

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXIX No. 12

NOVEMBER 1996

## FALL LEAF TOUR

### Fall Leaf Tour/Mini- Car Show

By Skip Peterson

**Y**ou know how you plan things, then never know how it's going to work out. The Fall Leaf Tour was kinda like that. Jennifer and I drove the route in September, had a great time, and then prayed for good weather. The Sunday before the tour was sunny, blue skies, and about 70 degrees. I commented how if only we could have the same one week later. On Saturday night before the tour (we did have to change the date at last month's meeting) I had only heard from 3 couples who were planning to join us. Sunday morning came, the weather was picture perfect, and by 11:15 am, there were MG's in front of the house. By Noon we had 11 MG's and two "regular" cars to make up the tour. Tops down, engines on song, we motored toward Oxford. In Germantown, we picked up two other MG's (sorry, I can't remember their names, but if they join the club I promise to remember) they had called the night before and said they'd be waiting.

## BRITISH CAR DAY 97 PLANS

### MG Car Club Officers

President.....Skip Peterson 293-2819  
vice-president..Karl Sparklin 426-6068  
Secretary.....Ellen Sparklin 426-6068  
Treasurer.....Dick Smith 434-1750  
Member at Large.....Matt Schneider  
439-5018  
427-0074  
Pres. Emeritus..Dan Wagner 667-6286  
Activities Chair..Tim Oricko 434-5928  
Membership Chair.....Linda Wolfe  
429-0847  
Octagon 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  
Web Page -  
<http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html>  
**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 Linda Wolfe for further membership information.



*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:

**November 20, 1996**

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A brief stop at the lodge in Hueston Woods gave everyone a pit stop and a chance to talk more. The Parks' even got to visit with their daughter who met them there and took this picture for us.

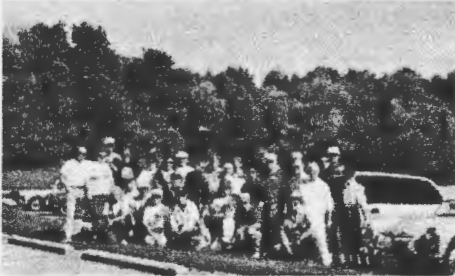


Photo By Elizabeth Parks

We were going to cruise through Oxford and around Miami University, but this day was the annual Red Brick Rally, a huge car show in downtown Oxford. Traffic was so congested in Oxford, we made a quick right on a side street, regrouped, and decided to press on to the back roads and head for the final destination: Club Balogh and the Magnificent Red Barn.

Sommerville and Bauer Rds are just perfect for MG's. Tight and winding, elevation changes, freshly paved, just the ticket for a top down day. We wound our way along these roads, through the town of Jacksonburg, on to Middletown and finally ended up on Rte 48, just north of Lebanon, here we would end at Randy and Linda Balogh's home for a cookout.

As we cruised along the long gravel lane leading back to the house and Magnificent Red Barn, I noticed a big Healy, and a bunch of MG's already lined up, car show style. When we finally all got parked, it was the first annual Kirby Rd. British Car Day.

### Upcoming Events

#### November:

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

#### December:

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

#### January:

- 15 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club
- 28 **BCD Meeting** at Marians Pizza Town & Country

#### February

- 19 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### March

- 19 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### April

- 16 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### May

- 21 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### June

- 18 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### July

- 16 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### August

- 2 **BCD-97** at Eastwood Park
- 20 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### September

- 17 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### October

- 15 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### November

- 19 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

#### TBD Events:

Historical Tour Yellow Springs Area (Late May or early June?)  
Spring Tune-up Clinic sometime in April?

Randy and Linda had everything under control, except the participants, who ran around like kids in a candy store. Looking at cars, meeting some new folks the Balogh's had invited, posing for a group photo. It really was fun, cold beer, great burgers and

sausages, lots of side dishes and lots to talk about.

As the sun got lower in the sky, the mellow note of MG's firing up to head home broke the cool evening quiet. In the distance, we could hear the rumble of Harley's rolling along Rte 48 after their big outing

in Oregonia. As Jennifer and I headed home about dusk, we passed lots of folks on Harley's who gave us a thumbs up. I realized that they were having as good a time as we were.



