

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLVIII No. 6

April 2022



We Have a New Treasurer!!  
Automobile Safety Glass

## Fast Idle

Ed Wolf

Greetings Club members and Happy April. Spring is here and the driving season has begun. Hope you are able to get out and drive as weather permits over the coming weeks.

It's time for Spring cleaning. This concept could probably be applied to the garage, I suppose. Organize the tools, get rid of the unnecessary items, and make room for the next project (You might even find that wrench that's been missing!). Clear off space on the workbench, or at least be able to find the workbench again. Dispose of the unnecessary, and organize everything that is left. Now, to find a way to distinguish the unnecessary from the necessary—and that is the exact spot where so many of us get stuck—and resort to dusting things off, moving them around, and calling it a day. Through experience, we've learned that the simple act of getting rid of something causes an immediate increase in the probability



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 27<sup>th</sup>**

## MG Car Club Officers

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And special thanks to Ron Parks for proofreading.

### Inside This Issue

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Apr:

- 5 – National Read a Roadmap Day
- 23 – Tune Up Clinic (rain date May 7)
- 27 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

### May:

- 1 – Fly-In and British car show at Moraine AirPark
- 9 – National Lost Sock Memorial Day
- 15 – Tour of Waco Museum
- 21 – British Transportation Museum Car Show
- 25 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

### Jun:

- 14 – National Pop Goes the Weasel Day
- 22 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

that it will be needed again. And, after all, who really wants to tempt fate like that with a vintage British car?

Hoping to see you at the next event or out on the road.



## Special Election for New Treasurer

**S**ue Scocozzo was elected our new treasurer at our last meeting. Cheri Farrell is resigning her position because she is leaving the Dayton area and no longer can continue these duties. Congratulation to Sue, and we wish Cheri the best in her move to live closer to family.

## Dillard, Georgia, Sept. 15-18, 2022

Carole Looft



**E**very two years, the Peachtree MG Registry of Atlanta hosts the Southwest British Car Festival in Dillard, Georgia. All marques of British cars and motorcycles are welcome. We attended this event in 2020 and will be returning in September. The host hotel is the Dillard House Inn, which is nestled in the countryside of Dillard.

This car show is a laid-back, enjoyable and relaxing get-together for fellow car enthusiasts. If you would like to drive along with us, we are planning a two-day drive to Dillard driving most of the way on Highway 23. Reach out to Terry or me for more info if you would like. We'd love to have you attend with us. (See flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.)

# Automobile Safety Glass

Steve Markman

**G**lass has been around for thousands of years. It probably was discovered when someone lit an especially hot fire on the beach, causing the silica in the sand to melt and congeal into a shinny blob as it cooled. People realized that they could use these shinny blobs for useful items, such as beads for jewelry, eventually learning how to make useful items such as plates and bowls. They also discovered that by adding certain other elements into the molten blob, either intentionally or unintentionally, that they could make the blob translucent, and eventually, even just about clear. By the middle ages, glass was used for windows, but it wasn't very clear nor was it smooth. However, it was the perfect medium for stained glass windows, as different chemicals mixed with the molten glass produced vibrant colors as the sunlight shown through.

By the way...glass is not a solid, but neither is it a liquid—supercooled or otherwise. It is called an amorphous solid—a state somewhere between those two states of matter.

Jumping ahead a few hundred years, the process was refined enough to make clear glass windows. Early cars were little more than motorized carriages, but drivers soon demanded more protection from road hazards like flying rocks, especially as speeds increased. Windshields first were introduced in 1904; most were a horizontally-divided piece of plate glass, the glass being just like the glass used for house windows. When the top half got too dirty to see through, a driver could fold it down. By 1913, Reo offered a windshield as optional equipment. In 1915, Oldsmobile was first brand to include the windshield as standard equipment.

As cars became more popular and affordable, a rise in accidents was inevitable. When one of these early cars was involved in an accident, it was not uncommon for the driver and occupants at a minimum to be injured by flying shards of glass, or far worse, lose their life after going headfirst through the windshield. There are stories that even Henry Ford was injured by flying glass in an accident. Sadly, seat belts, which would have at least kept occupants in the vehicle, still were almost a half-century away.

