

THE DIPSTICK



DECEMBER 1986

President.....Mel Baker
Vice-President...Tony Perino
Secretary.....Andy Wallach
Treasurer.....Jerry Moore
Editor.....Brenda Banvard

" T " NOTES

Thanks to Michael and Leslie Doyle-Davidson for hosting the November meeting. Our hosts had planned a bonfire in celebration of Guy Fawkes Day, but inclement weather put a damper on that part of the celebration. There was some discussion on having the bonfire inside the house, but it was decided that the wood was too wet. Mike related the story of Guy Fawkes which was enjoyed by everyone. The delicious refreshments were "typical English fare" and ranged from pate to pork pie.

I thought the November newsletter was especially good and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

Now that elections are over, I would like to thank Pat Beuter for doing an outstanding job as treasurer this past year. Jerry Moore is our new treasurer and I welcome him to the board. A special thanks also to Tony Perino and Andy Wallach for their contribution this past year. Last, but not least, thanks to Mike and Jennifer Ash, Robert Davis, Peggy Bradford, and Brenda Banvard for doing a superb job! (Ed. note: Thanks to you too, Mel, and we look forward to another year of your leadership.)

Judy and I wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a healthy, happy new year.

The next meeting will be a festive British meeting at the Raphael's on Wednesday, December 10th, at 7:30 p.m. The business portion of the meeting will be very brief so that we may enjoy the festivities of the season. (Ed. Note: Don't forget to call Chris Raphael to let her know what you are bringing to the Festive Meeting.)

See you there.

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NO JANUARY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER MINUTES

The Guy Fawkes meeting was held at Mike and Leslie Doyle-Davidson's on 11 November, the Honorable Mel Baker presiding. Guest John Prewett's introduction was greeted by Jim Banvard's "Has anybody solicited you for \$10?" Vince Groover presented his sister and brother-in-law from Toledo, the buyers at some time of a \$50 TD. The October minutes were approved as written in the Dipstick. There was not a treasurer's report. Historian Mike Ash reported: "Not a damn thing. Nothing happened." President Baker noting the contribution Mike made to the November newsletter stated: "Mike outdid himself" and thanked him for his efforts. Roy Wiley asked "Will he make housecalls?" during comments about Mike's "Technical Corner" column in the newsletter. Vice-President and Regalia Chairman Tony Perino: "Hot stuff out here tonight. Have some ties the Ash's brought in." Vince Groover: "Are they gravy stain proof?" Tony continued: "Only three gold-plated tire gauges left." Mel Baker: "Last three from my supplier." Roy Wiley: "There is a warehouse full in Rhode Island." Mike Ash: "Maybe someone will buy me one for Christmas." Jennifer Ash: "Hang on to it. I'll write a check." Mike: "I don't need to. I'll get one for Christmas."

Activities Chairwoman Jennifer Ash discussed the upcoming events. "Christmas Party is mid-week; people tend to dress up a little (no shorts Banvard). Dave and Joan Bowling have the January meeting." Jennifer solicited and obtained volunteers to hold meetings in the upcoming year. Mel Baker: "I'll take a meeting in the Spring." Jennifer: "February." Jim Banvard: "Can we discuss the February Tech Session at my house? I'd like to be there." (The last tech session at his house occurred simultaneously with his Naval Reserve drill weekend.) Jennifer asked for more William and Mary Homecoming volunteers. Tony Perino: "We can bring the Healey." Mike Ash: "Any port in a storm." Michael Doyle-Davidson stated that he would take a second car and Tom Lund: "I'll take a second also for (pregnantly) obvious reasons. Many comments followed Barbara Perino's: "I'll bring the 300ZX if I can get a man." Publicist Peggy Bradford reported that a meeting announcement appeared in the Beacon.

