

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

O'Connor Classics Open House, Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.).....	11
Clutch Tech Session, Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.).....	9
Annual Dinner, Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.).....	4-5
South Bay 'Natter, Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.).....	23

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events.....	3
Annual Dinner .....	4-5
From the Editor.....	6
Santa Cruz Tour; St. Patrick's Day Parade.....	7
Tour to Crater Lake; MG2005.....	8
Tech Sessions; Mt. Hamilton Tour.....	9
<i>The Drip Pan</i> – Click & Clack .....	10
GoF West; O'Connor Open House.....	11
<b>MGs By the Bay</b> Update.....	12-13
Notes from Members .....	14-16
New Members; North Bay 'Natter.....	16-17
News from the Auction Block .....	18
Meeting Minutes; Derelicts Gathering.....	19-20
Cross Country to Virginia.....	21
Classified Ads.....	22



*A large group came to the Photo Shoot at the San Leandro Marina on January 22. We needed publicity shots for our event. Shockey Photo*

# February 2005

## 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 2005

**President:** David Wright, Oakland, 510-653-3831

**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)

**Activities Director:** Randy Grossman, 510-483-3171,

[r.m.grossman@comcast.net](mailto:r.m.grossman@comcast.net)

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

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

[MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:mgoc@felixwong.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:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.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, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**Bodywork:** Bill Weissberg, 209-835-0428, [weissber@slip.net](mailto:weissber@slip.net)

### 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). 2005 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75).

## Natter & Noggin with Club Meeting

**Mar. 10, 2005 (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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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, Feb. 25, 2005, 8 p.m.

Join us for an informal gathering in the South Bay. We'll meet at a fun British Pub. Our attendance has been good and we're trying the Britannia Arms on DeAnza just north of Hwy 85, between Cupertino and San Jose. The pub's parking lot fills up on Friday evenings but we can park together in the business lot across the side street (Fallen Leaf Lane), if necessary.

**The Britannia Arms, 1087 S. DeAnza Blvd., San Jose, (408) 252-7262**

Directions: From Hwy 85 south of I-280, take the DeAnza exit and go north. Make a U-turn at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light past the highway. The Pub will then be on your right. Try the lot in front of Galaxy Lighting. If we're not there, check the business parking lot north of Fallen Leaf Lane.

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

## Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car lover with 14 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 available. Call for an appointment for a free estimate.

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

## 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](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

**1967 MGB-GT:** Wire wheel car. No motor or transmission. Interior is fair, serviceable. Fairly easy to turn into a running car. The shell is essentially rust free and straight, with a few rough edges. A few hundred dollars is my asking price. Also restored 1969 MGB GT shell with rebuilt suspensions. Ready to paint.

**Parts for MGB 64-69+:** many used and a few NOS. 3-main motors, heads, manifolds, radiators, transmission, suspension, wheels/tires, gauges, electrics, alternators, generators, starters, brakes, glass, body sundries, and more. Member Marty Ray, Santa Cruz, 831-475-6204, 831-247-5863 cell or [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**From Craig's List:** My husband died last year. I must now sell his MGs and MG parts, tools, gauges, etc. MGB 1968: \$1,500. Mazda B-2200 engine. MGB/GT 1972: \$1,000. Toyota engine with 4 speed. MGB 1963: Project. Best offer. Buick alum. V-8 engine & 5-speed transmission. MGB 1979: spare parts car. Best offer. Virginia Kean, 650-364-0277, [vkean80@aol.com](mailto:vkean80@aol.com)

**1969 Sprite:** in Novato. 2<sup>nd</sup> owner. Garaged 3 years ago. In very good shape. Joyce Kleege at 415-898-2636. (Info from member Bob Luebbert)

**'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](mailto:luebbert@spade.net)

**1953 MGTD** to sell. Body and Interior mostly restored. Engine worked on extensively. Beige with brown fenders. Asking about \$12,000. Non-member Sandy Lauren, 510-444-4044, [slauren813@yahoo.com](mailto:slauren813@yahoo.com)

**1978 MGB:** Fair condition. White with black. Good top & paint. \$3500/offer. Non-member Eugene Egger (650) 861-9354 San Jose

**Craig's List** – [www.craigsls.com](http://www.craigsls.com) – has proven a good place to trade MGs and parts in the Bay Area. There is no fee.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. SSTS: Sorry Safari Touring Society, ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders

Every Sat. – Donut Derelicts, Los Altos, Martinez, page 20

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **O'Connor's Open House**, page 11

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – **Clutch Install Tech Session**, Bob Stine, page 9

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **MGOC Annual Dinner**, pages 4-5

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) – **South Bay Natter & Noggin**, page 23

Feb 26-27 – SSTS Tour, MGOC member Bob Luebbert

Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – Hayward Swap Meet & Car Show, (510) 835-6069

March 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **Radiator Tech Session**, John Hunt, page 9

March 13<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – **MGs in St. Patrick's Parade**, San Francisco, page 7

Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **Santa Cruz Tour & Garage Sale**, Marty Ray, page 7

Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sat.) – **Detailing Tech Session**, Bill Hiland's Shop, Mike Jacobsen

Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **MGOC Mt. Hamilton Tour**, Bob Wall, page 9

Apr. TBD – **Tech Session**. Jim Carlson's home, Saratoga

May 1<sup>st</sup> (Sun.) – Hillsborough Concours

May 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) - **MGs by the Bay** (San Leandro Marina) – MGOC, page 12

May 14-15 - Moss British Extravaganza at Buttonwillow

May 15<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) - **Dixon British Car Meet**

June 3-5 - Wine Country Classic Vintage Races, Sears Point, **MG Caravan & Corral** (Sun.)

June 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) – **Celtic Festival at Ardenwood Farms**, Fremont, MG Display, page 7

June 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) - **Hayward British Car Meet**

June 24-26 – **MGOC Crater Lake Tour**, Randy Grossman, page 8

June 26<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) – Palo Alto Concours

July 7-10, 2005 - **NAMGBR Annual Meet**, Olympia, Washington, Local clubs caravan, James Brown, [www.MG2005.com](http://www.MG2005.com)

## Fremont Automotive

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## Forthcoming Events (continued)

July 11-15 - **GOF West**, page 11  
 July 12-16 - **NAMGAR GT-30**, Michigan, Mike Jacobsen driving!  
 Late July - **North Bay Wine Tour**, Prestons  
 Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) - **MGOC Annual Picnic, with Poker Run**, Peninsula  
 Aug. 11-14 - **Rendezvous**, Yachats, OR, Area clubs caravan  
 Aug. 12-14 - **Monterey Historics**  
 Sept 10-11 - **Palo Alto Meet**  
 Sept./Oct - **MG Corral & Track Tour**, CSRG, Sears Point, David Wright  
 Oct 15-16 - **Autumn Classic**, San Juan Bautista  
 Oct. TBD - **Bob Wall Tour**  
 Nov. TBD - **Pierce Manifolds Tour**, Dan Shockey  
 Dec. TBD - **MGOC Holiday Tea**, Grossmans

## Door Prizes Added!

## Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto opened in 1890 and the name Spenger's has become synonymous with wholesome fresh fish to dock workers, fisherman, Cal students, politicians, socialites and movie stars. Over a century of ship's wheels, anchors, rigging and paintings are mounted in Spenger's collection of more than 500 antique and modern guns and the Diamond Bar's Star of Denmark, a 34 carat diamond ring given to Hawaii's Queen Kapiolani.

**The Club will provide two bottles of wine per table. Door prizes will be awarded. These will include the cost of one dinner (\$35), a club grill badge and other club regalia.**



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## Cross-Country to Virginia, Part I

by MGOC member Dave McCann

So my line of work tends to keep me moving around. Those of you who've known me for a while know this. The job I was doing in Corvallis, Oregon (I lived in Albany, Oregon, the next town over; both are in the Willamette Valley, 70 miles south of Portland) ended and I got to looking around for something else to keep me off the streets. For a while it looked like I was going to be working in Southern California again, but the client was having trouble getting their act together (all too common in this industry) and so I continued to look around. The newest and best project around looked to be in Richmond, Virginia, so I thought I'd see if I could work on that. Also, I'd been on the West Coast for a while, so I thought Richmond might be interesting. It took awhile for this project to start, but now that things are together I find myself in Richmond and things are good. It's been a couple of months since I packed everything up and left Oregon, so I've pretty much settled in now. I left one MG on the West Coast (pretty much had to; Just Don't Ask), but the other one is now in Virginia (not counting the one I share with my father, that's still in Ohio).

