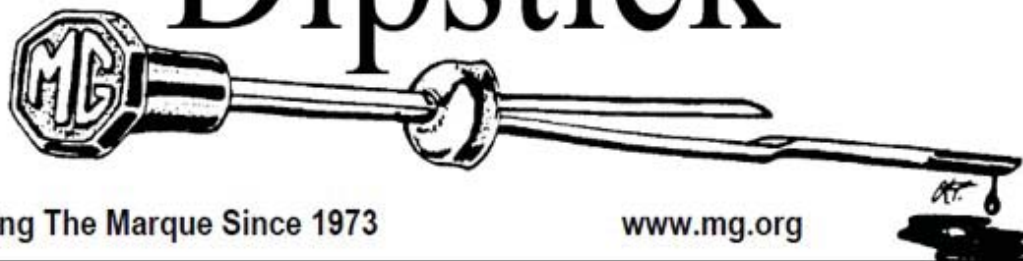




# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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

**Volume 45 Issue 9**

**September 2018**



## “A” Journey...From Barn to Byway

*by Eric Fee*

Be careful what you ask for. While admiring the MGA's at the tech session I recall saying "If I ever own another MG, it would be an A". The next day I saw Bob Stein's MGA was for sale. Like that I became the proud owner of a 1958 MGA Roadster.

I was really the owner of an MGA body (no engine, no interior, no wheels). Plus boxes and boxes of parts! We struggled to push her onto my trailer (emergency brake stuck), loaded the pick-up bed with parts (more than once) and carried her home.

Reluctantly, I informed Frank Linse that I had purchased the vehicle without accepting his kind offer to "look her over". Pleading for Frank's forgiveness and I asked him to PLEASE breathe life back into just one more antiquity!

Let the journey begin. How much restoration is enough restoration? Fearful that beneath the reasonably sound looking metal exterior significant hidden damage existed, I decided to hand her over to the new owners of GT Bodywerks. The pictures tell the story!

Six months later, in gleaming Iris Blue she arrived at Frank's for phase II. Frank methodically employed his unique talent for attention to both mechanical and cosmetic detail painstakingly reassembling the artifact (piece by piece).

All was proceeding as planned until the day I got a very somber call. The inherited rebuilt never used (and installed) 1800cc engine was missing the lifters and push rods. I asked "Is this bad Frank?"

With complete ignorance I said "Don't worry Frank, it will be OK". I loaded her onto the wrecker for Abacus and by the end of the week the engine was running like a champ! Onto the flat bed again to Frank's for finishing touches and road trials.



In retrospect, the restoration of my MGA was quite a process. Perhaps better undertaken by one with my vehicular naivete. In addition to those already mentioned, Bob Stein, Andy Wallach and Mark Davidoski were helpful during the journey. In the end I learned a lot, made some new friends and have a part of motor car history to enjoy.





## Marque Time

Greetings MG enthusiasts,

It was a beautiful sight to behold when we arrived at the August meeting. The rain was torrential. Braving the elements a faithful group of club members stood under a partial covering outside of our locked venue. They clearly were thirsting for the camaraderie and MG knowledge so freely shared at our monthly meetings. When the doors were unlocked another thirst was quenched. The Deadline Brewing Project began pouring their award winning libations. We may have found a place for future meetings. Thanks to Tad for suggesting that we switch from our intended location. I am sure that the park was under water and only the mosquitos were happy.

We are still waiting to hear from Faith, our VP, as she and PJ battle the roads and summer heat traveling to Reno in their MG Roadster.

Please let us know that you are surviving the coyotes and roadrunners.

Thank you to Jim and Linda for another great tech session. There were lots of club members, lots of automotive repair, and lots of fun. As always, the food and drinks were also great.

Another summer is flying by but don't even think about putting your cars away yet.

I hope to see you at Harrison's Pier for our September meeting.

Safety Fast,

Bill O

## Dipstick Calendar – September 2018

**Sep. 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk**  
6:00 – 6:30 arrival - Ocean View Fishing Pier

Sep. 15 – Governor's Capitol Classics Car Show –  
Richmond

**Sep. 21-24 – Straight Back to the Crooked Road**

Sep. 22 – TRAACA Wings and Wheels - Pungo

Sep. 28-30 – America's British Reliability Run –  
Leesburg, VA  
[www.DCBritishReliability.org](http://www.DCBritishReliability.org)

Sep. 29 - MGs on the Rocks British Car Show  
Jarrettsville. MD

**Oct. 2 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – VB**  
**Hosted by Renee & Bill**

Oct 5-6 – SVBCC British Car Festival – Waynesboro

Oct 6 - Road Rallye - Rotary Club of Hampton Roads  
<https://www.rotaryhamptonroads.org>

Oct. 7 – Hunt Country Classic, Middleburg, VA

**Nov. TBA – Fall Tech Session**

**Nov. 7 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Hampton**  
**Hosted by Faith & PJ**

**Dec. 16 – 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
**Brunch at Princess Anne Country Club**

**Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events**

## **Activity Report – September 2018**

Special Notice – As you may be aware, Classics on the Green was canceled for 2018 due to issues surrounding the venue. In its place is the inaugural **Governor's Capitol Classics Car Show**, which will be held on **Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**, with cars displayed on Capitol Square in Richmond. Food trucks will be on site, and there will be tours of the Governor's mansion. And you can forget the dash plaque. Pre-registered drivers will receive a proclamation from Governor Northam indicating your vehicle's participation in the event. Additional details and registration information are available at [www.ClassicAutoEvents.com](http://www.ClassicAutoEvents.com). A large turn-out is anticipated, so get your registration in early. Space is limited.

A couple of notes of Thanks –

First, to Linda and Jim Freeh, many thanks for hosting our Summer Tech Session. We had the best weather and completed the most repairs of any tech session in recent memory. Thanks for sharing your garage, your tools, your expertise, your lawn, the shady spot under the tree and the wonderful food.

Also to Deadline Brewing Project for opening on short notice to accommodate our August meeting. Heat, humidity and bugs were replaced by cold beer, hot pizza and plenty of AC. If any club members are back in the area of Shore Drive and the two Great Neck Roads, stop in for a visit.

Our September meeting will be held at Ocean View Fishing Pier on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Weather permitting, we'll be back on the top deck for dinner, sunset and pearls of wisdom from El Presidente, Bill O. If you are joining us for dinner, plan on arriving between 6:00 and 6:30. A staggered arrival will allow some flexibility for the kitchen in prepping our meals.

Also in September, is our Fall Tour, Straight Back to the Crooked Road, with 10 vehicles making the trek back to southwest Virginia. We'll visit wineries, music venues, historic sites, and a couple of good restaurants. We'll travel the Blue Ridge Parkway, plus a number of other crooked roads, and dip into North Carolina, and perhaps Tennessee along the way. I look forward to reading about the shenanigans going on back in the pack.

As always, the Fall Tour comes in conflict with other events. If you only have a weekend to spare, the British Car Festival in Waynesboro on October 6<sup>th</sup> has been a top local event for 36 years. I'm sure #37 will be just as good. For those sticking closer to home, consider Wings and Wheels in Pungo on September 22, or the Rotary Club Road Rallye starting at Kempsville High School on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Your entry fee for the rallye includes food for two at the finish point, and proceeds go to support the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia.

And keep in mind some future events:

Wine & Oyster Pairings at Chatham Vineyards on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

MG-2019 in Traverse City, MI in the summer of '19 (see Terry Bond for travel info)

MG-2021 in Atlantic City in the summer of '21 (sorry – no travel info at this time)

Until we meet again, enjoy the ride!

*Tad Carter*

## August 7, 2018 TMGC Meeting Minutes

Faithfully recorded by Cynthia

President Olcheski opened the meeting at 7:40 at the Deadline Brewing Project off of West Great Neck Road in Virginia Beach. Darrell, the brew master, has been opened for 10 months. The Deadline Brewing Project does a lot of charity work and has won the very first BATTLE OF THE BREWERS. There were over 40 people in attendance enjoying pizza, salad and cookies along with a nice selection of beers. Of note I think this is a lovely location for an MG meeting. Well done Tad.



Vice President is in Reno, Nevada.

Treasurer's report indicates that we have a balance of \$1,792.94

Membership is currently at 69 paid with last year's membership at 113. This indicates that Andy Wallach needs to get the ball rolling or he may be out of a position.

The tech session that was held at Linda and Jim Freeh's home located in Chesapeake, VA, had a wonderful turnout with actual work being done on the cars. My grandson Evan Wallach attended the tech session and indicated that there were over 30 cars there and the food was fabulous.

Activities Chair who is the amazing Tad stated that the next meeting will be September 5 at the Ocean View Fishing Pier. September 21 there will be a convoy heading for the Crooked Road Tour driving 900 miles through West Virginia, North Carolina and possibly Tennessee. TRAACA's Wings & Wheels Show is in Pungo on September 22. The British car festival is in Waynesboro on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and there is also a road rally for the Hampton Roads Rotary on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Not to mention that the annual MGA meet will be in Iowa in July next year. Of note the Virginia Opera is looking for cars from the 1940's. Participants will get free tickets and a cocktail.

Dipstick has never missed an issue since 1973. The deadline is August 20<sup>th</sup>. Next month look for a mega edition depicting the incredible tech session that took place at the Freeh's home.

### MGB: Might Go Backwards



There was no old business.

There was no new business.

Marque Time: Mike Ash shared that Susan Bond won 3<sup>rd</sup> place MGBGT and Andy Wallach won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the Mark II MGA. Terry Bond wished his wife Happy Anniversary 8 August for 48 years. Remember Terry broke his leg on August 6 2017. He has recovered nicely.



