

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

February 2023

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Issue 712



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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President's Thoughts

Volunteers are the reason the CMGC is 60 years old this year. Everything we do is done by volunteers.

Glen Moore produced an award-winning newsletter the likes of which we'll probably not see again. We can't thank him enough! We're looking into some ideas. If you have some computer knowledge, please e-mail or give me a call.

We also need a replacement for Lonnie Cook, who has served as our membership chair. If you are interested, please e-mail Lonnie or give him a call.

We have our planning meeting coming up in March. This is where we plan our monthly events and, once again, it's all done by volunteers. More on this later.

This year's GOF South will be hosted by the MG Classics of Jacksonville. Mark your calendar for April 20-23rd and make plans to attend. Register early to ensure you get a hotel room at the Best Western.

Next year the GOF South will be by the CMGC. Scott Buie has begun the planning and, again, there will be many chances to volunteer for everything from registration to parking cars.

We just got back from the North/South Picnic and it was a great success. Thanks to John and Sharon Spadaro for a great event. There were 40 MGs in attendance, along with several other cars with actual heaters in them.

It was the first time I had my MGB out with its new tires. The B handled well and for the first time in over twenty years, had new tires on it. Please check the date codes on your tires. Most folks recommend 6 to 10 years max for tires.

Jim McSweeney



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Nauti Lobstah, Apopka
January 19, 2023



January Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jim McSweeney

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Dodie reported over \$13,000 bank balance.

No new member introductions, Lonnie reported there were 72 new members added to the Club in the past 4 years.

Scott Buie said he would take over the website. The membership applauded.

Old Business

Ken Ball discussed the Christmas Party.

John Spadaro discussed the North-South Picnic and stated food would be ordered so if you are going, contact him by the 21st. The Picnic is January 28th, information is in The Octagon.

Dodie reminded the membership about the February event at Nehrling Gardens. This will be on the Saturday after the February meeting.

New Business

Jim Mc Sweeney said he will be the contact for the club with the North American MGB Register. Mike Mc Cormick said he would be the club contact with the NEMGTR.

Glen Moore will be leaving as editor of The Octagon. May will be his last issue. I'm not expecting anyone to follow Glen as his skills are way above most of us, however, we will need someone with some skills to carry on with a newsletter. Please contact me if you know of anyone in the Club that can do this.

Lonnie Cook will leave as new member contact and keeper of the membership roll in August. He has been doing this since 2015. Lonnie will provide simplified directions to his successor. Again, please contact Lonnie for more information.

The Club is 60 years old this year! Lonnie spoke about celebrating this during the year. He said the CMGC of Orlando is one of the top MG clubs in the country and the world. I know Lonnie is working on some things. If you have ideas, please let him know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.



New Members

Joe and Maria Veglucci, Orlando, 1958 MGA Coupe We are from New York, been in Florida for about 46 years. In New York, I had a specialty parts and machine shop. Started in the classic car hobby when I was 17 - 79 now. I have rebuilt about 35 cars - VWs, Porsche 356s, and British cars. Always like the TF and MGA Coupe. We found an MGA Coupe that had a full nut-and-bolt restoration 1400 miles ago. It is now in our garage.

David and Sunny Hester,
The Villages, 1952 MGTD



Last Chance



IS YOUR INFO CORRECT?

The 2023 CMGC Member Pack will be distributed in March

- > Is your info in the Member Pack correct?
- > Would you like to add a new shop or a website?

[Click here to see the current Member Pack](#)

Contact Lonnie Cook to make changes.
lonniecook@aol.com
Must receive by Feb 14, 2023.





Happy 60th Anniversary

Congratulations Classic MG Club members. Our club turns 60 years old this year!

Who would have thought that three young guys speeding around the backroads of Central Florida in little two-seat sports cars in 1963 could create a life-changing organization that is still going strong sixty years later.

Those young guys were Will Bowden, John Camichos, and Blair Engle.

Blair Engle described how it all started ...

“In 1962 an MG nut in Orlando by the name of Will Bowden got the bright idea to organize an MG club. He and I both worked at the Martin plant in Orlando, and Will left a note in my TD in the parking lot telling about his idea of forming an MG club. I called him that night and we swapped MG stories for hours. That was the start of a long friendship. Will also contacted John Camichos who also has a TD. The three of us rounded up some 20 enthusiasts and organized the Classic MG Club.”

MGs were the driving force in the lives of Will, John, and Blair. They built, raced, and restored MGs. They freely gave their time and knowledge to club members. John is still my go-to guy for help with my TFs. When Will, John, and Blair saw an MG that they didn't know, they would chase it down or leave a message under the wiper asking the owner to join our club.

