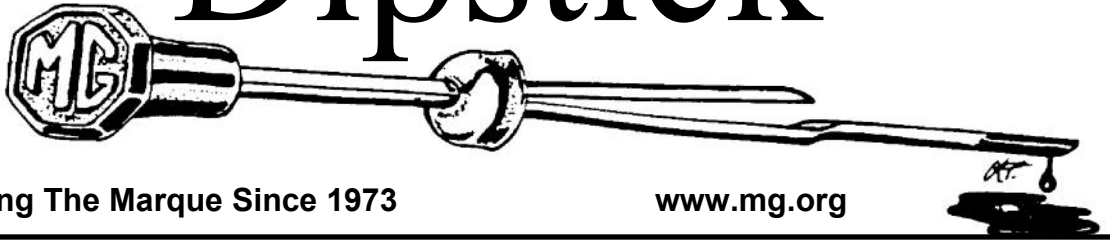




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 40, Issue 3

March 2013



100 Miles Further to Abingdon - Our March 23rd Spring Drive destination has changed to Agecroft Hall, a 15th-century Tudor home originally located just 211 miles from Abingdon, England. Now it has been relocated to be 311 miles from Abingdon - Virginia.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

This Month in the TMGC

A number of us visited the DRS PhantomWorks restoration shop in Norfolk on Saturday, February 16th. For those that didn't make it, you missed a step back in time to a 1920's era building and an interesting look at what can be done to our old cars.

Later this spring, DRS will be featured in a new auto restoration show on the History Network. As the series title and airing times are known, I'll pass that along.

We followed that visit with lunch and a little taste of the grape at Mermaid Winery in Ghent. Despite the threat of weather, we made it home without incident.

**We interrupt this Activities Report for a special announcement
*** ROAD TRIP ALERT *****

Moss Motors Open House - Saturday, March 16th

Continued on Page 3

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!
(TMGC Activities are in **bold**)

Mar. 6 - Wednesday - Club Meeting - Park Lane Tavern (Hampton)

Mar. 16- Saturday - Moss Motors Open House in Petersburg, VA

Mar. 23 - Saturday - Spring Drive (Historic Tour in Richmond, followed by Local Lunch stop)

Apr. 2 - Tuesday - Club Meeting - Norfolk
Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach

Apr. 6 - Saturday - Spring Tech Session - Norfolk
Hosted by Frank & Deb Linse - (Tentative Date)

Apr. 13 - Williamsburg British Car Club 14th Annual British & European Car Show
Chickahominy Riverfront Park
www.wmbgbrit.com

Apr. 19-21 - GOF South MK XLVII, Ocala, FL
For Info: Jim Hall @ 904-282-1658 or JimnDeeHall@att.net

Apr. 26 - 28 - Virginia Wine Tour - Staunton Hosted by Alan & Becky Watson

February Memberships

By Bill Yoshida

2013 Memberships:

As of 15 February we have 107 paid memberships for 2013, with 197 individuals in the club. In January, I had sent "Final Notice" e-mails to the remaining list of "Promise to Renew" members as a reminder. In it, I indicated that if I did not receive their dues (for 1/2 year - January to June) by 15 February, their names would be removed from the 2013 Roster and also from the membership e-mail listing.

New Memberships:

None. Additionally, I've not heard from the owner of the British Racing Green MG Midget with Tennessee plates that I spotted in the neighborhood last month.

Cars: Total cars – 168

Cars & Types: 163 of the following types of MGs:

- MGA - 22
- A- Coupe - 2
- B - 78
- B-GT - 14
- C - 2
- C-GT - 2
- TC - 9
- TD - 21
- TF - 5
- Midget - 8
- Other/Various MGs – 5 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB)

Dues:

I turned over \$30 in dues to Jim Villers at the meeting on 6 February. I do not currently hold any funds for turn over to Jim.

TMGC Officers

President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Vice President	Steve LaPaugh	593-5927
Secretary	Michele Peters	439-8050
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Bob Stein	588-6200
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Activities	Tad Carter	496-9847
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Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Mitzi LaPaugh	344-7887
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307
Webmaster	Mike Haag	mikehmg@cox.net



FROM THE PREZ

Marque Time

Greetings ya'll! Well, here it is March 2013, spring is in the air top down driving should be just around the corner. It's time to dust off our MG's, top off the fluids, give everything a once over and make that list for the Moss trip later this month, or is it next month?

