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# THE OCTAGON NEWS

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Volume XXXIV No. 11

September 2005

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**Membership Renewal Time!!**

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**More New Members**

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## From the President

Ryan Looft

**H**ere we are into the month of September. Where did our summer go? Even more surprising, is how fast the past year has gone as being President of the car club. So this will be the last letter I will be writing and next month, we will have a new president.

As I talked at the last meeting, but not in the newsletter yet, was our trip to Grand Rapids Michigan for the University Motors Summer Party. We had 11 club members at this event with one additional member joining the club while we were there. The crowd was down from the previous year, partly due to the weather. Showers were hit and miss over the four days. Overall, it is always a good show/party and is always

nice to see those people that you only see once a year.

A big thank you goes out to Dick and Kathy Goodman for hosting our club picnic again this year. I think I counted 21 MG's in Dick's driveway - a



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, September 28, 2005**

### MG Car Club Officers

**President**.....**Ryan Looft**  
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## Upcoming Events

**September:**

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

**October:**

1-2 – Fall Drive

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 Gribblers'

22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

**June:**

21-25 – MG 2006 at Gatlinburg, TN

real good turn-out of members and their cars. Once again a lot of good food enjoyed by everyone.

Has everyone signed up for MG2006? The web site ([www.mg2006.com](http://www.mg2006.com)) is up and running now. There is a list of seven hotels to choose from, however, the club at the last meeting decided to stay at the Holiday Inn. This show is expected to have a large draw of MG's which is estimated to be close to 1300 cars! There has been a lot of interest from our club members who are planning to attend. So plan your 2006 vacation around June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. As we get closer to this date, we will need to decide how many of us are going and what routes we will want to take. We will probably be looking at going down in two or three groups. We might want to look at making an MG 2006 coordinator for planning and keeping us updated.

The fall Drive is taking place on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> which is being organized by Ron Parks. We would like to thank Ron in advance for taking the time and gas for planning the route. The drive will take us to Auburn, Indiana where we will tour the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. We will be staying at the Auburn Inn which I have stayed at, and it is a very nice hotel. The drive should have some very nice fall foliage colors and I hear that there might even be a covered bridge just for Jennifer Peterson.

At the next meeting, we might want to think about where we want to go for our October pub run. Also, elections

will take place at our next meeting. Everyone will need to decide who they want to nominate to step up and fill the positions within the club. Membership renewals are due in September also, and will need to be paid up in order to run for an office and to vote.

As I leave the president's position, I am honored that the MG Car Club nominated and voted me as their leader this past year. I have enjoyed conducting the meetings, and after awhile, it, in fact, became fairly easy. As any past president will agree, writing the President's Letter for the newsletter was probably the least favorite of all the duties. I am also proud to say that the club now has 111 members, the most so far! I also look forward to seeing that continue to grow as our club is extremely active. One more date to keep in mind is the Holiday Party which I will host as outgoing President set for December 10<sup>th</sup> in Wilmington.

## Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

**D**on't forget!! September is the month for membership renewals. Bring your dues to the next meeting or send to the post office address at the Dabel Branch. Renewals are again \$18/year. If you need to make any corrections or additions to the information we have on hand for you, drop a note along with your payment, and we will update our records. Thanks.

## Welcome to our New Members

Carole Looft

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Angela Barcelli<br>P.O. Box 72083<br>Newport, Ky 41071<br>(954) 684-0716<br>ullabar@insightbb.com<br>1969 MGB GT<br>1974 MGB | Gerald & Susann Hamilton<br>6446 Wildhaven Way<br>Cincinnati, Ohio 45230<br>(513) 233-9113<br>ghamilton@gmhinc.com<br>1974 MGB | Loren & Sherry Stuckert<br>187 S. Walnut St.<br>Wilmington, Ohio 45177<br>(937) 382-4643<br>loren_stuckert@yahoo.com<br>1979 MGB |
|--|--|--|

