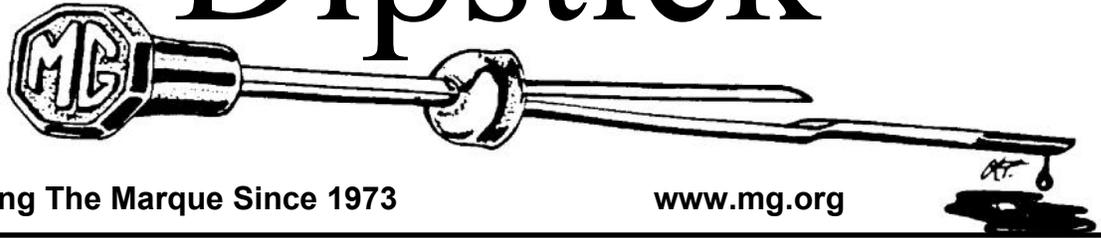




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 40, Issue 9

September 2013



CLASSY CHASSIS - Sue Bond's 'Eleanor' gets a close inspection at the TMGC August Tech Session, held August 11th at the home of Linda and Jim Freeh. More photos of the event can be found on page 7. (Photo by Donald Ladd)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!
(TMGC Activities are in **bold**)

- Sep. 4 - **Wednesday – Club Meeting - Norfolk**
Ocean View Fishing Pier
Dinner at 6:30, Meeting at 8:00
- Sep. 14 – **Saturday - GT Bodywerks**
Tour & Lunch - 10:00am – 2:00pm
5768 Arrowhead Dr, VB
- Sep. 15 – **Sunday - Classics on the Green – New Kent**
www.ClassicsOnTheGreen.com
- Sep. 28 – **ACA Wings & Wheels Show – Pungo**
local.aaca.org/tidewater
- Sep. 29 **Barksdale Theatre – Hanover Tavern**
Say Goodnight, Gracie
Lunch at New Kent, Theatre in Hanover
- Oct. 1 - **Tuesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**
Hosted by Renee and Bill Olcheski
- Oct. 5 – **SVBCC British Car Show – Waynesboro**
www.svbcc.net
- Oct. 18 – 21 – **Tour de Bay – 4-Day Tour around Chesapeake Bay**
- Nov. **TBD - Fall Tech Session - Chesapeake**
Hosted by Terry & Sue Bond

September Activities Report

As we move into late summer and the start of fall, show season is upon us. September brings us Classics on the Green in New Kent and Wings & Wheels in Pungo, leading on to the SVBCC British Car Show in Waynesboro in early October. Lest you have any time for non-MG things, we have a few club dates on the calendar, as well.

Our September meeting is set for Wednesday the 4th at Ocean View Fishing Pier in Norfolk. If the weather cooperates, we'll have the upper deck reserved for dinner starting at 6:30. In the event of rain, dinner will be inside. The meeting will ensue as we add sunset over the bay to our regular agenda.

On Saturday, September 14th, we journey to GT Bodywerks in Virginia Beach. George has done paint and bodywork for many in the club, including current clients Richard Leal and Andy Wallach. We'll tour the shop and get some pointers of things to consider in our next project or purchase. In addition, we'll have a picnic lunch, so bring your questions and come on out to Virginia Beach. Plan to arrive at 10am for the tour.

The Hanover Tavern / Barksdale Theatre trip is set for Sunday, September 29th with a party of 16. We will depart early from Tidewater, have lunch and a winery tour in New Kent, and end up in

(Continued on Page 2)

Hanover for an afternoon at the theatre. This year, we'll enjoy the career of George Burns in Say Goodnight, Gracie.

In October, we start off early with our monthly meeting on Tuesday the 1st at the Olcheski's in Virginia Beach. This will be back to a more traditional schedule with Tyre Kicking at 7:30, followed by the meeting at 8:00. This is also the meeting set aside for elections, so vote early and vote often.

The weekend of the 18th through the 21st (OK, an exaggerated weekend) is the inaugural Tour de Bay, with 24 intrepid travelers taking in the sights and sounds of the Chesapeake. We'll enjoy back roads, historic stops, favorite local restaurants and wineries as we make our way around the Bay. It's a long drive, but it should be a good time.

We'll have the Chili Cook-off at the November 6th meeting and our Fall Tech Session later in the month. And in December, we drive the Holiday Lights on Tuesday the 10th and then celebrate the Holiday Season and our club's 40th anniversary on the 15th at Princess Anne Country Club. Check the website or a later issue of The Dipstick for details on these events.

The challenge was made in the August Dipstick for the dear old Activities Coordinator to get off his duff and put something on the schedule. And here, my friends, you have it. Three shows, nine club events and close to 1500 miles if you take it all in. And the 2014 schedule is taking shape. Enjoy!

