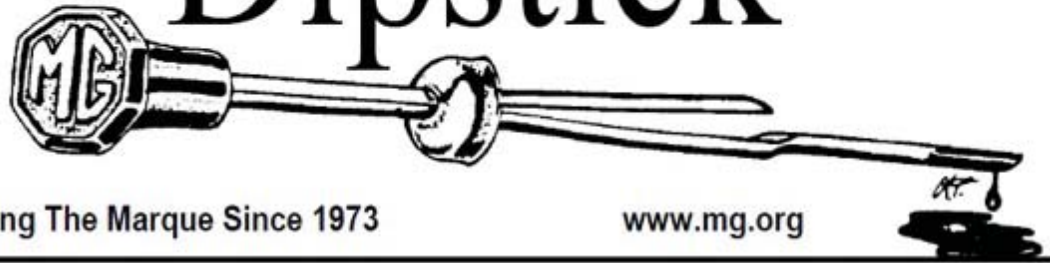




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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That's a Horrible Idea February 17, 2018



The Horrible Idea marked the opening day of the 2018 TMGC driving season, courtesy of Tad Carter's careful planning and preparation. The eager participants gathered at the Waffle House on Portsmouth Boulevard at 10:00 a.m. under cloudy skies. After refueling and some morning banter, Tad led us on a rustic tour of the approaches to Smithfield and on into Isle of Wight County. Tad and Karen were the only MG in the group, until we were joined by Eric Fee and Cindy Hall who joined us enroute to our first stop: Hampton Roads Vineyard & Winery in picturesque Elberon. www.hamptonroadswinery.com

Our hostess at the Winery was co-owner Diane Sheldon, who treated us to a lively background story of the property's history. The site was once owned by the Spratley family who raised carriage trade horses for the New York market. This was in the late 19th and early 20th century, just before automobiles made carriage horses a thing of the past. Today the farm is home to vineyards, beef cattle, and a small colony of goats. The goats enjoy climbing the world's tallest goat tower, which is adjacent to the tasting room. Diane guided us through a delicious tasting of Hampton Roads Vineyard & Winery's offerings while we enjoyed indoor picnic lunches. After making some purchases for the road, we departed for an extended road course that took us westward into Charles City County, over the James River near Hopewell, and back down Route 5 past many of the old plantation homes. Entering Williamsburg, we skirted the William & Mary campus on our way to Silver Hand Meadery. www.silverhandmeadery.com



At Silver Hand, we were treated to an entertaining presentation on the production cycle of the main ingredient in mead: honey. Our host Glenn demonstrated natural honey production from flower, to hive, to finished product. A tasting of several varieties of honey demonstrated the wide range of flavors that are possible, based on whatever the bees use as a nectar source. After sampling the honey, we enjoyed tasting samples of the associated varieties of mead. Everyone was surprised at the range of flavors that resulted. After more activity in the sales room, we departed for our final stop on the other side of Williamsburg: Eight Shires Distillery.



Eight Shires is a distiller of Colonial American spirits, using ingredients and methods of the era. Current offerings included both gin and rum which were two of the most popular spirits in the Colonies. Bourbon is also in production, with availability in 2019. We were treated to a sample of spirits while our guide regaled us with the fascinating story of how spirits were produced, shipped and CONSUMED by the Colonists. A tour of the production facility included a look at (and a whiff) of the mash vats from which the spirits are extracted. Following the tour, we enjoyed potent colonial era “cocktails” in the tasting room. www.8shires.com



Under darkening and rainy skies we made our farewells and started for home. The I-64 traffic was mercifully calm which made for an uneventful homeward leg. Our hats are off to Tad and Karen for leading us on the Horrible Idea that turned out to be another special day with TMGC friends.



By Mark Davidoski

TMGC Mug Shot Interview with **Bob Stein**

By Ruth Johnson

A life-long Tidewater resident, Bob Stein likes just about everything the Tidewater area has to offer, with mountains, lakes, oceans, and forests all within a few hour's drive.

Bob's career is as an Instructional Systems Designer. He has designed and developed computer and web-based training for the Xbox game console, cyberterrorism awareness and IED investigation courses for the State Department and 3-D interactive training for the military. In his leisure time he writes fantasy fiction and builds web sites. He also spends time with his collection of antique vehicles, a 1937 Pontiac, 1951 Studebaker, 1986 Nissan Laurel, 1989 Buick Reatta, 1963 Centaur Suitcase Scooter and a 1993 Bricklin EV Warrior electric moped.



About MG's...

Bob currently owns a 1949 MG TC (Wildflower) and a 1978 MGB-GT British Market RHD (Rodney). Prior to this he has owned ten MGB roadsters, six MGB-Ts, a 1957 MGS coupe, a 1958 MGA roadster (now owned by Eric Fee) and a 1948 MGTC (Sue Bond's Eleanor).

