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# THE OCTAGON NEWS

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Volume XXXV No. 5

March 2006

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**Grille Badges a Big Success!!**

**Tune Up Clinic Coming!!**

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## From the President

Skip Peterson

I guess the grille badges turned out to be a pretty good idea. We have advance orders for 86 as I write this, and 100 isn't out of the realm of possibility. We'll discuss it further at the meeting, but remember, this meeting is the last chance to purchase them for cost.

There is lot going on, so I guess we should get our calendars out and mark them.

Bill Hammond has confirmed that the spring tune-up clinic will be Saturday, April 15th. That's tax day, but wait, this year you have until April 17 to file your taxes, so there really is no excuse not to join us at MG Automotive on the 15th. Bring your parts, your tools, and we'll be glad to help you adjust your carbs, or maybe unadjust them!!! There is more free advice on this day than any other day of the year. Actually, it's a fun day, and Steve Miller is always very helpful in guiding us in the right direction. A huge thank-you to Steve in advance.



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, March 22, 2006**

### MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming Events

### March:

22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

### April:

28 Meeting (K of C Hall)

### May:

7 – Austin Healey Swap Meet (Akron)  
20 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annl 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

If you're looking for a road trip to find car parts, I got a note from Paul Oglesby of British Motor Cars Ltd in Madisonville, Ky. He is hosting a spring parts sale on Saturday, April 29, open to anyone with parts to sell, and also featuring his inventory of 9000 square feet of parts. It's from 9am until? For more info, you can call 270-825-2994 or email him at [bmcltd@spis.net](mailto:bmcltd@spis.net). I'm not really sure where Madisonville is.

The annual British Meet at the Market will be held Saturday, May 20th at the Second Street Public Market. It supports the British Museum of Transportation and is a very neat place for a show. The visitors to the market are always fun and they love looking at our cars. It's a great event in May so mark that on the calendar.

The following day, Sunday, May 21, will be the 22nd British Car Day in Dublin, Oh.

May 27 through June 4th is British Car Week, which translates into DRIVE YOUR CAR!

The TajKruazers event, held to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House will be held on Sunday June 5th. I have become involved in this event, and I'm actively seeking volunteers. They are a fun group, and we will have two classes for British Cars. The \$15 entry is all for a good cause, and the event will be held at Delco Park this year. Not a lot of shade, but plenty of room, lots of Porsches, and other cars, but we need to show them that rear engine flat sixes aren't everything!

Plans are well under way for our trip to Gatlinburg. Log onto [www.MG2006](http://www.MG2006) for more info and registration. We're leaving on June 21st for the weekend.

There is a new date and location for the Cincinnati British Car Day. It will be held on July 9th and they have moved from Edgewater to Harbin Park in Fairfield. Sprites and Midgets are being featured this year. For more information, e-mail [jagaus@fuse.net](mailto:jagaus@fuse.net).

The Indiana British Motor Union will host the annual London to Brighton Run on July 22. They will also host Indy British Motor Days Sept. 22-24, with the British Car Show on Sunday, the 24th at the American legion on the west side of Indy (that's our side!) For more info, contact Dan Miller at 317-783-0873 or email him at [TRRestore@aol.com](mailto:TRRestore@aol.com).

I have another tech tip this month, a result of working in the garage in the winter. Working on rubber parts, installing gaskets, etc? They get really hard in the winter, hard to handle and they aren't pliable because they're cold. Just grab the hair dryer, warm the piece, and then install it. Don't get it too hot; because it will shrink real tight, just warm it enough to make it softer and you're done. Also make sure you wipe the handle clean or that hair dryer might be yours forever and then you get to buy her a new one. (Jennifer hasn't caught me yet!).

Last, with all the rain we had the first few weeks in March, all the salt from last winter surely is gone from the streets. So, no excuse for keeping the MG in the garage any longer. Happy motoring!!

## Grille Badges

Skip Peterson

**F**or those not attending the meeting last month or lacking e-mail, we have approved a grille badge, agreed on a price, and now it's time to file your order. The grille badges cost \$18.50 each. Members can order as many as they want at this price until March 22, the date of the next meeting. After March 22, the price will go to \$25 each, and there will only be a limited number of extras. First come, first served. However, the catch is, you must pay for the grille badges by March 22. You can pay at the meeting, or mail a check made out to the MG Car Club and include your name and the number of badges you want. We picked the white border version; it reads easily, but both looked nice. The quality is very nice. We took orders for 39 badges at the last meeting, and more keep coming in by phone and e-mail. To give us a better idea of how many we will order, If you haven't done so already, I'd appreciate a call or e-mail on how many you will order. Payment can be mailed or delivered at the March meeting. But remember, we need payment by the next meeting to get the \$18.50 price!

