

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LXI No. 3

January 2026



Vapor Locked

President, Terry Looft

I am starting out the New Year's newsletter on a sad note. I have to report the loss of a very dear friend, friend to the club and everybody. Steve Powell's wife, Jayne, passed away on December 18th. The club passes on our deepest condolences to Steve and their family. Please read Ron's really nice article about Jayne elsewhere in this newsletter.

A lot has happened in the past 2 months going into this newsletter. The big event was the club's holiday party. Our attendance was down somewhat from previous years. But enthusiasm was up. We had a great time, great meal and a fun gift exchange. Our new ugly sweater contest was a hit. I'm sure it was a tough choice for our judge, which was our waitress unbeknownst to everybody

Remembering Jayne Powell
Chris & Jeanne Muia's MG Midget - Featured Car



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, January 28, 2026

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Inside This Issue

3	Upcoming Events
4	Jayne Powell Remembered
7	Chris & Jeanne Muia's MG Midget- Featured Car
13/14	Classifieds - Minutes from November Meeting

The Octagon News – January 2026

at the party. The big winner of the contest was our own editor and chief, Ron Parks with his "butt" ugly sweater. Maybe he will post pictures of it in the newsletter.

Everybody should be aware. The website for registration is up and running for MG International in Sandusky in August. <https://mginternational2026.regfox.com/register> We have already registered for the event and have made our reservation at the hotel. We are really looking forward to a big show. They are still hoping for 1000 MG's. I'm taking two MG's, (yes, I have done that before.) Carole is taking her 78 MGB. The 5 year events are always fun. A few of them have been quite memorable. We look forward to this one to be as well. Please make plans and work this into your vacation schedule . Don't forget to get your car tuned and ready to go. It's only a 4 hour trip up there. Starting from Springfield it will be an easy trip.

Things are progressing, quite nicely on my MGC. All the body parts are at The Body Shop and everything is now in primer. Tom has been quite busy already with the body work. He has done a great job in saving the rear quarter section. And it looks like we're not going to have to do any major body panel replacement. For now, we have been on a crusade to gather new parts and materials to do both the restoration on my MGC and Carole's newly acquired 1972 MGB GT which is in the rare color, Aqua. There was only one year for this color and only 497 MGB-GT's ever painted in Aqua.



The other project has been, and still on-going, is a large revamp of the hobby shop. We are reorganizing shelving and moving tools into a newly established tool crib in the other section of the building. That's been keeping us rather busy as well, but the convenience and setup is going to be really nice.

That's about it for this month. Everyone have a 'Safety Fast' New Year.



Safety  *Fast*

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

MiniMania

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

January:

25 – Pub Run to Jimmy’s Ladder 11 - 936
Brown St, Dayton, OH 45409 – 5:00pm
28 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Family Sports
Grill)

February:

25 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Family Sports
Grill)

March:

25 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Family Sports
Grill)

April:

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

May:

27 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Family Sports
Grill)
31 – Dayton Dragons – MGs on the Plaza

June:

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

July:

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

August:

19 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Family Sports
Grill)
24 – 27 – MG International 2026, Sandusky, OH

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.



Jayne Powell Remembered

By Ron & Linda Parks and Cathy & Art Barnes

Our friend, Jayne Powell, wife of Steve Powell, one of the founding members of the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre, passed away on Thursday, December 18, 2025. [Obituary for Jayne Kathleen Powell](#)

Jayne was a proud graduate of Tippecanoe High School and went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University.

Jayne's entrepreneurial spirit led her to open and operate Exchange Unlimited, the first consignment store in Dayton, Ohio, where she became a beloved figure in the community. She was passionate about the store and the relationships she built with her customers and staff. In addition to her business, Jayne was a devoted part-time teacher, sharing her love of learning with her students.



Jayne enjoyed playing Bridge with her friends, as well as planting flowers and nurturing them as they grew.

Steve and Jayne suggested, for several years, that Linda and I play Mexican train dominoes with them. We thought, “Dominoes, that’s a kids’ game!” Well, we finally played with them and discovered that it was fun! Now, our kids and friends have dominoes and we play all the time. Jayne enjoyed playing dominoes very much!

