

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

April 2023

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Issue 714



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## Club Leadership

### President

Jim McSweeney  
jimspeedmaster@aol.com

### Vice President

Mike McCormick  
trouble150@gmail.com

### Secretary

Tom Redditt  
tredditt@mac.com

### Treasurer

Dodie Beach  
mg\_enthusiast@aol.com

### Editor

Glen Moore  
editor.cmgc@gmail.com

### Registrar

Lonnie Cook  
lonniecook@aol.com

### GOF South 2024 Chair

Scott Buie  
gofsouth2022@gmail.com

### Webmaster

Scott Buie  
s.buie@aol.com

### Website

[www.classicmgclub.com](http://www.classicmgclub.com)

### Facebook

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

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## President's Thoughts

We had another great St. Patrick's Day Party and Planning Meeting. Thanks again to Al and Kathy Cook. We now have a monthly schedule of club events for next year. There will be some adjustments as events get finalized.

Since the Cooks have moved from Orlando to Lithia, it has become harder for folks to attend these planning parties. Mike and Carol McCormick have volunteered to host next year's St. Patrick's Day Party and Planning Meeting at their home in Apopka. We hope to see folks next year at our event planning meeting that we have not seen in Lithia, as it will be a much shorter drive for most of us.

In April, the premier MG event, GOF South Mk 57, will be held in Gainesville. There are only two clubs organizing the GOF South now, our club and the Jacksonville MG club. To keep the GOF going our two clubs must support each other. As Scott reported at the last meeting, inexpensive rooms are still available in Gainesville. This week, I encourage us all, who have not yet registered to please do so. Show your support for GOF. It would be terrible to lose this great event!

The GOF South will take the place of our club meeting and club event in April.

The May club event will be a boat ride in Winter Park. The Tidwells will be organizing this event.



Jim McSweeney



# The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Nauti Lobstah, Apopka

March 16, 2023



## March Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Tom Redditt*

*Call to order:* The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

*Treasurer's report:* Dodie Beach advised we have a surplus of funds in the bank account.

*New member introductions:* **Keith and Tracy Wagner** from Louisville, Ky. They own a 1979 MGB limited edition.

### Old Business:

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Outing to Nehrling Gardens** - The event was reported as a huge success with many members attending. The tour guide was very knowledgeable and informative and joined us for lunch at the Yellow Dog Café nearby. It was suggested that a return visit next year for a different type of tour be considered.

**March 18<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day Planning Party** – This will be held at Kathy Cook's home at 5910 Esker Falls Lane, Lithia, FL 33547. Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Mark Tidwell will lead a group on the backroads there. Meetup will be at the Racetrack Gas Station, 3201 S Hwy 27, Clermont, FL. Group Leaves at 10:30 am.

### New Business:

**GOF South 2023 - Gainesville** Scott Buie presented a report:

Registrations from CMGC members extremely low

We had over 40 Jacksonville club members attend GOF 2022

Currently, only 17 CMGC registrations for GOF 2023

CMGC had 77 members in attendance at GOF 2022!!!!

GOF 2023 should be a fantastic show, and is a great price

Rooms are inexpensive AND THERE IS AVAILABILITY!!! But hurry, as the reserved block of rooms is running low!

GOF 2022 was hosted by CMGC, but was part of the GOF South Family, not just a CMGC event

I think we owe it to the Jacksonville Club, and to the concept of GOF South to attend GOF 2023 in Gainesville

I know that I am looking forward to it

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

**NAMGAR** – The Florida NAMGAR Regional GT will be held in conjunction with the GOF South 2023 in Gainesville, FL, April 20-23. The activities begin with a "Meet and Greet" on Thursday evening at Crafty Bastards, a craft beer emporium with a great pub food menu, including some British favorites. On Friday morning, there will be a seminar on solving carb issues presented by the technical director of NAMGAR, Bruce Woodson. At noon on Friday, there will be a group drive to Fanning Springs and lunch at The Lighthouse Restaurant.

Also, the NAMGAR GT48 will be held in the Blues City, Memphis, TN, June 12-16, 2023.

<https://namgar.com/gt-48/>



**GOF South 2024** - Scott Buie presented an update on the search for a facility

GOF South 2022 Mission Inn

Three days lodging plus meals and events totaled approximately \$590

Even at that, there was some pushback from attendees on costs and quality of food

Mission Inn 2024

Meals more expensive (over \$75 for banquet dinner, buffet!!!)

Rooms more expensive - \$360/night vs \$165 in 2022

Will not wave resort fee

Three days lodging plus meals and events approximately \$1200!

Food and Beverage guarantee for CMGC of \$27,000 - The club can not take on that liability

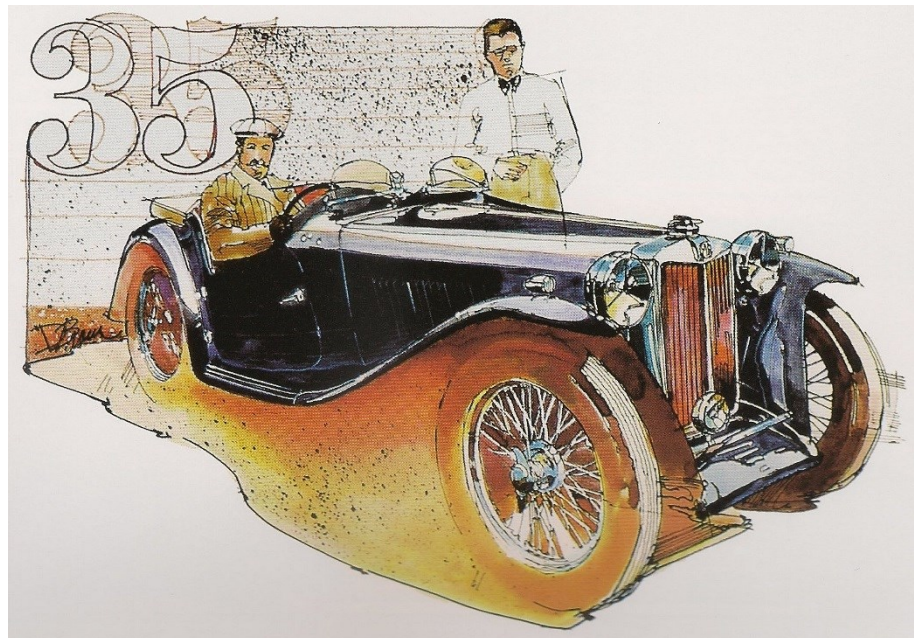
Discussions are ongoing with three locations that have hosted many car shows, and have banquet, car show, and quality lodging facilities

**Kerry Flankey** advised that he has sold his property and has a garage full of different **MG parts** he is giving away to anyone who wants to come and get them as he has to vacate the property soon. He will make them available on Saturday, April 15, and Sunday, April 16, beginning at 10 am – no early birds. Questions, call Kerry at 407-860-7268.

**Pete Rogers** also advised that he too has a supply of many **MG “T” parts** that he is willing to also give away. If interested, please contact Pete at 352-343-1855.

**Mike McCormick** suggested that we initiate some **MG tech sessions** in the future to help members work on their own cars. Various venues for this were discussed. Mike and Mark Tidwell said they would look into the feasibility of scheduling some of these this summer and let everyone know.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



## New Members

**Keith and Tracey Waggoner, DeLand, 1979 MGB LE**  
I was in the Marines in Hawaii in the mid-70s early 80s and saw my first MGA. Love at first sight. Ended up buying 4 in that time span - parted out one, sold two, and brought one back to the US. Had to say goodbye to it in the early 90s. Almost 30 years later a friend was wanting to buy a Healey and needed to sell his 79 MGB LE. So here I am! The car is in storage in KY. I'm upgrading a few things including an overdrive to prepare for its road trip to Florida this spring.



# MG 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Glen Moore

Over the past few years, there have been a lot of discussions on when the first MG was produced and in what year the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary should be observed. Many opinions among MG historians have been published.

The best article to document the correct date (in my opinion), *2023 – The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MG Sports Cars*, was written by Chris Keevill, the editor of the Early MG Society newsletter. He wrote the article specifically for The Octagon, appearing in the August 2020 issue. His article has been reprinted in other newsletters and magazines around the world. You can read the article by visiting the newsletter archive on the CMGC website by clicking [here](#).

## The 2023 Centenary Celebrations.



*Old Number One at Land' End Trial*

The year in which to celebrate the anniversary of MG sports cars has varied over the years. What many had assumed was the first MG, Old Number One, was built in 1924 and gained fame by earning a gold medal in the 1925 Land's End Trial. The current builder of MG cars, a Chinese company, has an MG logo with the 1924 date. The Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival has honored MG each decade based on the 1924 date – 1994, 2004, and 2014. 1924 has been used as the date celebrated as the anniversary by many.



registered as a trademark.

In 1928, the MG Car Company, Ltd. was formed and the MG Octagon was



In 1979, the MG Car Company held a huge celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in Abingdon, England. People came from around the world to participate. It was 50 years since the MG Car Company production plant was opened in 1929.

It is possible that MG enthusiasts can be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for many years in this decade. But, there has to be one agreed-upon date. Three authorities have declared the date of the first MG to be 1923.





The aforementioned article written by Chris Keevill was well-researched and documented. As editor of the Early MG Society newsletter, he has many resources of early documentation on MG cars. He used multiple documents to prove that the first MG was sold on June 1, 1923



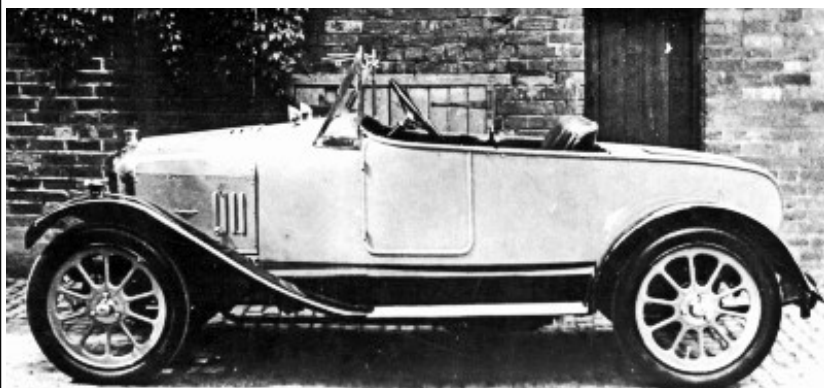
MG Car Club, UK, the first MG club, originally operated as a part of the MG Car Company, has stated that the MG Centenary should be celebrated from June 2023 through June 2024.



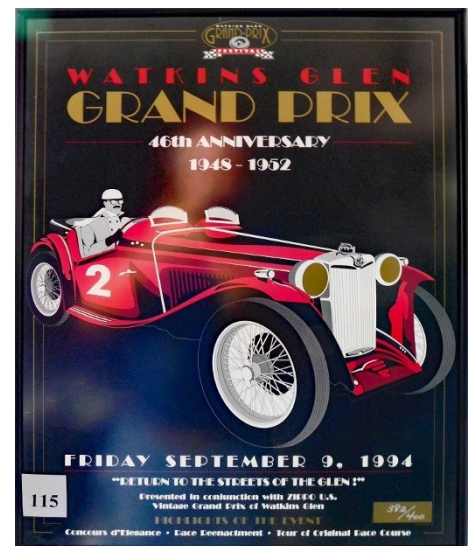
The foremost authority is Cecil Kimber. Kimber was the manager for Morris Garage who enjoyed high-performing cars and moved Morris Garage into producing the sports cars he called "MG". MG is Cecil Kimber. Cecil Kimber is MG. His words on when the first MG was produced were penned and published in the April 1938 issue of The Sports Car, the magazine of the MG Car Club, when it was housed in and produced by the MG Car Company. In the brief article, he states that sales of MG cars began in 1923.

That article is published on the next page. It was only found last month. The archivist of the Early MG Society found a reference to Cecil Kimber's writings on the subject. Another member of the EMGS went through his collec-

tion of various MG magazines and publications before finding this article. Again, we must thank Chris Keevill for sharing a copy of the April 1938 magazine article with us.



The first MG, advertised as an MG Super Sport Morris, with a 2-seat body by Raworth & Sons, sold in 1923.  
Photo provided by Chris Keevill, Early MG Society





## CECIL KIMBER ON INDIVIDUALITY

When I first started producing the M.G. car I did it because I thought other folk would share my desire to own something distinctive.

