



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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Flash Drive April 9, 2017

A small contingent arrived in the chill of Sunday morning for the first-ever Flash Drive. Your faithful Activity Wonk was joined by Donald and Rose for the 9:13 scheduled departure. Thirty seconds down the road, we were notified of Fred and Linda's late arrival (9:13:35), and they quickly joined us before the first turn. We enjoyed a spirited run out through Smithfield, and Rte 10 to Surry and the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry. The white B and the blue A were quickly waived past the security check, but that orange B – that's a different story. You know Donald and Rose. Wouldn't you suspect them? Believe it or not, they were cleared for boarding, and we had a brief wait for our ship to come in. Fred popped the bonnet on his A and removed a makeshift oven full of goodies – warm muffins and breakfast biscuits. I'm glad he didn't get inspected, or we would have had to share our snack with the TSA team.



Once across the river in Jamestown, we turned down Colonial Parkway into Williamsburg, where we met up with Bob and Dana in the parking garage. The Second Sunday Festival was just getting started as we arrived. We all went our separate ways to enjoy the sights (60+ artists and artisans) and sounds (4 stages) of the day. We heard from the Accidentals (an acapella group from W&M), Jackson Howard and his guitar, Herbie D and the Dangersmen (a lot like Asleep at the Wheel) and others. We tasted fudge from Kilwin's, pork spice rub, Bloody Mary mix, chips and salsa, and a little more fudge. And we saw the work of photographers, sculptors, jewelers – a little bit of everything. There was face-painting, crafts and chalk drawings for the kids, and a pet-friendly atmosphere. And the weather was perfect.



Some enjoyed a packed picnic lunch and a little Guinness camouflaged as very dirty water, while others sought out lunch at the local bistros – DoG Street Café and the Cheese Shop. A little more walking, a little more shopping, and the magic hour of 2pm struck. That was our appointed time to meet for our departure.

As promised, another stop was the reward for everyone’s good behavior – a visit to Virginia Beer Company on 2nd Street. VBC, now just a year old, is a rather industrial looking facility, but the tables and games out front offered a warm

welcome. There were four year-round drafts, and four more seasonals to try. Flights, half-pints, pints and larger are all available. And almost any time they are open, you will find a food truck parked outside. BYO or grab a bite at VBC. Add to that the live music on weekends, and this is the new off-campus hot-spot for Williamsburg.

And finally, the day was over. 2nd Street becomes Merrimac Trail, which meets I-64 near Ft. Eustis. From there, it was a clear run home – no traffic in the construction zone or the tunnel. The end of another grand adventure and a proper shake-down run for Virginia Spring Tour XV. So, who’s ready for the next Flash Drive?

Tad Carter



Activity Report May 2017



SOAPBOX Alert – In the last few months, I have become aware of several local specialty stores that were forced to close their doors due to lagging sales. I know it has been

going on for years, but every now and then it hits close to home and I am reminded of one of the downsides of chain stores and e-tail business. I priced out a few incidentals for a recent home project and found the Best Value down near the oceanfront was several dollars less than Lowe's on a \$25 purchase, and I got assistance from someone who knew how to do the job. In that case, I saved money and supported a local business. KFC, McD's and Ruby Tuesday – not on my trips. Local farm-to-table, if possible.

However, I'm not a local-only purist. I do believe in supporting businesses that support the activities I believe in. I saw a discussion on a bulletin board recently about pricing on a part for an MG – nothing significant financially, and the savings was no more than a couple of bucks. But Party A in the discussion was saying how foolish Party B was being for throwing away all that money at a higher-priced online source. Frankly, I have forgotten the low-price source, and I question the logic of miserly Party A. This was a bulletin board supported by Moss Motors, the correct part selection was determined by looking at a catalog published by Moss Motors, and the higher-priced vendor was Moss Motors. Yet Party A felt he gained no benefit from Moss worthy of his business. Seriously, shipping costs were the same, lead-time was the same and the cost differential was less than a small coffee at Starbucks.

