



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Rambling On

by John Eaton

Granted, the following letter to the manufacturer of Lee oil filters has nothing to do with MGs, but maybe there is a more general lesson to be learned regarding automobiles and their makers' maintenance recommendations. Nonetheless, I find myself saying over and over, "I knew better, but I did the wrong thing anyway..."

An open letter to Lee Oil Filter Corp.

Dear Sirs,

I, like many other auto enthusiasts, take great pride in maintaining and caring for my cars in an effort to make them perform as well and as long as possible. We tend to derive a sense of accomplishment from extending a cars useful service life to well beyond 100,000 miles. Of course, one of the main components of attempting to achieve high mileage reliability is frequent and regular oil and filter changes.

In September of 1982, I purchased a 1983 model BMW 320i. Since that time, this car has accumulated 136,000 miles. After the initial 1250 mile break in period, I began performing my own regular maintenance which included oil and filter changes at 3000 mile intervals using Mobil 1 5-30 weight synthetic oil and the BMW recommended Purolator oil filter.

Mobil 1 is indeed an expensive proposition. However, I adopted a "nothing but the best is good enough for my car" attitude. Purolator oil filters purchased from BMW dealers are also an expensive habit. But, why pay dealer prices for oil filters? Well, shortly after acquiring the BMW, a BMW parts salesman explained to me that Purolator oil filters for BMWs have a pressure release valve that opens at a certain pressure which causes the oil to bypass the filter completely. He went on to explain that the function of the valve was to prevent excess oil pressure during cold starts when the motor oil is too cold and thick to flow through the filter.

On Saturday, October 15, 1988 I performed another oil change on the BMW. My supply of Purolator filters

was exhausted and the dealer was closed. Some time ago, I noticed that Fram made a filter for my 320. Inspection of the Fram filter revealed that it also has a pressure release valve similar to the Purolators I had been using. Thus I set off in search of a Fram filter. Visits to three local automotive parts stores were fruitless as none of them stocked the appropriate Fram filter. Finally, I did find a store that listed and stocked a filter for a BMW 320i. This was your Lee LF2816HP. Inspection of your filter revealed that it did not have a pressure release valve. I thought for a minute, reasoned that well, it says BMW 320i right on the box, I'm using Mobil 1 5-30. That's about as thin an oil as you can get right? So I bought it, took it home, changed the oil and installed the Lee filter.

About 1000 miles later on a cold and snowy November 16 in Bloomington, MN, TROUBLE! My wife, Cindy, was driving the BMW and of course, I was out of town. I called home at the usual appointed time, about 8:30 pm and Cindy wasn't home. Not too concerned yet, I called again at about 9:00. Cindy answered.

"Hi, well the car is in Bloomington."

"Oh, what's the problem?"

"The oil light came on."

I think to myself, "Oh God, anything but that."

"How far did you drive after the light came on?"

"Just a few blocks, the car is at the Amoco station on Old Cedar."

Thank God she had the sense not to drive too far!

"Any idea what happened?"

"Well, the attendant said the engine compartment is covered with oil. He said it looks like it's coming from the filter and that he's seen this problem on BMWs before when they use after market filters."

Unbelievable, a pump jockey who actually knows something about automobiles!

"How did you get home?"

"The attendant brought me home in the tow truck and didn't even charge me."

"No charge? You're kidding. Well, better call the dealer in the morning and..."

"No need, the attendant said he would go to the dealer in the morning and get the right filter and install it. The car should be ready by noon. It'll cost about 20 bucks."

"Incredible, I didn't think service stations existed anymore. Well, you sure did pick the right place to break down! See you tomorrow night. Oh, and ask them to give you the old filter."

The Amoco attendant did exactly as he said he would. Our BMW for now seems to be holding it's oil and appears not to be making any strange noises. Hopefully this incident has not done any serious harm. But, it has certainly not done our BMW any good. Time will tell.

The obvious question for you gentlemen at the Lee Corp. is why do you manufacture and sell a product that is not suitable for it's specified application? The defective filter with blown seal and detached core is available for your inspection. Your comments are eagerly awaited. And in fairness, your response, if any, will also be published in this newsletter.

Sincerely,
John D. Eaton.

Tech Session Notice

What's more complicated than Chinese arithmetic? Right! MG transmissions. If you're like me and have no idea what really goes on inside a gear box but have a burning desire to know, you're in luck.

The gear box in Jeff Marko's MGA has graciously stopped working, providing us "need to know why" types with a great opportunity. Verl Wilkins, a name familiar to many of us, has agreed to conduct a many tech aimed at curing the ills that lie deep within this gear box.

If you would like to attend and think you have the stomach to view raw uncensored gear box innards, call me (John Eaton) at 423-5475.

This gear box tech is tentatively scheduled for;

Date: Saturday, January 21, 1989

Time: 10 am

Place: Jeff Marko's in Eagan, MN.

Directions: Please call Jeff at 452-3835.

Yours Octagonally,
John Eaton

The 1988 Christmas Party

The MMGG 1988 Christmas Party was a great success. 45 members arrived at Classic Motor to discover a new and beautifully decorated private party room that we had all to ourselves. Excellent hors d'oeuvres were provided by MMGG and the group was treated to good food and service by Classic Motor.

After dinner, door prizes were awarded. Everyone was amazed at the quantity and value of the items provided by various parts suppliers and vendors. If you did not attend the party, you not only missed out on a great time but on a chance to win some outstanding prizes.

The prizes and winners:

- "The MGA, MGB and MGC - A Collectors Guide" Donated by MMGG.
Winner: Nancy Miller.
- "I Love My MG" sticker and MG patch.
Donated by Jim Lymburn and MG Cosas.
Winner: Sue Sood.
- K-3 MG limited edition print. Donated by MG Bits & Spares. Winner: Verl Wilkins.
- Sets of pedal pads. Donated by Christopher's MG Parts. Winners: Nels Aarrestad, Cindy Michaels and Paul Good.
- \$20 gift certificates. Donated by Moss Motors. Winners: Jonelle Midtso, Jon Carlson, Marilyn Bertsch, Jeff Marko and Karen Cordier.
- MGB spoiler. Donated by MG Cosas.
Winner: Jerry Sood.
- Carpet snap set and Midget carpet set.
Donated by MG Cosas. Winner: Ron Bertsch.
- Wire wheel spanner. Donated by MG Cosas.
Winner: Laura Braun.
- MG belt buckle. Donated by MG Cosas.
Winner: Anne Stebner.
- Midget check straps. Donated by MG Cosas.
Winner: Al Kelsey.
- Midget Velcro strips. Donated by MG Cosas.
Winner: Pat Karnopp.

- Christmas Floral centerpiece. Donated by MMGG. Winner: Dru Aarrestad.
- MMGG shirt. Donated by MMGG. Winner: Anne Ingebrigtsen.
- MMGG shirt. Donated by MMGG. Winner: Penny Parrish.

Thank you letters have been sent to the contributing vendors. Their names and addresses are:

MG Cosas
24027 Crossland
San Antonio, TX 78264
512-626-3840

Christopher's Foreign Cars, Inc.
633 Haven Ave.
Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-399-2824

Moss Motors, Ltd.
P.O. Box MG
7200 Hollister Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117
805-968-1041

MG Bits & Spares
P.O. Box 864
Jonesboro, AR 72403
501-932-7150

Another item of interest is a straw poll we took regarding what events members are interested in. The results will help us to plan in the future. The vote tabulation is as follows:

- 26 - Christmas Party
- 22 - Stillwater Drive and Picnic
- 22 - Indian Summer Rendezvous
- 21 - Kick Off Brunch
- 21 - Drive and Picnic Events
- 21 - Wheels & Wing Festival
- 17 - A Food Drive
- 12 - Tech Sessions
- 12 - Swap Meets
- 12 - Fun-Khanas
- 11 - Gymkhanas
- 10 - Co-Events with other clubs
- 8 - Golf Tournament

Other events mentioned were racing and more informal tech sessions.

Last but not least is a very special thanks and recognition to Jim and Joleen Lymburn for their efforts to make our Christmas celebration a success. They did a super job!

Letters

On Winter Battery Storage

I enjoyed the information regarding car storage in the December Newsletter and have one comment regarding batteries: A fully charged battery will not freeze even in very cold (many degrees below zero) weather. A cold battery will not lose its charge as easily as a warm (room temperature) battery. It may suffer from reduced cranking power but that's from the cold, not from its state of charge.

So, because charging a vented battery indoors is dangerous, and my garage is cold, and that's where my battery charger is, I store all my batteries in my garage and put the charger on them every 60 days or so. I proved this to myself once with my marine battery for my boat.

I would love to see other club members' comments regarding this.

Dave Braun

Replacement Driving Light Lenses

Does anyone know where to find replacement lenses and other parts for Bosch driving lights? I recently had the lens of one of my driving lights smashed. Trips to various auto parts stores to locate a replacement lens were unsuccessful. A dealer could order one but at \$28 each, (you can purchase the full set of lights for less than \$60!!) I thought there must be other solutions that would be easier on the pocket book. I have seen other brands of lenses in hardware stores for \$2 to \$3 each, a much more reasonable price.

If you have an answer for me, I would love to hear about it.

Mike Funck

The MMGG Photo Album

As Many of you are aware, there exists an MMGG Photo Album which we are using to chronicle our various events. The album is kept up by Alan and Ron Kelsey and brought to almost all events so that everyone can take a look at it.

All members are invited to provide photographs for inclusion in the album. We suggest that you edit before submission and submit only the shots you are most happy with. Al also asks "please, no more shots of Al Kelsey"!

Getting extra prints can be easy and inexpensive. Many photo labs run specials where they offer double prints at no extra charge or for just a few extra cents each. If you know that the roll of film you have has some good MG pictures, you may want to seek out such a service. It often saves time and cost over selecting reprints later.

Take a few minutes at the next event to check out the album. I think you will enjoy it.

Mike Funck

Have You Moved?

If you have moved and would still like to receive the MMGG Newsletter, please contact Al Bramer at 432-8058 and provide him with your new address.

Newsletter Contributions

Please mail your letters or other MMGG Newsletter contributions to:

Mike Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

If you have questions, please call: 612-881-3223

Minnesota MG Group

Events Coordinator: Dave Braun 432-5019
1989 Treasurer: Sherrill Carlson 423-1761
Newsletter Editor: Mike Funck 881-3223
Newsletter Publication: Jon Carlson 423-1761
Membership: Al Bramer 432-8058

January Business Meeting

When: Friday, January 20 from 7 to 9 pm

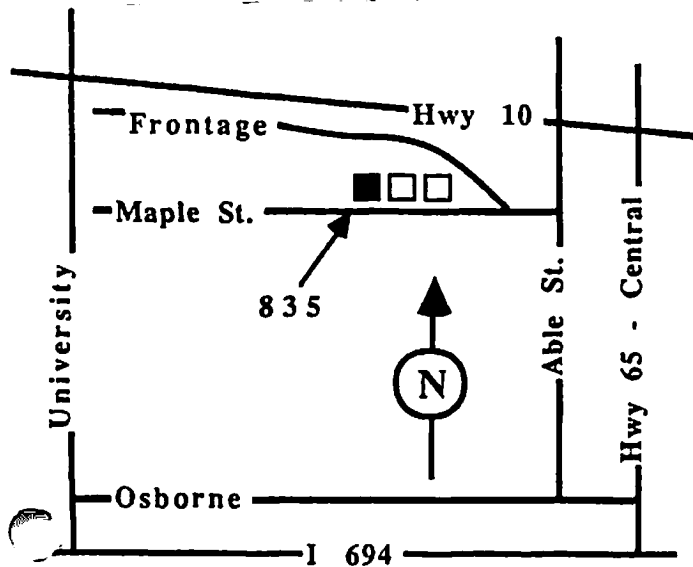
Hosts: Jim and Joleen Lymburn.

Where: 835 NE Maple St., Spring Lake Park.

Phone: 780-9241


Meeting Chair: Al Bramer. If you have input for the meeting but are unable to attend, call Al at 432-8058.

Directions:





Events Planner January 1989

<p>January 1989</p> <p><u>Business Meeting</u> Friday, January 20 7 - 9 pm Hosts: Jim & Jolcen Lymburn</p> <p><u>Tech Session</u> Tentative: Saturday, January 21, 10 am</p>	<p>February 1989</p> <p>NOTE: MMGG Events and schedules are subject to change. Please check the MMGG Newsletter for the exact time and place of each event.</p> <p>Revised: 1/2/89</p>	<p>March 1989</p> <p><u>Kick Off Brunch</u> Sunday, March 19 Hudson House Hosts: Dave & Laura Lynn Braun</p> <p><u>All British Car Club Kick Off</u></p>	<p>April 1989</p> <p><u>Drive & Picnic</u> Hosts: Paul & Joan Good</p>
<p>May 1989</p> <p><u>All British Car Picnic</u></p>	<p>June 1989</p> <p><u>Food Drive</u> Hosts: John & Anne Stebner</p> <p><u>Hare & Hound Rally</u> Hosts: Ron Bertsch & Mike Funck</p>	<p>July 1989</p> <p><u>Trip to St. Cloud & Tech Session</u> Host: Doug Madson</p>	<p>August 1989</p> <p><u>Stillwater Picnic</u> Hosts: Jon & Sherrill Carlson</p>
<p>September 1989</p> <p><u>Wheels & Wings Festival</u> Event Host Needed</p> <p><u>Swap Meet</u></p>	<p>October 1989</p> <p><u>Indian Summer Rendezvous</u> Host: Al Bramer</p>	<p>November 1989</p> 	<p>December 1989</p> <p><u>Christmas Party</u></p>

MGA

MGB

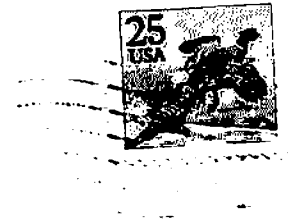
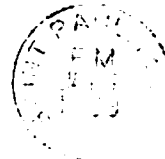


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Mike Funck
9517 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420



Dave Braun
7138 Lower 170th Ct.
Rosemount, MN 55068