

The Dipstick

The Newsletter of the
Tidewater MG Classics Car Club

Volume XXVII, Issue 8

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

August 1999

MARQUE TIME

Thanks to the Villers for hosting the July meeting. Our MG's and their lovely landscaping made for some great photos. Lots of tyres to kick, and, as always, fellowship and culinary delights highlighted the evening. Buy a dozen *Save an Octagon* plate surrounds from Frank, and put them on everything you drive, including the company car and the riding mower... Spread the good news...

Read any issue of *Road & Track* or *Car & Driver*, and the overwhelming emphasis seems to be on technological advances that weren't even on the dreaming boards seventy five years ago - about the time MG was just beginning to gain a reputation for building rugged, reliable, and nimble cars - or even in 1980, when MG's were bound and gagged by Federal smog regulation; back when the very Heartbeat of America - Corvette - was in a Michigan cardiac ward undergoing a near-terminal horsepowerctomy. Twenty short years later, it's, "Look Mom, no limits!"... Carbon fiber, outrageous horsepower, traction control, six speed gear boxes, 180 mph, and ABS are necessary ingredients for the successful millennium-bound sports car. Anything less falls somewhere between the basic econobox, and the latest urban assault vehicle, the Lincoln Townhouse.

What happened? The very definition of *sports car* has been re-engineered. The M-type was the epitome of the early sports car: a simple, nimble, two seater, raceable without major modification, and a joy to drive (at least back then, anyway) at breakneck speeds... Abingdon stuck with that formula, pretty much to the end. In retrospect, even the 80 MGB, a mere shadow of the '63 in terms of power and handling, is still a decent drive. A real sports car - perhaps not in the same old-school league as the M-type, TC or TD - but certainly not a robocar by any stretch of the imagination, either...

Cars like the Gen5 Corvette have made such quantum leaps in handling that I had a hard time finding a challenging stretch of road even in the backwoods of Pungo. Aside from the killer stereo, butt-anchoring seats, awesome brakes, and blistering acceleration, it really didn't give me much of a thrill in the curves. I prefer an element of uncertainty, albeit a small one, because when the curves flatten out with boring predictability, one may as well be on cruise control in an air-conditioned Coupe deVille on I-64... Now, get out there and Save an Octagon... any Octagon, and drive it like a sports car ought to be driven. You know: *Safety fast!*

Mark

Upcoming Club Activities

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 4 | Wed Meeting at Richard & Debbie Cilley's. 481-5722 |
| August 8 | Rally - Details at August meeting. |
| August 24 | New Hope Car Show '74s & earlier MGs |
| August 29 | Tech Session - Bob McClaren. |
| Sep | Golf Outing - Dave Shepard. |
| Sept 7 | Tues Meeting at Bill & Leslie Seib's. 420-9523 |
| Sept | Berkely. |
| Oct 6 | Wed Meeting at Bill & Alice Goff 721-7620. |
| Oct 17 | Pig Pickin' at Alan & Becky Watson. |
| Oct 24 | Pig Pickin' Rain Date |
| Fall | Tech Session at Terry & Sue Bond's. |

July Meeting Minutes

Mark opened the meeting on a hot and muggy night but we were saved (and welcomed) by Jim and Betty Villers' sub-zero air conditioning.

Jim and Anne Cabanallis were welcomed having been absent to these many moons. Tom Keenan brought his nephew, Mark Sherman - a certified car-nut - to the meeting.

The minutes were sleepily approved with a drowsy vote of "whatever."

Treasurer's report: Receipts: \$210, Disbursements: \$314.41, Balance: \$824.63. This does not include a "fistfull of dollars" in an envelope from Bob McClaren or perhaps "A few dollars more" as Mark commented. The Secretary would like to add that these jokes were "good, bad, and ugly".

Newsletter: Stop stalling and get in your contributions.

Membership: The Emsley's have joined. They are originally from the 'old country'. A big WELCOME to Hugh and his lovely wife Mrs.

Activities: Chuck Hudson was not present but the calendar of events was covered. A golf tournament was discussed. The pig roast will be October 17 with a hurricane date of October 24. There will be another rally/demolition derby before hand. The tech session at Bob McClaren's in August will feature an investigation of a "rebuilt" engine that isn't working so well. Tom mentioned that the New Hope car show will be August 24 and is limited to 74 and earlier MGs.

Regalia: Assistant Regalia Guru "Crazy Vince" Groover pushed the raffle and our new license plate frames. Se him for the deal of the century. His prices are innnnnnnssaaaaane. Oh, he also has the latest batch of ordered nametags.

Clubs: Jennifer Ashe called in during the meeting to report that they were in Vancouver for the NAMGBR get together and enjoying COLD weather!

Old Business: None.

Unfinished Business: Still none.

New Business: Another rally was discussed. Alan Watson reported that the Triumph register held a rally and he along with two other MGs attended and joined the TWO Triumphs! We agreed to invite the Triumph people to an August 8 rally.

Marque Time: Mark mentioned that the Pilot was doing an article on TMGC member Jerry Goldman, and including some brit car source info.

Alan Watson was pleased to announce that his son drove his MG for the first time. Way to go!

Bob McClaren visited a secret source in Fayatville with plenty of B's. Call him if you're interested!

Alan Watson knows of an MGA graveyard in Chesapeake. Call him if you're interested!

Jim Villers has an ex-MG salesman in the neighborhood and he hopes to have him to a meeting some time.

Pembroke Exxon is selling MGB models!

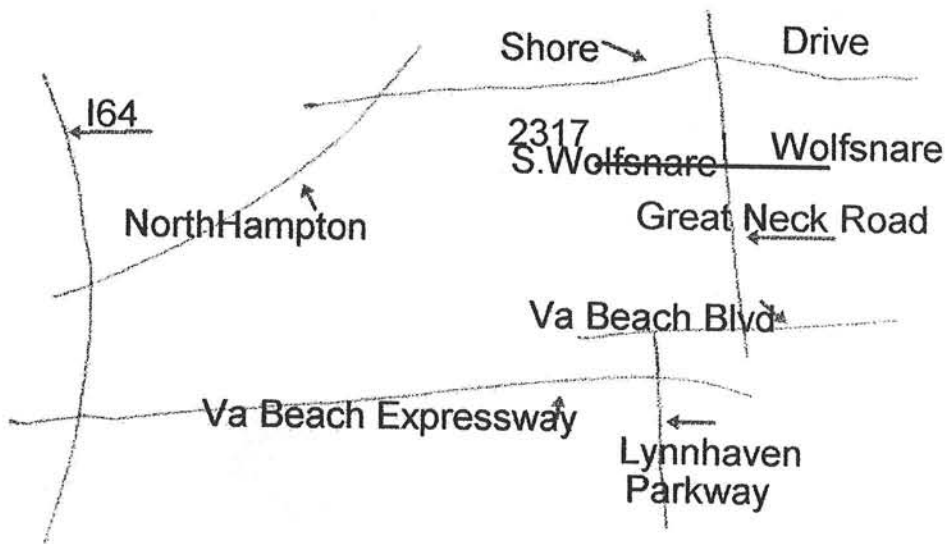
The raffles were held and Sue Bond and Paul Thiergardt won. We all retired to the kitchen to eat in a surge of humanity reminiscent of camel drivers finding an oasis in the Gobi Desert.

FOR SALE:

400+ Issues of Road & Track magazine from 1950 - 1984, Incl Issue#1. \$300. James Thompson 757-336-6292 Chincoteague.

**Wednesday
August 4th**

**Richard & Debbie Cilley's.
2317 S. Wolfsnare Drive
Virginia Beach, VA
23454
481-5722**



The Tidewater MG Classics

Ed Kehrig
5524 Hill Gail Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Fax: 499-7320
email: ckehrig@exis.net



FIRST CLASS

23322+4326




Monthly Meeting Wednesday Richard & Debbie Cilley's. 481-5722

PRINTING COURTESY OF

Officers and Committees

President	Mark Childers	473-1757
V.President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Ed Kehrig	497-8073
Membership	Bob McClaren	490-2114
Activities	Chuck Hudson	425-6882
Technical	Volunteer Needed	
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307



ESTABLISHED - 1926

RIDGWAY'S INC.
5001 CLEVELAND ST.
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462
TEL 757-490-2305
PAGER 757-456-4000
MOBILE 757-435-0237
FAX 757-671-1922
EMAIL JBARBERID@RIDGWAYS.COM