

OCTAGON



Newsletter of the M.G. Owners Club The Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club











Since 1957!

Coffee at Steve & Vicky's - Pebble Beach, Saturday morning Photo: Marty Rayman



November 2017

About The Octagon and the MG Owners Club

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 subgroup 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 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 MG 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 2017

President: Andy Preston, andypreston@att.net Vice President: Keith Shukait, shukait@me.com Treasurer: Marla Preston, marlapreston@hotmail.com Secretary: Pam Shukait, pshukait@me.com

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webmaster@mgocsf.org

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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: Steve Lilves, 415-924-3173,

slilves@sbcglobal.net

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

AdamsEddie77@yahoo.com

MGB V8 Conversion: Tony Bates, 408-666-6174,

avbates@vahoo.com

MGC: Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, kent@kentleech.com M.G. Midget: and Overall Auto Technician: Craig

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mgpb36@yahoo.com

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j2george@pacbell.net

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510-525-9125

PA/PB Midget 1934-36: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032,

mgpb36@yahoo.com

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mrcraigk@aol.com

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN THE OCTAGON

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or *MikesMuseum@yahoo.com*. 2005 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75).

All ads expire on Jan. 1st, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10th of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in The Octagon.

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTAGON

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOCrelated are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to magnut dan@hotmail.com or send them to: Dan Shockey, 10 Willis Rd., Scotts Valley, CA 95066.

RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? The club roster is available from Steve Kellogg upon request.

MGOCSF.ORG

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

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Sonoma Tour 2017 Saturday, Nov. 11



Tour leaders: Andy and Marla Preston, (707) 795-3480

This is a Rain or Shine tour so if raining bring an umbrella and drive a car with wipers.



Meeting Place: Starbuck's - 127 San Marin Dr, Novato. Just North of Novato, take the San Marin Drive exit from Hwy 101 and head west. A couple miles later, turn right into the Harvest Market parking lot.

Time: Meet at 10:00. Leave at 10:30

FAMILY STYLE

ALIAN DINNERS

Tour: This is a Marin/Sonoma tour where we drive some of our more scenic back roads, including one that I don't think we've driven before. The tour starts at Starbucks on Marin Drive in Novato and ends up at Dinucci's in Valley Ford for lunch. Dinucci's is an Old Italian style family restaurant in a converted 1900s Hotel.

Our first stop will be at the Petaluma Creamery which is on the northwest side of Petaluma where you can enjoy coffee, snacks and of course sample some of their wonderful cheeses. We will **not** be driving through Petaluma but driving around it on country roads.

We will leave Petaluma and head out through the picturesque Chileno Valley and out towards Dillon Beach. There are some incredible panoramic views of Sonoma County countryside and even the Pacific Ocean.

Our final destination and lunch stop will be at Dinucci's Italian Restaurant in Valley Ford and we will be able to order off the open menu. Lunch should be around 12:30 pm.

RSVP PLEASE: Andy or Marla Preston at: 707 795 3480 or

marlapreston@hotmail.com prior to Nov 7th so we can confirm lunch reservations.

Please bring cash because there will be one check for the entire group.

From da Editor

Hi, Fellow Enthusiasts,

Nov. 30, 2017

I feel in a blur. Things have been hectic yet I haven't made it to any events this past month. I had to miss the British show at Morgan Hill due to problems with my dog. Morgan has pulled through once again. He is 12 and has many

005.00

health issues. All my dogs of late have had British car names - Bentley, Cooper and now Morgan.

It appears that we will have to move again next fall. Lots of time to prepare but also lots to do. Thuy's company is moving from Santa Cruz to Gilroy. We'd like to move to South San Jose and be closer to Bay Area events but Gilroy homes are much less expensive.



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)	3	icall

BRAKES: sleeved and rebuilt

MCD Midest salines

MGB, Midget caliper	3 80.UU
MGA. MGC caliper	.\$155.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1956-67	.\$225.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80\$125.0	00-145.00
MGB brake booster servo	.\$175.00
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Cylinders sleeved only, brass or SS	.\$50-\$95
Kingpin swivel axle rebushed	.\$60-\$90
Front end A-arm (Midget)	\$95.00

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and new throttle shafts.....\$85 each

Prices shown are for Exchange or Yours Rebuilt. Core charges apply if items are ordered prior to (and are refunded after) our receiving old units.

