



# FLORIDA OCTAGON

#232 June 2022

## ***Safety Fast!***

### **CLUB OFFICIALS**

#### **President:**

**Brian Mitchell**  
(321) 254-9605  
bgspain@hotmail.com

#### **Vice President:**

**John Perez**  
(321) 243-2661  
jpmetsjets@gmail.com

#### **Treasurer:**

**Helen Kingston**  
(321) 773-1455  
Hjk10590@gmail.com

#### **Secretary:**

**Marilyn Lewis**  
(321) 259-7681  
Delewis67@aol.com

#### **Director:**

**David Alexander**  
(321) 213-7051  
Davidjalexander13@gmail.com

#### **Director:**

**Paul Stedman**  
(321) 676-8306  
pjsted@yahoo.com

#### **Director:**

**Norman Ridgely**  
(772) 532-4265  
normridge@yahoo.com

#### **Director:**

**Dale Lewis**  
(321) 259-7681  
Delewis67@aol.com

#### **Immediate Past President**

**Linda Knoblock-Raupp**  
(321) 757-0180  
oldcarsnewcars@bellouth.net

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



Those of us old enough to remember Rowan and Martin's Laugh In will recall an oft used statement: "Look THAT up in your Funk and Wagnalls". Well, in an effort to come up with a topic for this month, I went to my 1971 edition (Yup, I actually have one!) to look up the oft abused word "acronym".

An acronym is a word, made up of the first letters or syllables of the root words, and as such it can be pronounced. Example: Radar Ra(dio) D(etection) A(nd) R(anging); Sonar So(und) Na(vigation and) R(anging); Laser L(ight) A(mplification by) S(timulated) E(mission of) R(adiation); Phaser, made up by Gene Roddenberry because it sounded like a neat name for the old Buck Rogers ray gun. The US Navy went nuts with syllables, for example Pomplant, headquartered in Goose Creek, SC. It was years before I figured out that it meant Polaris Missile Fleet Atlantic. My Navy friends would probably have subjected me to a ration of Special High Intensity Training for that bit of ignorance.

Now other things are contractions like the very British "pram" which leaves a whole lot of letters out of perambulator, the English baby carriage. We had one for our youngest (now nearing 45) who was born there. Spent a small fortune on it. Other contractions: Mr. for mister, Mrs. for mistress (never knew that, found in my Funk and Wagnalls) once a "Miss" weds.

Where am I going with this? Well, we use a lot of terms in our speech which are not acronyms or contractions but merely initials, take TGIF, instantly recognizable among the 9-5 workers. How about motor vehicles: SRS, supplemental restraint system (c'mon, air bag); EGR, exhaust gas recirculation; AC, air conditioning; MPH, miles per hour; MPG, miles per gallon; LBC, beloved imported British motorized conveyance. OK, that rolls off the tongue better than BIBMC, doesn't it?

Now is the time of year when the northern genus of our species are taking their LBCs out of winter storage (I'm told that mud season is nearly over in New Hampshire) and enjoying their foreshortened driving season to the fullest. We, on the other hand, are using ours a bit less since it is simply WTFH (a bit too warm) to sit in traffic with the hood lowered. See, I found a way to fit that in, HAH! June's driving event is going to be the Cocoa Village Concours, going as a group. I don't know who the POC (point of contact, see, another one) will be as I

**Chairman Emeritus**

Jerry Keuper  
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

**June Birthdays:**

09 John Ferrentino,  
09 Pat Briel  
15 Dawn Kiefer  
15 Richard Garwood  
18 Pat Grassick  
19 Alexander Kittel  
22 Patrick Fox  
27 Christopher Silvestri

**June Anniversaries:**

02 Mike & Sally Razor  
03 Brian & Kay O'Keefe  
06 Ed & Pam Price  
16 Toby & Candance Anderson  
12 Chris & Jill Prewitt  
26 Richard & JoAnn Jensen

**Upcoming Club Events:**

June 14<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Dinner at Tuscany Grill  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – Cocoa Village Concours  
July 12<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Dinner at New England Eatery and Pub  
July 16<sup>th</sup> – Breakfast at Sarno's Restaurant & Pizzeria

**Contact Information:**

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

will be experiencing the twisty back roads in the mountains of NH, in a two-ton "mini" van (now called minivan, as the "mini" doesn't make sense anymore but won't leave the vernacular). OOOOH, there's another word to look up in your F&W. The soiree is at Tuscany Grill in Viera, which I will also miss, darn it. Try to enjoy these a little bit extra for Ginny and me.

