



# CAPITOL CITY MG CLUB



## February 2002

### MG Club Springs into Action—By Alan Ferretti, President

#### February 2002 Newsletter Article

Well, we're into February already and starting to see an occasional nice day. We took the Midget out to run some errands recently on one of those nice Sundays. Got it clean and shiny, took the top off, and away we went. In the course of the next hour or so driving around Austin, we met up with a blue TR4 and got to do the light flashing and big waving thing, I always liked that. We also met up with at least a dozen people that gave us the thumbs-up sign and made a point of telling us what a great car we were in and how they used to have one or knew someone that did. We could tell that these people were expressing genuine feelings for our cars and truly were pleased to see one still on the road.

Now, my Midget is a long way from "concourse" quality being my daily driver and having a big dent in the front, yet people were chasing after us on Braker Lane just to get a closer look and give us a wave. I didn't see one look of disappointment when they caught up to us. It's situations like this that remind me that as MG drivers, we're driving a piece of meaningful history. Yes, meaningful to us the owners, but also to many of the people we drive by all the time. That's the reason I participate in Car Shows like the ABCD each fall. It's not that I think my car is better than another or that I need to win a prize. It's about sharing the piece of history I own with others that appreciate it for many reasons. I know it's one of just a few MK II Midgets still on the road in this country, but back in the day, thousands of people had one or something close to it.

Sure, we all like our family cruisers, but some of us are willing to part with the advances in safety, performance, reliability, and comfort for a reminder of what a 'real' motoring experience should be. Today's auto manufacturers have desensitized the driver and passengers for the sake of safety and comfort. Understandable, but scarcely satisfying when the road hunches its back, bends its elbow and trims down to two lanes. Then, you need a sports car, pure and supple, that has all the room in the world - for two. All the luggage space you'll ever need - for a weekend. And, enough fun to make you a sports car aficionado for life. Squeezing into that cockpit uncluttered by computers, AC vents, air bags, CD surround-sound stereo, and assorted molded plastic creature comforts, you feel a surge in your metabolic rate, an adrenaline rush, a thrill, a heightened awareness, and perhaps even a little apprehension and fear of the possible mechanical pitfalls along the way. It's these feelings that people are remembering when they see you in your MG.

I drive an MG because I always wanted one, and it's one of those rare things where the having lives up to the wanting. It isn't about the 'safe' or 'practical' thing to do, it's about dreams. It's because everything looks better through the wind-screen, and my wife looks wonderful with the wind in her hair. It's for the quick, light steering, and the simplicity. It's because of the sudden elation I feel after taking a corner a little too fast and getting away with it. It's because I like the way my face hurts from grinning after a spirited drive, and because I like the satisfaction that comes from knowing that I keep it running myself. It's for the fact that, when I drive it, adults smile and kids gawk, and I always seem to meet someone who had one once, and wishes they still did. Drive your car - often. You love to, and others less fortunate than you can at least have their memories and dreams return when they see you.

After last month's meeting, I talked with Thom and Cerise Blair about getting the club involved in a car show at the Scottish Highland Games that happen in Salado each Fall. It's a great place for a car show, especially if, like me, you tend to get bored after a few hours of looking at the cars you've seen so many times before. The nice thing about this show is that there are so many other things to do - hundreds of booths and thousands of people to mingle with. The club has done this before a couple of years back and I found it to be lots of fun. We were treated very nicely and the people looking at the cars just loved that we were there. We'll talk about it at the upcoming meeting. Don't forget the Ron Shimek Tech Session coming up in a couple of weeks - check the calendar of events in this newsletter. Get all of the club events on your calendar now and get that MG on the road. It's shaping up to be a great CCMGC year and springtime, with its nice weather, is getting close, I promise.

*Alan Ferretti — President*

## MG2002

The Texas MG Register is hosting the 11th Annual International Convention of The North American MGB Register in Grapevine, Texas, July 3-6 2002. Lots of events and a big car show are planned. Lets have some good CCMGC representation at this event. Visit the Web Site at <http://www.mg2002.com> for all the Details.

## Is it 1953 Again?

It must be 1953 if you can buy an MGTF, right? No, it is 2002, but the MG Rover Group is starting to sell a new MGTF as the replacement for the MGF that it has been making since 1995. With 77,000 MGFs having been produced, and with over 40,000 sold in the UK, it's been Britain's best selling car in the sports sector for the last six years. The MG Rover Group is looking for even better numbers from the MGTF and its new body shape, new suspension, increased colors available, and its new higher performance K Series engines. Can this be the one that's going to be sold here? We can only hope and wait and see.



### MGTF vs. MG TF

Production	2002-?	1954-1955
Engine	Inline 4 :1588-1796 cc	Inline 4 :1250 -1466 cc
HP	115-158 (depending on model)	57 (1250)-63(1500)
Top Speed	118-137	Reportedly near 100 mph with windshield removed
Technology	Ahead of its time	Quaint, even for its time
Styling	Attractive, but not for everybody	Same



My TF-1500 is ready for the track, with the ultimate in lightening technology



CARRYING ON THE TRADITION  
OR JUST CARRYING ON?  
YOU DECIDE





# Coming Events



**This month's meeting is on February 19th at 7:30 pm at Threadgill's South.**



**Thurs., Mar. 7th**, Ron Shimek Tech session, At Ron Shimek Automotive: 824 Romeria Dr. 454-2047 7:00 p.m. Just west of Lamar, Near the DPS office.



**Sat., March 23rd**, Rosanky Car Museum, 11:00, meeting place to be determined, possible picnic. \$5 museum entry fee.

**April, club picnic.** Tom England and wife to coordinate. Date to be determined.

**Sun., May 18th, Becker Vineyards**, leave late morning. GOF, Salado, 05/09 - 05/12.

**Sat., June 15th**, possible run to Mason for Mason Market Trading Days.

**July**, North American MGB Registry, Grapevine, TX, 07/03 - 07/07. \$50 entry fee for members per car. (see pg. 2)

**May**, Georgetown Air Show (no date available).

**Aug. 23-25**, Kerrville Big Band Concert.

Fall: Highland Days in Salado (tentative), ABCD in Round Rock Sept 29 (tentative)

Bill Jones has a 78 MGB for sale, rust-free, no body damage, and freshly non-smog engine. \$8,000 (979) 968-6937

Anyone wishing to plan an event or add it to the calendar, please call the newsletter editor at 442-4088 or by e-mail:

embee@io.com The club web page is at <http://www.geocities.com/ccmgc> If you want to be on the list to receive e-mail announcements about club events, send a message to [oldpierre@hotmail.com](mailto:oldpierre@hotmail.com).



## AN OLD FASHIONED BARBER SHOP

Tom Libert, Prop.  
Men & Children

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Mon & Tue 8:00 to 5:00  
Closed Wed  
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505 Jefferson St.  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
(512) 321-4513

## Auto Service Center Inc.

By Ron Shimek

824 Romeria Drive  
Austin, TX  
Foreign and American Repairs

454-2047

## Bill Jones' Vintage Sportscars, Ltd.



339 West Travis  
La Grange, Texas 78945  
979 /968-6937  
Fax 968-6952

# Dog & duck

PUB & RESTAURANT

406 W. 17th Street  
Austin, Texas - 479-0593-

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

**Don't forget to tip  
your server !**

## **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, February 19th, 7:30 p.m.*