



OCTAGRAM



FEBRUARY 1, 2017

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs OF BALTIMORE, MD

2017

MGs of Baltimore Ltd.

CHILI RUN



When: **Saturday, February 11, 2017, 2 PM - ?**

Where: Jack and Liz Long's house

343 Spenceola Parkway

Forest Hill (Harford County) 21050

(410) 420-1385

E-mail: unionjackparts@gmail.com



Bring your favorite chili, corn bread, salad, dessert, or whatever dish you care to bring, but come and join us! Prizes will be awarded in a number of categories including the coveted annual **Hunka Hunka Burnin' Love** traveling award for the hottest chili!

From El Presidente

Well here we are in the dead of winter, except for a few really cold days it hasn't been so bad, of course we still need to get thru February and half of March before we start to see a break. For most of us, our cars are safely tucked away and unless you are lucky enough to have a heated garage our unfinished auto related projects await warmer days. But don't despair; the Annual MGOB Chilly Run is coming up on Saturday, February 11 starting at 2:00 p.m. (Look for the flier in the newsletter). This year's event will be hosted by Jack & Liz Long and besides the standard "Hunka, Hunka Burning Love" Award there will be other awards for the various chilli's and non-chilli food items entered by the members. Last year we held a 50/50 and the response was so great we are going to do it again. If I am not mistaken, Kurt Nagl, who said "I never win" won \$90 bucks and me and Sue had to shame him into buying some tickets.

And now for something completely different, Richard Jefferson has found some items that he wants to donate to the club, but the club doesn't need the items. We need cash. How do we get cash? Hold a silent auction at the Chilly Run and let the money pour in. It kinda reminds me of that French guy, you know Count De Money. But seriously, The Chilly Run is a good time and I hope you can make it. Bring along your favorite chilli or non-chilli to enter. The Club will supply the drinks. Please remember to R.V.S.P. Jack & Liz and let them know you are coming.



Above- a Rober P4

**Thanks to Doug and Ann Hart for hosting
the 2017 After Christmas Party at their
home.**

Those who attended after fighting their way through the snow storm that barely happened here, had a good time with friends and good food. I had the fortune to adopt two kittens that day so needed to stay home with them. Sorry I couldn't make it.

Here are a few photos from the party. I copied them from Face Book. I think Richard posted them. Thanks for that.





MGs of Baltimore Ltd. Membership Registration

Please fill out the registration form.

You'll want to enjoy all the benefits of membership!

Your Name (MGing is a family activity, Please include those of family members)	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Home Phone/Work Phone	
e-mail Address	
Occupation	
MG's or Other British Cars Owned	
Areas of interest: Technical, Rallyes, Social, Restoration	

Dues for MGOB are a blazing \$20 Bucks a year. (January through December)

Mail your check made out to: MG's of Baltimore Ltd.

To: Kathy McHenry: 5237 Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057



**NORTH AMERICAN
MGA REGISTER**

WINTERIZING THE CLASSIC



Long term maintenance is an essential requirement of classic or collector car ownership. Yes, we all enjoy the summer cruise along the lake shore, the spirited run in a rally with a trusted navigator, or even just a leisurely drive with the top down to the local supermarket to fetch a few groceries. What better way is there to arrive at the relative's pool party or the cottage? You instantly rekindle the romantic mood of yester-year when the sun glistens off the sleek waxed fenders and the admiring glances of passers-by create an instant feel-good mood.

There comes a time however, for the more mundane tasks of upkeep. You may not mind the annual chat with the insurance agent or a good chin wag while your trusted mechanic or a good buddy and you go over a few things together. This is part of the joy; discussing the year's mechanical upkeep or modification, the annual trips to certain race venues or perhaps even the long promised cross-country trek, probably with a convoy to a regional event or international meet.

What few of us enjoy however is the end of season 'tuck into bed' for the long hibernation! Not only is it the end of the fun for four or five dreary, cheerless months but it actually requires some work and careful planning. Some club members have a routine and checklist. Unless you enjoy impromptu curbside repairs and instant restoration tasks, or 'Immediate Mid-trip Mechanical Assessment and Intervention' activity, please take this ritual seriously.

