
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXX No. 6

MAY 1997

TUNE-UP CLINIC WELL ATTENDED

CASINO TRIP

Highway Cleanup Achieved by Small Band of Grizzled Veterans

By Ron Parks

Vandalia OH, April 13, 1997, after a rain delay of one day, the stretch of I-75 adopted by the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre received a good cleaning by the crew of six pictured below. Others would have come out to help had it not been raining or snowing in their neighborhood when they looked out the window. Who would be crazy enough to pickup trash on a day like this. Well, take a look:



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:

May 21, 1997

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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Upcoming Events

May

- 3-4 **Richfield Car Show** Richfield Ohio
 4 **Historical Tour** Beginning at the Indian Mound in Enon
 12-18 **First Annual British Car Week** Drive your MG
 21 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club
 31 **Vintage British Car Show** Dayton Carillon

June 12 *BCD Meeting Manama T&C*

- 13-14 **London Ind. to Brighton, Ohio** In conjunction with
 Indiana British Car Union
 18 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club
 21-22 **Grand Victoria River Boat Tour** Gambling & overnight
 stay in Madison Indiana
 27-29 **Mid-Ohio Race**

July

- 7-16 **Lake Erie Circle Tour**
 12 **Highway Clean-up** Mc-D's in Vandalia 9:00am
 13 **Cincinnati British Car Show** at Edgewater Park
 16 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

August

- 1 **Pre-BCD '97'** at Courthouse Square 11am to 1pm
 2 **BCD '97'** at Eastwood Park
 20 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

September

- 13 **Highway Clean-up** Mc-D's in Vandalia 9:00am
 13 **Picnic** At Sparklin's in the Afternoon
 14 **Concourse Car Show** at Natural History Museum
 (Museum of Discovery)
 17 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club
 26-28 **Indy British Motor Days** at Indianapolis Motor
 Speedway.

October

- 15 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

November

- 15 **Highway Clean-up** Mc-D's in Vandalia 9:00am
 19 **MGCC Meeting** in Lithuania Club

Casino Trip

By The Johns Zeno & Wolfe

You must act right away if you intend to go on this car tour to the casino at Rising Sun and stay over-night in Madison Indiana. We only reserved 15 rooms at the President Madison Motel and the reservations for those rooms had to be confirmed by March 31, 1997. At the present time ten (10) rooms are taken. We contacted the motel and they stated that they would take reservations as long as rooms are still available.

If you want to go you must make your reservations right away. Call the motel on their toll free number (1-800-456-6835) and tell Ray that you are with the MG Car Club.

There is a \$5 per person admission charge to enter the casino which includes a two (2) hour boat ride on the Ohio River. Pay your admission to John Zeno by the May 21st MG Car Club meeting.

The plan as of right now has us meeting in the parking lot of the K-Mart at Dorothy Lane and County Line Road at 8:15am Saturday June 21, 1997. We will leave at **8:30am sharp**. We must arrive at the Casino by 10:30am and park our cars in the valet parking in front of the Casino. They will have security guards protecting our cars while we're on the boat. After the cruise, we plan to have a picnic lunch (draft beer will be available) along the river on our way to Madison. If you do not want to bring a picnic lunch you can eat on the boat during the cruise. We will stop at other interesting places along the way and in Madison.

The next day we will return through Metamora on the way home. This little town has many shops (a little Waynesville) and a canal ride if desired. Rest stops are planned along the route both days.

Casino Trip

Saturday June 21, 1997:

Eastern Time

8:15am - Meet at K-Mart Indian Ripple.

8:30am - Leave Sharp

10:30am - Arrive at Victory Casino to pick up tickets for boarding and park cars.

11:00am - 11:30am - Board Boat.

2:00pm (approximately) - Leave Boat.

2:15pm - Lunch at Rising Sun Park.

3:00pm - Leave Park

3:30pm - Stop at Markland Dam

5:00pm (4:00pm Central) - Arrive at President Madison Motel

?:??pm - Dinner with beer

Sunday June 22, 1997:

Eastern Time

9:00am (8:00am Central) - Breakfast at Clifty Falls State Park Inn.

10:30am (approximately) - Leave Clifty Inn by North Gate to Metamora.

12:00pm - Arrive Metamora, eat lunch and tour town.

Leave for home when ever you are ready.



