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October 20, 2003

Jax Classics

Monthly Newsletter of the MG Classics of Jacksonville

The purpose of MG Classics of Jacksonville is the enjoyment, preservation and maintenance of MG sports cars. Club membership is open to all MG owners. Associate membership is available to all MG Enthusiasts.

The Prez Sez

The Prez Sez,

Thanks to all that made it to the last meeting. It was a very well attended meeting. After our discussion on collecting raffle prizes for the British Car Classic, Steve Meth was able to obtain a donation from Santioni's.

Several noticed the absence of Jack and Marylu Thomas, however none of us had heard of the reason. Jack is recovering from a severe auto accident back in August. Fortunately, he has regained the use of his limbs, and the prognosis it positive. We wish Jack a speedy recovery.

Due to the threatening weather, we decided to call the Sunday drive to Fernandina off. It was agreed that our regular second Sunday drives occur only with fair weather expected. Rather than scrambling to reorganize during the month, we will push the trip to the following month. Therefore, Fernandina will continue to be our next destination. If you are interested in going, let Dave White or myself know.

British Car Classic will be held at the Mandarin Community Center on Saturday, October 25. Hopefully you will receive the newsletter before hand as a final reminder. Thanks to all that have volunteered and collected or contributed raffle prizes.

Calendar

October 25: British Car Classic

We are hosting this year and it will be held at the Mandarin Community Center, 12447 Mandarin Rd, Jacksonville, FL.. Drive, push, pull or just drag your car in to the show!! Look for more reminders in the newsletter. If you have questions on assignments call Chris at 904-273-9493

October 27: Next meeting of MG Classics of Jax,

7:30 pm, St. Johns Seafood
9825 San Jose Blvd, 338-9349

Nov 1: Tech Session at Drew DeCandis's. Contact Jim Hall to order parts. More info, including directions at the meeting.

December 7; Annual Xmas Party. To be held again in the party room of Dave and Linda White's condo. Mark your calendars, more details to come.

April 23 thru 25, 2004: GOF South MK XXXVIII. Palm Coast, Florida. John Twist from University Motors will be presenting a tech session.

Prez Sez (Continued)

Drew DeCandis has volunteered his garage for the next Tech Session. It will be on November 1st. If you need to do some work on your car, contact Jim Hall to secure your parts. I will make a final count of attendees at the next meeting.

Planning for the GOF is still underway. It will be on April 23 thru 25. Chris Waage presented an update at the last meeting. I am sure more information will be getting out in the upcoming months. If you have not already made plans, please do so soon. We expect a wonderful turnout. Due to the closure of the Ponce in St. Augustine, we have made arrangements in Palm Coast. Those that made it to last year's GOF can attest to the wonderful grounds.

It has been a slow month for MG's to be on the road. I have seen a B and a red TD in Ponte Vedra, for which I have not been able to identify the owner. It appeared to have a fresh restoration and ran well, as I was unable to track it down. Let me know if you know who this might be.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting. We have several things in the works, and suggestions are welcome. We will again open the floor for nominations for next year's officers. Contact Dave White if you are interested.

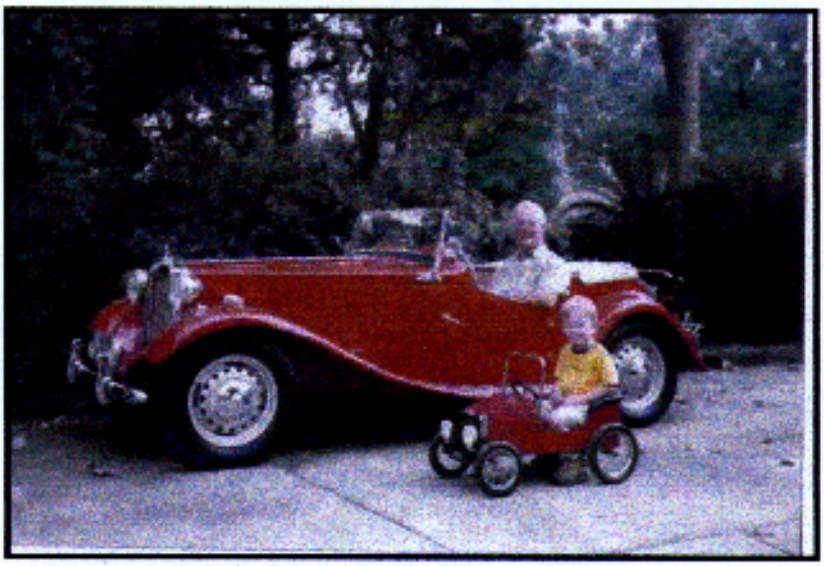
Safety Fast!

