

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

December 2021

Vol. 59, No. 12

Issue 698



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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



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## President's Thoughts

The end of the year is here, time to wish everyone Happy Holidays! As well as the Holidays, we are down to five months until our Gathering of the Faithful. The committee chairs have been selected at the Perkins planning meeting, and calls should be going out to fill the open volunteer slots. Please get involved. Your club needs you.

Along with the GOF, the club is involved in what changes to make, if any, to the monthly meeting. The Avallone Venue Committee has been established, and John is doing research. He will be putting together a ZOOM meeting with the other committee members when he feels he has a handle on the options.

The highlight of the Holiday season is coming up with the Tour of Lights and Outback dinner on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to Ann Plasschaert if you are coming.

Finally, there is a change to note on January's meeting. At the November meeting, we talked about going back to the Carrabbas in Winter Springs, but there were several comments about how Apopka is much more centrally located according to Lonnie's member location map. So, we have found a local Apopka restaurant with a private room and good food that will have us. The January 20<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting will be at the Nauti Lobstah, formerly known as The Catfish Place, at 311 S. Forest Ave Apopka, 32703.

This is my two-year anniversary as President, and I would like to thank all of you for your encouragement and help. Thanks especially to my biggest supporter and IT expert, my wife Carol.

Safety Fast,

Mike McCormick



**The Classic MG Club of Orlando**  
Puddle Jumpers Lakeside Grill & Bar, Tavares  
November 18, 2021



## **November Meeting Notes**

*Submitted by Jim McSweeney and Carol McCormick*

The meeting was held in the indoor first-floor dining room at Puddle Jumpers in Tavares. Twenty-eight members were in attendance on a rainy night.

**Treasurer's Report** Dodie Beach reported that we earned 6 cents interest in our account in October.

### **New Members Introductions**

Derek Kramer has officially joined the club. He currently lives in Miami, but is moving to the Mission Inn by April. He has a 1980 MGB Limited Edition.

Keith Kramer is planning on joining. He lives in Tavares and has a 1953 TD and an MGBGT.

### **Old Business**

Lonnie Cook reported that the Cars & Coffee at Ceres was a fun event.

Dodie Beach reported that the Flankey Picnic was an excellent event in all respects.

Scott Buie reported that those wishing to see the schedule for the GOF should go to <http://gofsouth.org>, and that the Thursday night Mission Inn rooms for the event are almost gone. Mike McCormick said we need to arrange for a backup hotel because all the Mission Inn rooms will probably be filled shortly.

Scott and Bill Dixon asked members to think about sponsor support from places they use for parts, service, upholstery, paint, etc. Bill also read a list of other items that members could donate.

Mike McCormick reported that he is still in search of a person to replace him as President and also a volunteer to replace Jim McSweeney as Secretary of the club.

### **New Business**

John Avallone reported that as Chairman of the Venue Committee, he is planning on sending out a survey regarding members' opinions on venue, possibly on Survey Monkey. He is now gathering facts from members or other clubs to formulate the questions for the survey. After the survey, the committee will formulate proposals about day/place/time for a meeting on which the members can vote. If you have input on this issue, John would like you to contact him at [hrtpace@aol.com](mailto:hrtpace@aol.com) or 217-714-1819.

Ann Plasschaert would like you to RSVP regarding attending the Tour of Lights and the Outback Restaurant. The info on times for the events and her RSVP email/phone are in the Octagon. She asked for a show of hands on those attending and 13 members raised their hands.

Mike McCormick said we would probably meet at Carrabbas in Winter Springs in January, but on the day after the meeting Dodie Beach and Carol McCormick made a January 21st MG Club meeting reservation at a promising private room in former The Catfish Place in Apopka. This venue has changed hands recently and is now known as the Nauti Lobstah <http://thenautilobstah.com>. Details to follow in the Octagon.

Mike McCormick proposed to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 and Gary Cardamone seconded the motion.



## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



MGs and winter rallies have long been a part of MG enthusiast's activities.

