



"It's Gotta Be Fun"

# MORRIS GARAGES INFORMER

The Official Newsletter of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 7

JULY 1998

## Frank Lloyd Wright was all right

The Florida Southern College Tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright designed buildings on campus was a fun trip. Dianne & I couldn't make this tour – we were on vacation in Wisconsin – but I heard it was great, with a good turn-out.

From the photo, it appears Irbye was in full "lecture mode" (although I don't see anyone taking notes). I hope he didn't give a test afterwards! Sure sounded like fun, I wish we could have went to the event. Bill Graham's write-up appears later in this newsletter. Thanks Bill.

As I write this, a lot of our club's active MGA's are at the NAMGAR meeting in Chattanooga, TN. This was obvious at our Breakfast Club, as it was all MGB's except for one lonely MG-TD that made the trip. It was a beautiful morning run over to the Brunchery in Tampa. Thanks John Gilley!

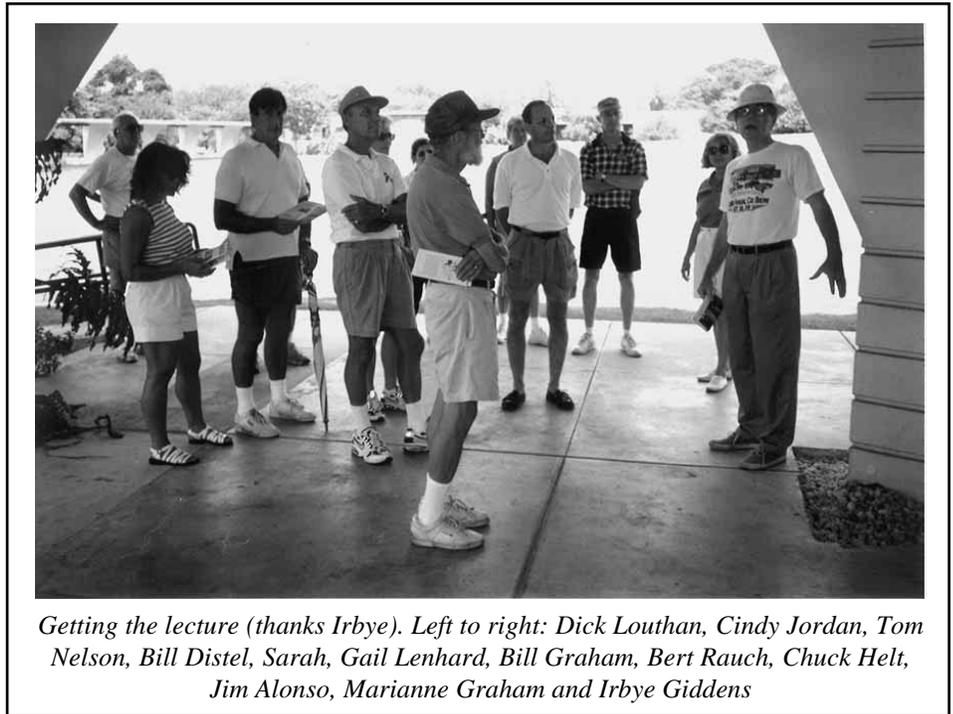
On a personal note, I have been remiss at the meetings in thanking Glenn Lenhard for all the "above & beyond" help he gave me with my 1970 MGB roadster this spring. I had Glenn put an overdrive transmission in the car, but while the engine was out, I wanted to detail & paint the engine compartment. Glenn lent his expertise, tools & equipment and patiently waited (with my car occupying space in his shop) while I diddled around with the detail work... Thanks Glenn.

*Dave Tietz*

### Board Meeting Minutes

*Florida Suncoast MG Car Club  
July 1, 1998*

The meeting was called to order by Jim Alonso. A Quorum was present. The minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.



