

# The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

January 2024

Vol. 62, No. 1

Issue 723



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Before providing my inaugural thoughts, I must share this sad news.

*Pete Rogers, our good friend and a long-time leader in the Classic MG Club, passed away on December 27<sup>th</sup>. Pete was a friend to everyone and was always willing to lend a hand to any MG owner. Our best wishes are extended to Shari Rogers and our hopes for strength and peace as she moves through this loss.*

**Services will be at 2:00PM, Saturday January 6  
at First Presbyterian Church  
117 S Center St  
Eustis, FL 32726**

*A tribute to Pete will be in the next newsletter. As part of the tribute, I will be sharing my memories of him. If you also would like to participate in this tribute by sharing your memories, pictures, and/or reflections of Pete, please send them to the editor – [editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com)*

## Presidential Thoughts

My thought driving in our TC to the November meeting: the TC brakes were pulling to the right, on the drive home: the brakes were still pulling to the right and how did I become President of the Classic MG Club?



Ellen and I became active members in 2012 when the restoration of our TC was almost complete. I had been aware of the CMGC since 1973, when in college I met and began dating my future wife, Ellen Bowden. Ellen's father, Will Bowden, was one of the founders of the CMGC. At the time, both Ellen and I were driving MGBs, hers a blue '68 and mine a red '67. The MGBs were the catalyst for us meeting. A story for another time.



© 2024 CMGC Orlando  
All Rights Reserved



January 2024

Classic MG Club of Orlando

*Presidential thoughts continued...*

Up until that time, age 19, my experience around “grown-ups” was that they were always serious and didn’t seem to have fun. The members of the club seemed to be friends first, inclusive of everyone, working on and sharing their love of MGs, they got together regularly, and obviously enjoyed each other’s company.

In the mid 70s, Ellen and I approached her parents, Will and Carla, about having a New Year’s Eve party at their home. They were already hosting the CMGC so they agreed as long as our party remained outdoors, so ours was held lakeside. It was a cold night so we had a bonfire. The night started as planned with two separate parties, but by midnight, the two parties had merged. A good time was had by all.

I believe the club has been special since its inception 60 years ago. The club has always been a completely elective activity. It has been comprised of people who enjoy living life with a common interest in MGs and their usage. I believe the CMGC maintains those interests. John and Jean Camichos, founding members, are still active in the club after 60 years. This is further evidence the value of the club has been retained.

On the drive home I pondered these questions, what do I need or have to do?, how does the club work?, and where can I find this information? I have been contacting active members I know and those members who have held office in the club. I have asked them: “What do you like about the club, and what are you looking for in the club?” I have spoken to four members with ten left on my list. I will be happy to meet with any other club member. This search is early and incomplete.

I’ve learned many things. The CMGC is similar to the cars we adore. The club has been in existence for 60 years, it is running but would benefit from some freshening or a partial restoration. For an example: rewrite and update new bylaws. I heard the original bylaws were limiting, only allowing members with T types, now we have MGs of all types. These original bylaws are lost, as no one seems to have a copy.

I want to promote driving our MGs to events and meetings. Interestingly, of the four people I interviewed three told me they would not drive their MG to a night meeting. This was not a concern with the car, but more with driver aging issues, vision, reflex’s etc. Let’s explore the topic of meetings with the time of day, day of the month, and the location to be discussed. Alternating between a day and night meeting could be an option. As an annual event, there is a St. Patrick’s Day celebration event which encompasses delicious food, camaraderie and also to discuss and select Events for the rest of the year. This will be held at Mike and Carol McCormick’s home with a date in March to be determined. I hope this will be well attended, so the club can plan and schedule some really fun events for 2024.



*Presidential thoughts continued...*

My plan is to form a committee at the January meeting to research potential 2024 club events. I encourage all members, if not participating on the committee, to forward their event suggestions to the committee. Then all suggestions can be presented for discussion at the McCormick's so they may be included in the 2024 Event schedule.

I also see a need for two other activities of the CMGC. One is Tech Days, these events are for members to gather, learn and work on their car. This would be an opportunity to share knowledge of MGs with members who have an interest in working on their own car.