Tad Carter

DIPSTICK EDITOR NEEDED! JANUARY 2014

This is a reluctant heads-up that TMGC will need a new Dipstick editor no later than January 2014. Work had gotten a lot more involved for me as I am dragged kicking and screaming into more of a project management role. This means I have to travel, and will probably be in DC fairly often every month.

The end result is that I cannot maintain a regular publication schedule despite getting submissions in earlier. Everyone involved has done a great job of providing material in a timely manner (especially Tad). The problem comes with trying to get it all put together.

I have been stretched thin for quite a while, and it's become too much for me to maintain everything - in addition to this newsletter, I maintain about a dozen web sites, am secretary for my civic league, and do another club newsletter, and am struggling to find time to keep my cars up and running and take care of normal stuff like the house, laundry, etc.

I will be glad to continue with the Oil Spot as an activity reminder tool, but the newsletter is going to have to go to someone else. I'll be glad to help the new editor any way I can, but come January 2014 the Dipstick will either be picked up by someone else or fall by the wayside.

Bob Stein



FROM THE PREZ

Marque Time

Greetings Tidewater MG Classics members! I am going to divert from my norm in this month's column. As some of you may know the bylaws are printed in the back of the directory, but if you're like most, me included you may have glanced through them or not ever read them. Well I'm going to discuss part of them with you this month.

At the September meeting I am going to be looking for two volunteers to serve as our nominating committee they will be asked to contact members and see if they would be willing to be on the ballot for the president and vice president positions, also to see if there is any interest in a new secretary, treasurer, etc. Although we both know they are irreplaceable and willing to keep these positions.

There is also a new position opening up that we need a volunteer for, it won't be an elected position but I will need someone to fill it. Tad has graciously agreed to stay on as activities director however he has asked that the positions responsibilities be divided, with all the time and effort he puts into activities he has asked that we create another position for the monthly meeting coordinator, that person would be responsible for getting the locations for the monthly meetings, and then send the email reminders out a week before.

Tad assures me it won't be difficult as there are several standards like January at Frankie's, and several hosts that are always willing to take a month so Tad believes it is only 5 or so meetings that will need to be coordinated.

So if you are interested in running for office or if you can help by being on the nominating committee please approach me before the meeting or I will bring it up in new business. If you are curious as to the responsibilities of the positions please check the bylaws in the back of your directory. Looking forward to all the smiling faces and volunteers I will see at the September meeting.

While I'm on the subject of volunteers for those of you who might have missed the August meeting our Editor and Chief for this fine publication the Dipstick has an ever increasing workload that is forcing him to resign his position with the Dipstick so we have a need for someone to step forward come the new year to keep this fine publication going. As always,

Safety Fast
Russ Ripp
President

September Membership Report

By Bill Yashida

2014 Memberships: As of 26 August we have a total of 93 memberships that include 1 new membership, 92 renewals. We also have 2 “promises” to renew from last year’s memberships. I sent out a “Final-Delinquent” e-mail reminder to those members that had not respond to my first 2 e-mail and have not yet sent in their dues.

Dues are still only \$20 per family for a year. If anyone has decided to not renew their membership, please let me know by phone (757) 554-0402 or by e-mail williamryoshida@verizon.net and I will remove your name from the “delinquent” mailing list.

So far only 3 of last year’s members have indicated that they will not be renewing for 2014. Copies of the membership renewal form can be found on line at the club’s web site at www.mg.org. I will have blank renewal forms available at the September meeting.

Please fill out a copy and send it along with cash, check or money order. Highlight any changes from last year’s information. If you have no changes to the data you provided in the past you only need to submit the \$20 in dues, and I will transfer your prior data to the 2014 roster and use the same info for the Annual Directory.

New Memberships: There was one new membership that joined in August:

Dan & Judith Ray
Suffolk VA 23434
1973 MGB

Cars: Total cars – 172 (If all remaining 2013 memberships renew).

Cars & Types: 167 of the following types of MGs:
MGA - 21, A- Coupe - 2, B - 81 , B-GT - 14, C - 2, C-GT - 2, TC - 9, TD - 21, TF - 5, Midget - 11
Other/Various MGs – 5 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB)

Dues: I provided \$140 in checks to Jim Villers at the picnic/meeting in August, and \$80 in cash to Jim at the Tech Session on 11 August. As of 26 August I hold dues checks in the amount of \$60 for turnover to Jim.

TMGC Annual Directory: I assemble the 2014 TMGC Annual Directory in August and September. If you have changes to information contained in last year’s directory, and have not already requested the change, or did not indicate them on your renewal form, please let me know by e-mail so I can capture a copy of the change for the record.

