



# MG Car Club—Florida

FLORIDA OCTAGON

#141

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2013

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – by Dave Alexander**

**What was I thinking when I wonder if there were enough events for club members and our LBCs? As the club president I want to say it has been and will continue to be a busy time for anyone who wants to get out and enjoy themselves. Seems like there is something car related going on almost every weekend and quite a few weekdays for that matter (check out the club's on-line calendar for a list of upcoming activities). While a lot of what's happening is directly tied to LBCs, some really fun events are those who have a mixture of all types of vehicles (funny how some groups try for authenticity and others strive on creativity with their cars). These mixed events allow us to show off our LBCs and interact with folks not fortunate enough to have one. However, the number of people who use to have a British car, had a family member who had one or knew someone who drove one is impressive and swapping stories with these people is just one part of the great experiences at these activities. We have seen and will continue to see great drives set up by our club and there are monthly British Car drives now being conducted by the Brevard British Driving Group. We have members who caravan to most events which are a lot of fun just getting to some of these activities. April has seen events such as the Winter Park All British Car Show where a number of members took trophies home (see article below). Also, April had GOF South in Ocala, a Breakfast and Tour to an Antique Mall by our club and a number of local events which have really worked to be sure our LBCs are welcome. The month of May was just as busy with a great drive to Sebastian Inlet (with a stopover at a large antique mall), you couldn't have asked for better company, a better lunch and the view of the ocean while dining was outstanding (pictures and videos are online at our club website [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org) and bought to you by Saul productions). Also for May you found great events such as Legends on the Green Concours, the monthly British Car Breakfast in Orlando and the monthly British Car Breakfast and Drive in Brevard. We had an invitation to attend the Veteran's Day Car Show and Parade in Rockledge, and standing invitations to local shows at Vintage Kultures Cocoa Village, Junior's Bistro Indian Harbor Beach, Rock and Roll General Store Cocoa Village and Chaparrals car show Cocoa just to name some of the events. June started out with a bang with several members of our club participating in the**

**Eau Gallie LBC Gathering on June 7th. Our "MGCCF Annual Photo Shoot & Picnic", was well attended on July 20 at the Palm Bay Regional Park (check out "Members Gallery" on our website). I want to encourage everyone to come out and participate in as many events as possible, even if your LBC isn't what you want to bring.**

**I would also like to hear from you (email: davidjalexander13@gmail.com) on what types of events you would like to see in our club. Maybe a technical session (how to check your brakes, basic tune-up, timing, valve lifter adjustments, belt and hose checks, etc), more drives, or more trips to: museums, restaurants, shops or winery. Would you like to do another poker run, economy run, mystery tour, outings to members' homes, pot luck dinner, picnic, and gathering with other car clubs? If you are like me and all of this sounds great let me know that too, so we know the interest level. Also if you think we are doing too much of one certain type of event let me know.**

**We are very lucky to have an absolutely fantastic group of board members and some really talented organizers in our club, and if given an idea, I am sure they can turn your idea or suggestion into an actual club event. We love adding new things to the club calendar for our club members to enjoy.**

**-Dave**

**MORE FROM DAVE - "What's wrong with this picture?"**





Thank you so much  
for your thoughtful expression  
of sympathy.

The peace lily was the  
perfect choice. We  
really appreciate all of  
your thoughts and prayers.

Love  
Brian & Garry

### **AUGUST EVENT – SATURDAY, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

### **AN EVENING TOUR OF VIERA WETLANDS AND DESSERT AT PERKINS**

This was a most entertaining tour, one that gets you close to nature. Not too far west of I-95 on Wickham is a vast wetland set aside by Brevard County. We saw many birds, gators, and other wildlife (mosquitoes at dusk..). Lots of photos taken (see “Club Photos” at [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org) ). We met at Perkins just east of I-95 on Wickham at 6:15 PM and returned there after the tour for pie, ice cream, coffee, etc.

Participants were Brian & Ryan Mitchell-TR3, Mike Panopoulos- TR6, Len Coppold-MGBGT, Richard & JoAnn Jensen-MGA, Mike Euzire-TR3, Linda & Mark Raupp-MGB-LE, Saul Klein-MG Midget, Mike G.- Classic Mini, Dan Cook, Dave Alexander and Louise , Ed & Pam Price-MGB (joined us for dessert..).



### **REVIEW OF RECENT PAST EVENTS**

Since our last newsletter, there have been over six events our members have participated in. The following is a brief recap of some of them.

