

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVI No. 2

November 2006

Don't Forget...Next Meeting is 3rd Wednesday This Month!!!

And Other Valuable Stuff

From the President

Ron Parks

I thought I'd better sit down and get my column off to the editor since that editorial deadline is already here. It is rather cruel of the calendar to have the first Wednesday fall on the 1st. Oh well, here goes.

We just have a few more club activities to finish out the year. By the time you're reading this we will have already been to Valley Vineyards for the steak dinner on Saturday November 4th. I hope you were able to join the group for the good time that this always is. And, if you get a chance, thank Linda Wolfe for her efforts in arranging this for us every year. We grill our own steaks the way we want them and enjoy all the trimmings, including Valley Vineyard wine. Hopefully the weather

cooperated and we drove our MGs? We will have been in Cincinnati during the day and will have stopped at Valley Vineyards on the way back. Then, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, we have our meeting on the third Wednesday of



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, November 15, 2006

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Ron Parks
phone.....937-322-0717
mail.....mgdriver@woh.rr.com
Vice President.....Dave McCann
phone.....937-399-5711
email.....david.mccann@earthlink.net
Secretary.....Diana Hodges
Phone.....937-434-6505
email.....sammgb@earthlink.net
Treasurer.....Graham Cooper
phone.....513-248-4419
email.....gccooper@fuse.net
Member at Large.....Louis DiPasquale
phone.....937-299-4089
email.....Louie?
President Emeritus.....Skip Peterson
phone.....937-293-2819
email.....mgbskip@aol.com
Activities Chair.....Reuben Wasserman
phone.....937-426-7239

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

Octagon News Editors:

Steve Markman.....
.....stevemarkman@earthlink.net.....434-2908
Joe Hooker.....twocoloradokids@aol.com.....426-1128
Librarian.....John Wolfe
phone.....429-3292
Historian.....Dick Smith
phone.....434-1750
email.....rsmithomo@aol.com
WebPage.....www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswoc

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Upcoming Events

November:

15 – Meeting (K of C Hall) – note date change

December:

9 – Holiday Party (Petersons')
No December club meeting

January:

24 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

February:

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

March:

17 – St.. Patrick's Party (Gribler's)
28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

April:

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

November on the 15th. The last club event of the 2006 will be our annual Holiday party, hosted by Skip and Jennifer Peterson in their home at 4400 Wingview Lane, Kettering on Saturday December 9th at 7:30pm. Hope you can make it to this party. It's always a good time and you'll take home a (valuable?) gag gift.

The winter doldrums will, no doubt, set in for us MGers, but we can use this time to do some of the projects on our cars that we might have put off during the driving season. First of all, we'll need to make sure our MG s are winterized. Coolant is the obvious thing to check, but also, you may want to put some Sta-bil gasoline stabilizer in your fuel tank and run the engine a little bit to circulate it into the carbs. I drive my MG some in the winter, but I always put Sta-bil in the tank anyway to keep the Gas fresh. The rule of thumb I use is: if the gas is going to stay in your tank for more than sixty days, then it should have some stabilizer in it. I use this in my lawn and garden engines too. It's a good idea to change the oil too. This removes contaminants that have accumulated in the oil during the summer driving season.

Looking ahead, perhaps at the November meeting, someone will come up with and idea for a January pub run? Hope to see you soon.

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

| | |
|--|---|
| Heather Schieman 5383 N. St. Rt. 48 Lebanon, Ohio 45036 513- 932-2160 c7_schieman@yahoo.com (Looking for a green MGB) | Robert & Yvonne Carson 763 Windsor Rd Troy, Ohio 45373 937- 335-1017 rhcarson@gmail.com 1977 MGB |
|--|---|

Our New Members

Carole Looft

New members Bob and Yvonne Carson joined us for our monthly meeting in October. Bob is a retired executive from Air Canada. He will be moving to Troy after his marriage to Yvonne, which will take place the first weekend in November. They own a 1977 MGB that is still very original. Bob bought it three years ago from an associate at work who was the original owner. While the

car was maintained well over the years, it was showing its age, so Bob now is bringing it back to its former beauty. In the past, Bob owned a 1959 TR3A. He originally thought about purchasing a project car to restore, and still would consider working on a project if the right TF or TD came along. Bob and Yvonne enjoy traveling and consider Florida their home during the winter season. We extend our welcome and best wishes on your recent marriage.



Yvonne and Bob Carson

Did the President Misspeak? Or Was He Misquoted?

We report...you decide!

In the heat of the election frenzy that dominated the September meeting, lame duck President Skip Peterson briefly touched on the upcoming holiday party. He was reported to have told members to bring a “covered dish” to the annual holiday party. No one seemed to recall exactly what he said, and since no audio recording of the meeting has yet been uncovered, it cannot be determined for sure if the President misspoke or was misquoted with regard to the covered dish comment. That was how it was documented in the September minutes and published in the last newsletter. The President meant, or intended to say, to bring a “hors d'oeuvres, appetizer, or side dish.”

Other Interests

Ian Cunningham

When we were adolescents, my two brothers and I had paper routes in northeastern Ohio, and as I was the mechanically inclined member of the family, I early acquired a Whizzer motor to strap onto my pedal bike, to aid in covering the miles. What a grand way that was to escape the usual

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peddling ordeal. That Whizzer was also my early escape from farm work and all other common existence, and the beginning of a succession of two-wheelers over the years.

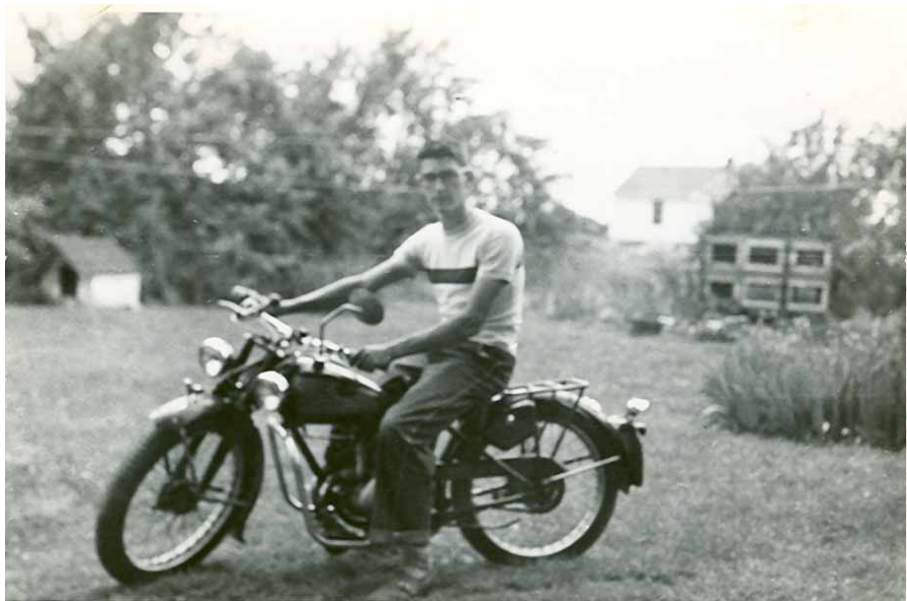
Later in 1950, I acquired a British-made James 125cc motorcycle, just before I was old enough to have a license, after the war but when there was still hardly any traffic on our rural roads. Riding that thing to 4-H meetings, softball practice, and just running around the countryside was ultimate freedom for this teenager. With whetted appetite I got hold of a 1930's vintage Harley flathead 74, with suicide clutch, tank shift, and a kickstart lever with enough kickback to occasionally produced a limp, which was regular therapy. Great summertime fun, and I survived those short years without serious mishap.

Motorcycles were not common among the kids I knew, but I remember seeing the occasional foreign bikes and cars, since we lived along US Rt 20, which went east-west between Cleveland and Pennsylvania. For us, foreign cars were only to dream about. When Detroit automobile production got into full swing after the war, and most of the worn-out prewar 1930's cars became available for junk prices, my interests moved to those jalopies as the cool (cheap) way to go during High School.

Fast-forward to 1970, after the Army and college, and family responsibilities and trying to pay the bills. My school shop boys had discovered motorcycles (sound familiar?) when the Japanese and others invaded the market with Hondas, etc., and all the other ringee-ding-ding bikes came over, and I was soon drawn into two-wheelers again, with a basket case Suzuki. But it wasn't the same as a long time ago, remembering the BSA's and Triumph's which were becoming noticeable when I was youthfully into jalopies. So I located an early BSA Star 250cc, then a Triumph 6T 650cc road bike. I scared myself a couple times on the 650, and sold it before I got hurt on pavement, and changed to safer dirt bike riding.

I had a Greeves Enduro, (British), then found myself on a Bultaco Sherpa T trials bike, which in 1971 was the ultimate weapon for Observed Trials competition. Safer than road riding, and for me an extremely satisfying kind of two-wheeled motorsport, I rode a lot in trials competitions in the West Chester area. I even trophied a couple times, just to prove I could do it. Then in 1973 we moved to the farm, traded the Bultaco for a pickup truck cap, and thus ended my second era of motorcycling, still relatively unscathed, except for my building principle's ire.

Remember how in the late 60's, the image of motorcycling was not what it is today, what with the Hell's Angels, drugs and loud Motocross racing, and teachers should not fraternize with 'that kind', as was pointed out to me more than once by my principal Warren Tipton. It didn't help matters that some of my shop boys and I occasionally raced go-carts after school in the parking lot, and got into other frowned-upon



projects over in the Metal Shop.

Fast-forward to 1996. Upon retirement, I was sensible enough not to go looking for a motorcycle, but I thought, why not four wheels, in the form of a respectable sports car? So we have ended up with several MG's to play with, but at British car shows I still usually go over to see the bikes, not getting too close of course, don't want to tempt a big British Single to reach out and grab at me.

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At BCD Dayton last month, around lunch time I wandered over to look at the bikes, and now some of you know "the rest of the story", and what so severely provoked me to write all this stuff down.

A certain Mr. Streifthau displayed his (guess what?) 1947 James motorcycle at BCD, identical in every way to the old James I rode around on more than 56 years ago as a kid. I just stood there and stared at it, speechless. They say you can't go back to your youth, but they are **WRONG!!!** Every Whitworth nut and bolt, every piece, part and shape of that James motorcycle brought back vivid memories. In all these years I have never even dreamed I would ever see another James bike again, but there it was in plain sight at BCD, a pristine original condition example just like mine. Same color maroon, same gold in the decals, it seemed I had come full circle. A virtual blast from the past, literally.

I've been content for a while, driving the MG's, considering my poor balance and slowing down, and haven't thought I needed to go riding again, but still, maybe in a few years, if I can get my eyes fixed, if I don't get too old, and if the right deal comes along

