

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Club Leadership

President

Mike McCormick
trouble150@gmail.com

Vice President

Patrick Raley
praley@infantinoberman.com

Secretary

Jim McSweeney
jimspeedmaster@aol.com

Treasurer

Dodie Beach
mg_enthusiast@aol.com

Editor

Glen Moore
editor.cmgc@gmail.com

Webmasters

Dodie Beach
Lonnie Cook
webmaster@classicmgclub.com

Website

www.classicmgclub.com

Facebook

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



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President's Thoughts

To all you drivers and riders of quirky but beautiful MGs, Happy Holidays! December has been an improvement over the last several months because we finally got a road tour on December 17th with the *Paul Plasschaert Memorial Holiday Lights Tour*. Paul and Ann mapped out a tour 5 years ago, ending at different restaurants over the years. Covid discouraged dining this year, and somehow we managed to pick one of the coldest nights of the year, but Ann and son Jeff Plasschaert kicked off the show with delicious hot cider and cookies at the start line---just the ticket.



We wandered through Maitland and Winter Park, 12 hardy MGs with 22 souls, starting off with lots of traditional-style lights as we covered the Dommerich area. Then we crossed into Winter Park. Here you could see what all the out-of-work Disney set designers are doing for spare change. The houses are spectacular. Each street you turned onto seemed to outdo the one before.

As we turned onto Greentree Drive, we found the Show Stopper....a beautiful estate home with a 300-year-old camphor tree, each massive limb strung with lights. Everyone stopped and jumped out. The homeowner was out in the driveway explaining the history of the tree and the care that has been taken to protect it, from bringing in arborists to removing sections of the house to allow the tree to survive. The owner greeted MG members by telling them how much the tree enjoyed having them visit each year.

The Holiday Tour of Lights has truly evolved into an annual tradition, and with Paul's name attached to it, will surely continue to flourish and delight.

Safety Fast,

Mike McCormick



January 2021

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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Paul Plasschaert
Memorial
Holiday Lights
Tour

Robin Messina Photos



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

A Club meeting was not held in December



Our Next Monthly CMGC Zoom Meeting Is

Thursday, January 17th, 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



**An MG puts even the biggest
Scrooge in the holiday spirit!**



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!

January

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

February

Multiple Drives under consideration

March

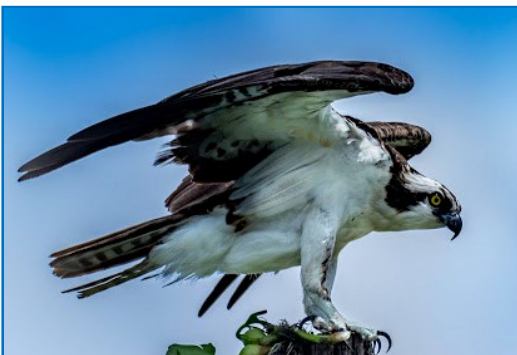
3/4-7 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 3/6, Concours Show 3/7

3/20 St. Patrick's Day Planning Meeting, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

April

4/10 36th Annual All British Car Show, Winter Springs, Central Florida British Car Club
More information and registration, [click here](#)

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



Apopka Audio Wildlife Tour

Our day on Jan 23rd will begin at 9 am with coffee and doughnuts at Pavilion #3 in Magnolia Park, 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka 32703. We have this pavilion reserved from 8:30am - 4:00pm, so if you would like to return after the drive, it will be available.

At 10 am we will depart the park and drive 5 minutes to the beginning of the fabulous Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive at 2850 Lust Road, Apopka 32703. The drive is 11 miles long and ends at Jones Rd. in Apopka. The drive can take an hour or much more, depending on how many overlooks you stop at. General information about the St. Johns River Wildlife Management District, a map of the drive and a link to the Audio Tour are available at <http://www.sjrwm.com/LANS>.

Please RSVP your attendance to Carol McCormick 407-257-1953 or cmcarol17@gmail.com.



Classic MGs are in the News

Glen Moore

The interest in classic MGs continues to find its way into print in multiple publications. Two additional stories are shared on this page, through the attached links.

MGTC Spawns the Corvette

The MGTC created the desire for sports cars in the U.S. during the post-war period. There are many ways in which the TC brought attention to the benefits of light, quick handling cars. One of the most famous is the first Watkins Glen Grand Prix in 1948. MGTCs finished in 8 of the top 10 positions.

The famed General Motors' stylist Harley Earl attended the 1951 Watkins Glen Grand Prix and was impressed with the MGs and the enthusiasm for sports cars. It was the seed that encouraged him to pitch the idea of an American-built sports car to the GM management.



