



#121

JULY 2011

MG Car Club—Florida

FLORIDA OCTAGON

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: by Dave Alexander

Welcome to July, I hope everyone had a pleasant 4th.

I would like to thank Helen and Frank again for a very relaxing get together at their beautiful Merritt Island home last month, and the food was good too, thanks to all that attended.

This month we're going on a river run with Classic Minis United, the local Classic Mini club on our way to the International Palms Resort in Cocoa Beach. The resort is hosting the "Big 50 Lancer Beach Party", which is the official name for a 50th year high school reunion for a British high school, Lakenheath. They will have classmates coming from all around the world and they would like us to display our British cars on the promenade (a beautiful area) while giving us use of a hospitality suite. Of course we're not a car show club, and neither is Classic Minis United, so that's where the morning cruise comes in! Note that there are two meeting areas, north and south. Here's the schedule:

July - Saturday, 16th

Southern meeting location -

9:15am - Eau Gallie Causeway, east of the big bridge at the boat ramp.

9:30 - Promptly leaving this area and heading up Tropical Trail...

Northern/Central meeting location -

10:15am - Our usual, the McDonald's on US 1 in Rockledge.

10:20 - Heading north on the river road, crossing the causeway (not sure which one yet, 520 or 528, governed by the time left till we need to be at the resort), taking back roads and down Tropical Trail to Pineda Causeway, over to the beach, then north up to the resort.

11:45ish - Arrive and park on the promenade; then we'll walk to the beach restaurant for a group lunch.

12:45ish - Enjoy watching the Brits reliving the years they grew up in and drove "our"



British cars or you're welcome to stay cool in the hospitality suite they are setting up for us.

4:01 - We'll head out knowing we brought back some great memories to the Lancer High School alumni. They'll even be voting for their favorite British car...

This will be a fun relaxing day with some driving and some socializing with the Lancer alumni and the Mini group. Of course there is no cost for this. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to me (321-213-7051 or iamcaptain@mindspring.com) so we have good numbers for lunch and parking, plus we don't want to depart without you, so say which location you'll be meeting us at.

**For more information about the reunion you can visit the website for the reunion:
<http://lakenheath1960s.homestead.com/50Bash.html>**

On a side note, this is the year for elections for our club officers so please be thinking of a position that might interest you, don't be shy. This is your club so step up and help make it what you would like it to be.

Lessons learned; this one from observation, when your LBC shows signs of overheating DO NOT remove the thermostat, replace it if you suspect it to be not functional but don't leave it out. If you are stuck on the side of the road and you discover it is stuck closed knock the center out and put the outer portion back in. The cooling system needs the restriction to slow the coolant down so it has a chance to absorb and transfer the heat.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORMS

Thanks to all those who responded to last month's request to complete the Membership Information forms. We now have 62 memberships comprising 112 people, with over 101 cars. Of those, 78 are MGs, 40 B/C tourers, 9 B/C GTs, and 11 TDs.

The following is a list of those who have not yet submitted a completed form. If you would please take the time to fill it in and e-mail it to me, I would greatly appreciate it. Send to normridge@yahoo.com, subject line MGCC-F. The form follows. And if you do not want to e-mail it, please mail it direct to me at P. O. Box 651068, Vero Beach, FL 32965, not to the club or Helen Kingston. Thanks, Norm Ridgely.

**Brian Alexander
Kevin Morris
Ed Price
Ben Stone**

**Shirley Downs
John Murphy
Robert Ross
Christian Havneraas**

**Art Floyd
Ozzie Osborne
Emanuel Schechter**

**Kevin Walsh
Robert Pearson
Danica Perhacs**

MG CAR CLUB – FLORIDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(note- Turn off “Insert” key to fill out form then Copy/Paste to Word & Save on your computer and email form to normridge@yahoo.com) - or just print & mail the #%*@!! thing! ..

() New () Renewal

Please print clearly.

