# The Octagon

#### The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

December 2023

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Issue 722



#### **Club Leadership**

President Jim McSweeney jimspeedmaster@aol.com

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December 2023

#### **Presidential Thoughts**

It's been two years already that I've been President, that means it's time to pass the gavel on. Mark Tidwell has agreed to be our next President. For those newer members who don't know, Mark married Ellen Bowden, daughter of Will Bowden, one of our clubs Founding Fathers. Mark and Ellen bring a very rich club history to the Presidency, I'm sure we will all benefit from it! Have fun with it Mark, and Thank You!



Our newsletter editor, Keith Waggoner and his wife Tracey, put on a great picnic for our November event. Wonderful location, plenty of food, and very well attended. I believe there were over fifty people at the picnic! Thanks Tracey and Keith for a wonderful event.

Every event, position, task, is done by volunteers. If you have a special place you like to visit or ride you like to take, chances are our members would enjoy it too. Why not volunteer to make it an event? Scott Buie will be Chairperson for our GOF next year and we'll need many volunteers for that.

Although we don't have a meeting in December, we will have a Tour of Lights, more on that later.

It has been my pleasure being the club's President and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends and members Happy Holidays and a safe and healthy New Year.





## The Classic MG Club of Orlando Meeting Minutes





Location: Nauti Lobstah seafood restaurant, 311 S Forest Ave, Apopka, FI 32703

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 16, 2023

**Treasurer's Report:** Dodie advised that we have more than sufficient funds in our bank account to meet expenses.

#### **New Member Introductions:**

*Mike Howard* who is originally from the U.K. but has been here since 1977. He owns a 1973 MGB that is under a current full frame off restoration. Mike also owns a 2001 Jaguar XK8.

*Doug Drake* does model A restorations and currently has 10-11 cars under restoration. He also has a 1951 MGTD under restoration as well. Mike has extensive experience in automobile restoration having served a past president of the AACA, the Antique Automobile Club of America. He lives in Rocester NY but travels to Florida and lives in Apopka in a motorhome when here.

#### Old Business:

The Annual Fall Picnic was held Sunday, November 12, 2023 and was a complete success. It was held at the home of Keith Waggoner in Deland.

#### New Business:

The Villages All British Car Club host the 2023 "Brits on the Square" Show on November 17, 2023.

Tour of Lights – Dec. 21, 2023 - The tour of lights CMGC event will be hosted by Brad and Rebekkah Parlee. More details on this event can be found later in this edition of the Octagon. *Note! This event replaces the club Christmas Party this year.* 

Continued on next page ...



## The Classic MG Club of Orlando Meeting Minutes



#### Other Items:

New officers: The new slate of officers for the CMGC are as follows: President: Mark Tidwell Vice President: Jim McSweeney Treasurer: Dodie Beach Secretary: Tom Redditt

New Board of Directors: The new Board of Directors for the club are: Patrick Raley Kathy Cook Lonnie Cook Mike McCormick Scott Buie ( replacing Pete Rogers ) Keith Waggoner ( replacing Jim McSweeney )

**GOF update:** Scott Buie advises that registrations are increasing rapidly and club discounted hotel reservations at the Plantation are filling up fast. If you plan to attend this event make your reservation soon.

Mark Tidwell has volunteered as parking director. Please visit the GOF website often for regular updates and to sign up to help out with the event.

The Triple M Register will be doing a special regional show at the GOF of pre-war MG Midget, Magna and Magnette cars made between 1929 and 1936.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.



# **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

#### December

12/21 **Tour of Lights** hosted by Rebekkah and Brad Parlee 5:00PM All the details are found on the next page

Note: No monthly meeting will be held this month!

#### January

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

### **February**

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**



Current Schedule for the event:

- Meet at the Winter Park Racquet Club @ 5-5:15pm. 2111 Via Tuscany, Winter Park FL 32789
- Park the cars down near the boat ramp
  - We will attempt to get a group photo at sunset.
- Have some cider and snacks down by the lakeside until dark.
- Commence with the tour of lights around 6:15
- Return to the club around 7:15
- Have sit down meal ordering from the menu TBD one of the meeting rooms or areas of the club where we can all be together.
- Charges at the Racquet Club should be settled with a credit card.

Brad and Rebekkah Parlee RSVP to <u>BParlee@cfl.rr.com</u> Last minute needs? Text 407-342-2391

## **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 <u>gpardee6@me.com</u> Cell: 727 709 2881

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



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## **Calendar of Future Events**



#### 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 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 Cell 352-406-3373 Sharon Spadaro SAS852@aol.com Cell 305-322-5556 Jim McSweeney jimspeedmaster@aol.com Dodie Beach flutterby670@aol.com John's home phone and answering machine 352-357-8812 John Spadaro, host





#### HUGE News This Month...

the <u>North American MMM Register</u> will be joining us at GOF-South in April!!!



This will be their first ever Regional Meeting, and they are excited to attend. There are fewer than 50 pre-war MGs in the US, and this will be the perfect opportunity to see some of them in person. It is not to be missed!

### And remember...

The hotel reservations link is Live and Ready to Go!!! Go to the GOF South 2024 page on our website, or click <u>here</u> to

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





Continued

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 gift baskets, or other auction items.

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

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!

GOF 2024 Chair



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All British Car Show, Sanford, FL April 6, 2024



# Details can be found at <u>http://www.britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com/</u>

The feature marque is MG, celebrating its 100th anniversary

... and another show featuring MG

Watkins Glen Festival 2024

Registration Is now open

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 <u>http://www.grandprixfestival.com/</u>





Submitted by Glen Moore

#### Fall Picnic 2023 - A Gathering on the River

Perfect British weather was on tap for the Fall Picnic – gray and sometimes misty. The comfortable temperatures had many of the attendees arriving in their MGs, most with the top down.

A new venue was offered this year, Quail Hollow on the River in DeLand. Our hosts, Keith and Tracey Waggoner, secured the neighborhood clubhouse and grounds for the picnic and had everything beautifully set up before the club members' arrival. A nice clubhouse building provided ample room for the lunch buffet and kitchen support. Seating for lunch was available inside the clubhouse, on a screened porch overlooking the river, and at picnic tables giving everyone a comfortable spot to eat and enjoy conversation. A large grassy field was perfect for the car show. Fried chicken was provided by the club, Keith added freshly smoked chicken, and the side dishes/desserts brought by those attending provided a wide variety of delicious delights. A most enjoyable meal. Great food does create a wonderful atmosphere for conversation and enjoying time with friends. Thanks to our hosts for a grand club event.



"We'd go down to the river ... oh, down to the river we'd ride" ...Bruce Springsteen



# **Club Happenings**



Fall picnic continued



Many enjoyed catching up with old friends as they worked up an appetite. Many were delighted by having Pete Rogers, seated center, in attendance



Others checked out the bevy of cars or just watched the conversations, like Dorothy Wilson (seated foreground).

Don't let Dorothy's mild demeanor fool you, she's the proud owner of this MGB V8!

"Well, she's gonna get a ticket now, sooner or later 'Cause she can't keep her foot off the accelerator" ... Jan and Dean





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Fall picnic continued

## And finally, the food!



Carol Raley, Kathy Cook, Al Cook, Patrick Raley, John and Sharon Spadaro



Dodie Beach, Debbie Zaravelis, Keith and Tracey Waggoner (our hosts), Ann Plasschaert, Jim McSweeney, with Ann's red MGTF in the background.



# **Club Happenings**



Fall picnic continued



A line of MGBs and newer stretched across the field.



A healthy group of T Series MGs were driven to the picnic. (one MGB snuck into the photo)



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# **MGreeting Card from Reinout**



This Holiday card shows a P-Type at the start of the Mistletoe Rally at the Old Crown Inn in a cold and snowy town in England. The text on the back of the card is: A typical weekend club motoring outing in the 1930s. An MG P-type has just set off and in the background a Super Le Mans is about to set off. The artist is Richard Wheatland and the card is copyrighted in 1995 to Standard Forms Limited.



The old postcard from my friend Karel is from The Village Green in Stock, in South Essex, England about 40 miles Northeast of London. It shows an M-Type with license plate VX6780. The car is 2M1757 with Triple-M registrations number 2055 and it survived and is still around somewhere in the UK.

It always amazes me how many of these old scenes remained unchanged as shown here with Google maps street view.



# **Postcards from Karel**





This card is from Troon, Southwest of Glasgow, on the West Coast of Scotland. The two tone car (white/green) in the lower-left is a MG Magnette MkIII or MkIV. The body design, shared with cars from Morris, Austin, Riley and Wolseley came from the Italian designer Battista "Pinin" Farina, better known for his streamlined Ferraris and Alfa Romeos.

# **Registry Roundup**

Watch this space! It will be a new section focused on the partner Registries with which we are affiliated.

## NEMGTR, NAMGAR, and NAMGBR



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# A Holiday MGreeting From Reinout

Submitted by Reinout Vogt with rights from the author

#### A Cold Dark Night on the Moors: An English Christmas Ghost Story by Joe Carroll

Looking back, it must have been Christmas 1946. I had studied engineering at Sheffield during the war and after graduating I decided to take employment in this city of engineers. Although I was from the south my mother was a Yorkshire lass and as often as I could I visited her sister and family in the village of Skelpton, about two and a half hours travel by car. My father had given me his old M type MG Midget after he "fettled" it for me. With petrol available again it was a most welcome gift.



On the rolling roads of the moors it was difficult for the MG's tiny engine to maintain an average of forty mph but I loved that car. I had left Sheffield right after work, just a day before Christmas. The late afternoon was grey and chilly. As darkness came the weather became colder with freezing rain which occasionally changed to sleet. Of course the car had no heater, but with warm clothes and the top up it was liveable. I stopped numerous times to clean off the windscreen, and at one stop I used an old trick of Dad's - I undid the bonnet catches and lifted each wing of the bonnet and placed a matchbox under each wing right in front of the windscreen. The weight of the bonnet held the matchboxes in place, allowing warm air from the engine to warm up the freezing tiny windscreen.

I was having problems with landmarks in the sleety darkness and the headlights were only so so, the car having a very basic electrical system. I set the moveable third brush in the dynamo to maximum and crossed my fingers.



As I began to get back into the car I saw someone approaching. It was a man in Royal Air Force apparel, in fact he had insulated aircrew clothing and boots. In what I thought was an American accent he said "Not the nicest weather to be out in." I concurred and in an honest moment I told him I was heading for Skelpton but with no visible landmarks and most of the signposts still removed for the war. I was lost. With an engaging smile he said "My base is just down the road a bit, I'll show you the way and I'm sure the boys will put you up for the night, it's not worth carrying on."

Conversation wasn't easy in the noisy little car but eventually he directed me into a lighted area at the entrance to the base. Getting out of the car he held up the barrier for me and I drove through to a well-lit Quonset hut he had indicated to me. As I closed the car door I turned to thank my saviour but he was gone. I thought perhaps he had gone to another hut.

As I opened the door of the Quonset I stepped into a warm mixture of cigarette smoke and food. Two men seated at one of the tables playing cards looked up, surprised. I explained I was lost and one of them said "I think you need warming up!". I was about to accept but I suddenly remembered that I had better drain the block on the MG before it froze. "No problem" said the smoker, "come with me". I followed him to a workshop where we put my car and he then produced a round squat safety kerosene car heater. He lit the wick, closed the gauze safety cover and slid the heater under sump of the MG. "She'll be fine all night" he said.

As we left the workshop I asked him where the airman who guided me in had gone, "What airman?" he replied. I told him about the new friend I had met on the road. "Well," he said, "first of all he's not a yank, he is a Canadian and his name is Gary. Let's get back to the kitchen". Once inside the kitchen my helper said to his partner who was preparing a meal for me on the stove, "He's seen Gary." The cook seemed startled and said "Give the young feller a scotch".

