

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXI No. 4

APRIL, 1998

REMEMBER THE CASINO TRIP, HIGHWAY CLEANING & TUNE-UP CLINIC

## RUMINATIONS

by Matt Schneider

Saturday April 18 we motorcoach down to the Ohio River for a little riverboat action. There may be a few seats open. John Zeno spells out the particulars in this issue of the Octagon. Give him a call (call Linda Wolfe, 429-0847 if you can't get in touch with John) and join us.

Sunday, April 19th we clean up the highway along I-75 at the Vandalia exit. We meet at 9:00 am at McDonald's. Dress appropriate for the weather. Gloves are mandatory, and heavy boots are recommended. Let's have a great turnout.

Saturday April 25 is Spring Tune Up at my garage in Beavercreek. Bring your own parts. There will be plenty of experts and willing hands in attendance. By the way, if anyone came up with an extra 1/4 drive, 1/4 inch socket or a pair of yellow-handled side cutters, my toolbox would be appreciative. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Bring along whatever snacks you want to share with the rest of us. There is a map in this issue. This is the chance to get your MG in tune for the Tour planned by John Zeno and John Wolfe for the next weekend, May 2-3. I understand that we will be heading to the Portsmouth area. Check this issue of the Octagon for more information.

Why not drive your MG to the meeting April 15. It has been awhile since I have seen the lot full



*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:

WED., April 15TH, 1998

## MG Car Club Officers

President, Matt Schneider  
phone.....427-0074  
email.....schneiderm@falcon.af.mil

Vice-president, Dan Inlow  
phone.....426-9839

Secretary, Jennifer Peterson  
phone.....293-2819

Treasurer, Bill Hammond  
phone.....434-9967  
email.....hazelbill@erinet.com

Member at Large, Ron Paris  
phone.....322-0717  
email.....FKZ547A@prodigy.com

Pres. Emeritus, Skip Peterson  
phone.....293-2819  
email 1.....MGBSkip@aol.com  
email 2.....70721\_3720@compuserve.com

Activities Chair, Tim Oricko  
phone.....434-5928

Membership Chair, Linda Wolfe  
phone.....429-0847  
email.....bcvl\_wolfe@k12server.mveca.ohio.gov

Octagon News Editor, Dan Inlow & Linda Wolfe  
phone.....426-9839 or 429-0847  
email.....bcvl\_wolfe@k12server.mveca.ohio.gov

Librarian, John Wolfe  
phone.....429-0847

Historian & DIXMYTH, Dick Smith  
phone.....434-1750  
email.....smithomo@aol.com

MG News Hotline.....434-1287  
British Car BBS.....434-1655  
WebPage.....  
<http://www.car-list.com/carclub/mgbskip.html>

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Upcoming EventsApril

- 15 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 18 Casino Trip (see article in newsletter for details)  
 19 Highway Clean-Up meet 9:00, McDonalds, Vandalia  
 25 Tune-up Clinic (Saturday) at Matt Schneider's

May

- 2 & 3 Tour to Portsmouth, OH (more details next month)  
 20 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club

June

- 17 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 20-21 Silverson

July

- 11 Highway Clean-up  
 12 Cruise-in/Cook-out/Pot Luck/Swim Party  
 at Ron & Linda Park's  
 15 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 21-23 NAMGAR GT-23 Chattanooga, TN  
 31 Pre-British Car Day 1998 Courthouse Square  
 11:00-1:00

August

- 1 British Car Day 1998 (14th Annual) Eastwood  
 Park in Dayton  
 19 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 29 Highway Clean-up

September

- 13 Museum of Discovery Concours d' Elegance Car Show  
 16 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 26 AMGBA Meet '98, Charlotte, North Carolina

October

- 21 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
 31 Highway Clean-up

November

- 18 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club

December

- 12 Christmas Party at Matt Schneider's  
No meeting in December

CASINO TOUR APRIL 18TH

We will leave by bus from J. C. Penney at the Dayton Mall. They will pick us up at 9:30 and we will leave at 10:00. We will have lunch the Victoria Casino from 12:00 - 1:00. We will board the boat and do a little gambling from 1:00 to 5:00. At 5:00 we will leave for the return trip to the Dayton Mall, arriving at 7:00. All this for \$10.00 per person.

The bus will hold 37 but we only have to have 29 people signed up. You can invite your friends and first come first served. The more the merrier! You can hardly beat the price.

If there are any questions contact John Zeno at 429-2557 or Linda Wolfe at 429-0847 if additional people would like to join us.

