

The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

www.mg.org

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

February 2011

MARQUE TIME

Greetings to my fellow MG enthusiasts. It is difficult to think of a more enjoyable evening than eating ribs, drinking beer, and talking about MGs. Frankie's, as always, did a great job hosting the January meeting.

In February we will once again be helping the local economy before returning to TMGC homes for our meetings. Your MG will seem roomy after experiencing the go-karts at American Indoor Karting. I tried it over the holidays with my nephew. The speeds are up to 40 mph and you are inches off the ground. It's a blast!

I recently found the second edition of "MGB Purchase and Restoration Guide" by Lindsay Porter. Here is some trivia for you. The wheels on the Limited Edition 1979 MG are those from a Triumph Stag with MG hub-caps. And an intriguing pre-production rumor in 1972 was that the Triumph TR7, which would roll off the assembly line in 1975, was intended to replace the MGB. This prediction may have been partially true. One month after the introduction of the TR7, the MGB GT was withdrawn from the American Market.

Thank you to all for making TMGC such a great club!

I hope to see you as I pass by in the racing Go-Kart.

Safety first!
Bill



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

Feb. 1 Tuesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
American Indoor Karting@ Lynnhaven Mall
6:45 for Racing, 8:00 Meeting

Feb. 12 St. Valentine's Day Mass-o-Cars Drive
Shirley Plantation & Courthouse Grille

Feb. 12 Dipstick inputs due

Mar. 2 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Paul & Carmen Thiergardt

Mar. 19 Moss Motors Drive – Petersburg, VA

Apr. Spring Tech Session –Norfolk
Date - TBD
Hosted by Frank & Deb Linse

Apr. 3 Williamsburg British Car Club Show
Chickahominy Riverfront Park
www.wmbgbrit.com

Apr. 5 Tuesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Bill & Renee Olcheski

Apr. 8 – 11 GOF South Mk XLV Spring Hill, FL
www.GOFSouth.com

Apr. 29 – May 1 - Virginia Wine Tour Hosted by Alan & Becky Watson

May 2 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Seaford
Hosted by Bruce & Jayne Easley

May 28 – June 5 - British Car Week

June 4 – 19 - Rallye to Reno – Ocean City, MD
www.rallyetoreno.com

Upcoming Activities (continued)

- Jun. 7 Tuesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**
Hosted by Bill & Issie Yoshida
- Jun. 12 Midget-50 – Stamford, England
www.midget50.com
- Jun. 13 – 17 – MG-2011 – Reno – Tahoe, NV
- Jul. 6 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Norfolk**
Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach
- Jul. 19 Tides Baseball – Norfolk vs. Toledo Mud Hens
First Pitch – 7:15
- Aug. 2 Tuesday – Club Meeting – location TBD**
- Aug 19-21 - Brew Ridge Music Festival Drive
- Aug. 27 Wings & Wheels – Pungo, VA Hosted by
Tidewater AACA <http://local.aaca.org/tidewater/>
- Sep. 7 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Yorktown**
Hosted by Bruce & Lydie Foster
- Sep. 18 Classics on the Green – New Kent, VA
Hosted by CVBCC
www.cvbcc.com
- Sep. 25 Barksdale Theatre Drive-out – Hanover, VA
Bad Dates – a comedy by Theresa Rebeck
- Oct. 4 Tuesday – Club Meeting – Yorktown**
Hosted by Chuck & Becky Hassler (tentative)
- Oct. 29 – Nov. 6 – Motoring Festival Week – Hilton Head
Island, SC www.HHConcours.com



JANUARY MINUTES

Michele Peters

We began our January meeting at 8:08 PM at Frankie's Place for Ribs, certainly becoming a tradition for January meetings. The food is always good, we had use of the large meeting room (and we needed it since we had around 50 members in attendance!). Pam Groover and Nancy Price joined us and it was great to see them both, as usual. It was rather curious, however, that El Presidente asked to have the December Minutes approved, since there WERE no December Minutes...but actually, that made me feel a bit better, knowing that I am not the only one who is mentally

losing it (Sorry Bill...don't hate me cuz I'm right!!)

