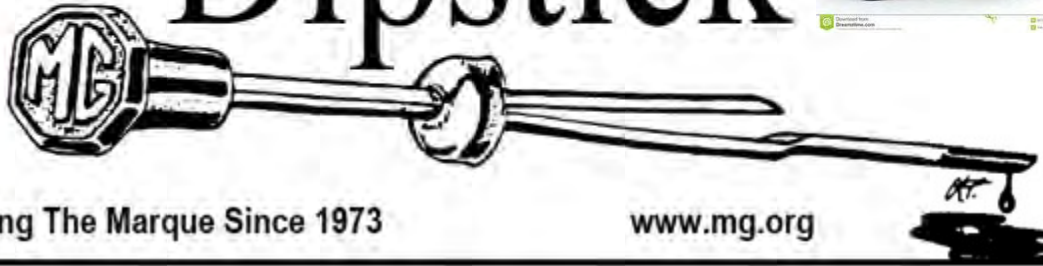




# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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

Volume 43 Issue 3

March 2016

## Activities – March 2016



On we go with the celebration of time ...

1966 marked the end of the MkII Midget and the first appearance of the MkIII. The MkII had brought cosmetic changes (wind-up windows, exterior door handles, slightly curved windscreen), and a beefed up 59hp. The MkIII included a larger, 1250cc engine, although its 67hp rating was 14% lower than the same engine in the Mini-Cooper S. Internal politics – at full horsepower, the Midget would have outperformed the more expensive MGB.

Used frequently as a period backdrop in movies, an MG Midget (although a later model) was piloted by Ellen Page in the 2010-era Cisco adverts. What other famous people drive a 1966 Midget? How about our own Ted & Louann Hughes.

### Idle Thoughts

- St. George's Brewing Company (see 2015 Brew Cruise reports) is now offering Saturday morning "Yoga on Tap". Yoga classes with a beer chaser.
- Beach Brewing Company (see 2014 Brew Cruise reports) has changed their name to Reaver Beach Brewing Company. Reave: To plunder, pillage, rob or pirate. Reaver: one who reaves.
- Chrysler Museum (see 2014 February events) has a very user-friendly free admission policy now, and if you are there while the museum is open, you can enjoy a great lunch at the new Wysteria Café. If you are there when the museum isn't open, you'll have to cook for yourself.

Hold on there, bucko – this is an Activities Report. OK, fine. Our 2016 schedule got off to a chilly start, thanks to the "blizzard" of 2016. With ice, sand, salt and brine anticipated in the Edenton-Scotland Neck area, we have postponed our visit to Sylvan Heights Bird Park until some later date. Stay tuned.

Next up, or shall we say first up, is the ***End-of-Time Brewery Tour*** on **Saturday, March 12**. Get set for a **10:26am departure from Waffle House** (4800 Portsmouth Blvd, Chesapeake). There is fuel available at the starting line.

We will start the day with a visit to Wharf Hill Brewing Company in Smithfield. In addition to their seasonally-appropriate house brews, they have a wide array of beers and ciders to complement the lunch menu. For those baseball fans in the group who are looking forward to the new season, you'll find Ommegang Rosetta out of Cooperstown, NY. For any southpaws along for the ride, you can check out Left Hand Milk Stout Nitro. And depending on which attitude you pack that day, we may recommend Crabbie's Ginger Beer from Liverpool. Our host at the restaurant, Robert, is the proud owner of a 1979 B, and is happy to have us join them at Wharf Hill.

We head south from Smithfield, taking the long way around the Great Dismal Swamp, to Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake. With 15 beers in their arsenal, you'll surely find something to your liking here. There is another MG connection at Big Ugly. Among the owners are the daughter and son-in-law of long-time club member, Hank Giffin. You'll see a couple of Hank's motorcycles spicing up the décor.

From Big Ugly, you are on your own for the trip home. If you are headed back to the Beach, total travel for the day will be about 148 miles. This is a show-and-go event, but if you let me know in advance, I can give a more accurate headcount to our hosts. On their behalf, I thank you.

Our friends in the Williamsburg British Car Club have reminded us to sign up for Williamsburg Brit Car Show on **Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**. This is a great show to start off the season. It is an easy drive out to Chickahominy Riverfront Park and a beautiful setting for the show. Registration information is in February's Dipstick, available at a computer near you.

Our first Tech Session for 2016 is scheduled for **Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** at Frank Linse's in Norfolk. If you put your car away for the winter, this is a great time to bring it out of hibernation and get ready for the rest of driving season.

**Wine Tour XIV** will tour the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula at the end of April. This will be a shorter (mileage) trip than usual, but promises to be just as much fun as always.

