MG Classics of Jacksonville

Jax Classics

We're on the Web!
www.mgclassics.org

Participating Member
British Marque
CAR CLUB NEWS

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.

Volume 35, Issue 11 November 2006

Prez Sez John Leenhouts

What a super turn out of our MG Classics Club members for the Triumph Club's British Car Show at the King's Head Pub in St Augustine. The day was clear warm and full of beautiful examples of British beauties of all denominations. Our club ran away with most all of the trophies due to the great care and affection each of us lavish upon them. The only other car to come close to our best was a 1965 Austin Healey trailored up from Palm Coast that was so fresh out of restoration it smelled of wet paint. (Our winners are listed below the "Winner's Circle" photo) I think one or two Triumphs garnered recognition for authenticity and excellent condition. Needless to say, the participation was extraordinarily high and the British beer was the traditional room temperature and everyone enjoyed the numerous discussions on how to maintain those little horseless carriages from the "Empire upon which the sun never set".



What is only 5 months away and will be the benchmark of all sports car shows? That's right, it's our GOF South! The letters to the southeastern clubs and all the potential vendors/sponsors has gone out so there is no turning back now. Reservations are coming in and plans are being made by many MG lovers around the south so it's our responsibility to give them the most for their money and time. Please offer Bernie or Richard your most precious asset…time! Volunteers are desperately needed to take on the many tasks associated with the coordination and execution of this grand MG event. Call now and sign up to be part of the team and not the cheerleader squad. Thanks in advance for your support.

Don't forget that the Daytona Turkey Run is just around the corner 23-26 Nov and will have several fine British beasts to enjoy along with the numerous cars of all origins. Jeff, Karen, Nancy, and I will be there Friday through Sunday if you come down and would be glad to share a libation if you are staying over one night.

Tops down, sitting low, rolling slow in a magic machine of mystical powers over supposedly sane people. Who loves to work roadside on a car more than us?

Safety Fast, Lites

British Car Day Mark XVIII

(Exerpts from TCNF Show Report)

Was held on October 14, 2006 at the Kings Head Pub in St Augustine. It was a very lovely day and many beautiful cars. Arthur Crofton and Ed Fairbanks handled the MC chores and Chris Waage once again provided the sound system. Their contributions made the event a success.

Sponsors for the show were the Kings Head Pub, The Roadster Factory, Moss Motors, Classic Motorsports Magazine, and Rimmer Brothers.

62 cars preregistered and an additional 20 registered the day of the show. Two years ago, a total of 66 cars registered for the show.

This year for the first time, TCNF is making contributions to local charities from the show proceeds. The two charities we will contribute to this year are:St Andrews Lighthouse - Jacksonville Beach and Second Harvest Food Bank - Jacksonville.

(continued on page 4)

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Stories Abound about this the SmartCar! Which is right!

Classic Car: Smart Roadster

As an heir to the Sprite tradition this roadster rarity never quite made it. Still, Sean O'Grady rates it an instant classic

"First published in *The Independent*". 17 October 2006
The Independent, Independent House, 191, Marsh Wall, London E14 9RS. Online Edition at www.independent.co.uk

The soon-to-be defunct Smart Roadster and Roadster-Coupé are instant classics. The design may be revived in the UK under the "AC" badge, with mechanical and bodywork changes to freshen up and widen its appeal, but it is as a Smart that it will enjoy its first flush of life as a collector's item. For it does conform (mostly) to the criteria that usually apply to a true classic - rarity, looks and driving appeal.

With the demise of the Roadster and the Smart forfour hatchback, the Smart brand is back where it started - with the city car now known as the Smart fortwo, soon to be replaced by a new model. Robbie Williams, once the "face" of Smart, has put his Smart Crossblade (a special version of the city car) up for sale on eBay.

It's all down to parent DaimlerChrysler losing patience with its subsidiary's losses. In the case of the Roadster, my guess is that it was priced too high for customers to fancy it ahead of an MG TF, say, or a Mazda MX-5, both only about a thousand pounds more than the two Smarts' £13,495 starting price, and more complete cars. Yet that was probably still too low a price for it to turn a profit. Only 7,251 were sold in the UK. The future for Smart is very different from that envisaged just a couple years ago.

It's a strange feeling having been there at the birth and at the death of a car, and even stranger when its life-span has been cut cruelly short. So it is with the cute baby Smart Roadster, a sports car that never quite lived up to its promise.