Photo By Skip Peterson

There really is something spiritual about connecting with really nice people who share something in common, who can enjoy it together. We are brought together because of our affair with British cars, masses of metal from the other side of the pond. We talk

about the cars, but we also talk about our kids, our jobs, our lives, there's so much more than just cars.

Everytime we get together to drive

somewhere together, I realize that all of those dreams I had when I first got the MG are coming true. I really can't explain it, but I think you know what I mean. We've all read it before, the top down, the winding road, the sound of the exhaust, the wind in your hair, the brisk breeze. Yeah, they built 'em

to drive. Let's do it again, as often as we can.



Photo By Ron Parks

We owe a special thanks to Randy and Linda Balogh who are terrific hosts. The scenery was spectacular, they made their home ours for the afternoon and the food was great. Randy mentioned to me they had a real good time and might like to do it again. All in favor say aye.

**Participants:**

Dick & Carol Smith, 1978 MGB Roadster; Ron & Linda Parks, 1974 MGB Roadster; Karl & Ellen Sparklin, 1972 MGB Roadster; John & Linda Wolfe, 1985 Jaguar XJ6; Bill Hammond, 1963 MGB Roadster; Ernie & Holly Streifthau, 1952 MGTD; Ernst & Helen Streifthau, 1980 MGB Roadster; Steve Veris, 1960 MGA 1600 Roadster; Cheri & Tom Fant, 1960 MGA 1600 Roadster; Ed & Karen Hill, 1971 MGB Roadster; Bill Kidd, 1970 MGB Roadster; Paul & Paula Wehner & kids, 1986 NOVA (British wiper motor); Steve & Jayne Powell, 1968 MGC GT; Charles & Priscilla Avery, 1967 Austin Healey Sprite; Dave & Lois Gribler, 1973 MGB Roadster; Skip

**S T R I C T L Y**

**BRITISH**

**RESTORATION & PARTS**

**RANDY BALOGH**

226 Kirby Road  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

(513) 933-0950  
MGBay@AOL.COM

& Jennifer Peterson, 1973 MGB Roadster; Mike, Mary & Tim Oricko, something American.

Answers to Jennifer's Quiz:

1. Mad, 2. Alex Bell, 3. Pizza Hut, 4-Owen Sound Ontario, 5-Great Miami River, 6-John Deere, 7-Florentine, 8-Bussard's, 9-Ada, 10-Whiskey, 11-Sun (although already harvested), 12-Pioneer, 13-Old, 14-Butler, 15-Preble, 16-Carrousel, and 17-Oxford

## Minutes of October Meeting

By Ellen Sparklin

**A**t 8:08 Skip Peterson called the meeting to order. Skip thought it was 8:03 and asked Ellen Sparklin to record it as such, and so it was duly recorded. Skip asked Karl Sparklin if there was anything he wished to say. Karl declined, so Skip then asked Ellen to please read the minutes from the September meeting as quickly as possible. The minutes were read and approved in 23.6 seconds.

Skip then proceeded to thank Dick Smith as well as John and Linda Wolfe, for their continued support of the club for the past 30 years. Dick Smith then presented the treasurer's report stating the club had a Beginning Balance of \$536.45, with a gross income of \$174.14 and expenses of \$321.80 for beer, no that is not right, with a TOTAL expenses for the month of \$321.80 resulting in an ending balance of \$388.79.



Paul Wehner moved to accept the treasurer's report, with Jennifer Peterson second.

Skip then moved on to introduce two visitors to the rest of the club, Ron & Cynthia Colbertson who currently own a 1952TD, and are looking for a left rear fender with lights. One of the club members suggested they might look inside of Randy Balogh's barn, as they might find their much needed fender there. Skip then asked Linda Wolfe to please explain the Gumball Rallies to Ron and Cynthia. Linda covered the

Photo By Skip Peterson

various ways one could obtain more than one chance at the drawing and what they could win! Skip thanked Randy and Linda Balough for the great party and food that was enjoyed by the club following the Fall Leaf tour. There were many British cars waiting for the club members on the tour to arrive at Balogh's, resulting in a mini British car show. This did not include the various designs of cars that were parked behind the barn at Balogh's. A great time was had by all who attended.

