

OCTAGRAM

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs of BALTIMORE MD

December 2022

www.mgsofbaltimore.org

From El Presidente

I want to start off by thanking Larry Heaps, Eric Salminen & Chris Horant for organizing and hosting the 1st Annual MGOB Air Gun Turkey Shoot. While it was a little chilly and windy, we had about 15 members take part. There were loaner guns available, two classes (sighted and non) and prizes ranged from \$50 - \$10 Giant Food gift cards to a can of cranberry sauce.

Now we have some sad news, Ron & Myra Gillis MGOB members and owners of Gil's Ice in New Freedom lost their home to a fire about a week ago. They are both doing as good as can be expected, but they lost their place to live and much of their stuff. A Go Fund Me page has been setup to help them out at: <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/f/zj79a-please-help?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_term=undefined_now_lined_now_

On Saturday, December 3rd, Gill Ice (Our member Ron Gillis) will be sponsoring The New Freedom, PA Christmas Parade starting at the New Freedom Community Center - 150 E Main Street – New Freedom, PA 17349 at 5:00 p.m. for more information contact Gill at rongillis53@gmail.com.

The MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Car Club has signed up again to participate in the Annual Hampden's Mayor's on **Sunday**, **December 4**th, **2023**. MGOB won 1st place last year in our class and 2nd place in 2019. We assemble at noon at Poly-Western H.S. on Falls Rd. Look for a copy of the parade route in this issue of the Octagram.

Finally, the Annual MGOB "After the Holidays" Party will be hosted by Mary and Mike Lutz at The Federal Armored Car Museum, 130 Lakefront Drive, Cockeysville, MD 21030 on Saturday, January 7, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. The club will provide drinks and a main dish(es) we ask you to bring an item to share. Please R.V.S.P to Mike & Mary to let them know you will be attending at mgtlutz@comcast.net or 410-592-8610.

Finally, **2023 MGOB Dues are now due**. Our annual dues are \$20.00 and covers both the member, spouse, and children under 18. There is a list of members that **don't owe** on the next page under Membership News. If your name **is not** on the list, **you owe**. You can pay at the monthly MGOB meeting of by mailing your \$20.00 cheque payable to:

MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Car Club 5237 Glen Arm Road East Glen Arm. MD 21057-9456

Safety Fast! Richard

Membership News

Welcome to our new members:

- Bruce Bubeck with a Mini Countryman
- James DiLisio with a 1962 MGA

Welcome back Mark Spaulding who has moved to Florida but loves MGOB so much he can't stay away.

2023 MGOB Dues

If your name is below, you DO NOT owe dues.

Glenn S. & Barbara	Abbott	Dale & Wallis	Meeks
Suzie	Boltz	Allan & John	Ness
Howard & Susan	Bonds	Chip	Norman
Bruce	Bubeck	Drew & Linda	Paren
John	Buell	Bill Redding	
Anthony & Jackie	DeBella	Robert & Dana	Reisse
James	Dilisio	Seth & Amy	Rochette
Duff & Barbara	Fowler	Eric & Mary	Salminen
Charles	Givre	Rick Smith	
Bill & Bonnie	Hallock	Mark Spauldir	
Paul	Hanley	Terry	Steyer
Mike & Jan	Keadle	Tom	Sweeney
Andrew & Dina	Kulp	Loren Mark	Walker
Bridget	McCarron		

The following members need to update their email address.

Don & Kim Hogge John & Diane Petersen

MG Midget By: Jim Orrell

Where do you find a 1965 MG Midget that isn't a rust bucket, hasn't been restored or doesn't need to be restored? Does a Mark II MG Midget time capsule exist?

The Mark II MG Midget was manufactured by British Motor Corporation between 1964 and 1966. They were produced right next to the Mark III Austin Healey Sprite. Considered the deluxe model of the two, the Midget was fundamentally the same as the Sprite, except for a few more chrome strips. The Midget was placed in BMC's lineup as a starter car. They were cheaper to acquire than a MGB, and thus more likely to be abused or left to rust. There were a total of 26,601 Mark II MG Midgets built. North America received 13,435 LHD versions. They are rare birds today.

MGOB club member, Bert Shirey purchased a 1965 MG Midget (GAN 3L/38868), actually titled as 1966, on October 4, 1965. The car was bought at Foreign Motors in Baltimore, MD for the window sticker price of \$2214. Bert traded in a 1960 Austin Healey Bugeye Sprite, and applied the trade price of \$534 towards the Midget. The window sticker shows an optional heater for \$59, and a tonneau cover for \$35. The car also came with seat belts, which were mandatory in 1966. They added another \$20 to the price.

The car was always pampered, but it was Sandy and Bert Shirey's only family car for 10 years. In 1976, it was retired to their garage and only occasionally driven. Bert proudly states, "the car has never seen rain since 1976".

After almost 60 years and a little over 58,000 miles, this car is a testament to Bert's loving obsession with it. Bert carefully conserved the Midget in as near to original as possible. In order to retain original features, minor imperfections of use and the patina of time were left alone.

Recently, Bert's imminent move to a retirement community and his bad back reluctantly prompted him to find a new owner for the Midget, He wasn't going to have a garage to keep his baby in any longer. But, you couldn't just buy the car. You had to pass the test Bert had for the new owner. The car had to be protected in a garage. The new owner had to promise to maintain the car, and not drive it carelessly. Bert was not going to let just anyone be the new caretaker of his incredible Midget.

After multiple phone calls and emails over a 2 ½ week period, photo documentation of the space the car would live in, and over a 2 hour in-person interview, Bert was comfortable with me as the new owner of the Midget. I am extremely honored to continue Bert's obsessive care of the Midget, and the trust he has in me to do so.

A lot of interesting and hard to find items came with the car. The original Maryland license plates that were placed on the car in 1965. The original window sticker in a picture frame. The original sales invoice from Foreign Motors on NCR paper. A letter from the British Motor Heritage Trust indicating the car was completed on March 18, coincidentally my birthday. I turned 14 years old the day the car rolled off the assembly line. Lots of books, parts, and Bert's trophies. I am hoping I can add to this collection of trophies for Bert.

I can't thank Bert enough for allowing me to continue the preservation of his lovely Midget. It is an honor, and a responsibility. In the future, if you vote for this car at MGs on the Rocks, you will be voting for Bert, I'm the "designated driver". Bert deserves all the credit.

Yes, a time capsule does exist!



Steve Williams, Bert Shirey, Jim Orrell

Austin Healy By: Steve Williams

The Austin-Healey Sprite Mk 1, known fondly as the Bugeye or Frogeye, was produced beginning in 1958. The last full year of production was 1960, although some were produced in early 1961. The popularity of these sweet little cars has continued to grow over the past 60 years until they have now reached an almost cult-like status. Just take one to a show or Cars 'n' Coffee and people will gravitate toward it all day long.

I had been on the hunt for a nice Bugeye for several years but I knew that there was a beauty owned by fellow MGs of Baltimore car club member Bert Shirey. I made it known to him years ago that I would love to have his if it ever came time to pass the car to a new custodian. Sure enough, in October of 2021 I got a call from Bert. His main concern was that the car would go to someone who would care for it the way he did. We got together and the little 1960 Old English White sweetheart was soon safely in my garage.

Bert had owned the car for almost 30 years. He also had made the previous owner aware of the fact the he would like the car when she was ready to part with it. Her name was Bobbi Tarte and she had purchased it new from Foreign Motors in Baltimore when she was the parts manager for that dealership. (At the time, she was the only female parts manager in Baltimore. Her name was actually Barbara but the dealer did not want it publicly known that a lady was running his parts department so he told her that she would be known as "Bobbi". Times were very different back then. "Bobbi" became her nickname for the rest of her life.) So, Bobbi retired and contacted Bert and he took it home and began the process of making it road worthy again.

Bert Shirey and I have both been members of MGs of Baltimore for about 40 years so we go way back. I can say, without a doubt, that he is as fastidious about his cars as anyone I have ever known. They are always as original as possible. They are garage kept and pampered and NEVER go out in the rain. He is about to move to a retirement community and he was most concerned about his cars going to like-minded new custodians. I was quite honored to be the person selected to enjoy and care for this beautiful little Bugeye.

