

# 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

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Hot MG Summer Nights  
These MGs are on FIRE!

# September 2013

## 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.

### MGOC OFFICERS FOR 2012

**President:** Tim Polidoroff, 650-342-6443, [polidoroff@comcast.net](mailto:polidoroff@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Steve Kellogg, [webmaster@mgocsf.org](mailto:webmaster@mgocsf.org)

**Treasurer:** Marla Preston, [marlapreston@hotmail.com](mailto:marlapreston@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** Randy Grossman, [grossran001@comcast.net](mailto:grossran001@comcast.net)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Member-at-Large:** Craig Kuenzinger, 925-899-1218, [mrcraigk@aol.com](mailto:mrcraigk@aol.com)

**Member-at-Large:** David Wright, 510-653-3831

**Member-at-Large / Immediate Past President:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

### APPOINTEES

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

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

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

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

**Registrar:** Steve Kellogg, [webmaster@mgocsf.org](mailto:webmaster@mgocsf.org)

**T Register Director:** Jim Carlson, 408-224-3992, [mgjim@comcast.net](mailto:mgjim@comcast.net)

**The Octagon Editor:** Felix Lee, 650-947-9282, [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org)

**Webmaster:** Steve Kellogg, [webmaster@mgocsf.org](mailto:webmaster@mgocsf.org)

### CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

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

**MGB 1962-1974** 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)

**MG Midget:** Craig Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, [mrcraigk@aol.com](mailto:mrcraigk@aol.com)

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

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

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

### COVER PHOTO:

These MGs are on FIRE!, MGOC 2013 Annual Picnic at Kennedy Grove, Kirk Prentiss

## Club Meeting Natter & Noggin September 12, 7 p.m.

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrott Street, San Leandro

<http://www.englishpub.com>

(510) 357-3571

The Englander is an enjoyable place where we have our own cozy room.

The food is good, so bring your appetites.

Dinner Starts at 6 pm

Directions to The Englander:

**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 turn right on Parrott Street.



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### Parts for Sale:

**Four 15" chrome 72-spoke wires**, suitable for an E-type or other "large hub" wire wheel car. They're not perfect, but a couple would be decent road wheels. The other two have plating issues and would be spares. These have the "easy clean" style hubs, not the OEM rolled hubs. Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). [Posted 05/13]

**MGB Parts: Autopower Roll Bar**, SCCA Race Approved, 1.75" DOM. Roll bar has diagonal brace, horizontal seat back brace, and small restraint bar behind driver's seat. Asking \$150. Two Chrome Luggage Racks, trunk lid mounted. \$50 each. Contact Member David Wright at 510-653-3831. [Posted 05/13]

**MG Midget Rolling Chassis Body Shell**. No VIN. No Title. No engine, transmission, differential, front bumper, or windscreen. Not crashed but rough. Rubber bumper car. Make Offer. Contact Member Nick Becker at 925-932-9778 or [becker2226@astound.net](mailto:becker2226@astound.net). [Posted 05/13]

**Weber Downdraft Carburetor**: Fits MGBs, asking \$150, Contact member Tom Doyle at 520-220-6228 or at [wtdoyle@cox.net](mailto:wtdoyle@cox.net). [Posted 05/13]

**Four painted wire wheels**. Ran true and smoothly when last on my '61 A (in '2004) – stored since then. A couple will need some touch-up paint, otherwise fine. Michelin radials, functional with good tread, minor sidewall cracks. \$350 or best offer. Please contact: Mark Lange, [mark@marklange.org](mailto:mark@marklange.org) or 415-297-3456. [Posted 05/13]

**MGA transmission from a '61**. Operated perfectly when I took it out of the car in 2002 (converted to a 5-speed). \$250 or best offer. Please contact: Mark Lange, [mark@marklange.org](mailto:mark@marklange.org) or 415-297-3456. [Posted 05/13]

**For All Items Below**: Please contact member: Dave Loader at [loader.dave@gmail.com](mailto:loader.dave@gmail.com) [Posted 09/13]  
 - MGB late overdrive transmission with gear lever and switch. This unit has been rebuilt by Quantum Mechanics and never used. \$500 ono  
 - MGB PARTS. 5BRG crank, 4 pistons/rods, engine/trans plate, trans mount/stay rod, sump, engine block +.040 rebore, new pistons +.040, inlet manifold, pulley. Make offer.  
 - MGA PARTS. 1600 camshaft, flywheel, generator, inlet manifold, front engine plate. Make offer.

**For All Items Below**: Member Bob Luebbert at [r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net) [Posted 07/13]

**MG TD Head Light Tie Bracket attaches to radiator**, Moss Part # 451-100, used -- great shape! Price \$20 OBO

**Two Headlight Stone Guard for MG T-Series, come with attachments**, Moss part #222-150 \$30 obo

**Gas Cap for 1975 MG/Sprite**, never used, \$15 obo (thought it would fit on my 69 MGB - but will not)

**MG TD chromed radiator shell, false nose, slates and medallion**- total for sale at \$1000 USD obo



### 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). 2012 rates are: *monthly* (yearly): full page \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on January 1, 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*.

