

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LXI No. 2

November 2025



Flag Deployment Made Easy

Norm McCord's 1969 MGB - Featured Car



Vapor Locked

President, Terry Looft

There is a lot to talk about this month. We are fresh off our trip to Sandusky where we attended the Annual General Meeting for NAMGBR and toured the facilities for the upcoming MG International 2026 taking place in August.

The setting is the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. The hotel consists of a giant water park for an indoor entertainment experience. Bring your swimming trunks. This place will be a blast.

The hotel is quite gigantic with over 900 rooms. I will talk more about it at the meeting. But, it is a themed hotel with just unbelievable décor.

The rooms are quite nice. The staff are very friendly and prices actually are quite reasonable for food considering the setting. We are excited about the



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

Wed, November 19, 2025

MG Car Club Officers

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upcoming meet as always. This will be the 7th 5-year get-together. With this show being centrally located, it is sure to be well attended.

We drove the route both ways. The drive was very pleasant. We stayed on a 2 lane highway that was very smooth with light traffic. Speeds will be in the 55 mile an hour range and it is a very pleasant drive with a lunch stop halfway each direction. We plan a meeting point in Springfield to pick up route 4. Route 4 takes us within 5 miles of the resort. There are a lot of eating and shopping opportunities very close to the resort. There are a lot of outings being planned and are still being finalized. A lot of things to look forward to on this trip.

I'm really hoping for a good turnout from our club for this show. Ron will be bringing the supply trailer. And we have a few things up our sleeves also for the parking lot parties. We will present more details as they become available. Registration should begin in December.

The MGC project is proceeding, maybe a little faster for the engine than the body. If things come together, we will get the body to Tom at The Body Shop within the next few days. Next week I will get it outside and get a final blasting of the nooks and crannies before it goes over to him.

I hope all of you have set aside Saturday, December 6th to attend the holiday party coming up at Bennett's. The club is taking care of the food, and you can bring a dessert to share if you like. This year we are having an "Ugly Sweater" contest complete with a prize to be awarded. So, if you want to have some fun, see if you can find a sweater that nobody in their right mind would wear. Also, don't forget everyone needs to bring a gag gift for an exchange.

Not much more to discuss before the meeting, see everybody there, make sure you remember, It's a week early because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

.See you at the meeting, safety fast!

Terry



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



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

November:

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

December:

6 - Holiday Party (Bennett's Public Family Sports Grill)

January:

28 - Meeting (Bennett's Public Family Sports Grill)

February:

25 - Meeting (Bennett's Public Family Sports Grill)

March:

25 - Meeting (Bennett's Public Family Sports Grill)

April:

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

May:

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

June:

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

July:

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

From the Editor

Ron Parks

Remember 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.

Welcome New Member

By Carole Looft

Ron Volkerding
627 McBee Rd
Sugarcreek Twp, Ohio 45305-9759
937-603-0177
ron.volkerding@gmail.com

1971 MGB

Membership Renewals Are Now Due!

By Carole Looft

Your membership renewal is now due! 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. **Members not renewed by January will be removed from the membership list.**

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:

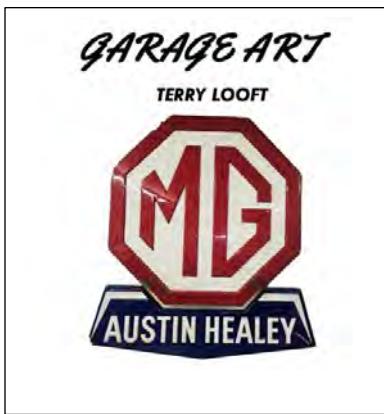
MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre
P.O. Box 20032. Dabel Branch
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

Holiday Party/Ugly Sweater Contest

By Carole Looft

Our annual Holiday party is being held on Saturday December 6, 2025 at 6:30 at Bennett's Public. The club will be providing the food for the event. If you would like, you can bring a dessert to share with the group. As always, gag gifts will be exchanged, so make sure everyone brings a gift. For added fun this year, we will be having an Ugly Sweater contest. Start looking for that sweater now. There will be a prize for the ugliest one!





