

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

September 2021

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/classicmgclub>



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## Vice President's Thoughts

I am so pleased with how our robust little club continues to thrive and grow. This, despite the challenges thrown at us by 'Rona the Virus, not to mention our usual oppressive summer heat. My thanks to our new members for showing their interest by joining, and special thanks to our members who work so diligently to promote the Classic MG Club.

Soon we'll be welcoming old friends, new members, and the interested public to yet another Gathering of the Faithful, this time at the lovely Mission Inn in quaint Howey-In-The-Hills in Lake County. It will indeed be great to enjoy again what once was an unbroken annual meet-up before 'Rona interrupted us in the spring of 2020.

Meanwhile, everyone get your MG in good order and drive it to our upcoming events before you wash and shine it up for entry and display at the GOF.

See you there!



Patrick Raley



FOUNDED 1963 - ORLANDO



September 2021

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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## **August Meeting Minutes**

*Submitted by Jim McSweeney, Secretary*

Patrick Raley, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Patrick discussed procedure for selecting the new President (selection made by the Board of Directors) which is announced at the Christmas Party.

Dodie Beach, Treasurer, said no expenditures were made this month and we received 6 cents in interest.

Patrick thanked Lonnie Cook for his efforts in increasing membership and keeping the roster up to date.

### **Old Business**

Dodie and Patrick discussed the July Event at Hollerbach's Willow Tree Restaurant and suggested it might become an annual event.

Lonnie spoke about difficulties some members had when booking a room online at the Mission Inn for 2022 GOF. The online system at the Mission is problematic and it is recommended that everyone register by phone. The GOF website has instructions on what information to give the agent to obtain the room discount.

Bob Moore said after further investigation regarding an overnighter in St. Augustine, he will look into Avon Park. Everyone thought Avon Park would be great.

Dodie discussed the Flankey picnic. She spoke with Kerry Flankey and he wants this year to be the best yet.

There was no update on Puddlejumpers. Some other possible meeting locations were suggested and Dodie said she would look into them.

### **New Business**

Jim McSweeney asked for a show of hands for the Black Hammock Event and said he would call the restaurant with a total number of folks meeting there Saturday. Question about getting there in a group came up but it will be everyone arrives on their own.

Kathy and Al Cook discussed the September Event at Fiddler's Green and said the area around the dartboards will be reserved for us.

Kathy reminded everyone that the Safety Harbor Jamboree will be November 19 - 21. You could do that on the 19th or 20th and then the Flankey Picnic on the 21st.

Lonnie announced that Pete Rogers was having a garage sale for T-series parts September 4th and 5th.

Patrick is looking for someone to host the Christmas Party.

Jeff Corenblum announced a visit to the Dezerland Auto Museum on I-Drive, featuring cars of James Bond, on Tuesday, August 24th. He also said the All British Car Show will be in Sanford on April 2nd, same area as last year. He added that the All British Car Club is now meeting again at the Golden Corral in Altamonte Springs.

Patrick adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

# 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

- 9/16 **CMGC Club Meeting** Carrabbas Italian Grill, 5820 Redbug Lake Rd, Winter Springs 32708  
6:30 Tire Kicking, Meeting at 7:00 pm
- 9/18 **Fiddler's Green Lunch & Darts**, Winter Park, Kathy and Al Cook
- 9/23-26 **Brits in the Valley**, Columbus, GA, Peachtree MG Registry  
[Information](#) [Registration](#)



## October

- 10/22-23 **Avon Park Overnighter**
- 10/28-31 **Classic 24 Hours of Daytona**, Daytona International Speedway

## November

- 11/21 **Flankey Picnic/Chili Cook Off**, Clarcona, Kerry Flankey and Dodie Beach
- 11/19-21 **MG Jamboree 22**, Safety Harbor, Florida Suncoast MG Car Club  
<http://www.fsmgccc.com> Ted Badger, marited@verizon.net, 727-295-9669

## December

- TBD **Christmas Party**
- 12/16 **Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights**, Winter Park, Ann and Jeff Plasschaert

