



"It's Gotta Be Fun"

MORRIS GARAGES INFORMER

The Official Newsletter of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5

MAY 1998

Garlits was great!

A fun time was had by all at the Garlits Museum Tour. We got a private tour of Don Garlits' personal shop, and the restoration area (he had a '34 Ford restoration in the works). Don was a good host, but what would you expect from a fellow MGer?

Dianne & I had some out-of-town company, so we took our 'Merican Iron (the LeBaron), and got lost - so we missed the tour - but we heard it was great. Please read Amelia Moran's account later in this issue. Thanks Amelia!

The very next week was the Grand Prix Challenge. It was a hoot! Glenn Lenhard was the fastest, closely followed by Jerry Knezic (Sarasota club) and Brian Rauch coming in third. The difference between the fastest and third was a scant .355 second... Close!

I did OK I guess, it seemed like my car wouldn't accelerate as fast as the others, although it was the car that Brian Rauch used... I'm not sure why that would be, unless the tires were too hot... Yea, the tires must have been too hot... That's it!

Our old nemesis the Sarasota Suncoast British Car Club won the club prize... But just wait until next year! Please read Kelly Rauch's article on the event in this newsletter. Thanks Kelly!

The car show at Checkers was fun. Bob Carr had announced it at the April meeting, and Dianne & I joined Bert & Bruce Rauch and Bob Carr & Holly Bird (and a few other MGers) for the event. Always interesting to see some of the muscle machines. Bob wrote up his impressions of the event for us. Thanks Bob!

Dave Tietz



At Don Garlits: JB McKinnon, Hugh Moran, Don Garlits, Glenn & Gail Lenhard, Tom Jevcak, Ralph Przybeck, Dave Tietz, Courtney Starke, Joe Eletto, John Robinson, Jackie & John Murdock.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

*Florida Suncoast MG Car Club
May 13, 1998*

Jim Alonso called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced member Chuck Helt, owner/manager of Atlantic Goodyear, who gave an interesting talk on tires and passed around brochures detailing the many aspects of tires. The Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's Report, given by Glenn Lenhard, was approved.

Correspondence: Jim recapped the MG Council of North America newsletter. The Club received an invitation to participate in

the Pioneer Day event in Dade City on Labor Day, September 7, 1998. Jim also briefly mentioned the upcoming British Car Day on June 6th in Charleston and the Mini GOF held in Clinton, South Carolina on June 7-9. Two MG magazines were given away to the youngest members present.

Membership: Glenn reported that the club has 77 memberships. He also mentioned that Dave Tietz is working on a tri-fold flyer for the Club application.

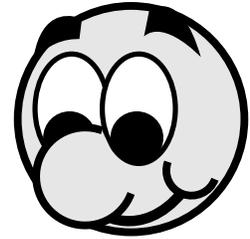
Activities : The Belleview Biltmore Breakfast had a good turnout with about half of those attending wearing Easter hats. The group enjoyed a delicious breakfast buffet.

Continued

June Moon Zoom

Saturday June 6, 1998

Bring your picnic basket, something to share if you wish, and meet at the Northeast corner of the Derby Lanes parking lot for departure at 5:30 pm. Gonna Be Fun!



The Don Garlits Tour was well attended. The group enjoyed a scenic ride up to Ocala, a beautiful driving tour, lunch with Don Garlits, a guided tour of his own personal workshop area and the body shop area where the cars are restored, as well as the Museum visits.

Bob Carr reported on the GO BO GO benefit car show in Palm Harbor to raise money for a local first grader with cancer. There were 5 cars from our Club in attendance.

John Gilley invited everyone to attend the Sunday, May 17th Malibu Grand Prix Challenge. Jim discussed the June Moon Zoom being held on Saturday, June 6th. Club members should bring a picnic supper and meet at the Gandy Dog Track prior to the 5:30 p.m. departure for Ft. DeSoto Park.

The September Club event will be a lazy 10 mile canoe trip down the Withlacoochee River on September 12, hosted by Gail and

Glenn Lenhard. An invitation was extended for those who want to camp at the Silver Lake Campgrounds that night. More information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

Fellowship: Bert expressed the Club's best wishes to Jim Alonso on the big 50. Get well cards were sent out to John Joseph, Dave Wilgus, and Martha Robinson.

