

# The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

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

Volume XXXVI, Issue 7

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

July 2009

## MARQUE TIME

Hats off to the Yoshida's for hosting a highly successful June meeting at their beautiful home on Lake Smith. Where else can you socialize both lakeside AND poolside at the same time, while enjoying a lineup of at least 15 MGs under the trees? Thank you Issie and Bill for a perfect venue and a delicious buffet!

The June meeting was a great way to celebrate “Drive Your British Car Week”, with an assortment of cars spanning over 30 years of MG production ranging from Bob Stein's TC to Mike Lalli's “late model” MGB. It's hard to believe that our newest MGBs are themselves almost 30 years old!

As luck would have it, the press is reporting on the auto industry with gusto these days. With two out of three of the “Big Three” U.S. automakers in reorganization, comparisons to the British Leyland situation a few decades ago are inevitable. One note of similarity is the emergence of Far Eastern interests in both cases. Now that the MG naming rights are owned by the Chinese, it looks like the Hummer brand will go east as well, at least as far as corporate ownership goes. Who knows – maybe an MG badged SUV will be one result of the homogenized global auto industry.

No worries here, though. The ups and downs of today's car manufacturers will not affect TMGC members too severely. We are secure in the knowledge that our cars of choice will remain forever young, including all of the quirks and nuances that make British sports car ownership the best way to enjoy the journey.

Safety Fast!  
Mark Davidoski



## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org) for the latest info!

**Jul. 1 Wednesday meeting at Bill & Renee Olcheski's**

**Jul. 11 Dipstick inputs due.**

**Jul. 16** Drive-out to Captain Chuck-a-Muck's in Rescue, VA - see page 3 for details

Jul. 13-17, NAMGAR GT-34, Hot Springs, AR,  
[www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar](http://www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar)

**Aug. 4 Tuesday meeting at Tad & Karen Carter's**

Aug. 8 Classics at Lee Hall, [www.leehall.org](http://www.leehall.org)

**Aug. 16** Barksdale Theatre @ Hanover Tavern – The Lady with All the Answers  
- see page 5 for details

**Aug. 23 Tech Session at Jim & Linda Freeh's**

**Sep. 2 Wednesday meeting - Open**

Sep. 13 Horsepower Show, Colonial Downs,  
[www.horsepowershows.com](http://www.horsepowershows.com)

Sep. 20 Classics on the James, Richmond  
[www.britishcarclub.com](http://www.britishcarclub.com)

Sep. 26 TRAACA Antique Car Show at Virginia Beach Airport . [www.aaca.org/tidewater](http://www.aaca.org/tidewater)

Sep. 26 Wings and Wheels, Topping VA  
[www.fly.to/wingsandwheels](http://www.fly.to/wingsandwheels)

Sep. 26 MGs on the Rocks, Bel Air, MD,  
[www.mgsofbaltimore.com](http://www.mgsofbaltimore.com)

Oct. 2-4 SVBCC Car Show, Waynesboro, VA – Register by

## Upcoming Activities (continued)

9/22 and save \$5

[www.svbcc.net](http://www.svbcc.net)

**Oct. 6 Tuesday meeting at Chuck & Becky Hassler's**

Oct. 10 Brits by the Bay, Pasadena, MD, [www.tracltd.org](http://www.tracltd.org)

Oct. 11 Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA,  
[www.mgcarclubdc.com](http://www.mgcarclubdc.com)

Oct. 17 Euro Auto Festival at BMW plant, Spartanburg NC,  
[www.euroautofestival.com](http://www.euroautofestival.com)

Oct. 31 Brits and Battleship, Wilmington NC,  
[www.bmccf.org](http://www.bmccf.org)

Oct. 23-25 Virginia Fall Classic, Newport News,  
[www.vafallclassic.org](http://www.vafallclassic.org)

Oct 31 – Nov 1 Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance



## JUNE MINUTES

Anita Edwards-Struewing

We began our June meeting promptly at 8:07 pm on June 2nd at Bill & Issie Yoshida's home. To quote Debbie Linse, "What a lovely, lovely, lovely place to hold a meeting." Here, here! Thank you both for hosting and for the memorable feast waiting for us when we adjourned! Our El Presidente presided from the "pulpit" by the pool. A motion was made and seconded to accept last month's minutes.

**New Members and Guests:** Phil and Juanita Davis were our guests, who came to relay information about a 1967 MGB that they have inherited. They are looking for a good home where it can be loved and restored. It needs work – probably new clutch and/or brake master cylinder, radiator needs repair/possible replacement. If anyone needs more information, Mark has their contact information.

