

# 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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## April 2012

## 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 2012

**President:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
**Vice President:** Tim Polidoroff, 650-342-6443, [polidoroff@comcast.com](mailto:polidoroff@comcast.com)  
**Treasurer:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)  
**Secretary:**  
**Registrar:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)  
**T Register Director:** Jim Carlson, 408-224-3992, [mgjim@comcast.net](mailto:mgjim@comcast.net)  
**Corresponding Secretary:** George Steneberg, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
**Membership Development:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [rbrtstine@gmail.com](mailto:rbrtstine@gmail.com)  
**The Octagon Editor:** Felix Lee, 650-947-9282, [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org)  
**Commercial Advertising:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)  
**Historian:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
**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 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. Carburetors:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**COVER PHOTO:** Sonoma Cheese Tour, Dennis O'Dea

## Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

**April 12, 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.

Dinner Starts at 6 pm

### 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:**

**MGB Parts: Autopower Roll Bar**, SCCA Race Approved, 1.75" DOM. Roll bar has diagonal brace, horizontal seat back brace, and small restraint bar behind driver's seat. Asking \$150. **Two Chrome Luggage Racks**, trunk lid mounted. \$50 each. Contact Member David Wright at 510-653-3831.

**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).

**Wanted:**

**Electrical Help:** I am new to the world of MG, and am in the process of improving a 1959 MGA Roadster. I have replaced the wiring harness and need the expertise of someone with electrical know how to help me make sure I do not burn anything up when I put a battery to it. I will pay for their time and knowledge. Can you help me? I live in Walnut Creek. Contact Harry at 925-934-4973 or [TipTot@astound.net](mailto:TipTot@astound.net).

**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).



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**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). 2012 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org) or send them to: Felix Lee, 27330 Ursula Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

**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.

**MGOCSE.ORG**

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

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## Forthcoming Events

**MGOC Events in bold**

Apr. 12 – **Natter & Noggin**, New Englander Sports Pub, San Leandro,  
George Steneberg

Apr. 14 – **Morgan Hill Tech Session**, On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill  
& Mary Hiland

Apr. 27 – **Pub Night**, On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill & Mary Hiland

May 4-6 – North Meets South, Pismo Beach, Larry Long

May 20 – **MGs by the Bay**, The Livery, Danville, Mike Jacobsen



## From the Editor...

Having cars that are both "Safe" and "Fast" were probably so vitally important to early auto enthusiasts in the early 1900s that the Managing Director of the M.G. Car Company, Cecil Kimber, actually coined a term for this powerful combination - "*Safety Fast*".

When I first heard the term, I naturally assumed that it was derived from combining two motor sport accountability philosophies having to do with the competitive sport of driving "Fast," while responsibly paying homage to modern "Safety" features of their time, like brakes (as such, "Safety" in the early 1900s was synonymous with being able to "Stop"). In fact, an original ad from 1934 which states "*What is a sports car?*," is followed by a simple response, "*M.G., a car evolved from the genuine racing machine retaining the performance, reliability, and road worthiness which renders High Speed Safe ... If you want Speed - buy Safe Speed.*" But once I began writing this editorial and doing some serious research into its history, I was shocked and surprised by what I found.

First of all, although wishing to champion "Safety" in its promotional ads, the term "Fast," has nothing to do with the act of driving fast. "Fast" is actually an acronym which pays homage to several supportive women in Cecil's early life. **FAST** stands for Fanny (Cecil's mother), Aimee (Cecil's mother-in-law), Sarah (Cecil's great grandmother) and Thel (Ethel, Cecil's sister-in-law). Now this may seem highly sentimental at first, but once you realize that I totally made it up (at least the last part about the supporting women), you will realize I did it only to wish everyone a Happy April Fools!

Now, you have to admit, it sounded pretty legitimate at first. I mean, I almost had ya, didn't I? Come on, you know I had you, and I bet it was the names and actual true relationships to Cecil Kimber that helped sell the idea that it was real, right? Really, it's okay to admit that I fooled you. That's all I'm saying.

