

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume L No. 6

April 2024



March Pub Run Photos

My Pull Handle MGB (Member Featured Car)



## From the President

Dave McCann Jr.

Welcome to April. The month of flowers and rain. And this year, a TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN. Recently occurring as you (presumably) read this. The cloud cover was mostly absent in Springfield, although I think the fuzziness of the corona I was seeing was some thin clouds. In reviewing past eclipses, I guess I have never managed to be within the total eclipse area, only within the area of a partial eclipse. It was looking like it might approach partial or less clouds on eclipse day, although that went back and forth over the two weeks of weather forecast we get these days. I read about a number of things to try, but largely forgot or did not properly prepare for them. I did get a good view of the corona, but then I spent too much time trying to take a



North American MGB Register

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 Pubical Family Sports Grill**, 67 South Main St. Miamisburg 45342, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

**Wed, April 24, 2024**

### MG Car Club Officers

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## The Octagon News – April 2024

picture of it. Next one is in Greenland, Iceland and Northern Spain in 2026, if you missed this one or want to see it all again.

A friend pointed out recently that if I'm headed through Canada on my way to Oregon for GT-49, I probably will be going near the Northwest Angle, which is one of the geographic anomalies of the country's northern border. This is one of many peculiarities that resulted from people laying out borders before they had any specific knowledge of the geographic details they were using. In this case, the river that makes up one part of the border originates north of the latitudinal line that makes up another part of the border. Because of this there is a bump in the border between the US and Canada. Further complicating this, the routing of the border in this area results in a peninsula being in the US, but only connecting to land that is in Canada. This occurs elsewhere also, specifically Point Roberts, Washington, but I don't have current plans to go there. There is even a Northernmost marker in the Northwest Angle, similar to the Southernmost marker in Key West, Florida. As it is about 3 miles south and 9 miles east of the actual point, it is not quite in the same league for fidelity. The actual point and most other points in between do leave something to be desired in the way of accessibility, and that does count for something. And this accessibility is relative in a region that can only be accessed down a gravel/dirt road and involves crossing two international borders. But I have run out of corners in these contiguous United States and this is the only cardinal direction I have yet to get to. So that's something to add to the list of things to do in July on my way to Oregon.

Have you ever been several states away from home and stopped at the same place several times. Not because it's special, but just because it's predictable and you remember it being there. There's a Taco Bell off I-90 just into Illinois from Wisconsin that I think I've been to three different times. Undoubtedly there are better places to go, but this one I stumbled on once and I've ended up there a couple more times whenever I'm going through there. This isn't a recommendation. It's just an ordinary Taco Bell. I was thinking of this place the other day, although I really can't say why.

Other interesting places (actually interesting, as opposed to that one Taco Bell) I've stopped to eat on various road trips include a BBQ place outside Washington, DC. It was called the Aldie Country Store (in Aldie, VA). Saw a large smoker out front the first time I was through there during prep/scouting for Rallye To Reno. Stopped there again during R2R. Great ribs, and good sides also, as I recall. Kept meaning to go through there again, but I looked it up a couple years ago and they have changed and no longer do BBQ. Possibly closed entirely at this point.

Back when NAMGAR was meeting in Key West every year in April, a group from Virginia would drive down. I was part of that group quite a few times. We'd usually try to find interesting places to eat along I-95, as it's all too easy to just end up with two days down and two days back with little to remember. One of the first times on the way back we ended up at Parker's BBQ in Wilson, NC. That became a tradition to stop there just before getting back to Richmond, VA. Parker's is known for family style BBQ. It was about \$8 a head for pulled pork, fried chicken, Brunswick stew, cole slaw, green beans, hush puppies (two kinds), and tea or lemonade. Maybe some other sides were in there also. If you find yourself in Wilson, NC, by all means stop and give it a try.

In Jupiter, Florida there's a place on the inland waterway called Guanabanas. It's just a nice outdoor eatery with a view over the channel to some park. A place with a similar vibe is down in the Keys at MM20. It's called Mangrove Mama's and it's on Sugarloaf Key. A place to stop if you're headed down to KW or on your way back. Usually, we'd leave KW early in the morning, so it was most

## Upcoming Events

### April:

- 21 – 24 MG 2024 Katy Texas
- 24 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)
- 27 – Tune-up Clinic at MG Automotive

### May:

- 22 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### June:

- 17 – 21 Octagonal Time in the Heart of Ohio
- 26 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### July:

- 2 - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual British Return to Fort Meigs Car Show
- 15 – 19 - GT-49 Welches, Oregon
- 17-21 – Octagonal Time, GOF Central 2024
- 24 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### August:

- 3 – British Car Day, Dayton
- 28 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### September:

- 15 – Concours d’Elegance, Dayton
- 25 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### October:

- 23 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### November:

- 20 – Meeting (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

### December:

- 7 Holiday Party (Bennett’s Publical Family Sports Grill,)

often a stop on the way down or a drive up from KW specifically to go there. Possibly with stops at a few other places in the area such as No Name Pub.