Mel Baker turned the meeting over to Vince Groover for the conduction of elections. Vince: "After much latenight phoning I came up with a slate. Are there any more nominations from the floor. Okay. If there are no more nominations and if no one disagrees, the officers are as published." Mike Ash: "As published on the front of the new roster already." Mel: "Thank you for the vote of confidence. I didn't know that this was a lifetime job." Mel preceded to cite the Virginian Pilot about pay for directors and officers but this was ignored by the members.

Under New Business Mel reported receiving a thank you from the Princess Anne High School for our participation in their homecoming. Under T-Time, Mel passed around a gasoline additive to compensate for the decreasing lead content in gasoline. Roy Wiley mentioned that he used to always use Amoco unleaded in his TD and never had any problems. Tony Perino reported that he took delivery of Brenda Banvard's TC and already took the gas tank off. "I have a question. Does it take longer to rebuild a TC if you start at the gas tank vice the engine?" Mike Ash: "Yes. Ask Andy." Jim Banvard asked: "Where's your crank, Mike?" Mike: "I beg your pardon." Jim: "If you don't take it out pretty soon..." Mike stated that his TF crankshaft did break at the back. Jerry Moore: "Runs better with oil." Mike: "All bearings looked good. Only 15,000 miles." and proceeded to recall other crankshaft breaking problems. When Jennifer Ash mentioned that they were not new cranks, Mike agreed: "These were well used cranks. If I brake one more, I'll send for a racing one. Five hundred pounds for one from England." Butch Ballback

stated that now that its Winter, time for him to start working on his car. Joe Dillard reported having some problems with abandoned vehicle ordinances but that the Inspector had given him some time to get his B moved. "Supposed to have been painted last Sunday but I haven't seen it yet." Roy Wiley quipped: "With a brush or roller?" Tom Lund: "A Kirby."

Host Michael Doyle-Davidson, noting the rainy weather, stated "Bonfire probably won't lite. You can all go out and inspect it if you want." He then related, especially to refresh Mike and Jennifer Ash's memory, the history of Guy Fawkes and why the English celebrate November 5th. He began with:

Please to remember
The fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason, and plot
We know no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot

All the above personages along with Lee Klein, Christine Raphael, R.A.S. Turner, Jan Mahumed, Pam Groover, Paul Thiergardt, Kelly Blaylock, and Bill Gordon viewed Guy Fawkes' effigy and feasted on outstanding English cooking. Thank you Leslie and Michael for a festive evening.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S :

- Dec 10 - Wednesday - Festive meeting at the Raphael's
 - 7:30 p.m. - Kick tyres
 - 8:00 p.m. - Business meeting
 - 8:30 p.m. - Festivities begin

- Jan 6 - Tuesday - Monthly meeting at the Bowling's

- Jan 31 - Saturday - Annual Wicker Basket affair at the Banvard's (Eaton's - please note date) Details further on.

- Feb 4 - Wednesday - Monthly meeting at the BAKERS



FOR SALE - 1977 MGB - \$950
Roadster, white, has new battery and muffler, needs new top
Call: Peggy - 427-3365, or Dave - 468-3085

REPORT ON WILLIAM & MARY HOMECOMING PARADE

Six-thirty came very early and very dreary that Saturday morning, and we were all cold and ready for the coffee and doughnuts by the time we got to Jim Suter's office in Williamsburg to assemble for the drive into the Colonial Area. Twelve cars eventually participated from this club, including brand-new member, John Prewett, in his MGA and out-of-towner Dan Boswell, in his MGB. While we were drinking coffee, it began to drizzle slightly, only to get worse as time wore on...! After several glitches, all cars were adorned with riders and the parade began, and ended without anything untoward happening. When we gathered at the Alumni House at the end, the rain was a fairly steady light downfall, but the cold beer (provided by our Williamsburg Connection, Jim Suter, as the Student Alumni had forgotten their promise to us!) seemed to cure most ills. We had lunch in the Hospitality House across the street from the Alumni House (plan B, because of the rain!) and it was very pleasant and certainly hit the spot. After lunch - we decided not to dance to the Dixieland Band in the lobby - we all met under the trees by the cars and drank more beer until game-time. We were joined for this by the Earlys (who were late) due to a ball-game back at the Beach. Those who were going to watch the game duly departed, and those returning home returned, and the rest of us checked into our motels and dried off; we all met Jim and Jackie Suter and Jackie's brother, Bill, and his wife, for dinner later on in the evening. There were eleven of us in all - including the Ashes, the Bakers, Paul Thiergardt, Peggy Bradford and Dan Boswell. We had a very enjoyable evening and sat around talking and drinking long after the food was all gone! Next morning, Paul, Judy, Mel, Jennifer and Mike all met for breakfast and then headed on home, where the sun was shining and very little rain had fallen!

