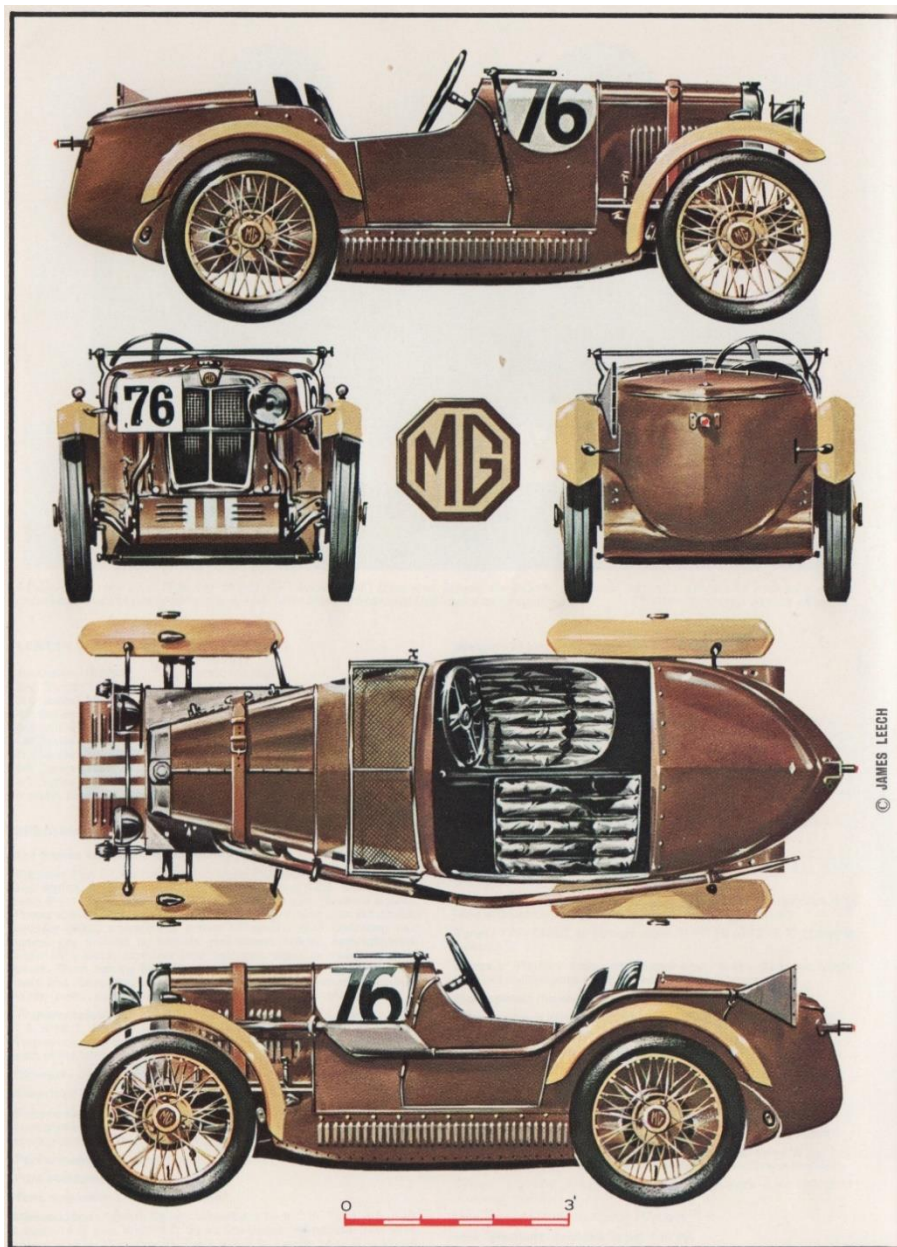




Crown Wheel and Opinion

The Almost Quarterly Newsletter of the Calgary MG Car Club
Volume 2 – Number 2 – It's now Fall 2022



MG Midget – M Type

Highlights:
The Driving Season
Issue! Been There,
Did That and Will
Do!

Meet Dorothy – the
Story of one
member's MGB

A Car Collection to
Remember – for all
Seasons

Your Club needs
you! – Consider
joining the
executive for 2023





Crown Wheel and Opinion - volume 2, number 2

Editor's Letter – March to October 2022

– Dean Harrison

2022 Spring, Summer, Driving Season and Fall Issue

The best laid plans.....