*I am having the First Tech Day on 01/20/24 (9 AM-12 PM)*

*Subject: General tune up.*

*My home: 1960 Brantley Circle, Clermont FL 34711.*

*Please text #352-874-5242 or email [1mwtidwell@gmail.com](mailto:1mwtidwell@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.*

The other activity would be: a POP-UP DRIVE. This concept would be a semi-spontaneous event. Any member will be able to post an event. An example of a POP-UP DRIVE post would be: *I am going for a drive this coming Sunday; the weather is supposed to be great. Anyone who wants to go: Meet at WaWa in Clermont; leaving at 9AM; going on great driving roads for lunch at Southern Hospitality in Ridge Manor; should return to Clermont WaWa by 3:30.*

I think this spontaneity will generate greater usage of our cars and hopefully cohesion in the CMGC. Details on posting a Pop-Up Drive will need to be defined.

The Classic MG Club is a great club with really wonderful members. The more we put into the club the more we will get out of the club. I hope these ideas will increase the enjoyment of our MGs, both in usage and camaraderie, but most of all for our club to be Fun!

See you down the road!

Mark Tidwell



# Your Club's Leadership

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mark Tidwell</b>	<a href="mailto:1mwtidwell@gmail.com">1mwtidwell@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jim McSweeney</b>	<a href="mailto:jimspeedmaster@aol.com">jimspeedmaster@aol.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Tom Reddit</b>	<a href="mailto:tredditt@mac.com">tredditt@mac.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Dodie Beach</b>	<a href="mailto:mg_enthusiast@aol.com">mg_enthusiast@aol.com</a>
<b>Club Registrar:</b>	<b>John Avallone</b>	<a href="mailto:hrtpace1@aol.com">hrtpace1@aol.com</a>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Keith Waggoner</b>	<a href="mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com">editor.cmgc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Scott Buie</b>	<a href="mailto:s.buie@aol.com">s.buie@aol.com</a>
<b>Chairperson, GOF South 2024</b>	<b>Scott Buie</b>	<a href="mailto:GOFSouthEvents@gmail.com">GOFSouthEvents@gmail.com</a>
<b>Club Website</b>		<a href="http://classicmgclub.com">classicmgclub.com</a>
<b>Club Facebook</b>		<a href="#">Click this link to facebook</a>

# Your Club's Affiliations



Their Website: [New England MG T Register](#)



Their Website: [NAMGAR.com](http://NAMGAR.com)



Their Website: [NAMGBR.org](http://NAMGBR.org)



# The Classic MG Club of Orlando

## Meeting Minutes



**There was no monthly meeting this past December. Watch this space in next month's Octagon, where will we see the minutes of the first meeting under the new club president, Mark Tidwell.**



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## January

01/06 **Services for Peter “Pete” Rogers**  
2:00PM *First Presbyterian Church*  
*117 S Center St, Eustis, FL 32726*

01/13-14 **Overnighter** hosted by George and Elyn Pardee  
11:30AM All the details are found on the next page!

**Note: The date of the event has moved to Jan 13-14 from 20-21!!**

01/18 **Club Meeting** at Nauti Lobstah, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka  
6:30PM for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm

01/20 **Tech Day** hosted by our new Pres Mark Tidwell  
9AM-12Noon, 1960 Brantley Circle, Clermont FL 34711  
Please text #352-874-5242 or email [1mwtidwell@gmail.com](mailto:1mwtidwell@gmail.com)  
if you plan to attend. Subject: General Tune-up

## February

02/04 2nd Annual All European Car Show  
9AM-2PM American Muscle Car Museum  
3500 Sarno Road, Melbourne, FL  
More details found in the following pages.

02/15 **Club Meeting** at Nauti Lobstah, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka  
6:30PM for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm

02/17 Indian River Drive hosted by Bob and Pat Moore  
Including a stop at Goodrich Seafood and Oyster House,  
253 River Road, Oak Hill 32759

More details to follow in the next issue

02/24 **North/South** Hickory Point Park in beautiful Lake County  
More details can be found later in this newsletter.



# Details of Upcoming Events

## *Overnighter in Avon Park* *January 13-14*

**HOTEL JACARANDA, 19 East Main Street  
Avon Park, FL. (863) 453-2211,  
<https://www.hoteljac.com>**



The Hotel is holding a limited number of rooms  
The rate is \$74.99 for THE CLASSIC MG CLUB  
**MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION  
DIRECTLY WITH THE HOTEL**

On Saturday, we will rendezvous for an 11:30AM LUNCH at the FROSTBITE,  
801 North Scenic Highway, Frostproof, Florida.  
We'll then visit the newly renovated FROSTPROOF HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
And then it's a scenic drive to AVON PARK arriving at the "Hotel Jac".

On Sunday we will depart to BOK TOWER GARDENS in Lake Wales  
(the Gardens' BLUE PALMETTO CAFE serves a nice lunch).  
IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND please let us know:

George and Elyn Pardee  
RSVP to [gpardee6@me.com](mailto:gpardee6@me.com)  
Cell: 727 709 2881

**Note: A Caravan leader for the Orlando group is needed.**



Hello,

We wish you all a very Happy New Year to come in 2024. We are having an all European Car show Feb 4, 2024 held at The American Muscle Museum in Melbourne FL. There will be approximately 25 plus Categories of Awards to be presented. We would feel honored if you would bring your beautiful car to our show for all to enjoy. We look forward to hearing from you. You will find the Registration form on the next page as well as a copy of the artwork by Gary Thomas that will be featured in the awards and t-shirts. Please feel free to tell any other European / British car owners to come along. We have room for trailers and a host hotel if needed, see flyer. Please get entry filled and entered before Jan 15th entry includes 1 show t-shirt, also extra T shirts will be available at \$20.00 cost it helps to let us know quantity sizes you may be interested in.

Thank you Donna Beiler MG Car Club Florida  
Bob Parks 321-427-8846 Bob Beiler 321-720-8945





# 2ND ANNUAL ALL EUROPEAN CAR SHOW

Held at:

## AMERICAN MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM

3500 SARNO ROAD, MELBOURNE FL. 32934

Hosted By:



Sunday  
**FEB. 04, 2024**  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



- One FREE Museum entry per car • FREE T-shirt for the first 125 registrants
- The outdoor show and front showroom are free to the public. The back showroom will be open from 10:00AM to 1:00PM with a \$25.00 donation to St. Jude. Under 18 free with adult.



### Registration Information

Registration limited to 200 cars  
Award Presentation - 1:30pm

**Fire Extinguisher REQUIRED**

Checks payable to:  
**MG CAR CLUB**  
P.O. BOX 410471  
Melbourne, FL 32941



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Make, Model: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred T-shirt Size: Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_\_  
(Size not guaranteed)

• Contact Information: Bob Parks- (321)427-8846 • [Europeanbritishcarshow@gmail.com](mailto:Europeanbritishcarshow@gmail.com)

Holiday Inn, Melbourne-Viera Convention Center

<http://www.ihg.com/>

booking code: 787046248 in special rate preference section title "corporate ID"



# Calendar of Future Events

*Still in the planning stages ...*

**March?** 2 events...unknown dates

...Nehrling Gardens different tour (Carol Raley)  
St. Pat's Planning Party (Carol and Mike McCormick's house with Kathy Cook)

**Saturday, April 6**

All British Car Show – Henry's Depot in Sanford, FL.

**April 18-21 GOF South 2024,**

It's official! GOF South will be at the Plantation Resort in Crystal River.  
More details from Scott Buie can be found later in this newsletter.

**July 15 - 19, 2024 NAMGAR GT-49, Welches, Oregon**

**September 5-6, 2024, Watkins Glen Festival 2024**

This year they are honoring MG, as they did 1994, 2004, 2014.  
More details can be found later in this newsletter

We certainly have a busy year planned. Generally, we plan on the club event to be the Saturday after the club meeting, with the meetings held on the third Thursday.

We also hope to plan a tech session with a date to be determined. This can be a subject discussed at our next club meeting.

All events, of course, are subject to change. In planning, we try to coordinate based on the weather and distance. If something falls through the following could be substituted this year, and definitely are things to consider for next year.

Other suggestions for the future include:

Polasek Museum	Cassadaga
and Sculpture Gardens	Leu Gardens
Mennello Museum	Lakeridge Winery and music
St Johns River ship with lunch	Crabby Bills Lakefront Restaurant
Longwood guided tour of Historic district	and Bradlee McIntyre House



# North/South 2024

## NORTH SOUTH PICNIC IS ON THE HORIZON!

Our North South Picnic is rapidly approaching. **February 24** is not far off. It is still a bit away, but as we all know, time flies. Our event this year will be held at the same location as last year, Hickory Point Park. For your GPS, the address is 27351 SR 19 Tavares FL. As you enter the park, follow the road all the way to the large Pavillion. As you approach the Pavillion, parking for MGs will be on the grassy field on the right side of the Pavillion. For those who must drive cousin LBC's you can park there too. Also, there is ample pavement parking for those who drive OBCs (other boring cars). British car or not, everyone is welcome. The Pavilion has full cover so rain or shine, we should be fine.