**MG2016-Louisville-** We have heard from 27 people interested in traveling to Louisville in June for the all-marque National Show, 20 of whom have made their hotel reservation. There is still time to get on board before we release unused rooms back to the hotels, but I understand reservations for the events in Louisville are getting a little tight. If you are interested, this would be a good time to make your plans.

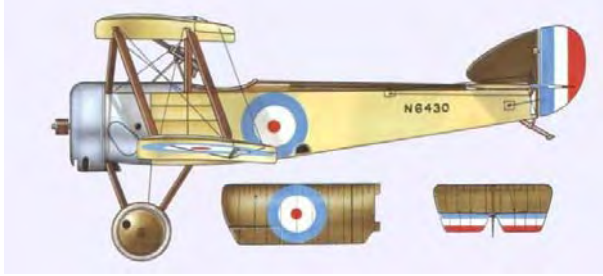
And if you are still reading, you must be serious about this activity stuff, so here you go. This is the first formal announcement of our Fall Tour, **Drive the Crooked Road**. Departing Tidewater on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll travel to Southwest Virginia, the Birthplace of Country Music, and return to Tidewater on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of four days, we will stop at a variety of venues, sampling the music, wine, food and culture of the area. The hotels are set, the roads are paved (mostly) and the restaurants area under review. If you are interested, please let me know. We can handle about 25 people on this trip.

March Meeting Update - We are happy to be back at the home of Carmen and Paul Thiergardt in Virginia Beach for our March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. This meeting was originally scheduled elsewhere, but Paul and Carmen asked to host when they were with us in January. Good friends and good cooking await us. I look forward to seeing you there.

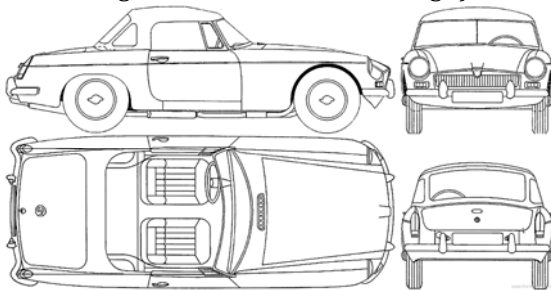
**Enjoy the ride!**

*Tad Carter*

## Head to head comparison: MGB vs Sopwith Pup



The Sopwith Pup was among the first British fighters to achieve parity with the faster, more heavily-armed German aircraft that were operating over the Western Front early in the First World War. Designed by T.O.M. Sopwith in 1915, the Pup was powered by 9 cylinder rotary engine of 664.47 cubic inches displacement delivering 80 horsepower. (note: The rotary engine had a fixed crankshaft, with the cylinders whirling around it. Imagine the torque effect!) Top speed at 10,000 feet was 104 ½ mph and sufficient fuel was carried for approximately 3 hours endurance. The Pup was built under license by a number of manufacturers, including Standard Motorcar Company, which later produced Triumphs. The Pup was extremely nimble, with a loaded weight of only 1265 lbs. But its key feature was the 1916 addition of a single .303 Vickers machine gun synchronized to fire through the propeller arc. This made the Pup an effective “point and shoot” weapon for countering enemy aircraft. (Trivia: Vickers later merged with Wolseley, which is the “W” in those MOWOG logos that appear in our LBC engine blocks and other castings.)



In comparison, a 1970's MGB is powered by an inline 4 cylinder engine of 109.72 cubic inch displacement. (Or 1.8 liters, as we TMGC folks like to say.) With a claimed 94 horsepower at the flywheel, the venerable MGB is *said* to be capable of 103 mph. At highway cruising speed, its twelve gallon fuel tank provides about 4.5 hours endurance. With a fully loaded weight of 2505 lbs and relatively light steering, the B is a force to be reckoned with on twisty, unstriped roads as well as on the track. One area of superiority is with crew accommodations: the MGB carries two long-legged adults in comfort, while the Sopwith Pup was strictly a single-seater for those under about 170 lbs. and less than six feet tall. *(To be fair, the MGB does not compare as well in the armament department, as its occupants are usually unarmed.)*

*Trivia item: Many British automobile manufacturers were involved in both aircraft and aero engine production during both World Wars, including Sunbeam, Wolseley, Riley, Morris, Alvis, Rolls Royce, Daimler and Austin. Before the days of sports cars, most started in the bicycle business. But that is a subject for another day.....*

## Dipstick Calendar – March, 2016

**Mar. 2 – Wednesday – Monthly Meeting – Hosted by Carmen and Paul Thiergardt In Virginia Beach**

**Mar. 12 – End-of-Time Brewery Tour**

**Apr. 5 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting – Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson in Hampton**

Apr. 9 – Williamsburg British Car Show

**Apr. 24 - Tech Session in Norfolk Hosted by Frank Linse**

**Apr. 29 – May 1 – Virginia Wine Tour XIV Middle Peninsula / Northern Neck**

**May 4 – Wednesday – Monthly Meeting Hosted by Cynthia and Andy in Norfolk**

May 28 – June 5 – British Car Week

**June 1 – Dessert Drive – Peninsula**

**June 2 – Dessert Drive – Southside**

**June 7 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting in VB Hosted by Issie and Bill Yoshida Membership Renewal Meeting**

June 12-18 – MG2016 - All Registers Louisville, KY (Includes our travel dates)

**June 21 – Tuesday - Norfolk Tides – 7:05 1<sup>st</sup> Pitch**

**Turn-Back-The-Clock Night**

**July Meeting – Date and Location – TBD**

**Aug. 2 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting Hosted by Jayne and Bruce Easley in Seaford**

**Aug. 7 – Summer Tech Session in Chesapeake Hosted by Jim Freeh**

**Aug. 21 – Sunday – Barksdale Theatre Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs***



## Marque Time



Well, for anyone who cares, you may notice my absence from the March TMGC meeting. At about the same time that you are all gathering to start the meeting, I'll be enjoying a refreshing beverage somewhere on a beach in Aruba. I would try to use the excuse that I needed some time to unwind due to the strain of my presidential duties, but you all know better than that.

So you will be in the capable hands of Tad Carter, who will be carrying out the duties of President, Vice President, Activities Director, general entertainment, any anything else the club needs. Once again, thank you for all that you do, Tad. This club simply would not be the same without you.

I will, however, be back in time for the "End-of-Time" brewery tour on March 12. It may be questionable, after my trip to Aruba, whether my liver will be able to handle brewery products, but I'm sure I'll enjoy the ride as well as the company of my fellow club members.

And, as I mentioned last month, spring is just around the corner. Along with many of the other events that we have planned, nothing says "spring" to a TMGC member more than the announcement from Alan and Beckey Watson of the plans for the annual winery tour. At the time I am writing this the details are still to be announced, but it is certain to be another great weekend.

As usual, Tad will certainly have all of the information about other upcoming events, meetings and so forth in his contribution to this Dipstick. We have a lot to look forward to in the next few months, and beyond! I'm just hoping my MGB will cooperate.

If I run into trouble, I can always take advantage of the upcoming Tech Session at Frank Linse's. Otherwise I may have to press my old Bugeye Sprite into service again. If that fails I may have to resort to a bicycle. One way or another, I'll be there enjoying more fun with all of you. Until then,

*Safety Fast,*

Robert  
(aka "Island Boy")

February 3, 2016 TMGCC Meeting Minutes

*Courtesy of Cynthia Faschini*

The meeting was called to order with Pete Olson blowing heartily into his horn right into Bill Yoshida's face. That got everyone's attention with Bill commenting on the odor that was emitted. Let's just say it wasn't a bed of roses. It was a rainy evening but the diehards showed up in full force with approximately 30 in attendance. Pete Olson and his wonderful sister put on a brilliant spread with gumbo as the featured item.

The President got approval for the minutes from Jennifer Ash. We had two guest joining us for the festivities - Beth and TinoVanderhaeghe.

Our illustrious VP, Tad Carter, gave the treasurer's report noting we have an ending balance of \$1792.96. Reminded everyone that the deadline for the Dipstick is February 20, 2016 and then segued right into the fun stuff which is activities. Here are a few that were mentioned. If you want further details please go to the website or email Tad.



Valentine's Day- Edenton 17 people signed up. Don't miss the full plumage of the birds

March – End of Time Brew cruise – Smithfield/Chesapeake. Big Ugly Brewing Company. Of note, Hank Giffin's daughter and son-in-law are the proprietors.

April 24- Tech Session at Frank Linse

Last weekend in April – Wine Tour (Middle Peninsula) This books up quickly. Beckey and Alan are working out the details. If interested you might want to email Alan or Becky.

June – Louisville MG2016. Currently there are 20 people that have signed up. Tad mentioned that only 9 rooms have been booked. Andy Wallach quipped that it should be a very cozy group.

June 21 – Turn Back The Clock night at Harbor Park. Of note, the new mascot is now called Trident (which is a seahorse) March meeting may be changed because Carmen and Paul Thiergardt have graciously offered there home. Tad will keep us informed.

We will miss Robert in March because he has been called away on official business to Aruba. Guess who will be covering for him?

Nothing new to report on membership.

Old Business – none

New Business – Richard Leal from the Eastern Shore is ill and is currently in rehab. The MG club sent him a "get well card" wishing him a speedy recovery.

Marque Time- David Kinsey mentioned that in Dribs and Drabs someone is looking for a cast iron head somewhere in the vicinity of 1974 or 1976.



With the Sylvan Heights Bird Park trip in doubt, Pete was able to offer a stand in.....



## Membership Update

*Compiled by Bill Yoshida*

**2016 Memberships:** As of 19 February there are 120 paid memberships with an additional 3 “Promised” renewals.

**New Memberships:** None.

**Cars:** Total cars – 184

**Cars & Types:** 177 of the following types of MGs:

MGA	A- Coupe	B	B-GT	C	C-GT	TC	TD	TF	Midget
28	2	83	16	1	3	7	21	4	12

Other/Various MGs – 7 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB/ 2 ELVA Courier)

A man owned a small farm in Ireland. The Irish Internal Revenue heard that he was not paying fair wages to his staff and dispatched an agent to investigate him.

“I need a listing of your employees and how much you pay ‘em!” demanded the agent.

“Well, replied the farmer, “there’s my farm hand who’s been with me for three years. I pay him 200 a week plus free room and board.”

“The cook has been here 18 months and I pay her 150 per week plus free room and board as well.”

“Then there’s the halfwit. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He gets about 10 a week. He pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of whisky every Saturday night. He also sleeps with my wife occasionally.”

“That’s the guy I want to talk to .....the halfwit!”, said the agent.

“That would be me,” was the reply.....



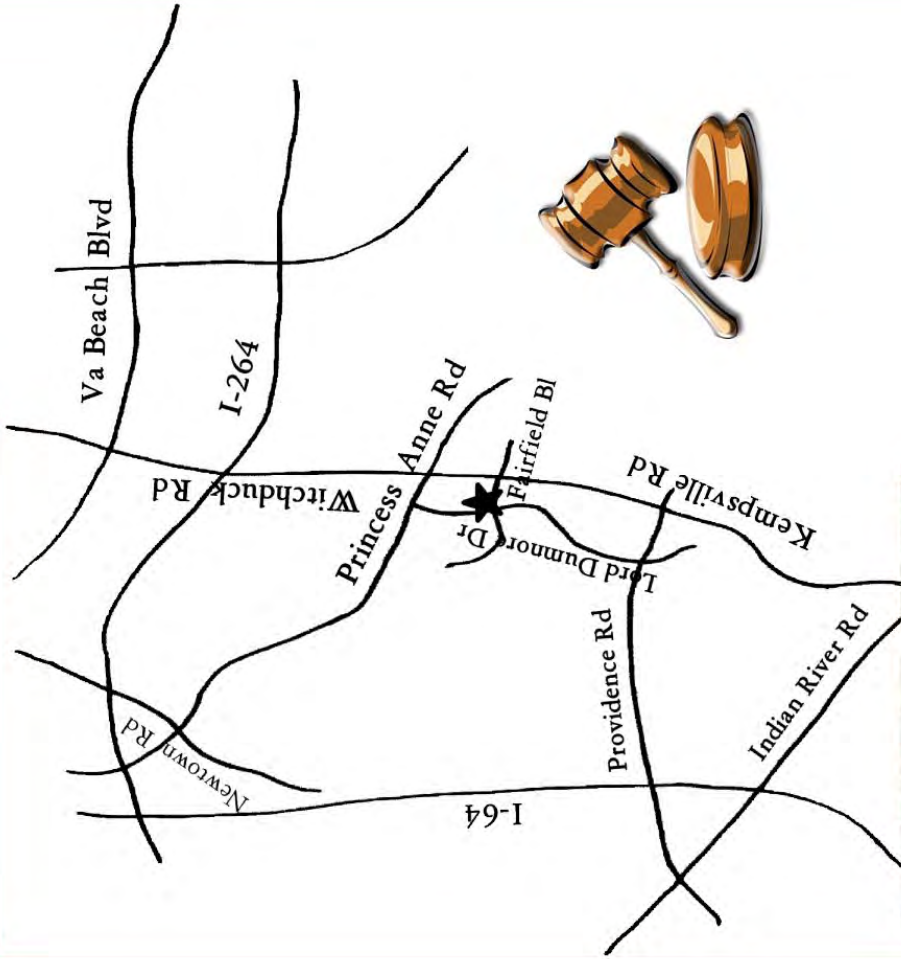
**Tech Tip:** “Approaching an electrical malfunction without a test light, or helter skelter, is a certain route to madness.”

*Courtesy of Moss/Lucas*



# Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 2nd  
Paul & Carmen Thiergardt  
5232 Fairfield Blvd  
Virginia Beach  
497-0455



7:30 - 8:00 pm - Kick Tyres  
8:00 Meeting



Tidewater MG Classics  
C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski  
4705 Little John Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

*Affiliated with*



North American MGB Register

# FIRST CLASS