Until next month,  
Safety Fast  
Brian

(321) 254-9605  
[bgspace@hotmail.com](mailto:bgspace@hotmail.com)

**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!

- **June 14, 2022 – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner Tuscany Grill 06:00 PM.** June's monthly dinner location was recommended by David Holmwood and will be at Tuscany Grill at the Avenues, 6630 Colonnade Ave, Melbourne, FL 32940 ([Tuscany Grill, Melbourne, FL. Authentic Italian Cuisine](#)). Please RSVP to Marilyn Lewis at [delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com). A reservation has been made and we need to provide the restaurant with a firm number of diners by Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **June 19, 2022 – Cocoa Village Concours 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.** We plan to participate in the Cocoa Village Concours on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$25 online or \$30 day of the show. To register online, go to [Cocoa Village Concours – Premiere Car Show of the Space Coast](#) The club will meet up to drive in together. *More details to come!*
- **July 11, 2022 – MGCC-FL Quarterly Board Meeting 06:00 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 a board member to present for discussion. The meetings encompass club business, finances, and planning. Minutes are prepared and available by request.
- **July 12, 2022 – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner at New England Eatery and Pub 06:00 PM.** July's monthly dinner was recommended by Linda Knoblock-Raupp and seconded by Mike Fufidio and Mike DeZego. It will be at New England Eatery and Pub located at 5670 S Highway A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951 [New England Eatery & Pub](#) Please RSVP to Marilyn Lewis at [delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com) so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.
- **July 16, 2022 – Breakfast at Sarno Restaurant & Pizzeria 09:00 AM.** The club has been to Sarno Restaurant & Pizzeria for breakfast previously with rave reviews. We're doing it again! For this early morning meet up some of us will drive our cars! [www.sarnorestaurantandpizzeria.com](http://www.sarnorestaurantandpizzeria.com)
- **August 2022** We are still in the planning stages for a possible display of our cars at Hemmingway's. Rob Buck is arranging this event with the

owners.

**OTHER EVENTS:**

- Calendar of local car events and cruise-ins maintained by Mike Euziere. [British Car Driving Group](#)
- **June 18, 2022 - Dunkin Donuts Beachside Car & Truck Show 08:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** *Please see flyer below!*
- **September 15 – 18, 2022 Southeast British Car Festival Dillard, GA** The SOUTHEAST BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL in Dillard, Ga. is now taking registrations for their 30th ANNIVERSARY event. This is not "just" a car show. First, Dillard is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, just south of North Carolina and west of South Carolina, in the northeast pocket of Georgia. There are over a dozen self driving tours you can partake of, including THE TALE OF THE DRAGON. There are tours to winery's, pottery shops, the Foxfire Museum & Heritage Museum, Black Rock Mountain State Park, shopping in Franklin or Highlands, NC. Thursday night we drive down to Clayton to the Tiger Drive-in for a movie, usually an automobile themed one, Friday night is a LOW COUNTRY BOIL dinner. Saturday morning is the car show of all British makes and models, usually more than 200. The afternoon is yours, and the Buffet and Awards Banquet is that evening. Sunday is heading south. Pat & I have attended this event for many years, as well as many members of our club, such as the Gregory's, Spadaro's, Kingston's, Saul Klein, Len Coppold, and others. The St. Pete, Orlando, and Palm Beach/Miami clubs are also in attendance. The weather at that time is usually outstanding. Registration is now open. Go to [peachtreemg.com](http://peachtreemg.com), click on Dillard 2022, and you will have access to all the info you need to sign up. The phone number of the Dillard House is 800-541-0671, for room reservations (they go fast) and is the location and base for all activities. The website gives you other places to stay if Dillard House is full. Hope to see you there. Norm Ridgely

**CLUB PHOTOS:**

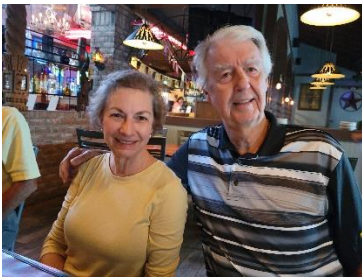
[www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Club\\_Photo\\_Album.htm](http://www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Club_Photo_Album.htm)

**Monthly Dinner at El Chico Mexican Restaurant May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**The club met for dinner  
at El Chico's.  
Attendance was light,  
but a good time was  
had!**

***Attending:***

***Roger & Edie Lowery  
Brian & Ginny Mitchell  
Linda Knoblock-Raupp  
Norm & Donna Powers  
Dale & Marilyn Lewis***



***Welcome new members  
Edie and Roger!***



***Donna & Norman***



***Brian & Ginny***

## Deseret Ranch Tour May 21<sup>st</sup>

Thank you, Linda for providing the photos! Helen provided the following:

A few of us turned out for the Deseret Ranch tour. I think this tour was better than any of the others we have had.

It was a husband and wife who had only arrived at the ranch on April 1st. But she was very informed and explained a lot. Plus, they have added a “drone video” inside the office house to view before we even started the tour.



*Linda and friend, Lisa Moore*



*Linda, Judy, Helen*



*Linda*



*Tour Guides*



*Lee and Beth Harris*



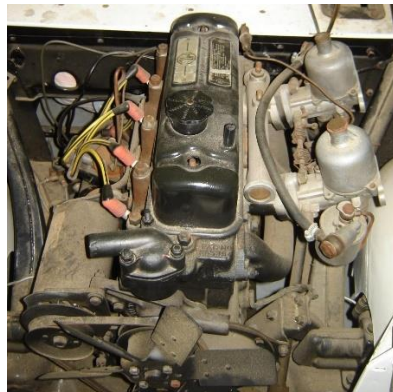
## Club Member Contributions of Articles, Personal Interest Stories and Other Stuff

**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) and I will include it in the newsletter! Personal stories are welcome too! Tell us about your car(s)!**

### *Pictures and writeups from our club members*

Roman Otega-Cowan sent in a brief writeup and photos of his 1960 1600 MGA project and some photos of his 1953 2.5 Riley RMF restoration.

“Almost” finishing a ground up restoration at my shop – 1960, 1600 MGA I acquired on a referral from the Club. Actually, the only item to complete is the interior panels installation.



During Sep/October 2019 Joyce Susan Weber of Salt Springs, FL contacted the club asking for help to sell her inherited 1960 MGA. I followed up the lead and purchased it in November 2019.

Tinkered with it for a while because I was restoring a 1953 2.5 Riley RMF (photos appear below the restoration of the MGA). Then I seriously undressed the MGA, down to the chassis; it is now a few hours to hit the road again. Lots of work but the car, it being a California car, was a very good candidate for this type of restoration.



## 1953 2.5 Riley RMF Restoration



### *Shared Discoveries!*

#### *Ed & Pam Price*

Pam and I have discovered that we cannot endure extended periods of direct summer sun rays now that we are now geezer MGr's. I have found a MG guy in Tallahassee who makes "Bimini "tops for MG's. I ordered one (pictures) and tried it out today. It serves as a sunshade and seems to cut down the "broiler effect" while providing more air flow than a full top up ride.

The tops can be ordered from: [Edkirkland@centurylink.net](mailto:Edkirkland@centurylink.net). I don't do PayPal, so I sent a check and got my top in 4 days via USPS. I thought maybe some of the members might be interested.



## *Articles!*

Norman Ridgely forwarded this article for the newsletter. It appeared in Hagerty.

### What you need to know about E15 fuel

[Kyle Smith](#)

14 April 2022

Ethanol fuels are not new, but recent legislation targeting high-fuel prices has brought the biofuel back to the forefront of the conversation. What is this change and how will you be affected? It's pretty simple: Tuesday's announcement is merely an extension of a practice already in place seasonally.

The announcement made by President Biden earlier this week will temporarily allow the sale of E15-blend gasoline through the summer months, a time period in which it is typically banned. This cuts the amount of fossil fuels in each tank by raising the ethanol content of each gallon sold from the typical 10 percent to 15. Ideally, wider availability of a more ethanol-rich fuel will insulate consumers (and their wallets) from high oil prices and supply-chain issues.

Can your car safely sip this new cocktail? A 5 percent increase in ethanol content is not anything over which most drivers should worry, as the vast majority of vehicles produced after 2001 are E15-tolerant. E15's compatibility with most 21st-century engines traces back to its first implementations in 2012 across a handful of midwestern states. The Environmental Protection Agency has previously been leery of approving E15 fuels for summer use due to the evaporation during warmer temperatures, which can lead to smog; hence why, in 2022, the wider availability of E15 expires this fall.

For classic car owners, E15 fuels are best avoided due to increased likelihood of corrosion from the ethanol content and probable system incompatibilities. For instance, traditional, rubber fuel lines are



known to degrade faster with ethanol-blended fuels, which also result in increased deposits if fuel evaporates inside components like fuel pumps and carburetors.

Another issue, which applies to any vehicle running on E15, is the relative energy density of ethanol blends. Ethanol releases less energy when burned compared to gasoline. The 5 percent increase in ethanol content will cause fuel economy to dip, but the change would be about the same as a small change in driving style or variance in weather conditions (such as a light headwind). [Studies have proven this](#) decrease to be in the single digits: 3 to 4 percent fewer mpg when running on E10 rather than 100 percent gas, and 4 to 5 percent when using E15.

In short, this is a change that will have minimal impact on most drivers and their budgets. Classic cars and trucks should still avoid ethanol-blended fuels if possible. (There's little chance of E15 sneaking its way into your tank unannounced: Pumps must be labeled with what type of fuel the consumer is purchasing, and thus you will know whether you are putting E10 or E15 in your tank.) Use a site like [Pure-gas.org](#) to find whether there are stations near you with the option of ethanol-free fuels. Lower-ethanol, higher-gasoline fuel may be worth the extra coin for your classic engines, but don't fret over using E15 in modern vehicles that are used on a regular basis.

**Norman also sent another 'fuel' related scenario and adds a personal spin.**

### Electric Farm Equipment

A farmer farms over 10,000 acres of corn in the mid-west. The property is spread out over 3 counties. His operation is a "partnership farm" with John Deere. They use the larger farm operations as demonstration projects for promotion and development of new equipment. He recently received a phone call from his John Deere representative, and they want the farm to go to electric tractors and combines in 2023. He currently has 5 diesel combines that cost \$900,000 each that are traded in every 3 years. Also, over 10 really BIG tractors. JD wants him to go all electric soon.

He said: "Ok, I have some questions. How do I charge these combines when they are 3 counties away from the shop in the middle of a cornfield, in the middle of nowhere?" "How do I run them 24 hours a day for 10 or 12 days straight when the harvest is ready, and the weather is coming in?" "How do I get a 50,000+ lb. combine that takes up the width of an entire road back to the shop 20 miles away when the battery goes dead?"

There was dead silence on the other end of the phone.

When the corn is ready to harvest, it has to have the proper sugar and moisture content. If it is too wet, it has to be put in giant dryers that burn natural or propane gas, and lots of it. Harvest time is critical because if it degrades in sugar content or quality, it can drop the value of his crop by half a million dollars or more. It is analyzed at time of sale. It is standard procedure to run these machines 10 to 12 days straight, 24 hours a day at peak harvest time. When they need fuel, a tanker truck delivers it, and the machines keep going. John Deere's only answer is "we're working on it." They are being pushed by the left in the government to force these electric machines on the American farmer. These people are out of control. They are messing with the production of food crops that feed people and livestock... all in the name of their "green dream."

Look for the cost of your box of cornflakes to triple in the next 24 months"

\*\*\*\*\*

Same subject but applied to Florida. (Norman Ridgely)

We have a Cat 5 HURRICANE bearing down on Florida and the south end of the state is under an evacuation order. 65% or more of the cars are electric. Thousands hit the roads north, the winds pick up and the power lines fall. The evacuees start running out of juice in the EVs on the Interstates and the Turnpike. Emergency vehicles cannot get through due to packed roads and cars parked which have run out of juice. And the locals have no long extension cords, and no power. My 55-year-old GT, with a 12-gallon tank, is good for 300 miles, so if I hit the road early, I could beat the crowd, refuel as I get to empty (remember, I left early) and get to Georgia or Alabama. Though being a lifetime Florida resident, I have never evacuated. My first storm of remembrance is the 1935 hurricane.

And, for a little levity:





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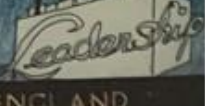
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321 725-3648**

**Say "Hello" to Liz.  
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## 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.**

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EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

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**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)**

\*\*\*\*\*

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