



OCTAGRAM

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs of BALTIMORE MD

January 2025

www.mgsofbaltimore.org

From El Presidente:

MGOB took part in the 51st Annual Hampden Mayor's Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 8th. We had a good turnout this year with 15 cars taking part and all but one completing the route. Tony Phillips and a small engine fire which he coolly and calmly put out (there's film of it on the MGOB Facebook Page) in his 53 MG-TD. We had two other casualties, but they made it thru the entire route. Duff Fowler had a spark plug carbon fouling problem with his 65 MGB and Steve Maisel had a starter/connection problem with his 67 MGB these issues were addressed at a local Royal Farms Store parking lot and we were on our way to meeting up at the Valley Inn for cocktails.

The Annual MGOB "After the Holidays" Party will be hosted this year by Mike & Mary Lutz at the Federal Armored Car Museum. 130 Lakefront Dr., Hunt Valley, MD 21030 on Saturday, January 11th, 2025, starting at 6:00 p.m. We ask that you bring a dish to share, the club will supply drinks and other goodies. RSVP Mike or Mary at 410-592-8610 or mgtlutz@comcast.net

There will be an LEL (League of Extraordinary Loafers) trip to the **Classic Auto Mall** located at **6180 Morgantown Rd, Morgantown, PA 19543** admission is the MGOB price. There is an Amish Smorgasbord nearby (The Shady Maple in East Earl, Pa) that is perhaps the largest, most well stocked, "all you can eat" spots I've ever been to. They also have areas off the main dining area that can accommodate groups. I've picked **Wednesday, January 22nd with a snow date of Wednesday, January 29th**. The plan is to meet at the **Spready Oak Restaurant on US 1 north of US 222 at 9:00 a.m.** for breakfast or coffee and leave there around 10:00 a.m. We should arrive there around 11:00 a.m. For those of you who live north and west of Baltimore you can meet us at the Classic Auto Mall at 11:00 p.m. or you can meet us at the Spready Oak Restaurant. There are hundreds of classic cars to view, and most are for sale, so bring your checkbook. After touring the Classic Auto Mall, we will head to the Smorgasbord for lunch. For more information checkout their websites at: [Classic Auto Mall](#) & <https://www.shady-maple.com/smorgasbord/> If you are interested please contact me at RGL2MGBGT@aol.com and I will add you to the list of attendees.

The **28th Annual MGOB Chilly Run** will be hosted by Doug & Tina McCoach on **Sunday, February 16th**, with a **snow date** of Sunday, February 23rd, **starting at 1:00 p.m.** Doug & Tina are located in the Homeland/Govans area of the city at:

313 Thornhill Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Please bring your favorite chili, non-chili or other food items to share and enter the contest. There will be at least 5 classes ranging from the coveted "Hunka, Hunka Burning Love" Award for the hottest (you must be able to eat a bowl too) to the "Best Non-Chili" Award, along with the "Best Dessert" Award and others as chosen by our hosts. The Club will supply drinks and other munchies.

Don't forget to R.S.V.P Doug and Tina by calling 410-435-2257 or e-mailing at dbmccoach@gmail.com

Finally, it is dues renewal time. If you owe your name will be on the list in this newsletter. Please make your cheques payable to MGOB and mail to:

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

Or pay at the monthly MGOB meeting.

Safety Fast!

Richard

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Editor's Note

This is the last newsletter that I will be the editor for. I want to say that I have enjoyed my time being editor and look forward to the future issues that John Ellis puts together. I will still be handling membership for the club.

Please continue to support John as you have supported me with the great articles.

Safety Fast and Happy New Year.

Kathy Liddick

New Member

Rich Disney with a 1978 MGB



2025 Dues Owed

Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name
Absher	Shane & Megan	Liddick	Richard & Kathy
Allen	Tom	Lippert	Bob
Amato	Roger & Susan	Long	Jack & Liz
Amos	David M	Lucas	Jim & Donna
Appelbaum	Jerrold & Abby	Lutz	Michael & Mary
Auer	Joe & Barb	MacInnes	Rick & Patsy
Bartlett	Christopher	Mallia	Joseph
Becker	Neal & Suzanne	Mangan	Mike
Bederka	Daniel & Marilyn	Marshall	Roger
Berry	Steve & Linda	McCarron	Bridget
Blevins	Dennis & Carol	McCoach	Doug & Tina
Bonds	Howard & Susan	McKenna	Bob & Missy
Bradford	Terry & Alyson	McKinney	Carl & Denise
Browning	Jerry & Sharon	Medinger	Michael & Camille
Bubeck	Bruce	Meisel	Stephen & Sally
Buell	John	Michel	Barney & Lydia
Burke	Chas & Pam	Miller	Jim & Mary
Burnham	Tom	Mitchell	Stuart
Carroll	Peter	Monrad	Glenn & June
Carroll	Tom & Colleen	Moore	George
Charles	Peter & Ann	Moreland	Chuck
Clark	Bill	Moure	Richard & Janet
Conley	Mark	Nagl	Kurt & Susan
Daemen	Marc	Ness	Allan
Davis	Clint & Beth	Nicolson	Roger & Lara
Dilisio	James	Novak	Louis
Dinnerman	Matthew	Ollerman	Alex
Dube	Don & Ruth	Olszewski	Ken & Sharon
Durr	James & Bonnie	Orbock	David
Ellis	John & Patricia	Orsich	Tom
Essman	Cliff	Pallace	Jim & Susan

Frazer	Steve & Lisa	Perricone	Ben & Marlene
Fryer	Randy & Sharon	Phillips	Tony
Gass	Paul	Polan	Rich
Glatfelter	Dale & Claudia	Pratt	Mary
Gossett	Ken & Mary	Reitz	Cheryl & Eric
Graham Jr	Jeff	Renda	Tom & Susan
Grant	David & Jane	Rhodes	Jon
Groves	Michael & Michelle	Riley	William
Haines	Liz	Robinson	Bob
Harriman	Craig E. & Lesley	Roop	Travis & Jessica
Hart	Anne	Salminen	Eric & Mary
Haughwout	Roy	Schenking	Mike & Kathleen
Heaps	Larry & Barbara	Sharpe	Steve & Tina
Henry	Bill	Shields	Ned & Pattie
Horant	Chris & Diane	Shirey	Bert & Sandy
Ismail	Kamil & Rajiha	Shovlin	Neil
Jefferson	Richard & Carole	Skidmore	Ron
Jerdonek	Andrew	Spada	Ed & Laura
Johnston	Bob	Spaulding	Mark
Keadle	Mike & Jan	St. Claire	Chuck
Keefer	Bob	Stemler	Bob & Denise
Kegg	Sheila	Stern	Jack & Sheila
King	John & Marylyn	Sweeney	Tom
Knox	Victor & Jackie	Trobridge	Tracy
Kraus	Brian & Denise	Tucker	Carol
Kulp	Andrew & Dina	Whitehair	Alice
Lalley	Tom	Williams	Steve & Valerie
LaRocco	George & Donna	Zarbin	Sergio & Joy

Exhausting the New Year

rj

“Now is the Winter of our Discontent” (Even for us that live near York)

Greetings and seasonal salutations to all our friends for the coming year. I've been off the keyboard for a few months, so I thought I had better get back to it before I forgot how. My fingers have been lax, but my mind has been wondering (***sometimes into the street***), which should provide you with a few pages of entertainment or at least a liner for your bird cage.

“Now in the Bleak Mid-winter” says it all. The wet and cold does limit our activities, but it doesn't need to. I have developed a few good habits (***along with my many bad ones***) to chase away winter lethargy that I thought I would share. Here are a few suggestions that, knowing myself and all of you, should keep us from making permanent dents in the couch and wasting time watching the one-eyed-mind-eraser.

First, let's talk lists. It does seem to be true that things I write down on a list get done and things I don't write down obviously don't. I try to start every week writing my tasks on a 3 by 5 card. Ok, sometimes I must use both sides. The list keeps me from butterflying around and not really accomplishing anything. I don't waste time prioritizing. By writing a new list every Monday, the things I've been putting off the longest migrate to the top of the list. At the end of the day crossing a thing off my list does give me a rather pleasant “good Job rj” feeling. Try to see if it works for you this winter.

