



TALLY HO

Prime Minister's Message

I have to admit, I had a great time at our January meeting/Holiday Party. The motor in my Pumpkin had just been reassembled and was running as well as ever. The drive we all took to Bradleys' was a showcase of all the beautiful scenery that North Florida has (AND without the heat), the food was fantastic and food is my favorite, and, of course, the company was as warm and friendly as always. I hope everyone has found just the right places for the gifts. We do have a great club.

But now it's February in North Florida and while most of the country still has another month or two of winter, thoughts of spring are boinging in our heads. Soon the dogwoods and magnolias will be blooming and thoughts of outdoor activities will fill our minds. With the warm, sunny weather we'll start having, it's time for us to get out there and show the BBMGs colors.

Our monthly meeting is going to be a little early this month on February 16. However, it will be a special occasion. On that date, we are going to be getting together with the Bay British Cars club from Panama City for an afternoon of fun. At 1:00, we are all going to get together for lunch (and our monthly meeting) at the Cross Creek restaurant on Mahan Dr. near I-10 then go across the street for a tour of the brand new Tallahassee Car Museum. The Museum is becoming one of the premier attractions of the area and the BBC is driving in specifically to see it and to meet with us. Isn't it always the rule that we don't realize what we have in our own backyard until someone else points it out to us. Anyway it promises to be an afternoon of fun. Just think, on the inside of the museum is the Batmobile and on the outside will be all these beautiful British automobiles lined up just glistening in the sunshine. It'll be another attraction for the visitors of the museum and a chance for us to show off BBMG. We have Mike Miller to thank for arranging this unique experience for us.

One of the ideas brought out at the January meeting was that of a progressive dinner. It's another great way not only to get to know the club members but also to show off the machinery. I'd like to have that set up for March 22. So, if you want to participate as a destination for the evening, please call me or e-mail me by March 10 so I can finalize the arrangements, set the route and send out the invitations.

One of the other ideas brought out was to have each of the club members/families write a short bio so that we all get to know each other a little better. I volunteered to be first.

Joe

Bio: Joe Torre

As most of you know, I was drafted into the position of PM and accepted humbly. I joined BBMG during the summer of 07 after having purchased my orange 77 (hence Pumpkin) B in May.

I grew up in St. Petersburg having moved there from Upstate NY in the late 50's (OK now you know why I have the gray hair). In my teens and early 20's, I got addicted to British sports cars and owned 2 MGA's one of which I autocrossed and raced, a Jag XK-150S (now THAT was a car), and a (real) Mini. I also was involved with several British car clubs in the Tampa Bay area at that time. It was then that I learned how to work on those cars. What British car owner of that era didn't? The big difference is I enjoyed doing it.

I moved back to NY to attend college in the early 70's and kind of got removed from sports cars. Most of them in that climate had rusted away by the time I got there anyway. In the meantime, I gathered a college degree in Economics and an MBA in Finance from the State University of NY in Albany and went to work in commercial banking. Over the years, my financial career has taken me on several paths. Corporate/Commercial lending officer to all sizes of companies, a privately owned business, municipal bond management, risk management and now consulting. I currently work for a company here in Tallahassee known as Member Business Solutions. We provide consulting to credit unions which are just now getting into the commercial lending business. Our job is to make sure they don't crash and burn like the S&L's did in the early 80's when they tried to be commercial lenders.

I spent my spare time raising two wonderful children who are now out on their own (wow, I must be having fun). My daughter graduated from college in Montreal, spent 2 years in the Peace Corp. stationed in Cameroon, Africa and now is with a family owned charitable foundation in New York City. She just returned from Southeast Asia on a business trip and I am waiting for the photos.

My son graduated from Jacksonville University where he set several records playing football. He then attended Johnson and Wales University in Denver and is now working at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on Amelia Island. I'm angling to see if he can sneak me into the car show this year.

I live out in the woods down in Crawfordville about 3 miles in a straight line from Wakulla Springs. I had the house built in 2006 and one of the items I insisted on was having a garage. I knew then I'd need it and now that garage is filled with an orange MGB sitting on a big piece of cardboard. I bought the B on impulse, probably because those memories of the late 60's and early 70's never really left my head. Funny how memories can obscure the reality and I figured, if I am going to own another MG, I need to associate with those who can commiserate with my plight. That's why I showed up unannounced at the June BBMG meeting and have been active since. It's been a 30 year, around the block trip for me to own another MG but it's been gratifying to me to know that my tools still work and my fingernails can get just as dirty as they did then. I just don't remember it being so hard to crawl out from under the car though.....



Pheona & Joe are going and looking for others to caravan with!!



NAMGAR in Key West '08

Hanging Out in the Southernmost City



Do you still have a little sand in the carpet of your car and in your shoes from last years Regional GT in Key West? Do you have any beads left from the parade down Duval Street? Well no need to clean the carpet or throw away the beads, we're going back to Key West again in April of 2008. We have become a fixture in the Conch Republic Independence Celebration Parade, and this year will be no exception. The fun that began in 2005, with a small Regional GT, has become an annual event and this coming April 23rd through the 26th promises to extend a tradition of good times in the Southernmost City.

If you haven't made the trip yet, you really don't know what you are missing. Begin with the drive through the Keys, over the bridges, past the sparkling clear water of both the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other. The trip down U.S. 1 ends at the Southernmost City in the continental U.S. where the party begins. The friendly hellos from the Keys locals who appreciate the visit of our vintage cars coming to their islands for a visit make this a trip you will want to make again. Of course getting there is only some of the fun. Once in Key West, the party begins.

This year we will, of course, be parade participants again, so bring the beads and see what shows up carside down the parade route. We will also be crowning a NAMGAR Key West Olympics champion, so start working out after you have registered. This will be a trophy no one else in your circle of friends will have. We have a new motel this year; in fact we have the whole motel to ourselves. It is a 30 unit motel in a nice part of the island. The bad news is there are only 30 rooms, so book early. Since we are driving 1950's cars, this years' them for the closing banquet will be a 1950's sock hop; so find those tight jeans guys, and get out the poodle skirts gals, and bring your dancing shoes.

Host Motel: **El Patio Motel**, 800 Washington Street, Key West, FL 33040 - Reservations (866)533-5189 - <http://www.elpatiomotel.com/>

Tell them you are a part of the NAMGAR Regional GT

Here's the itinerary:

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 5:00 P.M. - Reception at Fort West Martello, a beautiful garden setting overlooking the Atlantic Ocean where we will have light hors d'ouvres, and a beer or cocktail while saying hello to old friends who have made the journey.

Thursday, April 24, 2008 11:00 A.M. - Just a short drive from our motel to Key West's Bocce Ball Courts for the first of our Key West Olympics (KWO) events, team Bocce Ball. While here we will have a lunch barbeque with hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst. While our cars are parked in the lot, we will invite the public to stop by and vote for their favorite car. The voting will continue on Friday.

Thursday, April 24, 2008 6:30 P.M. - Gather at the host motel, El Patio, and then head for the staging area to participate in the Great Conch Republic Independence Celebration Parade down fabled Duval Street. It will be our third year in the Parade!

Friday, April 25, 2008 9:30 A.M. - Leave our motel and caravan up U.S. 1, stop for a cup of fabulous Baby's Coffee at mile marker 15, then on to the Historic Bat Tower on Sugarloaf Key (MM 17) where we will have our official pictures taken with the Bat Tower as the background. Then, at about 11:30 A.M., on to MM 27.5, Boondocks' bar, restaurant and the second round of the KWO (Key West Olympics), a game of miniature golf; then lunch from an open menu. Since this will be our first year with a Lower Keys event, the restaurant will hype our arrival, and we will finish the public voting there.