There are some points for discussion, just like there usually are with any ordinary maintenance. Almost everyone has a way of doing things or personal reason for their special procedure, but over the years I've learned a few things. And I would say that, with the knowledge filtered from a lot of reading and insight gained from a lot of experience which has been shared amongst the club members over the years, I have a worthwhile set of guidelines to offer.

Ideally, you want a secure indoor spot for your baby. Does a wooden barn count? If it is not in danger of collapse, then ok, is it dry and rodent-free? These are essential! Consider the floor very carefully as many rural old barns allow massive amounts of moisture to attack the undersides of vehicles parked for the winter. Heavy duty plastic sheeting may be helpful with this issue and may be a worthwhile investment if a more moisture-proof structure is unavailable. I have even seen this tip recommended for concrete floors!

Tire pressure? Very easy: you can inflate these when you fill up the gas tank then drive home the last few miles at 40 lbs. The over-inflation is to prevent flat spots. Should the car be stored on jacks? This suggestion was made a few years ago, but having read through several magazines from classic car clubs or modern enthusiasts' news sheets, I would suggest that, unless you have been stationed overseas and will be away for more than a year, the 'take the weight off the springs' deal might be overkill.

Now the most important lesson I've learned: the oil **MUST** be changed at the end of the season – even if you have done only a thousand miles! The combustion process does pollute the oil in your crankcase and leaving it there to be stored till the spring will result in acid etching of your crankshaft and assorted other parts. Skimping on a few cans of oil really **IS** false economy.

continued on next page

One question that is debated by many is the frequency of a warm-up run while being stored. The routine used to be to start and run the engine for 20 to 30 minutes every week or two. However, the effect of this warm up and cool down with no real travel is to generate condensation which is severely detrimental to the life of the exhaust system and even to the fresh oil that you just put in the crankcase. I would feel far more comfortable to simply treat the fuel system with a bottle of Sta-bil gas treatment, block the tail pipe and air intake with a rag or plastic bag to keep critters out of the rear and air-intake under the bonnet.

Read the instructions for correct details but when adding the can of Sta-bil to the fuel tank, drive it home from the gas station to circulate it through your carbs, or if it is too far from the gas station, add it at the bottom of the driveway. ESPECIALLY nowadays, check the ethanol content of your final top-up. Higher octane grades have less ethanol and Shell, I believe has the least. Save fuel lines and other vulnerable components. This is another reason why I do not like the start and warm up routine. Seal things and let them lie dormant for four months.

Little creatures can also create havoc with your new upholstery and padding material so read about keeping the fourlegged friends outside the passenger compartment. Moth balls were often considered but now they are hard to find. An accepted alternative might be the antistatic dryer sheets that we toss in with our sweaters and the wife's delicates try it. I have not used it yet but I have seen the tip on several classic car sites.

About critters, mice, etc., if you have a two car suburban garage and park the Hyundai or Toyota there every night then you probably do not need to pay too much attention to four legged creatures but if you seal things up tight for five months then a strategically placed set of mousetraps may be a good investment. O NOT put them in the car as a decaying carcass on your carpet is not what you want to discover while waiting for April showers to wash away the last of the city road salt !

Batteries should be removed and stored in a dry, indoor spot like your basement, but not on the concrete floor. Unless your car has a selection of computer monitored gimos, the need for constant trickle charging is unnecessary. our clock that was built and installed as a luury

continued on next page

Now the final details do not engage the handbrake If you think she might be inclined to roll, then a set of wooden blocks should be sufficient to prevent any catastrophe. raise the top and windows to keep your interior free from uninvited suburban mice. Keep your cloth top stretched in the up position for the duration of the storage session. Get proper help if your top is only raised for storage. There is no need to lose your temper at a friendly neighbor if he has never erected your top before, or to end the season with another scratch on the rear deck.

And yet, the biggest catastrophe might be unforeseen. Watch where and how you store the family bicycles, and summer lawn chairs, patio furniture, the lawn mower and art supplies that you rescued from a friend's basement. Ceiling hooks save ground space, but..... please..... hopefully you do not have to go around the car too often to look for your carpentry tools in the dark on a chilly winter night That is an organizational issue and others may be more qualified than me for dispensing that kind of advice

Finally, do not forget to lock the garage Leaving your baby unprotected while you make an extended trip to the cottage or extend your Florida sojourn could result in a total loss in the middle of a cold night when neighbours are away too. Car thieves operate yearround, and our most prized possession is susceptible to theft if there is any suspicion that the homeowners or garage lessee is away.

