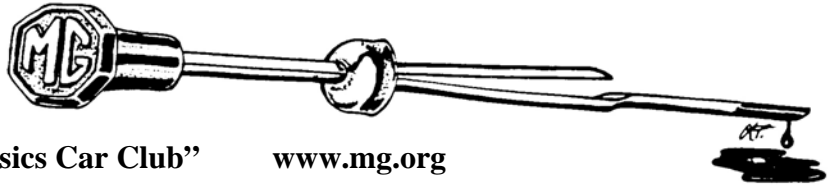


The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXII, Issue 12

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

December 2004

MARQUE TIME

Since I am writing this about a week before Thanksgiving, I would like to give some thanks. THANK YOU SUSAN BOND and PEGGY CRAIG for putting together this fine newsletter every month. From ensuring reporters for events to waiting for late submissions (such as this one), you do an outstanding job. Also high on my list of people to thank are Beckey Watson for coordinating and organizing great activities each month and Jim Villers who quietly month in and month out handles our finances. I cannot even remember when Jim wasn't our treasurer.

Thoroughly enjoyed the November meeting. Chuck and Becky Hassler graciously opened their beautiful house and provided fine food and drink. Do you think that eating three pieces of apple pie is too much or not enough? We had a great turn-out and it was so nice going West on I-64 instead of East for a change. From Norfolk, Yorktown is quicker to get to than Sandbridge in Virginia Beach. Thank you Chuck and Becky.

As part of my effort to create more room and organize my garage, I am working to rid myself of boxes of books that I carted down here from Long Island when my mother sold her house. Not one to throw away or just give books to a used book store, I am checking out their value and listing ones on the Amazon.com used book site. Some that you would think might be valuable such as a 1921 First Edition turn out to be worthless, while others such as a diet book “Think Thin”, copyright 1971, in only “good” condition, sold for \$18. I have listed about 50 books and sold 3 in 2 weeks. Of course, I have looked up the prices of about a 100 more that turned out not to be worth listing. Needless to say, the cost in time is much greater than the monetary benefit ... but when you do sell a book there is a thrill like when you found a five dollar bill in the street while shoveling snow as a kid. I am also building a stack of books that look interesting to read.

Please come to the Holiday Party on Friday, December 3rd. We have plenty of room, great food and drink, and a free used book for the first one thousand attendees.

Andy Wallach

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Dec. 3** Holiday party at Andy & Cynthia's (see back page and flyer insert)
- Dec. 15** Dipstick Deadline
- Dec. 29** Holiday Lights Tour (see page 3)
- Jan. 4** Tuesday meeting at Frankie's Place for Ribs
- Jan. 15** Dipstick Deadline



Happy Holidays!

NOVEMBER MINUTES

Doug Kennedy

In a semi-sleepy post-election haze the electorate assembled at the Hassler's house in Kiln Creek. 51 percent of the members appeared shaken but relieved while 48 percent seemed angry and vowing revenge. El Presidente Wallach fulfilled his duties as a uniter and brought the meeting to order at 8:03 by thanking Chuck and Becky for their hospitality. Then, just as we were coming together Andy showed his less "compassionate" side and blasphemed the Sandbridge area for its remoteness. Representative Watson signaled his objection.

Minutes: Accepted as published.

VP Report: Nothing

Secretary Report: Nada

Treasurer's Report: Zip

Newsletter Editor: Huzzahs all around for a great job. Frank Hurley offered up his services as the next tech session reporter. Next deadline is the 15th.

Membership: Robin had one late renewal. No new members but a couple possibilities.

Activities: The holiday party is at Cynthia and Andy's December 3 at 6:30. Bring a dish to share. The theme is "Traditional" food. Alan Watson (soon to be single) asked whether that meant "leftovers." The look from his wife indicated it didn't. The Dwelling Place will be our charity this year. A list of items we can purchase to assist the facility will go out via e-mail. Please mark your calendars. The wine festival went well. Next year unfortunately the site may be under construction so a change in venue may be in the offing. The January meeting will be at Frankie's Place for Ribs in the cozy "Das Boot" room.

History: Keep it comin.

Meeting stopped. Peggy arrived. Grief dished out. Meeting resumed.

Technical: Technically, we had nothing to discuss.

Clubs and regalia: M.I.A.

Marque Time: Vince sold his Red MGB to a lucky buyer. Hopefully the new owner will join the club.

Vince still has a TD, B, and a well-maintained Pam.

Frank Hurley has a 76 B for sale. He also bought a 61 Daimler. He also drove his TC a massively long distance (8 miles) to the meeting and was quite proud of this achievement.

Cynthia is flogging one of Andy's T series cars.

Discussion ensued regarding Weber carbs and manifolds. The secretary uses SUs so he didn't pay any attention to the details.

Harry Watson's 73 GT now has an engine and may be running again within the month.

Andy boldly proclaimed that he "used to be hell under the dash." There was some suspicion that this might not relate to anything mechanical so there were no follow-up questions. Cynthia sat by smiling.

Sue Bond knows a neighbor who has a 70 or 71 BGT for sale. Needs body work. Cheap.

Becky mentioned that Alan's company has an opportunity to buy discount tickets for the holiday lights at the beach. We whole-heartedly endorsed the idea. A vote was taken to purchase 15 tickets for use by club members. This was approved.

JD found a bug-eye and is looking for a disc brake setup.

The "Last MGB for the US" has been sold via e-bay.

Oh, all the officers were re-elected.

The meeting adjourned by a vote that narrowly escaped a recount and we all headed to the chow like Ohio voters scrambling home to avoid the exit pollers.

Officers and Committees

President	Andy Wallach	622-8315
Vice President	Alan Watson	426-2600
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	Becky Watson	426-2600
Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

Holiday Lights Drive Out

Wednesday, December 29th

After all the hustle bustle and commitments of the season
enjoy a trip through the holiday lights on the
Virginia Beach oceanfront boardwalk!

Wear mittens and scarves -- top down??

TMGC has purchased fifteen
specially priced admission tickets of \$5.95 per car!

We'll depart at 7:30 p.m. from
The Beach Pub, 1001 Laskin Road

Come early to eat dinner there if you can!

Contact Alan or Beckey Watson for tickets or more info
home: 426-2600 e-mail: beach723@aol.com

Ho-ho-ho!



Membership & New Members

Robin Watson

Total membership 100

This last week we have lifted our membership back to 100, we received 2 late renewals and a new member:

Gary & Beth Campbell
5013 Farrington Drive
Va. Beach, VA 23455
phone (757) 464-5026
E-mail campbebg@verizon.net.

We met Gary at the tech session at Susan & Terry's this last weekend. He was there to meet some members, not for work on the 1978 B, because this was one that he just bought from Vince & Frank.

Notes from the Editors

Susan Bond

Many thanks to all who appeared at our tech session last weekend. There will be a write up in the next issue, but I want to thank Mark and Debbie Childers for providing the excellent food. Since we didn't have a pig pickin' this year, they had volunteered to cater the tech session and it couldn't have happened at a better time — I had been away for 2 days and sure didn't have time to do it. Thank you, Mark and Debbie!

Richard Hall admonished me for not mentioning that I had the privilege of driving his TD last month. What a blast! At least once I got it into high gear it was a blast. Evidently, short people do not drive TD's. I hope I did not do any permanent damage to the gears in the tranny. He has driven that car all over the place and I would hate to be the one to stop it. Someday, after the maroon GT, my GT, and the Morris are restored (I can hear you laughing, stop it!) and before they have to be redone, I might look for a TD.

Virginia Wine Festival

Barb Taychert

What could be better than sitting in a lawn chair by the river while talking with fellow MG lovers and quaffing free wine? Maybe less windy conditions and a little better quality of vino. But these are small points.

It was a sunny Sunday, Oct. 20 when 9 MGs showed up at the annual Town Point Wine Festival and their drivers and passengers were given free entry to the event in return for parking the cars on the grounds for the day. Of course, we had to show up early to beat the crowd, but the 8am arrival time just meant there were a few sleepy heads and a couple of trips to nearby Starbucks.



We parked in two rows facing each other on the grass. The club banner was unfurled and staked out, poles courtesy of Vince Groover.

Everyone took a turn minding the classics so that others could sample the vintages from more than 25 Virginia wineries. Luckily I picked the 10am watch so when the festival opened at 11am, I was free and at a booth with my glass extended. I don't know about the others, but by 11:30 I was burping and that was the end of the grape for me for the remainder of the day.



Denise Starke & Mike Haag

But there was plenty more than wine at the festival. Crafts, music

and food added texture to the scene. Organizers had set up tables with checkered

clothes and pumpkins in the center of the park, so people-watching was in order. Some wine lovers were wearing necklaces of corks, others sported glass holders on cords.



Vince & Pam Groover



Olive & Robin Watson and appreciators on Sunday.

Apparently the day before had gotten a little wild, with 11,000 people consuming more than they should. Vendors told us

this adage: Drinkers on Saturday

The one winery I was looking forward to--Kluge--was a no-show, so that was disappointing since club members had passed up this tasting during our overnight wine trip last summer.



Mike Knepler & Barb Taychert



Barry Tyson

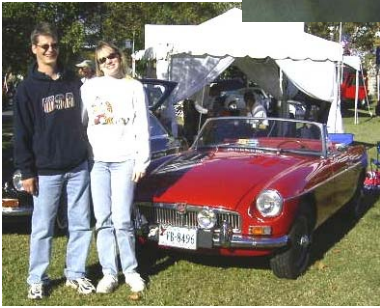
A large group of us ate lunch at Joe's Crab Shack in Waterside, while others chose the Carriage House. After lunch, folks continued to sample the wines and sit around quietly in groups, chatting, watching the boats on the water, and answering a question here and there as curious folks filed by.

It was really neat when leaving because we drove right down the boardwalk in order to get out of the park. I felt like I was in a parade, but I sure didn't want to make a wrong turn.



Becky & Alan Watson

New members,
Anne & Carl
Godwin



J.D. & Lara Hawthorne

Moonrise Bay Drive Out

Alan Watson

A little rain on a Sunday afternoon in autumn didn't keep seven MG's from meeting at Kellam High School in Virginia Beach for the 25 minute drive to Moonrise Bay



Vineyard in Knotts Island, North Carolina. Present were Rob & Olive Watson, Alan & Beckey Watson, Mike Haag & Denise Starke, Jim & Betty Villers, Sue Bond, George & Peggy Craig and Linda & Jim Freeh.



Upon arrival, we were met by the owners, Oakie and Kate Morris. They had a



table for us to set up our cheese, crackers, grapes and other goodies that the club members had brought along to share. The new tasting room was warm and inviting, with the fire lit in the stone fireplace, and comfortable leather couches to sink into. We sampled the wines at a comfortable pace,

where members could saunter up to the tasting bar at their leisure, and munch from the buffet table. There



were also times when our hosts wandered around amongst us with open bottles of wine, topping off our glasses.



Another treat we've become accustomed to is Oakie giving us a tour of his winery and the wine making process, including a barrel tasting or two. He is obviously proud of his winery accomplishments and enjoys sharing them with us. It's great to taste this season's "recipes" before they're bottled.



Like before, this was another fun trip to Moonrise Bay. Oakie and Kate treat us like long lost friends, making us feel very welcome. Our visits have



always been informative, intimate and tasty. And it was a beautiful ride back home. Many thanks to Robin for organizing this event, and here's to next year!



Standing: Linda & Jim Freeh, George Craig, Becky & Alan Watson, Jim Villers, Mike Haag, Robin Watson.

Seated: Susan Bond, Denise Starke, Peggy Craig, Olive Watson, Betty Villers

Driver Days

Robin Watson

October 30 was a great day for Driver's yearly festival. The weather was good, the cars were terrific (even though the LBC's were way out numbered), we got to see the parade and there was plenty of food all around.

The TMGC had five MG's on show:



Parade

Vince & Pam Groover, Susan Bond & grand daughter Taylor, Barry Tyson, Alan & Robin Watson. The MG's drew a lot of interest from those enjoying the day amongst the cars, some of them had owned or their dad's had owned MG's. Also Philip & Sally Ford and Bill Seib stopped by to say "hi." Alan & I also met up with Frank D'Angelo at Cosmo's diner, who said he might make it to Driver.

A lot of the cars on show were just out of my auto era, I don't mean in age, I just mean that I did not know what I was looking at with respects to American clas-



sics. I did notice a 1936 Ford pick up for sale for \$21,000. Also a Cadillac

that had a step behind the trunk that was almost as big as my front porch (Alan was told that is was called the Continental and there was a lever in the trunk to lower



Barry Tyson, Alan Watson, Robin Watson, Susan Bond & Taylor Sumner, Pam & Vince Groover, Bill Seib

this step). And the Batmobile was on display. There were more than 150 cars entered at the show.



