

GoF South Mk 43



Noted MG racer George Pardee's best of show 1947 Y-type. You should see his TF race car!

GoF South Mk 43 was held March 27th-29th in Crystal River, Florida and was hosted by the Orlando based Classic MG Club at the beautiful Plantation Inn Resort. 85 years of the MG was celebrated in grand style.

Club co-founder Tony Roth related the following history of GoF South: "Due to the logistics of traveling from Florida to the northeast, The Classic MG Club (Orlando) had the very first GoF in the southern US in 1967. This was an official NEMGTR event and included NEMGTR pewter. Along with Blair Engle, Will Bowden and others, we initially organized and hosted it at various locations. These included Cocoa Beach and at one point at the only hotel in existence on International Drive (now Orlando tourism central)

which was at the time owned by Disney and used as a training center. Catfish were even grilled in the parking lot for dinner at one early GoF South. Around 1972, the late Bob Sumner started the Suncoast Classic MG club in Tampa, and others formed in Jacksonville, the panhandle, and Miami. Due to difficulties producing a joint event, the clubs began rotating the GoF, and the three remaining continue this today. GoF south has been at Titusville (including a behind the scenes tour of the space center), Cypress Gardens, Dodgertown (Vero Beach), Sebring, St. Augustine, Palm Coast, and many other great places."

GoF South Mk 43 continued this great tradition. Event chairman Al Cook arranged a highlight of the weekend - the debut of the

by kind permission.



fabulous "Inside the Octagon 2", which includes lengthy interviews with John Thornley and Phil Hill among others. The Thornley interview answers an often asked originality question about which bolt was correct – they would run out and send a kid to the hardware store to buy something that worked!

Many beautiful cars, parked by John Camichos, were displayed in style on the lawn. Highlights included George Pardee's best of show 1947 Y-type, George Butz's first in premier TD, and a host of other beautiful cars. A driving tour arranged by Ralph Decker proceeded through the beautiful salt marsh to the community of Ozello. Others ventured north braving 35mph wind and blowing sand to the beach near the nuke plant. Paul Plasschaert gets a special nod for the beautiful t-shirts as well as being registrar, awards chair, and fortunately also has IT knowledge (we can fix the Lucas stuff, but Vista...). The severe weather held off until late at night and produced only much needed rain. Next year the tradition will continue, with GoF South hosted by the Jacksonville club on beautiful Jekyll Island.

TD at the Plantation Inn and Resort