Garage Art

How about some “Garage Clocks” this month? Here are a few from around the shop and house. Do you have any interesting items you consider “Art” around your garage/shop/house? Send them. Ron has lots of space to fill.

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



Member Featured Car of the Month

MY 69MGB, and My MG Ownership Journey

By Norm McCord

So, my MG experiences go back to 1972, when I bought my first MGB. It was a beautiful car. BRG, tan interior, and I had the dealer (yes there were dealers back then in Jacksonville, Florida) add a roll bar. I thought that it made the car truly unique. That car, during moves, traveled from JAX to Jackson, MS, and then to Atlanta, GA. For fun, I actually drove it on business trips a few times even though I had a company car; and for a while it was my wife's daily driver. We loved that car and it was truly fun to drive. I eventually parted with it. Some years later. Some years later (1978 timeframe I think), I bought a red Midget. It was fun to drive, but it was a mess; a true shop queen. I only kept it for a year or two.

Some years passed and I got the urge again. In 2005, I bought a 1979 MGB. I don't think that it was BRG: I think that the other green color that my research suggested might have been Mallard green. Tan interior. I didn't drive it a lot but kept it until about 2020. It was somewhat a shop queen, and Steve Miller at MG Automotive was very familiar with it.



I really had the urge to acquire a BRG MGB of the same time period and color as my '72, chrome bumpers, dual carbs, etc. In my first internet search this '69 MGB popped up in Charlotte, NC. write-up suggested that it had been restored and was in pristine condition. I immediately contacted the owner and arranged a trip to see the car. I took cash with me (I'm such a negotiator...LOL). It was/is a stunning car. I bought it on the spot. The owner suggested I should drive it back to Dayton. No way was I going to drive all that way back to Dayton through the mountains, on the interstate with screaming truck traffic. Besides, I thought that I detected a slight issue in the right front when turning left during the test drive. I had it shipped. Steve Miller checked it out; and yep, wheel bearings. I was curious: I found out the name of the shop that restored the car, BJ & Sons in Star, NC. I reached out to them to find out what all that they had done during the car. Oh My Gosh; they



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sent me a 5-page listing of everything that they did during a frame-off restoration, and over 500 pictures of the process. It was completed in 2015. I hope the pictures show just how beautiful that this car is (yeah, I'm proud). Side note: Ron Parks visited me to take a look at the car and take some more pictures. We discussed the color and concluded that it may not be BRG. I researched the list of work that occurred during restoration. It turns out that the color is Brooklands Green...but it's a beauty to me.



So to conclude, I wanted to share something that amused me after reading another owner's story in the Octagon few months back about how he got in and out of his "B." So, when I owned my '72, at age 25 or 26, Ha! getting in and out was no problem. Now at 78, with my '69, well it can be a hilarious event to witness. With the top up, forget it. I keep the top down mostly, and still have to crawl out, sometimes with hands on the garage floor...but I'll keep doing it!

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Norm McCord and his 69 MGB

New Flag Bag Pressed into Service

By Ron Parks

Dave Johnson is seen here packing up the Union Jack feather flags at a recent British Biscuits and Tea gathering. Dave is thankful to Cathy Barnes for making his job of packing and transporting the feather flags easier. Cathy made the Canvas bag with embroidered MG Octagon for carrying the British and MG feather flags to and from MG Car Club events.

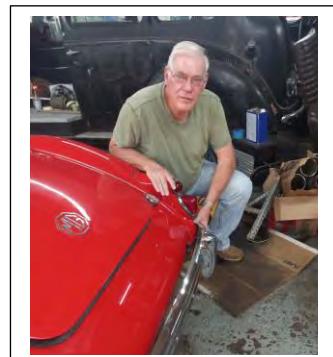


A-TEAM

By Ron Parks

The A-Team has made more progress towards turning the donated MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit. This month Rick Shields painted scuffed areas on the rear fenders and mounted the rear bumper that he had previously polished.

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 work has begun 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.



