THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS



PRESIDENT: Ron Eaton (420-2405) VICE PRES: Jim Banvard (340-6737) SECRETARY: Tom Lund (480-3090) TREASURER: Helen Barrows (428-3250) EDITOR: Susan Boswell (486-1293)

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Greetings and salutations --

We have survived February and now can look forward to the arrival of spring when the birds return home, the flowers begin peeking above ground and the 'T's are brought out of hibernation. Speaking of homecomings, Mike and Nita West are returning from London just about now. We wish them bon voyage and hope to get to see them soon in Charleston. Hank Giffin will also be spending most of March in our company while Vince Groover is between sea voyages. Flack Logan and Larry Diddlemeyer have also returned from deployment, so faces can finally be put to these new names. Welcome all:

FROM OLD NUMBER 5078--Bad weather did not put a damper on some spirited discussions of the by-laws and the proposed changes. Of course the main attraction is the proposed change to the Associate Membership rule. As the by-laws stand now, Associate Members (AM) have full membership rights with the exception of voting for club officers and holding office. The intent of the proposed change is to do away with these two restrictions, thus granting full member status to all in-town members. When the club was formed, the voting and office holding restrictions were put in the by-laws to prevent the club from being taken over by other than those "dedicated to the maintenance, preservation and enjoyment of T-Series and Vintage MGs." At the meeting it was pretty well agreed that this is not a problem. The other by-law changes concern how we should or do handle our business.

New topic: Oil. I had a talk with a man at work who had a lubrication problem with his Pinto (that is a Ford product). It seems that if the correct oil is not used, there is not sufficient lubrication of the cam shaft to prevent excessive wear of the cam shaft lobes. He had a letter from the Ford company explaining the problem and a peel decal to put on the top of his air cleaner which said, "Caution: To give your engine the best protection against wear, use only oils with the API marking on the container of SE, SESD, SESDSC or SF where available. DO NOT use any oil showing CC or CD on the container, including SECC or SECD." I don't know if it would be harmful to MGs but I thought it worth mentioning. The April 1977 issue of TSO addressed the subject of the use of racing motor oil and the article said at the end to be sure the oil you buy has SE somewhere on the can.

Ron (Ed. note--Originally Ron closed his message with a paragraph encouraging everyone to attend the Chesapeake Chapter's Bay Bash Mini-GOF, May 4-6. He has since learned that the Great Oak Resort, site of the mini-GOF, is already booked solid and that the overflow motel has only eight rooms still available (as of 26 Feb. 1979). So anyone really interested in going had better get with it. Ron is now interested in attending the Charleston GOF which falls the following weekend (May 11-13). Ashes, Banvards and Boswells, and Bob and Ethel Walker are going, and Mike and Nita West will be living down there and if Mike's deployment schedule permits, will probably attend. Charleston is aly three hours farther than the Chesapeake site and the cost is about the ame. Plus you have the added attraction of a truly beautiful Southern city, "with 300 years of history unimpeded by progress" (as Dan is fond of saying. I like it that way). The Holy City on the peninsula will be resplendent with

and oleander. Our hosts are allowing ample time for independent and organized

An Affiliate Chapter of the New England MG 'T' Register, Ltd.

spring flora -- roses, camellias, cape jessamine, honeysuckle, crape myrtle,

sight-seeing, with tours to Ft. Sumter, the local plantations, and the city's many antebellum mansions which are open to the public. The Saturday festivities will end, not with the usual stuffy, semi-formal awards banquet, but with a casual romp on the beach and a shrimp and hamburger cook-out on the Isle of Palms, one of the barrier islands (and the place where we bought ou first 'T'). The dress at all times is casual; the ambience--MGs and the Old The hosts warn that Charleston is a tourist city and the hotels fill up fast. So make your hotel reservations now. Separate registration for the GOF can be made at a later time (but please, no later than April 15). I've included application: forms for both GOFs at the end of this newsletter.)

