



MORRIS GARAGES INFORMER



The Official Newsletter of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club

"It's gotta be fun!"

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 6

June 1999

Club Meets Croquet Challenge IV



Photo By D. Tietz

LEFT: Spiffy in regulation-white, our fearless croquet challengers are upbeat about next year's re-match. BELOW: Our equally well-appointed hosts and the winning defenders — folks from The Suncoast British Car Club.



I wish I could report some good news...I wish I could say we successfully defended the trophy... I can't. I could say the other team was "gunning" for me. They were - ask **Frank Spirek**. But, considering the brutal rules of croquet, we lost fair & square...and I have to take responsibility. I played, well, lousy, and I may have set the tone for our team. **Dianne** & I were partners, and we couldn't get the ball through the center wicket to save our souls.

Maybe if **Stella Bumby** would have been there "psyching out" the other team. Maybe if **Bert Rauch** would have

been there, keeping up lively patter, distracting the competition. Maybe if I wouldn't have had that breakfast burrito. I don't know, BUT we will get it back next time!

The participants from our Club were **Jim Alonso, Bill Graham, Glenn & Gail Lenhard, Dave & Dianne Tietz** with **Frank & Nell Spirek** as cheerleaders. The finishing order was Walt & Joanne Mainberger (the hosts), a SBCC couple (didn't get their names), **Jim Alonso & Bill Graham**, Barry & Judy Alexander, **Dave &**

Dianne Tietz, and Glenn & Gail Lenhard.

The day was cool, and the competition hot! The Suncoast British Car Club is a good group of people. In the past few years we have gotten to know each other pretty well, and I look forward to the friendly rivalry with them... I just wish they wouldn't make me say, "I concede!" so loudly and so publicly! There was lots of good food to eat, plenty of desserts, and after lunch, something

Continued...

MG Musings

BY DAVE TIETZ

I love my MGs! They take me to the neatest places to do fun things and, of course, meet some of the nicest people. This month, Dolly (with the Partons) took Dianne & me down to Sarasota to play croquet (we lost...details on the front page...’nuff said); and Molly took us on a tour of the old South.

As I mentioned in the last *Informer*, I found an event on the Internet that sounded, well, different. The English Motoring Club of Jackson, Mississippi was having a “Tour Through History” that featured some neat sounding activities. I e-mailed the tour director and invited Dianne & myself along. We met a bunch of strangers who very shortly became friends. They were a super group of people, and they included Dianne & me in everything. They even gave us an award, designating us “Members of the Entourage with All Rights Appertaining Thereto!” Exactly what those rights were I couldn’t get answered exactly, but they said they were very important, and we were the first recipients. They are insisting we come back in October when they have their car show, which is included with a big Natchez, MS celebration that features hot air balloon races across the Mississippi River. Anyone out there interested in coming along if we go?

The trip was flawless. We went 1740 miles (I did underestimate the distance slightly) and had a wonderful “MG Memory Maker” for Dianne & me. We drove on the Natchez Trace which was apparently made for Sports Car driving. OK, I guess it does go back a few more years than MGs do, but it sure drives nice in a top-down car. Bert & Bruce Rauch drove on part of it last year and told us about it. Natchez is the oldest settlement on the Mississippi River, and there is a lot

Continued ...



Dianne, Dave & Molly in Natchez.

A Trip Through History

BY DIANNE TIETZ

Dave and I (& Molly, our 1970 MGB) started out Thursday afternoon May 6th. about 1 p.m. with the top down and the Florida sun shining - it was HOT! Had to make a Frosty stop at Wendy’s in New Port Richey just to keep going. After that it was a very pleasant drive to Tallahassee to stay with Club members Everett and Sandy Foss. We enjoyed our short stay with them, and loved their “little” house in the woods. They always treat us so special, especially with a home cooked “cracker barrel” breakfast the next morning. That was wonderful!

