

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVIII No.3

January 2004

Happy New Year!

New Format for Octagon News

From the President

Sam Hodges

And now it's time once again, for everybody's favorite Soap Opera, "As the Octagon Turns." When last we left our besieged, bewildered, brew-hungry bunch, El-Presidente Hodges was having delusions of grandeur, believing that he was the ruler of a small South-American country that needed to be ruled with an iron fist (*I can't believe NONE of you asked me what my last Spanish intro said...*). Dave Gribler was coping with the temporary loss of the use of his left arm from the tragic, "Hospital Episode" where he went in for a hang-nail and ended up having rotator-cuff surgery. And who could forget the "My Kingdom for a Garage" episode where none other than Louie DiPasquale was hunting, searching even, for a garage where he could store one of his cars for the winter. Let us join our cast to find out what new adventures await them this month.

Hola mis amigos! Well, it's the New Year and we all know what that means! Only 340 more shopping days (counting from when I wrote this) until Christmas - Continued on Page 2 -



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 October 22, 2003

MG Car Club Officers

President.....**Sam Hodges**
 phone.....937-835-5527
 email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
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 phone.....434-1750
 email.....rsmithomo@aol.com
Secretary.....**Rick Cutright**
 phone.....937-848-4145
 email.....rcutright@aol.com
Treasurer.....**Steve Veris**
 phone.....937-299-4850
 email.....sveris@iodus.com
Member at Large.....**Terry Looft**
 phone.....937-382-1520 (cell 513-226-8523)
 email.....terry@looft.net
President Emeritus.....**Ron Parks**
 phone.....937-322-0717
 email.....mgdriver@woh.rr.com
Activities Chair.....**Tim Oricko**
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WebPage.....www.mgcars.org.uk/mgcswo

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Upcoming Events

Jan:

2004 MG Car Club

The Octagon News (January 2004)

mas! Better get shopping! Seriously though, it is the New Year, and that means that we've got a whole year's worth of events to look forward to. There is of course the perennial grand pooh-bah event, BCD, but there are also note other noteworthy events. Events such as the annual Concours de Elegance, our monthly Pub Runs, various Tours (spring and fall at least, I hope) and too many car shows/rallies to count. All too soon these events will be flooding our calendars and, in all likelihood, they will probably keep us busy waxing and polishing cars throughout the summer.

As with BCD, a lot of these events are run by various individuals or groups of volunteers who contribute their time and effort in an attempt to make these events as painless and flawless as possible. Sometimes it works, other times we end up having a half dozen covered-bridge tours in one year. To that extent, I challenge each and every member of the MGCC to volunteer for at least one event or, in the alternative, as many events as you feasibly can this year. I know that some of you are always there for each event, rain or shine, hot or cold. To those individuals (*you know who you are*) I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation for all of the work that you do that benefits not only the MGCC and its members, but also benefits those non-club individuals who participate in these events. (Note: *I'm **not** counting myself as part of that group...*) Others will show up for BCD and other assorted occasions and lend a hand when needed. To this group as well I wish to extend my appreciation for your hard work and support. Without your efforts, we would never be able to do the things that we do. (*This is where I fall in...*) Unfortunately though, some (*I'm guessing here...*) have never volunteered for or attended some of these fine events. It is to this crowd that I speak today. Whether it's because you're new to the club, don't currently own an MG, live 2,000+ miles away (Dave), or have a second head growing out of your shoulder, we still would like to see you at some of these events, volunteering if at all possible. Even if you just make an appearance, getting to know the club members is well worth the trip (*except maybe for that Hodges character... he seems a little shady to me*).

I've been a member of this group since 1996 (*V.P. Dick smith has me beat by, oh, I think about 30 years...*) and one of the continuing compliments that I hear about the MGCC is how much nicer this club and its members are compared to other clubs that people have belonged to. I keep hearing phrases like, "...the people here are so much nicer than the ___ club that I belong(ed) to," or, "...the people here are so much more involved than the ___ club..." And they're right! Speaking to all of you who have been reticent about participating in the numerous MGCC functions, you really need to come out and mix and mingle more with the club members. You just might find yourself thinking, "...the people here are so much nicer than the ___ club that I belong(ed) to..."

