



FLORIDA OCTAGON

#250 December 2023

Safety Fast!

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Well, November is in the books and it was busy all around. After a long and arduous campaign, I am your President for another two years. (It was more like shadow boxing, in reality, complete with imaginary opponent.) The coronation banquet was not as well attended as we had hoped but Pat Ridgely and Betty Gregory did a fantastic job of decorating to help celebrate my victory and, coincidentally, the 100th anniversary of the founding of MG. Mr. Kimber would be proud. The northern lot made our bi-ennial stop at our founder's memorial on the way. I have to assume that someone took a lot of photos which are elsewhere in this missive.

The very next week saw some of us making the trek to the south-left coast of the state to visit the Revs Institute which was well worth the long drive, for some of us in torrential rain accompanied by stupid operators, driving 30MPH in the fast lane with their hazard flashers on. This happened on both ends of the journey in Indian River County although the return trip also had the benefit of darkness to contend with. Mr. Lucas, eat your heart out! Our docent reminded us that this is not a museum but rather a collection of drivable vehicles, nearly all with a racing heritage. There were some British vehicles in the collection with interesting provenance. The only British vehicle I saw outside of the complex was the Rolls Royce SUV (!) that nearly ran me over in the parking lot of the place where most of us filled our bellies prior to the tour.

Our docent was certainly connected to us in that he worked for Moss Motors for 30 years or so and was the author of nearly all of their early catalogs, created before the advent of computers. We didn't test him, but I'm sure that he could probably rattle off some popular MG part numbers! Thoroughly knowledgeable of the collection and a pleasure to be with. I hope that the group photo their staff took got forwarded.

Ginny and I and the twids ran away to South Carolina to hide from Thanksgiving and Black Friday. Nice cooler weather (not as cool as we have as I'm writing this) and I haven't gotten around to adding up the eatery charge slips but I'll just say the 1400 miles of driving and the amount of food consumed was all in the finest tradition of the drive-and-dine club that we all belong to. Nuf sed here. I hope to see a bunch of you this coming Saturday for our holiday get-together, graciously hosted by our Vice President and spouse, Bob and Donna Beiler.

Chairman Emeritus

Jerry Keuper
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please
visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

December Birthdays:

02 Guy Hoenig
08 Ed Lankenau
09 Tim Potter
10 Judy Stedman
12 Chris Prewitt
12 Jill Prewitt
13 Roderick Cram
16 Rob Buck
20 Brad Kroetch
21 Gail Lenhard

December Anniversaries:

01 John & Aldys Childs
18 Mark & Melissa
Harpold
23 Tom & Carol
Lempicke
31 Terry Collins & Gina
Carpenter

Contact Information:

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

Until the new year, Safety Fast and enjoy!

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

NOTICES:

Renew your membership by paying your club dues!
MG Car Club dues!

Please submit your payment for 2024 Club dues by January 31, 2024, to avoid being deleted from our roster. (Reference the club by-laws Article 111, Section V & VII)

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

OR Save a Stamp! Pay your dues to the club Treasurer, Helen Kingston, at our next event on December 2nd!

2nd Annual All European Car Show at the American Muscle Car Museum
Registration is open! Send in your registration! Please find the registration information on page 12 of this newsletter.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:

Have you been to some place interesting, taken a scenic drive, dined at a restaurant you enjoyed? Event Possibilities! Tell us about them!

