



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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December 2015



2015
comes
to a close
it is time
to thank all of



you who have made
the myriad events for this
year possible. Thank you to
all of our meeting hosts - the club
wouldn't be the same without your
hospitality. Restaurants are fine, but hanging
out in your driveways and garages is
a lot more fun. Thank you to our Tech Session
hosts - our cars wouldn't be the same without the
hands-on care and sage advice you provide.
We covered many miles this year with little down-time
on the side of the road. And thank you to each of you
who attended one of these events or joined us out on the road
this year. The miles wouldn't

be as much
fun alone.



We still have a few dates left in 2015. Our Holiday Party is on the Friday, December 11th at Jim and Betty's home in Virginia Beach. We'll get started about 6:30pm. You are invited to bring a favorite finger-food dish to share.

As is our custom, we have chosen a charity to support as a group for anyone wanting to join in. Once again, we are working with Samaritan House in their support for adult and child victims of domestic abuse. For simplicity's sake, they have asked for small denomination gift cards this year (two \$25 cards are easier to pass out than one \$50 card). This also saves them from acting as a warehouse for the many toys that have been brought in the past and allows them to better serve their clients throughout the year. Cards from Target, Walmart, Food Lion and similar stores are always great to have on hand. Gift cards can be brought to the party and will be delivered the following week to Samaritan House.

On Tuesday, December 15th, we are off to drive the Holiday Lights at Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Many of us meet before the drive for a hot Italian meal at Franco's (Norview at Military Hwy). I have reserved space for 30 at 6pm for those wishing to join in. Come for dinner or be ready to roll at 7:28.

And I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, Happy Christmas to all and to all a Great New Year full of winding roads, low gas prices and top-down weather.

See you in 2016!

Tad Carter

Membership Update

2016 Memberships: As of 3 November there are 119 paid memberships with an additional 3 "Promised" renewals.

New Memberships: We have two new memberships to report for November.

Mark & Marion McAlpine
Suffolk, VA 23435
No MG yet – searching for a MG-GT

Ron & Tina Pack
Smithfield, VA 23430
1971 MGB

Cars: Total cars – 184!



Tech Session Participant

Dipstick Calendar – 2015

Dec. 11 –Friday - 6:30PM Holiday Party in VB
Hosted by Betty and Jim Villers

Dec. 15 - Tuesday – Holiday Lights Drive
6pm for Dinner at Franco's
ETD for lights - 7:28

Dipstick Calendar – 2016

Jan. 6 - Wednesday - Monthly Meeting
Frankie's Place for Ribs – VB
6:00PM Dinner followed by Meeting

Feb. 2 – Tuesday - Monthly Meeting
Mardi Gras in VB – Hosted by Pete Olson

Feb. 14 – Sunday - For The Birds

Mar. 2 – Wednesday – Monthly Meeting –
Brickhouse Tavern – Port Warwick in
Newport News
6:00PM Dinner followed by Meeting

Mar. 12 – End-of-Time Brewery Tour

Apr. - Spring Tech Session – TBD

Apr. 5 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting –
Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson in
Hampton

Apr. 9 – Williamsburg British Car Show
(Tentative date)

Apr. 29 – May 1 – Virginia Wine Tour XIV
Destination TBA

May 4 – Wednesday – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Cynthia and Andy in Norfolk

May 28 – June 5 – British Car Week

June 1 – Dessert Drive – Peninsula

June 2 – Dessert Drive – Southside

June 7 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Issie and Bill Yoshida in VA Beach
Membership Renewal Meeting

June 13-17 – MG2016 - All Registers
Louisville, KY

July Meeting – Date and Location – TBD

Aug. – Summer Tech Session - TBD

Aug. 2 – Tuesday – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Jayne and Bruce Easley
in Seaford

Aug. 21 – Sunday – Barksdale Theatre
Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach*
Memoirs

Sep. 7 - Wednesday – Monthly Meeting
Ocean View Fishing Pier

Sep. 15 – 18 – Drive the Crooked Road Fall
Tour
(Tentative dates)