There are two great advances in glass-making that greatly improved the safety of automotive glass. The first was tempered glass. Tempered glass is made by cooling the outsides of the hot sheet of glass quickly while the inside cooled more slowly. This resulted in different amounts of stress within the finished sheet of glass, so that when the sheet breaks, it splinters into tiny fragments that are much less dangerous than large chunks. As with many great discoveries, this one also came by chance. A glass-maker allowed a blob of molten glass to drop into a vat of water, quickly cooling the outside layer. He (or maybe it was a she, I don't know) noticed that he could hit the blob with a hammer and it wouldn't break, but if he hit the tail end that hadn't been in the water and had cooled normally, the entire form shattered into uncounted tiny pieces. I have no idea why he hit it, but fortunately he realized his discovery.

The second advance was laminated glass. Two European inventors developed glass laminating, Frenchman Edouard Benedictus and Briton John C. Wood. Benedictus made an accidental discovery in his lab. As the story goes, in 1903 he was working with cellulose nitrate, the clear plastic used for film, and put a flask he'd been using on a shelf. Benedictus bumped that shelf, knocking the flask to the floor. It broke — but the pieces held together, pretty-much retaining its original shape. He eventually concluded that the cellulose nitrate left in the flask had dried and held the glass fragment together. After experimenting further, Benedictus developed safety glass, two layers of plate glass with a layer of

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cellulose between them, and promoted its use in automobiles. Unfortunately, it was costly and both manufacturers and drivers had a strong interest in keeping cars affordable. Though Benedictus was granted a patent in 1909, the product was not put into use until World War I when laminated glass was used in the goggles of gas masks. Meanwhile John Wood in England also had been working with cellulose and devised another method for adding a protective layer (originally tree resin, later cellulose) between two pieces of glass and also creating shatter-resistant glass. His method was patented in 1905, ahead of Benedictus. In late 1919 Ford began using laminated glass, and directing its use in all Ford cars over the next decade. It eventually became the standard for all manufacturers around the world.

Another aspect also helped improve safety. A urethane glue was used to bond the glass to the frame. When an unfortunate occupant was thrown against the laminated glass, the shattered pieces remained in place, keeping passengers from being ejected. Its strength even added a bit of structural integrity for the car if it rolled over.

In 1926 Rickenbacker offered safety glass as a standard feature all the way around its car. By 1937, safety glass became mandated for all cars. Changes occurred slowly throughout the years with innovations like the curved windshield from Studebaker in the 1940s, making the manufacture of laminated glass more difficult. Manufacturers began using tempered glass for side and rear windows in the 1950s.

One significant problem with early laminated glass, however, was that its inner celluloid layer would discolor, darken, and become brittle over time. In 1938 Carleton Ellis patented a clear synthetic resin that did not discolor. Beginning in the late thirties, manufacturers started using Polyvinyl Butyral (PVB) which made laminated glass clearer and stronger and even helped block high frequency sound and harmful ultraviolet rays.

Beginning in 1966 cars came equipped with improved laminated windshields that could withstand nearly three times the impact of earlier versions. In the 60s and 70s, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards were set for the strength and clarity of laminated windshields (FMVSS 205); windshield retention strength during accidents (FMVSS 212); roof rigidity in rollover accidents (FMVSS 216); and limits on windshield penetration (FMVSS 219).

Nowadays windshields continue to grow in complexity and sophistication. Windshields are larger and often more raked. Some provide increased visibility with a windshield that extends up into the roof above the driver or one that wraps around to the side of the car. Modern windshields can filter 95-99% of ultraviolet rays. Since the 90s, a hybrid film with dye to absorb heat and microscopic metal particles to reflect sun rays has provided significant reduction in infrared rays and consequent internal heat gain.