Member Featured Car of the Month

By Jasper Cemino

In the fall of 1985, I was working with a fellow from Greece, who was trying to describe, in very broken English, this car his neighbor had for sale. He said, "E's a nice car, E hava stripe on de bottom dot say GMB, some a thing lika dot. Un E hava nice paint and

E runs a good!"

I could not understand for sure what kind of car he was describing. An appointment was made for me to look at the car and it was a 1979 MGB.

To me it was an odd, funny looking car, as I was not familiar with British cars at that time. It was a solid car with no rust. The original owner bought the car in Lubbock, Texas, if that means anything. I have always liked convertibles, so an agreement was reached and the car was on it's way to my home.

The car was very original with no

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updates until I started to work on it. I removed the catalytic converter, as it was the thing to do at the time. E-check was unheard of. The car back fired an awful lot when shifting, so I removed the gulp valve and installed an anti-backfire unit, which corrected the problem. That back fire did sound cute though and did attract attention.

An oil cooler was installed, to boost the oil pressure. I'm not aware that it has done that, however the unit looks impressive.

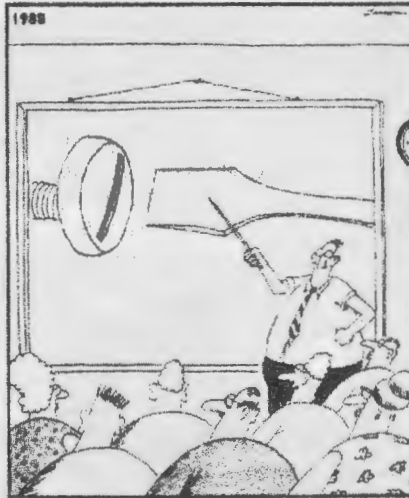
One thing to note, while driving home in our "B" one dark night, we could barely see the taillights on the car ahead of us. It was another MGB. I promptly installed another bulb unit in each taillight assembly. I now have double the illumination on the rear of the car.

My last project was the installation of a new top. I went to one of Dan Callahan's tune-up clinics with my new top in a box. Dan advised me that it was not a good weather day to install a top. He said you need a good hot summer day to install the top so you can stretch it to make it look good. Dan gave me step by step instructions on how to install it. So the first hot summer day, the top went on, with very few problems. Thanks again Dan!

Tune-up Clinic

By Ron Parks

Arriving at Matt's house for the tune-up clinic I was waved into the back corner of his huge garage. Sparklin's MGB was already inside on the other side of



School for the Mechanically Declined

the room along with two of Matt's Mini's. Shortly after I arrived, Skip Peterson pulled in with his "B", John Wolfe with his "A" and the last car to enter the garage was Dick Goodman's TD.

Randy Balogh was there with the carburetor seals that I needed, my carbs were leaking, and the hose for the oil pressure gauge. My carburetors don't leak anymore!

Steve Miller was there also. He and Randy skipped between cars offering a hand and advice for various problems, many of which

were solved that day.

Someone had trouble backing their MG out of the garage to come to the tune-up clinic. It was either a transmission problem or an operator memory problem after having not driven the MG all winter? Guess who?

The tune-up clinic was a success for me personally, I got two problems fixed on my car and I got a refresher course on adjusting valves. The last time I had adjusted valves, they were in the engine of my 64 TR4. That was many years ago. Skip, I still don't remember how I turned the engine over to move the valves. It seems like maybe I moved the fan. The TR4 fan had metal blades. However, I may have moved the car in a high gear like you and I did when we adjusted your valves?

Besides being successful doing things to our cars, it was fun to get together to look at and talk about our cars. That's always fun! After-all that's why we're in this club isn't it? The food was great too, Mexican dip, cookies, coffee, donuts...lots of good stuff!



Steve Miller inspects Charlie Avery's suspension on his sprite at tune-up clinic.



Randy Balogh works on Karl Sparklin's carburetors at tune-up clinic.

Matt, you have a great place to hold this event and we thank you very much for your hospitality!

Here is a list of attendees and work done on their cars at the tune-up clinic:

Karl & Ellen Sparklin (72-MGB) Lack of turn signals along with tune-up stuff.

Skip Peterson (72 MGB) Adjust valves - Timing.

Ron Parks (74 MGB) Replace O-Rings in base of carbs & oil pressure gauge hose.

