



"It's Gotta Be Fun"

MORRIS GARAGES INFORMER

The Official Newsletter of the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club



VOLUME 18, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1998

MG Jamboree 10 - Let's Do It Again!

The MG Jamboree 10 Committee reports a good number of registrants for the event this year. The Riverside Inn is almost sold out!

Gonna be fun! The games people have been busy, and from what I know, if you don't want a dull moment, you won't get one. Don't forget to bring your Auction items!

As there wasn't a driving event last month, I decided to front page a picture snapped at last month's Pioneer Days event. Look out for those cars!

Dianne & I couldn't make Picnic Island as we were up in the mountains of South Carolina. We went to Euro '98 at Greenville. It was a nice trip. I have an article in this issue about the experience (no flat tires this time).

Brian & Bruce Rauch also made the trip... Next time you see Brian, be sure to ask him if it's true the last 10% of a restoration is 90% of the work. He does have some stories to tell about getting his '73 Opel (four years in the re-making) on display in Greenville.

Club members Lyle & Toni Jones went to the 50th anniversary of Watkins Glen. Lyle was kind enough to write up their experiences for this issue. Thanks Lyle!

Looking at the Club Events scheduled for the next couple of months, we have a bunch for you to do! Look it over and join in!

I am truly signing off as Newsletter Editor as of the end of this year. If you have Newsletter Editor skills, please see Glenn Lenhard as he needs to appoint someone for this job for the coming year. It's been fun, but it's time for someone else to put in their 2 cents worth. I will continue to contribute to future editions, to maintain our club WEB site... and to watch your money!

Dave Tietz



Board Meeting Minutes

Florida Suncoast MG Car Club
October 7, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Jim Alonso at Jimmy Mac's Restaurant in Tampa. A Quorum was present. The Board Meeting Minutes from July 1, 1998 were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership: The Board voted acceptance of 7 new memberships: James Norwood (MGB), Joseph & Linda Roberts ('58 MGA), Eugene & Marsha Van der Wall ('72 MGB), Jerry & Mary Lou Prescott ('74 MGB), Bruce & Chris Cohen ('78 MGB), Brian & Lori Adornato ('77 MGB), Paul & Sandra Ballard ('72 MGB).

Special BOD Meeting

November 9 at 7:00 PM - Jim Alonso's house - details inside.

Activities Committee: The November Breakfast Club will be Saturday, November 21, hosted by Bob Carr & Holly Bird. The Santa Parade in St. Petersburg will be Saturday morning, December 5. The Club Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 6. Sunday December 19, we'll be caroling and looking at Christmas lights.

MG Jamboree 10: Jim read an excerpt written by Tony Roth of the Classic MG Club, Inc. reporting fun times at previous Jamborees & inviting everyone from their club to participate. Bruce reported that plans are coming along well.

Old Business: A Motion was approved that the Board recommend a new meeting venue after the first of the year. Jim will present the recommendation to the Membership at the next meeting.

Jim had previously asked Tom Jevcak if he

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would like to chair a coast-to-coast Rallye and Tom accepted at this meeting. A Motion was approved to table voting on the proposed Rallye at this time. Another Motion was approved to call a special Board meeting on Monday November 9 at Alonso's to vote on the Jevcak proposal for the coast-to-coast Rallye.

Nominations: Jim presented the slate of 1999 candidates: President - Glenn Lenhard; Vice-president - René Reno; Treasurer - David Tietz; Secretary - Gail Lenhard; Board Members - Jim Alonso, John Gilley, Chuck Helt and Bert Rauch.

Dues: A Motion was approved to keep the dues at \$20.00 for 1999.

The Meeting was adjourned.

Gail Lenhard

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Florida Suncoast MG Car Club
October 14, 1998

Jim Alonso called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Minutes of the September 9, 1998 meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's Report, given by Glenn Lenhard, was approved.

Membership: The Club currently has 89 member families.

Upcoming Activities: The Zephyrhills Fall Festival will be held November 19 - 22. This 4-day event boasts 2500 vendors and there will be a 2-day auction.

