



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 42, Issue 4

April 2015

Activity Report from Tad Carter

Random Thought #1 - As I traveled home following the March meeting, I realized that the fog made for a perfect night for top-down driving. Crank up the heat and enjoy the mist – quite a British night. I know David Kinsey enjoyed the drive, too. The rest of you, who all have far more sense than David and I, missed out.

April brings the onset of spring and the return of driving season. It is time to sweep off the cobwebs, top off the fluids and hit the road. The first stop, as always, is our spring Tech Session at Linse's in Norfolk on Sunday the 19th. Bring your latest problems, projects and parts, and find willing and able hands to help you out. Doors open at 10am.

Later in the month, Alan and Becky will host their 13th annual Virginia Wine Tour. Think of it – their tour has reached those petulant teenage years. I don't have all the details or the list of attendees, but if prior tours are any indication, this will be a great trip! I look forward to pictures and stories in upcoming editions of The Dipstick, and plenty of tales from the road at future gatherings. For those traveling with the group, be on the lookout for details about the drive from Tidewater out to the meet-up point with those living on the Peninsula and beyond.

Lest I forget the car shows for April, please consider in your plans:

Williamsburg British & European Car Show (4/11)

VDCA Wild Hare Run at VIR (4/10-12) – MG is featured marque

MGT Register Kimber Festival in Norwich, CT (4/10-12)

Wounded Wheels at Fantom Works in Norfolk (4/18)

The Mitty at Road Atlanta (4/24-26)

Links to each of these events are listed in the calendar

Random Thought #2 – MGs are good for your health, especially for FitBit users. Your illustrious activity wonk logged over 1500 steps just by sitting in the car to and from the March meeting. Feel the burn!

As reported earlier, Turn Back The Clock Night at Harbor Park will be held on Monday, June 15th. The Tides will host the Columbus Clippers, who finished 1st in the International League West Division in 2014. Tickets are \$11pp – cheap eats and great seats! We will begin taking reservations at the April meeting. When, you ask, will that be?

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 7th

Hosted by Cynthia Faschini and Andy Wallach

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Dipstick Calendar – April 2015

Apr. 7 – Tuesday – Club Meeting in Norfolk
Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach

Apr. 10-12 – New England MGT Register Kimber Festival
Norwich, CT
www.NEMGTR.ORG

Apr. 10-12 – VIR – VDCA Wild Hare Run
www.VintageDrive.com

April 10-12 – 13th Annual Wild Hare Run at VIR
Hosted by Vintage Drivers Club of America
www.VintageDrive.com

Apr. 11 – British & European Car Show – Williamsburg
www.WMBGBrit.com

Apr. 18 – Wounded Wheels Car Show – Norfolk
www.WoundedWheels.org

Apr. 19 – Sunday - Spring Tech Session
Hosted by Frank & Deb Linse

Apr. 24-26 – The Mitty – Vintage car racing
Road Atlanta, Braselton, GA
www.RoadAtlanta.com

Apr. 24-26 – Virginia Wine Tour – Lucky # 13

May 16 – Saturday - Club Meeting in Beaverdam
Hosted by Beckey & Alan Watson

May 23-31 – British Car Week

May 27 - Wednesday – Peninsula Dessert Drive

June 5-6 – Moss Motor Fest – Petersburg

June 8-12 – NAMGBR – Niagara Falls, Ontario

Check out the new Dipstick feature!

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MG Mug Shot



Membership Update

2015 Memberships:As of 20 March we have 119 paid memberships with 208 individual members.

New Membership: None.

