

The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXIX, Issue 8

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

AUGUST 2011

MARQUE TIME

Greetings to my fellow MG enthusiasts!

It is somewhat painful to realize that this article is for the August newsletter. As I write I can't help but reflect on those long childhood summers that seemed to go on forever. The first lady and I recently took a long drive through the winding roads of Blackwater, enjoying the farmland and fields. It was early morning with the top down and the sun and breeze were in sync to make for a perfect drive. For those of you that can do it, I urge you to take advantage of this great way to start a day.

Thank you to Cynthia and Andy for hosting the July meeting. At 7 PM the rain was torrential and as expected the meeting was a little smaller than usual. We did have about 25 fun-loving die-hard MG lovers. The large amounts of food and drink proved to be a challenge; however, working as a group we were able to put a significant dent in the liquid refreshments and culinary treats. Although most of us would have our hands full with one restoration project, somehow Andy seems to be doing five or six simultaneously. What a guy! Maybe sometime we can get Cynthia to share their discussion when Andy wants to add another project to the fleet. I am sure that we could all learn something.

Thanks to all who make this club such a great group!!!

Safety first!
BP

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Apr. - Oct. Saturday Night Classic Car Cruise-In
Virginia Beach Farmer's Market
5:00pm to 9:00pm
- Aug. 14 Summer Tech Session – Chesapeake**
Hosted by Jim & Linda Freeh
10:00am
- Aug. 2 Tuesday – 6:30PM Club Meeting / Picnic Dinner**
Great Neck Park, Virginia Beach
- Aug. 6 Classics at Lee Hall, Newport News, VA
www.leehall.org
- Aug. 14 Summer Tech Session – Chesapeake**
Hosted by Jim & Linda Freeh
10:00am
- Aug. 27 Wings & Wheels – Pungo, VA
Hosted by Tidewater AACA
Check out *Wildflower*, the show cover-girl.
local.aaca.org/tidewater
- Sep. 7 **Wednesday – Club Meeting – TBD**
Host site needed
- Sep. 17 **Two-Millennia Tour – A Richard Hall Production** Check out The Dipstick for details
- Sep. 18 Classics on the Green – New Kent, VA
Hosted by CVBCC
www.cvbcc.com
- Sept 25 **Barksdale Theatre Drive-out – Hanover, VA**
Becky's New Car – a comedy by Steven Dietz

Upcoming Activities (continued)

Sep. 30 – Oct. 2 British Car Festival – Waynesboro, VA
This is the 30th Anniversary Show, with proceeds benefiting the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.
www.svbcc.net

Oct. 4 Tuesday – Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Bill & Renee Olcheski

Oct. 8 Eastern Shore Car Show –
Benefiting the new Little League Ball Park
Details to follow.

Oct. 29 – Nov. 6 – Motoring Festival Week – Hilton Head Island, SC
www.HHIconcours.com

Nov. Fall Tech Session
Date – TBD
Hosted by Terry & Susan Bond

Nov. Antique & Vintage Car Day at VIR
Date - TBD

Nov. 2 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Newport News
Chili Cook-off
Hosted by Steve & Mitzi LaPaugh

Dec. Holiday Party – Date TBD
Host site needed

BOLD items are TMGC events



JULY MINUTES

Bob Stein

The July 2011 Meeting of the Tidewater MG Classics took place at the home of Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach in Norfolk. The business meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by ‘The Prez’ Bill Olcheski twice—once to start the meeting, and then repeated to restart festivities after a temporary secretary had been pressed into service.

New Members and Guests

Bill started with thanks to our hosts Cynthia and Andy, and then called for Guests and New Members. Although a member for a couple of months now, Chris Bryant was presented a new member as this was the first meeting he has been able to attend. He has an MGA roadster that he brought photos of, and noted that

his father was an MG enthusiast who passed along the love of Brit cars.

There were two guests present as well: Ana Comacho and one-time TMGC member Jerry Johnson. Jerry was up visiting Frank L., having moved from the area some years ago.

Minutes and Treasurer’s Report

The June minutes were approved and seconded as published in the Dipstick. While there was no official treasury report due to the absence of money monger Jim Villers, Prez Bill assured members that the club still had money for beer.

Activities

Our Emperor of Events, Tad Carter, started the Activities Report with a final call for the July 19 baseball game tickets – he has to turn any unclaimed tickets back in. He is also trying to get folks signed up for the drive to the theater outing in Hanover, which is scheduled for Sept. 25th.

No date has been set for the August Summer Tech Session. Tad announced that Richard Hall, creator of the Two Stoplight Tour and the Two State Tour of years past is setting up a Two Millennia Tour for September 17th. Details will be provided later.

Other upcoming events and activities include the Tidewater Region of the AACA’s annual Wings and Wheels meet at Virginia Beach Airport on August 27th and the Heacock Classic Gold Cup Historic Races & Car Show at the Danville Virginia International Raceway on November 4th and 5th.

Tad noted that we still need hosts for the September meeting and the Holiday Party in December. The possibility of holding the Holiday event at a restaurant was discussed.

The Activities portion ended with reminder that next month’s meeting will be a picnic at Great Neck park on August 2nd. The normal order of the meeting will be reversed due to time constraints, with business and food first and tire-kicking later. Tad promised to have the fires burning at 6:30.

Clubs

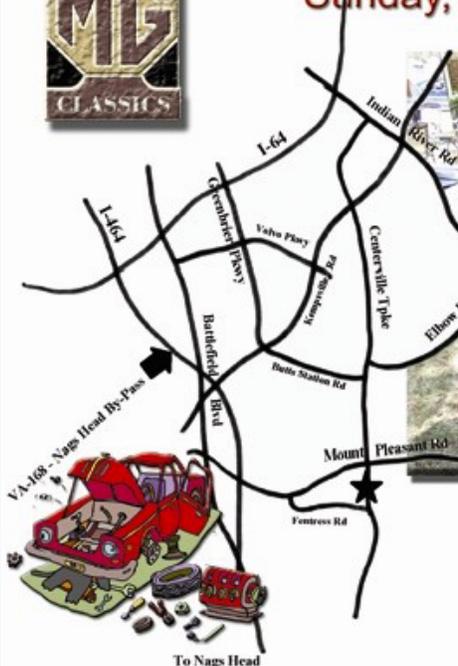
Mike and Jennifer A. were not present to give a report.

Historian

Is Your Car in Need of a Tech Session?



Bring it to Linda & Jim Freeh's Garage
Sunday, August 14th starting at 10 a.m.



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



Susan B: had albums put together and asked for writers to provide articles on recent events. Bob S. volunteered to write the August Picnic story, and Andy will write about the baseball game.

Dipstick

It was announced that Dipstick editor Ron Struewing will be 'retiring' as of the September 2011 issue, and the club is in need of someone to take over that critical responsibility.

Membership

Bill Y. reported that we have 73 2010 members who have renewed by mail, with a couple of others paying dues that night. Nine members have informed him they will not be renewing. There have been no new memberships received since the last Dipstick was published. If all remaining members renew, he expects to end up with about 120 members and 190 cars in the club.

There was no Regalia, Old Business, or New Business.

Marque Time

Andy noted that the uneven springs on one of his cars had just been diagnosed as a twisted frame – according

to the manual, he needed to locate a 'stout timber' to make the fix, but was opting for a body shop instead.

Terry B. announced that their son was going to be visiting, which meant more progress on Sue B's trusty once-black MGB-GT. Said son was driving the maroon MGB-GT when it was wrecked some 15 years ago, and saw the restored car for the first time just recently. The Bonds presented him with the keys, as well as a long-lost chain that held earrings gathered from previous girlfriends that had been hanging from the rear view mirror when the car was wrecked.

There being no Raffle coordinator present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM

Submitted by the indentured secretary.