- **December 2, 2023 – MGCC-FL Holiday/Christmas Party.** Bob and Donna Beiler are graciously hosting this year's party in their home. (5344 Balsam Ave, West Melbourne, FL 32935) Plan to arrive at 03:00 PM. Donations for Nana's House will be collected for those who would like to donate. Bring a covered dish to share. Please RSVP to Donna 321-270-3231, donnabeiler@yahoo.com. *For additional details please see the flyer below!*
- **December 16, 2023 – Dunkin Donuts Annual Toy Drive Car & Truck Show 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.** All toys donated to local Brevard Charity. *Flyer below!*
- **January 8, 2024 – MGCC-FL Quarterly Board Meeting 6:00 PM.** 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.
- **January 17, 2024 – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner 6:00 PM.** David Lister recommended Ocean 302 for a monthly dinner. Located 302 Ocean Ave,

Melbourne Beach, FL 32951. Please RSVP to Marilyn Lewis (delewis67@aol.com) [Ocean 302 Melbourne Beach](#)

- **January 2024** – Event in planning stages. Lunch will follow!
- **February 4, 2024** – 2nd Annual All European Car Show at the American Muscle Car Museum. 9:00 AM – 02:00 PM. The MG Car Club - Florida is sponsoring this show and committees are being organized! One free museum entry per car. *Flyer with registration is included below.* Register by January 15th for a reduced rate. First 125 registrants receive a T-shirt. Contact Bob Parks 321-427-8846 for additional information. Volunteers needed for the show: Contact Linda Knoblock-Raupp oldcarsnewcars@bellsouth.net and let her know where you can help. A listing of volunteer categories is included after the flyer found below.
- **February 10, 2024** – McKee Garden 15th Annual Car Show “Rods & Customs”. We will attend this event as a club with lunch following the show. Details being worked.
- **February 2024** – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner.

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, and would like to, please let us know.

- **March 30, 2024** – Wheels Across the Pond 16th Annual British, European Car & Bike Show. wheelsacrossthepond.com | [British Classic Car and Motorcycle Show](#)
- **April 6, 2024** – Central Florida’s Premier Multi-Marque British Car Show. Registration is now Open! [Central Florida British Car Club \(britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com\)](http://britishcarclubofcentralflorida.com)

CLUB PHOTOS:

**November 11, 2023
MGCC-FL Annual Business Luncheon in Fellsmere, FL, Marsh Landing**

The day began with a drive to Fountainhead Memorial Gardens where we visited the Keuper Memorial Site to pay our respects. From there we met up at Marsh Landing with all those attending celebrating 100 years of MG!

A special thank you to Pat Ridgely and Betty Gregory for the restaurant decorations!







Attending:
Norman & Pat Ridgely
Ken & Betty Gregory
Brian & Ginny Mitchell
Ric & Nancy Garwood
Frank & Helen Kingston
Dan Kunz
Paul & Judy Stedman
Bob & Donna Beiler
David Holmwood & Sallie Richardson
Ed & Pam Price
Bob & Sue Parks

November 16, 2023
MGCC-FL Trip to Tour Rev's Institute Naples, FL

A Day at Revs Museum
Submitted by Donna Beiler

What a wonderful day we had at Revs Museum. Starting out, most of us were able to meet at Spanky's Speakeasy for a delicious fun lunch. The restaurant had great food, great service and a fun atmosphere including vintage gas pumps and an old delivery truck which held the salad bar.

At the Revs Museum: I don't have the full list of who attended but I believe fun was had by all. The docents split us into two groups and were very thorough in their explanations of the exceptional car collection. And what a car collection it was, pristine examples of many manufacturers including the finest models of Cunningham's, Simplex, Vauxhall, DuPont, Bentley, Mercedes, MG's, Ferrari. What was so interesting were the stories behind each car. If you want, you can choose to virtually visit some of these cars at the Revs Institute web site (Revs Institute - Automotive Research & Historical Study). This museum is definitely worth a second visit. It seemed so many cars might have gotten missed just because of the quality and interesting features and stories of each car. Thank you to Norman Ridgely for putting this fun day together. We all enjoyed ourselves to the fullest.



Attending:
Norman & Pat Ridgely
Frank & Helen Kingston
Bob & Donna Beiler
Dan Kunz + eight friends
Dave Lister & Karen
Brian Mitchell
Norm Powers
Don Robinson & Lenora
Grimm
Doug & Linda Rothwell
Paul & Judy Stedman



**Thank you, Paul Stedman
and Donna Beiler, for the
photos!**



I certainly hope everyone enjoyed themselves, learned something, and benefited from attending. This was not the Revs Pat & I visited in June of 1993, but a completely different enterprise, and much improved. We stayed overnight in Estero with the Beilers and Dave Lister and guest, and it turned out she and Pat had known each other for a number of years. We ate at Rib City that night and had a great meal and good conversation. Pat and I were home by 2:00 after a nice lunch in Okeechobee. -Norman Ridgely



Group Photo courtesy of Revs Institute (Anna)

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

Featured Club Members

Ed Lankenau's last Air Force trip..05/02/93..2 weeks in South America - Mucho de Nada!



Flew from Stewart AFB to Mexico City via Houston, Panama, Lima Peru, crossed the Andes (looking UP at mountain goats) to Rio de Janeiro, to Brasilia with el Presidente, Puerto Rico, fuel stop on the way to Andrews AFB and back to Stewart AFB.....and then, to TWA!!



Brian Mitchell submitted the following writeup:

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
(continued from the November Florida Octagon)**

A friend of mine who was raised in British Guyana critiqued my last month's article and offered up some additional confusion, errrr, information.

Test matches, which are held between different countries, last up to five days before all those in are out and all those out come in and are out.

An "over" is six balls being bowled by the bowler, who throws the ball toward the wicket with a straight overhand motion attempting to hit the wicket bails or stumps which the batsman is defending. The only player to wear gloves is the wicket keeper whose hand coverings resemble welder's gloves; the rest of the players are barehanded.

A run is scored each time the batsman hits the ball far enough to allow him to run to the other wicket, exchanging places with the teammate at the other end.

Outs are made when the bowler hits the wicket, a fielder catches the ball on the fly, the ball is fielded and returned to the wicket keeper who whacks the wicket before the running batsman can return to his box. Six runs (a homer in our parlance) are scored if the ball is hit in the air over the boundary (the aforementioned rope). If it rolls to the rope and touches it, four runs are made.

Ready for the fielder names? Deep fine leg, cover, gully, slips, leg slip, silly mid on, point, cover point and of course, the bowler and wicket keeper

Everyone wears white, long or short sleeved collared shirts and long pants as I recall and in cooler weather, a heavy knit sweater.

All cricket matches are stopped at four p.m. for tea, served in the clubhouse by the ladies, usually wives or girlfriends.

As I write this, SIRI informs me that there are 35 test matches scheduled worldwide between now and the second of January next year.

I believe that I have now made my case that our understanding of maintenance and repair instructions written in the mother tongue is inhibited by our lack of comprehension of things such as their favourite team sport. God save the King and God save us all from the vagaries of our beloved Little British Cars. 'nuf sed!

My thanks to Mr. Ray Nunes (Cricket Boy) for the clarifications.

Flyers:

MG Club Christmas Party

Saturday December 2, 2023

Arrival 3:00PM

Bob & Donna Beiler's

5344 Balsam Ave West Melbourne FL

RSVP to Donna 321-720-3231, donnabeiler@yahoo.com

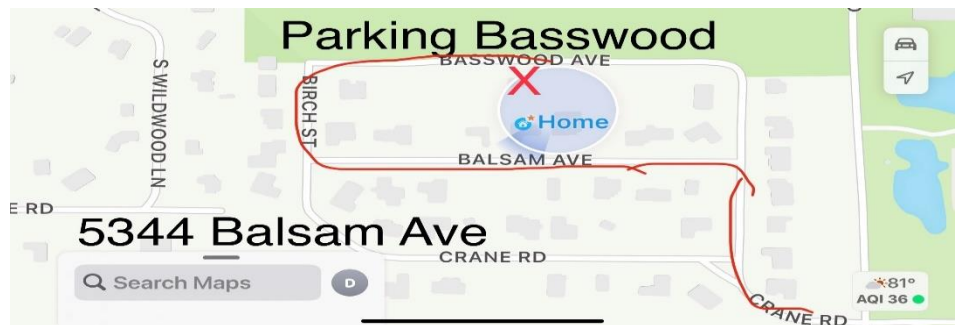
Please Bring a covered dish to share with all (if it is a favorite Recipe bring a recipe card to share) ALSO BYOB

