

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



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MGs at Jack London Square, Photo: Felix Wong

# June 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 is a register of the MGOC and was formed in 1973. 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](mailto:RAStine@rcn.com)

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

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

**Secretary:** David Wright, 510-653-3831

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

**Activities Director:** John Hunt, 925-299-9006, [Huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Huntsails@worldnet.att.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 1953-58:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**M.G. 1100 Sports Sedan 1962-67:** Lora Lerner, 831-464-3795

**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](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

**Lucas electrics:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**S.U. Carburettors:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**Bodywork:** Bill Weissberg, 510-658-4335, [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). 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. 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*.

## Natter & Noggin with Club Meeting

June 10, 2004 (Thurs.), 8 p.m.

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

### We re hoping to hear about David Wright's trip to Australia!

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, 8 p.m., June 25, 2004

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

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.

## 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 [DPShockey@earthlink.net](mailto:DPShockey@earthlink.net).

**Mechanic's Creeper:** The Bone Rough Rider. Rolls over dirt, gravel and broken pavement. This one is in great shape and priced to move at \$100.00 (\$140.00 new). Call member John Hunt (925) 299-9006.

**1967 MGB** for sale. Good condition. British racing green. Interior black leather needs repair. Rust-free body. New tires, front brake pads, fuel pump. Odometer reads 82,985 miles. Previous owner was mechanic. Roll bar. Hardtop and soft top both in great condition. Asking \$5,500 OBO. Call Jillian at (415) 613-3434 and leave a message. [jillian@jrudman.com](mailto:jillian@jrudman.com)

**Wanted : MGA 1600 MK II or 1600 Roadster;** call MGOC member Jim Stone (415) 454-7701 (eves), (510) 549-2929 (day). [JStone@elsarch.com](mailto:JStone@elsarch.com)

**Two Z Magnettes** for sale or trade ASAP. I am losing my storage space in Concord. Almost no offer will be refused. Past member Charlie Campbell: Home: (650) 386-5457, work: (650) 724-2931, [mv\\_red@eudoramail.com](mailto:mv_red@eudoramail.com)

**64 MGB Roadster** for sale. Convertible hard top, British Racing Green, solid and in great shape, lightly driven and well-cared for. Selling due to move. \$7500. Member John Hubbell, Oakland. [hubbelljm@earthlink.net](mailto:hubbelljm@earthlink.net)

**1956 MGA** newly restored. Member Ken Smith, British Automotive, Novato, (415) 699-3549 (See Swap Meet on page 7, May *Octagon*.)

**1977 MGB** roadster in very nice condition. Member Bob Shook of Mountain View, \$4,000.00 OBO. (650) 967-6766, [BobShook@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:BobShook@SBCGlobal.net)

**Gas Tank for Early MGB** (thru 64). Brand new. \$75. Also early taillight lenses. Member Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, [DPShockey@earthlink.net](mailto:DPShockey@earthlink.net)

### Fremont Automotive



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## 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 [DPShockey@earthlink.net](mailto:DPShockey@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.

## Membership

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at future meetings and events of the MGOC and having your stories, photos, and tips printed in *The Octagon*. 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)

June 10<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) — **Club Meeting & Natter** Page 23

June 12<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **British Car Display at Celtic Festival**, Ardenwood Farms, Fremont, Page 5

June 19<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — SSTS Marin Sonoma Tour led by MGOC member Marty Raymar

**MGOC members are invited**, [Openbigdds@aol.com](mailto:Openbigdds@aol.com) Page 5

June 20<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Hayward British Car Meet, Show & Swap Meet

June 25<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) — **South Bay Natter** Page 23

June 27<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Palo Alto Concours d'Elegance

July 12-16 — GoF-West in British Columbia, Area clubs caravan, See May *Octagon*

July 24<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Sonoma Tour**, Andy Preston, Page 9

Aug. 5-8 — Rendezvous, Bend, OR, Area clubs caravan, Page 11.

