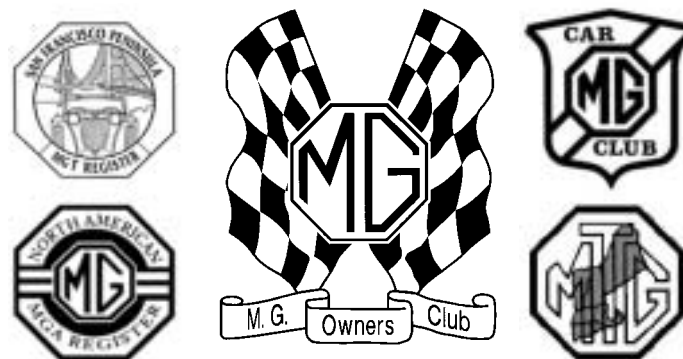


MGOC Octagon
 If undeliverable please return to:
 320 B Monterey Blvd.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131-3141
<http://www.MGOC.org>

THE OCTAGON

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



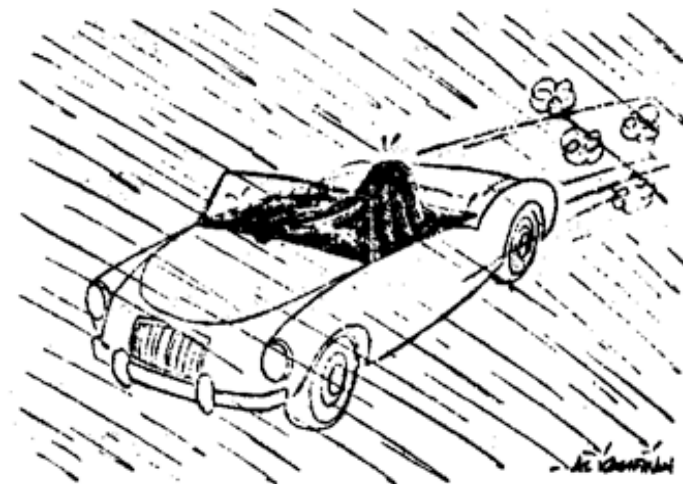
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April Showers



The Saturday Evening Post, circa 1960

April 2004

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 is a register of the MGOC and was formed in 1973. 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 2004

President: Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, RAStine@rcn.com

Vice President: Randy Grossman, 510-483-3171, r.m.grossman@comcast.net

Treasurer: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

Secretary: David Wright, 510-653-3831

T Register Director: Jim Carlson, 408-257-9976, mgjim@att.net

Activities Director: John Hunt, 925-299-9006, Huntsails@worldnet.att.net

Corresponding Secretary: George Steneberg, 510-525-9152,

j2george@pacbell.net

Membership Development: Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, RAStine@rcn.com

Octagon Editor: Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, DPShockey@earthlink.net

Commercial Advertising: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699,

MikesMuseum@yahoo.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: Felix Wong, 510-226-7721 home, mgoc@felixwong.com

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

MGB V8 Conversion: Tony Bates, 408-666-6174, Tony@BatesFamily.net

MGC: Kent Leech, 925-253-9757, kent@kentleech.com

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

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

Z-Magnette Saloon 1953-58: Marty Ray, 831-247-5863,

martyray@cruzio.com

M.G. 1100 Sports Sedan 1962-67: Lora Lerner, 831-464-3795

T-types: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

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

PA/PB Midget 1934-36: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, mgpb36@yahoo.com

Lucas electrics: Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

S.U. Carburetters: Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

Bodywork: Bill Weissberg, weissber@slip.net

Natter & Noggin with Club Meeting

April 8, 2004 (Thurs.), 8p.m.

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant
101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3571

This month David Wright will present a short review of driving in Australia from his recent holiday.

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 the Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14th St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott St.

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

South Bay Natter & Noggin

Friday Evening, 8 p.m., April 30, 2004

Join us for an informal gathering in the South Bay. We'll meet in a lamp-lighted courtyard setting. Not crowded and with restaurants right there. Look for us at McHart's Pizza if you don't see anyone with their cars.

This is the Marketplace Shopping Center next to Long's Drugs at 19732 Stevens Creek Blvd. It is right across from the Sears at the Vallco Shopping Mall. It is just off I-280 at Wolfe.

