

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

March, 2026

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Issue 749



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## *Inside: Ben Gilbert, Sr recalls GoF III at Cape Canaveral.*



No, the Octagon is not trying to be another Jonny Trunk Auto Erotica book. We're just so grateful to have club members like Ben Gilbert, Sr and Jr who provide us pictures of their beautiful MGs to share with you. This is Ben Sr's 1938 MG SA Tickford Drophead. I guess this is as close as we'll get to it, since the Gilberts are only bringing their concours winning TC and the recently refurbed TD to the GoF next month.

And as the headline states, Ben, Sr provides us a look back at GoF III, the first of what will soon be four GoF South events held in the Cape Canaveral vicinity. Please enjoy reading his thoughts and viewing pictures of the time past as he takes a trip down memory lane recalling the GoF and the history of him obtaining this SA. And make sure to say hi this April as he enjoys this year's GoF LX at the Cape.

So, turn the page and get started reading all about your club's recent activities.



## Presidential Thoughts

The Gathering of the Faithful (GoF) South LX is fast approaching, and here's a friendly word of caution for those planning to attend but who haven't yet registered—don't wait! Several events are already nearing capacity. Register now or risk missing out on some great fun, including an evening at a British pub and something new- bourbon tasting. And don't forget to get your valve cover racer prepped and ready to hit the track—be sure to check the GoF website for the official valve cover racing rules- see schedule for Wednesday April 15.



Our February outing was graciously hosted by John and Sharon Spadaro, who organized a beautiful picnic day at Magnolia Park in Apopka. We enjoyed a great turnout of MGs, wonderful weather, and a surprise raffle featuring car-related and other fun prizes. Many thanks to John and Sharon for a terrific event! Looking ahead, Saturday, March 21, is an especially important date for our club. We'll be gathering at Tibby's New Orleans Kitchen in Winter Park for a Calendar Event Selection Meeting. We strongly encourage members to attend, as we'll be discussing and planning monthly activities for the year ahead. Members will be asked to volunteer to host or organize specific events, with the goal of building a full and exciting year of club activities. Your participation truly makes the difference. Finally, I'm very happy to announce that Jim Young has volunteered to serve as President. I have complete confidence in his abilities and leadership. For our club to continue to thrive, we need active participation and support from all members—no one can do it alone.

See you all down the road  
Mark Tidwell

### A note from the GoF South LX Chairperson...

They say, "March comes in like a lion" is never more true, it's really roaring. There's only 6 weeks left until the GoF and things are moving at a feverish pace. With all this activity we can share some good news. We've secured some nice donations and sponsorships, but we are always looking for your effort to add more to this list.

Many thanks to all the people who are assisting to make this GoF so spectacular. We still have a need for your help. Please reach out to us. We are grateful to have as many hands as we can get. Remember, you get to know people so much better when you share in a common effort.

As Mark notes above, you should register soon. We are reaching capacity at a couple of our events and even though we are identifying secondary choices, you may not want to have missed out on these popular events. Also special room rates end 3/14.

Hope to see you soon.  
Tracey Waggoner



February 2026

*Safety*  *Fast!*

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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# Your Club's Leadership

President:	Mark Tidwell	<a href="mailto:1mw_tidwell@gmail.com">1mw_tidwell@gmail.com</a>
Vice President:	Jim McSweeney	<a href="mailto:jimspedmaster@aol.com">jimspedmaster@aol.com</a>
Secretary:	Tom Redditt	<a href="mailto:tredditt@mac.com">tredditt@mac.com</a>
Treasurer:	Dodie Beach	<a href="mailto:mg_enthusiast@aol.com">mg_enthusiast@aol.com</a>
Club Registrar:	John Avallone	<a href="mailto:Johnavallone73@gmail.com">Johnavallone73@gmail.com</a>
Editor	Keith Waggoner	<a href="mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com">editor.cmgc@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Scott Buie	<a href="mailto:CMGC Moderator@gmail.com">CMGC Moderator@gmail.com</a>
Chairperson, GoF South 2026	Tracey Waggoner	<a href="mailto:GoFSouthEvents@gmail.com">GoFSouthEvents@gmail.com</a>
Club Website		<a href="http://classicmgclub.com">classicmgclub.com</a>
Club Facebook		<a href="#">Click this link to Facebook</a>

# Your Club's Affiliations



Their Website: [NEMGTR.ORG](http://NEMGTR.ORG)  
Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27  
Sandusky, OH  
Local Contact: Glen Moore



**NAMGAR**  
North American MGA Register

Their Website: [NAMGAR.com](http://NAMGAR.com)  
Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27  
Sandusky, OH  
Local Contact: Jill Moore



Their Website: [NAMGBR.org](http://NAMGBR.org)  
Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27  
Sandusky, OH  
Local Contact: Keith Waggoner