New Members and Guests: We did have guests with us – David Ford (wife Leslie was not present) of VB who own a 1972B (what color, David did not say; however, Miss B would like to know...David and Leslie: You may well ask who Miss B is – she is an occasional contributor to this newsletter and a very pleasant roadster; please see her three-part article on the Wine Tour of 2007- it is marvelous!). Anyway, they joined us on the spot, so good for them. Jimmy Watts also joined us while at the meeting. He has a 1975 Midget.

Vice-President: Our El Vice-Presidente had “nada” to add tonight besides his usual “Nope!” when asked if he had a report. He did indicate, however, that the difficulties imposed upon him by the required ingestion of many examples of holiday delectables had taken their toll on him and he was still in recovery mode; so really, we couldn't expect too much out of him on Jan 5, a mere 11 days past Christmas!

Treasurer: Jim Villers, our fabulous Treasurer, provided us with a report of our financial situation. As I have been advised that I should not report actual distributions and receipts because *The Dipstick* is now an online newsletter and *anybody*, who wanted to, could view how much money we took in from our raffles and regalia sales or how much we paid out for printing or provided to our host-of-the-month, which of course, is all very proprietary (huh?). I was assured long ago that this matter of whether or not we should include our financials in the Minutes would be discussed by the membership, but as far as I know, it never has been. So, I will continue to tell you only that our current balance is...fine... and wait to clear up this confusion...sometime. I don't want to leak any confidential information and have Homeland Security (or Jim) come down on me...even though I know Jim would be kind!

Activities: Tad Carter once again has a full year of driving, demonstrations, delights, and other entertainments scheduled for us for 2011. Isn't he great?! Tad, in my humble opinion, and that of the rest of the membership, you are doing a fantabulous job as our Activities Chair (p.s., don't you like the way I make up words, gentle readers? Keeps you awake, doesn't it... especially when I speak for you without your consent! But you know you would agree, so just relax J) We still need venues for the August meeting and the Christmas party...so be thinking about volunteering your place, people. Please see the Activities section of *The Dipstick* for further details.

Clubs: Mike and Jennifer Ash made it to the meeting (Happy New Year, guys!) but no report. (Jennifer, please don't forget to bring your British travel book to me next month before you guys head out again across the big pond).



History: Susan Bond reported that we have it and that she is collecting it...

Newsletter: Ron Struewing had some *Dipstick* Certificates of Appreciation to hand out to folks who were unable to attend the Christmas party at Andy's and Cynthia's (which was MAAHVALOUS, as always!) and reminded those writing that the deadline is the 12th of the month for submissions. Keep them coming.

Membership: Bill reported that we now have 120 (yes!) actual, dues-paying members. You go, Bill! I don't remember having this many members since I have been in the club (and yes, I know it hasn't been long compared to some people). What is your secret, Mr. Membership Chairman? Whatever it is, keep it up! That just means we can have bigger and better parties....,Whoow!!

Technical: Mark Childers reminded us to check our antifreeze and to unplug the water drain from the heater. If you actually want to know WHY to do that, you need to check with Mark...I mean, did you SERIOUSLY expect ME to tell you??

Old Business: none

New Business: El Presidente happily reported that Doug Wilson is home now and doing well. Harry Watson had some surgery before Christmas and so please check in on him when you can.

Marque Time: Bob Stein just acquired a 1980 roadster with 68K original miles on it, with carb issues,

on January 2. Adding to your MG collection – that's the way to start the new year, Bob!

Mark Childers knows of a 1972-73 chrome-wheel MG for sale for \$7900. He says the owner has about \$12,000 into it. Contact Mark if you are interested.

Raffle and Regalia: Mitzi LaPaugh has officially taken over for Becky Hassler as the Raffle & Regalia Lady. Chuck and Becky are busy getting themselves ready to move out west so she needed to hand this job off to someone new, so welcome, Mitzi! I hope that Becky understands, however, that such a move will not relieve her of her responsibility for making homemade apple pies for every October meeting, well, forever. That is, unless Mitzi can bake those pies as deliciously as Becky always has. You DID understand this when you volunteered to take over this position, did you not Mitzi?

I have no idea who the winners of the raffle from this month were because, well, I have to admit, I got tired of writing. But before you yelp "Foul!" let me remind you all that I get to do this - it is no dereliction of duty on my part because, Gentle Readers, always remember that I get to do whatever I want... The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM (yes, it was a short one). Ah, did I hear someone say that they have a problem with my failure to report the winners of the raffle? Pshhh...certainly by this time you know what you can do about that...no need to be redundant.

