
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXIX No. 7

June 1996

TRIBUTE TO DAN CALLAHAN

In Memory of Dan Callahan

By Skip Peterson

There are people you meet in life, and right from the get go, you're either friends or not. Dan Callahan was one of those guys, and right off, we were friends. We weren't best friends, but as the years go by, the memories of the past six years will linger long after others have faded completely.

With Dan, you never had to read between the lines. He spoke plain English, clear, and simple. Yes was yes, no was no, and his word was a good as gold. If Dan said he was going to do it, it got done. He wasn't big on titles, he never wanted to be an officer of the club, or hold an "official title". He just wanted to work on cars, drive them, and have some fun.

Selfish- something Dan couldn't even try to define. There wasn't a selfish bone in his body. He had no "secrets", whether it was how to fix something on a car, or how to cut wood, or cut the grass. If someone asked, he would share everything he knew.



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club

MG Car Club Monthly Meeting

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

June 19, 1996

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Dan Wagner 667-6286
Vice-President...Paul Wehner 252-0026
Secretary.....Vicki Wagner 667-6286
Treasurer.....Linda Wolf 429-0847
Member at Large...Eddie Hill 461-6688
Pres. Emeritus..Skip Peterson 293-2819
Activities Chair....Tim Oricko
434-5928
Membership Chair.....Jennifer Peterson
293-2819
Oct. News Editor..Ron Parks 322-0717
Librarian.....John Wolfe 429-0847
Historian & DIXMYTH.....Dick Smith
434-1750
MG News Hotline..... 434-1287
British Car BBS..... 434-1655

Club Membership Information

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

Inside This Issue

2 Upcoming Events

3 Tribute to Dan Callahan

4 Minutes of May Meeting

5-6 Tune-up Clinic, MG'96' INDY

8 Memorial

The annual tune-up clinics he held in the "Taj Mahal" (anyone with a four car garage and all those tools certainly had a "Taj Mahal") were great experiences for anyone interested in our cars. I only got to attend two, and anyone who never got there missed one of the great joys of owning and caring about a silly little MG.

Dan wasn't afraid to tackle anything, from body work to a transmission rebuild. I remember how he would stop right in the middle of something and say "Now let's think about this. Are we sure this is the best way?" And half way- not with Danny. I just wanted to put in new tappet cover gaskets and before we got done we had all new gaskets on that side of the engine, along with polished manifolds and carbs. I hope that shine stays on those carbs, cause Danny did it.

Some of you will remember Bob Jones and the "beater". Bob bought new rockers and quarter panels to replace the rusted out, bondo filled ones on his car. We got there early on Saturday, and Dan was ready with a nibbler and cutting torch.

"Mark off the pattern Bob", he said and then he readied the nibbler on the air hose. "I'll show you how, but you're gonna cut it off Bob," Dan said. "If it's wrong, it ain't gonna be my fault" Danny laughed as he handed Bob a pair of safety glasses. Before the day was over, Bob Jones had cut off, and welded in, new rockers and quarters. Danny stayed right with him, teaching him everything he knew about body work, welding, grinding seams, etc. He also

Upcoming Events

June:

- 8-9 **Cheese Tour** through Millersburg, OH
 15 **Old North Dayton Days** Parade & Showdown
 19 **MGCC Meeting** at Lithuania Club
 21 **British & Sports Car Cruise-in** For Trotwood Wee Rams
 22 **Indiana British Car Union** London to Brighton Run
 26-30 **Indy 96** in Indianapolis, IN

July:

- 9-12 **GOF '96' Central** English Trials & Valve Cover Races
 17 **MGCC Meeting** at Lithuania Club
 20 **Highway Cleanup** at McD's in Vandalia
 28 **Cincinnati** British Car Show

August:

- 2 **Courthouse Square:** (pre BCCD)
 3 **BCCD '96':** at Eastwood Park
 16-19 **University Motors Summer Picnic:** In Grand Rapids MI
 21 **MGCC Meeting:** at Lithuanian Club

September:

- 16-17 **KilKare** Kruse '96'
 18 **MGCC Meeting** at Lithuania Club
 28 **Highway Cleanup** at McD's in Vandalia

October:

- 5 **Fall Leaf Tour** and Picnic at Zeno's
 16 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

November:

- 2 **Highway Cleanup** at McD's in Vandalia
 20 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

December:

- 7 **Christmas Party** at Wagner's

TBD Events:

Historical Fall Tour Yellow Springs Area

found time that day to wrk on 5 other cars, moving around the garage like a kid in a candy store.

