

# THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owner's Club



Here are some of the Octagon members attending the GOF West Tour. GoF get together in Sonoma on June 20, 2001. (Photo by Ray Watson.)

**December 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](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)

**Vice President:** David Wright, 510-653-3831

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

**Secretary:** Dan Shockey, 408-923-3927, [magnut\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:magnut_dan@hotmail.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9152, [j2george@pacbell.net](mailto:j2george@pacbell.net)

**Membership Development:** Doug Paris, 650-349-3778; Bob Stine, 650-349-5128, [RAStine@prodigy.net](mailto:RAStine@prodigy.net)

**Octagon Editor:** Felix Wong, 510-572-4257 work, 510-226-7721 home, [mgoc@felixwong.com](mailto:mgoc@felixwong.com)

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

**PA/PB Midget 1934-36:** Eric Baker, 510-531-7032

**Lucas electrics:** Marty Ray, 831-427-2642 home,

*martyray@eudoramail.com*

**S.U. Carbutters:** 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. 1<sup>st</sup>, and fees for a partial year will be pro-rated to that date. Deadline for ad materials is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. The MGOC makes no claims as to the reputation or quality of work performed by businesses advertising in *The Octagon*.

### MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO *THE OCTAGON*

Your stories, photos, tips, questions, and anything MGOC-related are always welcome in *The Octagon*! Please make your contributions by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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

*February 2, 2002 (Sat)*—**MGOC Annual Dinner**. See page 7 for details.  
*February 2002*—SSTS Valentine Tour. Schweigers, 650-878-7921.

## Minutes

*MGOC General Meeting, Thursday, November 8, 2001*  
*Submitted by Dan Shockey*

**Members present:** Mike Zinns, Dean and Amanda Spielman, Mike Jacobsen, Bob McCoy, Bob Stine, David Wright, George Steneberg, Nina Barton, Dan Shockey. David called the meeting to order at 8:15. (Nina arrived soon afterwards.)

### Treasurer Report (Mike Jacobsen)

We lost \$100 on the track tour due to cancellations but we saved \$120 on the newsletter. Mike ran the copies himself.

### Registrar Report (Mike Jacobsen)

One more renewal. We have 143 full memberships. There are many additional associate and corresponding memberships. We asked Mike to give us a total of all paid memberships. We can use this number when seeking sponsorship, etc.

### Octagon Report (Felix Wong)

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Mike J. noted that about 75% of members have email addresses. We can consider making the newsletter available electronically, either as an option to the mailing or in addition to the mailed copy. The photos could be seen in color and the newsletter could get out without the delay of mailing. If there is interest, this may allow us to keep dues down long term since the newsletter is the largest club expense. Mike will discuss posting the newsletter on the web site with Jennifer Steneberg.

### **Secretary Report (Dan Shockey)**

Dan reported that he forgot and sent the last club email notice without using the 'BCC' option (blind copies). Not using the BCC allows recipients to 'grab' the list for their own use. We haven't had any complaints—a bigger issue would be if vendors use the addresses—but it is best to use the BCC sending option. We should ask members when they renew if they want their email listed, the same we ask about phone numbers.

### **Regalia Report (David Wright)**

David got a few more items for sale from the UK. He sold all the MGCC grill badges. David's lost check from the club was replaced by Mike.

### **EVENTS**

#### **Sears Point Corral and Track Tour**

The event went well. Problems were the lack of food for sale (due to track construction) and not knowing they wanted track tour participants to wear long sleeves (pants and shirts).

### **Holiday Party**

The club will pay for the food and soft drinks purchased.

### **Annual Dinner**

Amanda suggested we consider the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Bob S. will check some other places, also. We want a Saturday evening in late January or early February. (Amanda was able to get us the Basque Club for the evening of February 2. Nina is making arrangements.) We need to prepare an events list for consideration at the dinner as we plan for 2002. Mike J. will have a 1st cut for the December meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Meetings**

We were pleased with the accommodations and turn out at the Englander and the combined meeting/Natter format. We will stay with it and reserve the room for several months.

### **45th Anniversary**

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We decided not to make a big deal about our 45th anniversary but to note it in some ways. Dan to work with George to summarize the club history for the newsletter.

### **Elections/Nominations**

We had no new nominations so will proceed with the slate proposed in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

### **The North Bay B's**

*by Pat Kay*

I enjoy the backroads of the Marin & Sonoma dairy country quite frequently in my "B".