www.mgtoronto.com Bill Ellman

'58 PREFECT --- >



MG Car Club--Florida

Ever wonder where the expression 'Safety Fast' originated? As a relatively new member to the club I was curious and turned to a Google for an answer. The following article seems to be the consensus which I borrowed from [MG Driver's Club](#). -Marilyn

Safety Fast! First appeared in the Octagon Newsletter ... January/February 1988
By Henry Stone

Known all over the world as the "Slogan" of M.G. Car Co. Ltd., Abingdon on Thames, but how many people know how such an apt description of the car came into being. I will enlighten those who have never thought about it.

In the early days at Abingdon the "Sales and Publicity" were run by three people ... Bill Mussel, Ted Colgrove (Salesmen) and George Tuck (Publicity). Around the early and middle twenties, cars were equipped with rear brakes only. The main reason being that braking systems were rod operated. It was not until Bowden Cables were introduced, was it easy to equip cars with front wheel brakes. A difficult operation due to the front wheels continuous steering angle changes.

As cars performance increased it became necessary to improve their stopping distances. Hence the introduction of "Four Wheel Brakes". In order to warn fellow motorists, that their cars were so equipped, such cars carried a red triangle at the rear, mounted around the rear number plate illuminating lamp, so that it was conspicuous at night. During the late twenties, early thirties, Clayton De Wandre brought out a Vacuum Servo brake. The Oxford Bus Companies passenger carrying vehicles were so equipped. In addition to the red triangle displayed at the rear, was the warning "Servo Brakes Keep Your Distance ... Safety First". In some cases the wording was proceeded by "This Bus Is Equipped With Servo Brakes".

One of the salesmen, Bill Mussel, I think, was driving to work one morning, trapped behind such a bus in Oxford main streets, no by-passes then. Bill went through the usual time wasting tricks of reading all the adverts and converting registration numbers into possible card game hands, imagining a hole card or turn up. When Bill arrived at the office later he said to his colleagues, "Some of those Oxford Buses should have "Safety Last" written on the rear the way some of them are driven, not "Safety First". "Ah nova" said George Tuck, "'Safety First', 'Safety Last' how about 'Safety Fast' for M.G.?"

RANDY'S TECHNICAL SESSION AT THE JANUARY MEETING

Randy discussed thermostats and heater valves and handed out information sheets on each. He compared an old original thermostat to a newer style thermostat. He also had on hand a normal heater valve and a replacement that is made of pot metal instead of aluminum as the original valve had been. He discussed movement of the heater valve lever and what it does. He also discussed how the thermostats work and why they are important .

TECH TIP... From Steve Budra: MGB (and other LBCs) Engine Removal

Here's a tech tip for removing the engine or engine/transmission combo on an MGB. Despite recommendations to use the MGBs protruding valve cover studs as fixing points for an engine hoist, I've never really been comfortable doing it – the studs just seem to flimsy. Recently, I rented a hoist locally but the brackets on the supplied chain were sort of J-shaped. When I attached them to the studs and began to lift the engine/transmission as a unit, the studs bent and finally snapped. Luckily, the engine was only a couple inches off its mounts at the time. Other than the studs (which I later replaced), there was no damage from the fall.

Looking for a better solution, I found two more substantial fixing points: one is the top mounting bolt on the alternator bracket – tapped into the right side of the engine block. The other is the left engine plate bolt which is tapped into the top rear of the block. These are 3/8" diameter bolts. I recommend substituting the original bolts with longer ones to give you enough space for the hoist bracket and washers, replacing them with the originals when you are done. The rest of the operation went smoothly and I felt much more comfortable with 600-700 pounds relying on these bolts. The only drawback is the engine is tilted a little to one side when lifted, but one person working the hoist and another rotating the engine a little will make it work. You could also install an adjustable tilt lift between the hoist and engine which allows you to fine-tune the angles. You could also install an adjustable tilt lift between the hoist and engine which allows you to fine-tune the angles.

From the eChatter; September 2010

TECH TIP from Rob Crissinge: Simple Emergency Bonnet Release.

As a preventative measure on MGs and other makes with similar hood release mechanisms – a simple emergency release can be rigged up with two Zip Ties. One is looped tightly at the lever, and the other longer one is looped through it. The long end is tucked into a convenient (easy to reach) spot behind the grill. If the hood release cable ever lets go and you really need to get under the hood, simply fish it out – give it a tug, and open pops the hood!