*Safety Fast!*

Felix Lee  
- owner of only  
"Triple Black" cars



**MG**

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

**SHOCK ABSORBERS:**

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

**BRAKES: sleeved and rebuilt**

MGB, Midget caliper.....	\$85.00
MGA, MGC caliper.....	\$155.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1956-67.....	\$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
Kingpin swivel axle rebushed.....	\$60-\$90
Front end A-arm (Midget).....	\$95.00

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OCT09

**1978 MGB Roadster.** Maroon with beige interior. Vehicle has 43,000 original miles. 1800cc engine with Stromberg carburetor and 4-speed manual with electronic overdrive. Soft-top with two tonneaus. AM/FM/CD stereo with removable face, remote control and MP3 interface. Luggage rack, new tires, many extras. Currently registered in California. Asking \$15,000. Contact Member Tom Doyle at 520-220-6228 or at [wtdoyle@cox.net](mailto:wtdoyle@cox.net).



**Classic 1973 Jaguar XJ12 Series 1 Sedan.** 5.3 V12 engine. All original! The only year of the chrome bumpered XJ12 model. 66,000 original miles. Silver with beautiful original black leather interior. Sunroof and Nardi wood steering wheel. Always a California car from new. No rust! Same owner for the last 35 years. Always garaged. Looks and drives great! \$8,900. Contact Member Ron Simi at 925-765-5807.

### Five 60-spoke Painted Wheels

Five 60-spoke, tube-type painted wire wheels from my 67 B. I've upgraded to tubeless tires and wires. Three are right off the car, not very many years old, very decent condition, with 90% worn 175-15 tires (kept one for my spare), one is older, only slightly bent but with good spokes and balanced with a 50% worn, older 165-15 (was my spare) and one is sans tire with 6 new spokes. Special Club Price: \$50.00 each; all 5 for \$200. Moss sells these new for \$240 each. Wayne Veatch 415-821-1806, [veatchlaw@gmail.com](mailto:veatchlaw@gmail.com).



### Enclosed Trailer for Rent:

Enclosed car trailer for rent (16' x 8'). Trailer has integrated braking system and lights with the tow vehicle, and a 12 volt 2,000 lb. Electric Winch. Electrical outlets in and outside the trailer and air conditioning. Rental rates are very reasonable with a discount for rentals of three or more days. Contact either Randy Grossman (415-518-5210) or Eric Baker (510-517-2165) for more information.



## 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 [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org).

### Cars for Sale:

**1980 MGB Coupe.** One of the last to enter the USA, this MGB is in excellent condition. Runs great! Oil changes, brakes and mechanical work done recently. Recently re-done seats and carpet. Overdrive transmission that **WORKS!** Radio/CD player. British racing green w/gold stripe. Top mended and in good condition. Tonneau cover. **CLOCK WORKS TOO!** Asking \$5,000.00 for it. Contact David Alvey at 925-687-0168.



**1976 MGB** with over drive needs a new home. No time to care for properly. This was former member Gary Lukey's car. Maintained by Baroo in Albany. Not currently licensed. Top replaced in 2009, seats as well. Newer metal fuel pump. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Transmission is worth \$1800. Need the space for my Jag. Photos available. Contact Lanny Clark at 510-410-7572 or [lannyclark@aol.com](mailto:lannyclark@aol.com).

**1967 MGB** with overdrive. Original owner, has all maintenance records, Bay Area car since new. 121K original miles and less than 2K miles since full mechanical rebuild. Excellent condition. Looking for owner that will continue to give it TLC. Asking \$15K OBO. Contact Stephen at 415-722-0556 or [sdhom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sdhom@sbcglobal.net).



**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). 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).

## President's Ponderings...

Unfortunately, this month did not start too well. For only the second time in the 35 years that I have been involved with the MGOC, we failed to have a quorum at our March 8th Business Meeting. Fortunately, however, despite the lack of a quorum, the Meeting Minutes in this issue will demonstrate that quite a bit was accomplished nonetheless.

And although Steve Lilves St. Patrick's Tour to Pelican Inn had to be canceled due to rain, Andy and Marla Preston's Sonoma Cheese Tour was "Rain or Shine." And just like the postman, Andy and Marla delivered a wonderful event, despite the rain.

