

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

May 2025

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## Presidential Thoughts

Last weekend was GOF 2025 in Gainesville. The Cars were good, but the people were great. I find GOF to be different from other car shows. We find beauty in all MG's, from the ones that have been restored better than when they left Abington, to those unrestored projects. The stories behind the cars seem to be more



important than the car itself. Was the MG a personal or family heirloom, a replacement of an MG from your youth, or one you have been longing for? On the drive to GOF 2025 I was looking forward to seeing those friends I previously made at GOF and only see at the event. GOF 2025 was no different from the past. I saw many old friends and made 8-10 new ones. *A tip for the next GOF Meet and Greet- sit at a table where you don't know anyone.*

The location for GOF 2026 has been selected, Radisson Resort at the Port, in Port Canaveral. We think this is a great venue. The area is a vacation destination due to the various activities available in the area, museums, beach, space center and many more. There will be similarities to previous GOFs with some significant differences. The most significant difference is that it is scheduled midweek. This was done for one reason, to hold the cost down. Our thoughts on this is that the Radisson will honor the room rate for 3 days before and after the GOF 2026. So make GOF 2026 a GOF and a vacation, or as the Brits say "*Holiday*".

Tracey Waggoner is our Chairwoman. We are excited with the leadership and new, fresh ideas she is bringing to the process of producing a GOF.

The May event is a drive to the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum hosted by John Avallone. Due to personal interest, I have been looking forward to this event as well as recon for GOF 2026.

See you down the road!

Mark Tidwell

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May 2025

Classic MG Club of Orlando

# Your Club's Leadership

President:	Mark Tidwell	<a href="mailto:1mwtidwell@gmail.com">1mwtidwell@gmail.com</a>
Vice President:	Jim McSweeney	<a href="mailto:jimspeedmaster@aol.com">jimspeedmaster@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:CMGCModerator@gmail.com">CMGCModerator@gmail.com</a>
Chairperson, GOFSouth 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: [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](http://NAMGAR.com)  
Nat'l Meeting: GT-50 Traverse City, MI  
Jun 2-6 (MGA 70th Anniv)  
Local Contact: Jill Moore



Their Website: [NAMGBR.org](http://NAMGBR.org)  
Nat'l Meeting: MG2025 Crystal Lake, IL  
Jul 28-31  
Local Contact: Jim McSweeney



# The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## Meeting Minutes



There was no meeting this month due to 2025 GOF-South

As seen at the 2025 GOF-South...



# Calendar of Upcoming Club Events



## 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

**06/21 DeBary Hall Historic Site Tour, 198 Sunrise Blvd, DeBary, FL**

w/ Lunch at the Swamp House Riverfront Grill

Hosted by Ann Plasschaert.

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

## July

**07/17 Club Meeting at Nauti Lobstah, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka**

6:30PM for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm

**07/19 Orlando Auto Museum 5250 International Drive Orlando**

11:00 VIP Tour and Lunch to follow at Bond Lounge

Hosted by Jim Young

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



# 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 11AM 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](mailto:johnavallone73@gmail.com)**



# June's Upcoming Club Event



## DeBary Hall Historic Site

198 Sunrise Blvd. in DeBary, 32713

**June 21st**

The Hall is a 19th-century hunting estate overlooking the St. Johns River in DeBary. It has a fascinating history and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

A private tour is booked to start at 10:30 am  
Tour fees are - seniors \$4.00 - adults \$5.00

Lunch will follow at 12:30 pm at  
The Swamp House Riverfront Grill  
488 W Highbanks Rd, DeBary

For those wanting to caravan,  
we will meet at 9:00 am at Publix in the Springs Plaza  
2381 W State Rd. 434, Longwood.  
(corner of 434 and Wekiva Springs Rd)

**Please call or text Ann Plasschaert. 407-257-8324 by June 17  
if you will be attending**

Looking forward to a fun outing!

***Although June may prove to be a rather "warm" month for a drive,  
we will strive for an early start and please note:  
the venue and the restaurant are both air conditioned !!!***



# July's Upcoming Club Event



## Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park

5250 International Drive Orlando FL 32819

We're arranging a fun-filled time on July 19th. The Museum opens at 11, there's a VIP tour for \$29.99, which gets you an in-depth tour of the auto museum and entrance into the park facility.

We can also have lunch at the Bond Lounge and look at all the Bond cars used in the films.

Please contact Jim Young at [magicbucfan95@gmail.com](mailto:magicbucfan95@gmail.com) before July 4th and let him know you are interested in attending. More updates once we get a count of those coming.



# Classic MG Club Year-at-a-Glance

## May 2025- April 2026 Calendar

May 3, Saturday 9:30 Valiant Air Command Inc Warbird Museum Drive;  
Titusville -Host: John Avallone

June 21, Saturday 10:30 DeBary Hall Historic Site Tour; DeBary  
w/ Lunch Swamp House Riverfront Grill  
Host: Ann Plasschaert

July 19, Sat 11:00 Orlando Auto Museum at Dezerland Park;  
International Dr, Orlando -Host: Jim Young

August (date tbd) Fiddler's Green Irish Pub and Eatery, Darts;  
Winter Park -Host: Patrick Raley

September (date tbd) Sickies Garage valve cover races and lunch;  
International Dr, Orlando -Host: Jim Young

October (date tbd) Overnighter Radisson Resort at the Port;  
Cape Canaveral Hosts: Ellen and Mark Tidwell

November 9, Sunday 12-4 Founders Picnic- On the St Johns in Deland  
Hosts: Tracey and Keith Waggoner

December 21, Thursday 5PM Tour of Lights- Winter Park Racquet Club  
Hosts: Rebekkah and Brad Parlee

### 2025

January: Visit Chase Wildlife Sanctuary; Webster  
Hosts: Marcia and Scott Buie

February: North/South Picnic -Hosts: Sharon and John Spadaro

March: Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens,  
Winter Park -Hosts: JoAnn and Lonnie Cook

April 14-17 GOF South LX ; 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

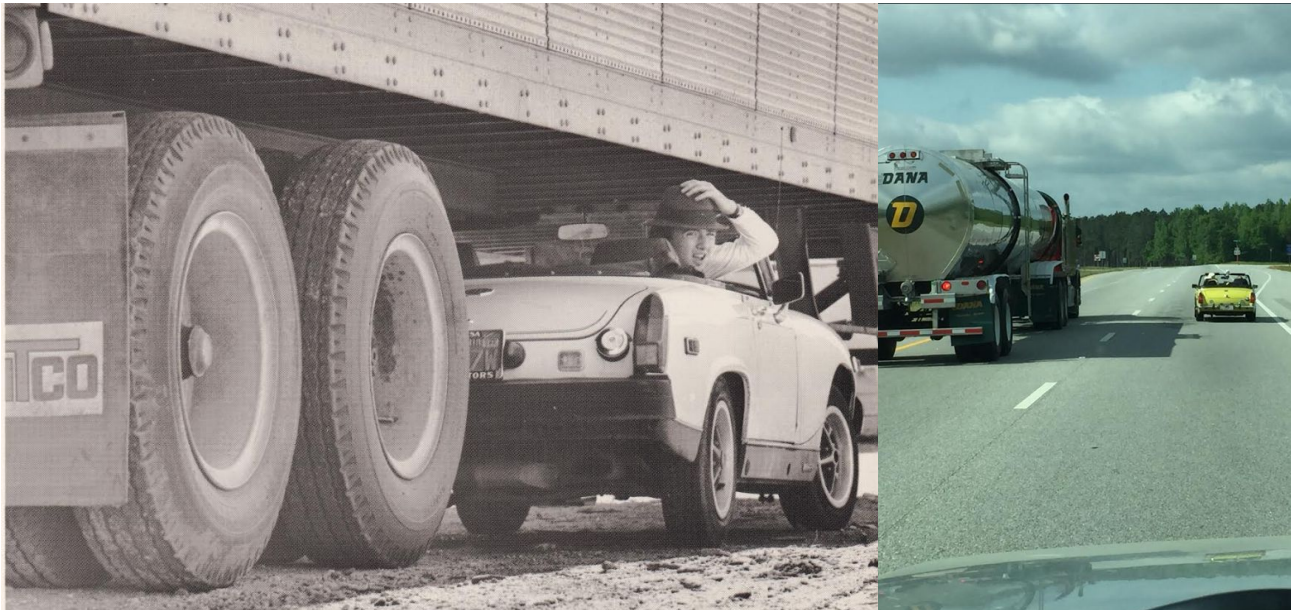
Webster Flea Market (Open only on Monday) with lunch and Southern Hospitality

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

Tech Sessions held at Club members garage

## Greeting Cards

from Reinout Vogt



This card is titled “Tight Squeeze” and the photo is by David McEnery, It shows a rubber-bumper Midget under a semi-trailer. The card is produced by and copyrighted to Flashcards Inc. from Fort Lauderdale, FL. To demonstrate that the proportions of this photo are no exaggeration, here is a photo I made of Jack and Kathy Orkin, being passed by a tanker trailer on the way to Brits on the Bay in Pensacola, FL in 2018.



# 2025 GOF-South MG Classics of Jacksonville



## EVENT AWARDS

### FIRST TIMER CAR SHOW

1st Place: Daniel Craig: 1953 MGTD  
2nd Place: Ian Henderson: 1966 MGB

### BEST IN SHOW

Zach Merrill: 1966 MOD: MGB GT

## CLASS AWARDS

### Pre-war:

1st Place: James Hester: 1930 MGM

### MG TC:

1st Place: Mark Tidwell: 1946 MGTC

### MGTD

1st Place: Daniel Craig: 1953 MGTD  
2nd Place: Melvin Tucker: 1953 MGTD  
3rd Place: Kelli Caswell: 1953 MGTD

### MG TF:

1st Place: Scott Buie: 1954 MGTF

### MGA 1956-1960

1st Place: Dale Isenhoff: 1958 MGA  
2nd Place: Julie Daniels: 1959 MGA

### MGA 1961-1962

1st Place: Bill Richey: 1962 MGA  
2nd Place: Frank Winegar: 1962 MGA

### MGB (Cr): 1963 - 1972

1st Place: Oliver Hoffman: 1963 MGB  
2nd Place: John Avallone: 1972 MGB

### MGB GT

1st Place: Glenn Lenhart: 1967 MGB/GT

### MGB (Cr) 1973-1974

1st Place: Thomas Lempicke: 1974 MGB  
2nd Place: John Helton: 1974 MGB

### MGC GT

1st Place: David Tenney: 1969 MGC/GT

### MG MOD

1st Place: Zach Merrill: 1966 MGB GT

### MGB Rubber Bumper

1st Place: Barrie Carson: 1980 MGB

### Judge's Choice

Michael Deck: 1978 MGB

### PREMIER:

1st Place: Glen Moore: 1949 MGTC  
2nd Place: JoAnne & Lonnie Cook: 1954 MGTF  
3rd Place: Roger Hartman: 1958 MGA

## OTHER AWARDS

### JUDGES AWARD

Reinout Vogt: 1931 MGM

### Longest Distance Driven

Daniel Craig:

### Longest Distance Trailered

James Hester

### TENURE CERTIFICATE

Joseph Paez

### TENURE CERTIFICATE

George Pardee

### CHAIRMANS AWARD

Selena & Fred Woller

### LEGACY AWARD

Richard Gross

### MGTD 75th ANNIVERSARY AWARD

All MGTD Owners with MGTD Cars at the Show



# Announcing 2026 GOF-South

Make the 60th GOF your MG Holiday April, 14-17 2026  
Radisson Resort at the Port in Port Canaveral, Florida

[Click here to view the intro to your 2026 GOF South](#)