Today, laminated glass is required for all front windshields, but, despite continued government pressure to change, tempered glass typically is used for side and rear windows. There's a reason for not using laminated glass all around. What if the car should roll over jamming the doors shut, or the car should wind up in deep water and the occupants can't force the doors open? Using a sharp object, the occupant can shatter the side glass and escape. It also would be easier for rescuers to cut into a vehicle to free trapped passengers. Well, that's what the manufacturers claim, anyway, and apparently there are good arguments on both sides.

Sources:

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## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1974 MG B Chrome Bumper with “Sabrinas.” Originally and currently painted “Mirage” that was only used in 1974. Ownership history thru current (8<sup>th</sup>) owner. Complete restoration 2008-2012 including inner/outer sills. Car in Sparta, TN. Asking \$19,000. For photos and details contact Charlie Bunnell; [cebunn3@gmail.com](mailto:cebunn3@gmail.com), selling for a friend. (4/22)

**For Sale:** 1973 MGB, yellow, currently not running but all there...\$2000. Contact Dave Schwager, 937-751-4872 (11/21)

*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. If you wish to continue the ad for an additional three months, contact [srmarkman@att.net](mailto:srmarkman@att.net) or 937-886-9566.*

## Minutes from March Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

The March 2022 meeting of the MG Car Club, Southwest Ohio Center was called to order by President Ed Wolf precisely at 7:30. There were 27 members present.

President Ed Wolf, ‘It’s spring now but it’ll be winter this weekend.’ Skip Peterson, “They’re calling for snow.”

Vice President’s Report was next. Vice President John Scocozzo, “I got nothing.” Ed, “You came all this way to say you had nothing?”

Minutes were next on the agenda. President Ed, “Did anyone read them?” Dave McCann, Jr. motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Skip Peterson, “My name was used a couple of times when I wasn’t here.” Skip seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved as reported.

Treasurer’s Report was next. The MGCC had gains of: (\$49.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$49.00. We had total expenses of: February Gumball (\$10.00) + Website Renewal (\$107.88) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$233.88. Monthly total gains when added to the loses means a loss of \$184.88, to the MGCC. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$4,522.62, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$4,337.74 in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$382.38, with cash-on-hand of \$30. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,750.12.” Ed Hill motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Dave McCann, Jr. seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s Report approved.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, “There were no new members. We did have 1 renewal. Membership now stands at 65 members.”



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Charlie McCamey called to thank the us for the card that we sent and all of the birthday wishes. Birthdays this month were: Rachel Johnson, Ron & Linda Parks.

Lois Gribler, “I have a complaint. My birthday wasn’t in the newsletter for January.” Terry Looft, “Now we have a correction for the Minutes.”

Carole Looft continued, “Sunshine committee?” Ed Hill, “You always want to skip Sunshine.” Terry Looft, “She thinks I’m still president.” Ed Wolf, “Hey, I’m not just a puppet up here.”

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “May 21st the British Museum is having a car show. 321 Homewood St.” Skip, “How much does it cost? We’re going to donate some canned goods. What time?” Terry Looft, “It’s all day.” Ed Hill continued, “Is there an initial Biscuits & Tea for 2022?” Skip, “Cars and Coffee start April 9th.” Dave Johnson, “The next Saturday would be a good day for Biscuits & Tea. April 16 it is then. Bring your own coffee, tea and car.” Sue Scocozzo, “Shouldn’t it be Scones & Tea?”

Eddie Hill continued, “Fort Meigs, Perrysburg, the NAMGAR meet in Colorado Springs were all in the newsletter.” Lois Gribler, “The MGC meet is going to be in Chattanooga, TN Oct 6-9th.”

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft, “We met up with Mary Planeaux, she’s glad for the card. She’s still having the dizziness issues, but her doctors are working on it. Ryan Looft had surgery on his rotator cuff and he can’t drive for 3-weeks. The tear was pretty extreme. He’s got 4-pins in his shoulder.” Skip, “He’ll never play football again?” Carole, “That or play the piano. Mary Oricko passed away. Her husband Mike & son Tim were original members of the MGCC.”