Send check to:  
MG Car Club, SW Ohio Centre- Grille Badge  
PO Box 20032  
Dabel Branch  
Dayton, OH 45420-0032

## Tune Up Clinic on April 15<sup>th</sup>

Bill Hammond

**S**ave Saturday, April 15th for something more fun than taxes! Once again, Steve Miller will welcome us to MG Automotive, 3733 Wilmington Pike, Kettering. So get the old thing out and bring your tools. Also bring or buy your parts from Steve. The gang has thousands of years of advice to help get the old baby ready for some summer frolicking. *(Editor's note – Bill, your third sentence pushes my standard for decency. It's not that I'm personally offended, but this is a family publication, and I read this stuff before it goes in the newsletter.)*

The club provides coffee and donuts.

Anyone not showing up will be talked about; so see you there!

It gets underway about 9 AM and usually the last one leaves shortly after lunchtime.



# Tools (As We Really Know Them)

Submitted by Steve Veris

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted airplane part you were drying.

**WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say, "Ouch...."

**ELECTRIC HAND DRILL:** Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads.

**HACKSAW:** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**WISE-GRIPS:** Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

**OXYACETYLENE TORCH:** Used almost entirely for setting afire various flammable objects in your shop. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub you want the bearing race out of.

**WHITWORTH SOCKETS:** Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16" or 1/2" socket you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.

**HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK:** Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new disk brake pads, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

**EIGHT-FOOT LONG PRESSURE-TREATED 4x4:** Used for levering an automobile upward off a

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hydraulic jack handle.

**TWEEZERS:** A tool for removing wood splinters.

**PHONE:** Tool for calling your neighbor to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

**SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER:** Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for getting dog-\*\*\*\* off your boot.

**E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR:** A tool ten times harder than any known drill bit that snaps off in bolt holes you couldn't use anyway.

**TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST:** A tool for testing the tensile strength on everything you forgot to disconnect.

**CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER:** A large pry bar that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end opposite the handle.

**AVIATION METAL SNIPS:** See hacksaw.

**TROUBLE LIGHT:** The home mechanic's own tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin," which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

**PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER:** Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splash oil on your clothes, but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

**AIR COMPRESSOR:** A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Chicago Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last over-tightened 58 years ago by someone at the local mechanic's shop, and neatly rounds off their heads.

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50¢ part.

**HOSE CUTTER:** A tool used to cut hoses too short. **HAMMER:** Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer nowadays is used as a kind of divining rod to locate the most expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

**MECHANIC'S KNIFE:** Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on contents such as seats, vinyl records, liquids in plastic bottles, collector magazines, refund checks, and rubber or plastic parts.

**EXPLETIVE:** A balm, usually applied verbally in hindsight, which somehow eases those pains and indignities following our every deficiency in foresight.

## More on Lucas Electronics

Some months ago, we ran some comments about our favorite electrical systems, made by Lucas Electronics. Here are some more.

If Lucas made guns, wars would not start either.

Did you hear about the Lucas powered torpedo? It sank.

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It's not true that Lucas, in 1947, tried to get Parliament to repeal Ohm's Law. They withdrew their efforts when they met too much resistance.

Did you hear the one about the guy that peeked into a Rover and asked the owner "How can you tell one switch from another at night, since they all look the same?" "He replied, it doesn't matter which one you use, nothing happens!"

Back in the '70s Lucas decided to diversify its product line and began manufacturing vacuum cleaners. It was the only product they offered that didn't suck.

Quality Assurance phoned and advised the Engineering guy that they had trouble with his design shorting out. So he made the wires longer.

Why do the English drink warm beer? Lucas makes the refrigerators, too.

Alexander Graham Bell invented the Telephone, Thomas Edison invented the Light Bulb, and Joseph Lucas invented the Short Circuit.

## Classifieds

**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.

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**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

**Looking For:** master cylinder filler cap for '54 T/F (part may be identical to TD). (Moss doesn't carry them anymore). Please contact John Barton, johnnystrees2@aol.com, or (937) 289 7325.

**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, February 22, 2006

Sam Hodges

*Not enough evidence for the impeachment to hold...*

8:01 - Meeting called to order by returning President Skip Peterson. Skip reports that he's found the gavel, and actually there are three gavels now. Skip now has no idea which one's ours. Jennifer P, "Skip, are you on drugs?"

Ron Parks is now in Virginia and we don't know when he'll be back. The job of V.P is now open.

Eddie Hill "Is there a point to all of this?"