Jayne was not a “stick shift” averse person. She would typically drive their MG TF to British Car Day, as she did pictured here in 2005. She always had a good time touring with the MG Car Club. On one particular fall tour, the one that took us across the Ohio river on a ferry at Maysville, Kentucky, Steve and Jayne had driven their Corvette that they were leasing at the time. This tour was the first outing for my MGB after my 2002 restoration. The instruments were functioning, but duct taped in place, as I had not yet installed the new dashboard. I was hearing an unusual sound occurring at high speed and I wanted Steve Powell to ride with me to help diagnose the problem. So, Steve and Linda traded seats, with Jayne driving the Corvette. Well, Jayne and Linda got separated from the rest of the tour and stopped to ask a state highway patrolmen for directions. Having been told to go the opposite direction, they thanked the patrolman and promptly

made a U-turn in the middle of the street, leaving the highway patrolman sitting there just shaking his head! He let them go and they shortly rejoined the group. Oh, and the unusual sound: a rubber gromet was not installed on one of the cables on the firewall and the wind was whistling through the opening.

Steve and Jayne enjoyed driving to some of the national MG events too. They drove their MG TF to the all-MG meet in Gatlinburg in 2006. One afternoon when it was raining, we enjoyed lunch with them in a restaurant atop of one of the high-rise hotels near the Sky Lift. Touring locally, we sometimes drove our MGs for lunch and antiquing. We will miss good times with Jayne!

Cathy and Art Barnes' remembrance of Jayne:

Soon after we joined the MG Car Club, Cathy and I drove to Jayne and Steve's beautiful house in Tipp City, just a few blocks from our home in Vandalia. I tried to tell Jayne how attractive her kitchen was, to which Jayne's eyes grew large, and she chuckled. "When we were having this house built 30 years ago," Jayne laughed, "I wanted a bigger kitchen, and guess what we got -- a bigger garage!"

At the time, Steve's garage had five cars (three classic MGs, a Mini Cooper, and a large BMW), admirable tools and gears, two garbage cans, and a lawn mower.



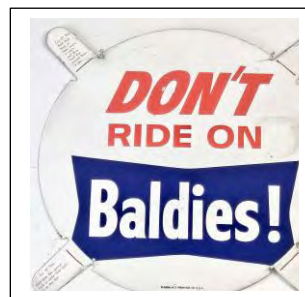


Garage Art

This month is my “tire-less” attempt to fill Ron’s blank space in the newsletter. Please, people, send me pictures. This month are tire related items. Check your garage for oil/gas pictures for next month.

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

Chris and Jeanne Muia's '74' MG Midget By Chris Muia

This isn't a restoration story, but rather the story of how I jumped into the purchase of my long-awaited MG Midget. To partly justify my child-like decision, I'll offer a little background. My parents instilled my fascination with British sports cars at a young age. They both drove Spitfires (thankfully, that gene skips a generation but I am worried about our daughters) and told stories of all the fun drives...until I was born and they were forced into larger vehicles...although they did drive me around a while stowed behind the seats. My dad continued to increase my fascination as he excitedly explained all the different models as we watched 'The Avengers' (original series with Diana Rigg), James Bond movies and other British re-runs. Also, the toy models he would buy for me were all British cars, while all my friends were assembling replicas of muscle cars.

My love for all things MG started when I was around ten years old with my first close encounter of the MG kind. A neighbor came home from college with a chrome bumpered, BRG Midget. It was love at first sight: the shiny chrome bumpers and trim, big logo on the boot, MIDGET along the sills, walnut shifter and the dash with all the gauges and little red and blue lights. Every time he was home, I was there, helping him wash it or sitting in it while he tinkered under the bonnet (now I know why that happened kind of frequently). At the age of sixteen, I obviously expected my first car to be British and of course, an MG. I searched through 'Wheeler Dealer' magazines and classifieds until I found a local B roadster for sale. My dad and I checked out the car and I had my half of the price ready to go. Being a good dad he said, "It isn't a good first car. How will you take care of it?". I was devastated, even more so when I ended up with a used Dodge Champ.

With all that said, fast forward to March of 2024 on a Thursday evening when I received a text and picture from my wife, Jeanne, asking "Is this the kind of car you always talk about?" and a picture of a restored bright red chrome bumpered MG Midget. I met the owner of the car the next morning. The Midget was restored in Michigan and was



purchased to drive there while at his summer home. It was brought to Cincinnati to sell and be replaced by a Triumph, to go along with the other two that he owned. I was told that first gear needed attention and a fuel tank reading of half full actually meant empty. I took the Midget to a local Import garage for a quick inspection, thoroughly enjoying my first drive in an MG. Indeed, first gear was really loud and eventually would need help and fuel gauge problem would need diagnosing before a cost could be estimated. My dad's question rang in my ears "How will you take care of it?", but that was immediately drowned out by Elvis singing "It's now or never....". The rest is history.