AI Overview resulting from Internet search for “History of Car Paints”

By Ron Parks

The history of automotive paint began with basic, air-drying varnishes applied by brush, which was a slow and time-consuming process. This changed dramatically in the 1920s with the development of faster-drying, sprayable **nitrocellulose lacquers** like DuPont's **Duco**, which revolutionized production by reducing painting times from days to hours and offering more color options. Subsequent innovations included the introduction of tougher **alkyd enamels** in the 1930s and the development of the modern **basecoat/clearcoat system** in the 1970s, which applies a clear, protective layer over the colored pigment for improved durability and gloss. Today, automotive paints are primarily water-based with clearcoats and UV inhibitors for environmental and durability reasons.

Early years (c. 1900–1920s)

- **Hand-painted varnishes:** Early vehicles were painted with simple, varnish-like products that were brushed on, requiring multiple coats and taking as long as 40 days to complete.
- **Limited colors:** The color palette was very limited, often consisting of dark or black Japan black finishes, as the process was too slow for mass production.

The lacquer era (1920s–1950s)

- **Nitrocellulose lacquer:** An accidental discovery at DuPont led to the development of a fast-drying, sprayable nitrocellulose lacquer in the early 1920s.
- **Spray application:** The invention of the spray gun in 1924 and the use of lacquers dramatically sped up the painting process, making it feasible for mass production.
- **Wider color selection:** Lacquers allowed for a much greater variety of colors to be used.
- **Alkyd enamels:** The 1930s saw the introduction of alkyd enamels, which were more solvent-resistant and required fewer coats than lacquers, though they were prone to fading in sunlight.

The clearcoat revolution (1970s–present)

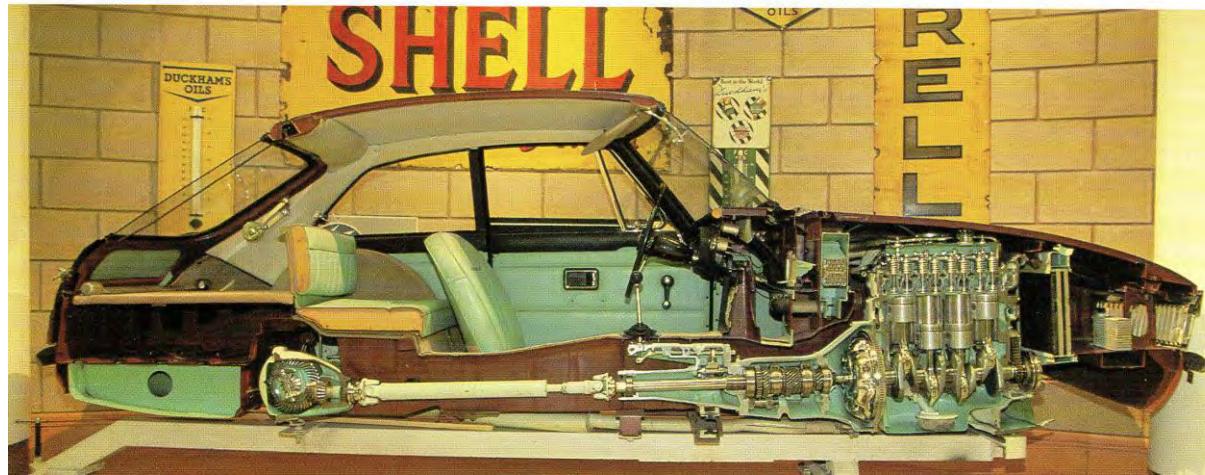
- **Basecoat/clearcoat:** In the 1970s, the basecoat/clearcoat system was developed, where the color pigment is sealed under a transparent, protective clear layer that includes UV inhibitors.
- **Improved durability:** This system significantly improved the paint's durability and resistance to the elements.
- **Universal adoption:** By the 1990s, the basecoat/clearcoat system was adopted by almost the entire automotive industry.
- **Shift to water-based paints:** Due to environmental regulations, lead and other heavy metals were removed, leading to a shift from solvent-based to water-based paints in recent decades.