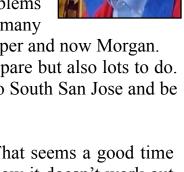
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OCT09



"Winter" is upon us. That seems a good time to do MG work yet somehow it doesn't work out that way. I think that 2018 will be the Year of the Move rather than the Year of MG projects completed. I have enough things purchased to keep me busy for a couple winters.

We drove the MGA to visit an old friend who was a member of the NorCal MGA Club back in the 1980s. Dick Pike has a Porsche Speedster that he pulled from an orchard in the mountains as a wrecked bare body-chassis 30+ years ago. Dick is a talented writer who wrote a monthly editorial for the national 356 club newsletter.

I plan to wear my RAF uniform for the costume party at work tomorrow. I have updated it with more accessories. See photo page 16. I really wanted to find or create a Mae West life preserver, too.

The Holiday tea is a favorite event. Hope to see you there. We will have to miss the Sonoma Tour sadly since we will be away that weekend. I would like to go to the Parts Exchange in Santa Ana on Nov. 19. Anyone interested in running down? One year I left home at dinnertime on Saturday, napped at rest areas along I-5 to arrive at 7am, then drove home after lunch on Sunday. A favorite year was when I rode down with Andy Preston to pick up his new MGB Tourer on Saturday and attend the Exchange on Sunday. I get carried away at those things however...

Happy trails to you!





President's Ponderings

This October was marred by tragedy as Wild Fires roared through Sonoma and Napa Counties in a tragic and terrifying way. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and friends who have lost loved ones,

their homes, belongings, memories and dreams. All we can do now is help those who have been affected by this terrible tragedy.



On a more upbeat note November is the time to nominate members for the role of MGOC Officers for 2018. If you want to get more involved with the club and run for any of the positions listed below please contact me this month. The final ballot and nominees will be listed in the December Octagon for voting by you. Nominees received so far for MGOC Officers for 2018 are:

President: Andy Preston Vice President: Kirk Prentiss Treasurer: Marla Preston Secretary: Mike Jacobsen

October was also full of great events and it was good to see so many members at many of them. First of all our thanks go out to Steve and Vicky Kellogg who opened up their beautiful Pebble Beach home to the first (of many I hope) Pebble Beach tours. They had activities from Friday to through to Sunday morning in the Monterey area. Truly spectacular and wonderful! If you missed this one don't miss next year! See the article later on.

This was followed by an equally wonderful Sierra Tour hosted by Kirk and Amy Prentiss of the Sorry Safari Touring Society. Remember we are always invited to any events of our sister club SSTS so check them out; they're great fun.

And then we had the Windmill Run hosted by Dave Marsh and this was Dave's fourth organized tour this year so many thanks go out to him. To round out the month other events that many members participated in included the British Fall Classic and the All British car show.

So what's coming up in the future? Marla and I are leading the final tour for this year which is called the Sonoma Tour and it's on Saturday November 11. This tour is on the west side of Sonoma and nowhere near the fires. See the flyer in this Octagon. The weather in November is unpredictable so if it's raining or cold come in your daily driver. I know we have a lot of North Bay members so let's get together and have some fun.

The MGOC Holiday Tea and toy drive at Elaine's house on December 9, and don't forget to sign up early for the Annual MGOC Brunch at Hs Lordships at Berkeley Marina on Saturday January 20, 2018.

Take care and drive safely,

Andy

At Dixon, both Andy's MGBs





MG's @ Pebble Beach Weekend 2017

Hosted by Steve & Vicky Kellogg; Report by Marty Rayman

Thanks to Vicky & Steve for inviting us all to Pebble Beach for a weekend of motoring, food and socializing. We took it as an excuse for a weekend away. Not wanting to subject ourselves to the drive down and back in our '53 TD, we drove the 2012 Mini roadster, (adding 460 miles. Now has only 15,600 miles), made in Britain and sporting an MGOC decal.

