

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume LXI No. 5

March 2026



Garage Art – Gas/Oil Memorabilia Ron Ramer's '52' MGTD Featured Car

Vapor Locked

President, Terry Looft

March is here as we progress through the month. We are seeing more and more spring-like days. We have had a lot of rain, and I officially called the roads clean, and now time to think about getting the cars out for a drive.

Two opportunities will be the upcoming pub run March 22nd, at The Famous, followed up quickly by our club meeting.

The next opportunity for a club get-together will be the tune up clinic. That is April 11th at MG Automotive on Wilmington Pike in Kettering. Plan on bringing your torque wrench and we will check it for accuracy on my digital torque wrench tester. You can then fill out a little correction card so you can record the settings.

To start the year off car show wise, will be our trip to Fort Megs in Perrysburg,



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, March 25, 2026

MG Car Club Officers

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Ohio on June 7th. I do believe acting editor Ron Parks will be leading that pleasant back road drive to northern Ohio. It's always a good show.

Not to get too far ahead of Fast Eddie on activities, another favorite show we will be going to is in Georgia. This year the Dillard, Georgia show will be moved up the road a couple miles to Hiawassee, GA. Actually, the same distance from Dayton as Dillard. We are looking forward to the new location overlooking Lake Chatuge. I will pass the information on when online registration opens.

We are working steadily in the shop. The projects are progressing, but not a lot to show visually. On the other hand, we have had a visitor in the shop doing a transmission swap and engine bay detail on his Midget. That of course, would be our VP Chris. He is doing a fantastic job and learning a lot about his car as he goes. It's going to be a show winner. That's all for now. See you at the meeting.

Terry



Save the Date

This year's British Car Festival, hosted by The Peachtree MG Registry, will be moving to a new location in Hiawassee, Georgia, and overlook beautiful Lake Chatuge

The Ridges Resort at 3499 Highway 76 West will be our host for the dates of September 24-27, 2026

www.theidgesresort.com

All the events you have come to expect from our show will be available, and we have added a few more. Hospitality, drives, tech sessions, food, a fire pit, and a wonderful show field overlooking the lake. Mark your calendars and make sure to join us as we share an exciting new location



MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre T Shirts for Sandusky Show

By Carole Looft

I have worked up a design for a club t shirt for our members to wear at the Sandusky show in August. Terry and I will provide the printing for these shirts. If you are interested in one of these, I can go ahead and order in the size you would like. Shirts are \$3 for sizes S – XL. 2XL is \$6 and 3XL is \$8. All the shirts will be a light green color. Hoping to get a group picture of everyone wearing these shirts. I will be sending in the order on May 1. clooft@earthlink.net



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

March:

- 22 – Pub Run to “The Famous”
- 25 - Meeting (Bennett’s Pubical Sports Grill)

April:

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

May:

- 16 – Brits in the Burg show at BTM
- 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.
- 19 – Cruise-in at Voss Hoss (5-9pm)
- 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)
- 24-27 Peachtree GA - British Car Festival
- 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 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.



Garage Art

This month's garage art will continue with the oil/gas message. Maybe next month we'll switch gears and go to electrical, Lucas and Smith type items.

The Standard Oil wind sock is rather personal to me. It was in service at the Scioto County Airport in Portsmouth, Ohio (PMH). My dad was the airport manager and owned the fixed base operation there. That's the airport that I grew up on. This wind sock served for wind direction and speed for aircraft during the early 60s. The Standard Oil Company (Ohio) also know as Sohio was our aviation fuel supplier at the airport. That was late 50's thru the 60's. A side note, the “fuel truck” with a 200 gallon tank and SOHIO painted on the side was a Jeep. That's how I learned to drive, fueling small aircraft. I wish I had pictures but back then we just didn't take them.

Keep the pictures coming, at some point I'm going to run out of stuff.

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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

Ron Ramer's '52' MG TD

By Ron Ramer

Well, it's my TD only because my name's on the title. I feel it still belongs to the late Lt Col Don Thomas, a longtime member of The British Car Club of Greater Cincinnati. Col Thomas, Don, passed Dec 1, 2024 age 91, after a long and decorated career as a Green Beret in the Army Special Forces, a graduate of University of Kentucky, an airport ambassador at CVG Terminal 1, and the owner of Alpine Imports in Elsmere KY.

