# THE OCTAGON NEWS

#### Volume XXXV No. 1

#### October 2005

#### New Officers (see box below)

#### The MG Honeymoon

## From the President

**Skip** Peterson

want to thank each of you for your support during a very hard fought campaign. I think the turning point was the final debate, where it was obvious my opponent had no clue regarding the tax relief program for MG owners. Also, with my proposal for a reduction in gas tax for drivers of British cars, I think we're on our way to a balanced budget. If only I can get Congress to buy into this program--but I have a strong staff working with me. Vice President Ron "Rallymaster" Parks is going to be on the Hill daily, working with the lobbyists. I'm looking forward to a great four-year run, and the new house, what a nice deal. Now if I can just get these Secret Service guys to leave me alone on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

OK, seriously, I appreciate your support, and I hope I can keep up the momentum of Ryan Looft, who had a great year. Lots of fun things to do, record membership, the club was very active and the volunteer effort





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 See Carole Looft for further roster. 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 26, 2005

#### **MG Car Club Officers**

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### Upcoming Events

October:

- 26 Meeting (K of C Hall)
- November: 16 – Meeting (K of C Hall) Note date change

December:

10 – Holiday Party at Ryan Looft's – No club meeting in December

January 2006: 25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

**February:** 11 – Valentine Party at the Griblers' 22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

June: 21-25 – MG 2006 at Gatlinburg, TN continues to be outstanding. This is great group of people, and it's an honor to serve you. And a huge thank-you to Ryan!

Ron Parks is now officially the "Rallymaster" after a great weekend run to Auburn, Indiana. His routes were wellplanned with very good driving roads. He had all the details covered, and when you pull in the hotel and see a Welcome sign, you know it's gonna be fun. Upon our arrival in Auburn, we knew the town's annual Fall Festival and Parade were going on, and the road was closed a block from the restaurant. However, The Rallymaster has the pull, and we not only could drive past the road block, but the owner of the Auburn House personally met us to open the parking lot he had reserved for us! Now that says "Rallymaster" to me! We had a great time at the hotel, which was auto themed, they even have stepped up security overnight for the cars in the lot. We only had a couple minor glitches, weird rotor behavior on the Goodman's B but a new one got it running, and a small issue with leaving the lights on at a rest stop required a No big deal for the 11-car caravan. bump start. Now about the fall weather?

Hardly fall, as both days reached the mid 80's, and the ride home was actually hot! Another interesting aspect was the back roads heading toward Grabill, which is mostly Amish

country. While the roads were cool driving, seems that the horses around there don't leak oil, but they do leave a lot of weird stuff on the road. You actually had to swerve around the piles in a number of places! Of course, while it wasn't a covered bridge tour, again, the "Rallymaster" found one in Spencerville, for a brief stop on the way home.

For those who haven't been to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, put it on your list of things to do. It is truly a remarkable museum, and features more than 100 autos, including many that are sports cars, and unique icons of the automobile. We breezed through in about 2 hours, but you can easily spend an entire day there.

I'll close with a little tech tip- Getting your car ready for winter storage should include an oil and filter change. The oil from the driving season is contaminated with acids and other weird chemical reactions from running all summer, so drain it and add new. To make the job a little easier and for less spilled oil, if you have an inverted oil filter, use a nail and punch a hole in the top of the filter before you begin to drain the engine. Make sure to warm

the car a bit before you start so the oil is thinner, and with the hole in the filter, the oil drains easier, and the filter will be almost empty when you take it off, reducing the mess you need to clean up.



Our thanks to outgoing president Ryan Looft for a great year!

## Membership Renewal Reminder

Just a friendly reminder...If you haven't already renewed your membership, now is the time to do it! The annual renewal is \$18 and can be brought to the meeting or sent in to the club at P.O. Box 20032, Dabel Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45420-0032

#### Welcome New Members

Kip & Teresa Slone 144 Avondale Dr. Dayton, Ohio 45404 937-233-8081 sankip@aol.com 1974 MGB GT

#### Meet Our Other New Members

Carole Looft

This past August at British Car Day, we welcomed Phil and Linda Mattingly as new members to the club. The Mattinglys own a 1953 MG TD that they bought from Ernie and Holly Streifthau two years ago.