Next, I would like to talk about our "Club Meeting." Sure sounds dull? My preference would be to call it "Natter & Noggin." **Natter** - the enthusiastic discussions about club activities, both past and present, and **Noggin** - the sharing of good food, a pint of beer or any other beverage of your choice. In conclusion, there is no reason why any gathering should not involve just a little "Natter and Noggin," just getting together and having a good time.

Finally, let's highlight some events: Apr. 14th tech session at On The Road Again, in Morgan Hill, Apr. 21st MT. Diablo tour, May 4th-6th North meets South at Pismo Beach and May 20th MGs by the Bay, mark your calendar and get your registrations in.



George Steneberg

### Daily Driver Contest Cancelled

Unfortunately, too many of our OEM Odometers do not appear to be working at the present time for accurate record keeping

Please have all your OEM odometers checked and serviced this year so that we might try to run the Daily Drive Contest again in '13





# Sonoma Cheese Tour

By Marla Preston

The hearty souls who braved the wet weather for the MGOC/SSTS cheese tour truly seemed to enjoy the scenery, roads, cheese and good company. We were pleased and surprised at the turnout, I counted 15 cars carrying 25 people. There were quite a few B's, David Wright was in his XKE, and Susan and Bob Engelhart drove their MGTD.



Photos by Marla Preston

We left the Bagel Street Café and headed west on Lucas Valley Road past Big Rock, Sky Walker Ranch, and into some dense redwoods before meandering through Nicasio. Our first stop was the Marin Cheese Factory where we sampled some excellent handmade Brie and Camembert.



President George Steneberg and First Lady Marcia Crawford sampling cheeses at the Marin Cheese Factory

- Full logo with words on apparel. Logo without words on caps and duffel bags.
- We can set up a store on Cafe Press. Not as nice apparel but they have a lot of MG stuff available. Search Morris Garage when you go the site, <http://www.cafepress.com/>. That's all for now.

Mike said that he will send Steve the past grille badge and lapel pin vendor & price info.

**Past Events:** Freshen-Up Tech Session: February 25 – Craig and Kim Kuenzinger. Many comments about an outstanding tech session with a large turn-out.

## Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Tour: Steve Lilves will lead this tour on Wednesday, March 14. Meeting place listed in *The Octagon*. It was suggested that participants go to Map Quest for directions to the meeting place.

The Cheese Tour: Andy and Marla Preston will lead this tour on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. See the article on page 17 of the February *Octagon* for complete details.

MGB Tech Session: Saturday, April 14 with Bill Hiland at On The Road Again in Morgan Hill. A car will be placed on the hoist and used as an example of problems to look for and work needed. The Board will discuss the possibility of remuneration for food at the April Board meeting.

MGs by the Bay: Sunday, May 20. Craig is going to meet with Rob at The Paddock this next week to discuss the plans: possible DJ, possible music, etc. Members were asked to take pictures. George will check stored supplies to make sure we have the vests, A-frame signs, stake signs, and other items. Sam is doing the awards.

Bertolotti Tour – June 16: Watch *The Octagon* for confirmation of this date.

## Old Business

Secretary still needed: We are still looking for a qualified secretary.

Recruiting (not business) card design and reprinting: Awaiting website domain name resolution.

Request for T-series info by GOF Committee: Mike reported that he suggested that their request be put in *The Octagon* for all the MGOC members to view and respond to if they want, but has not received a reply from the GOF committee, so no action has been taken.

## New Business

MGs by the Bay: Many items:

- Sale/disposal of left over show items (150 items of clothing alone): It was suggested and agreed upon that the items be displayed and sold (at reduced prices) at MGs by the Bay and what is left after that be offered at the next get together for free. If anything is left after that it can be disposed of/donated.
- Registrations: Mike has four registrations as of today. There is concern because of the conflict with the Woodland event.
- Award & T-shirt art: Awaiting Toby's art via Jeremy.
- T-shirt production: Steve Kellogg will handle the T-shirts. It was agreed that Cafe Press was too expensive.
- Awards: Sam Gearhart is handling the awards. Robert's Awards can develop artwork for us if needed.
- Sponsors: Craig and Kim Kuenzinger will send out letters looking for sponsors and prizes.