National Corvette Museum photo

In 1953, the new Chevrolet Corvette, a radical concept at the time, debuted. It was America's answer to the MG. However, even with all the dramatic publicity for the Corvette, the public loved MGs more. In 1953, 6510 MGTDs were built. Only 300 Corvettes made their way to the sales floor. The story of the MGTC inspiration for the Corvette appeared in the *National Corvette Museum Newsletter*, which you can read by [clicking here](#).

Arnolt-MG

John Webber and *Classic Motorsports Magazine* brings us another story of MG history.

Stanley "Wacky" Arnolt was a Chicago automotive entrepreneur who sold multiple marques of automobiles and built some of his own. One was based on the MG of the day, MGTD. He commissioned the building of bodies, a coupe and a roadster, from Italian automotive designer, Bertone, attaching them to bare MGTD chassis purchased from MG. The result was a much different looking car.

John's article focuses on the red Arnolt coupe pictured at right. It is a rare example of the very rare car. It resides in Florida after the current owner, a British car enthusiast, received a tip from a friend of its existence. Read the *Classic Motorsports* article by [clicking here](#).



John Webber, Classic Motorsports photo



Preserving History and Culture

Glen Moore

Culture varies over time and among different groups of people. It is always changing, sometimes in ways that have effects of taking away things that were once cherished and enjoyed.

While reading the **Hagerty Drivers Club** magazine recently, I found two authors who were outstanding in selecting words to describe the changing culture in automobiles. I will lean on their words to accurately describe this phenomenon more eloquently than I might.

“Your future is electrified push-button slot cars in which anyone with a pulse can go warp speed, protected by software that makes everyone seem competent to do so.

“And, with that, a glorious chapter in our automotive story will be over. It is sad, but the evolution is inevitable. Certain art forms have simply run their course. Orchestral music enjoyed a few centuries of rabid popularity at the pointy tip of the cultural spear before sputtering largely to idle sometime in the mid-20th century. It was replaced by jazz, which was replaced by rock, which was replaced by pop, which was replaced by noise. As one art form stalls, the culture moves on, leaving some of its greatest masters dumped in pauper’s graves.

“Think of yourself as a deputized, badge-wearing preserver of culture. By fixing up your old car, you’re like a saxophonist who blows a few hours a day so people can still hear Charlie Parker the way the Yardbird was meant to be heard.”
(Aaron Robinson)

McKeel Hagerty wrote about his philosophy of life and of being a parent by describing his process of teaching one of his daughters how to drive a manual transmission in his ’32 Ford hot rod.

“I’ve come to believe that life is about adding tools (read: skills) in your toolbox, both mental and physical.



“This summer’s project was driving a manual. My middle daughter, Sophia, learned to drive an automatic last year, but as a member of a car family, she understands that driving a modern automatic car isn’t a full driving experience. Real driving is about feeling like you and the car are one. It’s about mastery of a mechanical object. And freedom. And being in control. And tight corners. And long straightaways. And a whole bunch of other things as well.”
(McKeel Hagerty)

Maintaining and driving your MG is more than a hobby. It is the preservation of history. It is preserving a slice of culture. It is sharing that beautiful piece of music that is no longer played on the radio. It is about becoming one with a purposeful piece of machinery. It is finding joy in traveling the less-traveled roads. It is sharing culture with others who are unknowledgeable.

So, head out to the garage. Grab a few wrenches or that can of wax and make your MG a sweet-running, gleaming representative of a glorious culture. Share the history by taking it on a drive while watching people give you the “thumbs-up.”

(Aaron Robinson’s and McKeel Hagerty’s articles appeared in the September/October issue of **Hagerty Drivers Club** magazine. Used in this article with permission.)



MG Marketplace

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.



Wire Wheels - A set of four (4) 60-spoke 15" painted wire wheels are offered by Pete Rogers. Like new. \$850. Contact Pete at the above email/phone number.

1977 MGB



Excellent condition with only 59,000 actual miles. New tires & battery. Original sticker & journal of all service & repairs. Call John @ 352-406-2228 or email jeddmd@aol.com

Adverts are free. Send information to
editor.cmgc@gmail.com.

Contact the editor each month
To keep your ad current.



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 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 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



Hello Glen,

Not a back end picture, but the front end of my 1938 MG SA Tickford, taken a few years ago, decorated for the Christmas Season. With all that's been going on this year, maybe this would be a good picture for the January Octagon back page.

Ben Gilbert (49 TC; 52 TD; 38 SA)
Miami, FL
CMGC Member since 1965

Ben, we agree. The front of your MG SA will lead the club members into the new year. It is time to look forward. Thanks for sharing your rare and beautiful car with us. (Ed.)

