

# The

# Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

[www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org)

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Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

June 2000

## MARQUE TIME

**Cool. Cool. Cool.** Thanks to Pete and Barbi for hosting the May “cool” and comfortable meeting in their “cool” and comfortable home.

**HOT! HOT! HOT!** Was “The Race At The Base”, both Saturday and Sunday. Record heat with record sun, out on the tarmac, in front of the hangers, among the F-14’s and F-18’s, and every imaginable car club in the area including a classic Taurus club (SHO). The classic vintage racing cars tore around the blistering track. The pit area was alive with activity, interesting cars and people. Much water, soda and beer was consumed to ward off the heat and MG tales were told as the searing hot wind blew lazely the TMGC banner, under the shelter that were pitched like the Wodaabe’s in the Sahara desert. The club flyers that I had hastily created on my computer were much in demand by the people who were interested in MG’s and our club. Our Bedouin chant was “WWW. MG.ORG”. Only “Mad Dogs and Englishmen” (“feeling alright not felling to good myself”, my apologies to Joe Cocker) would venture out in this heat, in the middle of the day, I heard one “camel driver”, oh I mean MG driver say. (It must have been the brutal sun, the heat that has distorted my thoughts.) I took my eye off the practice and qualifying race for just a minute, on Saturday, and Hank Giffin bends his 1959 Morgan+4. Sunday, after repairs frame/body Saturday evening, a flat tire keeps him out of the final heat. Ryan, the other half of the Giffin racing team was out of the running in her red 1959 Turner 950S with oil pressure problems. As they say “that’s racing”.

**HOT! HOT! HOT!** was the inaugural Colonial Classic British Car show in Williamsburg. With crackling radios, we took I-64 from Ocean View to Williamsburg, with orders not to fire unless fired upon. At 45 mph on the interstate, I am sure we made quite a few of other drivers reach for their anger management books. What a relief to make it through the car wars on the interstate, to the serenity of the Colonial Parkway, New Quarters Park and the eclectic collection of cars at the show with some unusual class groupings. Doug Wilson and the Colonial Vintage British Car Club had the situation under control. Civil Air patrol directing traffic. Boy Scouts preparing barbecue dinners. Quite a few MGTC badges adorned the MG’s in the show field. The club drove away with some awards. Jerry Goldman, a 2nd with his beautiful MG TD, Doug Wilson, a 2nd, with his immaculate MGB, Henry Kristoff, a 1st, with his pristine MGBGT, and Susan Bond, a 3rd, with her always fine looking MGBGT with Scottish flag, “freedom for Scotland”. When it was time to leave the words of a Dylan song ( the Jimi Hendrix version was more famous) “ there must be some way out of here” kept running through my head ( the heat again) since the directions in did not work for getting out. We split up to confuse the enemy. After discussing with Frank the options on his overheating Jaguar, (you have to remember that the British described Virginia as very inhospitable place when they first arrived due to the heat and I guess Frank’s Jaguar felt the same way), Frank decided to find a place to stay and wait for the cold front to push through. The Club President and the Vice President retired to an English Pub for traditional English pub fare and a pint or two of Bass to reflect on the days events and watch the BBC on the Tele. We encountered

## Upcoming Club Activities

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|---------|--|
| Jun 7th | Wednesday Meeting at Andy Wallach’s 622-8315.          |
| Jul 5th | Wednesday Meeting at Jerry Goldman’s 393-9854          |
| Aug 2nd | Wednesday Meeting at David Sheppard’s 496-0787.        |
| Sep 5th | Tuesday Meeting at Bill Seib & Leslie Paul’s 420-9523. |
| Oct 4th | Wednesday Meeting at Paul Thiergardt’s 497-0455.       |
| Nov 8th | Wednesday Meeting We still need a host.                |

“Benjamin Franklin” and “Betsy Ross” ( two Colonial re-inactors who had stopped in for dinner). Also we ran into the young son of the owner of the attractive cream TF that was at the show (a late arrival, too late for judging), who was very interested in MG’s and his father’s MGTF. He said his girl friend thought the TF was a “cool car”. Ah, there is a certain constant in good taste over the generations. Then we proceeded home at twilight. Next weekend, it will be on to Boulders and in June, MG 2000. Coming next month the text of the amendments to the antique vehicle law that takes affect July 1st.

–SAFETY FAST– BARRY

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### May Minutes

A warm, spring evening saw a good turnout of members and MGs for the May meeting. Much “kicking of tyres” took place until Barry rounded up the herd and moved us inside. The gavel was dropped at 8:10, and Barry opened the meeting by thanking the Douglas’s for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting. The VP was conscripted into taking minutes, as neither Doug nor Alan could make the meeting. (Gee, no one ever told me I might actually have to do something as VP).

Guests: We welcomed Joe Doudera to the meeting. Joe says he has owned an MGB “forever”.

Membership: Frank passed out the new rosters.

Treasurer: Jim Villers reported the club took in \$186.00, paid out \$247.98, with a balance carried forward of \$1,725.17.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved as is. Someone mentioned that it was a “true record of the meeting”.

Newsletter: Ed asked for any changes or updates to the mailing list, and noted that the mailing list dropped from 117 to 96.

Regalia: Frank mentioned there was nothing new. He needs input for items, but he can go ahead and order more of the same if no one adds anything else.

Activities: May is a busy month, with the Race at the Base and 2 cars shows. Check the website for “The Latest” information on upcoming activities. Of course, by the time you read this, it will all be history, and everyone will have had a great time! Chuck and Barry talked about the plans for meeting at the Race at the Base. Need 10 cars the morning of each day to get in for free. The majority of the people were planning on attending Sunday, and meeting at the picnic area by 8:45. There will be designated parking for our MGs. The club agreed to pay the \$25 so club members can take their cars on a parade lap of the track. Vince agreed to provide an “Arabian nights” tent for shade at the race (camels and harem optional).

The next activity discussed was the British car show in Williamsburg on Sat May 13th, and the caravan to the show. The plan is to leave the 4<sup>th</sup> View welcome center at 9:00 AM sharp for the drive to the show.

Chuck mentioned that the local SoapBox Derby was cancelled this year, due mainly from lack of support from the city. Too bad, as we had a driver eager to race.

Golf outing? Nothing planned yet. Contact Chuck if you’re interested.

We need a host for the Christmas party. Contact Chuck if you’d like to host the dinner party of the year!

The British car show at the “Boulders” on Sun, May 21 was mentioned. Barry asked if anyone wanted to meet and caravan there? From the resounding silence that followed, it looks like there will be no “official” caravan.

Spares: Mark was running late, so he didn’t bring anything for “show and tell”, but did tell us about a Bosch replacement alternator for the B, which is basically a form, fit, function replacement, with more power at a lower cost. Contact Mark for the correct P/N. Mark asked about a BB for the website, for swapping parts/tech info. This will have to

be investigated.

Clubs: Mike talked about the NAMGBR convention in Cleveland in June, and the NAMGAR convention in West Virginia in July. These will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Check the website for more info too.

Archives: Sue reported she's working on accumulating data.

Old Business: None to report, except that Bob McLaren almost injured himself by having to bite his tongue. Somewhere in here, the issue of using pictures on the website was brought up. A lively discussion took place, but nothing was really settled.

Vince also reported that his attention span was waning, and his beer was empty!

New Business: Chuck offered a suggestion to give the host of the meeting a Tidewater MG Classics coffee mug, with an option to refuse if they already have one. John Blandin seconded, and the motion was passed.

Vince started snoring!

Marque time: Mark asked if anyone had a running 1275 motor. He was given a box of parts to get running by Saturday, but somehow I'm sure he managed to perform another MG miracle.

Jim Villers talked about a new driveway sensor he installed that works well. No false hits, it only detects cars. Contact Jim for more details.

Bob McLaren talked about an old cousin he found who used to race T's in New England, and who was searching for his old racer.

Mark reported that Norfolk potholes can be dangerous to MGs, and that Norfolk has some of the worst potholes in the country. He also reported that the GM test drive at Epcot Center was worth it. Vince got up and said he needed a movement (no, not that) to get a cold beer.

The raffle was won by Vince, a T-shirt, and Frank Hurley, a club patch ("if we can't sell 'em, give 'em away").

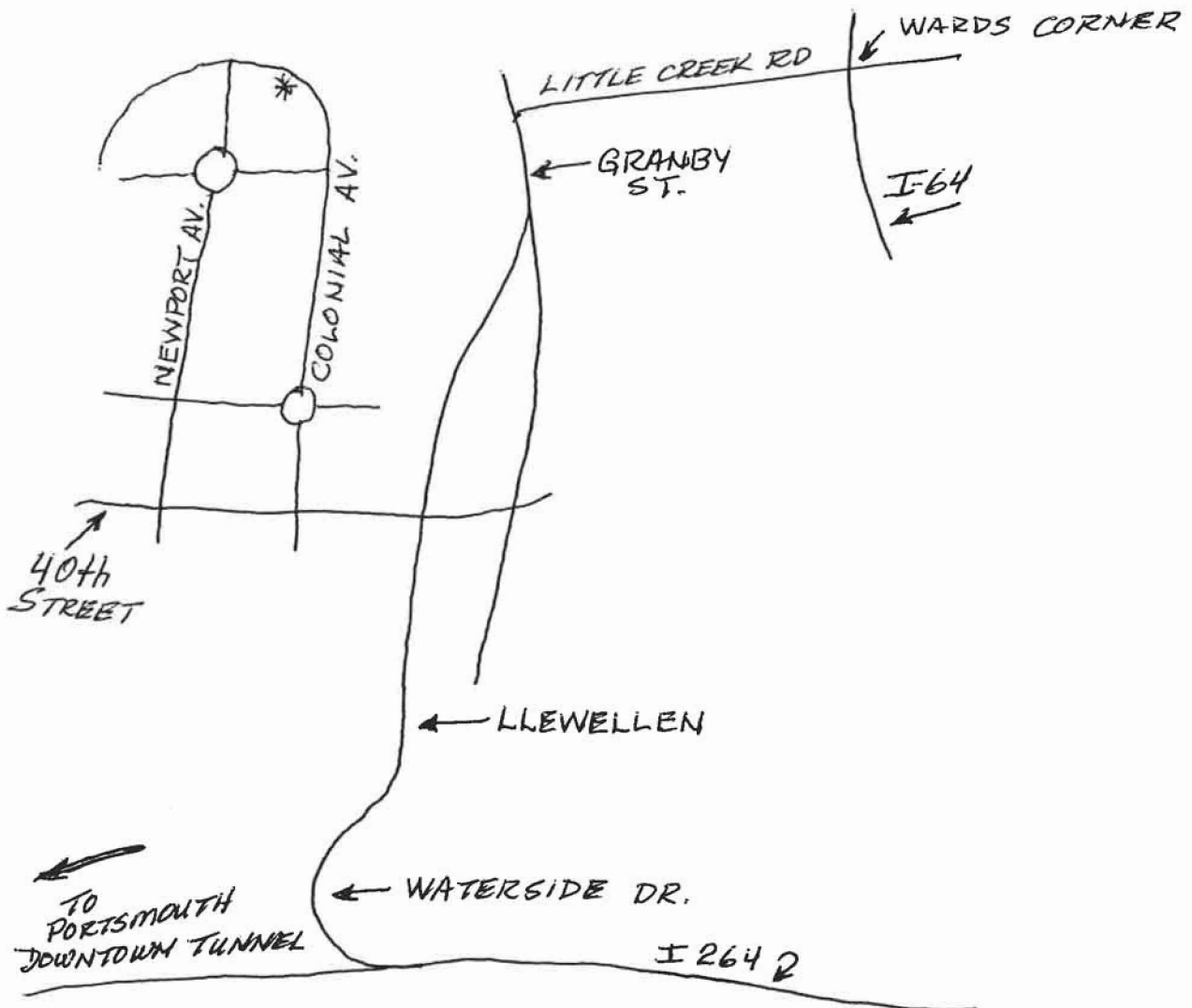
Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, someone seconded, and we descended into the kitchen like uh, uh, ... to eat, no, devour, no, uh, uh, ... oh the heck with it! (Doug, you still da man!)



**Wednesday Jun 7th  
Meeting at  
Andy Wallach's  
545 Mayflower Road  
Norfolk 23508  
622-8315**

**Kick Tyres 7:30**

**Meeting 8:00**



## TAGS - TAXES - ETC a legislative update

By Terry Bond

Well, it's that time of year again when you are starting to get those renewal notices for city stickers, and yes, a few of you have been receiving "Personal Property Tax Notices" for your antique vehicles. Here is some useful information about those tags, taxes and "etc."

HB 2177 was signed into law by Governor Allen on March 11, 1997. This bill had been introduced into the 1997 General Assembly by Northern Neck delegate W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. All of Virginia's AACA Old Dominion regions were successful in helping get this bill through the Assembly and signed into law. The Bill places properly licensed antique vehicles in a category of household goods and personal effects that are exempt from personal property taxes.

Note that the vehicle must be properly registered as an antique, and as such, is limited in usage as defined by law.

*An Antique Motor Vehicle is an automobile, motorcycle, or other self-propelled vehicle manufactured not less than 25 years previously and owned solely as a collector's item. Unless additional requirements regarding inspection and annual registration are met, antique motor vehicles may be used only for participation in club activities, parades, and similar events; for transportation to and from such events; and for testing their operation and obtaining repairs.*

This of course may include vehicles properly licensed as "Antique" that carry "year of manufacture" license tags.

Some problems you might encounter - not all tax forms had the necessary correction listed on them. You might receive a form that incorrectly lists "Antique Motor Vehicles" as an item that can be taxed. If you have received a Personal Property Tax notice, I recommend you contact your Commissioner of Revenue in writing and inform them politely that HB 2177, signed into law on March 11, 1997 exempts properly licensed Antique Motor Vehicles from personal property tax.

Now, there seems to be a few additional problems we've seen recently, and they revolve around licensing and city sticker issues.

The Virginia Code of Law, section 46.2-730 states:

*A. On receipt of an application, the commissioner shall issue appropriately designed license plates to owners of antique motor vehicles. These license plates shall be valid so long as title to the vehicle is vested in the applicant. The fee for the registration card and license plates of any of these vehicles shall be \$6.50.*

Some of you have noted your registration documents indicate your plates expire in the year 2000. Well, actually, they don't. The year 2000 was listed only because at the time, computers were incapable of handling dates beyond that, and the system in use required an expiration date be entered into the data

base. You should not have to renew your license plates and pay any additional fee in the year 2000, since to require you to do so should be in violation of the law as quoted above.

Another problem area has been those darned city stickers.

If you have a properly licensed antique motor vehicle, Virginia state law says that no County may charge more for their sticker than the state charges for a State license plant. That means \$6.50 for the rest of your life.

Most counties and cities exempt antiques, some don't. Some require use of the sticker, others don't. Some provide the sticker free of charge but do not require it's display (put it in your glove box I guess). Bottom line here is that you won't have to pay any more than \$6.50 for it. Other than that, follow the requirements for your respective location.

Some other items of interest:

—Contrary to common belief, State law does not restrict properly registered Antique Motor Vehicles to a specific annual mileage.

—If your vehicle was originally equipped for only one license on display, that's all you are required to have.

—A properly registered Antique Motor Vehicle does not have to be inspected.

—You can use "year of manufacture" tags on a properly registered Antique Motor Vehicle. In that case all other restrictions apply, and all exemptions apply.

If, however, your vehicle is NOT properly licensed as an Antique Motor Vehicle, it must comply with all laws regarding motor vehicle usage, licensing, and is not exempt from Personal Property Tax. You must get the vehicle inspected each year; you must register the vehicle on an annual basis; and you must affix a current year sticker on your license tags showing the expiration of the registration.

—You can use "year of manufacture" tags on a vehicle that is NOT licensed as an Antique Motor Vehicle. These would be treated the same as any other personal vanity tag. You would be subject to the requirements listed above, however you would not be restricted in the way you could use the vehicle as with Antique registration.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion regarding Taxed, Tags, and "stuff." Stay tuned next month for an update on some pending legislation that will affect the ability of future generations to continue using the "Year of Manufacture Tag." Basically, a problem occurs after 1973, when all license plates are white background with blue letters, and the only difference between the year of the tag is the applied sticker. Virginia State Police identified an enforcement problem in that in the near future, they would see a license tag and not be able to tell if it was expired without stopping the vehicle and verifying the registration. We (and they) don't need that kind of problem, so some changes need to be made. Stay tuned to find out more.

