

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXX No. 8

JULY 1997

## HIGHWAY CLEANUP

BCD '97'

## MG Automotive Racing Team

By Ron Parks

**I**t wasn't a spectator event, but I sure did a lot of spectating at the SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) club race at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course on Saturday July 5th. Actually, I did contribute as a part of Steve Miller's pit crew. I drove one of the real members, Neil Brown, down to get gasoline with the gas can sitting on his lap in my MG. The rest of the day I served as team photographer and videographer. I guess that's a semi-legitimate pit crew function? Anyway, I was listed at the gate as part of Bob Mason's pit crew. You're only allowed three per car. So with Steve's wife Jane, his son Jeff, crew members Ken Meine & Neil Brown and Bob Mason's wife Margie, I was the sixth one.



*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:

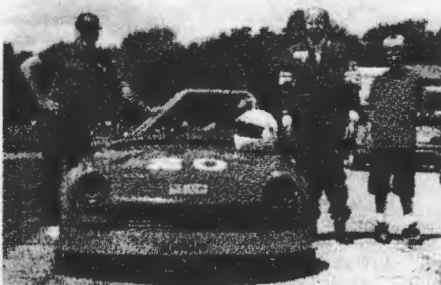
**July 16, 1997**

### 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.

### Inside This Issue

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Ken Meine, Steve Miller & Jeff Miller

**Upcoming Events**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

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



Steve had finished his qualifying laps, his first laps ever on that track, by the time I arrived at about 10 o'clock. Steve, Ken and Neil were hovered over the engine of Steve's '69' Triumph Spitfire busily replacing the head gasket he had blown just after qualifying. Ken and Steve finished up, affixing the valve cover and filling the radiator with water. It took quite a lot of water. They surmised that the head gasket blew because the cooling system was only half full. Must have had a vapor lock or something when it was filled the initially. It was about this time that Neil and I went for gasoline.

Steve's race, F Production, was to be the first one at 11:55am., but instead, they called for a lunch break, so we all relaxed a little went to the concession stand and had some lunch.

During lunch Steve was explaining to me that the FP on the side of his car stands for F Production, representing an engine class 1275cc to 1300cc. E Production class would include MGB's and TR6's for example. These classes are based on actual performance on the track and are reviewed annually to keep the classes competitive.

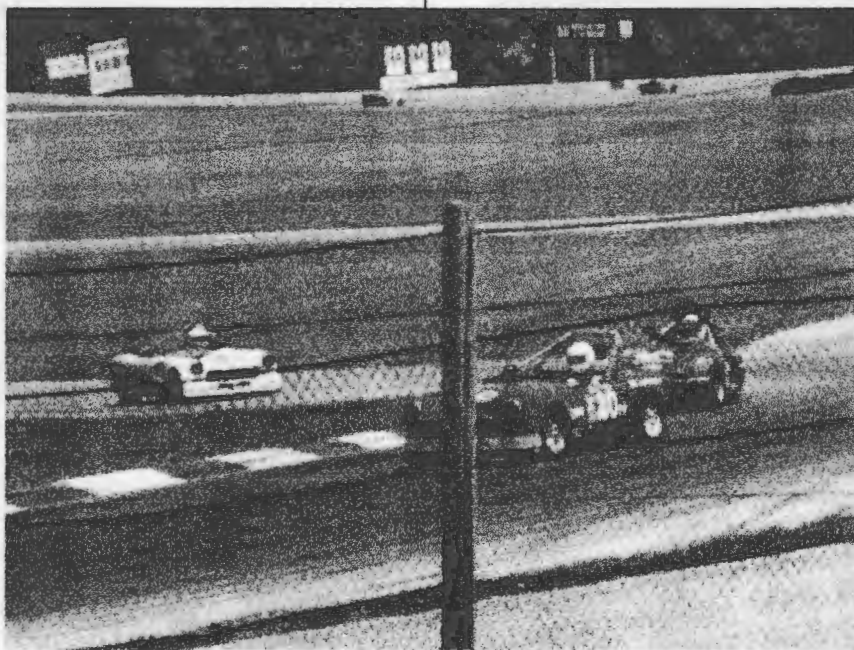
Bob Mason wasn't racing on Saturday, as they had to leave when his wife Margie became ill.

While I had taken quite a few pictures in the paddock area, of the guys working on the car and some posed shots, I was antsy to get some action shots on the track. I spotted what looked like a great spot to perch for picture taking on a high berm overlooking a curve called the carrousel. Immediately prior to entering the carrousel, the cars go through an S-curve. It was

possible to get four shots of the car in this series of curves from the vantage point on top of the berm. Although I was shooting through the fence for some of these shots, I was able to get some good ones besides the ones included here. I'll bring them to the July meeting.

