

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

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THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owner's Club



MGOC-OCTAGON
If undeliverable please return to:
320 B Monterey Blvd.,
San Francisco, CA 94131-3141
email: mgooc@felixwong.com
<http://home.nacbell.net/tensten>



Gerald Pokorny and son in their MG TD at MG Day at the Races.
(Photo by Jeff Pokomy.)

November 2001

About *The Octagon* and MGOC...

The M.G. Owner's Club, formed in 1958, is the Northern California center of the M.G. Car Club, formed in England in 1930. We receive two copies of MGCC's *Safety Fast*, available to members on loan from the Corresponding Secretary. The club is also associated with NAMGBR, the North American MGB Register, and NAMGAR, the North American MGA Register. The MGOC holds a business meeting on the second Thursday of each month. We gather socially on the third 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. Owner's Club. Opinions expressed in *The Octagon* are not necessarily those of the MGOC, its members, or Board of Directors.

DIRECTORY of MGOC OFFICERS for 2001

President: Nina Barton, 510-845-7212, ninaba@mindspring.com

Vice President: David Wright, 510-653-3831

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

Secretary: Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, magnut_dan@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: George Steneberg, 510-525-9152,
j2george@pacbell.net

Membership Development: Doug Paris, 650-349-3778; Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, RAStine@prodigy.net

Octagon Editor: Felix Wong, 510-572-4257 work, 510-226-7721 home,
mgoc@felixwong.com

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

CLUB ADVISOR PROGRAM

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

MGB and GT 1962-69: Felix Wong, 510-572-4257 work, 510-226-7721 home, mgoc@felixwong.com

MGB 1974½-1980: Ed Adams, 510-483-6821

MGB 1969-1974: Felix Wong, 510-572-4257 work, 510-226-7721 home,
mgoc@felixwong.com

MGC: Kent Leach, 510-254-5748

M.G. Midget: Kingsley Klarer 707-226-1955

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

Z-Magnette Saloon 1953-58: Marty Ray, 831-427-2642 home,
martyray@eudoramail.com

M.G. 1100 Sports Sedan 1962-67: Lora Lerner 831-464-3795

T-types: George Steneberg 510-525-9125

Pre-war Midgets-Magnas-Magnettes: George Steneberg, 510-525-9125

Business Meeting

November 8, 2001 (Thu) at 8:00pm

at

The Englander Sports Pub & Restaurant

101 Parrott ST.

San Leandro, CA 94577

510-357-3571

Board Meeting at 7:30p. All are welcome!

Driving Directions:

From northbound I-880, take the Washington Ave. exit within San Leandro and turn right on Washington. Travel 2.2 miles until you see Parrott St. Turn right on Parrott.

From southbound I-880, take the Davis St. exit, and turn left on Davis. Travel 1.3 miles, and then turn right on E. 14th St. Travel 0.3 miles, and then turn right on Parrott.

Details:

The Englander is an enjoyable place where we will have our own room. The food is good so bring your appetites and let's have a good turnout. Our last business meeting at the Englander was a great success and we are hoping for a repeat.

The Club is looking into the idea of having a permanent location for our business meetings and the Englander is a prime candidate.

Note that the November Business Meeting is when the slate for the Club officers for 2002 is proposed. The nominating committee is Nina Barton (510-845-7212), Mike Jacobsen (415-333-9699), and David Wright (510-653-3831). If you wish to stand or have candidates to propose please let one of the committee members know. Better yet come to the Englander meeting and make your proposals in person!

Attention!!

Have your MG painted by a fellow sports car lover with 11 years experience. High quality rubbed out polyurethane finish at reasonable cost. I do bodywork, rust repair and welding. Fast turn around time. References and examples of my work available. Call for an appointment for a free estimate. Andy Schank 510-236-5232

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, 3516 Dickenson, Fremont, CA 94538. Ads run for ONE month, after which they will be deleted unless you call. Your ad can be extended easily, but you **MUST** contact *The Octagon* editor to renew! Any ad that appeared in the past can be re-run by calling the editor; new copy is not required.

