

# 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:  
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Photo courtesy of Mike Jacobsen

And where do you stay when you're traveling in Air-Smoothed Style?  
Mike Jacobsen's Magnette at the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone

# October 2010

## 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 2010

**President:** Sam Gearhart, 510-530-2267, [swg3@comcast.net](mailto:swg3@comcast.net)  
**Vice President:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)  
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**Historian:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Photographer:** Jeremy Palgon, 510-378-1821, [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 MG models.

**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:** Craig Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, [mrcraigk@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:mgbp36@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, [mgbp36@yahoo.com](mailto:mgbp36@yahoo.com)

**S.U. Carburettors:** Marty Ray, 831-475-6204, [martyray@cruzio.com](mailto:martyray@cruzio.com)

## Club Meeting Natter & Noggin October 14, 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. 14<sup>th</sup> St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott Street.



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**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](mailto: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 windshield. Not crashed but rough. Rubber bumper car. Make Offer. Contact Member Nick Becker at (925) 932-9778 or [becker2226@astound.net](mailto:becker2226@astound.net).

**MG TD parts: drive shaft** with u-joints, **front and rear shocks** and rear springs. I'm selling these items because I've upgraded my 1953 TD to a MGA rear end, brakes, and rear springs. \$100 or best offer for all. Contact Member Bob Luebbert at (510) 276-0365 or [r.luebbert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.luebbert@sbcglobal.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](mailto:don@napanet.net).

**Information about a 1970 MGB:** My wife's first car was a light yellow (Pale Primrose) 1970 MGB with black interior and wire wheels. It was purchased new from E.F.Sweeney British Cars in San Rafael (although my wife lived in San Mateo). She sold the car in 1978 to friends of their neighbors, the Golightlys. Unfortunately, we have found the Golightlys passed away and thus we cannot get the names of their friends who purchased the car. The only pictures we have of the car was when it was new, and it has the original paper temporary dealer plate on the rear: 0752568. We would love to locate her original car. If we unfortunately cannot, we would like to buy one just like it. Any help would be extremely appreciated. Please contact Gary and Janet (Fulton) Germano at (650) 619-2706 or [garywgermano@hotmail.com](mailto:garywgermano@hotmail.com) if you have any information.

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Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). 2010 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*.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. Please email all contributions to [mgowners@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Oct. 9 – **Sonoma Wine Country Tour**, Andy Preston

Oct. 16 – **Jimmy's Old Car Picnic**, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Oct. 17 – **California Autumn Classic**, Morgan Hill

Dec. 11 – **Holiday Tea**, Los Altos, Felix Lee



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# From the Editor...

Ladies and gentlemen of the MGOC, we are an amazing club. We have almost 300 members spread across the Bay Area. We share a passion for British motoring, a little camaraderie, and good cheer. We are generally wonderful folk who do wonderful things. However, there is one niggling little area where we are sadly and needlessly deficient.

Our track record of RSVPing to event planners has been abysmal. There's simply no other way to put it. Allow me to let you in on the typical progression of an MGOC event:

Someone gets an idea for an event, researches the tour, discusses it with the board, selects an appropriate date, makes reservations at restaurants, prepares route maps, and writes up some copy for *The Octagon*. I then enter the event listing in *The Octagon*, post the event online, and email it out. All this takes time, care, coordination, and planning - and generally we're pretty good at it.

But about two weeks before every event, I receive frantic emails from the event planners wondering why only a few people have RSVPed (despite clear requests to

do so). The planners wonder if perhaps only a few people actually plan on coming. They ask if we should postpone the event. They feel bad for the commitments they've made on our behalf. And generally, they begin to feel a bit frustrated.

I remind them that this has often been the way of late - and that every event has ended up well attended. But the planner needs a head count to make reservations for the right number of people at a restaurant or winery or what-have-you; so it's not comforting to them to hear that a fair number of people will show up to the event unannounced.

So I send out a reminder email or two, begging or cajoling you to RSVP. Generally this helps a bit; but it comes late in the game. And inevitably, a good number of people still show up unannounced.

Now we love that you want to attend our events. That's what the Club is for. We really do want you to come out with the MGOC. But it's hard on the planners when you don't make an advance commitment. So in the future, please consult your calendar, make advance plans, and RSVP to the event planner.