THE LAST MEETING -- Winter finally hit Tidewater on the day of the February meeting at the home of Ron and Rosemary Eaton. Still we had a respectable showing of 19 people, enticed out into the slush and cold by the prospect of heated debate over the proposed changes in the by-laws. Surprisingly, the discussion was relatively muted and it appears that the revisions will go through without too many feathers being ruffled. Jim Banvard's progress report can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Although the bulk of the meeting was devoted to the amended unpublished by-laws, we did have some other business.

TREASURER'S REPORT by proxy--We took in \$70 for the Wicker Basket Affair and that plus new memberships brings our total to \$701.45. TOOLS--The Snap-On Tools representative will give club members a 10% discount for orders up to \$200 and a 15% discount above \$200. Call Dan Boswell if interested.

Thanks to Rosemary for the gorp and other goodies. THE MARCH MEETING will be TUESDAY. MARCH 6, commencing at 8:00 p.m. at the home of DON and BARBARA MOORE.

UPCOMING EVENTS--

want for refreshments.

MARCH 24 (SAT)--Daffy Duck Pin Bowling Tournament, Fairlanes, 6820 N. Military Highway. We will meet at the bowling alley at 6 p.m., then round out the evening at Milton's Pizza. Duck pin bowling is really nothing like regular bowling. You use a solid wood ball about the size of a softball and throw at half-pint pins that look like fat, waddling ducks. Kids love it because the balls are light weight and the pins do crazy BASE spin-outs when hit. And believe me, skill is not a requirement. So come and laugh a lot. Ross and Ann Haines need a head count no later March 20 so call them evenings and weekends at 486-1496. A lane will be set aside for the kids. Cost is 90¢ per game DUCK PILL BOWLING plus 52¢ rental for shoes. It's traditional SAT. MARCH 24 to bowl a three game set so cost will be FAIRLANES about \$3.20 per person plus whatever you 6820 N. MILITARY

APRIL 1 (SUN) -- Tech Session at the home of Mike and Jennifer Ash, 10:30 a.m. Break the To out of the garage and your spirit out of its winter doldrums and tool on over for one of the Tidewater 'T' Classics infamous technical You can learn something and there is sessions. always something good to eat. A \$1.00 donation is requested to help defray the cost of food, coffee and automotove supplies. See map, next page.

HWY. 6:00 P.M. BLVD VA BEACH -264 TO CHESAPEAKE

FAIRLANES

MILITARY

TO AIRPORT

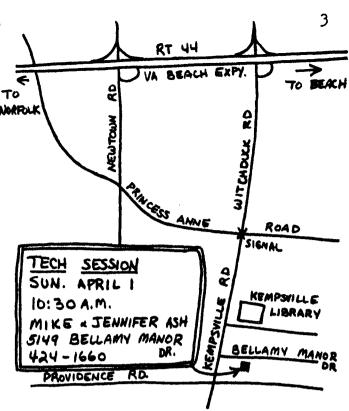
NORVIEW AVE

APRIL 20-22 (FRI-SUN)--GOF MK. XIII South, Dodgertown, Vero Beach, Fla. This is always a good one. For the application form, look in last month's newsletter or call me.

APRIL 22 (SUN) -- Drive-out via Surry House Morrow

MAY 4-6 (FRI-SUN)--Chesapeake Chapter's Bay Bash Mini-GOF, Chestertown, Md, NE of Annapolis on the Eastern Shore, 5-6 hour drive from Tidewater depending on what you're driving. The application form is included at the end of the newsletter. As I stated in the editor's note to Ron's message, only eight rooms are left at the overflow motel.

MAY 11-13 (FRI-SUN)--Sandlapper 'T'
Register's Mini-GOF in Charleston, SC.
For details see editor's note to Ron's
message "From Old Number 5078." Application form at end of this newsletter.



MAY 20 (SUN) -- Tech Session at the Boswells.

