



# THE OCTAGON



Newsletter of the M.G. Owners Club

The Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club



North American MGB Register



Tour to San Juan Bautista

Photos: Marja van den Hende



## May 2017

# About *The Octagon* and the MG Owners Club

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 subgroup 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 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 MG Owners Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

## DIRECTORY of MGOC OFFICERS for 2006

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Treasurer: Marla Preston, [marlapreston@hotmail.com](mailto:marlapreston@hotmail.com)  
Secretary: Pam Shukait, [pshukait@me.com](mailto:pshukait@me.com)

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Member-at-Large: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)  
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## 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: Position Open!

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

[AdamsEddie77@yahoo.com](mailto:AdamsEddie77@yahoo.com)

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)

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

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

Z-Magnette Saloon: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032

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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). 2005 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. 1<sup>st</sup>, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

## MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON*

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [magnut\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:magnut_dan@hotmail.com) or send them to: Dan Shockey, 10 Willis Rd., Scotts Valley, CA 95066.

## RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? The club roster is available from Steve Kellogg 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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**May 21, 2017**  
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# From the Editor...

April 20, 2017

Spring has gotten very busy with events every weekend. When shall I get any car work done? I had to take my P-type apart and off the road. I usually manage to keep my MGs road-ready, if not without their problems. The 80-year-old generator has a short in the field coils. The generator for this car is mounted vertically at the front of the engine and drives the overhead camshaft through gears. Rather a critical component! I took it to a shop to have an old-time expert work on it.

I had success with some other projects for it. I built side screens (side curtains) for it. I purchased TC covers that are very close in size. A different style but I only wanted functionality. I also got new tires and wheels mounted. I put ceramic beads inside the tires (tubes) and they seem to work well to dynamically balance the tall skinny tires/wheels. I installed a new steering box adaptor that works well to remove some of the excess play in the “free-wander” style steering. It felt good as I drove it to San Jose in March to meet with some other prewar (WWII that is) MG enthusiasts. That is when I confirmed that the generator was no longer charging – when the engine would not crank over.

“Two steps forward, one step back” certainly applies to working on these old cars. Send your updates and what you have learned, that others may benefit.

Joke from my Dad: “If April Showers bring May Flowers, what do May Flowers bring?” (Answer below.)

The MGA coupe I purchased a year ago does well but is very hot in the cockpit. I have tried various things including fans and even wrapped the exhaust manifold. The prior owner insulated the cockpit really well but the heat soaks through. I will add some vents to the engine compartment. A racer told me that an air dam under the front helps greatly by creating a low-pressure area under the engine, drawing air flow and heat out under the car. The Austin-Healey (also made by wood-elves in Abingdon) had a similar shape and problem getting air flow through the engine bay. A friend installed factory “Rally Vents” in the fenders of his that he says helped a lot (and look racy).

I am excited about the 3-club tour to San Juan Bautista this Saturday. Then we plan to take the MGA on a 3-day tour to the Sierra foothills in early May – during “Drive Your MGA” day. Then *MGs by the Bay* is always a favorite happening. Don’t miss it!

Hope to see you all on the roads and at the show. Safety Fast!

Dan

(Pilgrims, of course!)

**MG**

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

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MGB, Midget caliper.....	\$85.00
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MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00-145.00
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# President's Ponderings

As many of you know this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our club and we're still going strong, thanks to many of our enthusiastic members. The club was founded by a group of MG motor-heads back in 1957 with similar interests as we have today. In order to help celebrate our Diamond Anniversary the Awards at this years MG by the Bay are going to be up-scale and truly special. We have ordered Crystal Glass awards in the shape of an MG Octagon. Each award is being custom engraved with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year club logo and the MG class and place. So these are really special keep sakes. Remember that all MGs are welcome from daily drivers to complete restorations. Apart from the usual popular classes we also have awards for, MGC, Prewar, MG Special (i.e. Arnolt), MG Saloon, Most Customized, and Daily Driver, so get your car out of the garage, give it a wash and I'll see you there. The registration form is on one of the following pages and please sign up early.

The April Club Meeting was held for the first time at 1400 Webster, Alameda and it was probably one of the best and well attended we've had in a while. These meeting are very informal affairs and a very good way to meet fellow members and get to know what's happening in your club. The May meeting is on May 6<sup>th</sup> so I encourage you all to attend. Breakfast and social hour is at 9:00 and the meeting and fun starts at 10:00. Unfortunately Marla and I will be on vacation but you'll be in the good hands of your VP Keith Shukait.

Back in my garage, where I spend a lot of time, I've been trying to trace a slight miss with my 1960 MGA Coupe prior to driving down to Solvang in June. I think I've traced it down to a loose points plate in the distributor, which is unusual to say the least especially because the distributor was rebuilt by a specialist 14,000 miles ago. Maybe that's all they last these days! The original factory points plates were really well engineered and made, but the new ones are just 2 plates held together in the center circle with a peened over connection. After only 14,000 miles I had a slop of 11 thou between the circular plate connection. This may not seem a lot but with the points set at 15 thou the gap could vary from 4-26 thou. I found an old points plate and installed it in the distributor and all is well. Just to be sure though I've ordered a new points plate from British Vacuum.

BTW there's still time to sign up for the festivities in Solvang in June so it's time to stop procrastinating and join in the fun! Remember it's your club and the Paradise folks who are putting it on.

Take care and drive safely,

Andy





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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Dan, We visited this museum in Sept. 2006 whilst we motored around the Cotswolds in an Austin-Healey. This MG looks like it might be one of those made by those disabled coal miners you mentioned in *The Octagon*:

Marty Rayman, Kentfield

"The Cotswold Motoring Museum has a huge selection of pedal cars, bicycles and aeroplanes to see. There is even a pedal-snail. Some of the toys have been made lovingly at home by parents, whilst others are one-offs by manufacturers with intrinsic detail based on the real car, but at a 1/3 of the size. Often though its the Austin pedal car or the spring based rocking horse which are named by many visitors as the ones that they had in their back garden as children." Cotswold Motoring Museum & Toy Collection,

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Gloucestershire, GL54 2BY [http://  
www.cotswoldmotoringmuseum.co.uk/  
collections/index.php](http://www.cotswoldmotoringmuseum.co.uk/collections/index.php)

I just received a gift catalog from Summit Racing featuring a wide selection of pedal and electric cars. These include modern Mustangs, a red 1963 Corvette, Shelby Cobras, '57 Chevy Bel Air, Jeeps, hot rods, '55 Chevys, an old style fire truck, A Sky King pedal plane, and a forklift! The prices range from \$70 to \$489. The size varies from 30" long to 60". Some are all steel and some are plastic. Sliced to the outer few inches, these would make fun wall décor.

The K3 pedal car has come back to me. It was a raffle prize at a GOF back in New England many years ago. It is really too large and heavy to be of kid use. It may hold Santa in front of my house this Christmas.  
- Dan







Marty's Jolly Old England Adventure.  
TD Pedal Car at Left.  
Photos: Marty Rayman



MG Electric Concept Art Provided by SAIC Motor Corporation







The MG Dynamo concept above  
The E-Motion MG at right



## An Electric MG? 310-Mile Range MG E-Motion Electric

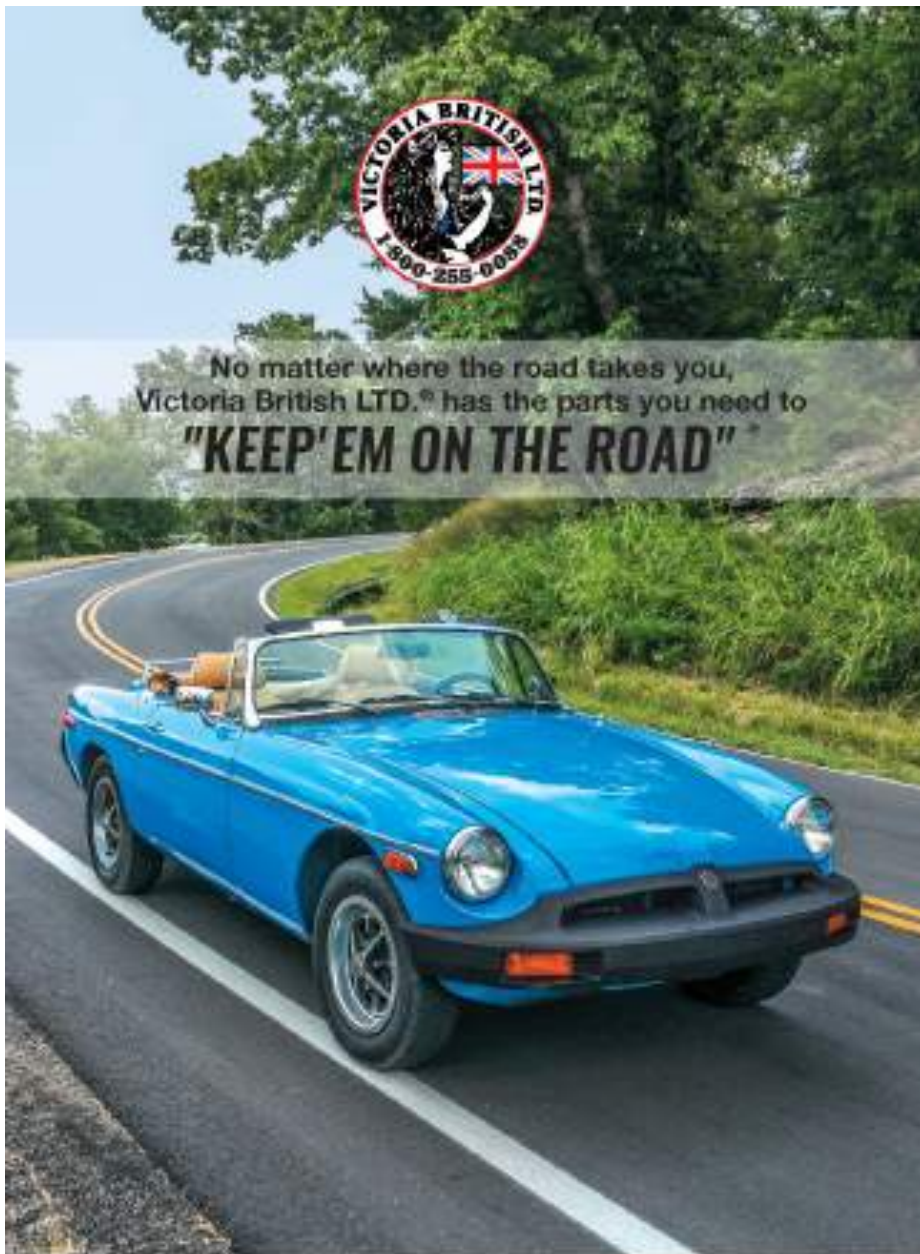
*Condensed from Autocar Magazine*

MG is not only alive and well, it's reportedly about to introduce something quite advanced. The Chinese-owned marque is rolling out the MG E-Motion electric sports-car concept at the Shanghai auto show.

Autocar reports the E-Motion concept has a claimed range of 310 miles but can also sprint from 0-62 mph in less than 4 seconds. MG has not shared details about the battery or the motor, though the range and performance is plausible, given the car's size.

The concept features butterfly doors, cameras instead of side mirrors and a fairly adventurous design, reminiscent of recent Mazda concepts. The details are a little wild, as you would expect on a concept vehicle, but MG is taking this technology demonstrator seriously.

Just how likely is the E-Motion to make it into production? MG indicated to Autocar a decision will be made after its debut in Shanghai



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## Electric MGs from China (Continued)

this week, suggesting that the tech is already there to make the electric powertrain happen on a production scale.

MG has built mass market vehicles since rolling out its updated lineup in Europe. Rover has also come back as Roewe though in the U.K., MG is the one enjoying a resurgence.

We don't expect to see MG return to the U.S. anytime soon, though MG has a better chance of success than most other brands -- it's already a player in Europe, it's building cars to EU standards, and there are still plenty of Americans who remember owning an MG sports car.

### MG Unveils Dynamo Electric Concept On 90th Anniversary

Engineered by SAIC's European Design and Technical Centre, the MG Dynamo concept is meant to showcase SAIC's pure-electric technology while testing the waters for European demand. The Dynamo concept is said to produce 70 hp, and it features a battery that can be recharged to 80 percent in 30 minutes. The range of the concept car is stated to be 50 miles, and it is based on the Chinese-market Roewe E50 electric car. The 50-mile range places it a bit below the Leaf's 75-mile range, but it's still within everyday commuting range for most. With a length of just under 12 feet, the 2,376-pound concept is just a bit shorter than the Leaf and almost 1,000 pounds lighter.

The MG brand has been doing reasonably well in China since its move there almost a decade ago. Shanghai-based Nanjing Automotive, now owned by SAIC, has relaunched both brands based on platforms acquired from what was left of Rover Group in the mid-2000s, building upon several cars such as the Rover 75 sedan. The model ranges of both brands have grown since, and MG now offers two main models including the MG3 hatch and two versions of the MG6 midsize sedan.

SAIC Motor Corporation Limited (formerly Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation) is a Chinese state-owned company headquartered in Shanghai, China, with multinational operations. The company has the largest production volume of any Chinese automaker, making more than 4.5 million vehicles annually.

SAIC traces its origins to the early years of the Chinese automobile industry in the 1940s, and SAIC was one of the few carmakers in Mao's China. It participates in joint ventures with Volkswagen and with General Motors. SAIC products sell under a variety of brand names, including those of its joint venture partners.

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## Tour Report: San Juan Bautista

By Dan Shockey

It was a very good tour with the wonderful people of the clubs. Thanks to our leader Dave Marsh. Members of the MGOc and the Sorry Safari met at a convenient parking lot with access to coffee and restrooms – the two prerequisites – ready to enjoy the day and the MGs. **Burnt Spark Plug** winners Kirk and Amy had trouble with bad gas in their BGT and had to bring their alternate Brit modern. Jennifer was in town (SF) and came along but without her MGB. She rode with Dave to help with navigation. The Monterey club decided not to join us after all. We'll try again another time. (We still want to tour again the old Torrey Pines racetrack setting one day.) We had a good mix of MG models.

From our meeting point in South San Jose, we were able to get onto country roads right after departing the parking lot. The road past Calero and Chesbro Reservoirs is one of my favorites in the area. We were able to stop for photos along the water.

We picked up guests Mike and Nicky in their TD in Morgan Hill, swelling our ranks to nine cars. Dave had located a place where we could park together just a couple blocks from our restaurant in San Juan Bautista. We ate lunch together outdoors in a garden setting at a nice Mexican restaurant. After lunch we explored the small town with its historical buildings, fun shops and unspoiled charm.

From there, Marja along with Thuy and I headed back to the coast through Watsonville while the others returned north to the Bay. Thank you again to Dave for organizing and leading this fun tour.



At left, VP Keith and Kirk set a tone of decorum at lunch. Below, tin-top MGs on the perfectly cool day. Our Leader - in soft cap - ponders what he has wrought.

Photos: Marja van den Hende





*The Sorry Safari Touring Society, LTD presents*

## **Windy Road Tour**

(Winding & windy backroad circumnavigation of Mt. Diablo)

We will drive over and around Mt. Diablo on backroads ending with a yummy lunch at the Rock House Bar and Grill in Livermore. Optional winery stop after lunch?

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Meet: 9:30 am – McDonalds, San Ramon, I-680, to Crow Canyon, exit west, 2481 San Ramon Valley Blvd. (SW corner)

Depart: 10:00 am

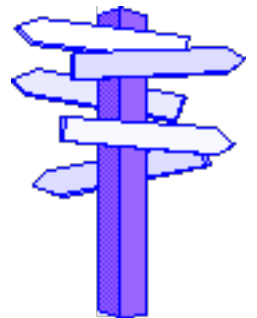
Stops: Two Mt. Diablo overlooks  
Morgan Territory Regional Preserve

Lunch: Rock House Bar & Grill, Livermore

Bring: MGs, Sunscreen, \$10 State Park fee

RSVP: Don Cowgill: 925-449-4013, [dfcowgill@yahoo.com](mailto:dfcowgill@yahoo.com)

Tour cell: 925-202-7596 (Maris)





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## What's That Tapping Noise? – Part 1 Andy Preston

Here's a problem for you car sleuths to see if anyone can determine what was making the light tapping noise in my 1967 MGB for over 3 years. The answer will in next months Octagon so if you have any ideas contact me and you could be the **"car sleuth of the month."**

Three years ago I had the original stock 1800cc engine rebuilt by a local machine shop that I always use and they do great work. They had the camshaft built up and then reground, nitrided and parkerized to the original stock profile by a local machinist in Santa Rosa, because they say the new cams from Moss are questionable at times.

While the engine was out I had the distributor rebuilt and new shafts put in the carbs. I also replaced the PCV (positive crankcase ventilation) valve because the old one was sucking oil.

Shortly after I reinstalled the rebuilt engine I noticed a light tapping noise from the engine but only between 1000-2000 rpm and then it went away. It sounded like tap, tap, tap, tap as fast as you can say it. It could also be described like a pinging noise, ping, ping, ping, ping as fast as you can say it but only between 1000-2000 rpm.

I rechecked the valve clearances many times but they were spot on. I checked the timing, dynamic advance and vacuum advance but they were all within spec. This went on for many thousands of miles. I thought to myself that when it gets worse and the engine blows up I'll know what it was!

Well, on a trial run for the St. Paddy's Day drive we had the top up on the car and pulling some of the steep grades you could hear the tapping noise louder than ever. It was very disconcerting especially when you have no idea what's causing it. I thought it might be a bad lobe on the rebuilt camshaft and was going to pull that next.

However before performing major surgery I decided to pay a visit to Mark Singleton who is the owner of British European Motors in Cotati. I've known Mark for many years and he has worked on many of my cars. Mark was born in England and served his apprenticeship there and earned his "City and Guilds" diploma in auto mechanics. He moved to California in 1987 and opened his own British car repair and restoration shop in Cotati in 1990.

His shop is always full of all British cars both old and new. It's always fun to just drop in for a chat and see what he's working on.



So I paid Mark a visit and asked if he could determine what was making the tapping noise. As soon as he got in the drivers seat and started the engine he said he could hear a light noise. Something like a spring bouncing. He drove the car around the block for around 15 minutes and could make the noise occur by loading the engine at low revs. He said it sounded just like a "pinging" noise, but I told him that in the past I had filled the car with 105 Octane gas at the race track and it still made the same noise.



## What's That Tapping - Continued

When we got back to his shop he opened the bonnet and revved the engine several times and said “**THAT’S IT!**” He clamped a hose with a pair of hose pliers and the noise was gone. He joked “that’s a very expensive pair of hose pliers!” No charge of course.

What did Mark do in 3 minutes that I couldn’t do in 3 years? Let me know if you think you know the answer or wait until next month.

Andy’s 1967 MGB Engine compartment. Is there a clue in the photo?



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## Drive Your MGA Day!

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Anywhere in North America

Save the Date. The annual *Drive Your MGA Day* is Saturday, May 6, 2017. Time to start planning to get together with other MGA owners/drivers and enjoy the day. Remember to send your photos and article to the Editor, MGA! Magazine.

For more information, visit: [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com)







# MGs By The Bay

Sunday, June 4

Danville Livery

400 Sycamore Valley Rd,

Danville, CA 94526

Advanced registration - \$25

Day of show - \$30



# Announcing the 24th Annual *MGs by the Bay*

Sunday June 4, 2017 at The Livery in Danville

400 Sycamore Valley Road, Danville, 94526 – One block west from the I-680 exit

All MGs are welcome, from daily drivers to complete restorations. Advance registration is \$25 and \$30 on the day of the show. Additional cars registered to the same owner are \$10 each. Event T-shirts are \$10 and must be pre-ordered. The deadline for advanced registration and pre-ordering T-shirts is May 26. The show starts at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, and awards are presented at 2 p.m. Popular vote judging, with awards for People's Choice, Best Daily Driver, Most Customized, and others. The class awards are determined by the number of cars registered.



Return the form below with the entry fee, or fill it out and pay online at [www.MGOCSF.org](http://www.MGOCSF.org).

One form is required for each MG.

Mail before Friday May 26, 2017 to:

*MGs by the Bay*

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San Francisco, CA 94131-3141

Make checks payable to **MGOC** or use PayPal on our website

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

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Body style: ☐ Coupe ☐ Roadster

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☐ Saloon ☐ Race car

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

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

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

Daytime phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

***T-shirts are \$10 each. There will only be a limited number of shirts available at the show.***

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Keep Planning for 2017 ...

## SPRING



MGOC Nosh & Natter, Alameda, 5/6  
 Car Show, Diablo Valley College, 5/12  
 (See page 21 for info)  
 Windy Roads Tour, SSTs, 5/20  
 Dixon British Show & Swap Meet, 5/21  
 Meeting & Packet Stuffing, 6/3 El Cerrito  
 MGs by the Bay, Danville Livery, 6/4  
 Sonoma Historics Festival, Sears Point, 6/2-4

## SUMMER



Half Moon Bay Run, MGOC, 6/10  
 NAMGAR GT-42, Solvang, 6/19 - 6/23  
 NAMGBR MG2017, San Diego, 6/25 - 6/28  
 GOF West, Santa Maria, 7/10 - 7/14  
 Aptos BBQ Run, from Sunnyvale, MGOC, 7/22  
 Rendezvous, Club T, Otter Rock, OR, 8/10-13  
 Annual Picnic, MGOC, Tilden Park, 8/19  
 Scottish Games, Pleasanton, SSTs, 9/2-3

## Fashionistas!

Stylish and protective head cover is essential. Wayne Veatch modeled his authentic WWII flying helmet purchased at a surplus store in the 1950s. Randy Grossman found this cap and goggles to match his personality.

Photo: Dan Shockey, North-South Meet, 2016







# 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Classic Weekend

August 18 to 20, 2017

The Canadian Classic MG Club & the Canadian XK Jaguar Register  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

**Friday Evening:** Welcome Reception at the Seymour Golf & Country Club, North Vancouver

**Saturday:** Heritage Classic Field Meet at Waterfront Park, North Vancouver

- ♣ Display Classes for MGs, Jaguars & Other British Cars
- ♣ Entrants Choice & People's Choice Awards for all Display Classes
- ♣ Championship & Driven Class Awards in Jaguar Concours
- ♣ Special Awards: Hagerty Preservation & Youth Judging Awards, Long Distance Award
- ♣ Display of British Motorcycles
- ♣ Featured MG Models: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Y-Type & 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MGC
- ♣ Free for entrants: Afternoon Tea & British Biscuits on the field - Framed photo of your car

**Saturday Evening:** Awards Dinner at the Host Hotel, the Holiday Inn & Suites, North Vancouver.

**Sunday:** Scenic Drive and Farewell Buffet Lunch at Hazelmere Golf & Tennis Club (near US border)

**Heritage 2017 Entrant Costs** [All prices are in Canadian funds]

The Saturday Show at Waterfront Park: MG, Jaguar, Other British Display: \$20

Friday Welcome Reception: \$20. Saturday Awards Banquet: \$55. Sunday Farewell Brunch: \$35.

## Our Heritage 2017 Host Hotel

For those coming from out of town, we are again at the North Vancouver Holiday Inn & Suites, an award-winning full-service hotel with 162 rooms and a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. See [www.hinorthvancouver.com](http://www.hinorthvancouver.com)

**Special Heritage 2017 Room Rates**, based on single or double occupancy & not including taxes, with all rates in Cdn funds: Standard (2 Queen Beds) \$159; Deluxe (1 King or 2 Queen Beds) \$189; 1-Bedroom Suite: \$199

When phoning the hotel, mention "Heritage Classic 2017." There is a limited number of rooms available at these rates, so book at the latest by July 18. To book, call 604-985-3111 or toll-free 1-877-985-3111.

**Very soon, more details of Heritage 2017 and a registration form will be posted at [www.jaguarmg.com](http://www.jaguarmg.com) . In the meantime, for more information contact MGOC & SSTS member Jennifer Orum at [jlorum@shaw.ca](mailto:jlorum@shaw.ca)**

Photo: Dan Shockey



# MGOC Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2017

## 1400 Bar and Grill, 1400 Webster St., Alameda, CA

**Call to order:** By Andy Preston at 10:14am

**Attending:** Eric Baker, John Hunt, Mike Jacobsen, Dave McCann, Richard Rocco, Amy Prentiss, Kirk Prentiss, Andy Preston, Marla Preston, Keith Shukait, Pam Shukait, George Steneberg,

**Mileage Winner:** Dave McCann who won a complimentary breakfast.

**Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting (Mar. 4 2017):** Motion by Keith, Second by Eric. Passed unanimously.

### Reports

**President's Report:** Andy Preston: NAMGBR Affiliate Chapter renewal. I have been contacted by John Rogers, VP of NAGBR who requested the club update its information regarding officers, contact and club activities. This should be done on an annual basis and Tim Polidorof was still our Chapter contact so the request initially went to him so I will reply on behalf of the club. Once again, great appreciation to Dan for producing the Octagon which is getting better and better. We are still looking for articles, pictures, etc.

**Vice-President's Report:** Very pleased with the huge turnout (12) at our new meeting venue. If everything goes well, we will continue to meet here.

### Treasurer's Report:

Account	April 2017	March 2017
Checking	11,454.20	11,671.78
Savings	3,464.60	3,464.60
Total	14,918.80	15,136.38

Since the last Treasurer's Report we have had *Octagon* expenses, Tech session expenses, docent fee for a tour and income from a Commercial ad. The commercial ad was for On the Road Again. Also, the docent fee was returned this month to the treasurer due to a refund from the tour.

**Secretary's Report:** Nothing to report

### Registrar's Report:

176	Number of regular members
54	Number of Regular Family Members
230	Total Regular and Family Members
11	Number of corresponding members
3	Number of corresponding family members
14	Total corresponding and family members
244	Total members

An increase of 3 new members since last month.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** George Steneberg Nothing to report

**Regalia Report:** Andy Preston Nothing to report. John Hunt requested 2 large mugs. (Andy will contact John directly).

**The Octagon Report:** Dan Shockey :absent

**Website Report:** Steve Kellogg: report by email. *"As you may have noticed, the web has been going down quite frequently lately. I have been in touch with the folks at*

*Connect2Clubs and their fix is to migrate the site to a larger more powerful server that is "in the cloud", as of 3/3/0/17."*

*"To change to another company that would rebuild the website would be really expensive-over \$2000 probably unless we had someone to design the site from scratch up, most likely in Wordpress. NAMGAR's site is made on Wordpress and it is relatively simple to use.. I will keep on informed on how it's going."*

Kirk suggested we save space by archiving older Octagons. He will mention this to Steve to keep just the past year (rolling year) on site.

Kirk said that it was difficult to access the Member directory and perhaps Steve could email blast the roster to members. Mike advised that the Board had previously voted to **not make** the member director available in a spreadsheet format in order to prevent inappropriate use of the directory. Mike said that anyone could contact Steve and receive a hardcopy of it.

**NAMGAR GT-42:** Mike Jacobsen: Dates are June 19-23. There are 65 registrations, 57 with cars with 123 people to date. Registration is expected to ramp up as we get closer. Mike is working on the schedule which should be finished by next week. Regalia orders need by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Marla showed the canvas give away bag that was chosen, as well as the design for the bag and lanyards. She will order 175 bags. Any leftovers will be sold.

**MGs by the Bay:** Ken Gittings submitted two T-shirt design proofs by email for review and comment. We looked at the two designs and one was chosen by all. It was suggested to add "24<sup>th</sup> Annual" to the wording. There are two registrations so far.

**Past Events:** A very busy month with the Tech session, St. Paddy's Day tour and a Trip through the Past tour.

**Upcoming events:** (MGOC sponsored events are in **bold text**)

Sun Apr 9 Ruth Bancroft Garden Tour, SSTS, Sue and Bob Engelhart.

Sun Apr 21 Pub Night at On the Road Again, Morgan Hill

**Sat Apr 22 San Juan Bautista three-club tour, MGOC, SSTS and Cypress CC, led by Dave Marsh**

**Sat May 6 Club Meeting 1400 Bar and Grill, 1400 Webster St., Alameda, 9am/10am**

**Sat May 20 Windy Roads Tour SSTS/MGOC Don Cowgill**

Sun May 21 Dixon Car Show

**Old Business:** Octagon newsletter options: Mike Jacobsen. The new format grew by an ounce which added an additional 21¢ postage. It was suggested we keep it to 22 pages as to not increase the cost.

**New Business:** No new business

**Business resolved online since last meeting:** Board



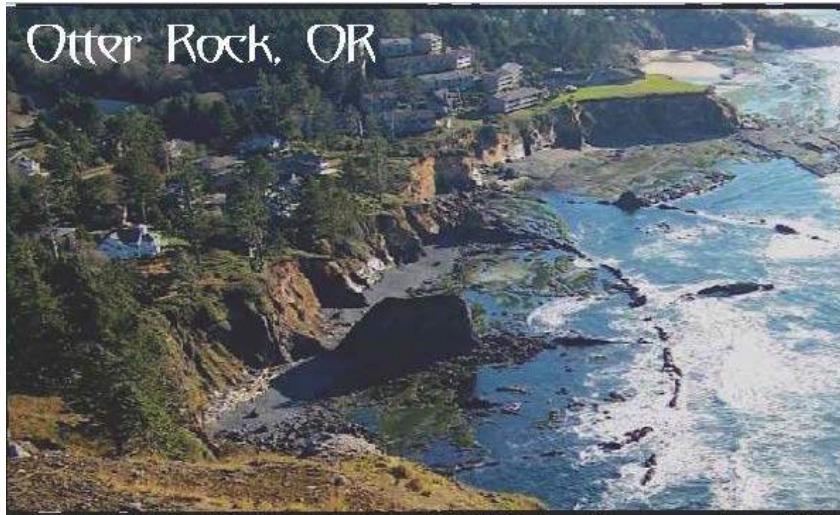
voted to retain the photo taken by Mindy (MG Midget winner of Premier Class of 2016) as the T-Shirt design.

**Announcements:** Mike announced there would be a B25 Floyover in Alameda at 11:45am. A few were going to try to go over and see it.

Eric informed us today was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sgt. Pepper's cover shot. This tied to MG's because the Beatles rented MGs to drive around!

**Next Meeting: Saturday, May 6 at 1400 Restaurant,** 1400 Webster (corner of Webster and Central) in Alameda. Look for the big Beefeater outside. Breakfast at 9:00, meeting at 10:00. Parking on street or at the bank next door. Andy and Marla will not be in attendance so our VP, Keith Shukait, will be in charge. Adjourned at 10:55am.

Submitted by: Pam Shukait

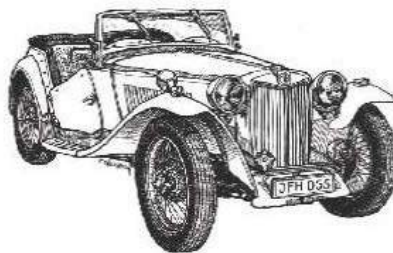


### You need a vacation!

This is a truly great event sponsored by Club T MG in Oregon. They find the best places for a meet, at great prices, and offer a lot of fun with a wonderful group of welcoming club members. The Sorry Safari often caravan to this event. Get an early start to reach Oregon before it gets hot. Take your regular car if necessary. (Dan has done so twice.)

RENDEZ VOUS-35  
AUGUST 10-13TH

Stay Tuned  
FOR something  
AWESOME



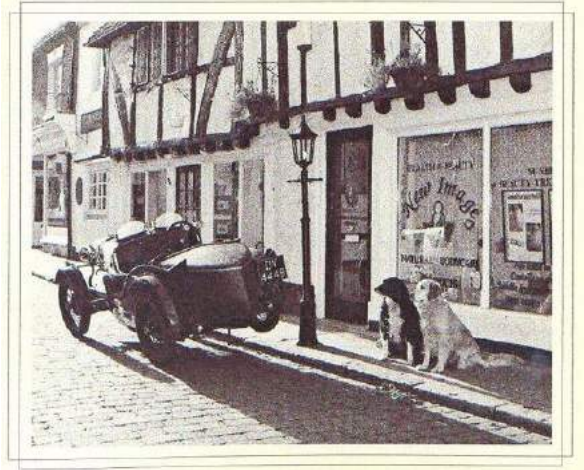
Another view of The Inn at Otter Crest

Every summer, an event called the “rendezvous” takes place at a resort for three days. Activities at the rendezvous include a rally, car show, tour, participation in activities at the resort, and an awards banquet with a raffle.

This year the rendezvous will be at The Inn at Otter Crest. The Inn is nestled into an oceanside forest with acres of ancient trees, ferns, shrubs, and native plants. Here you will find the best of Oregon's famous coastline with its spectacular rock formations, wild surf, and pristine beaches. While staying at the Inn you'll find that many of the Oregon coast's wonders are within walking distance. Every day the resident Harbor Seals haul out on the rocks and can be viewed from many rooms as well as the front lawn. During the summer and fall months, the central coast is home to several resident Grey Whales who frequent the area in front of the Inn.

More info & registration form: <http://www.clubtmg.org/>

# Caption Contest



Last Month's Photo: MG C-type Sports-Racer Midget,

"At least we use a fire hydrant." - Richard Butler

"No, I did not give it permission to use "our" lamp post!!" - Bill Hiland

"I hate this waiting in line to use the lamppost loo; I wish he would get on with it." - Jim Carlson

"Those English Pure Breds think they own everything!" - Jim Lucas

1) "And his burns, too!" 2) "*You* go and sniff him first." 3) "Nope, not a breed I'm familiar with either." - Mike



More submissions:

"I am sick and tired of this thing mimicking everything we do. Next thing you know, it will bring Master his slippers." - Eric Baker

I know that wheel is up in the air, but I bet my stream can hit it!" - Don Davis

New This Month: Bonus for identifying the cosy couple and event.

## Classified Ads

Ads are free to MGOC members and \$6.00 per month for non-members.

1952 MGTD Mark II Roadster. Have complete history, 5 speed transmission, higher ratio rear axle, racing windshield, cream with black leather interior, wood dash and wood steering wheel, in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Asking \$33K.

Pauline, Vancouver, B.C. Canada 604-325-9252 (Posted 4/17)

*Posted at the request of member Jennifer Orum. This car was at their show last year.*

1972 MGB. Very nice MGB you can drive anywhere. Blue with gray top & interior. Overdrive, roll bar. new tires; engine overhauled 5 years ago; replaced clutch 3 years ago. Recent: alternator, exhaust, starter, top, Pertronix. \$15,000 or offer. Contact Bob Luebbert at 510-912-4239 or [r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net) (Posted 2/17)

Enclosed Trailer for Rent: Enclosed car trailer for rent (16' x 8'). Trailer has integrated braking system and lights, 12 volt Electric Winch. Reasonable rates. Randy Grossman (415-518-5210) or Eric Baker (510-517-2165)

For additional ads, see prior issues of The Octagon. Prior issues of The Octagon and other classified ads may be found on our web site, [mgocsf.org](http://mgocsf.org)



## Origin of the MG “A Series” and “B Series” Engines *The Cross-Atlantic Connection*

*From ENGINES for M.G's Their Story after 1935. By Neil Cairns.*

The source of the 'B' series goes a lot further back in motoring history, as does its little sister the 'A' series, both being born from a 1200cc ohv (over-head valve) Austin engine of 1947. This 1200cc unit was one of a pair that Bill Appleby, Eric Bareham, and Jimmy Rix, at the ADO (Austin Design Office,) is supposed to have cribbed from a lorry engine.

The original unit was in fact a ohv six cylinder Chevrolet engine that Vauxhall were building to fit in their pre-war Bedford lorry. It was very successful, and Austin got hold of an example, and made their own slightly altered version. It was also very successful so the Engine Design Department cloned it into two smaller four cylinder versions, for use in the cars.

One was a 2199cc 16hp engine, used in the post-war 1945 Austin Sixteen saloon, 25cwt van, and early A90 Atlantic, and bored out to 2660cc in the later A90 Atlantic, Austin Taxi, the Champ, and Austin Healey 100 sports car.

The other was a very tidy unit of 1200cc, not unlike the 'B' series, but with a gear type oil pump and bypass oil filter, using the crankshaft, connecting rods, pistons, camshaft, and bore centres from the pre-war Austin 10/4 of 1932, of 65.5mm bore and 89mm stroke. It produced 40bhp at 4300rpm, with its Zenith carburetter.

This was a good example of tying a designer down to a price. It is NOT an ohv conversion of the Austin 10hp side-valve engine, it was done so the same boring machine could be used to make the 'new' engine. It was fitted to the four door A40 Devon and two door Dorset models, in 1947, the same year the M.G. 'Y' type saloon was introduced.

Copyright Neil Cairns Dec.1997.

## **Car Show – Diablo Valley College May 12**

Diablo Valley (Community) College, in Pleasant Hill, will be holding a car show on May 12, 2017 from 3 to 8PM. the event is being held to celebrate the beauty and craftsmanship of all kinds of cars as well as to raise funds to augment the school's metal craft, engineering technology and industrial design programs.

The programs were reactivated after a few years of dormancy. The school faculty and students seek to inform the community of the facilities and education programs as well as continue an updating effort of migrating technologies to CNC machining, 3D Printing, and CNC Laser Cutting. The show seeks entries of all types of cars.

This event receives support from the Academy of Art San Francisco and Blackhawk car collections, so this is your chance to see some of their cars at the show!

All models of MG's are most welcome. Your membership could use it as a warm up to your annual June show. More info about the event can be found at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

Todd Teachout, Student, Classic car fan and '67 MGB-GT owner.

Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 8:00 PM on the DVC Campus, 268 Viking Drive, Pleasant Hill. For tickets go to this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dvcs-car-show-tickets-32193634026?aff=es2>

MGOC *The Octagon*  
320 B Monterey Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA 94131-3141

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**Club Meeting**  
***‘Nosh ‘n Natter’***

**Date: Saturday, May 6, 2017**

**9 a.m.: Breakfast**

**10 a.m.: MGOC Club Meeting**

**1400 Bar, Grill and Pizza**

**1400 Webster Street  
Alameda, CA. 94501**

**1(510) 263- 9651**

**<http://1400barandgrill.com/>**

**More Info: Andy Preston**

**[andypreston@att.net](mailto:andypreston@att.net)**

***We look forward to seeing you!***



In the 1879 Croll's Bldg, at Neptune Beach, Alameda  
Eggs Benedict