

MGOC Octagon
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THE OCTAGON

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



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"... join the club ..." Sam Gearhart 1954-2012

September 2012

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 2012

President: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, j2george@pacbell.net

Vice President: Tim Polidoroff, 650-342-6443, polidoroff@comcast.net

Treasurer: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Member-at-Large: Craig Kuenzinger, 925-899-1218, mrcraig@aol.com

Member-at-Large: David Wright, 510-653-3831

Other MGOC Officers for 2012:

Commercial Advertising: Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary: George Steneberg, j2george@pacbell.net

Historian: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, j2george@pacbell.net

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T Register Director: Jim Carlson, 408-224-3992, mjjim@comcast.net

The Octagon Editor: Felix Lee, 650-947-9282, octagoneditor@mgocsf.org

Webmaster: Steve Kellogg, webmaster@mgocsf.org

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, mrcraig@aol.com

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. Carburetors: Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, martyray@cruzio.com

COVER PHOTO: Sam W. Gearhart III and his 1974 1/2 MGB, photo by Andy Preston

OTHER PHOTOS: Photos throughout this issue are from a variety of submissions with credits going out to Cathy Gearhart, Ken Gittings, Mike Jacobsen, Felix Lee, Jeremy Palgon, Andy Preston, Bob Stine, Sam Gearhart and prior *Octagon* issues.

Club Meeting Natter & Noggin September 13, 7 p.m.

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.

Dinner Starts at 6 pm

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.



Repair • Restoration • Parts

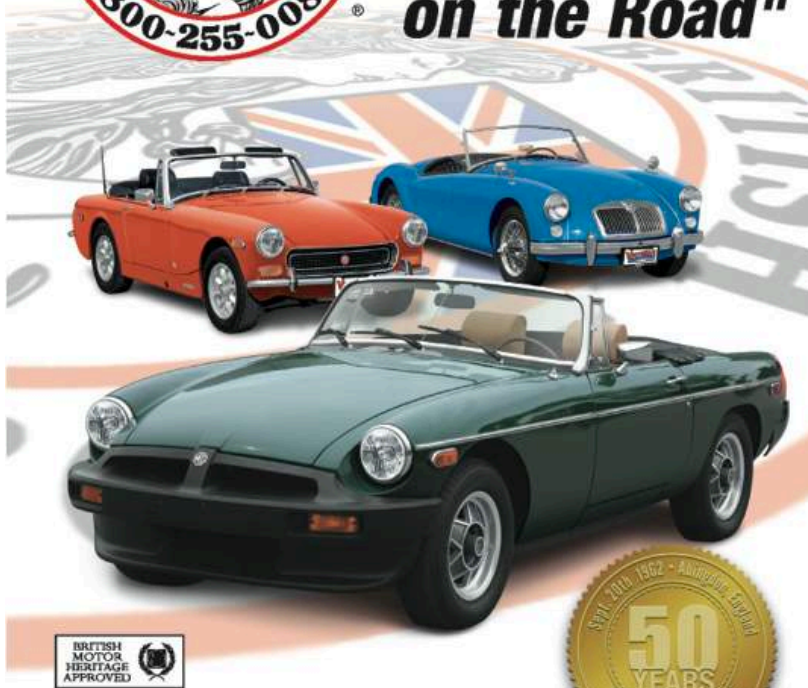
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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or MikesMuseum@yahoo.com. 2012 rates are presented: 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 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to octagoneditor@mgocsf.org or send them to: Felix Lee, 27330 Ursula Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022.

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.SF.ORG

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

Forthcoming Events

MGOC Events in Boldface

- September 8 – **Studebaker and MG Meet**, Petaluma - Sonoma, Wayne Veatch
- September 15-16 – Danville Concours d' Elegance, Danville, CA
- September 22 – **Autumn West Marin Bodega Bay Tour**, Bodega Bay, CA, Bud Alderson and Marty Ray
- September 29 – Jimmy's Old Car Picnic, San Francisco, CA
- October 6 – **Travis Air Force Base Museum Tour**, Travis Air Force Base, CA, Bob Shaheen
- October 20-21 – **British Fall Classic**, Morgan Hill, CA, Bill Hiland
- October 13 – **Memorial Gathering for Sam Gearhart**, 1-4 p.m., 115 Pinehurst Way, San Francisco, CA 94127, Please RSVP with **Mike Jacobsen** mikesmuseum@yahoo.com.
- October 20-21 – **British Fall Classic**, Morgan Hill, CA, Bill Hiland
- November 10 – **South Bay Tour of the Canepa MotorSports Museum**, Scotts Valley, CA, Tim Polidoroff

From the Editor...

"... join the club ..." Sam Gearhart, 1954-2012

I first met Sam at the June 7, 2008, Sonoma Wine Tour. It was our first MGOC event and both Kimberly and I were anxious to take our "new" 1955 TF 1500 out for its first Rallye. We found MGOC on the internet and planned for weeks to have the car trucked across the country, locally serviced, and ready to roll. We had gotten sitters for our kids and gave ourselves two hours to arrive early, and meet everyone at the Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park. However, we didn't factor in a top speed of 57 miles per hour or stalling in the center lane of Park Presidio Boulevard on the way up to the Golden Gate Bridge. We tried starting the car several times with no luck and finally called SFPD for roadside assistance. By now, it was already 9:00 a.m. and thoughts of meeting up with the group by 9:30 a.m., still 50 miles away, were looking pretty dim.

Not knowing much about cars or how to repair them made breaking down by the side of the road one of my foremost biggest fears. And so here we are, first drive, first Rallye, first MGOC event and we are stalled in the middle of the road. Needless, to say, I'm feeling pretty helpless and at this point Kimberly is probably asking herself "So why did we get a classic car?"

