

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.

Goodwood Revival

Wonderful weather blessed the Goodwood Revival again this year where V8 enthusiasts met up to enjoy a "memorable step back in time". It's a circuit which is an uncanny recreation of the sights and feel of motor racing in the fifties and early sixties. Hugh and Gillian Boddington from Cheshire were welcome along with the regular stalwarts. A full report with photos is on the V8 website.

Castle Combe

An action packed MG Race Day at Castle Combe Circuit on Sunday 16th September provided a great deal of interest for the gathering of V8 enthusiasts who met up there. Roy McCarthy provided a breathtaking performance in his yellow MGBGT V8 lapping at an average speed of just a fraction under 87 mph and only three and half seconds slower than the full house V8s of Adrian Beer, Paul Sibley and John Wilson on wide slicks. He won the Thoroughbred Sportscar race over six seconds ahead of a Jaguar D-Type and two Morgan Plus 8s. It was a particularly enjoyable race for V8 enthusiasts with the sound of V8 engines passing by



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at full chat.

Net word count = **576 plus 2 photos**
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