

The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXVII, Issue 8

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

August 2010

MARQUE TIME

Greetings and thank you once again to Betty and Jim Villers for hosting the July meeting. It is always a pleasure to visit and catch up on Jim's latest project. Wouldn't it be great to get that Porsche engine in an LBC?

The meeting, for many of us, started at the Baylake Pines Retirement Community. Despite the heat, some of the residents were able to come outside and enjoy seeing their circular driveway filled with MGs. It was an impressive sight. The trip from Baylake to the meeting took on the image of a cross country auto race, using multiple routes to arrive at the Villers' Plantation. Using plenty of skill and a little bit of luck, or vice versa, Jim was able to fit all of the attending MGs into their expansive driveway. The end result was reminiscent of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel on a summer Friday, without the fender benders.

As I was enjoying the ride home on the beautiful summer evening, my dash-lights went out. It reminds me of why they don't have the death penalty in England. Lucas wired the electric chair.

Safety Fast!
Bill



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Aug. 3** Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Please note change in Venue
Hosted by Paul & Carmen Thiergardt
- Aug. 7** Saturday - TMGC 2-State Driving Tour VA/ NC Hosted by Richard Hall. See July *Dipstick* for details
- Aug. 7** Classics at Lee Hall – Contact Clay Drnec – 804-824-9198
- Aug 12** Dipstick inputs due!
- Aug. 15** Sunday - Summer Tech Session – Chesapeake Hosted by Linda & Jim Freeh
- Sep. 1** Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Anita Edwards-Struewing & Ron Struewing
- Sep. 19** Classics on the Green (Formerly Brown's Island) www.ClassicsOnTheGreen.com New Kent Winery, New Kent, VA. Hosted by CVBCC
- Sep.24-26** Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA, www.PeachtreeMG.com
- Sep. 26** Sunday -TMGC Drive-out to the Barksdale Theater – Hanover, VA, 2PM performance of *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming*
- Oct. 5** Tuesday - Club Meeting – Yorktown
Hosted by Becky & Chuck Hassler
- Oct. 16 or 17 (TBD)** - Save the Date Worldwide Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the MG Car Club

Upcoming Activities (continued)

- TBD** **Fall Tech Session – Chesapeake -
Hosted by Susan & Terry Bond**
- Nov. 3** **Wednesday – Club Meeting – Newport News
Hosted by Mitzi & Steve LaPaugh
*Chili Cook-off***
- TBD** **Holiday Party – Norfolk Hosted by
Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach**



JULY MINUTES

Michele Peters

We began our July meeting at 8:05 PM at Jim and Betty Villers' lovely home in Virginia Beach.

New Members and Guests: Member: Walter Putland; 1970 Midget, attended his first meeting.

Vice-President: Russ Ripp stated his usual, "Eh," accompanied by a shrug.

Treasurer: We have over \$2200 in the coffers

Activities: Please see Tad Carter's Activities section for a complete run-down.

Membership: Bill Yoshida reports that the 2010 fiscal year ended with 116 members. As of the date of the meeting, he had 39 (no, 40 including mine) renewals. Bill has started the initial draft of the 2011 Directory and he intends to work on it in earnest next month; therefore, it is imperative that he receive all renewals by August 15 - at the latest - in order for the members' info to be included in the directory. Tad mentioned that he would appreciate it if members would include their cell phone numbers.

Newsletter: Ron Struewing and Anita Edwards-Struewing continue to ask for writers for our events and for *Dipstick* submissions to both of them no later than the 12th of every month. We always need writers and photos. Andy Wallach will write for the garage sale at Pam Groover's and Bob Stein will write for the Eastern Shore trip.

Clubs: Mike Ash mentioned that he and Jennifer are going to the MGA meeting in Wisconsin at the end of the month. The Brown's Island Car Show will be held at the New Kent Winery this year, during the second weekend in September.

History: Susan Bond had an album with her and a very fine album it was! She also needs the material Beckey Watson provided on the last wine tour, if anyone has a spare goody bag.

Technical: Mark Childers brought a 1/2" Craftsman extension drive, which he had beveled on a grinder. It is very useful for removing the rear plug on the differential. Moss charges \$25 for such a tool and he paid \$3 for his homemade version.

Donald Ladd mentioned that he found a good, cheap place for nice chrome plating: Street EFX in Chesapeake (1222 Executive Blvd, Suite 101 - near Greenbrier and Volvo: 410-3446). They will put on a nice spray chrome paint, good for interior work as well.

