

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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President's Message

It's the peak of summer in Florida - not the ideal time to jump in your roadster for a drive to a club event with your fellow MG enthusiasts. Our president had the wisdom to escape to his Maine retreat, so this month's President's Message is brought to you by your humble Veep. Not to worry, Mike and Carol will be back next month, assuming they don't go for a swim off Maine's shark-infested coast.

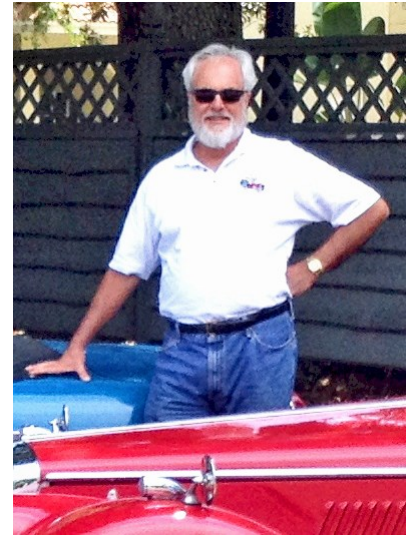
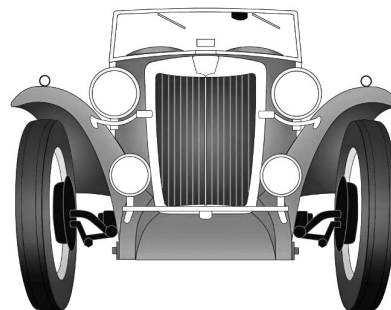


Photo by Lonnie Cook

The current state of affairs, which might become known as the 2020 Pandemic, put the kibosh on our usual summer recourse of meeting up for a few chilled ones in air-conditioned establishments. It looks like we might have to continue postponing our scheduled events until cooler weather arrives.

Until then take advantage of the pretty sunrises, hop in your favorite vehicle, and enjoy a quiet early morning ride on your own. Not only will it lift your spirits but it will also keep your MG happy. And your car will thank you for it.



Meanwhile, hook up with us on Zoom and bring some ideas for socially-distanced gatherings!

Patrick Raley



September 2020

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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July Meeting Notes

Submitted by Jim McSweeney

Patrick Raley called the meeting to order.

Dodie Beach gave the **Treasurer's Report**, no expenditures, no collections, and 6 cents added to account from interest.

Old Business

July event at **Hollerbach's Willow Tree** in Sanford was cancelled due to Covid19.

Kathy Cook suggested it would be great to somehow place the many fine articles in the **newsletter** on the club website.

Discussion took place about the **Facebook Page** and what its primary function should be. Seems some folks are on it for reasons other than spreading the MG gospel and it was felt there should be less of that and more MG news. Of course, Covid19 also is a factor with most MG events shutting down.

New Business

Black Hammock, Oviedo event was cancelled also due to Covid19.

Patrick, Dodie and Jim, and Kathy and Al all met at the **Wells Fargo Bank** in Winter Park to formalize to transition from Paul Plasschaert to Dodie Beach as Paul left the position after a very long period as Treasurer. Some interesting things were discovered at the meeting, such as we have two FEIN numbers and the paperwork with Wells Fargo has become quite complex. Patrick is working on these issues and still requires some signatures on documents he prepared so we can send them back to the bank.

2021 and 2022 GOF's

Glen gave a grim report on the Jacksonville's MG club's issues faced in conducting a GOF South during a pandemic. Everyone agreed we should work with them to hopefully have a 2022 GOF.

Future Events

Richard Payne announced that the September trip to the **Proper Pie Company** had to be cancelled due to Covid19.

Jim McSweeney said he would look into a suggestion to do a ride to **Sanford for lunch** at a water-front restaurant with outdoor, covered seating.