## January 2022

- 1/22 **Eaton's Beach**, Weirsdale, Tom Redditt

## February

- 2/5 **Winter Tour Picnic**, Tavares, Lake Idamere, John and Sharon Spadaro
- 2/25-27 SVRA Vintage Races, Date Change**, Sebring International Raceway, Oscar Petree  
Residence Inn Sebring, make reservations through Expedia for cancellable reservations  
To RSVP or obtain more information, contact Oscar at [onpetree@gmail.com](mailto:onpetree@gmail.com)

## March

- 3/3-6 **Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance**, Cars & Coffee 3/5, Show 3/6
- 3/12 **St. Pat's Party and Planning Meeting**, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

## April

- 4/22-24 **GOF South 2022**, Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Scott Buie <https://www.gofsouth.org/>





## Fiddler's Green

Irish Pub & Eatery

544 W. Fairbanks Ave.  
Winter Park, FL

Lunch, Darts, and MG Friends

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning @ Noon

### The Peachtree MG Registry Presents

## Brits in the Valley

September 23 - 26, Columbus, Georgia

Columbus has everything from the Ma Rainey Blues Museum to white water rafting, and on this September weekend, an amazing gathering of British cars. Activities include an all-day, no-getting-lost rallye, car show, rolling tech session, and awards session. The downtown Marriott is headquarters and provides access to many attractions. Click [here](#) for more information and registration.



### October 23<sup>rd</sup> Overnighter



Due to problems encountered with St. Augustine, the venue has been changed to Avon Park, at the Hotel Jacaranda. Room rates are \$69.95, plus 11.5% tax (\$78.00 total). They will hold 12 rooms for us until October 8, at which time they will be released. To make a reservation, call the Hotel at (863) 453-2211 and advise them that you are with the MG Car Club of Orlando. If we need more rooms, they will accommodate our needs if rooms are available. Additional details will be forthcoming in the October newsletter.

### GOF South 2022



April might seem a long way off, but it is time to begin your plans for GOF South. One of your first steps should be to make room reservations at the Mission Inn to ensure that you can stay at the headquarters hotel.

Mission Inn Resort & Club  
1-800-874-9053

Ask for special rate for GOF South, Group # 0321G8

<https://www.gofsouth.org/>





## New Members

### Jose and Tara Fernandez, Orlando.

Newlyweds Jose and Tara Fernandez recently purchased a 1979 MG Midget as a fun weekend car and fixer-upper project. It's always been a dream of Jose to own an MG. When he showed Tara the car, its good looks made it easy for her to fall in love with it, too. The former owner, also an FSU alum like Jose (Tara went to UCF and GWU), decorated the car like their shared alma mater. Jose and Tara continued the theme, naming the MG "Renni" after the FSU mascot horse, Renegade. Jose plans to send Renni to Ceres Motorsports for some upkeep and will slowly be bringing the MG back to its original styling. New to driving a manual vehicle, Jose has been practicing around the neighborhood and is excited to take Renni on longer rides in the near future to upcoming MG Club meetings!



## Ceres Motorsports Cars & Coffee

On Saturday, August 14th, Ceres Motorsports held a Cars & Coffee gathering for British cars. Of course, the majority of the cars in attendance were MGs.

As can be seen on the right, close examination of some of the pristine MGs on display was a major activity at the event. You can learn much for your own restoration project from other cars.

Many thanks to Brian and Jack Collins for inviting everyone to their shop, and for the coffee and donuts. It was a great opportunity to gather with other British car enthusiasts. More Cars & Coffee events are planned for the future.



*Scary* **MG** *Fast!*



# “Roots”

## MGVR Approaches 40!

Greg Prehodka



This article will briefly reflect on the history of “*vintage racing*” and the *MG Vintage Racers* (MGVR), as MGVR will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this November (2021). Like life, vintage car racing had its beginnings and has constantly been changing over the years. What was considered “vintage” in 1959 is very different than what is considered “*vintage today*”! Many of the “older” cars that use to race vintage back in the early years have all but disappeared from the track today – for a variety of reasons! New sports cars that I once owned (*like a 1970 Datsun 240-Z*) are now viewed as vintage! And all MGs are now vintage by default because the last one imported to North America was in 1980! This article reflects on some of those changes over the years and the role MGVR has played in vintage racing.

