

THE OCTAGON NEWS

Volume XXXVII No.11

September 2003

Thank You From the U.K. Prime Minister
 Ron Parks' MGB Takes First at Concours d'Elegance

From the President

Ron Parks

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your President this past year.

Now it is time for someone else to take his or her turn. I must attend to other matters, like preparing to serve as President Emeritus (How tough is that Terry?), getting ready for our club's Christmas party on December 13th, and helping Bill Hammond plan our fall rally. This has been a year full of fun events, some of which are still producing fallout. For example, I'm now getting mail about the St. Louis car shows, addressed to me, but sent to Bill Hammond's address as a result of us rooming together at the NAMGBR convention in St. Louis, Bill, can you give me a hand with that mail?

Plans for our fall rally, scheduled for Sunday October 19th, have changed somewhat. The Studebaker museum will not be a part of the rally this fall, as termites have recently been discovered in the building. Everything has to be moved ten feet away from the walls so they can be treated and repaired.

- Continued on Page 2 -



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 September 24, 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
 mail.....sammgb@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 434-2908
Joe Hooker twocoloradokids@aol.com 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/mgccswoc

Inside This Issue

3	Membership Dues
3	New Members
4	From the MG Bulletin Board
6	Thanks From the U.K. Prime Minister
6	Minutes From the August Meeting

Upcoming Events

SEPT:

24 - Meeting (K of C hall)

OCT:

19 - Fall Drive

22 - Meeting (K of C hall)

NOV:

7 - Fish Fry (K of C hall)

? - Meeting (K of C hall)

DEC:

13 - Christmas Party (Parks)

From the President (con't)

Bill Naughton, owner of the museum, still welcomes us to come and enjoy the museum sometime next year. Bill Hammond and I had a preliminary planning session to rough out a course on the map. We plan to start the rally in the parking lot of the K-Mart in Xenia and end at Ye Ole Trail Tavern in Yellow Springs, after traversing the 60 mile course. Besides the observation part of the rally, we're considering showing-up ahead of you at various checkpoints on the courses to hand out cards to make it a poker run as well.

Please join me in thanking all the officers who served our club this past year. I want to especially thank Linda Wolfe for standing in for me, more times than the Vice President normally has to do. Thank you Linda! I also want to give special thanks our Fish Coordinator, Terry Looft, for sending email reminders. We had good turnouts at the fish fries.

You might consider running for an office at the September meeting. Someone's got to do it; it may as well be you. It's not really that difficult in our low key environment and it can provide the opportunity to meet more members. Think about it and speak up at the September meeting if you want to run for an office. It would be great to have multiple people running for the offices. Don't forget to pay your membership dues by

September. You cannot vote or run for office unless your dues are paid.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday September 24, 2003.

Membership Dues Due This Month- September Elections!

Carole Looft

Your annual membership dues are due now. In order for you to vote in the elections for new officers, or to run for office, your dues must be paid prior to the September meeting. You can either mail a check to the **MG Car Club, P.O. Box 20032, Dabel Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45420-0032** or you can bring your dues to the meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2003. Annual dues are \$18. Don't forget to pay your dues, because all members who have not paid are dropped from the roles in January.

Also, if you have a change in your email address, or have added or deleted any of your cars from the current membership roster, please include this information with your dues payment. Thanks!!

Welcome to More New Members!

By Carole Looft

John and Carol Carter just got their red 1953 TD when they came to British Car Day in August. John said that since 1965 he wanted "the most beautiful designed car on the road". So, they found one on ebay from an owner in California. The Carters haven't really been able to enjoy the car much due to some brake work that needs to be done, but are anxious to get it on the road.

The Carters live in Laura, Ohio where John, who is retired, is learning to be a mechanic! In his spare time John is a golfer and is teaching himself to play the guitar. John seems to think that TDs have gotten smaller than what he remembers from 1965. He says the steering wheel is a lot closer to the seat than before – figure that one out!! John and Carol we are glad to have you as members of the MG Club. (editor's note - red TDs and their owners are especially welcome! Also agree that the TD is the most beautiful car on the road, and for an unknown reason, the steering wheel seems to creep closer to my stomach each year! - srm)

Ron Parks' MGB Takes First at Concours

Ron Parks' MGB took a well-deserved first place for its category at the 2003 Concours d'Elegance. Congratulations Ron! More details in next month's Octagon News (if someone writes the story).

Overheard From the MG Bulletin Board...

A Classic Moral Question...and the MG Driver

edited by Steve Markman

The Question -

This is a moral/ethical dilemma that once actually was used in a job application. You are driving along in your 2-seater sports car on a wild, stormy night, when you pass by a bus stop and see three people waiting for the bus: an old lady who looks as if she is about to die, an old friend who once saved your life and you never thanked him properly, and the perfect partner you have been dreaming about and may never find again. You have to pick one. Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car?

Most of us have heard this question before, and know the "correct" answer is to give the car to the friend and let him take the old lady to the hospital, then wait for the bus with the girl of your dreams. But, leave it to MG TD drivers to come up with their own unique opinions!

The Responses -

Refresh my memory, why am I driving my nice 2-seat sports car on a nasty night in the first place? Why not drive my daily beater in that weather.

Can the luggage rack support two people?

Of course the rack would support those two people. The little old lady would be tiny and frail, maybe 80 lbs. and the bimbo would be much the same weight. After all, your dream wouldn't be a 300 pounder, like you see in this neck of the woods wobbling in and out of McDonalds, would she? (or would she?).

Go for it mate. Tie 'em to the rack, wrap 'em in a bit of plastic sheeting and do your stuff.

Of course, we are assuming that we can actually SEE the 3 people at the bus stop, what with the performance of the TD wipers!!

As many of us know, you can get 4 (sometimes 5) in a TD. Driver, one over the emergency brake, one on the passenger seat and one in the space behind the seat. You can put someone on the floor of the passenger seat if you really need to. So, my answer would be to take all three.

Wouldn't want to be the one on the hand brake. Have double-dated in a TD, buddy with his date on his lap, (lucky fellow), my date in the boot with her elbow in my ear. Can be done. The caveat is always, you can not ride in an MG with someone you do not like.

We used to carry a pillow for just that reason. Having said that, there was always a big fight over who was going to sit on the hand brake between me and my sister. It was not comfortable at all and after about 15 minutes parts started numbing out. After three hours you were lifeless.

The Octagon News (September 2003)

Best part of being a small child and riding in my dad's TD was crawling into the passenger foot area when it was cold outside.

Give the keys to your old friend and have him drive the old lady to safety. Now you are a hero AND in the sole presence of your perfect partner.

Sounds like a plan until you realize you may never see your LBC again!

Trading in your LBC for the perfect partner may

lower your future upkeep costs--depending, of course, on whether you're trying for a 100 point car. If the perfect partner truly is "perfect", her dad will own a liquor store and she will be content to own one dress and one pair of shoes.

I am a Sprite and MGB guy who visited the TD-TF site out of curiosity. I have learned my lesson.

Thank You From the United Kingdom PM!



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Direct Communications Unit

3 June 2003

MG Card Club
Southwestern Ohio Centre
PO Box 20032
Dabel Branch
Dayton
Ohio 45420-0032
USA

Dear Sir or Madam

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you and your co-signatories for your recent card.

Mr Blair appreciates your kind thought in writing.

Yours faithfully

ALEX KINNARD

About six months ago, Bob Charles brought a thank you card for us to sign, thanking Tony Blair for his firm support for the war in Iraq. We received the following note from Mr. Blair's assistant.

August Minutes Report

MG Car Club Southwest Ohio Centre. August 27, 2003 Meeting, Minutes Report

Sam Hodges

8:02 Meeting called to order. Having hung out the old, "gone fishing" sign, Pres. Parks was not in attendance at the meeting (he actually went fishing...). V.P. Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Jim Cooley called for a point of order and offered congratulations to Skip Peterson for orchestrating yet another successful British Car Day. The club gave three cheers to Skip (that whole hip-hip-hoorah thing and all...) Then motion was made for a beer break (the

The Octagon News (September 2003)

important stuff!).

Since our Vice President was the acting President, there was no **Vice President's Report** this month.

Skip Peterson motioned to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as published in the newsletter. Dave Estell seconded, motion passed, minutes accepted as published.

Treasurers' report was next. There was \$67.00 in total income. There was a \$453.76 in expenditures (\$386.76 of which was for the tires for the beer trailer) which left the club with a month ending balance of \$897.58 plus 19.00 cash which, for some odd reason, the Treasurer had in his pocket... (one of those things that makes you go "hmm..."). Somebody motioned to accept the report, somebody else seconded. The motion carried, Treasurers report was approved (*I think I was giving Lois Gribler grief about something when the actual motioning was going on, so I don't really have a clue as to who said what. Heck, you're lucky I even knew that the Treasurers' report was what was going on...*)

Membership report was next. There are currently 93 paid members on the roster. The club gained three new members at BDC: John & Carol Carter of Laura, OH, owner of a 1953 MGTD; Clay White of Dayton, owner of a 1977 Midget; and Fred & Gilda Winkler of Waynesville. Welcome to the club, one and all. As a notice to all of the club members, membership dues are due next month for everyone (*except John Zeno, whose dues will be due exactly one minute after the end of next month's meeting*).

Sunshine Committee report was next. Gary Kinney had recently had hernia surgery, but he was present at the meeting so obviously he must have survived. Otherwise, everyone else seems to be doing fine.

Activities were next. Tim Oricko and Joe Hooker are the contacts for more information on these events. Some of the highlights are: Concours de Elegance, September 14, Knight of Columbus Fish Fry, and November 7. Mark your calendars.

Joe Hooker wanted to recognize Steve Markman for all of the good work done on getting the newsletter out. (*Personally, I'd like to thank him for putting up with my fuzzy deadline compliance...*)

In planning the **Fall Rallye** the club decided that a good primary date would be October 19th and October 5th would be the alternate date if there were any major conflicts with the primary date. Please voice your concerns, thoughts and or preferences at the next meeting.

At the **Goodman Summer picnic** there were 48 members in attendance. (*Yet again I have to thank everyone for doing this on a date when I was previously otherwise engaged...*) Rumor mill has it that everyone had a really good time. Joe Hooker is the keeper of the Aunt Sally trophy head.

BCD report was next – “We’ve got it down!” said Skip Peterson. (“*We’ll see about that! Wait till next year!*” said the cruel hand of fate.) Apparently no one called to complain about anything that was or was not done to them. The Triumph club seems to be okay with how things worked out (*do we really care about what the Triumph club thinks?!? They should be grateful that we don't pull a hostile takeover and make them all buy MG's!*). The Metro Park system is actually happy with BCD being held there. Apparently, we clean up after ourselves, aren't too rowdy a bunch, and the oil left by the various leaking British cars does wonders for their long-term weed control. Expected proceeds should be about \$1350 per club.

8:27 – BEER BREAK – the same one motioned for earlier was finally acted upon when Skip P. seconded earlier motion.

8:44 – Meeting called back to order...

Concours de Elegance was next discussed, but since it will have come and gone by the time you read this, I'm not wasting my time telling you about what all we said. You should have been at the meeting if you really wanted to now that badly!

Old Business was next. The BCD class winners are now available on the MGCC website at www.mgcars.org.uk/mgccswoc.

The Octagon News (September 2003)

The list of MGCC assets was next. Apparently we currently own 3 radios, an engine hoist, a club banner, an engine leveling bar (which goes with the hoist) a large canopy and a small canopy. If you are currently in possession of any of these items, expect a visit from our collection department sometime in the near future.

MG Grille badges were next. Charlie McCamey informed the club that good quality badges are available from SREpins. The cost of the badges is \$13.35 per badge with an order of 50 badges, \$9.89 per badge with an order of 100 badges. Dash plaques are available at a cost of \$9.85 per plaque with an order of 50 plaques, \$6.81 per plaque with an order of 100 plaques. Badge bars are also available at a cost of \$12.25 per bar with an order of 50 bars. Dick Smith, "that's almost as expensive as the stationary..." If we order 50, the Loofts should account for about half of those. The Gribblers would need 4 themselves, so that wouldn't leave that many more for the rest of the club. This topic was tabled until next meeting. If you have an opinion, please speak by the next meeting or forever hold your peace.

Dick Smith stated that the MGB that is being raffled off by the British Museum will be at the Concours de Elegance, check it out if you can. (Although, if your reading this, and you didn't go to the Concours, then shame on you for not attending!)

New Business was next. Valley Vineyards was next! Do we want to do it again? (Yes!) If so, then we need to avoid their fall festival. If you would like to go, please RSVP this time since last time we anticipated about 25 people going and ended up with about 40 showing up. No date has been set, but if you would like to attend, please come to the meeting and make your preferences known.

For Sale: Ron Parks has a couple of convertible tops for sale. Contact Ron for more information on condition, color and pricing if you're in the market for a top. Bob Charles has an MGB hardtop for sale. Needs new side glass and a coat of paint, but otherwise, it's yours for \$400. Bill Hammond has his eye on an MGB, so therefore, his MGCGT is now for sale. \$6,000 takes it. Contact Bill Hammond for details. Skip Peterson offered to broker the deal for a mere \$2,000

finder's fee. Contact Skip if you've been drinking WAY too much and have money to burn!

Gumball Rallye – Jim Cooley won the Johnny Lightning MGB that was given away. Carole Looft won the \$5. Ryan Looft and Dave Gribler each won BCD tee shirts.

9:20 p.m. Dave Gribler made motion to adjourn meeting. Terry Looft seconded. Meeting adjourned.

- Classifieds -

Bill Hammond has decided to sell his rare 1969 MGC GT. He has full maintenance records, and ownership history (he even has the title!). (937)434-9967.

1979 MG Midget, excellent condition, no rust, 36,000 miles, Inca yellow, black top and bumpers, Weber carburetor, new tires and top, garaged last 16 years, driven only sporadically last 12 months. \$7,500, 937-566-6532.

1971 MG Midget, engine rebuilt at 80,000 miles, 180 miles on rebuilt engine. New top, no rust, complete going over in 2002. Good rubber, good interior, possible trans problem (2nd gear), \$4,000 OBO, (419) 683-1726. Ask for Joe.

1967 MGB GT HARDTOP, new dark green paint, new upholstery, new brakes, new front end, \$6500, call Joe Antrim, 937-277-4798.

Looking for AMCO style luggage rack for MGTD. Call Ron Froess, 814-899-5076, or write at 2313 Saltman Rd., Erie PA 16510.