

THE OCTAGON

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



MGOC Octagon
If undeliverable please return to:
7230 Silver Lode Lane
San Jose, CA 95120

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Ace reporter Samantha Lee and President Sam Gearhart

Photo by Felix Lee

February 2011

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 2011

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Photographer: Jeremy Palgon, 510-378-1821, alistaircookie@gmail.com

CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

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

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

MG Midget: Craig Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, mrcraigk@aol.com

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

Z-Magnette Saloon: Eric Baker, 510-531-7032, mgbp36@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, mgbp36@yahoo.com

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

Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

February 10, 7 pm

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrott Street, San Leandro

<http://www.englishpub.com/>

(510) 357-3571

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

Directions to 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 turn right on Parrott Street.



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&
J.R. Boye

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collinsclassics@comcast.net

Parts for Sale:

Set of MGA seats in ok shape, **MGA windshield frame** with glass that is broken. Contact Member Don Scott at (707) 942-0546 or don@napanet.net.

MGTD/TF Parts: Factory 4-speed gearbox: This core and shifts easily in all gears. Top-cover-off inspection shows nothing broken or otherwise damaged. Inside is nice and clean. Fits TD and TF, \$400. **Two piece hood top with hinge:** I have two sets. Both are straight and in good shape, one has surface rust that sands off easily. Your choice, \$100 each. **Hood right side:** very good shape, \$50. **TD driver side door:** no rust and wood is good, \$60. Contact Member Rod Schweiger at (650) 296-1108.

MG Midget Rolling Chassis Body Shell. No VIN. No Title. No engine, transmission, differential, front bumper, or windscreen. Not crashed but rough. Rubber bumper car. Make Offer. Contact Member Nick Becker at (925) 932-9778 or becker2226@astound.net.

Wanted:

Pre-1968 MGB roadster. Long-time MG nut seeking early B roadster. My preference is one that is a preserved original or one redone to original specifications; but I will consider most any steel-dash car, depending on its price and its needs. Contact Member Don Scott at (707) 942-0546 or don@napanet.net.

Congratulations to Dave Schonenberg!

His clever crossword is the Contribution of the Month for February. For his wonderful submission, Dave wins a \$25 gift card to the store of his choice.



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Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2011 rates are: monthly (yearly): full page \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on January 1, 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*.

MGOC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Information on the MGOC finances is available upon request from the treasurer.

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. Please email all contributions to mgowners@gmail.com or send them to: MGOC, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120.

RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers. The Club roster is available to members from Mike Jacobsen upon request.

MGOC.ORG

Upcoming events, MGOC history, photos, membership forms, *The Octagon*, and helpful links are posted on the Club Web site at <http://mgoc.org>.

Forthcoming Events

MGOC Events in bold

- Feb. 18 – Pub Night at On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill Hiland
- Feb. 26 – **Sonoma - Marin Tour**, Andy & Marla Preston
- Mar. 17 – **St. Patrick's Day Tour**, Steve Lilves
- Apr. 3 – April Fools Rallye, Santa Rosa, [Empire Sports Car Association](#)
- Apr. 1-3 – **MG West Coast Reunion**, Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, MGVR
- Apr. 30 – **Tech Session**, Walnut Creek, Craig Kuenzinger
- May 1 – **Pacific Coast Dream Machines**, Half Moon Bay
- May 15 – **MGs by the Bay**, The Danville Livery
- May 22 – All British Meet at Woodland, [UBSCC](#)
- May 28 - Jun. 5 – **British Car Week**
- Jun. 13-17 – **MG2011 All Register Meet**, Reno
- Sept. 29-Oct. 2 – **MG Fall Festival**, Petaluma

From the Editor...

It's hard to know what to say at a time like this. As most of you now know, *The Octagon* won the NAMGBR Ken Smith Best Newsletter of the Year Award – but everyone has been treating me as if I won the award.

