

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Club Leadership

President

Jim McSweeney
jimspeedmaster@aol.com

Vice President

Mike McCormick
trouble150@gmail.com

Secretary

Tom Redditt
tredditt@mac.com

Treasurer

Dodie Beach
mg_enthusiast@aol.com

Editor

Glen Moore
editor.cmgc@gmail.com

GOF South 2024 Chair

Scott Buie
gofsouth2022@gmail.com

Webmaster

Scott Buie
s.buie@aol.com

Website

www.classicmgclub.com

Facebook

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



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This is Autumn.

Why does this young lady have such a large smile on her face? Go to the last page of the newsletter to find the explanation.

You cannot look at Autumn's smile without smiling back.



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Nauti Lobstah, Apopka
February 16 , 2023



February Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Tom Redditt

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Treasurer's report: Dodie reported that the club bank balance is more than sufficient at this time.

New member introductions: Walter and Carol Basso from Orlando. They own a 1967 MGB-GT.

North/South Picnic: John Spadaro reported that the event was a huge success with 85-95 people attending.

February club event: The outing will be held February 18th at 9:30 at Nehrling Gardens located at 2267 Hempel Ave, Gotha, FL 34734. A donation of \$10.00 is expected to support the Gardens and a signed waiver of liability form is required as well. The tour takes about 2 hours. Lunch following the tour will be at the nearby Yellow Dog Eats Cafe, 1236 Hempel Ave, Gotha, FL 34786.

Upcoming vacancies: Volunteers are needed to replace Glen Moore as newsletter editor/publisher and Lonnie Cook's position as registrar.

60th Anniversary of the CMGC: Lonnie said that he will order some stickers commemorating this event at a cost of around \$2.50 each and get them to the members.

St. Patrick's Day planning party: This event will be held at Kathy Cook's house located at 5910 Esker Falls Lane, Lithia, FL 33547. The purpose of the meeting is to plan the upcoming monthly event outings. RSVP to Kathy if you plan to attend. Kathy is preparing corned beef and cabbage. When you RSVP, she will tell you what to bring as a side dish.

The All-British Car Show is being held in Sanford, at Henry's Depot, on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.



New Members

John Leary, The Villages

A. J. Young, Orlando, 1979 MG Midget

Christopher Silvestry, Ormond Beach

My dad drove a TD in the late 50s to high school. My mother, an MGA. They passed each other on the way to school each day. In 1960 they married. I like to think I wouldn't be here without MGs. I have owned a sports car shop since 2000. Moved from Stuart Florida in 2015 to Ormond Beach and opened Christopher John, LTD, a franchised Morgan and Caterham dealership. We only work on classic English cars and have been vintage racing them since 1998. In 2020, my son JP, joined the business. New Morgans are arriving this year and we continue growing our classic services, sales, and accessories business each year.

www.christopherjohnltd.com



The best job in the club!

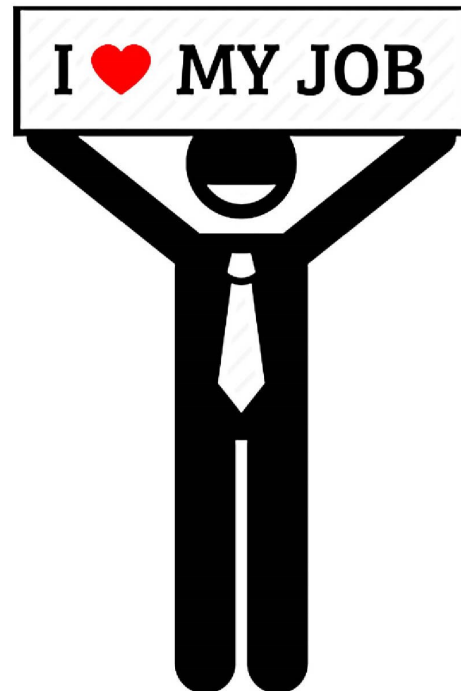
**Meet every new member.
Talk to long-time members.
Analyze member data to improve club activities.**

I'm talking about club's Registrar who maintains information for all members. I am stepping down as Registrar and am looking for a member to take over. Here are the qualifications needed:

- Dedication and initiative.
- Communication skills.
- Microsoft Excel.

Contact me now so that we can work together for a while before I resign on August First.

Lonnie Cook
lonniecook@aol.com
407-670-9679



GOF South

Glen Moore

As we celebrate our 60th year, it is time to look back on our club's history, the events, the accomplishments, and the good times. There are reasons the club has been successful for 60 years.

The most important accomplishment has been the GOF South. It is the largest MG event in the southeast US, the most important, and the greatest contribution to the MG community.



“Gathering of the Faithful” was coined by the leadership of the New England MG ‘T’ Register as they planned an event to bring MG owners together to share their enthusiasm for the marque. The first GOF was held in the fall of 1965, in Meredith, NH. It was a success and gained the attention of MG clubs nationwide.

CMGC club members found the idea of the GOF appealing. They wanted to bring the GOF experience to MG owners in the south, so they invested their time and talents to create the Gathering of the Faithful South. The first GOF South was organized by our club, held in St. Cloud, in 1967. That first GOF South was an event in partnership with NEMGTR, planned and managed by the Classic MG Club of Orlando. After a few years, the GOF South became an independent activity of our club.

GOF South MK1 included a meet & greet, a car show, technical sessions, drives, social events, and a banquet. It was a huge success! It became known throughout the country. The 1973 GOF South presented the long-distance award to a couple who drove their MGTC from Massachusetts to attend. The program of events has changed little as GOF South continued through the years, a testimony to the great planning of the original committee.



GOF South 1973 Crystal River

In later years, after new MG clubs were established around the state of Florida, other clubs stepped up to help host the GOF South. At one point, three different MG clubs rotated the hosting of the event. CMGC hosted the event once every three years. Currently, the organizational responsibilities are shared between two clubs – CMGC and the MG Classics Club of Jacksonville.

GOF South MK57 will be hosted by the Jacksonville club, at the Best Western Gateway Grand, Gainesville, April 20 – 23. As always, it will be the most important MG event in the southeast US. It will offer a full slate of MG activities providing attendees opportunities to learn more about their MGs, enjoy driving their MGs, and meet other MG enthusiasts. Make plans to attend. <https://www.gofsouth.org/>

GOF South 2024 will be the responsibility of the Classic MG Club of Orlando. The location of the 2024 event will be announced soon.





Lonnie Cook photo

North/South Picnic

John and Sharon Spadaro

On Saturday morning January 28th, as the sun rose over the northern shore of Lake Harris, the familiar sound of British engines broke the morning calm. MG's came from North, South, East, and West. All these cars represented someone's dream fulfilled. Who wouldn't want to own and drive a British car? There is nothing like it. No smooth fluid drive here, every bump in the road is accentuated. Wind noise? Forget about it, usually, the top is down. Smooth transmission - never - search for those gears, you will eventually find them. AC? No AC here, only the aroma in the air of engine oil leaking from your side valve covers or seeping from your braided oil line going to your pressure gauge. If you want your car to take care of you and drive in comfort, go buy a Caddy. MG's are for those of us who want to hear, smell and feel our cars. We want to "drive" them.



Lonnie Cook Photo

On this Saturday morning, we had some 40+ MGs that descended on Hickory Point Park for our North/South picnic.

Some of the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR members soak up the Florida sun relaxing by their t-series MGs.

Thanks to the approval of our President, Jim McSweeney and treasurer Dodie Beach, this event was given the green light. We had some folks who came in real cars, and we welcomed them, but the real stars are those daring people who checked to see that their AAA cards were still valid, checked the oil, kicked the tires, said a prayer, and bravely hit the open road in their 50-plus-year-old cars. There is always uncertainty when driving these cars, will I make it to where I'm going? And if I make it, will I make it back? MG's are not for the squeamish. Rumor has it that Ann Plasschaert can verify this.

Mike and Carol McCormick were the first to arrive. We asked them to come early to help us out, and





Tom Redditt photo

Gather some MGs together and an impromptu tech session will break out

Richard and Kathy Gross made the journey all the way from Jacksonville. Richard and Kathy are chairing GOF South 2023 in Gainesville in April. It looks to be a great event. Go online and register!

Sharon and I went to pick up the food. When we got back, I looked out on the display field and saw tons of MGs. I noticed that familiar little YA belonging to George and Elyn Pardee. They drive that car everywhere, on this occasion, all the way from Clearwater. I got to thinking about George because we also had Larry Miceli, Lonnie Cook, and Pete Rogers in attendance, and if Glen Moore would have been able to make it there would not be any question we could not find an answer to. These five guys know everything about MG cars and their history.



