



Once upon a time, in a galaxy far away.....

Well, our story may not be quite as exciting as you know what; but for we here in Louisiana, the birth of the MG Car Club has been an exciting event indeed!

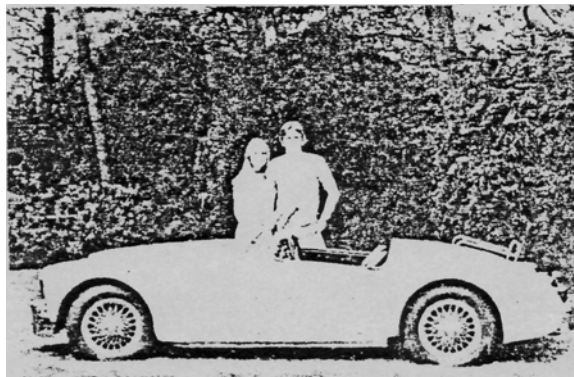
It all began in March 1977, as Eldridge and Diana Reynolds, owners of a lovely 1961 MGA 1600, decided to see if there weren't others in Louisiana who were interested in forming a MG Car Club. After exploring the in's and out's of setting up such a club, they soon put out a call for other MG owners/friends/admirers/lovers and anyone else who might be interested. With the help of the good people at British Leyland and the enthusiasm of the soon-to-be-members, Eldridge and Diana were soon ready to get the ball formally rolling.

The first meeting was held on Tuesday, May 24, 1977. It was held in New Orleans, and was attended by 13 - count'em - 13 happy and smiling members. Soon after a charter was applied for, and on July 6, 1977, the Louisiana Centre of the MG Car Club became official.

As the Centre was getting its legs, so to speak, it also found its voice, as it were. In August, the first issue of the Centre newsletter was printed. Called "Les Pieces D'Huit", the newsletter provides members with a forum for information exchange and discussion.

What's on the horizon for the Centre? More members, exciting events, good friendship, and beautiful cars, for sure; and some things we're not so sure about. But whatever comes the way of the Louisiana Centre of the MG Car Club, this we know: the force is with us! ! !

Happy Motoring! ! !



From NAMGAR Newsletter December 1986

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE FIRST YEAR

1977- The Club was started in April of 1977 by Eldridge E. Reynolds and his wife Diana. Eldridge was an MG "Fanatic". He would chase MG's to find out more about the car and it's owner. He had an MGA - fully restored but no one in the club ever saw it. He kept it stored at his mother's house in North Louisiana. Diana did drive a white 1965 MGB. At the time the club was formed Eldridge and Diana were living in the Vineyards apts. and the club held its first few meetings there. Eldridge and Diana moved to North Louisiana in Oct. or Nov. of 1977 and soon after the club began meeting at Pepperoni's Pizza Parlor. (After Eldridge left Jack Kennedy took his place as "MG chaser"). In the summer of 1977 Eldridge approached John about joining the club and Jack Kennedy came to our door in the pouring rain to see if we would be interested in joining. Without this kind of enthusiasm I wonder if we would still be in existence today.

The first year of the club was spent trying to "chase" new members and get organized. Not many events were held, except for meetings. Eldridge did set up a rallye which was held in Nov. after he moved. The Rallye ended at Fort Pike on the lake. Of the six cars entered only one was an MG and the Rallye was won by a motorcycle. This rallye has since been repeated with better MG participation. The newsletter during the first year was sporadic with no official newsletter editor.

The first year's Christmas Party was held at "Lucky Pierre's" in Fat City. It took the place of the meeting and the election of officers was held at that time. Of the 13 original members, 5 are still active. The five are: Snubbs Bienvenu, Toni Creel, Jack Kennedy, Roger Talley and John Winter.

Morris Gazette February 1987

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE SECOND YEAR

1978- The club's second year was an active one with a lot of members and enthusiasm. Buzz Reese was elected president. In the Spring we held our first picnic on the lakefront and it was very well attended. This was the first time many of the wives became familiar with the club. (It was my first meeting with a group who we would come to share some of our fondest and funniest memories with Kathie). The club held a rallye in May and a summer BBQ at Nick Tusa's house in Metairie.

Buzz Reese moved in June and the Presidency of the club was taken over by Toni Creel. A late summer Rallye was put on by John Pence and his wife, Jeannine. It was a fun rallye with questions that will bring back memories to the "old timers". Remember "Who protects Flame 'N Burger?"?

