

MGOC Octagon  
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 San Francisco, CA 94131-3141  
<http://www.MGOC.org>

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# THE OCTAGON

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



Felix Wong Photo



Bob Stine's MGB, Editor's PA and the Club Banner at Celtic Games.

## July 2005

## 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 2005

**President:** David Wright, Oakland, 510-653-3831

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

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

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

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

**Activities Director:** Randy Grossman, 510-483-3171,

[r.m.grossman@comcast.net](mailto:r.m.grossman@comcast.net)

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

[j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Membership Development:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [RAStine@rcn.com](mailto:RAStine@rcn.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Z-Magnette Saloon:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

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

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

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

**S.U. Carburettors:** Marty Ray, 831-247-5863, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

**Bodywork:** Bill Weissberg, 209-835-0428, [weissber@slip.net](mailto:weissber@slip.net)

### 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).

## Natter & Noggin with Club Meeting

**July 14, 2005 (Thurs.), 8 p.m.**

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

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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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, July 29, 2005, 8 p.m.

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

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-2

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 [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

**Five 14"x5.5" Minator knock-off wheels.** Excellent condition. Photo at [www.mgoc.org](http://www.mgoc.org) click on Photos. It's the 3rd row down, 3rd photo to the right. Red/white MGB. Member Bob Frank, 415-897-4840, [robert@rfassoc.com](mailto:robert@rfassoc.com)

**1965 Austin Healey Sprite**, red, \$4995 OBO. Fun little car that runs well. New brake lines, new hoses and belts, new speedometer and odometer, and new door hinges. Extensive work done on the electrical and exhaust. Member Karin, [ktroedsson@hotmail.com](mailto:ktroedsson@hotmail.com)

**Wanted: MG 1600 or 1622 engine** for a friend with a TVR. Don Davis, 408-358-9744, Member Don Davis, [fstcobra@hotmail.com](mailto:fstcobra@hotmail.com).

**1947 MG TC** Correct TC in glossy Cream with Moss Motors green leather interior and trim. TC engine block increased to 1500 cc by Mike Goodman with MG TF SUs. Receipts for over \$23k. Less than 2,000 miles on engine. Price \$22,950.00 Firm. Member Bill Webb, [billsouel@comcast.net](mailto:billsouel@comcast.net)

**1957 MGA roadster:** 3-main MGB engine; HDK43-27602. 10,000 miles on rebuilt engine and transmission. New: master cylinder, rear brake cylinders, Dunlop radials, newly rodded radiator. Included: new radiator, new carpets & door panels, new fuel sending unit, new steering rack seals, shop manual. Painted BRG. Runs strong. \$11,000 obo. Member Mike Zinns, [mzinns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mzinns@sbcglobal.net), Martinez, 925-228-6286

**WANTED:** Looking for SU HS6 carburetors for my 1969 MGC. I am going to be doing a triple carb conversion at some point as well as replace some worn HS6 parts. Member Kent Leech (510) 504-0634 [kent@kentleech.com](mailto:kent@kentleech.com)

**1974.5 MGB:** Rubber bumpers, twin carbs, no smog tests required. Maroon. Looks and runs well, redone interior. Owned 14 years. Needs minor cosmetics. Non-member David, Oakland, \$4500/offer. (510) 663-7091 eves.

**Wanted:** MGB/GT (about a 70) in good condition (not mint). Non-member Vickey, [vickeycarle@earthlink.net](mailto:vickeycarle@earthlink.net)

### FREE Parts & Accessories Catalogs

Choose From These Catalogs:

- Austin Healey
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- Sunbeam Alpine & Tiger
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- TR7 & TR8
- Spitfire & GT6

Order Toll Free  
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**1-800-255-0088**





Order Catalogs & Parts Online at  
**[www.VictoriaBritish.com](http://www.VictoriaBritish.com)**

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. The editor's address is: Dan Shockey, 3219 Mabury Rd., San Jose, CA 95127. Or, you may email contributions to [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@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. The club roster is available from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

## Forthcoming Events

MGOC (which is us!) events are in **bold** type. SSTS: Sorry Safari Touring Society, ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders

Every Sat. — Donut Derelicts, Los Altos, Martinez

July 11-15 - **GOF West**, See June *Octagon*, [www.gofwest.com](http://www.gofwest.com)

July 12-16 — **NAMGAR GT-30**, Michigan, Mike Jacobsen driving!

