

# 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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Photo by Felix Lee

Tim & Molly Polidoroff's TD at the Holiday Tea

# January 2011

## 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 2011

**President:** Sam Gearhart, 510-530-2267, [swg3@comcast.net](mailto:swg3@comcast.net)  
**Vice President:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
**Treasurer:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)  
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**Historian:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
**Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, 510-378-1821, [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 MG models.

**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)  
**MG Midget:** Craig Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, [mrcraigk@aol.com](mailto: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](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)

## Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

**February 10, 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. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott Street.



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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:garywgermano@hotmail.com) if you have any information.

## **Congratulations to Steve Kellogg!**

His article entitled "Pretty, Pretty, Pretty Good!" about the purchase of his new MGB is the Contribution of the Month for January. For his wonderful submission, Steve wins a \$25 gift card to the store of his choice.

## **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). 2011 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 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*.

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

Jan. 22 – **Annual Planning Meeting**, San Francisco, Mike Jacobsen

Feb. 18 – Pub Night at On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill Hiland

Apr. 1-3 – **MG West Coast Reunion**, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, MGVR

May 15 – **MGs by the Bay**, The Danville Livery

Jun. 13-17 – **MG2011 All Register Meet**, Reno

Sept. 29-Oct. 2 – **MG Fall Festival**, Petaluma



## From the Editor...

*So this is the new year. And I don't feel any different.* – Ben Gibbard

Those are, more or less, my sentiments on the new year. What's changed overnight? Why should I be expected to remake myself now? But, for purposes of perspective, I offer an opposing view as well:

*We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.* – Edith Lovejoy Pierce

There is clearly a sense in which we are all the authors of our own lives – and New Year's Day is our societal starting point. However, if you find Ms. Pierce's view a bit too rosy, perhaps you'll appreciate this:

*New Year's Eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another twelve months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights.* – Hamilton Wright Mabie

What could be truer? Clearly New Year's Eve is just another night, and life continues on as it has. But, due to our calendar and our cultural inclination to celebrate, reflect, and resolve, most of us find ourselves contemplating the end of the year, the coming of the new one, and what will be different between the two.

*For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.* – T.S. Eliot

Yes, for better or worse, time passes and things change. We change. What was recently commonplace quickly becomes old-hat. So shall we embrace the new with abandon? For the final word, I turn to perhaps the greatest of American wits:

*New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.* – Mark Twain

Jeremy Palgon

### MG

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Bovet177@gmail.com).



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## 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](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com).

### Cars for Sale:

**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](mailto:vriddersholm@yahoo.com), or Gordon Craig at [lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net).



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



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## President's Ponderings...

Greetings everyone and welcome to 2011, a new and very exciting year. I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays. I was fortunate enough to travel to the East Coast to visit two of my sons, my siblings, and my father, as well as other friends and relatives. I also hope you are ready for a new driving season and the many special events we're planning.

At the risk of repeating myself and thus boring you, I want to highlight the major events we have planned in 2011. As I also often do, I want to reach out to all of you to get involved and urge you to participate in planning.

I'm sure you know that our Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 15. Aside from that note, I'll not mention it again.

In April 2011 the MG Vintage Racers (MGVR) and Classic Sport Racing Group (CSRG) are hosting a weekend of racing at Infineon Raceway. The MG Vintage Racers have asked us to support the event and lend them a hand. We have discussed sponsoring an award as well as hosting a hospitality tent for participants. I am certain we'll need a lot of help staffing the hospitality center, so I ask that each of you consider spending a day at the track: lending a hand and enjoying some great racing with MGs from around the world. Of course there will be more details on this event next month.

In May, we'll hold MGs by the Bay in Danville again. In a slight departure from tradition, the show will be on Sunday, May 15 (the week after Mother's Day). It is certain to once again be a great time and a great show.