Kathy Cook asked about who was planning on attending the October **over-nighter at Tuck A Way Shores, Indialantic**. So far, five couples have registered or said they would. Kathy said do so as soon as possible if you have not. We would like to have more folks, the rooms and location is such that it is a safe spot from Covid19.

We are contacting the **Flankey's** to confirm the **November Picnic**.

The **meeting was adjourned** and everyone was invited to stay for a **Virtual Tour of Pete Roger's garage**.

Our Monthly CMGC Zoom Meeting Is

Thursday, September 17, at 7 pm

The lobby will be open at 6:30 for

• Meaningless Banter • General Tire Kicking • General MG Merriment

All members are invited, and it is VERY simple to attend. Simply click this link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84605630763?pwd=TEtVNDdwNDgvOEMxZXBMZlUveDNMdz09>

• Join With Computer Audio • Enter Name (Click "OK") • Start Video

New Members

John and Nancy Knight, Marco Island. John, a relocated Brit, just purchased a new (to him) 1951 MGTD, black with green interior. This car is the accomplishment of a life-long dream to own an MG and he states that he is excited as when he got a train set as a kid.



George (Will) Butz IV, Wesley Chapel. Will has been around MGs his whole life (see his contribution in this newsletter). He does not own a full-scale MG, but has a love for the badge and a collection of smaller-scale MGs. He plans on joining the CMGC members at future GOFs. (Photo at Indianapolis with wife, Alyson.)

Oscar and Janet Petree, Ocala. Oscar was considering the purchase of an MGTD restoration project. Then, he saw Tony Geraci's beautiful TD and fell in love. They will become the 2nd owner of Tony's TD. Oscar and Janet plan on becoming active club members.



MG Calendar of Events

Note - Exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk wherever people meet. Please weigh carefully your personal risk before deciding to participate in our functions. CMGC expects all to adhere to CDC guidelines and take appropriate precautions. You alone are responsible for your health.

Stay healthy, for everyone's sake!

September

- 9/17-20 Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, Georgia, Peachtree MG Registry
9/19 St. Johns River Steak and Seafood Luncheon, Sanford, Jim McSweeney
9/26 Proper Pie Company, Davenport, Richard and Nancy Payne *Canceled*

October

- 10/23-25 Tuckaway Overnighter, Indialantic, Kathy and Al Cook
10/? (Optional event - Lift Day, Pete Rogers' house, Tavares)

November

- 11/4-8 Classic 24 Hours, Daytona International Speedway, HSR
11/22 Flankey Picnic, Camille and Kerry Flankey
11/? Destination Duran's, Dan and Judy Duran *Canceled*

December

- 12/? Christmas Party, Richard and Nancy Payne
12/? Tour of Lights
12/? (optional event - Tibby's New Orleans Kitchen at Winter Park, Marcia Geraci)

January

- 1/23 Lake Apopka Wildlife Audio Drive, Mike and Carol McCormick

February

- 2/20 Palatka Overnighter, TBA

March

- 3/4-7 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 3/6, Show 3/7
3/20 St. Patrick's Day Planning Meeting, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

April

- 4/17-21 GOF South Mk 55, Gainesville, Florida, MG Classics of Jacksonville





September 17-20, 2020

The **Peachtree MG Registry** presents:
A Southern British Car Weekend
In the Mountains of North Georgia
at
The Dillard House Inn
Dillard, Georgia
<https://www.dillardhouse.com>

[Click Here to Access Link to Southeast British Car Festival Webpage](#)

St. Johns River Steak and Seafood

Lunch on the lake in downtown Sanford
Outdoor dining right on Lake Monroe



550 N. Palmetto Ave.
Saturday, September 19th, 11:00 am
Contact Jim McSweeney to rsvp
jimspeedmaster@aol.com
407/695-2981



A Quality British Restaurant

Located in Davenport, Florida

The Proper Pie Company has hosted CMGC events
in previous years, which members have truly enjoyed.
Covid-19 requirements have canceled this year's event.
Let's hope to share a meal there next year.

