



FLORIDA OCTAGON

#242 April 2023

Safety Fast!

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



As many of you may know, I spent my formative years (ages 22 to 42) in the United States Air Force. Among the lessons learned were that actions have consequences (smoking causes heart disease, volleyball causes knee injuries and drinking, occasionally, causes damage to expensive uniforms). While my time was spent in a support role, I did interact from time to time with the personnel for whom the force exists, aviators. One such individual said that there were three things of no use to a pilot: the air above him, the runway behind him and the fuel left in the gas truck. Another said that at one point in his life he was out of airspeed, altitude and ideas simultaneously.

I'm kinda there right now. Hmmmmm, let's see.

For those of you who attended the Club dining event and Celebration of cars (both covered elsewhere) you would have noticed my absence. These are two of my favorite events. Where was I? Well, Ginny and I took the twids to our nation's capital to see the sights in 40-degree weather, with 35 mph winds. It was actually cold enough that most of the animals at the National Zoo were snug in their lairs, out of view, while we wandered about wishing we had brought warmer clothing. Who's the dumb animal here? Several folks asked where we were from and when we said "Florida", their response was "Are you nuts?" In fact, enough of them posed the question that I decided to add "I'm working on my insanity defense". I mean, who would pass on great food and a terrific car show to freeze their bunz off in the District of Columbia, spending thousands of dollars on lodging, hundreds on food (lunch at the Smithsonian was \$102.00) and consuming multiple nitroglycerine pills (the place ain't FLAT!). The amount I just spent to get my last two unprotected openings on the Mitchell homestead protected against the hurricane winds that will now never come, further adds to the evidence that I'm a bit bent in the judgement area. So, I guess I'm pretty much free to get a walk on any minor crime I may commit in the near future.

I suspect, however, that many of my readers here also suffer from some degree of mental dysfunction in that you somehow find pleasure from driving or riding in undersized, electrically challenged, leaky conveyances, universally disrespected by larger and newer denizens of our highways and byways. Why is that? Well, if you have to ask, you're in the wrong club! Wind in your face, rain in your lap, hood up or down, and the warm driver's right leg and passenger's left leg, are an experience you just can't get in our everyday, modern chariots. There's also the

Chairman Emeritus

Jerry Keuper
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

April Birthdays:

04 Pam Price
04 Robert Beiler
04 Frank Kingston
10 Candace Anderson
10 Lucy DeMario
17 Louise Houk
20 Ronny Colandrea
21 Kourdt Howell
21 Theresa Cole
25 Nancy Garwood
27 Joan Ortega-Cowan
27 Bob Moore

April Anniversaries:

02 John & Gail Powling
09 Dave & Mary Beth Alexander
14 Richard & Judy Fiskes
23 Brian & Ginny Mitchell

Upcoming Club Events:

April 1
38th All British Car Show

April 3
MBCC-FL Board Meeting

April 12
MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner

April 15
Wheels in Motion Car Show

Contact Information:

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

investment. With a few exceptions, our rides are relatively inexpensive to acquire and minimally expensive to maintain in working order. You can probably buy a really nice MGB for less than the cost of a tune-up on a Ferrari, with money left over. I think that at least one member can attest to that!

So I'll stay nuts for a while, apparently in good company. My next event to attend is the all British show in Sanford, on April Fool's Day, of course. I hope to see some of you there.

Until then.
Safety Fast
Brian
(321) 254-9605
bgspain@hotmail.com

NOTICES

Linda Knoblock-Raup has created a Facebook page for those interested.
[MG Car Club -Florida, All British | Facebook](#)

The MG Car Club Florida website is still undergoing a revamp. Jerome Atchison took over the Web Master support from Saul Klein. He is in the process of creating a new site. The new site will have the ability to allow others to post and edit as needed with applicable permissions.

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 send us your recommendations.

- **April 1, 2023 – 38th Annual All British Car Show ‘April Fools Day Multi Marquee Show’.** The show is put on by the British Car Club of Central FL. Registration and hotel information are available on [Central Florida British Car Club \(britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com\)](http://britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com) This show is being held at Henry’s Depot in Sanford, FL. Club members interested in caravanning to the show, please plan to meet at the Rockledge McDonald’s 1876 S US Hwy 1, Rockledge, FL 32955 at 7:00 AM to allow time to travel to Sanford. If you plan to meet up, please let Brian or Marilyn know so we have an idea of who to expect. Brian, bgspain@hotmail.com, Marilyn, delewis67@aol.com
- **April 3, 2023 – MGCC-FL Quarterly Board Meeting.** The board meeting is held in the Kingston Garage, 1561 Maple Avenue, Melbourne, FL. All club members are welcome to attend. If unable to attend, please 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.
- **April 12, 2023 – Monthly Dinner Grills Riverside 6075 N US Hwy 1, Melbourne, FL 32940, 06:00 PM Grills Riverside Melbourne - Grills Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar** Please RSVP to delewis67@aol.com so I can provide the restaurant a number for the dinner reservation.

- **April 15, 2023 – Wheels in Motion Car Show at Fox Lake Park 10:00 AM – 02:00 PM.** SPCA is not having their October Car Show; however, the Sunrise Rotary is having their second annual car show on April 15th and the SPCA is going to be one of the charitable organizations benefitting from this event! The MGCC-FL has participated in the SPCA Car Show for many years. We plan to continue our support and participate in this show. *See Flyer Below!* For those interested in caravanning to the show, please plan to meet up at McDonald's Rockledge on US 1 by 8:00 AM.
- **May 13, 2023 – Breakfast at Palm Shores Bistro**

OTHER EVENTS:

Calendar of local car events and cruise-ins maintained by Mike Euziere. [British Car Driving Group](#) Mike emails a weekly listing of all local events occurring on the upcoming weekend to all club members. If you're not receiving the email, please let us know.

- **April 8, 2023 – Wheels Across the Pond 12:00 – 4:45.**
wheelsacrossthepond.com | [British Classic Car and Motorcycle Show](#)
- **April 20-23, 2023 – Gathering of the Faithful (GOF) [Home](#) | [GOF-South 2023 \(gofsouth.org\)](#)**

CLUB PHOTOS:

www.mgcarclubflorida.org/mgclubflorida/Club_Photo_Album.htm

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Tour and Lunch at the Port March 11, 2023



Thirty arrived at Sands Park to line up for what was a spectacular tour! Our docents were outstanding, providing historical information and answering questions. The tour included the Lighthouse, the Keeper's Cottage Museum, Hangar C and Launch Complex 26. There were many noted sights to observe as we cruised along our designated route to the Lighthouse.

Attending:
Pam & Ed Price, Doug & Linda Rothwell, Ken & Deanna DeLeeuw, Norman & Pat Ridgely, Brian Mitchell, Evan Mitchell, Paul & Judy Stedman, Luke & Jan Miorelli with friends Charles & Shari Barrett, Kourdt & Anna Howell, Rich & Dawn Kiefer, Jim Baer, Zac Baer, Ric & Nancy Garwood, Ed & Pat Lankenau, Linda Knoblock-Raupp, Pat Gaffney, Dale & Marilyn Lewis

A huge THANK YOU! to Nancy Garwood for organizing lunch at Gators Portside following the tour. The beautiful weather turned a bit chilly for our outside seating, but we toughed it out and had a good time.



Deanna & Ken DeLeeuw



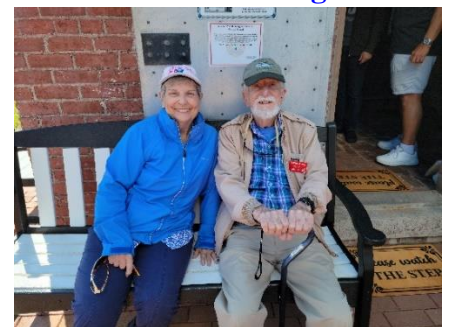
Linda & Pat



Linda & Doug



Zac & Jim



Pat & Norm Ridgely



Ed & Pat Lankenau



Gerry (docent) providing detailed historical information before we split into two groups for the tour



Ric as docent at the lighthouse



Nancy as docent in the lighthouse



Mike & Sallie Razor



Touring Lauch 26 with Frank



Anna & Kourdt



Congratulations Bob Beiler!

Bob showed his 1950 XK150 Jaguar at the Orlando Jaguar Concourse and won 1st Place in its division.



**MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner at New England Eatery & Pub
March 15, 2023**



Louise & Steve, Our only MG!

Attending:

**Judy Stedman
Steve & Louise Houck
Dale & Marilyn Lewis
Jim Baer
Ed & Pat Lankenau
Richard & Judy Fiskes
Nick Kaplan
Rich & Dawn Kiefer
Kourdt & Anna Howell
Bob & Donna Beiler**



**Ed & Pat wearing a
St Patrick's Day Scarf!**



**Celebration of Cars
March 18, 2023**

The Antique Auto Club of Cape Canaveral hosted the 'Celebration of Cars' show at the AMCM. This year's theme was cars from the 1930's. We saw a few British imports throughout the show. Bob Beiler, Paul & Judy Stedman, Dale & Marilyn Lewis, Tim Kingaby and his daughter Abigail - who was visiting from New York, Rich Kiefer, Mike Euziere and Linda Knoblock-Raupp met up outside of the museum and entered together. Gina Carpenter & Terry Collins joined us at the show. Working the show as AACCC members were David & Mary Beth Alexander, Tim Potter, Linda and her sisters Cheryl & Karen - visiting from Michigan. Attending the show were Ric Garwood, Richard Fiskes, Ed Lankenau, Ed & Pam Price. And, Bob Beiler took home the award in the Top 25 category! Congrats!



Mike, Abigail, Tim, Bob



Rich, Judy, Paul



Cheryl, Karen, Linda



Dale, Gina, Terry



Rich, Judy



David & Mary Beth



Richard, Dale



**Ed planned to attend a second
Antique Auto show in Vero**



Tim Potter, Abigail



Dale, Ed Price



**Bob Beiler, Rich Kiefer, Dennis Cage 'My Classic
Car', Mike Euziere, Tim Kingaby**



Mark Pieloch and Dennis Cage



**Bob Beiler, recipient of
'Top 25' Award**

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 especially welcome! Tell us about your car(s)!

Articles, Pictures and Writeups from our club members

Ric's Cars

Submitted by Nancy Garwood

Ric has had several British cars and many Corvettes. His first car was a red 1950 MGTD with a flathead V8. That was driven for about six months until his Dad made him trade it for a 1955 Ford 2 door, which was sold when he went to college with the promise that since he had a scholarship, he could have a car his sophomore year. No pictures of those cars.



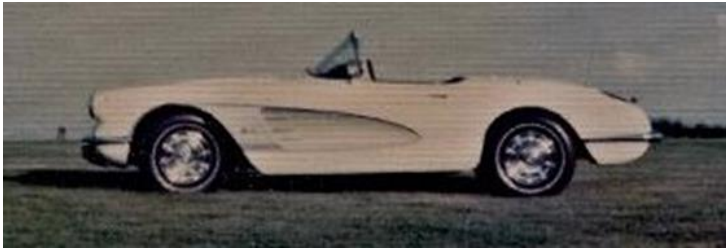
That college car was a red 1962 Corvette, which lasted about one year. His father kept that car for about a month during his sophomore year so he could drive it. Ric had some difficulty getting the car back. When his Dad passed away, the car was sold to help with school expenses and he bought a '56 Corvette for less money. Just before graduation that car was traded in for a practical VW.



The VW did not last too long and was sold to buy a maroon 1965 fastback that he auto crossed while stationed in Key West. That was his favorite car. He had it when I met him in CT but he traded it before I ever saw it for a Chevy Impala Capri because it was having electrical problems. The Chevy was large enough to tow, so Ric got a bug-eye sprite to autocross. In less than a year he bought a 1966 Nassau blue manual hard top convertible that we had when we first got married.



He got tired of shifting in traffic, I was ok with that, so we sold it. A sailor bought it and totaled it shortly after. We bought a '72 GTO. Ric has always liked changing up the cars.



When I was pregnant with our first daughter, we had two corvettes – a 1960 and a 1969 candy apple with black flames as our only cars. We have had several other corvettes, another 1962 yellow with racing clutch that took me both feet to engage, and two 1974 convertibles, two Avanti's and a 1994 RX7, where his email address came from. In addition, we restored a 1969 Sprite and a 1958 Austin Healey 100-6.



When we moved to FL, we had a 2001 BMW. We sold it because there were no BMW clubs. So, we got a 1981 Corvette for him, and a 2005 stick Corvette for me. These we bought so we could join a Vette club.



Ric had always wanted to hot rod a car and he thought a 1952 MGTD replica would be a good candidate. No rust problems and good brakes. Plus, it was like his first car. The 4 cylinder was pulled and replaced with a V6 and 5 speed. That car led us to this awesome MG Club where we met the most wonderful people.



Final note: For a short time, we also had an original 1952 MGTD, but that was sold to a person in Aruba who restored it as a period race car. He is the owner of Madame Janett's restaurant in Aruba.



The following Email and Rev's Institute Press Release were submitted by Edie Lowery:

Our Austin-Healey Houston-based friend Mike Johnson has sent us an email advising that his neighbor and our friend Gary Watson has transferred two very detailed videos he (Gary) created to the Revs Institute. Gary is an MG owner and long-time active participant in the MG world.

Gary researched and produced these videos of the history of the MG automobile along with its place in the larger British Motor Corporation. *Inside the Octagon* and *Inside the Octagon 2* were a labor of love for Gary, who travelled to England on several occasions to film and interview important personalities in the design, production and racing of MGs. The two videos cover the history of the MG from pre-war to WWII and then from WWII to 1980. This history crossed paths with Donald Healey and the competitive development of the rival Austin Healey, hence our keen interest.

Several local Houston Healey club members (including Mike's Bugeye) are represented in Gary's videos.

Gary notes in his press release that the rights to the films have been passed to The Revs Institute in Naples, Florida along with Gary's vast collection of historical research and archival film footage. Revs Institute is well equipped to house and archive Gary's materials for future historical research. In addition, it houses over 100 historically significant automobiles.

I've attached the press release about the videos and transfer of Gary's material to the Revs Institute. It might be of interest to our local MG club members.

For Immediate Release March 21, 2023

Inside the Octagon: MG Documentary Films Archived for Educational Research at Revs Institute®

Inside the Octagon and Inside the Octagon 2, the definitive MG history documentary films, are now included in the prestigious archives of Revs Institute® in Naples, Florida. Retired Houston filmmaker Gary Watson donated his two films to the institute in March 2023 to ensure their long-term preservation and accessibility for automotive-history research.

Watson produced *Inside the Octagon* in 1995 and *Inside the Octagon 2* in 2008. Both films have been highly praised throughout the MG community for bringing the story of the classic British sportscar to life through wide-ranging interviews with key MG personalities. This informative, entertaining oral history

of the company includes many colorful reminiscences, including those of John Thornley, former MG general manager, and Jean Kimber Cook, daughter of MG founder Cecil Kimber.

“Those who sat for filmed interviews entrusted their stories to me and the film,” Watson said. “It is incumbent on me to ensure that those stories are not lost. Revs Institute’s archive and library are a fitting permanent home for these films and related materials.”

Revs Institute is dedicated to the study and celebration of the automobile. It exists to foster a new level of understanding of the automobile, not only as a technological device, but as an agent for social and economic change worthy to be considered among the masterpieces of human creativity. Housed in the museum is a collection of over 100 historical, exceptional automobiles that meet rigorous standards for importance, rarity and technical, aesthetic, or social significance. Revs Institute also has an extensive archive and library of books, periodicals, photos, film, ephemera, brochures, advertisements, primary source materials, and multilingual technical publications. The library is available as a resource for those interested in automotive history. Revs Institute is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, housed in 80,000 square feet, purpose-built facility.

Watson’s donation of Inside the Octagon and Inside the Octagon 2 comprises production materials that trace the story of the MG Car Company from its origins in the 1920s to the end of production in 1980. The donation includes original film elements, original audio recordings, master film prints, videotapes, video files, still photos, research material, scripts, and correspondence between Watson and the participants in the film. Revs Institute will store the materials for the short term in a climate-controlled space and will then incorporate them into its yearly plan for processing by archivists.

“The inclusion of Inside the Octagon in the Revs Institute archives is the culmination of a decades long journey for me,” said Watson. “It fulfills my goal to assure MG enthusiasts that this accurate historical record of an iconic, beloved sportscar is preserved and that these films themselves are now a part of that extraordinary history.”

-30-

Contact:
Gary Watson
gary@gwatson4x5.com

Revs Institute Inc.
2500 Horseshoe Drive
S. Naples, Florida 34104
<https://revsinstitute.org>

Norman Ridgely submitted the following:

Norman Ridgely enjoyed a recent article in the Classic MG Club-Orlando newsletter and requested I reprint this very interesting and humorist story. It was originally printed in The Peachtree Registry newsletter. He referenced it as the ‘funniest true tale I have heard of in a long time’. He also shared the following: When I bought my GT from Hank Rippert, he had just finished a total rebuild, body and all mechanicals. But when I went through the car prior to putting my gear in it, I discovered a small Ziplock of change that the prior owner, a good friend of Hank's who had passed away, had kept in the car. It is still there. It is a reminder of the second keeper of the car for many years, who kept it original and drove it often, in good weather, to work and club events. He had started a restoration when he died. It was repainted by then, but five shades of gray. Ask me when we meet again and I will explain it.

STILL ON THE ROAD

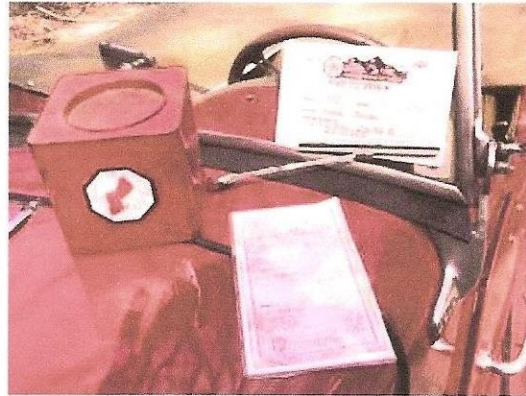
Vincent Mendes

My mentor all through school was a neat "old" guy who was an actual "Rocket Scientist" before it was fashionable. He was Chief Chemist the Naval Air Rocket Testing Station at Lake Denmark NJ. His mid-life crisis in 1955 caused him to buy a new MG TF 1500 which he drove around for the next 30 years. When he passed away, he left me the car in his will!

Doc's next of kin was his live-in girlfriend of 25 years, a useless creature and stubbornly absolutely helpless. She couldn't drive because she was "Only a woman". She couldn't change a fuse because she was "Only a woman". She couldn't even change a lightbulb because she was "Only a woman"! Yet she kept my friend Doc happy for 25 years.

She was a total basket case when he died. I had to handle all the arrangements. Now Doc was very blasé about death. Once he turned 50 and people started contacting him about "mausoleum space" and "perpetual care". He would say, "If you leave a body alone long enough the board of health will do something about it". He had arranged to get a "Smoke Job in a cardboard box" and have the ashes put in a tin can all for \$160.00. I was at the mortuary picking up the death certificate to probate the Will when UPS showed up with the ashes. The director asked what I wanted to do with them, so I took them with me. This was really a sad time for me because I realized that he was truly gone. When I got back to the girlfriend's house I said "Carla, about the ashes". She responded "Not another word! I do not want to hear it! I can't stand it!" so I put the ashes, still in their tin can, in the MG. They are still there, although I've painted the can Tartan Red to match the car and applied a New England MGT registry sticker to it.

Since the late 1980's I have taken the MG to many rallies and car shows with the local British Car Clubs. People are bragging that they have the original manual or the original tool kit. Well, I have the original own-



Doc on the bonnet of his MG



Doc and Vincent

er! I still have my dear friend's remains in the boot of his old MG. People ask why I don't put him in a mausoleum or sprinkle him in the ocean. I could do that, but this is classier. I feel he is still doing what he loved to do all his life, riding around in his MG!

Meanwhile, if we are ever riding around on a dark night and someone taps you on the shoulder, don't turn around!

Peachtree Registry 2022

Reprinted from The Peachtree Registry newsletter, Madell Dobrushin, Editor



April 2023

Classic MG Club of Orlando

8

FLYERS:



**2023
April Fools Day
All British Multi Marque Car Show**



You're receiving this email because your club is one of our valued partner organizations and we'd like to invite you to attend the British Car Club of Central Florida's 2022 All British Multi-Marque Car Show.

It's Show Time Again!

This year's event is being held on April 1st (April Fools Day) at Henry's Depot in Sanford

Included as an attachment is the show registration form.

Your club members can either fill it out and mail it in with payment

Or

Go to our website (britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com); click on show information; scroll down to the Show Registration link on the bottom of the page;

Click on the SUBMIT button and send it electronically along with payment

Also included as an attachment is the hotel information. Whether you're attending from outside the region or just want to make a weekend of it, we've secured a great hotel and a great rate and it's only a short ride away from the show field. Rooms are filling up fast. There's plenty of parking for your car and/or trailer.

Please go to the website to register: britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com

WHEELS IN MOTION

CAR SHOW

SAVE THE DATE

CARSHOW IN FOX LAKE PARK
4400 FOX LAKE RD, TITUSVILLE

**APRIL 15, 2023,
10 AM TO 2 PM**

SUNRISE ROTARY CLUB OF TITUSVILLE

CONTACT: PATTY.H.HOBBS@GMAIL.COM / 3212235757

Rotary

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)

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 for publication in the following month's newsletter.

For Sale:

FREE

From Ric Garwood:

I have a 17-gallon Husky air compressor with hose and filter that I would like to give to anyone in the MG club. It works, but I never use and need the space.

Contact Ric Garwood: ricrx7@aol.com

Cell number 240-477-0021

1953 MG TD -- \$22,000

This car originally came from Florida and the previous owner was a member of the MGCC- Florida. The car has been restored off the frame. Restoration was a 10. Has won 2 trophies at car shows. The car does run. Has a clear title on it. There is only 300 miles on it since being restored.

Contact Jad Farhat:

Cell number 859-983-4528

wildcatconstructionky@gmail.com



December 2022

1993 Lotus Esprit Turbo - \$35,000

Calypso red, gold leather interior. New battery. Mechanics records available. Mileage 39K.

[certificate of provenance lotus.pdf](#)

[Lotus factory details.pdf](#)

Contact Ann Dalter (703) 740-6718 (Leave message call will be returned) or email

dalterann@gmail.com



MGB Parts

**A running rebuildable MGB motor from a 1974 roadster and flywheel
\$250 for the Motor, Motor plate & flywheel. Motor #18GB-U-H-27788**



**1972 through 1974 Dashtop cover brand new in original packaging for Moss Motors P/N 453-895
\$75 Contact: Mike Doherty, 321-222-8580**

**Liquidating MG & Triumph parts & projects
EVERYTHING MUST GO!**

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

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)

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 your 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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North American MGB Register

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

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- **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



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.