In June, the North American Council of MG Registers is holding MG2011 in Reno, Nevada. This is a major "All Register" event and organizers expect at least 800 owners with cars of all vintages participating. You can be sure many of our members will make the drive. We'll have more details in a month or two, but start your own planning now. You can read about the event at [www.MG2011.com](http://www.MG2011.com).

From September 29 to October 2 we will host the MG Fall Festival in Petaluma. We are holding this regional event to coincide with the CSRG Charity Challenge at Infineon Raceway. As an added benefit for all those attending, we will get to have on track time in our own cars over the lunch hour. A few of us were able to do that this past October, and I assure you it's a blast. As the Infineon event and on-track privilege is in support of the Sonoma Children's Charities, we'll try to come up with a program where everyone can help make a donation. Maybe sponsored laps, get your friends or neighbors to donate \$2 per lap, or something. Of course, our Fall Festival will also have many other activities, rides, dinners, and more. It's sure to be a wonderful time.

We are actively planning these things and more. Mark your calendars now and check *The Octagon* for updates. It may seem that it will be many long, dreary months before we're all hitting the road again; but when you think about it, it's really just around the corner.

Regards,  
Sam Gearhart



# Annual Awards Banquet



## Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina Saturday January 15 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 (made out to "MGOC") to Sam Gearhart immediately.**

Please email your RSVP to [swg3@comcast.net](mailto: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/directions.html).

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

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

Web site: changes are in progress.

Co-pilot Program: is still in work.

### New Business

2011 Officers Ballot: is in the December *Octagon*.

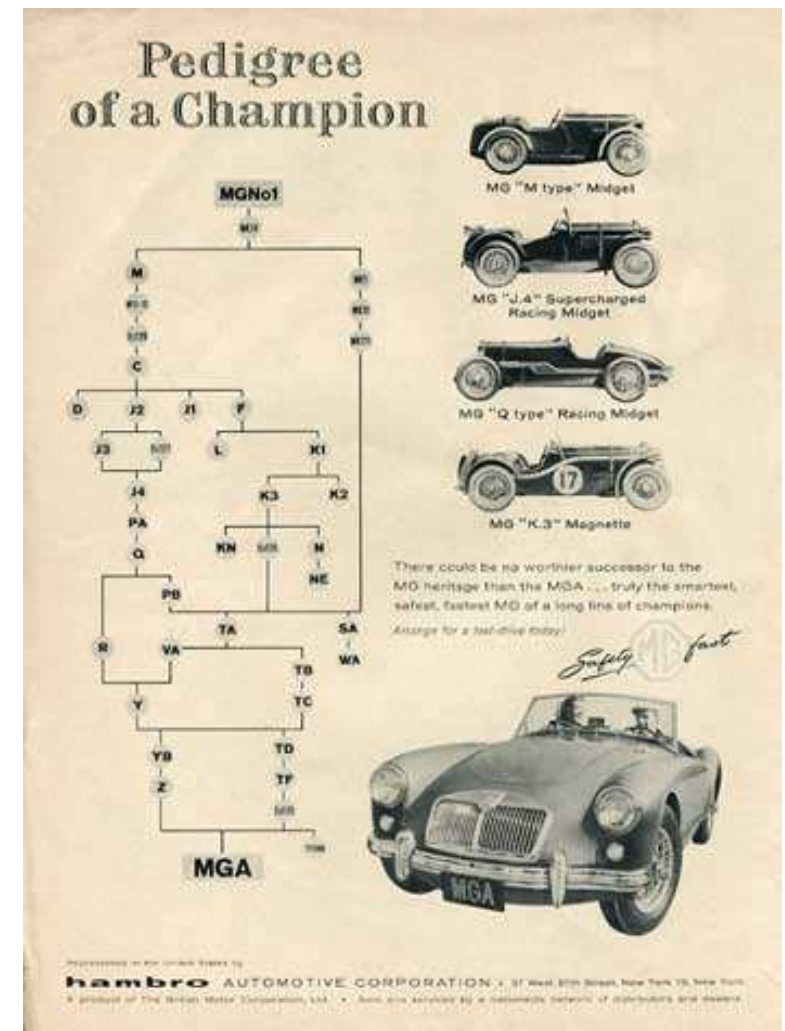
Burnt Spark Plug Award: Candidates were discussed.

