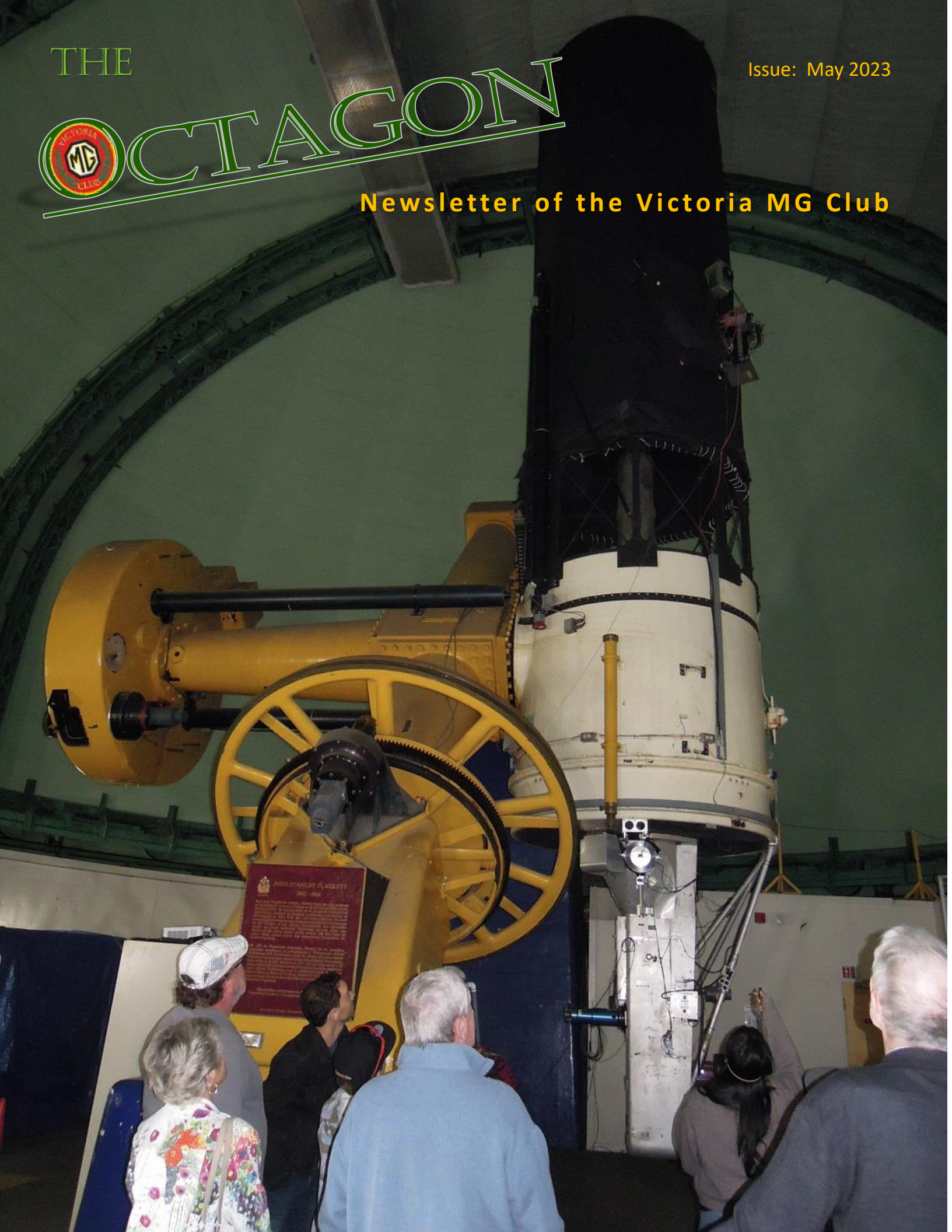


THE

OCTAGON

Issue: May 2023

Newsletter of the Victoria MG Club





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Cover: Malcolm Baster—Looking up at the Plaskett Telescope

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David Nishioka : Brian Evers & Barbara Driver :Ann & Derek Kehl
Tim Croft & Amy Atchison

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to the following for their contributions to this month's newsletter
Ken Lockley, Malcom Baster, Dave Shephard, Malcolm Ives
Derrick Sparks, Allan Millham, Stu Moore

*Extraction from the Societies Act Constitution of
THE VICTORIA MG CLUB"*

The purpose of the society is:

1. a) To promote the enjoyment of MG cars:
b) To encourage the preservation, maintenance and use of MG cars and:
c) To conduct gatherings of a sporting or social nature for enthusiasts of the MG marque

EXECUTIVE

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president@victoriangclub.ca

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newsletter@victoriangclub.ca

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webmaster@victoriangclub.ca

Historian

Position Vacant

NOTH Ice Cream Runs

Malcolm Baster
spmanor@msn.com

OCTAGON DEADLINE:

Submissions:

Cut-off - 10th of the Month

Ads: 2 month maximum unless renewed.

NO PDF's please - they are not that easy to process.

Please use a Word type program



In This Issue

This past month of April was very interesting., and the beginning of May was no exception.

First off: Welcome back!! It is good to have Malcolm and Trish back from their holiday. Always nice to 'get away' and refresh those 'little grey cells', as 'Inspector Poirot' would say.

We had two runs, one in April to the Raptor Center and the other on May 6, to the Observatory. Personally, I was totally fascinated by both runs, however—when I found this giant hole at the observatory, I was truly elated. Unfortunately, the staff would not allow me to jump into it, so I never found out what the 'Black Hole' held in store! (Photo taken by a 'watchful' staff member!)



Both venues were very well received and both did an outstanding job of having staff available to us who were able to answer most of our questions and who also showed and explained even the smallest of objects. At the Observatory, for the very technical questions truly only a professor could answer, it would seem that there is room for those that want to know more, to be able to go along at a suitable time of an evening, when their questions may be able to be answered, maybe even see the telescope in action.

June appears to be a really good month for getting the cars out on the road!! See Page 12! And to help you identify your club to other, see Page 15!

This also leads to the same question that the Events Team always asks of everyone

Do you have an idea for a club event or, like Armande, would like to lead an event. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ken Lockley, who will be only too happy to add you in to the schedule either now or in the near future. (All club team leaders and their email addresses are listed on the Index Page).

And last, but not least, If you need Regalia—order it from Stu soon. It is selling out fast!

Regards,

Your Editor,

Patricia





The Driver's View!

Presidents Message for May 2023

Next meeting JUNE At Armande & David's home

As some of you may know Trish and I took a cruise thru the Panama Canal from the Fort Lauderdale Port in April, thru the Canal and up to Vancouver stopping in Victoria where we disembarked , with various port calls on the way. Best of all was the 32c weather very welcome at this time of year for us hardy Canadians. (Surprising how many Canadians were on board). 7 days into the trip I tested positive for Covid 19 so that was a “confined to cabin” for 5 days! Just a reminder to keep ones guard up!

High Light of the trip for Trish and I was a visit to Puerto Vallarta in the old part of town, which was very pleasant indeed, perhaps an extended winter visit could be on the horizon? So we missed the Raptor visit just North of Duncan which I always enjoy visiting, those folks do a great job with the birds, and give great educational bird talks for us humans!! We also missed the trip up to the observatory. that being a result of a nasty cold picked up somewhere!! Which we did not wish to share with VMGC members.

A few months back I wrote an article about buying or selling a car, to that end I have been following certain models on the **Bring a Trailer** or B.A.T. web site. And wilst their prices seem high, consideration has to be given to the fact that they are for the most part well documented and look to be in very nice condition. Of course it is always a case of Buyer Beware, but generally a straight forward selling site, attracting some eye watering, both in price and condition cars. MG's seem to be moving upwards which is good news if you are selling.

Some of you may have noticed that I sign off with “Make every drive a perfect drive.” This term came from an advance driving course that I took and the idea was to aim for the perfect drive encompassing all the things that we need to keep practicing to try for a 100% score on our drive, be short or long. So there you have it!

See you at the next event?

Make every drive a perfect drive.
Warmer weather is on its way
Be Safe and enjoy.

Malcolm



April 16 Tour and Visit to the Raptor Center Report

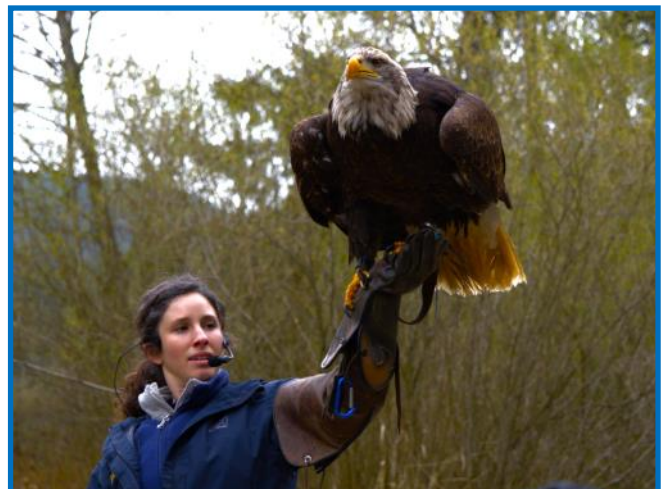
The day started off with our usual parking area at the Juan de Fuca meeting area now being occupied by a swap meet location. We had to change spots and ended up at the top end of the parking lot, still facing the road, which is what we'll have to use in the future. (Or find a different parking spot—stay tuned!!)

