

MG80



16 - 17 October 2010

A worldwide celebration of the founding of the MG Car Club

The MG Car Club will be staging the largest MG event ever to celebrate our 80th birthday

The date will be the weekend of the 16th-17th October 2010. The plan is for the whole event to start in New Zealand early in the morning and travel westwards around the globe, passing through Kimber House, Abingdon, UK at noon and finishing in Alaska late that evening.

The Event

The MG Car Club are inviting all overseas MG clubs to join in this exciting worldwide event. We would like each club to stage a local event of their choosing which is both organised and funded by them, and which involves as many members as possible. We want the clubs to capture the spirit of their event on photo or video, which will be then upload to the Internet and displayed on a time line showing the progress of the events throughout the day.

This has the potential to be an innovative celebration of our 80 years, and we think that the participation of clubs throughout the world will foster a closer relationship within the extended MG family. The PR that could be generated for all the clubs and MG as a whole could be enormous. Our intention will be to generate local, national and international interest.

Clubs and volunteers have already come forward from Europe, Australia and New Zealand as well as the UK.

This will be an event of truly worldwide proportions so help us celebrate:



**The Marque
of
Friendship**

and take part in this innovative event.

The technology

Our intention is to use resources already present on the Internet.

We will use a geographical/time line on Google Maps. Points on this line will show the progress of events and will be linked to photos and videos uploaded by clubs to well-known media hosting sites such as YouTube, flickr and Panoramio. It will also be possible to upload snippets of text describing events, or to make links from the map to a club's own website describing the event. The intention is to make contributing to the event as flexible as possible.

Viewing the event on a Smart phone

The time line and pictures etc will also be available on these devices if the Google Earth app is installed. In Google Earth, users should sign in to the Google Account used for the event and select the event in My Maps.

We will create a single Google Account for all participating clubs and create the 'bare bones' of the map. We will then send the account details to all clubs who will then be able to edit the map.

Contributing to the event

The club would like you to contribute to this event by showing your pictures and videos of your participation. This can be done in a number of (increasingly sophisticated) ways.

1. Upload your photos to the MGCC provided site

You can upload your photos of yourself and/or your car, either before the event or of views you have taken of the event itself.

Event photos

2. Upload photos to Google Panoramio

If you have a Google account then you can use the Google Panoramio photo hosting site. Photos uploaded there are automatically transferred to Google Maps and Google Earth and if you pin your photo on the map provided close to the route, then your picture will then be illustrating the event. The transferring normally takes about 2 days. But note that Google's policy is to only display pictures of places, and pictures of people or cars are not transferred. So make sure you take a picture of your car within a landscape! Here's a link to Google's policy on what photos are transferred.

3. Upload a video to YouTube

These are also normally transferred to Google Maps and Earth if they are pinned to the Google Map. But note that this is not as regular as photos are.

4. Provide a link direct from the route map

Note that for all the options below you do not have to conform to Google's policy explained in (2) above.

You make a link from the map to your photo web pages by editing the map.

Instructions on how to contribute to the map will also be sent and are also shown on the right, as well as information on how to incorporate the results into other media such as club websites and Google Earth.

Google Earth geographical line



On the right is a .kml file which when loaded into Google Earth shows the geographical/time line for the event (as pictured on the left), and gives our first indication of the places and order we think the events will occur.



Right click the icon of the .kml file which will then download to your computer. Open the file with Google Earth and the MG80 time line will appear

under the Temporary Items menu on the left hand side. Select the MG80 menu title and it will appear on Google Earth.

Note that we are still not entirely decided whether to use Google Maps or Google Earth for the event. At the present time we favour Google Maps, as indicated above, because it allows collaboration on adding to the map of events and the results are there immediately for all to see. Google Earth is a bit messy in this respect because you have to keep downloading amended .kml files of your additions and send the .kml file to all participants.


As this is an innovative MG event, we would welcome enquiries from people who are interested in contributing to the technology.

Costs

There will be a nominal £10 entry fee per club to cover administration of the event.

Contacts

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Click the  placemark symbol at the top left of the map and drop it on the appropriate place on the map. Click the **Rich Text** option and then type a title and some descriptive text in the balloon below. Select this text and then click the link symbol. Type the URL of your photo pages in the box that appears.

5. Make your photos appear on the map

First, you have to have uploaded your photos to a photo hosting site such as flickr or Photobucket - or even on the MGCC provided site as in (1) above. Next, right click on the photo and choose **Properties** and then select and copy the **Address (URL)**. On a Macintosh simply select **Copy Image Address**. Now follow the instructions in (4) above, only click the the photo icon on the right of the options. You get a box asking for the URL of the picture you want to display so paste the address you have copied and the photo will appear in the balloon.

6. Make your videos appear on the map

Upload your videos to YouTube and then select and copy the code in the **Embed** box next to your video. Now follow the instructions in (4) above, only click the **Edit HTML** option instead of **Rich Text** and paste the code into the box below. Remember to click **OK** and the **Save** and **Done** boxes on the upper left before clicking the placemark to view your video.

More information and tutorials

Finally, here is a link to the easy-to-follow [tutorial from Google Maps](#) on how to do all this stuff.