I have had MGs since 1967 and have been vintage racing my MGTD since 1977 (*yep – I’m vintage too!*). In 1981, I founded the **MG Vintage Racers Newsletter** and was its editor until 1995. I’ve seen the changes and have so many memories from all those years and events! I’ve raced across the country, the Bahamas, England, and Canada. I could write a book about my adventures! The cars, the events, the organizations, the places, the travels, the drivers! Even my daughter Rachel raced my MGTD for several years! So where did “*Vintage Car Racing*” originate? The answer might surprise you!



As the saying goes “*The first car race probably began when the second car was built*”. Yes, soon after cars were built races and trials soon followed! With time car cultures and car clubs evolved. Then at some point, certain folks wanted to use their older “vintage cars” with events just for them. The *Vintage Sports Car Club of England* (VSCC) was established in 1934 to promote the sport and pastime of motoring for cars built years earlier. They formed their club in October 1934, to keep machinery of the past active by only accepting cars that





were five years old - or older. Rule two of the newly formed club stated that ***“The object of the Club shall be to provide competitive events for cars five years old, or older, and have social events for its members.”*** They are still an active organization in England, conducting vintage car races. ([www.vsc.co.uk](http://www.vsc.co.uk)) Now to the states! By 1959 sports car racing in the US had become more competitive, and not everyone wanted to be that competitive, or wanted to buy the latest, hottest sports cars. So in 1959 a group of “*vintage car enthusiasts*” founded the ***Vintage Sports Car Club of America (VSCCA)*** creating a club in which they could drive their older cars in spirited events, while sharing in the love of their wonderful steeds. Its president Bill O’Donnell laid out the club’s philosophy: ***“The primary purpose of the VSCCA, as set forth by its founders in the by-laws, ... is to encourage the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of vintage sports cars. Clearly, the emphasis is on the cars – not on the competition, and not on the drivers. We give no trophies to the winners...”*** It was more of a “club” than a “racing organization”.



1976, Savannah, Georgia. Start of the New England MG T Register "Bicentennial Rally of the Colonial Capitals. MY TD before I converted it to a race car. Painted it red, white, and blue for the bicentennial.

To join you needed two letters of recommendation from its *members (to ensure you had the right “attitude”)*, and only “***approved cars***” were allowed to compete. In their early events, many of the participating vintage cars were “***driven to and from the events***”! No tractor-trailers in the pits! No race crews! They were the only vintage racing game in town for several years. Their events were very low-key, with minimum rules. Club socials complimented many racing events. It was “***gentleman’s racing***”. Often their race events had only two race groups – if any:

***Fast cars, and not so fast cars***

– regardless of the car types - which made for some most interesting fields on the track! And sometimes an “*all comers handicap race*” at the end of the day for those still having gas left! Plus they often included “*handicapped races*”, which we don’t see anymore. I recall having great races back then at Lime Rock Park, in my MGTD against Fred Willits’ Bugatti! A turnout of 25 to 40 cars was normal – not like the hundreds we often see at races today! The people who worked the flagging stations around the track often were “***volunteers***” from the racer’s crews – sometimes with little or no flagging experience! It was a different time! I participated in some of their events back then and even served as an event chairman for a few races.



1977, Lime Rock Park, CT. My first vintage race. A six-hour endurance race for T Types. Me & my crew

**Growth of Vintage Racing:** Then in the late 70s - and 80s in particular - the sport of vintage car racing began to blossom as other vintage racing clubs and organizations sprang up - SVRA, VSCDA, VARAC, HSR, CVAR, VARA, etc - as well as special vintage racing events like the Lime Rock Historics, the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, and the Monterey Historic Races.