### MGOC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Information on the MGOC finances is available upon request from the treasurer.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org) or send them to: Felix Lee, 27330 Ursula Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

### RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers. The Club roster is available to members from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

### MGOCSE.ORG

Upcoming events, MGOC history, photos, membership forms, *The Octagon*, and helpful links are posted on the Club Web site at <http://mgocsf.org>.

## Forthcoming Events

### MGOC Events in bold

September 12 – **MGOC Club Meeting**, Natter & Noggin, The Englander Sports Pub, San Leandro, Tim Polidoroff

September 14–15 – **British Fall Classic**, Morgan Hill, Bill Hiland

September 20–22 – Orinda Classic Car Show, Orinda Country Club, Orinda

September 28 – **Livermore Wine Tour**, Livermore, Randy Grossman

September 28 – Marinwood Classic Car Show and BBQ, San Rafael, Jon Parkinson

October 19 – **Sonoma Tour**, Sonoma, Andy Preston

October 28–November 1 – GOF, Carefree, AZ



# From the Editor...

## What Ever Happened to August?

What ever happened to the month of August? Remember when August was a summer month? Those hot lazy summer afternoons followed by hot late summer nights? Remember when summer didn't really kick in until late July—early August? Remember the blistering heat that inspired the phrase, “the dog days of summer?” Remember waking up whenever you wanted, without the need for an alarm clock? All around the country, August was filled with reunions, sporting events, fairs and festivals. August had no divisions. August had no holidays. 31 days of straight, uninterrupted summer days, one running right into the other. The Boys of Summer and their pennant races were just starting to shape up. BBQs could still be had, on a whim. Northern California backroads would be peppered with meandering British Classics on either single car drives or multiple car tours. Gas was ethanol free and \$1.00 a gallon. Highways were for driving, not for parking, and the left lane was, just another lane. Those were the days ...

Well, for those of us on an academic calendar, school started on August 15. Which means, when August 1st rolled around, so did everything that starts with the phrase “Back to School ...” As in, “Back to School” supplies, “Back to School” sales, “Back to School” clothing, “Back to School” deals ... And just like that, summer for me, ended on July 30th. Instead of taking long relaxing drives to vacation capitals of the US, I'm fighting through long hectic lines at the local Staples. Instead of firing up the BBQ for a leisurely picnic, I'm attending orientation and picking up schedules. Instead of lounging around until the wee hours of night, I'm back at work, trying desperately to get kids back on a “school night” schedule and asleep by 9:00 p.m. That's right, my August, is the “New September.”

Fortunately, the MGOC does not live on an academic calendar. As the average age of the MGOC approaches retirement age, the idea of an academic calendar must seem real foreign for many of our readers. In fact, I've been told by many a retiree, “Every day is Saturday.” As such, I, and those of us born after 1958, must now live vicariously through the retiree members of the MGOC, whose Augusts remain, as it should, a summer month.

And so, despite missing many August events, my only solace is to hear and read about other's MG August summer chronicles of travel, picnics and occasional woes. As such, this issue promises not, to disappoint. That's right. Right between these pages, you will find adventures of daring travel, beyond state lines. Automotive preferences which started out British, morphed into Japanese, only to find their prodigal way back home, to British again. Ribald yarns of picnicking largesse, with enough food and drink for a Roman Legion. Sensational myths of life threatening breakdowns, which tease you in, and then promise a “Ride of Shame” account, that would rival any current urban legend, and perhaps be BSPA worthy. In the words of that once famous 1980's Australian rock band, Men at Work, “Who can it be now?” But please, try and test your patience, and not turn directly to page 8, to find out. And finally, a cordial and formal invitation, by Randy Grossman and Melissa Johnson, to drink and drive (responsibly, of course), through the town of Livermore. If you live in Livermore, consider yourself forewarned!

**August = September**

**MGOC Endorsed**

*Safety Fast!*

Felix Lee

- hoping to take back August



**1970 MGB GT** has just had the high performance engine refreshed by On the Road Again British Restorations in Morgan Hill. Any parts needing replacing or repairing was done. The engine has a new high performance cam, new hardened lifters, rockers, and valves with a ported aluminum head and Weber Side Draft carburetor. A header with a Peco exhaust is also on the car. The overdrive transmission was serviced as well as a new clutch was installed. Documentation for the work that was done is available. All the electrics are in working order and the speedo was rebuilt and a new cable was installed. The overall condition is excellent. The Bedouin Beige paint is almost new. The grill and bumpers are new. The VTO mini lite style wheels as well as the Yokohama tires are also new. The brake system was checked over and wheel cylinders installed, as well as a new master cyl. The interior is also in excellent condition with new carpet and insulation, new leather seat covers and wood steering wheel. Billet pedal covers and footrest are also installed. Included is an Alpine Bluetooth, CD, MP3 USB port stereo with dual speakers and power booster. The GT is lowered so it handles very well. It starts every time no matter how long it has been sitting. It also has a battery cut off switch. Sales price is \$17,750 or best offer. Contact member Myles Taketa at [M\\_Taketa@yahoo.com](mailto:M_Taketa@yahoo.com). [posted 05/13]