The Gribler's arrive 8:08 which prompts Kathy Goodman to state "You're early!"

Who left a spoon at the Gribler's party?

**Minutes Report:** Louie D. "I've got a problem with the minutes from last month. I did play Basketball and I was the center!" Dick Goodman, "Did you use an 8 or 12 foot ladder?"

Kathy Goodman and Linda Wolfe motion and second to accept. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Total Income: Membership Dues (\$272.00) = **Total Income of \$272.00.**

Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$100.50) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Postage Stamps (\$6.44) + Flowers for Lucia Hooker (\$62.01) + JoAnn Zeno Memorial (\$189.75) = **Total Expense of \$408.70.**

**Total Loss to the MGCC was \$136.70,** that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$2188.30 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,051.60.**

David McCann and Lois Gribler motion and second to accept. Treasurer's report approved.

**President's Report:** "Thanks to Ryan for filling in, it's great to see you Joe. I love using this gavel - I've got a hunting trip this weekend, anyone want to go?"

Valentine's Party. aka the Victoria's Secret party... a round of applause for the Gribler's for hosting another wonderful party. Apparently we trashed the place so badly that they're getting new dining room furniture next month.

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According to NAMGBR, we aren't currently an active club. According to them, we don't have 8 active members. After some discussion it comes to light that several of us who are members failed to list the MGCCSWOC as their affiliated club. A list was started of MGCC members who are also NAMGBR members so that we can straighten this out. Linda W, "If you are a member, you need to make sure that you list your club affiliation so that we get credit for the members and therefore we have enough active members so that the club remains in good standing."

Skip then reports that we are a member in good standing of the mother club, but Skip's credit card has not been charged. Skip, "Ryan, we need your credit card information in order to verify and investigate."

**Mail:** We received a thank you card from Joe.

Skip wants to discuss Grille badges before beer break. Dick G., "You need to be careful, or else you're going to get organized."

**Membership:** Carole reports that we have 94 paid members, and Ed Hill is now one of them. She wanted to charge him a late charge, but she refrained... for now.

**Member-at-Large:** Opt is missing... Didn't he go hunting with Skip last weekend???

**Newsletter:** Great idea about the first loves! Steve, "if you like that, then maybe we could do some others. How about my second favorite hobby." Skip, "We can't put those pictures in the paper." Kathy G., "What if we don't send the newsletter to other clubs?" Terry L., "...this is number 2."

Sports – napping doesn't count. Still working – pictures from work. Volunteers – where do you volunteer?

Skip likes the fact that our newsletter is more diverse about our members. Steve, "I think that we have a good newsletter and don't forget that Joe does most of the work." Louie, "I think that they should proof read it." Skip, "Just remember Louie, bad publicity is still publicity." Steve M. holds up copy of Dayton Koi and Goldfish Club newsletter, "I'm a member of the Koi and Goldfish club and their newsletter doesn't have nearly as much helpful information as ours." Eddie, "How many in that club?" Steve M. "About 25. David McCann, "...and they don't even tell you what kind of bait to use." Terry L., "Does it have any recipes?"

**Tune-Up Clinic:** Bill Hammond's in charge of planning it for sometime in April.

**Grille Badges:** Skip has the two sample badges at the meeting. After passing them around for everyone to see, the discussion then turns to which one do we want and do we want to buy them?

The Deal - They did change prices. 25-49 badges are \$20.00 each. Over 50 badges and they're \$18.50 each. We have a \$100.00 credit as of right now because of the proof order. The club then decides that if we (members) pay up front, we get to pay costs. Otherwise, you can buy from the club at a slight profit bearing markup.

Since we want to have them for Gatlinburg, we therefore need to order them by mid-March at the absolute latest to get them in time. General poll – just about everyone in the room wants one. The Club Secretary wants 3, the Loofts' need about 75, Louie wants one for his Spitfire. Skip, "Heck, buy 2 - cover up the name!"

If we use a credit card, then we can always dispute the charges should we need to. Lois G., "We can use my CC." Jenn. P., "Credit card points?" Lois G., "Yup, air miles." Terry L. "We need a club credit card... I just got an application today!"

Quoted delivery time is five weeks. 75 badges would be \$1375.00. 60 would be \$1110.00. Motion is made that up through the March meeting anyone can purchase them at cost. Either send in a check to the MGCC or come to the March meeting and bring your money, first come first served. Skip has a sign up



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sheet. After the March Meeting, the badges will be \$25.00. Bill Hammond motions, Dick G. seconded. – Motion approved.

