



# FLORIDA OCTAGON

#226 December 2021

## ***Safety Fast!***

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(321) 757-0180  
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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



**BRRRRRR!** The mercury just dipped into the 50's. It's almost winter. Where I was raised, that was one of our five seasons: Almost Winter, Winter, Still Winter, Mud Season and road construction.

Denizens of New England, from where I hail, have the ritual for stowing their LBCs for the "off" season: jack stands, drain the cooling system, find inside space, nice covers, etc., and, if heated storage is available, begin the repairs, refurbishment, etc. that didn't get accomplished because of all of the fun they had driving during the warmer months.

Here in paradise, there are signs that winter is coming, like having to wade through a forest of artificial Christmas trees to get to the barbeque tool section or mower parts at Home Depot or Lowe's or the lots selling live trees (they're really not, you know, but who's going to patronize a purveyor proclaiming "DEAD XMAS TREES"?), or my favorite FM radio station changing to all "holiday" music a week before Thanksgiving Day. Then the TV specials show up. Frosty The snowman and Rudolph, both sub-four-minute songs have both morphed into half-hour stories and the Grinch is soon to put in an appearance. Annual reruns of It's a Beautiful Life (which I have never seen) and A Christmas Carol (the best version starred George C. Scott) will soon be preempting "Regularly Scheduled Programming", providing network TV with the mushy appearance of the Hallmark Channel. We'll have to resort to the NFL, NHL and NBA for any dose of violence, if one truly needs any.

The best sign of the season is that we can now drive our LBCs with the hood lowered without the curse of cooking at stop lights. I even opened the valve for my cockpit heater on our last drive to keep my right knee toasty! I lived in England for three years and absolutely cannot understand why heaters and windscreen wiper are two of the most under-engineered systems on our cars! We can also attend to maintenance in the driveway with less sunscreen gooping up our hands or having streams of perspiration dripping onto freshly polished parts. This is OUR driving season, and we should exercise the privilege.

As I write this the day after Thanksgiving, the response to the proposed Bok Tower trip from this end of our membership range is not terrific. If you are planning to go, let Marilyn know really soon so a meet-up and trip plan can be established. If any of the southern group is going, and it does happen, a rendezvous could be arranged at Yeehaw Junction, thence to Lake Wales. We

**Chairman Emeritus**

Jerry Keuper  
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please  
visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

**December Birthdays:**

08 Ed Lankenau  
10 Judy Stedman  
12 Chris Prewitt  
12 Jill Prewitt  
13 Roderick Cram  
16 Rob Buck  
21 Gail Lenhard  
31 Chris Hoch

**December Anniversaries:**

01 John & Aldys Childs  
31 Terry Collins & Gina  
Carpenter

**Upcoming Club Events:**

*December 11<sup>th</sup> – BOK  
Tower Gardens and Lunch*

*December 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday  
Dinner at Frigate's  
Waterfront Bar & Grill*

**Contact Information:**

Brian Mitchell  
P. O. Box 410471  
Melbourne, FL 32941  
(321) 254-9605

also have the Club gathering at Frigates Grille on the 14th and I need to know by the 11th so I can let the restaurant know how many hungry mouths to expect. Hoping to see lots of you there.

Until next month,  
Safety Fast  
Brian  
(321) 254-9605  
[bgspain@hotmail.com](mailto:bgspain@hotmail.com)

**CLUB DUES:**

It's time to pay your MG Car Club dues! Please submit your payment for 2022 Club dues by January 2022. Make the check (\$15) payable to MG CAR CLUB—FLORIDA, INC. and mail to:

MG Car Club – Florida  
P O Box 410471  
Melbourne, FL 32941

If you prefer, you can bring your payment to the Holiday Dinner on December 14<sup>th</sup> and give it to any board member.

**ERIC BUTZLAFF, FORMER MG CAR CLUB MEMBER**

Eric Butzlaff passed away on October 12, 2021, at home in Osprey, Fla. He was a member of the MG Car Club-Florida in the early years, after the charter was moved to Melbourne. He and his wife, Patti, lived in Vero Beach until 2005, when they moved to Madison, Georgia. He was the proud owner of two MGs, an MG-TF that was at their lake front cottage in Wisconsin and an immaculate 1948 MG-TC that was with them here in Florida, then Georgia, and then back to Florida. Those of us that attended GOFs and other events in Georgia would usually see them there also. Condolences may be sent to

Patti Butzlaff  
1260 Windward Dr.  
Osprey, Fl. 3429

**UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:**

Have you been some place interesting, taken a scenic drive, dined at a restaurant you enjoyed? These are potential places, drives, dinners for club events! Please contact a member of the board and share your suggestion. Input is appreciated!

- **December 11, 2021 – BOK Tower in Lake Wales.** Traditionally the club has visited Bok Tower Gardens in December. It is about two hours' drive from Melbourne. **Tentatively Brian has provided the following trip plan:** "If enough folks are going, the logical meeting point would be the Cumberland Farms on the corner of John Rhodes and 192, I would think around 0900 to leave by 0930, arrive in Yeehaw Junction around 1030 to join with any "southern" tourers, thence west to Lake Wales, find a lunch

place and be present for a 1300 concert. Then roll the ball of string back up and return home before dark.” Once we have a firm count an email will be sent with the trip plan. Email Marilyn Lewis ([delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com)) if attending. For information on Bok Tower Gardens please visit <https://boktowergardens.org/>

- **December 14, 2021 – MGCC-FL Holiday Dinner Frigate’s Waterfront Bar & Grill 06:00 PM.** Our holiday celebration will be held at Frigate’s Waterfront Bar & Grill ([Frigate's Melbourne \(frigatesmelbourne.com\)](http://frigatesmelbourne.com)) located at 1120 N Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32935. The elevator is in working order this year!! The reservation has been made with the restaurant and they are requesting that we firm up the number of attendees by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please take a minute to let us know you’ll be attending. Brian Mitchell [bgspain@hotmail.com](mailto:bgspain@hotmail.com). **For additional details regarding the party, please see insert below!**
- **January 10, 2022 – MGCC-FL Board Meeting 6:00 PM.** The board meeting will be held in the Kingston Garage, 1561 Maple Avenue, Melbourne, FL. All club members are welcome to attend, or you can send ideas/concerns to the board for discussion. The meetings encompass club business, finances, and planning. Minutes are prepared and available by request.
- **January 15, 2022 – MGCC-FL Drive and New Year Picnic!** This event is in the planning stage! *Details to come!*
- **January MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner.** POC (?) *Please volunteer or simply suggest a restaurant and Marilyn will coordinate the dinner!*
- **February 19, 2022 – MGCC-FL Economy Run.** Norman Ridgely is planning this event and details will be posted in a future newsletter. An ‘Economy Run’: Club would meet at a designated gas station, top off the gas tank, participate in a drive, return to a designated gas station, top off the gas tank. A ‘Best Mileage’ award would be given or something similar.

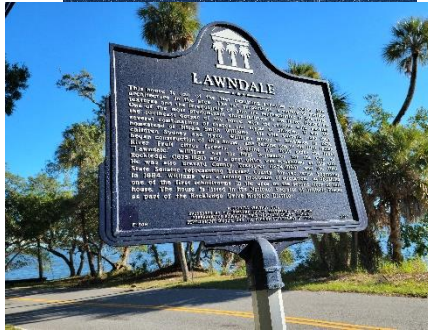
#### **OTHER EVENTS:**

- Calendar of local car events and cruise-ins maintained by Mike Euziere. [British Car Driving Group](#)
- **February 12, 2022 – McKee Garden 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Motor Car Exhibition 10:00 AM – 03:00 PM.** European Cars Featuring the Ferrari and Other Italian Exotics. [12TH ANNUAL MOTOR CAR EXHIBITION – McKee Botanical Garden \(mckee garden.org\)](#)
- **April 16, 2022 – Wheels Across the Pond, Jupiter, FL.** Date of show has been posted. Check website for postings as they come available.
- **April 22-24, 2022 – 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Gathering of the Faithful (GOF) at Howey-In-The-Hills.** [Home | GOF-South 2022 \(gofsouth.org\)](#) Contact Lonnie Cook [gofsouth2020@gmail.com](mailto:gofsouth2020@gmail.com), 407-670-9679

#### **CLUB PHOTOS:**

[www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Club\\_Photo\\_Album.htm](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Club_Photo_Album.htm)

**November 6, 2021 - MGCC-FL Drive, Tour of the Lawndale Pioneer Homestead in Rockledge,  
Lunch at Pig & Whistle**





Attending:

**Brian Mitchell  
Dale & Marilyn  
Lewis  
Paul Stedman  
Linda Knoblock-  
Raupp  
Rob Knoblock  
Rob & Maria Buck  
Angel Lopez  
Tim & Barbara  
Kingaby  
Jim Netterstrom**



**November 13, 2021  
MGCC-FL Breakfast at Sarno Restaurant & Pizzeria**





Thanks to  
Linda and  
Donna for the  
pictures!



**Attending:**

- Brian & Ginny Mitchell**
- Bob & Donna Beiler**
- Linda Knoblock-Raupp**
- Frank & Helen Kingston**
- John Perez**
- Paul & Judy Stedman**





Please join us for the

**MGCC-FL HOLIDAY DINNER  
FRIGATE'S WATERFRONT BAR 7 GRILL  
DECEMBER 14, 2021  
6:00 PM**

**It will be a wonderful evening of food and fellowship with  
British Car Enthusiasts!**

**In addition, it's been suggested we liven things up with a fun game  
of 'Chinese Gift Exchange' or more commonly  
referred to as 'Dirty Santa'! To participate, bring a fun \$20 gift and  
let the laughter begin!**

**RSVP to Brian Mitchell by December 11<sup>th</sup>  
bgspain@hotmail.com**

***Friendly's*  
Car, Truck & Bike Show**

Hosted by Friendly's  
1011 E. Eau Gallie Blvd  
Indian Harbor Beach, FL

**Monthly Show  
Second Thursday,  
Next Show**

**December 9, 2021  
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

Discount Coupons for everyone  
attending the show!

Remember:  
Friendly's Breakfast Special  
Mon-Fri 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Only \$5.99



Sponsored by Walmart  
Indian Harbor Beach

Free Show, Bring what ya got.  
Everyone Welcome... Rat Rods. Under  
Construction,  
All Years, Makes & Models are Welcome,  
No Judging, No Trophies, Just Good Fun!!



Check out our  
Showcase Dance show  
Hosted by Liz Hill  
6pm - 7 pm.



Questions?  
Call  
Bill Antonetz at  
321 725-3648



## Club Member Contributions of Articles, Personal Interest Stories and Other Stuff

If you see a British article (tech or otherwise) you would like to share or if you come across something that just makes you smile, please email me ([delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com)) and I will include it in the newsletter!

Contributors this month were Norman and Brian, thank you!





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## **The 10 Rules of Vintage Car Ownership**

- 1. There's always something to fix, but not right now.**
  - 2. You should sell it while it's running great, but you won't because this experience is why you own the thing in the first place.**
  - 3. No, you aren't going to make any money off it.**
  - 4. One out of 10 parts will not arrive in time for the weekend.**
  - 5. That rattle.**
  - 6. There's always a better example for sale.**
  - 7. You can never have enough spares.**
  - 8. You're never going to use all those spares.**
  - 9. Rust is an enemy worth fighting to extinction.**
  - 10. That rattle.**
-

## MGCC-FL Merchandise



### MGCC--FL Hats

\$25

Original logo from when club was first founded,  
with date and club name

Khaki color is a light weight material with  
Nylon adjustable tab closure.

White is slightly heavier but vented on both sides  
with  
Velcro closure.



### MGCC-FL Patches

\$5

Anniversary Logo Design

POC for Purchase:

Helen Kingston ([hjk10590@gmail.com](mailto:hjk10590@gmail.com))

Ads are free of charge to members, run for three months unless renewed and/or canceled by the advertiser. Send your ad to [delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com) for publication in the following month's newsletter.

**For Sale:**

**1979 MGB \$9,000.00**

1979 MGB 59,700 miles Recent total brake job. New calipers, cylinders, lines etc. Carb overhaul, new catalytic convertor, alternator, battery, etc. new bonnet pad.  
Only issues Tiny oil leak, convertible top a torn clip, driver arm rest, normal paint chips & wheels could need paint. Additional Robbins Tonneau & Top frame.  
2nd owner, have had car for 40 years. Stored in winter no rust.

Asking \$ 9,000.00  
Contact: Pat Beauvis  
(612)-384-0047



November 2021

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**Two Tires - \$100**

**Two Michelin Defender tires. 185/70R14. DOTK4J6 105x4513**

**Please contact Linda Knoblock-Raupp ([oldcarsnewcars@bellsouth.net](mailto:oldcarsnewcars@bellsouth.net))**



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**Window Winder Handles - Free**

**I purchased some window winder handles from Moss, and I made a typo error in the number of units. I now have window winder stock for multiple cars. It will cost me almost as much in postage to return them as the refund amount. If you can post a notice in the next newsletter, I will be happy to give a pair to anyone who can use them. (These are the plastic handles; the metal ones are not available.) Contact Ed Price via phone 321-632-2207 or via E-mail at [pdpcash8@gmail.com](mailto:pdpcash8@gmail.com).**

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**1977 MGB Mark IV Roadster \$12,000**

**Description -**

**PLEASE READ THE DETAILS, THIS IS A TOTALLY RESTORED CAR**

**HISTORY**

**This is a 1977 MGB Mark IV Roadster. It was purchased from the original owner from Maitland Florida (I have a copy of the original Florida Title from 1977) with 75,120 original miles and has been a Florida car all its life. About 1/3 of those miles were when the car was towed behind a motor home. The car was stored in a garage for many years after the owner passed. During the years of storage there was no maintenance done but the car remained rust free. In 2020, when the family attempted to start and run the car, they did not pay attention to the old fluids (oil and water) and as a result spun the main bearings.**

**2020 to 2021 RESTORATION**

**In 2020 I restored the interior, sound-deadening material under the carpets, originally white the car was stripped and painted with 4 coats of diamond white (\$3.5K), new body trim work, new dashboard, new seals, new tires, restored rims, new brakes, new top. Complete undercoating. It has the Tonneau cover and top Boot.**

**The motor was removed, bored 20 over and completely rebuilt top to bottom by J&J Racing Engines in Jupiter Florida February 2021. New alternator, battery, cooling fans, gas tank, fuel pump. The smog pump was deleted. The engine installation and Zenith Stromberg carburetor was completely rebuilt by**

Eagle Automotive Vero Beach Florida.

The car is still in break-in mode with less than 300 miles since rebuild. AS NICE AS IT GETS. Asking \$12K. Eric Michaels 772 713-7885 Micco FL.



June 2021

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**Downsizing: MG & Triumph parts & projects**

**1967 MGB GT** Partially disassembled Project car. Florida title **\$2,000.**

**1970's Postal Jeep.** Rusty body I6 engine, turns. **\$500. Reduced \$250**

**Two 1970's VW Project/parts cars.** Both engines run. **\$2,000 each. Reduced \$1000 Each**

**1976 MGB RDS Project car.** Custom steel dash, good rubber, good driver. Florida title. **\$2,500. Reduced \$2000**

**1978 Triumph Spitfire.** With weber/header, aluminum radiator, new wood dash, fiberglass trunk lid, factory hard top, rough body, good tires, Florida title. **\$2,000. Reduced \$1500**

**Liquidating British sports car hobby shop.**

**Selected parts cars \$200 each.**

**A lot of new old stock and used parts.**

**Call with your needs.**

**Contact Dave Alexander (321) 213-7051 (Please leave a message, I will return all calls)**

.....  
**1970 MGB \$6500 Rust Free**

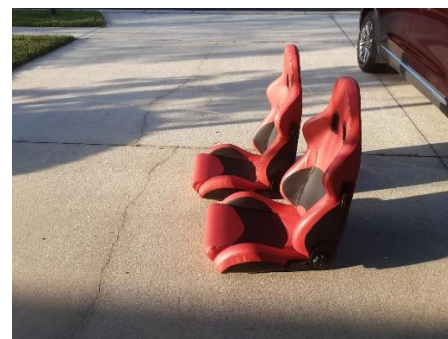
**1970 MGB 3<sup>rd</sup> owner Florida car excellent driver. RUST FREE BODY, partial older repaint of original color, Original interior, 85,000 miles. New brake master, emergency cable, clutch master and slave, front rotors and calipers, front wheel bearings, rear springs, Apple rebuilt front and rear shocks, fuel gauge sending unit, excellent top and tonneau, new inner tubes, rebuilt radiator. All work done by an 18-year vintage racing driver to update and have safe running gear. Could be driven anywhere. Typical oil leak.**

**Contact Mike McLaughlin (407) 625-8382**



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**Seats for 91 Lotus Elan \$550**



**These seats were in my Lotus for about two years. I replaced these seats with the originals. New, these seats were \$1200 Sparco & the back is adjustable. They have aluminum adapters on the bottom and are like new. I will let them go for \$550 for the pair.**

**Contact Kourdt Howell, email: [Kourdt.howell@gmail.com](mailto:Kourdt.howell@gmail.com), Phone: (328) 427-3072**

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## 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.

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

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

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

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

**MGB, MGC, Midget, 1100/1300 and Post Abingdon Car Owners:**



## **North American MGB Register**

The only MEMBER-RUN organization  
for MGB, MGC, Midget, 1100/1300 and  
Post Abingdon Car owners.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$30 (\$45 overseas)**

- Dash plaque • Membership card • Window decal
- Six bi-monthly issues of The MG Driver,  
a 68-page informative magazine.
- Annual national convention – a four-day MG party!

## **North American MGB Register**

**PO BOX 876 • Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876**

Toll-free phone: 800-NAMGBR-1

[www.namgbr.org](http://www.namgbr.org)



**NAMGAR**  
North American MGA Register

[NAMGAR Membership Application Form](#)

### **NAMGAR Mission Statement**

The North American MGA Register shall promote the preservation and enjoyment of the MGA sports car and its variants; encourage fellowship among MGA owners; aid members' efforts to restore and preserve these cars by publishing and exchanging maintenance and restoration information.