## Fall Tour Plans

Ron Parks

**G**ive your MG the once over--change the oil if it's time, tighten the fan belt, check the air in the tires, etc. and make your reservations; we're going to Auburn Indiana on our Fall tour. Our plan is to drive to Auburn Indiana on Saturday morning October 1<sup>st</sup>, have lunch at the Auburn House and then go visit the Auburn/Cord/ Duesenberg museum in the afternoon. After having driven to Auburn that morning and visiting the museum in the afternoon, the last thing we probably want to do is drive somewhere for dinner. So, we will check in to the Auburn Inn and have a nice evening dinner catered, complete with a cash bar. The cost of dinner is \$10 per person and includes taxes and setup charges. After having breakfast at our leisure on Sunday morning, we'll do some local touring and then those who may want to head home early, may do so. Or, you may choose to visit the National Automotive & Truck Museum, which is located adjacent to the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum; and then depart for home after lunch.

### Reservations:

We have a block of rooms set aside for us at the Auburn Inn at the special group rate of \$85 plus tax for a total of \$94.35. Breakfast is included and is a step above your typical continental breakfast. It includes waffles, eggs, French toast, etc. These rooms will be held for us until Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If, as you're reading this, it is already past September 23<sup>rd</sup>, this doesn't necessarily mean you won't be able to reserve a room. It merely means that the remaining rooms in the block are no longer being held for our group. You may still be able to get a reservation at the special group rate. This is a Best Western Motel and is very nice. There is a nice lobby area with stuffed chairs, porches with rocking chairs, (for us old folks) and a meeting room where we will have our catered dinner. You may choose to take a look at the Auburn Inn online, by visiting their website: [www.auburninn.com](http://www.auburninn.com). You must call 1-800-95FOCUS (1-800-953-6287) to reserve your room and guarantee with your credit card. Tell them you want to reserve one of the rooms set aside for the MG Car Club for Saturday October 1, 2005. The Auburn Inn's policy is to charge your credit card \$50 for a deposit at the time you make your reservation. This \$50

deposit will be applied to your room charge when you check out. The Auburn Inn's cancellation policy is 7 days prior to check-in.

The Plan:

We will meet in the parking lot at Meijer's in Englewood on Route 48 at 8:15am on Saturday October 1, 2005. Be on time. We need to leave promptly at 8:30am. We will travel West on I-70, North on SR 49, North on US 127, West on US 30, North on I-469 and North on I-69 to Exit 129 (Auburn). Most of the trip will be on two lane highways where we'll cruise at 55 mph. Once we hit the divided highway from US 30 onward, we'll probably cruise between 60 – 65 mph. Maps and driving directions will be provided along with information about attractions in Auburn.

We hope you can join us on this fun fall tour.

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

Emily Patton

When Ryan asked me six months ago if I wanted to join him and his parents on a trip to Washington State for a North America MGB Register meet, I never realized what an adventure it would be. Here are some numbers to start you out. We drove 3175 miles on our way out to Washington and 2586 miles on our way back. That gives us a total of 5761 miles in a two week period. In the words of Carole Looft; "It feels like all we have done for two weeks is fill the cars up with gas."

Pre-NAMGBR, I never realized the true beauty of an MG but after this trip I think I have a good idea. We left the morning of June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:20am. Terry drove Carole's 78 B and Ryan drove his 77 B. I woke up around Cincinnati to Terry on the radio saying, "Well, we've made it to Cincinnati with no problems yet." Then, Ryan's car started backfiring. Two rest stops later we figured out that his carburetor was running too lean and he had a vacuum seal that Terry fixed. We accomplished 740 miles in our first day (and called that pushing it) and ended up in Albert Lea, Minnesota, for the night.

The next day we got an early start on the road and visited the Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota. It was neat to see corn nailed on the walls of a building, but what was even more exciting was that the bar across the street has Midget Wrestling on Sunday night! Our next stop was at Wall Drug in Wall, SD (imagine Ceasar's Creek Flea Market on steroids). It was in Wall where Terry found a radiator leak in Carol's car. Thanks to the local NAPA auto parts we were about to get back on the road in no time. Following I-90 West, we were able to visit Mt. Rushmore and Sturgis before we found a hotel for the night. Thankfully, we reached the hotel

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about five minutes after Carole's alternator failed and were able to roll into the Howard Johnson in Spearfish, SD, safely.

