# The Dipstick



Volume XXXIII, Issue 10

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

October 2006

#### **MARQUE TIME**

Despite the weather, we had another nice turn out for the September meeting in North Pungo. We ended up with 27 members present, but none came in their MG's. No cars sank in our sodden lawn, although we had plenty of SUV's ready to pull them out just in case. It reminded me of the Pig Roast we had back in '99 when Dan Kirby's GT had to pull Randy Brackett's TR3 out of our flooded field.

Speaking of our field, Beckey and I are hosting the annual Pig Roast this year. For those who would like to participate, we will start with a "variation on the poker run." We will meet at Kellam High School at 2 p.m. for instructions and directions. For those who don't want to participate in the Poker Game, you can come to our house around 4:00 p.m. for the results, and we'll start serving the BBQ shortly thereafter. See the *Dipstick* for more info.

The next meeting will be our "election" meeting. Many thanks go to Mike Haag and Robin Watson for serving on the nominating committee. I would also be remiss at this time if I didn't thank all those whose hard work make this club the successful group that it is. A heart-felt thanks go out to J.D. Hawthorne (VP), Doug Kennedy (Secretary), Jim Villers (Treasurer), Sue Bond (Historian and Newsletter), Peggy Craig (newsletter), Beckey Watson (Activities), Mike Ash (Clubs), Robin Watson (Membership), Mark Childers (Technical), Becky Hassler (Regalia) and Mike Haag (Website). I also want to say how much I appreciate all those who volunteered to host a monthly meeting, as well as those folks who are always there to lend a helping hand, a piece of advice or having a spare hard-to-find part. As much as I love and admire my car (and I do!), it's the people behind the cars (and often times underneath them!) that make being a part of TMGC so much fun.

Safety Fast,

Alan



## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

Sept.29-Oct. 1 Sportscar Vintage Racing Asso ciation at VIR, www.virclub.com

Oct. 1 SCCA Solo II, www.odr-scca.org

Oct. 4 Wednesday meeting at Chuck & Becky Hassler's (see back page)

Oct. 6-8 Waynesboro BCS, www.svbcc.net

Oct. 8 Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA, mgcarclubdc.com

Oct. 8 TTR Chili Cook Off (see page 2)

Oct. 12 Dipstick Deadline

Oct. 14 MADD rally in Richmond, support. madd.org/site/PageServer? pagename=wp3\_homepage

Oct. 15 Poker Rallye and Pig Roast (see page 3)

Oct. 27-29 Virginia Fall Classic, Newport News, www.vafallclassic.org

Oct. 28-29 SCCA TSD Tour, www.odr-scca.org

Oct. 21 Driver Days, www.driverva.com

Nov. 5 SCCA Solo II, www.odr-scca.org

Nov. 7 Tuesday meeting at the home of Ron and Anita (Edwards-) Struewing

Nov. 12 Dipstick Deadline

Nov. 19 SCCA TSD Tour, www.odr-scca.org

#### **Officers and Committees**

President	Alan Watson	426-2600
Vice President	J.D. Hawthorne	723-0630
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Peggy Craig	226-7755
	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	Becky Hassler	874-1477
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	mikeh@whro.net

#### Membership and New Members

Robin Watson

#### **Total membership 91**

Membership for this month is now at 91. We had 114 members when renewal time started and 26 members have not renewed from last year. At the August Ice Cream run Anne Lose Larsen and her son Magnus Joined us with her1960 MGA and is now a new member. I have not listed her address here for you to put in the Directory that you have because it will be in the new Directory that you should receive by next month.

#### **October Elections**

Mike Haag

The list of proposed candidates for the elected offices of the Tidewater MG Classics Club for 2007 are as follows:

Alan Watson for President JD Hawthorne for Vice President Michele Peters for Secretary Jim Villers for Treasurer

The election will be held at the October meeting.

#### **September Minutes**

Michele Peters

We began our September meeting at the renovated 1880's-era farmhouse of El Presidente and Mrs. Presidente at 8:09 PM on the 5th. Alan and Beckey's place is very quaint, and Beckey's fare was delicious. Thank you both, for a fun, relaxed monthly meeting.