Sep. 24 – AACA Wings and Wheels,
Pungo Airfiled

Oct. 4 – Tuesday - Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Renee and Bill Olcheski

Nov. – Fall Tech Session - TBD

Nov. 2 – Wednesday - Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Mathieu Huovinen

Dec. 13 – Tuesday – Holiday Lights Drive

Dipstick Calendar – 2017

Aug. 19 – 22, 2017 - Drive-out for Solar
Eclipse Viewing

Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events



TMGCC Meeting Minutes 11/4/2015 (recorded by Bruce Easley)

The illustrious group of British Car owners convened at the lovely home of Bob Vann, and after some car-gling and libation, the meeting was kicked off right on time by the NEW Vice President (and Activities Director) Tad Carter. Our new Prez, Robert Perrone, had better things to do, such as a son's orchestra concert, so he "blew us off" for the evening, leaving the meeting on Tad's broad shoulders.

Tad asked if any guests or new members were present, and it was found there were none. He reminded the assemblage to keep Rose and Donald Ladd, as well as Stephen Daniel, as they are experiencing health issues; Don may need knee surgery.



Business reports: Our Treasurer, Jim Villers, reported that after income from dues and regalia and disbursements for Tech Session, meeting support, and Dipstick issue expenses, we have a positive balance of \$2,430.22. Membership Chairman Bill Yoshida reported no change since the last meeting; we have 117 paid memberships, representing 183 cars. He noted that a digital copy of the 2016 Directory was sent to each member with a valid email address in September, and paper copies were available at the club meeting or had been mailed to those people not attending the meeting. A big "THANK YOU" to the team of Bill Yoshida and Jim

Villers for tackling this effort yet again. Mark Davidoski asked for volunteers to submit write-ups for upcoming club activities, including the upcoming Lynchburg/ Car Collection drive, and several commitments were made. The October meeting minutes were offered for comment and approved as written.

Tad then updated us on activities, thanking Terry and Sue Bond for hosting the most recent Tech Session at their estate. He reported that 15 cars will be making the upcoming Lynchburg drive, and that good winery and food stops are included in the trip. Thanks to Bill Cochran for the suggestion for this trip. Our annual Holiday Party will be at the Villers' on Dec. 11, and our annual Christmas Lights drive through Norfolk Botanical Gardens will be Dec. 15. Tad had suggestions for Party Pot Luck provisions, and for support for the Samaritan House this year. Also, please contact Tad with a head count to be able to give Franco's restaurant an estimate of how many people to expect at the Lights drive dinner. There is an opening to host the March meeting, and Tad is looking for an alternate meeting date in July.



Technical/ Marque Tyme comments: Members reported on work done at "American Stripper" in Norfolk, which does sandblasting, powder coating, etc. Ask Andy Wallach for information. Terry Bond had found 1935 Morris 8 sedan "remnants" that may be available, as well as a '69 B roadster. Jim Villers described his learning process of installing heated steel rivets using an air chisel and acetylene torch, with amazingly strong and tight results.

No raffle or regalia prizes were awarded at this meeting, and the group adjourned for more food, libation, and the usual info swapping.

Tuddie and the Tech Session *(from Andy Wallach)*

While the Club normally manages to leave one of our entrusted MGs at the site of a tech session, the good news is that this time more cars drove away than drove to the Bond Chicken and Sparkplug Ranch. Most of the drama revolved around Tuddie, Cynthia's (my wife's) TD.

The drama actually started on Friday, two days before the tech session. While driving Tuddie to the November meeting at the Olcheski's, I noticed several minor ailments. (Let's remember...all MG ailments are minor that do not prevent forward motion or stopping). So I was eagerly anticipating working on these minor items. So to be sure that I was ready to go, I attempted to start Tuddie. Well no joy. Cranked over fine but no ignition. Previously Frank Linse had helped me with an ignition problem which rectified itself when we tried a different coil and stayed rectified when put the old coil back in. So I thought I probably had some sort of no-spark condition. Anyway, based on my experience time can heal some problems, I figured I would try again on Saturday to start the beast. Well, on Saturday, after cranking it over many times, cleaning some oil out of the distributor (as we know MGs like to dispense oil everywhere), the electrical system goes dead. No ignition light. Fiddle with the battery terminals, the ignition light comes back on, pull the starter cable, hear a "cheack", and all is dead again. Well, maybe my battery terminal connections are not tight enough. The T series had what is called a helmet connector which goes over the terminal and has a screw which goes down through the helmet and into the terminal vice the more modern clamp-type connector. I try for visual originality, so I had helmet connectors. So up to my parts department (the second floor of my garage), and the subsequent installation of a clamp-type connector. Ignition light, pull the starter, and "cheack". Hook up my battery charger-starter to give this battery more umph, pull the starter, hear the starter spin but it doesn't throw out the pinion (the gear that engages the flywheel and turns the engine, and "cheack". Then try the charger on "charge" and get no reading. Battery will not charge. Bad battery?

Why do I have these frustrating cars? Here I was going to get a bunch of minor things fixed and the car won't even start to get me to the tech session. I was bummed out. Then enlightenment, I have a truck, I have a special TD/TF tow bar, I can tow this beast and let my fellow Club masochists figure out what's wrong.



So Sunday morning, I remove Tuddie's front bumper, bolt on the tow bar, hook it to the truck, and accompanied by my son Josh and grandson Evan, three MGeers head forth for the Ranch. All's well but doesn't end well. As we turn onto Hillwell Rd, the tow bar pops off the truck's ball. I slowly stop as Tuddie bounces off the truck's bumper. Well being in the middle of the road, I ignore any damage and put the tow bar back on the hitch and start up. Something's wrong; stop, one of the bolts attaching the towbar to the TD has pulled out. Disconnect the towbar. Push the TD off the road? No. Behind us is Russ Ripp with a tow rope. Around the front cross member and over the tow hitch ball and off we go with

me in the TD and Josh driving the truck. I am riding the brakes to ensure no more bouncing off of trucks.

Well assessing the damage...one front fender major denting, other front fender minor denting. No use worrying about the damage; let's get this car operating. We try a booster pack, we try a charger, we check with a voltmeter, we go to Advance Auto and get a new battery. While battery assessing, Frank Linse notices that the intake manifold is loose. Loose manifold, pull in pure air, not air-gas mixture through the carburetors, car not start because not enough gas for ignition? Tighten three manifold bolts. What about the fourth...cannot tighten what is not there. Hopefully three will make the manifold tight enough.

Hook up battery. Car starts instantly when I pull on the starter cable. So loose manifold, then bad battery, then dented fenders. Oh well, lets now attack the minor ailment list. Choke cable very hard to pull. Craig Cummings helps me shorten the cable but still it is hard to pull. Notice that the fuel line that goes from one carb to the other carb rests on the carb linkage. Maybe this is causing the tightness. Stretch the fuel line a little by turning the carb float chamber cover. Well, now the fuel line leaks. The Ts have rubber fuel lines covered with a flexible metal weave. After wasting time trying to fix the fuel line; cut off the ends, and, after back to Advance Auto for new rubber tubing and clamps, a reconstructed line, routed over the intake manifold (so does not interfere with the choking, and no leaks.

So the minor ailment list was reduced by one: a hard-pulling choke cable. When's the next tech session?

Drove Tuddie home followed by Josh and Evan in the truck. Car ran fine. Evan runs into the house and tells Nonna (Cynthia) that he has some good news and some bad news. He tells her the good news that Tuddie is running fine and then turns to me to announce the bad news: Tuddie has some new dimples.

Thanks to Sue and Terry Bond for hosting another fine MG function. Thanks also to Terry for providing the first item in Evan's spark plug collection.



A bevy of hungry MG mechanics



Charming Tech Session Leader

Lynchburg Drive – Day One

(from Mike Haag)

Just when we thought our driving season was over, Tad came through for us and arranged a great weekend getaway in our MGs. A leisurely drive westward over lightly travelled roads, a winery stop (of course!) and viewing a car collection in Lynchburg, with an overnight stay in the historic district was the plan, returning on Sunday after stopping at Appomattox Courthouse. Even a little rain on Saturday didn't dampen our spirits, although a couple of MGs got a little wet inside, along with the some shoes and socks! Thanks to member Bill Cochran for arranging a visit to the private car collection of Mark J. Smith, a collector car enthusiast and dealer who he bought his MGA from earlier.

Our group of nine MGs and one Toyota support vehicle left the Waffle House on Portsmouth Blvd at exactly 8:02 AM as Tad predicted, according to the clock in my MGB. We made a relaxed drive up Rt. 460 to Waverly to meet up with Bob & Missy McKenna at the McDonalds, and from there headed west on Rt. 40. Route 40 is one of those old two-lane roads that traverses the state and is a great alternative to busier roads, if you're not in a hurry to get somewhere. After crossing I-95, we ran into a light mist, and by the time we crossed over I-85, the mist had turned into a steady, light rain. Thankfully it wasn't as bad as some of the weather forecasters had predicted, and basically ended when we got on Rt. 460 again east of Blackstone, with only a light shower or two the rest of the afternoon. After a pit-stop in Crewe for gas and the loo, we were soon heading down Rt. 360, where we got off at the Keysville exit to pick up Rt. 40 again, heading for our first stop, Sans Soucy Vineyards for a wine tasting and lunch.

Sans Soucy was one of our stops on a previous winery tour and we all enjoyed it. Denise and I had also stopped by there this past August while visiting family nearby. The owner is very entertaining, not only with describing the various wines they produce, but also talking about some of his many adventures during his career as a Marine Corps officer. Lunch consisted of a salad and cheese and crackers provided by Tad and others, along with wood-fired pizzas purchased at the winery. While we all enjoyed the wine and food and would have liked to have spent more time there, we had to an appointment at 1400 to view the car collection, so back in the MGs we went.

Taking more back roads until we got to Lynchburg, our destination was an old bottling company building in the historic riverfront area. Here we met up with Mark Smith to view his collection of mostly British cars in this location. Yes, he has several locations of cars! From MG TCs to MGBs, with a couple of Austin Healeys, Jaguars, a Rolls Royce, and even a couple of Italians thrown into the mix, it was quite the collection. A smattering of engines, race cars and other old automobilia added to the eclectic mix. After spending an hour or so there, we headed to his other collection several blocks away, housed in an old car dealership in a historic building dating back to 1899. Some of us discovered this collection several years ago on the Winery Tour to Lynchburg, but we were only able to peer through the windows at the time. What a great collection of American automotive history this is, spanning the early 1900's to the mid-1950's, with a lot of automobile memorabilia on display as well! The main showroom displayed a couple of mid-50's Fords and Mercury's, along with an Austin America and three very early cars from 1907, including a Packard, a Ford, and a White. All RHD! In the large back room there were a few more Fords, along with Packards, Studebakers, a DeSoto taxi cab from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", and many other interesting, eclectic cars and memorabilia. In the basement was a huge treasure trove of Ford Model T's. Although we all admired what we saw down there, only Terry Bond could truly appreciate the magnitude of it all. Terry even pointed out a Model N along the back wall, a predecessor to the Model T. After a couple of hours it was time for us all to leave and close up the candy store!

Our accommodations for the evening were at the Holiday Inn Downtown, which even had covered parking for our MGs. A good meal was had at the {RA} Bistro, including liquid libations and lively conversation. Even Bernie Imdahl and friend were there to join us. A great way to cap an enjoyable MG day.

Lynchburg – Part 2 (from Terry Bond)

The chance to sleep in on Sunday was welcome. A few early AM risers ventured out for a self-guided walking-tour of the downtown area, and somehow managed to climb the steps of Monument Terrace to the Courthouse to enjoy the spectacular view. It was also a chance to check vital fluids (in addition to coffee for the soul and motor oil and petrol for the cars). A little bit of wiping things down was in order as well, since we managed to pick up a little road-grime in Saturday's rains.

Although the morning was a little cooler, a large contingent still elected to walk to our selected restaurant. The White Hart was already busy, and we enjoyed the super casual atmosphere, relatively quick service and solid breakfast. A nice chance for a leisurely visit and slow wake-up was much appreciated. We learned that Russ had managed to actually "open" an antique shop too. Seems that while walking past a closed shop, the owner was noted unloading an antique piece that matched something Russ had been looking for. So, before the guy ever had a chance fully unload it, Russ had made the purchase and arranged for delivery to the Tidewater area. Rose and Don Ladd thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of this take place, as it's pretty well know they seldom pass up a good antique store.

We departed Lynchburg right on schedule and navigated more great back roads back towards the coast, with a stop along the way at Appomattox Courthouse to soak up a little history. It had been several years since we visited, and in the interim they have added considerably to the visitor's center. It was an enjoyable visit, with plenty of fresh air available as we wandered around to the several restored buildings on site. It was a much nicer day for wandering around outdoors, but jackets were broken out for the first time this season for us.

The road home that Tad selected was a good stretch of Route 40 to Blackstone, then route 40 connecting with 460, where a simple right turn led us to the Virginia Diner. Although the crowd had begun to taper off, and fading daylight made it feel later than it actually was, several MGs-full enjoyed a nice dinner and another chance to visit. We lingered a while, then hit the trail for home, but not before snapping a great photo of the Virginia Diner at night, their sign reflected in the rooftop of our GT.

It was a great weekend and, as Susan says, Tad, we'll follow you anywhere!



Drinking and Old Cars

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner.

The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?"

"No, I had to stop drinking years ago," the homeless man replied.

"Will you spend this on old car parts instead of food?" the man asked.

"Are you NUTS!" replied the homeless man. "I haven't had an old car in 20 years!"

"Well," said the man, "I'm not going to give you money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a shower and a terrific dinner cooked by my wife."

The homeless man was astounded. "Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that?"

The man replied, "That's okay. It's important for her to see what happens to a man after he has given up drinking and restoring old cars "

courtesy of Mike Ash

TMGC Officers

President	Robert Perrone	574-3233
Vice President	Tad Carter	496-9847
Secretary	Bruce Easley	570-2042
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Kathy & Mark Davidoski	499-4647
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
Webmaster	Mike Haag	mikehmg@cox.net
Regalia	David Kinsey	233-0029

(Our complaint lines are always open!)



Holiday Party

6:30PM - Friday, December 11, 2015

Hosted by Betty & Jim Villers

3133 Inlet Road, Virginia Beach

Join us as we close out another driving season and celebrate the holidays.

We invite you to bring a favorite dish to share - a "Finger Food Dinner Party".

Add to the festivities by wearing a holiday ornament or decoration.

Help support our charity contribution to Samaritan House.



RSVP by Sunday, December 5th

BettyV@cox.net or 757-481-6398



TECH TIP

Fitting a new master cylinder to a MGB

Two weeks ago I decided to fit a new master cylinder to my 74 MGB. Although this is not a difficult job, it does involve time and working with old pipe work that may need tender care. After fitting the new cylinder, I then tried to bleed the brakes and found I could not get any fluid from the back brake cylinders. I then went to the new master cylinder, removed the pipe to the back brakes, and could not get any fluid from the new cylinder. Since I live only an hour away from Moss parts, I took the cylinder back for replacement. However, in the trunk of my car I had with me an aluminum pan, some brake fluid, and some old rags to test the replacement cylinder before I left.

My tip is, if you are going to replace the master cylinder, put the new one in the vice and put a drop of fluid in the front and back areas of the reservoir, and test it. It will save you a lot of time and work if the new one turns out to be bad.

Courtesy of Robin Watson





The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

4705 Little John Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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