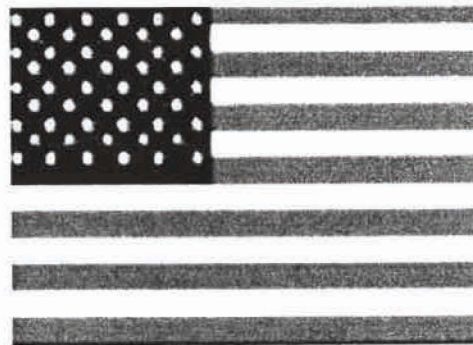


# The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

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

Volume XXX, Issue 02

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

February 2002

## MARQUE TIME

The New Year got off to a great start by holding the January meeting "South of the Border" at the El Rodeo restaurant. We had a large turnout for the first meeting of 2002. I'm sure the inexpensive Mexican food and beer helped. Definitely the beer! My apologies to those who couldn't hear, especially Doug, who was struggling to take minutes at the end of the long table. I'm sure whatever he missed, he'll make up something appropriate and more entertaining than anything I said. Thanks to all who stepped up to host meetings this year.

In his February 2000 Marque Time column, Barry so eloquently set the tone for his column by writing about sitting by the fireplace, drinking mulled cider braced with rum, while snow fell softly outside on a cold January evening. Unfortunately, I can't quite match that for this column since: a) I never got around to getting the chimney cleaned; b) Mulled cider? No, but I do however have a bottle of Crooked River Yuletide Ale with winter spices; c) at 50 degrees outside, there's no chance of Jack Frost nipping at my heels or snow softly falling. So much for atmosphere!

The mild winter weather does have advantages, one of them being we have more opportunities to drive our MGs. Unlike our MG brethren in more Northern climes who put away their MGs from November to April, we here can pretty much drive our cars year round. I'm sure there are members of our club who do just that, and aren't as concerned with wimpy accessories like parking heaters and hoods. I wish I could say that I've been driving my MG, but in the last 2 months I probably haven't put more than 10 miles on it.

At the end of my last column, I was in the predicament of having my MG failing the inspection because some emission stuff was missing. OK, all of it, to be exact. Since I had the original pieces to put back on it, and after giving it some thought, I decided to try and get the car back to as close to original as I could. I feel that the more original a car is, the more valuable it is. That, and I was trying to convince myself to do things right and not just try and find some other garage to give me a "wink and a nod". Using one of the 10% off/free shipping coupons from MOSS Motors you get at the car shows, I ordered most of the little bits and pieces needed to put it back together. What I couldn't get from the 2 major suppliers, I got from our own local "Uncle Vince's Gently Used MG Parts Emporium" at a very reasonable price. By mid December, I had all the necessary parts, and was ready to tackle the job.

I spent a Saturday morning removing the Weber carb, intake manifold, and the exhaust system. In the afternoon, on went the original combination intake/exhaust manifold, heat shield, Zenith carb, air pump, air manifold pipe, and gulp valve. By Sunday afternoon, it was time to try and start it. Or should I say fire it up, knowing the propensity for the Zenith-Stromberg carb to leak fuel. After sitting for at least 3 weeks, the car started up after 2 cranks. After some adjusting and fiddling, it wasn't running too bad, although a little too rich. Some more "fine tuning" got it to the point that I was ready to back it out of the driveway and take it around the block for a spin. It seemed to run ok, although still too rich, and seemed to have as much or even more power than before. I was pleasantly surprised, to say the least!

The Friday before Christmas, I took the MG back to the same garage where it had failed

## January Minutes

The January meeting opened promptly at 8:11PM as El Presidente' Haag shouted the 28 in attendance to attention. (NOTE: Since this evenings festivities were held at El Rodeo the Secretary would now like to apologize for what is always a difficult evening trying to hear and lip-read the Presidente effectively. Please note that this is due more to the noise than it is to the tequila.)

Mike welcomed everyone and thanked members for their help last year in hosting and helping out.

Membership: Alan is handing the duties off to more able bodied stock and reported 93 newsletters heading out every month to paid members. So, if you don't get this you haven't paid. That means you need to give it back to a dues paying member and cough up your dues so you receive your very own copy. Of note, Mike Spruill who is serving on the Roosevelt during this time of conflict sent in his dues. Way to go Mike.

Treasurer's Report:  
Money out: \$262.98, Money In: \$815 Balance: \$3003.50

Minutes:  
Approved as written.

Regalia:  
Frank reported nothing new. See him with any regalia ideas to order.

Activities:  
It's sign-up time for hosting a meeting or activity. Step up to the plate on this gang.

