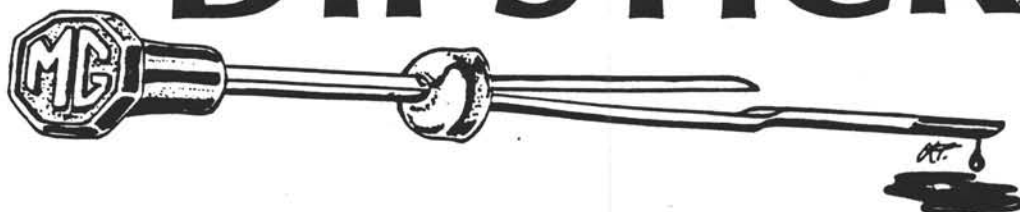


THE DIPSTICK



F E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 5

President.....Vince Groover
 Vice-President...Peggy Bradford
 Secretary.....Pat Beauter
 Treasurer.....Elsie Tarr
 Editor.....Brenda Banvard

F R O M O L E 6 4 0 2

Just a quick note to let everyone know that there are some dates left on the 1985 Schedule of Activities (published later in this newsletter). So, if you have been wanting to host a meeting or event, now's your chance. Opportunities are going fast and will be gone by the 7th of February (day after Feb. meeting). Check the Schedule and call Mike or Jennifer (Ash). Looks like a good M>G> year in the making and your participation can make it GREAT.

See ya at the meeting on the 6th at Faye's...

Vince

 N O T E : Deadline for M A R C H newsletter is February 20

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S :

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| February 6 | Wednesday | - Meeting at the Fay's (See map) |
| | 7:30 p.m. | - Kick tyres. |
| | 8:00 p.m. | - Business meeting followed by refreshments |
| February 24 | Sunday | - Brunch at Ft. Monroe Officers' Club. |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Meet at Holiday Inn on W. Ocean View |
| | | (See details later in newsletter) |

WICKER BASKET AFFAIR REPORT (or annual pig-out as opposed to
pig roast)

What fun and what great food. Not very much left over, that's for sure. I had a good time chatting with the attendees. Missed seeing Marilyn Wiley who was home ailing. (Thanks for sending Roy, Marilyn, he's so nice to have around at dish-washing time.) We missed seeing the Hall's, I think they've been at every one. Missed the Barrow's and the Mosley's. Good to see the Gordon's, the Duff's, the Pellerin's (sure glad Linda found the custard powder for trifle), the Perino's, the Tarr, the Davis's, the Wallach (and his fantastic nachos), the Cantin's (that was one dish I was thrilled to find some leftovers of. Chopped chicken livers on home made bread is a lunch fit for royalty), the Beuter's, the Haines', the German's, the Giffin's, the Ash's (I think Jennifer should enter her coconut cake in the contest), the Groover's, the Wiley, the Bradford, the Holcomb's, and the annual visitors, the Boswell's (thanks to Susan whom out with the function would have been impossible since I've been working weekends and there would have been no way to get everything finished without her help. Thanks....)

Jennifer and I tried to call everyone who had not responded by the weekend before (that left most of you). Hope no one forgot. It was great. Most of us filled up on hors d'oeuvres before but we managed to finish off the main dishes too. Robert kicked over the cat's water. Girler made her 'nest' in the middle of the coats on the bed again. John German brought the plans of the house he is going to build in Ghent on a piece of property owned by Andy Wallach and his partner (any takers). Beautiful house - only has a two car garage and a very small lot - afraid it's not for the Banvard's. I tried to assimilate Jennifer's serving spoon into my set but she persisted in her search for it and I finally gave in. Jim made his public announcement that he will be back in the Norfolk area on a permanent basis come Feb 18. Dennis overcame my inability to tell the cutting side from the dull side of the blades for the electric knife and managed to slice the delicious ham, they brought without slicing his fingers. The box wine was in evidence. Jennifer and I decided that we wanted everyone to feel at home - that's why we never served any exotic wines - just box brand. (Has anyone found a generic brand - would it be in brown paper wrapper??)

Maybe the rest of you will try this event next year.....

