



# MG Car Club—Florida

#99

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: by Dave Alexander

From my “oval” office to all of our “octagonal” society (the world according to the love of M G, expanded to include all British Cars):

We had a wonderful turn out last month for the Kingston's Barb-e-que. If you did not make it to this year's event, put it on your calendar for the next one. You won't want to miss Frank and Helen's grand hospitality, delicious food and the camaraderie shared by our club members.

Hope to see all of you at our next planned “Sweet” event in “Tour De' Rockledge” (see details below) where we will toss back the tops and pray for a clear night as we eagerly anticipate the pie at the end of the tour.

Remember elections are coming soon.

Get involved and stay involved, this is *our* club, it takes all of us to make it how we would like it to be – FUN!

## THIS MONTH'S EVENT – September 19<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY)

Even though autumn (fall) starts 3 days after our event on the 19<sup>th</sup>, we cannot look forward to any moderating temperatures in the near future. Therefore, we have again planned an evening ‘Dessert’ tour for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. We will gather at the McDonalds in the Rockledge Shopping Center a little after 7 pm for a start time of 7:30 pm. Ed Price, our Tour Master, has indicated that we will explore new areas of that section of Brevard County. We will finish the tour at Perkins on Wickham for coffee, cake, pie or whatever is your pleasure. But, most of all, and this is the bestest part, a chance to socialize with your fellow MGers (or LBCers). So, drive your MG or whatever you, like, but please join us.

## GREAT BIG THANKS TO THE KINGSTONS

On a beautiful breezy Saturday afternoon, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 23 of our club's members arrived at Frank & Helen's home on South Tropical Trail to enjoy their hospitality, good food and the viewing of a DVD entitled “Inside the Octagon: 1921 – 1945.” The DVD was shown first, and then we ate. Frank barbequed his specialty, “Bone-In Chicken Breasts” which were perfect. The members brought dishes ranging from appetizers to desserts. No one went away hungry. In addition to Frank & Helen, in attendance was Brad Richardson, Richard & Jo-Ann Jensen, Jay & Diane Conarroe, Mike & Rainy Euziere, Tom & Ritva Bowman, Ken & Betty Gregory, Ed & Pam Price, David Alexander & Sandy Kuledge, Bill & Carol Frost, Art & Yvonne Floyd, Norm & Pat Ridgely, Saul Klein and John & Sharon Spadaro who drove over from Eustis. The last guests pulled out around 9 pm. Thanks again, Frank & Helen, great party!



### I LOVE LUCY – contributed by Sandy Kuledge

Just about everyone loved a red head named Lucy. Well, I would like to introduce everyone to Dave Alexander's Lucy. She is a 1975 MG-B with a red top and a sleek black bottom. When I met her she had no seats, carpet or dash, and I expected it would be quite a chore to put her back together. But, back together she went. First, she had an oil leak and then she had gas fumes, that, with a little misfortune, we surely could find ourselves turned into crispy critters. It was just a few kinks that needed to be ironed out. Oh, then there was that clunking sound from underneath in the front end. My concern was that the front end was going to roll out from under us at some point, soon. Dave assured me that was not going to happen. You know he has plenty of parts to fix, repair or replace the offending part causing my concern. Turned out some rubber bushings had decided through no fault of their own (simply due to age) to *disintegrate*. Naturally, Lucy rode a lot better once her front end was tight again. "Hurrah", Sandy said. She still took the bumps hard as they shook her steering wheel and she still bounced a bit. "Dave," I said, "I thought you fixed that?" Dave answered with, "I thought so, too." "She must need shocks." So, Lucy got her new shocks put on and had her valves adjusted so she didn't chatter anymore or dip and bounce. But I have to tell you, as Dave was driving and explaining what miracles he had just performed on poor Lucy, it started to rain. Don't you know she started leaking like a sieve. Water was running into the cabin from what seemed to be coming from behind the dash onto the floor. I asked Dave, "What is that going to do to the electrical system?" He said, "I think it's missing it." "Good", but I was prepared to see smoke and hear hissing as I expected the water to start shorting out and frying poor Lucy's wiring. Turned out she was lucky, and we were lucky, we didn't have to walk in the rain. Lucy is quite the little looker and she draws attention wherever she goes and she's a whole lot of fun with her top down, especially at night. So, she may rattle a bit and leak a bit but true to her name she is always doing something to keep Dave on his toes. He loves his little redheaded MG-B, Lucy.

