

THE OCTAGON

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



MGOC Octagon
If undeliverable please return to:
7230 Silver Lode Lane
San Jose, CA 95120

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December 2010

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 2010

President: Sam Gearhart, 510-530-2267, swg3@comcast.net
Vice President: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, j2george@pacbell.net
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Secretary: Bob Trencheny, 925-984-2472, tbobx@aol.com
Registrar: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, MikesMuseum@yahoo.com
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Photographer: Jeremy Palgon, 510-378-1821, alistaircookie@gmail.com

CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

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

MGB 1962-74: Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, martyray@cruzio.com
MGB 1974-1980: Ed Adams, 510-483-6821
MGB V8 Conversion: Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, Tony@BatesFamily.net
MGC: Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, kent@kentleech.com
MG Midget: Craig Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, mrcraigk@aol.com
MGA/Coupe/Twin Cam 1955-62: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125
Z-Magnette Saloon: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, mgpb36@yahoo.com
T-types: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, 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
S.U. Carburettors: Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, martyray@cruzio.com

Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

December 9, 7 pm

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant
 101 Parrott Street, San Leandro
<http://www.englishpub.com/>
 (510) 357-3571

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

Directions to The Englander:

From Northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington St. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott Street. You will see The Englander on your right.

From Southbound I-880, take Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14th St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott Street.



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collinsclassics@comcast.net

Parts for Sale:

Set of MGA seats in ok shape, **MGA windshield frame** with glass that is broken. Contact Member Don Scott at (707) 942-0546 or don@napanet.net.

MGTD/TF Parts: Factory 4-speed gearbox: This core and shifts easily in all gears. Top-cover-off inspection shows nothing broken or otherwise damaged. Inside is nice and clean. Fits TD and TF, \$400. **Two piece hood top with hinge:** I have two sets. Both are straight and in good shape, one has surface rust that sands off easily. Your choice, \$100 each. **Hood right side:** very good shape, \$50. **TD driver side door:** no rust and wood is good, \$60. Contact Member Rod Schweiger at (650) 296-1108.

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

MG TD parts: drive shaft with u-joints, **front and rear shocks** and rear springs. I'm selling these items because I've upgraded my 1953 TD to a MGA rear end, brakes, and rear springs. \$100 or best offer for all. Contact Member Bob Luebbert at (510) 276-0365 or r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net.

Wanted:

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

Information about a 1970 MGB: My wife's first car was a light yellow (Pale Primrose) 1970 MGB with black interior and wire wheels. It was purchased new from E.F.Sweeney British Cars in San Rafael (although my wife lived in San Mateo). She sold the car in 1978 to friends of their neighbors, the Golightlys. Unfortunately, we have found the Golightlys passed away and thus we cannot get the names of their friends who purchased the car. The only pictures we have of the car was when it was new, and it has the original paper temporary dealer plate on the rear: 0752568. We would love to locate her original car. If we unfortunately cannot, we would like to buy one just like it. Any help would be extremely appreciated. Please contact Gary and Janet (Fulton) Germano at (650) 619-2706 or garywgermano@hotmail.com if you have any information.

MGOC 2011 Officers Ballot

Office	Nominee	Write in
President	Sam Gearhart	_____
Vice President	George Steneberg	_____
Secretary	Bob Trencheny	_____
Treasurer	Mike Jacobsen	_____
Please mail to: Bob Stine, 3215 Llano St., San Mateo, CA 94403		

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2010 rates are: monthly (yearly): full page \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on January 1, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 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*.

MGOC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON*

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 20th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to mgowners@gmail.com or send them to: MGOC, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120.

RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

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

MGOC.ORG

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

Forthcoming Events

MGOC Events in bold

Dec. 11 – **Holiday Tea**, Los Altos, Felix Lee

Dec. 17 – Pub Night at On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill Hiland

Jan. 15 – **Annual Awards Banquet**, Hs Lordships, Berkeley, Sam Gearhart



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President's Ponderings...