I guess I need to check my calendar; no it is in March just in time to get the parts and bring them to Franks in April for the annual spring tech session. For the exact date check mg.org or look right here in the Dipstick.

Everybody thank and praise our activities coordinator for always having an abundance of reasons for us to drive our MG's, and excuses for why we didn't get other things done.

I know Tad will be mentioning it, possibly even in this issue, but I just wanted to make my presidential plug for the 40th anniversary party; which will take the place of the May meeting and will be at Smithfield Station on May 1st. I hope to see you all there it should be a great time. I hope to see some of our long time and founding members there. If you have anything to share from our club history we would love for you to share. Let me plug the Dipstick for Bob, our wonderful editor.

Whether you come to the 40th anniversary or not, if you have some fond memories of past club events write a story about it and share it with us in the dipstick. Who knows it might even spark an idea or bring back a past event we haven't done for a while. Please put the word out and maybe some of our members who have moved away might venture back for the party. I know we would all love to see them.

I must say I love this car club, and its members; who are always willing to lend a hand, tell a story, or just give much needed advice, when someone has an issue or repair that is just confounding them. I sometimes wonder if the confusion is just due to the complexity of the English language, or Lucas electrics. Either way here's to celebrating another 40 years with Tidewater MG Classics.

Safety Fast

Russ Ripp
President

TMGC Activities

(Continued from page 1)

Moss is hosting an Open House in their Petersburg facility on Saturday, March 16th from 10:00am to 1:00pm. After a welcome in the newly remodeled showroom they will be offering tours of the warehouse and upholstery shop. In addition, they will be offering a 10% discount on orders placed that day. If you can fit it in your car, you can save on freight, too.

No need to RSVP. Just show up at Moss. 25651 Simpson Road, Petersburg I will be unable to make this trip, but you might find others from this area interested in a convoy to Petersburg.

*** **

Now back to your regularly scheduled Activities Report.

Our **Wednesday, March 6th** meeting will be held at Park Lane Tavern in Hampton in the Peninsula Town Center (formerly Coliseum Mall). We have reservations at 6:30 for those interested in dinner prior to the meeting. You'll find the menu at www.ParkLaneTavern.com. Our 8:00 meeting will take place as scheduled. I look forward to seeing you there.

Also in March (**Saturday the 23rd** to be exact), we have scheduled a drive to historic Richmond, VA. we'll depart from Tidewater at 9:00 (Waffle House, 4800 Portsmouth Blvd, Portsmouth - about 1/4 mile west of I-664). From there, we'll head toward Williamsburg to meet up with the Peninsula contingent, and a drive out Route 5 to Richmond.

Agecroft Hall is a true Tudor manor home built in Lancashire, England in the late 15th century - the dawn of the Tudor period. It served for centuries as a private home, until it fell into disrepair in the early 20th century. The home was purchased, dismantled, catalogued and crated, and then shipped to Richmond, where it was reassembled looking over the James River. Sounds like the history of some of our cars. You'll learn the full story when we visit Agecroft Hall Estate and Gardens on the 23rd. Tour cost is \$7 per person.

Following our tour of the estate, we have reservations for lunch in Carytown at Three Monkeys. They are holding tables, so an RSVP would be very helpful in finalizing our plans. An e-mail response or a phone call (757-544-5668) is fine. I'll send final travel details out the week of the drive.

Our **Tuesday, April 2nd** meeting will be back in Norfolk, hosted by Andy and Cynthia. You know good food is in store for that meeting!

Also coming in April on **Saturday the 6th** is our first Tech Session of the year. Frank and Deb Linse will open their garage once again for all those projects we need to make our cars road-ready for 2013.

Be on the lookout for upcoming e-mails to sign up for the 3/23 trip to Richmond, our 40th Anniversary Celebration and the 5/14 Tides Baseball events. For non-e-mailing members, I welcome a call at any time at 757-544-5668.