If we don't support someone like Moss, we lose the option of picking up parts in Petersburg. We lose someone who has supported our hobby for almost 70 years. We lose their catalog as a reference point and we lose their help-line. We lose their supply of parts traveling with cross-country caravans to national shows. We lose their sponsorship at national shows. We lose Moss MotorFest. And we lose the British Sports Car Hall of Fame.

I know there are other deserving vendors out there. Moss is just one of many. My suggestion is that, as we shop, we look at and support the vendors that support us. Don't just cherry-pick their knowledge and then not reward them with our business. End of SOAPBOX.

OK, enough of that. I've been called out of town for a meeting this week, so I may not be back in time for the May 3rd meeting at Cynthia and Andy's. Just in case, here are the details for upcoming events:

Wednesday, May 24th – Dessert Drive – Peninsula Edition – Depart from the old Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center at 6:30pm. Destination Williamsburg via Colonial Parkway.

Thursday, May 25th – Dessert Drive – Southside Edition – Depart from Harris Teeter – Nimmo Parkway (by courthouse) at 6:30pm. Destination Pungo.

We still have room for more on our **Friday, June 2nd tour of the Petersburg Battlefield**. The current plan is a 9:30am departure from Waffle House (4800 Portsmouth Blvd, Chesapeake), but a more exact time will be sent out soon. This will put us in Petersburg for an early lunch (good food, wide selection of beers), followed by the guided Battlefield tour from 1pm to 3pm. After the tour, there will be time to check in at the hotel, clean up and get to Moss Motors for the evening events.

We also have a few seats left in our block for the **Tides baseball game on Tuesday, June 27**. There are always seats available, so early sign-up isn't a necessity, but this will guarantee you a spot with the cool kids right behind home plate. If you wait to buy tickets at the gate, you may end up with those hooligans hanging out down the baselines.

As always, you can sign up for any event through email (TMGC_Activities@me.com) or by phone at 757-544-5668.

Until we meet again, enjoy the ride!

Tad Carter



Dipstick Calendar –May 2017

May 3 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Hosted by Cynthia and Andy

May 24 – (Wed) Dessert Drive – Peninsula Edition

**Depart from Yorktown Battlefield
6:30PM**

May 25 – (Thu) Dessert Drive – Southside Edition

Depart from Harris Teeter / Nimmo Parkway 6:30PM

June 2 - 3 Moss MotorFest 2017 – Petersburg, VA

www.MossMotors.com

(TMGC – Battlefield Tour on Friday 6/2)

June 4 – Original British Car Day, Adamstown, MD

Chesapeake Chapter – New England MG
T Register

www.ChesapeakeChapterMGClub.com

**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

June 27 – (Tue) Tides Baseball – Turn Back the Clock Night

7:05pm vs. Louisville Bats

July 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting - TBD

July 11 -14 - GOF-Central – Akron, OH

www.GOFCentral.com

Aug. – TBD – Summer Tech Session

**Aug. 1 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in Hampton
Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson**

**Aug. 19 – 22, 2017 – SYZGY 2017 –
Journey to the Umbra**

**Sep. 6 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting
Ocean View Fishing Pier**

Oct. 6-7 – Shenandoah Valley British Car Festival
– Waynesboro

www.SVBCC.net

**Oct. 3 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in VB
Hosted by Renee and Bill Olcheski**

Monthly Meeting *April 4, 2017*

For the April meeting, the group convened at the home of Jayne and Bruce Easley in Seaford, VA. The weather was perfect with a warm, dry night, so there were lots of MGS, both GTs and topless roadsters. After the usual meet-and-greet to “kick tyres” and sample beverages and snacks, the meeting was called to order by our inimitable President, the Right Honorable Robert Perrone. After thanking the hosts, he moved on to club business, and the minutes of the March meeting were approved. Robert inquired as to whether there were any new members or guests, and found that the group was visited by Sid Rickers, who lives “just down the road” and has a 1957 MGA in reconstruction mode. Also, Pete Olson made the trek to the meeting after his recent surgery, driven by his good friend Iris.



