

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXI No. 11

November, 1998

Remember the Fish Fry and no meeting in December

Greetings from your new President - Ed Hill

I'm looking forward to a busy year full of social and motoring events. I'm sure it will be a fun year and I encourage everyone to attend as many functions as you can.

Thanks to everyone who showed up Halloween morning for the Highway cleanup. We had a successful turnout of 11-12 enthusiastic souls. I think the findings were kinda small, two golf balls, a tennis ball and a couple pair of gloves. But of course the highway got cleaned... This completes another year of keeping the road clean and it also is the end of our current agreement with ODOT. Discussion of renewal begins at the November meeting.

And a thank you goes out to Fred and Betty Shaneyfelt for organizing the Fall Tour. A very colorful tour followed by a wet ride home. Mechanical problems were few and a vote of gratitude to the NAPA store who opened on Sunday to sell a battery.

The Lithuanian Club Fish Fry is Friday, November 13th. Come out and help the club that helps us. Good food and better friends. If you help with dealing showdown the admission is free.

The year's last event is the upcoming Christmas Party hosted by the President Emeritus, Matt Schneider. The gift exchange is always a hit. More information will be in the newsletter.



Southwestern Ohio Centre

Club Membership Information

Membership dues of the Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club are eighteen (\$18.00 per year, payable during September & October. On January 1st, the names of delinquent members are removed from the mailing list. 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 each month (except December) at the Lithuanian Social Club, 922 Valley Street, Dayton, at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be:

MG Car Club Officers

President, Ed Hill
phone.....461-6688
email.....EHILLMGB@AOL.COM

Vice-president, Skip Peterson
phone.....293-2819
email 1.....MGBSkip@aol.com
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Secretary, Dick Smith
phone.....434-1750
email.....rsmithomo@aol.com

Treasurer, Betty Shaneyfelt
phone.....293-2230
email.....BFSHANEY@ERINET.COM

Member at Large, Tony Pareaseau
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Pres. Emeritus, Matt Schneider
phone.....427-0074
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Activities Chair, Tim Orlicko
phone.....434-5928

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Historian & DIXMYTH, Dick Smith
phone.....434-1750

MG News Hotline.....434-1287

British Car 88S.....434-1655

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

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Upcoming Events

November

- 13 **Fish Fry** at the Lithuanian Club 6 to 10 pm
- 18 **MGCC meeting** at the Lithuanian Social Club 8 pm

December

- 12 **Christmas Party** at Matt Schneider's 8 pm
- No meeting in December**

February, 1999

Party at the Gribler's (to be announced)

August, 1999

- 7 **British Car Day**
- 20-22 **MG Summer Party** in Grand Rapids.
- Featured Car will be MG "C"

June, 2000

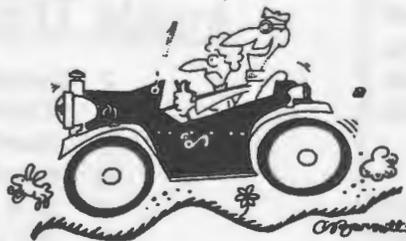
- 15-18 **Cleveland Rocks, MG Roll!**
- 9th Annual NAMGB Register International Convention

Greetings continued from page 1

It's the MG club's turn to provide the Chairman for British Car Days this year. Skip Peterson has volunteered to do it. Unless somebody else really has their heart set on it, Skip has my vote.

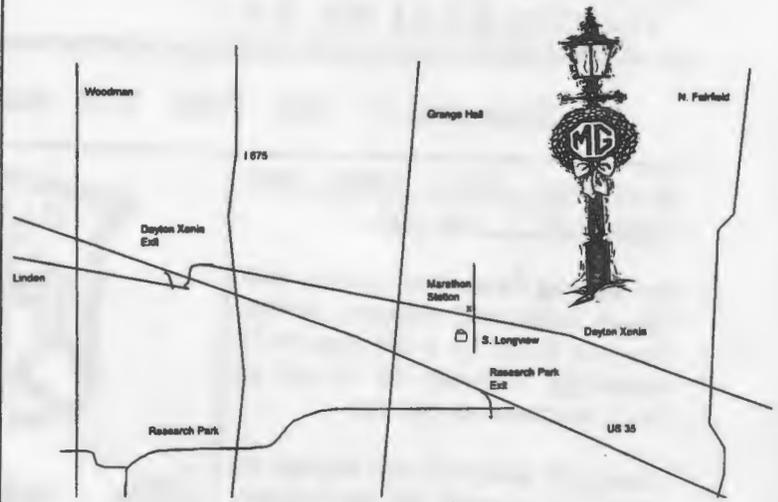
Remember no meeting in December. See you at the meeting.