WHAT NOT TOO MANY MISSED--Sunday Brunch at Adam's. Good food always brings out the Tidewater 'T's and Adam's Brunch was the topper as 44 of the faithful gathered at the board. Only Christmas Parties--where a feast is traditional-draws a larger crowd. It has been suggested that we re-name the club the Tidewater Gourmands (or was that word Gluttons?). Maybe we can get a 10% discount at Weight Watchers. Various comments included Hank Giffin's lament at his lack of capacity--poor boy could manage only two returns to the line-and Bob Salvin's pleasure at the inclusion of lox and bagels on the menu. We always take care of our own.

And now prepare yourselves for episode V of MG FEVER by Robert Davis-- (Ed. note--Last month we left Robert and accomplices in Atlanta trying to locate a nut so he could tow home the chassis of the TD he wanted to buy...)

Well, we couldn't find a nut anywhere. John was pretty disappointed, so we decided to leave. We drove to Richmond where Joe hitch hiked to Northern Virginia. I had made a disappointing trip. I drove home and enjoyed the rest of my vacation which was one day. The TD ran poorly on the way back to school and since the weather was warm, I took the engine out. I was able to loosen one of the rod nuts by hand. I found a machine shop to machine the block and crank but couldn't find the parts. Soon school was out and I had to get a ride home to get a car and tew bar to bring back the green TD.

Mom had Dave Barrows's tow bar waiting for me when I got home. The car was towed home and I undertook an engine rebuild. It took almost the whole summer. I did such things as put the timing chain on wrong and ruin the distributor by trying to rebuild it. The rebuild lasted two months but in the end, everything was sorted out.

In August I made the trip to Atlanta with a friend named Dan. That was the summer that it rained every other day and many roads were closed. We got the TD and all the parts from the goldfish farm and headed back to Virginia. Dave loaned me several tires and I used the wheels from my green TD because someone had stolen the others.

On the way back we had to wait about 30 minutes for traffic to cross a flooded road. There was a large truck with lights to see where the road was. Since it was dark they would only take five cars at once. I remember driving over the road; it was like a creek was flowing over the road. I had the wheel cut to one side all the way and hardly managed to stay on the road ankeep straight. The two cars made it through the flood and when I got home a long restoration was begun. I had decided to change the rear axle and front suspension to the MGA. I had just finished the suspension and chassis when my parents bought a new home in Chesapeake. I had quite a move to make.

My brother-in-law wanted an MGA. I sold him a very nice one complete, so

My brother-in-law wanted an MGA. I sold him a very nice one complete, so complete he managed to pick everything he needed out of my garage including 4 or 5 fuel pumps and various spare parts from another car I had parted out.

I sold the MGA which needed the gearbox after a lot of work and drove the green TD daily. Mike Ash had just got his Y and I wanted one very badly. I made my first down payment to Mike so Ron Henry in England would have a little working capital (very little).

Does the green TD rust out? Does he get his third TD? Does he get the YB? Does he finish his restoration project? Tune in next month for:

Lots of MGs and lots of work--or, Mike, can I use the guest room until I can find a place?

A little poetry from the Bard of 86th St.

MAYBE by Dave Barrows

Here are some things I would like to see, a really brand new MG 'T',
Mike Ash in his TF, restored,
Banvard's two TDs, my lord,
Driven to an MG show.
Well: could be, maybe so.

Wiley's VA running fine
With the Fishers close behind,
Mosley back on the road,
Robert Davis without a load
Of Lucas and other parts to show.
Oh: could be, maybe so.

Atwood with her own 'T'
And not riding with Cathy,
Bess Mann not afraid to go
To North Carolina any mo,
Twenty TCs in a row,
My! could be, maybe so.

An MG catalog with new parts
That won't break pocketbooks or hearts,
When service is almost free
For new owners and for me,
And every weekend a place to go.
Gee: could be, maybe so.

The local club's cars all fine,
His and hers, yours and mine,
And our cars at a gathering
Win first place in everything.
If this does happen who will know?
You' could be, maybe so.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT: In celebration of George Washington's birthday, we, the By-laws committee, met to firm up the first cut on "smooth" updated by-laws. With the guidance provided by the attendees at the February meeti: this meeting was more businesslike and less spirited. The first re-write was completed and is in the process of being typed and copied for distribution to the membership. This effort has turned out to be a general re-write as opposed to the production of a group of proposed changes. For this reason it will be handled as one issue for voting purposes.

The plan is to distribute copies to the members present at the March meeting to determine if further changes are required. If no further changes are necessary, copies will be distributed to the members not present at the March meetings so that a general vote may be accomplished at the April meeting for approval of the new by-laws.

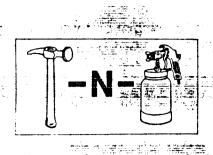
Jim

FINALLY, SOME BY-LAWS:

On page 6, you will find an ad

from George Melick, a man who wants
a 'T' so badly, he even supplied
references to prove that he would
give it a good home. This appeal
went to every 'T' chapter in the
East. Can anyone help him?

PLASTIC FILLERS



Fillers are probably the most abused of all repair materials. It is a lot easier to use fillers than to take the effort to pound out a dent. Generally speaking, fillers used in great amounts are nothing more than a disguise for poor workmanship and/or lack of experience. That is not to say fillers should not be used, but they should always be used with good judgment and only when and where the situation dictates.

The terms plastic and fiberglass are often used synonomously however, they are not the same. Fiberglass is spun glass mat that looks much like a heavy course cloth. It is used mainly

to manufacture and repair fiberglass boats, cars, etc., but will adhere equally as well to metal. Fiberglass kits will generally include three elements, mat or cloth, resin, and catalyst. Plastic fillers are basically a substitute for lead. Plastic filler kits include the filler and a hardener. The filler will remain soft and pliable over an extended period of time, but once the filler and hardner are mixed the filler will set up in about 30 minutes (set up time will vary with amount of hardener used). Today's plastic fillers are good performers that can be relied upon to give a hard finish, will not shrink or crack with age and, will adhere to metal under extreme temperature changes. All of this, of course, is dependent upon the way the metal is prepared prior to using the filler.

Metal cannot be worked after applying plastic filler, so it is of great importance to drive down all high spots before filler is applied. The filled area must be free of rust, paint, oil and wax. Grind the area with a #24 grit disc to rough up the surface. Always clean an area larger than the one to be repaired. Featheredge the paint immediately surrounding the area. This will allow for proper build up of the plastic. Do not spread fillers over the paint, they will end up peeling later.

When mixing plastic fillers, carefully follow the directions shown on the container and never mix more than can be used immediately. A good mixing board for plastics is a piece of safety glass or a piece of plexiglass. Both can easily cleaned before mixing the next batch. Plastic fillers can be applied with a putty knife, rubber squeege, or any other straight flexible tool. The best one to use is the rubber squeege because it will bend the contour of the area being filled. When spreading the filler, care must be taken to remove all trapped air bubbles. This can be accomplished by using a downward-sideways motion of the squeege when applying the filler. Areas over 1/4" deep should be built up in thin layers. Ensure that each layer is dry before applying the next one.

Finishing plastics can be fairly easy or very difficult, depending on the amount of drying time allowed before the finishing process begins. Fillers worked at the right time can easily be smoothed, shaped and brought down to the desired height with a body file known as a "cheese-grater", however, fillers that have set too long will normally have to be worked with a grinder. "Cheese-graters" come in a variety of shapes and sizes and should be part of every bodyman's tool kit.

A light touch should always be used when shaping, molding or leveling filler with a "cheese-grater". When the plastic is leveled to just about the right height, let it harden for just a while longer. Then hit it with #180 grit sandpaper. Final sanding should be done with a sanding block and #220 grit wet/dry sandpaper.

Never use plastic fillers where strength is needed or the body is liable to flex. Plastics should also never be used to bridge a gap or as an edge or lip. These are jobs for metal or fiberglass.

