



# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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

**Volume 47 Issue 8**

**August 2020**

*From the Dipstick Archives – the write up from the very first Wine Tour, held back in 2003!*

## **ON THE WINE TRAIL**

George Craig

Those who didn't make the Heart of Virginia Wine Tour on July 12 & 13 missed another really great time. The weather cooperated by cooling just a bit and we only saw rain a few minutes after reaching home. Eight cars, including seven Bs, made the trip without incident. Paul and Carmen Thiergardt didn't drive the TF, opting because of Paul's severe head cold for the comforts of the air-conditioned Mercury.



Our club is indeed fortunate to have Alan and Beckey Watson to plan and organize these events and, in their usual manner, everything was planned to a "T" and came off flawlessly and on time. Although the original intent was to visit five wineries in two days, we learned before leaving home that one, for some unknown reason, was closed (do you think they heard we were coming?). So we were able to avoid the necessity of finding eight designated drivers – barely.

One of the nice things about touring in a group is that if the wineries are expecting you (and they were because of Alan's thoroughness) and have a "crowd" they provide a lot of extras – but after all, they are selling wine. For example, on our first stop around noon on Saturday at Grayhaven Winery in Gum Springs, they had erected a tent in a beautiful shady grove of trees and provided a very adequate supply of "picnic wines" for our pre-planned, "bring a dish" spread. As usual, we had an overload of food and all was scrumptious. Barb Taychert's curried chicken salad was a hit with everyone along with many other summertime picnic treats. This family-operated winery, although small, was very nice with amiable crew, friendly dogs, nice facilities, and a very good product. Unfortunately, with two more scheduled stops that afternoon a nap, although loudly called for, was not possible – Oh well.



Next stop was Cooper Vineyards in Louisa with its beautiful, well tended vineyards but modest facilities and so-so product.

Highlight of the day was the visit to Lake Anna Winery in Spotsylvania. These beautiful vineyards are complemented by very modern and attractive buildings equipped with rooms adequate for banquets and musical productions (one of which was scheduled for that evening). We were provided a personalized tour by the vintner and learned perhaps more than we will ever remember about the love life and ultimate

sacrifice of “the grape”. Good wine too!

Now time to check in at the Henry Clay Inn in Ashland. Although situated only 50 feet from the quaint Amtrak station that sees 37 trains per day, it was a delight. Built in 1992 to replicate the original inn it has all of the historical charm coupled with all of the modern conveniences. Because we constituted most of the guests we sort of took over the upstairs “parlor” and were treated again to great “leftovers” from our picnic lunch supplemented by Susan Bond’s visit to the local deli and a wee dram of the days shopping.

Sitting around the fireplace (fortunately unlit) the delightful conversation ranged from Barb’s wild tales about her animals to Jim and Betty Villers’ comments regarding cremation in lieu of burial in an MG. Politics and religion were fortunately avoided, but I don’t believe that many other topics were missed. We also learned that Beckey Watson is “published”. In the latest issue of the “North American Classic MG” we were treated to a “wife’s view from the passenger seat”. So now Tidewater MG Classics has an author laureate.

Some of the younger members such as Jim and Betty Villers, Mike Haag, Olive and Robin Watson, and Beckey and Alan Watson topped off the evening with a visit to the ice cream parlor and the



Listening Room--the Randolph Macon College outlet for local talent. Later that evening the Listening Room may have become the Listing Room.

Sunday morning, after a nice continental breakfast, everyone headed to the front porch rocking chairs with a second cup of coffee and the Sunday papers. All that was missing was the mint julep and cheroot.

The conversations continuing from the evening before were only slightly interrupted by the visions of our train photographers, George Craig taking a picture of Mike Haag taking a picture of Susan taking a picture of the passing Amtrak trains.

The final winery visit became the "best saved for last". Only a fifteen minute drive from our inn we were treated to the beauty of the James River Winery in Ashland. Our host had prepared cheeses, crackers, and several homemade dips to accompany the eight or so wines they "insisted" upon our sampling. A gracious and knowledgeable hostess presented all of this on a wonderfully landscaped patio. We all turned in our "passports" and received our "gift" of a "Heart of Virginia Wine Trail" travel corkscrew.

