

Ohio Chapter GOOF (Gathering Of Ohio Faithful), August 21-24, 2025

**BOOK HOTEL
BY JULY 21**

**REGISTER BY
AUG. 6**

We're pleased to announce all of the details for the Ohio Chapters GOOF for 2025. It will be held in West Central Ohio, in and around the City of Bellefontaine, Thursday, Aug. 21 to Sunday, Aug. 24 (please note the **Thursday** start—more below!). Make your hotel reservation by **July 21**; please register for the event itself by **Aug. 6**. This event is now a NAMGAR Regional Event, officially recognized by the North American MGA Register as a courtesy to our BuckAyes, a NAMGAR chapter!

Our host hotel will be the brand-new Cobblestone Inn & Suites in Bellefontaine, Ohio (it just opened June 20). A group room block has been secured with discounted rates: \$149 on Thursday, \$169 for Friday/Saturday. This includes full breakfast and King or Double Queen rooms, are available at this rate. Branded as "Big City Quality, Small Town Values," the hotel has Wi-Fi, an indoor pool, fire pit social area, guest laundry, fitness center, business center, Seattle's Best Coffee and a convenience store. The 80 rooms are smoke-free and equipped with a microwave, refrigerator, iron/board, hair dryer, flat panel TV, electronic friendly hubs and is dog-friendly. **Important! The reservation cut-off date for our room block is July 21.** A complimentary meeting room is being provided for our hospitality room, nightly until 10 p.m. *Thursday's hospitality will be a Welcome Reception hosted by NAMGAR, the North American MGA Register.* We thank them for their sponsorship!



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register

Make your hotel reservations, as follows:

Use this link: <https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=47214&Chain=7721&arrive=2025-08-21&depart=2025-08-24&adult=1&child=0&group=OHIOC250821-133224> It will take you directly to the booking page. **Important!** *Be sure to arrow down or scroll down past many which will say Member Rate until you see **Ohio Chapter M.G. Car Club** next to our rates.* Our Group Code **OHIOC250821-133224** can also be applied online if you go to the Cobblestone website at <https://staycobblestone.com/>. *You may want to apply for the hotel rewards program at www.cobblestonerewards.com to ease making your reservation, but is not required.* **You may also call the hotel directly at 937-240-0045.**



Bellefontaine Hill Climb

About the Hill Climb! The GOOF is being planned in conjunction with the increasingly popular Bellefontaine Hill Climb Revival. Now in its 7th year, the BHCR is held annually at Zanesfield's Corkscrew Hill, near Bellefontaine. It is well-planned and executed by chapter-members Kurt Niemeyer and Laura Zappia. *Many will remember Kurt or his parents as*

members, or, unfortunately, for the horrible fire which burned their family car collection near Cincinnati in 2020. Kurt and Laura own Sports Car Preservation Ltd. in Milford.

Kurt's event re-lives the glory days of sports car hill climb racing, when the Bellefontaine Hill Climb was the longest running public road competition in Ohio (held from 1953-1974). The Hill Climb Revival drives the same original historic course and is open to cars manufactured prior to 1985 or select others with approval. No specialized preparation is required, though each car must display a number 8" high, 6" wide with a 1" stroke to pass safety inspection and get on the course, if competing (not needed for our parade lap). Experience in competition, including Autocross, Rally or Racing is required to formally enter the racing event, but not to participate in our GOOF. (Cars racing will be classified as "Production" (stock), "Modified;" or "Full Race" and are broken into sub classes by engine displacement.) If you wish to enter the Hill Climb separately (not required as part of our event, please do so at:



<https://www.motorsportreg.com/events/bellefontaine-hill-climb-revival-7-corkscrew-zanesfield-ohio-sports-car-587627> **Please note! Touring**

laps--which we will be participating in as a club--have no restrictions on driver experience nor vehicle. You **ONLY** need to register for the Hill Climb if you plan to RACE competitively on Saturday, not for our event.



The Ohio Chapters will be financially sponsoring several aspects of the Hill Climb in order to support Kurt and the event. As part of our combining the GOOF with the race weekend, we will be tagging on to all of the events associated with the hill climb. This is why we are starting our event on Thursday—this will give us time to enjoy the area on our own and still fully support the BHCR7 event.

Schedule for the GOOF:

Thursday, August 21st

EVENT *Agenda*

2:45 – Arrive directly at **Honda Heritage Center**, 24025 Honda Pkwy, Marysville, OH 43040. *No need to go to the hotel, go straight to Honda. We will have supper immediately after, then go to the hotel for check-in. Please arrive just before the museum closes to the public at 3:00. We will then have almost 90 minutes, just for our group.*

The Honda Heritage Center features products and displays that focus on Honda's U.S. engineering and manufacturing presence that started in Central Ohio in 1979. Explore the varied exhibits to learn more about Honda history and the products designed, engineered and manufactured in America. Honda has become an American leader in mobility, including the Honda and Acura



automobile brands, powersports and power equipment products, marine engines, and even a jet airplane, while continuing to innovate for the future. Learn about this rich history through a self-guided tour including narrated videos, photos and displays. See classic Honda automobiles and learn about Honda's earliest beginnings in the U.S., selling three models of small capacity motorcycles out of a small office in Los Angeles starting in 1959. Then, in 1979, becoming the first Japanese manufacturer to build motorcycles in America, followed in 1983 by being the first to build cars stateside, with both manufacturing facilities located northwest of Marysville, Ohio.

4:30 - Depart for Supper Location.

4:45 – Shared supper with Central Ohio MG Owners (COMGO) at The Old Stone Haus Tavern, 18966 Main Street, Broadway, OH 43007. (If you GPS it, you will get 18966 Main Street, Raymond, OH—it is the same location.) Old Stone Haus is a Broadway landmark. Built in 1896 as a hardware and general store; enjoy the atmosphere! We will have a side room off the bar. Order and pay on your own. Prices are reasonable.



7:00-ish – Travel to and Check-in at the Cobblestone Hotel, 171 Dowell Avenue, Bellefontaine, OH 43311 (near the intersection of U.S. Route 33 and U.S. Route 68). Travel the highway or there will be a scenic route provided.

Until 10:00 – Welcome Reception in the hospitality room at the hotel, graciously sponsored by **NAMGAR**, the North American MGA Register! Enjoy refreshments, games and socializing.

Friday, August 22nd

7-9:00 – Full breakfast at hotel, included. **9:10 – Driver's Meeting;** cover the day's events.

9:20 – Depart for morning activities. A beautiful country drive is planned to the unique car collection of Bob McConnell at **Gaslight Auto Parts**, 1445 U.S. Route 68, Urbana, OH 43078. Afterwards will be local history and lore; local 911 Memorial, America's shortest street, First Concrete Street, typical Smittle-planned stuff.



11:30 – Grimes Flying Lab Museum, 1636 North Main St.,

Urbana, OH 43078. Dedicated to preserving the historic Grimes Flying Lab Beech 18 aircraft from the Grimes

Manufacturing Co. History: Warren Grimes was the father of

aircraft lighting—Henry Ford approached Grimes in the mid-1920s to produce lights for the Ford Tri-Motor, the “Tin Goose.” In 1933, Grimes Manufacturing developed and provided wing-tip navigation lights for WACO planes in nearby Troy and in 1936 received a patent for an electric-powered retractable landing light. During WW II, nearly all American aircraft had Grimes lighting. In the 1950s, the Grimes Flying Lab, a modified Beech 18, was used to test and demonstrate new lighting technologies. By 1962, Grimes was making more than 3,000 lights and by 1970 there was virtually no airplane flying in the free world which did not contain Grimes lighting. The plane was restored by the Foundation in 2008; we’ll see it and the museum.



12:30 – Lunch at Grimes Field, 1636 N Main St, Urbana, OH 43078.

Lunch on-your-own at **Mindy’s Airport Café**, next door. Indoor and outdoor seating is available.



1:30 – Depart for afternoon activities back to Bellefontaine culminating

at the **Logan County Transportation Museum**, behind 521 East Columbus Avenue,

Bellefontaine, OH 43311. www.loganhhistory.org We will visit McKinley Street, the "Shortest Street in America". At just 20 feet long, it connects West Columbus and Garfield Avenues. (It was

once the shortest street in the world but that distinction now belongs to Ebenezer Place in Scotland.) We will also visit Court Avenue, the oldest concrete street in America. Constructed in 1891, it was an experimental project using concrete paving, a novel idea at the time. The street is located next to the Logan County Courthouse and remains in use today, though restricted to light use traffic and parking.

2:30 – For the rest of the afternoon, we will support the events of the Bellefontaine Hill Climb Revival weekend...

Race participants will be gathering for the safety inspection on the cars for Saturday’s racing events. The Logan County Museums are

free for the day; they have a wonderful collection. Members of the community will come at this time to see the cars up close. We will take turns having members in the parking lot to talk to the kids and families about the cars while others are able to tour the museums.



5:00 – Our **Banquet** will be held immediately following the tech inspections, **on-site**, in the atrium of the Transportation Museum! Designed to mimic a locomotive roundhouse, the transportation museum is where we will hold our club banquet, with awards, etc. *(We are, again, having an early supper, then will return to the hotel after the banquet. There is no need to return to the hotel to change clothes, etc.; we're just powering through the day!)* We are having an **Amish-family** cater our dinner. It will be at a lower cost than a usual banquet. (Since the hotel is more expensive this time, I'm keeping costs lower for the rest of the weekend.) *Our Saturday night meal will be part of the BHCR7-scheduled events, so Friday night will be our "usual" awards banquet.* The banquet will be catered by Nancy & Marvin Helmuth. The menu will include: roast beef, roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, noodles, 7-layer salad, dinner rolls, tea, lemonade, coffee and water, with peanut butter cream, peach, apple and cherry pies. The cost for dinner will be \$29, includes gratuity and the cost of the Helmuth's transportation and to tip their driver who will be transporting them and the food to and from the museum that day.



7:30-ish – Return to Cobblestone Hotel, 171 Dowell Avenue, Bellefontaine, OH 43311.

Optional. 7:40 Leave for Campbell Hill via Ohio State Route 47 (a scenic 7 min. drive).

Optional. 8:00-9:15 Private tour of the new **National Air Defense Radar Museum**. Dedicated to the service of the former 664th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&W), a unit of the U.S. Air Force assigned to the Bellefontaine Air Force Station, the museum is now housed in the former AN/FPS-26 tower on top of Campbell Hill which held the rotating radar antenna, sans the radome protective structures. Managed by a dedicated group of volunteers who served at the Bellefontaine Air Force Base, we will have a personally narrated tour of the new museum, equipment and historical artifacts by the museum curator.



Until 10:00 – Hospitality room open; snacks, refreshments, games, fun.

Saturday, August 23rd

[For those able to volunteer for the Hill Climb event, Kurt will need help to set-up the course and grounds. I said we would assist—please consider volunteering if you are able. The following times are for those who volunteer.]

[6-6:30] – Full breakfast at hotel **for those volunteering**, included in room rate.

[6:45] – **Volunteers** report to **Goshen Friends Church**, 5527 County Road 153, Zanesfield, OH 43360. It is a 10-minute drive via U.S. Route 33. The church ladies will also have coffee and donuts. There will be lots of scurrying around to prepare for the event as it takes shape for the day. *We will have designated GOOF parking in the paddock for the day.*

For everyone else, the following times apply...

6-9:00 – Full breakfast at hotel, included in room rate. See below* for ladies' activities for the day. We have hired a dedicated shuttle bus and driver all day; no being stuck at the hill!

9:30 – Group 1 Races. Details about what races and cars in which groups will be provided on-site.

11:00 – Group 2 Races.

12:30 – Group 3 Parade Laps will be held while the race volunteers have lunch break. This is us! Group 3 will be dedicated to giving all enthusiasts and fans the opportunity to drive Corkscrew Hill as a Parade Lap following the pace car. This will be complimentary for our group, you do not need to register separately for it. You can do more than one lap (3 max.). Anyone in our group can do this. The Parade Lap means non-competitively driving your car up the Hillclimb hill, around and down the return roads and back to the base of the hill (following the Pace Car).



1:30 – Group 3 Races.

3:00 – Group 4 Races.

Per Kurt, "Corkscrew Hill opportunities: For parade laps during Group 3, we can position the All-British Run Group as either 2 or 4. Each run group takes a "Reconnaissance Lap" behind the pace car on the way to the grid. We could have the Ohio Chapter follow the British cars on the Recon lap. Part of the fun of the event is the number of spectators that congregate in yards and driveways to watch the cars make their way back to the base of the hill. We can have an MG Corral at the back of the active grid for MGs to park during the All British Run."

***9:30 a.m.** – Board the shuttle bus at the hotel for ladies' activities for the day. This is for those who may not wish to go to the hill.

The shuttle bus is limited to 14 passengers, so it will make circular trips to accommodate transportation between the hotel, the hill and downtown. Options may include: Logan Co. Coffee Trail Passport (also, Ice Cream Trail or Pizza Trail passports--get



stamps/win a prize), CVB-provided "Girls Day Out" or "Shop 'Til you Drop" suggested itineraries will be provided for Downtown Bellefontaine. The city—named one of the best downtowns in Ohio—is known for its shopping, breweries, smoothies, BBQ, ice cream, candies, antiques, jewelry, spa, axe-throwing, pottery, an escape room and a farmer's market (until Noon). There will be a scheduled return trip back to the hill so spouses can do the lunch-time Parade Laps in your car (as noted above). In the afternoon, it is suggested to use the bus to go to the Fall Open House weekend in the Village of West Liberty (small business specials, etc.) or for more fun around Bellefontaine. The bus will have a mandatory final trip back to the hill at 4:30 so the ladies can do the parade from the hill into town at the end of the day. Ohio Chapters will sponsor the shuttle bus but it is intended for all

who are interested, member or not. More details will be provided on-site but plan on this being a special and fun activity for the day for those who often occupy the passenger seat on these trips!

5:00 – Parade of cars from the hill into Downtown Bellefontaine. Reserved parking will be on the Square. Spouses should use the shuttle bus back to the hill to parade into town in your car, or, meet your spouse/car in town at the car show parking, north side of the courthouse.

5:30-8:30 – Car Show and Awards Party. Our **supper** tonight is to use the Hill Climb Hospitality ticket/Awards Party for our participants and cost \$30. The event is being catered by Six-Hundred Downtown, a fantastic local restaurant. Within a DORA district, alcoholic drinks can be carried among the cars on display on the square. Inside the historic **Holland Theater** is where the food and bar will be located. Awards of the day will be presented in the auditorium. We will have designated parking on the square.



Sunday, August 24th

7-9:00 – Full breakfast at hotel, included in room rate.

9-10:00 – Board Meeting, in Hospitality Room.

10:00 – Goodbyes and Departures. If time allows, consider visiting **Ohio Caverns**. Located SE of Bellefontaine, they are open at 9 a.m. Ohio Caverns, 2210 State Route 245, West Liberty, OH 43357. <https://ohiocaverns.com> *There are many more neat things in the area to see and do than we had time for!*

I hope you like the plans for the event and will attend. The **Registration Fee** for the event is \$50 per couple or \$30 for a single attendee. Please **BOOK your hotel on or before July 21st** and **REGISTER for the event by Aug. 6th*****. Please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me by e-mail d-smittle.1@onu.edu or by texting/calling 419-230-8147. We're looking forward to hosting you this August!

Dave and Kim Smittle



*****Please REGISTER for the GOOF**, as follows:

Complete and mail the attached Registration Form or send an email to AdaSmittles@gmail.com to register (either is fine).

Please complete the form or include the following in the email to register for the event:

Name(s) of all attending, Address, Email, Cell phone(s), Car(s) you plan to bring (not required) or if you will have a trailer for your car.

Please list the events you plan to attend and the number of people expected to participate in each... *(Cut and paste into the email the events you plan to do, if you wish.)*

- Registration fee, \$50 per couple or \$30 for a single attendee.
- Honda Heritage Center museum tour, Thursday 3:00 – No charge.
- Supper on Thursday with Central Ohio MG Owners (COMGO) at the Old Stone Haus Tavern– Pay on your own at the restaurant.
- Friday morning drives, Gaslight Auto Parts, Grimes Flying Lab Museum – No charges.
- Lunch on Friday at Mindy's Airport Cafe – Pay on your own at the restaurant.
- Amish-catered Banquet on Friday at Transportation Museum @ \$29 per person.
- Friday night 8:00 tour of National Radar Defense Museum – No charge.
- Does a spouse or guest plan to use the shuttle bus service on Saturday? – No charge.
- Lunch on Saturday – On your own; guys at hill, ladies in town, however you desire.
- Supper on Saturday using BHCR7 Hospitality Ticketed event @ \$30 per person.

Please MAIL me a check made payable to Ohio Chapters NEMGTR, or bring payment to the event with you. Please be sure to book your hotel by 7/21 and register by 8/6. Thanks!

David Smittle
1714 County Road 20
Ada, OH 45810

DTS
Rev. 7/12/25