

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

May, 2026

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Issue 751



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Another GoF South in the Books!



**Best in Show:
1933 L1 Magna Silhouette
Mike Hughes & Lucy Hughes
Hightown, VA**

Presidential Thoughts

Hello Classic MG Club Family,

I am incredibly excited to begin my tenure as your club president. We have a fantastic lineup of events planned for the remainder of this year, and I've already been hearing some wonderful, creative ideas for what we can accomplish in the next.



To kick things off, I wanted to share a bit of my own "MG story" with you. My journey with these cars began about six years ago when I spotted a 1979 MG Midget for a price I couldn't pass up. I saw it as the perfect opportunity to pass some knowledge down to my sons, AJ and Daniel. I told them we should buy it so I could teach them everything I know about mechanics and—most importantly—how to master a stick shift.

As it turns out, an MG is perhaps the *best* car for teaching someone about maintenance because, as I quickly learned, they certainly provide plenty of "learning opportunities" on the side of the road!

The hobby quickly became a family affair. Once AJ mastered the Midget, he started driving it to various events, which left me without a set of keys. Naturally, I had to find one for myself, a 1977 MGB. Not long after, Daniel caught the fever too and found his own 1979 MGB. We are now officially a family full of MGs.

Starting with the All British Club and eventually finding my way to the Classic MG Club of Orlando, what has impressed me most isn't just the engineering or the style of the cars—it's the community. Every MG owner I have met has been among the friendliest and kindest people I've known.

I am honored to lead this group, and I look forward to seeing all of you (and your cars) at our upcoming events!

Safety Fast,
Jim Young
President, Classic MG Club of Orlando



May 2026



Classic MG Club of Orlando

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Your Club's Leadership

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Club Website		classicmgclub.com
Club Facebook		Click this link to Facebook

Your Club's Affiliations



Their Website: NEMGTR.ORG

Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27
Sandusky, OH

Local Contact: Glen Moore



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register

Their Website: NAMGAR.com

Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27
Sandusky, OH

Local Contact: Jill Moore



Their Website: NAMGBR.org

Nat'l Meeting: All MG 8/24-27
Sandusky, OH

Local Contact: Keith Waggoner



The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Meeting Minutes



No Meeting in April due to GoF



**Best from Abingdon
1933 J2 Supercharged
Dan Lanier, Melbourne, FL**



Calendar of Upcoming Club Events



May

05/21 Club Meeting Grills Lakeside, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando

6:30PM Drinks, ordering food or tire kicking.

7:00PM Monthly Club Meeting Begins

05/30 Drive to Sanford and Sanford Museum Tour, 520 E. 1st St, Sanford, FL

9:15AM Drive begins in Longwood, FL

TBD Museum Tour then lunch at local restaurant; Host-Tom Redditt

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

June

06/16 Club Meeting Grills Lakeside, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando

6:30PM Drinks, ordering food or tire kicking.

7:00PM Monthly Club Meeting Begins

06/20 Educational Session: 3D Printing, 1618 Pepperidge Dr, Orlando

Noon Scott Buie hosts a session on 3D printing

July

07/18 Valve Cover Races, Sickies Garage 11701 International Drive, Orlando

Noon Host-Jim Young

07/21 Club Meeting Grills Lakeside, 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trl, Orlando

6:30PM Drinks, ordering food or tire kicking.

7:00PM Monthly Club Meeting Begins

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May's Upcoming Outing

- WHAT:** Scenic drive, Sanford Museum Tour
then lunch at Hollerbach's German Restaurant.
- WHEN:** Saturday, May 30, 2026 (This event moved to the 4th Saturday for this month only to avoid conflict with Memorial Day weekend)

We will begin by meeting at Starbuck's Restaurant, 1951 W State Rd 434, Longwood, FL. We will leave there at 9:15 AM and go for a scenic drive in our MGs to Sanford taking the "long" route along the beautiful "old Florida" road around the north shore of Lake Monroe through Enterprise, FL and back down South on Hwy 417 returning to downtown Sanford to the Sanford Museum and Library for a guided tour on the history of Sanford.

After the tour, we will walk west two blocks down to Hollerbach's German Restaurant for a delicious lunch of German fare followed by exploring the antique and eclectic shops of downtown Sanford.

Museum admission is free!

Important that you RSVP for this event if you are going!
Tom Redditt at tredditt@mac.com

Details may be subject to change, if necessary.



CMGC Activites Outlook

2026

May 30th 9:15AM	Visit Sanford Museum; lunch at local restaurant; Host-Tom Redditt
Jun 20th Noon	Educational Session: Learn about 3-D printing; 1618 Pepperidge Dr, Orlando Host-Scott Buie
Jul 18th TBD	Valve Cover Races; Sickies Garage International Dr, Orlando; Host-Jim Young
Aug Noon	Darts: Fiddler's Green Irish Pub, Winter Park; Host-Patrick Raley
Sep TBD	Overnighter; Drive to Winter Haven; Watch Cypress Gardens Free Ski Show; Eat at local restaurant; Hosts-Ellen and Mark Tidwell
Oct 18th Noon-4	Founders Picnic- Deland; Hosts: Tracey and Keith Waggoner
Nov: TBD	Drive to Inverness for Air boat ride followed by lunch in downtown Host-Bob Moore
Dec 17th 5:30	Tour of Lights: Winter Park Raquet Club Hosts Rebekkah and Brad Parlee

2027

Jan TBD	Visit Birds of Prey Center Maitland, FL; lunch at local restaurant; Host- Dodie Beach
Feb TBD	North/South Picnic, Magnolia Park Apopka; Hosts- Sharon and John Spadaro
Mar TBD	Planning for club 2027-2028 events calendar- Tibby's Winter Park Host- Jim Young
Apr TBD	GOF South; TBD; Host- MG Classics of Jacksonville



Recap of GoF South LX

A forward by the Octagon Editor, Keith Waggoner...

Well, another GoF has come and gone. This one seems to have left pleasant memories in the minds of most of those who attended.

There were some new twists this year that were received with favorable results along with the trusted fare found in past events.

For this month and next, the Octagon will feature articles that provide a review of many GoF activities.

So, please kick back and peruse the next few pages. If you attended, I hope this brings back pleasant memories. If you missed it, I hope this provides an impetus for you to get more involved in your club's activities.



Photo by Rocco Avallone

Car show field Radisson Resort at the Port



The Gathering of the Faithful South returned to the Space Coast for the fourth time in sixty years. The host, Classic MG Club of Orlando, welcomed everyone to the festivities. Every activity during the three days was developed with the attendees enjoyment in mind. We hope all who came found themselves spoilt for choice and left at the end of the week feeling it was time well spent.

We also hope they enjoyed all that the area offered: beaches, Kennedy Space Center, great food, and oh, maybe they caught that rocket launch real early Wednesday morning.



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Our Guest Speakers

Tom Metcalf of Safety Fast! Restorations is well known in the MG world for his meticulous pre-war restorations. These cars often take top prize in their class at such prestigious events as the Amelia Island Concours. He is also sought out to be a judge for these types of events and was on the show field this past Thursday to determine the winner of the inaugural Best from Abingdon trophy. He also was our keynote speaker Tuesday afternoon.



Bob Sieck is a legendary figure at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), best known for his long tenure as the NASA Launch Director for the Space Shuttle program. He is also the proud owner of a MG TF, which he mentioned in his presentation on **Wednesday morning**.

Ken Ball served as the Racing Operations Manager for the Canadian Trans Am race team, based in Hamilton, Ontario, from 1968-73. He had a 30-year career at Bridgestone Tire, beginning as a Field Engineer in Vancouver, British Columbia. He later moved to the corporate office in Los Angeles, serving in many roles, including Manager of Product Development and Manager of Product Application. Ken fell in love with MGs at the same time he fell in love with Lynn, his future wife, who was driving an iris blue MGA. **His presentation on Wednesday provided an opportunity for attendees to learn what 'proper tires' means.**



Our own CMGC members presenting at GoF



Rick Sevcech is well known for his in-depth knowledge of cars ... period. Many relate his uncanny ability to diagnose issues as being savant-like. He's been known to solve the unsolvable for car models he had never previously worked on. We were able to see him work his magic on Wednesday morning.



Nick Pardee is an MG guy. From his earliest days, riding in the tonneau of the family TF buckled in a baby carrier, to the present, behind the wheel of customer MGs and his own TC, the cars from Abingdon have always been a part of Nick's life. Who better to assess the future of the MG hobby than someone who's had it in his blood since infancy. Nick held a spirited conversation Thursday

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Such Great Technical and Lifestyle Sessions

Tracey Waggoner, chairperson of this GoF, offered to handle this critical lifestyle presentation, after encountering a scheduling conflict with our guest chef. Having prepared food for an extended family of 6 kids, she's old hat for making things happen in the kitchen on the spur of the moment. The original title was easy southern dishes, after a bit of reflection, she decided to call upon her Australian roots and prepare an offering that was as she says... **"from about as far south as you can get"**



Jo Ann Cook, psychologist, and **Lonnie Cook**, MG-T custodian, focus on the longevity of two treasured things, you and your MG. While Jo Ann covers your mind and body, Lonnie reviews the aspects of proper lubrication for all MGs. They each presented researched and documented facts. **And folks left with the tools to make both person and car last for over 100 years!**

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Victory at the GoF Valve Cover Races!

by Jim Young

What an incredible turnout for this year's Valve Cover Race at GoF! The atmosphere was electric as 20 unique racers took to the track, showing off a blend of "lightning speed" and remarkable craftsmanship. It was clear that participants spent countless hours tuning their machines and perfecting their designs.

The Road to the Finals

After several rounds of heated action, the competition narrowed down to four heavy hitters in the semi-finals:

- Semi-Final A: Glen Moore vs. Jill Moore
- Semi-Final B: Lonnie Cook vs. Jo Ann Cook

Both races were nail-biters, but Jill and Lonnie ultimately secured their spots in the final showdown.

The Grand Finale

The final race was the highlight of the day. It was a neck-and-neck battle between Jill and Lonnie, with both racers flying down the track. In a finish that was almost too close to call, Lonnie edged out the win, taking home yet another coveted Valve Cover Trophy!



It's truly a photo finish



A Note of Gratitude

A huge thank you goes out to every single participant for the time and care put into your racers—you made the event a spectacular success.

I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to all of the people who helped me assemble and disassemble the track. We couldn't have done it without your hard work! See you all at the starting line July 18th at Sickies Orlando.



Other stories to tell at the Valve Cover Races ...beside who the winner was

Photos by Glen Moore



Celebrating MG's all-female entry in the
1935 24 Hours of LeMans, the Dancing
Daughters race cars with drivers: Jill
Moore, Sybil Bradley,
and Jo Ann Cook.



In-home rivalry:
Husband v Wife
Lonnie and Jo Ann Cook
face off for a trip to the finals



Interstate competition:
Georgia's Ian Henderson
Faces
South Carolina's Zack Merrill



The Best from Abingdon Trophy Presented by Goldseal, LLC



GoF South 2026 was the the inaugural event of this Award. Plans are for this perpetual trophy to be presented at future MG events, especially GoFs.

The guest judge for this occasion was Tom Metcalf of Safety Fast! Restorations. As he explained in his trophy presentation, his approach was to find the MG on the show field that best reflected the spirit of the MG marque.

While there were many he considered, from late model MGBs, an MGA, and a couple of the T variations, he settled on that which he is so familiar and fond of: the MG J2 Midget belonging to Dan Lanier of Melbourne.

As Tom explained, the J2 was the car that put the MG marque on the map and Dan's car was one that still reflected that image. It was one that had been put through its paces, not just shuttled to a show on a trailer.

We congratulate Dan and thank Tom for judging and Goldseal for choosing GoF South to unveil this award.



Photo on the left: Nick Pardee (right) of Goldseal joins Tom Metcalf (left) in awarding Dan Lanier the Best from Abingdon trophy.

Photo on the right: Dan Lanier christens the trophy with one of Tom's home brew beers made with, what else? British hops.



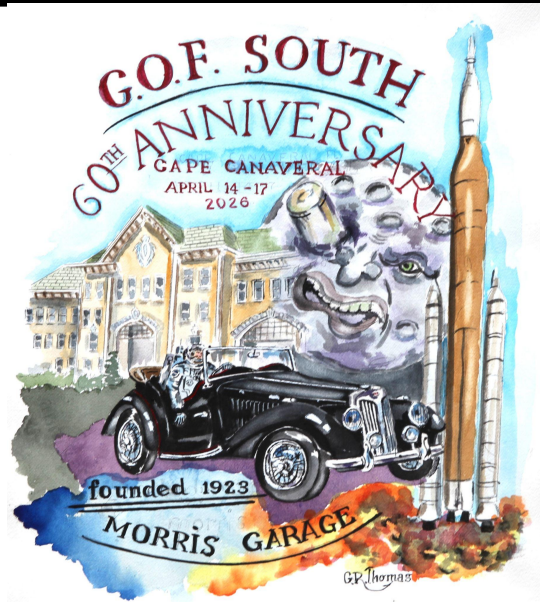
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Chuck & Liz Kleinschmidt
Gary & Sylvia Thomas
Ian & Paula Massey
Gene & Becky Cooper

In memory of Richard Buie



Thank you to Gary Thomas for the fabulous art work



In Memorium of Ed Kirkland

You may not know the name, but you know his work. He was the creator of the coveted Bimini top found on the many MGs especially here in Florida. Ed passed away on March 20th of this year.



His wife of 47 years, Brenda, says he leaves behind more than memories and an empty shop. He leaves laughter that will echo for years. He called himself "The Jackass of All Trades" which defines two things things that were a given: a great sense of humor and an inventor of contraptions only he understood. And, if you want to honor him, hit play on Gene Watson's Farewell Party and have a salt rimmed margarita



We see
Ed's
creation
adorning a
few club
member's
cars at this
year's GoF



Other Events of Interest

SAVE THE DATE



Hosted by: The North American Council of MG Registers

AUGUST 24-27, 2026

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We invite the MG Family to our five-year event to celebrate "The Marque of Friendship" The link below will be open in mid-December, 2025

www.MGInternational2026.org



Save the Date

This year's British Car Festival, hosted by The Peachtree MG Registry, will be moving to a new location in Young Harris, Georgia, overlooking beautiful Lake Chatuge. This is a regional event for NAMGBR & NAMGAR

The Ridges Resort at 3499 Highway 76 West will be our host for the dates of September 24-27, 2026

<https://www.theridgesresort.com>

Booking code = PeachtreeMG26

All the events you have come to expect from our show will be available, and we have added a few more. Hospitality, drives, tech sessions, food, a fire pit, and a wonderful show field overlooking the lake. Mark your calendars and make sure to join us as we share an exciting new location.



Classy Finds

FOR SALE

1962 MGA 1600 Mk II ROADSTER

\$23,000



The vehicle was fully restored by a previous owner around 2010 when the engine was replaced with the current 1800cc engine. The original unrestored 1600cc engine has been retained and will be included in the sale of the vehicle. The color was changed from red to British Racing Green and the upholstery from black to saddle. Sale includes side curtains and tonneau cover.

The indicated mileage as of 4/1/26 is 63,000.

The current owner purchased the vehicle in September 2021. An oil cooler was added. Regular maintenance included a new set of tires and battery. The car is currently kept in Orlando, FL.

For more information. contact:

Paul Dobson

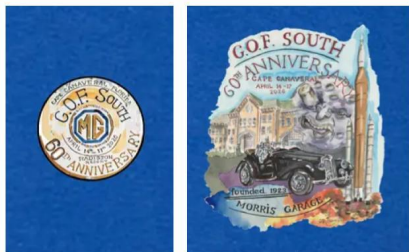
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Second Harvest Food Bank is the official charity of the Classic MG Club. Many people in Central Florida go to bed hungry every night. In the U.S., 50 million people are food insecure - one in four children. As a club, and as individuals, we can make a major difference in our neighbors' lives.

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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...

We see Dan Lanier's 1933 J2 getting examined closely by old friends Neil Nelson of Jacksonville and Ben Gilbert, SR of Miami. They both attended previous GoFs held in Cape Canaveral and it was a special homecoming for the two. We were so honored to host them this year.

See you next month with more GoF!

Keith



Photo by Rocco Avallone



May 2026

Classic MG Club of Orlando