Today the club is the oldest MG club in Florida and has over two hundred members throughout the state and beyond. It is one of the premier MG clubs in the nation. We still have the passion for these little British cars that Will, John, and Blair started sixty years ago.

Raise your glass and toast to sixty years of MG bliss!

Lonnie Cook



CMGC ANNIVERSARY LOGOS



1st Anniversary
1963



50th Anniversary
2013



60th Anniversary
2023

- ★ CMGC founder John Camichos created the first patch for the club.
- ★ CMGC founder Will Bowden created the 50th anniversary patch.
- ★ CMGC founder Blair Engle created the club's grille badge that Will Bowden used on the 50th anniversary patch.
- ★ Here's Lonnie's suggestion for a 60th logo, do you have an idea to contribute?

Lonnie Cook



CLASSIC MG CLUB – THE EARLY YEARS

Young guys and their families driving and loving MGs



GOF-South 1970: Whitworth Award to John Camichos (left)



GOF-South 1973



Club member and leader Bill Wohlfart c1965

(His TF is now owned by Lonnie Cook)



First CMGC Concours 1965.

John Camichos (right), Jean Camichos (2nd from left), John's daughter Lisa (in stroller)

Ellen Bowden Tidwell (back to camera), Ellen's grandfather (left), Ellen's mother (second from right)



Will Bowden and young family



Will Bowden racing his #13 TF

This three-page document, sharing some of the history of the Classic MG Club of Orlando, and introducing the three men who joined together to initiate the club, was prepared by Lonnie Cook. He printed this information, multiple times, for handouts used at the January Club meeting to illustrate his presentation on the 60th anniversary of the club. Editor.





MGs were part of Will's family.



CMGC three racing amigos.
Blair Engle (left), Tony Roth (center), Will Bowden (right)



Blair Engle's successful #99 TD racer. Now owned by his son Craig



John is the guy to see for MG advice.



John Camichos – 1956. The day that he bought his 1950 TD.
Seven years before he, Will, and Blair founded the club.

His TD looks the same today.



NEWSLETTER
August 1970

CLASSIC MG CLUB

The CLASSIC MG CLUB was formed by a small group of MG enthusiasts in the Central Florida area in the spring of 1963. Classic MG owners (1955 and earlier) were contacted by an extensive flyer campaign to solicit interest. Our aim is to help the Classic MG owner with his problems, maintenance, restoration and toward the enjoyment and sharing of good will and fellowship engendered by owning an MG Classic and engaging in such social activities and other events as may be agreeable to the membership.

Parts locations, volume and discount purchasing, accessories, service and many do-it-yourself projects have been undertaken as a direct result of the club. Members are able to see examples of others' mistakes or good fortunes. Local shops and services come recommended, or not, and why. This also goes for out-of-town services, etc. How many times have you ordered something and then not been satisfied, or couldn't find out where to get it? Why not find out ahead of time if anyone has had experience in this same area? Then you benefit by his experience.

Need an item in a hurry to get back on the road; can't wait weeks? One of the members may have a "loaner" or a quick fix until you can replace the item. We are attempting a "Spares Registry", here we list all of the items one has for sale, trade or loan.

Is it cheaper to renew or rechrome? Where do you get it? Who does that work best? Local people can't get the parts; where do you get them? Have you got some good sources? Who has an extra door? What tires are best for what application? How do they wear? How can I prepare for a gymkhana, rallye, concours? How can I make my MG handle better? Where can I read more about MG history? Are new parts available, rubber parts? These are some of the questions we can help to answer as a club. Maybe you have a few new ones or some answers for our club. Our organization is devoted to helping the "CLASSIC MG" owner..... you! Why not include yourself?

The CLASSIC MG CLUB is affiliated with the MG T Registry which aids us in some of our major undertakings. A club library is maintained. Books, periodicals and various bits of information are kept on file for the membership. We conduct monthly meetings and events, including rallies, gymkhanas, concours, technical demonstrations and social gatherings. We meet the third Thursday of the month, 8:00 PM at the American Federal Savings and Loan Association in Orlando and publish a monthly newsletter to the membership. Our dues are three dollars a year, with an additional five dollars for the optional membership to the MG T Registry.

HOW TO JOIN..... JUST FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND MAIL TO:

Tony Roth.....1307 Ridgecrest Road.....Orlando, Florida 32806

I hereby apply for membership in the CLASSIC MG CLUB and certify that I am an owner of an MG, TF, TD, TC or earlier model CLASSIC MG. Make checks payable to the CLASSIC MG CLUB for \$3.00 and send with a color picture of you and your car. Happy motoring!