We stopped for lunch at the Zero-3 Café in the Half Moon Bay Airport. A Mustang was nice enough to take off for us after lunch. And then, we stopped to marvel at whales having a good old time.

The traffic through Santa Cruz was terrible, the sun was hot and would have been abysmal in the TD. Again, in



Capitola the traffic was stop & go. Having no rush, we stopped for coffee in Soquel.

When we got to the Olympic Inn in Pacific Grove, the Mini was right at home chatting it up with it's British cousins. What, what?

Dinner at Monterey's Crown & Anchor was perfect and a wonderful way to get acquainted and reacquainted with the MG'ers.

The wee hours of the morning (7:30), were greeted with much appreciated coffee, donuts, fresh fruit & a beautifully done binder with the routes and other tidbits, at the Kellogg homestead on Huckleberry Hill. Also, it was nice to access the info. on line before the weekend. Good job Steve & Vicky!!

As we were driving, Naomi had read the section "From the PINE TREES to the CORKSCREW-The Beginnings of Road Racing on the Monterey Peninsula." When Steve had us start at the Equestrian Center and proceed around what was the old race course, we were ready.

New to us, on the Monterey Peninsula, were all the round-a-bouts. They were reminiscent of motoring in England. But did you know that the first traffic circle, in the world, was Columbus Circle in Manhattan circa 1905, two years before the one around the Arch de Triumph in Paris? William P.

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bhiland@ontheroadagainclassics.com www.ontheroadagainclassics.com

Continued from page 6

Eno, in addition to the rotary traffic plan, designed the stop sign, one-way street, taxi stand & pedestrian safety islands!

After the pause that refreshes, at the Cross Roads Starbucks, a bunch of intrepids were soon on the lovely drive to Mission Soledad. Then there were four to enjoy to drive through Salinas Valley to Marina State Beach.

We drove to Carmel & had lunch at La Bicyclette & then wandered around Carmel for a while. The mussels were the special of the day and they were scrumptious. We visited the Winfield Gallery, a favorite of ours. In addition to owning a Karen Shapiro ceramic piece (Blue Dot photo flashbulbs) we got to see a wonderful exhibit, that was up, by the International Guild of Realism.

The Kelloggs treated us to an indoor/outdoor taco bar dinner. All the time we were at the Kelloggs, in the morning and again in the evening a video about automobile racing in Pebble Beach, "Racing Through the Forest" was playing. Then we were treated to a professionally done presentation by our own Dan Shockey, "Pebble Beach Races, 1950 to 1956." Dan even did overlays of maps. Sweet.

Speaking of sweet, we stopped at the Ice Cream Shoppe in Pacific Grove on the way home to ogle the Beatles paraphernalia and have some Lappert's ice cream. A few folks had bagels and lox with all the fixin's at the Kelloggs on Huckleberry Hill, Sunday morning.

John & Joan Bertolotti told us of a way to avoid Santa Cruz' heavy Sunday traffic, on our way up to Hwy 17. The Soquel - San Jose Road is a beaut to motor. The unexpected appearance of Casalegno's was a perfect stop for café macchiatos.

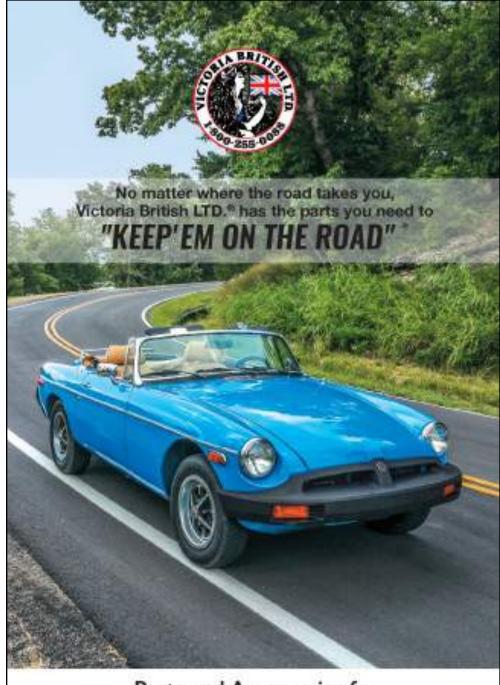
Food again found at a new spot, The Saltroot Café only open for six months, on California St. in SF. Home in time to watch the season opener of "This Is Us."

Thanks again Steve & Vicky!

Photo below by Tom Tallone







Parts and Accessories for MG • TRIUMPH • AUSTIN HEALEY • SUNBEAM VictoriaBritish.com (800) 255-0088

Save the Date!

The MGOC Annual Brunch will be at lunchtime on Saturday, January 20, 2018. We will gather again at Hs Lordships on the Marina in Berkeley.

Not quite a free lunch but a very good lunch at a cost moderated by the club. All you can eat at the buffet. This is a fun event that is well attended.

We want you there!



Formal dress optional! (Kilts accepted)



The Wine Country Fires claimed at least one MG TC, owned by Rough Riders member Dick along with his home and garage with other cars, tools and parts. Rough Rider member Andrew of the Scribe Winery in Sonoma fought the fires around their property for 25 hours and saved their home and buildings. They moved their MG TC to town at 3am before fighting the fires.



More Pebble Beach Photos





Steve found us parking areas with lots of space!

And Vicky arranged beautiful weather.

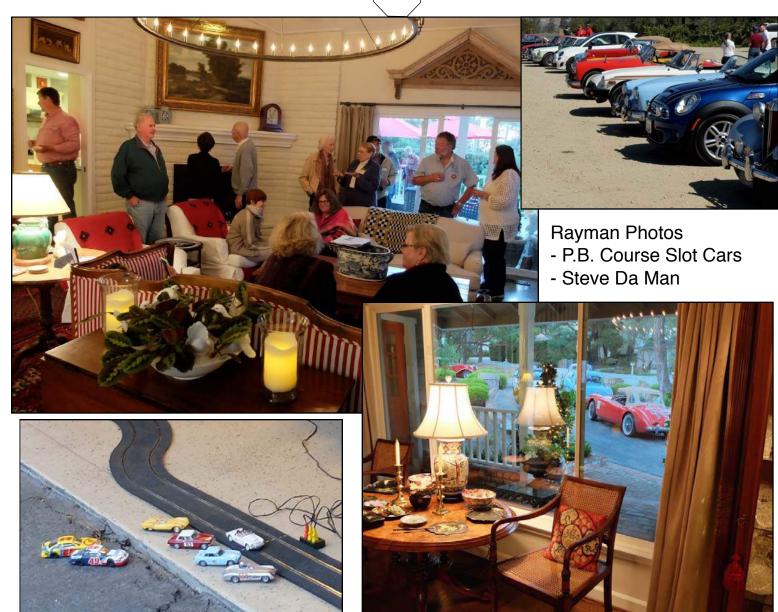








Race ready!







Windmill Run Report – October 21, 2017

It was a great day. Excellent weather. Fantastic route. No car troubles. - Steve Rogers.

The tour started in Fremont on Mission Blvd. proceeded thru Niles canyon then various roads on the south side of Livermore. It continued thru the hills east of Livermore on Tesla Rd. to the outskirts of Tracy where we turned north then back to Livermore and thru the hills again via Patterson Pass Rd. ending at Melo's Pizza on 1st St. – about 62 miles total. The roads were in good shape, the scenery was beautiful, and there was little traffic. The weather was perfect and so was the pizza. Both MGOC and SSTS members attended with a total of six MGBs and one MG TD. A few of the roads were a bit steep, narrow, and crooked but all cars made the trip without problems. It was a great tour and all who attended seemed to have a good time.

This was the last scheduled south/east bay tour of the year. South/east bay tours will probably start again next April. Check the Octagon for times and places. These tours are typically less than 100 miles and normally stop or end somewhere for lunch. We encourage those of you who have not been on a tour to try one next year. All MG owners are welcome. On the tour you will get to know other MG owners with whom you can share experiences and, of course, enjoy a fun drive.

