



# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

[www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org)

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## Activities – February 2016

As we work our way into 2016, we begin by celebrating the big round anniversaries for several of our vehicles. As always, age before beauty...

Introduced for 1956 model year, the MGA roadster replaced the aging T-Series cars. Powered by a 68 horsepower 1,489cc overhead valve engine mated to a four-speed manual transmission it featured, independent front suspension, rack-and-pinion steering and a solid rear axle with leaf springs. Braking was by hydraulic drums at all corners. The MGA design dates back to 1951, when MG designer Syd Enever created a streamlined body for George Philips' TD LeMans car. The problem with this car was the high seating position of the driver because of the limitations of using the TD chassis. A new chassis was designed with the side members further apart and the floor attached to the bottom rather than the top of the frame sections. A prototype was built and shown to the BMC chairman Leonard Lord. He turned down the idea of producing the new car as he had just signed a deal with Donald Healey to produce Austin-Healey cars two weeks before. Falling sales of the traditional MG models caused a change of heart, and the car, initially to be called the UA-series, was brought back. As it was so different from the older MG models it was called the MGA, the "first of a new line" to quote the contemporary advertising. Sales in the first full year (1956) were 13,394.

Where have I seen one? It was a yellow 1956 MGA that was driven by Greg Marmalard in *Animal House*. Later models of the "A" were driven on screen by Elvis (*Blue Hawaii*) and Tom Selleck (*Daughters of Satan*). Oh, yeah - you have also seen '56 A's driven by Rich Hildreth and Fred McCall. Happy 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary to your cars!

Alrighty then – our first outing for 2016 is coming up quickly on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. **You may have noticed the promo in January's Dipstick.** We venture southward into North Carolina with a visit to Edenton for brunch at The Table at Inner Banks, followed by a run out to Scotland Neck and a tour of the Sylvan Heights Bird Park.

You got an overview in the last Dipstick, but as an added tease, the waterfowl should be in full plumage at this time of year, so that tour should be a treat. **There is still a little time to sign up, but I really need to hear from you by Wednesday's meeting to make sure both the restaurant and the tour guides can handle our group properly.** Plan on a 9:29am departure from Waffle House – Portsmouth Blvd. The rest of the details will be sent about a week prior to the drive.



What else do you need to know right now? Save the date for our March event - our third annual Tidewater Brew Cruise – on Saturday, March 12th. We'll be back on the Southside in 2016, starting with a mid-day visit to Wharf Hill Brewing in Smithfield. Wharf Hill has been at the heart of Smithfield since 1750, with the courthouse built in 1750 and the inn built in 1752. During segregation, Wharf Hill was the center of the black business district. The building

that houses Wharf Hill Brewing was built in 1906 and has served as an inn, a pool hall, a dentist's office, a barber shop and an undertaker's shop. As you look around, you'll find other historic elements of the area. For lunch, you'll find a nice selection of sandwiches, larger dishes, and a chicken pot pie that will make you want to smack your mama. And you'll also find an assortment of beers to choose from, including Isle of Wheat, Outage IPA and a seasonal offering from Wharf Hill, plus many more.

From there, it's a backroads excursion, skirting the Great Dismal Swamp and ending at Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake. What started with a Mr. Beer kit left by Santa, has evolved into the 2015 opening of Chesapeake's first brewery. And what about the name? It pays homage to a big ugly Chevy panel truck owned by one of the owners.

This is a show-and-go event, so read your March Dipstick for a time and place to meet. However, if you would like to let me know, I can give a more solid headcount to our hosts.

Last but not least for event updates is the National Convention from June 13-17 in Louisville. A group of travelers is taking a couple of days on either side of the show to explore scenic routes between here and there. If you are interested in traveling as part of that group, please let me know. There is still room in our hotel block for both the outbound and return trips.

