

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXX No. 11

OCTOBER 1997

Fall Colors Tour - October 12 (see pg 6)

Drive your MG on the Information Superhighway

I Promised Myself I Was Not Going to Do This Again, But the Offer Was Too Good to Turn Down

By Matt Schneider

As your new President, let me welcome the readers to a new year for the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club. The coming year promises to be as busy as ever with activities for you and your MG to participate. My first request to you is to pay your dues if you have not already done so. Mail the dues to the Club address or better yet bring payment to the next meeting on October 15, 1997 at the Lithuanian Social Club, 922 Valley Street. Gavel at 8:00 PM 1st, sharp.

The last Highway Cleanup for the year is upon us. We meet at 9:00 AM in the McDonald's parking lot just off of the I75 Vandalia exit. The cleanup goes quickly with a group of 15 or more. It can be hard work when the crew of only six tackles the job. We are asking for less than an hour of your time when a big group is on hand. All you need are gloves and good footwear. The last cleanup netted \$20.05 found along the road, which was contributed to the cash box in the Zeno Beer Trailer. If you are

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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:

October 15, 1997

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are eighteen dollars (\$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.

MG Car Club Officers

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British Car BBS 434-1655
Web Page
.. www.car-list.com/careclub/mgskip.html

Inside This Issue

- 2 Nuts & Bolts
- 3 MGs on the Internet
- 7 Concours a Success
- 8 September Shows
- 9 Photo Gallery

Upcoming Events

October

12 **Fall Tour** K-Mart on Indian Ripple 1:30pm15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

November

007 25th

1 **Highway Cleanup** Mc-D s in Vandalia 9:00am7 **Fish Fry** Lithuania Club 6:00pm-10:00pm~~10~~ **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

December

6 **Christmas Party** Skip & Jennifer Peterson's

January

~~2~~ **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

February

15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

March

18 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

April

15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

May

20 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuania Club

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able to bend over to operate the tap, you should be able to bend over to help keep the stretch of I75 with your Club's name on it presentable. Check the Calendar in The Octagon News for the date.

By Club tradition, the outgoing President hosts the Christmas Party. We will return to the Peterson domicile this year. There are two important rules to remember - bring your favorite covered dish for all to sample and most important bring a gag gift. Mark December 6 on your calendar right now, and start hunting for that most gagging gift.

Some may wonder what type of President has the Club gotten.

Well, I take the team approach to leadership, I have been known to set a goal or two, and I welcome criticism as long as you can offer an alternative. I am very pleased with the team assembled to lead the Club for the coming year. Please note their names on the first page of the newsletter. My expectations are that the membership will continue to jump in when and where help is needed, and that when you offer to take on a task that you follow through. My goals for the year are to bring more of the area MG owners into the fold, improve turnout for the highway cleanups, keep all of our activities user friendly and enjoyable, and keep British Car Day a fun, one day event. On that last note Skin Peterson

Nuts and Bolts

The first four items are from John Wolfe:

Sad News

I regret to announce that one of the founders of our club and my good friend Wiley Wells passed away last month in Phoenix, Arizona. Wiley had retired from Wright Patterson Air Force Base and moved to Phoenix about 9 years ago. He did a lot of rallying in the early days of our club. He put some on and helped with a lot more. He tried to go racing with a car he built but with no success. He let me drive for him, an association that lasted 8 years. We had some really good times but racing being somewhat of a roller coaster, some bad times as well. If he was discouraged he didn't show it. We were the odd couple. I, the driver, was emotional and Wiley, the mechanic and owner, remained calm and collected. We can say a lot about him but we can never replace him. Goodbye my friend!

The Picnic

On a lighter note: The club picnic was held at our house due to circumstances beyond the

Nuts & Bolts - Continued on Page 6

has agreed to continue as our Club's representative on the BCD Council (if that what it is called).

I am looking forward to a fun-filled year of MGing. ON

MGs on the Internet

by Dave McCann

So you have a few questions you'd like answers to, or possibly just want to avoid becoming roadkill on the information superhighway. This article is for you. Between the Web pages, the Bulletin Boards, and the Message Lists there are answers to every question imaginable on the Internet. The point of this article is to describe some of what can be found there with regard to LBCs, and give specific examples. This should help you find what you need or possibly just give you a reason to try it all out.

Once you are all set up with a connection to the Internet (how to do that is your own problem), the first place to go for MGs is the MG Enthusiasts Page¹. This site has enough info to keep you busy for days. The frequently updated stuff on this site are the News Page, the BBS, and the Classifieds Pages. The news page has articles from "Enjoying MG" and "Safety Fast" in addition to entire newsletters from several other MG clubs, announcements, and event notices. The Classifieds Pages have five categories of ads and are further broken down by geographic area or country. Ads can be placed for free after signing up with the site (which is itself free and shouldn't take too long). The BBS is hosted on another site which can be a bit slow at times. It contains topic areas for all MGs, but the MGB area is the most heavily

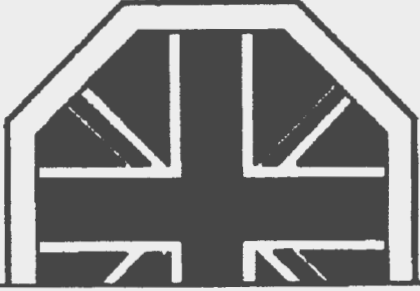
trafficked (the MGF area is also getting quite popular).

The next big page is the SOL² page (Scions of Lucas, or something...). This has similar info to the MG Enthusiasts page, but is not MG specific. It does have more pages devoted to technical info (some of it is quite good, take a look). SOL is also a list server for a wide variety of mailing lists including one for MGs. It comes in both basic and digest versions, with the digest version being all of the days messages queued up and sent as one. While this is certainly more convenient, it is huge and may overload your email program. There is actually so much here that reading it can become a pain. You might consider just subscribing to the digest version and using the find tool in your mail reader to just look for keywords. On to other parts of the SOL pages, of particular note is the new Scions of Laughter pages. Highly Recommended!

For a good event list check out the Vintage Tr***ph Register homepage³. There is also some good info on these pages, if just a little too specific for our purposes. (also remember to keep children and spouses away: Triumph, Just Say No).

Becoming increasingly more common is British parts suppliers with online catalogs. Moss Motors⁴ is a good one with online specials and downloadable catalogs in Acrobat format. They even have the Moss Motoring magazine/specials flyer in Acrobat format. MiniMania⁵ doesn't have much for MGs outside of Midgets, but there is a lot more here than just parts and the site is very well done. It is just a little slow. Northwest Import Parts⁶ has a full online catalog as does British Automotive⁷ (although neither includes everything online). More specific parts pages come from British Wire Wheel⁸, CAI Instruments⁹ (makers of Smiths

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<p>S T R I C T L Y</p>  <p>BRITISH</p> <p>RESTORATION & PARTS</p>	<p>RANDY BALOGH</p> <p>226 Kirby Road Lebanon, Ohio 45038</p> <p>(513) 933-0950 MGBay@AOL.COM</p>
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Internet - Continued from Page 3

Gauges), Sports Car International¹⁰, or Classic Car Audio¹¹.

What else? Well there is the Legendary MGB¹² pages, which appears to be put together by a group of enthusiasts in Switzerland (I think that is what the .ch means). May be slow for that reason, but I had no trouble with it. A lot of information about the different versions of the MGB/C and some information about the MG RV8 and MGF. Very nicely done. Other interesting pages are some pages I have found put together by individuals about the modifications made to their cars. The first two are Rich Wasman's Homepage¹³ and John Blenke's Homepage¹⁴. If you are not totally offended by either of those you might also check out Byron Lister's Homepage¹⁵ and his car¹⁶.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

After you have looked through all of this stuff, you might wonder if that is all there is. The real beauty of the Internet is how easily it is to turn the addresses of few sites into the addresses to everything. You may notice on some pages a link titled "other links" or "cool stuff" or something like that. Trying one of these should produce a list of other links to other places (which may or may not have anything to do with the site they are found on). What you have here is a list of suggestions of other places to

MGs on the Internet - Site References

- 1 MG Enthusiasts - US Mirror:
<http://www.british-cars.org.uk/kimber/>
Main site:
<http://www.mgcars.org.uk/>
I don't know why the US Mirror has a UK address. It is faster though.
- 2 Scions of Lucas:
<http://www.team.net/sol/>
- 3 Vintage Triumph Register:
<http://www.vtr.org/>
- 4 Moss Motors:
<http://www.mossmotors.com/>
Moss Europe:
<http://moss-europe.co.uk/>
- 5 MiniMania (US):
<http://www.minimania.com/>
MiniSpares (UK):
<http://www.minispares.com/>
- 6 Northwest Import Parts:
<http://www.classicar.com/vendors/nwimpprt/NIPCONT.HTM>
- 7 British Automotive:
<http://www.mgbmga.com/>
- 8 British Wire Wheel:
http://www.brainiac.com/baystar/british_wheel/
- 9 CAI Instruments:
<http://www.caiinstruments.com/>
- 10 Sports Car International:
<http://www.pinon.com/sportscar/>
- 11 Classic Car Audio:
<http://www.car-trek.com/ccr/default.htm>
- 12 Legendary MGB:
<http://www.pingnet.ch/mg/>
- 13 Rich Wasman's Homepage:
<http://members.aol.com/Mgturbo1/mgturbo.html>

look at, the personal "best of the Internet" list for whoever put this site together.

The other way to find something on the Internet is to use a search engine (sounds vaguely automotive, doesn't it?). My personal favorite is Alta Vista¹⁷. This one is designed and hosted by Digital Equipment

Corporation. If the main page is a bit slow, try the text-only page¹⁸. Other search engines include Excite¹⁹, Infoseek²⁰, Lycos²¹, C/Net's Search.Com²². The exact operation varies with each search engine, but usually typing in a couple of key words should do the trick. For more precise searches, or if you are

MGs on the Internet - Glossary

Address, Web Address:

Text describing a location on the Web

BBS, Bulletin Board:

Web Site containing messages posted in various categories and arranged either by message or by thread. Similar to a list server.

Browser, Web Browser:

Tool to browse the Internet (or maybe just the World Wide Web)

FAQ, Frequently Asked Question List:

Saves time and bandwidth by compiling common questions (and even answers) in one place. Also, the answers here have a higher

likelihood of being correct.

Internet, The; Information Superhighway:

Network connecting networks from nearly every university, major company, government agency, etc. Foreign universities, companies, and government agencies can be found also.

List Server, Mailing List:

An Email forwarding site which allows messages sent to it to be received by everyone on the List. Be sure you are serious about reading messages before you subscribe to one of these.

Mirror:

A site which is updated frequently to mimic

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not having much luck with the first method try looking around for instructions. These tools are usually pretty versatile with a wide variety of commands which can be included in the search. Alta Vista even has a separate advanced search page in which you can use Boolean logic to tie together text to be searched for. (the others probably have this also, look around)

WELL GO TRY IT OUT ALREADY

There it is, the impetus you needed to jump in. Go find the MG Enthusiasts BBS and post that question you have always wanted to know the answer to. Or just start clicking on random links, 'til you are totally lost. There is always the Back button to get you out of anything. *ON*

- 14 John Blenke's Homepage:
<http://www.blenke.com/john/>
- 15 Byron Lister's Homepage:
<http://www.users.bigpond.com/byronl/index.html>
- 16 Byron Lister's Car:
<http://www.users.bigpond.com/byronl/biteme.htm>
- 17 Alta Vista:
<http://www.altavista.digital.com/>
- 18 Alta Vista - Text Only:
<http://www.altavista.digital.com/cgi-bin/query?pg=&text=yes>
- 19 Excite:
<http://www.excite.com/>
- 20 Infoseek:
<http://www.infoseek.com/>
- 21 Lycos:
<http://www.lycos.com/>
- 22 Search.Com:
<http://search.com/> *ON*

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

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another site. Usually updated at night when use is down. Also usually the main site and the mirrors are seperated geographically. (although Internet distances only sort of correspond to geographic distances)

More Info:

A good site I came across recently is <http://www.reedbooks.com.au/heinemann/subject/nethelp.html>

Page, Web Page:

All the stuff that comes into a Browser when you feed in a Web Address.

Site, Web Site:

A group of related pages on the Web, usually located on the same physical computer or local network.

Thread, Message Thread:

A series of messages on the same topic

URL; Universal Resource Locator:

Text used to direct a browser to locate a web address (http:), send an email (sendto:), locate a file on your hard drive (file:), etc.

World Wide Web; The Web:

A subset of the Internet accessible via a browser. *ON*

Nuts & Bolts - Continued from Page 2

control of Carl and Ellen Sparklin. I hope by now those circumstances have improved. The picnic went quite well due to the help of a lot of people. Thanks!

Red Fox Racing

Has retired to its burrow for the winter. Our first year goal was for the development of the driver and the chassis. We feel that we met this goal. The hard part is how to go faster with reliability which is our winter project.

Fall Colors Tour

Will be held on Sunday October 12th. We will start at K-Mart on Indian Ripple/County Line off of I-675 at 1:30 pm. We will carivan to the Pioneer Village and look around there. Next we had planned to go to Fort Ancient by we found out that they close the park at 5:00 (we didn't think that we would arrive until about 4:30). We changed the plans and now are

going to Valley Vinyards at Morrow. They are allowing us to use their enclosed patio for our picnic. Of course they will be happy to sell is some wine, drinks and they have pizza if you don't want to pack a lunch. Hope to see a good turnout. I have ordered a beautiful day suitable for top down motoring!

Next two items are from Linda Wolfe:

New Officers

President: Matt Schneider

Vice Pres: Dan Inlow

Secretary: Jennifer Peterson

Treasurer: Bill Hammond

Member at Large: Ron Parks

President Emeritus: Skip Peterson

Gumball Rally

Dan Inlow won the yearly Gumball Rally of a years free membership and \$15. Ellen Sparklin won a t-shirt from the Concours D'Elegance at the

Dayton Museum of Discovery. Charley McCamey won a free subscription to the MGB magazine.

From Skip Peterson:

BCD 98 Meeting

There will be a meeting about BCD 98 on Wednesday October 8th at Marion's Pizza at Town and Country at 7:30 pm. On the agenda is going over this past year's event and setting some goals for next year.

From Ron Parks:

Fish Fry

The October Fish Fry was canceled, but the November one is still on. Please help out if you can.

Road Trip

Ron is driving his MG to Alberquerque, New Mexico on October 1st for the big ballon rally there on the first weekend in October. It promices to be a solo MG, tent and sleeping bag

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adventure. He says he should be back for the fall tour on the 12th. [Ed: And since he nearly promises an article for the newsletter, I'll be sure to hold him to that]

Another Fall Tour

The Miami Valley Miata Club and the Greater Cincinnati Miata Club are hosting a fall tour on the 18th of October. They have extended an invitation to all members of british car clubs in the area to join them. Meet at Caesar's Creek State Park Picnic Area (just east of the bridge over the lake on the south side of Rt. 73) at about 8:30am and the cost is \$5.

Minutes disappear into a Black Hole

The fate of the minutes of the September meeting is being blamed on forces similar to those which cause miscellaneous parts to disappear during work on british cars.

From the Internet:

Lucas Humor

What does Lucas stand for?

- Lousy Unsoldered

Connections And Splices

- Look Under Car After Starting

- Lights Usually Crackle and Short

Lucas Refridgerators are why the British like warm beer.

Markings on Lucas three position switch:

OFF / DIM / FLICKER

Concours a Success

by Skip Peterson

The Inaugural Discovery Concours d'Elegance was a complete success, as far as the organizers were concerned. I'm speaking as part of that group, and on Sunday morning, as the sun was shining brightly, and many of the 150 cars were being unloaded along DeWeese Parkway, I knew the year's worth of planning was worth it.

Two days earlier, I was going through the panic that is unavoidable with any event that is this large.

Our club was well represented with the MG's of Joe Hooker, John Zeno, John Lucente and Steve Powell on the show line, along with Lucente's recently completed T-Bird and Tim Oricko's beautiful Chrysler 300.

Randy Balogh and Steve Miller were part of the panel of judges who determined who won what, and Eddie Hill was a site volunteer, lending a hand

Supposedly a true story:

A guy shipped his MGTF over to England from the US for a T-series run. While over there, his clock (which had never run during his ownership of the car) suddenly began to tick and move. He set the clock to British Summer Time, and it kept PERFECT TIME. Upon shipping the car back to the States, the clock quit again, and has never run since. (Temporal signals transmitted from Big Ben?) ON

wherever necessary. His real expertise came into play as the awards ceremony was getting started and we had no one to "grid" the cars in order of class. Since Fast Eddie grids the cars at Mid-Ohio for the SCCA, he grabbed the bull by the horns and staged an awards ceremony that looked like it had been rehearsed. He will continue in that role for the rest of his life. Dick and Carol Smith served as class marshall's and Jennifer Peterson became the registration chairwoman when she arrived at 7 am on Sunday. She too will be serving in that capacity forever. The unfortunate news for the club is we failed to capture a single award. I truly find that hard to believe, based upon the quality of our members cars, but the judges had a job to do, and I think they took their work very seriously.

The British cars were well represented on the field, with the Best of Show going to a '33 Rolls-Royce, and a beautiful and recently completed MG J-2 from Niles, MI., also won a first place. The Jaguars were well represented being being one of the featured marques, and Jim Hickey's Bugeye received an award of excellence while John Clark's Triumph captured the Exhibition Class and a Tiger also captured an award of excellence.

Ironically, one of the crowd favorites was an '87 Chevrolet Monte Carlo that was raced at Talladega by Dale Earnhardt. If you don't think NASCAR is

Concours - Continued on Page 8

Three Shows in September

by Dave McCann

Not yet meeting my annual quota of shows this year, I decided to round out the year with the British Car Show at Alpine Valley near Chesterland Ohio, the British Motor Car Day on the River at the Evansville Museum on the Ohio River, and Indy British Motor Days held this year at the Indy Motor Speedway.

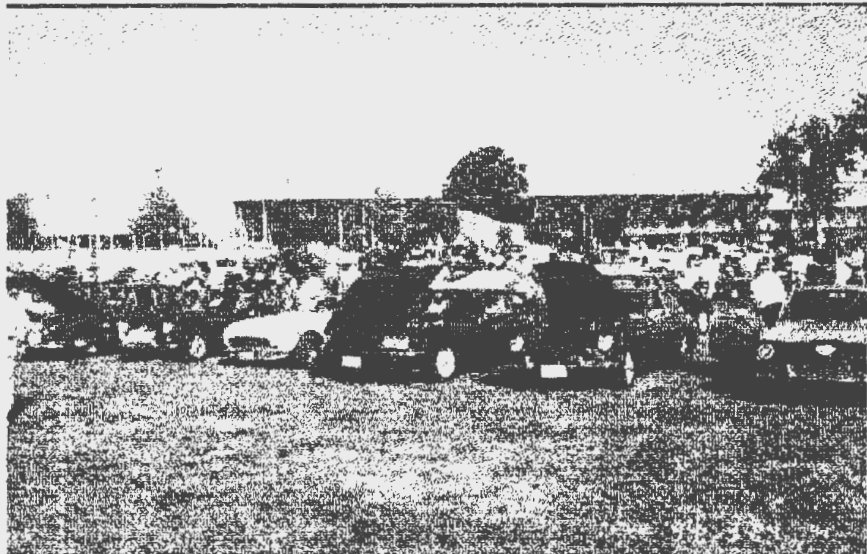
Alpine Valley provides a nice setting for a british car show with the cars arranged around the pond located there. Being sponsored by a Tr***ph club, the catagories did show a bit of a Tr***ph bias, but the MG turnout was good (better that expected, I believe) and there were some very nice cars there from several marques. Unique cars included an MG YB saloon and a Tr***ph 2000 in addition to a very nice TR-2.

The Evansville show was a must for me as I won a trophy there last year (car most in need of improvement or something like that). The turnout was less than last year, possibly because the show in St. Louis was moved to the same day. The setting was nice none the less, and the weather perfect.

The last show of the year was the Indy British Motor Days. This is a two day event, with a rally on Saturday and the show on Sunday. This year the event also included a lap around the speedway and a picture in front



Preferred parking for MGAs at MGCC Picnic



Indy British Motor Days

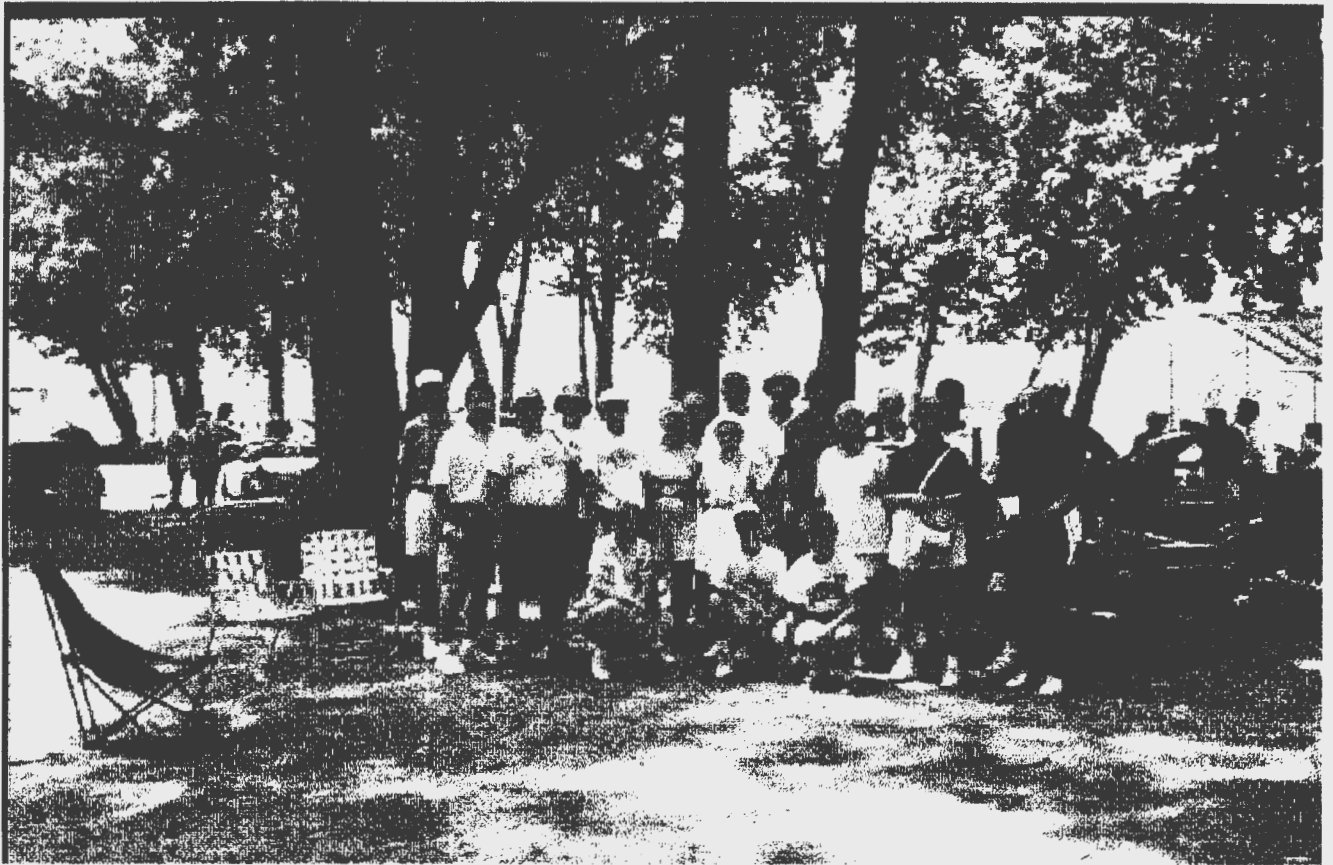
of the Speedway Museum on Saturday morning. The rally was a good time for all and in retrospect we did rather well since the winners missed 12 of 30 questions. *ON*

