

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXV No. 6

April 2006

Tune-Up Clinic Pictures

and More Valuable Stuff!

From the President

Skip Peterson

I was going to let the Triumph issue rest, BUT the Barrett Jackson Auction in Palm Beach pretty well screwed that up. Maybe Ron Parks knows something we don't. Seems that a TR-4 sold for \$97,2000. Yes, you read that right, Ninety Seven Thousand, Two Hundred dollars! So Ron, you're sitting on a piece of gold! Claims indicate that the seller of this TR-4 had \$85,000 in receipts for the restoration. The guy doing the wet sanding must have made \$100 an hour. Are you kidding me? I bet you could buy every part available for a TR-4 and not spend that kind of money.

Oh yeah, wait, it's all in the eyes of the buyer. I've got to have that car! I know this, the seller is the happiest guy around, and eventually, the buyer will realize he owns a car worth one fourth what he paid, at best, and the damn thing still leaks oil. For verification purposes, you can visit barrett-jackson.com, check Palm Beach auction 2006, for lot number 312. Color photos and



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, April 26, 2006

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Upcoming Events

April:

28 Meeting (K of C Hall)

May:

7 – Austin Healey Swap Meet (Akron)
20 – 3rd Annl 2nd St. Mkt Brit Car Show
24 – Meeting (K of C Hall)
27 – June 4 – British Car Week

June:

4 – British Return to Ft. Meigs
(Perrysburg)
21-25 – MG 2006 – Gatlinburg, Tenn
28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

July:

26 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

August:

5 – British Car Day – Eastwood Metro
Park
23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

everything. Ron, get going, there's money to be made in those TR-4's!

So, a few reminders—Pub run is coming up on the 30th at O'Leary's Pub on South Main St in Centerville, across the street from eh Elder-Beerman store.

Be sure to register for the British Meet at the Market in May.

And, on a nother note, I somehow have gotten myself involved in the Taj Kreuzers car show, held last year the Carillon Park, and this year being held at Delco Park on Sunday, June 4th. While it started as a Porsche event, it had now grown, and we have two classes for British cars, and we're adding other classes. Ronald McDonald House is the beneficiary of the funds, and it's a low-key, fun car show.

I encourage any of you not going to the Fort Meigs event to join us. And if you want to volunteer, I could use some help. Yes, I'm chairing the car show portion of this event, but I believe in the cause, I like the folks, and it's about having fun with cars.

Drop me a note if you can help out, or if you want to register, go to www.tajmagaraj.com and click on the Kreuzers logo. There are all kinds of fun things to do for more than a week.

No tech tip this month, we just finished the tune-up clinic; it was all taken care of then. See you on the 26th.

Starting Off the.2006 Driving Season

Skip Peterson

How not to drive your Big Healey. This bright red Austin Healey 3000 was photographed on Tuesday, after it was involved in some type of accident on Shroyer Rd. across the street from Fairmont High School. What a way to start the top down driving season! Dayton Daily News photo by Skip Peterson



Photos From Tune-Up Clinic

Photos by Ron Parks and Skip Peterson

Due to the short turn-around, we don't have any information to report regarding this year's Tune-Up Clinic at MG Automotive. After a rainy night, the morning turned out to be clear and dry. As you can see, a good number of MGs and their owners showed up. We don't know if anyone actually fixed anything, but everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. **As always, our thanks to Steve Miller of MG Automotive for hosting us again this year.**



Updates to Membership Roster

Steve Markman

I'm aware of the following updated information for the member roster that was included in the February issue of *The Octagon News*:

Robert & Ruth Charles: delete 58 MGA and 78 MGB. Add 69 MGC/GT

Evan & Kristie Ford: new phone number is 937-558-2961. e-mail changed to eford321@hotmail.com

If any of your info changes throughout the year, please let Carole Looft know so that she can update the master list. And, if you'd let me know also, I'll put the new info in the newsletter.

