

# The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

[www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org)

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Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

November 2000

## MARQUE TIME

It was already getting dark, sure gets dark early, as I arrived for the for the October meeting in my other car. I was saving what little clutch I had left in my "B" for the weekend assault on the Blue Ridge Mountains and Waynesboro. Little did I know that the clutch would turn out to be the least of my problems. As I drove up I could see quite a few people gathered in front of the house but it was hard to tell who they were in the dark. As it turned out some people were there who had not been to a meeting in quite a while. Well any way thanks to Paul and Carmen for their gracious hosting of the October meeting. Boy the food is always so good and interesting. I would say that one of the highlights of the meeting was the surprise reappearance of Robert Davis, who was actually on time, well almost, and resumed the duties of the spares guy as if time had stood still. Mark, the current spares guy graciously yielded the floor to Robert.

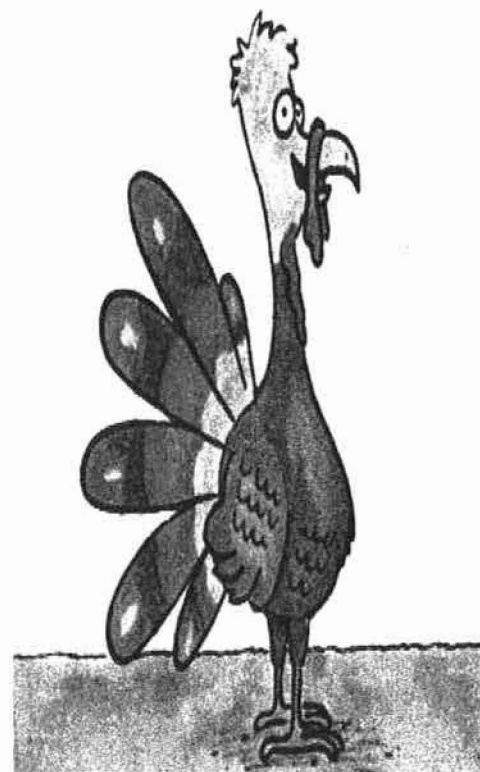
With the election over with, I have had my first shake up in the club administration. Chuck Hudson has decided to step down from the position of Activities Chairman for personal reasons. I will greatly miss Chuck's help, suggestions, experience and advice. He has promised to work on some of the activities that he had already started planning. He will be difficult to replace. He did a great job as activities chairman. So I am looking for a replacement. In the mean time we need suggestion for things you would like to do as actives. Also we need volunteers to host meetings in particular the first few meetings, especially January. So think about it. Become famous in your neighborhood with all those MGs parked in front of your house.

I know that in my last Marque Time I sort of labored through some issues I have been wrestling with but let me leave you with a few more thoughts to sort of put closure to the article. (I know, oh no here he goes again.) Support the organizations (clubs and registers) you believe in, they are your best representatives in issues that affect all of us. Be informed and become active in your local government on issues that affect your rights as a car enthusiast, even if it is nothing more than writing a letter or making a phone call to your local representatives. Believe it or not some of them do listen to you. Speak up if you think we need to do something different in the club, be it more community service, more activities or any other ideas or suggestions. It is your club. Be vigilant about releasing any information (the new roster is coming out) about all of us without the club membership approval. Also I believe that if you own a MG, you need to belong to your local MG Club and that is us in southeastern Va. It is your best source for information, advice, help and friendship. It is difficult for the club to

continued page-2

## Upcoming Club Activities

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Nov 8th  | Wednesday Meeting<br>at John Jones<br>426-6240.                |
| Nov 19th | Sunday Fall Tech<br>Session at the Bond's                      |
| Dec 8th  | Friday Christmas<br>Party at Jim & Betty<br>Viller's 481-6398. |



## **MARQUE TIME continued:**

be everything for everyone all the time. Consider that there is great diversity in how people enjoy their MGs and appreciate that diversity. We all share one thing in common and that is the love of the MG automobile. :

What a great and busy time September and October has been with the Brown's Island British car show, great location, Wings & Wheels, growing and interesting and the beautiful fall foliage in the Blue Ridge Mountains due to the later than usual date of the Waynesboro show. Check out Mike and Susan's saga "Recent Road Trips" in this issue of the Dipstick. And yes you will find in the article I swallowed my male pride and asked for directions when I couldn't find Cyrus McCormick's farm on the Waynesboro trip. And have I ever told you that you really get to know a tow truck driver when you ride with him for a couple of hours.

Don't forget the Bond's now famous Fall Tech Session and museum tour. Fun, Food and watch work in progress on the Bonds' GT under restoration. Bring photos if you have them to reflect on the MG season gone by and it is all on Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. **Safety Fast! Barry**

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## **October's Minutes**

The meeting opened promptly at 8:03 Lucas Standard Time as Barry welcomed us all and thanked Paul and Carmen Thiergardt for their hospitality. Many MGs were in attendance and it was a wonderful warm night.