**Vice-President:** At this time, Bill did put out a request for assistance regarding his radio. It is getting power but just not producing sound; Bill has used other speakers to no avail so it's not the speakers. Bruce Easley did say something about spliced wires possibly being the culprit but I didn't get the full story. Hope that helped, Bill. Bill concluded his "report" with these words, "GM might go away... MG, yeah, is here to stay!"

**Treasurer:** Jim Villers reported that we are still in the black. His detailed report will be filed.

**Activities:** Please see Tad Carter's activities section for a complete run-down. There was mention of Nascar opening VIR to the public; please see Tad for specifics. A reminder that June 6-7 the AAC car show in Fredericksburg (there's also something happening in Iowa if you're so inclined to drive there). The two-light tour hosted by Richard Hall is scheduled for Saturday, June 20. Please let Tad and/or Richard know if you plan on joining so the restaurant reservation will be accurate. Next month's meeting is Wednesday, July 1 at Bill and Renee Olcheski's home. The next tech session will be Saturday, August 23 at Jim and Linda Freeh's. Our September meeting (Sep 2) still needs a host. Please let Tad know if you will host it. There is another activity happening towards the end of October in Hilton Head – something to consider. Lastly, is there any interest in doing a drive-out to Hanover Tavern in Ashland? It has been open(reopened) for about a year now and they are putting on summer theater productions. It would be a great drive and sure to be a good time – even better if our Beaver Dam members would be able to join as well.

**Clubs:** Mike and Jennifer Ash went to the K-West event for the MGA group – Jen will be writing something for our newsletter.

**History:** Susan Bond brought two albums with her. She needs writers for coming events. There wasn't any indication that anyone would be going this weekend to Fredericksburg so there might not be anything about that. Bob Stein said he'd write about the two-light tour. Chuck and Becky Hassler will be attending MG2009 in Breckinridge, Colorado and will be writing about that.

**Membership:** Bill Yoshida reported that we now have 104 members – way to go. (This is contingent on everyone renewing; did you remember that June was renewal month?) It's definitely not too late to get those renewals in. Also, if you want a new photo in the directory, please get it to Bill; he will be working on the new directories shortly. His detailed report will be filed.

**Newsletter:** Ron Struewing thanked those who have been writing for the newsletter and that we are always looking for contributions of articles. As always, submit them no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month so the newsletter can be completed on time. At this time, someone mentioned that Chuck Hassler's articles have been so detailed and descriptive that it feels almost like we're there as well! Keep up the good work, all of you who are writing for our newsletter!

**Technical:** Mark was absent. Walter West-hoof remarked that the MGA tends to get "vapor lock" and that he had fabricated a heat shield. I don't know all the specifics but he is now in the position to be able



Tidewater MG Classics proudly presents....

### The July Drive-out

aka

### The Russ Ripp Runn

Thursday, July 16, 6:30 PM

Captain Chuck-a-Muck's

Secret Hideout #2 in Rescue, VA



We will depart from the Hardee's at 1029 Battlefield Blvd at 6:30. Our drive will take us across the rural roads of Western Portsmouth, Suffolk, Driver and into Rescue for a 7:30 arrival.

Captain Chuck-a-Muck's has been a featured stop for Guy Fieri's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives" on the Food Network and features Fresh Seafood, the finest Angus Beef and Fried Bologna. There is something called world-famous Jamaican jet Fuel, and the desserts look pretty good, too!

Please join us for the Drive, Dinner, Desserts and a beautiful sunset on the deck.

Anyone not wanting to journey down to Chesapeake is welcome to join us at the restaurant.

Please RSVP to Tad Carter [TMGC\\_Activities@me.com](mailto:TMGC_Activities@me.com) or 757-496-9847 by July 8th

so we can make appropriate arrangements with the Captain

to duplicate this should anyone be interested/in need. John Tershak had previously mentioned a flexible brake line available at NAPA. He brought one to pass around. Mike (ask Mark what his last name is) shared that one of his friends does powder coating. He will find out about pricing and such and relay that information at another meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None except to again say "Thanks for the reminders, Peggy! Keep 'em comin'."

**Marque Time:** Bruce Easley shared a "feel good anecdote." I couldn't hear it all – sorry, but he did say that his MG was parked near other cars including a BMW. A woman remarked, "What a nice car." The BMW owner asked, "Which one?" The woman replied, "Isn't that an MG?" She commented that she had had one and reminisced about the good old days of being owned by an MG – or is that owning an MG, is there a distinction?

Richard Hall relayed that he and Susan Bond (and others but I didn't get all the names) had been in Gettysburg and seen a 1931(?) Magnum. It is in need of work but there are no parts available; in fact, there was a sign stating just that, dating back to the 1950s! Sue said that maybe Walter could put his fabricating expertise to work on its parts. Richard also shared that he'd been in Powhatan over the weekend; Jim Swinson's MG Salvage Yard has LOTS of MGs and plenty

of parts. He said he obtained a treasure trove of parts for only about \$100. If you're interested in knowing more, please contact Richard.

Bernie Imdahl relayed that there's a woman in Richmond who has a 1971 MGB GT (split-bumper) for sale. It needs a new starter & exhaust. Bernie said he'd take \$1000 but that she's only asking \$750 – Ha, ha, nice try! He really wants the engine, so maybe you'd better not go through him!

**Raffle and Regalia:** We had winners of a refrigerator magnet, another buckle bumper (no need for demonstrations this time), t-shirt, anniversary Dipstick CD, anniversary scrapbook CD, 1979 MGB showroom sales brochure, 3 Autocar magazines, a \$5 Starbucks gift certificate, and the always-coveted first in line for food.

We adjourned at 8:50 PM to dig into Issie's Mexican feast...yeah!





## Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

The 2010 membership count currently stands at 34 of the previous 104 memberships from the 2009 Roster. Thanks to all the members that were either paid in advance or have already sent in your renewal forms for 2010.

We did receive one new member (#104) since the June Newsletter was published. Our newest member is:

Charles Rice  
Newport News, VA  
1951 MG TD

Welcome to the club Charles, we hope to meet you at the July meeting.

If you haven't already sent in your renewal form and dues, this is a reminder that June is (was) Membership Renewal month. Renewal forms are found online at [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org) under the "Becoming a Member" section. A fee of \$20.00 for the 2010 membership year is now due. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, I contacted each member by email and/or phone that were already paid in advance through June 2010 (or even 2011 in some cases). If you weren't contacted, and haven't yet sent your renewal, then please do so at your earliest convenience. I look forward to all 2009 members renewing their membership for the 2010 year.

If you are not planning to renew your membership for 2010, please send me an email at [williamryoshida@verizon.net](mailto:williamryoshida@verizon.net) to let me know your intentions. Towards the end of June, I plan to send out an email or make phone calls to those members without an email address, as a reminder that they have not sent in their 2010 renewal forms and dues by then.

I will begin building the Tidewater MG Classics 2010 Directory upon closure of the registration period, shortly after 30 June. A few members have sent new photos for the Directory. If you have a new photo that you would like to be included in this year's directory, please email it to me at: [williamryoshida@verizon.net](mailto:williamryoshida@verizon.net). I will do my best to include it; still, no promises.

Safety Fast,



## Officers and Committees

|                |                  |  |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| President      | Mark Davidoski   | 499-4647   |
| Vice President | Bill Olcheski    | 467-4046   |
| Secretary      | Michele Peters   | 482-1012   |
| Treasurer      | Jim Villers      | 481-6398   |
| Editors        | Peggy Craig      | 226-7755   |
|                | Ronald Struewing | 479-0084   |
| Membership     | Bill Yoshida     | 554-0402   |
| Activities     | Tad Carter       | 496-9847   |
| Historian      | Susan Bond       | 482-5222   |
| Technical      | Mark Childers    | 432-9155   |
| Regalia        | Becky Hassler    | 874-1477   |
| Clubs          | Mike Ash         | 495-0307   |
| Webmaster      | Mike Haag        | <a href="mailto:mikehmg@cox.net">mikehmg@cox.net</a> |



## Note from the Editors

by Ron Struewing

Summer is officially here and many outdoor activities are now in full swing. There are the summer sporting events, washing and detailing the car, the increase in yard work, backyard cookouts, and an increase in the number of car shows and other recreational events. As we celebrate the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our country this July Fourth weekend, while we are hosting or attending one of these many events, whether local or distant, let us remember the reason for the holiday.

We think back to the first days of July 1776 and remember the members of the Second Continental Congress, who met in Philadelphia to review and adopt the Declaration of Independence drafted by Thomas Jefferson earlier in June of 1776. These men knew they were rebels and considered traitors by the King of England and that there was most likely a reward posted for their capture. They knew they were risking everything they had, including their lives, for the cause of freedom and the notion that there are certain unalienable Rights, specifically Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, granted to all of us by our creator. So as we continue with all the festivities this July Fourth weekend, remember those who 233 years ago gave everything they had in order to give us many of the freedoms we enjoy today.