On Saturday, November 21 at 9 a.m. Bob Carr & Holly Bird will host the Breakfast Club at Annie's Kitchen in Palm Harbor.

Our Club will be in the St. Petersburg Santa Parade on the morning of December 5th.

Our Club Christmas Party will be held on December 6th at René Reno's home in Tampa. The Club will provide turkey &

ham for this event, with those attending bringing a dish to share.

We have been asked again to sing Christmas carols at Heartland of St. Petersburg Nursing Home. On December 19, those interested should gather at Lenhard's at 2:30 p.m.

where we will walk the 3 blocks to Heartland. Afterwards, plan on dinner out followed by a Christmas Lights Tour.

We've been invited to a New Year's Party at the Cars of Yesteryear Museum in Sarasota, sponsored by the Suncoast British Car Club. The cost is \$10. The Sarasota-Bradenton Hampton Inn, right at the museum location, is offering a \$55 rate for the night. The reservation number is 800/426-7866 (mention the Suncoast British Car Club). The hosts suggest clothing styles from the same year as your car.

In January, the Club's event is an overnighter to Ft. Myers to tour the holiday-decorated Edison & Ford Homes. Gail Lenhard is heading this activity and will have hotel information at the next monthly meeting.

Past Activities: Glenn spoke about the September 12 Club Canoe Trip. Several cars met at the Dog Track to caravan to a Cracker Barrel where they met more Members. The group had 8 canoes and enjoyed a lazy trip down the Withlacoochie River, with Dave & Dianne Tietz's grandson making sure no one got away without getting wet. A picnic lunch was enjoyed at Hog Island, the halfway mark of the trip. Those who attended hope that this will become an annual event.

The 12th Annual All British Car Show was held on Saturday, October 17. John Gilley



Breakfast Club

November 21 at 9:00 AM

Join Bob Carr & Holly Bird for "Breakfast in Old Palm Harbor" at Annie's Kitchen, 1023 Florida Avenue in Palm Harbor. The phone is 727/786-4092

cooked lunch for members of our Club.

Jamboree 10: Bert reported that preparations are going well. She asks that if anyone still has a map from last year's Jamboree 9 Rallye, please send it to her.

Fellowship: It was really nice to see Tom Bradshaw at the Board Meeting and to know that he is feeling better. Martha Robinson is now walking at home with little discomfort since "new knee" surgery.

Ballot Committee: JoAnn Hamilton, Chairman, listed the candidates for 1999 offices:

President:	Glenn Lenhard
Vice-president:	René Reno
Secretary:	Gail Lenhard
Treasurer:	David Tietz
Board of Directors:	Jim Alonso John Gilley Chuck Helt Bert Rauch

Jim stated that if anyone else was interested in running, contact JoAnn before the end of the meeting, after which nominations would be closed.

Correspondence: A flyer was passed around with a 1970 MGB roadster for sale. Also, a brochure for 3 MG prints and a Pedal Car - K Type kit was passed around.

Old Business: Jim Alonso reported that at their October meeting, the Board of Directors discussed changing the monthly meeting venue from Steak & Ale to Jimmy Mac's in Tampa. The consensus from our members is that a change is in order. A Motion for changing the monthly meeting location in November failed to pass. A second Motion to change the monthly meeting location to Jimmy Mac's in January, 1999 passed. The November newsletter will have a large notice announcing the change as well as a map.

Jim talked to Don Bartlett with Auto Appraisals about speaking at a Club meeting

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Fellowship Corner

November Birthdays:

Nov. 2 Nancy LaBrecque
Nov. 8 Glenn Lenhard
Nov. 13 Irbye Giddens
Nov. 16 Chuck Hamilton
Nov. 18 Sandy Freeman
Nov. 24 Alicia Berberie

November Anniversaries:

Nov. 12 Gregg & Darlene Miller

Frank & Nell are "out west" visiting their first grandson (they do have granddaughters, though). Benton Forest Spirek was born September 18th to their son & his wife. He weighed in at 8 1/2 pounds & was 22 inches long.

Tom Bradshaw is feeling stronger and has been going to work. We were glad to see him at the Board Meeting on November 7 !!

sometime. Mr. Bartlett stated that he would need 30-40 minutes. It was suggested that Mr. Bartlett might speak at a future tech. session. This will be tabled for the new Board of Directors.

New Business: The Board of Directors recommended that membership dues for 1999 remain \$20. A Motion was approved to keep dues at \$20 for 1999.

By the end of the meeting, there were no further nominations for the 1999 Officers. A Motion was approved to accept the slate of Officers as it stood. Therefore, no ballots need be sent out this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. for the Round Table.

Gail Lenhard

Round Table

Tom and Eileen Jevcak's Rolls started quite easily, so now it's time to pick up the TA gas tank. We've been hearing about this gas tank ALMOST as much as we hear about Mag wheels and Webers from our fearless Editor. I hope this is one BEAUTIFUL gas tank!!!

JoAnn Hamilton has been busy as the Ballot Committee Chairman-person-guy. We ap-

preciate her help. The Hamilton's did a tour of New England (in a rental!) and are busy getting the Midget ready for Picnic Island (where it won a first place... and deserved it!). Chuck reports seeing only *one* MG during the 5-6 day tour, but saw plenty of Ferraris and Porsches.

Marge Wilgus is sometimes baffled by the number of MGs that keep coming and going from the household. Poor Dave says trying to keep them all in running and in driving condition is almost as much work as the initial restoration. Carburetor problems seem to be the most prevalent condition of these "sitters".

Lee Strickland said something about "...asdlv apsdm;sdpkd l db365-dagmk..." I *really* gotta write slower and stop scribbling these notes.

David Knight let us know that MG parts are much cheaper in England, but only if you don't figure in air fare with the final cost!

Ralph Przybeck has also done some traveling and reports seeing a Lotus meet in the North Carolina area. Is this sort of like the Audubon Society?... (well, we saw three warblers and 2 double crested blue-jay robins on Sunday, then we were *most* excited when we were able to see not one, but *two* herring-bone henny-penny cormorants in the *same hour*...)

Carl Morris was also with us and reports he has quit smoking and can taste food again. He is looking well.

René Reno has been canoeing, and I might be able to talk her into sponsoring next year's Club canoe trip.

The infamous MG 1100 of Gail Lenhard is running and looks *good*. She has decided on a name for it. I'm sure she will tell everyone what it is at the next meeting.

Of course, I'm the one who finished this infamous 1100, and I will no longer laugh when an interior shop gives me an outrageous estimate for two-fabric, double paneled door panels again. I would rather rebuild engines and transmissions than cut and glue naugahyde ever again!



Christmas Party

December 6, 1998

4:00 p.m.

The Club's Annual Christmas Party and Officers & Directors induction is a fun event with plenty to eat. The Club will provide main meats and beverages. Members are to bring side dishes to share. Let René Reno know what you plan to bring when you RSVP. Each person participating in the Gift Exchange should bring a \$10.00 item, wrapped and identified by gender. Dress is dressy/casual. We hope to see you there.

RSVP to René Reno 238-7261 by December 2nd.

To René Reno's House: 7509 Ola Avenue, Tampa, FL

Travel I-275 to Tampa, exit I-275 at Sligh Avenue, go west to Florida Avenue, go north (right) on Florida Ave. to Broad St., turn left on Broad St. to Ola Avenue, turn right on Ola to the third house on the right.

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Watkins Glenn - Day 1

September 11 - 13, 1998. They came!! From NH to CA, FL to MI, WA to NM, ONT. & QUE., GER & UK ... and still they came!! From 26 states and in over 300 pre-war and T-models, MGs they came!! In fancy enclosed trailers, in open trailers, towed and on their own wheels, they came!! Why? The New England MG 'T' Register was holding its semi-annual Gathering of the Faithful MK66 at The Lodge on the Green in Painted Post, NY to assist in celebrating the 50th anniversary of road racing at Watkins Glen.

What a glorious sight to behold - all these cars and their drivers and navigators, exhaust notes crying out, "Let's go!", then streaming out to traverse hilly country roads

on a many-mile rally leading to the race track at Watkins Glen. The rally course had steep climbing roads, right turns, left turns, an occasional downhill, but always climbing. This was a rally course the gods had in mind when they knew that one day a little motorcar dubbed "MG" would come into being.