Visitors: A Mr. Robert Davis was welcomed after a three-year hiatus. Ron Tibbles of Ontario (somewhere north of Poquoson) was welcomed along with his Austin. Rory McCormick and his 79B were welcomed. Also, Bill Cahoon and his 77B were greeted. Tyree Joyce and a 72B were welcomed back as well. Bill Hoggard and a 68B were welcomed back too. Chris Calloway and a 57MGA and 78 Midget appeared as well. Man o man, there were a great number of visitors! Great job everyone.

Membership: Alan mentioned that memberships were coming in and we still needed to lean on some people to pay up. We have about 88 members. Down a little from last year but we hope they laggards will be back on board.

Pig Roast: October 22. By the time you read this it will be too late to go so I hope you made it.

Treasurers Report: In: \$1360 Out: \$46 Balance: \$2699.89

Minutes: Approved with commendations for Barry's newsletter entries.

Newsletter: Ed was not present. SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO ED YOU SLACKERS.

Regalia: Frank reported he has the same old things. Buy now and avoid the holiday rush.

Activities: Chuck reported that we needed a fall tech session date. Sue offered the Bond garage for November 19th. Several members are going to the Waynesboro show.

Spares: Mark deferred to Robert. He discussed the fact that electrical work on cars needs some unique parts. He then showed different wire bullets, a correct crimping tool, and discussed how to use each correctly. He recommends a shop called British Wiring in Olympia Falls Illinois. Robert then strolled down memory lane and with the help of his son we learned that he is indeed getting old.

*October's Minutes continued:*

Clubs: Mike reported that we are not affiliated with the B register. Vince contacted them but we haven't gotten any response. We are registered with the A, T, and Magnette register.

Archives: Sue repeated her request for our club memorabilia and history. Vince let Sue have some photos from his album for her to scan. Do you have any pictures lying around, or dipsticks collecting dust? PLEASE mail them to Sue Bond or bring them to a meeting.

Old Business: Vince was serving as both Old Business Director@ and election honcho. He introduced the slate, took nominations from the floor (none), and all existing officers were re-elected. Congrats to our returning leaders.

New Business: Barry has been attending the Car Club Council of Hampton Roads meetings. He has been receiving pressure to host a car club event and provide some club info including charity work. The members attending voiced their opinion that our business was ours and no one else's. Barry supports the car clubs efforts and will support their advocacy efforts. He will be diligent in determining the effective information to share. Thus far he has humorously reminded them that we are mainly an eating and drinking club that happens to drive MGs.

Marque Time: Barry mentioned that at the Richmond show Frank Linse and Bob McClaren as well as Doug Wilson were winners. Members attending reported that it was a fine show.

Barry and Chuck understand that Lola and MG are collaborating on a car.

Alan's dad has found an 80 Limited Edition B with 900 miles! It is going to be auctioned.

Bob attended the Topping fly-in and show. Only one plane crashed! This reminded Robert of the time a plane ran into a VA that he was driving.

Chuck Hudson has a Ferrari seal from the gas tank to the sending unit! His MG 6R4 is for sale for \$34,000 he'll give anyone 10% if you want to find a buyer!

Bob Stein has a B project car for sale.

Dave Barrows is driving a rascal at 94 years and now has a grille badge to sport the front!

The raffle was held and the Secretary didn't win so the meeting was adjourned and we all descended upon Carmen's gourmet feast like spin doctors on the media after a residential debate.

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## ARTICLE XI Amendments

**Section 1.** Amendments to these By-Laws may be made by a majority vote of all local memberships voting in person or by written proxy. Club members will be provided with the text of any proposed amendments at least one month in advance of a By-Laws amendment vote.

## Recent Road Trips

By Mike Haag and Sue Bond

Late September and early October was the time for driving our favorite cars, taking in that last bit of warm weather, and getting together with friends in that special bond we share in our appreciation of British cars (ok, some may call it a sickness). Three car shows in three consecutive weekends, starting with the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual British Car Show in Richmond, continuing with Wings & Wheels 2000 in Topping (where the \$&\*& is that?) and ending in Waynesboro. What follows are write-ups on the three trips/shows, the first two by myself, followed by Sue's trip report on the great weekend we all had in Waynesboro. Also, you can go to the web site to view pictures from all three shows.