Now back to the 1970s for a moment. The MGTD was NOT even an eligible race car with the VSCCA back then! So when the New England MG 'T' register announced their own MG 'T' races at Lime Rock Park for 1977, I entered my MGTD in it. I had never raced before! A simpler time! Requirements: only a seat belt, a helmet, and \$35! It was a six-hour endurance race! I took my stock MGTD and modified it to a vintage race car of the 1953 time period, with cycle fenders. It got me hooked, and I have been vintage racing that same MG ever since in well over 100 racing events, along with many modifications over the years!

### **MG Vintage Racers Newsletter Founded**

In my first few years of vintage racing, there were few MGs racing. I met different MG racers at various events around the country. So as a way to connect us together, I proposed an "***MG Vintage Racers Newsletter***" in 1981 to all the MG racers I could locate in the US and Canada. Response was very positive! I composed the first MGVR Newsletter and mailed it out to 40 MG racers that December (*almost 40 years ago!*). Its purpose and philosophy was simple, - and it continues to today. "***A grassroots newsletter, independent of any racing organization and without advertising.***" In that first issue, I laid out my philosophy: "***There is***





*a need for a tie between MG vintage racers that existing clubs do not fulfill. I hope that this newsletter will serve that purpose. This newsletter's format is low keyed and hopefully, it will create a close camaraderie between its members. ... We are a small group and everyone will be expected to contribute at one time or another.*" That first MGVR newsletter included a feature article by Tony Roth on SVRA's "*Atlanta Vintage Grand Prix*". It featured the "*MG Safety Fast Championship Races*" where 24 MGs – mostly MG 'T' types (including mine) – raced. The newsletter's initial goal was just to make it to "Issue # 2"! Ha! No long-term plan or vision! Would it even survive? In 1981 no one foresaw the future growth and changes ahead for vintage racing. The newsletter took root and began to grow and influence vintage racing events. "Strength in numbers" to some extent I guess. The newsletter tied MG racers together and fostered MG racing camaraderie and attitude.



In 1982 I met Stirling Moss at the VARAC races at Shannonville in Ontario, Canada. Later I sent him a copy of the MGVR newsletter. He graciously replied in a personal letter to me: *"Thanks very much ... for your MGVR newsletter. I congratulate the club on having such a good newsletter ... It is true to say that the fastest I have ever been on four wheels was thanks to an MG at Utah when I achieved something 240 mph. When I was sixteen, my dad purchased a 1940 MGTB coupe. ... I was able to use it for some of my "important dates". I do hope that MG enthusiasts will continue to "Maintain the Breed ..."*

(to be continued next month)

