

REGISTER UPDATES

V8

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Hurricane damaged RV8 restored

When Hurricane Ivan hit the Cayman Islands in September 2004 with winds of up to 150mph, sea surges swept over cars left in car parks and on driveways. There were two RV8s on the Cayman Islands and sadly the sea surge went over both cars leaving them badly damaged. Ken Watson's son lives there and after the storm he spotted a damaged RV8 (Woodcote Green 1549) sitting on a driveway. He made some enquiries to find the owner who told him that following a sea damage insurance claim it now belonged to the insurance company. So he purchased the vehicle from the insurance company thinking he could just replace the battery and away it would go - but as he found it was not that simple. So then he rang his father in the UK to see if Ken would be interested in the car and restore it as a hobby project. Ken agreed and the car was shipped to the UK and so began an extraordinary restoration project.

Ken says "I saw an advert for Early BBBs (which is now called R G Classics) who then discussed and assessed with me the work involved. Richard Grey the mechanic (with bags of enthusiasm) and Jim Duckett (the bodywork and interiors man) proceeded to completely strip down the MG and replace what was necessary and carry out repairs. When they took the engine and gearbox apart, they found a tide mark half way up the bell housing!" Ken sourced many of the parts himself and travelled here, there

and everywhere to barter and collect them, with great satisfaction. Now Woodcote Green 1549 has returned full circle, after leaving the Factory in the UK to go to Japan, then on to the Cayman Islands and finally back to the UK. The car has the registration K700 MGR and appeared for the first time at the V8 Gathering at Castle Combe in mid September. A full report of this extraordinary restoration from Ken and Sheila Watson is available on the V8 Website – just go to the V8 News Archive. The other RV8 on the Cayman Islands has gone to the USA where it is undergoing a thorough rebuild.

V8 30th Anniversary 2008

Preparations for a week of events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the creation of the V8 Register in 1978 are underway. There will be an interesting mix of both "car related events" and social events which would be of interest to members wives or partners leading up to a V8 Dinner on the Friday evening of the Club's annual International MG Meeting at Silverstone. The key point it will be a flexible programme so members can attend some or all of the events depending on their availability or preferences. It was a format which was very popular for the last anniversary in 2003. Unfortunately the date of the V8 30th Anniversary week will not be certain until the dates for the Club's meeting at Silverstone are confirmed, which we hope will be before the end of 2007. See the Rolling V8 Calendar on the V8 website for further details.