

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XLX No. 3

January 2024

Remembering Steve Markman  
Holiday Party Pictures



## From the President

Dave McCann Jr.

Welcome to the new year for the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre. The first club meeting of the year is at Bennett's Pub and is at 7:30pm on the 24th of January. AKA, the usual time and the usual place. Hope to see y'all there.

For those that have not heard, our esteemed newsletter editor Steve Markman passed away a couple days into this new year. Steve apparently had a stroke and died a couple days later. Please keep the Markman family in your thoughts.

I've had plenty of opportunities to drive MGs around this country and the one to the north of us. Just this past year I drove an MG through the last state of the contiguous 48 states. I can't say I'll ever drive one of my



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club  
P.O. Box 20032 Dabel Branch  
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

### Club Membership Information

Membership dues of 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 Pub and Family Sports Grill**, 67 South Main St. Miamisburg 45342, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

**Wed, January 24, 2024**

### MG Car Club Officers

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## Inside This Issue

2	Upcoming Events
4	Remembering Steve Markman
7	Holiday Party Pictures
8	Classifieds - Minutes from November Meeting

## Upcoming Events

### January:

3 – Fruitcake Toss Day  
24 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### February:

2 – Groundhog Day  
4 - Pub Run to Little River Cafe in Oregonia  
28 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### March:

27 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### April:

21 – 24 MG 2024 Katy Texas  
24 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### May:

22 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### June:

26 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### July:

15 – 19 - GT-49 Welches, Oregon  
24 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

### August:

3 – British Car Day, Dayton  
28 – Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill,)

cars to Alaska, and Hawaii is even less likely. But there are several Canadian provinces and territories still on my list. Next year the NAMGAR GT will be near Mt Hood in Oregon, and my tentative plan is to drive up to Winnipeg and across to Banff before dropping down into Montana. That will get me three more provinces to add to my current four (BC, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick). That just leaves Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as the easy ones to add

to the list. At some point I would like to take the ferry to Newfoundland Island, but it's not something that will happen in 2024, and it may not happen when I first drive through NS and PE. I have an extensive spreadsheet with all the info on where I've been, and I have a map with where each of the cars has been. I keep adding to it every year. The info I have recorded along with the map also includes which car has been where. I can see the '70 has been to 45 states, DC and 4 Canadian Provinces, while the MGA has been to 39 states, DC and 2 provinces. GT-49 could add 4 provinces to the MGA in addition to adding 3 to my total. Depending on how I drive the MGA back from Oregon, I might even get a few more states for the MGA.

I went to Glacier National Park a few years ago on the way to NAMGAR GT-42, but I was too early for Glacier to be fully open (the "Going To The Sun" road is still covered by snow in June). Next year the GT is in July, so that should improve my odds of finding the park fully open. From there I may go on to the Grand Coulee Dam again to revisit where I lost a bearing on the layshaft of my transmission that led me to drive my MGA 1100 miles in fourth gear. Or I may avoid tempting fate and find a different path. Possibly down through northern Idaho, or maybe across central Idaho from Missoula, MT.

Regardless of how I get out to Oregon, I think I will not be returning in the car right after the event. I was thinking about shipping the car home and flying back

(although that would mean no new states this year for the MGA). I was also thinking about storing the car on the west coast and driving it back later in the year. I could take three weeks off together, but I prefer to spread my vacation out a bit more than that. Let me know if you have plans for GT-49 in Oregon next year. Maybe we can do some of the drive together.

## The Octagon News – August 2006

Regarding the 48 states, the 48th was Oklahoma. GT-48 was in Memphis this year, but I still found a way to go through Oklahoma. My original plan was to go through Oklahoma last year on the way out to GT-47 in Colorado Springs. But I overheated the MGA in Louisville, and had to get it towed home. I ended up renting a car (I was out of conveniently located running MGs at that point!) to get to the GT that year. A couple friends were able to help me swap in a new engine last fall (2022) and I was able to drive it through the year since that point. I intended to leave that car in Virginia last winter, but the Yellow car had an axle problem shortly after I got it back on the road after an engine problem of its own. At some point I need to get the MGA painted, but I don't have space for all the cars in Ohio right now so doing prep for that job will need to wait.

To get through Oklahoma this year, I came up with a plan to drive out to Tucumcari, New Mexico prior to GT-48 and meet up with a friend from California. I'd been meaning to find an excuse to stay at one of the little motels in Tucumcari, and the best one is the Blue Swallow Motel. It still has rooms with attached garages. The two of us got adjacent rooms and kept the two MGAs in the single two car garage between the two rooms. The folks that own the motel are great, and they have a black lab named Marshall who is very friendly. If you find yourself in the area of Tucumcari I highly recommend you stop by and say hi to Marshall, and maybe even spend the night in one of the rooms at the Blue Swallow.

