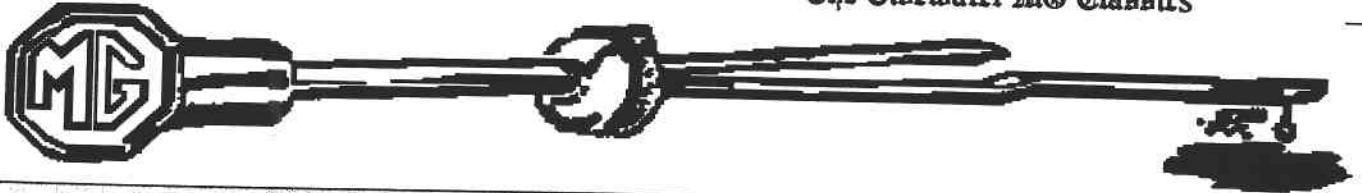


The Dipstick

The Tidewater MG Classics



July 1995

Volume XXXI Issue 6

Marque Time

Thanks to Sally and Mike Murphy and Miss Morgan for hosting our June meeting. We had a full house even though it was really raining by tyre kicking time. We had at least 40 members and prospective members in attendance in spite of the awful weather. When I first arrived I was disappointed to see a Triumph at the head of the driveway (in the rain), but I felt much better when Mike showed me what he had in the nice, dry garage. In fact, Mike spent a good deal of his time before and after the meeting showing off his MGA coupe. Sally spent her time showing off Miss Morgan, one of our youngest members. A great time was had by all.

The first order of the new name tags were delivered at the meeting. These were made available through the efforts of Doug Squires, our DIPSTICK Editor. Each badge has the club logo and the person's name engraved in black on white. Doug also presented the club with a check for \$37.00, the net profits from the first badge order. Each person who orders a badge is responsible for his or her own badge. Note: I ordered two because I have misplaced other items in the past. Contact Doug for information on how you can order yours. (or see the ad in this Dipstick)

The long lost briefcase with the old paper nametags showed up at the meeting after a many month hiatus. No decision has been made concerning what to do with them. One suggestion was made that the club offer them for sale as "Nametag Classics". I wonder whether the ones that have yellowed with age are worth more or worthless?

The raffle prize at the meeting was a nice MG book provided by Seven Enterprises of Newport News, a full-line MGB parts stockist. I was also informed that Scott Coogan is now a MOSS distributor at his shop off Newtown Road in Virginia Beach. Since I'm mentioning member services, Mark Childers, our Membership Chairman, is now the local distributor for the POR-15 line of metal preservation products.

Lots of summer activities are coming. A July bowling night is upcoming, an August Tech. Session, and an informal drive-out/club picnic at Munden Point in the "outback" of Virginia Beach is in the offing. Also don't forget that British Car Day is September 17th. The Central Virginia MG folks (alias the Richmond Rascals) are planning a two day event. Watch for more information and watch your calendars. The car show at Berkeley Plantation on the James River is becoming one of the nicest British Car Get-

The Dipstick is the official newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics.

President	Bob McClaren
Vice-President	Frank Linse
Secretary	Doug Kennedy
Treasurer	Bob Miller
Dipstick Editor	Doug Squires

Together of the year.

In August, a nominating committee will be appointed by me to produce a slate of officers for next year. As this is my second year as the club president, I must step aside and let someone else have a go at it. If you are interested in a club position or in being on the nominating committee, see me at the July meeting or give me a call at home. My number is 490-2114.

Safety first!
Bob

Bob McClaren
President



The Tidewater MG Classics is a club dedicated to the preservation, appreciation and maintenance of the MG Automobile, and the fellowship of the club members.



Got a Question, problem,
complaint, comment, or anything
for *The Dipstick*, call Doug

Squires at:
(804) 484-8028

Need a Change of Address?
Contact Mark Childers, the
Membership Chairman at:
(804) 473-1757



Meeting Minutes

Jun 6, 1995

Bob called the meeting to order semi-promptly at 8:01 with a thunderous rap of his gavel. He thanked Mike and Sally Murphy for their hospitality and willingness to let us poke around his MGA. Bob also welcomed Sean Thomas as a new member and owner of a 71 B. Will Drennan also stopped by with a 72B as a prospective member. After a discussion of Bob's looseness, the meeting progressed.

Minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's report:

Old Balance = 374.28
Receipts = 120.50
Disbursements = 241.61
Balance = 253.17

Dues are due, so our balance should be climbing. JD from Seven Enterprises also generously donated a book to be raffled to aid the balance. Thanks JD, now everyone go buy parts from Seven.

Activities: June 29 will feature a bowling extravaganza. Hopefully you will see this in time so get out and don't forget your bowling shoes. A driveout to Munden point was also discussed. After a raucous discussion of how, and more importantly what to eat, it was decided that a picnic/driveout will be held in July. Chuck Hudson also has volunteered to host the Christmas Party. Several other items related to Bowie, the Chesapeake Scottish Festival and someplace that sounds like Chippokees were discussed, but the Secretary is too slow a typist to get the details. Yet another reason to attend meetings rather than rely on these crummy minutes for accurate information.

Membership: Mark Childers reported that 15 prospective members were discovered at the Azalea Festival car display. Mark has also undertaken recruiting members as he tracks down the unfortunate souls that are trying to drive MGs that are better suited as planters.

Newsletter: Doug Squires reminded everyone of the newsletter deadline. **SUBMIT THINGS NOW!!** The American MGB Register is interested in submitting an ad/informational piece. [Ed Note: needed an early deadline so I can get the newsletter out early so as to give everyone the flyer on the Bowling Nite - See page 6!]

Regalia: Buy it. Buy it now. Doug Squires also reported that 44 nametags were purchased and the club has made \$37 thus far while providing a great looking badge. Also, the old nametags were found/discovered so commemorative antique nametags that look suspiciously like the old nametags are now available for \$20 each.

Clubs etc.: Chuck Hudson is going to the TC GOF. If you know of someone who is willing to loan/rent a trailer to make his "drive" easier let him know. Ed Soloman showed a publication from the MG Owners club and encouraged everyone to take a look.

Marque time: Write down your miles so Bob can see who has driven the most. Peggy Bradford has an early B source for some parts. Sue Bond is looking for her AACA badge. Get it back to her if you have it. Vince Groover has scratched his BGT windows. Call him if you know how to remove these scratches. It was suggested that an Eastwood Kit would work too. Your Secretary also discussed a source for Wix oil filters that are available through Knight oil in Newport News. The Secretary also announced the adoption of a gently used/wrecked 69B that is a current project. This was followed by some royal praise for his wife who was conveniently out of town during the purchase. [Ed Note: Sounded more like sucking-up big-time!] Mark Childers drove his B to a Jimmy Buffet concert in North Carolina. Bill Keeler's B has been painted Damask Red. A ropey B has been discovered. Call Tom Sawyer for a definition of ropey. Chuck Hudson sent kudos to Scott Coogan for some great work on his TC.

Ed Soloman won the raffle. We all hated him for winning. Then we adjourned the meeting and commenced with the chow feast.

Membership Notes

Mark Childers & Debbie Goodwin
 5013 Carnation Av
 Virginia Beach, VA 23462
 473-1757 or Dig Pgr 626-9686

The 1995-96 membership drive is off to a good start with 32 replies received to date, not including 10 recent new members who had already paid dues thru 1996. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed application form.

New members include Brister and Mark Thomas of Virginia Beach. Brister is the Youth Minister at Haygood United Methodist, and Mark is in the Navy. She's had her red 70 roadster for 10 years. It's currently in my shed having the cobwebs and hornets nests cleared out of every nook and cranny. A Newport News Vet, Dr R. Andrew Murphie is among our newest members. He owns a very nice 58 MGA roadster.