Concours - Continued from Page 7

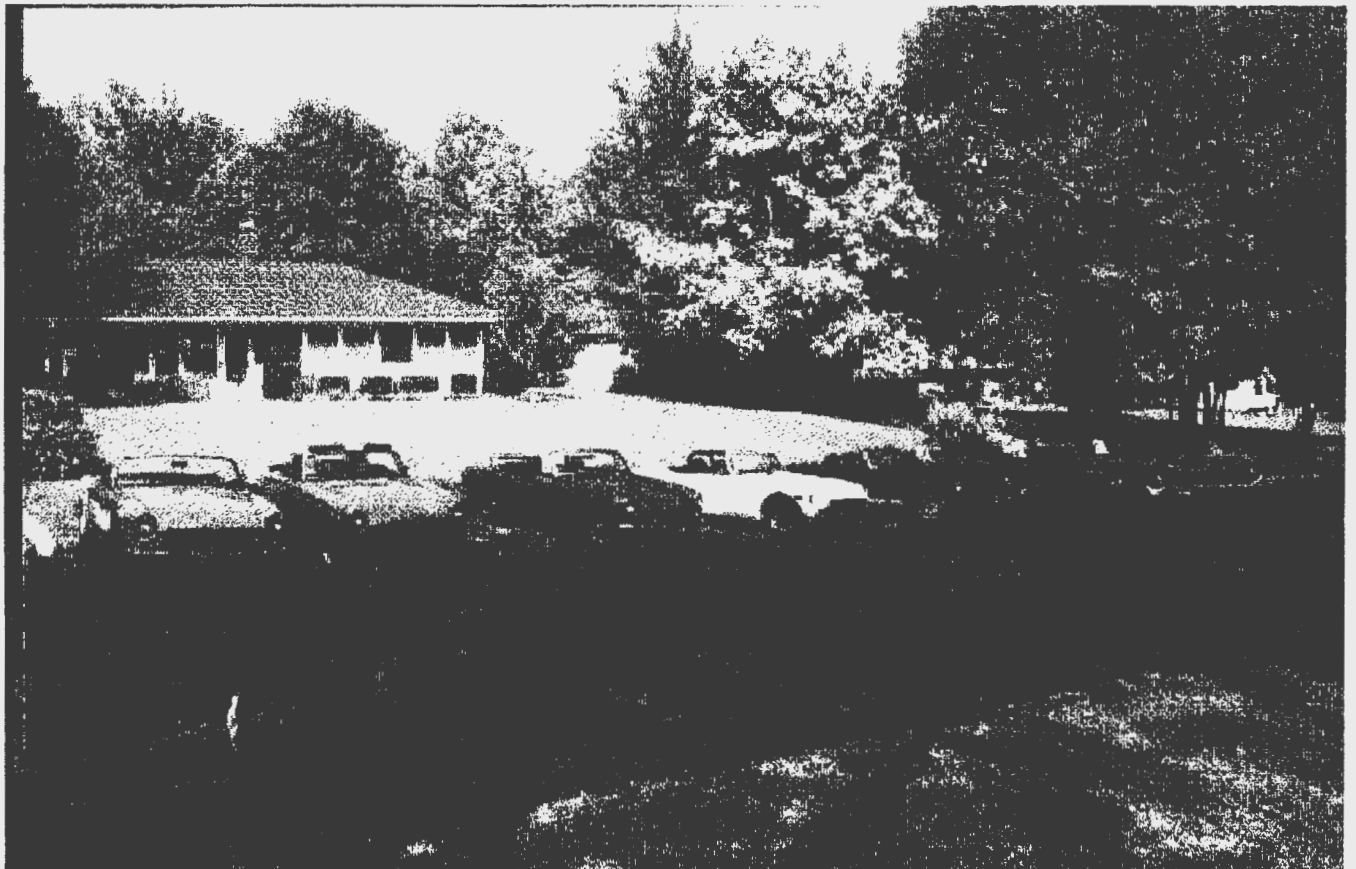
popular, you're just kidding yourself.