The weather was heavy, dull and slightly wet, but we did start off with having 5 cars out for the trip,

We all eventually ended up at Eric and Sue's Genoa Bay Road home overlooking Maple Bay and Bird's Eye Cove. This was really a welcomed retreat and the day started to improve. We all settled into our Brown Bag Lunches and enjoyed the time together. Eric and Sue then lead us through a series of back roads which ended up at the parking lot of the Northwest Raptores facilities.

It's hard to find words to describe the training that must be continual to have Eagles flying amongst the folks watching, sitting on dry benches which I wondered how they kept them dry. So we had a 1/2 hour Flying Demo and lots of commentary by the young lady who was the bird handler. We continued the visit with the aviary where many different native birds were on display. We were pleased we made the trip.

The "Tenants" !!!



Many thanks to Ken for arranging this wonderful tour — even the rain held off while we were at the Center

“NOTM” ICE CREAM RUN (North of the Malahat!!)

For those of our members who are new to the Club, we have a group of Members who live on the North side of the Malahat. Every month they have a gathering of folk, some from the MG Club only and some who belong to the MG and Jaguar Clubs, for Ice Cream in the warmer months and Coffee or Hot Chocolate in the cooler months. Sometimes they meet for a lunch or BBQ, but whatever they do, it is a very happy bunch, who definitely enjoy the outings and using their English cars.

There is a standing invitation for anyone who is a member of the MG Club, to join them in these events.

This past week, on Thursday, we met for the first ‘NOTM’ Ice Cream Run of the season on what was definitely the nicest day of the year so far. As is our custom, we proceeded to Sweet Meadows Market near Mill Bay, and there enjoyed ice cream and convivial chatter in the bright Spring sunshine.

There were even two identical MGB's on the run! Malcolm



What a perfect day for an Ice Cream -
even Derrick drove up from Victoria!



Would you like to own an “MG”? The perfect car for driving around the Island. Check this ad out!

Downsizing – time to sell.

1974.5 MGB -Roadster - \$14,000

Newly rebuilt engine: Replaced cam and crankshaft, bearings, rings, oil pump gears, gaskets and seals, valves and valve seats, clutch. New oil gauges, hazard lights flashers and high beam lens. New battery. (Work completed by Owen Auto)

Contact: Michael E: MMaitlan@outlook.com



MAY 6, 2023 CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE EVENT

by Ken Lockley

The visit to the "Center of the Universe" proved to be a great success. 27 members, including 3 younger members, truly enjoyed the experience.

The tour started at the Visitor Center, where we learnt about the 'mirror' and its history. The original mirror is now at the center, and a new mirror has been installed. We then had a short film after which we proceeded across to the Plaskett Telescope in the dome. Interestingly enough everyone returned to the visitors center afterward to engage in all the experiments and other extremely interesting items.



Rear (facing Paking) Photo: Malcolm Baster

It was an extraordinarily well done visitors program by three young ladies that know their subject and kept the dialogue very interesting. The drive up the hill alone was in itself also a fun aspect, especially in our MG's.

Twenty members met later at the 4 Mile Pub for dinner. Stu Moore showed up later at the pub, having missed out on the early program. He brought the hats and badges etc for those that had ordered them.

A big thanks from the Events Team and all who attended, to Armande who planned the whole tour and did all the work.



(Facing forest) Photo: Trent Sparks

This facility is an important tourist location. Our local Schools have the opportunity to visit the site. Many visitors from other parts of the world come to see it. KL



Ph: Patricia - I am also missing from the photo! Total members 27 (28 with the Guide)

THE CARS - Unfortunately there is no photo of all the cars in the Parking Lot



Ph: Patricia



Ph: Malcolm Baster



Ph: Jordon Sandwith



Ph: Jordon Sandwith



Ph: Malcolm Baster

A HAPPY ENDING

The photo shows, a mirror that was made in France and transported by ship across to Canada, having left the docks 2 days before the war (1914). It arrived at the Observatory site on the 6th of May, 1918—after having been subjected to Ships, Trains, Ferries and Horse-drawn Carts. But, after a 4 year 'journey' from start to finish the mirror was installed on the telescope and it began to record the stars and other planetary objects. A triumph indeed.