I had originally planned to flat tow the MG (my white '64 MGB) behind my truck, but my father suggested that he fly out and drive the truck and I could drive the MG. I had not ever towed the MG with the tow bar and had only just gotten some brackets made to hook it up; it was going to be several thousand miles; it seemed like a large gap for Murphy to jump in. Anyway, my father likes driving as much as I do and there would be ample opportunity to see a fair portion of the country during the trip (quite a lot of the country).



*The Car, The Bridge & The City Beyond. Dave McCann photo.*

My schedule wouldn't allow too much leeway, but the timing was right to allow one final excursion on the West Coast. The last Saturday in August is the annual open house for the LeMay Collection. Let me step in here and tell you a little about Harold LeMay. Harold started buying cars at some point in his life and really never stopped. I also heard that he never sold any, not a single one. He ended up with over three thousand vehicles when he died back in 2000 (at 81). Among other things, he had more fire trucks than any single municipality in Washington.

To Be Continued....

to push this event. We had a large turnout the last time we had it at Spengers. We plan to discuss events rather than have a guest speaker. We agreed to award regalia and one dinner as door prizes.

MGs By the Bay: The annual MGOC show will be held at the San Leandro Marina city-owned parking lot on May 7. Randy Grossman will be the liaison and coordinator for this important club event. Awards: Bob has an appointment to get a quote from a shop in San Mateo. Nancy Shane will design the artwork (also for the T shirts). Dan to email a request for a photo shoot at the Marina on Jan. 22. at 11 a.m. Music: Dan to check on whether Bev and Tom Morgan can entertain us again this year. Bob will also check with a blues group he knows as a back-up or second group (if needed).

#### OLD BUSINESS

The awards to be presented at the *MGs By the Bay* event were discussed again. (See above).

#### NEW BUSINESS

It was agreed that a stipend of \$10 per month shall be given to the editor of *The Octagon* to cover incidental costs of producing the newsletter.

Events suggestions: It was agreed to expand the Photo Shoot on Jan. 22 to include an events planning meeting. The Club will provide pizza.

Event suggestions so far: Bob Wall has chosen April 16 for his Mt. Hamilton Climb. We had a request for a North Bay Wine Tour. Jim Carson offered to do one or two tech sessions including an engine rebuild for his TD. Bob Stine offered to continue the tech session to complete his clutch job. We discussed having an MG corral at the Wine Country Classics vintage races at Sears Point (see Calendar). We decided to caravan to the event and park together. There is interest in a fun rally such as a Poker Run or a Mystery Tour. We agreed to combine it with the picnic as we have in the past. Other tech sessions proposed: cleaning & detailing, carb rebuild, tranny rebuild. Garage tours: the Toy Box. Racetrack tours: Vacaville, Pebble Beach, etc. Caravan to the NAMGBR meet in Washington. Don Martine volunteered to hold a garage tour. We want to promote the GoF in Solvang. Other tours: Henry Coe Park and Black Diamond Mine.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next business meeting is to be held at the Annual Dinner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Shockey, MGOC Secretary

## Derelicts' Gathering

Bob Wall reports that there has been a large and varied turn out for this Car Guy Thing. Meet between 8am and 9:30am every Saturday morning. The bookstore/coffee shop is on the ground floor of the red brick Los Altos Town Crier Building between Main and State Streets. There's parking in the State Street parking lot as well as in front of the bank next to the Town Crier.

Gary Anderson, [Editorgary@aol.com](mailto:Editorgary@aol.com) (Founder of *British Car* magazine)

## MGOC Annual Dinner

### Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, Berkeley

### February 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.



Please join us.  
No host bar begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner will begin at 7:15 p.m.



Place: Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto  
1919 Fourth Street (cross street is Hearst)  
Berkeley, CA. 94710 (510) 845-7771

Directions: Take the University exit east off I-880. Immediately get on 4<sup>th</sup> St. (Take right exit before the overpass) Turn left. Spenger's will be on your right. Use the Banquet entrance.