ABOVE — — '69



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

 	 
	
<p>June 19-23</p>	<p>June 25-28</p>
<p>2017</p>	
<p><i>Solvang California</i></p> <p><small>http://www.namgbr.org/events/calendar_details/p-42/</small></p>	<p>San Diego California</p> <p><small>https://namgbr.org/events/namgbr-mg2017/</small></p>



ABOVE '56 ALPINE

NEW EVENT

Britfest 2017

Sat, Jun 10, 10:00 AM - Sat, Jun 10, 7:00 PM

MARYLAND POLO GROUNDS, 3600 Fallston Rd, Jarrettsville, MD

The inaugural BritFest 2017 is being staged at the Maryland Polo Club grounds in Jarrettsville on Saturday, June 10th 2017 from 10.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. to coincide with Queen Elizabeth’s 91st birthday and will include cultural samplings and tastings not only from England, but also Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The event will bring together “all things British”, including the food, the beer, the crafts and the music. As part of the event, the Maryland Polo Club will be featuring an international polo exhibition between the USA and the UK. A portion of the proceeds will benefit The St Georges Society and directly support athlete participation in the Invictus Games of 2017. Tickets are limited and available at Mission Tix, <https://www.mt.cm/britfest-2017> (\$20.00 until March 1st and then \$25.00) however don’t delay in obtaining one, as a “sell out” scenario is anticipated. Admission includes a souvenir glass, access to all vendors, spectator access to live music and the exhibition polo match and a bracelet that will entitle the wearer to limited beer sampling - Over 21 only with valid ID. (Children under 10 are free). (No coolers or alcohol permitted)

Organizers are currently seeking British food and craft vendors to participate in the event - applications are available at [Read more](#)

'36 Jaguar SS 100 Model



MGOB CLUB TOOLS FOR MEMBERS USE

The club has some specialty tools that are available to the membership. Listed below are the tools that are currently available. **Guidelines** The MGs of Baltimore Ltd. owns certain tools, and membership entitles you to the use thereof. **You do so at your own risk.** If you don't know how a certain tool works or how it is used, seek the advice of a member proficient in the use of the equipment or tool.

1. The person borrowing the tool is responsible for it until it is returned to the club. It cannot be directly handed off to another member without the approval of the caretaker of the tools, Randy Kegg.
2. Club Tools are available only to current members of MGOB.
3. Tools are borrowed for a reasonable period of time, typically two to four weeks.
4. The club will maintain a logbook that will keep track of the whereabouts and status of the tools.
5. Persons not returning tools will be subject to unspeakable consequences. (You don't want to know.)

The person responsible for club tools is Randy Kegg. He can be reached at Randell_Kegg@msn.com or 410-592-3733.

1930's Lagonda LG6
or LG45 — — —>



TOOLS TOOLS TOOLS

The club maintains a variety of tools that may be borrowed by members of the club. Randy Kegg is the tool mister and borrowed tools must be returned to HIM unless otherwise agreed.

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**



18th Annual

Williamsburg British Car Club British & European Car Show

Chickahominy Riverfront Park

1350 John Tyler Hwy (Route 5), near Chickahominy River Bridge
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Saturday April 22, 2017

Schedule:

9:00am Show field opens

9:00am to 2:00pm Food from vendors available 1:00pm Balloting closes,
awards at 2:00pm

Pre-Registration Guidelines:

Preregistration must be received by April 8, 2017. All registered cars will be placed in a class for judging and award purposes. Cars must be parked with their assigned class to be eligible for awards. No trailers will be allowed on the show field. Display cars must be driven onto the show field under their own power. Classes will be determined by preregistered entries.

This is a Popular Vote car show. Judging and balloting will be conducted by the registrants. The number of preregistered cars in each class will determine how many trophies will be awarded in each class. This is a rain or shine show. A portion of the proceeds will be given to Hospice. Door prizes will be awarded and there will be a 50-50 raffle..Featured Marque : MGC & C-GT, 50th, email:

wbccregister@outlook.com, contact: Roy Gavilan 757-637-5902

See their web site for the registration form. Ed

The Original British Car Day (OBCD)

40^h Annual Meet

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Lilypons Water Gardens - Adamstown, Maryland

The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG "T" Register is proud to invite you to the 40th meet of **The Original British Car Day**. This very special annual event is held for the enjoyment of all British car and motorcycle enthusiasts. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Benedictine School which provides educational, residential and vocational services for children and adults with disabilities.

