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# THE OCTAGON NEWS

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Volume XXXVIII No.2

November 2003

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Valley Vinyard Tour  
Minutes From October Meeting

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## From the President

By El Presidenté Sam Hodges

**H**ola, mis amigos! Yo estoy su Presidenté. Estoy anticiparse regir ustedes como un pequeño país de Sud America. Oops! Sorry about that. I'd always heard that drinking too much Corona could do that to a person. Well, it's that time of year again. Time to store away our MG's for their (hopefully) short winters nap. I know that some of us, i.e. the Griblers', don't believe in not using an MG regardless of the weather. Seeing as how these cars were initially intended to be used year round, I think that this really is how it should be. I know that I plan to put only my '77 B, Tilly, into storage. The '78, Martha, is going to wait out winter "on hold" looking for any good, sunny, dry day where I can go out and shake out the cobwebs from both of our souls.

The recent Fall Tour reminded me all about that. For the past year or so, I've been so caught up in work, at the office and at

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North American MGB Register

Southwestern Ohio Centre of the MG Car Club

### 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 fourth Wednesday of each month at the K of C Hall, downtown Dayton, on Bainbridge Street, at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be:

**Wed November 19, 2003**

## MG Car Club Officers

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That's It, Folks

## Upcoming Events

**NOV:**

15 - Valley Vineyard Dinner

19 - Meeting (K of C hall)

**DEC:**

13 - Christmas Party (Parks)

No December meeting

**JAN:**

28 - Meeting (K of C hall)

### From the President (con't)

home, that I really haven't had a lot of time to spend on or with the MGs. So, when the Fall Tour rolled around, I saw it as a chance to do a little bonding. For those of you who don't know, my MGs come in two flavors, those that look good and those that run well (some day I hope to have one that does both!) About five years ago I started what was supposed to be a quick little six-month restoration on my '77. Two and a half years later, I finally had that car back on the road. The only problem was that I never really took the time to sort out that car mechanically. While it looks nice, complete with new interior, new paint, new rockers, floors and a host of other goodies, I never really did much to the driveline other than take things off and put things back together. It's pretty much as Abingdon intended under the hood. The '78 is just the opposite. I think that only remaining original driveline components on that car are the engine block and the rear axle. Although it needs some bodywork, I'd trust that car to drive me to California and back tomorrow. So it was settled, Martha would be the mount for the tour. As most of you know by now. I finished that tour with the highest penalty score (50 points off) of all the cars participating. I started dead last, and according to Ron Parks, I finished third. Out of the 19 cars that ran the tour, that's not too bad!

But I digress. As I was saying, Martha taught me a few things that I had forgotten about MG stewardship. There's a lot of fun to be had by blasting down some deserted country road, wind in your hair, just taking in the scenery with no agenda whatsoever. With a good car beneath you, and no tractors in front of you, it's totally possible to kill off the better part of a day and several gallons of petrol, all the while going no where, and to feel refreshed and invigorated afterwards. I know that after that lovely sunny fall day in Martha, with Diana, my navigator, at my side, Monday morning at work didn't seem all that bad. The memory of that drive kept a smile on my face for the better part of the week that followed.

All of that brings me to the point of today's rant. I know that for those of you with the Concours quality/winning MG T's, A's and B's (and all those that I'm not mentioning) the concept of not storing them over the winter is like asking you to sacrifice a child. Heck, some of you might even prefer sacrificing a child just to free up some cash for the MG (*sorry Lois, I know that that's what you were planning, but I just couldn't keep quiet any longer! Run JoAnn RUN!*). Anyway, the point is that some of you just might want to take the Gribler's lead on this. This year is supposed to be another one of those warm winters (*if we get 14 feet of snow, don't blame me!*). You might find yourself looking out the window on a perfectly lovely winter day thinking, "This would be a great day to go for a spin in the MG." Don't underestimate the therapeutic powers of that little British car sitting in your garage. You just might be amazed at how short winter really is if you don't deprive yourself of the little pleasures that Mother Nature offers you when you least expect it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Ron Parks and Bill Hammond for planning such an enjoyable Fall Tour (I think they were calling it the Observation Rally). It really was a blast--for those of you who couldn't attend. I hope to see as many of you as can make it to the Valley Vineyards gathering on November 14, 2003, if you get this in time. Additionally, please take note of the change in date for the November MGCC meeting. Due to conflicts (namely Thanksgiving) the meeting has been moved forward one week to November 19<sup>th</sup> at

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the K of C Hall. I hope to see all of you there! *I'd BETTER see all of you there or else!*

### Don't Forget the Valley Vineyards Tour

Carole Looft

**S**aturday, November 15th, 2003 - We have a 6:00 p.m. reservation at Valley Vineyards. I need an RSVP to let them know how many will be in our group. You can meet us there or a caraval will leave from the K-Mart on Indian Ripple Road by Rt. 675 at 5:15 p.m.