Sectioned MGBGT

Contributed by Ron Parks, scanned and captioned from “Original MGB” book by Anders Ditlev Clausager,
Photography by John Colley

This sectioned MGB GT from the BMIHT collection at Gaydon is an early Mark II model and is thought to have been prepared for the 1967 Turin Motor Show—its combination of features is unique to the Italian export specification. It gives a good idea of the overall layout of the MGB as well as much of the interior detailing on the GT—disregarding the non-standard color scheme...

BODY SHELL



Classified Ads

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. Electric for battery maintainers. Please bring chargers and extension cord. Terry Looft 937-527-7353 or tlooft@earthlink.net. (10/25)

For sale: 1975 Forest Green MGB convertible with 67K miles. Brand new tires (summer 2025), Turns over on first try. I have the top boot and another top that is included. Come by Powell Ohio to see it. Please contact Jon Ogden for pricing and questions. 330-417-3412 or jonathan.m.ogden@gmail.com (9/25)

For Sale: Ignition coil, new for TCs, TDs, Moss P/N 143-210. \$95 Danny Mortensen, 10901 Kimberly Dr., Union, KY 41091. 859-384-7821, agsdanny@aol.com (10/25)

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 (10/25)

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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. (10/25)

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 October Club Meeting By Sam Hodges

New MGCC **President Terry Looft** called the October 2025 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order, for the first time precisely at 7:30. Terry, “Are we okay? Great, now we can sluff off.” President Terry Looft called the October 2025 meeting of the MGCC to order again at 7:31, President Looft, “Only 10 more meetings to go.” Sue Scocozzo, “That’s being optimistic.”

Terry Looft, “I was a bit nervous following the former President.” Terry then thanked the outgoing administration for “their hard work, dedication and not destroying anything vital.”

Terry continued, “Scott’s not here. We had 6 show up to the ‘Name That Part’ party. Lois sat and labeled all the parts we identified. We also got the door open. Friday we’re heading up to Sandusky to check out the venue for the upcoming 5-year gathering. Should be a good time with all of the type clubs meeting. We’re going for the general meeting for NAMBGR and we’ll get to see the layout and the facilities. On that note, we think we’re going to have to move the August 2026 meeting to one week earlier because none of the officers will be here to have the meeting.” Dave Gribler, “They could still have the meeting here with whoever the chain-of-command says would be in charge.”

Vice President’s Report was next. Vice President Chris was not in attendance. Lois, “Slacking on his duties already?” Terry, “Chris couldn’t be here, but I have his report. ‘I got nothing’ was all he sent. He’s off to a good start.”

Minutes we’re the next thing on the agenda. John Scocozzo motioned to approve the Minutes as reported. Steve Powell seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes were approved.

Surprisingly, no one opposed.

Treasurer’s Report was next on the agenda. Treasurer John Scocozzo, “For October we had income of Membership Dues (\$430.00) + Regalia (\$34.50) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$464.50. We had total expenses of: Gumball Rally Cash (\$50.00) + Postage (\$23.54) + Club Picnic Supplies (\$77.42) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$150.96. Total losses when subtracted from gains means a total gain to the MGCC of \$313.54. When added to our beginning balance of \$698.94 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$1,012.48 in the primary checking account. The savings account had \$3,884.95 before the application of \$0.16 in interest. The savings account now has \$3,885.11. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$4,957.59 with \$60.00 as cash on hand.” Lois Gribler motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Eddie Hill seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s report approved.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, “We have a new member, Ron Volkerding who has an all original 1971 MGB. Ron, “I bought it about 30-years ago, drove it a

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while then it got shuffled to the back of the garage. I was told about 3 years ago to get it fixed or get rid of it. So I had it towed to Steve Miller at MG Automotive and told him to fix what ever needed to be fixed. This is actually my second MGB. I had one when I was 20 but I got wrecked. “Carole, “Right now, we have 44 on the roster.”

Birthdays in October: Steve Powell (88 years young), Graham Cooper, Linda Fields, Dar Planeaux, Ellen Sparklin.

