



THE OCTAGRAM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs of BALTIMORE, MD

November 2025

www.mgsofbaltimore.org

From El Presidente:

The 3rd Annual MGOB Seafood Run was held Sunday, October 5th, and we ended up back at Charly's on Sue Creek located at 2015 Turkey Point Road, Essex, MD 21221. The weather was fantastic, and we took over their outside on their covered deck and spilled out onto the patio. 58 members and their dates said they would be attending the event, and with a few no-shows, this took us to a total of 53 MGOB members at Charly's.

The MG Car Club Washington, D.C. Centre had their annual show at a new location. The 29th Annual Hunt Country Classic was held at the Great Meadow, 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA, on Sunday, October 12. I was planning on attending, but it was misting and foggy in the morning so I passed on driving down to Northern Virginia. However, I saw photos on the MGCCWDCC Facebook page, and the event still took place despite the weather. I even spotted Ned Sheilds and his MGB on the show field dodging rain drops. It looks like we will need to get a report from Ned about the new location.

TRAC (Triumphs Around the Chesapeake) held their Annual Fall Foliage Poker Run on Saturday, October 18th, starting at the US-1 & MD Route 23 and running the back roads of Harford County, MD and Lancaster County, PA with stops at a couple of farms offering cider, vegetables and cards. Chris Horant and his team did a wonderful job of mapping out this year's event. I am going guess that there were about 30 cars taking part in the Run.

The Poker Run finished at the Hickory Lodge in Hickory, MD which had a separate building for us to get food & drink, while everyone was being scored. This event is the second leg of the Lord Baltimore Cup with the MGs of Baltimore's *Get the 'Dust-Off' Rally* being the first leg. Whichever club gets the best average score between these two events, takes home the Lord Baltimore Cup. Currently TRAC holds the Cup. The new winner will be announced at the 37th Annual Get the "Dust-Off" Rallye, scheduled for Sunday May 3rd, 2026, more information to follow.

See below for a list of this year's winners of the TRAC's Fall Foliage Run:

Poker Run:

Best hand \$100 Richard & Kathy Liddick
with a full house, kings over 3s
Second hand \$50 Steve & Chris Swift
with a full house, 9s over 3s
Third hand \$30 Randy & Sharon Fryer
with a full house, 7s over 4s
Worst hand \$20 Tige & Cindy Sheehen -
36 points

Rally score for prizes:

Team Williams/Horant - 7 points
Team Reitz/Reitz - 20 points
Team Sheehen/Sheehen - 32 points

Continued on page 2...

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.

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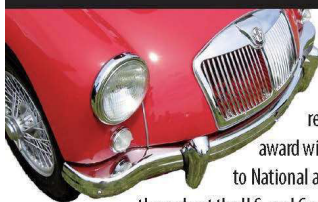
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I have passed the torch regarding MGOB's participation in the Annual Hampden Mayor's Christmas Parade to Doug McCoach and he has agreed to take over the coordination of the Club's efforts in this event. I always had fun doing this and it's a magnificent event to promote MGOB at, but my energy level is not what it used to be. Look for more information about the parade, which is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th, 2025. We typically meet at Poly-Western HS along Falls Rd. between Poly's Athletic Fields and Coldspring Lane.

Next up, as you all know, MGOB likes to party, well I am glad to announce that we have two members stepping up to host both the "After the Holidays" Party and the 29th Annual "Chilly Run". The Jefferson's have asked to host the "After the Holidays" Party on January 10th starting at 5:00 p.m. Their home is located at 2520 Overlook Ct., New Freedom, PA 17349. Steve & Tina Sharpe will be hosting the "Chilly Run" at their home in February located at 1291 Cambria Rd; Westminster, MD 21157. Look for more information in the next issue of the Octagram on both events.

Safety Fast!
El Presidente

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.**



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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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www.namgbr.org

Editor's Notes...

Welcome to the November issue of The Octagram. As I sit down to write this, the first big autumn rains are lashing at the trees outside and flinging the last of the leaves all over my freshly raked lawn. The season always sneaks up on me this time of year and catches me flat-footed. I need to start getting everything ready for winter...MGB included, but I'm just not ready to call it quits on the driving season yet. I keep hoping for just one more decent day, where I can squeeze in just one more spirited jaunt on the twist farm roads before I drag out the jack stands and the car cover.

I have a busy winter planned in the garage. It's about time for a 6,000-mile service and that means all sorts of things: bearings to repack, differential to drain, brakes and valves to check...not to mention the usual end of season oil change. I'm just not ready yet, to call the season and start the work. I'll check back in December, and we'll see how far things have gotten...but don't hold your breath. I'm almost certain there's at least on or two bright, crisp days waiting out there for the B and myself.

In this month's OCTAGRAM, we have Richard's recap of recent events/future fun, as well as RJ's homage to that great American institution: Walmart! There are a couple of photo montages of the Seafood Run and TRAC's Fall Foliage Poker Tour/Rally and lot's of other valuable tidbits for your reading enjoyment. So, before you drain the sump and plug-in the charger, let's hope for one more nice day.

Be safe, check your oil, and I'll see you on the road (maybe.)

John





Let's welcome our newest club members:

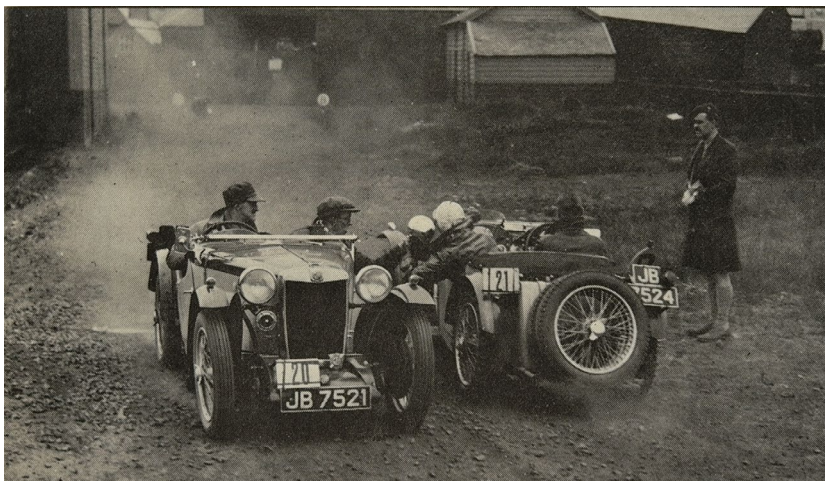
Arthur Johnson

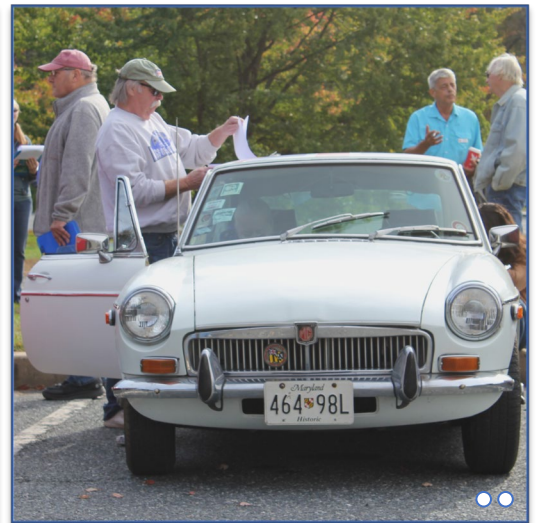
441 North Walnut St.
Rising Sun, MD 21911
He owns a Jaguar

Chuck St. Clair

4282 St. Clair Bridge Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
He owns a 1971 MGB-GT

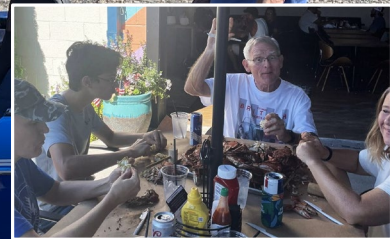
WELCOME TO THE CLUB!





2025 TRAC Fall Folaige Tour and Poker Run





Exhausting Walmart

Rj

What would the world be without Walmart? Mr. Sam and the folks down at Bentonville have created perhaps the most essential American retailer. Oh sure, we've made fun of them and the videos and photos of let's say some of their most unique shoppers have amused/shocked us. But even those in the upper-income brackets have come over to the Wally-world side. Good thing for those folks that they can now get their shopping delivered directly to their Mercedes, so they don't have to associate with humble masses.

Personally, I love going to the store. I look at the shoppers, and I see America. I find today's stores cleaner, more modern and with more selections than other stores. Where else can I go and get a Halloween pumpkin, a Thanksgiving turkey, a Christmas wreath and tires all in the same trip.

Oh yes, tires are what we're here to talk about. I knew CJ's "B" tires were getting a little long for wear. Since the car is always garaged they looked great with no cracks and plenty of tread. Checking the date code, I found they were celebrating their 12th birthday. No matter how much tread and lack of sidewall wear, I can tell you from racing that the rubber on these tires had seen better days. Old tires, unlike old guys, get hard. Hard tires have no grip, which is why racers change tires so often.

When it comes to things for my cars, I always put the best parts on that are available; so, it was a little weird when the advice from my advisor (Tuck) was to go cheap? The theory is that the

expense for a 50,000-mile tire when the car may get 50,000 miles in its entire life does not compute. The theory also makes sense in that what makes a tire last 50,000 miles is that the compound is hard. *(And will get harder with time)* With a light car like an MG a softer tire is preferred. Now if you ask Tuck about tire specs, you'll get more information than most can comprehend *(or need)* so I've provided a short table of things you should look for in a tire. Basically, get a speed rated tire with a softness rating less than 500.



Now back to the story lead. I did an internet tire search using my 15-inch tire size and additionally my < 500 "Treadwear" specification. You guessed it, Walmart came up with a match. Now I have never heard of the manufacture, but I read the specs and for that price I couldn't pass on it. *(MGOB cheap guy specification also met)*. I ordered the tires delivered to my local store and setup an install appointment; the internet can be very useful at times *(Except for all that social crap)*.

Here's where Mr. Sam would be proud... I pulled into the shop bay and not one, but 4 guys started working on and admiring the B. Any other shop work stopped. I even got an extra laugh as the youngest of the crew tried to find the

MG in the computer and asked the others who makes MG. He proceeded to walk around the rear of the car to look for some type of emblem. All he could see on the B was an embedded MGOB grill badge. The old guy in the crew correctly told him that an MG was made by MG. The crew was extra gentle with the nice wheels on the B and did true road balancing. When I looked at the tires before mounting, they had virtually the same tread pattern as the expensive performance tires they were replacing and the date code indicated they were only 3 months old!

Now, the second laugh came. After mounting, the crew's procedure is to go out back in the parking lot and do a few figure eights to see if everything feels right. The young guy took the car out and after many more than usual 8's he pulled it to the front and with a grin on his face asked if he could please take it down the service road (*for a check of course*) to make sure things were right. I said to go have fun. I started not to believe the routine check-out story when the rest of the guys in the shop also wanted a turn! I don't know if that would have made Mr. Sam happy, but I'm sure Cecil Kimber was smiling and me too.

Oh, and the new tires, they're great! The boys did a great balance job, and the car has grip and is very smooth riding. We had a long checkout ride on Chris's Poker Run (*YOU SHOULD NEVER MISS AN MGOB RALLYE*) and so I liked my MGOB cheap choice. How cheap, about \$300 total for tires, mounting, balancing and taxes. Also, there were no fees for recycling old tires, shop fees, and the ever-popular Fee Fee. Hence the smile on my face is still smiling.

AND IT GETS BETTER! I like to change the oil in the GTI like most cars once a year. (*No, I never see the maximum milage of my oil*) My VW dealer does my annual inspection and will change my oil for \$125. Now for that price I'm sure I'm getting virgin oil squeezed from the thighs of fair maidens direct from the Fatherland and who knows what oil rag fees and environmental disposal charges may be added to my bill. While seeing the B do multiple laps of the Walmart parking lot, I asked the guy at the service desk what they charged for an oil change. "It's 58 bucks". I checked what synthetic oil they used and unfortunately, they do not have in their service bays the 0/20 required by the GTI. But wait the story gets better. When I told the guy of their oil shortage, he said no problem, go and get some off the shelf and they would just take the price off the \$58. Could it get any better. I love Mobile 1 and have used it in everything including the race car for years. Needless to say, I made an appointment and had my oil changed, but it only took one guy this time. Out the door for \$60 with no other fees! (*It cost me that much to do it myself*) Yes, I sacrificed the virgin maiden oil, but I think it's OK.