MG Jamboree Committee: Bruce reported that a meeting was held where plans were laid for activities and food menus. Chairpeople were selected for registration, decorations and food. He asked for volunteers to call him.

Old Business: Concerning grill badges - Barry Higgins provided the Club with sev-



Breakfast Club

June 20th at 9:00 AM

Join Jim & Gina Kronenberger for Breakfast Club at Kissin' Cuzzins Restaurant, 7100 4th Street N., St. Petersburg

813/522-9806

eral tubes of Miracle Weld to repair badges where the bolt has come off. Glenn will strengthen the others before they are purchased.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Gail Lenhard

Roundtable

We start this session with Jim Alonso (Birthday Boy), who found that by tightening his rear end, his wheel wouldn't twist so much. I'm not sure he was talking about his car, but we may never know.

Bert Rauch is enjoying new seats in "Lady Kenmore". Bruce added extra padding for additional lumbar support. Apparently they got the idea from the adjustable lumbar support found in their "other" car, a Volvo.

Bob Carr recently acquired an MGC-GT, resplendent in Red paint, and chrome wire wheels. He plans to use it as a daily driver, and is quite happy with his purchase.

Chuck Helt recently handed his last running MG to the body shop for a re-spray. I guess he forgot that you were always supposed to keep ONE on the road.

Ralph Przybeck would like to install an overdrive transmission in his Metropolitan. Now THERE's a project! And you thought YOU were being ambitious when you did the last oil change by yourself!!

The Knight, Strickland, and Wilgus fami-

Continued

Fellowship Corner

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

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

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

- June 2 Richard & Gerry Ostroff
- June 3 Chuck Saffel & Louise Auger
- June 8 Barry & Linda Higgins
- June 8 Bruce & Bert Rauch (35)
- June 16 Bill & Marianna Graham
- June 17 Lyle & Toni Jones
- June 18 Don & Kathy Schmidt
- June 30 Walter & Stella Bumby

John Joseph, we're hoping that you're feeling better, now that your treatments are over.

Dave Wilgus, we hope you recover quickly and painlessly from your recent back surgery.

We're repeating those get well wishes for Martha Robinson who had neck surgery the same day as Dave Wilgus' back surgery.

Bert Rauch

BRITISH CAR DRIVERS INVADE MALIBU GRAND PRIX

"Here he comes, here comes Speed Racer! He's a demon on wheels!"

Speed Racer theme song

Florida drivers beware! There were a lot of racer-wannabe British car owners burning up the track at the Malibu Grand Prix Challenge on Sunday, May 17 at the Malibu Grand Prix in Tampa.

There were excellent racing conditions - sunny and warm with 21 drivers of all ages participating in the challenge between the FSMGCC and the Sarasota Suncoast British Car Club. After choosing an appropriate helmet, each participant drove three laps on the twisting and turning track. The best two times were averaged for each participant's qualifying time. John Gilley presented trophy plaques to Glenn Lenhard, clocking the fastest time of 55.55 seconds, followed by Sarasota club member Jerry Knezic with a time of 55.85. Brian Rauch skidded into third place with a time of 55.915.

Although the clubs tried to be politically correct and not differentiate between men and women drivers, there were some speedy, safe women drivers who deserve to be mentioned. Judy Alexander from the Sarasota club was the fastest with a lap average of 58.11, followed by Kelly Rauch with 61.725 and Pam Vossler with an average time of 61.925.

The only downside to the event was that the Sarasota club's average speed of 60.741 was faster than our club's average speed of 62.299. John Gilley and Pam Vossler planned this thrilling event which is destined to be an annual activity. The site opened early for our clubs, and the lap timing was done electronically. Members of the "rival" clubs made peace over lunch at TGI Fridays after the trophies were awarded.

Kelly Rauch



Kelly Rauch ready to go at the Malibu Grand Prix



The individual winners: Glenn Lenhard, Jerry Knezic & Brian Rauch

lies participated in the Gulfport Auto Show after the Belleview Breakfast. This show has been going on for many years, and I don't think the Club has ever had a presence in the past. Hint, hint, hint.

John Gilley has a pretty nice rubber bumper Midget for sale, and was surprised to hear that when he bought that used engine for his MG 1100, it included a FREE CAR. Plus shipping and handling, of course.

One of our "invisible" members, Gary Heeren, brought out his Primrose TF to the meeting. His job has been interfering with his Wednesday evenings. It was a pleasure to see him.

Tom and Eileen celebrated her birthday with a trip to Disney's new animal theme park. If you have never gone with the Jevcaks on one of their "pilgrimages" to Disney, you haven't lived. I think they must own part of

the place by now!

Glenn is being kept busy with musical activities as well as the new shop location. We will try to get him to let us know when the concerts for the Tampa Bay Symphony are scheduled during the next season.

Gail Lenhard got a dryer for her wedding anniversary. Who says romance is dead??

Glenn Lenhard

GO-BO-GO Benefit Car Show

"The Night Riders" Car Club hosted a benefit show at the Checkers drive-thru restaurant in Palm Harbor on the evening of April 24th. More than a hundred cars, several drag boats and the biggest hair-do's in the county were on display at this well attended public event. A total of over \$3,000 in proceeds was donated by the "Night Riders" to a cancer treatment fund for Bo Everett, a first grader at Ozona Elementary School. The organization was most appreciative of our participation and commented very positively on the attention the MG cars received.

FSMGCC had members Bruce & Bert Rauch with their *red* MGA 1600, Dave & Dianne Tietz with their *red* MGB-GT, Holly Bird with our *red* MGA MkII, and myself with my new *red* MGC-GT. Guests of our Club included George Pardee & family who showed his rare non-*red* MG-Y saloon, and my good buddy Doug Wilson (a former

MGC roadster owner). Our group came home with a handful of top 50 awards and some nice donated door prizes. A good time for a good cause was had by all and, as

George so graciously noted, "This is certainly the LARGEST trophy I have ever won!"

Bob Carr



Garlits' Museum Tour

7:45 AM May 9th: A group of MGs left St. Pete and headed up Hwy 41 to Ocala. A few more joined in on the way. One lone car went up 75 (they needed an extra hour of sleep). Weather was perfect for traveling with the tops down. 10 MGs and 2 family cars rounded up in Sonny's Bar-B-Que parking lot around 10 AM. Fresh donuts were waiting for us - thanks to the Murdocks.

The group consisted of Jim Alonso, Joe Eletto, Tom & Eileen Jevcak, Glenn & Gail Lenhard, J.B. McKinnon, Hugh & Amelia Moran, John & Jackie Murdock, Ralph Przybeck & Carolyn Shields, Bruce & Bert Rauch, John & Martha Robinson, Frank Spirek, Dave & Dianne Tietz & her sister Lynn. Courtney Starke, a friend of the Murdocks, came along, too.

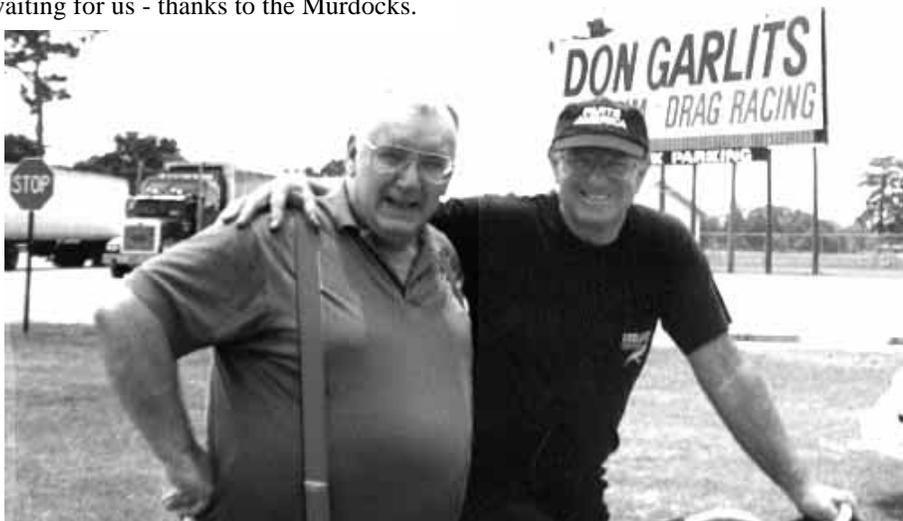
John and Jackie led us on a 45 minute tour of horse country. Beautiful scenery! Along the way we saw a new foal along with many other horses and livestock. Following the car tour we all regrouped at Sonny's where Don Garlits joined us for lunch. After the meal, Don gave us a personal tour of the behind-the-scenes part of his complex, including his own personal workshop and the shop used to restore many of the cars in the museums.