Membership and New Members

by Bill Yoshida

2012 Membership Renewal: As of the submission of this report on 11 July, 78 memberships have renewed for 2012. Regrettably, there are nine of last year's members that have indicated their intent to not renew for another year. We are hopeful that the remaining 42 members from 2011 renew their memberships in the near future. Dues are still \$20 for the year. Renewal forms are found online at www.mg.org under the "Club Info/Becoming a Member" section. A copy of the renewal form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. I sent an e-mail in July to members that were delinquent in their dues, and I will send additional e-mails in August and early September. If you feel you receive one of these e-mails in error, please let me know so I can check my records and remove your name from the "Delinquent" list for subsequent e-mails. Also, if anyone has decided not to renew, please let me know by phone or e-mail and I will remove your name from the list.

Dues: I turned over \$680 in checks and \$120 in cash to Jim Villers on 24 June. I currently hold an additional \$240 in checks and \$80 in cash for turn over to Jim.

Cars: Total cars - [190 MGs. \(If the rest of the 2011 members renew for 2012\)](#)

Cars & Types: Total cars - 184 MGs of the following types.

MGA	A- Coupe	B	B-GT	C	C-GT
20	2	89	18	2	2
TC	TD	TF	Midget		
7	23	5	16		

Other/Various MGs – 6 (1-Cooper MG/ 1-MGNA/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB)

Annual Directory: I plan to start building the 2012 TMGC Directory in August. To be included in the Annual Directory you need to be a current (2012) member.



Song Parodies by Spinal Tappets

This link has some great parodies to some familiar tunes. There's great songs like: Grindin' Through the Gears, While My TR Gently Leaks, Land of the Rising Sun, Old Tyme TR3, and many more. Check it out!

http://www.snic-braaapp.org/UAT/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8&Itemid=8

Activities Report – August 2011

by Tad Carter

Remember all those weather forecasters way back in June? Dire warnings of drought conditions – rain shortages of half a foot and more? Well, I think we did a pretty good job of rectifying that situation in July. It's probably a good thing our calendar was a little light for the month. Hot and humid doesn't always lead to comfortable driving conditions.

August changes things around a little, starting with our Picnic Meeting on Tuesday the 2nd. Due to park schedules, we will start with the food portion of the meeting first. I'll have fires ready by 6:15 for those interested in cooking on site. We'll combine food and Kick Tyres, and then start the general meeting by 7:30. Park officials will want us working our way toward the exits by 8:00 or 8:30.

G-rated beverages and desserts will be provided. BYO picnic dinner.

Also in August are two local car shows. Starting on Saturday the 6th is the 10th Annual Classics at Lee Hall. Registration begins at 9:00am, with the show running from 10:00-3:00pm. The mansion will be open for discounted tours, and there will be food and drink vendors on site. The show is open to all makes, models and years. Make plans now to join in the fun.

Then on Saturday the 27th, head on out to the Virginia Beach Airport in Pungo for Wings and Wheels, Tidewater Region AACA's 38th Annual Meet. Expect to see about 250 Antique, Classic, Modified and Special Interest vehicles. While you are there, check out the Aviation Museum – it's all included in your \$10/car admission.

Tucked in between these two shows is our Summer Tech Session. We'll be back in Chesapeake at the home of Jim and Linda Freeh on Sunday, August 14th. This is a great time to catch up on those projects that require an extra set of hands, some special knowledge, or just a cheering section. We'll kick off the first project about 10:00. BYO Parts.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 17th. Richard Hall has mapped out another interesting day – this one dubbed the Two Millennia Tour. After the Two Light Tour and the Two State Tour in the heat of the past summers, we've moved this a little later in the year to take advantage of (perhaps) cooler weather. Check out the flyer in this edition of The Dipstick for details.

Wake up the next morning, and head out to New Kent

TWO MILLENNIA TOUR

Saturday, September 17th

Richard Hall has put together another great drive. Join us as we travel from Chesapeake to historic Plymouth, NC. Along the way, we'll pass through tiny towns and bear alley and enjoy an early lunch at the Marina on the Albemarle Sound. Once in Plymouth, we'll visit the Civil War museum (site of the CSS Albemarle memorial), sample some North Carolina wines and take a Historic House walking tour. We'll have time for two more museums and a stop at Norm's for ice cream before we hit the road for home.