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **Swap Meet at O'Connor Classics**, Santa Clara, Page 11

Aug. 13-15 — Monterey Historics, Laguna Seca

Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — **MGOC Annual Picnic**

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — **All British Meet, Palo Alto, MGOC Caravan**

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Winery Tour**, South Bay/Peninsula, Jack Ford

**Oct. 2-3 — MGOC North Coast Weekend, Dave Newhouse, Page 12 \*\***

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — **CSRG Fall Frolic, Sears Point**; MGOC Track Tour for Children with Cancer, John Hunt & David Wright, Shared with Morgan Club

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

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Santa Cruz Tour**, Bob Wall

Oct. 29-30 - **MG Corral & Track Tour at Laguna Seca Vintage Races**, Page 7.

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

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

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **ARR, MGOC, SSTS Holiday Party** (proposed)

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Holiday Tea**, 2pm, Milsaps, Alameda

**\*\* We have designated these as the MGOC's Big Three for 2004**



## Hey, Wanna Be On Television?

Well, how about helping support Public Television? KTEH, Channel 54, in San Jose is having a pledge drive in June, and on June 20<sup>th</sup> it is English Comedy night. What better than that for us Little British Car owners? They are looking for volunteers to sit around answering phones and watching TV, which, except for the answering phones part is how a lot of us spend Sunday nights anyway.

The drawback?

1. It's a Sunday evening from 6:00 — 11:00 pm.

The Benefits?

1. You would be helping to support public television.
2. It is also a live night so more opportunities to be seen on TV.
3. Also if you're motivated by food at all (don't know about the rest of you, but I am), Blue Chalk Cafe of Palo Alto is providing the feast for the evening, although I can't say for sure what they are bringing but I hear they are pretty good.
4. If we have a group of 10 or more, (up to 24) we will even get some airtime (wear your favorite MG shirt or jacket). We can hang our club banner from the front table. I would even try to talk the people there into taking a camera outside to get some shots of our cars.
5. Watch some quality British comedy while working.
6. I've done this before, and it's kinda fun.
7. Did I mention that you would be helping to support public television?

All in all, a chance to get some club recognition while helping our community. There are also some opportunities for this sort of thing later this summer that I am looking into.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, contact Bob Wall at (408) 739-2373 or [bob\\_wall@yahoo.com](mailto:bob_wall@yahoo.com). The sooner the better. I need to let them know how many people we can get.

- Bob Wall



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## MGOC Regalia!

Our club has MGOC and MGCC regalia that are available for purchase by anyone. Below is a sampling of available regalia; more items are listed on the order form. Please contact David Wright at 510-653-3831 for more information.



Key Fob — \$10; Pin — \$6.50, MG Car Club Grill Badge — \$45



Round Mug — \$10



Pennant — \$10



MGOC Grill Badge - \$30



SFPMG T Register Grill Badge — \$35

New: MGOC Window Cling. Adheres by static so can be easily removed. Design as grill badge above in black & white. 2in by 2.5in. Price is \$2 each.



Nancy Shane Photo

### ***MGs at Jack London Square — Winners Continued***

Midget — 1st David Richardson, 1976  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kimey Burkdoll, 1968

Daily Driver — Devin Hiland, 1966 MGB

Best Customized — Rober Milner, 1967 MGB/GT

Technological Innovation — Robert Milner, 1967 MGB/GT

Premier Class — 1<sup>st</sup> Gary Kennedy, 1955 TF  
2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Berger, 1948 TC



One part of the new Hveem restoration shop in Red Bluff. Hveem Photo.

## **Great Tour to Graten**

**Saturday, June 19, 2004**

Naomi and Marty Rayman will lead a tour commencing at their home in Kentfield. We will drive up roads seemingly designed for touring in MGs. We will go through beautiful farmland and hit the coast and then return inland to Graten for lunch at the Underwood Cafe, across from the Willow Wood Market. The return trip will be equally delightful but will provide the opportunity for drivers to access 101 for a quicker trip home if desired. This is a long, but spectacular, tour and will take us on many of the roads used in the California Mille and used by Goldie Hawn driving the Super Beetle in the movie, *Foul Play*.

The Underwood Cafe has garnered rave reviews from food critics. We will have our own outdoor seating area. For those who appreciate it and will still feel comfy motoring home, there are 7 beers on tap. One of the owners has an MGB. They are looking forward to seeing our MGs parked outside on Graten Road. Please contact Marty if you will be participating so he might be able to tell the restaurant how many to expect.

