

THE OCTAGON

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



Photo: Marina Mason

Marina Mason's MG TF taking 1st at San Juan Bautista

February 2007

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

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Secretary: Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, MGmogul@earthlink.net

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MGOC Photographer: Jeremy Palgon, 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

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

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

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

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

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

Z-Magnette Saloon: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, mgpb36@yahoo.com

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

S.U. Carburetters: Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, martyray@cruzio.com

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or

MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2007 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75).

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

MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCTAGON

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*. Please make your contributions by the 20th 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 Tbobbx@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 from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

Forthcoming Events

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

ARR: Abingdon Rough Riders

Feb. 8 – **MGOC Club Meeting & Natter**, see page 23

Feb. 10 – **MG2007 Meeting**, see page 23

Feb 17 – **Engine Tech Session** at Bill Hiland's shop, see page 9

Feb. 18 – SSTS Rainy Day Tour, Sue & Rod Schweiger

Mar 3 – **South Bay Tour** by Jeremy Palgon

Mar 24 – **MG Wiring Tech Session** – Joe Rubio and Dan Shockey

Apr 7 – **Cecil Kimber Run in the East Bay** led by Randy Grossman

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Apr 29 – Pacific Coast Dream Machines, Half Moon Bay
 May 6 – Hillsborough Concours
 May 18-20 – *North Meets South*, Santa Ynez, CA
 May 20 – *All British Motorcar Show and Swap Meet* at Dixon, CA.
 May 12 – **MGs by the Bay**, San Leandro
 26 May – 01 June – British Car Week. Get Out and DRIVE!
 June 8-10 – Open Roads 2007. Lake Tahoe www.goldengatehealeys.com
 July 2-6 – GoF West, Park City, Utah
 July 16-20 – **MG 2007** in Sonoma Valley, See www.MG2007.org

See page 13 for complete 2007 schedule

Attention!!

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Web Sites of Interest:

Stirling Moss – <http://www.stirlingmoss.com/>

Beaulieu Autojumble – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERrfc-6yuF8&mode>

British Cars at Half Moon Bay, 2006 –
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU7G0vSwkIg>

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President's Ponderings...

MGOC Annual Dinner Successful, as Usual – The annual dinner at Scott's in Walnut Creek was exceptional. Congratulations to John Hunt for a wonderful job of planning. We were treated to a slide show, accompanied by a musical performance by Booker T. and the MGs, of past MGOC events. I think everyone really enjoyed it. The entire show was only a few minutes, but it was fun to reminisce and members who missed the events got a chance to see what they missed.

I was especially happy to note we had new members there and members who haven't attended many of our events. It's always good to see new faces!

Check Out the New Look of Our Web Site – Bob and Robbie Trencheny have devoted a considerable amount of time to giving our Web site a new look and adding some more content. If you have Web access, be sure to check it out at www.mgoc.org. I think you'll appreciate it. There are numerous links to other interesting Web sites, as well.

Upcoming Events – Our planning committee met on Thursday before the annual dinner to lay out events for 2007. As you can see in this issue of the Octagon and on the web site, we've come up with a **lot** of events for this year. Mark your calendar and prepare yourself for a good time and/or educational benefits with your MG!

New Incentive to Attend MGOC Membership Meeting – Bob Trencheny discovered a slot car racing track across the street from *The Englander*; as an added incentive for us to attend the meeting, he has reserved the track for us at 7:00 pm on February 8. The plan is to meet there and race until 7:45 and then cross the street for dinner and the meeting. See details elsewhere in this issue of *The Octagon*.

Prepare Your MG for Summer – It may be hard to believe because it's still so cold (by California standards), but summer will be here before you know it. Start checking out what you need to do to get your MG ready for another fun touring season. We'd love to have you join us.

Fraternally,

Bob Stine

President, MGOC

rastine@rcn.com



From da Ed...

While putting together the February *Octagon* I spent a lot of time going over the events calendar for the year. I wanted to make sure the dates were right or at least as right as they can be this early in the year.

But it also struck me how lucky we are to have so many British Car and classic car events right in our own backyard. Once the weather turns nice we have car shows and drives every month from March until November. In the past years I have made it to many of the car shows and a few of the drives. This year I am planning to make it to even more events. I hope to see both old and new members at the events this year. Come out and take a drive with the club or show your car somewhere. When you go to a car show or drive it's always a good day with fun, friendly people. Give it a try!

