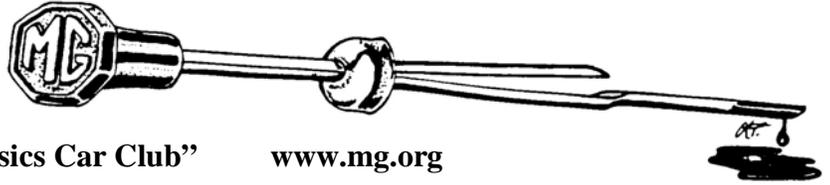


# The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

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

Volume XXXI, Issue 7

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

July 2003

## MARQUE TIME

Thanks to Ted and Louann Hughes for hosting the June meeting in their lovely home along the Lafayette River in Norfolk. With the warm weather and view of the water, their rear deck was the perfect setting for a summer meeting. We can tell that Ted is an avid MG'er, as witnessed by the “garage expansion” in his driveway helping to protect his MGA project.

I'm writing this column shortly after returning from the Gold Cup Historic Races for vintage sports cars at VIR. Despite the less than perfect weather, it was a great time none the less. Sue, Barry, and I left Cosmo's on Friday morning, OK, make that mid-morning. After a nice drive out on Rt. 58, we arrived at the track around 3 PM. As we were pulling up to the entrance, we saw Doug & Eiko Wilson and Craig & Joyce Cummings as they were leaving for the day. After a few minutes of chatting, we went on in where we proceeded to the paddock area to look at all the racecars. What a selection there was, with numerous MGs of all makes and models, and many MG variants. We saw Hank & Ryan Giffin working on their cars. We ended the afternoon relaxing at the Pagoda restaurant, sipping an Oak Tree draft, one of the “specialty” VIR beers.

Saturday morning we awoke to periods of drizzle and light rain, which unfortunately lasted all day in one form or another. We talked about alternative plans to spend the day, but thankfully all the practice and qualifying races proceeded as planned. I have to admire all those racers in open cockpits; I don't know how they saw anything out of their visors! Doug and Craig entered their cars in the Gold Cup Car Show, and ended up taking Top Ten awards. We saw Hank drive his Lotus in one of the qualifying races, where he earned a top five starting position for the race on Sunday. Unfortunately, Ryan had to drop out early in her qualifying race, but she still managed a spot in the final race on Sunday.

The weatherman called for party sunny skies and warm temperatures on Sunday. Well, at least he was half-right, as the day was warm but overcast, with mist in the morning. The highlight of the weekend for me, and I suspect Sue and Barry too, was Sunday morning when we got to drive our MGs on the track for several laps after making a contribution to the Children's Miracle Network. It took the last bit

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org) for the latest info!

**June 27 Ice Cream Social Run** (see page 3)

**July 2 Wednesday Meeting at Andy Wallach's** (see map on back page)

**July 12-13 Heart of Virginia Wine Tour**  
(see page 4)

July 12 Car show at VA Hospital in Hampton,  
10:00-2:00. Carol Finlay, 484-8554

July 14-18 NAMGAR GT 28, Portland, OR  
[www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar)

**July 18 Dipstick Deadline**

**July 31 Ice Cream Social Run** (see page 3)

Aug. 3 SCCA Solo II, Pungo Airfield  
[www.odr-scca.org](http://www.odr-scca.org)

**Aug. 5 Tuesday Meeting at Paul & Carmen Thiergardt's**

**Aug. Tech Session** (host needed)

Aug. 7-10 Roadster Factory Summer Party  
[www.The-Roadster-Factory.com](http://www.The-Roadster-Factory.com)

**Aug. 15 Dipstick Deadline**

Aug. 16 Khedive Auto and Craft Show, Chesapeake, 482-4556, 543-6032, 340-1331

**Aug. 17 Drive out to Moonrise Bay Winery**  
(see page 3)

Aug. 23-24 SCCA Evolution Driving School  
Pungo Airfield  
[www.odr-scca.org](http://www.odr-scca.org)

of cash I had in hand, I even had to borrow a \$1 from Sue, but it was worth it. Sue was complimented by a couple of guys behind me on her driving skills in her 'GT, where she cut some nice lines through the turns. Doug and Craig also got to drive their cars on the track on Saturday for several laps, as participants in the car show. We also saw members Bruce and Carol Woodson on Sunday, as they brought down the Sebring MGA for display that Bruce restored. We watched Hank compete in two races, coming in 5<sup>th</sup> with his Lotus in Group D. Both he and Ryan raced in the Group A race, where Ryan came in 9<sup>th</sup> out of a large field. We stayed until 5:30 to watch all the races, and then left for the long drive back home. After a stop in South Boston for gas, dinner, and a tire change on Barry's car, we continued east on Rt. 58, ending a very enjoyable weekend watching these vintage sports cars doing what they were built for.