Mike

A Nater and Noggin ...Rescheduled

Dave White

Last months trip was cancelled due to rain. So … November 9th we are planning to try it again. We'll meet at Safe Harbor Seafood on Heckscher Blvd near 9A and travel together up to Fernandina Beach. We will finalize plans at the meeting, next Monday. Hope you can join us!!



George Fipp and Grandson in their matching TD's.

Trip to GOF Southeast, Hiawassee, GA

Rod Marcom

Early Thursday morning October 2, 2003, Larry & Linda Dockins (with granddaughter Katelyn in her car seat) with their 1980 MG secure on their trailer, Sherman & Tammy Dockins bundled up against the morning chill in their 1964 MGB and Carol & Rod Marcom secure, warm, dry and cozy in Carol's 1971 MGBGT (now I know why she just HAD to have this car!) set off for the SE MG GOF in Hiawassee, Georgia. We joined with Jim Hall and grandson, Chris in McClenny with Jim's MG parts in his truck (fortunately for us) and his 1972 MGBGT on his trailer. After a brief stop for fuel and breakfast, we were off and running. We soon found out that our trusty trailblazer, Jim knew the best way to get to our destination, so we placed him in the lead, sandwiching Sherman's MGB and Carol's GT between the two modern lead and chase vehicles.

Our trip up was uneventful and a lot of fun but for the last hour of the trip. As we made our turn westward toward Hiawassee in the mountains at dusk -- suddenly ALL the GTs gauges quit. After a few minutes on the side of the road, Jim quickly diagnosed the problem and since we had lights working, we decided to push onward to our destination and repair the faulty fuse box in the morning. Fortunately, Jim Hall had all the necessary parts available. The new fuse box was quickly installed the next morning.

We had a great time visiting with our MG friends from Georgia and all around the SE USA! The Lodge was absolutely beautiful, the weather gorgeous and TONS of cars to drool over. All of us made new friends, became reacquainted with old friends and loved the whole weekend!

The first timers competition was tight with over 20 first timers in the showing. Carol's MGBGT took third place in the first timers with the car that took best of show coming in first -- a beautiful 1938 MG TB. In the MGBGT category, our own Jim Hall's 1972 took first place, with Carol's GT in second (out of a field of three).

When we all went to lunch the first day at the show, Jim's GT's fuel pump decided to fail. AGAIN, he had all the right parts. Assisted by Larry's floor jack and three supervisors, he changed the fuel pump in the restaurant parking lot and off we went again for some more drooling over cars and driving through the beautiful mountain scenery.

Sherman, Tammy Carol and I took a side trip while Grandpa and Grandma Dockins watched the baby -- we looked for, and found, a great camping area nearby for a future return trip to this gorgeous countryside. In addition, while searching for campgrounds, we found a livery stable and took the opportunity to take a one and one-half hour horseback trail ride. This delayed our return to the Lodge for the Banquet by only a few minutes and only caused a few more gray hairs in the elder Dockins' heads!

The SE MGTC group did a fantastic job in organization of the meet, scenic drives, rallies and the food was fantastic!!!! (those Georgia folks know how to set a table)!! Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and before we knew it, it was time to pack up and head back to Jacksonville.

