

REGISTER UPDATES

V8

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David Reid's RV8 on an unusually wet Caledonian Tour at a lunch stop at Laggan Bridge. (photo: Victor Smith)

The **adverse effects of biofuels** on SU carburettors and rubber seals on fuel systems on classic MGs is a topic that has continued over the last month. Classic car representatives attending a meeting with the Department for Transport learned that the EU is pushing for increased use of renewable fuel blending components and materials and is also pursuing a vigorous reduction in sulphur levels in all fuels. It means that we are likely to see higher ethanol contents in petrol in the quite near future raising further concerns over

problems of rubber seals swelling or shrinking, leading to leaks from fuel systems, and fuel stability issues which have resulted in blocked fuel filters and similar problems. One of our members, Barrie Jones, commented "It does annoy me that the Government is forcing us all to use bio ethanol as a fuel. Apart from the damage it will do to our classic vehicles, it will also put up fuel consumption for everybody, because ethanol contains a lot of oxygen by weight. Even at 10% ethanol, fuel consumption will increase by 3%. So, we will all end up paying extra to carry around with us a chemical that is freely available from the air. To add insult to injury, we shall also be paying 200% tax on it. Yes, 200%. The cost of petrol without duty and VAT is about 35p per litre. The rest is tax. I do wonder if bio ethanol is just another stealth tax disguised as a green measure. The numbers are massive, so even a small increase in consumption raises millions of pounds in revenue by way of taxes."

V8 enthusiasts in the USA will have been saddened to hear that University Motors in Michigan ceased fulltime business at the beginning of this month after more than 34 years of service to the MG community. John Twist's classes at technical seminars have been a great help to many MG enthusiasts.

With **MGLive! 2009**, the Club's annual meeting at Silverstone, only a week or so

away, preparations for our RV8 display in the Club's main marquee, as well as the usual convenient V8 parking area and V8 marquee, are well in hand. Bookings for the **informal V8 supper** at the Star Inn at Sulgrave (just north west of the A43 between Silverstone and Brackley) on the Friday evening and the **V8BBQ** at the V8 marquee on Saturday evening, with cooked suppers prepared by Clive Wheatley's able team of cooks, are both proving very popular. Prior booking is essential so either book online via the V8 website or call Victor Smith before 6th July using the contact details above.

Dyno sessions providing power runs and printouts of torque, bhp and fuel/air readings will be an additional feature at MGLive! this year as rolling road specialists Novatech will be there with their dyno. Sessions can be booked in advance through our online booking and secure deposit payment system. Novataech is a V8LIFELINE specialist recommended by David Waterton who had his V8 Roadster set up there in May by Bernie Bowden. Sadly David has to miss Silverstone this year for the first time in 25 years as he will be away on business in South America.

Finally we have the **V8 annual general meeting** on the Sunday at MGLive! which will be held at the V8 marquee at 12.30pm prompt. All members are encouraged to attend.