



# FLORIDA OCTAGON

#248 October 2023

## ***Safety Fast!***

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## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**



Odds and sods. Whazzat? It's a British phrase that roughly means this and that, odds and ends or bits and pieces. We picked up an earthenware pot when we lived in England that is emblazoned with ODDS AND SODS. My daughter has it in her kitchen containing all sorts of things. I'm considering naming this missive as this.

OK, where's he going this month? If you're a viewer of network TV, you've noticed that the writers' strike has led to a dearth of new commercials. One that has become especially annoying is the Bounty ad where the prideful male is declaring his occasional table project complete. His female partner holds up a bag of left over (!) fasteners and asks, "What about these", whereupon the table legs collapse. In the "olden" days of DIY furniture there were bags of parts and a booklet in English (written by folks who barely spoke English) French, Spanish and, I guess Hebrew, with drawings of the fasteners, to scale, which you used to identify them in advance of the time of need. Some had all of this on one page at the beginning, causing much back-and-forth page turning. Some of the more helpful ones had it on the page which called out that part. Some manufacturers actually had an extra of each one, in case your opening of the armored packet scattered its contents about your workspace. If you didn't know about the planned excess, you probably spent quite a bit of time going over your project looking for the empty hole in which to insert the screw or bolt held tightly in your hand. Spoiler alert! These wasn't one.

The newer "kits" have only pictures for instruction, avoiding having to print passages in seventy-five languages and obscure dialects, as would be required by the cadre of attorneys on staff to avoid litigation when some Darwin Award candidate did not RTFI (look at the manual). The fasteners are now on a cardboard "blister" pack, only slightly more difficult to open than that little Imodium pill which you urgently need. They are identified with a letter which corresponds with a letter and, hopefully, an arrow or squiggly line in the instructions indicating where it belongs. There are no spares, so you will no longer be adding bits to your odds and sods container.

We have all experienced "leftover" parts during the periods when we deign to work on our LBC chariots. Before me, whoever last worked on the driver's side rear brake assembly on the TR7, managed to have a piece of the self-adjuster mechanism "extra" and either left it on the floor, discarded it, or didn't even miss it. That one piece is only available, from one source, as part of a 22-piece

**Chairman Emeritus**

Jerry Keuper  
(In Memoriam)

For Club Info--Please  
visit:

[MG Car Club--Florida](#)

**October Birthdays:**

01 Norman Ridgely  
05 JP Silvestri  
09 Gina Carpenter  
09 Lenora Grimm  
13 JoAnn Jensen  
19 Doug Rothwell  
22 Maureen Klein  
25 Donna Beiler  
25 Mike Lynch

**Contact Information:**

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

kit, costing, according to my eight-year-old price list, \$85 plus shipping from England. Should I make that purchase, I would have 21 bits to put into my odds and sods bucket. The same seems to go for gasket sets. You can't seem to get the one little piece of fibrous material without its complete family, including in-laws, which, of course, you may need in the future and are too nice to throw away. Well, you know, getting far enough into a later engine project that you will need those other parts for will more likely than not, destroy the first gasket again. Go directly to jail, do not pass go, do not collect \$200. Other gasket sets contain pieces for several different versions of the engine in question. This requires careful comparison of things that look alike but are enough different that your project will fail if the wrong one is used. It would help a lot if you had saved the old parts from when you disassembled the unit in 2010. Of course, you did! You now also have several pieces of brand new gasket material which is too nice to throw away and might just come in handy should you ever acquire the Type BG 7-5c version of your engine that they do fit.

Along with some other stuff, I inherited at least 30 partial engine gasket sets. Some of these are old enough that the cockroaches and silverfish have consumed the labels that would have been helpful in identifying the vehicles that they match up to. They all have the remnants of "TRIUMPH" OR "STANDARD" on them and some even call out a displacement. I'm fairly certain that they won't fit anything I have in the stable, or other outbuildings, at this time. But they're too nice to throw away! Everyone has also gotten to the point where funds are available to purchase a new version of a serviceable, but somewhat ugly piece of trim or container or hold-down, clamp, etc.. Don't embarrass yourself, but how many of you still have the old one? OMG, what if the new one fails? You know these (insert name of foreign country here) knock offs won't last fifty years like the original did! Seriously now, other than yours truly, who's going to be here in fifty years to witness that failure?

There must be a point to make in here somewhere. I guess it is that we all hang onto things past their usefulness and, as our time remaining on this rock diminishes, we should start to shed some of this detritus, thinking about those who will have to do the clean-up afterwards. I've heard my wife mutter several times as she walks to the car through our garage "I'M GOING FIRST!" I'm keeping the wife, so, if I don't want to be stuck with the mess, I ought to start the disposal process. Anyone need some nice gasket sets, or a Triumph Herald project car or a spare TR3 engine?

