

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXIV No. 9

July 2005

Don't Forget to Register for British Car Day ...Form Attached

Why We Love Lucas Electronics

From the President

Ryan Looft

We made it back from Olympia, Washington where we attended the National MGB Meet, and what an adventure it was. We have several hundred pictures between all of us and a great story to tell. There will be pictures at the next meeting and for the next newsletter we will put together an article. But, I do have to relay to you all, that we drove 3100 miles to get out there and around 2600 miles back. In 2007 we think the gathering for the National Meet will be in the Napa Valley. I'm sure we'll be gearing up for that one too!!

As we are in the middle of the summer, we have a lot of events going on. This past weekend, we had the Cincinnati show at Edgewater. Also on the same day, was the All Ohio MG Meet in Columbus. We typically have a good showing there, too. It's a hard decision on which to attend!

BCD is nearing and will soon be here. There was a sign-up sheet at the last meeting and will be out again at the next



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 *Carole Looft* 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, July 27, 2005

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Ryan Looft
phone.....513-252-4191
email.....ryan@looft.net

Vice President.....Skip Peterson
phone.....937-293-2819
email.....mgbskip@aol.com

Secretary.....Linda Wolfe
phone.....937-429-3292
email.....linda.wolfe@beavercreek.k12.oh.us

Treasurer.....Dave Estell
phone.....513-459-0155
email.....destell1@cinci.rr.com

Member at Large.....Louie DiPasquale
phone.....937-299-4089

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

Activities Chair.....Tim Oricko
phone.....434-5928

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

Octagon News Editors:
Steve Markman.....
.....stevemarkman@earthlink.net.....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/mgcsoc

Inside This Issue

2	Upcoming Events
3	Air Conditioning in the MGB
4	Historic MG Photos
5	Pictures from Looft's Olympia Trip

Upcoming Events

July:

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

August:

6 – BCD

18 – 21 – Univ Mtrs Summer Party,
Grand Rapids MI

24 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

28 – Picnic at Dick Goodman's

September:

18 – Concours d'Elegance

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

October:

1-2 – Fall Drive

26 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

meeting for helpers. The concession stand is always in need of volunteers, so if you have a spare hour during the show, come on over to lend a hand. We will meet August 5th at the park to stuff bags and lay out the field. The show will be on August 6th at the Metroparks off Harshman Road. Again, everyone's help is appreciated.

University Motors Summer Party will take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan on August 18th-21st. This is a great show and a fun party. The featured guest this year is Peter Thornley, son of John Thornley, who was the plant manager at MG. If anyone has a few days to take off and get away, this would be a great destination. Please e-mail me if you need more information on this event.

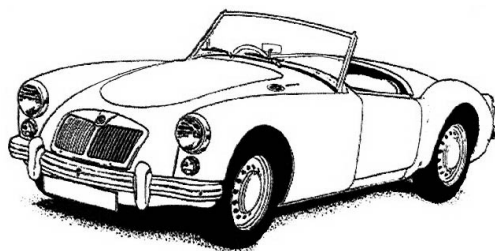
One last date to keep in mind will be the club picnic at Dick Goodman's home on August 28th. Bring a covered dish to share. The club will provide drinks and burgers. Also, remember to bring along your lawn chairs. We will have a map and directions to Dick's home in the August issue of the newsletter.

for everyone to attend.

There are a lot of activities going on over the next month

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Keishi & Kiyoko Koba
1953 MG TD
477 Tee Drive
Mason, Oh 45040
(513) 398-3227
keishikoba@aol.com



Air Conditioning In The MGB

Carole Loof

I don't know if any of you have ever wondered about the practicality of having air conditioning in your MG. I guess over the years we have always joked about it, but never seriously considered it to be a worthwhile pursuit.

However, a number of years ago we acquired a 1980 California MGB that had dealer installed A/C. It appeared to be a working system and after the conversion to the new 134 Freon, we knew this was now something to take a little more serious.

With the 1980 MGB as a model, Terry set out to duplicate the system for my 1978. Over the years, we had acquired a number of systems pulled out from other MG's that people were getting rid of. After awhile we had accumulated box after box of what looked like junk parts. I know at some point Terry was getting tired of my always trying to bring home more A/C systems. The underdash unit, the vents, and the compressor with its brackets are pretty MG specific. These are the heart of the MG system. I'm sure other units could be adapted, but having these already make it easy for a bolt on in the space allowed.