The plans are already underway for the second Discovery Concours d'Elegance, to be held at the same location on Sept. 13,

1998. A modest profit (about \$20,000) was realized with the funds going to the Museum of Discovery, thanks in part to excellent sponsor support, and over 3000 spectators passing through the gates. Porsche will be the featured marque, and there will be a class for Lotus. Both cars are celebrating their 50th anniversary next year. More information regarding the classes and such will be posted when we figure it out. *ON*



MGCC Group Photo at Cincinnati Car Show



Preferd parking for MGBs at the MGCC Picnic

*** Classified ***

'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

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

Righthand Drive Dash (NOS) 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. Cali Wally at 890-5346

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

1954 MG TF Excellent condition, Black with red interior, Canvas top, Spoke wheels, Completely restored in 1990. Barbara Weyl 513-459-6703 days, 513-398-3624 evenings.

1973 MG Midget, New burnt orange paint, Navy blue interior, 60000 original miles, New top, New brakes, Rebuilt master cylinder, Runs and drives very well, car is in great condition all around. Call Ron Wynne at 937-837-5510 for more information

MG Car Club Members' E-Mail Addresses

Randy Balogh
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Ellen Sparklin
star@dma.org

Karl Sparklin
sparklik@dma.org

Linda Wolfe
bevl_lwolfe@k12server.mveca.ohio.gov

John Zeno
MGFAST@aol.com

*** Wanted ***

MGB Mid-70's \$2,500 to \$3,000, Runs well. Call Ernie at (937) 836-7661

From the Editor

by Dave McCann

All contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. (Encouraged even. Heck, for a good article I'll even cut you in on my newsletter salary.) You can mail them to me at 1238 Glenmore Dr., Springfield, OH 45503. Or if you prefer the information super highway, my E-Mail address is:

DMCCANN@bdm.com

Faxing is also an option, with the number being:

(937) 399-4145.

Any of those methods will work fine or you can call me at home [(937) 399-5711] or at work [(937) 259-4340] and we can arrange to meet and transfer materials or conduct an interview. However, please don't call me at home after 10:00pm. Leaving me a message at work is a good 24 hour option, and I usually spend more time there than at home anyway. ON

- Ganteth Williams

- Box 98 Aug 1, 1998

- Lotus - Festival Maxima.

- Compeller Car Class.

- Highway Clean