**1974 MGB Tourer** Rust-Free California car ready for the road. Very straight, glacier white, chrome bumpers, custom dark gray carpets, original excellent black upholstery, dashboard top replacement, all instruments operational, Craig radio/cassette, aluminum “minilite” wheels, tires new (2011, 500 miles), new black vinyl top (Moss, professionally installed, tonneau (1 new, 1 original), car jack and equipment in original bags, mileage: 102,000, new calipers / pads / bushings / bearings / steering boots / alignment / fuel gauge sender / instrument voltage stabilizer / rear wheel bearings / belts / hoses / etc. No clear history on engine work. Compression average 136 lbs/cylinder. Runs great. Asking \$12,450. Contact member Jack Ford at [jackrada@att.net](mailto:jackrada@att.net).



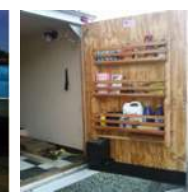
## Wanted:

**Electrical Help:** I am new to the world of MG, and am in the process of improving a 1959 MGA Roadster. I have replaced the wiring harness and need the expertise of someone with electrical know how to help me make sure I do not burn anything up when I put a battery to it. I will pay for their time and knowledge. Can you help me? I live in Walnut Creek. Contact Harry at 925-934-4973 or [TipTot@astound.net](mailto:TipTot@astound.net). [Posted 05/13]

**Pre-1968 MGB roadster:** Long-time MG nut seeking early B roadster. My preference is one that is a preserved original or one redone to original specifications; but I will consider most any steel-dash car, depending on its price and its needs. Contact Member Don Scott at 707-942-0546 or [don@napanet.net](mailto:don@napanet.net). [Posted 05/13]

## Enclosed Trailer for Rent:

Enclosed car trailer for rent (16' x 8'). Trailer has integrated braking system and lights with the tow vehicle, and a 12 volt 2,000 lb. Electric Winch. Electrical outlets in and outside the trailer and air conditioning. Rental rates are very reasonable with a discount for rentals of three or more days. Contact either Randy Grossman (415-518-5210) or Eric Baker (510-517-2165) for more information. [posted 06/13]



## MG

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

SHOCK ABSORBERS:	Front	Rear
MGTC.....	185.00	185.00
MGTD & TF.....	185.00	85.00
MGA, MGB, MGC, Midget.....	102.00	75.00
HEAVY DUTY UPGRADE.....	10.00	10.00
SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt)	\$call	

### BRAKES: sleeved and rebuilt

MGB, Midget caliper.....	\$85.00
MGA, MGC caliper.....	\$155.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1956-67.....	\$225.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00-145.00
MGB brake booster servo.....	\$175.00
MGC booster servo.....	\$445.00
Cylinder sleeved only, brass or SS.....	\$50-\$95
Kingpin swivel axle rebushed.....	\$60-\$90
Front end A-arm (Midget).....	\$95.00

### CARBURETORS: COMPLETE REBUILDING

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OC209

## 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, 27330 Ursula Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Members may also email ads to the editor at [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org).

### Cars for Sale:

**1949 MGTC** has a rebuilt engine with very few miles on it. The car has also been rewired with a new wiring harness. The car has been painted to the original color. The car has a new top and side curtains and original tool kit. The wood in the doors is in good condition. The compression in the engine is about 120 in each cylinder. I have been told that if it is driven more that number will come up higher. As to the value of the car depending on who you talk to, the price range is from \$25,000 to \$35,000. I will accept \$25,000 or more. Contact Member Larry Matthews at 415-999-2362 [Posted 08/13]



**1957 MGA Roadster** Porsche red with tan leather interior and custom hand-made dash. Fully restored by present owner. Mileage since restoration 2163. Car stored in a closed garage since restoration. Recently re-tuned and safety checks performed. The only item not original is the fuel pump. \$19,900 OBO. Contact Mike Apar [mapcar1@mac.com](mailto:mapcar1@mac.com) or 530-268-8539. [Posted 07/13]



**1959 MGA Coupe** black lacquer with red leather interior and custom dash. Fully restored by present owner. Mileage since restoration 4247. The only item not original is the fuel pump. Car was stored in closed garage since restoration Recently re-tuned and brakes checked. All safety checks performed. \$15,900 OBO. Contact Mike Apar [mapcar1@mac.com](mailto:mapcar1@mac.com) or 530-268-8539. [Posted 07/13]



**'64/'65 MGB Roadster Project Car.** Up on blocks for 8 years and in DNO status. It doesn't look bad, but does have issues. Other photos are available and we welcome inquiries. In Livermore, CA Contact Wes Nelson at 925-447-4393 or [WESNEL@ATT.NET](mailto:WESNEL@ATT.NET). [posted 06/13]



**1965 MGB** A rusty donor car for my other '65. Will be parting out and/or sell remains. Always registered, clear title. Contact MGOC member Rich Upton at [richupton55@comcast.net](mailto:richupton55@comcast.net) or 510 534-1705 [Posted 06/13]

## President's Ponderings ...

Hello Again. I wanted to start out by recognizing and thanking George Steneberg and Marcia Crawford for their hard work in helping organize our August Annual Picnic and monthly general meeting. What a wonderful event .... good friends, good weather, and great cars ... does it get any better than that? For more details, see Kim Kuenzinger's article later in this newsletter.

