

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVIII No. 6

April 2004

Spring Tour Info

Tune Up Clinic a Great Success!

From the President

Sam Hodges

Guten tag meine fruenden!
Entschuldigen mich diese
grammatisch bitte. Er hat
eine langen zeit nicht
Deutche gesprochen. Ooops! Sorry
about that. Too much History
Channel for me! Anyway,
welcome to another rousing
installment of, "How the Octagon
Turns!" When last we met, our
intrepid El Presidente' was
struggling with an annoying bout
of mouse-house-itis with his air
filter (*so why do I own a cat!?!?*),
the Griblers' were no where to be
seen, and the MG RV8 was still
not federalized in this country
(*lousy Feds!*).

By the time that you read this, the
Spring Tune-Up clinic will have
come and gone. It was a wonderful
event. We had several cars show
up all with some fairly interesting
problems. The MGCC members
were able to resolve all issues and
by the time all was said and done,
all of the cars in attendance were
running in tip-top shape. A good
time was had by all. As I stated in
my E-mail, this was THE social
event of the MGCC calendar.
Everyone who was anyone was in

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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 April 28, 2004

MG Car Club Officers

President.....**Sam Hodges**
phone.....937-835-5527
email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
Vice President.....**Dick Smith**
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Secretary.....**Rick Cutright**
phone.....937-848-4145
email.....rcutright@aol.com
Treasurer.....**Steve Veris**
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email.....sveris@iodus.com
Member at Large.....**Terry Looft**
phone.....937-382-1520 (cell 513-226-8523)
email.....terry@looft.net
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phone.....937-322-0717
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Upcoming Events

Apr:

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

May:

02 – British Car Day (Healey Meet)
Northern Ohio
16 – BCD XX, Easton, Columbus
22 – Classic British Car Meet (2nd Street
Market, Dayton)
22 – 30 – Drive your British Car Week
23 – Spring Tour
26 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Jun:

06 – BCD – Ft. Meigs, Toledo
19 – Vintage Races – Mid Ohio
23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)
24 - 27 – MG2004, Parsippany NJ

Jul:

12-16 - NEMGTR GOF Central XXVI,
Fairborn Holiday Inn & Dayton area
14 – 18 – NAMGAR GT29 – Cromwell CT
18 – British Car & Motorcycle Show –
Cincinnati (Edgewater)
28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)
31 – All Ohio MG Picnic – Central Ohio

Aug:

07 – BCD, Dayton Metro Parks
12 - 15 – University Motors Summer
Party, Grand Rapids, MI
22 – Picnic at Dick Goodman's home
25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Sept:

19 – Concours d'Elegance
22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

attendance, we even had a few celebrity MG owners show up with their vintage fare. (**Note:** *I'm writing my column the week **before** the Tune-Up Clinic so I don't have a clue what's actually going to happen! The preceding is Pulitzer Prize worthy fiction...My editor [Diana] wanted me to get rid of "Pulitzer Prize worthy", but since I'm writing this, HA!) Hopefully, we can get a report on the Tune-Up Clinic in the Newsletter before it's mailed, otherwise look for next months' newsletter for a full report on the event. If you could not make the Tune-Up Clinic, I expect a 1000 word essay on the merits of the Electoral College System in the post-Jeffersonian Political climate in my mailbox no later than May 1st!*

The next big thing on our calendar is actually two events. On May 22nd, The British Museum of Transportation is hosting the First British Car Meet at the Market. This show is sponsored in conjunction with 2nd Street Public Market in downtown Dayton, Ohio. The show will run from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the 2nd Street Market in downtown Dayton. Due to space limitations, registration will be limited to the first 100 cars so if you're interested, I suggest that you get your registration in now, assuming that it's not already too late. See the British Museum of Transportation's website, <http://www.members.aol.com/britcarmuseum/files/calendar.htm> for more information.

THEN, **THE VERY NEXT DAY**, May 23rd, is the MGCC Spring Tour. I have been informed by the McCann Clan that this should be a very interesting event. The routes (*that's right – "routes"*) will be in and around the Bellefontaine region. Apparently, they've planned three different routes complete with driving instructions that will have us passing and re-passing each other with some regularity. Follow the car in front of you at your own peril (*I accidentally ended up in Peoria, Illinois once doing that...*). On a personal note, since there will be no official time-keeping on this event, I look forward to attempting to complete all three of the routes before any one of you complete just one! The Spring Tour will begin at the Urbana Airport on US 68N at 1:00 PM on Sunday May 23, 2004. Look for more information in upcoming e-mails.

On a serious note, I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you about Gingivitis. Actually, I would like to make note of the fact that currently there are 84 (*give or take a few*) members in the MGCC and between us, well over 100 cars. Those number drop to 28 MG's and Louies' Spitfire if we subtract out the Loofts' however. Why haven't you all written articles for the Newsletter? Let the club members know what's new, what troubles you had from that pesky repair, or any tips on driving/restoring/preserving a British car (*...other than not buying Spitfires! And Yes, I KNOW that the Triumph*

club gets a copy...) If you've written an article, "Great!" If not, why not? Soon I'll be gone from office and these pages will have to be filled up by someone. Why not let it be you?

