

MGOC Octagon
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THE OCTAGON

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



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

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Santa Cruz & Redwoods Tour, Santa Cruz Wharf, August 21, 2004

Photo: Bob Wall

September 2004

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 2004

President: Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, RAstine@rcn.com

Vice President: Randy Grossman, 510-483-3171, r.m.grossman@comcast.net

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MikesMuseum@yahoo.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: Felix Wong, 510-226-7721 home, mgoc@felixwong.com

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

MGB V8 Conversion: Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, Tony@BatesFamily.net

MGC: Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, 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: Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

T-types: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

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

PA/PB Midget 1934-36: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, mgpb36@yahoo.com

S.U. Carburetters: Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

Bodywork: Bill Weissberg, 510-658-4335, weissber@slip.net

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2004 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. 1st, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that

Natter & Noggin with Club Meeting

Sept. 9, 2004 (Thurs.), 8 p.m.

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant
101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3571

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 the Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14th St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott St.

The Englander is an enjoyable place where we have our own cozy room. The food is good so bring your appetites.

South Bay Natter & Noggin

Friday Evening Sept. 24, 2004, 8 p.m.,

Join us for an informal gathering in the South Bay. We'll meet in a lamp-lighted courtyard setting. Not too crowded and with restaurants right there. Look for us at McHart's Pizza if you don't see anyone with their cars. We recently had a line-up of seven MGBs.

This is the Marketplace Shopping Center next to Long's Drugs at 19732 Stevens Creek Blvd. It is right across from the Sears at the Vallco Shopping Mall. It is just off I-280 at Wolfe.

Directions: Take the Wolfe Rd. exit from I-280 and turn west. Turn right on Stevens Creek Blvd. Turn left at first light.

Dan Shockey (408) 923-3927 or Bob Wall (408) 739-2373

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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, 3219 Mabury Rd., San Jose, CA 95127. Members may also email ads to the Editor at MGmogul@earthlink.net

1968 MGB/GT. New paint. Rebuilt with many new parts. \$6,000. Also '79 MGB. I bought it from the original owner, original paint, no dents. Spoked wheels and only 49,500 miles. \$3,000. Many new and used parts. Member Vic Earnest. (650) 578-8977. Cell: (650) 678-0712 toptech@pacbell.net

1964 MGB project or parts car with title. Good top. Aluminum hood. Roll bar. \$750/best. Car is in Alameda. Bill Holloway h (510) 769-0774, w (209) 932-2513 bmh@alamedanet.net

'53 TD Parts: complete rear end, two front shocks, 5 painted 60-spoke wire wheels (15") with new tires. Member Bob Luebbert, 510-276-0365 luebbert@spade.net

1970 MGB roadster: Original owner. 75k miles. Rebuilt engine Runs great. \$5000. Corey Eastwood, (209) 952-8358, Stockton

Wanted: MGA 1600 or MGB 1800 engine. MGB overdrive transmission. Member Don Davis. fstcobra@hotmail.com. (408) 358-9744.

1971 MGB GT: Original tan paint, original interior in good condition. Stored for 12 years. Running previous to storage. Rebuilt engine. \$1,500. Also have rebuilt MGA 1500 engine. Member Tom Plemons, (650) 321-5025 gema4@sbcglobal.net

1956 MGA street/track racer. Started as a Pan American Carrera Car by Doug Jackson of British Automotive. MGB engine bored out to 1924cc, 10.25:1 compression ratio, competition road cam, large valve cylinder head, balanced competition clutch, flywheel lightened and balanced, MGB overdrive, rebuilt early MGB banjo differential, carbon fibre leaf springs, Member Ken Smith, Novato, (415) 491-4574, ken@kensmithphotography.com

MGB-GT: 1969 Totally rebuilt body shell with title. 1967 Wire wheel car. No motor or transmission. Good shape. Also parts for MGB 64-69+. Member Marty Ray, Santa Cruz, 831-475-6204 or 831-247-5863 cell or martyray@cruzio.com

date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10th 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 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Dan Shockey, 3219 Mabury Rd., San Jose, CA 95127. Or, you may email contributions to MGmogul@earthlink.net

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 (which is us!) events are in **bold** type.

