The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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June 2021

President's Thoughts

Well, it's again time for the Classic MG Club to fold up our tent and move to another location for the June meeting. While it seemed that the members were pleased with the place, Sam Snead's had some problems with us. Most venues that we contact for possible use want an estimated headcount. Last week after only 18 members signed in, the management felt they needed both a guaranteed headcount of 30 and a room fee of \$200.



Our June meeting will be held at **Carrabbas Italian Grill, 5820 Red Bug Lake Road, Winter Springs 32708.** The address is Winter Springs, but is advertised as the Oviedo Carrabbas online. A big thanks to Dodie Beach who renewed our good relationship with the management there. The CMGC held our meetings at this venue for several years, but moved further west to accommodate our far-flung membership. I suspect one attendance factor is that COVID is still making people leery of indoor small groups. Please feel free to wear a mask if you are more comfortable that way.

The weather has been unseasonably mild the last couple of months, so before the big heatwave hits and we have to retreat to our airconditioned cars to survive, get as much MG driving in as possible!

Safety Fast,

Mike McCormick

Classic MG Club of Orlando

The Classic MG Club of Orlando

May 20, 2021, Sam Snead's Oak Grill, Maitland

May Meeting Notes

Submitted by Jim McSweeney and Carol McCormick

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM



Attending: Scott Buie, Mike and Robin Messina, Paul Whitehouse, John Avallone, Ken and Lynn Ball, Devon Price, Dodie Beach, Jim McSweeney, Patrick and Carol Raley, Bob and Pat Moore, Lonnie Cook, Tom Redditt, Carol and Mike McCormick

Dodie Beach reported that we have \$6,866.71 in our bank account.

New Members Introduction

New members Ken and Lynn Ball, Paul Whitehouse, and Devon Price introduced themselves to the group, speaking about themselves and their cars.

Mike McCormick read off a long list of new members who have joined recently:

Fred and Eileen Deyo Clif and Randi Jenney Edward and Jill Davis Will and Alyson Butz IV Len and Christina Geiger Richard and Diane Slater James and Layne Atkinson Brian Sardine Mike and Susan Ruckman Oscar and Janet Petree John and Nancy Knight Darrell Juba

Old Business

The April trip to the Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards was reported by several members to be very enjoyable with good music, food, and company.

New Business

Our April 2022 GOF Chairman Scott Buie gave a PowerPoint overview of plans for the upcoming event including the new logo, the Mission Inn venue, planned activities, and a request for participation by members for taking part in the planning and the execution of the GOF.

Scott suggested that we make room reservations early to make sure we take advantage of a special rate by the Mission Inn, which includes a savings of \$60 over regular room rates because we are not being charged a resort fee and we are receiving the 2019 room rate negotiated previously. To make reservations, use the GOF website http://GOFsouth.org to access the link to the Mission Inn Reservations Desk and use the code listed for a special rate. Scott also offered the group multiple copies of his attractive Chairman's "calling card" that included the GOF website and email addresses plus QR codes to contact him or to access the website quickly.

Lonnie Cook reported that when he made hotel reservations for the Feb 18-20, 2022 Sebring Sportscar Vintage Racing Association event, he found that all hotels in the area required a nonrefundable payment for the room. He recommended a Residence Inn by Marriott reservation be made on Travelocity (or Expedia) as costing \$15 more, but able to be cancelled. Lonnie made his reservation at this hotel.

Mike McCormick asked for suggestions about other meeting places and was told that the crowd liked Sam Sneads. Hopefully, we will be returning if they will have us back.

Mike McCormick reported that our Saturday, May 22nd trip to Titusville Warbirds Museum and Dixie Crossroads would have good weather and be an easy drive on two roads out of Sanford.

Carol McCormick reported for Ellen and Mark Tidwell (car issues on way to meeting) that they have reserved 2 tables of 20 at Hollerbach's Willow Tree restaurant in July because reservations were not available in June. Our June event also being planned by the Tidwells is still in the works.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM



New Members

Eileen and Fred Deyo, DeLand, 1978 MGB. We are from Springfield, Massachusetts, and now reside in DeLand. In 1964 we bought a brand new MGB and then a baby girl arrived. On her birth certificate, her name was listed as Baby Girl. At the time, our daughter fit nicely into the back space, diaper bag and all.

