



FLORIDA OCTAGON

#244 June 2023

Safety Fast!

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



I'm sure many of you can remember an old KFC commercial, mocking McDonald's after they introduced chicken McNuggets, where the "other" spokesperson says: "Parts is parts!". Well, in our hobby that isn't always true, is it?

I'm sure that at some point each of us has looked at the freshly delivered replacement do-hickey and wondered why it doesn't look like the piece that it is supposed to be an "exact" replacement for. Well, are you trusting the statement from the seller on e-Bay or Amazon that claims that the item fits all Morgans from the first four-wheeler through the end of production, whenever that will be? Hmmmm. Maybe a little more specificity is in order. There's a 1954 plus-four on Bring-a-Trailer that should have a TR2 engine in it, according to the BMH certificate, but has one from a much later Vanguard, which closely approximates a TR4 mill. Now some under-cap ignition parts may interchange, but it would be nice to do a more detailed look up before ordering most other mechanical parts. One of our more mechanically dexterous members spent months trying to identify brake parts on limited production LBC, only to find out that the fronts came from a different source than the rears. He called it a BITSA: bits of this, bits of that.

How about OEM. The original manufacturers of our beloved chargers have been out of business for decades so anything declared to be OEM might actually be NOS (new old stock) which is peachy for things like rocker arms, cam shafts, and bearing inserts but caution should be exercised in the purchase of anything with rubber in it. Case in point, I have a couple of fuel pump rebuild kits for my collection of used TR3 fuel pumps. I've had them for over ten years, without them being installed. The little check valves are probably still serviceable, but the main diaphragm rubber is the consistency of a Ritz cracker. Brand new, mind you, but unusable. Fortunately, at the time I discovered this, one of my favorite purveyors of things Triumph had brand new AC-type fuel pumps on sale for a very attractive price. I now have such a spare, should I ever need one, which I have repackaged in an air-tight zip lock bag to, hopefully, retard its deterioration and extend its shelf life.

When I started the restoration of the TR3 in earnest in 1984, the frame went to bare metal, was painted with self-healing chassis paint and had all new suspension bushings installed. I'm not even sure if polyurethane bushings were available back then, but I didn't buy them. Now, thirty-seven years and 14,000

Chairman Emeritus

Jerry Keuper
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please
visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

June Birthdays:

09 John Ferrentino
09 Pat Briel
10 Marlena Wassel
14 Mike DeMario
15 Dawn Kiefer
15 Ric Garwood
18 Pat Grassick
22 Patrick Fox

June Anniversaries:

02 Mike & Sally Razor
03 Brian & Kay O'Keefe
06 Ed & Pam Price
11 Bob & Pat Moore
16 Toby & Candance
Anderson
12 Chris & Jill Prewitt
25 Brad & Donna
Kroetch
26 Richard & JoAnn
Jensen

Upcoming Club Events:

*June 10 – Carburetor
Tech Session*

*June 14 – Monthly Dinner
Fresh Scratch Bistro*

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(321) 254-9605

miles later, I may be on the verge of regretting that decision. The key elements here are rubber and almost four decades, not including how long those things had been on a shelf in Pennsylvania before I bought them. Moral: buy the most up to date version of the part you are replacing, assuming you are going to drive the vehicle regularly and not have a concours trailer queen where parts not originally available at the time of its birth will cost points in the judging.

Moral, part II: Buy from a trusted source. The number of specialty purveyors of correct parts for our steeds has been shrinking over the last thirty years or so, with some being purchased by a larger "fish" and some just disappearing. Folks who have the (mis)fortune to own one of the earlier "orphaned" LBCs (think Metropolitan, almost anything Rootes Group, London taxi and Leyland bus) need to find the guy in Texas who specializes in these things. Most of the rest of us can use the biggies, who shall not be named here. Several of our members actually have "Business" accounts with them. There is even an entire company run by a member of the club who provides the same products as one of the big guys and even gives a discount.

