

The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

Founded 1963

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The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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President's Thoughts

In the spirit of getting ahead of things, I would like to take this chance to talk a little about The Gathering of the Faithful. As most of you know, after CMGC's cancellation of the 2020 GOF, the Jacksonville club moved forward with the 2021 GOF. This also was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. Now it is again an opportunity for our club to stage the 2022 GOF that is 18 months away. With most of the planning done, this should be as easy as it gets.

Along these same lines, it has been decided that we, Jacksonville and Central Florida, should have a joint conversation about the GOF in general. It has been several years since the Suncoast Club stopped sharing a turn at hosting the GOF. Both remaining clubs have had enough time to see opportunities for improvement.

Toward this goal, a meeting to brainstorm the situation has been tentatively agreed upon. What I need from you is input. Please give this some thought and email me at trouble150@gmail.com with your suggestions on how to manage or improve our GOFs.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the Covid-19 disclaimer at the top of the list of events in every *Octagon* issue. The CMGC wants everyone to feel comfortable when participating in sponsored events. As a courtesy, we would expect all members to follow CDC guidelines. Remember that most of us are of a certain age.

Safety Fast,

Mike McCormick





October Meeting Notes

Submitted by Carol McCormick and Jim McSweeney

Attending: Mike and Carol McCormick, Lonnie Cook, Pete and Shari Rogers, Jim McSweeney, Dodie Beach, Al and Kathy Cook, Glen Moore, Richard Payne, Camille Flankey, John Spadaro, Rick and Diane Slater, Carol Raley, Mark Tidwell.

In the Treasurer's report, Dodie noted that the club sent a \$50 donation and a note of condolence to the Montessori School of Waycross, Georgia, in memory of Choo Choo Germano. Friends of Choo Choo can read his obituary and express condolences on the website of the Oxley-Heard Funeral Home in Fernandina Beach.

Old Business

Jim McSweeney reported that the September 19th lunch on the porch of the **St. Johns River Steak and Seafood in Sanford** was very enjoyable. Several people suggested it rates a return visit.

Robin and Mike Messina attended the **September 17-20th Peachtree MG Registry British Car Weekend in Dillard GA**. They reported that it was an awesome event with 100-150 cars, beautiful weather and mountain scenery. Tents and fire pits were set up and social distancing was observed. Mike also sadly told the group that they were in Georgia because they bought a house near Blue Ridge, GA, and will be moving there in 4 months. They sold their house here recently in one day! They did say that they would be coming back to the area as they have a lot of family here. Hopefully, we will see them once in awhile...

Kathy and Al Cook discussed the upcoming **Oct 23-Oct 25th Tuckaway Shores Resort, Indialantic Overnighter** while driving in their car on the 429! Kathy said that the six couples are staying will be hanging out at the pool and the beach in a socially distanced manner and possibly eating at an outdoor restaurant.

John Spadaro and Jim McSweeney expressed their extreme displeasure with the **NAMGBR** organization for promising insurance coverage of member club events, then refusing to help with insurance for our GOFs because they are "not strictly MGB events". John pointed out that there are no MGB events that are not mixed with other models, and argued this point with the NAMGBR to no avail. Neither John nor Jim want to be the contact person for this organization. Dodie agreed to continue as contact unless someone else wants to volunteer.

New Business

Mike McCormick discussed the need for a **GOF Steering Committee** from our club that will meet with the Jacksonville Club--probably virtually--to discuss the future structure of our shared event. He has had a conversation with Jacksonville on the matter, and they are requesting our input. Because we canceled the 2020 GOF and Jacksonville canceled the 2021 GOF, it is our turn to host in 2022.

Mike McCormick also remarked that the **All British Car Club is holding their 2021 Car Show in Central Winds Park on Saturday, April 10th**.

Mike Messina will post information on Facebook tomorrow about the **Saturday, October 17th Cars and Coffee Car Show in Lake Mary** at the corner of Lake Mary Boulevard and Longwood Lake Mary Road, starting at 8 AM. This is a monthly event that Mike Messina has attended and recommends. All cars are welcome.

Rick Slater mentioned that there is also a **Cars and Coffee at the corner of 436 and Aloma**.

Future 2020 Events

November 4-8th Classic 24 Hours, Daytona International Speedway, HSR

Note: If you go to these vintage races and want to join up with fellow club members, text Mike McCormick at 407-782-9887. Mike and Glen shared that they enjoy walking into the pits to see the cars and chat. The spectators are in the infield, not the stands, and most attendees are also participants. There are several races beforehand, but the 24-hour race starts at 1:00 PM on Saturday with 6 different groups of cars racing for 4 hours each to create the 24 hours.