Sources for MG Parts

Steve Markman

We're all looking for parts to keep our MGs running. Besides the obvious suppliers, many of us have other sources we've found over the years. If you have one, please let me know and I'll run a list of them in a future issue of *The Octagon News*.

Upcoming Members Feature

Steve Markman

The features that I ran in recent issues on veterans and first love were very successful. I plan to run another one soon. Since most of us have more than one hobby, and our MG obviously is #1, I'd like to run pictures of club members enjoying their second-most favorite hobby. The only limit is that the pictures have to be clean and include a brief explanation (remember, this is a family-friendly publication...inappropriate photos can be brought to a club meeting).

Overheard on the MG Bulletin Board...

Starting an Engine after Years of Storage

...the question

What should one do before starting a car that has been in storage for about fifteen years?

...the answers

Remove spark plugs... liberal amounts of penetrating oil into cylinders... many applications. Rings can break if part is stuck and other parts are not. Do this for a week or so.

Try to turn it over with a crank (?) or belt... carefully before using the starter.

Here's my two cents worth.

1. Get a new battery, plugs, points, condenser, cap, rotor, oil filter, oil, tube of grease, and some WD-40.
2. Stop at the gas station, fill your five gallon can and head for home.

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3. Order parts catalogs, Moss, Roadster Factory, Rimmer Brothers, Etc.
4. Roll the car out doors away from any combustibles, drain the old gas and replace with new.
5. Swap out the battery, rotor, condenser, points, and remove the plugs.
6. Squirt liberal amounts WD-40 into the plug openings.
7. Remove the radiator cap and top up if necessary.
8. Check your handbrake to see if its in good working order.
9. Pump the brake pedal to see if the brakes are still functional.
10. Jack the car up and crawl under and have a look around. Any gas leaks? Brake fluid running down the tires? Water running any place?
11. Change oil and filter and grease while you're there.
12. Get your garden hose or fire extinguisher.
13. Turn the ignition switch on if it has an electric pump, listen for the clicking and check for leaks.
14. If mechanical pump, remove the coil wire and crank the motor for about 20 seconds. repeat a couple of times and observe the oil pressure gauge.
15. Check for fuel leaks (and others)
16. Install new plugs and coil wire.
17. Keep hose ready, cross you fingers and crank her over. If she fires, watch the oil gauge and water temp carefully. I she doesn't, pull the top off the float bowls and look for fuel.
18. If running, check for fluid leaks again.
19. Start making a parts list. Hoses, wheel cylinders, brake cylinders, calipers, slave.

Don't try to start the engine without first ensuring that you have lubricated the rings, making several good applications of a good penetrating oil. Then with the coil main wire removed, first, hand crank the engine for several rotations to make sure everything is free, then crank it on the battery, at all times with the plugs OUT. Crank it 'till you see and maintain oil pressure using only the starter - no ignition. Then and only then, put in new plugs and it should fire up on the first crank. But watch the oil pressure at all times and be prepared to shut down if the oil pressure doesn't stay up.

I would plan on replacing the coolant and all hoses, all rubber and fluid connected with the hydraulic



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systems, tires, and most likely all lines associated with the fuel system as well before taking it out on the road. Would also replace oil in the tranny and rear as well. I would not flush out and replace the radiator coolant until I was sure there were no leaks first as I would not want to waste the anti-freeze or have to try and recapture it for future use.

Classifieds

For Sale: 77 MGB with 74 engine. Runs well. Nice body with red paint, black interior in good shape, needs some wiring work. Owner paid \$5000, put in over \$1000 in repairs, asking \$4500. Owner passed away and widow can't drive a stick / helping widow sell car. Contact Roy Owens at (937) 623-5772.

Looking for MG TF. I'm not a dealer - personal use only. Jay Moszynski, Cambridge, Ontario, 519-650-3263 (home), 519-653-4482, Fax: 519-653-4637, Jo.Moszynski@wcdsb.edu.on.ca.