**SCHEDULE UPDATE** – Our February meeting will be held on Wednesday 2/3 instead of as originally scheduled. We try to accommodate our hosts since they have the key to the house. Come on out to Pete Olson's in Virginia Beach as we celebrate the last Wednesday of the Mardi Gras season. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Enjoy the ride!** *Tad Carter*



## This Kit Will Be a Hit

In a press release dated *April 1*, Chrome 2 Black, Ltd announced that they are releasing a new and eagerly-anticipated kit to convert unsightly chrome bumper MGBs to the more recent and distinctive "rubber" bumper specification.

*This Could Be on Your MGB*

Chrome 2 Black spokesman *Mickey Taken* said "We have heard the demand from chrome bumper MGB owners and we've developed the new C2B-MGB kit of parts to easily convert their cars over to the look of the newer black bumper models. The kit will allow a competent home mechanic to perform the conversion over a week-end".

According to the press release, the kit will include taller springs, additional bumper mounting brackets, turn signal conversion wiring, black mesh grille along with the stylish black bumpers.

The press release went on to say that chrome bumper MGB owners could expect many benefits by converting, some of which include:

- Increased ride height, better to see and be seen
- Less chrome to polish - a bit of Armorall and you're ready for the concours class
- Cornering will be more fun with greater body roll
- The rear bumper is a convenient seat at car shows and cruise-ins

Spokesman Taken said that the firm expects to be in full production for deliveries commencing in approximately 12 months. He also mentioned that Chrome 2 Black, Ltd is considering a rubber bumper conversion kit for early MG Midgets. "We expect strong demand from Mark II Austin Healey Sprite owners, too. After all, they were completely left out of the black bumper era".

*(Courtesy of Bruce Easley.....)*

## Dipstick Calendar – February - 2016

**Feb. 3 – Wednesday - Monthly Meeting  
Mardi Gras in VB – Hosted by Pete Olson**

**Feb. 14 – Sunday – Sylvan Heights Bird Park,  
Scotland Neck, NC  
Table at Inner Banks, Edenton, NC**

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

Apr. 9 – Williamsburg British Car Show

**Apr. 24 - Tech Session in Norfolk  
Hosted by Frank Linse**

**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 in VB  
Hosted by Issie and Bill Yoshida  
Membership Renewal Meeting**

June 12-18 – MG2016 - All Registers  
Louisville, KY  
(Includes out travel dates)

**July Meeting – Date and Location – TBD**

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

**Aug. 7 – Summer Tech Session in Chesapeake  
Hosted by Jim Freeh**

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



# Marque Time

Well, I don't know about the rest of you but I'm already sick of cold weather. And this, of course, is coming from someone who grew up in upstate New York in the Adirondack Mountains. I really shouldn't be complaining too much because currently the temperature is 12° in my old hometown of Gloversville, and the other night it was a "balmy" -2°!

Still, right now the official temperature in Virginia Beach is 28° and the overnight low may be as cold as 16°. The other day when I stopped over to Frank Linse's house I was driving through snow flurries in mid-afternoon!

So this is really not great LBC weather, to say the least. But I have noticed the sun setting a little later which is a sure sign that spring is on its way.

Of course, being a baseball fan, I also noticed that Major League Baseball spring training starts in less than a month from today, when pitchers and catchers report to camp on February 17. Seeing a spring training game always meant more to me than even seeing my first robin of the spring. Before you know it Tad will be letting us know when to sign up for our first TMGC game and we'll be cheering on the Tides at Harbor Park (even if they do have a new logo that was not greeted with much enthusiasm)

Our January meeting was very well attended, which is typical when we are at Frankie's. As usual, everyone enjoyed some great food and a good time was had by all. And if that weren't enough, it was good to see what kind of people make up our club. What I am referring to is Donald Ladd's remarks regarding how much he and Rose appreciated the help they received from some TMGC members after their recent surgeries. We really do have some very fine people in our club.

The February meeting will be at Pete Olson's house, which I hope will be equally well attended. Pete always does a fine job of hosting for those of you who haven't stopped by. After that, things will really start to pick up again in the spring with plenty of drives, a Tech Session and the ever-popular Wine Tour.