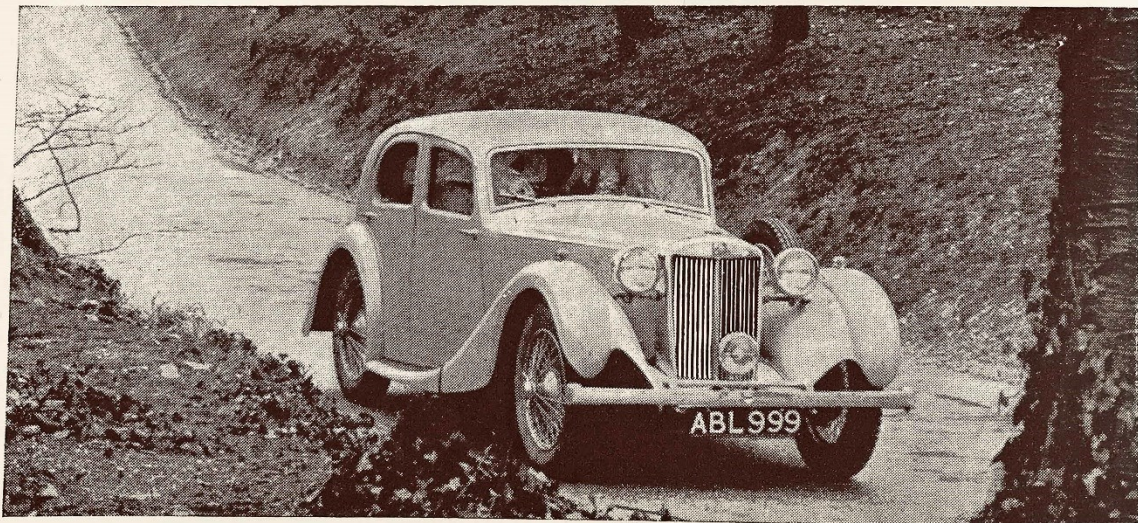
A car a little different and a little better in appearance and in performance.

That I was right in appealing

to that individualistic trait that is inherent in every Briton is proved by the ever increasing sales since 1923.

Try one some time and you'll see what I mean.

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF M.G. CARS



"BRITISH CARS ARE BETTER BUILT—BRITISH CARS LAST LONGER"

M.G. Midget Series T £222 • M.G. 1½-Litre from £280 • M.G. Two-Litre from £389 • Prices ex works. Dunlop, Triplex  
 THE M.G. CAR COMPANY LIMITED • ABINGDON-ON-THAMES • BERKSHIRE • SOLE EXPORTERS—M.I.E. LIMITED • COWLEY • OXFORD • ENGLAND  
 2.B.

## Our Stories

### STILL ON THE ROAD

Vincent Mendes

My mentor all through school was a neat “old” guy who was an actual “Rocket Scientist” before it was fashionable. He was Chief Chemist the Naval Air Rocket Testing Station at Lake Denmark NJ. His mid-life crisis in 1955 caused him to buy a new MG TF 1500 which he drove around for the next 30 years. When he passed away, he left me the car in his will!

Doc’s next of kin was his live-in girlfriend of 25 years, a useless creature and stubbornly absolutely helpless. She couldn’t drive because she was “Only a woman”. She couldn’t change a fuse because she was “Only a woman”. She couldn’t even change a lightbulb because she was “Only a woman”! Yet she kept my friend Doc happy for 25 years.

She was a total basket case when he died. I had to handle all the arrangements. Now Doc was very blasé about death. Once he turned 50 and people started contacting him about “mausoleum space” and “perpetual care”. He would say, “If you leave a body alone long enough the board of health will do something about it”. He had arranged to get a “Smoke Job in a cardboard box” and have the ashes put in a tin can all for \$160.00. I was at the mortuary picking up the death certificate to probate the Will when UPS showed up with the ashes. The director asked what I wanted to do with them, so I took them with me. This was really a sad time for me because I realized that he was truly gone. When I got back to the girlfriend’s house I said “Carla, about the ashes”. She responded “Not another word! I do not want to hear it! I can’t stand it!” so I put the ashes, still in their tin can, in the MG. They are still there, although I’ve painted the can Tartan Red to match the car and applied a New England MGT registry sticker to it.

Since the late 1980’s I have taken the MG to many rallies and car shows with the local British Car Clubs. People are bragging that they have the original manual or the original tool kit. Well, I have the original own-



*Doc on the bonnet of his MG*



*Doc and Vincent*

er! I still have my dear friend’s remains in the boot of his old MG. People ask why I don’t put him in a mausoleum or sprinkle him in the ocean. I could do that, but this is classier. I feel he is still doing what he loved to do all his life, riding around in his MG!

Meanwhile, if we are ever riding around on a dark night and someone taps you on the shoulder, don’t turn around!

Peachtree Registry 2022

Reprinted from The Peachtree Registry newsletter, Madell Dobrushin, Editor







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

*Reinout Vogt*

A postcard from Leicester just East of Birmingham in the East Midlands District in England. The MG parked along the road is a VA. (Hopefully a real VA this time, see the Greetings Card from Reinout)

The double-decker street cars are from the Leicester Corporation Tramways, which ran in the city from 1901 to 1949.



These cards are published in several newsletters. Last Month, *The Octagon* of the Classic MG Club of Orlando, was the first to be published. Only a few hours after my copy landed in my inbox, I received a forwarded email from George Pardee from Florida, noticing that I had mislabeled the red MG. It is a VA Tourer and not a YT. Of course, George, a Y-Type restorer and owner himself, was correct and we exchanged a few emails about the cars and their enthusiastic, dedicated, and loyal group of fans/owners. There's no real need to include them here, but I'd like to share one really nice quote from George: "I sometimes think that most MGs

secretly wish to be Y-types!" There you go . . . and thanks George for spotting the error.



So, here is (I hope) a real VA for this Month's greetings card, and coincidentally it follows Karel's postcard too. This romantic card, in Black & White, is titled "The Way We Were" by Andre Jewell and was published by Athena International. I am not sure to how many of you that title applies? We received the card from our very good (late) friend Nea for a wedding anniversary, many years ago, but it is not at all the way we were.



# MG in Advertising



**The performance stop**  
**What is it?**

**It's where Bob Bramerel takes his car.  
Bob Bramerel?**

Bob's a businessman—and a weekend race driver. His only preparations are a tune-up, a little tape, and a check in at The Performance Stop—the Phillips 66 station.

That's where he fills up with Phillips Flite-Fuel, the performance gasoline, and Trop-Artic<sup>®</sup> Motor Oil, with its exclusive detergent additive. They keep his engine running clean—and give him all the power he needs.

Keep your engine running clean with Flite-Fuel and Trop-Artic. You can get them now at The Performance Stop—the Phillips 66 station near you.



**At Phillips 66  
it's performance  
that counts.**

Another ad from the collection of Jeff Powell from Melrose Park, IL who also writes the captions:

This 1970 MGB is completely stock with the exception of a flimsy rollbar and duct tape numbers on the door. The only form of racing with that sort of preparation would be autocross. Why then, is Bob wearing Nomex for a parking lot event and why is he driving around with his helmet handy? (He needs to get a license plate on the car before he gets pulled over!)

Contributed by: *Reinout Vogt*



# MG Calendar of Events

## April

- 4/01 **“April Fools Day” Multi-Marque Show**, Sanford,  
British Car Club of Central Florida  
[Click here for information and registration](#)

**No club meeting**, attend GOF South



- 4/20-23 **GOF South Mk 57**, Gainesville, Best Western Gateway Grand  
For more details, check out <https://www.gofsouth.org/>



Best Western Gateway Grand, Gainesville  
Site of GOF 2023 - 4/20-23/23

## May

- 5/18 **Club Meeting** at Nauti Lobster, 311 S. Forest Ave, Apopka  
6:30pm for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm
- 5/20 **Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour** 312 E. Morse Blvd, Winter Park 32789  
followed by lunch at a local restaurant Mark and Ellen Tidwell
- 5/27 **MG Centenary** <https://www.mgcentenary.co.uk/>  
Gaydon, England

## 2023

- 6/12-16 **NAMGAR GT 48**, Memphis, TN, Memphis Hilton, [info](#), [registration](#)
- 6/20-23 **GOF Central**, South Bend, IN, Embassy Suites, [GOF2023.com](https://www.gof2023.com)
- 9/1-4 **MG 100th Anniversary Festival and Race**  
Lime Rock Park, CT [More Information](#)





# Join Us at GOF-South 2023 & NAMGAR Regional April 20 Through April 23, 2023

GOF-South 2023 welcomes all MG cars from the Marque's conception to the end of production in the Abingdon Works.

