



The Octagon

NEWSLETTER OF

THE CLASSIC



CLUB OF ORLANDO

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MAINTAINING THE BREED FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS

PRESIDENT: Mike McCormick, Apopka, FL 32765.

E-mail: trouble150@gmail.com, 407-782-9887

EDITOR: Al Cook, 5910 Esker Falls Lane, Lithia, FL 33547. Phone 407-252-2005.

E-mail: Please email, send photos, and reports to kathy.cookucf@gmail.com. 407-963-5349.

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER: Dodie Beach, Casselberry, FL 32707.

E-mail: mg_enthusiast@aol.com, Phone #407-695-2981.

WEBSITE: www.classicmgclub.com **WEBMASTERS:** Dodie Beach and Lonnie Cook

E-mail: webmaster@classicmgclub.com

MEETING LOCATION: NOT AS USUAL! The JANUARY 16TH MEETING AND DINNER WILL START AT 7:00 P.M. and tire kicking at 6:30 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.

Happy New year to everyone. This month we welcome a new president, Mike McCormick. We have exciting business since we have a couple of new events planned for January and February and we are getting closer to the GOF. The meeting is where the business of the club takes place punctuated by our MG fellowship. We welcome your participation and enthusiasm!

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER EVENT: The Annual Flankey Not So Ordinary British Car Show and Picnic at Camille and Kerry Flankey's was on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year's event was as popular as ever and around 50 people attended, and most drove their lovely British cars. As we often do, we had the challenge of judging all the delicious chilis! We also had many delicious sides and desserts. Camille has albums from past events and some of you had a look at them. Thank you to the Flankeys for helping us to keep the memories alive by providing a beautiful location as well as new memories.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE PAYNES: The Paynes know how to party British style! Nancy and Richard opened their home which was decorated beautifully and provided luscious food for the club. Their children helped and there seemed to be an endless bounty fit for the Queen Herself. The evening continued with the announcement that Mike is our incoming president and the gift exchange. Guess what! The naked lady vase reappeared! No one admitted to its being hidden for several years, but I am sure that it will be among the prized gifts next year! Thank you, Nancy and Richard!

OTHER DECEMBER EVENTS:

Brian and Jack Collins again coordinated the club's participation in the WESH Share Your Christmas event. Food and Money were raised to give to others.

In lieu of the regular meeting, Paul Plasschaert again coordinated the Tour of Lights which began at his home and ended at the Outback Restaurant in Winter Park! The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed the beautiful drive and dinner. Thank you, Ann and Paul!

JANUARY DRIVING EVENT: On Saturday, January 18, Patrick Raley has arranged for a beautiful drive and lunch. We will visit the Dade Battlefield at 11:00 followed by lunch at Riverside Restaurant in Nobleton, which is 10 miles west of the park. This is a state park, so there is a \$3 charge per vehicle. Bring some singles so we don't create a traffic jam at the entrance. You may wish to bring an apple, banana, or other snack and water or a soda because lunch will be a bit later. There will be a ranger who will give a brief orientation talk and a local quilting society is having a show in the park between 10 and 3. **Information and directions are attached separately** and there will be further discussion of additional departure points at the meeting.

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):

January 2020 – 16th MG Meeting

18th Event - Dade Battlefield and Riverside Restaurant (Raley)

February 2020 – 20th Meeting

22nd Event- Picnic d'elegence (Cook at Ariail's in Mt. Dora)

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!!!!

GOF 2020:

We are all looking forward to the 54th annual "Southern Gathering of the Faithful" Friday April 17 through Sunday April 19, 2020. As announced it will be held at The Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, <https://www.gofsouth.org/>

Don't put it off. Sign up now for GOF-South. Tell your MG friends around the nation to sign up, too. A hundred MGs and over 200 enthusiasts are expected. We will have Rallies on old Florida back roads, hands-on MG seminars by nationally known experts all week end, two MG shows, banquets, shopping and sightseeing, tea and fashions, and of course new and long-time MG friends make GOF-South the largest and most important MG event in the Southeast.

The GOF-South website is up and running. It looks great and is already receiving registrations and payments. Click on this link to see for yourself and register online or with a paper form: <https://www.gofsouth.org> . The Mission Inn has a limited number of rooms at a special GOF rate so, book your room while they are still available. Phone 800-874-9053. Ask for Reservation Code: 1218G8.

Please Like, Follow, and Share the GOF-South Facebook page with your Facebook friends. We need your help to spread the word. Click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/gofsouth/>

Dodie added a link to the GOF-South website on our CMGC web page. While you are looking at the revised website, look at other information on the site - it's your one-stop location for past - current - future information about the club. <https://www.classicmgclub.com/>

Get your MG ready ... it's going to be a jam-packed weekend of beautiful drives, helpful knowledge, wonderful resort activities, and life-long MG friends.



GOF South LIV - Silent Auction and Raffle

Your Opportunity to Support GOF

One of the fun aspects of GOF South is visiting the hospitality room to see all the items in the silent auction and raffle. Multiple trips are required to out-bid that other MGer on a silent

auction item or to check the raffle board to see if your ticket has been drawn. You never know what treasure you will be taking home.

Where do all those goodies come from? Some from sponsors, but most from Classic MG Club members. Do you have a new favorite tool that makes tasks on the MG easier? Buy another one and donate to the GOF to share your find. Planning on purchasing an MG book for your collection? Order two and donate one. Have a part you ordered from Moss that you have decided not to use? Clean off your shelves donating the part to GOF. Enjoy putting together a nice basket of wine and cheese? Make one for the GOF. Did you get two Echo Dots (or other electronics) for Christmas? Donate the duplicate to GOF. Those gift cards you received that are lying in a drawer – donate to GOF. Items appealing to women, such as a Vera Bradley gift basket, are always popular. Let your imagination run, thinking of interesting and useful items that you could add to the array of goodies.

Coordinate your contributions with Carol McCormick – cmcarol17@gmail.com

Sponsors – The GOF south needs sponsors to offset the financial costs of organizing and operating the event. Do you have a strong relationship with a business that might be interested in sponsorship? Share any suggestions for sponsors with Glen Moore – greenflashmini@gmail.com

The silent auction and raffle add to the fun of the event and add to the bottom line of the financial statement. The funds raised make a significant difference in the budget, allowing the club to keep the costs to the participants lower. This is an area where all members can participate in contributing to the success of the GOF.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to our first new members of 2020: Kevin King and wife Elizabeth. Kevin's father-in-law gave him his beautiful 1952 MG TD which will arrive in a couple of months. He told Kevin that it was getting difficult to get in and out at age 85. A perfect way to keep a well-loved MG in the family. Kevin has auto crossed his STS Miata and is a member of SCCA, Martin Sports Car Club, and Miata/Subaru clubs.

Welcome Jim and Penny Young to the club. They live in Orlando and have a 1979 MG Midget. Jim and his two sons are actively working on and learning about the Midget. Great to see Father-Son MG projects!

New member John Hackett contacted the CMGC website in 2017 for information about repairs to his 1973 MGB. He contacted us again in December to join and attend the next club meeting. John and his wife Shelley live in Windermere. Welcome to the club, John and Shelley.

Joel and Elena Theard, who live in Orlando, are new to MGs. They recently bought a 1957 MGA and contacted the CMGC website for information. Joel and Elena are not new to fine automobiles. They also have a 2010 Maserati Quattroporte Sport GT S (1 of 1,847 made from 2008-2012).

MEMBER NEWS:

John Camichos and his MG TD are world famous!

John Camichos was profiled in the December issue of "The Sacred Octagon" which has world-wide circulation. A copy of the article is attached. John is one of the three founders of the Classic MG Club. He bought his 1950 TD in 1956 and it looks almost identical as the day that he bought it. Except it goes a lot faster. John has been known to leave other MGs in his dust. He has guided the club since its inception and continues to be one of the most active members.

"The Sacred Octagon," or "TSO" for short, is the bi-monthly publication by the New England MG T Register, the largest organization of T-Series MGs in the nation. CMGC member Glen Moore wrote the article and included a short history of our club and of GOF-South.

Congratulations to John and Jean for all that you have done for our club.



*John Camichos driving TD 1802 in 1956
(photo: Jean Camichos with a Kodak Brownie camera)*



*John TD2016 – John passing the same spot in 2016
(photo: Lonnie Cook)*



Here is a historical look at people, a TD owned for over 60 years, the first GOF South and the MG Classics Club - a lot of topics that weave together well.
Glen Moore #10570

GOF South MKI Reunion at the GOF South 11 (51)
Blair Engle's MGTD, John Camichos, TD 1802
Ellen Tidwell (Wil Bowden's daughter),
Craig Engle (Blair Engle's son)
PHOTO Glen Moore

In 1956, John Camichos found a classified ad in the newspaper for a 1950 MGTD, and it soon became his car. It still is. In the 1950's the sports car community was close. Drivers waved at each other as they passed along the roadways. The closeness was part community, part need, as knowledgeable friends were necessary to keep your MG running.

John and T-Series owning friends Blair Engle and Will Bowden discussed the need for a formal MG club in 1962 and held the first meeting in 1963 to organize The Classic MG Club. The bylaws stated that all MGs powered by Morris engines were welcome. Newer MGs powered by the Austin B series block were not considered "classic."

The club grew with meetings, tech sessions, picnics, autocrosses, and rallies bringing MG owners together. A partnership with the New England MG T-Register was formed, so close that members were identified in meeting minutes by their T-Register number. John is #118.

With the success that the New England MG T-Register experienced with the event they titled the Gathering of the Faithful, the club made the decision to hold a "Gathering" in the south. A drive to New England is a long journey and was not a possibility for many working club members with young children. In partnership with the T-Register, The Classic MG Club organized the Gathering of the Faithful MK-I South, held November 3-5, 1967, at the Quality Court Motor Inn near Kissimmee, Florida.

Yes, you remember typewriters and mimeograph machines. That was the technology of the day to produce newsletters and the program for the first GOF South. Read through the activities; the author's favorite topic is "MG Looking." The banquet meal of Prime Rib was \$5.25. The Sunday Gathering Tour was a rallye to the Citrus Tower in Clermont on the back roads of rural Florida, very rural and unpopulated at that time, and back to the motel.

The November 1967 club newsletter, *The Octagon*, reported that the Gathering was a success with detailed reports of activities, winners of awards, and the beginning of plans for a second Gathering. Among the awards, the newsletter stated: "The most pure award was taken home by John Camichos NETR #118 who's beautiful TD is driven back and forth to work every day." Which brings us back to the car in the topic.

John Camichos became interested in sports cars in 1955. He attended the 1955 12 Hours of Sebring and became even more obsessed with owning a sports car. A red 1950 MGTD at the nearby dealer, Schmidt Motors, caught John's eye. He was smitten. It was the very definition of "sports car" at the time and the white wall tires made it stand out. He looked at the car and decided that \$800 was too much money for a six-year-old car with 8,000 miles. He kept looking for an MGTD and traveled to many parts of the state in search of the perfect car to fit his budget. Most he found were in poor condition, had high mileage, and the owners were all asking much higher prices than the car he

- GATHERING OF THE FAITHFUL, MK-I, SOUTH -

Friday, November 3

5:00 Early check in
8:30 Informal "Gathering" at cocktail lounge

Saturday, November 4

10:00 Registration Hospitality Suite opens
Motel check-in, fridges up
10:00 Lunch Available at motel coffee shoppe
1:00 "GATHERING" informal talk of MGs,
MG park, flea market, photo display,
MG looking, technical discussions,
renewing old and meeting new MG enthusiasts,
car judging through the day
Cocktail lounge open
5:30 Call ballots, raffle tickets on sale
6:30 Fridges up for dinner
7:30 Social hour
8:30 "Mothering Banquet"
After dinner: Trophy presentations,
raffle, movies, talks
Continuing social hour
Private party after "last call" at
Hospitality Suite

Sunday, November 5

8:00 to 10:00 Breakfast pack-up, motel check-out
11:00 "Gathering Tour" commences
12:30 Lunch stop
2:00 Complete tour, check-out.
Fridges up at Hospitality Suite
Plans for next "Gathering of the Faithful"; deal for home.



looked at near his home. He lamented missing the opportunity of buying that red MGTD.

In July 1956, John saw a classified ad in the newspaper for a 1950 MGTD. It was located not far from where his wife worked. He called and asked her to look at it on the way home. "It's the car with the whitewalls!" she reported when she arrived home. They went to look at the car and found it was, indeed, the same TD, now with 12,000 miles. A young man had purchased the car from Schmidt Motors and was ready to leave for college, needing money more than a car. When the young man said he wanted \$800, John couldn't get his checkbook out fast enough.

MGTD 1802 was built on May 25, 1950. The original owner purchased it in Miami, keeping the car for just one year. The second owner brought the car to Central Florida to have a car for his wife to drive when they spent their winters in Florida. It was only driven for a few months in the winter, then prepared for storage by the local dealer. The third owner was the young man, who kept the car for only 3 months. On July 19, 1956, John and Jean Camichos "adopted" TD 1802 and began a life-long relationship.

The car has some unique characteristics. The first TDs off the production line had solid disk wheels. Later, holes were drilled in the disks resulting in very round holes with sharp edges. At a later date and for the remainder of the TD production, holes were stamped in the disks during manufacturing resulting in holes that are somewhat oval. TD 1802 is an early car with the rare drilled-hole wheels. The first owner had prepared the car for rallying by adding additional gauges. Mounted in the glove box lid are two instruments, a manifold pressure gauge and an intricate clock. Both are WWII surplus with US Army

Classic MG Club.

Now, the rest of the story...

Blair Engle (NEMGTR #199) was a leader in The Classic MG Club all the years he worked as a mechanical engineer at Martin Marietta in Orlando. Blair was also active in the Martin Marietta Sports Car Club. Seems engineers and sports cars go hand-in-hand. He served as chairman of the first GOF South. He was a vintage racer in his MGTD, placing in every race he entered, for the 10 years he raced. The TD was also his daily driver. For the race weekends, he would change the engine, replace the fuel tank with a fuel cell, and bolt in the roll bar. He left Orlando to become a professor of physics in the graduate department at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. He still lives in Tallahassee, but is unable to be active in MG activities.

Will Bowden (NEMGTR #149) served the club for decades, many as editor and publisher of *The Octagon*, the club's newsletter. Every issue had one of Will's hand-drawn cartoons of a T-Series MG at the end. He was a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy, where he served as class president all four years. Later, he entered the aerospace industry at Martin Marietta, for a long career as an engineer.

Will began racing his 1955 MGTF in 1978, racing it for over 25 years. At the track, he was known as friendly and helpful, with the spirit of a true racer. The TF, which was usually painted in gray primer, was also his daily driver. In 1962, Will established Ye Old MG Shoppe, a T-Series repair/restoration shop and used parts depot, which he operated until his death. Will left us in 2017.

John Camichos (NEMGTR #118) continues to be an active member in the club, now known as The Classic MG Club of Orlando. He and Jean plan and lead overnight drives for the club. At the recent



stamped into the gauge housing. The golf ball radiator cap was installed by the third owner and has become a defining point. The car retains its whitewall tires. And, since John and Jean continue to enjoy driving the MGTD, they have installed a 5-speed transmission to improve its highway manners on today's faster roads.

The purchase of TD 1802 changed the trajectory of John and Jean's lives. They became sports car owners, and more specifically, MG owners. This brought new opportunities for activities in the MG community and many new friends. Among those friends were Will Bowden and Blair Engle, with whom John worked to establish The

organizational and first planning meeting for GOF South LIV, the 54th annual Gathering in the south, John Camichos was sitting at one of the tables in the front of the room, engaged in every topic discussed. John continues to contribute to the MG community, bringing his decades of knowledge and experience combined with a continued enthusiasm for all things MG and love of all MG owners.

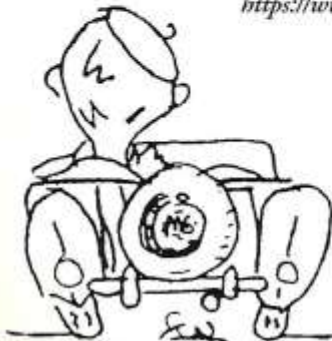
When asked how long he has been married, John's mind calculates how long he has owned his MGTD and adds a year. He married Jean





a year before the MG was purchased. Current answer: 64 years. Check the home page of The Classic MG Club of Orlando's website. The first photo that appears is the black and white of John driving his MGTD in 1956. Information on GOF South LIV, April 17 - 19, 2020, can also be found there.

<https://www.classicmgclub.com>



*Will Cartoon
Will Bowden,
April 1969*



Many thanks to John Camichos for sharing the information for the research of this article. Some came from his memory and some from all the documentation he has saved and cataloged, including copies of every club meeting's minutes and newsletters.

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.

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