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	Mitzi LaPaugh	344-7887
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	mikehmg@cox.net



Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

Memberships: As of 12 January 2011, we have 2 new memberships that joined the club at the January dinner/club meeting held at Frankie's Place for Ribs. There are now 122 TMGC club memberships.

New Memberships:

David & Leslie Ford
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
1972 MGB

Note: "Thanks" go out to Frank Worrell for informing David about TMGC.

Jimmy Watts
Hampton, VA 23669
1975 Midget

Dues: All dues received have been turned over to Jim Villers for deposit.



Activities

by Tad Carter

Our 2011 calendar is filling rapidly. I've gotten a number of ideas for events and day-trips. Thanks for the great ideas! We still are looking for meeting sites for the August meeting and for the Holiday Party, so if you are able to host one of these events, please let me know.



We're trying something new for our February meeting. We'll gather at American Indoor Karting at Lynnhaven Mall in Virginia Beach for an evening of racing, along with our regular meeting. AIK offers racing for all ages with up to 10 karts running at a time. Races last approximately 8-10 minutes each. The discounted cost is \$18 per race. Plan on a 6:45 pm arrival if you want to race or watch. We will bring in food to serve starting at 7:30. As always, the meeting will begin at 8:00. Note to Russ – Please keep your VP report short, as we need to be out by 9:00.

By now, you should have received information on our first drive out of the year. On Saturday, February 12th, we'll head out to Shirley Plantation for their *Passion on the Plantation* program. Additional information about this event is provided elsewhere in this issue of The Dipstick. I hope you will be able to join in on the fun. **Please RSVP to me by Friday, 2/4**, so that we can make final arrangements with the restaurant.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 19th for our return visit to Moss Motors in Petersburg. We'll depart early on the Southside for our westward journey, arriving at Moss mid-morning. In addition to touring the warehouse and upholstery shop, we'll have the opportunity to pick up parts and accessories for the next Tech Session (April – hosted by Frank & Deb Linse). Our host, Mark Wilson, has promised discounts and refreshments, along with a tour of the facility. Lunch will follow at a local alehouse prior to our return trip to Tidewater.

That's all for now. Other upcoming events are noted in the calendar. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

Black Friday Tour

by Rodney (1978 MGB-GT)

as dictated to his human, Bob Stein

photographs by Donald Ladd and Susan Bond

I was quite pleased and surprised when my human rolled me out for the Tidewater MG Classics' Black Friday tour on November 26th, 2010. Turns out that Great-Great Grandmum Wildflower (TC5308) was a bit unsteady on her feet. Our human said it was just a loose tie rod end, but I suspect the old girl hit the Sherry a bit too hard after Thanksgiving dinner.



The day got off to a slightly damp start (another good reason for Herself to stay indoors). We were first to arrive at the abandoned petrol station, dodging scattered light showers all the way. At least, the first of the family members to arrive. One of those Jeep 'Yank tanks' was sitting off to the side, and soon produced the lovely human of another GT, Susan Bond. Her GT was unwell, and I was very pleased to have her ride along with us for the tour. Not that my owner isn't presentable – well, at times – but it was smashing to have a passenger I could show off for a change.



We were eventually joined by five sibling MGB roadsters and a cheerful Midget. They were all buttoned up as tightly as a 'soft top' can get, though despite dire predictions otherwise, nothing more than a very light sprinkle bothered us the rest of the day. Tad

Carter, the human responsible for most of these tours, provided a smashing color flyer on the excursion that will put Great-Great-Grandmum in a snit when I put it on MY wall. Then it was off across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel for the Artisans Guild of the Eastern Shore of Virginia's 2010 Open Studio & Vineyard Tour.



Crossing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel

It seems that all of us were steeled for the long water crossing this time, as our humans did not have to make a pit stop at the rest center. (We cars have an advantage in that we can leak anywhere we like). Instead, we motored straight on to Cape Charles to visit Beachglass Artist Karen Jolly Davis. Sort of a 'natural' stained glass, beach glass is the remnants of old bottles,



Beach Glass and Stories

jars, and other glass objects that have been colored by decades of exposure to the elements. Rather practical, really. Our humans appreciate the beauty, and we MGs are happy to have potential hazards to our tires picked up. And of course, there was the first of many human refueling stops at the Cape Charles Coffee House. Our humans get atrocious mileage – we rarely go far between top-offs.

From Cape Charles, we took a winding and often familiar route through the countryside to Machi-



Beach Glass and Stories

pongo and Chatham Vineyards. Owned and operated by the Wehner family, Chatham is hailed as a European-style vineyard. We MGs wondered why no one ever makes a fuss over British wineries. However, we waited patiently outside while our humans spent what must have been an exhausting hour sampling exotic liquid fuels. I say this, because we immediately made our way to Onancock and Mallard's at the Wharf, where they could fortify themselves with lunch.



Cape Charles Coffee House



Cape Charles Coffee House

My human and the lovely Ms. Bond were near the end of the procession, and they noticed one of my siblings had stopped behind them. A quick turnaround



Sign at Coffee House



Chatham Vineyards



Chatham Vineyards

took us back, where it was discovered that Allen Hazlett's very spiffy orange roadster had stalled and could not start due to a weak battery. A short push from my humans provided enough to get the fellow up and running again, a scenario that would be repeated often the rest of the day. I suspect it was a French battery – you know how they love to embarrass the British.



Pushing Allen Hazlett's MGB



Mallard's at the Wharf

From the noise and a few glimpses though second-floor windows, it was apparent that the restaurant had segregated out humans from the rest of the customers – not all that surprising. We were happy that they

emerged unscathed, if a bit heavier. The orange roadster considerably provided much-needed exercise for some of the humans, and then we made a very short trip to the Artisans Guild Studio.

Housed in the old Onancock School building, the Artisans Guild Studio provides space for more than a dozen individual workshops set up with artist's wares. Rather suspiciously, more of our humans emerged with bits of solid fuel than items of art. For our part, the MGs provided an impromptu show in the parking lot that drew a good number of admirers.



Artisans Guild Studio

We left Onancock and rolled through more rural back roads to Painter (a town, not an artist) and the studio of Mary "Mama Girl" Onley. This human creates brightly colored Eastern Shore and African American folk art from recycled newspapers and other materials. After two non-fuel-specific stops in a row, we understandably made a 'B'-line (plus the Midget) to Franktown and the Holly Grove Vineyards.



Allen Hazlett at Mama Girl's studio

Another family-owned winery, Holly Grove provided our humans another opportunity to sample exotic liquids. We cars were not so thrilled to have a couple of goats wandering around the parking lot and sniffing at us, possibly with an interest in sampling exotic metal. However, several of our humans came out



Inside Mama Girl's studio



Holly Grove Vineyards

to stand guard – or at least keep the nasty buggers distracted from us with some petting. It was noted amongst the MGs that our humans had purchased more exotic fuels than art objects during the excursion, but they are thankfully a mostly responsible bunch when it comes to our operation.



Wine tasting at the winery

Although the winery was the last “official” stop of the tour, we made a detour on the way out to visit a number of Chincoteague ponies, one of which was an adorable foal. Coincidentally, this was also home of one of the orange roadster's humans. After a short visit and photo taking, we and our humans parted ways for separate trips home. It was, all in all, a crackers good time and one that I will enjoy describing in excruciating detail to Herself this winter.



Ponies at Chincoteague



One last push! “We’re so tired!”



Botanical Garden Lights Tour

December 21, 2010

photographs by Susan Bond



Everyone met up at Franco's Italian Restaurant for dinner before the tour.

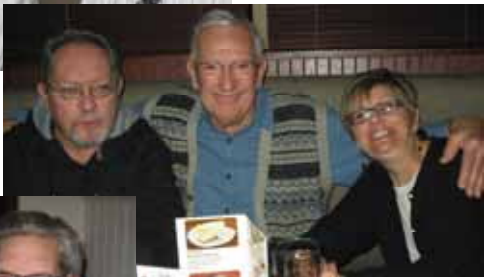




February Meeting at Frankie's Place for Ribs



Photographs by Susan Bond



The *Dipstick*



The Tidewater MG Classics

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FIRST CLASS

Affiliated with



MG

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday Feb., 1st
American Indoor Karting
2736 North Mall Drive
Virginia Beach, VA
544-5668

6:45 - 7:30 pm - Kart Racing
7:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Pizza
8:00 Meeting