

# 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 Jeremy Falgon

Examining the Tune-up Tech Session Patient

## March 2008

# 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 2008

**President:** Sam Gearhart, 510-530-2267, [swg3@comcast.net](mailto:swg3@comcast.net)

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**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@comcast.net](mailto:mgjim@comcast.net)

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**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:** Mark Hertz, 925-757-2070, [damhertz@prodigy.net](mailto:damhertz@prodigy.net)

**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 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, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

## 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). 2007 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@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 Tom Balutis upon request.

# Forthcoming Events

### MGOC Events in bold

- Feb. 29 – **Sherman's Way Premiere**, San Jose, Cinequest Film Festival
- Mar. 15-16 – **HMSA Vintage MG Races**, Laguna Seca, MG Vintage Racers
- Mar. 29 – **Daffodil Hill**, Volcano, Sorry Safari Touring Society
- Apr. 6 – April Fool's Rallye, Santa Rosa, Empire Sports Car Club
- Apr. 20 – Mt. Hamilton Tour, Abingdon Rough Riders
- Apr. 26 – **Cecil Kimber 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Run**
- Apr. 27 – Pacific Coast Dream Machines, Half Moon Bay
- May 4 – Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance
- May 10 – **MGs by the Bay**, San Leandro Marina
- May 18 – All British Meet at Woodland (formerly Dixon), UBSCC
- May 18 – Friendship Day, Redwood City, Mid-Peninsula Old Time Auto
- Jun. 1-8 – British Car Week
- Jun. 7 – **Wine Tour**, Sonoma
- Jun. 7 – Hayward British Field Meet
- Jun. 22 – Palo Alto Concours d'Elegance
- Jul. 6-10 – GoF West, Monterey

# From the Editor...

Right about now, you might be thinking, "Didn't I just get the February *Octagon* the other day?" Well, indeed you did. In the same unusual fashion that February's edition came abnormally late, I now present to you the oddly early March edition.

But again, there's a method to my madness. We have late breaking news of an MG event that I thought you'd like to know about. This Friday, February 29, the film *Sherman's Way* is premiering at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose. Prominently featuring an MGB, *Sherman's Way* is a film about two strangers on a road trip who end up comedically exploring the road of life. The film's director, Craig Saavedra, has specifically invited us; he's even offered free goodies if you show up in an MGB. Please have a look at the listing on page 6 and think about coming to the premiere.

Also, please consider joining us on March 29, as we meet up with the Sorry Safari Touring Society for a day tour to Daffodil Hill (page 10). As I mentioned last month, Daffodil Hill is really spectacular.

On the ides of March, we'll be driving down to Laguna Seca for the Vintage MG races. Please see the updated event information on page 9.

Upcoming events aside, I would like to note that the response to the questions I posed to the membership last month (February, page 17) met with an abysmal response. I received nary a reply. And yet I know there are some people out there who are interested in these activities. So I ask again:

Since the first Dyno Day was a great success, Bill Hiland would like to know if there's interest in having another. Would you like to know the actual power output of your British classic?

Though we had to cancel our last attempt at Go Kart Racing, Bob Stine is still raring to go. Anyone interested?

Planning and running GoF West is a huge task; so Stuart Locke is looking for volunteers to assist him. Anyone want to help him out?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please send an email with your thoughts to [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com).

Jeremy Palgon

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# President's Ponderings...

**The wheels will soon be turnin'!**

Hello all, and welcome to springtime and another great touring season. Over the past two weeks, I've been fortunate to have had some time to get my roadster out of the garage, check it over, clean it up, and get it out on the road a few times. Generally the weather has cooperated, although as I sit here writing this on Saturday afternoon the news says there's a hum-dinger of a rain storm hitting later today. No one would argue that we need the water – but hey, we're looking for some warm sunny days for all the upcoming events we have planned!

There are a couple of housekeeping things I'd like to quickly mention. As you might have noticed already, we have a number of members to thank for dedicating more of their time and effort to the club. In no particular order, my personal thanks (as well the thanks of the whole club) go out to the following:

Mark Hertz is our new MG Midget advisor. Mark fills a role that has been vacant for some time.