Treasurer “Skinny” Jim Villers updated the group on the state of finances, conveying that with income from dues minus expenditures for Dipstick and meeting support, the club’s account stands at \$1,785.14. Historian Susan Bond maintains several scrapbooks of Club history and highlights, and those are always available. Bruce Easley gave the membership report for Bill Yoshida, who was attending an award ceremony for his granddaughter. She had won first place in the District Audubon Art Competition! Congratulations! As of the meeting, there are 119 paid memberships and 203 MGS; the club has a new member, Mary Ann Shepard of Virginia Beach with a 1978 MGB. Bill also holds another \$20 dues check for the Treasurer.

Activities Director “Winding Road King” Tad Carter announced that he has planned a “flash drive” for this upcoming Second Sunday Art and Music Festival in Williamsburg, VA. Weather is predicted to be sunny and in the mid-60s, and the activities will include opportunities to view 75-80 artists and their work, and other various musical fun times. Since the Virginia Beer Company is having its first anniversary, Tad has a “mystery treat” associated with a sojourn there. Other activities include the 4/22 Williamsburg Car Show, the 4/23 Tech Session, the Spring Tour XV the end of April, and Turn Back the Clock baseball in June. Thanks to Tad, we are never bored!



Dipstick Co-Editor Mark Davidoski thanked Andy Wallach for his contributed article about the Antique Treasure Hunt drive, and requested that members consider penning an article if they are joining in on one of the upcoming drives. As always, articles are due by the 20th of the month.



Old Business – none. For New Business, Bill Olcheski shared that there will be an ALS Walk June 3 in Harbor Park, with a 4/5 pre-walk at O’Connor Brewery if anyone wants to participate. Bill and Renee’s daughter has been stricken with this terrible disease, so this is a subject close to their hearts and that of club members. For Marque Tyme, Mike Ash announced that he had brought several bins of various MG parts to the meeting, and they are available to good homes. Jim Villers discussed his recent installation of LED headlights, after doing some experimentation to compare brightness. These lights require less amperage (always a good thing for Lucas systems) and mate with standard 3-prong plugs. Feel free to contact Jim to get details on the lights and compatible lenses. Andy Wallach added that Abingdon Spares has LED lights for positive ground systems, they have materials for T-series MGs, that they seem to have good service, and their prices are coming down. There being no further business for the good of MGs, the meeting was adjourned to the after-meeting (F&F) feasting and fraternization!

Submitted by Bruce Easley

Membership Report May 2017

2017 Membership: As of 20April are 119 paid memberships

New Memberships:

Mary Ann Shepard
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
1978 MGB

Cars: Total cars – 203 MGs

Cars & Types: 173 of the following types of MGs:

MGA	A- Coupe	B	B-GT	C	C-GT	TC	TD	TF	Midget
30	2	76	19	1	4	7	20	4	10

Other/Variou MGs – 30 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB/ 2 ELVA Courier/ plus 23 of Tino’s TBD MGs)

Dues: I currently hold a \$20 dues check for turnover to Jim Villers.

Submitted by Bill Yoshida



Marque Time



Well, it's almost time for one of my favorite events of the year. I'm still not sure whether I should call this the “*1st Annual Spring Tour*” or the “*15th Annual (not) Wine Tour*”, or whatever else. I did notice that Alan and Beckey are just referring to it as the “*Spring Tour*” in their emails. I was holding out hope that Alan would come through and we would have the first annual “*TMGC Beer Tour*” as the replacement, but that didn't happen. Oh well, there's always next year...

Still, I'm sure it will be a great weekend, just as it always has been. What a fun group we have, and I'm sure by the time this makes the Dipstick, we will have a lot of great stories to share.

Of course there are a lot of other activities and events coming up, so if you haven't done so already, make sure your L BC is in good working order. Hopefully anyone that had any issues that other club members could help out with brought their car over to Frank and Debbie Linse's for the Spring Tech Session.

And now, a word from our sponsor. Or maybe we are their sponsor. I'm not sure, but it's time for a plug either way.