We still need to decide how many, color and costs. We can get them in either the white enamel or the chrome. After a vote of the members present, Chrome – 10 / White - 20 +. By majority, the white trimmed badges will be ordered. Skip, “Terry, one hand, not two - put your other hand down.” Jenn P. “I liked both so I voted twice.”

How many? After more discussion the peanut gallery settles on 60 as a good number. Now that we've gotten ourselves into this fine financial pickle, we need to sell one heck of a lot of hot dogs to make up for this.

### **Beer Break - 8:40**

#### **9:00 – Meeting called back to order**

After the beer break we've actually ordered 39 out of an order of 60. Given that, do we want to order more, 70, 75? Jenn P. “You'll get more mileage points...” Lois G., “If we fill up between now and the next meeting, then we can always raise our number after the next meeting.” Right now we have 21 available.

Skip, “we need to send out an e-mail saying that there is going to be an order by X date and give a cutoff time. We need to see what comes in after that.” Mail Checks to the P.O. Box made out to MGCC for \$18.50. If you don't pay by the 22nd, Louie's friends will be there to collect, and you don't want them at your house.

**For Sale:** *Apparently, we're a bunch of pack rats...*

**Tech Tips:** The Turners' have a stumper. What's the small rubber piece in the Moss MGA rubber kit?

Skip, “Put them on ebay and see what happens.”

At this point, the meeting is turned over to Graham Cooper for discussions about the upcoming trip to Gatlinburg. *It's amazing how comfortable Pres. Cooper rolls off the tongue. He looks quite regal standing at the podium, gavel in hand. There's something that's just “right” about the image. He looks quite comfortable...*

One of the featured attractions of the area is the Biltmore House. It's about 75miles away, and there are a lot of things to do at the house including a nice vineyard. One drive that we might want to make is the Tail of the Dragon. There are 318 curves on the road but keep in mind that there's a Honda bike event in Knoxville and this stretch of roads very popular with the bikers.

One thing that we need to decide is when are we going and what are we going to do once we get there? The consensus seems to be that a reasonable departure time on the Wednesday would lead to about a 6 hour drive if we drive straight through. Skip, “Instead of going down as a solid pack, we should probably just pick some pre-planned stops, i.e. exit X in 1½ hours and just meet up there at that time instead of trying to stick together.” The club likes this idea. The Wed. meet and greet is the goal. Leaving at 9:00-10:00 is ideal.

There are a lot of things to do once there. Wednesday will be the drive day. Thursday there are various tech sessions and the Biltmore visit. Club parties - we have to test out the new beer trailer, or the old beer trailer, or anyone's beer trailer. You need to allow about 4-5 hours for the Biltmore side trip. It's about 85 miles away.

Friday are the car shows. Saturday is the Tail of the Dragon drive and awards banquet if anyone wants to attend. The Saturday night awards banquet is reported to be somewhat pricey. Zeno, “I bet it was a Biltmore.”

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There is another group that's putting together a slow drive that's leaving on Sunday the 18th and there's another group doing another straight shot. We also have spoken about trying to get over to Zeno's place. It's 225 miles to his place and another 200 to Gatlinburg from there. It's basically a straight shot down I-75 there.

The rendezvous point will be the big rest stop on I-75 before the I-75/I-71 split. The Gribler, "We're leaving Thursday and we'll pick up the dead ones along the way." Terry, "So you'll beat us down there?"

Bill Hammond, "Remember, if we hang around with Louie we can get all of the babes!" *I understand that Hazel has scheduled the viewing for about three days after she reads this quote...*

Sunday, we're all on our own coming back since Graham's not coming back with us. We will need a return route rally master. Terry, "I'll take the GPS." Skip, "I think we've got our rally master." Graham, "I can give you some alt. routes to avoid Knoxville, Pigeon Forge and others."

There is no fast way back to I-75, so be prepared. Terry, "What about scheduling time for the breakdowns?"

Eddie, "I know Gatlinburg, it's going to be a zoo and there's no way that we're going to be driving anywhere on Saturday."

No one knows anything about the car show location yet. It'll be somewhere nearby. Holiday Inn SunSpree maybe? We've got a loose plan logistically. Skip, "We'll have our tent. Don't forget club banner, and antenna flags.

Lois G., "We need to come up with some matching shirts that we can get embroidered so that we can all match on the same day." Ryan L. "We can get balloons with the club logo and just tie them to everyone's belt - who's got a tank of helium." We'll make sure that we have flyers for BCD as well.

Skip, "What we need to do is try to get our flyers in the goody bags. We can send them 1500 and see what happens." If this does work, then BCD could be a nightmare car count wise.

Thanks Graham for all the hard work.

Gumball - Bill Hammond . Dave Gribler Motion to adjourn. 9:40

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