The Raffle was held by Rose and Hank Giffin, the Davidoski's, Don Ladd and Linda Freeh were the big winners. Of note Rose's husband won the 50/50.

Motion to adjourn.

**MG: Money Guzzler**

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## **2018 September Dipstick Membership**

**2018 Membership:** 113 paid memberships.

**2019 Membership:** 71 paid memberships.

**New Memberships:** Pete and Karen Graham, Virginia Beach, 1977MGB

**Dues:** 2019 Dues are past due! Annual Renewal Forms are found on line at [www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org). Please fill out a copy and bring it to a meeting or mail it along with cash, check or money order. If you have no changes to the data, you provided in the past, you only need to submit the \$20 in dues. I do not need a form if there are no changes. If you do not plan on renewing, let me know by e-mail. Thanks.

**Membership Chair:** Andrew Wallach, 545 Mayflower Rd., Norfolk, VA 23508. 757 408-4497. [wallach@whro.net](mailto:wallach@whro.net).

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## **Summer Tech Session Report**

*Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the home of Jim and Linda Freeh in Chesapeake*

It was still cool when I pulled into Jim and Linda Freeh's panoramic rural driveway at 1015 on a beautiful Sunday morning. There were several MGs present, but not a soul in sight. That's because three cars were already in the multi-bay garage, surrounded by busy MG owners and supporters.

Tad Carter was preparing to fit a new speedometer cable to his 1980 MGB. He had observed a fluttering needle at speed, so decided to try a new cable. After struggling with the gearbox end of the cable for a while, Tad and I removed the old one and threaded a replacement cable into position. Road test: success!

Andy Wallach brought his grandson Evan with him as they installed three LED dashboard lights in Andy's recently acquired 1974 MGB. Frank Linse also assisted with a check of the brakes, which were good to go.

Matthieu Houvinen had his 1978 Spitfire racer up on stands to perform a front brake job. Matthieu had noticed some pulsation with the pedal depressed, so thought new front pads and rotors might do the trick. However the pulsation remained, so Matthieu may try braided steel brake lines next. (The existing reinforced rubber lines could be partially collapsed.....)

Bob Vann had pulled his 1972 MGB inside to check the oil level in the front shocks. Upon topping up, a bounce test of the front end revealed a bad shock on the passenger side. No further action for now.

Bill Olcheski worked on his headlamp switch, which was inoperative. When the assembled MG mechanics removed it for inspection, the switch broke into several pieces. Parts on order while Bill continues to avoid night driving.



Frank Linse brought his 1958 MGA coupe, which is looking and running great. He did need to install an LED bulb for the fuel gauge, which now makes it readable at night and during periods of low visibility. Frank also looked at Durant Phillips' 1967 MGB-GT, which had been running rough for some time. After adjusting the timing by turning the distributor a bit, all was well!

Other MG enthusiasts in attendance included Susan and Terry Bond (fresh from a 3<sup>rd</sup> in class with their 1974 B-GT at MG 2018), Jim Villers, Mark Childers, David Ford, Allen Hazlett, Ray Hicks, Rose and Donald Ladd, Pete Olson and Robert (aka "Bobby") Perrone.

During the lunch break, which featured Linda's fantastic pulled pork BBQ and fixings plus plenty of VERY COLD beverages, Bob Vann revealed his creative side by demonstrating how a large, antique Dodge hubcap can serve as a serving platter. Draw a mental image of a bed of shaved ice topped with chilled jumbo shrimp, cocktail sauce and lemon wedges – all with a Dodge logo in the center!

The day was advertised as 91 degrees Fahrenheit, but frequent clouds and a decent breeze made for a pleasant day of MG'ing and socializing. On departure, my trusty BGT failed to turn over,



indicating it may be time for a new battery. Jim was gracious enough to provide a highly amped jumpstart via his Dodge Ram truck. On arrival at home, I pulled the offending battery and discovered a January 2007 manufacture date! Yikes! All those years on borrowed time. Swapping for a fresh battery was all that was required.

Thank you Linda and Jim for another memorable Summer Tech Session under your shade trees and in your roomy garage. TMGC salutes you!

*by Mark Davidoski*



**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**Wednesday Sept 5th**  
**Ocean View**  
**Fishing**  
**Pier**  
**Upper Deck**

- Take I-64 (toward RICHMOND/HAMPTON if coming from Beach or Chesapeake, toward HAMPTON/NORFOLK if coming from Hampton)
- Take 4TH View St. exit - 273 - toward OCEAN VIEW
- Turn RIGHT (if coming from Beach or Chesapeake ), turn LEFT (if coming from Hampton ) onto 4TH View ST. Ocean View Fishing Pier is straight ahead.



# The Dipstick



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*Affiliated with*



North American MGB Register

**FIRST CLASS**