



# Capitol City MG Club



## March 2001

**M**G TAKES A LOOK AT NORTH AMERICA MG Rover Group announced today (March 5th 2001) that during the SAE Show in Detroit, Michigan from March 5-8 the UK's best selling sports roadster, the MGf, will be on display at the Chapman-Arup stand. Chapman-Arup is a leading UK engineering services company and have kindly donated space on their stand for the MGf. The brand has not been marketed in the USA for over 20 years yet the market remains the largest in the world for sports roadsters. This offer was considered an opportunity to update the company's knowledge of current US perceptions and awareness of the MG brand. A 2001 model year MGf roadster in Platinum Silver will be on display and market research questionnaires will be available for visitors to complete. The MG Rover five-year business plan assumes no planned sales in the US market.

**SURPRISE LAUNCH OF MG SPORTS ESTATE VARIANT:** MG Rover launches another surprise with the show debut of an MG sports estate version at the Geneva motor show today (February 27th 2001). Code-named MG X11, the new MG is launched in the company of four new product reveals, which include the stylish and capacious Rover 75 Tourer, the new MG ZR compact sports hatch, the MG ZS five- and four-door saloons, and the range-topping MG ZT saloon. The sports estate version MG X11 extends the MG brand still further from the MGf, the UK's best selling roadster, to a bold and energetic five-model product range incorporating 22 engine configurations. Deliveries of the new MG X11 estate version will commence in late autumn 2001, initially with the 2.5-litre KV6 quad-cam alloy engine. 260Ps and 375Ps V8 engine versions are due in 2002 as radically re-engineered cars with rear wheel drive. A sports gearshift for the Getrag 5-speed manual gearbox provides crisp, short throws between ratios. The new MG X11 estate version will feature all the benefits of an estate, but its focus will be overtly sporting, with supreme handling and cornering ability. The integral body strength of 20,000Nm/o will enable the sports suspension to function with race-bred intent. Chassis components, which influence the handling qualities, have been tuned to combine with unique MG-style alloy wheels and lowered suspension to provide a road-hugging cornering ability. Massive 325mm diameter front brake discs, backed by uprated braking systems and a higher-g geared steering rack with revised valving will sharpen steering response and feel. The new, deep front air-dam enhances the aerodynamics of the car with reduced lift, while also increasing air intake. MG external style cues include a body-colour MG radiator grille, with bright stone-guard mesh, matching that of the large lower air intake plus black cappings around all the glass areas. The sports exhaust tailpipes, housed within a heat shield, fit into the rear bumper for good ground clearance plus a racy look. Inside the MG X11 estate version, there are specially developed front sports seats, carefully shaped to give good support and location - essential given the cornering prowess of the car. The interior features unique MG style instrumentation, a new 'technical' finish for the main fascia and console, special trim fabrics and a sports steering wheel with a thicker rim. The capacious load carrying potential of over 1200-litres ensures the practicality of the estate version giving owners greater access and functionality. The wide 1.1m aperture lift-up tailgate, incorporates a separate opening rear window for extra convenience and by lowering the 60:40 split-folding rear seat backrest, the flat loadspace area extends to 2.06m. The MG X11 estate version has an outstanding body rigidity of around 20,000Nm/o. This body rigidity provides an excellent foundation for optimising suspension tuning, giving the Tourer a sports handling characteristic. Bootspace is recorded at 400-litres and 680-litres if filled to the roof when the loadspace cover is removed. Maximum capacity with seats folded is 1222-litres.



# Annual CVAR Driver's School & Vintage Races

Here it is, your personal invitation to join other British car nuts enjoy the CVAR vintage races this coming March, 16/17/18, 2001 for the Annual CVAR Driver's School & Vintage Races.

**Place:** Texas World Speedway, in College Station. See the map below. TWS is home to a 2.9 mile road course, with covered paddock, and your \$10.00 admission allows complete access to the car and the racers. The race car population is extremely heavy in vintage British iron. Cars usually participating include: MG TD, MGA, many MGB's, AH 100-4, 100-6, 3000, Bugeye and Spridgets, TR3A, TR4, Spitfires, Loti, Mini's, Elva, TVR, Caterham 7's and more.

**Friday Test and Tune Day, Saturday and Sunday 3 sessions for each race group**

**Saturday: Practice and Qualifying races**

**Sunday: Points races**

FOT, standing for the Friends Of Triumph, a loosely organized contingent of Triumph racers will be sponsoring an All British Challenge Race each March starting in 2002. Our goal is to attract some "Winter Texan Racers" for an early season event each year. So far we have the following "Friends of Triumph" planning to be at TWS this year. The TR3A's of Kent Howard (WI) and Jeff Wilt (TX) and maybe a first time out for a new TR3A belonging to Richard Hardison (TX), if it's completed in time. TR4's belonging to Joe Alexander (IA), Bob Kramer (TX), and possibly (if completed in time) the TR4's of Jack Drews (IL) and Jim Lee TX. Small bore Triumphs will be represented by Susan Hensley's (TX) Spitfire.

TWS has the best ingress and egress of any speedway in the United States since the construction of Highway 6 was completed in early 1996. There are presently eight lanes of divided highway with an interchange specifically provided for TWS so that entrance and exit to and from the speedway will be non-stop in all directions at on race days. The newly opened by-pass of Hempstead and the improvements to Hwy 290 allow non stop traffic to and from Houston. There are very few traffic lights to Dallas or Austin/San Antonio, making TWS very accessible to everyone.

## IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**By Thom & Cerise Blair IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

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The Texas House of Representatives' Committee on County Affairs voted unanimously to support **HB 495**, which relates to better defining and correcting of the term "antique" vehicles under the junked vehicle public nuisance law. The change was necessitated due to discrepancy in the law governing registration of vehicles (TRC Chapter 502), which refers to vehicles at least "**25 years old**". Another portion of the same law (Chapter 683) defines "Antique Vehicles" as "**35 years old or older**".

The Texas Vehicle Club Council Chairman **Troy Mennis** requested **State Representative Todd Smith** sponsor the bill. At the March 7<sup>th</sup> hearing at the State Capitol in Austin, Smith was supported in the introduction of this bill by testimony from **Thom Blair**, speaking as a member of car clubs in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio (I learned that the hearing at 8pm on the night before this 8 am hearing, so I had no time to get authority to speak in behalf of any club of which I am a member); **Troy Mennis**, **Kathy Jackson**, editor of TVCC's newsletter; **Dr. Wendall Spreadbury**, President of ARKLATEX Packards/PAC; **Ken Green**, President of Cowtown MoCars; and **Chris Zora**, Automobile Appraisers & Associates. There was no opposition to the motion to this change.

Rep. Smith asked that **HB 495** now be referred directly to Local Consent by the full Legislature, which he later explained as "the best way to successfully pass a bill such as this through". The bill will now be brought up for final vote and passage along with several other bills where no opposition is anticipated. Smith explained that, while it is possible for someone to appear at this final passage vote to express opposition from the floor, none is expected and the recommendation of the House County Affairs Committee is expected to hold.

During the March 7<sup>th</sup> hearing, **Committee Chairman Tom Ramsay** was heard to say, almost as an aside to the rest of the Committee present, that "**Rep. Pickett** has concerns regarding antique vehicles". No further explanation was offered. (Reference to **Rep. Joe Pickett**, **Dist. 79, El Paso**, who is on the Transportation Committee)

TVCC considers the filing and expected passage of this bill - which has direct implications on vehicles eligible for antique license plates and registration - its most important bill in the organization's 12-year history.

**Zora** mentioned two other pieces of legislation - one state and one Federal - which could dramatically affect the owners of all types of motor vehicles.

means an insurance company or other entity writing motor vehicle insurance in this state could set rate depending on the amount of time a vehicle is driven, or "Miles-based" rating plan, referring to a rating plan for exposure as a unit of time.) The law could go into effect Sept. 1, 2001 although some portions would not kick in until as late as Jan. of 2004, and would require the insured to pick which plan he/she wished to use. Whichever plan is chosen would apply to ALL vehicles owned by the insured.

While there are many more nuances to **HB 45** which need to be understood, it was the opinion of Mr. Zora that 'the law will only be beneficial to the insurance companies and not to those of us who are insured'. His calls to **Ms.**

**McClendon** to ask further questions about the law have gone unanswered. If she is the representative for any readers in San Antonio, she might find it of interest to hear from you. This bill is expected to come up for vote during this 77<sup>th</sup> State Legislative session.

If you would like a printed synopsis of HB 45 to be faxed to you, contact **Thom Blair**, e-mail [tblair@austin.rr.com](mailto:tblair@austin.rr.com), or call (512) 258-7470.

March Meeting:

Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at  
**Threadgill's restaurant, Riverside and Barton Springs Road at 7:30 p.m.**

Come early to enjoy the fine food and drink and company of fellow MG'ers



Coming Events



March - 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.



April - 1st weekend of April, Funkhana and Autocross, Trader's Village, in Houston. - Sunday, April 15th, CCMGC picnic (Tentative— subject to change). - April 28, 2001 Messina Hof Winery Wine & Roses Festival (craft show/festival) Bonnarigo wants a car show. There will be volunteers amongst us to watch over the cars. From 10 am to 6pm



Sunday, April 29th, 2001.. (DALLAS) All-British Car Day 2001, 17th Annual Exposition of Vintage European (Especially British) Cars and Motorcycles, White Rock Lake Park in Dallas, Texas. **Additional Info**

Randy Zimmerman  
(972) 918-8829 Work/Voicemail  
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randyz@ticnet.com



May - G.O.F. Salado, Mother's Day weekend. - Sunday, May 20th, CCMGC Rally (Debbie and Alan Ferretti) - Last week in May, Drive Your British Car Week



June - Saturday, June 23, Night run to Walburg, hosted by Tom Libert. (To depart from Reagan High School on Athletic Drive)



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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, March 20, 7:30 p.m.*