



OCTAGRAM

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs OF BALTIMORE, MD

AUGUST 1, 2019

<https://www.mgsofbaltimore.org>

From El Presidente:

Well we are halfway thru summer and I don't know about you, but the heat been kicking my butt. I think most of you know I hate hot weather and long for my annual trip to Maine and Atlantic Canada, I am thinking maybe in early September since I went up this past April. I'll be headed to Calgary, Alberta in late October for the NAMGBR AGM (Annual General Meeting) and I am hoping it won't be snowing there then. This will give me a chance to checkout the site of MG 2019 and report back. I am thinking the location will be hard to beat, but quite a haul to get to for us MGOB'ers. I'll be flying out.

We have a lot of things coming up in the next few months starting with the Annual MGOB Summer Party on **Sunday, August 11th, 2019 Starting at 2:00 p.m.** Hosted by:
Barbara & Duff Fowler 913 Saint Anne Dr. Street, MD 21154
RSVP@ 410-399-0070 & bkf88@aol.com

Bring a dish and your swimsuit. The Cub will supply Drinks, Burgers & Dogs.

Also coming up are the following events:

The 15th Annual Pennypacker Mills British Car Day, hosted by Delaware Valley Classic MG Club in Schwenksville, Pa is scheduled for Saturday, August 3rd. For more info and to get a registration form go to www.DVCMG.com

LANCO's 30th Annual "Taste of Britain" Car Show & Polo Match will be on Sunday, August 18th in Rothsville, PA

Central Pennsylvania British Car Club's 25th Annual British Car Festival in Altoona, PA will be the weekend of August 24th – 25th

The British Car Club of Delaware's Fall Show at a new location: Bellanca Air Field, Route 273 & Centerpoint Blvd. Old New Castle, DE 19720 Saturday, September 14th

40th Annual "MGs On the Rocks" – Rocks State Park 4-H Camp, Saturday, September 28th

As you can see there are lots on MG/British car events taking place over the next couple of months so hopefully you can find time to take part in one of them.

We have more events that will be taking place in October. I'll cover them in the September issue of the Octagram.

Safety Fast!

Richard

OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

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note change for Jack Long's phone number above.

RANDY'S TECH SESSION

no tech session

slide show of previous Rocks events.

CORRECTION & NEW MEMBERS

Last issue listed Roger Stemier but it should have been ROBERT.

NEW Tim & Randi Shamer
'79 MGB, '74 MGBGT - V6 conv.



July 2019 British Car Club Lehigh Valley (Pa.) President's Message

(Reprinted from the July 2019 issue of the Pa. British Car Club Lehigh Valley's club newsletter "***British Banner***")

July 4th is American Independence day. Let us not forget, that is independence from the rule of Great Britain.

It seems a bit ironic that we would fight a war with England to gain our independence and a couple hundred years later some of us would fall in love British cars. We now find ourselves beholden to England for our cars, parts and quirky engineering. Who won that war?

As we all know, sadly there is virtually no British automobile industry remaining. Foreign companies own all the major British marques. Rolls Royce, Bentley, Aston Martin and Mini are all German owned. India's Tata owns Jaguar and Land Rover and Jaguar is rumored to be for sale now. The Chinese own MG. As of 2017 the Chinese company Geely owns 51% of Lotus. The French own Vauxhall. That leaves TVR, Morgan, McLaren, and a hand full of small niche producers to carry the Union Jack.

Does it really matter if the British own the traditional British car companies? It doesn't appear that it does matter. In most cases, the outsiders running the companies have managed to retain all the things we consider British about these marques and yet improve the quality and reliability beyond anything we associate with British cars. That would appear to be a win for everyone.

But, there is a downside to the demise of the British car. It lies at the root of what drew us as collectors to British cars. They were affordable entry into the world of sports cars. Not that the British car industry had a lock on affordable sports cars, the Italians certainly made their claim as well, but the Brits managed to get the elements about right; affordable, easy to maintain, and when properly cared for – nearly bulletproof reliability. I know that sounds wrong, bulletproof reliable and British car in the same sentence, but it is largely true.

