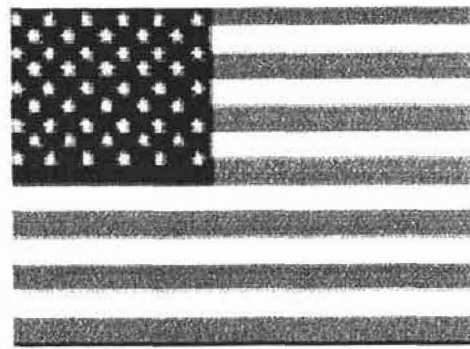


# The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

www.mg.org

Volume XXIX, Issue 10

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

November 2001

## MARQUE TIME

I never would have imagined 8 years ago, to the month, when I attended my first TMGC club meeting that I would someday be the club President. It just goes to show that, in this great country of ours, anyone can still grow up to be President!

I've never been one for joining groups, clubs, or organizations, usually tending to go alone at my own pace. What a huge mistake that would have been if I had decided not to join our local MG club. The small amount in dues that I have paid over the years has been paid back to me many fold in the form of the friends that I have made, the invaluable technical advice and help that I have received, the fun and commaderie at the monthly meetings (not to mention the beer and great food!), and the extra enjoyment of driving my MG with friends to various places. The road trips that Barry and I have taken in our MGBs to the annual conventions are MG adventures I will always remember and treasure. I still can't believe he and I actually drove our cars to MN and back! The annual fall trek to Waynesboro when we turn a 3-hour drive into an all day event over the less-traveled roads of VA is something I look forward to every year. None of this would have happened if I hadn't joined our club. In fact, I probably would have given up on these cars a long time ago. It's amazing how sometimes simple little decisions can have a major impact on one's life. But then again, that's life, isn't it?

We heard it said at MG2001 several times, I think by NAMGAR folks, that "The cars brought us together, but the people bring us back". That certainly was true for me, and I hope it applies to you as well. I

truly believe that MG people are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. I look forward to serving as your President, and hope that I can begin to repay the club for all the pleasure it has given me.

Some of us have driven our MGs to four car shows or events in four consecutive weekends, putting approximately 1000 miles on our cars. The weather has been great, and the sharing of these adventures and events with our friends is what it's all about. Despite the horrific and senseless acts of terrorism inflicted upon our country and citizens last month, life is still good! Enjoy your Little British Car and the fun and fellowship that goes along with it. Well, enough preaching for this month.

I'd like to thank Jim and Betty Villers for hosting the October meeting. I also would like to issue a big THANK YOU to Mark and Debbie Childers for hosting the clubs Annual Pig Pickin' this year at their lovely home in southern Chesapeake. Despite the nice weather, we had a much smaller than anticipated turnout. Those who came enjoyed a nice time and plenty of good food. Thanks also to Dan Kirby for organizing the "Rally to Nowhere".

Checkout the November issue of Car & Driver magazine for an article on the "reconstituted" MG. Let's hope they survive in this tough, competitive industry and keep the MG name alive for many years. Don't forget the annual November Tech Session at the Bond's. This year we have the added attraction of a bon fire to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day, and we will also hold the November meeting at the same time. Sure to be a fun time, so I'll see you there!

**Safety Fast!** Mike

## October Minutes

A warm fall evening encouraged a lot of TMGC members to drive their MGs topless (the cars) and fill the Villers' driveway with LBC's. After an extended session of tyre kicking, Barry dropped the gavel at 8:20 and thanked Jim and Betty for hosting the meeting.

Guests: Several new members were present. Those attending for the first time were Charlie & Ellen Smith with a '64 Iris blue MGB and Terry Gould who owns a '77MGB and a '53 TD. A previous member who rejoined is Bill Hodges with a '52 TD.

Membership: Alan reported that only about half of the members have renewed their memberships. He will send out reminders. Get those dues into Alan! Barry thanked Alan for his role as membership coordinator these past 2 years.

