

Volume 46 Issue 11

November 2019

Fall Tour 2019

Day One (by Jim Villers)

We all gathered at the Northampton WAWA at the appointed 8:30 expecting a prompt departure. We have been well trained by Tad that if the departure time is 8:01 it is 8:01. As we waited, we noticed that our leader was not among us. We waited a little longer and then learned that the HRBT gods did not smile on Bob and Missy McKenna this morning, so they were running a



little late. The nine car tour included Mike & Denise Haag, Don & Rose Ladd, Fred McCall & Linda, Bob & Missy McKenna, Robert Perrone, PJ & Faith Peterson, Jim & Betty Villers, Andy Wallach & Cynthia Faschini.

With arrival, Missy passed out our tour books, a handsome three ring binders with a whimsical caricature of an MGB leaving the beach with a surf board on the cover. After greeting, hugs and a brief driver's meeting, we were on our way north to historic Delaware.

Our first leg was an hour drive across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and up US-13 to Eastville for a tour of the historic courthouse and jail. Our highlight was to chat with a woman working behind a steel "safe" door in a fire-proof room. She explained that that was the old storage area for the county records until they had been moved to the new courthouse several years ago.

We left Eastville well behind schedule for the 90 mile drive to Berlin, MD for lunch. Berlin has been transformed into an interesting walking town of shops and galleries. It also included the refurbished Globe Theater; transformed into a pub/theater restaurant that has a stage for musical performance and projection equipment for movies. More importantly, we were hungry and they served excellent food. The portions were huge, but Bob still indulged in a slice of their 14 layer Smith Island Cake.

By now, we were about two hours behind schedule for the one hour drive to Rehoboth Beach. That was OK; Bob had planned some extra time in the schedule for us to explore the beach town. After entering the "Rehoboth suburbs", Fred's MGA came to an un-planned stop. With expert mechanic Don Ladd investigating, the rest of the caravan proceeded to the Oceanus Hotel. The Oceanus is a 1950'ish motel; four floors of open walkways at an angle overlooking an outside pool. The office was in room #1 without a lobby or inside common space. Bob hosted "happy hour" upon our arrival in the passageway outside of his room; we were all ready to kick back after a long day of driving.

We then heard the rumble of a MGA engine as Fred drove into the parking lot. Don discovered a faulty distributor rotor and Fred fortunately had a spare, the MGA was back among the tour vehicles.

It is amazing how MGs always have room for cold beer, wine and snacks in their tiny boots and it didn't take long for the happy hour to grow into a party outside of Bob's room next to the swimming pool. Two of the women even took the occasion for a refreshing swim.

Dinner was just a walk around the corner to a beach quality pub. After our large, late lunch, most of us were just looking for light fare with a wine or beer.

After returning to the motel, the outside gathering reassembled for the rest of the evening.

The challenge of staying in a 1950'ish motel was the lack of breakfast available at the hotel and no visible breakfast alternatives. This was compounded by an 8:00 departure time the next morning. ... To be continued on day two....

Pre-LBC conveyance



Day Two (by Cynthia Faschini)

We left Rehoboth Beach at 8:02am on a cool sunny day with the temperature at 74 degrees. Andy and

Cynthia were treated to an amazing sunrise on the boardwalk prior to us leaving. We will be losing Robert Perrone for he is on his way to Boston to visit his son. We are heading to New Castle DE where we went to the New Castle Court House Museum built in 1732 and one of the oldest active courthouses in the US along with being Delaware's first state capitol. This is where the Colonial Assembly passed the 1776 Separation Resolution creating the Delaware State. Prior to that, it was under Pennsylvania rule. Leigh and Brian were our guides and were extremely knowledgeable and passionate. We then continued to Jessop's Tavern where we had a delightful meal and spirits. My mussels and Andy's tuna were outstanding along with the George Washington porter.

Jim Villers noticed that Andy's brake lights were not working properly - they seemed to be staying on. Andy was able to solve this problem by figuring out that you have to do the opposite of what you think and voila brake lights functioned properly after that. We left New Castle and took a scenic drive down US 9; one of the groups' favorites. We even encountered a flooded road whereby everyone made it out without incident. I will have to add even Fred and Linda in the MGA were unscathed. We were treated to meadows, cornfields, rivers and luscious foliage. What more could one desire.

Our next stop was Odessa were Elaine the docent did our tour of two houses. She was a bevy of information to include that one of the houses was part of the Underground Railroad. Odessa has some of the finest examples of 18th and 19th century architecture in the state. We then continue to Middleton to check in at the Hilton and we were just in time for happy hour. Bob made arrangements to have a conference room and we enjoyed pizza, beer, wine and snacks. There was a lot of laughter and entertaining discussion. Linda entertained the group with mind-altering games. The first was Jack and Jill, Tight Rope, and Adam and Eve. Only yes and no questions allowed. PJ of course got two out of three. You will have to ask Linda or PJ to recount the details. If you will notice there have been no mention of mishaps but now I must tell you that Susan Bond left her lights on while we were touring New Castle. The troops did there level best to push her down a hill to pop the clutch to start the car but to no avail. Solution was to get a brand new battery. The old one was under warranty and Susan was able to continue the rest of the journey without incident. Of note, Sue did not have to pay a red cent for the new battery. Another victory for the team. Up next Fort Delaware and Chincoteague.

Day three (Fred McCall)

After enjoying a bountiful happy hour at the Hampton Inn the night before, the MG tour began on a sunny morning promptly at 0900. Single file, all left the Hampton Inn headed towards our first stop of the day in Delaware City. Sue had a new battery in her MG and Fred had a new rotor in his distributor. Hearing all the MG engines startup brought a smile and "thumbs up" to the members especially Sue and Fred. The big shock came early in the day for a number of happy hour attendees from the night before when they attempted to replenish their depleted beer supplies. You can't buy beer everywhere in Delaware - only in state licensed liquor stores - none of which are open at 8 in the morning.

We arrived in the quaint little town of Delaware City and obtained our 10 am tickets for the passenger ferry to Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island. Our departure was delayed due to battery issues. This time, not one of ours - the ferry's. The ferry doctor arrived and got us on our way.

Parking in Delaware City is scant but all managed to find parking spots. Fred found a handicapped spot in front of the post office. They were located in front of the Post office because lacking home delivery the town folks all have



post office boxes. While we were on the island and unbeknownst to us, the Grey Panther's of Delaware City noticed the damn Red Coat car taking up half of the town's handicap parking spaces and demanded an immediate tactical response from the town's police department. With half the police department in tow a posse was formed to locate the foreign perpetrator. After a fruitless search of the downtown area by the police, unable to see the handicap placard covered up by the tonneau cover, by majority vote issued the "A" a citation and impounded it until Monday morning when the town magistrate could deal with it.

`Mean while -back to the group - Some TMGC travelers having toured other forts in the past, felt that Fort Delaware did not measure up to Fort Monroe but still somewhat interesting. Perhaps the most memorable factoid was "White Nose Syndrome"...a deadly fungus that kills the bats inhabiting the fort. To combat this fungus from spreading to the mainland we were required to walk across a Woolite infused walkway to kill the fungus spores. I think it was akin to a fleadipping!

The excitement peaked with the firing of the forts' one active cannon using a 1/6 (one pound) charge. Don got some amazing pictures of the cannon firing . It took a reenactment crew of 5 to fire the cannon. (early civil service?) It's a great gig to have for 15 min. After that excitement, we departed on the tram for the ferry ride back to Delaware City. On arriving, everyone made a bee line to their cars. Lunch was calling! When Fred and Linda got to the post office there was no "A" to be found. With two possibilities—stolen or towed Linda dialed 911. While waiting for the 911 operator to return from her tea break 2 foot mounted police officers returned to wrap up the crime scene . They confirmed the "A" was towed based on numerous post office patron complaints and the Va. DMV data base had no record of the "A"'s antique license number.

Much explaining and groveling ensued. The police officer conferred with the on the scene supervising LT and they coordinated with the police chief to have the citation revoked before it got posted to the police blotter. As no crime had been officially logged, there would be no need to

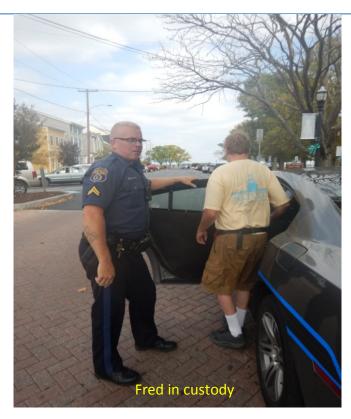
appear in front of the magistrate on Monday. A couple of calls later and the keeper of the impound lot keys was located and agreed since he wasn't doing anything that day he would go open the gate for us. But; he still wanted his \$ 175 fee - CASH only! Upon our assurance to the officer and later to his Lt. we actually had the cash, the officer agreed to drive us



to the impound lot. No Uber in Delaware City. It was our first experience in the back of a police car together. Not a pleasant ride as Fred had to sit sideways with feet pulled up under his chin. As we got underway the officer (Corporal Kramer) asked if we had ever ridden in a police car before. Fred replied no but had ridden in an armored Hilux. When the officer asked where and why that was, Fred said Afghanistan. Officer Kramer divulged he was in Afghanistan as well and in fact had just retired days before after 31 years in the USAF! As the conversation continued, it turns out that he and Fred were at ISAF HQ in Afghanistan the same time and he had been assigned to Fred's security pool detail. After a back and forth Q&A session with a few "I can neither confirm nor deny" from both sides it was revealed the officer had also been a C-130 crew chief for the USAF servicing the US base in

Honduras where Fred was the DPM and it was likely they had shared a few beers together as the officer knew a number of people that were working with Fred. It was like a reunion of sorts....bizarre at best. I sat crouched and mute on my side witnessing all this rhetoric and male bonding over downed black hawks, mortar attacks and security details. We finally arrived at the impound lot. When we exited the police car, I was sure I might witness head buttings and other displays of affection between Fred and officer Kramer. He apologized profusely for towing the "A", gave us his card with cell number and said if "anything ever happened in Delaware involving the police..."he would handle it.

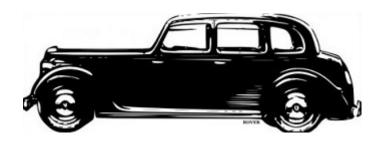
After picking up the "A" we hurried towards the local nuclear power plant to meet up with the group at Cantwell's Tavern in Odessa hoping to catch them before they left. We, of course were late arriving, but the group had been delayed as well. They were all enjoying their adult beverages in a private dining



room, (so private in fact the hostess at the entrance did not know the group was there) when Fred and Linda walked in. After much clapping and even a standing ovation, for the lunch entertainment Fred and Linda provided a review of their adventure.

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After the late mostly liquid lunch we once again drove the back roads past the Delaware version of 3 mile Island heading south on our way to the Fairfield Inn of Chincoteague. As we approached the motel we could not help but notice the town's only movie theater was featuring the movie "Misty" on the marquee. It was a long day so dinner for most was replaced with an extended happy hour on the waterfront with no mosquitoes. Maybe Chincoteague only offers mosquitoes during tourist season.



Day Four (PJ & Faith Peterson)

Then there were Seven. Fred and Linda had to leave early as Linda was due back at work in NC the following day.

The rest of us departed on time at 08:30 for an hour's worth of driving some great back roads on our way to Furnace Town. I knew it was going to be a good day when a bald eagle flew over the group. We went through some sleepy little towns such as Stockton, Gridletree, and Snow Hill.



When we arrived at

Furnace Town, we were met by the Executive Director, Jessica Evans and "Missy" the 12 year old cat. Jessica had opened early just for us and was our tour guide. Not only did the site have an early blast furnace, but also several other buildings that had been moved to the site from other locations. All of the building were in use with artists for such crafts as broom making, printing, weaving, blacksmiths, and other such early 1800s businesses. Jessica was incredibly knowledgeable about the site. (Thank you Donald Ladd for the picture)

The Nassawango blast furnace was unique for it utilized the hot exhaust to heat the incoming fresh air allowing it to reach temperatures in excess of 3000 degrees. Maybe the first case of turbo-charging?

From here, we again traveled some great back roads on our way to Mallards on the Wharf restaurant. In route Donald and Rose Ladd were able to insure that Andy and Cynthia did not receive a \$500 dollar fine for littering by catching the banana peel that slipped out of Andy's hand and landed on the hood of the Ladd's car.

Arriving at Mallards, we all sat down to a great lunch. They were known for their "Fried Green Tomato, Bacon and Lettuce sandwich". Here, we all said are goodbyes and departed our separate ways to home. Another great Fall Tour was sadly over. My hat is off to Bob and Missy McKenna for a superb trip!