In the early fall the club toured to Oak Alley and on to dinner at El Palacio Mexican Restaurant in Baton Rouge. Most of these events were full of MGs (that was before we all had children or before the children got to big to fit in the MG).

In October we had "The Great Pumpkin Rallye". This was a night costume rallye and was great fun. (We hope to have another one this year.) We all showed up at Lakeside parking lot in Halloween costumes. We had Raggedy Ann & Andy, Dracula and his bride, hoppers from the fifties, giant pumpkins, a Cowboy and Cowgirl and various others. The rallye was a hound 'n hare and ended with a party at Vince and Jean Olsen's house.

In November of 1978 the founder of the club, Eldridge Reynolds, died in an automobile wreck in North Louisiana. We decided at that time to begin a Memorial Rallye in his honor, a tradition we still hold every November.

1978 was the first year we held the Night at the Races event. This event has also become a traditional event although it has lost some of it's appeal the last few years. We seem to go more for the meal afterwards than the racing. The Christmas party was held at Joy and Carlisle's home and was also the start of a tradition in which we hold the party in a home and everyone brings a dish.

Morris Gazette April 1987  
by Kathie Winter and Peggy Bienvenu

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE THIRD YEAR

1979- The car club's third year was another full one. Toni Creel was once again elected president.

Our first rallye of the year was held in January and was the Eldridge Reynold's Memorial Rallye. For the longstanding members, this was the rallye where we all looked for the infamous columns on Metairie Road, Peggy almost got out of the car while it was moving (we're still not sure that Snubbs wasn't pushing her) and the end of the rallye was at a restaurant that was closed. These events are great fun to look back on although at the time the rallye master was almost hung.

In February we held the first Funkana in The Driftwood Pharmacy parking lot in Kenner. It was a cold and rainy day but the event was fairly well attended and a tremendous amount of fun. It's hard to find a parking lot that will allow you to put on this type of event and in later years we found cow pastures to be every bit as much fun (that's another story altogether -1981). We bought chicken and beer and proceeded to Joy and Carlisle's to warm up, dry off and discuss the finer points of funkanas.

In the spring we toured to Z. Murray Gardens and held a tech session and picnic in city park. We also held our first Crawfish Boil at Jack & Audrey's house.

We held a summer tour to John and Jeannine Pence's home in Baton Rouge. It was our first meeting with M.G. Pence also. For you new members, M.G. Pence (Meridith Gail), is the daughter of John and Jeannine. He insisted his child's initials would be M.G. and thank goodness there are some nice names that start with those letters. John was a real devoted MG fan.

Jack Kennedy put on his first rallye in August and did a great job. It was a late afternoon rallye and ended at Louigi's Pizza Parlor on Elysian Fields. It was the start of counting birdbaths if I remember correctly.

In the fall we held a street concourse on a Sunday afternoon in the Clearview Shopping Center. It was a beautiful day and a lot of cars showed up plus a lot of people stopped by just to look and talk.

In October, 3 adventurous couples took off for Road Atlanta in C. Taravella's van. From the stories they came back with I'm sure that trip will live forever in their minds. Of the three couples, the Taravellas, Bienvenus and Kennedys, only Peggy and Snubbs have made the trip again.

We officially started the traditional Eldridge Reynolds Memorial Rallye in November of 1979 ( I guess January's was just a practice for the real thing). The loving cup was awarded at this rallye and is passed around from year to year to the winner and the winners put on the rallye the following year. The E.R.M. Rallye is usually a time speed-distance rallye.

The Christmas party was once again held at Joy and Carlisle's home with the thought that 1979 would be the last year there because they were moving to L.A. (lower Alabama, as Carlisle liked to say).

Morris Gazette May 1987  
by Kathie Winter and Peggy Bienvenu

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE FOURTH YEAR

1980- Toni Creel continued to be the car club's president for her third term in 1980. This was the year of the infamous "Points System", the source of much debate and hindsight about what would have made it work better. For those of you not familiar with the points system, a little insight. The club seemed to be a little stale and the thought was that we needed new blood. Every member was given points for event participation and for each new member they brought into the club. Members did seem to be a little more enthusiastic about attending events but somehow the whole thing got out of hand. Towards the end of the year it seemed more like a race. The prize was a racing jacket for each male and female member with the most points. The jackets were won by Toni Creel and C. Taravella. Much discussion has gone on since then about how we could improve on this system and use it again to encourage club participation.