Steve's race was 13 laps. I don't know how many miles that is, but many more miles and he would have been in serious trouble. When he finished the race there were only two lugnuts on his right rear wheel and they were loose. He said the car got real squirrely and he thought he had a flat tire. He had no idea he was about to lose a wheel. I heard Steve say several times during the day, "You never know what's going to fail."

Steve finished third in his class on Saturday behind the midget that had edged him out at Indy a couple of weeks ago and one other car. Steve was ahead of that Midget, #16, in the early laps as evidenced in this photo.



## MG AUTOMOTIVE

*Specialty Service, Parts and Restoration for  
MG, Triumph, Austin Healey and Related Autos*

Owners:  
Steve Miller  
Bob Mason



3733 C Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429  
(513) 294-7623

The last few laps I thought Steve's car sounded like it wasn't running well. It sounded different. He explained later that somewhere around 10th or 11th lap he needed a few more miles per hour to catch that midget, so he drove over the concrete berm on purpose to rip the exhaust off the car.

On Sunday, Bob Mason did not get back to race, but Steve did and finished in second place after leading the first 11 laps. He was still in the lead when he lost his left front wheel. The wheel studs

were sheered off. They are 30 years old after all. He says he's going to replace them all now.

The results after the weekend's two races place Steve in the lead for the Mid-Ohio Challenge. He has 16 points and the next closest competitor has 12. Steve explained that points are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes in each class (12, 9 & 7 points respectively).

Steve is quick to attribute his success to his pit crew. Besides his wife Jane and son Jeff, Steve wishes to thank Neil Brown, John Clark, Ken Meine, Paul Pazitney, Kent Southard and especially Bob Mason, without whose support in the way of resources such as trailers, vans and the like, his racing would not be possible.

Bob and Steve will be racing again July 26th & 27th at Mid-Ohio. They'll also be racing on August 2nd, which means we won't see them at BCD'97'.

I thoroughly enjoyed the day at Mid-Ohio. First of all any day I put 300 miles on my MG is a good day. Secondly it was sunny and beautiful, a great day to watch racing. And there were no crowds. I think this event probably was more fun that a spectator event

would be because of the lack of crowds. I was able to go just about anywhere I wanted to take my pictures. I want to thank Steve Miller and Bob Mason for the opportunity to go and be a part of the team. I enjoyed it and am happy to share the experience with the rest of you here. Let's just say that Steve and Bob's racing cars are the Member Featured Cars of the Month for July.

Hammond, Dan & Barb Inlow, John & Patty Lucente, Frank & Linda Lucente, Mike, Mary & Tim Orico, Tony & Peggy Pareseau, Tony's parents from TX., Skip & Jennifer Peterson, John & Linda Wolfe, John & JoAnn Zeno picking up Steve & Jane Powell along the way. With 12 cars (7 were MG,s) and 25 people aboard we arrived at the Grand Victoria around 10:30am. We were shown to the valet parking lot where a

Arrived at our motel in Madison around 4:00pm. A little trouble getting our rooms assigned right and then it was beer & snack time on the big porch overlooking the Ohio! Most went to a local restaurant for dinner and a tour of downtown. The Wolfe's & Zeno's ordered pizza in. Gab session & more drinks etc; later Linda & I who had prepared questions along the rte. to Madison checked the answers. 1st place was Tony &



Car 66, where are you? Bob Mason's '67' Austin Healey Sprite stayed under cover.

## Trip to Madison Indiana a Big Success

By JoAnn Zeno, Photos by Skip Peterson

**W**e left K Mart at 8:30am Sat. 21 June with Chas. & Priscilla Avery, Bill & Hazel

guard was posted to watch over our cars while we proceeded to go on the boat for 2 Hrs. hitting the slots. No one hit it really big, but about 3 were winners of \$350 down to \$140 and below. Think maybe the rest of us lost; know I did.

Leaving the casino we drove a few miles down the road to Rising Sun to have our picnic lunch in a nice park shelter along the Ohio River. On to Markland locks for a rest & pit stop.

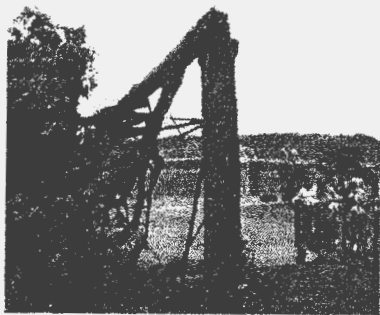


Before

Peggy who received a deck of cards from the casino. 2nd. place was Dan & Barb for a pair of dice.

A very gusty wind storm was passing thru' as we all were retiring to our rooms for the night. It broke a tree in half knocking down the motel sign which was anchored to it and across the road to motel. Later two ladies came up the road and ran into the fallen tree. They spent 4 1/2 hrs.in their car because power line lay across it. The tow truck waited for

someone to come & shut off power and when nobody came pulled them out. Later found out the power was turned off by motel owner. Another man in a truck was stuck in mud trying to get around the mess a while later. The Wolfe's whose room was closest to the activity had little sleep that night.



After

Sunday, we drove to Clifty Falls State Park at 9:00am where we enjoyed a delicious buffet breakfast at the Inn where tables were set up for the MG club. Went thru' the park and on to Metamora to shop the many arts, crafts & antique stores.

At this time everyone was on their own - some leaving early and others at various times for home. No breakdowns, no accidents and a safe trip home for all. Thanks to all who came; you made the trip just great!

Zeno's & Wolfe's

## Lucas Aphorisms

From the Internet

Submitted By Steve Powell

Lucas - Prince of Darkness

Lucas - inventor of the first intermittant wiper

The three position Lucas switch - Dim, Flicker, and Off.

Or what about the other 3 settings: Smoke, Smoulder and Burn?

"I have had a Lucas Pacemaker for years and have never had any trou..."

"The British drink warm beer because they have Lucas refrigerators."

How to make AIDS disappear? Give it a Lucas part number.

Lucas systems actually uses AC current, it just has a random frequency that's all.

It is not true that Lucas, in 1947, tried to get Parliament to repeal Ohm's law. They withdrew their

efforts when they met too much resistance.

QA called and told the engineer they had trouble with his design shorting out so he made the wires longer.

Recently, Lucas won out over Bosch to supply the electrical for the new Bolkswagens. So, now the cars from the Black Forest will come with electrics supplied by the Lord of Darkness--how appropriate.

Alexander Graham Bell invented the Telephone. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb. Joseph Lucas invented the Short Circuit.

Recommended procedure before taking on repair of Lucas equipment: Check the position of the stars, kill a chicken, and walk 3 time sunwise around your car chanting "Oh, mighty Prince protect your unworthy servane..."

Appropriate LBC license plate:

Joseph Lucas

MTBF 1HR

Prince of Darkness

S T R I C T L Y



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## MG's Have The Strangest Problems

By Dave McCann

Many of you have seen the nice bright Glacier White paint recently applied to my car, and a few of you may have heard that I had to take the car back in to get a problem fixed. The paint was bubbling around the rocker level and after looking at it, Jeff Sutherly from ProPaint Solutions (blatant plug) determined that water was getting behind the paint. I left it there and went back to pick it up ten days later. When I get there Jeff tells me that it is not fixed. He has refinished the areas in question, but it almost immediately started bubbling again. He said at one point he could see water coming out of holes too small to even see. He had not ever had problems with holes like this, but said the primary problem was that the car would not dry out. It had been indoors for more than a week at this point, and had even spent two hours in the paint booth oven. He was at this point at a loss for figuring out what was causing the problem. I took some of his questions and called Randy Balogh. Randy agreed that there shouldn't be anything holding water in these locations (body sections at either end of the rocker panels), and suggested methods of opening up these areas without causing too much distress.



Gamblers unanimous meeting at the Motel in Madison Indiana

After several days, I went up to see if Jeff had found a source of all of these problems. What he showed me were Ziplock bags full of beach sand and rat's nests. All four locations were packed with sand, and \*other\* things. The sand was packed in the dog legs so tight it needed to be broken up with a screwdriver before being vacuumed out. After clearing everything out and treating both sides of the metal in the problem areas and finishing them for the third time, Jeff seems sure I won't have any more problems with these areas. I'm just not too sure he will ever want to work on an MG again. As for the source of the sand, I can only speculate. I got the impression from the PO that the car came from California, so I would guess it has spent a couple of years (or decades) on the California beach.

## From the President

Skip Peterson

It's that time of year- BCD is right around the corner. Plans are progressing nicely. Our next BCD meeting is July 24th at Eastwood Park. We'll be mapping out the layout of cars, and cleaning up any last minute details. This is the official call for volunteers to work that day. I'll have sign up sheets at the next club meeting, but as all of you know, we only succeed if we have enough help. In the morning, we need people to help park the cars. You'll be done by Noon, we hope. About 2:30 pm we need people to help count ballots. That should take about an hour. All day, the concession will need volunteers. In addition, we need help with staffing the door prize tent and last of all, please stick

around for a half hour after the show to help clean up trash. If we all do just a little, we'll be done quickly and we'll all have fun. If you haven't registered your car yet, please do.

We also want anyone who can come to the Courthouse Square on Friday, August 1st to join us at 11am for a preview car show. We have lots of fun and the downtown lunch crowd gets a big kick out of our cars. You can call me if you plan to come, but just show up. The more the merrier.

Our summer gambling cruise to Rising Sun and Madison was a huge success. I don't think anyone got rich, but the Wolfe's and Zeno's planned a great drive.

The weather was hotter than h—. I learned that the inside of your arms gets pretty burned if you don't use sun screen. The highlight of the trip was watching a huge tree crash into the motel sign late Saturday night. The storm was brief but powerful. No injuries were reported, but some other hotel guests were trapped briefly in their car when they drove up the road by the tree and had a live electric line touch their Lincoln. I always thought when you saw a tree in the road you took a different route.

Sunday morning dawned with beautiful weather and the winding drive to Matamora was terrific.

We now need to find a volunteer to plan a fall tour. Volunteers will be sought at the next meeting.

That's about it for me right now, I need to get out to the garage and find out where that new patch of oil is coming from.

## Minutes of June Meeting

By Jennifer Peterson

June 18, 1997

**C**alled to order at 8:05 p.m. Vice president, secretary and treasurer could not be there.

Linda Wolfe sat in for Dick Smith and Jennifer Peterson for Ellen Sparklin.

Treasurer's report: Beginning balance \$1,059.02. Income: \$3.59. Expenses \$377.69. Ending balance: \$684.98.

Membership report: Some of the new members are John and Opal Page, Jeffrey Layman, Henry Seibert, Ernie and Rita Pinet, Frank and Linda Lucente and Terry and Carole Looft. My apologies if names may be misspelled.

Ron Parks needs to order more covers for the newsletter. Majority approved to spend the \$89.00.

Next highway cleanup is July 12. If it rains it will be Sunday, July 13. Call Dave Gribler for the weather report at 898-9929. Meet at 9 a.m. at the McDonalds in Vandalia. The dates for the next two cleanups are September 13 and October 25.

July 13 is the Cincinnati British Car Show at Edgewater Park. Call Bill Hammond if you want to meet at the Dayton Mall to caravan to the car show.

The Vintage Grand Prix will be held at Mid-Ohio on June 28 and 29. Those present were asked if there was any interest in caravanning. No plans were made.

Classifieds: Dan Callahan's MGA Coupe is for sale: asking \$12,000. See Randy Balogh. Also for sale: 67 Ford Galaxy Convertible: asking \$4,000. See Randy Balogh.

The beer break was at 8:31 p.m.

The next BCD meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on June 26 at Marions in Town and Country.

MG International may take place in 2001. They are looking at St. Paul, Minnesota as a possible site. Details to come after John Twist's party in August.

September 5-7 is the Watkins Glen Festival in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

Back to BCD: Volunteers are needed to work on August 2, at Eastwood Metro Park. Also, cars will be parked on Courthouse Square in downtown Dayton on August 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the preview to the show.

Concerning the Indiana trip planned by the Zeno's and Wolfe's - meet at Kmart on Indian Riffle Road at 8:15 a.m. The caravan will leave at 8:30 a.m. and head to Rising Sun, Ind. The gambling cruise is from noon to 2 p.m. Leave at 2:15, lunch at a park, stop at a dam, stay in Madison, Ind. for the night. Sunday morning leave at 9 a.m. and go to Clifty Falls for breakfast then on to Matamora, Ind.

An afterthought - there were 13 MG's in the parking lot for the meeting.

The next meeting is July 16.

Gumball rally winner: Charlie McCamey.

Meeting ended at 9:22 p.m.

Sincerely, Jennifer Peterson.

## From the Editor

Ron Parks

**R**emember, 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](mailto: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 \*

Dan Callahan's MGA Coupe for sale. Asking \$12,000. Call Randy Balogh (513)933-0950

'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

## MG Car Club Members' E-Mail Addresses

Matt Schneider

[mschneider@falcon.al.wpafb.af.mil](mailto:mschneider@falcon.al.wpafb.af.mil)

Ellen Sparklin

[star@dma.org](mailto:star@dma.org)

Karl Sparklin

[sparklik@dma.org](mailto:sparklik@dma.org)

Ron Parks

[FKZS47A@prodigy.com](mailto:FKZS47A@prodigy.com)

John Zeno

[MGFAST@aol.com](mailto:MGFAST@aol.com)

John Lucente

[PRBOO@aol.com](mailto:PRBOO@aol.com)

Charley McCamey

[CDMMGB@aol.com](mailto:CDMMGB@aol.com)

Dave McCann

[DMCCANN@bdm.com](mailto:DMCCANN@bdm.com)

Skip Peterson

[MGBSkip@aol.com](mailto:MGBSkip@aol.com) or  
[70721,3720@compuserve.com](mailto:70721,3720@compuserve.com)

Dick Smith

[RSMITH0MD@aol.com](mailto:RSMITH0MD@aol.com)