Skip took a moment out of the

## MG AUTOMOTIVE

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meeting to introduce the new officers of the club, and called upon Matt Schneider (member at large) to give his report. Since Matt was missing at the time, the report was accepted as it was last month as unchanged. The entire club thanked Ron Parks for the FANTASTIC job he has done with the newsletter, and suggested that perhaps one day he could become a publisher!

Skip then moved the club onto more serious matters. Club members John & Jo Ann Zeno are currently in Texas with their son, who is battling cancer. The prayers and concerns of the club are with them.

The hayride is scheduled for this Friday, October 18th at Echo Valley Farms. If you have gone down the hill to the farm market, you have gone too far, and need to turn around and go back up the hill to the second entrance to Echo Valley Farms. The hayride is slated to begin at 8:00 pm; however, all members should meet at 7:00. It was suggested that everyone should bring something to drink and snacks to eat. The weather is supposed to be a bit chilly, so warm clothing was also suggested.

Skip suggested that the club take a break for 15 minutes from 8:30 to 8:45, however the club did not resume the meeting until 8:53, as Jennifer Peterson was helping MG

Enthusiast Extraordinaire, Jim Pesta, display and sell his many MG items to the club members. Jennifer and Jim had a sale table, where all t-shirts were \$5.00 but eventually went for \$2.00 each. The club appreciated and enjoyed the various items Jim had for sale, and it was suggested he please bring them to the November meeting so the members could do some serious Christmas shopping.



Photo By Skip Peterson

Moving right along to other matters. On Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30 in the evening, at Marion's Pizza on Patterson road, there is to be a meeting to begin plans and organizational strategies for the 1997 BCD. Any and all members are welcome to attend. They are needing many people to chair the different committees. It takes many people to make the BCD a success! On another note, the club voted to continue the Highway Clean up for another two years, cleaning the same stretch of highway. Dave Gribler explained it takes 8 people about two hours to complete the job. If more members would assist with this project, it

would take less time and is of great benefit to all in the MG club. The Highway Cleanup project gives the club excellent exposure through the signs that are placed on that stretch of the interstate. Linda Wolfe then expressed the need for volunteers on November 15th at the Lithuanian Club Fish Fry. She and Skip explained that the club does not pay for the use of the meeting room, but in exchange, members of the club run the Showdown Table.

All volunteers need to be at the Lithuanian Club by 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm, but the typical shift is much shorter. Everyone who volunteers gets all the FREE FOOD & DRINKS they want. Please contact Linda at 429-0847 if you can help!

Skip then covered the upcoming Christmas party at Wagner's on

Saturday, December 7. Everyone in attendance needs to bring a gift for each person in attendance, (if two of you come, you need to bring two gag gifts), your own drinks and an hors d'oeuvre to share. It was also noted, there will be NO MGCC MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Matt Schneider offered his garage for the Spring Tune up, about mid to late April. Dick Smith let the club know he is ordering special MG mouse pads and will be placing the order soon. Seeing as most of us probably keep a mouse or two in our homes during winter

days anyway, it is well worth the reasonable price of \$16.00 to give your mouse a great place to rest! Ron Parks and Bill Hammond are planning the Spring MG Tour, as a Historical Tour.

At 9:33 Joe hooker moved the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Jennifer Peterson.

## Last Highway Cleanup for 1996

By Ron Parks

It was rather cool at 9:00am that Saturday morning, November 2. Everyone was dressed warmly. There is not, of course, but if there was an award for the most colorfully dressed trash pickerupper, someone named Lois would have

won it! Other pickupper besides her and me were Bill Hammond, Matt Schnider, Dan Inlow, Joe Hooker & Dave Gribler. We spent about two hours and left it looking good.

The Vandalia Medical Center is responsible for the interchange at I-75 & Rte. 40. That saves some time, although we did pick up some large chunks there.

Highway cleanup dates for 1997 are yet to be scheduled.

## Christmas Party 1996

By Dan & Vickie Wagner

We would like to take this opportunity to cordually invite everyone to the annual MG Car Club Christmas party.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve you this past year as officers. We look forward to many more years of friendship with a great group of folks in the club. We hope to see all of you at this great event.

