

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No.7

May 2003

More New Members!
All-Ohio MG Meet

From the President

Ron Parks

As you're reading this, our spring tour is history as well as the Germantown cruise-in. I have been working frantically to get my car back together for one or both of these events, following my accidental cracking of the windshield glass of my 74 MGB. I spend two evenings removing the dash board and windshield frame. I had the new windshield glass installed in the frame including the windshield to body seal, by Scott Powell of S&S Loys Autobody. I wish to thank Tom Davis for helping me re-install the windshield on the car and for holding the dash board while I fished the choke cable through the firewall.

We did that Wednesday evening May 14th. If I was successful in my efforts to get the dash board and instruments re-installed on Thursday and Friday, then we enjoyed our MG on our first spring tour. If not then we drove our GM instead of our MG.

I was driving past our former stretch of adopted highway (I-75 North), noticing some trash in the

-Continued on Page 2-



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 Linda Wolfe 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 May 28, 2003

MG Car Club Officers

President..... **Ron Parks**
phone.....937-322-0717
email.....mgdriver@woh.rr.com

Vice President..... **Linda Wolfe**
phone.....429-3292
email.....linda.wolfe@beavercreek.k12.oh.us

Secretary..... **Sam Hodges**
phone.....937-835-5527
email.....sammbg@earthlink.net

Treasurer..... **Dave Estell**
phone.....513-459-0155
email.....arawak@one.net

Member at Large..... **Skip Peterson**
phone.....937-293-2819
email.....MGBSkip@aol.com

President Emeritus..... **Terry Looft**
phone.....937-382-1520 (cell 513-226-8523)
email.....terry@looft.net

Activities Chair..... **Tim Oricko**
phone.....434-5928

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

Octagon News Editors:

Steve Markman.....stmarkman@aol.com...
phone.....434-2908

Joe Hooker.....twocoloradokids@aol.com..
phone.....426-1128

Librarian..... **John Wolfe**
phone.....429-3292

Historian & DIXMYTH..... **Dick Smith**
phone.....434-1750
email.....rsmithomo@aol.com

MG News Hotline.....434-1287

British Car BBS.....434-1655

WebPage.....www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswo

| Inside This Issue | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 | Upcoming Events |
| 2 | New Members |
| 3 | From the Bulletin Board |
| 4 | April Meeting Minutes |
| 8 | All Ohio MG Meet |

Upcoming Events

MAY:

18 - Spring Drive
28 - Meeting (K of C hall)

JUNE:

1 - British Car Show – Perrysburg
19-22- MGB Register – St. Louis
25 - Meeting (K of C hall)

JUL:

13 - British Car Day - Cincinnati
23 - Meeting (K of C hall)
27 - All Ohio Meet – Columbus

AUG:

2 - BCD – Dayton Metro Parks
10 - Picnic (D. Goodman's)
27 - Meeting (K of C hall)

Sept:

14 - Concours d' Elegance
24 - Meeting (K of C hall)

From the President (con't)

median and thinking back to those times we had meeting at McDonalds on those Saturdays and picking up trash on the highway. This was a chance to get together with our MGs once a quarter and also a chance to get to know fellow club members a little better. When you're walking a half mile stretch of highway together there is plenty of time to visit. Then my next thought was that our monthly Pub Runs accomplish these same things without the work, drudgery and danger that comes with the adopt-a-highway program. I was one who voted to continue our adopt-a-highway program, because I felt it was a very appropriate way for a car club to give back to the community. Don't worry; I'm not trying to get us back into the trash picking up business. I'm just reminiscing a little. Our Pub Runs are a fun excuse to get together

with our cars once a month. Besides, our Pub Runs support our local economy!

See you at the meeting on May 28th.

Two More Families Join the MG Car Club

By Carole Looft

Evan and Kristie Ford of Dayton are new members who joined our club in March. They own a 1953 ivory/green TD that they have had for about six years. The car is in the process of being restored with the rolling chassis, transmission, engine and other miscellaneous parts already completed.

The Fords' car was previously owned by Evan's dad, who, himself had owned it for 10 years. He had acquired it from a friend's estate. Evan said it took several years to convince his dad to sell the car to him. Evan and Kristie haven't been able to really enjoy the car yet, since the restoration is an on-going project. Evan too, has hopes of someday finding an MGA twin-cam and also an Austin Healey 3000 MkII. Completing the Ford family are sons Andy age 6 and Bradley age 3. Helpers, I'm sure!!! Let's hope the TD gets on the road soon so we all can get a look at it. (editor's note - I usually crop the picture more than this, but Evan looked sooooo at home with that beer in is hand!)

Also joining our club in April were Doug and Ruth Reno of Wilmington. Since the Loofts are also from Wilmington, Doug and Terry's paths have crossed at various airport activities. Doug enjoys flying and Ruth has her hand in gardening. The Renos' car is a 1975 yellow Midget. They bought it in 1979 from a young woman who liked the idea of a convertible, but didn't like waiting to see if the car would start again. This must still be a problem for the Midget, because Doug and Ruth say they too wait to see if their car will start again.

I asked the Renos 'why' they chose an MG and not some other car. To quote them, "opportunity or punishment from God, take your pick"! Somehow, can't we all relate to that? Doug and Ruth are hoping to restore the Midget for added performance and for appearance and dependability. We look forward to seeing them at future club events.

Overheard on the MG Bulletin Board

...the question:

I signed up to drive my 50 TD in our local July 4th parade. I have a few concerns, besides the thought of driving a British car in an Independence Day parade. To test if the engine overheated, I drove about a mile in first gear at idle. Temperature went from the normal 160 to 180-185 F within about a quarter mile, but then held at the higher temperature. The only other concern I can think of might be that idle in first gear has me driving slightly faster than a walking pace. Hence, I'd be working the clutch a little more than normal while in first gear. Parade route is about two miles. Anyone see any serious problems? I'll reconsider if I might be doing any damage to the car.

...the replies:

It is cooler now than it will be on the 4th and the car may run somewhat hotter.

Consider installing a MGB plastic fan. It moves a lot more air. I can idle my car for very long periods of time in Texas without overheating.

Watch out for your carbs "loading up." I drove my MGA coupe in a Christmas parade a few years ago. The marching band was just in front of me. Rather than just marching, they suddenly stopped every few feet. This stop and start driving never allowed me to get out of 1st gear. One of the adults helping with the band kept yelling at me to slow down. It was nerve wracking. At the end of the parade the car almost wouldn't run. It sputtered and coughed. I pulled onto a side street, and revved the engine. You could smell the raw gas. The carbs had loaded up with gas. This had never happened before, and hasn't happened since.

I have also heard of our cars getting vapor lock in summer parades. Enjoy the experience-- you should do at least one parade in your car. But you might ask about the spacing, and whether there will be a lot of starting and stopping.

We did our one parade,, too much riding the clutch for my liking,, I would say "do it" to be able to say "Been there ,, Did that!!"

The Clutch. Parades are hardest on the clutch and associated linkage due to the constant use and feathering/ stop-go use. Usually a pretty fair use of brakes, though at very low speeds--just make sure they work well! (don't want to end up in the back of a float). Also be really aware at all times because of close distances and lots of little ones usually running about.

Parades are sort of nice to do every once in awhile, and it's nice to be asked to be in one, but having done more than a few, I don't go out looking for them.

I suggest replacing the water/antifreeze mixture with pure water and water wetter additive...should be best to keep the temp down. (editor's note...what does this product do? any comments on whether this is better than water/antifreeze?) I would also have made sure to get a good supply of "cold-packs" from the local drug store. A few years ago (when I was having vapor-lock problems) I discovered this is a great way to bring the operating temp down in the carbs quickly. My plan was to "snap" a couple of these and tie them to the carbs to keep them cool. I also had plans to rig an electric cooling fan to the radiator to keep the air moving.

April Meeting Minutes

MG Car Club Southwest Ohio Centre. April 23, 2003

Sam Hodges

8:05 Meeting called to order.

President's Report: Pres. Parks did not have anything new to report. He did say that he did the exact same thing that your humble Secretary did about three years ago. (Tech Tip: If you want to replace the sun visor mounts on an MGB windshield, REMOVE THE WINDSHEILD glass from the frame BEFORE you drill out the rivets holding the mounting brackets on! I broke one windshield glass, my father broke one windshield glass and now, Pres. Parks has broken one windshield glass by trying to drill the rivets without removing the glass from the frame first.) Terry Looft volunteered his torch if all else fails.

The Octagon News (May 2003)

He then proceeded to instill us with great levels of confidence in his abilities by telling the story of how he set Ryan Loofts' MGB on fire by drilling a carpet snap into the main battery cable. (OOPS!) Pres. Parks is looking forward to the Loofts help... Bill Hammond reported that he did receive some mail from the Concours de Elegance thanking the MGCC for its participation.

Vice President's Report was next. Linda Wolfe reported that she's glad that everyone's turning out for the meetings.

Minutes of the last meeting were next. Skip Peterson made a motion that Sam Hodges (oh, that would be me...) be made secretary for life (thankfully no one seconded this motion... PHEW!). Tim Oricko motioned that the minutes be accepted as read. Fred Shaneyfelt seconded. Club voted, motion passed. Minutes accepted.

Treasurers' report was next. There was \$40.00 in total income. There was a \$672 spent (\$250 donation to the British Car Museum, \$250 for insurance, Mailbox fees and Octagon news printing costs). This leaves the Club with a balance of \$1527.00 for the month of April. There were no other expenditures for the month. Dick Goodman made a motion to accept the Treasurers report. Phil Johnson seconded. The motion carried, Treasurers report was approved.

On a related note, Treasurer Dave Estell's birthday was the same day as the April meeting. As a result, at Beer Break, Dave announced that whatever everyone was drinking would be on the house! (That'll teach you to skip the meeting!)

Membership report was next. There were several new members to report on. Jim and Joanna Cooley, owners of a 1948 TC and Doug and Ruth Reno, Wilmington, Ohio, owners of a 1975 MGB. Welcome to the club! There are currently 83 members on the roster.

Sunshine Committee was next to report. Charlie Avery was at the tune-up clinic and is doing well. Tim Oricko's mother, Mary Oricko, is undergoing some test. Here's hoping all is well. Rich Cutright's wife has a herniated disk. We all wish them well in their continued recovery. Everyone else appears to be doing fine.

Newsletter was next. Steve Markman was actually in attendance! He has stated that he still needs articles. (This is a problem that's been around for as long as I've been in the club). Joe Hooker and Tim Oricko have the mail system figured out fairly well. Thanks to them for getting the newsletters out on time. Again, Louie D. volunteered a picture and a story about his

Spitfire for the newsletter. A text only version of the octagon news can be found on the club website (www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswoc).

Activities were next. Tim Oricko and Joe Hooker are the contacts for more information on these events. Some of the highlights are the All Ohio meet on July 27, 2003 and "Drive Your British Car to Work Week" May 25-June 6, 2003.

Old Business was next. May 18 is the date for the upcoming Spring Tour. (If you're reading this and didn't go on the tour, you missed it!) The Loofts had it mapped out nicely, and it was a very lovely event run in conjunction with the April Pub-Run (although I'm typing this before the event has actually happened. I'm just messing with those of you who didn't go...). The expected driving times were 1-hour for most, 45-minutes for Bill Hammond, 35-minutes for the Gribblers.

Next would be the Tune-up clinic. Thanks go out to Steve Miller for the use of his facility for the Tune-up Clinic. Supposedly, we are welcome back next year to do it all over again, as long as we bring the doughnuts and clean up after ourselves.

BCD - Tuesday May 6th is the next BCD meeting. Jennifer Peterson threatened no more concessions unless we can get a list of people (at least 5 per hour) to sign up to work concessions. Bring girlfriends, boyfriends, wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, (your dog if you think he can flip a burger without eating it...) to help out during this years BCD. Skip wants to have teams of 2 counting ballots this year instead of the computer (it just seemed to go better with teams counting instead of the computer).

8:28 - BEER BREAK

8:42 - Meeting called back to order... Thanks for the Beer break Dave!

New Business was next. T-shirts. We need T-shirts! The cub (okay, it's really Skip P.) is going to investigate the cost and availability of new T-shirts for the club. If we go with the same place that we used last time, we need to order at least 3-dozen shirts. Skip will make a report next meeting on pricing. Bill Hammond wants brown and tan, everyone else thinks athletic gray will be fine.

Fish-fry turnout has been great, keep up the good job!

BCD was next. It seems that our former sound coordinator, Rick Feedback, will not be in town during the week of BCD. We need someone to be the sound tech for BCD. If you have the technical knowledge, connection, equipment, or

The Octagon News (May 2003)

just a burning desire to do a lot of work for little recognition, please see Skip to apply.

Jennifer Peterson wants the club to buy a truck to carry equipment and stuff for club functions. (It would really come in handy for towing home broken down cars from the various driving events.) Louie D. reported that he recently bought a new truck... As of press time, a deal between these two had yet to be finalized, but negotiation were in the works.

Website was next. The club wants to take the old Yahoo address off of the newsletter. We'll see what can be done. A suggestion was made that a list of the current library holding be placed on the website. Linda Wolfe brought up fact that the problem with the library in the past has been that people will check things out, and then never return to any club event/meeting/function. A suggestion was made that in the future, when checking things out from the library, your MG, along with a full tank of gas will have to be left as a security deposit on whatever material is borrowed. (No, Louie, we will NOT accept your Spitfire as collateral!)

Ed Hill asked where the MGCC engine hoist was. Apparently, Terry Happensack was its last known address. Betty Shaneyfelt suggested that there be a new list made up of what the club owns and who has what. Dave E. suggested that this be kept as part of the Treasurers duties. It was also suggested that the website might be a better place to list the clubs available tools/assets.

9:06 – Louis Gribbler arrived. We have to start the meeting all over again to cover all that she's missed...

9:07 – Pres. Parks calls meeting to order, again... The Wolfe's announced that they found this great little English Pub, the "Crooked Rooster," that carries 12 different English beers on tap, including Old Speckled Hen. Ed Hill Suggested a Pub Run. GREAT! After we get to Watkins Glen, NY, we have to go to... WAIT! Watkins Glen, NY!?!

For Sale: Louis knows where a 74_ MGB is. See Louis for more details.

Rich Cutright has a set of 14 inch painted MGB wheels, 60 spoke complete with Dunlop X461's for sale.

Tech Tips was next. Phil Johnson is having trouble with a leaking wheel on his Chrysler Sebring. Ed Hill suggested, "sell when it's full," Carole Looft suggested a trip to the local junk yard, not for a new tire, but for a new car.

Skip reported that we had a lot of items to get rid of, so therefore, Gumball Rallye will be lucrative for quite a few people.

New member Doug Reno won the \$5.00.

Charlie McCamey won a T-shirt, Carl Sparklin won a T-shirt, Carole Looft won a T-shirt, Tim Oricko won a T-shirt, Skip P. won a T-shirt, and Ed Hill won a T-shirt.

9:22 p.m. Linda Wolfe made motion to adjourn meeting. Ed Hill seconded. Meeting adjourned.