Getting it home

I've owned the Midget for almost two years now and I couldn't be happier. To answer my dad's question, I searched and found our club with hope of finding mechanical help, if needed, and more importantly, comradery. Jeanne and I attended our first meeting and chatted with folks during break. Each time I described the carburetor on the Midget I was met with head shakes, eye rolls, jokes or looks of downright disgust. When we sat back down after break Jeanne whispered "What is wrong with your car?". I didn't know, but I soon learned and actually rebuilt and installed the SU's that came in a box of parts with the car. Everyone was right, the SU's really woke up the Midget and made it even more fun to drive! On the way to resolving the fuel gauge problem I learned all about Smiths gauges, fuel senders, voltage stabilizers and became very proficient in pulling the fuel tank. In both cases, our standing president provided guidance, hands-on help and increased the thickness of my skin....but in good fun!

My Midget has been a blessing in more ways than I expected. I've found the help and comradery from our club that I was seeking and have met many past MG owners who have gotten pleasure from seeing the Midget and relaying stories of their own cars. I couldn't ask for more, or could I?

The Octagon News – January 2026

After a few meetings, I began to get strange comments...I'll use initials, to protect the guilty:

“You can't own just one.” ... L.G.

“She won't divorce you if you get just one more.” ... R.P.

“The Midget is a nice local car, but....” ... T.L.

Well, it did get me thinking, but that is another story.....



Resting at home!



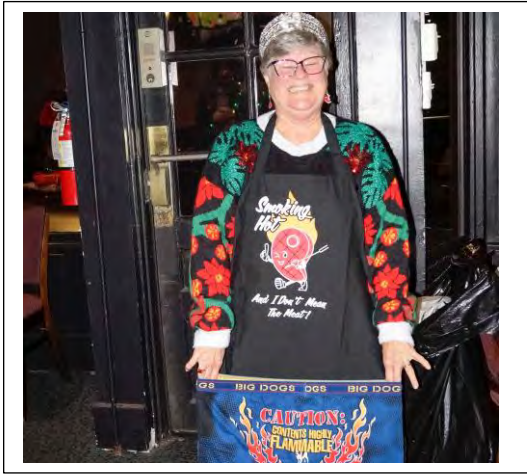
The bonnet is off in the engine bay picture as the transmission adventure is starting. And yes, the compartment will be painted to match the car as part of the project!

Holiday Party

By Ron Parks

Good food and a good time were had at the Holiday party on December 6th. Many hats were gifted, along with other valuable prizes! The ugly sweater contest was a hit and saw a plethora of deserving candidates! Mine was judged the ugliest by the judge, our waitress, Lindsay. Although, I may have cheated by adding the hat and the glasses? Nonetheless, I was honored to receive the prize, a nice bag adorned with the club logo. This bag, with British Racing Green panels I might note, will accompany us to MG International 2026 in Sandusky with something in it.



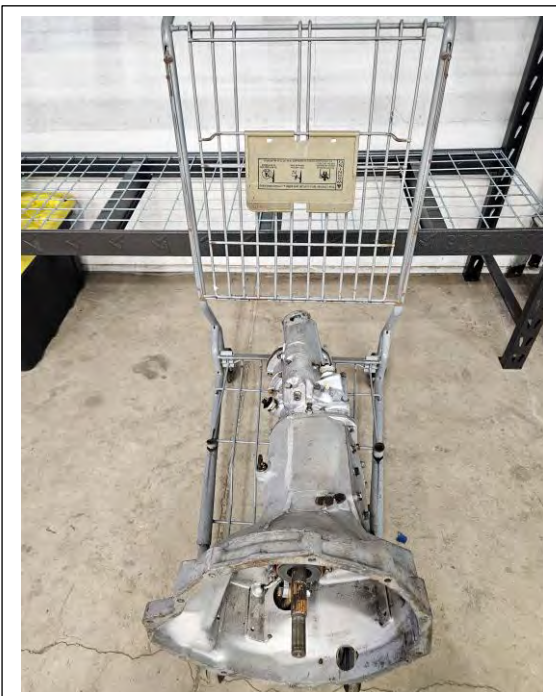


Tech Tip

By Terry Looft

My tech tip for this month is an easy to use transmission caddy. You can pick them up at any Walmart and for the price they are a real steal. I may even pick up a few more. And while we are on the subject, how hard is it to move around these big heavy differentials? Made simple with a couple cheap dollies from harbor freight or rural king. When they're on sale.

