



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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Mmmm, Bacon Tour

Mike Haag

It was a clear but chilly Saturday when the final drive of the season left the Waffle House on Portsmouth Blvd just west of I-664 precisely at 10:02 AM. Participating on that journey through western Tidewater were Tad & Karen Carter, PJ & Faith Peterson, Jim & Betty Villers, Mike & Denise Haag, Bob & Dana Reisse, Donald and Rose Ladd, Al Hazlett, and Robert Perrone and his traveling buddy Karl Oelke. The TMGC caravan, included six MGBs and 2 Minis, headed west to Driver, then north on Rt. 17. We turned off near Rescue and took backroads into Smithfield. Don't ask me how we got there, I just followed the car in front of me.

After we passed through town we got on Rt. 10, then continued on more back roads to our first stop, Darden's County Store. Bob & Missy McKenna joined us there. We got a tour of the curing barn from Mrs. Darden where she instructed us in the process of how they cure their Smithfield hams. I forgot how many she said they process a year, but it was impressive. In the hundreds, if not many more. They have a large following for their hams, especially during the holiday season. Seeing those hams hanging in the barn covered in salt and some mold here and there was not the most appetizing sight, but she assured us they clean right up and are delicious. They have been curing hams that way for hundreds of years and I don't recollect hearing about any mass poisonings, so it must be ok. We visited the store where some snacks were bought for the long drive to lunch. Behind the store was a corn maze and other activities for kids of all ages. PJ and Robert checked out the bouncy cotton cage. As we were leaving, Jim backed a little too far and managed to get stuck in a ditch that wasn't supposed to be there! With the help of fellow members and a couple of younger, stronger gentlemen who showed up, we were all quickly on our way on more backroads to Surrey.

NOVEMBER 9,
2019



On to Surrey we drove over great two lane country roads enjoying the late fall scenery. Again, don't ask me how we got there, I just followed the car in front of us! As we were pulling into Surrey, I noticed that my hood, er, bonnet, was sitting higher than normal. One of those last bumps must have caused the latch to release, but thankfully the safety catch caught it and we drove slowly to our destination for lunch, the Surrey Seafood Company. Situated in an idyllic setting on a wide creek that flows into the James River, the restaurant was a perfect spot for a good seafood lunch, cold brews and stimulating conversation. After an hour or so and stomachs full, Bob & Missy said goodbye and headed back home to Williamsburg. The rest of us drove back into Surrey and down Rt. 10 to Bacon's Castle for a bit of local history.

Bacon's Castle is said to be the oldest brick dwelling in North America and was the site of Bacon's Rebellion in 1676. Now owned and maintained by Preservation Virginia, our tour guide gave us a very informative tour of the house from basement to attic and told us the history of the building, interspersed with humor and many interesting facts. In fact, he told us he is a direct descendent of Nathaniel Bacon, the leader of the rebellion and from where the home got its name. After a group photo in front of the home, PJ & Faith and Al said goodbye and headed home. We then left for our next stop, the Summerwind Vineyards in Smithfield.

Our last stop at a winery was the perfect way to cap the final day of MG motoring for 2019. Situated in the "suburbs" of Smithfield, the winery was opened one year ago, although the vineyard was planted in 2005. The tasting room was cozy but we managed to all fit around one table. The tasting featured all their estate grown grapes except one and they had quite a selection of styles from such a young winery. Tastings done and wines purchased, we headed back to our cars to witness a full moon and a flock of geese flying overhead. A Kodak moment to be sure.

Thanks to Tad for another great MG adventure with good weather, great driving roads, interesting places to see, good food, and of course, wine. Looking forward to 2020!





Marque Time

Well, as Yogi Berra once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again". Yes, I'm sure some of you are wondering how I became president of TMGC again.

As I said in our last meeting, this is what happens when you don't show up and vote. And speaking of our last meeting, thank you to our first time hosts Jack Speight and his family.

I should also give my congratulations to Pete, "re-Pete, three-Pete" Olson on winning yet another chili cook off. His award-winning chili came in first once again. I can't remember whether it is called "tailpipe backfire" or it is the other way around, but I do know that it was really great.

I'm sure many of you will be pleased to know that this entry from your new/old president will be fairly brief. I failed to remember that I need to write this for the Dipstick until the very last day.

So, I am doing so while sitting in my car.

Why am I doing that, you ask? Because right now I am waiting for my car to be towed to a repair shop. On the bright side, it is not the MG, so I'll have even more of an excuse to drive it for the next few days.

So, I hope to see you all at the holiday party, as well as many at the holiday lights drive. Bundle up and enjoy the season!