### A "Capital" Car Show

It was an overcast sky that met the small gathering of TMGC members at the 4<sup>th</sup> View Welcome Center on Sunday morning Sep 24<sup>th</sup> to caravan to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual British Car Show in Richmond. Besides Barry and myself, there was Sue Bond, Jim Simpson and Frank Worrell in Jim's '74 Midget, and Bob Stein and a buddy of his. After waiting around for awhile to see if anyone else would show up, we headed up I-64. We actually set a pretty good pace, as Bob's TD "wanna be" kept up with the more "modern" MG's. First stop was a pit stop at the rest area at New Kent, not for the cars, thankfully, but for the owners (too much coffee). As we were driving along, it became misty at times, but cleared up the closer we got to Richmond. As we entered the show site (after following Vince's simple directions that actually got us there) the skies turned blue, the sun came out and it was a beautiful day for a car show.

What a fabulous site! Brown's Island is nestled between the James River and the old Richmond canal and ironworks, with a great view of the Richmond skyline. The club had a great turnout of members for this show. Besides those mentioned above, others displaying their cars were Andy & Cynthia, Bob McClaren, Frank Linse, Mark Childers, and Doug Wilson. Vince was there selling "gently used" MG parts, and Rudy Sayre was there getting ideas for the MGB V8 he is building. Frank and Bob took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places, respectively, in the MGB GT category. Doug Wilson took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Late MGB category. Overall, a very nice inaugural show at Brown's Island with a good turnout of cars and people.

The show ended a little after three, just as some dark clouds began moving in from the west. As we were leaving, we felt a few drops of rain, but hearty souls that we are, we decided to go topless and out-run any rain. Barry, Sue, and myself headed down I-95 to Rt. 460, where we stopped for dinner at the Virginia Diner in Wakefield. This is becoming somewhat of a tradition for these trips back on 460.

### Wings & Wheels 2000

The following Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of Sep, was the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings and Wheels Show at Hummel Airfield in Topping, about midway between Urbanna and Deltaville on the middle peninsula. Barry, Sue, and myself left Portsmouth and headed up I-664 to I-64, then Rt. 17 where we stopped at McDonalds for a "Scottish" breakfast, as Barry put it (McDonalds, Scottish – get it? Oh well, I guess you had to be there). On both the Richmond and Topping trips, Sue was accompanied by her 4yr old granddaughter, Taylor. She's getting to be a real veteran of British Car Shows. Maybe in 12 years, grandma will let her drive the GT? After some much needed coffee, we were on our way, through what seems like the endless stoplights on Rt. 17, the \$2 toll on the Coleman Bridge, and even road construction. Thankfully, Barry got us off 17 near Gloucester, where we picked up Rt. 3 and took some nice back roads over to Topping.

About a mile from the show, I noticed Barry was hanging his left arm out the window, making gestures (no, not that one) that us old-timers remember as hand signals for turning and stopping. It was then that we noticed he had no brake lights or turn signals. Seems the Prince of Darkness paid him a visit. Barry also reported that he lost his gauges too, but we could find nothing wrong later, and everything worked fine on the trip home. Of course, the "Prince" wasn't quite finished with us yet, as he also paid a visit to Sue the following Friday on the last leg of the drive to Waynesboro, with the same symptoms.

**continued page-5**

## Road Trip Tips continued:

The show was quite nice, with beautiful weather and a good turnout of cars, airplanes, and people. This show keeps getting bigger every year. There was a good showing of British cars, along with a large, eclectic mix of other European and antique American cars. Besides ourselves, other club members displaying their cars was Bob McClaren, Doug Wilson, Frank Hurley, and Bill Hoggard. Vince, Frank Linse, and Gregg Coogan were also at the show, but without their MG's. Cars were only half of the show, as there was a large assortment of aircraft too, from antiques to experimental to ultra lights to something that looks like a small dune buggy with a propeller on back and a parachute on top! During the show, many of these different types of planes were taking off and landing, putting on quite a display.

The show ended around 3PM, and we drove over to Deltaville for an early seafood dinner before heading back home.

### MG's Roll to Waynesboro!

By Susan Bond, with help from Mike and Barry

Despite all the weather forecasts of cold, rainy days for the Waynesboro British Car Festival, Friday turned out to be a lovely day for the trip up, warm and sunny. Instead of the interstate, we took 460 and route 6 out of Richmond and were surprised to see fall color, the first time we have had fall foliage for the Fall Foliage Festival! Barry always comes up with a great back-roads route and he found one that was challenging for cars and drivers. (You will have to ask him where we were, I was just following). We all enjoyed it, though a few problems did crop up - Barry's clutch was slipping, Mike's brakes got hot, and my brake lights (and gauges) quit.

A visit to Cyrus McCormick's farm was very interesting and relaxing, but don't try to find it using the Virginia map. The guy who sits in front of the post office in Vesuvius is your best source for directions. We toured the mill (one squirrel power? See web site for picture) and saw scale models of the various reapers McCormick invented.