Treasurer: Jim reported a balance carried forward from Sep of \$1817.22, receipts of \$823.00, disbursements of \$188.74, with a balance of \$2451.48. Jim talked about potential printing costs for the Dipstick, since we are about to lose our free printing. Alan said he would investigate an alternative. Barry thanked Jim for his efforts as Treasurer, although someone mentioned all those new Mercedes parts in Jim's garage. Hmmm!

Minutes: Jim motioned to accept the minutes, and someone seconded. Barry thanked Doug for his efforts as Secretary in his absence, and noted that no one writes the minutes quite like Doug!

Continued pg-2

## October Minutes continued:

Barry thanked Ed in his absence for his efforts as Editor of the Dipstick.

Regalia: Frank was also MIA, but Barry thanked him in absence for his efforts as Regalia coordinator, and for all the advice and help that he has provided over the past 2 years.

Activities: Peggy began by noting that she sent an article to the NEMGTR, then discussed the upcoming annual Pig' Pickin' to be held on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Mark and Debbie Childers house at 2:30 PM. A sign-up sheet was passed around again for those who missed it last month. Dan talked about the "Rally to Nowhere". He and Mark are working out the details, but those participating are to meet at 1:00 PM at the Sears parking lot at Greenbrier Mall. Alan said he and Beckey would put out a flyer on it.

Sue talked about the Fall Tech Session to be held at their garage on Sunday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00 PM. After the Tech Session, a bon fire will be held to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day. Bring a lawn chair, and a covered dish. Folks with names beginning A-M should bring a salad or salad type dish, and those with names N-Z should bring a dessert. Sue passed around a sign-up sheet. It was decided to hold the Nov meeting at the same time, since there was no host and the days were so close together. Don't miss it!

Dan talked about the Lucas Night rally he is setting up for Sat, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. The actual route is still in development, but plan on meeting at Harbor Park in Norfolk at 5:00 PM. Dan also discussed the Sufferin' Suffolk Run, and said it was a good rally.

Barry thanked Peggy and Dan for all their hard work this past year in setting up and coordinating new activities, such as the April Fool's Tour and the Ice Cream Socials and Drive-Outs.

Spares: Mark wasn't there, but Barry thanked him in absence for his efforts and for the help and advice given over the past 2 years. Jim talked about a headlight warning device that is easy to install and works well. They're available at GM dealers for about \$16. Barry mentioned a similar device is available at Wal Mart for about half the price.

Clubs: Nothing special to report. Barry thanked Mike for his efforts as Club coordinator, and noted that Mike is well known in the MG community throughout the country

Archives: Sue asked if anyone had any more photos from the April Fool's Tour. She hopes to have a book at the Christmas party for viewing. Barry thanked Sue for her work as Historian, and for all the articles she has written for the Dipstick and photos submitted to the website for the various events and trips this year.

Old Business: Vince talked about the slate of officers to be voted on. Basically, Barry and Mike swapped roles, and Jim and Doug agreed to continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. No new names were nominated. Vince proposed that we accept the roster of proposed candidates as the new officers. The motion was seconded and approved. The new club officers are Mike Haag as President, Barry Tyson as Vice President, Jim Villers as Treasurer, and Doug Kennedy as Secretary. Barry thanked Vince, Frank, Bob McClaren, and Mike Haag for their support and advice during the past 2 years.

New Business: None

Marque time: Jim talked about the newspaper article that appeared some time back about club member Chuck Hudson and his association with SPAM. We won't go into any more details here.

Alan talked about his recent breakdown (his MGB, not the nervous kind) in the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, and apologized if any of us were caught up in the ensuing traffic jam. Apparently his alternator died and had to be towed out. Note: Barry started having flashbacks of a similar experience he had a year ago returning from Waynesboro.

Sue talked about not only checking the air pressure in your spare tire, but to pull it out and check the condition of the tire itself. Her spare had actually dry rotted. She also talked about the Wings & Wheels Show in Topping the previous Saturday and the Richmond show a week earlier. Vince mentioned that he and Frank sold a '79 B at the show.

No raffle was held.

Before adjourning, Mike Ash thanked Barry for all his efforts and his leadership as President during the past 2 years, followed by much applause and cheering!

Someone made a motion to adjourn and someone else seconded. We migrated to the kitchen like a ... oh, forget it. Doug, we need you back!

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## **Brown's Island British Car Show, Richmond, Virginia**

Susan Bond

There had been a bit of cooler weather the week before, so we weren't sure what to wear to Brown's Island on September 23, 2001, but it turned out to be a top down, very warm, sunny day. My granddaughter, Taylor Sumner, and I met Bob Stein, Mike Haag and Barry Tyson at Cosmos Diner and went up 460, stopping at Smithfield for breakfast. 95 in Richmond wasn't much fun, but Brown's Island is an actual island between the James River and the canal right in downtown Richmond so there isn't any other way to get there. We took the scenic route down some very hilly streets -- we should do this once a year just to remind ourselves that the world is not flat -- and were among the last to arrive on the show field.

In light of the terrible events of September 11, the theme was "United We Stand," and we each got a windshield card with the crossed American and British flags. The featured marque was Morgan, but a good variety of LBC's were there, over 300 in all, and quite a few vendors who were located among the trees along the river. TMGC had a good showing and took home 2 prizes, a first for James Simpson's Midget and a first for Doug Wilson's B. Vince Groover and Frank Linse drove a B and sold it before we even got there. Gregg Coogan drove his newly acquired multi-colored Midget and J. D. Hawthorne had an adventurous trip in his A -- be sure to ask him for details. James, Frank Worrell and Gregg joined us for our traditional dinner stop at the Virginia Diner and we almost made it home before dark.

### **Members attending:**

Vince Groover  
J. D. Hawthorne  
Frank Worrell  
Frank and Kerry Hurley  
Susan Bond and Taylor Sumner

Frank Linse  
Barry Tyson  
Gregg Coogan  
Doug Wilson

Mike Haag  
James Simpson  
Bob Stein  
Bill Hoggard

## *Wings and Wheels 2001*

Susan Bond

Cosmo's Diner is a great place to meet so we did it again on the way to Topping on September 29<sup>th</sup>. This time my husband, Terry, joined Barry Tyson, Mike Haag, my granddaughter Taylor Sumner and me for the trip, Terry in the van with the 1912 Triumph motorcycle inside. We stopped at the MacDonald's on Fort Eustis Boulevard to do some more damage to the MG exhaust systems, then got on back roads as soon as possible. We were among the last to arrive (again) but it worked out fine as we put the motorcycle on the end of the row and it attracted lots of attention. The day was cloudy and windy and, soon after arriving, the Scotch mist did too, just enough drizzle to splatter the dust on the cars and make everyone put their tops up (even Doug Wilson who had said he would never drive his TD in the rain). But it soon quit and the sun eventually made an appearance, tho it remained windy all day.

This year's show was dedicated to the Civil Air Patrol so there were exhibits on the work they do. Also a Coast Guard boat and buoy and an Army helicopter from the District of Columbia. At noon the runway was closed and various radio controlled planes were flown, including a lawn mower (yes, a lawn mower!) and a plane pulling an American flag. We saw a huge variety of cars, including a 2002 Thunderbird and a new \$130K BMW Z8. There weren't as many airplanes this year due to restrictions still in place after the WTC disaster, but a whole flock of yellow Piper Cubs, a Navy trainer which parked next to an old MG racer, and several ultralights managed the trip. There were multiple awards this year, and Terry got the one for "Oldest Car", even tho only half of the title applied. Jamie Barnhardt and friends do a great job and this show has gotten bigger every year. On the way home we stopped at Fast Eddie's used car lot and saw a bunch of American cars and an orange GT way back in the weeds. Then on to

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### *Tech Session/Guy Fawkes Bonfire, November 4, 2001*

Susan Bond

In addition to our usual November Tech Session, we have decided to put our pile of brush to good use and celebrate Guy Fawkes Day. For the uninitiated, this is the commemoration of a British event which bears little resemblance to the original, but is a lot of fun. For details, type in [www.bonfire.org/guy](http://www.bonfire.org/guy) or click the link on our web site under "The Latest." We start teching about 2:00, so bring your projects. Hopefully it will be getting dark before we light the bonfire around 5:30. The club is supplying hotdogs and the usual much-acclaimed left over barbeque from the Pig Pickin, soft drinks and beer. Members are asked to bring a dish, last names A-M bring savory (any thing that isn't sweet) and N-Z bring a sweet (dessert). If I can find some neeps we will have a carving contest. Please call me at (h)482-5222 or (w)557-0904 if you are coming so I know how many hot dogs to buy.

The new Chesapeake Expressway has opened since last year's tech session so you can't get here the same way. Take 64 to 168 south (sign posted to Manteo and Nag's Head but if you get to a tool booth you have gone too far). Take the second Hanbury Road exit. Go straight thru the traffic light and turn right at the blinking yellow light (Hillwell Road). Forest Road will be a left turn and 541 is on the right about ½ mile down. We'll leave the lights on for you.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Waynesboro British Car Show

Susan Bond

We have had so much fun going to the Waynesboro British Car Show in the past that we decided to make it a 4 day weekend this time, 5-8 October, since Monday following was Columbus Day. We watched the weather forecasts all week, hoping for perfect weather -- and we got it! Friday was top down day, warm and clear for the trip up. We gathered at Barry Tyson's house, which gave him time to pack even more stuff as Mike Haag and I fought the traffic to get there. We ate lunch at the MacDonaldis near Petersburg and got on 95 just long enough to get to Chippenham Parkway, which we took to Route 6, a lovely country road with lots of great scenery. The mental picture Barry painted in his last *Marque Time* came true when his little yellow MG hit a patch of sunlight and yellow leaves which swirled up and around against the backdrop of 2-lane road, green pasture and fall-painted trees. Serendipity!

We found the Blue Ridge Parkway and saw another MG enjoying the open road before stopping at Humpback Rocks visitor center again. This time it was a warm walk thru the museum of old farm buildings, ducking the squirrel-lobbed hickory nuts. We got on the interstate to get to the motel in Staunton, which really made us appreciate the back roads we had been on most of the day.

The Friday night social was different this year, they had a very loud band and no videos. We ate the finger food and shouted at each other and arriving TMGC members. Vince Groover and Frank Linse may have set a new land speed record for an MG on the drive up - and they would have arrived even sooner if they hadn't been caught in tunnel traffic. Bill and Rosa Hoggard didn't stay long, she had a bad cold. Doug Wilson and Frank Hurley were with Doug's friends from DC. When the free keg was wheeled away and the band packed up, 5 of us sighed and headed to the bar, into the blare of another loud band. Oh well, who needs to hear any way? I guess 2 bands in one night was too much, we didn't live up to our reputation and left before the bar closed.

Show day was iffy weather forecast wise. Fortunately we got a bit of "Scotch mist" and then it cleared off with a stiff breeze. Most entrants were caravanning to the show field so we waited till the end of the line and followed them out, turning off one exit down to have breakfast at Mrs. Rowe's -- and 2 Midgets behind us had to figure out how to get back on the road to the field. Doug had called ahead so we got a big table right away. Fortified, we took back roads to the field and found most of the 180 cars were MG's. Mike was not parked under the oak tree this year, but there were a few near misses while sitting under a walnut tree. Frank and Vince reclined in comfort. We did a lot of walking, looking at cars and buying from vendors. The DJ was in fine form and this year played a whole hour of James Bond tunes for me. During the day we saw Dan and Beth Kirby, Jack and Becky Dawson and Gregg Coogan who all came by to see the show, and J.D. Hawthorne who had a car entered. The winner of the Make-A-Wish snapdragon yellow MGB was drawn. We didn't win. As far as I know, none of us won any raffles either. We watched most of the cars leave and finally were too cold to sit any longer as the wind had picked up again. We stopped at Andre Viette's garden center and walked through the demonstration gardens on the way back to the motel, back roads again.

The banquet was a bit more laid back than in years past (no props), but they did have the caption contest. The picture was a bug-eye Sprite with a Tinkerbell-like young lady on the bonnet. Captions included "The hood ornament almost makes the car worth owning," "Great headlights," "The hood ornament needs a slightly bigger car," "I can't find that after-market hood ornament anywhere," and the winner, "I kissed it, now it is going to turn into a prince." Show award winners included a third place for Frank Linse's B in the chrome bumper class and a first place for Doug Wilson's B in the rubber bumper class. His friend Craig also won a first for his GT (the car that parks next to mine always wins). Proceedings were speeded up a bit when Bill, the DJ, got a message saying his daughter-in-law was delivering twins. He got out of there in a hurry. We lingered, then headed for the bar and the same loud band of the night before. This time there were just 3 of us and we sat next to a couple who spotted our club name tags and started talking (shouting?). This was their first car show so they didn't know any one. Turned out he had been looking for a carburetor in a junk yard and ended up taking home 12 very rusty MG's which he thinks he can get 5 complete cars out of (he is an mechanic in real life). He seemed fairly knowledgeable, even knew about the Springfield Rolls Royce. They left but we closed the bar.

Sunday, after breakfast at Mrs. Rowe's, we headed down route 6 and 29 to Oak Ridge, the 200-year-old plantation owned by John Holland of Suffolk. The main attraction was the last day of the inaugural harness racing season on the restored race track. The stands haven't been rebuilt yet so we took our chairs and binoculars and enjoyed the races, and sampled wine and cider from the vendors. There was betting but we didn't try that. At 2:30 several car loads met for the run to Oak Ridge house. The historian gave us a detailed tour of the first floor and grounds, all of which had been unoccupied for almost 40 years and required complete restoration, a still-ongoing job. There was even a private train station. We thought the MG's in front of the house was a great photo-op and snapped away until the historian informed us he was ready to lock the gates. Last to leave as usual.

After spending the night in Lynchburg we toured Point of Honor, an unusual 1815 Federal style house with a great view of the James River through big bay windows. After an excellent tour we checked out the kitchen, where apple fritters were being made over a very smokey fire, and the garden. Next stop was Redhill near Brookneal, Patrick Henry's last home -- actually a recreation of it, the only original building was his office. The grounds were lovely and it was so quiet! After lunch in Keysville we dropped in on Mike's sister's family at the 100 year old house they grew up in and got a tour of the house, grounds and some of Mike's project cars. They even let us park on the front lawn for a photo-op. Dinner at the Virginia Diner and we could relax, we were within 100 miles of home and free AAA tows, and none of the cars had had any problems. Almost 600 miles of carefree motoring through beautiful country in great little cars -- it doesn't get any better than that!

### Tidbits

In the May 2001 National Geographic, Robert Ballard described the equipment his team used to discover 1500 year old shipwrecks in the Black Sea. One remotely operated vehicle was the "Argus, a stainless-steel

stabilizing platform the size of an MG roadster." Since the "2,000 pound iron weight that stabilized a sonar sled" had arrived at the surface so corroded that they named it "Tetanus, Greek god of rust," it is a good thing they didn't try to use a real MG.

# Monthly Meeting & Guy Fawkes Party

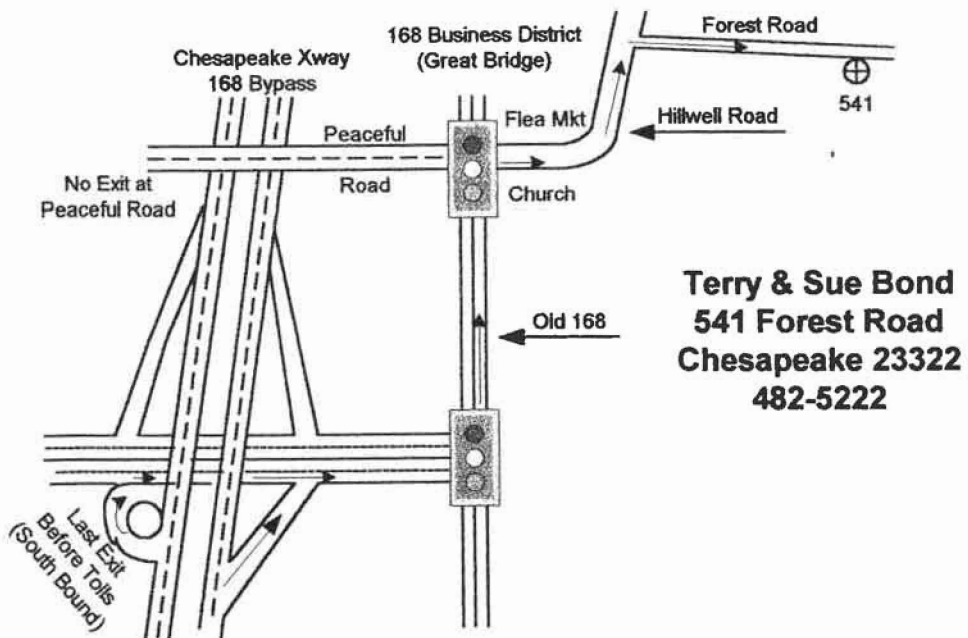
## Sunday November 4th

### Terry & Sue Bond's

**541 Forest Road**  
**Chesapeake 23322**  
**482-5222**

**2:00 Start Tech'n**

**5:30 Bond-fire**



#### NOVEMBER

November Meeting will take place during the Tech Session/Guy Fawkes Day Celebration at the Bond's

- 4<sup>th</sup> (Sun) Fall Tech Session/Guy Fawkes Day Celebration at the Bond's
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat) Lucas Nite Rallye (Dan Kirby)

#### DECEMBER

14<sup>th</sup> (Fri)

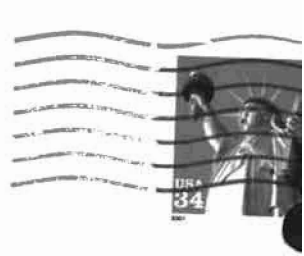
Christmas Party

**Hosts:**

**Paul & Carmon**  
**Thiergardt**

**The Tidewater MG Classics**

Ed Kehrig  
5524 Hill Gail Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
Fax: 499-7320  
email: [ekehrig@exis.net](mailto:ekehrig@exis.net)



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Susan & Terry Bond  
541 Forest Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

**FIRST CLASS**

2332224326



**Club Meeting Sunday November 4th**  
**At**  
***Terry & Sue Bond's***

**Officers and Committees**

President	Mike Haag	496-7348
V.President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Ed Kehrig	497-8073
Membership	Alan Watson	426-2600
Activities	Peggy Craig	382-7547
Historian	Sue Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	473-1757
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

Thank You to Ridgeway's for many years of dedicated service towards the publishing of The Dipstick.

Due to increased business at Ridgeway's, they are no longer able to support The Dipstick for free (time & personnel constraints). They will take us on as a paying customer.

If anyone knows of a firm willing to absorb the costs of printing, please email me.

**Ed Kehrig**