Friday, April 25, 2008 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. - Happy Hour at "The Hole" (any explanations needed on how to get there?), where will have our third, and final KWO event, a casting contest (don't worry, we'll explain when you get there and it is easy!).

Saturday, April 26, 2008 All day - All day to play, shop, drink and enjoy Key West. You can visit you favorite museum, tourist attraction, bar or day trip.

Saturday, April 26, 2008 6:00 P.M. - Banquet, Awards Presentations and Sock Hop at Hurricane Joe's at MM 4.5 on Stock Island, where we know the owner and are assured of a great meal and service.

Name: _____ Other Attendees: _____
 E-Mail: _____ Phone #: _____ What vehicle do you plan on driving to the event? _____
 Street: _____ City: _____ State/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Registration Fee (per vehicle) @ \$35.00 (prior to March 15) (\$45 AFTER MARCH 15) _____ Awards Banquet @ 35.00 per person _____

Please complete this form and mail with Registration fee and meal charges (as needed).
 Fees may be paid by check payable to 'NAMGAR' or by Visa or MasterCard.
 Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____
 Name and Billing address for credit card if different than above: _____

Total Payment _____


RELEASE: ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY OLDER THAN 17 MUST SIGN THIS RELEASE BEFORE YOUR REGISTRATION CAN BE ACCEPTED. Neither my heirs nor I will hold the North American MGA Register (NAMGAR) liable for any personal injuries or damages sustained by me, my party or my car while traveling to and from this event and while participating in this event.

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Mail completed form to: **George Merryweather, NAMGAR in Key West, 536 Buffalo Bend Court, Murphy, TX 75094**
 Questions? Contact: **George Merryweather 972-422-9593, gmerryweather@verizon.net**

Big Bend MGs Membership Application

NEW RENEWAL

Name: _____

D.O.B. (Mo/Day at least) _____

Occupation: _____ Wk. Ph: _____

Spouse/Companion: _____

D.O.B. (Mo/Day at least) _____

Occupation: _____ Wk. Ph: _____

Child Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Child Name: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Hm. Ph: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Model MG: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

Model MG: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

Model MG: _____ Year: _____ Color: _____

How long have you been involved with MG's? _____

Other Interests: _____

What other MG organizations are you a member of? AMGBA NAMGAR

NAMGBR MG Drivers Other _____

Would you be interested in helping the Club with the following? Events Committees

Social Activities Tech. Info. Committees Other _____

Send the BBMGs Tally Ho newsletter to my email address: _____

Membership year starts January 1st and expires December 31st
Annual dues are: \$25.00 Family Unit membership *which includes* "British Marque" newsletter subscription. Singles are a family unit. Please enclose check made to Big Bend MG's and give to a member or the treasurer or mail to BBMGs, c/o Julie Miller, 3116 Capital Circle NE, Ste. 2., Tallahassee, FL 32308

Why You Should Become A Member of Big Bend MGs

Interesting Monthly Meetings

Great Camaraderie and Fellowship

Outings and Road Trips

Annual After Holiday Party & Lovers Picnic

Technical Repair & Restoration Assistance Sessions

Networking Parts & Repair Advice

BBMGs Lending Library & Tool Crib

Tally-Ho Newsletter Monthly (Free Member Classifieds)

British Marque Newsletter Monthly (Free Classifieds)

Club Website - www.bigbendmgs.com

Arguably the most interesting group of people in Tallahassee or anywhere!

BBMGs is a NAMGBR Chapter

You'll Love The People!



North American MGB Register

Winter Haven Art Festival and European Car Show Sunday, March 16, 2008 Downtown Winter Haven—Central Park 9 am to 3 pm

Please mark your calendars for an exciting and important car show event – a unique show that recognizes the restoration of automobiles as an Art Form. On March 16, 2008, participate in the Winter Haven Art Festival and European Car Show and show off your art masterpiece.