One of the coolest parts about this car is all the documentation. Bert saved everything. The ownership records are fully authenticated as are all of the service notes for the past 30 years. Original sales brochures, service guides, handbooks and the original window sticker (\$1,953) all came with the car. Also, enough parts, many NOS, to fill a pickup truck. A perfect factory hardtop was included. I have spent a good bit of time with "Buggy" over the past year. It needed just a bit of TLC to get it purring and I also stripped the paint under the bonnet and repainted it to freshen it up. The exterior and interior are beautiful. I have driven it almost a thousand miles in the past year and it is just crazy fun on the road.

Thank you, Bert, for trusting me to care for your little friend. I'm going to drive it and love it and show it off, just a bit!

Rocks, thanks, new ideas, oldest every everywhere

Rocks just keeps on Rocking, doesn't it? I hope you all had a great day out and, in my opinion, (who cares) you were all best of show. 43 years and counting for the longest continually running British Car show in the world! Thanks to all of you who showed up and especially the volunteers. Who knew that our rallye master was also our resident florist; thanks Eric for the beautiful MG arrangement. I'm sure everyone liked all the flowers that went home with our cars. ("Hey Honey, look what I brought you home from the car show.") Winning was especially true if you won one of Karen's beautiful baskets (Thanks Cupcake)

El Presidente and Eric Reitz keep changing and improving the show and we hope you notice each year's positive changes. With the T-shirt Shoot, Photo booth (thanks again Kelly and Hagerty), The Michelin Man (thanks Kim), kids scavenger hunt, regalia (Loved the Randy inspired T-shirt), tons of door prizes, so many awards and trivia games you see that **Rocks** is more than your typical car show. Wait till next year to see something completely different. If you've got an idea that will add to the show let Richard and Eric know.

Just a shout out to El Presidente. Yes, I remember when Richard wasn't president, but that memory (along with other stuff I should remember) has long since faded. As we just celebrated the club's 45th anniversary it's fair to say that we would not be where we are today with out Richard. Hey and I just see we are now a tax-exempt organization. Great job El Jefe, please take two atta-boys out of petty cash!

Speaking of good jobs; I hear the fall leaf run was spectacular. Chris, I have heard nothing but positive feedback from those that attended. The weather was perfect, and God had his paintbrush out, so the trees were gorgeous. We all know you put a lot into organizing these events and please know that your efforts are mucho appreciated. Please take two Ole's from petty cash.

Forgive my introduction of a few foreign words, I must still be feeling last night's Mexican food, but I figure most of you are semi-bilingual by now. (*Most of you can order beer and bathrooms in several languages.*) Here's a couple of new words to add to your lexicon.

Midweekend: (Am) (noun): A benefit to members of the LEL sect, and others that want to be like them. This time related term can be put to good use in investigating useful ways of wasting time and money without being bothered by the working class that normally crowd the weekends. Employing this term will benefit the user mentally and employing it once a week is not considered overuse.

"Honey let's take a Midweekend visit to see Falling Waters"

DOFF: (Am) (Acronym) (Noun): Day Off For Fun: A day totally focused on fun. No chores, duties, tasks, worries, obligations, are allowed when taking a DOFF. Can be in used conjunction with or separate from a Midweekend.

"Princess, the weather looks great today, let's take a DOFF"

A Restaurant That Can't Be Beat

Well not actually a restaurant, but more of a food club with a fondness for classic cars. Where am I going with this will make sense (at least when I was writing this post cocktail hour this it did) so just hang on and I'll get to the point. It's about friends and I think what makes great friends is common interest. Now if you can think about mixing a group of classic car enthusiasts with lovers of food, you've got a good chance of making friends. MGOB is more about friends than it is about MGs. (Or t-shirts) Now the bigger the group the more chances you have a making a friend. So, the bigger MGOB gets..., you see where I'm going? Now, I don't think the club would mind having new members that don't even have an MG; they just need to like classic cars and food too. (Ok, here's where I tie it all together) Instead of asking someone you know that likes classic cars if they want to join a car club; make them this offer.

Hey, have I got a place to eat for you and it's sooo good and sooo cheap too. I'm not kidding, you can go to this place three times a year and you will not believe the variety of good food you can chose from, and all three visits have a total cost of \$20. It's true only twenty bucks. Now who could refuse this bargain?

Of course, I'm referring to the 3 big parties that MGOB throws every year. The Christmas Feast, Chilly Run, and Summer Pool Party are fabulous and there's always room for a few more friends and face it we always have an abundance of food.

So next time you're talking to another car enthusiast and potential friend ask them if they want a restaurant deal with a side of car club. (Oh, they get a little LEL on their plate too.)