#### Directions to Start:

From the Richmond San Rafael Bridge, take the Sir Francis Drake exit up and over the freeway, past the Larkspur Ferry Landing. Shortly after the Wolfe Grade turn off, there is a left-hand cut-out for McAlister Ave. Take McAlister, past Berens Dr. and Lancaster and at the second Berens Dr., turn left. Take the next left into Sherwood Ct.

From 101 N or S, take the Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo, Larkspur Ferry Exit and continue as above.

Queries: (415) 454-5756, [Openbigdds@aol.com](mailto:Openbigdds@aol.com)

A Sorry Safari Touring Society Event. MGOC members are invited. Please RSVP.

### **British Car Display at the**

## **Celtic Festival**

**Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont**

**Saturday, June 12, 2004**

All classic British Car owners are invited to display their cars at this 6<sup>th</sup> annual event. The organizers have set aside a large grass area with shade trees for our use. There is no cost to participants who arrive in their classic British car.

The event features Celtic music and dancing including Molly's Revenge, Peter Daldrey, Delacey Irish Dancers, The Highland Mercenaries, the Macintosh Pipe Band and the Clydesdale draft horses. There will be ethnic food vendors, Celtic vendors plus a host of activities for children. There are five stages of entertainment plus the other attractions of the Ardenwood Farm Park. (See [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org))

RSVP: Please let Dan Shockey know if you plan to attend so he can get enough passes. (408) 923-3927 or [DPShockey@earthlink.net](mailto:DPShockey@earthlink.net)



**William Shaw**  
(415) 924-1450  
36 Industrial Way  
Behind Cost Plus  
Greenbrae, CA 94904



## From the President's Desk

Congratulations to the winners at the Jack London Square (JLS) MGOC car show. Special congratulations go to Gary Kennedy who won the Premier Class award. For the first time, this year we established the class to include participants whose cars have won first place in their classes twice in the past three years. Gary won the award among these cream of the crop cars.

Attendance was down slightly at JLS this year, but everyone seemed to enjoy the show. I heard many comments to the effect that people liked having all the cars together, making it easier to see them all and not miss any announcements or the music.

We're considering taking the show to a different venue next year, possibly the Marina at San Leandro. Jack London Square has been increasing their use fees and providing less service over the last couple years. They also have plans of building even more there, leaving no place for us to display our cars eventually. Let us know what you

think about the idea of moving the show; if you have any ideas for another venue, please share that with us as well.

We have quite a few events scheduled for June so be sure to check them out in the Forthcoming Events section of this issue.

Mike Jacobsen and I are planning on replacing the clutches in my 68 MGB and his MGA soon and a couple people have indicated they'd like to make a tech session out of the projects so they can help and learn. If you're interested in watching or participating, contact Mike or myself and we'll let you know when we're going to do it. Contact information is on page 2 of *The Octagon*.

The tech session on detailing cars was well attended. Mike noted that he should have broken it down into several sessions so we could spend more time on actually performing the tasks. We may do that at some future date.

If you have any specific issues you'd like to see addressed in a tech session, let us know and we'll try to develop a curriculum for it.

I hope to see you again soon. In the meantime, keep the shiny side up and the tires on the ground.

Bob Stine

[rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)

650-349-5128

### MG

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

#### SHOCK ABSORBERS: Front Rear

MGTC.....	165.00	165.00
MGTD & TF.....	165.00	60/85
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MGB, MGC, Midget.....	69.95	49.95
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SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt).....	Scall	

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## MGs at Jack London Square Popular Vote Award Winners