While it's true that I do edit the newsletter, I don't create most of the content – and it's the high-quality, varied content that truly makes *The Octagon* great. In addition to upcoming event descriptions, we generally have a number of standard pieces from regular contributors (event reports and photos essays) alongside an original creative article or two.

This month is no different. We have upcoming event listings for the Sonoma - Marin and St. Patrick's Day tours, the ESCA April Fools Rallye, the MGVR West Coast Reunion, MG2011 in Reno, and our own MG Fall Festival. This is followed by panoramic photos of the Annual Awards Banquet. Then we have an article on the Banquet from our star reporter, Samantha Lee (see photo with me below). And then we have photos of the award presentations, followed by more photos of the Banquet – which are, in turn, followed by even more photos of the Banquet. (Alright, so we went overboard with the photos this month.) But after all the photos, we have two original submissions from new members: Dave Schonenberg's crossword and Toby Foster's illustration.

I don't deserve all the praise that has been heaped on me of late, but I am thankful for it. Thank you for all your kind words. But enough with the presentations already – it's starting to strain humility.

Jeremy Palgon



Photo by Felix Lee

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

SHOCK ABSORBERS:

	Front	Rear
MGTC.....	185.00	185.00
MGTD & TF.....	185.00	85.00
MGA, MGB, MGC, Midget.....	102.00	75.00
HEAVY DUTY UPGRADE.....	10.00	10.00
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BRAKES: sleeved and rebuilt

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MGA, MGC caliper.....	\$155.00
MGA, Midget twin master 1968-87.....	\$225.00
MGB, Midget master 1968-80.....	\$125.00-145.00
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MGC booster servo.....	\$445.00
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OCT09

1973 MGB GT. Nearly completed restoration. I redid the mechanicals, had body and paint done professionally. Upholstery is dark blue cloth as originally fitted. Has two nearly new six-volt batteries, correct rubber mats, and original carpeting. Has refurbished Rostyles with like-new 165-14 Dunlop radials. I have a professionally rebuilt OD gearbox, which is not installed, redone by Jerry Redmon of Napa Valley Auto Restorations. The car does need completion - some interior pieces need to be installed, and it needs some tidying. \$4,500. I'm in Napa Valley. Contact Member Don Scott at (707) 942-0546 or don@napanet.net.

1953 MG TD. \$28,000. Purchased in 1972 with a possible racing background. Completely rebuilt in early 2000 and raced since then two or more times per year at Infineon and Laguna Seca. Toured with several sport car clubs in the Wine Country. Contact Member Ferdinand at ferdinands@att.net.



1977 MGB with 54,000 original miles, overdrive transmission, original "Sandglow" paint and autumn leaf interior. Well maintained by third owner. Price \$6,400. Contact Member Ellis at Bovet177@gmail.com.



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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, 7230 Silver Lode Lane, San Jose, CA 95120. Members may also email ads to the editor at mgowners@gmail.com.

Cars for Sale:

1959 MGA Roadster, 1500 cc engine, 4 speed gearbox, dual carbs. California car, completely restored by Sunnyvale based bodyshop in 1985, rust free, body straight, no accidents, 29,500 miles since rebuild. Safari Ivory (Fiat color) with new carpeting in 2005. Top is caramel brown and is in great condition. New clutch and rebuilt transmission in Jan, 2011. Original '59 DMV sticker on a '56 CA plate. Pictures and further information upon request. Asking \$20,000. Contact Mark at (510) 566-0246 or mseymour.ca@gmail.com.



1975 MGB. Blaze red, runs well, no smog necessary. New: top, seats, carpet, and paint. Rebuilt aluminum head. Dual carbs. Asking \$11,900. Contact Karen at (408) 564-0334.

1961 MGA Coupe, 1600 cc engine, 5 speed gearbox. California car, completely restored by third (and present) owner in 2002, rust free, body straight, no accidents, 7,800 miles since rebuild. Original body panels, new front spoiler below bumper. All good original chrome, new rubber gaskets for body and glass. Painted "Paprika Red" (Jaguar color). New clutch slave and brake master cylinders, 2004. Pictures and further information upon request. Asking \$25,000. Contact Member Viggo Riddersholm at (650)341-9064 or vriddersholm@yahoo.com, or Gordon Craig at lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net.