Jim Villers mentioned that he installed LED bulbs for his rear lights in his black Mercedes and they work great. They are from "High Power" (I think, but check with Jim), are surface-mounted, and fill the reflector in every direction. They cost \$15 or \$25 a piece.

Old Business: Andy's revisions of the by-laws were mentioned, however, we didn't get a chance to review them.

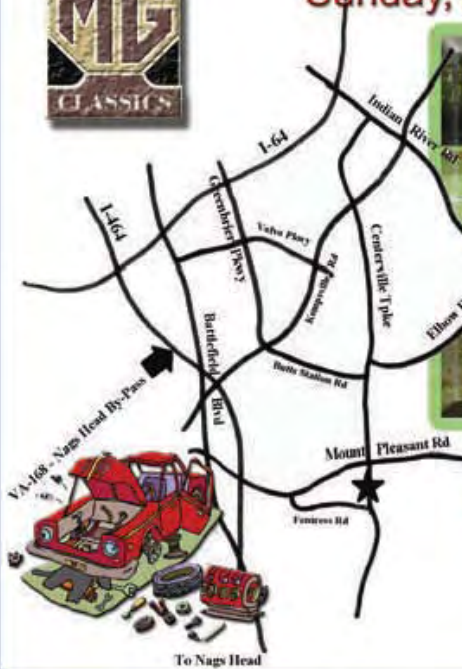
New Business: None was mentioned, at least that I heard.

Marque Time: My "Miss B" is up and running again! Yeah!!!! She looks awfully snazzy under the hood, and eventually, Frank Linse is going to work on her body to spruce up the outside. She'll be one sweet package one day soon, and her proud owner can't wait. It's great to be back in the saddle, going on those mid-night rides on the back roads in the Virginia Beach farm country in the cool, starry evenings of summer. Now who can beat that kind of fun?!

Terry Bond reports that our club was well-represented in Louisville at the 75th Anniversary of the Antique Automobiles of America meeting on the Salt Water to Fire Water tour. There were more than 700 cars and 1,000 people at the KY Expo Center. Naturally, they ended up at a distillery! The Bond's MG performed very well, traveling over 1,500 miles through the mountains, although Terry said it was a bit warm inside that GT (100+ degrees at some points).

Is Your Car in Need of a Tech Session?

Bring it to Linda & Jim Freeh's Garage
Sunday, August 15th starting at 10 a.m.



633 S. Centerville Trpk.
Chesapeake, VA.
482-1401



Raffle and Regalia: Bill (which one?) won a come-along, Roosevelt Moseley won the coveted license plate holder, Bob Pellerin won the business cards, Bob Ross won the MG patch, Ron won a magnet, Russ won the note cards, Donald won the cap and Peggy Craig was first-in-line for Betty's delicious fare.

We happily adjourned at 8:48 and made a bee-line to the kitchen for some scrumptious, delicious, tasty finger foods and desserts. Hey, Betty! That giant wine barrel that I carted around during the latest Wine Tour sure looked good with its beveled glass (?) top and wine corks on your outdoor porch. And only \$50 – such a steal! Well, I am glad I was able to bring it back for you, but don't count on getting another one next year, that I need to carry anyway, because I fully expect to be driving the new and improved *Miss B* on the 2011 Wine Tour.

And I am *so happy* about being able to drive my little MG again that I don't have it in me to make any nasty comments about trying to sue me!! Happy driving!!!

Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

Memberships: As of 10 July 2010, 68 membership renewals have been received for 2011.

New Memberships: There are no new memberships to report.

Memberships Renewal: An e-mail reminder was sent on 6 July to all members who had not renewed their membership during the month of June. A good number of renewals have been received since then, and I intend to send a follow-up reminder and/or make telephone contact to ensure all members have a chance to renew for 2011.

Dues: All checks and cash received in May and June and up through the 7 July meeting have been turned over to Jim Villers for deposit. Dues received after 7 July will be turned over to Jim in August.

TMGC 2011 Directory: I've started the initial draft of the 2011 Directory. I intend to work on it in earnest in August. As such, it is imperative that I receive all renewals by 15 August in order to include registered member's information in the copy when it goes to the printer. Members that have not renewed their 2011



membership by the end of July are not guaranteed to appear in the Annual Directory when it is published.

Renewal forms can be found online at www.mg.org. Please fill out a form and either bring it to an upcoming meeting, or send it in the mail, along with the dues. Note: My Zip Code is 23455 (some forms do not have the last 5).