John lucente (MGA) Timing

Dick Goodman (MG-TD) Brakes - Turn Signals.

Charley McCamey (75MGB) Nothing special.

Dave McCann (70 MGB) Swap Weber carburetors.

Tim Oricko (71MG Midget) Exhaust Manifold Gasket.

John & Linda Wolfe (62 MGA) Turn Signals.



Guess who drove to the tune-up clinic with this wrench under his hood?

John Zeno (57 MGA) Timing

Steve Miller, Joe Hooker, Dick & Carol Smith, Randy Balogh, Paul & Paula Wehner, Steve Veris, Sam Hodges, Charlie Avery, Dave & Lois Gribler and of course Matt Schneider.

MGF Options Increased

Taken from Import Automotive Parts and Accessories Magazine

Submitted By Dick Smith

February saw production of the 20,000th MGF and a sales lead time which, in the U.K., still exceeds three months. A factory-fit air conditioning system, similar to that already available on the car in Japan, is now being offered, while a demand for leather has resulted in a move to factory-fit availability.

Three new colors have also been introduced. Tahiti Blue and Nightfire Red pearlescents and Platinum Silver metallic has increased the color option from six to nine. To date, British Racing Green has proved easily the most popular, accounting for over 50 percent of sales.

Historical Tour

By Bill Hammond & Ron Parks

From the beginning, beautiful weather was planned for the historical tour. Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

We did get lucky and have a very nice day for the tour. Those who

went on the tour saw some pretty country, ate quite well and hopefully learned a little history along the way. More will follow on the Historical Tour in next month's issue, complete with photos if those of you who took some will kindly pick your best ones and get them to the editor.

Minutes of April Meeting

By Ellen Sparklin

Skip Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. He then proceeded to spill his beer on the few remaining club business cards. It is so nice to have you back, Skip. Some routines are missed when not present.

It has been widely reported that our President is the recipient of some awards recently for his photography work. Congratulations, Skip, the awards could not have gone to a more worthy person!

Ellen Sparklin read the minutes of the March meeting. Motion to approve was put forth by Skip, seconded by Jennifer Peterson. (This is a family affair I think)!

Dick Smith then gave the Treasurer's report:

Beginning Balance \$1137.54
Postage & printing \$48.36 Dues \$80.50
Gumball Rally \$5.00 Interest \$1.91
Total income for the month \$82.41. Total expenses for the month \$53.36
Ending Balance \$1166.59. A motion to accept was put forth by John Lucente and seconded by Mike Oricko.

Discussion then moved to the club's lift. (We always get one on road trips, thanks to John's MG pull-behind! It never hurts to have a sip or two.) The Wolfe's are going to have it fixed and give the bill to our treasurer, Dick Smith. The motion for the repairs was passed at the March MG club meeting.

Skip then talked with the club about our liability insurance. It is currently due for renewal through Erie Insurance Group. The total premium for the year is \$217.00. This covers any event planned by the club or participated in by the club and all of the club members, should an accident happen, not only to the members, but should another person outside of the club be injured by any club member or by accident. A motion to approve payment was put forth by Skip, second to approve made by Bill Hammond. Skip then passed the

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invoice along to Dick Smith for payment.

The Antique Car Show is September 14th. The concourse event is to benefit the Museum of Natural History. Skip is one of the people spearheading this event, and is looking to the club for volunteers. More to come on this project later in the year.

Linda Wolfe gave the membership report. On behalf of the club, she welcomed Sam Hodges, as he joined the club at this meeting. Sam owns a 1978 MGB. He decided to 'bondo' with our group of car lovers! Welcome Sam. We hope to see you on the next road rally!

Linda also made the suggestion that members with an email address put them out for members of the club. A sheet was passed around for this information. If you were not at the meeting, and you have an email address, please send it to myself at star@dma.org or our editor, Ron Parks at FKZS47A@prodigy.com.

Our editor, Ron Parks, then reminded members that articles for the newsletter are due by the 1st Wednesday of the month in order to be published in the newsletter.

Our member at large, Matt Schneider, put out copies of the MGB paint codes. He is still searching the net for the codes for MGA and TD. He reminded the club that the car TUNE-UP date is April 27th starting at 8:00a.m. A sign-up sheet was passed around so the club could have an idea of how many are planning to attend. Everyone is asked to bring beverages and snacks to share. Tools are also needed. Skip then asked everyone to please mark their tools with their name. He also let the club know that no one is allowed to take anything out of Matt's garage unless they are able to return it at the next meeting or have an agreement with Matt. The club laughed and pondered what goodies they might find in Matt's garage.