We moved to South Florida in 1970 and Deland six years ago. Eileen worked for the school department and Fred National Airlines and then Pan Am



until their demise in 1991. We bought our current MGB 18 months ago, reliving our youth in the new Baby Girl, which we named after our daughter. We are happy to belong to the club.

Brian and Maritza Cunnison, Lecanto, 1954 MGTF 1250. Brian, a recent California transplant, has been restoring cars since he was 18. Four years at University in England gave opportunities for visits to Caterham, Lotus, and Morris Garages in Abingdon.

Last February, a drivable TF was located in Queens, NY, and soon became the latest restoration project. Loads of cleaning and a lot of Moss deliveries, I now can drive around town and will start on the body soon. "Thank goodness for this MG, as it kept me sane and busy through the last year's stay-at-home time."







Classic MG Club of Orlando

New Members

Jerry and Shelley Cesar, Tavares, 1977 MGB, Damask Red. Shelley and I moved to Florida almost 11 years ago from Kansas City and now live in Lake County where we enjoy cruising the back roads with the top down. When not in the MG, you can find us on the Harris Chain of Lakes boating.

Shelley currently owns a small business coaching firm and I am in manufacturing management.





I started searching for an early retirement gift as I am retiring in July. My search led me to St. Augustine and this gorgeous 2-owner 77 B with only 26,000 miles, all original. The owner was a snowbird and only drove it on the island when he was in town.

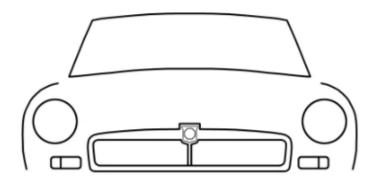
We are looking forward to meeting other enthusiasts of British sports cars and doing some day trips.

Clifton and Randi Jenney, Eustis, 1952 MGTD, 1959 MGA, 1968 MGB-GT

James and Laynie Atkinson, Orlando, 1968 MGB

Brian Sardine, Orlando, 1979 MGB

Devon and Sandy Price, Eustis. Looking for an MGB. Once owned an MGB and miss the enjoyment it provided. It is one of those wish-I-had-not-sold-it stories.



MD

MG Calendar of Events

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

June

- 6/14-17 MG 2021 International, Atlantic City, New Jersey, click here for info
- 6/17 **CMGC Club Meeting Carrabbas Italian Grill,** 5820 Red Bug Lake Rd., Winter Springs 6:30 pm Tire Kicking, 7:00 pm Meeting
- 6/19 **JB Boondocks Restaurant**, Howie-in-the-Hills, Ellen and Mark Tidwell Lunch at JB Boondocks with an optional visit to Historic Downtown Clermont (*see ad next page*)

July

7/15 CMGC Club Meeting

7/17 **Hollerbach's** Willow Tree German Restaurant, 205 E.1st St., Sanford, Ellen and Mark Tidwell Dinner at 6:00 pm (2 tables of 20 reserved), Pub Visits before dinner

August

8/21 Black Hammock Restaurant, Oviedo, Jim McSweeney

September

9/18 **Fiddler's Green, Lunch & Darts**, Winter Park, Kathy and Al Cook

October

- 10/22-23 St. Augustine Overnighter, Pat and Bob Moore
- 10/28-31 Classic 24 Hours of Daytona, Daytona International Speedway

November

- 11/21 Flankey Picnic/Chili Cook Off, Apopka
- 11/19-21 **MG Jamboree 22**, Safety Harbor, Florida Suncoast MG Car Club <u>http://www.fsmqcc.com</u> Ted Badger, marited@verizon.net, 727-295-9669

December

- TBD Christmas Party
- 12/16 **Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights**, Winter Park, Ann and Jeff Plasschaert
 - June 2021