Next, I wanted to thank Marla Preston, for agreeing to serve as our new MGOC Treasurer, replacing Mike Jacobsen, who had previously held this position for many years. As part of this change, Steve Kellogg will assume the role of club Registrar that, was also previously held by Mike, for many years.

Earlier this month, I sent out an e-mail blast announcing that Clint Wright, of British Car Repair in San Rafael, who hosted the MGOC in July at his garage for our "Everything you wanted to know about brakes" Tech Session, and agreed to write a monthly Tech Q&A column for *The Octagon*. At the time, I asked members to send in any of their MG related car repair or maintenance questions. To those who responded, my thanks. Clint will begin answering your questions at the rate of 3 or 4 questions per month beginning with our October edition of *The Octagon*. Felix and I hope this new column will be a fun and informative new addition to our newsletter.

At the same time, member, Wayne Veatch wondered how he might share a very positive service experience he had during the rebuild of his MGB generator. As the board pondered this and many other similar questions, we decided that the best venue to share such, and similar experiences, would be our "Members Only Forum" section of our MGOC website.

Sharing information here has a number of advantages. Firstly, the Members Only Forum is for "Members Only," so both positive and negative experiences can be shared in a respectful manner. Secondly, the Members Only Forum offers an easy way for members to search and find the information they need. And, thirdly, the Members Only Forum is not "space limited." (No 140 character limits here)

That said, so far, we haven't had much activity on our MGOC Members Only Forum page. It doesn't have to be this way. For example, Southern CA's Vintage Motoring (an online community dedicated to Southern California's classic car culture) at <http://www.vintagemotoring.net/> has a very lively Forum section with over 1400 posts to their "Technical Discussion" page and almost 300 posts to their "Vendor Recommendation" page. Check it out and then check out our MGOC Members Only Forum page at <http://www.mgocsf.org>, but don't forget to sign in first. If you have any trouble signing in, please let our webmaster, Steve Kellogg know at [webmaster@mgocsf.org](mailto:webmaster@mgocsf.org).

Finally, a reminder about the upcoming "Second Annual British Fall Classic" car show being held Sunday, 9/15 in downtown Morgan Hill. (For those showing their cars, the event is preceded by a drive and reception on Saturday, 9/14) For more information follow this link... <http://thebritishfallclassic.com/>. Your MGOC is an event sponsor.

Regards,  
Tim Polidoroff



BTW, Tim just celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. To honor this milestone, Molly and Tim have restored a '68 Cougar which has been in his family since new. It just got back from the paint/body shop, in time for a birthday drive on the coast. "Hard to believe, but there is more to life than MGs!"

Photo and Quote by Molly Polidoroff



# Meet Our Newest Member

Prodigal Brit

By Rudy Flinker

In the past, I owned two MGs: 1964 MGB and 1969 MGC. I acquired them in the late 70's. The '64 was my daily driver for several years and took considerable time, skill and effort to keep running.

Seemed like every day, there was something to be attended to and never any money to buy the right parts. With a bit of luck, I found an MGC that didn't cost much more than my MGB was worth, so I moved up the food chain, MG-wise. The MGC was a delight and needed only a little work on one of the brake boosters to get on the road. Once up and running, it required much less work, but I had to put off a valve job for a long time and suffer through a lot of blue smoke. I enjoyed it for several years until it was time to give up the British bug and move onto reliable Japanese transport in the form of an RX7.

The major theme of my years with these MGs was, that I didn't have enough money to "do it right," and was always concocting some new way to keep them running, without spending anything. Boy, did it bug me to see what I could have had, if only there was enough money!

Fast forward to today, and I find myself with more time and money (sound familiar?) and through my son, located a "barn find" 74 MGB (chrome bumpers and overdrive). It was owned by a lovely lady who had driven it for 10 years, kept it up quite thoroughly, and finally put it away 15 years ago with the hope that her sons would enjoy working on it and driving it in the future. No such luck, but my son works with one of them and he put

the two of us together. It was in excellent shape for having been stored outdoors for some of its down-time with some surface rust, but virtually no body rust at all! Even the undercarriage is rather clean with little of the oil/gunk residue that I was used to before. But, considering the visual mess it was in, she was willing to let it go quite cheaply with the promise, that I bring it back to show her, when it is back in shape.