Speaking of the LEL. Winter is coming so there's even more of a need to go somewhere and waste time and money. Usually, we do midweekend kind of things, but I was wondering about a Saturday event. Check out this place that Eric found to use in one of his rallies, American Treasure Tour Museum. This place is fascinating and so big that you have to take a tram to view it.

Also, it's Christmas and if you've never been to <u>Longwood at Christmas</u>, prepare to be amazed. This is an afternoon/nighttime thing and requires reservations. Some of us are members and perhaps we could get together a small midweek group. (Weekends are too packed)

Racing Report:

I don't do NASCAR and F1 is too predictable, but you had to love the IndyCar Championship. On the Vintage Racing front. Pete Carroll and I kept raced another full season. Pete is still fast and I'm still running in the top of the field, so we're both doing alright. Pete raced at Watkins Glen the last Saturday in September, but I couldn't make it due to a Rocky engagement. I made up for it a couple of weeks later in New Jersey when I beat all the cars I could and raced hard up till the last race of the weekend, when my head gasket decided it had had enough. Oh well, more Winter work.

Worth Watching:

In New Jersey while bull-shitting post-race with the guys the subject of the end of the world (*Blame* #\$%@ *Putin*) and of course racing was discussed. I suggest that they go watch <u>On the Beach.</u> What has this to do with this subject, watch it and enjoy and you'll see. The book is even better, but you won't see as many cars.

Hey and unlike Saturday Night Live, Monday Night Football is fun again. ESPN has been trying to revive the Dandy Don and Howard days forever, they've finally done it with Payton and Eli. It's like watching football with your buddies; enjoy.

Musical Notes

If you liked the music at **Rocks** you could hear it again. If you use the **Spotify** app search for the **Rocks 2022** playlist. Enjoy and you're welcome.

On another note, I've been listening to Ms. Swift's latest release. Honestly, I think I like old country *(PA girl)* Taylor better and I think I know why. *(Yes, she is still gentle on the eyes)* The music is so produced it's almost manufactured, and you can't hear the words enunciated through all the production. *(Can't get your message if I can't understand decipher what you're saying)* Of course, everything's a production now. I just went to a newly released movie of <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/just/main/state-in-new-course-in-new-cou

Winter is coming and with that Winter work, so start making a list of projects. While you do you can listen to this song where the words and message are clear.

Pardon these short bursts of exhaust but, now I'm exhausted

Ri Out!



NEW FREEDOM COMMUNITY CENTER TO BROAD ST. STARTING AT 5:00PM

Complimentary Hot Chocolate & Cookies Available
Spotlighting & Supporting Our Seniors

Please Donate (NEW) Gloves, Hats, Slippers & Socks at Our Collection Bin located at New Freedom Borough (During Business Hours) or at The Gazebo at The Park (Day of Event)

KIDS PLEASE BRING ALONG YOUR LETTERS TO SANTA

COMMEMORATIVE HATS AND GLOVES FOR PURCHASE CALL: 410-258-0857 FOR DETAILS AND TO ENTER THE PARADE





Mayor's Christmas Parade Tom Kerr, Chairmen 4207 Edgehill Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21211

November, 2022

Dear Participant:

This will acknowledge your participation in this year's Mayor's 49th Annual Christmas Parade, to be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022. We are pleased to have you join us in this festive occasion.

Your entry has been assigned to Division II and will form in the **4700 Block of Falls Road** (see attached map). You are urged to be in position no later than 12:00 P.M. The parade will start promptly at 1:00 P.M.

Vehicles used to transport your entry to the assembly area should unload members and equipment at your designated location and proceed immediately to the parking area at the end of the parade route.

Upon arrival at the assembly area, a representative of your entry should report to a Division II Marshal. This parade will be held **RAIN OR SHINE**. In the event of extremely severe weather conditions on December 4th, call (410) 218-0569 after 8:00 A.M., especially if you decide not to participate.

Many trophies will be awarded to the most outstanding entries in various categories. The winners of these trophies will be contacted by phone in the weeks following the event.

Thank you very much for your participation, and we are looking forward to seeing you on December 4, 2022.

