



# OCTAGRAM

SEPT. 1, 2017

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs OF BALTIMORE, MD



The 38th Annual

# MGs

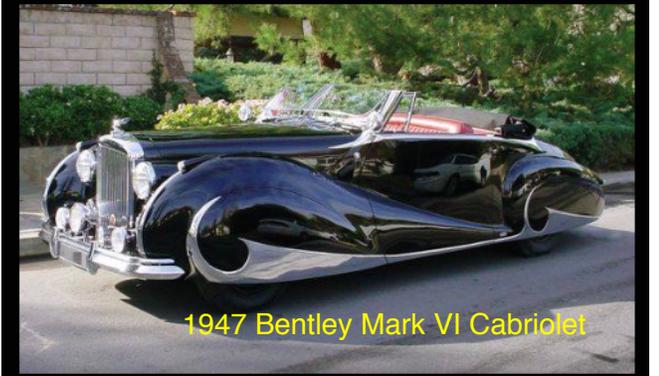
## *on the Rocks!*

Open to all British Marques

September 30, 2017



1935 Riley Kestrel



1947 Bentley Mark VI Cabriolet



MG Bertone Arnolt

# CLUB INFORMATION

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## MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

North American MGB Register    North American MGA Register  
American MGB Association    MG Car Club UK    MG Owner's Club UK

## MEMBERSHIP

Submit changes in address etc to  
Kathy McHenry    5237 Glen Arm Road E.  
Glen Arm, MD 21057    410-817-6862  
themgbabe@comcast.net

## TECH SESSION

Randy's session for August was about exhaust systems, their assembly and related issues.

## New Members

John & Eve Hilgenberg - 1952 MG TD

## DISCLAIMER

The OCTAGRAM is published monthly by the MGs of Baltimore car club. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Club, Club officers, or the newsletter staff. Technical information is believed to be accurate. However, any repairs or mechanical advice is attempted at the readers own risk. The Club, officers, or staff will not be responsible for any misinterpreted or incorrect technical information.

Articles appearing herein may be used by other other car clubs or organization in their own newsletters, providing appropriate credit and recognition of the source is given.\*

# MGOB TRIP

These were taken in St Michaels on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. Trip was great in spite of the HOT weather and a great time was had by all! ! A trip with Randy and Sheila, Ned and Patty, and Mike and Mary Lutz with Carol and Richard Jefferson also Barb and Duff. Photos by Ken and Sharon.



BRITISH CAR CLUB OF DELAWARE  
BRITS BY THE RIVER  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017



FEATURE MARQUE  
**SUNBEAM**



- 10AM-3PM, field opens at 9:30AM
- \$15 pre-registered, \$20 day of show, deadline 9/9/2017
- Awards at 2:30
- For questions call Don at (302)331-3075
- e-mail for information at [dhenderson@wildblue.net](mailto:dhenderson@wildblue.net)
- More info at: [bccdelaware.com](http://bccdelaware.com)

- Located in park like grounds of the Marina in Delaware City at the end of Clinton St.

- Dash plaque to first 75 entrants

- Awards by popular choice, classes to be determined by pre-registrant entries.

- Open to all years, makes, models British autos and motorbikes.

- **NEW** Separate car corral for selling vehicles, no awards.

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO BCCD TO: SHARON KALINOWSKI, 800 WOODLAND AVE., WILMINGTON, DE 19808

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CAR: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARQUE: \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

**Waiver of liability:** Neither I nor my heirs will hold The British Car Club of Delaware or Delaware City liable for any damages to my passengers and I or my car/motorcycle while engaged in, traveling to or from this event. No refunds. No rain date.



North American MGB Register

The only MEMBER-RUN organization for MGB, MGC, Midget, 1100/1300 and Post Abingdon Car owners.

- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$30** (\$45 overseas)
- *Dash plaque* • *Membership card* • *Window decal*
  - *Six bi-monthly issues of The MG Driver, a 68-page informative magazine.*
  - *Annual national convention – a four-day MG party!*

**North American MGB Register**

PO BOX 876 • Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876

Toll-free phone: 800-NAMGBR-1  
[www.namgbr.org](http://www.namgbr.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MG 2018**

*“A Gettysburg Address”*



June 17 - 22, 2018

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

MG2018.NAMGBR.ORG

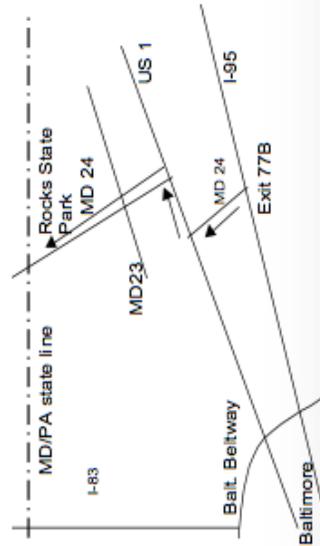
# MGs on the Rocks

What was once just a gathering of a few local members for a picnic is now one of the premier annual events for all British car owners in the Mid Atlantic Region. Each year we have over 200 cars with MGs of all Models and 8 classes of other British Marques. Popular vote balloting by the car owners is from 10:00 until 1:00 and awards are given out about 3:00 p.m.



Winners, chosen by car owner peers, receive awards at their cars as the crowd walks around the show field at the end. This is one of the Murphy Cup winners for the Best MGB. If you place check our website for the picture!

**Directions:** From I-95 North of Baltimore take exit 77B, follow Rte. 24 West 13 miles, briefly merging with and then leaving US 1, then later crossing MD 23. After 13 miles, turn right across the one lane bridge at Cherry Hill. Pull into the 4H Camp and **MGs on the Rocks** on your left. Look for MG Octagon signs enroute. You can set your Navigation system to: 2 Cherry Hill Road, Street, MD 21154



## MGs on the Rocks

If you love British cars this is the place to be the last Saturday in September. The Rocks State Park 4H Camp is an excellent country setting in rural Harford County, MD. Bring a picnic basket or purchase your lunch at the show and join the MGs of Baltimore for what has always been a superb show. Bring your parts shopping list for your ongoing renovation projects or your Christmas wish list for shirts and books. **See you at the Rocks!**

### Our Regular Features

The things that have brought British car drivers back year after year will be there:

- ☛ A field full of British cars in a casual park setting
- ☛ Lots of vendors of new and used parts.
- ☛ A great selection of various British cars for sale.
- ☛ An unlimited supply of expertise on whatever technical or restoration problem you have.
- ☛ Classic British Invasion Era Music
- ☛ Loaded Pit Beef Sandwiches! **Catering by the Sunshine Grille of Fork, MD**
- ☛ A wide range of classes for awards for all British Marques.

Put your car on the field! Although we have many beautiful cars, this is very much a **come as you are** gathering. Only owners of cars on the field can vote.

### New Things This Year

The MGs on the Rocks will continue in the traditions that you have come to expect for over 37 years.

### Things To Remember

**Pre-register!** Awards are generally 3 per class, but may vary as pre-registration indicates. We base our new classes on pre-registrations, so if you want to justify any new classes make sure you pre-register. Dash plaques are only guaranteed to pre-registrants. Plus you can drive right past that long line of on site registrants!

**Important times:** The field opens at 9:00 a.m., all vendors should be in place by 10:00 a.m. Voting is closed at 1:00. Awards will take place on the showfield as soon after 3:00 as vote counting allows.

Sorry, no pets please, Park Rules.

**Lodging** is available at Exit 77A of I-95,

Days Inn - 410 671-9990  
Comfort Inn - 410 679-0770  
Best Western - 410 679-9700

## Mail-In Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

Car Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Colour \_\_\_\_\_

Did you win your class last year at Rocks? Y N

Attending from what Car club? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Registration

Car show entrant \$20.00 if mailed before 9/1 \_\_\_\_\_

Car show entrant \$25.00 at show or after 9/1 \_\_\_\_\_

For Sale Cars \$20.00 before 9/1 \_\_\_\_\_

For Sale Cars \$25.00 at show or after 9/1 \_\_\_\_\_

### Total enclosed:

\_\_\_\_\_

Make cheques payable to "MGs of Baltimore, Ltd."