Members at Large: Selecting the Members at Large to complete Board was moved to the April Board meeting.

[www.mgoc.org](http://www.mgoc.org) Domain: Steve Kellogg renewed the domain name for another ten years at a cost of \$118.17. No action was taken on reimbursement due to the lack of a quorum.

## Next Meeting and Natter

7pm, Thursday, April 12, 2012 at The Englander Sports Pub, 100 Parrott St., San Leandro.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm

Submitted by Marcia Crawford

# MGOC Business Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2012

President George Steneberg called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. Also attending were Marcia Crawford, Ken Gittings, Mike Jacobsen, and Craig and Kim Kuenzinger. There was not a quorum present.

The February 9, 2012 minutes were approved as printed in the February *Octagon*.

## Reports

Treasurer's Report: Balances are approximately the same as last month.

Registrar's Report: Unchanged from last month: 190 regular, 56 auxiliary, 12 corresponding and two associate members for a total of 260 members.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Regalia: David Wright was unable to attend but sent a message that he will bring Craig's jacket to the St. Patrick's Day Tour on Wed. March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Octagon: Editor Felix Lee was unable to attend but sent the following report:

- Need articles/photos
- Trying hard to keep the online release on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month with print versions to follow soon thereafter. (Board agreed)
- Request 15<sup>th</sup> submission deadline of month prior to the next release. (Board agreed)
- Discuss recent ad issue regarding keeping ads current
  - Our responsibility to contact them before running the ads month to month? (Board response: none)
  - Their responsibility to contact us before running the ads month to month, especially when there is a significant change? (Board response: yes)
  - Should ads automatically roll off after 3-6 months if no response from advertiser? (Board response: Roll off after three months.)
- New Flipbook Option to be added to *Octagon* site
  - Cost: One-time \$75.00 fee, donated by Steve Kellogg
- Forward all new member contact info to me for an "Introduction Article"
  - Options: original article, survey questionnaire, or interview by a ten-year-old. (Board recommended a survey questionnaire.)
- Thanks to Jeremy for continuing to handle the printing/labeling/ mailing of print versions, which saves me a lot of time.
- Will be unable to make any tours this month due to conflicts
  - Need plenty of photos from both events
  - Andy said he would write about the Cheese Tour
  - No confirmation yet by Steve Lilves regarding the St. Patrick's Tour
  - Can someone be a back-up writer for the St. Patrick's Tour if Steve is unable to write it?
- Any suggestions or comments regarding *The Octagon* thus far?

Website: Steve Kellogg was unable to attend but sent the following report:

- No luck with changing the URL to mgoc.org. Apparently Name Secure are the folks who sold us the name only. Site sits on servers hosted by Green Host. Call and e-mail to them have generated no response. Did ask Robbie T to provide me with a username and password to change the existing old website to at least point people to the new site. I asked C2C to make the change.
- Updated Swap Meet on site to include pictures that match Octagon ads. Added MGs by the Bay link to "Announcements". Added Bylaws to Members-only area.
- T-shirts: Quote from Cafe press came in at \$17 each. If we had spent around \$7 in the past we should go with the same guy. Let me know who that is and I'll place the order. Quote will be the same from Fieldhouse. (T-shirts used are a bit sturdier.) Still need final artwork from Jeremy.
- Regalia: Still need contact for existing badge and pin vendors (not sure if I got this from anyone yet, if you sent it. I must have had a senior moment and I apologize). \$99.00 to set up Fieldhouse. I think they'll do the best with our logo on items. See MG Chicagoland site as an example: <http://fhstore.com/Shopping/FHShop1.aspx?PON=74251&con=75314&AC=>.

It was then only a fairly short drive through some lovely countryside to the Petaluma Creamery and more cheese sampling. Some of the favorites were the 3 year old aged cheddar, the Veggie Jack, and Mike's Firehouse Jack, all organic.