A very important word of caution when working with any type of filler - use protective masks and goggles. Plastics create a lot of dust that injure the eyes, or cause serious damage to the lungs. They're all you have so be careful. ******

DOESN®T THAT INSPIRE YOU TO GET CRACKIN® \$ \$

ODDS 'N ENDS-NEW MEMBERS-One of our two newest members is really an old member, Steve Campbell, who let his membership lapse while his car was being restored at Matty's. Now with his '54 TF almost ready for the road, Steve and family have happily returned to the fold. Our other newest members are Al and Ginger Alvarez. Some of you met Al at the January meeting and met Ginger as well at Adam's. They are the proud owners of two MGAs and a very nice '55 MGZA Magnette. Al is a former Nimitz shipmate of our illustrious president, who hounded him for two years to give the club a try. Meanwhile a few months ago, Dan and I started seeing the Magnette at the Little Creek Bowling Alley on Tuesday nights where Al and Ginger also bowl, though not in our league. A note on Al's windshield rekindled their interest in the club.

A welcome to both the Campbells and the Alvarezes.

Steve Campbell 7607 Bridgette Lane Norfolk, VA 23518 588-2969

Al and Ginger Alvarez 4638 Dolly Madison Lane Va Beach, VA 23455 464-4480

NEW ADDRESS--Mike and Nita West, 2125 S. Dallerton Cir., Charleston, SC 29407. (803-556-1939)

GETTIN HITCHED--Congratulations to Tom Lund on his upcoming marriage March 3 in New Orleans. Following a honeymoon trip to St. Thomas, Tom will be bringing his bride Jeanne (pronounced like the French Jean(ne)) back to Tidewater. We are all looking forward to meeting her.

MG LOVER'S GUIDE TO PERIODICAL LITERATURE: Check out the January '79 issue of Thoroughbred Cars--a new magazine on the market--for an article featuring the '39 MGTB and the '54 MGTF.

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS
25 MARCH. ARTICLES MAY BE TURNED IN TO
ME AT THE DUCK PIN BOWLING TOURNAMENT.

WANTED - 'T' - SERIES OR VINTAGE MG

Interested in buying a 'T'-Series or vintage MG that is reasonably priced for its condition and desireability. Would consider a MG in any condition from 'basket case' on up but not an all-out concours. Also want to buy back issues of TSO, Safety Fast and any MG related literature. AM 685, George Melick, Chesapeake Chapter. Please write to 3199 Rolling Road, Edgewater, MD 21037 or call at work, (202) 245-5247 or home (301) 956-409".

AND FINALLY--FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON FEBRUARY--

People confined indoors for lengthy periods by inclement weather are oft_afflicted by a malady known as "cabin fever" which manifests itself in a variety of ways, resulting in increases in the homicide rate, divorce rate and birth rate. Cats are susceptible, as are husbands who cannot work on their MGs because the garage is too cold. Divorce and felinecide have crossed my mind:

From THE OCTAGON, newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Florida, with additional artwork by Jim Krekovish.





The NEW ENGLAND (1) 'T' REGISTER, LTD.