**Parking fee** at entry gate is \$5.00 per car,

**Vendor space** \$20.00 for the first 20'x20' space, \$20.00

for each additional space. Vendor registration is only at

the event; no preregistrations will be taken. To have

vendor information included in the registration packet

contact the Chairman below before 8/22.

To register fill out the above, tear on the dotted line,

enclose cheque, and send to;

Registrar: Ms. Tracy Trobridge  
3150 Pfefferkorn Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794

For other information, call:

Chairman: Jack Long Nights - 410-420-1385

Days: - 410-569-8191

Email: Jack.Long@item.com

**MGs of Baltimore, Ltd**

# Cool Runnin'

(part1)

by **Richard Jefferson**

Well it's hot again in July, go figure; gee has it ever been hot in July--- I forget. Anyway, as we all know sometimes LBCs don't particularly like the heat so here I'll share some of my experiences with Carole's B that may provide you with some "Cool Runnin". Drip Drip Drip

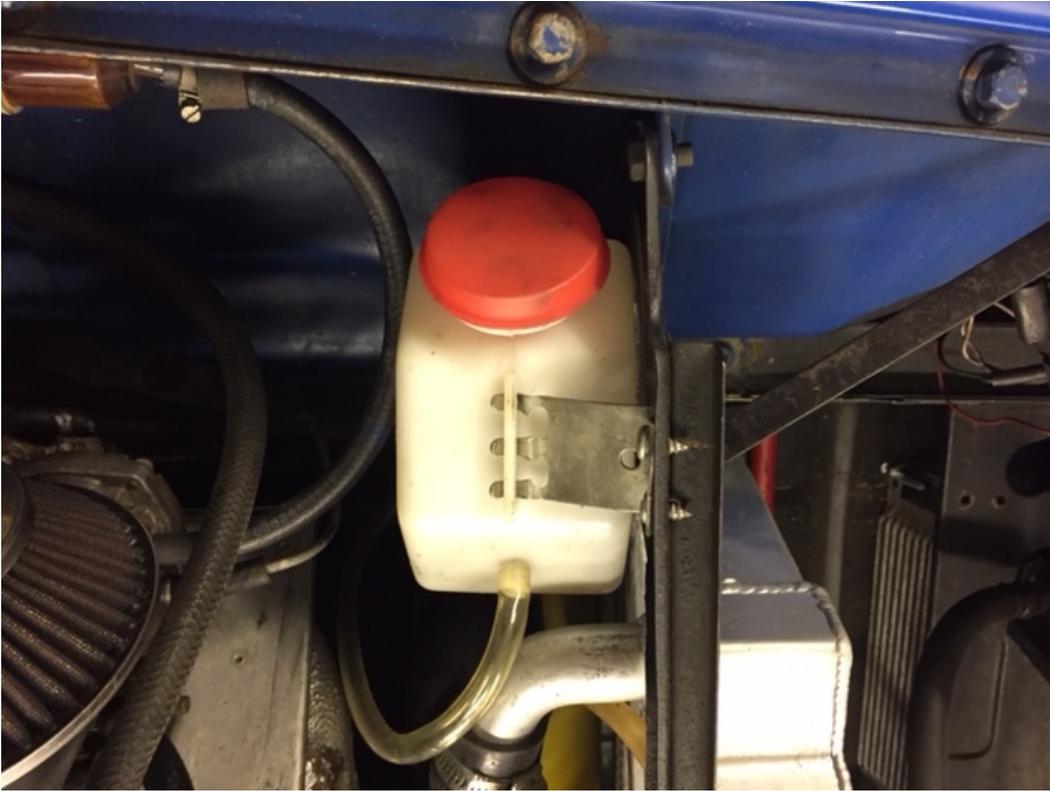
When's the last time you check the fluid level in you radiator. If you're like most, it rates right up there with checking the air in the spare tire. So don't let this happen to you. We were up in Valley Forge at a B convention and a few of us were actually checking the cars out for the trip home. For some odd reason I checked the fluid in the radiator; I couldn't see it. I shouted down the hole and a very nice echo came back---not good. Now the car had been running fine, but picture yourself in a one-hour traffic jam; you can bet that Smith's needle would be climbing. Luckily Doug Hart actually was packing some antifreeze in his trunk; why I don't know? After using all he had and some water the rad was filled; did I say it was low?

