

# UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- Aug. 8, 2002 (Thu) — Club Meeting & Natter.....19
- Aug. 18, 2002 (Sun) -- MGOC Annual Picnic.....12
- Sep. 7-8, 2002 (Sat-Sun) – Palo Alto British Car Meet .....8-9

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# THE OCTAGON

Newsletter of the M.G. Owner's Club



MGs gathering for the DiCiccio Rose Tour. (Photo by Bob Stine.)

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

August 2002

## 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 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 2002

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

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

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

**Secretary:** Nina Barton, 510-845-7212, [ninaba@mindspring.com](mailto:ninaba@mindspring.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:** George Steneberg, 510-525-9125,  
[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, 510-226-7721 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 1962-74:** Felix Wong, 510-226-7721 home, [mgoc@felixwong.com](mailto:mgoc@felixwong.com)

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

**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 & S.U. Carburettors:** 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](mailto:martyray@eudoramail.com)

## Club Meeting & Natter

August 8, 2002 (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.

### The Octagon is Online!

*The Octagon* is online. It is even in color, unlike the print version! For more details and links to the newsletter, see the following web pages:

<http://felixwong.com/mgoc>

*The Editor's MGOC Web Site*

<http://home.pacbell.net/jensten>

*Official Web Site of the No. Cal. MGOC*

## 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. Members may also email ads to the Editor at [mgoc@felixwong.com](mailto:mgoc@felixwong.com). 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.

**1968 MGB-GT** with 4-speed overdrive transmission -- bring **\$500** and drive it away! Call Tom Morgan at 650-588-4960 for details.

Wanted: set of **front fenders** (steel) for a '68 or '69 **MGB**. Kevin Pyne, [kev@ariago.com](mailto:kev@ariago.com).

**Non-MG**, '85 GMC S-15 Jimmy SUV. Alloy wheels, new tires, good exterior and interior. Not running (blown head gasket). **\$400** OBO. David Wright, 510-653-3831.



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**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](mailto:MikesMuseum@yahoo.com). 2002 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, MGOC, 3516 Dickenson, Fremont, CA 94538. Or, you may email contributions to [mgoc@felixwong.com](mailto: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; [RAStine@prodigy.net](mailto:RAStine@prodigy.net)) 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](mailto: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

**August 18, 2002 (Sun)—MGOC Annual Picnic.** See page for more info.

**September 8, 2002 (Sun)—All British Car Day.** El Camino Park in Palo Alto. Featured marque is Austin Healey.

**September 22, 2002 (Sun)—2002 Palos Verdes Concours d'Elegance.** At the Ocean Trails Golf Club in Pebble Beach overlooking the ocean. This year's Grand Marshal is legendary Parnelli Jones. Weekend events include a visit to Parnelli's private collection. For more info, contact Cynthia Radom, [modar@earthlink.net](mailto:modar@earthlink.net).

**October 6, 2002 (Sun)—San Diego British Car Day and Picnic.** See [www.sandiegobritishcarday.org](http://www.sandiegobritishcarday.org) for more info or call Steve at 760-746-9028.

**October 31-November 2, 2002 (Thu-Sat)—HCT (High Country Tour)** in Sedona, Arizona. Includes rally, lodging, car show, meals + more for around \$325. Email [RacerMoss@sedona.net](mailto:RacerMoss@sedona.net) for more info.

## Minutes

### MGOC General Meeting

July 11, 2002 (Thu)

Submitted by Nina Barton

The Meeting was called to order by President Dan Shockey at 8:09 PM.

**Members present:** Nina Barton, Eric Baker, Mike Jacobsen, Tim Kirby, Bob McCoy, Dan Shockey, George Steneberg, Bob Stine, and David Wright.

## ❖ MGOC Regalia ❖

Description	Qty	Each	Tot
<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	
<b>MGs at Jack London Square from Posters &amp; Plaques</b>			
Dash Plaque – 2002, brown on gold, MG J2		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2001, red on gold, Elva Courier		\$2.00	
Dash Plaque – 2000, dark green on gold, late MGB		\$2.00	
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 – 2000, features a red Elva Courier with Earl Pierce		\$10.00	
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	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			

### ❖ “Ship To” label – please print!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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### ❖ 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 – \$10; Pin – \$6.50*



*Octagonal Mug – NLA  
Round Mug – \$10*



*Pennant – \$10*

## **Treasurer Report (Mike Jacobsen)**

Renewals coming in. Healthy balances in saving and checking accounts.

## **Registrar Report (Mike Jacobsen)**

80 renewals to date. Last year's totals were 153 regular members, 30 auxiliary members and 10 corresponding members.

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

No news to report.

## **Secretary Report (Nina Barton)**

Minutes approved.

## **Octagon Report (Felix Wong)**

Felix had another virus infect his computer, so the Octagon was a bit late.

## **EVENTS**

### **Rio Vista Tour June 22**

5 vehicles went on this event. Everyone had a nice time and the weather was perfect, around 70 degrees.

### **July 28 Rose Tour**

Meet at McDonalds.