1949 MG TC British racing green, right hand drive in excellent condition. \$35,000. Contact Member Larry at (415) 999-2362.

President's Ponderings...

Another Year...

I was going to say "another day, another dollar", but it occurred to me that it's closer to "another day, another 58 cents" in this economy. Either way, here we are in a new year, and you're stuck with the same old board. Mind you, I don't think that's a bad thing. It's fun, sometimes, to be the president! I appreciate all the hard work that our perennial board has put into the Club over the past few years. I have no doubt that they will continue to do a great job.

The unchanging board names did remind me, however, of the importance of casting a vote. Last year, exactly one vote was cast in the board elections. If you want a different group of people to run this club, you'd best get out and vote. Even if you don't want a different group of people, it would be nice if you voted in next year's election. At times, I feel like a comedian falling flat: I know you're out there – I can hear you breathing. Besides, a lot of you showed up for our Annual Banquet this year!

Anyway, new year, same board; but many new fun activities to look forward to this year. As you've read here before, we are participating in a number of special local events this year, and hosting our own MG Fall Festival in October. In addition, MGs by the Bay will move from a Saturday to a Sunday the week *after* Mother's Day. The national MG2011 "All Register Meet" will take place in Reno in June.

Just two weeks ago, we held our Annual Planning Meeting and set the schedule for this year. We have scheduled a variety of events throughout the driving season, starting with a North Bay ride on February 26. We have endeavored to have the MGOC calendar merge with other local clubs' activities (when possible), to give our members the best possible opportunity to participate in all MG events.

I think it will be one of our more exciting years, with opportunities to race on the Infineon track and meet MG members from the entire country at MG2011. And it all culminates in our much anticipated MG Fall Festival in late September. Of course, sprinkled in between those larger gatherings, we have some fun rides through the beautiful countryside of Northern California, including a new tour through Western Marin County. As always, we are attempting to spread our rides throughout the Bay Area so that ever member of the MG Owners Club will all have an equal opportunity to participate in events in their area.

Regards,
Sam Gearhart

Next Pub Night at On the Road Again

Friday, February 18



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Across

1. Brit sports coupe designed by Pininfarina
6. Moss sells them
11. ___ Jovi
14. British Racing _____
15. Hawaiian hello
16. Roth ___ retirement acct.
17. Kitchen appliance
19. High school equivalency exam
20. New clothes, slang
21. ___ shooting
22. India's smallest state
23. General ___ chicken, var.
25. Stool pigeon
27. Suffix with lion
28. Fly by the ___ of your pants
31. Paddle
33. Takes it easy
37. One third of a Cuban dance
39. Bombeck and Franklin
42. ___ Cod
43. Ho ___
44. We shall scrimp and ___
45. Variety
47. Tween music genre
48. Jon ___ Ramsey
49. Wrath
50. Hill, to a Scot
52. Elderly
54. ___ Paulo, Brazil
57. Ice cream vessels
61. Plead
62. Courtroom drama
65. Suffix with buck and switch
67. Consumed food
68. MG motor boast
70. Cambridge engineering school
71. New Zealand natives
72. Indian Tribe encountered by Lewis and Clark
73. Symbols in email addresses?
74. Birds
75. Body

Down

1. New MG for 1950
2. Its between the tiles
3. Like water on a freshly waxed hood
4. Canvas prep
5. Explosive stuff
6. Golden Gate _____
7. Natural lotion
8. MG ___ Group
9. Ninth Greek letter
10. ___ Francisco
11. The first to back down from a fight
12. Cream filled cookies
13. Nothings to ninos?
18. ___ est percipi
24. Prefix on Navy ships
26. Foot finger
29. Pain
30. The first digit
32. Brit butt
33. TV brand
34. Corn unit
35. Some MGs and Austin-Healeys
36. Rip
38. Love, in La Paz
40. Blvd.
41. Tennis unit
46. Band with hit Owner of a Lonely Heart
48. Olde English story __ wulf
51. Freedom-fighting non-profit
52. 44th US President
53. Beatles hit ___ be
55. More than just fighting
56. Belted constellation
58. Cool!
59. Mistake
60. 7-11 purchases
63. Inscription on the cross
64. Buyer beware warning
66. ___ Buco
68. Cell provider, for short
69. Basic bed

Answer key in the March Octagon

Crossword

By Dave Schonenberg

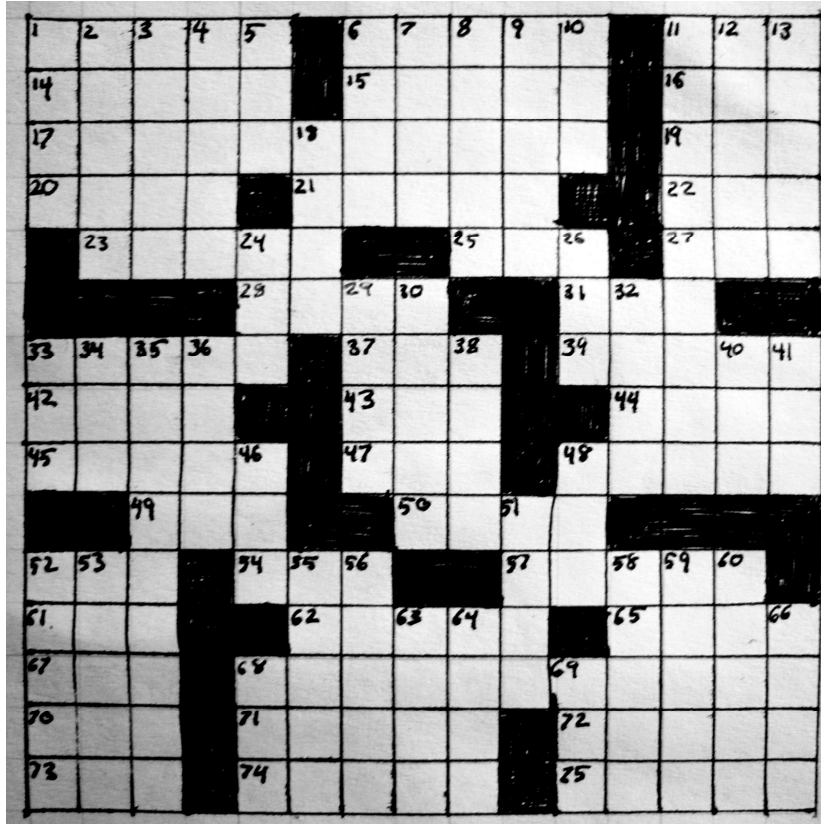


Illustration by Toby Foster

Sonoma – Marin Tour

Saturday, February 26

This joint tour of the Wine Country Car Club and the MG Owners Club and is designed to attract MGOE members who seldom drive north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The tour starts in Rohnert Park, heads west and then south, and ends in West Marin for lunch.

The first part of the tour takes us through the back roads and pasture lands of Sonoma County, and through the historic towns of Valley Ford, Freestone, and Occidental. We will leave Occidental over one of our favorite roads, Coleman Valley Road, which takes us out to the Pacific Coast and Highway 1. The views on the descent of the surrounding countryside and the Pacific Coast are stunning. Our first stop is at the Tides Wharf overlooking Bodega Bay, where you can have a cup of coffee and a pastry, and peruse their shops and deli.

We will leave the Tides Wharf and continue south on the Pacific Coast Highway, passing through the town of Tomales and continuing along the shoreline of the Tomales Bay.

Our final destination and lunch stop is the Rancho Nicasio restaurant in the Nicasio town square, which dates back to the early 1800s. Rancho Nicasio is a rustic style restaurant with four choices for lunch. After lunch it's just a short ride along Lucas Valley Road back to Highway 101.