The full contingent comprised: Jim & Jackie Suter in their TF; Randy Rankins - MGB; Tom & Jeanne Lund - TD; Winston Churchill - TD; Mel & Judy Baker - MGB; Jerry & Margie Moore - MGB; Mike & Leslie Doyle-Davidson - TD; Paul Thiergardt - TF; Peggy Bradford - TD; John Prewett - MGA; Dan Boswell - MGB; Mike & Jennifer Ash - TD and Phil Ash & Sandra Tull - MGB. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone. It was a very good turnout, and the first time Mike & Leslie have been able to join us on an outing after 3 years in the club! It was also the first time for Winston and John Prewett, who must have thought us OK, because he has since become a fully paid-up member!

I think that if we do this again next year, it will have to be a little better-organized on the part of the Alumni Association, and perhaps moved up a couple of weeks to perhaps enjoy better weather.

We had fun - but then we always have fun with MG people.

TECHNICAL CORNER - by Mike Ash

Well, this was supposed to be a question and answer section, but without questions I cannot provide answers! So, I will just have to ramble on about this and that like I did last month. The TF engine is out of the car, and a broken crankshaft confirmed. It did break between the rear rod bearing and the rear main bearing, as suspected. Also as suspected, there was no other damage to the engine. A spare crankshaft is now down at Phase I machine shop for clean-up and may be re-grind. I also took the engine block to have the bores checked as there were signs of significant blow-by on a couple of the pistons, as well as a few broken piston rings and wear in the ring grooves. All of the bores were currently at 0.060" oversize, as they have been for the last 100,000 miles. Since this is the maximum oversize on all late TD and TF engines, I was reluctant to have the bore sleeved back to standard when the engine was last re-built about 25,000 mile ago. Chuck measured the bores this time and found them to be worn to almost 0.070". Since the pistons had to be replaced anyway, I decided to face up to the sleeving. I am sure the reduction in power from the lower capacity will be made up by the increased power from the tighter pistons. Next month, if there are no questions, I will give you an update on the re-assembly of the engine, and maybe the re-installation.

Speaking of re-sleeving, I foolishly took that route with Jennifer's TD some time ago. I say foolishly because the bores were only 0.060" oversize and, being an early engine, could have been rebored a couple more times all the way out to 0.120" oversize. The full bore size gives an engine capacity of almost 1500 cc! The re-sleeving on the TD was not done by Phase I and was not done correctly, because after about 10,000 miles the rear sleeve came loose. I pulled it out and "glued" it back in with Red Loctite, which has held for about 5,000 miles since! But, if it loosens again, I'll either have to replace the entire engine block or have Chuck find some larger sleeves.