Happy Holidays to you, and you, and you

Well, it's that time of year again. I wish each and every one of you the happiest of holidays. It seems the summer driving season just ended. Just recently we traveled near or far to be with friends or family for Thanksgiving; and now we're amidst the magic of the winter holidays, exchanging gifts and enjoying the spirit of the season.

Of course, just because the traditional driving season is over doesn't mean all things MGOC suddenly end as well. In fact, we have some special events coming up very soon. First, Felix & Kimberly Lee (along with their two beautiful daughters) will host our annual Holiday Tea on December 11. The Holiday Tea is always a wonderful gathering, with plenty of good food and fine company. Please don't forget that the Holiday Tea is a great time not only to visit with fellow MGOC members, but also to drop off unwrapped toys or gifts for needy kids.

Only a couple of short weeks later on January 15, 2011, we will hold our Annual Awards Banquet. While this event has traditionally been a dinner, we have noted declining attendance in the recent years. So, in a break with the norm, this year's banquet will be a mid-day buffet luncheon with the hope that more members will be able to attend, and even arrive in their MGs!

The awards luncheon will be held at Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm; so feel free to stop by, even if only for a short time. I recently visited Hs Lordships to do a "test drive", and found that the buffet is astounding with over 100 food choices, everything from beef and seafood (with wonderful sides) to delectable desserts. With so many choices, there will definitely be something for everyone. We will be presenting numerous awards during the day. After having been "missing in action" for the past few years, the Burnt Sparkplug Award will again be presented to a special member. It is certain to be a great time. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Whew! Just when you think there's a break, there isn't. Only a couple of weeks after the Annual Awards Banquet we'll hold our Annual Planning Meeting (date, place, and time to be determined), where we'll plan and schedule our events for 2011. Come out to the planning meeting and join in the fun. Meanwhile, to each of you, I wish a very sincere and very happy holiday season.

Regards,
Sam Gearhart

MG

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

SHOCK ABSORBERS:		Front	Rear
MGTC		185.00	185.00
MGTD & TF		165.00	85.00
MGA, MGB, MGC, Midget		102.00	75.00
HEAVY DUTY UPGRADE		10.00	10.00
SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt)	Scall		

BRAKES: sleeved and rebuilt	
MGB, Midget caliper	\$85.00
MGA, MGC caliper	\$155.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1966-67	\$225.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80	\$125.00-145.00
MGB brake booster servo	\$175.00
MGC booster servo	\$445.00
Cylinders sleeved only, brass or SS	\$50-\$95
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Toll Free 800-882-7753

VISA, MC, DISCOVER, PAYPAL, COD

00078

1973 MGB GT. Nearly completed restoration. I redid the mechanicals, had body and paint done professionally. Upholstery is dark blue cloth as originally fitted. Has two nearly new six-volt batteries, correct rubber mats, and original carpeting. Has refurbished Rostyles with like-new 165-14 Dunlop radials. I have a professionally rebuilt OD gearbox, which is not installed, redone by Jerry Redmon of Napa Valley Auto Restorations. The car does need completion - some interior pieces need to be installed, and it needs some tidying. \$4,500. I'm in Napa Valley. Contact Member Don Scott at (707) 942-0546 or don@napanet.net.

1953 MG TD. \$28,000. Purchased in 1972 with a possible racing background. Completely rebuilt in early 2000 and raced since then two or more times per year at Infineon and Laguna Seca. Toured with several sport car clubs in the Wine Country. Contact Member Ferdinand at ferdinands@att.net.



1977 MGB with 54,000 original miles, overdrive transmission, original "Sandglow" paint and autumn leaf interior. Well maintained by third owner. Price \$6,400. Contact Member Ellis at Bovet177@gmail.com.



FREE Parts & Accessories Catalogs

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- TR7 & TR8
- Spitfire & GT6



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Order Catalogs & Parts Online at

www.VictoriaBritish.com

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, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120. Members may also email ads to the editor at mgowners@gmail.com.