The four lunch choices are:

1. Rancho Cheese Burger - \$ 9.95
2. BBQ Chicken Breast Sandwich with monterey jack cheese - \$10.95
3. Triple Decker Club with turkey, swiss cheese, bacon, lettuce & tomato on sourdough - \$9.95
4. Caesar Salad with grilled chicken - \$12.95

When: Meet at 9:30 am on February 26, for a 10:00 am departure.

Where: Sonoma Valley Bagel, [350 Rohnert Park Expressway, Rohnert Park](#). Take 101 north and exit at Rohnert Park Expressway. Head west for ½ mile. Sonoma Valley Bagel will be on your right.

Please RSVP to Andy or Marla Preston at marlapreston@hotmail.com or 707-795-3480 by February 21 with your lunch selection (so we can confirm lunch reservations).

MGOC Contest Continues

Our contest to find the best, most amazing, most stupendous new content for *The Octagon* continues. That's right, our open call to all members for submissions is ongoing. You could win a \$25 gift card to the store of your choice for your MG story, event report, photo, drawing, or whatever else you can dream up. Please send your submissions to mgowners@gmail.com.

St. Patrick's Day Tour

Thursday, March 17

San Rafael

Free on St. Patrick's Day? Why not join Steve Lilves for a North Bay tour. Steve has planned a scenic two hour drive from Terra Linda to Sausalito. Afterward, you're invited to celebrate St. Paddy's Day with a pint or a spot of lunch at the [Pelican Inn's](#) English pub. Best be wearing some GREEN!

When and Where: Meet at 11:00 am at the [commuter parking lot just east of Hwy. 101 on Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael](#). We'll end up at the Pelican Inn in Muir Beach around 3:00 pm.

Directions: From San Francisco, go north across the Golden Gate Bridge on Hwy. 101, through Central San Rafael, and exit Lucas Valley / Smith Ranch Road. Turn right onto Smith Ranch Road and right into the parking lot.

RSVP to Steve Lilves at 415-924-3173 or slilves@sbcglobal.net.

ESCA April Fools Rallye

Sunday, April 3

Santa Rosa

The Empire Sports Car Club would like to cordially invite you to their 47th annual April Fool's Rallye. Rallymaster Bob "The Beard" Jenkins has devised a scenic and fun 50 mile route for this A-B type rallye.

A rallye is not a speed event. It's a test of a team's ability to follow instructions along the route while looking for signs and situations that fit the definitions of the rallye. There will be a brief rallye school at 11:00 am for all those new to rallying.

When and Where: 10:30 am in the [Charles Shultz Museum](#) parking lot, Santa Rosa.

Directions: Take the Steele Lane Exit off Highway 101, a mile north of downtown Santa Rosa. Go west on Steele and it will become Guerneville. Right on Range. Left on W. Steele. Right at Hardies. Left into the second driveway, which is the Shultz museum lot.

Cost: \$15 per car. All proceeds go to Canine Companions for Independence.

Contact: Bob Jenkins at 707-546-6867 or thebeard@sonic.net.