*Cheers,
Robert*



Dipstick Calendar – December 2019

Dec 14 – (Sat) Holiday Party – Hampton
Hosted by Faith & PJ Peterson

Dec 17 – (Tue) Holiday Lights – Norfolk
6:30 Dinner at Franco's
(a little later start to see if we can miss some of the heavier Lights traffic)

2020 Schedule

Jan 7 (Tue) - Monthly Meeting – OCEAN VIEW
Hosted by Cindy Lee & Eric

Feb 5 (Wed) - Monthly Meeting – Oozlefinch Brewery – Hampton

Feb 15 (Sat) – Horrible Idea Tour v3.0

Mar 3 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting

Mar 29 (Sun) – Theatre at Hanover Tavern – *The 39 Steps*

Apr 1 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting

Apr 18 - Williamsburg British Car Club – British & European Car Show

May 1-3 – Spring Tour – Hosted by Beckey and Alan

May 1-3 – GOF Virginia Beach
Hosted by NEMGTR - For info –
HankGiffin@cox.net

May 5 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Cynthia and Andy

June 3 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting

June 28 – July 1 – MG-2020 – Calgary, Canada

July 7 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting

Summer 2020 – GT-45 - NAMGAR

Aug 5 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Faith and PJ

Sep 1 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting – Ocean View Fishing Pier

Activity Report – December 2019



Well, that's a wrap. The 2019 driving season officially ended with our November 9th Mmmmm, Bacon Tour. Thank you to all who have joined us on the road this year. We're adding up the miles now to determine who our top Travelers were for the year. Special thanks to Beckey and Alan, who hosted the Spring Tour for the 13rd straight year. Here's hoping they have a few more tours in them. Also, to Missy and Bob for taking over the Fall Tour in September. I must say that two towings and a trip to the pokey are a new low. Using that as a scale, an

occasional U-turn seems a little less troublesome.

Our **Holiday Party is slated for December 14th** and will be hosted by Faith and PJ at their home in Hampton. This will be a true potluck. If you signed up at the November meeting, great. If not, surprise us. Salads, appetizers, entrees, desserts, wine, beer – whatever. I look forward to seeing you there.

And three nights later – **Tuesday, December 17th**, we start our 2019-2020 wrap-around driving season with our annual trip to the **Holiday Lights at Norfolk Botanical Garden**. We are moving our pre-drive dinner back a little bit, in hopes of arriving at the lights behind the traffic jam we have seen in recent years. Plan on arriving at Franco's (6200 N Military Hwy) between 6:30 and 7:00pm. We have seats reserved for 25 people. It will help the kitchen if you order as you are ready, rather than waiting for everyone to arrive. Estimated departure for the lights is 8:00pm. (note – round number equals ETD).

We'll be on driving hiatus until mid-February (the 15th, to be exact), when we will start up the 2020 season with **Horrible Idea Tour v3.0**. After staying local in 2019, we'll venture a little farther west this time around. (We'll also have a v3.1 option, in case the weather is a clone of last year). Details will be coming in the February Dipstick. Make sure to include a subscription renewal on your holiday wish list.

Another idea for a stocking stuffer would be tickets to see **39 Steps** at the Hanover Tavern on **Sunday, March 22nd**. We have 20 seats reserved for this matinee performance. The day will also include a lunch stop somewhere on the road as we travel west. Ticket prices are \$33/pp. Santa will open the sign-up at the Holiday party on 12/14.

April should bring in warmer weather, along with the **British & European Car Show** in Williamsburg (April 18), and the **Spring Tour** (April 31 – 33, aka May 1-3). Look for details on these events as we move into 2020.

The rest of 2020 events will be announced at a later date. For now, I'll use the rest of my allotted pixels to reach out to potential meeting hosts. I know Mike Haag is working on that schedule, and the last I heard, we have several open slots yet to fill. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from you with your date selection.

Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel and Safety Fast!

Tad Carter



November 3, 2019 TMGC Meeting Minutes



The meeting started at 8:07 p.m. with a garage full of members. Our returning President, Rob Perrone, opened the meeting and thanked our host for the evening, Jack Speight. There were no new members present. The minutes were approved and seconded.

Vice President - Mike Haag, talked about hosting meetings for 2020. As of tonight's meeting there are still five opportunities to host a meeting. Eric and Cindy Fee will be hosting the January meeting. The President then thanked the outgoing President and Vice President.