I started a "group" up here in Marin that I call the NORTH BAY B'S. It is the ultimate car club for the overly busy enthusiast. We have NO officers, meetings, dues, membership cards, or events. The only requirement is to run our "club" decal on your car (which I provide free of charge). Currently there's about 5 of us up this way. I believe all of them are MGOC members.

I'd like to show other MGOC members some of the greatest roads in the Bay Area sometime. I enjoy the roads that are off the "beaten path". They can be experienced in either a spirited or a casual drive. Let me know if you think others would be interested.

Pat Kaye

Novato, 415-897-9651

[twopatz@greaterbaynet.com](mailto:twopatz@greaterbaynet.com)



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2002 MGOC Annual Dinner  
February 2, 2002 6:30 P.M.



South San Francisco, CA.

Choose from:  
Prime Rib  
Salmon with Champagne sauce  
Vegetarian Pasta  
\$25.00/person

RSVP to: Nina Barton  
(510) 845-7212 or [ninaba@mindspring.com](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)  
By: January 21, 2002  
Payment to: MGOC  
3208 Monterey Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA. 94131-3141

## Photos from the MGOC Tour to Half Moon Bay

October 20, 2001 (Sat)

Photos by Dan Shockey



*MGs at a rest stop on Highway 35.*



*Members at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay.*



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## Photos from the Palo Alto Concourse

June 24, 2001 (Sun)

Photos by Felix Wong



*An early MG Midget on a trailer behind a British motorcycle.*



*A MG TC driving through Stanford University, the location of the Concourse.*

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## Email Updates/Corrections Needed for MGOC Mailing List

The following addresses have 'bounced' as invalid or unknown when we have tried to send you important announcements by email. If you see yours here, please let us know your correct or updated address. We occasionally send club event announcements and reminders and never give out your email addresses to advertisers and spammers. Thank you.

### Bounced (invalid) email addresses needing corrections:

[john\\_mcclary@netscape.net](mailto:john_mcclary@netscape.net)

[rxlee@cs.com](mailto:rxlee@cs.com)

[jbmaxwell1@aol.com](mailto:jbmaxwell1@aol.com)

[rxo2001@aol.com](mailto:rxo2001@aol.com)

[mcs94133@aol.com](mailto:mcs94133@aol.com)

[bedwin@msn.net](mailto:bedwin@msn.net)

[changkim@msn.com](mailto:changkim@msn.com)

[weissber@slip.net](mailto:weissber@slip.net)

[chimayo@uclink4.berkeley.edu](mailto:chimayo@uclink4.berkeley.edu)

[rexcats@telocity.com](mailto:rexcats@telocity.com)

[luebbert@spare.net](mailto:luebbert@spare.net)

[ellabill@cdepot.net](mailto:ellabill@cdepot.net)

[devie@slip.net](mailto:devie@slip.net):

[phil-lane@hp.com](mailto:phil-lane@hp.com)

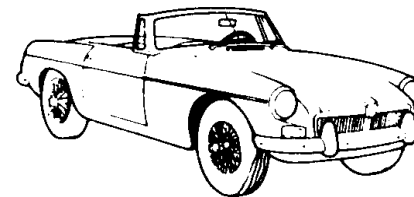
[rswain-2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rswain-2000@yahoo.com)

[DLion@ricochet.net](mailto:DLion@ricochet.net)

[djsslatt@hooked.net](mailto:djsslatt@hooked.net)

Contact Dan Shockey ([magnut\\_dan@hotmail.com](mailto:magnut_dan@hotmail.com)) for corrections.

# MG Service



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## Envelopes by MG Enthusiasts

Forwarded from Mike Jacobsen

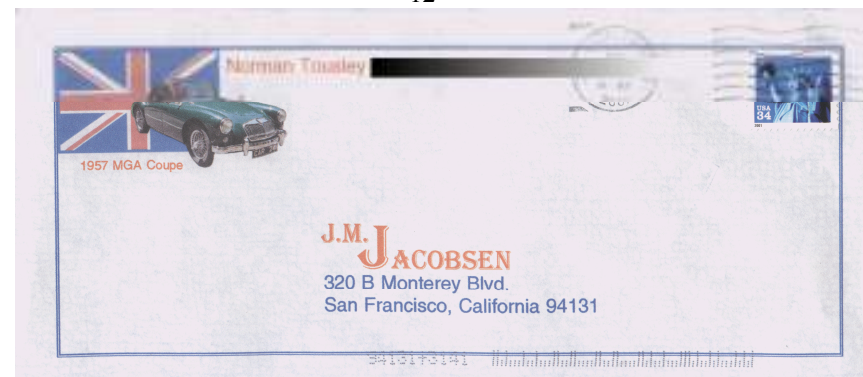


The front side of an envelope by Ray and Shirley Watson.  
They clearly like their MG!