# The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## Meeting Minutes



**February 19, 2025**

**Location:** Carrabba's Italian Grill, 931 N State Rd 434, Altamonte Springs

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mark Tidwell at 7:02 PM

**Treasurer's Report:** Dodie reported that we have a significant amount in the bank to do business.

**New Members:** No new members were present

### **Old Business:**

- **Update on GoF:** Location: The Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd, Port Canaveral, Florida 32820. Hospitality committee has reported that the Radisson Resort is undergoing some renovations and the meeting room originally planned for the GoF had to be demolished in the process. To compensate, the Resort is moving us to the large Pavilion for our various GoF activities instead. To date, there are 105 people and 60 cars registered for the GoF, including 11 first timers. There are 28 people signed up for the bourbon tasting and 78 signed up for the Tweed Drive to the Pig & Whistle British Pub Restaurant. There is only capacity at this restaurant for 100 people so if you want to participate, please sign-up ASAP. There will be an alternate Tweed Drive destination restaurant if more than 100 sign up for the Pig & Whistle so no one will be left out. [tinyurl.com/gofsouth2026](https://tinyurl.com/gofsouth2026)
- **Upcoming office vacancy:** Mark Tidwell announced that Jim Young has agreed to accept the position of Club President. Congratulations to Jim and we are all looking forward to his leadership.
- **2026 Events Planning:** There will be a 2026 event planning meeting held Saturday, March 21 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Tibby's New Orleans Kitchen, 2203 Aloma Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792.
- **Club Name Tags:** Scott Buie has become skilled in 3D laser printing and engraving and has created some beautiful trophies for the awards at the GoF. He also has name tags available for everyone for \$10.00. Contact Scott if you want one.

*Continued on the next page*



## New Business:

- **Change of meeting venue:** The location of future meetings is being changed from Carrabba's Italian Grill to Grills Lakeside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32804 where we will have a private room reserved. The reason for this is the difficulty of trying to have a productive business meeting in an open public restaurant with the noise and confusion. We need a private room for our meetings. This will cost \$100 per meeting. There was a frank discussion about this being excessive for the club to pay each month and some pushback from Dodie, our Treasurer, about the cost. So, it was decided that since we would have a private room at the new location the next meeting, we would debate the matter at that time and arrive at a consensus. This move also necessitates changing the meeting from Thursday to Tuesday.

**So, the next general meeting will be on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.**

## Announcements:

- **"Celebration of Cars":** March 28, 2026. Antique to Modern Auto Show at the Melbourne Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne, FL. Registration deadline is March 21, 2026. Admission fee is \$35 and event starts at 8:00 AM. If interested in going call Mark Tidwell. Here is the link for more information:

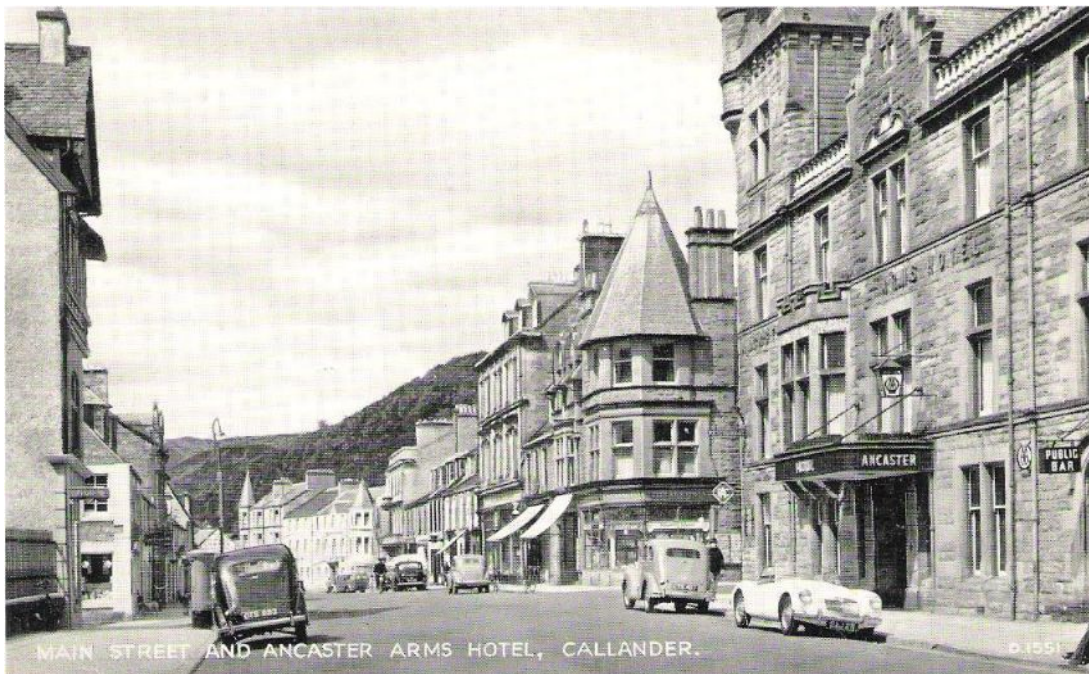
[americanmusclecarmuseum.com/muscle-car-events/324-aaca-cape-canaveral-s-celebration-of-cars.html](http://americanmusclecarmuseum.com/muscle-car-events/324-aaca-cape-canaveral-s-celebration-of-cars.html)

**Adjournment:** Meeting ended 7:22PM

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## Greeting Card from Reinout

Karel's postcard is from Callander in Scotland which is about 40 miles straight north from Glasgow. The MGA with license plate CAJ211 is parked in front of the Ancaster Arms Hotel on Main Street. Per Google street view, there is no more hotel in the building and the



Public Bar (in the lower right-hand corner of the card, is now an antique and curiosa shop. Compared to the other period vehicles in this post card, one can easily appreciate the modern, slick, aerodynamic, and elegant design of the MGA.

# Calendar of Upcoming Club Events

## March

**03/17 Club Meeting Grills Lakeside, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando**

6:30PM Drinks, ordering food or tire kicking.

7:00PM Monthly Club Meeting Begins

**03/21 Annual Activity Planning Event Tibby's, 3302 Aloma Ave, Winter Park**

3-5PM Bring your ideas for club activities for the upcoming fiscal year

## April

**\*\*\* No Club Meeting this Month, see you at GoF South 2026 \*\*\***

**04/14-17 60th GoF South, Radisson Resort at the Port, Cape Canaveral**

Hosted by The Classic MG Club of Orlando

**\*\*\* See more information on this event in the following pages\*\*\***

## May

**05/19 Club Meeting Grills Lakeside, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando**

6:30PM Drinks, ordering food or tire kicking.

7:00PM Monthly Club Meeting Begins

## The 60<sup>th</sup> Annual GoF South

*"MG Holiday" – A Celebration for the Whole Family*



### Enjoy Florida's Space Coast

- Sun, surf, rockets, history, MG fun for every generation
- Extend your trip and make it a true MG Holiday!

### Non-Stop MG Action

- Three scenic drives including the popular Tweed Drive
- Five banquets & receptions
- Two exciting car shows
- Five expert tech sessions:  
*Rolling Tech, Tires, Tuning, Maintenance, Master Q&A*

### Special Guest Speakers

- Tom Metcalf – Safety Fast Restorations
- Bob Sieck – Former NASA Shuttle Launch Director
- Nick Pardee – Gold Seal LLC

### Lifestyle & Family Fun

- Southern cooking, Bourbon tasting
- Longevity, valve cover races
- The Kennedy Space Center
- Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum
- Beaches, fishing, and family adventures
- Look up for rocket launches!



**Radisson Resort, Cape Canaveral, FL**

**April 14 - 17, 2026**

**Register today at <https://tinyurl.com/gofsouth2026>**

**Tracey Waggoner, [tfradford@yahoo.com](mailto:tfradford@yahoo.com) • 407-620-3966**



# Classic MG Club Year-at-a-Glance

## May 2025 - April 2026 Calendar

- May 3, Saturday 9:30 Club Drive: Valiant Air Command Inc Warbird Museum; Titusville -Host: John Malone ✓
- June 21, Saturday 10:30 Site Visit: Historic DeBary Hall; DeBary w/ Lunch Swamp House Riverfront Grill -Host: Ann Plasschaert ✓
- July 19, Saturday 11:00 Site Visit: Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park; International Dr, Orlando Lunch at 1:00 -Host: Jim Young ✓
- August 23, Saturday Noon Darts: Fiddler's Green Irish Pub and Eatery; Winter Park -Host: Patricia Raley ✓
- September 20, Saturday 11:30 Valve Cover Races: Sickies Garage; Orlando -Host: Jim Young ✓
- October 18-19, Saturday 9:30 Overnighter: Radisson Resort at the Port; Port Canaveral -Hosts: Ellen and Mark Tidwell ✓
- November 9, Sunday 12-4 Founders Picnic: On the St Johns River in Deland; -Hosts: Tracey and Keith Waggoner ✓
- December 18, Thursday 5:00 Tour of Lights: Winter Park Racquet Club; -Hosts: Rebekkah and Brad Parlee ✓
- 2026
- January 17, Saturday 9-6 Site Visit: Chase Wildlife Sanctuary; Webster -Hosts: Marcia and Scott Buie ✓
- February 7, Saturday 12-4 North/South Picnic: Magnolia Park, Apopka -Hosts: Sharon and John Spadaro ✓
- March: Site Visit: Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens; Winter Park -Hosts: John and Lonnie Cook ✗
- April 14-17, Tuesday-Friday GoF South LX: Radisson Resort at the Port; Cape Canaveral -Host: CMGC

**Don't miss the annual planning event March 21st at Tibby's**



## Special Notice...

### March's Monthly Club Meeting is Moving!!

A New Day/Date: Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30

**A New Location:**  
**Grills Lakeside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar**  
4301 N Orange Blossom Trail,  
Orlando, FL 32804