On that note, I've heard a rumor that this year Jennifer Peterson and Lois Gribler are planning BCD (*...if I didn't hear that rumor, then I just started it...*) because they felt that our efforts were focused in the wrong directions. Apparently Jennifer won't be happy until we break the 1000 car barrier. As for concessions, I have it on good authority that unless we get enough people to sign up to help this year, then BCD will be a brown-brag, pack your own affair. Start figuring out which shift you'd like to work now and avoid the holiday rush! This would be great event for some of you first timers to get to know some of the club members and see for yourself that they're not all crazy like I am. Just most of them.

And so, we leave the good people of the MGCC wondering if their president will ever awake from his siesta? Will there be enough volunteers to avoid Mutiny in the Pantry at BCD? Will the wallflowers that have shied away from MGCC events show up and become invaluable, unforgettable members of the club? Tune in next month for another exciting installment of, "As the Octagon Turns..."

New Format for Octagon News

Steve Markman

If you haven't noticed it by now, I've changed The Octagon News format slightly starting with this month's issue. Haven't noticed? Keep away from the leftover egg nog and don't bother hunting for last November's issue...the change is that I've gone to a single column format. This should make editing easier, saving me time, and a lot of griping to my wife about \$#%(%@*) Microsoft Word. Besides, I've looked over numerous other newsletters, and I think the single column gives a more casual, laid-back look, which probably reflects the attitude of most of our members!

Welcome to a Familiar Face

Carole Looft

I'm sure a lot of you already know one of the newest members to join the MG Car Club, Pete Stroble. Pete has been around British cars for over 30 years and is currently serving as the president of the British Museum of Transportation. Pete and his wife Nancy own several Minis, a Riley Elf, and a project Midget.

The first Mini was bought back in 1970 after seeing an ad in the Columbus Dispatch. The advertised car was in Zanesville and they struck a deal for \$450. Pete likes the handling and engineering that went into the design, and feels all "British cars have a simple ingenuity and spartan functionality" that really appeals to him. That Mini is a 1960 and the Strobles still have it.

Pete stays busy with the Museum, is also Treasurer of the Ohio Mini Owner's Club, and volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. He has several projects planned for the cars but keeping the Minis on the road takes a good deal of his time. The Midget is slated for a 5 speed conversion – we'll have to see how that takes shape and turns out!



Pete, it's good to have you and Nancy as club members, welcome.

2004 British Car Triple Crown Endurance Rally Series

This event is open to pre-1981 British cars only. MG's have dominated the events in past years, but each year sees more teams with Austin-Healeys, Triumphs, Mini, and Jaguars. Will 2004 be the year that MG loses out to one of the other marques? Each event can be entered individually without participating in the overall championship. Please contact Robert Rushing at RARUSHIN@up.com if you require any additional information.

March 20-21, 2004 - St Louis, MO. 9th Annual Missouri Endurance Rally and 2nd Mini-Missouri Trial. This will be the first leg of the new Triple Crown Endurance Series. For more information go to <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgbr/triplecrown.doc> or e-mail Robert Rushing at mgslime@swbell.net

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August 12-13, 2004- Grand Rapids, MI. 12th Annual Grand Lake Tour. This will be the second leg of the new Triple Crown Endurance Series. Held the Thursday before the University Motors Summer Party Reunion. For more information go to <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgbr/triplecrown.doc> or e-mail Rick Ingram at Mowog1@aol.com

October 9-10, 2004 - Columbus, IN. Abingdon Endurance Trials. This will be the third and final leg of the new Triple Crown Endurance Series. For more information go to <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgbr/triplecrown.doc> or e-mail Kim Tonry at KGROWLER@aol.com.

Results of MG Car Club Fall Rally

Ron Parks

Rally scoring – Start with score of 100. Deduct one point for every minute late and two points for every minute early and add one point for each correct question. Tie breaker consists of a mystery question followed by a coin toss, in the event the mystery question does not break the tie. Prizes were awarded for top three scores.

Results: 1st Place Skip & Jennifer Peterson, 2nd Place decided by coin toss Jeff Opt, 3rd Place decided by coin toss Dave and Carol Estell, Last Place decided by coin toss – Sam Hodges

Car #	Name	Start Time	Finish Time	Elapsed Time	Time Penalty	Correct Answers	Score
3	Peterson	1:15	4:00	2:45	0	15	115
19	Opt	1:29	4:15	2:46	1	15	114
8	Estell	1:14	3:59	2:45	0	14	114
5	Planeaux	1:11	3:45	2:44	2	14	112
15	Cooper Graham	1:24	4:08	2:44	2	14	112
4	Smith	1:13	3:56	2:43	4	15	111
11	Happensack	1:21	4:08	2:47	2	13	111
17	Wasserman	1:23	4:11	2:48	3	12	109
2	Looft	1:10	3:52	2:42	6	14	108
14	McCann Dave Sr.	1:10	4:00	2:50	5	12	107
7	Johnson Paul	1:19	3:59	2:40	10	15	105
12	Johnson Phil	1:20	4:16	2:56	11	15	104
16	Hill	1:31	4:11	2:40	10	13	103
9	Wolfe	1:28	4:06	2:38	14	14	100
13	Oricko	1:25	4:15	2:50	5	5	100
6	Eckel	1:27	4:16	2:49	4	3	99
1	Powell	1:09	3:45	2:34	22	14	92
18	Hodges	1:32	3:52	2:20	50	13	63
10	Cooley	1:16	4:46	3:30	45	13	63

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Fall Rally start...



and Fall Rally finish!

Christmas Party a Great Success!

The pictures say it all. When you see Ron, be sure to compliment him on his new scanner. Now, we need to convince him that he needs a digital camera.





Welcome New Members

Richard & Debra Haas
1185 Lytle-Five Points
Road
Centerville, Oh 45458
(937) 885-7538
1961 MGA

David & Linda McCann
1238 Glenmore Dr.
Springfield, Oh 45503
(937) 399-5711
david.mccann@earthlink.net
1974 MGB

Pete & Nancy Stroble
1399 Howell
Beavercreek, Oh 45434
(937) 429-0871
minimrhead@aol.com
4 minis

Minutes Report November 19, 2003

Rick Cutright

8:03pm Meeting called to order by El Presidente.

President's Report - The Wolfes were thanked for the planning and successful execution of the Valley Vineyards Dinner Cruise.

Vice President's report – Dick Smith announced the British Museum's MGB raffle would be held that night with tickets still available. Dutch visitors Mr. & Mrs. Sybe Streeksa would do the drawing. Sam Hodges, on behalf of the club, officially welcomed the Streeksas.

It was noted the minutes posted in the previous newsletter incorrectly stated the winner of the Fall Drive. The actual winners were Skip and Jennifer Peterson. With that correction noted and Ron Parks motion, Terry Looft seconding, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Veris presented an unaudited October report showing a gain of \$120.00 with a balance of \$2988.77 or \$3088.77. Robert Charles moves to accept, Jennifer seconds, report approved.

Membership Report – Carole Looft reports new members; Dave McCann's parents. The club now has 75 paid members. A reminder to update the member register with current email addresses. Dick Smith moves to accept the report, Bill Hammond seconds.

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Sunshine Committee - Injuries and illnesses list includes Barb Smith, Pat Wasserman, Dave Gribler. Healthy members included Dick Goodman, Louie diPasquale.

Activities – Details for the Christmas Party were highlighted.

Old Business – Dues for out-of-towners; the membership voted to make the dues uniform, effectively raising the out-of-towners annual dues from \$12 to \$18. Fish Fry; the last fish fry had various administrative problems the needed corrective action. Notably, the club membership is not receiving the support it should from all club members, putting an unfair burden onto those who do volunteer.

Beer Break – called at 8:30pm, meeting reconvenes at 8:46pm.

Old Business, continued – Grill Badges; it was officially moved to table discussion until sometime in the future. Club embroidery; members will supply whatever article of clothing they want embroidered to Skip Peterson. Bob Charles recognizes and thanks Skip for handling the embroidery jobs.

New Business – Ron Parks advises he has made available printed instructions for MGB dashboard assembly. Phil Johnson knows a former employee of Davis Buick who acquired MG info when the franchise was closed. For those interested he will supply more details later. Special Guest Sybe Streeksa gave an entertaining narrative of car life in the Netherlands.

Tech Tips - none provided.

For Sale - Bob Charles is still trying to move his MGB hardtop for \$350.00.

Gumball – drawn by Sybe Streeksa, won by Carol Estell.

British Museum of Transportation drawing – Mike Roeder of Springboro won the 1977 MGB, Ryan Looft won a Colourtune, Jack Coulter won a tire gauge, Mark Smith won a Union Jack magnet, Bob James won a Personal Care Kit, and Leslie D. Winery won a roll of duct tape.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:40pm



Octagon News
editor Steve
Markman working
on this month's
newsletter with the
help of Oskar, his
MG-loving
dachshund. Send
pictures of you
working on your
MG, or you'll
continue to see lots
of pictures of me
and my car.

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.

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.