The rear side of the same envelope by Ray and Shirley Watson.

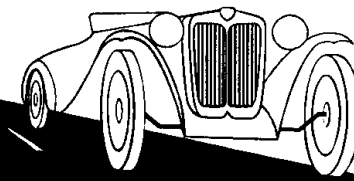
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The front side of an envelope sent by Norman Tousley. From this we can see he owns a 1957 MGA Coupe.

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## Useful Tools: Panel Lifters

*by Mike Jacobsen*

If you've ever tried to remove a door panel from any car designed after about 1960, you've run into the problem of getting those darn plastic rivet-like fasteners out of the door without tearing the panel or breaking the fastener. Wide-bladed screwdrivers, putty knives, and gasket scrapers all help, but none of them really do the job well. I thought about trying to make a special tool by cutting a slot down the center of a large putty knife, but then I discovered that someone had beaten me to it. I found the Trim Removal Set in the Eastwood catalog.

The three-piece Trim Removal Set looks a little like a collection of mutant putty knives. One member of the set is the tool I was wishing for, and is meant to lift out the clips that attach a car door panel to the door. The second tool is designed to push out the wire C-clip that typically secures window crank handles to their shaft, and the third tool will remove window molding clips.

After years of use, I can truly say that I have never broken a door clip while using the door clip tool. The C-clip tool also works as advertised, even on the handles in my Magnette. I thought I'd never get a chance to try the window molding tool, but a couple of months ago I had to replace the windshield moldings on my modern car, and the tool worked just fine. The tools are quick to use, too. Since they have ground and tapered edges, you just slide them in where you need to remove something, lift, and snap, the clip is loose.

Mine came from the Eastwood catalog (item 52021, about \$11), but you can sometimes find similar tools at the local auto parts store. I've seen a door panel tool in Kragen before, at least. Eastwood is at 800-345-1178, or [www.EastwoodCompany.com](http://www.EastwoodCompany.com).



*Panel lifters. Photo by Bob Stine.*

# Official Ballot

**for  
2002 MGOC Officers' Election**

## Instructions

Complete the ballot for each office by either marking the box next to the candidate's name or by writing in the name of an MGOC member in the space provided.

Mail the ballot to:

Mike Jacobsen  
MGOC Treasurer  
320 B Monterey Blvd  
CA 94131-3141

Ballots must be received by December 13, 2001 (Thu) to be counted.

## Candidates

### *MGOC President*

Dan Shockey

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### *MGOC Vice President*

David Wright

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### *MGOC Treasurer*

Mike Jacobsen

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### *MGOC Secretary*

Nina Barton

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## Happy Holidays from Your MGOC!



*An MGA in London. Original source of artwork unknown.  
Submitted by Dan Shockey.*

## 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 — \$10; Pin — \$6.50*



*Octagonal Mug — \$12  
Round Mug — \$10*



*Pennant — \$10*



## ❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Total
<b>MG Owners Club Regalia</b>			
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	
<b>MG Car Club of England Regalia</b>			
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	
<b>MGs at Jack London Square from Posters &amp; Plaques</b>			
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	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			

## ❖ "Ship To" label - please print!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number in case we have a \_\_\_\_\_

## ❖ 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.**

# 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 Felix Wong, 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.

**1977 MGB convertible.** Two tops, wood dash, special rims. Jack London Square three-year winner for first place; one year third place. Asking price of \$5,000 or best offer. Call 510-524-3244 or 510-898-0955.

**1980 MGB-LE.** Special paint and gold and silver rims with gold striping. Wood dash, two tops. Perfect condition. Must see to appreciate. First place at Jack London three times. Asking \$8,000 or best offer. Call 510-524-3244 or 510-898-0955.



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# Business Meeting & Natter 'n' Noggin

*December 13, 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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

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If undeliverable please return to:  
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email: [mgoc@felixwong.com](mailto:mgoc@felixwong.com)  
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