

GoF West 2011: A Superb Event in Reno, NV

We told you it would be a little different, and yet the same! GoF West 2011 was both. We teamed up with the MG Council, the team of five MG registers that have a combined event every five years, so we could be part of that huge event. They had arranged to have it in Reno, NV, which brought it into our neck-of-the-woods. And since we had planned to have our GoF West event the following weekend, it only made sense to have it in conjunction with MG 2011.

We were somewhat limited, however, in doing all of the things that we normally do because of the logistics and a full calendar for the weeks events. We did, however, have the funkhana, rally, and the car display. Missing were the arts and crafts and photo displays, and we were unable to have a hospitality suite or a First-Timers car display due to the logis-

tics, but it was still a great GoF event.

The venue for MG 2011 and GoF

ing big winners, however.

Gary Kennedy was chairman of this event, and enlisted the Sacramento Valley MG Club to help out. Gary did a really good job, not only planning for the details of the event, but coordinating with the MG Council who had specific ideas and limitations for what we could do at this combined event.

GoF West was joined by the T-Series cars from the New England MG T Register, so that brought in a few

more cars and people than we normally have at a GoF West event. There were folks from 'way back east', out here to see how all of us westerners do these things. Anybody

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The line-up of MG TCs at the GoF West 2011/MG2011 event

West 2011 couldn't have been better; Reno has a lot to do and a lot of sights to see. The three hotel complex was not lacking for good restaurants and shops, to say nothing about the casinos—there were slot machines in every nook and cranny! I didn't hear about any of of folks be-

GoF West 2012 is Coming Together

We have been working hard to get the details all finalized for GoF West 2012. By this time, you all should have received the last issue of the Gazette, or have been notified that the web site has been updated, both of which had the details of where the event is going to be held, the hotel accommodations, etc. If you haven't seen either of these, please go to the web site at gofwest.com, then select

future events and 2012. All of the details are there, including a registration form that can be printed and mailed in to Larry.

In case you haven't seen any information, here is a summary:

What: Our annual gathering of owners and enthusiasts of T-series and earlier MG cars.

When: June 18-22, 2012

Where: At the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott Hotel in Buellton, Ca. Rooms are \$139.00 per night, including a FULL American breakfast for two.

Who: Anybody that owns a T-series or earlier MG car, although owners

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*Bob Zwart's M-Type
received a lot of
attention*

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that owned a T-series MG automatically became part of our group.

Gary arranged a great meal at the hotel for our "Register Night", and had a limited auction of donated articles to offset some of the expenses. The NEMGTR folks enjoyed the auction, as well.

Lawrie Alexander and Brian Sonner took on the task of planning the rally. As one leaves Reno, there really isn't much to see except sage brush, and there aren't too many scenic roads where one can drive without having to drive for many miles from



*Mike and Jo Lynn enjoy-
ing the funkhana*



More TCs than you can shake a stick at!

Reno. So Lawrie was stuck—what to do under these limitations? He came up with a strategy that worked very successfully: a drive to Virginia City WITHOUT questions along the way, then questions about Virginia City that could be answered only by taking a walking tour. This was a great way to see the town and to take a break from car stuff. Lawrie had an alternate set of questions about MGs for those that could not do the walk. The drive and the walking tour met all the expectations of a great rally.

The funkhana was held in the parking lot across from the hotel, and was also organized by Lawrie and Brian, with help from a few other

members of the SVMGCC. Lawrie had a few tricks up his sleeve, like 'photoshopping' some photos and asking us if we remembered what was in the picture; and having us drive in between two rows of boxes without hitting any of them. What he didn't tell us is that the boxes got closer together toward the end! The funkhana was a lot of fun. We didn't have as many cars participate as planned, but it was enjoyed by all.