This will be a full-day, full-tank tour. If you are interested, please let me know so that we can make appropriate arrangements at each of our stops. Wine Tasting, War Museum Tour & Walking Tour - \$10 total per person. Lunch, Ice Cream & other tours on your own.



RSVP by 9/10/11: TMGC_Activities@me.com



Winery for Classics on the Green, hosted by the Central VA British Car Club. This is the second year for this show venue, although the show, under other appellations, has been a highlight of the September calendar now for 27 years. Along with the show, you can take part in a Wine Tasting at the Winery.

The following week, on Sunday the 25th, is our third trek out to the Barksdale Theatre in Hanover. After a scenic drive and a stop for lunch, we'll take in the matinee performance of *Becky's New Car*. If past shows are any indication, we are in for a treat!

Then it's back on the road again the following weekend. A favorite event of many in the club, we'll be back in the Shenandoah Valley for the British Car Festival. This is the 30th edition of this show, with proceeds benefiting the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

With any of these shows, travel is safest and most enjoyable in the company of other British cars. Check around and catch onto a convoy.

Meeting Update – We are still looking for a site for our September 7th club meeting. If you are able to host this event, the club would appreciate your generosity.

The rest of our Fall Calendar is taking shape. Stay tuned to online calendar at www.MG.org and the Dipstick for the latest news. I look forward to seeing you on the roads.

Officers and Committees

President	Bill Olcheski	467-4046
Vice President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Secretary	Michele Peters	439-8050
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	Mitzi LaPaugh	344-7887
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	mikehmg@cox.net



MG Midget 4x4

The Wine & Arts Festival at Locust Grove

by Tad Carter

In the winter of 1665, King Charles II of England granted a 600-acre plot of land to Major Thomas Walker. Now, some 126,481 days later, the Walker family still farms these same lands, so apparently not much has changed in all that time. That is until early June when cars from TMGC ventured out to Locust Grove for the 6th annual Wine & Arts Festival. Following an early departure from Tidewater, Donald, Michele, Karen & I traveled over a shady Colonial Parkway to Williamsburg, where we picked up Hwy 30 and headed west to Walkerton.



Set up in the gardens surrounding the main house, the Wine & Arts Festival featured seven different wineries, along with a wide assortment of art from artists throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We enjoyed tasting some new wines, and revisited some old favorites from past wine tours. Vault Field Vineyards was a personal favorite, and the Peach “porch wine” and Salty Frog Margarita wine from Peaks of Otter were very interesting. We did watch with a startling amount of pleasure as another taster downed their Kiss-the-Devil Chili Pepper wine. The most surprising entries were the Chocolate Essence wines (Red and White) from Horton Vineyards. Once more – Chocolate wines – yes, it really is that good.

Along with the wine sampling, we were treated to a wide array of art. We watched as one artist spun her own thread from alpaca fiber. Elsewhere a caner practiced her craft with an antique chair. There was beach art, wearable art, plein air paintings and wooden bowls turned from tree burls. The most intriguing exhibit was the wildlife, still life and landscape paintings of Marcus Thomas. An avid sportsman, Marcus’ dream of an outdoorsman’s life was lost in a 1985 skiing accident. Paralyzed from the shoulders down, Marcus began painting as part of his therapy, and focused his energy on a hidden talent. In the artist’s words, “Through painting I remain active outdoors, visually absorbing all that nature provides, documenting interests and sharing my passion for life.” Now, 25 years later, a retrospec-



Marcus Thomas

tive book is in the works, including his struggles and triumphs, and most of all, his paintings. More information about this amazing artist is available at www.MarcusThomasArtist.com

As the temperature climbed and the crowd grew, we headed over to lunch on the bluff overlooking the Mattaponi River. Food choices ran the gamut, including local barbeque, Indian Fry Bread and Tacos and Greek favorites, Spanakopita and Calamari – quite an eclectic mix. We enjoyed the Gyros as we sat at a shaded table and listened to Blue Grass music.

Early afternoon was spent filling the boot with wine purchases, after which we turned eastward. Hwy 30 proved once again to be a nice quiet drive. But back on I-65, we rejoined civilization – all of it – for the trip back to Tidewater. The open road is where our little cars belong.



Note From the Editor

by Ron Struewing

It has been a pleasure to be the editor of this newsletter for almost four years now. However, for personal reasons I will be stepping down after I complete the September 2011 issue. It has been challenging at time but rewarding as well.

The club will need a new editor and if there is anyone who feels up to the challenge, please let me know soon and I will speak to you about this position and turn over everything I have. We don’t want to leave the club without an newsletter. Thanks.

BARKSDALE THEATRE

Sunday, September 25th



Written by Steven Dietz Directed by Billy Christopher Maupin

Playful, wacky and wistful, Becky's New Car maps out a road trip that lets the audience ride shotgun in a way most plays don't dare. In this life-affirming story about the road not taken, Becky - without really planning to - takes the chance to test drive another life.

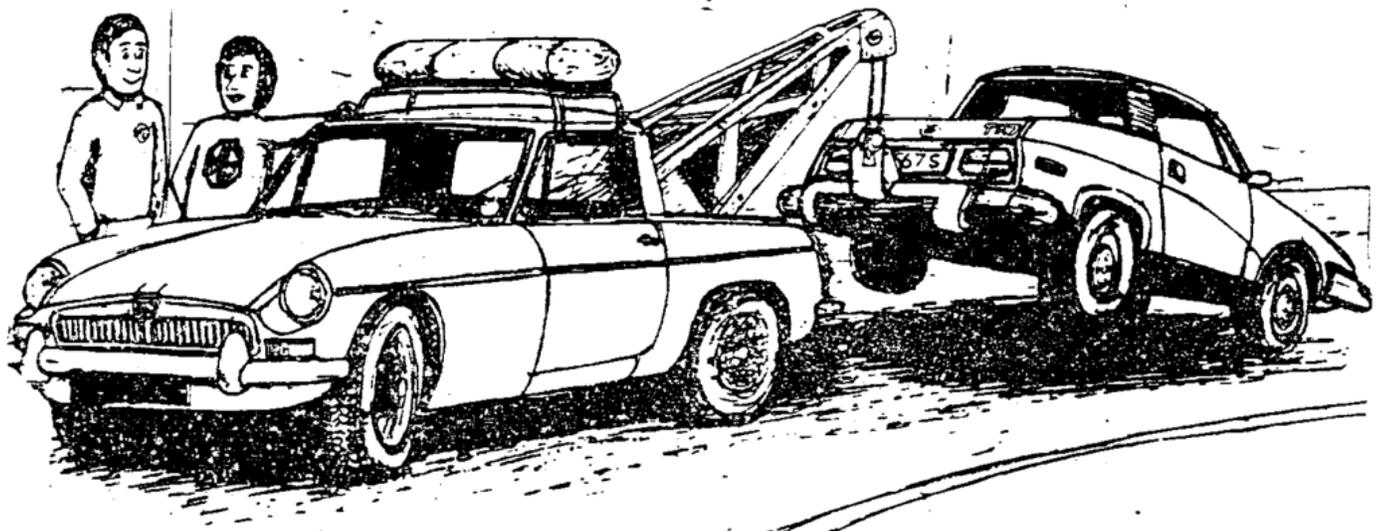
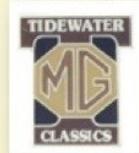
"What a gas! Becky's New Car is a zippy new comedy with plenty of power under the hood" - Vancouver Sun

"I've seldom heard people laugh out loud so heartily or repeatedly as they did on opening night for this clever show." - City Beat

This will be an all-day event with an early departure from Tidewater. We'll stop for lunch on the road, then arrive in Hanover for the 2:00 performance.

Theater tickets are available for \$32 per person. Group limit - 20 people

RSVP by 8/15/11: TMGC_Activities@me.com



"I'VE FOUND IT USEFUL FOR CLEARING ALL THE
JUNK THAT GETS LEFT ABOUT" *DAK*

Posted by Garry Howarth Sydney, Australia December 20, 2010

THE NUTS AND BOLTS of BRITISH CARS

by Geoff Wheatley
May 2011

As you are reading this item I think it's safe to assume that you own a semi vintage British Car. Semi vintage being anything that rolled out of the British Motor Industry between 1945 and 1960.

(Please Note my term not any official designation!)

I am sure that at some time you have skinned your knuckles using a spanner sorry wrench that looked like it should fit the bolt or nut but did not! There is a complete range of British nuts and bolts that defy logic when compared with American or European fittings. The Morris Empire produced a range of bolts/nuts etc. that had no reference to any other in the world. A metric thread with a British head that might fit one of your collection of wrenches but don't count on it.

This came about when Billy Morris purchased the UK branch of the French Hotchkiss factory located in Coventry, England, in 1923. At one time the Hotchkiss UK operation had been a money spinner for the French company when it produced a successful light car but in the post war years for reason not quite clear even today, the company turned to the production of super luxury vehicles. With Rolls Royce at their doorstep their British venture went on the sales list and Morris purchased it lock stock and whatever else was included. As to be expected Hotchkiss used and produced metric fittings including their own fasteners that Morris decided could be useful in the production of his range of vehicles. It also was an economical move as he would no longer need to purchase fasteners from outside suppliers. He took the same attitude when it came to such items as radiators, breaks, pressed bodies etc., buying up whatever manufacturer he could find that made such items. His motto was simple "Keep in the Family; you make more money that way!" When you are using metric nuts and bolts you need metric tools and this could involve a major outlay for the production lines. So why not retain the threads which are the most difficult part in the production of your fasteners but put a British size head on the bolt and the same for the nut. All existing tools would fit, so what we now call an Economy of Scale was produced. No one ever gave a thought to the fact that this whole process could and eventually did hinder future production especially in the post war years when Britain exported worldwide with Morris being one of the leading successful companies in the "Export or Die" period.

Just to make the owner of a British vehicle just a touch upset when he or she wanted to do their own service, the range of threads and sizes simply boggle the mind. First we have Whitworth introduced by Sir John Whitworth in 1841 when the demand for high tolerance machinery production was starting to grow with the success of the British Industrial Revolution. It total he developed no less than four separate ranges of thread: British Standard Fine (BSF) British Standard Whitworth (BSW) British Standard Pipe (BSP) with a sister thread in that same bracket called (BSPT) The tapered version for high pressure use. All of these can be found on most British vehicles pre or post war. Not to be out done we have another thread that you will find in your classic car called (BA) short for British Association. You will find these fixtures on the electrical equipment. The most common is known as 2 BA. That's the nut that slips out of your fingers while trying to connect with a BA bolt under the dash, and is never seen again.

Thank goodness after the close of the 1950's some degree of sanity prevailed within the British Motor Industry and they, over a given period of time adopted a unified, interchangeable system that almost matched to the US thread standards. So today your wrench should fit most of the post war cars after the 1950's and if you are really lucky some that were made before that date.



GT Pickup

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 at the next meeting or mail to:

TMGC
c/o Bill Yoshida
4732 Little John Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455 (757) 554-0402, Cell (757) 633-8303
williamryoshida@verizon.net

Names: _____ & _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ **Cell #** _____ **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? _____

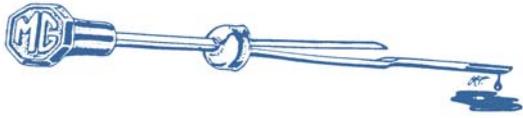
MG's owned? _____

-

Are you affiliated with any National Auto Clubs? If yes, please list below:

"Save an Octagon"

The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing, Editor

5483 Doon St.

Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

FIRST CLASS

Affiliated with



MG

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Aug 2nd
Great Neck Park
2513 Shorehaven Dr.
Virginia Beach
496-9847 (Tad)

6:15 - 7:30 pm - Kick Tyres
7:30 Meeting

Seashore State Park
Bay Island
Broad Bay
Lynnhaven Bay
N Great Neck
Alantor
1st Colonial
KMar
State Route 632
State Route 58
Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach Expwy
Great Neck Park
Frank W. Cox High School
Shorehaven Dr
Layden Ct
Shoreway Ln

60 279 615 58