We waited inside the car while others perilously detoured around us. After 20 minutes, I gave the ignition one last pull and for reasons totally unclear to me, it came back to life. We drove it a block further, pulled off the road and I checked the only thing I knew how to check ... whew, indeed, the tank of gas was still full. At this point, the temptation to just turn around and avoid the shame and embarrassment of breaking down and not have the slightest clue of what went wrong was pretty strong. After all, I did not want this to be the first impression I would make to a knowledgeable car club and its membership. As it turns out, no one knew we were coming and so no one would be the wiser. However, the car started just fine on the next three attempts and besides, the sitter's day was already paid for. With credit cards in hand, (no AAA yet) we "threw caution to the wind" and headed onward north.

When we arrived at the hotel, no one was there. The valet said that everyone in cars like ours, had already gone, but handed us a tour map that was left behind. We raced off to V Marketplace in Yountville, but no one was there. We took off over Crane Canyon through Glen Ellen and then over Trinity Road and still saw no one. We meandered onto Silverado Trail through Stags Leap, not a

MG

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SHOCK LINK (New or Rebuilt)	\$call	
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MGB, Midget caliper	\$85.00	
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OCT08



Travis Air Force Base Museum Tour

TRAVIS AIR MUSEUM

Building 80, 461 Burgan Blvd, Travis AFB, CA 94535
707-424-5605



Organizer: Bob Shaheen

When/Where: Saturday, October 6, 2012

We have arranged for a tour of the Jimmy Doolittle Air Museum at Travis AFB for members of both SSTS and MGOC. Access to the base is strictly limited these days, so if you think you might be even remotely interested in joining us, please sign up ASAP, by the first week of September at the very latest. The base needs us to provide the full name, with middle initial and Date-of-Birth, of each person who will be coming on the base. If you have a valid military ID card, please note that as we will be on a separate list. If you sign up and do not attend, that is not a problem; if you do not sign up ahead of time you will not be allowed on the base, so

Tours: Exhibits are self-explanatory. Guided tours are available by reservation for groups of 10 or more. Ideal group size is 10-30 because of space restrictions among exhibits. Tours are designed for ages 12 and older. For tours for children under age 12, call the museum for availability. All children must be accompanied by adults. Allow 45 minutes for a tour.

Directions: Interstate 80 to Airbase Parkway exit in Fairfield. Follow Airbase Parkway east to the main gate of Travis AFB where it ends.

Indoor Exhibits: Piper L-4 "Grasshopper," BT-13 "Valiant," Stinson L-5 "Sentinel," PT-19, AT-17 "Bobcat," "Hound Dog" missile (under restoration), target drone, ultra-light aircraft, Link trainer, B-29 restoration, Tuskegee Airmen, WW II jeep, principles of flight, WW I overview, military aviation between the wars, AF uniforms, WW II WACO glider (nose section), 15th AF in WW II, Jimmy Doolittle, ball turret, Consairways, WW II aircraft recognition models, CBI, Berlin Airlift, heritage photographs, medal of honor, nose art, humanitarian airlift, history of Travis, "Fat Man" atomic bomb, aircraft engines, the crash of General Travis in 1950, T-28, T-37, and F-100 cockpits, Travis during the Korean War and Vietnam War, Space program.

Outdoor Exhibits:

Bombers Fighters Transports
A-26K "Counter Invader" F-4C "Phantom II" C-45 "Expediter"
B-29 "Superfortress" F-84F "Thunderstreak" C-54 "Skymaster"
B-52 F-86L "Sabre" C-56 "Lodestar"
F-101B "Voodoo" C-118 "Liftmaster"
Observation F-102A "Delta Dagger" C-119 "Flying Boxcar"
O-2A "Skymaster" F-104A "Starfighter" C-124 "Globemaster II"
U-3A "Blue Canoe" F-105D "Thunderchief" C-131 "Samaritan"
LC-126 C-140 "Jetstar"
Trainers C-7 "Caribou"
Helicopters T-39A "Sabreliner" C-123 "Provider"
H-21B "Work Horse" AT-11 "Kansan" C-141B "Starlifter"
H-34 "Choctaw"
HH-16 "Albatross"

To Join Us: RSVP by email to Bob Shaheen at blklab007@comcast.net or call at 925-831-9757.



Autumn West Marin Bodega Bay Tour



When/Where: Late September is perfect for top-down rides through West Marin. Our trip will leave Mill Valley at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 22nd, and meander West over a scenic route: a dash up to the East Peak of Mt. Tamalpais, backtracking on Ridgecrest Blvd. down past Alpine Lake, and following the curvy Bolinas-Fairfax Rd. to Hwy. 1 N. (near Dogtown), then head North to Bodega Bay. This is a joint MGOC/SSTS organized trip, lead by Marin MGers Bud Alderson and Marty Ray.

The Trip: Autumn places our trip outside the normal West Marin fog-days-of-Summer period, so it can be a sparkling MG drive – even if there is some late morning overcast. As we go up Mt. Tamalpais, the view from the peak sometimes looks out above clouds, a special view. Lunch will be around 1:30 at The Tides restaurant in Bodega Bay, and we plan a brief stop at the Marshall Store (for beautiful views of Tomales Bay and across to the Inverness Ridge), and a longer rest stop in historic old Tomales at the Tomales Bakery. It is best to come with a full tank of gas, although there is gas at one place in Pt. Reyes Station. Remember too that cell phone coverage is spotty along the coast. To show West Marin's character, the route gets off some of the more traveled roads for the twisty driving that our little cars love. There are several great routes back from Bodega Bay to choose from, and fellow lunch mates can offer lots of advice. The Tides, a large eatery, features good local seafood dishes and a range of other selections (but no bangers and mash). Sorry Safari is also sponsoring a Gold Country trip this same weekend, so for those who cannot do that trip, this is perfect.