Brenda

ANNUAL TRIVIA QUIZ WINNERS

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| FIRST PLACE | MIKE ASH |
| SECOND PLACE | JIM BANVARD |
| THIRD PLACE | CHARLIE DIXON |

FT. MONROE BRUNCH

On Sunday February 24, we will have brunch at the Officers' Club on Fort Monroe. The cost is \$5.45 per person with children between the ages of 6 and 12 half price and children under 6 being free. The menu is quite extensive and includes Baron of Been, Ham, Sausage, and Omelets and eggs to order. Following the Brunch we will travel to Ft. Eustis and tour the Army's Transportation Museum. Admission is FREE. We will meet at the Holiday Inn on West Ocean View at 10:00 a.m. and then leave for Ft. Monroe. Please call Bob or Pat (460-2200) by Wednesday February 20 (newsletter deadline, also) so that we can tell the Club how many we will have.....(Map elsewhere)

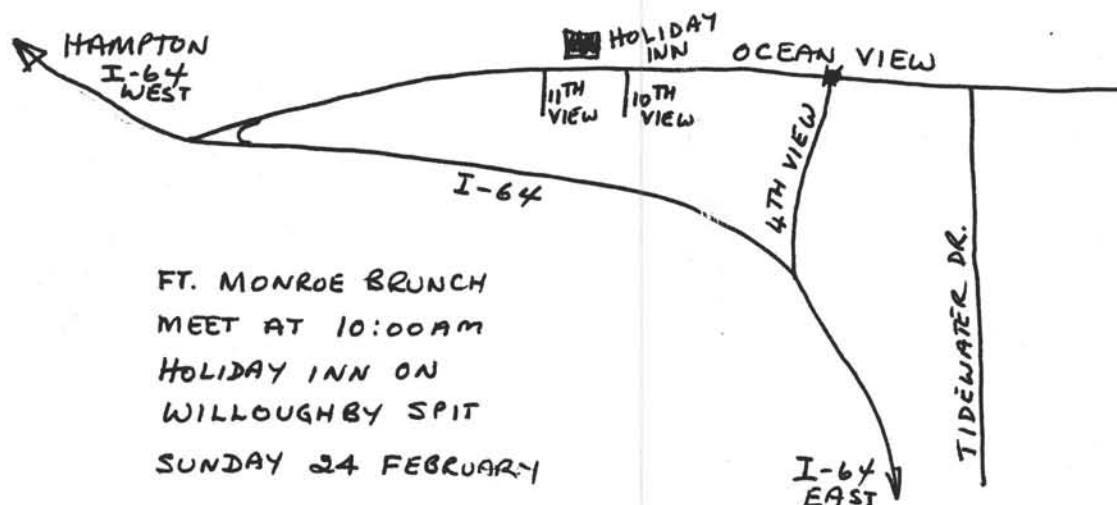
JANUARY MINUTES

The January meeting of the Tidewater MGT Club was hosted by Jennifer and Mike Ash. Jennifer gave an activities report which included a calendar of events for the year (listed elsewhere in the newsletter). There are still a few months left which need hosts for the meetings and/or activities. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 23.

Under Old Business, the yearly TRIVIA QUIZ winners were announced. Mike Ash, first place, received a \$25 Regalia certificate; Jim Banvard, second place, received a \$15 Regalia certificate; and Charlie Dixon, third place, received a \$10 Regalia certificate.

Under New Business, the Wicker Basket will be (and was) January 26 at Brenda and Jim Banvard's home. Also there will be a Tech Session on January 19 at 10:00 a.m. at Mel Baker's on Harness Wiring. The meeting was then adjourned.