Upon arrival at "The Glen", the T models and earlier versions were directed to a reserved area where lunch was waiting, along with a souvenir bottle of wine and a program for each 'team'. Then the REAL reason for this trip came to pass. With a police escort leading and controlling traffic at cross-roads, the T's went forth. Down the hills into Watkins Glen they roared. Passing the Courthouse, the starting point for the very

first race 50 years ago, the drivers and navigators, to the cheers of thousands lining Franklin Street, roared off to ceremoniously re-enact the 6.6 mile first lap of the first race.

It was a moment to remember. We crossed the railroad tracks of the New York Central, where trains were held up for the race 50 years ago. We tore through the countryside while police held traffic, farmers and residents waving along the course. Then it was time to dive down the steep slope and to make a sharp right turn onto Franklin Street, where the crowd had increased in size and enthusiasm. It was a brief moment in history, but one to be long remembered.

Lyle Jones

Hey, Hey, Hey Top Down All The Way!

Dianne & I (and Molly, our '70 MGB) took a long weekend spin up to Greenville, South Carolina to attend Euro '98 on October 16-18. It was a hoot! Beautiful weather, cool days (even leaving Florida on the 15th), and as the headline says, we had the top down all the way up, while there, and all the way back (and I have the sunburn to prove it).

Friday morning, after over-nighting in Milledgeville, GA (I wouldn't say there was frost - but the dew did congeal a bit), Dianne & I "bundled up" for a couple of hours. By 10:30 AM I had feeling back in my fingers. We arrived at 1:25 pm at the BMW plant for our 1:30 factory tour (I did have to push it slightly on I-85).

The factory tour was interesting. It appears the BMW Z3 is put together with at least as much care as our MGs must have been. BMW does buy a lot of the body parts here in the States, although the drive train comes from Germany.

There was a reception Friday night and Saturday was the show. Because it was an "all European" show, there were Porsches, BMWs, Mercedes, Volvos, Audis and even an Opel to look at in addition to all the British Marques we know and love.

The 1973 Opel GT was presented by a Club member, Brian Rauch (see picture on Calendar page). Brian spent some 4 years restoring the car, and it really shows. Nice!

There was a MGF at the show, and one of the many seminars featured the racing his-

tory (2 years now) of the car. It did draw a fair amount of interest.

After the show and before the banquet, Dianne & I took Molly on a run up to Caesars Head Mountain, which is a local point of interest. It is at 3,227 feet with tight hair-pin curves on the way. On the top you can stretch your eye balls for quite a few miles and there is a good fudge shop too!

The banquet was... well a banquet. The keynote speech was a little dry... The speaker was Paul Ragborne, a man who has spent 40 years in the design of these cars, starting with the Bug-eye Sprite, ending with the MGF. Seems like he could have had some very interesting stories to tell.

Sunday morning was a 2 hour Rallye around the area. Now Dianne and I and Molly generally do pretty well at these fun Rallyes,

but we got lost on this one. We did finish, and had lunch, but we had to leave before the last cars came in. It was neat to pass the BMWs & Porsches (maybe if we hadn't, we wouldn't have gotten lost). For that event, we were all sports car owners in one common cause. The whole weekend was a great "memory builder".

I got new mini-lites & tires for Molly from Club member Chuck Helt - WOW! We held 70 mph on the interstates (faster where permitted), and set the pace on US 441. Hard to believe what steering rack rebuilding and wheel alignment (thanks Glenn), wheels & tires (thanks Chuck) and the Tietz Tube Shock Conversion (and new GT springs this spring) can do to improve the driveability of a formerly tired old MG. Minneapolis 2001, I'm ready to go!

Dave Tietz



Dianne & Molly at the end of the Rallye. Meanest Rallye Master I ever encountered, but we made it back in time for lunch! How about those wheels huh? The Weber is under the hood...