Directions: Take the Wolfe Rd. exit from I-280 and turn west. Turn right on Stevens Creek Blvd. Turn left at first light.

Dan Shockey (408) 923-3927 or Bob Wall (408) 739-2373

Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car lover with 14 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 available. Call for an appointment for a free estimate.

Andy Schank 510-236-5232

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, 3219 Mabury Rd., San Jose, CA 95127. Members may also email ads to the Editor at DPShockey@earthlink.net.

MGA 1600 parts for sale: gearbox & bellhousing: \$500, drive shaft: \$50, Lucas generator: \$10. Call member Viggo, San Mateo. (650) 341-9064

Two Z Magnettes for sale or trade ASAP. I am losing my storage space in Concord. Almost no offer will be refused. Contact Charlie Campbell: Home: (650) 386-5457, work: (650) 724-2931, mv_red@eudoramail.com

'64 MGB Roadster for sale. My job's gonna have me on the road far too much now. Member John Hubbell, Oakland. hubbelljm@earthlink.net

MGB Parts for sale: Excellent chrome wire wheel with useable spare tire. Excellent boot cover. Member Bob McCoy, Danville. (925) 743-1513

Five 165R15 Radial Tires with tubes included for sale. Only 6,000 miles on four. Spare is new. \$50 each with tubes included. Member Randy Grossman, San Leandro. 510-483-3171 or r.m.grossman@comcast.net

1967 MGB Roadster. Primrose yellow, rebuilt factory overdrive, wire wheels, a factory hard top, which is to say The most desirable MGB. Fine running condition, looks nice, has a nice interior. Spares available. \$10,000. Also two MGB-GTs for sale. Member Marty Ray, Santa Cruz, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

MGB Factory Hardtop. Concours condition, beautiful black paint, new rubber seals, etc. Restored by Kevin Kay Restorations. No expense was spared, and the paint quality is better than new. Asking \$1,100, not near what went into it. Member Marty Ray, Santa Cruz, 831-247-5863, martyray@cruzio.com

Fremont Automotive

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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. 2004 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on Jan. 1st, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10th of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTAGON

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Dan Shockey, 3219 Mabury Rd., San Jose, CA 95127. Or, you may email contributions to DPShockey@earthlink.net.

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.

Membership

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at future meetings and events of the MGOC and having your stories, photos, and tips printed in *The Octagon*. The club roster is available from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

Forthcoming Events

ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders (TC), SSTs: Sorry Safari Touring Society (MG club), CMGC: Cypress MG (Monterey), SFC: Safety Fast Club

Every Sat. – Donut Derelicts, Mtn View, Martinez (see MGOC web site)

Apr. 3rd (Sat.) – **Trip Prep Tech Session**, Mike Jacobsen's, San Francisco, see page 5

Apr. 17th (Sat.) – **Mt. Hamilton Drive**, Bob Wall, see page 7

Apr. 17 –18 – North Meets South, Arroyo Grande, (805) 937-6851 or Lcuthbert@covad.net; **MGOC Caravan**, Randy Grossman, see page 8

Apr. 25th (Sun.) – **Tour to Dream Machines**, MGOC caravan, Half Moon Bay, Bob Stine, See page 18

