

# 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 Palgon

An MG TF that "does not leak oil" at the Cal Autumn Classic

# November 2011

# About *The Octagon* and MGOC...

The M.G. Owners Club, formed in 1957, is the Northern California Centre of the M.G. Car Club, formed in England in 1930. The Peninsula T Register was formed in 1973 and is now an informal sub-group of the MGOC. We receive a copy of the MGCC's *Safety Fast*, available to members on loan from the corresponding secretary. The Club is also associated with the North American MGB Register, the North American MGA Register, and the New England MG T Register. The MGOC holds a business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at an event known as the "Natter and Noggin" in the style of English clubs. *The Octagon*, our newsletter, is published monthly by the M.G. Owners Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

## DIRECTORY OF MGOC OFFICERS FOR 2011

**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)

**Treasurer:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Kim Kuenzinger, 925-934-3130, [kalvey1950@aol.com](mailto:kalvey1950@aol.com)

**Registrar:** Mike Jacobsen, 415-333-9699, [MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**T Register Director:** Jim Carlson, 408-224-3992, [mgjim@comcast.net](mailto:mgjim@comcast.net)

**Corresponding Secretary:** George Steneberg, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Membership Development:** Bob Stine, 650-349-5128,

[rbrstine@gmail.com](mailto:rbrstine@gmail.com)

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[MikesMuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com)

**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, [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). 2011 rates are: monthly (yearly): full page \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on January 1, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 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

Nov. 12 – **MGA Tech Session**, San Francisco, Mike Jacobsen

Nov. 18 – Pub Night at On the Road Again, Morgan Hill, Bill Hiland

Nov. 20 – **MG Parts Exchange**, Fullerton, [Vintage MG Club](#)

Dec. 10 – **Holiday Tea**, Kensington, George Steneberg

Jan. 7 – **Annual Awards Banquet**, Hs Lordships, Berkeley, Kim Kuenzinger

# 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.

# From the Editor...

This is a difficult column to write. I've struggled with what to say for some days now. This is partly because there are going to be some changes in the leadership of the Club in the near future; but I'm confident that our club is in good hands. Mostly this is a tough column to write because it is the one in which I will be wishing Sam Gearhart a fond farewell. As you'll read on the next page, after four years at the helm, Sam is reluctantly stepping down as president of the Club. In the years we've worked together, Sam has become much more than just a friendly fellow club member or helpful partner in MGOC affairs – he has become my good friend.

I became editor of *The Octagon* just a few months before Sam took office. Since we were both relatively new to our roles, there was a period of figuring out our working relationship. I'd ask Sam his preference on all sorts of things, and he'd invariably tell me that he trusted my opinion and leave it up to me. It is remarkably difficult to express how empowering and gratifying that kind of faith is.

There were often plans to sort out and confirm; and Sam and I corresponded frequently about these details. But what I'll remember most about our interactions were our long philosophical email discussions about the direction of the club, how to handle problems, or new ideas.

I remember late nights compiling *The Octagon*, when an issue would arise. I'd write

Sam a long email at 2 am; and he, being an early riser, would reply before 5. I'd wake some hours later and continue the discussion. Sometimes these discussions wandered a bit afield of the original issue, because we were moved to figure out the larger context. Our friendship was forged in these meandering discussions in the dark hours of the early morning.

We tried to present separate but complimentary voices in *The Octagon*, hoping to nudge more members to attend events and get involved. We generally tried to maintain a positive tone, asking for help rather than screaming for it. But sometimes frustration got the best of both of us.

Like any great leader, Sam downplays his efforts and accomplishments. But I feel compelled now to acknowledge Sam. The Club's ongoing strength and success – with almost 300 members, well attended events every month, MGs by the Bay every year, and large events like the Fall Festival – is a testament to his leadership.

Now Sam is leaving his post. In all likelihood, I'll do the same shortly. I don't think either of us figured we'd be at it this long. Looking back on it, all I can say is that I've truly appreciated Sam's efforts and his friendship.

Jeremy Palgon

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TC-TD-TF-MGA-MGB-C-Midget		
<b>SHOCK ABSORBERS:</b>	Front	Rear
MGTC.....	185.00	185.00
MGTD & TF.....	185.00	85.00
MGA, MGB, MGC, Midget.....	102.00	75.00
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Prices shown are for Exchange or Yours Rebuilt. Core charges apply if items are ordered prior to (and are refunded after) our receiving old units. Free catalog. <a href="http://www.applehydraulics.com">www.applehydraulics.com</a>		
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OCT05		

# President's Ponderings...

## Changing Times – and I'm not just talking about the weather

I hope that everyone is well and has been winterizing their cars for the onset of what will likely be a chilly and rainy season. To be sure, our individual efforts don't need to match what our MG brethren on the East Coast and elsewhere need to consider and take care of, but it is always worth an afternoon to give things a final check before hanging up the keys for a couple months. I heard from my brother-in-law in northern New Jersey last weekend and he was glad he hadn't decided on a road trip in his '67 MGB during the snow they had on Halloween weekend!

In addition to our weather, there are some changes more specific to MGOC that I'll mention briefly. These are developing situations with numerous unanswered questions, new board members, and new roles for others.

As some of you know, I was dealing with a very sore elbow and limited use of my right arm back in the early spring. I was treated by different doctors for various symptoms, most notably a badly inflamed and swollen elbow through the summer. In August I was referred to yet another doctor. He ordered a biopsy, and I was subsequently diagnosed with cancer. There is no need to go into detail. Suffice it to say, I am currently undergoing treatments aimed at resolving the problems and controlling, if not curing, the disease.

One aspect of the entire ordeal that I was unprepared for is the sheer exhaustion I faced. As a result, I am unable to dedicate the time and physical effort I feel are needed to fill my role as MGOC president. For that reason, I will tender my resignation as president at the club meeting on November 10.

As it became evident to me and other club members that I would be facing unexpected problems, it also became apparent that some leadership changes might be necessary. We began formulating ideas to assure that whatever those changes might be will be made as smoothly as possible, with few impacts to the Club. We approached potential new volunteers about taking on leadership roles, and discussed alternatives with existing board members. I believe any changes will only be for the better, and the Club will continue to flourish.

In the past few years I have tried to initiate some changes and introduce some things I thought would be helpful. I hope that in some ways I was successful. Now I look forward to watching even more exciting ideas take root as a new group of officers and other volunteers begin putting their stamp on the direction of the Club.

I was a MGOC member long before I became an officer, and I assure you I will remain a member. I will enjoy our activities and seeing all of you as often as I can. In that regard, I am looking forward to the Holiday Tea on December 10 and the Awards Brunch in January.

I also know that each and every one of you will continue to support the Club, and do all you can to participate in the many great events we host each year. The MGOC is your club – a point I tried to make in my first Ponderings a few years ago. Now, in my final message, I again urge you to come out every chance you have, support our new leadership and officers, and join your fellow members in making the MGOC the best club it can be.

Finally, thank you for your support and friendship over the past few years. I have sincerely appreciated it.

Regards,  
Sam Gearhart

# MGA Tech Session

## Saturday, November 12

### San Francisco

Mike Jacobsen needs to replace the rack boots and master cylinder in his MGA. Come watch, or even help, and we'll turn this into a Tech Session.

**What:** A chance to observe rack boots being changed on an MGA (very similar procedure to TD, TF, Magnette, MGB, and Spridget models).

Changing the master cylinder will happen if there's time and we feel like it.

**Why:** Because the rubber bits have perished.

**How:** If you want to help, wear grubbies.

**When and Where:** 10 am on Saturday, November 12 at [320 Monterey Blvd, San Francisco](#) in the garage. The cross street is Congo.

**No RSVP necessary:** but call Mike at 415-333-9699 if you need more information.

**Note:** Parking can be scarce in this neighborhood. You may need to drive up the hill on Congo, park on a side street, and walk back to the apartment building garage.

## Many Hands Make Light Work

By Kim Kuenzinger, Outgoing Secretary

Yes, we know this old saying well! Many of us heard this time honored advice in our youth. Our parents diligently taught us that teamwork pays off. This is what we need to keep our club functioning well.

For many years, the many have been enjoying the efforts of the few. Now is the time for more MGOC members to not only share the fun, but the work as well. After all, that is what *teamwork* is!

The nominations for the MGOC Officers are right around the corner, and we're looking for some volunteers. Presently, we're looking for a secretary for the upcoming year.

**Do you enjoy witty conversation?**

**Are you a decent listener? Can you write and type?**

**Would you like to be in the loop on the latest developments in the Club?**

**Would you enjoy a regular monthly pub night?**

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you could be our next secretary. So step up to the plate and see what is going on with MGOC. Consider becoming one of the hands that make the workload a little less heavy for everyone else.

# *On the Road Again Classics*

## *British Auto Restorations*

*Invites you to*

# *Pub Night*

*Friday, November 18, 6 pm – 9 pm*



*Please join us in our 4,000 square foot showroom for a free evening of darts, air hockey, music, and vintage racing movies!*

*Munchie bits will be provided as well as mixers and ice.*

*Please bring your own beverage of choice.*

*Significant others are encouraged to attend, but please leave the young ones at home.*

*Please RSVP to Bill Hiland at 408-782-1100 or [bhiland@ontheroadagainclassics.com](mailto:bhiland@ontheroadagainclassics.com).*

*16840 Joleen Way, #G4, Morgan Hill, 95037*

# The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual MG Parts Exchange



Presented by  
The Vintage  
MG Club of  
Southern  
California



**Sunday, November 20**  
**7 am to 1 pm**

The largest all MG parts exchange in America is located in Fullerton at: College Park, College of Communications, 2600 E. Nutwood Avenue, Fullerton, California (across the street from CSU – Fullerton)

**Admission:** General: \$5, Vendors: \$20

**Directions:** Near 91/57 interchange. Exit Nutwood Avenue off the 57 freeway. Head west. Turn left onto Langsdorf Drive.

**Closest Lodging:** (across street) Fullerton Marriott at Cal State University, 2701 E. Nutwood Ave, Fullerton, 714-738-7800

**Contact:** John Seim, 949-786-5697, [kingseim@earthlink.net](mailto:kingseim@earthlink.net)

**More Information:** [http://www.vintagemg.com/parts\\_exchange\\_info.htm](http://www.vintagemg.com/parts_exchange_info.htm)



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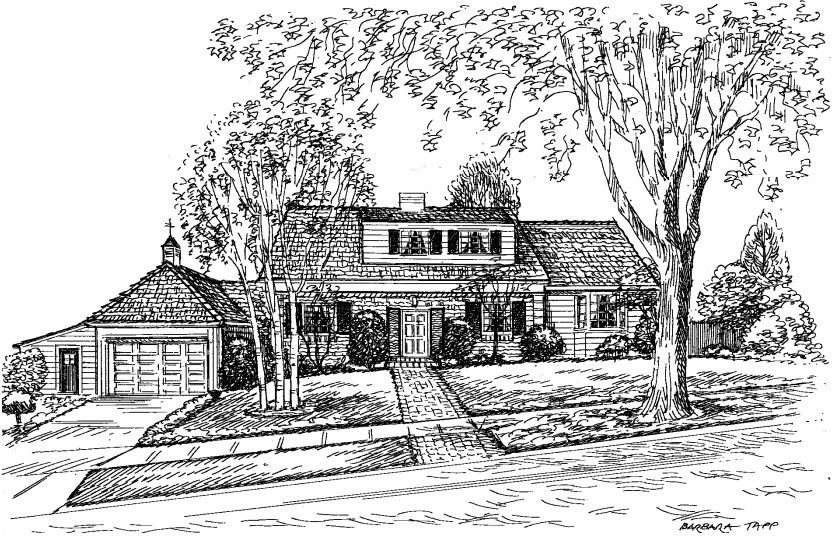
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# MGOC Holiday Tea & Toy Drive

## Saturday, December 10, 1-4 pm

### George & Marcia's Home

### Kensington



This year's holiday tea is in Kensington at the home of George Steneberg and Marcia Crawford. Come and enjoy the holiday season with friends.

The Club is again sponsoring a toy drive. Please bring a new unwrapped toy, which we will deliver to a local firehouse.

Please also bring cookies, a dessert, or hors d'oeuvres to share. If you have a favorite tea, please bring that too.

**Location:** [150 Purdue Ave, Kensington](#)

**Please RSVP to:** Marcia at 510-526-8951 or George at [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

#### **Directions from the North or South Bay Area:**

Take Eastshore Freeway 80 or Highway 580 towards Golden Gate Fields. Exit at Albany/Buchanan. At light turn east (towards hills). Follow Buchanan east. Buchanan curves right and becomes Marin. Cross San Pablo Ave. and continue east on Marin thru several lights. Cross The Alameda (round fire house on your right) and continue to Marin Circle (fountain in middle) and around to The Arlington (only divided road). Continue on The Arlington to stop sign. Pass stores on your right and continue three blocks, then turn right on Westminster. Turn right on Kenyon (at top of "T") and continue around and up to Purdue. Turn left on Purdue Ave and continue a short way to 150 Purdue, a white colonial house on your left. Continue up three to four houses to find parking.

# Annual Awards Banquet



## Hs Lordships at the Berkeley Marina Saturday, January 7, 2012 11:00 am until 3:30 pm Only \$20 per Person

You are cordially invited to enjoy the company of fellow club members at an all-you-can-eat buffet Luncheon Banquet. There will be a no-host bar, delicious and plentiful food, and beautiful views of San Francisco Bay (weather permitting).

It is certain to be a fun-filled afternoon. We'll be handing out many awards, installing Club officers, visiting with each other, and generally having a grand old time.

Perhaps best of all, you don't need to pre-select your meal choice in advance (as in previous years). Just come in and take your pick of Hs Lordship's extensive buffet offerings.

**The room only has space for 80 people. Respond quickly to reserve your place. Please RSVP and mail your check for \$20 (made out to "MGOC") to:**

Kim Kuenzinger  
1751 Lilac Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

**Directions:** From Highway I-80, exit at University Avenue in Berkeley and head west (towards the bay). (If you're approaching from the south, go east on University and then u-turn.) Stay left at Marina Boulevard. Continue straight until you dead end into the Berkeley Pier. Turn left on Seawall Drive. Hs Lordships is located at the end of the street at [199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley](#).

Specific directions from all parts of the Bay Area are available at:

<http://www.hslordships.com/hslordships/directions.aspx>

# October Events Report

By Samantha Lee

We had a real exciting October with the MG clubs! We first went to Petaluma for the Fall Festival. Although I had school on Friday, my dad left a day early to hang out with friends. I came up with mom and Elaine and arrived just in time for the banquet at the rustic Union Hotel. I ate a plate of spaghetti and a few loaves of bread.

We all caravanned to and from the Hotel and restaurant. It was delightful to see many MGs driving in a line at once! The next day I had a bacon & pancake breakfast by the pool. We then went down to the Infineon race way and got there just in time to see Craig blow a gasket and pulled off the track! After the awards banquet, we slept over with George & Marcia.

# Cal Autumn Classic

## Article and photos by Don Scott

Big car adventure for me on Sunday, October 16! Thanks to email and the MG Experience website, I was able to connect with fellow MG enthusiast Jim Legg of Napa and catch a ride to the Cal Autumn Classic in his 1970 MGB GT.

The weather was ideal, without the rain that ruined the show last year, resulting in an exceptional array of British sports cars. I don't think I have ever seen so many high-end restorations of old British sports cars assembled in one place, ever. But there were many less expensive, driver quality cars there too. The cars were displayed along Monterey Avenue, which had been closed for the event.

The first thing that caught my attention when we began looking at the many cars assembled in the historic downtown was the red '64 MGB body displayed by Bill Hiland of On the Road Again Classics. His restoration shop is located in Morgan Hill. The workmanship on the MGB body appeared impeccable in its new tartan red paint; and being a body sans anything else, it was a stark contrast to all the cars that were complete and running. I asked Bill what it would cost to get an early MGB done properly, and he said about \$35,000. As expensive as this sounds, I can understand with all the detail and handwork involved. In fact, that sounds like a bargain!



The next car that seemed to stand out from the rest was a white and black 1956 Austin Healey 100M. My comment to Jim was that the letter M on the Healey probably doubles its value. The car's owner, John Batterton, laughed and stated that was indeed the case. He said that his car had been battered and been through some strange ownership history before he adopted it. With painstaking work he had made it into an absolute beauty. He told us that there are only 200 100Ms left of the 640 that were made. He estimated that his car was worth \$140,000. I could see no defects in it. John posed next to the car for a photo.