**Next Meeting and Natter:** 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at The Englander Sports Pub, 100 Parrott Street, San Leandro.

There is no meeting in January due to the Annual Banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Submitted by Bob Trencheny.



## MGOC Business Meeting Minutes December 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Mike Jacobsen at 7:05 pm. Also attending were: Steve Kellogg, Bob Stine, Bob Trencheny, and David Wright.

The November minutes were edited to note that Bob Stine was in attendance at the November meeting and to correct the date of the December meeting to December 9, 2010.

Treasurer's Report: The checking account balance is almost the same as last month. There were a few more renewals and a new advertisement in *The Octagon* according to Mike Jacobsen.

Registrar's Report: The MGOC has 183 regular, 57 auxiliary, 11 corresponding, and 2 associate members for 253 total members (which is the same as last month).

Secretary's Report: Nothing significant to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Nothing significant to report.

Regalia: We have 16 grill badges in inventory. Mike Jacobsen will get a count on additional badges on display at various local shops. Bob Trencheny had no update on Club shirts that have been ordered.

The Octagon: Nothing significant to report.

### Past Events

We had no events in the past month.

### Upcoming Events

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

Annual Banquet: is confirmed for Saturday, January 15 at Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina. Please send payment to Sam Gearhart. Sam is ordering awards.

Annual Planning Meeting: is on Saturday, January 22 at Elaine's home in San Francisco.

MG2011: The All Register meeting is in Reno in June. The Club is looking for someone to coordinate MGOC attendance and participation in the drive from Reno to San Francisco. If you are interested in helping out, please come to the board meeting in February or contact a board member.

### Old Business

Contribution of the Month Contest: Article submission program is kicking off in January. The rules are published in the December *Octagon*.

## Annual Planning Meeting Saturday, January 22 San Francisco

Want to plan a picnic? Have a favorite route for a drive? Need some help on your restoration project? Well, here's your chance to suggest an event for next year's calendar.

Come to the meeting with your ideas and plans for drives, meetings, events, and tech sessions. The Club board will be happy to work with you to make your event a reality.

**When and Where:** Meet at 10 am at [115 Pinehurst Way, San Francisco](#)

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

**From the East Bay:** Come over the Bay Bridge and follow the signs to 101 South toward San Jose. From 101, take 280 South toward Daly City at the interchange past Cesar Chavez Blvd. Exit at Ocean Avenue and take the first right on the exit ramp. Continue west on Ocean for about a mile to Pinehurst. Turn right onto Pinehurst. 115 is on the second block, the third house from the corner, on the left.

**From the Peninsula:** Come up 280 and exit at Geneva Ave. Turn left at the top of the ramp, and follow Geneva until the signal where it tees into Ocean Ave. Turn left onto Ocean and continue west about a mile to Pinehurst. Turn right onto Pinehurst. 115 is on the second block, the third house from the corner, on the left.

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## The Marque Continues!

### By John Hunt

MG is rolling out a new model, called MG6. This is an important milestone in the history of MG. It's the first new model under the new owners, Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation. (In 2007, Nanjing Automobile Corporation merged with SAIC.) The car is truly a British gem, as it was designed and engineered by Brits in England. It has also brought the Longbridge factory back into production after a 15 year hiatus. The car will be produced in China as well, starting in January 2011.

The MG6 Saloon will come with Tiptronic automatic transmission or 5-speed manual. Under the bonnet, you'll find a 1.8-liter turbocharged engine, which should give it plenty of sporting pep! No word on whether it's coming to America yet. Most likely they will want to build a strong base in Europe and China first. Given its fetching design, it looks like the MG marque has a bright future ahead.

## Next Pub Night at On the Road Again Friday, February 18



### On the Road Again

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At the show there was a 1973 British Racing Green MGB that looked pretty nice, and it was for sale. On Sunday, during the rain, Vicky came down to see the MGB. She thought it was nice, talked to the owner, and was going to look into it further.

That next day I was in Salt Lake City for business. I called Vicky that night and asked her if she had called the guy about the car. She said that he had already sold it to a person from LA. Bummer. Oh well, back to craigslist and eBay, and maybe a few look-sees at *Hemmings* for me.

December 17 rolls around and Bill Hiland is having a Pub Night at his shop, On the Road Again in Morgan Hill, for British car enthusiasts to get together and talk cars. There were about thirty people there. Craig & Kim Kuenzinger even made the drive from Walnut Creek in the rain, which I thought was nice.

Bill made an announcement giving our editor, Jeremy Palgon, the NAMGBR Ken Smith Best Newsletter of the Year Award for *The Octagon*. Then he called me out of the crowd to help him pull the cover off a car sitting near the entrance, all covered up with a bow on it. The jig was up and I uncovered the '73 MGB that I saw in Morgan Hill. It had been cleaned up at On the Road Again, with a new front end and a bunch of tweaks that got it running really nice. The best Christmas present I have ever gotten!

I was very surprised, to say the least. Unbeknownst to me, Vicky bought the car and was working with the guys at On the Road Again for two months to get the car in shape. Special thanks to Bill Hiland and his team (Tom, Vic, Lawrence, and Duane) for all their efforts. Craig Kuenzinger helped me initiate (launch?) my new MGB with a little champagne poured over the front bumper and the cork attached to the key ring. I was very, very happy.

The car is great fun to drive on the freeway, but still needs a name. Yes, there a few things to work on: the heater, the cigarette lighter, and what the heck are all those wires that don't seem to be attached to anything? The Monza exhaust is cool sounding and the radio is nice too (even though it's a little tough to hear when driving on the freeway). I can't wait for the warmer weather to drive it with the new top down and properly folded away. I have my workshop manual and have to be really careful about going to the Moss Web site. My wish list is about \$2,500 and Vicky says we can't get anything big for the MGB until her TF gets a new top (and a few other things on her wish list).

Our next trip is a drive up the coast to Mendocino, where we spent our honeymoon 20 years ago. The MGB will get us there in good shape, and I'm sure we'll have a great time. Vicky and I are looking forward to more drives in the TF and the MGB this year. We're excited about driving to Reno for MG2011.

In closing, I love our Little British Cars; and I love my wife even more.

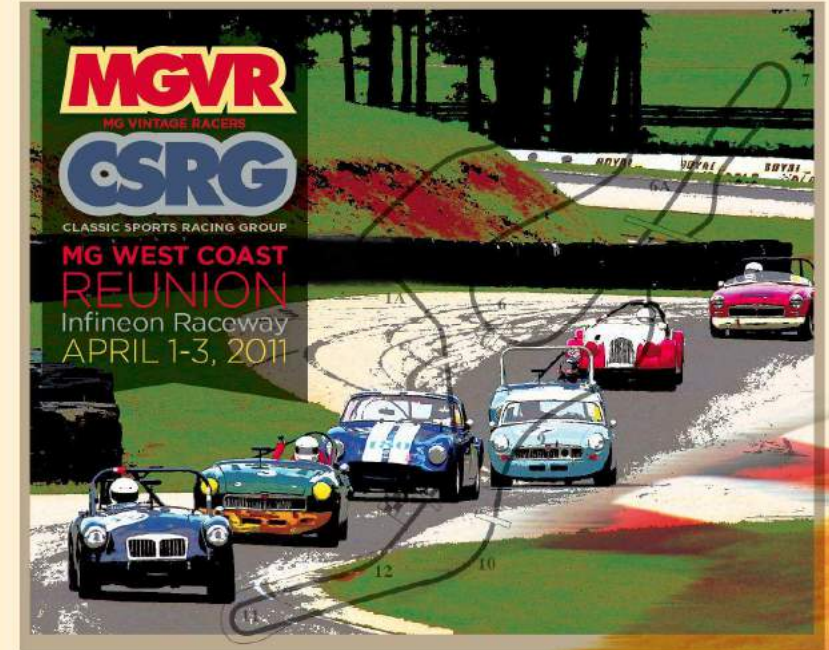


The 1955 MG TF 1500 - we call it "The Black Pearl"- has been a lot of fun to drive and was the reason for joining the MG Owners Club and the Sorry Safari Touring Society. This past year we have enjoyed meeting new friends and attending events like GOF and MGs by the Bay, as well as learning more about the wonderful world of vintage MGs.

The summer of 2010 culminated in the Sierra Drive, where our little "sewing machine" made it to just shy of 10 miles to Murphy's due to a broken pin in the clutch lever. Thank goodness for all the folks on the trip that assisted us in getting The Pearl going again. With a couple of industrial clothes hangers holding the clutch lever on, and a lot of grease, we made it back to Los Gatos without incident. The trip is now affectionately referred to as "The Adventure".

The TF is great for touring around the South Bay roads and hills, but is a little too scary for us on the main highways. So I started looking on craigslist and eBay for a good MGB to add to our fleet. (Our fleet at the time: a 2010 Ford Explorer (my company car), Vicky's 2002 Volvo XC70, a 1985 Jeep CJ-7, a 1956 Chevy 3100 Truck, and the MG TF.) We seriously looked at an MGC in Idaho but, based on the feedback in the clubs, decided against it due to the difficulty of servicing them. (By the way, I am no mechanic when it comes to cars – which is just as well because we don't have a garage to seriously work on them.)

The second weekend in October, we took the TF to Morgan Hill for the California Autumn Classic. The Black Pearl got second place in class - and we got our first plaque!



## MG2011 in Reno, June 13-17



followed by the Bay Area tour leg of the



# Redundant News Flash

## MGOC Contest Now Open

By M.G. Mowog

Last month the MG Owners Club announced 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 made a call to all members for submissions. That's right, that meant you!

But few of you answered the call - despite the fact that you could have won a brand new car!

Well, not really. You probably have enough cars anyway. But you could have won 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.

Luckily for you, the contest is ongoing. You have another chance to submit and win this month.

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 February, your article cursing Lucas electrics can win in March.

The contest began last month, and the first winner is announced in this very 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.

# Pretty, Pretty, Pretty Good!

By Steve Kellogg



I am the new proud owner a 1973 British Racing Green MGB. It all started a little over a year ago:

My wife Vicky was familiar with MGs. Many years ago she owned four: three TDs and one MGB. She got her first one, a 1953 TD, when she was 16 – and learned to drive the clutch by jack-rabbing around her family home's driveway for about a week until she got it right. However, my experience with Little British Cars was nonexistent.

Sometime in the fall of 2009, Vicky thought that she would like to get another T-series and settled on the MG TF (particularly the 1500). She found one on eBay, from the original owner in San Luis Obispo, and won it (over a bid from a person in Denmark) by only \$25.



Photos courtesy of Steve & Vicky Kellogg



## Toys for Tots Delivery

Craig & Kim Kuenzinger delivered the toys, collected by the generous participants of the Holiday Tea, to Contra Costa County Fire Station #1 in their MG Midget. The firefighters were surprised and thrilled.



Photos courtesy of Craig & Kim Kuenzinger

## Holiday Tea

By Samantha Lee

On the eleventh of December, the MGOC had their Holiday Tea. The people had wine, cheese, pies, spiral ham, cakes, tea, sweets, and MG stories. No one broke down. There were toys underneath the tree at my house. There were stuffed animals, trucks and learning toys. The toys were interesting, cute

& soft. There was a slideshow with pictures from 2004 till now. The dining room had dazzling decorations in it. It felt comfortable to have people at my house because I had people at my house for a long time. Happy MG Holidays and a happy new year!



# Holiday Tea

Photos by Felix Lee