Now the question is where did it go? You know that over run tube on the rad, well it works. Think about it every time you stop on a hot day the MG spits, just like all cars do. So drip drip drip and now your reservoir is a hollow air cooling device, which works well for VW's ,but not so much for LBC's.

The solution of course is a overflow/purge retention tank. Now later MGs came with these in various forms. With the passage of owners a good portion of these have been discarded. This was probably due to owners trying to reduce the weight and air deflection these devices had the removal of which obviously made the cars faster; right? Carole's car didn't have a device or it had been removed. AutoZone to the rescue. For the princely sum of \$10 I obtained a new device that mounts easily and does the job perfectly as designed.

So, if you don't have this device on your car, don't let your friends call you "a drip". Head to AutoZone or your favorite website and do this quick fix. The next time you're driving the MG in a traffic jam you can thank me.

photos on next page.



# Battery Maintaining

By Diane Rindt

The topic for my article this month is Battery Maintaining. I realize our LBC have been put away for the winter but if you don't have a battery maintainer you may think it's a good idea for next winter.

Some of you may take the battery out of your car and store it in your basement until spring. Others may leave it in the car and disconnect it until spring, which will shorten the life of your battery. At our house we have too many toys with batteries to be doing either of the above. What I recommend to any of you with the same predicament, install a battery maintainer. We not only have them in our vintage car's we also have them installed on our boat, two snow machines and the riding lawn mower.

I'm going to share with you how I put permanent battery maintainer in my 1971 MGB. It may be more work than some of you are willing to do, please note you can purchase a battery maintainer that plugs into your cigarette lighter and isn't a permanent fixture.

## 1. Purchase Onboard Battery Maintainer:

You can purchase an Onboard Battery Maintainer through Moss Motors for \$67.00 or for about half that price go to your local tool and equipment store. You can also find them on line with Northern Tool and Equipment [www.northerntool.com](http://www.northerntool.com)



## 2. Mount the Onboard Battery Maintainer:

Decide where you want to mount the battery maintainer. I chose a location in the trunk because it doesn't take up space or look ugly

inside the car. I also wanted to have easy access for plugging a power cord into it.

When inside the trunk, stay in line with the passenger seat. There will be a hole in the trunk floor where the wire harnesses is routed to the battery compartment.

Drilled a hole on the back wall of the trunk to secure the battery maintainer. My maintainer came with a bracket; the new maintainer may be made of molded plastic with holes for mounting in the plastic. I used a pop rivet to secure it in place. If you don't have a pop rivet gun use a short sheet metal screw. Pay attention to the size of the hole you drill as not to make it too large for the screw size or pop rivet pin you select.