### MY FIRST MG (and the one I actually bought years later) by Tom Bowman – PART TWO

High school finally arrived, and several of the kids from the wealthy families “up the hill” were soon driving TCs, TDs and TFs, and then it was off to college and like so many others in the 50s I ended up driving a succession of VW Beetles, in my case because college was 400 miles away and I needed to be able to get all my stuff in the car for the trip to LA and back (dry!) each time. Also, by then I was very much into racing small sailboats and my extracurricular lifestyle by then centered to some extent on towing my boat behind the Beetle to wherever it was we were racing that weekend.

We didn't finally buy an MG until 1967, when I got a job teaching applied mathematics at the University of Reading, England, and started looking for interesting wheels to get us around on their delightful small roads and country lanes, and so our family of 5 wouldn't have to be totally reliant on our oversized American Ford. (In petrol stations, if the attendant commented on the car I would always mention that back home it was called a “full size car”, which was always good for a laugh!) The plan was to find a TC and buy it to scratch that itch that had been there since I was 12, and there were a number on the roads (as well as all kinds of pre-war cars, including MGs) and a few even being advertised for sale. However, the going price was in the \$500 range (sounds pretty good now!) and the typical condition was somewhere on the wrong side of scary, and I had neither the tools nor knowledge to tackle that in a strange land. Then along came an ad for an MG YA at less than half the asking prices for the TCs we had been looking at or seen advertised in the paper. The car wasn't far from where we were living, and when we went to check it out it was clear that it was in far better condition than anything else we had looked at even though it still had all the problems to be expected in a 19-year-old leaky car that had probably been parked outside for months or years in a notoriously damp part of the world, owned by a succession of impecunious university students.

So we bought it, drove it for 10 months or so until it was about time to leave, and put it and the Ford on a ship to Newark and boarded a flight back to Denver. Next we regained possession of our house, which had been through three sets of renters which was two more that we had planned on, and I went back to work at my old job as a “Research Scientist” at Martin-Marietta. A couple of weeks later we were notified of the imminent arrival of our ship and I caught a flight to Newark, arriving at the docks as our two cars were being offloaded. I collected the cars and proceeded from there to Colorado, driving the Ford straight through with the MG following along behind hooked to the Ford using a second-hand tow bar I had bought at a U-Haul place in Denver.

For the next few months I spent much spare time rebuilding the MG engine and correcting some of the many other problems that had been there since before we bought the car and that had not been solved by trips to visit Toulmin's legendary MG breakers yard (junkyard in American English) where I bought a number of used original parts to replace non-original junk that had been introduced by some previous owner. (At Toulmin's I discovered what the infamous English “stinging nettles” are. The hard way! At least the blinding pain ends much more quickly than the itching from poison ivy!)

Thanks partly to Moss Motors and their ready supply of parts, pretty soon I was driving the MG to work five days a week and following up on leads for teaching positions, as I had enjoyed teaching in England and wasn't enjoying working in aerospace again after so much of our research funding had been diverted to the war in Vietnam. (Moss in those days was still a very small operation compared to what it has become. The catalog was still put together by spreading parts on the shop floor and taking photos, and included the famous toe that crept into one photo and presumably belonged to the person taking the pictures.)

The car was back on the road in time to enjoy the pleasures of the Colorado winter for a couple of months. One particular experience comes to mind, when I was cruising blissfully along on a particularly cold, snowy, wet day enjoying the happy ticking of the SU carb until it came time to slow down and I took my foot off the loud pedal and nothing happened! We kept right on rolling at 50 or a little more until I switched off the ignition. After coming to a stop and opening the bonnet, I

observed that the carb was completely encased in a solid block of ice as a result of many miles of freezing slush blowing in through the louvers and freezing onto the outside of the carb, preventing the throttle from closing.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Our esteemed Tour Master, Past President, and “Jerry Keuper Award” recipient, Ed Price, was featured in a recent article on the front page of the August 5<sup>th</sup> Florida Today newspaper. It also featured a photo of him distributing boxes of food to people at the Central Brevard Sharing Center. Ed is the President of the Sharing Center. The article talked about Project Hunger which raised funds to provide about 2,000,000 meals in Brevard County distributed by 3 centers, one of which is led by Ed. I took a tour through his a few months ago and it was quite an eye-opener. There is a lot more to these centers (and what they do) than one knows. I urge those of you that can to call Ed and see if there is something you can do to assist those in need. “Time, talent, and treasure” is always welcomed.

For those members who wish to obtain a list of the current membership roster, please e-mail Helen Kingston ([hjk@cfl.rr.com](mailto:hjk@cfl.rr.com)) and she will send it to you. We encourage our members to get together outside of our club events; that way they can contract with one another for a casual drive or tour some place that interests them. Or plan to go together to another club’s function, such as the upcoming Fall GOF in Hiawassee, GA.

**CLUB BADGES, TS, POLO SHIRTS, & NEW CAPS** – Anyone interested in any of these items can purchase by contacting Al Allen at 321-259-6957 or [patalallen@msn.com](mailto:patalallen@msn.com)

## **ELECTIONS ARE COMING IN NOVEMBER**

Mike Euziere, our Past President, who had worked with Jerry Keuper to get our club up and running again, has volunteered to be the Ballot Chairman for the Club’s coming election of officers and directors. Mike will appoint two members who are not officers or directors to serve with him as the Ballot Committee. They will seek out candidates for office and those interested in being a candidate should contact him. Any candidate must approve of their name being put forth on the ballot. Write-in candidates are not allowed. The slate of nominees is to be presented at the October general membership meeting (this year at the FIT Homecoming Barbeque). Ballots will be then immediately mailed to each current member household. The ballot can be returned by mail (using a SASE sent with the ballot) or brought to the November Election Meeting. This meeting is planned for a lunch at a restaurant, after a tour. The offices open for election are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus a directorship for each 25 members or fraction thereof, as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Euziere’s phone number is 321-639-7395, or e mail [ceuziere@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ceuziere@cfl.rr.com).

## **POSSIBLE CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Our club’s current governing documents are being reviewed to see if any changes are necessary to keep them up-to-date. If there are any changes, they will be spelled out in the October newsletter and printed on the ballots. They would be voted upon prior to the November meeting, along with the election of officers and directors.

## **MGCC-F UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Dessert tour (see first page for details).

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – We plan a tour to New Smyrna Beach to participate in the Timeless Wings & Wheels Museum’s All British Car Show at the New Smyrna Beach Airport (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) We will leave the McDonald’s in Rockledge at 8 a.m. There are three “NOs” involved in this show: no smoking, no coolers, and no REGISTRATION FEE. They will be selling food and drinks to benefit their



museum. Peoples' Choice Awards will be given. (Check it out at [www.timelesswingsandwheels.com](http://www.timelesswingsandwheels.com) for more info)

**Please Note-** Following the car show in New Smyrna Beach, we had planned an overnigher in Daytona with a visit to NASCAR's museum, The Daytona Experience, and circuit tours of the Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we have been informed that a fellow by the name of Richard Petty has the track reserved for his Richard Petty Driving Experience for four days, October 1-4. Therefore, we have decided to cancel our current plans and to choose a date better-suited to an "MG Driving Experience" this coming winter.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) Homecoming Parade and lunch at FIT. We have again been invited to participate in FIT's Homecoming Parade. Last year, their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we had a great turnout. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, our usual meeting day. We are also invited to attend a Bar-B-Q following the parade on campus as guests of the Alumni Association. We will meet at the staging area at University Park Elementary School (500 West University Blvd.) at 10 a.m. The parade starts at 11 a.m. Please call Dave (321-213-7051) or Norm (772-532-4265) to sign up. We will hold a meeting following the Bar-B-Q. The Ballot Committee will present the slate of nominees for the election of officers and directors to serve during 2010-2011. Also, any possible changes to our Constitution and/or By-Laws will be presented. PLEASE NOTE: Even if you do not participate in the parade, ALL MGCC-F members are invited to the Bar-B-Q. So, please attend; this is an important meeting. Thanks.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:BritBash@comcast.net). WE NEED WORKERS!! Show info & Registration at [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org)

November 21<sup>st</sup> – Third Saturday – This will be our club's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Directors. Details will follow.

December – A Holiday Party is in the planning phase. Should you have any ideas, please contact any officer or director.

### **OTHER EVENTS:**

1<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> – Southeastern Fall GOF Mk XV – Hiawassee, GA – [www.semgr.org](http://www.semgr.org)

October 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – EuroFest 2009 – Greenville, SC – [www.euroautofestival.com](http://www.euroautofestival.com)

October 17<sup>th</sup> – MG Classics of Jacksonville – British Car Classic – [www.mgclassics.org](http://www.mgclassics.org)

October 24<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Tampa Bay Austin Healey Club - Annual All British Field Meet & Autojumble, Safety Harbor, FL – [www.tbahc.com](http://www.tbahc.com)

October 30<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> – SBCC Annual Car Show – Chattanooga, TN – [www.southernbritishcarclub.org](http://www.southernbritishcarclub.org)

November 15<sup>th</sup> – St. Petersburg Yacht Club Vintage Motor Classic – [www.SPYC.org](http://www.SPYC.org)

April 8th-11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – GOF South – MK XLIV = Jekyll Island, GA – [www.mgclassics.org](http://www.mgclassics.org)

June 23rd-27<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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:**

Weber 38 DGES "Outlaw" carburetor. Includes manifold for MGB installation. Used approximately 1000 miles. \$375 or best offer. Contact Ben Stone at 772-770-0083.

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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