

# THE OCTAGON NEWS



Volume XLIX No. 11

September 2023



Time to Renew Your Membership and Vote  
Pictures from Concours d'Elegance

## Presidential Musings

Dave Johnson

I confess! I am a criminal...

It seems I break the law almost every day. Most of the time it is a decision I make on the spur of the moment. Like when the road is curvy, or there is no one in front of me.

I am reminded of the wise man who spoke for all of us car enthusiasts, when he said, and I quote....

"I Can't Drive 55!" God Bless Sammy Hagar!

It has been this way with me for as long as I can remember. Maybe I look at the pleasure of driving in the wrong way. I mean it is only for getting from one place to another, right? Utilitarian uses only. Grocery getting... Soccer mom mentality...

I see it in the eyes of people I pass. The dead look of struggling to get from A to B. No joy, no fun, no thrills, etc. The cars that are on the road have no appeal. They



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 September 27<sup>th</sup>**

### MG Car Club Officers

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And special thanks to Ron Parks for proofreading.

### Inside This Issue

2	Second Celebraton of 100 Years of MGs
4	Pictures from Concours d'Elegance
6	Crash Detection with the Apple iPhone
8	Minutes from August Meeting

## Upcoming MGCC Events

### Sep:

16-17 – Concours d'Elegance  
19 – Talk Like a Pirate Day  
27 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

### Oct:

2 – National Name Your Car Day  
25 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical

### Nov:

1—National Authors Day  
11 – Veterans Day  
15 – Meeting at Bennett's Pubical  
(note-one week earlier than usual)

*See meeting minutes for other area activities!!*

all look the same. Plastic dashes, plastic chrome, throw away when you are done with it. Long live the SUV.

So the desire to drive fast, or quickly, for a more gentle description seems ingrained in my DNA. I like the feel of acceleration, the diving into a corner, downshifting and loading up the suspension. Straightening the corners. Brakes squealing a little. No, I am not drifting the corners, I'll save that for the track. But, those pesky 25 or 55 or 65 MPH signs sure seem to pass by all too quickly. I pretend I don't see them.

Right now, my current MGB needs a replacement engine, and especially transmission. The engine is worn, timing is off, air/fuel not adjusted correctly. I have to drive it like an old collector car... Not the sports car that it is and should be. I am looking forward to seeing if I can put the sports car back into her. And I confess that I have not addressed whatever is the issue with our white 72 B. It died as I pulled into the parking space at a Fall British Biscuits & Tea two years ago! I started working on it; ordered new parts, but just did not really try to spend any time on it.

Truth be told, the upgrading of the cabin has taken priority over fixing the 72. The real shame is that the 72 could be driven like a sports car. It was not perfect by any means, but I was able to really enjoy driving it. I miss it. Driving our 73 B on our last drive really made me appreciate what I was missing. I was missing being able to downshift; to feel plenty of power to accelerate. Honestly, it was embarrassing to see that much smoking exhaust. I was being asked if we were going to make it...

Looks like I am going to have to roll up my sleeves and act like I have some knowledge about how a car works and fix my own cars! Then I can get back to downshifting, straightening the apex, accelerating out of the curve..

See Ya!

(BTW...Aask me how much I enjoyed my test drive in a friend's Porsche 911 the other day!)

## Annual Membership Dues

Carole Looft

**I**t is time again to renew your MG Car Club membership. Membership is \$25.00 to receive the newsletter by email, \$35 for those wishing to receive a printed copy via snail mail. **NOTE:** The pro-rated amount is for **NEW** members only. We appreciate your continued support of the MG Car Club Southwest Ohio Centre. You can bring your dues to the monthly club meeting or you can send it 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 at the September meeting!!

## Second Celebration of 100 Years of MG Cars

Ron Parks

**M**embers of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre gathered in London Ohio for the second time to celebrate 100 years of MG cars. Rather than the usual London to Brighton run, the caravan of five MGAs, three MGBs, one BMW convertible and one SUV; proceeded directly south on SR56 to the Hocking Hills State Park. Following a rest stop in Circleville, the first stop in the park was Ash Cave. A small contingent hiked the 600 or so steps to the cave, where they saw the large overhang with water dripping from above. Next stop was Cedar Falls, where everyone enjoyed their picnic lunch they had packed. After lunch, a smaller yet contingent hiked down to view Cedar Falls. The path to Cedar Falls was a little more rugged and had more elevation changes than the one at Ash Cave. Old Mans Cave could have been the next stop, had it not been ruled out because of the ½ mile hike to see it. Therefore, Lake Logan was the next stop. Here we took group photos of the celebrants sporting our blue Centenary shirts while displaying the club's Centenary banner. We soaked in MG views of the lake before proceeding onward to the Sleep Inn hotel. The Millstone BBQ restaurant accommodated all of us for evening dinner, seating all 16 at one long table. Our server did a great job, and she was very cheerful while doing it! After dinner, some hung out at a fire pit behind the motel for a while. Sunday morning, everyone made leisurely drives home after breakfast. Good roads! Good food! Good friends!