PreWar — George Steneberg, 1933 J2

Saloon — Bil Hiland, 1950 YA

Special — Terry Sanders, 1953 Arnolt TD

TC — 1<sup>st</sup> Martin Hveem, 1947

2<sup>nd</sup> Judy & Rick Storms, 1948

TD — 1<sup>st</sup> Nea Kantor, 1952

2<sup>nd</sup> Verna & Skip Kelsey, 1952

3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen Holmes, 1952

HM Marty Rayman, 1953

TF — 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Angeloni, 1954

MGA — 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Lambert, 1962

2<sup>nd</sup> David Berelson, 1962

3<sup>rd</sup> Dolores & Bob Shock, 1959

HM Jennifer Steneberg, 1956

HM Louisa & Lorin Cuthbert, 1960

MGA Coupe — David Laughlin, 1960

Early MGB — 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Harmon, 1967

2<sup>nd</sup> Gerald Martin, 1965

3<sup>rd</sup> Ed Loughrey, 1969

HM Devin Hiland, 1966

HM Chuck Blakeslee, 1967

Late MGB — 1<sup>st</sup> Brad Beedle, 1980

2<sup>nd</sup> Charles Schweiger, 1979

3<sup>rd</sup> Tracy Tallman, 1979

HM Dan Watson, 1975

MGC — Sandie & Bob Swain, 1969 MGC/GT



MGB/GT —

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Milner, 1967

2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Polkes, 1971

3<sup>rd</sup> Don Davis, 1967

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## MGs at Jack London Square Photos

Photo: Felix Wong



Bev & Tom Morgan entertain Dancing Baby

Photo: Felix Wong



Full Size Midget Row

Photo: Nancy Shane



Joanne Stein Home Alone in the Registration & Regalia Tent

## Hayward Field Meet

### All British Car Show & Swap Meet

### Sunday, June 20, 2004

All British cars — restorations, daily drivers and works in progress — are welcome on the green, with a view of the Bay. Join us for a fun day of cars, parts, food and folks.

Entry Fees: \$15 pre-registration (by June 15), \$20 day of event

Features: Trophies, Judging, Event memento, Door prizes

Free to spectators

Mail pre-registration to HFM, Nick Becker, 2226 Lomond Ln., Walnut Creek, 94598 (Check made out to MOA.)

Info: (925) 689-4005 (days), (925) 228-1672 (eves)

Presented by *Mini Owners of America*

## Track Tour and Vintage Races

### October 30, 31 at Laguna Seca

The USRRC Seniors Tour and the Festival of Marques will run at Laguna Seca October 30 - 31, 2004. This is a full schedule of vintage action. Headlining the event is the United States Road Racing Championship Seniors Tour. The USRRC Seniors Tour is a feature race group that pays homage to the Sports Car Club of America's first professional road racing series run from 1963-1965.

Local marque clubs will also be on hand to help honor the manufacturers of sports racing and production based racers of the period. 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 San Francisco Region Sports Car Club of America Fall Vintage Classic will also include a tribute to Formula 5000, and a "Mini Challenge" event. Overall, 300 vintage race cars, representing eight decades of racing heritage will take to the track, rekindle legendary battles, and fill the air with the glorious sounds of racing's

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past.

The USRRC Seniors Tour, and Festival of Marques are sponsored by Victory Lane Magazine, the vintage and historic racing news magazine.

Organizer Jeff Glenn has a 66 MGB, and you are probably familiar with his father, club member Steve Glenn, who has the ex-Jack VanderMale / Ivan Neudorfer MGTC.

We are looking to the Cypress MG Club (Monterey) to organize the MG Corral and we will select an area motel for those who wish to stay with other MG folks. Suggestions welcome.

## New Members

**James Brown** of Santa Clara has a '70 MGB that he's owned for a year and a half. James has already been to several of our events.

**Tim Delony** in Concord has a '79 MGB he's owned for two years. (See article on page 15.)

**Frank Morris** lives in Suisun City and has a white '71 BGT that he's owned for a year. (See article on page 14.)

**Don Pat** of San Mateo has a '53 TD that he purchased new from the Post Exchange while he was stationed in England. Don reports that he once visited Abingdon with his nearly new TD. The MG factory folks noticed that he had some fender damage and took care of it without charge while he was there! The TD was their only car for some time. When they moved to San Francisco, they pulled a trailer with it longer than the TD. He used the car to drive to LA and back about 300 times. Don drove it for 25 years then put it away 25 years ago and just started in on it again last fall.

**Charles Severson**, in San Francisco has a '54 TF that he's owned for 15 years, and he said he found us via our web site.

**Dennis Yancey, Jr.** lives in Menlo Park and has a '69 MGB/GT. He bought it last October. Dennis has jumped with both feet, taking shop classes and doing extensive rebuilding to the MG. He noted that he heard about us from a friend. Dennis was at the Club's latest tech session.



*This is the Boop Mobile Midget belonging to new member Kimey Burkdoll of Clearlake (Photo: Kimey Burkdoll)*

Photo: Randy Grossman



Just wanted to let everyone know that a number of MGOC members won awards at today's Dixon event. — Randy Grossman

Skip Kelsey 2nd place	- TDs (Photo above by Randy)
Bob Shook 2nd place	- MGAs
Randy Grossman 3rd place	- MGAs
Andy Preston 2nd Place	- MGB/ GTs

So it was a good day. Not to mention that I sold my tires, too.



Mike Jacobsen stayed up most the night getting ready to show us how he details his MG Midget. Photo: Rob Stein



tech session presented by Mike Jacobsen. Twelve club members attended and were shown the ins and outs of detailing their own cars.

#### Upcoming Club Events

North Coast Extravaganza, Oct. 2-3: Dave Newhouse, the organizer of this major club event, gave the meeting an update. On the subject of accommodations Dave said that the local bed & breakfast establishments require a minimum 2-night stay. Also Dave said the local motels are full with at least two wedding groups. Dave has found friends who are willing to accommodate tour members (at low cost). Members may also camp in Dave's front yard. The property is right on the coast and the tour up there will include a stop for oysters for barbecuing at Dave's later in the day. It was thought that the drive up would take about 2.5 to 3 hours. Nearby Ft. Ross is well worth a visit.

MGOC Annual Picnic: To be held on Sunday, August 29. David Wright will look for possible picnic sites in Tilden Park in the East Bay (Berkeley) hills.

Track Tour at Sears Point Vintage Races, Sunday, Oct. 10: John Hunt has proposed that, during this track tour, MGOC drivers would provide rides for a group of children suffering from cancer. (The Okizu Foundation) MGOC strongly supports this idea as does CSRG.

North Bay Swap Meet: Ken Smith will be holding a swap meet at his garage in Novato on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Old Business

Jack London Square Event: The make-up of the Premier Class was discussed. It was agreed that the Class should consist of cars that have won their class twice in the past three years. Cars in the Premier Class should only be voted on as members of the Premier Class. The awards will be ready in time for the event.

Tech Session Notebook: It was agreed that it would be a good idea to produce this notebook from the presentation notes made by Mike Jacobsen. Mike agreed to look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The next Business Meeting & Natter will be on Thursday, June 10, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wright, Secretary, MGOC

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# Sonoma Wine Tour

## Saturday, July 24, 2004

Just want to confirm that we have met with the wineries that we want to visit and picnic at for our tour on Saturday, July 24. They have confirmed that they can accept us. The picnic spot is high up on a deck overlooking the entire Sonoma dry creek valley. Absolutely stunning. Large deck so there's no problem about numbers. Marla is really getting excited about doing the tour.

Marla & Andy Preston  
Rohnert Park, (707) 795-3480

prestons@sonic.net

More info in the July *Octagon*

## From da Ed .

I've been so short on space lately that I have left out my column. Also I haven't had room for tech articles despite cutting the font size and leaving out the regalia info most months. We'll keep looking at whether we can expand *The Octagon*..

I am still underemployed so am working on other folks' MGs to fill in. Thus I am still not getting much done on my cars. I sold the TR3 to focus on the TD and PA. I have a job possibility in Tucson though we'd rather not leave this area and hate the thought of reestablishing ourselves again. At the least we may need to move out of the immediate Bay area to cut our expenses.

We have moved two of our MGOC events into July (above) and August since June, September and October are very full. Hope to see you soon.

- Dan

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# DRIP PAN

*News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register*

## *Sic Transit*

**By Tony Arnold of the SFPMGTR**

In 1956 I induced my wife to sell her 52 TD because we were being posted overseas and I had ordered an Alfa. She was not happy. For 27 years she was not happy. Whenever a TD would appear anywhere, she would point silently but meaningfully at it.

Many years later, Tony found an MG TD for Ruth that was displayed on a pedestal at a Honda dealer. After twenty years of ownership, the TD was sold last year. Tony picks up the tale and adds some reflections.

