



THE OCTAGRAM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MGs of BALTIMORE, MD

February 2025

www.mgsofbaltimore.org

From EI Presidente:

The Annual MGOB "After the Holidays" Party was held at the Federal Armored Car Museum found at 130 Lakefront Dr., Hunt Valley, MD 21030, Mike & Mary Lutz hosted this year's event. Let's give a big shoutout to them for hosting a fine event and a special thank you to their daughter Jen for the use of the facility. Despite the weather and Raven's game we had a turnout of about 45-50 members, there were two TVs on hand so that not only did we get to party we got to watch the Raven's win another game over the Steelers. There was lots of excellent food, drinks, desserts and don't forget the jello shooters & banana rum.

The LEL (League of Extraordinary Loafers) took a trip to the **Classic Auto Mall** located in **Morgantown, PA 19543** on Jan 22, we had 15 members take part and I believe everyone had a good time looking at the hundreds of classic cars they have on display for sale. Afterwards, most of us headed to the Shady Maple Smorgasbord for lunch. I want to give a big thank you to Bill Minor who suggested him & I go up for a visit this past summer, once I saw it I knew it would be a perfect spot for the Loafers to visit. If you get a chance to visit the Classic Auto Mall, do it, I highly recommend it.

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, dessert, 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 at 410-435-2257 or e-mailing [Chilly Run RSVP Link](#)

Finally, 2025 MGOB Club dues are now due, for those that owe. There will be a list posted in this issue of the Octagram listing those that owe, so if your name is on the list you need to get that \$20.00 cheque out to our membership coordinator, Kathy Liddick. Please make your cheques payable to and mail

to: MGs of Baltimore, Ltd.
5237 Glen Arm Road East
Glen Arm, MD 21057-9456 or you can pay at the monthly MGOB meeting.

One More thing the 36th Annual Get the "Dust-Off" Rallye will be held on Sunday, May 4th, 2025 Start location TBD. Look for an event flier soon.

Safety Fast!
Richard

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.

Editor's Notes...

Welcome to my first edition of The Octagram, with myself as your new editor. Ever since that long ago summer of 1976, as I gazed back at my very own newly acquired '72 MGB - it's nimble silhouette, accentuated by that gracefully spreading pool of motor oil - I knew that I somehow wanted to share my love and fascination with these strange, quirky, wonderful, little vehicles. Now, I get my chance...provided I can RE-learn MS Word after a 15 year hiatus. (Damn, and I thought British cars were quirky and recalcitrant!)

If any club member has any writing, how-to, DIY, or photos that they'd like to share here in the Octagram, feel free to send it to me (jcmellis@gmail.com.) Likewise, if there are any subjects you'd like us to delve into, let me know. Same goes for questions, comments, or complaints...send them to me. I'll do my best to get you an answer or, at least, make something up.

Gone But Not Forgotten...

ROB STAHL

Long time member Rob Stahl passed away suddenly on Sunday Jan. 26, 2025. Rob is fondly remembered by all club members and our prayers and condolences are extended to his wife Wendy and all his family.

Rob's obituary can be viewed at:

<https://www.ruckfuneraltowson.com/obituary/robert-stahl-jr>



Welcome our to the club

Eric & Sandra Laughlin from Nottingham, MD. Eric and Sandra don't own an MG right now, (but that's sure to change soon.)

And, welcome back to the club

Blair Miller, former club president. Blair owns a **1951 MG-TD**



CLUB DUES

Uh oh, it's that time of the year again. Time to ante up another \$20.00 to renew your membership in the Best MG Club in the whole world. Yup, statistics have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that membership in MGs of Baltimore is guaranteed to bring joy and happiness to your life (or at least make living with your LBC a little less stressful) or we will gladly refund your misery with interest...(and, yes we will keep your money.) So, stop procrastinating and just send Kathy your check...

Mail your cheque made payable to MGOB to:

Kathy Liddick
5237 Glen Arm Road
Glen Arm, MD 21057

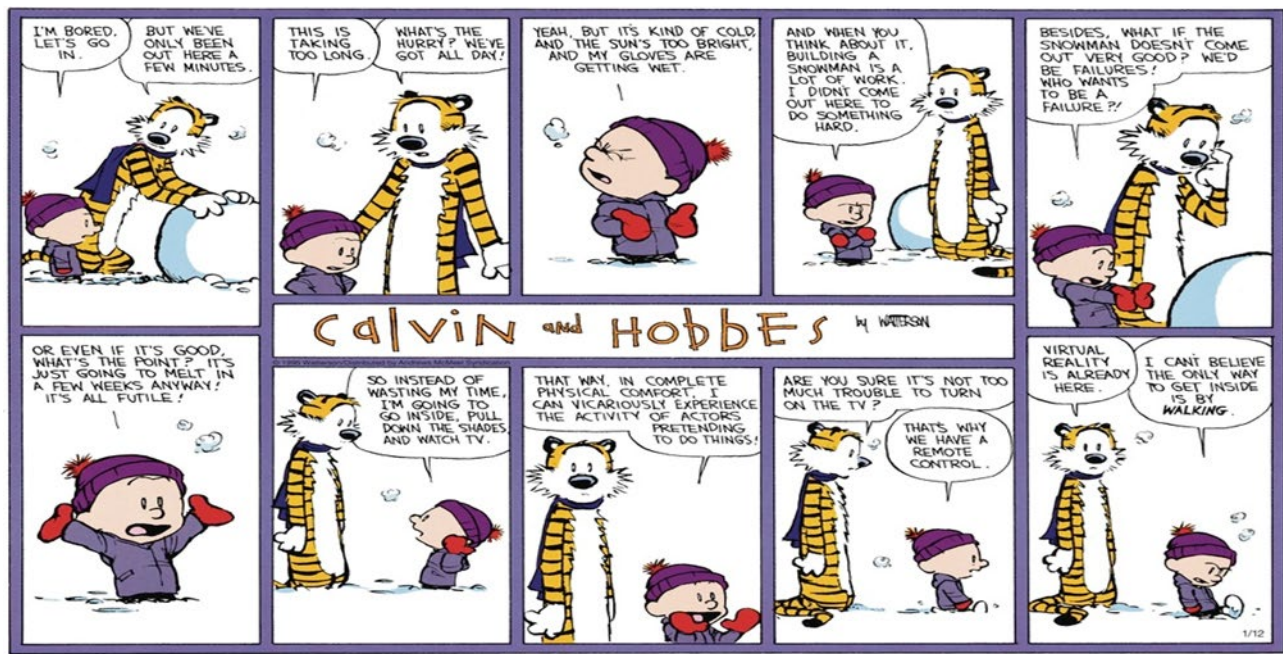
Or better yet just bring it and yourself to our next club meeting...Tuesday Feb. 4.

Last Name	First Name		Last Name	First Name
Absher	Shane & Megan		Lalley	Tom
Allen	Tom		LaRocco	George & Donna
Amato	Roger & Susan		Lippert	Bob
Amos	David M		Long	Jack & Liz
Appelbaum	Jerrold & Abby		Lucas	Jim & Donna
Auer	Joe & Barb		Lutz	Michael & Mary
Bartlett	Christopher		MacInnes	Rick & Patsy
Becker	Neal & Suzanne		Mallia	Joseph
Bederka	Daniel & Marilyn		Mangan	Mike
Blevins	Dennis & Carol		Marshall	Roger
Bonds	Howard & Susan		McCarron	Bridget
Bradford	Terry & Alyson		McKenna	Bob & Missy
Browning	Jerry & Sharon		McKinney	Carl & Denise
Buell	John		Medinger	Michael & Camille
Burke	Chas & Pam		Meisel	Stephen & Sally
Burnham	Tom		Michel	Barney & Lydia
Charles	Peter & Ann		Miller	Jim & Mary
Clark	Bill		Mitchell	Stuart
Conley	Mark		Monrad	Glenn & June
Daemen	Marc		Moore	George
Dilisio	James		Moreland	Chuck
Dinnerman	Matthew		Nagl	Kurt & Susan
Dube	Don & Ruth		Nicolson	Roger & Lara
Essman	Cliff		Novak	Louis
Frazer	Steve & Lisa		Ollerman	Alex
Fryer	Randy & Sharon		Olszewski	Ken & Sharon
Glatfelter	Dale & Claudia		Pallace	Jim & Susan
Gossett	Ken & Mary		Perricone	Ben & Marlene
Graham Jr	Jeff		Polan	Rich

Grant	David & Jane		Pratt	Mary
Groves	Michael & Michelle		Reitz	Cheryl & Eric
Haines	Liz		Renda	Tom & Susan
Harriman	Craig E. & Lesley		Rhodes	Jon
Hart	Anne		Riley	William
Haughwout	Roy		Robinson	Bob
Heaps	Larry & Barbara		Shirey	Bert & Sandy
Henry	Bill		Shovlin	Neil
Ismail	Kamil & Rajiha		Skidmore	Ron
Jerdonek	Andrew		Spada	Ed & Laura
Johnston	Bob		Spaulding	Mark
Keadle	Mike & Jan		St. Claire	Chuck
Keefer	Bob		Stemler	Bob & Denise
Kegg	Sheila		Tucker	Carol
King	John & Marylyn		Whitehair	Alice
Knox	Victor & Jackie		Zarbin	Sergio & Joy
Kulp	Andrew & Dina			