On another note I do have a request for the membership. I am eager to publish anything MG related that you would like; after all, this is your newsletter. But I must request that any pictures or drawings be sent digitally. I do not have a scanner and so have no way of converting your photos for use in *The Octagon*. I have tried Kinko's scanners and had only very limited success at a prohibitively expensive cost. So, please, send your photos digitally. I will re-type short articles or notes from a paper copy if necessary. Thank you.

Let's Ride,
Bob

MG

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

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MGTC.....	165.00	165.00	
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An MGOC event...

South Bay Tour to Mt. Madonna Park, March 3

On March 3rd the MGOC will tour the South Bay starting in Almaden in southern San Jose and travel the hilly back roads to Mount Madonna County Park. Members should bring a picnic lunch with them and we will eat at the park.

The tour will leave from Jeremy Palgon's house at 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, at 10 AM. The drive down to the park is about 30 miles where we will have lunch. After lunch the tour will continue on more back roads or jump onto 101 North and head back towards San Jose. Jeremy hopes that members of the Arcane Auto Society and the Greater Bay Area Metropolitan Club will join us on the tour.

Jeremy's number is (510) 378-1821 for more info or directions. The map to the starting point is at: <http://tinyurl.com/37oxug>. On Almaden Road, if you drive past Almaden Community Church or Almaden Gymnastics then you missed Micro Place and need to back track a little.

Directions: Take Hwy 85 south of I-280 and Hwy 101 in San Jose. From 85, exit at Almaden Expy. and go south. (The ramps can be a bit tricky.) Go south on Almaden 4 or 5 miles. After the light at Via Valiente take a right at the next light, Almaden Rd. Go ½ mile and turn left on Micro Pl. (Sign is hard to see. It is right after new homes on your right.) Make an immediate left on Carnival and then another left onto Silver Lode.



Stirling Moss and
MG EX 181 at the
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Engine Repair Tech Session

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007

Join fellow club members for a tech session focused on engine problem diagnosis and repair techniques. We will be finishing some work on Jim Carlson's TD but the session will be applicable to all of our MGs.

Questions we'll attempt to address:

- What can be done without removing the engine?
- How far to go with engine work?
- What can be done by the home mechanic?
- What tools are required?
- What work is essential; what can be put off?

We are meeting at Bill Hiland's huge warehouse. We can pull all your cars inside if it rains. Come early for coffee and donuts!

Time: Gather any time after 9am; Tech session start at 10am

Place: SemiSpares, 1855 Dobbin Dr., San Jose, (408) 251-4470 (directions below)

More Info: Jim Carlson, (408) 257-9976, mgjim@att.net

Dan Shockey, (408) 202-6792, MGmogul@earthlink.net

Directions: From Hwy 101, take McKee east to King (2nd light) and turn left (north). Go through one light and turn right at the following street, Dobbin Dr. Dobbin is about 3 blocks long. After two blocks turn left just beyond the warehouse that comes out to the sidewalk. Look for the SemiSpares sign and an MG sign. Drive to the back of the building.

An MGOC Event

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*MG2007!***

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50th Anniversary Dinner

By John Hunt

The annual dinner is one of my favorite events of the year. It is always a fun celebration. A time for seeing old friends and making new ones, of recalling all the good times during the past year and talking about all the new adventures coming up.

We had nearly a full house with 43 members that crossed the age range to help make this a special night. We were fortunate to have a number of veteran members in attendance that helped to make this the unique club that it is, very few car clubs survive and thrive for 50 years. Among the notable guests that evening were **Jarl De Boer**, who traces his history of the club back to 1957; **Lance Klokkevold**, the longest continually active member since 1958; and our resident road warrior **Rich Kenny**, who drove from Redding and has been with the club since 1968. There were also the **Brookmans**, who represent MGOC in the vintage race circuit, and of course who can forget our other old guard that keeps us in line, **David Wright** and **George Steneberg**, who are the backbone of our club in so many ways. My apologies if I happened to miss any of our other long-time members who were there and not mentioned. If so, please let me know – we would love to hear from you and learn of all the adventures MGOC had during its early years.