Safety Fast,



Officers and Committees

President	Bill Olcheski	467-4046
Vice President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Secretary	Michele Peters	482-1012
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Ron Struewing	479-0084
	Anita Edwards-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	mikehmg@cox.net



Activities Report

by Tad Carter

Please note that our August 3rd meeting will be held at the Virginia Beach home of Carmen & Paul Thiergardt.

Thanks to the following for coordinating the July activities:

Keith Henry for the July 4th Parade in Yorktown

Meade Fowlkes for the visit to Bay Lake Retirement Home and an impromptu car show.

Betty and Jim Villers for hosting the monthly meeting

Richard Leal, Joan Prescott, and Mike and Jennifer Ash for the Eastern Shore Tour

Pam Groover and Frank Linse for the Garage Sale

Now, on to the dog days of summer:

August 7th - Richard Hall will lead his 2nd annual driving tour. Once again, Richard has found roads that remain a mystery to MapQuest and Garmin. The Two-State tour will have an 11:00 departure from the Harris Teeter store at 2476 Nimmo Parkway by the Virginia Beach city offices. We'll drive for just over an hour, passing through Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, before heading into North Carolina and the Great Dismal Swamp. We'll spend some time at the Swamp Visitors Center and Museum, and end up at Southland Restaurant in Moyock for a late lunch of world-famous Carolina barbeque and fried chicken. As the restaurant has plenty of seating, advanced reservations are not necessary. If you do know you will be joining in on the drive, a quick e-mail will let us know to look for you at the starting line. For those with commitment issues, just show up ready to roll at 11:00. Thanks to Richard and Sandy for putting this tour together.

August 15th - Linda and Jim Freeh will host our Summer Tech session. This is a great time to take care of any issues than may have come up during the early summer drives. I know of a fan switch and a water heater valve that will need some attention. What other projects do you have?

Plans are set for Sunday, September 26th, with a group of about a dozen making the run out to Hanover for an afternoon at the Barksdale Theatre. After brunch at an 1810 farmhouse in New Kent, we'll enjoy the matinee performance of *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming*. Good food, good music, and great back-road driving - it should be quite a day.

Save the Date - The weekend of October 16-17 will be a worldwide celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the MG Car Club. The plan is for car clubs around the world to upload live video, text, tweets, etc., and build a geographical and a chronological line showing all of the various activities as they happen. I'm not sure when, where, or how we will be celebrating, but stay tuned for more information.

Fun Fact: The combined age of the cars driven on the Eastern Shore Tour was 491 years. No comment on the age of the drivers.



Editor's Note

As always, you can find many more photos from the articles in this issue on the web at: www.mg.org. Keep the articles and photographs coming so we can document the fun times we have at events!

11th Annual British and European Car Show

by Frank Linse

The Williamsburg British Car club hosted the 11th annual British and European car show on Sunday, May 2nd. Deb and I left for Williamsburg on the afternoon of Saturday May 1st. The sweltering heat in my MGA coupe steadily got worse as the traffic on I-64 slowed, and my temp gauge headed north of 200 degrees. I turned on the heater in a successful effort to lower the engine temp, but I soon felt my rubber Crocs melting on my toes. We checked into the show early Sunday morning.



Doug Wilson and Ginger Crapse did a great job organizing this year's show, at a much improved location called New Town. There was a nice clean parking lot, with many shops and eateries adjacent. The weather was warm, but a persistent breeze kept things tolerable. I'm pleased to report there were NO bugs. A good number of cars were already in place, with a total turnout of about 108 cars. There were the usual array of MGs, Triumphs, Jaguars, and some interesting vintage British vehicles.

Moss Motors set up a display with several of their



friendly staff. There were only a few TMGC members and a few from the Triumph club. We had three MGC



GTs in a row. Other interesting European cars included Porsche, Lotus Citroen, and one Ferrari. Bob Pellerin brought his newly-restored British Standard.



Since the afternoon was getting hotter, Deb and I left before the awards ceremony. We were really concerned about the car overheating. I also considered wrapping my feet in wet newspaper. The return trip to Norfolk went well, since there was no slowdown on the interstate. I highly recommend this show and plans are to have it at this same location next year. Maybe I'll drive an MGB.