Dennis O'Dea and Sheryl King sampling the Petaluma Creamery

We then continued our journey to Point Reyes via Chileno Valley Rd., Wilson Hill and Marshall/Petaluma Rd. Even though it was raining, we were still able to see some lovely hills, valleys, and spectacular views of Tomales Bay. We then turned onto Shoreline Hwy (CA-1) to our lunch destination at the Station House Cafe.

The hospitality at all of our stops was remarkable and it was a nice mix of MGOC/SSSTS folks. We were delighted to meet new people and reconnect with old friends.



Ken Gittings and retired United States Navy Admiral Bob & Susan Engelhart waiting on Dennis and Sheryl to service them at the Petaluma Creamery



# Start Planning for 2012 ...

## SPRING



SPRING CHEESE TOUR, 3/24  
MORGAN HILL TECH SESSION, 4/14  
NORTH MEETS SOUTH, 5/5-6  
MGS BY THE BAY, 5/20  
HAYWARD FIELD MEET, 6/2  
MG2012, GEORGIA, 6/6-10

## SUMMER



GOF WEST: BUELLTON 200 MILES, 6/18-22  
PALO ALTO CONCOURS, 6/23-24  
NAMGAR GT-37, 7/9-13  
ANNUAL PICNIC JOAQUIN MILLER PARK, 7/21  
MONTEREY HISTORIC / CONCOURS, 8/11-19  
MILL TOUR, 8/19  
HILLSBOROUGH DE ELEGANCE, 8/26

## FALL



STUDEBAKER MEET, 9/8  
DANVILLE DE ELEGANCE, 9/15-16  
BODEGA BAY TOUR, 9/22  
JIMMY'S OLD CAR PICNIC 09/29  
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, 10/6  
MORGAN HILL BRITISH CLASSIC, 10/20-21  
1000 MIGLIA S. BARBARA CONCOURS, 10/28  
PENINSULA TOUR, 11/10  
HOLIDAY TEA, 12/15

# Visitors From Across the Pond

By Bill Hiland



We had some special guests at *On the Road Again Classics (OTRAC)* last month who happened to be visiting from the UK! Three Chaps, Paul Archer, Leigh Purnell and Johnno Ellison, on a Round-the-World Taxi trip in a London Taxi!

As would be expected with any Road Trip in a British Car, something broke down leaving them potentially stranded in the US. As it turns out, they needed a replacement transmission and a place to do the work. *OTRAC* was recommended by several people in the British car industry, so they called me and I offered to let them use some space, inside out of the rain, in our shop and offered support and tools to get the job done.

volunteered their own time to help, including accommodations for the night. (a living room floor with carpet) which is much more comfortable than camping out in a parking lot, or in our shop! The owners of Ladera Grill (one of our customers) had the lads over for a free dinner one night as well. No shortage of hospitality here in Morgan Hill.



So far, they have traveled thru Asia, Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan, China, Thailand and the Australian Outback. The taxi was then placed in a container in Sydney and shipped to Oakland. There are many beautiful pictures on their web site, including one from the Base camp for Mount Everest!

This trip was planned to raise funds for the British Red Cross, and also set the record for the world's longest Taxi Ride!! If you want to follow the Taxi, their web site is:

[www.itsonthetaxi.com](http://www.itsonthetaxi.com)



As these things go, they ended up rebuilding the whole front end, replacing rear brakes, and about 100 other odd and end jobs long overdue for attention. The guys at the shop have





# The MG Owners Club presents MGs by the Bay



Sunday, May 20, 2012

This annual event is a gathering of MGs from across Northern California.  
The show starts at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, with awards presented at 2:00 p.m.  
Same-day registration opens at 8:00 a.m.

**In Danville, under the trees at The Danville Livery shopping center!**  
400 Sycamore Valley Road, Danville, 94526 – One block west off I-680

**Awards:** Judging is by popular vote, with awards for People's Choice, Best Daily Driver, Premier (from previous winners), and for every class, with classes determined according to the number of cars registered by May 1, 2012.