SPRING TOUR - SUNDAY MAY 23, 2004

The McCann Clan

The Spring Tour will begin at the Urbana Airport on US 68N at 1:00 PM on Sunday May 23, 2004. We will all be traveling over the same roads, but following three (3) different sets of directions. (So, don't just follow the car in front of you.) This is not a timed rally, just fun questions and scenery. We will be ending with a late lunch or dinner at **The Vintage Inn**, above West Liberty. If you wish to meet closer to home and caravan up, I suggest **Young's Dairy** on US 68, north of Yellow Springs. It is 23 miles to the airport from there, just about exactly half an hour.

P.S. So how about meeting at Young's Dairy on SR-68 in Yellow Springs at 12:15, (gives us older folks 45 minutes to make a Carol Loofthalf hour trip)? We'll be there.- Dave Estell

P.P.S Just the ride to Urbana itself in the TD would leave my tush numb for the next week, but will plan to meet everyone at Young's to satiate my ice cream craving...weather permitting, of course. – Steve Markman

MG Tune Up Clinic a Great Success

This year's MG Tune Up Clinic was held on April 17th, and was one of our best ever. Twenty-two members came to MG Automotive in Kettering (or at least signed in...more may have been there) for a fun day of friendship and car repair. At any given time, we had between fifteen and twenty-five cars. Thanks again to Steve Miller for hosting us and providing us with lots of advice.



Look at all those MGs!!!



Club members confer on a problem.

More on SU Fuel Pump Restoration

Dave DuBois
Bremerton WA

In the process of restoring a fuel pump, the following is accomplished. The fuel pump is completely disassembled and inspected. Any part that shows excessive wear or breakage is replaced. The points are replaced with a magnetic reed switch and a magnet. The magnetic reed switch is a magnetically operated switch that is sealed and filled with an inert gas to prevent burning or dirt build up on the contacts. The diaphragm is checked for any signs of leakage and stiffening - it is replaced if there is the slightest question of its continued satisfactory operation. The valve disks on the low and high pressure pumps used on the 'T' series MG's, MGA's and early MGB's are replaced if they are deeply grooved, otherwise they are lapped smooth and flat and polished. Likewise, the valve seats are polished. Valves on the AUG 300 pumps that are used on the later MGB's are checked for proper sealing, and replaced if they are defective. The coil is removed from the housing and the wiring checked and renewed if necessary. The coil housing and pump body are cleaned, bead blasted and the coil housing is painted. The cap is cleaned and if necessary, buffed. All threaded screw holes are cleaned and a tap run through them to insure that the threads are sound. Any threads that are damaged are heli-coiled to restore them. Finally a serial number is stamped on the pump body for tracking purposes.

After cleaning and painting, the pump is reassembled, adjusted to factory specifications and converted to solid state. During reassembly, all new gaskets are used and all joints are sealed to insure they are air tight. Once reassembled, the pump is tested for air leaks and then placed on a test stand and the current draw, fuel flow rate and pressure are measured and recorded. Then, the pump is left to run continuously for a minimum of 8 hours to insure that it will continue to operate satisfactorily. It is then emptied of the kerosene used on the test stand and the ports are plugged to preclude any foreign material getting inside during shipping. The pump is shipped with a record of all parts used and the test results, along with any observations I may have made that I feel you should know (such as rust in the pump that would indicate that your fuel tank/lines should be cleaned). I keep a copy of the data on your fuel pump on file for future reference.

The charges for this service is \$40.00 plus parts and shipping. Depending on what parts are needed, the total price has been running \$50.00 to \$80.00. After the pump has been dissembled and inspected, I send you an estimate of the cost and wait for your authorization before proceeding with the overhaul.

When restoring and converting the fuel pumps, I use magnetic reed switches and a magnet in all pumps. I do this because, once converted to solid state, the current flow through the points is so low that it will not burn off any dirt or film that develops on the heavier original points. In addition, I place a label on the pump showing the ground polarity the pump must be used with. If you are going to change the ground polarity of the car this pump is used on, the transistor in the pump must be changed and the diode reversed or the pump will not work and the transistor will be damaged.

There is a one year warranty on parts and a lifetime warranty on labor on all pumps that I restore.



The Octagon News (April 2004)

If you wish to have me restore your SU fuel pump, send it to:

David DuBois
1913 South Marine Dr.
Bremerton, WA 98312

If you have any questions, call me at (360) 479-0462 (please call after 10:00AM Pacific Time as my real job is worked on swing shift and I am not very coherent prior to 10:00AM), or e-mail me at ddubois@sinclair.net.

Editor's note – Thanks again to Dave DuBois of Bremerton, Washington, for providing another of his great technical articles! This was the last one he sent me. I'll have to bug him for more!

Minutes Report March 24, 2004

Rick Cutright

8:00pm Meeting called to order by El Presidente Sam. After pleasantries a Thank You note from the family of Thelma Hinders (Jennifer Peterson's mother) was shared.

President's Report – No report was presented although El Presidente wanted it recorded that Dave Gribler arrived tardy.

Vice President's report – El Vice Presidente Dixmyth reported that El Presidente Sam is doing a fine job.

Treasurer's Report – the treasurer filed an extension.

Minutes – the group, with a resounding “whatever”, approved the minutes to the previous month's meeting.

Membership Report – Carole Looft reports the club now has 94 paid members. And, please, everyone, make sure your email addy is up to date with the club.

Sunshine Committee - No Sunshine to spread around.

Activities – Cincinnati club will have their BCD July 18. British Museum of Transportation event May 22 at the 2nd Street Market, with a limit of 100 cars (due to space constraints). This event kicks off British Car Week and I expect to see the streets alive with British Cars. The Vintage Grand Prix is June 18-20 at Mid-Ohio with a British car show June 19. September 25 or 26 is the Cruise for Care charity event at Boston's Bistro at the Dayton Airport. The MGCCSWOC Spring Tour is May 23 starting at the Urbana Airport on SR68. Important details include: start time is 1:00pm and there's no beer at the end. To sign up send an email to david.mccann@earthlink.net.

Treasurer's Report – extension over, Steve Veris reported income of \$68.22, \$246.73 in expenses for an account balance of \$2899.54 at the end of February 2004. And the members huzzahed.

Beer Break – called at 8:24pm. (Maybe that's what the huzzahs were for.) 8:42pm and the meeting reconvenes.

Old Business - BCD. At the last committee meeting the shirt color was chosen. (whew!)

The Octagon News (April 2004)

New Business – The next Pub Run needs to be planned. A discussion regarding best rates for car insurance was started. Then it broke into smaller discussion groups. Conclusion: Bill Hammond needs to get new insurance, motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Tech Tips – Jubilee clips are a good way to compress your rings.

Gumball – Frank Crabtree wins

Meeting Adjourned – 9:12pm

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)

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.

ALL-OHIO MG MEET

Saturday, JULY 31, 2004
11:00am to 5:00pm
HIGHBANKS METROPARK
US HWY 23 - LEWIS CENTER, OHIO
(JUST NORTH OF COLUMBUS)

SAME PARK-LIKE LOCATION AS LAST YEAR WITH A COVERED SHELTER IN CASE OF RAIN

BRING YOUR MG, A PICNIC LUNCH AND SOME OUTDOOR GAMES FOR A FUN DAY OF MG COMRADERY AT THE 3rd ANNUAL ALL-OHIO MG EVENT AND PICNIC. FORM A CARAVAN FROM YOUR CORNER OF THE STATE AND HEAD TO THE CENTER OF OHIO FOR THIS CASUAL, TYRE KICKING EVENT. NOTHING FORMAL IS PLANNED OTHER THAN TO BRING TOGETHER THE BUCKEYE STATE'S FINE COLLECTION OF MG's IN ONE SPOT.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CLUB BANNERS AND FLAGS TOO!

THIS LOCATION WAS CHOSEN TO MAKE IT AN EASY DRIVE FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE. IF YOU PLAN TO MAKE A WEEKEND OF IT, LISTED BELOW ARE SEVERAL HOTELS WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THE PARK.

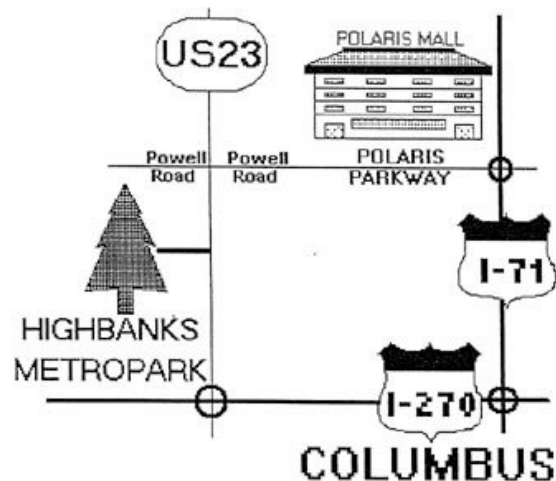
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED (ALTHOUGH SPACE IS LIMITED) AND A DONATION OF \$3 PER CAR IS REQUESTED TO COVER EXPENSES.

HOTELS AT I-71 & POLARIS PKWY

BEST WESTERN - 614-396-5100
WELLESLY INN - 614-431-5522
BAYMONT INN - 614-791-9700
WINGATE - 614-844-5888

HOTELS AT I-270 & US23

HOLIDAY INN - 614-885-3334
HOMWOOD SUITES 614-785-0001
SHERATON SUITES - 614-436-0004



FOR INFORMATION PHONE Tony Burgess on 614.899.2394 or e-mail: MGOHIO@AOL.COM

HOSTED BY: BRITISH CAR CLUB of GREATER CINCINNATI * BUCKAYES (STATEWIDE) * CENTRAL OHIO MG OWNERS (COLUMBUS) * EMERALD NECKLACE MG (CLEVELAND) * LAKE ERIE BRITISH CAR CLUB (TOLEDO) * LOCOBRITS (NORTHEASTERN OHIO) * MGCC, SW OHIO CENTRE (DAYTON) * OHIO CHAPTER - T REGISTER (STATEWIDE)