Day three began with Terry replacing Carole's alternator, and after that we had no problems for the rest of the day. We visited Devils Tower in Wyoming and then proceeded to wind through the Rocky Mountains on our way to our next destination. We ended up getting up to an altitude a little over 9000ft. and it was beautiful up there. The MGs did not seem to appreciate it as much as I did but we all made it through. We arrived in Cody, Wyoming, just in time for church, a cowboy bar, some butt crack, and a haunted restaurant. The most exciting thing about this adventure was that we discovered Moose Drool - a beer brewed in Missoula, Montana.

We began day four early Sunday morning and were all excited to see Yellowstone National Park. The first few miles into the park were winding around rocky cliffs (that were under construction) with a slew of motor homes and vans. Once we leveled out the road outlined the beautiful Yellowstone Lake. We started to see buffalo off in the distance. As Ryan and I came over a ridge we noticed that two buffalo were in our lane and coming straight towards us. Ryan stopped, hoping that they would just walk off the road, but they continued to come closer and closer. Finally, Ryan pulled the car into the left lane and as the buffalo passed I took pictures and realized that the buffalo were bigger than the MG! Carole and Terry were behind us and simply went around the animals as well. We drove a little slower after this encounter and enjoyed the rest of the park. We had lunch in Grand Teton NP and then headed north to see Old Faithful. Old Faithful turned out to be a sea of mini vans. Our mile walk from the parking lot to the geyser showed us that traffic on the way out was going to be hot and miserable (for Ryan and me because we had no air conditioning). We waited about twenty minutes and Mr. Faithful spit out a little water and then about eight minutes later he finally blew. Halfway through the Loofts and I cut through the crowd in hopes of missing the mini van parade out of the park. We drove into Helena, Montana, but before we could settle in we stopped into the local Wal-Mart to find some Moose Drool, but unfortunately they were out.

Day five began with a hunt for Moose Drool in Helena, Montana, and two grocery stores later all we came out with was a six pack. We gave up the search in Helena to get started on our journey toward Glacier NP. We turned off the major highway in Cut Bank, Montana to take the two lane road west towards the entrance to The-Road-To-The-Sun that takes you through Glacier, but before venturing on we had to stop at a grocery store to see if they might have some Moose Drool. As we pulled in, a passerby shouted "Is that a Triumph?" and Terry replied, "No, it's an MG." The stranger turned his car around the parking lot and as he passed by the second time he vengefully said, "Triumphs are better." Little did I know, those words were fight'n words. Terry walked quickly towards the mans car, but the man knew what he had just said and so he drove to the other end of the parking lot like the scared Triumph lover he was. Three *cases* of Moose Drool later we were on our way.

We stopped one more time for gas and then headed into Glacier. The-Road-To-The-Sun was not allowed to have any kind of camper or motor home on it and there were limits as to how long the vehicle could be. Terry and Carole made it with the trailer by six inches. We would have been very upset if we had to turn around. Glacier National Park has to be one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Out of all the places we had seen within the past few days this was the icing on the cake. It was majestic with its white peaks jutting out of scenic valleys and winding

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ivers. The water falls were everywhere. At one point we were driving with a three hundred foot cliff on one side and a water fall coming down the other side. I even saw a Hispanic gentleman taking a shower with one hand still on the passenger side door of his truck. There are no words to describe the beauty we saw up there and the pictures do it no justice. We stopped for buffalo burgers before we left the park and headed on our way to Missoula, Montana.

We left Missoula on day six \$60 richer from the truck stop casino we visited the evening before. We were on the road and our next stop would be Seattle, Washington. Or our next stop would be St. Regis and Superior, Montana, for some Moose Drool memorabilia. When we stopped for lunch a few hours later Carole's car was running hot. Fifteen miles down the road we pulled over because now it was running too hot so Terry added some water. Two miles later we pulled over again. Terry could not figure out why we were overheating so he removed the thermostat to see if that would help. We were 45 miles east of Seattle when Carole's overdrive went out so Terry added oil to fix it. We finally arrived in Seattle around six o'clock. We got settled into the hotel, went for drinks in a nearby pub, and then took a bus down to the wharf for dinner.

Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> (day 7) began at about 10am. We all took the morning to sleep in and relax. Terry and Carole were going to pick up another MGB in Olympia and Ryan and I were on our way to see the Pacific Ocean. The parking lot for the beach was the beach. Ryan actually got to park his car in the sand and we took lots of pictures. I was excited to get in the water but the temperature was a little uncomfortable and the fact that it was cloudy and rainy did not help. We got to Olympia later on in the afternoon. After dinner we went to the hospitality room to drink some Fat Tire and enjoy the company of many of the local MG club members while Terry changed the oil in all three cars.

Thursday, day 8, began with the car drive to Mt. St. Helens. There were 26 MGs that went. Just before the stop for lunch Ryan's clutch fluid started running low and we had to make an emergency stop to add more fluid. Thanks again to NAPA Auto Parts. We returned just in time for dinner and some more drinks at the hospitality room while Terry cleaned the carburetors on the new car and gave it some new spark plugs.

Friday was the first day of the trip where I refused to get into the MG. We had spent the past eight days in the MG with its lightly padded seats and arm rests, little to no foot room, no air conditioning, and non-retractable seats. I ate breakfast at the hotel, did laundry, and I took a two hour nap through lunch. Terry and Carole attended a tech meeting where they learned that it is bad to take the thermostat out, water runs cooler than antifreeze, Carole's car was not overheating, and her temperature and gas gauges were not reading correctly. We had a Salmon BBQ at a local Indian reservation and came back to wash the car because this was the first time it had stopped raining that day. Afterwards Ryan and I headed to the hospitality room to, yet again, drink some more beer and hang out with the Cincinnati crowd while Terry put the thermostat back in Carole's car, added water, and wired in a separate temperature gauge.

To be continued.





# Pictures From the Summer Picnic



Special thanks to Kathy and Dick Goodman for hosting another great summer picnic!

## NAMGBR Elections

Don't forget that NAMGBR will be holding elections soon for national offices. Consult your NAMGBR newsletter for details and information on the candidates.

## Classifieds

**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.

**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



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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.

## MG Car Club Minutes, August 24, 2005

Linda Wolfe

The meeting was called to order by Ryan at 8:00 p.m.

President's Report – Ryan thought that we might need two beer breaks tonight. He also wanted to express our sympathy to John Zeno in the loss of Joann. She will be missed a lot. He reported that the weather for BCD started out crummy but finally cleared up. The turn out was down some because of the weather but he thanked the club for all the hard work. We had 255



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cars and 15 no-shows. The park is already booked for next year. The signs can no longer be nailed or taped to the trees. They have to be free standing. The Dayton Ohio Jaguar Club won the club participation award. Next year the voting will probably be changed to (1) 8 X 10 sheet of paper. This should be faster to count and lots cheaper to print. Somebody wanted to know if there was an award for the most unusual tires? They must have seen Bill Hammond's car. Ryan reported that 13 members attended the University Motors Summer Party in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The All Ohio Picnic only had 13 cars show up this year (Cincinnati Car Show the same day) and the Ohio Brits claimed the Aunt Sally trophy by default.

Vice-President's Report – Skip reminded us that September 18<sup>th</sup> is the Concours de Elegance. Ron Parks will be Field Marshall and the volunteers need to show up at 7:30 Sunday morning. The MG Car Club will be mentioned twice in the program, once for providing the MG trophy and also for community support. Saturday set-up starts at 10:00 a.m.

Last months minutes were approved with two minor corrections. The corrections were that the 2005 BCD pictures in the newsletter were taken by Ron Parks not Skip Peterson and Carole Looft took the minutes of the meeting in the absence of Linda Wolfe.

Treasurer's Report – Dave reported that we had income of \$91.50 for membership, \$42 for clothing sales, and \$32 for regalia. The expenses for the month were \$160 for printing & postage, \$45 for rental and \$5 for the gumball rally. That gives us a balance of \$1,408.35.