NAME _____	MG INFORMATION, give as complete as possible.
ADDRESS _____	MODEL _____ CHASSIS NO. _____
CITY _____ STATE _____	ENGINE TYPE _____ ENG. NO. _____
ZIP CODE _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____	YEAR _____ COLOR _____
AGE _____ OCCUPATION _____	MODIFICATIONS _____
SPONSORED BY _____	_____
Unusual history, information, etc. about the MG:	_____
_____	_____



Nehrling Gardens

February Club Event

Mark your calendars for the February 2023 MG club event at Nehrling Gardens in Gotha. On Saturday, February 18, we have a private tour scheduled with a docent to take us through the 1880s historic home and gardens of Dr. Henry Nehrling. This special site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is dedicated to historic preservation, horticultural education, and environmental conservation. I have been told that plants will also be for sale.



Location of the gardens: 2267 Hempel Avenue, Gotha, Florida 34734. We have parking across the street from the entrance and a caretaker from the gardens will help us cross the street.

Time: Begin arriving at the gardens at 9:30 a.m.; the tour will begin at 10:00 a.m.

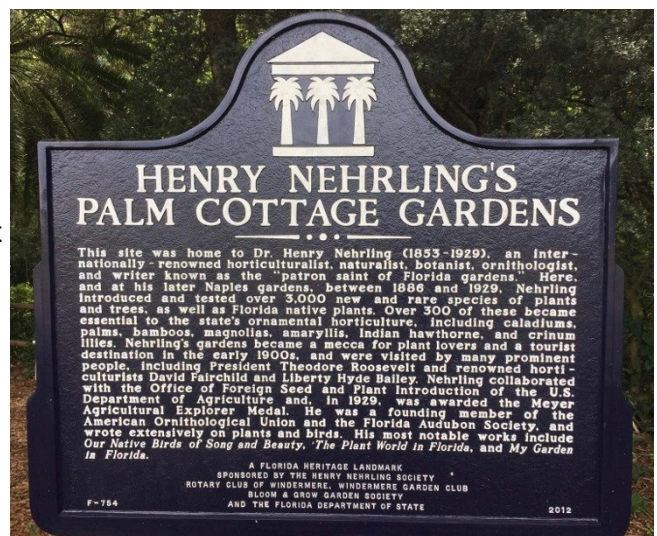
Cost: Nehrling Gardens is a non-profit organization run by volunteers and a volunteer docent will be our guide in February. Our day is an extra event for them to have the gardens open and they are suggesting a \$10 per person donation, this is just a suggestion and any donation is fine. Their requested donation during their regular Saturday events is \$5 per person.

Important information regarding the tour: Tours will cover approximately 3/4 mile on foot through gently contoured terrain, as well as several small sets of steps. Paths are mulched and because of the nature of this historic property, wheelchairs cannot be accommodated. Please wear sensible sturdy shoes and appropriate clothes to walk in a woodland setting. Also, each guest will be required to sign a release and waiver before touring.

More information and a release will be provided to you at the January and February meetings. For more information about Nehrling Gardens, its history, local Gotha history, and other details that might answer questions you have, go to nehrlinggardens.org.

Please RSVP to craley@gmail.com so I can give them an approximate count for the tour.

Thank you! *Carol Raley*





A Postcard from Karel & A Greeting Card from Reinout

Reinout Vogt

An MG ZA in front of The Lygon Arms Hotel, in Broadway in The Cotswolds, an area just South of Birmingham in the UK. The hotel dates back to the early 1600s and there was a coach-inn in the same location as far back as the 1300s. This postcard, with ZA by the hotel sign-post is probably from the 1950s.



This card is a reproduction of a sales poster printed by The Nuffield Press in 1953. The artist was J. Pelling, whose name was cut off the card but appeared on the original poster. The card was printed by Vintage Ad Gallery in 2003 and the copyright was British Motor Industry Heritage Trust Ltd. The artist captured speed and racing perfectly, with the use of perspective and the gravel shooting up from underneath the tires. Without the windshield, you can just picture the concentrating eyes behind the goggles of the driver-racer. What a great piece of art. Interesting are the flags in the background. Although not perfectly clear, it looks like an American, Union Jack, and the French flags. Would that have been the artist's interpretation of an International race or would it have been



on MG's direction to target certain markets? Surprising is also the inconsistent use of trade names and their spelling. Peachtree club member Jim McCrory has quite a collection of MG TF brochures and sales material. In those pieces you see TF, sometimes it is T.F., and 'Series T.F.' or "T.F. Series". This card has it: Series 'T.F'. Note that there is only a period after the T, not after the F. Why would you need quotes to begin with? Single or double quotes? And the whole name or only TF? Sloppy, I guess.