Ed Hill, “I do have one thing that I forgot.” Jennifer Peterson, “No, you’re done.” Ed, “On Sunday, May 1 there’s a Sunday morning fly-in that we were asked to participate in. It’s early morning, we should be home by noon. I’m also trying to plan a tour up to the Waco Museum. They want us there on a Sunday around noon. I’ve got a route planned out, but I’m trying to not make it a long route since we’d have to leave around 11:00. May 15th is the tentative date. Keep an eye out for more details.”

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, “Besides being very embarrassed that I made a mistake in the newsletter, I don’t have anything. I hope you enjoyed my article on vehicle guidance systems. I’ve got two articles left so start sending in your articles. Someone brought up the idea of my running for Treasurer. I already control the club media. If I take over finances, then I might be accused of being the club oligarch.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “I still got nothing. The internet is still there and working.”

Beer Brake called at 7:55.

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- VISIT COOL MUSEUMS, THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND THE U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER
- BASK IN THE GLOW OF COLORADO SPRINGS, THE "LONDON OF THE WEST"

June 6-10, 2022  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

MGCC  
MGC

"FAMOUS FOR ITS SOPHISTICATION AND GENTLE VIBE, COLORADO SPRINGS EARNED THE NICKNAME THE "LONDON OF THE WEST" IN THE 1800S. AND IT STILL MEASURES UP. TRIPADVISOR JUST RANKED COLORADO SPRINGS 7TH AMONG THE "TOP 25 EMERGING DESTINATIONS" IN THE WORLD. BEST GET HERE BEFORE THE STAMPEDE."

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

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Back from Break 8:05.

Old Business, Lois Gribler, “I think it’s me.” Skip, “Duck Jennifer.” Carole, “It’s Dave McCann, Sr.” Dave, “If you put that down, I’m not coming back until next year.”

New Business. Carole Looft, “The election of a Treasurer is next.” Ed Wolf, “Hey, who’s running this meeting?” Carole, “I want to nominate Sue Scocozzo for Treasurer.” Jennifer, “I’d like to second the nomination.” Lois, “I’d like to motion to close nominations.” Sue Scocozzo, “Hey, hey hey, this is going too fast.” MGCC voted. Sue Scocozzo has been elected Treasurer. Let the record reflect that Skip provided two monopoly fives to cover the Gumball debt.

Ed Wolf, “Any other new business? What’s the story with your new vehicle Terry? I thought I saw a Miata out there.” Terry Looft, “It’s a 1996 MGF, 5-speed, airbags, ABS, it’s a modern car in every way. Corners like it’s on rails. It was originally a Japanese export that got re-imported back to the U.K. This one was only in Japan 2-years. it only has 47,000 miles. It does have the rare factory hardtop.” Skip, “If we put the two of them (Ryan & Terry’s MGFs) in a garages for a while, think we’ll have a third one to sell?”

Tech Tips. Ed Wolf, “Is that a trumpet in your bag or are you just happy to see me?” Terry Looft, “Just don’t ask him to play you a tune on it.” Dave Gribler, “In reference to the Editor’s article about SU carbs and their simplicity. I take issue with that. SU carbs are easy to maintain as long as they are maintained from the start. If they’re not properly maintained, then they’re impossible to maintain.” Terry Looft, “A lot of the time when there’s a problem, it’s the linkage, not the carb.” Ed Wolf, “Then why do they put them right on top where they’re easy to get to?”

For Sale? Terry Looft, “Leeann is selling her 1966 MGB V6 automatic with A/C. It’ll probably be on Bring a Tailer unless I get a good offer before then.”

Skip, “British Car Day. We met a week ago on Zoom and found the Claiborne Grille to be the food truck. It took a few weeks to get the Metro Park to allow food trucks. We will also have an ice cream vendor. The Park District continues to create rules and regs. We have an assigned person, Valerie Clagget who has stated they’ll come the day of the show. We don’t have permission to drive cars on the lawn on Friday night. Everyday it’s a new rule, I’m waiting on their next meeting for the next round of rules. Spitfires & Daimlers will be the featured cars along with the MGB. We still need to rent the portable toilets as well as a dumpster which may or may not show up.”

