

Winter Update

While I sit here with our first snowfall coming down I think back on the past two months without having much news to report. We are getting over 12" of snow, so, I will be busy with cleanup tomorrow. Fortunately, I have a plow, but my old body does not take to the shoveling part very well anymore! We had our annual Holiday Dinner with the MG T-Party on December 3, 2023 and were able to catch up with some of our members and other MG enthusiasts. I have had the opportunity to spend time with some of our club members for working on projects or just to have a meal together and talk. Email and texting have been very useful as well as the occasional phone call. Mike McPherson has been working diligently to get his MGA back on the road after sitting for many years. Most recently he sent a short video clip of him driving the car, but the next day he had a flat tire on his new tires and tubes. I mentioned to him that many of the vintage rims have a larger hole for the valve stem and that if you don't put the plastic grommet in there you run the risk of the stem chafing on the rim. His rims have the large hole and no grommet. I had this problem on my MG TF about 20 years ago. Of course, many with steel rims run tubeless with a valve stem pulled through the hole, but even these rims are supposed to have tubes for safety since they are not like modern wheels with a safety bead on the rim to prevent the tire from peeling off the rim around a corner if the tire is going flat. Maybe this does not happen with modern radials anymore but I don't know.

I sold my 1959 MGA project car that some of you saw at the tech session this year to a fellow in the Netherlands, so, I had room to work on some of my other projects. One of which was to replace the center dash cluster on my MG TC as I had sent it out to be refurbished/painted and stenciled at the Whitworth Shop. I also put the MGB GT on the lift to get it out of the way and noticed a drip at the clutch slave cylinder. It turned out to be a leaking seal, even though it was only 4 years old. I rebuild the cylinder with a new seal and I also found a bad dust seal on the front suspension lower trunnion, so, I replaced that as well. Again, only 4 years old!

I am hoping this year that the weather is more cooperative and that we can hold more driving tours. Of course, there are plenty of events put on by other clubs that we participate in, but we like to have some of our own events as well. If you would like to plan a drive in your area and show off some of the local scenery and perhaps a place to eat, please contact me and we can set it up. We will be having our annual planning session and potluck in March, but the date has not been set yet. Until then, stay safe, enjoy the company of other club members, even if it is not while driving our cars and I look forward to seeing many of you this coming year.

Holiday Party Photo with Jack, Jan, and Roy



Grommets for tubes

