

The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

www.mg.org

Volume XXVIII, Issue 11

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

December 2000

MARQUE TIME

It was already dark when I left home, as I arrived for the for the November meeting in my other car. I am still saving my tired clutch for the Bonds' tech session. John Jones and his son were out in front of John's house to direct the parking "a la Le Mans style", to make for an interesting exit from the meeting. What a wonderful, throaty, burbely, musical sound, those MGs made as they backed into position. Well any way thanks to John for volunteering at the last minute to host the November meeting. I also want to thank Jerry Goldman for bringing in the photos that were taken at the July meeting. It really shows off our great looking MGs and their owners. (Jerry we still have your photos and Mike has put them on the web site.) So if you didn't get a chance to see them at the meeting or you want to see them again, you can see them on www.mg.org the clubs web site. Remember www.mg.org is your information source for status, dates and locations of club activities. It is a good idea to check the web site (under "the Latest") before activities to confirm dates, time and location.

The year is drawing to end and this year I have driven my MGB more miles than I have any in any of the preceding 6 years and the wear and tear is beginning to show as evident by the 2 trips home on a roll back tow truck. I have developed a very close relationship with AAA. I think the AAA operators have committed my card number and the yellow MG to memory. And I can't say enough about my AAA plus gold card. It has more than paid for it's self. I have wonderful memories of adventures with my MG friends this year that I will treasure always. Some things happened on our road trips that some people would consider an ordeal but really added to the fun and adventure. And it was nice to have friends along that felt the same way. We laughed, we joked, we had a good, we spent a lot of time looking through MG repair manuals during these trials and tribulations.

This winter it will be the time to go over my MG and make ready for and even busier driving season next year to include more and longer road trips. The driving, the road trips, the adventure and the camaraderie are why I own a MG. Give me that open, two lane asphalt and my MG, that is when I feel alive.

After much thought and some discussion and some wisdom from one of the club's senior members, I have decided to form an Activities Committee, consisting of: Peggy (Bradford) Craig, Coordinator overall, to handle the meetings, tech sessions and the social events. She will also oversee the activities calendar to help to insure there are no conflicts. Dan Kirby will be the Driving Events coordinator to handle rallies, tours and any other advice for routes to and from events. James Simpson will be the Special Event Coordinator to handle large events such as a car show. My intention is for the members of this committee to meet, help and advise each other in planning all events. They have had their first meeting and my obser

continued pg-3

Upcoming Club Activities

Dec 8th Friday Christmas
Party at Jim & Betty
Viller's 481-6398.

April Fool's Tour

Join your fellow MG enthusiasts on a driving tour through some of the best countryside our nation has to offer. During our weekend getaway, we'll tour a famous President's home, take in a drive-in movie, maybe tour one of a few wineries en route, and enjoy our little machines the way the fine people in Abingdon intended! All in all, we'll have a relaxing weekend meandering through the (all paved) back roads.

The tour will leave Friday 30 March at noon and return Sunday 01 April 2001. Bring your smiles, and leave behind your worries.

Please call Dan Kirby at 430-9591 for more information and to confirm your place in our little gaggle. We have set aside a block of rooms with the innkeeper, and need to confirm these arrangements by early January, if possible, so please call soon.

November Minutes

Host John Jones did a nice job of aligning the MGs across from the stretch limos to give the evening just that extra touch of class. Barry dropped the gavel at 8:10 and opened the meeting by thanking John for his hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

Guests: Mark Humphrey, who has a '76B that needs just a little work, was welcomed as a guest.

Membership: Alan reported that we have 96 members, 91 paid members and 5 complimentary. Alan is also working on the new club roster.

Treasurer: Jim Villers reported the club brought forward \$2,699.89 from October, took in \$0.00, disbursed \$80.00, with a balance carried forward of \$2,619.89.

Minutes: The October minutes were approved as is.

Newsletter: Ed wasn't at the meeting. Alan said he is writing an article on last month's club rallye and BBQ for the next newsletter. The newsletter needs articles, so PLEASE WRITE!

