
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXX No. 2

JANUARY 1997

1997 YEAR OF THE MG

From the President

Skip Peterson

Got that call the other night, the Editor: I need a story and I need it now, what have you got?—Reminds me of work! Parks, ever think of a career in journalism?—OK, I'm really just kidding....

Notice how I use those dots and dashes to take up space, another trick I learned from writers with not much to say... there I go again..

The Editor did mention that maybe something about starting a new year, a clean slate, doing what we always put off, maybe I could do something about MG Resolutions. In any case, we'll just make these a few thoughts about 1997, some things that I just feel like writing about:

1. Each of you has something unique about your car, an experience while driving it or working on it, that we all should know. You SHOULD write that for the Octagon News. Then we'll all know about it, Parks will have lots of stuff for the upcoming issues, and you get 3 Gumball Rally tickets for being a Contributing Editor." Pretty neat



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:

January 15, 1997

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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
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.

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stuff, eh?

2. Try to remember what you wanted to do to your car last year before you parked it for the winter. Now, go write it down, and either tape it to the steering wheel of the MG, or post it somewhere near your workbench, where you'll see the note so many times, you'll finally do the work and throw the note in the trash. I really do this.

3. Promise to drive your MG somewhere it has never been before. Cars like some variety in their life too. Take it to the beach, maybe on an overnight trip so it can stay in a motel lot all night (they talk to each other while we sleep, you should have heard the commotion last year at Indy '96. Sounded like a slumber party with a bunch of teenage girls.)

4. Change your oil every 3000 miles or three months. Then be sure to RECYCLE the oil. This applies to all vehicles, not just the MG. It's good for the car, and good for the environment.

5. Ask someone that one question you have been afraid to ask since

you've owned an MG. The only dumb questions are the ones you don't ask. I know, I've done this 1,414 times, and it gets easier every time.

6. Search the INTERNET to determine the meaning of MOWOG. Current popular belief indicates it doesn't mean anything.

7. Have you really ever packed a picnic in a wicker basket and driven to a beautiful spot, spread out a blanket and enjoyed a relaxed picnic with the one you love? If not, '97 is the year of the Romantic Picnic. From now on, we'll refer to this as RP'97'. Kind of a buzz

word for those in the know.

8. Try to attend every MGCC SWOC meeting this year. That would be the third Wednesday of each month, same time, same place. We really like to see you once a month.

9. Final thought for '97. Drive your MG as often as you can. Just cause they're old doesn't mean they don't like to exercise.

See you on the 15th of this month.

Member Featured Car of the Month

By Tom Fant

During the summer of 1990, while living in Michigan, we heard a story about a "cute little car that had been sitting in a local garage for years". We decided to follow up on this story, even though most of these lead to either a rusted out pile of sheet metal that bears some resemblance to an automobile, or to a stack of boxes and bushel baskets full of parts and a "Guarantee" that "it was all there

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when I took it apart". When the owner was finally located it became clear there was no interest in selling (the ol' "I'm going to fix it up one of these days" story). After some conversation, the owner did agree to at least let us look at the car.

We walked to his garage but there was not a car to be seen. When asked where the car was, he pointed to a large pile of lumber on the far side of the garage. After moving countless 2 X 4's, sheets of plywood, and other assorted treasures, a remarkably intact and rust free MGA 1600 began to emerge. It seems he had purchased the car in Oregon during the late 60's. In 1971 the car was driven from Oregon, pulled into this garage, and hadn't moved since (still had the '71' plates on it). After two hours of cajoling, begging, hard bargaining and pleading we finally wore down his resolve not to sell and reached an agreement on price. We then quickly hauled the car from it's nineteen year resting place before

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seller's remorse set in.

The restoration project lasted three years and consisted of a complete disassembly and rebuild of the entire vehicle. The process went well until the final decision on color. My vote was for a bold, striking sports car color, like RED. Cheri's vote was for the more subtle, but original, Iris Blue.

In May of 1993 our newly restored, Iris Blue, MGA was ready to roll out of the garage under it's own power. After several local shakedown cruises, the first trip was from Indianapolis to Ann

Arbor, MI for the NEMGTR GOF Central. Half way to Michigan the fuel gage wire decided to rub against a sharp edge of sheet metal and let all the smoke out. Seems the Prince of Darkness chose this moment to make his presence known. Other than this one minor incident the car has proven to be very reliable and has been the source of much enjoyment.

The temperatures yesterday were unseasonably warm for January in the Miami Valley. As I walked through the garage I'm sure I saw that unmistakable "It's so nice outside, can we go out and play" look on the front cowl of the "A".



Minutes of November Meeting

By Karl Sparkin

The meeting was called to order at 8:12pm.

The Secretary was not in attendance, due to illness, which means the Vice President-Husband (VPH) actually had to DO something. The Treasurer was

also missing, and so Linda Wolfe filled in for that role.

