### THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS



President: Roy Wiley--481-1543
Editor: Susan Boswell--486-1293
25 October 1977

#### OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Hi, gang:

In case you didn't notice, the chores of Newsletter Editor (now separate from those of secretary) have been transferred from the capable typewriter of Jennifer Ash (noted for her bright and breezy English prose) to the willing (and surprisingly nervous) typewriter of Susan Boswell (all Mid-Western twang with a hint of adopted Southern drawl). Jennifer has done an excellent job the last two years and I'll do my best to carry on the tradition. So, onward and upward.

One of the zaniest meetings ever was held at the home of Richard and Sandy Hall. Sparsely attended, with 1 TD and 1 Y-type representing the breed to whose preservation we are dedicated, it was decided that a cold dark night coupled with the Halls' location in the boondocks of Chesapeake stayed all but the bravest (or craziest). We welcomed a prospective new member, Bob Gilmer, whom many of you met with his wife Gail at the British Affair Rallye. Bob and Gail have an MG Midget, but also that unmistakable glint in their eyes when looking at "T"s. Bob works for everyone's favorite electric company, but we're tolerant souls and won't hold that against him. Other business included:

NEW OFFICERS--The slate of candidates was reported by the nominating committee and was unanimously approved by those in attendance;

President--Roy Wiley (incumbent)
V. President--Dave Barrows (incumbent)
Secretary--Tom Lund
Treasurer--Don Moore

Our best of luck to the two newest officers and our thanks to Jennifer Ash and O.D. Dawson for their two years of service to the club.

THE GREAT BADGE SAGA--Buck Lampton was afraid to show his face in public so Jennifer Ash reported that a sample badge has been reproduced and barring World War III or the collapse of the Italian government, we should have badges in hand by Nov. 9--Christmas at the latest. No one was daring enough to specify the year. It seems that among other thing, poor Buck has found religion during this episode. Also, in a frenzy of guilt that drove him to go above and beyond the call of duty, Buck has managed to get up T-shirts with pockets for the no-pocket price. Ask Jennifer what Buck promised the man in return. As a postscript to this still unfinished tale, I'd like to add something I saw in the newsletter from the Hawaii chapter. It

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may give Buck the courage to go on when he sees that he is not alone.

"PETE FAGAN.....WHERE ARE YOU?....WHAT'S BECOME OF OUR CAR BADGES?? george"

#### UPCOMING EVENTS --

- NOV. 11--SEAFOOD DINNER, 7:30--We decided on Swain's Charcoal Steak House (1571 W. Ocean View Ave.) which has a great seafood buffet on Friday nights featuring ten different seafoods for \$6.45. Swain's is the one with the huge green Neptune to the left of I-64 just before you get to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel. Take the last exit off I-64 for Willoughby Spit, then the first right at the caution light, go under the highway and follow the road around to the right until it ends. Hope to see y'all there.
  - DEC. 9--THE CHRISTMAS PARTY, 8:00--This is always one of our best attended events and is always great fun. This year it has been moved to the home of Carl and Kay Fisher in Sandbridge (but don't worry, so has the player piano). A map will be included in next month's newsletter. Last year Helen Barrows tried to do it all with only a little help from some of the other wives. That's just too much, so I hope this year everyone will call either Helen Barrows (428-3250) or Kay Fisher (426-7446) and offer to bring an hors d'oeuvre or Christmas cookies or whatever your Christmas specialty is. I know Helen and Kay will appreciate the help.

Mike and Jennifer Ash reported on the Rebel GOF which they attended in their TD the weekend of September 30 in Atlanta. They were surprised to win the distance award for coming 620 miles. After it was announced that the next meeting is at our house on Wednesday.

Nov. 2 (see map), the meeting was adjourned for what we always do best-eating-and for the unveiling of the latest batch of T-shirts, with pockets.

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GOF MK XXV--Dan and I attended our first national GOF in Enfield. Connecticut, Oct 13-16, along with Mike and Jennifer Ash, who are old hands at this sort of thing by now. I must say that the GOF more than lived up to our expectations and we are already talking about Toronto in June, 1978, and Newport, R.I. in Sept, 1978. Browsing through newsletters from other chapters, I see that GOFs are big items in other clubs so maybe we can whip up some enthusiasm in this club come next spring.

