



THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS

# THE DIPSTICK

NOVEMBER - 1982

PRESIDENT: Ross Haines 486-1496  
VICE-PRES: Vince Groover 497-6904  
SECRETARY: Mary Thompson 495-0085  
TREASURER: Sandy Hall 482-2821  
EDITORS: ( Mary Thompson 495-0085  
              Jennifer Ash 495-0307

Hi there, Fellow MG-ers!

Since Mary had to work most of the weekend and I am now a lady of leisure, I am winging this newsletter alone - the typing of it, that is - so all errors and boo-boos are my responsibility; unless of course, one of the contributing journalists(?) made some boo-boo in his material of which I am unaware, in which case you can get on his back! I must say, there were some good contributions to the newsletter this month so you won't be getting a lot of "filler" from me. (J.A.)

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING, recorded by ANDY WALLACH:

(As the meeting was about to commence, Jennifer Ash, knowing that the secretary was not going to be present, enticed me into taking the minutes. I, having had several beers, acquiesced to her demands. A.W.)

President Ross Haines convened the meeting, noting Royal Connell here as a new member. Royal stated, "not only my second year in the club, but my second meeting, too. President: Pardon me; I'll try to get to more meetings!"

When asked for a secretary's report, Andy stated that he didn't have any minutes with him. President: Andy, just ask if there are any corrections to last month's minutes. Andy did so, with Roy Wiley responding, "Hell, yes", and Jennifer noted that it was not only "yes", but "Hell, yes". But it turned out that nobody really had any corrections, but Robert Davis, (yes, he was present for the start of a meeting for once) said, "Can I make a point - I think Mike (Ash) did an excellent job of drawing the map." (Tidewater MG "T" mapmaking is not always known for its proper portrayal of reality) Jennifer: If that had been a complaint, we would have just have named you as next map-maker for the club! As rowdiness grew, the President asked Robert if he wanted to be Sergeant-at-Arms.

In the absence of the treasurer, the President reported a balance of \$478.20, down \$500 from a month ago. When asked, "Where, oh where is the \$500, the president replied, "I believe some went to purchase Regalia, but I cannot get in touch with Regalia Chairman" (It turned out Elsie was on vacation - maybe spending some of the \$500??!)

Roy Wiley started the Activities Committee report in an erudite manner; "We are having activities on a regular and continuing basis, and the next activity would be the Pig Roast on Sunday, October 24, whereupon Vince Groover stated that Saturday, October 23 is the "Pork-Out" and the newsletter was correct and Roy is wrong. "John German is buying the pig and I am cooking it." Someone asked about the cost and John said, "We'll work it out". When President Ross tried to get an idea of the cost to the club, Vince said, "You seem to fail to see that John and I are getting this pig" 'Nuff said!!

Guest, prospective member Chris Holcomb, arrived. He stated by means of introduction that had just got his second MG, the first one having been stolen some years ago.

In response to being told that the next meeting was at Bill Litchfield's, Jennifer stated, "I didn't know where it was to be when I typed up the schedule in the newsletter" Roy told her, "If only you would look at your annual shedyool...." (that's English for schedule).

Jennifer stated that she had received a message, about third-hand, that perhaps Peggy Bradford would be glad to take over as newsletter editor. (Remember Mary & Jennifer only understood editorship because no-one would volunteer for the job, and it is up for grabs at any time. J.A.). It was decided the matter should be discussed under 'new business'.

December 10th (Friday) is the date of the Christmas Party at the home of President and first lady, Ann and Ross Haines.

Under new business, Roy Wiley asked how the club felt about someone coming to a club meeting and presenting a demonstration of an item or treatment. Jim Banvard suggested, "...such as Phase I showing what they can do to a head?" Jennifer Ash, "I would hate to see anyone come out to give us the old 'hard sell'", whereupon Jim replied, "Let me tell you this would be the hardest group to hard sell!" (At this point the writer almost had a heart attack upon discovering that he, a Dairy Queen owner, was writing with a McDonald's freebie pen). It was decided that demonstrations by purveyors would be appropriate at tech sessions.

Parts Chairman, Robert Davis, reported that his stock of replacements for old distributors has been exhausted. However, there may be some new old-stock late TD-TF distributors available shortly.

Technical Librarian, Dave Barrows, reported that he had received the newsletters from other chapters that contained technical articles.

President, Ross, asked Jennifer if she wanted to address the newsletter editor position. Jennifer stated, "If Peggy wants to take on the newsletter, Mary and I would be very happy." Mike said, "If Peggy's willing to do it, Mary and Jennifer just retired." Whereupon Peggy arrived, to the tunes of, "Yay, Peggy", and "Congratulations on becoming newsletter editor". Peggy said, "I only offered to help out if they needed material putting on the computer, but the computer can't print out like a word processor." Mike said, "Too late; we took a vote and you won!" Peggy got a lot of hassling, but it turned out that her offer of help had gained something in the translation before Jennifer got the message. Jennifer said she had found it very hard to believe that there was someone out there jumping up and down yelling, 'I want to be editor. I want to be editor'.

Under old business, the president stated that if anyone present hadn't paid their dues, he would take their money and pass it on to the new treasurer. Jim Banvard related that Jack Jackson's (Chesapeake Chapter) condition had improved greatly, but that he wasn't very mobile. It was decided to send a card. Someone reminded the assemblage that T-Register dues are due.

The topic of elections was then addressed. It was proposed that we have the election even though the slate of nominees was not announced at the September meeting, as required by the bye-laws. When Roosevelt stated some objection. Mike said, "If we hadn't told you Roosevelt, you wouldn't have known, because you weren't at the September meeting. Roosevelt then said, "If you hadn't told me that I had to sit in the back of the bus, I wouldn't have sat in the front! - only joking!" Mike asked him to compromise himself, and Rosy said, "OK, I can be whitewashed!" Order prevailed once more, and Roy read the nominations. There were no nominations from the floor and it was proposed and seconded that the

nominees be elected by voice vote. The ayes took it: Ross Haines, Vince Groover, Mary Thompson were re-elected and Sandy Hall became the new treasurer.

Jim Nolan related his and Kay's experince at the British Car Day in Richmond. "TC with truck tyres; laid back; fun. Didn't get ther until three o'clock. About 100 cars; real nice; nice tavern!!

Jim Banvard recommended that we adjourn to the food, which turned out to be another of Brenda Banvard's scrumptious smorgasbords of delights. Thank you, Brenda and Jim, for a very pleasant evening.

FROM OLDE No. 6733:

As we slip into the tenth and final edition of the Trivia Quiz, the standings are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>This month</u>	<u>Over-all</u>
Giffin	9/10	86/100
Banvard	8/10	83/100
Ash	9/10	59/70
Eaton	-	38/40
Wallach	-	17/20
Gordon	-	17/20
Davis	-	4/10
Haines (Ann)	-	2/10

Note: no winner this month

Keep in mind that even though Mike Ash has a lock on the \$10 third-place prize while Jim Banvard and Hank Giffin are battling for the \$25 first-place prize, we are still looking for an eligible monthly entrant for the \$5 regalia gift certificate. So anyone who hasn't won a monthly quiz ought to dust off those old TSO's and get busy!

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Answers to Trivia Quiz No. 9

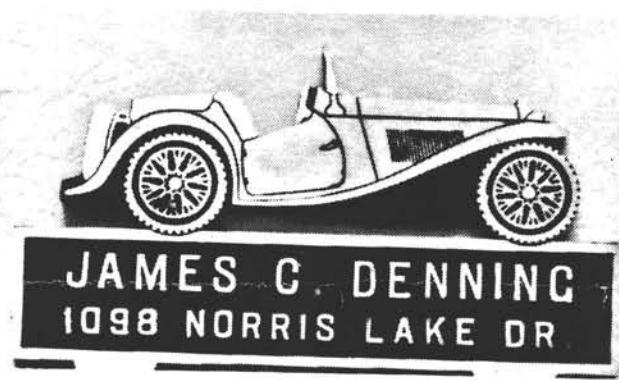
81. In what year was Old No. 1 built?  
A. 1925. (The Magic of MG, p.11)
82. How much money did our club make off the Colonial Clutch Mini GOF?  
A. \$211.86. (Club newsletter, July, 1978, p.5)
- 83-85 List the three principle conditions which inhibited the sale of MG's in England after WW II.  
A. 83. Gas rationing; 84. Purchase tax; 85. Government's allocation of steel. (TSO, April, 1980, p.28)
86. When was GOF Mk.XXVI held?  
A. June 28 - July 2, 1978, (in Toronto, Ed.) (Club Newsletter, 6/78, p2)
87. Who drove the first MG to compete in the Monte Carlo Rally?  
A. Sir Francis Samuelson. (The Magic of MG, p.28)
88. The first MG.TF was built in 2 weeks. It then took ? months to prepare the drawings.  
A. Six. (TSO, October 1980, p.5)
89. What company holds the distinction of being the first British Leyland-approved MG restorer in America?  
A. M & G Vintage Auto Co., Ridgewood, N.J. (TSO. Dec., 1981, p.21)
90. Standard wheels on the TF were: a)slotted disc,b)solid disc,c)wire?  
A. a) Slotted disc. (The Dipstick, July 1980, p.5)

We saw these on sale at the recent GOF, and thought some spouses might like the idea for a gift for the stocking! This product is of excellent quality, and the etching is on both sides of the plaque. It is cast aluminum, and is silver/black only. (I was not asked to plug this item, but thought it nice enough to share with our club - hope you don't mind! J.A.) Top right-hand picture belongs to past members of our club, now in Arizona.



## MG MAIL-BOX NAME PLATE

**\$45.00**  
*Includes Postage  
And Handling*

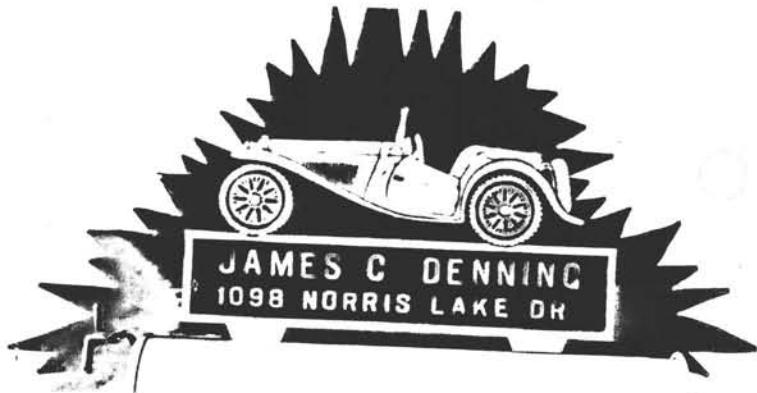
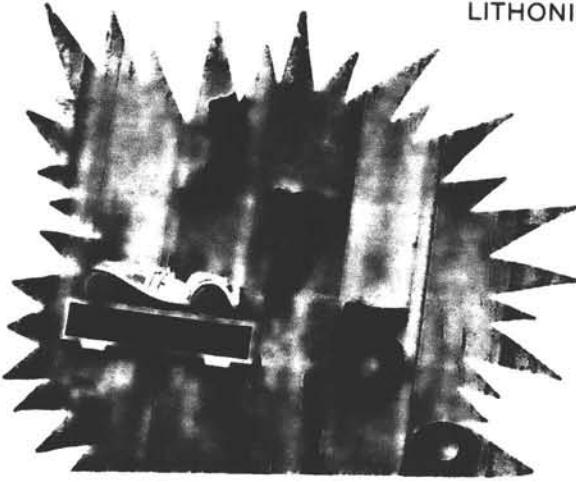


MEASURES 15x9x1/2 — IN HEAVY CAST ALUMINUM — PRINTED ON BOTH SIDES — UP TO 18 LETTERS TOP LINE — 22 ON BOTTOM LINE  
PRINT COPY BELOW AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR:

SEND CHECK  
OR  
MONEY ORDER

TO: **TECAR RESTORATIONS**  
1098 NORRIS LAKE DR.  
LITHONIA, GEORGIA 30058

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED:  
ALLOW 4 WEEKS  
FOR DELIVERY



TRIVIA QUIZ, No. 10

91. What is the wheel-base length on the TC? \_\_\_\_\_.
92. According to factory manuals, what is the normal running temperature for the cooling system in the "T" series MG's? \_\_\_\_\_.
93. What GOF number, (Mark) was held at Mt. Snow, Vermont? \_\_\_\_\_.
94. There was a special radiator cap-mounted hood ornament designed especially for the MG. What was the name given to this MG "mascot"? \_\_\_\_\_.
95. Two MG SA's were fitted with special bodies in Switzerland. What was the name given to these two cars (the name of the special body)? \_\_\_\_\_.
96. MG number EX 181 was involved in record-breaking speed runs in the 1950's. What was the nickname given to this car? \_\_\_\_\_.
97. What is the nickname of the man after whom the Arnolt was named? \_\_\_\_\_.
98. The corporate name of British Leyland Motors was changed to \_\_\_\_\_.
99. What is pictured on the cover of the July/August, 1972, issue of the T.S.O.? \_\_\_\_\_.
100. What was the chassis number of the first TF.1500? \_\_\_\_\_.

Stamp

oss Haines  
633 Pinetree Drive  
Virginia Beach  
VA. 23452

## ACTIVITIES:

- Wed. November 3 - Monthly Meeting: Bill Litchfield's house, 809 Prince Philip Drive, Virginia Beach (see MAP on cover page)  
7:30 p.m. kick tyres: 8:00 p.m. Convene meeting.
- Sun. November 14 - Brunch at FORT STORY (not Ft. Monroe as advertised in past literature). This is a super brunch, as many can attest to. \$5.95 per person;  $\frac{1}{2}$ -price under 12 yrs. and no cost under 6 yrs.  
MEET: 10:30 a.m. at Old Cavalier Hotel, rear parking lot or at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Story Officers' Club.
- AFTER.. There will be a drive-out up to NASA, Langley for those who wish to participate. This is a constantly-up-dated exhibit, and very interesting to all ages.
- DEADLINE for reservations: Please let Bill & Sue Gordon know if you want brunch before November 11. after 6:00 p.m. 481-7108
- Fri. December 10 - CHRISTMAS PARTY; Haines' house; time TBA.  
There will be no business meeting in December.

At the November meeting. (Nov. 3) we will be forming the schedule of meetings for the next year so that the Activities Committee can go to work again. So please be prepared to offer to host a monthly meeting if you feel so inclined; as we have said before, you don't have to have a big house, just a friendly one! And you don't have to put on a lot of fine food (some do it because they love doing it), but we've all had dinner before the meeting and don't need feeding! If it's there, we'll eat it...



SPECIALIST

TC / TD / TF / A

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## FOR SALE:

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- 1962 MGA roadster; show condition; red Imron; black interior; ground-up restoration..... \$6,000

Dan Boswell

## REPORT ON G.O.F. Mk.XXXV, as recorded by MIKE ASH:

The New England MG "T" Register held its thirty-fifth Gathering of the Faithful at Jekyll Island, Ga. the third week-end in October. In spite of the 600 or so miles between Tidewater and Jekyll Island, our club was well represented in the form of: Mike and Jennifer Ash in their TF; Jim Banvard in his Y-type; Bill and Sue Gordon in their MGB; Robert Davis, Ron Henry and Phillip Ash in Robert's Magnette, and out-of-town members Dan and Susan Boswell in their TF, and Fred and Nancy Emig in a Honda.

The GOF was in an outstanding location, right on the beach at the Buccaneer Motel, and the weather was beautiful. The display of cars had a perfect setting, with the beach and ocean as a background. Friday's First-Timers' Car Display brought out over 40 cars, probably a record number for any GOF. The main car display on Saturday was also a good turn-out although I cannot remember the exact numbers. Something like 25 TC's, 45 TD's, 25 TF's, 6 Y's, 10 cars in Premier and less than 10 TA/TB/Vintage No prizes

came back to Tidewater for the car display, although I think Fred Emig won a second in the color photo contest. The whole weekend was very relaxed, with plenty of time to sight-see on the island - primarily the Jekyll Island Club and Millionaires' Village. The food was excellent, with a fish-fry on Thursday evening and a luau on Friday evening - plus the consumption of a dozen kegs of beer through the whole weekend. Sue Gordon said the weekend was "fun and funny", and that about sums it up. GOF's are fun - more of a social event than a high-pressure car show.

The next one is in Baltimore (only 250 miles away), in June 1983. Try it, you'll like it! By the way, the Ashes and the Banvard drove home in "caravan", staying Sunday night at Atlantic Beach, NC. and returning to Virginia Beach via the North Carolina outer banks, including the ferry links with Ocracoke Island. A wonderful T - weekend!

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PIG - OUT as reported by M.G.Ash:

You don't have to be crazy, but it helps! This was never more true of our club than last Saturday, when about 40 members and their offspring showed up for the pig-roast at Little Creek. In spite of the very cool and windy weather, a good time was had by all. Most of the good time came out of cans of beer and bottles of wine, aided by ample portions of delicious roast pig and other compatible items. Our sincere thanks to John German and Vince Groover for organizing the event, and for starting the pig a-roasting at 4:30 a.m.! If we do this again (and I hope we will, ED.) maybe we could do it a month sooner, when the weather is a bit more predictable.

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RACING WITH THE BAN-FIN TEAM, Part II - by "BAN":

By way of review, the "Ban-Fin" team had done last minute preparation of the racing Mk.II, filled the beer cooler, driven from Virginia to N.H. and DNF'd the first race. Nothing unexpected had occurred thus far.

Preparations were then made for the second race. Brake adjustments, rear brake cleaning, carburetor bowl relocation and a myriad of lesser details were attended to. I then manned the cockpit for the G P II race where I was to start in 5th of 7 positions. The G P II races are the T's which are more race prepared and driven by the more experienced drivers. At the start, I immediately found myself in 7th place, where I finished 8 laps later! We had now taken a DNF and a last. The team was indeed improving; we had proven that the car would finish!

The last race of the day was driven by Mike Hughes. It was an all-comers event and included a Berkley, Lotuses, Lolas, Healeys, Bugattis and the like, in addition to the MG's. There were 29 cars on the 1.6 mi. track in this event and it was total chaos during the race. The times for the various cars ran from the 1:20's to in excess of 2 mins. per lap. It was in this milieu that the Mk.II did its best on the first day. Mike placed approximately in 11th place in the handicap event. It was here that Mike discovered that the whole event could be run in third gear and that 6500 rpm's were possible without catastrophic results.

The Saturday racing day was now over; however, the maintenance day had just started. We had been running without adjusting up the Mk.II friction shocks. Oil had continued to migrate towards the rear brakes from the rear axle. We were still getting oil filling the distributor. Many other details were necessary to deal with in order to continue running on Sunday. We worked up until dusk attending to these "minor" details. At this point the sky clouded up and the rains came. The bottom dropped out and it poured. We then got cleaned up and dressed and prepared to assault the town for dinner. We were waylaid by the Canadians, Bob Gruneau and Oliver Clubine, who had brought wine and beer.

We shared their company and beverages; what fun people!

We left the Canadians for town and Pizza Hut where we had sumptuous dietary meals to prepare us for the next arduous day of racing. Following the meal, we looked for a party among the racers, but none was found so only a good night's rest was available to us. Perhaps fate had dealt us more fairly than we deserved!

Sunday dawned clear but cool; an ideal day for vintage MG racing. A decision was made by the flip of a coin that Hank was to drive in the first and last races of the day and that I would drive the second race. We made last-minute preparations for the races early on, and then got on with it. The first race was a handicap GP I event and Hank was running his best. He had discovered ~~xxxx~~ the 3rd gear approach and had reduced his lap time to a consistent 1:48 with the tightened-up friction shocks. In this event, the pinnacle was reached; Hank took a second place. The 'Ban-Fin' team had redeemed itself! Hank was ecstatic and deservedly so.

Many little details were corrected prior to the second race. The car was ready and running well. I ran the GP II handicap event and enjoyed it immensely, as I was now running about 1:51 consistently. I was using 3rd gear more but was shifting to fourth at 5800 rpm's where I was detecting noises which sounded much like the pistons closing the valves. I managed a fifth place in approximately 11 cars. I was extremely pleased with the results and nearly as exhilarated as Hank had been following the first event. By the time the last race arrived, only the hard-core remained. Those cars which had failed and the early departures were gone. There were 23 cars on the field for the all-comers handicap. Mike and I had stationed ourselves atop the viewers' stand in order to maintain the best view and to time the field. We were attempting to time all of the cars and had decided that with the varying speeds of the competitors that it was impossible. We then narrowed the timing effort to those cars which ran about the same times as did old "43 - the Mk.II. About this time, we heard some commentary about a car which had gone off the track. We were timing cars like mad and were slowly coming to the conclusion that no. 43 wasn'tlapping with the field as expected. We finally concluded that the car off the track was ours! With some borrowed field glasses, we were able to see that Hank was up and moving and that the car was damaged.

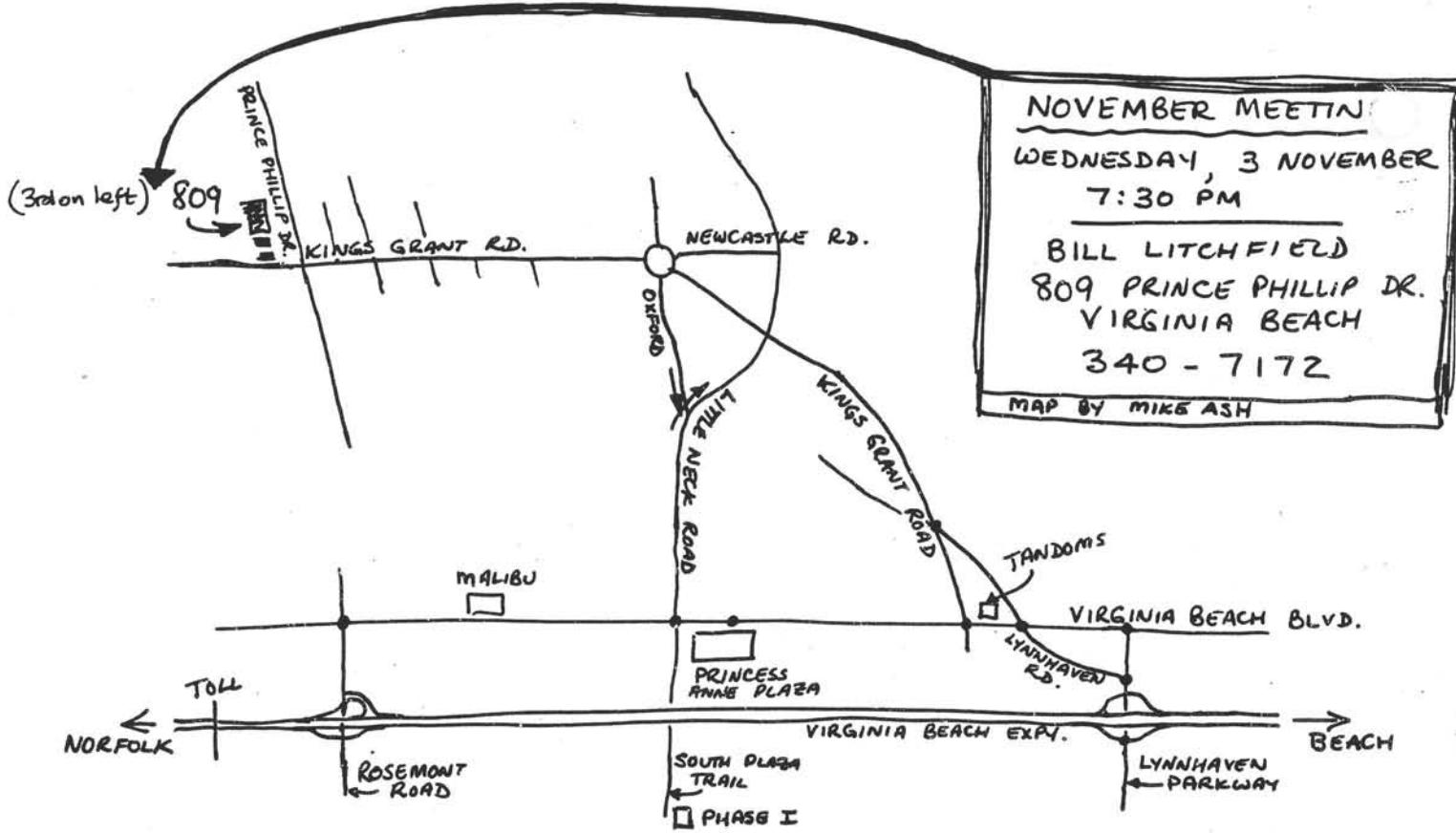
As soon as the race was finished, we got on the track to find Hank - angry with himself and the circumstances. He had encountered oil on the track, gone sideways, slid off the track, and flipped sideways once and landed on all four wheels. This is the epitome of excitement when one recognizes that there was a car beside him, one behind him and that the car was not equipped with a roll bar!

In fact, all was well when one considers that Hank was not seriously hurt. The fractured car was ignominiously dragged off the track and our racing for this weekend was over. All that remained was the long trip home, and we finished as we had started - with a DNF (did not finish, I learned, Ed.)

Hank said it well, defining the weekend as "Twenty-four hours of driving for 90 minutes of racing and 2 seconds of sheer terror."!

We have agreed to do it again some day, after the installation of a roll bar and the completion of a certified drivers' school. However, Stevie Giffin's approval is still forthcoming!





TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS  
5149 BELLAMY MANOR DR.  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23464



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

4 May - Gordon  
2 March - Wallach  
7 June - Hall

Last Sat. - January - wicker basket

11/3/82

5 Jan - Carol 5614 Hamp. Blvd

1 Feb - Mary Thom Poon

\* Guests & new members

\* Secretary's Report

3- Treasurer's Report + \$647 (bank) + \$30 (dues) → \$677

\* Events - Call by preceding Wed. - \$2.10

8- Regalia

10- Parts

\* 7- Librarian

8- Editor - 27 Nov - Jennifer

+ 45.00  
- \$7.10  
**\$ 639.90**

### Old Business

- 1-Cards for Jack Jackson - Jennifer
- 2-TSO renewals - Gordon

### New Business

- 1-Beds - Regalia