### Tidewater Triumph Register Annual Chili Cook Off

Sun, Oct 8, Noon

The TTR has extended an invitation for us to participate in or just come and enjoy the food, fun and company. This is one of the biggest events of the year for the TTR. That means plenty of competition and good eats.

HOST: Skip & Meredith Paetz

4510 Three Pine Lane, VB (Pungo area)
Phone: 721-2427, email: 1974TR6@cox.net

There will be a prize for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Best Named Chili.

Participants should bring their chili and a spoon for serving.

Anyone coming should bring a covered dish to share and BYOB.

Please let Skip & Meredith know if you're attending via phone or email (above). Tell them what dish you plan to bring and if you're entering a Chili so they will know how many electrical outlets to provide.

I must say that I was feeling rather badly about my cheeky remarks in the August minutes concerning their absence from the August meeting. Alan's article on the front page of *The Dipstick* was so heart-rending, after all, given all their misfortune with their LBC and the trip they had planned for so long. I felt like a bit of a cad (I did not, of course, know of their misfortunes at the time I wrote my Minutes). So, my apologies to Alan and Beckey, and to anyone else in our membership who may have been offended by my remarks about their absence in the minutes.

**New Members and Guests**: There were no new members or guests. However, some of our membership who rarely grace us with their presence attended, which was a nice change.

Vice-President: Nothing to report from J.D.

**Treasurer:** Jim Villers reported a balance forward from August of \$2,636.95. Our receipts included \$57.00 from regalia and \$238.50 from dues. Disbursements included \$24.15 for Becky Hassle from regalia, \$40.00 for Alan Watson as host for the September meeting, and \$19.43 to Jim Villers for name tags. Our disbursements totaled \$83.58 and our new balance equaled \$2,848.87.

**Activities**: Beckey reminded us about the Brown's Island car show on Sept. 17, Mike Haag, reporting; the Wings and Wheels show on September 30,

(continued on page 4)



#### Tidewater MG Classics

### Poker Rallye and Pig Roast

DATE: Sunday, Oct 15th

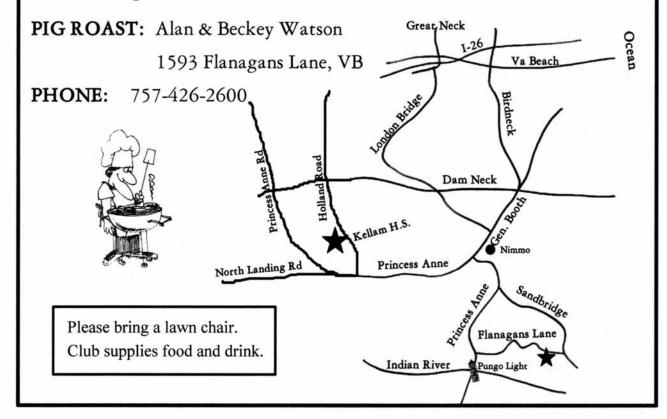
TIME: 2:00pm at Kellam High School

2323 Holland Road in Va Beach



This is a gimmick rallye, but it is not critical to have a navigator. There will not be questions to answer or clues to look for as you drive. Rather, there will be several named destinations to visit via whichever streets you want, to get a card at each point. The more destinations you visit, the better hand of cards you can collect. Best poker hand wins. Rules and restrictions will be given at beginning of the rallye.

If you don't want to participate in the Rallye, the Pig Roast will start around 4:00pm



Becky Hassler, reporting; our October 4 meeting at Chuck and Becky Hassler's home in Yorktown (yes, THIS is the apple pie meeting everyone awaits all year); and the Waynesboro BCS on Oct 6-8, Beckey Watson, reporting. November meeting at Anita's house, TBA.

Beckey also reminded us all about the October 15 Poker Rallye & Pig Roast at the Watson's. There is no planned route; there will be a deck of cards to obtain from each establishment, the best hand wins. If you do not wish to participate in the rallye, the pig roast will begin at the Watson's house at 1593 Flanagans Lane, VBch, at 4:00 PM.

Everyone agreed that the Aviation Museum was an awesome outing which everyone who attended enjoyed immensely. A vintage plane was even pulled out for us to enhance the pictures with our LBCs.

**Clubs**: Mike was absent and there was no report.

**Historian:** Susan noted that she has begun working on the 2006 album, and has others for our viewing pleasure.

**Newsletter**: Peggy was absent for the meeting, but Susan reported that we had another full 12-page issue for September. Alan noted that it costs the club \$1/member/month to mail *The Dipstick*, so we don't want to go over our 12-page limit. Susan also wanted to make sure everyone knows that the deadline for submissions to *The Dipstick* is now the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, not the 15<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that she had received the information on the Marker 20 Hampton British Car Show too late for printing in the newsletter, and the show had been canceled because there were not enough people signed up for it. There was also some discussion about putting the newsletter on the website in PDF format. See Old Business for a further discussion of this issue.

**Technical**: Mark was not in attendance at the meeting, so we had no report.

Old Business: Claire is still working on the pros and cons of an electronic newsletter. Alan mentioned again that we get \$20/member or couple/year. We spend \$12 of it for the mailing of *The Dipstick* so there is not a lot left over of the dues that we pay. Mike Haag will look into what would be entailed in putting *The Dipstick* into PDF format. Then all the old arguments re-surfaced about putting the newsletter on the website and robbing us of our dues--paying members who will just read *The Dipstick* on the web. The Richmond club was cited as having their newsletter on their website in password-protected form; it was suggested that only the newsletter and the directory, for example, be password-protected. Anita noted that she found our club through the internet.

Alan reminded us that we were also discussing how to get more young people to become interested and members; no one had come up with any good ideas yet, except mine, of course... just give them a RIDE in a LBC, that should do the trick.

New Business: Mike Haag gave us the Nominating Committee's report on the slate for the 2006-2007 club officers: Alan Watson – President; J.S. Hawthorne – Vice-President; Jim Villers – Treasurer; Secretary – Me, Michele Peters. The entire suggested slate are all returning officers, except me. Nominations will be accepted by any member until September 12. Oops, too late if you are just finding out about this now. Sorry!

I am nominated for Doug Kennedy's hallowed spot. I'm totally unsure that I will do as good a job as Doug did, but I can tell you one thing: I am at least following in his footsteps with regard to winning any doggone raffle tickets. The position is apparently cursed (which no one bothered to tell me before I agreed to, dare I say, run for this position). At our September meeting, at which Doug officially declined to continue on as Secretary, he won at the raffle, something he had *never done* while holding the Secretarial position. I, on the other hand, have never won the raffle, not even the smallest prize. So, I guess the tradition continues.

Marque Time: Doug Kennedy mentioned that several years ago he bought an Interstate battery for his B. It wore out prematurely, before its warranty expired. He was on the Eastern Shore at the time, but he had no trouble getting a local mechanic to give him a new one. He also mentioned that the Scalectrix cars performed great.

On October 6, Virginia Wesleyan College is having their homecoming, and Doug requested LBC roadsters for the drive around the football field with the homecoming court. You should email Doug if you are interested in participating or having your car in the parade. His email address is: kennedy@vwc.edu.

Fred's Auto Museum in Appomattox is selling off its collection. The museum has all kinds of cars available. They are not, however, necessarily cheap.

The Tidewater Antique Car Show, an AACA organization, will be held on Saturday, September 23 at the Chesapeake City Park.

Robin had information on a 1967 GT B with a good body and an engine that will turn over, but a car that won't run. See him if you are interested.

Becky's raffle was a good one: Harry Watson won the "mystery box," actually a real side mirror; Doug Kennedy won the MG Owners Club magazine; Anita won the Tidewater MG patch (OK, what's the deal...Anita wins something EVERY time...); J.D. won a T-shirt; Olive won the coveted license-plate holder; and Terry was first-in-line for the delicious

fare that Beckey served up. It was suggested that other people bring things to the raffle that they might wish to contribute to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM and it was a mad rush to the kitchen and the victuals. All of the food that Beckey made was delicious, but I can't remember the name of everything. Well, sorry about that. You know, you can only expect so much out of your Secretary; witty humor, amazing memory (*who* are we talking about here?), delightful repartee, creative writing....OK, OK, you probably know the drill by now....so sue me.

#### **August Ice Cream Run**

August 21, 2006 Bob Ross



Monday evening a number of MGs and a Mercedes met at Ben & Jerry's Parking lot on Great Neck Road, Virginia Beach. An examination was occurring



(oos and ahs) on prospective new member Anne Larsen's and son Magnus, sparkling white MGA. Roy & Marilyn Wiley, Mike Haag, Vince & Pam Groover, Bill Olcheski & daughter Rachel, Jack & Linda Pavlidis, Peggy Craig & Scott Bradford, Bob & Barbara Ross, Sue & Terry Bond, Michele Peters & Robert Perrone and Robin Watson were enjoying perfect weather for the anticipated drive through the northern part of the Virginia Beach area.

Shortly after 7 PM Jim and Betty Villers, Rally



Masters, charged out of the parking lot followed by the MG contingent in close pursuit. Equipped with a meticulously prepared direction sheet

we followed the leader, lest we get challenged to read the directions and coordinate the proper turns...thanks Jim for driving at a conservative speed.



Scenic ride, along Shore Drive, adjacent and

through First Landing State Park. At 63rd Street we picked up Ocean Front Avenue which parallels the Beach. Quaint beach houses of all types and sizes. Numerous public beach access areas are scattered along this Avenue as well as a tour going through the Ramada parking garage.



At 47th Street we proceeded West onto Bay Col-



ony Drive which meanders through stately pines and towering oak trees with panoramic views of Little Neck Creek and Linkhorn Bay. Proceeding on Bay Shore Drive we dashed past Rainy Gut (waterway connecting Crystal Lake

with Linkhorn Bay) and the estate of developer Mr. Breeden (no he doesn't drive an MG to work, rather he flies a helicopter). Beautifully manicured lawns, a gardener's paradise.

The rolling route wound around, exiting on Linkhorn Drive to Pacific Avenue, Atlantic Avenue and

past the relatively new Neptune statue next to the Hotel Hilton public and parking ga-Conrage. tinuing South we saw the Life Saving



Museum where Kate Fisher of MGTD fame spends her working hours.

The British caravan headed over to visit Butch Ballback's house on Oriole Road. His houses are on

Little Neck Creek with panoramic views of the Creek and Linkhorn Bay. Thanks Butch for the refreshments and the thrilling tour of your site. Rustic



main house, multiple decks, stone walls, California Red Wood, and oak planks harvested by the hurricane Isabel waiting to be installed. Prime location in a beautiful neighborhood. Having built the original house and



garage some 25 years ago, Butch seems determined to do it all over again with a rather large expansion of the original property with the help of many able hands including our designer MG person, Sue Bond, and the engineering talent of our own Jim Villers. Butch has made great progress on his houses with much work to go!

Just before dark we headed from Butch's house to the Purple Cow at which time we were joined up with Frank Worrell and his son Morris and Jim Simpson. They couldn't miss out on the treats at the Purple Cow....somehow the

purple reminds me of a



Jim Villers with his purple cow

grape flavor....no it is colored vanilla...sundaes, shakes, banana splits. You should have been there!

As recent (2004) arrivals to the Tidewater area, Barbara and I delighted in seeing some unusual scenery, neighborhoods, houses and views of the waterways. Thanks Jim and Betty for an outstanding drivable treat.

#### **August Tech. Session**

August 27, 2006 Robin Watson

Well I must be slipping, Ken Lacy beat me to the Tech Session at Jim & Linda's home in Chesapeake

in his beautiful Austin Healey 100 V8 that he has just finished rebuilding. I think he



said it took him eight years, but he still did not beat my record of being 23.5 hours early for a Tech Session that I got to at Frank's two years ago.

We had a great day after rounding the shrub-



bery close to the driveway that had been torn up by a car going into the ditch the day before. Not too much work but enough to keep us going on two M G s, b u t mainly a day of

talking, enjoying good company and good food. Talking of food, I must say that the Tall Blonde did a great job on the brats for you Linda and for those that want to see what you missed there is a picture of the Tall Blonde on a later page of the Dipstick. When John Terschak arrived we got to talking and I showed him where I hook up my remote starter button under the bonnet to crank the engine if needed when working in the engine compartment by using the bottom fuse and the connector on the starter relay. He told us that he

was going to work on his drive shaft, so I loaned him the two special ½" boxed end wrenches that I have for this job (ground down to



make them thin enough to get on the nut and bolt heads). At this point I misunderstood him because he had a drive shaft in the boot and I thought that he was going to change it over with the one on the car. But then later he started to change the universal joint on the one he took off the car.

Bob Ross came along with his 80 B running good and not needing to get in line for repairs. Terry, Sue and Vince were the next three MGs to arrive and



Susan told Terry that thev were still pumping smoke from the exhaust on gear changing and felt that the engine was running rich on the

74 B-GT. Terry took the air filters off and Vince checked out the carburetor adjustment. He found that the adjustments they had were satisfactory except for the idle being a little high. We noticed that the smoke was always there at the exhaust not just at gear change and a very strong blue in color. Even though the engine has just been rebuilt and Terry and Susan have just had the head off to fit a new head gasket since the re-



build because of a warp in the head, it's a pity they did

not pull the pistons at the same time because I feel they may have some piston ring grooves inline with each other. While this was going on Jim Villers, Andy and Roy Wiley arrived. Now John was having some trouble with the universal joint replacement. He had some trouble with a needle laying down and not being able to get the last circlip in. Vince and I



John and Vince

gave him a helping hand to see if we could get it fixed. I had not heard the earlier warning from Jim not to over tighten the vice and it did not take us long to break the vice handle (sorry about that Jim). We then took it over to the press and finished up damaging the flange unit on the rear end. I talked John into putting the other drive shaft on even though Susan was on her way home to get a spare flange for John.

While we were waiting for Susan to come back we had a visit from one of our old members, Bob Stein, who pulled into the driveway in a car that had a English number plate on the front that said 1952 TD. Walking around the car just revealed that things were not as should be; the gas tank had a hole cut in it in the center and a few inches down from the top and in this area was an intake filter. Also you could see inside the car was a lot of leg and foot room (that Bob said worked very well for him) and the hand brake was mounted in front of the gearshift on the trunion housing. Bob opened the bonnet to show us a good storage area and the in-use gas tank. Then at the back of the car the spare wheel was pivoted away and the gas tank opened to the VW engine, this turned out to be a fiberglass replica made specifically for the VW bug chassis. The car is a British Coach Works Model 52; most of the chrome and trim are actual TD parts. The chassis is a 1969 standard beetle with a slightly up-rated dual-port 1600 cc engine. Bob is hoping to make the trip to Browns Island with this car. Susan returned with the parts for John and at this time I left for home and Terry was helping John finish up on the B.



Bob Ross



#### **Meeting**

September 5, 2006 at the Watson's







That helpful Tall Blonde

#### Homeward Bound--"flushing it out"

By Terry Bond

Although MG 2006 concluded officially with the Saturday evening banquet, it didn't end for the Tidewater Group until we got home – and that of course was another adventure (as they all tend to be).

We set out after a big breakfast at what had become our usual eating establishment – the pancake



house just up from the hotel. I can't figure out the pancake attraction in Gatlinburg, but there are more "Pancake houses" than gas stations. Maybe pancakes are just cheap to make and hard to screw up. They are kinda universal--I've had them in all corners of the globe and they all taste the same. (So why I keep eating them I'll never figure out). Oh well, pancakes make the world go round, and fill the empty corners of one's stomach.

Our route out of town took us back towards the show field, only this time it was a bit of a lonely trip. Still, we saw MGs, luggage racks loaded, headed out of town. All roads lead home I guess.

We had decided to detour over a country road that looked a bit squiggly on the map, but also seemed to be

a shortcut to the North Carolina line. First rule for navigators – if it looks like a narrow winding road on the map, it's ten times worse than that in reality. It didn't take us long to realize the reason the road twisted so was



to get up the side of a mountain. Once again we headed into some great switch-backs at speed and thrilled with the smell of misty mountain air mixed with the exhaust from our MGs. Ah – the squeal of tires, the thrill of acceleration coming out of a tight turn... ah, the feel of hot coffee in one's crotch!

Wonderful mountain roads quickly became a mysterious valley with small cottages on hillsides, house trailers, junk cars on cinder blocks, all that great mountain scenery! Somebody was overheard on the walkietalkie – "go faster Vince, I hear banjo music!"

No sooner did we crest the mountain top and begin our descent when the pavement suddenly disappeared! Gads -- a dirt road and my freshly painted MG! What a terrible thought! Good thing I was once again dragging anchor with this group. I took the opportunity to draw back and float more "gently" around the turns. As the rest of the crowd disappeared into the mist I realized that the only thing you could actually hear out there was the chirping of birds and the distant roar of the MGs (OK, yeah, there was some banjo music off in the distance!).

Eventually
the road
dumped out
into a wider
stretch parallel
with the Pigeon
River. We
stopped at the



power generating plant and marveled at the white water ahead. This was actually a place where people could launch their boats for rafting expeditions downstream. We rested the cars, ourselves, and then crossed a onelane bridge into North Carolina and connected with Route 40

There was a bit more traffic along 40 but the MG crowd led the pace over the mountains. It didn't take us too long to catch up with our first storm of the day. We had avoided the "R" word all week for the most part, but it was pretty clear that the trip home might be a wet one. It was pretty heavy for a while, and I learned something about MGs in heavy traffic and heavier rain – you can't see a damn thing!

The rain was over almost as soon as it began, but those dark clouds hovered everywhere. It was a case only of dodging the drops when they did choose to let go.

We continued on 40 for a while but decided that back-roads might offer the best opportunity to see some interesting scenery, so by the time another downpour hit, we (well, some of us) found the exit for Route 601 headed towards Mt. Airy, home of none other than Andy Griffith. I missed the exit in a hard rain, had to go on to the next one and loop back, adding about 15 miles to my trip, but eventually caught the others at a

We motored on through some small villages. A fast-food lunch break and a quick circuit of the budding metropolis of Yadkinville provided a much needed legstretch and a chance to replenish the iced tea.

We tried to catch a couple of wineries but they



closed on Sunday. so all we could do was mark little X's the on

map and smack our lips hoping for a return trip (hint Beckey?).

By the time we arrived in Mt. Airy it was getting late and Andy was gone for the day (Griffith, not Wallach). We checked into a delightfully neat Quality Inn and walked across the street for a fairly civilized dinner at Applebees. After some later in-room scotch whisky tasting we retired to the veranda for a relaxing social hour, while I behaved in the typical anti-social manner cleaning the car.

Next day, our intent was to motor on towards Rt. 58 (the flat part) and try to get back into Tidewater in the mid-afternoon. From there it was pretty much a straight shot. Although those dark clouds continued to move all around us, we managed to keep dry a little while longer.

We did note that the further we got away from Gatlinburg and major roads, the fewer MGs were seen. By the time we got up to 58 and turned back East, we were alone. As we closed in on the Tidewater area, the clouds grew darker and eventually, we caught up with the rain once again. Just outside of Suffolk we stopped for a gas break and met briefly with an MGA and MGB headed back to New Jersey. Both cars sans tops! I hope they had drain plugs in them.

Timing was great, the weather was lousy! Once it

began to rain. it just never stopped. It rained buckets. T h e worst of it was at end the



of the trip, when we were tired and fed-up with it! By the time we got home, we all wished we had drain plugs!

It's amazing how long it takes to pack or unpack a small car! But I guess part of that was we just didn't want the adventure to end. There is always something sad about putting your souvenirs in a drawer, wondering what you will do with all the stuff from the goodie bag, and how you managed to end up with so many dirty clothes stuffed behind the seats (and your suitcase is still full!)

Gee, we got home early enough to start downloading pictures and thinking about what a wonderful week it had been at MG 2006. The new maroon B performed like a new car. We had a blast breaking it in - and flushing it out!

Thanks Mike, Barry, Bernie, Vince, Jack, Andy & Cynthia, Josh & Diane Mike & Jennifer, Doug & Eiko, Chuck & Beckey, Craig & Joyce, Bob & Dana, Frank & Morris, Richard & Sandy for your company. It was really a great time!

Next time is going to be in California, Napa Valley I understand. Don't know if we will drive out or not, but there is talk of a future event up in Valley Forge, PA, one of our stops on the way to Parsipany, NJ, a couple of years ago. I'm game for it – and it might just be a nice break-in run for Sue's BGT after that one takes its turn in the shop.

Happy motoring!



# The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Susan Bond 541 Forest Road Chesapeake, VA 23322

Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

Winner of *Old Cars Weekly* "Golden Quill Award"

#### **FIRST CLASS**

