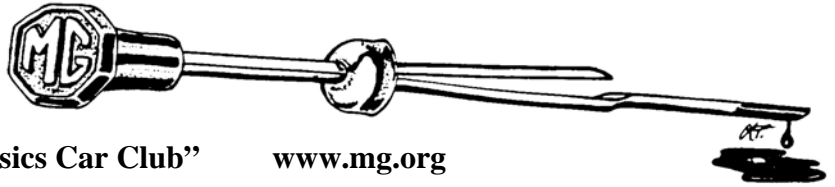


The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXII, Issue 1

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

January 2004

MARQUE TIME

Happy New Year! May your resolutions come to fruition. One of mine is to work more on MGs. Note that I am not on record to get one of my TDs on the road. Lets not go to extremes. I have only owned them about 20 years and they have never been on the road. I will go on record that I'll work with my son, Josh, to get his MGA on the road this year and make good progress on the TDs.

Congratulations to Alan and Becky Watson for being honored with the 2003 President's Award, and Robin and Olive Watson for their contributions to the Dipstick and recognition through receiving the new "Dipstick Award". The 2004 Membership Directory that Robin created is beautiful. The addition of photographs brings the directory alive.

A big thanks to Peggy and George Craig for opening their beautiful home for our Holiday Dinner Party. I had a great time adding to my waistline and reminiscing. Also thanks to everyone who has signed up to host an activity in 2004. We certainly filled up most of the calendar quickly. There are still some blanks to be filled-in, so don't be bashful.

See you at the meeting on Tuesday, January 6th.

Andy

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

Jan. 6 Tuesday meeting at Frankie's Place for Ribs (map on back page)
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Jan. 21 Dipstick Deadline

Feb. 3 Tuesday meeting at Mark & Wendy Hiby's

Feb.4-27 University Motors Seminars
www.universitymotorsltd.com

Feb. 19 Dipstick Deadline

May 21-23 Carlisle Import and Kit Car show
www.carsatcarlisle.com

June 24-27 MG2004
Parsippany, NJ

July 14-18 NAMGAR GT-29
Cromwell, CT

Aug 12-15 University Motors Summer Party
Reunion, Grand Rapids, MI

Happy New Year!

Activities Calendar for 2004

Here is your chance to host a meeting and show off your projects or organize a driveout to your favorite (eating and/or sightseeing) place. E-mail or call Susan Bond or Peggy Craig to sign up now! (Activity chair needed, apply now!)

Meetings

Feb. 3 (Tues.)	Mark & Wendy Hiby
March 3 (Wed.)	_____
April 6(Tues.)	Robin & Olive Watson
May 5 (Wed.)	Alan & Beckey Watson
June 1 (Tues.)	Andy Wallach & Cynthia Faschini
July 7 (Wed.)	Ceit Fisher
Aug. 3 (Tues.)	Jim & Betty Villers
Sept. 1 (Wed.)	Paul & Carmen Thiergardt
Oct. 5 (Tues.)	_____
Nov. 3 (Wed.)	_____
Dec. ??	Holiday Party

Tech Sessions

April ??	Frank Linse
June ??	_____
Aug. ??	_____
Nov. ??	Susan & Terry Bond

Driveouts and/or Ice Cream Social Runs

May ??	_____
June ??	_____
July ??	_____
Aug. ??	Drive Out—Mike & Jennifer Ash
Sept. ??	Winery Tour— Alan & Beckey Watson

Pig Pickin'

Oct. ??	Mark & Debbie Childers
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Holiday Party

Held at the home of Peggy & George Craig
December 12, 2003



Carmen Thiergardt, Ceit Fisher, Norma & Carl Nagle,
Jennifer Ash, Andy Wallach



Jennifer Ash, Debbie Eisenbath, Frank Linse, Faye &
Robert Davis, Mike Ash



Olive & Robin Watson, Wendy & Mark Hiby



Nomination for the 2003 TMGC President's Award

The Tidewater MG Classics President's Award, instituted several years ago, recognizes those members whose contributions to the club are routinely "above and beyond". This year, we honor a husband and wife team who has contributed significantly to our club in numerous ways over the past few years.