They say, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", so once again we will be catering lunch from Sonny's BBQ. Everyone last year seemed to enjoy Sonny's, so we will do it again. We will have pulled pork, chicken and all the fixins. This year we are asking that everyone pay \$10.00 for the meal, it's a bargain! The only thing you need to bring is a smile. (and of course, \$10.00)

So, if you're not sure your MG is ready for a trip to Lake County, you have time to work on all those things that give you pause. Dig deep and awaken your adventurous spirit and get your treasure on the road. We will be swapping MG stories with one another and with our friends from Virginia. If you're struggling to bleed that clutch cylinder, or tune those SU's, maybe someone will have a solution for you. Even if you don't get anything figured out, you will still get to spend the afternoon with great people who share your addiction to these crazy little British cars. The date is February 24, lunch is around noon, come any time. Hope to see you there!

### **NOTE!!!!!!!!PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING!!!!!!!!**

e-mail, text, phone call, tell us if you see us.

John Spadaro [JJS852@aol.com](mailto:JJS852@aol.com) Cell 352-406-3373

Sharon Spadaro [SAS852@aol.com](mailto:SAS852@aol.com) Cell 305-322-5556

Jim McSweeney [jimspedmaster@aol.com](mailto:jimspedmaster@aol.com)

Dodie Beach [flutterby670@aol.com](mailto:flutterby670@aol.com)

John's home phone and answering machine 352-357-8812

John Spadaro, host



# GOF South 2024



**The Tweed Drive is filling up!!**

**What's The Tweed Drive?  
Well, I'm glad you asked.**

***Nothing is more British than Tweed. Nothing is more fun than celebrating your MG in period dress. Nothing is more enjoyable than a fantastic meal with your MG mates.***

***Join the Tweed Drive to downtown Crystal River and dinner at Vintage on 5th to be a part of the merriment – Leaves the Plantation Resort, Thursday, 6:15 pm.***

***Requirements:***

- 1) Dress in Tweed or Period Dress***
- 2) Bring your sense of humor and your love of life***
- 3) Be prepared to celebrate MGs and British heritage***

***The Tweed Drive has been a very popular part of GOF-South for many years, but Tweed Drives are not ours to claim. They happen around the world, with London and St. Petersburg, Florida being just two of the cities that hold Tweed Drives every year. Check out their events at the links below.***

- ***The Gathering of the Faithful South, 2024***
- ***January '24 The Classic MG Club of Orlando***
- ***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qlU7y-LHqc>***
- ***<https://vimeo.com/252362547>***

***Yes, these folks lack the required MG and had to accomplish the drive on mere bicycles, calling their event a “ride” or a “run,” but the fun and festivity are the same.***

***We're limited to just 20 participants, so if you did not register for it when completing your GOF-South registration, email me at [GOFSouthEvents@gmail.com](mailto:GOFSouthEvents@gmail.com). If you haven't registered for GOF-South yet, what's keeping you?!!***

***And don't forget the Tweed Drive checkbox.***



# GOF South 2024

Continued

**The hotel reservations link is on the GOF-South 2024 page on our website, or click [here](#)**

**Make your hotel reservations now, Our discounted block is running low!!!**

**As always, volunteers to help are appreciated!. If you want to help, thank you! We would also appreciate help with gathering sponsors, or even donations to the Club for the silent auction or goodie bags.**

**Volunteering is an action verb, so hop to it! Remember, this is the Club's sole revenue generator, so if you would like to help with ANYTHING, please go to our website, and submit your comments.**

[www.classicmgclub.com/gofsouth2024](http://www.classicmgclub.com/gofsouth2024)

**And as always, please get ready to come join us:**

**April 18-21, 2024**

**The Plantation on Crystal River,  
Crystal River, FL**

**Make sure you visit the website often  
for exciting updates and event information.  
Until next month, enjoy your Morris Garage classics!**

  
Scott Buie  
GOF 2024 Chair



# Other Events of Interest

## All British Car Show, Sanford, FL

April 6, 2024



[Link to registration](#)

*More details can be found at*

<http://www.britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com/>

***The feature marque is MG, celebrating its 100th anniversary***

---

*... and another show featuring MG*

## **Watkins Glen Festival 2024**

September 5 & 6, 2024 This year they are honoring MG!

MG is a big part of the racing history at Watkins Glen, with MGTCs finishing in 8 of the top 10 finishing positions in the inaugural 1948 Grand Prix. The Festival has honored MG in 1994, 2004, 2014, and will again in 2024.