George Steneberg, our current Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary, has also agreed to take on the role of Club Historian (recently vacated by John Hunt).

In addition, having already introduced the elected board of directors for 2008 in the January Octagon, I'll take this opportunity to introduce our At-Large board members: Bob Trencheny and David Wright. Both Bob and David presently wear a couple of different hats. Bob is our Webmaster and, since Dan Shockey has moved away, he's also volunteered to be our Activities Director. David is also our Regalia Coordinator.

A hearty round of applause is in order for these volunteers along with our many thanks. Remember, all the board members and other club volunteers are here to do all we can to help make your membership more fun and exciting.

With any luck (and notwithstanding the groundhog that saw its shadow on February 2), spring is truly just around the corner and the wheels of all our cars will soon be turnin'. I encourage you all to come on out and join us at one of our upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you all. It's certain to be a great driving season!

Regards,  
Sam Gearhart

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Craig Saavedra, the director of the new independent film *Sherman's Way*, has invited the MGOC (and all local MG people and their cars) to the film's premiere at the [Cinequest Film Festival](#) at 7 pm on Friday, February 29 at the [San Jose Repertory Theater](#).

In addition to being a filmmaker, Craig is also an MG enthusiast. And what does a filmmaking MG enthusiast do? Why, he makes a film that prominently features an MG of course.

*Sherman's Way* starts with two strangers setting off on a road trip of convenience only to veer off the path into a comedic exploration of the random nature of friendship, fatherhood, and the annoying persistence of finding one's place in the world – a world in which one wrong turn can change your destination.

Member Bill Hiland's On the Road Again restoration shop rented the filmmakers an MGB that appears in the movie. And what's more, Craig has offered a free t-shirt or movie soundtrack CD to anyone showing up in an MGB. Also, although not yet finalized, it looks as though the MGOC is going to get special parking spots right in front of the theater to showcase our support for the film.

The MGOC is going to be meeting up in advance for a short tour and pre-film dinner at [Hawg's Restaurant](#) in San Jose.

**MGOC Tour to Dinner:** We'll be meeting in a parking lot near San Jose Spartan Stadium just off S 10<sup>th</sup> Street on E Humbolt Street (adjacent to the tennis courts) at 5:30 pm (map and directions below).

**Sherman's Way Premiere:** This Friday, February 29, at 7 pm at the San Jose Repertory Theater, 101 Paseo De San Antonio, San Jose, 408-367-7266

**Tickets:** \$10 in advance through the film's website: <http://shermansway.com/>

**Please RSVP to:** [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com) or call Jeremy Palgon at 510-378-1821.

If you can't make it to the meeting point, but are planning on coming to the film, please go straight to the Repertory Theater and look for the prominently parked MGs. Try to park with those MGs and then, if you're there early enough, join us at Hawg's restaurant (in the same building as the San Jose Repertory Theater).

**Directions:** I've marked the parking lot (adjacent to the tennis courts) where we'll be meeting at on this Google Map: [Meeting Point Map](#)

You can input where you're coming from into the Google Map for directions.

But just in case you don't get that to work, the general directions are: Exit 280 at 10<sup>th</sup> Street in San Jose (it may be called the 11<sup>th</sup> street exit if you're coming from the 680 side – if so, just go straight at the light on 11<sup>th</sup> and take a left onto 10<sup>th</sup>). Go South on 10<sup>th</sup> Street (it's one way) for four blocks, and take a Left onto E Humbolt Street. Turn Right into the parking lot on the near side of the tennis courts (just before 11<sup>th</sup>).

And lastly, here's a Google Map of the area around the Repertory Theater (flagged): [San Jose Repertory Theater Map](#)

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# Vintage MG Races

## Laguna Seca

The [MG Vintage Racers](#) and [Historic Motor Sports Association](#) invite you to the first ever MG Vintage Racers West Coast Focus Event, the weekend of March 15-16, 2008 at historic [Laguna Seca Raceway](#) in Monterey. This year's event will feature *The Legend of Ken Miles and His Historic Career*. Be a part of what promises to be the largest gathering ever on the West coast of MG vintage racers – don't miss this rare opportunity to race with your MGVR friends at the legendary Laguna Seca track!