SO, last year, before the National MGB Meet in New Jersey, Terry went to work on my air conditioning. Our local NAPA guys are pretty good at coming up with anything we throw their way, so when Terry needed a new receiver/dryer, a new condenser, and all new hoses for the system, they were able to make or order what we needed.

The system was ready for the New Jersey trip. However, the drive to New Jersey was comfortable and great for top-down driving. I didn't need A/C -- either coming or going. At this point we still didn't have a feel as to how well the system was

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The Octagon News - July 2005

going to work. We knew it was keeping us cool for around town driving, but still wondered just how well it would work for long distant driving.

Fast forward to this year and our trip to Olympia, Washington. Our drive out to the West coast was scenic and through the mountains. It was a pretty comfortable drive, not really needing the air conditioning. Coming home was a different story! On day two of our driving we started out from Ogden, Utah and had to cross Montana. All three of us had left the tops up to keep the sun off. By noon it was starting to get pretty sticky and the thermometer in my car was showing 90 degrees. At that point I thought 'what the heck', let's just see what this A/C will do. I rolled up the windows and turned it on – it only took a couple of seconds before I was feeling cool air. Terry keeps a little candy-like thermometer shoved in the vent for monitoring, it was showing 38 degrees. What could I say – it was comfortable – at one point I even got too cold and had to aim the vents away. As the day went on, the temperature outside even got warmer, I showed 98 degrees around three o'clock in the afternoon. I knew both Terry and Ryan had to be pretty uncomfortable at that point.

Now, how well does the car perform with the A/C working? We were scooting down the road pretty much at 80 MPH all day long. I don't think I noticed any change in performance when the system was on. I was keeping up with the other two. I kept an eye on the engine temperature and the car kept a steady 200-210 degrees.

I guess with this behind us, there will be no more jokes about A/C in our MGB. For sure the car isn't air tight, but as far as I'm concerned, the comfortable cold air that I was getting was worth all of Terry's aggravation that went into the installation.

Historic MG Pictures

Larry McCartt



Camilla McCartt in a 1928 MG 14/40 at the Annual Old Car Festival at Greenfield Village in 1964. This is believed to be the oldest M.G. in the USA. Currently located at Jerry Gogean's M.G. Museum in Vermont.



Larry McCartt (left), and owner Daniel Lloyd (wearing glasses) with the first MGA sold in Cincinnati. Photo taken April, 1956, in Washington Court House during the SCAA/Ohio "24" hour rallye.

Pictures From the Looft's Trip to Olympia, Washington for the MGB Register Meet



The Looft MGs in Glacier National Park



Ryan's MGB passing 2 buffalos



Ryan's 1st place trophy and Carole's 2nd place



Emily, Ryan, Carole, and Terry celebrating!!

Lucas Put-Downs (as if we need more)

The Lucas motto: "Get home before dark."

Lucas denies having invented darkness, but they still claim "sudden, unexpected darkness"

Lucas--inventor of the first intermittent wiper.

Lucas--inventor of the self-dimming headlamp.

The three-position Lucas switch--DIM, FLICKER and OFF. The other three switch settings--SMOKE, SMOLDER and IGNITE.

The original anti-theft devices--Lucas Electric products.

"I've had a Lucas pacemaker for a week and have never experienced any prob...



Sitting comfortably in the July 4th heat at the Centerville Americana Festival are club members (l-r) Louie DiPasquale, Steve Markman, Phil Johnson, Joe Hooker, and Tim Oricco. Note the use of complimentary fans that were handed out to participants. Tim didn't need one...obviously already way too cool.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1977 MGB rebuilt engine with Webber down draft carburetor, 25,000 miles on rebuilt engine, stainless steel pipes, runs strong, brand new top, refinished interior, body kit, mustang wheels, stereo system with Sony explode 6x9 speakers and Pioneer head unit. \$3,500 O.B.O. (937) 432-1652

For Sale: 1953 MGTD. Red with new top. Runs well. Other MG items for sale, also. \$11,000. or \$10,500 from MGCC SWOC club member. Contact John Carter at 937-947-1647.