Sincerely,

70m Kerr

Tom Kerr Parade Chairmen

ROUTE

ASSEMBLY TIME:

12:00 PM

STARTING TIME:

1:00 PM

ROUTE:

The parade will form at Falls Road and Coldspring Lane (Poly/Western Complex). Proceed south on Falls Road to West 36th Street, east on West 36th Street to Chestnut Avenue, at which point it will go north to West 37th Street where it will disband.

Please tell your transportation to proceed to the disbanding area after unloading. Beltway 695 .. Northern Parkway End Poly-Parkins Lot Schoolic Parkins Lot Coldspring Lanc Disbouding 37th Street Remember Eto, no 36th Street D.



Federal Armored Museum

130 Lakefront Drive, Cockeysville, MD 21030





We invite you to join the largest club in the area dedicated to British car enthusiast.

Your membership benefits include:

- You get invited to all club events. Including these three great parties:
 - The after Christmas celebration
 - o The "Chilly Run"
 - The summer pool party
- You get the club's newsletter
- You get access to the club's extensive tool chest
- Our monthly meeting is held at very nice restaurant and each meeting includes a tech session. Johnny Dees Lounge 1705 Amuskai Rd Loch Raven, MD (First Tuesday of the month)
- We also host an annual tech session Saturday hosted by the club's tech quru.
- MGOB sponsors the annual "Get the Dust-Off Rallye" the first Sunday in May.
- You can join us at MG's on the Rocks. This is the oldest continuously running British car show in the world! Celebrating our 42 year in 2021!

All this for \$20 per year!

Visit us on the web: MGsofBaltimore.org or Find us on Facebook

Please complete the form on the next page and mail it with a cheque made payable to MGOB to:

Kathy Liddick 5237 Glen Arm Road Glen Arm, MD 21057







MGs of Baltimore Ltd. Membership Registration

Please fill out the registration form.

You'll want to enjoy all the benefits of membership as listed on the previous page!

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 Liddick: 5237 Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057







Tools Available for Club Members Contact Eric Salminen to Borrow

- Engine Stand (2)
- Engine lift with tilt device (2)
- Whitworth wrenches & sockets
- Whitworth thread file
- MGB Kingpin Reamer
- Sandblaster (Suction from a bucket type)
- Rostyle Wheel Paint Mask (MGB)
- Midget King pin reamer
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer for MG T, A, B carbs
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer
- Midget carbs
- Torque Wrench Click Type 0.150 ft lbs
- Standard 12" socket set
- Hub Puller
- Compression tester
- Harmonic balancer puller
- Camshaft Degree Wheel with TDC finder.
- 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 tool
- Lift-A-Dot Upholstery Punch tool
- SU Carb Synchronizer
- Pickle Fork for Tie Rod Ends
- Mob Clutch Alignment tool
- Front Suspension Toe-In adj tool
- Rear Hub Sockets for MGA and early and late MGB.
- Cylinder Leak Down tester

OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President	Richard Liddick	410-817-6862	rgl2mgbgt@aol.com
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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 car clubs or organization in their own newsletters, providing appropriate credit and recognition of the source is given.

The MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Car club was established in 1977. The club represents over 150 members in the Metro Baltimore area. As the name implies, the club centers its activities around the preservation and enjoyment of the cars that bear the classic MG marque. The club is affiliated with the following national organizations: The North American MGA Register, The North American MGB Register, and The American MGB association. Internationally, the club is affiliated with the MG Car Club and The MG Owners Club. The club's activities include sponsorship of the nationally known "MGs on the Rocks" car show, a series of challenging (and FUN) historic car rallies, as well as numerous fun gatherings all through the year.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

3rd Holiday Parade sponsored by Gil's Ice

4th Annual Hampden Mayor's Parade

4th Federal Armored Car Museum Santa Visit (Mike Lutz)

6th Club Meeting

JANUARY

3rd Club Meeting

7th After the Holidays Party

FEBRUARY

7th Club Meeting

MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

North American MGB Register North American MGA Register American MGB Association MG Car Club UK MG Owners Club UK

Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!

Join over 2,000 enthusiastic owners in the restoration, preservation, and sheer enjoyment of driving an MGA, Magnette, or variant of this noble breed. You'll receive six bi-monthly issues of MGA!, our full-color, award winning magazine, invitations to National and Regional Get-Togethers

throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus a knowledge base and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). Get more information at http://www.namgar.com, or contact registrar@namgar.com.





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

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