### **Annual Picnic**

August 18, 2002. We will picnic at the upper meadow of Junipero Serra Park. Be prepared for wind, as sometimes it gets quite windy up there. Check the flyer in this month's newsletter.

### **Palo Alto British Car Meet - September 8**

AMGBA is making the Palo Alto event one of its annual events. We will caravan from the Sears Parking Lot (same place as last year) to the event. Times and exact meeting location to follow.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Jack London Square**

Consensus so far is to leave our event at Jack London Sq. Many people feel that raising the price to \$25 for entry fee, or not giving out t-shirts are acceptable ways to cover the costs of the event.

### San Mateo

Special Events Committee will meet next Weds. Will get back to Bob Stine about it. The event would be on B Street in San Mateo.

### Mudds

Mike Jacobsen talked with the Restaurant. The parking lot holds 60 cars. It is away from any downtown shopping, so might not be ideal for our needs.

### Broadway Plaza

David Wright spoke to the mall. It is managed by Macerich Management, and we will need to send in some kind of presentation package.

### Treasure Island

Costs are as, or more expensive than what we would pay for Jack London Sq. We might be able to have our event on their great lawn, but I am checking into whether or not we could park cars on the lawn itself.

### NEW BUSINESS

No other new business to report.

### Next Meeting and Natter

Will be held August 8, 2002, at The Englander. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

## From the President

*By Dan Shockey*

Hello, Fellow Sufferers (er... Enthusiasts),

Have you noticed all the interest the New Mini is getting. It's just a box and was not much sold here. Imagine how much interest a New MG would get. Perhaps the Mini's success will get us some attention.

I am well along with the P-type engine rebuild. (1935 MG Midget) I have to acquire new tools, suppliers, shops and know-how. Who knows when it will get done. At least I don't have to worry about getting it smog tested!

If I am unemployed much longer, I may actually do the bodywork on our sad-looking MGB/GT. Of course, I'd like to install the overdrive and rebuild

### Octagon Correction

At the top of page 15 of the July 2002 edition of *The Octagon*, there is a photo of an engine with the caption, "engine detail of MT P-Type". This caption is incorrect. It is actually the B engine of Stephen Holmes' recently restored dark-green MG TD, which took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at this year's MGs at Jack London Square show. The Editor regrets the error.

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*Row of MGBs. (Photo by Bob Stine.)*



*A white MGB already on its way! (Photo by Bob Stine.)*

the front suspension while I am at it. Too bad job hunting takes so much time.

We have some great events coming up. The tour to DiCicco's Rose Nursery in Watsonville on July 28 was great. Then it is the always fun Annual Picnic of August 18. Note these are both Sunday events for you that can't make the Saturday ones.

Nancy and I are planning a big run to Lake Quinault in Washington for the Club T MG Rendezvous. This is in early August. There are several going from the Sorry Safari club. Always fun to travel in good company.

Enjoy those cars!  
Dan Shockey

### **DiCicco Tour to the Rose Growers & BBQ**

*July 28, 2002 (Sun)*

*Submitted by Bruce Obbink*

These are the preliminary participation counts for the DiCicco Tour to the Rose Growers.

Sorry Safari	48 people	24 cars
Abingdon	20 people	10 cars
Cambria	6 People	3 cars
MG Owners	24 people	12 cars
Monterey	43 people	19 cars
<hr/>		
TOTAL	141 people	68 cars

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## The Palo Alto British Car Meet

*Saturday Tour - Sunday Show  
September 7-8, 2002 (Sat-Sun)*

Be part of the biggest all British automotive lawn event in California. Over 500 classic, quirky and thoroughly lovable British cars are expected to fill the field at El Camino Park in Palo Alto, for the 23rd Annual Palo Alto British Car Meet.

### Saturday - September 7th

The Official British Car Meet Tour To The Sea starts at El Camino Park in Palo Alto - The same place as the Sunday Show. This is a no cost option for people who like to drive their cars rather than just show them. We will be sending cars off between 9:00AM and 10:00AM. Don't be late! The event will end at Cameron's Pub in Half Moon Bay where we will be kicking tyres and telling tall tales in the car park into the afternoon.

### Sunday - September 8th

Join us for the Best All British Car Show In The West! Don't have a show car? Don't worry! Daily drivers, vintage racers, street rods & works-in-progress are as welcome as concours quality show cars. Great British food, jazz, parts, literature, toys and gifts and more fun than you'll be able to tolerate! People's Choice awards in six classes. Join your British car friends for a smashing day at the park.

The American MGB Association will join us with their National West Coast Convention. We are expecting over 100 MGBs and Spridgets to line the rows in front of the stage. There will be special additional AMGBA awards in classes that will be open to all MGB/Spridget owners, Members, or not. Another special area will be provided for members of the Arcane Auto Society who will display their automotive oddities from around the globe.

Cars will be placed on the field by marque, starting at 9:00AM, and the fun goes on all day. The registration fee is \$25 per car at the gate. There is no preregistration. All participants will receive a commemorative gift. Spectators park and attend free.

### Directions

entrance is 1/2 mile up the road on the left-hand side.

## DiCiccio Tour to the Rose Growers

*July 28, 2002 (Sun)  
Photos by Bob Stine*



*MGs gather in a parking lot near a lake, ready to tour.*

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*Street Car Museum. (Photo by Ray Watson.)*

## **MGOC Annual Picnic**

*High Noon, August 18, 2002 (Sun)*

*Junipero Serra Park, Upper Meadow View Area*

The 2002 MGOC Annual picnic features spectacular panorama of the Bay Area; unequaled views to San Bruno Mountain, San Francisco Airport, San Francisco Bay and Mount Diablo.

Our popular Annual Picnic will be held this year on the Peninsula, at Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno. We picked a private picnic spot with a view of the whole Bay Area and with parking close by. This is a great time to get acquainted and renew friendships with plenty of tire kicking and good food.

As usual, we will have a popular car vote and small prizes. We'll have two BBQ's glowing hot. There is water, electricity, restrooms and a playground, all right at the picnic area. Bring your own food and drinks. The area can be windy and cool so throw in a windbreaker and cap.

**Park Info:** The 108-acre site, set in the bayside foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, is just east of the San Andreas Reservoir. Geologically, the knoll that comprises the park is one quarter of a north-facing end slope of a ridge that was quarried over a 40-year time period for its Franciscan Sandstone. The park is bounded on its eastern side by the Serra Fault, while the much larger San Andreas Fault lies 1 mile to the west. Costoan Indians lived in the park's vicinity prior to the year 1800. The park was once part of the 15,000 acre Buri-Buri Rancho owned by Jose Sanchez.

**Picnic Time:** We'll have to have someone there at 9:00 a.m. to hold the site so come whenever you wish. There is hiking and a visitor's center with exhibits. We'll have the coals ready by 12:30 p.m. We'll be there until 4:00 p.m. or so.

**Directions:** From the north (San Francisco), use Highway 280 (southbound). Turn off at the Crystal Springs Road exit. Turn right onto Crystal Springs Road. The park entrance is 1/2 mile up the road on the left-hand side.

From the south (San Jose), use Highway 280 (northbound). Turn off at the San Bruno Avenue exit turning left onto San Bruno Avenue. Go under the freeway and turn left back onto Highway 280 south. Immediately exit at Crystal Springs Road. Turn right onto Crystal Springs Road. The park

El Camino Park is located on the El Camino Real, just north of University Avenue, opposite Stanford Center, From 101 take University Ave west, go under the Alma Street overpass, and turn right onto the El Camino Real. From 280, take the Sandhill Road Exit east and turn right on the El Camino, stay to the right to the University Ave exit, turn left at the overpass, then left again back onto the El Camino heading north. Trailer parking is available on-site at the park.

Do Not Park Trailers In The Shopping Center Parking Lot Please!

For information call: 310-392-6605 or email [rfeibusch1@earthlink.net](mailto:rfeibusch1@earthlink.net).

## **Useful Tools: Measu-Funnel**

*by Mike Jacobsen*

Recently I needed a funnel with a long neck, so I went down to the hardware store to buy a transmission funnel. Instead I found the Measu-Funnel, with more features than a Veg-O-Matic.

The Measu-Funnel (just plain "funnel" from here on) is plastic and will hold motor oil, transmission fluid, and antifreeze, though not gasoline. The 6" tall spout unscrews from the 16" tube so you can use it as a regular funnel. The spout is translucent so you can see through it, and is marked with three separate scales: half pints (to one quart), every four ounces (to 32 ounces), and every hundred milliliters (to one liter).

The best feature is the way that the tube attaches to the spout. Besides a debris screen in the attachment, there's also a twist valve. This lets you fill the funnel with that half pint the transmission needs, carry it over to the car, guide the tube into the transmission, and twist the valve to let the oil flow down the tube. Did I mention that nothing will spill while you're carrying the funnel because the spout has a lid like a Tupperware bowl has? And did I remind you to take the plug off the tip of the tube? The plug is on a tether so that you can't lose it, but its main value shows when it's time to put the funnel away. There's no need to get all the oil out of the funnel because you can just put the plug back on the tube and the lid on the spout, and nothing will drip out, even if you store the funnel upside down.

There wasn't a phone number or website on the label, but there was a company name and mailing address: Hopkins Manufacturing, 428 Peyton, Emporia, KS 66801. I found mine in the automotive section at Orchard Supply Hardware for \$5. A bargain, I think.



*The Measu-Funnel. (Photo by Bob Stine.)*

## **Mare Island Concours and Delta Ride to Rio Vista**

*By Ray Watson*

At the Concours at Mare Island, Terry Sanders had some competition, as this is the first time I've seen 2 Arnolts both in perfect condition. Check with Terry to find out how he did, as I did not see who won.

At the Rio Vista ride, there were 4 MGs that showed up. We had fun on the drive and also at the Street Car Museum.



*Mare Island Concours (June 2, 2002 Sun). Terry Sanders has some competition. (Photo by Ray Watson.)*



*Delta Ride to Rio Vista (June 22, 2002 Sat). This photo was taken at the*