Here, in another card shared by Reinout Vogt, the Mistletoe Rally artwork is depicting an MG at the start of a rally.

The Classic MG Club has its own winter rallye, the Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights. However, there is not a great chance of snow to dress up the drive as in this English scene.



Robin Messina Photo

### Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights

The regular Thursday night business meeting of the club will not be held in December, but instead will be replaced by the Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights.

Thursday, December 16, 2021, 6:00 pm

The tour will start at the home of Ann Plasschaert  
1304 Wellington Terrace  
Maitland, 32751

Please park in the homeowner's lot, right next door to 1304

Meet at 6:00 pm for cider and goodies,  
We will leave to start the tour at 6:30 pm and end the tour  
at 7:30 pm at

### **The Outback Steak House**

1927 Aloma Ave  
Winter Park 32792 (located in Winter Park Corners)

Please RSVP to: 407-331-7531 and leave a message  
or email: [annp1304@gmail.com](mailto:annp1304@gmail.com)



# MG Calendar of Events

**Note** - Exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk wherever people meet. Please weigh carefully your personal risk before deciding to participate in our functions. CMGC expects all to adhere to CDC guidelines and take appropriate precautions. You alone are responsible for your health.

Stay healthy, for everyone's sake!

## December

12/16 **Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights**, Winter Park, Ann and Jeff Plasschaert  
6:00 pm at Ann's home. Tour begins at 6:30 pm. Dinner at Outback after the tour.

## January 2022

1/20 **CMGC Club Meeting** The Nauti Labstah (was The Catfish Place) <http://thenautilobstah.com/>  
6:30 for drinks, ordering food, or tire kicking. Meeting at 7 PM. Parking is behind the restaurant, in the lot across the street, or on the street. 311 S. Forest Ave., Apopka, 32703

1/22 **Eaton's Beach**, Weirsdale, lunch at noon after scenic drive, Tom Redditt  
Eaton's Beach is a Florsiana restaurant on Lake Weir in Marion County  
10 am - drive begins at Springs Plaza in Longwood, SR 434 and Wekiva Springs Road  
11 am - leave Umatilla Circle K, 391 N Central Ave, after break and meeting Lake Co. participants  
RSVP to Tom Redditt, 407-415-7149 [redditt@mac.com](mailto:redditt@mac.com)

## February

2/5 **North/South Picnic**, Tavares, Lake Idamere Park, John and Sharon Spadaro  
Noon, 12335 County Road 448, RSVP 352-357-8812, 352-406-3373, [jjs852@aol.com](mailto:jjs852@aol.com)

2/17 **CMGC Club Meeting**

2/25-27 **SVRA Speed Tour**, Sebring International Raceway, Oscar Petree  
Residence Inn Sebring, make reservations through Expedia for cancellable reservations  
To RSVP or obtain more information, contact Oscar at [onpetree@gmail.com](mailto:onpetree@gmail.com)

## March

3/3-6 **Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance**, Cars & Coffee 3/5, Show 3/6

3/12 **St. Pat's Party and Planning Meeting**, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

## April

4/22-24 **GOF South 2022**, Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Scott Buie <https://www.gofsouth.org/>  
Hotel rooms in Lake County are scarce and expensive in April 2022. The club's rates at the Mission Inn are a bargain in comparison. If you plan to stay at the hotel and haven't made your hotel reservation for the GOF, you should do so today.



## RIDE TO EATON'S BEACH SANDBAR & GRILL - CLASSIC MG CLUB EVENT

Saturday, January 22, 2022

“Get your motor running.... get out on the highway.”

January's MG Club outing is the reason you bought an MG. A chance to drive your car top-down through the beautiful rural countryside under a clear Florida winter sky. The trip will begin by gathering at the Springs Plaza at the intersection of Hwy 434 and Wekiva Springs Rd. in Longwood. We will leave at 10 AM, taking the scenic backroads up to Umatilla where we will stop briefly and meet up with the Lake County attendees at the Circle K store at the intersection of N Central Ave and Ocala St. Then, at 11 AM, we will continue on our journey to Weirsdale and Eaton's Beach Restaurant for lunch.

During the trip, we will experience the exciting Thrill Hill Rd, tour scenic "old Florida" backroads, and a ride over the beautiful Ocklawaha River Bridge. On the return trip, we will stop for a brief visit to the nearby beautiful Grand Oaks RV resort and Carriage club, through Eustis, and then home.

Be sure your MG is running well for this trip as this will be a great MG driving experience road trip. Please RSVP ASAP to Tom Redditt at email: [redditt@mac.com](mailto:redditt@mac.com) so I can let the restaurant know how many will attend.



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## NORTH / SOUTH PICNIC

Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Noon

It's that time of year again! For the third time, the Classic MG Car Club of Orlando will host a picnic for our friends from Northern Virginia.

For about five years, this group has loaded their "T" cars on the Auto Train in Lorton, Virginia and journeyed to Central Florida. After arriving, they take their cars on a tour of different parts of the state. I think they really come to escape the cold weather. They usually tour for a week, and as we all know, having sixty-plus-year-old cars as your sole means of transportation for a week is a real challenge. They are a great group of people who love to talk about their cars and their adventures driving them.

The location is Lake Idamere County Park located at 12335 County Road 448 Tavares Florida. We will be cooking burgers and dogs on the grill plus all the fixins. There is plenty of parking, so dust off the MG and take a drive to Lake County and join us for a day of cars, food, and fellowship. So, put a note on your calendar and join us for a great day in the park with our friends from the north.

We do ask that you RSVP so that we know how much food to prepare. You may text, call, email, or tell us next time you see us, we would really appreciate it.

John Spadaro Home phone 352-357-8812 Cell 352-406-3373 Email [JJS852@aol.com](mailto:JJS852@aol.com)



# New Members

**Derek and Susan Kramer, Howey-in-the-Hills, Mission Inn** Here are pictures of my wife Susan, and myself, as well as my first car at 16, a 1963 MGB in 1974, and my new 1980 MGB Limited Edition. I just received it this week. Susan and I are retired now, and have decided to move from Miami, and build a home at Mission Inn in Howey-in-the-Hills. Over the years I have enjoyed several sports cars, from Porsches to a 1971 Jaguar XKE. I decided to go back to my roots and get an MGB. I had a lot of fun driving my first MGB, at 16, in High School. Who wouldn't! Our special little rescue dog, Bailey, is in the picture too!



**Darren & Patricia Molar, Orlando, 1974 MGB Mk III** I have been involved with MGs since childhood, but have not had the time in the last 25 years to get mine back on the road. Currently working on getting the car out of storage where it has been since 1995. It has been in storage for 1/2 its life. Looking forward to membership in the club.

**Paul Dobson, Orlando, 1962 MGA 1600** I owned two MGBs when I lived in the UK and since coming to the US, I have always wanted an older MG. My original plan was to buy a TD or a TF but the more I looked at the MGA, the more I liked its lines and when one was offered for sale in Crystal River, I took the plunge. I'm looking forward to meeting other owners and learning from them how best to run and maintain my car, while having fun, of course!



**Floyd and Elizabeth McCollum, Celebration, 1978 MGB Pace Car** Floyd's father purchased this 1978 MGB Pace Car when he saw it pull into a Pennsylvania dealership on a car carrier. The story goes that it was one of eight MGB pace cars (4 for the local PA dealerships + 4 for the track) made to promote British Leyland at Pocono International Raceway. When Floyd's dad passed away in 2001, he left him the car, and though it only has a little over 4,000 miles on it, Floyd and Liz enjoy taking it out for spins! Liz learned to drive on a 1980 MGB Limited Edition, starting her love affair with manual transmission British cars :)

**Andy Gusmano, Apopka, 1980 MGB**





**Update!**

## HELP ME FIND OUR "LOST" MEMBERS

*Will you please give the club  
five minutes of your time?*

As you send your Christmas cards, please see if a "LOST" member is on your list.