If you're not racing, both the HMSA and the MGVR encourage you to participate in the MG only Car Club display. For a mere \$40 per car, each Car Club participant will gain access to the MG Reunion and races, receive a car corral pass and dash plaque, and be allowed to take a parade lap on the track.

Off track, there's a full slate of activities to enjoy with your MG friends:

**Thursday Dinner:** Get together at the [Martine Inn](#) in Pacific Grove at 5pm for dinner (\$25 per person), followed by a tour of [Don Martine's Motorsports Museum](#).

**Friday:** HMSA hosts a "Welcome to Laguna Seca" social at the hospitality tent (6-8 pm), followed by an informal gathering at the [Baja Cantina Grill and Filling Station](#).

**Saturday Evening:** MGVR Banquet at the [Laguna Seca Golf Ranch](#) at 6 pm. \$49 per person (12 and under free) includes dinner, dessert, and two cocktails.

Please contact Jim Weissenborn for reservations to the banquet or Thursday's dinner.

**MGVR Event Chair:** Jim Weissenborn, [thepencilman@hotmail.com](mailto:thepencilman@hotmail.com), 831-484-0760

**HMSA:** Cris Vandagriff, [hmsa@hmsausa.com](mailto:hmsa@hmsausa.com), 818-249-3515

**MGVR Editor:** Chris Meyers, [cva1r1@comcast.net](mailto:cva1r1@comcast.net), 860-490-5950

**MGVR Club Liaison:** Scott Brown, [scott@scottbrowndesign.com](mailto:scott@scottbrowndesign.com), 650-261-9051

**MGVR Headquarters Hotel:** Travelodge Monterey, 2030 North Fremont St., Monterey (831) 373-3381. We have 50 rooms booked through 2/13 at \$79 per night.

### Updated Information:

- Parade laps are increasingly rare, so register for the car corral and seize this opportunity to drive the world famous Laguna Seca Racetrack.
- For a more affordable viewing experience, abstain from the car corral and just pay the six dollar day use fee for entrance to the [Laguna Seca Recreation Area](#), a Monterey County Park.
- The Saturday Evening Banquet has changed restaurants (see above).
- With the apparent Champ Car-IRL merger, it is not likely that the Champ cars will be on the track at Laguna Seca as previously advertised.
- It is likely, however, that MG Vintage Racers will get additional track time on Friday (and perhaps even Thursday).

**MGOC Tour to the Track:** We'll meet at 9 am on Saturday, March 15 at [On the Road Again](#), 16840 Joleen Way, Unit G4, Morgan Hill

**Directions to On the Road Again:** Take 101 South to Morgan Hill. Exit at East Dunne Ave. and go Right on E. Dunne. Turn Left onto Joleen Way (2<sup>nd</sup> street), and follow Joleen to the end. Enter the parking lot and go straight to the back. On the Road Again is in the back on your left.

**Contact:** Bill Hiland, 408-314-2675, [capthiland@aol.com](mailto:capthiland@aol.com)

**To register to be in the car corral, please use the form on page 20.**

# Daffodil Hill Day Tour

## Saturday, March 29



We're meeting up with our friends in the Sorry Safari Touring Society for a day tour to Daffodil Hill in Amador County. Along the way, there will be quizzes, prizes, and lunch at the [St. George Hotel](#). Come join us as we drive the scenic California backroads to the heart of the Mother Lode for a spectacular display of daffodils.

Each spring Daffodil Hill explodes with thousands of blooms, attracting visitors from around the world. Situated in Northern California's Amador County, Daffodil Hill is a four acre farm owned by the McLaughlin family since 1887. The farm began, in the early days of the gold rush, as a 36-acre ranch and toll road for travelers and teamsters hauling timber. In 1887, after coming west from New York and Ohio, wagon pioneer Arthur McLaughlin and his wife, Elizabeth "Lizzie" van Vorst-McLaughlin, settled at the ranch.

The ranch was purchased from an old Dutchman, Pete Denzer, who had planted daffodils from his native land. These yellow blooms were Lizzie's most prized possession, and she divided and replanted the bulbs each year to increase the size of their garden. The bulbs have since been lovingly nurtured by successive generations of the McLaughlin family.