Cars for Sale:

1978 MGB, one owner vehicle with 33,000 original miles. Garaged and covered more than driven, I have every receipt from the day it was purchased at British Motors in San Francisco late 1977. This car runs perfect, looks 98% perfect, and everything is original (including the perfect top). \$5,500 or best offer. I doubt if there's anything out there this "cherry". Contact Ed at (775) 846-1817 or ednyfb@hotmail.com.



1975 MGB. Blaze red, runs well, no smog necessary. New: top, seats, carpet, and paint. Rebuilt aluminum head. Dual carbs. Asking \$11,900. Contact Karen at (408) 564-0334.

1961 MGA Coupe, 1600 cc engine, 5 speed gearbox. California car, completely restored by third (and present) owner in 2002, rust free, body straight, no accidents, 7,800 miles since rebuild. Original body panels, new front spoiler below bumper. All good original chrome, new rubber gaskets for body and glass. Painted "Paprika Red" (Jaguar color). New clutch slave and brake master cylinders, 2004. Pictures and further information upon request. Asking \$25,000. Contact Member Viggo Riddersholm at (650)341-9064 or vriddersholm@yahoo.com, or Gordon Craig at lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net.



1949 MG TC British racing green, right hand drive in excellent condition. \$35,000. Contact Member Larry at (415) 999-2362.

From the Editor...

...and words are futile devices. – Sufjan Stevens

Now and again something remarkable happens, and there are just no words to describe it. No, I don't mean to speak of miracles. I wish to speak of the little, everyday ways people can surprise and amaze you – how affecting that experience can be, and how limited is our ability to express it.

Let me give you an example. Some years ago, a few friends and I were walking when we happened to notice a blind person training another blind person to cross the street. We all immediately shared the same thought: the blind leading the blind. But in that instant, we suddenly realized that the old cliché had an entirely new meaning. Who better than a knowledgeable blind person to lead and teach another blind person?

We all looked at each other, astonished. We had no idea what to say. So we simply said, "Did you see that?" to one another, and stood agape. We knew that we had just experienced something profound: a total reversal of a small part of our background world view.

A few minutes later, of course, we found many words to describe and discuss the experience. But the words were insufficient. The experience was ineffable. What we were really sharing was a mixture of amazement and befuddlement at both the ability of people to help each other and the limitations of our poorly formed preconceptions.

Nevertheless, we tried to express what we felt and thought. And that's important. It showed that we all recognized something and were straining to appreciate its effects. In that spirit, I would like to recognize a few other remarkable things that oft go unnoticed, even though my ability to express it in words is insufficient.

Many people in the Club have been exceedingly kind to me in the past year. Sam Gearhart has continually encouraged and supported me in my choices as editor. He has oft sought my advice, and I have found our conversations enjoyable and edifying. Mike Jacobsen has spared me the wrath of his red pen, and continues to reimburse me for *Octagon* related expenses. But Mike's real talent is patience, level-headed-ness, and consistency. I always know I can count on Mike. George Steneberg and David Wright have always made me feel welcome with a smile and a story, and that's more important than you know.

Andy Preston, in a profoundly unselfish act, offered to open up his home shop-garage to me and my troubled little MG. The generosity of that offer still amazes me. Bill Hiland has lent me MGs to drive, invited me to tech sessions, and is always ready to chat. Craig & Kim Kuenzinger recently lent me their camera (for this month's panoramas). More importantly though, I recall the many occasions Craig told me "whatever you need", and Kim nodded in agreement.

And then there are the many people who have contributed to *The Octagon*. Ken Gittings diligently sent me photos after every event he attended. Wayne Veatch sent in some wonderful write-ups. Gary Kennedy took a day off work so we could shoot a poster for MGs by the Bay. And Staff Reporter Samantha Lee could always be counted on for a story with a charming point of view.

The kindness and support of so many of the members of the MGOC has made my time in the Club, and as editor, enjoyable – and indeed, worthwhile. I cannot express my gratitude enough.

And though words are futile devices, if someone does something you appreciate along the way, go out of your way to tell them. They might appreciate it more than you know.

Jeremy Palgon

MGOC Holiday Tea

Saturday, December 11, 1-4 pm

Felix & Kimberly Lee's Home

Los Altos

This year's holiday tea is in Los Altos at the home of Felix & Kimberly Lee. Come on over for some holiday cheer, join us in telling MG stories, and celebrate the season with Club friends.

The Club is again sponsoring a toy drive. Please bring a new unwrapped toy, which we will deliver to a local firehouse.

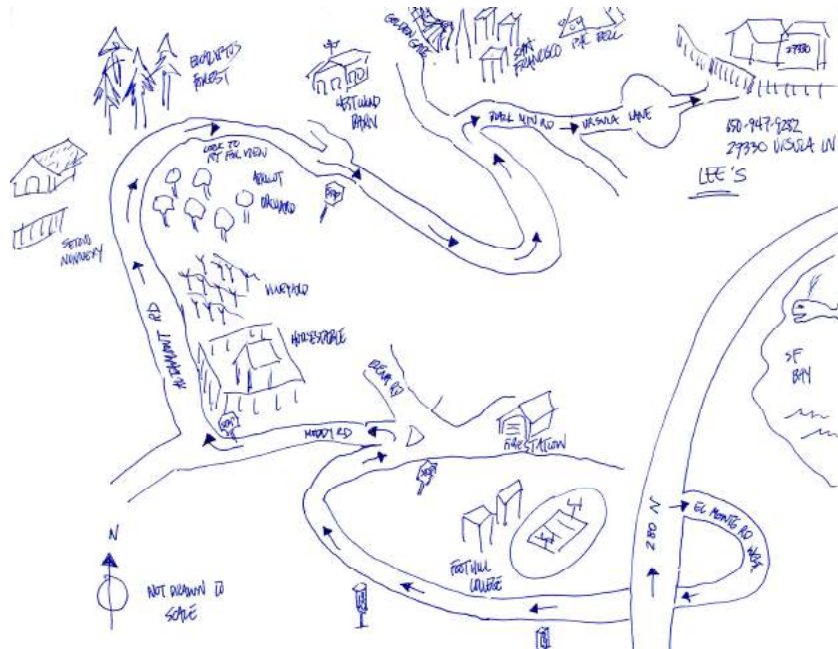
Please also bring a dessert or hors d'oeuvres to share. If you have a favorite tea, please bring that too.

Location: 27330 Ursula Lane, Los Altos

Please RSVP to: Felix Lee at 650-947-9282 or flee@hancmg.com.

Directions: Take 280 and exit at El Monte Road. Go west on El Monte (follow the signs to El Monte W / Foothill College / Moody Rd). Turn left onto Moody Road. Stay right and continue onto Altamont Road. Turn Right onto Black Mountain Road, and then take a slight left onto Ursula Lane.

Map:



Old Business

Article of the Month Award: Mike J is still developing guidelines on the article submission program. Mike's draft guidelines were approved last month and will be published in *The Octagon*. The program will begin in January 2011.

MGs by the Bay: MG by the Bay Location: A motion was passed to move the event to Sunday, May 15, 2011 and keep the event at The Livery at Danville.

Web site: Jeremy says the web site now has Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr accounts. David Wright's son and Jeremy will discuss redesign options.

New Business

MGVR Reunion: CSRG and the MGVR is interested in having the MGOC join them as hospitality host for their MG 2011 Focus Event at Infineon Raceway. They expect 75 to 100 classic MGs at the event on April 10-11, 2011. The MGOC has been asked to sponsor a trophy for the event. A motion was passed to support the event with a budget of \$300 for awards, coffee, and donuts.

Next Meeting and Natter: 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at The Englander Sports Pub, 100 Parrott Street, San Leandro.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Submitted by Bob Trencheny.