If you haven't already done so, I would urge you to join the North American MGB Register (NAMGBR). NAMGBR membership benefits include a bi-monthly edition of the “MG Driver” magazine, a special dash plaque for their car, membership activities and a windshield decal. You should be able to see a copy of some information about obtaining membership in NAMGBR in this Dipstick (if I sent it to our Dipstick editors properly).

Also, anyone who has an individual membership in NAMGBR can get a 5% discount on a policy from Hagerty Insurance. They also publish an annual Mutual Aid Directory, which is a listing of NAMGBR members available in case a fellow MG owner needs assistance while traveling anywhere in the US or Canada.

And, as added benefit to all, as long as we have at least 8 paid individual TMGC memberships, our club has liability insurance coverage for all club activities provided by NAMGBR at no cost to us. When I checked a few years ago, I found that this insurance would cost as much as \$1200 each year if we needed to pay for coverage ourselves.

And now back to our regularly scheduled programming... (or whatever this is).

So, once again I hope everyone's ready for another great season of warm-weather driving, activities, and all of the other good things our club has to offer.

Cheers! *Robert*



North American MGB Register

The only MEMBER-RUN organization for MGB, MGC, Midget, 1100/1300 and Post Abingdon Car owners.

- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$30** (\$45 overseas)
- **Dash plaque • Membership card • Window decal**
- **Six bi-monthly issues of The MG Driver, a 68-page informative magazine.**
- **Annual national convention – a four-day MG party!**

North American MGB Register

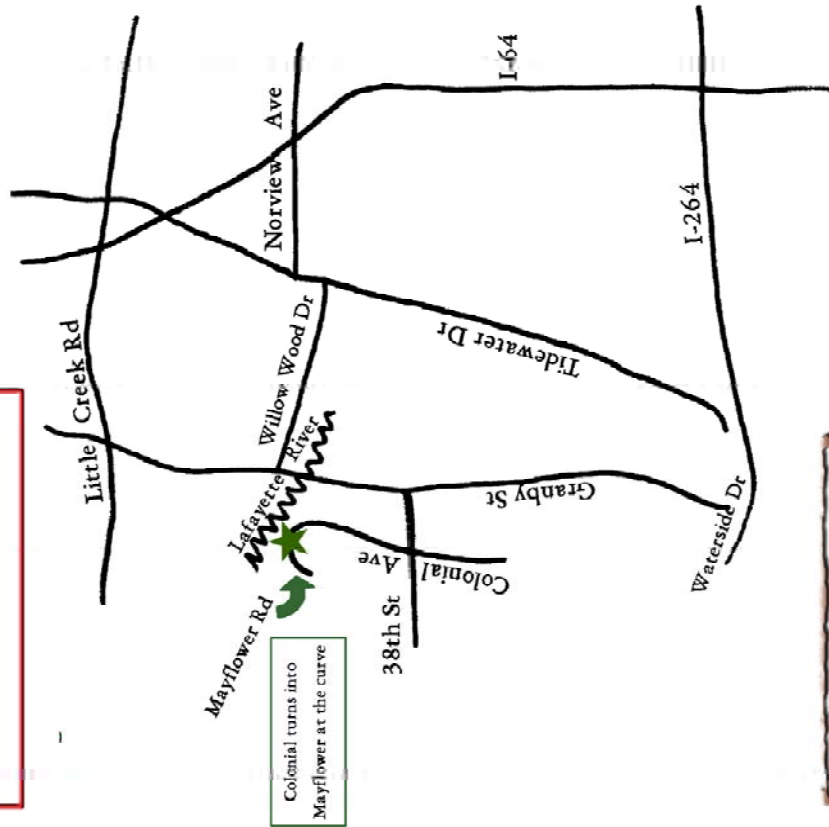
PO BOX 876 • Downers Grove, IL 60515-0876

Toll-free phone: 800-NAMGBR-1

www.namgbr.org



Monthly Meeting
 Wednesday, May 3rd
 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



The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics
 C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski
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Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS