
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVI No. 4

February 2007

MG Prepares for New Production (again)

...and More Great Stuff

From the President

Ron Parks

Well, winter has finally arrived, and with a vengeance. I won't be driving the MG for a while now, what with all the salt on the roads. So, it's time to get those little projects out of the way to prepare for spring driving. I plan to put on a new set of tires and install a new battery before spring. This would give me a more secure feeling; if it turns out I am able to drive to MG 2007 in Sonoma CA. Even if I don't go to California, I'll feel better about it. I was probably pushing it, driving on those old tires to Gatlinburg last summer and on our fall tour to Kentucky. I might do something about my seatbelts too. This would be purely cosmetic as the ones I have function fine, but are badly

faded. It's cold in most of our garages right now, but now is the time to do those projects that would take the cars off the road, rather than in spring or summer when they would cut into our driving time.



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, February 28, 2007

MG Car Club Officers

President.....Ron Parks
phone.....937-322-0717
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Member at Large.....Louis DiPasquale
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Upcoming Events

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)

May:

19 – British Car Show at 2nd St. Market

23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

June:

3 – Ft. Meigs (Perrysburg OH)

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

July:

15 – Cincinnati British Car & Bike Show

16-19 – National MGB – Sonoma CA

23-27 – National MGA – Brit Columbia

25 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Aug:

4 – British Car Day (Eastwood Park)

10-12 – University Motors Summer Party

22 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

26 – Picnic at the Goodmans'

Mark your calendars for the St. Patrick's Day party at the Gribblers on Saturday March 17, 2007 at 6:30pm. Yes, it's actually on St. Patrick's Day this year. Look for directions and information elsewhere in this issue. Dave and Lois Gribler were not at the January meeting and most likely will not be at the February meeting either, because of conflicts with basketball games; and therefore have asked me to encourage all of you to come to the party. This is always a good time. Lois and Dave cook ham, turkey and lasagna that are wonderful! We all fill in by bringing a salad, snack item or desert. Bring your own alcoholic beverage if you'd like. The tables are set with real china and silver. It's very nice! You should come!

We had a good turnout for our January meeting and good discussion of Tech tips near the end. The tech tips portion is probably the most important part of the meeting. So, bring your tech tips to share and questions to get answered. Even something that may seem like a minor little thing to you, might save someone else some time and/or hassle in getting something fixed on their MG. And, there is a lot of experience in the room, so chances are you can get most questions answered.

Stay warm and hang in there. Spring is coming.

MG Gets Ready For Production

Richard Truett
AutoWeek

MG last week took its first steps to restart production.

In Birmingham, England, two preproduction MGTF sports cars were built at the former MG Rover plant at Longbridge.

The cars - the first MGs to be built in almost two years - are two of about 40 pilot-build vehicles to be used for engineering validation and safety and emissions certification, says MG spokesman Kim Custer.

MG is owned by Nanjing Automobile Group Corp., which bought the brand for about \$100 million after MG Rover collapsed in 2005. Nanjing will build the MGTF in two plants - one in China for cars to be sold in Asia and in the Birmingham factory for Europe. Regular production is scheduled to begin in March.

Custer said MG's plans to re-enter North America are on track for next year.

Editor's Note – Thanks to Dick Smith for catching this.

Welcome New Member

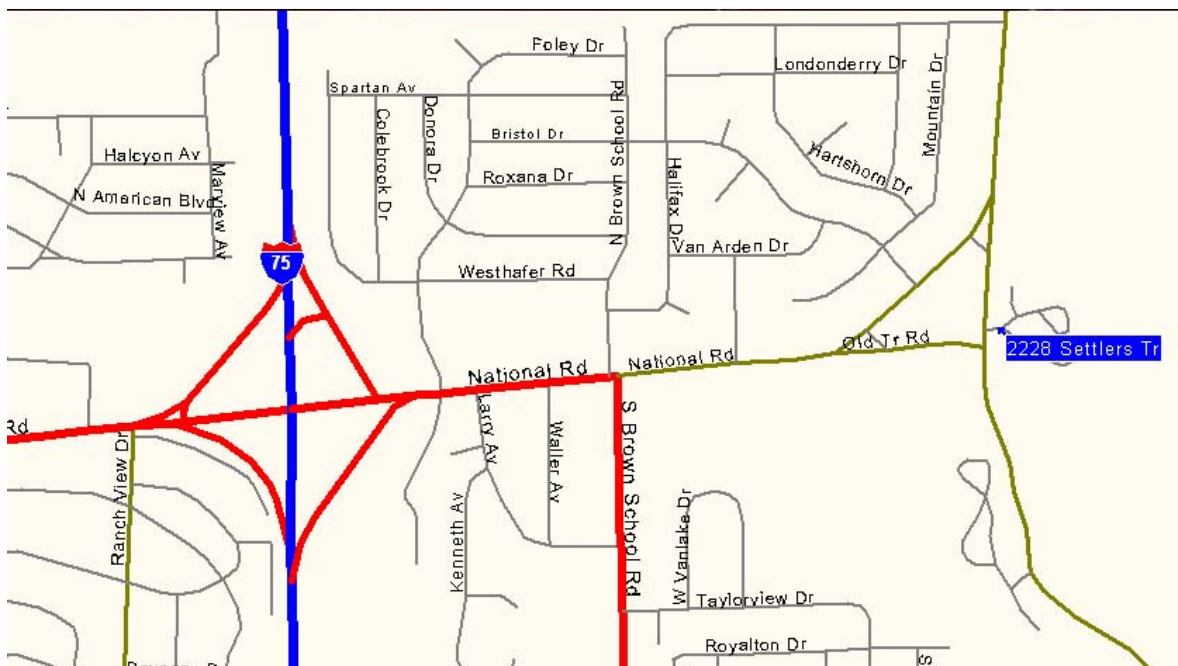
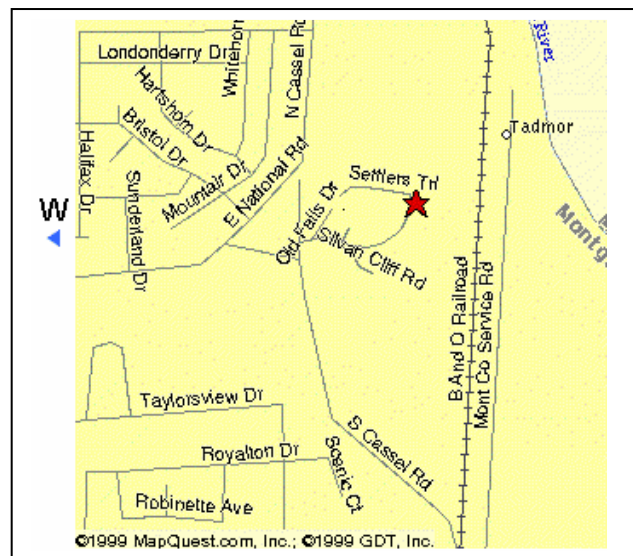
Carole Looft

Robert Knupp
35 Parkhurst Rd.
Beavercreek, Ohio 45440
(937) 426-2254
51 MG TD

St Patrick's Day Party at the Gribler's

Dave & Lois Gribler

We're doing it again on St. Patrick's Day and hope you can attend, even if you haven't participated in any club events previously! We'd love to see some new faces this year along with the usual exuberant crowd. This is a sit-down dinner. The MG Car Club membership is invited to our house, 2228 Settlers Trail, Vandalia, Ohio; phone 898-9928, for a St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday March 17, 2007 at 6:30pm. From I-75 in Vandalia, go East on E. National Road and then refer to maps. We supply the soft drinks meat and lasagna. You bring a salad, dessert or snack item and alcoholic beverage if you'd like. Hope to see you here on March 17th! Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Classifieds

Wanted: Original aluminum hard top for the MGB V8. Email Jim Cole championcsa@aol.com or call (541)261-2603.

For Sale: 1969 and 1970 BSA Thunderbolt 650ccs – both rough but restorable. 1981 Honda Breeze 50cc Step Thru. Runs well, but needs some TLC. 1982 Suzuki T50 – 50cc Step Thru – Needs mech, but looks good. All for \$1800.00 Bob 1-513-267-1785.

For Sale: 1974 MGB convertible. This car has less than 16,000 original miles and all of the original bells and whistles. The original paint is red and the leather upholstery is black. The body is in perfect condition as well. This car sat in an old lady's garage in Murfield, OH for years and came into my father's possession by chance. If interested, my mother is asking \$7,000 or best offer. The car can be seen in Vandalia by contacting Mae Cohen at 898-5365.

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-iaist, 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.

	
	
	
July 16-20	
July 23-27	
Sonoma Wine Country California	<i>The MG Drive With Altitude! British Columbia</i>
Tour through California exquisite wine country, experience Redwood Canyon, cruise Muir Woods, up the Pacific Coast, and down San Francisco hills to the Golden Gate Bridge. This is more than a MG car show, it is a destination for vistas, culture, MG touring, and making friends. <i>Go! www.MG2007.org</i>	75 miles north of Vancouver is MG God Country. Like no other place, you and your MG will never feel more alive. Twisty mountain roads with eye popping vistas that only the Canadian Rockies can deliver. The place you'll remember for the rest of your life. All British marques and non-NAMGAR members welcome! <i>www.gt32.com</i>

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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

Editor's Note – Last month's Octagon News discussed problems that new oils cause with older engines, particularly those with "flat tappets." The following article from the Dayton Daily News explains flat tappets and the newer technology used in more-modern cars.

A U T O G R A P H

Ramping up with a roller

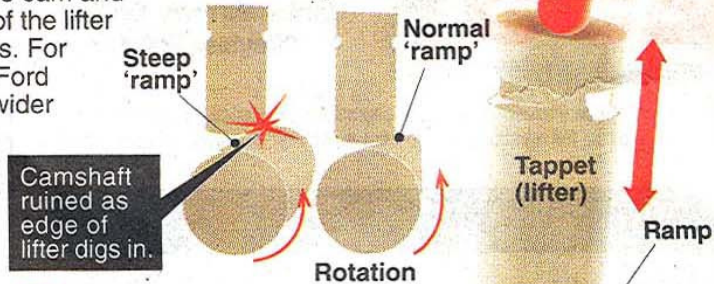
The heart of an engine is its camshaft(s), which directly controls the amount of air/fuel mixture entering the combustion chamber at any given time. The camshaft has this effect because it is in charge of opening and closing the intake and exhaust valves. The shape of the bumps on the rotating camshaft, called lobes, largely dictates an engine's performance and fuel economy. There are other obvious factors that contribute to this, such as displacement and the type of exhaust and intake systems in place, but few have as big an effect as the camshaft.

The 'flat-tappet' camshaft has been used in millions of automobiles, but in mid-1980s became a real limiting factor to gain more performance and fuel economy from small engines. Valve lift is controlled by the 'ramp' of the cam lobe. The steeper the ramps, the faster they can open the valves to the cam's maximum lift. With a flat-tappet cam, if the ramp is too steep, the tappet (lifter) digs into the side of the cam and ruins it. The diameter of the lifter has a lot to do with this. For example, Dodge and Ford lifters are historically wider than Chevy lifters which means Dodge and Ford cam lobes can have steeper ramps.

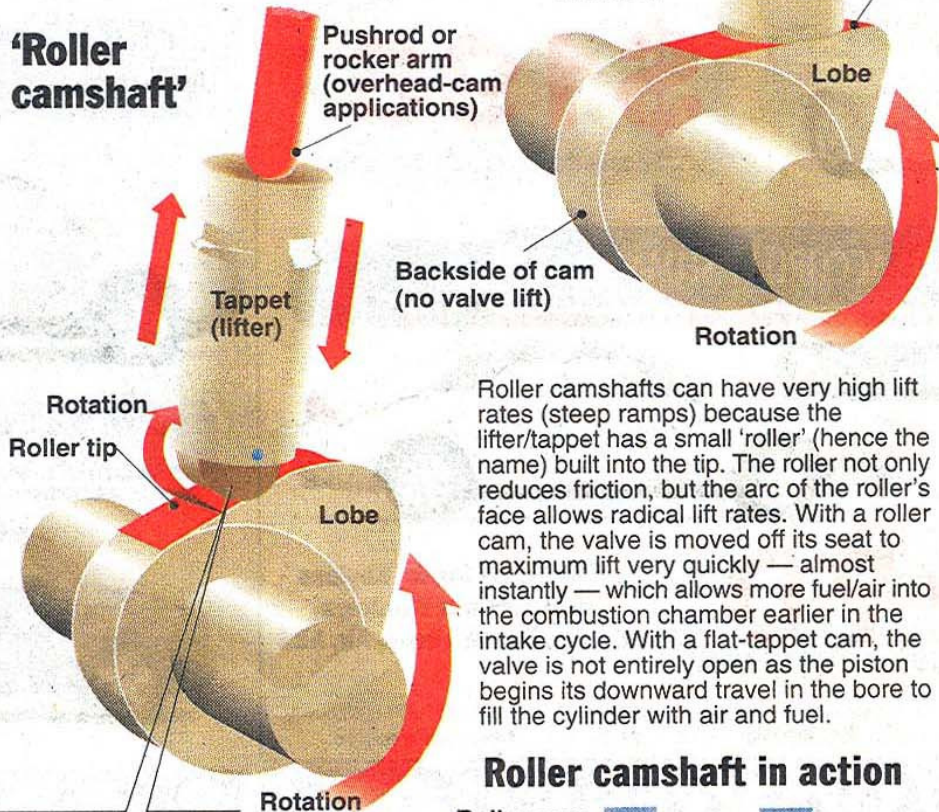
'Flat-tappet' camshaft

Pushrod or rocker arm (overhead-valve applications)

Flat tappets

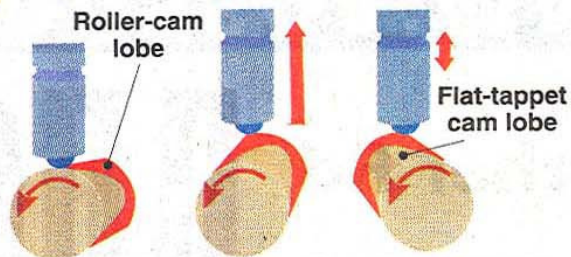


'Roller camshaft'



Roller camshafts can have very high lift rates (steep ramps) because the lifter/tappet has a small 'roller' (hence the name) built into the tip. The roller not only reduces friction, but the arc of the roller's face allows radical lift rates. With a roller cam, the valve is moved off its seat to maximum lift very quickly — almost instantly — which allows more fuel/air into the combustion chamber earlier in the intake cycle. With a flat-tappet cam, the valve is not entirely open as the piston begins its downward travel in the bore to fill the cylinder with air and fuel.

Roller camshaft in action



1. Valve lifts more quickly off the seat because of the steep ramp.
2. Maximum valve lift achieved earlier for maximum air/fuel intake (efficiency). Cylinder bores fill more easily.
3. Valve opened at maximum for longer period of time.

The roller tip rotates on a small pin that holds it in place. There is no wear on the ramps of a roller camshaft. Conventional flat-tappet cams can last the life of a vehicle, but are prone to wearing out (because of the metal on metal contact), especially if an engine is abused, or poorly maintained.

MG Car Club Minutes, January, 2007

Diana Hodges

Since most of you did miserably on the pop quiz, I've decided to go back to a lecture format. BUT, beware, there will be more pop-quizzes in the future...

(Di: This month's minutes are the palate cleanser from all of the madness last month...)

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 by President Parks who was presiding over a rather packed house. In his **President's Report**, Ron thanked Skip and Jennifer for hosting a lovely party. "It seemed like a one of those cartoon houses that was about ready to burst at the seams."

At the recent Pub Run there were, maybe, twenty people at the Quaker Steak and Lube. Apparently, there was one brave soul who drove his MG to the event; Terry Happensack drove his Midget. Terry Looft, "well at least half an MG..."

Ron, apparently suffering from SARS, starts to cough "... I went to the doctor and got a new prescription." Skip, "I think you may need a new doctor."

In a complete and total violation of protocol President Parks and Vice President McCann car pooled to the meeting. Unbeknownst to many of us, Ron is apparently a school bus driver in his off time. *Perhaps this is why he's so comfortable with the performance of a Triumph.* (...Yes, I know the Triumph club gets a copy of the newsletter...) Ron, "Thanks to Dave for driving since they have a zero tolerance policy for bus drivers..." Peanut Gallery, "What, they trust you with kids...?" *Someone HAD to make that joke, see Ohio Revised Code § 365.512BB.*

The MGCC received a thank you letter from Hospice of Dayton for our donation in the memory of Nancy Johnson. It was at this point during the meeting that Ron read the letter.

Another thank you letter arrived from the Lance Armstrong Livestrong Foundation thanking us for our donation of \$202.49. Skip, "was it signed 'Sincerely, Sheryl Crow'?"



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Our current Treasurer Graham Cooper was no where to be found. The appropriate authorities have been notified and customs officials are now on alert. He did file the following report:

Total Income: Membership Dues (\$347.50) + Belt Auction (\$40.00) + MG Framed Print (\$202.49) = **A Total Income of \$589.99.** Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$114.24) + Hall

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Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Oberer's Flowers [Debbie Sonderman](\$51.50) + Hospice of Dayton [Nancy Johnson] (\$50.00) + Lance Armstrong Foundation (\$202.49) + H&H Screen Printing (\$128.70) + Skip Peterson [Sweatshirts] (\$247.20) = **A Total Expense of \$844.13. Total Loss to the MGCC was \$254.14**, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$2,249.94 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$1,995.80**. Kathy Goodman motioned to accept the report. Terry Happensack seconded. Report approved.

Vice President Dave McCann, "...I've finally got a job..." (*is it driving Ron to meetings?*) Planning is underway for the next pub run and VP McCann is on the case. "Does anyone know anything about W.O. Wright pub?" Dick Goodman, "I know that they seem to get a lot of calls for car break ins..." Rothschild Berry Farm is another possibility for a summer drive. They have sauces, condiments, and all things berry.

Minutes Report was next. After some collaboration and an attempt to come up with the right answers, Bob Charles decided to motion to accept the minutes as read. Skip seconded. Minutes approved.

Membership was next. Carole Looft reported that the club currently has 93 members as of the January meeting. "That's a lot for this early, Ron, you're on track for a new record." Ron, "If it looks like I'm going to fall short, I might just have to 'find' some new members." Jennifer Peterson (*actually I forget who said it, but I had to credit Jennifer with saying something...*) "Dues are prorated, so if you wait until July..."

Our new member joining at the meeting was Bob Knupp, owner of a 1951 MG TD. Additionally, we apparently had members who joined at BCD yet none of us knew who they were, until now. That couple is John & Sue Koehl. Also at the meeting was Dave Marquis (Midget) who was a guest of Terry Happensack. Welcome to all of the new members. Please don't hold our behavior against us!

Sunshine Committee was next. After Nancy Johnson's passing, the family took a needed vacation to Hawaii. Gary Kinney and Carol Estell were also at the meeting with Carol showing us the result of her third foot surgery in the past three years.

Newsletter was next. Steve, "I've got nothing. I've actually got a few articles backlogged..." Terry Happensack, "Don't tell them that!"

Activities was the next thing on the agenda. Ruben reported that the University Motors tech seminars are in February in Grand Rapids. Additionally, Dick Goodman made sure that the summer party on August 26th was on the calendar.

Don't forget the Gribblers' St. Patrick's Day party. They sent a reminder that the party is scheduled for March 17th at 6:30. They couldn't be at the meeting because of some basketball game at some small college in Cincinnati, Xavier I think. Ham, turkey, lasagna are usually on tap and everyone else brings a covered dish and drink. Mark your calendars.

Tune-up Clinic. For years it has been Bill Hammonds' responsibility to organize this event. Bill stated in a very emotional speech that, he no longer wanted to take point on this (*...I'm making this all up, ya' know...*) due to all of the grief that he's received over his MGB having blue wheels. Ron, "Does anyone want to take over the responsibility for making the arrangements for the clinic?" Who isn't here that we can assign this to? The Gribbler's aren't here! Gary Moore steps up to the plate and saves the Gribblers' skin by volunteering.

Spring Tour. Ron has decided to take the year off from planning tours. Skip, “Well there goes the neighborhood.... no covered bridges, no phone calls... what next?” Linda Wolfe, “We could do a Marietta tour, or maybe go back down to the lake where Zeno lives.” Terry Looft, “We were thinking a drunken orgy.” Kathy G., “We just

need to make sure that we get the boat with the hot-tub.” Dick G., “We haven't been on the covered bridge tour for a while.” The Loofts’ stated that they have something up there sleeves... stay tuned.

MG Get Together 32 in Whistler, B.C. If you entered by the end of this month, you would have been entered to win a free night at the host hotel.

A potential Pub Run to D & D Restorations is (*we hope*) still on the table.

The **sweatshirts** are here tonight and the prices went up from the cost of the quote. Therefore, the prices are now \$12 for a sweatshirt, see Carole Looft to get/ order yours.

Beer Break 8:40.

Return from Beer Break was at 8:59.

Window decals are in. Carole, “I’ve got them...” Terry Looft, “...and they're only \$6 per...” Actually they’re only \$2.25 each. Terry L., “Hey, I was trying to make us some money.”

Concours was next. Skip, “A couple things have changed... I am now the new chairman of the event. We left Boonshoft and are now going to hold the Concours at Carillon Park and the Dayton Historical Society will be the beneficiary of our labor. The new name of the event will be ‘The Dayton Concours at Carillon Park’. Same deal as before, pay for admission and get to see all of the other exhibits. The date is September 16th.”

At this point, Pres. Parks noticed the presence of a large bulky item under the podium. Skip, “Find anything under the podium?” Ron now has the traveling President’s trophy.

New Business

Terry Looft, “How are we going to handle the license and Insurance on the Beer trailer?” Ryan Looft, “...in case someone steals all of our beer.” Can the club be a registered owner? If it can, will we want it

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to be? Can we get it registered as a historical vehicle? Skip, "We need to talk to our club insurance agent, John Shirley, and see what he has to say." We can tell him that we need it to tow "supplies" to and from car shows. Terry L. says that he will check on the licensing issue since he's got to go to the license bureau anyway for all of the January renewals on his fleet. Pres. Parks says that he'll check on the insurance since the club's nuclear football has all of the contact information. Since it's the club's property, can we check it out like a library card? At this point, the issue was tabled pending further information and research. Skip, "Let's give the trailer back... this is too hard..." Dave Estelle, "I think it came with a one way ticket..."

Additionally, Skip's looking into getting the trailer lettered along with a label listing Zeno as the donor.

Dick Smith reported that the observers who sat in on a meeting for a class project at Sinclair Community College reported that they got the highest grade in the class and everything turned out happy. Unfortunately, Hammond failed the psychological profile and he is now technically a ward of the state.

For Sale: Ron has a used convertible top and tonneau as well as a new top. See Ron if you're interested.

Steve Veris has samples of new Lucas tripod headlights. These units use halogen bulbs and fit standard 7 inch openings. Cost is \$95 for the set, contact Steve for more information.

Tech Tips: Hammond apparently has no dash lights and wants to know if anyone has any idea about brighter halogen or led lights? Skip, "Take the rheostat and run it back and forth about twenty times and that will clean it and make the lights brighter." bypassing the rheostat will also make them brighter, or "...get a driver with younger eyes – Louie's babysitter comes to mind."

Steve Powell reported that while working on one of his cars, somehow the transmission got stuck in gear. He called Dave Gribler who showed up, stuck his hand into the transmission and about ten minutes later, it was up and running. Steve's Tech Tip - Call Dave Gribler.

Bruce Schieman, "Where can I get keys for an MG without having to order them? The club agrees that Gem City Key on Third street used to carry the proper blanks, try them.

Steve Veris, "Does anyone have an MGA oil canister?" Skip, "How bad ya' lookin?"

That having been said, we move on to Gumball...Pam Schieman wins.

Skip motions to adjourn. Dave McCann seconds. We're out at 9:30.

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