

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

April 2025

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Presidential Thoughts

A lot of good things happened in the Classic MG Club in March. Thanks to all who attended the event selection meeting at Tibby's and volunteered to host a monthly event.



The 2025 calendar of events has been filled all except for December. We will continue to seek a December Event.

The GOF 2026 is taking shape. The Radisson Resort at Port Canaveral has been selected. The facility checks all the boxes and there are a variety of activities for visitors to do in the area.

Tracey Waggoner is our GOF 2026 Chairman, so we are in great hands.

I am looking forward to the weekend in Gainesville for GOF 2025. If you haven't registered, get to it, time is running out.

See you down the road!
Mark Tidwell



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April 2025

Classic MG Club of Orlando

Your Club's Leadership

President:	Mark Tidwell	1mwtidwell@gmail.com
Vice President:	Jim McSweeney	jimspeedmaster@aol.com
Secretary:	Tom Redditt	tredditt@mac.com
Treasurer:	Dodie Beach	mg_enthusiast@aol.com
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Editor	Keith Waggoner	editor.cmgc@gmail.com
Webmaster	Scott Buie	CMGCModerator@gmail.com
Chairperson, GOFSouth 2026	Tracey Waggoner	GOFSouthEvents@gmail.com
Club Website		classicmgclub.com
Club Facebook		Click this link to facebook

Your Club's Affiliations



Their Website: [New England MG T Register](#)
Nat'l Meeting: GOF 111 Danbury/Bethel, CT
Sep 4-7
Local Contact: Mike McCormick



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register

Their Website: NAMGAR.com
Nat'l Meeting: GT-50 Traverse City, MI
Jun 2-6 (MGA 70th Anniv)
Local Contact: Jill Moore



Their Website: NAMGBR.org
Nat'l Meeting: MG2025 Crystal Lake, IL
Jul 28-31
Local Contact: Jim McSweeney



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Meeting Minutes



March 20, 2025

Location: Nauti Lobstah Restaurant, Apopka, FL.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Mark Tidwell at 6:50 PM

Treasurer's report: Dodie reported that we have a significant amount in the bank.

New Members: No new members were present

Old business:

- **GOF 2026** 2026 GOF – Mark Tidwell, Scott Buie and Lonnie Cook visited The Radisson Resort in Cape Canaveral last week as a possible location for the 2026 GOF. The pricing and accommodations appear to meet our requirements. The room rate is estimated to be \$170 per night which includes a breakfast and tax. There are nice restaurants and destinations for driving events in this area as well. Holding the GOF midweek instead of over the weekend would be approximately 50% cheaper so it was recommended that we do that by scheduling it for Tuesday through Friday of the 3rd week of April 2026. A vote was taken by the members in attendance to proceed with plans to officially have the event there as discussed.

- **The following positions that are filled and not filled:**

1. **Committee Chairperson** – Tracey Waggoner
2. **Location procurement** – Mark Tidwell, Scott Buie, Tom Redditt
3. **Hospitality Committee** – Sharon Spadaro and Sharon Wyman
4. **Art** – Gary Thomas (British Car Club of Central Florida, member) has agreed to do the GOF artwork
5. **Marketing** - NEEDED
6. **Information Technology** – Scott Buie
7. **Parking** – NEEDED

New Business: No new business was discussed

Announcements: 2025 Calendar Events selection will be held on Saturday, March 22nd 3-6 at Tibby's New Orleans Restaurant on Aloma Ave in Winter Park.

British Car Club of Central Florida Annual show: This annual show will be held April 4-6 in Sanford at Henry's Depot. It includes a meet and greet on Friday, April 4, show on Saturday April 5 and a road rally on Sunday, April 6. For vehicle registration and show information go to their website at: www.britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com They are in need of parking attendants and also judges. If interested please contact Les Neuman at: britcarclubcentralfl@gmail.com

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.



Calendar of Upcoming Club Events



April

***** No Club Meeting! See you at GOF LIX! *****

04/24-27 GOF-South 2025 Best Western Gateway Grand, Gainesville, FL
Hosted by MG Classics of Jacksonville

***** See the registration info on the following page *****

May

05/03 Warbird Air Museum Drive, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL
Hosted by John Avallone.