A beer break was called for at 8:25. Several members put a motion on the floor to have two beer breaks during the meetings. Seeing as most of the club had left the meeting room and gone to the bar, no motion to accept was put on the floor.

The club reconvened the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29th, the next planning meeting for the British Car Day is to be held. The meeting should mainly consist of handing out fliers. The boat people who are holding races on the same day across the lake had asked the club if they would like to sell food to the crowd. Skip then proceeded to say "They fell out of the boat one time too many and if they build a bridge across the lake, to call us, as our car show is not accessible from where they are holding their event."

At the last highway cleanup, only 6 people showed up to clean the highway. July 12th is the next scheduled date which is right before the Dayton Air Show, and many club members are needed to insure that the area looks fantastic.

September 13th is the Club Picnic at the Sparklin's after the highway cleanup. It has been noticed that our sign on that stretch of the highway has been vandalized

The London to Brighton run is June 14th, starts in London, Indiana and will end up at a hotel. Anyone interested in attending should talk with Tom and Sheri Fant at 643-3744.

The Indy British Motor Days are September 26th - 28th, at the Indy Motor Speedway. Everyone that attends will be able to drive a lap around the motorway. In their cars I guess.

The MG Council of North American is holding its spring meeting at the Carlisle Import Car Flea market in Carlisle, P,A and will be discussing locations to host MG International 2001. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact Ron Embling at (607) 988-7956. Or, you may email him at britbook@norwich.net.

Sunday, June 29th is the SprintVintage Grand Prix. The cost is \$25.00 per person in advance. Limit 2 tickets per person. The featured car this year is the Camaro. Our president then went on to say "That will be interesting - there probably is a lot of reason to caravan up there, now isn't there?"

ROAD TRIP!!!! Come one come all to 1997's 1st ROAD TRIP!

On Sunday, May 4th, the MG Car Club will be meeting at the Indian Mound in Enon, Ohio for the Historical Road Tour. The trip has been broken into parts, so those of you who are unable to join us at 8:00 a.m. will be able to hook up with the caravan along the way. We will be leaving the Indian Mound in Enon at 9:00 a.m., winding our way up through the country side roads stopping at the Ohio Caverns. We will not be going through the caverns, however Joanne Zino will be giving a presentation about the history of the area. This part of the trip is approximately 72 miles. When we leave the cavern, we will be passing various historical sites along the way, heading up to Bellefontain towards our lunch stop, and no beer West Liberty is dry. Arriving at the Vintage Inn at approximately 11:30 a.m. for brunch/lunch and leaving to get back on the road at approximately 1:00 p.m. We will have traveled about 45 miles on this the second leg of the trip, heading towards George Rogers Clark Park. Once there, Ron "Parks" is going to give us a talk about the history of that area. Our trip will take us approximately 10 miles more to Young's Dairy for ice cream.

From there, the group will be traveling to Yellow Springs for an open air Pub-grub supper and cool beer. Look forward to seeing everyone on May 4th!

Riverboat Gambling Tour!

Come have some fun, lose a little money and Join the MG Car Club for a weekend of fun on our first excursion to Rising Sun, Indiana. The club will be leaving on June 21st in the morning, going to the Rising Sun. The boat trip is 2

hours long. You can eat your lunch on the boat, or bring your own if you like. After the on-board gambling, the club will find themselves on the road once again heading towards Madison, Indiana, and their stop for the night at the Madison Hotel. Along the way, the club will be stopping for a nice cool beer along the river as the trailer will be in tow also. Reservations for the Madison Hotel needed to be in by the 31st of last month. These club members have their reservations in so far: Hammond, Hill, Inlow, Oricko, Pareaseau, Peterson, Wolfe, Zino and John's brother Frank. If you are still wanting to go, but have not made reservations, please call the Madison Hotel immediately, and let them know you are part of the MG club that is coming to stay on June 21st and need a reservation. A standard bed is \$39.00 and two beds are \$49.00 for the night. The phone number of the hotel is listed in last month's issue.

Also, John will be sending in the contract to the Victoria very soon. If you would like to go just for the boat ride, please contact him ASAP!

