

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXI No. 6

JUNE, 1998

## RUMINATIONS

by Matt Schneider

I attended the Carlisle Import show over May 8-10. I have been told to expect thousands of cars and an equal number of vendors. It was cool and rainy when I left on Thursday and did not change for the rest of the week end. The turn-out of imports was disappointing, only 10 MGs the entire weekend. One was a TC with a BMW engine and transmission. The for sale lot held little of interest for even tire kickers. Lots of vendors of new and used MG parts, but the rain and mud made digging through the covered piles to much of a chore. There were thousands of little coupes with fat tires and booming sound systems running all over the place. This was also a kit-car show and there must have been 50 Cobra kit manufacturers set up in the barns. An amazing variety of chassis options with equally amazing prices. You could fill your garage with several 100-point MGs for the price of some of these completed kits.

Congratulations are due Fred and Betty Shaneyfelt for the First Place at the Continent Car Show May 17 in Columbus.

Preparations are moving along smoothly for British Car Day 98. Skip and the various BCD chairs will be asking for volunteers to sign up to work on the day of the show. You only need to commit an hour or two. You will be there anyway, so pitch in.



*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:

## MG Car Club Officers

President, Matt Schneider  
phone.....427-0074  
email.....schneiderm@falcon.ai.wpaafb.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 Parks  
phone.....322-0717  
email.....FKZS47A@prodigy.com

Pres. Emeritus, Skip Peterson  
phone.....293-2819  
email 1.....MGBSkip@aol.com  
email2.....70721.3720@compuserve.com

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

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

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

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

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

MG News Hotline.....434-1287

British Car BBS.....434-1655

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

## Inside This Issue

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2 | Events                   |
| 2 | Summer Picnic            |
| 3 | Featured Car             |
| 3 | Minutes from May meeting |
| 5 | MG Automotive            |
| 5 | BCD Volunteers           |
| 6 | BCD Application          |

### Upcoming Events

#### June

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

#### July

- 11 Highway Clean-up before the Air Show  
12 Rain date for Highway Clean-up  
12 British Car Day, Cincinnati  
15 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
18 London to Brighton  
21-23 NAMGAR GT-23 Chattanooga, TN  
26 Cruise-in/Cook-out/Pot Luck/Swim Party  
at Ron & Linda Park's  
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  
18 Fish Fry at the Lithuanian Social Club  
26 AMGBA Meet '98, Charlotte, North Carolina  
27 Indiana British Motor Car Show/White River State  
Park downtown Indy

#### October

- 16 Fish Fry at the Lithuanian Social Club (need extra)  
21 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club  
31 Highway Clean-up

#### November

- 13 Fish Fry at the Lithuanian Social Club  
18 MGCC meeting at the Lithuanian Social Club

#### December

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

Looking at the calendar, June appears to be a quiet MG month. Time to prep our MGs for all the activities coming up in July and August. See you at the June meeting.

### Summer Picnic by Ron Parks

The picnic, that has become our official MG Car Club summer picnic, is now scheduled for Sunday, July 26, 1998. The weekend before BCD '98. If you planned to go to the Cincinnati British Car Day, you no longer have a conflict with our picnic.

We plan to begin around 2:00 pm. After arrival, we can swim, look at each other's cars, maybe throw a few horse shoes, play croquet and/or just generally sit around the pool and 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 4:00-4:30 pm, I'll put the Italian Sausages on the grill and we'll do what we do best. Eat!

Someone asked at the last meeting, "what is the cruise-in part?" Well, what I do, when I go to a cruise-in, is park my car, walk around look at the others and talk to other classic car owners. That's what we do when we get together with our cars anyway. So, I guess that's what I meant by cruise-in.

A map and instructions to our house will be in the July Octagon News.

Plan on coming, bringing something good to eat (covered dish) and having a good time!

## 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

Featured Car

by Sam Hodges

**"Martha"**

For those of you who don't know, Martha is my 1978 MGB Roadster. According to all of the information that I have on her, she's Vermilion red, better known as orange to the rest of the world. I purchased Martha from a cousin of mine, Jennifer, in 1996 for a sum best described as pocket change. When I told her that the car was probably worth a lot more than she was asking, she replied that, "...it's not about the money. I want to make sure she gets a good home." (A true car lover!) Jennifer received the car in 1982 as a college graduation present, and owned it until 1996 when I bought it from her. As a result, I know the history of the car (for the most part) back to 1982. What Martha went through between 1978 and 1982 I really don't know, but judging from the shape that she was in when I bought her, she was fairly well taken care of.

Upon bringing Martha home, I began to make grandiose plans for her; new sheet metal, new paint, new interior, new wheels, etc. However, in the meantime, I began a mechanical restoration. Almost the entire front suspension is new: a-arms, bushings, shocks, brake lines, brake disks, etc. About the only original parts are the kingpins. I then added a new oil cooler, water pump, radiator, air pump, all new belt hoses, new battery, a carburetor rebuild and a whole host of other parts. The only thing from the original plans that did carry over were the wheels. Seeing as how the original rostyles were in pretty bad shape, I decided that a new set of Panasperts was in order. (I love 'em!)

After three months in my garage on jack stands, I decided it was time for a test drive. I took her out in May of '96, about three weeks before MG Indy '96. After three, relatively trouble free weeks, I decided to risk the drive to Indy - her first trip! Martha ran flawlessly! Although I made the drive without my top, it was at a boat shop having new windows sewn in, and was baked by the 90 degree weather, it was a trip I wouldn't have missed. Since that trip, she's been on several other short trips including the Auburn-Cord-ODusenbergl festival in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Mid-Ohio for the vintage races and just about every city in the state of Ohio. She's become a good-weather, daily driver for me that has racked up some 8,000 miles since I put her back on the road.

As for the grandiose plans that I had for her, I haven't been able to bring myself to take her off the road. I enjoy driving her too much to part with her for that long. So, in August of 97, I bought a 1977 MGB roadster. It runs well, but I decided that I would apply all of my grandiose ideas to that one. Tilly is her name and when she's back together, it will be Martha's turn. By the time you read this Tilly should be back from the body shop with all new lower half sheet metal, and a fresh coat of "Brooklands green" (but that's the topic of another article).

For now, Martha is my main automotive squeeze, and a fine squeeze she is.

Minutes from the May meeting submitted by Jennifer Peterson

Meeting called to order at 8:06 pm by Matt Schneider. Previous minutes were passed without discussion.

Treasurer's report: starting balance \$1,022.84 - Income \$219.80 - Expenses \$699.26 (purchase of two-way radios and insurance) - Ending balance \$543.38.

New member Major Mark Gulley (he is the son of Paul & Naomi Gulley. Several members renewed their memberships.

Tim Oricko, activities chair reported on the successful trip to Portsmouth, and noted upcoming events: Lancaster, May 31 - Cincinnati British Show, July 12 - Greene County Antique Show, July 4 - London to Brighton Run, July 18.

The club picnic date has been changed to July 26 at Ron & Linda Parks home. Club provides the meat, buns, beverages and utensils. Each member should bring a dish to share.

BCD was discussed, including the liability insurance, the preview show on Courthouse Square on July 31, and other details.

Under Old business, there was further discussion regarding the proposed logo presented by Skip Peterson. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to proceed with Skip's design. Final designs should be presented at the next meeting.

Beer break was called at 8:40 pm.

Bill Hammond announced he had sold his reserved Ohio license, and there was more discussion regarding the cruise to Portsmouth.

Dave Gribler thanked all who helped in the highway clean-up and reminded us of the July 11 date. We still need more workers.

Tony Pareaseau donated his engine stand to the club, and also his engine leveler for the hoist. We might return the leveler we purchased. Other new business included getting name tags made for new members. We are also searching for MG Car Club grille badges for members to purchase.

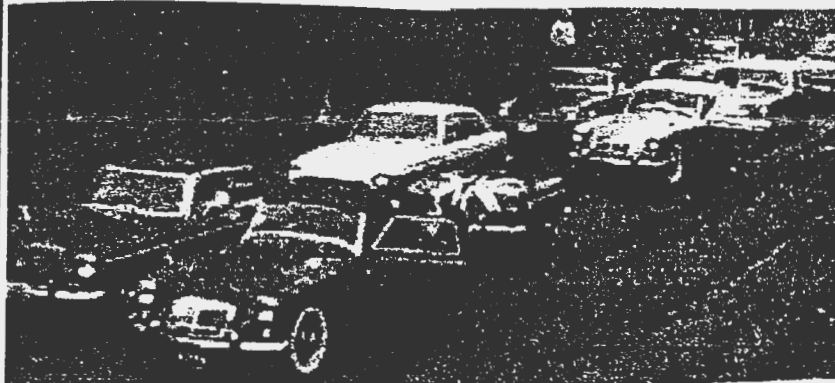
A number of cars were offered for sale.

