

THE OCTAGON NEWS

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MG News Hotline.....	434-1287
British Cars BBS.....	434-1655

MG Car Club Monthly Meeting

The Southwestern Ohio Center of the MG Car Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Lithuanian Social Club, 922 Valley Street, Dayton, at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be:

September 20, 1995

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are eighteen (\$18.00) dollars per year, payable during September and October. On January 1st, the names of delinquent members are removed from the roster. See Glenn Marin for further membership information.

DODD @ EL. W PAFB. AF. MIL

September, 1995

Upcoming Events

September 16: **MGCC Clean-up**, McDonalds in Vandalia, 9:00.

September 20: **MGCC Meeting** at the Lithuanian Social Club, 8:00. *Elections!*

September 22-24: **British Motor Days**, Indianapolis, IN. *Caravan on Sunday to Indy from Marin's, 8:30.*

October 9-15: **Valvoline Runoffs**, SCCA national finals at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

October 18: **MGCC Meeting** at the Lithuanian Social Club, 8:00.

November 4: **MGCC Clean-up**, McDonalds in Vandalia, 9:00.

June 27-30, 1996: **MG International**, Indianapolis, Indiana.



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2 Bs, 2 Tough

By

Mark Dodd

Did your mother say that she did not want you to get one of those little foreign cars? Did your father ask if you had a death wish wanting a car that small? Did your girl/boyfriend claim it would always breakdown? Did your spouse tell you parts would be terribly expensive? In your heart you know they are all wrong. Need a little ammunition? Read on....

The following two stories were pulled off the British Cars list and demonstrate the crash-worthiness of our beloved MGs.

Patrick Clawson reports:

I bought a '77 B with bad rocker panels. I put it in the shop for a week or so, and had the whole rear bodywork pounded on and repainted.

Within a week of its return to active duty, I took a corner too wide. The sturdy Rostyle rims absorbed the impact that sent me over a raised median, but twisted the steering wheel out of my hands. Waiting to turn left, on the other side of the median, was a mid-seventies Chevy Nova.

My rubber-bumpered, Rostyle-wheeled B ran down the side of that Detroit product like a can opener! I replaced the front "wing" because the headlight mount was mangled, and a little judicious hammering straightened the corner of the bumper core. Total outlay: \$150.

The moral of the story is that those "ugly" black bumpers have a double layer of 1/4 inch steel for good reason. And pressed steel rims don't warp as badly as wire-spoked ones.

I challenged the structural integrity of a GM sedan, and came out on the winning end because I was driving a TISH-made car.

And from Denise Thorpe, a professional mechanic that can diagnose a problem at 2,000 miles (she is in San Diego) reports:

It didn't happen to me, I didn't see it happen, but I saw the results. A brand new '79 Limited Edition B was towed into the body shop of the britcar dealership where I worked. The front suspension was crushed, there was an imprint of the top of the engine in the hood (bonnet), and the top of the windshield frame was pushed down in the middle. The story was that the car had hit a cow at highway speeds. The cow bounced on the hood (bonnet), clipped the windshield frame, and then flew completely over the rest of the car. The occupants didn't get a scratch. The car was repaired, but the cow was totalled.

Do they really breakdown that often? I put close to 50K miles on my first MG, a '77 that had 80K miles on it when I bought it. This car left me stranded only three times. The first was due to bad plug wires. But I will not complain. It was on a trip to Schenctady, New York. I made the first 850 miles with a few sputters before dying for good, approximately a mile from my final destination. Came back a couple of hours later and it started right up. The second stranding was due to a clogged fuel filter. That was a \$2 fix that if I had a little more experience would have seen coming. Even a little preventive maintenance and I could have avoided that one. The last counts as an outright failure. My starter relay locked in the on position. It was a frantic rush to get the battery lead off to save the starter. A jumper wire and I was OK, but the starter was toast within six weeks. Not bad for a car with over 100K miles. I am sure you can add your own stories about longevity.

And they really are not expensive to maintain. I had the alternator rebuilt on the C for all of \$60. The guy said a rebuild for most modern cars (<5 years old) starts in the \$150 range. The estimate to fix the A/C blower on our Scorpio was just over \$800, all because of the design of the system. A new A/C on an MG runs around \$200. Isn't that about the going rate for a new top? And a new fan on the Scorpio would have done nothing for leaks like a new top would! And the Scorpio needed new u-joints. The design ther)ant that

Tentative Schedule Of Events

Wednesday, June 26 Registration opens, Self guided Driving Event/Tours, Movies in hotel or parking lot, Parking lot party.