Survivors of Don include his daughter Rene Lynn McPhedron, who escorted Don to many Club events. Rene reached out to me upon his passing about his TD, and I agreed to purchase it with the understanding it's still Don's! I would be the curator.

Rene also donated many of Don's other collections to the British Transportation Museum, including hundreds of new in-box spark plugs, new old-stock MGA parts, an MG Midget RH drive body less engine, and 12 other engines, looking for a British car.

I intend to maintain Don's TD in running condition, without restoration. Don wanted it to be a driver, not a show piece. It has patina. Chipped paint, a wrong-color grille (it's supposed to match interior color), and some rust on the chrome wheel caps. I've replaced the carpets, cleaned the seats, and added LED bulbs after a scary near rear-ender. Hearing squealing tires behind you when you're slowing for a turn suggests that driver didn't see your blinking turn signal in the sunshine. Litezup makes a very nice LED upgrade kit that include a flasher unit to solve that problem.



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About \$150. It replaces the original bulbs in their same sockets. And you can see the TD's lights now!

I also added pedal extensions so my wife can reach the pedals (which also means now I can't drive it).. The extensions are available in 1 inch and 3 inch models, and bolt right onto the brake and clutch arms. Just a simple 9/16 bolt you need to do with one hand, since you can't reach into the footwell space with two arms! Train a young child in sockets and ratchets!

So you won't see this TD in any car shows. There are some excellent examples around, some fully restored.

This one is for Lt Col Don Thomas, Ret, US Army Special Forces

Pub Run to Bagger Dave's Photos

By Ron Parks

The Pub Run to Bagger Dave's on February 22nd was enjoyed by those who attended.





Tune up your Torque Wrench(s)

By Terry Looft

Our Tune-up Clinic is scheduled for April 11th at MG Automotive. Besides tuning up your MG, bring your torque wrench(s). My CDI torque tester will tell us how accurate your torque wrench is so that you can apply any correction to your readings going forward. Just insert your wrench and turn until it clicks. The correct torque reading will be displayed.



AMERICA'S PACKARD MUSEUM HOSTS THE 2026 PACKARD SPRING FLING

For America 250, the British are Coming!

Press Release Contributed by Jennifer Peterson for Dale Oaks

DAYTON, OHIO, March 1 – America's Packard Museum in Dayton announces the Museum's annual Packard Spring Fling on April 24 and 25, The theme for this year's event is "The British Invasion: 250 Years of Revolution."

The event celebrates America's history and the special 250-year special relationship with the UK through live music, food, curated classic car exhibits, a special tour, and international presenters.

The featured guest is Jon Murden, CEO of the National Motor Museum UK, who will deliver Saturday evening's remarks entitled Wheels Across the Atlantic. A new themed-exhibit, open to the public, will feature British motorcars from all eras as well as classic American automobiles made for the British market.

The two-day event kicks off Friday with a Welcome Cocktail Reception featuring music by Beatles' tribute band, The Sweet Beats. [The Sweet Beats](#) | Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite Brit, in period clothing, or come as yourself. British author and cultural historian Kassia St.Clair will host a book signing and guests can bid on British-themed silent auction items. Classic car rides will also be offered as a special option, weather permitting.

The Saturday morning informational sessions begin after coffee and pastries with Mary Seelhorst, Independent Exhibit Developer, and President of America's Packard Museum's Board of Directors, presenting "Serial Thriller: The Secret Life of the Missing Goldfinger Aston Martin DB5." Following Seelhorst, British author and color theory expert Kassia St.Clair will share the story behind the iconic color "British Racing Green."

Following a catered lunch, guests can tour the British Transportation Museum. Buses will be provided.

The Saturday Evening Gala Banquet spotlights distinguished speaker, Jon Murden, with entertainment by Dave Greer's Classic Jazz Stompers. Live and silent auction offerings include a week in the Hamptons, a hot air balloon ride, and many others.