Here's another "It's a small MG world" story. Last month I got an email from a guy who found our website while doing a search on Google. He wanted some advice on buying a 1946 MG TC, and wondered if the asking price was reasonable. After I read the text of his message, I noticed the name at the end. Hmm, that sounds familiar. I looked at his email address, and it was the same provider as my youngest sister and her husband in rural southside VA where they live. Turns out I know him, as he owns the hotel and restaurant in the small town that my Mom and sisters live in, and is a good friend of one of my brothers-in-law. I replied, saying that from the description that it indeed sounded like a good deal, and that I was coming out that Memorial Day weekend to visit my family and would hook up with him. We did go see it, and I told him if he doesn't buy it, that I would or I know someone in our club who would. I'm still waiting to hear back from him, but if he doesn't buy it there may be another 'TC in the club.

By the time you read this, MG 2003 will be over with, and several of us who went out there will be just getting back, hopefully with still functioning MGs! Details of the trip to St. Louis and MG 2003 to follow in a future Dipstick, so stay tuned!

**Safety Fast! Mike**

## JUNE MINUTES

Doug Kennedy

With a mighty rap of his gavel, El Presidente Haag welcomed all and thanked Tom and Louann for their hospitality and arranging the first dry evening in six weeks. Charlie Dixon and Canadian Ron were welcomed as visitors.

Membership: We're up to 107 members as reported by Robin. Mike stressed that it's important for us to update our e-mail addresses.

Treasurer's Report: Jim wasn't present. We're hopeful that he isn't vacationing and cashing Tidewater MG Classics checks along the way.

Newsletter: Sue wants submissions ASAP!

Regalia: Frank has plenty of trinkets available. Beat the holiday rush, buy graduation presents, grab a birthday present NOW!

Activities: Plenty of activities coming up. Wine tour leaves Saturday July 12 in the AM. Alan Watson discussed the great tour and all the details. MGs, good friends, bed and breakfast, vino, fun roads, and 325 miles of fun for a bit north of \$10 bucks. Can't beat that deal with a Whitworth spanner. Alan's also bucking for the "Member of the Quarter" award by arranging an ice cream drive in July. Attaboy Alan. Tech session June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Linse MG home.

Archives: Sue is still looking for pictures. Break open the albums and get them to her.

Old Business: Silence (go figure!).

New Business: Alan Watson and Beckey were piqued with interest when he read Mike Haag's suggestion that one of his barns may become storage space for wayward MGs. Hmmmmmm....need storage space? Let the arm twisting begin.

Mike visited his mom and met a couple that wants to sell a 47 TC. He wants \$7,000 for it so call Mike Haag!

Sue had copies of the article in the Beacon covering our anniversary dinner.

Mike Ash brought up the wonderful anniversary dinner and award-winning newsletter. He rightfully pointed out that our club (if not members' cars) is really firing on all cylinders.

Tom mentioned the book "Love, Sex and Tractors" as a wonderful read. Because this is a family publication the secretary is refraining from the excellent opportunities to make jokes.

Ron is looking for a small pop-up trailer.

Bill Keeler's extra transmissions for Midgets are available.

## June Ice Cream Rally Friday, June 27th



Meet at 7:00pm at Mt Trashmore's old Visitor Center and we'll take a short drive ending up at a place that serves up all kinds of luscious ice cream.

Contact Alan Watson for more information: 426-2600 or email: Beach723@aol.com



## July Ice Cream Run Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup>

Mark your calendar for the July Ice Cream Run. We'll meet at the Newport News side of the James River Bridge and cross the river to the Coldstone Ice Creamery in Suffolk off 664.



### Minutes (continued)

The meeting was amazingly speedy so we adjourned after the Secretary kept alive his raffle losing streak. We then got up and looked for the refreshments like Roger Clemens searching for his 300<sup>th</sup> win.

## Officers and Committees

|                |               |          |
|----------------|---------------|----------|
| President      | Mike Haag     | 496-7348 |
| Vice President | Barry Tyson   | 488-7304 |
| Secretary      | Doug Kennedy  | 460-5037 |
| Treasurer      | Jim Villers   | 481-6398 |
| Editors        | Peggy Craig   | 382-7547 |
|                | Susan Bond    | 482-5222 |
| Membership     | Robin Watson  | 721-9277 |
| Activities     | Dan Kirby     | 430-9591 |
| Historian      | Susan Bond    | 482-5222 |
| Technical      | Mark Childers | 432-9155 |
| Regalia        | Frank Linse   | 461-7783 |
| Clubs          | Mike Ash      | 495-0307 |

## MOONRISE WINERY ANNUAL AUGUST WINERY RUN

Robin Watson

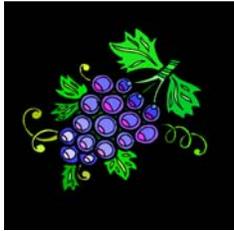
The afternoon Winery run to Moonrise Winery on Knotts Island, NC, is set for Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and will follow the same schedule as last year. We will meet at Kellam High School, Holland Road to leave at 2.00pm.

Last year we packed a picnic of crackers and cheese or fruit, and when we arrived laid out the picnic like a buffet and shared our picnic amongst members. This year we will do the same, however they now have a covered area for shade or to get out of the rain. They are also building a bakery that will be in operation in time for our visit.

For more details contact: Robin Watson 721-9277, Wof101@aol.com or Alan Watson 426-2600, Beach723@aol.com



Total of 13 cars last year at Moonrise Winery



# Heart of Virginia Wine Tour

July 12-13, 2003



## Itinerary:

### Saturday, July 12th:

Leave Cosmos Diner in Portsmouth around 8:00am, Sat, July 12th



Arrive at Grayhaven Winery, Gum Spring, Va around 11:00

Picnic lunch (bring dish to share), and 1st wine tasting

Proceed onto Cooper Vineyards, (about 30 minutes), Louisa, Va--2nd tasting

Proceed to Lake Anna Winery, (again, about 30 minutes), Spotsylvania, Va

Overnight at Henry Clay Inn, Ashland, Va (about 40 minutes from last winery)

### Sunday, July 13th:

Breakfast at Henry Clay Inn (included w/room)

Arrive Windy River Winery, Gum Spring, Va, around noon (4th tasting)

Proceed to James River Cellars, (about 40 minutes), Glen Allen, Va

Drive home, (about 2 hours)

Total miles should be close to 325.

## COST:

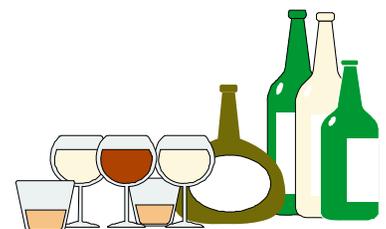
Cost for 5 winery tours: \$12.00/person, includes glass from each winery and "special gift" if all 5 are visited in one weekend.

## LODGING:

**Henry Clay Inn.** All rooms are \$90.00/night with the exceptions of 3 suites that go for \$165.00, \$115.00 and \$145.00/night. Fourteen (14) guest rooms were available upon our initial request. Please visit [www.henryclayinn.com](http://www.henryclayinn.com) or call 1-800-343-4565 to check availability and make reservations. A full refund will be made if you cancel one week prior to reservation date. If you cancel less than one week, you only get a refund if they rent the room to someone else.