Thursday, June 27 Breakfast and tour of Conner Prairie, a turn of the century village (you must be preregistered), Self guided Driving Event/Tours, Movies, Tech Sessions, Vendors, Kids' Camp, Natter and Noggins, Trip to Indianapolis Raceway Park for Thursday Night Thunder as seen on ESPN.

Friday, June 28 Technical Sessions, Safety Fast Inspection by The New England MG T Register, M.G. Book signing session, Ropke Armor Museum (morning) for optional Register car shows and photos, Movies, Optional Register Hospitality suites, Vendors, Kids' Camp.

Saturday, June 29 Free continental breakfast for Holiday Inn registrants.

I got to replace the entire drive shaft at close to \$400. I doubt that Steve Miller charges that to replace MG u-joints, parts and labor.

So the next time that someone gives you some grief about owning one of those little old foreign jobs, just remember, it could be worse. You could own a new car! And for the price of an average new car, you could own at least a couple of those old MGs in like new condition, and have money left over in case something does go wrong. *The noive a some people!*

A Few Lucas Snickers:

Alexander Graham Bell invented the Telephone.
Thomas Edison invented the Light Bulb.
Joseph Lucas invented the Short Circuit.

Oh, come on. We don't suck THAT bad.
Lucas vacuums, the only thing we make that don't suck.

Confucius say man with one clock knows the time,
man with two clocks doesn't,
man with Lucas clock wish he had second clock.



RANDY BALOGH

226 Kirby Road
Lebanon Ohio 45036
513 933 0950

Car Insurance

By

Mark Dodd

**With assistance from Beverly Ander at Charlotte Cornett's
State Farm Insurance office**

If we ever want to put our MGs on the road, we are required by the State of Ohio to have insurance on the car. For that reason, I went to my agent and asked a few questions on how we might best insure our babies. The answers I received follow, and are based on the policies available from State Farm. They have at least three classes of insurance that apply to our cars. As I discovered, I am in the most expensive class, of course! The three are stated value, antique, and classic.

First the stated value insurance: This is used if you think that you may not get a reasonable settlement in case of a claim. For our special interest cars, this could be very important. A totaled 20 year old car has very different values if it is an MG as opposed to a Chevy Nova. The stated value must be documented, usually with an appraisal. Beverly cited Ron Hilen as an appraiser that clients frequently use. This appraisal is done at the owner's expense. A quick call to Hilen's revealed a drive in appraisal cost of \$50. While our own Steve Miller at MG Automotive was not referenced, he can do appraisals for insurance purposes with a typical cost of \$35-50. It would seem that since Steve deals with MGs daily, his appraisal would be accepted without question. In case State Farm doesn't like your appraisal, it would also be a good idea to have a series of pictures to further document the car. These should be off the exterior (all four sides), the interior, under the hood, and in the boot.

State Farm's classic rating is available for cars between 10 and 25 years of age. The second requirement is one of rarity and/or exceptional craftsmanship. While MGs may or may not fall into the exceptional craftsmanship guideline (!), they are rare enough to qualify. The antique category is for any car more than 25 years old. The only potential drawback to using either of these categories is that the car is limited to less than 500 miles per year. If you only drive to local events, this is fine. I am quickly approaching 3000 miles on the

**Travel to infield of Indy 500 track, Track tour of Indianapolis
500 Track for first 1000 M.G.s (if not preempted by track
owners), Crabtree Photo, Meal at the Indy Zoo.**

**Sunday, June 30 Dawn Patrol . . . an early morning tour of the area, Farewell
with coffee and donuts.**

Special Notices

The Indianapolis 500 Track can be cancelled on a 24 hour notice.

**Certain driving events, schools, tours,
and the Safety Fast inspection may cost extra.**

**Profits (if any) from this event will be donated to the
Noble Center in Indianapolis.**

C, so I fall into their pleasure category which is more than 500, but less than 7500 miles per year.

Below is a table that shows a matrix on the cost per \$1000 of value for both a \$5,000 car and for a \$15,000 car. The price is for comprehensive and collision with a \$100 deductible along with uninsured motorist.

	<u>Car's Value</u>	
	\$5,000	\$15,000
Stated Value	\$32/\$1K	\$13/\$1K
Classic	\$13/\$1K	
Antique	\$11/\$1K	\$5/\$1K

My C is in the stated value category with a value of \$5,000. Therefore my rate is approximately \$32/\$1K times \$5K, or \$160 every six months. After seeing how much better the rate per \$1,000 of value drops for a \$15,000 car, I need to get my C restored, or better yet, buy the TC of my dreams. Or maybe the SA or WA so the whole family can enjoy it. Hope Julie doesn't read this too carefully....