For Sale: Beautiful MG TD. Only 25,000 miles. Asking \$16,900, but would accept an offer. Mary Kay and John Slimak, 112 Jefferson St., Brookville, Pa 15825, edslim@alltel.net or 814-849-5004

For Sale: MGB (year not obtained). Approx 40K miles. Car was stored for 20 years and is in rust free condition. Engine is the 1800 cc high compression model from a 1966 MGB. Engine was removed to do a V6 upgrade but is believed to run. Certainly needs some work since it sat so long. Will take the best offer. Lonnie Waitman, (937) 252-6732, or Alonzo.Waitman@ci.dayton.oh.us

For Sale: '74 MGB, mustard yellow, with wire wheels. The car has been stored in a garage. It has radio, new top, seat covers and a car cover. Needs work on the brakes and a new battery. Very little rust, Has not been driven in two years. MG Automotive has always serviced this MG. Less than 90,000 miles. Looking in the \$3500 range. Contact Janet Mullins, home 567-2420 or work 225-6904.

The Octagon News - July 2005

For Sale: 1972 MGB. driven about 7,000 miles since it was totally restored. It is a with overdrive. The car is extremely clean with not a scratch or mark anywhere on the body. The only area that is not show quality is the engine compartment. The restoration included everything, engine, body, trim, chrome, top, interior etc, etc, the only thing original is the rear end. This car runs very strong, more ponies than the standard "B" I have photo's and invoices evidencing over \$22,000 invested. Asking \$12,000 View photos at <http://tours.tourfactory.com/tours/tour.asp?t=210193>. The car is located in Newtown, Connecticut. Contact Bhgbrian@aol.com.

For Sale: 1952 MG TD. It had a total restoration. British Racing Green. Can be seen in Centerville. Contact Betty Bailey at 937-434-8621 or by e-mail at bbailey@safe-mail.net.

For Sale: 74 mg parts car and a lot of parts. Contact Jackie Powers jpowers@citynet.net

For Sale: 1976 MG Midget. Originally yellow, now red. Rust free. Stored under cover. Yellow (?) interior. Was known to be driven two summers back. Located in Northern Kentucky. Make offer. Call: Al 859-586-7820 or Mary 859-282-8108.

For Sale: 1960 MGA. The car is in storage in Bloomington, Indiana, and ran in 2000 before its placement in storage. This is a project car, in need of complete restoration. The car is all original, and dearly needs some TLC that we are unable to provide. David Fitzgerald, em4lr@yahoo.com

For Sale: 2 1979 MGB roadsters. They are on my website at www.theoldphotocompany.com click on the "view our images" tab, then the 1979 MGB Roadster. Denny Scales (951) 679 0883

For Sale: 1949 MG TC, TC9690, This is a nice, clean driver. It is in excellent mechanical condition, and I estimate that the car has only covered 78,000 miles since new. Starts and runs well, with no issues or problems at all. The car is solid with good wood, has recent black paint, and the chrome is excellent. The interior is beige. The car was originally a home market car that was brought over from England in 1976. The car is complete with all accessories, such as original tool kit, jack, etc. Pictures are available upon request. \$17,500.00. Randy Kegg, 410-592-3733, or Randell_Kegg@msn.com.



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MG Car Club Minutes, June 22, 2005

Linda Wolfe

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m.

President's Report - Ryan reported that we had 9 cars and 13 members at the Taj Ma Garage car show on June 5th and Louie DiPasquale won the Governor's Award. The car show in Perrysburg was the same day. One of the questions of the trivia contest was: For more information on the British Car Day 2005 in Dayton, Ohio contact [Skip Peterson](mailto:MGBSkip@aol.com) at MGBSkip@aol.com. Ron was thanked for arranging the Studebaker Museum Tour and the pub run at the Red Robin. About 30 members attended the tour and a few others showed up at the pub run. We had a good time and the weather was great.