	TMGC Officers and Committees	
President	Bill Olcheski/Robert Perrone	390-9354
Vice President	Faith Peterson/Mike Haag	218-4026
Secretary	Cynthia Faschini	408-2032
Treasurer	Jim Villers	822-9182
Editors	Mark and Kathy Davidoski	499-4647
Membership	Andy Wallach	408-4497
Webmaster	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Historian	Susan Bond	403-1169
Technical	Terry Bond	403-4614
Activities	Tad Carter	496-9847
Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
Regalia	Rose Ladd	373-2468



Marque Time

Greetings MG Enthusiasts,

As usual most of the credit for our October meeting should go to the First Lady. The weather was less than perfect but the meeting was great. It was a pleasure to see so many of you in the now former presidential palace. Despite missing some key committee members we had a marathon length interactive meeting. The highlight of the evening was the vote on the passing of the gavel. Robert Perrone will once again take on the role of our fearless leader. It was a clean and fair election with no outside interference. Maybe even more important was the election of Mike Haag to the prominent position of vice president. He has already started working on the ever so important vice presidential shrug.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as president of the Tidewater MG Classic Car Club for a second time over the past two years. The club is strong with outstanding members and has many great years ahead.

Safety Fast!! BillO President Emeritus,

Dipstick Calendar – November 2019

Nov 3 – (Sun) Fall Tech Session Hosted by Susan & Terry Bond

Nov 6 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Chili Cook-off Hosted by Jack Speight

Nov 9 – (Sat) Mmmmm, Bacon Tour 10:02 departure from Waffle House, Chesapeake

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

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

2020 Schedule

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

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

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

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

Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events



Activity Report – November 2019

November is a big month for visiting Chesapeake. Our Fall Tech Session is on **Sunday, November 3**rd, **hosted by Susan and Terry Bond at their home in Chesapeake**. There is always something to see, something to fix, someone to help, or something to nosh on. Usually all of the above. By now, most of you know the drill: doors open at 10am. BYO parts. There

Our **November 6th meeting will be the Chili Cook-off**. Tonight's meeting is hosted by **Jack Speight at his home in Chesapeake**. Time to get your chili on. Can you wrest the title away from 2018 winner PJ Peterson, or the perennial favorite, Pete Olson?

Our final drive of the 2019 season will be on Saturday, November 9th for the *Mmmmm, Bacon Tour* (and yes, vegans are welcome). You can check off several boxes – quiet country roads, shopping, good food, an historic stop (\$7), wine tasting (\$13) – all to wrap up the 2019 schedule. We'll have a 10:02 departure from Waffle House (4800 Portsmouth Blvd, Chesapeake – just west of I-664). We'll start with a short drive to Darden Country Store in Smithfield. As they put it, *Darden's isn't just for kids.... families, friends and foodies make the trek for the scenery, the ham, the chocolate covered peanuts, the pumpkins, the gourds. For the past several years, the haunted corn maze at the Darden's has been a fixture on the Halloween circuit. From there, it will be more back roads, and we're off to lunch at Surry Seafood. Following lunch, we'll visit Bacon's Castle. Built in 1665, this is the oldest known brick dwelling in the US. We'll tour the Castle and learn about its long history. Our final stop, as we wind down the summer, will be at Summerwind Vineyards in Isle of Wight. This is a show-n-go event. However, letting me know your plans in advance will allow better scheduling at each of our stops. Also, if you let me know in advance whether you will be joining the drive, I can update you if there are late changes due to weather, etc. Otherwise, you are on your own ©.*

Our **Holiday Party is slated for December 14**th and will be hosted by Faith and PJ at their home in Hampton. As usual, this will be a potluck dinner. Check the December Dipstick for a suggestion on what you can bring.



And three nights later – **Tuesday, December 17**th, 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'll have tables reserved. 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.

And that, my fellow MG enthusiasts, is all we have for the next 10 weeks. But not to worry, the 2020 schedule is in the works. More Horrible Ideas, more Theatre, more car shows, more good food, and more quiet roads. Until we meet again, enjoy the ride!

Tad Carter

TECH STUFF — by Terry Bond

A few sentences of my inaugural tech article went missing somewhere, so I thought I'd fill in the blanks – What wasn't printed was some info about specialty paints that I have been using to provide a good level of detail on our MGs. I had mentioned that I'd painted the new alternator before installation and gave it a nice clean fresh blasted aluminum finish using some Rustoleum paint from Home Depot. The raw aluminum finish on that alternator would have soon attracted greasy fingerprints, smudges, and junk, looking very much like an old used alternator in a short time. Now some of you may prefer that kind of finish (think it's called "patina"), but I try to keep the cars clean, inside and out, and just being able to wipe the dirt off makes it much easier to keep things looking new. I've even used this paint finish on transmission casings.