We will have our Fun Chinese "Gift exchange" if you would like to participate just bring a gift Under \$25

Also (Our Past Tradition) If you would like to bring an unopen toy for a child we will donate to Nana's House from The MG Car Club

Parking Can be in front of our home on 5344 Balsam Ave (please do not pull up onto anyone's grass) OR you can drive past our house make a right on Birch St then another right onto the dirt road " BASSWOOD" Our Garage is a Terracotta color park in that driveway or anywhere along that dirt road . We have a paver pathway to our house from there. (SEE MAP) Please reserve two parking places in the driveway for Norman Ridgely and Ed Lankenau.

Please call or text Donna with any questions 321-720-3231



2ND ANNUAL ALL EUROPEAN CAR SHOW

Held at:

AMERICAN MUSCLE CAR MUSEUM

3500 SARNO ROAD, MELBOURNE FL. 32934

Hosted By:



Sunday
FEB. 04, 2024
9:00 am - 2:00 pm



- One FREE Museum entry per car • FREE T-shirt for the first 125 registrants
- The outdoor show and front showroom are free to the public. The back showroom will be open from 10:00AM to 1:00PM with a \$25.00 donation to St. Jude. Under 18 free with adult.

\$25

Register BY
Jan 15, 2024

Registration Information

Registration limited to 200 cars
Award Presentation - 1:30pm

Fire Extinguisher REQUIRED

Checks payable to:
MG CAR CLUB
P.O. BOX 410471
Melbourne, FL 32941

\$35

Late
Registrants
Jan 16, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Year, Make, Model: _____

Preferred T-shirt Size: Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

(Size not guaranteed)

• Contact Information: Bob Parks- (321)427-8846 • Europeanbritishcarshow@gmail.com

Holiday Inn, Melbourne-Viera Convention Center

<http://www.ihg.com/>

booking code: **787046248** in special rate preference section title "corporate ID"

Request for Show Volunteers, Letter from Linda Knoblock-Raupp:

**2nd Annual British and European Car Show
American Muscle Car Museum
Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Dear Club Members,

We are reaching out to you to request volunteers for our Second British/European show. Your participation is needed to make this show a success. All proceeds will go to St. Jude.

Your time, talents, ideas, energy are what we are looking for. Committees are being formed and we'd like to know where you would like to contribute. Please contact Linda Knoblock-Raupp oldcarsnewcars@bellsouth.net to let her know which of the following committees you are interested in.

**We thank-you,
MG Car Club, Car Show Chairman**

- **Would you like to help in:**
- **Advertising (Radio, newspaper, Flyers will be distributed)**
- **Awards (To AMCM, Boy scouts, Etc. Thank you)**
- **Dealerships (Getting them to come to show with new cars, Sponsors, Goody Bags)**
- **Judging**
- **MG Car tent (advertising club, History, etc.)**
- **Parking**
- **Raffle's, 50/50, silent auction**
- **Registration**
- **Sponsors (we all should come up with at least 1 sponsor)**
- **T-Shirt connections**
- **Trophies**
- **Vendors**

Annual Christmas Toy Drive Car & Truck Show

**Dunkin Donuts Beachside
1220 N. A1A, Indialantic, FL
Saturday, December 16, 2023
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**



All Toys Donated to local
Brevard Charity:
Warriors for Brevard



**Free Show! Bring what ya got.
If it Rolls, Roll it on in!
Rat Rods. Under Construction,
All Years, Makes & Models are Welcome,
No Judging, No Trophies, Just Good Fun!!**



**Questions? Call
"Santa's Helper"
Bill Antonetz at
321 725-3648**

**Find us on Facebook
Dunkin Donut Car
Show Indialantic,
Florida**



Pet Friendly!