Eastern Shore Drive

by Rodney

(Bob Stein's 1978 MGB-GT)

photographs by Susan Bond, Donald Ladd
and Jim Villers

July 10, 2010

My great-great-grandmum tends to hog all the glory runs, so it was a shocker when our human actually rolled me out for an adventure with some of the family on July 10th. I'd gotten to attend an MG club gathering a month or so back, so when we pulled up at an abandoned petrol station for the start, I recognized most of the MGs present. These American cousins seem to be nice enough chaps, though it still strikes me as odd to see so many, oh how do they put it? Southpaws? Southpaws at a family outing when you grew up with all 'righties.'



Gathering on Shore Drive before heading across the bay.

Most were MGBs – only one other GT, but I did spot another rubber bumper who like me, had gotten a nose job to look more like our older siblings (We were both too polite to mention it publicly). A TF was the

only oldster there, but we also had a Midget - cute little roadster with plenty of energy to make up for stunted growth. There were a couple of outsiders along as well – the Corvette was pretty snazzy, but kept to itself most of the trip. Then there was the Toyota – the poor bloke was friendly enough, but his eagerness to fit in was a trifle embarrassing. He'd gone so far as to mock up what he must have thought was the family crest and proudly displayed it on his grille. Silly sot – it wasn't even in an octagon!



MG ???

The humans socialized until a bit after 9 am, and I noted a lot of fuss over some sort of printed program put together by 'Tad', one of the roadster's humans. Then we pulled out for crossing of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Bloody 'ell! I haven't crossed that much water since I came over to the States in 2000! We stayed pretty much together all the way to the other side, where the group pulled off at the Eastern Shore

Visitor's Center. You could tell I wasn't the only one to have tensed up for the long stint over the bay. Many of the humans made a bee line for the loos – we cars weren't so fussy – we dripped in the parking lot.

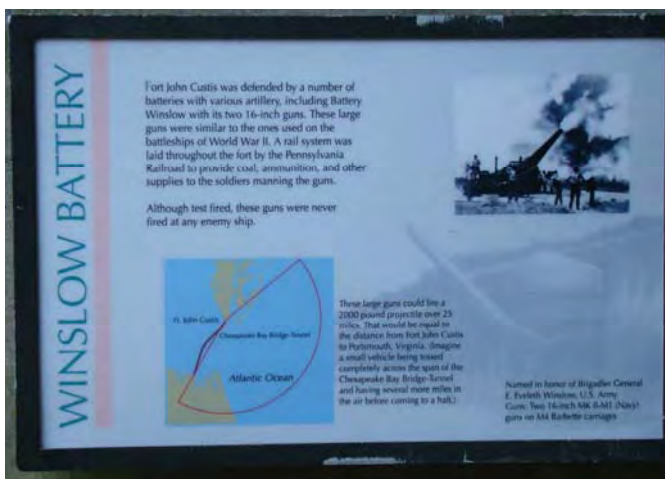
We were met at the Visitor's Center by another oldster who looked amazingly 'pumped' – an MGA



coupe whose human seemed remarkably comfortable despite the humidity and heat. (I later discovered that the MGA had air conditioning installed, a feat

that was made possible due to a heart transplant from one of my siblings. Grisly business – I didn't ask for details). However, the biggest surprise was discovering that we were all going to be following a brash young German on this adventure! The Mercedes was all 'Schnell, schnell!', ready to motor on. Grandpa TF was still a bit rattled from the bridge-tunnel, but some soothing ministrations from his human got him sorted out and we rolled as a group.

Just to show you how differently we and our humans view the world, the next stop was a Wildlife Refuge and, get this - Bird Sanctuary. Flippin' birds? They wait until you get all clean and polished up, and then practice dive bombing while you are parked. And our humans, who have to clean us up again afterwards, have a whole bleedin' park set aside for them! We all grumbled a bit out in the parking lot while our humans went inside to look at displays and view the nasty bug-gers from behind glass walls.



We continued on to another part of the Refuge where there was a huge gun emplacement left over from World War II. Our humans did a lot of walking there, climbing up to the top of the emplacement and then out to the bay. I wish I could have gone with them



Bunker

– we had to stay and listen to the Mercedes ramble on about how German POWs had built the emplacement, and how the solid German craftsmanship was still evident. The TF finally pointed out that the Germans LOST, and if German craftsmanship was so great, how come there weren't any

old Mercedes in the group? Well, that was a mistake. The Mercedes shut up, but got his revenge by leading us down dirt



The long climb

and gravel roads to a public dock where they were unloading fresh fish. We MGs didn't give him the satisfaction of complaining – stiff upper lip, and all that, you know.

Another mistake. The Mercedes lulled us into complacency with a pleasant drive along some country back roads that had just enough curves to be enjoyable.