The sale was a somewhat tragic tale. I had taken the car out on several outings, and in one case found to my horror that the thing was virtually dry on oil when I returned. So I tested it on short runs from home and even ran it at speed last fall around the Sears Point race track. Didn't burn a drop.

The next weekend saw an MG swap meet down in San Jose, so I decided to try that as a kind of gauge to tell me what it might sell for. The run from home to San Jose is around 70-80 miles, most of it on freeways, involving continuous, fairly high revs. We were about ten miles short of our goal when there was a sudden clattering noise up forward, and I instantly divined the horrible truth — main bearing gone west.

The TDs have a cork gasket between the head and the valve cover, and when it is soaked through with high temperature oil it loses its integrity — and with it all the oil.

At that point the price of the car went into free fall. The guy who bought it still has it in pieces.

*Sic transit*. In fact very sick.

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## Being Somewhat of a Tinkerer

**By new member Tim Delony**

My name is Tim Delony and I own a 1979 MGB that I acquired about two years ago. The car was in good shape mechanically, the body and interior were passable. Being somewhat of a tinkerer, I've had a lot of fun in replacing some of the worn-out items such as the radiator, alternator, water pump, wiring components, etc. but I have not had to undertake any major repairs. The MGB is Leyland White and is a decent driver that I use mainly on sunny weekends. I really have no plans to restore the car but just use it as-is and enjoy driving it! However, I always have my eye out for a decent chrome-bumper MGB that I would like to purchase and preserve!

I have not driven the MGB on long distances, but I have participated in a couple of short tours with my wife Tracy as the navigator. My favorite was the East Bay tour of the Safety Fast Club in 2003. This tour took us through the Oakland-Berkeley hills, into Moraga, then to Castro Valley and back. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and a perfect drive for about a dozen MGs of various vintages.

I previously owned a 1953 TD in high school in the 1960s; the TD was my introduction into the world of British sports cars.

## Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting held on May 13, 2004

Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting held on May 13, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:55 p.m. Present were Mike Jacobsen, George Steneberg, Bob Stine, James Brown, Dan Shockey, Nancy Shane, Randy Grossman, Dave Newhouse, Elizabeth Newhouse and David Wright.

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The Club is still solvent. Mike Jacobsen reported on the current balances of the accounts.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary was present.

Registrar's Report: The Club's membership continues to increase. At this time, we have 252 members.

Regalia Report: Seven MGOC windscreen clings were sold and 3 Peninsula T Register grill badges sold.

### **Past Club Events**

North Meets South: This was an enjoyable event featuring a nice drive to the site at Pismo Beach. Five members took part. The MGOC caravan was led by Randy Grossman.

Pacific Coast Dream Machines: This event featured steam engines, tractors and stationary engines as well as classic cars. Bob Stine's MGB was the only MG present after Robert left early.

Mt. Hamilton Drive: The tour was organized by the indefatigable Bob Wall, famous among other things, for tours of Mt. Hamilton from all sides. Twenty cars took part and a good time was had by all. (See May Octagon.)

Trip Prep Tech Session: Held at Bob Stine's home, this was another successful Club

# Morris Garage

## By new member Frank Morris

The following is a brief biographical sketch of my personal Morris Garage background and some rationalizations for my current endeavors and MG adventures...

Growing up in the San Francisco Peninsula in the 60s definitely flavored my taste in cars to this day. Exciting times for a new driver... While there were the muscle car enthusiasts on one end of the spectrum, there were those of us with a love of a more European flair or what we believed was class as we saw the joys of sports cars on the twisty Bay Area backroads of La Honda and Skyline Boulevard running behind San Mateo all the way between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz.

A 1962 Triumph TR3B purchased from my neighbor was one of my first loves at 16 years old. Between my brother and I, plus my close circle of friends, we had the pleasure of owning and driving a plethora of great British (and some Italian) marques in our formative motorhead years. The cars were also mixed in with the eras motorcycles and miscellaneous four-wheel drive trucks plus VW vans. Some of the most notable cars after the TR3B came a Triumph Spitfire, Austin Healey 100-4, a Triumph Herald, an MGA roadster, an Austin Mini Cooper and even an MGTD (closest friends car). Girl friends had the bug eye Sprites and MG Midgets. It was just a way of life. Later in life, I owned a 1971 Jaguar XJ6 and now, most recently I have purchased a 1971 MGBGT at the 2003 Dixon British Car Show from Dan Shockey. As my wife has said, What possessed you to do that? Well let me explain my logic or lack there of.

