

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LXI No. 4

February 2026



Garage Art – Gas/Oil Memorabilia

“Methuselah” Bruce Miller’s ‘63’ MGB Pull Handle Tourer

Featured Car

## Vapor Locked

President, Terry Looft

Well, here we are deep in the midst of winter.

Wouldn't we all like to get our hands around the throat of Punxsutawney Phil? Six more weeks, sure wish that global warming guy was right at least once. We are now at 17 inches of snow this past week alone.

I am getting really good at plowing snow. Thank goodness for my tractor with its heated cab.



I have even pressed into service my Bobcat clone to move snow from the shop entrance. We are on a dead-end street at the shop, and they always seem to plow all the snow into that dead-end. But our shop is



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, February 25, 2026**

## MG Car Club Officers

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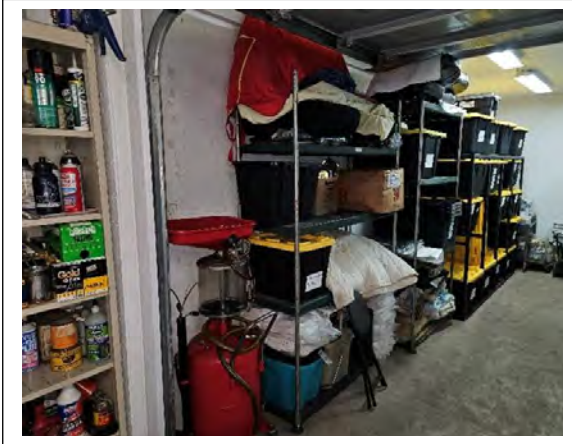
Historian.....Open

WebPage.....[www.mgcarclubswohio.com](http://www.mgcarclubswohio.com)

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## The Octagon News February 2026

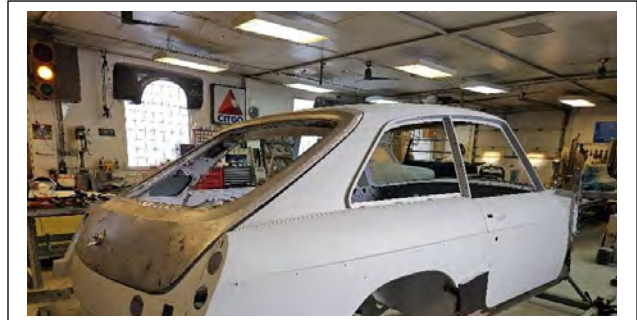


operating. We can maintain good temperature inside and have been doing a lot of chores, both in the shop and on the cars.

Carole has been busy working on new shelving and arranging parts. I've been busy working on her GT. We are at the point of putting her car on a trailer, taking it up to Tom at The Body Shop and letting him do an evaluation of it. We need to come up with a plan of attack for repairs and stripping. We will probably need to cut the front clip out of another parts car and do a splice with that front end. It's a real mess where it was hit. (More like it hit something like a stout pole dead center)



My MGC is progressing nicely at the body shop. The rear quarter is all squared away, and a new hatch has been fitted. Tom should be getting all the body work done fairly soon. I'm anxious to see it all one color even if it's just primer. Seems we are now full steam doing two restorations at the same time, real time saver? Maybe. Money saver, no!



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A side project, which is probably later in the spring, is to replace the full suspension on the MG F. I have received a kit from England that will convert to coil over shocks and remove the liquid suspension from the car completely. Kind of like when the mini went from wet suspension to the dry. Ride height is adjustable, shock action is adjustable and there should be no more leaks to worry about. I'm told it should take about 4 hours per wheel to do. I did not ask if that is by someone who knows what they are doing or not. Also, the car is due for an oil change, which is not easy on the MG F. At the same time, I have a rebuilt AC compressor to swap out.



We had a pretty small turnout at the last meeting. But with the snow and extreme cold, that was not surprising. In spite of the weather, we had a lively meeting. I hope to see more of you at the next meeting. Stay warm!