A wide range of finishes is available from several sources. Restoleum Semi-Gloss black closely duplicates the semi-flat finish on a lot of original equipment parts, including chassis components, suspension parts, brackets, etc. It's a good protective coating and like others, cleans easily. I buy mine from Home Depot. I've used it with and without primer, and if the surface of what you are painting is clean and degreased, you can pass on the primer. They have paints that replicate the appearance of aluminum, raw cast iron, stainless steel, and even raw steel. Spraying several light coats, beginning with just a light "dusting" to build on will give you a





You can buy it on Amazon (along with everything else these days), but I've been told it's also available at NAPA and some Autozone stores. I buy an assortment when I need to replenish my stock so there is always something available for touch-up. Large swap meets usually have dealers represented who sell detail paints. I always visit Eastwood at the Hershey PA swap meet to see what new products are available. While their paints tend to be a bit more expensive, the quality is very High. I don't know who makes the paint they rebrand and sell but would not be surprised if it was Martin Seynour. Eastwood calls their black "Chassis Black."

Stainless steel paint works nicely on brake lines and chassis fittings. The black provides a nice correct finish for lots of things under the hood. Cast iron and steel finishes are nice for under-hood details also, and especially for nuts, bolts, clips and clamps. The great thing about this paint is the super-fast drying time. All the small stuff usually gets bead blasted and wiped down with denatured alcohol prior to painting.

I've heard a lot of you who do not frequent the automotive swap meets, because you can't find any MG stuff there. Well, I highly recommend going to big events like the one at Charlotte Motor Speedway (both spring and fall events are great, but the spring version is much larger), and of course the world's largest antique auto show and swap meet in Hershey PA (we just got back-separate story coming). You may indeed walk a ways before you stumble on MG stuff, but there is a big dose of restoration parts, equipment, supplies, and info available at those events. Whether it's special tools, supplies, shop equipment, or perhaps even just some technical know-how, those events can't be matched by thumbing through a catalog. Check the Eastwood site though for a preview of the kinds of specialty finishes you can obtain. https://www.eastwood.com/paints.html

October 8, 2019 TMGC Meeting Minutes

President Olcheski opened the meeting at 8:04pm. Even though several regular members could not attend there were about 30 members present. Bill stated that in an effort to get more people to volunteer to host the meetings in their homes he was scaling down the food options. If you host you get \$150.00 for expenses. Bill stated that in the past he has spent around \$300.00. Jennifer Ash one of the original members of the club has stated that it was not the intent of the club to host a dinner. Just food for thought. Once again Baylake Pines is hosting a car show that features MG's. If interested this will take place November 2, 2019 from 10-3. This is an elderly community who enjoys seeing our relics.

Activities: Tad in his attention to detail emailed everyone about the upcoming events since he was not able to be present. Please refer t the email along with the newsletter to become familiar with the upcoming activities.

Vice President: Faith was not present.

Nominations: Robert Perrone was nominated for President and Jim Villars seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it was unanimous. Therefore, Robert Perrone is the new President of the TMGC club. Mike Haag was nominated for Vice President. A vote was taken and it was also unanimous. Mike Haag will be the Vice President of the TMGC club. The Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Activities, Regalia and Historian will remain the same. These are the positions that keep on giving. As a side note there was no Ukrainian interference.

Rose Ladd was not present but wanted everyone to know that she is undergoing medical testing and there seemed to be some chatter that she may be pregnant. Will keep the club posted.

Treasurer: Report indicates that we have a balance of \$1,969.14.

Dipstick: Jim Villars took a ride in someone's 1954 Oldsmobile while in Colorado and also had an opportunity to visit with Becky and Chuck Hassler. While in Colorado Jim saw a TA (see pics in DIPSTICK) along with the article that Jim wrote. Becky will always be fondly remembered for her amazing apple pies. Terry Bond also submitted an article about alternators. The Bacon tour is November 9 in Smithfield. The Tech session will be at the Bonds November 3, 2019.

Membership: Andy Wallach reported 96 vs. 108 from the same timeframe as last year.

Technical: Ethanol gas seemed to be a hot topic with the levels pushing to 15 percent. How will this affect the club? If interested talk to Paul Fugua, he uses gas at a Sunoco station that runs \$8 a gallon. There are other gas stations that have ethanol free gas. Looks like this is best researched on Google. Bruce Easley suggested contacting the national MG group to

see if this is on their radar.

