

Reflections On
Running Monthly Club
Meetings for The
MG Car Club -
Central Jersey Centre

(www.mgccnj.org)



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Reflections On Running

MG Car Club – Central Jersey Center

Monthly Meetings

Greg Prehodka

Introduction

In November I moved from NJ to Nazareth, Pa, and joined two MG clubs and one British car club near my new home. At all of them, the folks in charge asked me something like “*If you have any ideas for things we can do, let us know.*” Well, that got me thinking that maybe I could share some of my previous experiences from the NJ MG car club with them (*and other clubs*) on running their club meetings, and maybe it would provide them with some new ideas. It might also lead to my getting involved with their clubs in some way. I’ve had MGs since 1967 (*and other British cars*), and over the years have been involved in many different aspects concerning the cars, the people, the activities, and the clubs and organizations. Local clubs, national clubs, racing, technical, etc. For about five years, I ran the monthly meetings of the MG Car Club – Central Jersey Centre, before moving to Pa. I’m a retired engineer, and just thought I’d reflect on my experiences and learning from those five years. Although every club evolves into its own culture, and what its members want - and are willing to do – maybe my reflections might be helpful to others. So, here goes!

Philosophy

“*Are we having FUN?*” That’s the way I approach my MG involvement! But just what is “*MG FUN*”? That depends! Of course it is driving our MGs. But it is also sharing our MG love with fellow MG enthusiasts in numerous ways. For me it also includes the technical aspects of MGs, working on our MGs, and sharing our knowledge and experiences with each other. It is club meetings, social events, rally’s, races, drives, and so much more. We each define “*MG FUN*” as to what appeals to us individually, but with our common bond of MG cars. I joined the MG Car Club – Central Jersey Center, as a way to meet and get involved with MG enthusiasts where I lived, and to share in our common bonds. I went to a few of their “*Monthly meetings*” in Morristown, NJ, and left **disappointed!** They held a short business meeting, and then everyone went home. **Duh – NO FUN!** Why even bother going! They would only get about 20 folks out to a meeting - although they had well over a hundred members. Something was wrong with this picture! They were **not having FUN!** So, when I got their dues notice for membership renewal, at the bottom it asked for volunteers to help with the club’s activities. Humm, that made me think – what could I help with? So I penned in something

like *“I’ll help run the monthly meetings”*. I had many years of automotive and MG background, as well as my engineering experience running projects, and I thought I might be able to make the monthly meetings interesting and FUN! Well, ***what club ever turns down a volunteer!*** Ha! They said I could take over running the monthly meetings. The gauntlet was thrown down – my challenge was to improve the meetings! I was on my own in uncharted waters! But first I needed a plan. I felt that several things should be changed or added, to make the meetings something the members would *“Want to come to”*. Heck, they had about 140 members! I wanted to add substance to the meetings plus a social spin. My personal philosophy – make it more social and interesting, with a focus on our common bonds and interests. Make it “MG FUN”! I would not encroach on the club officers, who still had their roles at the meeting. Prez, treasurer, secretary, etc still had their duties. I just organized and planned the meetings. I also wanted to find out *“What the members wanted – and what they could/would help contribute to the meetings”*. So to start with, I explained to the club officers what I’d like to try, and requested a budget for food and drinks for the meetings. They generously allowed me \$1,200 a year for 11 meetings, (*although I never ended up spending that much, and the increase in attendance and membership more than justified this expenditure*). I made up a survey and mailed it out to all the club members, asking them several key questions concerning the meetings and what *“they would like”*, and what *“they would contribute or suggest”*. Results were very interesting and ***all over the chart!*** ***Holy Cow, what was I to do!*** But at least now ***I had something to start with!*** The membership was very diverse in many respects. Racers, mechanics, drivers, show folks, party folks, and just hang around drinking folks. So I began looking for a variety of *“Program Presentations”* that would please ***most of the folks most of the time***. I would vary the monthly meeting programs and would make adjustments as I received feedback from members. I got a number of leads from my survey, and as I became familiar with the members, I would ***lean on them*** to do *“their fair share”* in some respect. Sometimes ***“volunteers need to be encouraged”*** - you know! I would repeat my survey in years to follow, and always included asking for feedback comments on the activities which we were doing. I shared and discussed my survey results with the club officers and trustees to gather a consensus of where we were headed and what we should do. Not only did feedback from the surveys help improve the meetings, suggestions from the surveys also helped improve the club in its other functions too! And I was always thankful to anyone who helped. Food wise for the meetings, I just kept it simple. Snacks and canned/bottled soft drinks that could be carried over to the next meeting if all were not consumed. Chips, cookies, candy bars, soda, juice, water, etc. I would buy this stuff either on sale or in bulk boxes (at COSTCO) and bring it to the meetings with me. Hot coffee for the colder months too. We met at a VFW hall, and had a good sized meeting room there for our meetings, which worked well for us. My plan seemed to work as attendance at the monthly meetings began to rise. So, here is what our monthly meetings evolved into.

1. **Pre-Meeting:** Someone gets there early, puts out snacks and drinks, and sets up the “welcome table” with name badges, raffle tickets, etc. Set up the “green table” put up the agenda on the easel, set up tables and chairs for the meeting, put out the evening’s “Raffle Prizes”, and set up any display boards.

2. **Business meeting first.** Then have one or two significant “Presentations”. Typically, each one ½ hour to one-hour long. A speaker, presenter, business, video, or something of interesting to the membership. Always followed by a Q & A time. Maybe even throw in a “Tech Tip” if there was time. I arranged for the speakers, and outlined for them what I would like them to talk about, **the time they could have**, told them about our members (*so they would understand the audience*), etc. This worked well! And if they had a business of some kind, I always let them hand out their business literature, although I made it clear their talk was not to be a “sales pitch”. I had to balance the evening’s schedule to fit our time slot of 7:30-10:00.
3. I put out a variety of “Snacks and Drinks” for everyone. All individual size packages of chips, cookies, etc, and single serving size cans or bottles of soft drinks. Those not consumed, were carried over to the next meeting. I sort of kept a rolling inventory of this stuff at my house, and would replenish whatever they consumed.
4. All members were **required** to wear a “**Name Badge**” (*old what’s his name...*). I think I did this more for myself, than for anyone else. I’m terrible on remembering names. I always brought blank, stick on, paper name badges and a marker, to meetings for those who forgot their name badges. I found this was helpful with the social aspect, and getting folks to mingle. Now I knew everyone’s name!
5. I suggested that we change the meeting start time from 8:00PM to 7:30 with suggestions of coming even earlier (7:00) to see your MG buddies before the meeting started. They agreed. Meetings usually ran until about 10:00PM. So meetings ran 2-3 hours. This made it worth the trip to attend. Not everyone lived next door. All members attending the meetings were also most helpful in setting up (chairs & tables) and cleaning up at meeting’s end (we rented a VFW hall)
6. In the middle of the meeting, we always had a scheduled “**break time**” for snacks, drinks, and chat. Usually around 20 minutes. Socializing was a significant consideration in meeting planning. Come early, breaks, green table, etc.
7. I made up the meeting agenda in advance of the meeting and sent it out to all members, but would also bring it in on a paper flip chart to guide the meeting along. Having an agenda controlled the meetings and let everyone know what to expect. This worked well. We followed the meeting agenda as the evening progressed, which keep everyone on schedule. Sometimes speakers wouldn’t know when to stop talking, and I’d have to cut them off (*we had to be out by 10PM*). Often my planning would extend out several months in advance, as I’d be lining up speakers. Other times I was in a panic to get a speaker or activity - **but I always got something!**
8. I encouraged members to bring spouses, significant others, children, and friends to the meetings with them, and we welcomed everyone. With time we got more spouses coming.
9. I maintained a “**Display Poster Board**” of upcoming activities and items of interest that I would bring with me for display. I would update it monthly with anything that might be of interest to members, from magazine articles, web sites, newsletters, events, humor, etc. For better or worse, I probably subscribed to **too**

many MG and car magazines, and I have contacts with lots of car organizations - especially MG and vintage racing. I shared my information with everyone via this display board. Members always found it interesting. And I brought in my used car magazines to give away.



10. At many meetings we included a talk from one of our (140+) members in what I called **“Introducing Our Members”**, where one member would talk about their **“car life”**. This worked out really well, as we learned much more about each other, and heard some great personal car stories! I would tape record these talks and then write them up for the club’s newsletter. I developed guidelines for members on giving their Members Talk (*in appendix*). As well as just being interesting, this helped to create closer bonds between members as we got to know each other better, and realized we were all a little **“MG and car crazy”**. It made us more like family.
11. In nicer weather, folks came early and hung out in parking lot with their cars (MGs) until the meeting started. I would put snacks and drinks outside for them.
12. I started a **“Free Raffle”** at the end of the meetings. Some items for it bought by the club (*by me from my meeting budget*), and some donated by the members. Members were encouraged to bring in one item for the raffle, once a year, the month of their birthday, and most did, but it was not required. One of the reasons for doing this was to keep most folks there until the end of the meeting. It was received well, and worked well. Hey - who can argue with **“Free Prizes”**!
13. I also started what I called a **“Green Table”** which had success on several levels. This was just a table that I covered with a green table cloth. Members were then encouraged to bring in **“Anything”** they were willing to **“give away for FREE”** that others might like to have. Car stuff encouraged, but **anything OK**. Lots of stuff showed up on the green table! Car parts, tools, vegetables, hardware, books, videos, stuff from places of work, etc. **Only One Rule** – if no-one wants your stuff after two meetings, you take it back home or dispose of it. I think some members came to meetings just to see what they could get for free – but so what! People also brought in car magazines they had read already, and were willing to pass on to others to enjoy. This way most everyone ended up with more car magazines than they subscribed to - at no additional cost! Not only did this help get unwanted stuff into the hands of those who could use it (*doing our green thing*), but interestingly the green table also evolved into a **“social gathering**

place". Folks came early to see what would show up, and they would hang out around the tables, looking at this odd collection of everything, and chat about it with their buddies. For some, it became their reason for coming early to meetings to get the "Pick of the Litter" from the tables. Folks would look over the stuff during our break time too. As I prepared to move from NJ to Pa, I realized I had just too much car stuff (*from MANY years of accumulations*) and ended up giving away "a lot of my unwanted stuff" on the green table - to the pleasure and treasure of many. A win-win! I did this with the philosophy of "I did not have to move what I no longer had"!

14. A great benefit occurred when our club went paperless (*well, mostly paperless*) by e-mailing the monthly newsletter. There was a definite economic advantage because of the postal savings, but it also gave me the advantage of e-mailing members about meeting activities. I did not have to wait for the post office to deliver anything, or incur postal expenses (*not to mention printing, stuffing, licking, stamping, mailing 140+ envelopes*)! With a few clicks on my computer, I could now send out a meeting agenda and any meeting notes. I did this about a week before the monthly meeting, and then send out a "Meeting Reminder" the day before the meeting. It worked! Cost to the club – **NADA!** Plus, our newsletter editor would usually get out the monthly newsletter a few days before the meeting, and it included the agenda and any meeting notes - like profiles on our meeting speaker(s).

Guess what! With these changes, monthly meeting attendance rose from about 20 members to 50 members at meetings! The meetings now offered something worth coming for!

Meeting Presentations

I planned meetings to have a variety of different presentations, based on what the members had suggested and who I could get to come. I got creative at times. Here is a list of some of the presentations that we had the past several years:

1. **Police Officer Denis Nelson** talking about police activities and policies, especially concerning "vintage cars" and motorist.
2. Car tire expert talking about car tires for sports cars (Bill Bloomfield)



- from Euro Tire in Fairfield, NJ)
3. Members bring in their MG and “car memorabilia” for “*show N tell*” one time.
 4. Had an oil engineer from Castrol talk to us about oil and lubricants for cars
 5. Staged a 50-50 auction of car stuff from members to members (1/2 of \$\$ the items sold for went to the club, ½ to the person)
 6. Had a “Pot Luck Dinner” meeting once a year.
 7. Had a **multi station “Tune up instruction”** where the basics of a MG tune-up were explained by members knowing that stuff (Had separate demonstrations on: points, plugs, timing, carbs, valves)
 8. Photo – Tune up night
 9. A presentation on hardware (nuts, bolts, etc). Different types, grading, samples. SAE, metric, whitworth. (Steve Schultz)
 10. Presentation on car batteries
 11. Headers for MGs (Greg Prehodka)
 12. History of “*British Car Invasion of North America*” (Richard Miller)
 13. Personal stories of an MG enthusiast living and working in China (Art Issacs)
 14. Presentation by a local “New Car Salesman” – on buying and selling cars. Bob Berenbak of Norman-Gale Buick-GMC
 15. Talk about ZDDP in oil for our older cars. Zinc in engine oil (Greg Prehodka)
 16. Grand Bahamas Vintage Speed Week 1984, talk and video from Greg Prehodka who raced in it with his MGTD.
 17. Garage Safety (Steve Schultz)
 18. Outfitting you garage. Cabinets, floors, etc. (some garage company)
 19. Antique and Classic Car insurance (J.C. Taylor rep)
 20. Re-building SU Carburetors, (Nick O’Donohoe)
 21. Getting your car fixed – shopping for a reliable garage and mechanic (Phil Eng of Shade Tree Garage)
 22. Chrome Plating (G&H Metal Finishers)
 23. “Hawaiian Night” Theme – dress and foods.
 24. Presentation on “Gasoline” (Greg Prehodka)
 25. British Foods (By Bon-Appetite). Besides talking about them, they brought in samples of their foods for us to eat!



26. Members told short stories: “*My Favorite Scary Car Story*” (for the October Halloween meeting). Gave out prizes for best stories in various categories.
27. Special tools for working on cars
28. Car Insurance rep from Allstate talk to us about car insurance.
29. “*Hot Doggie Night*” Hot dogs with toppings for everyone.
30. “*Pizza Night*” Pizza for everyone
31. Slide show: Restoration of an Austin Healey Sprite. (Greg Prehodka)
32. November meeting we would include a “*Food Drive*” where we asked members to bring in food donations, which we then gave to a local community food bank.
33. Videos & DVDs were shown (Which I or others had):
 - a. **See Appendix for complete list of Videos and DVD’s shown**
34. BYOB Wine and Cheese evening
35. Members talk about special trips they took with their MGs over the years.
 - a. England, racing, rally, drives, MG events, vacations, etc.
36. Car Products for Your Car. Wax, cleaner, polish, etc (First Place Auto)
37. “*Lemon Awards*” night. Members talked about the “*lemon cars*” they have owned – gave out awards for best “lemon stories”. Butch O’Conner (lawyer) reviewed New Jersey’s “Lemon Laws” too.
38. Chris Leydon of Leydon Restorations talked on restoring vintage cars, and his personal life with vintage cars.
39. Restoring your classic car (Netcong Restorations, Phil Brazer)
40. Car fires – Steve Schults (*Inspired by a Jaguar that caught on fire when coming to the Britfest car show one year*)
41. “Old” new tires (*date code*) Buyer beware! Understand what you are buying (Mary Hayes)
42. Churchill Machine Tool Company, Nick O’Donohoe
 - a. Specialty tools for British cars from this company
43. Are your MGs Ready for Winter storage? (Greg Prehodka)
44. Mid Life Crisis – Steve Schults (Why he acquired an MG)
45. Painting your MG yourself – Mike Ruane
46. Re-Upholstering MG seats, Nick O’Donohoe
47. Powder coating your car parts, Dick Bettle
48. “*Cars in the Movies*” by a guy out of Newark, NJ whose business it is to provide “cars for movies”. He had some most interesting stories of movies he was involved in, and how we could get our cars into movies!
49. A few of our members “*brought their MG to a meeting*” (in warmer weather) where they did a “*Show and Tell*” of their car. Explained their MG in detail: its attributes, what they have done to it, modifications, problems, etc. I brought in my MGTD race car once for this and explained all its modifications for racing.
50. MGB Racing – A Family Affair (Mike Kush, MGB racer)
51. All about “Torque”. Greg Prehodka
52. Finding an overdrive transmission in the UK for his MGB (Mike Ruane)
53. “*Da Joisey Boyz*” Racing at Virginia International Raceway
54. Presentation on “Spark Plugs” (Greg Prehodka)
55. At one Spring/Summer meeting (*when the days are longer, and folks would drive their MGs to the meetings*), we sometime held a “Mini Car Show” in the parking

lot to start off the meeting. Some token awards would then be given out at the meeting for fun categories. (Car needing the most TLC, Car I most lust, Leaking the most oil, etc.)

Other Stuff

Here are some other things the club did which may be of interest.

1. For some very special monthly meetings, I invited members of our sister club, the NJ chapter of the New England MG 'T' Register to join us.
2. "**MG Buddy List**". We asked for members to volunteer to become a "**MG Buddy**" to new members joining the club. When someone new would join, we'd assign them a "MG Buddy" who lived close to them, to be their close friend and help them out with any questions or problems they had.
3. One of our members owned a garage where he worked on foreign cars. One spring Saturday, once a year, he would let our club members use his garage to work on our cars for simple stuff. He had car lifts we could use, as well as his tools and equipment. Oil change, fluid checks, brakes, checking stuff, tune-up, etc. We'd help each other out with our cars. Some members came to just help out others. Some car deficiencies were found in doing car inspections. Better to find them now, rather than when driving to that special event!
4. We had a few visits to member's home garages on a weekend, to see their cars, their garages, and what stuff they had, and then we would go do lunch in some nearby place.
5. One of our member's kids had some kind of "British Day" at their elementary school. He arranged for four of us to take our different model MGs to the school for "**show and tell**" out in the school's parking lot. All the kids came out, and we told them about our MGs and their British heritage. What the kids found most exciting about my MGTD, was honking its horn!
6. There is a place in northern NJ called "**Velocity 17**". They have indoor, electric powered go-carts for racing. They can go pretty fast on a winding tight road course! This is not kids' stuff! We rented the facility for one evening (*needed 30 people racing to get the place for ourselves*) and made it a club activity. Our racers brought along friends and family to watch, and cheer them on. We met at a nearby restaurant for dinner first. I made up three teams of 10 to make it more fun. We brought our own refreshments. Had team captains! We gave out a bunch of token awards, for bragging rights of course, for race winners! Everyone enjoyed this. This is as close to racing as you can come without really racing – and it is safe! Just took someone to organize, and the club had to pay for it in full, up-front, and then recover the money back from its participating members.
7. From past traditions (*before I was a club member*), the club would have a "**Father's Day Feast**" BBQ and picnic in a public park once a year on – usually on Father's day.
8. Some members, on their own, volunteered to invite members to come (hopefully in their MGs) to their house for social activities like:

- a. **BBQ** at Tom Shaw’s house. He provided the basics, and members were asked to bring sides
 - b. **Brunch** at Charlotte Luer’s house. She provided the basics, and members were asked to bring sides.
9. We had an invitation from “Mini of Morristown” to come to their facility for a tour, snacks, and to see the new Mini Coopers they had.
 10. Some members celebrated their “MG’s birthday” of when they rolled off the assembly line (How old is your MG?). 50 – 60 – 70 years! MG Birthday Cake anyone?
 11. Our club took a trip to “*America On Wheels*” in Allentown, Pa, when British Cars were featured. One of our member’s cars was on display there.
 12. Drive our MGs to a casual dinner place, have dinner, and then drive to the “*Drive In Movie*” for the evening, in Warwick, NY.
 13. Our September meeting evolved into our “*MG Oktoberfest*” meeting festival. Fortunately, the VFW where we had our meetings, had a large covered pavilion outside with picnic tables and a BBQ pit. They allowed us to use it for this. So we would celebrate “Oktoberfest” at our September meeting out in the pavilion (*late in September*). We’d do special stuff at it. Games, contest, um-papa music, German foods, brats, etc. Club provided the basics, and members brought compliments. Always an enjoyable meeting with a unique spin.
 14. The club had made up simple “Brochures” about the club. These were given out to all members to hand out to any other MG enthusiasts they might run into, to get them interested in joining our club.
 15. Giving to Charity. We are blessed with our MGs and MG friends. Not everyone is as fortunate. The **club did food drives for a local food bank**, and would donate money to charities from its “Britfest Car Show” every year. Since the early 90’s, the club has **donated over \$20,000 to charities**. Bless them!



Newsletter – Meshing Gears

Stuff for the Club Newsletter.

The newsletter is **a critical communications device** for the club!

1. It must have the agenda for the next upcoming meeting
 - a. Include a brief description of any speakers for the upcoming meeting
2. The club’s president should give an overview of what’s happening and their “vision” of the club’s future

3. NL should list upcoming events in the club's area, including any web site address or e-mail address for more information.
4. Members were always encouraged to send in stuff for the NL. Editors "edit" newsletters, they don't "write" newsletters!

Wrap –Up

Any club is only what its members want to make it. The possibilities are endless! Pursue your interest and any leads you can find! Be creative! The NJ club has a very active group of MG enthusiasts and as you can see, because of that they are having lots of **FUN!** Here is their club structure:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Trustees (Three)
- Britfest Chairman (their annual car show)
- Technical Advisor
- Regalia Chairman
- Newsletter Editor
- Events Coordinator
- Membership Chairman
- Webmaster
- Meeting Coordinator
- Road Events Coordinator
- Plus any special activity assignments

Once a year, they would have a meeting of club officers and trustees to plan the club's future. Meetings, shows, road events, volunteers, socials, etc. Feedback from the surveys also helped these planning meetings. What are we doing right, wrong, should change, new stuff, need volunteers, etc. Meeting twice a year is even better. We needed to "**Hold the good ship MG on course!**"

An appendix is attached which has a number of documents which you may find most interesting, informative, and useful. Take a look at them. ***The member's survey feedbacks can be particularly helpful!*** Maybe you might want to survey your club's members!

I hope this may have been of interest and informative to you. The ball is in your club's court now. Feel free to use and share these materials with anyone who may have interest in them. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. And may we all have more FUN with our MGs and our MG buddies in the future! MGs have been fun for me for almost fifty years now – and my MG fun isn't over yet!

***"...we few, we happy few,
we band of brothers.."***

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Appendix

Supporting Documents

- **Videos & DVD's shown at meetings**
- **MG Buddy Request**
- **Survey Form sent out to members**
- **Introducing Our Members**
- **“Green Table” for meetings**
- **Sharing Your MG Memories**

Greg having his MG FUN at the *Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix*



List of Videos and DVD's Shown at Meetings

Videos

1. American V-8 Thunder. Virginia International Raceway Gold Cup races 2003 featuring V-8 powered cars and MGs
2. 1984 Grand Bahamas Vintage Races, Freeport GB
3. Fangio (the movie) His life and racing. (a personal favorite of mine)
4. Dave Ash goes racing his MGA at Sebring (an AMACO sponsored film)
5. "Going Faster" Skip Barber Racing School. 90 Min.
6. "Drive to Win" With Mario Andretti and Gilbert Pendault. 1986. 119 minutes.
7. World's Toughest Car Trials (Ralley/race around Australia, early 50's) B&W
8. Track Sampler – NHIS, Lime Rock, Watkins Glen, Pocono, Bridgheampton 1993
9. Watkins Glen – The Street years, 1948-1952
10. SU Carb Tuning
11. MGs Across America – Part Two 45 minutes
12. Champions – Stirling Moss, Profile of a legend" 55 minutes.
13. "The Silver Arrows" 1987. History of the Auto Union Grand Prix Racing cars. Half hour.
14. Chevy Dealer Promotional short Films, 1948- 1952.

DVD's

1. MG Vintage Racers 20th Anniversary Video. At Elkhart Lake 2001 About 1-1/2 hr.
2. "Films of the Fabulous 50's" Home movies of early sports car racing. Al Moss collection
 - o Carrell Speedway, Pomona, Paramount Ranch, Palm Springs, Torrey Pines, Pebble Beach, and more.
3. Inside the Octagon II. 86 minutes. 2008 About MGs 1946 – 1980. Includes Peter Thornley interview.
4. Bob Harrington "Memories". A professional photographer, this is a slide show of his best photos of vintage racing over the years. Runs about 20 minutes.
5. Interview with Jack Archibald, September 7, 2008. Raced his MGTC when new. Informal, Jack reflects on his past memories.
6. "Honoring Denver Cornett" 1 hr, 22 min. 2006 Panel discussion at the International Motor Racing Research Center, where memories of Denver and early MG racing were talked about. Included several MG racers.
7. "DOHC Test Run at Lime Rock" Period marketing film of David Ash on the new MGA Twin Cam as he tests it at Lime Rock. Runs around 15 minutes.
8. "Sherman's Way". 98 minutes. 2009. Light romantic comedy movie, where the real star is their MGB! Fun watching for everyone.
9. "Lime Rock Park – The Secret Valley of Racing" LRP's history. 2001,

MG Car Club – Central Jersey Center
MG Buddy Assignment

To: _____

Our club has begun a "**MG Buddy**" system and **you volunteered for it**. Initially it can be uncomfortable for a new person joining any club, including ours. Meeting a bunch of strangers and just what do they do? To help new members get comfortable with our club, we would like to assign a seasoned club member to each new member when they join, as being their "**MG Buddy**". The Buddy would help the new member out with things like: Introducing them to others; being available to answer or help with any MG or club questions; explaining our club activities to them; letting them know about area sources or parts and services; and letting them know what other club members can help them with. We will assign MG Buddies from our buddy list based on who lives closest to the new member. Maybe you could even visit each other. Our club recently got a new member, and it was determined that you are the "MG Buddy" who lives closest to them.

Would you please contact the new member (information below), and become their MG Buddy.

New Member Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

MGs: _____

Other Info: _____

Thank you,

MG Car Club Survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey, to help make your MG club better! **You can return it to me at XXXXXXXXXXXX, or e-mail your comments back to me at: XXXXXXXXXXXX** - If you e-mail, just key your comments to the numbers below.

Thanks very much,

Greg Prehodka, Meeting Programs & Trustee

1. Over the past several years, we have had many interesting programs and speakers. Please suggest any topics or speakers you would like at future meetings:

2. Eating and MGs go together (*my opinion!*). How are the snacks & drinks at our meetings?

3. Do you like the way we do the "Free Raffle" at the end of the meetings? Any suggestions.

4. Would you volunteer to help with ***Britfest on May 7th***:
 Yes No thanks Maybe

5. Is there any other club activity you would help with or run:

6. If you haven't done so already, would you speak about yourself and your car activities over the years in our "***Introducing Our Members***" talks at our monthly meeting:
 did it already will do no thanks

7. Do you have any suggestions to pass on to the club officers and trustees about ***anything concerning our club***:

Thanks very much for your feedback. Need more space, just write on the back.

- And just to be sure our club records are current, **please print clearly your:**

Name _____ Telephone Home _____

E-mail: _____ (No e-mail____)

MG Car Club

Introducing Our Members

For our monthly meetings, we ask one member to introduce themselves to everyone. It is surprising how much we don't know about each other. And from that presentation, a brief write-up on that member will be put in the following month's newsletter.

This just to get everyone to know each other a little better, and in the process we'll hear some interesting MG and personal stories. A number of members have talked about themselves already. You don't have to be a good speaker to do this. You're just talking to your friends, and whatever you say is fine. And if it helps you, just write up a few note cards to remind yourself about what you want to say when you give your talk.

The presenter is welcome to talk about whatever they want – but here are some **suggested guidelines**:

1. **Presentation Time**: about 15 to 30 minutes
2. **Leaning toward your car interest**
 - Your first car
 - Interesting cars you've had
 - Interesting car stories of yours
 - Car people you have known or met
 - Work you've done on cars
 - Car activities or events you've been involve with
3. **About yourself**
 - Family
 - Work
 - Travels
 - Involvement with MG clubs or activities
 - Other Hobbies
4. **Show and Tell**
 - Photo albums
 - Slides to show
 - Pictures
 - Awards
 - Other items of interest

We all look forward to hearing your stories and why you are involved with MGs. We each have our own story to tell – and share! Life is interesting!

MG Car Club - Central Jersey Center Is Going (British) Green

We're “**Going Green**” by **re-cycling MG and Automotive “Stuff”**.

Members are encouraged to bring in “*Anything*” they are willing to “*give away for FREE*” that others might like to have. Car stuff encouraged, but *anything OK*. Lots of stuff shows up on the green table! Car parts, tools, vegetables, hardware, books, videos, stuff from places of work, etc. **Only One Rule** – if no-one wants your stuff after two meetings, you take it back home or dispose of it

For Example Bring In:

- Car **magazines, books, manuals**
- Old or extra **tools**
- Car **parts** you don't need
- Wiring **diagrams**, owner's **manuals**
- Auto **memorabilia, posters, model cars**
- **Hardware, tie wraps**, etc
- **Videos, photos, DVD's**, etc. (Plus any other cool “Stuff”)

The Rules:

- Everything on the table is **FREE** to whomever wants it
- A regular thing now at our monthly meetings
- If no-one takes it – please take it back
- Recycling beats the dump, or collecting dust in your house – ***bring it in!***
- First come – first serve - from the table (*early bird get the worm*)

MG Club “Sharing MG Memories” Article

Name, _____

In our club “Survey 2008”, you volunteered to write up an article on some MG Memory(s) you have, for our newsletter. We would most appreciate you writing up something for our (Month) newsletter. We all have MG memories, and this is just one way of sharing them with each other.

If you would please take a few minutes to write your memory(s) up and send it to our newsletter editor Nancy Ruane at XXXXXXXX , and copy to me at XXXXXXXX that would be great! She needs it to her by the 10th of (Month). Some guidelines for it are below. We are looking to get one such article like this in each monthly newsletter. If for some reason you can not do it, please let me know.

Thanks very much,

Greg Prehodka

Meeting Program Coordinator

Guidelines For Your “Sharing MG Memories”

Pick any MG memory you would like to share with your club members. **A particular memory** – not your life with MGs. It can be from recent events or something long ago – but something of yours. The more personal, the better. Some MG related thing you were involved with worth telling about. That rally, the MG gathering, a MG trip, your MG find, an MG race, the MG that got away, MG problems you had, that MG disaster, how you met your sweetheart through MGs, that MG you lusted after, etc. – you get the idea. What you write it is fine with us – don’t worry about writing skills. Suggested length is half to one-page long. Photos supporting it would be great. They just need to be digital and can be sent via e-mail. If you need a few photos scanned, Greg Prehodka can help you. Thanks – we look forward to sharing about your “MG Memories” with the rest of the club



I got to meet the famous
Captain George Easton
of MG fame at the New
England MG ‘T’
Register’s GOF at Buck
Hill Falls, Pennsylvania
in 1976!

Greg P.