

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LX No. 9

July 2025



MG Road Trip Preparation

Bob & Rosalie Orr's "MGB" - Featured Car

From El Presidente

Sam Hodges

Is it still "if you give a mouse a cookie" when it's a totally different car? Maybe "it never rains, but it pours" is a better way to start. I do know one thing: I've never been so happy to find a broken part. On the drive home from Wapakoneta, my orange, technically vermillion red, MGB was making two competing intermittent noises. One was a grinding sound that sounded like bad brakes. the other was a knocking. There didn't appear to be any rhyme or reason to when it made which noise, but, knowing that I needed new steering rack boots, I chalked the clunking up to that and made a note to investigate further.

After getting the green MGB back together, I turned my attention to the '78. After a few diagnostic



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club
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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 & Grill**, 67 South Main St. Miamisburg 45342, at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be:

Wed, July 23, 2025

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drives trying to troubleshoot the noise, it occurred to me that the grinding noise sounded much like the broken harmonic balancer from the '77. It sounded a LOT like the broken harmonic balancer! With that in mind, I looked at the front of the engine only to discover the harmonic balancer sitting on the shroud on the bottom of the engine bay. "That's odd. I don't remember that being so low." That's because it hasn't been. Looking around, I discovered a completely failed passenger side engine mount. It was completely severed from the baseplate. That also explained the knocking sound. The oil cooler line was also banging against the side of the frame rail.

So, I spent this last weekend (July 12-13) replacing the engine mounts. It took me more time getting the car on the lift and getting the 5 'easy' nuts off than it did that 6th nut. You know the one if you've ever done this job. The one that shares its existence with the steering shaft. Luckily, this is the 3rd set of engine mounts I've done so I had the correct tools. Back in 1996 when I replaced them the last time on this car, I created a wrench that was specifically cut and ground for this one job. Not so amazing, I still have it. Twice in 29 years seems to be a pretty good investment. But had it not been for the broken harmonic balancer on the '77, I wouldn't have known where to start, or what the sound of a spinning pulley on a fiberboard shroud sounds like. Let's just ignore the fact that I was the one responsible for breaking that pulley. Two sets of engine mounts in 29 years. I guess they just don't make them like they used to.



MG Help Hotline

Need help with repair or maintenance of your MG? Call one of the club members listed below. If the person you contact cannot help, they most likely can refer you to someone who can and/or they can assemble a team to come to your house to help work on your MG.

- Graham Cooper 513-680-8657
- Dave Gribler 937-671-8994
- Sam Hodges 937-581-4767
- Terry Looft 937-527-7353
- Ron Parks 937-207-9009
- Steve Powell 937-470-8962
- John Scocozzo 937-231-9188



MG AUTOMOTIVE

Parts, Service and Restoration for
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and
Related Autos



Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

Up Coming Events

July:

23 - Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

28-31 -NAMGBR's MG2025 Crystal Lake, IL

August:

2 – BCD Dayton

24 -Club picnic 1:00pm at Cathy & Art Barnes'

27 - Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

September:

14 – Dayton Concours d'Elegance

24 - Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

October:

22 - Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

November:

19 - Meeting (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

December:

6 – Holiday Party (Bennett's Pubical Family Sports Grill)

From the Editor

Ron Parks

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emember any and all appropriate 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. 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. Editorial cutoff each month is Wednesday two (2) weeks prior to the Club meeting.

GARAGE ART
TERRY LOOFT



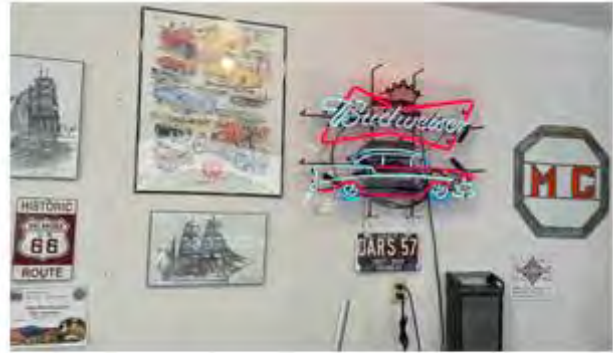
This months Garage Art is the image of Dar Planeaux's garage walls.

Send your .jpg pictures to me at: garageart@looft.net

I will compile all the pictures and forward to Ron. For the more unique

items feel free to add a note of where, what, when the item was acquired.

Terry



Here is this month's garage photos contributed by Dar Planeaux

Featured Car of the Month: Bob & Rosalie Orr's "MGB"

By Bob Orr as interviewed by Ron Parks

I bought our 1967 MGB on September 1, 2011. It was in primer and hadn't run since 1984 and it had set in a shed all that time. I paid \$500 for the car. The title was a Maryland title with no signature. The car had been owned by at least three people before me; the Maryland owner, a Texas owner, and the person I bought it from here in Indiana. So, I am at least the fourth owner. The license bureau advised that I check to see if it had been stolen and it had not. I told the Indiana License branch I had no way of knowing how to get the Maryland title signed, the manager just shrugged his shoulders and told the clerk to give him a new title. So, I was able to get a clear title.





The car was in very bad shape. There was raccoon poop everywhere inside from setting in that shed all those years. The boot had some rust, and the rest of the body was solid enough to drive without problems. I did not do a total body restoration. My goal was to get it running and drive the heck out of it. With guidance from my Haynes MGB manual, I overhauled the engine, utilizing a Muncie Indiana machine shop. It has a 1969 engine for some unknown reason. I rebuilt the non-overdrive three synchro crash transmission, doing the rebuilds myself to save money. The painting was done by Keen's body shop in Union city Ohio. They did a great job and painted it Galatic Gray, a Lexus color. I get lots of very favorable comments about the color. The Moss interior is red leather with black piping and black carpets. A neighbor recovered the seats for me. Some of chrome is new, some re-chromed and some parts sourced at a salvage yard. All the instruments are original. The speedo and tach were reconditioned in Albuquerque NM.

I think it turned out well. When I bought the car I was disappointed it did not have wire wheels, but now I don't mind. Steel wheels and chrome hub caps are rather unique and look great on the early model MGBs. This car still has the aluminum bonnet. One of the odd things with this MGB is the steering wheel. It is a black wrapped banjo wheel from an MG Midget. I like it, so it will stay!

It took me three years to complete the restoration and I got it on the road in 2014. We joined the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre and enjoyed attending meetings when we could make it over to Dayton for an evening. It is a two hour drive for us from our home in Indiana. We also joined the North American MGB Register (NAMGBR). We enjoy the camaraderie with other



members attending British car shows. We attended MG 2016, the national MGB meet, in Louisville and received a 5th place award. This show was well attended by the club and we had a good time, despite of the hot weather.

We have attended several other British car shows too. We've been to British Car Day in Dayton several years and won our class in 2022. We enjoyed attending the University Motors summer parties in Grand Rapids, Michigan a few times. Throughout these travels our MGB has never let us down. We've put over 10,000 miles on it since the restoration and plan to put more on it still. Rosalie and I like to take rides locally and we enjoy that a lot. The MGB gets a lot of attention when we are driving around and it's fun to talk to people about it and hear their stories of experiences with MGs.



**First
in
Class**

**Bob and Rosalie Orr
MGB**

British Car Day Hudson-Cleveland

By Ron Parks

Four members of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre were on the show field at the Hudson-Cleveland British Car Day on Saturday June 28, 2025. Janet and Tony Shoviak traveled to the show in their non-British car, while Jeff Fields and Ron Parks arrived on the show field driving their MGA and MGB, respectively. Ron won a second place award in the MGB Chrome Bumper class with his 1974 MGB.



Road Trip Preparation

Reprinted w/o permission from startmycar.com [What should you check on your MG before a road trip?](#)

What should you check on your MG before a road trip?

The idea at this point is not to do a complete maintenance service for your car; we assume that the service schedule is being followed properly.

You may perform this check-up yourself or have your trusted car mechanic do it in your place. Please remember that **we have specific guides where you can see where to find each compartment we will mention in this article.**

1. **Motor oil:** check that your MG has not covered the mileage recommended by the manufacturer before you must change the oil, including the miles you will drive in your trip. You should also check the motor oil level, and, if you need to refill it, you should use the [recommended oil](#).
2. **Brake fluid:** check that its level is correct. If you have to refill it, make sure you use the fluid your car needs. If you do not know which fluid your car needs, you can read our guide about [brake fluid](#).
3. **Coolant:** check that there is enough coolant and make sure it looks shiny. If it looks dull or dark, it is time to change it. If you want to learn more about overheating you can read [our guide about it](#).
4. **Power steering fluid:** make sure that its level is adequate. If you need to add more fluid, you can check which one is the right one for your car by [clicking here](#).
5. **Windshield wiper fluid:** it is almost always overlooked, but you should check that there is enough of this fluid and it should be clean so that it can wipe any dirt that may adhere

to the glass during the trip, like bugs. There are specific products which are really good for this purpose and you can get them in gas stations.

6. **Leaks:** open the hood of your car and take a good look at the engine to check if there are any leaks. You can also check the place where you usually park your car to see if there are any oil or liquid stains on the floor.
7. **Wiper blades:** make sure that the wiper blades are wiping water correctly. If they are not, replace them for new ones.
8. **Lights:** check that all the exterior lights are working properly and check that the headlamps are aligned so that your visibility improves and you do not dazzle other drivers.
9. **Wheels:** check their pressure and their general state. If they are too worn-out or you see some cracks or damaged parts, you should replace them for new ones. Do not forget to check your spare wheel as well. You can read more about this topic by [clicking here](#).
10. **Alignment and balancing:** you should keep your wheels aligned and balanced. This will prevent any bothersome vibrations when you speed up, and it will also reduce the wear of your wheels.
11. **Safety elements:** check the charge level of your fire extinguisher. Make sure you have reflective triangles, a sling or a tow hitch, and all the safety elements required by law.
12. **Documentation:** make sure that you have all the documentation required by law and that it is up to date.

Do not check these things at the last minute because if you need to repair anything, it may take a few days to do so.

Why should you check your MG before a trip?

Driving on highways is way riskier than driving through the city because you will **drive at a faster speed** and **it is a lot harder to get help quickly**. For this reason, you should make sure that your MG is in perfect condition.



A-TEAM

By Ron Parks

The A-Team has not made more progress towards turning the donated MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit. It's summer time and we are busy. All we can report this month are "Good intentions!"

We still need volunteers to accomplish the items on the list of reassembly items to be done that was emailed to members. The list asked for some volunteers to adopt tasks for various areas of reassembly. Thank you to Ed Wolf, who signed up to help with this project. Things are staged and ready for work to begin on reassembly and cleaning tasks. The hope is that we can be all over the car at the same time without getting in each other's way and make the car drivable and saleable for next summer's driving season.

British Car Day Dayton, OH

The 40th anniversary of the Midwest's best British car & motorcycle show!

Saturday, August 2, 2025 9am - 4 pm

Eastwood MetroPark, 1385 Harshman Rd.,
Dayton, Oh.

Link to website: [British Car Day](#)



MG2025 July 28 - 31

Link to website: [MG2025](#) [MG2025 Crystal Lake IL - NAMGBR](#)



Classified Ads

Wanted: I have a '53 TD in need of a differential. Rick Jobe rtjobe@jobenet.net (8/24)

For sale: 1 right & 1 left front latch pillar for the MG 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 (6/25)

For sale:. 1970 Split bumper MGB This car is show ready. \$20K. Contact Terry Looft, 937-382-1520 or Terry@Looft.net (5/25)

For sale:, 1965 MGB, Iris Blue, excellent condition, no rust. Soft top, tonneau cover & boot cover are all like new. Complete maintenance records. \$12,000 OBO. Contact Dave Estell 513-673-5138 or destell1@cinci.rr.com (5/25)

For sale:, 1970 Arkley Needs finishing. Front and rear body clip for an Arkley. TOP not included. (Arkley Fiberglass Body for Sale) Come by to see it. Please contact Steve Miller at MG Automotive for pricing. 937-294-7623 or MGAutomotive1@aol.com. (6/25)

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 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 June Club Meeting By Diana Hodges

El Presidente Sam Hodges called the June 2025 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order at 7:31. El Presidente, “As I stated in my previous column, I was working on my green ‘77 MGB and after getting the engine back in, I decided to check valve clearances. In the process of doing this, I decided to check the torque. In the process of doing that, I found loose-ish rocker tower studs. In attempting to torque them, I popped one of the studs. Luckily it was a high break so getting the stud out wasn’t much of an issue. I was thinking about replacing the head gasket since I was this deep into the engine.” *After talking to some of the MGCC members, it was determined that I must be nuts to want to replace the head gasket due to a broken rocker tower studs that I already had out.* Questions from various members: What happens if you break another stud? Are you seeing any signs of a leak from the head gasket? Are you nuts?” Dave Gribler, “What happens if you bust a nut?”

President Sam, “We had our outing at the Dayton Dragons on June 8 and then we had a Pub Run to Jimmie’s Ladder 11. It was a really nice time and the club members have already asked if we can do it again next year. A fun time was had by all.”

Vice President’s Report was next. Vice President Ed Wolf, “Regular unleaded is \$2.49 and diesel is \$3.14. I made up the diesel because I didn’t look.” Pres. Sam, “Plan your days accordingly Mr. V.P. You will be filling in for me next month as President. (*While El Presidente luxuriates in Oshkosh, WI, smokes cigars and drinks bourbon.*)

Minutes we’re the next thing on the agenda. Steve Veris motioned to approve the Minutes as published. Lois Gribler seconded. MGCC voted and the Minutes were approved.

Apparently no one opposed. “*Quite surprising based on what I wrote.*”

Treasurer’s Report was next on the agenda. Treasurer John Scocozzo, “For June we actually had income. We had income of (\$18.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$18.00. We had total expenses of: Drives & Outing expenses of \$143.54 (*first round of drinks at Jimmie’s, etc.*) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$143.54. Total income when added to the losses means a total loss to the MGCC of \$125.54. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$446.11 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$320.57 in the primary checking account. The savings account had \$3,884.47

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after the application of \$0.16 in interest. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,255.04 with \$50.00 as cash on hand.” Art Barnes motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Eddie Hill seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s report approved. No one opposed because it’s money.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, “We officially have a new member in “New Ed” Strahle and Jeff Fields renewed in Traverse City, MI. You’re currently at 61 members.”

Birthdays in May: Tony Shoviak, Steve Veris, Eileen Wolf. V.P. Ed Wolf, “Now you tell me. it’s too late now!” Carole continued: Anna Schneider, Jeanne Muia, John Keferl, Diana Hodges, Kathy Goodman and John Florkey.

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “It’s July. There’s not much going on. The Cleveland show is this Saturday (*You missed it*), also Mt. Vernon is coming up. August 24th starting at 2:00 will be the MGCC Picnic at the Art & Cathy Barnes’. Bring dish to share. Crystal Lake is the week of July 28-31 outside of Chicago. The Loofts & Gribblers are definitely going.

Sunshine Committee.

Ed Hill delivered a report on Andy Heins. Eddie Hill filled us in, “His Achilles tendon was removed and he got his skin graft. He’s progressing nicely. Then the water heater blew up... But most importantly, Andy is recovering. He’s starting to get up more and more. Hopes to drive his MG to BCD.” Ron Parks, “I visited Dave McCann, Sr. at the hospital. He’s now at a rehab facility. He has fluid on his heart and lungs.” Ron will check on him next week. New Ed met Jim Cooley. “He wanted to come to the meeting tonight but just wasn’t in good enough shape to make the trip.” El Presidente, “Your idiot El Presidente is recovering from a fence re-rail. I’m not as young or as fit as I like to think. I replaced 110 8ft rails in a split rail fence. I can almost stand up straight again and I’ve regained feeling in my fingers.”

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, “I’ve been enjoying the columns from El Presidente. If you noticed the picture that was in the newsletter, you might have noticed that Skip and Steve were in the background of the featured car.” Carole, “I think featuring cars from people we don’t see often is a great way to reconnect.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “The internet is still there. I made a correction on the BCD website. I realized Bob & Rosalie Orr won in 2022, but there was an incorrect name on the website. Otherwise, nothing new.”

Beer Brake called at 7:52

Back from Break.8:05

Old Business. Who’s the oldest one here? After almost breaking the gavel, it’s apparent that the President has lost all control... Art Barnes, “Dar is here this month, so it’s not me. Dave and Carole (*simultaneously*), Dar Planeaux is Old Business. Dar, “I’ll take it.” V.P. Ed Wolf, “Do we know what the arrangements for the Centerville Americana Festival are?” El Prez., “Yeah. The gates would open at 6:30 and Steve Markman would be in place saving spots at 6:31. That’s the Club’s plan.” John Scocozzo, “I’m waiting to see where it’s going to be since they moved the location of the cars. It’s like a cruise in, so there is no point actual of contact.” Dave, “According to what I saw, it’s moving back to the old Main St. location.”

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Had a discussion about the all Ohio British Car club drive. Ed voted to nominate Dave Gribler for a Noble peace prize, Ed seconded.

New Business. “

There was a discussion about a July Pub Run to maybe Buckeye Jake’s, Riff Raff, The Silos, etc. After some discussion, it was decided that July is just too busy so nothing is happening.

BCD. John Scocozzo talked to Rumpke about dumpsters and trash cans and has ordered t-shirts and awards. Ed Hill, “We will be meeting Triumph club at 6 pm on June 26 at park to go over setup. We’ll need as much help as we can get on Friday night for the setup. I think we’re going to need more people because of the new site. We also need plans to keep spectators out of the line up.” Dave Gribler, “Watch your step.” (*The geese like this field too*).

Tech Tips. President Sam, “If you’re trying to torque a bolt, don’t spin it until it breaks. The head gasket does not need to be replaced if you break a stud on the rocker tower.” Diana Hodges, “Wait! What?!?” Steve Veris, “If you have AAA insurance and multiple cars, check your insurance policy to see if you also have roadside assistance. You’re probably paying for it on each car.”

For Sale: Ed Wolf, “Steve Markman’s TD is going to be stored at the British Museum of Transportation until Helen decides what to do with it. It’s most likely going to be sold. It’s a really nice car. We all know where Steve took it.”

Gumball Rallye was won by Rachel Johnson.

Next Meeting is July 23rd here at Bennet’s Pubical. Your President will not be in attendance. Do not let V.P. Ed Wolf talk any of you into anything else.

Motion to Adjourn: Dave Gribler made a motion adjourn. Dave Johnson seconded. MGCC May meeting adjourned 8:39.