**Come spend St Patty's Day with your MG friends**  
**We've got a delightful room for our meeting**  
**and need you all to attend**  
**so the facility will want us back.**



# March's Upcoming Event



**Tibby's New Orleans Kitchen  
2203 Aloma Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792**

*This IS the Club planning meeting to select events for the 2026 club calendar.*

Please send your suggestions for events, to Mark Tidwell, [1mwtidwell@gmail.com](mailto:1mwtidwell@gmail.com) . We would like to have a starting list of suggestions to work with at this meeting. We had so many interesting and fun events in 2025- a few were drives, nature tours, and activities at bars. Let's make it even better this year. We would like even more ideas and each event can't happen without a host/organizer. The club has monthly events and usually 1 or 2 overnights. Get thinking about what you want to do throughout the year. I am hoping we are able to fill the 2026 calendar schedule.



# April's Upcoming Event (All things GoF!)

## Formation of the GoF Welcoming Group And the Use of Special Colored (RED) Lanyards

Article by Glen and Jill Moore. Photos by Selena Woller

It is human nature to move to a comfortable place. When you enter a room with a lot of people, you search for those you know and join them. Particularly so when you have not seen them for a long time.

GoF South is a perfect example. It is natural to walk by those we do not know to find old friends - walking by the First-Time Attendees who are searching for validation that they are in the right place and are welcome to be there. Jill describes this feeling of attending an event where you don't know others like being at a High School Reunion for a high school you did not attend. Everyone is jovial and having a great time, but you are a wallflower being ignored.

Everyone, particularly the First-Time Attendees, is valued and welcome at the GoF South. We must work together to make that happen.

**By reading this,**

**you are now appointed as a member of the GoF South Welcoming Group.**

Your task is to identify and recognize First-Timers. An easy task, as all of the First-Time Attendees will be wearing their name tags on **Red Lanyards**.

When you see someone with a **Red Lanyard**, say: "Hi, we are Fred and Wilma, welcome to GoF South! What MG did you bring?" Begin a conversation. Answer any questions. Be an ambassador for the MG Marque and GoF South.



*Ian Henderson,*

*Pete Crayton with wife Larysa*

*Smiling 1st timers wearing their orange lanyards at GoF South 2025, Gainesville*

*Editor's note: Catch Ian's article in NAMGBR's March/April The MG Driver magazine.*

*In it, he mentions during his first months of driving his well-sorted '66B over 2500 miles:*

***"one of my very best experiences was being able to make the trip to my first Florida MG GoF (Gathering of the Faithful) in April". See what a proper hello can do?***



# Update on Our Recent Club Outings

## BYOL (bring your own lunch) picnic *by John Spadaro*

On February 7, 27 intrepid club members gathered at Magnolia Park in Apopka for our BYOL (bring your own lunch) picnic. Following two weeks of some of the coldest weather in decades, that Saturday turned out to be splendid. A light breeze, cool in the shade, gorgeous in the sunshine. It was a top up ride on the way to the park and top down on the way home, that is of course if you were driving a roadster. We could not have asked for a nicer day.

At high noon we announced "lunch time" I think everyone enjoyed their lunch, since they brought it. In the spirit of sharing, a lot of attendees brought cookies and shared them freely. Sharon and I were fortunate enough to grab some coconut macaroons that Jill Moore had made. They were very good. I think Jill gave Sharon the recipe. I am going to have to get Sharon to get right on that! After lunch we had a drawing for fabulous prizes.

Mark and Keith gave us an update on the progress with the GoF. As always there are some bumps in the road. Not to worry, it's going to be a great event. If you haven't signed up yet, get to it, time's running out.

Later in the day, the men folk wandered out to where the cars were parked to try to solve whatever was the most recent problem with their cars. There's always something with these crazy cars and it's always good to get some insight from others who may have dealt with the same problems, and it's just fun to BS about the cars.

All in all, it was a very nice day. I have heard from our friends in Virginia, and they are planning a trip again to Florida in 2027. As you can imagine planning a trip from Virginia to Florida is a lot, so we'll see. Either way, whether they come or not we will plan something like this again next year. Thanks to all who showed up. If you didn't make it maybe you can make it next time.



# Norman Ridgely by John Spadaro



My inauguration into the MG hobby began in 1989 with the purchase of a 1979 MG Midget. I soon discovered the MG Car Club Miami Ctr. I lived in S. Florida at the time, and this is where we met Norman (Norm) and Pat Ridgely.

I found Norm to be one of the most interesting persons I had ever met. We became quick friends. At the time he drove a 1963 MG Roadster that he had purchased from the Don Garlits museum in Ocala. The car was off white and gorgeous. It looked like it came from a museum.