Every Sat. – Donut Derelicts, Mtn View, Martinez (see MGOC web site)

Sept. 9th (Thurs) – **Club Meeting & Natter**. See page 23

Sept. 11-12 – **All British Meet, Palo Alto, MGOC Caravan**. See page 5

Sept. 18th (Sat.) – **MGOC Winery Tour**, South Bay/Peninsula, Jack Ford.

See page 6

Sept. 24th (Fri.) – **South Bay Natter**, see page 23

Oct. 2-3 – MGOC North Coast Weekend, Dave Newhouse, page 7

Oct. 10th (Sun.) – **MG Corral & Track Tour, Sears Point, CSRG Charity Challenge**; David Wright, with Morgan Club. See page 8

Oct. 16-17 – **Autumn Classic**, San Juan Bautista, MGOC & SSTS Caravan

Oct. 15-17 – American LeMans Races at Laguna Seca. See the MG-Lola's!

Oct. 30-31 – **MG Corral at Laguna Seca Vintage Races**, See page 12

Nov. TBD – **MGOC Corte Madera Tour** (Combine with below?)

Nov. TBD – **MGOC Tech Session**, Corte Madera British, Greenbrae

Dec. 11th (Sat.) – **MGOC Holiday Tea**, Milsap's, Alameda

MGA Tech Book

Sandy & Mike Hickman, NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators

The MGA Tech Book is well written by Mike Ash and put together in a superb fashion for the MGA enthusiast. We would like to encourage you to put an ad in your newsletter to make this available to all of your club members whether they are NAMGAR members or not.

Mike followed it step by step as he rebuilt the transmission in our MGA this past winter. At that time, he had to go back through each issue to find the information that was needed. Now it is all available under one cover and we feel it is a great resource.

See <http://chapterhouse.blackmga.com>.

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New Members

Mark Seymour in Walnut Creek has a '59 MGA 1500 roadster that he's owned for two months. Originally from England, Mark recently moved here from New York. His dream car had a complete block up restoration 20 years ago, and is still in great mechanical and physical condition. (More info next issue.)

Bob Trencheny of San Ramon has a British Racing Green '73 MGB roadster that he has had for a year. Bob and son Rob attended the annual picnic. Bob's father always said that he wished he had kept his TD (and XK140) and had photos and fond memories. So Bob was smitten way back when, always wanting an MGB. He found his on the Internet and purchased it from former MGOC member Don Ruble. Bob plans to do some of the work on the MG himself.



The California Autumn Classic Concours and Tour

At San Juan Bautista, Oct. 16-17, 2004

The car show on Sunday is on the historic streets on my favorite small California town. The silver trophies are very nice. The tour on Saturday afternoon is fun, too, and there is a group dinner on Saturday evening. Come for one day or stay over for both. We will likely arrange a caravan down on Sunday morning. Full details next month.

Advance registration is required. Send \$28 with car make, model and club info by October 8 to: Bill Meade, 533 Cedar Dr., Watsonville, CA 95076, Phone: (831) 722-3253.



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& scenic back roads. This is to be led by Bob Wall so it is sure to be a lot of fun.

Aug. 29, Annual Picnic: This event will be held at the Fern Picnic Area in Tilden Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jack London Square: Update on possible venues to replace the current site. Bob Stine reported that he has looked at the Bridgepoint Shopping Center in San Mateo and has been asked to write a proposal for an MG show there.

Dan Shockey reported that he has looked at Dunsmuir House in Oakland & at the Civic Center in Oakland as possible show sites. (Plus the Marina Square shopping center in Alameda.)

It was also agreed that we could look for an established event that might like to have our MGs as a part of that event.

It was noted that about half of the cars attending the JLS show are not MGOC members. Thus, we need to keep the other clubs informed about our search for an alternative venue.