Regalia: Frank was missing, and so was the regalia and raffle. I know, we're all waiting for the after Christmas sale!

Activities: With Chuck's recent retirement as Activities chairperson, Barry talked about setting up an Activities committee. Peggy agreed to step in and take over as Activities coordinator (Events and Meetings), helped by Dan Kirby (Driving coordinator) and Jim Simpson (Special Events coordinator). So, come up with ideas and pass them on to the committee, and pitch in and help where you can.

Peggy passed around a sign-up sheet for meetings next year, and John Jones signed up for June so we can park the cars in the park behind his house. We still need hosts for the rest of the year.

Jim Villers talked about the Christmas party to be held at their house on Friday, Dec 8th. Please call Jim and Betty and RSVP, and let them know what food dish you are bringing. Check the next Dipstick concerning the charity for this year, and suggested items to bring.

Spare: Mark talked about a quick fix for those welded points in your SU fuel pump. Use your 4-way flasher, wired in series with the white wire to open and close the circuit, replicating the function of the points. It'll get you home. And if it doesn't, at least you can put it back into your emergency flashers so people can see you broken down by the side of the road!

Mark also mentioned that he and Mike have talked about putting a tech tips page on the website, tentatively called "Hobbling Home". Mark will supply, along with anyone else, tech tips like the above to help us all get home safely on the rare occasion that something actually goes wrong with our cars.

Clubs: Barry talked about re-aligning with NAMGBR. The minimum requirements are at least 8 club members must also be NAMGBR members, 1 article be submitted a year, and their logo is displayed on the newsletter. NAMGBR has a pretty good insurance policy that covers meetings and events. A show of hands counted 6 NAMGBR members at the meeting, there are probably more in the club as well.

Archives: Sue is still working on compiling stuff for the scrapbooks. Contact here if you have any contributions.

Old Business: Alan passed out pictures of drivers and their cars from the rallye and BBQ. Barry passed around pictures from the July meeting at Jerry Goldman's house.

Alan showed some "Johnny Lightning" die cast models of MGs and "that other British make" available for \$2.99 at various toy stores.

Continued pg-3

Marque Time continued from pg-1

vation was that it was a very constructive exchange of ideas. I think they are on the way to planning some new and exciting activities. Dan is already planning a spring tour the last weekend in March to visit interesting sites and explore MG roads. He is also planning a Lucas Night rally in the fall. James Simpson is working on a British Car event the last Saturday in October. There will be some other surprises in the works. By January we should have the details of the activity calendar and events. If you have any ideas for events you would like to have, contact these people. They will help you execute and organize what ever you want to do.

We still desperately need volunteers to host meetings and events, in particular the first few meetings and the "Wickerbasket". As it stands now, we will be meeting at Reggies in Great Bridge for the January meeting. The meeting will be Tuesday, January 9th because, the Activities Committee decided the 2nd was too close to the Holidays. So think about it. Become famous in your neighborhood with all those MGs parked in front of your house.

Wow, the Holidays are upon us and it is time for the annual and legendary Tidewater MG Classics Christmas party. This year the Villers' are hosting the Christmas Party, Dec.8th. Please plan to attend to celebrate that Holiday Season MG friendship and fellowship. Information should be in this issue of the Dipstick.

Happy Holidays and *Safety Fast!* Barry

November Minutes continued from pg-2

New Business: Dan Kirby talked about planning a spring drive to the Shenandoah Valley area the first weekend in April. He'll have a "tune-up" party at his house prior to the trip.

There was talk of the club hosting a car show sometime next year, possibly with the Tidewater Triumph Register. Jim Simpson is working on it.

We need a new host for next year's rallye and BBQ, as Alan and Beckey have prior commitments and can't do it again this year. They will be glad to help someone else prepare for it.

Marque time: The Fall Tech Session is Sunday, Nov 19th at the Bond's garage/museum. 10AM -till? The theme is "adjusting your valves".