We have Teamed with NAMGAR to include a NAMGAR Regional Element to the Program.



The Program Includes:

- > Two Judged Car Shows (First Timers and All Comer's Show)
- > Technical and Informational Seminars
- > Self Guided and Group Drives to Interesting Local Destinations
- > Reception and 'Meet & Greet' Buffet
- > Awards Banquet
- > Event Regalia
- > Door Prizes, Raffles, and Silent Auction

**Event Host Hotel:** The Best Western Gateway Grand Hotel and Spa, Gainesville, Florida Special Event Rates Available

Arrive Early, Stay Late and Make it an Excuse for a Spring Vacation in Sunny Florida



Your Host: MG Classics of Jacksonville, Florida

For More Information 'Go To':

<https://www.gofsouth.org>



This is a Rain or Shine Event



April 2023

Classic MG Club of Orlando

12



1923 2023  
**CENTENARY**

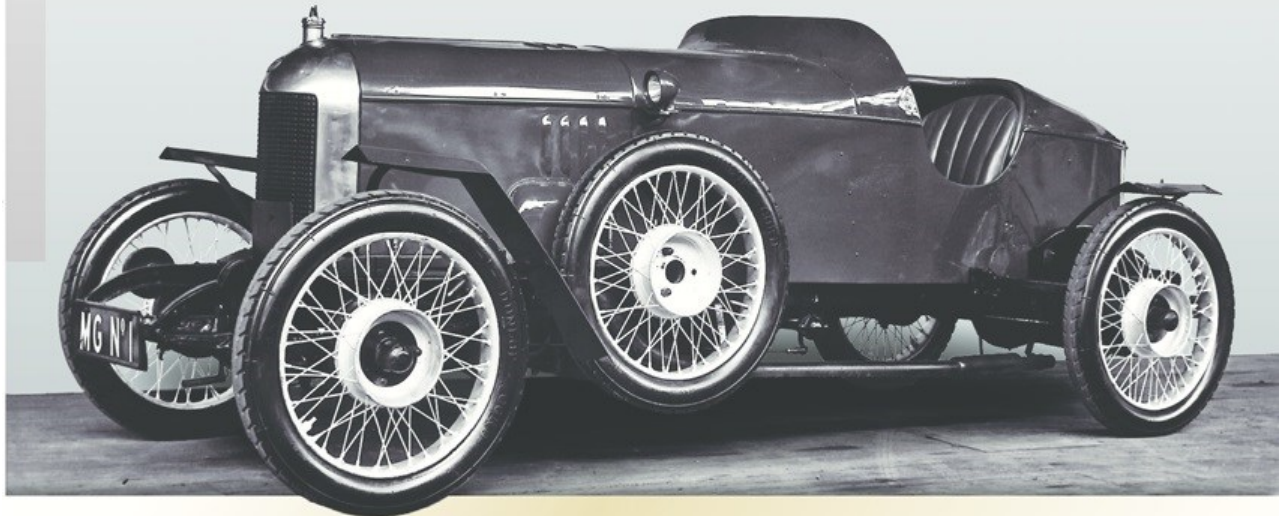


In support of Air Ambulances UK,  
Prostate Cancer UK and  
Sporting Bears Motor Club



# An event celebrating 100 years of MG

**British Motor  
Museum**  
Saturday 27th May 2023



- Timeline of 100 MGs
- Old Number One
- Works cars display
- MGs of special interest
- Sporting Bears dream rides
- Multi start point scenic runs converging on Gaydon
- Centenary dinner with guest speaker
- Club marquees
- MG specialist traders
- MG Motor UK
- Pride of ownership competition
- Private MG sales
- Car boot sale
- MG archive films in the film theatre
- Children's entertainment
- Souvenir merchandise
- The Barn-ettes – girl singing group

Full details and merchandise from our website: [www.mgcentenary.co.uk](http://www.mgcentenary.co.uk)  
Tickets on sale from British Motor Museum: [www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk)



Jointly organised by The MG Octagon Car Club, The MG Car Club, The Early MG Society, The MG Owners' Club and The MG T Society





# GOF CENTRAL

*Gathering of the Faithful  
Celebrating 100 years of MG Sports Cars  
South Bend, IN June 20 - 23, 2023*



The *Olde Octagons of Indiana* and *Hoosier MGs* present another great MG event for you. GOF Central combines special friends, activities, and food for an MG centenary birthday party to remember! The Embassy Suites in South Bend, Indiana is the guest hotel and headquarters for GOF Central. All MGs and enthusiasts are invited!