*Getting the lecture (thanks Irbye). Left to right: Dick Louthan, Cindy Jordan, Tom Nelson, Bill Distel, Sarah, Gail Lenhard, Bill Graham, Bert Rauch, Chuck Helt, Jim Alonso, Marianne Graham and Irbye Giddens*

**Activities Committee:** The upcoming July 11 event, a tour of Florida Southern College, is fully planned. Jim again mentioned the upcoming NAMBGR, NAMGAR and MGC car shows this month. Glenn told about the September 12 Canoe Trip down the "lazy" Withlacoochee River. A discussion was held about the vending venture for the October 17 Picnic Island car show. A Motion was passed NOT to undertake this venture. John Gilley has learned that we would have to purchase a very costly separate insurance rider as well as a license in order to sell food at this event. John has agreed to handle the cooking for our Club at the event. As in past years, the Club will provide our members food and beverages and Members will be asked to bring a dish to share.

**MG Jamboree:** Bruce received a contract from the Howard Johnson Riverside Inn with the same provisions as in previous years. Bruce set forth an outline of themes and activities for the weekend. Several chairpeople have been secured, but more will be forthcoming. Registration will remain the same amount as last Jamboree.

**Old Business:** Dave showed the Board the redesigned tri-fold membership application. A Motion was passed to accept this new application form.

**New Business:** Jim said there is a lot of interest in the Coast-to-Coast Rallye scheduled for February, 1999. He is searching for a chairperson for this event.

The Meeting was adjourned.

*Gail Lenhard*

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

*Florida Suncoast MG Car Club  
July 8, 1998*

Jim Alonso called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Club acknowledged guests James Norwood and Mark Heeren from Atlanta, son of member Gary Heeren. The Minutes of the June meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Glenn paraphrased the Minutes of the July 1 Board Meeting Minutes.

**Membership:** The Club has 80 memberships, including James Norwood, who joined at the meeting.

**Activities:** Jim Alonso will be acting as Activities Chairman, unless someone would like to volunteer for this position.

The June 20 Breakfast Club met at Kissin' Cuzzins in St. Pete, and at least 20 members were there to enjoy good food, fun and fellowship. Glenn reported on a trip to the Plant City Classic Car Show the same day. The event is held there monthly with many hot rods, sponsored by Plant City local merchants. FSMGCC members Lenhards and Robinsons met members of the newly-formed Lakeland British Car Club. Even though it was very hot, it was a good event

The next activity will be Saturday, July 11, a tour of Florida Southern College in Lakeland including several buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. FSMGCC member Irbye Giddens, who is an architect, will guide the tour, which will be followed by lunch at Branch Ranch.

Jim mentioned that several members (Alonso's, Murdock's & Rauch's) will be attending the Chattanooga NAMGAR event July 21 - 23.

## Fellowship Corner

### August Birthdays:

August 3	Jayne Hemstreet
August 4	Richard Ostroff
August 6	Eileen Eletto
August 13	Lenore Hiers
August 14	Robert Carr
August 14	Cindy Jordan
August 17	Frank Spirek
August 20	John Robinson
August 23	Dennis Long
August 26	Hugh Moran
August 26	Bruce Rauch

### August Anniversaries:

August 1	Tom & Pat Bradshaw
August 2	Hugh & Amelia Moran
August 2	Lee & Bobbie Strickland
August 3	Tom & Lori LaVecchia
August 10	Tom & Eileen Jevcak

The next Breakfast Club will be Saturday, July 18th. This "Mystery" Breakfast will be hosted by the Gilley/Vosler group. Meet at the Dog Track on Gandy Blvd. in St. Pete at 8:30 to caravan to the restaurant. Bring a big appetite.

The August 15th event will be MGs at the Drive-in. Jennifer Lenhard will contact the theater to find out what's playing that night. More information in the Newsletter.

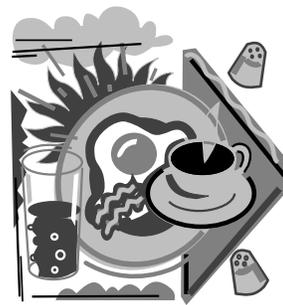
The September 12 event will be canoeing down the Withlacoochee River, hosted by the Lenhard's. The canoe outpost will portage a personal canoe for \$15, or you can rent one there.

For the Picnic Island event on October 17, the Club will provide meat and beverages for our members, who are asked to bring a dish to share with fellow FSMGCC members.

**MG Jamboree:** Bruce reported that dash plaque colors are selected. Dave Tietz is working on the registration forms. If anyone is interested in helping in any part of the event, please call Bruce.