July 14<sup>th</sup> (Thurs.) — **Club Meeting & Natter**, page 23

July 16<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Tech Session, Midget Engine Swap** Jonathon Buckley, San Ramon, page 5

July 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — CBS TV coverage of Sears Point American LeMans race

July 22-24 — Silverstone MG Car Club 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday, England, Features BMC/BL works cars and team drivers, Spielman's attending

July 24<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — **North Bay Wine Tour**, Marla & Andy Preston, page 7

July 24<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Yountville Veterans, SSTS, John Blum, (707) 647-7353

July 24<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Martinez Tour, ARR, Dick Duncan, (510) 229-2500

July 29<sup>th</sup> (Fri.) — **South Bay Natter**, page 23

Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — **MGOC Annual Picnic** page 9

Aug. 11-14 — Rendezvous, Yachats, OR, SSTS caravan

Aug. 12-14 — Monterey Historics

Sept 10-11 - **Palo Alto All-British Meet**, Tour & Swap Meet, page 4

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat.) — Air Systems Car Show, San Jose History Park, Bill Hiland, [www.asifoundation.org](http://www.asifoundation.org)

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Livermore Tour, SSTS Guidry's, (925) 455-8539

Sept. 24 or 25 — **MG Corral & Track Tour**, Laguna Seca, (Tentative)

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun.) — Wine Tour, Healdsburg, ARR, John Taylor

Oct. 7-9 — June Lake Junket. SSTS, page 8

Oct 15-16 — **Autumn Classic**, San Juan Bautista

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sat.) — **Corralitos Tour** Bob Wall — **Now Scheduled!**

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sun.) — Del Monte Forest Rally, Pebble Beach Sports Car Club,



Open to all, MGOC member Warren Pierce, [wdp389@pacbell.net](mailto:wdp389@pacbell.net)  
 Nov. TBD — **Pierce Manifolds Tour**, Dan Shockey  
 Dec. TBD — **MGOC Holiday Tea**, Grossmans

## THE BRITISH CAR MEET

### EL CAMINO PARK, PALO ALTO

### September 10th & 11<sup>th</sup>

SUNDAY CAR SHOW - SEPTEMBER 11th

Join your British car friends for a smashing day at the park. Daily drivers, vintage racers, street rods & works-in-progress are as welcome as concours quality restorations. British food, jazz, toys, and fun. There will be no pre-registration. Cars will be placed on the field at about 9am, and the fun goes on all day. The registration fee is \$25 per car at the gate. Spectators attend for free.

SATURDAY SWAP MEET - SEPTEMBER 10th

This year we are adding a FREE swap meet for British car owners provided by O'Connor Classic Autos in the car park outside their shop, 2569 Scott Blvd. in Santa Clara. The meet will go from 7am - 11am. This will give people the chance to do both the swap meet and the tour.

SATURDAY BACKROAD TOUR - SEPTEMBER 10th

The TOUR TO THE SEA starts at El Camino Park in Palo Alto - the same place as the Sunday Car Show. We will be sending cars off between 9:00am and 11:00am. No cost. A map will be provided. The tour ends at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay.

Call for information: 310-392-6605; e-mail: [rfeibusch1@earthlink.net](mailto:rfeibusch1@earthlink.net)



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## MGOC Jackets Available

*In stock now!*



John Milsap has worked with a vendor to arrive at a very attractive MG Owners Club jacket. It features a red and white embroidered logo on a black jacket trimmed in tan. We took a large number of orders at *MGs by the Bay*. We ordered some extras so can deliver immediately. If you ordered one, you can pick it up at a meeting or event. Let John know you'll be there.

### Ordering info:

Cost: \$60.00 each

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, XXL

Delivery: Price assumes hand delivery at a meeting or event.

To order: John Milsap, (510) 749-9167, [ebmjem@earthlink.net](mailto:ebmjem@earthlink.net)



MGOC Grille Badge



SF Peninsula T Register Badge

## Celtic Festival Report - Continued

Blakeslee in a red MGB to fetch a new alternator from O Connor Classics in Santa Clara.

About 10 minutes later Andy Moyce, the owner of a red MG TD, discovered that a certain piece had broken off of either his distributor or distributor cap (I m unsure what exactly it was). He then busted out his cell phone, talked with the guys at O Connor Classics, and requested that a new part be sent down with the two guys who were on their way up to fetch the alternator!

As they were awaiting the new parts, I wandered around the historic farm. One benefit of showing the cars was free entry into the Celtic Festival (a savings of \$10), so I checked out some of the exhibits, live Irish music, and merchandise. One of the exhibits I found particularly interesting was that of the Gaelic Athletic Association, which represented amateur athletes who played Gaelic football. This sport was, according to its public relations officer, a cross between soccer and basketball, although while watching a game played on an iBook laptop, I thought it looked more like a cross between lacrosse and American football (with its similar-looking goal posts). Apparently, there are 17 or so Bay Area teams which actually play this obscure sport!