Phil is the Principal at the Nicholas Center, and Linda is an Administrative Assistant for a financial consulting firm. They are parents to three married sons and they have five grandchildren. In their spare time, Phil enjoys a good game of golf, while Linda spends time gardening.

Phil says he has admired the design of the TD for many years. Both he and Linda look forward to the weekend drives when they can get out and enjoy those quiet country roads.



Phil and Linda Mattingly braved the rain at British Car Day to show off their 1953 MG

Phil and Linda, we hope to see you and your TD at some of our upcoming gatherings. Welcome!

Wilmington, Ohio, is home to another MG family, Loren and Sherry Stuckert. They acquired the cutest little '79 Inca yellow MGB about a month ago. It was sitting in the front yard of the former president of the MG Car Club with a 'for sale' sign on it. I think it was 'love at first sight'.

Sherry tells the story of Loren's Midget, a car he had back when she met him and how they always talked about getting another MG someday. Now, thirty-two years and five children later, they consider this MG their 'present' to themselves. The fun of driving around with the top down and the radio turned up is something we can all identify with, can't we? (editor's note – the radio part is something TD owners can't identify with)

Loren teaches History at the High School in Wilmington, and Sherry works for Mead Westvaco. Both the Stuckerts enjoy walking and being outdoors. They are looking forward to getting to know other members of the MG Club, and are already enjoying MG ownership. It's nice to have you as members – Welcome!!

### NAMGBR in Olympia, WA, with The Looft's: An Outsiders View (or, What Really Happened) – Part II

**Emily Patton** 

Last month, we ended with Carole, Terry, Ryan, and Emily arriving safety. They enjoyed a Salmon BBQ at a local Indian reservation and came back to wash the car because it had stopped raining. While Ryan and Emily headed to the hospitality room to drink some more beer and hang out with the Cincinnati crowd, Terry put the thermostat back in Carole's car, added water, and wired in a separate temperature gauge.

YTH: Antifreeze keeps your car cooler than water. Terry and Carole learned that water actually keeps your engine cooler, and it is the people who market and sell antifreeze that tell you otherwise. Even though water does keep a cooler engine you still need at least 25% antifreeze if your car is going to be in cold temperatures during the winter months.

On Saturday morning we woke up late and got ready for the show quickly. The air was cool but the sun was shining. Carole and Ryan were competing against each other because they were in the same class. Most of the people looked like they voted for either Ryan or Carole so it would be a close competition. Because Terry was not there I took his place in voting for the different classes. When it came to Ryan and Carole's class, I was stumped. I knew that I should vote for Ryan because he was my boyfriend but Carole is the one who spent so much time at home and on the road making sure her car would look good. She even spent the day before washing her car in the rain. My conscience told me to vote for Carole, so I did. That evening at the banquet dinner was intense. Ryan new about my voting against him and to get out of the dog house I told him that if his mom beat him, I would buy him beer for the next month. My pocket-book was happy to hear that Ryan came in first place and Carole (though she deserved 1<sup>st</sup>) came in second.

At the banquet dinner, one of the NAMGBR members took the stage to tell us all a little bit about the 2006 meet in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He said that there are 5 hotels with 1300 hotel rooms all within walking distance of each other. One of the car drives is going to be on the Tail of the Dragon. This eleven mile stretch of road features 318 curves, none of which are the same. There are no buildings or driveways to worry about, just the Great Smokey Mountains on either side of you.

We all went to bed early Saturday night to get on the road for our lengthy trip back home. We woke up early Sunday morning and got on the road. We had only minor problems until about sundown. We were pushing it to get to Ogden, Utah, when Terry's exhaust manifold came loose. After 800+ miles, that would stop us for the night and cause us to leave later than we intended that next morning.

We left about 8:15AM and had some time to make up. Terry had taken his car to Midas where they tightened the exhaust manifold. Gas and food were our only reasons for stopping. We went over 700 miles that day and finally stopped in Kearney, Nebraska at 9:30PM for Little Caesar's Pizza and sleep. The last day was much like the day before except we did 930 miles. We arrived home in Wilmington around 10:40pm and went straight to bed.

This trip was an adventure like nothing I had ever experienced. After 5761 miles in an MG with Ryan, I can say that I still like him and I know him better than ever before. People love to see these cars on the road, and childrens' eyes would light-up seeing us pass by.

There were a few things that I did learn on this trip that I would like to share with all of you MG lovers. First, I learned that MG enthusiasts know how to throw a party. Second, I learned that Triumphs are bad (excluding the motorcycle). Third, I figured out that I sleep better in an MG with the top down than I do in a Days Inn with the air conditioner broken. Finally, I learned that you have to be absolutely crazy to drive across the country in an older British car, notorious for break downs, with no AC, with the top down, and I look forward to doing it in 2007 in San Francisco (maybe in my own MG this time).



### Pictures From the Fall Drive





The MG Club Members in front of the Auburn Inn on Sunday morning, with Ron Parks MGB, Dar Planeaux's MGA and Jim Cooley's MG TD.



The MG's in the parking lot of the ACD Museum. Other museum visitors were spotted looking over the British Machines during the afternoon.



MG club members look over a Duesenberg in the showroom of the ACD Museum.





MG Club stops on Sunday at the Spencerville Covered bridge, a surprise stop on the route home.

It's been 23 years since we attended our first Summer Party in Grand Rapids, Michigan hosted by John Twist. Year after year we were always there, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Let me tell you about the couple from Indiana that we met this year.

Sitting out in the hotel parking lot was the prettiest, bright red TD and sitting beside it were its owners. They were an elderly couple who were quite friendly and seemed to be attracting a lot of attention. As Terry and I got closer to the car, we could see some sort of sign on their windshield. Wondering, of course, what the sign said, we walked over. The sign on their car read: *50 years ago today we took this car on our honeymoon*. Can you believe it, here they were, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, attending an MG get-together.

We came to find out that the couple was Dick and Marilynn Davies from Crown Point, Indiana. Dick told us that he bought the car on April 25, 1955 for \$1495. The car had 2200 miles on it at that time. Its previous owner bought it but never learned how to drive a standard shift transmission, so the dealership took the car back. Four months later he would marry Marilynn and leave on their honeymoon. In 1964 the car came off the road for what would be a long awaited restoration. Over those years, their children went off to college and the restoration was still waiting. Finally, in 1996 the car made it back on the road.

Dick and Marilynn are once again enjoying their TD and I'm sure we can say it's a 50 year love affair. Congratulations!



Dick and Marilynn Davies and the 1953 MG TD that has been part of their lives for the last 50 years.

### Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1969 Red MGC/GT. Chrome Dayton wire wheels, new tires & tubes, new windshield, rubber, and trim. Overdrive. 513-267-1784 (cell) or 513-539-4643 (home).

**For Sale:** Numerous items, all located in Lorain County, just west of Cleveland: 53 TD, black with red vinyl interior, same owner 39 years, not driven last 10 years, many spares, including transmission, \$13K firm. 60 MGAs (2 complete cars and spares, disassembled), \$5600. 60 Bugeye Sprite, needs major restoration or good for parts car, \$3200. Plus, 50 YT, MGCGT, 73 MGBGT, 78 rubber bumper B, 58 MGA, and two dual-axle trailers. Contact Jeff Fields, drivesmgs@earthlink.net, 440-315-6380



**For Sale:** 1963 Austin Healey Sprite, possibly a Mk II. Has been in storage and not run in years. Needs restoration. Contact James Root Phone: (937) 904-9283 E-mail: james.root@wpafb.af.mil.

For Sale: MG-TD Parts 195? - Restored fenders, running boards, splash aprons, frame, springs, new wheels, new tan seats and panels, good windshield, fair dash with gauges, curtain compartment, grill, radiator, fuel pump, carbarator, engine block & head, new rubber parts, gaskets & seals, rear end, starter, generator, brake drums, restoration books. Sell all for \$3,000.00 or B.O. Tom (330) 385-7965 Ohio

**For Sale:** 1977 MGB rebuilt engine with Webber down draft carburetor, 25,000 miles on rebuilt engine, stainless steal 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.



### MG Car Club Minutes, September 28, 2005

Linda Wolfe

The meeting was called to order promptly at 8:00p.m. Ryan thanked Dick & Kathy Goodman for the club picnic. We had a great turnout with 21 cars. Even the weather was fantastic.

Skip reported on the Concours d'Elegance. The weather was great, 2800 people came through the gate and 130 cars showed up the day of show. We had 18 members present. Joe Hooker (with his son Mike's Austin Healey) won  $1^{st}$  in class out of 22 cars. Next year the date for the show will be June  $4^{th}$  in conjunction with the TajMa Garage event. It will possibly be held at Delco Park. It was a fun day and the club liked this year's band much better than last year's band. It was requested that Skip pass this on to the committee.

The August Minutes were approved with one minor change. It should have read that we had 109 members instead of 106.

Dave reported that we had income of \$439 from membership and \$50 for advertising. Our expenses were \$154 for printing and postage, \$45 for meeting rent and \$5 for the gumball rally. Our new balance is \$1,263.91

Carole reported that we ended the year with an all time high membership of 111. We met Jim & Theresa Sloan as it was their first meeting to attend. New members are Gerald & Susann Hamilton who own a '74 MGB and Loren & Sherry Stuckert who own a '78 MGB. Carole also reminded us that our membership dues are due tonight.

Jennifer reported that Gary Kinney and Tim Oricko are going to have surgery and that Dave Estell dislocated his shoulder a couple of weeks ago.

Tim Oricko reported that our November meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> because of Thanksgiving. No meeting in December but our Holiday Party will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at Ryan Looft's in Wilmington, OH.

Editor's report – Steve reported that he wasn't sure if we were being paid for advertisements or not. Wheel Source has been sold and it was thought that they no longer sell to the public. We were told that if we call we can still get parts.

Louie and Steve were both at the Holiday at Home Car Show. Steve reported that Louie was a chick magnet. It was joked that he had a better looking car which meant that he didn't show his TR.

The Fall Tour is scheduled for this weekend. Plan to meet at the Meijers at the intersections of route 48 and 70 where we plan to leave at 9:00. We might stop at the National Truck Museum on the way back.

Old Business – We need to have a meeting to finalize BCD. It looks like each club will get approximately \$1,000.

Last month we decided to purchase 2 10 x 10 Quick Shade Canopies. This month we voted to get one instead if we can get it for close to \$109. Gary Kinney might be able to use his Golden Buckeye Card for a discount. We wanted to make sure that we get the straight leg one. Dick Goodman has our old 10 x 20 canopy and club banner.

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A beer break was called at 8:35 and we reconvened at 8:50.

The Coopers will coordinate the trip to Gatlinburg next summer to MG 2006. We might stop in Cumberland at John Zeno's new home or he will meet us at the state park. John said that he will bring the beer trailer.

It was decided that we need to go back to Valley Vineyards in Morrow, Ohio for another great steak dinner. We will meet there on October  $23^{rd}$  at 5:00. We need to send out an e-mail to remind the members.

Jennifer reported that Terry & Carole are grandparents. Ryan got a Saint Bernard puppy.

Ron wanted to know if the club wanted to contribute to a charitable organization like Red Cross. Maybe we could set it up so that members could add to it and then challenge other MG clubs to do the same thing.

Dave McCann reported that they really enjoyed the Indianapolis Car Show. They had a great rally and guest speaker.

Election of Officers was next. Skip Peterson will be our new President, Ron Parks will be Vice-President, Sam Hodges will be Secretary and Kathy Goodman will be Treasurer. Jeff Opt will be our new Member-at-Large along with Ryan Looft (outgoing President).

Bill reported that help is on the way. A new bolt-on Stromberg Carburetor had been approved in California and Moss will supply them. More information will be available later.

For Sale:

'78 MGB \$8,500 – Contact Dave Estell'69 MGB \$7,200 – Contact Gary Kinney (this car used to belong to Tony)Jim Cooley announced that he purchased the '53 MGTD that had been advertised from Blue Ash, Ohio.

Next meeting will be October 26<sup>th</sup> and the November meeting will be on the third Wednesday instead of the fourth because of Thanksgiving.

Gumball Rally was won by Dick Goodman and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