With our trusty trail master, we were off and running home early Sunday morning and took a more westerly course, finding the interstate travel to be more rapid -- with the exception of frequent 'potty stops' and the replacement of a failed brake light switch on Carol's GT (which was replaced by Jim Hall's switch from his GT) --- I will never go on another of these trips without Jim Hall and his parts wagon (SMILE)!

All parties arrived back home safe and sound and had a fantastic time during this GOF. For all the others that missed it, you missed a great time, but you were well-represented by four members of JAX Classics!

See you all at the GOF in April!,

Carol and Rod Marcom
1948 MGTC
1971 MGBGT

Editors Note: Thank you Rod and Carol for a great account of the GOF SE!! Sorry we had to miss it this year.

Stuff for Sale

1957 MGA

Red, Runs great, beautifully restored. Have $27,000 in it. Listed in Auto Trader for $16,900, will take $1,500 off for club members or friends. Contact Jerry @874-1859.

1960 MGA Coupe,

90% complete total body off restoration. Needs dash, interior, glass, grill and front bumper installed. Have all required parts. Save thousands + time. Bob Wrenn, 904-230-8396 or mgowner@bellsouth.net

66 MGB Roadster

Wire wheels, new paint, top, exhaust and tires. Very original car, runs well. $5250. Contact Tom at 904-284-8202.

1962 MGA Roadster

Cream White, disk wheels, 1000 miles in engine rebuild (English Garage). $18,000. Contact Bill Eckert at 285-3581.

1969 MGB

White with wire wheels. Fully restored $5600. St Augustine. Contact Ron at 904-461-0166 or (cell) 904-669-3152.

MG-TD Hardtop

Needs paint, headliner, windows to be fabricated. Have one frame for sample. $400. Contact Beverly Gilfillan at 904-285-3466.

1971 Midget

Fully restored BRG $4000. Contact David at 733-4762.

1 pair of MGB doors

Clean, hardware included, windows and upholstery. $150. Contact Chris Waage 904-273-9493.

MBG Door Hinges

Straight and tight $20 each. Contact Chris at 904-273-9493.

1977 MGB

Red w/black top. Canvas top is new, 110,000 miles. Runs good, with some rust. Pictures available via email. $3000. Contact Charles Stephens for info at chrimina@comcast.net or 904-256-4774.

Club Members Update

Chris Waage

Several members are in the process of starting new projects and continuing projects in progress. I spoke with a couple of members this week for updates.

Wayne Coker is starting the restoration of his 1951 MG TD. He is planning to take it DOWN to the frame.

On the opposite side of restoration, Stan Wakefield in ready to build UP his MGB rubber bumper. He's looking for a painter so if you have any recommendations give him a call/email.

Don't' forget British Car Day, Saturday, October 25 at the Mandarin Park and Community Center on Mandarin Road. If you have volunteered for a task and have a question (perhaps ... What did I volunteer for again?!?), give Chris Waage a call at 273-9493. If you haven't volunteered and would like to, call Chris right away at the same number. I'm sure he has something for you to do!!!

Also, if you have items for the raffle please contact Chris. He is in need of additional raffle gifts!

Editors Note: Thanks Chris for the project update!!!

The Great Race Press Release....

Jacksonville Named Start City for Great Race 2004

Oldest and longest Vintage Rally begins 4,000 mile race on June 19, 2004

SAN MARCOS, TX (Monday, September 8, 2003) - The Rally Partners, Inc., organizers of The Great Race, have announced that the City of Jacksonville, Florida, has been designated as the official host start city for the 22nd running of The Great Race. Jacksonville will send off 120 vintage vehicles on Saturday, June 19, as they compete in the two-week cross-country vintage rally.

"The Great Race finished here in Jacksonville in 1997, and now just a few years later we've got another great opportunity to be involved again by kicking it off. We are thrilled to be the chosen city and are looking forward to this wonderful event and all it has to offer," said Mayor Peyton.

The Great Race, America's oldest and longest running vintage motor sports competition, takes place annually. The cross-country trek is based on time-speed-distance for vehicles that are at least 45 years old. The actual competition route for the four thousand mile rally will be announced in early 2004. Great Race 2004 participants may enter any make, model or year of vehicle that was originally manufactured prior to 1959.

Wayne Stanfield, Chief Operating Officer of The Great Race and five-time winner said, "I have fond memories of Jacksonville; I won here in front or more than 40,000 spectators. It was on the fourth of July and hot, but coming over the river and seeing that crowd was spectacular for all of us Great Racers. I know that the city of Jacksonville will give our racers a reception as never before." Continued Stanfield, "The exact schedule for the week's festivities has not yet been finalized, although prior to the mid-day start, media and automobile enthusiasts are invited to view the race vehicles, talk to the competitors about the adventure that they will soon embark on and take lots of pictures."

Jacksonville Director of Sports and Entertainment, Michael Sullivan commented, "The City of Jacksonville, our downtown partners and local businesses will all be affected in such a positive manner by this wonderful family event. With more than 600 in the traveling entourage, 120 Great Race vehicles, support crews and transporters, the economic impact from The Great Race's multi-night stay will certainly make a statement. I understand that various car clubs and spectators from across the region will come out for the official start and we look forward to hosting all of them."

The Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment board works with and promotes many national level-sporting events, including the PGA, several college football games, NCAA Basketball tournament, and NFL Jacksonville Jaguars.

Bill Warner, Jacksonville native and past Great Race competitor, will witness both sides of The Great Race event. Warner plans to compete in his 1955 Chevrolet Nomad, under the Spirit of Jacksonville team during the competition and will work directly with the Sports and Entertainment board to see that the city is prepared for the onslaught of vintage vehicles as well as the necessary logistics in the months prior to the official start. "Being a part of such a wonderful automotive event surrounded by a strong patriotic theme is such a great opportunity for me as automobiles, restoration and competition are the

Continued on page 6

Great Race Press Release ....continued

Foundation for my passion," said Warner.

Corporate partnerships for 2004 are available on multi-levels of event participation and can be discussed by contacting Joyce Caron-Mercier, Executive Director Roush Marketing at 704-720-4625. Chevrolet Motor Division, Interstate Batteries, Qualcomm and Monaco Coach are official sponsor partners of The Great Race.

Rally Partners Inc. Is headquartered in San Marcos, Texas. For Information on The Great Race, call 800-989-7223 or go to *www.greatrace.com.*

The Great Race—A Road Trip for True Competitors

The Great Race 2004 will begin in Jacksonville, Florida and finish in Monterey, California. Sound like the perfect MG vacation for you? It did to Rick and Wallace Reichert. They were signed up for the 2003 trip after they did the Great Texas Race in 2002 (see *www.MGClassics.org* web page for photos of Rick and his dad). This years official race synopsis follows:

The Great Race held its 21st running, traversing more than four thousand miles across 15 states in 14 days. We left Livonia, Michigan on Saturday, June 21 and crossed the finish line at Daytona International Speedway, FL on Saturday, July 5, 2003.

The Great Race is the country's longest running vintage and richest vintage automobile rally. Each year more than 100 vintage automobiles participate, and we are inviting you to join us for the 2004 Race.

Each day, drivers and navigators carefully follow a set course while competing in a time-speed-distance race. Vehicles must be 45 years or older and the age factor plays a big part in the final score. This year's oldest car to finish, a 1909 Lozier won the Class Brass award and an additional $25,000 – just for finishing!

The Great Race staff, volunteers and driver support crews bypass the competitors and drive ahead to various pit, lunch and overnight stops to set up and prepare for the patriotic themed community festivities surrounding the competitor's arrivals. This is an event for the whole family.

Various host cities such as Livonia, Grapevine, TX, Concord, NC and Great American City Award winner, Germantown, TN, invite Great Racers to wonderful dinners while their cars are on display, free to the public. Our Great Race vehicles arrive to spectator-lined streets as the $4 million parade of historic automobiles pass by. Great Race sponsors such as Chevrolet, Monaco Coach, Qualcomm and Interstate Batteries add to the excitement and color of The Great Race as it rolls into each city with unforgettable style and class.

There are many forces that bring the Great Racers back year after year -- from the love of competition and vintage cars to automotive history and priceless quality time spent with friends and family -- everyone gets what they signed up for. We will announce our 2004 start and finish cities soon. Entrant packets are ready, just call us and get ready for the ride of your life. We have four divisions, one will be right for you. And High School students, we can line you up too with the X-Cup program.

And remember the Great Racers' mantra, "To Finish Is To Win!"

Reprinted from www.greatrace.com web page

A Special Thank you and member update ...

As a result of an automobile accident, MG Classics of Jax member Jack Thomas is recovering at Glenmore Village near the World Golf Village. We received the following note from his wife Marylu ...

Dear M.G. Classics Members,
Thank you so very much for the lovely planter sent to Jack. He has enjoyed it. Progress is slow, but sure. His limbs are beginning to work again, many months of P.T. ahead.
Hope to see you all very soon.

On the Lighter Side

Over the last month I have received several short articles from MG Classics Members to give you a chuckle. Since there were so many this month I thought I'd put a few of them in together for you to enjoy ....

From George Fipp: Does anyone remember the following article published in the Sacred Octagon December, 1980! "M.G. Classics of Jacksonville: June's event was a tour of historic St. Augustine with stops at McDaniels' Auto Repair, a pit stop at a KFC, and a pullover to let Juxham's T in line, all arrived at the Cresent Beach home of Al and Sam Burgess for an afternoon of tyre kicking, conversation, food and minor engine adjustment. The July Event was a combined tennis, teck talk, billiards, and munchies get together at the home of Bob and Joan Trowbridge.." Note: "Tyre and teck" spelling were as in the original article.

From Wayne Coker:
When traveling in England, it is often recommended that one travel by train because of the convenience, ease of travel, comfort, timeliness, etc. Now, we see that there is another reason .... Mike Newman of York, England, who has been blind most of his life, set a new world record by driving a Jaguar XRJ4.2 at a speed of 144 mph.

We have often heard, and ourselves carped, about the lack of and/or inadequacy of air-conditioning in MGs. Perhaps there is a very good reason for it. Consider this .... Mike Ball of London, England, suffered frostbite on his toes while driving 250 miles from London to Manchester, because his bare foot was too close to the air-condition vent.

Black cabs hit the US. London black cabs have hit US streets for the first time—but many will have to be painted yellow before they can take passengers.
At least 125 of the British cars have already been sold in the US to taxi companies and private buyers, including Arnold Schwarzenegger.
Entrepreneur Larry Smith, owner of London Taxis North America, hopes to have over 3,000 of the cabs on US and Canadian roads within four years.
But hundreds of the cars bought for commercial use will have to be repainted to meet strict regulations governing taxi colours in each US city.
In Chicago, a fleet fo yellow London cabs will roll out next week and more could follow in New York.
Mr. Smith said he decided to start importing the taxis after falling in love with them during a family holiday in England in 2000.
He bought the exclusive rights to sell them in the US from Conventry-based London Taxis International and then spent three years and 4 million pounds fitting them to meet US safety and emissions standards.
The changes included installing air bags, redesigning the headlights, modifying the fuel system, adding anti-pollution devices and converting them to left-hand drive.
But thie taxis do retain the distinctive extra headroom required under old London Public Carriage Office rules that ensured they could accommodate a gentleman's top hat."

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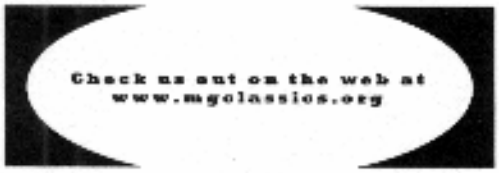

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Safety Fast!

Thank you to this months contributing editors. Remember any and all contributions to the newsletter are appreciated and heartily encouraged. Next newsletter deadline: November 16

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