Jeremy Palgon

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Bovet177@gmail.com).



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### Cars for Sale:

**1978 MGB**, one owner vehicle with 33,000 original miles. Garaged and covered more than driven, I have every receipt from the day it was purchased at British Motors in San Francisco late 1977. This car runs perfect, looks 98% perfect, and everything is original (including the perfect top). \$5,500 or best offer. I doubt if there's anything out there this "cherry". Contact Ed at (775) 846-1817 or [ednyfb@hotmail.com](mailto:ednyfb@hotmail.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](mailto:vriddersholm@yahoo.com), or Gordon Craig at [lismoregordon@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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...

### On the Horizon

I'm sure you recall the Membership Survey we conducted a few months ago. I assure you we are working diligently to implement your suggestions and requests. Unfortunately, in a number of cases, making things happen has been a bit more daunting and difficult than we anticipated. We hope that you'll begin to see some results soon. For example, within a few months we hope to have a more interactive Web site. There are other things that don't require a lot of effort to implement; rather they take planning and coordination. More importantly, they require notification to (and participation by) you, the MGOC members.

First, from April 8 to 10, 2011 the [Classic Sports Racing Group](#) will host the MG Vintage Racers Reunion at Infineon Raceway at Sears Point. The event organizers hope to have between 75 and 100 classic MGs from all across America and Canada in attendance for the MGVR's 2011 "Focus Event". We only learned of this event recently and, while it is not an MGOC event, it is sure to be a very noteworthy local happening. The board will discuss this event at upcoming meetings and keep you updated about any associated club involvement. There is little information available right now, but you can check [www.mgvr.org](http://www.mgvr.org) for updates.

Next, from June 12 to 18, 2011 the North American Council of MG Registers is holding its fourth All-Register gathering in Reno, Nevada. The All Register event is held every five years, and there are certain to be many MGOC members attending. Registration for the event opens this month and the Council has reserved a block of 800 rooms, with more available as needed. That is sure to give you an idea what the draw will be. There are clubs from across the country already planning a "Rallye to Reno" cross-county tour, with folks joining all along the way. It is sure to be a memorable event and is literally in our back yard; so begin planning to attend now. We'll keep you advised of MGOC plans as the event approaches.

Finally, in October 2011 we will be hosting another Western Regional Convention, similar to the NAMGAR West 2009 and MG 2007 conventions we recently hosted. Planning is getting underway this month, and we're looking for volunteers to help. Believe me, it takes a lot of work; and the more hands we have, the better the event is sure to be.

I know you recognize that the MGOC is vibrant club, participating in and hosting large national and regional events along with our own local ones. We have a very determined group of members who dedicate their time and efforts to plan and organize all the events we hold and attend. As I noted above, it takes a lot of effort to plan even a small local event. The sheer number of events we have is evidence of the many members who are willing to undertake making the arrangements. But we can always use more help.

Needless to say, knowing how many people plan to attend an event is vital for assuring a successful event. Sadly, it seems few members bother to RSVP (even when explicitly requested to do so), causing organizers untold heartburn and much last minute scrambling to confirm the number of attendees (so they can make final arrangements with establishments being visited). Because of this, I strongly urge you to read Jeremy Palgon's accompanying article on the details of how even the most basic event comes together and the importance of your advance response. Moreover, I ask you to consider making the organizer's task just a bit easier. When the simple courtesy of an RSVP is called for – *just do it*.

Regards,  
Sam Gearhart

# Sonoma Wine Country Tour

## Saturday, October 9

### Rhonert Park

Come join your MG friends for a backroads tour to a specialty foods store, the famous Coppola Winery, and a fun diner.

The first part of the tour will take us out through the backroads and pasture lands of Sonoma County and through the historic towns of Valley Ford, Freestone, Occidental, and Forestville. Our first stop will be at [Kozlowski Farms](#), who have offered specialty foods from the Russian River Valley since 1949. The store is filled with an extensive selection of unique gift items as well as homemade pies, tarts, and cookies from the store bakery. Family favorites include old fashioned jams, no-sugar-added fruit spreads, gourmet mustards, berry vinegars, fudge sauces, salad dressings, barbecue sauce, and chipotle grilling sauces.

We will leave Kozlowski Farms and head north through the rolling countryside and vineyards of the Russian River Valley and Dry Creek Valley to the fabulous, newly refinished [Francis Ford Coppola Winery](#). Enjoy touring the grounds and swimming pool (for kids only), and explore the Movie Gallery displaying memorabilia from Francis Coppola's film career (including films like *Apocalypse Now*, *The Godfather*, and *Tucker*). The original Tucker is on display, as are four Oscars and six Golden Globe awards (and these are the real ones). For those inclined, you can enjoy wine tasting at one of the three wine tasting bars or have a drink at their full bar.

Our final destination and lunch stop is Adel's, which is just down the road in Healdsburg. Adel's is a '50s type of diner with an extensive, reasonably priced menu and excellent food. We have reserved a special section at the restaurant for our group.

**When and Where:** Meet at 9:00 am at [Sonoma Valley Bagel and Cafe, 350 Rohnert Park Expressway, Rohnert Park](#). Take 101 north, exit at Rohnert Park Expressway and head west for a half mile. Sonoma Valley Bagel will be on your right.

**Please RSVP:** to Andy or Marla Preston at [marlapreston@hotmail.com](mailto:marlapreston@hotmail.com) or 707-795-3480 by October 5.

## Dues Are Now Past Due

If you've 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, SF, CA 94131.

Don't miss any editions of *The Octagon*, renew today.

## Old Business

### Survey Recommendations:

**Web site:** Following up on the survey recommendations, Robbie Trencheny has offered to create a new Web site for the Club. He will come to the October meeting to discuss Web site options with the board. The board should have an idea what it would like to see on a new web site. Robbie may bring a mock up or sample Web site or show other car club Web sites as examples of what he could do for the MGOC.

**Article of the Month Award:** Also following up on the survey, the board discussed offering a Starbucks gift card for the best article submitted each month. Mike Jacobsen will write up some guidelines for the program and coordinate them with *The Octagon* editor. The board discussed trying the program for six months to see if new authors submit articles to *The Octagon*. The board expects to vote on the proposal next month after the guidelines are finalized.

**NAMGAR 2011 Western Regional:** Discussion to promote the NAMGAR 2011 Regional event the Club is hosting, and other big events, to as wide an MG audience as possible. Plan to include all MG models and try to get more people from other clubs involved in the events. The board decided to reserve 30 rooms at the Double Tree Hotel in Rohnert Park for the event. A motion was passed to ask Andy Preston to negotiate for 30 rooms plus banquet facilities and a room for a tech session.

**Activities Director:** The Club is still in search of an activities director.

**Annual Dinner:** There was no action on the Annual Dinner this month. Sam will follow up by the October meeting.

**MGs by the Bay:** The site of the 2011 MGs by the Bay is still being discussed.

**Club Shirts:** are being worked on and we should have more details next month.

## New Business

**NAMGBR Annual General Meeting:** is October 23 in Reno NV. The MGOC board signed the proxy statement for the meeting since we do not expect any MGOC members to attend the AGM. The MGOC endorsed the slate of officers and the by-laws amendment proposed by NAMGBR.

**NAMGAR 2011 Western Regional:** The board agreed to establish a planning committee for the NAMGAR Regional event we are planning for October 2011. Sam Gearhart agreed to be the chairman.

**Next Meeting and Natter:** 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at The Englander Sports Pub, 100 Parrott Street, San Leandro.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Submitted by Bob Trencheny.

# MGOC Business Meeting Minutes

## September 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Gearhart at 7:10 pm. Also attending were: Ken Gittings, Mike Jacobsen, Steve Kellogg, George Steneberg, and Bob Trencheny.

The August minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: The checking account balance was down slightly as picnic bills and two months of *The Octagon* publishing costs have been paid.

Registrar's Report: We still have 213 regular, 58 auxiliary and 13 corresponding members for 284 total members, which is no change from last month. Forty eight members have not renewed yet.

Secretary's Report: Nothing significant to report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: George received the voting proxy information for NAMGBR that needs to be completed before their annual meeting in October.

Regalia: Nothing to report.

The Octagon: Nothing to report.

### Past Events

Airport to Africa Run: A fun time and a nice drive. The group enjoyed counting the critter heads mounted on the restaurant walls. Wayne & Janet Veatch led. Sam Gearhart, Ken Gittings, Dave Pelton, Andy & Marla Preston, and others, including several new members, were on the drive.

Annual Picnic: was held in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland and despite expected bad weather, it was a beautiful day to be out in the park. We had a very good turn out and several potential new members joined us for the day. About two dozen members joined the festivities.

### Upcoming Events

CSRG Charity Challenge: Vintage racing at Infineon Raceway is coming up on October 1-3. Track time will be available during lunch time. This is not an MGOC sponsored event, however members frequently attend the races.

Sonoma Wine Country Tour: Saturday, October 9. Andy and Marla Preston are leading a winery tour. The tour will visit the Coppola winery and others. Check the MGOC Web site for details.

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MG Car Club: is being celebrated on October 16-17. The MGCC of England is asking all the clubs around the world to host an event on those days, and post pictures and videos of the event to their Web site. The MGOC is planning an event to coincide with the Cal Autumn Classic in Morgan Hill. The cost to the club is about \$15. A motion passed to support the MGCC event.



**Speedway Meadow**      **Golden Gate Park**

**SAN FRANCISCO**

**Saturday, October 16**

Jimmy's Annual Old Car Picnic started in 1988 when classic car-loving friends got together in Golden Gate Park. It has since grown into the largest and longest-running show of its kind in San Francisco and includes cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all types (as well as a good number of oddballs).

For a \$40 donation, which includes admission and other goodies, participants can park on Speedway Meadow's lawn. The money raised benefits the SF Recreation & Park Department's Adaptive Recreation Programs for the developmentally disabled.

All people with good attitudes, who appreciate all different kinds of cars, are welcome. Jimmy's Picnic is about having fun, checking out the cars, and enjoying the day! All this – and helping out folks with disabilities too!

Bring your family! Bring your camera! Bring a picnic lunch or BBQ! Rat rods, lowriders, perfectly restored cars, historic vehicles, clunkers and beaters, motorcycles, race cars, fire trucks, cars that only go out on Sundays, all kinds of customs, steamboats, and more are welcome!

As a true native San Franciscan event, Jimmy's Picnic welcomes everyone with a good attitude! (But please leave your mini-motorcycles at home!) The show starts at 7:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. Please remember to bring cash, as no other form of payment is accepted.

**All vehicles must enter Speedway Meadow heading East on JFK Drive. You may enter Golden Gate Park (and turn onto JFK) from either 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. (from Fulton St.) or from the Great Highway at Ocean Beach.**

**Contact:** [jimmypicnic@gmail.com](mailto:jimmypicnic@gmail.com)

**More Information:** <http://www.jimmypicnic.com>



## California Autumn Classic

### Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17

Returning to Morgan Hill again this year, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual California Autumn Classic brings back the nostalgic fun of relaxed, friendly sports car club events of the 1950s and '60s. All classic British sports cars (2-seaters and their jumpseat derivatives) are invited to participate. There will be 26 silver trophies for all marques. New for this year is the Classic British Bikes class.

The event will be held on the main downtown street of Morgan Hill. There are many restaurants to choose from for lunch and many quaint shops to enjoy.

The weekend starts off with an afternoon backroads tour on Saturday at 2:00 pm. After returning, everyone is invited to gather for a welcoming dinner in Morgan Hill. The car show opens at 9:00 am on Sunday morning, with awards at 1:30 pm. **Registration form in the September *Octagon*.**

## MGs Around the World

### Celebrating the MGCC's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### MGOC Tour to the Autumn Classic

### Sunday, October 17

In honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MG Car Club (of which the MGOC is the Northern California Centre), affiliated clubs all over the world are planning events on the weekend of October 16 and 17. For our part, we'll be touring to and attending the California Autumn Classic.

If you're coming down to the show on Sunday, join us for a half-hour-long backroads tour to Morgan Hill. You're going to the show anyway, so why not get off the freeway for a bit, caravan, and arrive in style with your MGOC friends.

**When and Where:** We'll meet at 8:30 am at Bailey Ave. in San Jose, just off Hwy 101. Exit 101 at Bailey and go west (towards the valley).

## MG: The Marque of Friendship

By John Hunt

Aside from being fun cars to look at, drive, and fix, the best part of being an MG fan is the people you meet. I recently had a business trip that took me to Singapore, with a stop over in Hong Kong, that I turned into a mini vacation. I decided to reach out to the local MG Car Club and, as luck would have it, I was in Hong Kong the same time as their monthly drive. Simon Clennell, the club's registrar, was kind enough to step up to the plate and be my host for day.

He picked me up from my hotel on Sunday morning in his red MGB roadster. Nothing better than top down driving. Our game plan for the day was to meet up with a few other members and tour the New Territories. You'd think that Hong Kong, with more than seven million people, would have roads and traffic as thick as a brick. It turns out there is a lot more to the place than many people (including myself) would think. Seventy percent of the area in and around Hong Kong is nature. As a matter of fact, the area has over 40 parks and there are 260 islands in the region. The New Territories is Hong Kong's country side, which is not crowded. It makes a wonderful change of pace from the city, and provides plenty of opportunities for wide open, free-spirited driving!

We ate lunch in Yuen Long in the New Territories at a place called Sawadee Hai. There I enjoyed some of the best Thai and Indian food around, as well as a few Boddingtons. I also had the pleasure of meeting more MG Car Club members: Colin Barlow, his friend John, Don Meyer and his wife Cindy, and Melvin (who is the John Twist of Hong Kong). During lunch they told me about their club. It was founded in 1981 by a police officer (his profession was a great benefit to locating MGs in the area). Today the club has 60 members and Simon, who has been tracking MGs on the island for many years, reckons there are about 200 MGs here. Their set up is similar to ours in the sense that they have monthly meetings and drives. As a matter of fact, both clubs are planning on participating in MGs Around the World to help celebrate the MGCC's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At lunch, I was presented with a mug commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their club. It was a wonderful surprise, and a terrific reminder of the good times I had with them.

There are no nearby tracks, so racing and rallying is not an option for them. They used to run safety tests (what we would call funkanana's). The local Lotus and Ferrari clubs joined them for these events. Simon always included a reverse driving test, which caused those two car clubs to go from first or second to last because they have poor rear-view vision (unlike the MGs). Unfortunately the area where they ran the Safety Tests got a new police commissioner, who said that they needed liability insurance. It would have cost each driver 500 Hong Kong Dollars to obtain insurance, so that was the end of that.

On the way back Simon took me to Lok Ma Cho Lookout. When Simon first arrived in Hong Kong 22 years ago, all you would see from here were fields and farmers. When you look out at Shenzhen today, you think you are looking at New York City.

All in all, the lunch and tour was the highlight of my trip. If you ever hear of someone from out of town planning on visiting, please try to get together with them. And next time you have a road trip planned, reach out to the local MG club. You are bound to meet some interesting people and have a great time as well. I am very grateful to Simon and his friends. They provided a warm and entertaining day. There's no question that MG is the international marque of friendship.

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# MGOC Holiday Toy Drive



As an apparent result of the MGOC's very successful collection drives for Toys for Tots in past years, we recently received an urgent request from Santa and his elves at the North Pole. It seems that in light of the current economic doldrums (with many families struggling to make ends meet), Santa is more concerned than ever that many children will miss the excitement and happiness of having Santa bring a gift their way this holiday season.

It is truly sad to think of a young child waking to find no present with his or her name on it that magical morning. Santa has asked that we redouble our efforts this year and provide even more gifts to be donated to needy families with children. I know that it isn't always something you might think about and it is easy to forget the plight of others, but I personally urge all of you to pick up a small, age-appropriate toy. The MGOC will collect the toys and deliver them to a local fire station. From there, the toys will be given to numerous children on Santa's behalf.

Please keep this in mind next time you're walking through the local mall or department store. Please pick up a small present and bring it (unwrapped) to our Annual Holiday Tea at Felix & Kimberly Lee's home in Los Altos on December 11. Or you may drop it off with, or send it to, Sam Gearhart at 3521 Randolph Ave., Oakland, CA 94602. If none of those options are convenient for you, please contact a board member and we will do all we can to make arrangements to pick up your donated present. We were very successful with the Toy Drive last year and I believe we can do even more this year.

– Santa's Helper Sam

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Mike drove his Magnette all the way from San Francisco, nearly straight through. He said he had four hours sleep in 42 hours of travel time. Mike is very capable of telling his travel stories. Next year's meet will be the All-Register Meet in Reno/Lake Tahoe in June. These events typically draw 1200 MGs of all types. Mike and Dave were busy working on travel plans for those heading west, focused on U.S. Highway 50 all across the USA, with some diversions in Colorado along the way. Could I do that?

I didn't get the total registration, but I know there were over 150 MGs and nearly 200 people registered. I am getting to know some of the good MG folks from this area. A man from Peoria brought a show-winning Magnette. He used to work the same machine at Caterpillar as my wife's brother. A couple from my hometown in Illinois brought an alamo-beige MGA. And I saw an MGA coupe for sale that is tempting for me.

The NAMGAR folks are a very welcoming and special group. They really know how to put on a great event, and how to party.



Dan and his TD at NAMGAR GT-35

## NAMGAR GT-35 in Wisconsin

Article and photos by Dan Shockey

The center of the MGA universe this July was Delavan, Wisconsin, only a three-hour drive from our home in Illinois. We had to miss the GOF (Gathering of the Faithful, the regional T-series meet) in Ohio in June due to unplanned surgery for Nancy. But the timing was good for her to be recovered enough for the NAMGAR meet, GT-35. Can it really be the 35th Get Together? Mike Jacobsen, Nancy, and I went to GT-9 in Tiburon along with several other long-time MGOC members.



The site for the meet was excellent: right on a lovely lake, with good sports-car roads and the attractions of Lake Geneva only a few miles away. The Wisconsin highway department makes it easy by labeling “Rustic Roads”. The host resort hotel was lovely and convenient, with great display areas right on their grounds. One building of the resort had not been updated, so it was significantly less expensive. Mike Jacobsen, Nancy, and I found that appealing.

Nancy was still too sore to ride in the MG; so we towed the TD to Delavan using my tow dolly. But we had the TD to show, and I drove it on a tour. Dave McCann of the MGOC was there with his bronze colored MGA. It needs cosmetic work, but I was envious of having any MGA.

The nearest MGOC members to the GT-35, Amanda & Dean Spielman, elected to attend a big air show instead. They live only an hour or so from Delavan, but are TD owners. They joined me at the GOF in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, last year.

The big attraction for many was the featured ZA and ZB Magnettes, which share drivetrains and years of production with the MGA. I heard that there were 31 Magnettes present – a remarkable number. I have never seen more than five at any meet, even a national one.

## Members' Mailbag



Kathy Pierce's TD won the Grand Prize at the Pacific Grove Small Bore Show

Photo courtesy of Warren Pierce



Vast rows of British cars at the Portland British Field Meet

Photo by Warren Pierce



A new Chinese MG in Shenyang

Photo by Mike Hayworth

# CSRG Charity Challenge On the Track at Infineon Raceway

By Sam Gearhart

What a day it was when a group of MGOC members and others met early on a Saturday morning and headed to the Infineon Raceway at Sears Point!

Though notice was rather short, we did all we could to advise everyone of this opportunity. Our efforts paid off as approximately 30 MG (and other British car) owners joined us. The highlight of the day was the opportunity to take four parade laps around the track at lunch time. It was really exciting to drive the same lines that the likes of the Huffakers, Andrettis, Earnhardts, and thousands of others have driven over the years. It was truly an outstanding experience, and one I will not soon forget.



Photo by Ken Gittings

The day began with many of us meeting at Port Sonoma, and driving to the track together. Upon arriving, we were directed to the car club paddock. We parked and took care of administrative matters (signing waivers and other such things). Then we marveled at hundreds of racing teams working feverishly on their cars, as the many different classes went on and came off the track during morning practice sessions.



Photo by Ken Gittings



Photo by Ken Gittings

The CSRG (Classic Sports Racing Group) holds its annual Charity Challenge, with all proceeds from the event going to the Sonoma County Children's Charities. This was the seventh annual Challenge, but the first where local clubs were invited for the parade laps. CSRG organizers Gary Kennedy and Scott Brown were simply thrilled with our participation, and hope to invite us back again next year.



Photo courtesy of Head On Photos

Scott Brown in No. 41 "The Pile"

In class racing over the weekend, MGs finished fourth, fifth, and sixth in a 45 car grid. Certainly a very respectable showing! Go MG!

Stay tuned for news about this event next year. I assure you that it will be a great day!