Classic MG Club of Orlando

January 2022

1/22 Eaton's Beach, Weirsdale, Tom Redditt

February

- 2/5 Winter Tour Picnic, Tavares, Lake Idamere, John and Sharon Spadaro
- 2/18-20 **SVRA Vintage Races**, Sebring International Raceway, Oscar Petree Residence Inn Sebring, make reservations through Expedia for cancellable reservations To RSVP or obtain more information, contact Oscar at onpetree@gmail.com

March

- 3/3-6 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 3/5, Show 3/6
- 3/12 St. Pat's Party and Planning Meeting, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

April

4/22-24 GOF South 2022, Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Scott Buie



JB Boondocks Bar & Grill, Howey-in-the-Hills Optional: Historic Downtown Clermont

Our **June 19th** Classic MG Club event will be an approximately 1-hour drive to Howey-in-the Hills. We have reservations at 11:30 AM at the J B Boondocks Bar and Grill, 704 S Lakeshore

Blvd., Howey-in-the-Hills. Check out the menu at <u>J B Boondocks Bar and Grill</u>. Specific directions of our driving route can be requested in advance and will be provided at the Publix meeting location.

Meeting at 10:00 AM at Publix at Springs Plaza, 2381 W State Rd 434; Longwood. We will leave at 10:15 AM for a drive and arrive at J B Boondocks for lunch at approximately 11:30 AM. After lunch, for those interested, we will have a drive to downtown Clermont, with destination of the Clermont Brewing Company (local craft beers, wine, full bar available, other beverages, corn hole, and possible music). Other interests to explore in Downtown Clermont: Montrose Street Market, Suncreek Brewery, Bacchus Vino Etcetera (wine tasting), Yunmi's Frozen Yogurt, and other shops.

Please Note: The Tidwell's need your RSVP, if you are joining for lunch at J B Boondocks. Please contact Ellen <u>emtidwell@hotmail.com</u> or (cell) 352-874-5241 by Monday, June 14th if you plan on going. Hope you join us!!



MD

The Gathering of the Faithful, June 2022 Update:

This month's update is short and sweet, but very exciting! In case you were unaware, 2022 marks the

60th Anniversary of the MGB!

We'll be celebrating the "B" throughout the weekend, and the North American MGB Register is joining us!



North American MGB Register



GOF 2022 updates will continue in each of our upcoming newsletters; everything from event activities, local attractions, and more, so stay tuned!

For now, please get ready to join us:

April 22-24, 2022 The Mission Inn Resort & Club, Howey-In-The-Hills, FL

For more information, including how to reserve **discounted hotel rooms** for the event, go to our event website <u>www.GOFSouth.org</u>.

Until next month, enjoy your Morris Garage classics!

Scott Buil

Scott Buie, GOF 2022 Chairperson



June 2021

Perfect Timing and Recollections of

GOF South 31, Titusville April 1997

George Butz

My wife Kelly, adventurous 4 ¹/₂-year-oldson Will, and I arrived at the host hotel and were in line registering for the GOF. Son and I were totally pumped for the scheduled behind-the-scenes tour of the space center. Coincidently, the man in front of us happened to be the club member from NASA running the tour. He asked the registrars to tell everyone, that due to security concerns, only those driving an MG would be allowed on the private tour.



Will and I were crestfallen, as my broken TD was in Winter Haven. I introduced myself to Bob Sieck and explained my situation. He immediately said we could ride with him in his personal van during



the tour! Some seriously bad weather came through that almost cancelled and ultimately delayed the tour. We did not get to go to a VIP viewing area due to flooding, but did

see the most important things. While driving to our first tour stop, son Will excitedly pointed to this huge parked trailer with big "arms". He shouts out "Mr. Sieck, that's the trailer for the external fuel tank", which it was. Not bad for a 4 ½-year-old kid! We walked up to, and then under, a massive former Apollo and then Shuttle transporter crawler. Shuttle

Atlantis was nearby on the pad being prepped for launch. Bob gave a nice talk on both. It was a thrill to walk on the same gravel and touch the machine that moved many magnificent space vehicles to the launch pads over the years. Due to our chance timing of registering, we got to go on the tour and ride with Bob. Now, 28-year-old Will and Bob still keep in touch today!