We got it running (surprisingly easily) and have been going through it part-by-part, to replace the brakes, the hydraulics, the interior (the original was weathered to a crisp!), and a gorgeous polished stainless steel exhaust system (always wanted to do that!) With the help of Moss Motors and other providers, we're working through the worn-out parts. The paint was originally olive drab (who thought of that color?!) and at some point, it was painted an interesting dark green metallic. Once the dirt and crud was washed off, we found it to be in rather good shape and may actually not need anything but a few touch-ups.

Once road-worthy, we got to see how the running gear works! Do you think there will be some overheating issues? The MGB is now complete, except for having the dings removed and a new BRG paint job. I drive it as often as I can and it behaves beautifully. Starts like a dream, corners well, stops OK (the brakes are stiffer than I remember), the interior looks great, and the exhaust note makes it all worthwhile. Now, I need a tonneau cover since I took the top off for the summer! I look forward to driving it to MGOC events and joining you for excursions. Cheers!



Photo by Rudy Flinker

(delivered) or \$210.68 total. Since we charge new members \$5 for their badge the actual cost to the club is \$85.68. Had we purchased the old style badges there would still be a cost as the old badges now cost about \$8/badge (not including post).

Craig to develop an MGOC flier for distribution at the Fall Classic. We'll ask Bill Hiland to print the flyer and send Mike the bill, up to the \$50 approved for printing.

## New Business

Discussion regarding Board composition and making the Registrar position part of the Webmaster's duties. Moved & approved.

Discussion about dropping the \$5 new member initiation fee, since the Club is no longer purchasing name badges. A motion was passed to drop this fee.

## Next Meeting

The Englander at 7pm on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at: 11:20 AM

Submitted by: Randy Grossman



# Collins

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# MGOC Business Meeting Minutes

## August 10, 2013

**Call to Order:** Present: President Tim Polidoroff\* called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Also attending were Bill Becker, Jing Chai, Marcia Crawford, Gary & Janet Germano, Ken Gittings, Randy Grossman\*, Mike Jacobsen\*, Steve Kellogg\*, Craig & Kim Kuenzinger\*, Molly Polidoroff, Dan Shockey, George Steneberg\*, Wendy Taylor, and David & Christine Wright. (\* - Denotes Board Member)

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:** July 6, 2013

### Reports

Treasurer's Report Mike Jacobsen:

Account	August	July
Checking	11,669.63	9,718.87
Savings	3,461.32	3,461.23
Total	15,130.95	13,180.10

Balance increase is almost completely due to renewals, with a bit of regalia thrown in. Expenses include the contribution to the British Fall Festival, the last batch of new member name badges, and printing the August newsletter, for a total of approximately \$500.

Registrar's Report Mike Jacobsen:

Category	August	July
Regular	277	271
Corresponding	18	12
Total	295	283

Two new members plus several existing members that decided to add their spouses, taking advantage of the new Bylaws regarding membership. 55 memberships (71 members) still to renew out of 228 memberships – about average for the first month of renewals.

Secretary's Report Randy Grossman: Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report George Steneberg: No activity

Regalia David Wright: Last "old-style" grille badge sold.

The Octagon Felix Lee: Felix requested an article and pictures of the Picnic. Felix also requested technical questions for the on-going technical assistance column Clint Wright will be doing each month.

Website Steve Kellogg: There is a glitch in the email system being resolved by Steve. Name badges can be ordered from the website.

### Past Events

Swanton Berry Farm Tour Saturday, July 13 – Tour had ten cars and 19 people. Was well received.

Hillsborough Concours Sunday, July 21 30 – Craig won a 1<sup>st</sup> place amid stiff competition.

NAMGBR MG2013 in Corvallis, OR: Andy Preston won 1<sup>st</sup> place in his class, but his car broke down on the way home. Andy could be a "Burnt Spark Plug Award" nominee.

### Upcoming Events

The British Fall Classic event on September 14-15 in Morgan Hill, organized by On the Road Again Restorations. Craig Kuenzinger is calling for more judges for this event.

The Wine Barrel Creations Tour to El Sol Winery in Livermore on September 28<sup>th</sup>: Randy Grossman and Melissa Johnson will be leading the tour. It will wind down Palamares Road and Niles Canyon Road, stopping first at the Singing Winemaker, and then on to the El Sol Winery in Livermore for lunch and wine tasting including a barrel tasting. There is a \$25 per head fee for the lunch and wine.

### Old Business

New name badges approved (members can order their new badges online effective 8/1) – Tim Polidoroff

### Business Resolved Online Since the Last Meeting

A motion to approve \$210.68 (total) to purchase and deliver (by post) the "new style" name badges for our 25 new members. The badges purchased are of the new design (with magnetic clip) recently approved by the Board. The cost is \$8.43/badge

# MGOC Annual Picnic (and Meeting)

## BBQ and Minutes Never Smelled So Good

By Kim Kuenzinger

The 2013 Annual MGOC Picnic was delightful! It was a cool day at Kennedy Grove near San Pablo Dam in San Pablo, and when the fog cleared, it was just right. The set-up crew arrived at 9:30. They readied the BBQ and set out coffee, tea, and snacks. The Rangers had corded off a nice area for "MG Only" parking and all was ready.



