

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVIII No. 7

May 2004

Upcoming Events

Things You Never Thought You Could Do With Coca-Cola

From the President

Sam Hodges

I know that at the meeting I said that I would start this column off in Portuguese, but unfortunately, I don't really know any Portuguese other than enough to get me arrested and to really tick off the FCC sensors. So, on that note... Tag meine freunden!

Wie gehts? How are we all doing? I still waiting on those essays that were assigned in last months' newsletter!

Well, as I predicted, the MGCC Tune-Up clinic was a rousing success. I'd like to thank Steve Miller for allowing us to use MG Automotive as the site for all of our "repairs". I'd also like to thank all of those who attended the event and made it such a successful outing. By my count, there were 21 MGs in attendance while I was there. There were TD's to Rubber MGBs and everything in between.

Next on the social calendar is
- 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 May 26, 2004

MG Car Club Officers

President.....**Sam Hodges**
phone.....937-835-5527
email.....sammgb@earthlink.net

Vice President.....**Dick Smith**
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**
phone.....434-5928

Membership Chair.....**Carole Looft**
phone.....937-382-1520
email.....carole@looft.net

Octagon News Editors:
Steve Markman.....stmarkman@aol.com.....434-2908
Joe Hooker.....twocoloradokids@aol.com.....426-1128

Librarian.....**John Wolfe**
phone.....429-3292

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

MG News Hotline.....434-1287
British Car BBS.....434-1655
WebPage.....www.mgcars.org.uk/mgcswo

Inside This Issue

2	Upcoming Events
3	Unique Uses for Coca-Cola
4	Classifieds
6	Minutes from April Meeting

Upcoming Events

May:

- 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
- 13 – Pub Run, 5:00 PM
- 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)

going to be the Cincinnati BCD. Actually, there are about a bazillion-gajillion other events going on before then, so consult the calendar for more information on these events. Notable among these events are the 2nd Street Market-British Museum of Transportation Car Show and the Spring Tour. These are scheduled for May 22 and 23 respectively. I doubt that the newsletter will be out before these events, but just in case it is, I thought that I'd mention them.

Although BCD is not until August 7th, it really is right around the corner. If you plan on volunteering then I would like to thank you for all of the hard work that you're going to do. If you were not planning on volunteering, then why not?!? BCD is a great event and it really is a lot of fun, even when it rains. The first BCD that I ever attended was back in either 1991 or 1992 (I think) – back when it was held at the Dayton Art Institute. That event was in large part responsible for my current British car addiction. Diana has threatened that if I bring home any more British cars, she's going to force me into a 12-step program – *I wonder how hard Italian cars are to work on?* Anyhow, I attended that first event way back in 1992 just as a spectator. I didn't own anything other my daily driver then, but I was interested in starting a project. The people that I talked to at the event as well as the cars that I saw convinced me that I wanted to get involved with this scene.

It was at the 1997 BCD event that I acquired my '77 MGB – the green one. There was a gentleman there who was looking to sell his MGB due to room constraints. Apparently he had just bought a Corvette and wanted the garage space! (*Blasphemy!*) After going to take a look at the car and working out a deal, I brought home what would be my 2nd MGB. The MGA came later and wasn't BCD related, so I'll save that story for another column.

Since the first show that I attended as a spectator, I've missed two shows. One in 2000 when I was in Chicago, and the other was last year when I was in Wisconsin. To

this day, I still regret missing both of those shows. I attend a lot of shows during the summer, some as a spectator, most with an MG. To my mind, BCD is one of the best shows that there is. I'm sure that others will disagree, but this is my column, and I have dictatorial delusions of grandeur!

The point of this rant, as has been the point of several other rants, is that if you're one of the people out there who has been sitting on the fence, not really sure if you want to get involved or not, take my word for it, get in the game. You won't regret it.