BTW...To see all the pictures go to <http://mgcarclubswohio.com/> and click on "Past Events." It's on the top of the list.

# Pictures from Concours d'Elegance

Steve Markman



The Octagon News – September 2023





Michael and Tracey, Joe Hooker's son and daughter-in-law from Toledo, paid us a visit!!

Thanks to Skip Peterson and his dedicated team of volunteers for another great car show!!

## Crash Detection with the Apple iPhone

Steve Markman

**R**ecently, my grand daughter was involved in a serious car accident with airbag deployment (no injuries, thanks to the air bag and her seat belt, but she was bruised and shaken up a bit). She said that the first thing she recalled was hearing her iPhone calling 911 all by itself. Not being an electronic gadgets techie (an Android phone being just fine for me), I'd never heard of this feature. Here's what I learned about this great feature that could save lives when seconds may matter.

Crash detection is available on Apple iPhone 14 and later models, and on Apple Watch Series 8. There is no similar function on Android phones, except for Google Pixel phones, but I suspect it will be coming to others.



Crash detection takes multiple environmental factors into account, four that I could find, and there may be more. G-force is the obvious one, but you wouldn't want 911 called every time you dropped your phone. In fact, it may not even be the main one, as your phone may be somewhat insulated from the high deceleration forces of a crash if tucked in a pocket or purse. While a person in even a severe crash may experience 100 "g's", the iPhone's tiny accelerometer can withstand and measure up to 256. BTW – "g" refers to the acceleration of gravity. When sitting still or moving at a constant speed, your body is experiencing 1 g vertical and zero g horizontal. When you accelerate, you may feel like you're being pushed into your seat. You are, and you're pulling more than zero g's. Enough technical stuff.

Next is watching for a very rapid speed change using its GPS function. Let's say you're cruising along on the freeway at 60 or 65 mph and someone ahead of you jams on their brakes (as happened to my grand

## The Octagon News – September 2023

daughter). Your car may decelerate to zero in a fraction of a second. The phone watches for such a rapid speed change.

The noise generated in a crash is somewhat distinctive from other road sounds. The phone monitors the background sounds and constantly compares them to one or more sound patterns stored in its memory. The sound of the air bag deploying also may have its own distinct sound, although I could not confirm this. You may have glass-break sensors as part of your home's security system; they work the same way.

When the air bag deploys, there is a sudden increase in atmospheric pressure in the passenger compartment. The phone has a sensor that watches for such a pressure change. I'd assume it works best when all the windows are closed, but who drives any more at freeway speeds with their windows open? Obviously, it won't work when the convertible top is down.

Given that the factors involved in every car accident are varied and unique, crash detection has to factor all of these inputs to determine if there's been a crash — it's not just one overruling piece of information that triggers it. It takes input from all the sensors to tell the whole story. And, even then, it's still not perfect.

Apple worked extensively with crash labs to gather data and researched historical data from the Department of Transportation and the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to understand injury-likely crashes. This was to ensure that the feature would trigger only in a real accident and wouldn't go off unintentionally in some other situation. When a crash is detected, the phone will ask the victim if they're O.K. If they don't respond within several seconds, the phone then will place the call automatically.

But, the algorithm is not perfect. Despite Apple's extensive research and testing, false 911 calls occur frequently. This is true especially in areas near ski slopes or intense roller coasters, causing police or sheriff's deputies to go looking for crash scenes, wasting manpower and other resources. Some parks ask visitors to turn off the crash detection function. Some police departments agree with this. Others prefer you leave it on so you don't forget to turn it back on when leaving the park.

The reason for roller coasters and ski slopes setting of the phone bugged me and I think I figured it out. GPS isn't just determining latitude and longitude; it's also determining altitude. How many times have cars gone over the side of the road and down a steep ravine? I suspect the algorithm also watches for sudden altitude change and interprets it thusly.

To improve the crash detection function, Apple is studying false alarms and analyzing the situations that triggered them. Future versions of the algorithm may include things like geo-isolating, so the phones do not make 911 calls near a roller coaster or the slope portion of the ski resort.

Stay tuned for further developments and improvements.