The staff at the Observatory were extremely knowledgeable and certainly went out of their way to ensure that our questions were answered. This was the first time - even though we have lived in Victoria since 1981, that we, personally, have seen inside the Observatory building. It sure would be good to be able to observe a star, a planet, or better yet, a galaxy, through that lens. What an thrill it would be to be able to do that.

There were 27 members, including 3 young men, that were on the tour. A great turnout for our club, and I did not see one unhappy face

From what I hear, the supper went well and everyone enjoyed the ambience of the pub as well as the food. A great place to stop after a busy—and extremely informative afternoon. They tried to get there by Satellite, but it was not big enough! (Even though it is a full-size model)

A BIG thank you again to Armande Morton for organizing this tour and for making sure that everyone was accounted for. Very professional.



Ph: Trent Sparks



Ph: Malcolm Baster



Ph: Malcolm Baster



Ph: Malcolm Baster



Ph: Malcolm Baster

DO YOU KNOW YOUR VEHICLES?

E: amillham@islandnet.com



NOW this is one vehicle whose products became very desirable.

Please send your answers (or guesses) to

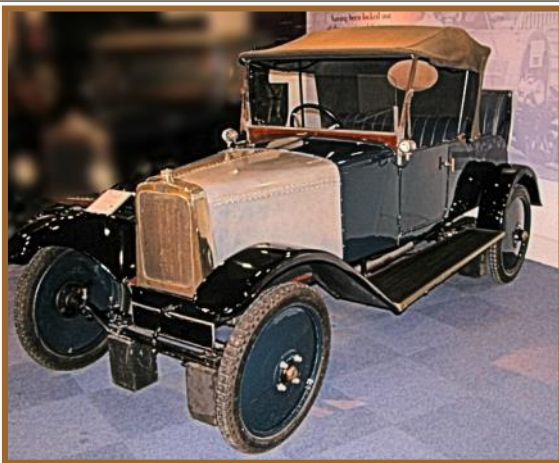
E: amillham@islandnet.com

(copy & paste)

Allan will be delighted to hear from you.

- ANSWER & HISTORY TO LAST MONTH'S QUESTION -

A BIG THANKYOU to all who replied—yes, a toughie!



The Albatros was an English automobile manufacturer on Croft Road in Coventry. Founded in 1922 by H.T.W. Manwaring. The origin of the name is reputed to be derived from a play on the name of one Albert Ross, who was Manwaring's mentor and boss earlier in his career.

There were two models, an 8 and a 10 hp, both using side-valve Coventry-Climax engines.

The 1247cc 10 hp was sold in two versions. The Utility model had a three-speed gearbox and shaft drive to a rear axle with no differential and rear-wheel brakes only. It was only available with open two-seat coachwork and cost £200. The Special Touring model was similar in mechanical specification but did have a differential and electric starting and was available with a variety of bodies including

closed saloons or as chassis only. It cost between £190 (chassis only) and £275 for the 2-seat coupe.

In late 1923 the 10 hp was joined by a smaller 1094cc 8 hp with 2-seat body at £165 or a sports model at £190. In 1924 the company appears to have been in financial difficulties and moved to new premises at Bedford Street, Coventry. A new car was launched still rated at 10 hp but with a larger 1368cc engine still by Coventry-Climax and priced at £210 but they failed to take a stand at the London Motor Show that year and the company seems to have been declared bankrupt at the end of the year.

Only a few cars were ever made and it is thought that only two survive.

There was also an Albatros company based in Paris, France, who made motor cycles and cars in 1912.

Cheers

Allan Millham



North of the Malahat— MAY 31 : ICE CREAM RUN GET TOGETHER

Spring is (sort of) here, so we are going to switch from hot chocolate runs to “Ice Cream Runs”.

We will meet at the Northeast corner of the Valleyview Mall (corner Trans Canada Hwy and Cowichan Bay Rd, for a 3:00 pm departure. Destination: Sweet Meadows Market

Malcolm Baster e: spmanor@msn.com



SPRING –SUMMER EVENTS 2023 CALENDER

Members, it’s time to take the dust covers off your cars and get ready for a busy auto season ahead.

This year, 2023 marks our MG’s 100th year history, as at that time they were spun out of Morris Motors. MG Clubs all over the world are celebrating this piece of history.