Jim Villers talked about yanking out a transmission from a B without pulling the engine. However, it's next to impossible to put one with overdrive back in that way. Much discussion ensued regarding this topic, and engine lifts/hoists and other heavy-duty industrial type lifting equipment.

Mark said he was installing a nitrous-oxide kit in his B. It's good for an extra 75hp for short bursts. Wow, what a sleeper that will make. Imagine the look on the face of that B'eemer driver as you leave them behind at the stop-light.

J.D. talked about a tire shop, MAYPAW, on South Military Highway, south of I-264, who actually knows what they're doing when it comes to wire wheels and tubes.

There was no raffle.

Someone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, someone else seconded, and we descended into the kitchen and dining room like political lawyers to Florida after the election.

*

MG
Party
December 8
Time – 6:30PM
The Villers' Home
With Jim and Betty
3133 Inlet Road, VB
Come
Join
The Fun

RSVP 481-6398 by Fri Dec 1st - Bring a Holiday Dish to Share

RALLYE & BBQ 2000

Oh what a difference a year makes! You couldn't have asked for weather any better than what we had for Sunday's event. Sixteen cars left Kellam High school to compete in the rallye. They included a Pathfinder, Firebird, MGercedes, a TR8 and the rest were MG's. (See Peggy, I told you that I wouldn't tell everybody that you and George did the rallye in a Toyota.) A TR7 was seen at the Rallye start but scurried off in the other direction never to be seen again. The rallye went off without a hitch, and everyone made it to the BBQ on time despite a minor glitch in the directions. (So I forgot to count Blackwater Loop as a road, at least you had the name scrambled to look for....ooops).

The rallye was won by both the Villers & Kirbys. A "Nice Try" award was presented to Robin Watson and his navigator Tom Miller for at least finding their way back.

At the BBQ site, a total of 27 British cars ended up on display. The nice finishing touch was when Randy Brackett with his TR3 arrived after almost everyone had left, followed immediately by Beth Kirby in the same B-GT that pulled Randy out of the mud last year. Unbeknownst to Beth she parked right next to Randy. Poor Randy, will he ever live it down? A total of 3 Triumphs were on display. Besides the TR3, there was the TR8 and a GT6. There was also an Austin, a rather interesting Fiat, and the rest were MG's. At best estimate about 70 people were at the event enjoying the food, cars and company.

The following Pungo businesses donated door prizes to the event. If you are ever in Pungo please stop by and thank them:

Vickie's Jelly Jar
Sea Crest Restaurant
Pungo Tires and Wheels
North Bay Farms
NAPA Auto Parts

On a personal side, Beckey and I would like to thank everybody for coming. We enjoy opening our home and weedy fields to our friends, and we hope you had an enjoyable time as well.

This Year's Christmas Party Will Sponsor The Norfolk Women's Shelter of the YMCA

The home shelters battered women, helping to restore serenity and dignity in a stable home environment that kids especially need this time of year

They need a wide range of stuff for big and little kids, as well as the adults. Some suggestions were offered by the manager. Most needed items are marked with an asterisk (*).

- *Canned vegetables of all kinds;
- *Toothpaste—any variety, small or large;
- *Deodorant—spray / stick / roll-on;
- Panty hose, white cotton underwear, ladies sized socks;
- Kids clothes of any kind, especially underwear and 6-packs of socks;
- *Diapers, baby bottles, baby food, generic liquid tylenol;
- Towels, washcloths;
- Unwrapped toys of any kind;
- *Light bulbs 75 and 100 watts;
- *Crafts stuff—dollar store variety to keep little hands busy;
- School supplies - pens/pencils/notebook paper/etc.
- Cash is okay, but stuff helps more.

A gift of about \$10 in value is requested

It would be nice if everyone bought a few dollars worth of products from several of the categories above.

Nothing needs to be wrapped. We will arrange to pick up and deliver to the shelter.