For Sale: '61 1600 MGA. Has been stored for the past three years and runs great. Wire wheels and a hard top. Only thing wrong is that the heater leaked while in storage and damaged the paint in the engine compartment. Asking \$5,500 as is, or an extra \$400 to have the paint fixed. Dave Frances (former MGCCSWOC member), 1625 SR 121 South, New Madison, OH 45346 (SW of Greenville), 1-937-996-0229, NFrances@bright.net.

For Sale: 1971 MGB. The underside has been rebuilt with new brakes, front and rear suspension, new tires and wire rimmed wheels. The engine runs well. It does need some body and interior work. Located in Kettering OH. Asking \$1,350. Contact Mark Fussnecker, MFVACS@Prodigy.net or call 937-673-6357.

For Sale: Parts from a 1979 MG Midget, everything but the body--New Top. The car had only 18K miles on it when it was totaled. Located in New Paris, OH; call Don Stokes at (937) 437-1502.

For Sale: 1969 MGB GT. New wire wheels and hubs, new SUs, and alternator. Working OD. Runs well and is in nice condition. Asking \$7,000 for club members. I just don't have the time to enjoy anymore and hate to see it sit in the garage. Pictures available. John Larabee john.larabee@siemens.com

For Sale: '78 MGB engine, and a '74 MGB 4 sped trans. Engine was running when pulled from car, but was using oil. Trans was working, but he has no idea about the internal condition. Asking \$200 for both. Located in Jeffersonville. Contact Randy Lovett at 740-426-6523 or on his cell at 937-604-3134.

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).

MG Car Club Minutes, March 22, 2006

Sam Hodges

8:01 - Pres. Skip calls meeting to order. "Its been a long time since I've looked this forward to a meeting...but its also been a long time since I've dreaded a meeting."

Some grumbling from the peanut gallery about last month's minutes. Apparently the Graham for President rant and Jennifer Peterson's comments about Skip were not appreciated by Graham or Jennifer. (*Note: If you don't want it in print, don't say it!*) Lois Gribler motions to approve minutes, Graham Coopers seconds. Minutes as published approved.

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Ruben points out that the maps as published in last month's newsletter are upside down. Indy British Motor Days directions are backward. It's on the west side of Indy...

*And now for the evening's **Main Event**.* In this corner, owner of a very nice fully restored MGB roadster and a newly acquired Triumph TR-4. Wearing British Racing Green and a tan top, Ron "The Triumphant" Parks! In the Opposing corner, a motley mob made up of all the members of the MGCC who don't own Triumphs, It's "The MGCC!" Let's get ready to rumble!

A total of 42 members are here tonight for, well, quite frankly we're not sure. Some are calling for impeachment of Vice President Parks, others seem to favor a good ole fashioned lynching. There's even a vat of boiling tar and big bag of feathers in the parking lot (*my money's on the tar...*). The mood of the crowd seems restless, maybe even a little bloodthirsty.

As Ron scoots his chair down just a bit...

Skip brings us back to the important tasks on hand, the **Treasurer's Report**.

Treasurer's Report: Total Income: Membership Dues (\$18.00) + Grille Badges (\$536.50) = **Total Income of \$554.50.**

Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$195.52) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Hall Rental Fees = **Total Expense of \$245.52.**

Total gain to the MGCC was \$308.98, that when added from our existing Treasury balance of \$2,051.60 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,360.58.**

Gary Kinney and Tim Oricko motion and second to accept. Treasurer's report approved.

Pres. Report: "Let's get through the grille badges as quickly as we can." As it stands, the club now has 89 pre-orders, so we need to order some extra. If we order over 100, the price goes down to \$14.50. For those who have already paid, if we increase the order to 100 or more badges, then we've got to deal with the situation of a refund. Linda Wolfe suggests that we just reduce the dues by that excess amount,

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several others suggest that we just leave the money in the account and forget about it. Terry Looft, “You didn't just order 10 badges!”