After our last tasting we headed back into town to a barbecue place where we had lunch before gassing up and heading home.

So all in all we not only spent a great weekend in a historical part of Virginia, we (speaking at least for the men) enjoyed our "robust, full bodied, intriguing, spirited, and complex" mates - and the wine was pretty good too.



---

### TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Robert Perrone	574-3233
Vice President	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Jim Villers	822-9182
Editors	Mark and Kathy Davidoski	499-4647
Membership	Mike Ash	678-0963
Webmaster	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Historian	Susan Bond	403-1169
Technical	Terry Bond	403-4614
Activities	Vacant	
Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
Regalia	Rose Ladd	737-2468





## *Marque Time*

Why do we come together? Sure, we're drawn to the club for several reasons, and we enjoy meetings, drives and other events.

But these things that we all take part in do not happen by chance.

It only happens as the result of effort from many, many members over the years. Consider what our volunteer TMGC members have done to make this club what it is. When asked, they offered to help and did their part. They have kept this club going throughout the decades.

Just think about it. The club has been in existence since 1973. That was nearly 50 years ago, 7 years before the last MGB would roll off the assembly line at Abingdon.

I could not possibly list all of the people that have had a part in working for this club over these years. That list alone would cover several pages.

But I did consider listing members that have stepped up in just the past few years. And, although it would also be a nice gesture, as with the list of TMGC volunteers over the past several decades, there are some names that might be inadvertently omitted.

But I noticed one consistent theme as I thought about all of this.

There are many positions in TMGC that must be filled for this club to be successful, which has been true for decades. We have always needed members to volunteer to do their part for the club as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Dipstick Editor(s), Membership, Historian, Regalia, Technical and, of course, Activities. In addition, so many have also invited us into their homes and hosted meetings, Tech Sessions, drive events and other club gatherings.

It seems that these roles are most often filled by the same people time and time again. In fact, at the present time we have one member that has offered to volunteer once again, just as he has in several roles since 1973. (*Yes, I'm talking about you, Mike Ash!*)

We have asked for volunteers to help with the roles of Secretary, Membership and Activities, but aside from Mike Ash, no one has yet done so.

Please consider taking on one of the positions. Don't worry about whether you would be able to do the job, there are many members available to help at any time.

If you do, we promise to show you the secret handshake and invite you on the next trip to Las Vegas with the Inner Circle and... um, wait, maybe I've said too much.

Safety Fast,  
Robert

## Activities Update

Our next meeting will be at the Peterson home, 4 Applewood Drive in Hampton on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Kick Tyres at 7:30 PM; meeting at 8:00 PM.

The Summer Tech Session has been canceled, but the Fall Session is still tracking, hosted by the Bonds at a date to be determined.

### Upcoming Shows:

Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA September 17-20. Registration is OPEN. **The show has NOT been cancelled.**

Wings & Wheels September 19 at the Military Aviation Museum, Virginia Beach.  
[www.TRAACA.com](http://www.TRAACA.com)

Shenandoah Valley British Car Festival - **cancelled for 2020**

MG International 2021 will be in Atlantic City June 14 - 17, 2021. This is the 6th all-MG Register. It is a short drive (compared to Calgary, Reno or Louisville). Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for early registration information.

## Dipstick Calendar – AUG 2020

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

**Summer Tech Session – CANCELLED**

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

Sep 19 (Sat) – Wings & Wheels – TRAACA –  
Military Aviation Museum, Virginia Beach

Sep 17-20 – Southeast British Car Festival – Dillard, GA  
Contact Peachtree MG Registry for details

**Oct 7 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting**  
Hosted by Renee and Bill Olcheski

**Nov 4 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting**

**Fall Tech Session – TBA**  
Hosted by Susan and Terry Bond

**Dec TBA – Holiday Party**  
Hosted by Ashley and Billy Stutz

**Dec 15 – (Tue) Holiday Lights**

**Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events**



# Membership Update

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Mike Ash

At the June meeting, I don't know if it was the good IPA, the pizza or the plaintive tone of our president's voice but I found myself volunteering to be the new membership person.

