



March 2015

OCTAGON

Monthly Newsletter of the Victoria MG Club

Time for
a new
helmet?





ABFM 30th Anniversary Dash
Plaque

MGA60 **(Western Canada)**

May 15 - 17, 2015
Vancouver, BC



60th Anniversary Grille
Badge

**If you own and drive an MGA, you are invited to join us
to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the MGA**

MGA60 (WC) events include:

- Friday May 15th - Tire kicking and a get-together at the River House Pub in Delta, with food from 6.00pm
- Saturday May 16th - All British Field Meet at VanDusen Gardens in Vancouver, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- Dinner (time and venue to be confirmed)
- Sunday May 17th - Drive through the eastern Fraser Valley to Cultus Lake for lunch (details to be confirmed).



There is no entry fee for MGA60(WC). However, you must enter the ABFM through the Western Driver website (http://www.westerndriver.com/?page_id=8020). Please let us know by email that you are joining us so we can book sufficient space at the Pub and Restaurants.

Peter & Anne Tilbury
email: patilbury@shaw.ca - cell: (604) 889-5067



About OCTAGON

OCTAGON is the monthly newsletter of the Victoria MG Club and is distributed in print and electronic form approximately one week before month-end.

Subscriptions

All Victoria MG Club members with an active email address receive this newsletter as a PDF attachment. Members without email may receive the newsletter by postal mail in printed form.

Submissions

The editor is always looking for articles, photos, notices and other content that would be of interest to readers of OCTAGON.

If you have something to submit—or even just an idea or request—send it to the Editor, Charles Ormiston, at addled.me@gmail.com

Advertising

To discuss advertising and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Malcolm Ives by phone at 250-475-1231 or email at mjives@shaw.ca.

About the club

Membership in the Victoria MG Club is open to anyone who has an interest in British cars. Ownership of an MG is not a requirement. Just bring your enthusiasm and let us nourish your interest in British sports cars in general and the amazing MG in particular.

Membership

Membership is \$25 per calendar year and entitles you to discounts for some event fees, as well as on products or services from some of our sponsors.

Meetings

See the events section for the information about the next general meeting as well as our upcoming social and sporting events.

Disclaimer

All parts, services and advice provided are presented in good faith. No liability will be assumed by the Victoria MG Club or its members.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editor, nor of the Victoria MG Club and/or its executive.

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March 2015

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Edited by Charles Ormiston

► addled.me@gmail.com

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On the cover

The classic driving helmet may be fine for photo opportunities and scoring historical points, but as the 2015 autocross season approaches, members need to ensure their helmets meet current safety requirements.

See our feature article starting on page 6 for more information.

Photo by PORSfolio

www.victoriamgclub.ca

President's Message Randy Slade

We just finished our annual Valentines Day Run with sweets and coffee with all the club members at our house! An incredible spring day and a great way to kick off the season of drives and coffee. A nice run along Prospect Lake and Royal Oak area. The obvious conclusion was that the weather was a gift from a British car lover!

Last meeting we were entertained by the tales of the road from **Len and Bonnie Smith**. We had a huge turnout of members and they were enthralled with the stories and the great pictures of the events.

I particularly loved the pictures of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. I congratulate Len and Bonnie on their successful trip and it was terrific to have them tell their story.

My own car project is moving along slowly. **Cords** has my engine and all the parts needed to put it back together—hopefully soon! I will then remove my

bonnet and old engine in preparation of the new one. As part of this I am hoping to add a 5-speed transmission out of a Nissan truck. I hope to meet the autocross season!

Our club is already ahead of the pace for members set last year and it's not even driving season yet. Our new Membership Director, **Monica Reekie**, is hard at work drumming up the totals.

Phil Winterbottom has stepped up to the plate as Vice-President and will continue with the program as set up with our past VP, **Ron Gulmans**, while **Russ Cape** has the books in great order and the club operations are in great shape.

Heather and I are off to Vegas to do some hiking next week and look forward to the break. We both hope that all had a great Valentines and that their wishes were met. I wish to pass along a hello to those members who are not feeling well or struggling with their health. We miss them and wish them well and hope to see all at an event soon.

Editor's Message Charles Ormiston

If having fun is what makes time fly, then I must have been having a total blast this month. Where on earth did February go?! It seems like just a few days ago I was cruising Prospect Lake with the club.

Aside from some more design changes, eagle-eyed readers will noticed that I've called this edition "March". Don't worry, we haven't skipped February's—even though some of you might have

wondered—I'm just re-titling the editions to follow more conventional publishing practices.

This month's feature by **Chris Meyer** addresses the issue of new helmet specifications.

April's edition—which should come out much earlier than this month's—will feature a piece by **Phil Winterbottom** on the amazing Arnolt MGs.

And May's edition is in progress.

I've also located a very promising track car, so 'Lucy' will be re-tired. A brilliantly-bright yellow MG, I've already named it/him/her 'Snicket' (as in Lemony Snicket).

There are bound to be some tuning and restoration articles on that car, as well as ones on Chris's 1957 TR3. I can't wait.

