

# The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

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

Volume XXXVII, Issue 4

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

April 2010

## MARQUE TIME

April greetings to the TMGC members. Many thanks to Cynthia and Andy for hosting the March meeting. It is always a pleasure to see how the other half lives. Although Andy said that the taste treats we enjoyed are not representative of everyday life, we think that you have it pretty good. In addition to their beautiful home, Andy's garage is enough to inspire envy in all visitors. The meeting, as usual, was a combination of great information, interesting stories, and lots of laughs.

The raffle was taken to a new level with two bottles of homemade wine prepared and donated by Pete Olson. The labels on the bottles contained pictures of Pete's MG. Thank you Pete for your creativity. This really puts a lot of pressure on Jim Villers to find something other than his famous belt buckle cover.

I am looking forward to the April tech session when we will replace the u-joint on my steering column. Our resident technical expert, Mark Childers, attributed the shake that I experience at speeds over 50 mph to excessive play in the column. It will be nice to return to the highways.

Please be aware that the April meeting will be at the Davidoskis' home, not ours. Due to a business meeting, we had to switch; Renee and I will host the meeting in May.

Best wishes to all and Safety Fast.  
Bill



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

- Apr. 6 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
*Hosted by Kathy & Mark Davidoski*  
*Please note the change in location*
- Apr. 9-11 GOF South – Jekyll Island, GA  
[www.MGclassics.org](http://www.MGclassics.org)
- Apr. 18 Spring Tech Session – Norfolk**  
**Hosted by Debbie & Frank Linse**
- Apr. 30 – May 2 - 2010 Wine Tour to Loudoun County, VA
- May 2 - British & European Car Show – Williamsburg  
[www.wmbgbrit.com](http://www.wmbgbrit.com)
- May 5 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
**Hosted by Renee & Bill Olcheski**  
**Please note the change in location.**
- May 29 – June 6 - Drive your British Car Week
- Jun. 1 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
**Hosted by Issie & Bill Yoshida**
- Jun. 16 Wednesday Ice Cream Drive  
In honor of the first Roller Coaster in the US – Coney Island, 1884
- Jun. 23-27 MG 2010 – Belleville, Ontario  
[www.mg2010.com](http://www.mg2010.com)
- Jul. 1-3 GOF – Huron, OH [www.gofcentral.com](http://www.gofcentral.com)  
Hosted by the Ohio Chapter - NEMGTR
- Jul. 7 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
**Hosted by Betty & Jim Villers**

## Upcoming Activities (continued)

- Jul. 10 Saturday - Eastern Shore Treasure Hunt (Rain Date – Sunday, July 11) Hosted by Richard Leal & Mike Ash Details will be coming in a future issue of The Dipstick.
- Aug. 3 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach Hosted by Karen & Tad Carter
- Aug. 7 Classics at Lee Hall – Contact Clay Drnec – 804-824-9198
- Aug. 15 Summer Tech Session – Chesapeake —10:00AM Hosted by Linda & Jim Freeh
- Sep. 1 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach Hosted by Anita & Ron Struewing
- Sep.24-26 Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA,



# MARCH MINUTES

Michele Peters

We began our March meeting at 8:08 PM on March 3, 2010 at the always and continuously lovely home of former President Andy Wallach and his always and continuously lovely wife, Cynthia Faschini. As usual, there was plenty of good food and spirits available to the rather large crew that showed up for the meeting, so kudos to Ms. Faschini (I presume;but if you assisted, Andy, you will need to provide substantial and convincing evidence!).

**New Members and Guests:** Yes, we had a guest, James, joining us, along with his '77 B that he bought when we was just a lad of 21. He assures us that it has been “everywhere” with it. This is not all that unusual among the members of our club, James, but generally requires going “everywhere” with a trailer as well. Welcome, James. Come back and bring dues with you.

**VP's Report:** Russ uttered the elegant “Uh...” and who needs more than that?

**Treasurer Report:** Jim Villers provided an updated report including \$73 in receipts and \$85 in disbursements to leave us with a goodly amount of money. See an officer for details, if you wish.

**Activities Report:** In this issue, I am hereby exercising my legal rights and making a command decision

to remove this section from the minutes, since Tad does such a wonderful job detailing upcoming activities for our club in another section of this newsletter. So, bye-bye!

**Clubs Report:** Mike and Jennifer graced us with their presence (although they will miss next meeting as they will be touring the Lake District and environs in England...I ask and I ask and I just can't get anyone to take them with me over there!!). Mike noted that Peggy did a super job working on the T Register, and Bob Stein's TC was showcased in the centerfold (I am not discussing what “TC” actually stands for...).

**Historian's Report:** Susan had albums for us to peruse, and it was lovely. Thanks, Sue!

**Newsletter Report:** Ron noted that we always need writers for events. All submissions are due by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, and please send to Ron ([RStruewing@cox.net](mailto:RStruewing@cox.net)) as well as to Anita ([TheAce2tor@cox.net](mailto:TheAce2tor@cox.net)), the new co-editor, for ease of composition. Peggy is still creating and producing graphs and maps, etc, and she is looking for someone to take over that duty for her....anybody interested???

**Membership Report:** Bill so proudly reports that our current TMGC club roster stands at 112 paid membership. Our new members since our Feb newsletter are Roy & Janice Gavilan of Williamsburg, and their 1965 MG B. No color provided (Ms. Green B remains interested).

**Technical Report:** Mark joined us (thank you, Mark!!) and talked a bit about emergency brakes – something about stepping on the brake pedal before pulling on the emergency brake makes the emergency brake work better, but he did not heed my prior and numerous admonitions to “Speak up so your secretary can hear you!” and consequently, my poor readers are made to suffer! (That is assuming, of course, that Mark had something of interest to say that my poor readers would be interested in!!).

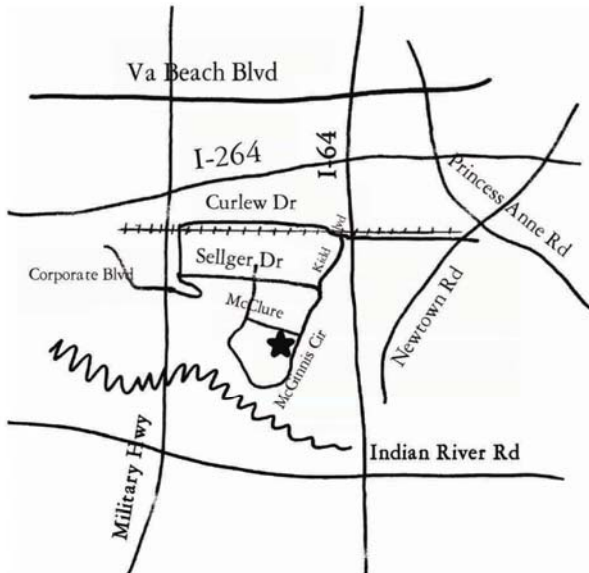
**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Most of what I wrote is illegible...sorry! (Remember, you get what you pay for!) but I could read some scribble from Terry about some person coming to the area from California in May to visit his son in the Navy here...I think he wanted us to be friendly and cordial....Terry – this shouldn't be news to you, but we are ALWAYS friendly and cordial... especially ME!! J You know how I say nice things about our club members all the time – just see how many times I used the word “lovely” in these minutes.

## Is Your Car in Need of a Tech Session?

Bring it to Frank & Deb Linse's garage

**Sunday, April 18th** starting at 10am



301 E. McGinnis Circle  
(corner of McGinnis and McClure)

Norfolk  
461-7783

On the other hand, of course, there are members like Andy and Chuck (who can't pass up a lawyer joke) who foment discontent and gnashing of teeth (mostly mine) and for whom I rarely have friendly or cordial things to say, but hey, they deserve it!!

Andy Wallach was looking for assistance for working on his TD...or was he offering to assist members with TDs? And what does TD stand for, anyway? (OK, OK, I'm kidding – I'm not that far removed from TMGC reality!)

Richard Leal relayed that he had never had so much trouble as with putting together the TC model he won in the Christmas silent auction! He said that the parts were so small that he required using his wife's tweezers. Caution should be exerted however...if you squeeze too tightly, in an effort to HOLD ON to those tiny parts, you risk having them rocketing out of the tweezers and then you get to spend hours searching for the miniscule things! Joan added that she had been unaware of Richard's "borrowing" of her tweezers and hadn't been able to tweeze her eyebrows in weeks! When she did discover the whereabouts of her tweezers, they were caked with model glue and unusable for her purposes. Buying a replacement set didn't do her much good as Richard apparently appropriated them as well! Their relaying of this story was much funnier

than can be reproduced here but, hopefully, you'll get the essence of the story and the humor as well.

Bob Stein has taken Peggy's place at the T-Register. Our club started as a T-club. Peggy has been doing the write-up for 8-9 years, and what a great job she has done. So please support and submit articles to Bob Stein from now on.

There is a '74 B GT for sale (rubber bumper style) located near the Chesapeake Square mall. Figure out who the guy in the striped sweater was that night and speak with him if you are interested.

**Raffle & Regalia:** Big winners were Greg Puryear, Russ Ripp, Terry Bond, Ron Struewng, Harry Watson ("Hi, Harry...hello to Kennie!"), James Swiggart, and I think that was it.

We adjourned at 8:45 PM and headed to the kitchen to enjoy what Andy did not make. It was such a nice evening that I didn't even feel like telling anyone if they didn't like what I had to say, to you-know-what (except for Chuck, of course).





# Activities

by Tad Carter

Our Spring Tech Session is being hosted by Frank & Debbie Linse on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. If your car is just coming back from its winter nap, this is a great chance to get it checked over

The Wine Tour is coming up on April 30 – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. It looks like there will be about 20 club members enjoying this weekend in Loudoun County. I know Becky and Alan have put together another great event.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Dipstick are the first publications about upcoming events. Our Eastern Shore Scavenger Hunt will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a full-day event including a car rally on the Eastern Shore, a driving skills course, an afternoon picnic and some time by the pool at Bay Ridge. More details will follow. Thanks to Richard Leal and Mike Ash for putting this event together.

On Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, we'll make another run out to Hanover for an afternoon at the Barksdale Theatre. Because of ticket limitations at the theatre, early registration will be necessary. Look for more information in June.

Show season is here. First up is the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual British and European Car Show hosted by the Williamsburg British Car Club on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The pre-registration fee (until April 15<sup>th</sup>) is \$20. The late registration and same-day registration fee is \$25. For more information on this show and the Williamsburg club, please check out <http://www.wmbgbrit.com>.

Another addition to the calendar is the Gathering of the Faithful on the shores of beautiful Lake Erie. This show, on July 1-3, is preceded by 3 days at the Put-in-Bay Sportscar Races, so an adventurous traveler could have a really nice week of British car activities. You will find details at [www.gofcentral.com](http://www.gofcentral.com).

Coming up a little later in the summer is the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Classics at Lee Hall on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Goodie bags and dash plaques will be given to the first 100 show entries. Limited information is available at [www.leehall.org](http://www.leehall.org). There is no online registration form at this time. Please contact Clay Drnec at 804-824-9198 for details.

Please make note –

Our meeting locations for April and May have been reversed due to scheduling changes. On Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the presidential retirement retreat of Mark & Kathy Davidoski in Virginia Beach. Our visit to the Virginia Beach White House of our president and first lady will now be on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

# Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

**Memberships:** As of 10 March 2010, the membership count stands at 113 paid members. Since the last newsletter we have one new membership.

The new member is:

Jamie Swiggart  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
1977 MGB

Jamie recently drove his MG from Meridian, MS to the Tidewater area. He found our club's website online. He attended the March meeting and joined that evening. We hope to see Jamie at many future meetings and events.

Safety Fast,



# AACA Flea Market Event

March 6, 2010



Donald Ladd and John Terschank at the TMGC table inside the AACA Flea Market in Hickory. Jim Villers, Stephen Daniels and Frank Worrell assisted but are not pictured.



## EASTERN SHORE SCAVENGER HUNT

Save the Date - Saturday, July 10th

Join us for a day of fun on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Our hosts, Richard Leal and Mike Ash are making plans for a great day, including a tour of the Eastern Shore, a driving skills challenge, an afternoon by the pool and a picnic lunch.

BYOB and a picnic dish to share. Hot dogs, burgers, etc. will be supplied by the club.

An assortment of prizes will be awarded for the best picnic basket, most unique picnic dish, as well as for success in the driving skills challenge and the Scavenger Hunt.

*Stay tuned to The Dipstick for details!*



# BARKSDALE THEATRE

at Hanover Tavern



## Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming

It's October, 1945 and the gospel-singing Sanders Family is back together again! The war is over and America's years of prosperity are just beginning.



Join us for an afternoon at the theatre  
Sunday September 26, 2010

Details coming in the June issue of The Dipstick

# Life of a Car

by Geoff Wheatley

In the good old days, we usually changed our vehicles after four years because the car was starting to cost a few bucks in repairs and the mileage had hit middle-age, with sixty-thousand or more on the clock. However, things have changed due to various factors, like the economy. In a recent study it was noted that people are keeping their cars and trucks up to six or more years and now consider a hundred-thousand miles' use as normal. Looking through the Guinness Book of Records, there is an owner of a 1966 Volvo P1800 that passed 2.6 million miles of road use. Not quite in the same class but certainly impressive is a 1989 Saab 900 that managed over a million miles before it retired to a car museum with its original engine in place. In case you think that it's only foreign vehicles that can achieve such records, let me mention a 1991 Chevrolet Silverado truck that matched the performance of the Saab with the same engine. However, it did go through four radiators, three fuel tanks and six water pumps. No information on how many sets of tires! It would be easy to associate dependability with durability but it would seem that these two do not necessarily go together! A recent durability study involving a total of 46,000 responses indicated that the two outstanding vehicles mentioned earlier, Volvo and Saab, rank below the average when it comes to dependability. In other words, they may last a long time but are more likely to let you down during ownership. Obviously, good regular maintenance and the use of correct replacement parts will contribute to the life of your vehicle. These ain't no special cut-price deals when it comes to buying a new radiator or starter. Always get a factory-made unit whenever you can. Some of us are total masochists, of course! I am referring to that gallant band of dedicated idiots who lay on cold concrete floors working on cars that are thirty or even fifty years old. Then there are the truly dedicated brigades who suffer the same punishment maintaining vehicles that my grandfather admired ninety years ago. There is no way of ever knowing with any certainty the mileage of these vehicles even when they have a mile indicator, but it would be fair to say that most will have completed the range of their speedometer several times over!

This being the case, why did the vast majority of these cars not complete the 100,000 mile record in their day, when that classic you have under a dust sheet in the garage is still here and running? To be honest, I have no idea. I do recall that the family car that my father owned always seemed to be in need of attention before a long journey. I also recall that when the multi-grades came along in the early 1950s there were a num-

ber of owners who were suspect of the product and continued to use single grade lubricants. Perhaps the antiques we have belonged to owners who were more adventurous and used the new stuff! I am sure that 200,000 miles will be the standard for all private vehicles in the near future, when you consider that manufacturers are now providing 100,000-mile warranty on all new cars and trucks. Will we continue to keep our cars longer? I suspect we will.

One of the pleasures of changing your car was to have a new model that people would admire. Today most cars look very much the same in almost every aspect so why bother!



## Officers and Committees

President	Bill Olcheski	467-4046
Vice President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Secretary	Michele Peters	439-8050
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Ron Struewing	479-0084
	Anita Edwards-Struewing	479-0084
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
Activities	Tad Carter	496-9847
Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Becky Hassler	874-1477
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	<a href="mailto:mikehmg@cox.net">mikehmg@cox.net</a>



## Tools And Their Uses

**DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.

**PLIERS:** Used to round off bolt heads.

**PRY BAR:** A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

**TIMING LIGHT:** A stroboscopic instrument for illuminating grease buildup.



# Moss Motors Drive Out

by Bruce Easley

photographs by Bruce Easley and Susan Bond

March 13, 2010

The day dawned misty with a threat of rain for the trip from Hampton Roads to the Moss Motors warehouse and upholstery production facility in Petersburg, VA.

The southern contingent left Suffolk with Tad Carter as wagonmaster, while the group from the north of the HRBT had Craig Cummings as its guide. We all convened at Moss at about 10 a.m., finding “red carpet” treatment with indoor parking for Brit cars.



Members of the Richmond British car club joined in as well, along with such additions as Bill Johnson from the BATANS Brit club from Nova Scotia.

Mark Wilson, the Regional Manager for Moss, and other staff members welcomed the crowd of approximately 80 people with hot coffee, pastries, and



goodie bags, then he gave everyone a little background on the facility, answering questions before the tour began. Glen Adams, the President of Moss (who started years ago with the company in the stock room in California), realized that the customer base was growing and that much of the growth seemed to be occurring in



the East. UPS was handling about 200,000 shipments per year between the California and New Jersey facilities, and Moss decided to have UPS conduct an analysis of the geographic distribution of the customer base. They found that 65% of the merchandise destinations



were east of the Mississippi River. A search was begun for another facility on the East coast, and a former Japanese-owned windshield wiper factory building in Petersburg, VA popped up. Some of the key California employees were flown to the area to check out the real estate and living conditions, and in October 2008 the new facility was purchased. Materials and people were moved in from the closed New Jersey and two California facilities in May 2009. Currently Moss has consolidated the multiple locations into three: Santa Barbara, CA and the UK site remain in operation, along with the Petersburg warehouse.

The new warehouse is 115,000 sq. ft., 800 of which is dedicated to racks and storage. The remainder is utilized for upholstery production, work space and shipping areas, and a walk-in customer sales counter. They currently handle about 15,000 different parts and expect to increase that to about 20,000 by the end of 2010. About 70% of the Moss product line is





handled in Virginia, but products not manufactured in Petersburg are brought here for distribution from suppliers around the world. The warehouse can ship about a thousand packages a day to the California and UK stores, as well as mail-order customers. There are also two additional unused buildings that will allow for future expansion as well as R&D, and the location currently carries parts for Minis, Mustangs and Mazda Miatas in addition to MGs, Triumphs, and other British models.

After walking past rows of tall storage shelves, the first stop on the tour was the upholstery cutting room. The “C&C” layout machine works under the guidance



of an operator (Nick) and an overhead digital camera. A huge layout table holds down the leather or fabric by a vast array of vacuum openings which Mark describes as “a reverse air hockey table”. The camera combined with a computer determines the layout arrangement of components to be cut, to maximize the number of articles that can be made from the material. According to Mark, their leather is specially tanned and conditioned to match original car material, and the tanning and embossing is done by custom order from overseas suppliers. A “pizza wheel” cutter is directed by the computer, and what was formerly done by hand is now

done more precisely and rapidly by modern engineering and production methods.



New conveyors and shipping equipment were installed for handling the products, with ergonomic considerations. In order to be efficient, parts with a higher frequency of orders are placed closer to the conveyors, as a means to save steps and time. Movement-sensitive lighting is currently in place in “critical” areas like the bathrooms to save electricity, and more are planned to be installed for use on the lower, darker shelving areas in order to improve visibility.

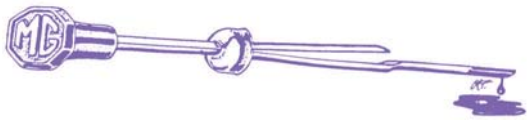
The final stop on our tour was ...the money pit! We lined up at the customer counter to take advantage of the 12.5% discount, and relieve them of their extra merchandise.

With lighter wallets and new parts, we headed out for lunch at the Brickhouse Run Tavern in “Old Town” Petersburg. If you haven’t been before, use caution as you turn onto their cobblestone street, as the bumpy nature of the pavement may not be kind to oil pans, etc. The staff at the Tavern was very accommodating and pleasant, despite the mass of customers descending upon them at the noon hour. We had the whole main dining room to ourselves, and basked in the classic British pub atmosphere, complete with antique Brit place mats and soccer match news on the walls. We feasted on Bangers and Mash, Shepheard’s Pie, and the old favorite, Fish and Chips, in addition to Frosty Beverages. It was definitely a wonderful time.

Our dessert was a Sunny Day. The clouds parted and those brave and dedicated souls who actually drove their MGs to Petersburg were treated to a beautiful, warm day for the ride home. Spring has sprung, and the sap and the MGs are running!

*Happy Easter*

# The Dipstick



## The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing, Editor

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Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

## FIRST CLASS

Affiliated with



**Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 6th**  
**Kathy & Mark Davidoski**  
4733 Red Coat Rd  
Virginia Beach  
499-4647

7:30 - Kick Tyres  
8:00 - Meeting