So, in no particular order, here are some projects for your list:

Attend at least one (***all***) of the Winter MGOB parties. Your Christmas fat needs replacing and the banquet provided at either the holiday party or the Chilly-Run will ensure that you'll survive till Spring.

Attend at least one (***all***) LEL event. These fanciful outings will provide you much amusement and since all events include eating, you can add to your winter pouch. For you guys that still work; have you ever heard of sick days?

Read a book! It's important to engage the little gray cells. Between all the Christmas movies, football and Beyonce, I fear some cells now are getting a little lazy. May I suggest Non-fiction. A good novel is nice, but somehow, I get more gray cell action when I think about real people and events in this genre. Just a reminder that libraries still exist, and selections can be had at the optimal MGOB price...FREE

Suggestions: Dark Wake / Erik Larson A Walk in the Woods/ Bill Bryson

Make a new friend: New friends are the asset I most value and our club is an excellent place to find a new one. Club meetings are a good place to look. Your own neighborhood is also recommended. Do you know your neighbors? Your new best friend maybe on the street where you live.

Get off the couch and exercise. It's funny all the calisthenics' I hated during the athletic practices and especially during my time wearing a uniform, I now look forward to. In fact, daily exercise has become so routine that I miss it when I skip a day. Most of you have access to a gym, senior center, or YMCA. While you are there you can also look for that new friend.

Reconnect with an old friend: Time and distance make us lose touch with someone we use to know well. Reconnect, you'll be glad you did.

Enough with all the feelgood mushy stuff...let's get to work.

Your garage is a mess. Sorry, someone had to say it. You're probably agreeing with me now. Maxwell Smart isn't the only one having to fight Chaos. How much time have I wasted looking for a tool, part, or gizmo that I know I have but can't find. ***(At least until I buy another one when of course the first one shows up)***. Winter is the best time to put things in some type of order. Some may remember a previous *Exhaust Note* on the use of pegboard, it remains an excellent tool for organizing garages.

Here's a project I've mentioned before that's worth doing. If your eyes are probably like mine, I just need more light to see well. If you haven't converted those old florescence fixtures to new LED models you are missing out. I had already done this in a previous winter and the difference was amazing and with no HUM. Last year I went one better and installed a couple of additional fixtures in strategic locations, now we're really seeing clearly.

Paint the walls bright white for better lighting. Yes, you will have to move stuff and cleanout all those accumulated spider webs, but what a difference. I just used cheap white paint, and it didn't take that long. A room always looks better after it's just painted, and you always get a good feeling looking a newly completed paint project. Now you can proudly display your favorite pin-up on a clean wall.

Here's an easy one. Clean out your desk. For some reason we find that stuffing things in a drawer when we really don't know what to do with them is a solution. Out of sight, out of mind thinking. Doing this over and over again now has produced an absolute treasure trove of crap! This clutter also hides the stuff we could really use and why I can never find my stapler. Having successfully tackled your desk drawer, ***if you dare***; proceed to that dark pit known as the family junk drawer. These two tasks along with the garage should get you till Valentines Day.

Remove House-Ballast. Here's a winterlong task that will improve your life. Find 10 things in your home each week to get rid of. You don't even know why you own it, you're never going to fix it, or you shouldn't have bought it anyway. Make it go away. Make it a family scavenger hunt. ***(No, the kids are not something you can throw-out.)***

Improve your casa. When you're enclosed in your living space with no outside relief, you start to notice things. Things like a light fixture that you've always hated. A faucet that hasn't been replaced since Lydon Johnson was in office and much like him didn't look good when it was new. You can always add something new. I added additional lights in the kitchen, the difference is great. Tired of that not working good fireplace, get one of the new gas inserts, they work great. Just paint a room or change a rug. Changing what you see every day occasionally will get you to late February. ***(Note that performing these services earns major husband brownie points, which could be traded in for other services.)***

Prepare your LBC for Summer (You knew I'd get here eventually.)

Lubrication. Winter is a great time to change fluids. Oil, clutch, brake, radiator and grease joints. If you can't remember when you did these last, then it's time this winter. ***(Of course, each one of us has faithfully noted each previous service in our car's log book...NOT)***. Some of these services are best done by two, an excellent opportunity to hang out with your new friend. Not sure how to perform these services, then it's an excellent time to invite a club member over to show you how. ***(A lunch payment should be expected for said service)***.

Tire inspection and rotation. Simple task that will kill an hour at best. (***Band-Aid application not included in time estimate.***) Please check the torque spec for your wheels. Don't have a torque wrench. Borrow one from your new best friends.

Clean me! No, I really mean clean me. Take off the old wax and put a new coat on. Polish my shinny bits. Please vacuum the carpets and remove old Taco Bell wrappers from under the seat.

Store me right. Put the top up. It needs a good cleaning too. Leave it up for the winter so it doesn't crease. Use a good plastic cleaner polish on the back window. Did you put that trickle charger on the battery yet? A dead battery is the worst when you're ready to fire it up in the Spring. Yes, it's a pain on an MGB, but remember any Brown wire leads to the battery. Just clip the positive charger lead to a brown wire under the hood and the negative to a bolt on the block. Almost nothing could be simpler. Wait, there is a simpler way. Drive your car regularly!

Even up north here in PA we get a break in the weather every couple of weeks. If the salt is not bad on the road, take your LBC out for a 30-minute spin, or even an hour, make the time. Not only did you charge the battery, but you also flexed the suspension and made sure the tires (***That you inflated properly***) will not flat-spot. If your car is too cold to drive, please read *Exhaust Note*, [Heat Exhaustion](#) to address this problem.

Exhausted now and if you work thorough even some of these suggestions, you'll will make it through winter. Also, your garage, home and LBC will be better for it. Now go get another cup of coffee and listen to the tune I embedded in the title.

Oh, and in your clearing out of excess stuff you find you have a few too many car or rock-n-roll t-shirts, I'll gladly turn them into ammo for next year's ***Rocks***.



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

Your membership benefits include:

- ***You get invited to all club events. Including these three great parties:***
 - ***The after Christmas celebration***
 - ***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 guru.***
- ***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 46th year in 2025!***

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!

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**

Tools Available for Club Members 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)
- 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

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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 and The North American MGB Register. 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. The MGs of Baltimore is a 501 (c) 7 Not-For-Profit Corporation.

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 7th Club Meeting
- 11th After the Holidays Party
- 22nd LEL Trip

FEBRUARY

- 4th Club Meeting
- 16th Chili Run

MARCH

- 4th Club Meeting

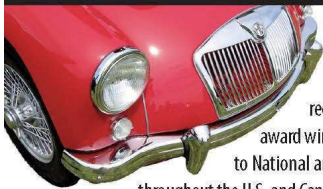
APRIL

- 1st Club Meeting
- 27th Britian on the Green

MGs of Baltimore Affiliations

North American MGB Register
North American MGA Register
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.



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

27th Annual Britain on the Green

April 27, 2025

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

The Capital Triumph Register is proud to announce that the 27th annual Britain on the Green (BOG) will be held at historic Gunston Hall, the colonial home of George Mason, in Lorton, VA, on Sunday, April 27, 2025. BOG, which welcomes all British cars and motorcycles, is well-established as one of the premier all-British shows in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

Participant's Choice honors will be awarded in 25 or more classes of British cars and motorcycles. There will also be a number of special awards including Best Resto-Mod, Best Survivor, Best Display and, of course, Best of Show. Additionally, the Nation's Capital Jaguar Owners Club will again hold their Concours d'Elegance during Britain on the Green.

Please plan on joining us on April 27th for the 27th annual Britain on the Green. It is a great day to bring out your car and celebrate the British car show and driving season with family, friends, and fellow enthusiasts.

Further information on Britain on the Green can be found at:

<https://www.britainonthegreen.org/>

Early registration for Britain on the Green 2025 will begin in January and is available on the website.

Location:

Gunston Hall
10709 Gunston Road
Lorton, VA 22079

<http://www.gunstonhall.org/>

Sponsored by:

Capital Triumph Register

<https://www.capitaltriumphregister.org/>

Britain on the Green website:

<https://www.britainonthegreen.org/>

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