Cars: Total cars – 184

Cars & Types: 177 of the following types of MGs:

MGA	A- Coupe	B	B-GT	C	C-GT	TC	TD	TF	Midget
27	2	81	18	1	3	7	21	4	13

Other/Various MGs – 7 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB/ 2 ELVA Courier)

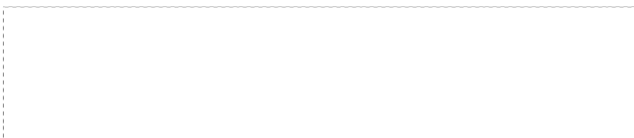
Submitted by Bill Yoshida

Marque Time - Marque Time

Greetings fellow British car nuts! By the time you read this spring will have sprung and the icebergs will have melted. I would like to thank P.J. and Faith Peterson for hosting last month's gathering. The meeting turned into a rescue mission as one of the members called for assistance when the fan belt on his MGA gave up the ghost. Several members sprang into action and were able to repair the ailing A and get him back on the road. Once again TMGC members have gone above and beyond the call of duty! Thanks to all involved. There are privileges of membership just look around and see what other clubs charge and you'll see TMGC is a great bargain! For those of you who are in need of technical assistance, the next tech session is 19 April at Frank and Debbie's. Good food and technical wisdom will be in abundance for sure. The Williamsburg British Car show will be 11 April at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park. The featured marque this year is the MGA. Finally, don't miss our next meeting on 7 April at Andy and Cynthia's where we will peruse the status of Andy's amazing T series collection! Until then,

Safety Fast!

Steve LaPaugh



MG Mug Shot

By
Ruth Johnson

Note: In the interest in becoming better acquainted with our MG club members, we will feature a profile of various club members from time to time. This month Mike and Jennifer Ash have graciously consented to being featured for the first Dipstick MG Mug shot.

MG Mug Shot

Mike and Jennifer Ash

Q: What MG s do you own? How long have you owned them?

A: Mike bought his 1955 MG TF1500 in England in 1966 and brought it to the USA in 1967. On the road, in addition to the TF, are a 1957 MGA Coupe and a 1973 MGB GTV8, both of which Mike and Jennifer have owned for more than 30 years. Mike is currently working on a 1957 MGZB Magnette that has been awaiting restoration for over 30 years.

Q: How long have you belonged to the Tidewater MG Club?

A: Mike is a “charter member” and attended the first meeting with the TF. Mike and Jennifer were married in 1974, so Jennifer has been a member since then as well.

Q: What attracted you to the MG car?

A: Mike had a friend at university in England who had a TC and caught the bug then. He subsequently bought a 1950 MG YA to help relieve the symptoms of MG mania.

Q: What is the greatest distance you have traveled in your MG?

A: Back in the early 80's, when their son was at the Great Lakes Boot Camp, Mike and Jennifer went on a trip of over 3,000 miles in the TF to visit and to tour around all the Great Lakes. On this trip, they also attended an MG regional meet in Kincardine, Ontario. On this trip, they proved you could comfortably (!) seat three adults in an MG from Chicago to Milwaukee, providing one of them (Jennifer) was willing to be stuffed in the back.

Q: What is a memorable trip you had in your MG?

A: About 25 years ago Mike and Jennifer drove the TF on the Richmond Club's first Snowball Run to Peaks of Otter. There was an overnight ice storm and the next morning the car was encased in ice a half-inch thick. They had to break into it!

Q: What is a memorable experience you had in repairing your MG?

A: Their most embarrassing experience was raising the MGB on a lift with the hood propped up on a broomstick, and not realizing the error until the stick snapped and the hood was wrapped around a light fixture.

Q: What advice do you have for a new MG car owner?

A: “Drive your MG as much as possible, learn how to maintain it, and join the club.”

Q: What are you most proud of regarding your MG?

A: They are proud of owning and driving the same car for over 50 years.

Q: What have you gained by belonging to the MG club?

A: Mike and Jennifer belong to various MG registers as well as the TMGC, and have met wonderful people and made good friends all over the country, as well as locally. “MG people seem to have a common bond that goes beyond MG ownership,” they say.

Q: Have you added anything to your MG that has made it more attractive, convenient or comfortable?

A: Mike and Jennifer have made a few upgrades to their cars over the years—5-speed transmissions in the TF and MGA and air conditioning in the MGA.

On the personal side....

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you are not working or traveling in your MG?

A: Mike and Jennifer enjoy their MG travels, and like to do additional traveling in both the USA and in Europe. Working on MG's is Mike's therapy, and Jennifer likes making jams, jellies and pickles as well as working in the yard. They are both active in historical societies on the Eastern Shore.