This year's Featured Marque will be the Jaguar. In honor of this marque we will be featuring a very rare 1936 Jaguar SS 100 model which will be on display for all to enjoy.

Our honored guest this year will be John Davis. John is an Emmy® Award-winning host, executive producer, and creator of MotorWeek, television's longest running automotive series. He is one of the most trusted and recognized automotive journalists in the nation and will be available to talk with participants and car enthusiasts throughout the day. John will also be posing for photographs with participants' vehicles and signing autographs, and will present the Best in Show Award.

Our event will be held from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at the beautiful grounds of Lilypons Water Gardens. Come and enjoy this gathering of all British marques in one setting and the beauty of the water gardens. Bring your leashed pet and picnic lunch or partake of the food and drink offered by various food vendors.

Whether you are displaying your car, or just coming to enjoy the event, the drive is beautiful no matter which direction you come from. Lilypons Water Gardens is located in Adamstown, Maryland on Lilypons Road. It is accessed easily from North I-70 or I-270 via Route 85, or from the South via Route 28. Please visit their web site at www.lilypons.com for directions and more information about their establishment.

The contact person for OBCD is John M. Tokar, Chairman, who can be reached at 410-775-0500, or by email at jtokar51@verizon.net. For more information please visit our website at: www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com

CLUB INFORMATION

Officers and Chairpersons

President - Richard Liddick
410-817-6862
RGL2MGBGT@aol.com

1st Vice President - Ken Olszewski
410-893-1661
KENMGOB@comcast.net

2nd Vice President - Mike Lutz
410-592-8610
MGTLUTZ@Comcast.net

Treasurer - Randy Kegg
410-592-3733
RANDELL_KEGG@msn.com

Secretary - Tracy Trobridge
410-489-7474
tracy21794@yahoo.com

Newsletter - Roger Marshall
410-747-3586
S10Blazer@aol.com

Membership - Kathy McHenry
410-817-6862
themgbabe@comcast.net

Rally Master - Eric Salminen
443-463-3071
mgobrallymaster@gmail.com

MGs On the Rocks - Jack Long
410-420-1385
jackandlizlong@verizon.net

Tool Meister - Randy Kegg
410-592-3733
RANDELL_KEGG@msn.com

Web Master - Richard Liddick
410-817-6862
RGL2MGBGT@aol.com

MGOB meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Jimmy Dee's Restaurant and Lounge at about 6 PM for dinner and the meeting starts about 7:30 PM

MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

North American MGB Register
North American MGA Register
American MGB Association
MG Car 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

NEW MEMBERS

Paul & Debbie Leroy
1938 MGTA, 1958 MGA, 1960 TR-3,
1997 Catherham Super 7

Jim Strickler 64 MGB & 72 MGB

Tom Allen 60 MGA

Clint Davis 71 MGB

Jeff & Sharon Shackelford, 1980 MGB

returning Anthony & Jackie DeBella
1974 MGBGT V8 & 1960 Sprite

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.*

CALENDER FOR 2017

FEBRUARY

7th - MGOB meeting **Sat., Feb. 11th- 2 pm Chili Run, SEE PAGE 1 .**

MARCH

7th - MGOB meeting,

APRIL

4th - MGOB meeting. 22nd The Williamsburg British Car Club
18th Annual British and European Car Show

MAY

2nd - MGOB meeting, 17th - 19th - **Carlisle Import & Performance Nationals.**
Carlisle PA Fairgrounds - 717-243 - 7855

JUNE

6th - MGOB meeting— — 4th, OBCD at . Lilypons Water Gardens. see flier above.
10th- Britfest 2017 MD POLO GROUNDS, 3600 Fallston Rd, Jarrettsville, MD

JULY

4th - MGOB meeting.

AUGUST

1st - MGOB meeting.

SEPTEMBER

5th - MGOB meeting, 30th - **MGs On The Rocks**

OCTOBER

3rd - MGOB meeting.

NOVEMBER

7th - MGOB meeting.

DECEMBER

5th - MGOB meeting.