



# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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

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## *Free Gasoline at the Botanical Gardens?*

Did you know that the Norfolk Botanical Gardens provides free gas? To obtain this benefit one must visit the Garden of Lights. While I am not exclusive in obtaining this perk, I am reasonably certain that I am unique in having two cars requiring the Gardens' help in one evening.

I could not have done this alone. While very talented, I am unable to drive two cars at the same time. So, with the help of my wife, Cynthia Faschini (the other lucky driver) and my grandchildren, Eleanor and Evan Wallach, (pushers and steerers), I accomplished this feat.

Annually, the Tidewater MG Club experiences the Garden of Lights from our antique MG automobiles. Most of the MGs are roadsters and the drivers and passengers are enveloped in the beauty unhindered by tops and windows. After eating at the fine Italian restaurant, Franco's, about eight MGs proceeded to the Botanical Gardens. The line to get-in was long and we slowly proceeded in stop and go (mostly stopped) traffic for about 45 minutes until we were enshrouded by the beauty of the lights.



Slowly we drove the MGs along the meandering path with lights bursting all around us. Then my 1953 MG TD engine sputtered and died. Maybe it overheated? Well, MGs are easy to push (on level ground) so I decided I'll just push, and Evan can steer. My granddaughter also hopped out of the 1973 MG B my wife was driving behind us and helped push. My enjoyment of communing with nature was fast ebbing. I turned on the car's ignition and noticed that the electric fuel pump pumped continually. Normally the pump only runs when the carburetors need gas to feed to a running engine. Non-running engine, carburetor bowls fill with gas and pump stops. Ah, carburetors are not filling, thus no gas. Empty! I am not a total idiot. While the MG TD does not have a fuel gauge, it does have a low-fuel light. Surrounded by millions of lights and the one I need is not working. Easy solution, get some gas and then continue enjoying the wonderful cool evening, I pulled over (okay, pushed the car over) to the side of the path and called for help. The Botanical Gardens is prepared; every few hundred feet are signs providing the number to call for assistance.

We only had to wait about ten minutes until a wonderful maintenance man came to our aid. Well, he wasn't responding to our call for help but had come to move a string of lights so the Gardens' trams could be put away for the night. He did call for gas and another employee zoomed up on her golf cart with a container of gas.

I would like to tell you that once refueled, the engine popped to life and our evening flowed smoothly. However, that was not the case. Having too many MGs, I do not exercise each one enough. The TD, after sitting for several months, needed the assistance of a battery pack to get started when I retrieved it from my son's garage. (yes, I have garages but not enough room to fit all my too many cars). I did charge the car's battery for about an hour prior to driving to Franco's and the car started fine after dinner. Well, after seeing me having to use the battery pack to get the TD re-started after refueling, the maintenance man knew to follow us discreetly while we continued our journey. I did assure him that all would be fine now that the TD was running again.



After a few minutes, I no longer discerned the MG B in my rear-view mirrors. So, I pull over and call Cynthia. The MG B has conked out and will not start. I turn off the TD, and Evan and I walk back. The B starts but then immediately stalls; no gas. The maintenance man pulls up, I embarrassingly relate the issue, and he drives off on his cart to obtain petrol. Once, refueled, the B starts up and runs fine. Evan and I returned to the TD, and, of course, it wouldn't start. Cynthia caught up with us, I pulled the battery pack out of the B's trunk, and using it, barely got the TD started. The battery pack charge must be getting low after repeated use.

I felt momentary relief as we finally exited the Gardens, until I noticed that the TD's ignition light was staying on; meaning that the engine was not charging the battery. While worrying about stalling and not being able to re-start and having enough juice for the headlights, we made a hurried trip home.

Thank you to the Norfolk Botanical Gardens for the beautiful lights and refueling services. Thank you to the Tidewater MG Classics for 45 years of fun and comradeship.