As always, comments, suggestions, ideas, articles and photos are welcome. Email me at addled.me@gmail.com

March Events

9th

7:15 PM

General Meeting

The General Meeting is held on the second Monday of the month at 7:15 PM at **The Salvation Army Citadel, 4030 Douglas Street.**

Contact: Armande Morton, 250-598-5516

THIS MONTH:

We're setting up tables for you to bring your hobbies and collectibles for a Show-n-Tell. Bring your interesting car memorabilia, models and toys to share. Also there will be a table for any small parts you want to sell or give away. See you there!

20th-23rd

MG Car Club Northwest
20th Annual MG Island Tour



The MG Car Club Northwest is having its 20th Annual MG Island Tour March 20th—23rd and will be spending the night on Salt Spring Island. Hugh Carroll is wondering if anyone would like join them on Saturday afternoon (the 21st) to have a meet and greet. He was thinking members could go over on Saturday mid-day and come back in the evening or stay over. They are staying at Harbour House Hotel.

If you would like to go or more information, please call or email Hugh Carroll at 250-920-5221 or hcarroll@shaw.ca.

25th

7:00 PM

Hot Choc. Run

The North of the Malahat (NOTM) Hot Chocolate Run is held on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Meet at **Tim Horton's, 825 Deloume Rd, Mill Bay, BC**

Contact: Malcolm Baster, viatomerlin@aim.com



If the previous trend holds, there will be a **VMGC Brunch** on **March 29, 11:00 AM** at the **Oceanfront Suites Hotel in Cowichan Bay** (1681 Cowichan Bay Rd). Confirm at the General Meeting or contact Malcolm Baster at viatomerlin@aim.com.

Our Club Gets New Helmets Chris Meyer

... and a special deal for club members!

At the General Meeting on February 9th, I reported on the club's acquisition of new helmets, and a special deal available for members from our supplier **SG Power** on Hillside Avenue. It made sense to pass this information along to those who could not attend.

Why we needed new helmets

The club has a supply of helmets to loan autocross participants who do not have their own; and these have become out-of-date.

The Snell Foundation, which certifies helmet construction, releases new specifications every five years, and 2015 is the latest.

Helmet rules can vary from one association to another. In general, many permit the current model plus two. The CACC,

which we fall under, has informed us that the requirements for this season will be 2005, 2010 and 2015 model helmets. Ours were 2000 models.

What's interesting about how different associations respond to the new models is the timing in relationship to helmet availability.

Snell's 2015 standards don't take effect until October 1; in fact, it's not permitted to ship or sell a 2015 helmet until that date.

Many manufacturers, therefore, don't start making them until then, and it takes a few months for inventory levels to rise sufficiently for average buyers, as professional associations like the NHRA or NASCAR tend to buy them up quickly.

As a result, many associations allow a tolerance during the release years. Unfortunately, ours isn't one of them.

A matter of class


If you are new to helmet-buying, one thing worth knowing about is the different helmet classes.

For our sport, there are two Snell classes that apply. The SA class—alternatively for *Sport* and *Special Application*—are designed for auto sports, and the M class is designed for motorcycle sports.

While both classes may look very similar to each other, they are not. The shells and protective lining—like the crumple zones on your car—function differently.

With motorcycles, you are most likely to fall off your bike, hitting your head on, and sliding along, pavement.


But with cars, the potential impacts are against things like roll cages, door jambs and windows. They are also fire-retardant, just in case.



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Which helmet is right for you?

If you're a motorcycle rider, then choosing an M-class helmet that also meets road standards is a pretty obvious choice.

Likewise, if you're a casual auto-cropper, then M-class helmets are often a little cheaper, much easier to acquire, and provide adequate protection.

But if you're wanting to get a little more serious about the sport and go 'semi-pro' or engage in other sports like rallying, then an SA helmet may be in order.

How long do helmets last?

With proper care and barring incident or impact, a helmet could last you until it's no longer permitted—about 15 years.

For the budget-minded, this means that a \$300 helmet will really cost \$20/year; a cheap price to pay for protecting your most valuable asset—your brain—while enjoying the thrill of racing around the track.

But the key thing to remember is that helmets are not indestructible and must be cared for.

The foam inside a helmet is designed to collapse and absorb impact, thus dropping your helmet can render it unsafe as its already done its job, as far as the helmet knows.

Sunscreen, hair products and sweat can also deteriorate the foam over time, so removing and properly cleaning the lining is also important.

As for stickers and other customization, be sure to check the manufacturer's warranty first.

A special deal for members...

Ricky at **SG Power** is offering our members a special deal for March. Save a bundle on a fresh M2010 helmet (see right).


Get one before the 2015s start arriving (probably late this year or early next); you could save a lot. Some manufacturers have stated that the 2015s will cost 20-40% more; so talk to Ricky if you're in the market.

MARCH DEAL!


Shoei RJ Platinum-R Helmet

\$269 + tax

White. (Other colours available at a slightly higher price.)



Talk to Ricky
... and bring your club card!



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Valentine's Day Run Charles Ormiston

A gorgeous day for a drive, February 15th's Valentine's Day Run took us from the Tim Horton's at Saanich Plaza through the Prospect Lake area to Randy's place.

I was surprised to realize that, having lived here as long as I have, and even a few blocks from Spectrum school at one point, I had never been through the Prospect Lake area; it's now my favourite drive!

Sweet treats and delightful company followed at Randy's place, where I heard stories of old cars and adventures—or misadventures as the case may be.

I want to thank Randy for organizing and hosting the event, and especially want to thank **Nick Foster** who solved my track car problem by offering me an excellent deal on an 'extra' MG he had.

I followed Nick home and was surprised that despite a cracked head and a light foot, he left me in the dust once we hit the highway. When I caught up, I mentioned that 'Lucy' was acting strangely and he took a look under the hood. He noticed, among other things, that I was very low on oil and topped me up. I must have bottomed-out more often and severely than I thought. Well, Randy *had* warned me that might happen. Ah, the joys of a low-rider...



A PERFECT DAY—Top-down and cruising on a roller-coaster road through a cathedral of trees with other MGs. (Photo: Nick Foster)



A CAR-LOVER'S DREAM DRIVEWAY—How many cars can fit in Randy's driveway? A 911, an MGB, a Spitfire, two MGAs, a T-Bird and an Escalade. There may have been a trailer or two in there as well, and there was still room. (Photo: Charles Ormiston)



www.facebook.com/victoriamgclub

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The Old English Car Club &
Saanich Historical Artifacts Society present

The 10th Annual Restoration Fair & Swap Meet

Sunday, April 12, 2015
10am – 3pm (rain or shine)

**Heritage Acres,
Lochside Drive,
Saanichton**

Admission \$3.00 per person,
(Children under 12 free)

- British "Cars For Sale" Area
- Spares, Parts, Tools, Literature, Collectables
- Car Club booths and displays
- Indoor displays, demonstrations and tech sessions
- All related to old British cars

Contact:

Derrick Sparks
250-658-8614
ds.mg@telus.net

Roy Pullan
250-544-1374
roysue74@telus.net

Participant Information

- All registrations received on or before April 4 will be acknowledged by return mail.
- Please check in at the gate on Sunday where you will be directed to your setup location.
- Spaces will be assigned on a first come first served basis and the organizer's decision on placement is final.
- You are requested not to start selling before the official opening at 10:00am.
- No refunds of registration payments will be made unless cancellation is received in writing on or before April 6.
- Unauthorized vehicles and vehicles parked in the roadways or obstructing access will be towed at owner's expense.
- The Old English Car Club and the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society and their agents and licensees are not responsible for security.
- Participants are not permitted to sell food.
- Tear down is not to start before the Fair closes at 3:00pm.
- Participants are required to remove all their equipment, parts, tools, literature and the like plus any garbage from the site.
- Smoking is discouraged on the site and is not allowed in any building or covered area.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair and hope you have an enjoyable and successful event!

Information and queries:

Derrick Sparks
250-658-8614
ds.mg@telus.net

Roy Pullan
250-544-1374
roysue74@telus.net



The Old English Car Club & Saanich Historical Artifacts Society

10th Annual Restoration Fair & Swap Meet

Sunday, April 12, 2015 10am – 3pm (rain or shine)

Heritage Acres, 7321 Lochside Drive, Saanichton



Registration Required by Friday, April 3 to reserve space

Name _____ Phone _____

Company/Club _____ email _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ Prov./State _____ Postal Code _____

Type of merchandise (parts, tools, literature, etc. Must relate to British cars or artifacts) _____

Reserve Swap Meet or Trade Space Registration includes one vehicle and entry for two people.

Space only \$15.00 _____

Tables are available (\$5/each) @ \$5.00 _____

Total _____

Indoor and Outdoor spaces available. Specify your preference: Indoor Outdoor

Reserve Car Club Space

Registration includes a display area.

Regular gate entry of \$3/person applies, payable at the gate upon entry.

Tables are available (\$5/each) @ \$5.00 _____

British Vehicle(s) for Sale Area

\$15 per vehicle @ \$15.00 _____

Total _____

For Sale card provided.

Registration includes gate entry for two persons for each vehicle for sale.

"For Sale" signs not allowed on vehicles outside of sales area.

Additional Information

- Make cheques payable to OECC South Island Branch. Mail this form and payment to:
Derrick Sparks, 5181 Polson Terrace, Victoria, BC, V8Y 2C5
- Overnight storage by prior arrangement only. Setup Sunday, April 12 at 7:30am. Take down after 3:00pm. Any unsold items must be removed from the site on April 12.
- Further information: Roy Pullan, 250-544-1374, roysue74@telus.net Derrick Sparks, 250-658-8614, ds.mg@telus.net

I/we hold harmless the Old English Car Club and the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society and all its members for personal injury and/or liability from my/our participation in the Restoration Fair. Signed _____ Date ____/____/2015

See important participant information on reverse side