As I mentioned last month, I need to get my own car in shape. I did manage to pick up another engine, which hopefully will allow me to still drive the MGB while I rebuild my original engine. (Great plans, for sure, but you know how that usually goes...) Let's hope they actually work out or I may be driving the old Bugeye more than I planned!

*Safety Fast,*  
Robert







## January 6, 2016 TMGCC Meeting Minutes

The Tidewater MG Car Club convened at fantastic Frankie's Place for Ribs in the traditional January style – early and hungry. We had a good crowd, filling all the available tables in the meeting room. After sating ourselves on ribs, burgers, salads, and what-have-you, our illustrious Prez, Robert Perrone, opened the meeting with an awesome display of power, swinging the gavel like he knew what he was doing. (He does).

First question: are there any new members or guests? One gentlemen, “Tom”, confessed he was there as a guest to “check out the group”. Welcome!! The December meeting minutes were then voted as approved.

Our VP and Activities Director, Tad Carter, first gave his VP report, noting that our Holiday contribution to Samaritan House as a group was \$500.00. He then proceeded in his Activities persona to describe the upcoming events. A Valentines' Day drive to Edenton, NC and lunch at a “farm to food” restaurant will be our next event. Please let Tad know if you plan to attend, so he can give some advance warning to the restaurant. After that, we're looking forward to a Brew Cruise, MG 2016 in Louisville, KY. **NOTE:** our February meeting will be Feb. 3 ( not Feb. 2), with a Mardi Gras theme at Pete Olson's.

Jim Villers' (again this year's Pecuniary Poobah) reported that after income and expenses, the Club has \$2026.76 in the treasury. Historian Susan Bond reminded the group that she has multiple picture albums of the club's history available for viewing. As usual, she was busy doing her photodocumentation of the meeting. The famous Bill Yoshida reported on our membership status, noting that we are holding steady at 120 memberships at the current time. Dipstick Editor Mark Davidoski described a slight omission in the December minutes as they appeared in the dipstick. Thanks, Mark, but we still think you do a fabulous job and want to keep you! Mark reminded the group that Dipstick articles are due to him and Kathy by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Be sure you get back a confirmation of a submittal, to be sure it wasn't misrouted.

Regalia Director David Kinsey described the MG logo blankets, jackets, etc. that he has available for sale, along with items from the catalog, and announced he still has some tickets available for the night's raffles.

Old business – none. New business – Secretary Bruce Easley reported that he will not be able to attend the February meeting and asked for a volunteer to take minutes at that meeting. Cynthia Faschini graciously volunteered.

Marque Tyme: Bill Yoshida shared that he recently saw a 1937 Jaguar replica which apparently is being included as an item in the sale of a house, but could be available separately. Contact Bill with any questions. Donald Ladd thanked the members who had come by and helped with work and brought food while he and Rose were incapacitated after surgeries.

Raffle: the plethora of prizes included a polar bear, coke glasses, Nascar glasses, a 1969 MGB roadster luggage rack, plus the 50/50 cash payout. David also announced that club name tags are available for Ali Calvert, Tina Pittman, Jason Miller and Ira Brice. Meeting adjourned!!



**Dear Fellow Club Members & Past Participants,**

***17th Annual 2016 Williamsburg British & European Car Show***

Open the 2016 car show season and visit beautiful Colonial Williamsburg Virginia for the 17th Annual Williamsburg British Car Club British and European Car Show at Chickahominy Riverfront Park next to the intersection of the James and Chickahominy Rivers. Camping available thru James City County.

Registration form on our website. Featured marque is the Morgan 4/4, 4-4 & 4+ to commemorate the introduction of the Morgan 4 wheeler in 1936.

Would you include in your events calendar and pass onto your members the following information about our 2016 annual British and European Car Show.