Rodger Talley's "Round Town Rallye" was held on a cold day in January. Participants who could not count 2 things at the same time did not do too well in this event. (I have a hard time counting 1 thing and following instructions at the same time). I seem to remember John and I saying "Surely Rodger did not mean to put us in this neighborhood, we must be lost" several times. For those who finished, the reward was an enjoyable meal at Bull's Corner where the winners were announced.

February had us participating in a first for the club, a "Baby Shower" for mother and father to-be. Jack Kennedy, father to-be, was given gag gifts by the guys to get him through the rough times ahead. Audrey opened the more conventional type baby presents.

In March we held our 2nd Funkhana in the Marrero Nicholson & Loup parking lot. We had a ball toss, estimated 20 ft. drive and various other events.

We held a "Teche Country Tour" in April and a Concourse D'Elegance in City Park in May. The second annual Crawfish Boil was held in June.

The first Cajun Country Weekend was held in 1980, an event to be remembered. This was the start of early summer insanity and I for one am very sorry that we are no longer able to do this. It was a chance for MG nuts to shine at their best (or worse depending on how you look at it)... The tour to Lafayette, the car show, dinner and rallye were always well worth attending.

The club held a summer tour to Beauvoir House on the Gulf Coast, a "Summer Chase Rallye" (Peggy and I put this one on and it's one of the reasons I now have a lot of gray hair), a "Moonlight Maze Craze" (remember how scary City Park was late at night) put on by Toni Creel and the 3rd Annual Eldridge Reynold's Memorial Rallye. We had five rallyes during 1980 (counting the Lafayette one). It would be great to get back to rallying.

Peggy and Snubbs moved into their new home in Reserve the week we held the Christmas Party and were kind enough (or crazy enough) to allow us to party in their previously untouched home. It was great fun and we've been going back for the Christmas Party every year since.

Morris Gazette May 1987  
by Kathie Winter and Peggy Bienvenu

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE FIFTH YEAR

1981- The fifth year of the club was one of the most active and exciting. Rodger Talley was president. Points system was still in use (but, revised). Door prizes were given away at monthly meetings. This was also the year that we couldn't find a home !

The first two months were un"event"ful. Then, in the beginning of March, John Winter and Rodger Talley put on "John's Winter Rallye". This was the one where almost everyone got to the "end" of the rallye before rallyemaster, John Winter and Lin Lee.

Toni Creel set up our first trip to Paul B. Johnson State Park in Mississippi. This proved to be one of our most enjoyable outings - one which has been repeated 2 or 3 times since. We stayed in cabins and 23 members (plus numerous kids) went. We hiked, fished, played softball and had a great time!

In April, Toni Creel and A.J. Mayeux put on "A Spring Fling" Road Rallye. The rallye route went around the lake and ended in Slidell. There was a twist to this one ! Navigators had to pick keys out Of a hat to determine who they would be riding with. It definitely made things a lot more interesting !

This spring, John and Kathie Winter moved to their house on Duncan St. and offered to have the annual crawfish boil at their home. As usual the food was fabulous and we had a great time !!

Summertime, 1981 was a busy time! - Toni Creel had a swimming party at her complex pool. Then, at the end Of June, was another memorable Cajun Country Weekend, II. This was the year in which we first had t-shirts done. They were white with navy trim and had maroon lettering. It featured a T-series car on the front. We stayed at the Travel Lodge on Pinhook. The reconstruction of C.J. Taravella's blue MGC was completed by this time -Just in time him and Carlisle Smith to receive awards for best in their respective classes at the car show. On Sunday, Jack Kennedy and Pat Garin placed first in the rallye in the MG class. Raymond Langlois and Gary Tarlton took the "blowout" award for having TWO flat tires during the course of the rallye. As usual it was a lot of fun and all looked forward to another year!

The summer rallye in July was perhaps the most interesting rallye we've done. It was Lin Lee's "Midsummer's Nights Bar Hopping Rallye". Each team was given a list of eleven bars located throughout the city and their addresses. The object was to go to all of them and the team with the least mileage was declared the winner. Members had to enter each bar and answer a question. An added twist was that each team was dealt a card at certain spots along the route and the team with the best Poker hand won a special prize. (Jack & Audrey Kennedy won with a pair of aces!) What made this event even stranger was that it was run on an evening when the city experienced power outages throughout large portions Of the area. I was supposed to be handing out cards in an Uptown bar. But, the bar was closed because of the lack of power! Therefore, I sat in my car outside of the bar for a few hours! WHAT FUN! Thanks to Lin Lee for providing us with the most fun rallies!