May 2nd (Sun.) – Hillsborough Concours, www.hillsboroughconcours.org

May 8th (Sat.) – **Clean & Detail Tech Session**, Bob Stine's, San Mateo

May 15th (Sat.) – MGs at Jack London Square, see pages 13 & 21 **

May 16th (Sun.) – Dixon All British Car Show, MGOC Caravan?, page 18

May 16th (Sun.) – Fresno Concours

June 4-6 – Wine Country Classic Vintage Races, Sears Point

June 6th (Sun.) – **Art & Wine Festival MG Display**, Heather Farms Park

June 20th (Sun.) – Hayward British Car Meet, Show & Swap Meet

June 26th (Sat.) – **MGOC Locke & Ryde Tour**, Dan Shockey
 June 27th (Sun.) – Palo Alto Concours d'Elegance
 July 12-16 – GoF in British Columbia, Area clubs caravan likely
 July TBD – **MGOC Tour to Glen Ellen**, Andy Preston
 July TBD – **MGOC Winery Tour**, South Bay, Jack Ford
 Aug. 5-8 – Rendezvous, Bend, OR, area clubs caravan
 Aug. 13-15 – Monterey Historics, Laguna Seca
 Aug. 29th (Sun.) – **MGOC Annual Picnic**
 Sept. 11th (Sun.) – **All British Meet, Palo Alto, MGOC Caravan**
 Oct. TBD (Sat.) – **O'Connor Swap Meet**, Santa Clara
Oct. 2-3 – MGOC North Coast Weekend, Dave Newhouse **
 Oct. 9 or 10 – **CSRG Fall Frolic, Sears Point**; MGOC Track Tour for
 Chronically Ill Children, John Hunt & Andy Preston (proposed)
 Oct. 16-17 – **Autumn Classic, San Juan Bautista**, MGOC & SSTS Caravan
 Oct. 23rd (Sat.) – **MGOC Santa Cruz Tour**, Bob Wall
 Nov. TBD – **MGOC Corte Madera Tour** (Combine with below?)
 Nov. TBD – **MGOC Tech Session**, Corte Madera British, Greenbrae
 Dec. 4th (Sat.) – **ARR, MGOC, SSTS Holiday Party** (proposed)
 Dec. TBD – **MGOC Holiday Tea**, Milsaps, Alameda

**** We have designated these events as part of the MGOC's Big Three for 2004**



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MGs at Jack London Square

Saturday, May 15, 2004 at Jack London Square, Oakland

All MGs are welcome, from daily drivers to complete restorations. The entry fee is \$25, which includes a dash plaque and an event T-shirt. One form for each MG registered, please.

Cut here-> -----

Mail before May 1, 2004 to:

MGs at Jack London Square
 320 B Monterey Blvd.
 San Francisco, CA 94131

Please Print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Daytime phone: (_____) _____

or Email address: _____

Has this car ever won First Place in its class at *MGs at Jack London Square*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Release: Neither I nor my heirs will hold the MG Owners Club, Oakland Portside Associates or the Port of Oakland 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: _____

Make check payable to: **MGOC**

Office Use Only

\$	/	#
----	---	---

For information call:
 415-333-9699 or 408-923-3927

MG model: _____ Year: _____

Body style: ☐ Coupe ☐ Roadster

☐ Saloon ☐ Race car

☐ Other: _____

T-shirt size: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

Pacific Coast Dream Machines, April 25: Nobody in the Club has expressed any interest to date. If anyone is interested in going to this large Half Moon Bay show, they should let Bob Stine know.

Old Business

Check Signatures: Both Treasurer Mike Jacobsen and President Bob Stine are now authorized to deposit and sign checks for the MGOC.

Board Member-at-Large: John Hunt was confirmed as the new Executive Board Member-at-Large.

Jack London Square:

Beverly and Tom Morgan have agreed to provide musical entertainment at the upcoming event with their folk singing group.

The following committee chairmen were appointed for the JLS event:

Parking assistance: Bob Stine

Outreach: Dan Shockey

Awards: Randy Grossman

Registration: Mike Jacobsen

MGOC Clings: The Club has ordered 100 MGOC plastic adhesive window badges (clings). They will be available for sale beginning with the MG Reunion Event.

New Business

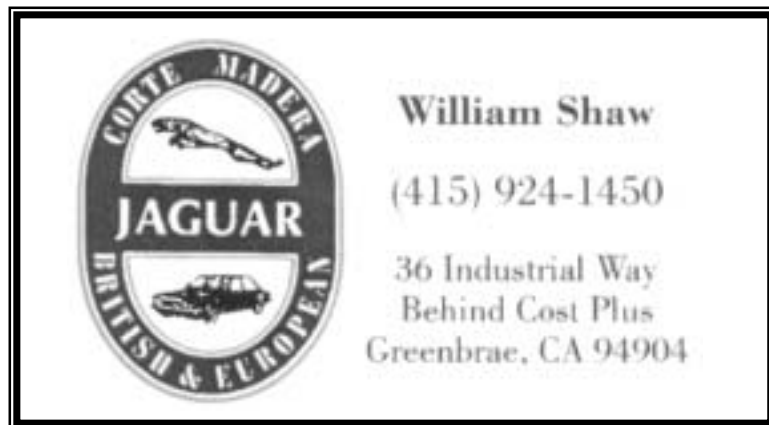
Club Type Font: The Club will establish a type font for the MGOC letterhead and other uses.

Premier Class: For the Jack London Square MG show, it was agreed that the Premier Class would be for any car that has won its class twice in the past three JLS shows.

Next Meeting: The next meeting and Natter will be held on April 8, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted David Wright, Secretary



Trip Prep Tech Session

“For Dummies”

Mike Jacobsen's Garage in San Francisco
Saturday, April 3, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

Learn How to Prepare for a Long Trip

Yes, your car is old, but folks took it on trips when it was new. You can today, too. Come to this tech session for beginners and learn:

What to check before you leave home

Engine tune, fluids, and comprehensive inspection.

What to check every day on the road

Fluids, tires, and general inspection.

What Equipment to bring

Tools, manuals, and some special gear.

What parts to bring

Belts, hoses, specialty items, and other parts.

When: Saturday, April 3, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Mike Jacobsen's garage, 320 Monterey Blvd, San Francisco
 (415) 333-9699

Directions:

From 101 in San Francisco, take 280 south

From 280 south exit at Monterey Blvd

Continue three blocks to Congo

Mike's is on the right, second building past Congo

From 280 north, exit at Geneva

Turn right at the light at the end of the exit ramp

Turn left at the first light, San Jose Ave

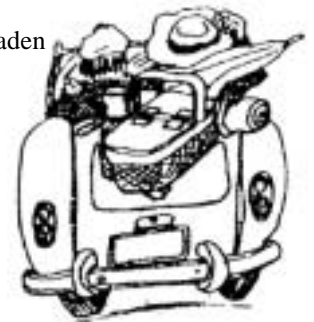
Follow San Jose approx. one mile and turn left at Baden

If you enter an underpass you've gone too far

Turn left at the second stop onto Monterey Blvd

Continue one block to Congo

Mike's is on the right, second building past Congo



From the President's Desk ...

The MGOC is rolling right along!

Our tech session held at O'Connor's in Santa Clara covered tuning up an MG. Mike Jacobsen did a great job of demonstrating what to do (and what not to do) to keep your MG running in top shape. About 30 MG lovers attended the session and three new members resulted from that attendance. Welcome to those new members.

JLS committee chairmen have been appointed and will be asking for members to assist with preparing the packages for attendees, outreach, registration and parking assistance the day of the event, and manning the "regalia and information booth." If you can help, please contact me, or one of the committee chairs as soon as possible. The chairs are listed in the minutes of the March membership meeting in this issue of *The Octagon*.

Well over 100 MGs participated in the MG Reunion at Laguna Seca March 20-21. What a great weekend! Ninety-five MGs were piloted around the track on Saturday, giving the drivers a taste of what it would be like to race on this famous track. While we didn't get anywhere racing speeds, we had a great time. Unfortunately, a couple of the cars experienced problems during the track tour. One MGB (Rod Williams, an MGOC member) lost a freeze plug, eliminating his coolant. I suppose the good news is that the water went into his distributor, killing the engine before it had a chance to overheat. An MG-TD had to pull to the shoulder at one turn, but I never did find out what that problem was. MGOC member David Wright was able to supply a freeze plug to the hapless MGB driver and get him back on the road.

Continued on page 9

Regalia Report: No regalia items bought or sold this month.

Octagon Report: About 250 *Octagons* were printed this month. This was 50 more than usual. These additional copies will be available for handout at the Laguna Seca MG Reunion event. O'Connor Classics reports that all the *Octagon* copies they get each month are distributed.

Correspondence: President Bob Stine reported on the various letters and e-mail sent to the Club.

Past Club Events

Annual Dinner: At the Annual Dinner the Club subsidized each diner about \$20 for additional costs above what was charged to attendees. (The club normally subsidizes up to \$10 per person to keep the cost affordable to everyone.) Part of this was due to a misunderstanding over the cost of mixed drinks with the restaurant. It was agreed that this will not happen in future.

Tech Sessions: Both the Lubrication and Tune-up tech sessions were well attended and enjoyed.

Upcoming Club Events

Tech Session: The next tech session is on car preparation prior to a trip and will be held on April 3rd at Mike Jacobsen's place in San Francisco. Parking can be difficult so consider car pooling or public transportation.

Historic MG Reunion at Laguna Seca: 135 paid reservations have been received to date for the dinner. The capacity at Tarpy's Roadhouse will be 140. Beyond that number would-be attendees will need to call the restaurant and make their own reservations. The \$40 cost covers the meal only. Drinks as required should be arranged between the individual diner and the restaurant. MGOC will provide the restaurant with one cheque for all the dinners.

Public address speakers, microphones, etc., need to be reserved for the MG Reunion Dinner at Tarpy's Roadhouse on March 20. David Wright said that he has a friend who has all the necessary equipment. He would ask him if he would be willing to set up the P.A. systems at the dinner.

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MG

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

SHOCK ABSORBERS: Front Rear

MGTC.....	165.00	165.00
MGTD & TF.....	165.00	60/85
MGA.....	69.95	49.95
MGB, MGC, Midget.....	69.95	49.95
HEAVY DUTY UPGRADE.....	10.00	10.00
SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt).....	Scall	

BRAKES : sleeved and rebuilt

MGB, Midget caliper	\$75.00
MGA, MGC caliper.....	\$125.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1956-1967.....	\$165.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00
MGC brake master.....	\$175.00
MGC booster servo.....	\$375.00
Brake & Clutch cylinders brass sleeved.....	\$40-60
Kingpin swivel axle rebushed.....	\$40-\$80
Front end a-arm (Midget).....	\$75.00

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and new throttle shafts.....\$55.00 each

Prices shown are for Exchange or Yours Rebuilt.
Core charges apply if items are ordered prior to
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All British Show & Swap Meet

DIXON 2004, Sunday, May 16, 2004

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Experience British cars of all marques competing in a participant's choice show. Visit the largest collection of swap vendors; enjoy food, tech sessions, silent auction & camaraderie. Event held rain or shine – free to public.

Cost: Show \$20 or Swap \$15 by May 8, 2004

Where: Dixon Mayfair Grounds, Dixon, CA

Who: United British Sports Car Club

www.UBSCC.org or (916) 485-2070 for details

Mail checks payable to: UBSCC, Box 161974, Sacramento, CA 95816

Pacific Coast Dream Machines

Half Moon Bay, Saturday, April 25

This is a very large and fun event that includes all sorts of vehicles. Bob Stine has offered to organize a caravan over but it will require an early start to beat the crowds. Let Bob know if you are interested in showing the MG colors this year.

Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, RAStine@rcn.com

Minutes of the MGOC General Meeting

Held on March 11, 2004

At the Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. Present were Bob Stine, Randy Grossman, Mike Jacobsen, Dan Shockey, Nancy Shane, George Steneberg, John Hunt and David Wright.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on February 12 were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported on the Club's finances.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported that letters of thanks were sent to Rich Kenny for the beautiful new MGOC flag he made for the club, and to Felix Wong for his enjoyable Annual Dinner talk about his experiences whilst riding in the Paris-Brest-Paris bicycle race last year.

Mt. Hamilton III

“Down the Back Side”

Saturday, April 17, 2004

How about a drive from San Jose, up Mt. Hamilton Road (State Route 130) to Lick Observatory, picnic lunch and possibly a tour of the observatory? Then it's down the hill on the backside.

The drive to Lick Observatory alone is one worth taking. The drive is challenging, as it is a little over 20 miles (365 turns) of some of the coolest (i.e.: narrow and winding) roads in the Bay Area. There are hairpin turns, wide sweeping curves and lots of uphill, then downhill on the way down the backside. Lick Observatory is 4200 feet above sea level. The views from the road and the observatory alone make the drive worthwhile. Once there, we will take a break at Lick Observatory, have lunch, and perhaps get a tour. For more info, go to: <http://www.ucolick.org/>.

Then it's down the backside of the mountain through Lolli's Junction and on into Livermore. Another 50+ miles of outstanding roads for our MGs. The wildflowers will be in bloom in the meadows, so we will also make a couple of stops for photo ops. We will drive through Livermore to Highway 84, then head west. This turns into Niles Canyon Road, another cool drive. We will end the drive in the historic little town of Niles. This was the movie capitol before Hollywood. Some of the earliest westerns were filmed in and around Niles. We'll stop for refreshments and to wind down at Bronco Billy's Pizza Place. All cars and everyone welcome!

Hope to see you on this drive. It will be an adventure.

Meet: 10:00 a.m., Saturday. April 17, 2004

Place: On the street outside the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot, at the corner of Alum Rock and Capitol Ave, just east of I-680, San Jose

Bring: Picnic lunch, camera, binoculars, and full tank

More Info: Bob Wall at (408) 739-2373 or bob_wall@yahoo.com



New Members

Denny Maynard in Sunnyvale has a '76 B that he's owned for a year. He found out about us from O'Connor's and was at the lube tech session.

Patrick Davis in Castro Valley has a '57 MGA roadster that he's owned for 17 years. He found us on the web.

James Harwood of San Jose has a '74 MGB, teal in color with (now) a biscuit interior. He purchased it on eBay last September and has just replaced the interior. He says the interior was in dreadful shape. Next he plans to put in an overdrive transmission. "I did (almost) own an MGB back in 1974 in England, I looked after one for a friend who was away working on a cruise liner for extended periods. I regret not ever having enough money to buy that car from him." James brought his family to California from Britain in 1995. He attended our tech session at O'Connor's and is looking forward to meeting other MGB enthusiasts.

Welcome to the MG Owners Club!

North-Meets-South Caravan

Is anyone interested in joining Melissa and me to go to the North Meets South event in Arroyo Grande (near Pismo Beach) the weekend of April 17-18? Mike Jacobsen and we are driving our MGs. Should be fun. Let me know. Randy Grossman 510-483-3171 or r.m.grossman@comcast.net

Good Price for 165R15 Tires

Kumho Euro Metric 771 (All-Season)

Size: 165/80TR15 Blackwall

TR Speed Rated Price: \$27

Estimated Availability: In Stock

I never thought 165-15s would get hard to find but they have. The above is a good replacement size for TDs, TFs, and MGAs. They are available from the Tire Rack. The recommendation came from someone using them on MGA size wire wheels (4" rim width). Unfortunately these tires are made in China. The original 165R15 tires were approximately an 82 or 83-series tire in height to width ratio. See the link:

<http://www.tirerack.com/tires/tires.jsp?tireMake=Kumho&tireModel=Euro+Metric+771&vehicleSearch=false&partnum=68TR5EM771>

165R14s have been hard to find for some time but most MGB owners have switched to wider tires, 185-70R14 or 175-70R14 (or wider). Vredestein still supplies 165R14 and 165R15 tires made in Europe for around \$60 per tire. Look for them on the web.

Dan Shockey

More MG Reunion Photos



Heading onto the Track. Photo from Felix Wong



Climbing the Rahal Straight, Photo from Felix Wong

Steam Cleaning: Randy Grossman reports that he got his MGA steam cleaned (the underside, that is) and a good job for only \$30 at Mendoza's Tires and Truck Wash at 8255 San Leandro St., Oakland. Phone (510) 632-9365.

Sharon and John Hunt were responsible for the dinner arrangements and sorting out everything for that. It became an event on its own. It was great to be able to delegate that completely to Sharon and John.

Bruce Oblink of the Cypress MG Club (Monterey area) took charge of arranging the corral. Space was limited and we had no idea of what numbers and types of MGs to expect so it was an all-morning task. We also wanted to arrange the cars to photograph well.

Dave McCann (MGOC) came down from Oregon a few days early and was pressed into service helping with the myriad of last-minute details. He set up the hospitality room and did the shopping for foodstuff for the hospitality room. He created spreadsheets so we could keep some track of things during the event.

David Wright (MGOC) talked a friend of his, Bill Griffiths of Oakland, into loaning and setting up the PA systems in two separate rooms at the banquet. This helped make sure we kept the cost down on the banquet.

Several individuals organized and led caravans to the event from the Bay Area on Saturday morning (and a few on Friday). I don't know who all of these people are but they included Chuck Blakeslee, Charles Rooks, Don Cowgill, and John Garrett. I am sure this encouraged folks to make the trip.

Why is John Hunt's MGB at that Gas Station in Seaside?

Dave McCann and Dan Shockey made a mercy dash to collect the MGB-GT of Sharon and John Hunt the Monday after the Laguna Seca event. Despite the new fuel pump, the MG would not run right. We towed the MG home and checked it over. Dave discovered that there was a strong vacuum in the fuel tank. Turns out that when John's tank was replaced a couple years ago, they put in a non-vented tank. But his gas cap is also non-vented. How did he ever drive it so long this way? –Dan

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MGOC Activities Director John Hunt discovered the importance of a fuel pump on his journey to Laguna Seca. His wife, Sharon joined Mike Jacobsen and myself in pushing the car up the last incline to their hotel. He was able to change the fuel pump at Laguna Seca Sunday, but I understand that wasn't enough to get the car back home ... Sounds like a report to our club members will be in order on this one. (See page 16, Ed.)

Much thanks to John and Sharon Hunt, Dan Shockey, and Dave McCann for all the work they accomplished in making the MG Reunion such a resounding success.

We have added MGOC "clings" to the available regalia for members. These vinyl emblems stick to your window or windshield through static electricity. It's a good way to show your pride in the club and they only cost \$2.00 each. Contact David Wright if you'd like one (or more).

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events. Until then, keep the shiny side up and the tires on the ground.

Bob Stine

rastine@rcn.com

Hillsborough Concours, Sunday, May 2, 2004

The Hillsborough Concours is looking for Mustangs and Sheldys to help them celebrate the 40th anniversary. The show is being held May 2nd. They are especially interested in rare and unique cars. Full details and entry forms can be found here: <http://www.hillsboroughconcours.org/carshow/>.

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News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register

MG in the Movies

By Member Felix Wong

Recently I got a chance to watch two movies from the 1970's: *Love Story* and *The Way We Were*. While the titles (and indeed their plots) scream out "chick flick," the movies are worth watching just for the wonderful scenes of MG TCs alone! Here's a brief review of them from an MG-perspective:

Love Story (1970)

This movie, starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw apparently broke every major box office record at the time and was nominated for six Academy Awards, including best original score, actor, and actress. In short it's about a privileged Harvard jock (O'Neal) who runs off to marry a poor Radcliff gal (MacGraw) even if that means severing ties with his rich, disapproving father (who drives a Jaguar E-Type convertible, by the way).

There is a lot of screen time devoted to O'Neal driving his British Racing Green TC in and out of the Boston area, but I will briefly describe one of my favorite scenes. In this scene, O'Neal and MacGraw, are in the TC in front of the rich father's mansion, and are particularly eager to leave. The father nevertheless offers them some parting words, "Drive safely, Oliver. Remember, a minute later, but get there—"



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put together took a lot of work and we want you to know that we appreciate all of your efforts. *Pete and Fran*

I just wanted to say on behalf of Michael and I what a great time we had at this event. This is the second time we have been able to take our MG on a race track and it was so much fun. I know there is so much work involved in an event like this and we just wanted you to know that it was appreciated. The atmosphere, and food, and company was great for dinner. We met a lot of nice people and fun was had by all. *Michael & Mary*

(A few of the many more thank you's that we received.)

M.G. Reunion Summary

By Dan Shockey

Saturday was the bigger day for MGs at the track. According to Michael Romo, there were 95 MGs that went on the track tour at noon. We estimate that 140 MGs participated in the club portion of the event on Saturday. There were also 33 MGs that were entered in the vintage races. Sunday was a good crowd, also, with the corral about half full.

The MG clubs had 86 rooms reserved at the Laurel Inn. The hospitality room at the Laurel Inn was well attended on both Friday and Saturday evenings. This turned out to be a surprisingly successful part of the event.

We had 150 or so people at Tarpy's RoadHouse for the Saturday evening dinner. The atmosphere, food and service were very appealing.

I truly believe that this was an unique opportunity to have all these historic figures and MGs in one place. Many people have asked about repeating the event. I believe that we will discuss if there is a way to create a regular event at Laguna Seca that combines vintage racing with MG clubs participation. We have proved the attraction of Laguna Seca in drawing folks from all over. Ideas are welcome.

We only had a few weeks to throw the event together from when we first got wind of it in late January. There was so much more we could have done if there was time to prepare. I believe we could have doubled the number of MGs present if there was more notice as well.

Event Contributors

Everyone who came contributed in a large way, of course. Many individuals from several clubs promoted the event with other club members and organized caravans to the event. The clubs from Reno, San Diego, the LA area, and the Sacramento Valley were a significant part of the group in terms of numbers, interesting cars, and fun people.