Then he sprung his trap! The next major attraction of the tour was a



very old human residence called Eyre Hall, which is approached by driving down a long, dusty, unpaved, dusty, tree-lined, dusty road. Did I mention it was dusty? You know, I think great great grandmum Wild-



Arrival at Eyre Hall

flower suspected something like this would happen – that’s why the old biddy... uh, the old girl sent me in her place. She is spry for her age, but more than a bit prissy about her looks.



Eyre Hall

Our humans spent quite a while wandering the gardens at Eyre Hall. If some of the boxwoods and crepe myrtles were to be believed, they’d been around since not long after the Colonies broke away from the Empire. Parts of the house could even remember the days of British rule!





From Eyre Hall, we made our way to Cape Charles for a look at the smashing new marina complex . Most of us made it, however the Corvette paid the price for its aloofness and got lost. In fairness, I have heard that its humans have had similar problems in the past. And some of the family members also missed the marina stop.

The final destination turned out to be a private pool and entertainment area and a very nice luncheon hosted by the humans of the Mercedes (Richard and



Eyre Hall Orangery & Graveyard

Joan) and the MGA (Mike and Jennifer). I think the Mercedes was ashamed of his actions, for he vanished soon after arrival and sent an MG TD back to join us



for the festivities. Our humans sounded quite happy, and it was reported that at least one of them had demonstrated the ability to drink beer underwater. We're all still a bit confused by that one, but they ARE humans.

JULY MEETING



Bonnets up for the 'Clean Engine' contest.

The humans were quite thoughtful, and included us in one the fun. There was a 'Clean Engine' contest that I certainly didn't stand a chance in – great great grandmum is the prissy one. Unfortunately, just as we



Andy drinking beer under water

got into some physical activities that I would have done well in, the weather turned wet and our humans scattered for cover and spent the rest of the afternoon chatting. It was obvious from the cheerful voices that they had enjoyed themselves immensely. And I have to admit that, even with the dust, the young German provided the family with some pleasant and sporting motoring. If I see him again, I might even buy him a Schnapps.



More Photos at
www.mg.org

TWO-STATE TOUR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2010



GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS LOCATED IN SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA AND NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA. THE REFUGE CONSISTS OF OVER 112,000 ACRES OF FORESTED WETLANDS. LAKE DRUMMOND, AT 3,100 ACRES AND THE LARGEST NATURAL LAKE IN VIRGINIA, IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE SWAMP.

THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TRAILS ARE OPEN EVERY DAY FOR HIKING AND BIKING FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED. THE DISMAL SWAMP VISITORS CENTER IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE CONTINENTAL US THAT GREETES VISITORS BY BOTH A MAJOR HIGHWAY AND AN HISTORIC WATERWAY!

SOUTHLAND RESTAURANT - WHAT CUSTOMERS SAY

"BEST FRIED CHICKEN ANYWHERE!" -- 3/10/2009

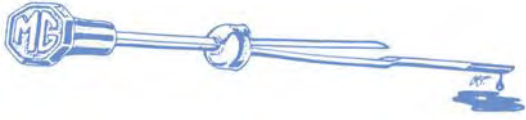
"SOUTHLAND IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST PLACE TO STOP, IT'S OUR FAVORITE! THE LOCALS ARE FRIENDLY, THE ATMOSPHERE IS RELAXED & COMFORTABLE AND THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!" -- 4/30/2010

Tour Details

- 10:30 - 10:45am arrive at Va Beach Harris Teeter (2476 Nimmo Parkway)
- 11:00 - 12:15 - Travel to Dismal Swamp Visitors Center via back roads of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and northeast North Carolina
- 12:15 - 1:15 - Pit Stop, Visitors Center and Swamp Boardwalk Trail
- 1:30 - Depart for Southland Restaurant in Moyock, North Carolina
- 2:00 - Arrive at Southland for good ol' Southern Cookin' and cold beverages.
- Depart for home at your leisure.

Show up ready to roll or
RSVP to TMGC_Activities@me.com

The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing, Editor

5483 Doon St.

Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

FIRST CLASS

Affiliated with



Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, August 3rd
Paul & Carmen Thiergardt
5232 Fairfield Blvd
Virginia Beach
497-0455

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

Map labels: Va Beach Blvd, I-264, Witchduck Rd, Princess Anne Rd, Fairfield Bl, Lord Dunmore Dr, Providence Rd, Kempsville Rd, Indian River Rd, I-64, Newtown Rd.