



MG Car Club—Florida

FLORIDA OCTAGON

#142

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2013

BRIT BASH 2013 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2013 **A SMASHING SUCCESS!!!**

NO RAIN!! NO STORM!! A beautiful, sunny, mild day greeted everyone for the 2013 Brit Bash at Riverside Park on Orchid Island in the city of Vero Beach. Gates opened at 0830 to welcome the first of fifty-nine British cars and motorcycles that graced the show field within the park. What a difference from 2011 (rain) and 2012 (Hurricane Sandy offshore).

And the response from both the public and participants to the US Postal Service's "Drive Out Hunger" food drive was excellent. We collected over 400 pounds of food plus \$91 in cash donations, all of which was donated to The Source in Vero Beach, an outreach and resource center for homeless and at risk residents of Indian River County.

Bono's Barbeque brought their cooker trailer and served the famous BBQ pork and brisket along with cold drinks for the hungry among the crowd.

On Friday evening, the night prior to the show, the Club hosted its Meet & Greet buffet dinner at the host hotel, the SpringHill Suites. As usual, it was a great event. (many photos & Video at www.mgcarclubflorida.org – see "Club Photos")



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – by Dave Alexander

Now is the time of year where getting out and getting those LBCs on the road is the most enjoyable: still warm compared to the rest of the country, but cool by Florida summer standards. For a nice selection of things to do, check out the club calendar at [http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Recent and Upcoming Events.htm](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Recent%20and%20Upcoming%20Events.htm) Besides all the local events such as club events, driving events, local car shows, there are several members planning to go up to Daytona Historic races either November 16th or 17th and several are heading up to Daytona's famous annual Turkey Rod Run November 30th which always has around 3,000 to 5,000 cars. The reason I point out all the things happening is to help encourage everyone to get out and do something fun in their LBC. One of the basic premises Jerry Keuper had for the MG Car Club Florida is the promotion of LBCs interest and sharing information. I can think of no better way than to get out and driving your LBC and let everyone see how great our cars are.

If you need a little help or advice to keep your LBC running at peak performance, or maybe yours is parked pending some necessary repair, I would like to suggest you call one of the club members or board members as there is a wealth of information within the club and advice is free. Also, if you have a specific problem or problems, email me (davidjalexander13@gmail.com), I will get you the best answer I can to get you back up on the road as quickly as possible. Come out and show others what we already know, LBCs are AWESOME.

OTHER RECENT EVENTS: **HISTORIC DOWNTOWN MELBOURNE**

Due to scheduling conflicts, the September event was not finalized until the eleventh hour, and for that the Club apologizes. However, those who didn't attend missed a great time. The gathering place was "Old Historic Downtown Melbourne" and most arrived about 8:30 in the morning, and parked on New Haven Avenue in front of Julie's British Shoppe. We headed across the street to the 905 Café, a very nice and interesting eatery that serves breakfast and lunch. The 905 is set up very informally, with couches, large chairs, coffee tables, and other casual pieces, not your typical restaurant seating. The group relaxed around a home-style dining table, enjoyed fellowship and conversation and the 905's varied and delectable offerings of tea, coffee, pastries, scones, and breakfast sandwiches. Many topics were discussed but the world's problems were not solved. Those attending were: Dan Cook, Len Coppold, Mike Fufidio, Linda Knoblock-Raupp, Brian Mitchell, David Alexander, Saul Klein, Pat and Norm Ridgely.



Afterward, we crossed the street to Julie's, perused her goods, and made some purchases. We then caravanned over to the river, enjoyed the great weather, and took a few photos. What a nice relaxing morning.

SOUTHEAST GOF - CALLAWAY GARDENS, GA

Twelve of our club's members, plus a friend, traveled to a GOF at Pine Mountain, GA, in early October. The event was hosted by the Southeast MG-T Register of Atlanta, GA and was held at the Pine Mountain Inn directly across from the lovely spacious Callaway Gardens. On Wednesday, October 9th, our 8-car caravan group, made up of one MGA, five MGB roadsters, one MGBGT and one MG Midget, met at Denny's off I-75 in Ocala where most had breakfast or lunch. After eating our fill and discussing the coming trip and anticipating the event, the caravan headed west to Chiefland, then north to Thomasville, GA, for an overnight stay. Drivers and passengers were: Doug & Linda Rothwell, John & Sharon Spadaro, Pat & Dianne Grassick, Ken & DD DeLeeuw, Pat & Norm Ridgely, Len Coppold, Saul Klein, and John Powling (The Villages).



We headed out early Thursday morning for Pine Mountain using all rural back roads to Callaway arriving in the late afternoon. The only incident was Len's MGA coupe's starter did not function properly but by Thursday night that problem was solved.

The T Register had a great program planned around a 1940s theme: Thursday night was a showing of the 1940s classic "Casablanca" after filling up on 10¢ hotdogs, 5¢ bottled cokes and 5¢ vintage style candy bars, and, of course, fresh popped popcorn for 15¢.

Friday morning 80-90 MGs took a scenic tour to Warm Spring and enjoyed lunch at an historic old home, then proceeded to FDR's Little White House at the Springs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, our 32nd US President 1933-1945, died in his home at Warm Spring in his 4th term.

Friday night a Bar-B-Q was held at the beach inside Callaway Gardens. A few brave souls attempted to learn The Swing.

The car show was Saturday morning, also in the Gardens, with 100 cars registered from a 1936 MG TA Q Type Special through 1980s MGBs. The show was in a tree-shaded parking area off the beaten track inside the Gardens. Coffee, cold drinks and food items were available for purchase, provided by the Inn. At the show's closing, we caravanned around the Gardens to the amazement and delight of hikers, bikers, and other recreation seekers inside the gates.



Saturday, the T folks delighted us with a cocktail party with outstanding hors d'oeuvres in the Hospitality Room, which, by the way, was open during most hours of the event to welcome event attendees. Hospitality in this room included coffee, water, soft drinks, sweet & salty refreshments, fruit, and a wide variety of home-baked delights. 1940-costumed MGers blended with those who chose modern dress. From the cocktail party, we wandered over to the main building's ballroom for dinner. What beautiful decorations greeted us and the banquet food was outstanding. After trophy awards and door prize presentations, an 8-piece band out of Atlanta played jazz and swing music from the '40s. Many agreed this was the best GOF we have attended in years. The T-Register is to be congratulated for a great event.



Trophy winners from our group are as follows: TD 1952-53 1st Pete & Sherry Rogers (1952) (They joined us on the return trip trailering their TD behind their

truck.) **MGB Rubber Bumpers: 1st John Powling (1975), 2nd Pat & Dianne Grassick (1978), 3rd John & Sharon Spadaro (1977). MGB-GT 1st Norm & Pat Ridgely (1967).**

The return trip was highlighted by a few U-turns (9 vehicles followed in a row) thanks to the signs on the back roads in Georgia. Thus a new club was born: **The MG U-turn Club**. The Grassicks and Ridgelys stopped overnight in Ocala and the others proceeded home. This reporter added 1,272 to the GTs miles. The Grassicks were still traveling south when we waved a fond farewell. (many photos & Video at www.mgcarclubflorida.org – see “Club Photos”)

FIT HOMECOMING PARADE – OCTOBER 26TH 2013

On the morning of October 26th, Linda Knoblock-Raupp, Jerome Raupp, Mike Fufidio, Brian and Ginny Mitchell, met up with Helen at Frank Kingston’s office, to caravan to the F.I.T. parade. We drove into Ruffner Park, proudly displaying our MG Club’s banner mounted by Brian and Dave to fit on Brian’s Triumph. We mingled, ate doughnuts and grapes, while waiting for the parade to start. It has become a yearly tradition for a few of the members and next year we are really going to show them some MGs, right group??!! The parade ended with a very nice lunch of chicken wings, fries, and drinks. It was great spending time with our members at such a nice event. A big “thank you” to Jerry Keuper, who started our club and F.I.T.; it was such a pleasure for me to have met him. To all of you, Life is Good! (Contributed by Linda)



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:

TOUR, LUNCHEON, & ELECTION – NOVEMBER 16TH, 2013

It’s that time again, Election of the club’s officers and directors, held every two years, will take place on November 16th. The day will start with a tour. We will meet in the parking lot of the “now closed” Ethan Allen furniture store, 2705 US Hwy #1, just north of Lake Washington Road, Melbourne. We plan to start the tour, leaving the parking lot at 9:30 am. The tour will conclude at the Marsh Landing Restaurant, 44 N. Broadway St., Fellsmere, FL. (772-571-8622). Those who may wish to skip the tour can just meet us at noon in Fellsmere. We will have lunch, hold elections, and have our annual business meeting.

We suggest you bring a clip board, pen/pencil, a navigator, a tank of fuel and an empty

bladder (no planned pit stops, but you may do so on your own). If you forget a writing instrument, the club will supply pens.

The restaurant requires a head count, so please call Dave by Thursday, Nov. 14th, at 321-213-7051.

HOLIDAY PARTY TO BE HELD, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2013

The Club's annual Holiday Party will be held Saturday, December 14th, starting at 5 pm. Board member Len Coppold has graciously offered his home in Sun-Tree for the occasion. His address is 939 Osprey Dr., Melbourne (321-733-7411). As is our custom, the Club will supply the main meat dish with members providing appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. Please communicate with Helen Kingston at 321-773-1455 or hjk10590@gmail.com about your contribution so we can have a nice variety. Also, bring the liquid refreshments of your choice whatever they may be. The club will supply iced tea and water. We do need a head count a week prior (by December 7th) so please contact Dave Alexander (321-213-7051).

2014

Saturday, January 18, 2014 – Tour and lift day and lunch at Frank Kingston's "toy box" (details will follow)

Saturday, February 15th – Driving tour to Mt. Dora (details will follow)

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

IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

Ed Price, the Club's Nominating Chairman, has one candidate each for president, vice-president, and treasurer; he also has 3 candidates for director. Should anyone be interested in running for an office or director, please contact Ed (321-632-2207). It's a great way to participate in the Club's planning and direction.

The position of Secretary has no nominee. This is a very important position and is vital to the Club's ability to function. It requires attendance (or arranging for a substitute) at quarterly evening Board meetings and taking/writing/distributing the Board's minutes to officers and directors. Attendance at the annual General Membership (November) meeting is also important. Please contact Ed if you are able to serve your club in this capacity.

Let's make Ed's phone ring off the hook!!!!

CLASSIFIED ADS:

For Sale: 1974 Triumph Spitfire \$7,500, call Chuck Thompson at 772-777-3160 for more info. The car is in Port St. Lucie.

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)

Len Coppold 321-752-0737 (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

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