Actually, I didn't volunteer directly, I just offered to fill the position if no one else wanted it. But, since there was a deathly silence when Rob asked for volunteers for membership and the other open positions, I was left standing alone!



So, I guess I am it! Looking over the spreadsheet I was provided and adding the latest entrants, it appears we have, as of mid-July, 57 renewals out of last year's membership of 126 – about 45%. So, if you haven't renewed, now is the time. Especially now that Jim Villers and Mike Haig have made it a lot easier by adding a "Buy Now" button to our website – mg.org. Go to the website and select the membership page, where, under membership renewal you will see the Buy Now button. Click on the button and you will be taken to a PayPal page where you renew your membership using your PayPal account or credit card. Simple, isn't it? Of course, if you prefer the old way, you can still mail in the membership renewal form with a \$20 check, or pay at a meeting.

I would like to thank Andy for his work as the membership, and Tad for filling in when Andy was indisposed. Now, I am it. If you haven't renewed yet, DO IT TODAY! Let's see if we can be closer to 100% renewed membership by the next meeting.

---

## TMGC Meeting Minutes July 7, 2020 Deadline Brewing Project, Virginia Beach Recorded by Mark Davidoski

Turnout was strong for our first monthly meeting since March. Arrivals began shortly before 6:00 PM as many members sampled the craft beer offerings of Deadline Brewing Project. Pizza and salad were served by Renee and Denise (appropriately equipped with Covid masks and gloves).

Robert called us to order at 7:36 PM and thanked Darryl of Deadline for opening the store just for us. We welcomed Andy & Cynthia who recently completed a rigorous period of post-accident rehab. It was noted that Donald Ladd was also recently laid up and that we should keep him in our thoughts. Tad and Karen are about to complete their move to the Carolinas. Jim Villers presented Tad with a plaque in recognition of his many years as our Activities Chairman. The inscription said it all: "So many miles, so many smiles!" Jim also gave his Treasurer's Report, with an impressive balance of \$2194.93. The Dipstick editors renewed their call for newsletter material. Jim suggested everyone consider writing up something about your favorite TMGC roadtrip or other event.







Andy updated us on his MGA engine rebuild, which was interrupted by his recent hospitalization. Abacus has completed its portion of the work, so now Frank Linse and Richard Hall are putting the finishing touches in place prior to installation.

Robert discussed the club's need for a new Activities Chairman who could rely on individual members to lead specific events. Cynthia suggested re-running prior trips, for which the basic planning details already exist. Robert also mentioned that we're in need of a new Membership Chair (responsible for maintaining the roster and for dues collection) Finally, we also need a Secretary to record meeting minutes.

A discussion of online dues collection ensued. This capability is coming very soon. At this point Mike Ash graciously volunteered to act as Membership Chair – thanks Mike! Jim Villers reminded us of Roy Wiley's recent passing and that a memorial event will most likely be scheduled after the pandemic conditions have eased.

Mike Haag mentioned that Tech Tips are always a welcome addition to the Dipstick and that Jennifer Ash was one of the earliest contributors.

Hank Giffin reminded us that the T Register "Mini GOF" has been rescheduled for next year (30 Apr – 2 May) at Founders Inn and the Military Aircraft Museum. More details will be forthcoming.

Paul Fuqua updated us on planning for TRAACA's Wings & Wheels show to be held at the Military Aircraft Museum on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The show will feature "67 years of Corvette"



as well as displays of contemporary cars and show field parking organized by clubs. This means that our MGs will be together in one area. Please check TRAACA's website for registration procedures. As an added bonus, a biplane aerial tour will be auctioned off during the show. In addition, limited edition Wings & Wheels art posters will be offered. Paul concluded by mentioning TRAACA's effort to attract Millennials to the car club world, hence the inclusion of contemporary cars in the display.

The Bonds will host a Fall Tech Session on a date to be determined.

The next meeting is at the home of Faith and PJ in Hampton on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM.





# MG Rover XPower SV

Mike Haag

Thumbing through some old classic car magazines recently, I came across an article in the Spring 2003 issue of British Motoring put out by Moss Motors (later changed to Moss Motoring) of MG Rover's attempt in late 2002 at building a high performance sports car to compete with more exotic and expensive European sports cars, see the attached article.



Called the MG XPower SV, it was produced between 2003 -2005 with a total of 82 cars produced, including four SV-S prototypes. Based on the Qvale Mangusta platform, the car came in both RHD and LHD versions with three levels, all using the Ford 4.6L V8 as used in the Mustang and other Ford vehicles. The base SV used the stock engine, the SV-R used an engine bored out to 5.0L, and the SV-S used a supercharged 4.6L engine. MG Rover actually bought the company, called Qvale Modena, to build upon the Mangusta platform. Since the Mangusta had already been certified for sale in the US, and since it was using Ford engines, one would think that MG Rover was eyeing the US as a potential market, even though the car was not compliant with US regulations. With the base model priced at about £65,000 by the time MG Rover was dissolved in 2005, only 9 cars had been sold. I imagine the remaining cars were sold at liquidation auctions. Looking at some Classic & Sports Cars magazines from the mid-2000's I saw several for sale well in excess of £50,000. A quick look on both eBay UK and the AutoScout24 website for European cars did not turn up any for sale now.

At MG 2016 in Louisville, KY one of the four SV-S prototype cars was on display, likely the only MG XPower SV in the US at the time, if even now. See the attached photos from the show and also checkout the September/October issue of the MG Driver magazine for an article on the show car. The car had been at the Ford Motor Co in Dearborn, MI undergoing engine performance testing and when that was completed, it was not sent back to England. Instead, it remained behind and somehow a gentleman from South Carolina acquired it. How he got the car and how he got it titled and registered in SC would make for an interesting story, although one he may not want told. The car may be legal in SC, but the Feds may have a different opinion.

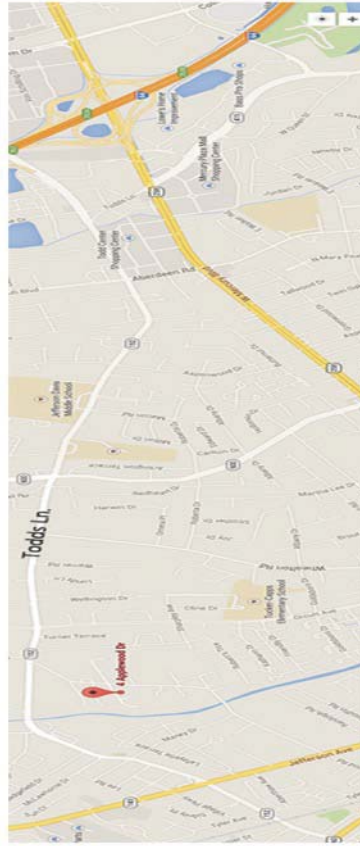
## References:

*British Motoring, Spring 2003, page 8*

*MG Driver, September/October 2016, page 51*

*Car & Driver magazine,  
November 2002, page  
34  
Wikipedia*



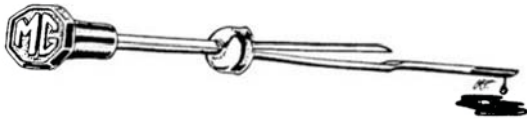


7:30 - 8:00 pm - Kick Tyres  
8:00 Meeting

Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, Aug 5th  
PJ & Faith Peterson  
4 Applewood Drive  
Hampton  
896-9606



# The Dipstick



Tidewater MG Classics  
C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski  
4705 Little John Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
[davidoskicrew@cox.net](mailto:davidoskicrew@cox.net)

*Affiliated with*



North American MGB Register

# FIRST CLASS