

# THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owners Club & the Peninsula T Register  
The Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club



MGOC Octagon  
If undeliverable please return to:  
320 B Monterey Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94131-3141  
<http://www.MGOC.org>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Forthcoming Events .....	3-4
President's Ponderings .....	5
From da Ed .....	6
Palo Alto British Car Tour and Show Report .....	7
MG's North America Plans .....	8
The Drip Pan: Vapor Lock .....	12
NAMGBR Annual Meeting, Oct. 28 .....	11, 14
Nanjing Motors MG Ad .....	15
MGOC Meeting Minutes .....	16-17
Mount Diablo Tour and Sunset House Tour, Nov. 4 .....	18
Web Sites of Interest .....	19
So Cal MG Parts Exchange, Nov. 19 .....	20
Dues are Due .....	21
Classifieds .....	22
Monthly Meeting Calendar .....	23



Mike Jacobsen's MGA on display at Palo Alto, Club booth behind.

Photo by Bob Wall

# October 2006

## About *The Octagon* and MGOC...

The M.G. Owners Club, formed in 1957, is the Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club, formed in England in 1930. The Peninsula T Register was formed in 1973 and is now an informal sub-group of the MGOC. We receive a copy of the MGCC's *Safety Fast*, available to members on loan from the Corresponding Secretary. The club is also associated with the North American MGB Register, the North American MGA Register, and the New England MG T Register. The MGOC holds a business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at an event known as the "Natter and Noggin" in the style of English clubs. *The Octagon*, our newsletter, is published monthly by the M.G. Owners Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

### DIRECTORY of MGOC OFFICERS for 2006

**President:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)

**Vice President:** Nina Barton, 510-845-7212, [ninaba@mindspring.com](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)

**Treasurer:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

**T Register Director:** Jim Carlson, 408-257-9976, [mgjim@att.net](mailto:mgjim@att.net)

**Activity Director:** Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

**Corresponding Secretary:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125,

[j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Membership Development:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [RAstine@rcn.com](mailto:RAstine@rcn.com)

**The Octagon Editor:** Bob Trencheny, 925-556-9311 [Tbobbx@aol.com](mailto:Tbobbx@aol.com)

**Commercial Advertising:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699,

[MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**MGOC Historian:** John Hunt, 925-299-9006, [huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntsails@worldnet.att.net)

### CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

Feel free to call these members, who have volunteered to help with purchase, repair, and restoration of various M.G. models, etc.

**MGB 1962-74:** Marty Ray, (831) 475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**MGB 1974-1980:** Ed Adams, 510-483-6821

**MGB V8 Conversion:** Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, [Tony@BatesFamily.net](mailto:Tony@BatesFamily.net)

**MGC:** Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, [kent@kentleech.com](mailto:kent@kentleech.com)

**M.G. Midget:** Kingsley Klarer, 707-226-1955

**MGA/Coupe/Twin Cam 1955-62:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

**Z-Magnette Saloon:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

**T-types:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Pre-war Midgets-Magnas-Magnettes:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

**PA/PB Midget 1934-36:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

**S.U. Carburettors:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). 2006 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75).

## Natter & Noggin and Club Meeting

October 12, 2006 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.), 8 p.m.

The Englander, 101 Parrot Street, San Leandro

(510) 357-3571 <http://www.englishpub.com/>

From Northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington St. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott Street. You will see The Englander on your right.

From Southbound I-880, take Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then right on Parrott St.

## MG 2007 Planning Meeting

Sunday, October 29, 2006 9:30 a.m.

Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park

Following the NAMGBR meeting on Saturday the MGOC will have its monthly MG 2007 meeting. We decided on this time so we could immediately follow up on decisions from the NAMGBR meeting.



## Classified Ads

Ads are free to MGOC members and \$6.00 per month for non-members. Please send copy (and check **made payable to MGOC** if a non-member) to MGOC, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA, 94583. Members may also email ads to the Editor at [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com).

**1979 MGB:** White w/ tan top. 124K miles. Recently smogged. JVC AM/FM/CD. Ask \$3100 or best offer. F. Granum (408) 262-1115, San Jose

**1978 MG Midget:** \$3000 or reasonable best offer. SSTS member Dave Bohler, Novato, (415) 897-4915, [lawrence.bohler@verizon.net](mailto:lawrence.bohler@verizon.net).

**1974 MGB:** Silver with red interior and taupe-colored soft-top, overdrive, cloth seats with headrests, Pioneer tape player. 152K miles with more than \$7K invested in the car over last five years. Member [dkamins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkamins@sbcglobal.net) or (415) 706-5646.

