

# 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

Forthcomng Events.....	3
Ken's Column / Web Sites of Interest .....	4
President's Ponderings .....	5
From the Editor.....	6
MGOC Holiday Party and Toy Drive.....	7
MGOC Annual Dinner Details .....	9
New Member News .....	11
East Bay Tour Report .....	12-13
MG Advertising Gone Bad .....	14
Oil is Killing Our Cars.....	14-15
Meeting Minutes.....	16-17
Pajaro Valley Tour Report.....	18
Boxing Day Tour.....	20
MGOC Toy Drive.....	20
Regalia .....	21
Classifieds.....	22



Cold Weather Fun in an MGA

# December 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)

**MGOC Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@gmail.com)

### 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. Carburetters:** 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

## Natter & Noggin and Club Meeting

**December 14, 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

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

**In El Cerrito**

**At George Steneberg's home,** 9 Pomona Ave, El Cerrito CA. This will be more convenient to those important folks in the North Bay. Come down over the Richmond Bridge, or down I-80, and exit before the Berkeley/Bay Bridge traffic.

Directions: Take either I-80 or I-580 to the Central Ave. exit in El Cerrito (north of Berkeley and Albany). Go east to San Pablo Ave and turn right. Take the first left onto Fairmont Ave. Cross Ashbury and turn right on Pomona. George's home is just after Ward Ave. on your right.

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



## 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.

**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. Member 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. Non-member Ken, 415-699-3549.

**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.

**MG Midgets for Restoration:** Both are mostly straight and mostly rust free and have wire wheels. 1963 has side curtains and disk brakes, spare 1275 engine and ribcage transmission. Also decent 1969 model. \$500 each. Member Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, [mgmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:mgmogul@earthlink.net)

**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).

**MGBGT wire wheels.** Set of four. For Sale. Member Ken 510-791-8445

**MGBGT 5/8 Dia. Sway Bar.** For Sale. Member Ken 510-791-8445

[MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). 2007 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75).

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

Dec. 17 – **Holiday Party** at The Trencheny's in San Ramon, see page 7

Dec. 26 – Boxing Day Drive, North Bay, Wendell Bain, see page 20

Jan. 20 – **Annual Dinner** at Scott's Seafood, Walnut Creek, see page 9

May 12 – **MGs by the Bay**, San Leandro

July 16-20 – **MG 2007** in Sonoma Valley, See [www.MG2007.org](http://www.MG2007.org)

## 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



Order Catalogs & Parts Online at

**www.VictoriaBritish.com**



## Ken's Column

Ken Gittings has provided several items for *The Octagon* over the last few months so he now has his very own column. This month Ken, and several other members, sent in this article from the SF Chronicle:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/19/MTGGRMFC3O1.DTL>

We can't print the article here because of copyright restrictions so you will have to view it online. Thanks Ken! The Ed.

### Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car 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**

## Web Sites of Interest

Auto Museums in the western USA: <http://tinyurl.com/yztro5>

We are still growing: <http://www.frappr.com/mgocbayarea>

News on MGs returning to the USA with a plant in Ardmore Oklahoma:  
<http://www.edmunds.com/insideline/do/Features/articleId=116481>

<http://tinyurl.com/ybfrwz>

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

GERALD GRIFFIN  
PHONE 650/589-7619



FAX 589-7635

1261 SAN MATEO AVE., SAN BRUNO, CA 94066

## ❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Total
<b>MG Owners Club Regalia</b>			
Club Jacket – Black & tan with embroidered MGOC logo (See note 1 below)		\$60.00	
Pennant – Red “MG Owners Club”, cream canvas, 9½” high by 17” long		\$10.00	
Grille Badge – MGOC logo, 4” high, mounts with one stud through grille		\$35.00	
Grille Badge – SF Peninsula T Register, 4” high, mounts with clip at base		\$35.00	
Patch – 3” diameter, embroidered black MGOC logo on white		\$6.00	
Patch – 6” & 3” diameters, SF Peninsula T Register logo		\$6.00	
Cling – 3” diameters, black MGOC logo on white background		\$2.00	
<b>MG Car Club of England Regalia (Notes 2 &amp; 3)</b>			
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3” dia., mounts with studs through grille		\$55.00	
Lapel Pin – ¾” by 1” enameled metal MGCC badge		\$6.50	
Outside Window Decal – 5” by 5½” brown & cream MGCC logo		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2½” by 3” brown & cream logo; reads “Member”		\$1.00	
<b>MGs at Jack London Square Plaques</b>			
Dash Plaque – 2006, black on silver MG ZB Magnette		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2005, blue on silver MGA Coupe		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1995 through 2003		\$2.00	
T-shirts – See note 4 below		\$2.00	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			