The Museum of Drag Racing has over 75 race cars and memorabilia from the early days of drag racing to the present. The Classic Car Museum has the most unique collection of antique cars and trucks in the world (including one '54 MGTF). Over 60 vehicles, arranged by manufacturer, are in good original condition or authentically and lovingly restored.

Frank Spirek escorted most of the ladies to Patchington's where they did Mother's Day shopping. Around 3 PM we all headed home in various groups and by various routes.

Amelia Moran

P.S. My braided hair lasted the whole trip with the top down.



Your humble Newsletter Editor, Dave Tietz with Don Garlits

June

Florida Suncoast MG Car Club

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 June Moon Zoom St. Petersburg
7 CLUB MEETINGS June 10 Monthly Meeting July 1 Board of Directors July 8 Monthly Meeting August 12 Monthly Meeting Sept. 9 Monthly Meeting			10 7:30 PM Monthly Meeting at Steak & Ale Clearwater	11	12	13
			17	18	19	20 Breakfast Club St. Petersburg
				25	26	27

OTHER CLUB MG EVENTS

- June 20-21; Silverstone, England - Silverstone Meeting, Hosted by: MGCC, Abingdon
- July 8-12; Hagerstown, MD - NAMGBR MG '98, hosted by MGs of Baltimore - for info call Sally Schlining (410) 461-5888; for reservations call: (800) 283-6423
- July 12-15; Annapolis, MD - 2nd Annual MG-V8 Meet, hosted by V8 Register of the North American MGB Register - for info call (440) 331-4205
- July 21-23; Chattanooga, TN - NAMGAR GT-23, hosted by the Southern British Car Club - for info call Linda & Bryson Lesley (706) 375-8750; for reservations call: 1-800-TRACK 29
- July 24-26; Pensacola, FL - American MGC Convention - for info call (704) 274-2269
- 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

CLUB EVENTS

- June 6 - June Moon Zoom
- June 20 - Breakfast Club
- July 11 - Tour to Lakeland to visit Florida Southern College, which has 12 buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, followed by meal at Branch Ranch
- August 15 - Movie Night at the Drive-in
- September - 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



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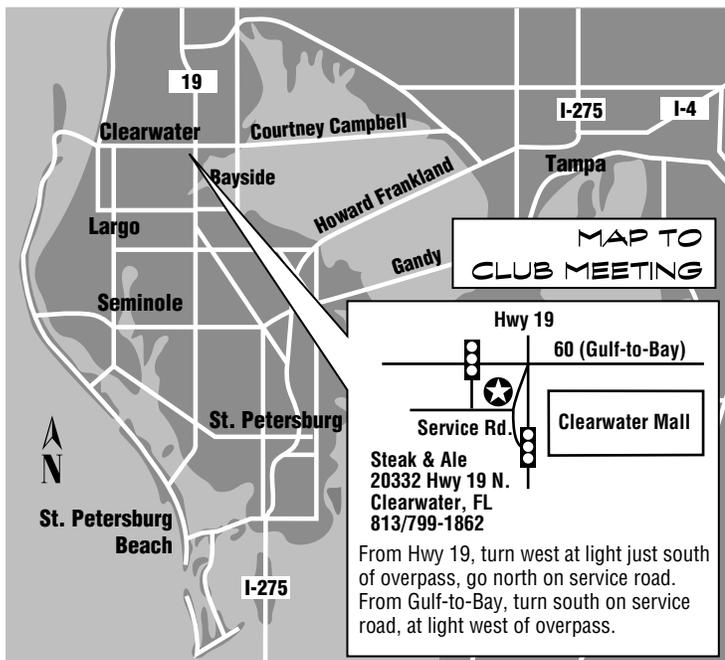
P.O. Box 0251
Tampa, FL 33601-0251

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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