The parking lot at the host hotel was not very full when we pulled in but it was nice to see familiar faces. After check-in, the wiring diagrams and meters were pulled out and my light problem was traced to the white wire in the big connector below the dash, a few jiggles and I had brake lights again. We should have checked out Barry's charging problem, but decided it would be more fun to join the festivities. Dinner was the finger food buffet with free beer so we talked for a while with Tidewater members Bill and Rosa Hoggard (Mike and Rosa found out they are from the same part of New York, it's a small world), then watched videos - about British cars of course. I finally got to see them toss the MG out of the airplane. Happily it landed intact (Last years caption contest at the banquet was a picture of an MG that landed upside down. My favorite caption was "Parachutes by Lucas".) Upholding tradition, Tidewater floated the keg and closed the place.

Saturday was a great day for a car show, but there must have been a lot of competition, attendance was only about 140 instead of the usual 180 cars. Not as many vendors either. There were more MG's than anything else, divided into 3 classes for B's, arranged in a curve along the river. Mike was still finding acorns in his car from last year and got stuck under the oak tree again. I was next to a guy who had an adventurous trip, from near Cincinnati, Ohio in his red GT, and won the long distance award. The DJ played James Bond songs for me and we dined on "British" pizza and hotdogs. We were joined by Tidewater members Frank Linse, who left home at 4am in his A, and Peggy Bradford and her husband George who stopped by on their way to the Wine Festival in Charlottesville.

Returning to the hotel on back roads, we made our annual stop at Andre Viette's perennial nursery and garden in Fisherville. It is on top of a hill with a great view and lots of cows for neighbors. I always find something unusual, and get a free plant with each purchase!

continued page-6

## Road Trip Tips continued:

Back at the hotel there was just enough time for a power nap or a shower before going down for the awards banquet. The Tidewater table was right up front so we wouldn't miss any of the action and included Frank and Gloria Linse and their friends, Roy and Barb Keeney, the Hoggards and us. Dinner was excellent (no rubber chicken here) despite the lack of free beer. Awards were presented by the "Wes and Bill Show", with help from a full-scale Austin Powers (from "The Spy Who Shagged Me") who had appropriate comments for everything - never a dull moment. This years caption contest was a picture of a TR7 being launched like a rocket. My favorites were "Lucas got the low bid," and "This will drive a wedge in the space program!" No free beer, so we closed the bar instead.

The Waynesboro club offered a trip to the wine festival on Sunday, but we declined and had a leisurely breakfast at Mrs. Rowe's, and then got on the BlueRidge Parkway, stopping at all the overlooks that didn't have trees blocking the view, and Humpback Rock farm. The re-enactor in the cottage had a roaring fire going and was getting ready to bake a cake, but she stopped to play a song on the dulcimer. (We were inspired, want to join our band?) The walk to the rest of the farm was chilly, the wind was blowing and the temp had dropped about 20 degrees from the day before, but it was interesting to see how people lived years ago. Stopping here sure makes you appreciate all the modern conveniences we have.

We left the Parkway at route 56 (I think) and had a blast on the roads these cars were built for, lots of hairpin turns and climbs, then more hairpin turns and running downhill, trying not to burn out the brakes. Next stop was Michie's Tavern so Mike could replenish his wine cellar. It only took us 4 ½ hours to make it that far! (That may be a record, Frank!) By now we were hungry and the tavern had stopped serving so we headed for Charlottesville to find some fast food, after Barry started his B by popping the clutch - we ate in the parking lot while the car was left running.

Back on route 250 the next stop was supposed to be Oilville for gas, but before we made it to the 522 intersection, the yellow B had had enough. A puff of black smoke and a few backfires and it coasted to a stop at the Parrish grocery store. So Barry called AAA. The lady who answered asked which car he had. When he answered, the MG, she said, "Oh, the yellow one?" Then she asked if anyone was with him. He said yes, 2 more MG's. Her reply was, "Are they running?" Sometimes it is better to talk to someone who knows nothing about cars. After "15 minutes to an hour" turned into an hour and a half, the B was on its way home. In the meantime, I had to turn on the heat in my GT. Big mistake. The vacuum advance made a great umbrella for the distributor, as antifreeze was dumped on it. I decided to Even with the valve turned off, it was dripping. Fortunately Mike had some stop-leak which did, but it sure was a cold ride home. At least I didn't have to worry about falling asleep at the wheel.

Despite the problems, this was a great trip. Including Richmond and Wings and Wheels, we put 1000 miles on the cars over 3 weekends. I am looking forward to next year!



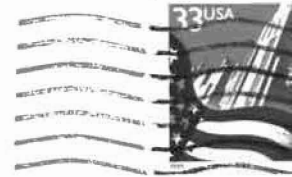
Pig Roast 'Gimmic' Rally

Start at Kellum High School



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# FIRST CLASS

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## Wednesday Meeting November 8th At John Jones'

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### 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	Chuck Hudson	425-6882
Historian	Sue Bond	482-5222
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Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

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