Menu: Grilled Mahi-Mahi with Citrus Barbeque Sauce  
or Roast Sirloin of Beef Au Jus

**Price per person is \$35.00**

Checks and RSVP to Nina Barton. Indicate menu selections.  
21 Avenida Dr.  
Berkeley, CA. 94708  
(510) 845-7212  
or e-mail to [ninaba@mindspring.com](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)

**Please RSVP by February 5** so we can give Spenger's a final count.  
Hope to see you there!

## From da Ed...

Greetings. It feels like spring – and the newsletter is packed with event info, so it must be. I may have to leave this column out to get everything in. I hope to share the space with our new club president, David Wright. He is always up to something interesting.

I am thrilled to announce that the engine is now back into the 1935 MG (model PA) Midget. I have yet to attach manifold, exhaust, and so forth before starting it up. It turns freely by hand so I am hopeful I did okay on it. It has been a marathon effort since it self-destructed on May 11, 2002.

We were surprised and pleased by the great turn out at short notice for the Photo Shoot at the San Leandro Marina. We are hopeful that the enthusiasm and central location will carry over to a good MGs By The Bay event in May. This has been the premier event for the club and we hope for the northern California MG community. Last year the event fell second to the incredible MG Reunion in March at Laguna Seca.

Nancy gave me an oil painting of my MG PA for my birthday though I am still waiting for it to get finished. I have encouraged her to take on commission jobs for folks with their cars. She isn't excited about painting cars but the portraiture and backgrounds make it interesting for her.

Get the club events on your calendar or you find that you have missed some good experiences. We expect a big turn out for the Annual Dinner. It will be a fun evening with good turn at low cost in a historic restaurant.

May your heart be full.

*Dan'el*

## Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting, January 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Bob Stine. Present were: Bob Stine, Mike Jacobsen, George Steneberg, Dan Shockey, Nancy Shane, David Wright, Dave Newhouse, James Brown, and Ken Gittings. December minutes were accepted as presented in *The Octagon*.

Past President Bob Stine turned the meeting over to new President David Wright.

Treasurer's Report: The Club is solvent. Bank balances are still at a seasonal high.

Secretary's Report: The new Secretary was on the job.

Registrar's Report: Club membership presently stands at 251. We renewed our MG Car Club membership. We received a nice calendar from them. We are still getting renewals from July!

Regalia Report: No requests. There are new badges available from the MGCC. There is still interest in having club jackets made.

The Octagon Report: Dan requested a small stipend to cover small expenses such as phone calls, copying and postage. So far about half of our advertisers have renewed. The club decided to drop the Classic Motorsports ad. We ran it in exchange for a listing in their magazine. The board asked Mike to send another reminder to advertisers that have not renewed.

### PAST CLUB EVENTS

Holiday Tea: The Tea was well attended and very enjoyable. Dan is to send a thank you note from the Club to Esther & John Milsap. Mike to email to ask for expenses.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Annual Dinner: The Annual Dinner will be held at Spengers Restaurant in Berkeley on Feb. 19. Mike sent the \$500 booking deposit. The Club wants

*Continued on page 20*

**MG**

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

**SHOCK ABSORBERS:** Front    Rear

MGTC.....	165.00	165.00
MGTD & TF.....	185.00	60/95
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 1956-1957.....	\$185.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00
MGB brake booster servo.....	\$175.00
MGC booster servo.....	\$395.00
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Kingpin swivel axle rebushed.....	\$40-\$80
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## News from the Auction Block

Submitted by John Hunt

Many of us have wonderful memories of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1964 Sebring Team & Cars at Laguna Seca from this past March. One of the MGB's, number 47 (Ed Leslie & Jack Dalton's car), turned up on the auction block at Coys in England over Christmas.



#47 at Palo Alto, 2003. Photo by Devin Hiland.



As reported in the January/February, 2005, *MG Enthusiast* magazine, "After 12 hours and 180 laps, it became the first MGB ever to complete the punishing race, finishing in 17<sup>th</sup> place ahead of Roger Penske's Corvette and nine laps and four places ahead of the Ford Lotus-Cortina of legendary Scot Jim Clark.

"It's hard to put a price on such history, but in the event car 47 failed to reach the 50,000 to 60,000 pounds auctioneer Coys hoped it might command at their 4 December London sale." Shocking that a unique car like that could find a buyer to meet the reserve. However, hopefully for us we will get to see that car on the track again at a West Coast Vintage race.

<b>Martin Hveem Automobile Restorations</b>	
Tel: 530 529.6450 Fax: 530 529.6452 1520 Schwab Street Red Bluff, CA 96080 martinhveem@earthlink.net	<b>Classic &amp; Antique Restoration Service Repair</b>

## Santa Cruz Tour & Garage Sale

**Sunday, March 20, 2005**

Get this date marked on your calendars. Long-time member Marty Ray is known for the great tours he plans and leads. We'll meet somewhere in the South Bay and tour to Santa Cruz over the fabulous roads of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Marty has a British Pub in mind for our lunch stop. But first we'll stop by Marty's place to see his projects and the garage full of MG good stuff he has for sale. Marty is cleaning out his garage. This is a great chance also to get down to see the MGB/GTs Marty has for sale.

Come tour with the Master! Full details in the March *Octagon*.

## St. Patrick's Day Parade March 13<sup>th</sup>, San Francisco

We have been invited back to the **Celtic Festival at Ardenwood Farms in Fremont** on June 11. About a dozen of us had a great time at the Festival last year. There is much going on and many interesting things to see and do. This year, the organizer promises us an even better parking area, out of the dirt and into the shade.

In a big addition, the organizer has invited us to bring up to six British cars in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in San Francisco (Sunday, March 13), as a means of advertising the event. We will give preference to green Irish MGs. (My green 1935 MG Midget was original sold in Belfast.) Let Dan Shockey know if you are interested in bringing a car or riding along.

## Santa Cruz Metal Polishing

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**2535 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**Call Ian Kelly at: 831-477-0527**

## Tour to Crater Lake

### June 24-26, 2005

Activities Director Randy Grossman has scheduled a weekend trip to this beautiful spot with lodging at the historic Crater Lake Lodge. I have heard of five or six MGs scheduled so far to make the trip. Plans are unfolding rapidly. The key is to get on Randy's list and to make reservations at the Lodge soon.

Info: Randy Grossman, 510-483-3171, [r.m.grossman@comcast.net](mailto:r.m.grossman@comcast.net)



*The Crater Lake Lodge has been recently restored. Shockey Photo.*

## MG2005

### the NAMGBR Annual Meet

### July 6-10, 2005, Olympia, WA

The MG Car Club Northwest Centre is sponsoring this big MGB & Midget meet in the beautiful Northwest. Of course, all MGs are truly welcome. MGOC members are planning to attend. Make plans now for the time off. Let James Brown know if you are thinking of going. We may be able to arrange a caravan.

Info: [www.MG2005.com](http://www.MG2005.com) or [www.mgcnwc.com](http://www.mgcnwc.com)

MGOC: James Brown, Santa Clara, (408) 893-8986, [Jbrown@garlic.com](mailto:Jbrown@garlic.com)

little cars. Our project cars are a '68 and a '72 Midget. I at first wanted to buy a car to turn into an Autocross racer and somehow ended up with three cars. I plan to turn the '72 Midget into a racer and would like to learn more about what makes these cars go fast.

"Our first outing with the club was last fall at Laguna Seca. We showed up with Flynn's Mustang and joined the track tour. We had a great day and enjoyed meeting with the club members and looking at all of the great cars."

**Alan Cotton** lives in Alamo and has a '72 MGB that he's owned for three months. Alan has sensibly gone without a British sports car since owning a Healey 100-6 and 3000 in high school and college in Southern California. Alan attended a car show in Massachusetts last summer with a friend from high school. There were many nice MGBs there and it was then he decided to look for an MGB. Alan has been driving his roadster a lot and also getting a lot done to it: new tires, springs & shocks, flex brake lines, PECO header. He calls it a nice-looking road car. He is missing the MG just now since it is getting an upgraded cylinder head. Alan has three grown children and his wife Cindy who he notes is a good sport.

## North Bay 'Natter?

MGOC member Dennis Gray is interested in getting together with other enthusiasts periodically on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. (Or perhaps lunch?) He has suggested the English pub in San Rafael. If you are interested in joining in, contact Dennis.

Dennis Gray, San Francisco, 415-929-3951, [gray44@pacbell.net](mailto:gray44@pacbell.net)



**William Shaw**

**(415) 924-1450**

36 Industrial Way  
Behind Cost Plus  
Greenbrae, CA 94904



## From Pat Kaye

Happy New Years. I sold the complete front clip from my B yesterday to (new member) Tim Thresh from Santa Rosa. He said he was going to adapt the pieces onto his MGA that currently has drum front brakes as he had read about in his MGA Register club notes. I encouraged him to join the local club because it will keep him informed about local events and he'll also have a resource of enthusiasts he can contact when he runs into problems with his project. So now I can move forward with my MGOC UK coil-over conversion.

I recently scored a set of MG-RV8 microfiches out of the UK. Since some of the parts interchange with the earlier "B's", I thought it would be a valuable tool for us to have. I also have the complete MGOC UK parts list on a couple of CD's that were sent along with the MGOC Tubular Control-arm/Coil Over Kit I bought. I need to get one of the discs over to Dan Shockey so the other members of the club will have access to it. I'm keeping the other CD here at the North Bay B's headquarters (my house) so let me know if you'd like to check it out.

Later,

Pat Kaye, Novato

(The *North Bay Bs* is an informal group that mostly belong to the MGOC.)

## Welcome New Members

**Ron, Joan & Flynn Hermanson** have joined the MGOC. Ron circled all the interests at the bottom of the registration form and added solo racing. Ron writes, "We have been without a British car for about eight years, My first car was a '63 TR4 and Joan had a '59 TR3. Our son Flynn has a '64 Mustang. One of our earlier cars was a '67 Sunbeam Alpine and now we have a '74 MGB that runs real well. I would say, we do like these great

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## Clutch Install Tech Session

### Sunday, Feb. 6, San Mateo, 10 a.m.

This coming Super Bowl Sunday was chosen to complete the clutch replacement started last year by Bob Stine with Mike Jacobsen's help. This is a great opportunity to find out what is involved in tackling a job like this. It will be at Bob Stine's home garage in San Mateo.

Where: Bob Stine's garage, 3215 Llano St, San Mateo, 650-349-5128, [RAStine@rcn.com](mailto:RAStine@rcn.com)

Directions: From 101, exit at Hillsdale Blvd and head east, toward the Bay. Turn right onto Norfolk at the first light. At the stop, bear left onto Los Prados. Take the second right onto Bahia. Take the first left onto Llano. Bob's is the fourth house on the left

## Tech Sessions for Dummies Continued

### Cooling Systems

**Saturday, March 12, in Lafayette**

We are scrambling to schedule more tech sessions. The first is set as above at Sharon & John Hunt's home in Lafayette. We'll go through replacing a radiator and thermostat and going over the basics of cooling system maintenance. We'll also order pizzas and have a good time. More info in the March *Octagon*.

## Mt. Hamilton Tour

### Saturday, April 16

Remember the Englishman that went up a hill and came down a mountain? Bob Wall has scheduled another trip up the Mountain. These tours have proven fun and popular and Bob always works in some new spice to make it memorable. Last year, despite the sunshine on the climb, the rain gods threw small hail at us on the backside that stung my ears. The wildflowers will be in bloom and the road beckons! Bring any car.

## Photo Shoot & Planning Meet

Nearly 20 MGs came out for the Photo Shoot on a beautiful Saturday at the San Leandro Marina. About a dozen members joined in for free pizza and planning at Randy Grossman's home.

You'll see by the Calendar (page 3) that we came up with lots of exciting things to do with our favorite cars during 2005. There are still some more ideas yet to get scheduled.

Thank you to Melissa and Randy for hosting this fun event.

# DRIP PAN

*News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register*

## Click & Clack Talk Cars

Tom & Ray Magliozzi, submitted by alert reader Stuart Locke

**Q.** After listening to your radio show for years, I have come to the conclusion that you must be two of the greatest auto experts alive. Would you, therefore, mind telling me which cars you drive yourself? Because I am absolutely positive that they must be the most well-engineered, reliable, comfortable, fuel-efficient and cost-effective cars one can buy, and I would like to get one for myself. – Dave

**A.** RAY: Do I detect a hint of sarcasm, Dave?

TOM: I used to drive a 1953 MG TD, which met every one of your criteria, except for well-engineered, reliable, comfortable, fuel-efficient and cost-effective. But I parked it at my brother-in-law's last year, and now I take the bus or train everywhere. And, of particular importance to me, I never have to work on either of them.

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a TF. He has a machinist/mechanical/engineering background and was a good ear for my outpouring stories of pain and suffering. Each step of the way I would keep him up to date as to the status of my MGA's maintenance progress.

My problem is that I don't know how to leave well enough alone. It all started when I had intended to just replace my lower crank pulley because the rivets that hold the two halves together were working loose. That led to replacing the timing chain, which led to me loosing the Woodruff key down behind the pulley and inside the engine, which led me to pull the oil pan in search for the wayward Woodruff key, which led me to replacing the oil pump while I had easy access to it, which then led me to inspect the rod bearings while I had them exposed. Of course they needed replacing. Well, I said to myself I can easily inspect the center crank bearing too while I have the bottom of the engine all opened up. The bearing really wasn't that bad and I could have gotten away with putting it back in, but what the heck, a set of crank bearings is less than \$40 bucks, and I should improve my oil pressure as well as contribute a longer life to the rod bearings on either side of the center crank bearing. I figured a new bearing in the center would allow the crank to flex less, there by putting less unnecessary loads on the #2 and #3 rod bearings.

I went to British Motor Sport on Dell Avenue in Campbell to purchase a set of new .030 over crank bearings and when he laid them next to the one I had removed he said, "Something doesn't look right." Paused a few seconds and then double checked the part number of the ones he pulled off the shelf, then told me that the part number of the bearing that should be in my engine has the numbers 2212 on it. The numbers stamped on the one bearing I removed from my engine are 2215! That tells me only one thing. The for and aft bearings in my engine are also incorrect. The difference is the bearings that I should have in my engine are about .060 wider than the one I removed. Guess what? who ever rebuilt my engine the last time grabbed the wrong bearings off the shelf.

In order to correct the situation I am going to have to remove my engine so I can replace all the bearings. I am afraid to take a closer look at the crank cause I do not want to find that the narrower bearings have worn a measurable step in the ground surface of the crank. I really not looking forward to pulling the engine in an open and exposed carport where it is windy, a lot of dust, wet with rain, and the cement floor is hard and cold. No, I am not looking forward to this. At least not this weekend.

Have a happy new year,  
Chuck Harvie, San Jose



## Notes from Members

### From Mike Romo

My '67 MGB/GT is finally home with me in my new garage! William Shaw has the engine and transmission. I'm having him do the rebuild and planning on installing a Webber carb and a five-speed transmission. I will be starting the disassembly to prep the body for painting and to redo the interior. I will be eager for your advice!

Mike Romo, Tiburon

### From James Harwood

I just so wish I could show up in my '74 MGB - but it ain't gonna happen any time real soon - hopefully in the summer. But I will try and show up anyway. I need the help of the MG Support Group.

I have an MGB with altitude - it's been on four jack stands for almost a year. There's a replacement engine on a stand waiting to go in, plus a rebuilt O/D tranny. All the new parts for front and rear suspension are floating around. It's just damned hard to get the project organized!!

So I think more exposure to local enthusiasts would help. At least I don't have to commute to Petaluma anymore - my employers opened an office here in the South Bay last October. I certainly appreciate all you guys are doing. Keep up the good work.

Cheers, James Harwood, San Jose

### From Christine Geehrer

This is actually from Dan Shockey but is an update on Christine's 1979 MGB. Due to some unenlightened rewiring by a DPO (dreaded prior owner), the wire to the fuel pump shorted and fried itself and other wires under the car, in the engine compartment and behind the dash. This was after only about 30 miles of Christine's ownership. (See November *Octagon*.) We talked about a tech session to repair the damage but I went ahead and replaced the fried wires. It didn't take very long and I was able to find and fix a few other problems. It still has a leaking left rear shock that drips onto the exhaust and the overdrive isn't working. But everything else works, even the clock! Thanks to Bill Hiland for the use of his shop and lift.

### From Chuck Harvie

The story has really only begun. You jump whole heartily into this 'hobby', of MG's, and everything is going along smoothly, you are meeting people, having fun, going to events, meeting more people who are into MG's, or other British cars, or motorcycles. Then you run into a chuck hole and then it is a chain reaction, and it is one thing after another. When does it stop? I am sure other people have been in the same situation as I, but I can put into words. I am not sure if it is sympathy I want, or empathy.

This e-mail is a summary. Each one of these events has a story behind it. You may, or most likely not, want to read my e-mails to my brother. He has



Submitted by Stuart Locke

## GoF West, Santa Ynez Valley Buellton (Solvang), July 11-15, 2005

We are looking forward to having the GoF West in easy driving distance this year. Located about 3 hours from LA and 5 hours from San Francisco, it should draw a large and varied collection of MGs of all ages. The focus for this gathering is on the pre-1955 MGs but everyone is welcome. This year the GoF will also be the national meet for the pre-WWII MG register.

The California Central Coast offers great back roads, many major tourist attractions, a booming wine country and a nice climate. The host hotel is the Marriott Hotel in Buellton just off Highway 101. Rooms are \$109 to \$129 per night. There are several other hotels in the immediate area.

If you plan to go for just part of the event, the car display is on Tuesday, July 12. A rallye and wine tour is on Wednesday and the flea market and funkhana is on Thursday.

Many MGOC members plan to attend. Let us know if you are interested in a caravan. More info later or try [www.gofwest.com](http://www.gofwest.com)

## Open House at O'Connor Classic Autos Saturday, February 5th, 2005 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Stop by and help us celebrate JR's 50th Birthday and 20th Anniversary at O'Connor Classic Autos. Bring an MG if weather permits but come either way if you can. Food and beverages will be provided.



## MGs By The Bay

### Saturday, May 7 - UPDATE

This is the new name for our *MGs at Jack London Square* event, to be held at the San Leandro Marina this year. Randy Grossman has things in good order with lots of volunteer help from members. We are excited about the advantages of the new site. Some notes from Randy:

We received word from the City of San Leandro Police Department that our application for MGs By The Bay was approved.

El Torito Restaurant will offer us a fixed price breakfast buffet for \$10.50 per person (including beverage, tax and gratuity) from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM and a lunch buffet for \$12.00 per person from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. These meals will be offered in a special room (that seats 65) in the restaurant). They will let us use their electrical outlet for our music performers and PA system and also sponsor us. (Our area adjoins El Torito. There are two other restaurants in easy walking distance.)



*Pretty views of the Bay and the Oakland Airport from our Event Site.*

Mike Jacobsen is preparing a phone tree so that those who volunteered can make personal phone calls to all of our members and encourage them to come to the event.

Dan Shockey has prepared a press release and sent it to major publications. Many of us will in turn send it in March and April to our respective local newspapers to publicize the event. Dan has also sent it to car clubs throughout California. We will follow up with a flier.

The Marina Inn offers a weekend rate of \$74 per night which includes an nice breakfast.

Dan and Nancy are preparing the poster and tee shirts using the photos from the photo shoot. Our goal is to have them available to members at the Annual Dinner. Let Randy or Dan know if you have a good place to place a poster to advertise the event.

We think this can be the best year yet. Make plans not to miss it!

Press Release:

12<sup>th</sup> Annual

## *MGs by the Bay*

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2005

Location: San Leandro Marina, San Leandro, California

Set at the beautiful San Leandro Shoreline, this event attracts over 100 MGs of various vintages. Prizes are awarded by popular vote for Best of Show, Most Customized, Daily Driver, Technological Innovation, Premier Class, and by model. The entry fee is \$25.00 which provides an event T-shirt and a dash plaque. Live music is provided. Spectators attend without charge.

The event is sponsored by the MG Owners Club founded in 1957. This club is the Northern California Centre of the MG Car Club of England and the local chapter of the North American MGA Register, the North American MGB Register and the New England MG T Register. The event is supported by other California MG clubs.

The Marina is just south of the Oakland Airport. Take the Marina Blvd. exit from I-880. Overnight accommodations are available at the San Leandro Marina Inn, a first-class waterfront hotel with 130 rooms and suites. Marina Park is a 30 acre regional park. Amenities include picnic areas with barbecues, an immense grassy area, and a mile long par course. The Marina has restored 200 acres of tidal wetlands and 100 acres of seasonal wetlands. There are three restaurants located within the Marina: The Wedges is located at the Monarch Bay Golf Club, El Torito and Horatio's are located on the water's edge. The MG show will be next to El Torito.

Contact: Daniel Shockey, (408) 923-3927 [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

Web site: <http://www.mgoc.org/>

(The third paragraph is included only for local publications & clubs.)