Out in California there's a place off I-5 that's been there for years called the Harris Ranch. It's more well known these days as they've got a hotel and several places to eat there. But as long as I've been going by there, it has been home to a great steak house.

Another place out west is in Oregon along the Columbia River. There are several scenic waterfalls along one particular section of the Columbia River with the tallest being Multnomah Falls (Mult-No-Ma). There's been a stone lodge there below the falls coming up on a hundred years. I stumbled across it almost 25 years ago. I was out for a weekend drive while on a two week business trip and figured I could drive to Mt Hood. This is before smart phones and I may have had a map, but I didn't pay much attention to it. Mt Hood is easily visible from numerous places around Portland, and I figured I could find it without much trouble. However, as soon as I got outside of town and dropped into the first valley, I never saw it again. I did have a good drive and ended up at Multnomah Falls Lodge for dinner. It was a great place to eat. I've been back a couple times and while it doesn't quite live up to my memory of that first weekend day, it's still been a nice place to eat. I'll have to give it another try this coming summer when I'm out there for GT-49.

No shortage of great places to stop and eat while driving the little cars two and fro. See y'all at the meeting and Safety Fast.

## From the Editor

Ron Parks

**R**emember any and all contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. You can mail them to me at 4101 Grossepoint Street, Springfield, OH 45502, or E-Mail to: [MGDRIVER@woh.rr.com](mailto:MGDRIVER@woh.rr.com). Either of those methods will work fine or you can call me at ((937) 322-0717 and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview.

# My Pull Handle MGB

Gordon Lindsay

I purchased my 1965 MGB on April 2, 2019, with an extra set of wire wheels and tires (at least it wasn't April Fool's Day). As near as I can figure, my MGB was manufactured in the spring of 1965.

The last of the pull handle cars. Somewhere along its travels, it was merged with a 1968 MGB (engine, grille, bonnet, seats). The car has a good engine and a strong transmission.

The car's original color was BRG, but now it is at least 3 different colors of red. The car had 4 holes in the boot lid for a luggage rack. Thanks to Carole and Terry the holes are now filled with a luggage rack. Thinking of how to secure items to rack, I don't remember bungee cords in the 60's. So, I visited The Pudgy Pony Equine Thrift tack shop and found four 1 inch by five foot used leather straps. She sold them to me for \$ 2.00 each. which I was thrilled with.

The lights at the rear of the didn't work. So, after attempting to get them to work, a big failure, I had the car hauled to MG Automotive. Steve fixed the taillights, brake lights, flashers, map light also replaced the horns, fuse box, steering rack boots, transmission angle drive, and installed a working speedometer. To continue, refitted the fuel pump from the boot to the proper location. Replaced the hot rod steering wheel with an early 70's Momo Prototipo steering wheel ( which I purchased for a six pack of beer. I felt I got the better of the deal, so I gave him two six packs of beer).

After Steve's work, I rebuilt the slave cylinder, rebuilt the driver's door opening





latch mechanism (to keep the door from flying open on right turns). Replaced window flex channels, door top seals, refitted padded dash rail. Replaced the red grille badge with the correct black grille badge, correct fuel cap, and added quick release seat belts, purchased from the same guy I got the Momo steering wheel from, for two beers. Replaced the amber side/flasher lenses with clear lenses.

Still have to refit the copper fuel line from the tank to the fuel pump, I have been doing a lot more thinking than doing on that task.

The car came with no door mirrors, but two bullet mirrors still in the boxes, were included. So, I located the mirror to the fender at the rear of the bonnet opening. I disliked that job so much; I don't think I ever put the passenger side mirror on. Work on the B would have been much easier if I didn't have to replace the P.O.'s (previous owners) work with correct MG parts. I'm looking forward to tooling along for many miles when the weather warms up.



## A-TEAM

Photos by Ed Wolf & Ron Parks

**T**he A-Team has made some progress towards turning the MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit. Bill Hunter is to be commended for the work he has done on the fuel system, brakes and



windscreen. The new clutch/brake master cylinder was installed by Bill Hunter, Dave Gribler and Ron Ramer. The plan is to flush the hydraulic system with denatured alcohol, then refill the system with Dot 5, silicone brake fluid.

*Editor's note: A-TEAM title, coined by Ed Wolf.*



# Pub Run to Little River Cafe

Photos by Ron Parks

A good time was had by all who attended the March pub run to the Little River Café in Oregonia on Sunday March 10, 2024. One MG was driven to the pub run. Dennis Gates drove his very nice MG Midget.

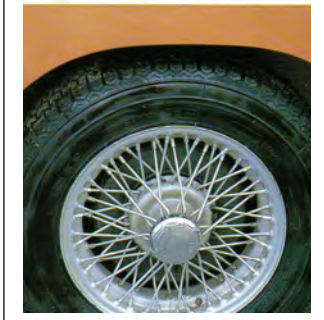


## MGB/C WHEELS

Source "Original MGB by Anders Ditlev Clausager,  
Photography by John Colley



Fitted as standard equipment on MGB cars from 1962 to 1969, the painted disc wheel was painted in a silver colour -probably the BMC colour 'Aluminium' – and fitted with this simple hubcap design. The narrow-band whitewall tyres seen on this car are probably not the correct type for a pre-1963 car.



Painted wire wheels were available throughout the production period, this one being from a 1980 LE roadster. Until 1968 some cars had knock-ons, but thereafter all wire-wheeled cars featured this octagonal nut.



The 15in disc wheels fitted to the MGC were quite different from those on the MGB, with elongated instead of circular holes, and the characteristic beveled edge to the hubcap.



Alternatively the MGC could be fitted with 72-spoke wire wheels, either painted or chrome plated, as seen here. The knock-ons were fitted only during the first year of MGC production.



## MGB/C WHEELS Cont'd

Source "Original MGB by Anders Ditlev Clausager,  
Photography by John Colley



Rostyle wheels were introduced in 1969 and lasted with minor modifications until 1980. This 1973 car had the standard painted Rostyle wheel, but there was also a chrome version.

The V8 model had this style of composite wheel, with a cast alloy centre and a chrome-plated steel rim. This wheel was also found on the 1975 GT 'Jubilee' model, on which the bright parts were painted gold.

This cast alloy wheel is from a 1980 North American Limited Edition model, but the same wheel was also available as optional equipment on other cars in the 1979-80 period, and was found on most of the home market LE models built in 1980.



**GOF Central 2024**

**June 17-21**

**Newark, Ohio**

**The Ohio Chapters of the MGTs and the BuckAyes of NAMGAR invite ALL MGs and their owners to have an Octagonal Time in the Heart of Ohio at the [Cherry Valley Hotel](#) in Newark, Ohio  
June 17th-21, 2024.**

[HOME | gofcentral \(ohiomgt.wixsite.com\)](#)

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1959 Triumph TR3A. Needs a full restoration. Has both wire and steel wheels and lots of spare parts. \$4k. Call Mike Harmon at 937-789-6737. (4/24)

**For sale:** 1 right & 1 left front latch pillar for the TD,.Moss catalog #450-820 & 450-825. Selling as a pair for 1/2 the catalog value - \$94. Brand new. Free shipping. Danny Mortensen 859-384-7821 or

[agsdanny@aol.com](mailto:agsdanny@aol.com) (2/24)

**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 . Electric for battery maintainers. Terry Looft 937-527-7353 or [tlooft@earthlink.net](mailto:tlooft@earthlink.net). (9/23)

*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*

*Larger ads may be purchased for inclusion in the Octagon News for the following annual prices for 11 issues: full page ad - \$100, half page - \$ 75, quarter page - \$50, & Business card size - \$25.*

## Minutes from March Club Meeting

President Dave McCann Jr., called the March 2024 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order at 7:31. For the first time. President Dave, “Hear ye, hear ye, or something like that. We don't have any Gribblers here do we? Let’s skip past the Vice President’s report.”

Minutes were next on the agenda. Eddie Hill, “Did anyone read the Minutes? When I got down to the Minutes, the newsletter had the headline for the November Minutes.” Ron Parks, “I’m still trying to get fired. This is only temporary.” Sue Scocozzo, “Whoever complains, gets to do it.” Terry Looft, “We might have a new Editor before the evening’s over.” Dave McCann, Sr. Motioned to accept the Minutes as reported. Eddie Hill Seconded. MGCC voted on and approved the November Minutes. Sam Hodges opposed.

Treasurer’s Report was next. Treasurer John Scocozzo, “We had some income this month. The MGCC had gains of: Membership Dues (\$41.00) + Advertising Revenue (\$25.00). Total gain to the MGCC was \$66.00. We had total expenses of: Postage (\$38.63) + Drive/Outing/Pub Run Supplies (\$246.19.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$284.82. Monthly total losses when subtracted from the gains means a loss to the MGCC of \$218.82. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$3,038.78, leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$2,819.96 in the primary checking account. The savings account now has \$2,382.44 after the application of \$.09 in interest. Cash-on-hand of \$30.00. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$5,232.40.” Ron parks motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Eddie Hill seconded the motion to accept the report. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s Report approved. No one opposed because money was involved.

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Membership was next. Membership Chair Carole Looft, “We had 17 people attend the last Pub Run at the Little River Cafe in Oregonia.” Terry, “Which you couldn’t tell by the Newsletter.” Ron, “Hey, get a new Editor.” Carole continued, “We currently have 64 members.”

Birthdays in March: Rachel Johnson, Bob Nuessgen, Ron & Linda Parks.

Activities with Eddie. Ed Hill, “So how was the Little River Cafe in Oregonia?” The club generally agreed they had a nice time; the service was good and parking was affordable. President Dave, Jr., “We did have to park on gravel down by the river.” Ed continued, “Next month is Katy, TX. I know of three souls that are making the drive. June 17-21 is the Cherry Valley Hotel, Gathering of Faithful.” Carole Looft, “Registration for 2 people, 1 car is \$82. We’re thinking about doing the drive as a day trip. Just drive up and back. It’s in Newark, OH, northeast of Columbus.” Eddie, “The Tune-Up Clinic. Steve Miller is out of the Hospital and back at home. He wants to do Tune-Up Clinic the last Saturday, April 27th at MG Automotive. Start time is the typical 9ish. Think of something to do to your car. In July the MGAs will be in Oregon.”

Dave McCann, Jr., “Is there any more thought about the Spring Drive?” Dave McCann, Sr., “Ron & I thought about going up to the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum but I think it’s going to have to be a Fall drive. We can’t get it together in time.” Ron Parks, “If someone wanted to come up with another drive, May might be a good time to do one.” Eddie, “We can also just do a Pub Run.” Dave Jr., “We can just pick a pub and a couple of roads to get there.” Dave, Sr., “How about the Warped Wing in Huber Heights? Next to the Rose?” Carole Looft, “We went to the Warped Wing in Springboro and they said they will not reserve space for us on Sundays because they’re really busy.”

Sunshine Committee, Carole, “I got a text from Skip. He won’t be at the meeting due to pinched nerves in his spine and he’s walking stiffly. Also, there’s nothing new to report on BCD.”

Newsletter Editor Ron Parks, “I’m saving the best for next month.” Terry Happensack, “You mean December?” Ron, “Keep the articles coming in, wait, no, they’re not coming in. Start sending me articles or I’m going to start talking about Triumph.” Carole, “You’re with Giuseppe all the time at the British Museum. I think it’d be a good idea to find out more about him. Maybe you can do an interview.” Ed Wolf, “He built a race car and raced in South America about 30-years ago.” Terry Happensack, “I think he used to be a plumber by trade.” Ron, “I’d like to point out that I’m just the acting editor.” Pres. Dave Jr., “We do appreciate your efforts.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “I got an article about Art and his car. It’ll be on the website tomorrow. Otherwise, the internet is still there.”

Beer Brake called 7:50

Back from Break 8:03

We have an addition to activities that came up during the break. The British Museum is having their annual show May 11th at the British Museum of Transportation.”

Old Business. Pres. Dave, “I think that’s you Doc.” Steve Powell, “Yep, I’m still here.”

Dave, “Any actual old business? Skip said there’s no report on BCD.” Ron, “I talked to the sound guy and he’s lined up for another year at BCD.” John Scocozzo, “The registration is open on the website.”

New Business: A fountain of non-activity.

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Tech Tips. Steve Veris, “Don’t stare at the sun during the eclipse.” Art Barnes. “In the 6 years I’ve owned my MGA, I’ve built up a list of things I don’t use. I’m going to post them up to the December newsletter.” Tim Dunham, “I was talking to Ron & Eddie and I’m fascinated with dry ice cleaning. Dayton is a small town and I’ve been looking for something local. A year ago, I found a place in Beavercreek that wasn’t open at the time. He texted me a couple of days ago and he’s now open in Beavercreek. I want to take my Isuzu Vehicross in I’ll be the guinea pig.” Dave McCann, Sr., “We agree. You’re the guinea pig.” Tim, “He charges by the hour. It’s supposed to only clean, not strip any of the underlying material. My Isuzu should be a couple of hours. My British car might be a couple of days. That was a very long Tech Tip, sorry.” Terry Looft, “Beer Break!”

For Sale: 1959 TR3 and a bunch of parts. Needs a total restoration. Ron “I can’t buy another one unless I want to be single and live outdoors.” Terry, “There you go, always looking at the positive side.”

Gumball Rallye was won by Art Barnes.

Meeting adjourned 8:20

  <p>www.BritishTransportationMuseum.org 321 Hopeland St., Dayton, OH 45417 Giuseppe Automotive Restoration (937) 269-7240 <small>Your antique/classic maintenance and restoration expert</small></p>	  <p>Parts, Service and Restoration for MG, BMC, Austin Healey and Related Autos</p>  <p><b>Steve Miller</b> 3733 Wilmington Pkwy Wettering, Ohio 45429 (937) 294-7623 e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com</p>
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Do you know why  
chicken coops  
have two doors?  
Because if they  
had four, they'd be  
chicken saloons!