Coastal Head & Engine Exchange at 116 Jersey Ave (Cleveland St/Witchduck Rd area of VA Beach) did an excellent job for a very fair price on a head which should have been tied to the end of an anchor line.

Meeting attendance is improving with the advent of warmer weather, but it would be nice to see a few more of us braving the downpours in those all-weather MG's.....

The 11th Annual Richmond British Car Days
 September 16 & 17
 For more info:
 Bob McLaren 490-2114
 or
 Bruce Woodson (Richmond Club) 304-749-3262



"Don't let lack of a membership application keep you from signing up a new member. I'll accept applications on scraps of paper, or even written on a \$10.00 bill."

Activities

Activities Chairman:
 Peggy Bradford 464-0543

Here's the latest list of activities. Call Peggy to sign up for any of the ones still needing a sponsor.

Aug.	Late	PICNIC	Sponsor: Chris & Phil Eller
Sep	24	PIG ROAST/CAR SHOW	Sponsor: Chris & Shelly Holcomb
Oct.	Late	DRIVEOUT	Sponsor: _____
Dec	9	CHRISTMAS PARTY	Sponsor: Chuck Hudson

Meetings

Wed Jul.	5	Rolf Graeber
Tue. Aug.	1	Bill & Libby Keeler
Wed Sep.	6	Doug & Betsy Kennedy
Tue Oct.	3	Jim Villers
Wed Nov.	1	Chuck & Judy Hudson

Sep 16-17 Richmond British Car Days



Misc



Name tags are available for sale. Price is \$5.00 per tag. Order at next meeting or send check or money order to: Doug Squires 4909 Orleans Dr. Portsmouth, VA 23703.

Tags ordered at a meeting will be ready

Wanted: Used Short Block with good oil pressure for '69 B

Call Mark Childers At 473-1757



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North America's official international registry and club for owners of MGBs, MGB-GTs and Midgets. Technical advice, local chapters, parts discounts, parts exchange, member recommendations on shops, conventions, free classified ads and more!!

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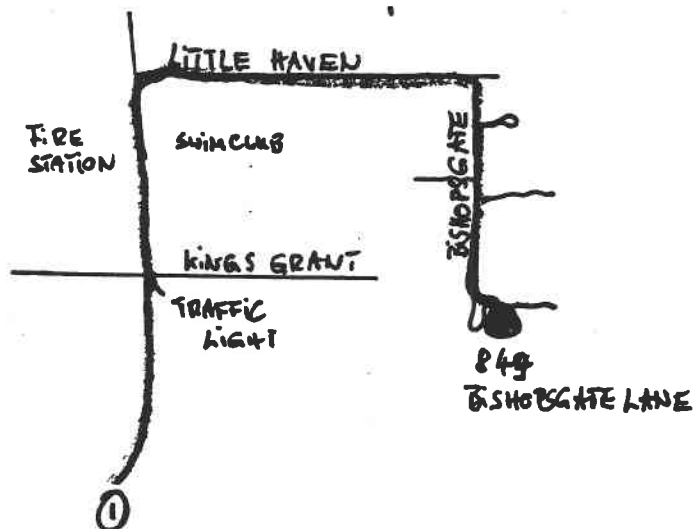
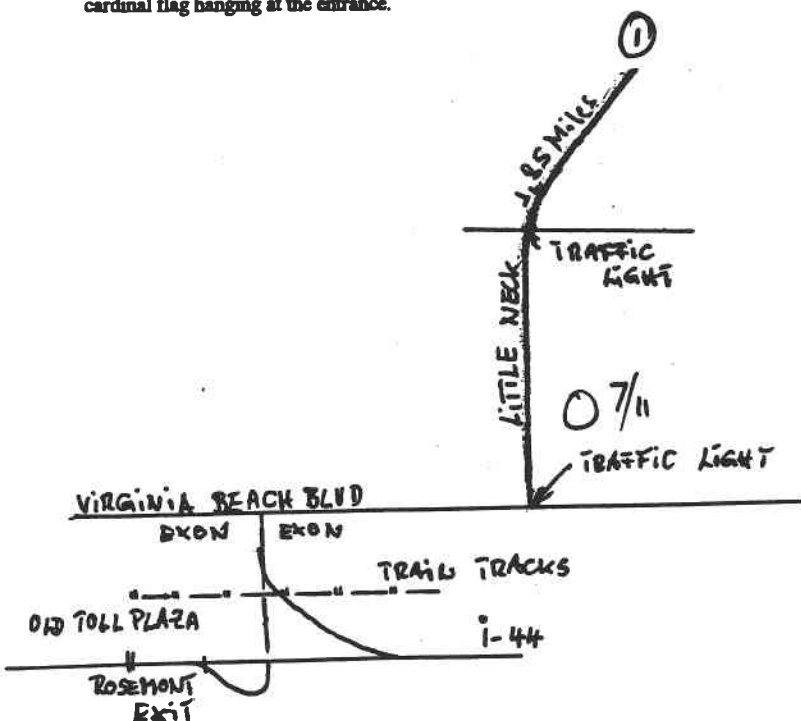
AMGBA
P. O. BOX 11401
CHICAGO, IL 60611 U.S.A.

