

# THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No. 3

January 2008

Happy New Year!

## Member Roster

### From the President

Dave McCann

The Winter "Blahs." That's what I feel like, Blah. It doesn't help to know that Ron & Linda Parks are on a Caribbean vacation. I really enjoy traveling, especially driving, even better driving with the top down. That is just not going to happen for a few months yet.

We did, however have an enjoyable drive home from Pennsylvania on New Year's Eve day. Linda and I drove up to Uniontown PA to install the ceiling fan we gave my sister for Christmas. Son David went up a couple of days earlier, so he had most of the work done (he wanted to travel to VA. to be with friends from his Richmond car club for New Years). Between his degree in Electrical engineering and my

certification as a home inspector, I THINK we did it right. Uniontown is at the base of the Allegheny Mountains. US RT 40 runs right through town. If any of you are planning to attend either of the PA National shows this



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

**Jan:**

20 – Pub Run at The Pub at the Green  
23 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

**Feb:**

27 – Meeting (K of C Hall)

summer, you might consider some of Rt 40 as an alternative route.

Just west of Uniontown is Searights Toll House, ( it's Octagonal) built in the 1850s. Two of my great, great-great uncles were carpenters on it. Farther west is the town of Brownsville with the Nemacolin Castle. Just south of Brownsville is McCann's Ferry. A great-great grandfather. Farther west is Scenery Hill, with The Century Inn, great dining. Scenery Hill is very appropriately named, beautiful scenery! Re-enter I-70 at Laboratory.

If this gets to you before our Pub Run, then you are reminded in time! Jan. 20 at 5:00 PM. The Pub @ The Greene at the Indian Ripple/Dorothy Lane exit off 675 Dark Brown/ charcoal building with a British Flag, right out front.

Octagonally,  
Dave

## MG2008 Update

Ron Parks

If you plan to attend MG 2008 (<http://www.mg2008.com/>) and stay at the host hotel, the Sheraton Park Ridge, you should make your reservation as soon as possible. As explained on the MG 2008 website, the rooms are going fast. Demand for rooms for Wed night, June 25, has outstripped supply. They have negotiated a deal for a few more rooms for Wed. Please use an Internet reservation and use the code "MG Club." These rooms are \$159, which is lower than the hotel's business rate. There are still rooms available for Thurs - Sat at the \$95 rate, but they are going FAST. Call now for *MG2008*

Sheraton Park Ridge  
480 Gulph Rd.  
King of Prussia, PA  
800-325-3535

(Please use the 800 number for reservations)



## Member Featured Car of the Month: Dar and Mary Planeaux's 1958 MGA

*Reporters note: I am reviving this monthly column which appeared in newsletters past to: first - provide interesting reading in the newsletter, and second - to build an archive of information and photos about members' cars for the club website. Ron Parks*

In November 1960, I was assigned to Wright Patterson AFB as a Lieutenant in the Air Force. I worked for the Air Force in the military and then as a civilian for a total of 42 years, retiring in 2003. I bought my 1958 MGA in 1964 for \$595.00. I planned to use it as a second car but it became my everyday driver for the next 8 years. It came



Dar and Mary Planeaux's MGA as it looked when they bought it.



Starting the restoration – after twenty-three years in storage.

a complete restoration, but as I took it apart, it became obvious that if it was going to be restored to original condition, then every nut and bolt would have to be disassembled. I guess my philosophy was to use the 3 R's in the restoration: Repaint, Replate, or Replace. The effort was completed almost two years later, in July 2003. Steve Miller of MG Automotive accomplished the mechanical work and Tom Dworetsky of Superior Finishes did the paint and body work. The first owner had repainted the MG from its original black to green, but the original factory interior was green. In the restoration we

with six wire wheels, so I mounted snow tires on two of them for winter driving. With the help of a 100 pound bag of rock salt in the boot, I drove the MGA through every type of weather. My oldest son and my daughter both learned to drive in the MGA because it had a standard transmission. When we built a new home in 1973, the MG was put in one of the garage bays, covered, and not driven much after that. By 1978, the storage became permanent, remaining there for 23 years until October 2001, when we began the restoration project. It didn't start out as



Mary and Dar with their MGA in Mackinaw City.

retuned the exterior color to the original black but changed the interior to biscuit tan leather. Working for the Air Force, those 23 years slipped by fast, especially with so much travel keeping me away from home so often. My one regret was not starting the restoration sooner, because the MGA has been a delight to drive since completing the restoration.