All European Cars 1989 and older are eligible to enter. Winning classes are as follows: The Mayor Award as selected by the Mayor of Winter Haven; Peoples Choice Award, as chosen by a representative from the news media; Country of origin Award (example—France, England, Italy, Germany etc.); and Best of Show, Second and Third Place. Country Award and Best of Show, Second and Third Place Awards will be determined by a three judge panel.

Last year, the Winter Haven Art Festival and Car Show event was attended by over 10,000 during the two day event. This year, the Car Show portion will be restricted to a one day event due to the Sebring Races on March 15, 2008, which is only a few miles from Winter Haven. Many of the European Car Drivers will be visiting the Sebring Races, which will give them the opportunity to attend the Car Show on the following day..

Automotive restoration goal is preservation, protection, and enhancement of the classic auto of vesteryears for driving, museums, private collections, dealers, individual collectors, and enjoyment. Restoration does not compromise on quality, either in materials or workmanship. Producing "acceptable" rather than correct and proper restoration and conservation is simply not an option. Whether you are an individual who performs your own restoration, or a automotive shop or specialty restoration business—integrity restoration and time-tested conservation methods produce the highest quality of restoration.

We believe that correct restoration is not simply a process but truly an art form. Quality restoration prides itself in using proper techniques and procedures to produce uncompromised quality.

Those attending the show will have the opportunity to visit the Art Festival in the Central Park, to view and purchase Art, Crafts of highest quality, and Jewelry, searching out those great buys among the many vendors.

Motto: In scientia veritas in arte honestas. In science truth, in art honour

Registration Fee \$15 by 2-15-08; after 2-15-08 \$25 Send payment to Florida Suncoast MG Car Club,
119 Crestwood Ct. So. Safety Harbor, Fl. 34695

Deadline for inclusion into the official program is 2-15-08 Questions: dimagee@ij.net

Winter Haven Art Festival and European Car Show March 16, 2008
Registration Fee \$15 by 2-15-08; after 2-15-08 \$25 Send payment to Florida Suncoast MG Car Club,
119 Crestwood Ct. So. Safety Harbor, Fl. 34695

Deadline for inclusion into the official program is 2-15-08 Questions: dimagee@ij.net

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Home: () _____

Email: _____ Club Affiliation: _____

Automobile Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Country of Manufacture: _____

Optional Information: If you used a restoration shop for a portion or majority of the work, you may list the company or individual.

Company or individual: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Business Internet Web Site Address: _____

I am aware of the hazards with motor vehicle events and specifically release and indemnify the organizers, supporting sponsors, the Winter Haven Art Festival, the Florida Suncoast MG Car Club, and event organizers collectively and separately for any and all liability from personal injury or property damage incurred by me or my guest while participating in the Winter Haven Art Festival and European Car Show. I understand and agree that the Winter Haven Art Festival and or Florida Suncoast MG Car Club reserves the right to revoke my registration and retain my registration fee should I engage in reckless /and or unsafe behavior. In participating in this event, I am fully aware that a motor vehicle event, has certain risks. I will be governed by the laws of the State of Florida, and be solely responsible for my conduct in said event. I further agree that the decision of the Mayor of Winter Haven or his designee and the decisions of the judging panel is final and absolute regarding the awarding of the First, Second, and Third place winners in the various classes, and the Country of Origin Winners. Winners must agree to release copyright of all photos as winners' photos will be used in the next years poster. Deadline for registration is 2-15-08 to have car information listed in the Official Program. I have read and understand and agree to this release.

Show Rules

- All Vendors and all show vehicles MUST register with the Winter Haven European Car Show registration staff.
- Parking is restricted to assigned locations.
- Young children must be under the supervision of a responsible adult.
- Maintain responsible distance from the show vehicles. Buckles, zippers,, large handbags, and swinging camera can easily inflict costly damage.
- All show cars must be driven on to the show field under their own power.
- Fire Extinguishers are required in all show vehicles.
- Cars on the show ground at 8:30 am, awards at 1 pm.
- Show vehicles must be on the show field (1 pm) at the time of award ceremony to receive an award

Signature: _____ Date: _____





SILVER SPRINGS • GOF SOUTH XLII 2008

GOF – GET READY!

Greetings!

The Suncoast Classic MG Club of the Tampa Bay area is excited to be hosting the 42nd Annual "Gathering of the Faithful" April 11-12-13, 2008 at Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park in Silver Springs, Florida.

We know everyone will enjoy this venue. Our GOF car show will be held on the grounds of Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park in a park like setting. Included in your package is a one day admission to the Theme Park where we will be conducting a "Fun Run", sort of an trivia scavenger hunt. It will be a great way for attendees to have an opportunity to visit a local treasure and national landmark. There are glass bottom boat cruises, beautiful botanical gardens and wildlife exhibits where the classic movies like "Tarzan", "Creature of the Black Lagoon" and "Moonraker" were filmed. The television program "Sea Hunt" and many television specials including a Steve Irwin documentary make this venue a highlight. If that doesn't interest you, just a short drive away brings you to the famous Big Daddy Don Garfitts Museum of Drag Racing, The Appleton Museum of Art and The Ocala National Forest.

Our host hotel, the Inn & Spa at the Springs is located across the street from the park and will be the hub of activity. Friday night's First Timer Show will be located in the grove behind the hotel and after you have eaten dinner at one of the local restaurants, grab your lawn chairs and meet us at our "Out Door Theatre" for popcorn and soda to watch an ol' time movie filmed at Silver Springs.

The Hospitality Room will be open at seven Saturday morning for a Quick Start Breakfast before you spiffy up your MG's for the show. Grab lunch inside the park and experience all it has to offer.

Saturday evening celebrate the show and the company of friends at a leisurely Buffet Dinner in the Silver Spring Banquet Hall. After dinner join us around the hotel pool for dessert and presentation of awards, followed by entertainment and dancing in the moonlight. What a great way to share the spirit of the GOF.

Our Hospitality Room will be open early on Sunday and will be offering a Continental Breakfast to jump start your trip home.

Early registration helps us plan our Hospitality needs and better plan the timing of our event. So send in your registration as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you there,

Suncoast Classic MG Club

Please make room reservations directly with the Inn & Spa at the Springs.



5751 E. Silver Springs Blvd. • Silver Springs, Florida 34488
352-236-2575

You MUST ask for "GOF XLII 2008" rate when reserving your room. Reservations must be made prior to March 31st, 2008 to get the special room rate of \$79.00 plus 8.5% room tax per room per night. This reduced rate is available to GOF registrants only for Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12. Space is limited so don't delay...make your reservations early. Reservations received after February 22nd will be provided on a space available basis.



SILVER SPRINGS • GOF SOUTH XLII 2008

SAVE THE DATE
April 11, 12 & 13, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Spouse _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ E-Mail _____

Registration Package Includes:

One MG on show field.
Vouchers to Silver Springs Nature Theme Park for Saturday Only.
Hospitality Evening with snacks and beverages throughout the event, complimentary "Quick Start" Breakfast both Saturday and Sunday.
Saturday Evening Banquet in the Cypress Room at Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park.
Dinner buffet menu offers Marinated Roasted Chicken, Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Trussed Salmon with two dressings, Herb Roasted New Potatoes, Spiced Vegetables Medley, Rolls with Butter, Ice Tea, Coffee and a Cash Bar.
Dessert and Beverages at the Awards Pool Party following the Banquet.

SINGLE PACKAGE: One person, one MG, one Silver Springs voucher, one Banquet ticket \$ 90.00
DOUBLE PACKAGE: Two people, one MG, two Silver Springs vouchers, two Banquet tickets \$140.00

This package will only be available until April 5th. After that date you will not be able to attend the Saturday evening Banquet. Those wanting to attend the show only and not the Banquet may do so. The fee will be \$35.00 per car. Additional Vouchers for Saturday only to Silver Springs Nature's Theme Park will be available for purchase in the Hospitality Room.