Tad Carter

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Friday, May 17 — Sunday, May 19, 2013

Virginia International Raceway, Alton, VA

Spring 2013 Driver's Education

(From the event flyer)

Please join us for our Spring 2013 Drivers Education (DE) at VIR in Alton, VA. We will be running the Full Course all three days. This event is open to any driver 18 and over with a valid US-issued driver's license and with any make/model of car. Please bring your driver's license with you to registration.

An instructor will be assigned to Green and Blue Group drivers and there will be daily classroom sessions for these groups. If you are signing up as an Intermediate Solo or Advanced driver, you will be asked for references if you have not run with FSR before.

Registration Fees: Drivers: \$400.00, Instructors with one student: \$150.00, Instructors with two students: Complimentary.

Are you new to DE and on the fence about whether Driver's Education is for you? Sign up for our DE INTRO! For a \$50 fee, we'll get you out on the track in your car with an instructor for a single session mid-day on Saturday.

Standard DE safety requirements apply, so you'll need a Snell SA rated helmet. FSR has a few loaners available, so please email the registrar before you sign up if you'd like to borrow one.

Registration is now open: <http://register.fsrpca.org>

The DIPSTICK is the official newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Club of Virginia. Published monthly.

To contact Editor Bob Stein:

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Phone: 757-588-6200

TMGC February Meeting Minutes

by Adam Sassi (Photos by Adam Sassi)



Hosted by: Pete Olson

Old Business:

- November and December minutes approved

New Business:

- Tidewater region antique flea market coming soon.
- Tidewater Car Club Council meetings are now being held monthly (info about car shows etc.)
- Yorktown High School Car Show March 23rd 1000-1500
- Ross @ MGExperience.net has info about salvage classic cars destroyed in hurricanes. Many being scammed.

Activities:

- The British Car Club of Williamsburg Car Show is April 13th celebrating Aston Martin.
- The Phantom Works & Mermaid Winery tour is February 16th
- There will be a drive on march 23rd to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Lunch will be at 3 Monkeys.



- There will be a drive to Moss Motors Open House on March 16th.
- There will be a Tech Session in April



- The March meeting will be on Wednesday the 6th (1830) at Park Tavern. They have 147 types of beer.
- The Virginia Winery Tour will be on April 11th.
- The 40th Anniversary Dinner will be at Smithfield Station.



- May 14th will be the Peninsula Baseball Game
- May 29th & 30th will be the peninsula and south side ice cream drives.
- We will have a Tall Ships tour in cape Charles in June.

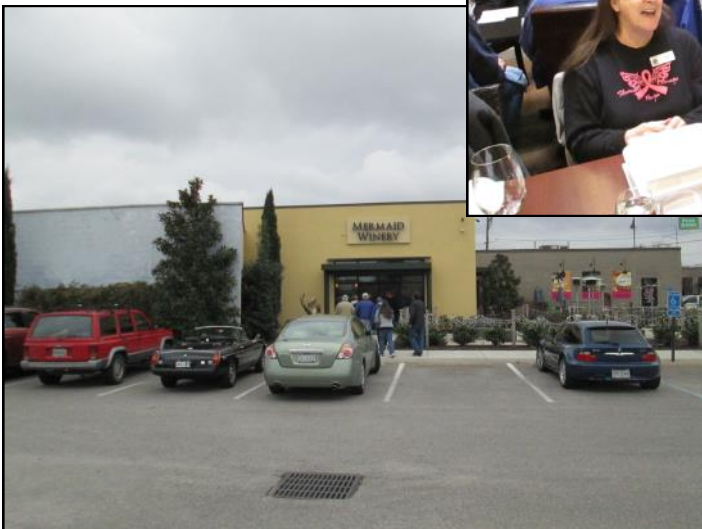
Membership:

- 2013 Memberships: As of 6 February we currently have 107 paid memberships and 4 remaining "promises" to renew for 2013.



Drive to FantomWorks & Mermaid Winery

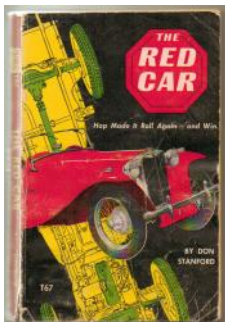
(photos by Sue Bond, and Donald Ladd)



The 'Real' Red Car

By Ron Shaw

(Reprinted with permission of the author)



It has been almost sixty years since Don Stanford's novel "The Red Car" was published in 1954, and thousands of enthusiasts have credited that slim volume with igniting their passion for sports cars. First published by Funk & Wagnalls as fiction for young people, the original hard cover book ran through four printings before it was issued in paperback in 1963 (below) by Scholastic Book Services. Over the next forty years The Red Car was reprinted over a dozen times, the most recent a 2000 hard cover edition published by Buccaneer Books.

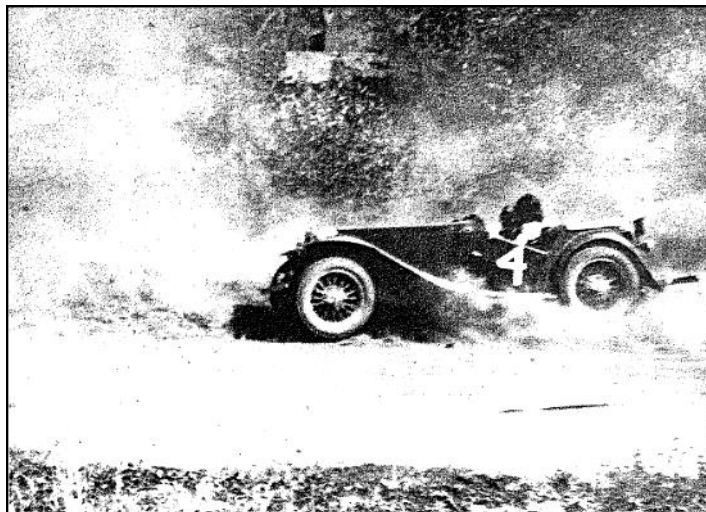
The book and its effect upon generations of readers is sufficient for it to rate a prominent place on the rather short shelf of novels with a sports car theme. For enthusiasts in Colorado, the book has a more specific interest. The Red Car is undeniably a work of fiction, but it is based upon a significant amount of Colorado historical fact. The fictional mountain hamlet of Bullet was actually Aspen, Colorado. Scarcely three paragraphs into the first chapter, Stanford has protagonist Hap Adams gazing at "...the towering peak of Ajax Mountain". In the 1950s Ajax Mountain was the name of what is now known as Aspen Mountain, renamed by the city when skiing on the mountain became big business.

The road race depicted in the final two chapters of the novel was composed of elements from the series of races held yearly on Aspen streets from 1951 through 1954. The Aspen road race of September 9, 1951, was the first sports car race to be held in the state of Colorado, and the author of The Red Car, Don Stanford, was a participant in that first race driving car number 4, a red 1948 MG TC. He was also one of the four instigators of the race, along with fellow Aspenite Dr. Bob Barnard, Aspen Corporation executive Lennie Woods, and Aspen hotel owner Les Gaylord.

It is not unusual for authors to incorporate their life experiences in the books they write, but it is somewhat unusual to have photographic evidence of those experiences. Included below are two images which provide evidence of Stanford's participation in the 1951 race, and in the two incidents that form the climax of his novel.

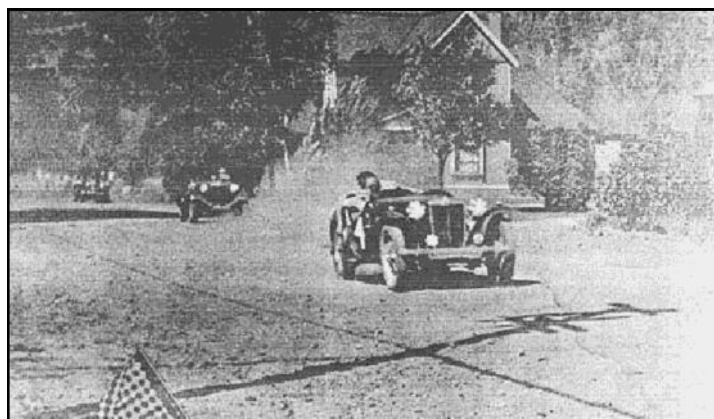
The fictional Red Car, a red 1948 MG TC carrying car number 4, is driven in the final race by "Frenchy", a mechanic and owner of the Bullet Garage. Frenchy is the character who serves as the catalyst for many of the events described in the book, and is Hap Adams' mentor in the world of sports cars. Hap, the 16 year-old owner of the Red Car, is not allowed to drive in the climactic race for the prosaic reason that the event insurance policy did not allow drivers under the age of twenty-one. Hap is, however, allowed to serve as "riding mechanic" in the car.

Two laps from the end of the race, Frenchy and Hap become involved in an on-track altercation with the villain of the book, professional race driver John Arata. During the incident, Arata and his car owner and fellow conspirator Art Wister crash into and eliminate one another. In the tumult Frenchy and Hap crash into hay bales placed nearby.



1951 Denver Post photo courtesy Aspen Historical Society

This photograph shows the real Red Car driven by Don Stanford and carrying his co-driver, a young woman named Alice, striking the hay bales in the Sept. 9, 1951 race in Aspen. As a result of the crash, the fictional Red Car's right rear fender is torn loose. The damaged fender rubs against the tire, causing Frenchy to exclaim that they must abandon the race because it will soon cut the tire. Hap shows his true hero's grit by reaching across the back of the cockpit and grasping the edge of the fender, pulling it away from the tire. Hap hangs on to the fender for the final two laps, and the Red Car finishes ... second. The race in Class F is won by an unnamed driver in a green MG TC, the Red Car having been passed on the final lap.



1951 Denver Post photo courtesy Aspen Historical Society

This photograph shows author Don Stanford finishing the race in Aspen on Sept. 9, 1951. In what must be one of the most remarkably prescient photos to be found in the long history of road racing, we see Stanford in the real Red Car crossing the finish line with his right hand grasping the forward edge of the fender damaged in the hay bale incident, while his co-driver, the sturdy and irrepressible Alice, is stretched across the back of the cockpit holding the rear edge of the fender.

Don Stanford and Alice finished third in class, and sixth overall, in their 1951 Aspen race. That event, the first sports car race held in Colorado, was won by John Johantgen in a Jaguar XK120.



January Joy Ride

By Susan Bond

Driving home from a job site in Norfolk, my Jeep told me it was 73 degrees out – on the 30th of January this was a gift that should not be wasted. With a clear afternoon on my calendar I called Richard Hall and suggested lunch at Angie's restaurant and some road straightening in the Ts. It took me a while to get Eleanor out of the barn, she is parked behind the GTO, and Richard had to add some brake juice so it was a late lunch, but the weather held and we spent a couple glorious hours just zooming around back roads in the winter sun and howling wind.

Now the front has moved thru and the wind has died down, but the temperature numbers can be reversed. Eleanor is tucked into her mitten and I have lit the fire, but the memories keep us warm.



14th Annual Williamsburg British Car Club
British & European Car Show
Saturday, April 13, 2013
Chickahominy Riverfront Park
1350 John Tyler Hwy (Route 5)
Williamsburg, VA 23185

A portion of the proceeds will be given to the **Heritage Humane Society**.



Questions?
Contact Roy Gavilan 757-220-4774
Email: Rgavilan@verizon.net or
Rgmb65@hotmail.com
or visit our web site: WWW.WMBGBRIT.COM

LEADS ON CARS

51 MGTD in great shape. runs and drives well. Black with red interior. Lots of new parts, no rust anywhere. All wood in excellent shape. 757 572 7312 - leave message

1966 Sunbeam Alpine Series 5- 1725 cc 4-cylinder engine, 4 speed manual transmission. Engine is torn down ready for boring out - all parts tagged & labeled. New battery, New engine gasket set, New brake master cylinder. New rubber brake lines, New clutch master & slave cylinder, Downloaded shop manual. \$2500 or best offer. Contact Terry Wolak at 757-595-3261 or e-mail wolaks2@cox.net.

1967 Austin Healey Sprite - Right hand drive with a 60 Bugeye frontend. I hate to let it go, but at 72 years old with replacement knees I have a hard time getting in and out of the car. When I purchased it I was told the engine had been blue printed and balanced. it has a sticker on the inner fender that says TEAM THICKO. i looked them up on the internet and they race vintage sprites. I owned a Bugeye when I was 19 and wanted to recapture my youth, AIN'T happenin'. Price \$7,000. Contact Bennie Howard at 757- 604-7055

1978 MG Midget - owner, 66k original miles. Has original paint and interior. Garage kept. Has new head gasket and like new top. runs and drives excellent. \$5,600 OBO. Ron Walker (704) 279-1315 Salisbury, N.C.

1979 MGB roadster 80K orig. mi. Great shape, runs great, fun to drive, too busy lately needs a good home. \$3,200 (757) 771-3441

1984 380SL MERCEDES - 2013 state inspection, light blue, hard & soft top. Needs some work. \$3,500 obo (757) 727-0599



A New 'T' series for Sam Kern! Introducing 'Sunflower', a miniature replica Model T Ford and former Shriner parade car. Sam rescued the tiny 'T' from a trash pile and brought it home for a total restoration! I want to see him drive it!

The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics
Bob Stein -Editor
7500 Pennington Road
Norfolk VA 23505

Affiliated with

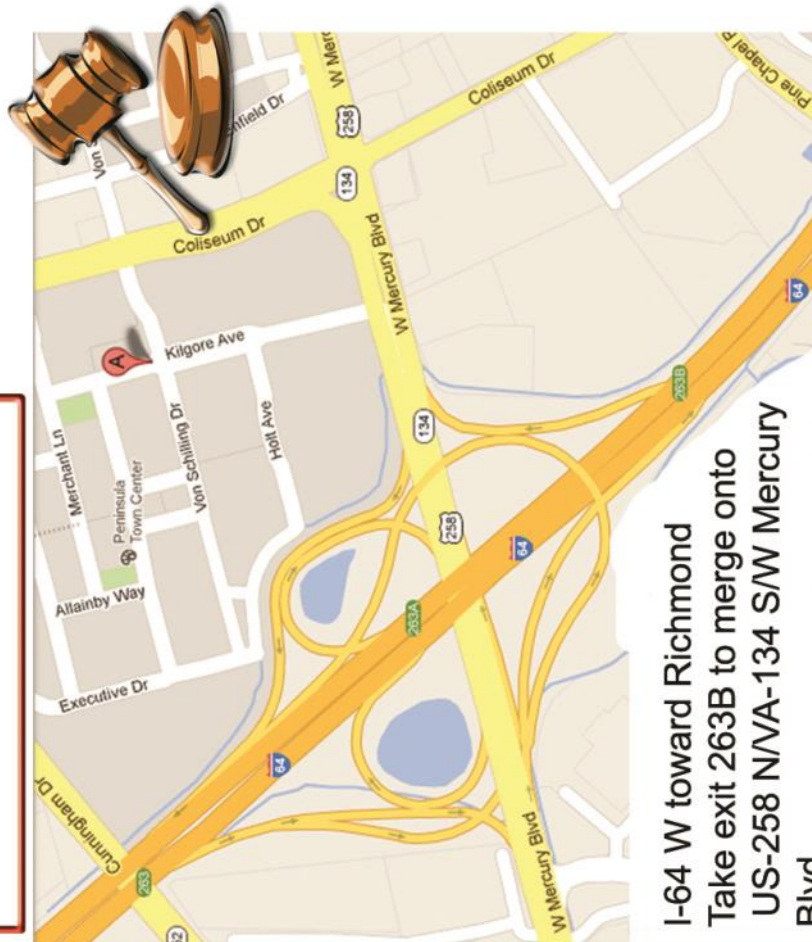


North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS



Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, Mar 6th
Park Lane Tavern
in Hampton, VA
4200 Kilgore Ave,
Hampton, VA
RSVP to Tad



I-64 W toward Richmond
Take exit 263B to merge onto
US-258 N/VA-134 S/W Mercury
Blvd
toward Hampton Coliseum

6:30 pm - Dinner
8:00 Meeting

Turn left onto Coliseum Dr
Turn left onto Von Schilling
Turn right onto Kilgore Ave
4200 Kilgore Ave