Directions: Meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of Starbuck's, 45 Camino Alto, Mill Valley (415-388-1811). From Hwy 101, take the East Blithedale exit and go a few lights toward Mill Valley to Camino Alto (gas station on the corner); turn left at the light and go to a shopping plaza with Safeway, then turn right into a large parking area: Starbucks is nearby the Safeway, sharing the same parking.

To Join Us: RSVP by email to Bud at www.iralderon@comcast.net or call 415-497-7669, or to Marty at www.drmartyrayman@gmail.com or 415-454-5756.



soul. Embarrassment aside, heck, by now we were on a mission, we were going to meet some MGOC'ers if it was the last thing we did. We called the organizer, Marla Preston, on her cell phone and the conversation began, "... you don't know us, but we are trying to catch up to you ... please slow down ..." We finally caught up to the group at their final stop, the Viansa Winery, as they were starting a wine tasting. We paid our \$10 and settled in for lunch. Just then, President Sam enthusiastically came up to me, introduced himself and after hearing my tale of shame, cheerfully stretched out his hand and shouted "... join the club ...", heck we've already had two others break down also!" At that point, I immediately felt a sense of calm, strangely secure in the knowledge that by breaking down, I had "joined Sam's club," and it was "OK." This was Sam's legacy, no matter what was going on, Sam always made us feel, "OK."

And so, this is the editorial you never want to write. Somehow, writing it is an admission that Sam Gearhart is really gone. But we all know, Sam went out the way he lived ... surrounded by the people and the cars that he loved.



Safety Fast Sam!

Felix Lee
- wishes Sam eternal rest



President's Ponderings...

I want to thank Andy and Marla for a lovely drive through the Marin and Sonoma countryside on the Saw Mill tour and then onward to the Union Hotel in Occidental for lunch.

Please plan ahead for our upcoming MGOC Rallyes (more details to follow)

September 8: Studebaker Meet with Wayne Veatch

September 22: Bodega Bay Tour with Bud Alderson and Marty Rayman (combined with SSTS)

- tour through Mill Valley - East Peak of Mt. Tamalpais (from above the clouds) - Historic Tomales - Alpine Lake - Bodega Bay

October 6: Travis Air Force Base and Museum Tour

October 20-21: British Fall Classic with Bill Hiland

Happy Driving!

George Steneberg



Remembering Sam

The first time I met Sam was at a meeting for MG 2007, where he became very active helping to make MG 2007 a very successful event. He went on to become President of MGOC in 2008 though 2011, and in my opinion became the best President this club has ever had. I and every member who ever knew Sam will miss him very much.

~ George Steneberg



A favorite memory about Sam was attending the planning meetings for the MG Fall Festival 2011, which were always held at his house. Even though I had to drive one hour to get there. I didn't mind because the meetings were always fun. Sam was the perfect host. He knew that I like my coffee weak so he always made two pots of coffee; one was marked strong and the other "Andy's coffee".

There was always a box of fresh donuts and a couple of jelly filled donuts for me because Sam knew I had an affinity for them. Sam was the perfect host and chair.

He will be sadly missed. I really liked Sam ... he was one of the good guys.

~ Andy Preston



I joined the MGOC in 2003 and first met Sam in 2005 shortly after he joined our club. That year I was in charge of organizing "MGs by the Bay" at the San Leandro Marina, and Sam jumped in, head first, to make sure the event went smoothly. I was impressed with his attention to detail. Sam worked his tail off and continued to work diligently for the club.

As our club president, he was always trying to go the "extra mile" and was always encouraging the growth of our membership and getting current members to actively participate in our events. He was simply dedicated to running the club with a passion for constantly improving it. As crusty as he could sometimes appear, he was warm hearted and sensitive, especially during the holidays when he dressed up as Santa Claus.

This year, after I had my hip replacement surgery, one of the first get well cards I got was from Sam, and here he was in the middle of his battle with cancer. He was a class act, and we'll miss him and his leadership.

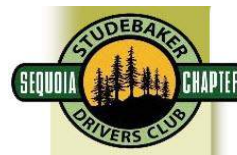
~ Randy Grossman



Sam was a wonderful guy in a number of ways. Besides being a gentleman with a heart of gold, I am not sure where to start? I remember one of the Sears Point track days he put together and from beginning to end, it was a blast.

The planning and attention to detail made so many events special and memorable for all us. Everything he did was always first rate.

~ John Hunt



A Studebaker and MG Tour: "Wine and Cheesecake" The Sequoia Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club, the Sorry Safari Touring Society and the MG Owners Club Saturday, September 8, 2012

Wayne Veatch, a member of the Sorry Safari Touring Society, MG Owners Club and the SDC, and John Brayton, of the SDC, invite you to this unlikely gathering and drive involving two very different kinds of cars: A Wine Country Tour from San Rafael through Petaluma to the Matanzas Creek Winery in the Bennett Valley to the Studebaker Cheesecake factory on W. Napa St. in Sonoma, all by scenic back roads.

For the Studebaker Drivers Club, this event is a celebration of the SDC's annual Drive Your Studebaker Day and an opportunity to meet and enjoy a bunch of little British cars and their owners. For the MG folks, this event is another excuse to get out into the Wine Country, drive their fun cars on a different route and meet new old car fans. For all, it's an opportunity to celebrate Drive Your Studebaker Day with some nice wine, scenic views and some genuine Studebaker Cheesecake.