For lunch I passed on the Fish n Chips and British Bangers for a tasty chicken & potato salad. Then I read a newspaper and finished reading a book. In the midst of reading the latter, I actually fell asleep for about 20 minutes. Upon waking up, it appeared I had been transported back to the 15th century because just about 10 feet in front of my eyes were a number of guys in medieval costumes sword fighting rather spiritfully for an audience that seemed to consist solely of myself.

After convincing myself that, yes, I had not been kidnapped and put into a time machine, I walked back over to the car show was being displayed, and Dan informed me that while I was napping all of the parts from O Connor Classics had arrived and the two cars were fixed already. Not bad for a couple hours work in a grassy field at a car show. Furthermore, a Midget had apparently come and gone while I was having lunch, reading and sleeping. I will have to stay awake next time so I do not miss these things!

All in all it was a fun event. Several people were able to depart at 3:00 while a number of us stuck around until 4:00 to help take down Dan's MGOC canopy. Amazingly, Dan was able to stuff the entire disassembled canopy, 2 folding chairs, several flags and other materials into his diminutive MG PA, which doesn't even have a trunk! Who says old MGs are not practical.

Felix Wong

See more photos on cover and elsewhere.

## Midget Engine Tech Session San Ramon, Saturday July 16, 2005

The MGOC is pleased to host a tech session that plans to swap the engine in Jonathon Buckley's Bermuda Blue 1965 MG Midget. He has a rebuilt 1275 engine ready to go in.

We will use the club's engine hoist for this job. If you need to borrow the lift, this would be a good chance to get it. (Assuming we get the engine installed!)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Goodies: Jonathon plans to provide coffee, snacks and something for lunch!

Place: Buckley home garage, 104 Summerset Ct., San Ramon, 94583

Phone: (925) 830-8554

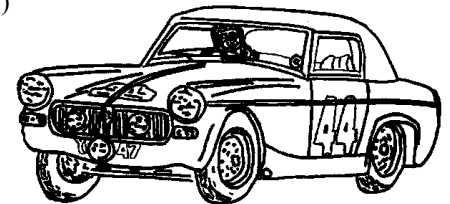
Email: [JonathonB@onebox.com](mailto:JonathonB@onebox.com)

Directions: From I-680, Take the **Bollinger Canyon Road** exit and go east on Bollinger Canyon Rd about 1 mile.

Turn right on **Alcosta Blvd** - go 0.7 mi. Turn right on **Summerwood Loop** - go 0.1 mi.

Turn left on **Summerset Ct.** Arrive at 104 Summerset Ct. on the right.

(It should be noted that you should not turn right at the first Summerwood Loop - it loops around and hits Alcosta again a block further south. It is easiest - and consistent with the directions above - to turn right at the 2nd Summerwood Loop intersection.)



	<p><b>William Shaw</b></p> <p>(415) 924-1450</p> <p>36 Industrial Way Behind Cost Plus Greenbrae, CA 94904</p>
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## From da Ed

July 3, 2005

Happy mid-summer motoring to you. I hope this issue isn't quite so late this month. There are two members who have expressed interest in helping with the newsletter and/or taking it over. I'd like to get a rotation of some sort going to minimize the burden on anyone. Trade off each year, each quarter or each issue? That would be healthier for the Club and for individuals.

Nancy and I took the PA on a 120 mile jaunt to Bodega Bay. The MG ran pretty well. The next stop is the GoF next week. This will be a busy week

### MG

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

#### SHOCK ABSORBERS: Front Rear

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#### BRAKES : sleeved and rebuilt

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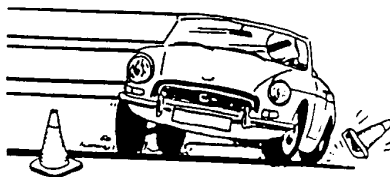
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getting the cars ready to go. Several members of the Club are going. I have not yet heard about the trip to Crater Lake. I hope they have made it back!

We also have a tour, a picnic and a tech session in the next few weeks. Get them on your calendar.

With MG Rover going into bankruptcy, I was very surprised to hear that an MG had won its prototype class at the 24-hour LeMans race this year. Perhaps that will add to the value of the Marque and encourage someone to keep MG in production. (See articles in this issue.) We'll be able to see the MG Lola run at Sears Point and Laguna Seca yet this year. Or on TV on July 17 on CBS Sports.

Dan el



## Ardenwood Celtic Festival Report

June 11, 2005; By Felix Wong

For the second year in a row, the MG Owners Club was invited to show its members cars at the Ardenwood Celtic Festival in my hometown of Fremont. Several members of the Sorry Safari Touring Club also participated, and there was a good diversity of sports cars displayed. There were a dozen cars which included an MG PA, 2 MG TDs, an MGA, 4 MGB roadsters, a B/GT, an MG Midget, a Jaguar E-Type and a Morgan Plus 4 (I think).