MG in Advertising

We have all seen print advertising for MG cars. But, there were also magazine advertisements for other products that used an image or picture of an MG. Last year, my good friend Jeff Powell from Melrose Park, Illinois, who collects more things MG, as well as other automotive and bicycle-related things than most of us, started a series of his advertising collection in the Driveline, the newsletter of the Chicagoland MG Club, edited by Victor L'Heureux. We have permission from Jeff and Victor, to republish them. Here is the first one with the original caption from Jeff. Thanks to Jeff, Victor, and The Chicagoland MG Club.



Circa 1954 Coca Cola

This young all-American boy appears to be enjoying his freshman days while stopping off for gasoline and a refreshing Coke. His Dad is going to be Irritated when he finds scuff marks on his fender from the boy's Buster Browns!

Contributed by:

Reinout Vogt



MG Calendar of Events

February

- 2/16 **Club Meeting** at Nauti Lobster, 311 S. Forest Ave, Apopka
6:30pm for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm
- 2/18 **Nehrling Gardens** club event - 9:30 am, 2267 Hempel Ave, Gotha, 34734
Details on page 9, Carol Raley craley@gmail.com

2023

- 2/11-19 **Best of Britian - 100 Years of MG**, Simeone Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 4/01 **“April Fools Day” Multi-Marque Show**, Sanford, British Car Club of Central Florida
<https://www.britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com/car-show-information>
- 4/20-23 **GOF South Mk 57**, Gainesville, Best Western Gateway Grand
For more details, check out <https://www.gofsouth.org/>
Registration is now open
- 5/27 **MG Centenary**
Gaydon, England
- 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



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





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, Gainseville, 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

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



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register



This is a Rain or Shine Event



February 2023

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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**1923 2023
CENTENARY**

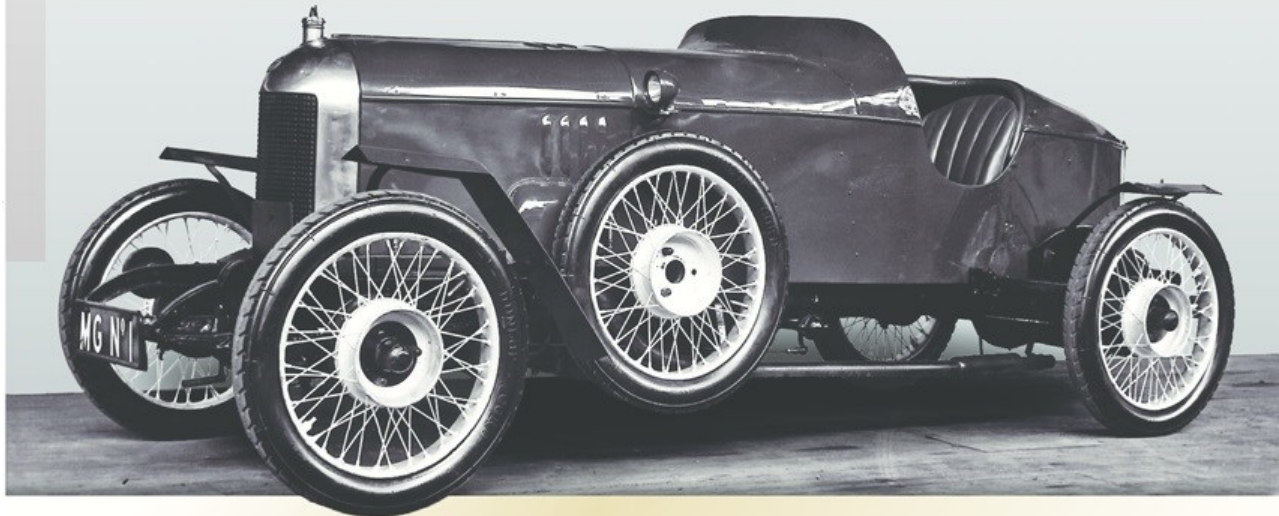


**In support of Air Ambulance UK,
Prostate Cancer UK and
Sporting Bears Motor Club**



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
Tickets on sale from British Motor Museum: 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!