**Fellowship:** It was great to see Angie and Joe Joseph at the June Breakfast Club. Martha Robinson was there as well.

**Old Business:** The new FSMGCC tri-fold membership applications will be available soon.



## Breakfast Club

**August 22, 1998 9:00 AM**

Feel like a good ride before breakfast? Join Bill & Marianna Graham for Breakfast Club at Oscar's, 200 West Miami, **Venice, FL.**

Meet at the Blackthorn Memorial (Sunshine Skyway) at 7:30 AM

Tampa & North Pinellas members may want to meet at Derby Lanes parking lot (NE corner) at 7:00 am to caravan to the Blackthorn caravan site. We will leave Blackthorn at 7:30 am sharp! The directions are:

I-275 South to I-75 South

Exit at FL 681 (Exit 36)

Go to US 41 and proceed South

Take Business 41 into Venice

Turn right onto Miami

Oscar's is at 200 West Miami on the Northwest Corner.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. for Round Table.

*Gail Lenhard*

## Florida Southern College Tour

On July 11, at 8:30 sharp, 10 intrepid members of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club left the Derby Lanes parking lot in search of seven of the wonders of central Florida. Not the likes of Disney World or Sea World was our goal, but seven authentic Frank Lloyd Wright buildings on the campus of Florida Southern College, a small Methodist school

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## A Sad Note

Ray Chillura passed away July 14th following surgery. It was very unexpected, as he and his wife Annie were packing up to leave the hospital.

Ray was one of the founders of the Suncoast Classic MG Car Club, and very active with our hobby. Ray was 76 years old. I know many of our Club's members knew Ray.

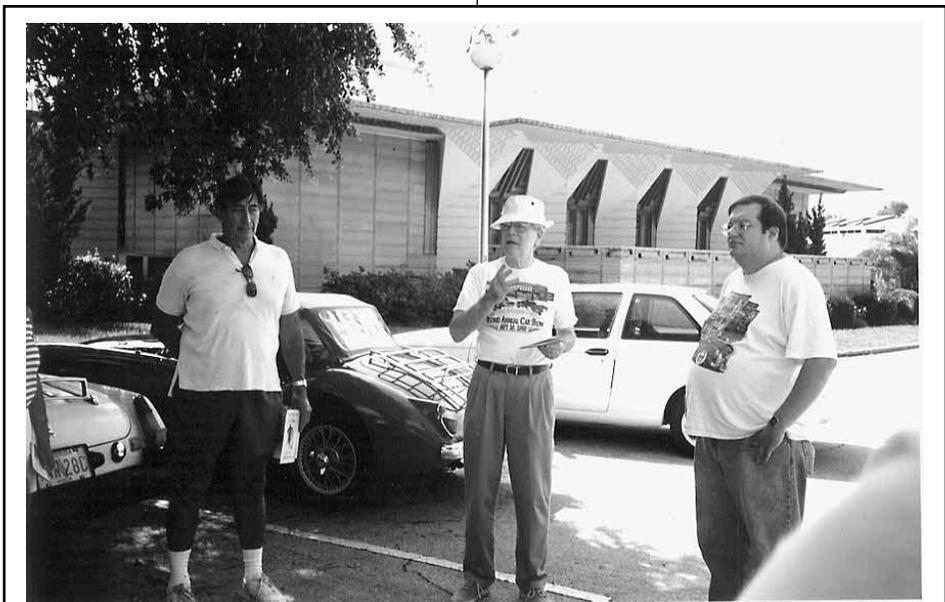
Cards or notes of sympathy may be sent to:

Annie Chillura  
3202 N MacDill Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607

in Lakeland. Our departure was hastened by black clouds to the north and west as we set out to the east sans tops. We outran the rain until our leadership found it necessary to consult on the proper route at the 301, I-4 interchange. While we were parked on the shoulder of the entrance ramp, the rains came and tops went up in a hurry. Fortunately the shower was brief. By the time we arrived at the Florida Southern campus the sun was brightly shining .

Making the trip from St. Pete's Derby Lanes were Jim Alonzo, Bill Distel & Sarah. Bill & Marianna Graham, Chuck Helt, Glenn & Gail Lenhard, and Bruce & Bert Rauch. We were joined at the campus by Irbye Giddens, who would be our tour guide, along with Tom Nelson & Cindy Jordan, Andy Helgeson, and Dick Louthan & Diana Bonfanti. Dick is the president of the newly formed Lakeland British Car Club.

After introductions all around, we set off with Irbye for over an hour tour of the Wright buildings. We were very fortunate to have had Irbye as our guide. He is a native of Lakeland and an architect. Irbye returned to Lakeland after many years as an architect in Miami and has taken a strong interest in the restoration and preservation of the Wright buildings. The buildings were completed between 1941 and 1958. They consist of two chapels, a science building, a library



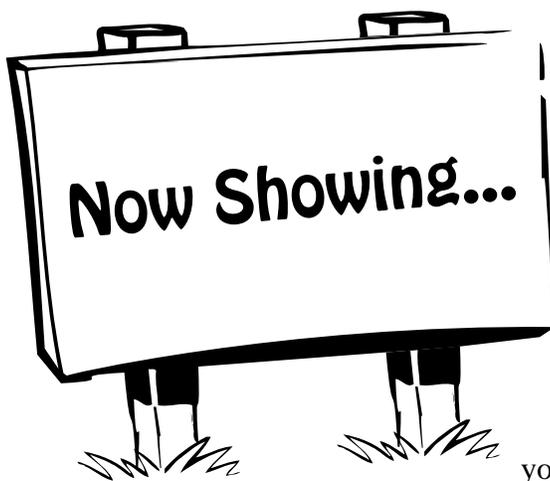
*Irbye (center), lecturing Bill Nelson and Andy Helgeson on the fine points of parking a car exactly between the lines.*

which is now the visitor center, a social science building designed by Wright as a cafeteria and dining hall, a building for seminars and another housing administrative offices. All have been modified in some way or another (for example, air conditioning has been added to all of them) but they retain the essential Wright designs. As these buildings are now between 40 and 57 years old, their preservation is of major concern. Some have been restored, the Annie-Pleiffer

Chapel is currently undergoing restoration, while others are in need of major work. The college is proceeding to restore the buildings as fast as their fund raising efforts will permit.

Following the tour we went to Irbye's home to see his MGB and two Jaguars, a sedan and his 1967 E-type fixed-head coupe. The E-type had just undergone a four-year restoration and was gorgeous. It has won sev-

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## Drive In Movie Night

**Saturday 8:00 PM  
August 15th, 1998**

If you want to go back to your youth (and who doesn't) come to the Drive In with us. Just like the old days, except we might not be able to stuff quite as many friends in the trunk.

If you get too swept up with the nostalgia, you may want to put your top up, so you don't embarrass other Club members.

Meet us at the Northeast High School at the corner of 54th Avenue North and 16th Street North in St. Petersburg at 8:00 pm and we will caravan to the 28th Street Drive In. Oh, be sure to bring some money.

If you have any questions, call Jennifer Lenhard at Glenn's shop 813/572-1069 or at home 813/822-5118.

eral awards at car shows. Then the FSMGCC along with Dick and Diana adjourned to the Branch Ranch near Plant City for a real southern home-cooked meal including fried green tomatoes. We were met there by club members Rick and Donna Singleton who couldn't make the tour but joined us for lunch. Following a great meal and conversation that ranged over British cars, auto crossing, rallying, and racing, the group headed their separate ways to home. Overall it was a very enjoyable outing and we again thank Irbye Giddens for a wonderful tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy in central Florida.

*Bill Graham*

## A Drive Thru History

On Tuesday July 7 Diane and I took off for Sanford, Florida to meet up with the Auto Train to start our journey to Hagerstown, Maryland and a lot of other MG enthusiasts.

As late as Friday, July 3 the Auto Train was not running because of the fires and we were doing a contingency plan to drive all the way and what stops we would make. As it turned out we got to the train and they were loading cars. We pulled through the gate and into line to check our car in when we were told that the ground clearance wasn't enough. I was sent to a Mister Muffler to get the muffler raised but they said they couldn't do it that day. I decided to inflate the tires to get another smidgen of height and sign a waiver of damage. The car still didn't clear with the weight of luggage and passengers but I told them to drive it slow and it would be okay. I signed the waiver and we were on our way or so I thought.

The loading of passengers and cars was slow, but we were under way by 4:30 p.m. We got to our private deluxe bedroom and settled in with snacks and vodka tonics while the train pulled away from the station. When we got to northern Florida we could see the damage done by the fires and there were even some small fires still burning.

We went to the dining car for dinner at 9:00 p.m. and had prime rib, which was wonderful. Our room was turned down when we got back and we had a good night's sleep while the train wandered north to Lorton, Virginia which is just south of Washington D.C. In the morning the train pulled into Lorton, Virginia and we were refreshed and show-

ered and ready for the drive to Hagerstown. Our car was one of the last taken off the train but everything was intact.

It took about two hours to get to Hagerstown and the drive was uneventful. Now we were in Hagerstown and we were ready to converse with other MG enthusiasts. We registered and took off for the parking lot to view the other MGs in attendance. We also signed up for a Rallye the next morning that was to take us through the Maryland countryside and the Antietam Battlefield.

The Rallye was a beautiful winding hilly drive across the countryside of Maryland that was timed and we spent too much time viewing the farms and country that we ended up way down the list of finishers. It was about fifty miles of driving that took about an hour and forty minutes to finish. We had a great time. Diane's broken glasses were proof that we were on a Rallye.

Later that afternoon about twenty-five cars from the Emerald Necklace MG Register pulled in and we surprised our old club from Cleveland with our presence there. We had a great time renewing old friendships and catching up on the gossip from Cleveland. Everyone was anxious to get the dirt and grime of the road off their cars so we headed for the wash area and parts vendors. We all were getting ready to show off cars and repair worn out items before the car show.

Friday was time to relax and see some of the sights before the cook out that night so we headed to a tour of the Antietam Battlefield. We were given an intro by a Park Ranger

and then went on a self-guided driving tour. Antietam was the bloodiest one day battle of the Civil War. There were 80,000 Union troops and 40,000 Confederates and in one day 23,000 were killed, wounded, and missing. The battle took place over twelve square miles and consisted of three separate engagements and was considered a draw. We finished the tour with a visit to the Cemetery and headed back for the cook out party. In the parking lot that night we had a DJ and the joint was jumping. We sang and even did the Macarena.

The Saturday car show was held at Ft. Frederick, which was built during the French and Indian wars in 1756. We parked our car, with about 330 others, and got it ready for the show and picture and then took off for food and the fort. It had been restored and we had a chance to lie in the bunks and beds of the colonial soldiers. Boy, were they short. They also had a demonstration of a cannon firing. We then headed back to the car show and awards.

I didn't win anything but we had fun. We were pretty well worn out after the banquet that night and sat quietly and talked about the next time we would be together again which would be MG 2000 in Cleveland. Sunday we said good-bye and started our drive home. It was three days and 1100 miles of interstate with rain when we hit Florida. The MG still leaks.

We had a great time and got to see some of our history.

*Ron Kosey*



*Dave & Rosemary Knight (and young friend), Dianne Tietz, Margie & Dave Wilgus, Nell Spirek, Pam Vosler, Frank Spirek and John Gilley (Dave Tietz behind the camera) at the Mystery Breakfast Club.*

# August Florida Suncoast MG Car Club 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 7:30 PM Monthly Meeting at Steak & Ale Clearwater	13	14	15 Drive In Movie Night St. Petersburg
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Breakfast Club Venice
23 30	24 31	25	26			29

**CLUB MEETINGS**  
 August 12 Monthly Meeting  
 Sept. 9 Monthly Meeting  
 Oct 14 Monthly Meeting  
 Nov 11 Monthly Meeting  
 Dec 9 Monthly Meeting