Please contact me if you know anything about any "LOST" member.

We found 5 "LOST" members last month.

Thanks for your help.

Contact:

Lonnie Cook  
[lonniecook@aol.com](mailto:lonniecook@aol.com)

407-670-9679  
656 Terrace Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32803

Last	First	City	MGs
Allen	Jim	Sanford	MGB
Arriaga	Eduardo Rodriguez	Orlando	71 MGB
Barrett	Dennis		
Basque	Jim (Antoinette)	NewSmyrnaBch	59 Magnette
Bradely	Steve	Orange City	62 MGA MKII
Brown	Mark B.	Orlando	.
Brown	Rick (Brenda)	Winter Springs	59 MGA
Buckley	Martin	Orlando	70 MGB/GT
Caswell	Bill		
Collins	Thom	Port Charlotte	48 TC
Cook	Al	Brooksville	
Cook	Daniel	Lake Mary	56 MGA

Last	First	City	MGs
Darracott	Ashlea (Rick)	Lake Mary	66 MGB
Dempsey	Mike		
Dempsey	Pat		MGB V8, Jag V8
Dick	Kevin	Orlando	67 Midget
Dougherty	James	Orlando	49 TC
Duce	Roland	Vero Bch & GB	TF, TD, TC
Edwards	Michael	Clermont	79 MGB red
Flemm	Jack	Windermere	MG TD
Freelove	George	Casselberry	CMGC in 80s
Hall	Dale Allen (Anna)	Harmony	69 MGB
Helton	Jon	Tampa	
Hernandez	Roberto	Longwood	
Hill	Steve	Orlando	75 Midget
Jevcak	Tom (Eileen)	Tampa	60 MGA; 80 B
Kaminski	Ian (Robyn)	Windermere	73 MGB
Kenny	Sean	Longwood	78 Midget
Kleinschmidt	Charles	Deland	MGA
Kleinschmidt	Peter	Deland	MGB Racer
Lascola	Steve (JoAnne)	Lakeland	TD
Luoma	Don		
Mason	Bob	Ocala	52 TD
Mauch	Patrick (Laura)	Titusville	
McGowan	Jim (Karen)	Clermont	65&79 Midget
Moyano	Luis (Louis)	Auburndale	79 MGB
Nason	Walt	Orlando	53 TD
Negron	Victor	Ocala	76 Midget
North	Tom (Sandra)	Chuluota	47 TC
Phillips	Mike	Orlando	60 MGA, 67 B
Pyle	Jim (Debbie)		
Richardson	Daniel	Deltona	74 MGB
Rogers	Bob		
Ross	David	San Antonio	78 MGB
Schott	Charlie (Jan)	PanamaCtyBch	47 TC, more
Schott	Jan (Charlie)	PanamaCtyBch	47 TC, more
Smithson	Dave	Clermont	52 TD
Stewart	Joan	Casselberry	77 MGB
Thomas	Matt	Casselberry	78 MGB
Triana	Jose	Orlando	69 MGB
Upperco	John (Randi Brooks)	Orlando	75 MGB
Viletta	Gus	Orlando	70 MGB
Vincent	Nicholas	Orlando	64 MGB
Wagner	Matthew	Casselberry	78 MGB
Walker	Johnnie (Linda)	Casselberry	07 Miata
Washburn	George	Orlando	55 TF, 65&67 B
Weinert	Karl (Debi)	Tavares	61 MGA
Wong	Bryan (Bethann)	Apopka	79 MGB
Wood	Glenn (Karen)	Clermont	78 MGB
Zirkel	Jim	Longwood	Midget, more