Regular tickets for the full two-day event are \$295. Individual event tickets and VIP tickets that include special transportation to the tour and a VIP Reception, are also available. All tickets are available at [2026 Packard Spring Fling - America's Packard Museum Tickets, Friday, Apr 24 at 6:30 pm to Saturday, Apr 25 at 11 pm | Eventbrite](#)

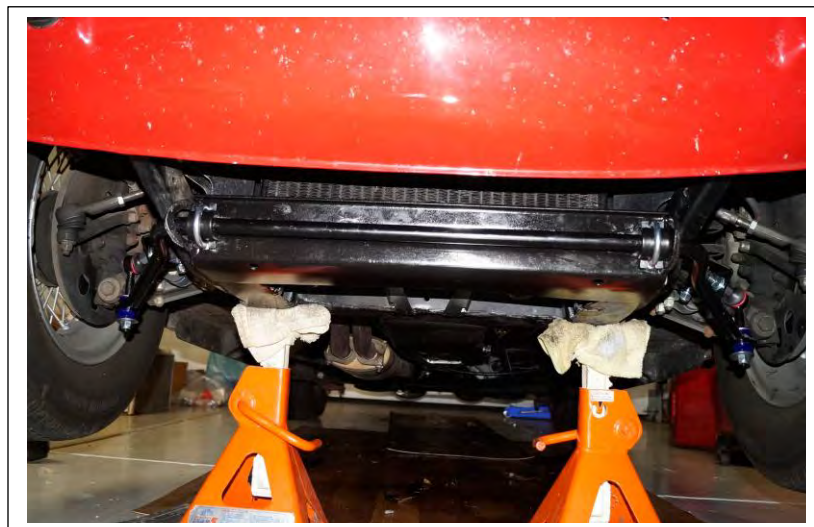
Tech Tip

By Ron Parks

We all have small magnets on telescopic sticks that we use to retrieve tools, nuts washers and the like that we have dropped somewhere inaccessible in the engine bay. Actually, the rest of you probably never drop things like this, but I do. Anyway, I had to press my magnet into service recently when installing a sway bar in my Triumph. Well, they call it a sway bar, isn't it really an anti-sway bar?

The bar fits across the front of the radiator shield, which I had to remove to fasten the "U" bolts that hold the bar in place. With this done, the radiator shield was ready to be refitted. So.... I was scratching my head trying to figure out how I was going to get the nut and washer held in place to get the front bolt threaded into it. Enter, magnet on a stick. (See photo on left of magnet holding the lock washer and nut.) Your magnet needs to be strong enough to hold the lock washer and nut in place without dropping them inside. The small hole I had to look through to align the washer and nut is circled in yellow in the photo on right. After a few attempts the bolt(s) threaded into the nut(s). Once the bolts were threaded in, a flat screwdriver was inserted through the access hole to hold the nut while tightening the bolt(s), just as it had been when loosening to remove the radiator shield. Then all that remained was to attach the ends of the bar to the links that I had already installed into the wishbones on the suspension. (See last photo of complete installation.)

So, there you have it. Your magnet on a stick has more uses than just retrieving parts and tools!

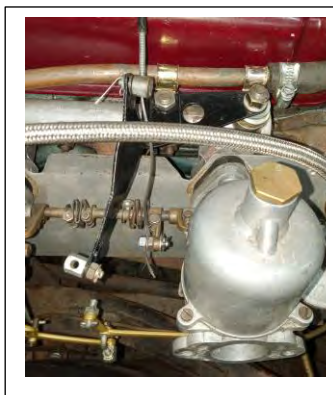
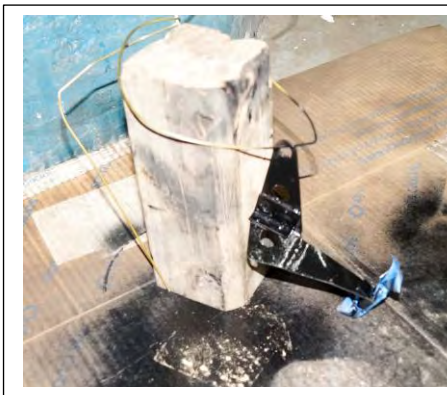


A-TEAM

By Ron Parks

The A-Team has made some progress towards turning the donated MGA 1600 Roadster into a nice driver that the British Transportation Museum can sell for a profit.. Connected throttle able in preparation for test running engine and began removing seats for installing carpet.