The MG Owners Club played the role of host club, organizing the motel, hospitality room, dinner, and arrangements with HMSA. This involved some financial expense and risk so thank you especially to the officers of this organization. Club members also did the registration and staffed the information booth at the corral.

M.G. Reunion Feedback

My wife and I want to thank you AND all the others responsible for this past weekend's event. It was a great thrill for both of us to be able to drive several laps of the track, see some wonderful vintage racing and cars and to share the camaraderie of all the other MG owners present. *Marilyn and Dick*

Jennifer and I would like to thank you for wonderful time at Laguna. This was our first event and it will not be our last. Everything went well, from our end, maybe not on yours, when we saw you at the Dinner Saturday night you looked frazzled. JOB WELL DONE!!! *Robert and Jennifer*

Thanks for all of your hard work to make the MG Reunion happen. I had a blast and I know everyone else did too. *Troy*

I want to thank you for putting on a memorable weekend. Both my wife and I had a great time, the opportunity to drive on the track is one of those things in my life I have always wanted to do and never thought I would be able to. Like everyone I'm sure it wasn't long enough or fast enough so now all I need to do is buy a racecar! Great people in the club and it sure was nice to be around everyone who loves their cars. Thank you very much for investing so much of your energy to make a great event! But for your efforts none of us would have had such a good time and the opportunity to see so many great cars! *Mike*

Just wanted to email and thank you for the great weekend!!! You put in so much work, and it really paid off. Everyone we talked to was really enjoying themselves. I tried to talk to you at the track, but every time I saw you, you were busy. Bob had a ball driving the track with our son. Our son video-taped the entire time, and it will be something they will always remember. *Bob and Sandie*

Many, many thanks for an unbelievable event at Monterey. The turn out and organization were so fantastic. Your hard work is really appreciated. It was really a treat to see so many great MGs in one place and to participate in the racing fun. I may have only turned in one lap on the track before my freeze plug puked out, but even sitting by the track as all those great cars zoomed past was a hoot! (By the way, my car now sports three pressure insert freeze plugs plus a rear holder plate as you described) I made it home to Petaluma on Sunday with no problems. Let's hear it for field repairs! *Rod Williams*

Thanks so very much for all the hard work to pull this last weekend together. The events were well planned and seemed to come off with few problems. I know how much effort that requires and we just wish to say "Thank You" and "Well Done." *Mike and Liz*

Thanks again for a hell of a job. Everything was very well done and you and all of the folks who worked on this deserve a lot of credit. The Hotel was a good choice and Tarpy's was excellent. *George*

Thanks for organizing a great MG race weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and so did everyone else, we're sure. We know that getting the event

At that point, Oliver (O'Neal) mashes the throttle, the TC spins its wheels, and they dart off into the darkness leaving thick smoke of burnt rubber behind.

The Way We Were (1973)

This movie, starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford, also was also nominated for a number of Academy Awards, including best original score. It's a longer, more complicated movie than *Love Story* and involves a lot more history, spanning the time period between World War II, Hollywood blacklisting, and Macarthyism. It also deals with more themes, including people vs. principles, simple women vs. complicated women, and a love that got away,

Alas, Redford's TC is only shown briefly, but it is a great scene. It is set up with the following conversation, between Hubble (Redford) and his high school love, Carol Ann.

Hubble: "I have a chance to sell my book to Hollywood."

Carol Ann: "I know, JJ told me."

Hubble: "What do you think about that? What do you think about living in sunshine all year long and going to work in a sports car? Sailing?"

Carol Ann: "Sounds wonderful."

Next thing you know (10 minutes later), driving down a forested road in Malibu and filling the entire screen is a front view of British Racing Green MG TC (MG logo is prominently shown) driven by Redford, with Streisand running her fingers through his hair. It's absolutely classic.

Felix



TD at Laguna Seca

Tune-Up Tech Session Report



Photo by Dan Shockey

It was standing room only at the tech session at O'Connor Classics on March 6, 2004. There were about 30 people there. Mike made the session even more realistic by making some common mistakes along the way.

The day was beautiful so many folks brought their MGs and we had fun looking at everything and fixing some small faults.

The next tech session is April 3 in San Francisco where we will discuss preparation for a trip in your classic MG. (See page 5.)



*"Helmets On" – Lined up in the Paddock, by Beth Golden,
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