



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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February 2017



FRANKIE’S!!!! Our New Year January meeting is traditionally at the much-beloved establishment of Frankie’s Place for Ribs, and is always a good turnout. President Robert “Road Warrior” Perrone began the meeting with a Happy New Year wish to all the assembly, then moved on to business, such as the approval of the December 2016 meeting minutes. He then called upon Treasurer Jim Villers for the financial report. Our balance brought forward from November 2016 was \$2,451.98. Income from dues and regalia was \$100.00, and disbursements of \$198.50 for meeting expenses, directory mailing and Dipstick print-and-post brought our current balance to \$2,353.50. Please consider receiving your Dipstick and Directory electronically to save funds for the treasury.

Robert inquired whether there were any new members or guests present, and Jim Villers introduced his neighbor, Kirk Cizerly, who has an MGA. Our Historian, Susan Bond, was present and has plenty of club history and photo albums to share upon request. Membership Director Bill Yoshida announced that as of this meeting we had 114 paid members, with 180 cars. “Quiet winter” quoth he. Kirk and his wife Ashley became members at the meeting.

Dipstick co-editor Mark Davidoski noted that our award-winning newsletter “The Dipstick” is in its 44th consecutive year of publication and continues to be the premier MG-related newsletter in the Tidewater area! The most recent issue contained the second of a two-part article discussing braking and road prep by Mark Childers, and Mark D is open for suggestions or contributions for future editions in this famous periodical. He also requested that an attendee of our upcoming Brew Cruise on Feb. 11 submit a few paragraphs. As always, submittals are due by the 20th of the month.

Tad Carter in his guise as VP wished all of us a Happy New Year as well, then shared his New Year resolution: no more U-turns! (Some attendees noted that the occasional U-turn makes for a great photo-op). Then wearing his Activities Director hat, he thanked PJ and Faith Peterson for “setting a new standard for Christmas decorations” when they hosted our December holiday party. Their home was shown on Channel 3 TV news after Rose Ladd sent in a picture. Tad has activities schedule books available for members to receive tonight, and the fun begins in February with a three-brewery Brew Tour, followed by the March Antiques Drive (browsing and buying antiques, not just driving them), the Spring Tour, and other great times hatched from the brain of Mr. Carter. Our upcoming February meeting will be at the home of Eric Fee in Ocean View; please check the Dipstick for important parking directions.

David Kinsey announced that the club/member distribution for the 50/50 raffle would be \$42 each, and that he has name tags available for those who ordered them.

Old business: none. New business: PJ Peterson has forms available at this meeting for registration for the Williamsburg antique car show 4/22, and he informed us that MG is the Marque for this year’s show. Marque Tyme: nothing. Following the raffle and awarding of amazing prizes, the meeting adjourned.

Recorded by Bruce Easley

Frank Linse’s latest project...



....TMGC’s Midget population has been increased by 1!



Marque Time



I'll admit it. I have no idea what to write about this month. For one thing, I think that the cold weather has slowed my brain to a crawl. Not that most people would notice... As a matter of fact, I think those who know me best may actually appreciate it when this happens.

I spent Christmas week in upstate New York and I was hoping to come back to Virginia Beach and escape the freezing temperatures and snow and maybe even drive my LBC with the top down. And of course, you all know what I was greeted with after my first week back.

And on top of all of that, I'm also a little hesitant to write this month's installment of Marque Time. Well, I had some feedback (for lack of a better word) after the January Dipstick was published. I know that we can all learn from "constructive criticism" at times, but in this case I think I may be able to leave out the "constructive" part.

So, just for that, I'll treat you all to more of the same. And to those who may not care for my efforts to write something each month, as Jerry Seinfeld said "*If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.*"

This all may be too much stress for me. I went to my psychiatrist and he told me I was crazy and I said "I want a second opinion". He said "okay, you're ugly too".

Oh, all right, fine, that was Rodney Dangerfield, but it was still funny.

And with that I'll wait for the coming Springtime sun to warm my brain and hope that next month I'll write something worth reading. I know... we can only hope.

Safety Fast,
Robert

Activity Report – February 2017

** 2016 Clean-up – ForKids sent us a thank you note for our contribution of gift cards and gifts for the families they support. “Because of your giving spirit, our families have the support and supplies they need to eat their next meal and know where they will spend the night. Thank you for making sure ForKids’ kids have a reason to be thankful this holiday!”