## I love MGBs

### Darren Molar

### Story and Photos

How cool is this !!!!  
People like me who love MGs  
My passion and love for MGs  
Go's back 40 years or more  
My father bought a new one in 1964  
We had it till a fire in our garage  
Burned it up in 1988  
My father was devastated  
He purchased the 74 MGB  
A few months after the fire  
A year later I bought an olive drab  
74 MGB and we started a home restoration on the car  
I remember working on the car with my dad and little brother  
Almost every night and weekend  
Scraping together parts as I could afford them!!  
My Dad worked as a welder and at the time had access  
To a lot of tools at work  
I remember him taking the roached-out wire wheels to the plant and having them sandblasted  
After primer and the silver paint, they looked brand new !!!  
Took about a year but we got the car done  
Which I drove as a primary driver  
From 1992 - 1995 while in the US Navy  
Anyway, long story short !!!  
We had and still have a love for these cars !!!  
It got so out of hand at one point we had 13 B's  
In various conditions  
I would buy one for \$250.00 here  
Or \$300.00 there  
I guess I just like to say I am happy to get My MGB out of the storage  
It was in since 1995  
I have some work that we need to do  
But I look forward to meeting up with the club  
Here are some pics of the car  
As it was then and now !!!

Sorry to ramble on  
But seldom do I get to discuss MGs



Rolling Stones air freshener hanging in my 74  
"B" In 1993



Same car today right after it was removed from  
storage since 1995. Last registration was 1995!



*John Avallone Photo*

## Ceres Motorsports Cars & Coffee

John Avallone

On Saturday morning, November 6, 2021, owners Jack and Brian of Ceres Motorsports, in Oviedo, hosted a Cars & Coffee event. Many members use Ceres as the local go-to British Car repair shop in the area. In fact, my 1972 MGB roadster purchased from long-time member Peter Rogers was in the shop. Several members of the Classic MG Club were present including our very own club president, Mike McCormick, Scot Buie, Chairman GOF South 2022, Lonnie Cook, Larry Miceli, Paul Whitehouse, and Rob Delany. Despite the weather starting out overcast and cloudy with the threat of rain, a nice day eventually evolved. Several British and one American Ford Mustang were in the shop for repair and others undergoing full restorations. Many participants drove their own cherished antique motor vehicles. One of the most interesting cars driven to the event was a UK Ford motor company Zephyr sedan.



*John Avallone Photo*



Included with this narrative are several photographs depicting cars driven to and those in the shop. All who attended had a great time. The coffee was hot and the doughnuts delicious.

*Three bottom photos by Lonnie Cook*



# Avon Park Overnigher

*John Camichos, Story Ellen Tidwell, Photos*

After assembling and traveling, the three groups from Orlando, Lake County, and the West Coast rendezvoused at the "Frostbite Ice Cream and More" diner in Frostproof and enjoyed a great lunch. We then traveled to the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park where we checked-in and got unpacked. Unfortunately, the reservation made by the Tidwell's was somehow lost, and since there were no available rooms, it was necessary for them to travel down to Sebring in order to obtain accommodations.

Many of us then went to the "Avon Park Depot Museum" where we were given a tour of the museum and their railroad dining car where we were served some refreshments by a member of the volunteer staff. It should be noted that the museum is not open on Saturday, but one of the volunteers came in specifically to accommodate the CMGC.

At around 6:15, we gathered on the 2nd-floor balcony and enjoyed a cocktail party with plenty of food and lots of fellowship, and an opportunity to meet some of our newer members. Following this, we went across the street to the "18 East Restaurant" where we were served a terrific dinner (not that we needed more food).

The next morning, following the hotel's continental breakfast, we split-up for the return to our given geographical area of the state. The Orlando group returned via Kissimmee where we lunched at the "3 Sisters Speakeasy" before heading home. One of the main downsides of the return was that it was HOT, HOT, HOT.

As far as is known, everyone had a great time. The only derogatory comment was something about the tour master DRIVING TOO FAST, but that's only a rumor because neither the tour master nor Cecil Kimber believe that could happen.



John Camichos, Tour Master



Jean Camichos and Lynn Ball



Ken Ball and Jim McSweeney



## Annual Flankey Picnic and Chili Cookoff

November 14, 2021

*Photos by Lonnie Cook and Glen Moore*



Tony and Marcia Geraci  
Accepting an award for their chili

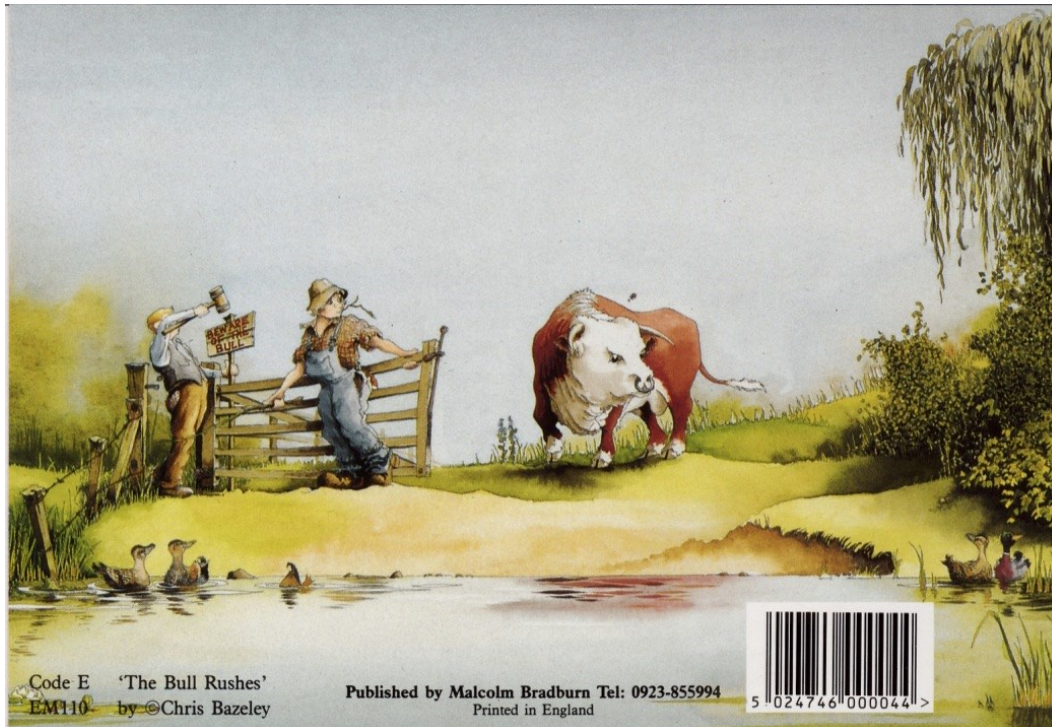




## A Greeting Card from Reinout

*Reinout Vogt*

This piece of art is printed on the front and back cover of a bi-fold card and when opened, presents a continuous scene. It is entitled "The Bull Rushes" and is by artist Chris Basely and published by Malcom Bradburn. The MG looks like a PB from the mid-'30s.



*Continued on  
page 16*

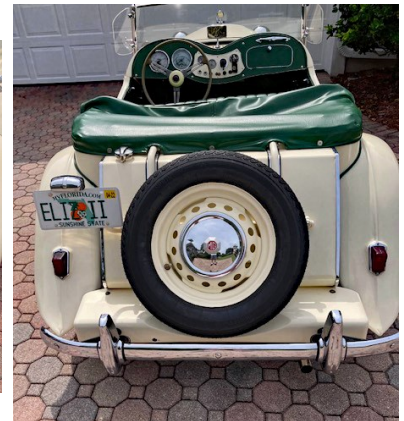
Code E 'The Bull Rushes'  
EM110 by ©Chris Bazeley

