



MG Car Club—Florida

#85

JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: by Dave Alexander

This month we offer all of downtown Melbourne for your entertainment. The city of Melbourne and the shop owners have done a really good job of bringing back the downtown area. There are some wonderful shops and art and craft galleries. There are enough places that I believe it would take more than one afternoon to do them all justice. Parking is free and the whole area is within walking distance, even if you do not park on the main street. Please come out and join us (see below).

JULY EVENT – AN EVENING OUTING

To beat the heat, we have planned an evening event for this month. We will meet for dinner at 6:30 pm at the Island Pasta Company Restaurant. PLEASE RSVP to Ed Price at cbsc1@bellsouth.net or 321-632-2207 or Norm Ridgely at normridge@yahoo.com or 772-532-4265; we need a headcount for the restaurant. It is located in downtown Melbourne at 903 East New Haven Avenue. We ate there last year and had a great time. Parking is available one block west and south, around the corner. After dinner, we will take a driving tour with a dessert stop. So get out your LBC and enjoy the “cool, cool of the evening.”

JUNE EVENT

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, June 21st, 12 brave souls met at the Barrier Island Sanctuary, Melbourne Beach (just 4 miles north of Sebastian Inlet). However, there were only 2 LBCs in attendance. But that was okay, because it was wet, and we all know British cars don't like wet. We found the Center's exhibits interesting and viewed a film on turtle nesting, then at 5 (closing time) we drove about a mile south to the Long Point Café for dinner. The table was set for us and we all agreed the food and service was superb. If you get that far south on A1A, do stop in. They are only open for dinner Friday and Saturday (4-9 pm) but serve breakfast & lunch Tuesday thru Saturday 7 am to 3 pm, and brunch Sunday 7 am to 3 pm. Great food.



MISCELLANEY by Norm Ridgely

Jerry Keuper's 1933 L1 MG Magna Police Car captures “Best of Show” at the Winter Haven Art Festival & European Car on March 16th. Only one of two surviving L1s out of eight delivered to the Lancashire Constabulary in Preston, England, on April 14th, 1933. The price at the time was £299, or in today's dollar, \$598.00. The current owners are Sarah & Bill Richey, who purchased the car,

along with 2 others from Jerry's Estate. It underwent a 2-year restoration, and also won the Amelia Island Award in 2008 at the Amelia Island Concours.

Nanjing Automobile Corp. (NAC) expects to begin assembly of the MGTF LE 500 at their Longbridge plant in Birmingham, England during the first week of August 2008. A roadster will be the first model with a coupe to follow. A sedan will follow that. NAC-MG anticipates building 250,000 MGs a year worldwide. For the U.S., a big “?”.

As you may or may not know there is a newspaper that serves our British car hobby: the British Marque Car Club News. British clubs, nation-wide, submit their newsletters which are then printed in the paper. Some clubs distribute their monthly newsletters through the paper to their members. This costs \$9.50 for each member and is included in their dues structure. Another option is to become a Participating Club, which we are, and individual subscriptions are \$14.00 a year. However, our newsletters are not guaranteed to be published if the paper's content is too full. This occurred for two recent months and both Saul Klein and Norm Ridgely made inquiries of the paper why we were not in. It turns out that Saul is the sole subscriber, individually, and Norman gets his paper through his membership in another MG club. Therefore, Saul & Norman are promoting our fellow members to consider subscribing so that we have a greater chance of being published. The Marque is a great paper, full of information of both general and specific nature, as well as the newsletters of many other clubs. It offers one the opportunity to see what other clubs are doing to further the enjoyment and maintaining of our Little British Cars. One also is able to keep up with tours and shows and other events that one might want to participate in. Please feel free to talk to Saul or Norm about the paper. You may reach the Marque at editor@britishmarque.com or (401) 766-6920.

MG FIRST ON D-DAY – submitted by Dave Alexander

It's a little known fact that on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the first to arrive in occupied France was an MG. An MG? Sure, but the story is a bit complicated. In 1941 Cecil Kimber, Managing Director of MG, obtained a contract to manufacture the front end of the Albemarle bomber aircraft at the Abingdon factory. The Albemarle was Britain's first nose wheel bomber. It could be built in sections by different factories. The front end of the bomber contained the cockpit with all its controls. To manufacturer this nosepiece proved far more complex than any car ever produced by MG. Yet the workforce at Abingdon succeeded to construct 653 of these nosepieces. On D-Day the fast Albemarle planes were the first to drop airborne troops on the Continent so it seems fair to say that MG arrived there first.

MGCC-F UPCOMING EVENTS:

3rd Saturday, July 19th – 6:30 pm, see page 1 for full info.

3rd Saturday, August 16th – This will be another fantastic evening event. Details will be in the August newsletter.

November 1st, 2008, Brit Bash at Wickham “A Celebration of British Cars” – the show is set, Flyers will go out soon with registration forms. We will need volunteers for various car show committees.

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.

September 19-21, 2008 – Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA. For information go to www.peachtreemg.com.

October 10/11, 2008 – British Car Classic XX – St. Augustine's Kings Head Pub (details to follow)

October 17-19, 2008 – Euro-Fest 2008 at the BMW plant in Greer, SC.

October 25, 2008 – All British Field Meet & Auto Jumble – Crest Lake Park, Clearwater, FL

November 7/9, 2008 – MG Jamboree, St. Pete, FL. – For information go to www.fsmgccc.com

November 13-16, 2008 – Zephyrhills Auto Fest & Swap Meet, Zephyrhills, FL. - For information go to www.zephyrhillsestivals.com

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

MEMBER PROFILES:

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

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:

(5) Tires on rims with trim rings. Firestone FR380, P175/70R14. (2) excellent, (2) decent, (1) spare. \$200 OBO. Please call Ben Stone @ (772) 770-0083.

1974 ½ MGB/GT [last year produced] - dark green with tan interior. Restored. ALL NEW: engine & clutch, front end & springs, brakes, Monza exhaust system; plus windows and windshield, upholstery, custom wheels (MG), new mirrors, beautiful wood steering wheel, floor mats and seat covers, nose bra (MG) and more. Asking \$7,995.00—call Bill Aitken at 321.690.1883.

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

We need as many articles written by members as we can get. Submit yours to Pat Ridgely at pridgely83@yahoo.com or P. O. Box 651068, Vero Beach, FL 32965. Thanks for your help.

Safety Fast !

Club Officials

David Alexander 321-213-7051 (President)

Frank Kingston (Vice-President)

Pat Ridgely 772-567-2231 (Secretary & Newsletter Editor)

Helen Kingston 321-773-1455 (Treasurer)

Saul Klein 321-269-0236 (Webmaster)

Al Allen (Director)

Ken Gregory (Director)

Christian Havneraas (Director)

Danica Perhacs (Director, Show Chairperson 772-770-0083)

Saul Klein (Director at Large)

Norm Ridgely (Director at Large)

Ed Price – Past president

Jerry Keuper Chairman Emeritus (In Memoriam)

MG Car Club - Florida

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