As we open the year, it’s time to celebrate the big round anniversaries for our cars. We’ll start way back in 1937 with the MG VA. Produced from February 1937 to September 1939, this was the smallest of the trio of sports saloons from MG in that era. According to British Motor Magazine, top speed for the saloon was 76mph (122 km/h sounds so much faster), and the tourer, with the front windscreen folded, returned a top speed of 82mph (132km/h). The VA originally sold for £280 (tourer) to £350 (saloon). Just 2,407 of the VA were ever produced. You might have caught a glimpse of a VA in the 1972 Columbo episode *Etude in Black*. If not, you are in luck – another one lives right here in Tidewater with Jennifer and Mike Ash.

Moving forward a decade, we celebrate the 1947 MG TC. After several years of producing tanks, armored vehicles and airplane engines, Abingdon was finally able to get back to cars. Based on the pre-war MG TB, the only significant changes for the TC were an additional 4” across the seats, and sidescreens with flaps to allow hand signaling. Underneath, the suspension was modified to allow the use of rubber engine mounts and suspension bushes for a smoother, quieter ride. The MG TC sold exceptionally well in the US and is credited with starting the fad of the British sportscar in the states. One noted owner of a ’47 TC was the Duke of Edinburgh, prior to marrying then-Princess Elizabeth. Another noted owner of a ’47 TC is our own Hank Giffin.

Our final stop this month is in 1957 with the MGA. After nearly 2 decades off the racing circuit, MG announced in 1955 that it would again be competing at Le Mans with a new prototype, code-named EX-182. A successful debut led to the production of a long-awaited replacement for the MG TF and the MGA was born. Originally a 1500cc engine, this had been upgraded to a 1600cc engine by 1957. During its 7-year production run, over 101,000 cars were produced, making it the most popular sports car ever up to that time. If you paid close attention, you may have noticed an MGA in front of Spencer Tracey’s car in the drive-in movie scene in *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner*, or in front of Junior’s house in *Cool Runnings*. If you missed those, check in with JD Hawthorn, Bob Mason, or Mike Ash. Happy Anniversary to all these cars!



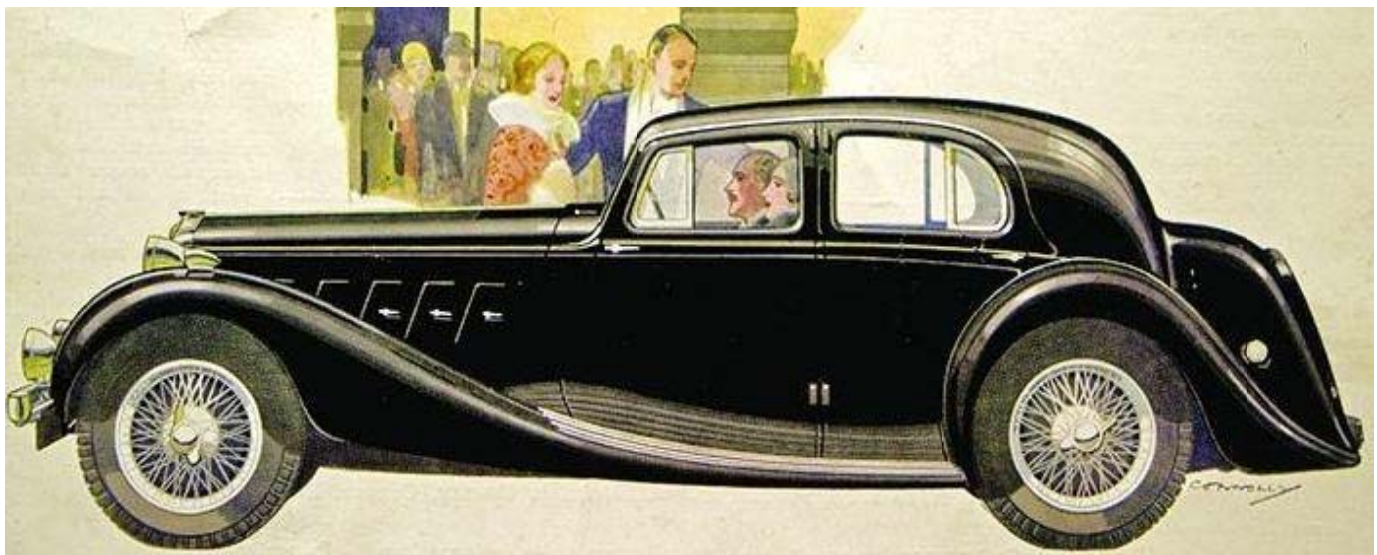
Now shake off the winter blues, start up your engines, and let's hit the road. We start on **February 11th** with the **Tidewater Brew Cruise**. Departing from Waffle House on Portsmouth Blvd in Chesapeake, we'll wander aimlessly until arriving in downtown Hampton and the Bull Island Brewing Company. They just opened in November 2016, and look forward to hosting our group. From there it's off to Deadrise at Ft. Monroe. Not yet 2 years old, this restaurant is gaining a reputation for tasty food and a great spot to catch sunsets. Oozlefinch Craft Brewery is the latest of the commercial ventures to call the Ft. Monroe peninsula home. Opening in September 2016, they are the largest of the brewers we will visit. At this writing, the last stop of the day is not confirmed, so you will just have to wait and see where we land. It will be helpful in confirming with the restaurant if we can give them a headcount. Please let me know if you will be joining us on this outing. As I watch the snow this afternoon, I am reminded that it is sometimes necessary to change plans, so having an attendance list will allow late notification of any updates.