*You may see a space launch*

*...or possibly a rocket  
returning from space*



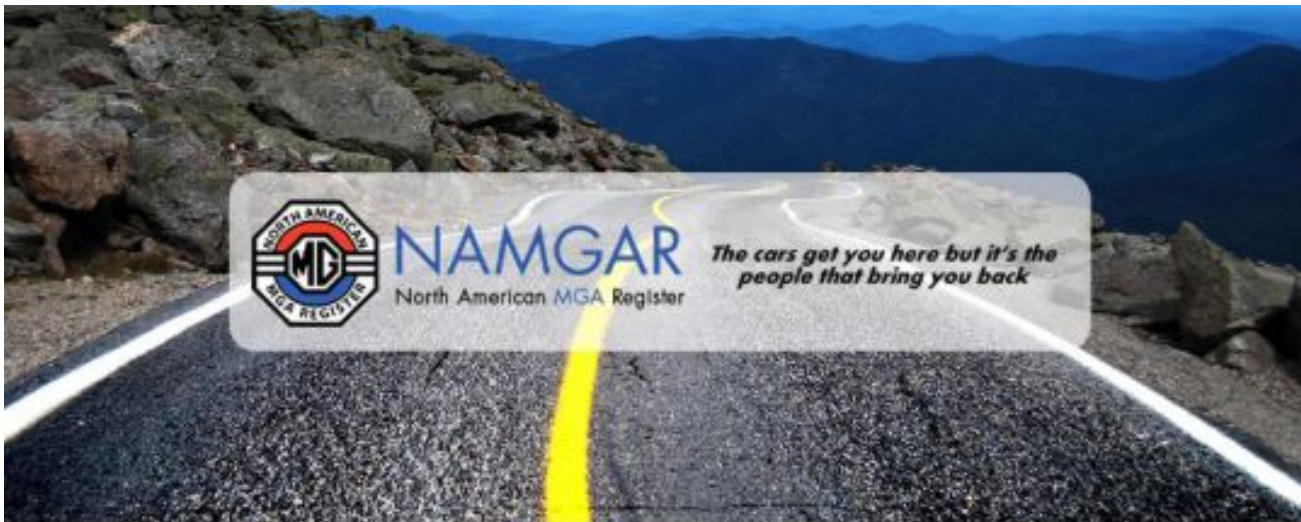
**Cool Pools**

As the countdown continues, we will keep you updated here in the Octagon.

*This year, GOF runs from Tuesday to Friday morning. Make it a holiday by extending your stay through the weekend and enjoy what the space coast offers.*



# 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](https://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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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



# Maintaining the Marque

## My recent trip abroad

by Keith Waggoner

In my many conversations with Lonnie Cook and Glen Moore, we rarely have them without sharing our concern with the fate of the classic MG car. Who will want to keep them when we are unable?

As Lonnie says, "We are only their custodians".

I recently took a trip to Australia and was always in search of an MG story. Within a few miles apart, I encountered two.

The first, was the owner of an MG shop, Peter Moxham who was in his 46th year of servicing MGs.

During our conversation, he used that same phrase I heard from Lonnie.. "We are only their custodians". He also shared, that those of a younger age who do come into possession of MGs, are not of the same mindset as the previous generations, so the clubs and repair shops will need to change to stay relevant



A few miles further up the highway, I saw the sign of an MG auto dealer. I was mentioning to my wife, Tracey, how China, the new owner of the Marque, could sell their cars in Australia and not the US, she interrupted me and said "Ooo, there's a red T in the window". I flipped the car around and back to the showroom we went. There on display was a 1953 TF nose-to-nose with a 2024 MG Cyberster. I could tell it had recently been refurbed and looked as if it hadn't spent an hour on the road since.

## My recent trip abroad ... continued

I read the storyboards attached to the car, that detailed its 3½ year trip around Australia. I asked a salesperson who the owner was. He had no idea. I contacted Peter, the MG repairman I had just met, and he had no idea. I had hoped to learn the owners name before leaving Australia, but no luck.

After coming back to the states, there was only one person I knew who could uncover the owner, our own Lonnie Cook.

Sure enough, Lonnie got the back story. The owner who made the cross-country trip wanted to rebuild his TF and while at it, change its color from blue to red matching a new cyberster. He didn't have the money needed, but would pay in monthly installments. The owner fell onto hard times and was unable to pay for the rebuild. Within a few months, each had died and now the ownership is in question.

It's amazing how these cars carry with them tales of life stranger than fiction.



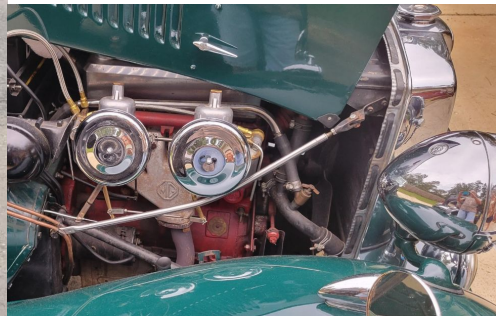
# Classy Finds

*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*

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



\$32,500

Dale Harshbarger

863 658 2217 (Sebring, FL) [bonanza71a@gmail.com](mailto:bonanza71a@gmail.com)

## Postcard from Karel

submitted by Reinout Vogt

This card is from Skegness, on the East coast of England between Hull and Norwich.

The MG is a Midget MkII (door handles and side screens) with license plate 638 RVO. The MG is accompanied by a nice variety of late 60's/70's British cars, from left to right: Mini, MG Midget, Ford Cortina, Ford Anglia, and a Hillman Imp.



The photo is from Skegness Pleasure Beach, a park with rides and entertainment on the beach. In the background the pier is just visible.





**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.



*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...

provided by *Glen Moore*.



Not to be outdone by the annual GOF Tweed Drive dinner the night before, the next day there was a Tweed Lunch/ High Tea at the Tea Shoppe in Alachua. Joining in the fun are an MGA, MG-TC, with chrome and rubber bumper MGBs bringing up the rear.

We'll have much more GOF coverage next month.

See you then!  
*Keith*