Ph.: 1-800-723-MGMG FAX: (312) 769-6262

Next Meeting

Weds Jul 5, 1995 Kick Tyres: 7:30 PM. Business Meeting: 8:00 PM.
Hosted by: Rolf Graeber 849 Bishopgate Ln, Virginia Beach 463-6677

Take I-44 to Rosemont Exit. Onto Virginia Beach Blvd to the East and at the first light north onto Little Neck Blvd. The road will become single lane after 1.85 mi. Next right onto Little Haven and again next right into Bishopgate Lane. After about 350 yards the street curves left. Our house is the first one on the right side after the curve. I will have my cardinal flag hanging at the entrance.



Head Work

By:

Mark Childers

MGB heads can last well over 75,000 miles without a valve job, given decent fuel, periodic oil changes and valve lash adjustment, and reasonable coolant temperatures. As oil and fuel residues break down, they carbonize in the valve pockets and ports, creating hot spots and valve seat damage which leads to higher operating temperatures and poor performance. When a compression test reveals low cylinder pressures that fail to rise when oil is squirted into the combustion chamber, it's time to pull the head. Refer to Haynes or Bentley's for guidance.

After removing the head thoroughly clean the block and piston tops, check each cylinder wall for noticeable damage, severe ridging, and loose pistons. Disassemble and inspect each component of the rocker shaft, noting shiny, flat spots on the bushings and rocker shafts where they pass through the towers. Excessive wear in these areas are often the cause of significant oil pressure loss after warm up.

To remove valves from the head, place a piece of pipe (or a deep socket) on the valve spring cup. Giving it a few good whacks with a hammer allows the keepers to pop free. Keep the valves in order. After all are removed, inspect seats and faces. Any evidence of pitting or cracks will mean a trip to the machine shop for a valve and seat grind. If the valves wobble around in the guides, silicon-bronze replacements (\$5 ea) can be installed using a specialty drift pin. Machine shop prices for guide installation runs about \$45 plus parts. A machine shop will also 'clean and inspect' for a nominal fee.

If all seats and guides looked okay, and you need to get by 'on the cheap', a lapping tool and Clover grinding compound can do a fair job of restoring valve seat integrity; or you may want to consider a \$36.00 no-frills seat and valve grind by a machine shop. You dismantle, clean, and reassemble, saving a few bucks. If the ports and combustion chambers are fairly clean, it's the best way to go. When valves appear to sit way down in the valve seats, or the seats themselves are cracked or ungrindable, new, hardened seats (\$5 ea) can be installed for about \$10.00 each. Consider re-surfacing the head, especially if the head gasket was blown.

Take an enlarged copy of Figure 1 to the machine shop if valve seat work is needed. Guides can be purchased from Seven or Phase One Machine Shop, and seats conforming to MG specifications are a stock item at most machine shops. A valve spring compressor can be borrowed from Twin B if you opt to reassemble the head. Prior to installing the head on the block, take a soft faced mallet and give each valve stem a couple of shots to make sure the keepers are seated. Retorque head nuts, reset valve lash, and change the oil after 200 miles.

