

# THE OCTAGON

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



MGOC Octagon  
If undeliverable please return to:  
320 B Monterey Blvd.  
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<http://www.MGOC.org>

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Photo by Ken Gittings

MG TC of Bruce Obblink on display at San Juan Bautista.

# November 2006

## 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 2006

**President:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)

**Vice President:** Nina Barton, 510-845-7212, [ninaba@mindspring.com](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)

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

**Secretary:** Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

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

**Activity Director:** Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

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[MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**MGOC Historian:** John Hunt, 925-299-9006, [huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntsails@worldnet.att.net)

**MGOC Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@gmail.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:** Marty Ray, (831) 475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

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

**MGB V8 Conversion:** Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, [Tony@BatesFamily.net](mailto:Tony@BatesFamily.net)

**MGC:** Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, [kent@kentleech.com](mailto:kent@kentleech.com)

**M.G. Midget:** Kingsley Klarer, 707-226-1955

**MGA/Coupe/Twin Cam 1955-62:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

**Z-Magnette Saloon:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

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

**Pre-war Midgets-Magnas-Magnettes:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

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

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

### 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). 2006 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25

## Natter & Noggin and Club Meeting

**November 9, 2006 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.), 8 p.m.**

The Englander, 101 Parrot Street, San Leandro

(510) 357-3571 <http://www.englishpub.com/>

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

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

## MG 2007 Planning Meeting

**Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

**In El Cerrito**

**At George Steneberg's home,** 9 Pomona Ave, El Cerrito CA. This will be more convenient to those important folks in the North Bay. Come down over the Richmond Bridge, or down I-80, and exit before the Berkeley/Bay Bridge traffic.

**Directions:** Take either I-80 or I-580 to the Central Ave. exit in El Cerrito (north of Berkeley and Albany). Go east to San Pablo Ave and turn right. Take the first left onto Fairmont Ave. Cross Ashbury and turn right on Pomona. George's home is just after Ward Ave. on your right.

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



## 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, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA, 94583. Members may also email ads to the Editor at [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com).

**1979 MGB:** White w/ tan top. 124K miles. Recently smogged. JVC AM/FM/CD. Ask \$3100 or best offer. F. Granum (408) 262-1115, San Jose

**1974 MGB:** Silver with red interior and taupe-colored soft-top, overdrive, cloth seats with headrests, Pioneer tape player. 152K miles with more than \$7K invested in the car over last five years. Member [dkamins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkamins@sbcglobal.net) or (415) 706-5646.

**1968 MGB:** Pretty British Racing Green with tan soft top. 92K mi. Runs very well. Includes: Sony Stereo, chrome wire wheels and good tires. At 77K mi. (2002) rebuilt master cylinder, new brake lines, new exhaust, new carbs, leaf springs, rebuilt front suspension, replaced rear and new wheel bearings. Rebuilt head. Tonneau cover. Records available. \$10,000. Member Dan Hampshire, Berkeley, (510) 843-5912.

**1965 MGB:** Recent restoration for autocross, vintage racing, and driving to the beach. New engine, carb, interior, paint, tires, and more. \$6000 or trade for a van or wagon. Non-member Ken, 415-699-3549.

**1977 MGB:** 52,300 miles. Third local adult owner, and we have copies of routine service receipts since the car was first sold in August of 1976. The car has overdrive transmission. It is very clean and still has the shine of the original Harvest Gold paint. Autumn Leaf interior and the black dashboard and console trim. Car has never been an accident. \$5500 OBO, Ellis, [Bovet177@Gmail.com](mailto:Bovet177@Gmail.com).

**1973 MG Roadster and 1973 MGB/GT.** Ran when parked. Both are project cars. Non-member Ken at (650) 281-4224.

**1978 MGB** British Racing Green. Runs well and passed smog (easily) in June. 83K miles. Needs roof and upholstery work. \$2500 (650) 493-0373.

**Aftermarket MGB hardtop:** Flashy. Keep warm & dry! Member Eric Baker, Oakland, 510-531-7032.

**Wanted MG TD Seat Slider:** Member Walter Kilik (408) 996-0385, [wallylk@juno.com](mailto:wallylk@juno.com).

**MG Midgets for Restoration:** Both are mostly straight and mostly rust free and have wire wheels. 1963 has side curtains and disk brakes, spare 1275 engine and ribcage transmission. Also 1969 model. \$500 each. Member Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, [mgmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:mgmogul@earthlink.net)

(\$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*.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Bob Trencheny, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA 94583. Or, you may email contributions to [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com).

### RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine (650-349-5128) is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers. The club roster is available from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

## Forthcoming Events

MGOC in **bold**, SSTs: Sorry Safari Touring Society,

ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders

Nov 4 – **MGOC East Bay Tour**, finishing at the Sunset Show House Bob Trencheny.

Nov. 9 – **MGOC Meeting & Natter**, See page 23.

Nov 11 – **MG 2007 Meeting** at George Steneberg's, See page 23

Nov 25 – **Pajaro Valley Winery Tour**, Jack Ford, See page 7

Dec. 17 – **Holiday Tea** at The Trencheny's in San Ramon

Jan. 20 – **Annual Dinner** at Scott's Seafood, Walnut Creek

July 16-20 – **MG 2007** in Sonoma Valley, See [www.MG2007.org](http://www.MG2007.org)

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## Go Fast, Shift, and Vote Nay!

**This news from MGOC member Ken Gittings:** The "FAST MG" license plates have been turned into the DMV, so if you want them you better go down to the DMV or better yet go online to <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/>

**And still more news from Ken Gittings:** <http://www.mgfivespeed.com/>

**And be sure to thank Ken** for voting against EVERYTHING at the NAMGBR Annual General Meeting. It was a tough job but somebody had to do it!

### Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car lover with 15 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 are available. Call for a free estimate.

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

## Web Sites of Interest

British Leyland TV Commercial: <http://tinyurl.com/y8qchw>

We are still growing: <http://www.frappr.com/mgocbayarea>

Silverstone 2006 MGCC Weekend: <http://tinyurl.com/ydkxex>

The nine-minute Silverstone video needs a high-speed Internet connection to view on Google video.

## NAMGBR General Meeting

The meeting site was the Doubletree Hotel; because the officers of NAMGBR wanted to see the venue of the MG2007 convention of which we are the host club. They seemed to be impressed with the site and our presentation of planned events.

We led them on the first leg of the major driving tour for next July, over back roads to the coast, prior to the meeting.

The meeting started at about 1:30 Saturday afternoon and adjourned about 4:30. I was mildly surprised to note only 21 attendees, twelve of which were our local MGOC and SSTS members. I think I speak for all our members in attendance when I say it was a good experience to participate in the meeting. NAMGBR has grown to 1800 members. Attendees came from Missouri, Colorado, Ohio, and Michigan; as well as from Southern California and locally.

We learned that approximately 1500 people attended MG2006 in Gatlinburg, TN. We voted to retain the current officers of NAMGBR, including the newly-appointed Treasurer, Alan Magnuson, and passed two bylaw proposals.

Saturday night we went to the Union Hotel in Occidental for dinner ... another preview of events for the convention. Most people who know me wouldn't believe it, but there was too much food for me to finish! Those of you who attend MG2007 and the dinner at this establishment truly have something to look forward to.

We greatly enjoyed meeting and getting to know the NAMGBR team and look forward to working with them in July.

Bob Stine  
MGOC President



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## Let's all hum a few bars...

MGOC member Dan Neu sent this in supposedly from *Mad* magazine.  
(Sung to the tune of Born Free.)

MG, I live just to touch you, when I double clutch you,  
you give me a thrill...

MG, I'll polish and wax you, when somebody smacks you, I'll die, MG!

## Perhaps it should be the new MGOC Fight Song...

### 33rd Annual Vintage MG Club Of Southern California MG Parts Exchange

Sunday, Nov.19, 2006 – 7 am to 1 p.m.

**Located: College Park, College of Communications,  
2600 E. Nutwood Avenue., Fullerton, CA  
(across the street from CSU - Fullerton.)**



**ADMISSION: General: \$ 5.00 Vendors: \$20.00**  
**Largest U.S. All-MG Parts Exchange**

[http://www.vintagemg.com/parts\\_exchange\\_info.htm](http://www.vintagemg.com/parts_exchange_info.htm)

Several Club members are going.  
Contact Dan Shockey for ride and room sharing.

