

THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLIX No. 6

April 2023



Remembering Charlie McCamey
Automotive Old Wives Tales

Presidential Musings

Dave Johnson

Lossing a close and long-time friend hurts. More so, when the years are plentiful. There is a lot of shared grief, when a social club loses one of its own.

Sure, we bond over our love of a specific Little British Car, but our desire to build friendships is also key to why we find ourselves again sharing grief. So, we honor the individual we lost, and we share and cherish good memories. It is important to express and share the loss, for that is how we heal. That is what friends do.

I am not sure that I would ever be speaking for others, but I guess that now I am, for a lack of better word choices... getting old. I think about things, worry about other things. For instance... how do I pawn off all of the stuff I have collected up to now? For me, I also reflect on the legacy left behind. I imagine some good stuff, and if one was like me,



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 26th

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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
- 22 – Tune Up Clinic at MG Automotive
- 26 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical
- 29 – Biscuits and Tea Cruise-In

May:

- 6 – BTM Car Show
- 21 – Talk Like Yoda Day
- 20 – MG 100th Anniversary Tour
- 26 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

Jun:

- 4 – British Return to Fort Meigs
- 6 – National Drive-In Movie Day
- 28 – Meeting at Bennett’s Pubical

See meeting minutes for other area activities!!

maybe a whole bunch of not so good stuff. Then throw in a fair amount of downright throw-a-way stuff. I really can’t imagine that anyone else has the same percentage of each category as I do. I do have a couple of... “potentially” good stuff items, but the scale really is weighed down by the throw-a-way stuff. In fact, I am quite proud of some of the things that I have hauled around with me over the years. I do plan to do something with them, I really do. One of these days....

Now, I have seen some extreme examples of the collections an individual can accumulate, when they put their minds to the task. One of my favorite pastimes is to watch a bunch of YouTube channels of car shows. One that stands out in my mind, is the Haggerty sponsored Barn Hunter series. The host showcases some of the best collections of really good stuff, and also some of the uniquely “special” collections of lost causes. I am truly impressed at the dedication, and funds that some of these collectors have spent to restore and rebuild some of the best classic cars. It is the collections of junk yard cars that amaze me. So much potential, and sometimes so many regrets.

What will be my legacy when I am gone? I know that I cannot keep up with likes of the guys on TV. I am not

going to even try. I do have plans to convert some of my almost throw-a-way’s into something to be proud of. The thing is, I am already getting the feeling that my kids will not want to deal with the leftovers.

Maybe the best I can do is to at least organize the pile...

100th MG Anniversary Tour T-Shirt

Carole Looft

As you know, our club is planning a drive on May 20th to celebrate 100 years of the MG car. To commemorate this anniversary, we have designed a t-shirt for those who will be touring to Hocking Hills State Park. If you are planning on joining in this celebration, email me at clooft@earthlink.net soon with your shirt size, and we will make sure there is a shirt ready for you.

We hope as many club members as possible will participate in this drive and believe we will have the makings of a memorable photo.

Let me know if you will be able to join us.



Remembering Charley McCamey

Ron Parks

Charley McCamey was a good friend. Always cheerful, always happy to have fun with us, his MG family. Charley was our only member who was the original owner of his MGB. He bought his Harvest Gold MGB new in 1975. It was most likely not long after that, when he joined the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre.

Charley had fun driving his MGB to various British car events. Along with his daughter Kathy, he made several trips to Grand Rapids Michigan to attend University Motors summer parties. He and Kathy participated in the Route 66 Rally at the St. Louis MGB meet in 2003. That is where he was one of the “MG Nuts,” posing for the photo. Bill Hammond had fake tattoos made up for the occasion, depicting a stylized octagon shaped nut with the wording “MG Nut.”

Charley had his entourage with him at the MGB meet in French Lick Indiana in 2014. Most of his family was there with him and some of us occasionally visited and enjoyed the shade of their push-up during those hot afternoons.



Charley thoroughly enjoyed our club visit last October as our fall tour came to his residence in Loveland. Charlie, his daughter Kathy, and his fellow residents had a good time visiting and looking at our MGs. It was a nice afternoon visit.

When Charley bought his new MGB, he did a couple of things to prolong its life. Like most Ohio residents did back then, if they bought a new car they intended to keep, they had it rust proofed. Charley did the same for his MGB, had it Zebarted. Therefore, he usually did not open the bonnet at car shows, exposing the black, rust proofed engine bay. It worked! His

MGB still does not have rust. The other thing he did to enjoy years of trouble free service was to buy a battery at JC Penny, back when they had auto service centers. As Steve Miller related to us at the March meeting, Charley’s JC Penny battery had a life-time guarantee. So, every five years or so, when he needed a new battery, Charley would take it back to JC Penny and get a new battery for free. Then, when JC Penny closed their auto service centers, Charley met with a regional manager of someone, who agreed to pay for a battery that he was to buy somewhere else. Needless to say, JC Penny did not see Charley coming!

Charley was always up for some good natured ribbing and bantering with club members. When it was time for “Old Business” during our club meetings, a lot of the time, he was the oldest member in attendance and was called out! Unfortunately, of late, I have been the oldest in attendance. That’s OK, I’m honored to carry on the tradition for you Charley! He took some ribbing over the color of his MGB too. A neighbor of Terry & Carole Looft looked at one of his MGBs that was painted Harvest Gold and said, “That’s Monkey Puke!” Charley took it in stride when Terry called his car “Monkey Puke.” The queen and her court at Kettering’s Holiday at Home in 2013 certainly had no problem with the color, and posed for a picture with Charlie!



Charley and I reminisced about our times serving in Viet Nam. I was on the ground and Charley was in the air. During the nights we would see, what we called “Puff the Magic Dragon,” a C-130 raining down fire on enemy positions with Mini guns. Turns out Charley was navigator on those flights. We didn’t know each other then, never met, neither of us owned an MG yet and did not know we would become friends many years later. Friends we did become though, and I will miss him, as we all will. It’s hard to say goodbye to a friend like Charlie, so we’ll just say ‘Till we meet again.’

British Return to Fort Meigs

Carol Fingerhut
Secretary & Membership Director
Lake Erie British Car Club

"The British Return to Fort Meigs" on Sunday, June 4th in Perrysburg, Ohio.

We look forward to a great show that will include vendors, participant voting for awards, a silent auction, door prizes, and a beautiful outdoors setting. You can download the registration form at:

<https://dl.motorsportreg.com/fac53253-9442-4cbc-8842-07930a151e36/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 419-855-8567 or www.lebcc.org. Hope to see you in June!

Automotive Old Wives Tales

Compiled and with commentary by Steve Markman

Actually, maybe I should have called this Old Father’s Tales, since most of us were taught to drive by our fathers. Whatever!!

Back in the 50s and 60s when most of us learned to drive, each of us certainly was given advice on how to be a safe driver and how to take care of our car. Before the advent of all the safety features on today’s

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cars, most of this advice probably made sense. Some didn't, even back then, and some are no longer relevant. But, some still make sense. Here's the list I came up with, with help from our club members and some friends to whom I reached out. Thanks for all the great ideas!!

1. Never leave your car in Park when you park it. If someone hits it, the transmission can be damaged. Leave it in Neutral and use the parking brake. True? I have no idea, and I've always put the car in Park.
2. Just as you shut off the engine, give it a little shot of gas. This will put extra gas in the carburetor and make it easier to start. True? Again I have no idea and I've never done it.
3. When you park your car, don't forget to close the little triangular vent window and latch it. True? Good advice in the 50s and 60s, but how many cars today have that "little triangular window?"
4. Make sure the gas station attendant checks your oil, coolant, and battery every time you buy gas. True? What is a "gas station attendant?"
5. Pump the gas pedal as you crank the engine. True? O.K. with our antique cars, but not needed on modern cars. The computer makes sure the engine gets the correct fuel/air mixture when starting, then brings it up to the proper idle speed. Keep your foot on the floor and off the gas pedal when starting.
6. Fill the gas tank in the morning when the gas will be colder, because it will be denser so you'll get more gas to the dollar. True? No way. Being stored in underground tanks, the gas will be the same temperature and density whenever you buy it.
7. Pump the brakes when slowing down or stopping on icy pavement. True? Again, O.K. for antique cars, but not for modern ones with anti-lock brakes. Anti-lock brakes automatically pump the brakes more precisely than a driver pumping them manually, so step on the brakes with firm, steady pressure and keep steering the car in the direction you want it to go. But, be aware that stopping distance may increase.
8. Keep a few bags of rock salt or kitty litter in the trunk in winter. It'll give you extra traction on ice by putting more weight on the drive wheels, and if you get stuck in the snow, throw some under the tires for better traction. True? Perhaps, if you drive one of the few modern cars that still has rear-wheel drive.
9. Park in a well-light area lest someone steals the hood ornament. True? I guess so, but I haven't seen a hood ornament in years. I guess someone's father back then didn't worry much about personal safety. But today, I'd worry about getting my catalytic converter stolen (Don't ask how I know...why do I feel an article about this coming on?).
10. Accelerate slowly when using the wipers because they'll slow down. True? Yes, for older cars whose wipers were powered by engine vacuum. As far as I know, wipers on modern cars are all electric now, but my 1950 MG TD has an electric motor to power the wipers. It's located on the top of the windscreen, right where the passenger's head would hit it if I make a panic stop. So much for a safe design.

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11. Get the car out on the freeway every so often to burn all the carbon off the spark plugs. True? Maybe back then, but with fuel and air all computer-controlled now, spark plugs usually stay pretty clean until they eventually wear out.
12. Let the engine warm up on a cold morning before driving to get the oil flowing. True? With thicker oils back then, this might or might not have been true, depending on who gave the advice, but definitely not now. The experts claim that with modern engines using lighter-weight oil, it is best not to let a cold engine idle but to drive at moderate speed for the first mile or so.
13. Avoid short trips when the engine is cold or moisture will condense in the muffler, causing it to rust sooner. True? Read on. Probably true back then, when monster V-8 engines made of steel took a long time to warm up, which meant the exhaust wasn't that hot at first. Thus, the muffler didn't heat up quickly either, so moisture from the exhaust could condense in the muffler. Add to that, mufflers were made of galvanized steel, and they eventually rusted through. Aluminum block engines on modern cars heat up faster, so the muffler also heats up faster. Factory mufflers on new cars today are made of stainless steel, which is much more rust resistant. However, most aftermarket mufflers still use galvanized steel, so you still may want to heed this one if you bought a cheap muffler-shop muffler.
14. When pulling out into traffic, look both ways, then look both ways again before proceeding. Good advice? I think so.
15. Every car has a blind spot, some bigger than others. Turn your head and look before changing lanes. And, if your car has a blind spot monitor, don't bet your life on it, or someone else's life. It's a tool for you to use, and it doesn't have the last say. You do. Great advice!!
16. Grip the steering wheel at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions and use the "hand-over-hand" method when steering. True? Not any more. With all new cars now having airbags, the safety experts say that placing your hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions, or lower, and using the "push-pull-slide method reduces your chance of being injured by your own hands in the event the airbags inflate.
17. Never assume other drivers are calm, rational, and polite. Still great advice if you ask me!
18. Always keep a few dollars in your wallet. True? Good advice, but maybe today it's more like \$20. Then again, who doesn't carry credit cards and what are the chances of finding a merchant who doesn't accept them?
19. Don't speed; you'll just waste gas and get to the next red light sooner. True? Probably, assuming the lights are sequenced. By obeying the speed limit, you just might make every light when it's green. Or, maybe not.
20. Make sure the clutch is all the way to the floor before moving the gear shift. True? Absolutely. I hate to think about what some of the gears on my MG TD look like.
21. Batteries put out less power on really cold mornings, so turn on the headlights for a few minutes to warm up the battery a bit. True? Maybe. Some people who live in the far north swear by it.
22. Pull over if you feel sleepy. True? Absolutely.
23. Be very careful if you smoke in the car. You can set the seat on fire. True? Yes, and it happened to a high-school friend of mine. After smelling burning fabric, he pulled into a fire

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station. They slashed the seat open and emptied a fire extinguisher into it. I have no idea how he explained that to his parents, if there were any consequences, or if he got billed for refilling the fire extinguisher.

24. Never let your gas tank get below ¼. Actually, not bad advice. You may have to rush somewhere in an emergency and don't want to be running on fumes. Also, with the fuel pump being located inside the gas tank and surrounded by liquid, it helps keep the pump from overheating.
25. Don't try to outrun a police car or argue with an officer. We'll get you out of jail if you've done nothing wrong. True? Sure!!!
26. Don't drink and drive. True? Absolutely, then, now, and forever!!
27. And my favorite. Not exactly what I was looking for, but a great remembrance.

I grew up in a small Texas town of about 1250 people. My dad owned a feed store. My 17-year-old sister taught me to drive in our '49 Chevrolet truck with a floor stick shift. That was in 1952 when I was 12. I was soon delivering feed to customers in the evening in the truck. I got my license when I was 14 and got my commercial license when I was 16. I received no formal driving instruction until I took Drivers Ed in high school, although I already had a commercial driver's license. In a small rural town where everyone knows you, including the friendly police officer, they don't worry about a lot of the small details.