Most of the above applies to mechanical and electrical replacement parts. Body parts (sheet metal) can be a total crapshoot. For years folks have complained about the wing, or whatever, that they got having to be modified to fit. Well, Bunky, keep in mind that things of that ilk were originally hand-formed on wooden bucks by blokes called panel beaters and over time, the bucks deformed. At what point management decided to make some new ones is unknown but, suffice it to say, the first wing produced was considerably different from the last one before the buck was retired. This is why a lot of our parts are fastened using "captured" nuts (nut in cage in the catalogue) and elongated slots to allow for final adjustment on assembly by Boris and Nigel, on a Friday afternoon, after a three-pint lunch (Oy, mate, whack it with the mallet again and I'll snug up this bolt with me spanner). Close enough counted in LBC assembly the same as horseshoes, hand grenades and nuclear weapons.

I only managed to make it to one club event in May as one of my health care providers dictated some "refreshment" of my parts, for which I may never forgive them, but I am back in the saddle and ready to ride with you folks again. Time to give my keyboard some Imodium or Pepto and close this thing out. See y'all round the parking lots and eateries.

Until next month:
Safety Fast
Brian
(321) 254-9605
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NOTICES

Follow up from April's website update:

Jerome Atchison has a prototype of the new MG Car Club Florida website and it's looking great! He's requested our club members upload pictures, videos,

stories etc. to a One Drive Business web portal he's created for club content. Watch your email! I'll be emailing the link and password to each of you.

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.

- **June 10, 2023** – Tech Session on Carburetors led by Tim Kingaby. The session will be held at Bob and Donna Beiler's home at 10:00 AM and should last approximately two hours. (5344 Balsam Ave, West Melbourne, FL 32904) Parking is available behind their home by the garage. A pizza lunch will follow. RSVPs requested. bobrace44@gmail.com
- **June 14, 2023** – **MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner at Fresh Scratch Bistro 6:00 PM.** Located at 1940 HWY A1A, Indian Harbor Beach, FL 32937 [Fresh Scratch Bistro - American Restaurant in Indian Harbour Beach, FL \(freshscratchbistrofl.com\)](http://freshscratchbistrofl.com) I will send out a reminder as usual but I also will ask your preference as to whether you'd like to dine inside or outside. The restaurant can accommodate either choice. RSVPs are requested for planning purposes. delewis67@aol.com
- **June 17, 2023** – **Indialantic Dunkin' Donuts Car Show.** *Please see the flyer below!*
- **July 8, 2023** – **Bill Henley's Tour of Fred Brandner 's Fred's Healey Revival! Specific Details to come but expect we'll meet up around 8:00 at the Rockledge McDonalds (1876 S HWY 1 Rockledge, FL 32955) and caravan to the business. Lunch possibly after the tour.** Bill Henley has arranged a tour of Fred's Healey Revival in Edgewater, FL. (511 Pullman Road, Unit 102, Edgewater, FL 32132). Fred Brandner specializes in restorations of LBC's, mostly Triumphs these days. Bill met a guy with a beautiful blue TR6 at the British Car Show at the Muscle Car Museum and received a business card for Fred. Bill contacted him regarding the possible (future) purchase of one of his restorations. He only does top quality restorations, no repairs, maintenance, etc. We have scheduled Saturday July 8th for the club to tour his place. If anyone knows of a restaurant near Edgewater, FL they would recommend, please email me at delewis67@aol.com
- **July 10, 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.
- **July 12, 2023** – **MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner at Red Ginger Melbourne Mall 6:00 PM.** [Red Ginger \(redgingerusa.com\)](http://redgingerusa.com) 1700 W New Haven Ave #633. Melbourne FL 32904 (the backside of Melbourne Square mall with individual entrance).
- **August 9, 2023** – **MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner at BJs Brewhouse 6:00 PM.** BJs Brewhouse, is located at 1700 W New Haven Ave, Melbourne, FL 32904 [Signature Pizza, Seafood Options & Craft Beer - Melbourne, FL 32904 | Locations | BJ's Restaurants and Brewhouse \(bjrestaurants.com\)](http://bjrestaurants.com)

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.

Dixie Cruisers Car & Coffee/Monthly Drive

The Dixie Cruisers have a monthly Car & Coffee/ Monthly Drive. Some of our club members have attended and say it's a lot of fun.

When: Sun, June 11, 8am – 12pm

Where: C's Waffles Cocoa, 5600 FL-524, Cocoa, FL 32926, USA ([map](#))

Description: Car & Coffee has Fantastic food and company from 8 AM till 9:30 AM

Monthly drive is from 9:30 AM till 12 (Noon). Great scenic trips with a photo op along the way.

CLUB PHOTOS:

May 6, 2023 – Drive, Tour and Lunch, Navy Seal Museum in Ft Pierce, FL

The club had a sunny, cool drive to the Navy Seal Museum where we toured the updated museum appreciating all the changes since our last visit. Lunch was at the Square Grouper an open air tiki bar and eatery in Ft Pierce with a beautiful view of the water, good food and comraderie!



Marilyn, Dale, Helen



Helen



Dale



Mary & Linda



Attending:

Linda Knoblock-Raupp, Mary Pollock and nephew Mike (photographer), Dale & Marilyn Lewis, Norm & Donna Powers, Helen Kingston, Pat & Diane Grassick, Jim Baer, Chris & Jill Prewitt (not pictured)



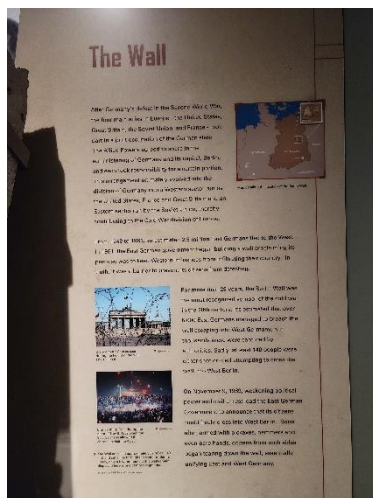
Pat & Diane



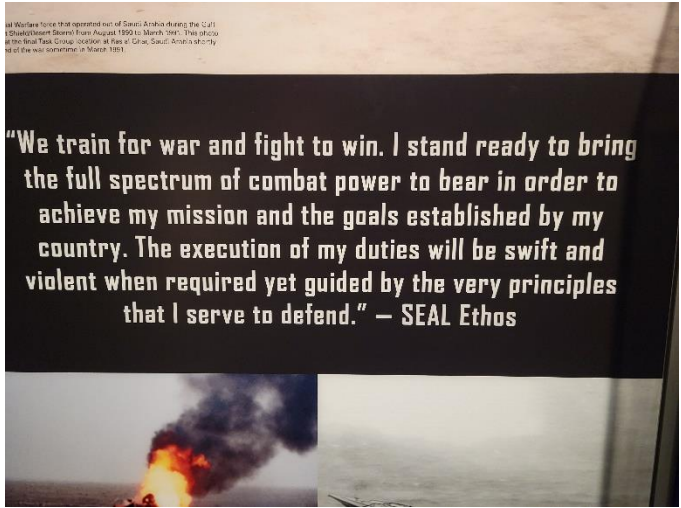
Mary & Linda



Donna & Norm



Chris & Jill Prewitt



all Marine force that operated out of Saigun. Anakin during the Gulf of Tonkin (Saigon) from August 1969 to March 1970. This photo at the Real Task Center, location at Fort of Camp, Saigun, Anakin's story of the war continues in March 1971.



Square Grouper Tiki Bar



Mary & Mike



Donna, Norm, Dale



View from the restaurant!



May 13, 2023 – Breakfast at Sarno's

The club had a great turnout for breakfast at Sarno's Restaurante & Pizzeria!