I managed to get a picture of Vince & Pam taking it easy -- Vince gave us the impression that he had moved the chairs out of the sun but I think he was just getting around the edge of the building for his afternoon nap. We had a good look around the open stores that included a large showing of wrought iron work and the popular Knot Hole Station.



Colin's MG

J.D. Hawthorne

(Ed. Note: At the November meeting J.D. told me about the MG he'd created and I asked for pictures.)

Here are two pictures of Colin's "MG" that I was telling you about. One with and one without the owner. "Santa" always seems to know what to bring. Apparently he had a few extra spares in the workshop.



As a daily driver, he has put quite a few miles on it this year. It always seems to get him to where he's going and back without incident. As far as I'm concerned, it's probably the most reliable one I have had.

Tire Age

John Procida (TTR)

Reprinted with permission from The Toot Sidedraught, September 2004.

In researching tire information on my RV, I realized that my RV tire concerns also very much apply to the tires of our British cars. Most of us (except for Ed Smith's daily diver TR7) probably have tires on our British cars that have plenty of beefy tread on tires that are 5 or more years old. The unseen danger is the AGE of the tire. After the tire is put in use the aging process continually reduces the strength of the tire. Here is some of the information that I've found in my research that I thought might well be shared with our club members. Most of it is common sense, so much so that we most times don't think of it. So for those who are aware of the tire aging this article is a reminder and for the others this a topic for serious thought.

Most industry experts would agree that the failure rate of tires goes up as they get older, but where do you draw the

line? It seems that 5 years is a good line for replacement and 7 years may be too dangerous. This could be affected up or down by mileage and how the vehicle has been stored and used. The danger, of course, is that the tire will fail by blowing out or throwing a good chunk of rubber while on the road. On the highway or in tight traffic this could be extremely dangerous for the vehicle and its occupants!

Is that from date of manufacture or from when they were put in service? The time in service seems to be the main consideration, but time from the date of manufacture is more reliable. If a tire was properly stored in a warehouse that should have a very small affect on the deterioration process. Heat, road forces and exposure to ultra-violet rays seem to be the main factors causing the degradation of the tire casing, but don't assume an un-mounted or unused old tire is safe. A club member recently wanted to install a set of original "Red Lines" on his TR to make it more original looking. That's Ok for the show – put them on at the show AND take them off after the show. Do not trust them for the trip home. That TR won't look very original if it's all bent up. You won't look very original if you're all bent up. So give serious thought to this topic and the information below can help find the tire age quickly. If you don't find the DOT line of information, look on the other side of the tire – it has to be there by federal law. You may skip the manufacturing plant info and the "other" information, just look for the line that starts with "DOT" and ends with a 3 or 4 digit number depending on tire age. The last numbers tell you the tires date of manufacture.

A tire's date of manufacture can be determined from the "DOT" number that is on the sidewall of every tire sold in the US.

A typical Pre -1999 DOT number GJHV234319:
GJ= Manufacturing plant code
HV234= other production information
319= date code 31st week of 1999 (9=1999)

A typical 2000 up DOT number BTFR872001:
BT= Manufacturing plant code
FR87= other production information
2001 = 20th week of 2001 (01= 2001)

One final note. When I bought my GMC motor home I was quite pleased because the beefy Michelins seemed almost new – both by tire appearance and date code. After the third blow out (some on the highway) I realized the date code didn't specify the DECADE the tire was made. It seems that what I thought were 2 year old tires were really 12 year old tires. So if your tire code is 3 digits instead of 4, realize that you may be off by 10 years... or twenty... or...?

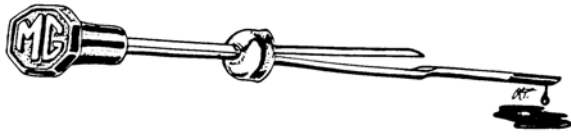
(Ed. Note: Right after I got permission to reprint this article; one appeared on money.com on the same subject. You can read it at:

http://money.cnn.com/2004/11/08/pf/autos/tire_dating/index.htm)

(Me again: Money.com also had an article about pumpkin beer at:

http://money.cnn.com/2004/10/28/pf/goodlife/pumpkin_ales/index.htm)

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The Tidewater MG Classics

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Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS

Holiday Gathering at
Cynthia and Andy's
545 Mayflower Rd
Norfolk
622-8315

Friday, December 3rd

(See additional information inside newsletter)