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

**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

### February:

- 22 – Pub Run to Bagger Dave’s 5:00pm
- 25 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

### March:

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

### April:

- 18 – Tune-up clinic
- 22 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

### May:

- 27 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)
- 30 – British Car Week, Drive Em don’t Hide Em
- 31 – Dayton Dragons – MGs on the Plaza

### June:

- 7 – Ft. Meigs British car show, Perrysburg, OH.
- 24 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

### July:

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

### August:

- 1 – British Car Day, Dayton (Eastwood Park)
- 14-16 – MG103FEST Gananoque, ON, Canada
- 19 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)
- 24 – 27 – MG International 2026, Sandusky, OH

### September:

- 13 – Concours d’Elegance at Carillon Park
- 18-20 – British Invasion, Stowe VT
- 23 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)
- 26 – British Car Day Toronto, ON, Canada

### October:

- 28 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

### November:

- 18 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

### December:

- 6 – Holiday Party 5:00pm at Bennett’s Pubical

## From the Editor

Ron Parks

**R**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](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. Editorial cutoff each month is Wednesday two (2) weeks prior to the Club meeting.



## Garage Art

Oil and gas month, more than enough for a couple months. Thanks for the submissions from Ron Parks and Steve and Mimi. Keep sending pictures to [garageart@looft.net](mailto:garageart@looft.net). Try to get good close ups, one item at a time. What to do next month? How about “unusual or odd items” decorating your garage, British car related of course.

*Terry*

Send your .jpg pictures to me at: [garageart@looft.net](mailto: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

“Methuselah” Bruce Miller’s ‘63’ MGB Pull Handle Tourer By Bruce Miller

**C**ars-R-Us: Hi folks! I am Bruce Miller in Richmond IN. I have been a car nut all my life (Corvairs - oh horrors!, Karmann-Ghias, a '69 Camaro, etc.); the list is extensive. However, the mission I have accepted is to tell you my MG story.

Let's time-travel back to the early '60s. My first experience with an MG was a ride in a 50-something , yellow MG-TD, in the Connersville IN area (where I grew up) as an impressionable high school-aged kid. "That was so cool!", I thought .

So, that ride in a TD set the stage; guess I'm pre-disposed to love cars (anyone else?). Now, let's fast-forward to the late '90s- after all the above various cars. My (now late) wife Linda and I decided we'd choose a hobby we both could enjoy. So, we bought a faded green '73 MG Midget,'



which had the Ochre interior (Mustard-ish; AKA another color of ill-repute!) (Does "Monkey Puke" come to mind?). We called her "Emmy" because she was Emerald green (Green Mallard)..

We hooked-up with the Hoosier MGB club, of the Indianapolis IN area, and went to NAMGBR conventions, as well as Club rallies and tours. Emmy's first appearance was in 2000 at Indy British Motor Days at camp Belzer. Emmy got to circle the Indy 500 track- S-L-O-W-L-Y - at another regional MG convention (2001? 2002?).



Emmy was the car in which Kyle (my son) & I eased around the IU East parking lot, while I was giving teen-aged Kyle his first lessons in driving a stick. Unforgettable! After Linda's passing, I sold Emmy, but the MGs didn't stop.

On April 13, 2005, along came a Tartan red 1963 MGB Tourer - a "pull handle." I mistakenly thought this MG was in good shape, so I bought it. I eventually named this old MGB "Methuselah" - because it's SO old & bedraggled-looking! I still own that '63 B- - or, does it own me? However, I wouldn't mind if another caretaker took-over Methuselah; if so it needs an extensive and expensive restoration. Kyle & I - and Kyle & his buddy Todd - drove Methuselah around for some time, but it wasn't long before we discovered that Methuselah's rear axle was .....ummm...mislocated, due to extensive rust where the rear springs (are supposed to) attach. Crunch-crunch at every bump! Why is one rear tire sidewall grinding away ?? At that point, this MG was relieved of duty! .....But wait folks...there's more! As Methuselah was out to pasture, other MGs came and went.