Each of the five registers had a specific set of responsibilities at the event; this was the 3rd event of this type for the Council. The NEMGTR usually has the responsibility of lining up the T-series cars at the car display. For this event, GoF West

A view of the MGBs under a bright summer sky in Reno



execution of this event go to Gary Kennedy, naturally, for taking on the Chairmanship task and seeing it through; to Lawrie Alexander for being the chief honcho for planning and organizing the rally, funkhana and car display, and for figuring out the balloting procedure for these events; to Brian Sonner, who was Lawrie's #2 man, organizing the car show layout crew; and to members who worked the events: Jane Alexander, Jane Sonner, Ed & Ginny Kirkley, Kevin & Lisa Williams, Jim



No, he's not pushing; he's trying to find the car!

shared responsibility with the NEMGTR, and was responsible for the T-series parking. We held the display at a large park on the edge of town, not far from the hotel. Each register had an area assigned to them. There were over 600 cars on the show field; quite a collection! Again, Lawrie and crew came together with flying colors. Even the members of the Council commented about how expertly the cars were parked; it was another job well done.

There were so many awards to be given out by the five registers and GoF West that we separated the first place awards from all others and held them for the big banquet. All other awards were presented at a pre-awards session, with each register having their own session. This worked out well in that it minimized the time for award presentation at

the banquet, and gave everybody a chance to concentrate on their own register.

There sure wasn't a lack of things to do at this event. Along with the sight seeing of the town of Reno, most of us went on a tour of the National Auto Museum, just a few blocks from the hotel, and there were several technical sessions every day covering everything from early MGs through the latest MGB models. Tours were provided to Lake Tahoe, and, naturally, the casinos provided a bit of excitement.

Overall, the event could not have been better, considering all of the limitations we had. I didn't hear any significant complaints, but did have a lot of comments about how well it went.

Our thanks for the planning and



My Friends??
Where are all
my friends??

I told him that no-
body likes him!! What
does he expect??

& Lindsay Costigan, Mike & Heidi Singleton, Clark & Matt Lewis, Mark & Gail Strong, Carl & Keli Gwyn, Gregg Lawson, Sandie Swain, Don & Barbara Wroth, Gary Herbold, Beni Feil, Corey & Val Hogue. Mollie Hartley came up with the idea for painting the boxes used in the Funkhana and, with a couple of friends, did the painting. Moss Motors generously supplied the boxes.

Congratulations, folks, for a job well done!!

We are sad to report the passing of Jerry Austin, on September 30th. Jerry and Dee have been stalwart members of GoF West since the beginning, and have attended every GoF event that we have held. In addition, Jerry served on the Steering Committee, and was a significant force in keeping the event as enjoyable for T-Series owners that it is. He has also published several computer discs with technical literature about the T-Series. He will surely be missed.

Our hearts and prayers are with Dee at this time of sorrow.

Winners of GoF West 2011 Trophies

Below are listed the winners of the awards at GoF West 2011, but, in reality, we were all winners taking home many fond memories of the week of events.

Car Display	<i>Name</i>	Funkhana		
<i>MG TC</i>		<i>TC & Earlier</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Navigator</i>
1st Place:	Jim Sullivan			
2nd Place:	Gary & Connor Kennedy	1st	Jack Smittle	Dave Smittle
3rd Place:	Jim Costigan	2nd	Barry Swackhammer	Sue Swackhammer
4th Place:	Jack Smittle	3rd	Michael Jacobsen	Leif Jacobsen
5th Place:	Corky Guenther			
6th Place:	Roy Jones			
<i>MG TD</i>		<i>TD & Later</i>	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Navigator</i>
1 st Place	Dan Craig	1st	Tom Foren	Wally Downs
2nd Place:	Ed Reynolds	2nd	Don Cowgill	Nelson Howard
3rd Pace:	Dwayne Hayes	3rd	James Brian Kirkness	Larry Long
4th Place:	Tim Polidoroff			
5th Place:	Mike Aikens			
6th Place:	Bob Hanselman			
<i>MG TF</i>		Rallye	<i>Driver</i>	<i>Navigator</i>
1st Place:	John Cuthbert	1st	Barry Swackhammer	Sue Swackhammer
2nd Place:	Cindy Sanders	2nd	Bob Johnson	Debbie Johnson
3rd Place:	Robert Cutting	3rd	Kevin Gaston	Pat Gaston
4th Place:	Laverne Downey	4th	John McGovern	Lewis McGovern
5th Place:	Kevin Gaston			
6th Place:	Vickie Kellog			
<i>POST-WAR VARIANT</i>		Special Awards		
1st Place:	John Brown	NEMGTR/GoF West Chairman's Choice Award:		
2nd Place:	Kathleen Inman	Corky and Pricilla Guenther		
3rd Place:	Mike Campbell			
<i>Pre-war</i>		High Point Award—Barry and Sue Swackhammer--		
1st Place:	Tom Cox	accumulated the highest cumulative score for the three		
2nd Place:	Gene Olson	competitive events of Car Display, Funkhana and Rallye,		
<i>PREMIER</i>		as determined by the Awards Chair.		
Winner:	Doug Spindler			

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of later model MGs are welcome to attend.

