



Capitol City MG Club



January 2001

MG Club January News—by Mark Barrington

THE real millennium started on January 1, 2001, when the icy wind came chasing down from the frigid north and drove a sharp icicle into Texas' heart. In harsh times like these, you need something to cheer you up. Like a drive in the MGB, which has been unhappily lurking in the garage all December.

A quick pull on the choke, and I turn the key, part way. Ticka, ticka, tick.... The SU fuel pump quickly fills the bowls of the SU HS-4s. As I turn the key to start, the engine turns over slowly. I probably should have driven the car a few more times last month, but it has been darn cold this winter. After a few slow revolutions, the engine catches, and quickly climbs to 2,500 RPM. I back off the choke and back out of the garage into the driveway. The smell of hydrocarbons fills my nose as I back into my own highly enriched exhaust.

The top is down, of course! While I'm waiting for the temp needle to move off "C", I put on my gloves and steel myself for the ride. After a few moments, I'm ready to go, and I back a little more off the choke and take it out of the driveway. Up the hill and around the corner, I'm headed to the grocery store to pick up some food for the cats, and batteries for the camera.

After only about a mile, the temp gauge is just below "N", and the engine is running perfectly, strongly pulling the car up hills and around sweeping curves. But the heater output is just about nil, and the wind is so cold my eyes are watering, making it hard to see. I don't care, and a wide smile breaks across my face, causing my lips to part and expose my teeth, which almost immediately begin to hurt from the cold. No matter, by this time, I'm comfortably numb, and I haven't had a drop to drink.

After doing my shopping, I go straight home, rejuvenated and happy. I would have extended my trip, but I didn't want the milk to freeze Well, not exactly, I'm a little concerned about the lack of feeling in my extremities and I don't want to press my luck.

Why is this little story in the slot for MG News? Well, this time of year, the weather IS the news, and my favorite extreme sport is winter roadster driving. Try it, you'll like it!

**Tuesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.—
CCMGC monthly meeting at
Threadgill's South, Riverside and
Barton Springs. Come early and
enjoy good company, fine food
and drink. ***



Boing! It's gonna be an MG Spring!

Why do we even publish a newsletter in the dead of winter? I'll tell you, it's because the advertisers have already paid for the space. Ummm, I mean that winter is a good time to plan and think about what to do when the weather DOES turn nice. Trust me, it will. This spring, we will have a repeat of our very successful mystery rally. I'm nominating Alan to host again, since he did such a good job last year. We also will have a Saturday "Run to the County Line" probably in March. We're open to other events hosted by members, so here's your chance to step up.



There are several national and regional events coming up. The New Orleans show is in March, and maybe, just maybe, a group from our club may be persuaded to go. The Roadster Factory Summer Party in Pennsylvania is a blast, and last year several people from the Triumph club went. If a Triumph can make it that far, it's just a short skip for an MG. I'll put more events in the newsletter as I find out them and the time gets closer.

Shameless Self-Promotion

Since it is a slow news month, I thought I'd promote my new web site. Go to www.geocities.com/mgtfdiary/ and look at my 1955 MG-TF project car. Since it has been too cold to work on the car, I've been working on the website (I feel a song coming on). This is a long-term project, but I'm going to keep up a web diary of what's going on. It's a fun thing to do, but it also keeps me motivated and helps me to solicit information, advice, and encouragement from fellow MG enthusiasts.

Now if I just could figure out how to make you guys send money.... (The address is on the back of the newsletter). Just kidding, about the money, you know.

I'm projecting a roll-out (drive-out?) of the TF in Summer 2002, so unless you want to read about it every month until then, you, dear reader, will have to provide some content for the newsletter. Tech articles, want ads, or MG-related fiction (read front page for an example) are welcome.

The TF is a beautiful car, but the first step in restoration is for me to learn as much as I can about how to restore it to as close to original condition possible. To get there, there are some mysteries to solve. The first person to tell me what belonged on the inner fender where there is presently a hole wins a special prize. This should be an easy one for Roger.

See y'all at Threadgill's M B



What's that Hole?

Octagons are everywhere, including the instruments



Coming Events



January 16, 2001. Monthly meeting at Threadgill's, starting at 7:30 p.m. Planning for spring events, and a prize raffle.



March 23-24 2001. 11th Annual New Orleans British Car Day. Hosted by British Motor Club of New Orleans, LaFreniere Park, Near I-10, Metairie, LA.



February 20, 2001. February MG club meeting at Threadgill's.



Auto Service Center Inc.

By Ron Shimek

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The WELLS collection

John and Patrick Wells are selling off a large collection of MG cars and parts. They have not yet catalogued the available items, but many fine parts and cars are available. Most of the cars they have are not drivable, but they have a few MGBs that would make good restoration projects, and several parts cars. They also have a Rover V-8 engine, several 1800 B-series engines, some transmissions, and many other parts. John can be phoned at (512) 266-1709, or e-mailed at patrickrwells@hotmail.com. Patrick is in a medical residency, so be patient reaching him, it may take him a few days to return calls. You can also e-mail Patrick's brother John at fishbowl@cuci.nl

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&
duck**
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(707) 792-7352



**A Special Thanks to
-Threadgill's Restaurant -
management and staff for
their hospitality at our
monthly meetings.**

CCMGC Membership Application

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, ZIP_____

Cars owned:

MG1_____

MG2_____

(attach pages if more space is needed)

Send completed application to address below with \$15 to register. Thank you.

Capital City MG Club
2600 Ware Rd.
Austin, TX 78741



Drive Smart — Drive Safe
Next Meeting Tuesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.