A Studebaker



The Winery



An MG

We will meet in the Northgate Shopping Center in front of the Bagel Street Cafe (take Freitas Parkway off of 101 just north of San Rafael, west, towards Terra Linda) by 9:00 for a leg stretch, bagel, coffee or whatever needs, depart at 9:30 AM past George Lucas' Ranch, thence through a route TBA to the winery, for a private tasting (\$5 for regular, \$10 for high octane, refundable with minimum purchase) and enjoyment of the environs, then down the hill to Sonoma. Kevin Fay (Mr. Studebaker Cheesecake) and we will put together a BBQ + cheesecake lunch, whilst the tourists and natives ogle our fine vehicles.

So that we can advise the winery and plan the lunch (cost TBD), please let Wayne know ASAP, by Sept 1, at the latest, if you are coming and the number in your party. Call him at home on 415-821-1806 or send an email to veatchlaw@gmail.com. His cell phone on the day of the drive is 415-297-1807.

'64/'65 MGB Roadster Project Car. Up on blocks for 8 years and in DNO status. It doesn't look bad, but does have issues. Other photos are available and we welcome inquiries. In Livermore, CA Contact Wes Nelson at 925-447-4393 or WESNEL@ATT.NET.



ENCLOSED TRAILER FOR RENT:

Enclosed car trailer for rent (16' x 8'). Trailer has integrated braking system and lights with the tow vehicle, and a 12 volt 2,000 lb. Electric Winch. Electrical outlets in and outside the trailer and air conditioning. Rental rates are very reasonable with a discount for rentals of three or more days. Contact either Randy Grossman (415-518-5210) or Eric Baker (510-517-2165) for more information.



PARTS FOR SALE:

MGB Parts: Autopower Roll Bar. SCCA Race Approved, 1.75" DOM. Roll bar has diagonal brace, horizontal seat back brace, and small restraint bar behind driver's seat. Asking \$150.

Two Chrome Luggage Racks, trunk lid mounted. \$50 each. Contact Member David Wright at 510-653-3831.

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.

Weber Downdraft Carburetor: Fits MGBs, asking \$150, Contact member Tom Doyle at 520-220-6228 or at widoyle@cox.net.

MGB Retro Sound Radio. Model One Radio with USB SD MP3 playback. Includes Remote Control. Everything included except original box. Only three months old. Sells new for \$259 at Moss. Asking \$180 or best offer. Contact Myles Taketa @ m_taketa@yahoo.com or 408-221-1702.



WANTED:

Electrical Help: I am new to the world of MG, and am in the process of improving a 1959 MGA Roadster. I have replaced the wiring harness and need the expertise of someone with electrical know how to help me make sure I do not burn anything up when I put a battery to it. I will pay for their time and knowledge. Can you help me? I live in Walnut Creek. Contact Harry at 925-934-4973 or TipTot@astound.net.

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.

MG TF Part: One rear spring for a MG TF, original type preferred. Contact Member Andy at 707-795-3480 or andypreston@sbcglobal.net.

4-5 Chrome Spoke Wheels for MGB (14"-15" in good shape) / 1976 MGB Dashboard: Contact Member Tom Doyle at 520-220-6228 or at widoyle@cox.net.



During the planning for 2011 Sept/Oct MG Fall gathering in Petaluma, Sam was careful to begin planning early in January and insisted the committee meet once a month. I was impressed at how detailed and organized he was. It was a tradition to have donuts at these meetings. Andy Preston preferred jelly donuts and it was a standing comment at each meeting to discuss the type that Sam had bought specially for him. I came to learn that Sam always remembered something unique about the people with whom he worked, a trait I truly admired!
~ Kim Kuenzinger

One of our favorite memories of Sam was a tour we did with just the four of us, Sam, Carol, Andy and me, prior to the 2011 Fall Festival. Sam wanted to check out some local cheese factories in Sonoma for possible tour venues and donations. Even though Sam was undergoing treatment, he was happy and smiling. We all had a great day cruising around the Sonoma County backroads, sampling cheese, and stopping for lunch at the Lagunitas Brewing Company.
~ Marla Preston



When I decided not to run for president of the MGOC any more, I issued a challenge for someone else to step up to the challenge of the office. Sam not only stepped up to the plate; he poured his soul into the position. He was indefatigable working for the club.
He did an amazing job, organizing the NAMGBR convention in Rohnert Park and accepted every challenge presented to him until he finally became too sick to carry on. He will be sorely missed by the club members, his family and his many friends.
~ Bob Stine

I'm very sorry to hear about Sam's passing. He was a tireless club leader and a good friend.
~ Jeremy Palgon





Sam will always be an honest and giving man with nothing to hide and everything to offer. Common sense and thoughtfulness were second nature. He would always stop by when he was in the area just to say hi and get/give a hug.

When we first started working with Sam and MGOC in 2008, Sam's son was in Afghanistan. We asked what they needed and Sam gave us a list of do's and don'ts. We put together a care package for the unit. He would give us regular reports on their efforts. It was a sad day when we learned he'd been injured, but he would be okay and you could see the relief.

Sam worked so hard for the MGOC and would get so frustrated at the same time. He wanted to please so many people. I was so glad to see him release much of that and take on his own battle with gusto and determination. It seemed he was winning but still having those days that kicked him hard. He wasn't giving up easily, he never would. He fought a difficult and lonely battle and we will fiercely miss his smile and his hug. Go in Peace and love Sam

With love and friendship

Robert's Awards

Cheryl Gray, John Grow, Charlotte and Bob Sherod

Sam loved being a member of the MGOC and going on drives early in the morning when it was freezing cold; bought the seat warmer for me because I was never as well able to adjust to the cold of those early mornings.