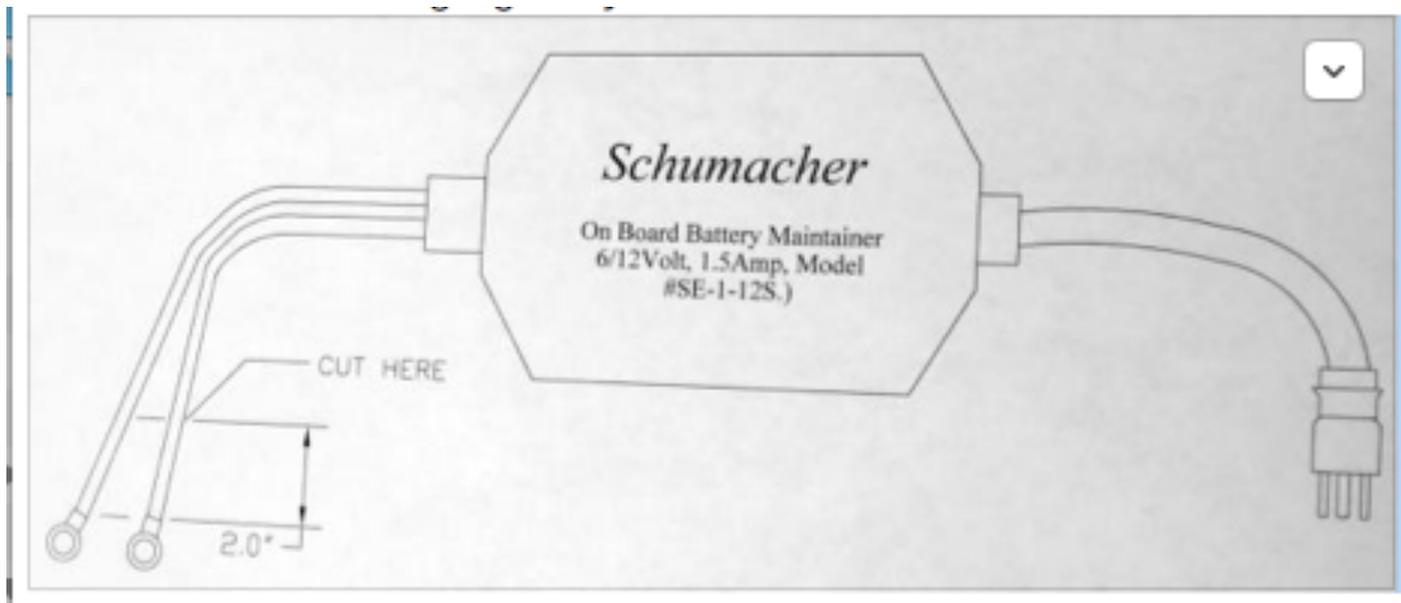
## 3. Remove the Battery Cover:

Inside the car there is a large metal plate found on the back shelf of your MGB. There are 5 DZUS fasteners holding it in place. Turn each counter clockwise to unlock it from the back shelf. Lift metal cover off of the shelf and set aside.