Photo by Ken Gittings

MGOC Business Meeting Minutes November 11, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Gearhart at 7:05 pm. Also attending were: Mike Jacobsen, Craig & Kim Kuenzinger, Jeremy Palgon, Kathy & Warren Pierce, Bob & Edie Shaheen, George Steneberg, Bob Trencheny, and David Wright.

The September minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: The checking account balance is up slightly from last month from a few more renewals and a new advertisement in *The Octagon*.

Registrar's Report: We still have 183 regular, 57 auxiliary, 9 corresponding, and 2 associate members for 251 total members (which is the same as last month). Last month's number was incorrectly reported and has now been updated.

Secretary's Report: Nothing significant to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Mike Jacobsen will renew our NAMGBR affiliation.

Regalia: Bob Trencheny gave a brief update on Club shirts that have been ordered.

The Octagon: Nothing significant to report.

Past Events

The MG 80 Event and California Autumn Classic: were combined on October 16 and 17. This could be the last year for the Autumn Classic. The MGOC has been contacted about taking over sponsorship of the event, but is not considering the opportunity.

MG Fall Festival: is tentatively scheduled for Sept 29 - Oct 2, 2011. Formerly called the NAMGAR 2011 Western Regional. Planning for the MG Fall Festival got underway in late October.

Upcoming Events

The Holiday Tea: and annual Toys for Tots collection is December 11, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Felix and Kimberly Lee's house in Los Altos. See *The Octagon* for more information.

Annual Luncheon: The Annual Dinner is becoming a luncheon in order to get more people to attend and drive their MGs to the event. A motion was passed to hold the event at Hs Lordship's at the Berkeley Marina on January 15. Check the Web site and the December *Octagon* for more information. An extended discussion on pricing and Club subsidies of the event ensued. A motion was passed to keep the cost at \$15 per person and the total cost per head not to exceed \$45, with a total cost to the MGOC not to exceed \$6000.

MGOC Holiday Toy Drive



As an apparent result of the MGOC's very successful collection drives for Toys for Tots in past years, we recently received an urgent request from Santa and his elves at the North Pole. It seems that in light of the current economic doldrums (with many families struggling to make ends meet), Santa is more concerned than ever that many children will miss the excitement and happiness of having Santa bring a gift their way this holiday season.

It is truly sad to think of a young child waking to find no present with his or her name on it that magical morning. Santa has asked that we redouble our efforts this year and provide even more gifts to be donated to needy families with children. I know that it isn't always something you might think about and it is easy to forget the plight of others, but I personally urge all of you to pick up a small, age-appropriate toy. The MGOC will collect the toys and deliver them to a local fire station. From there, the toys will be given to numerous children on Santa's behalf.

Please keep this in mind next time you're walking through the local mall or department store. Please pick up a small present and bring it (unwrapped) to our Annual Holiday Tea at Felix & Kimberly Lee's home in Los Altos on December 11. Or you may drop it off with, or send it to, Sam Gearhart at 3521 Randolph Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. If none of those options are convenient for you, please contact a board member and we will do all we can to make arrangements to pick up your donated present. We were very successful with the Toy Drive last year and I believe we can do even more this year.

— Santa's Helper Sam

On the Road Again Classics

British Auto Restorations

Invites you to our second

Pub Night

Friday, December 17, 5 pm



Please join us in our 4,000 square foot museum and showroom for an evening of darts, air hockey, music, and vintage racing movies!

Munchie bits will be provided as well as mixers and ice.

Please bring your own beverage of choice.

We also will hold a drawing for a free oil change, lube, tire rotation and 90 point inspection (including a compression and leak down test) on your classic British Car. That's a \$400 value!

Significant others are encouraged to attend, but please leave the young ones at home.

Please RSVP to Bill Hiland at 408-782-1100 or
bhiland@ontheroadagainclassics.com.