May 20/23	<u>All British Field Meet at Van Dusen Gardens</u> Vancouver). 1-604-257-8463
May 31st	North of the Malahat—Ice Cream Run
June 4	OECC Restoration Fair / Heritage Acres
June 11	VMGC Members are invited to David & Armande’s home for General Meeting. 1:00 p.m. on. Bring chairs/something to eat/share —where will have a General Meeting and get-together on the lawns (or inside if it is raining). Our first in person meeting in 3 years!! (Oak Bay, fairly close to Govt. house, address will be emailed with the reminder)
June 18	Father’s Day Picnic at Beacon Hill Park Will Advise in due course 9 am—3 p.m.
July 6	Slalom Event, on the parking lot, Cowichan Speedway (With the Jaguar Club)
July 9	“Brit’s on the Beach” - Ladysmith’s Transfer Beach Park
July 17-20 (4 nights)	North American MGB Register (NAMGBR) Event in Calgary. Plus the awesome run to/fro!! We will be leaving Victoria a couple of days earlier in order get to Calgary on time. Please check the Road Trip Page, and also call Stu Moore, if you would like to participate.
July 30	The Kinsol Trestle and Gayle Adams’s Summer Cottage BBQ
August 20	Werner Grundmann’s Magic Trains in North Saanich. A must see!! (details to follow)
Sept. 17/ 23	OECC invitational at Enrico Winery

Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec are in the Planning stage. If you have an ideas, please let the Events Team know.

Events Team Ken Lockley, Gayle Adams and Stu Moore
—————Join in on our tours and enjoy your car—————

E: events@victoriamgclub.ca

SPEED SLALOMS in the SUMMER MONTHS

Due to the closure of our favourite track, Western Speedway, Dave has been working with the Jaguar Club over this past year with the aim of establishing a new venue.

We have been working with the Jaguar Club and the GAIN track in Cowichan to identify possible dates and locations to hold slalom events. I would appreciate it if MG club members could look through the following information and let me know if they would be interested in participating.

Location: Parking lot at GAIN Racetrack north of Duncan (4063 Cowichan Valley Hwy)

Dates: July 6, in the afternoon and evening. (Thursday)

Time: Setup would start at noon and we would have to be finished by 4:00 pm.

Cost: Will be dependent on the number of participants but will most likely be higher than our previous events.

Course: The course will be the standard Jaguar club Figure '8' layout which is a compact, challenging layout which fits within the available area.

Safety: Participating vehicles will be required to pass the usual safety inspection and helmets will be required. If our clubs helmets meet the tracks safety requirements they will be available, if not the track has helmets available for rent.

While not as convenient as our old site at Western Speedway this venue does offer us the opportunity to get our cars back on the track and us to get more of that elusive seat time.

Please let me know if you would be interested.

Cheers Dave

motorsport@victoriamgclub.ca



The Old English Car Club
& Saanich Historical
Artifacts Society present



The 16th Annual British Restoration Fair & Swap Meet

Sunday, June 4, 2023

10am – 3pm (rain or shine)

**Heritage Acres,
7321 Lochside Drive,
Saanichton**

Admission:

\$5/person to a maximum of \$10/car
(Children 12 and under free)

- Show & Shine and Car Club displays
- British Cars For Sale area
- Parts, Tools, Literature, Collectables
- Large parts and restoration projects Bulletin Board
- Automotive parts and services suppliers
- Miniature trains will be running 10:30am-2:30pm; rides by donation

Information

Richard Neville
250-889-9041

Vendor Registration

Kim Parker
250-656-3128



THE MG CAR CLUB will have our “Club Tent” set up in our usual spot opposite the schoolhouse.

Club Members—Gate opens at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$5.00/person MAX \$10.00/car

Vendors and Volunteers to arrive by 8:00 a.m.

Don’t forget the “THE BOOT SALE” where you can sell bits and pieces from your Car’s Boot!!!

You never know what you can find—or what you can sell!

There is a concession stand on the grounds, and each year this facility has the best “Burgers” .

ROAD TRIP TO CALGARY AB - JULY 2023

NORTH AMERICAN MGB REGISTRY EVENT JULY 17-20th

Stu Moore : E: membership@victoriamgclub.ca

You first need to register with MG2023 NAMGBR (North American MGB Registry) then call the Deerfoot Inn and book a room.

Registration:

<https://mg2023.regfox.com/calgary>

Deerfoot Inn: Phone: 1- 833-425-0925

On line registration closes

[10:01pm (mt) on July 5, 2023], after which time you will be required to register for the event at the Registration Desk in the hotel in Calgary.