1967 MGB convertible. BRG, wire wheels, new Dunlops, many upgrades. One owner since '78. All repairs—British Auto Service. **\$3000** OBO. Alan, 650-367-5838 voicemail.

Soft top for MGB. Circa 1976. Windows clouded, small tear. **\$25.** Call 415-831-8292 evenings.

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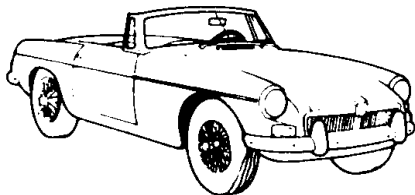
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S.U. Carburetters: Marty Ray, 831-427-2642 home,
martyray@eudoramail.com

Bodywork: Bill Weissberg, 510-658-4335

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING IN *THE OCTAGON*

Direct all questions about advertising to Mike Jacobsen at 415-333-9699 or *MikesMuseum@yahoo.com*. 2001 rates are: monthly (yearly): full pg. \$25 (\$240), half page \$18 (\$175), third page \$12 (\$120), business card \$8 (\$75). All ads expire on Jan. 1st, 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*.

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 10th of the month preceding the issue in which you want them to appear. The editor's address is: Felix Wong, 3516 Dickenson, Fremont, CA 94538. Or, you may email contributions to *mgoc@felixwong.com*. Preferred electronic text formats include ASCII text or any version of Microsoft Word; preferred image formats include TIFF, GIF, JPEG, PICT, and BMP.

RECRUITING MEMBERS FOR THE MGOC

Have you helped recruit any new members lately? Bob Stine (650-349-5128) is in charge of new member recruitment and can send you flyers.

You can cut out this coupon and give it to prospective members

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE MG OWNERS CLUB!!

For a sample copy of our monthly magazine, *The Octagon*, and a membership application, please contact our Registrar:

Mike Jacobsen
320 B Monterey Blvd.
San Francisco, CA 94131-3141
415-333-9699
MikesMuseum@yahoo.com

Membership

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at future meetings and events of the MGOC and having your stories, photos, and tips printed in *The Octagon*!

Calendar of Events

MGOC (which is us!) events are in **bold** type. Abbreviations (if used): CSRG – Classic Sports Racing Group, SSTS – Sorry Safari Touring Society, HMSA – Historic Motor Sports Association, ESCA – Empire Sports Car Association

General British Car Events

December 1, 2001 (Sat)—MGOC Holiday Feast, 7:00pm. See details on Page 12.

CSRG Vintage Race Schedule for 2001

November 10-11, 2001 (Sat-Sun)—Thunderhill (their season finale)

October Events Report

by Dan Shockey

MG Corral and Track Tour

October 13, 2001 (Sat)

We had a good turn out for the 1st Annual Corral and Track Tour at Sears Point. This was the CSRG vintage races. We got to see club members David Wright ('64 MGB), Tom Morgan (59 MGA), and Ferdinand Schoch ('62 MGA) on the track plus several other TDs, MGAs, Midgets and MGBs. We had about 20 MGs in the Corral and 15 that took to the track for our special, MG-only track session. We were allowed to go at our own pace and were on the track about 35 minutes. I was able to scare myself a couple times and had a blast. Club members present included Wayne Veatch, Terry Sanders, Ray and Shirl Watson, Robert Burns, Dave Douglas, Jerry Pokorny, Patrick Kaye, George Steneberg and Tammi Hull. We had about as many from the Sorry Safari club and a TC from the Rough Riders.

❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Total
MG Owners Club Regalia			
Pennant – Red “MG Owners Club”, cream canvas, 9½" high by 17" long		\$10.00	
Grille Badge – MGOC logo, 4" high, mounts with one stud through grille		\$30.00	
Patch – 3" diameter, embroidered black MGOC logo on white		\$6.00	
MG Car Club of England Regalia			
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3" dia., mounts with studs through grille		\$45.00	
MG Car Club Grille Badge – 3" dia., mounts with bracket to badge bar		\$45.00	
Key Fob – Black leather fob with cloisonne MG Car Club logo		\$10.00	
Lapel Pin – ¾" by 1" enamelled metal MGOC badge		\$6.50	
Outside Window Decal – 5" by 5½" brown & cream MGCC logo		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2½" by 3" brown & cream logo; reads “Member”		\$1.00	
Inside Window Decal – 2½" by 3" brown & cream logo; reads “Member” and “Marque of Friendship”		\$1.00	
Round Mug – British Racing Green with gold MGCC logo and rim		\$10.00	
Octagonal Mug – Octagonal green mug, cream interior, gold MGCC logo and rim		\$12.00	
MGs at Jack London Square from Posters & Plaques			
Dash Plaque – 1999, black on gold, MG TC		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1998, blue on gold, MGB/GT		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1997, red on gold, MGOC logo w/ “Britain Meets the Bay”		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1996, green on gold, MGA with Jack London		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 1995, white on black, MGOC logo and Tribune Tower		\$2.00	
Poster – 1999, features a blue MGB roadster and the JLS History Walk		\$5.00	
Poster – 1998, features a yellow MGB/GT with the yacht Potomac		\$5.00	
Poster – 1997, features a red MG TF with “Britain Meets the Bay”		\$5.00	
Poster – 1996, features a green MGA with Jack London		\$5.00	
Poster – 1995, features a red MGB, a Union Jack, and Amtrak bridge		\$5.00	
Total Amount Enclosed			

❖ “Ship To” label - please print!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone number in case we have a question _____

❖ Ordering Information

- ◆ All prices include tax, and shipping is FREE! Some items are stocked from England and may have a long lead time; we will notify you if the delay will be more than three weeks.
- ◆ Make checks payable to “MGOC” – sorry, but we cannot accept credit cards or cash.
- ◆ Send orders to: **MGOC Regalia, 5518 Thomas Ave., Oakland, CA 94618-1752.**

MGOC Regalia!

Our club has MGOC regalia that is available for purchase by anyone. Below is a sampling of available regalia; more items are listed on the order form on page 17. Please contact David Wright at 510-653-3831 for more information.



Key Fob

Pin

Key Fob — \$10; Pin — \$6.50



Octogonal Mug — \$12

Round Mug — \$10



Pennant — \$10

Drive to Half Moon Bay

October 20, 2001 (Sat)

Well, we didn't make it to San Francisco but had a great day of driving some of the best sports car roads anywhere. I felt I was on the Alpine Rally. We had a fun lunch at a British pub in Half Moon Bay. Bob Wall led the tour with assistance from Mike Jacobsen. Mike brought his MGA and Bob his B-GT. Shawn Scarlett and Don Ruble (and son) brought their beautiful BRG MGB roadsters. A friend of Bob's came in his TR6 and I risked limb in my '35 P-type. I found its fuel line was partially blocked and leaking that morning. Replacing that line made a big difference in how the car ran and I was able to mostly keep up.

Mike Jacobsen wrote: "Yes, the Tour was fun, but what made it really interesting was the PB. This was the first tour I've ever been on in the MGA where I felt like I was driving a modern car. While the rest of us were just sort of driving up Hwy 9, for example, Dan was motoring! Between the 19x4 tires (with knobbies!), solid axles, cable brakes, crash box, and that rompin' stompin' 850cc motor, Dan was a busy guy. I know that I've never seen anyone drift through so many corners within one mile. Going downhill after tight corners (especially if they were bumpy), we'd all watch our mirrors to see if Dan got the PB through OK. Whenever we stopped to regroup, we'd get out to stretch, but Dan got out to rest up! If he ever gets a supercharger for it, watch out!" For my part, I got quite a thrill seeing the As and Bs zipping along ahead of me.



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The Case of the Missing MGB Decal

by G. F. Matecko
Alamo MG Association
San Antonio TX

At MG 2001 this year I noticed a yellow 1971 MGB that was truly pristine. What really grabbed my attention was a very attractive, MG Spousal Unit, handing out a small decal to anybody who stopped and talked. This piece tracks my discussion with a lady who told me a tale of the missing MGB decal.