Then on **March 11th**, we extend our travel range a little as we venture up to the Northern Neck in search of **Antique Treasures**. On other trips, the local antique shops seem to have piqued the interest of many travelers. So this time, that is our target. We'll hit a group of antique shops on our outbound leg, have lunch in Kilmarnock, and make a few more stops on the way home. Get your shopping done early. We'll have Show'n'Tell at lunch, with a prize for the grandest treasure. This will be a 9:02 departure from Lake Wright, with a return time in the evening, depending on where you live and how long we spend at the last stop. Estimated round-trip mileage from Lake Wright is 177. As always, it helps to know who to expect at the starting line, but if that's not your style, surprise us.

Our meeting schedule for 2017 is complete. Thank you to all who have volunteered to host a monthly meeting or a Tech Session. These are always the most attended events. Without your support, the club would not be the same.

Our February meeting is at Eric Fee's in Ocean View on Tuesday, 2/7. Eric has arranged with his neighbors to allow MG parking in the three contiguous driveways in front of his house. Otherwise, there is ample parking at the Ocean View Fishing Pier lot just a few hundred feet away. As always, we will kick tyres at 7:30, with the meeting following at 8:00. I look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, enjoy the ride! *Tad Carter*



Dipstick Calendar – February 2017

- Feb. 7 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Eric Fee in Ocean View
- Feb. 11 - (Sat) Tidewater Brew Cruise
- Mar. 1 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Betty and Jim Villers
- Mar. 11 - (Sat) Antique Treasure Hunt
- Apr. 4 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in Seaford
Hosted by Jayne and Bruce Easley
- Apr. 22 – Williamsburg British Car Club Show
- Apr. 23 (Sun) – Spring Tech Session
Hosted by Deb and Frank Linse
- Apr. 28 – 30 - Spring Tour XV – Shenandoah Valley
- May 3 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Hosted by Cynthia and Andy
- June 2 - 3 Moss MotorFest 2017 – Petersburg, VA
www.MossMotors.com
(TMGC – Battlefield Tour on Friday 6/2)
- June 6 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in VB
Hosted by Issie and Bill Yoshida
- June 19 – 23 – NAMGAR – GT-42, Solvang, CA
www.NAMGAR.org
- June 25 – 28 – NAMGBR – MG-2017, San Diego, CA
www.NAMGBR.org
- July 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting - TBD
- July 11 -15 - GOF-Central – Akron, OH
www.GOFentral.com
- Aug. – TBD – Summer Tech Session
- Aug. 1 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in Hampton
Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson
- Aug. 19 – 22, 2017 – SYZYG 2017 –
Journey to the Umbra

Membership Update February 2017

2017 Membership: As of 20 January there are 115 paid memberships.

Newest Members:

Kirk & Ashley Cizerle
Virginia Beach 23454
1959 MGA

Cars & Types: 175 of the following types of MGs:

MGA – 29 A Coupe – 2

MGB – 78 B-GT – 18

MGC – 1 C-GT – 4

TC – 7 TD – 20 TF- 4

Midget - 11

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



Tech Stuff: "On the Cheap" Pressure Tester

Materials

- \$3.99 Prestone Flush Kit (contains 1 / 2 5 / 8 and 3 / 4 " Tee fittings)
- Appropriate diameter good quality hose clamps 1 or 2 of each (there are some in the kit)
- 3 to 4 inches of the appropriate size hose that matches the easier to reach heater core inlet/outlet at the firewall, or waterpump, or cut the hose and make it permanent.
- 1 .453" hole size Tubeless Tire Valve .



Tools:

Drill , 1/8" & 1/2" drill bit (A step drill works best at drilling perfect holes in plastic)

A bit of medium grade sandpaper.

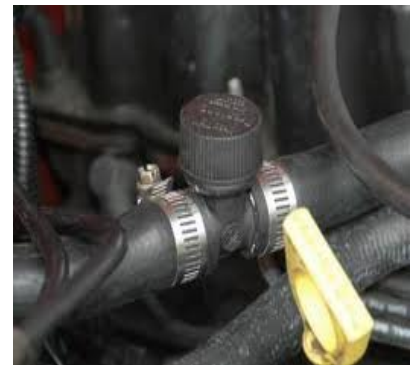
A hand pump, or a portable air tank regulated to 12-15 psi and a 0 to 30 psi tire gage

The build:

Locate the closure-cap in the Prestone Flush kit. Find the exact center of the cap and drill a 1/8" pilot hole followed by the 1/2" bit. Once the hole is drilled, clean and debur the hole wall. Some caps are smooth and flat, and some are embossed. If the top of your cap is embossed with a name, sand it flat to provide a good seal for the valve stem. If your valve core has a "fat" bottom sand it just enough for it to fit into the hole in the tee. You may need to trim the hose gasket a bit for a good seal or use a bit of silicone gasket maker to make a good seal. Take just enough off allow the gasket to seal tight against the tee and provide a good mechanical bond so as not to leak or blow off under pressure. Put a bit of vegetable oil on the valve to make it easier to slide thru the hole. If you don't have a valve core tool to help pull it thru, a 5/16" fine thread and a washer can be used to aid in pulling the stem thru the hole.

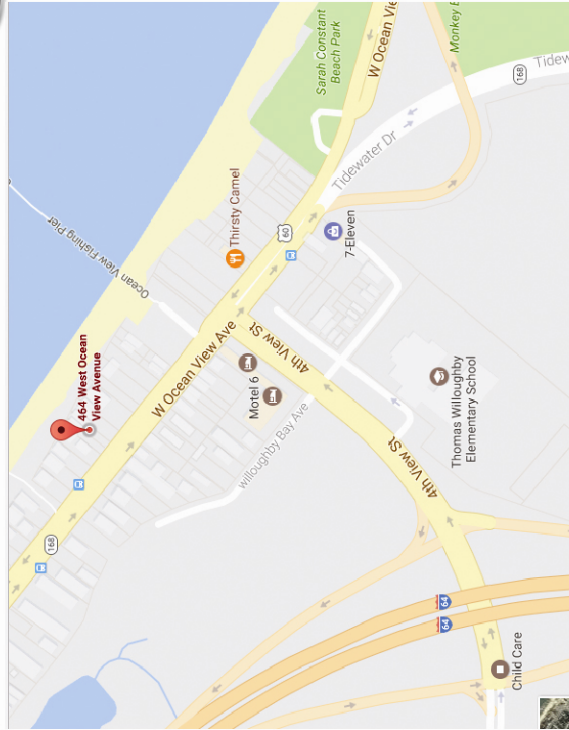
IN A NUTSHELL:

Pull stem through the cap drilled with 1/2" hole ; select proper Tee fit it in the appropriate hose , screw the modified cap with the tire valve into the Tee, pump it up to 10 to 12 PSI (Rad cap will blow off excess pressure, but don't rely on it...) and check pressure after a couple of minutes to see if it's holding.



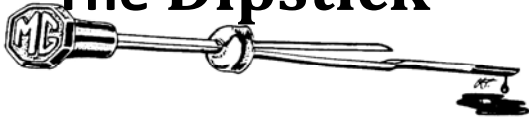


Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 7th
 Hosted By
Eric and Cindy
464 W. Ocean View Ave
Norfolk, VA.



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

The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

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Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS