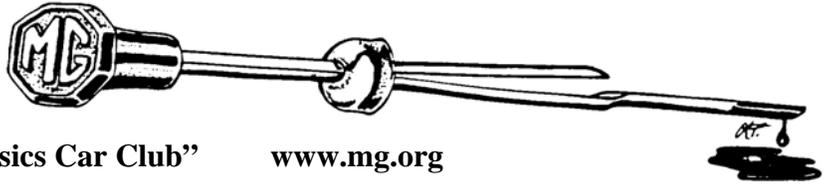


The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXII, Issue 9

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

September 2004

MARQUE TIME

Wow! What a great turnout for the Eastern Shore Drive Out in August; over 40 people. Great food and great people. Thank you Mike and Jennifer Ash. One car did have minor problems. Yours truly's TF developed a cooling leak. Sorry, no real drama. No tie-ups on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The flange on the radiator punctured the top radiator hose. Installation of a 5-speed transmission required moving the engine forward about half an inch--just enough to cause the hose to contact the flange. Bent the flange down, wrapped some tape provided by Robin Watson around the hose, added some water and all was well on the return trip. The installation of the 5-speed transmission and replacing the nylon biased-ply tires with radials has transformed the TF's derivability. Cruising at 55 is no problem.

Also had a good turnout for the monthly meeting at the Villers'; especially considering all the rain earlier in the day. Thank you Jim and Betty.

With the TF back on the road, I can turn my attention back to the TDs. Got the 52 TD back from the painters. I think I'll see if the engine Jim Banvard rebuilt about 20 years ago really runs before I put the wings (fenders) and rest of the sheet metal back on the body. But need to finish getting my condo in Ocean View ... some of you will remember meetings there 16 years ago ... ready for sale before concentrating on the 52 TD.

Thanks to Roy Wiley for heading the Officer Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees will be announced at the September meeting and elections will be held in October. For the curious, a copy of our By-Laws is in the back of the Membership Directory.

Isn't our newsletter great? Such great writers as Mark Childers, Robin Watson, George Craig, Jennifer Ash, and Beckey Watson compiled by our editors Susan Bond and Peggy Craig made August's Dipstick a super read.

Andy Wallach

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Sept. 1** **Wednesday meeting at Paul & Carmen Thiergardt's** (see back page)
- Sept. 5 SCCA Solo II, Pungo Airfield
www.odr-scca.org
- Sept. 8-12 NEMGTR GOF MK 77, Painted Post, NY, Charlie Searles,
csearles@rochester.rr.com
- Sept. 17-19 Brown's Island BCS, Richmond
www.britishcarclub.com
(Meet at Cosmos at 8:30 on the 19th)
- Sept. 18 TRAACA show at Chesapeake City Park, www.aaca.org/tidewater
- Sept. 19 Dipstick Deadline**
- Sept. 23 Ice Cream Social Run** (see page 3)
- Sept. 25 Wings and Wheels
www.fly.to/wingsandwheels
(Meet at Cosmos at 8:30)
- Oct. 1-3 Waynesboro BCS
www.svbcc.net
- Oct. 2-3 SCCA Solo II, Pungo Airfield
www.odr-scca.org
- Oct. 5 Tuesday meeting at ????**
- Oct. 10 Hunt Country Classic
mgcarclubdc.com

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JULY MINUTES

Wendy Hiby

The meeting started a bit late at 8:12.
Minutes were approved from the June meeting.

Jim gave the treasurer report: Balance brought forward from June 2004 was \$1,322.39. The club made \$88.00 in raffle and dues and spent \$55.23 for the ice cream social. Final balance is \$1,355.16

Sue's report on the newsletter: Sue has run out of articles for the newsletter. Alan will write about the ice cream social and the Craigs will write about the wine tour. If you have anything for the newsletter, please send it to Sue.

Robin's report on membership: 3 new members and 51 renewals. There were 2 guests at this meeting, John and Dave. They bought an MG about a year ago.

Activities: I was distracted by the loud rumbly noises my tummy was making due to it's lack of food, so I didn't catch all that was said. Too busy playing the try to flag down the waitress game. Something about a Winery tour, ice cream social, next meeting at Jim and Betty's home on 8/3. Drive out to the Eastern Shore 8/8 to go to Jennifer and Mike Ash's home at 2:00 PM. I think there is going to be a special tech session on 8/22, not sure where. Watch the Dipstick for more info.

History: Sue brought her laptop to show pictures of recent events.

Technical: Mark Childers wasn't here.

Regalia: Frank had a mug and jacket patch for the winner of the raffle. I did not win the raffle and didn't see who did.

Other clubs: Mike wasn't here.

Old Business: This part of the meeting took place when my food finally arrived, so I was busy eating. Something about a banner. Frank Worrell will get with Sue Bond and get it. Can spend up to \$150.00 for it.

New Business: None

Marque Time: Founding member, Dave Barrow's wife Helen passed away. Alan got his B back on the road. Andy got the 5 speed to be put in. Frank and Vince have a red MGB for sale. Frank's wife, Anna, proudly announced that after 6 long years, Frank has his MGB on the road.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34

AUGUST MINUTES

Doug Kennedy

El Presidente Wallach opened the meeting promptly at 8:07 Lucas Standard Time. The gracious Villers were thanked for allowing us to once again visit/invade their home. Of note was the fact that for the first time in 1 consecutive meetings it was NOT raining at their address.

Minutes: Although they were not published they were passed without dissent.

Vice President: No report (however, he was acting as his father's "enforcer" by rooting out those who had not renewed their dues.

Secretary: Doug thanked Sue for letting him use her computer. His is making the death rattle.

Treasurer: In: \$440; Out: \$265.14; Left Over: \$1530.02. Jim reported that we're in good shape with raffles being used to offset any funds when we get low.

Guests: Andy met and introduced Fran D'Angelo. He has a 1973 MGB getting some work done in Northern Virginia.

Newsletter: Peggy and Sue were commended for their hard work and exceeding everyone's expectations yet again.

Controversy: Andy explained that the newsletter would be more interesting if the minutes displayed some interesting controversy and griping. Unfortunately, we get along too well at this point. That said, Alan was overheard mumbling under his breath to his father "This club would be a lot more interesting if it didn't have so many foolish Americans in it."

Membership: We're now at 114 members with 14 new/renewed since last month.

Activities: This weekend is the drive-out to the Eastern Shore. Jennifer highlighted what should be an excellent trip. August 22nd is the tech session at the Keeler's. August 26th is the ice cream run to Brewsters. September 1 is the annual gourmet meeting at the Thiergardts. The Secretary usually fasts for a few days beforehand to build up the maximum appetite. October 5th meeting will be at a mystery location. Pig Roast is hopefully going to be at the Childers' house. Lastly, Alan and Becky were just back from Naked Mountain Winery and have been scouting future locations. With that, Vince was overheard mumbling under his breath "These meetings would be a lot more interesting if there was more wine in it." Volunteers

for the Holiday party in December are keenly being sought. Wow, this just in, Andy and Cynthia will host the Holiday Party. Thanks guys. The club enthusiastically thanked Beckey for her hard work in providing a great slate of activities.

Excuses: Andy was taken to task for not having his TD off of blocks. He explained that his perfectionism was the reason for the delay. Several grumbles and harumphs were sounded and Andy moved on after receiving the appropriate ribbing.

Old Business: The dreaded banner raised its ugly head. Proofs were passed around by Frank. It's six feet by two feet in size. Discussion centered around the best labeling so we get the appropriate recognition. The rule book, or something - it was in writing - was even consulted for color coordination. A motion to buy the banner was passed!

New Business: None

Marque Time:

Andy is installing his transmission and piecing the new five-speed together. It's on blocks but seems to be working fine. Unfortunately, a new speedometer cable seems to have bodgered up the speedometer itself.

Andy also showed off the Mike Ash compendium of MGA tech session articles he's written. It's available via the MGA register.

Mike and Jennifer attended the MGT register gathering and then the MGA register meeting in Connecticut. It was a great event and featured a river cruise, trolley museum, boat tour, and a lot of very nice cars. He also reported that a lot of T's were trailered this year.

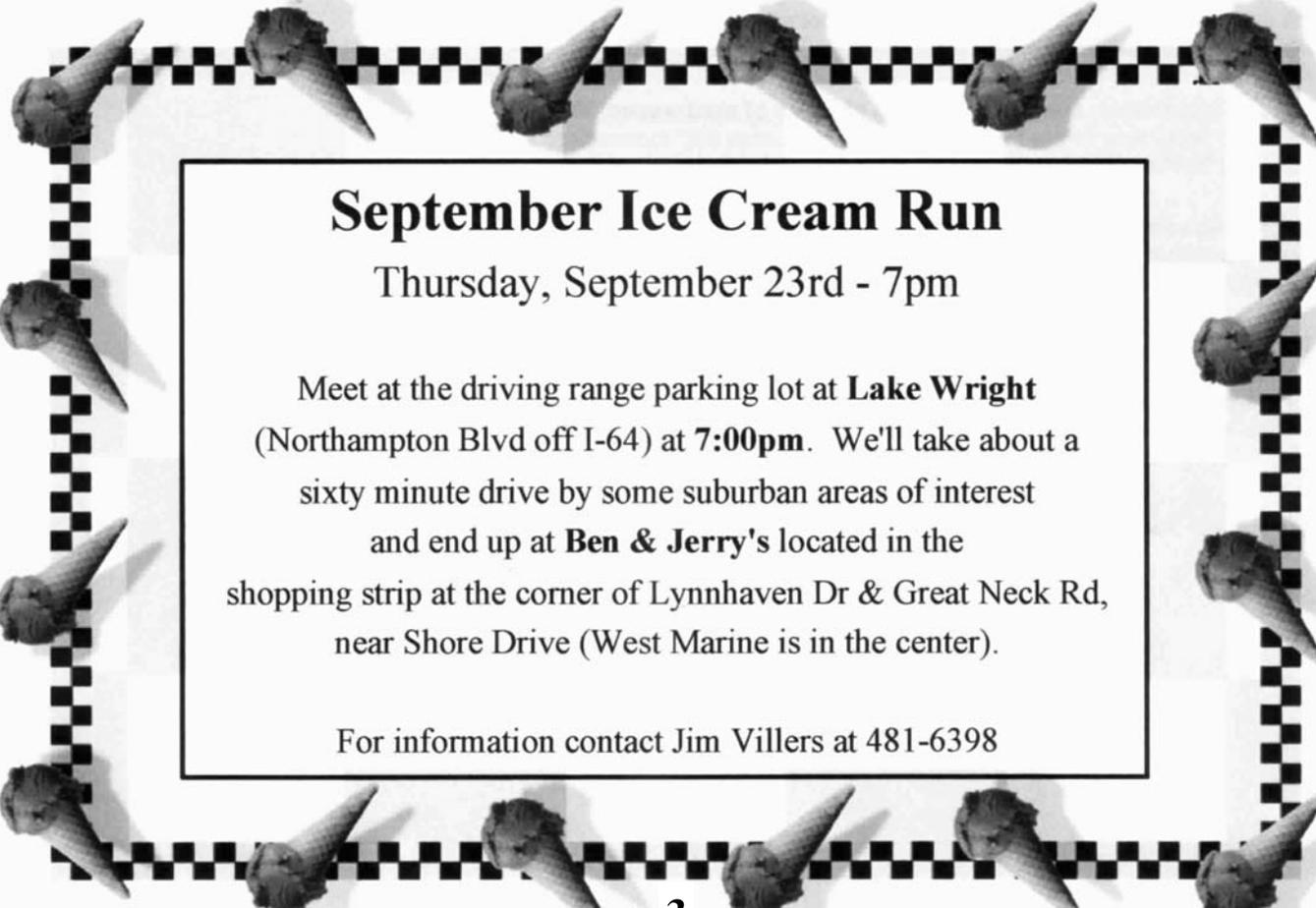
JD went to the Pittsburgh vintage grand prix this year. Saturday was a time trial and Pittsburgh Triumph club British car day. A lot of other car clubs were also in attendance. Sunday was the race but he reported that the time trial was probably the most exciting. The Mini was the featured marque this year.

Terry reported that the AACA show was Saturday September 18th in Chesapeake city park.

Andy then made a very bad joke related to gas tank baffles. Trust me, it isn't worth repeating.

Vince has a 1978 B for sale. Red, nice, and the price is right. Give him a call if you're interested.

The raffle was not held so with that we adjourned to the refreshments like mosquito larvae swarming to puddles of newly fallen rain.



September Ice Cream Run

Thursday, September 23rd - 7pm

Meet at the driving range parking lot at **Lake Wright** (Northampton Blvd off I-64) at **7:00pm**. We'll take about a sixty minute drive by some suburban areas of interest and end up at **Ben & Jerry's** located in the shopping strip at the corner of Lynnhaven Dr & Great Neck Rd, near Shore Drive (West Marine is in the center).

For information contact Jim Villers at 481-6398

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(Continued from page 1)

Oct. 15-17 Sportscar Vintage Racing Association at VIR,
www.virclub.com

Oct. 17 Town Point Wine Festival

Oct. 19 Dipstick Deadline

Oct. 30 Driver Days



Membership & New Members

Robin Watson

Total membership 112

Membership is now 112. We have had three members contact me to let me know they will not be renewing and have four new members since the last Dipstick printing. These 112 members include 27 that have not yet renewed as of August 19th. I hope to have some more renewals before the mailing of the Dipstick. The four new members since our last printing of the Dipstick are:

Gregory & Catherine Grossman
110 Whitestone Ct.
Newport News, VA. 23603
(757) 871-1979
Email: gregory.grossman@eustis.army.mil
with a 1975 B.

Stephen Schrieberg
700 E. Main St. Ste. 1622
Richmond, VA. 23219
(804) 562-5157
with a 1949 TC.

Dave & Tate Embree
28810 Walters Hwy
Carrsville, VA. 23315
(757) 569-0176
Email: TateDave@yahoo.com
with a 1980 B.

Frank D'Angelo
400 Canberry Ct. # 1431
Virginia Beach, VA. 23453
(757) 965-6028
Email: fdangelo1@cox.net

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 | Beckey Watson | 426-2600 |
| Historian | Susan Bond | 482-5222 |
| Technical | Mark Childers | 432-9155 |
| Regalia | Frank Linse | 461-7783 |
| Clubs | Mike Ash | 495-0307 |

On a Sad Note...

Early in July Helen Barrows passed away. She was the wife of our founder, Dave, who passed away last year. Helen was a very lovely, gracious lady and all those who were in the Club during its early years fondly remember some of our wonderful Christmas parties at their house. Ceit Fisher, her granddaughter, is carrying on the legacy of Dave and Helen along with Dave's red TD. Our condolences go out to Helen's family.

July Ice Cream Social

Alan Watson
Pictures by Robin Watson

Five MGs met at Greenbrier Mall for the start of the July drive-out to Bergeys Ice Cream in Chesapeake. Besides Olive and Rob Watson there was Vince and



Pam Groover, Susan and Terry Bond, Mike Haag, and Alan and Beckey Watson. They met under cloudy skies but it appeared that the rain was going to hold off for the duration.

The route took us out of the mall onto Greenbrier parkway, Butts Station and Elbow roads, and onto Indian River Road. From there, we went down to North Landing Road, over the North Landing Bridge, and back into Chesapeake. Then -- with Bergeys only minutes away -- the leader of the pack turned left onto Fentress Road, and we took the circuitous route around Fentress

airfield. What a show the navy put on for us, as several fighter jets practiced touch and go's at Fentress. (Felt like we were being buzzed with the top down!) Combine that with the cornfields and soy beans and it made for a wonderful trip.



We pulled into Bergeys to be greeted by Frank and Morris Worrell. As can be expected, Bergeys ice cream was



as wonderful as ever, the rain stayed away, and it

turned out to be a perfect summer evening for driving a LBC.

Many thanks to Robin Watson who organized this particular run.

Meeting

August 3, 2004 at Jim and Betty Villers



Eastern Shore Drive Out

Becky Watson

What stretches for miles across the Chesapeake Bay? The smiles of happy MG drivers as they cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, of course! TMGC members were invited to the weekend home of Jennifer and Mike Ash on Sunday, August 8th. The weather was perfect for top-down driving, as eleven MG's and four "other brands" convoyed the fifty-five miles from Shore Drive in Virginia Beach to Eastville, on the Eastern Shore. As Alan and I pulled up to the toll booth, the toll collector was gazing out her little



booth, not handing us anything or speaking to us. Alan called up to her, "Hello?" and she jumped, looked surprised, and said, "Oh sorry, I didn't see you down there! I'm used to all the SUV's being at my eye level!" Alan told her to get used to looking down for a little while because there were several more LBC's behind us.



It was a pretty sight to see the MGs traveling across the bay: Craig & Joyce Cummings; Mike Haag & Denise; Barry Tyson; Alan & Becky Watson; Rob & Olive Watson; Frank Worrell and his son Morris; Jim Simpson and daughter Emily; Doug & Eiko Wilson; Frank & Kerry Hurley; Vince Groover, being chauffeured by Frank Linse; and Andy Wallach. Not far behind in an assortment of other domestic and im-

ported vehicles was Cynthia Faschini with her dad; Susan & Terry Bond; Peggy & George Craig; Barb Taychert & Mike Knepler; Roy & Marilyn Wiley; and Jack & Becky Dawson. We were met that side of the bridge by MGs driven by Jack & Ann Cabanillas, and Jennifer & Mike Ash, and Hank & Stevie Giffen in something non-MG.



Our first stop was for lunch at the Eastville Inn. Attendance of thirty-six people exceeded



the expectation of the quaint centurion restaurant and the Ash's. The menu offered some different and interesting

choices, and Bass Ale was a popular side. The slight wait for our food (since we slammed the kitchen with a dozen more orders than we prepared them for) didn't deter the liveliness of the club. Members laughed and visited



with each other, especially some of the folks from Williamsburg and other points at the top of the Tidewater area, that aren't always able to attend the events on the southside.

The Inn had a room devoted to local history with a nice exhibition of artifacts and photographs of the historical area adjacent to the Inn. It was great to see so many LBC-lovers having such a nice time.



Hosts Jennifer and Mike Ash

wonderful display of MGs winding down the road. Although the choreography at the driveway was a bit confusing when our fearless president drove his TF counter-clockwise (instead of following-the-leader clockwise); but as soon as we saw the smoke rising from the engine, we realized he had headed straight for the garage -- the driver and his car needed a drink. Later inspection revealed a split radiator hose, but fortunately there were a few mechanics on hand.

The short drive to the Ash's weekend residence was another



Once the front lawn was full of MGs, we headed up the slope to the Ash's beautiful home, spacious decks, and fantastic view of the Chesapeake Bay! It was like a grown-up playground -- so many things to see and do. We all toured through the two-story log



frame house, admiring Mike's painstaking handiwork, cutting, hand sanding and individually installing all the paneled wood throughout the interior. (It was also interesting to note that there were more garages (3) than



bathrooms (2); wonder who designed that...) We nibbled on goodies Jennifer set out, and helped ourselves to a cold brew. Some of us took a walk down the



Ash's pier, where a couple of adirondak chairs with umbrellas invited us to "sit a spell" and enjoy the view of the water.

I'm not sure if Jennifer and Mike expected us to stay all afternoon, but no one seemed to be willing to make the first move back towards home. It was as

if the world had slowed its orbit a little, city life and sounds were far away, and the company of friends and LBC's in that beautiful atmosphere were hard to leave. It was amazing how comfortable thirty-plus people were at what Jennifer calls a "small" weekend get-away. Thank you Jennifer and Mike Ash for sharing your treasure on the Eastern Shore with the club!



Note from the Editors....

Susan Bond

We've been busy again! Lots to read about in this issue. Please help me remember to ask for writers at the meetings — I forgot this month and will have to write about the tech session myself, good thing I took lots of pictures. There are lots of events in September, so decide which one you want to write about, speak up at the meeting, and then take all the credit.

For the first time in years I went to an event without my MG. I wasn't willing to risk the Eastern Shore trip with a temp gauge that read HOT. Several people on the trip said the under-dash voltage stabilizer may be the problem and it was. No more overheating. Then my new-to-me Jeep overheated — the electric fan had disintegrated. It is still under warranty and in the shop. I sure will be glad when cooler weather gets here.

Many thanks to Mike and Jennifer for the opportunity to visit their home again. The club had made a trip over there in '95 when the house was no where near done but the garages were. Priorities!

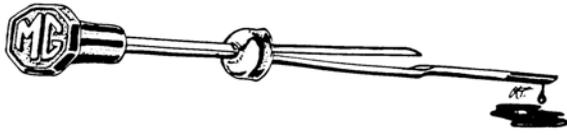
The End of the Rover V8

Mike Haag

As reported in the July 2004 issue of *Classic And Sports Car* magazine, production of the long-lived Rover V8 engine ceased in May, after a run of 37 years. Lately used in the Land Rover Discovery, the newly redesigned Discovery model will use Jaguar power instead, relegating the Rover V8 to the scrap heap of automotive history. The all-aluminum engine was designed by General Motors and used in Buick Special and Oldsmobile F85 models in 1961 and 1962, but was discontinued in 1963. Rover secured the rights to manufacture the engine in the mid 1960s, and the first Rover car to use the new engine was the P5B coupe. Many other British manufacturers also used this engine, among them Morgan, TVR, Land Rover, Ginetta, Triumph in the TR8, and MG in the UK-only MGB GT V8 from 1973-1976. Originally 3.5 liters in size, the engine grew over the years, as seen in the limited production 3.9 liter MGB RV8, to over 4.0 liters in later Land Rovers. This engine, along with the original Buick/Oldsmobile incarnations, has been used in many MGB "hot rods".

As a side note, we always read that the factory MGB GT V8 cars were produced in right hand drive only since they were not exported to America. However, according to the book *MGB, An Illustrated History*, seven early left-hand drive MGB GT V8 models were built and sent to the US for evaluation. After realizing it would take too much re-work to meet Federal regulations, all seven were returned to Abingdon and sold off. If any of these LHD models still survive, they would surely rank among the rarest of MG models.

The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Susan Bond
541 Forest Road
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS

7:30 - Kick Tyres
8:00 - Meeting

Monthly Meeting
Wed, Sep 1st
Paul & Carmen Thiergardt
5232 Fairfield Blvd
Va. Beach
497-0455