It was pouring rain Friday morning, and Dave had to put the top up in the rain. Thirty minutes later we were out of the rain, and had an uneventful cruise to Natchez, MS. We were met there Friday evening by two very gracious people, Terry & Merideth Trovato of the English Motoring Club of Jackson, Mississippi. They took us touring around the town and various mansions in their 1957

MG Magnette - a sedan with a back seat. We had dinner at a restaurant sitting outside and overlooking the Mississippi River. We rose bright and early Saturday morn. Thank goodness we still had our clocks on Eastern time or we would have been late. We had plenty of time to be ready for 8 a.m. and the tour. It began with a short trip up the Natchez Trace highway to meet the entourage coming from Vicksburg and then on in to Natchez for coffee and beignets (French donuts). Our start from Natchez took on extra hour or so as a Jaguar had radiator hose burst right in front of a NAPA Auto Store. We had 2 TR-6’s, 4 MGBs, a MGC, a Bug Eye Sprite, a Sunbeam Alpine, an Austin Healey and the Jag at the beginning of the tour.

On our way out of town, we detoured by the Mississippi River, and had some German tourists stop us so they could get the “parade” on video tape. The trip to Jackson, LA was on a winding

Continued...

Dave...

...Continued from page 2

of history there. We will return someday. Dianne has written up the trip for this newsletter. Oh, no flat tires this year...

Tired of the same-old, same-old? Find a venue (there are a lot of events in the Southeast), jump in that MG and drive! Get some sun. Get some breeze. See some sights. That is what our cars were designed for.

John & Jackie Murdock and **Bruce & Bert Rauch** are heading out in June to Lake Tahoe in their MGAs. That is going to amount to over 6000 miles. It sure would be fun to join that tour. **Bill & Marianna Graham** are taking a 7-week trip in their '71 MGB which will include the NAMGBR "MG '99" event in Vancouver, BC.

June Moon Zoom is coming up on June 28. Are you planning on coming? It's always fun to get some moonlight on yourself too (and you rarely burn).

The last week in May is Drive-your-Little-British-Car-Week. Get out and show the world your LBC. 🍷

Dave Tietz

Croquet...

...Continued from page 1

new - a popular choice vote for Best British Car parked out front. The winner was a 1960 Jensen, a rare beauty (one of 20 or so known to exist) owned by Barry & Judy Alexander. There was a tie for second, a Jaguar 140 and a 1950 MGTD. If they would have warned us, I could have washed the old GT and probably taken a trophy home at least.

We have to start thinking about next year. Please look for this event and plan on helping us get that trophy back. Next time. I know we can do it next time. 🍷

Dave Tietz

History...

...Continued from page 2



road through the countryside. It was beautiful - no speeding, just a lazy drive to Jackson with only one pit stop for the Jag which was now overheating. In Jackson, LA, the Inn that Dave had made reservations at had contacted the Club and had chicken salad sandwiches with Mint

Juleps and lemonade waiting for us as a treat. Then it was on to the car show, in a field at a museum full of "stuff" - old "stuff." After looking over the cars & museum, we took a trip on the Old Hickory Railroad with a stop at the local award-winning winery. Jackson, LA is FULL of character - and "characters" too. The guy running the train and museum was one for sure, and the gal running the Inn added real southern charm to the little town. We had an organ recital from a 1920's pipe organ (out of a movie theater) after the train ride. After a few hours all British cars headed to St. Francisville, LA for dinner at Steamboat Charlie's Bar and Grill. The food was delicious and the fellowship divine. Everyone in the club talked and joked with us. They were a very friendly group. As we were saying our



Top: Dave & Dianne start out on the Natchez Trace. Above: New friends from The English Motoring Club of Jackson, Mississippi.

good-byes, we were told about a ferry across the Mississippi just down the street. We drove on down and right onto the ferry for a beautiful sunset ferry ride across the Mississippi to "nowhereville" - so we came back on the next ferry. What a treat!

Dave and I then headed back to the Inn (really an 8 room Bed & Breakfast) for some quiet R&R in the Jacuzzi tub. We stayed in Scarlett's Room. There was a Surrey with the Fringe on Top room, a Railroad Room with a bed on railroad wheels and track, Rhett's room, the Blue Room, etc. Breakfast in the morning was a little slow, so Dave and I took the walk-

Continued on pg. 4

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Florida Suncoast MG Car Club
May 12th, 1999

President Glenn Lenhard called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The Minutes of the April 14, 1999 were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Correspondence: The Club was invited to the Fly In or Drive In on Saturday, May 16 in Sarasota. The Club also received several flyers advertising parts and a solicitation for MG members for the MG Driver's Club. An invitation to participate in the St. Pete Beach Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 11 was accepted by the group. **Gail Lenhard** will follow through on this and report back information.

Andy Helgeson has a list of items for sale.

Membership: René Reno reported that the Club currently has 59 member families.

Past Activities: Our May Breakfast Club was on Saturday May 15 at the First Watch Restaurant in Tampa, hosted by **Chuck and Leila Helt**.

Dave Tietz reported that we lost the "Croquet Sledge-O-Mallet," but not without putting up a good fight. Everyone who attended stated that it was an enjoyable event and that we should have practiced more.

Upcoming Activities: The Canoe Trip event will be held on Sunday, May 23 at the Hillsborough River Park. Information on this was in the previous newsletter. Marge & Dave Wilgus will host the June Breakfast Club, probably on June 12. Information will be in the June newsletter.

Fellowship: Bert left a message requesting assistance in proof reading the newsletter prior to having it sent to the printer while she and **Bruce** are gone for the month of June.

Old Business: Rallye: **Tom Jevcak** had spoken to other clubs regarding the November 6th date. At this time, at Pat Bradshaw's request, we not be having an "All British Rallye" in November 1999.

New Business: Glenn asked for volunteers to do a write-up on their cars.

Jerry Hiers will write up a story on the "Roach" for May, and **David Knight** agreed to do a story for the June newsletter.

Bert Rauch requested a volunteer to assist in proofreading the July newsletter with **Holly Bird**, as she will be gone for the month of June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. for Round Table. ☺

Gail Lenhard

Editor's Note

The deadline for submissions is one week following the monthly meeting: That's **June 16th** for the next issue.

Dave is stepping in to help out Bert and Holly while we're out of town in June, so please send your articles to:

Dave Tietz

Thanks, Dave!
??

Andy's MG Stuff For Sale:

FOR SALE – 1967 MGB/GT

Restoration project – Car is complete, but not running. Chrome Wire Wheels, spare engine, glass and aluminum hood (bonnet). Car has many new parts: Steering Wheel, Horn button, Column cowl, Radiator, Misc. other parts (New MOSS catalog prices = \$700). Car has used headliner & trim. Car's title has been researched – sold new in Lakeland, FL; Sept. 1966. Must sell, asking \$1500 or reasonable offer.

MISC. PARTS

2 – 4-speed transmissions (1968+)(MGB)
\$125 each/\$225 both

5 – Rostyle Wheels \$25 each/\$100 for all

1 – Pair '73 MGB seats – need to be redone
\$20 each/\$30 for both

1 – '73 MGB Dashboard w/glove box door – needs cover
\$10 (w/o gauges - Can sell, too)

2 – Stainless Steel Vent Window Frames (MGB)
\$30 pair

???FOR SALE??? – 72 MGB PROJECT

Have project car in process, may need to sell (?) (relocating)(?)
Car's body tub is about 50% done. Front suspension is completely redone, all new bushings (front/rear), all new trim, new floor pans, hood, sills, side marker lights & tail lights (Lucas), new rubber sill covers/mats. Vent window frames have been rechromed. Stainless Steel clutch, fuel, and brake line tubing, Stainless braided flex lines. Have tonneau cover, support bows, and top cover. Car is a roadster with Rostyle Wheels, O/D transmission & A/C. With lots of \$\$\$ invested, Serious offers will be considered.

Call Andy Helgeson @ (941) 686-9764, leave a message.
OR e-mail: drewbhelge@aol.com

Round Table

May 12th, 1999

Visitor **Ed Atkins** has a recently-purchased MGA MKII and is soliciting advice on the best restoration procedures.

Dave and Rosemary Knight are on their way back to England in time to visit Silverstone, the "Holy Grail" of MG Shows in that part of the world.

