

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XLIX No. 1

October 2022

New Officers Elected  
Fall Drive Pictures



## Presidential Musings

Dave Johnson

Well, you guys finally succeeded in shanghaiing me into being the President for this new term. Since there are no funds for a ghost writer, you are stuck with my ramblings for the next few months. I am digging through my books looking for a copy of Robert's Rules, so I will know who is out of order and who is not. Stay on your toes, I'm going to try to run a tight ship.

So, who is your new President? Why on earth did you guys think this would be a good idea? Since no one is going to get me my drinks for free... And even though I might be quick with a joke, or to light up your smoke... But there's some place that I'd rather be... (Thanks to Billy...)

I did not grow up in a sports car loving house. Never had the money to indulge myself in those kinds of fun toys. My first MG ride came when



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 October 26<sup>th</sup>**

### MG Car Club Officers

**President.....Dave Johnson**  
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And special thanks to Ron Parks for proofreading.

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## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Oct:

24 – Pluto Demoted Day  
26 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

### Nov:

5 – Guy Fawkes Day  
8 – Election Day  
13 – Sadie Hawkins Day  
16 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical  
(One week early because of Thanksgiving)

### Dec:

No meeting – happy holidays

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

an instructor at Davis Monthan AFB loaned his early 60’s MGB to myself and my roommate for the long Memorial Day weekend. It had been set up for “racing” with all the interior removed. Racing seats and belts were installed. My roommate did not know how to drive a stick, so I got to drive that car the whole time. We drove all over the desert, down to Tombstone, and up to the snow on Mt. Lemmon outside of Tucson. I had a blast! It would take me almost 36 years before I owned my own MG.

My best friend in life gifted me his 1950 TD before he passed. His first car was a TD, and he had bought this one to restore. Abe, and his first MGTD is the cover photo for the British Biscuits & Tea group on FaceBook. Unfortunately, he became sick and never had the chance. He was going to give it to the Indianapolis MG Club until I piped up and told him it would never leave the family, if he would give it to me. It was non running, and my sons and I did not get it on the road till the following year. The car has undergone some restoration work, but still needs to be completely torn down to make things correct and right. Maybe one day...

So, what should you really expect from me? Who knows! I will probably figure that out by August of next year. Buckle up; it may be a bumpy ride for all of us.... I can guarantee you that it probably will not be politically correct...

## New Officers Elected

At our last meeting, the following new officers were elected (*editor’s note – more like railroaded*) to the following positions:

President:	Dave Johnson
Vice President:	Ron Parks
Secretary:	Diana Hodges
Treasurer:	Sue Scocozzo
Member at Large:	Dave McCann, Sr

In addition, all appointed officers agreed to continue in their positions. Congratulations to all and we’re looking forward to another great year of club activities.



# Fall Tour

Ron Parks

Sunday October 9, 2022 was a beautiful day to be driving an MG in Ohio. That's exactly what we did in three MGs and one Jag. We met at the Xenia Station bicycle hub in Xenia, hung around for a while, used the facilities, took some pictures and left on the tour at 2:15pm. It was a beautiful, curvy and hilly drive south on OH-380. Turning west on US-22 took us past the Valley Vineyards in Morrow and on into Loveland for our visit with Charley McCamey. Charley's daughter, Colleen, wheeled him out for a little parking lot party. We had a nice visit with Charley, and he got to see some MGs. Some of his fellow residents there enjoyed looking at our cars too. There was talk of us bringing our MGs down there in the spring for a little car show. We could even let the residents vote for their favorite MG. After our visit, we made the short drive to the Monkey Bar and Grill. There was an unknown MGB already there along with two new Corvettes. Clearly, others were out enjoying the nice fall day, too. The Monkey Bar & Grill was nice! Our table on the patio, outside overlooked the Little Miami River. Beer and Pizza was good! Our small, but enthusiastic, tour group had a good time!



## Final Notice ! Membership Renewals Are Due Now!

Carole Looft

**Y**our membership renewal is now due. Dues are \$25.00 for club members who will be receiving the newsletter by email. Those members wishing to receive a paper copy of the newsletter by snail mail will need to add an additional \$10.00 to offset printing and postage, making their total \$35.00.

**NOTE:** The pro-rated amount is for **NEW** members only.

We appreciate your continued support of the MG Car Club Southwest Ohio Centre.