Over the years of knowing Norm I would hear many stories of his experiences with British cars. He told me about the time he used to race an MGTD that he had bought new. He got into the racing scene and became a weekend racer. In one race he actually flipped the TD managed not to kill himself and after all of that, drove the car home! Norm became a legend. At that time Norm lived in the Keys. He would spend a great deal of time driving that TD up and down the overseas highway. Later he decided he needed an XKE. Norm did not go to your local Jaguar dealership; he ordered it from the factory in the UK. He was the proud owner of one of the first XKEs in S. Florida. When he brought the car to the local dealership for service, they were bewildered to understand where he got the car. He told them he bought it directly from the factory in England. They did not believe him, told him it could not be done. Eventually after Norm showed them all the paperwork, they conceded that the car was not stolen and agreed to work on it.

Norm loved to talk about his British car addiction and his stories made me realize that I was talking to a guy who was really passionate about his hobby.

Both Norm and Pat have very fair skin, so there came a time when they decided the roadster had to go and they would look for a BGT. Norm seemed to know everyone in the local MG world, so as it turned out Hank Rippert (another MG hobby legend) had a 1967 BGT Special Edition that might be for sale. So Norm got together with Hank and bought the car. It was gray and in very good condition and best of all, being a hardtop, they were out of the sun. He owned the car until his passing. Over the years he would drive back and forth to the west coast to have Glenn Lenhart do all the necessary work on the car. Norm knew that Glenn was the go-to guy for MG's, so that's where Norm took it. Glenn put an AC in the car, and it always ran great.

Norm left S. Florida sometime in the late 90's. He found a new home in Vero Beach. We lost touch for a while, but when we moved up here, we reconnected through the MG Car Club Florida.

Norm never missed a GoF. We would talk on the phone on occasion, but we would always meet up at GoF's. I don't think Norm ever missed a GoF until his health became fragile. He was an active participating member of MG Car Club Florida and also a member of our club and attended many of our clubs' events.

Sharon and I had many adventures with Norm and Pat. We drove our cars three times to Dillard for GoF and we attended the NAMGBR yearly event in Gatlinburg. It was always challenging and always an adventure. Lots of roadside heads under the bonnet, but always very rewarding when you made it back in a cranky old British car.

Going forward, I will miss seeing Norm at GoF. The last couple of years of Norm's life were challenging. We would talk about getting together at GoF, then Norm would call us to say he didn't think he would be able to make it. Norm stayed strong and confident until the very end. He did the best he could.

I know Norm is up there where all the good people go. I hope he is sitting at St. Peters Bar having an Old Speckled Hen with Tony Roth, Will Bowden and Pete Rogers swapping MG stories. As for us down here we miss Norm and all our MG friends who are no longer with us. We hope they will save us a seat at the Bar for when the time comes that we will join them. R.I.P Norm



## Looking Forward to GoF South LX *by Ben Gilbert, Sr*

I'm looking forward to GoF South LX in Cape Canaveral because in 1969 when I was co-chairman for GoF South III in Cape Canaveral, I was forced to miss attending the gathering! Art Floyd and I lived in the area and having attended the previous 2 years' GoFs, we offered to host the next one with the attraction being a tour of the Cape organized by Art.

At the time, I worked for FPL based at the Canaveral Power Plant. After many months of planning, and driving to Orlando for the monthly CMGC meetings, that October, the workers at FPL decided to go on strike and since I was part of the management of the power plant, I had to stay at the plant 24 hours per day, actually lived there for 69 days, and could not attend the GoF. Fortunately, my brother Gabe, came up from Miami and he, my wife Estela, and Ben Jr. attended for me. It's exciting and fortunate to return to the Cape this April with my sons and two of our MGs for this milestone GoF South.



Here's Ben's TD. Next to it are Gabe Gilbert, Sr with Gabe, Jr, and Jan Wager looking on. Also in the pic is Carla Bowden (Ellen Tidwell's mom) looking to take a picture.

### **My Association with CMGC Ltd.**

In late 1965 I participated in the Martin-Marietta Sports Car Club with my Corvair as a novice in their Orlando area TSD Rally. During the race I frequently followed a black TD. Afterwards I found the TD and met its driver and passenger, Will Bowden and John Camichos. I told them I had a 52 TD, and lived in Cocoa, which is 50 miles east and an hour's drive via the local roads back then. They invited me to attend the next CMGC meeting, and since then I have been a member. Over the next few years my wife and I would make the monthly trips to Orlando, and the more interesting trips back late at night in the TD. We participated as much as we could in the CMGC activities and events.

In December 1969, as was the custom then, the members would appoint the new president of the CMGC during the December meeting/party. The person that had the least valid excuse for not accepting, was appointed. Naturally, since I was still living at the plant, I was appointed in absentia! However, my tenure was cut short when we were transferred back to Miami in April 1970, and I had to resign.





Cars on the show field at GoF III, the Polaris Motel, Cape Canaveral 1969

We had worked on and participated in the first three GoFs South and were disappointed to have to miss GoF South IV at Wakulla Springs because it was on the weekend just before we were to leave for Miami. That Friday after dinner, Estela and I had second thoughts about missing the gathering, and decided to make a late, fast run from Cocoa to Wakulla in our 1967 Mercedes Benz since the TD had already been relocated to Miami. We took backroads, and managed to arrive in Wakulla around midnight. Luckily, we did not meet any FHP officers, as we were consistently running way above the speed limits.