*submitted by Andy Wallach*

# Celebrating 45 years Of TMGC



*Original TMGC members, left to right: Mike Ash, Roosevelt Mosely, Hank Giffin*



*Making the Princess Anne CC look GOOD!*



**Jim Villers: Dipstick Award**



**Bill & Issie taking home the President's Award**



**Holiday Brunch scene at PACC**



## Marque Time



Greetings MG Enthusiasts,

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up another year. After 45 years the club remains strong. We honor the original members and welcome the new. As I stated at the Christmas Party this is a great club with many contributing to its success. Our greatest success factor is member participation. Lets keep it going!

The Princess Anne Country Club, where we celebrated our Christmas Party, is a prestigious location with a who's who list of members. I wondered how anyone would even know that we were there. As I walked out to the parking lot I saw the tell-tale drips of MG oil. We had left our mark.

Best wishes through the holiday season and new year!

Safety Fast!

BillO

your benevolent dictator

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### Officers and Committees

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## Activity Report – January 2019

Wow, it seems like only a few days ago that I was putting a report together for our Holiday Brunch. Oh wait, it was. Well, a few things have changed. We enjoyed seeing so many at PACC. They took good care of us with good food, a comfortable venue and sheltered parking for the one brave soul who drove topless that morning. And, as this was our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, it was good to see several founding members with us. Thank you to Hank Giffin, Roosevelt Moseley and Mike Ash for having the foresight to create this club. We hope you are pleased with the direction your vision has taken.

And for the hearty among us who ventured out on the 18<sup>th</sup>, we were treated to a beautiful clear night and another great light show at the Botanical Gardens. Once again, Franco's took good care of us, with good food and prompt service. What we did learn was that, with the extended Million Bulb Walk, and the later opening of the drive-through, crowds were much greater than usual. What has been a 10-30 minute wait in the past, was an hour just to get to the ticket booth. As we left, the line was gone, so maybe the 2019 solution (12/17 if you are marking your calendar this early), is a later dinner at Franco's and a 9:00 arrival at the park. Those are details to look forward to in the December 2019 Dipstick!

Thank you to all of you who joined in on our 2018 events. In review, we had 185 people participate. A single car going to every event would have traveled 2602 miles. That is the equivalent of a drive from the parking lot at PACC to Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, with a side trip to the Grand Canyon. As a group, we traveled 40,942 people miles. To put that in perspective, one lap around the equator is 24,902 miles. We had three families cross the 3000-mile barrier, with the Perrone car carrying passengers 3418 miles, the Ladd clan covering 3608 miles, and Susan Bond's carrying passengers exactly 4000 miles. Thank you again to Susan for including me in 585 of those miles.

So, what have you done for me lately? If you were with us at PACC, you should have received the 2019 schedule. Additional copies will be available at the next few meetings. You'll also see the same information in both the Dipstick and on the club website – [www.MG.org](http://www.MG.org). Thank you to Mark, Kathy and Mike for keeping us up to date through these platforms.

We kick off our meeting schedule on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ocean View at Eric and Cindy Lee's home. Please review the emailed information for parking plans, as the neighbor's driveway is no longer an option. If you are ambulatory, consider leaving the close-in spots for those that may have more difficulty. And if you are so inclined, we are still looking for hosts for March and November.

Our event schedule kicks off with Another Horrible Idea on February 16<sup>th</sup>, when we will visit the new Farmhouse Brewery, the new New Realm Brewery and the new Tarnished Truth Distillery. We will depart from Lake Wright at 10:36 that morning, and finish with a tour and tasting at Tarnished Truth mid-afternoon. There is a \$20 fee for the tour and tasting, which we will need to prepay, so sign-up for that portion of the day will be needed.