I really owe the whole membership an apology! No, I am not assuming a Justinian persona, I really had intended to publish a Driving Season start-up issue for this year with all sorts of planned events and encouragement for people to participate and enjoy their MGs, LBCs and other special cars. Honest, we do support diversity. Then, I could follow it up with an end of Driving Season wrap up talking about all the great things we did through the year. Finally, a year end issue would wrap up the last events, the AGM, the year end party and introduce our 2023 executive. BUT! Life happened, no excuses – I don't believe in them. I could claim travel, family, COVID – you name it. However, shoulda. coulda, woulda it boils down to I just didn't get it done. And I am sorry.

I do have a chance at redemption though – I can still produce a year-end issue on time.

Anyway, so much for plans, and with Driving Season all but over (I am hoping for a few more nice days), this issue has become a bit of all of the above; what was planned, what did happen and finally what's to come to wrap up 2022. Change happens and we have to roll with it.

More change is coming to the club for 2023. Several of our current executive are stepping aside for a variety of reasons at the end of this year. It means there will be a number of new people joining the executive and working with some continuing members to grow and evolve the club into the future. Our hobby is changing, new ideas flourish, and new challenges await us. MG 2023 is directly ahead of us and will be a defining event for the coming year. It will provide a major opportunity for all of us to get to know more MG friends from all over North America.

2023 will see the club adopt some new communication tools and some new events to augment those things we already do well. So, my plea this issue is: consider what you would like to make of the club, pick an executive role that fits your skills, and step up to be a part of defining our future. As my friends in the Southern Alberta Woodworkers Society say: "You can either gather dust or create it!" The same applies to LBCs and CMGCC.

It's your club and your choice.

Till next time - *Safety Fast* – Dean

Crown Wheel and Opinion

Our club objective is “to enhance the MG British style of motoring and the preservation of the MG marque”

CW & O is the ‘official’ publication of the Calgary MG Car Club. It is normally published four times per year although special issues will be produced when club activities warrant, or content is available. The material herein is the responsibility of the editor and cannot generally be blamed on the club executive or any club policies. Advertising is being considered for 2022 – let me know if you think it’s a good idea.

Questions, comments and even rebuttals are welcome. Letters (email) can be sent to:

Newsletter@calgarymgcarclub.org

Who knows, the editor (Ed.) may even publish them! – With or without comment – it all depends

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On the Cover this Issue: The MG Midget M Type – introduced at the London Motor Show 1928, it was a new sports car produced by MG from 1929-1932 initially at Cowley but later at Abingdon. Some say this new market saved the company from extinction.

Presidential Ponderings –



Dear Members,

We are approaching that time of year when we look to putting our cars away for their winter rest and look forward to non-driving club activities. On November 8 we will be holding our AGM, where we review the year's driving season and vote in the coming season's new executive. As always, all the positions are up for grabs, and at least three will see new faces voted in due to the incumbents deciding not to run again. I would encourage all members to consider running for one of the positions, whether or not you have been a member of the club for a while, and especially if you have ideas as to how the club can be improved. We continue to need "new blood" to ensure

we remain viable far into the future, and this applies to both the club generally and the executive running it. So, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM, and also at our annual Christmas Party which will be held on December 9 at the Danish Club".

John Towler,
Calgary, AB

Just Sayin'



Newsletter Quiz number 8



Anyone know the make and Model of this car?

(Thanks to Andy Hardie for the picture – his grandfather owned a similar vehicle)

Catching up – Here are the answers to the last two quiz questions

Answer to Newsletter

Quiz number 6:



1938 MG WA – Saloon – the largest ever MG

Answer to Newsletter

Quiz number 7:



The Humber Super Snipe – Camo edition!

Letters (This issue there aren't some!)

Hey – we love the feedback – and we do publish them! So let us know what do you like, dislike, want to see more/less of or just to tell us off. Somewhat like Car and Driver we can always tell you what we think. And we control the content!



Club News

Membership

Membership continues to grow in the club with more new members for 2022:

Jeff and Sarah Boyer
Kerry and Lori Navette

Yellow 1978 MGB in Okotoks
British Racing Green 1973 MGB in Tuscany

Our membership shows 68 members so far in 2022, continuing our upward trend. As we start to get out more in 2023, I expect we will see even more growth and activity here.