New **Business:**



Old Business: None

Marque Time: Andy Wallach has his engine at Abacus which has been there for two weeks and he still hasn't heard back from them. A collection plate went around. (ha ha) Robert was asked what Marque Time means and he stated "Marking time on your work. Rob MacPherson has a 1959 MGA which is drivable and allows him to put the TD on jack stands to replace and fix things. He purchased the MGA in Waverly.

Doug Kennedy who a 1969 MGB has replaced his seat covers and purchased his new brakes at O'Reilly for just \$30. Replacing his rear hubs is next.

The outgoing President gave a farewell speech and stated that he truly enjoyed his tenure. The next meeting will be held at Jack Speight's abode located at 1800 Taft Road Chesapeake, VA. Be there Aloha.

recorded by Cynthia Faschini

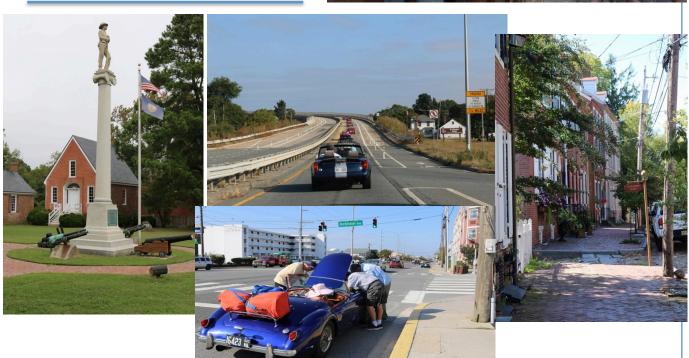




gg59761651 www.gograph.com

to Bob and Missy for all of your hard work putting together an amazing Fall Tour!





More Tech Stuff

from Mark Davidoski

This is not really a technical subject, but it may prove useful to you "rubber bumper" MG drivers.....

I recently tried out a Rustoleum product that effortlessly improved the appearance of my 1974 ½ MGB-GT. It's called "Wipe New" and is said to be compatible with all manner of plastic trim materials as used in our black bumpered cars as well as many others. It's available at O'Reilly stores as well as Walmart, but I found a package at the NAPA store on Cleveland Street in Virginia Beach.

It's a liquid that is applied with an included microfiber cloth. I did my bumpers in about three minutes and was pleasantly impressed with the result. My original equipment bumpers, which had been resprayed with black paint by the notorious "previous owner" were almost instantly restored to a nice semi-gloss uniform coat with a weather-resistant finish. My rear bumper was particularly rough looking before the application of Wipe New, due to numerous fueling spills and general wear and tear. Retail price is around \$16 for a seemingly lifetime supply.

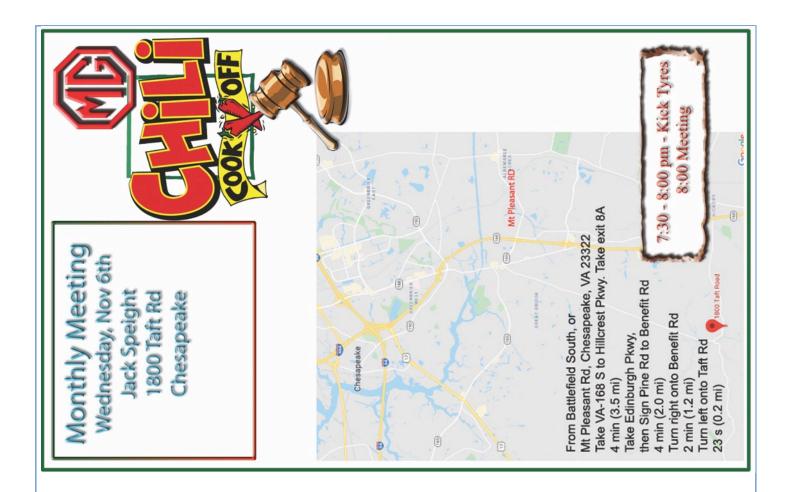
At any rate, I can recommend this stuff to the rubber bumper masses. It actually works. If only I'd used it BEFORE Wings & Wheels, it may have put me over the top in my vehicle class!



The 1.5 ounce bottle is enough for lots of bumpers!



This is the "after" image. I didn't think to get a "before" shot.





Tidewater MG Classics

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