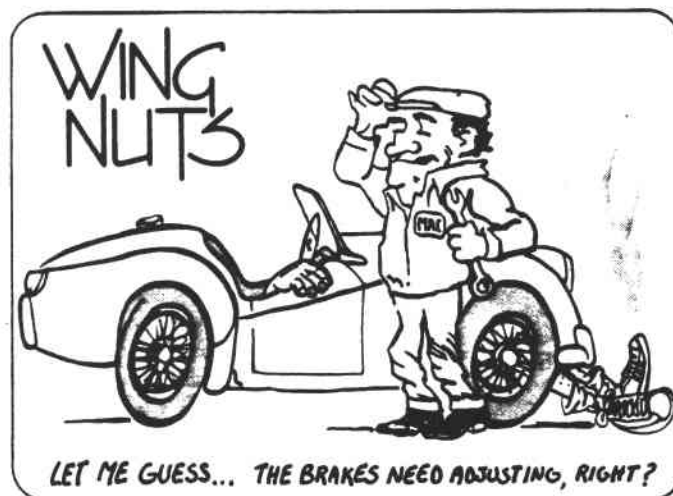
By the way, in case any of you are wondering about the fragility of T-series crankshafts, I can assure you that the one that broke in the TF was very well used. The factory recommended maximum regrind for a T-series crankshaft is 0.040" undersize. Well, the crankshaft I put in the TF was a well-worn 0.060" undersize when I got it and very rusty. I had it built up back to standard size for use in the TF. Maybe I should have known better, but it seemed like a good idea at the time!

While at the W&M parade, Mike Doyle-Davidson happened to notice the spin-on oil filter adapter on Jennifer's TD and was not aware that such a thing existed. For those of you who have a TC or early TD with the vertical oil filter, Abingdon Spares in Walpole, NH, has an excellent adapter that takes a readily available spin-on filter. The adapter sells for about \$40, but that compares quite favorably with the not so readily available original-style filter at \$30. Incidentally, I also have a spin-on filter on the TF which, like the late TD, has the horizontal filter. The adapter is a modification of the one available from J.C. Whitney and Moss Motors for the MGA and early MGB.

Some of you MGB owners may not already be aware of Seven Enterprises in Newport News who carry a large range of new MGB parts and accessories in stock. They have recently opened a large, new warehouse at 716 Bluecrab Road, which is just off the Rt. 175 exit from I-64. They also have a new 32-page MGB catalog, which they will be glad to send you for free if you call them at 873-0007. Their counter hours are 9 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday. I find it quite convenient to run over there to pick up major parts, and it sure beats waiting on the mail from Moss!

For anyone looking for an MGB parts car, Bill Franz of Bill's Body Shop (behind Atlantic BMW, Laskin Road) has one, price unknown. Speaking of parts, I am surprised that no one snapped up the TD/TF transmission Mike West advertised last month, that was a good deal at \$100. I understand Bob Pellerin is interested in the GT's Mike advertised.

At the last meeting, Mel passed around a gasoline additive to replace the lead in un-leaded gasoline. All except the last of the MGs were designed to run on leaded gasoline, a commodity that is becoming increasingly unavailable. At the meeting, Roy Wiley pointed out that he has been running TDs for years on un-leaded Amocco Premium with no obvious ill effects. I am of the opinion that we needn't sweat the problem. Other than myself and a very few others, most owners run their MGs short distances at moderate speeds, which reduces the potential for problems caused by the use of un-leaded gas. Also, the T-series valve design with the 30 degree seat-angle further reduces the potential for problems. So, I plan to keep on buying leaded gas until it is unavailable, and then use the un-leaded. If and when the valve seats in the head wear out, I'll have them replaced with hardened inserts. Valves and seats don't last for ever, anyway, even with leaded gas. Personally, I don't see the need for the added expense of additives, but I won't try to tell you what's best for your car!