### ❖ Notes

1. Jackets are specially ordered, though we try to keep a selection of sizes on hand. These are generally delivered at an event or meeting. Please indicate size: Small through double extra large.
2. MG Car Club regalia is affected by the exchange rate, and prices are therefore subject to change.
3. Please note that while orders are shipped as they are received, some items are stocked from England and have a long lead time. If we run out of stock, we will notify you if the delay will be more than three weeks.
4. Leftover T-shirts from our May show are available at this special price at future May shows and at the Palo Alto All-British in September.

### ❖ “Ship To” label - please print!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number in case we have a question about your order \_\_\_\_\_

### ❖ Ordering Information

- ♦ All prices include tax, and shipping is FREE except for jackets and T-shirts.
- ♦ Make checks payable to “MGOC” – sorry, but we cannot accept credit cards or cash.
- ♦ Send orders to:

**MGOC Regalia**  
**5518 Thomas Avenue**  
**Oakland, CA 94618-1752**

## Boxing Day Tour

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual; Tuesday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**

Come join us for this traditional scenic run through Sonoma County on the day after Christmas. Lunch stop at great restaurants planned.

If it rains drive something civilized ... otherwise the fun-mobile!

Meet on the Square in downtown Sonoma at 9:30 a.m. Depart at 10:00 a.m. Gather on the north side opposite the Cheese Factory.

**Wendell is active in the Morgan Club but we in the MG Owners Club (and Sorry Safari Club) are also expressly invited.**

RSVP (preferred but come anyway) to Wendell Bain by December 18, 2005 (707) 795-0260, email: [wbain@sonic.net](mailto:wbain@sonic.net)

***Come join the fun!***



## MG Owner's Club is Bringing in the Holiday Spirit

We are participating in the San Francisco Fire Department's annual Toys for Tots Drive. If you would like to join in, all you need to do is bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl. There is no price limit, just buy and donate what ever you feel comfortable with. Then all you need to do is to bring the toy(s) to the Holiday Tea on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The MGOC will be driving all the toys over to the Old Fire Station in the city on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. More details about this will be available at the Holiday Tea. If you have any questions, please call John Hunt at 925-299-9006 or e-mail me at [huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntsails@worldnet.att.net) or Randy Grossman at 510-483-3171

## President's Ponderings...

**Happy Holidays** – I hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. We actually sort of missed it – we flew to Maui on Thanksgiving day and the flight was at 2:45. After flying through LA we didn't arrive in Kapului until late evening. My step-daughter got married the day after Thanksgiving.

**Radios, Anyone?** – In preparing for MG2007 one discussion centered on the value of two-way radios during driving tours and for event staffers to communicate during the assembly of cars for MG2007. Some of us have radios already and we're wondering how many other members have them.

These little radios are really handy during drives. Generally, the tour leader and the "sweep car" in the back would have them, at a minimum. When the leader wants to change lanes he radios the sweep car driver, who then changes lanes first – preventing other cars from infiltrating the line. Then the other participants change lanes. It's also helpful to let the leader know if anyone doesn't make it through a stop light or if there's a breakdown.

If you don't have a two-way radio, I highly recommend purchasing one if you plan on participating in road tours. The units with "sub-channels" (also known as privacy channels) are preferable because you can have conversations with less interference. They can be purchased for about \$25 – 30 for a pair. Please let one of the club officers know if you have one and would be willing to bring it for the driving tours at MG2007. Contact information is in the front of *The Octagon*.

**Holiday Tea** – We'd like to see you and celebrate the Christmas season at the holiday tea at the Trencheny residence in San Ramon. This is a good time to relax and visit. Also, if you'd like to help those who are less blessed than the rest of us, we're encouraging members to bring unwrapped toys to the tea. John Hunt will take them to a local fire department for distribution to needy children. Of course, bringing toys is strictly voluntary.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** – If I don't get a chance to see you at events in December, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Don't forget the Annual Dinner at Scott's in Walnut Creek on January 20. Hope to see you there.

Fraternally,

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



## From da Ed...

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. The hood went back on the MGB this month and it is now relatively cozy in there. Luckily I have a zip-down rear window so I can still get some "semi" open-top driving in over the next few months.

Now that the cooler weather is here our events turn to some indoor activities. We have the annual holiday party coming up soon. Please consider bringing a toy for a needy child. John Hunt and Randy Grossman are arranging a drive to deliver the toys on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Shortly after the holidays the MGOC Annual Dinner will be here on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>. This year is a special one because it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MGOC. I know John Hunt has put a lot of effort into the party and it will be a great time. I hope to see you all there. Seating is limited so if you intend to go to the party, get your check in the mail now!

Of course with the cold weather should come some routine work on our cars. I am hoping to get to the transmission and differential fluid and the brakes this winter. I have a feeling they all need some attention. Whether you do the work yourself or have a trusted mechanic, get the work done now before driving season returns.

And finally, I hope all of you have an enjoyable holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

Happy Holidays!  
Bob



## 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.

# 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
MGT		165.00	165.00
MGT & 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.  
S&H \$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, MaxlerCard, CDD. Free Catalog



# Pajaro Wine Run Report

By Dan Shockey

Jack and Rada Ford led us on a road rallye to a quaint little winery on the banks of the Pajaro River east of Watsonville on Saturday, November 25, 2006. The River Run winery is just off highway 129. We had the opportunity to taste some old favorites of the winery but sample some of the new releases. They provided us with a nice picnic spot with tablecloths and cheese. It was a very pretty spot.

We had a small but fun group out on this holiday weekend. Three MGs met in Los Gatos for the run over the hill to Soquel. Randy Grossman brought his newly-restored MGA Mk. II roadster. Vern and Donna Lindsey brought their 1965 Midget that Vern purchased brand new. (He is thinking he will keep it.) I borrowed back my old red BGT since neither my TD nor Midget are quite on the road.

We took the very-scenic-with-fall-colors Soquel-San Jose Road to Soquel then a hop on Hwy 1 to Aptos to meet up the other half of the group. Jack and Rada were in Jack's red MGB roadster. Marty Ray came all the way from Santa Cruz in his yellow '67 MGB roadster. Esther and John Milsap surprised us by arriving in Esther's Z3 birthday present. Warren and Kathy Pierce of Aromas joined us later at the winery, proving once again that the closest attendees arrive last. They brought a black chrome-bumper-conversion MGB that is a new addition to Warren's fleet. Kathy recently inherited a running and driving TD.

After lunch and wine tasting we followed Rada and Jack back to their home overlooking the coast south of Santa Cruz. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed the home and company. Rada and Jack have done a total makeover to their family vacation home. Jack told us how his TD rolled away in front of him over the steep hill toward the Pacific. "Fortunately," after cresting the hill, the MG turned sharply into the house across the street. The only mechanical problem was a split hose on the Midget but Vern motored on regardless with a loosened radiator cap. Good show to all!



**Graphic Design**  
Nancy Shane

Car Illustrations

Photo Retouching

Custom Holiday Cards

(408) 923-3927

nshane75@earthlink.net



Modeled by Bob Stine

## MGOC Holiday Party & Toy Drive Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 PM

This year's holiday party is at Bob and Beth Trencheny's in San Ramon. Come on over for some holiday cheer and celebrate the season with club friends. Join us in telling MG stories and enjoying a special MG history lesson! This year the club is sponsoring a toy drive. Bring a toy for a needy child and John Hunt will deliver all the toys to a local firehouse that is collecting them. (unwrapped)

Please bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share with the club. If you have a favorite tea, please bring that too. The club will provide sodas and beverages.

**Please RSVP:** Bob and Beth Trencheny

**Phone:** 925 556 9311

**E-mail:** [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com)

**From 680 North:** Take Alcosta Blvd exit. Right at light onto Alcosta Blvd. Go less than a mile and make a right on Village Parkway. Make first left on Triana Way. Make first right on Shavano Way. Make first left onto Greylyn Drive. We are on the corner of Greylyn and Shavano.

**From 680 South:** Take Alcosta Blvd exit. Make a left at the light onto San Ramon Valley Blvd. Make first left onto Alcosta Blvd. Go over 680 and less than a mile and make a right on Village Parkway. Make first left on Triana Way. Make first right on Shavano Way. Make first left onto Greylyn Drive. We are on the corner of Greylyn and Shavano. (This exit was recently reconfigured and Mapquest and Google are not up-to-date and reliable yet. Use the directions.)

O'CONNOR  
CLASSIC  
AUTOS



**MG TRIUMPH  
AUSTIN-HEALEY**

TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE

**1-888-346-3647 (FINE-MGS)**

408-727-0430 VOICE/408-727-3987 FAX

2569 Scott Blvd. Santa Clara, CA 95050

mg@oconnorclassics.com

www.oconnorclassics.com

## PARTS DEPARTMENT

We have a large inventory of new, used and rebuilt parts, and will help you make the best choices for your car. We will be happy to answer questions and provide information to help with your repair or restoration. We are an authorized distributor for Moss Motors products and will provide you with their catalog to assist you in ordering from us.

**1-888-346-3647 (FINE-MGS)**

**O'CONNOR CLASSIC AUTOS**

We are THE source for MG parts!

*FREE GROUND SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$100*

## REBUILD PROGRAM

If you are involved in a major repair or restoration, this program offers a substantial benefit. Place an initial parts order for \$2000 or more and receive a 10% discount off the published prices for new parts. Subsequent orders of any size will receive the discount for one year. During sale periods, your orders will receive the sale discount, or 10%, whichever is greater.

**Monday thru Friday, 9 to 5. Other hours by appointment.**

*Free Shipping Applies to Orders in the 48 Continental States*

MG Parts Swap Meet in Fullerton: (11/19) Several club members are planning to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nomination of Officers: The slate of officers from 2006 is willing to continue for 2007. (A "white" ballot.) Mike and Nina expressed the intention of taking some time "off" following 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Create a "Toys for Tots" Drive: The Committee of Two, John Hunt and Randy Grossman, have proposed that we host a toy drive. They plan to meet with Mary Hiland for suggestions. We agreed to encourage members to bring a toy to the Holiday Tea as a first step in this direction. We will put the request in *The Octagon* and email a reminder before the Tea.

Select Recipients of Recognition Awards: We agreed that the recipients will have been officers or have put on an event. Dan to suggest the list. We also discussed possible recipients of the Burnt Spark Plug Award.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update of "JLS Cookbook:" Mike J. worked on this and is about half through making the changes that were agreed upon. He will attempt to complete these changes soon.

MGs by the Bay: It is time to begin some actions for the *MGs by the Bay* event. Randy offered to apply for the permit with the city of San Leandro. Mike will do registration.

Volunteers for MG 2007: We plan to begin actively to recruit additional volunteers over the next two months.

Update: Club Historian: Photos of 2006 events at Annual Dinner? John Hunt does not have a scanner. We will get photos to him.

Mac Spears Award: NAMGAR asked for nominations for their annual special recognition award.

Two-Way Radios for Club Drives & MG 2007 Tours: We agreed that these would be a great way to coordinate the drives and keep from losing participants. Bob Stine reported that they kept 300 PT Cruisers in line all the way to Big Sur with everyone using radios. He had an offer for two radios for only \$26. This included rechargeable batteries. We will put a note in *The Octagon* to find out how many members have these radios. We discussed purchasing a number for club use.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. The next business meeting is to be held Dec. 14, 2006, at the Englander.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Shockey, MGOC Secretary

## MG 2007 Web Site is Live

Folks from across the country and even from Australia are signing up, planning caravans, and getting excited. Not too late to be part of the event. See [www.MG2007.org](http://www.MG2007.org). Thanks to Dave McCann and all the others who have contributed. More info next issue.



## Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting November 9, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. by President Bob Stine. Also present were: Nina Barton, Dan Shockey, David Wright, Randy Grossman, Mike Jacobsen, Bob Trencheny, George Steneberg, and Joe Rubio.

October Minutes accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: We received the \$1500 additional "seed money" from NAMGBR for the *MG 2007* account. We had a credit for \$50 to the *MG2007* and Club accounts. Mike made the Annual Dinner down payment.

Registrar's Report: We have 200 regular memberships.

Secretary's Report: Send a card to a member.

Regalia Report: John Milsap is aware of need to order more club jackets. We are missing the box of past year *MGs by the Bay* (and Jack London Square) dash plaques.

The Octagon Report & Web Site: Robbie Trencheny has taken over maintenance of the Web site. Bob wants to add more photos of recent events to the site. Mike will soon send out renewal notices for ads in the Octagon. Because of the increased number of members taking the newsletter by email, we printed only 150 copies this month, a record low. The printing bill was less than \$100!

### PAST EVENTS

San Juan Bautista: We received mention as a sponsoring club this year. We have been given the opportunity to design and lead the Saturday tour next year. Is there any interest? Good participation this year by MGOC members.

Brisbane Marina Festival (Oct. 22) Bob Stine and one other member took their cars. The other member, however, took his classic Cadillac ambulance.

NAMGBR AGM: We had a good turn out of local club members. The weather was fantastic and the tour was perfect. We had a great dinner with the NAMGBR officers. Thank you to Andy Preston for organizing the tour and dinner.

East Bay Tour: Six MGs came out with 9 people. Bob T. led us on some super back roads and we all had a good time on the tour and at the Sunset house.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

MG 2007 Planning Meeting: Will be the following Saturday. Bob Stine stated that he had been rather ambivalent about putting on the event but has been impressed by the club participation.

Holiday Tea: (12/17) At the Trencheny home in San Ramon from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. We discussed what the club should provide. The Grossman's offered to bring tea.

Tour by Jack Ford: (11/25) Our new club photographer, Jeremy Palgon, expressed interest in leading a south-side tour in late November or early December. He started planning but Jack jumped in first. We will do Jeremy's tour later. Jack's tour will do to a winery near Watsonville.

Annual Dinner: John Hunt booked Scott's in Walnut Creek. It will be held on Saturday, January 20, beginning at 6pm. We will get one glass of wine and dessert provided with dinner. We have reserved a room for 50 people but can add space as required. The charge to attendees will be \$40 a person. John plans a multimedia presentation that will celebrate 50 years of the MG Owners Club. Make plans to attend.

### *Make Plans to Attend the*

## **MG Owners Club Annual Dinner Celebrate the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

***Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>***

***6:00 p.m. Cocktails***

***7:00 p.m. Dinner***

***at***

***Scott's Restaurant***

***1333 N. California Blvd.***

***Walnut Creek, CA***

***(925) 934-1300***

### **Special Features:**

"MG Does It Again" – A full-color documentary that covers the construction and deployment of MG's record-breaker EX 181 in 1957 when Stirling Moss drove it on the Bonneville Salt Flats. See John Thornley, Syd Enever, Stirling Moss, and Phil Hill in this exciting short classic film.

Cost per person is only \$40. Advanced payment is required. That's a cost 25% below retail. Limited Seating, Reserve Early.

### Menu: Salad

Chicken Sienna *or* Tenderloin of Beef and Salmon  
with rice & vegetables

A glass of White or Red Wine

Dessert & Coffee

Vegetarian option available

Please make your checks payable to "MG Owners Club." Please note which dinner you have selected and mail checks to:

John Hunt  
629 Burton Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549

Any questions please call John Hunt at 925-299-9006 or e-mail  
at [huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntsails@worldnet.att.net)

# 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

such as Delo or Rotella that are usually available at auto stores and gas stations.

The reduction of zinc dithiophosphate (ZDDP) in the oils supplied with API approval affects sliding and high pressure (EP) friction in our cars. The reduction of these chemicals in supplied oil was based on the fact that zinc, manganese, and/or phosphates reduce the effectiveness and eventually damage catalytic converters.

ZDDP is a single polar molecule that is attracted to iron-based metals. The one polar end tends to “stand” the molecule up on the metal surface that it is bonded to by heat and friction. This forms a sacrificial layer to protect the base metal of the cam and tappet from contacting each other. Only at very high pressures on a flat tappet cam is this necessary because the oil is squeezed/wiped from the surface.

Also reduced is Molybdenum disulfide (Moly). The moly bonds to the zinc adding an additional, very slippery, sacrificial layer to the metal. I found out that too much of the moly will create problems; lack of this material reduces the effectiveness of the ZDDP.

### Now what do we do?

We are switching to Redline street-rated oils and stocking the Castrol products that are diesel rated. The actual cost in operation is less as the additive package in Redline makes a 1-year or up to 18,000 mile change recommended! Yes, it is a long change interval but with lowered sulfur levels and the elimination of lead and many other chemicals in the fuels there are less contaminant in our oil from the fuel, which is the major contributor to oil degradation.

For the cars that use “engine oil” in their gearboxes this may even pose a problem as these additives that have been removed could be very critical in gear wear. We will be using oil specifically formulated for Manual Gearboxes with Brass Synchronizers. The only oils we are aware of that fit the criteria are from General Motors and Redline.

### Specific Conclusions

1. Castrol GTX 20W-50 is still good for our cars after break-in. However 10W-40, 10W-30 and other grades are NOT good. Absolutely NOT GOOD is any oil (any brand) that is marked “Energy Conserving” in the API “Donut” on the bottle. These oils are so low with ZDDP or other additives that they will destroy our cams. Virtually all “Diesel” rated oils are acceptable.

2. Castrol HD 30 is very good oil for break-in of new motors. This oil has one of the largest concentrations of ZDDP and Moly to conserve our cams and tappets.

3. Castrol Syntec 20W-50 (synthetic) lacks the levels of protection we need. We will be using Redline 10W-40 or 10W-30 (synthetic) as these are lighter weights for better performance, flow volume, less drag and have the additive package we need.

[www.ForeignPartsPositively.com](http://www.ForeignPartsPositively.com) 360-882-3596

(Edited for length by Dan Shockey. Email Dan for the original articles.)

## MGB Advertising Gone Bad

In 1978 MG's North American ad agency came up with an innovative ad campaign to boost MG's USA sales. Remember this was late in the MGB production run and sales were dwindling at this point. The ad agency developed a campaign around the slogan "One Jump Ahead." And to show that MG was "one jump ahead" of the competition (Triumph?), the agency planned to parachute an MGB out the back of a cargo plane! A somewhat James Bond type jumped out after the car and planned to use it to escape his pursuers. The first take for the TV commercial did not go exactly as planned. For unexplained reasons the parachute failed to deploy and the *car was "pancaked"* into the desert. What would James Bond do? The second take proved successful and "James" escaped his pursuers in typical sports car style. You can see it all unfold as if from Casino Royale right here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIF9ys-hJn0>.

## Oil Is Killing Our Cars

By: Keith Ansell, Foreign Parts Positively, Inc.

Reprinted from *MG A'nouncer*, Columbia Gorge MGA Club

A month or so ago a member of the Club brought a totally failed camshaft and lifters back to me that had only 900 miles on them. I immediately contacted the camshaft re-grinder and asked how this could happen. They were well aware of this problem as they were starting to have many failures of this type. In the past, the lack of a molybdenum disulfide camshaft assembly lubricant, at assembly, was about the only thing that could create this type of problem. My customer has assembled many engines and had lubricated the camshaft properly and followed correct break in procedures.

Delta Camshaft said, "It's today's 'modern' API-approved oils that are killing our engines." Crane now offers an additive for whatever oil you are using during break-in so that the camshaft and lifters won't fail in an unreasonably short period of time. They also suggest using a diesel-rated oil on flat tappet engines. (This includes all our MG engines.)

Redline Oils: "We are well aware of the problem and we still use the correct amounts of those additives in our products." They continued to tell me they are not producing API-approved oils so they don't have to test and comply.

Our representative from a major supplier of performance and street engine parts stopped by to warn us of the problem of the new oils on flat tappet engines. "The reduction of the zinc, manganese, and phosphates is causing very early destruction of cams and followers." They recommend there must be a proper oil additive put in the first oil used on new engines, beyond the liberal use of molydisulfide assembly lube. They have been told that the first oil is the time the additives are needed but remain skeptical that the first change is all that is necessary. Their statement: Use diesel rated oils

## New Member News

I am more used to Italian cars than British, although I have owned a Bentley S-1 for over twenty years. I recently sold my 1960 Zagato-bodied Abarth 750 GT which I raced in vintage racing at Sears Point, Laguna Seca, and Thunderhill, and had a "hole" in the garage. The husband of a friend of my wife's died leaving her with three cars, and she doesn't drive, so my wife offered to buy one of them – a 1976 MGB roadster – and gave it to me as a new "project." We should all be so lucky. (Although I wish her friend had had to dispose of an old Ferrari!)

We owned an MG Midget in the 1970's, so I am not unfamiliar with the basic mechanicals. However, I was surprised how "agricultural" the B was when I drove it. After driving the Abarth for many years, the B drives like a truck! (I expected such from my 1956 two-ton Bentley without power steering, but not from a reputed "sports car!") And it has less acceleration than my 900cc Abarth as well. However, it has bags of torque, and motors along leisurely at low RPM. It will make a nice top-down fair-weather "driver" after I take care of a few cosmetic and electrical issues.

As an immensely popular car, with lots of parts and technical support, and a well-supported owner's group, I look forward to enjoying the car (and the club) in the future, and expect to warm to its peculiarities as I drive it more.

Tom Knapp  
San Francisco





# 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  
3895 Mammoth Cave Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588  
email: kelsey@shadetreetmotors.com



# MGOC East Bay Tour

By Bob Trencheny

On Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, a die-hard group of MGOC members met for the second annual Circumnavigate Mount Diablo Tour. This year's tour called for a counter-clockwise route. It was colder and damper than most MGOC tours this year but the group still had a great day together.

We left from Dublin and picked our way though the back roads of North Livermore. These are wide-open country roads with little traffic and no housing to speak of; just beautiful open fields and hills to drive. The roads were mostly dry even though the weather turned misty as we made our way out of town. I was glad to have my top up. President Bob Stine, Jennifer Steneberg and her husband Dan Shaffer, and Marty Ray didn't seem to mind the few sprinkles too much.

After a turn onto Vasco Road we headed north on more picturesque but more congested roads. Vasco Road has a reputation for speeders and bad accidents so headlight use is required and there were motorcycle police at several locations handing out tickets to speeders. Fortunately our group made it through this part of eastern Contra Costa County without incident.

We turned west at Camino Diablo where there was less traffic and more twisty roads to enjoy. By this point we were mostly on the north side of Mount Diablo and the weather had improved. The dampness was gone and the sun was trying to peek through the overcast skies. We stopped for a break at the Round Valley Regional Park to stretch our legs, use the facilities and catch up on club news. All the cars were parked on the fence line, away from the few horse trailers across the parking lot. Round Valley, in the shadow of Mount Diablo was once Indian Territory and a meeting place for East Bay and San Joaquin Valley Indians. The land was donated to East Bay Parks in 1988 to keep it as open space.

Heading out of Round Valley we continued onto Marsh Creek Road north of Mount Diablo. Here we found there was more great driving to be enjoyed. Near the end of Marsh Creek we returned to the suburbs of Clayton and Walnut Creek. We picked our way through a congested Walnut Creek for a quick trip down I-680 to Danville where we re-grouped for our tour of the Sunset Magazine and Popular Science Magazine House of Innovation in Alamo.

The house was a short bus ride up to Alamo and by this time the weather had turned warm and sunny. It was interesting to see what a

new home could come with if you could afford custom wine cellars, media rooms and landscaped hillsides overlooking the black-bottomed pool with separate pool house. Maybe if I sell the MGB I could afford the electric bill for a month or two. One of the funny highlights of the day was returning to the parking lot to find a properly tagged Mazda Miata parked next to Ken Gittings' 1967 MGB-GT Special. The woman owner was there to greet us and tell about the MG she used to own.



**At least she knows she is not driving the real thing!**

*Photo: Bob Stine*

Following the house tour we met for pizza in downtown Danville. Although the service was a little slow the good friends, good food, and camaraderie made up for it. I had a great time leading the tour and will find another great route for next year when we will go clockwise around Devil Mountain.



**Marty Ray, Nancy Shane, Dan Shockey, Jennifer Steneberg, Dan Shaffer, Ken Gittings and the Trencheny Family enjoy Primo's Pizza after the Mt Diablo Tour.**

*Photo: Bob Stine*