Your Prez.

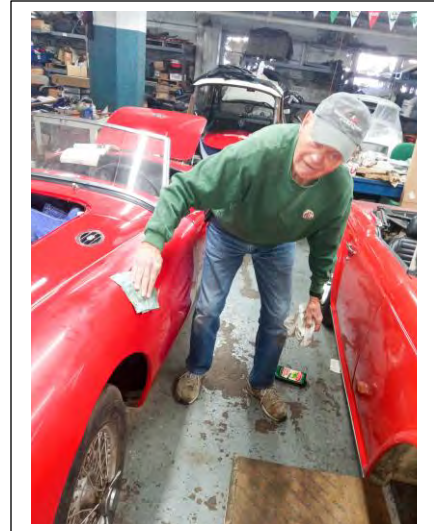


A-TEAM

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 Ron Parks waxed the exterior of the body.

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.



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. (1/26)

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 (1/26)

For sale: 1 left front latch pillar for the MG TD, Moss catalog #450-825. Selling for 1/2 the catalog value - \$94. Brand new. Free shipping. Danny Mortensen 859-384-7821 or agsdanny@aol.com (1/26)

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. (1/26)

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 November Club Meeting By Sam Hodges

President Terry Looft called the November 2025 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order, for the first time at 7:30. “Go about your business. this was just to be on the books as being on time.”

The next attempt to start was 7:31. Terry, “Welcome to the November issue. How many people remembered the meeting was tonight? Last month we went to Sandusky. It’s going to be a nice show. Hopefully it’ll be well attended from the MGCC SWOC. We drove the route. We picked up Route 4 in Springfield. It’ll take 3.5 - 4 hours. Straight, smooth roads, light traffic. There are no excuses. 55mph is the speed limit. Only about 3% is interstate. A piece of cake. At the resort, there’s every restaurant or store within a mile or 2 of the Kalahari. The resort is over the top. Their water park you could put 3 or 4 Great Wolf Lodges inside. There must be 5 bars in the water park. The resort itself is African based. The owner of the chain has ties with Africa. Part of his profits actually go to Africa. He drills wells and does all sorts of support projects in Africa. Everything in the hotel is authentic African. The show field is a couple of miles away. It’s a soccer field. It too is an easy drive. The restaurants at the hotel were reasonable. Go high and get an even numbered room and you’ll be overlooking the parking lot where the show will be.”

Dave Gribler, “Each of the national registers is having a dinner on that Tuesday. The car show is Wednesday. The awards banquet is Thursday. August 24th weekend, they’re planning a Put-In-Bay boat cruise. A lot of things are still in the works.” Pres. Looft, “Plan accordingly. As a result, the August meeting will be a week early, like this one, since no one will be in Dayton.”

Terry continued, “My MGC has stalled a little but it’s down to bare metal. It’s being blasted and should be at Tom’s shortly. My MGF is due a suspension. The shocks are shot. The MGF is a funny in-between car. It falls in the middle of the wet suspension and normal suspension. It’s a wet suspension that uses nitrogen spheres that push against water and that creates the shock for the car. Over time, the nitrogen depletes and over time, you end up with more water than nitrogen. I’m going to convert it to a normal suspension kit that’s going to be springs & shocks.

Vice President’s Report was next. Vice President Chris Muia. Terry “Nice of you to show up.” Chris, “I missed you all last month Terry took me to the museum and met I Giuseppe. We failed to notify the Secretary that both the Pres. & VP travelled in the same car to the museum.” *The Secretary was not amused by this gross dereliction of duty and violation of chain-of-command protocols. The Treasurer however found it quite amusing.*

Terry, “The V8 is dead in the water. After I got home from that trip, I tried starting it and it will not start.” Dave McCann, Jr., “Dayton Quality Starter on Salem Ave.”

VP Chris continued, “I had to replace the gaskets on the overdrive. I had to use the Bat Phone to the president. When I took the overdrive housing off, there was something hanging it up. When I pulled it out, it was a shop rag. I wasn’t sure if that was supposed to be there or not. I’ve driven the car several times and it drove just fine so, I wasn’t 100% that it wasn’t supposed to be there. The battery is in the back seat after all, so this is all new to me.”