Press in seats for a .0025 to .0045" interference fit

- Exhaust (A)
- C. 1-437 to 1-438 in. (36-30 to 36-53 mm.).
 - D. .186 to .188 in. (4-72 to 4-77 mm.).
 - E. Maximum radius .015 in. (.38 mm.).
 - F. 1-33 to 1-35 in. (33-78 to 34-29 mm.).
 - G. 1-218 to 1-228 in. (30-94 to 31-19 mm.).
 - H. Throat diameter 1-146 to 1-166 in. (29-11 to 29-62 mm.).
 - I. 45°.
 - J. Blend from seating to throat diameter.

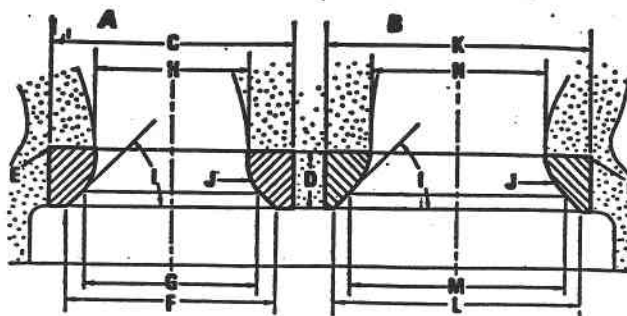


FIGURE 1

- Inlet (B)
- K. 1-592 to 1-593 in. (40-43 to 40-46 mm.).
 - D. .186 to .188 in. (4-72 to 4-77 mm.).
 - E. Maximum radius .015 in. (.38 mm.).
 - L. 1-552 to 1-572 in. (39-42 to 39-93 mm.).
 - M. 1-427 to 1-447 in. (36-25 to 36-75 mm.).
 - N. Throat diameter 1-302 to 1-322 in. (33-07 to 33-58 mm.).
 - I. 45°.
 - J. Blend from seating to throat diameter.

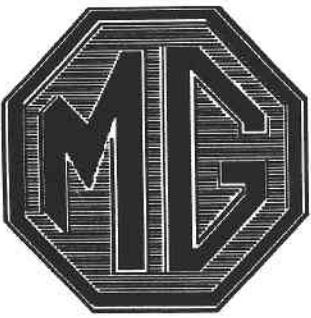
Next Activity

Hostess:
Shelly Pellegrino

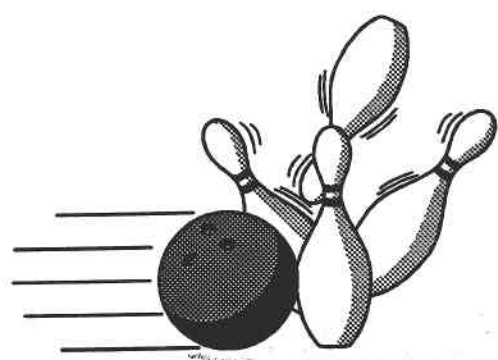
TIDEWATER MG CLASSICS NIGHT OF BOWLING

THURSDAY 13 JULY 7:00 PM

PIN BOYS OF LYNHAVEN
LISHELLE PLACE - OFF LYNNHAVEN PKWY (NEAR THE MALL)
NEXT TO BILLY BOB'S



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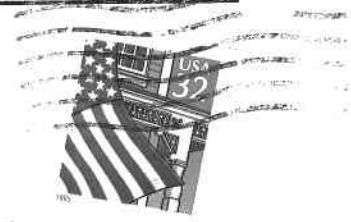
**RSVP TO SHELLY PELLEGRINO
NLT 10 JULY AT 463-2119**

The Dipstick

The Tidewater MG Classics



Doug Squires
4909 Orleans Dr.
Portsmouth, VA 23703



First Class Mail