Name _____ Birthday (Month/Day) _____

Occupation _____ Work Phone _____

Spouse/Partner Name _____ Birthday (Month/Day) _____

Wedding Anniversary (Month/Day) _____

Occupation _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Please list your British vehicles:

Year Make Model Color Comments

How many years have you been involved with LBCs? _____

Other car clubs you belong to (local, national, international) _____

Which club functions are you interested in assisting with? (Check as many as you wish)

() Social activities () Tours () Meetings () Annual car show () Rallies

() Tech info () Committees

In what other way could you assist the club? (Any special talents, experiences, etc.) _____

Benefits of Membership:

- An opportunity to meet some very friendly people who will share their enthusiasm for MGs and other British cars with you.
- A monthly tour to interesting destinations with either breakfast, lunch or dinner at some point, and, if necessary, a short business meeting. We like to drive our cars!
- The FLORIDA OCTAGON monthly newsletter with free classified ads for members.
- Member roster published annually.
- Caravans to car shows around the state (Boca Raton, Winter Park, GOFs), to Southeastern U. S. shows (in Hiawassee and Dillard, GA), and our annual tour to Bok Gardens in Lake Wales in December.
- Club Website – www.mgcarclubflorida.org
- Able to purchase club regalia (t-shirts, caps, jackets, grill badges, etc.)
- Annual Holiday party
- Technical repair and restoration assistance sessions

Name badges are currently \$11.00 each. Please indicate how you want your name(s) to appear on the badge.

Add the cost of the badge or badges to your membership check. If you prefer it, we can have the badge made with a pin rather than magnet – just request it that way.

Name _____

2nd badge name _____

Car (Year, Make, Model) _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

(Signed by all persons listed on the application above)

JUNE'S EVENT – DINNER AT THE KINGSTONS' by Linda Knoblock

This month's venue was a beautiful dinner party on Saturday, June 18th, at Frank and Helen Kingstons. Frank made his famous chicken, which whoever said "too many cooks the kitchen" was wrong for we had such a delicious spread of food, and the dessert, well, that was out of this world! Our new member, Bob Webb, donated a beautiful MG cake which made it to the event but Bob didn't. Thanks Bob. Hope he and the car are both well. Pat Allen made a most wonderful dessert, which I was blessed to have taken the leftovers home. I did offer as leaving ... her recipe should be a spotlight also because I know my



cooking; I see another recipe spotlight!

So we, as a club, want to thank Helen and Frank for opening their home to us. Your home and graciousness made for a really nice evening. Thank you one and all for attending and sharing such lovely dishes for



desserts & WOW!!!! We were all given a chance to try Frank & Helen's lychee tree fruit. They believe this tree really only grows in Merritt Island because of the climate. The fruit is a most interesting little red berry which looks kind of like a strawberry but the goodness is under the skin. They're gooey going down and kind of sweet and sour.

Helen uses them for



our dinner together. We look forward to many more activities of this kind. Who doesn't like home cookin'?! Those present: Saul & Maureen Klein, Dave Alexander & Louise Husband, Richard Jensen, Pat & Diane Grassick, Ben & Danica Perhacs/Stone, Ken Gregory, Ray & Mary Pollock, Ken Hall, Linda Knoblock & Mark Raupp, Leonard Coppold, Al & Pat Allen, Bob Underwood, and (of course) Frank & Helen, our hosts.

THIS MONTH'S EVENT – Saturday, JULY 16TH

In conjunction with the Classic Minis United group, we will be doing an early morning driving tour and ending up at noon at the International Palms Resort (ex-Holiday Inn), 1300 N. Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, FL, parking our cars in the hotel's courtyard for an informal car show. We will have lunch and then join in a meet-and-greet with alumni of the Lakenheath School of Great Britain who are holding a reunion at the hotel that weekend. We will take our leave about 4 PM. It should be a great day and a nice tour prior to the heat of the day, lunch with our fellow members, and an opportunity to meet some nice folks from the country of origin of our cars. For time and directions, refer to the Prez' Address above.

HORATIO'S SAYINGS

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

HOT ROD POWER TOUR by Linda Knoblock

Fellow members, I just wanted to share a special moment or so.