The DIPSTICK is the official newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Club of Virginia. Published monthly.
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Farewell to a Friend Linda Pavlidis



Linda Pavlidis passed away in her sleep on August 17th. A long-time member and friend to many, her loss is an unexpected blow to all who knew her. Condolences to her husband Jack and daughter Hillary.

TMGC Officers

President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Vice President	Steve LaPaugh	593-5927
Secretary	Michele Peters	439-8050
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Bob Stein	588-6200
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
Webmaster	Mike Haag	
	mikehmg@cox.net	

August TMGC Meeting Minutes

By 'Sir' Robert Perrone—Royal Acting Scribe (Photos by Donald Ladd, Susan Bond, and Bob Stein)

Yes, it's me again.

The August minutes, once again provided by Sir Robert. I say "Sir Robert" because our fun-filled editor, Bob Stein, has dubbed me "Sucker In Residence" (as some of you may have noticed) by my name in the Dipstick for volunteering to take the minutes month after month. However, he also pointed out that the acronym for that is SIR, so I now have adopted the title of Sir Robert.

I feel so gosh-darned regal! I should note that this month I was, in fact, asked politely by our President, Russ Ripp, to take the minutes. Apparently, Russ is one of those few who actually reads the minutes. I know this because he pointed out that I, well, sort of used some "artistic license" last month.

Russ pointed out to me, correctly, that he actually did ask me last month as well. Okay, that is true. But he did actually grin and say "here you go" when he handed me the pad and pen. The rest was somewhat embellished. Sorry Russ. And this month I had a great "story" all ready about how Russ wouldn't let me eat at the picnic unless I agreed to take the minutes. Now on to the rest of actual minutes.

Well, these are not really "actual" minutes, but they're the best you're going to get. Once again, as we have for the past couple of years, we met for a picnic at Great Neck Park. And once again, Tad Carter did a great job getting everything together for our summer picnic. Of course he had some help from his lovely assistant Karen.



Well, actually, while Tad did say that Karen do a ton of work, he referred to David Kinsey as his "lovely assistant" although personally, I don't see it. I mean, David may be a handsome man, but I'm going with Karen as the "lovely" one.

Although I arrived fairly late, they waited for a few extra minutes for me to wolf down a burger before they started the meeting. That's right, you'll just have to wait a few minutes for Sir Robert. New members and guests: Considering the weather, which was rainy earlier in the day, we had quite a good turnout. Of course, most of the "usual suspects" were there, but we did have a visitor. Actually, Bill Blair is not technically a



visitor, but a member who hasn't been able to attend very often for quite some time. Nice to have you join us, Bill.

Vice President's report: Steve was not there. So, I also stepped into the shoes of the vice president and shrugged for him. I'm telling you, I can do that job if there is ever a vacancy.

Treasurer: Once again, Jim provided me with his treasurer's report. I finally asked him if the specific numbers are supposed to be reported in the dipstick. Jim didn't seem to be too sure about it one way or the other. So I'm not sticking my neck out. All that I can tell you is that we have well-managed funds and we are in fine financial shape, thanks to Jim. (and I expect my check by the first of the month).

Activities: Tad sent out a recent email noting our upcoming events, including the next meeting at Ocean View Fishing Pier. I still have some questions. Should we bring our fishing poles? Do we have to catch our own dinner? No matter what, it should be a good time. As usual of course, you can check for the rest of the details about upcoming events in Tad's article here in the Dipstick.



History: Susan said she brought albums but needed to keep them in her car to make sure that they stayed dry. Of course, I assume that Sue did not mean an MG. I personally have never seen anything stay dry in an MG. Except a radiator.



Membership: You can check the article from Bill Yoshida in the Dipstick here to find out all the details about our current membership status. One thing I can tell you is that it appears we're going to have Bill around for a while. No stalking charges against him have been filed by any "potential new members" as of yet. Bill did say that the recent "new member" who signed up at the meeting held at his house has moved with no forwarding address. That's all I'm saying.

Newsletter: Bob Stein mentioned once again that he will be unable to continue his duties as editor of our beloved Dipstick after January. I hope somebody steps up to take over.

And in case any one is wondering, no, thank you. If you left it up to me the August Dipstick would be finished some time in March. Hey Bob, would you reconsider if I donated my Dipstick salary to you? That's it! Jim, send my paycheck directly to Bob Stein! That should do it.

Technical/Marque Time: Back in the June minutes I reported that "I have a blank here. Apparently I should keep better notes." Yes, I should.

New Business/ Old Business: The only thing I noted here was that we have new banners. As I said in the July minutes, we needed a new one because the old one had disappeared. And no, I do not have the old banner on the wall in my living room. It's in my den. Anyway, Tad said that he would be able to obtain new banners for a very reasonable cost. And so he did. Thanks Tad!

There was no Regalia, and we had to end the meeting anyway before they threw us out, or we ended up locked in for the night. Well, that wouldn't bother me too much; I've been thrown out of better places. And that was just this month...



Whatever Lola Want, Lola Get...

By David J. Kinsey

I have an MG and now I have a “new” Lola! Both are British classics; both 1980 models; both 4 cylinder cast iron engines; both have Weber downdraft carburetors; both manufacturers went out of business as British car makers. I would like to say I mushed ‘em together – as MG and Lola did once or twice.

But, that’s not the case. I have not deserted my “Runaway” MGB, far from it, she’s a keeper, but most of my car time (a LOT of time) has recently been spend on a British beauty of the same 1980 vintage:

It’s been a long, long time since I was 14 and had a go-kart but the urge to drive really fast as if I were racing never left me.

Now I have that chance, thanks to a military retirement and only being relatively foolish with money in the last 4+ decades since piloting the go-kart (illegally) around the neighborhood.

The race car pictured is a Lola T-540E Formula Ford. These are powered by a Ford 1600 engine, originally of British genes (Cortina/Fiesta), but also used in the Pinto and American version of the Fiesta.

The “formula” is a specification that describes particular characteristics of any Formula race car. In this case, the Ford 1600, Weber 32/36 carb, alloy wheels for ’73-’81 (steel for the ’68-’72), exposed shock absorbers, Hewland 4-speed gearbox, and many other aspects. A Formula Vee has specs, all the way up to a Formula 1. Race technical inspection is checking to see if you are true to the formula AND safe.

To drive one of these on a race track with other race cars takes a license...and a license typically takes formal training with a bonafide race driving school – in my case the Bertil Roos Racing School at Virginia International Raceway.

Several TMGC members have been racers and a couple still are, and I know they fully grasp the, “and then you need one of these, and then one of these, and two of those, and...” aspect of racing. A trailer had to be selected and outfitted, racing suit purchased, helmet, gloves, shoes, Nomex underwear...the list goes on. However, I’m planning on a decade of fun (or more) so I accepted the cost, but I shopped really hard and got some bargains. I will say the Formula Ford, in particular the Vintage/Club level FFs are about the most economical way to get into racing. If you’ve hung out at race tracks you will soon see how

much more cost, trouble, maintenance, weight and manpower there is in racing an MG rather than a Formula Ford.

With HUGE thanks to the great guys at Abacus Racing here in Va Beach (here’s the dyno test at Abacus: <http://youtu.be/32mqyreYPHs>), as well as the Apex Speed Forum online, and several FF racers who took time to explain the cars and show me the ropes, and to Tad for his help, I’m just about ready to race. It took a good while to learn the car, solve some issues, and basically make it MY car. Here’s a link to a few test laps at New Jersey Motorsports Park in July: <http://youtu.be/zSViJR36j7s>

To the racers, yes I was taking it easy on my first time out. I saw no reason for high-risk spins on day one! Lots to learn



and plenty of time to learn it. For the curious, even though it looks kinda slow on video, I was going about 120mph at the end of the straight when I hit the brakes to turn right, then about 80 at the next turn, and about 100 prior to the LH turn after the bridge, so I was movin’ along.

There is certainly more speed and ability in the car than in the driver at this point!

My first actual race will be the Heacock Gold Classic races at VIR at the end of September, which is unfortunately the same weekend as a couple of other club activities, but if you happen to be going, please stop and see me in the paddock. And, although most folks take a break for food or bathroom when the Formula Fords take to the track, maybe you’ll stick it out and watch for a couple of laps? <http://virnow.com/about-vir/>

I picked #55 because there are only a few, two-digit race numbers not already spoken for within one vintage racing sanctioning body and the serial number of my chassis is #55 and that number was available. Turns out, I found a photo of the very first T-540E, s/n HU-1, and it also used race number 55! Cool. Done.

I know many of you enjoy going to vintage races and Tad asked if I would coordinate a trip to the Watkins Glen Vintage Grand Prix next year if a group wanted to go. Of course! Happy to coordinate a trip and let folks know the best places to stay, eat, watch, hang out..... but, when the flag drops, I hope to be racing!

Lee Hall Car Show (August 10th)

Photos by Donald Ladd



Photos from the August Tech Session

Photos by Donald Ladd and Susan Bond



The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics
Bob Stein -Editor
7500 Pennington Road
Norfolk VA 23505

Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS



Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 4th
Ocean View
Fishing
Pier
Upper Deck

- Take I-64 (toward RICHMOND/HAMPTON if coming from Beach or Chesapeake, toward HAMPTON/NORFOLK if coming from Hampton)
- Take 4TH View St. exit - 273 - toward OCEAN VIEW
- Turn RIGHT (if coming from Beach or Chesapeake), turn LEFT (if coming from Hampton) onto 4TH View St. Ocean View Fishing Pier is straight ahead.

