

# THE OCTAGON

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



Photo by: Sam Gearhart

Sam Gearhart's MGB on the Mille de Mendocino

## August "MG2007"

## 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 2007**

**President:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)

**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)

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**T Register Director:** Jim Carlson, 408 224 3992, [mgjim@att.net](mailto:mgjim@att.net)

**Activity Director:** Dan Shockey, 408-202-6792, [MGmogul@earthlink.net](mailto:MGmogul@earthlink.net)

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

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**MGOC Historian:** John Hunt, 925-299-9006, [huntsails@comcast.net](mailto:huntsails@comcast.net)

**MGOC Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@gmail.com)

### **CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM**

Feel free to call these members, who have volunteered to help with purchase, repair, and restoration of various M.G. models, etc.

**MGB 1962-74:** Marty Ray, (831) 475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

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

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

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

**MG Midget:** Kingsley Klarer, 707-226-1955

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

**Z-Magnette Saloon:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, [mgpb36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgpb36@yahoo.com)

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

**Pre-war Midgits-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. Carburetters:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

### **MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON***

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's

address is: Bob Trencheny, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA 94583. Or, you may email contributions to [Tbobj@aol.com](mailto:Tbobj@aol.com).

## 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 to members from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

## CLASSIFIEDS (FULL ADS WILL RETURN NEXT MONTH)

**1972 MGB** - \$5950 – Mechanically sound '72 MGB with chrome bumpers, improved SU carbs, console, glove box, etc. Car runs great and is mechanically sound. It needs a little TLC. Minimal body work (garaged) and new paint will make it an outstanding classic! Most mechanical work done was by MG Service of Kensington ... receipts available. Serious buyers only please as you will not be disappointed. Please contact member Tom Branca at [tbranca@peralta.edu](mailto:tbranca@peralta.edu) for info and pictures.

**1953 MGTD** – stored 40 years. \$2,500.00, very complete, matching numbers, factory original high luggage rack, original jack with handles, radiator grille shell good, fenders need body work. Estate Sale. Jim 510-656-5378.

**Two '59 MGA Racecars** and a big stack of parts. Contact: Member Tom Morgan. Phone: (650)588-4960.

# Forthcoming Events

**MGOC in bold**, SSTS: Sorry Safari Touring Society

Aug. 11 – **MGOC Picnic**, Junipero Serra Prk, San Bruno

Aug. 11 – Classic Yacht and Car Show, Marin Yacht Club

Aug 11-12 – Monterey Pre-Historics

Aug 14 – Carmel-by-the-Sea Concours <http://www.motorclubevents.com/>

Aug. 17-19 – Monterey Historic Races; Pebble Beach Concours, etc.

Aug. 18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Custom and Classic Car Show, San Martin CA

Aug 26 – **Miniature Golf and East Bay Tour**, John Hunt

Sept. 8 – **Possible Swap Meet**, All British, Randy Grossman

Sept. 8-9 – **Palo Alto British Field Meet**

Sept 22 – **Mt Hamilton Tour**, Bob Trencheny

Oct. 20-21 – Autumn Classic, San Juan Bautista, **SSTS/MGOC** caravan

Oct 28 – [\*Brisbane Marina Festival\*](#)

Nov. TBD – **Kart Races**, MGOC, Bob Stine, Go Kart Racer in Burlingame

Dec. TBD – **Holiday Tea**



“Hoods Up” at MG 2007

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### MG 2007 Concours Winner Larry Gill in front of his MGB Roadster





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# President's Ponderings...

After nearly two years of planning, literally hundreds of exchanged emails, and great anticipation, MG2007 finally arrived on July 16.

After checking on the cost of renting a storage container or a moving van to store the many items needed for the event, we decided that my old mail truck would be a more cost-effective alternative. So I delivered the truck to Sam Gearhart's house on July 13 where he and his sons could load it and deliver it to the DoubleTree Inn in Rohnert Park.

Sunday morning I rented a tow-dolly and loaded my MGB on it for the trip to the KOA campground in Petaluma that would serve as my base of operations. I drove as far as San Bruno from San Mateo before deciding that I should top off the tank of my RV so I would have no concern about running out of gas on the way to Petaluma.

That turned out to be a really good idea because I discovered I had cleverly left the key to the gas cap at home! After a quick return to my garage and the previously planned fill-up in San Bruno I continued my journey with no further incident.

Monday morning rolled around and I proceeded to Rohnert Park in the MGB to see what I could do to help with set-up. I met a considerable number of people who had already arrived (some as early as Saturday). Registration was scheduled to start at 2:00 and Dave McCann had already started setting up for it. Unfortunately, Mike Jacobsen had the all-important data we needed to begin registering attendees and he'd been delayed!

Everyone was very cordial and understanding and when Mike arrived we quickly took care of registering everyone.

Somewhere between 250 and 300 people attended the event. Twenty-three drove more than 2,000 miles to participate! The car show included about 175 cars, plus 8 in the Concours event.

Numerous tech sessions, valve cover races, guided and self-guided tours, dinners, and a hospitality suite assured that nobody would want for something to do the entire week.

I can't believe how many people raved about how well-organized and enjoyable it was. If anyone wants help to put one on next year...DON'T send them to me!

Fraternally,  
Bob Stine  
President, MGOC  
[rastine@rcn.com](mailto:rastine@rcn.com)





# From da Ed...

MG2007 was a lot of fun. I got there a little late and left a little early and it was still GREAT! Prior to the start I was really looking forward to getting out on some open roads and touring Sonoma, Napa, Bodega Bay, and the coastline all the way up to Mendocino. All of the roads were new to me and an adventure waited around every turn.

But now that MG2007 is over we move back to more normal pace of club events. Next weekend, August 11<sup>th</sup> is the annual club picnic. For the first time the MGOC is supplying tri-tip for the members. If everyone brings a side dish we should all be stuffed by the time we are through.

A few weeks later we have a tour of the East Bay that ends with a

miniature golf game in Castro Valley. While I never claimed to be a golfer, I will probably swing a club for those in attendance.

In September I will lead the tour over Mount Hamilton and into Livermore. This is an annual club tour that was led by Dan Shockey last year. I expect to stop for lunch somewhere in the Livermore area. I will checkout a few wineries and report more next month.

By the time you read the September *Octagon* we will have dates for go kart racing, the holiday tea and perhaps another late year drive.

If you haven't made it out to one of the club events this year, now is your chance to join us.

Let's Ride,  
Bob



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# Dan Shockey and Nancy Shane Recognized at MG2007

By MGOC President Bob Stine

Dan Shockey and Nancy Shane had already driven off into the sunset to settle in Illinois by the time MG2007 started. However, Dan was able to fly back to help with the event.

During the awards dinner, Randy Grossman presented Dan a Certificate of Appreciation and a fur-lined leather cap as a farewell to acknowledge his contributions to the club through the years. Dan helped organize many MGOC events, including the monumental task of hosting the NAMGBR national convention in Rohnert Park, MG2007. He served as the editor of *The Octagon* for a long time and, most recently as the club secretary. He and Nancy were always available to give a helping hand for the club and its members.

Dan also accepted a Certificate of Appreciation (and a gift certificate at a major art supply store) on Nancy's behalf for her many artistic contributions to the club. Nancy provided the artwork for the tee shirts, posters and awards for MGs by the Bay for years; she also created the Octagon logo for MG2007.

Dan and Nancy's departure will leave a large void in the MGOC and we'll certainly miss them. We wish them both well in their new endeavors.



Dan accepting a gift from MGOC member Randy Grossman

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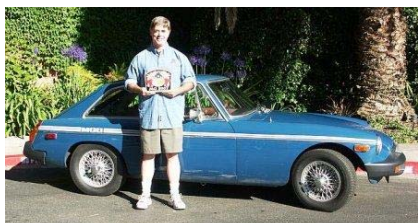
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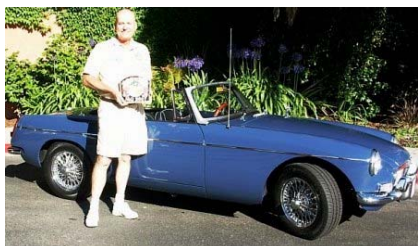
## MGOC well represented in the MG2007 Winner's Circle



Mike Jacobsen and his 74½ MGB-GT



Robert Milner and his modified  
MGB-GT with V-8 engine



Andy Preston and his mineral blue  
MGB roadster.



Mrs. Gerald Martin in another  
prize winning MGB



Bob Luebbert took home a prize with his  
recently restored 1969 MGB-GT.

**And who said blue cars don't win awards?**

**No photos were available at press time of Eric  
Baker and Tom Balutis who also took home awards  
from MG2007. Congratulations to all !**

# Dinner at the Union Hotel

By Bob Trencheny

Tuesday evening, after a long but enjoyable day at the MG2007 car show, over 200 MG owners set off from Rohnert Park for the Union Hotel in Occidental. The hour-long drive took us through some rush hour traffic and then led to some of the wonderfully scenic backroads of Marin county that seemed to have been made just for MG driving.

Upon arriving early in Occidental, many in the crowd lounged around the sleepy hamlet doing some window shopping and maybe even some real shopping in the last few shops that were open. Most of us were hanging around the Union Hotel bar replenishing the fluids that were lost during the warm California summer day.

A wonderful Italian dinner was served family-style to tables of ten or more. We filled the hotel's large dining hall and had overflow seating throughout the other rooms of the restaurant. The food was good and plentiful. Soup, salad, bread, the main course, and dessert filled us all.

The drive back to Rohnert Park was a little more direct and speedier now that rush hour was over. Upon arriving back at the hotel many of us retired to the parking lot to kick the tires and tell MG stories into the night.



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# The Mille de Mendocino

By Sam Gearhart

Wednesday morning dawned anything but warm & sunny for the big event, the ride to Mendocino, and as we all ventured outside before departing, folks could be seen trying to dry off interiors that had gotten wet after being left uncovered the night before. Tonneau covers and tops were going on, folks were pulling jackets and sweaters on though all in all there was an air of anticipation and excitement, notwithstanding the weather. With the cars lined up and after a short, informative driver's meeting, off we went, heading west towards the coast. With all the traffic lights and morning traffic through Rohnert Park all of us were soon split up and numerous sub-groups seemed to form; you just knew that if you hooked up with another MG Badge all would be okay. I traveled out to Bodega Bay with a group of 10 or 12 and when we started heading north on Route 1 it was obvious everyone was enjoying the scenery and 'sports car' twists & turns. By that time the sun was shining on our backs though we still had our notorious coastal fog at times. Passing Goat Rock State Park I saw three cars in my group pull off to catch the views we had highlighted in the Program. From there, it was onto our first major stop, Gualala, where I was surprised to see so many MGs along both sides of the road. I stopped and had some coffee, shared cookies, and chatted with others that filled the parking lot. While some of us were taking a break, many cars drove right through town, waving as they passed, continuing on towards Mendocino on their own.

The ride from Gualala to Mendocino was simply magnificent, the Pacific Ocean on our left and such scenery as we topped some of the hills and drove across the high plateaus along the coast. Driving north I was struck by the subtle changes in the scenery, almost on the beaches at one place and a few minutes later driving along towering forests. We arrived in Mendocino and it was simply beautiful; the quaint Victorian buildings, the surrounding forests and MGs everywhere!



**MGs on the Mille de Mendocino Tour**

Groups were coming and going, some enjoying the local shopping and lunch, others seeming to just fuel up and head back to Rohnert Park. In my mind, and having chatted with a few, those leaving so quickly were obviously looking forward to a return drive as exciting as what they had just completed!



**Highway 1 North to Mendocino**

I joined up with a group leaving mid-afternoon and we headed down to Rt.128 to head back. Except for a few delays with road construction soon after leaving Mendocino, we were soon in the midst of the Navarro River Park and the magnificent Northern California Redwood trees. The dappled sun and shade along with the twisting road made for a challenging drive and I couldn't decide to wear my sunglasses or not! From there we entered the Navarro River Valley and its wineries. Here again, folks were pulling off, sampling the local fare and enjoying the views of the vineyards stretching for mile after mile along the hillsides. Having stopped at one winery, a driver pulled in billowing smoke – turned out he'd not secured his oil cap after topping off in Mendocino and was apologizing to anyone who was behind him on the initial stage of the return!

From there it was back to Route 128 and through Boonville and other small towns and out to Highway 101. I enjoyed the simple and sane ride south to Rohnert Park and simply enjoyed driving and watching the hills as I passed by. Frankly, there are few places as beautiful as Northern Sonoma County and all in all I have little doubt that all participating in our Mille de Mendocino had a thoroughly enjoyable day and experienced all that we and Northern California have to offer.



# MG2007 Car Show

By Bob Trencheny

For most car show participants the day started very early in the morning at the car wash racks behind the hotel. Here much of the “car primping” was done in the hopes of taking a prize in the show. With hoses, buckets, and freshly laundered wash rags many of the owners had their rides sparkling.

By 9:00 the cars were being placed on the show field and the crowd was mingling and looking at all the MGBs and a few other MGs that joined us. We managed to fill the parking lot with MGs and had some overflow onto the lawn. The concours was also staged in a prime spot on the lawn.

The day was seasonably warm with blue skies and a slight breeze. It was perfect car show weather. With all the MGs spread out it was truly a feast for all the attendees. In the midst of the car show the valve cover race track was set up for the dozen or so racers that came for the event. And off in the shade the caricaturist was doing a fine job catching memorable moments of many of the MGers at MG2007.

As the show was winding down, John Twist started the first of two rolling tech sessions at MG2007. There was a long line of cars waiting for a five-minute tune-up from John. He checked carburetors, brakes, and any other minor complaint an owner had. One unlucky participant learned his water pump was about to fail. Luckily he was not far from home.



A few MGOC members' cars on display at the car show.

As you can see it was a picture-perfect day for a car show at MG 2007.



## More MG2007 Photos



Our fearless Treasurer Mike Jacobsen chatting with a fellow MG 2007 attendee at the Union Hotel. So how were your meatballs Mike?



MGB-LEs lined up at the MG 2007 Car Show. (above)

MGOC and MG 2007 regalia sales were strong thanks to club member David Wright. (right)



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Click & Clack Roadtest an MG-TD:

<http://www.cartalk.com/content/testdrives/Reviews/mgtd.html>

Wiring Diagrams: <http://www.advanceautowire.com/mgb.pdf>

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## Minutes of the MGOc Business Meeting, July 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 by President Bob Stine. Also attending were Eric Baker, Nina Barton, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Brown, Guy Gilbert, Ken Gittings, Randy Grossman, Mike Jacobsen, John Pesek, George Steneberg, Bob Trencheny, and David Wright

June Minutes approved after being amended to reflect an email vote to amend the motion to spend up to \$100 for an appreciation present for Dan Shockey. The amendment passed unanimously to include spending up to \$100 for a similar gift for Nancy Shane.

Treasurer's Report: Renewals are still coming in, and our bank balance is at its annual highpoint.

Registrar's Report: 59 renewals are still outstanding. The current membership status is: 221 Regular, 56 Auxiliary, 14 Corresponding, 1 Associate for 292 total members.

Secretary's Report: No report; the Secretary was absent.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: No items.

Regalia Report: David said that he was not going to bring all the regalia, and would skip the smaller items, such as key fobs. He was also unsure of sales times & locations at MG2007. During the discussion it was suggested that we should bring all the regalia to the event, but probably not worth bringing small items when we only have a few left. David said he needs more volunteers.

The Octagon: Dan can continue distributing the newsletter from Illinois to those receiving it online this year. Editor Bob requested that folks take pictures, record events, and otherwise provide a record of what went on at MG2007 for the newsletter. He would like people to submit articles for *The Octagon*. Bob Stine said he would try to write something about the Mille de Mendocino.

Web site: No changes

### PAST EVENTS

Dyno Day II: June 16 – More success than the first time, though there were still troubles with the TC.

Tour Training Session/Trial Run: June 17 – All the tour leaders attended. There was an overview followed by a short tour from the DoubleTree to Sonoma to practice.

Country BBQ: June 23 – Some members attended. Randy Grossman reported that everyone had a good time.

MG2007 Planning Mtg: June 23 – This was the last planning meeting but there's been a large volume of email traffic since then as the event draws closer.

### UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

MG2007: Volunteers are still needed. A printer's proof of the event program was

shown at the meeting.

NAMGAR GT-32: Follows MG2007 on July 23-27. Many people are attending both. Caravans have been organized for the drive between the events.

Annual Picnic: August 11 – Bob Stine has reserved our space at Junipero Serra Park. Notes on the Picnic:

1. The cost is \$70 for the first 50 people, and \$1.25 per person thereafter – the Club pays this fee.
2. Parking is \$5 additional, and the members pay this fee. The parking kiosk has often been unstaffed in the past, however.
3. Beer & wine are OK to take into the park, but no hard liquor.
4. The Club will provide tri-tip, charcoal, a lighter, and ice.
5. The Club is not providing drinks this year.

Miniature Golf & East Bay Tour: August 26 – John Hunt was absent so no report.

Mt. Hamilton Tour: September 22 – Bob Trencheny will organize this event.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary regalia: Bob Stine brought the dash plaques for everyone to see but forgot to pick up the lapel pins from Sam Gearhart.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

New Secretary: We need to appoint a new Secretary to fill the remainder of Dan's term. There were no volunteers, so we are requesting that folks consider it. Meanwhile, Mike Jacobsen volunteered to record the minutes.

Tri-tip BBQ: A motion was passed to allow purchase of tri-tip by the Club for the Annual Picnic, with a budget of up to \$200. This would be to commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Last All-British Plaque: A motion was made to create a special dash plaque for the last All-British Meet in Palo Alto. One suggestion was to put a Chevy El Camino on the plaque. The plaque would have a single imprint color and be 1x3 inches, similar to the MGs by the Bay plaques. The plaques would be for MGOC members first, and then other MG owners at the show could purchase them if there were any remaining plaques. The motion passed, with an authorization to spend up to \$50.

Association of California Car Clubs: We received a request to join the ACCC, a group that lobbies and monitors legislation in Sacramento that would have an impact on the old car hobby. There was no motion to join the ACCC due to the perceived high cost of membership for the Club, up to \$500 a year.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Brisbane Marina Festival: October 28 – Announcement by Bob Stine, who explained the venue and attendees last year.

MG2009: We have received fliers for the NAMGBR event MG2009 in Colorado. We will make the fliers available at MG2007.

MG Vintage Racers: Announcement by MG Vintage Racers that they will host their first West Coast Focus Event in 2008 in California at Laguna Seca and Infineon Raceways.

Next Meeting and Natter: August 9 at The Englander

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

Submitted by Mike Jacobsen





The row of concours entrants sparkled in the Sonoma sun. MGOC members Andy Preston's Mineral Blue & Eric Baker's Old English White tourers, and Tom Balutis's factory V8 GT were all concours entrants.



The first stop at Goat Rock on the Bodega Bay Tour was a little foggy. Ryan Looft of Ohio turned his odometer over 100,000 miles while circling the parking lot at Goat Rock.



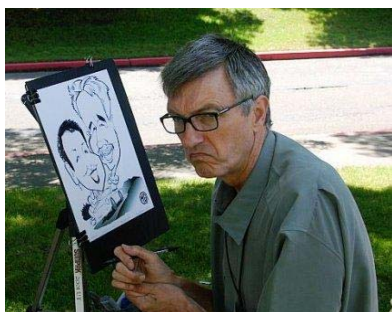
Out the back window while the top was up in the mid-day sun. We are heading for a lunch stop on the Bodega Bay Tour.

**"You only need two tools: WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape." -- Larry Daniels**



Valve cover racing was just one of the exciting events at MG2007.

The races were swept by MGOC members with David Wright, Mike Jacobsen and Ken Gittings taking 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.



MG2007 Car Show caricaturist Doug Shannon was entertaining the crowd while drawing attendees' pictures. The line was long but very worth the wait.



A not too-early morning drivers' meeting helps to get everyone heading in the right direction. In this meeting the group prepares for the long drive to Mendocino.



John Twist educates and entertains at one of his two rolling tech sessions. These were popular events.

# Canyon Tour & Miniature Golf

Come explore one of the East Bay's finest driving roads along Skyline Ridge. We leave from Moraga and head up to the ridgeline separating Oakland and the Bay from the inland towns of Walnut Creek, Danville, and San Ramon. The starting point is just a few miles from the Bay Bridge so convenient to members in Marin and on the Peninsula. After the drive we will play a round of miniature golf in Castro Valley.

**When:** Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** 1470 Moraga Road (Between California Savings Bank & the Chevron Station) the cross street is Moraga Way in Moraga. [Click here for a map.](#)

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** For those who would like to play pee wee golf, it's \$8 for 18 holes (\$7 if over 55).

**Details:** We will be exploring a seldom-used two-lane back-country road. There will be towering redwoods and many interesting views. The drive will take about 45 minutes and we expect to play miniature golf for an hour or so. I will have maps, a bit of area history, and alternative routes from the golf for those in a hurry to return home.

**Questions:** Please call John Hunt at (925) 299-9006 or e-mail to [huntsails@comcast.net](mailto:huntsails@comcast.net). On event day, please call my cell (925) 330-7849.

## MG2007 Photographers

Thanks to Bob Stine, Sam Gearhart, Jeremy Palgon, John Hunt, and Bob Trencheny for the pictures from MG2007. We had lots of great pictures from the event. If you have pictures from MG2007 you want to share, send them to me at [Tbobox@aol.com](mailto:Tbobox@aol.com) or post them to [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) for all the MG2007 attendees and all the world to see.

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# MG 2007 Tech Sessions Review

By John Hunt

Tech sessions are a vital part of MG events and the sessions at MG2007 were no different. A great selection of material, both technical and historical, was presented by significant figures in the ongoing history of MG.

On Tuesday and Thursday, John Twist of University Motors held his famous rolling tech sessions. At a rolling tech session you drive up your car, he listens and looks and discovers what work needs to be done to fix or improve your car. All I can say about this event was that it was a huge hit and it was also just the right amount of time since everyone that wanted to roll their car in had a chance.

On Wednesday afternoon we had Mike Singleton of Sportscars Ltd., a highly regarded shop in Sacramento, give a presentation on ignition systems that provided insight that only a pro could provide.

Later that afternoon we had Ken Smith, who needs no introduction, give us a slide show *Aspects of Abingdon* that was highly entertaining and informative. We learned that these were truly hand built cars, not assembled by a machine. They were pushed by hand along an assembly line by craftsman. It was a real treat to see part of what makes the MG a special car.

On Wednesday evening we had Joe Huffaker, Sr. and Jr. as well as Steve Lilves who worked at Huffaker Engineering during MG's racing heyday. In case you may have not heard of them, they built all the Sebring MG race cars in the 1960s and also built the liquid suspension MG that raced at Indy. They shared their thoughts and insight in building and racing MGs in the 1960s and 1970s. One interesting note, one of the rubber bumper Bs they built in the 1970s, number 11, got the fastest lap record at Road Atlanta for Class E production cars in 1977, a record they held for twenty years! The Huffakers donated three special items for our silent auction: a framed autographed poster of the Road Atlanta MGB., an autographed picture of the liquid Suspension MG, and an autographed tuning guide by Joe Huffaker from the 1970s.

On Thursday Paul Lewis, a former British Leyland Salesman, shared his insights and memories selling MGs in the late 1970s. He shared some interesting trivia such as they considered re-badging the TR-7 as an MG to help sell out the Triumph inventory. Of course that never happened, but he showed his sales figures which reconfirmed the fact that MG was far more popular, almost outselling Triumph 2 to 1.

Paul was followed by a very special guest, Brian Woodhams, Director of the MG Car Club of England. In many ways he really helped make this event. It was a real privilege for us to have him here and connect with our roots, so to speak. He shared with us how MGCC of England has evolved and is gearing up for a bright future. Their magazine *Safety Fast* has been updated and recently has gone from 40 to 100 pages. So, if you want to know what's happening the MG world, you need to join the MG Car Club of England as well. Also, his update about MG in China was very informative and positive.

I would say some of the common themes of all of our tech sessions were that all the speakers were lively, very entertaining and informative, and all the sessions were very well attended.

# Club Meeting & Natter

## August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.), 8 p.m.

The Englander, 101 Parrott Street, San Leandro  
(510) 357-3571 <http://www.englishpub.com/>

For the June Natter we will meet at 8:00pm at The Englander. We will not be going slot car racing before the meeting. The members attending the April meeting decided to make slot car racing an occasional event every 2-3 months. Keep watching *The Octagon* and the MGOC web site for the next opportunity to go racing.

From Northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington St. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott Street. You will see The Englander on your right.

From Southbound I-880, take Davis St. exit and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, then turn right on E. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then right on Parrott St.

# MGOC Annual Picnic

## Saturday August 11 at Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno

The picnic starts around 12:00am and goes until the food is gone and everyone is tired of talking about MGs and MG2007! The club provides trip, ice, charcoal, table cloths, and other necessities. Members should bring their own side dish and drinks. Last year we had so many drinks left over we decided that everyone should bring what they want to drink. We will have plenty of ice. Parking is \$5.00 per car. Come early and hold some parking spaces with us if you have nothing else to do!

**Directions from the North:** Take 101 South to I-380 West to I-280 South. Take the Crystal Springs Road Exit and merge onto Cunningham Road. Turn right onto Crystal Springs Road to 1699 Crystal Springs Road. [Map Here](#), if you're reading this online.

**Directions from the South:** Take I-280 North to San Bruno Avenue. Turn left on San Bruno and left again to **DOUBLE BACK ONTO I-280 SOUTH**. Take the Crystal Springs Road exit and merge onto Cunningham Road. Turn right onto Crystal Springs Road to Junipero Serra County Park, 1699 Crystal Springs Rd, San Bruno, CA [Map Here](#).



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# Celebrating 50 Years of Fun!