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For a time , I owned an orange (Bracken? Blaze?) '76 MG Midget 1500 Special : black factory side-stripes. Loaded to the gunwales! I drove that Midget all night, solo, to the big NAMGBR convention in Gatlinburg TN, in 2006. What an adventure- - including that car stalling on I 75 returning from Gatlinburg; it vapor-locked ! Kyle & I drove a white '72 MGB-GT for a while. The white paint covered its original mustard-ish yellow (Harvest Gold) exterior, but it still had the original Navy interior. We fought that GT's SUs as we returned from another fun-filled London-to-Brighton Run ( 2006 also ??). A yellow (Citron) '77' or '78' MGB was mine for a while.....that is till it blew a head gasket from overheating. In my MG motor pool was a green '77 MGB, for a while.



In 2014, NAMGBR had a convention in French Lick IN. I toured there with the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio. Yours-truly arrived in a borrowed, black '74 1/2 MGB , with my co-pilot and lady-friend Ethel (who also accompanied me to MG2016 in Louisville KY). Because I didn't have a running MG in 2014, my friend and fellow MG fixer-upper Greg loaned me his beautiful, black '74 1/2 MGB, which he had painted himself. Later, Greg also repaired an engineless '74 ( round-arch) Midget. Originally white, it became black too. Greg traded me for an early 1275 Midget engine, which I had rebuilt years prior, and was "just laying around" my garage. That engine went into this black '74 Midget, which I eventually bought from Greg. I drove that Midget for a season, until I eventually "grew out of it". Remember: one does not get into a Midget, one puts them on! Recently, I traded this black Midget back to Greg for - - wait for it - - two Triumph (groaning MG owners) TR7s. One is a brown '80 convertible; the other is a Carmine red (faded) '76 coupe, Victory Edition. Said TR7s will be finding new homes, as well as my Carmine red '79 Spitfire 1500 - which I bought on a whim : nobody does that, right?

Return with me briefly to around 2006. About that time I acquired a green 1970 Triumph GT6 Plus - or more like it, it came to me. This is Kyle's car (to be): "Dad, if you ever sell that GT6, I'll kick your a\_ \_!", he lovingly exclaimed! Yes, dear readers, I know the GT6 is not an MG, but it's a fun part of the story of "Cars-R- Us."

Today, January of 2026, I have more than my share of LBCs ( reference : above pre-disposition theory). Methuselah still waits patiently for me - or someone. By the way, this old MGB is registered with the NAMGBR Pull-Handle Registry, and it has a proper BMHIT "Birth Certificate" . For you trivia nerds, Methuselah's Car Number is to be found on page 142 in the back of the late

**19485 (red hood, Sep 63), 19586 (grey hood, Sep 63)**  
Improved tailoring of optional folding hood for better fit, affecting hood canopy, frame and header rail.

Anders Clausager's amazing volume: "Original MGB.....etc.". I suppose an old car can be a bit of MG history.

