

REGISTER UPDATES

MGA

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How cool is this? MGA gets full exposure with Britney Spears latest Video 'Radar'. Check it out on the MGCC YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/mgcarclub

Peter Radford was in Heraklion, Crete and spotted a sad looking MGA with wire wheels outside a garage near to the airport. It is obviously neglected and had engine parts on the front seat. If you are off to Crete and can help to get a photograph and details of the car, please email me and I will put you in contact with Peter.

Sixty-two cars attended our MGA Day 2009 at Charlecote Park on Sunday 2 August. They included eight Coupés, six Twin Cam Roadsters and one Twin Cam Coupé. The award for Car of the Day went to the 1500 Roadster owned by Mike Payne. Finished in Connaught Green with cream leather interior, this car is not in original Factory trim, yet the colours used and the quality of the work make it a true eye catcher. Another of the cars on show was far from 'original'. A Roadster in metallic silver sporting a Honda S2000 VTEC engine and Hoyle independent suspension would have taken the award for engineering excellence if we had one. The prize for the MG Hat was won by John Boulton who turned a hub cap into a flat cap with a selection of tools and accessories dangling from the brim. Charlecote Park proved to be a popular choice for the event with members from North and South. Thanks to Jonny Pollard for organising an excellent day out.

David Godwin from Queensland was in the UK this summer doing the rounds at Silverstone to promote interest in his "Nanjing to Longbridge" adventure to take place in April 2010. There is an option to join the event in Istanbul for the European stage. Plans are now well advanced and anyone interested in finding out more should contact Geoff Barron: tomkinsbarron@btconnect.com

Events

September 26–27: The Southern Tour based at the Best Western Hotel in Buckingham. Places are still available, call 01280 822 622 and give the reference DS24/9. To enter or to ask for further details please email: davidsimons55@aol.com or call him on 01525 210245.

November 21: MGA Register Committee meets at Kimber House. Contact me if you have any suggestions for events in 2010 or products for our range of MGA merchandise.

Photo

Dietrich Krahn from Germany sent some photos of his MGA MkII taking part in the 3rd International ADAC Herkules-Bergpreis (Hill Climb) in Kassel, Germany in June 2009. Special guests were five Bugattis from the Schlumpf-Collection in Mulhouse France, prototypes that have never been shown or even been driven outside of France. The MGA was driven by his wife Conny together with daughter Kaya.



MGB

Janine Pratt Janine.Pratt@btinternet.com www.mgb-register.org

I was having a discussion with my husband Nigel the other day about how we ever managed to find information before we had the Internet and it took me back to the hours and hours that I spent in the reference section of the local library trying to glean enough information to be able to do my school homework! So with that thought in mind, the following websites may be of some interest:

If you are looking for background and details relating to the MGB <http://www.mgcars.org.uk/mgb.html> is an excellent place to find a lot of information.

Occasionally people visiting from abroad ask what there is to see and do in and around Abingdon when over in the UK. This information site has some interesting ideas for visitors to Abingdon (and you don't necessarily have to be from overseas!): <http://www.britishv8.org/Articles/Abingdon-For-MG-Enthusiasts.htm>

And then we get onto YouTube! This first clip is some in-car footage from the Two Driver Enduro Race at MGLive! last month. This guy races an MGB V8 and had to start from the back of the grid as he hadn't registered a qualifying time. See how

many cars he overtakes on the first lap (including my Nigel who was apparently used as a barrier as said car out-braked himself into the hairpin!):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv=3t3u67rBrC0>

Another YouTube offering by Barry Holmes, an MGB GT V8 racer from the Peter Best Insurance Championship. Look what happens to the poor driver of the blue MGB ahead and to the left! <http://www.youtube.com/user/orangev8#play/all/uploads-all/0/Rh5ZrSBtWPA>

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Car Quiz

For those taking up the challenge from Roger Boys in last month's *Safety Fast!* to find the hidden cars – I am pleased to divulge the answers if you are still having trouble finding them:

GENERAL MOTORSport, Amoco **OPER**ation, Amoco **BRABHAM**, Amoco **BRABHAM**, marshalled **D AT** **SUN**day's, **LAST ON** the start, dismal **AL** **VIS**ibility, normal **FAIL**ing, **HILL**, **MAN**aged, panic **OR SA**ve, car **OVER**, seldom **GR**eater, **ACC**ident, **TV** Report, **FOR** Dinner, kitchen **SUR**prise, onion sou **P OR CHE**ese pie, **BOB** McDonald

2009 Diary Events

Saturday October 24 – Practical Maintenance Day (formerly MGB Focus Day) at Bicster Performance Engineering Centre

This popular event will be featuring tips from 'Barrie's Notes' on maintaining the MGB. For our other event during the day, we are fortunate to be joined by PJM Motors who will be giving tips on trimming the interior of MGBs. The day will start at 9.30am with two sessions. Prior to the start of the afternoon sessions, with the support of BOC, there will be demonstrations of basic welding tips.

