



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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Wine Tour XIV team photo (more on page 8)

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June Activities

Well, I guess that does it. There are no more anniversary cars to celebrate until 2017, so what to do, what to do, what to do? How can we possibly fill up all that space in The Dipstick? How about some activities?

We open up the month of June with our **Dessert Drives**. On Wednesday the 1st, we take off at 6:30 from the old Yorktown Visitors Center. Keep in mind that the building will be locked at that time, so the restrooms will be unavailable. If you are in need, there are indoor facilities at the parking lot at the Yorktown waterfront. We'll head out on Colonial Parkway – destination Colonial Williamsburg. There are multiple options for a sweet treat. There is always the Trellis and their legendary selection of goodies. I keep trying to get Mad About Chocolate to stay open late for us. This is run by the Desaulniers (formerly of The Trellis), and is a great spot for a lite lunch and a hearty dessert just a few blocks from DOG Street. If you are there in winter, get the hot chocolate. You can thank me later. If only they were

open in the evenings. Optionally, there is Ben & Jerry's, but even those old hippies are going commercial on us. So here's the plan. A block off DOG Street and a block from parking are two shops: Aroma's Coffee, Bakery and Café, and Kilwin's. You'll find an assortment of baked goodies at Aroma's, and ice cream, fudge and more at Kilwin's. From there, it is a leisurely stroll around Merchants Square before we head for home. Obviously, I am anticipating different weather than we have seen the last 3 years on this drive.

On Thursday the 2nd, it's a 6:30 departure from the Harris Teeter on Nimmo Parkway by the VA Beach city offices. From there we will explore more of the twisty roads below the green line. Believe it or not, there are a few we have yet to travel. Then again, there may be a reason for that. Anyway, even with the demise of Handel's and a general lack of non-chain options, there are still a few to consider. One option, Pungo Pizza and Ice Cream is family-owned and operated, and has been a fixture in the area since 1998. Pies, cakes, ice cream, Cinnamon Knots – what's not to like? Then there is Rigoletto's in the Red Mill area. When I asked about their dessert options, I was told that the selection changes daily. There are about 100 different options that may appear on the menu. No wonder Guy Fieri included them in a 2011 show. So where will we end up? For tonight, it is Rigoletto's – you had me at DDD.

It was Horace Greeley who said "Go west, young man." In honor of his 205th birthday (plus 100 days), we turn our attention to the Road to Louisville and **MG2016**. Show registration stands at 735 as I write this, including a contingent of 10 from Tidewater. Along the way, we will enjoy scenic roads, an eclectic mix of restaurants, Churchill Downs, older antique cars than the ones we drive, maybe a whiff or two of Kentucky Bourbon, and a few more scenic roads. For those joining the convoy, welcome aboard. For those traveling vicariously, I hope you enjoy the write-ups and the pictures that will surely be in a future edition of The Dipstick, at MG.org or out on the Internets at The Facebook.



And after a week on the road, what better than an evening with the Norfolk Tides. We are together again for **Turn Back the Clock** night (**Tuesday, 6/21**) at Harbor Park. D-day is D-day for getting tickets in our block. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the 23 who have already signed up. First pitch is at 7:05. First draft will probably happen a little earlier.

And last, but not least, sign-up is under way for our annual trip to Hanover Tavern and the **Virginia Repertory Theatre**. This year's trip is on **Sunday, August 21st** for a performance of Neil Simon's Brighton Beach Memoirs. Set in the 1930's, the story is Simon's semi-biographical story of growing up in Brooklyn. As Jack (the father) says, "If you didn't have a problem, you wouldn't be living here." Tickets are \$29. We have 4 seats remaining.

