



MG Car Club—Florida

#100/101

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: by Dave Alexander

Election time is approaching, we need our club members to participate in this. Show your support for our club and for those who have the time, make the time and participate for the good of all the members. We are having a poker run and lunch and at the lunch the ballots will be tallied. So try to join us for this important event and if you are not able to then please take the time to cast your vote and mail it in. A lot of time and effort goes into planning events that are designed to keep our club rolling, so to speak. Our common bond is our cute little cars and an opportunity to make some great friends and have some good times. See you there.

UPCOMING MGCC-F EVENTS - NOVEMBER

November 7th, 2nd Annual Brit Bash at Wickham: A Celebration of British Motorcars. This is our annual car show and we need our members to help it be a big success. To volunteer, call Danica Perhacs at 772-770-0083 or e mail her at BritBash@comcast.net. **WE NEED WORKERS!!**

We start out Friday night with a Bar-B-Q dinner at the "Host" hotel, the Hampton Inn, which is off Wickham Road just east of I-95 at 130 Sheriff Drive, Viera. This is part of the Meet & Greet which is from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, or maybe later. The dinner is only \$5.00 per person.

The show field opens Saturday morning at 8:30 AM – but the volunteers need to be there at 7:30 AM to set up. Thanks.

The show coordinator is Danica Perhacs (772) 770-0083 or britbash@comcast.net – Show weekend only: (772) 713-1188.

NOVEMBER 21ST – THIRD SATURDAY – ELECTION DAY!! VERY IMPORTANT MEETING! AND TOUR!

We hope to see all of our members this day for a delightful "Poker Run" tour to our luncheon destination, where our election of officers and directors for the next two years will be held.

We shall meet at 10:00 AM in the parking lot of the Golden Corral Restaurant on Palm Bay Road (#880), just east of I-95. Arrive early for a great breakfast. We will depart at 10:30 AM on the Poker Run which will conclude in Fellsmere at the Marsh Landing Restaurant (44 N. Broadway Street, phone 772-571-8622). If you've not eaten there before, you are in for a treat. The ballots will be tallied during lunch and the results announced. If you did not mail your ballot to the club's post office box, please bring it with you. See you there.

RECENT EVENTS:

The **Dessert Tour** was highly successful for those who showed up. Ed Price laid out a great route. We pulled out of the Rockledge McDonald's a little after 7:30 PM, got on Rockledge Drive adjacent



to the Indian River Lagoon, north to the bridge to Merritt Island, then south on Tropical Trail to the Pineda Causeway west to Wickham Road and then to Perkins by I-95 for coffee, pie, cake, ice cream, or whatever was desired.



Those enjoying the cool evening were Kathleen Lillquist and Tony Messio, Ed & Pam Price, Ken and Betty Gregory, Linda Knoblock & brother Ron, Saul Klein, Norm and Pat Ridgely, and Dave Alexander and Sandy Kuledge. Afterward we adjourned to the parking lot for more chat and tire kicking. We did miss you all that could not make it.

The **Timeless Wings & Wheels Museum's All British Car Show** at the New Smyrna Beach Airport had a great turnout of British cars and bike. This took place on Saturday, October 3rd. Again, we left the Rockledge's McDonalds about 8:00 AM, joined by two prospective new members who drove down from Titusville to join us



for the drive to New Smyrna, Courtney Charuet (Midget) and Al Ochoa (MGB). The morning drive to the museum was cool but the drive home at 3PM was warm. Mike and Rainy Euziere, Saul Klein, Richard & JoAnn Jensen, Ben Stone, Norm & Pat Ridgely, and Richard & Pat Jablonski enjoyed the cars, a beautiful P-



51, a replica of a Sopwith Camel and a Fokker, Grumman amphibian, and a DC3 plus a hanger with an A-36 (?) and parts of other aircraft undergoing restoration, plus a small German WWII tank and other miscellaneous vehicles PLUS their small but interesting museum. A Lotus 7 won 1st, and an XKE Jag Mark I coupe shared 2nd with a Metropolitan.

The **Florida Institute of Technology Homecoming Parade** on Saturday, October 17th was another success. We had five cars in the line representing our club. Our Chairman Emeritus (In Memoriam) Jerry Keuper founded FIT in 1958. Those attending were Mike Euziere, Ken Gregory, Linda Knoblock and brother Ron, Norm and Pat Ridgely, Dave Alexander and Sandy Kuledge, and Len Coppold, who was warmly welcomed back from his recent illness. After the parade, we held a brief meeting, and then retired to the Bar-B-Q luncheon the FIT Alumni Association sponsored. All had a great time.