Pat Beuter



* * * * *

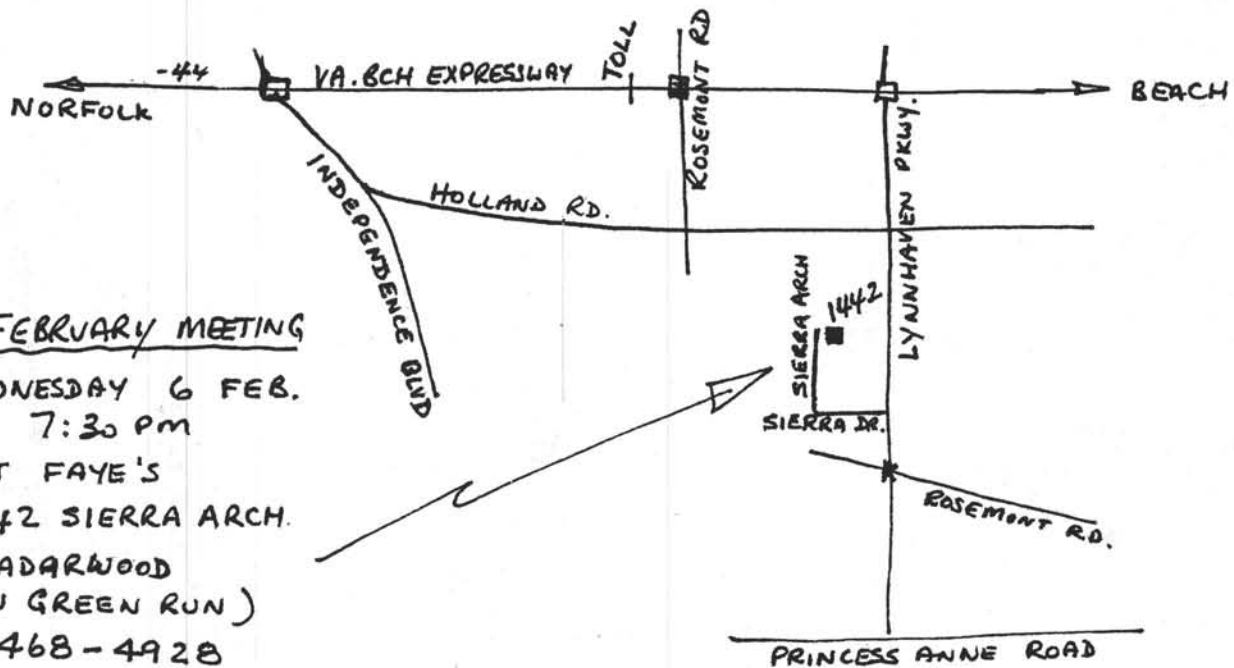
CLASSIFIEDS

* * * * *

TF 1500 Red, Black Top & Tonneau.
 Under 200 miles on complete (all new parts) engine rebuild by Robt. Davis.
 In storage last 7-8 years, except for annual "around the block" exercise.
 Excellent condition.
 \$9000.00
 Buck Lampton (former member)
 316 Bluebird
 McAlester, OK 74501
 918-423-2723 (7-8 p.m.)

59 MGA Roadster Red/Black interior.
 New top & Tonneau
 Paint new 18 months
 Solid Body (no bondo)
 Extra Deck Lid, manuals
 Was \$4575, ;Sacrifice \$4000
 Rich Johnston
 Va. Beach
 427-5205

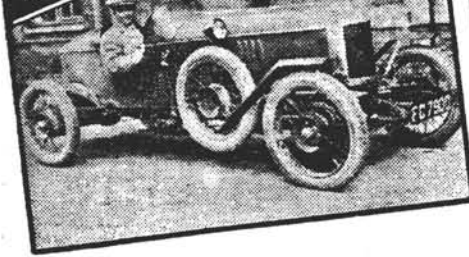
MGA Parts - 1600 Rebuilt Short Block (no head)
 2 Front Fenders
 Windshield
 1 Rear Fender
 Paul Fellman
 Va. Beach
 490-0196 (evenings)



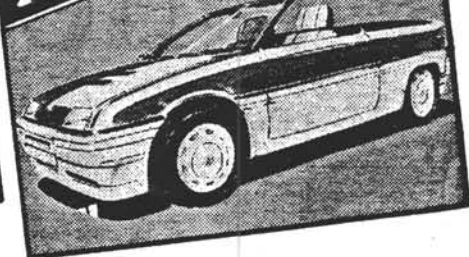
FEBRUARY MEETING
 WEDNESDAY 6 FEB.
 7:30 PM
 AT FAYE'S
 1442 SIERRA ARCH.
 (CEDARWOOD
 IN GREEN RUN)
 468-4928

THE BEST-LOVED LETTERS IN MOTORING

THE FIRST



THE LATEST?



MG magic that just won't die

by WILLIAM GREAVES

IT started as a rumour in a motoring magazine, backed up by an artist's impression, but it was more than enough to send a tremor of exultant nostalgia racing through the motorways and B-roads of Britain.

Someone had seen a prototype drop head sports car with the initials MG above the radiator.

Maybe it was all top secret, though Austin Rover executives are busy claiming they knew nothing about it. But if the whole thing was a cunning market researcher's way of testing public reaction, the result couldn't have been more positive.

Put the two best loved letters in a century of motor engineering on a Metro or a Maestro and all you have is an addition to a range.

Put them on the bonnet and wheel hubs of an open two-seater and you recreate a legend that refuses to die.



Today, five years after the factory gates at Abingdon closed for the last time, over 100,000 pre-1980 MGs are alive and well on British roads alone.

World figures are impossible to estimate, but Hongkong, New Guinea and Saudi Arabia all have their own MG Clubs, America has no less than 27 separate associations, Europe 26, and the 50,000-

member British-based MG Owners' Club is the biggest single-make motoring organisation in the world. Angela Rippon owns one. So do pop star Sting and disc jockey Mike Read. Prince Phillip courted his future Queen in one and Prince Charles and Prince Andrew both followed their father's lead.

And the fact that I used the same bait to ensnare Mrs Greaves at least proves MG's claim to be the most democratic performance car ever built.

While many thoroughbreds from Bentley to Ferrari have outshone it in terms of luxury and glamour no sports car ever built rivalled the MG for an appeal which magically transcended every barrier of class and income.

The first MG, a hand-built conversion of a workaday Bullnose Morris constructed by Cecil Kimber in the mid-1920s and christened after the initials of Morris Garages, of which he was manager, cost £279 to build and was resold soon afterwards to a friend for £300.

Lord Nuffield, founder of Morris Motors, recognised the growing popularity of Kimber's conversion by buying his Abingdon factory in 1935, and two years later the first of the famous 'T' series was on the market for a mere £222.

With its familiar fold-down windscreen and spare wheel attached to the rear square-shaped petrol tank, a 'T' even in poor con-

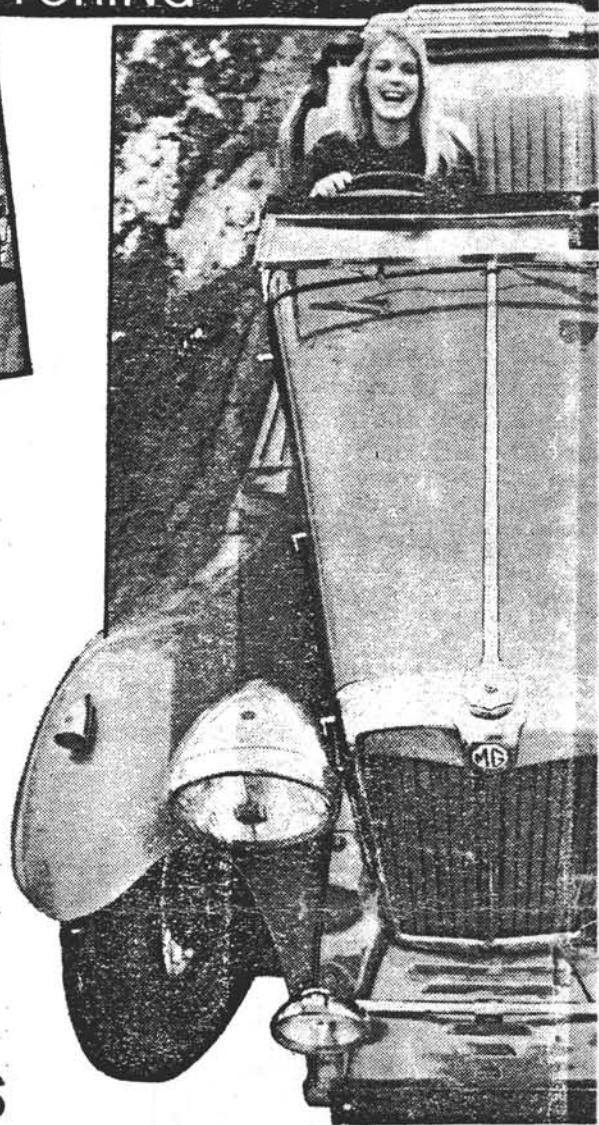
dition is worth nearly £3,000 today and as much as £9,000 at best.

But even with money in his pocket the enthusiast would be hard put to find one. Although nearly 50,000 were built—and many are still on the road—the latest edition of the MG Owners Club magazine offers not one 'T' series model in two packed pages of cars for sale.

'Anyone who owns one would rather sell his house than part with it,' says Roche Bentley, 34-year-old secretary of the MG Owners Club. 'And the same goes for all the later models, right up to the limited edition of MGBs produced after the Abingdon factory closed.'

One proud owner under the spell is 77-year-old pensioner Eddie McGowan who bought his seventh MG, a 'B' model, back in 1967. Since then it has clocked up an incredible 304,000 miles and been admired in America, throughout Europe, Russia, and Afghanistan, the Far East and Australia.

'It's still got its original body, engine, gearbox and back axle, and the nearest it has ever been to a garage is to fill up with petrol and oil,' says the indefatigable McGowan who is planning a drive from New York to San Francisco.



AN MG like this was everyone's idea of a sports car designed by Cecil Kimber (top left, driving) and though production stopped five years ago (centre) still capture the imagination.



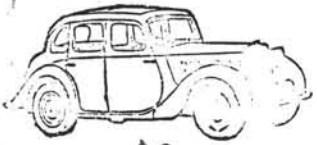
The Russians loved it, and wherever I stopped a crowd gathered round it. At Brest,

I happened to be staying at the same hotel as the managing director of Mercedes Benz. He got out his cheque book and asked me how much I wanted for it, but I told him I could never part with it.

The best way to understand the world-wide fascination of the MG sports car is to ask Roche Bentley what he does for a living when he's not running the MG Owners' Club.

'What do I do for a what?' he splutters. 'Do you have any idea what looking after this breed of fanatic actually entails? Our owners don't just run a car—they inherit a whole way of life!'

That is why Roche Bentley is one man who is certain that new MG sports cars, whatever the denials, will be on the road again within the next three years.



5149 Bellamy Manor Dr.
Virginia Beach, Va. 23464



ROSS & ANN HAINES
633 PINE TREE DR.
VIRGINIA BEACH. VA. 23452