Chuck Helt is just working, working, working, working...

Popular member **Andy Helgeson** is trying to sell his MG assortment to make moving to the Midwest a little easier. We'll miss you Andy, but I'm sure we will see you again before you go. Gonna miss seeing the wonderful job you do on the small scale automobiles you build so well.

Frank Spirek is feeling like "Fearless Fly" from those wonderful old sixties cartoons. (You know, the poor little guy that was "...powerless without my glasses..."). Only, Frank is claiming, "I'm powerless without my buffer." This most indispensable of tools is at the repair shop, and Frank is feeling out of sorts without his best friend.

Dave and Dianne Tietz have purchased another MGB, (at least I THINK Dianne was involved!), this time a rubber bumper version, once owned by a staunch party Republican. Go figure! They also made a trip out to Mississippi and made many new MG friends in Natchez. Ask and he will show you the pictures.

Tom and Eileen had a garage sale, but nobody could get that whole thing in the back of a pick-up truck. (budda-boom).

(That was a typical musician's joke ending, by the way, but you all knew that!)

Jerry Hiers had to get his cars inspected for emissions again, and is looking forward to the bi-annual change in this nefarious scheme to defraud the good smog-breathing citizens of the state.

René Reno had a nice trip to Marco Island, (or are you just thinking of going? I can't read my notes on this, and my memory is pretty good, but kind of short).

Gail and Glenn Lenhard recently celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary the same way they enjoyed their first date. (No, not THAT!) Actually, as I recall, she was patiently handing me tools to get my first MGA running so we COULD go out together.

Jim and Sharon Alonso are still eating out at McDonald's because the kitchen is STILL apart. Something about the wrong size corner cabinet. Yea, sure guys.

Mike Durig is busy visiting all the local MGA experts so he can get up the nerve to start on his own. I'm sure everything will go just fine with this much help.

Dave and Margie Wilgus are looking fine, and it is reported that Margie was seen in a convertible WITH THE TOP DOWN. (the CAR's top was down! (Cheez, you guys...)) You GO, girl. ☺

Glenn Lenhard

Special Notice:

As per
the family's request,
the Bradshaw Rallye
has been postponed
indefinitely.

June Breakfast Club



Hosted by
Dave & Marge Wilgus

Saturday, June 12th
9:00 a.m. at

Foxy's

107th Ave.

On the Treasure Island Causeway, north side, just before the Thunderbird.

For info, call Marge at:
727-367-2929

Fellowship Corner



June Anniversaries:

June 8	Bruce & Bert Rauch
June 10	Jack & Lorrie Maniscalco
June 16	Bill & Marianna Graham
June 17	Lyle & Toni Jones
June 18	Don & Kathy Schmidt
June 30	Walter & Stella Bumby

June Birthdays:

June 1	Laura Pendleton
June 4	Amelia Moran
June 7	John Gilley
June 10	Rosemary Knight
June 12	Jerry Hiers
June 15	Bobbie Strickland
June 16	Evelyn Birkey-Foust
June 23	Neal Apuzzio
June 23	Rusty Davison

Love Affair With A "B", MG Style

BY JERRY HIERS

I was the third owner of my first MGB. It was originally purchased by an attorney in 1971, then owned by a school teacher who sold it to me in 1978 when I taught at Clearwater High. It was real cream puff - Burnt Orange color, spoke wheels, air conditioning and all the maintenance records.

The previous owner said it was in excellent condition, so without a mechanical check-up, I drove my new MGB to Canada and back in the summer of '78 and it performed beautifully. However, two weeks into the school year the car met its untimely demise when a big horse Ford ran a red light in St. Petersburg. I survived with only a busted head and a broken arm, but the "B" was totaled.

Six months later I became the proud owner of my second MGB. This was a 1974, almost the same orange color as its predecessor. It was a darling and I loved it as much as the first one, but it would become temperamental when I was riding with female companions. The "B" would pick the most desolate spots to quit running. Maybe it was jealous or overreacting to negative comments about its road-worthiness, but before cell phones, there was plenty of time for discussion.

1980 was not a good year for the "B".