Saturday, December 12th CMGC Christmas Party at Richard and Nancy Payne's house starting at 5 PM

Note: The Paynes will provide the meat and desserts plus water and soda. They are requesting that members bring a side dish such as salad, starch or vegetable, and anything else they want to drink. They have a large outside pool patio area and yard for social distancing, plus a fantastic collection of Christmas décor...the perfect Christmas home.

Thursday, December 17th Annual Tour of Lights and Drive-by Tribute to Paul and Ann Plasschaert and dinner at Dubsdread

Note: A meeting place and itinerary for the tour is TBD. Mike and Carol McCormick will create the route unless someone who lives closer to Paul and Ann's house or Dubsdread would like to volunteer. Reservations for dinner are at 7 PM for a maximum of 20 people (5 tables of 4) on the Veranda. They do have heaters if the weather is chilly. We must confirm our number by December 1st, so please RSVP with Carol or Mike when you decide you are attending this dinner.

The Winter Park Tuba Festival suggested by Marcia Geraci will unfortunately not be held this year.

Our Monthly CMGC Zoom Meeting Is

Thursday, November 19, at 7 pm

The lobby will be open at 6:30 for

• **Meaningless Banter** • **General Tire Kicking** • **General MG Merriment**

All members are invited, and it is VERY simple to attend. Simply click this link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84605630763?pwd=TEtVNDdwNDgvOEMxZXBMZ1UveDNMdz09>

• Join With Computer Audio • Enter Name (Click "OK") • Start Video

New Members

Rick and Diane Slater, Maitland. 1960 MGA, red. Their primary retirement entertainment is traveling, in the USA by travel trailer and internationally by various modes. Their MGA is about to become a second major hobby with the beginning of restoration of the family MGA.



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!

November

- 11/4-8 Classic 24 Hours, Daytona International Speedway, HSR
- 11/21 Club Picnic at Liberty Park, Lake Mary, 11am - 1pm, Mike McCormick
- 11/22 Flankey Picnic, Camille and Kerry Flankey *Cancelled*

December

- 12/12 CMGC Christmas Party, Clermont, Richard and Nancy Payne
- 12/17 Tour of Lights, 6:00 pm, Maitland, 7:30 pm dinner at Dubsdread
- 12/? (Optional event - Tuba Festival at Winter Park, Marcia Geraci) *Cancelled*

January

- 1/23 Lake Apopka Wildlife Audio Drive, Mike and Carol McCormick

February

- 2/20 Palatka Overnighter, TBA

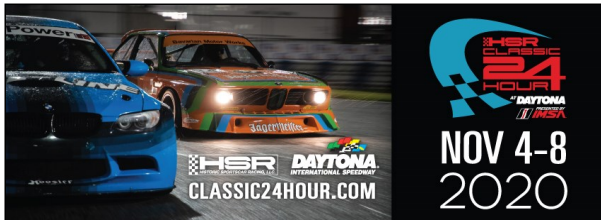
March

- 3/4-7 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 3/6, Concours Show 3/7
- 3/20 St. Patrick's Day Planning Meeting, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

April

- 4/10 All British Car Show, Winter Springs, Central Florida British Car Club
- 4/17-21 GOF South Mk 55, Gainesville, Florida, MG Classics of Jacksonville *Cancelled*





Classic MG Club at the Races

Vintage race cars on the road course at Daytona International Speedway creates an opportunity for CMGC members to enjoy a world-class classic car event. This year there is a loosely-organized British/French/Mazda car corral (paved area by the lake, limit 75 cars) that includes laps on the track, Saturday at noon. The Classic 24 gets the green

flag at 1:00 pm. Ask for the British Car Corral Pass (instead of the regular spectator ticket) at the ticket booth, located near the Turn 1 tunnel. All parking and spectator areas are in the infield. Where is everyone? Text Mike McCormick at 407-782-9887, or Glen Moore at 904-347-3560 when you get into the infield.

Club Picnic at Liberty Park, Lake Mary

Saturday, November 21st, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

We are returning to the nicely isolated Pavilion B over the creek that we visited in June and hoping that the temperature is a lot cooler! Please join us and bring your own food, drink, and folding chairs if you want to socially distance more than the 4 picnic tables allow. Pavilion B is in the back of the park and the address for your GPS is 455 N. Country Club Rd., Lake Mary 32746. Hope to see you there!!