## OTHER CLUB MG EVENTS

- Aug. 13-15; Grand Rapids, MI - 22nd Annual University Motors Summer Party, Hosted by: University Motors - for info call John Twist, 616-682-0800
- Sep. 11-13; Watkins Glen, NY - US Vintage Grand Prix & Festival, celebrating 50 years of racing at Watkins Glen - for info call (607) 545-2481
- Sep. 26; Charlotte, NC - MGs on the Green, on the campus of Davidson College - for info call Tom Cotter (704) 455-3500
- Oct. 2-3; Mobile, AL - 8th Annual British Car Festival, celebrating 50 years for the Morris Minor, at Battleship USS Alabama Memorial Park, hosted by South Alabama British Car Club - for info call Richard Cunningham (334) 661-0909
- Oct. 16-18; Greenville, SC - EURO '98, all-European car show, hosted by the Foothills British Car Club
- Oct. 17; Tampa, FL - All British Car Show, Picnic Island
- Oct. 23-25; Chattanooga, TN - 7th Annual Choo Choo Car Show, hosted by the Southern British Car Club - for info call Linda Lesley (706) 375-8750
- Oct. 24; Florence, AL - Brits at the Renaissance Fair, hosted by the North Alabama British Sports Car Club - for info call (888) 356-8687 or (205) 766-8874

## CLUB EVENTS

- August 15 - Movie Night at the Drive-in
- September 12 - Canoe Trip - Bring your water gun!
- October 17 - Picnic Island - Shine your car!
- November 6-8 - Jamboree 10 - Kick back!
- November - Croquet Match - Challenge the Sarasota Club-proposed
- December 6 - Christmas holiday party/installation of officers
- January, 1999 - Overnight trip to Edison/Ford Mansions in Ft. Myers - Gotta see those Christmas lights!
- February, 1999 - Coast-to-Coast Rallye

## Glenn's MG Repair



**Glenn A. Lenhard**  
 13715 - C 49th Street N.  
 Clearwater, FL 33762  
 (813) 572-1069



"It's Gotta Be Fun"

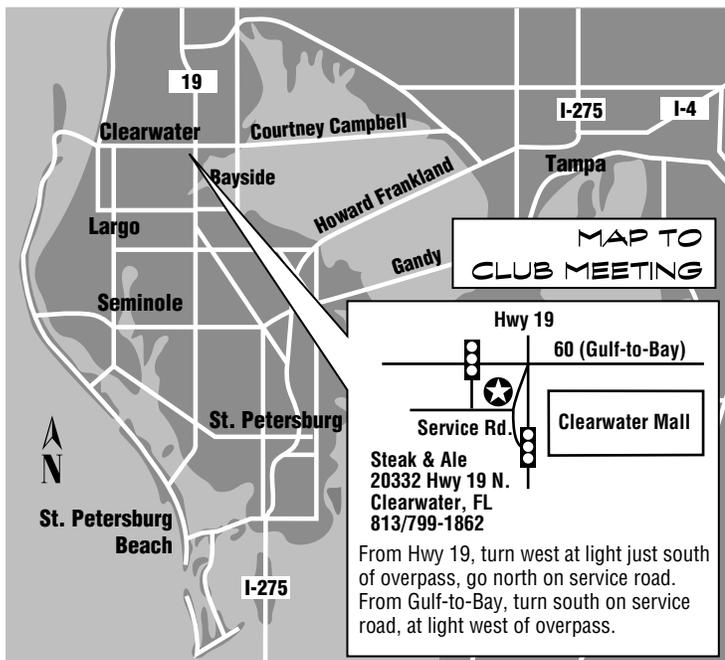
P.O. Box 0251  
Tampa, FL 33601-0251

First Class Mail

## Join us at our Club Meeting

### We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

(come at 7:00 for MG gabbing before the meeting)



## 1998 CLUB OFFICERS

<i>President:</i>	Jim Alonso	813/823-8480
<i>Vice President:</i>	Glenn Lenhard	813/827-0332
<i>Secretary:</i>		
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Gail Lenhard	813/827-0332
<i>Board of Directors:</i>		
	Tom Bradshaw	813/725-8581
	John Gilley	813/321-7333
	Bruce Rauch	813/576-9474
	Dave Tietz	813/321-3809
<i>Newsletter:</i>	Dave Tietz	813/321-3809
	Bert Rauch	813/576-9474

FAX 813/827-0332

Club WEB Site: <http://members.aol.com/fsmgcc>

If you have received this newsletter and are not a member of our Club... Consider it an open **invitation** to join!

Contact Glenn Lenhard at **(813) 827-0332**.

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