Gerry Wiggins and her husband, Roger, are the original owners of a 1971 MGB that was built early in the '71 production year. In 1994 they heard about the upcoming 1996 MG '96 at Indianapolis, and decided to return their car to it's original shape. They succeeded remarkably.

Roger, a pilot for Northwestern airlines, had kept every part when he removed or replaced it; he had boxes full of original material. He also had documented the car's condition at various times through photographs. So he and Gerry were sure that when Indy '96 came along they'd have a very original car that could stand up to 'concours' judging.

As they prepared for Indy, Roger went about sanding, repainting, and the mechanical work that he wanted to do prior to the drive from Bloomington MN to Indy. One thing he didn't do until later was remove the original tires, making the thousand mile trip with 25 year old tires!

Gerry, the artist, concentrated on making the details right. Fitting the carpets, renewing the dash, mounting the original window sticker, and making sure that the engine compartment was clean and presented 'as new'. Gerry witnessed a 'concours' judging at a Jaguar regional meet, and was amazed at the level of detail the judges went to ... the right clamps, the right spark plug wires, the original oil filter ... everything exactly 'stock'. Gerry thought that if the Indianapolis judging was in the same vein, she had lots of 'obsessive' work to do to make sure her '71 B would be competitive.

To make sure that all the decals were complete Gerry decided not to just rely on the photos that Roger had taken, but also to research literature --- specifically all of the dealer sales literature that she and Roger had collected. They had stacks of dealer brochures she went through to follow the 1963-1980 production of the MGB. For instance, many of the rubber parts that Roger had taken off the car (for instance hoses and clamps) were painted engine red; Gerry thought (incorrectly) that MG would not have painted the heater hoses with engine paint! From witnessing the Jaguar concours, she knew that originality was the key.

As she reviewed the literature, (including MGC sales brochures) she also noticed that something was in every picture, but was missing from their engine compartment. In virtually every factory photograph of the engine compartment there was a small red, white, and blue decal on the radiator.

Photos from the Marin Tour to the Pelican Inn

July 15, 2001 (Sun)
Photography by Ray Watson



MGs line up for the Pelican Inn.



"I didn't have the heart to tell David that his new car was not an MG", says Ray Watson. David Wright and his new Jaguar.

planned at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay. (See separate report.)

Holiday Party: The opportunity to hold one was offered. Nancy Shane and Dan later asked if they could do it. The date will be December 1. (See separate announcement.)

Annual Dinner: Nina will ask Bob Stine to find us a good restaurant on the Peninsula and pick a good date in January.

North Bay Feed: An MGOC member is keen to hold an MG and Jaguar event at his place. Will likely be in the spring.

Old Business:

Monthly Meetings: We agree to combine the meeting and the 'Natter and meet every month at the Englander in San Leandro. We can get our own room there. Next meeting will be November 8.

New Business:

NAMGBR: Nina is filling in the chapter reaffiliation forms.

MGCC Site: Dan noted that our website is not listed with the other club info.

45th Anniversary: The MGOC of Northern California will reach its 45th anniversary in 2002. Dan suggested we mark the event in various ways throughout the year. George has club history info.

Nominating Committee: The committee chosen is Nina, Dan and Mike. We need to put the candidates in the November newsletter and vote on them at the November meeting.

Next Meeting and 'Natter: Englander, San Leandro, November 8. (See separate announcement.)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Gerry sought some advice from local MG enthusiasts --- and got nowhere. Many refused to acknowledge the decal. Some even remained skeptical when she brought out 8 years of dealer brochures, with each one containing photo's of the decal. She told me that she honestly believes it was because the MG community is so male dominated, that few wanted to accept the fact that a female knew a bit of trivia that had escaped the 'true' (male) MG enthusiast.

Gerry then turned to a Jaguar friend who had a show car. He immediately told Gerry that the decal was on virtually every car that was built in England from the 60's through the 80's. And the Jaguar dealers (in support of the concours community) still sold them!