Why: Because we sure like to get together to see each other and enjoy the fellowship of one another.

The whole purpose of a GoF West event is for the enjoyment of its members; that's what is foremost in the mind of the organizers. And this event will be just that. Not only do we have a first-class hotel for your enjoyment, but we are also offering a visit to the Pacific Coast Performing Arts Theater on Wednesday evening for a first-class

performance of a Broadway play.

And, as has been stated, the roads in the Santa Ynez Valley are made for our cars; and there are many wineries along the way that you can visit.

Our car display will be held less than a mile from the hotel, on the grass! And we'll have a BBQ style lunch for you.

To top it off, we'll put some icing on the cake so we can celebrate our 40th event! It's hard to believe that we have been doing this for 40 years, but we have, and we hope to celebrate in a big way with some surprises for you.

So, go to the web site, download the registration form, and send it off to Larry Long. If you can't do that, simply contact Larry at **emgeeguy@aol.com**, or call at **805-937-3784**.

We will offer a great selection of regalia for purchase ahead of the GoF, and offer choices of meals, as well as the opportunity to purchase tickets for the play. This for will be available by the end of October, and will be sent to you via email and available at our web site.

Hope to see you there!!

Larry Long

Minutes—GoF West Steering Committee

June 15, 2011, Reno, NV

Meeting was convened at 4:32 PM

Motion was made and seconded to retain current office holders. Mike Campbell moved to elect George Kershaw as Vice Chairman replacing Gary Kennedy who leaves the Committee. Seconded and passed.

Introduction of new Committee Members

George Kershaw and Mike Campbell are now members and will serve a three year term.

Election of officers/assignment of committee responsibilities

With the exception of George as Vice Chair, Officers remain the same.

Review of items to be added to the agenda

Larry reviewed the distribution of copies of the Red Book.

Larry moved, seconded and approved to reimburse Larry for an honorarium to Gary Hobbs for his work on the web page.

Committee agreed that Mike Campbell would be the contact for GoF West 2013 and that Larry would be the contact for a possible GoF West 2014 in the Pacific NW. Larry has made contact with several individuals. Lawrie mentioned that a person (unknown to him) mentioned that they (Pacific NW) would be putting on GoF West 2014.

Review and Approval of prior meeting minutes (3/12/2011)

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial review—acceptance of the financial report

Ed reported that there was \$15,170 but did not take into account checks and income from last night's auction. Advances were \$2,000 and, Mike mentioned, should be included. Mike pointed out that finances of GoF West 2011 and GoF West, Inc. should be separated. Larry made suggestions as to the accounting of GoF West, Inc. monies and GoF West 2011 income and expenses. Ed said as of the last statement the balance showed \$20,131. Ed said that he has not written but a few checks. Gary said that GoF 2011 expenses amounted to about \$2,700. Mike stated that he is not satisfied with the financial report. Larry requested that Ed generate a final report and email it to the members. Mike requested that we table the report until Ed finishes.

Old Business

Gazette Items

Larry requested input for the next Gazette and a new editor if someone would volunteer. Gary will do write up and forward to Larry by mid August. Email list will be updated and the comment was made from the floor that clubs be requested to update their email lists. Discussion was held on how best to keep the email addresses up to date. Larry mentioned that he has tried all of the alternatives suggested and will continue to use the best practices. Doug Pelton volunteered to help scrub the email list. Larry will attempt to get the issue out in early December with the 2011 write up and information about GoF West 2012.

Web Site items

We need to update the site for the 2011 event (Gary will contact Gary Hoss re: GoF 2011) and Larry will provide info about 2012 and committee members. Larry requested that Ken Martin send him a brief bio and picture for the site.

Review of Advisory Council comments/suggestions

No further comments necessary as all were covered in the Advisory Council meeting.

Review of GoF West 2011

Comments re: success of event

Mike commented that everything done by GoF West was outstanding. Larry and all present applauded Gary Kennedy's effort.

Financial status – expenditures vs income

Gary distributed preliminary information on the financial status showing we (GoF West) had more than 28% of the total registrants. Discussion was held concerning the possible amount of the revenue sharing. Rough estimate may be in the area of \$3,100. Mike

mentioned the cones used for the car display should be GoF West, Inc. property.

Gary stated that actual expenses vs actual income is almost a wash so that anything received from MG 2011 is profit. Mike pointed out that the auctioning off of the GoF West 2012 registration is income for GoF West 2012.

Final report(s) are due in 60 days as per the Red Book.

Larry mentioned the GoF West, Inc. logo and that with the Committee's approval he and George will work out the details.

Review of plans for GoF West 2012

Logo(s) – Discussed various alternatives. Logo decided on was vineyard with trees (top one on p2) with no car and large "40th".

Hotel arrangements--rooms, rates, etc – 93 rooms reserved @ \$139 to include free full breakfast. A cook out will be held at the car display.

Budget – Larry presented a detailed budget IAW Red Book elements with projected surplus of \$3,840. Discussion was held concerning the handling of Orientation. George suggested making the 40th a memorable event and Larry said he will make orientation will be a "nice" event. Motion made and seconded and approved to accept the budget as presented.

Registration – Larry had \$35 before March and \$45 after. Mike moved to set registration to up to \$50 before March 1 and up to \$60 thereafter, seconded by Dave B. George suggested that 120 was a bit high and discussion was held but held at 120. Mike's motion on registration fees was approved.

Rally- Two different rallies may be held.

Additional details are the purview of the event Chair and as Larry is the Chair and will follow the guidelines as provided by the Red Book no further discussion was necessary.

Plans for GoF West 2013

Mike discussed hotel arrangements and we should continue discussions with them. If a deposit is required, use a credit card. Ginny & Ken Martin mentioned the raise in winter rates for an October/November time frame and that a May time frame may be a better choice. Mike suggested "whenever we can get a decent rate at a decent time of year". Ken Martin discussed several of the area hotel rates. The San Marcos Hotel in Chandler as well as Carefree were also mentioned. Larry suggested that Mike and the Martins get together. Whatever arrangements result, we will have GoF West 2013 somewhere in Arizona.

New Business

Plans for GoF West 2014

Larry spoke with some. Lawrie will follow up. Mike said that we need to plan a possible alternative.

Discussion re: any Red Book changes

Lawrie suggested that volunteers should be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses, especially those who may be financially stressed. Mike especially was especially distressed over travel expenses. Mike suggested that the Red Book be amended to allow the reimbursement of reasonable expenses, at the discretion of the Steering Committee. Lawrie suggested that the permission lies with the event chair. Mike disagreed and pointed out that that was why the change was made after Calgary. Mike moved to table the motion to the November meeting and seconded by Dave B. Motion approved.

Plans for next Committee meeting

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George suggested that a teleconference be tried for the November meeting for those that couldn't make the VMG Swap Meet. George suggested a trial run and Lawrie agreed. Larry agreed to set it up. Dave B suggested "Go To Meetings.com" (on a rotating basis).

Larry mentioned that he was uncomfortable being both Chairs (GoF West, Inc. & GoF West 2012) and suggested that another take the Chair of GoF West, Inc. Lawrie suggested that Larry was OK in the position and should continue.

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Passed and adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Minutes—Advisory Council Meeting June 15, 2011, Reno, NV

The meeting was called to order by general consensus at 3:34 PM and the following Steering Committee members were present::

Chairman – Larry Long
Vice-Chairman – Gary Kennedy
Secretary – Dave Bradley
Finance/Treasurer – Ed Reynolds
At Large – Lawrie Alexander (late arrival, at rally)
At large – Mike Campbell
At Large – Dave Machovec

A survey of the clubs present with the following recognized:

San Diego MG T Register, MGT Roadrunners, Sorry Safari, Abington Rough Riders, TC Motoring Guild and Vintage MG of Southern California.

Larry requested comments concerning the current GoF (MG 2011) and what may be improved for future years. Larry also mentioned that the Martins (Ken & Ginny) as the co- chairs for the 2013 GoF in Arizona are now also on the committee.

Larry asked if there were any nominations for the two upcoming vacancies. Gary mentioned that there were several interested in serving that would arrive later and requested that nominations be tabled until they arrived. The committee agreed and Larry listed the opening positions as that of Gary Kennedy and Mike Campbell (completing Ann Hazels tenure). Larry listed the terms of the present members.

Larry again elicited comments from the floor. Warren Wendt commented that we shouldn't do a combined event like this again. Larry went into the various reasons why we did and how it gave GoF West the opportunity (as well as MG 2011) to experience the MG experience.

Mike Campbell mentioned the absence of a hospitality room and the lack of a common meeting for the GoF West attendees. Larry mentioned that discussions were held with the hotel and not only were the costs prohibitive, but, as Gary pointed out, it wasn't budgeted and was a consensus of the Committee to not incur those charges.

Dave M. commented that many of the folks from the Midwest and East thought it was one of the best ever.

JJ Cecil mentioned that as a "First Timer" she felt lost and that there wasn't an orientation for them. Mike pointed out that while we (GoF West) usually hold a "First Timers" event, the umbrella organization's guideline really didn't allow for much divergence from their agenda. Both Larry and George further explained the relationship between GoF West and the organizers.

It was also brought up that having a car show on the last day of the meet wasn't the most desirable. Ginny Martin pointed out that the entire registration process was very smooth. Larry explained the mechanics of the registration process and the reason why it was so smooth. He further mentioned that another company, Helms-Brisco, handled all of the details with arrangements at the hotel and may be considered for one of our future events.

Larry elicited comments concerning the rally. While it had been enjoyed by most, as Ed pointed out, there were too many "MGA" & "MGB" questions.

The consensus was that the Funkhana was enjoyable both to run and to watch and that the dinner was very good for a buffet. The auction however, drew some comments that there were too many inexpensive items and it went too long. Ed explained that there were a number of last minute items that were donated and that couldn't be refused. Dave B. commented on the price tags on the items before the auction and that it may have turned some people off. Ed commented that we lacked paddles (Reg #) and that it slowed things down.

George Kershaw commented that there isn't a Red Book guide and Gary commented that 'cause we never done one before (and won't again?) and had to wing most of it.

JJ Cecil mentioned that a tour "in mass" may have been interesting. Mike pointed out that we had done that in San Diego in 1986 on a tour to Rosarita Beach, Mexico but that was for safety reasons. It was taken as a suggestion for the future.

Larry mentioned that there was a suggestion for a "ladies" event. Larry mentioned that a tour in connection with GoF West 2012 to the Santa Barbara area, with the ladies to some of the orchid nurseries and the guys to Moss Motors, may be considered. Fran Thelander commented that in the past that whenever we had a ladies event that it was always well attended. A winery tour was also suggested.

Larry has had suggestions that there be a (National) "GoF" event every five years, somewhere in the Midwest that would have all of the "T" series together. Some comments were made concerning NEMGT register and their events.

Comments were also made concerning the very good turn out from all of the West Coast clubs.

Larry explained the problems with the event books and the "train wreck" and the tall tales associated with it. He also explained the make up of the books (done by him). Kudos goes to Moss Motors for picking up a large part of the printing costs for the books. Ed pointed out the myriad of difficulties associated with this event and an atta-boy to Larry for his work on the book.

Various comments were heard concerning the fun and variety of the cars and the stories from the owners.

Larry commented on the 2013 GoF West hosted by Ginny & Ken Martin and the problems with the hotel. It was decided that it would be in the fall and details will follow.

Larry opened nominations for the two opening positions. Dave B nominated George Kershaw to fill Gary's three year term. The nomination was seconded by Fran Thelander. Mike Campbell was nominated and seconded to serve a three year term. Larry moved that nominations be closed. Moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to elect by acclamation and approved.

Larry mentioned that he and George had been discussing a logo for GoF West Inc. that would incorporate the geographic areas for the Gatherings.

Larry moved for adjournment, it was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Bradley, Secretary