Sources:

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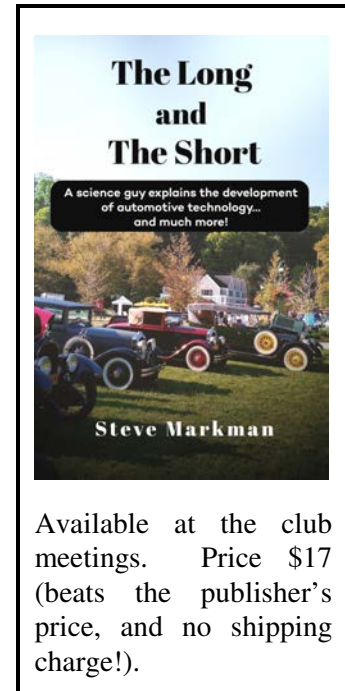
## Classifieds

**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. (9/23)

**For Sale:** MGB/GT. Rusty, possibly salvageable for parts. This GT has spent many a moon in a barn. It's been sitting outside for a while so the rain and weather actually have cleaned it up a bit. It has a lot of rust, and even the rust holes have rust holes. If you are brave enough to get your nose a little too close to where there used to be a passenger window, you will get a whiff of something horrible; it smells of either dead/rotting bodies or the human waste burn barrels I learned to dislike from my Vietnam experience. The car might be restorable by someone who has more money than brains! Hey, the sign says "For Sale...make offer!" Go for it! It might make a heck of a project for someone. I hate to see any British car towed to the junkyard for crushing. Maybe it'd make a good home for some wild critters on your back 40. Phone number on the For Sale sign says "937-972-2633 MAKE OFFER!" , or you can call Larry Youngblood for more of his opinion, but he will have absolutely no part in the actual sale of this car, If you call, don't even mention that you heard about it from Larry. (8/23)  
*(Editor's note: I toned this down from what Larry sent me.)*

**For Sale:** Numerous MG-related items. MOSS MGB Roll around engine stand fits '62 - '80 MGB engines. Used, but in very good condition. \$65. Numerous framed MG posters, pictures and metal signs that need new homes. Wall hanging made from MGB wire wheel cut in half, washer welded to back side in order to hang on wall. \$65. 1/18 scale, factory-built '47 MGTC by Road Signature. Yellow with green interior and black removable top. No box. \$30. Several MGT & MGA books signed by author...\$30 - \$35 ea. Larry Youngblood, 937-689-6995. Leave message if I don't answer. (6/23)

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



Available at the club meetings. Price \$17 (beats the publisher's price, and no shipping charge!).

## Minutes from August Club Meeting

Diana Hodges

**P**resident Dave Johnson called the August 2023 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order promptly at 7:33. In his penultimate meeting as President, Dave Johnson, "Sorry we're a little late. Rachel wanted me to get this meeting over with early so that she can go home and watch a slings & arrows, Mud Ball (*the GOP debate*). I don't have a lot to talk about so I'll pass it off to the V.P."

Vice President Ron Parks, "I've got an elephant to talk about." Skip Peterson, "Do you see it in the room?" Ron continued, "I'm not sure that we had enough people at BCD to man the rows. We needed a total of about 33 people but if we as a club can't get enough people to do it right, then maybe we as a club shouldn't do BCD." Carole Looft, "We were there Friday night and I was sweating for 2 hours, working. We needed more people." Lois Gribler, "I was out back with the Aston Martins in the open



## The Octagon News – September 2023

classes and I had no one to help me in the back row. Eddie had a list of volunteers and it wasn't full." Ed Hill, "You heard my speech begging, borrowing and stealing for help." Skip, "We have a tremendous reputation, but there is a question as to whether the amount that we makes is worth the amount of work that we do. At some point, we've got to have more people involved to divide the workload. The Triumph club got screwed because they had 10 people sign up and only 4 showed up." Carole Looft, "We were helping the Triumph club all day at registration." Skip, "When we started this years ago, we were just the hosts of the event and it wasn't about the money. Now we make money but is it worth the price we're paying in manpower?" Dave Johnson, "Is moving the cars around the concern or is it manpower?" Skip, "Part of the issue is that people want to park with their friends but one's driving a Midget and the other's in a Sprite." Dave Gribler, "I noticed that in prior years goody bags, they had a row numbers on the bag. This years didn't." Skip, "We did it last year." Lois Gribler, "We need to angle the signs to the traffic lanes and have row captains at the head of the row to definitely define what row they are. We don't need a row captain for each row, they can cover every other row." Dave Estelle, "We've gotten into the technical details but we need to focus on the problem of how do we get more people to actually work." Ron, "We could recruit people through the newsletter because not everyone comes to the meetings." Skip, "There really wasn't anything wrong with the event, but it was the same people doing a lot of work." Terry Looft, "The problem is deeper than that. We know members who have said that they don't feel welcome because we're not taking enough time to make friends with them. It's not just our club. We're not welcoming in new people. That's my observation and I think its a valid concern." Dave Johnson, "This is an issue for the next president after next month. Dave I want to table this until October."