### **Launching the CMGC**

During a weekend drive exploring Miami's rural areas in mid-1970, we came upon a small strip mall that had a car show. We saw this large, beautiful MG that I did not recognize. I left a note in the car telling the owner I had a TD and would like to meet him. That was the beginning of a long association with its owner, Dr. Paul Robertson and his 1938 MG SA Tickford. Through this friendship I learned of other MG owners in the Miami – Fort Lauderdale area. We started getting together informally once a month and as the group grew, we discussed becoming a formal MG Club. I contacted my friends at the CMGC in Orlando and proposed we become a part of the Classic MG Club under the name of CMGC South. They agreed and for the next 10 years or so we participated in many monthly outings "Touring With A T-Type" (TWATTs) and GoF South events. The group had approximately 20 – 25 members some with TC's, mostly TD's and a few very nice TF's, and the 1938 SA Tickford. As a result of the expansion, commercially produced Club Badges were made based on the original aluminum handmade ones that were made previously by the CMGC members. There were three versions, "Florida", "Orlando", or "Miami", depending on the owners' affiliation. Unfortunately, as South Florida grew, traffic and congestion became a bit dangerous for our T's, and many owners either sold their MGs or moved away and the CMGC South ceased to exist as a separate group. I have maintained my membership in the CMGC Orlando, and depending on health and home responsibilities, would still occasionally attend the GoF's whenever possible.

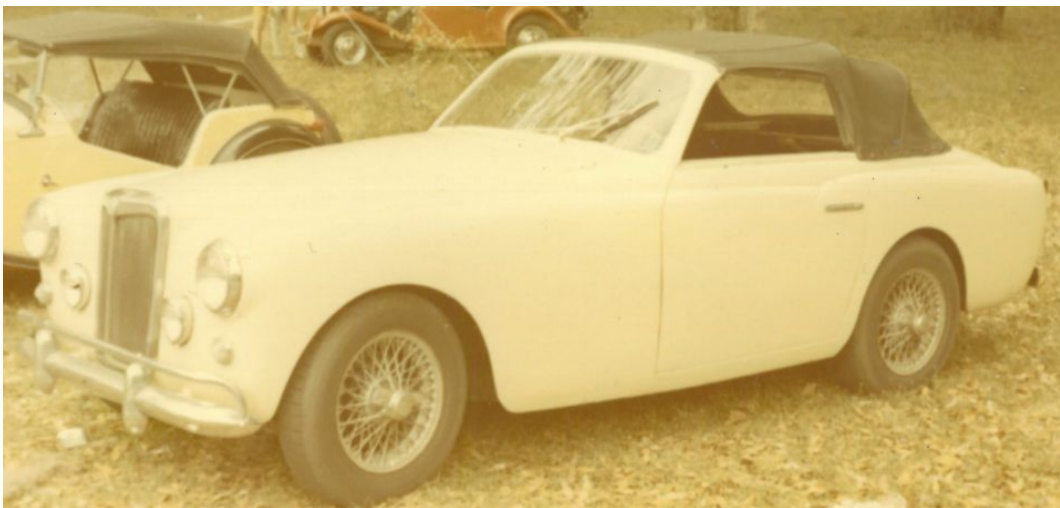
### How I Caught the MG Addiction

My roommate at Georgia Tech showed up in 1962 with and Austin-Healey 100/6 after Christmas break. Needless to say, for someone driving a 1951 Chevy 2 door Business Coupe, lowest in the Chevy model line, the Healey was an eye and sensory opening experience. So, in December 1963, while home for Christmas break with \$325 left over from my part time job, I naively went to the MG / Austin-Healey dealer in Miami to buy myself a Healey. Obviously, they laughed at my offer. But they countered with a 1952 TD in the back lot with a broken crankshaft. The deal we made for \$325 included the car and a 50% discount on all parts needed for the repair. Knowing that my father, who liked to tinker with mechanical things, would help, I accepted and towed the car home. That was my start with MG's. At that time I had started dating Estela, now my wife, and took her home to show her the disassembled TD so she would know what I spent my time on. Obviously, she apparently did not mind as we are still together 60 yrs. later, and various British car rebuilds and projects.

In February 1965, I hired on with Florida Power and Light Co. and was sent to the new Cape Canaveral Generating plant in Cocoa. We quickly finished painting the rebuilt 1952 TD and headed North. For the next four months, it was my only transportation and was used for weekly trips back to Miami to visit family, and Estela. We got married in June 1965, and brought my wife and the 1951 Chevrolet to Cocoa where we established our new home. As the family began to grow, a 1965 Corvair Corsa Coupe replaced the Chevrolet. About a year later my neighbor came to see me at dinnertime to tell me someone was throwing away a car just like the TD. We immediately drove to the trailer park and found a 1949 TC by the dumpster.