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MY FIRST "MG" BY TOM BOWMAN (3RD & FINAL CHAPTER)

September 1969 found me in the MG driving solo from Colorado to Melbourne, Florida, to take up a faculty appointment at a new school that not many people outside of Brevard County had ever heard of— Florida Institute of Technology—while the family waited for me to fly home for Thanksgiving (and for our fourth child (third son, Tony) to get a few months under his belt (diaper) before the 2000-mile drive to Florida).

The September drive to Florida in the MG was pretty uneventful, but not quite entirely. I had to take the carb apart at a picnic ground in Alabama and free up something that was sticking, the details of which have mercifully escaped me, and when we got to the Florida Panhandle we ran into the tail end of Hurricane Donna, closed roads everywhere, and floodwaters up over the floorboards and a diversion up into Georgia to get around all the flooding. All the textbooks I brought with me to use in my first months of teaching classes were waterlogged and didn't dry out until after I got to Melbourne. On the bright side though, all the sides of the road looked like parking lots for stalled and abandoned cars, and we just kept humming along thanks to an engine that had been fully warmed up miles before we had to drive through the high water.

We had joined the New England MG 'T' Register before leaving Colorado, and I joined the Classic MG Club of Orlando soon after getting to Florida and meeting Art Floyd and Ben Gilbert, who were in charge of putting together GoF South Mark III at the Space Center coming up that October. I went to the GoF, met many great folks who became lifelong friends (although too many have passed on by now), won a pewter beer mug for having the best "Variant" at the GoF (actually the only one, something I got pretty used to in the years the followed) and returned to driving to work every day in the MG.



A few weeks later the Thanksgiving weekend gave me a chance to fly back to Colorado, gather up the family and possessions (Ritva had taken care of organizing all the packing and moving van arrangements and everything else that needed to be done in my absence, including shoveling a ton of snow in one of the area's earliest winters on record), pack up the kids (ages 3 months up to 7 years) into the Ford and head off to Florida. (No hurricanes or floods this time.) After that I continued to drive the MG to work for a few years, and we all went together in one car or the other to car shows and various Classic MG Car Club events.

By 1975 the car was showing its 27 years of wear and tear even more obviously than before, and I took it off the road for five years while I went through it from stem to stern (but stopping short of a full body-off restoration), in the process returning it to its original duo-green colors, a nice contrast to the well-worn and very blah light grayish-beige-ish surface it had shown to the world since our first contact with it. (One thing that struck me during our year in "old blighty" was that bright colors and strong primary colors were seldom seen on cars there in the 1960s.) Its first public outing wearing its new/old colors was to GoF South Mk XIV in Daytona Beach, in 1980, and that was followed by a decade or so when we drove in it to lots of gatherings and shows from Miami to Baltimore and various points between, culminating in a GoF of the New England T Register in Binghamton, NY, in September 1997, but more about that later.

The car was pictured in Automobile Quarterly Vol. 20, No. 4 in 1982 and on their poster "MG: The Middle Years"; also in a pull-out photo in the Fall/Winter 82/83 issue of MG Magazine (now defunct), and on the cover of the August 82 issue of Abingdon Classics (also now defunct). The last time the car was professionally photographed for publicity purposes was in 2001, when a photographer showed up at one of our Classic MG Car Club of Orlando Gatherings to take photos for a calendar he planned to sell ads in. He selected several of the cars there for the calendar and posed each one separately in an open field and shot them. He later sent me a couple of the calendars, and they still look great on a workshop wall and garage wall. Our YA is the November 2002 calendar page.

By that time, our own MG Car Club — Florida had added to the previous emphasis on tours, tech sessions, informal get-togethers, etc., and started organizing an annual All-British car show, first at Fox Lake Park near Titusville and now at Wickham Park in north Melbourne. From the first year (2001, if I'm not mistaken) they were a great success, bringing out an ever greater variety of LBCs

and spectators each year and enriching all of our lives. In that first show, British motorcycles were included, but that year one of the motorcycle guys went absolutely berserk when he didn't win anything, stomping all around calling all rest of us idiots (and much worse) for not recognizing the obvious superiority of his bike over all the other bikes and kind of spoiling the occasion for many folks there, so after that the show field has been restricted to just cars. The following year we were especially pleased and flattered when we received a "Spirit" award (as well as winning our class again, something that was repeated in 2003 and 2006, but as I already said it was always a very small class!)

Prior to these awards from our own club there had been some gratifying results at various AACA meets we attended, including a National First Place award in our class at a meet in 1988 (after Second Places in 82, 83 and 84), and followed by four "Preservation" awards in some of the following years. Some of the most fun we've had at car-related events, however, were at MG gatherings and others that included "funkhanas", starting with a 2nd place in a "Birthplace of Speed" competition in Daytona Beach in 1981 and ending in 1995 with winning what might be the last such event at one of the Orlando club's GoFs; that was in 1995. I miss the driving competitions (including many that were not based on speed) that once were a key feature of many MG Gatherings, and still are an annual feature in the Alfa club I belong to and many others, too, I expect, although it is understandable that the increasing value of the cars and age of the enthusiasts, liability concerns at hotels, etc, have all conspired to put a damper on such displays of sports car enthusiasm.