Classic MG Club of Orlando



Lonnie Cook

Classic airplanes. Classic cars. Classic MG Club friends. Our trip to the Warbird Air Museum in Titusville was as close to perfect as we can get. Thank you, "Squadron Leader" Mike McCormick for creating this memorable event.



SATURDAY 22 MAY



[Mike McCormick, Jim McSweeney]

Over fifty military aircraft and ground vehicles are on display to be touched and admired. A restoration shop is full of airplanes waiting to be restored. A private docent guided us.

[Kathy Cook, Tom Redditt, Robin Messina, Mike Messina, Al Cook, Mike McCormick]

It seems that every plane on display had a connection with a club member. Richard Drewyer related the history of this WWII F-1 Wildcat that ditched in Lake Michigan before our guide could tell the story. The pilot who ditched the plane in 1942 was reunited with it after the Valliant Air Command restored it.



[Richard Drewyer, Lynn Ball, Ken Ball]



[Dodie Beach]

Jim McSweeney relived his work on F-4 Phantoms while he and Dodie Beach were looking at one on display. Jim was an F-4 Crew Chief in Tampa, Thailand, and England. His Wing Commander was the famous Col. Robin Olds who orchestrated the "Wolf Pack" that shot down seven MiG 21's in one day. The Deputy Commander was Col. Chappie James, who became the first black General in the Air Force.

Here is Tom Redditt standing by Cdr Greg "Boss" McWherter's Blue Angels F-18. Tom's niece was on the Blue Angels team. Cdr McWherter was her commander. By the way, Tom's brother was an instructor at the Navy's Top Gun school.

Lunch and MG-talk at Dixie Crossroad Seafood Restaurant completed our day.



[Jo Ann Cook, Lynn Ball, Ken Ball]



[Tom Redditt]



[Bob Moore, Robin Messina, Mike Messina, Kathy Cook, Al Cook, Jim McSweeney (hidden), Dodie Beach, Tom Redditt, Richard Drewyer, Pat Moore]



Our trip to the Warbird Museum the weekend before Memorial Day was especially relevant. All of us have been touched by our country's fight to preserve our freedom.

C47 42-100591, now designated as the "Tico Belle", is the flagship of the Warbird Air Museum and a true American Hero.

At 0407 hours, on June 6, 1944, at about 500 feet and in the face of determined flak from the defending German troops, the Tico Belle lined up on Landing Zone "O" near Sainte Mère Église and dropped paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division into Normandy. The Tico Belle returned to tow gliders filled with troops into battle.

Tico Belle continued to serve heroically in the war and afterward:

- Southern France: July 1944 Operation Dragoon
- Holland: September 1944 Operation Market-Garden
- Belgium: December 1944 Relief of Bastogne (The Battle of the Bulge)
- Germany: March 1945 Operation Varsity
- Germany: June 1948 Berlin Airlift (eleven months)

It was an honor to see and touch this icon. The lump in my throat was justified.





How Eliot Changed our Lives

Gene Fodor

I love aviation and after some setbacks, I finally managed to achieve my dream of flying. After obtaining all my ratings, I flew commercial for 10 years in New Jersey. In December of 1979, we relocated to Vermont for a pilot job and I continued flying for another 25+ years. Then my "medical went south" and that was that.

Eliot came to us in 1997, as a generous and unexpected gift from our son, Mike, to help me get out of my "funk." Mike's business (*F-Squared Market Plus Research*) was in Moscow, Russia, with his office located at



1 Red Square (really, no joke). Mike said that I always had little models of MGs around so it was now time I had the real thing. Eliot was brokered through Peter Markowski, the Ferrari guru, and RPM, in Vergennes, VT. The process of acquiring Eliot was secreted from me as Brenda (my wife) and Mike were handing all the searches and calls. Brenda said, "I'm going out, don't ask". Brenda mentioned to a co-worker, *David Silveira*, who was into MGs, that she was looking for a car and he directed her to several contacts and one, RPM, had Eliot. We became Eliot's 3rd "*Care-Takers*", (You can't really own a piece of history, hence, "*Care-Takers*".). Very sadly, son Mike died unexpectedly in London UK, in 2016, a year before we relocated to Florida.