Canceled



Tuckaway Overnighter

October 23 - 25
Indialantic, Florida
Brevard County

Hotel - 321-723-3355
Direct - 321-676-4532
Tuckawayshores.com



For more information, and to rsvp, contact Kathy Cook at 407-963-5349
or by email at kathy.cookucf@gmail.com.



Will Bowden “An MG-Nut”

“In 1962, an MG-nut, by the name of Will Bowden, got the bright idea to form an MG club.” (Blair Engle)

Will left a note on Blair’s MG in the Martin parking lot. A phone call that night lasted hours with conversations about MGs. They contacted John Camichos. The Classic MG Club was quickly formed. So, CMGC began as an idea from Will Bowden.



Will supported the club in many ways. He was the editor of the club newsletter, *The Octagon*, for many years, typing it on mimeograph masters, running off copies, and mailing it to members. Most issues of the newsletter had a technical tip or article on MGs that Will authored. He was involved with organizing the Gathering of the Faithfuls, autocrosses, drives, and other activities to make the CMGC a vibrant organization. The club gave Will the opportunity to do what he enjoyed most, helping others keep their T-Series MGs running well so that they could enjoy them.

The same year that the idea to form an MG club happened, Will acted on the idea to open an MG shop – Ye Old MG Shoppe. For 45 years, Ye Old MG Shoppe was the place for parts, repairs, restorations, and always . . . good conversation about MGs.



Ye Old MG Shoppe had many Florida T-Series MGs receive care at the hand of Will. He liked naming his cars and those of his customers – Kermit was a green TD owned by Roger Helmuth and Richard LePan’s TF was called Blueberry. Any part for any T-Series MG was at Will’s shop. It might be under a tree or atop the stack of body panels stacked high along one wall of the shop. One of the shop buildings was an old corner grocery store, with the walk-in refrigerator lined with XPAG and XPEG engines.

Photos by Lonnie Cook





Sebring, Family Photo

In 1978, some of Will's friends talked him into enjoying MGs on the racetrack, racing in vintage races. His first race was a support race for the 12 Hours of Sebring. He raced the same MGTF for over 27 years at racetracks across the country and was a founding member of MG Vintage Racers. Will arrived at the races with his pickup filled with parts, always willing to loan something out to keep a competitor in the races.

One of Will's favorite racing

stories happened at Sebring. Sterling Moss was driving a Birdcage Maserati. When Moss passed Will, Will not only waved the faster car past, he waved a "Hi." Later the Maserati failed and Moss sat with the disabled car on the side of the race track. Every time Will passed, Moss gave him a wave.

Many a beautiful T-Series MG owned by current CMGC members was restored in Will's shop, either by Will or by the owner who borrowed space in the shop working with Will's guidance. Will seemed



Hallett Raceway, Greg Prehodka Photo



Mark and Ellen Tidwell's MGTC, Glen Moore Photo

proudest of helping one person restore an MGTC, his son-in-law, Mark Tidwell. The result of their efforts is a gorgeous, striking red artwork.

Will operated Ye Old MG Shoppe and was active in CMGC activities until he passed away in 2017. We all owe Will gratitude for the opportunities to enjoy our MGs that his efforts in starting CMGC and helping others with their MGs have created.

*Researched and Written
by Lonnie Cook and Glen Moore*

Personal Reflections - Will Bowden

George Butz III

I met Will for the first time at a GOF on South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando when I was in high school. He was obviously one of the main guys running the show, and made me immediately feel at home. I first brought my now 28-year-old son George William IV (aka "Will") to a GOF when he was about 5, and the two Wills hit it off immediately. They became close over the years and Bowden taught my Will how to drive a stick shift at the Jekyll Island GOF in one of his TFs! One of his race-worn helmets is the centerpiece of my Will's amazing racing memorabilia collection. Will was totally generous with advice, parts, and was just a great guy and is missed.