### Minutes of the October 2003 Club Meeting

Rick Cutright

I would like to snidely thank Terry Looft, our current Large Member, for nominating me for the unenviable job of following a class act like Sam. Fortunately Sam is still around in the form of "El Presidente", so you will still get to enjoy his brand of writing. And I did take the hint from Carol Estell when she mentioned I should keep the minutes report short to allow plenty of room for Sam's column. I'll try not to disappoint you, Carol.

7:58 Meeting called to order by El Presidente Sam Hodges (to be addressed as "El Presidente"). After several attempts with the gavel including rapping himself soundly on the head, El Presidente got some attention from the rowdies. He don't get no respect.

**President's Report** - El P has nothing to report except that he won the rallye. He also mentions that he won the rallye and that the rallye was won by him. Other than that, El P's excuse is he has nothing to report cuz he's too new.

**Vice President's Report** - No report, he's too new. But Dick Smith did express his thanks to the

various sponsors of The Rallye (the one that Sam won). (Personal note - exactly what is a Dixmyth anyway?)

**Treasurer's Report** - Steve Veris reports that there is no October report because October is not over yet (more original than the "I'm too new" line). The BCD check was presented for \$1300.00. Dave Estell happily handed over the postage bill and a nastily thick IRS packet to Steve. Phil Johnson motioned to accept the report (what report?), the rowdies seconded, John Zeno.... was John Zeno. Motion carried and the non-report was approved.

**Minutes report** - Dave Estell motioned to accept, Linda Wolfe seconded. Motion carried, minutes approved and the Triumph Club submitted a copy as Exhibit B.

**Membership Report** - Carole Looft reports The Club has 66 paid members. Also presented was an updated Member Roster. It even recognizes the club's ONLY Farina! (OK, Ryan, but the 1100 is an Issigonis design that was *tweaked* by Farina, then modified at Cowley, redone again by Farina, messed with one more time at Cowley, with the final OK given by Farina as "whatever!" But I digress.....)(Did you know the 1100 was initially referred to as MGC-1100? Still I digress.....). El P expressed his concerns that the new roster might fall into the hands of the Triumph Club providing them with Sam's address.

**Sunshine Committee** - Reported were Louie's Lousy Saturday, having high blood pressure and all (we're happy Louie was well and attending the meeting), Dick Goodman is fighting a bleeding ulcer, and Tim Oricko....I'm sorry, Tim, I didn't make a proper note of the news you shared but I will make it up to you.

**Activities** - Fish Fry was on the 7<sup>th</sup>. More and varied volunteers will be appreciated in the future. Valley Vineyards Dinner will be/was the 15<sup>th</sup> and a fine time will be/was had by all. December 16<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas Party at Ron Parks house where all his trophies from this year will be used to decorate the Christmas tree. Reminder that one gag gift per person should be brought to the party. Skip Peterson wants to recognize Advance Auto Parts for the support (prizes) the provided for the Fall Rallye

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(the one that Sam won). Visit Advance Auto Parts near the corner of Stroop and Marshall for all your automotive needs (Skip's kickback is in the mail to him). The November meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> in The Big Room. Which means the newsletter has to be out one week sooner. Which means I'm late. Which explains why Steve Markman called me just now. So here goes...

Linda Wolfe gives huzzahs to Bill Hammond and Ron Parks for planning a stunning Fall Rallye (the one that.. you know). Jan Peters won the floor jack. BCD wrap up includes mentioning again that \$1300 was put in our coffers and February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 is the next meeting for BCD 2004. Dave Gribler gave a report (missed it, but it was a bunch of numbers anyway) of which copies are available. Price increases for BCD concessions was bandied about suggesting \$1.50/ hot dog and \$2.50/cheeseburger (no hamburger, just cheeseburger). Lois Gribler motions to decide the stuff later, Jennifer seconds, everyone agrees.

8:23 – Beer Break

8:41 – Beer gone

**Old Business** – Grille Badges, tabled again. Voting on membership dues will be at the next meeting. Sam wants to increase dues in order to buy out the Triumph Club. Louie DiPasquale announces he dropped out of the TR Club to which received a thunderous applause. Sam advises we are a 501C3 organization and as such we are allowed to carry a profit. (Just something he had to get off his chest.) Jennifer moved that the dues be frozen (much like our assets in heaterless cars this winter), Fred Shaneyfelt seconded, motion carries, freeze approved. The Newsletter-on-the-Website looks good, as reported by Dick Smith. A little project he and Jeff Opt are working on. New Sweatshirts; Skip advises the shirts will cost \$5.00 plus \$6.50 for the embroidery. Ron and Graham want long sleeve shirts, various of the women wanted pretty colors, Skip says just bring me your duds of choice and he'll get them embroidered. Bill Hammond passed out. OH, Sorry! I meant Bill Hammond passed out additional copies of The Fall Rallye (the one..).

New business – Lois announces a party at their house on Valentine's Day at 6:30ish, or 7ish, whatever it takes. Jennifer Peterson discusses the new K of C policy regarding worker paying for their food and suggests the club pay for the

volunteers as this event provides us a nice warm place to meet. Dick Smith suggests the club should pay ½ with the volunteers paying the other ½. Fred Shaneyfelt moves to accept the half price idea. And then Carole Looft spoke up. Pointing out that not enough members share the responsibility of volunteering and she doesn't want to have to pay so everyone else can freeloader (among a lot of other things that were mentioned). Skip moves that the club pays full admission for volunteers, and Fred says "That's what I meant". Dave Estell and John Wolfe seconds while Zeno remains quiet.

Dixmyth report – MGB raffle tickets selling well and the car "runs like stink". The Museum is accepting old printer cartridges (inkjet and laser) in some form of fund raising.

For Sale – 1971 Midget \$4000 OBO, see Dick Smith. 1976 MGB \$8500, has OD and zipout, see Louie DiPasquale.

Tech Tips – go to Performance Clinic for block work

Also – Linda Wolfe is collecting Campbell's soup labels and pop-tops. Lois Gribler is collecting Boxtops for Education.

Gumball – Dave Estell wins \$5.00 and Linda Wolfe wins a discarded Hemmings (still in its original wrapper!).

9:25ish – adjourn

How did I do?

## - Classifieds -

Complete '75 MG Midget rubber bumper in near excellent shape. Excellent interiors, good rust free body & fenders, excellent hood. Needs convertible top but good rails. 1500cc engine has blown rod. Comes with complete 1275cc engine and transmission with newly rebuilt carbs. Seller was going to convert it but lost interest. Currently asking \$500.00! For more information, contact John Howard @ 513-312-8799 (Bethel, Ohio)

Bill Hammond has decided to sell his rare 1969 MGC GT. He has full maintenance records, and ownership history (he even has the title!). (937)434-9967.

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1979 MG Midget, excellent condition, no rust, 36,000 miles, Inca yellow, black top and bumpers, Weber carburetor, new tires and top, garaged last 16 years, driven only sporadically last 12 months. \$7,500, 937-566-6532.

1971 MG Midget, engine rebuilt at 80,000 miles, 180 miles on rebuilt engine. New top, no rust, complete going over in 2002. Good rubber, good interior, possible trans problem (2nd gear), \$4,000 OBO, (419) 683-1726. Ask for Joe.

1967 MGB GT HARDTOP, new dark green paint, new upholstery, new brakes, new front end, \$6500, call Joe Antrim, 937-277-4798.

Looking for AMCO style luggage rack for MGTD. Call Ron Froess, 814-899-5076, or write at 2313 Saltman Rd., Erie PA 16510.

## Editor's Note

Steve Markman

Sorry for the somewhat messed up format this month. I also forgot about the meeting moving up one week, and the subsequent need to get the newsletter out early. I'm using a new version of Word (just as I finally had most of the quirks of the old version sorted out), am having trouble getting the boxes where I want them, and am leaving for the airport in less than two hours for a business trip. Hopefully, I'll figure out over the next few weeks how to make this version of Word work like the old one. Also, my apologies to Little British Car Company and The Wheel Source for cutting their ads short, but I'm out of time and the airplanes don't wait.

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