I have always felt that the best way to get the most out of a membership is to participate to the best of one's abilities.



Son Mike & his wife Kasia joined us at the 2000 Stowe Vermont Antique and Classic Car Meet. Pictured standing are: (L-R) Gene, Kasia, Brenda, and Gene's dad Eugene. Seated in Eliot is son Mike. We attended our first car show in 1998 at the *Shelburne Museum* in Shelburne, VT, sponsored by the *Vermont Automobile Enthusiast.* I held many offices with the VAE, including activity chair, Editor of the newsletter, *WheelTracks*, for many years, and then President and Board Chairman and other "jobs." I have always felt that the best way to get the most out of a membership is to participate to the best of one's abilities.

At a later car show, the same year in Stowe, VT, we met *Jan Sander* who told us about *The New England MG T Register* and the local Register Chapter, *The MGVTs*. A few years after we joined the Register, I became the repository of the spare by-monthly



magazine, "*The Sacred Octagon*". I had the pleasure of acting as the Registrar for several GOFs around the time we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Register's founding by co-founders Dick K*nudson* and *Frank Churchill*. Moving south has created some logistic issues but, I remain the Register's Awards Chair.

After listening to several concourse d'Provenance presentations at the NEMGTR and GOFs, I decided it would be fun to research Eliot's provenance. Brenda and I presented a "paper" (actually a 60-page research paper) on Eliot's provenance at GOF 96 on September 10, 2014, to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Register, for which we received an award. With today's technology research should be easy; well, it wasn't. I ran into many dead ends over a two year+ research period. I located the Factory Production Record at: https://www.mgcc.co.uk/t-register/registers/ known-t-types/ and found that Eliot, "VIN" TD26944 and engine number XPAG/T2/27309 came to be on April 21,1953. He was sold



My favorite photo was taken at Wake Robin, which is a high-end retirement/care community in Vermont. We participated in several activities there, by providing rides and talks to the residents. One of my riders said that he "had one in France after the war and he clearly remembered the sound of that engine and this was it!". The Barbershop quartet provided entertainment at Wake Robin during that meet.

from *University Motors* in London UK to *William Woods Chandler, Jr* (age 26) of Lyons Kansas. After Chandler drove Eliot around the UK for weeks, he imported it (as a used car) to Lyons where it lived until his untimely death (age 52) on August 2, 1979. Chandler was able to take the time to pursue his UK adventure because he was the President/Chairman of the Chandler Bank (founded in 1934 by his grandfather Q.Q. Chandler and his father William Wood Chandler, Sr.). The Chandler family was also involved with the Chandler Motor Company in the 1910s and a milling business which they sold. It later became General Mills in 1929. We have pages upon pages of more Chandler information.

The second "*Care-Taker*" was Toby Brown, a pharmacist, also of Lyons, KA, who later moved to Vermont. Toby had offered to buy Eliot from Chandler, but Chandler is quoted to have said to Toby, "You



I arranged a car display at the local mall. Eliot got the best parking spot.

don't have enough money to buy him". According to Toby, Chandler named him, "Eliot". After Chandler's death, the estate gave Toby first refusal.

After 38 years of slipping, sliding, and falling on Vermont's "black ice", (I was on a first-name basis with the ER staff), we decided to relocate to the sunny south. After a short 2 week visit and later a 6-month stay, we moved to Dunnellon near Ocala in 2017, to a very nice 55+ gated community, *Spruce Creek Preserve* located off FL 200. We arrived at midafternoon and at 10:30 PM the same night, the gatekeeper unexpectedly called to say that Eliot had arrived in a big black enclosed trailer. He had as trailer mates, a new Corvette and a Ferrari (they were continuing to southern FL).

So, here we are today.





As there is no suitable repair facility that I know of in the Ocala area, I arranged to have Eliot taken to Ceres Motorsports for a much needed inspection, oil change, and other service.