MG's Registering for GOF:

MG #1 Year _____ Model _____
Each Additional MG \$35.00 per car
MG #2 Year _____ Model _____ \$ _____
MG #3 Year _____ Model _____ \$ _____

GOF SOUTH XLII Regalia

GOF SOUTH XLII 2008 Quality Golf Shirt with embroidered GOF SOUTH XLII Logo \$35.00 x _____ = \$ _____
S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____
TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Please make check payable to: Sun Coast Classic MG Club, P.O. Box 10728, Brooksville, FL 34603

SORRY, NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 15TH, 2008

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. There are a limited number of rooms available and in a tourist area so the rooms will fill up fast. See Attached Letter for Hotel contact information.

I am aware of the hazards inherent with motor vehicle events and specifically release and so indemnify the organizers, sponsors, and the Sun Coast Classic MG Club collectively and separately, for any and all liability from personal injury or property damage incurred by me or my guest while participating in the GOF SOUTH XLII 2008. I understand and agree that the Sun Coast Classic MG Club reserves the right to revoke my registration and retain my registration fee should I engage in reckless dangerous and/or unsafe behavior. I have read, Understand and Agree to this release.

Signature _____

The Pumpkin

by Joe Torre

As many of you know, I became a member of BBMG's in May 2007 after buying my bright orange (yes ORANGE hence, The Pumpkin) 1977 rubber-bumpered MGB.

Back in the good ol' days, you know back when British/Leyland dealers actually were roaming the countryside, I owned and raced 2 MGA's. Well the thought of cruising the beach in my MG (I grew up in St. Pete) had never fully left me and in my more delusional moments I always thought I'd end up buying another. Still, something always came up.....most recently, college for 2 kids.

On a bright sunny Sunday early in May, after both my younguns had gone off to seek their fortunes, I was sitting on my front porch rocker, having a cup of coffee and picked up the Democrat. Just on a whim, I decided to check the classifieds, "just to see what was there". Well you guessed it, sitting on the page, curling its finger at me telling me in a low, slow, sexy British accent, "come and see me Joe" was the car of my dreams (more about my dreams later).

Now I should really know better at my advanced age than to trust sexy voices from a 30 year old. Still, I was hooked and I went to see the car. There sitting amongst the cypresses was this gorgeous (remember, beauty is in the eye of the beholder), sleek, sexy thing just waiting for me. Resistance was futile and once I saw her, the game was over. She had me. Still, after alternately standing next to her, staring under the hood and kicking the tires, I had to take the obligatory ride around the block. Now the adventure begins.

I'm told it'd been garaged for two years. Hmm, no mouse nests anywhere. Sit in the seat.....sink to the floor, damned gravity. Make sure it's in neutral. Hey, I can still drive a standard transmission. Push the clutch to the floor, it seems to be releasing. The owner says there's new clutch master and slave cylinders. Turn the ignition key, listen to the fuel pump..click..click....click.....and then stop. The owner assures me the fuel pump is an electronic one and that the clicking is built in to make us think there are points to hit with a hammer. A deep breath and then turn the key to hear the starter engage and turn. Maybe this is going to work. A whir, a chug, a thump and then VROOOOMMMMMM putt, putt, putt, cough, cough, wheeeeezzzzz. Hmm. Ok let's try it again. Turn the key. Starter engages and turns the second time. I think the electrical system may still be intact! VROOOOMMMMMMMM. BANG! Huge cloud of black smoke. Oh Oh. Never one to give up I turn the key one more time. Starter whirs and the engine comes to life and comes

to a steady idle. YAY!!!! However, 2 year old gas? The owner and I look at one another. I ask and he tells me the gas is fresh just dumped in today.

I gingerly push the shifter. It smoothly engages first gear AND the engine is still running. I let out the clutch, do a leap and stall. Maybe I don't remember how to drive a standard after all. Turn the key, the engine fires again. This time, I let out the clutch more slowly, push on the throttle and the car moves. OMG this may actually work.