The Williamsburg British Car Club 17th Annual British and European Car Show on April 9th, 2016(Sat) at Chickahominy Riverfront Park 1350 John Tyler Highway(Rt5) Williamsburg, VA 23185 web site - <http://www.wmbgbrit.com/> registration form on website-\$20\* pre-registration now thru April 1st, \$25 day of show



**\*You can also pay via PayPal to [rggavpbl@yahoo.com](mailto:rggavpbl@yahoo.com) contact – Roy Gavilan [wbccregister@outlook.com](mailto:wbccregister@outlook.com) 757-637-5902**

Thanks, Roy Gavilan - Registration

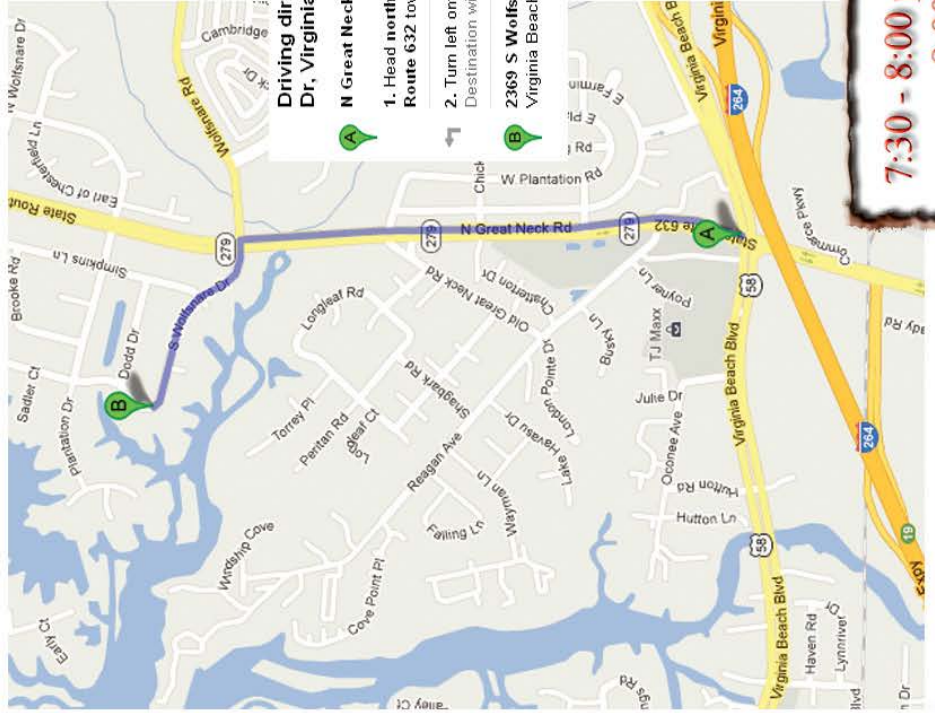
April 9th - The Williamsburg British Car Club 17th Annual British and European Car Show at the Chickahominy Riverfront Park 1350 John Tyler Highway(Rt5) Williamsburg, VA 23185 Phone: 757-637-5902. Hours 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday. Awards at 2 PM. Admission is \$25 at show, \$20 pre-registration due April 1st, spectators free. Come out and see over 150 British & European vehicles on display, automotive & food vendors, door prizes, 50-50 charity raffle. For more information contact Roy Gavilan at [wbccregister@outlook.com](mailto:wbccregister@outlook.com) or call 757-637-5902. Website for the show is <http://www.wmbgbrit.com/>

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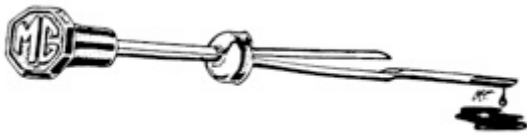
***Do you have an idea for a Dipstick feature story?  
Do you have a complaint about lack of coverage of YOUR MG?  
Just want to talk?  
Then contact the Dipstick Editors at: [davidoskicrew@cox.net](mailto:davidoskicrew@cox.net) or call 757-499-4647***



**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Feb 3rd**  
**Pete Olson's**  
**2369 South**  
**WolfSnare Dr.**  
**Virginia Beach**  
**658-9700**



**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*



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