After being rear-ended two times within six months, I decided to trade the car on a Ford Thunderpuppie. The Ford survived until it was paid for, then a large truck rear-ended that relationship and I again went looking for an MGB.

About six years ago I found my third MGB at a Chevy dealership in Tampa. Being the owner of a rubber bumper late

Photo Courtesy of Jerry Hiers



Jerry and Lenore Hiers with the "Roach".

model, I was introduced to an all new problem - emissions testing. This MGB has not met an emissions test it can pass. In addition, we discovered that when the car was originally purchased in California it was assigned an Oldsmobile VIN. With persistence and the threat of a law

suit, the registration number was cleaned up and with regular carburetor readjustments by our friendly MG mechanic, the Roach's emissions are cleaned up. Thanks Glenn, you have kept 'em on the road.

My "B" was dubbed the "Roach" by my brother-in-law I believe because of its brown color and its size. Whatever the name, I get a certain amount of pride and ego building whenever I drive the Roach on those bright, sunny days and watch the other drivers wonder what it is and how nice it looks. They invariably ask, "What kind of car is that?" ☺

History...

...Continued from page 3.

ing tour of the town and checked out the various homes and buildings with history dating back to the late 1700's through the 1800's. Breakfast was very elegant with scrambled eggs, grits, croissants and more southern charm from the innkeeper, Jimmie L.P. Best. (Yes, Jimmie is her name).

Then we headed towards home. We stopped in Fairhope, AL just across the bay from Mobile. What a beautiful small town! There were Easter lilies and cascades of flowers on each corner of the downtown area! We stayed in grand style at the Grand Hotel right on Mobile Bay. After freshening up, we headed to the local British restaurant, The Royal Oak, where the Fairhope MGers meet monthly. We enjoyed a most scrumptious dinner and overheard a couple at a table across the way talking about Molly - which of course Dave parked right out front for all to admire. Dave immediately struck up a conversation and discovered he was talking to Bob & Sue Mason (Bob is a technical advisor for NAMGBR). Sue is their local club's newsletter editor, and by coincidence, received her Ph.D. from the University of Southern Alabama that afternoon! They graciously invited us to their home to introduce us to their four exquisite award winning MGs - two right-hand drive MGB-GTs, an MGB roadster, and a MGTF. After coffee and some good sound MG tech tips, we headed back to the Grand Hotel.

In the morning, we dined at the hotel overlooking Mobile Bay. Just for our benefit, two dogs (golden labs) trotted by the beautiful bay window, as if on cue. We then headed on down Highway 98 along the coast of the Florida Panhandle. What a beautiful drive! BUT long...finally found Perry, FL and good old Highway 19 and headed south as fast as we could. A full 4 days! Molly ran great (Dave thinks he heard a small sigh when he turned her off). The trip was great - you always meet the nicest people with MGs. ☺

Dianne Tietz

June

Florida Suncoast MG Car Club

1999

Calendar grid for June 1999 with days of the week and dates. Includes special events for June 9 and June 12.

Other Club MG Events

JUNE 5

Charlestown, SC - 15th Annual British Car Day, Charlestown Landing - for info call Ken Wells (803) 732-3722

JUNE 12-13

Tanglewood, NC - British Car Days South, hosted by the MG Car Club of Raleigh, NC for info call Dave or Pat Jones (919) 365-5165

JUNE 14-18

Lake Tahoe, CA - NAMGAR GT-24, at the Cal-Neva Lodge, hosted by the Sacramento Valley MG Car Club - for info call Lawrie Alexander (530) 672-2319; for reservations call 1-800-CAL-NEVA

JUNE 28 - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

June Moon Zoom, hosted by Eileen & Tom Jevcak - for info call (813) 837-3111

JULY - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

Tampa Aquarium

JULY 7-10

Vancouver, BC, Canada - MG '99 NAMGBR Convention - for info call Peter & Anne Tilbury (604) 535-0648

AUGUST - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

Malibu Grand Prix Challenge, hosted by John Gilley and Pam Vosler - for info call (727)321-7333