Automotive (and Other) Uses for Coca-Cola

Author – Unknown

1. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a rumpled-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.
2. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.
3. To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
4. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.
5. In many states (in the USA) the highway patrol carries two gallons of coke in the trunk to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
6. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of Coke and it will be gone in two days.
7. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the "real thing" sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous China.
8. To bake a moist ham: Empty a can of Coca-Cola into the baking pan, wrap the ham in aluminum foil, and bake. Thirty minutes before the ham is finished, remove the foil, allowing the drippings to mix with the Coke for sumptuous brown gravy.
9. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains.

For Your Info: The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. Its pH is 2.8. (very strong acid, for those of you that did better in auto shop than in chemistry). It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase in osteoporosis. To carry Coca-Cola syrup (the concentrate) the commercial truck must use the Hazardous material warning cards reserved for highly corrosive materials. The distributors of Coke have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for about 20 years!

I suppose that you could drink the stuff, but after reading the above, would you want it in your stomach?

- Classifieds -

'75 MGB, overheated last summer, and hasn't run or been driven since. Original car except for repaint in non original green. Stored inside since overheating. Car is in Cincinnati Contact Dave Davis at 513-271-9413

'79 MGB, Orange with black top, 70,000 miles, runs and looks good, dependable driver, car located in Loveland. Contact Carol Colclasure 513-683-1920, ext 504 or colclaca@loveland.k12.oh.us

Minutes Report April 28, 2004

8:02pm Meeting called to order by El Presidente Sam Hodges.

President's Report – In a section titled “El Presidente is a Nitwit” all members are urged to check with Steve Miller's MG Automotive FIRST when looking for parts.

Vice President's report – Dick Smith reports that El Presidente is getting a little loud with his gavel.

Minutes – minutes were declared cool and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Veris reported March income of \$11.74 and expenses of \$574.70 for a Grand Total of (drum roll, please) \$2387.78! The crowd became ugly and started chanting “Party! Party!” To be fair, the report is not responsible for the crowd becoming ugly. This is a pre-existing condition.

Newsletter Report – Steve Markman requests input from the membership. Photos and articles are needed to avoid pictures of Steve's pets.

Membership Report – Carole Loofit reports the club now has 94 paid members.

Sunshine Committee - Linda Wolfe reports that Larry Baygents had bypass surgery and is now recovering at home. A card was sent by the club.

Activities – The last Fish Fry had 10 members volunteering, but not without some scrambling involved. More variety in membership participation is needed. The Pub Run to Thirsty Dog had 27 members turn out. The next Pub Run is June 13 at the Red Robin in the Fairfield Commons area. Please note that Red Robin features all the french fries you can eat. Also please note that these are the same as “freedom fries”. Explanation available upon request.

Beer Break – called at 8:21pm, meeting reconvenes at 8:39pm.

Activities, continued – Tim Oricko has information on numerous shows and meets in our area. Those looking for more things to do should contact Tim. The New England T Register's GOF will be in Fairborn July 12-16 at the Holiday Inn near Wright State U. All MGs are invited to attend. Coming up are the 2nd Street Market British Car Show on 22 May and the McCann's MGCCSWOC Spring Tour on 23 May starting at the Urbana Airport. The 20th Annual BCD flyers and registration forms are now available.

New Business – John Wolfe reviewed the book “Auto Architect” by Gerald Palmer. This book is available through the club library and is a must read for Z Magnette, MGA and Y Type owners. The Big NAMGBR (not pronounced “Nam goober”) is June 23-26 in New Joisey. The SWOC of the MGCC has been asked to bring the Aunt Sally game to this meet. This is a good opportunity to be recognized as the Premier Aunt Sally club and to make Aunt Sally as MG as Old Speckled Hen. The Club passed a motion to buy registration tags for the Beer Trailer. The Boonshoft Concours d'Elegance is 19 September and the membership is asked to volunteer for marshalling duties.

Tech Tips – Bill Hammond says Haggerty Insurance is a Good Thing and a recommended insurance for MG cars.

Gumball – won by Linda Wolfe.

The Octagon News (May 2004)

Meeting Adjourned – 9:16pm



Oskar loves his MG rides so much that he's made editor Steve Markman's other two dachshunds, Schubert and Moses, into MG lovers. Next month, he'll try to get his two cats to sit still in the car for a photo, unless you send pictures of your car!