



# MG Car Club—Florida

FLORIDA OCTAGON

#137

NOVEMBER 2012

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

"Rain or Shine the show will go on" and it did. Everyone, workers, organizers, and participants, should be proud to have been associated with this year's Brit Bash. From the Meet and Greet to the show field, everyone had a fun time. I commend you all and thank you.



If you missed this year's for whatever reason, mark your calendars now for 2013. The date for Brit Bash 2013, is 19 October, and again it will be Rain or Shine. The November event is going to be something different for our club and a bit of a challenge (details else ware in this newsletter) so I hope you can join us. The holiday season is upon us so remember the MG motto "Safety Fast", please note that "Safety" is the first word.

## **“BRIT BASH, A CELEBRATION & EXHIBIT OF BRITISH MOTOR CARS & CYCLES”**

**October 27, 2012**



**Well, Miss Sandy came calling but stayed just far enough away so as to not totally wash us out; in fact, we had NO rain. But she did scare away some of our pre-registered and others with her high winds. But those who showed had a great time and we had a field of very nice and unusual cars. We do wish to sincerely thank those who participated in either the Friday night “Meet & Greet” or the car show on Saturday, or both. Congratulations to the dual winners of “Best of Show”, Armando Rodriguez- 66 Sunbeam Alpine, and Frank Kingston- 69 MGC GT !!**



**Thanks to Helen Kingston and Ken & Betty Gregory for ably handling the Meet & Greet. The finger foods were great as were the decorations. Bono’s supplied the dinner and it was excellent. Afterwards, the model car racing was held and the winners were 1<sup>st</sup> place Juan Prieto, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Roman Ortega-Cowan, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Saul Klein. Also entertaining was a puzzle contest featuring a photo of an MGTD.**



**Our thanks also go to the SpringHill Suites hotel and staff. They were very accommodating.**

## **BRIT BASH 2013**

**We wish to announce that our date for next year's event will be October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is one week earlier than in the past. This will eliminate the conflict with the Safety Harbor show and will allow those who wish to attend both to do so. Details will follow at a later date. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW.****

### **THIS MONTH'S EVENT – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**Saturday, November 17th, we will have a first for our club, a FUEL ECONOMY RUN.**



**We will meet at 9:30 AM at Panita Bakery, 1220 Highway A1A, Seaside Center, Indialantic (in back of the Pizza Hut). Have your FUEL tank topped off. We shall drive up A1A and then back south on roads to be announced to the Pineda Causeway, then west to US 1, again topping off the tank [you MUST get a receipt] then drive a short distance south to the Palm Shores Diner for lunch.**

**Your mileage will be noted at the start & finish, and your actual MILES-PER-GALLON calculated & noted. The winner will be the driver who estimates closest to what his/her result is as to their cars MPG for the run. Speed limits range from 25 to 55 MPH. So you have a variety of conditions, plus red lights and stop signs to put into your estimate. We ended last January's tour at this diner and the food is very good.**

**This is the last road tour for 2012 so let's make it a **BIG** one. See you all the on the 17th. **PRIZES** will be awarded.**

**Any questions please call Norman at 772-532-4265.**



**Annual Christmas Gathering At Helen and Frank Kingston's**  
10590 S Tropical Trail Merritt Island  
December 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm

A small bit of history of our Annual Christmas Gathering.....

Al & Pat Allen began this tradition approximately 4 years ago. They graciously offered their home in Viera and hosted the first few MG Car Club Christmas Gatherings. Each year the group attending increased – I believe the last party the Allen's had over 30 clubs members. Members from south of Vero Beach to Titusville!!

Then the Board decided we would offer a North End Christmas Party one year and a South End Christmas Party the next year. Spread out and make the traveling to our south and north members homes.

Ken & Betty Gregory offered to have the First South End Christmas Party last year. The north end members didn't seem a bit bother by the drive – cool weather/late afternoon gathering and lots of holiday decorations lite up to see on the drive home.

At that time, Frank and I committed to having the North End Christmas Party at our home this year. If some of the members haven't attended any of the past MG Christmas parties – everyone brings their favorite appetizer or dessert to share.

The Club provides a huge bowl of “peeled” shrimp (for the FL Xmas feel) with assorted sauces for dipping. You may bring either cold or hot dishes (we have plugs!).

In the past the ladies were asking “who made that” – “I want the recipe” – So this year I thought it would be a nice thought for each person to write the recipe out and bring it along. I will have recipe cards that the ladies can use to take home some new ideas for their holiday gatherings.

Frank and I always donate toys for the less fortunate children this time of year. We thought we would encourage each person to bring an unwrapped toy to place under our tree. This year I will take all the gifts to the Brevard Sharing Center in Rockledge. I spoke with the head guy there (our Past President Ed Price) and he told me they expect a lot of parent's stopping/shopping at their center this year and he would truly appreciate the Club's gift of toys for the Brevard Sharing Center.

Frank and I hope to see everyone on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> around 5pm. No need to RSVP or call with your dishes this time – Just a gathering of sharing and enjoying each other's company AND eating an assortment of “Good Stuff from Friends”.

## **JIM FLANKEY**

**It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jim Flankey on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. Jim was a longtime member of the Classic MG Car Club of Orlando. He and his wife, Camille, and their family held an open house Mini Car Show and Chili Cook Off at their ranch every November to which MG owners throughout the state were invited. The club has sent a condolence card to the family.**



## **THE ANNUAL FLANKEY MINI CAR SHOW AND CHILI COOK OFF – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

**The Classic MG Car Club of Orlando has invited us to this longtime annual event.**

**It is GREAT FUN! See below for details:**

The Annual Flankey Mini Car Show and Chili Cook-Off will be held on Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. The Committee, consisting of Oaklanders Tony and Marsha Geraci and Will and Voyce Bowden have again arranged Speers Park in Oakland.

As before, we will plan to invite our friends who drive other British makes, but who are not fortunate enough to own an MG. Bring your favorite chili recipe, casserole, dessert, side dish or just yourself. The Club will provide nonalcoholic beverages and implements. It is always good to bring a chair.

You're encouraged to call Tony Geraci @ 407 656-7472 to coordinate side dishes. This is a city park but the consumption of alcoholic beverages is OK.

## **WHY ONE SHOULD NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**

**I would like to share an experience with you about drinking and driving. As you well know, some of us have been lucky not to have brushes with the authorities on our way home from the various social sessions over the years. A couple of nights ago, I was out for a night of drinks with some friends and had a few too many beers and then topped off with a Margarita. Not a good idea.**

**Knowing full well I was at least slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before; I took a taxi home. Sure enough, we passed a police road block but because it was a taxi, they waved it right past.**

**I arrived home safely without incident, which was a real surprise as I have never driven a taxi before and I'm not sure where I got it.**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY – CELEBRATE!**

**Nov. 8      Rainy Euziere**  
**Nov. 9      Maria Jock**  
**Nov. 10     Roman Ortega-Cowan**  
**Nov. 13     Bonnie Steene**  
**Nov. 18     Brian Mitchell**  
**Nov. 23     Al Allen**  
**Nov. 30     John Nichols**

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

**Nov. 9      Hayes & Charlotte Harris**  
**Nov. 13     Karl & Bonnie Steene**

## **DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**Your Board of Directors has reviewed our financial situation and voted to keep the dues at \$15.00 a year. Please send your check to the club at our P. O. Box noted at the end of this newsletter. Thank you.**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS - \*indicates a club event**

**\* November 17<sup>th</sup> – MGCC-F NEW EVENT! An ECONOMY RUN. Not as simple as who has a good MPG car (e.g. Saul Klein). This is a handicapped ride and it will be run in Brevard County. (SEE INFO EARLIER IN THIS ISSUE)**

**\* December 15<sup>th</sup> – MGCC-F Annual Holiday Party at the Kingston's on Merritt Island. This year we are asking everyone to bring an unwrapped toy, ages 4-12, to the party. These will then be turned over to a charity to be given out over the holidays. (see the Kingston's Invitation in preceding sections)**

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

## **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:**

**1960 MGA VIPER RED WITH TAN INTERIOR  
ASKING \$20000.00 BUT WILL ENTERTAIN OFFERS.**

**Contact; Dave Alexander 321-213-7051 or [davidjalexander13@gmail.com](mailto:davidjalexander13@gmail.com) (5/12)**



**Len Coppold is offering his 1970 MGB tourer. He has too many cars so no trades considered – cash only. Excellent condition, many updated components. Asking \$13,500 OBO - Call 321-752-0737. (Aug12)**



 Mr. Leonard Coppold  
939 Osprey Drive  
Melbourne, FL 32940

Modifications to 1970 MGB

A. Drivetrain

Engine- fully overhauled retaining stock specifications but modified for unleaded gasoline (stock cam grind, compression ratio, carb jetting, etc. but with stellite exhaust valves, silicon bronze guides and hardened valve seats). Block was boiled out, crank and cam reground, crank mains were align bored. Rotating masses fully balanced. New pistons, rings, valves, valve guides, bearings, cam chain, cam chain tensioner, seals, gaskets, water pump, distributor, hoses, plugs and wires. Carburetors rebuilt with oversize butterfly shaft and new main jets. A thermostatically controlled cooling fan replaces the stock engine driven fan. New stock airfilters in powder coated canisters. Radiator and heater have new cores. Most black brackets, covers and housings in the engine compartment were bead blasted and powder coated.

Clutch and transmission- new master and slave cylinders, clutch disk, pressure plate and throw-out bearing. Disk, plate and bearing replaced again at 11/2002 by Rick Ostman due to corrosion of clutch which froze the disk to the flywheel, preventing clutch release.

The transmission was fully disassembled, inspected, and reassembled with new seals, bearings, and gaskets by a British specialist in California. He said the transmission looked like it had been recently been gone through as there was virtually no wear on the synchros.

Driveshaft- new bearings in both universal joints, balance checked out satisfactory.

Third member (rear axle and differential)- drained and replaced differential fluid, was not removed from vehicle during restoration (actually the only component not removed besides the doors and fenders during the restoration).

B. Electrical- The original wiring loom is still in place but much of the wiring in the engine compartment has been reworked. A new ATO style fuse block containing several more fuses has replaced the stock four fuse item. The fuel pump is now fused and there are several spare fuse sites for radio or other future use. There is an additional fuse on the radiator bulkhead next to the relay for the cooling fan. Brake, tail, front running lights and the fore and aft turn signals are upgraded to halogen bulbs. No radio was installed but an antenna was fitted to the hole in the fender.

Modifications to 1970 MGB, continued.

C. Suspension- new (nos) lever shocks in front, rear units were cleaned and fluid replaced.  
New front A arm bushings are the heavy duty type originally specified for the MGB V8.

D. Brakes- Rebuilt front calipers, new pads, new hard lines, new braided stainless steel flex lines to front and rear. New rear cylinders and shoes. Rebuilt (by Apple Hydraulics) master cylinder.

E. Body- Bare metal respray with Dupont acrylic enamel, color 1990 Honda Tahitian Green, two part with clearcoat. Rear fender seams ground welded and filled. The rather corroded anodized windshield frame was polished. Requires periodic repolishing with aluminum metal polish and wax to maintain its finish. The prop shaft for the bonnet was removed and a pair of gas struts were fitted.

F. Interior- Gray interior and carpet from Prestige Interiors, England.

G. Top- Car as purchased did not have a soft top. An early style demountable bow frame was fitted, and a top from the Little British Cat Co. was installed which has a zipper rear window.

***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)**

**MG Car Club – Florida [www.mgcarclubflorida.org](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org)**

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



The only MEMBER RUN organization for MGB, Midget & 1100/1300 owners

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP fee is \$30 and INCLUDES**

- Membership Card
- Six bi-monthly issues of the the MGB Driver Magazine
- Invitation to the Annual National Convention

**North American MGB Register**  
P O Box 69; Eaton Rapids, MI 48827  
Toll-free phone/fax: 800-NAMGBR1

## AN INVITATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO British Marque CAR CLUB NEWS

*British Marque Car Club News* is a 40-page monthly tabloid newspaper featuring the news of dozens of British car clubs coast to coast. Did you know that our club is one of over 100 official *British Marque* Participating Clubs? It's true — and members of Participating Clubs are entitled to all sorts of benefits.

For one, you can subscribe to either the Print Edition or On-line Edition of the *Marque* at a **37% discount over non-member (regular) rates**. Both Editions have the same 40 pages of event listings, columns, classifieds and special features. Either way, you will receive 11 issues a year.

### **SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR PARTICIPATING CLUB MEMBERS**

**Members residing in the USA: Only \$16.00/year Print Edition**

**Members residing in Canada: Only \$20.00/year Print Edition**

**Members residing overseas: Only \$26.00/year Print Edition**

**On-line Edition, regardless of residence: Only \$12.00/year**

**(On-line Edition FREE to Print Edition subscribers upon request)**

Regular (non-Participating Club) subscription rates \$26.00 for U.S. residents, \$38.00 for Canadian residents, and \$50.00 for overseas residents. Regular On-line Edition rate \$19.00. All rates quoted in U.S. dollars.

### **PLACE FREE CLASSIFIED ADS, TOO!**

Each subscriber from a Participating Club is also entitled to **one free classified ad** (up to 20 words) per issue, whether you're selling or looking for something British car-related.

Additional 15¢ charged per word over the 20-word limit. Photos may be included for \$7.50 each. Free classified ad benefit available only to individuals, not businesses.

***So don't delay — subscribe today!***

c/o Enthusiast Publications, LLC

5 Old Nasonville Road

Harrisville, RI 02830 USA

### **PARTICIPATING CLUB PRINT SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

**To pay by credit card or to order the On-line Edition, please go to our website, [www.britishmarque.com](http://www.britishmarque.com)**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail or phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Attach cheque or money order payable in U.S. funds to Enthusiast Publications, LLC, and send to address above.

Form and cheque must be received by the 20th of the month to receive the next month's issue.