****If your name appears on the above list you owe MGOB club dues for 2025.***





Exhausting Expense

By RJ

Let's talk inflation. (*Oh, please, can we???*) Of all the sources of inflation, services have gone up much more than hard goods. Unfortunately, most of us need services more frequently that we need to say buy a new stove. One of the services that has inflated the most in the last year is auto repair. An amazing 20% increase in the last year alone! Sort of eats up the much smaller raise we got last year.

There are many reasons that running an auto repair business has had to increase prices in the last year. (**Bet you can agree on seeing another bump next year too.**) Everybody that works in the shop pays more for what they need, so the employees want a raise and that along with all other costs (Insurance, taxes, regulatory fees, disposal fee, parts cost, healthcare ...etc, etc, etc) as expected, get passed on to us. (**This is what economist call a wage price spiral**) To be a **viable** business **margins must be maintained**. Therefore, pricing becomes infinitely adjustable, but usually it seems only goes up.

Yours truly was reminded of this when I took CJs Mazda to my local shop to have it inspected. In PA this is an annual thing for smog, but in PA we also check the cars overall condition. (**Which is a good thing**) As usual, the car passed both inspections with no issues. The inspector did note that the brakes were probably going to fail next time. They also told me that the rotors were fine now, and that brake wear would eventually ruin these too. (**Thanks, I know this, but other may not so good to say it Mr. Mechanic!**)

So how much would a brake job, without rotors, cost? (**\$ 405.98**) Just for new pads front and rear? They also informed me that they would do a fuel system cleaning and replace all 4 spark plugs for only an additional \$382.94. They would also do a brake fluids exchange for \$90.98. All total when including shop supplies of \$35 (**coffee and donuts aren't cheap**) and \$54.90 paid to the Commonwealth, we come up with a complete bill of \$969.80. Labor was \$543.92 of the total. **Mon Deux! (rj is studying French again.)**

As I looked at the estimate I pondered a few things. This is a well maintained 2013 Mazda CX5 that looks like it came out of the showroom. No body dings, all electronics working, great gas mileage; so, I figured the investment could be justified. But did I need everything? I think I can replace four spark plugs for less than \$179.99. It's the brakes and possible inspection failure next year that had me really thinking??? I have not worked on many modern cars lately, but with the help of YouTube there's not much I won't try. (**Videos on home surgery should be avoided**)

My next investigation of course led me to trek down the Amazon to get parts for the brake job. I put premium front and rear pads in my Amazon canoe and even threw in a handy tool for compressing disc brake calipers. Gee, \$80 bucks sounds like a good deal versus the shop. The replacement of the pads was a **very** simple task. **Hint**, watch more than one YouTube video. Different guys show different tricks than make your life easier.

Now, this Exhaust Note is not just to bitch about inflation and the high cost of auto repair. It's designed to be motivational. When's the last time you inspected the brakes on your LBC? A car that won't run is a problem; a car that won't stop can be really bad. When everyone's friend, Mr. Heaps, hosts the annual MGOB Spring car clinic one of the most frequent problems found is leaking rear wheel cylinders, which leads to of course worthless rear brake shoes. We also find front rotors that are warped and pads that are a shadow of what they once were. We who own on LBCs know that finding a competent shop to work on them is increasingly hard. We need to be more self-sufficient.

It's winter - you have time to do this. I know last month I gave you a whole bunch of things to occupy the darker days, but this job needs to be done, and I have confidence you can do it. If you need help, there's YouTube. May I recommend the great guru [Mr. Twist](#) to help you. Now, you may also need supervisors to assist you, so have a few cold ones handy and of course a luncheon should always be provided.

Of course, **no good deed goes unpunished**. I got to bask in the accomplishment of expertly doing the brakes on CJ's Mazda for only two months. She, of course, then traded it for the new shiny thing now in our garage. I should have gone fishing!

OK, you've made it through January. Only 2 more months till the earth tilts in our favor. Have you cleaned your garage yet? Is the trickle charger on your LBC? Just saying don't waste these cold days; your couch, like your LBC, could use a brake too. Exhausted now, so go listen to the tune I embedded in the title.

RJ

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY	4	Club Meeting
	16	<i>Chili Run*</i> - Baltimore
MARCH	4	Club Meeting
APRIL	1	Club Meeting
	27	<i>Britian on the Green*</i> – Lorton, VA
May	3	<i>Williamsburg B&I Car Show*</i> – Wlmsburg, VA
	4	<i>MGoB Get the Dust Off Rally</i> (location TBA)
	6	Club Meeting
June	2-6	<i>NAMGAR GT-50*</i> – Traverse City, MI

*See attached flyer for more details

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



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**

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)
- 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

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.



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
1 st Vice President	Ken Olszewski	410-459-9202	kenmgob@comcast.net
2 nd Vice President	Clint Davis	412-736-0060	cdavis3405@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Eric Reitz	410-207-7548	reitz1@aol.com
Secretary	Tracy Trobridge	410-489-7444	tracy21794@yahoo.com
Newsletter	John Ellis	715-904-9005	jcmellis@gmail.com
Membership	Kathy Liddick	410-817-6862	themgbabe@comcast.net
Rallye Master	Eric Salminen	443-463-3071	mgoallymaster@gmail.com
MGs on the Rocks	Richard Liddick Eric Reitz	410-817-6862	rgl2mgbgt@aol.com
Tool Meister	Eric Salminen	443-463-3071	mgoallymaster@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

THE MGoB 28th ANNUAL *CHILLY RUN**

February 16, 2025, 1pm - onward.

Doug and Tina McCoach look forward to hosting the club's 28th annual Chilly Run. We're hoping for cold weather because we got a hot lineup!

Prize Categories for this year include:

The "**HUNKA-HUNKA BURNIN LOVE**" Award for the hottest Chili...a perennial Favorite. Will Kamil Ismail defend the crown?

New this year is the "**RING OF FIRE**" award for the Sweetest Chili...because, as the man in black said, "the taste of love is sweet".

And then follow a cavalcade of Prizes for **Best Overall**, **Best No Meat Vegetarian**, **Best Chicken Chili**, **Best Side Dish** (spouses included), **Best Appetizer**, and of course, **Best Desert**.

And, no party is complete without prizes of various types and usefulness, good music, and ample beverages of choice...all provided by the club!

Things you can do to help with the party:

1. Let us know if you are coming! Contact us by email, text, fax, FedEx or carrier pigeon!
2. Let us know what categories you are competing in!!! Tell us about your shizzle!!
3. Stretch those legs and save parking in front of the house for club members who really need it.

How you can find us:

We live in the historic North Baltimore neighborhood of Homeland (near Loyola University, Friends School, and the Senator Theater.) Our house will be very visibly identifiable.

GPS for our address: **313 Thornhill Road Baltimore, MD. 21212.**

We hope to see friends old and new at our place.

***Tony Phillips, please bring the Fire Extinguisher.**

Remember, February 16, 2025, 1pm onward. Come early – stay late



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/>

Capital Triumph Register contact:

John Buescher
703-475-5609

bog@capitaltriumphregister.org

GT-50 Registration Now Open!



GT-50 June 2-6, 2025
70th MGA Anniversary
Traverse City, Michigan

[/https://namgar.com/2025/01/26/gt-50-registration-now-open/](https://namgar.com/2025/01/26/gt-50-registration-now-open/)

The Michigan Rowdies are excited to invite you to GT-50 in Traverse City, Michigan. The Rowdies have hosted GTs 10, 20, 30 & 40 and are determined to make GT-50 the best ever. Help us celebrate 50 years of get-togethers in one of the most popular vacation spots in Michigan.

We are planning a full schedule of scenic drives, tech sessions, winery visits, and other fun activities. There will be plenty of opportunities to reunite with friends from past GTs. In addition to planned activities, the Traverse City area offers a wide variety of water sports, shopping, museums and more. Away from Traverse City, there are many towns along Lake Michigan with ports full of pleasure boats, charter fishing boats and commercial fishing boats as well. Then there are the inland lakes offering a full range of water sports. The city of Traverse City includes a full range of shopping and entertainment, as well as parks and beaches along Grand Traverse Bay.

Our host hotel will be the Great Wolf Lodge, just outside of Traverse City. The hotel has a full complement of amenities, plus an indoor waterpark, so bring your swimsuit.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

25th ANNUAL WILLIAMSBURG BRITISH & IMPORT CAR SHOW



SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

10AM - 2PM

**WILLIAMSBURG PREMIUM OUTLETS
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**



Register online at www.wmbgbrit.com



Presented by the Williamsburg British and Import Car Club