Classic MG Club Christmas Party, Saturday, December 12th - 5 pm



Hosted by Richard and Nancy Payne
20612 Angels Landing Ct.
Clermont, FL 34715

Bring an Exchange Gift if you wish to participate.

PLEASE RSVP BY: December 5th to paynesq5@aol.com

All Meat, Desserts and Water or Soda, Coffee and Tea will be provided. (BYOB if you prefer other beverages.)

Please click the link below to see a list of side items. I will update the list as people respond so you will be able to see the items still needed.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10hguwkjk1zbiq3vBysgI4VGrfPa84KDHV2eDtCDEB18/edit>

Please text me, Nancy Payne, 352-978-5022, with your Choice of side item or to RSVP. If your choice is taken, I will let you know and if you wouldn't mind choosing a different item I would appreciate it so we have a wide variety of sides. RSVP by December 5, 2020.

Tour of Lights

Thursday, December 17th

The annual MG Tour of Christmas lights will begin at 6:00 pm at Ann Plasschaert's home, 1304 Wellington Terr., Maitland. The tour will end at Dubsdread, College Park, approx. 7:30 pm for dinner.

A maximum of 20 people (5 tables of 4) can be seated on the Veranda. They have heaters in case the weather is chilly. We must confirm our number attending by December 1st - please RSVP with Carol or Mike McCormick.



Mike - trouble150@gmail.com, 407-782-9887 Carol - cmcarol17@gmail.com, 407-257-1953



Pete Rogers' First MG

Pete Rogers

My wife, Shari, had a friend who needed help cleaning out her garage. Her husband had surgery recently and could not handle the job by himself. Shari volunteered me to help. In the process of moving things out of the garage, we rolled out an MG chassis. As we kept moving things out of the garage, more and more MG parts were found. After the garage was empty and cleaned, we began



moving things back into the garage, including a new Volvo and the MG chassis. I asked about the parts stacked in the front yard. She said a junk man would pick them up. I replied that I am your junk man. My son and I picked everything up the next day. We laid the body panels and parts to find out what was missing. The purchase of 2 parts cars and two and a half years of effort produced a brand new 1952 MGTD, silver body panels and black fenders. The car is a multiple trophy winner. It began as a free car. The lady with the parts in her garage was shocked beyond words when she saw the car. This was the first MG I restored and still resides in my garage.

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Editor's Note: The next time we see Pete's silver/black MGTD, the car will have more meaning to each of us. It is the car that moved him from restoring German bathtubs to restoring cars from the favored marque. Thanks, Pete, for sharing your story.

The Octagon's purpose is to share news about the club and its members. To accomplish this task, members need to submit articles. The topic could be great roads for MG driving, last task completed on your MG, tech tip, special tool, parts source, interesting car event/show, etc.

And, you do not have to be an old-time MGer with years of experience. Everyone has an interesting experience to share, no matter how long they have owned an MG, no matter their level of mechanical expertise. Case in point: The next article is written by Oscar Petree, less than one month into ownership of an MG. Oscar finds many car events occurring during Covid-19.

OK. An idea to share has come into your head. Jot it down or type it into your computer. Don't worry about being the best writer or an expert grammarian, the editor will help whip your writing into shape. Send your submission to editor.cmgc@gmail.com.

A few guidelines: Text and photos need to be submitted separately. Text can be just an email, in MS Word, or other text file. Photos should be attached to an email, not embedded in the email text. The best photo format is jpg, but other formats will work.

For a bit of nostalgia and a nod to history, the divider above is borrowed from the early editions of *The Octagon*, those constructed using a typewriter, probably a manual typewriter. With only the keyboard for options to create, this specific line of type was used to separate articles on a page.

MGTD First Month

Oscar Petree, story and photos

On September 4th, I purchased Tony Geraci's 1953 MGTD. Since then I've been driving on a steep learning curve. The gearbox and I have not made great friends yet, but our day is coming. I am having great fun driving this marvelous car. Ever searching for an excuse to drive the TD I've been taking her to various Breakfasts, Cars and Coffees, and Car Shows. Over the course of the last 23 days, I've driven the MG over 408 miles.



I have attended six gatherings of one kind or another in my newly acquired MG. Sadly, only ONE of these gatherings involved British cars! The Nature Coast British Car Club & Sun Coast Classic MG Club (One club with 2 names) have a monthly gathering for a picnic and viewing of the Sunset over the Gulf. It takes place the last Thursday of the month at the Baypoint Pier in Weeki Wachee, FL. There were nine of us present at the small gathering, but Janet and I were somewhat disappointed that our MG was the only one attending. The round trip from our home to Weeki Wachee and back was about 120 miles. This group meets from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. So, the drive home was at night.