The business meeting started at 10:30 sharp! All the necessary items on the agenda were covered and it was great to see new faces around the table. The meeting finished in record time, the charcoal was lit and we were off.

There was lots of food to share and good conversation as well. As usual, the guys talked about "car guy" stuff and the ladies commented on the guys talking about "car guy stuff!" We all enjoyed some good conversation and got to know each other a bit better.



A few new faces joined us this year. Bud and Barbara Sanders from San Jose came and are shopping for a nice TD or TF. They will be joining the club soon and hope to find the MG they REALLY want. Another new member was Jing Chai, who lives in Sunnyvale. He came in his late 60s Midget. And finally, we met Walter and Carol Kilik. They live in Saratoga and have a TD they inherited from an aunt in Canada. (We really get these cars from everywhere don't we?)

After lunch, we had a raffle organized by Marcia and George. Many nice T-shirts, books, posters, and merchandise were awarded as names were drawn. Before we knew it, the day was over and everyone headed down the road again. A nice surprise was that the local Boy Scout Troop was coming to do some park clean-up to earn one of their badges. They graciously took out the staples we had used to keep our plastic table cloths on the wood picnic table. Thanks Scouts!

Many thanks to Marcia and George for organizing a delightful afternoon!

Photos by Ken Gittings



# BURNT SPARK PLUG AWARD



..... TO BE CONTINUED

Photos by Ken Gittings



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## MGOC 2013 Annual Picnic

MGOC Annual Picnic Submission by Kirk Prentiss

**When:** August 10, 2013

**What:** Our First Event!

**Who:** Kirk and Amy Prentiss

**Where:** There!

**Why:** Wanted to meet others and their MGs.



MGOC Annual Picnic Submission by Bud Sanders

**When:** August 10, 2013

**What:** Our first club event was a very enjoyable one for us. As MG wannabes, we looked forward to meeting MG owners and hearing some stories about that Life ...

**Who:** Bud and Barbara Sanders

**Where:** Kennedy Grove

**Why:** We met many members ... who were all very welcoming ... and spent extra time with George Steneberg, who shared lots of info and experiences about his TD. George later sent us an email about a TD for sale. We also spent extra time with Tim and Molly Polidoroff talking about Molly's TD. Club members kindly let us sit in their TDs so that we could take some pictures and get a feel for them. Since the picnic event, Bud had a chance to drive a TD for the first time at a consignment dealer in Burlingame ... and later that day spent time at the Polidoroff home, admiring their 3 MGs, and hearing more of their stories. All in all, our joining the MG Club has done exactly what we hoped, allowing us to get acquainted with MG owners and expand our exploration of the world of MGs.



Photos by Kirk Prentiss and Bob Sanders



# MG 2013 Corvallis, Oregon

NAMBR 2013

By Andy Preston

The national NAMGBR MG 2013, held at the State University of Oregon campus in Corvallis from July 17-20, was a fantastic event with lots of activities for everyone; in fact, there was so much to do, that it was impossible to participate in everything.

A group of 6 cars (Mike Jacobsen and Elaine Chan, Ken Gittings, Sheryl King, Dennis Odea, Doug Hollander, Marla and I) met in Rohnert Park on July 16, for a leisurely drive north to the event. We picked up another 2 MGBs (Ray Bresnan, Jim and Peg Legg, and Jim Brady) in Healdsburg. Another car joined us in Eureka and lastly, Wayne and Janet Veatch, joined us at our overnight stop in Crescent City. So, our final caravan into Corvallis was 11 cars strong.

We arrived at around 4:00 pm, registered for events, and had plenty of time to make it to the BBQ with over 250 participants from all over the US and Canada. I had the great fortune to sit with Kelvin Dodd (Moss Motors) and the legendary, John Twist. I talked to John at some length about the trouble I was having with my car and excess oil consumption of 1 qt for every 200 miles. More about that in our "Ride of Shame" article to follow.

One of the great things about these national events is that people come from all over the place and you get to see and talk to friends that you have made over the years. These people aren't afraid to drive their MGs across the country and come from as far away as Michigan, Alabama, Minnesota, and North Carolina. One group took 9 days to drive there!!!

The schedule of activities was vast and

included a guided covered bridge tour (which many of us did), funkana, TSD/Gimmick rally, several tech sessions, John Twist's rolling tech sessions, ladies tea (complete with cucumber sandwiches and scones), botanical walking tour, hospitality room, car show, crafts, valve cover races, and the awards banquet.

The car show was held on the final day (Saturday), on the great lawn, in front of the Student's Union. This was a fabulous setting surrounded on all sides by 100 year old trees, which provided plenty of shade. There were over 260 cars on display, mainly Bs, but a great contingent of As, Midgets, other MG models, and other British cars.

