



# TALLY HO

## Prime Minister's Message

Hello all! Not a bunch going on here in Tally. We had a quick meeting and nice drive a couple of Saturdays ago. Four of us climbed in to our LBCs and took a slow ride to Havana after breakfast. You gotta love these canopy roads especially when you mix a nice cool temperature and sunny skies with them. I traveled in my MGB-amino. The boot lid was still in the shop (it's all fixed now nice and pretty).

Thanks to Blair the video collection is off and running. He has a nice list compiled already. Anyone interested in the list or adding a car movie of any kind to the library, don't hesitate to contact Blair Engle.

We are officially committed to the Ramada on North Monroe for Rendezvous '07. It's time to form committees for the event. If anyone has a special talent or something they handled on the last one that he/she would like to step up and volunteer for do it now! You know we are going to make you do it anyway.

Lastly, the second youngest member of Big Bend MGBs and I bundled up and headed over to the J. Lee Vause Park for the Annual car show to

benefit the Lighthouse Children's home. Event staff was also collecting stuffed animals for the State Troopers to hand out to children accident victims, as well as holding a canned food drive. The weather was brisk, overcast and never really warmed up. We met a couple of Big Bend MGBs members there and a few NFBMC members, six of us there total. Not as many turned out this year. Most likely the poor show was related to the weather and the fact there was an all MG show in Tampa the same weekend. Blair and Randy were there in the TD and Dave Streit was there with his stunning '79. I'm partial to the '79. Of course I was there with the Boy and Killer. It was a nice drive and the cars were great. I'll have pictures soon on the web site.

I guess that pretty much wraps it up on my end. Remember the next meeting is at the Ramada.

Zoom, Mike Miller

*Additional J. Lee Vause Car Show Report on page 7*

## British Car Classics - Mk XVIII

October 14, 2006 at the Kings Head Pub in St Augustine. A very lovely day and many beautiful cars. 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.

### BBMG awards at the show.

Class 1956 -1960 - 3rd	Obin Hamrick	1959 TR3A
4th	Joe Kaiser	1958 MGA Coupe
Class 1977 - 1980 -2nd	David Streit	1979 MGB

The Kaiser's house guests, Donalee & Peter Koenig were there also in their Mustang as the Triumph was still at Rafael's AutoWorks.

Everyone who participated had a nice a day!



## MGCC-Florida's 2006 Jerry Keuper Award recipient is Norman Ridgely



BBMGs November Meeting  
November 14th - 6:30 PM

**Ramada Inn North, Monroe Street Grill which is inside the motel. Order off the menu and be responsible for your own check.**

# Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA, Sept 22-24, 2006

Sponsored by Peachtree MG Registry, Atlanta, GA

by Bill and Mary Ann Fortenberry

It was a dark and stormy night..... yes that corny line is from Snoopy typing on top of his doghouse in the Peanuts cartoon strip, but it was true. On Friday, we were going to join up with Mike and Julie Miller around lunchtime as their B passed our home town of Warner Robins, GA, on I-75. Then we planned to caravan together the rest of the way to Dillard on the scenic back roads. But they called mid-morning and said they were running a couple of hours behind schedule, and they suggested we head that way on our own. So we fired up "BK" (BlueKitty, our 1989 Jaguar XJS V-12 Conv), and headed to Dillard. Weather was great until we got within about an hour of Dillard - then it became dark, overcast, and started raining and drizzling for the final half hour of the drive. It continued to rain the rest of the night with low clouds and fog - so it was indeed a dark and stormy night! Fortunately the Friday night BBQ dinner event and the subsequent auction were indoors at the Dillard House hotel, so those events went as planned and were great fun. The food was super, and we were delighted to meet Mike and Julie after they arrived - about 45 minutes after we did. Mike really made up some time after his late start! Speed limits.... What speed limits? Killer-B must have been at warp speed with the cloaking device engaged (no speeding tickets).

It was a dark and stormy morning..... Saturday morning dawned gray, foggy, and still raining. It rained on-and-off from 6 AM to 10 AM, the display start time. I washed the bug splats and road film off of BK about 7 AM - then had to dry her off 4 more times before 10 AM, and then one more time around 10:30 after yet another passing rainshower. After that the rain let up, and the sun even peeked out a few times after lunchtime. Great show - many Brit marquees present - including some rare and unusual one like Rolls Royce, Morgan, and Riley. Please see all the pictures we took. Joe will include some of them with this newsletter article, I'm sure, and hopefully Vera will post them at the BBMG web site.



Mary Ann & 1927 Rolls

The guy with the 1927 Rolls snagged the right front fender as he was backing it out of its trailer on Saturday morning - scraped the paint off down to bare metal for over a foot on edge of fender, and nicked the rubber on the tire. He was heartsick! But then he bravely covered over the ding with a T-shirt he bought from Peachtree MG's on-site Regalia shop, and he put 'er on display. The Rolls is a HUGE car - check out the pic of Mary Ann standing next to it. Definitely not a LBC - maybe a BOBBIE? (Big Old British Behemoth, Interesting to Enthusiasts). It looks like a Model A Ford rumble seat roadster on steroids.

There were only 2 Jags there, our BK and a 1973 XKE V-12 hard-



Blue Kitty on display

top 4-seater. The threat of rain made us keep the top up on BK - too bad, she looks and shows best (and would have got more votes!!!) with her top down and the hood cover in place. One other XKE was supposed to be there, but he broke down 10 miles from Dillard and had to be towed to a garage.



1974 XKE V12  
2+2 coupe

Mike's Killer-B had lots of company - many, many B's were there, in both the older and newer B classes. Also there was a bumper crop of MGA's and lots of T's.



KILR BE is ready for the summer drive!

The group drive after the display ended was very enjoyable, no rain and mostly sunshine, a nice hour-long tour of the scenic hills and mountains east of Dillard.

The banquet dinner and awards on Saturday night was another great time - outstanding food - the hosting Peachtree club members really outdid themselves this time. The two



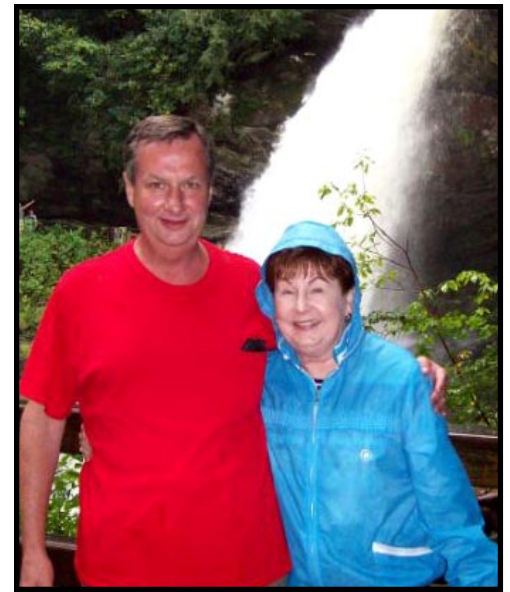
Bill says "Buy them and win!"

BBMG couples present both had good reason to enjoy the event - Mike and Julie's Killer-B won Best In Class for late MGB's — and I had the winning raffle ticket for a professional mechanic's toolbox set worth about \$1200. Best \$20 worth of raffle tickets I ever bought!

It started raining again late Saturday night, and was continuing to rain on Sunday morning. Mike and Julie headed homeward after breakfast. We decided to take the self-guided tour to Highlands, NC. It rained steadily and hard as BK climbed into the big mountains - BF's top finally was so saturated with water that she sprang a leak. I guess you can't expect 17-year-old German canvas to be perfect - yes, it is her original ragtop. (BK only has 23,500 original miles on her - but that's another story).

We stopped at Dry Falls state park, and given all the rain, the waterfall was most certainly NOT dry! There was a thundering avalanche of water coming down. It is a really neat waterfall to visit - the pathway actually goes BEHIND the falls, so you can get behind that monster and watch a million gallons of water a second hammering down just a few feet in front of your face. Pls see the pix.

The rain finally let up at noontime, we



Bill & Mary Ann at Dry Falls

enjoyed a few hours shopping and sight-seeing in Highlands. Then we let BK follow her nose whiskers home. Great British Car Fest - those of you who missed it missed a memorable one. Let's hope for a larger showing by BBMG members at the next Dillard fest in 2 years! Best Regards to all!



MGA  
Twin  
Cam



1936 RILEY



MG  
Midget



1927  
Morgan

# GOF South ~ Mk XLI

April 20-22, 2007



MG Classics of Jacksonville, Host

Come join us on beautiful Jekyll Island for the forty first MG Gathering Of the Faithful  
- South!

Jekyll Island has much to offer: Golf, Fishing, Horseback Riding, Site-Seeing Cruises,  
Gambling Cruises, a Water-park, Shopping, Night-Life, Dining, and much more.

Our host hotel is the Oceanside Inn & Suites located directly on the beach.

The cars will be shown on a bluff overlooking the beautiful Atlantic Ocean.

Trophies for MG's as voted on by all registered attendees.

Driving Tours.

Friday Night BBQ Dinner around the Pool.

Saturday Night Awards Banquet. Silent and Live Auctions. Raffles.

A Hospitality Room with Complementary Beer, Snacks, and Soft Drinks.

Registration and Information available at [www.mgclassics.org](http://www.mgclassics.org) or call show chairman Bernie Nowotny  
at 904-731-2081.

**For registration information and form go to: [www.mgclassics.org/gof2007/index.htm](http://www.mgclassics.org/gof2007/index.htm)**

# 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](http://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 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



## 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 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 friend-  
**SMART continues next page**

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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### SMART *continued*

ly 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](http://www.media.smart.com) or [www.smartusa.com](http://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 employ-

ees.

### 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.

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



# J. Lee Vause Park Car Show Report

by Blair Engle

October 29th the local Ford dealer was sponsoring a car show at J. Lee Vause Park on beautiful (dry) Lake Jackson.

It was a brisk (52 deg.) morning as Randy and I headed out in #199 (1950 MG TD) for a rendezvous with the members of NFBMC and local AACA members at Jerry Wisers's place just south of Havana. As we pulled into the parking area we were greeted by two MGBs and about seven or eight antique American cars. As we were thawing out with a hot cup of coffee and a donut, the remainder of the AACA cars that had met at the old Sam's Club parking lot, pulled up. After some tyre kick-

ing, we lined up for the caravan of some ten miles to Lake Jackson. #199 was relegated to be leader and it was great to see some 25 or so cars lined up behind the TD as we drove down US 27 to the park. When we arrived we were greeted by a contingent of Mustangs and some other Muscle Cars. I spotted Dave Streit's vermilion MGB and lead the group to line up next to him. It was very windy and cloudy, but we all had a good time. We hope that the Sheriff's Department collected lots of Teddy Bears and food for the needy. Hope next year is warmer and better attended.

## 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



FYI

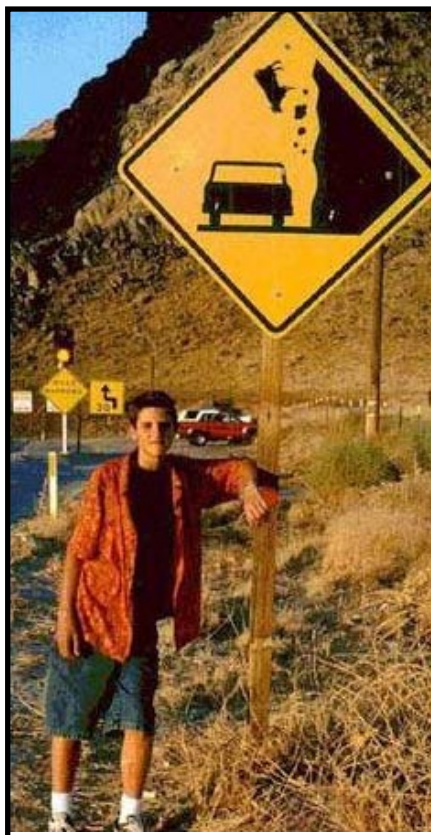


We're on the Web!  
[www.bigbendmgs.com](http://www.bigbendmgs.com)

- If you want to receive *Tally Ho* by snail-mail email: [jp@boutinbrown.com](mailto:jp@boutinbrown.com). Otherwise we will continue emailing your *Tally Ho*. Emailing helps BBMGs save funds!
- As participating members in the British Marque Newsletter you are entitled to a FREE classified ad each month. Check your copy of the British Marque for the form, mailing address, and monthly deadlines.
- 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! [Pheona\\_Joe@bellsouth.net](mailto:Pheona_Joe@bellsouth.net)
- Don't forget Big Bend MGs in your will. Have a lasting effect on MGs and BBMGs!
- Day Runs are a great chance to drive your MG during the week when folks are at work and businesses are open. (go to [www.mgccq.org](http://www.mgccq.org) and click on SOCIAL MEETINGS) If you are interested in the possibility of having day runs email: [Pheona\\_Joe@bellsouth.net](mailto:Pheona_Joe@bellsouth.net)

**Hard times:** "I believe, if life gives you lemons, make lemonade...then find someone that life gave vodka to and have a party."