To me, the MGB/GT represented a relatively low cost re-entry into the type of cars that I grew up with and also provided something relatively simple that I could tinker with, given my somewhat limited mechanical expertise. The GT is also rather unique but solid enough to be a daily driver. A professor I once had used to sport around in one of these when I was in college and I always enjoyed its solid driving style, plus the generally availability of parts for the MGB provided a basis of a rationale for my decisions... plus the aroma of English leather (or is it mold?) brought back fond memories. O.K., I guess you could aptly call it a middle-age-crazy or attempt to recapture something from my past... maybe it was simply because MG stands for Morris Garage, which may be part of my heritage... as Morris is my last name. At any rate, the Bay Area backroads are still beckoning me to explore them in a style and manner that is only understood by those few of us who find these relics uniquely intriguing and still cool ... after all these years.

I am also just beginning to enjoy the numerous benefits of the camaraderie (or common ailments) that comes from joining my fellow British car enthusiasts via this club. I enjoy the various technical tips sessions and car meets sponsored by the MGOC. I thoroughly enjoy the vintage race days at Infineon and any MG events that come up now, but most of all I just enjoy my weekend or evening drives though the backroads behind my house to Lake Berryessa and Napa hinterlands. These narrow, winding roads seems like what the British cars were made for...as long as it isn't too hot! I look forward to becoming more technically competent regarding all the subtleties of MG ownership, including performance and betterment of Safety Fast with all of your help and future information sharing.

Update: Frank reports his engine started making bad noises with no power. Could be a cracked cylinder head.

My life's lesson about MGs — in fact about any vintage British car — is that one must have lots of all the following: work space, patience, innate mechanical ability, money, and energy. Being chronically challenged on all fronts, I found fewer regrets than expected over the vacant corner of the garage where it used to live.

Oh, and another thing about MGs. They either like you or they don't. Ruth's old yellow job hated me with a passion. Used to use its louvers and other sharp edges to nick my knuckles every time I tried to help wash or polish it. The more recent one mingled grudging acceptance of me with outright belligerence toward my good wife, which it expressed by suddenly ceasing to operate every time she got behind the wheel, and often by just being in the passenger's seat. On one occasion it broke down at the critical approach moment as we neared the Golden Gate Bridge toll station, thus inducing her to leap out and push us through. This did not result in the instant arrest with which she was threatened by the toll taker, much to the chagrin of the car, which clearly had counted on the authorities to rid it of her presence.

If there was one positive result of all this, it was that it cooled her ardor for the marque. She observes and comments on MGs but no longer points at them with silent yearning.

But yes — they are indeed a lot of fun to drive and fuss over if you have the capabilities to keep them running. And I still scorn the modern look-alikes powered by Toyota engines. (I even hear that some come with an irregular piece of black plastic to place under the oil sump to replicate the true version's oil seepage.)

## Joanna and Harry Scarboro Remembered

### A note from Lee Streepey

Had a telephone call from the son of Joanna and Harry Scarboro yesterday. Many old members will remember Harry and Joanna. They were very active for years in the Peninsula Club. Joanna died in December and Harry died last week. He had had very great problems with rheumatoid arthritis for years.

Harry sold his yellow TD years ago and after he got too bad to drive and work on his TF, he sold it, also. The TF was bought by a man from Florida off the lawn at the Palo Alto Show who took it to Florida and proceeded to win a lot of trophies with it.

## Swap meet at O Connor Classics in Santa Clara

Date changed to Saturday, August 7

Full info next month

## Hveem Restoration Shop Moves to Red Bluff

Folks can stop by whenever they are up here (near Redding). They can call the shop at (530) 529-6450 or if it is on the weekend, they can call our home at (530) 528-9474. It is not looking as though we will be able to attend the GoF in Canada, so if anyone wants to stop at the shop on their way (or needs their MG attended to), we are very close to I-5.