I point the nose of the car toward the driveway and move slowly down the gravel path. Hmmmm, all's well so far. I get to the street, look both ways and then nose out onto the pavement. STAMgE After the expletives, I turn the key again. She starts again. I am getting more confident....I am feeling that she might actually like me. I let out the clutch, press on the throttle and away we go!!!!. For about 30 feet. Sput, sput, sputter, cough cough.....keep pressing the throttle Joe, keep her alive. The old spark plugs are probably fouled, I tell myself. Down the block we go, in chunks of about 50 feet each looking like a porpoise out of water. Still, I am excited. After all these years, I am back in the seat of a real sports car. Not a VW Golf that some salesman told me was a sports car because I was a real sport for buying it.

I'm almost half way around the block now. My excitement is building, my heart is racing. There's a stop sign ahead so I guess I better not tempt the possibility of meeting one of Tallahassee's finest. We come to a stop and I look both ways my foot on the throttle pressing on it to keep the sputtering going. Let out the clutch and STALL. More expletives. Turn the key RRRRRRRR. RRRRRRRR. RRRRRRRR. Gee the starter works well. Even the guys sitting on the porch drinking the beer think so. "Hey, Buddy. What is that car? You need a push". How many MG owners have heard THAT over the years. Still I press on. Unfortunately, the car doesn't. So out I go to walk the 2 blocks to the owner's and he gets his truck to tow it back.

Another MG characteristic as I remember. We attach the tow rope and get it back to his yard.

I'm standing there next to the car still undaunted and I run my hands over the body. Yep, bumps in all the places you expect bumps. Let's see now, she was reluctant to start



Under the hood like all MG owners!

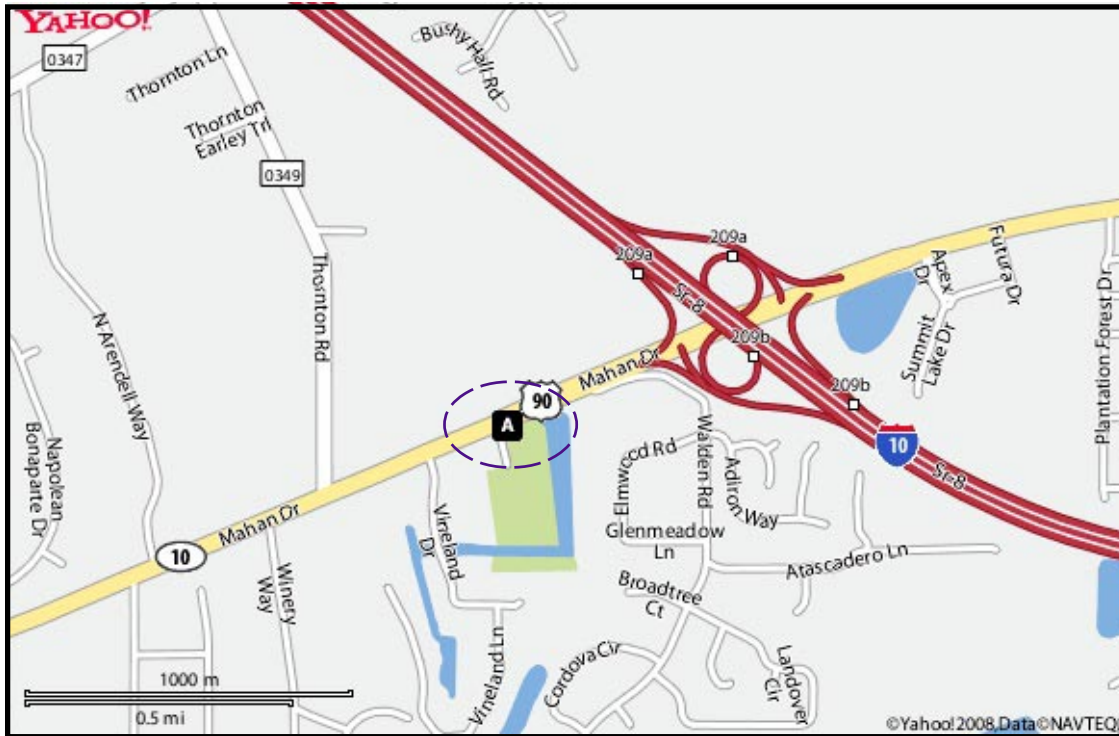
and to keep going, had to be towed home and has a bit of rust in places that you expect to see rust. Sounds, looks and feels MG to me. Still, the car is intact and all the pieces are present and accounted for and the fuel pump, clutch hydraulics and gas tank have all been replaced. So I had to ask....."How much do you want for it". Just then a guy in a 1988 Chevy pickup with no tail gate and a dog cage in the back drives up and asks, "Hey, whar's that MG for sale"? Notwithstanding that it's right in front of him, I knew I had competition for it. Seems these old cars still have that certain something.

So with a wink and a nod, the owner and I come to an agreement. We swapped title for money and I became the proud owner of a bright orange, 1977 MGB. Iknew I would have to tow her home but I didn't care. Visions of my youth flashed before my eyes, carefree driving down long narrow winding highways with nothing but the radio for company. I had forgotten that the MG of my youth was the way it was because I never had enough money to fix things. But how could this beautiful thing ever want to get into my wallet. That's the story for next time.



Sunseting on Pumpkin

BBMGs Meeting at Cross Creek Restaurant and then the Tallahassee Car Museum Tour - Febuary 16th at 1:00 PM



We're on the Web!
www.bigbendmgs.com

- Gene Vierling alerts us to the information from John Twist's videos on YouTube of interest: http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=university+motors
- **Your editors started a file on January 1, 2008 in which we will record the times a member makes a suitable for publication submission to the Tally Ho. At the After Holiday Party for 2008 we will award an extraordinary prize to the member who makes the largest number of suitable submissions during 2008.**
- Become a published writer - Contributions to Tally Ho are solicited always! Just put it on paper or email and your editor will say Thank You and publish it! Your articles, stories, technical tips, pictures, or just plain lies are solicited for the newsletter. Please send to your editors! Pheona_Joe@bellsouth.net

COMING EVENTS

- Feb 16 **BBMGs Meeting & Lunch, 1PM at Cross Creek Restaurant and then the tour of the Tallahassee Car Museum after.**
- March 7-9 **Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance** - Some MGs are featured vehicles!!
- Mar. 16 **Winter Haven European Car Show & Art Festival**, hosted by Florida Suncoast MG Car Club, This car show is focused on the Restoration of Cars as an Art Form. Info pg 6
- Apr 5th **All British Car Day** Hosted by The British Car Club of Central Florida this being the 24th annual at Mead Gardens in Winter Park, FL. All British vehicles & typically over 200 entries. Awards, a silent auction, concessions, etc. "Meet & Greet" event Friday evening at the Best Western Hotel in Winter Park. Information & entry forms <<http://www.allbritishcarclub.com/>> or Rick Frazee, 407-647-1166
- Apr. 11-13 **GOF-S**, Silver Springs, Fla., hosted by SunCoast Classic MG Club, Info at www.britishcarclub.net
- Apr. 19 **5th Annual Legends on the Green**, World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL The show benefits the Shriner's Children's Hospitals and featured a judged JCNA Jaguar Concours and many other classic, contemporary and exotic British cars.
- Apr. 23-26 **NAMGAR Mini-GT Key West**, Open to ALL MARQUES,
- Nov. 7-9 **JAMBOREE 16**, St. Petersburg, Fla., hosted by FSMGCC. Info at www.fsmgcc.com???



The purpose of the BBMGs is to encourage the members in the acquisition, preservation, restoration, exhibition, and use of the MG automobile

www.bigbendmgs.com

OFFICERS

Prime Minister
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Thanks

to contributors to this months *TALLY HO*:

Joe Torrie and Gene Vierling

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