Awards Budget for JLS: Randy Grossman reported that his estimate for the cost of the improved awards was about \$800. Mike Jacobsen reported that he was talking to a shop in San Francisco that estimated a cost of \$20 per award. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Update on NAMGAR & NAMGBR affiliations: It was stated that the Club gets its event insurance from NAMGAR. As part of the Club's affiliation with NAMGBR the Club receives general liability insurance as well. NAMGBR requires a minimum of 8 MGOC members should also be members of NAMGBR and submission of at least one article per year to the NAMGBR magazine.

Oct. 2-3, North Coast Weekend: Dave Newhouse gave an update on this event. The cost of the Saturday evening dinner will be \$25 without oysters. Oysters may be added at \$1 each. A number of different routes for touring on the Sunday will be available. This is going to be a fun weekend indeed.

Oct. 10, Track Tour at Infineon Raceway: (Sears Point) This is the CSRG Charity Challenge vintage races. The MGOC track tour will take place at lunch time on Sunday. It will be a joint tour with the Morgan club.

In addition to the track time, John Hunt has arranged for children from the OKIZU Foundation to visit the track. OKIZU serves children who have cancer. It was originally hoped that they could be taken on the track tour but Infineon's insurance precludes this. Instead, CSRG will arrange for the children to have their photographs taken seated in two Formula 1 race cars. Members of the Club will also take the children on a tour of the pits and paddock area.

Oct. 30-31, MG Corral at Laguna Seca: It was decided that MGOC should ask the Cypress MG Club to organize this event.

Awards for the MGOC Picnic: It was agreed that the cost of these awards should be limited to \$100. Dan Shockey will make or obtain the awards.

NEW BUSINESS

JLS "Cookbook": It was agreed that a committee should be set up to update the set of guidelines & instructions for putting on a Jack London Square type car show. This committee will be headed by Bob Stine and include Randy Grossman and Mike Jacobsen. It was agreed that MGOC needs to decide the venue for the 2005 JLS event before the end of October, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm. The next Business meeting & Natter will be held on Sept. 9.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wright, Secretary, MGOC

manifold. But no one carries a plug of the right size and type. I found a 1" dished core plug and decided to try it. By flattening it, it filled the hole and seemed tight, glued in with Hi-Tach. I bought a spare, of course.

Sure enough, Bang! out it came again a few weeks later, fortunately not while I was in the middle of the freeway. I didn't have the spare with me but I found the plug on the ground and pounded it back in. O'Connor got me replacement plugs that are cup-shaped. I had trouble making one of these fit into the hole but hopefully it won't go Bang! again. (I have a spare on board now. A cork and duct tape, too.)

Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting Held on Aug. 12, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 8pm. Present were: Bob Stine, Randy Grossman, George Steneberg, David Wright, Mike Jacobsen, Dan Shockey, Dave Newhouse, and John Hunt.

The Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer: The Club remains solvent. Mike Jacobsen reported the current balances of the accounts.

Secretary: The Secretary was present.

Registrar: It is membership renewal time. The Registrar reported that to date about 70% of the membership have renewed. The total is 263.

Regalia: The following additional regalia items have been obtained from the MGCC in England: (3) MGCC chrome finish grill badges, (4) MGCC leather key fobs and (2) round coffee mugs, green with gold MGCC logo.

Octagon: Dan Shockey reported that he is trying to keep the font size larger.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Aug. 14, KTEGH Pledge Drive: As reported in July, this is a phone answering service for the Channel 54 PBS. MGOC members are invited to work the 6-11pm shift. Bob Wall is the organizer.

Aug. 15, T Register Picnic: All club members are welcome to attend.

Aug. 21, Santa Cruz Tour: A tour from Cupertino to Santa Cruz via some enjoyable



Palo Alto British Car Meet El Camino Park, Palo Alto Sept. 11-12, 2004

Over 500 thoroughly lovable British cars are once again expected to grace the field at El Camino Park.

Sunday Show - September 12th

Daily drivers, vintage racers, and works-in-progress are as welcome as show cars. There will be British food, jazz, toys, gifts and People's Choice awards.

Cars will be placed on the field starting at 9:00 AM, and the fun goes on all day. The registration fee is \$25 per car at the gate.

Gerald Martin's Blue MGB at Palo Alto.

Photo: Dan Shockey



Saturday Tour - September 11th

The British Car Meet TOUR TO THE SEA starts at El Camino Park in Palo Alto – the same place as the Sunday Car Show. This is a no-cost option.

We will be sending cars off between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Map will be provided. Don't be late! The tour ends at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay.

Directions: El Camino Park is located on El Camino Real, just north of University Avenue, opposite Stanford Shopping Center. From 101, take University Avenue west, go under the Alma Street overpass, and turn right onto El Camino Real. From 280, take the Sandhill Road Exit east and turn right on El Camino, stay to the right to the University Ave exit, turn left at the overpass, then left again back onto El Camino heading north.

Trailer parking will be available on-site (NOT at the shopping center). Spectators attend and park for free.

Information: (310) 392-6605, rfeibusch1@earthlink.net

The MGOC will meet as usual on the 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Sears parking lot at the corner of El Camino and San Antonio. Or meet us at the event site. We will have our club marquee and sell T-shirts for \$5 each.

Wine Tour & "Fill Your Own Bottles" Saturday, September 18th

Take a lovely tour to Half Moon Bay

And be a wine maker for a day at Obester Winery!

Join Jack and Rada Ford for an early morning jaunt over the coastal range to Half Moon Bay. Bring all the clean, empty wine bottles you can squeeze into your marque to be filled with their excellent red wines. (Bargain price!)

Meet at the Ford residence and restoration garage between 8:00 A.M. and 8:30 A.M. for coffee and doughnuts.

We will caravan to Highway 280, proceed north to Highway 92 and head west. If you meet us along the way, the winery lies just before the town of Half Moon Bay at 12341 San Mateo Road. (650) 726-9463.

Fords: 13147 Diericx Drive, Mountain View, (650) 961-2321, Actionnrada@aol.com.

Directions: Major cross streets: Grant Road and Eunice Ave. Travel south on Eunice to Franklin. Turn right. Turn immediately left onto Diericx Drive. 3rd house on the right.

RSVP if you plan to come – but come anyway!



Rick Malsed (from page 13)

The night and we survived unhampered but the next morning as soon as we packed up and started north the rains started. After almost a month without the hood on, this was not the time to weaken to a little shower, and besides, if you keep moving it all blows past and the interior housed dog and human stay mostly dry.

As soon as we crossed into Canada at the Peace Bridge the rain came to a welcome halt and off toward a 'dry' Niagara Falls was our course. The country travel and hometown folks are 99% of the needed 'tourist attraction' but the Falls just couldn't be passed by so we ventured into the Canadian side and enjoyed an MG seated viewing this powerhouse of nature.

A slight north by east course delivered the little carriage to Syracuse, New York, for our visit with Malsed family. Stopping next in Woodstock, Vermont also brought a connection from home... but first must be noted the historic milestone, just outside Utica, NY, of the TD reached 100,000 miles on August 22, 2004. At which point the 10,000-mile Travels with Maggie reached 4,532 miles, just nudging our halfway mark.

We continue to encounter former roommates, relatives, and neighbors of MG owners plus current octagon operators at an amazing rate. Next is a much anticipated journey around Nova Scotia before Watkins Glen GoF MK77.

Funny Thing Happened on Way Home

By Dan Shockey

My trusty daily driver MGB had a new breakdown recently. It suddenly lost all power and made major sucking noises. I assumed a plug had fallen out of the intake manifold (happened before). I was close to home so walked there (happened before) and got Nancy to drag me home with a tow strap (and the van).

I could not find the problem. All the plugs and hoses seemed to be in place. Stuart Locke happened to call me and I described the problem. Stuart immediately asked if I had checked the plug on the back end of the intake manifold. These are pressed in like a core (freeze) plug and I had never heard of one coming out before. You cannot see the plug but I reached down there and sure enough, it was clean gone, the air/fuel mixture badly distorted.