Will and Will at GOF South, Sebring, 2005
George Butz III Photo



Readying Will's Racecar for Will's Driving Lesson
GOF South 2007, Jekyll Island, GA
George Butz III Photo

his racing helmets that I have proudly displayed for years. His influence on my love of cars and driving cannot be understated.

He was a fantastic mentor and great friend. I will always remember and appreciate his kindness, wit, and wisdom.

Will Bowden. Truly one-of-a-kind.

George (Will) Butz IV

My memories of the first few GOFs I attended are a bit unclear. I was a kid, after all. But I clearly remember meeting the one-and-only Will Bowden. Will and I immediately became good buddies. He was a patient and kind mentor and teacher. My rudimentary knowledge about MGs grew year after year . . . as did my ability to wheel and deal parts.

He took me under his wing as his annual business partner, selling the finest 'fleas' found at any car show. Will was just crazy enough to trust and teach me to drive his TF racer around the Jekyll Island show . . . especially since I was a high school kid who couldn't drive manual. He gifted me one of

Personal Reflections - Will Bowden, continued

Tony Geraci

I remember Will Bowden as a gentle person, always ready to help with his ability and knowledge. He and his first wife raised three daughters – Nancy, Ellen, Jennifer – and a son, David. Will was thoughtful of his kids and grandkids. He had long-time friends going back as far as grade school.

Will would allow people to bring their cars to his shop for restoration, the owner doing the work with Will's advice. My MGTD was restored in that manner as well as the cars of Lester & Anne Ariel and Mike & Carol McCormick. You could tell he really enjoyed helping people restore their cars.

For paint quality evaluations, Will used a rating that ran from 0 feet to 10 feet. A car with a fair paint job might look good from 10 feet away and great paint looked good at zero feet. Will was a fan of Italian food and had a favorite restaurant where he would take friends and customers, those willing to pick up the tab. A small price to pay for all the advice and expertise shared.

Pete Rogers

Will was a friend, business partner, and confidant of our families. I often visited Will's shop to talk about MG projects and enjoy his company. Sometimes, my timing would be close to mid-day. Will was always quick to suggest lunch, knowing I would pay and be a good listener. We had many a lunch over the years.

Will would bring a truckload of used MG parts to sell at GOFs and other car shows. He had a knack for knowing what would sell and how to use his friends to help promote his wares. I would find myself recruited to walk through the show and encourage people to visit Will's truck.

Will was a gentleman all his life, interesting and knowledgeable about many topics other than MGs. I am proud to have been his friend and I miss him.

Manley Ford

Part of Will's memorable personality was his unique manner of speech, which always fascinated me. I suppose his years in the merchant marine influenced it. Think of a playful version of the character "Quint" played by Robert Shaw in the movie "Jaws".

I remember one vintage race incident where slow-talking Tennessean Bob Coleman had damaged a front fender on his yellow TD having run off the track for some reason at one of the MG races; Road Atlanta as I recall.

So after being towed back to the pits, the car was on a jack stand with the wheel off. Bill was surveying the damage and scratching his head about what to do now. And Will comes up alongside and puts his arm around Bill as if in commiseration and asks, "Have ya gaw a weak stomach?"

Bob says, "Huh?"

Will repeats the question in that wonderful brogue. And Bob replies in that slow Tennessean drawl, "Well . . . I don't think so." At which point Will steps forward with a knock-off hammer he'd been holding behind his leg out of sight from Bob, and takes a mighty two-handed upper-cut type swing and - BOOM! - slams it into the underside of the bent fender. Bob nearly passed out. But several more judiciously placed swings in just a few minutes, Will had the fender more or less back to where it was supposed to be.

"Good enough to race," declares Will.



Linda Charlton Photo

Will Bowden Reminiscence - George Pardee

It is said that what makes our hobby so rewarding "is not really the cars, it is the people."