Jim Pesta, of "Autographics" brought wares for Xmas, and Randy Balogh represented a friend, bringing MG prints to sell.

Once the rather strange minutes of the last meeting were skimmed over by the VPH, Randy Balogh moved to approve them, while Jim Pesta seconded, an obvious attempt by both guys selling things to make points before the beer break.

The Stunt Treasurer was called upon to cough up the latest cash report, which ended with an impressive \$1226.06. Applause followed.

A guest, Larry McDaniel, was recognized. He just bought an MGA from Mike Sonderman and came to the meeting to "see what they're supposed to look like."

The Spring Tune-up was proposed to be on Sunday, April 27, 1997. Please remove winter mothballs before arrival.

Paula Wehner showed a proposed calendar design. We could provide photos for the top of each month, but if we want custom dates, we would have to order 1000 from this company. Discussion ensued, with the decision that we should do some more research into alternatives and make a decision at the January meeting.

Paula Wehner also reported that she got the money back from the canceled hayride, and that we'll try to schedule next year's in July for a bit earlier in the fall to improve chances at reasonable weather.

Ron Parks, Most Esteemed Editor, asked if we should send the newsletter to people that had signed up at the British Car Days.

Upcoming Events

January:

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

February

- 19 MGCC Meeting in Lithuania Club

March

- 15 St. Patty's Day Party at Gribler's
19 MGCC Meeting in Lithuania Club

April

- 16 MGCC Meeting in Lithuania Club
27 Tune-up Clinic at Matt Schneider's

May

- 21 MGCC Meeting in Lithuania Club

June

- 13-14 London to Brighton, Ohio In conjunction with Indiana British Car Union

- 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?)

It was decided that we should, and also add a personal invitation to the general meeting in January. Everyone is expected to behave themselves.

Bill Hammond gave a Historic Tour Report: They're getting good response from some places they've contacted. Date for this tour may be in May.

Linda ran out of beer at 8:32, and a beer break was hastily called. It was announced that Mike Oricko has turned 80 and should have beer brought to him. He seemed to have no objection.

(At this point, members milled about with their drinks, scanning merchandise, and trying to get warm in the chilly hall.)

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Meeting was reconvened at 8:59. Again, at 9:01. And again at 9:03. (President is easily distracted.)

President asked if our insurance was paid up, and Stand-in Treasurer announced that it was. Linda also passed Pres a form to keep us in good standing with the "Mother Club". (VPH is still wondering what parenthood has to do with driving an MG.)

The Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 7th at 8pm at the

Wagner's. Everyone is to bring their own bottle, an hors d'oeuvre to share, a gag gift, and door stripping supplies. The Indy '96 video will be shown as part of the festivities.

British Car Days '97 (note the name change) will have its next planning meeting on Jan. 28th at Marion's at Towne and Country. Skip will need help! Ron Parks is prize coordinator this year. It was suggested that we should have the

date submitted to magazines to be included in their calendars.

A Highway Cleanup was held on November 2nd. Skip noted that the bags were picked up on the 4th. (Maybe we should put MG stickers on the bags to be seen for two days?) The spring schedule is undecided, but Dave Gribler noted that more people need to help, and that it's actually easier now that we don't have to do the interchange any longer. He will "re-up" for 2 more years. Linda Wolfe suggested a phone system for reminding members of the cleanup dates.

We have a web-page! At no cost to us, Internet surfers over the entire planet can now see what we're up to at: <http://www.carlist.com/carclub/mgbskip>. Skip will have the incorrect P.O. Box listing fixed.

The floor was yielded to those who had things to sell. (Silly us, we thought MG's.) A Volvo, a Riviera, a stove and a refrigerator were offered. (Maybe the fridge has Lu-cas electrics: the light only comes on when the door's closed?)

Lois Gribler gave a report on easily passing E-check, with a solution she picked up from Genuine Auto Parts. It says that the user is guaranteed to pass or double-your money back. After trying it on the family car, she'll try the MG next. Report to follow.

Lois also offered their home for a party on Mar. 15th (near St. Patrick's Day). It was wondered aloud if we'd have British-racing-green beer.

January 15 is the next general meeting. Anyone showing up for a December meeting will be pretty lonely. There IS none.

The Gumball Rally winner was Lois Gribler.

Mike Oricko moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:28, which was quickly seconded by half the attendees.

(Meeting minutes hereby submitted by Vice-President-Husband of Secretary. Don't blame HER for this!)

From the Editor

Ron Parks

There is now some evidence that the Classifieds include here really work! Joe Hooker's ad for the '52' TD no longer appears below because it sold. It wasn't all the color pictures and other advertising he did that sold it, either, it was the classified ad in the newsletter. So, if you've got a car or related parts to sell, send it in. It just might work?

Also, we're publishing Want ads. If you're looking for a particular part or a special car, we can include that in the Want ads below.

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 *

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

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

* Wanted *

Left rear fender for MG-TD Call Ron or Cynthia Culbertson (513)325-9167