I'll wrap this up by going back to the 1997 Binghampton GoF that I mentioned briefly above. That event was a very special one for the twenty-some-odd YA, YB and YT owners who were able to be there with their Y's, because it included a sub-event labeled the "Y-Type Challenge", taking place just ahead of the day when all the other cars took to the show field. It was the first (and so far only) event of its kind in the Register's history, and those of us who had the good fortune to be able to attend with our Ys had the time of our lives, looking at all the other cars that looked like ours (it was the first time some Y-owners had ever seen a Y other than their own!), meeting people we had only known from a distance in most cases (if at all), comparing notes, sharing experiences (and problems!) with kindred souls from as far away as New Mexico, Colorado and Maine, including George and Elyn Pardee and family from Clearwater who are well known to many Central Florida MGers. All of us were generally just floating on cloud nine for the whole time. The car from Maine(!) was a year-round daily driver, and probably some others were as well. The car from New Mexico was at the other extreme, a total trailer queen tended to by several handlers.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Following the FIT Parade on October 17th, the President called the meeting to order, as announced in the last Newsletter. There were two items on the agenda.

- (1) The floor was opened for nomination for officers and directors for 2010-2012. As there were none offered, the slate proposed by the Ballot Committee will be presented to the membership.

- (2) A motion was made and seconded to amend the By-Laws as follows: Article VI – CLUB DIRECTORS: Add SECTION III - *"SECTION III – The immediate Past President shall also become a voting member of the Board of Directors to serve until such time as the current President becomes the immediate past president.*

The position of Director(s) At-Large, a non-voting position, is also available for the Board of Directors, and shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. This would be open to a person or persons whose opinions and guidance the Board values in the operation of the club. The term is the same as a regular director, two years."

There being no objections, the amendment will be presented to the membership for voting.

The Ballot Chairman was directed to distribute the necessary paperwork to each member household for voting on each matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

BALLOT COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

You will soon receive by mail two ballots. The first shall be for officers and directors. The officers nominated by the Ballot Committee are running unopposed. The By-Laws state “write-in candidates will not be accepted”, so therefore those nominated will be elected. However, there are four candidates running for three directorships. We elect one director for each 25 memberships or fraction thereof. As we have less than 75 members, we need to vote for three of the four nominees. Should four names be checked, the ballot will be set aside. Please only vote for three.

We also recommend mailing the ballots back as soon as possible in the self-addressed stamped envelopes provide to the club’s post office box. They will remain sealed until the luncheon on November 21st at which time they and others presented personally will be opened and tabulated.

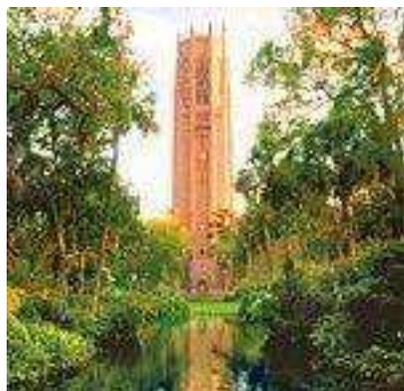
The second ballot concerns the addition of a section to the By-Laws whereby the immediate past-president become a voting member of the Board of Directors until such time as the current president becomes the immediate past president. As to the Director-At-Large directorships, “without vote” there are currently two members in that category. This position came about two years ago when these two members were re-elected to the Board but stepped aside so that new members of the Board could take their places. But the officers felt that they wanted their counsel and the category was un-officially established by the officers and directors at that time. The addition to the By-Laws now will make it conforming.

Any questions Call Mike Euziere (321-639-7395).

MGCC-F UPCOMING EVENTS – DECEMBER AND BEYOND

December 13th – 2nd Sunday – BOK TOWER GARDENS – LAKE WALES

This is an optional tour to Bok in Lake Wales on a Sunday as requested by a number of members.



The club has been going to Bok at this time of year for the last four years. The gardens at this time are beautiful and the Pinewood Estate is decked out for its annual Christmas at Pinewood Home Tour. Many different decorators dress each of the 20 rooms in this Mediterranean style mansion for the holidays. It is always interesting and attractive. Also, by us going on Sunday, those that wish to drive over on Saturday to spend the night at Chalet Suzanne Country Inn, or elsewhere and shop in Lake Wales, Sebring, or Winter Haven, may do so. The admission to Bok is \$18 for both the gardens and Pinewood. There is a great café at the Visitor’s Center for lunch. Picnicking is also permitted in certain areas. The Brevard County group will meet at

the IHOP parking lot just east of I-95 on US 192/ West New Haven Road for departure at 9:00 AM. This group will go west to Holopaw, then south on US 441 to YeeHaw Junction, meeting the south group there. The route then is west on SR 60 to Lake Wales to Bok. We should arrive at Bok at 11:00 AM or shortly thereafter; Pinewood opens at 1:00 PM for tours. The tower, featuring a 60-bell carillon, has concerts at 1 and 3. The gardens were designed by Olmsted and comprise over 250 acres. Bok opened in 1929 at the highest point in peninsular Florida, Iron Mountain. Go to www.boksanctuary.com for more information.

We do need a call to let us know who's coming – contact Dave (321-213-7051) or Norm (772-532-4265).

December 19th – 3rd Saturday – HOLIDAY PARTY



The club will again meet at Al and Pat Allen's wonderful home for Holiday cheer, conversation, and great food. We thank the Allens for their hospitality. Those who attended last year can attest that a great time was had by all. The gathering will commence at 5:30 PM in Viera. Detailed directions will be in the December newsletter. The club will supply the main course of meat but those desiring to bring appetizers, side dishes or dessert should contact Pat in early December. 321-259-6957 patalallen@msn.com

January 16th, 2010 – 3rd Saturday - Schumann Tour

We have been invited to tour a private collection of John Schumann's cars in Vero Beach. It is a mixture of race and street motor cars, all no more than 2 passenger: Mercedes, Maserati, Aston-Martin, Porche, etc. The collection is located near his home at the Vero Aerodrome off SW 82nd Ave and First Street. The buildings holding this collection, which are frequently driven, sets next to his race track, which he and his wife use for practice as they are active in vintage racing as well as flying. The tour will last about two hours, after which the Ridgelys and the Gregory's will host the club at the Ridgely's for lunch. A \$5 per person donation will be welcomed as we used to do in the past. The weather will be cool and the drive will be great. More details in the January newsletter.

No tours are scheduled beyond January 16th. If you have a suggestion, let your officers or directors know of it. Thanks.

OTHER EVENTS:

1st Sunday of each month: British Car Breakfast Club 9:00 a.m. at the Golden Corral in Altamonte Springs. It is just south of SR 434's intersection with SR 436 on the east side between Costco and Robb & Stucky.

October 24th – 23rd Tampa Bay Austin Healey Club - Annual All British Field Meet & Autojumble, Safety Harbor, FL – www.tbahc.com

October 30th – November 1st – SBCC Annual Car Show – Chattanooga, TN – www.southernbritishcarclub.org

November 15th – St. Petersburg Yacht Club Vintage Motor Classic – www.SPYC.org

November 22nd – Sunday – Apopka – The Annual Flankey Mini Car Show and Chili Cook-off. Jim and Camille Flankey have invited us to their home and horse farm for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and chili. Cars and chili will be judged – Call Norm at 772 532 4265 for information and driving instructions.

April 8th-11th, 2010 – GOF South – MK XLIV - Jekyll Island, GA – www.mgclassics.org

June 23rd-27th, 2010 – “MG 2010” NAMGBR – Belleville, Ontario, Canada

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

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Members are invited to submit interesting articles about their MG or MGs and themselves.

We need as many articles written by members as we can get. Submit yours to Norm Ridgely at normridge@yahoo.com or P. O. Box 651068, Vero Beach, FL 32965. Thanks for your help.

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:

For Sale – owner returning to UK and must sell 1952 MG TD Roadster, stored in Everglades City, FL, asking \$19,000. Recent 4-year restoration. Phone David George 239 695 0303.

For Sale – 1972 MG B roadster in British Racing Blue w/white top in good condition, original spoke wheels including spare & misc. parts, few nicks & scratches but not in an accident. Located in Orlando. 63,000 miles. Asking \$5,500 OBO – look at sale-6ycnf-141846966@craigslist.org

For Sale – 1953 MG TD – 2 owner, good condition, runs, new tyres, brakes, top tonneau cover & heater, shop manual, original jack & fog lights. Stock engine, solid body. Asking \$13,000 OBO – Ft. Myers, 239 334 0280 or rkozeli@earthlink.net.

Ads are free of charge to members, run for three months unless renewed and/or canceled by the advertiser. Send your ad to Norm Ridgely 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)

Frank Kingston (Vice-President)

Pat Ridgely 772-567-2231 (Secretary)

Helen Kingston 321-773-1455 (Treasurer)

Saul Klein 321-269-0236 (Webmaster & Director at Large)

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, Show Chairperson)

Norm Ridgely 772-532-4265 (Director at Large, Newspaper Editor)

Ed Price – 321-632-2207 Past president

Jerry Keuper Chairman Emeritus (In Memoriam)

MG Car Club – Florida www.mgcarclubflorida.org

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321-213-7051

For Club Info- Please email Dave Alexander [email](#)



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