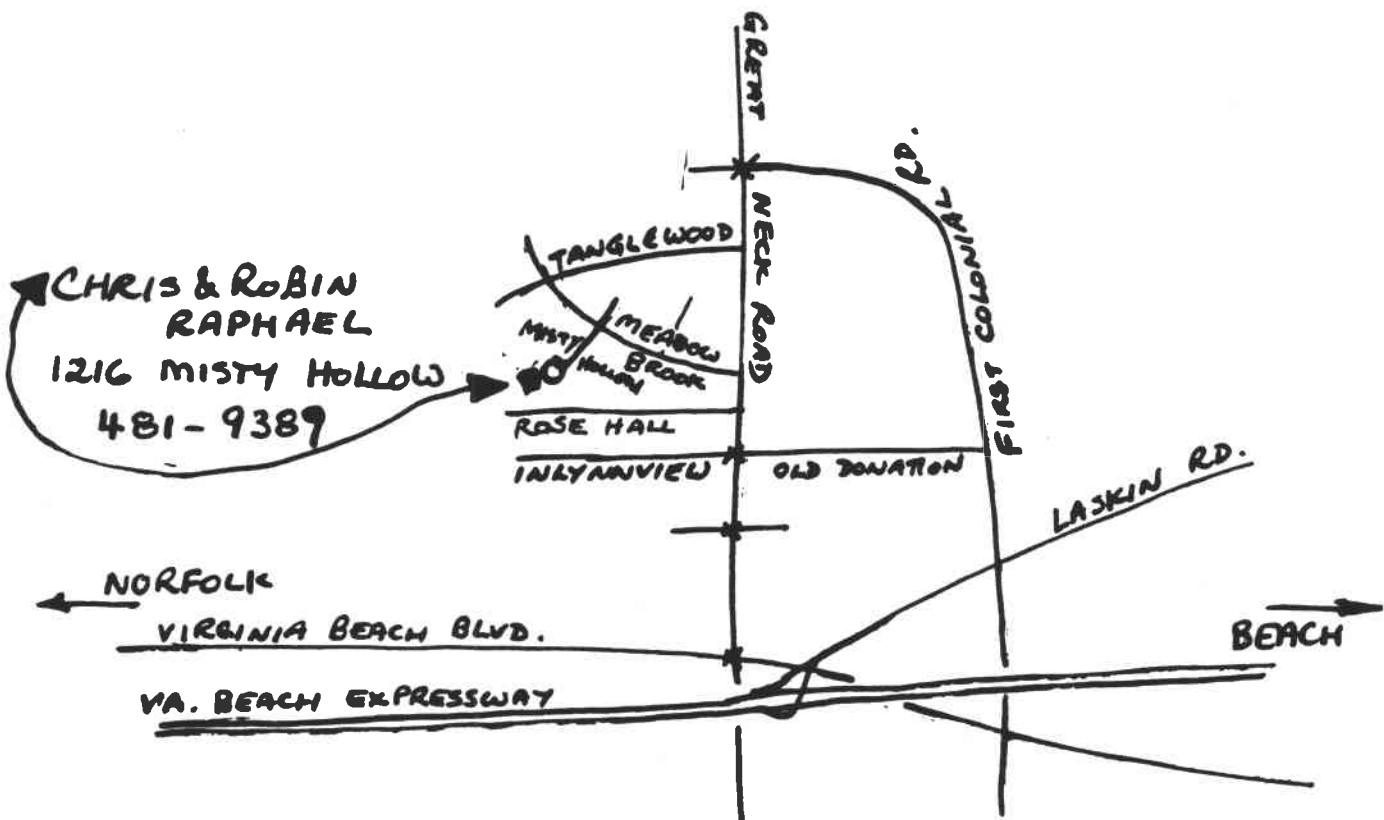


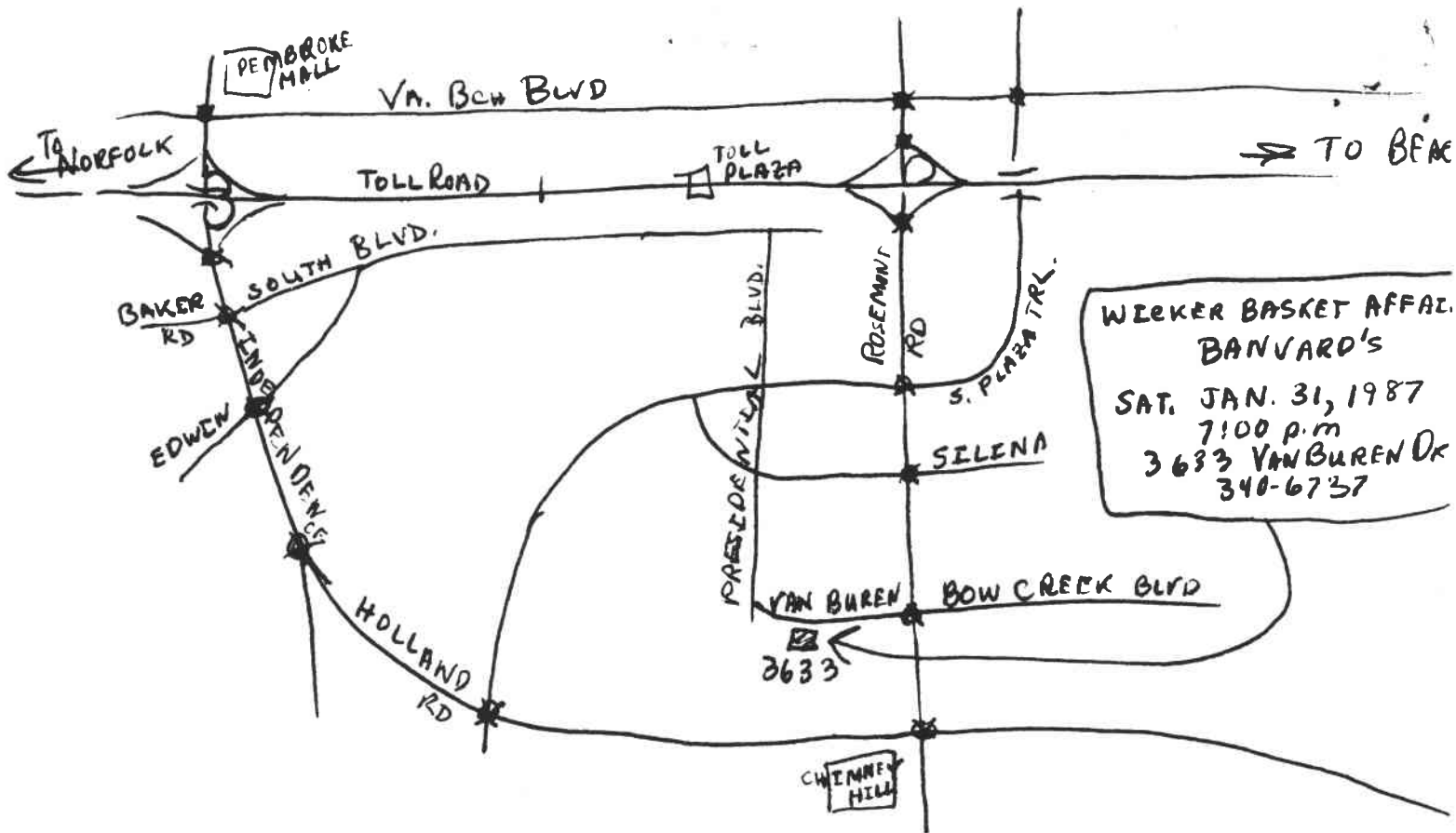
HOLIDAY SEASON MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th

7:30 pm

AT CHRISTINE & ROBIN RAPHAEL'S

Bring your favourite finger-food, and call Christine to let her know what you are bringing (so we don't end up with 10 kinds of brownies!) - 481-9389 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.





WICKER BASKET AFFAIR
 BANVARD'S
 SAT. JAN. 31, 1987
 7:00 p.m.
 3633 VAN BUREN DR
 340-6737

 ANNUAL WICKER BASKET AFFAIR
 SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 1987

This will be held at the home of Jim & Brenda Banvard. This is a "gourmet" pot-luck dinner held annually to recapture the holiday spirit in order to sustain us through the winter doldrums. Please call Brenda Banvard, the hostess, to let her know what you will be bringing or to get a suggestion as to what to bring. Call 340-6737 after 6 p.m. weekdays, 1-247-8681 for work phone, prior to the 30th of January, 1987. Wine, beer, soft-drinks, and coffee (and hot water for tea) will be supplied. Starting time on the 30th is 7 p.m. Bring yourselves, \$5 per couple or \$2.50 per person, your friends, your pot-luck gourmet speciality (to serve 8 - 10 people), and your hearty appetites. Please call - or we'll be calling you

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Two new members joined us this month, so please add their names and 'phone numbers to your new roster, and make them welcome to our swelling ranks:

John Cerasuolo
 1682 Rueger St.
 Virginia Beach, Va. 23464
 Ph: 424-7885 '70 MGB
 '78 MGB

John Prewett
 956 Amesbury Rd.
 Virginia Beach, Va. 23464
 Ph: 467-3467 '59 MGA roadster

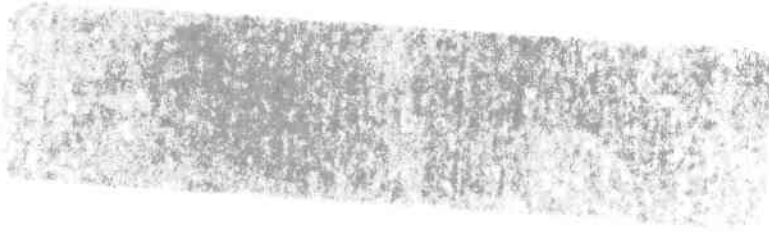
CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1987

JANUARY:	Tue. 6 Sat. 31	MEETING - 7:30 at Dave & Joan Bowling's WICKER BASKET AFFAIR - 7:00 at Banvard's
FEBRUARY:	Wed. 4 Sun. 15	MEETING - 7:30 at Mel & Judy Baker's TECH. SESSION - 10 a.m. at Jim Banvard's
MARCH:	Tue. 3 Sun. 29	MEETING - 7:30 at Mike & Jennifer Ash's RALLY & BRUNCH - watch for details
APRIL:	Wed. 1 Sun. 19	MEETING - 7:30 at Andy Wallach's TECH. SESSION - 10 a.m. at Mike Ash's
MAY:	1 thru 3 Tue. 5	OUTER BANKS WEEKEND - Watch for details. MEETING - 7:30 at Brenda & Jim Banvard's
JUNE:	Wed. 3 Sun. 14	MEETING - 7:30 at RAS & Jennifer Turner's TECH. SESSION 10 a.m. at Mel Baker's
JULY:	Tue. 7 Sun. 19	MEETING - HOST NEEDED.... POOL PARTY - 2 p.m. at Judy & Mel Baker's
AUGUST:	Wed. 5 Sun. 16	MEETING - 7:30 at Sandy & John German's TECH. SESSION - 10 a.m. at Tony Perino's
SEPTEMBER:	Tue. 1 Sun. 27	MEETING - 7:30 at Barbara & Tony Perino's PIG ROAST - HOST NEEDED....
OCTOBER:	Wed. 7 Sun. 25	MEETING - 7:30 at Pat & Bob Beauter's TECH. SESSION - 10 a.m. at Tom Lund's
NOVEMBER:	Tue. 3 Sat. 7	MEETING - HOST NEEDED.... WILLIAM & MARY HOMECOMING..or...???
DECEMBER:	Wed. 2 Sat. 12	MEETING - HOST NEEDED.... PARTY - 7 p.m. at Marilyn & Roy Wiley's

Please let me know if you can host any of the "open" events above, or if you want to be listed as a substitute in case anyone is unable to host at the last minute.

Most of our events are "Annual" affairs, but we are throwing in at least one new weekend event (to co-incide with us being at our condo.) So please mark your calendar NOW with the dates you think you will want to spend with your MG friends, so that you don't make conflicting plans!

JENNIFER & MIKE ASH
Activities Chairmen
495-0307



Handwritten signature or initials.

TIDEWATER M.G. "T" CLASSICS
5149 BELLAMY MANOR DR.
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23464