The day started out fairly chaotically for several members due to a number of car maladies. For my part, in the midst of the 8-mile drive over to the Ardenwood Historic Farms from home, my MGB's engine completely cut out as I was cruising along on a city street. Fortunately, as I was going 45 mph, I was able to put the car in neutral and coast all the way through a green light and into a gas station parking lot. A quick peek underneath the bonnet revealed that the 12-volt distributor lead had completely separated from its terminal lug. Not having a pocket knife handy, I managed to remove some insulation from the lead with pliers and then poke the exposed wires into a hole in the terminal spade on the distributor. Two minutes later I was back on the road.

Shortly after I arrived at the farms and parked my car in the designated British Car Show grass field, there was David Wright poking underneath the bonnet of his white Jaguar E-type. Apparently, its massive inline-6 was running a bit hot while wending around the farm grounds. Not finding any perceptible coolant leaks, he concluded that the car was just running hot due to the extended period of time crawling along at near-walking speed, sometimes off-road.

Meanwhile, Dennis Cox, the owner of a British Racing Green MGB roadster, noted that his battery was not being charged as he drove on over. I offered my spare battery pack to charge up the battery during the show and also help start the car afterwards, but ultimately Dennis left with Chuck

Continued Next Page

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Mike Jacobsen volunteered to make the purchase.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next business meeting is to be held July 14, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Shockey, MGOC Secretary



Another view of the PA at the Celtic Festival, with a dragon suspiciously eyeing it. Fortunately the dragon was not of the fire-breathing type! Felix Wong photo & caption

<b>Martin Hveem Automobile Restorations</b>	
Tel: 415 529-6450 Fax: 415 529-6452 1520 Schwab Street Red Bluff, CA 96080 <a href="mailto:martinhveem@earthlink.net">martinhveem@earthlink.net</a>	<b>Classic &amp; Antique Restoration Service Repair</b>

## An MGOC Event:

# SONOMA WINE COUNTRY TOUR

**Sunday, July 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2005**

**By Marla and Andy Preston**

This is the second time that we are doing this tour, and for those of you who missed it last year here is a second chance to enjoy this part of Sonoma County.

We hope you can join us on the 24<sup>th</sup> July for this tour of the breathtaking Sonoma Coastline with visits afterwards to at least 3 of the finest wineries in the Dry Creek Valley Appellation. Picnic lunch will be on a deck high above the Dry Creek Valley with stunning views of the Sonoma County wine growing regions. Following lunch the tour will continue to the Alexander Valley, which is world-renowned for its Cabernets and Zinfandels. For those wishing to depart after lunch there is a short cut to highway 101.

We will meet in Rohnert Park at the Albertson's parking lot at 9:30 for a 10:00 trip departure. (See directions below.) We will have a picnic at the 2<sup>nd</sup> winery so either bring your food from home or you can purchase something at Albertson's supermarket before we leave. Also make sure you have a full tank of gas. Recommend layers of clothing because it can be chilly at the coast this time of year.

Any questions call Marla or Andy Preston at (707) 795-3480 or email us at [andypreston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andypreston@sbcglobal.net). Please R.S.V.P by July 20<sup>th</sup> so we can make arrangements at the wineries.

Looking forward to seeing you then!!

**Directions:** From the south:- Take 101 North to Rohnert Park Expressway, turn right at 1<sup>st</sup> signal and right again at the next signal (Commerce Blvd.) and enter the parking lot right after the Valero Gas Station.

**P.S.:** We will have our cell phones so any problems along the way call Andy @ (415) 559-9858 or Marla @ (707) 529-1446



# June Lake Junket

*aka Goodbye God, I'm going to Bodie*

This is a 3 day 2 night scenic fall tour of the High Sierras. Some of the highlights will be June Lake—considered by many to be the crown jewel of the Eastern Sierra, Mono Lake, and the ghost town of Bodie covering approximately five hundred miles during this weekend. We will be driving in high altitude so make sure your cooling system & brakes are in good working order. Temperatures can vary so bring lots of layers to wear. Bring your camera so you won't miss out on this great photo opportunity. **Please make your hotel reservations ASAP since they are limited due to the Fall Color season.**

Date: October 7-9, 2005  
 Meeting time: 8:00 Coffee & bagels departing at 8:30  
 Meeting place: Sindicic Home  
 448 McLeod St., Livermore

We will be spending both nights at June Lake.

After going up and researching accommodations Rod, Sue, Michael & I fell in love with the Double Eagle Resort & Spa, June Lake. (760) 648-7004 [www.DoubleEagleResort.com](http://www.DoubleEagleResort.com) We talked to the owners and they have two bedroom cabins that two couples could share. They run \$287.00/night with a 15% discount if we book a minimum of 6 cabins which brings the price down to around \$122.00/ per night per couple. Mention SSTs when making reservation.

Additional accommodations are across the street at Whispering Pines, a motel room at \$89.00/night and 1 bedroom cabin \$130.00/night 1-800-648-7762 [www.discoverwhisperingpines.com](http://www.discoverwhisperingpines.com).

RSVP to Michael and Mary Sindicic — 925-606-0355 — so we can give you information about meals.

**A Sorry Safari Touring Society Tour. We get a large turnout for this event, often more than 30 couples. Everyone welcome.**



Intersport Racing of the USA ran this MG Lola at LeMans in 2005.  
 The team included a woman driver See article page 16

# Minutes of the MGOC Business Meeting June 9, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by President David Wright. Present were: Nina Barton, Dan Shockey, John Milsap, James Brown, Mike Jacobsen, George Steneberg, Bob Trencheny, Randy Grossman, David Wright and Ed Adams.

The May Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting (by handout).

Treasurer's Report: Club account balances are very healthy.

Registrar's Report: The Club is up to 279 total members. This is a new record.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary is late sending a reply to the award protest from *MGs by the Bay*.

Regalia Report: David Wright took a count of key items. We are down to six MGOC grille badges, three Peninsula T Register badges, one MGCC badge, two MGCC key fobs and two mugs. We have lots of pennants and clings. We agreed to start the process to order more MGOC badges. Mike Jacobsen will investigate cost versus quantities. We should reconsider prices for the regalia that comes from England due to the exchange rate.

Octagon Report: The June issue is very late (again). The Editor has had some interest in helping or taking over the responsibility. Bob Stine asked for a note for someone to store the club's engine hoist.

## PAST CLUB EVENTS

MGs by the Bay: The final financial report is completed. We came out ahead by \$624. (We will make some more money back selling left-over T-shirts.) Mike has received some feedback forms but has not tallied the results.

Wine Country Classic: We reaffirmed the decision not to formally participate with a MG corral until we see there is enough interest among members.

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Annual Picnic: Mike Jacobsen is checking sites in San Mateo County. (Note date change to Saturday, August 6.)

## OLD BUSINESS

Club Jackets: John Milsap reported that 21 jackets have been ordered to date. He received a total of 30 jackets. Several were delivered at the meeting. Place a not in the newsletter that the jackets ordered are available for pick up at a meeting or event. The club officers want to thank John for choosing the jackets and handling their purchase.

NAMGBR MG 2007: The North American MGB Register has offered to let us host their 2007 annual convention. We voted to go ahead with the application to NAMGBR providing (1) we get support from the Sorry Safari club and (2) we get a good number of club members to volunteer to help organize the event. We agreed to reply to NAMGBR by June 20 whether we want to do the event for 2007. John Milsap volunteered to head up the start-up committee.

Club Canopy: A proposal was made that the Club purchase an easy-up style canopy for use at events. John Milsap found that a quality 10 x 10 unit costs around \$200. The motion was made to purchase a unit. The color should be white.

Continued next page



## MG Win at 2005 LeMans 24-Hour Race!

by Dan Shockey, from various sources

An MG Lola EX264 won the P2 class at LeMans this past month. The 24-hour race was tough for the small prototypes with all the top runners having trouble and the class winner placing well down the overall position list. The Nj25 Lola MG-Michelin squeezed past the Courage-Michelins late in the race when the two Courage cars both hit trouble.

The brand new MG Lola EX264 is an evolution of the EX257 (see past articles about the American LeMans series) combining design elements from the new Lola B05/40 and the factory EX257 car run by RML and AD Group in the 2004 Le Mans 24 Hours. Power is provided by an MG normally aspirated 3,400 cc V8 engine. This engine is apparently built by Judd. The author has not determined exactly what makes this motor an MG but I am glad to see MG a winner again at LeMans.

Problems for the winners to overcome began on the first lap with cooling system problems. They also had a gear change problem, an electrical problem that caused the transmission to stick in one gear, a broken clutch fitting, a tire puncture and a suspension failure. Despite all this, the car continued to make up time on its class rivals and to post lap times in contention with the fastest cars on the track.

Drivers were Tommy Erdos, Warren Hughes and Mike Newton. The car ran in the red, white and blue of the AD Group and sponsors included Dedicated Micros, NetVu Inside, TransVu, FlightVu and RemGuard Visual Management.

Mike Newton said, "I'm delighted that all our work over the past 15 months with EX257 has resulted in us being the team with access to this new MG, particularly in the year of MG's 80th birthday! We're all really excited about our prospects with this car." The car had a shakedown run in the UK before heading out to Spain for initial testing. Plans included at least one 24 hour test prior to Le Mans.

Lola built the lightweight LeMans prototype. The British racing car constructor's carbon-composite car is known as the B05/40. We think LMP2 is where the market is because it is a car people can afford, said Lola managing director Rupert Manwaring. The B05/40 is available with installation packages for the MG four-cylinder turbo and the Judd and Zytek 3.4-liter V8s. Two of the MG turbo cars (engines built by AER) ran at LeMans in 2005 but both retired. Intersport Racing of the USA ran #32 Lola B05/40 - AER with drivers Sam Hancock, Gregor Fisker, and Liz Halliday. Chamberlain Synergy ran #39 driven by Bob Berridge, Gary Evans, and Peter Owen.

"Although recent developments within the MG Rover Group may result in their input ceasing we would like to convey that although this support has been useful it will not affect the MG Lola EX264 programme in any way."

For more details, see <http://www.remguard.com/racing.php>

## MGOC Annual Picnic

### High Noon, August 6, 2005 (Saturday)

### Coyote Point Park, San Mateo

The 2005 Annual Picnic features a scenic spot right on the San Francisco Bay. Located on the Peninsula near the San Mateo Bridge, it is convenient to most Bay Area members. We picked a nice spot with shade and parking near the tables.

As usual, we'll have a popular car show with prizes. We'll have the BBQ ready and there are water, electricity, restrooms and playground equipment close by. The club will provide charcoal. Bring your own food and drinks.

**Park Info:** Coyote Point is a regional recreation area that provides a wide variety of activities: swimming, windsurfing, bicycling, fishing, and boating. Natural history exhibits can be found at the Coyote Point Museum. Stroll along the beach promenade and visit the marina or the saltwater marsh.

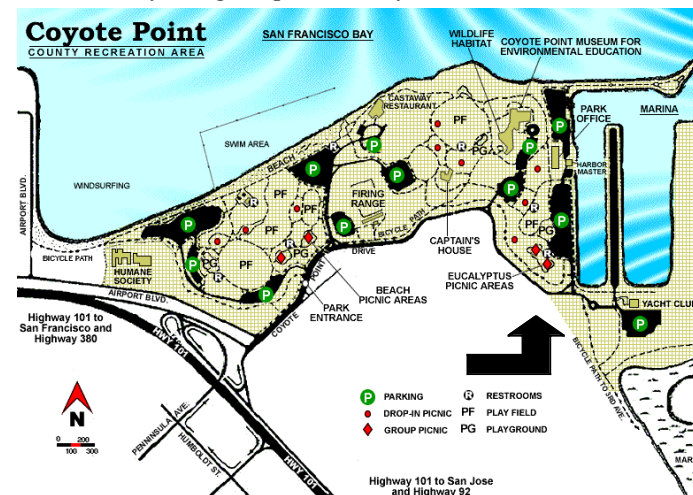
**Eucalyptus Picnic Area #1:** This area is southeast of the park entrance. Eucalyptus trees provide partial shade. It is usually 80-95F in the summer, cooled by the Bay. Volleyball poles and horseshoe pits are available. Dogs and other pets are not allowed.

#### Directions:

From 101 South, take the Poplar Ave. exit. Turn at first right onto Humboldt then first right on Peninsula Ave. Go over the freeway, circle around and into the Park.

From 101 North, take the Dore Ave. exit and immediately turn left onto North Bayshore Blvd. Turn right onto Coyote Point Drive into the Park.

Note that the county charges a per-car entry fee of \$5.



# DRIP PAN

*News and Articles from the Peninsula T Register*

## T Series Fluid Recommendations

by Jerry Felper, reprinted

### Carburetor Damper Oil

The proper oil for the SU carburetors is 20W engine oil that is hard to find today. All engine oil changes viscosity with temperature. Bill Phy of the Peninsula T Register suggested vacuum pump oil which does not change viscosity with temperature. It is available from industrial hardware stores. I have used 20W and 30W with no problems for 25 years. A quart will last a lifetime.

### Shock Fluid

You can buy Armstrong fluid and other brands but you can also use motorcycle fork oil which is available in 20 weight Armstrong standard. It is also available in 30, 40 and 50 weight for improvements in handling or to compensate for worn shock valving.

**This space available!**

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## British Bidder Plans £40m MG Restart

Daily Telegraph, 2 July 2005

David James, the company doctor who prevented the Millennium Dome from deflating in 2000 and negotiated with Colonel Gaddafi for the release of British hostages in Libya in the 1980s, is leading an all-British bid to buy the MG sports car business for £40m. Mr James is hoping to re-employ 500 former workers to build the sports cars at MG's Longbridge plant in Birmingham.

The news will bring fresh hope to the West Midlands, which is still reeling after MG Rover collapsed in April with debts of £1.4billion and the loss of more than 6,000 jobs.

Mr James has been brought in to refresh an offer made by a group of Birmingham businessmen. Other bids have come from Nikolai Smolenski, owner of the Lancashire-based TVR sports car business as well as Dastan, an Iranian business.

Yesterday, it emerged that Nick Stephenson, one of the "Phoenix Four" who netted more than £30m from MG Rover, was working with another possible bidder, Nanjing Automotive.

## Nine Bids For Remains Of Longbridge

23 June 2005, By Jon Griffin, Business Editor, Evening Mail

Administrators were today examining nine bids for the remnants of Longbridge, as the deadline expired for takeover attempts. PricewaterhouseCoopers said the firm had had three bids for the whole business, three for MG and three for equipment only. The most serious interest in parts of the Longbridge empire has come from China, with the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation - the firm who pulled out of the joint venture - confirming its interest in Powertrain.

Creditors caught up in the firm's £1.4 billion collapse have already been warned to expect "nil or negligible" payouts, likely to be less than the original estimate of 5p in the pound. At the creditors' meeting two weeks ago, Tony Lomas said: "We have had 630 interested parties but only nine of those have got over the funding hurdle."



The class winning MG Lola at LeMans, June, 2005. See article next page. Note MG logo and grille badge.

## Palo Alto Concours

I had my car in the Palo Alto Concours yesterday and met and talked with a bunch of local MG owners and I gave them my sales pitch for joining the club. I'm sending each of them an e-mail with the suggestion that they contact you for info on joining the club.

The Concours was great. When I entered my car (as non judged) I was initially rejected because they said "it had non stock seats and wheels". I sent them a reply that the seats were original per British Motor Heritage Trust Certificate, plus I have a photo of the original owner in the car. I side-stepped the wheel issue by saying the Mini-lites were a racing option, and the Panasperts were a Mini-lite reproduction ... so, they accepted my car. I also said that exotic cars in the Concours were wonderful, but the MGB was the largest selling sports car in the USA (I think!) and they should have at least one for former owners to see, and I must have talked to 30 or 40 people who reminisced about the "MGB they used to own".

Mark Taylor won 1st in class with his 1962 MGA Mk II ... so the club did well.

Best regards.... Don Davis

## Mike J. Drives MGA to Michigan!

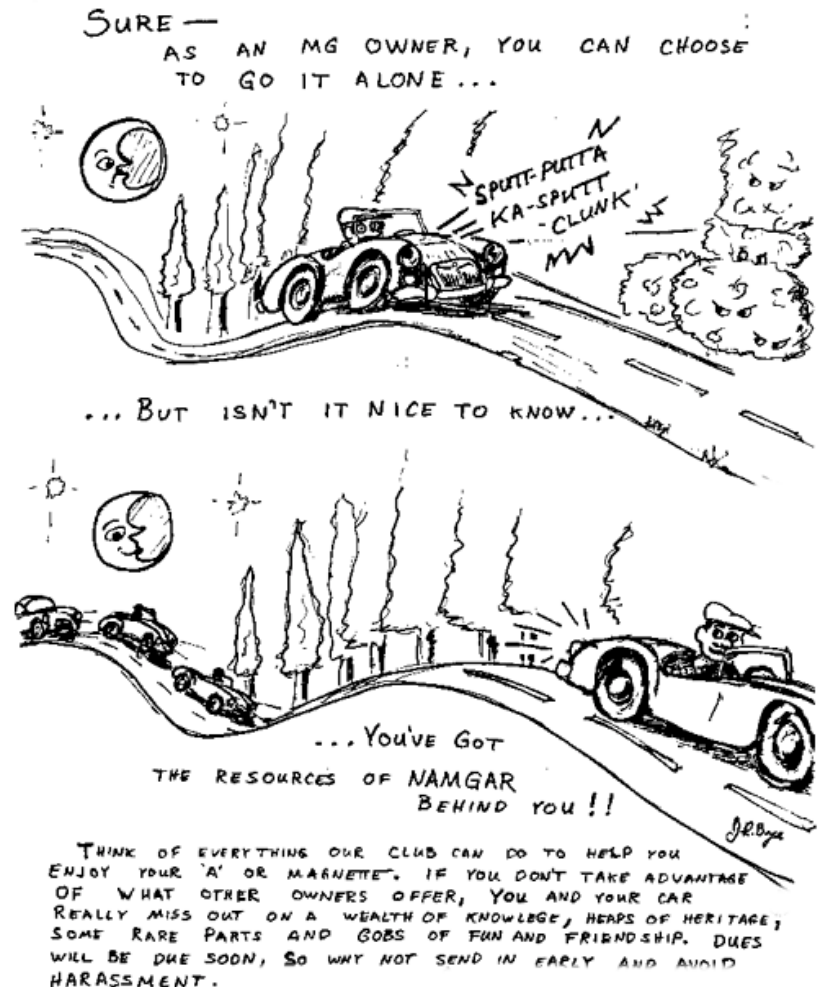
I'm still planning on driving to GT-30, but it's going to be abanzai charge out and back, since I don't have any vacation time at my new job. I won't get the distance award either; the Johnsons are driving their Magnette from San Diego. I'm still sorta debating taking the Magnette instead of the MGA. The A is so much faster, though, and with no time to spare I really can't take the Z.

Mike Jacobsen

*We look forward to hearing about Mike's adventures as he lives this cross-country driving dream for the rest of us. Spare generator, Mike? - Dan*



## Dues are Now Due



Art and admonition by MGOC member J.R. Boye, 1983.

## Derelicts' Gathering

Bob Wall reports that there has been a large and varied turn out for this Car Guy Thing. Meet between 8:30am and 10am every Saturday morning. The bookstore/coffee shop is on the ground floor of the red brick Los Altos Town Crier Building between Main and State Streets. There's parking in the State Street parking lot as well as in front of the bank next to the Town Crier.

Gary Anderson, [Editorgary@aol.com](mailto:Editorgary@aol.com) (Founder of *British Car* magazine)



## MG 2007 Update

The MG Owners Club has decided to apply to host the North American MGB Register national meet in June or July of 2007. The events officer from NAMGBR visited us on June 4 to answer our concerns and see our proposed site in Sonoma county. (NAMGBR is also the national organization for MG Midgets and seeks participation by all MGs in their national meets.)

We met with the Sorry Safari club on June 15 to seek their support. They indicated they have a strong interest to encourage their members to attend and to host one event. Several SSTs members volunteered to help organize the event. The 80-member North Bay British Car Club has also offered support. Over twenty MGOC members have expressed interest in helping to plan and organize the event. We are finalizing the proposal to NAMGBR. If you'd like to review what we are proposing, please call or email Dan Shockey. (See page 2.) We'd like your suggestions and ideas.

Assuming we are accepted, the next big step will be to set the date with the Doubletree Inn in Rohnert Park. ([www.dtsnomoma.com](http://www.dtsnomoma.com)) We will also get together to kick off the activities and assign tasks. We are thinking to do that at the Inn so you can see why we like this facility.

The Doubletree has offered us the best rate for the week of July 4, 2005. The 4<sup>th</sup> is on a Wednesday that year. We could have the event from Wednesday to Sunday, or Tuesday through Saturday (or Monday through Friday), that week. Many folks will be taking the whole week off anyway, and the first weekend could be the time for family gatherings. They are offering us a \$105 per night rate versus a \$120 rate for other weeks. We also have to avoid the NASCAR race week and a big wine festival week. The Inn is a main hotel for the NASCAR teams.

The MGOC will mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007 and this event will be an invitation to the rest of the world to celebrate with us.

Dan Shockey



MGOC members gather at the Doubletree Inn of Sonoma County.

The mission style hotel is in a pretty setting with great access to the fabulous roads and destinations of the North Bay.

Shockey photo.

## Hayward Brit Meet Reports

I went to Hayward today for the first time in about 5 years and there were about 10 MGBs there. Definitely the most cars in any class outside of Minis. I took first place in the early, chrome bumper cars with my Blue 67. I also saw David Wright and Dan Neu (green GT) who just popped in. Showing their cars were Sandie and Bob Swain with their MGC GT, Bob with a green MGB, and Henry with an MGB GT. Viggo was there with his Morgan and trying to sell an MGA trans. Pretty good event but nothing on San Leandro.

Andy Preston



Andy's MGB in foreground; Jeremy's furthest back. Photo: Jeremy Palgon

Thanks again for your help, guys. I just wanted to tell you that I went to the Hayward Field Meet at Cal State Hayward with my father last weekend. It was a good Father's Day event.

Our MG is now another thing my father and I have shared across the years. My parents bought it new all those years ago; and I fondly remember riding in it as a child. Now that I've spent a lot of time working on and driving it, I've become even more attached to it. It's nice to have it running again all these years later. What's more, it's wonderful just to be able to take a ride in it with my Dad again.

Somehow I thought that you would appreciate hearing about this. Thanks for welcoming me to the MG community so warmly.

By the way, I've posted my pictures of the event at [photos.yahoo.com/jeremysmgb](http://photos.yahoo.com/jeremysmgb). There weren't too many MGs there; but it was nice to see the Minis and other British cars.

Jeremy Palgon