This article first appeared in the MGVR Newsletter, Dave Nicholas editor







## A Postcard from Karel and A Greeting Card from Reinout

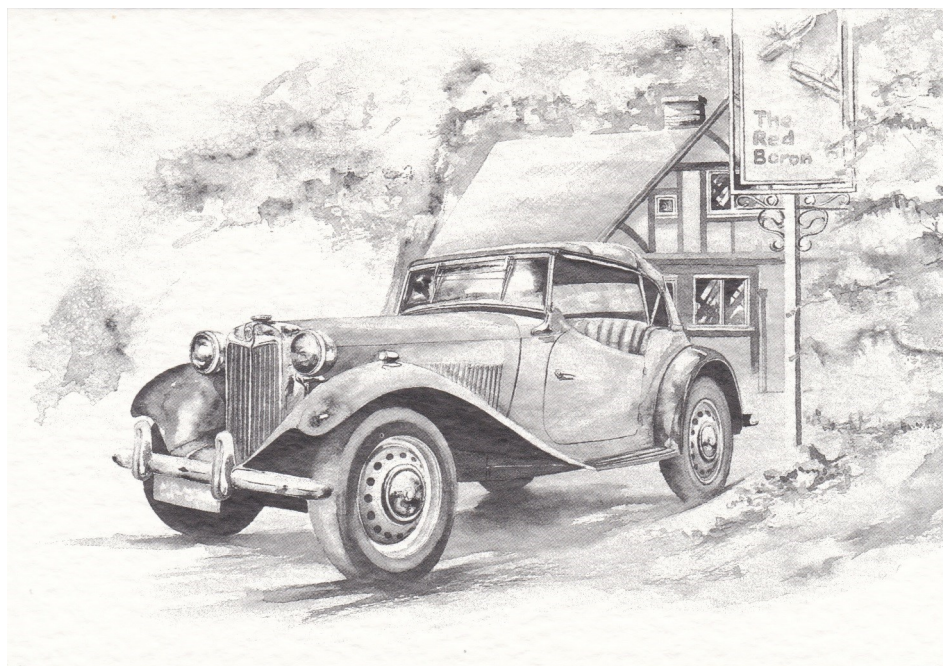
*Reinout Vogt*

This card, with a lovely collection of 50 and 60's cars in front of the Province Court, is from the Market Place in Bruges, Belgium. There is an MG TD in the front and some of my Dutch MG friends even think that they can spot an MGA on the right, behind the two walking people and in front of the bus.

Although many of the buildings on the square are very old, this one is quite new. The original building on this spot dated back to 1294 but was demolished in 1787 and replaced by



a new, neoclassicist, building to house the government and court of the Province of West Flanders. However, it burned down in 1878. It took nine more years before a replacement building, in neogothic style this time, was started. Some parts weren't finished until 1920



'Cheers' as the card with this beautiful TD, from an unknown artist, in front of the Red Baron pub is entitled. It came in a matching envelope and was published by Merely Motoring in Salisbury, England.



# MG Marketplace

**T-Series Parts for Sale or Trade** - 1. Valve cover and original oil cap for I believe a TD as it has a breather pipe on the driver's side, probably for the top mounted air cleaner. Valve gap badge states .019, but will fit a TF. 2. Steering wheel Boss for a TC and Moto-Lita wheel. 3. Wiper motor for a later MG but same internal works. 4. Various badges. Contact Brian Cunnison, [hot1929rod@yahoo.com](mailto:hot1929rod@yahoo.com)



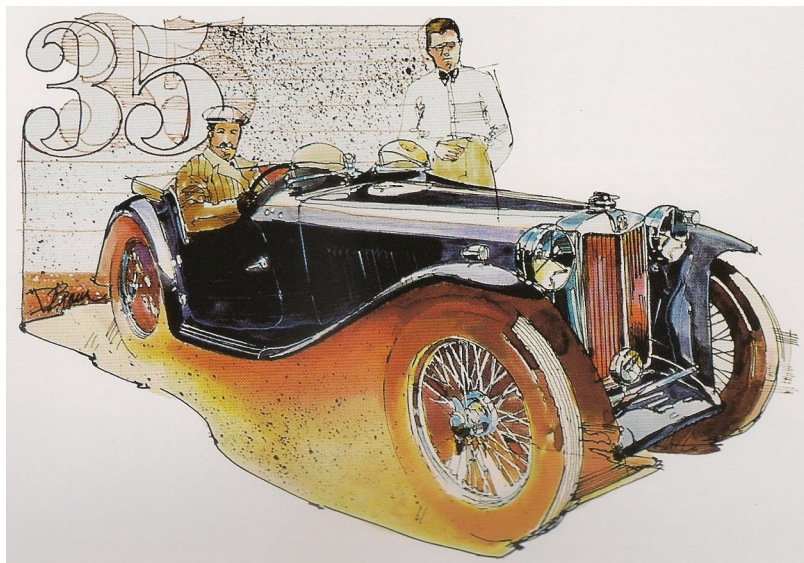
**Wanted to Buy** - Looking for a nice MGB. Had a '67 in High School, David Snyder, 561-706-7696

**Wanted to Buy** - MGB 5 Main Block; all we need is a rebuildable bare block with caps, but will consider any combination, including an entire parts car. Will pick up. George Pardee 727-709-2881

