
SMOKE & OIL

The Official Mardi Gras MGs of Fairhope, Alabama
A chapter of the North American MGB Register.
An affiliated chapter of *THE MG OWNERS CLUB (U.K.)*

February 2010 Issue



YOUR CHAIRMAN SPEAKS...

Greetings from Montrose;

I'm sure everyone is tired of all the rain and cold weather we have had for the past couple of months. Hopefully, February will be better, and we can get out on the road. An executive board meeting was held Jan. 13 at Dick Bishop's house. We decided to have a member profiled each month in the newsletter. Mike made up a profile sheet that can be used, or you can write up your own narrative. I will be the first one. This will help us to know about each other a little better. A budget for the year will be presented to the membership at a future meeting. We are also going to update the by-laws and present them at a future meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Feb. 3 meeting at the LFYC. JACK

Club Wheels

CHAIRMAN:

Jack Nelson

EVENTS CHAIRMAN:

Dick Bishop

SECRETARY:

Karen Roloson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Jon Gosnell

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Mike Schiebert

WHO WE ARE

We are a membership organization composed of MG and other British Automobile enthusiasts in the Fairhope and Eastern Shore area who have joined together to preserve and enjoy our motorcars. Since it is the cars that brought us together, our events although varied, stem around British cars. We have monthly activities of different types including Rallies, Tours, Car Shows, Social Functions, Gymkhanas, Tech Sessions, and lessons on Valet Parking. We are affiliated with the North American MGB Register. We welcome anyone who has an interest in British cars. You do not have to own one to become a member. Our meetings are held at the Lake Forest Yacht Club on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Please send any letters , photographs or items for the newsletter to:

Jgosnel2@yahoo.com

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS CAR?

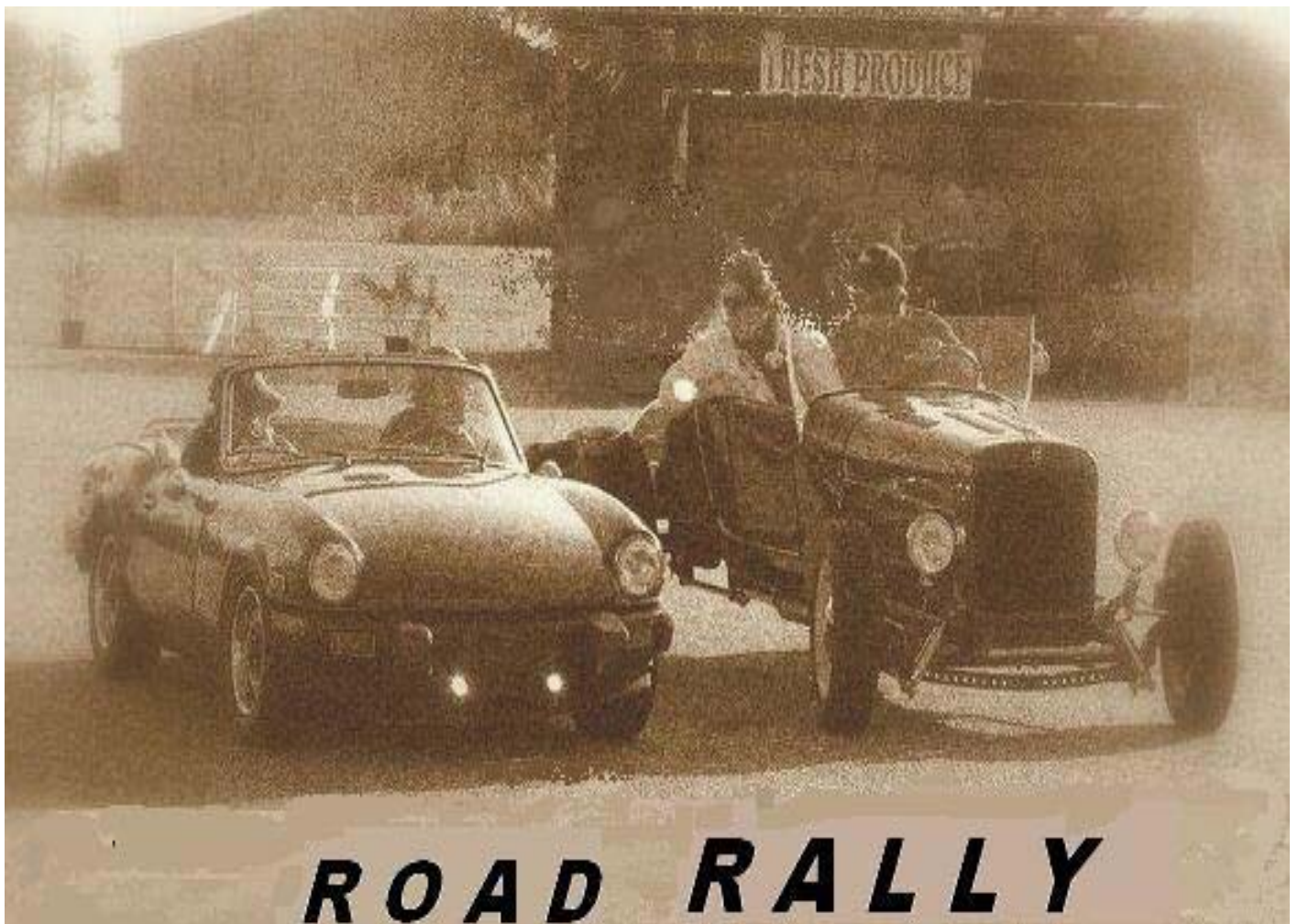


Red Lotus Evora at the 2009 L.A. Auto Show

RALLY TIME!

ROAD RALLY IN TWO WEEKS – Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. Tour over some of the most scenic country roads in NW Florida and S Alabama. Hope to see you! Be sure to see the web version.

I
Mardi Gras MGs - You are invited to join us on the 2010 Pensacola-Atmore Road Rally. We have located some very nice, well-paved and scenic country roads for you to enjoy. As usual, if you find them less than 100% satisfying I will personally refund three times your entry fee.



TECH TOOLS

TROUBLESHOOTING A STALLED ENGINE

Automobile engines have three requirements for operation: fuel, air and fire. When your car engine suddenly quits after running correctly for some time, one of these has most likely been compromised. The fuel has run out or has a stoppage, the air flow has been blocked or the plugs are not getting a spark.

The most common cause of sudden engine stoppage is ignition but it is the hardest system to troubleshoot and nigh impossible for us amateurs to fix on the road, however, a sudden loss of fuel as from a hose slipping off the carburetor inlet will result in a rapid loss of power, also. A fuel filter that has seen it's day, or other partial blockage, will usually result in the engine continuing to try to run, dying then picking up as the car slows, then dying, picking up again. An air supply restriction or incorrect fuel mixture would have been noticeable before you ever got on the road.

So, you were driving down the freeway at highway speed and suddenly the engine stopped running:

1. The engine picked up a couple of times and you were able to nurse it to the roadside. If you could restart and run slowly, but the engine quit on acceleration or at highway speed again, the odds are it is a fuel problem. Excessive fuel odor or spillage could mean a hose popped off or split. Splits are usually close to the carb inlet so it is sometimes possible to cut a small amount of the hose off and re-insert it. If it has popped off, put it back on. If you have fuel in the tank for sure and there is no excess fuel running out from under the hood or car, nurse it home and look for a plugged filter. It could be the carb filter or the main fuel filter. Clean it or replace it and you should be in business again. DON'T mess with the ignition or try to start the car until you are clear of the gas leak area. Another possibility is a non-functioning fuel pump, but you would have noticed that right away when you tried to restart, right?
 2. The engine suddenly quits dead and you coast to the side of the road. The starter works but not the engine. The problem is most likely the ignition, but check for fuel delivery to the carb (as in #1 above) anyway as this is the easiest check. No problem found? Look for loose wires at the coil. Wiggle all wires attached to the coil and if you have tools, remove those wires and look for corrosion (not too likely under these conditions, but worth a look). Also, while you have the hot wire off and ignition on, strike it against a grounded surface, unless you have smelled gasoline. You should see a spark. No spark? Look more carefully for that broken wire! Can't get spark to the coil? Call that tow truck.
 3. If your lights went dim before the engine stopped or if the starter won't turn the engine, you most likely have an alternator or generator that has gone teats up. Call for a tow.
- These are a few of the simple things you can look for and hopefully fix when the engine quits on the road.?

?

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SPONSORS

D&D Automotive, 506 Fairhope Av.-(251) 990-5613

Fairhope Tires, 19526 Greeno Rd, Fairhope-(251) 928-5613

Malone Insurance Agency, 104 Professional Pk. Dr. Fairhope-(251) 990-4000

Tony's Towing, Inc. 8326 Nichols Av. Ext. Fairhope-(251) 928-7334 or (251) 626-7339

Fairhope Auto Parts (NAPA) 150 N. North Section St. Fairhope (251) 928-2194

Penton's Auto Trim & Truck Accessories 4810 North W. St. Pensacola Fl. -\850 432-1825

Old Tyme Feed and Seed 19580 Greeno Rd, Fairhope -(251) 929-1156

Rogers's Small Engine Repair 111S. Section St. Fairhope-(251) 680-0027

TECH TIPS

Bad battery connections can happen on BOTH ends

This is something that happens so rarely that it's easy to overlook. My starter quit.. it went "click" then no battery power at all.. I, of course, checked the battery connections AT the battery and cleaned.. some corrosion, possibly enough to interrupt the circuit.. Still didn't work.

Attaching the "remote starter button" directly to the starter and battery produced the same results.. no power. Checked The battery, good full 12.5 Volts.. so I replaced the solenoid and found some corrosion on the cable lug that attaches to the solenoid.. cleaned that off and all was well again.

Was running errands today and went to start my car.. click and nothing.. Called "The Hook" to drag my '62 Volvo home.. besides the expense, it's embarrassing!! Got it in the shop and yanked the starter and for grins, I hooked up battery cables and the remote start button to the starter.. IT Works!!..

What's the deal??

Re-installed it in the car, nothing.. Am I going crazy(er)?? For what ever reason, I decided to remove the negative battery completely.. I found corrosion where the negative cable attaches to the engine.. (Negative ground system)

I have only seen this three times before in thirty-five years of bending wrenches.. mine makes the fourth. I also checked my "engine to frame" ground web strap... just in case!!

So, when chasing an elusive or one of those "it doesn't make sense" electrical problems, check BOTH ends of your battery cables, your engine to chassis ground strap, especially on British Cars, and ALL the "Earthed" wires for corrosion and good contact.

An application of "Kopa-Slip" or some brand of electrically conductive anti-seize lubricant will go a long way in reducing future electrical problems.



Ray Bozeman -- General Manager

- Foreign & Domestic
- Rebuilt Starters & Alternators
- Hydraulic Hoses
- Martin Senour Paints
- Small Engine Parts
- Marine Accessories
- Beck Arnley Parts
- Truck • Industrial • Farm

· Your local source for **HARD TO FIND** parts for your British car
STORE HOURS: M-F 7:30-5:30 Sat 8-2

928-2194



150 NORTH SECTION STREET in FAIRHOPE

NAPA AUTO PARTS

MEMBER PROFILE

Member Profile –To start our new year, we are adding a monthly column to share some personal background information with our members, both old and new.

We start with our new President, **Jack Nelson**.

Jack and his wife, Helen Gwin, live in Montrose. They have graciously shared their beautiful home with the MGMG's for our last two Christmas parties. Jack moved to this side of the bay from Mobile . He has been here for twelve years.

Jack retired in 1990 from FAA Air Traffic Control. He was also a member of the United States Air Force, and had been an Air Traffic controller for 37 ½ years.

Official TR-7 Buyers Guide



DON'T!

One of the shorter automotive books...

CLUB SPONSORS

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a list of names or addresses]



Andy Malone



FARMERS[®] Malone Insurance Agency

104 Professional Park Drive
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Business: (251) 990-4000

Fax: (251) 928-0806

Res: (251) 990-7737

andrew@maloneinsurance.com

Auto • Home • Life • Commercial

OLD TYME FEED & GARDEN SUPPLY, INC.

OLD FASHION VALUES & FRIENDLY SERVICE

Cecil Christenberry

OFC: (251) 928-1156

RES: (251) 928-4580

P.O. Box 1377

Fairhope, AL 36533

Fairhope Tire Ken and Rita Jansen



19526 Greeno Road
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-928-5613

Tires
Brakes
Alignments

D&D AUTOMOTIVE

Brakes
CV Axle



Scanning
Alignments

Complete Automotive Repair

Owner
Tracey Daugherty
Manager
Jennifer Hinton

990-4952

Mechanics
Terry Roberts
Mike Reardon
Brandon Lambert

OLD TYME FEED & GARDEN SUPPLY, INC.

OLD FASHION VALUES & FRIENDLY SERVICE

Cecil Christenberry

OFC: (251) 928-1156

RES: (251) 928-4580

P.O. Box 1377

Fairhope, AL 36533

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

MGMG Activities Schedule for 2010 (First and Second Quarters)

January

06 Jan (Wed) – Club Meeting @ LFYC

13 Jan (Wed) – Club Board Meeting

23 Jan (Sat) – Fun Run Rally

February

03 Feb (Wed) – Club Meeting

15 Feb (Mon) – Fairhope Mardi Gras Parade (OOMM) 1830

20 Feb (Sat) – Orange Beach Car Show

27 Feb (Sat) – Tech Session @ Chris Myers Nissan in Malbis (Pending)

March

03 Mar (Wed) – Club Meeting @ LFYC

06 Mar (Sat) – CUMC Car Show in Mobile

20 Mar (Sat) – Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival / MGMG Car Display

April

03 Apr (Sat) – Camellia Classic in Mobile (optional event)

07 Apr (Wed) – Club Meeting @ LFYC

10 Apr (Sat) – Club Picnic

17 Apr (Sat) – PBCA Car Show in Pensacola

May

05 May (Wed) – Club Meeting @ LFYC

15 May (Sat) – Gulf Coast Zydeco Crawfish Festival & Parade at Daphne

MGMG participates in the parade (Pending)

22 May (Sat) - Tech Session @ Chris Myers Nissan in Malbis (Pending)

29 May (Sat) – Silverhill Car Show

June

02 Jun (Wed) – Club Meeting @ LFYC

? Battleship Cruise-In (Pending)

19 Jun (Sat) – Foley Hot Air balloon Festival

26 Jun (Sat) - Cheese Farm Visit at Elberta w/PBCA (Pending)