Upcoming AGM

Our AGM is fast approaching, and this year will mark a major change for the club. Each year we elect a completely new executive to run our affairs. In the past, it has often been the case of several executive members re-elected and continuing in ongoing roles. However, this year for sure will be different as a number of our executive are stepping aside for personal, business or other reasons. Those stepping down include:

- John Towler our President, although we are not letting him go too far as we do have a past-presidents role he automatically gets to fill;
- Dick Avern's our Vice-President;
- Charles Champagne our Events Coordinator; and
- Our current 'MIA' Club Secretary, a role vacant for the past year.

As well, Andy Hardie our membership chairman will be totally focussed on MG 2023 for the coming year.

That means as many as 4 positions may not have someone nominated to fill. This is a huge opportunity for expanding the base of new ideas for the club and adding a good deal of new input to our future programs and events. Therefore, this issue of CW & O is my unabashed push to foster interest in the executive and recruit new members to the executive. To start, here is my editorial take on the positions that the club needs people to fill:

-
1. President – (The Big Kahuna) This position coordinates the whole shooting match. It's not the president's job to do everything but rather to point the executive in a direction to grow and build the club, make sure the executive have tools to do their jobs and then let them do the work! The president gets to preside over all meetings, both of the club and the executive, keep tabs on the big picture and ensure that everyone is kept in the loop and is getting what they need from the organization.
 2. Vice President – We all know someone cannot be available 24/7 for a full year, so the back-up to the president is the vice president. Aside from presiding when the president can't, the role also includes just about anything the person in it would like to undertake to build the club. Our current VP took on a couple of areas: assisting our events chairman with club drives and events as well as taking on an outreach role to foster growth by working to attract younger members to the club through our Next Generation program.
 3. Events Coordinator or Events Chairman – our club is all about getting out and driving our LBCs. Key to that is making sure we have frequent, well organized and fun opportunities to do so. That is the job of our Events coordinator. You do not have to organize the events, in fact its good to get as many members as possible involved in organizing them. It builds variety and keeps our activity fresh for everyone. (For example, the run to Iron Horse Park in Airdrie this year with a barbeque after in Carstairs AB or the Tour of Alberta 3 Day drives started in the last 2 years and even extending into the Kootenay Region of BC for 2022.)
 4. Club Secretary – (The Cat Herder) Someone has to keep the executive on the straight and narrow. This role keeps the records of meetings, ensures that things are kept legal (government requirements are met etc.) and generally supports the work of the executive from an administrative point of view. It's been a tough job to fill but we really do need someone going forward.
 5. Membership Chairman – handles those programs responsible for two things: retaining our existing members and outreach to potential new members. The idea is to take everything that is good about the club and ensure it gets to our existing and potential members. As well the membership Chairman keeps tabs on the pulse of the members and communicates it to the executive to help ensure members' needs are being met.
 6. Treasurer – keeps tabs on our finances. Henri has done a great job for some time now and continues to keep us legal, solvent and on track going forward. He has indicated a willingness to continue. This continuity is a good thing.

No executive member is expected to do their job on their own. All of the positions are exactly what you make of them. Executive do support each other and there are a few appointed positions that take on roles to further support the activities of the club. These include: Regalia Coordinator, Our Web and Media coordinators and Newsletter Editor. All of these people have started initiatives that they wish to continue. As well those leaving their roles will stay active in the club and events and can be called on for input and advice when needed. As I said before, we are at a crossroads (not an intersection) and we need more people active in directing and building the club.

See you at the AGM – and on the executive for next year!

Intra Club Communication

COVID isolation has seen a drop in effectiveness of our intraclub communications over the past couple of years. As a result, the executive has undertaken a review of our current communications tools. We know there are new methods that could serve to get better, more consistent and timely information to our membership.

Over the balance of 2022 and into 2023 , we are piloting some new tools and software for managing email, calendaring, event announcements and response tracking in the hope that better information will see larger turnouts and involvement in club events. The idea is to augment the club calendar information with timely updates and a mechanism for ensuring the greatest exposure of our events to members. Maximizing outreach will hopefully lead to more participants. The more you know the better you can plan to attend and be a part of what's happening. Look for more contact in the future.

Year End Christmas Party

December 9, 2022! Danish Canadian Club! Food, drinks, awards, friendship and fun for everyone! An opportunity to relive the stories from our tours and drives of the past years, get to know other club members you may not have met and generally have a good, MG or LBC related time. The venue always provides a good meal and there is always room for more of us. This is always an event not to be missed for us. Come out, meet the new executive and generally get to know our club better. It's always a great experience.

Each of the club awards has a story: the busted piston on the left from a member's car and the brick from the original MG factory at Abingdon, England – 'borrowed' at high risk by a late member of the club. Look to a future issue for more background on our club awards – I think there may be a book of stories here!



John Towler resenting the 'Hard Luck' award to Azim Bhatia for 2021



John presenting the President's Trophy to Trish Harrison, 2021 Club Secretary

Feature Articles

Dorothy's Tale – an ongoing history of a much-loved MGB

Most everyone in the club has seen Terrence Walter's very dark green MGB aka 'Dorothy' at club events over the years. Often the view of Dorothy on the road is from the rear as Terrence is known for covering long distances in a short amount of time.



Dorothy - 1974 MGB with a few updates:

- Heritage body kit, roll bar, gas strut lift kits
- 1800cc block (18V672Z), over-bored 30 thou
- Ford T-9 5-speed gearbox, aluminum flywheel
- Pertronix Flamethrower coil & distributor, master battery kill switch
- Aluminum performance head, roller rockers, Crane performance road cam
- HS6 1 3/4" twin SU carbs, K&N filters, inertia fuel kill
- Pace Setter high-flow manifold, custom 2" exhaust to Magnaflow
- Adjustable fast road coil-overs (front), Anti-tramp bars (rear)
- MiniLite rims, X-drilled and slotted rotors w/ oversize pads

Well Dorothy became a part of Terrence's extended family when she was acquired by his uncle John Henry in Ontario. She was a 15-year restoration labour of love as John went through the Moss catalogue and sourced service parts and upgrades over several years to create the very quick and exceptionally good-looking LBC she is today. John was one of those people blessed with mechanical and fabrication talent that allowed him to not only maintain the car but upgrade it in many ways over the years.

When John passed away in 2009, Terrence bought the car from his aunt. One of the conditions of the sale was that whoever got the car would have to pick it up. This meant a 'trial by fire' get acquainted period with Dorothy and an in-depth learning experience for Terrence. A starting point example here was learning the hard way that the manual choke is only needed when starting an LBC engine from cold. The trip from Ontario to Calgary provided many insights into the care and feeding of an LBC as Terrence learned the vagaries of cooling systems, LBC Heaters and electricals on-route. The trip even provided some firsthand experience in on- the-side-of-the-road repairs and fixing enough to get to the next service station. He also learned camping is not always the most comfortable experience when you only have LBC packing space.

Since then, Terrence has become one of our more knowledgeable members when it comes to maintaining our cars. Dorothy or at least her rear bumper can be seen on many of our drives. It seems Terrence also inherited John's love of spirited driving – neither of these gentlemen can be accused of babying the car.

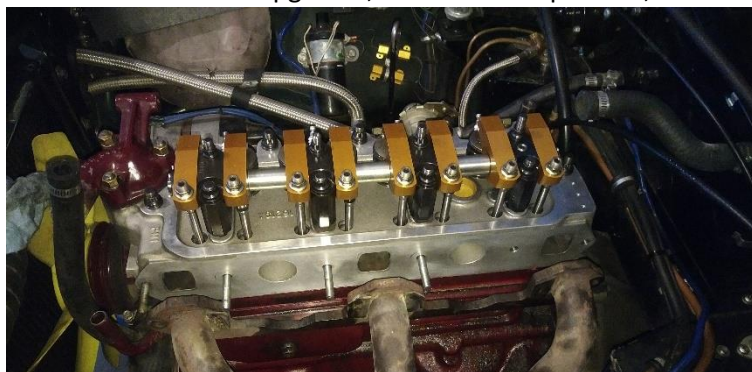


Dorothy's sibling – 'Shirley' to be on the road sometime in the future

In fact, Dorothy now has a sister, Shirley, an MGA that is a full restoration project occupying Terrence's garage and a good deal of his time. But that will be another story.

Over time, Terrence learned the extent of Dorothy's upgrades. Apparently John had not kept particularly good records, and he certainly didn't share the extent of the costs with his wife. (We don't know people like that do we?)

Dorothy has a modified engine with improved carburation, a roller rocker valve train, improved cooling, as well as drive train upgrades, a coil over suspension, after market seats, roll bar and lighting which add



MGB Engine with Roller Rockers

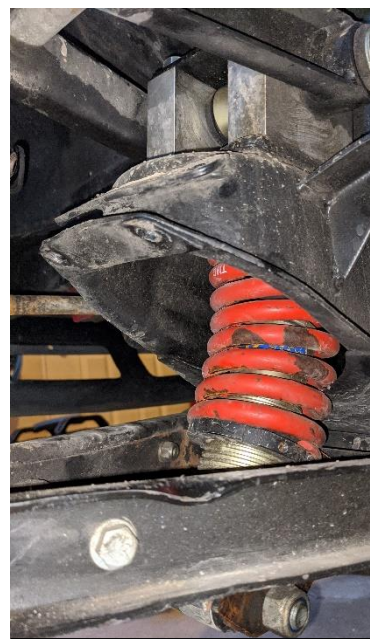
to her presence on the road and make her a fun ride. Terrence wondered when he got the car what his uncle had put into the car. His aunt didn't know really anything of the history or the work that had gone into Dorothy over the years. He contacted Moss and was able to obtain a pretty full list of the parts and upgrades ordered by his uncle

when
he
rebuilt

the car and improved it over time. The list included prices. Needless to say, the cost was many times the original price of the MGB. It wasn't specifically stated but this may have had something to do with John's widow not knowing the history of the car.

It would be a gross understatement to say that Terrence has learned a lot about mechanics, British car electricals and general maintenance during his years of ownership of Dorothy. Most recently a suspension failure meant the dismantling of the coil-over suspension and a rebuild. This complete with the engineering of a safe method for taking the suspension apart. Spring and shock assemblies are under tension and mistakes here can be serious, even fatal if not done correctly. Dorothy and Terrence both survived the work in one piece and now he may well be our go to person for suspension questions and advice!

Dorothy is not only a regular fixture around club events she has another key role. Terrence is often accompanied by his son Elliott at many club



Somewhat overstressed Coil-Over awaiting rebuild!



Elliott Walters enjoying his University Fund early!

owes it to Elliot to show him where his university money has all gone!

events and to shows, so possibly her most important role is keeping our hobby alive with young people. Although Terrence may have a different perspective; that being he



We did tell you Terrence does like to drive quickly! More Race City action – maybe those Anti-tramp bars are a good thing!

Tour Ideas – Visits to Car Collections and Museums

One of the benefits of working out of town for extended periods (BTW – there aren't many) is the opportunity to see things you might not otherwise know of or learn about on a vacation tour. Trish and I found several on my last assignment to Salem OR.

One was wineries, there were 400 within a 20 mile radius of where we lived and a second was getting out around Oregon and finding a few automotive highlights in the area. We were surprised to drive by a non-descript service station with pumps gone but a parking lot full of MGBs in various states of disrepair. All owned by an airline pilot who apparently drives a couple of them and cannibalizes the others for maintenance! You get the idea!



On a trip south to Eugene we met the owners of a business called the Sports Car Shop. Bob had an inventory including an Austin Healy 100-4 that was absolutely pristine as well as a couple of MGBs and an Alpha Romeo roadster.



Alex Haugland with one of the MGs in the collection owned by he and his wife Amy

a real interest in cars! He would like to open a museum at some point but for now the collection is only available for restricted viewing. He is kind of the Fred Phillips of Oregon. But he is active – he is the current president of the BMCO and his cars do get on the road when he and Amy have time.

Just to keep you drooling about what is out there, sometimes hidden away – take a look at the collage of pictures from Alex's collection I added near the end of this issue.

But visiting with Bob garnered us an invitation to join the British Motor Club of Oregon on a tour of a private car collection in Eugene. Alex Haugland and his wife Amy own about 140 British, German, Italian and other cars housed in a few warehouses in Eugene. (At least that was the number when we were there in 2019.)

At that time his most recent acquisition was an Aston Martin DB5, bought in England and then flown to Eugene. And while their collection includes several cars from Ferrari, Maserati, Rolls Royce and Bentley, Amy's favorite is a 1275 cc Bug Eye Sprite with a 5 speed Japanese transmission. What makes the collection interesting is some of the less well-known cars included. A Connaught, a Cadillac Allard, and even a few MGs. Alex has a TD, a lovely MGA Twin Cam, an MGB V8 and even an MGC GT.

It's amazing what someone can do with a bit of money and



Everybody has a mint Aston Martin DB5 in the garage – Right??

Another thought - if you have pictures of interesting car collections from anywhere – I would be glad to share them in the newsletter. (Andy – that includes Pro-Drive

Events:

2022 Events Sampler (We didn't get to all of them)

Announced by our President, John Towler, the 2022 driving season officially started on May 1, for what we are hoped would be a great driving season, following two years of necessary COVID restrictions. (Hey, driving in LBCs is an automatic form of Social Distancing – so where's the problem!) What follows is a selection of our drives, from 2022 and some reflections and ideas to carry forward to 2023.

No driving season can begin without making sure our LBC's are ready for the road. We held the annual safety inspection on Saturday, May 14th at the Deerfoot Inn Casino, meeting for breakfast first, followed by the annual inspection. It was a great morning interacting with club members.

The first official drive was held on Sunday, May 22nd. We left Calgary driving North towards Old's. Then Reg and Jane Beckett showed us the back roads to Carstairs for lunch at the Burger Baron. From there, we returned to Calgary, great weather and great day for our first official drive.

Friday, June 3 marked the departure of many of our members on the longest club journey of 2022; the drive to Peterborough, ON for MG2022. The trip included a stop at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park for VARAC Vintage GP appropriately subtitled "MGs Against the World". The group that did go was smaller than originally expected as some had to drop out due to other commitments and those initially thinking of driving LBCs opted to trailer cars to the event instead.



First Drive of the season – Look at the weather!



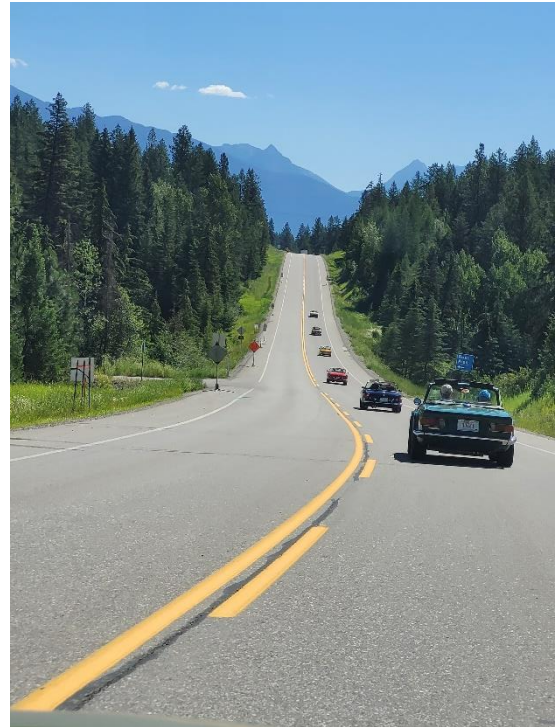
June 4 – several CMGCC members headed to Cremona for an early summer drive. Looks like it involved some form of liquid refreshment. (See last page!)



July saw a traditional President's Canada Day run and a modified Tour of Alberta. In 2021 the tour events went south and then north within the province. In recognition of our previous major show event Dick Avern's arranged a 2022 tour that went west to the East Kootenay Region of BC with overnight stops in Kimberley and Radium.

The 3-day tour format has become a bit of a standard now for drives that give participants an opportunity to get to know each

other on more levels than just our shared interest in LBCs.



July also saw the VSCC annual European Car Show with a nod to the 60th Anniversary of the MGB. MGB was the featured car for the event.



MGB was the feature Marque at the VSCC European Car Show this year – we were very well represented.

Every second Tuesday has seen a semi-regular group of CMGCC members and spouses gathering for breakfast at the Grey Eagle Casino in SW Calgary. This group has no set membership and has varied anywhere from 3 to 15 people on any given morning. It's an absolutely informal chance to share in breakfast and friendly chatter about all things

MG or whatever and connect with other members of the club. It's all good fun and has been a source for some really good ideas for the club.