I can't recall what was on my plate, it must have been delicious but I was shaken by the story they told me. It seemed the base was home to Lancaster bombers during the war. In 1943 or 44, I can't remember which, Gary Miller was a Lancaster pilot. What I do remember was his age, he was just twenty-three, not a lot older than me. Returning late to the base from a raid over Germany, their plane was running low on fuel and badly shot up. Approaching where Gary and his navigator figured the runway should be, when the runway lights came on the damaged instruments had them off course and the engines were misfiring from lack of fuel. Gary stayed at his post and ordered his crew to bail out. They obeyed and watched the stricken Lancaster lose height and crash off the runway. Gary died in the cockpit.

My two companions said they were posted to the base only recently, and although they were told of the ghost of the young pilot they had never seen it. The pair, with the help of local labour, were to mothball the base which had been closed a year ago. It was a while before I fell asleep that night.



I awoke to a bright sunny morning, the sleet was melting and dripping off the window frames. After breakfast we got out the Ordnance Survey maps and my hosts showed how to get back onto the Skelpton road.

My uncle and Aunt's home was the usual happy, riotous place I had come to know. After the youngsters were put to bed, the three of us sat in the cozy kitchen and I told them about my encounter with Gary. My uncle said "Aye lad, there's bin all kind of ghosts on t'moors, there's bin wars fought since before the Romans come".

With my trusty little MG I often drove the narrow roads and at least once a year I would go to the outcrop about a hundred feet from the runway. The locals never disturbed the remains of the wreckage, however they did erect a cairn to Gary Miller's memory. On one of my visits to the site I ran into the farmer who grazed his sheep there. He said, "I see thee up here once int' while, thee might like to know there's a pub in Skipton on Swale were forces lads liked to go. Inside there's a glass mirror ont' wall. Along with other forces lad's names scratched ont' mirror thee'll find Gary's".

I found the pub, still there, and I was looking for the mirror. A young barman said, pointing, "If you are looking for the mirror, it's around the corner." I looked at all the names and there it was "Gary Miller". Returning to the bar the barman presented me with a fresh pulled pint. I reached for my money, but an older man behind the bar said. "Nay, man, it's on the house for them that remember."

The Last Word: This story is fiction, but if you ever get to Skipton on Swale, there is a pub with servicemen's names scratched on a mirror.

And as far as I know, if someone is moved by it, the publican still pulls a free pint for them!



Note 1: With permission from Joe Caroll, who wrote the story many years ago for the Canadian Classic MG Club. The artist and origin of the illustration of the ghost leaning on the 'boot' of the M-Type are unknown.

Note 2: The former RAF base Skipton On Swale can still be recognized on Google Maps wif set to Satellite View.



# From Under the Bonnett

# We're focusing on the MGB this month!

One of our long time members, George Pardee offers this.

He's found a couple of items that may be of interest to our fellow MGBers

Jim Miller's Florida based MODERN TOURING <u>moderntouring.com</u> offers two inexpensive products that have enhanced their MGB.

VENT LOCKS firmly prop the vent windows in a *useful* position that provides cooling air flow to the occupants.





WINDOW CRANK SPACERS position the window cranks for easier operation, well away from the easily damaged vinyl trim.

"We can recommend MODERN TOURING'S quality and service" George and Elyn Pardee







December 2023

# **Classy Finds**

Aka classifieds



Contact: Pete Rogers Home 352-343-1855 Cell 352-406-1948 31104 Fairvista Dr Tavares, FL 32778



December 2023

# **Classy Finds**

Aka classifieds



#### **OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONTINUES**

CLASSIC HG CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fellow Enthusistsesee

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 wast improvement over the previous meeting. Plans for the upcoming tour ( a HARE & HOUNDS) was discussed and it was deceided 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. <u>Mrs. Jos. Sires</u> voluntsered 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 Eanch as a meeting place after the summer mosquito has migrated to warmed climates.

December marks the fifth "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 next 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.





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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.



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.

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



North American MGB Register



This month's end shot is from Ann Plasschaert

Her red '54 TF is all decked out for the holiday season and she wants to remind everyone the club's tour of lights is this month on the 21st.

And I'll end this edition of The Octagon wishing you all



Send me your end shot! editor.cmgc@gmail.com And until next month ... Keith



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