Other incidental things I was able to do along the way from Ohio to New Mexico and then back to Memphis included stopping for BBQ in Kansas City. I did that last year also, on the way to Colorado. Last year I ate at Joe's KC BBQ, which is on several lists for the best BBQ in Kansas. This year I stopped at Arthur Bryant's BBQ, which is on several lists for the best BBQ in Missouri. Two states worth of BBQ in one city. Both places are highly recommended, by me and by BBQ professionals. The burnt ends are better at Joe's, but the Rich & Spicy sauce at Arthur Bryant's is difficult to beat. I was looking forward to Memphis BBQ, but after bringing leftovers with me from Arthur Bryant's I only ate BBQ in Memphis once. I have had Charlie Vergos' Rencouvous on my list for several years, so I guess I'll need to get back to Memphis at some point for more BBQ.

No shortage of places to go in the little British cars. See y'all at the meeting and Safety Fast.

## Membership List

Carole Looft

I will be including the current membership list in our February newsletter. If you have not sent in your renewal you will need to do that to be included in this list. Membership dues are \$25.00 for club members who will be receiving the newsletter by email. Those members wishing to continue with a paper copy of the newsletter 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.

Please send to:

MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre  
P.O. Box 20032. Dabel Branch  
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

# Steve Markman 1947 - 2024



# Remembering Steve Markman

Ron Parks, Skip Peterson, Steve Powell and Ed Wolf

**R**on Parks remembers Steve Markman as a good friend and longtime member of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre. His contributions to the club in editing the newsletter over the years are much appreciated by the members who have enjoyed reading the newsletter each month. Those of us who contributed articles, President's column and minutes; will miss the friendly reminders from Steve, to send our input to beat the deadline. This would be followed by a "Not so friendly" reminder when we had not done so, as the deadline approached. We will miss receiving those emails from Steve! Although, as some of you have already seen, you will be receiving them from me, going forward here for a while?

Steve educated us with articles that explained in simple terms how automotive technologies have developed and evolved over the years to make our cars what they are today. These articles appeared in the monthly Octagon News, and some were republished in "THE MGDIVER." Steve assembled these articles together along with a lot of other stuff to publish his book, "The Long and Short (A science guy explains the development of automotive technology...and much more)

Steve had many hobbies that engaged his talents. He built model ships. He raised Koi fish. He was accomplished in Taekwondo. He held a commercial pilot license, although, not current. He reassembled and refurbished a player piano and had collected hundreds of music rolls. He played "The Entertainer" for us on his player piano, when Linda and I visited on the occasion of our club's last Pub Run, to "The Famous" restaurant, just down the street from his house. I treasure the ink pen he made of teak wood that uses Cross pen refills. He gave me this pen as an unexpected thank you gift for my helping him move into his new house. Last year Steve was honored for his volunteering may thousands of hours to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Steve was a longtime Dayton Concours d'Elegance Class Host and sometimes entered his MG TD in the Concours.

Skip Peterson remembers that Steve was part of the Louie-Steve-John group that always parked in the same place at the Centerville Americana Festival Car Show, right under the trees by Marions. Steve enjoyed driving his Grandchildren in his MG, as he did in the 2018 Holiday at Home parade pictured herein.

Steve Powell remembers talking with Steve Markman at BCD & The Concours d'Elegance. Their MG-T-cars were always parked together, and they would discuss their next winter project plans for things to do to their cars. One time Steve Markman asked for a suggestion for improving his car to better his chances of winning awards at car shows. Steve Powell suggested a new top would be nice. So, the next season saw a new top on Steve Markman's TD. And, being the detail oriented engineer that Steve was, he had installed snaps to attach the top to the wooden back rail, in place of the original screws, making removal and stowage much easier. That year at the Concours, when it began to rain, they both put their tops up. Then, they asked the man next to them, if he needed help putting the top up on his award winning Austin Healey. When he admitted that he did not have a top on the car, they looked at each other and laughed! So much for the new top helping win an award?

## The Octagon News – August 2006

Ed Wolf's Memories of Steve Markman:

Steve was a great friend and one of the first people I met when I moved to Dayton a little over 20 years ago. We met at the pre-school where his grandkids and my kids attended, and we were also both members of Temple Beth Or. Steve and Helen were very involved grandparents, and very friendly to those of us who had moved here from out of town. Several years later, when I joined the MG Car Club, I found that Steve was also a member, and was also the monthly newsletter editor. When I bought my MGB, Steve ran a story in the newsletter about my car.

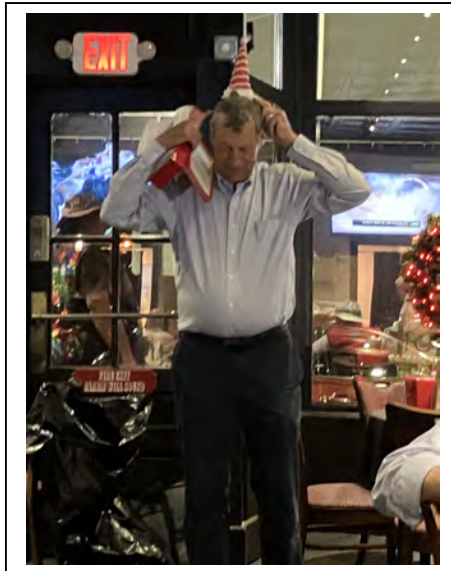
Steve would invite me over to his house on occasion and he'd tour me around his basement workshop where numerous woodworking projects were always in flight. He also showed me various wooden sailing ship models which he painstakingly built by hand using tweezers and a magnifying glass. Those model ships are really, quite spectacular. He'd also show me his various indoor fish tanks and a fishpond he made in the backyard, complete with a waterfall and water filtration system. At one point, the fish in the pond were multiplying too quickly and Steve wanted to get some of the smaller ones out without needing to drain the water out first. We brainstormed several ideas, involving various approaches using nets and scooping out the smaller fish. Then we tried to apply these, the fish just proved to be too fast, and we couldn't catch any of them. So, I think Steve resolved to just drain the pond to get them concentrated into a smaller area and then pick them out using a net. Despite the failed attempt, Steve rewarded my efforts with a signed copy of his latest book, which I will now treasure as a reminder of him.

Steve Markman - MG enthusiast and friend... We will miss him!



# Holiday Party Pictures

Click here to see them all: [MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre \(mgcarclubswohio.com\)](http://mgcarclubswohio.com)



## Classifieds

**For Sale:** '65 MGB parts car. Under tarp for 40 years ago. Rust, no floorboards, otherwise complete. 69K miles. Located in Troy. \$600. Tom or Debbie, 937-694-2939. (10/23)

**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](mailto: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 Ron Parks [MGdriver@woh.rr.com](mailto:MGdriver@woh.rr.com) or 937-322-0717*

## Minutes from November Club Meeting

President Dave McCann, Jr. called the November meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order at 7:31. President Dave, "Welcome." And then again at 7:32, "Welcome to the November club meeting." Skip Peterson, "Is this the Nov. meeting?"

President Dave continued, "I was going to ask for the Vice President's report, but Dave's not here."

Minutes were next on the agenda. Ron Parks moved to accept the Minutes as reported. Jennifer Peterson seconded. MGCC voted. Invites approved. Sam Hodges opposed the motion.

Treasurer's report was next. Treasurer John Scocozzo, "We had some income this month. The



## The Octagon News – August 2006

MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$160.00). Total gain to the MGCC was \$160.00. We had total expenses of: Gumball Rallye cash withdrawal (\$25.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$25.00. Monthly total losses when subtracted from the gains means a gain to the MGCC of \$135.00. When added to our beginning balance of \$6,153.55, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$6,288.55 in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$382.27, with cash-on-hand of \$55.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$6,725.82.” Skip, “With this much growth, we could buy our own clubhouse.” Pres. Dave, Jr. “What’ll we do for food?” Skip, “We’ll have to cook. Anyone have a grill?” Skip Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Dave Johnson seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s Report approved.

Membership was next. Carole Looft, “You’re up to 44 members. I’ll start sending out notices after the first of the year.

Birthdays for October: Steve Powell, Graham Cooper, Dar Planeaux, Steve Powell. November Birthdays are: Sam Hodges, Steve Markman, Cathy Barnes, Edie Cole, Mike Harmon. Terry Looft, “Who are the names that are scratched off that didn’t make it to this birthday?” Skip, “Ah, the softer side of Terry.” Carole, “Lets just say they didn't renew.”

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “Dec. 2 at 6pm is the MGCC Holiday Party here at Bennett’s Pubical. February 4th is the Pub Run to Little River Cafe in Oregonia. Bring a gag gift to the party.” President Emeritus Dave Johnson, “If you want a dessert, you’d better bring a dessert.” Eddie, “That’s all for ‘Activities with Edward’ according to the Minutes.” Secretary Sam, “I’m trying to class us up to match the money we now have.” Terry Looft, “Save the lipstick.”

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft, “I don’t know of anybody.”

Newsletter with Steve Markman, “I want to thank the new President, Dave Jr., and I want to thank him for the presidents column. I’ve known Dave for 22 years and he has never been wordy, but now that he’s at the keyboard, I’ve had to cut him off. It just keeps coming out of him. Also I realized that I never listed the new officers in the newsletter.” Dave Jr., “Thats fine. I’m fine being anonymous. Less email.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “I need to update the officers on the website as well.” Skip, “Do we have a list of all the officers dating back as far as the beginning of the club?” John, “I have old newsletters dating back to 1992. We received a lot of stuff from Dick Smith and there might be something there that goes back farther than that.” Carole Looft, “We could start one dating back to at least 1992.” Skip, “I think it’d be nice to list all of the people who’ve served with dignity and grace.” Dave Jr., “Then that’s going to be a short list.”

Beer Brake called 7:47

Back from Break 7:58

Old Business. Terry Looft, “They all went to Florida.” Carole, “We weren’t here last month, but did you talk about maybe buying the first round for the Pub Run? We’ve got some cash.” Dave Jr., “I’m not against it.” John Scocozzo, “I’d like to motion that the MGCC buys drinks.” Skip, “We need to clarify that. Two Pub runs and we’ll be bankrupt!” Steve Veris, “It’d take three.” John, “I’ll modify my motion so that the MGCC buys the first round of drinks at the Pub run.” Skip seconded the motion. MGCC voted and approved the motion.

President Dave, “Any other old business?” Carole, “I think it’s Ron.” Ron, “I considered it an honor. I’m still here.”

## The Octagon News – August 2006

Skip, “I got an email from the Park district. They’re working on our permit. It’s almost approved. We’re applying for the non-profit status at BCD so we get the non-profit rate. I’m not confident that anything is terribly broken. If we get 250 cars, it’s not like we’re trying to reinvent the wheel. We’re doing good. Aug. 3rd is the date. Everything is on track and going to be largely the same as it ever was.” Eddie, “Is it the MGCs that are joining us?” Carole Looft, “It’s only about 11 cars.” Dave Jr. “That’s 11 more than we normally get.” Skip, “We might need to break it out into early and late.” Dave, “1968 and 69?”

Dave Jr. “It’s our time for annual donations. We looked at last year’s checkbook and we gave \$100 each to three organizations.” Skip, “I’d motion that we give \$250 each to food bank and Salvation Army and \$100 to the Brit Museum for a total of \$600.” The MGCC voted on the motion. Donation motion approved.

Carole, “I received a request that wanted to know if they could pay online? John, is that a possibility?” Treasurer John, “There’s a fee that associated with paying that ends up being a couple hundred a year. We don’t have an SSL certificate on our website because it’s an extra couple hundred a year.” Carole, “Is there a way that we can run it through the BCD website?” John, “If we tried, there would only be one checking account that Dave Gribler would have to watch more closely to figure out which deposits were which.” Skip, “That could get really muddy to do that.” Terry L., “Anything’s possible. Gordon has an email address now.”

Tech Tips. Steve Markman, “Someone pointed out the carpeting around the gearshift in my MG TD was fading. It got bad enough that I bought some RIT fabric dye from Joann Fabric and I used that to re-dye the carpet around the gear shift. It took about 2-days to dry but I can rub my hand over it and the color doesn’t come off.”

Dave Jr. “Looking at these tool kits from Harbor Freight (holding up the small box of tools), they’re small, hex drive but it has a 1/4 inch bit, but they’re not bad to keep in the glovebox.”

Terry Happensack, “I noticed that there was blade clip in the distributor without a wire coming out. Looking at the diagram, that missing wire should go to the alternator? How has this thing been running?”

For Sale: Terry Happensack, “I met a man who has a 1957 Magnette for sale.” Contact Terry Happensack if you’re interested in one.

Gumball Rallye was won by Dave McCann, Sr.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 24th.

Motion to adjourn made by Eddie and seconded by Dave Sr. at 8:27.

 <p>www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org 321 Hopeland St., Dayton, OH 45417 Giuseppe Automotive Restoration (818) 269-3240 <small>Visit our website for more information and restoration tips!</small></p>	  <p>Parts, Service and Restoration for MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos</p>  <p>Steve Miller 3733 Warrington Pike Kettering, Ohio 45429 (937) 294-7623 e-mail: MgAutomotive@aol.com</p>
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