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:

1973 Triumph TR6 \$7,000

1973 Triumph TR6, 95% complete restoration, all manuals, parts, hardware ad paint included. Exterior needs preparation and paint. No rust. Asking \$7,000 OBO Health issues have kept me from finishing this car. The car runs well. 72,000 miles.

Contact John Conarroe 321-459-3691 (Merritt Island, FL)

Wanted:

Looking for good early (1965) MGB 5 main flywheel with good ring gear teeth (120 count). I have an early 5 main engine I want to mate to an early 10 spline MGA 3 nonsynchro transmission and install it in the 1959 MGA.

Contact Brad Richardson at Britcars-4me@hotmail.com

FREE 67 MGB GT Clutch

From Angel Lopez:



'I finally found one major clutch issue on my MGB GT. Replaced the clutch but the old one is actually new. Over time the flywheel and pressure plate stuck together due to rust. I believe it's still good. Anyone interested please call. Its free!'

Contact Angel Lopez (321) 960-2881

1961 MGA \$38,000

Complete body off restoration on a California rust free original showing only 26,289 miles. Finished in dark red with black interior with red seat piping. Black convertible top and tan canvas tonneau cover. This MGA was restored by a well-known MGA restorer some years ago and has always been covered and garaged. When driving this beautiful MGA you will think you are driving a new 1961 MGA Roadster. When the engine was rebuilt, it was to the 1611 CC Specifications.





Contact Jad Farhat (859) 983-4528, wildcatconstructionky@gmail.com

1976 Triumph Spitfire \$8,000.00

Vehicle in good condition. It could use some TLC, but not much. It runs good.



Contact: John Ferrentino, (321) 223-1137

For sale, like Free!

A manual small brake. 2 nice sizes of sheet aluminum, miscellaneous pieces of steel rods, aluminum, one high intensity shop light and a few used early BMC parts. Must take all.

Contact: Kourdt Howell (321) 427-3072.

Free to Good (ANY) Home:

Every issue of the Sacred Octagon, June 1993 – June 2020

The Bi-monthly Journal of the New England MG T Register

All are in pristine condition, likely never or only gently read. Pick up or local delivery only.

Contact: Brian Mitchell (321) 254-9605 Bgspain@hotmail.com

1952 MG TD \$9,500

Maroon with red interior. 68k miles. Runs well. Asking \$9500.

Call Al Wassel 321-917-2809 for details.

Triumph TR3A "kit" \$6,000 (price reduction)



- Includes one complete 1960 car with title, unmolested, except by rust, never disassembled, everything where it's supposed to be, except spare tire cover (missing).
- Two disassembled TRs, no commission number plates, both frames slightly "tweaked", need floors, sheet metal for one usable as is, other needs help.
- Two engines that ran four years ago, four good transmissions, one rear axle (does not count the stuff in the rusty complete car).
- One beat up TR2 front apron (have the grille, too). Many extra parts, possibly enough to create one street car and one track car out of the lot.

"New" cost of sheet metal alone is in excess of \$15K, if even available (Per Moss and Roadster Factory current price lists).

More photos available on request.

Can possibly reassign storage facility to purchaser. Current rent \$240/month includes electric.

Contact Brian Mitchell (321) 525-1313 bgspain@hotmail.com

1993 Lotus Esprit Turbo - \$25,000

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

[certificate of provenance.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.

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR PARTICIPATING CLUB MEMBERS

Members residing in the USA: Only \$18.00/year Print Edition
Members residing in Canada: Only \$23.00/year Print Edition
Members residing overseas: Only \$30.00/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 \$29.00 for U.S. residents, \$42.00 for Canadian residents, and \$55.00 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 place **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!

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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 15th of the month to receive the next month's issue.

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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



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.