Ed Wolf, “The April meeting will be the same place, same time.”

Gumball Rallye. Terry’s new MGF won the Gumball. Carole, “I put one in for us and I told him to put one in for the car.” Terry, “The car won.”

Meeting adjourned 8:29.



[www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org](http://www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org)  
321 Hopeland St., Dayton, OH 45417

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## In Memory

Remembering some friends we've lost along the way with whom we shared good times and many happy miles.



Gary Kinney (2007)



Jasper Cemino (2009)



John Zeno (2010)



Barbera Smith (2011)





Dick Goodman (2012)



Joe Hooker (2013)



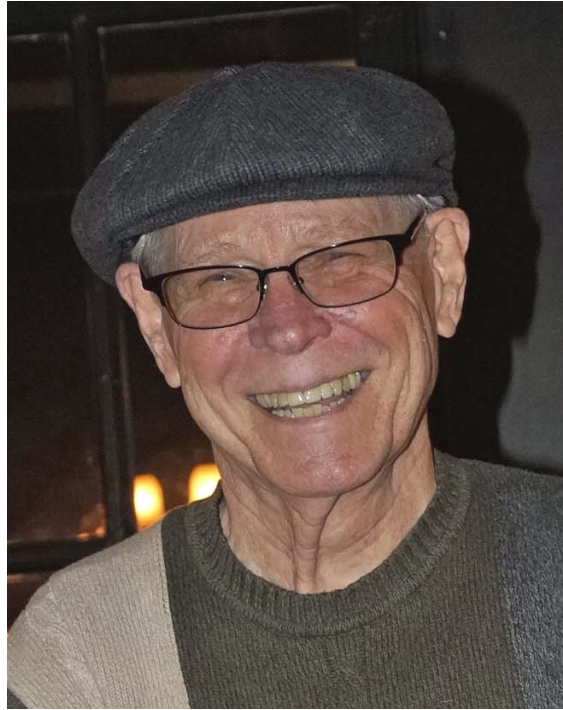
Bill Hammond (2014)



Pat & Reuben Wasserman (2014, 2019)



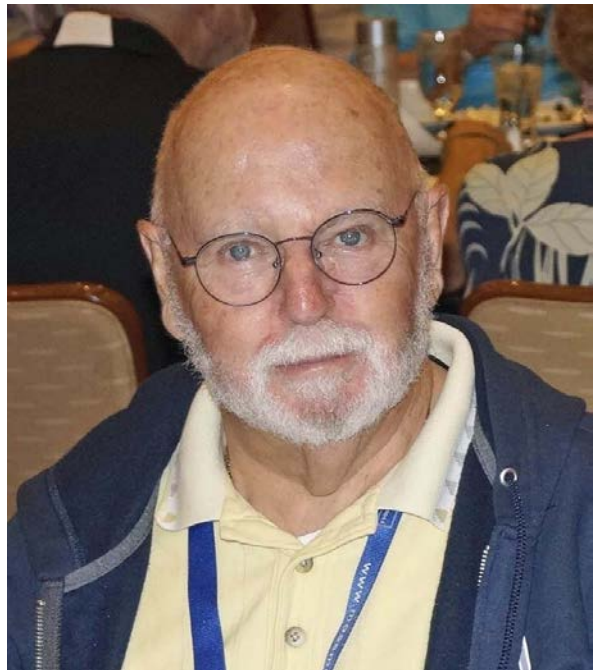
Louie DiPasquele (2015)



Dick Smith (2019)



Phil Johnson (2020)



Bob Farrell (2021)



Jim Carson (2021)

Bob Kraft



**Save the Date!**

**The Southeast British Car Festival**

Dillard, Georgia

September 15-18, 2022

***The Peachtree MG Registry of Atlanta presents:***

A Southern British Car Weekend in the mountains of North Georgia

All marques of British cars and motorcycles are invited to participate. Self-driving tours, guided tours, wine tours, local arts and crafts, silent auction, great food and fellowship.

Hosted by The Peachtree MG Registry at:

**The Dillard House Inn, Dillard, GA.**

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