## President's Ponderings...

**Brisbane Marina Festival:** I submitted a report with some photos of this event for publication elsewhere in *The Octagon*. I would definitely like to go again next year. My brother-in-law, his son, and his son's girlfriend met me for lunch. We all had a good time. There was an old sailing ship at the end of the dock, waiting to be restored. I wasn't able to get any information about it, but I'm sure it had an interesting history. It needs a **lot** of work!

**Sundial Bridge Tour Fizzled:** I was sorry to hear that David Wright and Marty Ray were our only members who drove on this tour. David reported that the local club in Redding cancelled the "Hot Dam Tour" because of the lack of interest. I would have liked to go (I actually had planned on it), but something else pre-empted it. I suspect many of our members didn't want to drive that far and/or didn't want to tie up an entire weekend.

**NAMGBR Annual Meeting:** I attended this meeting in Rohnert Park the weekend of October 28<sup>th</sup>. It's the annual business meeting for members of the North American MGB Register. See the article elsewhere in this issue of *The Octagon* for more details.

### MG2007 Planning Meeting

After the meeting the MG2007 planning committee met at John Hunt's home. We agreed it's time to start recruiting volunteers to participate in this major event. Next month we will have a complete list of the tasks that will need to be tackled and will look for members and others to help. We'll need people to help with registration, greetings, directing cars to parking spots, leading tours and more. Please start thinking about how you'd like to participate. It promises to be a lot of fun. We'll be presenting ongoing articles in *The Octagon* about the many events, entertainment, and educational opportunities provided by the convention. This is our chance to attend a National event without leaving our favorite part of the country!

**Annual Dinner:** Don't forget, our Annual Dinner is scheduled for January 20 at Scott's in Walnut Creek. John Hunt is making the arrangements.

**Election of MGOC Officers:** It election time again! The nominating committee was established at the October meeting and their nominations will be presented, per our Constitution and Bylaws, at the November meeting. If you would like to run for office, or nominate someone for office, please contact one of the nominating committee members (Nina Barton, Dan Shockey, or John Hunt) or attend the November meeting.

Bob Stine  
President, MGOC  
[rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)



# From da Ed...

November 1, 2006

I had a great MG weekend! On Saturday I attended the NAMGBR Annual General Meeting at the Doubletree Sonoma Hotel and on Sunday I was at John Hunt's home in Lafayette for the monthly MG 2007 meeting. The AGM was a unique opportunity to see how the Register conducts business for our benefit. I also had the pleasure of meeting the Register officers from across the country. They all seemed to enjoy their visit to California and were happy with the site of next year's event. The following morning at John's house was not too early. Thankfully daylight savings time worked in my favor and gave me an extra hour of sleep. Be assured we are making progress on MG 2007 and a fun time will be had by all next July.

As MG 2007 gets closer the club leadership will be asking for volunteers

to assist with the event. Please consider helping out the club in any way you can for the event. I know July is a long way off but if you get a day or two marked off on your calendar now you will be thanking me later. Sonoma is a beautiful location and there are lots of great events planned. Watch the [www.MGOC.org](http://www.MGOC.org) and [www.MG2007.org](http://www.MG2007.org) web sites. The MG 2007 site will be up shortly.

We do have two more tours planned by the time you read this. Jack Ford will lead the club to a Pajaro winery and Jeremy Palgon is leading his first tour for the club. Get out and drive if you can.

Let's Ride,  
Bob



The "Kassaratti" was a 1951 MG-based special built by Kas Kastner.

## Receive *The Octagon* in Color

Contact Mike Jacobsen at [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com) to receive *The Octagon* electronically and in color. You will receive it faster and in color and save the club money on printing and postage.

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SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt).....	\$call	

#### BRAKES : sleeved and rebuilt

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## San Juan Bautista

The annual British sports car event at San Juan Bautista was a big hit this year. 175 registrations were received, the weather was perfect, the Saturday tour was excellent, and the dining and atmosphere were superb. I don't think we had any class winners from the MGOC this year though we had some in the Premier class as past winners. The Club was well represented with many nice MGs. Bill Hiland came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the MGB class with his 1973 maroon roadster. Ed Browder won the TC class with his Clipper Blue MG. The caravan was shot down by a complete closure of I-680 just as we were to meet.

This is a fun event. Make plans to attend next year. It is always the third weekend in October. The MGOC was an event sponsor this year.

Report by Dan Shockey



## Pajaro Valley Winery Tour

### Saturday, Nov. 25, 2006

Jack and Rada Ford are leading a road rallye (tour) to a quaint little winery just on the banks of the Pajaro River east of Watsonville on Saturday, November 25, 2006. The winery is *River Run* located at 65 Rogge Lane just off Highway 129, east of Watsonville. We will not only have the opportunity to taste some old favorites of the winery but sample some of the new releases. We are invited to pitch in to bottle and cork our own Cabernet Sauvignon. The self-bottled wine will be available for tasting and may be purchased at \$7.00 per bottle (1 case minimum). Other wines are available per bottle. The plan is to try to arrive near lunchtime with our hearty little cars, appetites, and picnics and spend an hour or two tasting and toasting. (Tables provided)

Meet at Winery: Those who might want to come down Highway 101 from San Jose to Highway 129 west can do so and plan to turn left on Rogge Lane east of Watsonville.

Meet in Los Gatos: The more adventurous caravaners should plan to meet at the grassy park area across from the Toll House Hotel in Los Gatos at 140 Santa Cruz Ave. at 10:00 A.M. After assembly, the group will head out Santa Cruz Ave. to Highway 17 South, turning off 17 at Summit Road, crossing over 17 and heading south on Summit road to the scenic Soquel/San Jose Road down the hill to the town of Soquel. After crossing Soquel Avenue, the MGOC parade will proceed to Highway 1 South and continue to the off ramp at Rio Del Mar Blvd. Just after the stoplight and the ARCO station on Rio del Mar it's a right turn into the parking lot of the Deer Park Shopping center where our hosts will be waiting about 11:00 A.M.

We will return to Highway 1 south and on to the Highway 129 exit. After the stop sign, it's a left on Highway 129, through the outskirts of Watsonville and on to Rogge Lane where we will turn right to 65 Rogge Lane. Parking is in the back.

For those who will be returning via Highway 1, north, and Highway 17, you are invited to make a rest, dessert, and pit stop at Jack and Rada Ford's home at 217 Highland Drive in Aptos.

Ford Home in Aptos: North on Highway 1 to Rio del Mar exit, west. Stay on Rio del Mar Blvd about 3 miles toward the ocean. Pass a golf course, cross a R.R. bridge, crest the hill, and Highland Drive will appear on your right. Turn right to 217. Our neighbors will cooperate for parking. The plan is to get everyone home before dark (Lucas Time). Come and enjoy the view.

More information: (650) 575-2307 or (650) 961-2321. Join Us!

RSVP (if coming): The winery asked for an approximate count so please let Jack know if you can.

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Monday thru Friday, 9 to 5. Other hours by appointment.

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Web Site for MG 2007: Delay has partly been due to getting the Registration Form finalized. Dave McCann has a test site up.

Ballot for NAMGBR Issues: There were some minor bylaws changes that required our vote. We voted to go along with the proposed changes.

Contribution to Autumn Classic: Mike sent the donation agreed upon. The organizer asked for volunteers to act as judges. There is an opportunity for us to lead the Saturday tour next year.

Thank You Gifts for Annual Dinner: These were purchased by Dan. The total came in at \$247 (15 gifts) rather than the \$200 approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

Election Committee: We selected a committee to propose a slate of officers for 2007. The committee will be made up of Nina Barton, John Hunt, and Dan Shockey.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Endorsement of Advertisers: We discussed how we should (and shouldn't) endorse the companies and individuals that advertise in our newsletter. We decided to stop short of encouraging members to use our advertisers.

Charity Event: Randy and John are working on this and plan to meet on October 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. The next business meeting is to be held Nov. 9, 2006, at the Englander.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Shockey, MGOC Secretary

## Safety Fast in Airsmoothed Style



Advertisement for early 1954 MG Magnette  
without quarterlights and fog lamps



## Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting Oct. 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 p.m. by President Bob Stine. Also present were: Nina Barton, Dan Shockey, John Hunt, Randy Grossman, Mike Jacobsen, Ken Gittings, Bob Trencheny, and Joe Rubio.

September Minutes accepted as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Still have money. We are expecting \$1500 additional "seed money" from NAMGBR for the *MG 2007* account. That account is down to \$34. Request was sent to the old treasurer for NAMGBR.

Registrar's Report: We have seven new members this month. Of the total of 302 memberships, 49 have not yet renewed. Mike received a batch of new name badges.

Secretary's Report: No action.

Regalia Report: Mike made a new version of the regalia ad without mugs and key fobs.

The Octagon Report: We have new and larger ads that will take some additional space. Should not be a problem for now. Mike put in live links from the PDF version (from the Table of Contents). We printed 170 copies but will drop next month as we drop the non-renewed members. Robbie Trencheny is taking over maintenance of the web site. Bob and Robbie met with Jennifer and received a CD from her. Dan will need to transfer the MGOC.org control.

### PAST EVENTS

Sundial Bridge Tour (Sept.): Only David Wright and Marty Ray made the trip. The Redding club dropped out as a result. David and Marty reported a good trip and visits with Martin Hveem and Redding area club members.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

San Juan Bautista: (Oct. 22) Dan Shockey leading a caravan from Fremont on Sunday morning.

Brisbane Marina Festival (Oct. 22) Bob Stine going. Not sure who else will attend.

NAMGBR AGM: (Oct. 28) Several members and *MG 2007* planners are attending. Andy Preston is organizing the tour and Saturday dinner at the Union Hotel in Occidental.

East Bay Tour: (Nov. 4) Bob T. is leading us around Mt. Diablo, going the opposite direction from the last tour. We will end the tour at the Sunset House of Innovation.

Tour by Jeremy Palgon: Our new club photographer has expressed interest in leading a tour in late November or early December. It will start in the South Bay.

Holiday Tea: (12/17) Bob T. volunteered to host this years event at his home in San Ramon. It will take place on Saturday afternoon, December 17, from 2pm until 4pm.

Annual Dinner: John Hunt booked Scott's in Walnut Creek. It will be held on Saturday, January 20, beginning at 6pm. We will get one glass of wine and dessert provided with dinner. We have reserved a room for 50 people but can add space as required. The charge to attendees will be \$40 a person. John plans a multimedia presentation that will celebrate 50 years of the MG Owners Club. Make plans to attend.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Club Website: Robbie Trencheny is taking it over.

*Make Plans to Attend the*

## **MG Owners Club Annual Dinner Celebrate the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

*Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>*

*6:00 p.m. Cocktails*

*7:00 p.m. Dinner*

*At*

*Scott's Restaurant*

*1333 N. California Blvd*

*Walnut Creek, CA*

*(925) 934-1300*

### **Special Features:**

"MG Does It Again" – A full-color documentary that covers the construction and deployment of MG's record-breaker EX 181 in 1957 when Stirling Moss drove it on the Bonneville Salt Flats. See John Thornley, Syd Enever, Stirling Moss, and Phil Hill in this exciting short classic film.

Cost per person is only \$40. Advanced payment is required. (That's a cost 25% below retail.)

Menu: Salad

Chicken Sienna or Tenderloin of Beef & Salmon with rice & vegetables

One glass of White or Red Wine

Dessert & Coffee

Vegetarian option available

Please make your checks payable to "MG Owners Club." Please note which dinner you have selected and mail checks to:

John Hunt

629 Burton Drive

Lafayette, CA 94549

Any questions please call John Hunt at 925-299-9006 or e-mail at [huntsails@worldnet.att.net](mailto:huntsails@worldnet.att.net)

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## Roewe 750 Debuts in China



Chinese automaker SAIC Motor Corp held the official launch for its first own-brand car, the Roewe, on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The luxury sedan was built by the government-owned SAIC using technology from Rover. SAIC owns the technology rights for two Rover models, the 25 and the 75, bought from Britain's MG Rover Group Ltd. last year.

Named the Roewe 750 – SAIC lost out to Ford Motor Co. in its bid for the Rover brand name – the car was presented to VIPs and domestic media only in a ceremony that featured a fashion show and live jazz music, according to a statement from SAIC. Foreign media were not invited to the ceremony held in Shanghai's western suburb of Anting, which aspires to become China's version of Detroit. "This is mainly meant for the domestic market," an SAIC official said.

SAIC is hoping to use Rover's reputation to gain a niche for the Roewe, known as the Rongwei, or "glorious power" in Chinese, in the European market as well. According to SAIC, the name "Roewe," pronounced "roo-eevee," was chosen because of its resemblance to the Spanish word for lion and to the English word "we," for the "power of the masses."



## “NASCAR Meets My Fair Lady” Continued

wonderful people as our guides. Andy, an educator in a former life, was extremely knowledgeable about English history, botany, beer, gin, motor cars, and everything else in between. After five days of motoring in tandem, the Tyacke's went their way and my wife and I were on our own. Andy had provided us with maps, brochures, and excellent driving instructions. He developed a manual just for our adventure.

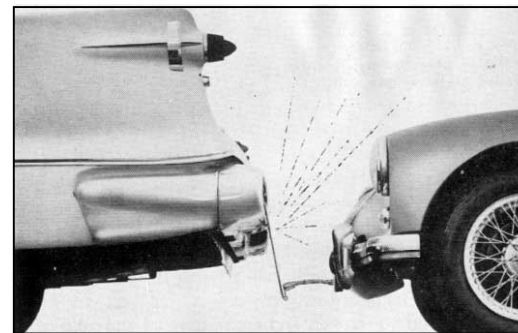
We drove on to Sway to be close to the internationally known, two-day, Autojumble (auto flea market) and National Motor Museum in nearby Beaulieu (buelee). The autojumble was acres and acres of vintage cars, auctions, car parts, bicycles, motor cycles, and automobilia. A shopping list and comfortable shoes are a must. The thousands of attendees were from all over the world. After spending the night in Hindon, we negotiated the M motorways at 75 mph to Lamberhurst where we had one last lunch in an English pub and returned the Healey. That last pub visit provided my favorite beer to date, Harvey's Sussex Best Bitter. I was so adept at English driving by that point, with less than a pint, I ably negotiated our way back to the drop off point. As a special thank you to my white knuckled wife for navigating so ably and not digging her fingernails too deeply into the dash, we took the Euro Star from Ashford, through the Chunnel to spend two and one half days in Paris. In Paris we found that walking and the Metro provided a welcome respite from motoring from motor cars. Anyway, where's the fun in driving on the right?

Both my wife and I would recommend this experience without hesitation. But, using Andy Tyacke of England Specials is the best piece of advice we can give you. That, and to mind your winker. Believe me, the challenges of English driving in a vintage motorcar will take anyone's mind off turning 60.

If you have any desire to make our adventure yours, please call or e-mail for details and recommendations. We have many stories to tell and photos to share.



**“Wouldn't it be easier to use our cell phone?” Naomi Rayman asks her husband Marty whilst en route to Malvern Link and the Morgan Motor Company factory tour.**



Very handy protection for your grille against those big yank tanks. The “Sonic Shield” blows the horn when a car ahead backs too close. This accessory was sold in the 1950s and 1960s by MG Mitten from California.

## MGOC Officer Nominations

We are very pleased this year to be able to nominate the same officers for 2007 as those that led us in 2006. For 2008 we will need an entirely new slate.

President:	Bob Stine
Vice-President:	Nina Barton
Treasurer:	Mike Jacobsen
Secretary:	Dan Shockey

You may write-in and vote for another candidate. Please send your vote by mail, by email or a telephone call to George Steneberg, or attend the next meeting. (Contact info on page 2.) Nominating Committee: Nina Barton, John Hunt, and Dan Shockey.



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# NASCAR Meets *My Fair Lady*

By MGOC Member Marty Rayman

In the fall of 2005 my wife, Naomi, asked where I would like to travel for my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, in August 2006. Without a second thought I said to England for the Goodwood Revival in Chichester. If you love vintage (pre-1966) motorcars and aeroplanes and are an anglophile, this is a trip of a lifetime.

I started planning the trip by myself. I soon found that hotels close to Chichester were booked for the September weekend of the Revival, almost one year in advance. Furthermore, coordinating an adventure, including hiring a vintage motorcar suitable for touring the English country side, became a daunting task. I had noticed an advertisement in *Classic Motorsports* for a trip to "...the Goodwood Festival of Speed and a nine day tour of England in a classic British sports car" July 7-15, 2006. I contacted the company [www.englishspecials.com](http://www.englishspecials.com), spoke to company co-owner Andy Tyacke and found that they would be providing a similar package for the Revival that would take place on September 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2006. My wife and I agreed that the hefty price tag was fair for what it included. We sent off our deposit and planned our trip over the Internet and with a few phone calls with Andy. We were on our way to the Ninth Goodwood Revival and were in for some extra special treats.

During World War II the Earl of March's estate was used by the R.A.F. as a base. The several squadrons of Spitfires stationed here aided destroying more than 1,000 enemy aircraft between July 10<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1940 in what became known as the Battle of Britain. After the war, the Earl of March transformed the road surrounding the airfield into a racetrack. By 1966, the cars became too fast for the track and the races ceased. Nine years ago, the Earl's son, Charles March, revived the races and this past September we attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Goodwood Revival. See <http://www.goodwood.co.uk/revival>.

Attendees are encouraged to wear apparel from 1966 and before, and if one arrived in a motorcar of the same era, special parking was provided. On Friday, there were practice races and air displays; and both Saturday and Sunday there were motorcar and motorcycle races, air displays, and two special parades. One parade honored Phil Hill, with many of the cars that he had driven to victory. Another parade was in celebration of the "Magnificent Microcar." We particularly enjoyed the St Mary's Trophy race for production saloon cars of a type that raced between 1950 and 1959 and the Brooklands Trophy with cars that raced at Brooklands prior to 1939. Each day there was music, food, beer, and libation. Attendees, performers, exhibitors, as well as those dishing out refreshments, and many attendees were in period dress. Even the trash was collected in trailers hauled by vintage Rovers (all looked like Defenders) or WW II jeeps with the staff wearing Cockney costumes. My wife said it looked like "NASCAR Meets My Fair Lady."

The excitement began as we approached Chichester; the traffic slowed to a crawl, and we noticed in the queues of traffic Morris Minors, TVRs, Aston Martins, Austins, bug-eyed Sprites, MGs, Jaguars, and Rovers. Even vintage buses and lorries were part of this Goodwood-bound crowd. When we entered the grounds there were helicopters flying overhead. Our assigned car park, for our Lavant Grandstand Seating (I would recommend seats in that grandstand), was chock-full of vintage automobiles plus beautiful examples of modern English roadsters. For example, MGFs were in abundance. As we got out of our car the air was permeated with the smell of Castrol and filled with the thundering sound of massive engines. The sights were all hidden behind massive hedgerows. And then a Spitfire, wheels down for landing, came roaring low overhead and we knew we were in for a special, thrilling experience. Andy Tyacke accompanied us. He was a fount of knowledge regarding vintage motorcars and racing. In the evenings we stayed at an elegant estate, which had been turned into a hotel. Many other hotel guests were also there to attend the Revival. One group was the Luxembourg Ferrari Club and the hotel's circular drive was filled with eight Ferraris.

On Monday we picked up our hired motorcar. I had requested a Triumph TR6. I wanted a back seat for extra luggage and roll up windows and snug top in case of inclement weather. Whilst still at home, we had been notified that the TR6 we had reserved had ended up in hospital. As a result, for no extra charge, we were given an upgrade roadster. We were introduced to our 1965 Austin Healey 3000 Mk III (YEE HA!). For nine days of motoring, we had glorious sunshine and warm, humid weather. Our English driving adventure began with a stop at Stonehenge to witness the full-moon rise and then we were off to Stow-on-the-Wold for four days of touring the Cotswolds. Some experiences included the Morgan Works in Malvern, the Motor Museum in Bourton on the Water, the Upton House and miles of motoring through hedgerow lines roads and encounters with roundabouts and excellent English food and drink including the requisite cream tea. We managed to fill up at fueling stations, mind the verge (which is the shoulder and particularly important because we had 4.5 inches of clearance on the left), mind the non-self canceling winker (turn signal, mounted non-ergonomically in the center of the steering wheel), deal with the dip switch on the floor next to the clutch, depress the throttle whilst engaging the electronic overdrive in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, realize who had priority or preference (right of way), understand that the yellow stop light comes *after* the red, before turning green, alerting one to shift into gear, drive on the left, shift on the left (the easy part) and of course negotiate those round-a-bouts!

Originally the tour was to include four other hired motor cars and Andy. Instead, the other drivers decided to attend the July Goodwood Festival of Speed. We had paid our money and Andy Tyacke of England Specials, a true English gentleman (from Cornwall), said the trip would go on as planned. He brought along his delightful wife, Inge, and we had a private tour with two