Scott's Restaurant did a wonderful job of catering this event. We had a warm wood paneled dining room with our own private bar. The dishes were cooked to perfection; and the servers did a great job of seeing to all our needs.

One of the highlights of the evening was a slide show of the past fifty years of MGOC. At first the thought of this created shock because most people thought we had a few hundred slides to show. However, we decided that less is more and kept the show under three minutes and had slides timed to the beat of Booker T and the MGs playing *Green Onions*. If you want to see it, or see it again, it is available on our website: www.mgoc.org.

Another pleasant surprise was the documentary film, "MG Does It Again." It was anything but a dry film. It was a fun period piece that reminded everyone how much everything has changed since 1957. One interesting observation was the land speed record car was towed to the Bonneville Salts Flats behind a Chevy Nomad wagon. It was somewhat funny that they had an America driver, Phil Hill, test the car first before the British guy, Stirling Moss, drove it for the record. However, the bigger question of the film was, when EX 181 (land speed record car) was going over 245 mph... what was filming it, the Chevy Nomad? (At this year's Barrett Jackson Classic Car Auction a 1955 Chevrolet Nomad Station Wagon sold for \$118,800...I wonder what year the Nomad was that was towing the MG?) All kidding aside, this film did highlight how resourceful and innovative MG was in developing cars and in creating the essence of what a true sports car is! An interesting side note about EX 181, Syd Enever, Chief Engineer for the development of the MGB, said "The MGB shape, though you might not realize it, was basically borrowed from EX 181. When we started the MGB we took this shell and developed it into a passenger car." (Source: Motor, June 6, 1966)

In many ways this night is a night of acknowledgment for service to the club. Our master of ceremonies, Dan Shockey, always announces our list of contributors with wit and speed. In keeping the theme of speed the list is:

(See next page)

Contributors

- **Bob Stine:** President, Led Marina Festival/tour, *MG2007*, (2006) Annual Dinner, *MGs by the Bay*
- **Nina Barton:** Vice President, *MGs by the Bay*
- **Mike Jacobsen:** Treasurer, Registrar, *MGs by the Bay*, *MG2007*, Octagon Publisher, Niles Canyon RR Tour
- **Dan Shockey:** Sectary, Activities Director, *MGs by the Bay*, *MG2007*, Pierce Manifolds Tour
- **Bob Trencheny:** *Octagon* Editor, MGOC Picnic, Holiday Tea, *MG2007*
- **Robbie Trencheny:** MGOC website, *MG2007* website, Booth Duty
- **David Wright:** Regalia, Led tour to Redding, *MGs by the Bay*
- **John Hunt:** Historian, Toys for Tots, *MG2007*, Annual Dinner
- **Sam Gearhart:** *MGs by the Bay*, *MG2007*
- **Dave McCann:** *MGs by the Bay*, *MG2007* (Here from Virginia)
- **Andy Preston:** (and Marla) *MG2007*, Led *MG2007* Site tour, coast Tour & Wine Country Tour, AGM events organizer
- **James Brown:** Headed up *MG2007*
- **George Steneberg:** Corresponding Secretary, *MGs by the Bay*, Host
- **Pat Davis:** Led Grizzly Peak tour, *MGs by the Bay*
- **Jeremy Palgon:** Club Photographer
- **Jennifer Steneberg:** Web Site Maintenance
- **Jack Ford:** Wine Tour
- **Randy Grossman:** Toys for Tots, *MGs by the Bay*
- **Nancy Shane:** Art for *MGs by the Bay*, *MG 2007*
- **Jim Carlson:** Peninsula T Register Chairman
- **Mark Hertz:** Helped set up Annual Picnic
- **Ken Gittings:** Articles & Column, Meetings , Help at events
- **Bill Hiland:** Heading up *GoF West*, 2008, in Monterey
- All those who sent articles, attended officers meetings, helped out.

Awards

The Burnt Spark Plug Award which goes to the member who has had a memorable misadventure in his car went to *Jose Vega*. Ask Jose for the story.

MG Beer Stein Award presented to *George Steinberg* by Dave McCann. This is a discretionary award whose definition changes based on how last year's winner would like to define it and determine who the new winner would be.

A special brass membership card, given by Mike Jacobsen to the *longest continually active member*, went to *Lance Klokkevold*. (Since 1959!)

Door Prizes

2 Qts of Castrol Oil = Dan Shockey Leather Polish = George Steneberg
2007 MG Calendar = Gerald Martin 2007 MG Calendar = Stuart Locke

Finally, we remember our members who passed away this year

Dara Banks

Skip "Mr. MG" Kelsey

Bill O'Hara

Rolf Osterberg

Pam Steneberg

2007 MGOC and Car Events

(MGOC events in **bold**. Watch *The Octagon* and the club web site for info)

- Jan. 20 (Sat.) – **Annual Dinner**, John Hunt
- Feb. 17 (Sat) – **Engine Tech Session (T's and other MGs)**, Carlson
- March 3 (Sat) – **South Bay Tour**, Jeremy Palgon
- March 17 (Sat) – St. Pat's Parade, Dublin, CA, SSTS, MGOC invited
- Feb. 18(Sun) – SSTS Rainy Day Tour, Sue & Rod Schweiger
- March 24 (Sat) – **Wiring Tech Session (Ts and other MGs)**, Rubio
- April 7 (Sat) – **Cecil Kimber Birthday Run**, East Bay, Grossman
- April **TBD** (Sat) – **Dyno Day**, Z Cars, San Jose, Bill Hiland
- April 29 (Sun) – Pacific Coast Dream Machines, Half Moon Bay
- May 5-6 – Moss British Extravaganza at Buttonwillow
- May 6 (Sun) – Hillsborough Concours
- May 12 (Sat) – **MGs by the Bay**, San Leandro Marina
- May 18-20 – **North Meets South**, Paradise Club, Buellton, Caravan?
- May 20 (Sun) – **Annual All British Show at Dixon**
- May 26-27 – British Meet at Dunsmuir
- June 2-3 – Wine Country Classic, Vintage Racing at Sears Point
- June 9-11 – *Open Roads 2006*, Lake Tahoe, Healey Club Host
- June 10 (Sun) – **British Field Meet** at Hayward – Tentative
- June 16 (Sat) – **Tour Training Session & Test Run**, North Bay,
Mike Jacobsen
- June 24 (Sun) – Palo Alto Concours – www.paconcours.com
- July 2-6 – GoF West, Park City, Utah, **Area clubs caravan**
- July 16-20 – **MG 2007**, Rohnert Park, MGOC Host
- July 23-27 – NAMGAR GT-32, Whistler, B.C., **MGOC caravan**
- Aug. 11 (Sat.) – **MGOC Annual Picnic**, Peninsula, Bob Stine
- Aug. 17-19 – Monterey Historic Races; Pebble Beach Concours, etc.
- Sept. 8 (Sat) – **All-British Swap Meet**, O'Connor Classics, MGOC
Host, Shockey & Grossman
- Sept. 8-9 – **Palo Alto British Field Meet**, MGOC booth
- Sept. 9 – Chico Concours
- Sept. 22 – Cherries Jubilee, Monterey, **Possible MGOC caravan**
- Oct. 13 (Sat) – **Mt. Diablo Tour**, Bob Trencheny
- Oct. 20-21 – **San Juan Bautista British Meet**, MGOC & SSTS
- Nov. TBD – **MGOC Kart Races**, Bob Stine, B Burlingame
- Nov. TBD – **Canyon Tour**, East Bay, John Hunt
- Dec. TBD – **Holiday Tea**, San Leandro or San Francisco
- Dec. 26 (Wed,) – Boxing Day Tour, SSTS, **MGOC**, Wendell Bain

MGOC Dates Subject to Change

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3UcVTDK0Bc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXsygMsqgMs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR8XTFqELgM>

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The MGB Trivia Quiz

OK all you trivia buffs, Ken Gittings has provided us with a trivia quiz from what Ken calls "The Good Old Days." Now is your chance to astound fellow club members with your in-depth knowledge of the MGB. The answers are on page 18.

1. What was the date of Black Monday, the date it was announced Abingdon would close?
2. On what date were the final MGB bodies built?
3. Who manufactured the bodies and where? (B-specific)
4. Who owns the 500,000th MGB, built in January 1980?
5. What was the final acreage of the Abingdon Works?
6. Apart from vehicle transporters, how did MGBs leave Abingdon?
7. When did actual road testing of every MGB cease due to roller testing at the Abingdon Works?
8. Where were MGB bodies painted after arriving from the manufacturer? (Again, B-specific)
9. MGBs were not fitted with alternators as standard equipment until 1967; however certain special MGBs were fitted with them prior to 1967. Why?
10. When was the first MGB built at Abingdon? What color was it?



Volunteers Needed for *MG2007*

As you should be well aware, our MG Owners Club is hosting the North American MGB Register annual meet, *MG 2007*. The event will be based at the Doubletree in Rohnert Park (Sonoma County). NAMGBR is focused on Midgets and MG front-drive sedans as well as the various MGB models. All MGs and indeed other British collector cars are welcome to their events and car shows. We will have classes for each MG model that has sufficient participation.

We are getting lots of interest from around the country and some overseas visitors. A large number of rooms have already been booked. The NAMGAR annual meet is the following week, in Whistler, B.C., so some folks are driving west to make both events.

We have a good core of folks who have been busy planning the event, meeting monthly, for the past year or so. We feel we are in good shape and on schedule.

What we need from our general membership is (1) members to volunteer to help run the event during the week of the event and (2) lots of members to plan to attend! The week of the event is the best time to be a host for this national meet. The drudgery is what we have been doing the past year and a half.

We need the following volunteer positions for the week of the event:

- * Registration folks primarily on Monday. This is a great opportunity to meet lots of new people.

- * Hospitality folks mostly mornings and evenings during the week. This is a great chance to get to know enthusiasts from across the country.

- * Car show parkers and set-up / take-down folks (much like MGs by the Bay). This will be a fun day with lots of interesting MGs and every one will have a travel story or three.

- * Club tour leaders. At this point, you can still plan and lead the tour you love most in the North Bay (or down to Sausalito or The City). Suggestions for places we should drive through or stop at are welcome, too. Some tours will be popular and may need multiple small-group leaders. This is a really interesting thing to do.

- * Helpers for the valve cover races (held during the car show on Tuesday). We have a couple that are managing this event.

- * Organizers and helpers for the Fun-khana on Thursday morning. This is also great fun. The basic event is already planned and the props are already made.

If you later find out you are unable to participate, that is fine. There will be others who will find out they can come to take your place if necessary. We see this event as a great way to celebrate our MGOC's 50th anniversary.



Point Reyes National Seashore

We think it will pull the club together for the next decade and give more of us a chance to get to know more of the rest of us. After all, there may be a new MG available soon!

The basic hotel rate for the week (July 16-20, 2007) is \$115 per night. There are other options with several lower-cost motels nearby and some camping opportunities. Another lower-cost way to participate as a local is to stay fewer nights, say come Tuesday morning for the show and leave after the events on Wednesday or Thursday.

If you have not been to a national meet, you haven't an idea of how wonderful these events are. The adrenalin will flow and some will hardly sleep all week. Think of it as Summer Camp for the MG enthusiast.

See the website at www.MG2007.org. Call or write for questions.

Thanks very much.

Dan Shockey

MG2007 Promotion Committee



MGB Trivia Answers

1. September 10, 1979.
2. MGB-GT: October 1, 1980; MGB: October 2, 1980.
3. Pressed Steel Fisher Ltd., Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon.
4. Howard Goldman, Chairman of Moss Motors
5. 42 acres.
6. By railway train transporter cars from Abingdon Rail Station.
7. The mid-1970s but no one knows the exact date! Prior to roller testing at the works, each and every MGB was normally tested over a two-mile run. There was also a longer 4.8 mile route for evaluation of water temperature, axle noise, brakes, etc.
8. The British Motor Cars Morris bodies plant at Quinton Road, Coventry.
9. Alternators were fitted to MGBs used by various police forces in England. These MGBs carried extra electrical equipment: hand spotlight, flashers, loudspeaker, horns, etc and needed alternators.
10. May 22, 1962, Iris Blue and the chassis number was GHN3-102.



Simply fast! **THE**  **MIDGET**

Remembering Dara Bank

I regretfully need to inform you that Dara, my wife, has passed away. I think many of you might remember her. She had the 1972 blue GT and drove it on the last club track event at Sears Point. She very much enjoyed the MGOC and always looked forward to your events. We had talked about the MG 2007 national event as we attended the one at Indy back in 1997.

I really miss her every day! I have decided to keep her GT, so you will at least see her car again. Dara was a wonderful woman and a great partner.

Robert Bank

MGs at the Run-Offs

The Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) remains a place where MGs are still raced in top-flight competition. MGs now run in classes against much younger and more modern cars. After a year of races all over North America, the top finishers come together for the Run-Offs, the national championship. A new venue was used this year (2006), Heartland Park near Topeka, Kansas.

The ranks of MGs both winning and competing gets thinner each year. After a good year of three wins in 2005, no MGs won a class race this year despite two pole qualifying positions.

The smallest MGs, Midgets and their Sprite siblings, are the most competitive, dominating the grid of H Production and racing in two other classes. Production car classes are for cars that are based on standard production models.

In H Production, Craig Chima qualified his orange Midget on the pole with a track record run. However he spun out three times during the race but remarkably still finished in second place to a Triumph Spitfire. A VW Sirocco finished third.

An MG Midget raced by John Saurino qualified on the pole for the F Production race, also setting a new track record. Unfortunately Saurino, fighting cold tires at the start, dropped two wheels off the pavement causing a broken axle. However, Harold Flescher of Florida came in third in his red Spridget (a Sprite with a Midget rubber bumper) behind a Miata and a Spitfire. Chima and Saurino are both from the Nebraska / Oklahoma region.

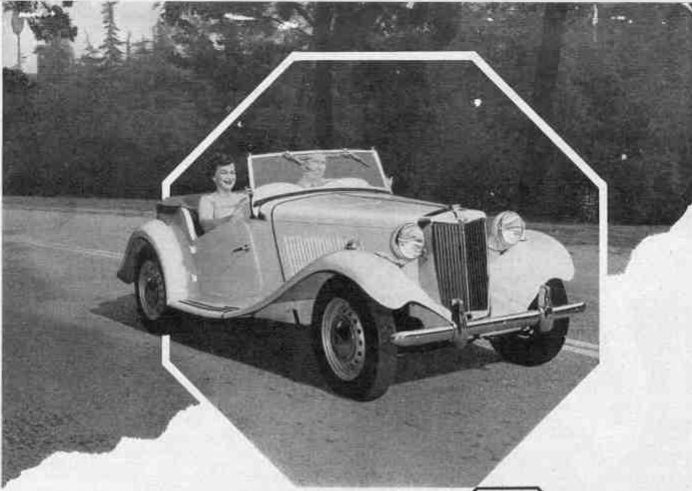
Kent Prather of Kansas brought his 6-time national champion MGA back this year, qualifying it in 5th place in G Production. This race was run in the rain. Kent slid the MGA “into the most amazing spin off the track and around the end of the concrete barrier.” (Quote from *Sports Car* magazine, January, 2007) No damage was done and he was able to fight back to 6th.

Three MGBs also qualified for the G production race, plus two others in F Production. In the current SCCA formula, the same model may run in different classes based upon engine size and vehicle weight. The most surprising to me was a Chevy Chevette that finished 11th in the G Production race, ahead of Hondas, Nissans, Toyotas, Alfas and VWs (and all three MGBs). In Showroom Stock, cars raced with very minor modifications, a Pontiac Solstice won its first national championship, beating a large number of BMW Z4s and Mazda Miatas.

Summary by Dan Shockey

Craig Chima qualified his Midget
at a lap record 77.6 mph





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1600 Fremont St.

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April 1953

Seven

The ad from April 1953 lists all the MG dealers in Arizona, Southern California, Hawaii and Nevada. There are no Northern California dealers listed, because they had a different distributor.

MG Production to Begin in Britain

By Bob Trencheny

Chinese auto maker Nanjing Automobile Group has said they will begin production of MG cars in England within the next several weeks. The re-start will end a two year hiatus following the bankruptcy of MG Rover in 2005.

The Nanjing Automobile Group, based in the city of Nanjing in eastern China, won the rights to the MG Rover name when it outbid another Chinese competitor, Shanghai Automotive. The final bid was around 50 million pounds.

Nanjing Automobile indicated it will build 6,000 TF sports cars every year. The cars are not expected to be shipped to the US but will remain in Britain.

“Production in England will begin in April or May” Ly Qiang, public affairs director of Nanjing Motors, told Reuters. Ly also said that some of the MG production technology has been shipped to China where the first cars are expected to come off the production line by late March. The company is not ready to announce when it expects to start production in the US.

In 2006 Nanjing Automobile Group announced they would build a production facility in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The new plant is expected to produce a full line of MGs, including the TF Roadster and TF Coupe. “We do not have a timetable for US production,” Nanjing Managing Director Yu Jianwei told Reuters.

Current plans call for production of the right-hand drive MG TF sports car at Longbridge in Britain and four different car models in China.

Nanjing Automobile has not focused on exporting the MGs yet. Instead they have chosen to build the home market in China and Britain. Some of the Chinese auto executives are only now beginning to look at the export markets.



MG TF to
be built in
Britain again.

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, 601 Greylyn Drive, San Ramon CA, 94583. Members may also email ads to the Editor at Tbobbx@aol.com.

Cars:

1968 MGB: Pretty British Racing Green with tan soft top. 92K mi. Runs very well. Includes: Sony Stereo, chrome wire wheels and good tires. At 77K mi. (2002) rebuilt master cylinder, new brake lines, new exhaust, new carbs, leaf springs, rebuilt front suspension, replaced rear and new wheel bearings. Rebuilt head. Tonneau cover. Records available. \$10,000. Member Dan Hampshire, Berkeley, (510) 843-5912.

1970 MGB: Roadster project car. Has wire wheels. Most major body work done, all metal. Engine and transmission have low mileage on rebuild although it has not been started in over a year. Professionally rebuilt dual SU carbs. New front bumper and seat foams. Needs paint, interior work, grill and other bright work. Top in rags but frame is good. \$3500 or B/O. Non-member Allan: Home 408 293 8271 Work 408 548 1785. (2/07)

MG Midgets for Restoration: Both are mostly straight and mostly rust free and have wire wheels. 1963 has side curtains and disk brakes, spare 1275 engine and ribcage transmission. Also decent 1969 model. \$500 each. Member Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, mgmogul@earthlink.net

Parts:

Aftermarket MGB hardtop: Flashy. Keep warm & dry! Member Eric Baker, Oakland, 510-531-7032.

Wanted MG TD Seat Slider: Member Walter Kilik (408) 996-0385, wallylk@juno.com.

MGBGT wire wheels. Set of four. For Sale. Member Ken 510-791-8445

MGBGT 5/8 Dia. Sway Bar. For Sale. Member Ken 510-791-8445

For Sale: For TD/TF or MGA: New 8" clutch disk, new pressure plate, one or both at 1/2 Moss prices. Lucas starter rebuilt for TD/TF, MGA and Triumph, \$75.00. Lucas dynamo rebuilt with tachometer drive for TD/TF, Sprite or Midget, \$125. Member Stuart Locke, 408-732-2999

Parting: 1970 MGB/GT. Wire wheels, most parts, clear title. Member Dan Shockey, (408) 923-3927, mgmogul@earthlink.net

Club Meeting & Natter

February 8, 2007 (2nd Thurs.), 8 p.m.

The Englander, 101 Parrot Street, San Leandro

(510) 357-3571 <http://www.englishpub.com/>

Before the monthly Natter members are invited to meet across the street from The Englander at the Slot Car Magic Hobby Shop for slot car racing. They have a large four lane track set up in the store. The cost is \$3 for 15 minutes of racing. We have reserved the track from 7:00 to 7:45 pm for MGOC. The cost includes track time and the use of a slot car. The monthly meeting will start at 8:00 at The Englander.

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

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

MG 2007 Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m.

At Sam Gearhart's in Oakland

Address: 3521 Randolph Ave., Oakland, CA 94602 Phone: (510) 813-0373

From North Bay, San Francisco and Highway 80 Corridor:

Take I-80 to I-580 East

Exit at Park Blvd. and turn Left on Park Blvd.

At 2nd Light turn Right on Excelsior (90 degree Right turn)

Follow Excelsior to Randolph (2 blocks past traffic signal at Beaumont)

At Randolph, turn Right.

House on Right just before MacArthur

From San Jose and I-880 Points South:

North on I-880 to 238 Connector to I-580 West

West on 580 to 14th Ave./Park Blvd. Exit

Turn Right onto Beaumont at Traffic Light at bottom of ramp

Go one block to traffic light at Excelsior, turn Right

Go two blocks to Randolph, turn Right.

House on Right just before MacArthur

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

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