Janet and I attended our first cars and coffee on Sunday 9/6, only two days after I picked up the car at Tony Geraci's in Oakland, FL. The gathering is a recurring event that takes place the 1st Sunday every month at War Horse Harley Davidson in Ocala. It's a big deal around Ocala as there were probably over 300 cars of all types. We arrived shortly after 8:00 am and were promptly guided to a premier parking spot reserved for "special" cars, parking the TD between a Lamborghini and a new C8 Corvette. Our MGTD was unique to the venue.



On the third Friday of the month, I attended Thunder on the Square in downtown Inverness, FL. There were approximately 50 cars in attendance. Once again I had the only MG. There seemed to be many admirers of the marque. I fielded lots of questions about the MG. Also, had a great many compliments. Surprisingly, a group of young teens seemed particularly interested in the MG as they had never seen one



and were curious about it. The round trip was roughly 50 miles. The drive home was again at night.

There have been three more events that I have attended in the Ocala area. I wish that they had been "MG" events or even "British" car events. However, multi-brand car events are all that is available locally so far. I have found them very enjoyable. Having a unique car at these events means there are lots of questions and compliments about the brand and history of the MG.



The 67-year-old TD is running very well. The SU's are running just a little rich. So far I haven't attempted any adjustment to those. I'm getting about 20 mpg using non-ethanol regular gas. There are a few things that I have needed to address. A toggle switch was added to operate the headlights as the ignition/light switch is dead on that post. The passenger door latch as well as several other items have had to be adjusted and tightened. I find the turn signal switch needs some work as I always forget to switch it off. The car needs some paintwork which I plan to do in a few months. The next item on the list is to change the three main fluids. My biggest joy is in driving the TD although I do enjoy tinkering a little too. There are numerous events over the next few months and I plan to be at most of them. Until then, I'll be watching for those MG only events to attend.



Letters to the Editor

(In response to her plea about checking on her safety after her father learned of her unauthorized use of his TD.)

Dear Editor,

I am here!! It was questionable though, on Sunday, as to whether I would be!! My dad was laughing so hard. He said, "I knew it!" I said, "uh, no you did not because I am still alive!"

You made his year, and I am so thankful for this act of kindness and friendship that you all have shown to him. I am indebted.

Lisa Camichos



1960 MGA Restoration

Rick and Diane Slater, story and photos

We're like most retirees: We're so busy we really have no idea how we had time for a job. My wife retired in 2016 after a very satisfying career that ranged from design engineer to managing director for a digital marketing concern. I was a stay-at-home dad and was forced into retirement when my youngest graduated UF and assured me he no longer needed my attention. Today we spend our time traveling internationally, domestically in our trailer, or fishing.

The 1960 MGA came into my life in the '60s when my father gave in to his desire to have a sports car. I still remember going with him to look at it and thinking what a beautiful car it was while wondering if this man that was so practical and frugal was losing it. He also had a friend that wanted to give him a Sunbeam Tiger about that time, but Dad never had anything he didn't share with his family and I think the thought of my 19-year-old sister, and me being 16, out and about in this rocket was not a good idea.



We drove the MG daily until Dad drove it into an open garage in 1976 and parked it. We had all left home by that time and, because he traveled each week, it just wasn't going to be used. It sat there until about 1997, when I asked Dad if I could have it with the intention of getting it running again. I decided that it might be a good opportunity to do a restoration of the car and we started to do so using a third garage we added to my father-in-law's home. Unfortunately, after a short while, we moved and it became increasingly hard to find the time to work on the car, and life with two active kids got busy.

So, fast forward to now. It's time to finish the project. I had heard about the Classic MG Club and thought it would be a good idea to contact you and hopefully gain some insight from those with much more experience than I, but more importantly, to be able to visit with people that shared a common interest in classic cars. The members I have communicated with made us feel very welcome and, while the current Covid-19 precautions might keep us at bay for a while, we look forward to meeting the rest of this wonderful community.



The 1st Classic MG Club "CONCOURS d' ELEGANCE" 1965

Lonnie Cook

Photos: Bill Wohlfart and Google Street View

Barely a year after the club was founded, club President and newsletter editor, Will Bowden, proposed that the CMGC host a Concours d' Elegance. Plans developed over the next few months and members chose Sunday, May 9, 1965, for the event. Chairman John Camichos and club members enthusiastically promoted the Concours to other sports car clubs, the newspaper, and even at the 12-Hour Race in Sebring.