*Jayne's mom came all the way from Maine for the Holiday Lights tour*

Then, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, we venture out a little farther, and head to the Outer Banks for a tour at Whalehead Club in Corolla. This is a restored 1920's-era Art Nouveau-style mansion that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Whalehead Club was built in by the Knight family. Mrs. Knight was an avid hunter, but wasn't welcomed by the all-male hunting clubs, so this 21,000 sqft mansion-by-the-sea was the next-best alternative. Come and get the rest of that story, as well as the latest on ghost sightings. This is also opening day for the season at the Currituck Beach Lighthouse, so we can tour the museum, climb the 220 steps to the top of the lighthouse, and get a great view from this 141-year old structure. If you still have an appetite, we will stop for lunch in Duck before turning back north for home. This is a show-n-go. No need to pre-register for this drive, although, as always, having your name on the list may convince us to wait a minute or so for you at the starting line. Details will be in the February Dipstick.

We have a teaser for the Spring Tour. For years, this was the Wine Tour. Later, it became the Virginia Spring Tour. With our 2019 destination of California, MD, we once again have a name change. Whatever you call it, Becky and Alan put on a great trip. If you can fit it in your schedule, you won't be disappointed. An announcement for sign-up will be made in early 2019. Until then, please hold your questions.

There are shows, both regional and national, baseball, theatre, Tech Sessions, and Dessert Drives on the calendar. While one's schedule or interests may not allow participating in everything, you are invited to participate where and how you choose. And if you have ideas for other events, please share. We are happy to explore new ideas and destinations. We look forward to having you with us on the road in 2019.

Until we meet again, enjoy the ride! *Tad Carter*



## Dipstick Calendar January 2019

**Jan 2 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Ocean View**  
Hosted by Eric Fee & Cindy Lee Hall

**Feb 5 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Hampton**  
Oozlefinch Brewery – 6:30pm

**Feb 16 – (Sat) That’s Another Horrible Idea Drive**  
10:36am Departure from Lake Wright

**Mar 6 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting - TBD**

**Mar 16 – (Sat) – OBX Adventure**  
Whalehead Club, Currituck Lighthouse  
Late lunch in Duck

**Apr 2 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
Hosted by Betty & Jim Villers

**Apr TBA - Spring Tech Session**

**Apr 26-28 (tentative) – VA Spring Tour**  
California Dreamin’

**May 1 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk**  
Hosted by Cynthia & Andy

**May 4 – British & European Car Show (April 24)**  
Hosted by Williamsburg British Car Club  
[www.WMBGBRIT.com](http://www.WMBGBRIT.com)

**May 29 – Peninsula Dessert Drive**  
6:30pm departure from Yorktown Visitors Center

**May 30 – Southside Dessert Drive**  
6:30pm departure from Harris Teeter - VB City Hall

**June 4 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Seaford**  
Hosted by Jayne & Bruce Easley

**June TBA – Tides Baseball – Norfolk**  
Harbor Park

**June 23 – 26 – NAMGBR – Traverse City, MI**

**July 10 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting**

**July 10 – 14 - NAMGAR – Dubuque, IA**

**July 28 – Barksdale Theater – Hanover**  
*Forever Plaid* - 10am – 6pm

**Aug 7 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
Hosted by Kathy & Mark Davidoski

**Aug TBA – Summer Tech Session – Virginia Beach**  
Hosted by Rachel & Mathieu Huovinen

**Sept TBA – Wings & Wheels – Virginia Beach**

**Sept 3 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Norfolk**  
Ocean View Fishing Pier

**Oct TBA – British Car Festival – Waynesboro**

**Oct 10 – Monthly Meeting – Virginia Beach**  
Hosted by Renee & Bill Olcheski

**Nov 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting**

**Nov TBA – Fall Tech Session**  
Hosted by Susan & Terry Bond

**Dec TBA – Holiday Party – Hampton**  
Hosted by Faith & PJ Peterson

**Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events**





**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Jan 2nd**  
 Hosted By  
**Eric and Cindy**  
**464 W. Ocean View Ave**  
**Norfolk, VA.**



- 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.
- Turn left on W Oceanview



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



**The Dipstick**  
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