Lonnie Cook photo

George Pardee and Ann Plasschaert troubleshoot MG issues



Lonnie Cook photo

John Camichos, Anne Ariail, Lester Ariail

John Camichos had not driven his car since GOF. John is the patriarch of our club and a charter member. John wasn't so sure since he had not had his car out in a while. Fortunately, Lonnie and Jo Ann Cook came over with John and, of course, his always dependable car did not let him down. As this is our club's 60th anniversary, we recognize John and Jean's contributions to our club. They are the best people and an inspiration to all of us.



Scott Buie photo

This MGTF, one of the Chesapeake Chapter member's cars, bears the plaque from the 'Circuit of Britain', a 1990 NEMGTR event that shipped 89 t-series MGs from the US to the UK for a drive around the country.

At about noon word was put out to the field that lunch was on, everyone came inside to enjoy pulled pork, chicken, mac and cheese, baked beans, cole slaw, lemonade, and iced tea as well as cookies for dessert. All catered by Sonny's BBQ. A steady burble of conversation fell over the room as everyone seemed to enjoy the meal. We were packed a little tight since we had no idea so many people would show up, but that's ok since it was a little chilly anyhow.

As afternoon settled in the song of a British four-bangers cranking up filled the air. Our friends from Virginia headed out on their adventure. They plan to drive south, all the way to Key West and back to Sanford.

People started to wander off and we had a chance to evaluate the day. We had 71 people who had contacted us to let us know they were coming. We calculated at least 85 people attended, which is OK as we didn't run out of food. We had really great people, great cars, good food, cooperative weather; what more could you ask? All in all, it was a very nice day. Thank you to all who came out to participate . . .

Safety/Fast.....John Spadaro



Carol McCormick photo



Shaun English, Red TD; Mike Hughes (seated), Blue TF; Hugh Graham (John's brother-in-law); John Debelius, Green TD; Milton Babirak, Red TD.

John Debelius Photos

One of the Winter Tour participants, John Debelius, provided a few photos from the North/South Picnic.

John reported that the participants on the tour enjoyed great weather and that everyone had a wonderful time on their lap around south Florida.



WHO IS SPIKE JONES?

DID HE DRIVE AN MG?

WHY WAS HE IN PINELLAS COUNTY?

Remember the photo of the TD on page one of the January “Octagon?” Our resident music lover and MG expert, John Camichos, sez that Spike Jones (actor, composer, musical spoofer, and car lover in the 40s, and 50s) is driving, and Hedy Lamarr (beautiful actress and inventor during the golden age of movies) is the passenger. Good eye John!

Well, after a little time on Google, I believe that it’s Spike Jones and his wife, singer Helen Grayco. What do you think?



Mystery Couple in MGTD



Spike Jones & Hellen Grayco



Hedy Lamarr

[Click for Spike Jones performance](#)

Waco Motors MG dealers near Tampa Bay:

Nichols Bros. Inc., 424 Ninth St. South, St. Petersburg

Import Motor Cars, 418 E. Platt St., Tampa

Cutler Motors, 9th & Broadway, Sarasota

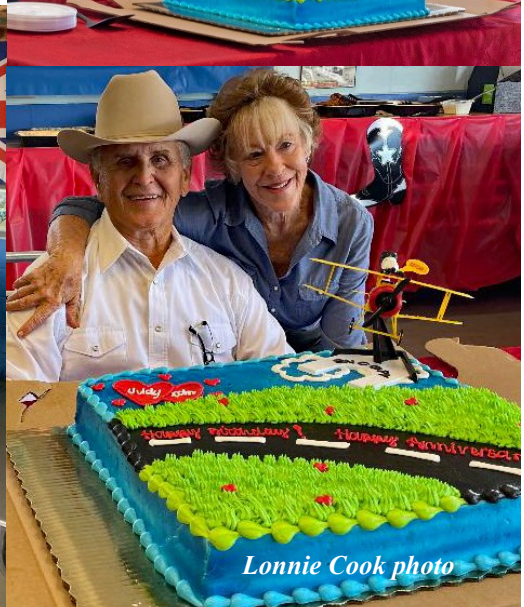
Lonnie Cook



Dan Duran Celebrates 80

George Butz, story and photos

Long-time club member, pilot, and TF owner, Dan Duran, celebrated his 80th birthday at his home near Mulberry, Florida with many of his MG friends. Dr. Mark Tidwell and his wife, Ellen, drove their beautiful red TC over 60 miles one way from Clermont, and George and Nick Pardee drove their TF racer and Y-type about the same distance from the west coast. What a great birthday celebration!





A Postcard from Karel & A Greeting Card from Reinout

Reinout Vogt

How many Postcards from Karel, with an MG in it, have we seen already? MG owners must have been traveling in their MG's quite a bit, back in the day when MGs were used for daily and recreational transportation. This month's card is another example with an MG YT in front of the Great Southern Hotel in Killarney, Ireland.



Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Ireland.

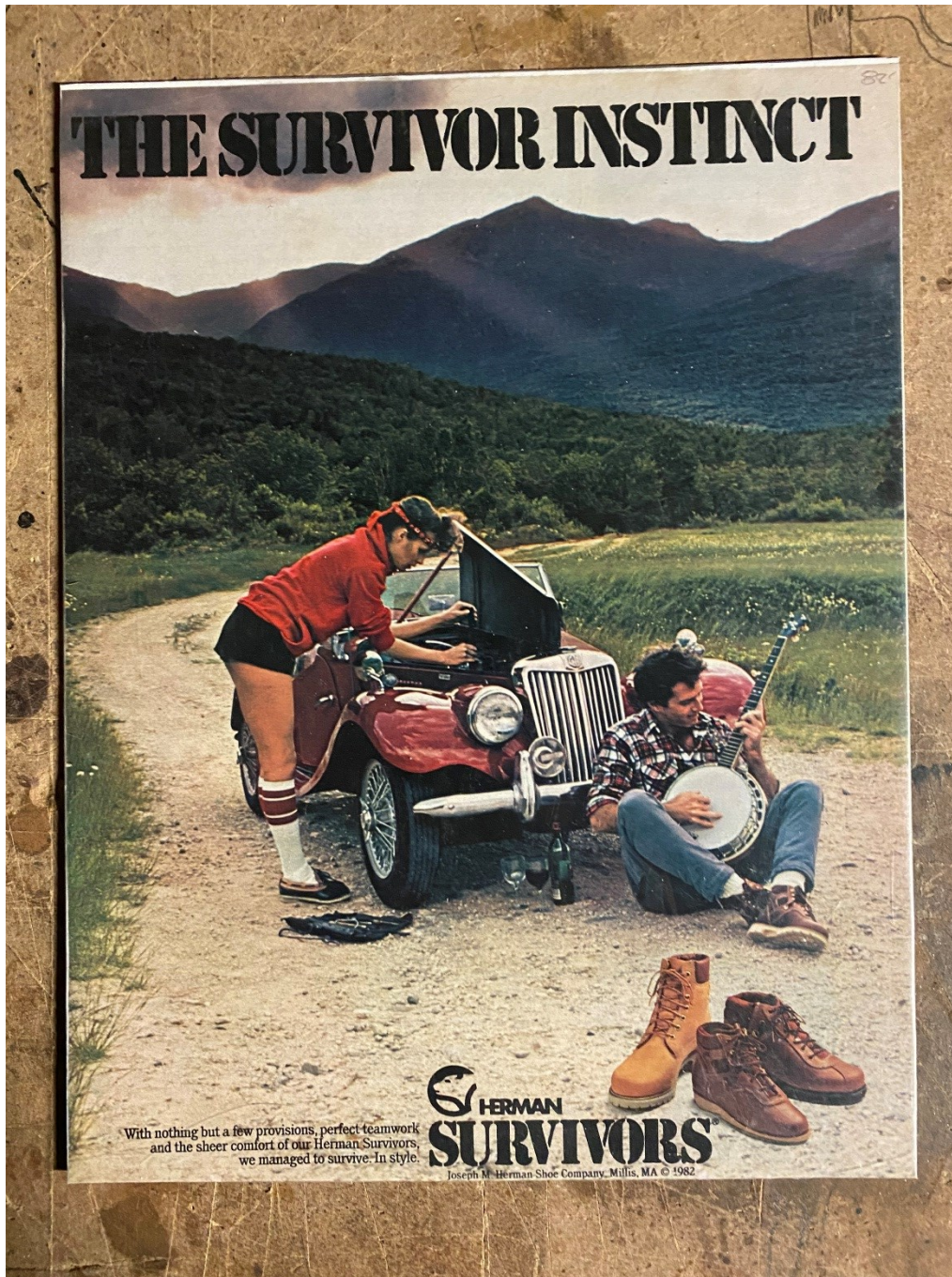
R.V.