I still have the press pack from the launch of the Roadster in June 2003. It reads: "The launch of the Smart Roadster and Roadster-Coupé evokes memories of the compact and purist roadsters of the 1950s and 1960s." There were optimistic claims about the car being the spiritual successor to the Austin Healey "frog eye" Sprite and, given the Smart's bug-eyed looks, you could see what they were on about.

Like the old Sprite and MG Midget, the Smart is small and cute, has a tiny (698cc) engine and is notably agile and willing thanks to an excellent power-to-weight ratio. It boasts 80bhp (double what Sprites and Midgets could muster), which is asked to push along a mere 790kg, giving a power-to-weight ratio of 101bhp/ton). Most of it is plastic, you see, except for a rigid L-shaped steel safety cell. It'll get to 60mph from rest in about 11 seconds and on to 100mph-plus. It's really about low-speed thrills.

The Smart handles very well on its fat alloy (usually) wheels, and it makes a pleasing racket, accompanied by a whistle or two from the turbo, located just behind your ears. The engineers somehow managed to get a 44/56 front-to-rear weight distribution and used a relatively sophisticated suspension to achieve that roadholding. It uses very little fuel.

But the Smart Roadster, like most classics, has some annoying habits. By far the most irritating bit of the car is the gearbox. I've heard it rumoured that

CUTE *cont. page 3*



smart Vehicles Go USA – UnitedAuto Group Selected as Future Exclusive Distributor

PRESS INFORMATION:

Detroit, MI / Böblingen, Germany, June 28, 2006 - Dieter Zetsche, Chairman of the Board of Management DaimlerChrysler AG (NYSE: DCX) and head of Mercedes Car Group today announced that the unique and urban-friendly smart brand will enter the U.S. market. Beginning in 2008, the successor to the smart fortwo will be available in U.S. markets in three models. The U.S.A., as the world's largest automotive market, will be the 37th market for smart.

The Parties have agreed on the framework for the exclusive distribution of smart vehicles by international automotive retailer UnitedAuto Group, Inc. (NYSE:UAG). UnitedAuto will be responsible for awarding potential dealers and developing and maintaining a smart vehicle dealership network throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

DaimlerChrysler AG Chairman of the Board of Management and head of Mercedes Car Group Dieter Zetsche said, "Following the success of the smart fortwo in our first North American market, Canada, and the increasing demand for affordable and fuel efficient small cars in the U.S.A., we are now bringing this new kind of mobility to U.S. cities. The time has never been better for this - and I am convinced that the smart fortwo as an innovative, ecological and agile city car will soon become just as familiar a sight on the streets of New York, Miami or Seattle, as it is today in Rome, Berlin or Paris."

Like its predecessor, the smart fortwo successor will have all the important features that make customers feel safer and more comfortable. As part of the Mercedes Car Group, the smart vehicle will be equipped with unique technology, including the "hard shell" tridion safety cell, ESP and various airbag systems.

UnitedAuto expects to qualify potential dealers using an open process that will focus on their commitment to the brand and strategic locations in key markets with facilities that meet the needs of the brand and the customer. Demonstration of outstanding customer satisfaction metrics will also be a key element to qualify for the franchise. The initial rollout of retail outlets is expected to start in mid-2007, with the official launch of the smart brand planned to occur later that year. The smart

SMART *cont. page 4*

CUTE *continued*

the Smart city car, on which the Roadster was closely based, was given a clutchless manual or semi-automatic gear-change because if it had been left with a conventional one, enthusiastic drivers might have found it harder to control.

In any case, the gear-change is unsuited to a "sports" car, even one with such modest aspirations as the Smart. The lag between changes can be just too long, especially with the laughable optional paddle-change. I would be astonished if the AC concern don't have it as an early priority to improve this part of the car's engineering when they reintroduce it to the market.

The second irksome feature is the slight fiddliness of the roof. The car came with optional hard top or electric soft top. If you want the roof off completely, you have to roll back the electric roof and then dismantle the bars that run across the windows and store them sideways in the boot. So, unlike the Citroën C3 Pluriel (which shares the same roof design but has nowhere to store the bars, so you have to leave them at home), at least you can put the roof back together again if you're out and about and it unexpectedly rains.

It's too much palaver. I forgot that you're not supposed to take the roof bars off before the hood has folded, so leaving me in a rather exposed position. The nicely detailed cabin of the Smart doesn't look as though it would survive getting soaked. As a classic in waiting, the best bet is to buy either one of the first 2003 examples, or perhaps one of the run-out models you can find in the showrooms now - or a Brabus-tuned version, which was just a bit quicker. Personally, I'd go for the Smart Light, the economy version that had - wait for it - steel wheels. Much more practical, and much more like a frog-eye Sprite...