## Iron, Steel...What is the Difference?

Steve Markman

**T**he very first automobiles were based on horse-drawn carriages, but with the horse replaced by either a gasoline or steam engine, or an electric motor. They were made mostly of wood and fabric, with a few metal parts. But if it weren't for modern metals like iron and steel, we couldn't have cars as we know them today. But what exactly are iron, steel, and other variants in common use? Out of ninety-two elements that occur naturally in nature, about seventy are metals. These include elements like lead, copper, zinc, tin, and of course, iron. Each has its own unique characteristics, making it more useful for specific uses than other metals. Iron is one of the most widely used metals and the most abundant in nature.

Iron is a shiny, silvery metal with the atomic number 26. (Every element has an atomic number, based on the number of protons in each atom, but you don't really need to worry about that.) Iron also is ferromagnetic, meaning it's attracted by a magnet. Iron is also the fourth most common element in Earth's crust by weight and much of Earth's core is thought to be composed of iron. While it is the most abundant of all metals, iron in its pure form corrodes rapidly from exposure to moist air and high temperatures, i.e., rust, thus seldom is found naturally in its pure form.



Archeologists estimate that people have been using iron for more than 5,000 years. Some of the most ancient iron known literally fell from the sky. Researchers examined ancient Egyptian iron beads that date to around 3200 B.C. and somehow determined that they were made from iron meteorites.

The surface of Mars is red due to the large amount of iron oxide (rust) on its surface, more than twice as much iron oxide in its crust than Earth. Earth's solid inner and liquid outer cores are composed primarily of iron (approximately 85 percent and 80 percent by weight, respectively). The electric current generated by the liquid iron creates the magnetic field around the Earth that protects us from various types of radiation. Iron is found in the cores of all of the planets in the Solar System. The word iron come from an Anglo-Saxon word, "iren," and possibly derived from earlier words meaning "holy metal" because it was used to make the swords used in the Crusades,

At the earth's surface, iron exists mostly as an ore, the most common one being the red-colored ore of iron combined with oxygen (i.e., rust). Thousands of years ago, someone must have built an extremely hot fire around some red rocks and discovered the silvery hard material that remained as the fire cooled.

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I guess the rest is history.

Metals are elements, meaning they contain only atoms of that one element. Alloys consist of one or more other elements intentionally mixed with the metal and usually not found naturally. This gives them properties that make them more useful than using pure iron. (BTW, for you non-chemistry folks, any combination of elements, whether metal or not, is called a compound.)

Steel and iron are two of the most common materials used in manufacturing industries. They are used to make a wide range of products and components. Steel is an alloy of iron consisting primarily of iron and carbon. The carbon atoms are dispersed throughout the iron's crystal structure and thus change the mechanical properties. While iron and steel look similar, they are two unique materials with their own properties and qualities. Steel, is both harder and stronger than pure iron. This addition of carbon is what distinguishes steel from iron and gives it different properties. By weight, steel contains about 2.14% carbon. Although that's a relatively small amount of carbon, it results in significant physical changes. Higher amounts of carbon make the steel harder, but also cause it to become more brittle.

Stainless steel is a popular steel alloy that contains chromium with only a small bit of carbon, giving it its rust-resistant properties. Other elements, even in small amounts, contribute additional desirable properties to various other steel alloys. These include manganese, silicon, nickel, phosphorus, molybdenum, and sulfur.

You often see fancy metal grillwork in gates, railings, and ornamental applications, and refer to it as "wrought iron." Most likely, it isn't, as wrought iron hasn't been made for a long time. The term "wrought" means "forged," which was a crude process of hammering the iron to work out impurities, but it still left the iron full of defects and contamination. The process of making wrought iron is obsolete and has been replaced by modern refining processes. Items still are made to look like fancy wrought iron, but such objects usually now are made of steel or aluminum, some even (yuck) plastic. If you ever see an article guaranteed to be real wrought iron, it probably was made from material salvaged from an older item.

The process of extracting iron from ore, refining it, and then making it into the various alloys used today, then molding or shaping it far exceeds the intent of this article. Maybe some other time.

Sources:

<https://monroeengineering.com/blog/iron-vs-steel-whats-the-difference/#:~:text=The%20primary%20difference%20betwe en%20iron,mixing%20iron%20and%20carbon%20together.>

<https://www.qcforge.com/forging-innovations-blog/iron-versus-steel-what-is-the-difference/>

<https://calawton.com/iron-casting-history-part-1/#:~:text=Archeologists%20believe%20that%20iron%20wa s,spearheads%2C%20tools%20and%20other%20trinkets.>



## Classifieds

**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 and dry. Electric for battery maintainers. Terry Looft 937-527-7353 or tlooft@earthlink.net. (10/22)

**For Sale:** 1968 MGB. Beautifully restored and maintained. Salsa red (VW color). Starts, runs, drives, and stops as a new MG should. Driven less than 10,000 miles since 2010 restoration. New factory-style tubeless wire wheels and new tires, both approximately two years old. Multi-year winner Best in Class, British Car Day, Dayton, Ohio. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$18,500. stephen.ramsey68@gmail.com. (10/22)

**For Sale:** 1950 MG TD. Right-hand drive, cream white. Currently partially disassembled, but all original bits and pieces have been accounted for, and many new parts are included (new gas tank among many others). It is a very solid, complete (except for the interior), all original numbers-matching car. Asking \$7000. stephen.ramsey68@gmail.com. (10/22)

**For Sale :** Miscellaneous parts for 73 MGB, including side mirrors, headlights, and windscreen glass. A few other parts might be there. These are from Jim Carson's car. Contact Margo Carson at 513-899-3808 or carsonfam@juno.com (9/22)

**For Sale:** 1953 MG TD project car in. need of complete restoration. This car is in Beavercreek and available for viewing by appointment. More details and pix available. Joe Batka, 937-429-3412 (8/22)

*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 srmarmkman@att.net or 937-886-9566.*

## Minutes from September Club Meeting

Sam Hodges

President Ed Wolf called the September meeting to order for the last time (*for now*) precisely at 7:29. President Ed, "When I took office, gas was \$4.00/gallon. Look at it now."

Vice President's Report was next. Vice President John Scocozzo, "I actually have one this month. I want to thank Ed for being at every meeting for the whole year and not making me have to do anything presidential. I also want to thank you (Ed) for the tech tip you gave me about repairing small motors. I had the need to fix a mower and I repaired it based on the knowledge you gave me. Thank you. If someone decides to nominate me for President, I will decline. I just want to get that out now."

Minutes were next on the agenda. Dave Gribler motioned to accept the Minutes as reported even though he remembered a mistake that he couldn't remember exactly where or what it was. Ed Hill seconded the motion. MGCC voted. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Sue Scocozzo, "The MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$435.00) + Regalia (\$27.00). Total gain to the MGCC was \$462.00. We had total expenses of: Gumball Rallye cash (\$1.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$1.00. Monthly total losses when subtracted from

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the gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$461.00. When added to our beginning balance of \$4,115.79, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$4,576.79 in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$382.00, with cash-on-hand of \$40.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,998.79.” Art Barnes motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Dave McCann, Sr. seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s Report approved.

Membership Chair Carole Looft, “Thanks to those who have already paid and renewed their dues. Ed, your final tally was 72 members.” There are 26 Members present tonight.

Birthdays in September: Dave McCann, Jr., Dave Gribler, Ed Hill, Ryan Looft, Linda Chase Bill Hunter, Susie Shield, Terry Happensack. Lois Gribler, “All the people celebrating the holidays made these September babies.” Carole, “Including Ryan.” Terry Looft, “I think there was alcohol involved.”

Activities with Eddie were next. Terry Looft, “Stowe, VT was a really wet drive going up but the weather in Stowe was gorgeous. Carole got a 1st place, Dar got a 2nd, I got a 2nd. Had horrible rain coming home. We spent the night at home, repacked the cars and then went to Dillard, GA. Weather there was gorgeous. Very enjoyable and affordable too.”

Ed Wolf, “Presidential material just walked in (Ron).” Carole, “I’m speaking for Skip. Give the report that the concours was a great turnout and it was a good show. And if elected as President, he won’t serve.” Ed Hill continued with activities, “As far as I know, the season’s over.” Dave Johnson, “Just because Ed said the seasons over, we’ll have another British Biscuits & Tea.”

Sunshine Committee. Carole, “Mary Planeaux is in the hospital. She’s having surgery for lower G.I. pain issues at Kettering.” Ed Wolf, “I got bit by Steve Markman’s dog.”

Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, “If you send me something and I don’t use it in a reasonable time, remind me, sometimes things fall off the bottom of the screen. I don’t do this by myself. Terry does distribution and Ron is my eagle-eyed editor. Ron spotted an issue in the last newsletter. (*Let’s just say autocorrect thinks ‘Marmon’ could be a lot of other words. Same for ‘Muster’. Mistakes happen. Others will be blamed*).

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “Thanks for all the uploads and information. It’s going up online as we speak.”

Ed Wolf, “That brings us to Beer Brake.”

Beer Brake called at 7:43

Back from Break at 7:50.

Old Business. President Ed, “Sounds like maybe we don’t have any.”

New Business, Ed, “Do we have any new business besides the fact that it’s election month?” Lois Gribler, “It’s not really new business, but our daughter Joanne, whom most of you know, won the Maryland Ironman. She was 32nd overall out of 1036.”

BCD Revenue. Dave Gribler. “Yes we made some money, but I haven’t done any final accounting. I just deposited what should be the last check.” Ed Wolf, “Is that a new Rolex you’re wearing, Dave?”

Dave McCann, Sr., “How about a simple drive down to Hueston Woods for something to do? Something simple.” Lois, “Sam knows where the ice cream shop is down there.”

Ron Parks, “How about a Pub Run? We can swing by Charlie McCamey’s place on the way to Yellow Springs maybe? I’ll put something together. We can still do the fall drive.”

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Tech Tips. Terry Looft, “I don’t know what happened. We went to Vermont and Georgia and nothing broke. You get lulled into a sense of security. All those extra parts and tools.” Dave Gribler, “And they were totally unnecessary.”

Dave Gribler, “My tech tip is to take a look at your distributor baseplate. I was having an issue with the car not running right and I finally traced it to the distributor baseplate. The plate is designed to move with the vacuum advance. If you take a look at this one, there’s a little notch worn in that was preventing it from rotating like it should have.” Terry Looft, “It’s amazing, they last 50-years and then they just quit. So the real tech tip is to change you distributor at 49-years.

For Sale, Steve Powell, “I have 5-Dayton wire wheels that came off a Ford Thunderbird. They’re free to whoever will come and take them off my hands.”

Terry, “We will be offering car storage again this year. \$30/month.”

**ELECTIONS.** Ron Parks. “I move we open up the nominations for President. I nominate Dave Johnson.” After a brief consult with Art Barnes about whether Cathy wanted the job, Ed Hill moved to close nominations. *For anyone there, and even those who weren’t, you all know how this went/goes. Therefore, going forward, the names and faces have been changed to protect the guilty.* Nominations were closed. The MGCC voted. Congratulations President Dave Johnson. Dave Johnson opposed after the vote (*no backsies.*)

Vice President was next. Ed Hill, “I nominate Ron Parks. His mouth is full, so he can’t decline!” Lois Gribler moved to close nominations. Nominations were closed. The MGCC voted. Congratulations Vice President Ron Parks.

Secretary was next on the list. Current Secretary Sam Hodges, “The minutes will reflect the correct person.” Therefore, congratulations to the new Secretary Diana Hodges.

Treasurer was next on the MGCC Railroad. Due to the change to the bylaws, this is now a 3-term limit job. Sue Scocozzo has agreed to continue in the position.

Member-at-Large. Ron Parks nominated Dave McCann, Sr. Rick Shields seconded the nomination. MGCC voted. Congratulations Dave McCann, Sr.

Gumball Drawings were next. The Free Membership was won by Sam Hodges, “I haven’t won anything since the Lithuanian. Social Club days.” Art Barnes won \$10.

Motion to adjourn 8:09.

  <p><a href="http://www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org">www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org</a> 321 Hopeland St., Dayton, OH 45417</p> <p>Giuseppe Automotive Restoration (818) 269-3240</p> <p>Your antique/classic maintenance and restoration expert</p>	  <p>Parts, Service and Restoration for MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos</p>  <p><b>Steve Miller</b> 3733 Wilmington Pike Kettering, Ohio 45429 (937) 294-7623 e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com</p>
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