

The Dipstick

The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

Volume XXVI, Issue 5

May 1999

MARQUE TIME

Debbie is at home, recovering from her recent hip replacement. She fared quite well, and the docs say she should be able to be back on her Chesapeake FD rescue unit in twelve weeks. The bad news is that she can't get in or out of the B.

Many thanks to Paul and Carmen for hosting the April meeting on short notice. This year has seen a number of last minute changes, all of which have gone off rather well. Chuck Hudson has done a marvelous job coordinating our events and providing publicity, and our members have risen to the occasion.

This month, my rant is directed at chain-store automotive service centers, in general, and two locally owned tire/service outlets in particular. Recently, one of my customers brought their B to BrandX Tire Store where it failed state inspection for a loose lower ball joint. Hmmm. (Never trust anyone too young to recognize a king pin...) The culprit was an ungreased distance tube seized to the thru-bolt which oblonged the a-arm hole. They wouldn't quote a price, but thought it would be about five hundred bucks. PER SIDE.

Another B (female owner) failed for loose tie rod ends at BrandY, where they 'only' wanted \$177 for a \$25 pair of outer rod ends, plus labor, plus a \$40 alignment to correct the loose steering, which, in actuality, would have remained a safety related problem. I checked the tie rods - inner & outer - and they were fine; the actual problem was a worn out \$35 u-joint on the steering shaft. This car (a '75) also failed because the brake warning light didn't come on when the ignition switch was in the 'start' mode. Duh... and to heap insult upon injury, unlike most brake warning lights, it

(continued page 3)

Upcoming Club Activities

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| May 4 | Tues Meeting at Chuck & Judy Hudson's. 425-6882 |
| May 8 | Road (Gimmic) Rallye - Dan Kriby. 430-9591 |
| May 23 | Sun 7th Annual British Car Classic Car Meet Boulders, Richmond |
| May 29,30 | Soap Box Derby Races |
| June 2 | Wed Meeting at Andy and Cynthia Wallach's. 622-8315 |
| June | Hopehaven Drive Out, for a brunch - Mark Childers & Dan Kirby. |
| July 6 | Tues Meeting at Richard and Debbie Cilley's. 481-5722 |
| August 4 | Wed Meeting at Jim & Betty Villers. 481-6398 |
| August 29 | Tech Session - Bob McClaren. |
| Aug/Sept | Golf Outing - Dave Shepard. |
| Sept 7 | Tues Meeting at Bill & Leslie Seib's. 420-9523 |

The meeting started promptly at 8:08 with Mike and Jennifer Ashe arguing over who would tell their MG joke. The argument almost ended in marital discord as the meeting was started. Paul and Carmen were thanked by Mark for their hospitality.

Kevin Walsh introduced himself. He's an insurance adjustor and army reservist who owns a 71 B that's in storage.

Alan Watson's dad Robert was also present and is now a member. He lives in Emporia and has a 76 B awaiting an engine and transmission.

Minutes were approved as written sort of.

Treasurer's report: Receipts: \$31, Disbursements: \$106.15, Balance: \$1004.10

Activities: Chuck received a call regarding the classic car race at Oceana.. We have been asked if we want our own Corral on the weekend of the 23rd. We agreed and it is being arranged. Unfortunately we didn't have a lot of other details about the race but there seemed to be a lot of enthusiasm. The May meeting location has been changed. PLEASE look in THIS dipstick for the correct location and DO NOT refer to old dipsticks. We are planning a drive out to Hope Haven for a cookout and big rally. The date in May is to be determined. It will be either Saturday May 8 or 22. We also need a driver for the soapbox derby. Call Chuck Hudson ASAP. He/she must be 8-14 years old and less than 5'5" tall.

Publicity: Chuck is also taking on a project to sell "Tidewater MG Classics"/"Save and Octagon" license plate frames. The idea was heartily received to move forward.

Presidents Prerogative: Mark asked if anyone had been to the recent Ocean View parade. No one had so we moved on.

Old Business. Mr. AND Mrs. Old business were both at the meeting!

New Business: 52 TD green and tan for sale at williamsburg. \$12,500 call Tim Dube at (757) 565-0137

The MGB story will be on Speedvision on June 30 at 6:30PM and 3AM, Part II will be on July 1 at 6:30PM and 3AM.

Alan Watson mentioned a possibility of a weekend/3-day trip to Abingdon Virginia. He is investigating. Abingdon is also where Pam Groover's great great great grandfather lived while serving as a spy for the Virginia militia. Remember that for when you are on Jeopardy and the category is "Groover Trivia".

Marque Time:

Chuck Hudson reported that he allowed his daughter Claire to drive his TC and she now has a learner's permit! Jim Villers commented that 18 MGs were present for this evening's meeting! Good going everyone!

A raffle was held and the Villers won the Whitworth/Metric/Sae tool. A coffee mug was won by Bill Seib, and Mark won a prize as well.

The meeting was adjourned and we flocked to the food like spring time bees to pollen.

Marque cont: actually worked in the press to test mode. It's bad enough to find out that the brake cylinder - which you dutifully checked out the day before inspection - begins to leak five minutes before the inspector pulls the drum - hey, that's part of the charm of Lockheed hydraulics. And it's okay when they find a wheel bearing with too much play, or balding tires, or any number of problems that are safety related. It becomes blackmail when they "find" problems which simply line their pockets at your expense. MG's are neither exotic nor complicated, but in the hands of an incompetent or inexperienced mechanic, what should be a reasonably priced repair can balloon into an expensive boondoggle that may take a second chunk of change to correct. We've all heard/seen/been-there, at one time or another... If you've been misled or bamboozled by a mechanic or an inspector, call someone in the club for a second opinion, and follow up with the better business bureau, as well as a politely concerned letter to the president of the chain, and pass the word at Marque Time. Now, drop those tops and take a drive down a winding country road. Spring hath sprung...

S A F E T Y
 FAAASSSTTT!!!! Mark

ROAD (Gimmic) RALLYE
1:30pm SATURDAY 8 May

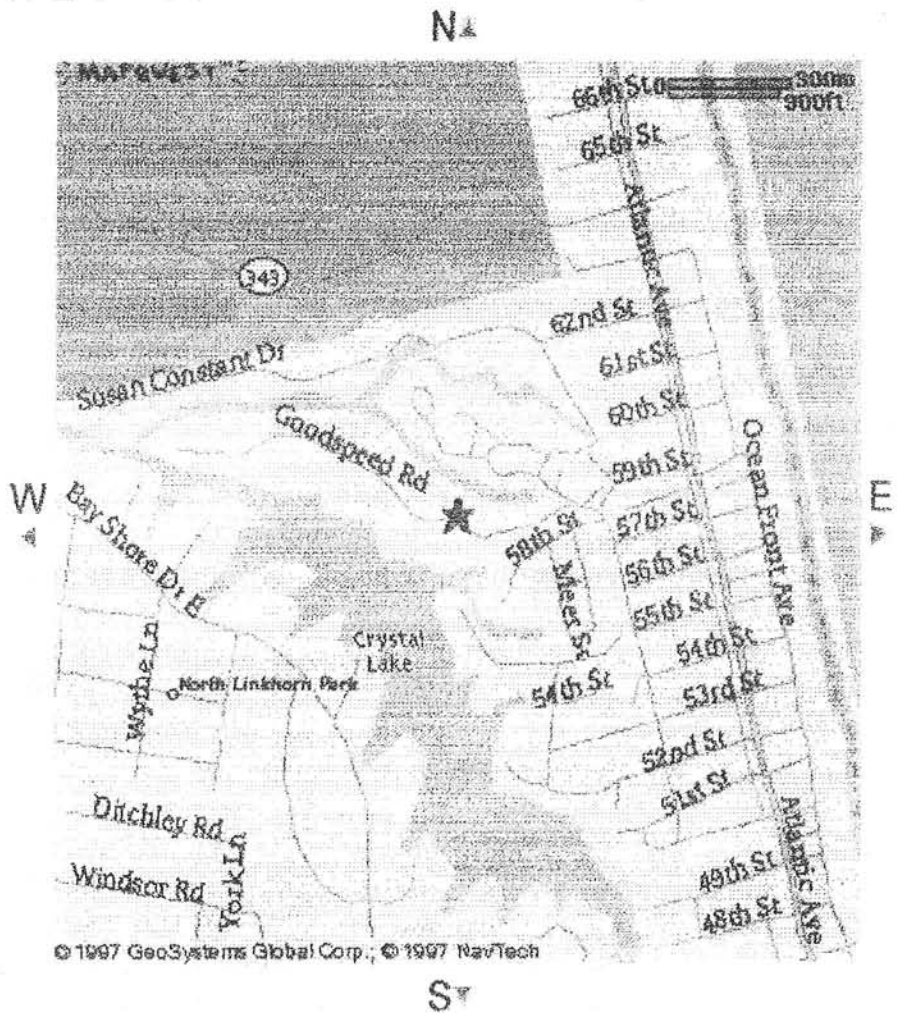
Come on along just for the fun of it! Meeting in the Food Lion parking lot on the corner of Sand-bridge & P.Anne Roads. Call Dan Kirby @ 430-9591.

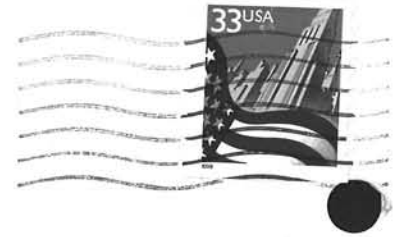
Road (Gimmic) Rallye
Where: Food Lion on the corner of Sand-bridge & Princess Anne Roads
Time: 1:30PM Date: 8th May / Sat.

MEETING NOTICE
MAY 4, 1999

KICK TYRES 7:30 MEETING 8:00

CHUCK & JUDY HUDSON
456 GOODSPEED ROAD, VA BEACH
425-6882





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Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307



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