Our Overnight Tour to Portsmouth, OH

The dates for the tour are May 2nd and 3rd. We will leave from the K-Mart off I-675 (Indian Riffle & County Line Road) at 9:00 am.

Pack a picnic lunch and we will stop on the way to Portsmouth for lunch.

We will be staying at the Ramada Inn in Portsmouth. The address is 711 Second Street. You can reserve your room by calling 1-800-228-2828. The rate that they quoted me for two double beds with a river front view will be \$52 plus tax.

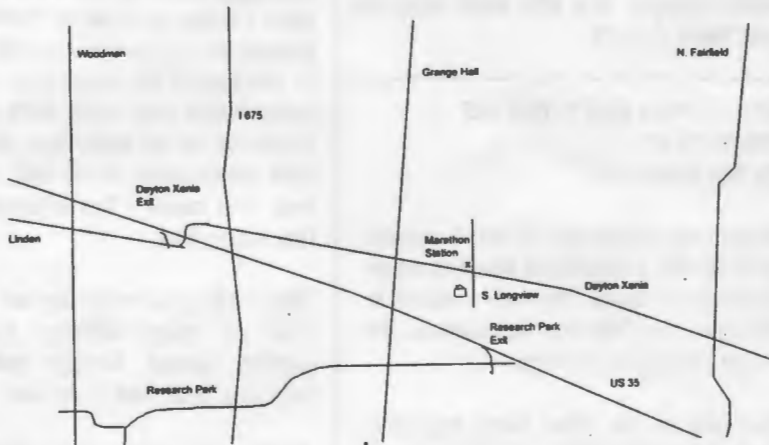
Please let John Wolfe or John Zeno if you are planning to go on the tour!

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

We will clean the highway on April 19th (Sunday). Meet at McDonald's in Vandalia at 9:00 am. The highway looked pretty bad when we checked it out recently! That means we will need lots of help! Come and give us a hand! Many hands make light work! It would be nice to see some new faces helping us!



MG Car Club Spring Tune Up  
 April 25, 1998, 8:00 am til ?  
 Matt Schneider's Garage  
 1511 S. Longview St., Beavercreek 427-0074



### Minutes from the March meeting

The meeting called to order by President Matt Schneider at 8:01 pm. Minutes from the February meeting were approved as read. They were not presented in the Octagon News so were approved at the meeting. Treasurers report was presented by Bill Hammond. Starting balance of \$1275.99, income of \$84.46, and expenses for postage, printing, and gumball rally and an advance on the casino trip totaled \$262.76. This leaves an ending balance of \$1097.69. The \$200 advance on the casino trip will be repaid by the date of the trip.

Membership report by Linda Wolfe: guest Hobie Mullins of Springfield was introduced, and he later joined, no longer a guest, now a member. Former member Kent Miller was also introduced as a guest. He also rejoined the club. Other new members were reported: Ron Timmerman of Centerville who owns a 1980 MGB; Ben & Melissa Sparks of Fairfield, and Jan Cunningham of Sardinia who owns a MG Midget 1500.

Activities Chair Tim Oricko thanked the Griper's for hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day gathering. It was great and well attended! John Lucente arrived late at the party again, and Ron Parks led the party-goers in a song fest with his guitar. The Lithuanian Club has scheduled a Fish Fry for April 3rd and volunteers are needed.

Some discussion about the previous BCD meeting was held, not much to report.

No new logo ideas were presented, and members are encouraged to bring some to the April meeting. Skip Peterson has some ideas in progress and might have a rough draft available for the April meeting.

Beer break ordered at 8:30 pm and meeting was reconvened at 8:47 pm.

Under new business, there was some discussion regarding the British Transportation Museum meeting, and talks continue. Dick Smith is our main liaison.

More discussion followed regarding our possible affiliation with national groups, specifically NAMGAR and NAMGBR. Both chapter affiliations appear to provide positive support for us, with some commitment, yet no financial responsibility or liability. Fred Shaneyfelt moved and John Wolfe seconded a motion to proceed with affiliation procedures. The motion was passed.

John Zeno reported 27 signed up for the casino trip. Ron Parks won the Gumball Rally, John Lucente objected (not really). Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Skip Peterson, acting secretary in absence of Jennifer Peterson.

### **SOLD MG THROUGH INTERNET! By Bill Hammond**

It's amazing, since many of you will confirm that I barely know how to turn on my computer, that I found a special buyer for my very special (unusual) '63 MGB so quickly.

On my first look around the internet went to Yahoo and entered a search for "MG Car Sales", picked the second item that came up because it was for "Classified". On the nice British Racing Green page that appeared, I selected "North America" and found a series of ads which pretty well describe the model(s), features, whether ready to drive, restore, or part out, price range, etc., and the email address.

I e-mailed two places in Virginia and one in Indiana. Several back and forth e-mails with the Indiana response, including a color photo, resulted in a visit, and enough \$100 bills to match (not what I was asking, but to match what I was willing to sell for, and away went the roadster.

All within two weeks. Wow!

It's nice having a MG, but even better having someone to share it with! by Karl Sparklin

I had driven two different MG's for years (well, not at the same time). I had a '77 MG first, but became less than thrilled with the driving position of that mode. My height and the seat placement combined to put my line-of-sight directly into the bar over the windshield. This forced me to either hunch down to see under it, or play like a giraffe and peer over the top of it. Although this was great entertainment for surrounding motorists, I got tired of prying large bugs out of my forehead. I sold it one year, so I could pay my Dayton city taxes.

The next 'B was a '72. I bought it from someone who appeared to have just bought it from a dealer. He had done an awful job painting it a decidedly non-MG yellow, and there was some rust coming out pretty distinctly in some spots. The frame looked great, the interior wasn't too bad, and it drove fine. So I bought it, realizing that I'd probably never restore it, but it had that potential if I came into lots of cash.

This is the one I have today. But now I can share it with my wife, Ellen. We love to go out cruising in the evenings, much to the disdain of the boys. We just drive to no place in particular, enjoying the cool summer night air. Sometimes we take the dog, so she can drool over the side. If we get to feeling really silly, we'll stop at a local ice-cream shop and buy a little vanilla sundae for the dog. We get some strange looks. "Oh, look, dear, those strange people in that convertible have a rabid dog with them." "That's nice, dear. Do you want sprinkles or not?"

We love the 'B, though it burns lots of oil, dumps any gas over half a tank on the ground, and refuses to let me reinstall the windshield wiper motor. It's still ours, and we just have fun it!

**DILEMMA: RESTORE OR IMPROVE?**

By Bill Hammond

When I was racing my '57 MGA coupe, back in '58, I installed a much stronger Studebaker clutch. My only concern at the time, was whether this violated the 'stock' racing regulations.

But then in '92, when doing extensive work on my '63 MGB, I made it my goal to improve the safety, reliability, and comfort, to some extent, based on my experience with a TC, an A, and a Morris Oxford.

But now comes the dilemma: my present MG, a '69 C-GT is so excellent, should I be trying to achieve concours d'elégance originality, or should I be going for good looking reliability and safety. Some of you feel strongly that they are both the same!

But regarding this fine 'C', there is evidence that the beautiful red finish was originally primrose yellow. So I guess the purist would insist it be repainted to its original color (which in British would be 'colour').

And the spare wire wheel is the light, 60 spoke painted variety, and is probably original. So should the stronger 72 spoke chromed beauties be abandoned in the interest of originality?

Then there's the disastrous dual power brake design that was inflicted only on 'C's sent to the USA. In the interest of authenticity, should the safe MGB non-powered master cylinder installed by Steve Miller be abandoned, and the two vacuum boosted master cylinders (that created big problems) be reinstalled?

Regarding the electrical system. Fuse protection design principals have been unchanged since before I was an engineering student (OK, that's long, long ago). Basically, fuses are selected to have a rating as close as possible to 20 percent more than the load they protect, or the sum of the loads they protect. If really heavy and really light loads are protected by the same fuse, then a light load component could fail, and over heat, and cause a fire without blowing that heavy fuse.

That's why your every-day car has many fuses of many different ratings, to protect against damage and fire by matching each fuse to its load.

All design is a compromise. Constructing MGs with only two fuses must have been to be a compromise to costs. Although the value of our MGs will increase as they become even more scarce, is this any reason to leave them in danger of becoming a pile of 'authentic' ashes?

Overdrive controls. Damage can be done to the transmission, should the O D Gear Box Switch hang up and leave the OD engaged while shifting to 1st, 2nd or into reverse. Shouldn't there be an indicator lamp showing when O.D is engaged? In the interests of authenticity, should this oversight be ignored?

Battery(s)! Driving through an ice storm with my bride (way bake at the dawn of time) resulted in both batteries in my MGA being shorted out and ruined! So does anyone think that hanging a battery under the car exposed to splash, and slush is an original design feature worthy of retaining?

Likewise the fuel (petrol) pump. The location is good. Positive pressure on the fuel lines prevents vapor lock. But why hang the pump out in the wet and ice, and then hope for reliability?