Minutes we’re the next thing on the list. Dave McCann motioned to approve the Minutes as reported. Art Barnes seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes were approved. *I have no idea how.*

Treasurer’s Report was next on the agenda. Treasurer John Scocozzo, “For November we had income of Membership Dues (\$302.00) + Regalia (\$5.00) + BCD Revenue (\$2,100.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$2,407.00. We had total expenses of: Mother Club Membership (\$110.19) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$110.19. Total losses when subtracted from gains means a

The Octagon News – January 2026

total gain to the MGCC of \$2,296.81. When added to our beginning balance of \$1,012.48 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$3,309.29. in the primary checking account. The savings account had \$3,885.11 before the application of \$0.16 in interest. The savings account now has \$3,885.27. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$7,244.56 with \$50.00 as cash on hand.” Lois Gribler motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Art Barnes seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s report approved.

Lois, “I move that for the January meeting we have the club buy a round.” This sparked off a debate on the topic of the MGCC buying a round, that I’m not 100% sure was actually settled.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, “We have 52 members.”

Birthdays in November: Sam Hodges, Richard Miller, Eddie Cole, Cathy Barnes.

Activities with Eddie. Eddie’s not here. President Looft, “Do we want to consider a pub run?” The Famous? TJ Chumps? Jimmy’s Ladder 11? After some discussion, the club decided to do Jimmy’s Ladder 11 on Brown St., January 25th at 5:00pm.

Sunday May 31st, 2026 will be the Dayton Dragons gathering. Same as last year. We show up by noon, park on the plaza, go to the game and have a good time.

The Holiday Party was Dec. 6th. We brought deserts, gag gifts and a good time was had by all.

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft, “I don’t know of anyone.” Lois, “How’s your dad doing?” Dave McCann, Jr., “Not great. His BP has been all over the place and he’s had a few more falls.”

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, “The last MG Driver has Dennis Gate’s article about his midget. Send in your articles. If we haven’t featured your car, we can feature it. otherwise, I’m working on my article about my Triumph for when I don’t have an article.” Dave Gribler, “Ron’s ‘Skip Tribute’ article will appear in the next MGA magazine.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “Nothing new. Websites still there.”

Beer Brake called at 8:03.

Back from Break 8:17.

Old Business. Who’s the oldest one here? Art Barnes, “I guess I’ll take it.” Terry, “We have our BCD money. Antenna flags are also here.” Carole. (*holding one up*) “The Velcro is very sticky. There was some talk about giving some out to MGCC members as a gratuity. If I do, then I’d have to buy another 50 to have in stock.” John Scocozzo, “I’d like to motion that members get one per membership paid for by the club and the club buys another 50.” Art Barnes seconded. MGCC voted and approved. Terry, “Do we have to redo the artwork to order another 50? Terry, we need flags for the shows and cars.”

Terry, “Make sure that when you register, you use the full MGCC SWOC with Centre spelled the same. There are awards for most club activity.”

New Business. Terry, “The MGCC is going to be 60 next year.” Dave Gribler, “Does anyone know what the actual date was?” Terry, “Anyone think we should throw a party?” MGCC “YES!” There was some discussion about what we could possibly do. Stay tuned for more info.

Donations: Annual donations are next. After some discussion as to organizations and amounts, John Scocozzo motioned to donate \$250 to the Food Bank and \$250 to St. Vincent. Diana Hodges seconded. MGCC voted. Club approved.

The Octagon News – January 2026

Circling back to Lois' earlier proposal, John floats the idea of the MGCC buying the first round for the 2025-2026 FY. Discussion followed. After weighing the pros & cons, Dave G. Seconded the motion. MGCC voted. Starting in January through the end of the year, we get the first round on the club.

Tech Tips. "We already know how to de-rag your car. Chris, and everything worked!" Terry, "I was more surprised after you put it back together without the rag and it still worked."

Terry, "Go to Harbor Freight and get a 3/8-1/2 adapter. Just touch it to a grinder. It'll fit a differential drain plug perfectly."

Date for the Holiday party next year. Due to the Miamisburg Tree lighting, maybe we want a different weekend, or maybe a Sunday party. We'll schedule it that way next year if it's available.

Gumball Rallye, Dave Gribler won.

Next Meeting is January 28, 2026.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron & Dave Jr.

British Car Humour