Today, much of the landscape around the old homestead is covered with more than 300 named varieties of daffodils. For the last twenty years, the McLaughlins have continued to plant up to 6,000 new bulbs a year. It is estimated that today, Daffodil Hill is carpeted with over 300,000 bulbs.

**When and Where:** We'll meet at the Jack in the Box at the intersection of [Vasco Road and Industrial Way](#) (6020 Industrial) in Livermore at 8:30 am SHARP on Saturday, March 29.

**Please Bring:** A snack, water, sunscreen, a hat, binoculars, a camera, a full tank of gas, comfortable shoes, and a spirit of adventure.

**Please RSVP:** to Jeremy Palgon at [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto:mgowners@gmail.com) or 510-378-1821 by March 16.

**SSTS Contacts:** John Pezek, 510-793-5089, [jmpesek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmpesek@sbcglobal.net); Ben Lenci, 510-651-0808, [bjlenci@comcast.net](mailto:bjlenci@comcast.net).

# GoF West



## Monterey Bay, California July 6 - 10

GoF West is the name of a regularly held “Gathering of the Faithful” MG owners in the Western United States. Although GoF West is usually centered around pre-1956 MGs, the organizers of this GoF West would like to stress that all MGs, and MG people, are welcome.

This year, GoF West will be just a pleasant drive down the coast from us in beautiful Monterey. As residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, I’m sure we’re all aware of the many wonders of the nearby Monterey Bay Area.

Nevertheless, it bears repeating that Monterey County, the setting of many of John Steinbeck’s novels, is home to three Missions, Cannery Row, a Maritime Museum, great seafood, shopping, and, of course, the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium.

And let’s not forget the astoundingly beautiful California coastline, and the wildlife that inhabits it. There’s the windswept beauty of the cypress trees dotting the shoreline beside the curving roads, crashing waves, and resting harbor seals. And just a short drive away is scenic 17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach, Carmel, and the jewel of the California State Parks system, Point Lobos.

Of course, there will also be a wide variety of MG events. In addition to the car show, the organizers, including our very own Stuart Locke, have planned a full schedule of tech sessions, model displays, rallies, dinners, and funkhana for our enjoyment.

GoF West will be returning to the Monterey Hyatt Regency, which, having just undergone a \$45 million renovation, should be much improved from our last visit there for GoF West in 1998. The organizers have managed to obtain the phenomenal (for Monterey) room rate of \$159 a night. To entice your attendance and early registration, the organizers are offering one free night for each of four lucky registrants (or couples). But in order to win, you must be registered for GoF West by March 31.

**Please use the registration form on page 21.**



## Tune-up Tech Session

Marty Ray led an instructional walk through of MG tuning procedures for ten club members at the spacious new Morgan Hill home of On the Road Again British Restorations. Many thanks go out to Marty for the tech tips. Thanks also to Bill Hiland for providing the space and refreshments. Look for a write-up of Marty's tuning advice next month.



# A Tale of Two Cultures

## *Auto Dreams from England and America*

**San Francisco Chronicle**

Sunday, February 3, 2008

**My Ride Contributed by MGOC Member Jim Lucas**

*Jim Lucas, 56, is a Bay Area native who lives in Santa Cruz, where the surfing is good.*

My earliest recollection as a toddler was sitting in my aunt's backyard in Atherton, where my uncle had bought her a 1948 Chrysler Town & Country woody runabout convertible in hopes of teaching her how to drive. My next car memory was my folks' 1958 Sunbeam Rapier, which was also a convertible.

Those late 1950s days in pre-Silicon Valley Palo Alto provided a hotbed of British car enthusiasts, and our next door neighbor drove a Jaguar XK 150. The water level of Palo Alto went up three feet due to all the drooling the neighbors did when the XK drove by! I recall our car being the only Sunbeam, but there were a bunch of Hillmans, and we always flashed our lights at each other when passing on the road.

In 1963, my dad unexpectedly came home with an MG Midget. With my dad driving, Mom in the passenger seat, and me holding on for dear life in the back compartment, we regularly went over the hill on Highway 17 to Santa Cruz and Carmel. To this day, that's still my favorite car that my dad owned. In 1971, he bought a Ford Capri, which was the closest he'd come to owning another British car. I got my SCCA Novice racing license in 1972 and toiled around SCCA tracks doing various races in a Triumph TR4A.

After a pretty bad shunt on turn 11 at Sears Point Raceway in 1973, I put my energies into surfing. As such, my vehicles reflected that. In 1991, on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, my lovely wife got me a 1951 Ford Country Squire woody wagon and I had my first classic American car. But my fondness for British cars never diminished. Thirteen years later I came home with a 1979 MGB, much the same as my dad had done 30-plus years earlier.

My tale of two cultures goes to my love of anything British, harking back to that infamous February evening in 1964 when four "mop tops" from Liverpool invaded the Colonies and my life was changed forever. I took up the guitar and rattled about in several South Bay bands (The Union Jacks, Rough Edge, Plymouth Rock, the Other Side, etc.) throughout the mid-to-late '60s. But something about a miniature British vehicle made me feel somewhat akin to James Bond and (hush) a fifth Beatle!

Alas, my other hobby of surfing was in stark opposition to anything small. It, too, started in 1964 with my older brother Cy taking me out to Inside Pleasure Point in Santa Cruz. A surfboard was measuring in at more than nine feet in length and the lifestyle of going on safari seeking the

perfect wave needed something to keep the board in, as well as a place to sleep. As I got older and graduated from college, work commitments also dictated my vehicle choices.

My wife got me thinking outside the box when she surprised me with the Woody. I loved driving the TR4 during my SCCA racing days, but felt I needed something that wouldn't wrap me around a telephone pole if a Beatles song came on the radio. After much searching and an inordinate amount of test drives, British car nirvana came in the shape of a British racing green '79 MGB. My wife was in London doing training for a group of students she would be taking to Europe the following summer, so the MGB found a nice place in the garage next to the Woody.

My wife returned and four days later, opened the door into the garage, and inquired about little sports car in our garage. I tried the line I had used in acquiring a mass of surfboards (close to 100 now) "Uh, babe, you know I told you about that. I got that right before you left for London. Don't you remember?" It took two solid months of painstaking apologies, bringing her the morning paper with a cup of coffee on a daily basis, and cleaning up the recycled dog food in the backyard.

Finally, after an afternoon zipping about the back roads around Moss Landing, she gave me a smile and said she liked HER car. While she can't drive a stick, she is one of the best navigators in the Western Hemisphere. And I'm actually starting to get into the habit of bringing her the morning paper and a cup of coffee every morning now. I do my dawn patrols in the Woody when I go surfing and then do an afternoon jaunt around the hills behind Santa Cruz in a Walter Mitty-esque version of Stirling Moss charging at Monaco. I have the best of both worlds – which truly is "California Dreamin'!"

#### **Member Jim Lucas' Article in the San Francisco Chronicle:**

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/02/03/MT5IUFMHT.DTL>



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# Second Twice For Midget at SCCA Runoffs

**By Dan Shockey**

Brian Linn is the first racer to enter a single race car in two classes at the Sports Car Club of America's annual National Championship Runoffs and finish second both times. Both drives were outstanding efforts against defending National Champions. Brian brought a well-prepared 1972 MG Midget with different displacement engines for two classes, and finished second in both to current Runoffs champions - Jesse Prather in F Production (FP) and Tom Feller in H Production (HP).

"Both races were tough," said Linn, of Hermosa Beach, California. "My car in F Production trim with a 1275cc. engine had better handling than the competition but was down on power compared to the 1600cc Miata of Prather. In H Production with a 1098cc. engine, it had seemed slightly more powerful than the competition but the handling wasn't quite there. The schedule of races worked, too, so that my H Production race was on Friday and my F Production race was Sunday. That gave us time to make sure every nut was tightened after the engine swap, instead of just hoping we remembered all of them like we have to do during the regular season."

After starting from the pole in FP, Jesse Prather traded the lead numerous times with Brian Linn's Midget before pulling away at the finish.

Starting from pole in a Triumph Spitfire, Tom Feller was in a good position to capture his fourth-consecutive HP title, but Brian Linn's MG Midget gave Feller the battle of a lifetime. As a light sprinkle fell on Heartland Park Topeka, the pair exchanged the lead with every lap. The moment of truth arrived on the final lap when Feller looked to the inside of Linn entering Turn Ten. One driver sped to the finish to become the HP National Champion, the other did some creative landscaping in the grass.

Linn's father, Jim Linn, started racing a Bugeye Sprite in the late 60's. After trips to the Runoffs in '79 and '80, Brian began dreaming of winning his own championship. His first racing experience came in 1985 when his mother bought him entry in an SCCA Drivers School as a high school graduation present.

MGs are still raced regularly in top-flight SCCA competition. Midgets (and Sprites) are the most competitive in their classes, though MGBs compete for race wins as well. Kent Prather's 9-time national champion MGA started third this year in class FP (behind his son and Linn's Midget) but didn't get the breaks and settled for 9th. Three MGBs started in class EP. In class HP, 15 of the 26 starters were in Midgets and Sprites.



Photo by Jan Bonveulter

Brian Linn's MG Midget leads Feller's Spitfire during the HP race at the SCCA

# MGOC Business Meeting

## Minutes, February 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Gearhart at 9:13 am. Also attending were Tom Balutis, Ken Gittings, Bill Hiland, Mike Jacobsen, Jeremy Palgon, George Steneberg, Bob Stine, Bob Trencheny, David Wright.

The December minutes were approved as printed in *The Octagon*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Annual Dinner cost and receipts (see Past Events). MG2007 account closed and balance transferred to the MGOC checking account (mainly to avoid service charges), though there are still a few outstanding expenses and receipts due for MG2007. Mike was asked to prepare a report of changes in commercial advertising income between this year and last year.

**Registrar's Report:** New and renewal memberships are still being received. There was a problem creating the February mailing labels for *The Octagon* – there is a problem creating the mailing labels from Word, but Tom plans on converting the membership lists to Excel to resolve the problem.

**Secretary's Report:** Absent.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** The NAMGBR chapter renewal form was received, and George will fill it out and return it. Also received was a SCCA Rallye Group notice of an event in April. The rallyemaster was known to some of those present who expected the rallye to be a good one. Bob Stine brought in a tool list from John's Cuda Shop in Myrtle Beach, SC, and listed some specialty Lucas tools for removing switches. There was also a flier for the Palo Alto Concours on Sunday, June 22.

**Regalia Report:** David reported that there were some sales during the Annual Dinner. Bill Hiland offered to stock some MGOC regalia in the store/shop area of his business. David will prepare a sample package for display at Bill's once Bill is set up.

**The Octagon:** Not all of our commercial advertisers renewed this year. Mark Hertz is new Midget advisor. There is an HMSA event in March looking for participation – details are in the February *Octagon*. Printing costs now includes folding and center stapling, for approximately \$140 per issue, an increase of \$45. A motion made and passed for Jeremy to look into electronically sending exchange newsletter for other clubs.

**Web site:** February *Octagon* has been posted, and a Web site clean-up is in progress, with Robby and Jeremy working on it.

### **Past Club Events**

**Holiday Dinner at The Van's:** After reviewing the bill, Bob Stine believes we were overcharged by approximately \$75. Bob will talk to Loring at The Van's about a refund. After member payments, the Dinner cost the club \$733.80, for a subsidy of \$19.83 per person.

**Planning Meeting:** Held at Bob Trencheny's house, and the 2008 event calendar was created. The February *Octagon* shows events through June.

### **Upcoming Club Events**

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Sorry Safari is going, but we will not organize a group this year.

**MGs by the Bay:** The event permit with the city of San Leandro is to be procured by Randy, and Sam will remind him. We need to get Dan Shockey's version of the event "Cookbook" and Mike will update it. Cardboard for underneath cars is still at Sam's, and since we have a surplus we may sell some to the GoF at our most recent cost.