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: 1949 MG TC, BRG, tan interior, full and half tonneau, top & full set of side curtains. Mechanically sound. \$32,500 OBO. Email or call Jeff Fields 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 (937-979-7911) (2-26)

MG NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF MG REGISTERS
Invites ALL MG Owners
to join us August 24-27, 2026
in the Sandusky, Ohio / Lake Erie area
for the every-five-year ALL-MG Event
mginternational2026.org
SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO
CEDAR POINT SANDUSKY PUT-IN-BAY
Registration opens
year-end 2025
INTERNATIONAL 2026
SANDUSKY OH
MGM MGB MGA

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account at the end of February. The savings account had \$3,885.76 after the application of \$0.17 in interest. Total ending balance of all accounts was \$5,033.94 with \$100.00 as cash on hand.” Sue Scocozzo motioned to approve the Treasurer’s report. Dave McCann, Jr. seconded. MGCC voted. Treasurer’s report approved.

Membership Chairwoman Carole Looft was next. Carole, “Last month we had 1 renewal. We’re now at 60 members. I think that’s probably where we’re going to end up unless we hit up some car shows, or a Walmart.” Terry, “The National show might have some new members.”

Birthdays in February: Andy Hein, Carole Looft, Dan Schneider, & Dan Mortenson.

Activities with Eddie. Eddie Hill, “Thanks to the publisher for getting most of the activities that I knew about. The only one not there was the Voss Hoss Cruise-In on June 19th. It’s at the Loop road Voss location. I will find out about the possible dates for MG Tune-Up clinic.” President Looft, “The first show will be Perrysburg/Ft. Meigs. Will Ron be willing to lead the parade?” Ron Parks, “Sure, it’s just up Rt. 235.” Terry, “It’s a good test for Sandusky. Speaking of Sandusky, who’s registered for Sandusky?” About 10 raise their hands. Dave Gribler, “May 16th is the British Museum of Transportation show.”

Sunshine Committee. Carole Looft, “Dave Johnson had surgery but he’s back up and walking and with us tonight.” Lois Gribler, “Thank you Rachel.” Sue Scocozzo, “We feel your pain.”

Newsletter Editor-for-Life, Ron Parks, “Send your garage art pics to Terry. If I haven’t featured your car let me know. Submit an article.”

Webmaster John Scocozzo, “We’ve got pics up from all the events from 2025. If you have any you’d like to add, send them in.”

Beer Brake called at 7:52.

Back from Break 8:04.

Old Business. Who’s the oldest one here? Steve Powell wins. President Looft, “We’re still looking for ideas for the 60th anniversary celebration.” Lois, “Carole and I volunteer.” Carole Looft, “WHAT?!?” Terry, “I guess we have a committee.” Lois, “We’re going to need more people.”

New Business. Sue Scocozzo, “Someone came in with a list of items that he’s looking to sell. The main thing appears to be a set of 13-inch wheels. Take a look at the sheet and if you’re interested, he’s sting at the bar.”

BCD. John Scocozzo, “There are groups from Land Rover, Louts and Sunbeam that all want to come to BCD this year. Thing are looking good.”

T-shirts. Carole Looft, “I have a thing for t-shirts. I’m thinking that anyone going to Sandusky should have club t-shirts.” Carole then showed a prototype photo of the logo and various types of shirts that could be used. Carole, “I’ve got green, yellow, & light blue.” After some discussion, the MGCC voted to do the green shirt with the logo with the white border. Tentative pricing will be \$3 S-M-L, \$6 XL & XXL.

Tech Tips. President Terry, “Anyone interested in calibrating their torque wrench again? I’ll bring my machine to the Tune-Up Clinic.”

Lois Gribler, “I need a minute. I had these cookies at the Pub Run. A friend made them for the club. I hope that everyone enjoys them. The cookies took 6 silk screens to produce.” The cookies were multi-colored MGCC SWOC logo sugar cookies.

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Eddie, "Do we want to do another Pub Run? We could do the same thing since we had a light turnout due to the snowstorm." After some more discussion, the MGC decided that Sunday ,March 22nd at the Famous in Centerville at 5:00pm for the next Pub Run.

Gumball Rallye. Steve Powell won Gumball.

Next Meeting is March 25th.

Motion to Adjourn: Dave Johnson motioned to adjourn. Eddie Hill seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:25.

British Car Humour



from March 67 Sports Car Graphic