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ED Notes: Pheona & I saw several Smarts in Australia the last two years. They are interesting but pricy there. Daimler/Chrysler parent company site takes you to sites world wide: www.smart.com. Another wild site to show you what is happening with Smart Cars in the world: smartmaniacs.co.uk. Still interested? then go to: www.smartsrus.com. It's looking like another FAD has started!

British Car Classic *continued*

Awards went to MG Classics members:

1950 & Earlier

1st	Neil Nelson	1946 MGTC

1951 - 1955

1st	Wayne Snook	1953 MGTD
2nd	Wayne Ottoson	1953 MGTD

1956 -1960

2nd	Bob Wrenn	1959 MGA
4th	Joe Kaiser	1958 MGA Coupe

1966 - 1970

3rd	Larry Dockins	1968 MGB

1971 - 1973

1st	Linda Dillard	1972 MGB
4th	Mark Cooley	1972 MGB

Best MG Host Award

Neil Nelson 1946 MGTC

Best In Show

Wayne Snook 1953 MGTD

The owner of the Kings Head Pub was presented a Plaque in appreciation of her sponsorship, at which time she commented that "It's great having the show every other year but I wish it were every year."



2006 British Car Classic
Best In Show
Wayne Snook 1953 MGTD

We're on the Web!
www.mgclassics.org

Where you go to register on-line for GOF-S 2007

SMART *continued*

vehicle is expected to be sold in the U.S. starting in early 2008.

UnitedAuto Chairman Roger Penske remarked, "We are thrilled with the opportunity to represent the smart brand in the United States and Puerto Rico. Through our international diversification, we've seen the benefits the smart brand provides in Europe. We believe the U.S. market will embrace the smart vehicle with its exceptional fuel economy, environmentally friendly features, and advantageous price point. We look forward to a successful launch of this vehicle over the next several years."

For further information about the smart vehicles please refer to www.media.smart.com or www. smartusa.com.

About UnitedAuto

United Auto Group, Inc., headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, operates 296 retail automotive franchises, representing 40 different brands, and 27 collision repair centers. UnitedAuto, which sells new and previously owned vehicles, finance and insurance products and replacement parts, and offers maintenance and repair services on all brands it represents, has 173 franchises in 19 states and Puerto Rico and 123 franchises located internationally, primarily in the United Kingdom. UnitedAuto is a member of the Fortune 500 and Russell 2000 and has approximately 14,000 employees.

About smart

Since October 1998 the smart fortwo has attracted more than 750,000 customers in 36 countries. As a brand of DaimlerChrysler, smart benefits from the parent corporation's technical expertise and extensive experience in the automotive business. The successor to the smart fortwo will be launched in Europe next year and will be available in the USA for the first time the following year.

Smart, as one of the youngest car makes on the market, stands for innovation, functionality and joie de vivre and especially appeals to customers who are interested in new, clever and trend-setting solutions in the automotive sector. smart drivers are characterized by attitude, not by age, profession, gender or any other 'traditional' criteria clustering groups of people. smart people are open minded, question the existing and live consciously.

Directions to the MG Classics Christmas Party at Lovejoy "Loveshack" on Black Creek

From Orange Park: Go south on 17 toward Green Cove Springs. Just after you cross Black Creek, turn right at the first traffic light : Russell Road (SR 209). Cross the railroad tracks. Bear right (continuing on Russell Road). Cross Peters Creek. Take the first paved road to the right: Watkins Road. Follow Watkins Road across railroad tracks, becomes a dirt road. Look for the Lovejoy mailbox on the right.



GUS's GARAGE

Fenton Bendor asked Gus about Dee his OEW 52 TD having poor performance but while she idled smoothly, she ran hot. He said that even in neutral the engine would not rev 3000RPM. The exhaust sound suggested a plugged exhaust system. Gus suggested Fenn hold the tail pipe closed with a gloved hand while revving the engine to see how much back pressure was generated. If you have trouble restricting the flow it isn't blocked. If your indication is a blockage inspect for a crushed pipe. He should also check heat along the pipe to see if there was a radical change of temp. in a short distance indicating a blockage. Fenn could break the pipe at the various joints to see if it helped. Some muffler shops have a cat con pressure tester that introduces a pressure gauge through quarter inch holes drilled into the pipe which can locate blockage.

