



# Bonnet To Boot



Paradise British Car Club



## New Members & Their Cars

1957 Triumph TR3



Larry and Donna Lavagnino From Santa Maria

1937 Morris



Jeffrey and Carol Brown From Grover Beach  
1933 Rolls Royce GSYp (not shown)

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**NAMGAR**  
North American MGA Register

## 2011 MG Fall Festival, Sonoma California

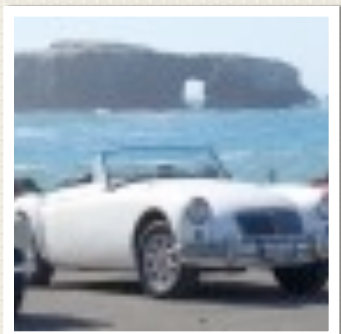
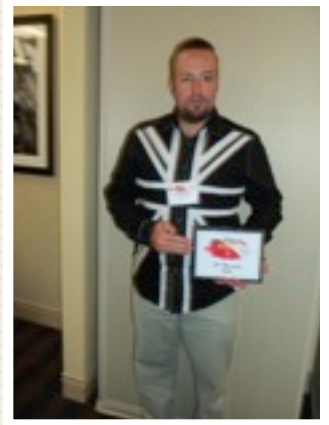
Lorin, Louisa and son Nathan Cuthbert attended the MG Fall Festival in Sonoma County. Organized by the MGOc (MG Owners Club) this event is a NAMGAR regional event, however MG's of all years are invited. Friday morning was event registration, exchanging MG tales at the wash rack, and placing cars on display for the car show. The Sheraton Sonoma County provided a beautiful setting for the show (as well as providing docking facilities for yachts at their waterfront entrance). Friday afternoon's events including tech sessions and self-guided tours. Friday night included the always popular hour drive to Occidental for dinner at the historic Union Hotel, located in the hills just above the Russian River. This former logging town has been transformed into a haven for artists, craftsmen and aging hippies. The hotel has been in the same family for 5 generations and is legendary for its Italian home-style cooking. After the meal we drove through the starlit hills as we returned to our hotel.

Saturday morning we left at 8:15 sharp for our tour. Our 2 hour drive took us through breathtaking scenery, over winding mountain roads (a good test for brakes and cooling systems) and deposited us at the town of Yountville. This beautiful town is nestled in the hills of Sonoma County. We were promised the world's best cinnamon rolls, however when we got there the bakery had just had a fire and was temporarily out of the roll business...very bad timing indeed! We then proceeded to the Infineon Raceway (formerly Sears Point) where the Classic Sport Racing Group was holding its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Charity Challenge. During the noon break we were allowed to take our MGs onto the track and give it a whirl. Believe me, there is nothing like taking your LBC onto a road race course, driving the twists, turns and dips just like the guys on television. The drive back to the hotel included a few requisite stops at wineries to sample the local delights.

Saturday night's banquet was at the host hotel. The evening included wine, discourse, wine, door prizes, wine, jokes, wine, and of course the awards ceremony, followed by some wine.

Nathan took a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award with his 72 MGB Roadster.

On Sunday morning the winners displayed their cars in front of the hotel lobby while we enjoyed a continental breakfast. Goodbyes were said, hugs and e-mail addresses exchanged, and promises to get together again in the near future. Many folks drove off in their MG's shouting, "See y'all at North Meets South in Pismo Beach!"





## Longs Attend TCMG/ARR Conclave

By Larry Long

There are two primary organizations for owners of MG TCs in California: the TC Motoring Guild, based in the Southern CA area, and the Abingdon Rough Riders, based in the Northern CA area. Around 54 years ago, someone from each of these groups met and decided to have a get-together of these two groups once a year. The get-together is called a Conclave, and the groups meet for a weekend of kicking tires, having dinner, and a drive in the local area where they met. For many years, they have met in a coastal town (Cambria, etc.) and then in a mountain community (usually around Yosemite) on alternate years. There are only a couple of folks from both organizations that have attended all of the conclaves. One fellow had attended all 50 up to the time he passed away, yet never drove his TC which he took apart for restoration over 50 years ago!

As you all know, there aren't any nicer people than those that share a common bond with British cars. That is true of the TCMG/ARR folks; they are all about the same age, have been going to these events for many years, and have formed a bond of friendship that is hard to

beat and difficult to describe. Barbara and I have formed such friendships with many from the group and look forward each year to attending these events.

This year, the event was held in San Luis Obispo, not very far for a drive in the TC. But, unfortunately, I had a commitment back in Santa Maria on Saturday morning, so we drove the Jaguar to the event. I didn't get back to SLO until 12:30 on Saturday, so we missed the drive. But we did have an enjoyable evening on Friday, and attended the dinner on Saturday.

It has become a tradition that on Sunday morning, prior to everybody leaving for home, a group photo be taken that includes all of the TCs that were driven to the event.



This time, we decided to park the cars at Madonna Inn (that's where we had our dinner), and had almost all of the cars lined



up for the photo shoot when a very large tour bus pulled in behind the cars. Have you ever watched how ants or bees descend on a blob of honey? That's what the scene looked like when the bus door opened! These folks were from Israel, traveling around the western US, and it was as if they had never seen these cars! They descended on us as if we weren't even there! We had to put off the photo shoot until, after a while, I shooed everybody out of the scene so we could continue. It was hilarious! If we had planned to have that kind of a scene, it couldn't have

been any better. We did get the photo, although the bus is in the background.

I would suggest to all of you that you go buy a TC and join us for this weekend. Or, why not do the same thing with a few of your friends that have the same kind of car as you have, or even a different kind of car? Just go somewhere for the weekend and enjoy it! No car show, no competitive rally, no stress—just have fun. And enjoy your friends and covet the friendship. That's what the TCMG/ARR Conclave is all about.

A man in a Jaguar passed a Mini that had broken down by the side of the road. Being a kindly driver, he stopped and fixed a tow-rope to it and began towing it to the nearest garage.

After 10 minutes of towing, a Porsche passed them at high speed. The Jaguar driver was not going to be outdone by a Porsche, so, forgetting that he had a Mini in tow, slammed his foot down and the Jaguar and Porsche indulged in a high-speed race down the road, the Mini and its occupant trailing wildly about at the end of the rope frantically trying to attract their attention and failing.

A Police car saw them and gave chase. The Police driver radioed back to Headquarters "Sarge, you'll never believe this, I've just seen a Porsche and a Jaguar neck and neck doing 150 mph - and a bloke in a Mini flashing his lights, blowing his horn and trying to overtake them!"





The Valley British Auto Club presented their 9th Annual "Roundup" on Saturday and Sunday the 24th/25th of September in Old Town



Clovis, and our report clearly indicates that this is an event worthy of a big turnout from our club members next year.

Marvin Lindsey and Jim Bull left Friday afternoon after lunch and arrived in Clovis at 5:30 P.M. In a 104 degree dry heat. We checked in to the Clovis Cole Hotel, and after a cold shower at a nearby restaurant.



Old Town on Friday nights is a great place to be, as the Farmer's Market was in full swing. I thought the Clovis Farmer's Market was better than the one in SLO, as a comparison. A retro band was playing in the street and people were dancing in the open air. At the other end of the event a Blue Grass band was in full swing, next to the row of beautiful display cars from the local Model A Club.



Saturday morning the club met at the hotel for a scenic drive into the Sierra foothills, in plus 90 degree weather. A group of about 30 cars attended the drive. We pulled out of the group when my MG baseball cap, purchased as a souvenir at MG 2011 in Reno blew off my head. At the next "T" we thought we followed the route instructions and turned "west", because the directions said to turn west, and the sun was to our left, so we turned right. This was a wrong turn, as we discovered a number of miles later at the next direction on the instructions. This was an epiphany moment for me, and I realized any route instructions for a car event should indicate "right" or "left", rather than a compass direction, as this might prove confusing. Had we followed the club leader of course, this couldn't have happened, but I had to recover my hat! Needless to say, we lost the group and had to find our way back, diminishing the drive by almost half.

We arrived at the lunch stop at a local park. The meal was prepared by the volunteers for the Nature Education & Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, a non-profit group caring for injured wild animals. The volunteer ladies also had several beautiful birds on display, including hawks and owls.

After lunch we ventured on an optional one hour rally and poker run. Unlike the follow the leader scenic drive, we followed directions to seven local places where we had to locate answers to seven questions. The drive ended at an Irish pub. We were the last car to finish, arriving almost 30

minutes later the previous car, due to our persistence at getting all the answers. We did get all the answers correct and were issued seven playing cards, of which the best five were selected and our cards recorded.

Cheryl and Keith Smith arrived at the hotel with their bug eye Sprite and we went to dinner with folks from the event at a restaurant, where three prizes were awarded to the best poker hands. Our pair of aces didn't get us a prize, but the winner, with two pair (aces high) received a GPS unit. These retail for almost \$200.00!



Sunday morning featured the car show, happily in nice cool weather! The show was held in Old Town Clovis, with over 100 cars registered. The show was held along side the Clovis Antiques and Collectible Fair, with outdoor vendors selling many interesting items.

Awards were given out at the end of the show and the Smiths took a 1st place in the Sprite class, while Jim Bull took a 1st Place in the MG T series class. It was nice to see the Kossett's at the show as well.



This is a great event which we want to caravan to next year with a larger group from our club. Several of their members attended our last North Meets South and they were eager to tell me they are coming back next year.



P.S. A historical note: The city of Clovis began as a freight stop along the San Joaquin Valley railroad, which was organized in 1890. Clovis Cole (1856-1929) was a farmer who sold land to the railroad for the right of way. The station was called "Clovis". In 1891 a town site was recorded, as was again named Clovis. Today, like many cities, Clovis is no longer "out in the sticks", but has fused with the surrounding city of Fresno in a metropolitan area of close to 300,000 people. Old Town Clovis has been greatly restored and is a charming place to visit, with antique and collectible (not junk!) stores in an old fashioned style setting.