This month I was blessed to have been asked to go on the Hot Rod Power Tour which left from Kennedy Space center and ended in General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, Michigan. It was an 8-day event & I had about 8 hours' notice. Everyday was a different stop. While at Indianapolis

Speedway, I spotted this MG and then saw it again in Metro Detroit, but I'm not sure if the



the smiling driver was the same driver

from Indy, but who would have ever thought of our MG's as "Hot Rods". I was most excited, because I know that Hot Rodding is almost how you drive it, too, and I know a few of my club members - ha-ha!! I wish I would have had the privilege of getting to know one of my fellow MG friends across the states, but may we all keep riding and showing and enjoying what we have and happy trails to you!!!



Have many, many pictures from the tour on my Facebook, enjoy if you like!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael Fufido of Melbourne Beach – MGB

Bob & Althea Underwood of Melbourne – 1971 MGB

Bob Webb of Indialantic – 1952 MG-TD

Mike Young of Vero Beach – 1968 MGB/GT (V6)

Welcome to all of you! We look forward to seeing you at our events.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

July 4th Helen Koscic

July 8th Sarah Richey

July 14th Richard Jablonski

July 15th Jim Bailey

HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES

July 11th Ken & Betty Gregory

July 12th Mike & Rainey Euziere

July 16th Bob & Althea Underwood

July 31st Pat & Dian Grassick

SCHEDULED CLUB EVENTS

July 16, 2011 – See above for details

Aug. 20, 2011 – To Be Announced.

Sept. 17, 2011 – To Be Announced.

October 1st – Joint event with the Classic MG Club of Orlando. An overnigher (if you wish) at the Tuckaway Resort, Indian Harbour Beach. The Orlando group will arrive Saturday afternoon and have reserved the party room for that evening for “wine and cheese” or whatever, prior to selecting a suitable local dining establishment to visit. We can do a local morning tour, as it should be cooler by then, joining up with them in the afternoon. More details later.

October 15th – This is our normal club meeting day, but due to the upcoming Brit Bash show, we will not meet. However, those wishing to offer themselves for a position of an officer or director of the Club must submit their name to the Ballot Committee Chair by that date. Details concerning the election and annual meeting will be in the August newsletter.

October 28-29, 2011 – BRIT BASH!!! Our annual car show at Riverside Park in Vero Beach. We need VOLUNTEERS for the various committees. Contact Danica Perhaps at britbash@comcast.net or 772-770-0083.

November 19, 2011 – This is ELECTION DAY. We will be doing a tour in South Brevard and north Indian River Counties, ending up (as is our custom) at Marsh Landing Restaurant in Fellsmere for final voting and ballot counting. Details to follow.

December 3rd – The MGCC-F’s annual tour to Bok Tower and Gardens in Lake Wales. Details in the October Newsletter. Save the date – always a favorite.

December 17, 2011 – The MGCC-F's Annual Holiday Party – Details to follow.

OTHER EVENTS

August – 23-29 – New England MGT Register GOF MK 90, Sturbridge, MA

Sept. 17th, 2011 – British Invasion, Stowe, VT – www.britishinvasion.com

Oct. 14-16, 2011 – Euro 2011 – Greenville, SC

Oct. 14-16, 2011 – Southeastern Fall GOF – Athens, GA – Spadaros, Ridgelys, and Saul Klein plan to go. Why not join with them for the trip to Athens and back.

Oct. 22 – All-British Field Meet & Auto Jumble – Safety Harbor, FL

Oct. 28-29, 2011 – MGCCF Brit Bash – Vero Beach, FL - OUR BIG SHOW!! Contact Danica Perhacs at britbash@comcast.net or 772-770-0083.

November 4-6 – NAMGBR Annual General Meeting, Dillard, GA

November 4-6 – Southeast British Car Club Annual Car Show, Chattanooga, TN

June 6-10, 2012 NAMGBR “MG2012” – Dillard, GA

For questions on any of the above, call Norm (772) 567-2231.

REMEMBER WHEN

1933 – FDR was in the White House, unemployment was at 25%, gas cost 10¢ a gallon, and a Plymouth cost \$445.00?

1969 – Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a Chevrolet Corvette Stingray was \$4,438, and gas was 35¢ a gallon?

MODERN MOTORCARS (from Southeastern MGT Register newsletter)



RALLY TO RENO AND MG 2011

Some of the other club's newsletters are starting to print articles about the above topic. We'll try to print some of these over the coming months.