Membership Report – Carole reported that we have 106 members this year which is a new record. We had one new membership at BCD for Phillip & Linda Mattingly who own a 1953 MG TD. We also had one renewal. Angela Barcelli joined the club at the MG Summer Party in Grand Rapids, MI. Ryan wants it to be known that he is the President in the year with a record number of memberships.

Sunshine Report – Pat Wasserman is home but they are still running test on her and Louie DiPasquele had surgery on his hand and wrist. Louie was at the meeting and doing well.

Editor's Report – Steve was thanked for another good newsletter. Phil John reported that Hagerty Insurance would like to put an advertisement in the newsletter. Dick Smith our Historian will research our advertising rates and get back to us. It was agreed that anyone placing an advertisement in the newsletter should get a monthly copy.

Bob Charles thanked us for the shirt that he received as a thank you for making the barrel that we presented to John Dixon at the TajMa Garage.

Beer break was called at 8:37. This was seven minutes later than usual.

Old Business – Dick Goodman reminded us of the club picnic Sunday. You can arrive about 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. and bring a covered dish to share. He has another British Mystery Car for us to try to figure out. Skip will pick up the club tent from MG Automotive to have handy just in case it decides to rain.

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Ron Parks is changing the Fall Drive to Auburn, IN. He felt that Ashtabula was too far away. We will leave about 8:00 a.m. from Englewood on October 1<sup>st</sup> (approximately a 3 hour drive). Tim Oricko can get discount ticket for us to the different museums.

The covers for the newsletter are ready to be picked up from the printer.

New Business – The club would like a new Canopy. Skip said that Harbor Freight has an 8 x 10 Canopy for \$89. During the discussion Skip left the room and the club voted to have Skip purchase two for the club.

The Gatlinburg, Tennessee MG 2006 Meet should have their website up soon. The dates are June 21<sup>st</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>. There are several hotels within walking distance. The Loofts' will be checking for the website and let us know when it is up. We need to organize our arrangements so the Looft's will e-mail us ASAP about the hotels. Tim Oricko and Louie DiPasquele don't have e-mail so they need to be called.

The club approved purchasing a Buckeye Tree in Joanne's memory for John's new home in Kentucky. We would like a nursery to plant it and we also would like to have a plaque made.

The Gribler's announced that they will have a party for the club on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Mark your calendar.

The subject of adults only for the picnic was brought up. Dick Goodman stated that children with proper supervision will be welcome! Parents need to be responsible. Somebody else stated that it is Dick's house so he makes the guidelines.

We need to check with the Knights of Columbus about changing our November meeting so it won't be so close to Thanksgiving.

Ryan stated that the MG Holiday Party will be December 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar!

Dick Smith reported that the British Museum of Transportation now had 9 cars. They just added a Jaguar XJ6 and a Lotus Elan.

We were reminded that next month we have our yearly election of officers and that dues will be due.

Doug Danford won the Gumball Rally and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

### **MG AUTOMOTIVE**

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#### **Steve Miller**

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e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com

# Jo Ann Zeno

Ron Parks

*On August 17, 2005, we lost one of our long time club members, Jo Ann Zeno. Jo Ann always was fun to be around at any club event, on tours and at car shows. She was a kind lady who always worked hard and had fun in the concession stand at British Car Day. She and John drove their MG A to Minnesota in 2001 and on the fall tour across the Ohio River on the ferry boat in October of 2002. We all appreciated her giving us the talk about Ohio Caverns and the West Liberty area on our historical tour a few years back. Jo Ann grew up in West Liberty Ohio and*



*knew the area well. She always made new members feel welcome. The very first time I met her was on our trip to Indy British Motor Days in 1995. I introduced myself and Jo Ann said, "Oh I know who you are," and began asking me about my family and my car. We've been friends ever since. We will always remember Jo Ann with a smile on her face. The MG Car Club sends out their thoughts and prayers to John and his family. We'll all miss her.*

*Jo Ann Zeno  
December 28, 1925 - August 17, 2005*