Pictures from Fall Tour



"Relax, Martha, I was off-road before off-road was cool."

Matt Schneider's
1511 S. Longview St., Beavercreek 427-0074



Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12, 1998
8:00 pm

Gather at the home of Matt Schneider (see map) 1511 S. Longview Street, Beavercreek, Oh 45432-2912 (937) 427-0074.

Bring your favorite holiday appetizer or dessert to share. Bring your own bottle of holiday spirits. Setups will be provided. The beer trailer will be in attendance.

Remember that each guest must bring a wrapped item for the (gag) gift exchange. Use your own judgment regarding good taste.

No need to RSVP. Just come along and join the festivity. Preferred parking for MGs.

Membership Dues

We still need dues for the following: Balough, Bell, Billheimer, Crabtree, Cunningham, Epstein, Goodman, Hall, Hazelbaker, Heberling, Knupp, Maloney, Marin, McCamey, McCann, McCartt, Meine, Kent Miller, Page, Seibert, Sparks, Streifthau, Tinnerman, and Veris.

October Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by President Ed Hill.

Secretary Report: Minutes from the September meeting were approved as published in the October issue of the Octagon News.

Treasurer's Report given by Betty Shaneyfelt:

Starting balance	\$194.04
Income	342.86
Expenses	257.22
Ending balance	\$279.68

Report was approved by the members as presented.

Officers for the 1998-1999 year are: President: Ed Hill

Vice President: Skip Peterson

Secretary: Dick Smith

Treasurer: Betty Shaneyfelt

We welcomed new members Gary & Cathy Reece, Denis & Berta Loyer & guest Glenn Field. Name tags for new members are available at the table.

Activity report by Tim Oricko: Tim related that the trip to Hocking Hills State Park area was successful despite the rain encountered on the return trip. Members ate their picnic lunch with a stop at the Ash Cave picnic area. About nine MGs were on the tour. Betty Shaneyfelt wanted to thank all who drove on the tour for attending even though rain threatened and one driver had car problems which were solved when a car shop (NAPA) in Laureville opened shop so the driver could purchase a new car battery. Everybody wondered about Ron Parks whereabouts. Seems like he was in Indiana scouting for a Covered Bridge tour for next year, in Park County Indiana.

Friday, November 13th, will be the

next Fish Fry at the Lithuanian Club. We need members to help with the Showdown Table.

December 12th will be the annual Christmas Party held this year at Matt Schneider's house. Each member in attendance is asked to bring a gag gift for a gift exchange plus an hors d'oeuvre.

October 31st will be the last Highway Cleanup of the year and we need lots of members to help out with this function. Those who are going to help are asked to meet at McDonalds in Vandalia so that we can begin promptly at 9:00 am.

A Casino tour is being planned by John Zeno with an overnight stay a possibility, however everything for this type of trip is booked up till January. John is trying to set up a tour with at the hotel at the airport. Cost would be \$49 each which includes dinner, breakfast, lunch, transportation to and from the casino and tickets for the casino. He would also check on one day excursions, down and back on the same day.

Old business: Skip Peterson reported that he hopes to have something on Club logo at the November meeting. He is having difficulty scanning and getting good colors on the British Flag. Dick Smith will provide him with a mylar British Flag for scanning.

Mugs were received with the MG logo on them and the club name. These mugs were 13 oz. and cost the club \$6.41 each. All 22 were sold to club members at \$8 each. A motion was made by Matt Schneider, seconded by Linda Wolfe, and approved to purchase larger mugs (15 oz.) with the same design on the outside. Orders were taken for 25 mugs when a sheet

was passed around and the motion was amended to purchase three dozen of the 15 oz. mugs.

Lithuanian Club Membership was discussed. Currently 5 officers were provided memberships to the club to help the club with their financial difficulties. Ed Hill will meet with them to see if we can roll over the 5 current memberships to the new officers and renew them at the standard renewal price when they come due in January. Also Skip Peterson and Barbara Hurt will check into alternate locations for the meetings and the associated costs for those alternate locations.

New Business: BCD 1999 will be held on Saturday August 7. There will be a planning meeting on Tuesday, October 27th at Marion's Pizza at Town & Country Shopping Center. Meeting time will be 7:30.