Dan brought about the idea of adopting a highway to the club last year. He didn't make a big deal out of it, he just thought we

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should give a little back, so the roads we drive look good. Actually, it's one of the few community service functions our club does. It's not a big deal, we just pick up trash.

I'll miss those mornings at the McDonald's in Vandalia when Danny put the program together. He decided who went where, moved crews to other areas and made it a great experience. We can all be proud of those signs on the highway, that road is clean, because Dan Callahan thought it ought to be clean. And he was the kind of guy who could talk his friends into picking up trash when it was 90 degrees outside.

My wife, Jennifer, loved talking with Danny. They are pretty much alike in many ways, simple English, yes is yes, no is no, not a lot of gray in their lives. Two meetings ago she commented on the length of Danny's hair. "I'm growing it long, wait til you see the pony tail," he said. We're all going to miss that pony tail.

Last Danny story, I swear. Club party at Zeno's last fall. We cooked out, had a bon fire on the side of the house, we had a great



Pictured above at Tune-up Clinic from left to right are: John Wolfe, Dave Gribler, Mary Callahan, Dick Smith, Linda Wolfe, Dan Callahan and Ed Hill.

time. About 9:30 or so, some of us wandered into the Zeno garage, Danny, me, Zeno, Paul Wehner and some others. Pretty soon, we had lawn chairs on the concrete, Zeno's A was uncovered, and we held Garage Court, with Danny apparently on the bench. The laughter and the beer flowed until well past midnight.

Danny, we had a hell of a time with you. Thanks for everything, and

when we get there with you, let's clean another highway, or polish a carb, or paint a fender.

Skip Peterson

A Tribute to Danny Callahan

By Dan Wagner

Danny was a real friend who was truly worth knowing! I didn't know Danny as well as I wished I had. Perhaps this is partially why I was so upset at his passing.

Danny had a natural ability to make friends and always went out of his way to make people feel welcome. In fact, Vickie and I's first experience with the MG Car Club

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was at British Car Days in 1991. I vividly remember meeting several members of the club, one of whom was Danny Callahan. Danny made a great effort to make Vickie and I feel at home that day.

Danny had a cute childlike chuckle that I will always remember about him.

I think that the participation of all of Danny's friends at all ceremonies is a testimony as to what a great husband, father, and friend he was to all.

We will all miss him greatly because he was truly worth knowing!

Dan Wagner

Minutes of May Meeting

By Vickie Wagner

Minutes of the the April 17, 1996 meeting were read by Vickie Wagner and approved on a motion by Dick Smith seconded by John Wolfe.

The financial report indicating a beginning balance of \$1,648.62, income of \$17.63, expenses of \$754.44 and an ending balance of \$911.81; was approved on a motion by Ed Hill, seconded by John Wolfe.

When asked for a report on the Highway Cleanup, Dan Callahan replied simply "We picked up trash!" He then went on to explain that we concentrated on the interchanges and stayed away from the highway as much as possible

since the State hadn't put the caution signs out. They probably had the signs out the week before when we got rained out.

Dan Callahan also reported that nine people arrived at the tune-up clinic. We put a new leaf spring in a B, bled the break lines on his A and tore into the engine of a Jag.

Joe Hooker and Tim Oricko attended the Richfield Car show and the Vintage British Car show. They said they were good shows

with good swap meets--Lots of parts.

The banner has been found. Tim Oricko has it.

BCCD planning meeting/picnic is set for 1:00pm Saturday at Eastwood park. The food vendors permit has been mailed, MG Automotive, Wheels and Strictly British are sponsors. Awards of excellence will be awarded. Last year there were 64 plaques. The

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colors were white W/red lettering. Order July 1st, 3 weeks to deliver. 2,000 fliers last year.

Continent Car show in Columbus is May 19th. I takes 1 1/2 hours to drive it. Those going are to meet at the K-Mart on Dorothy Lane at 9:00pm.

The Cheese Tour in and around Millersburg Ohio will be June 8th & 9th. It's being organized by John Zeno and Frank Crabtree. Let John Zeno know right away if you are going so reservations can be made. 12-14 people are going. We'll have a kitty for beer. The beer trailer is hooked up for a 1/4 barrel to go to Millersburg.

Old North Dayton Days June 15th 12:00 noon - 9:00pm. Lithuanian Club is asking us to deal showdown. Volunteers should call 461-7139.

There is a parade at 11:00am. It's free and we can drive our cars in it if we want.

Correspondence:

GOF '96' Central July 9-12 at Roscoe Village. Two events: English trials and valve cover races on White Woman Street.