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “I got the same thing as the VP report. I got nuthin.” Terry, “Don’t forget about Sandusky.” Eddie, “I saw that there was a suggestion that we might not have to stay at the host hotel.” Terry, “We’ll scout around and see what else is there. We’ll find you a Super 8, Eddie.” Eddie, “That’s a Red Roof, please.” Eddie continued with Activities, “The rate at the host hotel, Kalahari, is \$149 per night.”

Ed Wolf, “The British Museum is having their chili cook off Saturday from 4-7.” (*You absolutely missed it.*)

Holiday Party: The annual Holiday party will be Saturday, December 6th at Bennet’s Publical. The party will start later at 6:30 due to the Miamisburg Holiday tree lighting. Diana Hodges, “You don’t want to get here early.”

Sunshine Committee. Carole, “Ron Parks has Covid and doesn’t want to infect everyone.”

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, …therefore isn’t here tonight due to having Covid. Due to the November meeting being a week early, make sure to get everything in to Ron early. Secretary Sam, “I’ve probably already got an unfriendly reminder email.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “I was able to get our website info corrected. Otherwise, the internet is still working.”

Beer Brake called at 7:50

Back from Break 8:01.

President Looft, “I did skip over something newsletter related. Ron wanted to thank Jason Timberman for the featured car article. He was trying to make the meeting, but I see he didn’t.”

Old Business. Who’s the oldest one here? Terry, “We have Steve Powell with us today. Anything to bring up or talk about?” Steve, Powell, “I can’t remember a thing.” Terry, anything else old business?” Lois Gribler, “We keep talking about the car show. For all of the new members who haven’t gone, they’re really special to go to. There are a lot of people that haven’t been before. If you go, you won’t regret it.” *As only the MGCC could, they proceeded to spend the next 10-minutes telling horror stories from past trips. Breakdowns, bad hotels, heat stroke, locust, fire and plagues.* Lois, “But really they’re a lot of fun.”

BCD, Dave Gribler, “We’re still waiting on the close out for BCD. We sent our proposal that each club get \$2,100.” Lois, “We finally got the money from the hotdog dude. Cash. Small bills.”

New Business. President Terry, “We’re going to have a contest for the ugliest sweater at the party. Wear your ugliest best.”

Carole Looft, “With the upcoming all-club in Sandusky, now’s a good time to think about antenna flags. We’re out of antenna flags. We need to order new antenna flags. The old ones were 10x10inch. The new ones we want to order are stronger and double sided. The new ones cost \$149 for 25 flags. 8x8inch with a 6x6inch emblem. For 25 that’s \$6 each. If we order 50, then the price is \$249 or 50 for \$5 each. I can see what the cost would be for 75 if we want.” Terry, “We’re

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looking at a suction cup flagpole since a lot of us don't have antennas." Ed Wolf, "Will it be structural? Can it hold in the window?"

John Scocozzo, "I'd like to make a motion to order 50." Dave Gribler seconded. MGCC voted. Motion approved. Steve Powell, "I'd like to make a motion to just buy them and give them out." (*Technically, a hanging motion.*)

Tech Tips. Eddie Hill, "Cold start. No.1 cylinder doesn't get a spark when cold. Once the car has warmed n up, it fires like normal." Sam, "I've been living with that issue for 18-years." Dave Gribler, "Move your distributor 90° and see what's it does. It's probably the cam distributor follower." Dave McCann, Jr., "It's the position relative to the distributor. By turning the distributors 90°, you create a new No.1." Dave Gribler, "I've got an extra distributor." Terry Looft, "Dave will loan you one, but 5 & 6 are going to miss." Dave Gribler, "This way you can rule out or confirm the issue is the distributor."

Ed Wolf, "If you're having a starter issue, there's a way to jumper the solenoid to the bottom fuse. If the starter turns then it's either the ignition relay or the starter motor."

For Sale: Nuthin

Gumball Rallye was won by John Florkey. John, "Way to start the fiscal year."

Next Meeting is early due to Thanksgiving. Nov. 19th.

Motion to Adjourn: Eddie & John Scocozzo.

British Car Humour

The Senior Driver

As a senior citizen was driving his MG down the freeway, his cell phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on 280. Please be careful!"

"Hell," said Herman, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"