But alas, it was not to be that easy; the Jaguar dealers only sold the decals that were used from 1976 and beyond; they were a completely different design. But Gerry was on the hunt, and sniffed success -- she now had the name of the firm that produced the decal --- BlueCol. BlueCol Ltd (the UK's equivalent of Prestone), provided antifreeze to BMC and B-L, and gave the companies a discount in exchange for placing the decal on the radiator. Unfortunately the original decal was made of inexpensive paper, and had a life span of days.

Gerry's next step --- contact BlueCol Ltd. and get the decals from them. The sniff of success became a bit more faint when Gerry found, through a series of trans-Atlantic phone calls, that the firm had been sold several times, and nobody knew a source of the old decals. However, one old time employee had an old magazine with a picture of the decal; unfortunately for Gerry no decals were known to exist.

But, as you see above, the decal does exist --- now.

Gerry got the magazine picture of the original decal from the new company, along with legal permission to reproduce it for non-profit use. She took the copy and carefully drew a color reproduction, and paid for the production of 200 of them. She used one on her car, and freely distributes the others.

A photo of Gerry is shown below, believe me when I tell you that she has aged like her MGB - imperceptibly. The photos of her in the car with Roger in 1971 show little difference between those of her and Roger in 2001.

For those of you who joined us, you know that the Indy judging wasn't to concours standards. Neither was the MG 2001 judging. Never the less, the Wiggin's MGB was ready. (In case you wondered, Gerry did find an OEM 1971 oil filter too, and it's casing surrounds the Fram oil filter on the car --- looking stock, but working like the driver the car is).

The next time you see a properly restored MGB --- look for the BlueCol decal on the radiator. My guess is that you won't see one; and when you ask the male owner of the car about the decal, he'll most likely tell you that his car is original --- and there was no such decal.



The missing decal. (Image submitted by G.F. 'Mat' Matecko.)



Jerry Wiggins with her '71 MGB and the missing decal.
(Photo submitted by G.F. 'Mat' Matecko.)

Minutes

MGOC General Meeting, October 11, 2001 (Thu)
by Dan Shockey

Present: Nina Barton, Mike Jacobsen, George Steneberg, David Wright, Dan Shockey. Nina called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (Mike): With new memberships mostly received, our balance is at its annual high. Mike will provide a check for the track session at Sears Point to Dan.

Registrar's Report (Mike): We have two new members to bring to total to 143 with a few renewals still trickling in. We ended the year with 161 paid memberships..

Octagon Report (Felix Wong): Felix says, "I hate computers." Mike is editing the final copy.

Secretary's Report (Dan): Revised email lists per list from Mike. Members, please send updates.

Regalia Report (David): George sold two JLS T-shirts to family of Earl Pierce.

Events:

MG Corral: We negotiated a price of \$400 for the 40 minute track session. David has arranged the details. (See separate report.)

Tour to the Coast: Mike has sent some suggestions to Bob Wall. Lunch

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MGOC Holiday Feast

December 1, 2001 (Sat)

All MGOC members and friends are invited to a holiday party hosted by Nancy Shane and Dan Shockey at their home in north San Jose. (Directions below.) For entertainment, bring pictures (or slides) of cars you wish you still had.

We will provide the Roast Beast and soft drinks. (BYOB) You bring a salad or vegetables or desert. Come anytime after 6:30 p.m. We'll dine around 7:30 but you are welcome to drop by whenever you can make it. RSVP if possible but not required.

From I-680 north or south:

- Take the Berryessa exit East
- Turn right (south) on Capitol Ave. (1st light after the freeway interchange)
- Turn left (east) on Mabury Rd. (2nd light)
- You will come to a 4-way stop at White Rd. You are very close! Stay on Mabury a few more blocks until you reach Fiji
- We are on the corner of Mabury and Fiji: 3219 Mabury Rd, on your left.
- There is lots of street parking

RSVP (preferred): Dan or Nancy, 408-923-3927; DPShockey@earthlink.net



*The engine compartment of Jerry Wiggins' 1971 MG.
(Photo submitted by G.F. 'Mat' Matecko.)*

MG Day at the Races

October 13, 2001 (Sat)

Photo by Jeff Pokomy