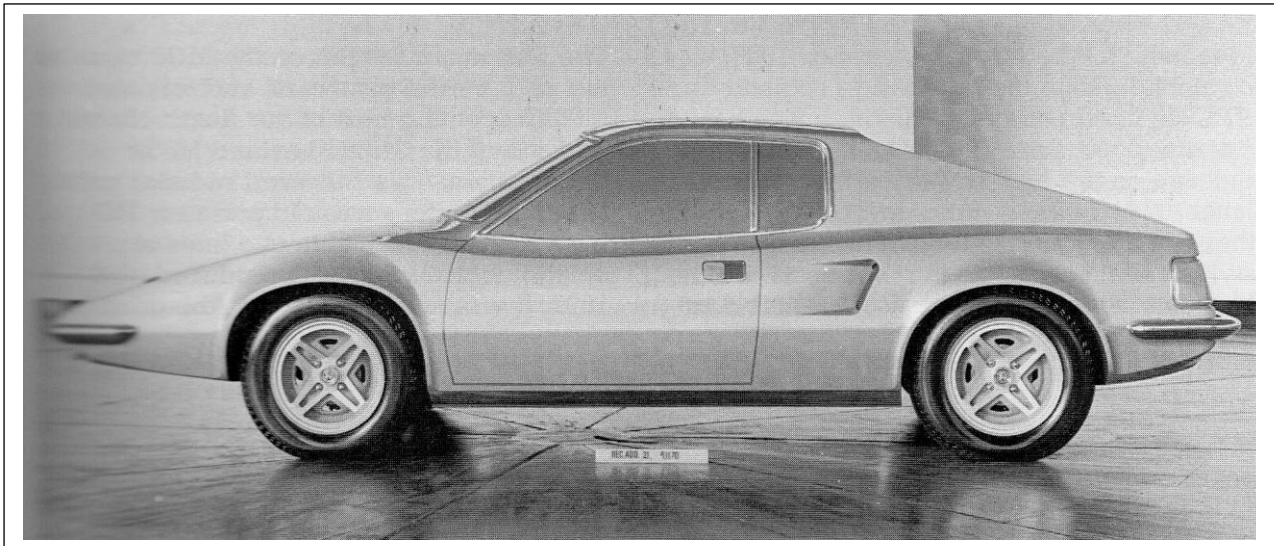
Life moves on; there's a new kid on the block, as of May 2024. The car rescuer in me saw a tired 1965 Mustang hardtop languishing in Lewisburg, OH. This venerable old car has (what's left of) a white vinyl top, over a faded (Poppy) red body.. "Sally" has her original 289 automatic power train, and a white interior. Now, this is a car I can fit into! Besides, Ethel likes it too. I didn't have to beg: "Hey Ma', can I bring it home?" So, here at Cars- R - Us, the car adventures continue - be they MGs or other.....I'm incorrigible!



## MG That Might Have Been

Reprinted from "MGB The Illustrated History" by by Jonathan Wood & Lionel Burrell, Foreword by John Thornley - Submitted By Ron Parks

**Y**et another MG that might have been, the mid-engined ADO 21, photographed at Longbridge in November 1970, although the car's mechanical layout was undertaken at Abingdon. In an in-house competition between MG and Triumph, the latter won and the outcome was the TR7 of 1975, effectively a front-engined version of this styling exercise by Harris Mann. But the TR7's arrival spelled death, in the long term, for the ageing MGB and its Abingdon factory.



## Tech Tip

By Carole Looft

**M**y tech tip for this month is a plug for Harbor Freight. Terry broke a Pittsburgh brand (One of Harbor Freight's brands) box-end wrench. It turns out that Harbor Freight will replace tools just like Sears' Craftsman brand. They kept the broken wrench and replaced it with the new shiny one shown in the photo.

[harbor freight warranty policy - Google Search](#)

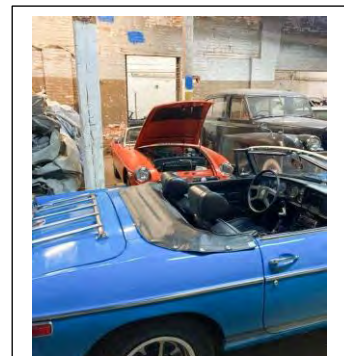


## A-TEAM

By Ron Parks

**T**he A-Team has made little progress during this cold spell, towards turning the donated MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit..

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.



MGBs in British Transportation Museum  
Photo by Ed Wolf

## 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](mailto:tlooft@earthlink.net). (1/26)

**For Sale:** 1949 MG TC, BRG, tan interior, full and half tonneaus, top & full set of side curtains. Mechanically sound. \$32,500 OBO. Email or call Jeff Fields [drivesmgs@gmail.com](mailto:drivesmgs@gmail.com) (440-355-6464) (2-26)

**For Sale:** 1972 MGB-GT Aqua (Teal). Restored and driven locally, always garaged. Upgraded seats, steering wheel & Stainless steel exhaust. Entered in Concours d'Elegance and British Car Day Dayton. \$30,000 OBO. Email or call John Smith [chmalmal@gmail.com](mailto:chmalmal@gmail.com) (937-979-7911) (2-26)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 January Club Meeting By Sam Hodges