Bob says, "My 'dream car' was an MG TC when I was in elementary school. My best friend had a 1977 MGB that he wanted to sell, and I found it had loads of room. It was also simple to work on and fun to drive. I like MGs because they seem to fit in anywhere—you



When asked if he had any memorable “incidents” with his MGs, he replied, “The starter in Wildflower broke just this past November when I tried to start her to go home from the East Coast Auto Show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. I was parked in the lobby and the starter just spun. Luckily, a couple of people gave me a push and she fired right up and got me home.” He now has an electronic ignition in both the GT and TC—it has made a big difference. Rodney has upgraded seats, 15” minilites with 60-series radials, and an Ansa exhaust, plus wood grain dash and wooden steering wheel. Rodney is due for a new paint job in the next few months.



Bob has belonged to the Tidewater MG Club for about twelve years and has gained lots of great friends and knowledge, plus help and parts from the club.

His advice to new MG car owners is to “Enjoy the cars—drive as much as you can. Parts are cheap and they are easy to work on, so there is no reason not to use them and have fun! I drive my TC like the sports car it was built to be, not a museum piece.”

For more information, visit Bob's impressive web site at www.caroholic.com



Marque Time

Greetings to fellow MG Enthusiasts,

It was great to see many of you at our February meeting. In addition to the important MG business we were able to perform a quality check on the beverages created by the Oozlefinch Craft Brewery. The great news is that they passed with flying colors. I was unable to determine the origin of the name Oozlefinch. My best guess is that it is a rare and quite possible fictitious bird.

Thank you for all of the kind words and condolences regarding the passing of my brother.

Members, please be sure to inform our membership director, Bill Yoshida, if you change your home address, email, or phone number. By doing so you will be sure to be in the loop for club activities and notices I.E. meeting changes.

I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting which will be at the home of Ashley and Billy Stutz. Until then, keep your cars between the ditches and the shiny sides up.

Safety Fast!

BILLO

Dipstick Calendar – March 2018

Mar. 7 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Chesapeake
Hosted by Ashley & Billy Stutz

Mar. 25 (Sun) – At Wit's End
Hanover, VA Barksdale Theatre

Apr. TBA – Spring Tech Session

Apr. 3 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk
Hosted by Cindy Lee & Eric

Apr. 14 – 19th Annual Williamsburg British Car Show
NEW VENUE!!
www.wmbgbrit.com

Apr. 27 – 29 – Spring VA Tour

May 2 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk
Hosted by Cynthia & Andy

May 30 – 31 – Dessert Drives

June 5 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – VB
Hosted by Issue & Bill
(Membership Renewal)

June 13-17 NAMGAR GT-43 – Richmond, VA
Registration site not available as of 11-19-17

June 17-22 - MG2018 – Gettysburg, PA
www.MG2018.namgbr.org

June 25 – Tides Baseball – vs. Gwinnett Stripers
First Pitch – 7:05PM

July 10 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Seaford
Hosted by Jayne & Bruce

Aug. TBA – Summer Tech Session

Aug. 7 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – VB
Picnic in Great Neck Park

Sep. 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk
Ocean View Fishing Pier

Sep. 20-23 (tentative)
Crooked Road Fall Tour

Oct. 2 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – VB
Hosted by Renee & Bill

Nov. TBA – Fall Tech Session

Nov. 7 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Hampton
Hosted by Faith & PJ

Activity Report - March 2018

Looking back at The Dipstick reports over recent years, you will see that



as we have celebrated special anniversaries for our cars, we have touched on just about every critical technical evolution of MG. So rather than repeating ourselves in 2018, we will see what else was going on as we celebrate the latest round anniversaries. The year was 1938 and the US was climbing out of the Great Depression. Tuition at Harvard was \$420 per year (currently \$43,280 plus room, board & fees). You could fill your car for 10 cents per gallon, a postage stamp cost 3 cents, a movie ticket was 25 cents, and the average income was \$1731. Orson Welles caused a panic in the US following the release of *War of the Worlds*. Spencer Tracy won Best Supporting Actor for *Boys Town*, which also starred Mickey Rooney, and *You Can't Take It With You* won Best Movie. And for you music buffs, you were listening to Artie Shaw's *Begin the Beguine*, Bob Hope and Shirley Ross's *Thanks for the Memory*, Ella Fitzgerald's *A-Tisket A-Tasket*, Larry Clinton's *Heart & Soul* and Roy Acuff's *Wabash Cannonball*. And while all this was going on, Hank Giffin's MG-VA was first put on the road.



jumping ahead a decade, prices had skyrocketed. The US was feeling rather perky after WWII and GIs were back from the war and ready to celebrate. Postage was still 3 cents, but that fill-up was going to set you back



16 cents per gallon. Average wages were up to \$2950 per year. Will I sound like an old crab if I say that music never gets any better? Look at 1948 and decide for yourself. Dinah Shore sang *Buttons and Bows* (the best of four renditions in the Top 100), Kay Kyser entertained us with *The Woody Woodpecker Song* (the best of two renditions in the Top 100), and the Andrews Sisters followed up *Cuanto La Gusta* with *Toolie Oolie Doolie*. Please take me back to '38. And what did your 60-cent movie ticket get you? Gene Kelly and Lana Turner in *The Three Musketeers*, John Wayne in *Red River*, Ingrid Bergman as *Joan of Arc*, and Humphrey Bogart in *Key Largo*. Quite a deal at twice the price. And MG? They were rolling out TCs for Susan Bond, Richard Hall, Bob Rourke and Bruce Woodson. It was a very busy year!

And what about 1958? That, my friends, is why you subscribe to The Dipstick. You will find out next month. Instead, we bring you back to 2018 and current activities.

I hope everyone who attended the February meeting enjoyed the setting. We have visited Oozlefinch before (Brew Cruise 2017), and given the way they have welcomed us we should visit there again. Local businesses like this deserve our support. They are part of the vitality and character of the community, and unfortunately are more noticed by their absence (see Frankie's Place for Ribs, Rose & Crown, and too many others). While club meetings in private homes are part of the character of this club, look for venues like Oozlefinch in the future when our options are limited.

We received word recently that the upcoming **Snowball Run / Grand Opening** on March 10th at the Cavalier Hotel has been sold out. Because of demand from those staying overnight, additional seating at the cocktail reception and dinner is no longer available. Therefore, we will not be taking a group to join CVBCC on their journey from Smithfield to the Beach. If you are still interested in their plans, please let me know and I can forward to you the details I have.

Plans are still on for our trip to the **Barksdale Theater in Hanover on March 25th**. This is last call for anyone who wants to join us for this all-day trip. A couple of extra tickets became available, but I would need to know no later than 3/5. The play is Erma Bombeck's *At Wits End*, and we will have lunch beforehand in the Hanover Tavern.

Beckey & Alan are hard at work on final details for the **Spring Tour** in late April. I would love to share all the top-secret plans, but alas, I freely admit that I know nothing. I am, however, looking forward to seeing the pack of MGs from the back for once. We will organize a convoy to the starting line once a time and place have been established.

And for those planning their summer travel, we are working on the trip to Gettysburg for the **NAMGBR MG-2018** show in June. At this point, look at a 6/17 departure date with overnight plans in Harpers Ferry. We'll have Monday morning to wander the town, and then arrive in Gettysburg late afternoon on 6/18. Tuesday and Wednesday are open for show events, or a battlefield visit (Tuesday) and our own driving tour (Wednesday). The show is Thursday, 6/21, and we are on the road for home on Friday, 6/22. Care to join us? Let me know.



Tad Carter

Car Club Council

CAR CLUB COUNCIL: The big news from the Car Club Council is that the General Assembly is in session and there are about 40 motor vehicle related bills being considered. There are the usual collection of requests for special license plates (e.g., STOP GUN VIOLENCE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, VIRGINIA REALTORS, BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE, FIRST IN WINE, I SUPPORT WOMEN VETERANS, I HAVE A DREAM, ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION, PARENTS AGAINST BULLYING and a few others). There are also bills to limit or prohibit the use of handheld communications devices while driving (these all likely will be killed because the telecommunications industry has bought and paid for a majority of our elected officials). HB 582 would increase the vehicle inspection fee from \$16 to \$25. HB 27 codifies moving the inspection sticker from the center of the windshield to the left lower corner. SB 97 would make it a traffic infraction to drive a vehicle with an animal on your lap or that otherwise impedes vehicle operations. SB 104 raises the "automatic reckless driving" speeding threshold from 80 to 85 mph. This bill passed the Senate yesterday on a vote of 23 to 16 – a fairly close vote so it could have rough sledding in the House of Delegates.

The significant bill being followed by the Car Club Council is SB 586 – which would amend the Virginia Code section requiring every vehicle to have an "exhaust system in good working order." Existing law requires motor vehicle exhaust systems "to be of a type installed as standard factory equipment, or comparable to standard factory equipment," making many aftermarket exhaust systems illegal under Virginia law. This has been considered a problem for antique car hobbyists due to the unavailability of "standard factory" type replacement exhaust systems for many antique vehicles. For this reason, the law was amended some years ago "to exempt any antique motor vehicle manufactured prior to 1950." However, this exemption was still considered too restrictive by hobbyists, and previous efforts to expand the exemption (i.e., exempting vehicles manufactured "prior to 1975"), have been unsuccessful. Accordingly, this year SB 586 was introduced by Senator William DeSteph of Virginia Beach to exempt ALL antique registered vehicles from the statute. Dubbed the "Antique Exhaust Freedom Law," the bill passed out of the full Senate yesterday on a vote of 37 – 2 and is now on its way to the House of Delegates. The Virginia State Police have routinely opposed this bill, so it may have a tougher time in the House. However, the sponsor, Senator DeSteph is a "car guy," (he collects Buick Grand Nationals), and has proven to be a good spokesperson for the bill.

Contributed by Jennifer Ash

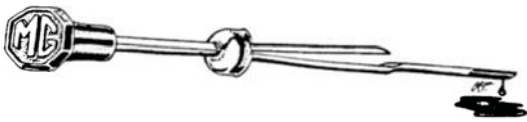
**MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAR 7TH**

**Billy & Ashley Stutz
3332 Patrick Henry Dr.
Chesapeake, VA
291-8073**

**7:30 PM Kick Tyres
8:00 PM Meeting**



The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

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Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS