

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXI No.1

JANUARY 1998

HAPPY NEW YEAR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1998

My MG s

By Garth Williams

For more than 30 years I had tried to forget it. It was a painful memory of a cold, wet, November night in Birmingham when poor judgment had led to the accident which crippled it. The car was repairable, but to a student who had spent his life savings of \$240 six months earlier to buy it, there was no money to garage it, let alone fix it.

Then during a visit to a college friend, whom I had not seen for almost as many years, the photograph was produced. It was brown and white (surely it wasn't that old?) and showed four of us studiously examining my 1939 TA from several different angles. The background was the Yorkshire Dales and we were on a geology field course. For a week we had toured north Yorkshire and I remember our "convoy" made several such stops to attend to the MG's idiosyncrasies.



Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car

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.

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:

Thursday January 15, 1998

MG Car Club Officers

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WebPage.....	
.....	http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html

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Upcoming EventsJanuary

15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
THIS IS A THURSDAY!!

February

6 **Fish Fry** at Lithuanian Social Club 6:00pm til 10:00pm
 14 **Valentines Day Party** at Linda & John Wolf's
 19 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
THIS IS A THURSDAY!!

March

14 **St. Patrick's Day Party** at Dave & Lois Gribler's
 18 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
THIS IS A WEDNESDAY!!

April

25 **Tune-up Clinic** (Saturday) at Matt Schneider's
 15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
THIS IS A WEDNESDAY!!

May

20 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club

June

17 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
 20-21 **Silverson**

July

12 **Cruise-in/Cook-out/Pot Luck/Swim Party** At Ron & Linda Parks'
 15 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club
 31 **Pre-British Car Day '98'** Courthouse Square 11:00-1:00.

August

1 **British Car Day '98'** (14th Annual) Eastwood Park Dayton
 19 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club

September

16 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club

October

21 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club

November

18 **MGCC Meeting** Lithuanian Social Club

December

12 **Christmas Party** at Matt Schneider's

given, my penurious state and the price of petrol, if MG had thought to provide a fuel gauge.

I spent a wonderful summer with my TA. It had been acquired to escape smogbound Bradford where I was at school. The university sat in the bottom of a valley which it shared with hundreds of smoke belching factories. The buildings were all depressingly black. After almost two years of being trapped in this environment the TA offered an escape. The fresh air of the Dales was just 15 miles away. Out there pubs were part of the landscape and I could even pick up my girlfriend on the way. No wonder the second year exam results were nearly a disaster!

Later I was doing a summer job in Bournemouth on England's South coast, not far from Brighton. They take their old cars seriously there. In the fraternity of classic car drivers I was an outsider. We exchanged the obligatory salute stiffly, but that is about as close as we got. It was therefore a thrill when a 6.5 liter Bentley Le Man, dressed in bonnet straps and racing green pulled up beside me at a stop light. The driver raised his deerstalker, revved his engine and even I knew what that meant. That he left me in the

Anyhow the problems were evidently minor, and to the best of my recollection the field trip concluded without any serious disruptions attributable to the

TA. Indeed the most frequent problem I had to deal with was running out of gas. This was clearly not the TA's fault. Though it would have helped

dust didn't matter. We had broken the ice.

So now, nearly 35 years later, the healing has begun. I spent much of this summer in a garage that as a student I could not afford, devoting care to an MG B that I had once denied a TA. The MG is doing very well and so am I. Even now that winter has arrived I look forward to the weekends and, weather permitting, the time I shall share with it making the usual rounds. It is too cold to work in the garage, but Victoria British is happy to provide me with catalogues to daydream over. I wonder why I keep wanting to call them Victoria Secrets!

Ruminations

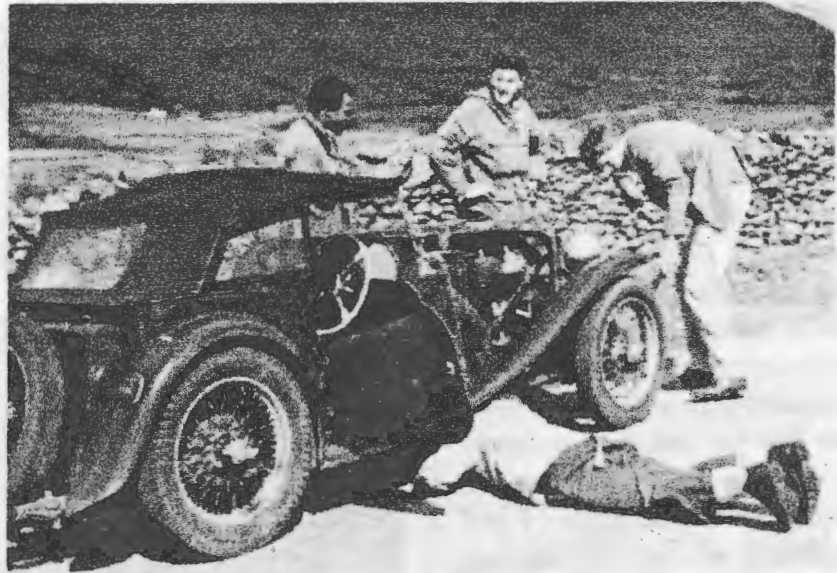
By Matt Schneider

Another year has past into memory. I hope it holds fond ones for all.

Welcome to 1998!

The Christmas party hosted by Jennifer and Skip was great fun. The covered dishes were a gormand's delight. Skip makes a passable sub.

I hope you are making plans to participate in the many activities the MG Car Club will be providing this coming year. Check the calendar in this issue and keep up to date by



(Garth Williams then, bent over at front of car, with his school mates helping him)



(Garth Williams now, bent over at front of car. with his three sons helping him.)

checking the HotLine where last minute changes will be posted on 937.434.1287.

Remember that the meeting this month will be on Thursday, January 15, 1998. We are working with the Lithuanian Social Club to get back to our

traditional third Wednesday of the month date as soon as possible.

The Club still needs a Newsletter editor. Ron Parks has stepped up to put together this issue. But that's all folks! His schedule with work and school makes it impossible for him to continue. If you have a computer with a wordprocessor you can put out a newsletter. So don't be shy - volunteer for the benefit of your Club. I and the Board will help any way we can. Don't let the Newsletter die!

Member Featured Car of the Month

By Dan Inlow

For several years I've owned two MG Midgets, neither of which run. Oh, one of them, the burnt orange '73'



runs, sort of, but not well enough that I feel comfortable taking it on a club outing. The other Midget is a dark blue '78' and is completely disassembled.

This situation caused me to look around for a car that we could enjoy driving now. About a year and a half ago I found this beautiful '65' MGB that had been restored 9 years earlier. We struck a bargain and it was mine. About this same time, Ron Parks informed

me of a classified he was going to put in the newsletter, because he knew I was looking for a 'B'. It was a '79.' Well, even though I had just bought the '65', this one was in such good condition and the price so good that I bought it too. The classified never made it to the Octagon News. It's Barbara's car to drive around.. We have his and her MGB's and someday, maybe, Midgets.

To get back to the '65', the car being featured here, it's red, has chrome wire wheels, a black top and a Monza exhaust system that sounds great. When you back off in fourth gear, it just purrs. Now, that's my opinion. If you ask Ron Parks, he may tell you something different. We ran a little test, riding in each other's cars down at the Cincinnati show last summer. Ron wanted

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to compare the sound of my Monza exhaust to his Falcon Stainless Steel system. Turns out that we each like the sound of our own exhaust best. I guess that's the way it should be.

Our first trip in the car was the Club Tour to Rising Sun Indiana. The car ran just fine and the trip was a lot of fun. We hope to take it on more trips this year.

THE Social Event of the Year!

By Skip Peterson

The Dayton Daily News said, "Everyone who is anyone with an MG was there!"

USA Today commented, "It was THE place to be over Christmas, if you have an MG."

Time noted, "It was royal fun", and

Vanity Fair said, "It was understated but elegant, sophisticated but friendly."

Actually, none of those socialites or reporters were there, but a huge gathering of you, the MG Car Club folks, gathered at our home on Dec 6th, and we are honored that you joined us for the Christmas party. I believe this is the third

party for the Peterson's, and when I learned 6 years ago that the past president got to host the annual event, I was a bit scared. I'll honestly tell you that Jennifer and I have had a great time having all of you join us in our home over Christmas.

At one point, during the gift exchange, I counted 36 faces in the living room, 4 more leaning in from the foyer, and there were a few folks in the family room. Most of you know, our house is not very big, but there really isn't anything like seeing it filled with folks having a good time during the holiday season. Our cars are the glue, but the people are the key to our club, and what makes it special.

This really isn't a story about the party, I promised that no notes would be taken, but I can report that it appeared everyone had a very good time, the gift exchange was it's usual fiasco,

and there were enough snacks to feed everyone in Dayton for two days. We also drank a few beers, and while we had a good time, moderation was the theme.


A couple of notes on the evening: For the first time, the men didn't adjourn to the garage for an extended period, (I'm not sure why?), the dog didn't get sick after eating 200 snacks, and Lois Gribler was the only person to drive an MG to the party. Lois should get three extra gumball rally tickets for that!

It was real, it was fun, and we'd love to do it again sometime.

Jennifer and I hope all of you had a great holiday season.

Hey Matt- we're coming to Beavercreek next year- see you there!

Skip

<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 45036</p> <p>(513) 933-0950 MGBay@AOL.COM</p>
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Minutes of November Meeting

By Karl Sparklin

President Matt Schneider started the meeting at 8:03 PM. He had nothing to report, the missing VP had nothing to report, the missing Secretary had nothing to report. The Secretary's minutes were voted to be accepted anyway. The Treasurer reported that the starting balance for the month was \$633.55, and after an infusion of profit from the British Car Days and some minor expenses, "it's time for a party". This was cheerily accepted by the masses.

There were five renewals, but no new members this month.

It was announced that Dec. 6 is the Xmas party at the Peterson's house, at 7:30 PM. BYOB, covered dish, and gag gift.

The discussion of memberships in the Lithuanian Club continued, in a gesture to help them. It was decided that the club would purchase five memberships for the "top 5" board positions: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. So moved by John Wolfe, and seconded

by Paula Wehner. The motion carried. Memberships are between \$15 and \$18.

New business: We desperately need a new newsletter editor. Our last one only lasted a month before taking a job in California. (We hope that the newsletter job wasn't the reason.) It's not difficult, and Ron Parks has offered to help the volunteer who graciously offers to fill in this important post. Also, he will do the January newsletter. No volunteers appeared at the meeting, but this merely postpones the inevitable: the newsletter is the only means of reaching the members who don't attend all meetings.

The Treasurer raised the concern that we should make some kind of charitable donation near year-end, as our coffers are a bit full for a nonprofit organization, and donations help to keep that status. A number of worthwhile organizations were mentioned. In the end, a motion to donate \$400.00 to the Salvation Army was moved, seconded and approved.

BEER BREAK!

Mary Agnes from the Lithuanian Club made an appearance to fill members in on their situation, and the fact that an LC member has donated the cost of a Fish Fry, so they'll

be having one on Feb. 6. They hope that they'll have the MG Club members' help to run Showdown again.

Matt gathered some club demographics on members' cars for the "mother club" form that was sent to us.

Some very good MBG books were shown and are for sale for \$10.00. See Bill Hammond.

John Zeno reports that the MGA Registry is having their MGA Car show July 21-23, 1998, in Chattanooga TN. A Knight's Inn near there is offering a room-rate of \$44.00, which includes a full breakfast. See him for further details.

Some 1998 events were tentatively planned: The Wolfe's will have a Valentine's Day party Feb. 14, the Gribler's will have a St. Patrick's Day party on Mar. 14, a tune-up clinic at Matt's Amazing Garage will be held April 25th, and an "overnight trip" is being kicked around by John Wolfe and John Zeno for May.

A follow-up discussion to the E-check article in the newsletter was held, with the membership bemoaning the fact that "Collector's" plates no longer exempt the owner from having E-check done, since so many people have used this loophole to get their definitely NON-collectible Ford Escorts and the like past the system. There is

some hope that Columbus can be convinced that some cars are obviously collectible (and relatively few in number) and should still be exempted. Cars older than 25 years are exempt, regardless.

The Gumball Rally winner was Ed Hill, obviously a reward for his knowledge of T-type fanblade angles.

IMPORTANT: Thursday, Jan. 15 is tentatively scheduled for the next meeting date, but may be rescheduled back to "the third Wednesday", the 14th, if the Lithuanian Club is reopened. The true date should be resolved elsewhere in this newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:47PM.

Submitted by Stand-In Secretary, Karl Sparklin

From the Editor

Ron Parks

This absolutely the last issue of the Octagon News I can do for a while. I'll be taking two classes at Park College this quarter. My goal is to get my bachelor degree in the spring of 1999, a year ahead of my daughter. At that time I would consider editing the Octagon News again if the job is open.

Until then one of you will must take over the job of getting vital information out to the membership.

The most important function of this job is to communicate vital information to the membership. In addition to that, I have tried over the last year and a half to keep the newsletter interesting and lively by including photos and putting it in a newspaper like format. While this is nice, it is not actually necessary, in fulfilling the need of communicating news about club events to the members. My point is that if you're sitting there thinking, "well, I could do the newsletter, but I don't have Microsoft Word or other desktop publishing software," don't let that stop you. Any word processing software can handle the job of getting the news down on paper. Contact Matt Schneider if you are interested in Editing the Octagon News. He'll have all the materials including files on disk. I also will be glad to help you get started, time permitting.

It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your newsletter editor and it has helped me to become better acquainted with more of you than I otherwise might have. That's a real benefit of having this job. Some of you are thinking, "Ya, he got to know

me alright, by badgering me for pictures or articles." Yes, that's true, but all in the name of fun, which is why we're in this club in the first place.

One other note: you may have noticed in the schedule of upcoming events, that Linda and I plan to host a

Cruise-in/Cook-out/Pot Luck/Swim Party

on Sunday July 12, 1998. We thought this would be far enough ahead of BCD'98' that it could work. Hopefully this doesn't conflict with any other car shows or events either?

We plan to begin around 2:00pm. After arrival, we can swim, look at each other's cars, maybe throw a few horse shoes, play croquet and just generally relax. And, Oh yes, visit the beer trailer, assuming John Zeno can be talked into bringing it? That's normally not a problem! Then, about 4:00-4:30pm, I'll put the Italian Sausages on the grill and welll do what we do best. Eat!

Y'all come! I'd like nothing better than to see MG's in the grass lining my driveway!



* 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

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

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, 60,000 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.

1979 MGB Yellow. Call Julie Koepp at (937) 882-6909.

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