November Florida Suncoast MG Car Club 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 	7 
8 	9 7:00 PM Special BOD Meeting	10	11 7:30 PM Monthly Meeting at Steak & Ale Clearwater	12	13	14
15	16	17	<div data-bbox="641 577 1307 976" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Glenn's MG Repair</h2> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Glenn A. Lenhard 13715 - C 49th Street N. Clearwater, FL 33762 (813) 572-1069</p> </div> </div>			21 9:00 AM Breakfast Club Palm Harbor
<div data-bbox="73 640 625 1186" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>CLUB EVENTS</h3> <p>November 6-8 - MG Jamboree 10 November 21 - Breakfast Club, Palm Harbor December 5 - Santa Parade in St. Petersburg December 6 - Club Christmas Party/ Installation of Officers December 19 - Caroling and Christmas Lights Tour, St. Petersburg December 31 - New Year's Eve Party, Cars of Yesterday Museum, Sarasota January, 1999 - Overnight trip to Edison/Ford Mansions in Ft. Myers - gotta see those holiday lights!</p> </div>						28
			<div data-bbox="641 955 1015 1186" data-label="Complex-Block"> <h3>CLUB MEETINGS</h3> <p>Nov 11 Monthly Meeting Dec 9 Monthly Meeting Jan 6 BOD Meeting Jan 13 Monthly Meeting Feb 10 Monthly Meeting</p> </div>			



I know, I know, it's not an MG... But, this is Club member Brian Rauch and his 1973 Opel GT at the Euro '98 show. Brian has spent countless hours over four years getting this beauty restored. It's nice! Brian took a 3rd place in his class.

Round Table continued from page 3

Bob Carr and Holly took some Internet-met friends on a cruise on their sailboat. It seems there is some interest in the type of boat they have, possibly even a club on the horizon?

Jim Alonso threw a tire tread on his GT, and did some serious damage to a fender, but it is all better now, being ministered by the same shop that did the present paint job many years ago.

Bert reports that Bruce has been occupied with getting their son Brian's '73 Opel GT ready for its first road trip-show, and it is a stunning car.

John Gilley's work has been building parts for the Harley Davidson company, and he reports the quality control is one of the best in the business. John was most gracious in loaning me his front seats from his MG 1100 to save me the last-minute hassle of having mine recovered, but he made me sign a 5-page form stating the loan was of short term nature only!!

Our visitor John Moonan told us of his college days and ownership of a new '64 MGB. He presently has a '77, and it is treating him well. Nice meeting you, John.

Glenn Lenhard



"It's Gotta Be Fun"

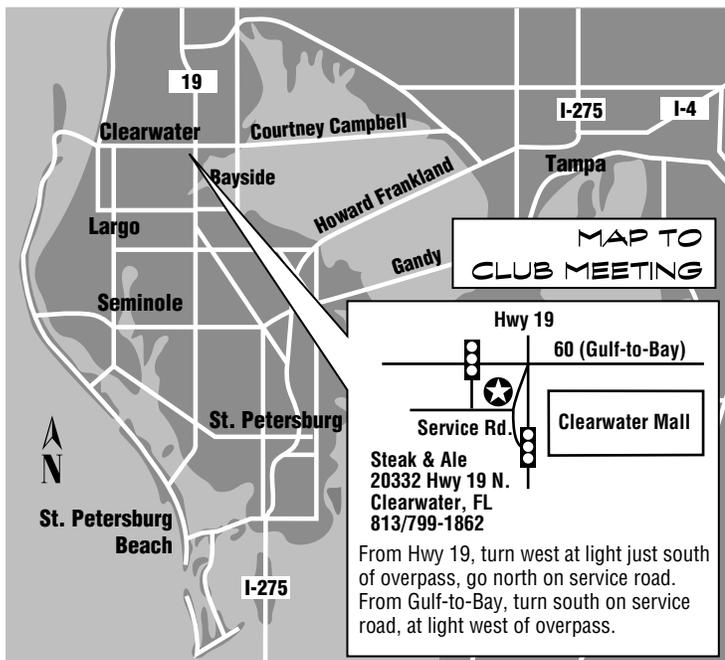
P.O. Box 0251
Tampa, FL 33601-0251

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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