*(Editor's note.. Next month we will publish Ben's article about this TC that was first published in the New England T Registry in June of 2025 )*

In 1971 fellow club member and friend Art Floyd had purchased a second MG Arnolt. I bought one of them from him, a 1953 coupe that had been modified into a convertible. Unfortunately, we never completed that restoration and years later while restoring the SA Tickford, I traded it to Peter Ratcliff, the original owner of SVW Services in England in exchange for parts needed for the SA. Peter took it to England and completed the restoration there. Being a unique American creation by S. H. Arnolt in Chicago, this model was a rarity in the UK.



The 1953 MG Arnolt soon to be heading to the UK

## Looking Forward to GoF South LX *continued...*

And that beautiful 1938 MG SA Tickford that led to our starting the CMGC South, I acquired it in 1980. Paul Robertson moved to Vermont that year and chose to take with him the 1934 MG NA that he had imported from England because the SA was too large for his garage. I was thrilled to own it, although it is not getting as much use lately as it deserves. *(editor's note... It is the one pictured on the front of this month's Octagon.)* Since then, our family has enjoyed an MGA, an MGB, a very early Land Rover, and a couple of Jaguars.

I look forward to seeing everyone next month at GoF South LX, making up for the one I missed in 1969, and continuing this unique and special MG tradition with family and friends.



Club founder Will Bowden, on the right, enters the scene of an early version of the GoF meet and greet

### - HISTORY -

The Classic MG Club was formed in 1962 in Orlando, Florida by a small group of enthusiasts dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the 'T' type MG. Memberships were solicited by a concentrated 'flyer' campaign and spread by word of mouth. The Club now consists of over 40 members from all over Central Florida as well as enthusiasts from other states. Meetings are held monthly, the third Thursday of the month. Social and sporting events are held bi-monthly. A newsletter is published monthly which includes tips, ideas, problems, technical discussions and activities.



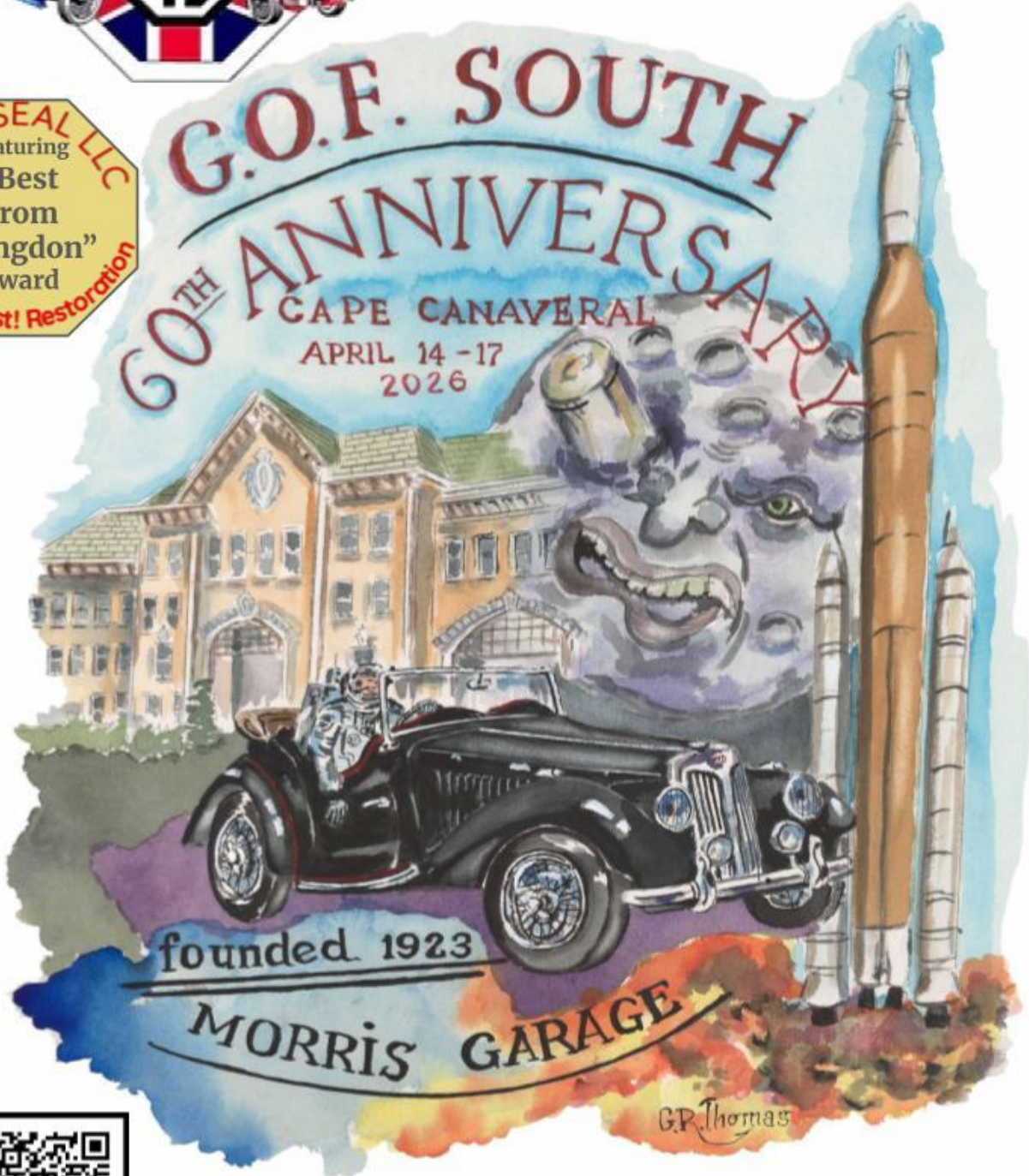
*Editor's note... This is an image taken from the GoF III program. Sixty years later: now over 200 members, still holding monthly meetings, having monthly events and publishing a monthly newsletter. Our thanks to the founders for their vision and leadership.*



# 2026 GoF-South



You are cordially invited  
to join us...  
"It's an MG Holiday!"



Hosted by:  
**The Classic MG Club  
of Orlando**

..... [tinyurl.com/gofsouth2026](https://tinyurl.com/gofsouth2026) .....



# Other Events of Interest

## SAVE THE DATE



Hosted by: The North American Council of MG Registers

**AUGUST 24-27, 2026**

**SHORES & ISLANDS**<sub>OHIO</sub>  
CEDAR POINT • SANDUSKY • PUT-IN-BAY

**Sandusky Kalahari Resort**



## AN ALL MG EVENT



**Kalahari Resort**



**Close to Lake Erie**



**Islands Cruise**



**Local Self Drives to interesting places**

We invite the MG Family to our five-year event to celebrate "The Marque of Friendship" The link below will be open in mid-December, 2025

[www.MGInternational2026.org](http://www.MGInternational2026.org)

*Web Site will be up mid December*



# Classy Finds

*Aka classifieds*



Order Your GOF and Club Merchandise Now for the Fall or Holidays!


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



\$20

Blu | Dk Gry| Wht|    Size S - 4XL

Mens Crew \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

Wmns V-nck \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

**100% Cotton GOF Art T-shirt is trim cut!**  
**Size up for looser fit. Add \$5 for 3XL and 4XL**



\$25

Navy | Red |    Size S- 3XL

Mens \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

Wmns \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

**UPF Polo club insignia shirt is Regular Cut**  
**Additional \$5 for 3XL**



\$30

Lt Blu | Dk Gry| White|    Size S - 3XL

Mens \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

Wmns \_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_

**UPF outdoor club insignia shirt is Regular Cut**  
**Additional \$5 for 3XL**



\$25

Qty \_\_\_\_\_

**UPF Safari Hat**  
**One size fits most**

<p><b>Checks payable to:</b>  <b>Classic MG Club</b></p> <p><b>Items will be delivered at</b>  <b>Club functions or</b>  <b>Add \$6.99 for each item to be shipped</b></p>	<p><b>Mail this form and check to:</b>  <b>Tracey Waggoner - GOF</b>  <b>1976 Quail Hollow Dr</b>  <b>Deland, FL 32720</b></p>
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**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](mailto: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**  
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.

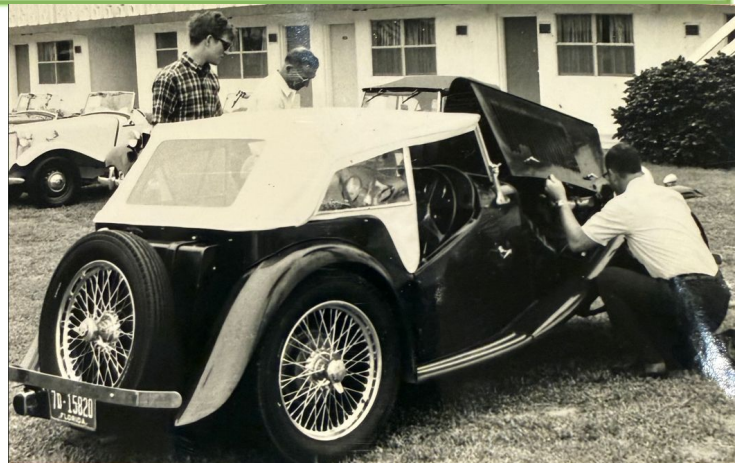
Donate Online: <http://www.tinyurl.com/GoF-FoodBank>

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.

## This month's End Shot...

Closing out this month with another shot from GoF III Cape in 1969.  
An impromptu tech session?  
Many thanks to the Gilbert family for sharing these GoF pictures and a glimpse of what MG life was like in the late sixties.



See you next month!  
*Keith*