Dave Marsh



Brian Moylan: A Salute, A Remembrance and A Thank You!

By MGOC member John Hunt

Earlier this year, one of the great MG community leaders passed away, Brian Moylan. In honor of what he gave to us, I thought it would be fitting to write a few notes about him and reprint his interview from a past edition of the Octagon.

The MG Car Club of England, Remembers

"Brian, born in 1928, started work at the MG Car Company in 1950. Five years after joining MG, Brian seized the opportunity of working in the Competitions Department, where he continued until 1979 before leaving to run a satellite of Morris Garages.

Brian was one of the founding members of the Abingdon Works Centre and had been serving as their President since 2012. Before this, he had a long-time involvement with the MG Works Auto Club.

Throughout his working and social life, Brian was a true ambassador of the marque and the MGCC. He will be truly missed."

Brian and our Octagon Newsletter

From our *Octagon*: Brain Moylan, Works Mechanic. An interview with John Hunt:

John: I've often heard that the competitions department was described as a "bee hive of activity". Roughly, how many people worked in the shop?

Brian: We had a team of six mechanics that handled the works cars. The private race cars went to the service department's special tuning division in Abingdon.

John: From start to finish, how long did it take prepare a factory car for a race?

Brian: From three weeks to a month. You needed to rebuild the engines. Balancing and the engine and the car was key. We did the least changes with the Monte Carlo cars since they only allowed for minimal changes.

We also made seat and peddle location modifications for driver preferences for comfort.

It was often, we didn't finish till the last minute. Number of times, we were up till Mid-night preparing cars. Then, once the cars where finished, they still needed to be run-in (broken-in). Often, the mechanics ended up doing this in 3 hours shifts along the roads around Abingdon.

John: MGB had a number of impressive victories with BMC works team. During your time with the team, which race do you think was one of the finest moment for MG?

Brian: Spa, 1000KM that took place in 1966 when MGB driven by Andrew Hedges/ Julien Vernaeve - First in GT category and 1st in Class. This race showcased one of MGB's many strengths and in the racing world, it was reliability.

I can't remember all the cars, however, yes, they beat all the major marques such as Porsche, Jaguar, etc.

Note: Spa 1000 is also known as Spa 24 hours. This race was first introduced in 1924. Sports cars began racing here in 1953. The formal name of the course is Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium. The most driver wins is by Jacky Ickx (5), Most wins by a team is Peugeot (5) and most wins by a manufacturer is Ferrari (10).

More of Brian

If you would like to get the inside view of the Abingdon factory experience, check out: MG's Abingdon Factory. A picture history book by Brian available on Amazon.

Another fun book, although it may be out of print at this point, by him is, "Works Mechanic." It is about the life and times of being on the front lines of BMC's race program.

Abingdon County Hall

Brian was the driving force and curator of the MG exhibit at the town of Abingdon's County Hall which is a

Continued from Page 14

17th-century baroque designed hall located in the market place in the center of town's square. Inside, contained a full floor devoted to all things MG, which is certainly fitting, given the car and the people associated with it, put this village on the world map. One cool feat, was hosting one of the last MGB's into the building. See video link below:

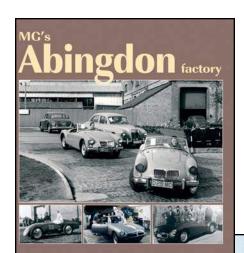
MGB returns to Abingdon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Cnbgu7Kx8s

To reorganize all people and interests in Abingdon, the MG exhibit is still there, however, it has been reduced since Brian's passing.

Closing Thoughts

It was a hoot chatting with him on the phone about the world of MG's. I remember his wonderful sense of humor and passion for the marque. When you have a chance at your next meal, may I suggest you take a moment and join me in spirit, to raise your glass and toast Brian as a salute and thank you for all he has done to help make

the MG experience more fun, exciting and memorable for all.



Brian's book

Brian at the Abingdon exhibit

Brian wrenching the works rally cars





Keep Planning for 2017 ...



FALL- WINTER

Chabot Space & Science Center Tour SSTS, 11/4 Rubina & JerryCaufield, greaufield@gmail.com, (510) 359-9268

Sonoma Tour, Marla & Andy Preston, 11/11/17 MGOC Holiday Tea & Toy Drive, Elaine's House - San Francisco, 12/9/17



2018

MGOC Annual Dinner, Hs Lordships, Berkeley, 1/20/18

NAMGAR GT-43, Richmond, VA, 6/13-17 NAMGBR MG2018, Gettysburg, PA, 6/17-22 GOF West, South Lake Tahoe, Sept. 10-15, 2018



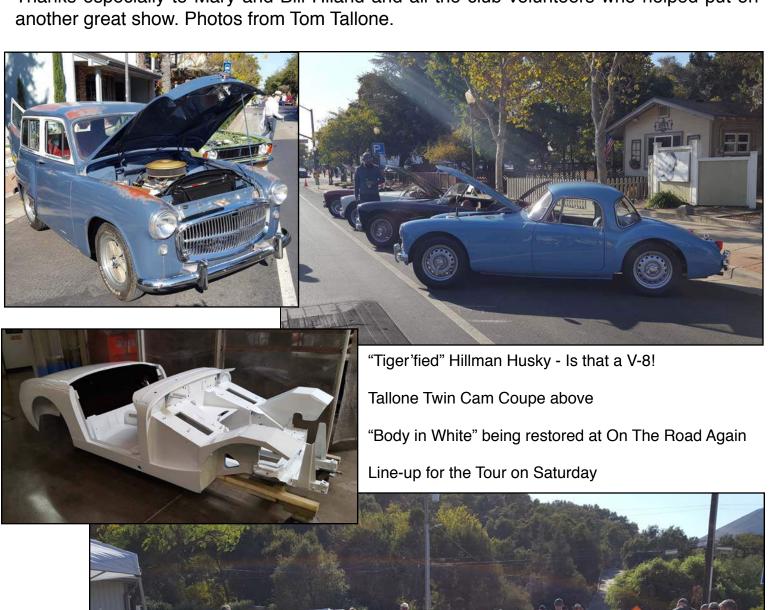
The Mists of Time 1956 or 2017?

Start-Finish of the Pebble Beach Race Track

Photo by Tom Tallone

Autumn Classic - British Car Meet in Morgan Hill

Thanks especially to Mary and Bill Hiland and all the club volunteers who helped put on



Mug Shots by Mike Jacobsen

The MGOC's Holiday Tea is coming up, on Saturday, December 9, and this means getting out all the mugs I can find. I've discovered that I have a patchy history of the MGOC and local cars shows recorded in mugs, along with many other MG-related things.

There are anniversary and commemorative mugs. These are from the MG Car Club of England, the MGOC from 1999 for hosting an event, and the 60th Anniversary mug from this year.







You may also have a mug or two depicting a car you own, or used to own, or wished you owned:













■Do you

Remember the All-British show that was held in Palo Alto every fall? It was huge, with nearly a thousand cars some years. They often issued mugs as keepsakes, like these:







Near the end of the show's run, they moved from Palo Alto to the Brisbane Marina, but it wasn't quite the same.

Classified Ads

Ads are free to MGOC members and \$6.00 per month for non-members.

1956 MG Magnette ZA. "Redhead" \$8950. See www.mgexp.com/registry for details. Doug Foster, (503) 701-6120. <a href="details-effective-eff-at

<u>Chrome Trim Rings</u>: Five new 15 inch chrome plated stainless steel, \$40. Look great on TD/TF.MGA steel wheels. 5 are available, for the spare, too. Don Davis, email: <u>fstcobra@hotmail.com</u> (Posted 11/17)

MGA parts: Front frame extension, 5 Hoods (bonnets), 2 Trunk lids (boots), 4.88 rear end, Driveshaft for 1500 cc motor, Gas tank, Oil cooler, Fiberglass racing valance, Brooklands racing windscreen, Misc. "trinkets." Call Tom Morgan at 650-740-4116 for details. (Posted 11/17)

<u>1972 MGB</u>. Lovely MGB you can drive anywhere. (Bottom left) Blue with gray top & interior. Overdrive, roll bar. new tires; engine overhauled 5 years ago; replaced clutch 3 years ago. Recent: alternator, exhaust, starter, top, Pertronix. \$15,000 or offer. Contact Bob Luebbert at 510-912-4239 or <u>r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net</u> (Posted 10/17)

Enclosed Trailer for Rent: Enclosed car trailer for rent (16' x 8'). Trailer has integrated braking system and lights, 12 volt Electric Winch. Reasonable rates. Eric Baker (510-517-2165)

We list ads for 3 months. Advise if you want them extended. For additional ads, see prior issues of The Octagon. Prior issues of The Octagon and other classified ads may be found on our web site,







Pub Night! Nov. 10 On The Road Again - Morgan Hill

16840 Joleen Way, Unit G4

Our first Pub Night of the season will be Friday, November 10th. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

This Pub Night is a special one because we will be recognizing the British Fall Classic 2017 volunteers who made the event a huge success! We will also be giving out the donations made possible by our generous sponsors and all those who registered and participated in the show.

Please bring some wine or beer to share and we will provide snacks.

Continued from Page 18

There are also the not-quite-car-but-certainly related mugs. For example, what do you do when the MG isn't running? Why, you take an alternate form of transportation, of course.



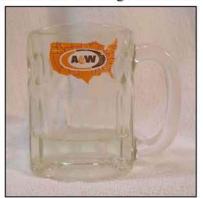




Do you have any mugs from favorite eateries? I've got a couple that I liked so much I asked if the restaurant would sell me one.

So what mugs are in your cupboard? And be sure to come to the Holiday Tea, on December 9 from 1 to 4pm at 115 Pinehurst Way in San Francisco. Bring a dish to share if you can, and we'll see you there!











And Toy Drive - Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 In San Francisco!



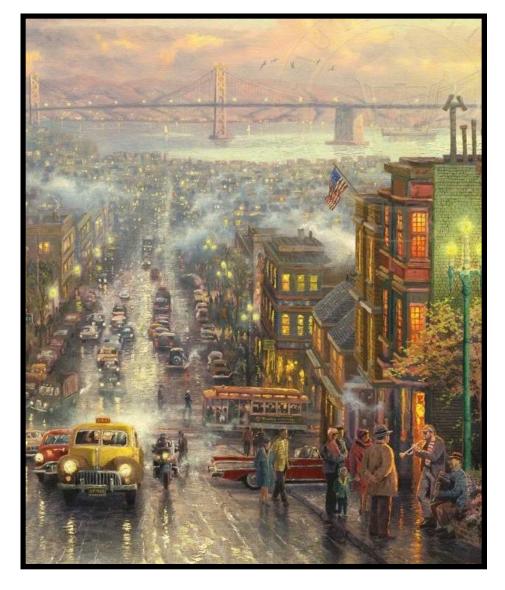
Hosted by Elaine Chan. Bring your favorite tea, teapot and favorite food treats (optional - come anyway!)

Bring a toy to share through the Toy Drive

When: 1pm to 4pm, Board meeting at 12:30pm

Where: 115 Pinehurst Way, San Francisco







Real Englishmen drink tea! This is a popular annual event. Do join us!

Art copyright Thomas Kinkade and cropped from a larger image. Mr. Kinkade did many "city-scapes" with automobiles and trolleys, and many San Francisco scenes. They are available from specialized art dealers in all media and price ranges, as low as \$20. His art captures the time and place and mood very well.

I have seen one featuring an MGA but cannot find it again. - Ed.



Club Meeting 'Nosh 'n Natter'

Date: Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017

After Lunch on the Sonoma Tour at Dinucci's Italian Restaurant in Valley Ford

a Unique and Unusual spot for the Natter!

More Info: Andy Preston andypreston@att.net

We look forward to seeing you!

And of course, if you have an English car, your set of mugs should also include the Queen:

