

## **President's Message**

The topic of discussion these days is the cold weather in northern Indiana. We have gone from bitterly cold for most of a week to more typical temperatures and snow. It's a good thing our LBC's are in the garage/storage/barn. The roads are covered with lots of chemicals and salt which is not friendly to our mature cars. We need to make regular checks of our LBC's to ensure that nothing bad and unexpected is happening to them while spending the winter off the roads.

A sure cure for the cold weather is to attend one of our monthly breakfast meetings. Everyone has a good hot breakfast while visiting with the others, usually at a long table in the restaurant. We just met at PEGG'S in downtown South Bend (see page 8), will meet on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at Perkins just off the Elkhart Toll Road Exit, and will meet on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Jennie Rae's in Rolling Prairie. Jennie Rae's is a good opportunity for our western members and late risers to attend a breakfast meeting – its at 8:30 AM CST/9:30 AM EST.

We have a new administration for the club. At the January 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board members selected Bob Petersen as President, Keith Wishmeier as VP Activities, Mary Petersen as VP Communications, and Herm Marrese as VP Membership. Bob Kerstetter and Larry Palguta continue as President-appointed Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. And Roger Deacon continues as honorary VP of Fuel Filter Compliance – a position well-earned on our 2013 Fall Tour to Traverse City.

Join us at our monthly breakfast meeting and hear the details about some of the 2018 activities only mentioned in the Newsletters.

## **January 9, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

- **Financial – Bob K. reported on our account; club will donate \$100 to Food Bank of Northern Indiana**
- **Newsletter – Mary preparing January Newsletter**
- **2018 Fall Tour – discussed possible overnigher for Spring Drive; Keith will look into Paducah, KY for Fall Tour**
- **Fall Elections – Board decided on following positions – Bob P. – President, Mary – Communications, Keith – Activities, Herm – Membership; Roger –honorary VP of Fuel Filter Compliance, continuing appointments: Treasurer – Bob K., Secretary – Larry**
- **Annual Car Show – June 24<sup>th</sup> – contract signed July 13, 2017, part of lease fee paid, Featured marque – MGA, media announcement to be drafted and distributed, date to be placed on calendars of websites**
- **Monthly Meetings – January 20 - PEGG’S South Bend; February 17 – Perkins, Elkhart Toll Road Exit; March 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM CST/9:30 AM EST - Jennie Rae’s Restaurant, Rolling Prairie**
- **Board Meetings – February 6 – Herm’s, March 6 – Keith’s**

# Stagman's Tech Tips

By Roger Deacon

This story is about the trials that a new member went through when he bought his first MGB. He purchased it on ebay in the summer of 2016. It was from Miami Florida, had a nice rust-free body, and the paint was very good according to the previous owner's picture of it on ebay.

How does one get a car home from 1,300 plus miles away? I can share many stories of how people bought their car and were told it could be driven home. One couple flew to Massachusetts and when they got there they found out the car wouldn't run. They liked the car so they rented a U-Haul and brought it home. It had many problems that first year. They went home on a roll back wrecker several times.

Back to the Florida car story. He drove down to Miami with a friend, truck and trailer and got it safely back to Elkhart. Now for the comedy of errors trying to get the car running. The battery kept discharging. He had a wonderful neighbor who was into hot rods, who told him he knew all about MGs. They had the worst wiring and he made a remark about Lucas wiring. He said that the car needed to be rewired to keep the battery from discharging.

The neighbor rewired the whole car with about 5 different colored wires. To this day most of the gauges don't work. They had trouble sorting out the wires to try to get the car running. Also, he had stripped a lot of wires at least an inch from their ends. When I looked under the dash, I wondered to myself what kept these wires from touching, shorting out and setting on fire the car. All British cars are wired with about 24 different colored wires so they can be traced when problems arise.

While the car was getting rewired the neighbor told him he needed to put in a new distributor because that is what he uses in his hot rods. He wanted to install not just any distributor but a Flame Thrower Electronic Distributor by Pertronix \$\$\$\$\$. To go along with the new distributor, one needs a Pertronix Ignitor ignition with a voltage of 40000 \$\$\$\$. The car wouldn't start so he took the carburetor off the car and sent it out to get it rebuilt.

By this time, I assumed the car was ready to be started but it wouldn't start. I got a call the summer of 2017 and was told that he couldn't get his car started. At this time, I knew nothing about what he had done to the MG. I told him I was up to my eyeballs in cars and I'd try to get over some time to look at his car. Two weeks later I called him and told him that I'd come over. I decided to drive my 1978 MGB because he also has a 1979 MGB and I could make sure things were the same on both cars. What a shock it was when I looked under the hood!

We did all of the checks, set the timing and still no spark to the plugs. I pulled the distributor from my car and installed it in his car. Now we could get the car to backfire with a little help from some starting fluid. We decided to pull a spark plug to see where the piston was in the cylinder. When the engine was rolled over to the timing marks, the piston didn't come to the top. The rotor wasn't pointing to number one spark plug. I was stumped on this and decided to put my distributor back in my car and go home. I told him I think somebody has been into this engine and hadn't put it back together right. I'd call him in 6 weeks to see if he had gotten it started and if not, I'd come over with the trailer and take it to my shop.

It only got worse when I picked up the car and took it to my shop. Will I finish up this story next month? I doubt it.

Till then I wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If anyone has a question or problem about their car, feel free to give me a call. Evenings and mornings are best. I play shuffle board and afternoons Ruth and I are in the pool.

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## **Ladies...Send Me Your Recipes**

I talked with a few of the ladies at the Christmas/Hanukkah that were asking for recipes for some of the dishes that were served. We all thought it would be a good idea to share those recipes in the newsletter. So, ladies...send your recipes to [mkpete@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkpete@sbcglobal.net) and I will put them in the newsletter a couple at a time. Here is one:

### **Trilby Cheeseball/Spread**

Larry & Deb Palguta (taken from 1979 Junior League cookbook “Nutbread and Nostalgia”)

#### NEEDED:

- 1 lb. of shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 6 or 7 Green Onions – finely chopped, including green parts
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- Couple of sprigs of Parsley, chopped
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- Couple of dashes of Paprika
- 1 cup or more Mayo (use the real stuff)
- Parsley for garnish, chopped

#### ASSEMBLY:

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except Mayo. Mix really well (I usually toss them as each is added). Add Mayo and mix to form a cohesive ball. Cover ball with Cling/Saran wrap, and place bowl in fridge overnight so flavors will meld together. Garnish with parsley, if desired, and serve with a variety of crackers. Also makes a good sandwich spread.

## **Just a Few British Car Jokes**

**Q: How do you double the value of a Triumph?**

**A:** Fill it up with gas!

**Q: What do you call an MG with dual exhaust?**

**A:** A Wheelbarrow!

**Q: Why do the British drink warm beer?**

**A:** Because they all have Lucas refrigerators. It doesn't matter what temperature the room is, it's always room temperature.

**Q: What are the two questions you hear most from the passenger in your MGBGT?**

**A:** 1. Is it HOT in here?

2. Do you smell gas?

I pulled into a garage with my newly purchased 1500 Spitty and politely asked "Have you got a windscreen wiper blade for my Spit"

The cheeky git replied, "sounds like a good deal to me mate."

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## January 20<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting/Breakfast – PEGG’S

By Larry Palguta

On a not-so-cold January morning, 22 Brits showed up for breakfast at PEGG’S in downtown South Bend. As usual, we had our own back room area reserved just for the club. Everyone enjoyed visiting with one another and having a good meal and a warm restaurant in which to relax.

New President Bob Petersen held a short business meeting, and several members added comments about local activities planned for 2018 (Treasure Hunt North in South Bend; Pinewood Derby Racing in Elkhart; possible overnighter for Spring Drive). The meals seemed to disappear quickly and many stayed on to exchange stories and enjoy being out of the house on a weekend morning.



Kai Shepherd and Tom Shumaker talk cross-table



Paul Noeth, Keith Wishmeier and Jan Tucker await their meals