Attending: Rich & Dawn Kiefer, Dale & Marilyn Lewis, Helen Kingston, Jim Baer, Judy & Paul Stedman, Norm & Donna Powers, Ken Gregory, Roger & Edie Lowery, Jerry Kaufman, Bob & Donna Beiler, David Holmwood & Sallie Richardson, Linda Knoblock-Raupp, Mary Pollock with her nephew Mike and his wife Sue, Brian Mitchell, Bill & Mary Insko



Jim



Edie & Roger



Ken





Mary, Bill, Bob



Donna, Norm



Ken, Brian



Linda, Jim



Paul, Judy



Sue, Mike, Mary



Edie, Roger



Rich, Dawn



Donna, Jerry



Helen



Marilyn, Dale



David, Sallie

May 20, 2023 – Dunkin' Donuts Car Show & Lunch at Coaster's Pub



Bill Antonetz



Terry



Bob



Paul



Tim



Jim



Linda



Paul, Bob



Jim, Bob



Tim, Jerri



Father's Day Dunkin Donuts Car & Truck Show



Dunkin Donuts Beachside
1220 N. A1A,
Indialantic, FL
Saturday, June 17, 2023
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM



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



Find us on Facebook
Dunkin Donuts Car Show Indialantic, Florida



Pet Friendly!

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) 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

MGCC-FL Club Member Brad Richardson submitted the following writeup on his recent acquisition and restoration project.



Picked up this 1959 MGA 1600 leftover project out of Tampa. Story goes - previous Alabama owner started - then up and died - terminating progress. Project went up for sale and another restorer bought it. That restorer had the HOA breathing down his neck to get a 1970 GT6 off his driveway, so he sold the MGA to make room in the garage.

Bought this project 14 April 2023. and it followed me home to Melbourne. Not new to restoring MG's - did a couple, still have a 72 roaster and 67 GT. But the itch to go back earlier came calling.

Got it home on the 14th and dove right in.

Sorted the supplied parts by system, took account of all the repair panels provided and their condition.

Did a stem to stern in-depth inspection - noted a bunch of tin work. The major issues include, redoing the right side inner/outer sill - it's a mess from the previous owner. The trunk pan will need to be replaced - that will be a challenge. The rear valance got pushed in on the driver's side and someone pulled it and bondo it. Drivers inner and outer sills along with the rocker will need replacement - I'm doing that first. Finally, the rear deck on the driver's side is crinkled - needs a repair panel to clean it up.

Got many of the tin panels that are needed to do the repairs with my buy. Noted some small tin missing - ordered them. Built an electrolysis tank, processed the rusty supplied tin; then cleaned the residue and dunked them in Ospho. Now they may have some use. Going to bolt down the body, cross brace the doors/cockpit openings, take measurements and pictures before cutting into it.

Started a journal on the MG Experience to mark progress. Got new chrome, rubber, calipers, master cylinder, brakes, tin and a bunch more with the buy. Could use some side curtains, newer steering wheel, better seat backs, and a better windshield glass. Those are the bigger items - plenty of small stuff.

So, I will be asking questions, always welcoming advice, running down parts for the next several years. If anyone wants to stop by the garage and have a look or lend a hand - you are welcome.

This is my last project (yea right) should be fun, keep me busy and out of trouble.

Brad Richardson, email: Britcars-4me@hotmail.com

Keep us posted, Brad, on your progress!

A Note from John Perez

John Perez, former club member and Vice President sent a greeting from his new home state of Texas!

Miss everybody! My first Car Show in Texas! I'm in a Triumph / MG / All British Cars club. I was surprised to learn how many British cars there are in this area. My Spitfire loves this dry weather. Maybe it'll survive better here. Finally having the body work done.



I've been keeping up with the Club. Thanks for keeping me on the newsletter list. Lots of new members I see. Say hi to everyone for me. We should be back in Florida in July. I'll see you guys then! -John

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:

Triumph TR3A "kit" \$8,000.



- 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/mo, includes electric.

Brian Mitchell 321-525-1313 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.

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.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)

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