Classifieds

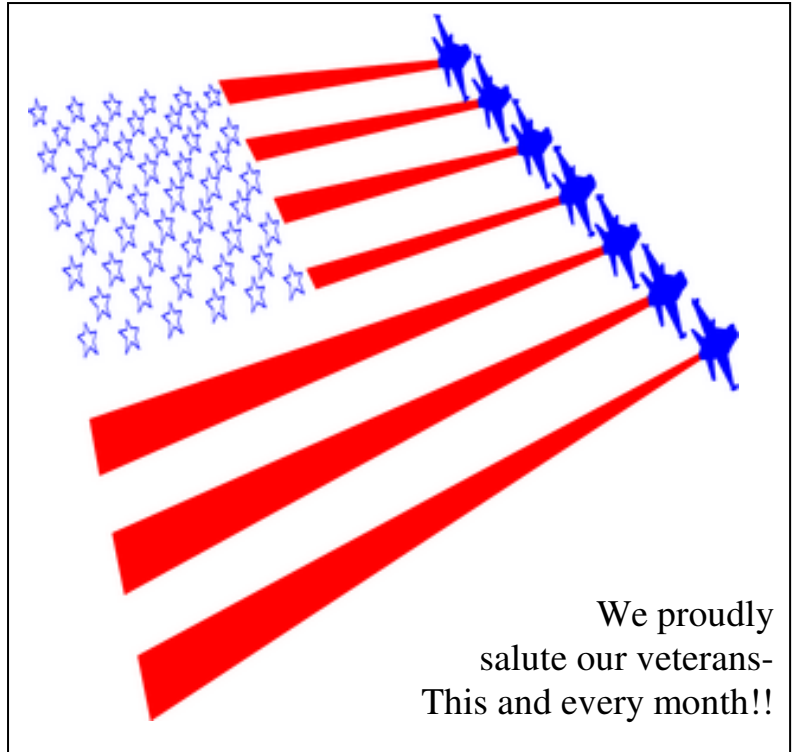
For Sale: Four Dayton 72-spoke, 15"chrome wires with new Dean Quazar radial tires and new tubes, four chrome 2-ear knock offs, and one new chrome 15" rim for spare (no tire). All items will fit MGB. All for \$900. Robert Charles, 513-267-1784.

For Sale: MGA (year not specified). Total mileage not quite 40K, and only driven 1000 miles in last 4 years. Asking \$14K. Craig Allinson 703-926-9806 cell, or 540-751-1469 home.

For Sale: 1960 MGA. Black, hand-rubbed lacquer, red leather interior, tan rag-top. Good condition, but needs cleaning and tuning. Frame up restoration completed in 1983 except for the wire wheels. Currently stored in Marco Island, Florida. Looking for serious British car enthuse-ias, not just any "bloke". Asking \$20,000, but negotiable. Contact Carolyn Lee at 216-371-1135 .

For Sale: 74 MGB roadster. Green with tan interior, \$6200 (\$5800 or best offer to club member). Jim Cooley, 937-399-1834.

For Sale: 15 inch Mustang wheels that came on the rubber bumper B she bought from Ryan Pitts. Has the lug nuts and all. Vickie Gearhart, vsg626@aol.com.



For Sale: 76 B roadster. Body has been restored, interior is original and needs TLC. Runs well. Looking for \$5000 or best offer. Contact Ron Hall, 937-760-8172 (this is Skip Peterson's letter carrier, so it has to be a good deal).

Wanted: I want to be an MGB owner! Looking for a 73-74 MGB Roadster in the Midwest area- will drive 250 miles from Kalamazoo, MI for the right car. Must be red color, driveable, and body in good condition. Flexible on interior and drive train. Will give it TLC and a good home. Finders Fee of \$100 paid to first referral that result in a successful purchase. Ed Boyer, Mattawan MI 269-668-7612 Email: edmaddog3@gmail.com

Looking For: Club member Vickie Gearhart is looking for a set of original wheels for her 77 MGB. Anyone with a set for sale, or who knows where there is a set, please drop her a note at Gearhart@oakwood.oh.us

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.

MG Car Club Minutes, October 2006

Diana Hodges

Meeting called to order by new (old) President Parks at precisely 8:01p.m. *Not that Ron's old, just that as a former President he's also an old President. I mean, he's not young either, but he's certainly not what I'd call old... Moving on...*

President's Report is up first. Tonight we have some very special guest with us. *(Personally I think that we're being monitored by the CIA...)* Robert ____ *(I missed it)* and Alicia Sexton from Sinclair Community College are here to study small group communication. Why they chose our group as their model, no one knows.

Pres. Parks is quick to point out that "Robert's Rules" are loosely not followed around here.

Visiting us are Yvonne and Bob Carson from Montreal. They own a 1977 Primrose MGB Mk IV. Ron, "After tonight, you might not want to join." Hammond, "get their money now!"

Fall Tour: As a result of our trip down and the lack of use, John Zeno donated the beer trailer to the MGCC. Terry Looft didn't have his trailer hitch, so it will have to be delivered at a later date. John's son Steve did have one request, that we have someone paint on it "donated by John Zeno". That won't be a problem. Dick Goodman, "Paint? Let's have a plaque made..." This comment might have gone missed by a large portion of the Peanut Gallery, it's worth consideration. Steve, we will do something to commemorate its' origin.

Ron had his laptop with pictures from the fall tour. Louie D., "Do you have a Spitfire?" It was reported that everyone really enjoyed the dinner cruise and that everyone had a nice time.

Apparently, new members, the Mercer's, were on the tour, but they're not back this month... *hmmm...* The band of travelers did have a starter issue that was sorted out. Graham had a distributor issue that he solved by swapping distributors to get the car running.

Terry Looft had a small concession in electronic and ignition parts for sale. *(Terry – you do realize that all proceeds from any and all sales need to be reported to the IRS on a Form 1600 TC – Miscellaneous Fritterings Report...)*

Skip sent in the club information for our annual renewal with the Mother Club, but forgot to bring the info to the meeting. Skip's credit card *(MasterCard No. 34244567334458872 exp. 3/09)*



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still hasn't been charged and he can't figure out if we're going to get it for free. Here's hoping! Additionally, Cooley's shirts are here, again, and this time, they really will be auctioned off...

New **Vice President** Dave McCann's **Report** is next. Dave, "I distinctly remember Skip saying that I don't have to do anything. I'm done." In a cryptic exchange, Carole Looft, "Dave, the 2007 website's not up yet, does Dave know anything about it?" Dave, "I'll check." (*Huh?!? What?!?*)

Minutes Report was next. Apparently there is a correction to last months' minutes. Skip pointed out that we did not proxy for the Mother club to invade all of Canada, just Quebec. Hammond Motions to accept, Lois Gribler seconds. Motions as presented approved.

Steve Veris and the **Treasurer's Report** are up next. Total Income: Membership Dues (\$544.00) + Regalia (\$5.00) + Advertising (\$32.00) + BCD (\$1,800.00) = **Total Income of \$2,391.00.**

Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$159.96) + Gumball (\$15.00) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Framing (\$174.72) = **Total Expense of \$394.48.**

Total Gain to the MGCC was \$1996.52, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$430.20 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,426.72.**

Louie D. motions, John Barton seconds. Treasurer's report approved. (*I am looking for a new target to start embezzlement rumors to replace the ones about Kathy and Linda, any volunteers?*)

Membership Report by Carole Looft was next. We're up to 53 paid members, "...it's trickling in..." Postcards will be going out as reminders to those who have not renewed.

Sunshine Committee was next. Ron spoke to Phil Johnson, and his wife Nancy has been on chemotherapy for treatment of leukemia. Apparently this last round of chemo did not put it into remission. Unfortunately, Nancy has had all of the chemo that she can have. At this time, Phil and family are trying to get Nancy into an Indiana University clinical trial - the same treatment center that Lance

Armstrong went through. They're hoping to get her into Phase II-B of the study – human trials. Right now they're waiting for her white blood cell count to come up so that she can go home from the hospital.

VP Dave apparently had a knee surgery, on the clutch foot no less. Gary Kinney also had surgery on his back, performed by Dr. Ted

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Bernstein, so he's laid up for a while as well. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are in need of them. Say a special one for Phil and Nancy.

Steve Markman and the **Newsletter** were next. The blurb about the Valley Vineyards evening was omitted from the newsletter. There are about 5-6 members who don't have e-mail. Louie, "I'd get into trouble if I had a computer." What no time for the baby sitter...?

Skip, "Ask the students how the research is going..." Ron, "What's the title, 'how not to...' Are you going to the Triumph club as well...?" Jennifer P., "Do you know the Triumph theme song? Skip can sing it for you. It's 'We will, we will, push you...' (*Sung to the tune of Queen's "We will rock you"*)

Activities are next. Apparently, according to Joe Hooker, Tim Oricko has moved back to Pennsylvania and it looks like he will not be coming back. Joe Hooker, "we therefore have an opening for the activities chair." Ruben Wasserman volunteered to fill the position.

The big ones coming up are the November 4 Valley Vineyards event and the December 9 Holiday Party at the Petersen household. Remember that the November meeting is a week early due to Thanksgiving and we will be in the big room at the Knights Hall. Lois Gribler, "Our St. Patrick's/Valentines party is also on the schedule. Louie, "Can I bring my babysitter?" Skip, "If you're there too early, you're mopping the floor."

8:28 – Beer Break is called

8:43 – Meeting called back to disorder...

Old Business

BCD Wrap-up. Jennifer and Lois will continue to run the concessions which brought in about \$2600.00 total. Dar's wife has been drafted into service and she's going to keep doing it regardless of what she thinks. Financially, it was probably our best year.

We've lost Linda as our door prize chair. Linda, "Skip came thru because he has connections." We need a volunteer to take over this task. Basically, it involves sending letter, following up, calling people and if no one does it, there will be no door prizes at BCD.

Window Decals were next. Basically, they're \$1.91 per plus shipping. Now that we have the BCD money, we already approved the purchase so someone just needs to write the check.

Skip, "Has anyone received a bill from the Concours for \$200.00?" If so contact Skip.

New Business:

Louie, "I've got a suggestion..." Dick Smith, "...does it involve your babysitter?" Louie, "Let's change the name to the Triumph and MGCC." *Why am I still typing...?*

Dave McCann, "Who purchased the large logo sweatshirts and how can we get some more?" Skip, "The minimum order that they'll silk screen is three dozen at about \$8 per." Is there any interest in getting another order together?" Skip's going to check to see if we can get just two dozen. "Mr. Fashion" aka Pres. Parks points out that this color is technically called fleece...

MGB National meet is to be in Whistler B.C. (*According to Yahoo.maps, the total distance is 2643.4 miles with a driving time of 38 hours. Plan accordingly if you're going.*)

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For Sale:

Ron has a boot cover - new \$125.00 and an old convertible top - make offer.

Tech Tips:

Ruben wanted to know where Ron got the rubber strips under his luggage rack. Ron told him to see Focke Rubber Products, 1222 East Third St. just past the U-Haul. Hammond, "Just get a truck inner tube and you'll have enough rubber to last forever."

Skip, "Miami Valley Gasket has a material that works great as a heat shield. It can be cut with a utility knife and works great up to 4000 degrees."

Barney's (formerly Dunnigans) Hardware store out in Beavercreek has lots of chrome nuts and bolts if you're looking for that sort of thing.

Dar P., "If you're looking for a way to weld your piston rings and reduce compression to 0, there is a way that it can be done..." Marvel Mystery oil works great for fixing that sort of stuff. Hammond, "Brake fluid also works great for that sort of thing." How'd you fix your problem Dar? Dar, "I just changed the piston and rings..."

For those with older cars that used to run on leaded gas, Charlie's Union 76, 4001 S. Dixie Drive has racing fuel. Duncan Oil on Factory Road sells racing gas as well.

Auction: Nothing new to report...

British Museum of Transportation: Late September's open house went well. The October Morris Minor Regional meet (same weekend as the MGCC Zeno trip) had about twelve Minors show up, one having driven out from NJ. Dick reported that the museum picked up car number eleven a 1964 Humber Super Snipe.

Gumball Rallye - Linda Wolfe won.

9:14 – Dar Planeaux motions to adjourn, Ed Hill seconds. Louie's off to see his babysitter, and the rest of us are outta here.

| | |
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