***** See more information on this drive in the following pages*****

05/15 Club Meeting at Nauti Lobstah, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka
6:30PM for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm

June

06/19 Club Meeting at Nauti Lobstah, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka
6:30PM for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm

06/?? DeBary Hall Historic Site Tour, 198 Sunrise Blvd, DeBary, FL
w/ Lunch at the Swamp House Riverfront Grill
Hosted by Ann Plasschaert.

*****Watch this space for more information next month*****



April's Upcoming Club Event



**GOF-SOUTH
GAINESVILLE FL.
APRIL 24-27 2025**

FOR MG ENTHUSIASTS

gofsouth.club

**REGISTER
NOW!**

**GOF SOUTH
2025**

LIX

★ **GAINESVILLE** **FLORIDA** ★

THIS IS THE MUST-ATTEND-SHOW OF THE YEAR!

Best Western Gateway Grand

COME JOIN US!

★ **MG CLASSICS OF JACKSONVILLE** ★

[Click this link to register](#)



April 2025

Classic MG Club of Orlando

May's Upcoming Club Event



Valiant Air Command, Inc. Warbird Museum

Pictures courtesy of
Valiant Air Command, INC

Please join us for a trip to the space coast on May 3rd to visit the Warbird Museum. There's a 90 minute guided tour of these aircraft indigenous to the world's military forces, from pre-WWI to the present. The tour starts at 11 AM and costs \$12

A lunch will follow at Dixie Crossroads restaurant which is 9 miles North of the museum in Titusville.

Our 9:30 AM drive will start at the RaceTrac at the corner of Hwy 46 and E Lake Mary (415) east of Sanford.

Please let John Avallone know of your interest by April 10th!

He can be reached at (217) 714-1819 or johnavallone73@gmail.com



Classic MG Club Year-at-a-Glance

May 2025- April 2026 Calendar

May 3, Sat 9:30	Valiant Air Command Inc Warbird Museum Drive; Titusville -Host: John Avallone
Jun:	DeBary Hall Historic Site Tour; DeBary w/ Lunch Swamp House Riverfront Grill Host: Ann Plasschaert
Jul:	Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park; International Dr, Orlando -Host: Jim Young
Aug:	Fiddler's Green Irish Pub and Eatery, Darts; Winter Park -Host: Patrick Raley
Sep:	Sickies Garage valve cover races and lunch; International Dr, Orlando -Host: Jim Young
Oct:	Overnighter Radisson Resort at the Port; Cape Canaveral Hosts: Ellen and Mark Tidwell
Nov 9, Sun 12-4	Founders Picnic- Deland Hosts: Tracey and Keith Waggoner
Dec:	TBD
2025	
Jan:	Visit Chase Wildlife Sanctuary; Webster Hosts: Marcia and Scott Buie
Feb:	North/South Picnic -Hosts: Sharon and John Spadaro
Mar:	Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, Winter Park -Hosts: JoAnn and Lonnie Cook
Apr :	GOF South; Radisson Resort at the Port; Cape Canaveral Host: CMGC



Classic MG Club Ideas for the Future

In addition to the regularly scheduled monthly events, additional club-initiated events are being considered to add to the MG Adventures for club members.

Drive to Kissimmee, Old Town car shows and or/ music
<https://myoldtownusa.com/category/events>

Drive to Lake Mary, Cars and Coffee, 3rd Saturday of Month

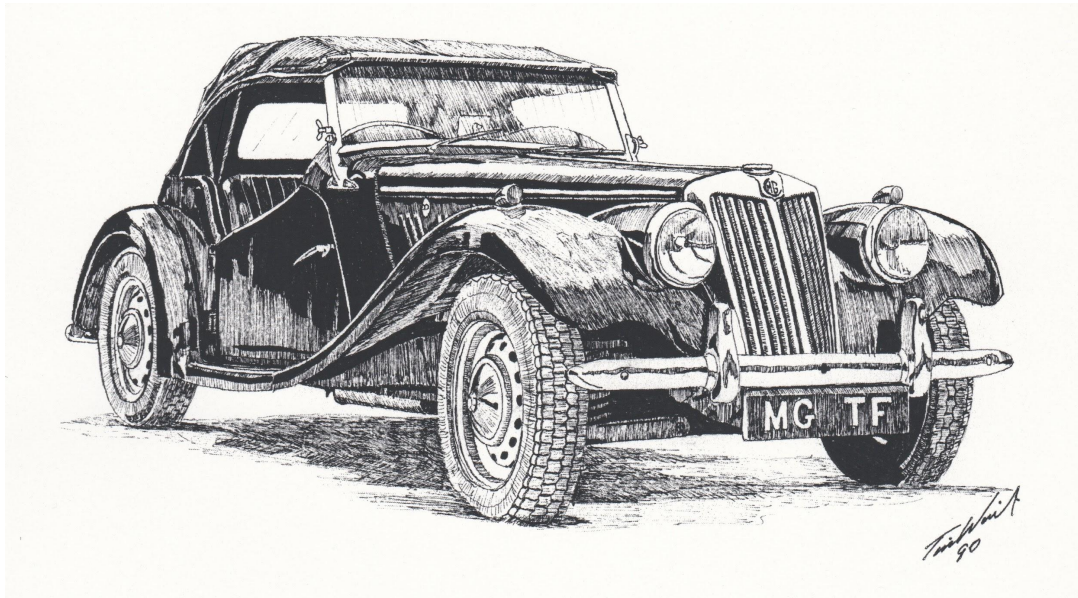
Webster Flea Market (Open only on Monday) with lunch and Southern Hospitality

Drive to Winter Garden, Cars and Coffee, Last Saturday of the Month

Tech Sessions held at Club members garage

MGs in the Post

from Reinout Vogt



The card from my collection is pen drawing, by Tim Wait, of an MG TF. The artwork captures the more aerodynamic shape of the model, with the backwards leaning grille and the integrated headlights. To me, most MGs look better with the hood (top) down, but the mid-50's TF really looks very elegant with the hood up, it just seems to finish the streamlined front and connects it perfectly with the tilted tank on the back (not visible in this drawing). The card is copyrighted to Tim Wait & Alternative Cards Ltd.