The MG Car Club Limited Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England Certificate of affiliation arrived. This is the first time we've received recognition.

We'll leave for Indy '96' on Thursday at 12:00 noon, meet at the Kmart in Englewood. T-shirts were approved with the disclaimer that Skip will attempt to work an A and a TD into the design along with the B. He'll order 36.

The two new members did not get a newsletter. Dick Smith will add them to the list and Ron Parks will

The gumball rally was won by Dan Callahan.

Motion to adjourn was by Ed Hill

TUNEUP CLINIC

By Ron Parks



Above, John Wolfe, Ron Parks & Dan Callahan prepare to bleed the brake lines on Dan's MGA.

Around 10:00am that Saturday, I arrived in a drizzling rain to find Dan alone in his garage. He said Bill Hammond had been there early and had brought donuts. I had one along with my second cup of coffee from the pot Dan had brewed.

My project was to install a new leaf spring on the driver's side of my B. That side had always been about an inch and a half lower.

I had brought by own jack stands which Dan liked better than his because they have a groove or "V" in the center. It was easy to find body ridges that fit into the stands to support the car while we replaced the spring. After I backed the car in, Dan put the jack under the differential, jacked it up and we got three jack stands under it.

Some time shortly after we got my car jacked up, Steve Powell arrived in his yellow MGC/GT. A beautiful car. We might have to feature that one sometime, Steve?

mail them a May newsletter.

Friday, Vertical MG'S.

Name tags will be ready by next meeting.

Car for sale: '67' MGB \$4,995 438-0518. John Wolfe reported a rough 79 Midget for sale for \$2,700 .

Bill Hammond suggested that we have a TV and VCR at BCCD to play video of his restoration and/or other appropriate videos. Dan Wagner said he could provide that.

I worked on removing the rear bolts on the shackle. Dan removed the front one and took the air wrench to the nuts on the "U" bolts.

It was just dumb luck that I had stopped at a friend's house in Enon on the way over, to get some advice on the procedure since he had installed new leaf springs on a B that he used to own. He said, "here you might need these" as he handed me four new "U" bolts. I say it was dumb luck, because I just happened to stop by when he had stopped back at his house for just a few minutes on his way to his son's graduation at Miami. We needed two of those "U" bolts to replace the rusted ones that broke when Dan attempted to remove them.

After putting the spring in place and tightening the front and rear bolts, I encountered some difficulty lining up the "U" bolts. After banging around on them and talking to them respectfully, they came through the holes. When Dan couldn't get the nut to go onto one of the bolts, I had to admit that I hit the threads when trying to line them up. I had admit it because Steve Powell told on me. Anyway, Dan didn't say anything, he just went and got a tap and cleaned up the threads. I said, "What's that?" He said, "A tap."

Now came the time to tighten the nuts on the "U" bolts. Dan asked everyone in general how many pounds torque to use. Steve Powell suggested 40 pounds and I think it was Dick Smith who agreed. Dan said this is 80 as he adjusted the air wrench down. Then he asked me, "Well, do you want to twist them off or do you want me to." I said, "Go ahead, we've got two more."

I'm sure I would have been tightening the nuts on the second set if we would have broken the first ones.

When we finished and the car was still on the jack stands, I said that I was going to be real disappointed if this doesn't raise the driver side of the car substantially. Car back on the floor, Dan measured to the bottom of the fender over the wheels and it was 23 1/2 inches on both sides. Great!

By now some more people had arrived. Dan moved on to his A in preparation for bleeding the brake lines. John Wolfe was on the peddle, Dan was under the car and I was adding brake fluid. I learned very quickly that you don't allow brake fluid to contact paint.

About the time we got that job done, Mary brought out some subs that really hit the spot along with one of the beers I had brought.

As I was about to leave, Ed Hill arrived in his green MGB and Dave Gribbler pulled up in the Jag. I understand they did something to the manifolds on Dave's engine? Ed Hill was checking out his rear brakes.

At the meeting last month, when I thanked Dan for helping me install my new spring, he asked, "Is it still on there?" and laughed

I'll think of you Dan, every time I look at my car setting level or enjoy the much improved ride.

Ron Parks

MG '96' INDY NEWS

By Skip Peterson

An original design T-shirt for our car club members has been designed and ordered for the trip to MG Indy 96. The shirts are khaki colored with British Racing Green imprinting. The front of the shirt shows the MG Indy 96 logo with drawings of an MGTD, MGA and MGB roadster. The left sleeve will have the MG Car Club SW Ohio Centre logo on it.