16840 Joleen Way, #G4, Morgan Hill, 95037

❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Total
MG Owners Club Regalia			
50 th Anniversary Plaque – Black & white, 2" wide by 3" high		\$5.00	
50 th Anniversary Pin – Black & white, 3/4" wide by 1.1" high, clutch back		\$5.00	
Club Jacket – Black & tan with embroidered MGOC logo (See note 1)		\$60.00	
Pennant – Red "MG Owners Club", cream canvas, 9 1/2" high by 17" long		\$10.00	
Grille Badge – MGOC logo, 4" high, mounts with one stud through grille		\$35.00	
Patch – 3" diameter, embroidered black MGOC logo on white		\$6.00	
Cling – 3" diameters, black MGOC logo on white background		\$2.00	
MG Car Club of England Regalia (Notes 2 & 3)			
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3" dia., mounts with studs through grille		\$55.00	
Lapel Pin – 3/4" by 1" enamelled metal MGCC badge		\$6.50	
Outside Window Decal – 5" by 5 1/2" clear & white MGCC logo		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2 1/2" by 3" brown & cream logo; reads "Member"		\$1.00	
MGs at Jack London Square Plaques			
Dash Plaque – 2006, black on silver MG ZB Magnette		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2005, blue on silver MGA Coupe		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1995 through 2003		\$2.00	
Total Amount Enclosed			

❖ Notes

1. Jackets are specially ordered, though we try to keep a selection of sizes on hand. These are generally delivered at an event or meeting. Please indicate size: Small through double extra large.
2. MG Car Club regalia is affected by the exchange rate, and prices are therefore subject to change.
3. Please note that while orders are shipped as they are received, some items are stocked from England and have a long lead time. If we run out of stock, we will notify you if the delay will be more than three weeks.

❖ "Ship To" label – please print!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone number in case we have a question about your _____

❖ Ordering Information

- ♦ All prices include tax, and shipping is FREE except for jackets.
- ♦ Make checks payable to "MGOC" – sorry, but we cannot accept credit cards or cash.
- ♦ Send orders to:

MGOC Regalia
5518 Thomas Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618-1752



Annual Awards Banquet



Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina Saturday January 15, 2011 11:30 am until 3:30 pm Only \$15 per Person

You are cordially invited to enjoy the company of fellow club members, as we break from the tradition of an Awards Dinner in favor of an all-you-can-eat buffet Luncheon Banquet. There will be a no-host bar, delicious and plentiful food, and beautiful views of San Francisco Bay (weather permitting).

It is certain to be a fun-filled afternoon. We'll be handing out many awards, installing Club officers, visiting with each other, and generally having a grand old time.

Perhaps best of all, you don't need to pre-select your meal choice in advance (as in previous years). Just come in and take your pick of Hs Lordship's extensive buffet offerings.

We need to let Hs Lordships know how many will be attending, so please RSVP and mail your check for \$15 per person to Sam Gearhart by Friday, January 7, 2011.

Please email your RSVP to swg3@comcast.net and mail your check to:

Sam Gearhart
3521 Randolph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602

Directions: From Highway I-80, exit at University Avenue in Berkeley and head west (towards the bay). (If you're approaching from the south, go east on University and then u-turn.) Stay left at Marina Boulevard. Continue straight until you dead end into the Berkeley Pier. Turn left on Seawall Drive. Hs Lordships is located at the end of the street at [199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley](http://www.hslordships.com).

Specific directions from all parts of the Bay Area are available at:

<http://www.hslordships.com/directions.html>

November Pub Night at On the Road Again

By Bill Hiland

November 19 saw the first of many Pub Nights to be held this winter. Conceived by the staff of On the Road Again, Pub Night gives British auto owners one evening a month to gather around the cars, drink a pint or two, and share stories of their great LBCs. A crowd of about 35 car owners and spouses showed up to watch vintage sports car videos, consume lots of popcorn and crock pot meat balls, and even throw a few darts. Several people spent time in the shop: checking out the projects in process (including a couple of freshly painted MGs) and talking with the staff. All present thought it was a grand time of good folks, fun cars, good munchies, and some fine ale!