MG 2011 was a gathering in Reno, NV, of the five registers of the MGs in the USA. It was a 5-day event and is held every five years; the last was in Gatlinburg, TN, and we had at least a dozen members there.

The Rally to Reno was a cross-continent drive from Ocean City, MD, to Reno, and after the event, on to San Francisco. All driving was on US 50, no Interstates. The following pages are the cover and a brief article with photos from the Central Virginia British Car Club newsletter showing a father and son who did the drive in their MGA. What a great experience that had to have been.

[Home on the Road - by Randy Ashcroft](#)

From Central Virginia British Car Club June 2011 Newsletter





I have awakened every day for the last few days thinking about my friends who are now in Reno Nevada at MG 2011 and soon will be leaving for San Francisco on old Rt. 50. At this point the Rallye to Reno group has traveled about 3,200 miles. I should have been on that drive. I was planning to make the entire journey however work intervened at the last minute. I have to do something about these intrusions!

I began thinking about MG 2011 right after MG 2006 in Gatlinburg. We had a great time in the mountains of Tennessee. However, the TF blew a water pump due to an over tightened fan belt and limped off the show field. Of course this was not as discouraging as the guy who lost the entire front end of his perfectly restored T-Series when a not so perfect later model car backed into him! I vowed then and there as I loaded my TF onto the tow trailer to be back in five years with a road worthy MG. I daydreamed about a restored Magnette with air conditioning and a new 5 speed transmission. I love the Magnette's "baby Jaguar sedan" interior, (and I do mean baby!) and the four person capacity of the Magnette. Mind you, no sane quad of folks would ever get in a Magnette and travel for any distance. The four people this car was designed to transport were definitely of the "small boned" variety. Not my tribe! But I digress. I did not make the trip all the way to Reno. But I did get to travel to Winchester.

I left with Bruce and Brian Woodson on Friday June 3rd and drove to Salisbury, Maryland. We met up with about 45 other MG's and 75 or so owners/drivers. David and Beverley Glick were already in town when we arrived and they joined us for dinner. It was great to see the parking lot at the hotel taken hostage by classic MGs. We also had a beautiful Austin- Healey 3000 join the party. I had a difficult time in my 1974 MGB keeping up with Bruce and Brian's MGA. I was later to find out Bruce had surreptitiously dropped in a 5- speed transmission late on a Saturday night right before the trip. Who else in America does this? Anyway, I took my time and enjoyed every minute of the drive. As you know, I had equivocated between driving the MGA or

the MGB and finally decided to drive my dad's MGB. Crossing one of the bridges onto the Eastern Shore of Virginia, I could swear my dad was sitting next to me. Maybe he was.

I have included some photos of my truncated portion of the Rallye. I loved the opportunity to follow a well tuned MG -TC over the Bay Bridge. At times, the very dapper and refined Princeton driver approached 75 miles per hour. I thought Bruce might have dropped a 215 Buick engine under the TC's hood on Friday night out in the parking lot, but alas, it was "all original". Who says those TCs can't motor? David Glick and I had fun navigating the wiles of Washington, DC. We did not cheat and travel Interstate 66 through the metroplex. We sweated out the entire Rt. 50 trail. I am not sure that was smart, but it was authentic! Ann joined me for the journey in Middleburg, near our former home, and did an outstanding job copiloting the "B" into Winchester. The banquet and street show in Winchester was first class. Everyone was thrilled to show off the "baby cars", to quote a George Eyston euphemism. I met Mike Eaton and enjoyed talking to him.

I will write more later about this event, but just let me say that it was a gigantic undertaking. Bruce and David did an outstanding job with every aspect of this "once in a lifetime trip". I know someday I will regret the decision to forgo my plans and stay back, but in the short term work seems pretty important. But I am driving my MG to work today for fun and as a sort of mini protest. The Buick sedan will just have to Rallye down I-64 another day!



Bruce's parking lot as we are leaving includes Brian, Bruce's, son and Mike Hickman from Kentucky who drove the Moss parts truck.



I have never seen this sticker on an MGA! And driven by a senior couple no less! ("I'm Naughty...")