The next meeting is May 21st.

The Gumball Rally was won by John Zeno.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24.

From the Editor

Ron Parks

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 *

1963 Ferrari 250 GTO - \$2000 - cleverly disguised as 1967 MGB-GT Special Edition

Good looking, solid car. Wires, whitewall Gold Seals, rebuilt transmission, very good chrome, new interior panels, repainted dash (correct), very good suspension. Silver dollar-sized hole in left dog-leg. \$2000.

This conversion from Ferrari to M.G. was so well done that even Enzo himself would think that he was looking at an M.G.!

Contact: David Gable
<fgwr47a@prodigy.com>

Jacksonville, Florida, USA
Tel: 904-287-0760

'61' Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite, Frame-off restoration, burgundy paint, fresh 948 engine, wire wheels, previous award winner at

BCD, \$10,000. Call Tim at 299-1018

'62' MG Midget First year Midget imported to U.S.) Runs good needs some body work, new interior not installed, some restoration completed \$2,000. Call Tim at 299-1018

'75' MGB New top & Tonneau. \$2,500. Call Lt. Nystrom Daytime at 255-5150

'79' MGB \$4,000. Call 426-7305

'MG Collection' for sale due to serious family health problems:
1935 MG-PA 2069 older restoration, BRG with natural leather interior. Approximately 30 miles total since late 70's restoration. \$29,500.

1949 MG-TC #8710 Mid-80's restoration. Primrose with biscuit. all the goodies including marino master cylinder, new factory exhaust, 4 ring pistons, New engine mounts, etc., Tripod lamps, early fog lamps, Seabrook dash & Brooklands steering wheel. \$16,500 OBO.

1954 MG-TF Older Florida restoration in cream with navy interior, wires, like new tires, black top & full tonneau, set of late TD side curtains included. \$10,995 OBO.

1973 MGB-GT Red with orange/red/black interior. New chrome, tires, master cylinder, etc. overdrive. \$3,250 OBO.

Contact Larry L. McCartt, 16 West Elm Street, Monroe, OH 45050-1317. Daytime (513)671-1100 Evenings (513)539-7406

Righthand Drive (NOS) Dash for 62-67 MGB with glove box door. Still in "BMC" box. \$175. Call Randy Balogh (513) 933-0950

MGA Sheet Metal and other misc. parts for sale. Call Wally at 890-5346

'71 MGB BRG, 71,000 miles, restored, \$8,000. Call Andrea & Ron at (937) 426-7748

'75' Triumph TR7 4 cylinder, 4 speed, hardtop, average condition. \$1,200, Call Wess Eichelman (937)864-1705

Steve Powell

*73 BGT (LOIS)
John Rankin*

MG Car Club Members' E-Mail Addresses

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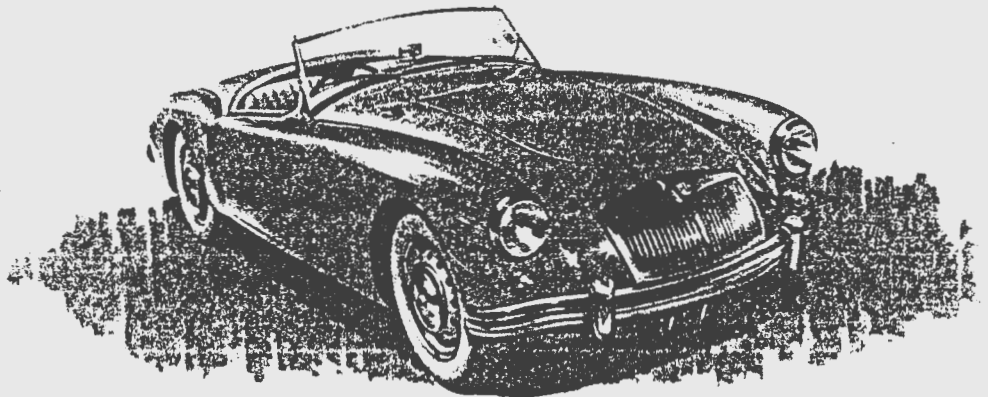
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Dick Smith

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First of a new line



THE COMPLETELY NEW



MGA



Five, countem, five MG's and two minis inside Matt Schneider's huge well lighted garage.