**Entries:** All MGs are welcome, from daily drivers to complete restorations. The \$25 entry fee includes a dash plaque, an event T-shirt, and special coupons from our sponsors. Additional cars registered to the same owner are \$10 each, which includes a dash plaque only. All cars must arrive by 10:00 a.m. sharp! This is necessary to allow for proper placement of the cars. If you arrive late, we **cannot** guarantee placement of your car with others in its class.

Return the registration form below with the entry fee. Photocopies of this form are acceptable. One form is required for each MG.

Mail before May 1, 2012 to:

**MGs by the Bay**  
320 B Monterey Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94131

For information call  
415-333-9699 or 925-899-1218  
or visit [www.MGOCFSF.org](http://www.MGOCFSF.org)

Make checks payable to **MGOC**

Show Use Only		
\$	/	#

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Short description of your car: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this car ever won First in Class at *MGs by the Bay*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Release:** Neither I nor my heirs will hold the MG Owners Club or The Danville Livery Shopping Center liable for any loss, damage, or injury done to me, or my party, while engaged in this event or traveling to and from this event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MG model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Body style: ☐ Coupe ☐ Roadster

☐ Saloon ☐ Race car

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Car color: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

The MG Owners Club presents the 19th Annual  
**MGs BY THE BAY**  
Sunday, May 20, 2012 • The Danville Livery





..... TO BE CONTINUED

Photos by Felix Lee

The car is basically your standard MGB. Nothing unusual, except for the genuine American Racing Equipment Libre wheels. It is white, possibly Old English White, and has a black interior. I usually run it with a tonneau, no top.

When I first bought the MG, I thought I'd keep it for a year until I could afford something nicer. But it found a way of gradually reeling me in, and before I knew it, I was emotionally attached. There's just something about it. Even when it isn't running, it gives me the grins. Sometimes, late in the evening after I'd put the kids to bed, my wife would come looking for me. She'd find me sitting in the MG, staring out through the windscreen, blissfully relaxed. Driving the MG makes me feel young and open to the unexpected. Especially, whenever I have to ask strangers for a push and a bump-start. The car really is good therapy and I plan to keep it forever.

As you might imagine, I've done a lot more wrenching than driving over the past 26-years. So, I'm hoping I'll keep my New Year's resolution, which is to join the club and to get my MG running reliably enough, so that I really can drive it anywhere - and back.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you, joining in on some of the club drives, and working some of the grease out the kingpins.

## Request Electronic Delivery of *The Octagon*

Get *The Octagon* faster and in color, while saving trees and club funds.

Email Mike Jacobsen at [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com) to switch.

## Wanted

Submissions of articles / photos / anecdotes / repairs are always welcome

Please make submissions by the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you would like it to appear

Email Felix Lee at [octagoneditor@mgocsf.org](mailto:octagoneditor@mgocsf.org)



## Meet our Newest Member

By Terrence Goodell

Hi, my name is Terry. I've owned my MGB for 26-years, more or less. The more or less, depends on how loosely one defines things. Technically, my car is a 1966, but it is made up of two cars. Well actually, I guess it's at least three, and more likely a lot more than that. I shifted a lot of the parts from my first chassis, a 1968, on to the '66 chassis that I acquired in 1994. So, to me it's always felt like one car, but in truth, probably not. So, let's say I've owned my car for 17-years.

Many years ago, when I moved back to California from Scandinavia, I was determined to fully celebrate the sun and summer. For a car, nothing short of a convertible would do, but I had no cash. My good buddy offered to sell me his ragged 1968 MGB roadster, real cheap, for no money down. I asked, "Is it reliable?" To which he replied, "I'd drive it anywhere". I can hear you laughing. I bought the car on a Friday afternoon, and with the air temperature hovering around 102 degrees, I set off at a fast clip for Chico. By the time I arrived, I'd cracked all the top piston rings, and was burning a quart of oil every 70 miles. The car ran very poorly, and popped dramatically on the overrun. Upon closer inspection, it also became clear that every panel had been wrecked, rusted or busted, at one time or another.

I've been involved in a rolling restoration ever since.



## On the Road Again

*We Service and Restore All British Cars*

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*Jaguar*

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# MG Drivers



What my friends think I do



What my spouse thinks I do



What my mechanic thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do