Today is where the timeline is heading horribly off in the wrong direction. The next generations of car collectors have no experience with British cars. They didn't see them in dealerships because the affordable mass-market brands all disappeared before any Millennial or Gen Z was born. They only know British cars as relatively expensive, up market, prestige vehicles. With the exception of Aston Martin and McLaren there are few products from these companies that are teenage social media worthy and that is the entry into the collector car world today. If they want an affordable entry-level sports car, new or used, they will be buying a Miata. The best we can hope for, the fan base for the Mini will become some gateway for future British car collectors.

This July 4th, while celebrating our independence from British rule, drive your British car in the hopes of sparking some interest amongst the American rebels in the joy of British car motoring.

Jed Rapoport

President

British Car Club, Lehigh Valley (Pa.)

MGS OF BALTIMORE. OCTAGRAM

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COVER STORY



Start by raising the car with a lift, and remove the tires and grille to provide access to the entire body. Now it's time to fire up the power tools. While Tim uses a Metabo rotary buffer for next steps, a random orbital may be better for the novice.

No matter what the tool, he applies a few dabs of polish to the pad. Use a microfiber towel to apply compound to the hard-to-reach areas. Always work with the lines of the car, using a slow buffer speed and long strokes. You can use the edge of the pad to increase heat and bite—as Tim admits, developing the right feel is a big part of the process. He also recommends doing no more than a 2x2-foot section at a time.

Don't leave the compound material sitting on the paint. When done with a section, clean up with a waffle-weave microfiber towel.

The edges of a car usually sport thinner

paint, so they need to be protected. Tim favors 3M architectural tape. This thin, plastic tape is chemical-resistant and peels off cleanly. It also won't tear when hit with the buffer.

Detailing polishes are available in different strengths: stronger ones for damaged paint and mild ones for relatively blemish-free finishes. While you want to work up from the stronger polishes to the weaker ones, don't start with a product that is too coarse for your finish—you may introduce scratches and swirls. Your favorite detail product supplier should be able to match the right polish to your situation.

Finally, wax can be applied with the random-orbital rubber. For ideal results, let the applied wax set up overnight before wiping the car clean with a microfiber plush towel. Some squirts of quick-detailer can help remove the wax.

Tim's secret weapon: the simple bamboo skewer. They're available at almost any supermarket, and a pack of a hundred should only cost about \$2. The bamboo is strong enough to dislodge dirt and grime, yet it won't scratch paint, plastic, or chrome.

There's no exact science to using the skewers, so feel free to improvise. For example, a stick and a microfiber cloth are great for removing built-up wax from body seams.

Wax and dirt often build up around the badges—especially individual letters—so ideally Tim removes them to gain access. If he can't remove the badges, he uses a bamboo skewer to clean around each one.



Turn Signal Turn-On

Just about every car body features a fair share of lamps, each one a collection of chrome, rubber, glass, and plastic. Here's a trusted approach for detailing these components.

Step 1: Remove the lamp.

Step 2: Before walking away from the car, check out the cavity behind the lamp. Road grime loves to get trapped here, making it a great place for rust to breed.

Step 3: Clean the lenses with a quality degreaser before finishing up with Plexus and a microfiber towel. (Backup lights and taillights located near the exhaust tips tend to get especially sooty, Tim notes.) The rubber seals can be rejuvenated with a shot of vinyl protectant.

Step 4: Use a bamboo stick for the detail work.

Step 5: Admire the now-clean lamp.



Being A Slave To Your Clutch!

From John Mangles; MG Club of St. Louis via the June Issue of eChatter

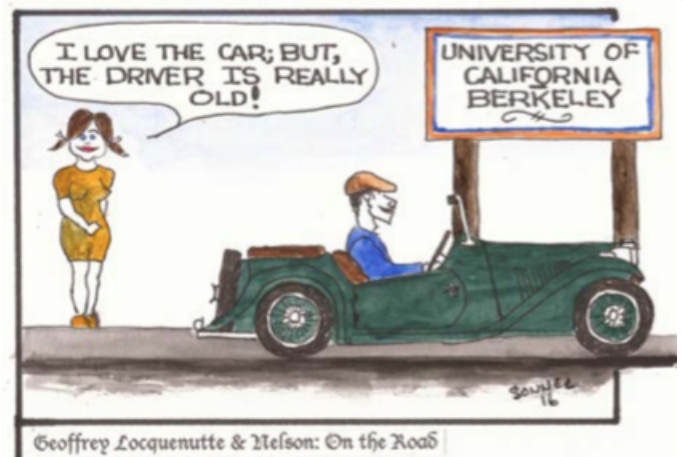
Ok, so I am working on this 1958 MGA with a clutch problem. It seems that the clutch slave cylinder had puked up the piston as well as all of the fluid. Usually this means that the clutch or the release bearing is worn so severely that the slave cylinder piston has to travel farther than the cylinder will allow. It can also be caused by wear in the fulcrum points of the pedal or push-rod on the slave and/or the clevis pins that attaché these parts, or a bent or broken release arm.

PUKE THE PISTONS!

Since I noticed no considerable wear in any of the obvious areas, I assumed that there was a problem inside the bell housing. Out comes the engine. To my dismay, I could not find anything wrong with anything in this area. There was some slight wear in some of the parts, but not enough to cause the slave to 'puke the piston'. Now, I am scratching my head. What the &*(is going on with this thing?

After a few posts to a bulletin that I frequent, and a few phone calls, I finally got the answer. As it turns out, there are two holes in the bottom of the master cylinder. One of the holes is smaller than the other. The smaller of the two is a fluid return hole. Somehow this hole became clogged and would not let the fluid return to the master cylinder when the clutch pedal was released.

When this happens, the master cylinder keeps pumping fluid to the slave cylinder until - guess what? The piston puked out along with the fluid! So, the next time you think you have to pull the engine for a clutch problem like this, make sure the master cylinder is working correctly... **FIRST!** -end- Ed. Note: Good tip - AND I think we have the name for a new Punk Rock band... *Puke The Pistons!*



Tech Tip from Ron Hillbury / Coil Spring Replacement

To easily remove and replace front coil springs, first support the spring pan with a floor jack. Next, loosen (don't remove) the two bolts nearest the wheel holding the spring pan to the wishbone arm. Then, remove the two bolts nearest the sub-frame and the wishbone pivot. The spring pan is now free to pivot on the outer bolts. Then, just lower the jack and pull the spring pan toward the wheel on its pivot and the coil spring will easily drop free. Installation is the reverse. A much easier process than taking apart the entire wishbone assembly.

... From Brian Slick... "Making Your Own Gaskets"

For those who make your own gaskets, here is a simple way to make the bolt holes. Take a piece of steel/brass tubing and countersink the inside diameter making a sharp knife surface. Place the tubing where you want a hole, and strike it with a hammer... and a perfect hole will be cut. Another more durable hole punch is to take a long bolt, cut off the treads, then drill a hole down the center about 1/2" deep. Use a drill bit about 1/8" smaller than the bolt. Now, countersink the end making a sharp knife edge. When the punch gets dull, re-countersink.

... From Terry Frisch... "More On Making Your Own Gaskets"

The best way I have found to cut holes in gasket materials is to use spent brass rifle casings that I collected at the shooting range. I have collected many different sizes with the largest being 45 cal. They make a clean cut through the gasket material with one tap of a hammer. I used this method recently when I replaced a thermostat on my MGB GT...works great.

BRITISH CAR CLUB OF DELAWARE

BRITS AT FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

- 10AM-3PM, field opens at 9:30AM
- \$20 pre-registered by 9/8/2019, \$25 day of
- Awards at 2:30
- More Car Show Information contact Sharon Kalinowski, (302) 999-7613, email sdkal@verizon.net
- Visit www.bccdelaaware.org
- Located at Friends of Bellanca Airfield, 2 Centerpoint Blvd, New Castle, DE 19720
- Dash plaque to first 75 entrants
- Awards for Best in Show; Top 5 Pre-1980 and Top 5 Post-1981 by popular choice.
- Open to all years, makes, models British autos and motorbikes.