**President**, Terry Looft called the January 2026 meeting of the MGCC SWOC to order, for the first time precisely at 7:29. President Looft, “Let the record show I was a minute early. I was in rough shape a week ago, but I’m better now. Ron Parks, thanks for the really nice article on Jayne Powell. She was a friend to everybody. There was a nice set of flowers that Carole found for the funeral. The Holiday party turnout was pretty good.” Carole Looft, “We had maybe 25 people.” President Terry, “Good food, a lot of ugly sweaters, but the grand champion, Ron, is here right now. Eddie, “How much did he pay off the judge?” Terry, “That’s the best part. No one knew it was our waitress.”

President Looft continued, “The August meeting will be a week early. The third Wed, 8/19 because everyone is going to be in Sandusky.”

Terry, “Our project, the MGC is progressing quickly. It’s at the body shop and in primer. Tom did a great job and didn’t have to replace any body panels. It could be in epoxy primer next week. We’ve been searching for a part for Carole’s GT. It goes in right after the MGC comes out.”

Eddie Hill, “At cold start I had no spark to No.1 cylinder. I put on a new cap and rotor but still had the same issue. I took distributor out and sent it to Steve Miller. He put in new points and now it runs great. The only thing I replaced are the condenser and the points and its running great.” Terry, “Good enough to get you to Sandusky. Coming home, who cares!”

Ed Wolf, “At the British Transportation Museum, Giuseppe has about 5 MGBs in various states of repair. One is cut in half. Most of them are for customers. But if you need parts, you might want to contact him there.”

Steve Veris, “I have a new project. It’s about an hour old. My wife’s Lexus burned something electrical. After about 5-mins, it wasn’t running and it was full of smoke. What circuit didn’t trip? What in-line fuse didn’t blow? Anyone have this issue?” Ed Wolf, “I’d start with the ignition switch. There’s a lot of current running through those.”

Pres. Terry, “Remember last meeting I had an issue with the starter on the GT V8? We chased it for a while and Carole was listening to me trying to start it. I heard an arcing when I hooked up the jumper cable. Turns out that the battery connection was loose. There was enough there to make it look good, but it turned out to be the battery terminal. I have a new suspension for the MGF. It’s going to coil-overs to replace the nitrogen spheres-wet suspension. Over time, the nitrogen on the spheres just leaks out but you reach a point where you’ve replaced so much of the nitrogen that you’re just riding around on water.”

Vice President’s Report was next. Vice President Chris Muia, “I have my own project. The Midget is about to have the transmission pulled. I talked to Giuseppe and turns out he’s from the same hometown as my grandfather.” Ed Wolf, “How’s his reputation over there?”

Minutes we’re the next thing on the list. Eddie Hill motioned to approve the minutes as reported. Ron Parks seconded. MGCC voted. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report was next on the agenda. Treasurer John Scocozzo, “Since we didn’t have a December meeting, we have the numbers for both December and January.

For December we had income of Membership Dues (\$60.00) for a total gain to the MGCC of \$60.00 for December. We had total expenses of: Holiday Party (\$1,177.33) Website charges (\$103.07) + Postage (\$60.00) + Gumball Rally Cash (\$25.00) + Decals, Name Tags & Regalia

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(\$249.00) Annual Charitable Donations (\$500.00) for a total expense to the MGCC of \$2,115.00. Total gains when subtracted from losses means a total loss to the MGCC of \$2,055.00 for December. When subtracted from our beginning balance of \$3,309.29 leave the MGCC with an ending balance of \$1,254.29 in primary checking.

For January, the MGCC had a gain of Membership dues (\$160.00) with (\$0) losses. When added to our beginning balance of \$1,254.29 leaves the MGCC with an ending balance of \$1,414.29 in the primary checking account at the end of January. The savings account had \$3,885.11 before the application of \$0.32 in interest for both months. The savings account now has \$3,885.59. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$5,364.88 with \$65.00 as cash on hand.” Ron Parks motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Eddie Hill seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s report approved.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, “I sent out an email at the end of Dec. to the people who haven’t renewed. This brings our total to 59 members.” Terry, “Have I surpassed the last president?” Carole, “Sam had 65 so you’ve got a way to go.” Terry, There’s still time. Plenty of Walmarts and bus stops.

Birthdays in December: Art Barnes, Janet Shoviak, Joy Ferris, Diana Cooper, Dave Muia.

Birthdays in January: George Chase, Ed Wolf, Rick Shields, Lynda McCord, & Lois Gribler.

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “We have MG International in August.” Dave McCann, Jr. “Have we rescheduled the Pub Run?” Terry, “We were the only ones at the last Pub Run.” Eddie, “We haven’t rescheduled yet.” Ron, “I have a suggestion. Bagger Daves at Cornerstone at the Crossing, across from Costco. We’ve been there before. We should consider it for a possible Pub Run.” After a brief discussion, the MGCC decided that the next Pub Run will be at Bagger Daves, on Feb. 22nd @ 5:00.

Sunshine Committee. No one’s sick or ill that we know of.

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, “Keep the articles coming. Thanks to Chris for a great article that is now going to be published in the next ‘MG Driver’. He’s after my job. I brought some flyers. MG103Fest is in Ontario/upper NY. It’s the week before Sandusky. If you’ve got some time and want a long vacation keep this in mind. Send pics of garage art to Terry. He can crop & edit as needed.

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “We’re behind on photos. The pics are getting in the newsletter, but they’re not getting to me to get them online. Please send pics that we can post.”

Beer Brake called at 8:00:04

Back from Break 8:00:05

Old Business. President Looft, “Who’s the oldest one here? I guess that falls on Ron.”

Ed Wolf, “There was some mention about possibly having a joint club meeting. President Emeritus El Presidente, “I talked to Ron Ramer at BCD this year and he wants to try to get all of the car clubs, regardless of make/brand/age together and have a party/meeting. He suggested we try to do it as a holiday party in 2026 since the 2025 schedules were mostly already decided by the time of BCD. They want to use Horsepower Farms in Middletown. I told him that we’d considered it as a club, brought it up and left it for future president’s to sort out.”

New Business. Terry Looft, “Something to consider, in 2026, the MGA Coupe will be 70-years old. If we need a featured car for BCD, this might be a good one. The coupes are really getting

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popular now.” Sam Hodges, “I saw an MGA Coupe on a used car lot back in 1993 and passed on it because it wasn’t a convertible. I am not bright.”

Terry continued, “This is the MGCC SWOC’s 60th anniversary this year. We should come up with something for the club to do. We had a steak dinner for the 50th.” Carole, “Texas Roadhouse has some good deals on steak & chicken. I priced their options. They’re about \$15/entrée and it looks like the if we have 30 people show up and limit it to one entrée, then that would only be about \$700-800. This might be something that we want to think about.”

Tech Tips. Terry, “Check your battery cables. I exhausted all of mine in the newsletter.” Steve Veris, “I had my first experience with key programmers. I got one off of eBay seller ‘101 Keys’. The chip programming was seamless. All of the people talking about having to slam your door, etc., was just paying attention to the instructions. As long as you follow the instructions, it’s seamless. John Florkey, “Could this be the source of your smoke?” Ed Wolf, “I think a better deal is to just borrow yours.” Sam, “So if I see a bunch of Lexus thefts in Oakwood next week, can I just assume you’re involved?”

For Sale: Ed Wolf, “There’s a ‘77 MGB at the museum, cut in half, it’s in a pile, but there are a ton of parts. There’s also a ‘64 midget in the same cut-in-half state.”

Gumball Rallye, Carole Looft won.

Next Meeting is Feb. 25th.

Motion to Adjourn: Ron Parks motioned to adjourn. Eddie Hill seconded. Meeting adjourned.

## British Car Humour