He had a great sense of accomplishment when a car show he had helped organize was a success.

~ Carol Stair



Vicky and I really liked Sam a lot especially how welcome he made us feel when we entered into the MG world back in December, 2009. We will miss him greatly.

~ Steve and Vicky Kellogg

"I'll never forget the hours we spent conceptualizing, preparing, debating, arguing, and delivering MG 2006. Most of the meetings were held on Saturdays in Sam's home in Oakland.

Sam greeted us every morning with donuts and coffee. Of course, he was already up at least 5 hours before we arrived at 8:00. Sam was neat as a pin, nothing was ever out of place in his house. It must have been a traumatic experience for him to accommodate all of us as we literally took over his living room.

The funniest part was his neighbors cautiously looking in to the home of this mild mannered man, while we performed our antics with all the grace and reserve of your average motorcycle gang.

~ Tom Balutis



We did not know Sam very well – but what impressed us was how he went out of his way to include us so we didn't feel left out and how he talked to us as a "old" friend.

~ Bob and Sue Luebbert

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 octagoneditor@mgocsf.org.

Cars for Sale:

1976 MGB with over drive needs a new home. No time to care for properly. This was former member Gary Lukey's car. Maintained by Baroo in Albany. Not currently licensed. Top replaced in 2009, seats as well. Newer metal fuel pump. Asking \$2,000 or best offer. Transmission is worth \$1800. Need the space for my Jag. Photos available. Contact Lanny Clark at 510-410-7572 or lannyclark@aol.com.

1967 MGB with overdrive. Original owner, has all maintenance records, Bay Area car since new. 121K original miles and less than 2K miles since full mechanical rebuild. Excellent condition. Looking for owner that will continue to give it TLC. Asking \$15K OBO. Contact Stephen at 415-722-0556 or sdhom@sbcglobal.net.



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). Asking \$25,000. Contact Member Viggo Riddersholm at 650-341-9064 or vriddersholm@yahoo.com, or Gordon Craig at lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net.

1978 MGB Roadster. Maroon with beige interior. Vehicle has 43,000 original miles. 1800cc engine with Stromberg carburetor and 4-speed manual with electronic overdrive. Soft-top with two tonneaus. AM/FM/CD stereo with removable face, remote control and MP3 interface. Luggage rack, new tires, many extras. Currently registered in California. Asking \$10,500 (new pricing). Contact Member Tom Doyle at 520-220-6228 or at wtdoyle@cox.net.



Classic 1973 Jaguar XJ12 Series 1 Sedan. 5.3 V12 engine. All original! The only year of the chrome bumpered XJ12 model. 66,000 original miles. Silver with beautiful original black leather interior. Sunroof and Nardi wood steering wheel. Always a California car from new. No rust! Same owner for the last 35 years. Always garaged. Looks and drives great! \$8,900. Contact Member Ron Simi at 925-765-5807.

New Business

Update the list of officers in the Octagon – Tim Polidoroff was unable to attend but submitted this request:

"I recommend that we keep the current "two part" (Officer/Advisor) listing in the *Octagon* as is, i.e., I would not create a new section to differentiate between "elected vs. not-elected" Board members. I think this is just too much detail. I would however asterisk every name on the Officer List to make it clear which are also Board Member positions. And, I "motion" that we make our *Octagon* and Webmaster positions Board membership positions."

Mike will ask Felix to update the *Octagon* to show which positions that are elected versus appointed. Tim's motion to make the Webmaster and *Octagon* Editor positions officers was tabled for further discussion. Status of electronic Board voting – Tim also noted that it would be nice to have an agreed-upon process in place to quickly resolve issues between Board meetings, using electronic communication such as email. This was tabled for further discussion as it is likely to require a Bylaws change.

Passing of Sam Gearhart, Past President – The Board was grieved to hear of Sam's passing. Mike will contact Sam's family regarding any services to be held. An MGOC memorial gathering for members and friends is being considered and further details will be forthcoming.

Preliminary planning for the 20th annual MGs by the Bay, 2013 – The Board decided to go forward with planning this event for next year and will have further discussions at the next meeting.

Shall the MGOC host a regional event in 2013? – After discussion the Board decided that this event should be taken off the 2013 calendar.

John Twist Technical Session – The Club is investigating sponsoring a weekend tech session by John Twist of University Motors in Michigan. Details are still being worked out.

Next Meeting and Natter

7pm, Thursday, September 13, 2012 at The Englander Sports Pub, 100 Parrott St., San Leandro.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Submitted by Marcia Crawford



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My best memories of Sam Gearhart are all of the Sunday mornings we spent sitting around the table in his living room planning MG2007 and the MG Fall Festivals. Sam's place was centrally located for everyone so it just became the logical place to meet. For MG2007, Dan Shockey was in San Jose, Bob Stine was on the Peninsula, Mike Jacobsen was in SF, Andy Preston was up North, and I was in San Ramon. Randy Grossman and Ken Gittings were somewhat closer, but Sam's place was right in the middle of all of us. It was perfect.

Sam was an early riser and would run to the local donut shop for a dozen to feed us all. And if Andy Preston was attending, there had to be a jelly donut for him, and Sam made sure no one had Andy's jelly. I seem to recall the joke going so far that Mike Jacobsen took a leftover jelly from Sam one Sunday and mailed to Andy because he had missed the meeting. All in good fun and good for a laugh.

Sam was a great friend and a great asset to a great club, who will always be missed. Safety Fast my friend!

~ Bob and Beth Trencheny



Sam was always full of life and a fun guy to talk to at MG events; very friendly and always said hello. Even though I don't get to all the events, he knew me by name. I will miss seeing him at future meetings.

~ Jim and Patty Lucas

If there are MGs in heaven, Sam is already busy at organizing their Rallyes. Just imagine the views ... And no one would breakdown, car or driver, ever again ...

~ Felix, Kimberly, Samantha, Stephanie

We first met Sam Gearhart at the Annual Awards Banquet in 2011, as my wife Janet and I had just joined MGOC as associate members (no MG yet) in October 2010. Our first impression of Sam was "sincerely dedicated."

We "read" Sam as a true "people person," with a goal to be sure that all events ran smoothly and that everyone had an enjoyable time. He accomplished this by being very detail oriented to make sure that what was organized turned out "right" for all.

This proved true not only then, but at all of the other gatherings we attended in 2011: the Infielon meet, the Annual Picnic, and MG's By The Bay.

One small but important thing that really made an impression on me occurred at MG's by the bay. About the first thing I noticed when we arrived was that Sam saw to it that pieces of cardboard were being slipped under the front of each car.

Although I never asked Sam why, the thinking was clear to me: The Livery let us have our event at their center. Leaving "oil patches" for them to clean up is not the proper thing to do...it is not their job to clean up our mess. In fact, deeper thought may lead one to believe that we might not have a place to have an event in subsequent years if we did not leave it as we found it.

And then, at the end of the event when we asked Sam if we could help with cleanup, he said we could collect the cardboard pieces. He instructed us to save the ones that were still usable and he would take them back for future use, and put the others by the dumpster in the recycle bin. Again, he was always covering the bases.

Clear thinking, good planning, dedication to doing the right thing for everyone involved...that's Sam Gearhart. The club was blessed to be the recipient of his tireless work.

Sam, we are happy that you are at peace with God and not suffering from cancer any longer. We will truly miss you, your organizational skills, your attention to detail, and your sincere and giving spirit. Our condolences to your family for their loss.

~ Gary and Janet Germano

I really enjoyed getting to know him at the Fall Festival. He struck me as one of those individuals that you just instantly like.

~ Tom Dunham



Sam was Block Captain for his neighborhood, and every year he'd host a BBQ in the summer and a Christmas party in the winter for the neighbors, and on his own dime. He had a big box of Christmas-y plates, napkins, dishes, etc. that he gave to the Club this summer. Expect to see them out at this year's Holiday Tea.

Sam was always the one that would travel around to put up posters for MGs by the Bay, get donations from our regular sponsors, do the leg work to find event sites, arrange for awards to be made, and all of the myriad other details that it takes to hold an event, but that somehow don't always get assigned to anyone.
~ Mike Jacobsen and Elaine Chan

It was so much fun to be with you in the club. You really enjoyed the drives, especially the Airport to Africa drive we did in August of 2010 and were such a terrific President.

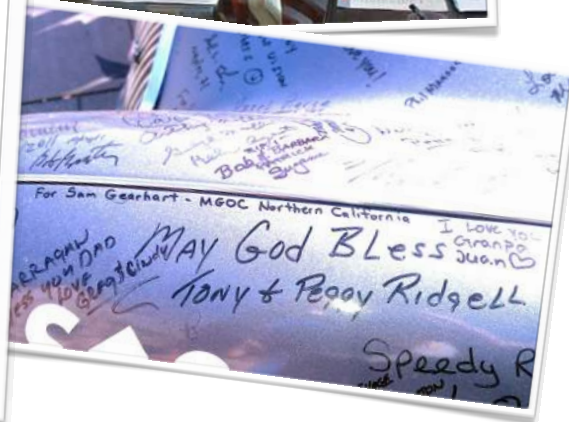
Remember the time you and I "almost" bought that very cool 50s Sunbeam Alpine? I'm so sorry you had to leave us early with so many more fun rides and events coming up.
~ Wayne and Janet Veatch

Earlier this spring, before John Nikas started a nationwide trip to Drive Away Cancer. John started imagining how he could make a difference. He envisioned car clubs and individuals driving, meeting, having fun and living life in a way that kicked the debilitating effects of cancer to the curb, if even for just one day.

Since that spring day conversation, John has been busy. At last count I'm told he's been to 32 states—many states he's been back and forth to several times as kids struggling with cancer request special rides. Even if it requires driving all day on the road, and some of the night, John does not say no to the kids.

Some are gathering in support of club members dealing with cancer—and some to celebrate the lives of members who have passed away. Some will raise money for a local charity, others are doing as John does and giving kids rides.

MGOC dedicated a donation honoring Sam Gearhart and wrote a message on John's Austin-Healy.



MGOC Business Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2012

President George Steneberg called the meeting to order at 7:11pm. Also attending were Elaine Chan, Marcia Crawford, Ken Gittings, Mike Jacobsen, and David Wright.

The July 12, 2012 minutes were approved as printed in the August *Octagon*.

Reports

Treasurer's Report: The checking account shows an increase due to renewals and regalia sales.

Registrar's Report: The MGOC membership stands at 204 regular, 58 auxiliary, 12 corresponding and 4 associate members for a total of 278 members. We have four new members. 80% of the membership has renewed.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Regalia: David reported the sale of two grille badges.

The Octagon: Editor Felix Lee was unable to attend and sent the following:

- Consider dedicating the Sept. *Octagon* issue to Sam Gearhart, to include notes and articles from members/advertisers commemorating their memories of Sam and what he meant to them over the years. Mike volunteered to contact members regarding submitting info about Sam.
- Although it would be nice to make sure the online and print editions are identical so that print-edition-only members get the same info, space limitations may dictate that the online edition continues to have supplemental pages for either last minute or more detailed announcements, especially for events that may be 2-3 months away, but require early notification.

Website: Steve Kellogg was unable to attend. There was a question as to whether or not the Website issues noted in July had been resolved. The consensus of the Board was that those issues seem to have been resolved.

Past Events

Annual Picnic: Saturday, July 21 – A nice turnout of approximately 40 people, 24 MGs, 3 non-MGs, and a surprise guest from China who was here on business and discovered our event on our Website. A fun raffle, lots of shared food, and lovely weather made for a great day.

Upcoming Events

Mill Tour: August 19 – Andy Preston has confirmed our tour with the mill staff. Complete info for the tour is on page 22 of the August *Octagon*.

Bodega Bay Tour: Sept. 22 – Bud Alderson and Marty Rayman. Info on the MGOC Website and in the September *Octagon*.

British Fall Classic: Morgan Hill, October 20 & 21 – Bill Hiland. Registration form and Schedule of Activities are in the August *Octagon* and on-line at <http://www.thebritishfallclassic.com/>.

Canapa Motorsports Tour: Scotts Valley, November 10 – Tim Polidoroff. This tour will be limited to 30 people. More info coming in the *Octagon*.

Old Business

Secretary still needed: We are still looking for a qualified secretary.

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2012 MGs by the Bay

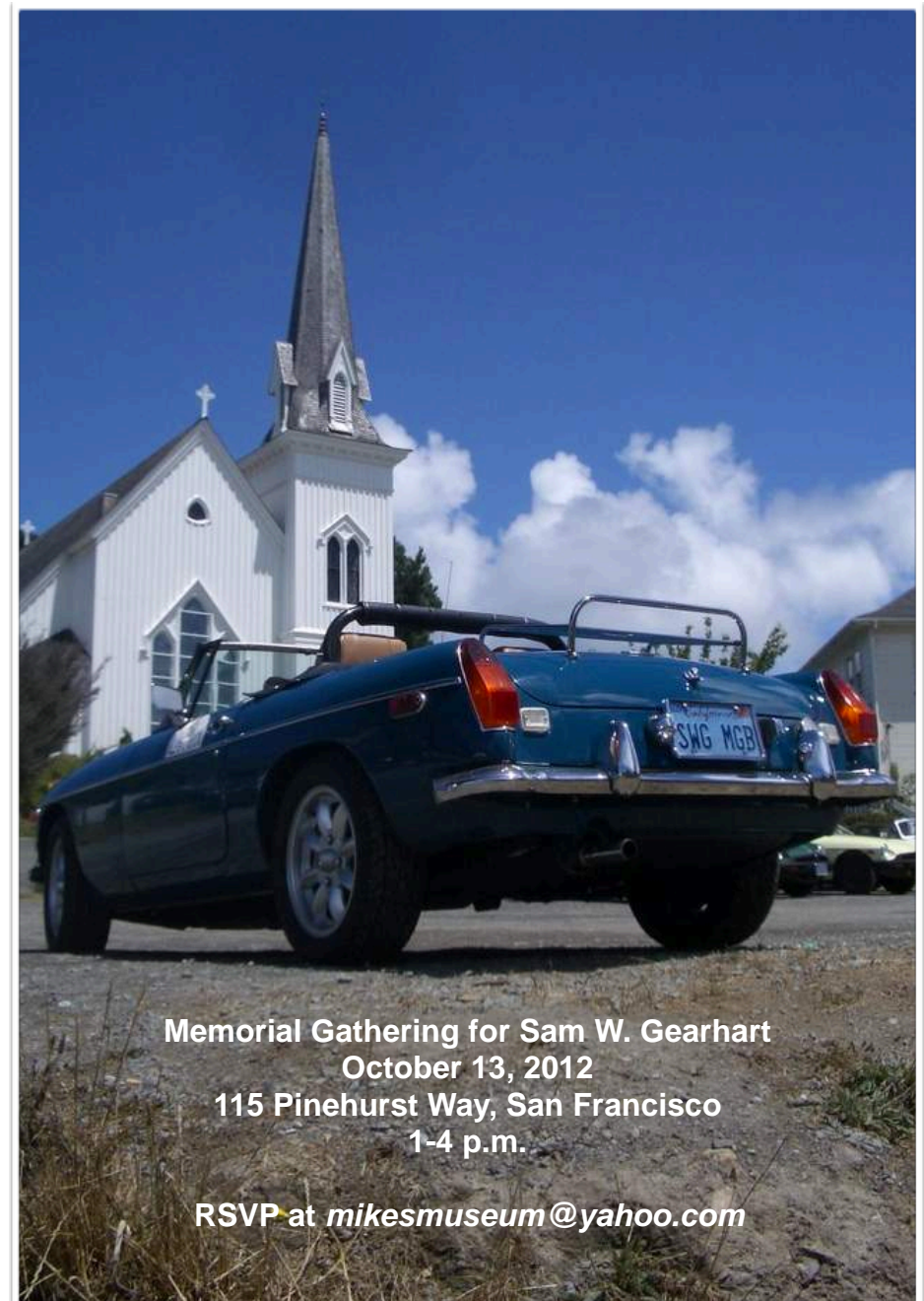
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Memorial Gathering for Sam W. Gearhart
October 13, 2012
115 Pinehurst Way, San Francisco
1-4 p.m.

