

# THE DIPSTICK



President.....Vince Groover  
Vice-President...Peggy Bradford  
Secretary.....Carolyn McHugh  
Treasurer.....Elsie Tarr  
Editor.....Brenda Banvard

## PHIL SAID 6 MORE WEEKS

The February 1 meeting was held at the home of Gene and Carolyn McHugh (that's us). There was one new guest, Ira Canton of Norfolk. Our fearless leader and president, Vince Groover, presided.

Treasurer's report: Elsie reported \$85.50 receipts from the Wicker Basket Affair (Expenses weren't known nor deducted at the time of the report). The present balance is \$812.52.

Spare Parts: Phase 1 is still in effect. If you have parts to pick up, please do so.

Historian: Mike was out of town but Jennifer reported that notes had been put in all newsletters to other clubs, requesting that they forward their newsletters to Mike.

Regalia: Chris was absent, but there was nothing remarkable to report.

Activities: Bob Beuter reported for Bill Gordon by giving a run-down on the activities scheduled thus far. There are still dates open which need sponsors or hosts. Please contact Bill soon if you wish to take one of the dates.

Old Business: Mike Ash's report (reported by Jennifer) on the by-law review indicated that the definition of the treasurer's duties needs modification. In addition, an article needs to be added to include the additional position and responsibilities of a membership chairman. These changes and additions must be published one month in advance before they can be voted on by the membership.



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ANSWERS TO DIPSTICK TRIVIA QUIZ #1 - FEBRUARY, 1984

1. What is the cost of an International Driving Permit? \$5.00 (TSO -12/82, p. 15)
2. T or F - You must send \$3.00 along with your register number to place your advertisement under Cars & Spares in TSO. (TSO - any "Cars & Spares", par 2)
3. The "Black Hole" was
  - b. what those at the Works called the MGB black grille. (TSO - 6/83, p 12-13)
4. In what year was the first Wicker Basket Affair held? 1977 (Club Newsletter - 1/78, p 2)
5. Who was "Jacko"?
  - c. Chief Mechanic who supervised the building of the Magic Midget (TSO - 8/83, p 19)
6. Did Kathy Rippert's frog win the frog jumping contest in Danbury? YES NO (TSO - 10/82, p 3)
7. Where was the slogan, "You can do it in an MG" seen?
  - c. British MG ad (MG:The Sports Car America Loved First, R. L. Knudson, p 223)
8. T or F - Hubert Noel Charles was Chief Engineer at Abingdon and designed the first MG Midget. (TSO - 4/82, p. 21)
9. What was the "Insomonia Crew"?
  - b. The group of men at Abingdon who prepared the cars for racing. (TSO - 8/83, p 3)
10. The Sorry Safari Touring Society Ltd. is located in
  - a. California (TSO - 12/83, p 29)

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THE WICKER BASKET AFFAIR

Another gourmet event. I don't think that anyone left hungry. Unfortunately, the Pellerin's couldn't make it - but sent a Wicker Basket Daisy and Carnation arrangement. (Thank you, Bob & Linda). I was very pleased to see that everyone knew not to eat the daisies (or carnations, for that matter). As you read earlier, we grossed \$85.50 from the event. That should help a bit with the United Postal Services unprecedented increases in rates. Sorry to hear that Marilyn Wiley had the flu and Marcia Ostertag had a Naval wife's function. (Marc was supposed to be at sea still, but he got in early and, since, according to him, he had caught up the night before, he came to the Wicker Basket Affair). Girler, our orange and white cat, missed Helen's fur coat. Of course, it was always good to see the Boswell's again. (As most of you probably know, Jim will be seeing quite a bit of them as he starts his job in DC on March 4).

Wonder how Sue Gordon's coat is reacting to chocolate frosting. Did Andy really whip up those super nachos? Robert really did make his chicken casserole all by himself.

I certainly enjoyed myself and think that everyone there did also. Until next January.....

Brenda

Reccomendation for ammendment of By-laws - by Mike Ash

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PURPOSE - To create the position of Membership Chairman by suitable ammendment of the by-laws.

PROPOSED AMMENDMENT ----

1. Add to ARTICLE VIII, the following section:

SECTION 7. The Membership Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining an up to date roster of current (paid-up) members, for ensuring that every member receives a copy of The Dipstick on a monthly basis, for maintaing a roster of prospective members, and for mailing up to three free copies of The Dipstick, a membership application, and other introductory to each prospective member. In addition the Membership Chairman shall, after the end of August (see ARTICLE IV, Section 4), obtain from the Treasurer a list of all paid-up members for the new membership year and prepare a new membership roster for distribution no later than with the October issue of The Dipstick.

2. Change the last sentence of ARTICLE VII, Section 5 to read: - "In addition, the Treasurer will maintain the records of dues payment." (this sentence currently reads - "In addition, the Treasurer will maintain the records of dues payment and an up to date roster of the membership for printing and distribution.")

As required by ARTICLE XI, Section 1 of the by-laws, this is your official notification of the proposed ammendment. A vote on the proposed ammendment will be taken at the April meeting. Please address any comments to Vince Groover and, if you cannot be present for the vote, send any proxy votes to Vince prior to the April meeting. (Vince Groover, 4708 Overman Ave., Va. Beach, VA 23455 - 497-6904)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6 - Monthly meeting at the Ash's

March 18 - Winter Festival

April 4 - Monthly meeting at Jim Nolan's

April 15 - Tech session at Jim Nolan's

The July monthly meetin<sup>g</sup> at the Groover's will be on the 10th.

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And did you all know what S 3 . 1 K 4 Y 6 was??????????

PI in the Sky of course....

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DIPSTICK TRIVIA QUIZ  
#2

11. T or F - The first set of TF wings was produced from an adaptation of a drawing of the TD wings.
12. Dinkum is
  - a. an MG model kit manufacturer.
  - b. the street that ran along the side of the Works.
  - c. motor oil produced in Britain.
13. T or F - The P-Type Midget and the N-Type Magnette were released by MG within 1 year of each other.
14. Frank Graham (#2) has another love besides MGs. What is it?
  - a. gardening
  - b. flying
  - c. sailing
15. In what year was our Tidewater MG "T" Classics Club formed? \_\_\_\_\_
16. The Beaulieu Cup is presented to a
  - a. person
  - b. car
  - c. chapter
17. T or F - The Japanese have an MG car club.
18. Charlesworth was
  - a. a coach builder for the SA.
  - b. a manufacturer of British tools.
  - c. a driver of MG racers.
19. Which of the following is true of Pat Mann's right-hand drive MGA roadster:
  - a. placed third in MGA category at New Hope Auto Show
  - b. was "totaled" while parked
  - c. was sold to a member of the Chesapeake Chapter
20. What TSO advertiser had the honor of becoming the first British Leyland approved MG restorer in America?
  - a. Moss Motors Ltd.
  - b. Start Your Engines
  - c. M & G Vintage Auto Co.

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(signature)

(Please return to Peggy Bradford by March 15)

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Peggy Bradford

3202 Dunnebrook Court

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

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## OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

After last night's meeting, I feel compelled to write this letter. Over the past several months, it seems as though our monthly "business" meetings have gradually degenerated toward last night's all-time low. Ross has done an excellent job of running this club for the past two years. A task which has become increasingly difficult due to the progressive degeneration of the monthly meetings.

In case there is any doubt, I am referring to the continued interruptions, un-related side conversations, and general disturbances that occur while Ross, or other club member, has the floor to speak. I would hope that we do not take ourselves so seriously as to conduct our meetings formally, in complete silence and according to rules. But, if we are to accomplish anything at all, we must have some order. In the past, some of the repartee and banter among members has been extremely funny and has made good reading in "The Dipstick". However, over the last few months, the heckling and wise-cracks have increased to the point where they have become counter productive. The side-conversations have increased in frequency and volume to a point well beyond respect for and common decency toward our fellow members who are trying to conduct the business of the club. I admit that in the past, I have been as guilty as anyone of disturbing the peace, but recently things have become so out of hand that even I am becoming disturbed by the general behavior. How many less tolerant individuals than myself have we already (justifiably) lost?

In case a few of you are still wondering what I am talking about, let me give a few examples:

1. There was at least one prospective member at the meeting who we will probably never see again because of the impression we left.
2. There will probably be a very low level of support for the Busch Gardens event because no one was listening or could hear Andy when he was giving the details.
3. There will probably be a very low level of support for the Turkey Shoot for the same reason. In fact I recall that Bill was shown a similar lack of courtesy when he tried to explain the Gimmick Rally.

If we are to continue as an active club, we need the active participation of all our members. I, for one, am becoming increasingly reluctant to participate in discussions at meetings because it is not worth the effort to try to speak to an audience who either cannot hear or does not want to hear what I have to say. Again, how many less tolerant individuals than myself have we already (justifiably) lost? I think anyone with the perseverance to continue to try to speak at meetings because they are an officer, committee member, or have volunteered to host an event (to our mutual benefit) is to be commended. For myself, I think I have reached the point where I prefer to be a passive participant.

So please, fellow club members, let us think about a few changes. As I have already said, I don't think we need to take ourselves too seriously; our primarily social orientation is one of our attractions.

But, I do think we need to clean up our act at our meetings. Anyone who wants to speak at a meeting deserves the common courtesy of a quiet and attentive audience. Most of the discussion at any meeting centers around the activities which are planned and organized for the benefit and enjoyment of us all. Again, anyone who has volunteered to sponsor or report on an event deserves the courtesy of a hearing. Our monthly meetings are a combination of business and socializing. The former is a vital part of our organization, let us conduct it in a business-like and adult manner so that we can get on with the latter.

Dear Vince,

During the last few meetings something has come to my attention that is of some concern to me and may be of some concern to others. There appears to be some individuals who aren't interested in the business meeting; they seem to be more interested in side conversions, and one-upsmanship in loud wise-cracks.

I believe that the reason that we all belong to the club is that it is, among other things, a social club. And one of the reasons that we all join social groups is to have fun. But there is also one other reason that we all belong to this particular club, and that is a common interest in M.G.s and a desire to exchange ideas, expertise, and information. The charter members of this club apparently felt that the most efficient method of exchanging that information was thru the forum of a business meeting. The business meeting is the one thing that sets us apart from being nothing more than a cocktail party. And if we, as a group, are more than a regularly scheduled cocktail party, don't we owe it to you---as the president--- and to the other members of the meeting---<sup>to maintain</sup> some semblence of order and respect? I don't advocate strict silence or fanatical adherence to Robert's Rules of Order but I do believe that an enjoyable meeting, and an orderly meeting, aren't necessarily mutually exclusive.

I would be interested in knowing how others feel about this particular matter..

Sincerely Yours,

A Baffled Member

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Once more this club made an impressive showing at what it does best, eating. The victim this time was the Brunch at the Ft. Story Officers' Club. A small group, 1 MG and 3 cars, met at the Chamberlain (make that the Cavalier) to convoy to the club. With the Ash's and their TF in the lead, we picked up 2 MG's and 1 Bugeye as we neared the entrance to the base. After arriving at the club, more cars began to show up and our club made a respectable showing. The parking lot looked quite impressive with its collection of MG's (and one Porsche).



The hard part of this article comes now, naming the attendees. Since I am writing this almost a week later, I had to make a couple of phone calls, so I think I've got everyone - so here goes. We had some prospective members - Ray & Jan Rowe, who brought their friends Bob, Bonnie, and Jim. Jim and Jackie Suter made the trek down from Williamsburg in their TD. Local members in attendance were Mike & Jennifer Ash, Dave & Helen Barrows, Vince Groover, Elsie Tarr & her daughter Elsie, Carl & Kay Fisher with their daughters, John & Sandy German & their daughter, & Sandy's parents from New York, and Andy Wallach with his two children. Jim Banvard and Robert Davis showed up late with some lame story about how they showed up at the Cavalier at 10:15 and waited one half hour for us. None-the-less when they finally arrived, Jim and Robert were very quick in hopping right into the food.

The food at the brunch was excellent and the club was right at home. It would be hard to determine what there was more of, eating or talking. The only time the club was quiet was when Amanda German called the group to order by using a spoon as a gavel. Anyone who can quiet this club down should be president, regardless of age. Jim Suter offered a good tip on how to keep your car clean, place a child on each fender with a broom to sweep the road in front of the car as you drive. Judging from the appearance of Jim's car, it works. Andy Wallach, who developed a fondness for the chocolate cake, I'm told, tried to pass his bill off on Mike Ash and almost found himself stuck with Mike's bill in addition to his own. Sounds like it might be a good idea to sit next to Andy next time the club goes out to eat.

The day was beautiful, the food excellent and the company quite good. It appeared that everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves and, if they were like me, only had to eat one meal that Sunday. For those that were in attendance, thanks for making it a great event. For those that missed it, make sure you show up next year - it's well worth it.....

Bob Beuter