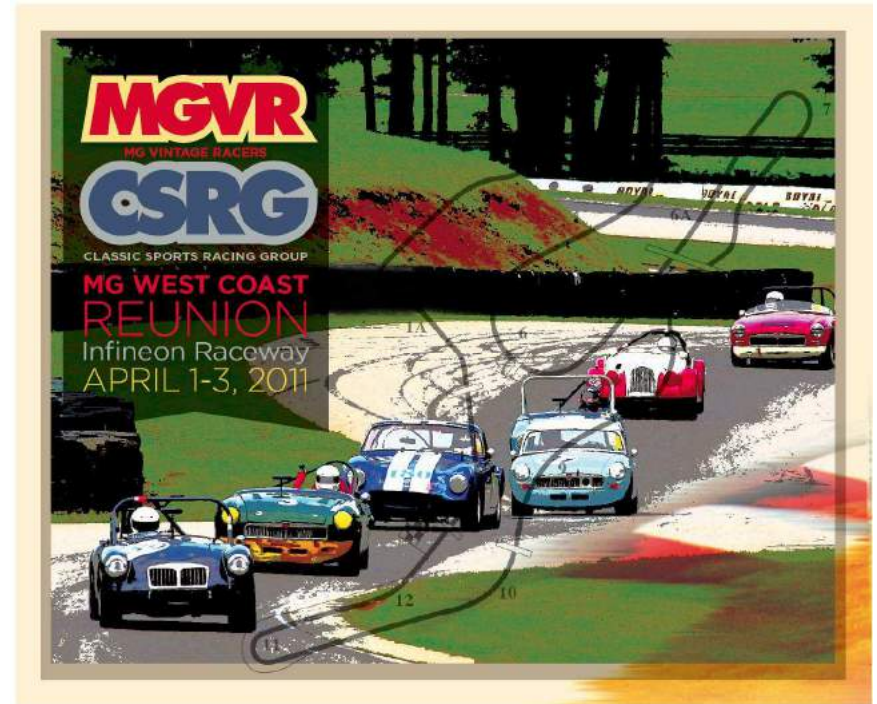
Even More from the Banquet



More from the Awards Banquet



Photos by George Steneberg



The MG Vintage Racers is an association of vintage MG owners that holds races across the United States. MGVR is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2011 and is holding two Focus Events: one here at Infineon in April and another at Lime Rock later this summer. The organizers are expecting a record number of legendary MG Racers here, and it will be certain to be a memorable day.

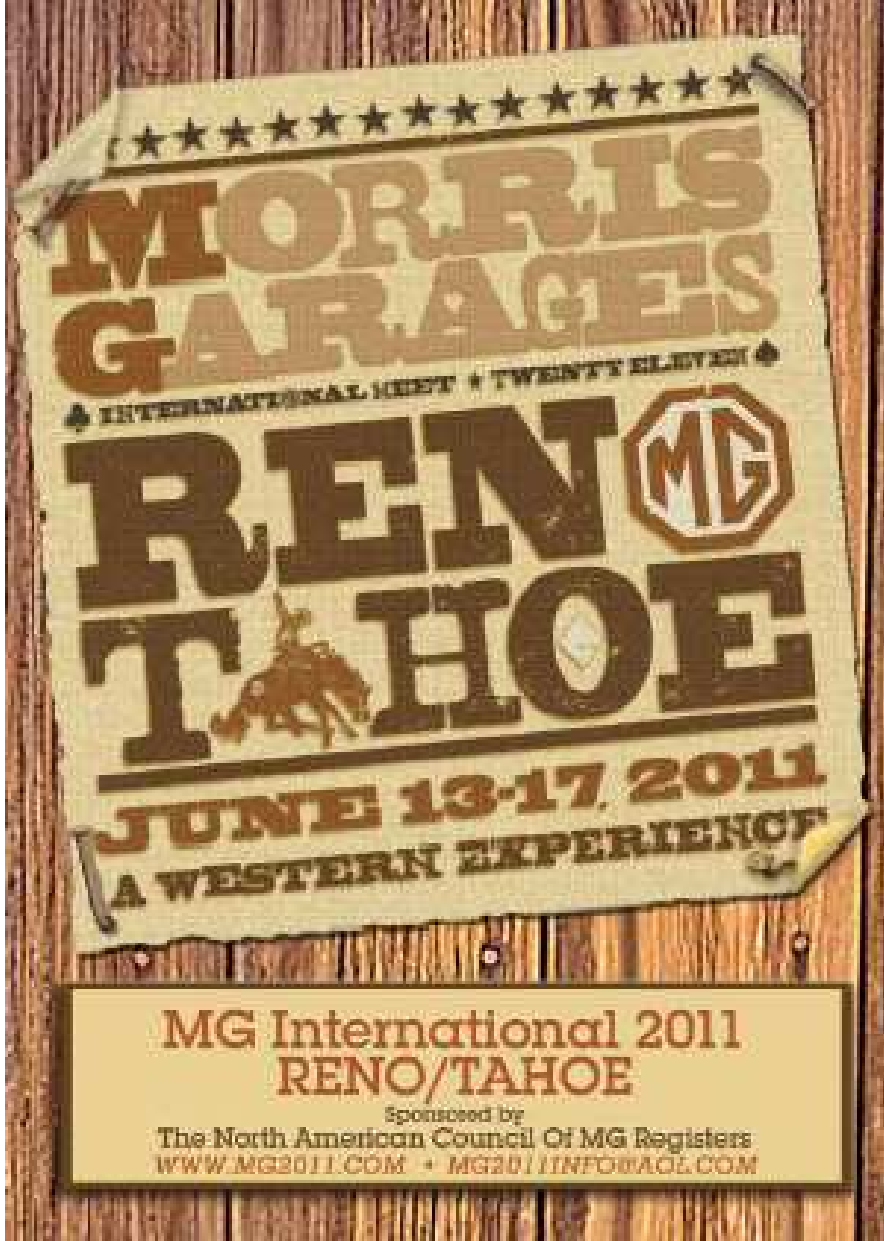
The MGOC will be hosting a hospitality suite for the MGVR participants on Saturday, April 2. MGOC members who attend the event will have the opportunity to drive their own cars on the track during lunch time parade laps behind a pace car. There will also be a MG Corral where we'll be parking our cars. Additional details coming soon; look for them in the March *Octagon*.

MG Fall Festival

September 29 to October 2

The Sheraton Sonoma – Petaluma

The Fall Festival will include road tours, winery visits, dinner at the historic and rustic Union Hotel in Occidental, a car show, and an awards banquet at the Sheraton. In addition, the Fall Festival coincides with the Classic Sport Racing Group's Annual Charity Challenge at Infineon Raceway. Along with watching some great racing, attendees will have the opportunity to drive their MGs on the Sears Point track during the lunch hour. More details to come. Save the date.



Awards



Wayne Veatch presents Mike Jacobsen with the Beer Stein



Felix Lee receives the famed Burnt Spark Plug Award



John Bertolotti receives a rubbing of a San Mateo Big Subs streetcar plaque

Annual Awards Banquet

By Samantha Lee

We celebrated the Awards brunch at the Berkeley Marina. The restaurant was cool because when you look out the window, it felt like you were on a boat without the seasickness. President Sam was delighted to see many people attend. There was a wide variety of food to eat. My favorite was the waffles which Jeremy served me. I really enjoy working for him. He's a good boss. He won an award for being a great editor, so congratulations to him. We won the burnt spark plug award for our last breakdown. Hopefully we don't have anymore. Mike won the stein for helping out the club. I was so surprised because I won an MG puzzle. Steve and Vicky won the award for the best article in the Octagon last month. I thought the part in Steve's article about the wires that didn't attach to anything was really funny.



Once every five years the North American Council of MG Registers (consisting of the MMM Register, NEMGTR, NAMGAR, NAMGBR, and the AMGCR), hosts an "All MG" Convention. This will be the only national MG event that will be conducted by these Registers for 2011, and it's only the fourth time this event has ever been staged. We have been to Indianapolis in 1996, Minneapolis-St Paul in 2001, and Gatlinburg in 2006. This year we are moving out west to Reno, Nevada. We are confident that our schedule of events, the excitement of the casinos, the night life of Reno, and the breathtaking vistas of the Sierra Mountains and neighboring Lake Tahoe will attract the largest number of MG aficionados in North America ever. There will be MGs of all types and vintages, from MMM cars of the 30's to modern MGBs. Register at MG2011.com.



After MG2011, the Rallye to Reno will conclude the coast to coast trip by driving to San Francisco. Details at RallyetoReno.com.

Annual Awards Banquet

Photos by Jeremy Palgon



President Sam Gearhart (far right) addresses the room and announces the awards



The view from Hs Lordships



A roomful of happy diners