# July Activities Report

by Tad Carter

July 1st - Meeting at Bill and Renee Olcheski's house in Virginia Beach.

Also in July is the inaugural Russ Ripp Runn on July 16th. Join us as we journey to Captain Chuck-a-Muck's Secret Hideout #2 in Rescue, Virginia. Featured on "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," this is a spot frequented by the locals. This Thursday evening drive-out includes great seafood, calorie-free desserts (just kidding), and the finest sunset the Jones Creek has to offer. Details are included elsewhere in this issue of The Dipstick.

This is first call for an August drive-out to the historic Hanover Tavern in Hanover, VA on Sunday, August 16th. Our destination is the Barksdale Theatre in the Hanover Tavern, where we will be treated to the matinee performance of "The Lady with All the Answers," a play based on the experiences of Ann Landers. From the Barksdale's preview: "Drawn from her life and letters, this touchingly comic portrait will remind you why so many put their faith in this wise, funny, no-nonsense woman, whose folksy guidance made her a household name." Depending on the roads we choose, Hanover is a 2-3 hour drive from Virginia Beach, so we will need to leave early enough for the 2:00pm performance. Details will be available at the July meeting. Ticket prices are \$38 per person, \$32 if we have a group of 15 or more. Please let me know your interest so we can book seats early ([www.TMGC\\_Activities@me.com](mailto:www.TMGC_Activities@me.com))

Coming on August 23rd is our Summer Tech Session at the home of Jim and Linda Freeh. This is a great time to get those nagging little projects out of the way with the expert help of TMGC veterans. Thanks to Jim and Linda for letting us invade your driveway.

Regards,



# 2009 ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE SHOW FREDRICKSBURG, VA

JUNE 6, 2009

by Donald Ladd



Russ and I left for the show from Portsmouth at 6:30 Saturday morning and took the leisurely



route, 17 to Fredericksburg. It was a little cool on the way up and I drove with my top up, but within 20 miles of our destination the sun

finally popped out and it turned into a wonderful sunny day. After parking our MGs, we viewed the cars. There were

180 registered and 173 showed up. Main Street was completely closed down and all the cars were lined up on it as well as on two



side streets. Many good-looking machines, including some MGs and Austin Healys, were present. Lots of people were looking around and the shop/stores/restaurants were all open for business. The highlight of the show, for me, was when a group of nine men tore down a working Model T truck in 10 minutes (to the frame), put it back to-





gether in 15, and drove it off. Of interest was a '66 Austin Healy that the

owner had purchased when it had 13,000 miles on it. As we were looking it over (it was a fine machine), we noticed that it had a very nice set of seat belts. These were of interest to us as they had the MG emblem on them. Of course we had to congratulate the owner on his wonderful addition to his car and that we would very much like him to bring his MG - oh I mean Austin Healy - to one of our meetings. He laughed and said he was going to have to turn the belts over so he wouldn't get any more jabs about it until he could replace them. Russ gave him a card and told him to call when he was ready to replace them and he would take them off his hands.



We took a break at an Irish Pub, had a draft (or two), and ate Shepherd's pie. Then we continued reviewing the cars and finally

watched the trophy program at 3 p.m. After the program, we made a leisurely return ride down 17 back to Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. It was another good outing, with no problems and plenty of good times.



P.S. Anyone want to see a running Edsel?



*Have A Great July Fourth!*



# Red River Classic Car Show

by Chuck & Becky Hassler

*This edition of our travel log tells the story of our MGB LE at a non-British car show. Three things made this car show memorable. First, the show was organized and run by a small town chamber of commerce, not a car club. Second, the quality of the cars was exceptional. And third, the New Mexico high altitude mountain setting was breathtaking. Here's the story.*

Red River, NM is a beautiful little mountain town at 8,750 feet above sea level. The town is located in the Northeastern portion of the state in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, 22 miles north of Angel Fire. <http://www.sangres.com/mountains/sangres.htm>

“Red River began in earnest in the 1870s, when miners were drawn in by [gold](#) strikes in the area. By 1895, Red River was a booming [mining](#) camp, with gold, [silver](#), [copper](#), and [molybdenum](#) in some abundance, and a population estimated at three thousand. The mines shut down a few years later and the population waned, but the town survived. By the 1930s the remaining residents turned to [tourism](#) as their economic livelihood (from Wikipedia)”. <http://www.redriver.org/history>



Main Street, Red River, NM

Fewer than 600 people live full-time in Red River's one square mile. Yet, the town's chamber of commerce <http://www.redrivernewmex.com/> is exceptionally strong and active. The Red River Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the Red River Classic Car Show for the past fourteen years. They do this without the help of any car club. Instead, the chamber works with local businesses that donate the trophies, cash, food, facilities, and labor. The town government provides the show field, a grassy square in the middle of town. The town also provides the convention center across the street from the show field, police escorts for organized drives through town, liability insurance, and

emergency medical services. Free hot dogs and sides were provided during Friday evening's registration at Bull'O the Woods Saloon. A free continental breakfast was provided under the pavillion at the show field prior to Saturday's show and Sunday's awards presentatons. The goal of the chamber is, of course, to bring visitors to the town who will spend money during this three-day car show. They're very successful.



View of the show field with the convention center in the background

The show cars were primarily Detroit iron built from the 1920s through the 1980s. The cars sported license plates from New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, and one from Virginia (?). The 1955 to 1957 Chevrolet class was the most prominent with about 20 fully restored cars out of the 144 cars in the show. Our 1980 MGB was the only British car, but it did win in the 1980-1989 class. The best in show was a yellow 1941 Packard that was parked next to the MGB LE. The Packard was all original, having spent much of its life in a museum. Voting was difficult, especially with the fifties Chevy's. There were classes for all of the usual categories plus best paint, best chrome, best modified, best kit car, best pickup truck, and best low rider.



One of the beautiful '55 to '57 Chevy show cars



The “Low Rider” class was one of the most interesting classes in the show. These cars represented a huge amount of technical and cosmetic work. The owners were not at all shy about demonstrating the hydraulic capabilities of their cars’ suspension systems. One car bounced 4 feet in the air. Offers were made to install this capability on the MGB LE, but I passed. I did, however, provide Vince’s name, phone number, and address to a guy named “Poncho.” An MGTD would do well with this hydraulic feature.



Low Rider with great paint and hydraulics

The awards ceremony was held on Sunday morning at the pavilion on the show field. Trophies were presented to the winners of each class, and \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 cash prizes totaling \$700 were presented using a drawing of entry numbers. There were also a few gift certificates presented, and Becky and I took home a \$50 gift certificate from the Red River Gallery of Fine Art. The \$25 entry fee turned out to be a good investment.



MBG LE with the 1941 Packard “Best in Show”.

The MGB LE’s next stop will be Breckenridge, CO for MG2009. We’ll send a report, with lots of pictures, as soon as we return to NM. <http://>

[www.mg2009.com/index.htm](http://www.mg2009.com/index.htm)

I’ll leave you today with a picture of the MGB LE in front of the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial, Angel Fire, and New Mexico. This memorial is about three miles from our RV Park in Angel Fire, and can be seen from most of the Mareno Valley, including from our RV Park.



This is a place that I’ve visited many times. Click on the web site and you will see how dedicated parents can be to a lost son or daughter, and to all of those who gave their lives in the defense of our great Nation.

<http://www.sangres.com/newmexico/colfax/angelfire/vietnammemorial.htm> .

Until next time,  
Chuck & Becky



## On a Sad Note....

Our long-time member, Ed Adams, passed away on June 8<sup>th</sup>. He was an enthusiastic MGB-GT owner and liked to hang out at Frank’s garage and brought lots of good food for all to enjoy. Our sincere condolences to his family, particularly to his wife, Marion. Ed will be missed by all.





TMGC ANNUAL RENEWAL

Please fill out the form below and return it to Bill Yoshida with a check made out to TMGC for \$20.00 and mail to:

TMGC  
c/o Bill Yoshida  
4732 Little John Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA. 23455

williamryoshida@verizon.net (757) 554-0402 or Cell (757) 876-3826

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Name's \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have your permission to publish your home phone and e-mail address in a member's directory for club use only? \_\_\_\_\_

MG's owned?

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Are you affiliated with any other National Car Club? If yes please list

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*"Save an Octagon"*

# The Dipstick



## The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing (editor)  
5483 Doon St.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

Affiliated with



## FIRST CLASS

**Monthly Meeting**  
Wed, July 1st  
Bill and Renee Olcheski  
1409 Edgartown Court  
Virginia Beach  
467-4046

**7:30 - Kick Tyres**  
**8:00 - Meeting**