Problem diagnosed, thanks to Stuart. I was lazy and didn't want to pull the

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Foggy Morning at Bodega Bay. July Tour. Photo: Marty Rayman



Wayne Veatch's Stude 2nd from right. Santa Cruz Tour. Photo: Bob Wall

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North Coast Extravaganza! Oct. 2-3; Update

An update of where we are on the October MG tour. Scott Crawford and I drove up and laid out the tour last month. Our plan is to rendezvous in San Rafael, just off the freeway at 9:30 a.m. At 10 o'clock, the tour will leave heading from San Rafael over to Tomales Bay. We will pick up Highway 1 and head north passing Hog Island oysters. The tour itself will not stop. We will have a vehicle following that will pick up the oysters so that they are fresh. Our plan is to stop at historic Fort Ross for lunch.

We will have prepared box lunches, which should come to about \$5 per box. After lunch we will head up Highway 1 and rendezvous at my house at Anchor Bay. We will probably arrive about three o'clock. At that point, people will know where I live and will have an hour or so if they want to go into town to shop and buy wine or beer. In the meantime we will get the barbecue pits going, and probably between 4:00 and 4:30 will start preparing for dinner. Dinner will be steak or salmon, a vegetable such as corn on the cob and something for dessert. That comes to a total of \$25 per person for lunch and dinner without the oysters. The oysters run about a dollar apiece. We were going to survey everyone who has signed up to see if they want oysters or not. So if the average person wanted six oysters that would add six dollars to the cost of the dinner.

After dinner, everybody will spend the night at an assigned house unless they have made their own plans. It would be appropriate, if they are staying at someone's house, to invite the owner to the dinner and pick up the cost. The next morning breakfast is everyone's responsibility to take care of themselves. I'm going to drive back through Skaggs Springs towards Cloverdale to wine country. That will be an optional trip for the members. For those that want to take off on their own, we will provide routes for different venues. I think this will be a fun trip.

Dave Newhouse, Dave.Newhouse@kp.org, 510-248-3456, 925-736-4996.

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MG Day at the Races!

MG Corral and Track Touring Session

Sears Point Raceway (Infineon)

Sunday, October 10, 2004

The MG Owners Club will host a day at the races on Sunday, September 28. The races are for vintage (pre-1968) sports, sports racing, and open wheel cars and are put forth by the CSRG (Classic Sports Racing Group). This is a re-run of the popular event held last year. Everyone is invited and you can bring any classic car.

Having an official MG Corral at the raceway will mean all our MGs will be able to park as a group, be close to the action, and put on a fine display of our favorite cars. We are sharing the track driving event with the Morgan club which will keep our cost down.

The MGOC is hosting children with cancer from the Camp Okizu Foundation* at this event. Please call or e-mail John Hunt at (925) 299-9006 or e-mail at: huntsails@worldnet.att.net if you'd like to help host the children.

Club members Tom Morgan, Ferdinand Schoch, Ron Middlebrook, Scott Brown and David Wright are expected to be racing and would welcome your support. Members Dorothy and John Brookman are also involved. John is Race Steward.

For those so inclined, we will organize a convoy starting from the Denny's Restaurant in Emeryville leaving at 9:00 a.m. (Directions: Take the Powell St. exit from I-80 and go east. Denny's is immediately on the left. Look for us in the lot behind Denny's where there is more space.) For those going direct, we will aim to be at the Raceway between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Track Touring Session

There will be an optional Track Touring Session for the lunch hour at this event. The session will be about 30 minutes in length so we should get in many laps. The session is run without a pace car but passing is limited to certain areas of the track. The cost will be \$25 per car. This is in addition to the vintage races' entry fee of \$10 per person.

They require helmets to be worn on the track but any helmet is acceptable for this use, including motorcycle helmets. In addition the racing organization has loaner helmets for this purpose. Please note that they also require long sleeves and long pants for both drivers and passengers on track. Leather gloves of any type are also required.

More info: David Wright, (510) 653-3831; Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927

* www.okizu.org

MGOC V8 Tech Session Report

By Tony Bates

The session seemed to go well. About 10 people turned up about 9:30 and enjoyed coffee and bagels. We went through the progress and challenges to date and most people left around 11:15.

MGOC at KTEH Volunteer II

By Bob Wall

Even though it was a Saturday night, and a lot of people were busy, we had 3 people from MGOC show up to answer phones and take pledges at KTEH, Channel 54. It was Music night, starting with the Glen Miller Spectacular, then Broadway's Lost Treasures II. We also stuffed envelopes for mailing out to people who pledged. From the feedback I have received, a good time was had by all. We were joined by SBC Pioneers, a group from SBC that does a lot of community service work.

Bob Wall, Dan Shockey and James Brown attended. As a group, MGOC members collected \$3040 in pledges (including one \$1000 pledge). There were no matching contributions this time. Dinner (Navajo Tacos) was provided.

Thanks to all who participated, and hopefully we will have a lot more for the next one. I'm going to look into having another session during the KTEH Auction in September.

MG Thought for the Day

Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "What a great ride!"

— Sent by Bill Hiland



William Shaw

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also had another pleasant surprise at the wharf. The Studebaker Drivers Club had their drive to Santa Cruz, and they were all parked on the wharf when we got there.

There were about 20 old Studes, including several Avantis. Another MGOC member, Wayne Veatch, also has a 1952 Studebaker and he was there with them. He told me he was torn over which drive to go on.

This was the end of the organized part of the drive. About a dozen of us had lunch at Olita's (Think lobster chimichanga – Yum!) on the wharf, then we hung out with each other and the Studebaker club for a while longer. Then it was time for us all to go our different directions to whatever the rest of the day held in store for us. For me, it was going back up Empire Grade to Felton Empire road again. Did I mention how much fun this road is? I now have a new route to Natural Bridges. I got back onto 9 in Felton, then headed back into the hills. All-in-all, another fun day of playing in the twisties, camaraderie, and showing off our MGs to an adoring public. Thanks to everyone who showed up.

So, what you may ask, is my next drive? The annual Springtime Mount Hamilton, Down the Back Side drive in April. But you don't have to wait for me to lead a drive. Lead one yourself. All you have to do is find a fun drive, schedule a date to do it, and let people know. Or you don't even have to organize a trip. Just get out and play in your LBC. After all, that *is* what they are for.

Remember: It's the drive, not the destination.

Update from Tom Balutis, Aug. 19, 2004

The MGA coupe is coming along. I have one more day of body prep and then it is time for primer, which I believe I will do outside, if the weather cooperates. I expect to do the color inside, of course. The chassis and engine are complete and running. This came together a lot better than I ever expected. I would strongly encourage any member who is on the fence about doing their own work, however involved, to take the plunge. This is my first full restoration, I admit it had its low spots, but I managed to overcome everything, so far.

Tom in Pennsylvania

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MGB-GT - Peter Tork* Lyrics

Lately my mind is drifting back

To former days that used to be.

I think about some folks I knew and of my MGB-GT.

People let me tell you that if I had to make a recipe

For fun in driving I would have to spell it MGB-GT.

Cruising, using, choosing it,

amusing myself without a care;

Striving, thriving, hot-rod driving,

not arriving anywhere.

Folks, this little car of mine

was like a kitten purring throatily.

Sometimes it even seemed to soar

into the heavens, my red MGB-GT.

Tooling, fueling my good feeling,

schooling me in ways to know

Soaring, flooring it, adoring it,

my little way to go.

Folks, this little car of mine

was like a kitten purring throatily.

Sometimes it even seemed to soar

into the heavens, my red MGB-GT.

But I, I learned you have to lose some things

before you treasure them, that's how it goes.

And I, I didn't give time to my car

and lost my car to time; what did I know?

And so life carries on,

And lots of things are better now for me.

And yet I think back on those golden times

When I had my red MGB-GT.



* Drummer for The Monkeys.
Lyrics submitted by Dan Neu
and Bob Wall

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DRIP PAN

News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register

Carlson Trip to Oz

Here are a few photos from New Zealand for the newsletter if you can use them. Marty Ray told me about this cool place to go to in Christchurch, NZ called Fazzaz. They have lots of MG, British Cars, and other old car stuff. I went there and took the pictures because I couldn't get a PA or TC in my luggage to bring home.



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Santa Cruz II, The Redwoods Tour Again

By Bob Wall

Saturday, August 21, was a beautiful day for a drive. We had 17 cars, including 12 MGs and 5 new Minis. Club members included Randy Grossman, Greg Paulsen, Viggo Riddersholm, Cathy and Jim Storm, Shawn Scarlett, Dennis Cox, Marty Ray, JT Kehret, James Brown, Bob Wall, Dan Shockey, and Jack and Rada Ford.

We left from Cupertino and headed for the hills. After we got into the twisties on Highway 9 outside Saratoga, we got stuck behind a slow Mitsubishi. The guy wouldn't pull over and let us pass until I honked at him. Then we got to move out a little better. It was also on this first leg of the trip that we lost James to overheating. The car, not James. He was all right though. He made it back down the hill and over to O'Connor's for a new radiator. I saw James going back up 9 as I was going down after the trip. I hope he wasn't trying to play catch-up. We made our first stop at a beautiful overlook on the west side of 9.

After the break we took off for Big Basin State Park on Highway 236. This is where my plans for a nice, spirited drive on a beautiful sports car road took a dump. Shortly after getting onto 236, we got stuck behind a very slow driver in a New Beetle and an Acura. All the way down to Big Basin! Aaaagggghhhh!!! Made me wish for a machine gun, or even better, a phaser, set on 10. Maybe a Sidewinder missile or two. I don't think we got over 25 mph the rest of the way. This is also where I have to put in an apology. The last time we made this run, the rangers at Big Basin let us park inside the park for a few minutes for a rest break without charge. Not this time. So, we had a cluster%#&\$ trying to park outside the park. Eventually, we gave up and decided to get back on the road. It was shortly after this that the Minis disappeared. We waited for them in Boulder Creek for a while, then went on. Maybe we were a little *too* disorganized for them? Hell, making up the rules as we go along is part of the fun. This is also where Marty Ray stepped in with a different route to Natural Bridges State Beach than the one I had planned. He took us up Felton Empire Road in Felton. If you ever get over there, I highly recommend a drive up this road. It's only 3 miles, but DAMN! What a blast. Then we drove down Empire Grade Road into Santa Cruz and down to the beach. Thanks Marty.



We took a break for a few minutes here, then we were off again. This time for the final leg of the trip. We drove along West Cliff Drive to The Wharf. This is another nice, easy little cruise, with a lot of pedestrians and bicyclists oohing and aahing, and waving at our cool MGs. We couldn't all park together, but we were all close. We

From the President's Desk ...

On August 7, Mike Jacobsen and I pulled the engine and transmission on my 1968 MGB. Everything came apart without a hitch and it only took about three or four hours for the removal and disassembly of the clutch and flywheel. The plan was to change the clutch and the front seal on the transmission. The clutch has been slipping and, since it didn't have that many miles on it, I came to the conclusion that it must have gotten oily from the rear seal on the engine or the front seal on the transmission.

As is usually the case when you tear an engine apart, we found other things that needed to be done so the job was delayed. We found the ring gear on the flywheel needs to be replaced and the front seal on the timing cover was leaking. What puzzles me is that the clutch was oil-soaked as I had surmised, but there is no sign of a leak from the rear seal of the engine or the front seal of the transmission! I have since bought the parts needed and had the flywheel resurfaced and the ring gear replaced. However, due to work and other projects I haven't had time to do any more work on the car.

If anyone is interested in watching/participating in the re-installation, let me know and I'll contact you when we set a date for that project.

At a later date, we'll replace the clutch in Mike's MGA. If anyone would like to help (or just watch to see what you can learn) feel free to contact Mike or me; we'd be happy for the company, help and good ideas!

Unfortunately, I had to work on August 21 and was unable to join the twelve members and others who took advantage of the wonderful weather and accompanied Bob Wall on a back roads trip to Santa Cruz. Bob's report on that trip can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Octagon*.

The August 7 swap meet at O'Connor's was a little disappointing due to a lack of attendance. Mike and I went there and picked up my parts from Brian O'Connor before tackling the job on my MGB. Although it would have been nice to see more people there, I think everyone had a good time visiting (and eating donuts!). Next year, we'll try to do a better job of letting people know about this event.

Summer is almost over, so the make the most of it while you can! Enjoy those MGs!

Bob Stine
rastine@rcn.com
 650-349-5128

Note from Pat Kaye

I found my complete (drum to drum) MGB tube type rear end. I got it from a wrecking yard in Rancho Cordova, CA, called Specialized British Recycling (888-909-7575). They specialize in Jag & Range Rover parts but also find an occasional MG or two. They are a great bunch to deal with and don't try to sell you something you don't really want. I found the part using a website called car-part.com.

- Pat Kaye

The other photo is from Auckland and shows a Mini Cooper up a wall! This really was on the side of a building in Auckland. NZ is a great place to go. In the 3 weeks we were there, I counted seven MG's on the road: one TC, two new MGF's and the rest B's.

Jim Carlson



Mini Billboard with full-size Mini. Photo: Jim Carlson

Maggie & Me & MG Makes Three

Rick Malsed, rmalsed2@juno.com

Aug 7: Hi from about 2,850 miles along the 10,000 mile road actually I'm lost in a cornfield in Iowa....followed some black carriage too close and here I is, covered in horse dung and stuck in the mud!!!

Thanks for all your e-notes into me on the web site. I really enjoy hearing from home and friends around the camp fire each night or 2. Web site had over 150 hit the first 3 days of Aug. alone.....something around 1K to date....it's an exciting surprise addition to my travel. **(Continued on page 13)**



Rick and Maggie Hit the Road in TD MagGie

The Festival of Marques

SCCA Fall Vintage Classic at Laguna Seca

October 30 & 31, 2004

MG Corral & Club Track Tour

The "Festival of Marques" is a salute to the manufacturers that made racing history by the USRRRC Seniors Tour, sponsored by Victory Lane Magazine. The Fall Vintage Classic will also include a tribute to Formula 5000, and a "Mini Challenge" event. The SCCA expects a healthy turnout of 250+ vintage racecars.

Local marque clubs will also be on hand. The clubs will be able to gather with their cars in club corrals, tour the track behind a pace car at lunch time, and enjoy a weekend of quality vintage racing. A healthy club turnout is expected, as **gate admission for the weekend is FREE.**

The Cypress MG Club is organizing a special MG Corral in the infield. And at noon on Saturday, we'll get to hit the track for a few parade laps. There is no entry cost for the event, no fee for the track tour and no helmet or special clothing requirements for the track tour. You may attend the event on either or both days but **the MG track tour will be on Saturday.**

Note that there may be a \$6 per car entry fee to the county for use of the park. There will be other marque corrals and a general British corral hosted by Moss Motors. Anyone attending will be able to enter without cost but non-club cars will have to park in general parking. This is a non-spectator event. There will be food vendors at the track.

The MG clubs have designated the Laurel Inn in Salinas for those who want to stay overnight. This is a large, clean, inexpensive motel that is convenient to Laguna Seca. (Highway 68 goes from Salinas to the track.) Make room reservations at (831) 449-2474 or (800) 354-9831. Web: www.LaurelInnMotel.com The Cypress Club will make restaurant suggestions for Saturday evening. Camping and RV reservations are made through the county park.

Please advise if you think you may attend. (Response is NOT required for attendance.) The SCCA has asked for an estimate of the number of MGs to park in the Corral. We will arrange caravans to the track from the Bay Area if there is interest. Also advise if there is interest in a caravan when you respond.

More Info and RSVP (if attending): Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927,
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Rick Malsed (from page 11)

Car running great, hood still down/off every day since Seattle. Next week, Milwaukee and then MI for the MG Summer Party Reunion!!!

Aug 24: It's been a long time since our last report. We've had grand experiences with MG lovers in Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan - 500+ at the MG Summer Party Reunion.

Leaving Ohio took us on a one hour run through Pennsylvania and into New York for overnight at the Lake Erie State Park, about an hour from Buffalo, under rain threatening skies. **(Continued on page 19.)**



Rick Malsed is towing his sleeping quarters behind his TD. That seems