# UNIQUE CONTEST FROM CLOVIS



SO, WHAT IS THIS? EACH CAR AT THE CAR SHOW HAD A BROWN PAPER SPOOL PLACED UNDER EACH CAR BY CLUB STAFF AND COLLECTED LATER. THE PURPOSE? TO CATCH OIL, OF COURSE! WHY?

## Shadetree Motors

Shop & Sell Swap Meet  
Saturday October 22 8 am - 5 pm

Shadetree motors will be having an inventory liquidation sale: everything 25% off!

For reservations and Information

1-925-200-7991

1-925-846-3356

vernamg@aol.com



## OLD MEMBERS

### Photo for Reno British Car Club Honors James Phelps with Renkenberger Award

Reported by Gene deRuelle.

Jim served eight years as President of the Reno British Car Club. During his tenure he put forth untold hours coordinating activities, setting up meetings, leading tours through the Sierras, and generally being available to anyone in need of assistance. Jim and Muriel, his beloved wife, kept the spirit of the hobby alive through some really trying times. He restored "Miss Daisy," his beautiful Varitone Magnette, and has driven the car over 50,000 miles since completing the restoration. He drove it as far as New England and up into Canada, all with Muriel and "Oscar Mayer," their miniature Dachshund. I think more people here in the west know Oscar better than Jim.



L-R: James Phelps, Gene deRuelle

Jim recently lost Muriel to an evil type of cancer, but Jim and Oscar still make the rounds, and the meetings, and the tours. He is still available to anyone who needs help with their MGs and is a fountain of information on the subject. When I wanted to convert my Varitone to front disc brakes, Jim insisted that I bring the car to him. He did the job with me watching, as I was not familiar with the Magnette brake system. It was 105 degrees in the garage, but that didn't even slow him down. The fee? I had to buy lunch. That's just how he is.

I worked for over forty years in the motion picture and television industry, and I met every kind of person you can imagine, and some you can't. I have restored old airplanes and old MGs, but until I moved to Reno and met Jim Phelps, I really didn't know what a wonderful person was. I am proud to be his friend. We share a lot in common. I also lost my wife to cancer. But day in and day out, no matter what the problem, I know I can turn to Jim for the solution. He is an outstanding example of what it means to be a leader and a friend.

# Paradise British Wine and Apple Tour 2011

See Canyon Area

Led by Rhonda Cardinal and Louisa Cuthbert

Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**South County meet at Golden Doughnut at 11:30 a.m.**

Depart 11:45

**1<sup>st</sup> Stop Kelsey Vineyard North County Folks meet us here at 12:30**

<http://www.kelseywine.com/>

Tastings \$5.00 each, waived with wine purchase

Stay until 1:15-1:30 and/or picnic here



Next stop



<http://gopherglen.com/>

tastings free, we think Arrive 1:45, stay until 2:30



Next stop Salisbury Vineyard

<http://www.salisburyvineyards.com/>

Tastings \$7.00 each, waived with purchase of 2 bottles

Arrive 2:45, stay until 3:30

Last Stop, 3:45:

Avilla Valley Barn

Buy Ice Cream and Pie!

<http://avilavalleybarn.com/>



## Third Time Is the Charm For This Tech Tip!

by Jim Bull



Twice in the past several years we have provided information about Zinc Dialky Dithiophosphate, an anti wear ingredient which the U.S. E.P.A. has ordered removed from engine oil sold in the U.S. This additive is harmful to catalytic converters but causes premature camshaft lobe wear and wear to metal parts in the valve train rocker assemblies of our 40-60 year old classic cars.

Newer cars have different metal configurations and newer style roller lifters which do not require this additive. Bottom line? If you have a newer Jaguar or Mini, you're O.K., but if not, you need this additive, even if you drive your classic very little. The Royal Purple brand of oil, sold at Kragen's or O'Reilly's Auto Parts, or the Harley-Davidson motorcycle oil from H-D dealers has this additive. The "Collector's Choice" brand oil from Moss Motors has the additive also, but comes at \$9.95 per quart, plus shipping.

A product called ZDDP Plus is available at Moss, for \$10.95, for a 4 oz. Bottle, which is enough for one oil change. Again, you need to order other parts, or you pay more for shipping than the cost of the product at Moss! I have requested the the Santa Maria Kragen's carry this product several times and guess what-they now carry it in stock. Happy Motoring!

## NOVEMBER'S EVENT:

Tour of Santa Maris's Historic Sites  
Led by LARRY and Donna LAVAGNINO



Meet Santa Maria's Mayor, a lifelong resident of Santa Maria, as he and his wife lead us on a historic tour of Santa Maria. You will learn things you never knew about the city of Santa Maria.

- See the oldest standing house in Santa Maria, built in 1868.
- Which church contains a church bell which was originally from an ill-fated schooner, which was destroyed on its maiden voyage, along our coast, on Christmas night 1876?
- Did you know that the architect who designed Hearst Castle also designed a building in Santa Maria?

WHEN? Saturday November 12 meet  
WHERE? Santa Maria Historical Society Museum 616 S. Broadway  
WHAT TIME? 10:45 am

If the history isn't fun enough we will have a surprise activity on the run to keep you interested.