### Marque Time cont:

it's that the Weber conversion offers reliability and POM (piece of mind), but little or no gain in performance, at least that I've noticed. My advice is, if you have a similar rubber bumper 'B, and the automatic choke works and the car doesn't run rich, then LEAVE IT ALONE! Just drive it and enjoy it as it was delivered from the factory. Although, I have noticed that now you can buy a K&N air filter and low back-pressure exhaust system for these cars to make them breathe better. Uh oh, here we go again! Quick, someone hide my credit card!

Now is the time to be working on our MGs, getting them ready for the upcoming driving and car show season, which starts earlier than usual this year. The first scheduled British Car Show in our area is in the middle of March in Williamsburg. Then, it's our April Fool's Tour (TBD), the Scottish Festival in early April, which would like to have a showing of British cars, and then the usual slate of shows beginning in May. Watch for information on all these events in upcoming issues of the Dipstick, and on the website.

### *Safety Fast!* **Mike**

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#### January Minutes cont:

Mike then talked about something but I'm not sure what it was. Either activity ideas or anecdotes from his youth. Oh, here's applause so it couldn't be related to his youth I guess.

Colonial Vintage British Car Club show and antique fair will be held on March 16, 2002.

Terry Bond reported that on March 7 there will be a flea market sponsored by the local AACA. He suggested that we have a booth to promote the club and sell spares.

#### Archives:

Sue Bond has been working hard on our archives and received the applause worthy of her efforts. She also needs help identifying who people are in some pictures as well as more pictures from activities. PLEASE see her at events to offer your support. Oh, she'll scan your pictures so you get them back. Blow the dust off those photo albums and help her out, especially with pre 2000 information.

#### Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

Terry's motion to have a booth at the AACA event was seconded and passed. Drag out those old parts you don't need anymore and get down there.

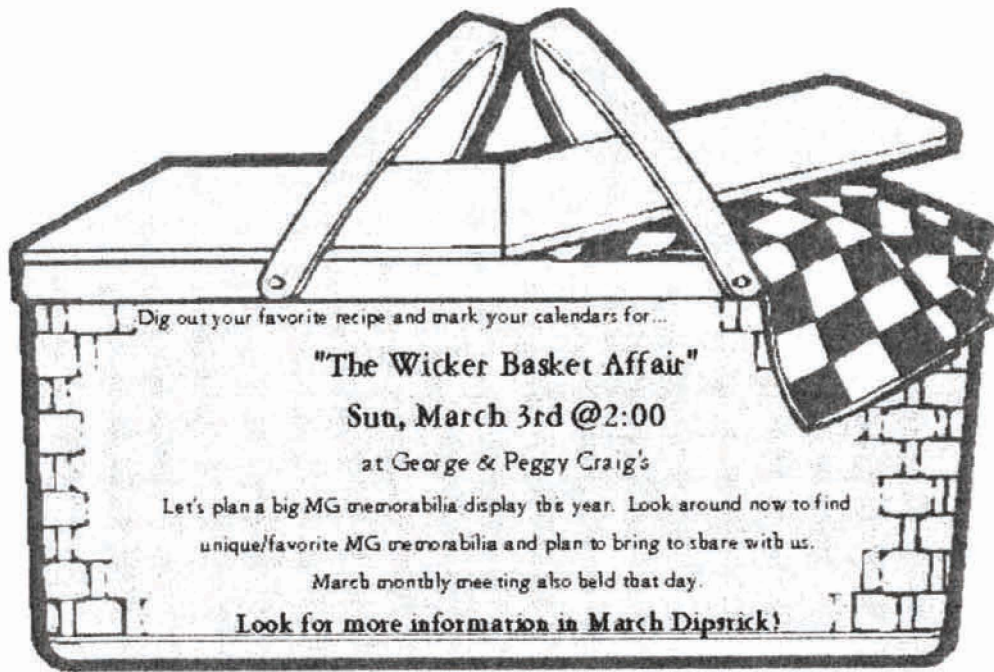
#### Marque Time:

The Tidewater Scottish Festival will be held at that fine institute of higher education Virginia Wesleyan College the first week of April. As part of that we have been asked to display our cars and receive free admission. This is in the works and more info will be forthcoming.

Mike's car is either running well or not running so well. I can't hear him over the blender.

The whicker basket even t was discussed and planned for the third of March at Peggys house. Thanks Peggy! NOTE: this will also be the March meeting date.

There was then some more discussion, a show of hands, smiles and the meeting appeared to be over.



### *Straw Man Escapes the Bond Fire at November Tech Session*

By Barry Tyson

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, a straw man, named Guy Fawkes escaped his fate in the flames of the Bond's bonfire due to unexplained lack of rain (open burning was not allowed due to the area drought conditions). The burning was to take place as darkness fell during a ritual meeting of a group of many anglophiles who are devoted to the mark of the octagon encircling the letters MG. The straw man said he would have had some comments but he lacked a brain. Robin Watson, the creator of the "Guy straw man", gave the final decree, "let him burn when the restrictions are lifted". "A penny for the Guy." The full Guy Fawkes story is at [www.bonfire.org](http://www.bonfire.org).

The beautiful crisp and clear fall day provide the perfect backdrop for the MG event that was a Tech session, November meeting and a day early celebration of Guy Fawkes Day. The Bond's two large dogs, Angus and Tattoo and three cats, Princess, Tiger and another one appropriately named Lucas (the "feline of darkness") scampered around in the dappled sunlight over the carpet of colorful leaves among the trees and in and out of the barn. The fourth cat, Oki, was on station by the hearth in the house at the Bond's country estate near the village of Great Bridge. The woodlands on the property, I am sure are the home to gnomes, elves, sprites and other magical woodland creatures, especially as darkness fell. Enough magical creatures to fill the imagination of the young and young at heart.

Against this backdrop of fall color and magical woodland there were MGs and legends of MGs. Mike and I discovered some the secrets of the "Black GT" (how does this MG climb mountains so easily, is it magic). There were tours of the Bond's antique "automobilia" museum. There was fun on the tire swing, enjoyed by Sam, Doug Kennedy's son. There was even an attempt to work on Paul Thiergardt's MGF. But because the problem with the MGF was electrical and there was a lack of the required items to conjure up a spell, the effort was quickly deferred to a later time. In addition, there was agreement among the "druids" of MG; how can a MG be a real MG without electrical gremlins. Progress was examined on MG projects of "epic proportions" thorough personal observation and photos (the Bond's GT and Jack Dawson's TD).

Then there was an interesting meeting, with the new president Mike Haag, presiding, and with stories of Hershey being told. As darkness fell, in the barn, a harvest festival feast of sorts began. Inside the barn was a "groaning board" with a banquet of "Bangers" (hot dogs), barbecue, chicken and an assortment of delicious dishes and sweets. MG adventure stories were told around a contained fire and the participants departed to return to the realities of life with the warm, reaffirmation of MG friendships.

<p align="center"><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p><b>9(Wed)</b> Mtg at El Rodeo Resturant, 5209 Providence Road, Va Beach, PH 474-2698</p>	<p align="center"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p><b>5(Tue)</b> Mtg hosted by Peggy &amp; George Craig</p>	<p align="center"><b>MARCH</b></p> <p><b>3(Sun)</b> "Wiocker Basket Affair" and Mtg hosted by Peggy &amp; George Craig  <b>16(Sat)</b> CVBCC Car Show in Williamsburg VA</p>
<p align="center"><b>APRIL</b></p> <p><b>6(Sat)</b> Scottish Festival at VWC, Mtg also on Sat, 6th  <b>??</b> April Fool's Weekend Tour  <b>??(Sun)</b> Spring Tech Session Hosted by Frank Linse</p>	<p align="center"><b>MAY</b></p> <p><b>1(Wed)</b> Mtg hosted by Andy &amp; Cynthia  <b>??(Sun)</b> British Car Show "The Boulders", Richmond VA</p>	<p align="center"><b>JUNE</b></p> <p><b>1(Sat)</b> "Brits on the Bay" Car Show, Va Beach VA  <b>4(Tue)</b> Mtg hosted by Charlie &amp; Ellen Smith</p>
<p align="center"><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>3(Wed)</b> Mtg at ??  <b>3-6(Wed-Sat)</b> 11th Annual NAMGBR Convention, Grapevine, TX  <b>17-21 GT-27 NAMGAR</b> Convention, Charlottesville VA</p>	<p align="center"><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p><b>6(Tue)</b> Mtg hosted by Paul  <b>??(Sun)</b> Summer Tech Session at the McClaren's PH 490-2114</p>	<p align="center"><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p><b>4(Wed)</b> Mtg hosted by Jim  <b>22(Sun)</b> Richmond British Show, Brown's Island, Richmond, VA  <b>28(Sat)</b> "Wings and Wheels" Show at Hummell Airfield, Topping VA</p>
<p align="center"><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p><b>1(Tue)</b> Mtg hosted by Alan &amp; Beckey Watson  <b>4-6(Fri-Sun)</b> 21st Annual British Car Fall Festival Waynesboro VA  <b>??(Sun)</b> "Pig Pick'n &amp; Rallye"</p>	<p align="center"><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p><b>??(Sun)</b> Fall Tech Session and Meeting at the Bond's.</p>	<p align="center"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p><b>??(???)</b> Christmas Party By ??</p>

**Editor's Notes:**

"The chain is only as strong as it's weakest link." Mike Haag in January sent me the flyer for the Colonial Williamsburg British Car Club event to be held in March and I LOST IT!... Contact Mike for details ~sorry!~

My work is taking me out of the USA from Feb 10 - March 3rd. I'll be able to get the March Dipstick done and Catherine will have it run-off and mail for me while I'm gone. BUT I WILL NEED ALL INPUT NO LATER THAN February 8 th in order to do this. I'll be gone in April too, but will be back by the 20 th so I will have enough time to do May's Dipstick.

Bear with me fellow members. I know it's easy to criticize the failures & lack-luster performance of another when it's right there staring you in the face, but it has been a tough year medically for me. The Peripheral Neuropathy which I have remains undiagnosed, but still painful and a lot of time is debilitating. I enjoy doing the Dipstick and look forward to continuing.

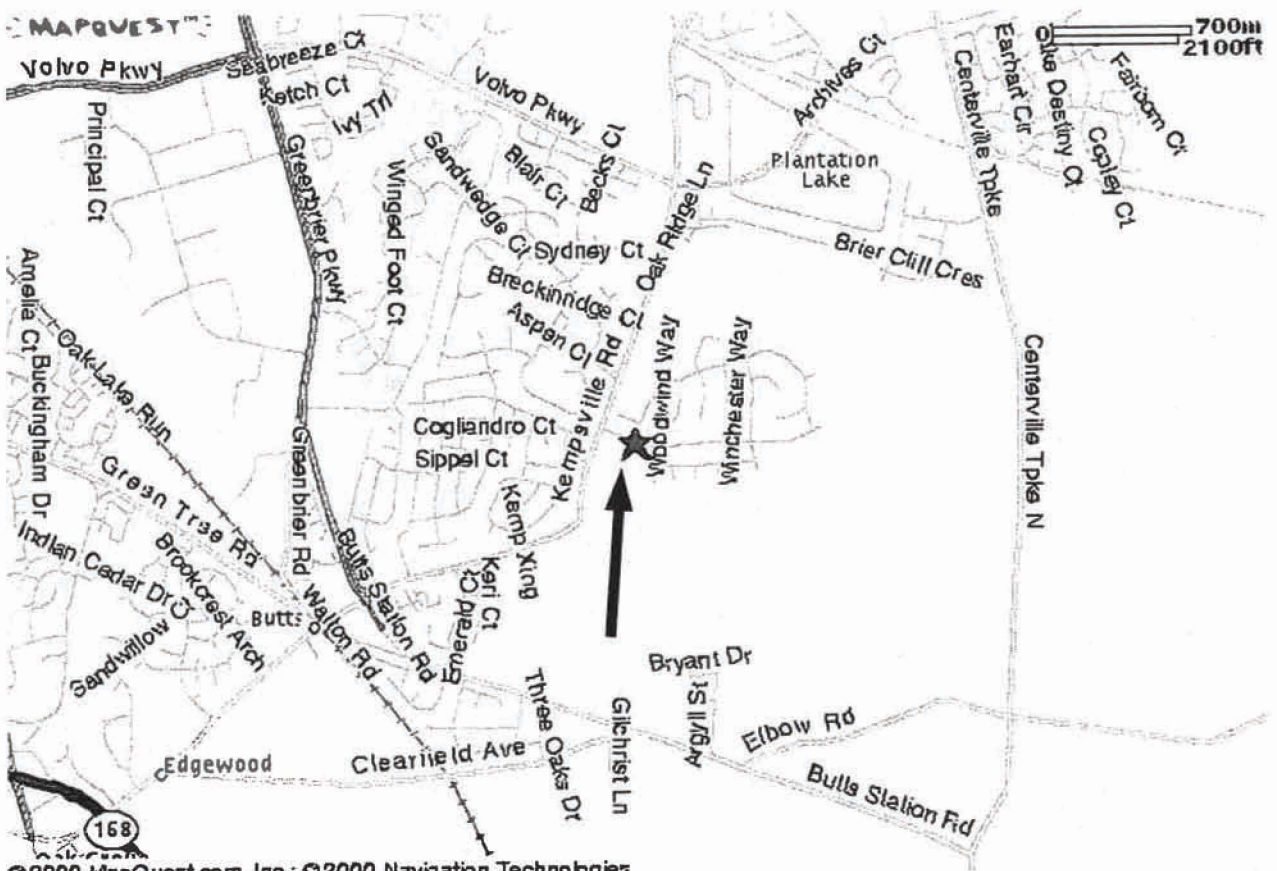
**Monthly Meeting Tuesday  
February 5th, 2002  
Peggy & George Craig's**

**382-7547**

**1417 Shanendoah Parkway  
Chesapeake 23320**

**7:30 PM Kick Tyres**

**8 PM Meeting**



**The Tidewater MG Classics**

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**FIRST CLASS**

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**Club Meeting Tuesday  
February 5th At  
Peggy & George Craig's**

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**Officers and Committees**

President	Mike Haag	496-7348
V.President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Ed Kehrig	497-8073
Membership	Alan Watson	426-2600
Activities		
Historian	Sue Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	473-1757
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307