The cost:

1 car is \$80 US, **if** you are a NAMGBR member

1 car is \$100 US **if** you are not a member

I would suggest you do become a member of NAMGBR, its a good association that will mail you a quarterly magazine (almost as good as the Octagon !!) To do this visit namgbr.org to register. Cost: \$30.00 US. (Couples can have 1 membership)

YES, it is a USA based association so all in US bucks, but you are getting your Annual Membership for only \$10.00 extra. (So \$110 rather than \$100)

Once you have registered with the Calgary NAMGBR event, call the Deerfoot Inn, Calgary and book a room, \$159.00 cd/room/night. Phone: 833-425-0925

For the non married individuals I have some who have said they could bunk together which means sharing the cost of the room. Please let me know and we can sort it out.

This is an MGB event, **but** other MG makes are invited and will be showing their cars as well. So, if you don't have a "B", but have a different type of MG you can be part of the event.

All makes of MG are welcome!



The Road Trip

And now for the other fun part. We get to drive to Calgary, a totally beautiful drive through wonderful scenery.

Those of us who met a while ago, it was decided that we should make this a 3 day trip and I have block-booked hotels in Merritt, The Best Western Plus and in Revelstoke, the Stoke Best Western. However you have to book yourself in **by June 1st**, no later. If you cannot make the trip there is a **24 hour cancellation policy** for both hotels. As for the Deerfoot Inn you have to book yourself in.

If you will be tenting/camping en-route please advise Stu, there may be others doing the same.

I will be taking my BCAA with me for help or that 'need a tow' situation. We will be watching the road conditions, which we hope will not be a problem this year. There has been a tremendous amount of reconstruction having to be done due to unusual climate conditions over the past couple of years - hopefully by the time we go through, it will all be complete.

We hope to be at the Deerfoot Inn between 3—4 pm on the Monday. If the construction between Kamloops and Golden closer to the time is still bad, we may have to cancel the Merritt/Revelstoke hotels and wing it through the southern route via Kicking Horse or through Radium.

No matter the route, the trip is going to be great.

For those that are going—or intending to go, please keep in touch. Time slips by fast and we will soon be on our way.

Stu Moore
E: membership@victoriamgclub.ca

REGALIA

ALERT! STU ADVISES that ALL items are selling fast. If you want Regalia, call Stu soon!

REGALIA ON ORDER:

Stu Moore has advised that the orders are in—and the regalia is selling fast!

Ball Caps: Avail: \$25.00



Only **8** Left

Grille Badges: Avail: \$15:00

This is a this is 2D shot.
The badge has raised chrome edges
with recessed enamel paint.



Only **22** Left

Name Badges: Avail: \$ 7.30

Available in both Pin and Magnetic clasp styles
E: membership@victoriامجclub.ca



Order as needed

Jacket/Shirt Badges: Avail: \$10.00

Can be Ironed or Sewn on

(No Photo)

Only **14** left

MG Mugs: Avail: \$15.00



Only **7** Left



NAME BADGES ARE VERY HELPFUL AT CLUB

PAYING BY E-TRANSFER:

You now have this option.

E-Transfer your \$25.00 directly to:

treasurer@victoriangclub.ca

We have auto deposit for the club account - no password required

PAYING BY CHEQUE:

\$25.00, made out to the **VICTORIA MG CLUB**

Please fill out the following form and mail it, together with your cheque

to: **VMGC, c/o R. Draeseke,**

405—105 Gorge Rd East V9A 6Z3 Victoria, B.C.

IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES PLEASE EMAIL

membership@victoriangclub.ca Thanks a million. (Follow the Application Form on this page.)

Victoria MG Club Membership Renewal and Application Form

PAYING BY CHEQUE:

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner Name: _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

e-mail Address _____

Partner e-mail Address _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Cell: _____

Club Use Vehicle(s): _____

We have an on-line membership list which is NOT TO BE USED for solicitation, or distributed to non-members. It is meant for communication by Club Members only. So, by applying for, or renewing membership in the VMGC, I agree that I will not use other members' personal information for any commercial purpose. Please accept my/our membership application/renewal



Always happy to oblige, Stu is at the ready if you want to sign up and become a member!!

New Memberships are always welcome!

The runs are happening!!

Keep well,
Stay Safe

Stu:- membership@victoriangclub.ca

***Welcome to all the new members that have
just joined - and to those that have
renewed their memberships -***

Thank you!