On Tuesday, June 7th, we all meet again at Issie and Bill's in Virginia Beach. It is membership renewal time for most of us. I hope we have put together a varied enough slate of activities, meeting sites and Tech Sessions to warrant your further support. We still hope to make the trip out to Sylvan Heights Bird Park later this year. I think our Valentine's Day attempt was the only time we have been "weathered" out in recent years. There are also plans in the works for the 2017 Spring and Fall Tours, a special celestial event for Summer'17, and more. As always, I welcome your ideas on new things to do. I look forward to seeing you at the Yoshida's in June.

Tad Carter

Dipstick Calendar – June 2016

Saturdays – Cars & Coffee
Classic Motor Museum
102 E Marengo St, St. Michaels, MD
9am-11am

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 our travel dates)

June 21 – Tuesday - Norfolk Tides – 7:05 1st Pitch
Turn-Back-The-Clock Night
(tickets available up to 6/6/16 @ \$12/)

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
(10 seats available @ \$29/)

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

Sep. 15 – 18 – Drive the Crooked Road Fall Tour

Sep. 24 – AACA Wings and Wheels, Pungo Airfield

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

Apr. 28 – 30 (tentative dates) Virginia Spring?
Tour XV

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

Oct. 5 – 8 (tentative dates) Fall Tour - Virginia
Waterfalls

Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events



Marque Time

The longer I am a member of TMGC, the more I appreciate the people that make up this club. During the past few weeks I have been working on preparations to finally get some work done on my MGB. I wanted to put a temporary replacement engine in my car while I rebuilt the original. I was able to locate another correct engine for my car, but had no way to pick it up.

But thanks to Frank Linse, I was able to get the engine (in Elizabeth City) and bring it right to my house. Mark Davidoski also helped make that happen, which made it all much easier. And another member was there to help too; that mysterious, generous individual (because he let me borrow his car for the Wine Tour), who shall once again be identified by his initials, B.E.R.N.I.E. I.M.D.A.H.L.

And along the way, I have had offers from more than 20 (yes, twenty) club members of parts, tools and general “hang-around-the-garage-and-get-greasy” help whenever I start the engine replacement project. What a great group!

Speaking of great groups, it was, in fact, another fine TMGC Wine Tour weekend this year, thanks to Alan and Beckey. And while I was writing this I noticed something. Almost everyone seems to say "Alan and Beckey" but I have no idea why. What about “Beckey and Alan” for once? OK, now I’m rambling...

But it may be because I'm still getting over the shock of Alan's announcement during the Wine Tour. While we were finishing up the weekend with prizes and other fun, Alan announced that this was the last time we would ever have a Wine Tour weekend. He mumbled something about it being a “...lot of work...” and he's “...not as young...” as he used to be (are any of us?) and “...yadayadayada...”, but I think it's because he's probably sick of having people follow him around in 15 or so funny little cars while he is trying to have a nice weekend away with his wife.

But take heart. He also announced that they would be starting a new tradition for a Spring drive, but it would not be centered around wineries. I can only hope for a “2017 TMGC Beer Tour” as the replacement. We can all dream...

So I hope that we'll all be able to join in all of the activities this summer. I might even be able to drive my own car again! See you at the next meeting, drive or other TMGC fun. Until then,

Safety Fast,
Robert

TMGCC Club May 4 2016 Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Bruce Easley

With a bash and a crash of the mighty President's Gavel, Robert Perrone called the meeting to order. He first gave a welcome to everyone and a "thanks" to our hosts, Andy and Cynthia, for providing the meeting location – "complete with lakeside parking". Robert inquired whether any new members or guests were present, and found that we had a new member, Dennis Hennessey, in attendance. Kerry Brunner from New York was back as a guest of Robert (and even admitted it). A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting was made and confirmed, with instructions from the Prez that whoever did not approve would automatically become the next secretary.

Our VP Tad Carter reminded the assemblage that our individual memberships in NAMGBR make the club an affiliate member, and insured as such for our events. Memberships also get you a 10% discount on Collector Car insurance through Hagerty, so keep those memberships up! He also cautioned the group that, with the good weather, there is increased traffic with bikes and motorcycles. A relative was recently involved with a wreck with a bike, so look out for them!

Our treasurer reported that after income and expenditures, the club has a balance of \$1301.96; Jim Villers is always available if you have questions regarding club finances. Membership chairperson Bill Yoshida reported that we have 121 paid memberships, plus three "promises", and thanked those who have paid in advance. Dues are due in June, and for some reason, there was so much hubbub and joking about

membership that the President had to regain order with the gavel.



Activities was the next topic; Tad made a "long distance thank you" to Alan and Becky Watson for coordinating another fantastic Wine Tour, and also thanked Frank and Deb Linse for hosting the recent Tech Session. Tad gave us a thorough rundown on what's in store for the near future, including British Car Week May 28-June5, and Dessert Drives June 1 and 2. See Tad's report for details. Next month's

meeting will be at the home of Bill and Issie Yoshida. June 21 will be the annual Tides baseball outing, with 23 people signed up as of the meeting. Tad has reserved a block of seats with excellent location, so contact him if you want to go. Also, our Barksdale Theater outing will be August 21, with 20 members signed up so far.

Dipstick Editor Mark Davidoski reminded that articles for the next Dipstick will be due on May 20. He shared a few special tidbits with the group, saying that during the Wine Tour Robert P destroyed antique furniture, we shared Drowsy Monk, and Russ tried to rebuild an MGB carburetor in a cutover corn field.

David Kinsey announced that he has four club name tags to give to members who ordered them, including Sam Kennedy and Frank Hurley. Let David know if you want yours. He also noted that there is a new raceway opening near Richmond, named Thornberg Raceway, and they are looking for vintage cars for the opening day. Contact him or them if you're interested.



Old business – “No, just old people.” New business – Tad still needs a location for the July 6 meeting, and a discussion of possibilities ensued. Let Tad know if you can provide a location. Marque Tyme – Robert mentioned that Charlie Jessup in Elizabeth City, NC has a '52 MGTD in boxes he may relinquish, plus MGB engines and gear boxes. He will be sending info to Robert. Terry Bond noted that Ira Canton passed away; he had an MGA which he raced, and a TC as well. Jim Villers stated he had seen a black MGA coupe at Browning's, in for electrical work. Bill “the Stalker” Yoshida will follow up, and suggested that people print out a “new member” form from the website and put it on the windshield of MGs that members may come across. Andy inquired of Russ what the diagnosis was on his recent B problem; Russ got a loaner distributor and carburetor from another member, and is still working on it. Donald Ladd announced he had done a disc brake conversion on his MGB rear wheels, and that it was easy and cost under \$300. John Tershak has a 280Z transmission for sale (an overdrive retrofit for MGB), and has some MGA front fenders. He also knows of someone who has two MGB overdrives for sale, and can pick them up and bring them back from the Cleveland OH area. Bill Olcheski thanked everyone who contributed to the walk and fundraiser for ALS on behalf of his daughter. Their target was \$1,000 and over \$3,000 was raised.

For our raffle prizes for the evening, David Kinsey had the traditional “first in line for food”, a plaque for filling a dash radio space, and \$22 from the 50/50 split tickets. Tad was the big \$ winner! Cynthia then announced the night's dishware recycle program and described the delectable menu for the evening's repast. Meeting adjourned!



MGA in the Barn

By Bob Stein

The term 'barn-find' is so overused these days it makes me cringe when I see it. However, when MGs are involved, it is always worth a look. So when Richard Hall called last month to let me know he'd been alerted to some 'barn find' MGs in Chesapeake, I had to take a look.

A good-sized group of TMGC members showed up for the excavation. There were four vehicles parked in three different buildings: A 1952 MG TD, a 1956 Ford Club Sedan, a 1958 MGA, and a 1974 Chevy Suburban. Both MGs were partially disassembled, with parts scattered not only through the storage buildings, but also in the house. Unfortunately, the owner had passed away more than a year earlier, and his daughter had no idea what parts were there or where they might be.