Poster art is needed for an 11x17 sheet. Mike will be Registrar, create the registration form, and send out the club exchange notices. We need the most recent sponsor list from Dan Shockey to send out the sponsor “begging” letter. Jeremy will work on poster art by selecting some photos that could be used as the basis. Jeremy also knows a T-shirt supplier.

Historic MG Races at Laguna Seca: March 13-16, 2008. Travel arrangements are by individual. For those going, we’ll meet at Bill Hiland’s shop on Saturday, March 15 at 9 am. Bill offered to have coffee and donuts at the shop.

GoF West: July 6-10, 2008 – Monterey, CA – The car show portion of the event will allow ’55 and on MGs. We could sell them some cardboard for their show, which is on Monday, July 7. Stuart Locke is looking for help with the show. Mike will contact him about using the MGOC balloting system.

Club Activities: From 1/26/08 Meeting – Daffodil Hill event in Jackson area is vague, but SSTS is arranging it. We’ll list their contact info in *The Octagon*. Marty Ray is running the tech session on February 23. Randy is doing the Cecil Kimber run.

### **Old Business**

Club Officer’s Insurance: Motion made and unanimously passed to buy Club Officer’s insurance – Mike will contact NAMGBR to follow up.

### **New Business**

Publicize MGOC Financial Reports or Not: After a discussion of plusses and minuses of posting the results monthly in *The Octagon*, a motion to publish failed. A new motion was made to have the following notice in the newsletter “Information on the MGOC finances is available upon request from the Treasurer.” This motion passed.

Reimbursing Preston’s Annual Dinner Costs: as a result of 1/4/08 storm – A motion was made to reimburse the Prestons for their Annual Dinner tickets due to the circumstances that caused them to miss the dinner. The motion passed. Mike will send the Preston’s a check.

Nomination of Non-elected Officers (Article XII): Candidates – Bob Trencheny and David Wright were nominated as At-Large Board members. Approved by all the Board members present.

MGOC Club Business/Membership Cards: The cards need updating for Tom, the new Registrar. Sam proposed removing the current registrar contact information and replacing it with the MGOC Web site URL and an email address. It was decided to use up the existing cards before ordering new ones.

### **Miscellaneous Discussion Items**

Artwork from Dan Shockey/Nancy Shane: We’re still waiting for files from Dan.

Copyright issues in *The Octagon*: We’ll use links instead of reprinting articles that are or may be copyrighted.

Bob Trencheny: Volunteered as Activities Director – Replacing Dan Shockey.

Board Efforts to Increase Member Participation and Event Attendance: Please consider this issue, and we will discuss this at a future meeting. Another opinion voiced was that we can just say that as long as the people that show up have a good time, all is well.

MG Midget Advisor: Mark Hertz accepted this position.

Historian Role: David Wright will collect the historical materials from John Hunt and deliver them to George. Mike and George will sort through the materials. George will act as Historian.

**Next Meeting and Natter:** 7 pm on March 13, 2008 at The Englander.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Submitted by Mike Jacobsen.



## 2008 Car Club Registration Form

MAZDA RACEWAY  
LAGUNA SECA

MARCH 15 – 16, 2008

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Car information:

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Special features:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline to submit this form is March 3, 2008**

The HMSA and the MG Vintage Racers invite you to participate in the MG only Car Club display.

Please fill out the above form completely by **March 3, 2008** to order tickets/parking passes. The entry fee is \$40 per car in advance. This includes admission to the MG Reunion, a car corral pass, a dash plaque, and a parade lap each day. **The entry fee is per car ONLY – there is no charge for extra guests riding in your car.**

Please make checks payable to **HMSA** and mail with the registration form to:

**HMSA**

**2029 Verdugo Blvd., #1010**

**Montrose, CA 91020**

Your entry ticket and parking pass will be mailed to you.



## GoF West 2008 Registration Form Monterey Bay, California July 6 - 10, 2008

Registration Fee:  
\$45 US before April 1, 2008  
\$55 US after April 1, 2008

In-Spirit: \$25

Cancellations after April 1 will revert to In-Spirit  
registration, with the balance refunded.

Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Co-Driver's Name:	<input type="text"/>
Street Address:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>
State:	<input type="text"/>
Postal (Zip) Code:	<input type="text"/>
Country:	<input type="text"/>
Vehicle Type & Year:	<input type="text"/>
License No.:	<input type="text"/>
State/province:	<input type="text"/>
Color:	<input type="text"/>
Club affiliation:	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone No.:	<input type="text"/>
Is this your first GoF West?:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Names of children Under 12 that will be here:	<input type="text"/>
Method of Payment:	Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>
Credit Card Type:	Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card <input type="checkbox"/>
Name on Card:	<input type="text"/>
Card Number:	<input type="text"/>
Expiration Date:	<input type="text"/>

**Send form to:**  
**Mike Campbell**  
**3570 Willow Street**  
**Bonita, CA 91902**

### Hotel Information

Hyatt Regency Monterey  
1 Old Golf Course Road  
Monterey, CA 93940  
1-831-372-1234  
Standard room: \$159.00

You may also register online at:

<http://www.gofwest.com/GoFRegistration.htm>



# 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 [alistaircookie@gmail.com](mailto:alistaircookie@gmail.com).

## Cars:

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

**1952 MG TD MARK II** – \$18,000 – Frame off restoration in 1982. 9.5 on a scale of 10. Runs well with just over 6,000 miles since restoration. Ivory with green leather upholstery. MARK II refers to a limited number of TDs with the engine that eventually went into the TF (larger carburetors, dual fuel pumps, and a little more horsepower). Comes with all sorts of tools, cover, floor jack, stands, filters, spark plugs, etc. Contact Member Peter Applegate at (415)383-0700 (Marin Co.)

## Parts:

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

**For Sale: Four 14 inch MGB Wire Wheels.** Contact Member Tom Morgan at (650)588-4960.

**For Sale: Aftermarket MGB Hardtop.** Flashy. Keep warm and dry! Member Eric Baker, Oakland, (510)531-7032.

**For Sale: MGB/GT 5/8" Dia. Sway Bar.** Member Ken (510)791-8445.

**For Sale: Five Steel Wheels** from 1976 MGB roadster, 4 with trim rings, \$40 OBO for all five. **SU Carbs** - AUD326F and AUD326R plus manifold and heat shield for MGB, \$60 OBO. Pair of early **MGB Rear Axle Shafts** with splined hubs for wire wheels, \$100. **Map Pocket** with tan carpet, free. **Black Tonneau Cover** for pre-headrest MGB, some small repaired or repairable tears, good serviceable condition, \$50. **Two Sony XR-C300 Stereo Cassette Decks** with removable faces in lightly used condition with remote CD controls built-in (remote changers not included), \$40 each. **FIAT 850 Spider Hard-Top**, excellent condition, \$250. Used front and rear **MGB Chrome Bumpers**, \$10 each. Must pick up large parts in SF. Contact Member Tom at (415)203-9160 or [thomasknapp@att.net](mailto:thomasknapp@att.net).

**For Sale:** Black leather after market **Steering Wheel** (with hub) for your '62-67 MGB/C. "Mountney GT" 14" with polished center spokes. Great condition. Victoria British part no. 15-580. Cost \$250. Sell for \$100 or decent offer. Contact Member Wayne Veatch at (415)297-1807 or [veatchlaw@mindspring.com](mailto:veatchlaw@mindspring.com).

**For Sale:** Pair of **1963 Black and Yellow License Plates**, beautiful condition. **Four Wire Wheels** off an MGA. Please contact Member Viggo at (650)341-9064.

**Free: 1979 MGB Non-Overdrive Gearbox.** It works perfectly. We replaced it with an overdrive unit. **1966 Sprite/Midget 1098cc "A" Series Engine** with large mains. Complete with flywheel, distributor, clutch, etc. This engine was replaced by a 1275cc engine in my '66 Sprite. It may have a cracked block because it was overheating for the previous owner. This engine has many good parts: head, crank, cam, rods, flywheel, etc. Please contact Member Rod Schweiger at (650)296-1108 or [rodnut@rcn.com](mailto:rodnut@rcn.com).

# Club Meeting Natter & Noggin

**March 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)**

**New Time: 7 pm**

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrot 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. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then right on Parrott Street.



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