Activities - Tad Carter thanked our host and all of those who brought their chili dishes for us to enjoy. This was one of the largest showings at this event. Tad thanked our hosts, Terry and Susan Bond, for the last tech session, who

unfortunately, could not make tonight's meeting. There was no tech activity during the session and no work was done but everyone had an enjoyable time. Seven cars did show up on Sunday. The final drive of the season will be Saturday, November 9, 2019, and will depart from the Waffle House at 10:02 a.m. We will then travel to Darden's Country Store, Surry Seafood, Bacon's Castle with a final stop at the Summerwind Vineyards before returning somewhere around 6:00 p.m. The weather is looking to be crisp and clear for the drive. Our December holiday party will be held at PJ and Faith Peterson's house on December 14, 2019, starting at 6:30 p.m. and will once again be a pot luck. Our traditional holiday light drive will be Tuesday, December 17, 2019. We will once again meet at Franco's starting around 6:30 p.m. Please order your meal upon your arrival so that the kitchen is not overwhelmed all at once. We will be looking to depart around 8:00 p.m. Tad thanked everyone for contributing their ideas for trips in the upcoming year. The first trips planned are the Horrible Idea Tour in February followed in March at the Theater at Hanover Tavern. Next year's Spring Tour has been moved from the last weekend in April to May. PJ also mentioned that the Williamsburg British Car Show will be held on April 14, 2020, and they will be "Celebrating the Mini".

Treasurer Report - Jim Villers, let us know that as of this evening the club has \$1,795.14.

Membership – Andrew Wallach was in South America so no update was available.

Dipstick - Mark Davidoski reminded everyone that the deadline for the dipstick is November 20. Please consider submitting an article to the dipstick about you and your car. Our editors are hoping to expand the issue to include more articles about the club members and their vehicles.

There was no old business.

New business - Rose Ladd would like to set up a table at the Christmas Party with a silent auction with the proceeds benefitting the club and would like club members to donate new unwrapped items to be auctioned off. If you can provide an item for the silent auction please contact Rose.

Technical - Jim Villers talked about having radio problems with this car and found out that Sony makes a media player which is shorter than the average CD and player and will fit into our cars. (about \$79.00.)





Marque Time - Tad mentioned that following the meeting at Ocean View he returned to his car and found the battery on the MG to be dead. He decided that it may be the alternator, which he replaced and gave the car a short test drive around the neighborhood followed by a longer test drive to Charlottesville and back. While in the Charlottesville he had good fortune to come across several other MGs.

Bob Stein bought the 1969 Arkley from Hank Giffin. It has been off the road since 1984 and needs some work and TLC but it is a unique little car that will hopefully have another chance to be up and running in the near future.

There will be a sign up sheet for anyone interested in hosting a meeting in 2020.

Don Ladd has sold the B and is now looking to sell the Midget. If interested please contact him.

Tonight's raffle prized included a MG Emblem, flashlight, tool set and 50/50. Our new president was off to a good start and won the 50/50.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chili Crown was awarded to past winner, Pete Olson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

recorded by Faith Peterson



My wife had an accident with my classic car. Is she injured?
Not yet. She has locked herself in the bathroom.

From Jennifer Ash

Fall Tech Session at Bond's Garage and Automobilia Emporium

Cool and sunny conditions greeted us on the morning of November 6th after turning the clocks back for Fall. On turning into Susan and Terry's driveway, I thought I'd missed something as the only cars on site were theirs. On driving further I saw that Terry was prepared, with rollup doors open, lights on and coffee and donut bar at the ready.



Within 15 minutes of start time, numerous MGs had rolled in, in addition to a few "other marques" which included Paul Fuqua's 1969 Z-28.

Lots of car chatter ensued, as no one seemed to need any technical assistance. All cars were up and running this time, so chewing the fat was the order of the day. Susan had prepared an awesome lunchtime repast in the small garage, complete with a hot dog bar and the

usual HUGE selection of craft and regional beers from here and abroad.

Everyone had a relaxing time with plenty of time to catch up with their fellow motorheads. Terry graciously showed off the latest automobilia acquisitions to those who made the climb up to the loft.

As mentioned above, every car in attendance seemed to be in great shape, with no need for technical assistance. That says a lot about our success at previous tech sessions!



Thank you Terry and Susan for engineering another memorable day for the club!

Silent Auction

ITEM:

2019 Christmas Party 12/14/19

BID

NAME

We are once again planning to hold a Silent Auction at our Christmas Party.

We are looking for Donations. (New, almost new, good condition)

If you can help Contact Rose

757-737-2468

twfrog@hotmail.com

If you are bringing a item please please bring it between 6 and 6:30.

otherwiswe drop it off at

Faith's or Roses's prior to 12/12/19.

Auction will close at 7:45



Holiday Lights drive to the
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Tuesday, December 17th.

Meet at Franco's Italian Restaurant
Military Highway in Norfolk
Dinner at 6PM
Leave for lights 7:30PM

The background of the text is a photograph of a classic car, possibly a MG, with its headlights on, parked in a lot. The text is framed by a decorative border of colorful Christmas lights and poinsettias.



**An MG puts even the biggest
Scrooge in the holiday spirit!**



HOLIDAYS PARTY

MG

Saturday, Dec. 14th
 PJ & Faith Peterson
 4 Applewood Drive
 Hampton
 896-9606

6:30 - 7:00 pm - Kick Tyres
 7:00 Party 8:00 Meeting



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



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