Louie Dipasquale makes a motion to leave the money in the account. Gary K. seconded.

A vote was not called, instead, more discussion of the matter followed. Jennifer P., “Why are we buying 110?” Skip, “We are expecting new members so this will give us some cushion to give those new members badges.” Dave Gribler, “How many badges can we get if we just use the excess to buy more badges?” (*No answer – at least not that I noticed – was offered.* I think he must be losing his touch if not his hearing... Diana)

Skip, “How many people want refunds other than the Loofts? If you want a refund, fine, if you don't, then that money just goes over to the club fund.” Bill Hammond, “We could make a donation to some worthy cause with the excess.” The club doesn't cotton to that idea.

There's currently a motion on the floor. Dick Goodman calls the question. Those in favor of not refunding money: 20. In favor of refunding money: Less than 20. Steve Markman, “Can we just go to the lynching and come back to this later?” Terry L. “I think it should be one badge, one vote.”

The group has spoken in that they have voted down the refunding of the money. Jennifer P. wants to make a new motion. Those that want a refund get it, those who don't, don't. Just see Kathy G. if you want a refund. Lois Gribler seconded. Bill Hammond calls the question. All in favor except Dick Goodman (*someone had to object...*). If you want a refund, see Kathy.

A motion is made to order 110 grille badges. Dick Smith, Joe Hooker, Bob Charles, Terry Happensack, etc... second... Motion approved.

8:20 – Now that we've taken care of the important thing, there's still the matter of the lynching.

We are all aware of the communiqué from Skip... There's the issue of our V.P and his recent purchase. **Triumph Gate.** “Just because a person owns a Triumph, doesn't mean that he drives it” Ian Cunningham. (*Well said!*). Apparently, this scandal is just waiting to break nationally. Rumor mill has it that Ed Bradley is on his way now to do some preliminary investigating. Even Kathy G. heard about it in Springfield from a co-worker on Monday morning.

Vice President's Report – there will then be a 30 minute rebuttal.

Ron is now joining the Louie D. division of the MGCC. The MG-Triumph Owners Register.

Evidently, Ron has some classified pictures that are for Louie's eyes only. Louie, “what a beauty.” Terry L., “What did you know and when didn't you know it? Did you drive that car?”

Skip, “Can you drive that car?”

In the ensuing melee, it comes out that once upon a time, a former sitting President actually owned a Triumph. The former chief executive from long ago – Dick Smith – once owned a TR3. Baby blue as he recalls. Will the shock and awe never end? We're old, we can't handle this much truth!

Bill H., “Have you given any serious thought about the color of the wheels?” Louie, “I want to congratulate him on the purchase of the car.” Skip, “The chain hanging on the podium is only for *decoration...*, yeah, right, decoration.” Terry L., “I move that we change the application to the MGCC.” Skip, “what are we changing it to?” Terry, “Full disclosure!” Skip, “This could be good for us. We've

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got these defectors see, but they're still here.” Skip, “Dave, you started a really fun firestorm. Ron, you've been a really good sport.” Terry L - What about the picture of Ron peeing on that Triumph? I think that he's going to want that picture back.” Ryan L., “The Triumph club gets our newsletter right? Let's put this section of the minutes on the cover and in bold.” *No pressure here...*

8:36 Beer Break – All Triumph owners are buying...

8:50 Meeting called back to order...

Jeff Opt – Member-at-Large. Not injured in a hunting accident as previously reported.

Jeff, “There's a wooden rotisserie that can be used to rotate a car. A B's been restored on it.

Ryan, “Can it be modified to work on a Triumph? Wouldn't the fire burn the wood?”

The club has no interest in the offer.