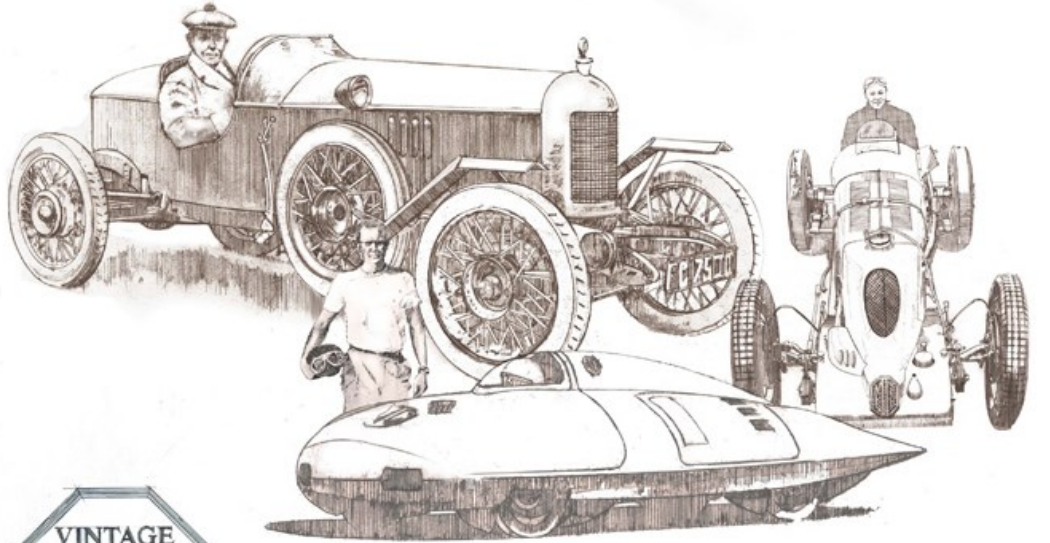
For details and to register, visit GOF2023.com.
Be sure to watch the video!





LIME ROCK CELEBRATES MG'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 1-4 2023



Safety fast!

Ann Abbing



MG Marketplace



1952 MGTD Silver body with black fenders, black leather Interior. Complete ground-up restoration 14 years ago. This MG was built for Show and Go. It is a constant TOP prize winner. Rear axle ratio - 4.33, many extras, drives like new. Miles driven since restoration, approximately 1,000. \$27,500

Pete Rogers 352/343-1855 H
352/406-1948 C
31104 Fairvista Dr., Tavares, FL

1955 MGTF 1500 Silver body with red interior. This is an outstanding car that has earned many first place awards. Disk brakes, 3.9 rear, recalibrated speedometer, chrome wire wheels, full tonneau, SS exhaust, digital ignition, all the best accessories. \$40,000 Contact Pete Rogers



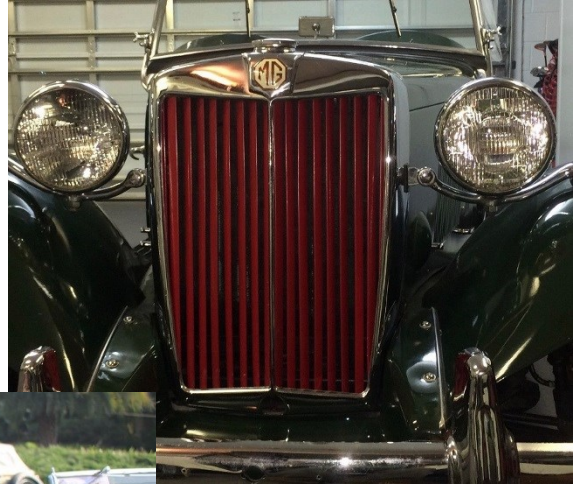
1954 MGTF 1500 Fully restored in all aspects, documented with over 700 photos. Front disc brakes, new leather interior, new tan hood and half tonneau. Set up for reliability and highway cruising with a Chevrolet 4-cylinder engine and automatic transmission. Must be seen to be fully appreciated. Come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

Steven Powell, spowell@rtm-inc.com



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

Contact the editor each month
to keep your ad current.

MGTF Front Fenders and Bonnet Side Panels

Good condition, very restorable MGTF front fenders and bonnet side panels. \$600
BC 949-234-6564
hot1929rod@yahoo.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.

Second Harvest
FOOD BANK
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
FeedHopeNow.org



fighting hunger. feeding hope.

Second Harvest is an efficiently-run charity with 97% of contributions going directly to help local people in need. Every \$25 donation can provide 100 meals for struggling families and kids.

Donate Online: www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank

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



Too Much Love . . . Bugs



Paul Plasschaert Photo

Yes, it is the wrong end of the MG for the ending note. But, it is early in the New Year and we should be looking forward.

“I came across this photo which was taken during our overnighter to Vero Beach in May 2019. The interesting thing was that we had already cleaned the car, especially the windshield from the love bugs, at our halfway stop to Vero Beach, but had to clean the car again upon our arrival!”

Ann Plasschaert

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