Q: What do you like most about the Tidewater area?

A: The Ashes have been in the Tidewater area for over 40 years and always enjoy coming home. They especially like living on the water without having to bother with boating or fishing.



TMGC March 2015 Meeting Minutes

Faithfully recorded by Robert Perrone

As has happened before, I was asked to provide the minutes for another monthly meeting. Some people never learn...

Bruce was away working on a super-secret government project involving extra-terrestrials... oh, wait, I wasn't supposed to tell you that. Never mind, I think he was doing something with fish. Yeah, fish.

This installment is late getting to Mark, mainly because my brain is still mushy from my latest vacation. Let's just say that Aruba lived up to its slogan "One Happy Island" once again. I know that I was very "happy" when I was there.

OK, now... (drum roll, please) the actual minutes! OK, anyone that believes that I'll do that needs serious help.

But here we go:

Moving on, our meeting was at the home of PJ and Faith Peterson in Hampton. From all of us, thank you both for sharing your home with this motley crew (not to be confused with the band).

Our President, Steve LaPaugh, called the meeting to order and got the meeting underway. After listening to Steve for a few minutes I realized once again that I was supposed to be taking the minutes (after Caroline pointed to the pad of paper on my lap) and I tried to remember what everyone had been saying while I sat there daydreaming about my upcoming vacation.

Since it was too late to figure that out, here are the rest of the minutes.

New Members and Guests: This month we had no guests. I'm not sure what that means to everyone else, but it usually means more beer for the rest of us, so I can live with that once in a while.

Vice-President's Report: I was otherwise engaged, so I gave the usual VP shrug and complained about the difficulty of multi-tasking, so that ended that.

Treasurer: Jim Villers gave his report on our finances. There was a great cry of joy at first from all of us, and then Jim corrected himself and moved the decimal to the proper place. We do not have over \$16,000.00 in the bank. And no, sadly, I do not mean that we have \$160,000.00 in the bank; the decimal point goes the other way.

Activities: Tad has another great year planned. We do have some changes to report. Tad will be unable to lead the fall drive this year, but we'll have plenty of other good times together. As always, check for the details in Tad's own contribution to the Dipstick.

History: Susan has history for us all, although not this particular night.

Technical / Marque Time / New and Old Business: There was nothing to report here from the meeting itself. But I will tell you that I saw a new MG while I was in Aruba a few days later. I know, a Chinese MG is not a "real" MG, and all that, but still it was cool to see the marque on a new car. We can only hope for the future...



Membership: Bill Yoshida was there. As with Tad, you should check Bill's contribution to this Dipstick.

But I did save one part of the evening's events for the end of this report.

Someone said that we might need to give Bill recognition for his actions that night. I won't mention any names, but it was suggested that Bill get the "Bad Samaritan Award" since he passed by an MGA by the side of the road on his way there. (Just kidding, Bill. It's not that bad. But we did vote you out of the club after you left.)

It turned out to be one of our own, broken down with a "fanbelt emergency" nearby. There was a lot of chatter about 1/2' box wrenches, other needed tools and whether or not certain belts might fit, but several members went out to the rescue.

Unfortunately, I still do not know who was broken down. I asked around, but it appears that those who knew had already left to provide roadside service. So much for my reporting skills.

Regalia: I almost forgot to report about this part of the meeting. Probably because I lost track of what was going on. There were mudflaps, David Kinsey's charcoal canister refill, and the ever-popular license plate frame. I did not win, so I was not quite sure who did. But I'm sure they were happy, whoever they were.

Someone motioned to adjourn and someone else seconded. And there you have it. My work here is done.

Is Your Car in Need of a Tech Session?

**Bring it to Frank & Debbie Linse's Garage
Sunday, April 19th starting at 10 a.m.**







301 E McGinnis Circle
Norfolk, VA
461-7783






TMGC is born. Corner of Independence and Virginia Beach Blvd, 1973.



**Still living the dream. Same location, March 14, 2015.
(Notice that Mike and Jennifer's TF has gone from red to blue!)**

REPORT OF FT. MONROE DRIVE-OUT

By Jennifer Ash

Sometime at end of February.....