There were 192 cars at this years BCD. Phil of the Triumph club was elected for a two year term to coordinate BCD activities with MGCC.

Funds available for each club from BCD 1998 are \$1200. There is another \$1500 left in the joint checking account for start up of BCD 1999.

The BCD portion of the 50/50 drawing was to be contributed to the Park District Mounted Patrol for their use to buy saddles, etc.. No verification has been received yet that this was in fact done.

Skip promises more and new things happening for the 1999 BCD.

Bill Hammond told of his trip to the West coast where he spent time with Ken Smith & Harry Hague of Moss Motors. Seems like Moss has

Minutes continued

recently resurrected an old TR and MG club on the West Coast. They also helped form a "Car Club" which is not dependent on any specific marque, but open to all marques. It is growing fast. Bill suggested that maybe we look at something similar here. A large discussion ensued and the general consensus was that it is not uncommon for owners of other marques than MGs to be members of our club and that is totally acceptable. No further action was felt necessary.

The Club had received a solicitation to sponsor a young lady from Beavercreek in the Miss Ohio contest; cost would be \$75. The solicitation was too late to be approved by the membership. Since the date for action had passed, it is now a non-item.

The following positions were filled as follows:

- Activity - Tim Oricko
- Membership - Linda Wolfe
- Historian - Dick Smith
- Librarian - John Wolfe
- Newsletter Ed.- Linda Wolfe
- Phone - Skip Peterson & Betty Shaneyfelt

A request was made to publish a membership list w/members cars in the newsletter. This will be done and several people volunteered to make it happen.

Ron Parks is suggesting a Covered Bridge tour into Indiana next year. This could be an overnight at Turkey Run State Park. Lodging expenses would be \$69 plus \$4 to \$5 for the second person. A block of rooms would be reserved. The group would leave on Saturday morning. Open weekends are: Oct. 30, 1999, Oct 16, 2000. Covered on the tour would be the longest Bridge at Bridgeton where there is also a mill on the creek. The club

should make a decision maybe at the November meeting as to do this or not.

NAMBG will sponsor the year 2000 meet at Cleveland.

The MG National meet will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the year 2001.

The University Motors Summer Party will be held the third weekend in August, 1999 and the featured marque will be the MGC.

There will be a party at the Gribler's in February.

JoAnn Zeno is in hospital for test (Miami Valley). The Father of Peggy Pareaseau passed away last Saturday. Cards will be sent.

Skip Peterson reported that the MGCC has been designated to provide the official class stewards for next years Concours de Elegance at the Museum of Discovery.

Dick Smith reported that the Society for the Preservation of British Transportation in America is now incorporated and work on the "British Car Museum" is continuing with focus in the fund raising arena.

Charlie Avery has a MG Midget for sale.

Gary Reece won the Gumball Rally.

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If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It
by John Lucente

Prior to leaving on one of our mini trips a lot of us will say to ourselves "I've got to get my car ready". So off to the parts store where we buy plugs, points, oil and a filter. That should do it. No wait a minute, I better check the timing and tweak my SU carbs also. (Ah, never run better).

We are off, over the rivers and through the woods we go. Man it don't get any better. Then we start up the next hill and the engine starts to sputter and finally comes to a stop. This can't be happening to me. My car was running fine all year. What did I do wrong? Are the points .15 or .035? Is the timing 10 BTC? I know I should not have fiddled with those carburetors. Road side repairs are very frustrating.

I am not saying you should not tune your car up. What I am saying is be sure of what you do and don't do it a couple of days before you go on a trip. That way if something goes wrong you won't be 100 miles from home.

Think twice before you start to turn screws on them carbs and remember if it ain't broke, don't fix it.



GM's Answer To Bill Gates

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated: "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating (by Mr. Welch himself):

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. Your car would crash twice a day for no reason whatsoever.
2. You would have to buy a new car every time they repainted the lines on the road.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

5. Only one person at a time could use the car, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But then you would have to buy more seats.

6. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive, but would only run on five percent of the roads.

7. The oil, water temperature and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car fault" warning light.

8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

9. The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.

10. Occasionally for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key, and grab hold of the radio antenna.

11. GM would require all car buyers to also purchase a deluxe set of Rand McNally road maps (now a GM subsidiary), even though they neither need them nor want them. Attempting to delete this option would immediately cause the car's performance to diminish by 50% or more. Moreover, GM would become a target for investigation by the Justice Department.

12. Every time GM introduced a new model car, buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

13. You'd press the "start" button to shut off the engine.



**21ST ANNUAL
AMERICAN MGB ASSOCIATION
MEET 98 IN
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
BY BRUCE MAGERS**

On Saturday September 26th, 1998, the American MGB Association met on the beautiful Laké Campus of Davidson College just north of Charlotte, North Carolina for its 21st annual meeting. The event was held in conjunction with MGs on the Green.

Saturday morning started as another beautiful North Carolina day. The line of cars waiting to get onto the green was already formed by 9:00 am. Tom Cotter, Hank Rippert and Andy Russell who started this event 10 years ago handled the details with military precision. A record number of cars attended this event which was the 10th anniversary of MGs on the Green. A delightful atmosphere was enjoyed by all including vendors and refreshments handled by the local Lion's Club which contributed to the festive atmosphere. Some of the more interesting events included a detailing demonstration on a participant's car, a children's contest that including "leakiest engine", "best grille", "brightest paint job", a treasure hunt and the serving of the 10th anniversary cake.

The AMGBA conducted a popular vote contest to recognize the hard work of some MG owners. Margie Johnson, Secretary handled the awards presentation for the AMGBA.

Featured Car - John Zeno's MGA

I purchased my '57 MGA from a fellow worker in my office. He had purchased it about two years before from a Lt. in the Air Force. It had about thirty thousand miles on it when I got it. He said that he kept getting a stiff neck and the doctor told him to get rid of the MG roadster convertible.

I bought it from him in 1962 for \$800, and I drove it to work until 1969.

My older son went to Miami University his freshman year and then transferred to Ohio State University. My younger son started at Ohio State so I let them take the MGA to Columbus. They were only one year apart in age. After my younger sons freshman year a friend of his and my son decided to take a vacation in the north east and they wanted to take the MGA. They were going to camp out so they tied their sleeping bags to the rear bumper and took off one Saturday morning early. Around noon I got a call from my son and he said that the car broke down and they were near Cleveland.

I asked him what went wrong and he said he did not know but there was oil all over the engine. I drove to Cleveland with a tow bar and pulled it home.

A connecting rod had broken and punched holes in the block and oil pan. So much for my sons vacation plans!

I purchased a used engine and put it in and that is in the car today.

They took the car to Ohio State and it was getting beat up so I got a VW and gave that to them and brought

the MGA home and used it for awhile and then stored it.

When I retired in 1979 I decided to fix it up and drive it but when I started, the farther I went the worse it got. I had to do a ground up restoration and took everything apart that would come apart. It only took me five years to get it back together.

I finished it up about 1984 and I have had a lot of fun with it and have met a lot of fine people ever since.

Road Rage
by John Wolfe

One of the lesser topics in today's news is "Road Rage".

Road Rage is the reaction of a driver who feels he is the victim of someone else's bad driving. This does not necessarily mean contact with another car. The other car may cut in too close while changing lanes, turn from the wrong lane or some violation of the basic rules of safe driving.

There have been instances of "so called wronged" drivers smashing into the offending car or even shooting the other driver.

This vicious reaction is often blamed on the pressures of modern day living, crowded highways, etc. I really don't think that's any excuse for violence. Emotions have no place behind the wheel of a moving vehicle.

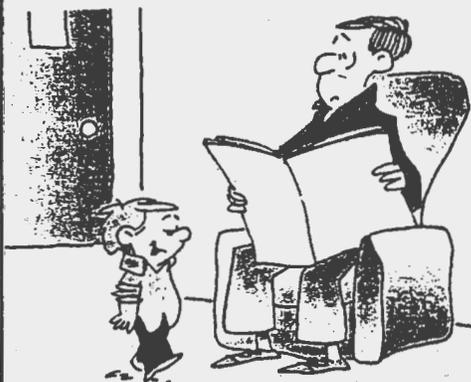
FRANK AND ERNEST

by Bob Thaves

If you have driven a sports car for any length of time you get rather used to being ignored by drivers of larger cars and trucks. We certainly wouldn't entertain any thoughts of ramming our cars into an alleged offending vehicle. The laws of physics are against us in the smaller car.

Our only recourse, when an offending driver crosses our path, is to simply smile and then raise a finger to salute him for a rather thoughtless act. That is not in my opinion "Road Rage" but merely reminding the other driver to think about what he is doing.

See you at the meeting!



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