There will be an MG-only car show and dinner on Thursday and a Tour De Marque on Friday, beginning at a winery and including laps on the current Watkins Glen International race track and two laps on the old street course. Friday includes multiple drives in the area with MGs eligible for most of the drives. Details can be found at <http://www.grandprixfestival.com/>



# Club Happenings



*Taken from Facebook by the Editor*

## **Tour of Lights 2023 - “Festivities were the best”**

Brad and Rebekkah Parlee hosted this year’s edition of the tour of lights. It all started at the Winter Park Racquet Club with pictures taken of the participants cars during sunset by Lake Maitland. Next was the caravan through the Winter Park neighborhoods to view the holiday lights, then a gourmet dinner back at the club.



# M Greeting Card from Reinout



I am glad we don't have much snow where I live now. But going through my collection of cards, I do enjoy looking at MGs in a white environment.

And this chrome bumper'ed MGB looks great in this wintery landscape with snow as far as the horizon. The card published by Car-D-Aholic from South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, England and reproduced from the original artwork by Steve Bridger.



The second card is Richard Wheatland (same as the Christmas card in the December issue). It is entitled Tyre Change and shows a worker from The Old Forge Garage helping a lady driver change a flat on her MG PA Airline Coupe. With snow on the ground it must be kind of cold and a lady from the Holly Cottage is coming out with cups of hot tea to warm up the driver and the mechanic. The card has no published details but is copyright'd to NEBS (no idea what that stands for).





# From Under the Bonnett

From Glen Moore

Glen provided this link to an article and thought it would be helpful to our MGB enthusiasts ...

## ***MGB: Expert advice on shopping and ownership***

[Click here to access the article](#)

This article by David S Wallens originally posted in the March 2018 issue of *Buyer's Guides*, addresses the affordability of the MGB as well as brings some awareness to things like 'RUST'

*Have a read, and thanks, Glen, for contributing this.*



Photography Credit: David S. Wallens



If you have a tip, send it to the editor [editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com)



# Classy Finds

*Aka classifieds*



I have a 1969 MGB that I am looking to rehome. It is a project car that in the beginning stage of restoration. All parts come with the car (no gas tank or exhaust). I have the title for the car it was in a warehouse since 1986ish, and in my garage since 2021. I would appreciate it you know of anyone that may be interested. If someone is interested and would like some more please contact me.

Rob Bolton  
863-224-9797  
Lakeland, FL



# Classy Finds

*Aka classifieds*

## OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

### CLASSIC MG CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fellow Enthusists....

The second meeting of the "Classic MG Club" was held at the home of Will Bowden on August 29th 1963. Present were 16 Enthusists, a vast improvement over the previous meeting. Plans for the upcoming tour ( a HARE & HOUNDS) was discussed and it was decided to terminate at some location for swimming and a picnic. John Camichos and Will Bowden agreed to undertake the layout for same. A date of September 29th, Sunday afternoon was picked. Mrs. Joe. Sires volunteered to host the next meeting, to be September 19th at her home. Hereafter meetings to be held the third Thursday of the month. Dee Lauderback offered the use of her Ranch as a meeting place after the summer mosquito has migrated to warmer climates.



January marks the sixth "official" month of the 60th Anniversary of the Classic MG Club. We will be celebrating the milestone through July 2024, which includes GOF-South 2024 that we will host this April. So, order your commemorative 60th Anniversary stickers and embroidered cloth patches now to proudly display for this anniversary year and for years to come.

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with appropriate postage, along with one dollar in cash for each sticker and five dollars in cash for each embroidered patch to:

Lonnie Cook, 656 Terrace Blvd., Orlando, FL 32803.

(I must have your stamped envelope and cash; no checks.)

If you haven't yet returned the Member Update form that you received by mail in May, then please send it to the same address.

## 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).



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 shots are from Glen Moore

It's a double end shot of Pete Roger's TD and TF.

I knew as soon as I heard the news, Pete's vehicles just had to be in this corner. As you know great minds think alike, and as if on queue, Glen sent these to me without my asking.

The last couple of months, Pete's cars were listed for sale in our *Classy Finds* section of the Octagon. It was this transaction that led me to speak to him for the first time. We had such a great time talking over the phone, not just about MGs, but ferns and DeLand. I was able to talk him into attending our picnic in November and meet him face-to-face. Such a joy, and such an impact he made upon me in such a short time.

I am thankful to say I knew him!

*Send me your end shot!*

[editor.cmgc@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cmgc@gmail.com)

*And until next month ... Keith*