CO-PILOT: ...just read Dipstick; wanna do the Fort Monroe thing with the MG club? They're going to start at Pembroke Mall and do a photo re-enactment of the first meeting of car-owners who formed the club

MG TOTAL FANATIC: Dunno...when is it?

Co-P: It's on pi-day - just read that's the name for 3.14.15 - and no, we've nothing else on the calendar that day.

MGTF: Well, I'd really like to go on a weekend event; we've not done one in a while and I'd really like the TF to be in the photo forty years later, even if it is a different color now.

Co-P: The weather shouldn't be too bad, what with it being mid-March. Also, we could leave the Shore the afternoon before because we've got enough points for a free night at the Hilton in Town Centre across the road from Pembroke, so we wouldn't have to rush out so early in the morning.

MGTF: Sounds like a plan. You email Tad and RSVP.....and tell him what we want to order for lunch..... and make the hotel reservation.....

Co-P: Yes dear...

The day before.....

MGTF: It's going to be a bit warmer, but with intermittent showers tomorrow.

Co-P: That's OK - I've got warm woollies and that heavy raincoat we bought when we went to the Pacific rain-forest and forgot to take raincoats; I've got a lap-rug and a little cushion to stuff in the draught behind the seat...

MGTF: Good, because we have to drive without side-curtains because they're so cruddy since that guy "cleaned" them for me with some magic stuff - I can't see out of them anymore.

Co-P: Oh....! That's OK(or words to that effect)

Later that day.....

MGTF: Well, this is quite pleasant, isn't it; are you warm enough?

Co-P: Yes thank you dear. Remember the old times, when we used to set out on trips - wind In our hair, wishing we'd been born rich instead of good-looking and could tool along like this in life instead of having to work for a living...

MGTF: Eh? Oh. ves.... I remember...those were the days...



Inside a Casemate

Pi-day arrived a bit on the damp side, but no REAL rain. Seven MGs braved the threatening weather – those of Mark Davidoski, Al Hazlett, Barb Taychert & Mike Kneppler, Fred McCall, Kiz & Frank Worrell, Tad Carter, Mike & Jennifer Ash showed up at the same spot in the parking lot of Pembroke Mall as 40 years ago, joined by Ruth & Ken Johnson in an SUV- and the photos were duly taken. We set off via the Interstate, to avoid the St. Paddy's Day parade in Ocean View, and we arrived at the historic Fort Monroe, where we were joined by three more cars from the Peninsula, Faith & PJ Peterson, Dana & Bob Reisse and Missy & Bob McKenna.

Our very knowledgeable guide led us through the Casemate Museum. We learned that a Casemate was a fortified place for gun-emplacements, living quarters and storage, and we learned that there were 4 types of cannonballs for different purposes: to put holes in attacking ships; to carry fire-balls to burn the ships; to lob above and explode above the ship to kill all who had the misfortune to be on deck, and lastly, to carry chains aimed at the mast and smash it. I didn't know all that stuff...! This fort was the largest of its type in the US and was designed to protect the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, which it did until the end of World War Two. Fort Monroe also became a sanctuary for escaped slaves during the Civil War following The Contraband of War Decision. Most of us knew that Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, had been imprisoned here, but didn't realize that there were so many trumped-up charges - all dismissed eventually;nor did we know that Fort Monroe was home to the 4th Girl Scout Troop in the nation and they're STILL selling cookies there! We also saw the little lighthouse - still operational - purported to be the oldest on the east coast; funny, but in all our visits to the Fort, we'd never noticed it before, it's so short! We did a windscreen tour of the Fort, which is now split up between National Parks Service, State of Virginia and Dept. Of The Army, all squabbling over who can do what... Then we went on to The Point, a nice little neighborhood restaurant in Phoebus, for a good lunch.



Lunch at *The Point*

MGTF: Can you remember what I ordered?

CoP: Tad has it all under control; just order a beer, if you can see to read the list.