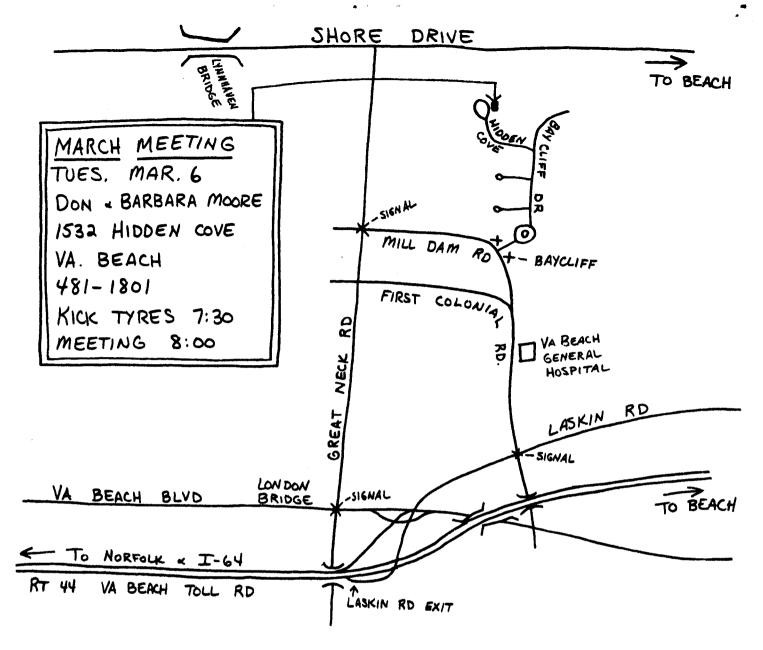
THE CHESAPEAKE CHAPTER

cordially invites you to A BAY BASH MINI-GOF Chestertown, Marvland May 4-5-6, 1979

Location: On Maryland's eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, near Chestertown. Chestertown is a quaint old community where Washington College, a small liberal arts institution, was founded in the late

1700's. Antique buffs will find an assortment of many interesting and unique shops.
Accommodations: Great Oak resort, which is a 10-15 minute drive from Chestertown, features a 9 hole golf course, mini-golf, swimming pool, fishing, air strip and a magnificent setting. Chly 36 rooms are available here and will be assigned on a first come first serve basis, so reserve early. All overflow will be booked into the Foxley Manor which is a nice motel in nearby Chestertown.
Registration/Banquet Reservations Registrations must be received by 15 April 1979 Mail directly to: Michelle Cattaneo \$5 per person Saturday Night Banquet 5219 West North Avenue \$10 per family \$10 per adult Baltimore, MD. 21207 \$2 in spirit \$5 Age 10 & below Banquet price includes 5% tax and 15% gratuity. Total amount enclosed \$5 per person Saturday Night Banquet \$5 Age 10 & below Banquet price includes 5% tax and 15% gratuity.
Name
NameAddress
ortystatebip
Motel Reservation Form May 4-5 Mail directly to: Deposit for 1 night is required. Single occupancy \$22 Great Cak Double occupancy \$26 Chestertown, MD. 2162C Child 13 and up \$2 Child 12 and under free Total in party Total amount enclosed \$ Enclosed is my deposit check
Please bill Master Charge Visa Card no.
Visa Card no. American Express Expiration date
Name
Address Please reserve lodging for
City State Zip one night two nights
Phone
We will arrive on

	Detach and mail to: SANDLAPPER 'T' REGISTER, Michael T. Finch 1221 Gadsden St., Columbia, S.C. 29201
	Your time of arrival: Thursday night Saturday morning Friday morning Saturday afternoon Friday afternoon Saturday evening Friday evening
	Beach cook-out will consist of grilled hamburgers with all the trimmings, pickles and chips or boiled shrimp, cole slaw and dip. Please indicate the number of servings each needed for your family.
	liamburger # Shrimp #
	Will you require any special extras: medical, baby sitter, etc?
****	Don't forget to enclose your check for early registration:
	MAME:
****	********************
	Detach and mail to: Holiday Inn Of Charleston-Riverview US 17 at Ashley River, Charleston, S.C. 29407
	Special Reservation Request NG Legistery
	NAME
	REPRESENTING FIRM
	I WILL ARRIVE IN (CITY), 12, AND DESIRE
	THE FOLLOWING ACCONCDATIONS FROM TO date date
	1 PERSON-DOUBLE BED 2 PERSONS-2 DOUBLE BEDS
	2 PERSONS-1 DOUBLE BED TV CTHER
	I understand this reservation will be held for me until 6P.M. of day of arrival shown above.
	SIGNED
	STEMATED EXPENSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
2. 3. 4. 5. 5. 7. 8. 9.	Pre-registration Wilk-in registration Wilk-in registration Single room per day Single room per day South room per day So



TIDEWATER MG T' CLASSICS 636 ROYAL PALM DR VA BEACH, VA 23452

> ROSS & ANN HAINES 633 PINE TREE DR VA BEACH VA 23452