Minutes were next on the agenda. Ron Parks motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Skip Peterson seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report was next. Treasurer Sue Scocozzo, "The MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$25.00) + Regalia sales (\$5.00). Total gain to the MGCC was \$30.00. We had total expenses of: Gumball Rallye Cash (\$5.00) + Office Supplies (\$6.80) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$11.80. Monthly total losses when subtracted from the gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$18.20. When added to our beginning balance of \$4,127.44, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$4,145.64in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$382.21, with cash-on-hand of \$35.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,562.85." Eddie Hill motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Skip Peterson seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer's Report approved.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, "we gained 2 new members. Mike & Allison Parsons, owners of a 1980 MGB, and Jim Thornberry of Dayton, owner of a 1973 Midget. We also have a potential new member attending tonight, Jason. Jason, "I own a 1968 MGB that's not currently on the road. I live in West Milton. My son and his girlfriend tagged along." Dave Estelle, "Probably for the free meal." Carole Looft continued, Membership, "We currently have 67 members. We sold 2 posters at BCD."

Birthdays in August: Jennifer Peterson, Jayne Powell, Terry Looft, Bruce Miller, Dave McCann, Sr., Carole Looft, Leslie Hunter, and Kim Smittle.

Activities with Eddie was next. Eddie, "Who's doing the drive this weekend? This weekend is the Summer Tour drive starting in London. Labor Day is also the Holiday-at-Home car show in Kettering." Steve Markman, "They're short on cars. I received a written invitation plus two follow-up phone calls. The registration is \$50, so I'm not surprised they're having trouble getting people to sign up." Eddie, "The Concours is Sept. 17. More details to come later." Ron Parks, "Dave McCann, Sr., and I decided that we've done London-to-Brighton enough that we're making a change. We're going to go down to Ash Cave at Hocking Hills. They've got nice level paths that are wide and easy to walk. It's about 600 steps

## The Octagon News – September 2023

to Cedar Falls.”

Sunshine Committee. Jennifer, “No one called me, or maybe I didn't answer the phone.”

Newsletter was next. Steve Markman, “I'm going to miss Dave as the President because he usually gets his column for the next month to me a week after the previous meeting.” Sam Hodges, “Dave's doing it wrong. You really don't have to worry about it until he sends the 5th nasty-gram email.” Steve, “Did anyone call about the car that Larry Youngblood described? Larry sent some pictures to me and it's pretty much as he described it. One other item: Didn't we discuss some months ago whether we should put contact information for new members in the newsletter?” Carole: “Only one person complained about putting their name and address on the newsletter, so let's continue printing them in.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “The newsletters are on the website and they're in .pdf format so that it's searchable by bots.” Skip, “My number is my old land line that I got rid of so no one can get hold of me anyway.”

Beer Brake called 8:07. Back from Break 8:27

Old Business. Art Barnes, “I nominate Terry Looft.” Diana Hodges, “I second.”

New Business. Terry Happensack, “What falls into the category of new business?” Dave J., “Anything we haven't already talked about.” Ed Wolf, “Let's talk about BCD!” Lois G., “Were the sponsors appreciative of our efforts to get their name out to the participants?” Dave J., “It was nice getting the name out to the participants.” Terry Happensack, “What about adding the sponsor's logos as well to the signs?”

Tech Tips. Lois Gribler, “If you see a car coming at you, jump onto the hood.” Steve Markman, “I found a replacement part for the broken door latch for my MG TD on eBay. Moss wanted \$69 but I found someone selling a pair on eBay for \$1.25. It was an auction and no one else bid on them. It doesn't work every time, but this time it did. Now I even have a spare.”

For Sale. Dave Gribler, “There's a gentleman in Vandalia who used to run an eBay Motors store. He has a bunch of new old stock parts on eBay under the name 'SiestaSun' and if you buy stuff from him online, you can pick it up here.” Carole Looft, “I've got leftover t-shirts, S-M-L for \$10.” Ron Parks, “I replaced the seatbelts in my MGB. These are tan and they're going to the first bidder. Make me an offer.” Steve Markman, “I've got copies of my book. I've made \$6 so far from online sales.”

Gumball Rallye was won by Sue Scocozzo. Ed Wolf, “Takes the money out of her left pocket and puts it into her right pocket.”



[www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org](http://www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org)  
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