We enjoyed our lunch, especially talking to Ruth and Ken, who we had seen at meetings but never had the opportunity to really chat with before. The beauty of an event like this is being to talk across the table, finding out more about each other and going from being friendly to becoming friends. Eventually the group started to break up and head for the parking lot, and then it REALLY started to rain...

CoP: It's nice that this restaurant has eco-friendly "doggie-boxes" that are bio-degradable; can you carry it to the car for me while I try to keep my hair dry?

MGTF: Here you can hold it now, while I take out the side-curtains and put them away so I can see out the car to get home.

CoP: Can you hold it again while I get my raincoat on and zipped up?

MGTF: Oops! My gloves are wet and it slipped a bit...

CoP: You'd have thought bio degradable would've held up a bit longer than across the parking-lot in the rain. Oh well, left-over nachos never taste the same do they, and being in a wet box for a couple of hours.... You'll have to take us out to Yuk-Yuk & Joe's for dinner tonight.

MGTF: Eh? Are you in yet? Can you move the blanket off the gear-shift? Which way do we turn out of the parking-lot?.... Eh? ...It's rude to point...

It was a VERY wet ride down the Interstate, but no back-ups at the tunnel for a change. We were stopped at a traffic light on Northampton Blvd., when suddenly a very handsome young feller jumped out of the little car in front, in the pouring rain, with a large blanket and proceeded to stuff it into the car and wrap it around a very wet me. Thank you, Tad - from us both and all the members who came out to enjoy another great TMGC event. To quote the NAMGAR rally-cry, "It's the cars that bring us together, but it's the PEOPLE who bring us back"



Monthly Meeting

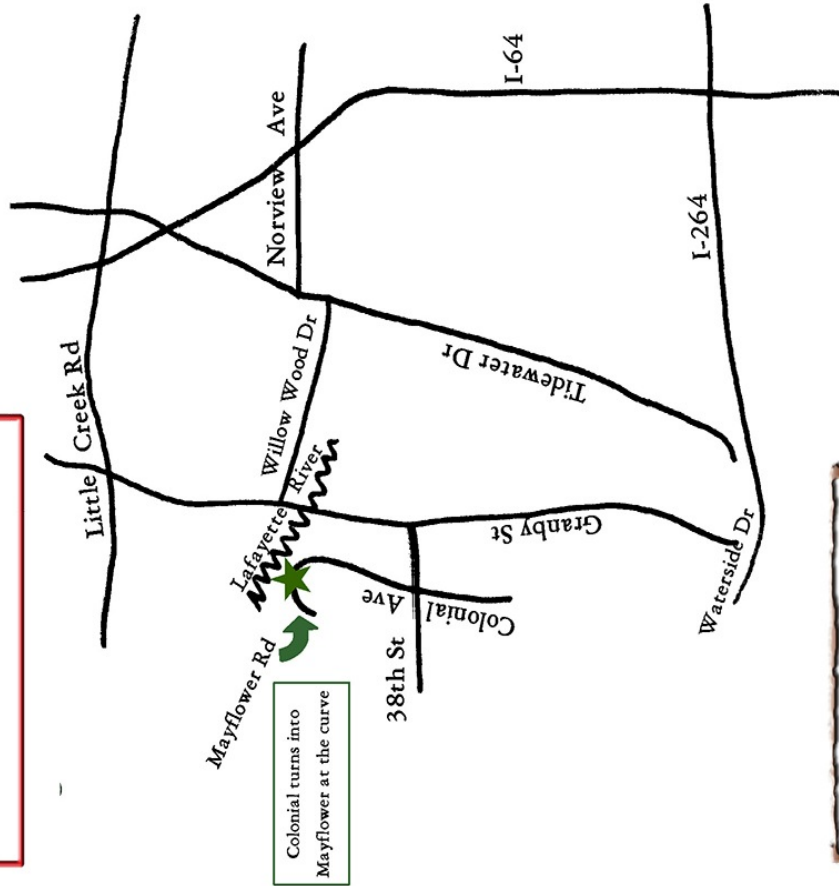
Tuesday, April 7th

Cynthia & Andy

545 Mayflower Rd.

Norfolk, VA

622-8315



Colonial turns into
Mayflower at the curve

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



Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

4705 Little John Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS