
THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No. 2

November 2007

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!!

Holiday Party Info

From the President

Dave McCann

I'm feeling much better these days, and appreciate the card and all the calls and wishes from all of you. Being in a car club is so much more than just cars—it's knowing you have friends who care.

Well the holiday season has arrived. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have passed. I hope all of you had a safe holiday wherever you might have traveled. We are headed to western PA to visit with my sister.

I won't be taking the MG to storage as last year. I rented a garage locally. Last year I loaded the car with moth balls as I knew there were mice in my sister's barn. Boy does it take a long time to rid a car of that odor, even with the top down.

Don't forget the holiday party at the Parks' on Dec. 8. See you at the next meeting.

(That's it...short column!)



North American MGB Register

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, January 23, 2008

MG Car Club Officers

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Upcoming MGCC Events

Nov:

28 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Dec:

8 – Holiday Party at Parks' home
No meeting

Jan:

23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

Updating Our Membership List

Carole Looft

We will be including an updated membership list with the January edition of the club newsletter. If you have not gotten around to renewing your membership, please take a moment to send it in. Only members who have renewed will be included in this list. Also, please let me know of any change in address, phone number, or e-mail address. Thanks!

Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Edward & Susan Bailey
675 W. Home Road
Springfield, OH 45504
(937) 390-3360 - home
MGB428@aol.com
1972 MGB

VSCDA Mid-Ohio Fall Classic / MG Vintage Racers Focus Event

Tom Davis

What a great weekend -- eventful to be sure, but it turned out good! But first a short explanation of the venue. Vintage Sports Car Drivers Association or VSCDA is the club I have been racing with for the past 6 years. Based in Grand Rapids, they organize and sanction several events throughout the year. MG Vintage Racers or MGVR is a loosely organized club (without meetings - my kind) with members in several states both east and west of the Mississippi. They pick an event each year to hold the focus event and it happened that this year was here in Ohio. It has been held at Watkins Glen, coinciding with the 50th running of the Collier Cup, and last year was the all MG event at Hallet, Oklahoma.

Anyhow..... At Mid-Ohio in October, 62 MG's showed up instead of the usual 10 or 12, several from the east coast and from as far away as Texas. The field included 4 cars from the 1930's, a Lester

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MG, quite a few T's and a ton of A's, B's, and Midgets. I had not been out with my car, the BRG MGBGT, since Gingerman in May so I was anxious to get some track time. Plus, I spent all summer trying to get a replacement head together to replace the one I cracked in May and I was apprehensive about how it would perform. I had been having problems with valves sticking in the guides. Everything was looking good until Friday afternoon when a freeze plug let go at the exit of turn one and I spun in my own water. Of course I thought it was some other inconsiderate bloke that put the fluid down so I continued through the keyhole then noticed a lack of power so pulled off. That is when I saw the steam. Back in the paddock I replaced the plug and fired it up but found out that the head had gotten hot enough to cause yet another valve to stick in the guide. Fortunately, Eric Jones was there and knew of a machine shop in Delaware that may be willing to take care of me on short notice. He made a phone call and off I went. He turned out to be a racer as well and was sympathetic with my plight. He put about one and a half hours in fixing the head and demanded only enough payment to buy two 12 packs -- what a deal!

I went out to the track early Saturday morning to reinstall the head. Steve Miller put the final touches on it and I was able to make 10 AM qualifying. I managed to make 18th on the grid for Sunday's feature race in a 28 car field in spite of the valve train still acting up a bit. I think the new valves were still trying to seat. But Steve was able to fine-tune it before the start of an "All MG" race Saturday afternoon and the car was running great! I was really glad to have the master in my paddock. This field was made up of all post-war and non-T cars – 30 something MG's in all. There were some fine examples, and pretty fast I might add, but I managed to hold off a couple of pesky MGA's to finish in the top half of that race. Then in the feature race on Sunday, I finished 10th overall and 6th in class after an exciting start and then staying in front of an English Ford Escort – I was elated to say the least. I was also tickled to bring it home for the year without planning big repairs over the winter. Now maybe I can concentrate on some minor refinements.



Tom Davis on the track at Mid-Ohio

Visiting Old MG Club Friends in Japan

Terry Looft

In October and November I had a chance to bid some flying in Japan. It amounted to about five weeks total for the two months. My company has two airplanes based in Osaka, Japan. I was flying trips to China and Thailand. Most of the layovers were in Osaka.

I was thinking about our friends and past club members, Keishi and Kiyoko Koba. They had left the club to return to Japan. Keishi was close to retirement and after living in the States for some years moved home. Wondering where in Japan they lived, and even if their old email address was still good, I sent a message. To my surprise I got a reply, and on top of that, they lived only 30 minutes from Osaka. “When can we pick you up” was Keishi’s reply. We got together on a Sunday and did a 10 hour tour of Osaka and surrounding sights. We finished the day with a Japanese meal and hot saki to boot! They are doing well. Keishi is spending a lot of time on the golf course and they are just enjoying the free time. They are planning a visit to the U.S. next year to visit friends. We hope to see them at a club meeting.



Dinner with Kiyoko and Keishi



Seeing the sights in Osaka

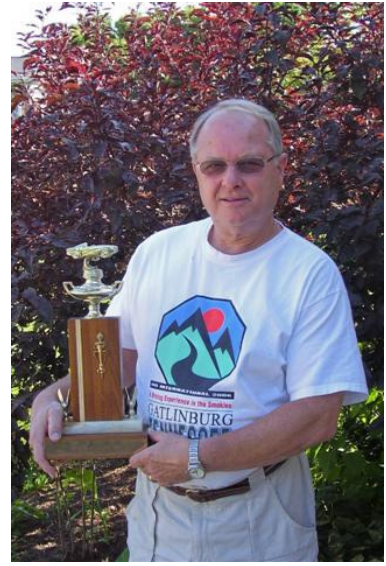
1st Holiday at Home Concours d'Elegance

Steve Powell, as told to Ron Parks

This is a story of an accidental car show win by MG Car Club members Steve and Jayne Powell. Here's what happened. Steve and Jayne decided to go to the 1964 Holiday at Home festivities in Kettering Ohio, the first of many Holiday at Home celebrations, with their friends Larry and Camilla McCart. Steve and Jayne owned the 1953 MG TD, white with green interior pictured herein. Steve had purchased the car from the owner of Tobias Funeral Home for \$800, responding to an ad in the newspaper. For some reason Jayne drove the MG to the Holiday at Home with Camilla in the passenger seat and Steve and Larry got there in another vehicle. Upon their arrival, Steve and Larry discovered the Concours d'Elegance and decided to dust off the MG TD and enter it. They pushed the car into place, since Jayne was somewhere else with the keys, dusted the car off a little and left. They met up with the girls, watched the parade and kind of forgot about it. They came back a few hours later to find the trophy on the front seat of the car. There were no names on the cars or anything. The Holiday at Home folks didn't even know whose car had won. But, as you can see in the photos, Steve Powell has the 1st place trophy from the 1964 Holiday at Home Concours d'Elegance.



Steve and Jayne Powell's 1953 TD



Steve showing the trophy

Classifieds

For Sale: 1976 MG Midget convertible with hardtop attachment, 30,000 miles, has always been in garage, no rust, needs some interior repair. Exterior condition excellent. Will negotiate price. Located in Canal Winchester, OH. Ellen Taylor, 1-614-882-4188.

For Sale: 67 MG Midget. 62,000 original miles. 2nd owner. Recent frame-up restoration. New: undercoating and hardened sealer, chrome everywhere, brake cylinders, rotors, pads, battery, solenoid, etc, etc. \$17,000 or best offer, Kirk Kubik, 562-209-1234.

For Sale: MGB parts ; many new and used hoses, swithes,gaskets, parts, 2 rosestyle wheels, 2 wire wheels, short block, 2 heads (both need cracked valve seats repaired, aking \$400 obo, also an engine stand asking \$25 obo contact Bob Fletcher cell (500)500-4511 or home (500)225-9306 location Lagrange KY (20 mi E of Louisville.

For Sale: 1959 MGA 1600. Not running but not in terrible shape. It's been garaged since it was last driven in the late 70s; a perfect vehicle for a restoration. Asking \$2000. (937)416-7167.

For Sale: Aftermarket hard top for an MGB made by Dynacraft. Nice condition, black both in and out with plexiglass windows. Asking \$250.00. 614-879-5681 (Madison County.)

For Sale: 65 MGB roadster. White with black interior and wire wheels. Includes hardtop and extra parts. Engine and tranny rebuilt. Solid car, an 8 mechanically, a 4 or 5 cosmetically. Needs some work but runs and drives well. Owner has run out of time and space. Price is negotiable. Owner is looking for someone to save the car, not part it out. Will provide photos by e-mail. Contact Bryan Fite at angus@donet.com.

For Sale: 1965 AH Sprite owned since 1973 and always garaged, new tires, owner was a professional bodyman and had taken the sheet metal off to restore, most panels restored and some new. Located in Troy, OH. Call Ken Keirsch at 937-339-0487.

Upcoming Out of Town MG Events

April 11-12-13, 2008 - Silver Springs, Florida -GOF XLII 2008 presented by the Suncoast Classic MG Club. Come and have "Fun in the Sun" at the original Florida tourist attraction - Silver Springs - home of the glass bottom boats and where "Sea Hunt" and "Tarzan" movies were filmed. More information is available at <http://www.britishcarclub.net> or mgrick@mgcars.org.uk.

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MG Car Club Minutes, October 24, 2007

Sam Hodges

Terry Looft attempted to call the meeting to order at exactly 8:00. Terry, “Right off the bat, I’m screwed on this deal... From now on, we’re going to require physicals for any prospective Presidents...” Louie D., “You’d better sit down then.” Terry, “I quit.” Ryan Looft, “I think he just wants you to turn your head and cough.” (*No love from the son...*)

Ron Parks, “President McCann was admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Facilities Western Campus, (a.k.a. Mercy Hospital in Springfield) to have his appendix removed. While there, the doctors also took out a section of his large intestine as the result of a colonoscopy that he had done sometime prior.” There is of course a card floating around the meeting.

In a rare combined **Presidential/Vice Presidential Report**, Terry reported that he spent a couple of weeks in Osaka, Japan on business. On a whim, he e-mailed Keishi and Kiyoko Koba. The Kobas’ are former MGCCer’s that moved back to Japan in 2006. It turns out they live about 30 minutes from Osaka. They came to the airport and picked Terry up and spent about twelve hours touring the Osaka region as their guest. Apparently they are retired and enjoying life in Japan. Terry got his first exposure to a Toyota Prius Hybrid. Terry was amused by the fact that they had to honk the horn to warn pedestrians that the car was moving as the hybrids are almost silent from a standstill and most pedestrians don’t even notice them there.

Minutes were next. No one complained about anything (*odd...*) Dick Goodman motioned to accept the minutes as reported, Joe Hooker seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report was next. Kathy Goodman reported that we had Total Income of: Membership Dues (\$602.00) + Regalia (\$10.00) + Advertising LBCC (\$32.00) + BCD (\$1250.00) = **A Total Income of \$1890.00.** Total Expenses: New Member Packets (\$8.84) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Gumball (\$5.00) + Free Membership Drawing (18.00) + Summer Party (222.59) = **A Total Expense of \$299.43.** **Total Gain to the MGCC was \$1594.57**, that when added to our existing Treasury balance of \$550.76 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,145.33.**

Bill Hammond motioned to accept the report. Jennifer Peterson seconded. Report approved. (*Where’s Eddie?!?*)

Sunshine Committee was next. Apparently, our President’s in the hospital. Skip P., “My back’s hurting...” Terry, “...not to mention that he’s a pain in the ass.” Joe Hooker’s back and feeling fine.

Newsletter was next. Ron sent 2 articles, and Louie sent a picture. Steve apologized to Linda for missing the e-mail that she sent about the Valley Vineyards get together. Terry, “I think you also owe us an apology for using Louie’s picture of the Triumph.” Hammond, “People with open minds are in danger of their brains falling out...” (*HUH?!?!?!?*) Ron Parks brings up the idea of possibly e-mailing the newsletter. In the alternative, we could put it on the website and let everyone just go to the website. We could just do blanket e-mail and if you want to opt out of the paper one, then it’d be possible. Jennifer, “How much would this save us a month?” Kathy G. “Postage alone last month was \$74.00. Skip, “How many are we mailing a month?” Joe Hooker, “132 this past month.” Jennifer, “Is this something we’re going to vote on?” Terry, “I’m just a temp here...” Jenn, “...that’s why we’re going to do this now.” Skip, “We need to give everyone a shot at commenting on this. We should send an e-mail and let the people

reply yes/no and see where we're at." Jeff Opt agrees that we should roll this out slowly. Hammond - we could send out a test of last month's newsletter to see what happens. I think that there should be a dues increase for those who want the hard copy. Ryan L. "Going to the website is too cumbersome. I get the Emerald Necklace passwords and I never go to the website because it's too much trouble. Dick Smith, "Try running the newsletter through PDF writer more than once and see what happens.

Some times you can compress it to a fairly small file size. There are plenty of free acrobat formatters out there." Jeff, "We can work on it." Dave Gribler, "But if I print at home its only on one side..." Jenn P. "...but it'll be in color..." Dave, "...I have a black and white laser printer." Skip, "Can we send a test to see what happens?" Ryan, "If you delay sending it out, then you might try to force people over to the e-mail." Terry L, "Now that I'm up here, I see how annoying that back table is!" Former Pres. Parks, "Thank you!"

Dick Goodman. "Ever since some one invented that damn computer, what Ryan said is actually happening. Every time that I've been in that situation, the delivery dates keep slipping and slipping and slipping because they want to do everything all electronically. I've lost contact with two major organizations because of that computer..." Steve Markman will still produce it and in the same way and on the day that Joe mails it out, it'll get fired out electronically.

Ryan, "I motion that in addition to the beer break, I propose that we have monthly computer classes to teach people like Louie and Dick G. how to use computers." *See what trouble that back table is... It appears the matter has been tabled as no real resolution seems to have been reached.*

Website was next. Ron has Jeff's computer sitting on his desk right now and is in the process of putting links to the regalia items on the website. Terry took the pictures of them all even though Carole took credit for it...

Activities with Eddie Hill were next.

The Wolfe's are having their Excessive Consumption Party on the 17th Bring an hors d'oeuvres
Dec. 8th is the Holiday Party at Ron's in Springfield.
Don't forget about the Valley Forge gathering next year...

Beer Break is called at 8:30.



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Back from Break at 8:50 – *although it seemed like so much longer...* Hammond, “I think he's set the record for the longest beer break.” *Even with the head instigator gone, that back table is still trouble. Maybe it's just a group think thing. Or maybe the head instigator really isn't the head instigator.*

Old Business "...and I'm not talking about Louie.” Louie, “Why don't you just leave me alone?” Terry, “You're even easy to pick on from here.”

Membership was next. It should have been much earlier, but it seems that Terry forgot about it. Not good seeing as how his wife is our Membership chair... Terry, “Huh? Looking at my list, you were up near the top too...” Right now, the club is sitting at 58 paid members. The membership renewals are starting to roll in so hopefully it shouldn't be too long before we're back up to 100+.

Back to **Old Business**. We still have window decals and sweatshirts for sale. Hammond, “Do you have any wiring diagrams for a 68 B GT?” Terry L, “Nope, but we'll bring them...”

Dick Smith, “The building's up for sale again and the bank is accepting bids, so it might not be ours. If our benefactor doesn't come through, then we'll look for another building. The members of the Museum voted to extend the raffle drawing into the first of the year in order to sell more tickets. We've finally reached the point where all of the money will be going into our building fund and right now we're less than half way to the 900 ticket limit that we planned on selling.

Louie was talking to the American Legion Fairborn Commander about putting on a spaghetti dinner with all proceeds going to the museum. Hammond, “Will we get to meet the babysitter?” Louie, “Ethyl will be there.” Terry, “We'll pump her for information.” (*Yeah, I know it's juvenile, but look who we're dealing with people. The interplay between the characters is kind of funny though...*) Dick S., “Be careful with Louie. He'll use Triumph con-rods to stir the sauce.” Terry, “It's not hard since they just jump out at you.”

Thank you Lois Gribler for arriving at 8:57. *Ah, Lois. It has been far too long since I last had reason to slander you in the minutes... where do I begin?...*

Supplies Trailer Bodywork is tabled until next meeting. It's a winter job anyway. Skip, “Where's the trailer now?” Terry, “It's at our house.” Skip, “If you want to start, go right ahead...” Skip, “Is this a winter project that we could do in a weekend?” Terry, “I don't have the body experience to do this.” Louie, “What kind of bodies do you work on?” Terry, “Unlike Louie, live ones.” Dick S. “One thing I did notice was that every time we had it out, it kept getting better looking as the day ran on.” Jeff Opt, “More importantly, could you get it to carry more beer?” Skip, “With enough beer power tools and Bondo we can do anything. Afterall, why did God put Bondo in five gallon buckets?” For Triumphs! (*I missed who said it, but you have to admit, it was funny...*)

This years **Holiday Party** will be Dec. 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Former President Ron Parks' presidential retreat. If you come early, you're cleaning the bathroom. Bring a goody, gag gift and drink.

New Business. Lois Gribler would like to announce the annual Gribler Spring party. This year it will be a dinner party held on March 15th at the Gribler's'. Lois has a girls sectional swim meet so that's why the Valentine's party is now a St. Patrick's Day party.

We'd like to get an appreciation gift for Jim, Jenn's brother who's always here to serve us beer and keeps us from getting too rowdy. For all the time that he's spent here waiting on us we feel that a gift certificate

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to the Oakwood Club on Far Hills would be best (He really likes the place according to Jenn.) Carole, "What are we talking, \$50?" Terry, "I think that's a good limit." Dick G., "Where can you take your wife for \$50?" Terry, "Valley Vineyards." Louie motioned to give Jim a \$50 gift certificate, second from Dick Smith. Motion carried. Linda, "Jennifer, he does know that he's welcome to come to the party." Jenn., "I tell him that and he never does." Steve Veris, "That's because he knows us."

Ron, "We're out of t-shirts so maybe we should start some research into making another order. We've only got 2 smalls left." Skip, "The minimum order is 36, but why are we talking t-shirts in October?"

Skip, "John Twist has put a bunch of videos on 'youtube'." Apparently there are already 40 of them and he's got plans to post another 40 over the next year. Things like tuning carbs, bleeding brakes, suspension setup, etc. are all covered"

There's a new British pub out at the Greene called appropriately enough, "The Pub." Hooker and Jennifer say it's nice. Hammond, "The food is reasonable, but the beer is pricey."

For Sale: Wrong distributor cap and rotor (*well actually it's the right one if you have a 1500 Midget/Spitfire*) but if you have an MGB, it's the wrong one.

Tech Tips. Dave G. has an MGA grommet set that he's laid out on the table. Anyone who can identify where they all go, please help. Hooker, "Steve Miller's doing a black MGA right now." Skip, "I've got a sheet that might help." Steve will know, but you need to act fast.

Gumball – Dar Planeaux wins. Dar, "I'm buying!"

Ron motions to adjourn, Joe Hooker seconds.

9:25 Meeting adjourned.

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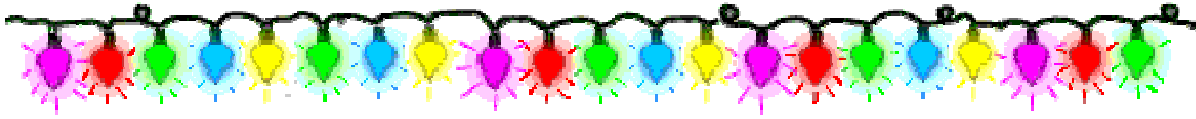
MiniMania



Steve Miller

3733 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 294-7623

e-mail: MgAutomotive1@aol.com



Holiday Party 2007

Ron Parks

Linda and I are excited to invite all MG Car Club, Southwestern Ohio Centre, members to the club's Holiday party at our home on Saturday December 8, 2007. Starting time is around 7:00pm. Bring a covered dish, snack or desert item and one gag gift for each person in your party. Bring your own alcohol if you so desire. The club will provide soft drinks, club soda, ice, plates, cups, napkins and plastic wear.

See maps on reverse side.

Directions: From Dayton/Cincinnati:

- I-675 North to Enon Exit, Route 444 (Dayton Road).
- Turn right off exit and continue on Route 444 (Dayton Road) through all four (4) traffic lights in Enon.
- Turn Right on Tecumseh Road. If you cross over I-70, you've gone too far.
- Proceed straight through the Stop sign at Rebert Pike (After stopping, of course).
- Take first left on Rocky Point.
- Take first right on Grossepoint.
- We are at 4101, the fourth house on the right, counting the first one that actually faces onto Rocky Point Road.
-

Directions: From Springfield:

- Go South on Route 68 from I-70.
- Take first right at the traffic light onto Fairfield Pike.
- Take first right on Rocky Point.
- Proceed straight through the Stop sign at Old Mill Road (After stopping, of course).
- Take first left on Grossepoint.
- We are at 4101, the fourth house on the right, counting the first one that actually faces onto Rocky Point Road.
-

Directions: From Xenia:

- Go North on Route 68.
- Turn left at the traffic light onto Fairfield Pike. This is the last intersection before coming to I-70. If you arrive at I-70, you've gone too far.
- Take first right on Rocky Point.
- Proceed straight through the Stop sign at Old Mill Road (After stopping, of course).
- Take first left on Grossepoint.
- We are at 4101, the fourth house on the right, counting the first one that actually faces onto Rocky Point Road.



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What: MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio Centre's Holiday Party

When: Saturday December 8, 2007 at 7:00pm

Where: The Parks' Ron & Linda

4101 Grossepoint Street
Springfield, OH 45502-9716
(937) 322-0717