The awards banquet was held Saturday night and attended by over 300 people. It was complete with good friends, food, the usual speeches, auctions, and awards. MGOC was well represented and won the following awards.

Andy and Marla Preston

1st Place Early MGB 1965-67

Sheryl King and Dennis Odea

2nd Place TSD rally

Ken Gittings

2nd Place Valve Cover Races

Wayne and Janet Veatch

3rd Place Valve Cover Races

On Sunday morning, after all the goodbyes to both old and new friends, we all headed home, going our different ways. Everyone had a wonderful time and the Willamette Car Club couldn't have been more gracious and helpful. If you ever get a chance to attend one of these national events, I'd definitely recommend it, and I guarantee you'll make a lot of new friends and have a great time.



Photos by Janet Veatch

# MGOC Fashionistas



Elaine Chan, Marla Preston and Janet Veatch

Check out those NAMGBR Corvallis ID Badges

Large Print means No Squint!

If you have any outlandish MG Attire, send in a photo and be our MGOC Fashionistas for the month

Photo by Andy Preston

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## Start Planning for the rest of 2013 ...

### FALL - WINTER



SCOTTISH GAMES, 8/31-9/1  
 BRITISH FALL CLASSIC, MORGAN HILL, 9/14-15  
 ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW, 9/20-22  
 DANVILLE D'ELEGANCE, 9/21-22  
 LIVERMORE WINE TOUR, 9/28  
 NIELLO CONCOURS AT SERRANO, 10/6  
 SONOMA TOUR, 10/19  
 GOF WEST, CAREFREE, AZ, 10/28-11/1  
 PIGEON PT. LIGHTHOUSE TOUR, 11/16  
 TURKEY TROT, 11/16  
 MGOC HOLIDAY TEA, SAN FRANCISCO, 12/14

#### Wanted

Submissions of articles / photos /  
 anecdotes / repairs

are always welcome

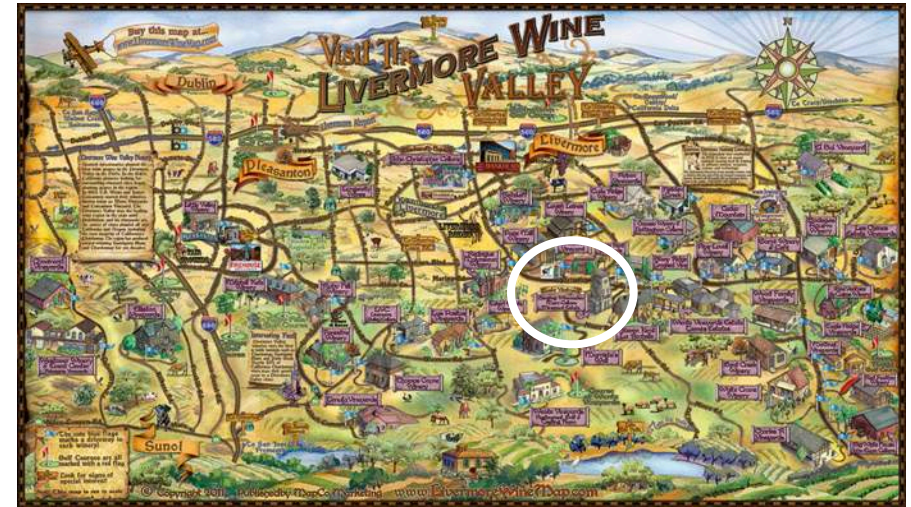
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*Join Melissa Johnson and Randy Grossman*

*Saturday, September 28th*

*For a fun-filled MG adventure to the Livermore wine country on some beautiful sections of Palomares  
 and Niles Canyon Roads just made for MG's*

*The group will end up for lunch and wine tasting at the El Sol Winery in Livermore  
 We'll meet at our house on 874 Rodney Drive in San Leandro at 10:30 AM for some bagels,  
 juice, and coffee, and then leave about 11:00 AM for Livermore*

*On the way, our group will stop at the Singing Winemaker  
 where we'll be serenaded by Steve, the singing guitar player while tasting wine for those who choose to do so  
 When we get to El Sol, you will enjoy a Mexican lunch, consisting of tacos (with your choice of two  
 different meats), beans, and rice and of course your wines, including a barrel tasting*

*The cost of your lunch including wines and barrel tasting will be \$25 per person*

*Join us for a crushing experience!*

*For those attending, please make your check out to MGOC and provide me with your contact  
 information so we will know who is attending the event*

*Send your check by September 21st to:*

*Randy Grossman  
 874 Rodney Drive  
 San Leandro, CA 94577*

*If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-518-5210 (cell), 510-483-3171  
 (home), or my email: [grossran001@comcast.net](mailto:grossran001@comcast.net)*

# MEET OUR NEW TREASURER AND REGISTRAR

E-INTERVIEW BY SAMANTHA LEE



**Samantha Lee: Where did you grow up?**

Marla Preston: Until I was in Middle School I was an "Army Brat" and we were stationed in places as far away as Turkey. My father retired out of the Presidio in S.F. So from Middle School on I lived in Marin

**SL: What was your family's car?**

MP: My parents loved big American cars so we had Chrysler Imperials

**SL: How did you become interested in MG cars?**

MP: My parents bought me a British racing green MG Midget for my 16th Birthday. It was always in the shop!

**SL: How long have you been in MGOC?**

MP: We think since 1996 when we bought our first MG, a 1974 MGBGT.

**SL: Wow, that's 17 years, like before I was born**

**SL: What kind of MG car do you drive?**

MP: I have several to choose from, but my favorite to drive is the 1974 MGBGT, it was my daily driver for awhile and has sentimental value as our first MG restoration

**SL: What is your most favorite MGOC Event?**

MP: Probably when we hosted the NAMGBR in 2007

**SL: Why did you decide to become Treasurer?**

MP: Initially to help Mike Jacobsen out who has been doing so much for the MGOC for many years. Then I thought it would be fun to get more involved with the club

**SL: Are you good with money?**



MP: I would like to think so, I have been told I am fairly good at spending it

**SL: Me too ...**

**SL: How much do you think a tooth is worth?**

MP: I haven't been in touch with the tooth fairy in many years, so I do not know the going rate

**SL: I think it should be at least \$5**

**SL: What if the tooth came out of the mouth of an MGOC member?**

MP: Again, I would have to defer to the tooth fairy. It might have something to do with who has been naughty or nice

**SL: Uhh, that would be Santa Claus ...**

**SL: What do you plan to do as Treasurer?**

MP: Make a few changes, such as adding PayPal as an option for members to pay dues, and generally just trying to keep the books balanced and in the black

**SL: Uhh, not green? Money is green ...**

**SL: Are there any funny MG stories you would like to share? Any breakdowns?**

MP: My favorite story happened when we were returning home from the Autumn Classic in San Juan Bautista. My husband, Andy, promised me that we wouldn't need the top to our 1967 MGB Roadster so it was left at home. Needless to say, it poured rain all the way from San Juan Bautista to Sonoma County. I was not very amused but anyone who has been in this situation knows that if you drive fast enough you can keep fairly dry. We got a little soggy going through SF but I was amazed at how dry we actually kept. Lesson learned, we haven't travelled any long distances without a top since!

**SL: Nice, Thank you**



**Samantha Lee: Where did you grow up?**

Steve Kellogg: Berkeley, CA

**SL: That explains a lot ...**

**SL: What was your family's car?**

SK: American Motors Rambler and a Rebel and then we got a Mazda RX 7

**SL: Hmmm (nothing British?)**

**SL: How did you become interested in MG cars?**

SK: Through my wife, Vicky, whose family had them when she was a kid

**SL: Like me?**

**SL: How long have you been in MGOC?**

SK: 3 years

**SL: I've been a member for 7 years, since I was 6 years old. Why did you wait so long?**

SK: Uhh ...

**SL: What kind of MG car do you drive?**

SK: 1955 MGTF 1500 and a 1973 MGB Roadster

**SL: What is your most favorite MGOC Event?**

SK: The Tech Sessions

**SL: With Professor Kuenzinger?**

**SL: Why did you decide to become Registrar?**

SK: To help out wherever I can

**SL: Are you good at math homework?**

SK: Nope ...

**SL: Wait, but you went to ... Berkeley, nevermind ...**

**SL: Are you good with registering?**

SK: I'm not sure - we'll find out

**SL: How many members do we have in the MGOC?**

SK: About 228, at last count

**SL: How many members would you like to have in the MGOC?**



SK: Oh, about 1 million, although 228 participating members, would work out just as well ...

**SL: Gotcha, (wink ;), wink ;) ... )**

**SL: What do you plan to do as Registrar?**

SK: Look into a PayPal-like plan to renew membership and join the club online through the web site

**SL: Do you mean our fantastic new MGOC website, put together and managed by our great webmaster, where you can find all the past editions of The Octagon and relive old memories at <http://www.mgocsf.org/About/TheOctagonNEWSLETTER.aspx> ?**

SK: Yep, that's the one ... put together and managed by our great webmaster (wink ;), wink ;) ...)

**SL: Then how come no one ever uses our forums?**

SK: Sheesh, next question ...

**SL: Are there any funny MG stories you would like to share? Any breakdowns?**

SK: Burned three AAA tows when the tachometer drive rolled into a nut on the distributor cap killing the engine when we first got the TF. The first major breakdown was on a trip to Murphy's, when the clutch link fell off. Good thing we were with some MG guys because they were able to fix it with a couple of heavy duty clothes hangers, that someone just happened to be carrying, and we were able to drive it that way for a couple of months. Any time we're in the MGs and with friends in the clubs, it's always a good time.

**SL: Nice, Thank you**