Membership: Carole Looft – the club now has 95 paid members. We also have new members in attendance, Linda and Bill Mattingly, owners of a '53 TD. Jennifer P., “Aren't you glad you came?” Skip, “Aren't you glad you joined?” Bill M. “I can't drink fast enough.” (*Ahh... He'll fit right in...*)

Newsletter: How's it going? Steve, “Nothing new going on...”

Activities: Tim Oricko. Upcoming events include the Tune-Up clinic and the Second Street Market car show. Eddie Hill, “Will we work on only MG's at the Tune-Up Clinic?” The Cincinnati British Car Days has moved from Edgewater Dragstrip. They're moving to the William Harbin Park, Fairfield, Ohio, Sunday July 9th. Featured mark this year will be Midget and Sprite. Pre-registration is \$12, \$15 day of the show. Stay tuned for further details. The annual Mid-Ohio Vintage weekend has changed to a date in Aug. MG is the featured mark. Plan accordingly.

As of now, we have 97 **grille badges** ordered. Skip wants to buy 120 so that way we can have some in reserve. Terry Hap. makes the motion. Dick Smith has the second. Club votes, Louie opposes. Motion passes.

Gatlinburg: Terry, “Keep that phony accent up Graham, and you' in!” Skip, “If this trip goes well, you won't have to campaign, Pres-Elect Graham.” Meanwhile, back in the peanut gallery, Eddie Hill's on Ron like a cheap suit with the Triumph zings... “No Triumphs on the tour... They're protective of their image.”

Zeno's Place: Dick G. wants to know what the deal is and are we taking him up on his offer?

Bill Hammond wants to make this a separate club trip, i.e. a Fall Tour. Ron likes that idea.

Eddie H., Just remember, it's a dry county.” Skip, “Not with John living there.”

It's at this point that I realize that I spent so much time recording the barbs and zings that I TOTALLY missed what Graham had to say about the trip. Check your e-mail and last months minutes for more detailed information...

Tune-Up Clinic: The Club needs to spring for the coffee and doughnuts. Linda W. and Lois G. state that they have the coffee situation covered. Louie, “Can we please put the Triumph bashing to rest tonight? Club, “NOOO...” *Sorry Louie.* Carl Sparklin, “Triumphs are generally at rest most of the time anyway.”

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Pub Run: It's here that we realize that we haven't had one in ages. This is probably due to the current administration. There's been some internal strife, as the club looks at Ron. Do we (*The Club*) want to re-institute the monthly pub-run? Dave G., "I think we just laid off because of the holidays." Bill, "It's also nice to drive your MG to the pub runs." Eddie H., "Key word there 'MG'...". Terry L. "No, the key word was 'drive'..." Easter's the 16th, Tune-Up Clinic's the 15th, That makes April 30th the best day. Eddie Hill moves, Hammond seconds, Motion approved. Now where? O'Leary's in Centerville, across from Elder Beerman off of St. Route 48 at 5:00p.m.

Terry L., "What are we voting on?" Ryan, "We're merging with the Triumph club." Jennifer P., "Actually, we're selling off 4 of your MG's."

Dick G. wants to set a date for the Summer Picnic. BCD is Aug 5th, Mid-Ohio is Aug 19th.

Sunday August 27 is the best date left. Linda W. motions, Dick Smith seconds. Voted and approved, mark your calendars.

April 20th is the next BCD meeting.

Dick S., "Make sure to get your entries in for the Second Street Market show because right now, the Triumphs are ahead of the MGs." Skip, "So that means that you've got 1 entry..."

I (*yeah, that's right, me, the Secretary*) will not be at the April meeting, *you can stop clapping now. No, really, stop clapping. Oh for Pete's sake, all of you sit down!* Linda Wolfe has kindly agreed to take the minutes. I only ask that you take it easy on her and remember that she's not the guilty party for this months slander... Some might see this as a good thing, some might see this as bad, Terry L., "I make a motion that this is a good thing..."

Gumball Rallye – Someone won...

9:20 Meeting Adjourned.

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