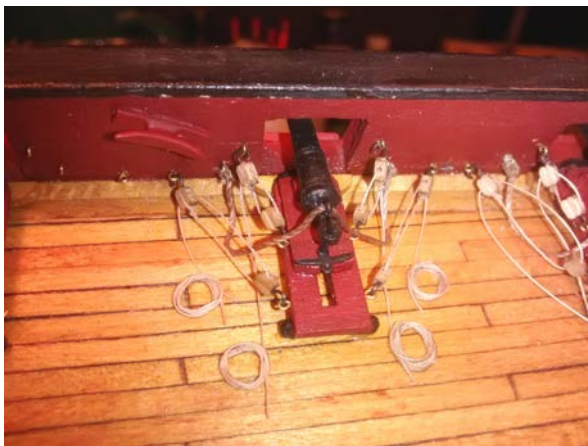
Most of our club members have many hobbies. Besides maintaining and driving my MG TD, my other passion is building wood models of historic sailing ships. I started this about thirty-five years ago, and after building my first model, I was hooked on the hobby. I've only completed eight, with my current effort being the *U.S.S. Constitution*. These models usually take about five hundred hours or more each to build, usually spread out over three to five years. I was honored this month by being selected by the Centerville Arts Commission to display five of them at the Centerville police station during the month of April. The station is located at 155 West Spring Valley Rd. in Centerville. The collection has been displayed only twice over the years, and one of them spent a year on display at the Wasa Museum in Stockholm in 1997.



Dutch Friesland, 1663



Swedish Wasa, 1628



Deck detail of U.S.S. Syren, early 1800s. The cannon is only about an inch long.



Stern of the U.S.S. Constitution, my current project. Note the copper plating on the hull.

Car Folks Deal With the Pandemic



Classifieds

For Sale: 1970 MGB. It is a restoration project and I just don't have the time to give to it. It has a hard top and a soft top and chrome bumpers. It has been stored in my garage for the past 7 years. If interested we can send pictures. Asking \$3,000. Valerie Powell, clpowell428@gmail.com. (4/21)

For Sale: 1950 MGA project car. Vehicle has new cam shaft bushings; crank was ground (-.330 down) and stored correctly; missing carbs and manifolds. My dad was an MG enthusiast, and this was his last project before he passed away a year ago. We want to see it go to a good home to complete the restoration. Asking \$2500 or best offer. Located in Plain City, Ohio. Please contact Krista Precourt for more information at kprecourt10@gmail.com, or 805-427-5334. (4/21)

For Sale: Honeycomb grill (1973 & 1974), good condition. Asking \$75. Reasonable offers accepted. Ron Parks, H 937-322-0717, C 937-207-9009, or MGdriver@woh.rr.com. (3/21)

For Sale: 1979 MGB. New Stayfast Acrylic top, new top frame, new tires (as of summer 2020), working AC, new wiring harness, trailer hitch with wiring, twin Su's, Fiero seats. Asking \$7500. Call Larry Youngblood at 937-689-6995. (1/21).

For Sale: Hayden Electric Fan, used, excellent shape. Listed in the current Moss catalog, MGT-154 on p. A27. \$35 includes shipping. Dan Mortensen, agsdanny@aol.com or 859-384-7821. (1/21)

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, dry, and security system. Electric for battery maintainers. Terry Looft 937-527-7353 or tlooft@earthlink.net. (10/20).

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. srmarmarkman@att.net or 937-886-9566.

Minutes from March Club Meeting

Diana Hodges

Sorry, but our secretary was absent from the March meeting and no one else will admit to haven taken the minutes.

MiniMania

MG AUTOMOTIVE

Parts, Service and Restoration for
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and
Related Autos



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