Some of the most interesting and cherished people are those who care the most about the cars. Will Bowden was the proof of this rule, another of the CMGCO rocket scientists, who found relaxation and a channel for creativity in his love of MG cars and spent most of a long life sharing his knowledge, parts, and stories.

Will had raced in the early SVRA "curtain-raiser" Vintage races at the Sebring 12 Hours, going wheel to wheel (very briefly) with Sir Stirling Moss in a Maserati. In typical fashion, Will introduced himself to Moss, leading to a discussion of handling qualities of the MG TF, which Stirling did not value highly. He commended Will for bravery.

Will and I first raced together at Watkins Glen in 1998, where nearly **130 MGs were on track**, commemorating 50 years of MG racing at the Glen. We were both racing Grey TFs with Florida tags, and paddocked together. When the discussion turned to paint colors (both cars represented Birch Grey) Will mentioned that his was a Ford color. I revealed that mine was Cadillac Vapour Grey; thereafter Will's car was *Lincoln Grey*.

The Will Bowden Award was conceived over beers (of course) by Tony Geraci, Nick Pardee, George Pardee and Mark Tidwell. Not many years before, Will had most deservedly received the Bill Parrish "Master of Speed Deception" conceived to honor Bill posthumously. The conversation turned to the idea of honoring folks while they were still around to enjoy it in person.

One of the joys of knowing Will was his endless supply of stories, all of which grew better with repetition, and the tale of GOF South Boca Raton was near the top of the Hit Parade. Will and spouse were bringing two cars, Will in a TD, and she in a TF (undoubtedly both cars were for sale). Somewhere in the hinterlands along US 98, the TF lost oil pressure and then lost #3 rod, resulting in ignition failure, when the departing rod took out a generous section of the cylinder block containing the distributor. The TF was left in the safest spot they could find, luggage, spares, and the chunk of



the engine with distributor still attached were packed into the TD, and they went on to the GOF. This was a well-attended event, with many members of the New England MG 'T' Register present, including Dick Knudsen, the co-founder of NEMGTR. Will approached a number of the eminent New Englanders with the query "my MG won't start - can you tell me what is wrong?" then presenting the distributor in its fragment of the engine block, and watching with delight as each expert examined the points and condenser, finding no fault.

Here was the centerpiece of the Will Bowden Award; Nick and George asked Will if he still had the broken section of the engine block and he produced it immediately from a bin containing a large quantity of similar casualties in a corner of Ye Olde MG Shoppe. (Subsequent examination revealed that this piece was, in fact, the product of another disaster, as it had contained an oil pump rather than a distributor, but, hey, it is all about having fun and making things work with the parts on hand.)

The first part I bought from Will - an MG crested air manifold - is still in use on our Y-type. There are many of us whose cars and lives and hearts contain bits from Will.



Will Bowden Receives MG Vintage Racers' "Bill Parish Award"

Greg Prehodka, Publicity Coordinator, MG Vintage Racers
Published 2005

Will Bowden of Orlando, Florida, was chosen for this year's "Bill Parish Award". Supported by MGVR and Parish-Heacock Insurance, it is annually presented at MGVR's Focus Event - this year HSR's "Mitty" at Road Atlanta - in memory of MG racer Bill Parish, to an MG racer at the event participating in Bill's past spirit of "Having the most fun, and being a Master of Speed Deception, while racing their MG over the years - unconcerned about race-winning."

Will, a retired Merchant Marine Officer and aerospace engineer, got his first MG - an MGTD - in 1960 and was a founder of the "Classic MG Club" of Florida. His first vintage MG race was at Sebring in 1978 with his MGTF in a support race. In the 80's, he competed in many vintage races down south, including SVRA's "MG Safety Fast Championships" at Road Atlanta, and was a charter member of the "MG Vintage Racers" in 1981. Will made special efforts to attend the MG races up north at Watkins Glen in '94 for the 40th anniversary of the Collier Cup, and in '98 for the Glen's 50th anniversary. And he was also noted for always bringing "Lots of extra MG parts" with him to races - which he always graciously loaned out to other MG racers in need of them.