Will Bowden Cartoon

The beautiful rolling grass of Lockhaven Park was a perfect location to display the cars. **But wait.** Only a few days before the Concours, "We had our run-in with the Big boys at city hall, no luck for Lockhaven, it appears that we are neither cultural nor historic." Club members sent out an SOS and the Orlando Federal Savings and Loan came to the rescue by offering the brick parking lot of their iconic branch at 2301 E Colonial Dr.



Show cars included a 1937 Jaguar, Corvette, Porsche, and of course MGs.

"Well, I felt real fine at the Concours with the turn out that we received. Although we had only 12 entries, we were tickled with this. We had real good coverage prior from the newspaper . . . our twelve was by far the best for a Concours in this area. We had entries from Jax and Clearwater, and although most of the hardware went out of town, our local representation was excellent. Better luck next time

troops. How about that, SIX FINE T Types. There was extremely tough competition, and the best T was third. I think we all were inspired and learned something that day." – Will Bowden



2020: The space is Chase Bank



Hmmm. Eight MGs. Two must not have been in the show.



OLD SPECKLED HEN

Chapter 2

Glen Moore

Photos: Early MG Society

Hope the story of the Old Speckled Hen in the October issue of *The Octagon* gave you the initiative to enjoy a cold brew of the fabled British beer. In this issue, the story continues.

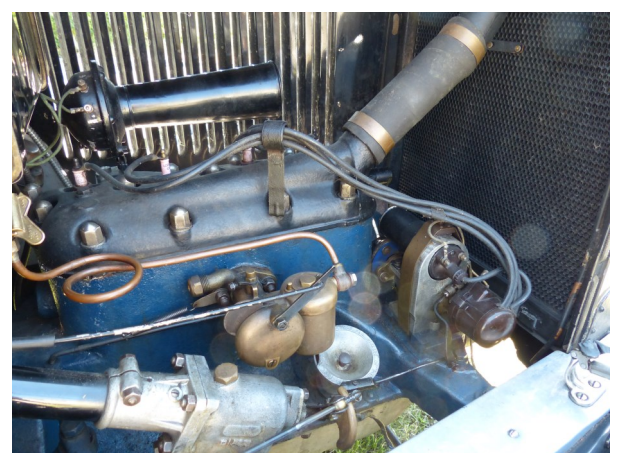
This fabric-bodied, Feather-Weight MG Saloon has been a part of MG history for over 90 years. The car has always been described in the past tense. None of the articles on the Old Speckled Hen MG ever referred to the car in the present tense.

Conversations with Chris Keevill, editor of the Early MG Society newsletter, had me checking out their website. One of the tabs was: "Cars for Sale." I am always looking for my next MG, so checked on the listings. The first advert was for the Old Speckled Hen.

The Old Speckled Hen still lives! It has been restored to original condition. Fred Body is the owner and restorer of the car. He is well-known for his skills as a restorer of the early MGs.

There is an opportunity for you to own this famous piece of MG history. You can find more photos and details about the car at: <https://earlymgsociety.co.uk/forsale.html>

Time for a golden OSH. Cheers!



MG Marketplace

1953 MGTD

Pete Rogers has a beautifully newly restored 53 TD. Everyone knows Pete is a perfectionist and really does a beautiful job on his cars. Restored with all new, tires to top. Special Red exterior with a tan interior. All the extras installed are estimated at \$2500 in costs. Drives very well and the engine is especially strong. It has been rebuilt to a higher horsepower. Car is offered at BEST OFFER. Call Pete at 352-406-1948 or email:

pfrslot@gmail.com.



1954 MGTD

British Racing Green, wire wheels, rebuilt engine, new tires, excellent condition. Ted Boiman
tedboi44@gmail.com Phone 941-276-7506



1977 MGB

Excellent condition with only 59,000 actual miles. New tires & battery. Original sticker & journal of all service & repairs. Call John @ 352-406-2228 or e-mail jeddmd@aol.com



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

Contact the editor each month
To keep your ad current.



fighting hunger. feeding hope.



Second Harvest Food Bank is the official charity of the Classic MG Club. Many people in Central Florida go to bed hungry every night. The layoffs due to Covid-19 have greatly increased the number of people who are food insecure. 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: 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
is an affiliate chapter
and active supporter of:**



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register



North American MGB Register



Mike and Robin Messina's 1951 MGTD ends this edition of the newsletter.

It is artfully posed by a building more antique than the car. Old buildings are a popular and effective background for classic car photos. Backgrounds are important in creating an atmosphere for the image.

Contribute a photo of the back end of your MG for a future newsletter.