The MGA looked pretty decent under the grime and boxes. The hood was off, but present, and the engine bay looked complete. We couldn't get the engine to turn by hand, no surprise since it had been parked in 1985. However, one major discovery was a completely restored 1800 engine set up to go in the MGA, and part of the package. The body was solid and straight except for a rotten left rear fender dogleg, and I found a repaired fender hiding behind the Suburban. Searching the house turned up a new top and seat covers, which was enough to spur an offer. I ended up getting the car and all related MGA parts for \$3800!



Diamond in the rough!

I was back a week later for a second excavation. With Jack Pavlidis' help we used my truck to pull the MGA out of the barn, which was a lot easier than expected thanks to the tires holding air. Many more parts turned up, including a new carpet kit and steering wheel, three transmissions, rear axle, and a spare gas tank. Another friend from the antique car club arranged to have the MGA flat-bedded to my driveway, where it was waiting when we got home with the parts.

It took two weeks to sort and store the parts so I could actually get to the MGA. The initial impressions looked to be correct – the body is very straight, and the frame looks to be solid – even the battery boxes are good. I was going to try a wrench on the main engine pulley, but gave it one more try by hand now that I had better leverage – it turned! A new battery got the engine spinning well and 20+ pounds of oil pressure on the gauge. The plan was to do a compression test and maybe pull the head to see what shape the block was in. However, a very knowledgeable MG buddy pointed out that the carbs were new replacements – currently running more than \$1500 a set. It seemed unlikely anyone would put that kind of money into a bad engine. So I rigged up an external pump pulling from a gas can and tried to start the car. Nothing. Power to the coil and the points – but no spark at the points, which had understandably corroded a bit. A few swipes of emery paper resulted in a healthy spark, and three pulls of the starter knob later the MGA sputtered to life! No smoke, no drama – and within a minute the car was running smooth and strong with 60 pounds of oil pressure.

That happy surprise was followed by another – the hydraulics, both brakes and clutch, appear to be rebuilt and fully functional. It seems that the MGA was not as ignored as we had thought the past three decades. I found receipts and bags for some brake and clutch parts, and the drums look to be cleaned and painted. As might be expected, my timetable for getting the MGA on the road has undergone a major jump forward. I got a set of five new tires last week and have scheduled someone to come look it over for a paint estimate. One thing for sure – I won't flinch the next time I hear the words 'Barn Find!' I'll have further reports as the MGA progresses.



Wine Tour XIV
April 29 – May 1st, 2016

Wine Tour XIV began with an 8:03 a.m. departure from the Lake Wright hotel. Nine MGs and crews (Bond, Carter, Davidoski, Haag, Ladd, Perrone, Ripp, Villers and Faschini - Wallach) formed the convoy to West Point, VA for the link up with the McKennas and Watsons. (The Easleys had joined along I-64 in an exciting running rendezvous.) Robin Watson made an appearance at the rally point, where he enjoyed chatting up the drivers plus John Moore, a Brit expat working on a nearby house renovation. At 1010 it was off to the Northern Neck via Port Royal, VA with a total of twelve MGs.

Entering historic Port Royal, we enjoyed a quick windshield of the original 18th century village before stopping for lunch at River Haven, on the Rappahannock River. After a relaxing lunch we commenced a backroad leg to our destination for the night: Stratford Hall. Along the way we encountered some enjoyable tertiary roads and noted some unique country signage. (Cow Pie Bingo! for instance.) We also spied two bald eagles at rest on some old pilings as we crossed Cat Point Creek. Our next watering hole was Caret Cellars, with many delicious rehydration options.

On arrival at Stratford Hall (ancestral home of the Lee family, near Montross, VA) we met up with Gary and Robin Tyer and their beautiful 230SL, as well as the elusive Bernie Imdahl (with high school classmate Mary) and Karen Carter, who arrived separately in her trusty Subaru Forester. Dinner was at the nearby Montross Inn. Then it was back to the Cheek House (our small hotel on the Stratford Hall estate) to unwind in the communal living room.



LBCs and crews at rest



Connoisseur at work

Day two dawned under overcast skies, but that's what convertible tops are for. We all started the day with an all-you-care-to-eat breakfast. Then Mark D let Bruce test drive his GT with its new negative camber A-arms (most excellent for cornering), with instructions to find the missing gas cap from the last petrol fillup – mission accomplished. Other happenings included Denise expressing her excitement (?) interest (?) in the local llams's call of nature. There were some hikes and drives to the beach and a few quick repairs to urge some the reluctant MGs. Bruce found the butterfly on his Weber had stuck closed...not good for motoring...but a quick, sharp rap fixed that. Donald had a broken alternator wire that required a quick trip to the local NAPA store. Moral – there ain't much that this crew can't fix on the road!

A tour of Stratford Hall, home of the Virginia Lees was next on the agenda. Quite a place! Lots of history! Then off to lunch at "The Art of Coffee". Totally cool, with good food, great coffee, plus artsy artifacts that adorned the walls of this converted garage. You know it's a former garage when the loo is out back!

Next stop, Athena Winery, an international award-winner. The group was treated to a great descriptions of "how it's made," and a great tasting which prompted a number of bottles going home with the crew. One sad note – Robert was sitting on an antique chair and got rambunctious. He broke it! Oh no! However, once again the famous Perrone charm smoothed it all over. Whew!

After a full day, what's better than good friends, good conversation, pizza, and favorite beverages? The group gathered in the Main Room at the Stratford Hall facilities and had a great time telling stories of this day and past days. Nothing sacred here. Special thanks to Betty and others for contributing hors d'oeuvres as always, plus sharing the legendary DROWSY MONK. Thanks too to Donald and Jim for their efforts in getting a group picture. The comedians and jokesters really came out at this time, and everyone had some choice witticisms about the picture and the cars. Okay, we survived a few cramped knees and strained backs to make the picture happen, but we did it! BTW, what happens at Stratford Hall stays at Stratford Hall. A fantastic day was had by all. A light rain formed the backdrop for a restful night's sleep.....



(Country car repairs and the scene that inspired us!)

After Sunday breakfast it was off to historic Menokin in more light rain. Along the way Russ Ripp's MGB began to randomly display visible flames from the tailpipe. Most of the group continued to Menokin while three cars remained with Russ to troubleshoot in the Rappahannock Baptist Church parking lot (with 9:00 a.m. services in progress.) While Russ made adjustments, a thoughtful member of the congregation came out to offer coffee. (She then realized that we were the visiting British Car Club that she'd heard of on Facebook – a small world!)

Underway again, Russ made it as far as a cut over farmer's field somewhere near Newland, VA. More adjustments were necessary before the stragglers made it to Menokin to rejoin the group. (Russ later determined that his problem was terminal, so he left the car overnight and retrieved it the next day with a tow dolly.)

The Menokin tour was fascinating as our **Sunday morning** volunteer docents Alice and Christina filled us in on the remarkable effort underway to preserve this historic site for posterity. The unusual wine cellar was of particular interest to the Wine Tour XIV crowd. Be sure to visit them in person or at www.menokin.org



Menokin Historic Site

From Menokin it was off to New Kent Courthouse for lunch at the Rose & Crown. The beer distributor had recently gone missing, but our server managed to soothe the crowd with Coors, "the darkest beer we have!" The rain was beginning to thin out as we departed for home. As Kathy and Mark pulled into the driveway, the sun had broken out and the odometer showed 499 miles elapsed. Fuel consumption was a below-average 20 MPG, and oil consumption was high. Plug #2 was completely fouled, with previous reports of tailpipe smoke from clubmates. (More to follow!) Our thanks go out to Beckey and Alan Watson for pulling off another superlative tour, which as it turns out

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:



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C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

4705 Little John Road

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