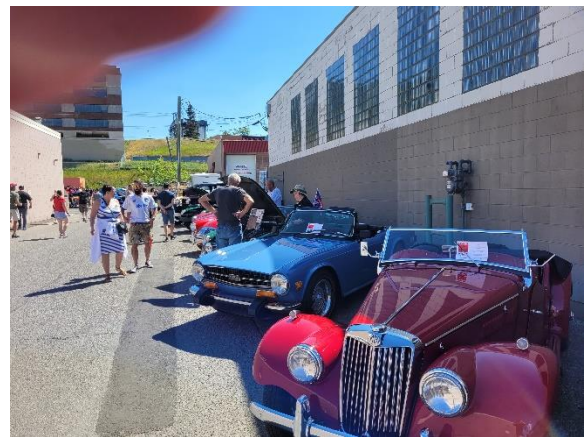
Our President's MGB – hiding it's head as it sits with 3 MGCs at a CMGCC Tuesday breakfast – “how do I find more torque – I need to keep up!”

August saw more drives and outings for ice cream (vitamin X) and fellowship. The big event was the annual Legion Car Show, Hoods on Horton with several cars present to provide a good cross section of MG models. We had the best spot in the whole show – not only close to the building – but we had the only place with shade!



August is one of our opportunities to give back to the community – and have fun doing it. Here's the group that attended the Legion Car Show on Horton Rd.

One of the things to remember each year is the annual CMGCC Driving Challenge – a chance to see places you might not otherwise go in your LBC. The challenge is easy – all you need is a phone (camera), your car and some imagination! Drive somewhere and snap a picture from the Challenge Targets List. Submit the pictures to the Events Coordinator and you are done! BTW - The pictures can almost take themselves.



Every year, Canmore hosts one of the largest Highland Games Events anywhere in the world. Part of the festivities includes a British Car Show and September is not complete for us without a drive to the event.



Canmore saw the large and the small of British Cars – and Stephen Bryant even won an award with the Morris.

Canmore is unique – where else can you see multiple British cars from several clubs and watch large Scots tossing telephone poles at one another. And that was the women!! There was a men's caber toss as well.

We closed out the year with fall colours run(s). The weather was so good many just kept driving! And we held our annual Highway Clean-up of Highway 549 near Millarville.



All in all, given we are just really getting back to whatever normal is these days, it's been a busy year. All I can say is there is something for everyone in the schedule with many more things planned for next year. Remember the big event next year is:



Please look to our calendar for all upcoming events. The calendar is currently the best source of the most current information and confirmation of what is on the schedule. Go to the main web page and scroll down to events. <http://calgarymgclub.org/main.html>

For 2023 watch for regular updates and event emails to supplement the calendar – regular communication about events with an option to sign up is going to be our new standard. And given a more regular publication schedule – maybe even some notices in the Newsletter!

Technical Updates

Winter Storage 101

It's that time of year again, looking outside I see snow! Time to button down the LBC for another winter. You know it's that time when if you leave the garage door open too long, they just sit and whimper!

So storage is not rocket science, just remember to:

1. Fill up the gas tank (with non-alcoholic fuel);
2. Change the oil;
3. Fog the cylinders if it's not getting started up;
4. Check to see if anything is leaking (I have a rear seal to replace);
5. Pump the tires up to 40-45 pounds (Keeps 'em round);
6. Clean everything (inside and out);
7. Check everything underneath;
8. Hook up the battery tender; and pull on the cover.

All that's left is to check it regularly, turn it over and plan for Spring!

What to Look for in Upcoming Issues:

Coming Up:

We haven't recognised one of our own this year – next issue will dedicate a major section to the MGB after all it is the 60th Anniversary of the iconic roadster!

Future Issues:

Tour Suggestions: - where you can go in your LBC and find friends you haven't met yet.

More Member Profiles – who's who in our zoo!

Association updates – NAMGBR, MGOC, NAMGAR, and those 'other' marques – an alphabet soup of Classic Car Organizations

If you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter, I am always looking for more new content so don't hold back. Every MG or LBC has a story, we'd love to hear yours!

A Parting Shot:

A Collage of the Haugland Cars in Eugene: more to drool over!



The Back Page:

What can I say – or sing?