But enough proselytizing--more about the GOF. On Thursday, once we left miserable, wet, cold, windy Virginia and Delaware (see below) and survived the trucks on the New Jersey Turnpike, the remainder of the drive was spectacular, especially in upstate New York and Connecticut where the sun was bright and warm and the trees were at the peak of their glory and were incredibly beautiful. We checked into the Hospitality Inn in Enfield in time to get a much needed drink at a get-acquainted cocktail party where we renewed old friendships

with the few people we knew from the Chesapeake Chapter.

Friday (in the rain and cold which followed us from Virginia) was the first-timers car show for us newcomers to display our cars and Friday night was Dick Knudson's (in) famous auction where he auctioned off one of our T-shirts for \$8.00. Saturday Mike Ash had a booth at the flea market where I managed to sell a T-shirt to a kid (about 19) who must have walked by about ten times to look at the shirts. The rain finally cleared about noon (it had been depressingly persistent until then) in time for the show of cars and voting followed by a funkhana, the details of which I won't elaborate on since we may do the same madness ourselves sometime. That evening was the banquet and announcement of winners. I'm pleased to report that we took third place in the TF class, losing to two truly outstanding cars, one of which took third in Concours so the competition was tough.

The food was exceptional, the people were great, the cars were beautiful (and some were quite exotic, including a 1938 PA and a 1932 F-type Magna--I hope I have that right). All you hear are MGs--MGs--MGs--until you think you'd get sick of them, but somehow you don't. Mike and Jennifer have been telling up for two years that GOFs are great. Believe me, they are: May our battle cry become:

### TORONTO IN '78:

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At the GOF Board Meeting, Mike and Jennifer Ash were accepted as co-chairmen (co-chairpersons?) to sponsor the GOF MK XXXIII at the Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach in the fall of 1981. This is not a club function but it is a T-Register function and since many of us are members of the T-Register, I hope Mike and Jennifer can count on our full support. Congratulations, Mike and Jennifer.

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ON CROSSING CHESAPEAKE BAY IN A TF AT 7 O CLOCK ON AN OCTOBER MORNING IN A DRIVING RAIN WITH WHAT-YOU-HOPE-IS-A-WATER-PROOF SUITCASE STRAPPED TO THE LUGGAGE RACK--

T-owners are masochists. They must be. Why else would they drive a car that has no trunk, no back seat, no defroster and no heater (we had a heater once but Dan says that a true T-enthusiast disdains such plebeian comforts. After all, ANYBODY can buy a car with a heater). This 4-wheeled wind tunnel is the only automobile I know where if you bring along a wash cloth and soap, you can shower in the car. Standard equipment includes a hammer for smacking the fuel pump and rags to stuff in the cracks. You couldn't hear the radio, even if you had one. Ah, but the joys of owning a T. There is something glorious about salt-spray in your face at 50 mph in 40 weather while the wind over Chesapeake Bay whips up frothy white caps on a rolling slate-grey sea.

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THE FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE-OUT--Only a few die-hards as well as our newest prospective members, the Gilmers, showed up for this in 1 VA, 1 TF, 1 MGBGT, 1 MGA, and 1 MG Midget (Observation: funny how many T-owners have other MGs as well). We set out for Yorktown and the Colonial Parkway where we met Carroll Davis and family down from Richmond in

a TF, a TD, and something American. Congratulations to Kemp and Linda Davis who brought two-week-old no. 2 son, Kevin Lee, along for the ride. It was decided that Levi Tarr would choose the picnic spot since the last time that chore had been left to Banvard and Hall (sounds like a vaudeville team--need I say more), the result had been less than pleasant (remember Knotts Island). But no one could have gone wrong on a day like this in an area as beautiful as that along the James River. We managed to survive the ferry ride without dumping any cars or people in the river and somehow found our way home, inspite of Jim Banvard's efforts to detour the group through Chuckatuck (ending up in Windsor). The whole day had the flavor of a Keystone Cops Comedy with everyone popping out of cars while we tried to decide where to go next and Jim Banvard having to get out of his VA every few miles to close the trunk so he wouldn't lose any of Brenda's picnic goodies. But as usual the craziness was fun.

members with a 1959 and a 1962 MGA. Please add their names and address to the roster. 6312 Dartmouth Way

Va Beach. VA 23462 424-5695

FOR SALE: (1) MGYT--4 seater Tourer; new paint, upholstery, top, tires, etc. in 1975. Excellent body which has no rust. \$5,000.