## Addendum to previous article on maximizing your gas mileage.

Dixmyth

Previously I covered the great mileage you can get on a trip by refilling your gas tank as soon as the gauge leaves the full mark or soon thereafter. Now with all the Christmas shopping and in-town driving as of late, I have come to realize that this holds true while in town driving just as well as it does for highway use. I have seen that when the tank is full, I can go for two or three days and the gauge never left the full mark, what a pleasure. Then I taxed my engineering and automotive background to come up with a plausible explanation for this wonderful gift. Here it is... cars for many years have had fuel vapor recovery systems. Think about it!! When your tank is full, there are more vapors and when they are recovered and reused, voila, your gas mileage is improved. As the fuel in your tank goes lower, the amount of vapors are reduced and the primary source for fuel in the engine is more directly from the tank, a rate that increases very rapidly as the fuel gauge goes down. This is proven when the gauge reaches ¼ tank or less. From there you best be looking very quickly for a gas station as the amount of vapor left in the tank is very small. Now you know, so keep an eye on that fuel gauge!!

*(Editors' note – O.K Dick, now you can take your tongue out of your cheek!)*

## Classifieds

**For Sale:** 79 MGB for parts (questionable title). Bought off ebay but then had title signed too many times. Bad title. Ran when parked. California car. Great donor. More pics to SERIOUS buyer. \$1600 delivered to NE Ohio or Chicago area. I never tried to run it. Have keys. Needs top. Nice example to restore or reshell your rusty car. Complete. [billmg@yahoo.com](mailto:billmg@yahoo.com). The price is firm. \$500 deposit and \$1000 CASH upon delivery.

**For Sale:** Early MGB parts. \$50. takes all of it! 1 Early B starter (62-67), condition unknown, but includes rare and often missing shaft cap (worth \$85. to Moss as a core). 2 early B half-shafts and wire wheel hubs (fine thread) 1 inner sill repair panel. 1 beat-up front bumper. 1 Super Sport bias ply tire in good condition (would look great as the spare in your restored early B boot). Kent Miller 937.299.3837.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**A**pril 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](mailto:mgrick@mgcars.org.uk).

**S**unday, June 1, 2008 Perrysburg, Ohio Come join the Lake Erie British Car Club for our 10th annual "The British Return to Fort Meigs" British Car and Bike show, located at the Fort Meigs Historical Site, Route 65, Perrysburg, Ohio. While you show your car, you can take a tour of a restored fort from the War of 1812,

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try a challenging British car quiz, shop at one of our vendors, or sample some tasty delights from one of our food vendors. Voting will be by popular vote. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Ohio Historical Society. Contact: Tony Shoviak. Phone: 419-878-2041. Email: Tenntony@worldnet.att.net. Website: <http://lakeeriebritishnews.home.att.net>.

## MG Car Club Minutes, November 28, 2007

Sam Hodges

President Dave's back! He's got a scar that we don't want to see, but he's back!

**President's Report:** "I thought I was going to be out in two days, it turned out to be two weeks." Dave's been busy planning a fall tour. He's been using a new gadget called a Trackstick. Basically, it's a small GPS device that tracks your travels and when downloaded to your PC gives you a mapped out route of your travels. On a more personal note, Dave's coming up on his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, so all of the comments that he made about his wife I've decided not to put into the minutes (*I am of course TRYING to get him into trouble...*).

With Dave's son being home around the holidays, they were able to finally get the 69GT restoration started. Some panels got sand blasted and primed, some had holes blown into the fenders, but it's okay... Terry Looft, "Are you using TRIO/Prime – it's an etching primer filler?" Dave, "The stuff we're using is a super thin product that has to be put on in multiple layers." Dave's son was supposed to be at this month's meeting, but he's now back in Virginia and he's on his way to Austin, Texas.

**Vice President's Report:** Carole, "I do... What did I tell you to report..." Running on reserve because he just got back from a three week stint in the east. Our VP did have one thing to report. Someone recognized us at Valley Vineyards, and they invited us to a pub run down in Morrow/Owensville. Terry has the name but still didn't share...

**Valley Vineyards:** We had 14 people attend the Valley Vineyards event. Dave, "I was laying in bed sucking on ice chips..." Terry, "...we were on the floor sucking down wine."

**Minutes** were next. Ron Parks motioned to accept the minutes as reported. Dick Goodman seconded. Meeting minutes approved. Ed "Zeno" Hill wasn't here...

**Membership** with Carole Looft was next. Right now we're just trying to get everyone to renew. We're putting stickers on the newsletters going to those who haven't renewed. Right now we're at about 50 members who haven't renewed. Usually by this point we only have about 25 non-renewals. Right now we have about 70 members.

**Sunshine Committee:** Where's Louie? Carole talked to Jasper Cemino. He just got out of the hospital and had to receive 4 pints/units of blood. When he gets these renewals, he's fine, but he doesn't know where it's going. Skip, "Sounds kind of like an MG and oil." Carole, "I was thinking Vampires..." Dave M., "Does he need any donations?"

Kathy Goodman reminds Pres. McCann that he's already skipped the Treasurer's report...

**Treasurer's Report** is next.



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James V. Cooley III  
Proprietor

937-360-3151  
Member MGCCSWOC #100

**Treasurer's Report** was next. Kathy Goodman reported that we had a Total Income: Membership Dues (\$360.00) + Regalia (\$25.00) = A **Total Income of \$385.00.** Total Expenses: Octagon News (\$138.96) + Hall Rental Fees (\$45.00) + New membership Packets (\$1.14) + Gumball (\$5.00) = A **Total Expense of \$190.10.** **Total Gain to the MGCC was \$194.90,** that when added to

our existing Treasury balance of \$2,145.33 equals a new **Treasury Balance of \$2,340.23.** Bill Hammond motioned to accept the report. Linda Wolfe seconded. *The lack of Ed "Zeno" Hill is causing quite the commotion in the back of the room during these voting situations.*

**Newsletter:** Thanks to Tom Davis for his article on racing and Terry for the article about our members in Japan. This month, we tried something new. We saved it as a PDF and sent it out via e-mail. So far we've received 24 responses for just the PDF and 18 for paper. Some people reported having issues with not having pictures and it's suspected that they're using an older version of the PDF reader. In order to read them, you'll need to just go to Adobe.com and download Adobe Acrobat. The newest version of Adobe is version 8.0 so if you're using any thing older than Adobe 5.0, then you're probably going to have issues. Dave Gribler, "If you're on dial-up, then it takes about 6 hours to get the reader upgrade!" Jennifer Peterson, "Does anyone still have dial-up?" Gribler, "YEAH!" Terry L., "Ahh I remember dial up..."

President McCann, "If you want to keep getting the paper copy, then let Ron know. Otherwise, we could potentially save \$.70/member/month on mailing costs. The sooner that we can reduce the costs... Hammond, "...the sooner we can party." Skip, "The members need to make the effort to let Ron know not to send it to them. We shouldn't reduce the benefit to the group, but there should be an option to get out. Make the ones who want to use PDF, affirmatively opt out of getting it, instead of the other way."

Hooker, "This month's e-mailed version costs \$1.06/newsletter for the printed copy." Lois Gribler's phone goes off... now she's looking for it.... It's still ringing... now she can't find it... it's still ringing... *Geez! Some people! Ever heard of vibrate?!?* Ron, "They show up on time, then interrupt the meeting!" Lois' phone now goes into some sort of beeping S.O.S mode as if pleading to be answered...

**Webmaster** Ron Parks announces that there's going to be some changes made to the background and the website in general. Pres. McCann, "The front page should attract some more attention." Jenn. P., "Ron, you're doing a great job..." As Lois *finally* leaves the room with her bleating phone, Dave Gribler, "Now you've done it, you've hurt her feelings..." (*Uh, Dave..., if we haven't done it by now, tonight's little display isn't going to do it either. I suspect it'll take a SWAT team to actually get her to leave...*)

## Octagon News – January 2008

If anyone has any more D&D photos then let Ron know.