To stay with the YT in Karel's postcard, here is a greeting card from the MG Car Club, with a YT in front of The Barley Mow, just 5 miles East of Abingdon on the River Thames. The photographer was Neville Mariner. I don't know when and why the card was published.



MG in Advertising



Here is the second advertisement from the collection of Jeff Powell from Melrose Park, IL.

Joseph Herman Shoe Co. Circa 1982

The young lady looks to be fiddling with the carbs on her TF 1500, while her companion admits to being no mechanic. With half a bottle of wine consumed and the empty glass on her side, she's probably making things worse. They may be enjoying the long walk home in their new Herman Survivors.

Contributed by: *Reinout Vogt*



MG Calendar of Events

March

- 3/16 **Club Meeting** at Nauti Lobster, 311 S. Forest Ave, Apopka
6:30pm for drinks, ordering food or tire kicking. Meeting at 7pm
- 3/18 **St. Patrick's Day Planning Party**, 2267 Hempel Ave, Gotha, FL 34734
Please RSVP and call Kathy Cook, (407-963-5349) or email kathy.cookucf@gmail.com

April

- 4/01 **"April Fools Day" Multi-Marque Show**, Sanford,
British Car Club of Central Florida
[Click here for information and registration](#)
- 4/20-23 **GOF South Mk 57**, Gainesville, Best Western Gateway Grand
For more details, check out <https://www.gofsouth.org/>
Registration for GOF and Hotel are now open



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



2023

- 5/27 **MG Centenary**, British Motor Museum
Gaydon, England
- 6/12-16 **NAMGAR GT 48**, Memphis, TN, Memphis Hilton, [info](#), [registration](#)
- 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





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



March 2023

Classic MG Club of Orlando

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**1923 2023
CENTENARY**

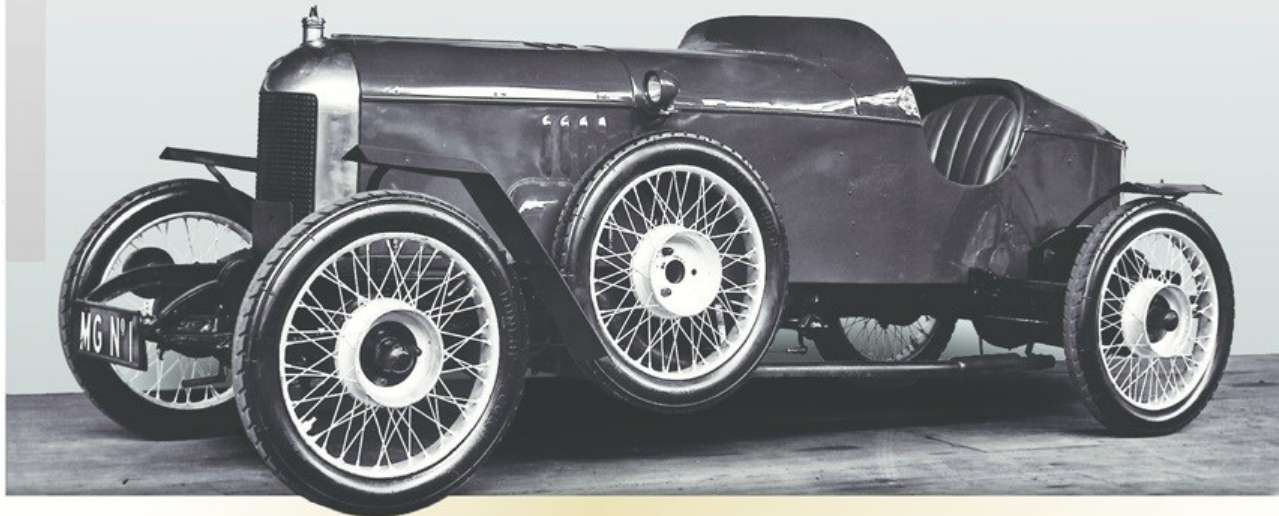


In support of Air Ambulance UK,
Prostate Cancer UK and
Sporting Bears Motor Club



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  event for you. GOF Central combines special friends, activities, and food for an  centenary birthday party to remember! The Embassy Suites in South Bend, Indiana is the guest hotel and headquarters for GOF Central. All s and enthusiasts are invited!

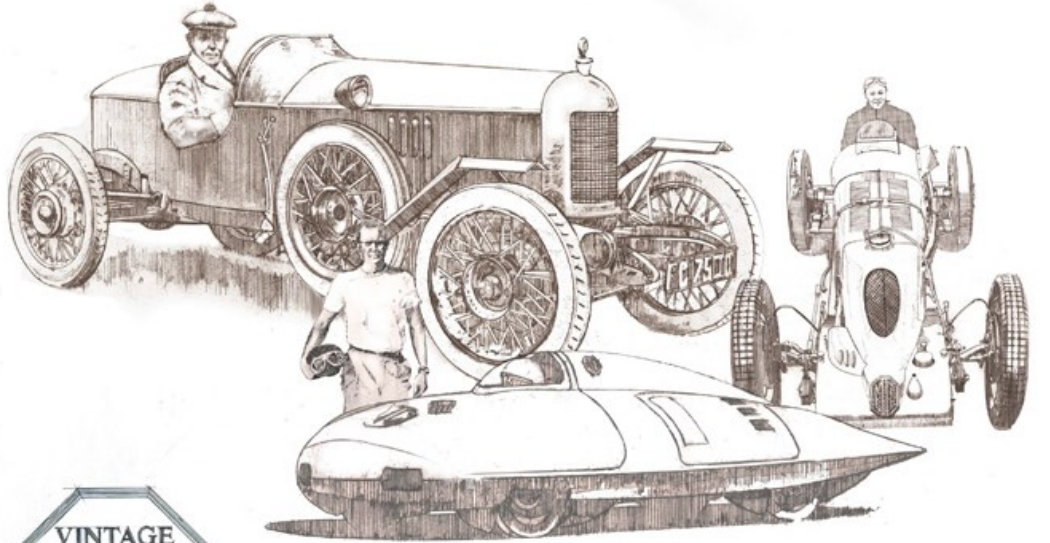
For details and to register, visit GOF2023.com.
Be sure to watch the video!





LIME ROCK CELEBRATES MG'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 1-4 2023



Safety fast!

Ben Abing



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



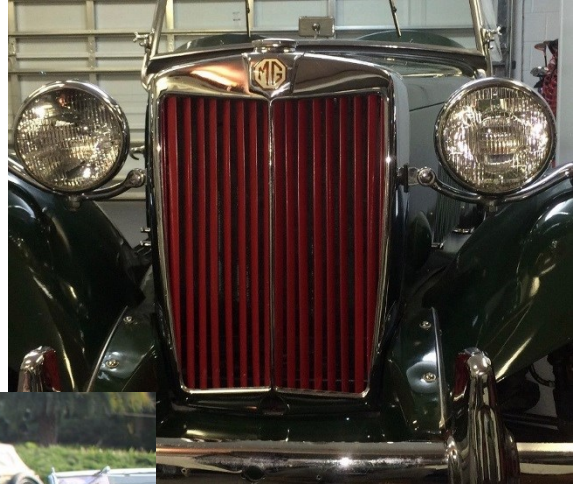
1954 MGTF 1500 Fully restored in all aspects, documented with over 700 photos. Front disc brakes, new leather interior, new tan hood and half tonneau. Set up for reliability and highway cruising with a Chevrolet 4-cylinder engine and automatic transmission. Must be seen to be fully appreciated. Come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



New in box MGA Gas Tank - \$140.00 which is Moss distributor price. Tank located in St Augustine.
Dave Burrows. 231-675-4919



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: 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



Jennifer Horning photo

Jennifer Horning's MGB parked on Park Ave. in Winter Park on a Saturday morning.

What better treat can you offer your daughter than a ride in a top-down MG, on a beautiful day, to a fun destination such as Barnies? Jennifer described the photo of Autumn as "we sit streetside enjoying coffee/hot chocolate and pasty." Looking at the filled dishes in the photo on page 10, the enjoyment was enhanced by wonderfully presented full breakfasts, including French toast.

Making memories.

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