Brenda and I Chaired the Knight Point State Park Car Show in North Hero, VT, for several years. For the 2016 show, the Committee insisted that Eliot be used for the poster and invitations.





The Dashboard with all the original instrument and controls intact and working. The little white knob below the steering wheel is the heater's fan switch, ala the 40s-50s style. When on, it illuminates.

(MD)

MGs at Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

Glen Moore

The Amelia was again a worldclass car event. The delay of the event from March to May, due to the difficulties of planning during the Covid era, proved to be a good move. Attendance was near the numbers in the past. Next year, The Amelia will return to the normal first weekend in March.





The Concours d'Elegance main show is on Sunday. The quality of the cars displayed is amazing. Many are from private collections, only to be seen at elite events. Some are from museums from around the world. A history of the automobile is presented through beautiful works of art and engineering. Two MGs were on the field this year, an Arnolt and a Lester. Harry Lester built race cars in England based on MGs, both before and after WWII.

MGs were represented in several venues. On Thursday, Bonhams held their annual auction in a large tent complex at the Fernandina Golf Club. Two MGs were among the over 100 cars offered. Both MGs were restored by David Shelburne, the creator of the MG YouTube Channel. One was a concoursquality MGTF 1500 – black with green upholstery. It was perfect in every way. Bidders appreciated the car – the gavel price was \$47,040. The second, a first-class driver-quality TF 1250, sold for 31,360.

Saturday, the ever-popular Cars & Coffee was held on the Ritz Carlton golf course. MGs from *MG Classics of Jacksonville*, *Suncoast MG Car Club*, and *North Carolina MG Car Club* were on display among over 300 cars. Entry to this event is filled quickly, once registration opens. Cars & Coffee is free to the public, bringing many families in addition to the car enthusiasts. It is a fun time to gather with like-minded car collectors and share your car with others.



This Lester MG was based on an MGTD, using the front cross member, rear axle, and a special MG factory XPAG engine. The frame is made of light-weight tubing and the body is in aluminum.





A Greeting Card from Reinout

Reinout Vogt

The MG J4 was the racing version of the J3, which was the supercharged version of the popular J2. Only nine J4s were built by the factory. In the background is the MG Car Company administration building on the Abingdon factory grounds.

This card was published by the Universal Publishing Company in England. The artwork was an exclusive commission for the Golden Era Cards by artist Russel Brown.



MG Marketplace



1970 MGB GT

Pete Rogers has placed one of the cars in his collection on the market, an MGB -GT. It is painted in the rare factory color Black Tulip. It is equipped with air conditioning, Kenwood radio, a new overdrive transmission, new beige interior, stainless steel exhaust, and Michelin tires on alloy wheels. Great town and country car with a high cruising speed provided by the overdrive. Car cover included! 93,100 miles. \$16,000 Call Pete at 352-406-1948 or email: <u>pfrslot@gmail.com</u>.

MGTD Side Screens - Ted Boiman has a set of side screens that need a new home. \$100 Contact Ted at: tedboi44@gmail.com or 941-276-7506





1972 MGB - Bought in 1971, Engine rebuilt twice, last time 5 years ago, no mileage on this rebuild. All running gear replaced along with the fuel tank and pump. Original SU carbs. Repainted around 1995. Have put in over \$5,000.00 in rehab. Make offer. Rod Gasche dagasch@msn.com Cell 850-445-4217

Wanted to Buy - Cylinder head for XPAG or XPEG motor. Please call Dean Sprague 407-765-2780

Adverts are free. Send information to editor.cmgc@gmail.com.

Contact the editor each month To keep your ad current.



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: <u>www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank</u>

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:





Gene Fodor's MGTD, Eliot, with a Vermont Auto Enthusiast club tour banner. The club made a two-day tour of New York and Vermont in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Lake Champlain. Every car on the tour sported a banner, good for promotion and safety.

All participants had to wear an outfit relative to era of their car. Gene chose the RAF uniform because Eliot is English and he, a pilot.

MD

June 2021

Classic MG Club of Orlando