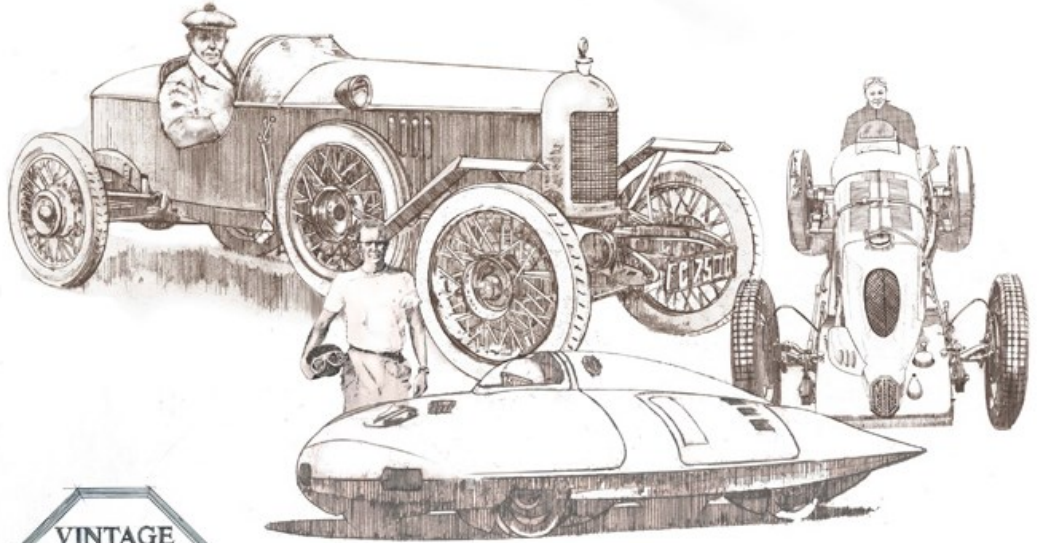
For details and to register, visit [GOF2023.com](http://GOF2023.com).  
Be sure to watch the video!





# LIME ROCK CELEBRATES MG'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 1-4 2023



*Safety fast!*

*Ben Abing*



# MG Marketplace

**1954 MGTF 1500** Fully restored in all aspects, documented with over 700 photos. Front disc brakes, new leather interior, new tan hood and half tonneau. Set up for reliability and highway cruising with a Chevrolet 4-cylinder engine and automatic transmission. Must be seen to be fully appreciated. Come take it for a drive. Located in Chuluota. Steven Powell, spowell@rtm-inc.com



**1978 MGB** Owned for the past 20 years. I originally bought the car when I was in college in South Carolina. The car is a blast to own and drive and runs well. It does have the original Stromberg 175CD carb which could be easily replaced with dual SUs for a bit more power and fun, but is still a blast to drive with the current setup. The Stromberg has been recently serviced and is in fine running condition. Since owning the car I have had the seats reupholstered, added a rollbar for safety, and replaced the windshield,