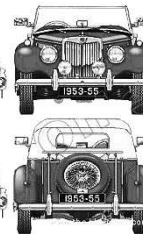
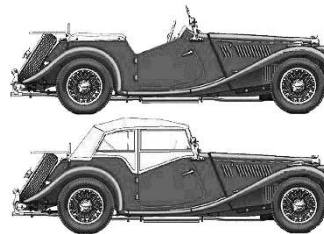
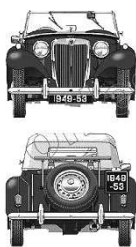
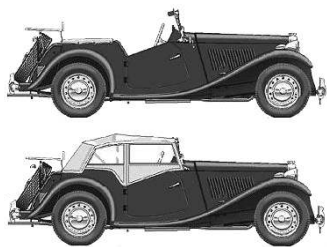
**Wanted to Buy** - Crankshaft for XPAG/XPEG (TC, TD, TF) engine. Jerry Kroeger, 407-616-2122, [82SCTarga@gmail.com](mailto:82SCTarga@gmail.com)

Adverts are free. Send information to [editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com).

Contact the editor each month to keep your ad current.







## **T-SERIES “GARAGE SALE”**

**SEPT 4 and SEPT 5**

**9:00AM – 3:00PM**

**31104 FAIRVISTA DR.  
TAVARES, FL 32778**

**Preview: 10:00 – 2:00, August 20, 21, 28, 29**

**Vast inventory of MG parts by Peter Rogers  
MG expert and award-winning MG restorer**

**Hundreds of hard-to-find MG T-series parts including ...**

Wheels  
Body Panels  
Engine Stand  
Fasteners  
Electrics

Engine Parts  
Bench Drill Press  
Drive Train  
Tools  
Brakes

Specialty Parts  
Interior  
Engine Hoist  
Bench Bandsaw  
Fuel Parts

*If you don't see it, just ask.*

Second Harvest Food Bank is the official charity of the Classic MG Club. Many people in Central Florida go to bed hungry every night. In the U.S., 50 million people are food insecure - one in four children. As a club, and as individuals, we can make a major difference in our neighbors' lives.

**Second Harvest**  
FOOD BANK  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
**FeedHopeNow.org**



*fighting hunger. feeding hope.*

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](http://www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank)

By Mail: Checks payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of Ctrl FL, 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.

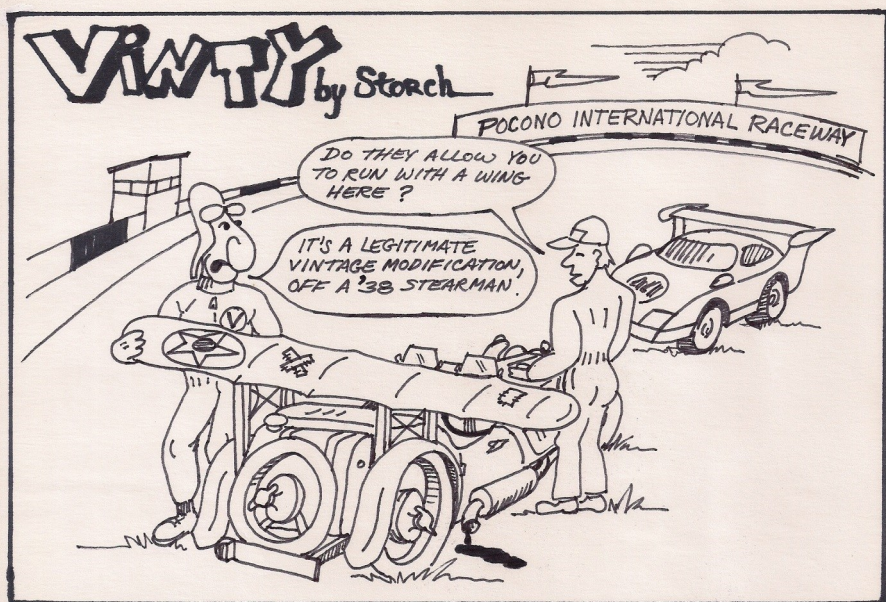
The Classic MG Club  
of Orlando  
is an affiliate chapter  
and active supporter of:



**NAMGAR**  
North American MGA Register



North American MGB Register



We began the ending note with cartoons, one's from founder Will Bowden,

This month, we return to a cartoon, one by Storch, drawn for the MG racers who are members of the MG Vintage Racers organization. It first appeared in their newsletter.

Thanks to Greg Prehodka for sharing a bit of MG humor with us.

