



THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS

# THE DIPSTICK

JULY 1982

PRESIDENT: Ross Haines (486-1496)  
VICE PRES: Vince Groover (497-6904)  
SECRETARY: Mary Thompson (495-0085)  
TREASURER: Bess Mann (340-4011)  
EDITOR: Carol Wallach (587-2464)

Hi, all--

We need an editor! Please give some serious thought to volunteering a few hours of your time each month to the club. Many other clubs have men or couples as editors-- it's not limited just to women. Any two people can be co-editors. It's not difficult-- if you've never done it before I'll be around a couple more months to help out.

Don't forget--dues are due. If you need an application/renewal, I'll have some at the meeting.

## JUNE MEETING - SECRETARY'S MINUTES:

The meeting started out with a keg and tyre-kicking in Bob and Linda Pellerin's front yard, but the session was deluged into the house by a typical Chesapeake Bay "gully-washer". The beer-drinking continued for a while until president Ross managed to call the meeting to order...somewhat.

There were several guests at the meeting and one couple actually paid dues and became members; they are Vicky and Phil Topcik, recently moved up here from Florida-- welcome! The other guests were Carlos Michado and Marc Ostertag, who owns a TF. Don and Barbara Pryor also made their first meeting in almost a year!

The Treasury reported a balance of \$730.60. (Roy proceeded to succumb to the howls of the drenched dog on the back patio and let it into the room, whereupon it bounded over everyone and knocked over a glass of coke, so we put Roy out in the rain with the dog).

Activities committee announced the upcoming Father's Day brunch and drive-out to Smithfield and on to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News. (I guess that will be written up later in this epistle.) The next meeting was to have been at Paddock's house, but we hadn't heard from them in a while, so we don't know if it will be there. (Ed. note: It's not there; it's at Bradford's).

The July 17 outing to Nag's Head has been postponed until the fall, as it was felt to be too hot to "T" down there and back in one day, and the lodging prices are too outrageous (if obtainable) at this time of year. Instead, there will be local country drive-out, ending up at some local seafood eatery; that will be held on the same date, July 17th (details later in this issue).

There were no reports from Parts Chairman or Regalia Chairman.

There was more discussion on a replacement newsletter editor for Carol Wallach, and Pam Groover was nominated, but could not be contacted for an answer. (This is one of the vital parts of our club, as it does keep the membership together when they are unable to participate in meetings, so please come forward with offers of help if you can (a) type, (b) write sentences, (c) spare about an hour or two each month

This could be done by two or three people together.)

Jim Banvard read a letter from Jim Sutter--with difficulty--who is a Register member with a TF, moving to Williamsburg, and is looking for a small business opportunity in the area.

Carl Fisher gave a run-down on the British Car Days in Charlotte, NC. About 130 cars participated, but only about 3 or 4 T-series. Dave Barrows won a trophy for the Healey Silverstone. The meeting was adjourned so that we could partake of Linda's culinary delights and Bob's keg. Thank you both. It was unofficially rumored, on the best authority, that John and Sandy German have killed a baby rabbit. Congratulations to you both!

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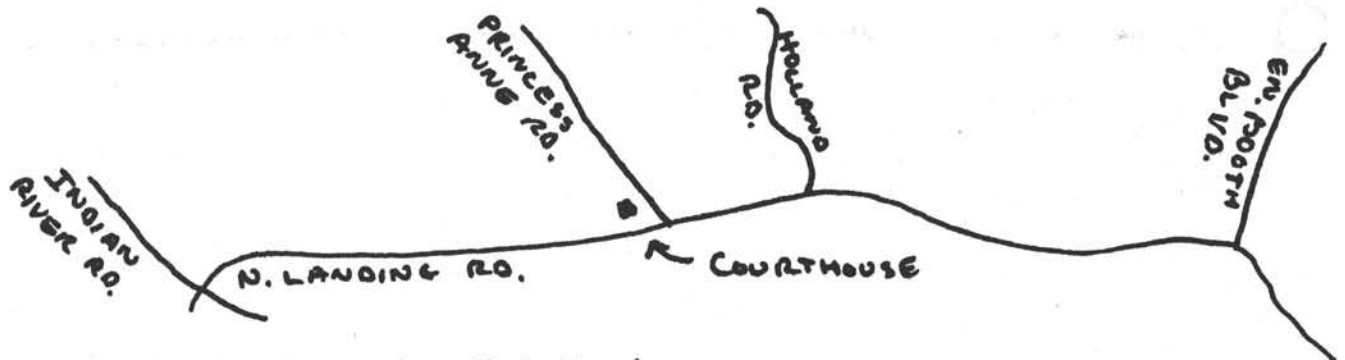
DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST DIPSTICK IS JULY 23

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July Meeting--Wednesday, July 7 at the Bradford's. (Map on last page).

Saturday, July 17--Back country drive-out/dinner. Meet at Princess Anne Courthouse at 3:30 PM. Don't miss it! The famous Richard Hall deluxe tour of Pungo and environs. Dinner at a Pungo Ferry restaurant to follow. Please call Richard or Sandy Hall (482-2821) with dinner reservations by July 14.



August Meeting--Tuesday, August 3 at Elsie Tarr's.

August 22--Family Field Day and Picnic.

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Jennifer Ash reports that Kay Nolan has been in the hospital but is home again now. Hope to have you back with us soon, Kay!

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SMITHFIELD INN/MARINERS MUSEUM DRIVE-OUT

A small (10) but enthusiastic group celebrated Father's Day June 20 with a drive-out to Smithfield Inn for brunch. The food was great, prices reasonable and it was enjoyed by all. After wandering a bit through the quaint town of Smithfield we motored over country roads to the Mariners Museum in Newport News after which we broke up for the trip home. Thanks to Jennifer and Mike Ash for hosting/leading the caravan.

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DIPSTICK TRIVIA QUIZ #6 - JULY 1982

51. The largest MG's ever built were the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
52. The TD "MK II" was also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
53. In what month is the T Register's annual meeting held? \_\_\_\_\_
54. What does "MMM" in the MG Car Club's "MMM" Register stand for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
55. The standard color of the 1934 four seater "P" type was \_\_\_\_\_.
56. Who banned the racing of MG's in 1935? \_\_\_\_\_
57. What MG established a basic design used through the TF? \_\_\_\_\_
58. When seated in a TD how far are you from the road (in inches)?
- a. 11
  - b. 13
  - c. 15
  - d. 17
  - e. 19
  - f. 21
59. The "Battlefield Bivouac" was so named by \_\_\_\_\_.
60. What is the name of the award given for team distance at a major GOF? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Fold)

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Ross Haines  
633 Pinetree Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

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(Fold)

6/8/82

Dear TIDEWATERERS,

I once again feel obligated to take typewriter in hands and comment on some recent events.

1) A sincere thanks to Jim Banvard for all his help at the MINI-GOF. He gave up an afternoon helping run the event at the last minute request of yours truly, then gave up the rest of the afternoon helping replace the conn rod bearings on Penelope, our Y. She ran fine all the way home and is still doing fine. Next MINI-GOF somebody please bring along a set of rings! Thanks, also, to Dan Boswell for having the bearings in the boot of his TF.

2) On the Y voting-- there is no truth to the rumor that I swapped the car numbers with Banvard's Y during the majority of the car display. There is, however, truth to the rumor that Roy Wiley sold my Y three times that morning, then disappeared when the people came by to get the keys! I too felt Jim's Y should have won (but not enough to give him the pewter mug). Chalk it up to vote buying... and an occasional threat..

3) Enclosed is an article entitled 'FEMALE TOADS SEEM TO FEEL BIGGER'S BETTER' which add's further endorsement to Jennifer's pronouncement last year.

4) As you know, the GEW auditing firm is making plans to audit the Tidewater Mint- treasury prior to sending in our substantial out of town dues. West, as you know, recently returned from advisor duties as anti-submarine training officer for the Argentine Cruiser BELGRANO, and Eaton is still recovering from his last rosy financial forecast... Braniff airlines. Don't worry, your money's safe with a member of GEW around.

5) I could have told you Banvard had at least one loose nut and Haines had a burnt out wire- funny how cars take after their masters.

6) Lastly, I feel I must correct what I feel is an honest misinterpretation of fact regarding the answer to a question on the last trivia quiz that was presented to the members. The question concerns the origins (existence) of the TF.

The facts as I see them are when the MGA was presented to Len Lord (BMC Chief) right after the decision to produce the Healey was made (late 1952), he made the decision to: a) not produce the MGA due to the possible competition with the Healey, and b) to continue producing the TD (NOT to start production of the TF). The only reason the TF came into existence was the failure of the TD to continue selling (by mid 1953). In May 1953 Cecil Cousins and the 'panel bashers' made the prototype of the TF, which went into production Sept 1953. If the TD had continued to sell in 1953, the TF would never have been created, and was created (brought into existence) from the TD, to which it owes so many of it's parts. It is realized it is recollected that way by John Thornley after all these years, and it does state the situation as such in the TSC Oct 80, however on the following page (pg 7) it is detailed a bit more and contradicts Mr. Thornley. The Healey 100 answer was considered and dismissed as inaccutate.

With this in mind, I will not comment on rumors which have reached all the way to Washington D.C. concerning possible collusion between bridge partners/coworkers Banvard and Haines, even to the degree of stretching the facts to save face for the 'in-town expert'.

WARM (RE) AND

HANK

FROM OLDE NUMBER 6733:

My departure for Dayton, Ohio prior to the June 15th deadline for the 5th Trivia Quiz forced the following tally based on entries received by the 11th. Therefore this is tentative and will be updated in the next newsletter. Obviously the monthly winner is very much subject to change. I'll update the numbers between the end of the month and the July meeting.

<u>Name</u>	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Hank Giffin	9/10 4/10	48/50 57/60
Jim Banvard	8/10 7/10	47/50 56/60
Ron Eaton	--	38/40 38/40
Mike Ash	-- 7/10 6/10	17/20 24/30 30/40
Andy Wallach	--	17/20 17/20
Bill Gordon	--	11/20 11/20

#### Questions and Answers - Trivia Quiz #5

41. M.G. stands for-----.

A. Itself. "At the Saturday night banquet Jean was made an Honorary Life Member of the Register. Anyone who was there will never forget the near five hundred voices saying in unison under her direction, 'M.G. stands for itself, it doesn't mean anything else.' It was M.G. history--pure and simple. And we all loved it."  
(TSO, December 1980, p. 4)

42. Name the two main functions of the New England MG 'T' Register.

A. Publish The Sacred Octagon and sponsor GOF's. "In addition to The Sacred Octagon, the other main function of the Register is the Gathering of the Faithful."  
(TSO, December 1978, p. 2)

43. In the first Watkins Glen Grand Prix, of the first 10 finishers, ----- were MG's.

A. 8. "The first Watkins Glen Grand Prix was held in October 1948. Third place overall went to a supercharged TC, and eight of the first 10 finishers were MG's."  
(TSO, April 1980, p. 30.)

44. What was unusual about the interior rear view mirror on TC's produced for sale in England?

A. There was no interior rear view mirror. "The Home Model has no interior rear view mirror,..." (TSO, August 1979, p. 38)

45. In 1955 who drove an MGTC to victory in the SCAA's national championship in Class G?

A. (d) George Valentine. "As late as 1955, a TC actually won the SCAA's national championship in Class G in the capable hands of George Valentine of Bainbridge, New York." (TSO, June 1979, p. 21)

46. What was the name of the restaurant that burned down after we scheduled an outing for it?

A. The Wharf. "...Roy Wiley reported at the meeting that the Wharf has burned to the ground." (Club Newsletter, July 1978, p. 2)

47. In what year did the octagon first appear on the MG radiator?

A. 1927. "The radiator began to take the shape of the now familiar style, and during 1927 the enamelled octagon badge appeared on the radiator for the first time, at first surrounded by a blue ring, with a nickel badge in the middle of the honeycomb and later in the now familiar cream and brown form." (The Magic of MG, p. 12)



48. NEMGT Register #2 belongs to \_\_\_\_\_?  
A. Frank Churchill. (TSO, June 1979, p. 55)

49. What is the highest mark of honor and recognition the Register can bestow?  
A. Honorary Life Member. "The highest mark of honor and recognition the Register can bestow is that of Honorary Life Member. It is a select group, indeed, until GOF Mk XXVIII composed of only two people, Capt. George E.T. Eyston and John W. Thornley." (TSO, October 1979, p. 28)

50. On what month's issue of the club's newsletter did "The Dipstick" first appear?  
A. September 1979. "Spelling of 'The Dipstick' - An observant Andy Wallach advised us that dipstick is one word. After removing my pencil from his nose, he acknowledged my thanks for his contribution to the proceedings." (The Dipstick, September 1979, p. 3)

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Hank's "Bigger is Better" article follows:

## *Female toads seem to feel bigger's better*

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Go ahead, ask any female Fowler's toad who's worth her warts and you'll likely get the same response: Bigger is better, when it comes to choosing your mate.

Ohio State University zoologist Lincoln Fairchild will give the same answer — from a toad's standpoint, that is.

"Bigger is better, it turns out," said Fairchild, who's been studying the communication patterns of toads and other animals for more than 10 years.

Fairchild heads Ohio State's Biorr Laboratory of Bioacoustics, which houses more than 21,000 animal sound recordings. He believes his theory is not only probable but also provable.

"There are few cases where you can show where animals are choosing mates for their physical attributes, not for the real estate they own or the car they drive — except in Fowler's toads," he said.

FOWLER'S TOADS, found in the eastern United States but rarer and smaller than American toads, are about 2½ inches from nose to vent and live up to eight years. But unlike other toads and frogs, Fowler females are attracted to males by the volume of the male mating call and, consequently, the volume of the male body.

"There's no data to show that larger is louder, but the pulse rate differs with size," Fairchild said, "Larger males have slower pulse rates, which can give the perception of a louder frequency. And females can tell the size by that speed."

Fairchild, 35, began his work with animal communications as an undergraduate student at Duke University in North Carolina. His original interest was in herring gulls, but he turned toward toads "in search of a simpler system."

"I was again looking initially at interference, how do animals deal with noise? Not just environmental noise, but sounds that their neighbors also produce," he said.

In experiments, Fairchild watched as Fowler females hopped toward the larger males' songs, rejecting the cries of the measly males. The smaller toads tried to outsmart the females by waiting on the bank to snare unsuspecting ladies bouncing by — or by squatting on colder spots, thereby deepening their croaks.

TOADS' SOUNDS vary with temperature, Fairchild said, with colder temperatures producing slower pulse rates. So it's a mad scramble for the coldest spots, whether in water or on shore depending on the night and the time of year.

"It's hard to think that a small toad thinks, 'God, I've got to get my cold spot tonight.' But the smaller toads are more successful (at attracting females) in cold spots," he said.

In the world of Fowler's toads, where males outnumber females 100 to 1 at most breeding spots, you do whatever needs to be done, Fairchild said.

Just what kind of voice does it take to lure the females?

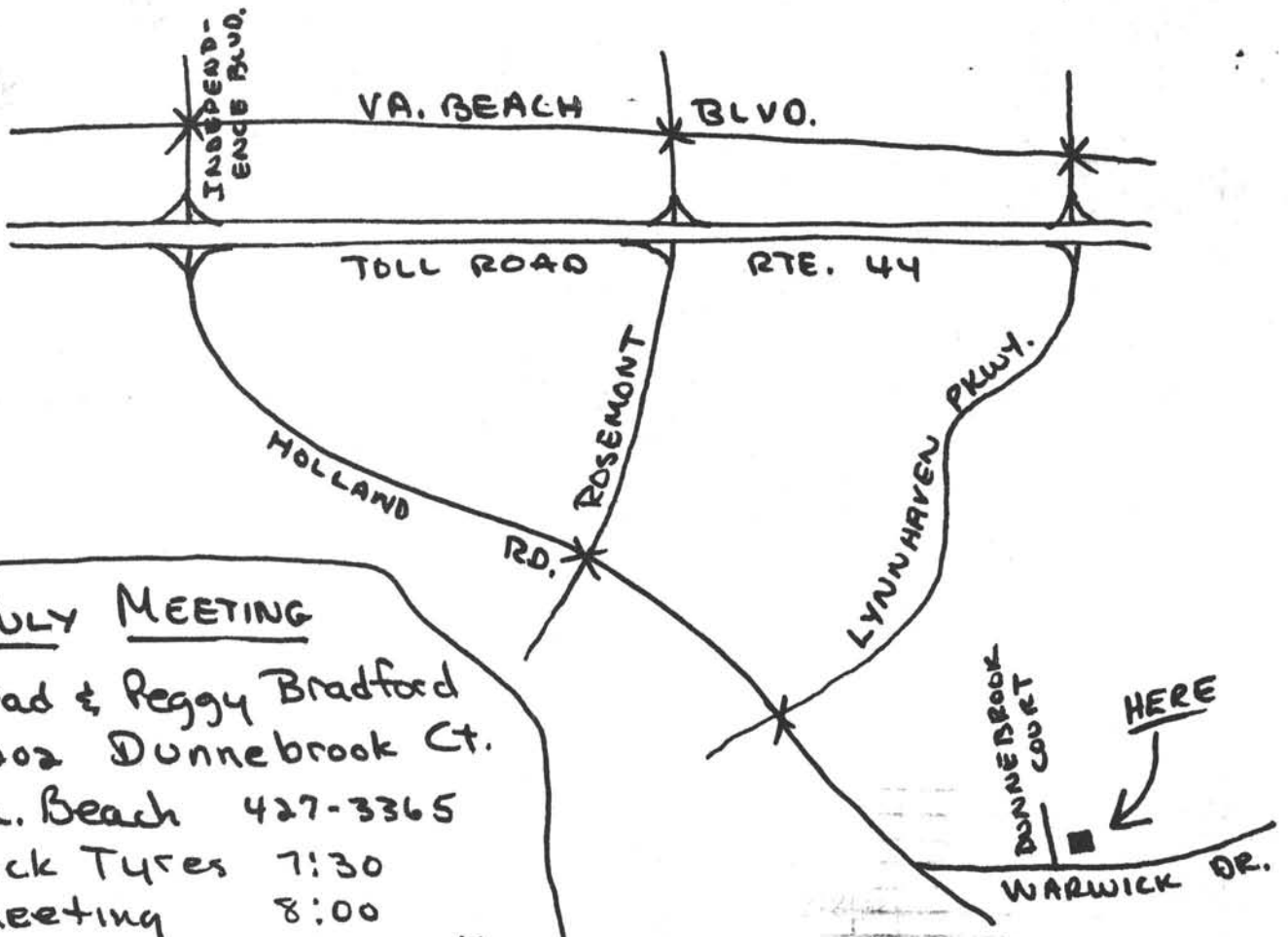
"It's not very melodious, but it's effective, I guess," he said. "It's a harsh, nasal sound, very directional. Sort of like 'NNWWWAAAAAAAAA!'"

The breeding season for Fowler's toads lasts from April through June, much longer than the two to three weeks for American toads. That's one reason why female Fowlers can afford to be choosy, Fairchild said.

STILL, WHY do the females push aside the puny toads and hold out for their heftier brothers?

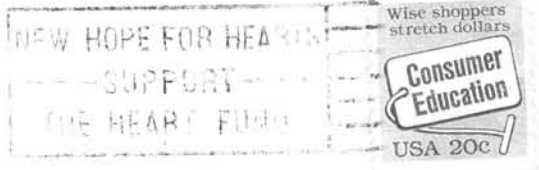
It's not that the larger Fowler males are macho — they don't defend the females and young. It's not that they're more aggressive — they're not the combative type. And it's not because the smaller toads can't fertilize as many eggs — they can.

"What you're left with is that the larger male is imparting something to its offspring," he said.



JULY MEETING  
 Brad & Peggy Bradford  
 3202 Dunnebrook Ct.  
 Va. Beach 427-3365  
 Kick Tires 7:30  
 Meeting 8:00  
Wednesday, July 7

TIDEWATER MG-T CLASSICS  
 7704 BERGEN STREET  
 NORFOLK, VA. 23518



ROSS & ANN HAINES  
 633 PINE TREE DR  
 VA BEACH VA 23452



2007 7/1/82

- 1- Guests & new members
- 2- Secretary's report
- 3- Treasurer's report - money to B.S.D. - \$768.97
- 4- Events (see Roy's notes) - see newsletter
- 5- Regalia - Elaine's notes
- 6- PANTS
- 7- Tech Librarian - other club's newsletters? - Barbara
- 8- Editor - cutoff July 23

Old Business

- 1- Newsletter — Mary & Jennifer
- Dues are due

New Business

- 1- Mike Ash won Trivia Quiz #5 - Gift Certificate
- 2- 47 TC available - see flyer
- 3- TSO correspondent - see letter
- 4- Jim White's letter

Field Day

Potato

Egg toss

cup/bucket