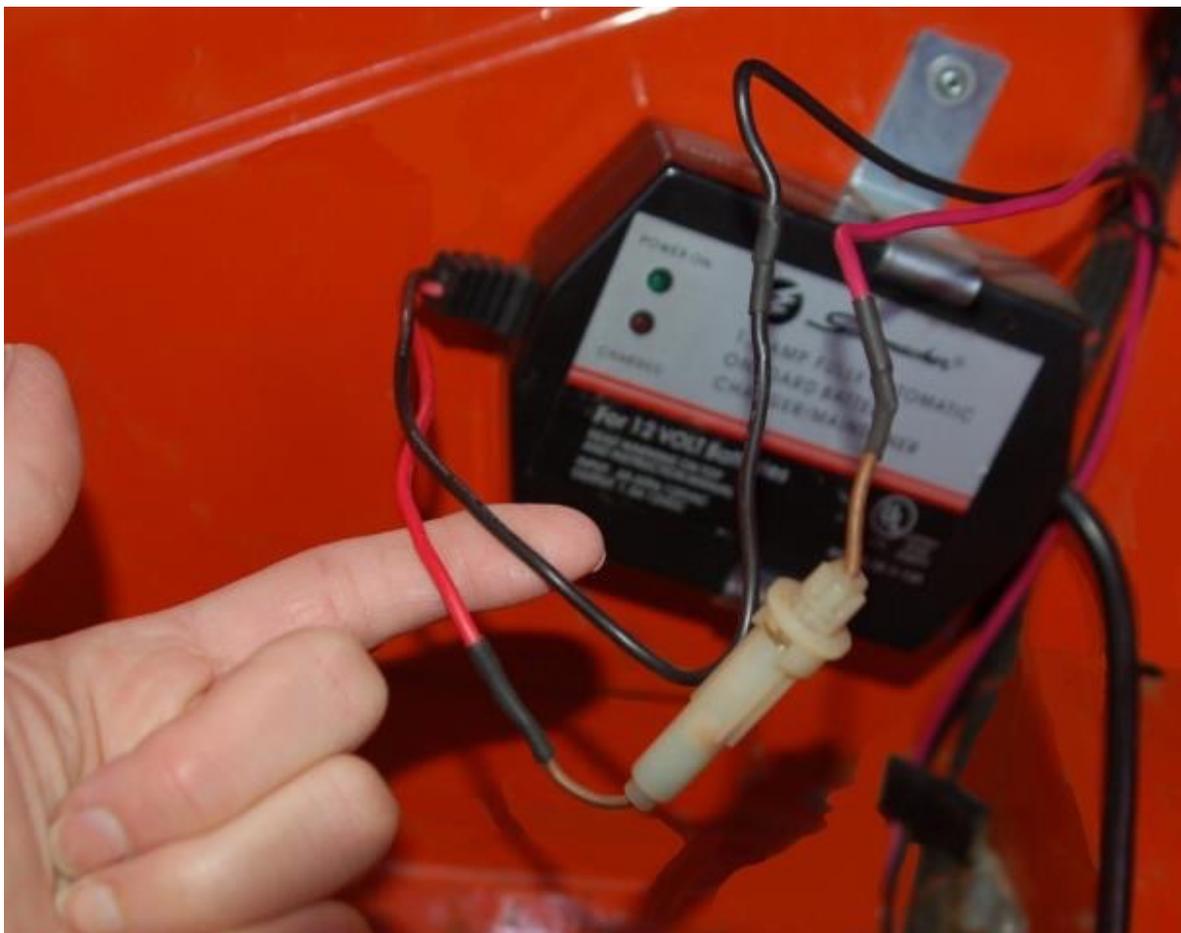
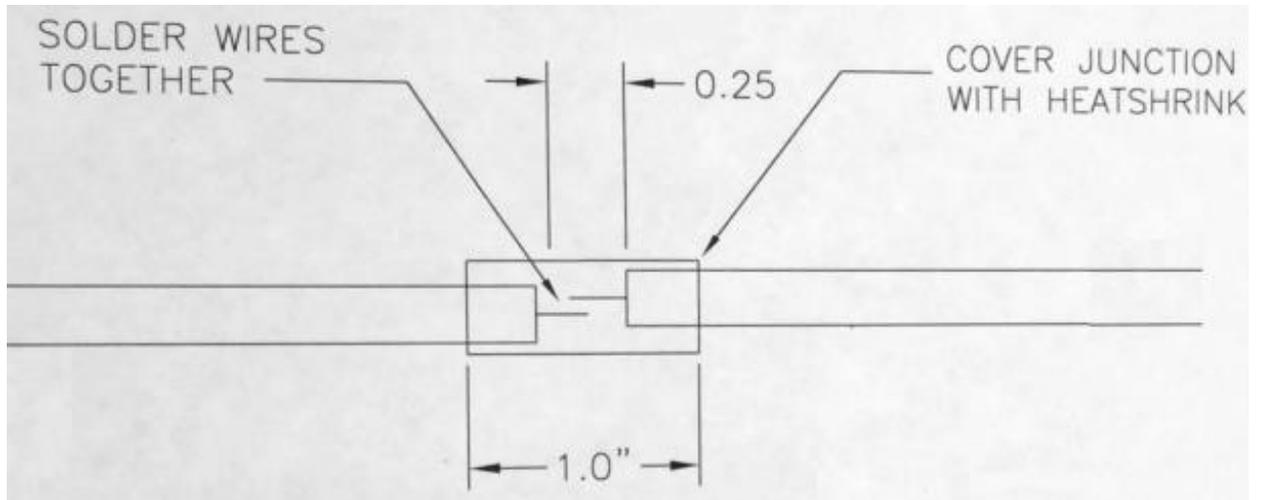
## 4. The Battery:

My twelve-volt battery is directly behind the passenger seat under the metal cover we just removed. All MG's up to 1974 came from the factory with two six-volt batteries. Most people have replaced the two six volt batteries with a one twelve-volt battery. Before I go any further you may be wondering why did MG design the car with two six-volt batteries. Depending on whom you ask there's more than one answer. I've been told it's because back in the day the twelve-volt batteries were much larger in size then they are today and it didn't fit in the back of an MGA or MGB. Others have said it's for weight distribution, thinking the MG designers were picky about weight placement - which is why the engine sits so far back in the car, the fuel tank is located on the centerline, and the batteries are evenly distributed about the centerline.

5. Routing wires from the Battery Maintainer to the Battery and Installing a Fuse:  
The black and red wires coming from the battery maintainer have gold circle ring lugs attached to them, these need to be cut off so you can extend the length of the wires to reach the battery inside the car. Make sure you purchase the same gage wire to extend these wires. I used 18AWG; UL1015 stranded wire. When you cut the wires, cut them three to four inches from the side of the battery maintainer. The diagram below does not represent the actual length of the red and black wires; it's only for reference. Keep the wires with the circle ring lugs they will be used later.



Strip the insulation on each wire back ~ 1/4". Slide 1/2" of heatshrink over each wire before soldering. Shrink the heatshrink in place with a heat gun covering the solder joint after splicing wires together.

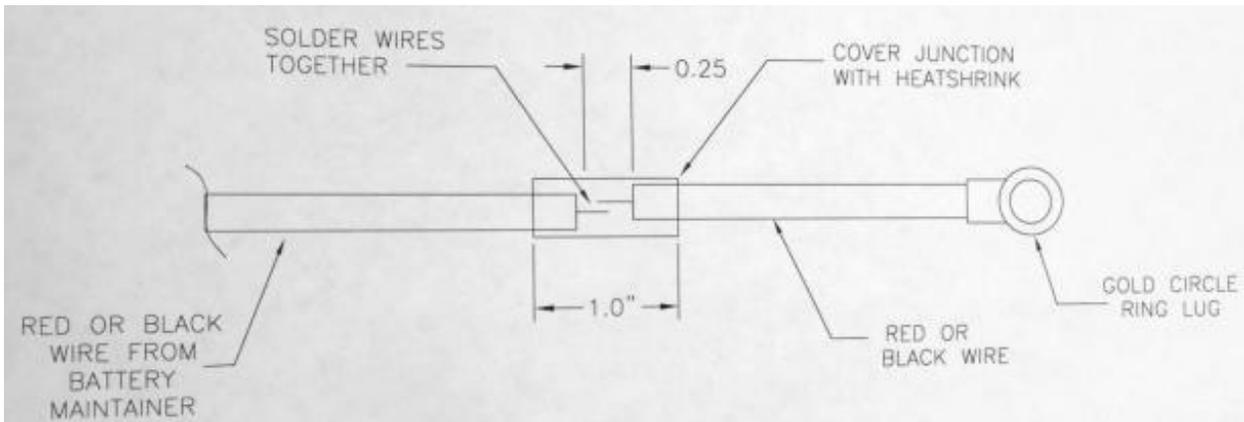


6. Secure Wires and Fuse Holder in Place with Wire Ties:  
Use wire ties to bundle up the fuse / wire assembly. I also secured the new wires to the wire harness before they were routed through the hole in the trunk.



There is no photo of the underside of the car where the wires travel in parallel with the wire harness. This photo below shows the wires coming through the battery box insert inside the car.

7. Solder Circle Ring Lugs Wires and Mount Circle Rings to Battery Terminals: After the wires are routed inside of the car you will need to solder the ring lug /wire to the extension wire from the battery maintainer. Strip the insulation on each wire back ~ 1/4". Slide 1/2" of heatshrink over each wire before soldering. Shrink the heatshrink in place with a heat gun covering the solder joint after splicing wires together.



8. Mount Circle Ring Lugs to Battery Terminals: My car has universal battery terminals installed. I removed one of the bolts from the side and put the circle ring lug in place. Re-installed the bolt with the ring lug attached.