Please call Alan Watson to let him know you are planning to come so he can get a head count

426-2600 or email: [Beach723@aol.com](mailto:Beach723@aol.com)



# Membership

Robin Watson

## Total membership 107

For those members who would like to keep their Directory up-to-date, the following changes have been made with the renewals coming in:

### 27 members have renewed as of 6/4/03.

New member who will be moving back home to Yorktown in October--Chuck & Becky Hassler, 125 Aberfeldy Way, Yorktown, VA. 23693. Ph. 757-874-1477. E-mail pjchuck@aol.com. 1980 MGB-LE and 1979 MGB

### Changes in members E-mail:

Mike Ash: mikeash@dmv.com

Kate & Carl Fisher (Kate instead of Ceit):

Cwfisher@cox.net

Keith & Mary Henry: hkeithhenry@msn.com

Barry Tyson: btyson@infionline.net

Frank & Nancy Taylor: pacospal@juno.com

Susan Bond: sue007@infionline.net

### Changes in car ownership

Barry Tyson: add 1960 MGA & 1974 1/2 MGB-GT

Mike Haag: Remove 1960 MGA

## Nice Evening and Get Together

Robin Watson

A group of us watched the weather push out N.E. just in time to give us a good ice cream run. Jim and Betty Villers, Bob Stein and Kitty Ledsome even came with the tops down. Olive and I left home with claps of thunder still sounding off and left our top up. Susan and Terry Bond had no choice. That's the price of luxury a GT gives you. Olive and I were at the Sears car park by 6.30 and Jim and Betty came along next. I have never felt too sure when meeting at Sears just where to park. At 6.45 Jim took a ride around to look for more members. He found Susan, Terry, Bob, Kitty and Jack & Becky Dawson. So we left Sears with a total of 10.



Now came the joy of knowing what I was doing. Alan Watson organized, once again, an excellent night out, but business came up that kept him from starting the

run and he asked yours truly to start the run for him. I jumped at the request and studied the map to make sure where we were going. Motors started, a few cars moved and stopped! Then the looks came my way, so off I went to lead. I pulled out onto Greenbrier Parkway and, although Alan's instructions said exit at Hechts and make a left, I missed Hechts and the only way I could turn was right. I found out later that the other drivers knew I had gone wrong but still followed, what a trusting lot. I was sure at this point that Betty was glad it was Alan's cell phone # on the bottom of the instruction sheet (in case anyone got lost) and not mine, and Terry may have wished he had stopped for a snack before he got to Sears.



At Bergey's Alan met up with us making a total of 11 for ice cream. Surprised you did not make it Mike, the Roosevelt was back in town by lunchtime. Only joking Lee Ann, glad to have you back in town Mike. Our thoughts and well

wishes have been with you all out there. One of the scoops of ice cream that Jim selected was a pink mint flavor, he was so happy with the flavor that a few more



of us tried it. (Not his--he held that too close). The flavor took me back to camping as a child with my family at Skegness UK (a smaller version of Virginia Beach) eating a stick of rock candy with the town name printed all the way through it. I don't wish to hurry my days away but roll on July for Alan's weekend Virginia Winery run and a night





# 30th Anniversary!

Andy Wallach

Fifty-nine members attended the celebration at Aberdeen Barns Restaurant on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The great evening started with a social hour with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Attendees perused the display of photo albums, rosters, and newsletters from years past. Then, before even the serving of dinner, came the handing out



of several door prizes--a process that continued throughout the evening with most people leaving with a memento of this affair. President Mike Haag thanked all for coming to this "Wonderfest Timeout" and then

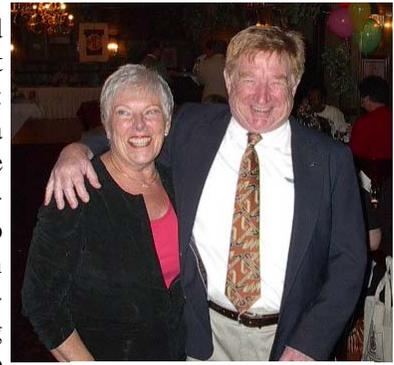


thanked Peggy Craig and Anna Worrell for organizing the evening's festivities: "You guys have done a wonderful job and thanks to vendors for wonderful good-



Mike Ash, Roy Wiley, Hank Giffin

ies". George Craig did the invocation that included the appeal: "Help us to preserve a little history". All the distinguished attendees (and those not so distinguished) then feasted on their wonderful dinners during which comments were overheard such as "Why do



Jennifer and Mike Ash

coupes have rear window defrosters--to keep your hands warm while you are pushing". Attendees were asked to support the various MG registers by joining; applications were provided. Mike Ash and Carl Fisher stated that they had a new Mini Cooper, for which brochures were available ... Andy Wallach chimed in that he had seven.



Florence and Butch Ballback

Hank Giffin introduced the original members of the Club. Mike Ash stated that Hank, a retired Vice Admiral, was really over the years "The Admiral in Charge of Vice". Hank stated he had first met Mike when Mike helped him push his car off



Susan Bond and Robert Davis

the track during a vintage race. There was some comment about Vagra and vital statistics ... which probably is not printable anyway. Hank called on Mike to relate his background in MGs. Mike stated that he and Hank were, at one



Scott and Nita Bradford



Tom and Marie Early

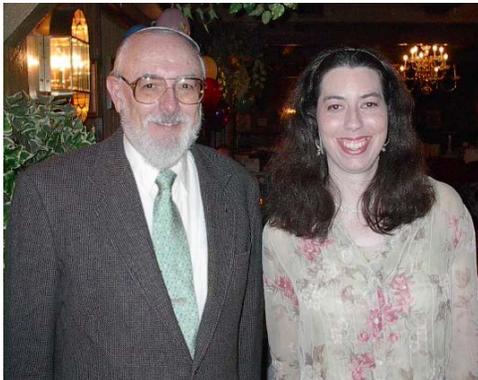
time, in competition for who would be first to get into double figures for the number of MGs owned. Mike related how he and his 1955 MGTF came over from England in 1967 on the original Queen Elizabeth en route to a new job in Buffalo, which Mike thought was a sub-

urb of New York City. He quickly learned that it was 400 miles away. He came down to Virginia Beach in 1971 and in 1973 married Jennifer.



Frank Hurley and Jack Dawson

Mike introduced Roy Wiley who, while not at the first meeting of the club, joined soon afterwards. Roy reminisced about a nice metallic green TD with a chrome grille that



Carl and Ceit Fisher

he had owned; then about his black TD that Ted Hughes owns now. Roy related about an early meeting at Dave Barrows where he showed up with a TA and blew the head gasket. Hank kept on Roy about buying the TA and Roy finally sold it to him for a three-figure amount, \$50 more that he paid for it. (The T-series cars were selling in the single hundreds during the late 60s.) Hank subsequently took the TA com-



Stevie and Hank Giffin

pletely apart. Roy mentioned Hank's prowess in disassembly. Hank, Roy, and Jim Banvard were taking a VA Tourer apart-- "Hank had completely stripped one side; we were still working on the door." Roy stated that "Dave (Barrows) was



Jo Ann and Jerry Goldman, Bill and Thea Blair

promoting MGs long before we were." Dave had a Silverstone, VA Tickford, and a TD. Carl Fisher added: "He liked the girls" who would stop and look at his cars. Dave lived at the north end of Virginia Beach.



Pam and Vince Groover

Hank Giffin stated that his wife Stevie deserved special recognition for her sacrifices over the years. He described a trip they took in their MG 'T' with their 2-year old daughter, no luggage rack, suitcase and potty seat strapped to the spare tire.



Mike Haag and Nikki Willis



Bob and Melinda Howell (with T-shirt raffle prize)

Believe it was Mike Ash who stated: "(It is) Cars that bring us together. (It is) People that bring us back." It is a very vibrant club. It was good that we expanded to include other MGs besides the 'T's. Let in the 'B's and Midgets ... let in new blood. Great that



Debbie Klages and John Jones

we have one club. Roy introduced Roosevelt Moseley. Roosevelt stated that the Club is an equal opportunity employer. His mother told him that the Club would keep him out of trou-

ble. He said that he used to come to Club meetings on dates with his future wife, Doris. "Club has exposed me to some nice restaurants. I used to come with O. D.



Ed and Catherine Kehrig

Dawson. White and Black. I said I was OD's chauffeur." Since we decided to let in 'A's and 'B's this club will live forever. It has been 30 years...30 good years. Moved (Doris and I) down the street from Jim Ban-



Doug Kennedy

vard so that we could work on cars together. Roy Wiley said that Roosevelt borrowed a half shaft (axle) from Banvard and returned it five years later.



Debbie Eisenbath and Frank Linse

Members have basic integrity. Borrow from each other and lender does not worry about ever getting the item back. We give parts to each other. Do not put a price tag on things. It is the relationships that are important.

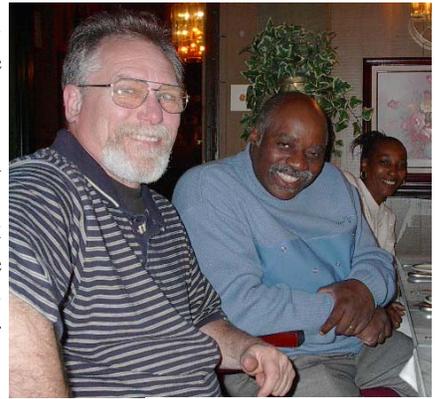
Hank Giffin: "This was a bunch of characters.



Pam and Bob McClaren

We never overdrank ... we were just over-served."

Jennifer Ash: "In the 'Old Days' when we went s o m e p l a c e (restaurant or motel), they never asked us back.



Bob Ruegsegger (*Beacon* reporter), Roosevelt and Doris Moseley

Went to the Chesapeake Chapter GOF and were asked back. We must be getting old." "I would like to thank Peggy and Anna and all who put this together."



Paul and Carmen Thiergardt

Mike Haag again thanked Peggy and Anna. "I cannot say that buying an English sports car was my best decision but joining the Club was the best."

More door prizes were given away. Everyone at my table, including my wife Cynthia, my mother,



Betty and Jim Villers

m y sister-in-law, her husband, and Marie Early got a door prize except for one, Tom Early. So when you see Tom, do not gloat.



Herm Wallach (wearing the hat she won in the raffle)

John and Marie Lain (Andy's sister-in-law)



Andy Wallach and  
Cynthia Faschini



Harry Watson  
and Barry Tyson



Alan and  
Beckey Watson



Olive and Robin  
Watson



Roy and Marilyn  
Wiley

## Note from the Editors . . .

Susan Bond

I know this issue is early, but I am leaving for St. Louis tomorrow and didn't think you wanted to get it after all the events on the calendar had happened. Just make sure this doesn't end up at the bottom of a pile somewhere, you don't want to miss the ice cream social run, the meeting or the winery tour. Many thanks to Robin Watson who has volunteered to make sure this gets to the printer. He had no idea what he was getting in to when he became membership chairman!

As promised, here is more Anniversary coverage. Those of you who live in Virginia Beach were treated to a fine article in the 1 June *Beacon* by Bob Ruegsegger, who attended the whole do and interviewed many of us (I have the pictures to prove it!). Chesapeake members were treated to the same article, with more pictures, in the 13 June *Clipper*. Suffolk, Portsmouth and Norfolk members, let me know if you see it in your local sections. There were copies at the last meeting for those who missed it, and Peggy may be persuaded to bring them to the next meeting.

Again, my e-mail address has changed to [sue007@infionline.net](mailto:sue007@infionline.net). Peggy's is still [balloon@exis.net](mailto:balloon@exis.net). There are lots of events going on over the summer and I know members are going to them. Write a bit (or call one of us and we will write it) and send a couple pictures. Think of the thrill of seeing your name in print!!

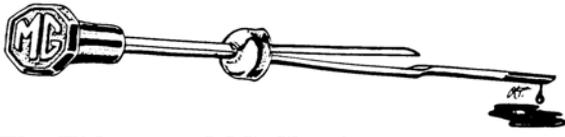
## Tech Tip

Mark Childers

I drove my B to the Arizona/Mexico border and didn't even carry a spare tire, just a couple of basic tools, duct tape, a can of coolant sealer, a set of points, a length of plug wire, a spare coil and a can of fix-a-flat and a tubeless repair kit from Pep Boys, AND a \$15 pre-hosed, pre-wired electric fuel pump that still serves me as a fuel transfer pump....I figured that if the fuel pump crapped out on me it would be in the rain, on a nasty shoulder, and I didn't want to go there. So I bagged it up, ready to plug the inlet hose into the fuel filter, and the outlet into the carbs, one alligator clipped lead to ground and the red (with 20 amp inline fuse) to the white wire side of ignition fuse terminal. Those little metal pumps (get the 3-5 psi unit) will work fine to pull fuel thru the SU pump in back, and I've never had one overpower the float valves even after many months of "temporary" duty.... I also added couple of large zip ties to fasten it to the fender well.

Never had to open the trunk except to get my overnight bag and to show the Federales....

# The Dipstick



## The Tidewater MG Classics

Susan Bond  
541 Forest Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

## FIRST CLASS