The cost of the day is £12 per person.

If you have not attended before, how about joining us? There is something for everyone whether you have little or no knowledge right through to extensive hands-on experience, and it's great to have experts on tap to answer those questions!

If you would like to book your place, please forward a cheque made payable to MGCC Ltd – MGB Register together with an SAE (or name and email address if you would prefer) to me at 38 St Birstan Gardens, Andover, Hants SP10 4NY.

V8

Victor Smith Tel: 0208 392 9434 victorsmith@v8register.net www.v8register.net



Police V8 demonstrator has recently been sold

In the early 1970s, the MGB GT was popular with constabularies as a two-seater pursuit or enforcement car as it combined a businesslike appearance with a reasonable performance and was capable of carrying a surprising amount of equipment. When the launch of the MGB GT V8 was announced in August 1973, it was clear the substantially upgraded performance would make it one of the finest enforcement cars available at the time and at a reasonable cost too. There were five police cars – two were used as Factory demonstrators on loan to

various police forces for evaluation and later three were purchased by the Thames Valley force for enforcement work. One of the V8 demonstrators was reviewed by the specialist journal *Police Review* (August 17 1973) and they concluded, "It is very difficult to fault; it goes well, stops well and handles well in the dry and wet. It is so perfect for Police work it could have been designed specially for the job".

The car has recently been acquired by a longstanding V8 enthusiast, Malcolm Bailey. It was previously owned for many years by Gerry Hiorns in Scotland who collected the 1970s period police equipment. It is an early pre-production car, Police White 0112, complete with the internal instrumentation for police work and a triangular illuminated roof mounted 'Police' sign with a blue flashing light. Naturally when on the road these days the external features have to be covered but at a recent meeting of MG enthusiasts at a pub in the New Forest all was revealed and operated!

Take care with adverts for 'bargain' RV8 brake discs!

Julian Holmes recently spotted an advert on eBay for RV8 replacement front brake discs at bargain prices but discovered to his cost they were not RV8 discs. Later he spotted an advert on eBay from MG Services Heathrow offering genuine RV8 discs which included a warning for RV8 enthusiasts to avoid discs offered on eBay by some traders. They are not RV8 discs but quite probably Rover 800 discs. The report came up as a thread on the V8BB and Stuart Ratcliff, the RV8 specialist in Australia, noted, "I know of the trader you mention and have emailed him a couple of times to tell him he is wrong. The problem is that the RV8 disc is wrongly described in the Quinton Hazell brake disc catalogue". The correct discs are available from the two leading RV8 spares specialists in the UK and from Stuart who has had them made and who says, "They are 100% accurate to the original spec brake discs except that they are zinc passivated for corrosion protection and less than half the price".

MGF

Tim Morris Tel: 01932 882467 scribe@mgfregister.org www.mgfregister.org

I told you it was going to be a great MG Fest and despite the inclement weather on Saturday it certainly was just that. You should be able to read about it elsewhere in *Safety Fast!* so I won't go on here other than to thank our organising team and all the helpers on the day who did a fantastic job as did our partners, Church Square Autos, and all the other sponsors this year that enabled us to put this show

together. And of course thanks to you for coming and enjoying yourselves once again.

We're now beginning to look forward to next year and the 15th anniversary of the MGF. We are already looking at ways to mark this occasion, can it really be 15 years since the F first hit the streets? Following the Press Route Road Run at this year's Fest we are looking at an anniversary reproduction of the MGCC run from Abingdon to the

Geneva Motor Show in early March. The original was to celebrate the launch of the F in the presence of Prince Edward and Jackie Stewart as well as many well-known figures from the MG Car Company. I'm not sure we'll be able to get them to come along this time but, thanks to John Watson and David Askew from the B Register, we do have much of the original paperwork and the rally plate from 15 years ago.

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