Please R.S.V.P. (667-6286) to help in planning to make this event as great a success as we've experienced in the past.

Please bring drinks, appetizer or dessert of your choice and a gag gift. The club will provide soft drinks and mixers.

Again, thanks for the privelege of serving you.

See ya there!

Dan, Vickie, Shelby, Lee Anna

Directions to Dan & Vickie's:

Take I-75 North to Main Tipp City exit, Ohio State Highway 571. Go East (Right) (3) Lights, turn South (Right) on S. Hyatt to Broadway. Go East (Left) on Broadway to South 6th Street. Go South (Right) on South 6th Street to number 239 on the Right. Our MG sanctuary is at the corner of South 6th Street and South Street.

## Amen Hallelujah

By John Wolfe

This is a follow up to our esteemed President's article in last month's news letter.

The freeways, to me, are about the most dangerous places to drive considering the mix of vehicles



involved; huge semi's sometimes with two trailers, various sizes of cars in various states of repair and the speed at which this mix of vehicles is traveling. Some vehicles are exceeding the speed limit and some are actually going much slower than the speed limit. I suppose when you throw all these factors together it's a wonder we do as well as we do.

Skip, I too have a list of jerks: 1) The Wrist Hanger - This jerk drives along sometimes at 70-80 MPH with his wrist just resting on top of the steering wheel. There is no possible way this person will be able to take evasive action in an emergency situation even with power steering. 2) The Talker - This person is more involved with their conversation on the cellular phone than driving down the highway! 3) The reader - This person is driving down the highway reading a book, map or papers. Oh, they glance up once in a while to see what's going on. Things can happen rather quickly at 65 MPH.

I do admit that I'm not a perfect driver. I have made mistakes as everyone does! I do try to pay attention to what I'm doing, and, what's just as important, what everyone else is doing.

Driving as Skip said is a privilege and I think an art to do it well. Driving is not something to take lightly especially if you want to survive.

See you at the meeting!

## BCD-97 Planning Meeting

By Ron Parks

Many things were decided at the meeting held at Marians Pizza at Shroyer and Patterson on October 22, 1996.

The Date of BCD this year is August 2. It was decided for sure to change the name of the show back to "British Car Day" dropping Cycle from the name. There will continue to be a motor cycle category and we hope to get participation from British cycling enthusiasts. However, the word "Cycle" will no longer be reflected in the official name of the show.

The contract with Five Rivers Metro Parks has been signed.

There was some discussion regarding awarding trophies instead of award plaques, but it appears we will continue with plaques. We will make a first place plaque for each marque, the awards of excellence for all other awards, given out based on the number of cars in that class.

Committee chairships were filled:

*General Chairman*- Skip Peterson

*Registration*- Dan and Mary Stinson

*Vendors/Flea Market* - Bill Hammond,

*Trophies/Dash Plaques/Ballot Counters* - Skip Peterson

*Site* - Ron Wynne,

*Regalia-T-Shirts*- Skip Peterson,

*PR/News* - Bruce Clough,

*Food/Concession* - Jennifer Peterson/Paula Wehner,

*Door Prizes* - Ron Parks.

Each committee chair will be responsible for providing the volunteers to staff the event the day of the show.

The next BCD-97 meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday January 28, 1997 at Marians Pizza at Town & Country Shopping Center.

## From the Editor

Ron Parks

You may have noticed on the front page at the end of our list of officers, that we're now on the internet. Skip Peterson signed us up. A copy of our Web page is attached.

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.

## \* Classified \*

'52' TD for sale - The late Roy Woods car. Recent engine rebuild, front end rebuild, new top, new upholstery, low ratio new axle, new tires, battery. - \$10,000 - Call Joe Hooker (513) 426-1128

'75' MGB, Body fair, motor runs, interior rough, Restoration car. Call Greg Mannix at (513) 277-7579

'66' Midget Basket Case, wire wheels, 1275cc engine, \$500, Randy Balogh, (513)933-0950

'62' MGB, Serial #159 which means it was the 59th one built, needs restoring, \$3500, Randy Balogh, (513)933-0950.

Six Volt Battery for MGB For Sale. \$25 or Best Offer. Call Ron Parks (513)322-0717

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