Only 36 of these shirts are being made and the cost is \$11 per piece. There is no profit involved in this venture, that is the cost to produce them with the screen charges. Linda Wolfe will take the reservations for the shirts at the June 19 meeting.

There are 6 M, 12 Large and 18 XL shirts available. We ask that members attending the Indy event get first chance to purchase the shirts.

Please bring your cash or check (payable to Skip Peterson) on the 19th if possible. The shirts are being delivered on June 24 and Skip will have them with him when we meet on June 27th to head to Indy. Any leftover shirts will be available on a first come, first served basis at the same cost.

Plans

MG Indy Caravan:

We'll be traveling to the MG Indy 96 gathering in a caravan leaving Dayton on Thursday, June 27th. We'll take route 40 to Indianapolis which should take us about 2 1/2 to 3 hours. There are 10 couples who have rooms at the headquarters hotel, but we would like everyone who can leave with us on Thursday to join the caravan. We'll meet at Meijer's on Rte 48 at I-70(Englewood) at Noon on Thursday, June 27. I'll have maps to Indy and the hotel for all involved. Please let Linda Wolfe know at the June 19th meeting if you can join us for the caravan over to Indy. I have no further information about the plans during the weekend, except that the main car show and gathering will be Saturday at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. I have heard that the NAMGBR and the NAMGAR are having separate car shows on Friday for their individual marques, so I'm sure we'll have lots of things to do on Friday. We'll head back to Dayton sometime on Sunday, probably sometime in the early afternoon. We look forward to having a great weekend with over 1000 MG's in Indy.

Indy Tentative Schedule

The tentative schedule for MG Indy 96 goes like this:

Wednesday and Thursday:
Autocross classes 8am til ?
check at hotel Registration 10am-8pm
Holiday Inn Thursday-
Funkhana at hotel and self guided driving tours
Vendors arrive at hotel
Safety Fast car inspections at hotel 3pm
Newsletter editors

conference at hotel Anders
Clausager signs books at hotel 3-5 pm

Thursday evening- Donald Davison(Indy 500 historian) and Anders Clausager give talks and Q&A at hotel

Friday_
Registration 10-8 at hotel
Car shows at Ropke Military Museum separate shows put on by the registers for the T, A, B, and C. All shows are at the Ropke site.

Saturday-
Arrive at Indianapolis Motor Speedway at 9 am, upon entrance take a lap around the track and then proceed to the display area.
Noon- Panoramic photo taken
1pm awards 3pm charity awards presentation

5pm -til ?
dinner at the Indy Zoo- dinner is in two seatings at 6:20 and 7:20

No firm plans on Sunday.

These are the events as planned on June 9th. I'm sure some members made reservations for the dinner at the zoo, if you didn't, it's too late. There will be a clean up car wash area at the hotel available each day, and there will likely be parking lot parties each evening.

From the Editor

Ron Parks

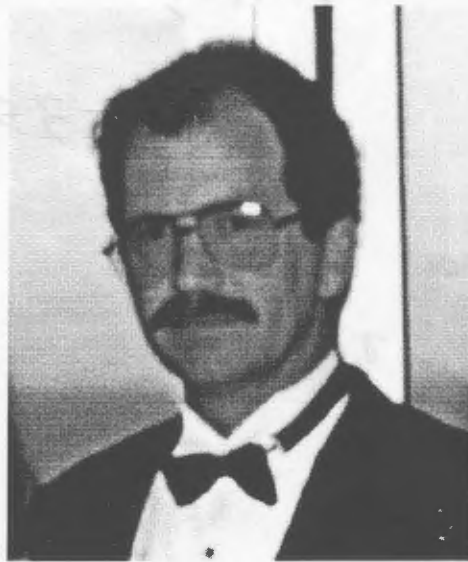
You might have noticed that we've skipped a number on the volume this month. The Volume Number for April should have been Volume XXIX No. 5 and May should have been No. 6. Hence, June is Volume XXIX No. 7.

Remember, any and all contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. You can mail them to me at 4101 Grossepoint Street, Springfield, OH 45502. Or if you prefer the information super highway, my E-Mail address is: FKZS47A@prodigy.com I'm also on the British Cars BBS as Ron Parks. Any of those methods will work fine or you can call me at home (322-0717) or at work (445-4623) and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview.

We need a member car to feature next month.

On behalf of the entire Callahan family, we want to thank you all so very much for the flowers, food and kind expressions of sympathy and support. Your overwhelming show of love for Dan means more than we can ever say.

*With Great Appreciation
Mary, Larry & Karen
Callahan*



DANNY L. CALLAHAN

June 6, 1952 - May 25, 1996