The next Pub Night will be held, rain or shine, on December 17 at On the Road Again in Morgan Hill. We hope to see you there.

On the Road Again

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Nigel Shiftright on the Web

Andrew Bradley, proprietor of Bradley Restoration, has set up a small internet archive of classic Nigel Shiftright strips. For those not in the know, *Nigel Shiftright, Automotive Anachronism* was an on-going comic strip appearing in *Road & Track Magazine*. Created by cartoonists Phil Frank and Joe Troise (best known for *Farley* and *The Elderberries* respectively), *Nigel Shiftright* often chronicled the exhilaration, frustration, and exasperation of driving a classic MG TC in the modern age.

In a 2007 *San Francisco Chronicle* article, Phil Frank described the odd Mr. Shiftright thusly:

“Nigel is an Anglophile, loving all things British and imagining himself to be an unrecognized member of British royalty living in the United States with a fleet of spindly-wheeled old cars at his estate on Flapping Bonnet Lane. Nigel refuses to ride in any “sports car” that has electric windows. He also has personal conversations with his vehicles.”

Sound Familiar?

You can find a few of the classic Shiftright strips at Andrew Bradley’s site:

http://www.bradleyrestoration.com/technical_resources/nigel-shiftright-automotive/

In 2006, Phil Frank and Joe Troise “test drove” the infamous Shiftright Special for *Road & Track*. Atop the article, an image featured a cartoon Nigel driving Phil Frank’s British Racing Green 1949 MG TC. Needless to say, a unique and witty review of the machine followed.

You can read the article here:

<http://www.roadandtrack.com/special-report/1949-mg-tc-four-angry-cylinders>



Photo by Ken Gittings

On the Road



Gary Kennedy's TF in the Mt. Diablo Foothills

Photo by Jeremy Palgon

Late Breaking News Flash MGOC Contest Opens Today

By M.G. Mowog

The MG Owners Club is announcing the creation of a contest to find the best, most amazing, most stupendous new content for its monthly newsletter, *The Octagon*. After searching far and wide for sources and stories, having beaten the bushes of frequent contributors bare, the MGOC is making a call to all members for submissions. That's right, that means you!

And what, dare say, might you win if your submission is amazing enough to be selected as *The Octagon* Contribution of the Month?

Why, a brand new car!

No, not really. You probably have enough cars anyway.

So what will you win?

A \$25 gift card to the store of your choice (within reason), bragging rights, pride in a job well done, and the thanks of a grateful editor.

All submissions, from the offhand doodled MG cartoon to impeccably written tour reports, will be considered. Anything, absolutely anything, produced by a member (or immediate family of a member) that can be run in *The Octagon* is eligible.

The editor, as the supreme arbiter of stupendousness, will select one winning submission a month. Though the editor is rumored to be curmudgeonly, subsisting solely on the entrails of empty red pens, he is in fact quite easy to impress. (I've met the monster. I know.)

Your event photos, tech articles, drawings, tales of woe, editorials on the state of reproduction parts, youthful remembrances, and what-have-you are not only welcome and eligible, but they all warm the editor's surprisingly furry heart.

And because the MGOC board is in a kindly mood, you may win more than once. That's right; if your rant expressing your disgust with SU carburettor tuning is named Contribution of the Month in January, your article cursing Lucas electrics can win in February.

The contest begins immediately, and the first winner will be named in the January 2011 edition of *The Octagon*. So boot up those computers, grab a pen and paper, turn on those cameras, create something and submit away!

Unimportant Fine Print: A page in *The Octagon* holds about 450 words; less if there are pictures. Use that value as a guideline when deciding on the length of your article. Whenever possible, send an electronic copy of the article to the editor as an email attachment. Don't include the article in the body of the email message. DOC, RTF, and TXT are the preferred text file formats; and JPEG, BMP, TIFF, GIF, and PNG graphics files are all acceptable. But many others formats are "do-able" - contact the editor first to find out if *The Octagon* can handle the format you prefer.

California Autumn Classic