AUGUST 6-8

Armagh, PA - TRF Summer Party, Triumph TR6 is this year's featured model, hosted by The Roadster Factory - for info call 1-800-234-1104

AUGUST 19-22

Grand Rapids, MI - University Motors 23rd Annual Summer Party - for info call John Twist at (616) 682-0800

SEPTEMBER - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

Beach Weekend, hosted by Glenn & Gail Lenhard

SEPTEMBER 6 - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

Pioneer Florida Day Festival at the Pioneer Florida Museum, Dade City; caravan leaves from the Gandy Dog Track parking lot at 8:am - for info call (727) 576-9474

SEPTEMBER 24-26

Atlanta, GA - Atlanta Historic Races

OCTOBER 16 - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

All British Car Day, Picnic Island, Tampa; hosted by the Austin Healey Club - for info call Marion Brantley (813) 867-7129

OCTOBER 15-17

Greenville, SC - Euro '99, hosted by the Foothills British Car Club - for info write to P.O. Box 258, Anderson, SC 29622-0258 or euro99info@aol.com

OCTOBER 15-17

Natchez, MS - Brits on the Bluff, hosted by the English Motoring Club - for info call Terry Trovato (601) 442-8684

OCTOBER 22-24

Savannah, GA - Savannah Historic Car Races

NOVEMBER - FSMGCC ACTIVITY

All British Invitational Rallye, hosted by Tom Jevcak

NOVEMBER 4-7

Daytona Beach, FL - Continental Historic Races

Glenn's MG Repair



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

DECEMBER 12 - FSMGCC ACTIVITY - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers, a progressive dinner and shake-down tour of area Christmas lights - for info call Sharon Alonso (727) 823-8480

FOR SALE

1979 MGB

89,000 miles, one owner car, always garage kept and absolutely no rust. A steal at \$2400.

For details call Gregg Miller at 352-629-9682.

Club Meetings

June 9th - Monthly Meeting July 14th - Monthly Meeting



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

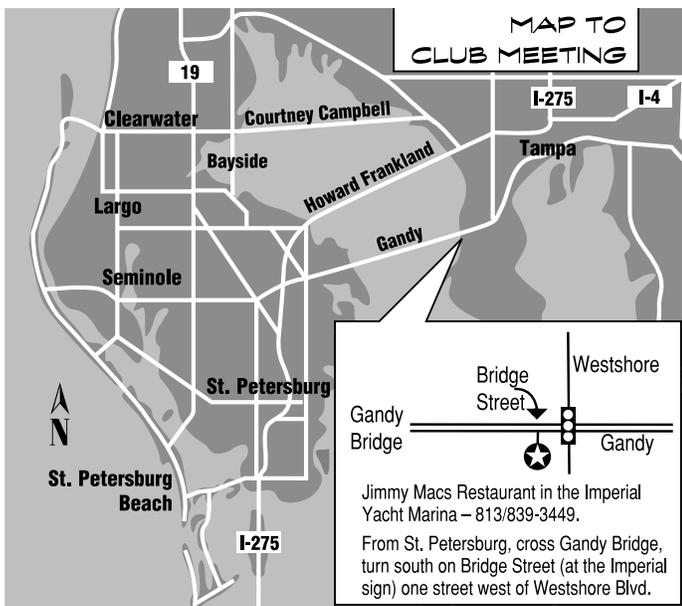
"It's Gotta Be Fun"

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)



1999 Club Officers

President:	<i>Glenn Lenbard</i>	727-827-0332
Vice President:	<i>René Reno</i>	813-238-7261
Secretary:	<i>Gail Lenbard</i>	727-827-0332
Treasurer:	<i>Dave Tietz</i>	727-321-3809
Board of Directors:	<i>Jim Alonso</i>	727-823-8480
	<i>John Gilley</i>	727-321-7333
	<i>Chuck Helt</i>	813-960-2093
	<i>Bert Rauch</i>	727-576-9474
Newsletter:	<i>Holly Bird</i>	727-781-6888
	<i>Bert Rauch</i>	727-576-9474

Club FAX: 727-827-0332

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 René Reno at 813-238-7261.

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