40TH ANNUAL

ALL BRITISH

2025 FIELD MEET

CAR & BIKE SHOW

APRIL 5TH



SUNBEAM



TRIUMPH

G.R. Thomas

BRITISH CAR CLUB OF CENTRAL FL
WWW.BRITISHCARCLUBOFCENTRALFLORIDA.COM

Cary Thomas



EST 1983



ACE CAFE
SANFORD

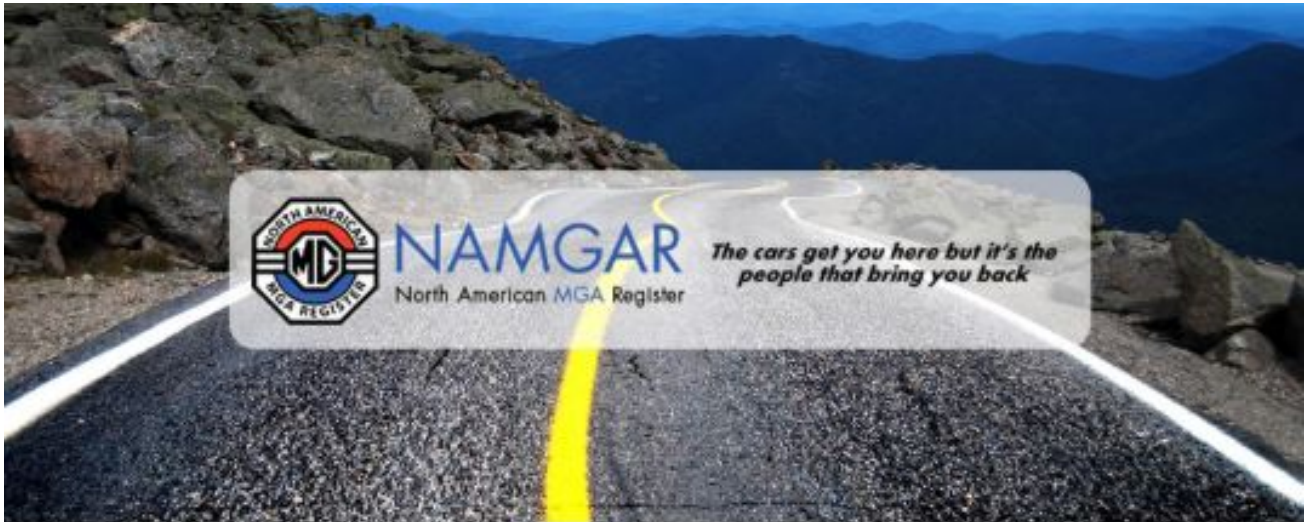


CLARK 386-740-1293
Tigermill@aol.com
WANTS TO BUY
VINTAGE TOY TRAINS,
RACING SETS, SLOTCARS,
AND REPAIRS
TOY TRAIN COLLECTOR



HENRY'S DEPOT
Sanford, Florida
212 WEST 1ST STREET
SANFORD, FL

Other Events of Interest



Dear NAMGAR Members,

GT-50 Registration Now Open



GT-50 June 2-6, 2025
70th MGA Anniversary
Traverse City, Michigan

[Register Now](#)

This looks to be a fun GT and we expect the hotel to fill up quickly so we encourage you to register sooner rather than later.

Thanks,

NAMGAR Board



Other Events of Interest



NAMGBR announces MG2025 - July 28-32. Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Hosted by the Chicagoland MG Club, We are on a mission from... well, not that mission, but close enough! We have lined up a fantastic array of events, but if you are feeling rebellious and want to freestyle your time, that's fine too. There is plenty to explore, eat, and enjoy in and around town. Still, I would say do not miss the organized events—trust me, your diary is begging for some new entries. Oh, and while you are packing, channel your inner Blues Brother: white shirt, skinny black tie, and, yes, all your other clothes. Plot your course to Crystal Lake or let your GPS take the wheel. On Monday, day one, you will register, and from there, you can cruise the city or kick back at the hotel. But whatever you do, do not skip the welcome and first-timers' reception—it is going to be a blast! Tuesday thru Thursday, the fun continues with more registration, silent auctions, all-day tech sessions, and some unforgettable activities. Highlights include: Sanfilippo Estate, Volo Auto Museum, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Illinois Railway Museum, Chicago Architecture Boat Tour, Pizza-Making Session, Drive-In Movie Night, a rocker cover race, and finally the Car Show.

So, what are you waiting for? Register now! We can't wait to see you there!



[Click here to register](#)



Other Events of Interest



The MG Car Clubs from Ottawa and Toronto invite you to

MG102Fest.

Join us for a weekend of fun and camaraderie in beautiful Muskoka.

Muskoka is located in Central Ontario.

This weekend gathering of MGs is open to all enthusiasts.

We would love to see you there!

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Tailgate Pizza Party

Group Scenic Tour

MG Car Show

Pub & Trivia Night

Register at tinyurl.com/mg102fest

AUGUST 22 - 24, 2025



[Click here to register](https://tinyurl.com/mg102fest)



SAVE THE DATE FOR "CARS IN PARADISE"



DATES: November 14 - 15, 2025
HOST HOTEL: Monkey Island Riverside Resort
5297 South Cherokee Way
Homosassa Springs, FL 34448
CONTACT: Gail Lenhard, 727-452-1752 (text)
gpl54@yahoo.com

The Florida Suncoast MG Car Club invites all British Car Enthusiasts to join us for a fun-filled car show. Rooms have been set aside for either a one-night or a two-night stay with fun activities planned. The car show will be held on Saturday, November 15th, at the Sunflower Springs, ALF 8733 West Yulee Drive, Homosassa FL 34448. Attendees are encouraged to wear tropical attire and decorate their cars. There will be a 50/50 drawing and lunch will be provided by the ALF. Come for the day, or for the weekend. Registration fee: \$25 early and \$35 day of show. Registration form will be available soon.

Hope to see you there!



Call for reservations starting May 1, 2025
1-352-628-2474 or 1-800-442-2040
Mention "MG Jamboree"
To receive Group Rates

FSMGCC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation



Club Happenings

Club Events Planning *Photos and story by John Avallone*

The CMGC Events Planning Meeting was held at Tibby's in Winter Park on Saturday, March 22nd hosted by Mark and Ellen Tidwell. A big thank you to Lonnie and JoAnn Cook for providing the easel and whiteboard to record member choice for events for the 2025 – 2026 club year. Please see the results of this great activity by viewing the calendar on page 6 of this newsletter.





Hello Classic MG Club members: Ohio's winter was snowy, icy, frozen, seriously frozen and muddy. The dark, red stiff-fingered, cold season was a time for reflection. I have been recollecting my lifelong connection with MGs and their drivers while looking at pictures of them. I found a dusty stack of K Mart quality processed (it said so on the paper) 6 x 8 prints amid the bits of car languishing for nearly forty years at a local restoration shop where Goldseal is subcontracting. The photographs depict the MG life of a man in his mid thirties during the Magnum P.I. shorts period of the 1980s. His car is a solid wheel TD. In the stack there are studies of shirtless friends investigating the underhood (a beer can resting on the radiator cap), a car show where the TD is parked next to a 1935 Dodge, an attractive woman in tortoise shell sunglasses and a sun hat behind the wheel and a group of kids standing on every part of the bodywork and interior except the hood having a great time. The photographs at the bottom of the stack, some stuck together or water damaged portend the TD's current state. They are carefully focused visual records of the disassembly. Many of the details painstakingly captured are of non-factory assemblies and parts, like the Ford starter solenoid standing in for the starter switch and the Studebaker master cylinder. This MG driver's name and the stories behind the stack of photographs are lost to time. The shop owner had never seen the stack. He said that the guy in the pictures is definitely not the guy that dropped off the boxes of TD in the nineties, though. The photographs without any context are interesting. However, they made me think of all the MG pictures that I have accumulated and inherited. As a result of thumbing through the stack, I have been organizing and captioning images of MGs and their drivers. "The guy in the pictures" lost memories have led me to revisit many of my fondest ones. I took the photo at the head of these ramblings with my phone out the window of an MGB GT in the third week of October last year. We are parked on the western shoulder of the slight hump before the climb up the steepest hill on Swigart Rd leaving Malabar Farm State Park at about five o'clock in the afternoon. This was the absolute last day for leaf peeping as a wind storm swept through the area that night and the next day downing the foliage.



This is a still from a GoPro video that I made of an MG trip from Clearwater to Richloam General Store, Yalaha Bakery and Sugarloaf Mountain in 2019. Shot from the rear window of the Y Type, Jeff Brown is exercising his father's TD while Ron Streicher holds on in the passenger seat. Jeff and his brother restored the TD long before. Upon his retirement to Florida, Jeff had the time to drive the TD frequently and enjoy a fine automobile. Jeff also drove a well known and fast TD in vintage races across the Northeast. Jeff died suddenly in October of 2019. I was fortunate to share some MG fun with him.



Amy Garvin nee Novak and I, still long distance friends and usually brought together by MGs, await the Marshall's call to the racetrack on the false grid for the prewar feature race at the Fall Festival in 2017. Lime Rock Park is the family's home track and the Fall Festival is a premier national vintage racing event. I may look more nonchalant than trackside support personnel should, however I have supreme confidence in our race car and its skillful seasoned capable driver, George Pardee



July of 2024 on county road 97 west of the Clear Fork Reservoir. The customer requested a two hundred mile shakedown before delivery of his TF 1500, a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon with my best girl in the passenger seat. Prior to this drive, she had never ridden in an MG and had shown no particular interest in the prospect. Afterward, she is excited for summer 2025 and MG fun.



Dan Duran's completed XPAG build in 2017. If I remember correctly Dan is about to arrive with the car for installation and initialization. Dan selected the vivid Chrysler red engine paint. Both my mother, Elyn Pardee MG driver since she bought her Midget new, and I look slightly caught off guard. No excuse for the wonky eye glasses. Good thing they weren't progressive bifocals back then as someone might have been inadvertently injured. I am proud to have been a part of making Dan's TF into the fun reliable show winning car it is today



My brother Will and I in Tom Scott's MGA race car at Moroso Motorsports Park around 1986. Our father's TF 1500 is visible in the top right corner, spare wheel removed to reduce weight and add lightness. Tom's driver suit draped over the roll bar to dry and the pond like puddle in the background illustrate the prevailing climatic conditions that weekend. As a small child I was awed by the purposeful race drivers and their fast loud machines. Climbing on the bleacher supports, riding bikes in the paddock, playing in the mud and reading books on a picnic blanket took up most of my time at the track in those days. I still want to be a race car driver when I grow up.



Tom Metcalf world renowned MMM MG restorer and repository of otherwise forgotten knowledge in his works coveralls, Robert Carr historic/military re-enacting MG driver and I on the show field at The Amelia Island Concours in 2022 with Robert's J2. Freshly restored at Tom's Safety Fast! Restorations, the car completed the over sixty mile Eight flags tour. Robert and the J2 were awarded the Sandra Alford Fashion Trophy for Robert's portrayal of an Englishman in the tropics with his car in 1933 down to the period correct wrist watch.

There are thousands more photographs in physical and digital form that make up my stack of MG images. It can be absorbingly illuminating fun to visit the cars, things, friends and places that our past selves valued, enjoyed and documented.

Under the Bonnett

The Mystery of the 3rd Gear Killer By Ann Plasschaert, Mark Tidwell, Lonnie Cook ... and Gemini AI

Picture this: Ann Plasschaert, confidently shifting her TF into third gear, ascending the 17/92 interchange over 436. Suddenly, the engine falters, power vanishes, and she finds herself in a nightmare situation - coasting backwards into traffic. Miraculously, she missed the oncoming cars, and the TF revived after a wait, but the killer returned on her journey home as she shifted into third.

Mark Tidwell and I investigated. Everything seemed perfect: engine mount, points, timing, wiring, valve train, exhaust, fuel flow, fuel filters, carbs. The engine idled flawlessly during our tests. We were baffled. So, Mark and Ann embarked on a test drive. "It sputtered and died as Ann shifted into third," Mark recounted, a hint of bewilderment in his voice. "We managed to limp back." The mystery deepened.

Then, a breakthrough! As Ann pulled into the garage, a wisp of steam caught our attention. Lifting the bonnet, we discovered the spark plugs and distributor drenched in water and antifreeze. A hidden split on the underside of the upper radiator hose was the culprit. It crumbled in Mark's hands as he removed it. The "M.O.": The car ran flawlessly when cold. However, as the engine warmed, approximately the time it took to reach third gear, the rising water pressure pushed coolant out of the damaged hose, short-circuiting the spark plugs and distributor to kill the engine. Once the engine cooled and the water evaporated, the car would restart – albeit temporarily.

Redemption: We installed a spare hose. Ann confirmed no leaks, no stalls. However, mindful of their age, we returned the following week to replace the three lower radiator hoses. Now, for those unfamiliar with the TF's engine bay, let's just say it's a tight squeeze requiring the dexterity of a seasoned surgeon (Mark), or a person with hands the size of a 6 year-old (Lonnie). After a couple of hours of strategic cussing, and contortion, the hoses were replaced.

Like all MG enthusiasts, a few scrapes and grease-stained hands were our badges of honor for a task completed.

Ann is once again driving her TF with passion.