(2) MGTD--1952--Fair running condition with good top, seats, minor rust, good wood. Ready for restoration. \$2500. Contact Ernie Betts, 815 S. 25th St., Arlington, VA 22202 703-684-8456

FOR SALE: Original round Lucas driving lights and bulbs. Brand new. Supply limited. Dan Boswell--486-1293. \$22.50 ea.

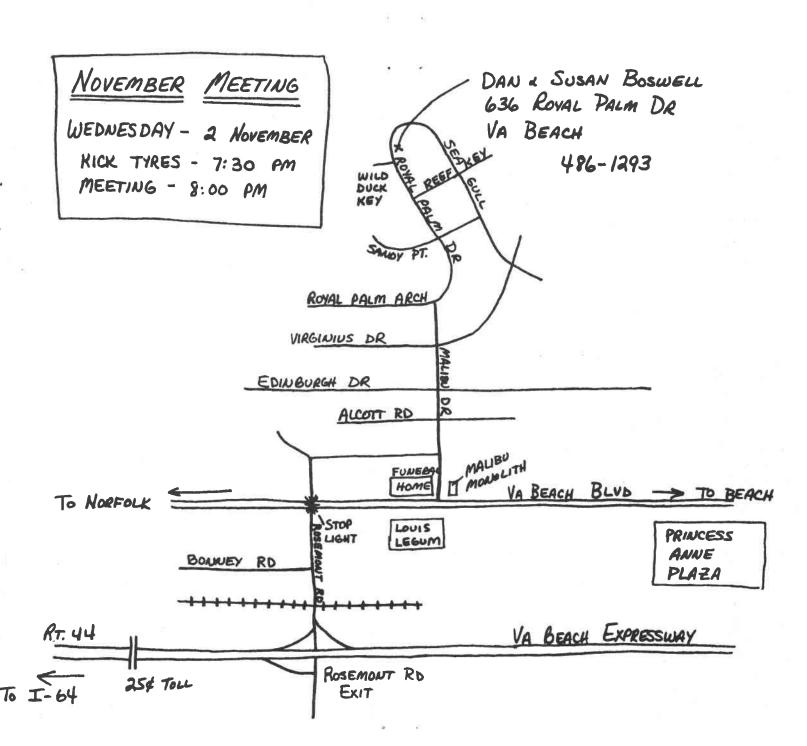
Three original tool kit items--Lockheed brake bleeder hose in original can; Lucas distributor screw driver and feeler; and Dunlop tire extractor. \$6.00 for all. Also water pump for XPAG engine. Mike Ash--424-1660. (\$25.00)

WANTED: MGTD parts as follows: (1) oil dip stick; (2) flat face speedometer and tach; (3) original choke cable; (4) door latch covers; (5) tach gear reduction box; (6) jack handle; (7) starter crank; (8) inside rear view mirror (have pedestal). Contact Ernie Betts, 815 S. 25th St., Arlington, VA 22202 703-684-8456

It has been suggested that we start a column to which we hope you all will be inspired to contribute. What I want is for you to tell me, in your own words, what your MG means to you. Or if that doesn't turn you on, then give me a history of your car (if you know it), or the story behind its acquisition, or how you came to be a lover of MGs. Or if you're still desperate for an idea, how about some funny incident

that happened to you in connection with your MG. Any length is acceptable (short of something approaching War and Peace, please). You may give it to me at a meeting or send it through the mail. Thank you.

AND FINALLY--Look next month for the new roster plus what we hope-and Buck Lampton prays--will be the concluding chapter of the continuing
story of the Great Badge Saga--out in paperback under the title, "Mama
Mia, How Did I Ever Get Myself into This", if and when the Italian
publisher ever gets around to it.



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