Two additional bits of information worth reporting. Beverly ran my car through the estimate with a \$250 deductible. This lowered my rates by \$5.78 every six months. Not worth it in my mind when this is less than 4% of my insurance bill. Since insurance is maybe 25% of my operating costs, or less, that \$5.78 is in the noise. The second addition to the noise, is the towing option. For \$2 every six months, State farm will pay my towing bill if necessary. I used it once on a \$40 tow for our old Jag. That took care of premiums for ten years! I hope not to use it on the C, but I would rather use that than the collision or comprehensive portions of my coverage!

Disclaimers: This article was meant for information purposes only. It is not meant as an endorsement of State Farm insurance by the MG Car Club. Further, any errors are due to me and my poor note taking, not to Beverly who was quite helpful.

Indianapolis British Motor Days Tour

Glenn Marin is organizing a tour on Sunday, September 24 to Indianapolis. We will be going over for the British Motor Days event to be held at the Ropke Armor Museum. Meet at Glenn's house about 8:30 for the grand caravan. The route will be over on 40 instead of the interstate so everyone should be able to keep up. Besides, there are several neat little towns on 40 instead of just those boring Indiana corn fields. One place to keep in mind is a restaurant in Centerville (IN) called Jags. The owner even has the license plate JAGS. Too bad it is on a Porch 911....

Trash, Take Three

Once again it is time for another round of trash collection. Date: this Saturday, September 16. Time is 9:00. Place: McDonalds in Vandalia. Reason: We got the sign up, now we have to pay the price! Two hours of your time, and we are done until November.

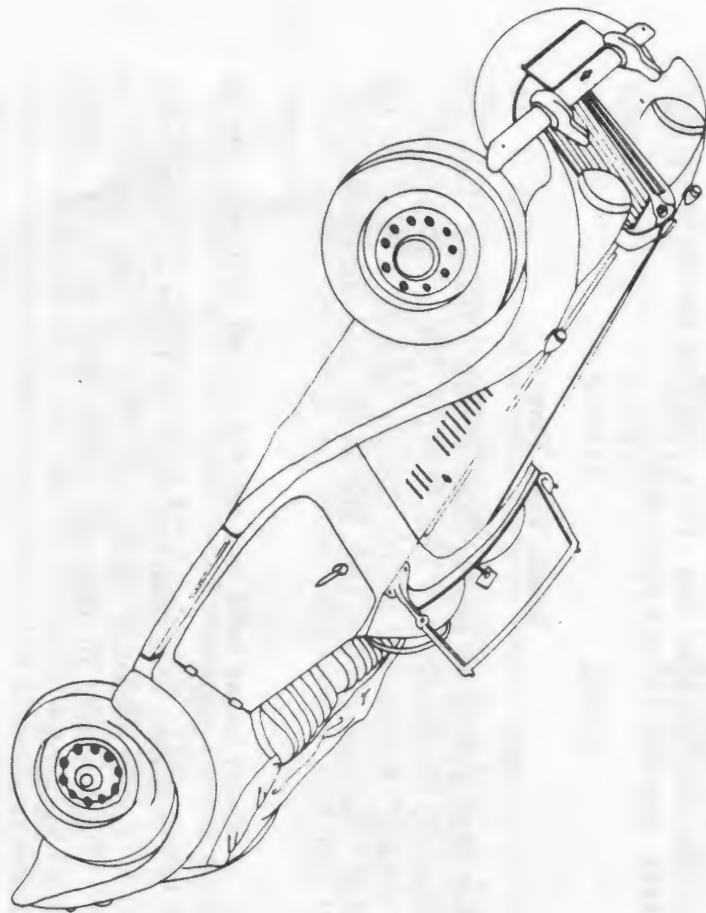
Didn't Lucas build nice reliable aircraft electronics during WWII?

Well, then, what about the rumor that Lucas was responsible for the blackouts during the Blitz, forcing the British government to pass the whole thing off as a military nessecity?

The Lucas corporate slogan:

"Three breaks for tea and home before dark..."

What do you expect from an island nation that has to import electrons?



Nigel Shiftright · Automotive Anachronism · IN "TOO MUCH TOE-IN"

Welcome, racing fans, to the first running of "Les Vingt-Quatre Heures du Souliers.." "The 24 Hours of Shoes."



All the factory teams are here with a vast array of high-tech running shoes.. Ah! Some last-minute tuning going on!



AND THEY'RE OFF!! THE TRADITIONAL RUNNING START!! WHAT A SPECTACLE! WHAT A SOUND!!



UH-OH. Shiftright of the British team seems to be out early with electrical problems!!



FRANK & TROUSE