Take the South Main Street exit in Red Bluff, turn left on Luther Road, turn left on Airport Blvd., turn left on Schwab Street. We are in the first driveway on the left.

See photo page 20..

Sincerely, Lorraine & Martin Hveem

[martinhveem@earthlink.net](mailto:martinhveem@earthlink.net)



## The MG Owners Club Presents the *North Coast Extravaganza!* October 2-3, 2004

Join fun-loving folks from the MG Owners Club on an overnight trip to Anchor Bay. Spend an evening on the coast watching the sun set with good friends, old and new. Several individuals and couples have already indicated they plan to make this adventure.

My house is in Anchor Bay in the Banana Belt on the ocean in south Mendocino County. The back roads are amazing and will be great for a run. There are multiple wine appellations as well as breweries that could be visited. Many car clubs go up Hwy 1 as it is a great destination. The best month of the year is October with warm weather, no wind and fog like other months of the year.

We will pick up fresh oysters at Sweetwater in Tomales Bay and later have a barbecue at my house. I have 3 acres so there's plenty of room for a group of MGs. I will also lead a club tour of some of the nice roads up there on Sunday morning before we head home. There may be time for some touring and sightseeing on Saturday afternoon, too.

Very few places there are going to accept one night stays due to the fact that it is a high-volume month for tourism. Camping is an option (my place or at a campground), and I have many friends who have offered to put people up for the night. This will be at low cost to participants!

### The Itinerary:

- Meet in San Rafael at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, Depart by 10 a.m. My place is only about 100 miles from San Rafael.
- Stop for lunch and fresh oysters (and other BBQ delights) at Sweetwater.
- Arrive at Anchor Bay mid-afternoon. Unpack or set up camp.
- BBQ Party Saturday evening at Dave Newhouse's place on the ocean. Right now we're looking at barbecued oysters, steak, and perhaps corn on the cob.
- Short tour & brunch Sunday morning
- Head home by mid-day Sunday

Dave Newhouse, 510-248-3456 (work), 925-736-4996 (home). Email preferred: [Dave.Newhouse@kp.org](mailto:Dave.Newhouse@kp.org)

*Let Dave know you are planning to participate so he can plan the BBQ and arrange low-cost lodging for all of us. Lodging space may be limited so reserve a space right away!*

## The Anchor Bay Experience

**Anchor Bay** in Mendocino County has one of the most beautiful beaches in North America. Anchor Bay is located in the sunny "banana belt" of the south Mendocino Coast where temperatures are mild throughout the year. The Mendocino Coast is magnificent, full of intriguing rock formations.

*Anchor Bay (Below) Faces South*



**Mendocino Village** is a picturesque, one-hour drive north on Highway One with many unique shops, art galleries and famous restaurants.

**The quaint town of Gualala** is located just two miles from Anchor Bay. Browse through art galleries, the Gualala Art Center and specialty gift shops. Choose from a wide selection of eateries and fine restaurants.

**The Point Arena Lighthouse** and Museum is open to the public. Besides the museum, they will even allow visitors to the very top of the tower to see the still-in-place historic lens.

**Hiking:** On the south side of the Gualala River, the Sonoma County Parks Visitors Center is a great place to start to investigate their 5 accesses along the Sea Ranch coastline. Inland a bit, the Gualala River bed allows for several miles of walking. Manchester State Beach (15 miles north) is 5 miles long and there are interesting dunes and views of the lighthouse.

**Beach Activities:** Tide pooling, sand castle building, sun bathing, surfing, boogie boarding, skim boarding, jogging, or doing nothing at all. For the kids, the water is cold but safe. A lightweight surf suit can give them more time in. There are no rip currents or submerged dangers to worry about. At times a small lagoon/pond forms where a creek meets the beach.

**Sea kayaking** has boomed. Anchor Bay's ocean-level access makes putting in a kayak a snap. Chicken Cove, 1/4 mile up the beach, is almost always as calm as a lake. A 3/4-mile paddle out to Fish Rocks Island begins a world class experience.

Anchor Bay Campground: (707) 884-4222; <http://www.abcamp.com>