

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No. 11

September 2007

Membership Dues (it's that time again)

MGCC Picnic Photos

## From the President

Ron Parks

In this my last President's column of my current term as your President, I want to say it has been an honor, a privilege and fun serving as your President, notwithstanding Triumph slurs, for the past year. We've had a year of fun MG events and good participation in club activities and it's not over yet. I understand there was discussion about a pub run to Rothchild's near Urbana on September 30th. And, I wish to thank VP Dave McCann for filling in for me at last month's meeting while I was pulling in big bass in Canada. Perhaps, the September meeting will yield an idea for a fall tour? And then we have the Holiday party at our house, which Linda and I have decided will be on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

My monthly weather commentary is predicting a beautiful weekend for the Concours d'Elegance at Carillon Park this weekend and hopefully good weather the following weekend for Indy



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, September 26, 2007**

## MG Car Club Officers

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## Upcoming Events

### Sep:

16 – Concours d'Elegance (Carillon Park)  
26 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

### Oct:

13 – 14, Ohio Fall Colors Run  
Mansfield  
13 – 14, Vintage Race at Mid-Ohio  
24 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

### Nov:

21 – Meeting (K of C Hall) – Don't forget,  
it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday this month!

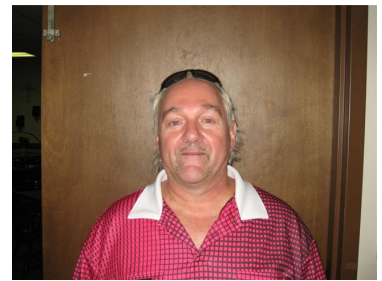
British Motor Days. McCann's, Ryan Looft, Eddie Cole and I are planning to attend Indy British Motor Days at the Brickyard Crossing Inn in Indianapolis. There may be others, of whose plans I am unaware. This event includes a lap around the track at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, a rally, banquet and the car show on Sunday. Ryan and I plan to give the McCann's a run for their money in the rally on Saturday! We'll have results at the September meeting. This will be fun!

Remember, we will elect new officers at the September meeting. Pay your dues so you can participate in the election, voting and/or running for office. See you at the meeting.

## Welcome New Members

Carole Looft

Steve Roselle is one of our newest members and owns an orange 1979 Midget. He tells us the car was not well taken care of when he bought it 6 months ago, so he sought the services of MG Automotive and the car is now running great. Steve was intrigued by the MG marque many years ago when he was a teenager. His cousin owned an MG at that time and SHE would give him rides every so often. He's loved the MG ever since. Steve keeps busy as the owner of Sloopy's, which is right across the street from the K of C hall. (No excuse not to make those club meetings once a month, Steve). Hobbies for Steve include playing his guitar and occasionally filling in as a DJ whenever the need arises. He will soon be a grandfather for the first time. As we all do, Steve is really having fun driving his car. The comments from strangers when he's been 'out and about' has been surprising. He's looking forward to getting the Midget in 'tip top' shape and enjoying it to the fullest. Welcome, Steve.



Welcome to Steve Roselle

Many of us already know George Chase from all the years that he has been attending BCD. George was a former member of our club who is rejoining. His car is a 1970 red Midget that he bought in Kentucky in 1991. The car was advertised in the paper, and he had wanted a Midget for 20 plus years, but never got around to finding one. He has done no modifications to the car, just the on-going restoring, as we all try to do. We think the Midget is his main hobby, but he will admit to an interest in music and computers also. George enjoys going to car show and meeting the other MG owners. It's good to have you back in the Club, George!



Welcome back to George Chase!

## And Welcome to *More* New Members

Carole Looft

George & Linda Chase 8193 Long Meadow Dr. West Chester, Ohio 45069 (513) 779-0317 gchase@cinci.rr.com 1970 Midget	Dave & Julie Hubble 11426 Terwilligers Ridge Cincinnati, Ohio 45249 (513) 469-2121 daveh@fuse.net 1976 MGB	Carl Myers 6426 Garrison Rd. Enon, Ohio 45323 (937) 767-2636 carl6341@sbcglobal.net 1953 TD 1959 MGA 1960 MGA 1977 Mini
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## Membership Renewal Time

Carole Looft

September is the month for membership renewals. Dues can be brought to the meeting or sent to:

P.O. Box 20032  
Dabel Branch  
Dayton, Oh 45420-0032

Renewals again are \$18/year. If you need to make any corrections or additions to the information we have on hand for you, just drop a note along with your payment, and we will update our records. *Remember—you must be a paid member to vote for new officers at the September meeting!*

## A Visitor From England



Adam Cooper, Graham's son, who was visiting from England, joined us for our August meeting. Adam, too, is an MG owner. He shared information about his MG, a 2003 MG TF. We enjoyed having him with us.