## **GOF – OCALA APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>**

This annual “Gathering of the Faithful” was held in Ocala and was sponsored by the MG Classic of Jacksonville. The host hotel was the Hilton at I-95 and SR 200 – the second time in the past 14 years. The south side of the hotel was the perfect spot for the car show and the “First Timers” were exhibited there on Friday evening prior to the BBQ dinner on the pool deck. Saturday morning, though wet and quite cool, was the showing of cars. MGCC-F had 13 representatives with 7 cars, as follows: Helen Kingston, John & Sharon Spadaro, Norm & Pat Ridgely, Ken & Betty Gregory, Ken and Deanna DeLeeuw, Art & Yvonne Floyd and son? Of the 7 cars, 4 were recognized with trophies at the Saturday night banquet: 1<sup>st</sup> place MGB-Rubber Bumper: John Spadaro; 1<sup>st</sup> place MGB Modified: Ken DeLeeuw; 2<sup>nd</sup> place MGB/GT Pat Ridgely; 3<sup>rd</sup> in MGB-Chrome Bumper Helen Kingston.



## **BREAKFAST & TOUR TO MELBOURNE ANTIQUE MALL – APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

The Golden Corral in Palm Bay welcomed 10 of our members with 5 LBCs to breakfast early on April 27th. After everyone ate a hearty breakfast, although it is rumored that Len and Dave also had apple pie ala mode, they departed to explore a newly opened antique mall in Melbourne. The following drove their MGs: Mike & Leigh Lynch, Len Coppold, Saul Klein, Linda Raupp, Dave Alexander, and new comers: Clue & Chuck Salemme and Ed & Pat Lankenau. (Thanks, Dave, for this info and your confession.)



**MYSTERY TOUR OF PALM BAY AND LUNCH AT THE SEBASTIAN INLET GRILL, SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Sixteen of our members gathered at the Golden Corral in Palm Bay early on the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup>, anticipating a “mystery tour” of Palm Bay. The tour director, however, in his haste to get to the starting point, left the tour instructions on the clothes dryer in his garage some 40+ miles from the Golden Corral. Oops! Never to be thrown off stride, he came up with an alternative, which was to cruise south to Grant to the antique malls on US 1 to peruse the offerings and possibly spend some money until it was time to drive to the newly opened restaurant inside the Sebastian Inlet State Park for lunch. Everyone seemed ok with that so that is what we did. At noon, we arrived at the Inlet Grill, housed in a new two-story building on the north side of the Inlet, where we met up with another 8 of our members. We had a nice lunch in their second-floor private dining room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Inlet. A beautiful day it was indeed. Following lunch, we posed for a photo shoot and we were on the road to home by 2:30. The following were on the tour: Norm & Pat Ridgely, Doug & Linda Rothwell, Art & Yvonne Floyd, Mike & Rainy Euziere, Saul Klein, Richard Jensen, Pat & Diane Grassick, Linda Raupp, Aaron & Cindy Mitchell, and Len Coppold. The following joined us at the Inlet: Roman & Joan Ortega-Cowan, Chuck & Clue Salemme, Ray & Mary Pollack, Ken & Betty Gregory.



**EAU GALLIE ART DISTRICT LBC EXHIBIT, FRIDAY, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Brian Mitchell was instrumental in getting the club invited to the monthly EGAD's First Friday event to do a British Car Show. We had seven of our cars on exhibit with their owners and fielded a number of inquiries from the public. (Saul, can you fill in who was there, please?) It was HOT! But we have an invitation to return.



## **ANNUAL PICNIC AND PHOTO SHOOT, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**



**Due to the impending bad weather, the turnout at this yearly event was not as strong as in the past. However, the “heavy” rain held off until we were about ready to leave anyway. But it was HOT, although in the pavilion a cool breeze was in evidence most of the time. We had 11 members with 7 cars, and two guests. Those members were Aaron & Cindy Mitchell, Mike & Rainy Euziere, David Alexander & Louise Husband, Saul Klein, Linda Raupp, Le Coppold, Norm & Pat Ridgely. The guest were Daniel (7) (grandson of Norm & Pat) and Lola (Linda’s puppy). Mike & Rainy won the Grand Picnic Exhibit Award. We also learned that Saul is a good soccer player as he showed his talent playing with Daniel. (See “Club Photos” & “Members’ Gallery” at [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org) )**

## **BREVARD BRITISH CAR DRIVING GROUP - <https://tinyurl.com/britdrive>**

**This is an informal group of British car enthusiasts who gather the second Saturday of each month at 9 AM for breakfast at Kay’s BBQ, 1552 King Street (SR 528 west of US 1), Cocoa, FL 32926 (Ph: 321-636-6730). After breakfast, they drive off on a preplanned route for about a two hour or so tour. No dues, no newsletter, no meetings. Just a group of guys and GALS who like to drive their LBCs. They started up in April and it has been good fun. For more info, call Mike (321-289-1358) or Dave (321-213-7051). See you there September 14<sup>th</sup>, with a tour on south Tropical Trail and a riverside return.**