FALL - In the beginning of September, we held our annual "Night at the Races" at Jefferson Downs in Kenner. It's always been fun - but this was the last year that we ate the buffet at the track. Later that month, Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu put on the "Fall Funnies" Funkhana across the lake. Many of us went up on Saturday and camped on Dudley and Barbara Eckert's property. Boy, was it PRIMITIVE! we even had to build our own outhouse! On Sunday, we ran the funkhana on a grass field. There were some complaints about grass in and on mufflers. But, everyone had a great time! Later on in October, a very successful concourse was held in City Park. I believe this may have been the last one ever sponsored by this club.

As usual, the fourth annual E.E. Reynolds Memorial Rallye was held in

the beginning of November. Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu put it on, with a route that covered a lot of Metairie and River Ridge, and it was won by Rodger and Fran Talley. AND since the first trip to Paul B. Johnson State Park was such a success, another one was held at the end of the month. This is the one that made Bob Lee's "Quiche" and "Creamy Crab Dip" famous. REMEMBER?

FINAL NOTES - The Christmas Party was held at the home of Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu again (and it still is!). It was great!

The point system was not reinstated. Toni Creel and C. Taravella won the prizes for 1981.

Meg and Andre Jurisich had a little girl this year.

As you can see, it was perhaps our busiest year ever! Do you all think that we can top it?

Morris Gazette June 1987  
by Kathie Winter and Peggy Bienvenu

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE SIXTH YEAR

1982- The Louisiana Centre of the M.S. Car Club celebrated it's fifth year of existence in 1982. Jack Kennedy was president of the club and we began the year with monthly meetings held at the Sunlake Apartments meeting room. Also, a decrease in membership, especially after all the activity of 1981, was a major concern.

The first event was not until March. It was the "Anniversary Rallye", a time-speed-distance rallye put on by Jack Kennedy. Later on that spring, an anniversary picnic was held in City Park... It was complete with softball, a horseshoe tourney, lunch and even a birthday cake (in the shape of the MG octagon). T-shirts and patches were made up especially for this celebration!

In early May, the annual crawfish boil was held at the home of John & Kathie Winter. To quote the May newsletter of that year, "The crawfish were tasty, the beer was cold, and the potatoes were delicious."

The Third Annual Cajun Country Weekend was held on June 26th and 27th. We caravanned to Lafayette, where we stayed at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge. The weekend was drab, with a good bit of rain on and off throughout the weekend. Carlisle Smith's Magnette took the trophy for most unique and original car AND ALSO first place in the People's Choice Concourse. Toni Creel and Perry Ford won first place in the rallye for the M.G. class and Raymond Langlois and Gary Tarlton received first place in the Others Class. On the way home, the Magnette died about 10 miles east of Lafayette. C.J. Taravella and Snubbs Bienvenu went home, took C.'s car off of the trailer then went back to get Carlisle and the Magnette. The Magnette has not run since!!!

Later on that summer, we found a new meeting place - Big Cheese Pizza on Veterans Blvd. in Metairie. It stayed our "Home" for a good while afterwards. In late July, Lin Lee put on "A Midsummer Night's Hare Raising Rallye". It was as interesting as are all of her rallyes. John and Kathie Winter won, Bob Lee came in second and Peggy and Snubbs Bienvenu took third.

In September, we held a membership drive and attended the 'now annual' event - "Night at the Races" at Jefferson Downs in Kenner.

The fall months are always great "sports car" times. We began with a primitive camping trip to Buccaneer State Park in Mississippi. Even with train tracks not 20 feet away from tents, "macho" mosquitoes, and rain, surprisingly this event turned in to a fantastic weekend! Even some new members from the Sept. drive attended, which was very encouraging!

An interesting event has always been the "Shades of the Fifties car show at Bonnabel High in Kenner. This year we were honored to have club members represented in this group.

The Fifth Annual E.E. Reynolds Memorial Rallye was held on a brisk Sunday afternoon in early November. The route took us across the river with a nice tour of the West Bank of St. Charles Parish. Peggy and Snubbs Bienvenu took the first place trophy.