Ron White



Real Sign



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](http://www.bigbendmgs.com)

### OFFICERS

**Prime Minister**  
**MIKE MILLER**

6011 Ox Bottom Manor Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850-668-4200-Work  
850-893-1417-Home  
[dmikem@hotmail.com](mailto:dmikem@hotmail.com)

**Vice Chancellor**  
**PAUL DARBY**

6340 Promenade Ct.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850-893-4659  
[TLH727QF@cs.com](mailto:TLH727QF@cs.com)

### Secretary

**JULIE MILLER**

6011 Ox Bottom Manor Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850-893-1417-Home  
[dmikem@hotmail.com](mailto:dmikem@hotmail.com)

### Chancellor of the Exchequer

**WANDA BROWN**

1981 Charlais St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
[wbrown@garnet.acns.fsu.edu](mailto:wbrown@garnet.acns.fsu.edu)

### Registrar

**J.P. BROWN**

1981 Charlais St  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
850-681-6332 x35  
[jp@BoutinBrown.com](mailto:jp@BoutinBrown.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Chairman

**BUD NOCERA**

427 Merlin Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850-656-8835  
[fnocera@aol.com](mailto:fnocera@aol.com)

**PAUL DARBY**

6340 Promenade Ct.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850-893-4659  
[TLH727QF@cs.com](mailto:TLH727QF@cs.com)

**TERRY HAMRICK**

991 Tung Hill Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
[mg-om@nettally.net](mailto:mg-om@nettally.net)

**TOM PHARES**

590 Groveland Hills Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32311  
850-878-3996

### Editors

**PHEONA & JOE KAISER**

[Pheona\\_Joe@bellsouth.net](mailto:Pheona_Joe@bellsouth.net)



346 Office Plaza Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2730

BBMGs November Meeting - November 14th - 6:30 PM • Ramada Inn North

## COMING EVENTS

- Nov 10/12 **MG Jamboree 15**, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, St. Petersburg, FL. 800-227-8045 for reservations - mention MG Jamboree 15 for group rate. Better hurry!!
- Dec 1/3 **Sebring Historic Fall Classic**, Sebring FL. For more info call 1-800-626-7223
- Apr 20/22 **GOF South MK XLI** - MG Classicis of Jax. is host at Jekyll Island
- Apr 25/28 **NAMGAR Mini-GT Key West** - Advance info page 7. *Ed.* suggests making reservations ASAP because of the events taking place that week.

## Mid-Late Oct 2007: BBMGs Rendezvous 2007

*Safety*  *Fast!*



## Thanks

to contributors to this months newsletter : Mike Miller, Bill & Mary Ann Fortenberry, and Blair Engle

## CLASSIFIEDS

*Please provide your email address when submitting adds.*

**1991 Jaguar XJS V12 convertible**, 2nd owner, less than 47K miles, enhanced cooling system, all shocks, brakes, hoses, filters, tune up, fluids, battery, Pirelli tires - all new within the last 2K miles, black with tan interior. \$22,500 [jp@boutinbrown.com](mailto:jp@boutinbrown.com)

**1972 MGB**, resto 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](mailto:jp@boutinbrown.com)

**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](mailto:jp@boutinbrown.com)

**MGB** - Dual Carbs - Engine cranks but does not run. Partially Restored - Solid body w/first primer coat - Gas tank cleaned & sealed. Great project car, \$800 OBO. Dick - 561-967-5135

**1963 Austin Healey Sprite**. Red with new black interior, engine has been reworked. Rob Herbert - 850-508-1296. Asking \$7,000 OBO

**NEW MGB / MGC Hard Top**. Purchased from Victoria British part # 10-121-T, a little over a year ago for a restoration project. Project was scraped and top was taken in for partial payment. It has never been installed or used on any car. Pictures available to email interested buyers. In one picture I have it sitting on my 1967 MGB just to show how it looks. It is primer finish, ready for your choice of color. VB price is \$1,379.99, plus tax & freight. My price \$ 1,000.00 FIRM. For local pick-up ONLY. Mickey - [mkey@gulftel.com](mailto:mkey@gulftel.com) or 251-962-2592 (Lillian, AL)

**New Weber DGV carburetors & Chrome air cleaner**. VB price \$514.90 for both + shipping. Page 23 of the VB Summer catalog. Both for \$325.00 & ship free. Cecil Ware 979-574-9330 (Bryan, TX)

**Blair Engle - Moss Distributor**. Call for discount prices. We specialize in SU carb restorations. 385-2821 or [bengle001@comcast.net](mailto:bengle001@comcast.net)

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