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO BCCD To: British Car Club Delaware September Car Show, C/O Sharon Kalinowski 800 Woodland Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19808

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

MARQUE: _____ **MODEL:** _____ **YEAR:** _____

Waiver of liability:

I am aware of the hazards inherent with motor vehicle events and specifically release and do indemnify the organizers, supporting sponsors, and the British Car Club Delaware collectively and separately, from any and all liability from personal injury or property damage incurred by me or any guests while participating in the 2019 Car Show. I understand and agree that the British Car Club Delaware reserves the right to revoke my registration and retain my registration fee should I engage in reckless, dangerous, and/or unsafe behavior.

I have read, understand, and agree to this release. No refunds. No rain date.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Thirtieth Annual

“A Taste Of Britain”



British Vehicle Show

Hosted by the LANCO MG Club
Dash Plaques to the first 150 vehicles - No Judging



SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019



Forney Polo Field - 70 Church Street, Rothsville, PA 17543

Lancaster County

FIELD OPENS AT 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Polo Match starts at 2:30

*-FOOD and DRINK AVAILABLE-
Gift for the first 125*



'NEW' Proper English Hat Contest

Ladies and gentleman, We are offering a prize to the best men's and best ladies headwear. So come wearing your best English hat. FREE to enter NOON at Regalia tent



A portion of the proceeds are donated to the Central PA Food Bank

Directions: Exit 286 of PA Turnpike, South on Rt. 222, 9.5 miles to Brownstown Exit, West on Rt. 772 Approx. 2.5 miles. Left on Church Street .3 mi. Polo Field on the Right.

For further information Call Larry (717) 285-7379
or Ralph (717) 367-9132



Internet Larry - mg1lanco@comcast.net or Ralph - ms1972@comcast.net

Rain or Shine Club internet address - www.Lancomgclub.com

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUG. 10, 2019

Please PRINT Clearly

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YEAR _____ MAKE _____ MODEL _____

CAR CLUB AFFILIATION _____

E-MAIL _____

WAVIER OF LIABILITY
(MUST BE SIGNED TO ENTER. NEITHER I NOR MY HEIRS WILL HOLD LANCO MG CLUB OR CO SPONSOR LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES DONE BY ME OR MY CAR WHILE ENGAGED IN OR TRAVELING TO OR FROM THIS EVENT. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS RELEASE IS GIVEN IN CONSIDERATION FOR PERMISSION TO ATTEND THIS EVENT)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

(MUST BE SIGNED)

Pre-registration by Aug. 10
\$15.00 per vehicle (2 persons) \$

Registration day of show
\$20.00 per vehicle (2 persons) \$

\$5.00 per extra person \$
Children under 12 FREE

Entering hat contest
(Free)

NEW Membership
Single \$20 \$
Joint \$25. \$
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

Official Use Only



Mail form and check made payable to LANCO MG CLUB Inc.

to: Larry Ciarrocca, Registrar,
3079 Todd Lane
Lancaster, PA 17601



The DVCMG Presents... The 15th Annual...



Pennypacker Mills British Car Day Classic MG Chapter

Hosted by the Delaware Valley
Schwanksville, PA

In Association With The Pennypacker Mills Historic Site
"In The Good Old Summertime" Festival

Saturday, August 3rd 2019

(Rain or shine)

CAR SHOW PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Club Affiliation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Car: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

(Need trailer parking space? Yes ___ No ___)

Pre-registration fee by July 21st : \$15.00 - Make checks payable to: DVC

(July 22nd on: \$20.00)

TOTAL Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Free X-Large or Large T-Shirts to first 40 Paid Pre-registrants: Size Requested: XL ___ L ___

Send checks to: Nancy Yaskowski, DVC Treasurer, 517 Quarry Road, Spring City, PA 19475

Additional information: www.DVCMG.com or call Paul Phillips 610-792-1158

Release: Neither my heirs nor I will hold the Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter, any of its members, or show staff liable for any personal injuries or damages sustained by me, my party, or my car while traveling to and from this event, and while participating in this event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



The 40th Annual
MGs
on the Rocks!

Open to all British Marques

September 28, 2019



MGs of Baltimore, Ltd.

The MGs of Baltimore Car Club is dedicated to preserving the MG Marque in the Greater Baltimore, Maryland region. We do this by hosting driving events, our annual show and parts market *MGs on the Rocks*, and providing technical training and assistance to our members. We have monthly meetings at Jonny Dee's Lounge at 7:30 the first Tuesday of each month where we plan events, hear about upcoming events and ones our members have participated in, and a tech session on MG repair and maintenance.

MGOB sponsors an annual "Get the Dust Off" Rallye, the first Sunday in May. We hosted both MG 98 & MG 2018, The Annual North American MGB Register Conventions in Hagerstown, MD & Gettysburg, PA

You can get more info on MGOB from our website at: <http://www.mgsofbaltimore.org>

The site includes member's benefits, upcoming events, a car/parts auction and pictures of previous winners of MGs on the Rocks. For further information or to join the club you may contact the President, Richard Liddick at 410-817-6862, or by email at: rgl2mgbgt@aol.com.

*To attend our monthly meetings:
Follow the Baltimore Beltway towards Towson and take the exit to Loch Raven Blvd. South. Follow it to Joan Ave. Turn left at the light and into the shopping center. Look for Johnny Dee's Lounge, 1705 Anuskai Rd, Baltimore, MD 21234. www.JohnnyDeesLounge.com. Park amongst the other MGs on the upper lot. We meet for dinner at 5:45 and the meeting is held in their meeting room at 7:30. Join us!*

MGs on the Rocks

The 40th Annual edition of one of the longest running British Car Shows in the USA promises to be a great event, we are expecting 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 poets, 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 please 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 these:

- ☞ 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 by Jammin Jefferson
- ☞ On site food by Uncle Moe's Soul Food & Gill's Ice
- ☞ A wide range of classes for awards for all British Marques, including the Murphy Cup for best MGB of the show and a special Ruby Award to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary.

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

We are pulling out all the stops to make the Ruby Anniversary the best Rocks yet! Come see what we have in store.

Things To Remember

Pre-register! Awards are generally 3 or more 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 cell: 202-746-8252
 Email: Jack.Long@iem.com

MGs of Baltimore, Ltd

CALENDAR

AUGUST

3rd 15th Annual Pennypacker Mills British Car show
<http://www.dvcmg.com/events/car-show-info/>

6TH MGOB MEETING

11th MGOB summer party at Duff's

18 A Taste of Britain - see flier

24th & 25th Altoona PA, Central PA Brit Car club 25th brit car Festival.

SEPTEMBER

2nd MGOB MEETING

28th MGOB 40th MGs On The Rocks

OCTOBER

1st MGOB MEETING

4th 5th 38th annual British Car Festival in Waynesboro, VA

13TH Hunt Country Classic

https://www.mgcarclubdc.com/hcc/hcc_main.html

19th TRAC foliage tour

<https://www.mgsofbaltimore.org>

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

DISCLAIMER

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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.*



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

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 clubs 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.

The club membership meets at 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of every month at Johnny Dee’s Lounge. Johnny Dee’s is located at 1705 Amuskai Rd; Baltimore, Md, just off of Loch Raven Blvd at Joan Ave. From I-695 Take the Loch Raven Blvd. Exit south. Go about 1 mile, turn left onto Joan Ave. Park in the upper lot. For more info go to their website at www.JohnnyDeesLounge.com Come early and have diner. We start arriving between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

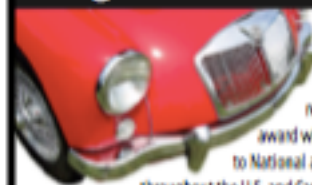
The meetings are about sharing experiences, taking care of club business and normally include a monthly tech session provided by our MG “technical guru” Randy Kegg.

More than just MGs

Many members of MGOB are owners of the other classic British marques and all are welcomed to join the club.

The Octogram, the club’s newsletter is published monthly by the MG’s of Baltimore Car Club.

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 MGAR, 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 registrars@namgar.com.