Mark & Debbie Childers 473-1757

Tech Tips

by Mark Childres

DISTRIBUTOR

The thumbwheel on the Lucas distributor produces about one degree of timing change per 16 clicks. Neat piece of trivia.... but....before doing anything else in a tune-up, set the points to the appropriate gap for your engine. To set the coarse timing, bring the engine around to #1 compression stroke, with the crank-pulley timing mark centered on the appropriate timing pointer. Run the thumbwheel all the way clockwise, then reverse. Count the number of turns counterclockwise until it hits the stop. Divide that number by two to find the number of turns necessary to recenter the thumbwheel in a clockwise direction. Once centered, set the coarse timing to your engine's spec by rotating the distributor body until the points are just beginning to crack open when the crankshaft is turned in clockwise, then tighten it down at the block. With the vacuum advance disconnected and plugged, and the idle set for your year/eng, use a timing light to check that the timing marks coincide at the various rpms specified for your engine. Replacement distributors often have the wrong curve springs and stops which may either enhance or decrease performance. If the advance is not working properly, it can be due to seized weights, broken springs, wrong screw length securing points, wobbling shaft, a rocking points plate, or the wrong distributor. To verify a distributor's application or to get the correct advance curve data for your car, drop me an E-Mail at Ifixmgs@aol.com.

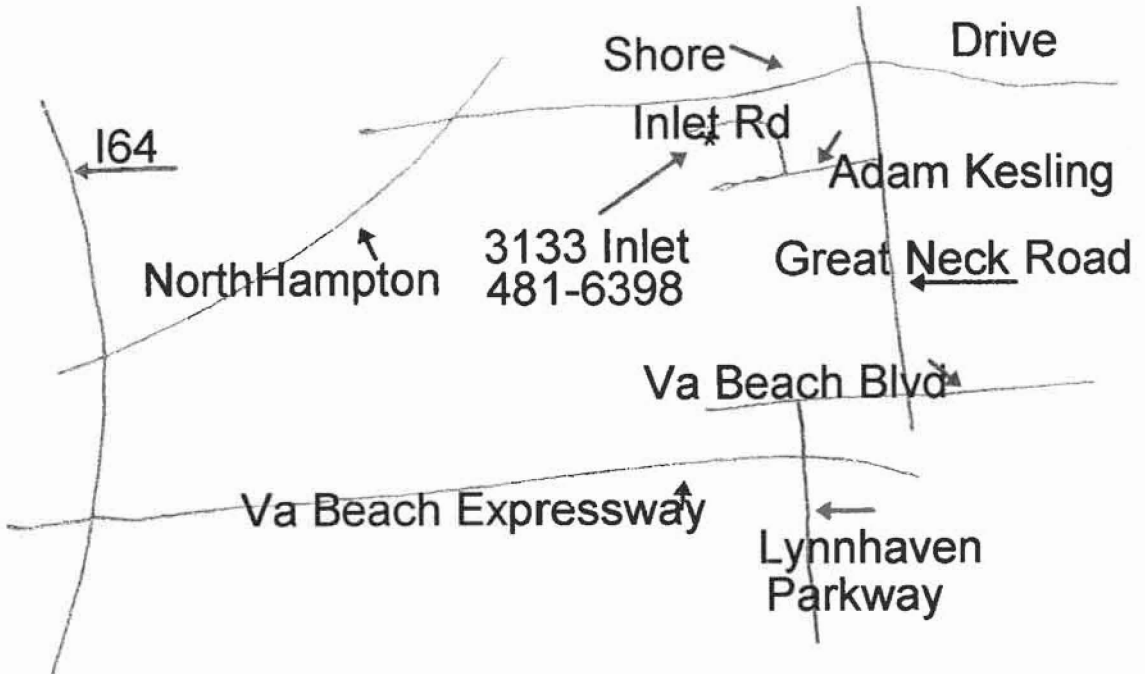
To advance the timing, turn the thumbwheel wheel anticlockwise about 16 clicks per degree. To retard it, turn the thumbwheel clockwise. Add a drop of oil under the rotor, then lift the shaft slightly a few times to inject the oil onto the shaft, then add another drop to the threads on the thumbwheel.