John Zeno noted the NAMGAR gathering in Chattanooga and he will lead a caravan. Contact Zeno if you want to go, July 21-23.

Rick Feedback won the Gumball Rally.



Pictures from Portsmouth



1 car



My car...



as I see it...



as the council sees it...



as girls see it...



as the police see it...



as the garage man sees it...



and as the insurance company sees it!

**The New MG Automotive  
by Rick Feedback**

MG Automotive was formed in 1988 with the interest of maintenance British sports cars, since finding a repair shop with British car knowledge was near impossible. This gave British car lovers a place they could count on to do correct repairs, such as brake service, engine rebuilds, performance modifications, and any other service from total restoration to regular maintenance. Steve Miller and Bob Mason have recently purchased the entire building that they are located in. They used to only be in the rear part of this building. This has given them ample space to stock a large amount of spares.

As I was walking through the stock room I notices spares for MGA's, MGB's, Sprites, Midgets, etc. A large amount of brake and suspension parts are available, along with plenty of chrome accessories, carpet, body panels, and so on. The extra space is now a retail parts store and if the part you need is not available, it can be ordered, and <sup>Picked</sup> picked up within a few days. This also is a nice alternative to looking through parts magazines.

You are very welcome to come in and look through the parts store, and check out any projects that may be underway. My attention was caught by a MGA that is being restored, since I recently purchased one. I was able to answer my own questions by checking out this half finished car.

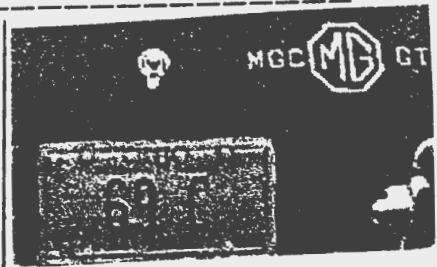
When I walk into MG Automotive I feel as though I've stepped back in time. There are always multiple

British cars sitting around in various states of repair. It does my soul good to see a shop that is dedicated to keeping these cars (and other British cars) on the road. When MG Automotive first started, it was only a service garage. But now with its new parts store, it caters to those people who wish to repair their own cars too! Of course, if you don't like to tinker with your British car, Steve and Bob will handle all maintenance and needed repairs.

If you haven't visited MG Automotive lately, I would suggest that you do. It is fun just to look at all of the changes that are going on and you'll love the parts store end of it. Steve told me visitors have stopped by from England, and said that it reminds them of the garages and race prep facilities in England.

I love visiting this shop. I like to talk with Steve and Bob. They are always willing to answer my questions. Their advice is extremely helpful! Steve also mentioned that he has noticed "new" MG owners lately. People who wanted to buy a sports car, and just happened to find a MG. He also noted that most of these "new" MG owners aren't club member (new recruits, maybe), and that they don't wish to tinker with their cars. They just want to enjoy driving them.

No matter what type of service you may need, MG Automotive will help. This is my favorite shop. I even like it more than the shop I work in, (don't tell my boss!) ha, ha. Long live British Cars and MG Automotive will help!



**BCD Volunteers**

It's that time of year. BCD is only 60 days away. We need your help. In past years, we have always had a great turnout of volunteers. Those volunteers are what make our show work, the participants notice that we get the job done, we're organized, and everyone has a good time. At the June meeting, we'll have sign up sheets for workers. Our most important committees are the concession stand, ballot counters, and people to direct entrants to their parking areas.

In addition, we could use some help on door prizes. Registration is mainly the Triumph club, but another helper or two would make it faster. Just so you know: The parking crew is done by about 11 am. We need lots of help in the concession stand because it is open all day. We would like to have three hour shifts. The ballot counters work from about 12:30 to 2 pm. We only need about 4 door prize people. The parking crew is the key. We need people to arrive at 7 am the day of the show. We need to position the class markers, and mark off the show field, then be ready to usher the participants in. The good news is the parking crew get to position their cars first. How is that for incentive?

Again, much of our success is based on the large number of volunteers who work hard to make the event fun. I know you'll be there this year. See you at the June meeting!