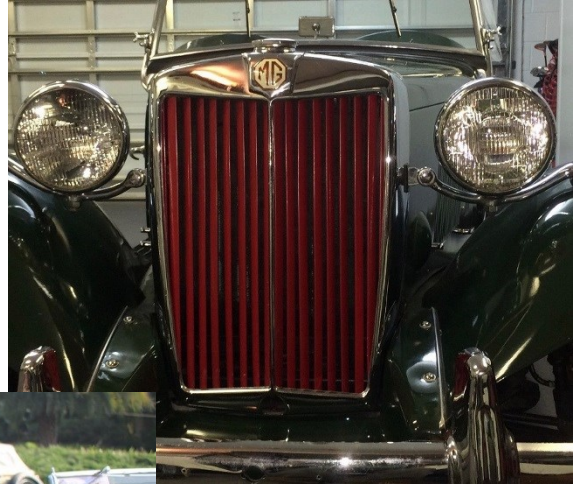
gas tank, fuel pump, distributor, and heater valve. The car has been garage-kept since I have owned it, hasn't seen a day of snow or salt, and has no leaks. The interior and exterior are in very good shape, but do have a few blemishes and paint chips here and there. Everything looks good enough that you'll be proud to show off your classic, but isn't so good that you'll worry about taking it out for some fun. The perfect weekend car. The radio and fuel gauge are both non-functional, although the sending unit in the gas tank was replaced when the tank was replaced about 10 years ago. \$8,500 obo Chris Dunkel chris.dunkel@gmail.com





## 1951 MGTD For Sale or Trade

Brakes, carbs, and ignition completely rebuilt. New wiring harness will be included with the sale. Although at twenty feet, the TD looks really good, as you get closer you can see where the patina is flaking and cracking much to my chagrin, mostly on the fenders. The car is still in good enough shape to turn some heads as I drive down the highway, however. It is a fair-weather car, as it has no top or side curtains installed, although I do have a set of old frames. \$20,100  
Larry Burris, Gainesville, 407-448-1087



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.

**New in box MGA Gas Tank** - \$140.00 which is Moss distributor price. Tank located in St Augustine. Can deliver to the GOF in Gainesville. Dave Burrows 231-675-4919

**Used MG Parts - Free** - All of the MG parts collected by the Flankey family over many years will be given away on April 15th and 16th at the Flankey Farm. Mostly T-Series parts and some MGA and MGB parts, including engine blocks, a rear end, and an overdrive. 8098 Gilliam Rd. Apopka, 32703  
Start time 10:00 am. No early birds - both days. Kerry Flankey 407/860-7268



**FOUNDED 1963 - ORLANDO**



**1954 MGTF Project** - Must sell due to medical issues. Chassis is complete, blasted, epoxy paint, new/rebuilt brakes, brake lines, wheel cylinders, bushings, bearings, etc. Ready to install wood, body panels. I believe it is all there, including new chrome wire wheels, bumpers, and more new parts. \$8,000  
 Ken Ball 770-595-8989 [toyz4ken@gmail.com](mailto:toyz4ken@gmail.com)



**1955 MG TF 1500** - Bought in 1962, believe to be second owner. Removed from service in 1969. Car stored since 1969. Approximately 59,000 miles, matching numbers. Restoration begun in xxxx, by professional restorer. Complete disassembly, all parts cleaned, refinished, repaired, replaced as needed, painted. All hydraulic parts re-sleeved/replaced, new brake shoes, new painted wire wheels. Complete refinish of all metal frame parts, wood replaced as needed with original spec, new sheet metal front and rear quarter panels. All other sheet metal cleaned and refinished. All finished in stunning color-sanded red/black piping. Original engine rebuilt/balanced. All chrome either new or re-chromed.: New wiring harness installed. New generator, starter, fuel pump. Complete new interior, red as original, tonneau cover installed. Top frame refinished/no canvas. Side curtains original.



**TO BE COMPLETED**  
 Electrical connections under dash, rear of car, some firewall electrical connections. Install gear selector/trans cover. Radiator support strut (driver side), install bonnet latches/ bonnet. Front/rear apron/bumpers. Some other miscellaneous items Virtually ALL PARTS needed to complete restoration are included and refinished.: Vehicle may be seen in Rhode Island after April 15<sup>th</sup>. \$25,000 OBO  
 Bill Russell; 401-225-2923; [xw russell@gmail.com](mailto:xw russell@gmail.com)



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.



*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



*Tom Redditt photo*

It is easy for Tom and Pam Redditt to meet the editor's challenge of "park your MG in front of an old/historic building and send a photo." They just drive their MGA 1600 to work. Tom and Pam own and operate the Cottage Gift Shop in the historic Inside-Outside House, saved and preserved by the Longwood Historic Society.

You can learn more about this historic building and the Cottage Gift Shop by clicking [here](#).

Have your MG pictured in the newsletter by sending an image of the rear end of your car to: [editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com)