Now, even at age 71, he still has the MG racing spirit in him - still racing his same MGTF some 27 years later, now in the "Walter Mitty MG-Triumph Challenge Races", where over 100 MGs and Triumphs had a go with each other.

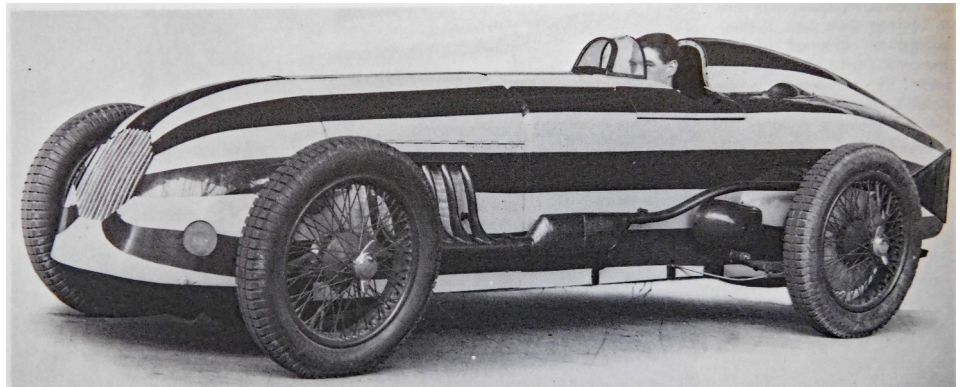
In past years, Will raced with Bill Parish, and now we're sure Bill is smiling up there, that Will is honored in his spirit. Where there's a "Will" there's a way!

Crackers and Cream

Glen Moore

The masthead of the new version of The Octagon is presented in two colors, brown text on a cream background. These colors were chosen, not for esthetics, but to represent the history of the MG marque. Many of the successful MG race cars and land speed record cars of the early 1930s were painted in the Crackers and Cream color scheme. Crackers and Cream were the official racing colors of the MG Car Company.

The colors, to me, appear to be the color of tea after cream has been added, and the color of a dark “biscuit” or “cracker” that the British would serve with the hot tea. These colors have also been described as Brown and Cream and Chocolate and Cream.



The experimental and racing EX 135 MG appeared in 1934 with the land speed body painted with longitudinal Crackers and Cream stripes. This paint scheme earned the car the nickname “Humbug.”

In 1935, Morris Motor Company took the independence away from the MG Car Company and



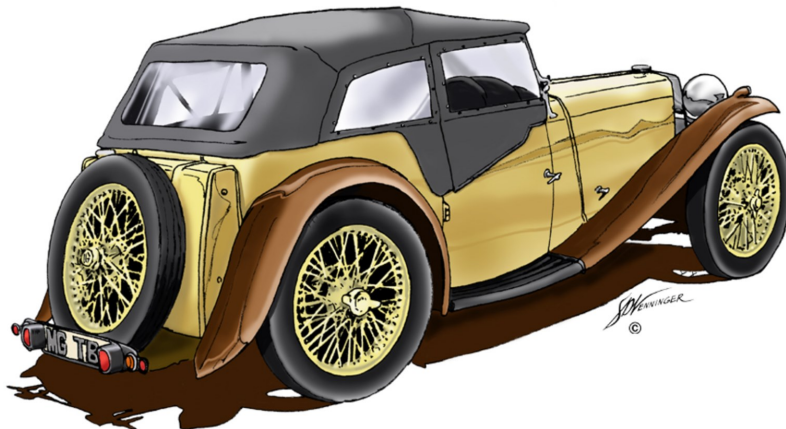
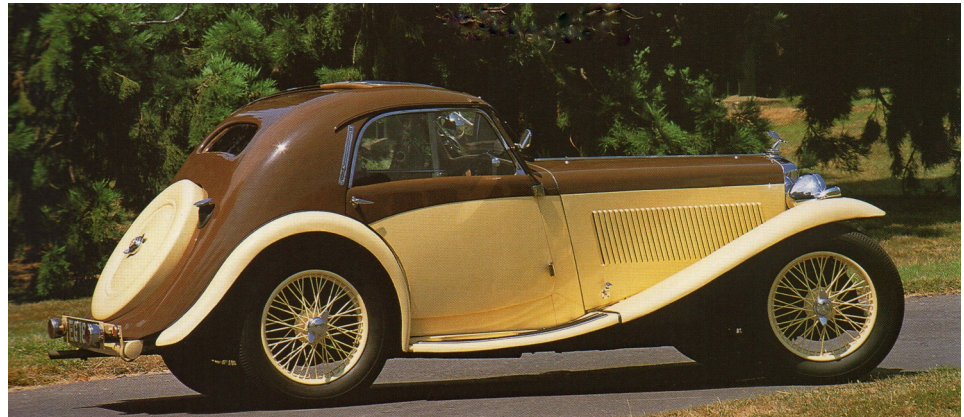
forbid any racing activities. Cecil Kimber managed to define racing as a contest on closed race tracks and found ways to continue supporting automotive competitive events through trials and land speed record cars. (A British automotive trial event may best be summarized as an off-road autocross combined with almost impossible hill climbs.)



A very successful team of 3 MGs competed in these trial events in 1935-36. The team was known as Cream Crackers, and the cars, of course, were painted in those colors. They won awards across England and were instrumental in building MG's reputation.

Note that the MGPB team car pictured here has two spare tires, both with a deep knobby tread pattern. These tires would be mounted on the rear axle for the hill climbs.

Many a street MG has been painted in the Crackers and Cream colors. Cecil Kimber was partial to two-tone paint on MGs and claimed he was the one who first began this scheme. The dual colors do accent the lines, as on this MGPB Airline Coupe.



MG Midget TB

Art by Jerry Nenninger, used with permission

Artist Jerry Nenninger chose the Crackers and Cream dual colors in his depiction of a beautiful MGTB.

The MG badge attached to the radiator, and often the spare tire spinner nut, was in the Crackers and Cream colors from 1927 until the last year of the MGTD production, in September 1952.

Celebrating MG history must include the celebration of Crackers and Cream.



MG Marketplace

1953 MGTD

1 owner, Cream/w Green Interior, 2460 miles, frame-up restoration completed early 2014, 3 Bow tan stayfast top, full stayfast tonneau and side curtains, luggage rack and driving lights. Portfolio of receipts and over 350 pictures of restoration process. 1st place MGTD at 2014 GOF South. Link to sample photos - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/gURVkJQoxqyyw4L3F6>. \$21,600 Tony Geraci, E-mail marton1879@gmail.com or 407-656-7472



1971 MGB

CMGC member Bryan Corkal is selling his 1971 MGB. It was restored in around 1997 and has always been garaged and cared for. The car needs the fluids changed. The car has around 18k miles on the rebuilt engine. It was rear-ended in about 2003 and the rear bumper is a little crooked and the seam for the trunk is misaligned. The car has stone chips and the typical knocks. In the last couple of years, he replaced the front bushings, the clutch master and slave cylinders and the water pump. The car has a slow leak and loses about a teaspoon of fluid every 6 months---it might be the transmission. Contact Bryan Corkal, bcorkal@gmail.com, Winter Garden, 321-272-3444.



1960 MG Magnette

Kim Denmark needs to sell her 1960 Mark III MG Magnette. The property where she has been storing the car has been sold. The boot is completely rusted out. The car is stripped and about ready to be refinished. All the parts are there. All the glass is intact and not cracked or broken. It still has its chrome front and back bumpers. It would be great for someone who wants to refinish it or if someone needs a lot of parts. Kim lives in Ocoee and the car is in Groveland. If anyone is interested, give her a call, 407-721-5435, or email at kimwdenmark@yahoo.com.

1953 MGTD

Pete Rogers has a beautifully newly restored 53 TD. Everyone knows Pete is a perfectionist and really does a beautiful job on his cars. Restored with all new, tires to top. Special Red exterior with a tan interior. All the extras installed are estimated at \$2500 in costs. Drives very well and the engine is especially strong. It has been rebuilt to a higher horsepower. Car is offered at BEST OFFER. Call Pete at 352-406-1948 or email: pfrslot@gmail.com.



1952 MGTD

Jake Kertz wants to sell his 1952 MGTD. Red with Biscuit interior 96,800 miles. Owner has had the car for over 60 years. Always garaged. Less than 500 miles since engine overhaul and frame up rebuild. New paint (bare metal), leather, tires, and canvas. \$21,000. Leesburg, FL . Contact Jake Kertz at 352-728-4435 or jakenan@aol.com.



1954 MGTD

British Racing Green, wire wheels, rebuilt engine, new tires, excellent condition. Ted Boiman tedboi44@gmail.com
Phone 941-276-7506



1977 MGB

Need help finding a home for my MGB. I got it from my Dad 6+/- years ago. It is a totally original, all factory options MG, even factory air. Now the air and overdrive aren't working. Don't know the air issues, but know the overdrive unit needs a rebuild. Jim Allen j_allen88@aol.com Phone 407-340-5697



Adverts are free. Send information to editor.cmgc@gmail.com.
Contact editor each month if you wish to keep your ad current.



The Classic MG Club is affiliate chapter
and active supporter of:



North American MGB Register



fighting hunger. feeding hope.

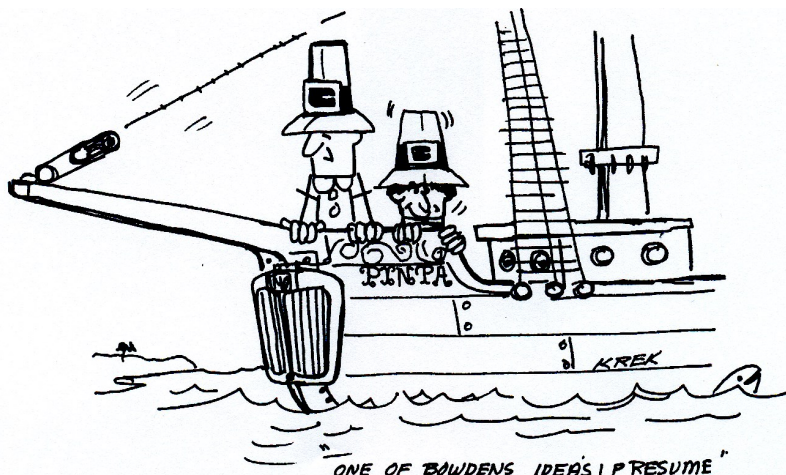
Second Harvest Food Bank is the official charity of the Classic MG Club. Many people in Central Florida go to bed hungry every night. The layoffs due to Covid-19 have greatly increased the number of people who are food insecure. As a club, and as individuals, we can make a major difference in our neighbors' lives.

Second Harvest is an efficiently-run charity with 97% of contributions going directly to help local people in need. Every \$25 donation can provide 100 meals for struggling families and kids.

Donate Online: www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank

By Mail: Checks payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, 411 Mercy Dr., Orlando, FL 32808

The MG Community is special throughout the world. Thank you for any support that you can give to the Food Bank and to your MG friends who may need help and a kind word.



Will Bowden was not the only cartoonist in club history. Jim Kreckovitch made a career in art and drew many cartoons with MGs to entertain his fellow members.

Here, Jim Kreckovitch plays on Will Bowden always having MG parts in the back of his truck, sharing them with those in need. So, rather than a Will cartoon, we have a cartoon about Will.