## Club Members Attend University Motors Summer Party



Numerous MGCC members attended John Twist's University Motors Summer Party in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 9-12th. Pictured from left to right are Charley McCamey and daughter Kathy, Graham & Diana Cooper, George Chase, Eddie Cole, Terry & Carole Looft, Fritz Heberling, and Ryan Looft

## Pictures From MGCC Summer Picnic



MGs filled Dick Goodman's front yard.



And again, neighbors stopped by to admire them.



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“Something *still* doesn’t look right under the bonnet.”



Joe Hooker, and Charlie and Jill McCamey enjoying the shade.



Grillmeister Terry Looft does his magic on the dogs and burgers again.



Dave McCann, and wife Linda, recovering from a challenging year as Vice President.



Members cheer on their favorite players in the exhilarating Aunt Sally competition.



As always, thanks to Dick and Kathy Goodman for hosting this year’s party. Where’s Kathy?

## Characters Along The Way

Carole Looft

I'm sure most of you have encountered 'admirers' of your MG when you have been out and about. These are usually people who have at one time owned an MG or had memories of one from years past. On our trip to the West coast a few months ago to attend NAMGBR 2007 in Sonoma, California, we couldn't help but run into a few characters like this. I would like to share with you some of these stories.

The first 'character' we crossed paths with was at our first rest stop in Indiana. We had parked the cars front to back by the side of the parking lot and a little old lady came running up to us. She was probably in her 70's and was carrying her camera. In her earlier years she had owned an MG and asked if she could take a picture. She wanted to show the picture to her grandson, she told us. After she took several pictures, Terry convinced her to get behind the wheel of his car and he took the camera from her. At this point she was beaming from ear to ear - he snapped away. She was thrilled.



Cars on the show field at NAMGBR 2007.  
Ryan and Carole's 'B's' are on the left

Our next 'admirer' wandered over at a fuel stop just outside of Kansas City. He was a man who was in his early 50's, probably. He had owned a Midget when he was first married and was in the processes of trying to find another MG. He didn't know a lot about eBay, and was a little afraid of the pitfalls of buying a car on line. He went on to say that locally, there were not a lot of MG's to be found. I guess he took a liking to Terry's car because he asked if it was for sale. In fact, he asked several more times if Terry wanted to sell it. He went on to say that he owns some type of business in the area and he was carrying a company check with him. He would write out the check then and there if Terry was agreeable. I gave Terry the 'look' - which meant 'don't even consider it'. This was only the second day into our trip and I couldn't imagine trying to rearrange all of our 'stuff' to fit into one less car. It would have been fun to see what he would have given for it, though.

The next 'characters' introduced themselves in Dodge City. They seemed to know we were MG people. I can't figure out how they knew. Maybe we looked a little more wilted than the rest of the tourists there. They were driving a big Cadillac and said they caught sight of us in Kansas City. Unbeknownst to us, they said they had passed us 6 or 7 times over the 350 miles to Dodge City. He, too, had owned a Midget at an earlier time. And, as he related, at a time when he was quite a few pounds lighter. Can anyone relate to that? They were nice, friendly people.

So, on we went. We stopped one day for lunch at a 'mom and pop' restaurant. It wasn't a busy place, so after we ate, Terry and the boys thought the tires on the trailer should be changed. Our nifty little trailer was eating up the tread on its tires about every 600 miles and we had to keep an eye on them so we wouldn't have a blow out. The 'busboy' at the restaurant was hanging around the parking lot the whole time the tires were getting changed. He was a young fellow about 15 or 16 years old, a little on the pudgy side and truly wore the horned rimmed glasses. As we were buttoning up, one of the waitresses



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stuck her head out the door to ask what kind of cars we were driving. She went on to say that the young fellow wanted to know, but he didn't want to ask because he thought he'd look stupid asking. So, we stopped and gave them both a little history of the MGB.

Our next fellow was waiting for us when we got up one morning at one of the hotels along the way. He cornered Ryan first and told him about his '68 MGB. The story was quite interesting. He bought it from a good friend of his for \$1600. The friend was an oil tycoon who had gotten drunk one night and won the car in a poker game. After sobering up and after his wife gave him an ultimatum, the oil tycoon decided he would drive to Amarillo, TX, and sell the car back to the dealer for \$1800. The \$1600 offer seemed reasonable to the 'tycoon' and so the deal was struck. The fellow continued telling Ryan that the MGB was a great running little car. He added that his wife drove the car quite often and it was the MGB that had the space in the garage while a new Chevy Impala was parked outside. Our cars, he said, brought back great memories.

Reno, Nevada brought us interesting people. We pulled into a hotel, the Executive Inn, checking on rooms for the night, and were met by a grinning toothless man giving us the 'thumbs up'. His mother had owned an MGC and he started telling us his story. The hotel, we came to find out, rented their rooms only by the month. They would rent for one night though. The lobby looked a little shabby so we asked to look at the rooms. A good move on our part - we quickly decided that Circus Circus would be a lot nicer stay for us. Upon leaving the Executive Inn some of the 'regulars' came out to admire the cars. Again, Terry's car got the attention. As we were pulling away, one fellow swept his hand over the entire length of the car, telling us what a nice car it was!! Not our idea of wiping the dust from the car.

The final 'character' I'll tell you about probably was the most interesting. We happened upon him at another of our many gas stops. As we pulled into the pumps, we had to drive around his vehicle to get to our pumps. He was a big guy, probably 250 to 300 pounds, wearing no shirt, abundant tattoos and long fly-away blonde hair. Right away he came over and started talking. His brother, he told us, had owned an MGB which ended up getting wrecked. Then he told us about his 1984 Subaru. He bought the Subaru for \$40 - the car didn't run. He managed to get it running after tinkering with it, and eventually put 314,000 miles on this car. He loved that car, and when it finally 'died' he couldn't bring himself to part with it. So, he parked it out behind his house and took the dash out of it and he hung it on his living room wall. Before we left, he pointed to both of his arms. His three daughters were tattooed on one arm and his son was tattooed on the other. He was a very friendly, outgoing fellow, who seemed to be enjoying life.

I guess I could go on and on - but this should give you an idea of our 'encounters'. There seems to be 'characters' at every corner, and you can't help but enjoy meeting them along the way. There are so many people that have a story to tell about their MG, it is just fascinating to listen.



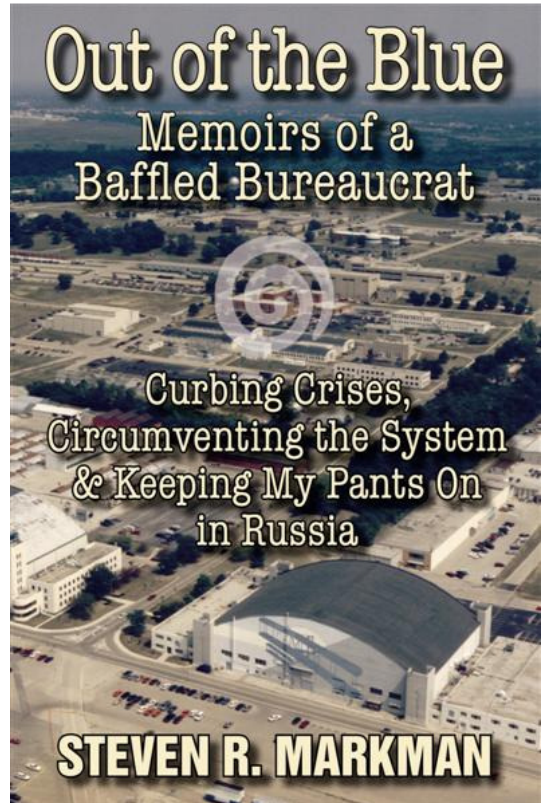
A group shot at the vineyards

## Steve Markman's Latest Book Published

Steve Markman's latest book, *Out of the Blue – Memoirs of a Baffled Bureaucrat*, was published this month.

In Steve's fourth book, you'll learn how he took charge of the bureaucracy at work! Steve spent thirty-four years working for the United States Air Force, about as big a bureaucracy as you'll find. He found government service a noble calling. At first, he thought that everyone was on the same team, all working for a common goal. Well...! That dream was short-lived. While often fumbling his way through the system, Steve learned how to deal with the bureaucrats who threw boulders in his path. He discovered how to get them on his side, so they would work with him, rather than fighting against him. Steve's sage advice isn't just for people in government, but anyone, anywhere, who works with others.

Join Steve as he explains how to prosper in a bureaucracy, be it government or industry, academia, non-profits, or volunteer organizations. Along the way, you'll see how he fixed nuclear missiles, ran a major flight research program, worked with astronauts, flew on test flights, traveled the world (including a trip to England on the Concorde), and even got banned for life from Harrod's department store in London. Then, use his advice to get the bureaucrats working for you!