**Activities** - Eddie's still not here now...

Holiday party is a week from Saturday (*it was a blast!*)

The next meeting will be January 23<sup>rd</sup> as there is no official December meeting.

There are a few events coming up next year in Pennsylvania. Check the website for more information.

NAMGAR will be in Hot Springs Arkansas in 2008 – Start planning your trip.

Joe's son Michael has joined us for the evening.

Skip, "Tonight is Bill and Hazel Hammonds 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He went to dinner and then came to the meeting. (...*Um, Bill...*) Jenn. P., "Does Hazel know you're gone?" Skip, "That's dedication."

At this point in time, we invite in Jennifer's brother, our host at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Jim.

As a token of our appreciation for years of beer pouring, and putting up with us, we've gotten you a gift card for the Oakwood Club. Jim, "Thanks. It's my favorite place and it'll definitely go to good use."

Kathy G. calls beer break. 8:30 – *Apparently it has to come from that table...*

Back from Break – 8:53

8:54...

8:55 Lois returns... (*Told you!*)

**Old Business:** Pres. McCann, "The only thing I've got is the trailer..." Terry L., "I'm not a body guy but I've got aircraft paint stripper. We can strip the paint and see what's there. Should we have a work party sometime in January? We can meet at the warehouse." Dave Gribler, "I'm not a body guy either..." Lois, "Huh?" Dave, "...well..." Dave G., "Any consideration to the budget concerns?" How long are we willing to live without it?" Skip, "If it gets bad, then we just duct tape it and spray it red..." Dave M., "Wear dirty clothes, bring your knee pads." Terry, "Knee pads, what do you think it going to be going on here?" Skip, "That's going to require a LOT more beer!"

**New Business:** The British Museum is putting together a tour to the North American International Auto Show (Detroit) on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Pete, "You're getting \$65 worth of value for \$40." Dick Smith, "We're actually paying you to go." The Mini Club did this in 2000 and 2002 and they really enjoyed it.

Bob Charles has another barrel. Put in a dollar and win it at the end of the evening.

**Donation:** Charlie McCamey, "Haven't we donated money to a charity on Christmas eve?" Linda Wolfe, "We've done it sporadically in the past, but it's not been a regular thing." Terry, "It wasn't a profitable endeavor."

Dave McCann, "We can make a donation to the British Museum of Transportation." Hammond and Skip both suggest \$50 to the Salvation Army... (*I don't think we went anywhere else here, it just kind of withered on the vine...*)

Talk about ordering new T-Shirts has been tabled until February because Skip says that turnaround from the time we place the order to getting the shirts is about 4 days.

**Museum Items:** Pete and Dick had the car in Indy and sold tickets over there. They sold another 11 tickets. They've had an offer from someone in Cleveland/Akron to donate 30 years worth of British magazines. On a positive note, the building fund is up to about \$20,000.



## Octagon News – January 2008

Things are starting to happen for the museum. Dick reported that Hemmings' Motor News called and wants to set up a photo shoot about the museum. Additionally, there was another guy, a copyright editor, from Automobile Magazine who came by and looked at the Imp but ended up buying an MGB GT. Automobile Magazine wants to potentially do an article on the museum.

**Tech tips:** It took Hammond 17 years to use up his Simichrome polish and he reports that it's the best aluminum polish that he's seen. Dave McCann, "Every try Flitz?" Kathy G., "I thought you said Schlitz!" Dave, "I use beer for a lot of purposes, but that's not one..."

Bill Hammond continues his tech tips... "If you need a key blank, Centerville Key has got the right key for only \$2.00."

Mills Auto in Sharonville installed the windshield for Bob's MGC GT for \$150.00 and they did it in about 45 minutes. Lois Gribler, "That's worth it."

**For Sale:** Hammond knows of a Spitfire for sale, but the owner doesn't know that it's for sale yet. (*Approach Hammond at your own risk*).

Dick Smith knows of a 1974½ MGB for sale. It's in good condition but the color is (*according to Terry Looft*) Monkey Puke yellow.

Ron Parks wins the Barrel.

Gumball – Visitor Michael drew, Graham Cooper won.

Terry Looft motions to adjourn at 8:19.

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