RSVP at mikesmuseum@yahoo.com

BURNT SPARK PLUG AWARD

TAKE CARE
MGOC!
IT WAS A BLAST!
I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE I EVER
SPENT WITH YOU,
AND I WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED IT FOR THE WORLD!

AS FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO BREAK DOWN ...
... AND THERE WILL BE MANY ...
IT'S "OK!"
THE BSPA SIMPLY MEANS,
"YOU HAVE JOINED THE CLUB"
IN GRAND FASHION!

SAN W. GEARHART III
05/21/54 - 08/03/12
1974 1/2 MGB

..... TO BE CONTINUED

The 1st Annual British Fall Classic



BRITISH SPORTS AND SALOON CAR TOUR AND RECEPTION

October 20th and 21st, 2012 in Morgan Hill, CA Just 10 minutes south of San Jose off Highway 101

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

You can also visit our website: www.thebritishfallclassic.com

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 20th

- 12:00 - 3:00 pm Afternoon tour meet at Butterfield Blvd
Cal Train station.
- 4:00 - 7:00 pm Reception for Saturday Tour and Show
Participants held at **On the Road Again**,
16840 Joleen Way, G - 4, Morgan Hill

* Dinner on your own at our Platinum Sponsor, LADERA GRILL,
or at one of several nearby restaurants.

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 21st

- 8:00 - 10:00 am Cars arrive and park in assigned spaces
on Monterey Avenue
- 10:00 - 2:30 pm Public viewing of cars and vendor sales
- 11:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch on your own at LADERA GRILL
or one of several nearby restaurants
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm Drive-up presentation of awards



*A wine and munchie bits Reception for all participants
registered for the show held on Saturday, October 20th,
after the Tour at On the Road Again/Showroom,
William Hiland (408) 782-1100*

THE BRITISH FALL CLASSIC 2012 REGISTRATION

Advanced Registration Required \$45. per car for Saturday Tour and Reception. Late registration after October 1st is \$60.
Show Registration includes the Saturday Tour and Reception, with munchie bits and wines from local Vineyards. All show participants invited.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ CLUB: _____

PHONE: () _____ E-MAIL: _____

CAR MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____ YEAR: _____ Coupe ☐ Convertible ☐ Saloon ☐

The British Fall Classic is a Fund Raising event and all profits donated
to the Community Solutions of South Bay (sec. A501c3)

Enclosed find a SEPERATE check made out to
Community Solutions of South Bay Total Donation \$ _____

Car Registration \$ _____

Enclose check payable to: The British Fall Classic
16840 Joleen Way, Unit G-4
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Keep Planning for 2012 ...



Dues Are Now Past Due

If you have forgotten to send in your membership dues for this year, this is your last chance to renew.

Please send a check for \$20 made out to MGOC to:
320 B Monterey BLVD, San Francisco, CA 94131

Don't miss any editions of *The Octagon*, please renew today
For any questions, email Mike Jacobsen at MikesMuseum@yahoo.com.

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Email Mike Jacobsen at MikesMuseum@yahoo.com to switch.

Wanted

Submissions of articles / photos / anecdotes / repairs
are always welcome

Please make submissions by the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which you would like it to appear.

Email Felix Lee at octagoneditor@mgocsf.org.

From One Sam to Another

By Samantha Lee

I miss President Sam and enjoyed being with him very much. I enjoyed the last speech he gave at the awards banquet this year. He enjoyed seeing me at every event. He was a happy man who gave me gifts at every event too, including a carved wooden MG box and encouraged me to write. Thank you for being the best MG president that ever lived and safety fast Sam! We will all miss you very much.



SAM W. GEARHART III OVER THE YEARS

May 21, 1954
Sam is born in
Philadelphia, PA to
Samuel and
Kathleen Gearhart
(2nd oldest of 5)

Early Childhood
Attends
elementary and
middle school in
Pottstown, PA,
Sam's favorite
cartoon: "There
Oughta be a
Law ..."

1970

Sam turns 16 and
gets to know the
backroads of PA in
his family's Ford
station wagon
Sam's first car:
Chevrolet Corvair

1972

Sam graduates
from Owen J.
Roberts HS,
Ran cross country,
swim team and
baseball

1973

Sam attends
college at Penn
State and Kutztown
University

1974 1/2

Sam's MGB rolls
off the production
line with original
rubber bumper

January 1982
Sam marries
Cathy and have
Thomas 1982,
Christopher 1983,
Gregory 1987,
Jeffrey 1990
and coaches
soccer / little
league (president)
from 1988-1994

1987

Sam moves to
Stockton, CA

1989

Sam buys his first
MGB GT (Tahiti Blue)

1993

Sam buys his current
1974 1/2 MGB (Tahiti
Blue)

1995

Sam moves to
Oakland, CA

2003

Sam joins MGOC

2004

Sam restores his
1974 1/2 MGB as
a 50th birthday
present to himself

2005

Sam assists with
organizing his first
MG event, MGs by
the Bay, San
Leandro

2007

Sam converts his
1974 1/2 MGB
rubber bumper to
chrome

2008

Sam becomes
MGOC President

2009

Sam's son,
Thomas, Captain
US Army, marries

2011

Sam is diagnosed
with cancer

November 2011
Sam resigns as
MGOC President
during
chemotherapy
treatments

2013

Sam's son Tom
and wife Lynn are
expecting

August 3, 2012
Sam passes away
at age 58
Survived by wife
Cathy and 4 sons:
Thomas,
Christopher,
Gregory,
Jeffrey