Published by Malcolm Bradburn Tel: 0923-855994  
Printed in England



# MG Marketplace

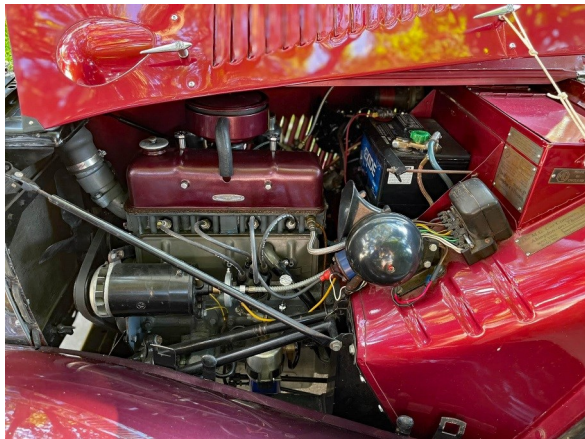
**1952 MGTD** Frame off restoration 12 years ago - beautiful paint and chrome. Rebuilt engine and transmission 5 years ago. Recent Upgrades--new rear axles, bearings and 4.3 rear end gears. new tires, Nisonger rebuilt speedo and calibration-tach clock works. new brake pipe set and master cylinder, 6 wheel cylinders, brake hoses and shoes. new tie rod ends and steering rack bellows-SS exhaust, carb heat shield, SS badge bar, adjustable clutch rod, LED dash and tail lights- manuals - Car runs great. \$26,500  
Dave Burrows 231-675-4919 mgbman@sbcglobal.net St Augustine



*Safety*  *Fast!*



**1950 MGTD** - Rare, early 1950 TD with solid wheels. Painted in a duo maroon. Fully restored and has new interior and top, and a bimini top for those hot days. The car was purchased through Will Bowden. Sterling needs space in his garage for a planned purchase of an electric vehicle, parking and a plug for recharging. He would like to sell it to a local person to keep the car in the area. \$19,500.  
Sterling Frey 352/217-9054



Adverts are free. Send information to [editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com).

Contact the editor each month to keep your ad current.



**1960 MGA 1600** This MGA was my husband's pride and joy. Lee passed last Labor Day from Covid. I have been trying to drive our MGA at least once a month. I am getting ready to move and find it practical to sell it. The car is mechanically in very good condition, watched over by a neighbor friend who is a super mechanic. The body and paint job could use redoing, though it looks good from 20 feet away. I have been watching values ever since we purchased it in 2010 and want to offer it to club members before I list it on Hemmings or the British auction. Will be asking \$18,900 there, but to a club member, \$17,500 will take it. My phone is 260-341-0630, texting works best for me.  
 JoAnn Simmonds, Ocala



**Wanted to Buy** CMGC Club medallion, any vintage. John Avallone, [Hrtpace1@aol.com](mailto:Hrtpace1@aol.com) 217-714-1819

Reinout Vogt's greeting card art this month is placed on the front and back of the card to provide a wide image, creating a different story when fully opened. The romantic image on the front of the card changes when the whole image is viewed.



Code E "The Bull Rushes"  
 EMC10 by @Chris Bazeley  
 Published by Malcolm Bradburn Tel: 0923-855994  
 Printed in England





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](http://www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank)

By Mail: Checks payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of Ctrl FL, 411 Mercy Dr., Orlando, FL 32808

The MG Community is special throughout the world. Thank you for any support that you can give to the Food Bank and to your MG friends who may need help and a kind word.

The Classic MG Club  
 of Orlando  
 is an affiliate chapter  
 and active supporter of:



**NAMGAR**  
 North American MGA Register



North American MGB Register



Brian Cunnison leaving the Walmart parking lot after meeting the transport truck at midnight for the delivery of his 'new' MGTF. It had made the long trip from New York to Florida.

Since the car's arrival earlier this year, Brian has refurbished the brake and electrical systems, tested and tuned the engine, dressed up the engine in his hot-rodder style, added a heater, and is working on replacement front wings and hood panels to make the body appearance in Concours condition.

Brian's TF has been to a number of shows, usually as part of a small MG contingent among the many muscle cars.