*Out of the Blue* can be ordered at any fine bookstore, or at your favorite online bookstore.

## Mary Planeaux's Chili Cheese Square Recipe

We've never printed recipes before, but Mary Planeaux brought an absolute winner to the picnic. She had so many requests for the recipe that we're printing it in the newsletter. Enjoy!

<b>Chili Cheese Squares</b>  1 lb shredded cheddar cheese 1 lb shredded Monterey Jack cheese 6 eggs 5 oz can evaporated milk 2 - 4 oz cans Old El Paso chopped green chilies	Spread chilies and liquid in bottom of 9x13 dish. Mix eggs and milk together. Add cheese and mix well. Spoon over chilies in dish. Bake at 350 deg. for 35 - 40 minutes. Cut into squares. Serve warm.
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## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 1973 MGB Red. Great condition, nothing mechanically wrong with it that I am aware of. New leather interior, new chrome bumpers, new springs, new shocks and new bushings, plus the previous owner had the engine rebuilt. A great little car. I need the garage space for another car.. I have \$9500.00 invested in the upgrades but asking \$7500.00. rayflanagan@windsteam.net or 440-864-4476.

**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:** 76 MGB Roadster. Dark blue, solid, no rust, new tires. brakes. For, pics, details, price, etc, contact whammond@woh.rr.com bill (937)434-9967

**For Sale:** MGB LE, G. Dale Packer, 2624 Sungale Court Lexington, KY 40513, 1-859-967-6888, dale.packer@insightbb.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.

**For Sale:** 1979 MGB LE (Black). Purchased 7 years ago. Garaged since the purchase. At that time, new tires, battery, seats recovered, etc. Since the purchase, new breaks, alternator, battery, rebuilt the carburetor, new rocker panels installed, renovated the interior with carpeting, and other small repairs that were needed, both to the body and engine. Frame has rust on it, both doors showing signs of rust, and a little fender rust. Electrical system needs

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work or just cleaned up. Runs well. Have had my fun, would like to sell. Car located in Lexington Kentucky. Asking \$2000. G. Dale Packer, 1-859-967-6888 or E-Mail dale.packer@ymca.net or dale.packer@insightbb.com.

**For Sale:** 1977 MGB, Yellow/gold color. New left front shock; tune up; hand brakes repaired; new radiator hose and some other things. Approximately 89,000 miles. I'm asking \$7200 OBO. Paul Webb, 937-778-8615.

## MG Car Club Minutes, August 22, 2007

Diana Hodges

**S**pecial thanks go out to Linda Wolfe who took notes at this months' meeting due to my absence. Without her help, none of this slander would be possible. I really just took what Linda sent me and added the slanderous comments...

In what we hope was a bloodless coup, Vice-President, Dave McCann called the meeting to order at 8:00. It seems that, according to V.P. McCann, our fearless president was "supposedly" on a fishing trip in Canada. We haven't seen him, so we're hoping that that's where he really was.

Ron wanted to thank everybody for helping at BCD. We had 309 cars and there is some thought that maybe we should raise our entry fee next year. On a less sunny note, Dar said that several people couldn't hear the announcement that the ballots had to be turned in by 1:00 p.m. A suggestion was made that it might help to have somebody go around with a portable system announcing the end of balloting. Kathy Goodman said that you can't hear any of the announcements back where the rubber bumper MGB's are (...they're just rubber bumper cars after all...do they really count? [For those who think I just slighted the Rubber bumpered B's, I own two, so it's in the most loving of ways...]).

V.P. McCann suggested that since people like to talk, that maybe every other meeting should be devoted to real business.

**Minutes** were next. The July Minutes as printed in the newsletter were approved. (*For the life of me, I don't know why. They're all made up. Pretty much always are...*) Eddie Hill motioned to accept, Terry Looft seconded. (*People – I wasn't there! I don't have a clue who said what! Could have been Fidel Hodriguez for all I know.*)

Treasurer's Report was next.

**Treasurer's Report** was next. Graham Cooper reported that we had a Total Income: Membership Dues (\$0.00) + Sweatshirt sales (\$0.00) Regalia (\$0.00) = **A Total Income of \$0.00.** Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$135.54) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + Gumball (\$5.00) = **A Total Expense of \$185.54.** **Total Loss to the MGCC was \$185.54**, that when subtracted from our existing Treasury balance of \$942.54 equals a new Treasury Balance of \$757.00. Bob Charles motioned to accept the report. V.P. McCann seconded. Ed "Zeno" Hill was heard snoring in the corner. Report approved. (*I just cut and pasted the motioners from last months meeting – looks good to me...*)

**Membership** was next. Carole Looft reported that as of July we had 107 members and as a result of BCD (*and Ron doing some pretty heavy campaigning*) we now have 5 new members. **That means that**

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**Ron is now ahead of Ryan with 112 total members.** The new members are: Jim Thomas, Stacey Robinson, George & Linda Chase, Carl Myers and Dave & Julie Hubble. Graham also introduced his son Adam who was a guest at the meeting. *(I don't know how old Adam is, but if he's under 18, then Graham, by introducing him to this club, is technically Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor in 38 states...)*

**Newsletter** was next. Someone noticed that The Wheel Source (one of our advertisers) closed about a year ago. We need to drop their advertisement from the newsletter. It was asked if we wanted more information about British car activities in the newsletter and it was decided that we could give it a try for a while. *(And I can always make up a few for fun...)*

**Activities:** Reuben Wasserman reported that the club's Annual picnic is this Sunday at Dick & Kathy Goodman's home. It will start at 4:00 p.m. and everyone needs to bring a covered dish (with something in it) to share with everyone. Other upcoming events include:

October 13 – 14, Ohio Fall Colors run in Mansfield

October 13 – 14, Vintage Race at Mid-Ohio

September 21 – 23, Indy Car Show – Dave McCann would like to have a group caravan over.

It was asked if they were going to have the holiday-at-Home car show on Labor Day this year. Louie didn't get his invitation yet and Mary wants to know who Ethel is?

**Beer break** was called at 8:30 p.m.  
We reconvened at 8:50.

**Old Business:** We have a few BCD t-shirts to sell at \$10. We also have window decals for sale. Sweat shirts are also available but it is too hot for them now. See Carole Looft if interested.

**Concours Report:** There's a new web site. It's: [www.daytonconcours.com](http://www.daytonconcours.com). For those of you who are volunteering, we need to arrive at 7:00 a.m. on the day of show. They are expecting a large turnout. The most cars that they have had previously were 139 and they already have 155 pre-registered. Drive your MG and park in the car corral with your antenna flag. On Saturday evening, September 15<sup>th</sup>, they are having a Track Party at Carrillon Park. The cost is \$65 per person (\$25 of each ticket is tax deductible). It



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will be a casual evening featuring grilled track food by Brock Masterson Catering, an open bar, music by the Gas Pump Jockeys, racing games & vintage race movies, and a preview of some of the Concours automobiles. Louie wanted to know if Esther Price was going to be there and somebody asked him if he was cheating on Ethel! *(Did he deny it!?)*

Dick Smith reported that the **British Museum** is still working on the purchase of a building in downtown Dayton. Raffle tickets



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have been selling well on the MGB. As a fallback, they have their eye on another building downtown if this one doesn't work out.

Our **Supply Trailer** needs some body work before we put the new decals on it. That sounds like a winter project. Any volunteers?

**New Business:** Possible fall tour to Rothschild's outside of Urbana. It was decided to go Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. We might meet there at 2:00 p.m. or meet in Springfield (about 12:30 p.m.) at the Mall on Upper Valley Pike and have an easy tour there. Details appear to still be flexible.

It was suggested that we have another outing in October to Valley Vineyards for a nice steak or salmon dinner. More details next month. Come and let us know what dates will work for you!

**For Sale:** Louie has two t-shirts for sale at \$15. They are too big for Louie. Somebody wanted to know if Ethel would use them perhaps as a night shirt. *(ALRIGHT! Just exactly what did I miss?!? I'll tell ya. Miss one meeting and that's the one with all of the REALLY good slander material!)*

**Tech Tips:** Terry said that EngineKool from NAPA in the radiator really makes a difference in the engine temperature.

**Gumball Rally** was won by Dave McCann. *(Wait a minute! Our V.P. won Gumball, and we still don't know where Ron is?!? I still say something's fishy...)*

We were reminded that next month is the election of officers for next year and your membership dues are also due. You can't run for office or vote unless your dues have been paid or renewed. *(For those of you who don't know, we have a long standing tradition of electing people without their knowledge or consent. We'll not only pay your dues for you, but we'll then nominate you, close nomination, and then elect you to the office – ask any of the current officers. The ONLY way to make sure that this doesn't happen to you is to be at the meeting!)*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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