AND IT GETS BETTER STILL! As you may know from a previous **Exhaust Note** (Octagram June 2021) I believe we can maintain our independence by doing simple service work on our own. Since it was changing oil season, I proceeded to change the oil in my beloved Ranger. Crap my oil collection jugs were full. Getting rid of old oil as you may know is getting to be a problem. I have a cement company that **USE TO** do this for me, but alas I was turned away this time. No problem, I know a service station that uses the oil

to heat their garage, so I go there. **Damn it's closed!** I then went to a Google searched recycling center that said they recycle oil; well, **NO they don't!** While there, another guy waiting around for information said, "Why don't you take it to Walmart, they recycle it for FREE." **I did, they did, and who knew?**

So that's my trifecta of Walmart success stories. Thanks Sam Walton; we'll be doing business again.

Before I close, another shoutout to Chris for a most excellent Fall Poker Run. The weather, route, and yummy stops were the best. Chris, please take three Atta-boys out of petty cash!

Exhausted? Now so go listen to the tune I embedded in the title!



Tucks Tire Tips -

Rim

Wire 4.5" Width	Rim Dia 14"	Tire Size 165/80
Rostlye 5.0" Width	Rim Dia 14"	Tire Size 185/70
Mag 5.5" Width	Rim Dia 15"	Tire Size 185/65

If you put a wide tire on a skinny rim, it will create sidewall bulge and poor handling. Skinny tire on wide rim narrow sidewall not recommended. **Get it right or at least close.**

Speed Rating

H = Recommended stiffer sidewall. Don't go (S or T) rating
V= Stiffer still but ride quality will suffer

Traction: Preferer AA or A

Temp: Always go for A

Treadwear: < 450, I got < 500 from Walmart

Generally, a lower treadwear combined with AA or A traction means good grip.

It's hard to find Summer Performance tires. It's a marketing thing almost everything now is All Weather.

- MG CALENDAR -

November	4	Monthly Club Meeting – Johnny Dee’s Lounge
	5	“One Big Beautiful Campfire” – Hosted by the Heaps in Street, MD
December	2	Monthly Club Meeting – Johnny Dee’s Lounge
	14	Mayor’s Hamden Christmas Parade – Baltimore, MD

2026

January	6	Monthly Club Meeting – Johnny Dee’s Lounge
	10	After Christmas Celebration – Hosted by The Jeffersons in New Freedom, PA (details to follow soon)
February	3	Monthly Club Meeting – Johnny Dee’s Lounge
	TBA	The World-Famous CHILLY Run – Hosted by The Sharpe’s (details to follow)
August	14 – 16	MG103Fest* – Grananoque, Canada

***See attached flyer for more details**



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

Your membership benefits include:

- *You are invited to all club events. Including these three great parties:*
 - ***The After Christmas Celebration***
 - ***The “Chilly Run”***
 - ***The Summer Pool Party***
- *You can enjoy the club’s world-famous newsletter – **The OCTAGRAM***
- *You get access to the club’s extensive tool chest*
- *You also get to hang with us at our monthly meeting (first Tuesday of the month) held at a nice restaurant and including a tech session. (Johnny Dees Lounge 1705 Amuskai Rd Loch Raven, MD)*
- *We are invited to our annual spring tech session, hosted by the club’s tech guru.*
- *MGOB sponsors the annual “**Get the Dust-Off Rallye**” the first Sunday in May. Bring your MG and compete against the dreaded Triumph Club for possession of the coveted Lord Baltimore Cup!*
- *You get to be part of **MG’s on the Rocks** - The oldest continuously running British car show in the world! Celebrating our 46th year in 2025!*

All this for only \$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!

Your Name (MGing is a family activity, please include those of family members)	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Contact Number	
e-mail Address	
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 Liddick: 5237 Glen Arm Road, Glen Arm, MD 21057



**NORTH AMERICAN
MGA REGISTER**

THE CLUB TOOL CHEST

Contact Eric Salminen to Borrow

- Engine Stand
- Engine lift with tilt device (2)
- Whitworth wrenches & sockets
- Whitworth thread file
- MGB Kingpin Reamer
- Sandblaster (Suction from a bucket type)
- RO-style Wheel Paint Mask (MGB)
- Midget King pin reamer
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer for MG T, A, B carbs
- SU Carb throttle shaft reamer for 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

The MGs of Baltimore, Ltd. Established in 1977, the club represents over 150 members in the Metro Baltimore area. Our activities center around the preservation and enjoyment of the cars that bear the classic MG marque. MGoB is affiliated with the following national organizations: ***The North American MGA Register*** and ***The North American MGB Register***. Internationally, the club is affiliated with ***The MG Car Club*** and ***The MG Owners Club***. Club 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 other gatherings all through the year.

The MGs of Baltimore is a 501(c) 7 Not-For-Profit Corporation.



MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

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

President	Richard Liddick	410-817-6862	rgl2mgbgt@aol.com
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Secretary	Tracy Trobridge	410-489-7444	tracy21794@yahoo.com
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MGs on the Rocks	Richard Liddick Eric Reitz	410-817-6862	rgl2mgbgt@aol.com
Tool Meister	Eric Salminen	443-463-3071	mgoabrallymaster@gmail.com
Web Master	Richard Liddick	410-817-6862	rgl2mgbgt@aol.com
Regalia	Cheryl Reitz	410-336-2584	creitz@dap.com
Tech Advisor	Chris Horant	410-679-1378	cshmk3S3@verizon.net



North American MGB Register

P.O. Box 876
Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876

We are the official MG Club for MGB, MGB/GT, MGC, MGC/GT, MG V8, MG Midgets/AH Sprites, MG 1100/1300 sedans, and all Post Abingdon (MGF, MGTF, MG RV8, etc) MGs.

As a member of NAMGBR, you and your local MG or British Car Club can receive the following benefits:



The MG Driver

This bi-monthly color magazine is packed with useful information with the right mix of technical how tos, member stories and club updates and information.



Technical Help

E-mail questions to a group of technical experts to get help or leverage one of the model specific registrar experts to answer your questions. There's also a Facebook group to get community help.



Dash Plaque

To commemorate your membership you receive a dash plaque with your personal membership number.



Window Sticker

Proudly proclaim your membership in NAMGBR with this attractive two-sided window sticker.



Mutual Aid Directory (MAD)

A by state, by city directory of NAMGBR members willing to help another member in the event they break down or need assistance while traveling away from home.



Annual Convention

A multi-day celebration of all things MG and a gathering of MG enthusiasts from around the globe. Some fly in, some drive their MG or other British car or some bring a car on a trailer. This event features driving tours, a car show and a taste of the local food and drink. MG2025 will take place in Crystal Lake, IL.



100,000/200,000/300,000 Mile Register

Has your MG gone the distance, and traveled 100,000, 200,000 or even 300,000 miles? NAMGBR honors this achievement with a special dash plaque your car can wear with pride.



Club Insurance

Does your local car club sponsor a car show? Do they have drives, events or regular meetings? Many venues require insurance to hold the event on their property. If your club has at least 8 NAMGBR members and is an affiliated Chapter of NAMGBR, then the club is covered with liability insurance for free! Director & Officer insurance is also available for local club officers.



Regalia

We have a number of ways you can show your NAMGBR membership to the public. Clothing, bags, key rings or license plate frames are just a few examples.



Member Classified

NAMGBR offers a free classified section in *The MG Driver* magazine. Have an extra MG or parts you want to sell? Target your advertising to the people you know are looking to buy an MG or may need the parts you have.



Car Insurance

NAMGBR is the first MG club to offer members the 5% Hagerty Collector Car Insurance Discount. Being a member can save you money on your insurance! Perhaps more than the cost of your membership.

Do you want to know more about the North American MGB Register? Check out our website at: www.namgbr.org

Do you want to be a member in the largest club in North America dedicated to the MGB, MGB/GT, MGC, MGC/GT, MG V8, Midget, 1100/1300 Sedans and Post Abingdon MGs?

Go to the website and instantly join via a secure card payment. Mail in options are also available.



We look forward to having you as a member of NAMGBR!



The MG Car Clubs from Ottawa and Toronto invite you to

MG103Fest.

Join us for a weekend of fun and camaraderie in scenic Gananoque.

Gananoque is located in the Thousand Islands near the US border.

This weekend gathering of MGs is open to all enthusiasts.

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Tailgate Pizza Party

Group Scenic Tour

MG Car Show

Pub & Trivia Night

tinyurl.com/mg103fest

AUGUST 14-16, 2026



GANANOQUE