



The Octagon

NEWSLETTER OF

THE CLASSIC



CLUB OF ORLANDO

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MAINTAINING THE BREED FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS

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MEETING LOCATION: MEETING PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER IS DIFFERENT FROM USUAL! Carol McCormick has arranged for us to meet at **The Tavern, 625 Rock Ridge Blvd, Apopka, FL 32712.** <https://thetavernrsr.com/>. Their phone is 407-814-7474. The owner/manager Mike Handy has arranged a room for us with no fees, separate checks, and will let us order food and drink off the menu. The menu looks delicious! We look forward to trying a new place so be sure to come out to this meeting.

We will have updates on the 2020 GOF and discuss an activity with the Chesapeake Chapter, NEMGTR. We will also be discussing future events such as the overnigher and Flankey Picnic. This is where the business of the club takes place punctuated by our MG fellowship.

SEPTEMBER EVENT: Sharon and Allen Wyman have arranged for us to have a nice drive and lunch at Crabby Bills in St. Cloud. The address is 1104 Lakeshore Blvd, St. Cloud, phone 407-929-4003. <https://crabbybillsstcloud.com/>. Located on beautiful East Lake Toho in the Lakefront Park Marina, the restaurant features panoramic views of the marina and lake from both our indoor and outdoor dining areas. They specialize in seafood but has land lover favorites, too. The best news is an all-day happy hour! Please arrive by 11:00 because parking is limited. For Orlando residents, we will meet at the Maitland Publix at 9:15 and depart at 9:30. See attached driving sheet.

REPORT ON THE AUGUST EVENT: Paul Plasschaert arranged for us to meet at Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café on August 17. This was a shorter drive, and in the evening, to keep us from the August heat. Food, drink and entertainment always highlight this popular summer MG event. We filled up the reserved table and enjoyed ourselves. No one ordered a "boot" of beer, though. We seemed to have chickens even without the chicken dance.



What? this menu has too many choices!



I think I just ate the canary!



It's getting late and I am full!



... until next time!

OCTOBER OVERNIGHTER: Our next overnighiter will be on October 19-20 to beautiful Avon Park and the Jacaranda Hotel. John Camichos is planning a fun filled weekend with a drive though some of the less traveled roads and stops for food and beverages. We are always treated graciously, and we will have room for our cocktail party so be sure to bring a goody to share and the beverage of your choice. More information will be attached.

TRAVELS WITH OUR MG: Today we will start a new tradition which can be printed from time to time! Please share your stories with us! Thank you George and Elyn Pardee for sharing with us!

We would like to share a recent adventure in our 1980 MG'B'. Since 1981, whenever possible we have competed in the Mt. Equinox Hillclimb near Manchester, VT, in our TF, which most years has been trailered. This historic event, now sanctioned by the Vintage Sportscar Club of America, has run each year since 1950 on a paved private toll road, covering 5.2 miles in distance and climbing 3,140 feet in elevation through 41 turns.

Plan MG'B' was selected Monday evening August 5, when it became apparent that we could not complete the new engine installation in the TF in time. We determined to drive the 'B' to the event and compete. This is the car we drove to the Daytona GoF (Honorable Recognition!) - she has been in daily use by our family for twenty years, and we have personally replaced or repaired nearly every major mechanical component, including a recent engine build, while retaining the original owner's Florida Gator paint scheme. Tuesday was consumed with lubrication and some required safety mods. We left early on Wednesday the 7th, driving 747 miles to Johnson City, TN - our objective this day was to reach the cool mountain air. Stopping again in the Poconos, we reached the Mountain at noon on Friday, having covered 1,604 miles (odometer corrected). 33 vintage cars participated; the format is one car at a time against the clock. All cars wait at the summit, then descend together for another run. We made all 7 runs over Saturday and Sunday with a quickest time of 6 minutes, 44 seconds.

The high-bumper 'B' was surprisingly well suited to the current conditions at the Mountain; the nearly stock suspension was adequate on the smooth lower course to the 3 mile

mark and positively luxurious on the rough going above the saddle. The saddle is a dramatic knife-edge ridge which climbs steeply from Little Equinox to the shoulder of Equinox proper, offering panoramic views best disregarded at speed. Above the saddle are a series of extremely tight switchback hairpins, which have not been repaved since the 1950's - anything that can fall off your car **will** fall off here!

Sunday afternoon we drove to Southington, CT to stay with our friends (and race crew) Dot and Joe Novak. On Tuesday the 13th we visited Elyn's dad in Hebron, NH and on Wednesday looped thru Franconia Notch and over Sugar Hill, traveling covered bridges and dirt roads near Bath, NH, then back to CT on I-91. Thursday, in company with the Novaks and their '71 MGB, we took the Chester-Hadlyme ferry across the Connecticut river, on thru Hamburg Cove to Noank in far eastern CT, for lobster (a 4 pounder) at dockside Abbott's Lobster in the Rough. We departed Southington Saturday 8/17 for Winchester, VA, taking I-84 to US 209 thru the Delaware Water Gap, then following secondary roads (PA 895 and 325) from Stroudsburg to Harrisburg. On Sunday we visited the Virginia Arboretum, the travelled the 105 mile length of the Skyline Drive and 85 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway, to stay at one of our favorite spots, the Peaks of Otter Lodge. We had more Blue Ridge Parkway on Monday, interspersed with US 221, where frequent construction delays (installation of buried fiber optic cable) pretty well negated the advantage of the higher speed limit. After an overnight at Commerce, GA, we were back on US 441 and 129 to Macon, where we picked up I-75 to Tampa.

Arriving home on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM, we had travelled 4,206 miles (odometer corrected). The fuel economy averaged 26 mpg including 7 runs up the Mountain and 400 miles of spirited driving in the Blue Ridge, while cruising 75 mph (sometimes +) on the interstates. While packing presented a challenge (really no good place to stow a full face helmet in an MGB, the experience was immensely more satisfying than driving a truck and trailer; yes, we will do it again. – George & Elyn Pardee



George enjoying the nice weather



Mt. Equinox



Unpacked boot With Elyn



Waiting at the top

GOF 2020:

Our club is hosting the fifty-fourth annual "Southern Gathering of the Faithful", one of the largest and most anticipated MG events for owners and admirers all over the Southeast and beyond. GOF-South Mk LIV is only months away and we have a long way to go to create the event. We have driving events, car talks, and fellowship events planned. The theme and the website will be available soon.

For those of you who haven't attended a GOF, here are three links to tell you what it's all about

1. Description of typical New England GOF: <https://nemgtr.org/about-us/about-the-gof.html>
2. CMGC founder John Camichos answers the question, "What is GOF?"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCz7sxWWhoOw>
3. Recap of GOF-South that CMGC hosted in 2018
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z-QpZCSiJ3OoSPRKi7us6gj8zyZP8GS/view?usp=sharing>

For more information, to volunteer or to send ideas, contact Lonnie Cook, Co-chairman GOF-South 2020, 407-670-9679, lonniecook@aol.com.

Coming soon!!! Web Page: <https://www.gofsouth.org/> and
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/gofsouth/videos/>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

1. We want to give a warm welcome to Les and Joan Neumann. They live in Deland and own an MGB race car and a 1964 Morgan.
2. George Freese is an expat Brit who owns a '53 TD that he purchased last year. He's looking forward to meeting other MG owners who "don't mind getting their fingers dirty." George came to the right place! Glad to have another classic MG among our stables!
3. Bernie Horne found his MG! We want to welcome his TF to the club, too!

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS:

We try to do a driving event on the weekend after the meeting (local drives during the summer). This of course is subject to availability and changes. Events planned for the next few months include the following (subject to change):

September – 19th MG Club meeting at Carrabba's
21st Crabby Bill's in St Cloud (Allen and Sharon Wyman)

October – 17th MG Club meeting at Carrabba's
19&20th Over-Nighter at Avon Park (John Camichos)

November – 21st meeting at Carrabba's
16th Party at Dan and Judy Duran's fly in home, Mulberry, FL (Durans)
24th Annual Flankey Picnic

December – 14th Christmas Party, at 5:00 (Richard and Nancy Payne's). Food will be provided by the Paynes but BYOB and optional gift for the auction/gift exchange
18th Tour of lights (in lieu of regular meeting)

January 2020 – 16th MG Meeting

February 2020 – 1st Get together with Chesapeake Chapter- Pete said that Debbie Winner is organizing this event. More at the meeting.
20th Meeting

March 2020 – 14th MG St Patrick's Day and Planning Party at the Cooks in Lithia, 12:00 noon
19th meeting

April 2020 – 17-19th GOF by Classic MG Club Orlando, April 17-19th at Mission Inn

PLEASE TAKE PICTURES AT THE EVENTS AND EMAIL THEM TO KATHY
KATHY.COOKUCF@GMAIL.COM SO SHE CAN PUT THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER!!!!

OTHER EVENTS:

October 12th Saturday, 3rd annual British Car Show at Boys Town in Oviedo.

FOR SALE AND WANTED ITEMS: If you would like to list any items for sale, please send the information to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter.

FOR SALE:

1. 1975 MGB for sale. This car has been owned by John Upperco since 1989. It was completely restored in 1996, the engine was rebuilt, and a custom red leather interior was installed. It has been a daily driver on and off until 2006. Since then it has been garaged and driven in the fall and to MGB shows and events. The MGB has 77,000 original miles; the engine is sound, and it drives great. It has been updated to dual carburetors, the brakes were updates 3 years ago, tires have less than 2000 miles on them. The top is 7 years old with one small tear, included is a tonneau top used 3 times. Many parts included. \$5,400 OBO

John also has a 1975 MGB that currently does not run but is restorable or used as a parts car and a tan interior package purchase 2012, and an older Webber carburetor.

If interested in all or parts of this collection, please call. John Upperco 407-496-7942

2. 1953 MGTD 1 owner, Cream/w Green Interior. 2460 miles on frame- up restoration completed early 2014. 3 Bow tan stayfast top, full tonneau and side curtains, luggage and driving lights. Portfolio of receipts and over 350 pictures of restoration process.
\$ 25600 contact Tony Geraci, E-mail marton1879@gmail.com or 407-656-7472.



WANTED TO BUY:

Beau Gable is looking for a TC or TF. We are happy to have him going back to his roots. phone 407-365-7219.

PARTS WANTED:

Richard Hebb has started restoration on his 1964 MGB MKI. A lot of work is planned, including body/frame/sill work and engine/transmission rebuild.

To simplify the work required there are a few body parts needed to replace the worst parts. Ideally any parts should have minimal to no rust, and minimal or no sheet metal damage. Contact Rich Hebb at (407)-259-8756(cell) if you can help him.

1964 MGB MKI Parts Wanted

- Right (passenger side) Pull Handle Door
- Pull Handle Door Internal Parts
- Right (passenger side) Fender
- Boot Lid
- Also interested in Speedometer and Tachometer, cable drive

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North American MGB Register

August newsletter: Overnighter

October 19, overnighter to the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park (www.hoteljac.com), dinner at “18 East Restaurant” directly across from the Hotel, and lunch at the “3 Sisters Speakeasy” in downtown Kissimmee on Sunday. Room rates are \$69.95 per night plus 11.5% tax (total \$78.00) regardless of room type. Call for reservations at (863) 453-2453. Advise them that you are with the MG Orlando group. Do so ASAP as they will hold 14 rooms for us until October 1. Deposits are not required.

As in the past, due to traffic and safety concerns, we will not be traveling en-masse, but basically “on your own” with easy to follow written instructions. If several cars manage to stay together, great, but don't rely on it. Keep abreast of your instructions in case of separation.

Plan on attending the cocktail party at 6:15 which will be located in the lounge area at the west end of the second floor, and opens onto the balcony. Bring something to share.

At 7:30, we will gather in the hotel lobby and cross to the restaurant for dinner. (Because the restaurant does not take reservations, they have asked us to delay our arrival until this time in order that many of their dinner guests may have departed by then.)

From Orlando: Assemble at Panera's on S. Orange Ave. in Orlando (three blocks south of Michigan on the west side of the street) for a DEPARTURE time of 9:15. We will have a rest stop in Poinciana and a lunch stop at the “Frostbite Ice Cream” diner on hwy.17 north of downtown Frostproof.

From other parts of the state: Rendezvous at the “Frostbite” on hwy 17 (Orlando ETA 11:30). Instructions for the rest of your journey will be available.

For planning purposes, participants are requested to contact John Camichos and advise the following:

- 1) Will you be joining the Orlando group at Panera's or meeting at the other rendezvous point?
- 2) Are you making reservations to stay at the hotel?
- 3) Will you be dining at the restaurant Saturday night? How many people?
- 4) Will you be joining the group for lunch on Sunday? How many people?

Contact John at: pjcamichos@aol.com (subject-overnighter) or phone (407) 894-1957 [leave message].