Alan and Beckey Watson stand out among our members as two of the most active club supporters, with a mutual love of good friends, good food, and the view of the Virginia countryside from a little red roadster. Alan began volunteering his time and energy from the very beginning, by arranging to have *The Dipstick* printed for free, eliminating a sizeable monthly expense from the treasury. Then, in 1999, he volunteered to take over as Membership chairperson, a role he held for over two years. In the spring of 2003, Alan became our "unofficial Activities Chairperson". Of late, Alan was elected Vice President, a role in which he now serves.

Beckey and Alan took us out on the open road, organizing the Daffodil Drive to Gloucester, and the club's first-ever and immensely popular Winery Tour. They also teamed up to organize all the Ice Cream Socials and Drive-Outs this past season. At every meeting, Alan always gave Beckey praise for all the time and effort she put in to get his great ideas into motion.

When the call went out for a new Pig Picking host, they opened their lovely farmhouse to one and all, and Beckey the photographer created those marvelous "Shining Star" snapshot mementos for everyone who attended. They have also hosted at least one meeting every year since joining. And this year's Christmas Party charity, Hope Haven, was arranged by Alan.

Alan and Beckey also did their part in the success of the club's 30th Anniversary Dinner. Beckey's candy "spark plug" treats for all who attended were a big hit, and she also stepped in as the "official" greeter, helping members check in at the door. Beckey fulfilled her goal to become a published author this year when her article appeared in *Classic MG Magazine*, presenting a marvelous view from the passenger seat.

Not only have Alan and Beckey been active supporters, they have inspired others to volunteer. Alan's father Robin is a very active club member who gives freely of his time in numerous ways. And now Colin Watson, Alan and Beckey's son, is the latest Watson family member to join. Our club is honored to have 3 generations of the Watson family among its members.

For all that you have done, and on behalf of the entire club, thank you Alan and Beckey.



President's Award winners Alan & Beckey Watson
with President Andy Wallach



Norma & Carl Nagle, Linda & Jim Freeh



Dipstick Award

This first, and hopefully annual, *Dipstick Award* is given to recognize outstanding contributions to the newsletter of Tidewater MG Classics for the year 2003. Your editors, Susan Bond and Peggy Craig, could not produce such an excellent publication without the pictures, articles and columns contributed by members. This newsletter is by, for, and about you, the members.

One member in particular has contributed over and above his job description this year. When he took on the job of membership chairman, Robin Watson had no idea he and Olive would end up putting stamps, labels, and stickers on over 100 newsletters each month, and then taking the finished product to the post office. He also makes sure the right maps are in them after once finding an incorrect one – for a meeting at his son’s house!

Robin has also supplied many of the pictures we printed, at first using a rather primitive, low memory digital camera, later upgrading to one that actually has flash memory. He always gets the pictures to the editors in time for publication in the *Dipstick* and on our web site, now on CD’s instead of floppies. If nothing else, we have forced him to adopt new technology.

Despite protesting that he is not a writer, Robin was cajoled into writing a membership column. Then an Ice Cream Run article. Then a Tech Session article. Now there’s no stopping him – he writes both the column and an article in almost every issue.

Robin attended almost every event we covered this year, and even volunteered to lay out the “Rally to Nowhere” for our annual Pig Pickin’ – and took pictures. Unfortunately his B was awaiting a new water pump, but that didn’t stop him having a good time. Olive has usually accompanied him. We know that every great man has a great woman behind the scenes keeping him on track and on schedule, so we have to thank Olive for all her hard work, too – and all those wonderful, scrumptious goodies she brings to our pot luck events.

I am sure you are both glad that stamps are now self-adhesive.

Thank you!!!



Dipstick Award winners Olive & Robin Watson with President Andy Wallach



Carmen & Paul Thiergardt



Roy Wiley, Mark Childers, Betty Villers





Robert Davis, Roy Wiley, Doug Kennedy



Jerry Johnson, Ceit Fisher, Betty & Jim Villers



Carmen, Thiergardt, Jennifer Ash, Norma & Carl Nagle, Jim & Linda Freeh



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		
Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307



Membership & New Members

Robin Watson

Total membership 99

Membership has not changed this month so we start the new year with 99 members – we almost made the 100. I did not receive the one I was hoping for but I feel that is due to the holiday time, I will have to catch him later. Last year when the Directories came out we had 98 members. We did get an increase this year but we also had a few members that did not renew at the end of the year. I think I will have to have a few membership forms with me whenever I leave home!

Notes from the Editors . . .

Susan Bond

I finally figured out why the last few words keep getting dropped from articles. I was using Publisher 2000. When I opened the last issue in Publisher 2002, the pages were formatted as they were printed. Lesson learned, use the 2002 version. I had put off the switch because I had to reset the tabs each time I opened 2002. So if the officers listing is gobbledygook, don't blame me!

That said, the last line of the November minutes should have read "... we headed off to the chow line faster than election losers rushing about to take down their campaign signs." The last line of the November Tech Session report by Robin should have read "...Terry, I hope the OCTAGON club members left "YOU" some of that great brew."

More on the MG TF in the UK

Back in November I had a couple of questions asked by some of our members. One was why the F was changed to TF and a price on the TF in England. Below is the answer I received from a new friend, Mike Duley, who Olive and I found in the UK while visiting the local Coventry & Warwick MGOC Group.



The MGTF was introduced in February 2002 to replace the MGF. Although a very similar car, it did incorporate a number of significant changes, mainly:

Entirely new suspension system with multi-link rear axle, coil springs and solidly mounted sub frames, all of which replaced the old 'Hydragas' system and improves the car's already brilliant handling.

Higher performance K series engine range.

Changes to the body styling and interior trim.

Reports in a number of car magazines were fulsome in their praise of the changes and this has been reflected in the sales--they are still selling them as fast as they can be made although the car market in general is somewhat in the doldrums.

The use of the suffix TF was, and is, very contentious. However, the company claims that they are merely bringing the MGF in line with the rest of the range, all of which are identified by two letters. The current range of three saloon bodies is identified as ZR, ZS and ZT with additional numbers and letters after to designate the particular model eg. ZS180 or ZT-T190. The implication is that saloons are Z and any subsequent sports cars will be MGTG etc. They didn't seem to think that using the same letters as a model produced some 50 years ago would matter. They obviously hadn't done their homework but we are stuck with it now.

Current list prices are:

MGTF 115 £15750.

MGTF 120 (Stepspeed) £18245

MGTF 135 £17245

MGTF 160(VVC) £19995.

These are on-the-road prices and include all British taxes. There are discounts available depending on how hard you can bargain and if the dealer has a model that is not quite so popular. From time to time the MGOC and MG Car Club are offered discounts, last time it was 17.5% from the above prices. Incidentally the numbers are more or less the brake horsepower figures.

I hope that clarifies the situation for you.

Cheers
Mike

MG Models in the UK

Part 4

Robin Watson

This month I am going to write about the MG ZR & ZS. Both of them great touring and rallying cars. I highly recommend that if you get the chance to borrow this brochure from me to do so, there are some good details that I have not covered in this article (it would be like writing a book). First, I would like to point out a mistake made in the November Dipstick. The printing showed the word Stepspeed under the Engine of the TF 115 model. It should have been under the TF 120. This is MG's automatic drive unit that can be used also as a manual type by stepping through the 6 speed clutchless change with switches on the steering wheel, and is only available on the models with the 120 Ps Engines.



Now the ZR! This is a 3-door sporty car with a lot of rally-influenced stuff in it. That comment was made by

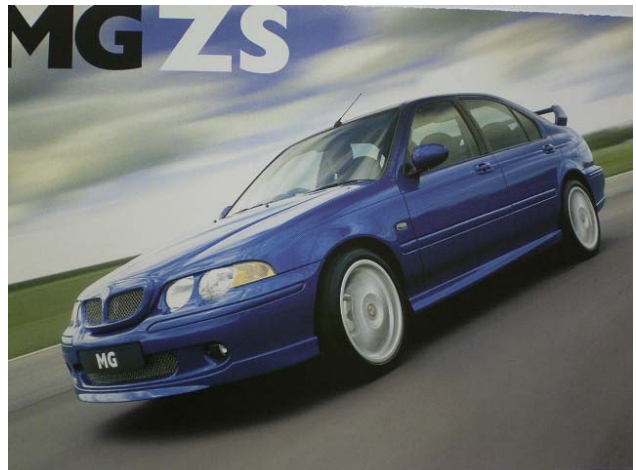
Gwyndaf Evans, MG rally star, after a couple of days of high speed testing of the Funky Hatchback. As soon as you start the engine you really do notice you're driving something different—it's got a really sporty sound coming from the exhaust. It's got a rasp to it, a nice rasp. The 1.8 Litre engine feels like a good 2.0 Lt. It's very much at home driverable wise under 3500 rpm--anyone could drive it. But the ZR really comes to life above 3500 rpm. Gwyndaf's advice is, if you enjoy driving and enjoy working an engine, then the better this will go. It is happy to rev all day. The gearbox is really impressive, the ratios are just perfect. When you run the ZR flat-out from first to fifth you take the gears through an equally spaced gearbox—you get the right gear for the right corner all the time. The shift quality is positive, good to use.

The ZR has a range of six engines from 103Ps to 160Ps of which two are diesels as shown in the chart below (diesel engines in cars are very popular in the UK).

Engine ZR	105	120	120	turbo	115	160
			Stepspeed	Diesel	turbo	
				Diesel		
Litre	1.4	1.8	1.8	TCie	TCie	1.8VVC
CC	1396	1796	1796	1994	1994	1796
Max.						
Power @ rpm	103 6000	117 5500	117 5500	101 4200	113 4200	160 7000
Max torque @ rpm	123 4500	160 2750	160 2750	240 2000	260 2000	174 4500
Max. engine speed						
Rpm	6800	6800	6000	4500	4500	7100
Performance 0-60mph						
Seconds	10.0	8.6	9.5	9.7	9.1	7.4
Top speed mph						
	111	119	112	114	116	131

Now for the ZS. Next to the MG TF this I would really like to throw around a few good bends in the road. The last week in November I was watching the ZS on Speed TV. They were running in the British Touring Car Championships at Silverstone and they did not come in 1st but got a 3rd, 4th & 8th. The points standing for manufacturer are 255 for Vauxhall, 108 for Honda and 78 for MG, and this was when they were half way through the season.

Warren Hughes' test drive of the ZS, taken from the sales brochure. Warren Hughes, schooled in single-seater race



cars and now driving for MG in the British Touring Car Championship and at Le Mans, evaluates ZS out on the test track.

First Impressions: The first thing that impressed me was the smoothness of the engine. It's got very good power, as well as a nice, really flexible engine—and a beautiful noise from the V6. That was impressive, right from when you pulled away. Immediately, it felt free-revving. Excellent! Instantly you feel that you're in something out of the mainstream. You can rev it too. It pulls strongly right up to the rev-limiter. The engine's so flexible you don't have to do that, but it's great that you can.

Handling: To me, the handling makes the car feel smaller than it is, it's nimble too—this reflects the good job MG has done on the suspension setup.

Verdict: That mix of a big V6 engine in a compact body is really appealing. ZS feels like a car which can handle long distance motorway and having some fun on a winding road equally well.

Engine Stats: The ZS does not have the smaller 103Ps like the ZR listed above but there is a MG ZS 180 which is 2.5 Lt. V6, 2497 cc, Max. power 177 Ps at 6500 rpm, Max Torque 240 @ 4000 rpm, Max engine speed 6750 rpm., 0-60 mph 7.3 sec., 30-50 mph in 4th 6.0 sec., 50-70 in 4th 6.0 sec. Top speed 139 mph.

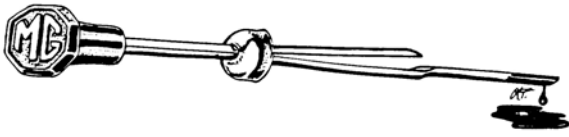


Link of the Month

Try John Twist's Technical Help page for solutions to tech problems. It is searchable.

<http://www.universitymotorsltd.com/qa/>

The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Susan Bond
541 Forest Road
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Affiliated with

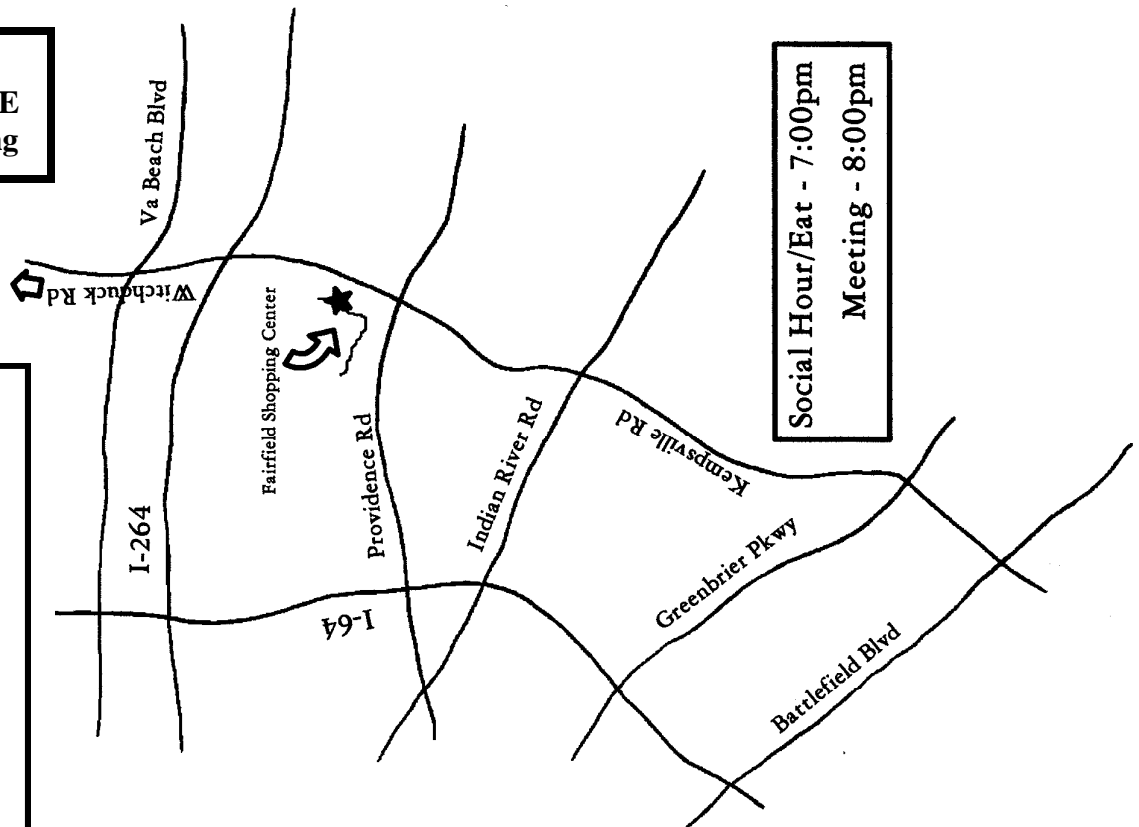


North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS

Please note
CHANGE OF DATE
for January meeting

January Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2004
Frankie's Place for Ribs
5200 Fairfield Shopping Center
495-7427



Social Hour/Eat - 7:00pm
Meeting - 8:00pm