Classifieds

For Sale: Miata seats, about 2002 vintage, recovered to put in my MG Midget, but I found it too hard climbing into the car. However, these will fit nicely into a MGB. Each has a red MG in an octagon logo embroidered into the headrest. Asking \$300, and I'm taking a big loss on them. Contact Brian Hellwig at toni-brian@ameritech.net. (11/22)

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)

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 or 937-886-9566.



Minutes from March Club Meeting

Diana Hodges

President Dave Johnson called the March 2023 meeting of the MGCC to order 7:30. President Dave, “It’s 7:30, let’s get this show on the road.” Sue Scocozzo, “Oh no, is there a test? Dave, “Did anyone buy their MGB new?” (*Various replies*), “Charlie McCamey did.” President Dave, “You weren’t supposed to answer that. That was my Segway to talk about Charlie. We lost Charlie McCamey. Are we planning on doing something?” Carole Looft, “The obituary hasn’t hit the Dayton Daily News yet, but Ron, Terry & I are each planning on driving an MG.” President Dave proposed a toast to Charlie.

Dave J. continued, “Last month I talked about the Bigfoot Show. There’s another car show in August in Wisconsin. The Valley View Recreation Club in Cambridge, Wisconsin is having their Annual Nude Car Show, August 12, 2023. All visitors to the grounds must adhere to the club policy. What car do you drive to a nudist car show? An ASS-ton Martin of course.” Ed Hill, “The one place where shift knobs aren’t the only thing getting shifted.” Terry Looft, “There will be skid marks all over the place.” Plan your trip accordingly. You’ll still need clothes for the drive up and back if nothing else.

President Dave, “I received a note from Curt about the Annual Spring Classic Driving Tour. It’s set for Saturday, April 15th. There will be several different marques represented. Jaguar, Ferrari, MG, Triumph, Porsche. If there’s a local club, there will probably some of them on the drive.” (*If you’re reading this and weren’t there, you missed it.*)

Vice President’s Report. V.P. Ron Parks, “I can report that my temp & fuel gauges are reading properly. I should blame Bill Hammond for switching the wires, but I’ll take the blame. When I was in Vietnam, Charlie was a navigator on a Puff-the-Magic-Dragon gunship the same time I was there.”

Dave Johnson, “I think that maybe we can submit remembrances of Charlie and publish them in the next newsletter.” Ron, “Regarding the Spring Tour, of the rooms that we have reserved at Hocking Hills, there are 8 left in the block.”

Minutes were next on the agenda. Ron Parks moved to accept the Minutes as reported. Dave Gribler, “I wasn’t here to dispute them” seconded the motion. MGCC voted. Min Tuesday approved as reported.

Treasurer’s Report was next. Diana Hodges, “Our assets weren’t in Silicon Valley Bank were they?” Dave J., “The website guy and the Treasurer are in the same house. Is that a conflict somehow?” Treasurer Sue Scocozzo, “The MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$25.00). Total gain to the MGCC was \$25.00. We had total expenses of: Website Fees (\$180.20) + Drive/Outing expenses (\$47.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$227.20. Monthly total gains when subtracted from the losses means a loss to the MGCC of \$202.20. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$5,141.48, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$4,946.28 in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$382.11, with cash-on-hand of \$40.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$5,368.39.” Ed Hill, “Did you say we spend \$180 on website?” John Scocozzo, “Websites aren’t free.” *Several jokes about John’s new iPhone, and we’re done.* Dave McCann, Jr. motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Steve Miller seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s Report approved.

Membership was next. Membership Chair Carole Looft, “We had 1 renewal. You’re now at 64

members.”

Birthdays this month: Charlie McCamey was on the 9th, Rachel Johnson, Bob Nuessgen, and both Ron & Linda Parks.

Activities with Eddie. Ed Hill, “Where do I begin? The Tune Up Clinic is April 22nd. Rain date is April 29th. I got some info that the British Museum is having their show Saturday, May 6th. The Spring Tour is also coming up on May 20th. It’s a planned overnighter to Hocking Hills if you’re so inclined to spend the night.” Ron Parks, “We’re meeting in London at the court house and leaving about 9:30. We’ll do the London to Brighton run and then head down to Hocking Hills.” Dave Johnson, “Biscuits & Tea will start when we have decent weather.” Eddie, “The first Cars & Coffee is April 29th.” Dave Gribler, “The MGAs are meeting June 12-16 in Memphis.” Eddie continued, “The MGs return to Ft. Meigs is Ron’s favorite show, Perrysburg on June 4th. The MGBs are in Calgary in July. August is BCD.” Dave McCann, Jr., “The Gathering of Faithful South is in April in Gainesville FL.” Dave Gribler, “That’s actually a NAMGAR Regional meet and there are MGA event as a result. May 6th is drive your MGA day.

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft (*wearing a boot on her foot*), “I have to report on myself. I broke a bone in my foot 4-weeks ago and I’ve been in this god awful thing.” Terry, we had the last MGCC meeting on Wednesday and that Thursday was the break.” Carole, “As much as I’d like to have some heroic story, I was just walking in the morning and stepped on something in the dark and that was it. As far others, Dar reports that Mary is up and walking. It’s going to be a long summer for them.”

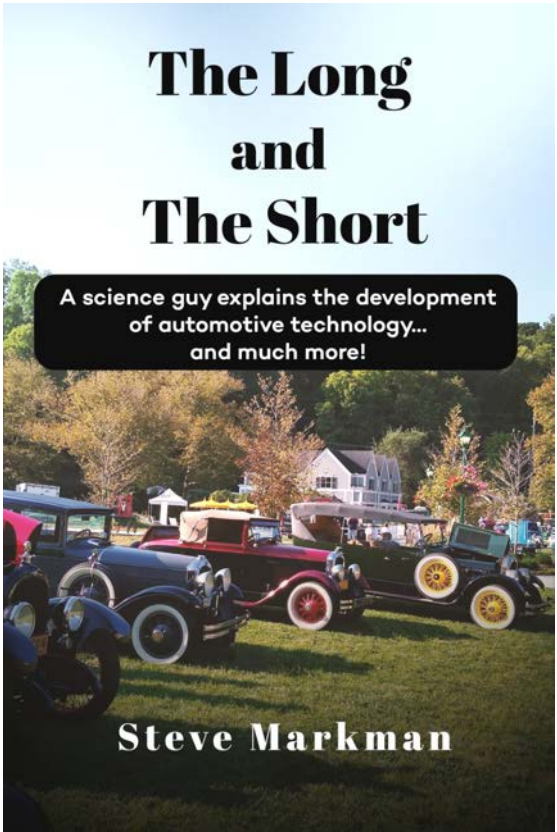
Newsletter Editor Steve Markman, “If you send me something and I don’t use it fairly soon, call me and harass me, I’ve probably overlooked it. I hope you liked the article on the million dollar koi. If anyone ever reads anything about a million dollar MG, forward it to me and I’ll be sure to run it. I’d hoped to have books here tonight, but they haven’t shown up, again.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, Dave Johnson, “\$180.20. Wanna explain it?” John Scocozzo, “For the website there are charges for hosting, domain name, server access, etc. That’s it. I updated the calendar. BCD pre-registration is available online.”

Beer Brake called 7:56
Back from Break 8:03

Old Business: Ron Parks, “I just had a birthday, can’t be me.”

BCD. Carole, “We’ve found that we can get a banner printed for \$3.50 sq/foot. An 8ft banner would be about \$72.00 but I really want Skip’s input on all of this before we proceed. He might know of a better place or have some contacts (*yes Skip, you’re now on the hot seat even though you weren’t even here*). Steve Markman, can we make the



**The Long
and
The Short**

A science guy explains the development
of automotive technology...
and much more!

Steve Markman

Available soon at a club meeting. Not sure how soon I’ll have copies for sale. Hopefully by the April meeting.

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banner so that it can be updated every year? This was tabled for next month and Skip “had better be here.” Carole continued, “The big prints that we’re going to display at BCD aren’t going to work. Skip checked and there’s no easel big enough to can handle the weight of the framed prints. There are 4-prints. I’d like to talk about the upcoming drive. We’ve come up with this 100-year logo (*similar to the Monte Carlo Rallye placards*). We would like for the people who go on the drive to each have a 100 year logo. How many people are planning on going so that we’ll know how many to make?” Club members raise their hands for a count.

Tech Tips: Ron Parks, “Don’t cross your wire’s on your voltage stabilizer. B = Battery I = Instrument. Voltage in is 12v. Voltage out is 10v. If you cross them, then you’ll get low voltage on everything.”

For Sale. Nothing?

Dave Gribler. “There’s an opportunity for people to fill their unused time. As the NAMGAR Rep. for this chapter, there are some NAMGAR positions that are open. Chairman’s position, marketing & advertising manager, regalia sales staff positions are all open, as well as a position for copy editor.”

Gumball Rallye. Carole, “Are you the old guy today?” Dave McCann, Sr., “Why are you asking me? Ron is a year and half older than me! I want to make sure everyone knows that.” Dave Sr. drew his own name.

Meeting adjourned 8:22



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