But wait, I can see clearly now! My dilemma is that I want to try to win car show awards, but I also want to enjoy the fun of its handling and performance.

Now if only there would be awards for the most improved old car!

**LICENSE PLATES "63MG"**

Reserved plates cost only \$10 extra/yr. (Full vanity plates are around \$40 extra.) Until they expire in June, and become available to first served, Ohio permits me to transfer this designation by simple written letter to you. Let me know:

Bill Hammond (937)434-9967  
or hazelbill@erinet.com



"I've been waxing the car, Dad . . . I need some more candles."

Thank you to Dave & Lois Gribler

The gathering at Dave & Lois Gribler's was very enjoyable. We had so much good food and good company! Ron Parks even entertained us by playing his guitar and singing! Thanks again, Dave & Lois!

Two Miata owners came out of the store to find their keys locked in the car. They tried furiously to open the door with coat hangers but couldn't make it work. One of them shouted, "Hurry up! It's starting to rain and the top is down!"

FRANK AND ERNEST

by Bob Thaves



**MG Car Club Members' E-Mail Addresses**

- Randy Balogh  
MGBay@aol.com
- Dave Gribler  
ah387@mvcn.dayton.oh.us
- Bill Hammond  
hazelbill@erinet.com
- Ed Hill  
EHILLMGB@AOL.COM
- Sam Hodges  
hodgessb@flyemet.udayton.edu
- John Lucente  
Pbj194@aol.com
- Charley McCamey  
CDMMGB@aol.com
- Dave McCann  
DMCCANN@bdm.com
- Kent Miller  
MDesignInc@aol.com
- Ron Parks  
MGDRIVER@prodigy.net
- Skip Peterson  
MGBSkip@aol.com or  
70721,3720@compuserve.com
- Matt Schneider  
mschneider@falcon.al.wpafb.af.mil  
or mgschne@ibm.net
- Fred & Betty Shaneyfelt  
BFSHANEY@ERINET.COM
- Dick Smith  
rsmithomo@aol.com
- Ellen Sparklin  
star@dma.org
- Karl Sparklin  
sparklik@dma.org
- Ben Sparks  
bhsparks@concentric.net
- Linda Wolfe (during school year)  
bcvl\_lwolfe@k12server.mveca.ohio.gov
- John Zeno  
MGFAST@aol.com

S T R I C T L Y



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## Classifieds



Second owner (for 43 years) of 1951 MG-TD is selling car due to health problems. Only 2,500 miles since frame-up restoration that included extensive body work, quality paint job, rechroming, all new rubber, new top, side curtains and tonneau cover, upholstery, floor mats, walnut dash, Watford steering wheel, aluminum engine covers, Lucas driving lamps, new clutch, brake cylinders and many other parts. Also installed in recent weeks is a new water pump, pulley and fan blade assembly, plus a stainless steel exhaust system. Extras to go with the car include "Britool" Whitworth tool set, spare fuel pump, starter, original shop manual, anthology of Chip Old's technical articles on T-series, a new T-series restoration manual and other MG books and literature. Color of car is cream with green interior and grill. Contact Charles Truax, 6116 Singletree Lane, Centerville, OH 45459. Phone (937) 433-9466. Car is priced at \$12,500.

MGA Carb set, Linkage, Intake Manifold, Exhaust Manifold, Heat Shield, Overflow Pipes, Pulleys, Generator, Starter, Gas Cap & Tube, (2) 1500 Tail Light Pinthes. \$250 for all. Call Kent Miller at (937) 299-3837 (H) or 224-9400 (W). His e-mail address is also on the list included in this newsletter.

1953 MG TD - exceptional condition has been driven about 3,000 miles since restoration. Includes spare parts, manuals, and MG memorabilia. Previous owner was Bill Bixby (actor). Car is being offered at its appraised value of \$11,040 plus a contribution to the Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club. The person offering the largest contribution buys the car. For more information contact Bob Feuer (218) 472-3445 or e-mail: giddiup@wcta.net

MGA parts: front and rear axles and wire wheels, trunk lid, windshield and frame, steering wheel and column, doors with regulators and glass. Midget fenders. Contact Douglas Graham at cougar@ticnet.com

Beautiful 1958, partially restored, MGA Coupe. Garaged. Do not have time or talent to complete. Would like to sell. Car is northwest of Indianapolis. e-mail cbaird@tds.net



*"Every now he refers to My Honey, he's talking about his restored MG."*

### Adopt-A-Highway Program

Rain date for highway cleaning be Sunday, April 26.