David Glick's 1980 MGB Limited Edition



This is the hot TC driven by the Princeton couple



The boardwalk in Ocean City Maryland

CORRECTION: HISTORY OF BRITISH FLAG

There were two errors in last month's article on the British Flag. The flag Cross of St. Andrew is Scottish not English; and the Cross of St. George is English, not Scottish. Steve Markman, the author of the article was in error. Our apologies to all who brought this to our attention. (But, being Irish, should I care?)

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Members are invited to submit interesting articles about their MG or MG's and themselves. We need as many articles written by members as we can get. Submit yours to Norm at normridge@yahoo.com or P. O. Box 651068, Vero Beach, FL 32965. Thanks for your help.

NOTE: Authors and creators of original material submitted to the Newsletter for publication do so with the understanding that Florida Octagon and the MG Car Club – Florida may use such material for any purpose the Board of Directors may decide is beneficial to the Club. Other MG Newsletters may reprint such material, provided a suitable reference is made to the source and to the author.

FEEDBACK:

The Officers and Board members would like to hear from members concerning their views on current functions and events (likes, dislikes, etc.) and any ideas for the future. This is your club and we want everyone to participate and enjoy. So, please contact anyone on the list on the last page to have your voice heard. Thanks!

CLASSIFIED ADS:

1974 MGB in very good to excellent condition. Asking \$19,000. Have entire folder of pictures and have included a few. Car is located in Valdosta, GA. Contact Rich at rcfees@bellsouth.net



For Sale - front seats from a 1967 MGB/GT, leather fair condition with sheepskin covers \$200 - Call Norm Ridgely Vero Beach 772-532-4265 (4/11)



For Sale - 1952 MGTD - very good condition. In same family since 1962. Make offer. Car located in Vero Beach. Call 772-234-5033 (7/11)

**For Sale – 1970 MGB – Excellent condition, many updated components. \$13,500
Len Coppold 321-752-0737 lcoppold@hotmail.com (Jul 11)**



**For Sale – 1952 MGTD – very good condition. In same family since 1962. Make offer.
Car located in Vero Beach. Call 772-234-5033 (7/11)**

For Sale - 1974 MGB chrome bumper, quality, documented restoration, body taken to bare metal, repaired and painted (base clear) BRG, all new chrome and rubber, mini lite wheels, engine rebuilt (less than 2,000 miles), Moss supercharger, street cam, MG 5 speed, 16 row oil cooler, petronix, performance headers, stainless exhaust, spax adjustable shocks rear, 3/4" sway bar front, new master cylinder brakes and rotor, new gas tank, new black leather interior, Moto Lita steering wheel, roll bar, trunk carpet kit, and lots more, one of the nicest MGB's you'll ever see. 1st place at the 2010 Ormond Beach Festival of Speed show. Over \$28,000 spent on restoration (have all receipts) \$15,000.00 OBO contact John Clifton at 904-540-5588 or email for pictures and info johnscsa@juno.com.

Ads are free of charge to members, run for three months unless renewed and/or canceled by the advertiser. Send your ad to Norm at the link below or P. O. Box 651068, Vero Beach, FL 32965 by the 25th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. In your e-mail, please reference MGCC-F ad so it's not considered spam.

Safety Fast!

Club Officials

David Alexander 321-213-7051 (President)

Linda Knoblock 321-544-4569 (Vice-President)

Pat Ridgely 772-567-2231 (Secretary)

Helen Kingston 321-773-1455 (Treasurer)

Al Allen 321-259-6957 (Director)

Ken Gregory 772-633-0873 (Director)

Christian Havneraas 321-543-0453 (Director)

Danica Perhacs 772-770-0083, britbash@comcast.net (Director and Show Chairperson)

Norm Ridgely 772-532-4265 (Newsletter Editor, Director-At-Large)

Saul Klein 321-269-0236 (Webmaster, Director-At-Large)

Ed Price 321-632-2207 (Past President)

Jerry Keuper Chairman Emeritus (In Memoriam)

MG Car Club – Florida www.mgcarclubflorida.org

**P.O. Box 410471
Melbourne, FL 32941
321-213-7051**

For Club Info- Please email Dave Alexander [email](mailto:davealexander@mgcarclubflorida.org)



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