Vice-President's Report – Skip reported that the MGA has been painted and will be home next week. John Dixon was happy with our participation in the Taj Ma Garage car show and there will be a class for us next year. BCD is coming along fine. We have sign up sheets for parking, counting ballots and the concession stand. The next BDC meeting is June 28th at Polking Lanes. The time is 7:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report – Income of \$61.50 for membership and Expenses of \$107 for printing and mailing, \$50 donation to the Studebaker Museum, \$45 rent, and \$5 for the Gumball Rally – Balance \$1,791.54. Membership – Carole reported that we have 5 new families and a total of 104 memberships. This is a record. Keishi & Kiyoko Koba attended the meeting and owns a '53 MGTD. Other new members are: John H. Barton who owns a '54 MGTF, Richard & Carole Kaczmarek who have '65, '70 & '79 MGB's,

The Octagon News - July 2005

Jack & Margaret Hardesty (retired MG Dealer in Spencerville), and Don & Nancy McClintock who own a '51 MGTD.

Sunshine – Phil Johnson told us about his eye surgery, John Zeno had a pacemaker put in, and Tim Oricko had an accident on the way home from the Taj Ma Garage car show. A lady backed into him. Tim is ok and the car is being fixed.

Activities Report – Tim wasn't at the meeting but Phil Johnson reported that the Miamisburg Cruise-In Car Show is this Saturday from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday will also be the Mid-Ohio British Showdown. The cost is \$20. British cars get to park in the infield and have a lap around the track at noon. Member Tom Davis will be racing his MGB-GT.

Editor's Report – Steve wasn't at the meeting but the newsletter was good. Jeff Opt is looking into software (Microsoft Publisher). The cost is around \$100.

Old Business – BCD forms and sign up sheets are available.

Beer break from 8:27 to 8:47 p.m.

Club Picnic will be August 28th at Dick & Kathy Goodman's. The address is 2355 Apricot in Beavercreek. We will have a map in the newsletter and we will again have a Mystery Car. You can arrive after 2:00 and plan to eat about 5:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. The club will provide the meat, buns, plates, plastic ware, beer and pop.

Fall Tour – Ron reported that there were only two cars for the Spring Overnight Tour and wanted to know if there is enough interest in another overnight tour to the Cleveland area. He is planning his trip for October 1st and 2nd. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting.

New Business – Bill Hammond requested our support again for the Concours d'Elegance on September 18th. Last year the club sponsored two classes. The trophies are \$125 each. The club agreed to sponsor them again this year. This event is held at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery.

Sunday, July 17th has two events scheduled. One is the All Ohio Meet & Picnic in Columbus and the other is the Edgewater British Car Show in Cincinnati. If you want to caravan to Cincinnati we will meet at 9:00 a.m. at TGI Fridays on Rt. 725 near Rt. 675. Ron will send out an e-mail to remind members as this event comes before we have another newsletter.

August 18th – 21st is the date for the MG Summer Picnic in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They have lots of vendors and about 600 cars.

NAMGAR's GT-30 will be held July 12th – 16th at Mackinaw City, Michigan. Several members plan to attend.

Next year (June 22nd-25th, 2006) the All MG Meet will be held in Gatlinburg, TN. All accommodations are within sight of each other and there are no "Register specific" motels. An interactive web based registration has been set up to guide you through everything necessary to make the most of your time and the events available to you. The site is www.MG2006.com. The emphasis will be on "The Driving Experience", so don't come expecting a parking lot event. The Friday car show is to be held 15 miles from the motels in Gatlinburg, providing a beautiful morning mountain drive while taking in local scenery. The normal British regalia vendors will be moving on site for the day. If your spouse or others

The Octagon News - July 2005

prefer not to attend the show, a bus tour to "The Biltmore Estate" is scheduled, as well as local transportation to Dollywood or the outlet malls in Pigeon Forge. Throughout the event a host of tech sessions are being scheduled as well as many presentations, self-guided tours as well as all the major vendors of British regalia. You can't register for a room unless you register for the event. Be sure to have your membership number from any of the 5 national registers available as you will need it to log on. Register members get preferred rates and discounts.

Joe Hooker told us about following a truck down the highway when a portable toilet blew off the truck.

Gary Kinney wanted to know if anybody wanted a 5 year old Golden Retriever. It is free to a good home.

Gumball Ralle was won by Linda Wolfe

Next meeting is scheduled for July 27th and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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