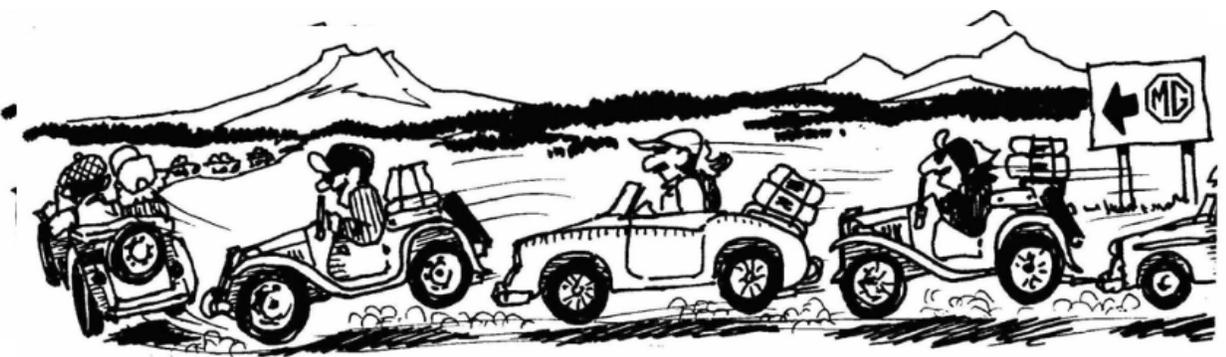
Return the large metal plate that covers the battery compartment and now you are set.

One nice feature these battery maintainers have is they monitor the battery storage and once the voltage is met they shut off automatically. After my car is tucked away in its location for the winter I run an extension cord to it and plug it in. (Use an indoor/outdoor heavy three prong power cord.)

Note: There is a small switch attached to the frame (on the right) inside the trunk for a light. I pull it out of the hole that it mounts to so it does not stay on, being I have the trunk lid open slightly to allow the power cord to be plugged in.



End of article. Yeah a bit long but well done.



## MGOB CLUB CALENDAR

**SEPT. 5th - MGOB meeting,**

**Sept 9th Vintage Restorations “Open House” at their shop in Union Bridge MD.**

**19th British Car Club of Delaware show Delaware City,**

***30th - MGs On The Rocks* Pre-registration ends 9/1/17.**

**OCT. 3rd - MGOB meeting.**

**8th Hunt Country Classic, Willoughby Farm located between Middleburg and Marshall, Virginia.**

**27th & 28th NAMGB Register annual general meeting, hosted by MGOB**

**NOV. 7th - MGOB meeting.**

**DEC. 5TH - MGOB meeting.**

**JAN. 2ND - MBOG meeting.**



## MGOB Tools For Member's To Borrow

**Engine Stand (2)**

**Engine lift with tilt device (2)**

**Whitworth wrenches**

**Whitworth sockets**

**Whitworth thread file**

**MGB Kingpin Reamer**

**Sandblaster (Suction from a bucket type)**

**Rostyle Wheel Paint Mask (MGB)**

**Midget Kingpin reamer**

**SU Carb Throttle shaft reamer for MG  
T,A, B carbs**

**SU Carb Throttle shaft reamer for Midget  
carbs**

**Click Type Torque Wrench 0-150 ft-lb.  
Standard 1/2" Socket set**

**Hub Puller**

**Rear Hub sockets for MGA and early and  
late MGB**

**Harmonic balancer puller**

**Camshaft Degree wheel with TDC  
finder, etc.**

**Timing light**

**Dwell/Tach Meter**

**Differential flange removal tool**

**Brake line bender – tubing cutter –  
bubble type flaring tools**

**Slide Hammer for bushings, bearing  
caps, and axle extraction**

**Lift-A-Dot Upholstery punch tool**

**SU Carb Synchronizer**

**Pickle Fork for Tie Rod ends**

**MGB Clutch Alignment Tool**

**Front Suspension Toe-In  
Adjustment Tool**