Exhaust blockage can be caused by a crushed pipe, a blown muffler baffle, or even a nest built in the tail pipe or muffler. When the blockage is out of the system the engine will rev normally. Excessive back pressure does not allow the cylinders to fill with a strong combustion mixture. Although diluted fuel air mixture burns relatively cold most exhaust heat is dissipated within the engine, which causes overheating.

As an aside, if the intake tract is plugged prior to the carb it acts like a choke, runs rich, poor idle, reduced power, poor fuel mileage, etc.

FYI

We're on the Web!
www.mgclassics.org

- GOF-South 2007 Registration is now on-line at the MGCLASSICS website: www.mgclassics.org. Information is on the website for Hotel reservations also. Don't wait - do it now, Please!
- **Don't forget MG Classics of Jacksonville, Inc. in your will. Have a lasting effect on MGs and MG Classics of Jacksonville, Inc.!**
- Day Runs (go to www.mgccq.org and click on SOCIAL MEETINGS) are a great chance to drive your MG during the week when folks are at work and businesses are open. If your interested in the possibility of having them email: newsletter_editor@mgclassics.org
- **Put it on paper, your editor will clean it up and publish it! Your articles, stories, technical tips, pictures, or just plain lies are solicited for the newsletter. Please send to your editors! newsletter_editor@mgclassics.org**
- You to can receive this newsletter faster and in color by contacting the editors and having your copy emailed to you each month. 50%+ of MG Classics newsletters are emailed!

NAMGAR Mini-GT Key West 2007

The Conch Republic Independence parade will be the night of April 26, 2007 and NAMGAR Mini-GT registrants will be participating again this year. All LBCs are invited!

Fred Skomp has reserved 30 rooms at the Blue Marlin Motel, http://www.bluemarlinmotel.com, 1320 Simonton St., Key West 33040, (305)-294-2585 for April 25, 26, 27, 28, 2007. Simonton Street is one block off of Duval, on the South end, so 14 blocks puts you at Mallory Square, three blocks puts you at The Southernmost house.

The rate is $125.00 per night with free parking. We have up to 30 days prior to confirm reservations. More information later, but folks can start booking by mentioning NAMGAR. The contact name is Debbie Branham at (800)523-1698



Please email updates to: newsletter_editor@mgclassics.org Please provide your email address with your ad. Your ad will runas long as you respond to editors emails.

Automobiles For Sale

67 MGB
Black W/Black Interior (new), 92,000 miles, overdrive, electronic ignition, 5 new Goodyear tires, 12V pos grd, show quality car. Have to sell due to family illness. $11,000 OBO. Kimo Silcox 904-910-5381

71' MG Midget
It has been sitting in my Dad's yard (in Lake City) for 3 Years. Teal, wire wheels, chrome bumpers, 1275cc, Weber Down draft, Generator replaced with alternator, trans from '76', needs body work (I also have two more fenders for it.) Restoreable. First one with $800. Mike Cell # (904) 813-0605 or creighton_is land_pirate@yahoo. com

1971 MG
Red exterior, black leather interior & red piping. 3" wide red shoulder harnesses, tall roll bar. Pirelli P4000 touring tires, mini lite wheels, V8 suspension bushes, tube shocks, new scratch free wind screen. Strong engine, downdraft Weber, stainless steel header. Oil cooler & stainless steel braided lines, pressurized engine pre-oiling system (lubricates engine before start up extending engine life). Tan top in good condition. Beautiful MG is a joy to drive! Comes with spare OD transmission & strong spare engine properly fogged before storage in my climate controlled garage. $8,500-OBO. wlodyka@ bellsouth.net 904-303-9277

1972 MGB
Restoration nearly complete, must make room for next project for my bride, this is a disease and I'm not ashamed to ask for help. Rebuilt engine, carbs, brakes, suspension, shocks, all new rubber including Michelin tires, paint (as a shell), only minor cosmetic items remain - the heavy lifting is done, its ready for fun. $12,500 jp@boutinbrown.com (Tallahassee)

72 MG B
Has o/d and is nice, red with white wall tires, chrome rims, CD player, tonneau, boot, carpeted trunk, etc. Does not run hot! $6K.

72 Midget
Needs paint, everything works, even the trunk light which is unusual. $1,500 Jack Sterrett. 912-634-5791 Cell is 478-232-2908

72 Midget - Must Sell!
Car in good shape. Engine 1 yr old. New: master cylinder, slave cylinder, clutch, rear brake cylinders, brakes, battery, tires, radio, front shock assemblies. Includes: extra rims, tires, gauges, tonneau cover, lug wrench, jack, 2 service manuals, spot fog lights, new uninstalled air horn, parts and more. Can easily be a daily driver. Asking $4000 OBO. Ranger Inman at cell 813-298-4804 or 813-882-3153 or 2ranger@tampabay.rr .com.

79 Triumph Bonneville Spec.
Beautiful condition. 750cc, 5spd, dual disc brakes. Same owner last 11 years. Meticulously maintained. $5000 or trade. Jim White at Hm: 269-9922 or Cell: 742-2933.

80 MGB
56,000 miles. Runs well. Tires and top in good shape. Garage kept for the past 3 years. Asking $6,000. Car is in Brunswick, GA. Mr. Stalvy: (912) 264-2999.

80 MGB
Rebuilt and resprayed green six years ago. Runs good, may need minor cosmetics. $4,900 OBO. Beth Dyher 407 415 5994

85 Jaguar XJ6
Car in good shape. Pearl White, new low profile Pirelli tires has not been driven much in past 5 years. Garage kept. John Stech 904-230-1770

91 Jaguar XJS V12 Roaster
2nd owner, less than 47K miles, enhanced cooling system, shocks, brakes, hoses, filters, tune up, fluids, battery, Pirelli tires - new within the last 2K miles, black with tan interior. $22,500 jp@boutinbrown.com (Tallahassee)

Parts:

66 TR 4A
Parting out a recently dismantled, intact engine with 50k since rebuild, transmission (needs clutch), radiator, fenders, windshield, complete front end and rear end, gas tank, hood, etc. jp@boutinbrown.com (Tallahassee)

62-74 Front Bumper Bar with Overriders. VG condition. $75 takes it.

MGB Left/Right window glass w/lower channels & glazing VG condition, $75 both

MGB Left & Right window regulators in VG condition. One set of window regulators, (left/right windows) in VG condition. Tested and in excellent working condition. I will also include used l & r rear window channel, $75 takes it all.

MGB window outer frames fair condition. These frames are no longer available and will fit bodies from 65865 on. Glass and inner frames are available also. $75 for all including glass. Bill @ 904 737 9656 for additional information.

2 MGA Engs./Transmissions
One is from a 1960 and the other 1961. Conditions are unknown, but they will probably need to be rebuilt. Located near Ocala, interested buyer would need to pick them up (no shipping). Pictures can be emailed on request. Joe at originalroadtoad @aol.com.

New 3 Main and 5 Main Engine Blocks
Also, 5 main motor, Pull Handle doors, and a late B trunk. Drew: 904-287-3072 or drewdecandis @comcast.net.

TD/TF Rear Axle
3.9 Ratio $750 Exchange Other ratios available. Art Floyd 1-321-267-5698 or arvon@ prodigy.net

Club Regalia

Club Polo Shirts
(Medium or Large)
$20 each

Club Car Badges
$35 each

MG Baseball Hats
(in red, white, or blue)
$10 each

MG Tool Bags
$10 each

Rubber Bumper CB Radio Antenna Mounts
$10 each

Miscellaneous Car Pins
$5 each (addition colors also)



To purchase regalia or to ask questions please contact:

Wayne Coker, Regalia Chairman, at:
904-543-0201 or
rwcoker@aol.com.

Miscellaneous

Stock TD wheel, TD differential, couple of boxes of original TD stuff & original TD manual.

Miata & Motorcycle
Jack Sterrett. 912-634-5791 Cell is 478-232-2908

Safety MG Fast!

GOF South ~ Mk XLI

April 20-22, 2007









MG Classics of Jacksonville, Host

GOF-South 2007 Registration is now on-line at the MGCLASSICS website: www.mgclassics.org.

Information for Hotel Reservations is on the website also.

MG Classics Name Tag Order Received

The following members placed orders for club name tags and have not picked them up. If your name follows, please send payment of $7.00 for each tag ordered. They will be mailed to your address once payment is received. You may, of course, pick them up at the next club meeting. Mail check or M.O. to Bob Wrenn, 1471 Mallard Lake Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32259

Haddon Allen; John Clifton; Scott Dumon; Jon Held (2); Chuck McMorran; Alex Rosenblad; L. Hanko Rosenblad; Jerry Steckloff

Club Officers & Board Members

President:
John Leenhouts
616-8363

Vice President:
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treasurer@mgclassics.org

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284-3256

Past President
Bernie Nowotny
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Jim Hall
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Midgets:
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We're on the Web!
www.mgclassics.org

Joe Kaiser - Desktop
Pheona Kaiser - Editor
Phone 904-940-5848
Email: newsletter_editor@mgclassics.org

Safety MG Fast!

EVENTS CALENDAR

MG Classics Meeting is November 27, 2006, We'll meet in November at Buffalo's Cafe, 6055 Youngerman Circle, Orange Park (904-778-1101). It is on the west side of Blanding Blvd at the first traffic light south of I-295. We have been there before!

Gaslight Parade - 11/24-25, Block Party, & Antique Car Show, Ormond Beach. The Volusia Region Antique Automobile Club of America presents the 49th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Celebration. www.mgclassics.org website has details

Super Sunday Car & Truck Show - 12/ 3, Buffalo's Cafe, Orange Park. Sponsors are North Florida Show Car Association. Goes from 10:00am to 3:30pm. Proceeds benefit Wolfsons Children's Hospital. Day of show registration - $20.00 - Registration ends at 1:30pm. Up to 90 trophies. Door prizes, 50/ 50 raffle, food & drinks available. Takes place at the Buffalo's Cafe, 6055 Youngerman Circle, off of Blanding Blvd. just south of I-295 near the Orange Park Mall. www.mgclassics.org website has details

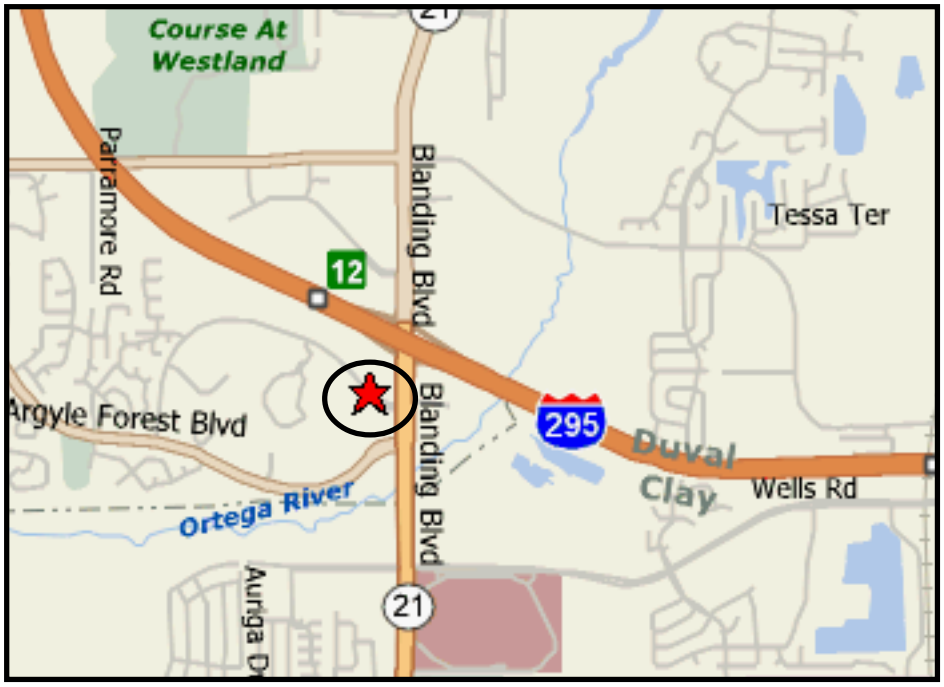
MG Classics of Jax Christmas Party - 12/ 09/06 - John Lovejoy is host at his Black Creek abode. Gather at approximately 4:30, dinner at 6:00, and gift exchange at 7:00. Gift of approx. $20 value. www.mgclassics.org website has details

Sebring MGA Reunion - 3/13-17 A special celebration of Sebring MGAs during the "12 Hours of Sebring". mgclassics.org website has link to information.

GOF South MK XLI - 04/20-04/21/07. It is our clubs turn to host the GOF South in 2007. www.mgclassics.org website has link to hotel and registration for the show.

NAMGAR Mini-GT Key West - 04/25-28, Advance info page 7. *Your Ed.* suggests making reservations ASAP because of the events taking place that week.

November Meeting Place - November 27th - Buffalo's Cafe at 6055 Youngerman Circle, Mandarin.



Contributions to YOUR club newsletter are welcome and requested.

Thanks go out this month to John Leenhouts, Jeff Sager, Don Schmidt, Bob Wrenn and Triumph Club North Florida Newsletter editor Lance Brazil.

Submissions requested before the 10th of the month for possible inclusion.