**1968 MGB:** Pretty British Racing Green with tan soft top. 92K mi. Runs very well. Includes: Sony Stereo, chrome wire wheels and good tires. At 77K mi. (2002) rebuilt master cylinder, new brake lines, new exhaust, new carbs, leaf springs, rebuilt front suspension, replaced rear and new wheel bearings. Rebuilt head. Tonneau cover. Records available. \$10,000. Dan Hampshire, Berkeley, (510) 843-5912.

**1965 MGB:** Recent restoration for autocross, vintage racing, and driving to the beach. New engine, carb, interior, paint, tires, and more. \$6000 or trade for a van or wagon. Ken, 415-699-3549.

**MGB Overdrive Transmission:** (Late, LH type) \$500. Member Dan Shockey, San Jose, [mgmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:mgmogul@earthlink.net) (408) 923-3927.

**1977 MGB:** 52,300 miles. Third local adult owner, and we have copies of routine service receipts since the car was first sold in August of 1976. The car has overdrive transmission. It is very clean and still has the shine of the original Harvest Gold paint. Autumn Leaf interior and the black dashboard and console trim. Car has never been an accident. \$5500 OBO, Ellis, [Bovet177@Gmail.com](mailto:Bovet177@Gmail.com).

**1973 MG Roadster and 1973 MGB/GT.** Ran when parked. Both are project cars. Non-member Ken at (650) 281-4224.

**1978 MGB** British Racing Green. Runs well and passed smog (easily) in June. 83K miles. Needs roof and upholstery work. \$2500 (650) 493-0373.

**Aftermarket MGB hardtop:** Flashy. Keep warm & dry! Member Eric Baker, Oakland, 510-531-7032.

**Wanted MG-TD Seat Slider:** Member Walter Kilik (408) 996-0385, [wallylk@juno.com](mailto:wallylk@juno.com).

All ads expire on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

### MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTAGON

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Bob Trencheny, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA 94583. Or, you may email contributions to [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com).

### RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine (650-349-5128) is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers. The club roster is available from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

## Forthcoming Events

MGOC in **bold**, SSTS: Sorry Safari Touring Society, ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders

Oct 8-10 – *High Country Tour* in Sedona, AZ [RacerMoss@mac.com](mailto:RacerMoss@mac.com)

Oct. 12 – **Club Meeting and Natter**. See page 23

Oct. 13-15 – MG TC Club's 50th Anniversary, Inn at Morro Bay, ARR

Oct. 21-22 – **California Autumn Classic at San Juan Bautista**, page 9  
[www.autumnclassic.100mregistry.com](http://www.autumnclassic.100mregistry.com)

Oct. 22 – **Brisbane Marina Festival**, Free, Park on the lawn, contact Bob Stine for info or call (650) 583-6975. See page 9

Oct. 26-28 – **NAMGBR Annual Meeting**, MGOC hosting, Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park. See page 14

Nov 4 – **MGOC East Bay Tour**, finishing at the Sunset Show House Bob Trencheny. See page 18.

Dec. TBD – **Holiday Tea**

## FREE Parts & Accessories Catalogs

### Choose From These Catalogs:

• Austin Healey

• MGA

• MGB & MGC

• AH Sprite & MG Midget

• Sunbeam Alpine & Tiger

• TR2 TR3 TR4 TR4A TR250

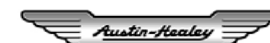
• TR6

• TR7 & TR8

• Spitfire & GT6



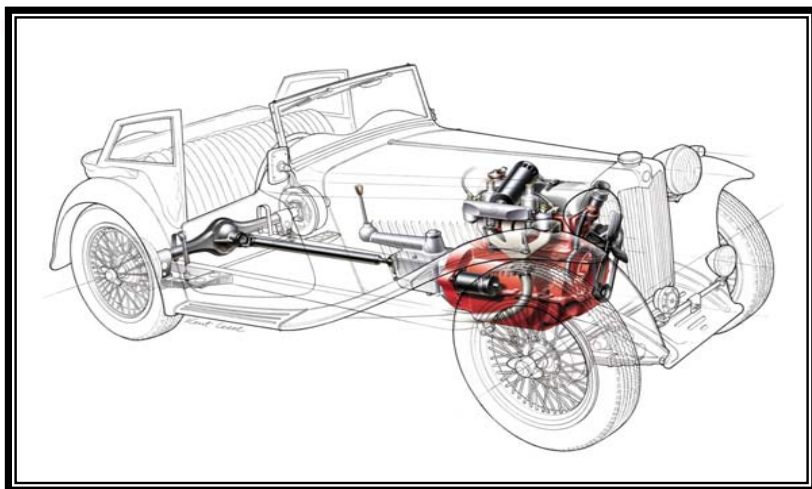
SUNBEAM



Order Catalogs & Parts Online at

**www.VictoriaBritish.com**





## MG TC art by Kent Leech

The drawing is a '47 MG TC I did for the Road & Track 50th anniversary issue in 1997. The drawing was a comparison with a '97 BMW Z3. The article was about what had (and had not) changed in 50 years of motoring.

*Jim Griffin & Son*  
*British & European Car Repair*

GERALD GRIFFIN  
 PHONE 650/589-7619

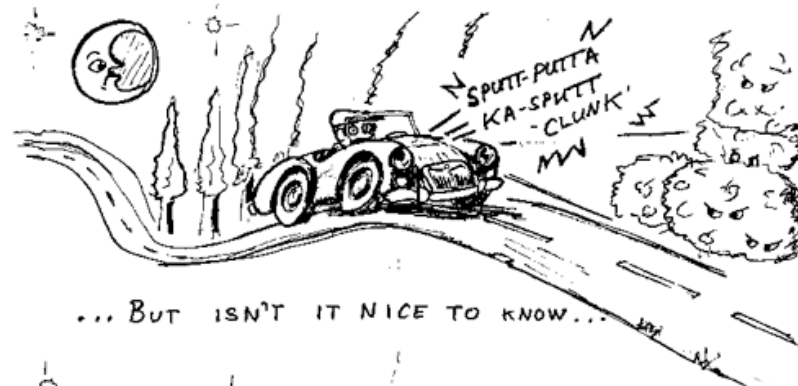


FAX 589-7635

1261 SAN MATEO AVE., SAN BRUNO, CA 94066

## Dues are now WAY Over Due

SURE —  
 AS AN MG OWNER, YOU CAN CHOOSE  
 TO GO IT ALONE...



... BUT ISN'T IT NICE TO KNOW...



... YOU'VE GOT  
 THE RESOURCES OF NAMGAR  
 BEHIND YOU !!

THINK OF EVERYTHING OUR CLUB CAN DO TO HELP YOU  
 ENJOY YOUR 'A' OR MAGNETE. IF YOU DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE  
 OF WHAT OTHER OWNERS OFFER, YOU AND YOUR CAR  
 REALLY MISS OUT ON A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE, HEAPS OF HERITAGE,  
 SOME RARE PARTS AND GOBS OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP. DUES  
 WILL BE DUE SOON, SO WHY NOT SEND IN EARLY AND AVOID  
 HARASSMENT.

Art and admonition by MGOC member J.R. Boye, 1983.

The Octagon is always interested in publishing your stories, articles, photos or art work. If you have anything to contribute contact the Octagon Editor, Bob Trencheny at [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com)



"it's easy, lady...just follow the oil leaks!"

## 33rd Annual Vintage MG Club Of Southern California MG Parts Exchange

Sunday, Nov.19, 2006 – 7 a.m to 1 p.m.

**Located: College Park, College of Communications,  
2600 E. Nutwood Avenue., Fullerton, CA  
(across the street from CSU - Fullerton.)**



**ADMISSION: General: \$ 5.00 Vendors: \$20.00**  
**Largest U.S. All-MG Parts Exchange**

[http://www.vintagemg.com/parts\\_exchange\\_info.htm](http://www.vintagemg.com/parts_exchange_info.htm)

## President's Ponderings...

### Palo Alto British Tour and Show September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Once again, this event lived up to my expectations. The drive Saturday was fun...even though the fog was so heavy on Tunitas Creek Road that we had to turn on our windscreen wipers!

Unfortunately, MGOC member Jose Vega in a red MGB succumbed to the devilment of the weather and lost control of his LBC, sliding on the wet pine needles and damaging his right front fender. It's always disheartening to see that happen — especially during an event.

The show on Sunday was also very good, although possibly smaller than usual. A highlight was the new Tesla electric car. Built in San Carlos, this car reportedly can reach speeds of 130 mph!

Our club was well-represented at the event.

### Reno Air Show and Races

The Reno air races were a lot of fun, too. I got to visit with my sister and brother-in-law, see the races during two days, and visit my other sister's daughter and her husband. This was a much-needed respite from the hectic days at home lately.

The weather was quite brisk on Friday, but Sunday brought sunshine and warmth; perfect for the races.

### MG2007 Planning Session

I've read the minutes of the planning meeting for MG2007. We seem to still be "on track" with the process. I'm anxious to have the event.

### Sundial Bridge Tour

I'm anxious to hear how this drive went. I really would have liked to participate in this event, but I had previous plans.

Bob Stine  
President, MGOC  
[rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)



## Receive *The Octagon* in Color

Contact Mike Jacobsen at [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com) to receive *The Octagon* electronically and in color. You will receive it faster and in color and save the club money on printing and postage.

## From da Ed...

October 1, 2006

Well, it seems that driving season is coming to an end here and I have to admit I am almost looking forward to it. I have not had the top on the MG since March 2005 and I am somewhat eager to see what it feels like again. I recall it is rather "airy" inside with the rear window zipped down. Keeping it down also keeps the engine fumes down to a minimum. The car always seemed to smell a little of oil and unfortunately just a little bit of gas.

With the end of driving season comes the end of the season club tours. The show at San Juan Bautista is in late October. It is always a well-attended British Car show and is an MGOC sponsored event. San Juan Bautista is about 40 miles south of San Jose. After San Juan Bautista I am leading the East Bay drive around Mount Diablo in early November. We

will go the opposite direction from last year and take a different route. I have checked road conditions to make sure we don't snag any mufflers. It should be a good drive. Come out and enjoy it with us.

We had a great time at the Annual All-British at Palo Alto this year. Organizer Rick Feibush said attendance was down from last year but it seemed there were lots and lots of MGs there. The MGB group ran from one side of the field to the other and was two or three rows deep. Of course there were MG Ts and MGAs there as well, but they did not outnumber the MGBs.

Get out and drive before it's too late!

Let's Ride,  
Bob



## Web Sites of Interest

We have 20 members located – <http://www.frapppr.com/mgocbayarea>

Winding Road Magazine – <http://tinyurl.com/nm8jf> Especially see page 103.

Restoring British Ragtops – <http://tinyurl.com/jo38y>

# SAN PABLO EUROPEAN

SERVICE · DIAGNOSIS · REPAIR    EUROPEAN · JAPANESE · HYBRIDS

**BERKELEY**

**1519 SAN PABLO AVE**

**510-524-1036**

[www.sanpabloeuropean.com](http://www.sanpabloeuropean.com)

## MG

### TC-TD-TF-MGA-MGB-C-Midget

#### SHOCK ABSORBERS: Front    Rear

MGTC.....	165.00	165.00
MGTD & TF.....	185.00	80/95
MGA.....	79.95	59.95
MGB, MGC, Midget.....	79.95	59.95
HEAVY DUTY UPGRADE.....	10.00	10.00
SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt).....	\$call	

#### BRAKES : sleeved and rebuilt

MGB, Midget caliper.....	\$75.00
MGA, MGC caliper.....	\$145.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1956-1967.....	\$185.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00
MGB brake booster servo.....	\$175.00
MGC booster servo.....	\$395.00
Brake & Clutch cylinders brass sleeved.....	\$40-75
Kingpin swivel axle rebushed.....	\$40-\$80
Front end & arm (Midget).....	\$75.00

#### CARBURETORS: COMPLETE REBUILDING

Disassembly, cleaning, bores rebushed, new throttle shafts, jets, needles, float valves, gaskets, flow bench tested.....\$395.00/pair

#### CARB BODIES REBUSHED:

and new throttle shafts.....\$75.00 each

Prices shown are for Exchange or Yours Rebuilt. Core charges apply if items are ordered prior to (and are refunded after) our receiving your old unit. SH \$4.00-\$8.00 per item. FREE CATALOG. [www.applehydraulics.com](http://www.applehydraulics.com)

### APPLE HYDRAULICS

1610 Middle Road, Calverton, NY 11933  
831-369-9515, FAX: 831-369-9516

**Toll Free 800-882-7753**

View, MasterCard, C.O.D. Free Catalog



Next Meeting: The next business meeting is to be held Oct. 12, 2006, at the Englander.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Shockey, MGOC Secretary



## Old Tech & New Tech MGOC East Bay Tour Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>

Come tour with the MGOC around Mount Diablo in your old tech MG and then visit the new tech Sunset Magazine *House of Innovation* in Danville. The drive will leave from Dublin and go counterclockwise around Mount Diablo and end in Danville. It is a short shuttle ride to the house. There is a fee to visit the house. After the house we will have lunch TBD in Danville or San Ramon.

When: Sunday October 30.

9:00 – Depart Peet’s Coffee parking lot at Tassajara Road and Dublin Blvd in Dublin. Map here: <http://tinyurl.com/zld8r>

11:00 – Depart shuttle stop for Idea House

12:30 – Lunch

Details: Route map and directions will be provided at Peet’s.

The drive will be cancelled in the event of rain.

There is a \$12.00 admission fee for the House of Innovation.

Leader: Bob Trencheny, (925) 556-9311, [tbobx@aol.com](mailto:tbobx@aol.com)

## All-British Tour to the Sea and Car Show

**By Bob Stine**

What a difference in the weather between the Tour to the Sea on Saturday and the car show on Sunday!

On the drive Saturday (Sep. 9) we took back roads over the hill to Half Moon Bay. Tunitas Creek Road and Skyline were so foggy we had to turn on our lights and windshield wipers. (Yes, I know the British term is “windscreen,” but I’m German/American.) The roads were so wet and slippery, even the ubiquitous motorcycle riders on these twisty roads were driving slowly.

Unfortunately, one MGB succumbed to the demands created by the weather, slipped on the wet pine needles on the road, and crunched the right front fender. I didn’t meet the driver; a woman at Cameron’s was looking for him to offer condolences and said his name was José.

The driving directions mentioned “descending through the sun-dappled redwood trees...” We suggested they should have been edited to read, “...descending through the fog saturated...”

In spite of the weather, the drive was fun and we had good food and a good time at Cameron’s Pub and Restaurant in Half Moon Bay.

Sunday at Palo Alto Park provided excellent weather for the many LBC enthusiasts who showed up to display their cars and gawk at the others. As usual, there was a very

diverse turnout, from Bentleys and Rolls Royces to submissions by members of the Arcane Automobile Society. One of my favorites was the 1954 Peel Trident – basically a bubble with a driver in it! The Commer Funwagon looked like it would definitely live up to its name.

Our club was well represented at the event. Eleven or twelve cars met in the parking lot of Sears on San Antonio Road and caravanned to the show, where we coalesced with other members of the club.

I had the opportunity to talk to a number of MG owners who were not members of the MGOC and encouraged them to join. Who knows; maybe we’ll see them at one of our events soon, wearing their MGOC member badges...



# MG's North America Plans are Coming Together

By Bob Trencheny, *The Octagon* Editor

The Chinese-owned MG Motors Company is continuing to move forward with plans to bring a new MG to North America. This would be the first new MG sold here since the British owned MG Car Company sold the last MGB-LE and departed in 1980.

The new company is planning to begin selling new MGs in 2008 with a dealer network of 300 dealers in the US. An unknown number of dealers are being planned for Canada.

In September, Duke Hale, MG Motors boss, said at the Reuters Autos Summit in Detroit, that while no U.S. dealers had yet to be licensed MG was creating initial distribution plans targeting larger American metropolitan areas. "Based upon our sales ambition and based on where we think our product line will be, we think we need to be looking at a dealer body that's about 300, up to 350 dealers," Hale stated. Hale compared his plans for the MG arrival to BMW's introduction of the MINI brand. "They create a great environment in there," Hale said of Mini Cooper dealerships which are mostly located at parent BMW dealerships. The Mini Cooper is built by BMW in England. "They do everything from shoe shines to cafe latte to hooking up your computer to the Internet."

Some industry analysts doubt that MG can meet its planned U.S. launch date. However, MG Motors boss Duke Hale was more optimistic stating, "We're planning to launch in June 2008. I think the timetable is fairly reasonable and not a stretch at all."

Hale added that MG hopes to sell 100,000 units per year by 2010. Once that target is met, MG would offer additional models, including a sport sedan in addition to the TF roadster and coupe models that are planned for the 2008 introduction.

Before MG reaches North America the Nanjing company plans to produce the TF roadster at the Longbridge plant in the UK, acquired last year, and sell it through about 90 UK dealers. The TF coupe will be assembled from kits arriving from Nanjing's Chinese operations in a new plant in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

## Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sportscar lover with 15 years' experience. High quality rubbed-out polyurethane finish at reasonable cost. I do bodywork, rust repair, and welding. Fast turn-around time. References and examples of my work are available. Call for a free estimate.

**Andy Schank, 510-236-5232**

East Bay Tour (Nov. 4): Bob T. picked this day and will end the tour at the Sunset Show House. That may encourage spouses to join in.

Annual Dinner Venue: John Hunt looked at several places with various price point options. John had a quote from Scotts in Walnut Creek and Skates and His Lordship's at the Berkeley Marina. John is in favor of going with Scotts. The cost is \$33 per person plus \$6 for wine plus 20% gratuity plus 7.8% tax for a total of \$51 per person. We discussed charging \$40 per person with the Club covering the difference, as usual. The room size is 50 people. We have the option to jump to a room size of 75 but there might be a problem if we were many under 75 for the second room option. They require a 7-day confirmation on numbers, a \$1000 deposit and a \$100 room rental. We have Saturday, January 20, penciled in.

GT-32 (July, 2007): This is NAMGAR's (MGA club) national meet to be held the week following *MG 2007*, in Whistler, British Columbia. Mike sent an email to the organizers to suggest some cross promotional activities in anticipation that folks might drive out to hit both West Coast events. (The Seattle British meet will be the weekend in between the two national meets.) No reply yet.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Club Website: Agreed that Robbie Trencheny is welcome to take over maintenance of the club web site. Bob T. will arrange the transfer from Jennifer Steneberg.

Charity Fund Raising Event: Two members, Randy Grossman and John Hunt, are doing research on the Club hosting a fund-raising event. One option they are looking at is a British Reliability Run. There is an event of this name run by the Little British Car Company based in Michigan. Randy and John are scheduled to meet on Oct. 18 and will report back with a suggestion.

### NEW BUSINESS

San Juan Bautista Meet Support: We have in the past voted to be a club sponsor for this popular event. However we have never gotten the money to the organizer, Bill Meade, in time to get our name listed. (Bill seems to have us confused with the Sorry Safari Club who have been listed annually but have not made a contribution in several years. Dan has pointed this out to him several times.) We voted to send \$100 to the organizer now to get this corrected for next year. The event is always the third weekend in October.

NAMGBR Vote: Mike J. reported that we received a ballot in preparation for the Annual General Meeting (to be held at the Doubletree in October). They seek a change to their bylaws. We voted on and accepted the ballot measures.

Recognition Gifts: Dan suggested that we purchase now items for awards at the Annual Dinner. The items was out of stock by the time we tried to get them last year. The cost will be about \$13 each and we should get 15 of them. The motion was accepted to spend \$200 for this purpose.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

GoF West 2008: Dan S. presented the opportunity to participate in this annual event, to be held in Monterey in July of 2008. Member Bill Hiland has taken the start-up responsibility of contracting with the hotel. Bill is among those pushing for more involvement by all MGs at this event. Members present replied that it was too bad it wasn't in wine country since we will have recent experience there. For now we suggested encouraging individuals to get involved, especially those with MG Ts and earlier cars.



## Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting, Sept. 14, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. by Treasurer Mike Jacobsen. Also present were: Dan Shockey, George Steneberg, John Hunt, David Wright, Bob Trencheny, and Ken Gittings. (President Bob Stine was out-of-state.)

August Minutes accepted as printed in *The Octagon*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Re-ordered checks for the *MG 2007* account. (The bank printed them incorrectly and will replace them at no charge.) We need the \$1500 additional "seed money" from NAMGBR for the *MG 2007* account. Mike will pursue this.

**Registrar's Report:** We have some new members, from the Palo Alto meet and the Picnic. One new member brought the MGC that she purchased new and picked up in Abingdon! 238 members have renewed so far. 52 members have not yet renewed (including some officers!) and Mike will again remind them. (290 members total.)

**Secretary's Report:** Dan did not send the agenda to members in advance of the meeting. We are working to do that whenever possible to give members an opportunity to comment or attend the meeting. Emailing members has become burdensome with email services limiting the number of carbon copies.

**Regalia Report:** David Wright was unable to order more of the popular green MG Car Club mugs. We will seek to get some elsewhere. We should remove the key fobs and mugs from the regalia listing for now.

**The Octagon Report:** Bob Trencheny and Mike Jacobsen added some links into the newsletter text (on-line version). This was done as a test. We will seek comments from users. Mike printed 50 extra copies for distribution at Palo Alto.

### PAST EVENTS

**Annual Picnic (Aug. 12):** We had a good turnout of about 20 cars. We filled the picnic area. There was soda and water left over. These were taken to Palo Alto.

**Palo Alto Brit Meet:** We had a large group gather at the Sears lot and caravan to the meet. They parked the MGs by model type this year and that was liked. They changed the awards this year and also the method of selection, eliminating the popular vote. Member Bill Webb won for MGs with his excellent and really-driven TC. We set up the club canopy and shared space with the SSTs. Robbie Trencheny was our main man in the booth.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

**Sundial Bridge Tour (Sept.):** We discussed plans for this event being coordinated by David Wright, Rich Kenny and Dan Shockey. Updates in the September newsletter.

**San Juan Bautista (Oct. 21-22):** We need to get the art work for this event to Bob T.

**Brisbane Marina Festival (Oct. 22):** This event is free for invited clubs (which includes us). It is like a street fair with live music, free boat rides, boat tours, vintage and antique cars, and so forth. This is the same day as the British meet in San Juan Bautista but many members will prefer to go to the Brisbane event. Bob Stine will head up the event for the MGOC.

**NAMGBR AGM (Oct. 27-29):** The officers and board for NAMGBR will hold their annual general meeting at the Doubletree in Rohnert Park. We have set a schedule with them for some socializing and a tour while they are here. We want to make a good impression and seek their feedback on our event plans. We encourage members to plan to attend. (See schedule in the *Octagon*.)

## The 14th Annual California Autumn Classic October 21 and 22, 2006

This is one of the friendliest and most relaxed of the multi-marque British car events in Northern California. Every make of car has a separate class and trophy. Judges are all volunteers from different area British car clubs

The weekend starts off with an afternoon back roads tour on Saturday. Approximately 50 cars of all makes take part in the day. The tour has a rest stop partway through and everyone is treated to complimentary champagne and chilled fresh fruit. This is a good opportunity to chat with fellow owners. After returning, everyone is invited to gather for a welcoming dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday morning is for viewing the approximately 140 cars from twelve different clubs, awards are started at 1:30 PM.

All event profits are donated to The Christian Children's Fund, a non-sectarian charity helping children around the world in dire need. Almost \$1,000 is raised each year for the charity. To attend The California Autumn Classic coming up on October 21 and 22 log on to: [www.autumnclassic.100mregistry.com](http://www.autumnclassic.100mregistry.com). Participants must register by October 10<sup>th</sup> for the advance registration fee of \$28. Later registration is \$40.

**Mail Registration:** Bill Meade, 533 Cedar Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076, (831) 722-3253. Advise if planning to attend the 2:00 PM. Saturday drive or the Saturday evening dinner (6:30 PM.)

**Sunday Caravan:** To drive down with a caravan on Sunday morning, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the McDonald's at the Mission exit from I-680 in Fremont. This is the more northern Mission exit, near Mission San Jose.

## Brisbane Marina Festival October 22, 2006

This event is free for invited clubs (which includes us). It is like a street fair with live music, free boat rides, boat tours, vintage and antique cars, and so forth. This is the same day as the British meet in San Juan Bautista but many members will prefer to go to the Brisbane event. Bob Stine will head up the event for the MGOC.

Come to the free Show and Shine and attend the Brisbane Marina Festival. The festival includes the car show, boat rides, music, fire and police department demonstrations, BBQ, and more. Cars should arrive between 9:00 and 10:00 AM. MGs should park on the Marina Green. The Marina is at 400 Sierra Point Parkway in Brisbane. For details, the information phone number is 650-583-6975 or <http://tinyurl.com/q23m2>

**MGOC info:** Bob Stine, (650) 349-5128, [rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)

# Collins Classics

Professional  
SERVICE • REPAIR • RESTORATION

by

**Tom Collins  
&**

**J.R. Boye**

(Formerly with O'Connor Classics)

**MG**  
**Austin-Healey**  
**Triumph**  
**BMC**

609 California Drive  
Burlingame, CA. 94010  
(650) 685-4477  
collinsclassics@comcast.net

## Recent Nanjing Motors Ad

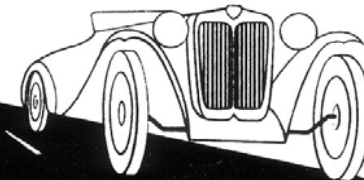


美 清 英 命  
Beauty Clarity Courage Destiny

### O'CONNOR CLASSIC AUTOS

Brian O'Connor

British Sports Cars  
Parts Sales  
Service



**1-888 FINE MGS**

1-888-346-3647

1-408-727-0430

FAX 1-408-727-3987

2569 SCOTT BOULEVARD  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

www.oconnorclassics.com  
email: mg@oconnorclassics.com

# NAMGBR

## Annual General Meeting

### Oct. 27-28, 2006

### Rohnert Park California

As part of our *MG 2007* responsibilities, the MGOC will host the North American MGB Register annual meeting on the weekend of October 28, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel where our *MG 2007* meet will take place next year. This is a great opportunity to come out and see how NAMGBR does business. The weekend details are as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, October 28

**Time:** 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Doubletree Hotel - Sonoma Wine Country, in Rohnert Park

Weekend Schedule as set with NAMGBR, as follows:

**Friday (early evening):** Casual "Meet 'n Greet" at the Hotel, in the bar of the Bacchus Restaurant

**Friday Evening:** Casual dinner at a local restaurant (or the Hotel)

**Saturday:**

9:00 a.m.: MG tour of local area (All cars welcome)

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch at the Hotel

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.: Annual General Meeting – Doubletree Hotel

6:30 p.m.: Meet at Hotel to tour to restaurant

7:30 p.m.: Dinner at the Union Hotel, Occidental

**Hotel Info:** Some MGOC members are staying overnight at the Doubletree. Room rates are \$115 per night which is the same as the *MG 2007* rate. Call (800) 222-TREE for reservations, or: (707) 584-5466.

**Directions to Hotel:** From Highway 101 North:

- \* Take the Golf Course Drive exit in Rohnert Park.
- \* Turn left on Commerce Blvd. Proceed to Golf Course Drive.
- \* Turn right on Golf Course Drive. The Doubletree Hotel will be on the left

**RSVP:** Please let us know that you are coming, especially for dinner on Saturday. Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, [mgmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:mgmogul@earthlink.net)

***We encourage MGOC members to attend all or portions of this special weekend event***



## Unique Chance to Be Part of a National Club Meeting

A side benefit of our hosting NAMGBR's *MG 2007* event is that we also get to host the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the national club. This presents us with the unusual opportunity for local MG Owners Club members to attend the annual meeting of one of our national MG registers.

We also want to get the officers of NAMGBR enthused about our club and the event we are preparing. This will be a great opportunity to do so and to encourage these volunteer officers, who are paying for this trip themselves, that what they are doing matters.

So please make plans to come by for all or part of the Friday evening and Saturday of October 27 and 28 in Rohnert Park. For those of you unfamiliar with Rohnert Park, it is south of Santa Rosa. The Hotel is easy to find, visible from Highway 101. We are hoping especially that many North Bay members will be able to make it.

Thanks very much. (More info on page 14.)



**Shadetree Motors, Ltd.**

MG PARTS  SPECIALIST

Retail - Wholesale  
Discount Pricing  
Authorized Moss Motors  
Parts Distributor  
MC/VISA/AMX/DISC.

Tel. & Fax (925) 846-1309  
[www.shadetreetmotors.com](http://www.shadetreetmotors.com)  
3895 Mammoth Cave Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
email: [kelsey@shadetreetmotors.com](mailto:kelsey@shadetreetmotors.com)



# DRIP PAN

## *News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register*

### Vapor Lock, by Skip Burns

Leave your T-Series in the parking lot for five minutes on a hot day after a long run and chances are the gas in the float bowls will have vaporized. The car may start, but you'll wind up looking like a thirteen year-old learning how to use a manual clutch with the car bucking its way out of the lot as little drips of fuel get through the carb. Only when enough cooling air has passed over the carbs does the problem go away. There is a solution.

Any numbers of heat shields are available. The shield is made from heavy-gauge, machined aluminum giving it a nice, finished look. Copper riveted to the back is a thin layer of asbestos; itself shielded with a layer of aluminum. This is the layer closest to the manifold. The closest distance of the manifold to a float bowl is 1.2 inches, while the manifold clamp is even closer. Radiant heat is the main culprit here, as most of the conductive heat is blown away by the fan. As installed, a nice extra is the tunneling effect of the shield, keeping the conductive heat between the heat shield and the manifold and blowing it along the tunnel to the rear.

You may have to do a little Dremeling in spots, as the spaces in the shield through which the manifold clamps protrude aren't quite large enough. Ten minutes with a Dremel are all that's needed. In addition, the nut on the end of the throttle arm that connects with the bottom of the throttle link may hang up on the bottom edge of the shield. Don't want any hang-ups there. Two fixes: Dremel a little vertical channel in the bottom of the shield to allow the nut to pass freely; second, move the throttle return spring clamp that's attached to the inner bolt of the starter to the outer, right-hand bolt. If you keep it on the inner bolt, it tends to pull the throttle arm in toward the shield. Moving it to the right has the opposite effect. After doing this, you'll find the throttle return spring too long. Any automotive store will have a throttle return spring that you can size to fit.

Finally, if you want to go the distance and fix all potential cooling problems, make two more changes. First, don't use the Moss fan belt. It's too short. Moss knows this but refuses to get the correct belt. Instead, order a belt (part no. 434-120; Goodyear stock number 22394) from Shadetree Motors. This notched belt is slightly longer, moves your generator farther into the bulge on your bonnet and so, opens the space between the tach reduction gear housing and the distributor. Keep your belt loose—just enough to turn the generator—to avoid overtaxing the generator bearings.

In addition, consider installing a radiator overflow tank. I found a used MGB overflow tank—all brass with an inflow/outflow tube and an overflow tube attached. It holds 2.5 pints of water, more than enough. After wire-brushing all the crud off and repainting the attaching strap (don't forget to get that, too), I polished it up and installed it on the inside, upper, forward edge of the firewall—in other words, at a 45 degree angle inside the firewall. It comes with its own radiator cap, so you must remove the rubber seal on the end of the cap to allow overflow water to escape out the overflow tube in the neck without pressure behind it. Route two hoses: one from the radiator overflow tube to the inflow/outflow connection on the overflow tank, another from the tank's own overflow tube back out the firewall and down somewhere toward the tranny.

Making these modifications to your cooling system should make you, your significant other and your car's engine very happy.

### Five Great Reasons To Receive The Octagon By E-Mail

1. Faster delivery than US mail
2. Color pictures and advertisements
3. Web links work
4. Saves the MGOC money on postage and printing
5. Save a tree.

Interested in receiving the electronic Octagon? Contact Mike Jacobsen at [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). You can also see the Octagon online and in color at [www.MGOC.org](http://www.MGOC.org) under "Articles."

### New Members

**Sheryl King and Dennis O'Dea** of Navato signed up. They are members of the North Bay British Car Club, and heard about us there. They have a pair of '76 MGBs, one they've owned for two years and the other for 29 years.

**Mike Bone** of Santa Rosa is also a North Bay British Car Club member. Mike has a '79 MGB he's owned for 26 years.

**Sandy Severin** of San Ramon also joined. He learned about us from a friend. Sandy doesn't have an MG at this time.

**Allison & Joe Elliott** of Mountain View have a '53 TD Mk II.

Welcome to the MG Owners Club! Please send along a note about you, your cars, and your background with British cars.