continued pg-7

The Tidewater MG Classics Activity Calendar for 2001

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>9 (Tue) Monthly Meeting @Reggie's British Pub Chesapeake POC: Jim Simpson</p>	<p>7 (Wed) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>25 (Sun) "Wicker Basket Affair" @ Peggy & George Craig's</p>	<p><i>Monthly Meeting held during Wicker Basket Affair end of Feb</i></p> <p>24 (Sat) Tune-up Session for April Fool's Weekend Tour @ Dan Kirby's</p> <p>30-1 Apr April Fool's Weekend Tour</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>4 (Wed) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>30 Mar – 1 Apr April Fool's Weekend Tour</p> <p>22 (Sun) Spring Tech Session @ Frank Linse's</p>	<p>1 (Tue) Monthly Meeting Host NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>5-7(?) "Race at the Base" Oceana, Va 12(?) British Car Show Williamsburg, Va 17 (Thu) Club Ice Cream Social/Drive Out 22(?) "The Boulders" Car Show Richmond, Va</p>	<p>6 (Wed) Monthly Meeting @ John Jones'</p> <p>14 (Thu) Club Ice Cream Social/Drive Out</p> <p>?? Bowie Car Show</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>3 (Tue) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>2-6 "MG 2001", all Registers St. Paul, Minnesota 19(Thu) Club Ice Cream Social/Drive Out</p>	<p>1 (Wed) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>16 (Thu) Club Ice Cream Social/Drive Out 20(?) (Sun) Summer Tech Session Host: NEEDED</p>	<p>4 (Tue) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>23 (Sun) Richmond British Car Show Brown's Island, Richmond 30 (Sat) "Wings and Wheels" Show Topping, VA</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>3 (Wed) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>?? "Pig Pick'n & Rally" Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>?? Waynesboro Car Show Waynesboro, Va</p>	<p>6 (Tue) Monthly Meeting Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/> <p>19 (Sat) Lucas Nite Rallye ?? (Sun) Fall Tech Session at the Bonds'</p>	<p>?? Christmas Party Host: NEEDED</p> <hr/>

*Christmas 2000 Hosted by Jim & Betty Viller's
3133 Inlet Road, Virginia Beach 481-6398
December 8th, 6:30PM*



Tech Tips continued from pg-5

FUEL PUMP

If your fuel pump happens to die (and you suspect that the points have welded themselves shut a long way from home) you might be able to beat Macguyver at his own game. Simply remove your turn signal flasher relay from it's socket, and using a couple of Radio Shack alligator clipped test leads (about \$3 for a bag of 4) you can jumper the flasher in series with the white wire that feeds the pump. On RB cars, it can be accessed in the trunk, and in CB cars, the white wire bullet connector is located on the firewall side of the fuse block where the loom exits the fender. If the points are welded shut, and all else is working, you will need to check for fuel flow by removing the fuel hose from the carb to verify (or watch the filter if it's transparent) because the flasher will click happily away provided the fuel pump points are closed, no matter what the pump itself is doing...

The Tidewater MG Classics

Ed Kehrig
5524 Hill Gail Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Fax: 499-7320
email: ekehrig@exis.net



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

2332284326



**Friday Christmas Party
December 8th
At Jim & Betty Viller's RSVP NOW!**

Officers and Committees

President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
V.President	Mike Haag	393-6410
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Ed Kehrig	497-8073
Membership	Alan Watson	426-2600
Activities	Peggy Bradford	382-7547
Historian	Sue Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	473-1757
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

PRINTING COURTESY OF



ESTABLISHED 1926
RIDGWAY'S INC.
5001 CLEVELAND ST.
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462
TEL 757-490-2305
PAGER 757-456-4000
MOBILE 757-435-0237
FAX 757-671-1922
EMAIL JBARBERID@RIDGWAYS.COM