

The April 27th tech session, featuring the front suspension rebuild on Jack Orkin's '74 Midget, was held at Ric Cline's shop in Shady Dale, GA.

Many years ago, I had a cracked A-arm repaired on my Midget. With plans to travel to several events this year, I wanted to make sure the welds were still sound. Upon close inspection, that A-arm was found to have another small crack and the other A-arm was also found to be cracked. Ric Cline volunteered to host the tech session and demonstrate how to rebuild the front suspension, so off we went to Ric's shop in Shady Dale. Although quite a drive from Atlanta, it was a nice drive in the country and about a dozen people turned up for a very informative session.

In addition to the cracked A-arms, there was detectable wear in one kingpin and one set of wheel bearings. So, the plan was to replace A-arms, kingpins and wheel bearings on both sides. Atlanta Imported Auto parts carries rebuilt swivel assemblies ready-to-go with all necessary hardware. So, rather than buy all the pieces and assemble them, it was decided to go with the already assembled units. The A-arms for the Midget are ridiculously expensive, probably because they are "British Heritage" approved and guaranteed to fit. Of course, the front wheel bearings are also different from those on the "B", being flat rather than tapered, and are also more expensive!

As the old suspension came off, and the new pieces were replaced, I heard several times about the difference between the suspension of a "B" and a Midget. Seems that although the front suspensions are basically similar in design, they are different in how they go together. Seems the "B" is not only easier to rebuild, but the parts for the "B" cost a lot less than those for the Midget. Guess that is what makes our Midgets so special!!

After both sides were done, all fasteners were checked and the grease fittings were greased. We then did a quick check and adjustment of the toe, and took it out for a test run. We got back to the shop with the suspension intact and me with one less thing to worry about on the next road trip.