## **UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS**

**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – Tentative - Drive to Sebastian, then Airport for watching Sky Divers , Food – You will receive a special e-mail confirming this date & event. If you do not have e-mail, call Dave Alexander (321-213-7051) for info.**



**Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – 6 PM, “BRIT BASH 2013” Meet & Greet at the SpringHill Suites Hotel, Vero Beach.**

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM, “Brit Bash 2013” Motorcar & Cycle Exhibit at Riverside Park, Vero Beach.**

**See Info & registration form at [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org)**



**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – TENTATIVE DATE – We usually participate in the Homecoming Parade at FIT in Melbourne, the university founded by Jerry Keuper, our Chairman Emeritus (deceased). FIT now has a football team and homecoming will be scheduled around a game. So, stand by for further info on this.**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Eco tour – South Brevard tour – Election at Marsh Landing**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – Holiday Party – location to be determined**

**Saturday, January 18, 2014 – Tour and lift day at Frank Kingston’s “toy box”**

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Tour to Mt. Dora**

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

## **OTHER EVENTS – 2013**

**October 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – AACA National Meet, Hershey, PA**

**October 10-13 – Southeastern Fall Gathering of the Faithful, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA [www.semgt.org](http://www.semgt.org) This is a great event. Several of our members will be going. A caravan is in the planning stages, leaving Wednesday morning, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from the Treasure & Space Coasts and gathering up others on the way north. All back roads. We will overnight in South Georgia and arrive Thursday at Pine Mountain, the event site. Please join us.**

**October 26 – Tampa Bay Austin-Healy Club, Safety Harbor, FL, All British Show**

**DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN CARAVANS AND TOURS**

**From the NY/Conn. Chapter of the New England MG “T” Register**

**As a number of us will be driving in a group to the Southeastern Fall GOF at Pine Mountain, GA, the following is a good general guide. It is also a good guide for local tours. Not mentioned, but important, the group size should be maximum of six cars. That way you avoid the “daisy-chain” effect, which is unmanageable and also not safe.**

# Driving Instructions for Participating in Tours and Road Rallies

by Andrea & Len Fanelli

## THE ARTS OF LEADING AND FOLLOWING K.I.S.S. (Keep it simple, stupid) WE ALL LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

- Leader responsibility is to have a meeting before caravan starts to set guidelines, and communicate 'the plan', route, and ETA. The plan will include the travel order and who each navigator is responsible for. Simply, all you have to do is look out for the car directly behind you. If they stop, you stop. The person in front of you will know to stop and so on. Choose a strong follower to bring up the rear.
- A list of cell phones is always good to distribute to the group.
- Leader responsibilities are to travel at the average speed of the followers. Would you agree that each driver has his or her own speed comfort level? If you say yes, you're a good leader. Leaders immediate responsibility is to always know where the car directly behind you is.
- If the group is held up, for example, by a red light the leader can continue on the route mapped out unless there is a direction change, (right turn left turn etc) Then the leader should wait till everyone regroups.
- Any change, once the caravan starts should be communicated to the entire group.
- Follower responsibilities include who is following you and if they stop, you stop! Simple?
- As a follower your responsibility is to enjoy the ride! If you have to make a rest stop, make it, and the group will wait.
- As a follower your responsibility also includes taking care of your special needs. Cars should be equipped with water and perhaps a snack to hold you over till we get where we are going. Like Boy and Girl Scouts, MGers are always prepared.
- Would you agree these events are for the most part not a time occasion? If we have to get someplace by a certain time 'the plan' should allow extra time for the unknown, we are, after all driving MG's.
- If for any reason you have to deviate from the plan just communicate to the group.

In keeping with the situation, Safety Fast! And Happy Motoring! ACF

Lenny's version of the above is really keep it simple:

ALL YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS THE CAR DIRECTLY BEHIND YOU!

KISS

LAF

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

\* **Sounds as if Lucas was the engineer on this job. A Kansas farm wife called the local phone company to report her telephone failed to ring when her friends called and on the few occasions when it did ring, her dog always moaned right before the phone rang. The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog or senile lady. He climbed a telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the subscriber's house. The phone did not ring right away but then the dog moaned and the telephone began to ring. Climbing down from the pole, he found (1) The dog was tied to the telephone systems ground wire with a steel chain and collar. (2) The wire connection to the ground rod was loose. (3) The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current when the number was called. (4) After a couple of jolts, the dog would start moaning and then urinate. (5) The wet ground would complete the circuit, thus causing the phone to ring. All of**

**which demonstrates that some problems CAN be fixed by pissing and moaning.  
(Courtesy of University Motors, Ltd. Newsletter)**

**\* Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.**

**\* The following is the President's message of the Central Virginia British Car Club of August, 2013. Thought you might be interested in a very "unique" car club.**

**While racking my brain for ideas to pour into the monthly CVBCC newsletter, one of my all-time favorite books popped into my head and I thought it appropriate to bring it to the attention of those of you who may not be familiar with it, because it really is relevant.....at least I think so. The book is "Flywheel, Memories of the Open Road" by Tom Swallow and Arthur H. Pill. It is a compilation of the "Flywheel" magazines written by the Mulhberg Motor Club from 1944-1945. The MMC was comprised of Allied Prisoners of War being held in the Stalag IVB POW camp about 80 miles south of Berlin. The English, South African, Canadian and other prisoners from the Empire gathered together and formed the MMC in an attempt to distract themselves from the dreadful conditions of the camp and to raise morale. In the best of situations, the camp was "designed" to hold 15,000 unlucky prisoners, but the population often exceeded 30,000. The byline for "Flywheel" was, "Keeps the works going round during the idle stokes". Very British and very, very clever given their situation. The first meeting of the MMC brought 6 hard-core motor-heads together and by liberation time in the spring of 1945, membership exceeded 200. Ten complete editions of the magazine "Flywheel" were produced with the 11th one in production at liberation. These were not simply motoring thoughts written down by bored and home-sick prisoners, these full color, illustrated magazines are works of art that kept these men occupied with thoughts of an earlier, happier time. The newsletters include editorials, illustrated "reports" on motor shows with the latest offerings from the manufacturers of the day, classified ads for fictitious motoring items for sale, tech tips and many, many more reports, diagrams, designs and articles. These include a history of the M.G. car company, including a very complete biography of Cecil Kimber, reviews of; Frazer-Nash's latest, Morgans, Singers, H.R.G. and others. Most are very well illustrated and all done without any research material except for keen minds and sharp memories, and a love for British cars. As a longterm project, the club designed "the ideal car" including specifications and many illustrations. The ink, pens, colors, paper and everything else required to produce the single copy of each newsletter was either "borrowed from Jerry" or bartered using Red Cross money. The glue to affix the illustrations and other articles was produced by saving some precious millet soup and fermenting it until it was sticky! A single precious copy was passed around on a timed basis to over**

**150 "subscribers" and contributors throughout the camp. All ten plus the incomplete 11th edition of the magazine exist today and the last I heard, they were on loan to the Imperial War Museum in London. So, as you read through this edition of the CVBCC newsletter, which requires much work and dedication by a number of people to**

produce, give a nod to a group of brave men who used the passion for British cars to aid their very survival, many of who suffered life-long effects from their captivity. The book is still in print (1987) and available from Amazon, and I'd be glad to loan my copy to any member who promises to return it. "Flywheel, Memories of the Open Road" by Tom Swallow and Arthur H. Pill.

Cheers and happy motoring,  
Jeff

**CLASSIFIED ADS:**

**1952 MG TD ROADSTER:**

THIS CAR WAS PROFESSIONALLY RESTORED IN MASSACHUTTES IN 2008 BY A MG SPECIALIST. CAR HAS BEEN DRIVEN AND USED AS A SUNDAY DRIVER FOR PLEASURE AND SHOWS. THE FOLLOWING BUMPER TO BUMPER RESTORATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON RUST FREE BODY AND FRAME TO INCLUDE ENGINE, TRANSMISSION, REAR END, BODY, UNDERCARRAGE, WHEEL RIMS, EXHAUST, BRAKES, SUSPENSION AND RADIATOR, PAINT AND UPHOLSTERY , ETC . A FULL DETAILED LIST OF THE RESTORATION ITEMS CAN BE SUPPLIED. HAVE FLORIDA TITLE IN HAND IN MY NAME. ALONG WITH ITEMS VIEWED IN PICTURE THE VEHICLE ALSO HAS SIDE WINDOW PANELS. LESS THAN 2000 MILE ON THE VEHICLE SINCE RESTORATION, SPEEDOMETER SHOWING 80,514 THOUGHT TO BE TRUE MILES . CAR IS SETTING ON NEW TIRES AND RUNS AND DRIVES GREAT. I ALSO HAVE OPERATOR'S MANUAL. I CAN SEND MORE PICTURES IF INTERESTED.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE (Norman & Pat Ridgely)**

We regret the late publication of this newsletter, which came about due to cataract surgery, a badly sprained wrist and out-of-state travel involving two people who put this club's newsletter together.

***Safety Fast!***

**Club Officials**

**David Alexander 321-213-7051 (President)**

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

**Brian Mitchell 321-254-9605 (Secretary)**

**Helen Kingston 321-773-1455 (Treasurer)**

**Saul Klein 321-269-0236 (Director & Webmaster)**

**Richard Jensen 321-544-1467 (Director)**

**Bob Webb 321-480-1015 (Director)**

**Ed Price (Past President)**

**Norm Ridgely 772-532-4265 (Newsletter Editor)**

**Jerry Keuper Chairman Emeritus (In Memoriam)**

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