AND - The annual Christmas Party was again held at the home of Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu. It was, as usual, great fun! It was perhaps the largest group that we've ever had for the Christmas Party!!

Morris Gazette July 1987  
by Kathie Winter and Peggy Bienvenu



## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE SEVENTH YEAR

1983- Carlisle Smith was the president this year and the monthly membership meetings were held at Big Cheese Pizza on Veterans Blvd. in Metairie.

The first event for the year was a time-speed-distance (TSD) rallye run at the end of February. It was put on by Toni Creel, Raymond Langlois, Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu on a cold, drizzly Sunday afternoon. Everyone did O.K. on this - their first TSD rallye. Joy and Carlisle Smith took first place awards.

Cajun Country Weekend IV was held in Lafayette on the weekend of June 11th & 12th. The event was fantastic this particular year !! The hotel had a great parking lot for the Saturday afternoon concourse, the pool was nearby and the weather was great ! Michael Delacerda and John Winter took second and third place, respectively, in the "Peoples' Choice Concourse". We had the awards dinner at Don's Seafood Restaurant on Saturday night. Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu took first place in the Sunday morning "Cecil Kimber Memorial Rallye". AND we made the trip to Lafayette and back with only one flat tire and no other incidences!

The rest of the summer was very quiet except for the tour to the Wave pool in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi by some of the club members.

The annual "Night at the Races" was held on September 23rd. We all met at Chi-Chi's after and had a great time (as usual)!!

In October, another "primitive" camping trip was held. This one was a Paul B. Johnson State Park in Mississippi. The weather was cool and wonderful - just perfect for outdoor activities and tent-camping.

The year winded down with our two biggest events. The Sixth Annual E.E. Reynolds Memorial Rallye was held on a cool, cloudy Sunday afternoon. (The rain held out until we were all in!) Drivers and their navigators enjoyed a tour across the "new" Lulling-Destrehan Bridge, then a ferry ride back across the Mississippi. (this was a new rallye trick - especially for a TSD rallye!) It ended in Laplace and was won by Michael Cenac and Wayne Plaisance. AND - a record - eleven M.G.s ran in this rallye!!

AND finally, the Christmas party was held at the home of Snubbs and Peggy Bienvenu. A door prize was given away - a trip to Cancun!! It was won by the hosts!!

Morris Gazette August 1987  
by Peggy Bienvenu and Kathie Winter

## HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA M.G. CAR CLUB THE EIGHTH YEAR

1984- Since memory has failed me and I am unable to come up with newsletters for the early months of 1984 we have to surmise that not too much went on. At least nothing so exciting that it was forever planted in my memory. It's safe to say that the early months of the year are not usually our best (somewhat like early mornings for me).

John Winter was president and we were still meeting at Big Cheese Pizza. Roger Talley contributed "Talley's Tech Tips" to the newsletter each month.

British Car Day was held in Lafreniere Park on a Sunday in May. It was a great success (in spite of a downpour). It was the start of the present day British Car Day.

Early June once again had us flocking to Lafayette for Cajun Country Weekend V. As usual the weekend was great fun. Rather than go out for dinner we had our choice of crawfish or shish-ka-bobs around the pool (it's really hard to dress for dinner after an afternoon of drinking in the sun so dinner around the pool was the perfect solution). A People's Choice Concourse was held and we partied around the pool until the wee hours. ( I believe this was the year that those who retired early woke up to a new saying on the sign in front of the hotel, courtesy of a few adventurous and drunk MG club members.) A short TSD Rallye was held Sunday morning, another quick dip into the pool and everyone headed home. The Houston Club did not attend this event but our club had 17 members attend.

Early August once again brought another night rallye by Lyn Lee. This year's rallye was the Snowball Rallye, a unique and extremely fun rallye. Everyone was given a list of snowball stands and their addresses. The car that made it to the most stands, answered the questions and finished with the least mileage and within the time limit won. The stands were all over the New Orleans area. John and I won due to his insistence on going to N.O. east and my knowledge of a Westbank short-cut. Lyn always managed to put on a great rallye.

We had our usual Night at the Races in September with dinner afterwards at Chi-Chi's in Kenner. We planned a membership drive and a camping trip to Flint Creek for October. The E.E. Reynolds Memorial Rallye was held in early November. Mike Cenac was rallye master. Our Annual Christmas party was once again held at the Bienvenu's home in Reserve.

Morris Gazette October 1987  
by Peggy Bienvenu and Kathie Winter