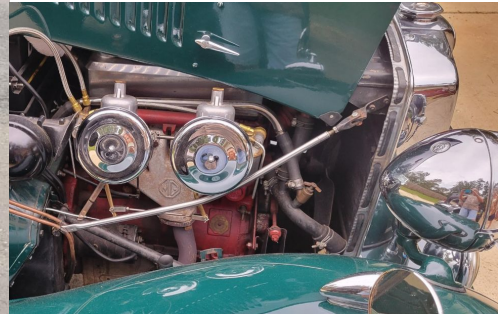
Classy Finds

Aka classifieds

Extraordinary Provenance - Extraordinary Car: One family 1950 MG TD For Sale MG TD car #2932 was purchased new from International Motors NYC by Blair Engle's father, a member of the Westchester Sports Car Club. Blair became an MG fanatic at an early age and proudly took custody of the TD in 1962. A graduate Engineer, Blair was a founding member of the Classic MG Club and of MG Vintage Racers; #199 in the New England MG 'T' Register. While serving as the engineer in charge of the FSU Physics Lab, he operated The Classic MG Shop in Tallahassee. A Moss Motors Distributor since the 1970's, he performed the exacting restoration of the TD with NOS parts and accessories, which now, if available at all, are only reproductions. The engine was upgraded to TD MkII specs with dual fuel pumps, large valves and 1-1/2" carbs, resulting in outstanding performance. For the last 50 years, the car has been kept in an air conditioned garage, driven and shown periodically by Blair's son Craig. The TD's lacquer paint has minor flaws, and the power unit has the usual slight leaks. The car presents beautifully, enhanced by the correct period accessories.



\$22,500.00 or near offer.
Craig Engle
850 566 1433 (Tallahassee, FL)



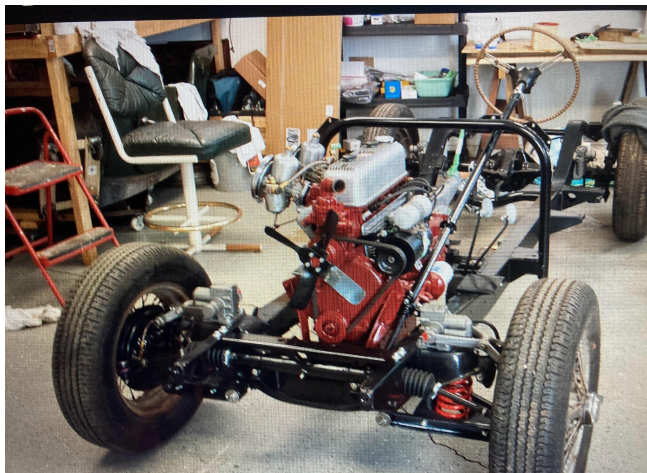
Classy Finds

Aka classifieds

This 1955 TF 1500 eye catcher is a full nut/bolt restoration. It's a Des Moines Concours participant and comes with full record/receipts of the restoration work. As seen below, there has been a color change from original. It's road and show ready.



\$27,000
Russ Little
813 728 4159 (Dade City, FL)



Classy Finds

Aka classifieds

For sale is this recently restored 1948 MG TC serial number 5453



\$32,500

Dale Harshbarger
863 658 2217 (Sebring, FL)
bonanza71a@gmail.com

MG Greeting Card

from Reinout Vogt



The card from my collection was published by Golden Era. It shows the MGB factory rally car 7 DBL on its way to winning the GT class (17th overall) in the 1964 Monte Carlo Rally. Although the card does not credit the artist, an internet search suggests that it is a painting by Rob Wisdom. The MGB was driven by the identical-twin brothers Donald (driver) and Erle (navigator) Morley. Seen here is Donald on the Monte Carlo street circuit in the rally's final driving test, which was done solo.





North American MGB Register

NAMGBR.org

Join Now

Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!



Join over 2,000 enthusiastic owners in the restoration, preservation, and sheer enjoyment of driving an MGA, Magnette, or variant of this noble breed. You'll receive six bi-monthly issues of *MGA!*, our full-color, award winning magazine, invitations to National and Regional Get-Togethers throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus a knowledge base and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). **Get more information at <http://www.namgar.com>, or contact registrar@namgar.com.**



[Click here for more info](#)

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: <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.

Second Harvest
FOOD BANK
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FeedHopeNow.org



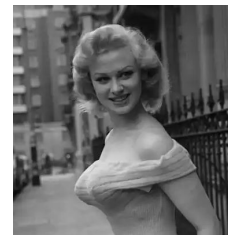
Fighting hunger. feeding hope.

This month's End Shot... provided by Keith Waggoner.



This 1974 MGB with the 'Sabrina' type bumper overrides was found on display in the Melbourne show last year. This configuration was in production only a few months during the transition from chrome bumpers to rubber bumpers.

See you next month!
Keith



...Sabrina