Until next month:

Safety Fast

Brian

(321) 254-9605

[bgspace@hotmail.com](mailto:bgspace@hotmail.com)

**UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:**

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

- **October 2, 2023 – 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.
- **October 11, 2023 – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner Tuscany Grill Viera 6:00 PM.** [Tuscany Grill, Melbourne, FL. Authentic Italian Cuisine.](#) 6630 Colonnade Ave, Melbourne, FL 32940. Please RSVP to [delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com) by October 10th.
- **October 21, 2023 – MGCC-FL Drive, Tour, Lunch.** Brian has put together a Drive ‘n Dine. We meet at the DAV parking lot to leave no later than 8:30 AM. He has routed a scenic drive to the Veteran’s Memorial Center Museum in Merritt Island [Museum | Veterans Memorial Center, Inc.](#) where we will tour the museum. After the tour the drive continues to the Pig N’ Whistle in Cocoa Beach [Pig & Whistle | Cocoa Beach, FL | Traditional English Pub \(thepigcb.com\)](#) for lunch. A reservation has been made for @ 11:00 – 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to [delewis67@aol.com](mailto:delewis67@aol.com) by Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> to give the restaurant an estimate of how many to expect. NOTE: Folks not wanting to do the entire drive are welcome to meet up at the museum or the restaurant.
- **November 11, 2023 – MGCC-FL Annual Business Luncheon in Fellsmere, FL, Marsh Landing - Club Drive, Lunch and Presentation of Officers!** This is Election of Officers Year! Prior to our luncheon, an election will be held to fill open board positions. Information will be sent out on how to nominate/self-nominate for positions and a ballot will be prepared. The results will be presented at the luncheon. *Details on the club drive to be provided!*
- **November 16, 2023 – MGCC-FL Trip to Tour Rev’s Institute Naples, FL.** Currently we have 24 people attending. The docent led tour will include a Workshop Walkthrough. The cost is \$35 per person. We will ‘buy out’ the November 16<sup>th</sup> 1:30 PM tour to visit the museum as a group. Carpooling is encouraged for those planning to make it a day trip. More details will be provided to those attending. If you would like to join in and haven’t notified us, please contact Norman Ridgely. ([normridge@yahoo.com](mailto:normridge@yahoo.com)). Visit the website at [revsinstitute.org](http://revsinstitute.org)
- **December 2, 2023 – MGCC-FL Holiday/Christmas Party.** Bob and Donna Beiler are hosting this year’s party in their home. The party is in the planning stage and will be a late afternoon affair. Donations for Nana’s House will be collected. Watch for details in next month’s newsletter.
- **January 2024 – MGCC-FL Monthly Dinner.** [Ocean 302 Melbourne Beach |](#)
- **January 2024 –** Event in planning stages. Possible tour of Schuman’s car collection. Lunch will follow!
- **February 4, 2024 –** All European Car Show at the American Muscle Car Museum. Mark the date! The MGCC-Fl is sponsoring this show and committees are being organized!
- **February 10, 2024 – McKee Garden 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show “Rods & Customs’.** We will attend this event as a club with lunch following the show.

## 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.

- **October 6-8, 2023 – MG Jamboree 2023 in Lutz, FL** (a few miles north of Tampa) Hosted by the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club. Registration must be made by September 14<sup>th</sup>. For details and registration: [mg jamboree 23 registration | PDF \(scribd.com\)](#)
- **October 8, 2023 – Dixie Cruisers Car & Coffee/Monthly Drive 08:00 AM – 12:00 PM.** Meet at C's Waffles, 5600 FL-524, Cocoa, FL 32926. Fantastic food and company from 08:00 AM – 09:30 AM. Monthly drive is from 09:30 AM till 12 noon. Great scenic trips with a photo op along the way.
- **October 9, 2023 – Columbus Day Quadruple Play Parade 2023 10:00 AM** For details, please see flyer below!
- **October 21, 2023 – British Car Festival 2023 09:00 AM – 04:00 PM** Hosted by South Alabama British Car Club in Fairhope, Alabama. The South Alabama British Car Club hosts an annual British Car Festival each October in Fairhope, Alabama. For details: [car show flyer 2023.pdf](#)
- **October 28, 2023 – All British Car Show 09:00 AM – 03:30 PM** Main Street, Safety Harbor, FL 34695 [Calendar • Safety Harbor • CivicEngage \(cityofsafetyharbor.com\)](#)
- **November 17, 2023 – British Auto Show & Festival Downtown Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages, Florida 32162.** For detailed information and registration please click on the link: [THE VILLAGES BRITISH CAR SHOW & FESTIVAL 2023 - Events - The Villages British Motoring Club \(clubexpress.com\)](#)

## CLUB PHOTOS:

### MGCC-FL Breakfast at Sarno's Restaurante & Pizzeria



#### Attending:

Linda Raupp  
Rich Kiefer  
Dan Kunz  
Bob & Donna Beiler  
Brian & Ginny Mitchell  
David Lister







**Norman & Pat Ridgely  
 Don Robinson  
 Bob Parks  
 Frank & Helen Kingston  
 Rob & Maria Buck  
 Jim Baer  
 Brenda Bryant**



**Brian & Ginny**



**Don**



**Bob**



**Helen & Frank**



**Rob & Maria**



**Jim & Brenda**



**Rich, Linda**



**Paul**



**Dan**

## 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*

Doug Rothwell shared some videos sent to him by his friend Clark Vegaza. He is a member of the British Car Club of Central Florida and the Volusia County Cruisers. He has owned his Tiger since 1971. These videos were taken at the National Corvette Museum during the 40<sup>th</sup> United Convention of the Sunbeam Club, Tigers East/Alpines East.

[Tigers & Alpines visit the "National Corvette Museum"](#)

[Sunbeams, Tigers & Alpines United-40](#)

[Tigers on the National Corvette Museum Track](#)



“This isn’t the right water pump,  
but I’ll make it fit.”



## Featured Club Members

### George and Theresa Cole



George and Theresa Cole have been members of the MG Car Club Florida since 2022. George was interviewed at the Delray Beach Concours on June 17, 2023. A video of the interview was posted on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuhOeA7Iex8> This imported rare car was shown at the Delray Concours and won the Chief Judge's Award. George Cole owns an original 1947 Jaguar MK4, unrestored, with original seats made of still supple leather. He explains how this saloon car is valued against drop head Jaguars of the same year and takes it to many car shows all over the country, especially Classic Car Club of America events. Congratulations, George!

### Jeremy and Jane Parrott



Jane and Jeremy Parrott have been members of the MG Car Club Florida since 2017 and own a 1979 MGB. Avid travelers, they participate in our club events when they are at their residence in Sebastian. Recently they have purchased a home in Clinton, New York and will now divide their time between New York and Florida as 'Snowbirds'. They are renovating their New York home which sits on 1.75 acres overlooking the Adirondack Mountains with stunning views of both the mountains and farmland from the upper level. We look forward to their participation when they return in November.



They plan to block up the garage door, switch the front door with a side window and face the exterior with stone. A detached garage will be built on the upper level.



Their rescue dog Teddy will arrive from California next weekend!

## 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))



**Flyers:**

# Columbus Day Quadruple Play Parade

## Classic cars, Trucks, & Bikes



**MONDAY**  
**OCTOBER 9, 2023**  
**10:00AM**



**Special Car Parade passes four Senior Living Facilities.**  
**Meet and Stage at 10:00AM across from**  
**Life Care Center of Melbourne 606 E. Sheridan Rd. Melbourne.**  
**Leave at 10:30am to start Parade and pass through facilities listed below.**  
**All years, makes, models of Cars, Trucks, Bikes, and Emergency vehicles.**  
**Nothing is as rewarding as putting smiles on our Senior's faces!**



**HOSTED BY**  
**BILL ANTONETZ**  
**And**  
**KARLA BUCK**  
**(321) 725-3648**

**Stop #1**  
**Life Care Center of Melbourne**  
**606 E. Sheridan Rd**  
**Melbourne, Fl. 32901**

**Stop #2**  
**Avante at Melbourne**  
**1420 Oak Street**  
**Melbourne, Fl. 32901**

**Stop #3**  
**Hibiscus Court**  
**540 Hibiscus Blvd**  
**Melbourne, Fl. 32901**

**Stop #4**  
**Bedrock Rehabilitation**  
**1415 Hickory Street**  
**Melbourne, Fl. 32901**

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:**

**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 yu 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

September 2023

Triumph GT 6 Overdrive transmission.  
Asking \$1200 OBO, plus shipping.



Contact Brad Richardson (321) 543-9292 or email Britcars-4me@hotmail.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](mailto:Bgspain@hotmail.com)**

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**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" \$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/month includes electric.**

Contact Brian Mitchell (321) 525-1313 [bgspain@hotmail.com](mailto:bgspain@hotmail.com)

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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](mailto:dalterann@gmail.com)

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### 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

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**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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*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.

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The only MEMBER-RUN organization  
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