



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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To The Moon

Our fall driving tour, "Leaf the Covid Behind and Drive Me to the Moon" started at 8AM . These writers have not been up and out at this time of morning in a while! We left our house at 7:30 AM with fog and cool temperatures. We met at Lake Wright and visited until 8:20 AM. We left as a group of four MG's and two wannabees (a Miata and a SUV). We drove with the top down and heat on!



k65777288 www.fotosearch.com

About 9AM, we met the rest of the group at WAWA in Yorktown. We departed for our first stop, The Poddery. The procession consisted of eight MG'S and the same wannabees. We drove on windy, country roads. The drive was beautiful as the leaves were starting to change color. We were warmly welcomed at the Poddery by Mrs. Poddery. We learned that Mrs Poddery was an art teacher at Granby High School before moving to Matthews as an artisan creating pottery. We toured and were shown the many stages of pottery production.

We left for our next destination at 11:30. The sun came out and warmed us as we drove to the town of Matthews. Arriving was a treat unto itself. We parked on Main Street (yes, really!) and wondered around the quaint town that was very reminiscent of Mayberry. These writers ate at Southwind Pizza and enjoyed a casual lunch and beverages, in a COVID safe environment, outdoors. After lunch we browsed the art and antique shops . Before heading to the Vineyard, Bruce and Jayne insisted we take a quick trip to the moon! You know nobody in this group was going to say no. So to the moon we went! Moon Post Office that is!

The tour ended at the Zoll Vineyard. We arrived about 2:30. Everyone tasted the fruits of the vine. We had time, while imbibing, to chat and visit with one another making a great end to our Fall Tour. A special thank you to Bruce and Jayne for organizing our day!

This review was brought to you by your traveling reporters, Renee and Bill



Activities Update

MG Fans, the cool weather is upon us! According to the prevailing medical wisdom, the COVID-19 infection rate is ramping up also, and the case numbers are supporting this. Your club officers discussed the upcoming Holiday Party and several factors necessitated that the Party is cancelled for 2020. New state restrictions of no more than 25 at a gathering meant that potentially not everyone who wanted to attend could be allowed. Pot luck food would be a safety issue so food would have to be catered and a cost per person would have to be assessed, possible bad weather could keep everyone indoors and crowded together, creating a possible "spreader event", and several members had indicated they wouldn't attend due to Covid concerns. The announcement of at least two COVID vaccines give us some hope that things can get back to normal next year, but we have to keep each other safe in the meantime. Covid Safety Fast!

GET OUT AND DRIVE!! These cars like and need to be run. Just because a club outing or gathering is not formally announced, don't let that keep you in the garage. Any nice day is an opportunity. Call a buddy or nearby MG owner and make a drive. As Robert P would say: "Wherever two or more of ye are gathered, there also are MGs", or some such thing. Get a coffee, an ice cream, or go to a drive in joint and hang out with each other so all those other people can say "Wow! An MG! I (my father, my ____) used to have one of those!! They are so cool!" Etc, etc. Check out O's Donuts at 222 West 21st St in Norfolk – they make fresh, hot donuts to order while you are there. I'm always looking for an excuse to take the B, so I've been taking her out just for errands. If you're north of the CBBT, call me and let's go. And... don't forget the **Holiday Lights drive Dec. 15**, leaving Franco's parking lot at **7:30**. On a wider scale, MG 2021 will be held June 14-17 in Atlantic City NJ, so make your plans now!

Bruce Easley

TMGC Calendar As of Dec 2020

**Dec 5th – Holiday Party
Cancelled**

**Dec 15 – (Tue) Holiday Lights
Leaving from Franco's at 7:30PM**

**Local TMGC events for 2021 are
TBD at this time.**

Apr 24 - Williamsburg Club Car Show

Apr 30 - May 2 – Mini-GOF
Founders' Inn, Virginia Beach

Apr 30 – May 2 – TMGC Spring Tour

Jun 14-17 – MG 2021
Atlantic City, NJ





Marque Time

I think that we can all agree that 2020 did not go exactly as planned. Almost all of us have had our lives affected in one way or another by events beyond our individual control, and the club has been affected as well.

Even the last of the main gatherings of TMGC, our annual Holiday Party, has been cancelled. Of course, by the time this is published in the Dipstick everyone will be aware of that fact, but it is still unfortunate.

But I hope that we will all have a better year in 2021. As far as the club is concerned, we already have plans in the works for some events, not the least of which is the Spring Tour in April. Of course, the 2020 Spring Tour was one of the first activities to be cancelled this year. But Alan and Beckey are working on 2021 and I already have it on my calendar.

And in case anyone is wondering, we do plan to present awards as soon as we are able to schedule our next meeting. Mark Davidoski will give out the Dipstick Award and I will have the President’s Award ready as well.

If anyone is curious about that award, although I do have someone in mind, I have not yet had it engraved. So, if you want to offer an inducement... I mean *suggestion*, please give me a call.

So until things return to “normal” (*whatever that is...*) we can all get back to whatever it is we do to pass the time. I know that many of us have had a bit of increase in our consumption of adult beverages this year. Even my own doctor gave me some advice. He told me to watch my drinking. So I do. Now I drink in front of a mirror. Sorry again, Rodney.

Safety Fast,
Robert

TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Robert Perrone	574-3233
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Secretary	Vacant	
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Activities	Bruce Easley	570-2042
Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
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Tech Stuff – Fuel Stabilizers

Ok, it's time to "winterize." Aside from rearranging my bottles of Scotch, what else is there to do? Well, take a look around at all the things with Gasoline in them! Weed-wackers, leaf blowers, chain saws, generators, and even our beloved automobiles – some of which might not see the usual amounts of mileage put on them for the next several months. This year particularly, we've not driven as much as we like.

Time to reach for our favorite brand of red, purple, blue, gold, or whatever "stuff" to dump into your gas tank. (Don't you dare touch that 16 year old Scotch!)

Chemists who know a lot more about this "stuff" than we do got paid a lot of money to concoct things that do various other things we think might be helpful to our precious engines while not being used for extended periods of time.

Today's gasoline has corn (ethanol) in it. Ethanol is "Hygroscopic." Nope, that's not a typo or missed auto-correct on my keyboard.

Hygroscopy is the phenomenon of attracting and holding water molecules via either absorption or adsorption from the surrounding environment which is usually at normal or room temperature. If water molecules become suspended among the substance's molecules, adsorbing substances can become physically changed, e.g., changing in volume, boiling point, viscosity or some other physical characteristic or property of the substance.

So, that "corn" in your fuel attracts water. That H₂O content can reach a point where it will separate from the fuel, especially in long term storage. That water sitting at the bottom of the tank is the first thing to be picked up by the fuel pickup. To address this, the stabilizer concoctions work to lower fuel's ability to pick up that moisture. They might also add some type of alcohol so that the heavier mixture will burn—however poorly—when drawn into the fuel system and dispersed in the combustion chamber.

Oxygenization – burns gas more completely. Ethanol is the oxygenator of choice in fuel and it loves to mix with water. Get more than 500 parts per million water in the fuel, and it bonds with all the ethanol and then plops to the bottom of the tank in a powerless blob. That's called "phase separation", and it takes the octane with it. If this crud even burns through the engine, it abrades injectors, nullifies the work of lubricants and causes catastrophic damage. It happens suddenly. In tests, a gallon of fuel turned into about three ounces of water/ethanol and 61 ounces of unusable 77-octane gasoline.

Almost all of the specialized fuel treatment products are designed to help in some fashion, but most tend to try and cure a multitude of problems. A few can actually help cause damage, depending on how much moisture they remove (or suspend) and the quality of anti-corrosive additives. Some will have additives that help reduce the "varnishing" that results from added lubricants in today's fuel. Fuel stabilizers are also formulated not just to stop varnishing, but



also to mitigate the effects of phase separation. with the ability of the products to retard phase separation and keep small amounts of water in suspension. All of them have various additional various chemical

additives (or coloring) to bolster the sales pitches (claims) about how they will perform in keeping your engine ready to fire up come that first spring-time drive. These products have been relatively easy to test, and some interesting results can be found by using the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chsGBhB5g7o>

To cut to the chase – while there is little difference among most products, it seems that only Stabil limited absorption to any appreciable amount. Among the worst performing products was Sea-form. How long is too long to store fuel? Basically if you are going to leave it sit for more than a couple of months then you really would be better off adding some fuel stabilizer. This is especially true in our humid climate. It's not worth the hassle of trying to replace the fuel, rebuilding a carb or replacing a fuel tank, pump, filters and lines - and it's certainly not worth risking your engine. It's always best to add stabilizer to fresh fuel.



You can use fuel stabilizer to keep everything running properly and store whatever you need for even a few years at a time. It's best to add fuel stabilizer to fresh fuel to prevent it deteriorating. But which fuel stabilizer is the best bet for you?

Yes, there is even a fuel stabilizer made under the Lucas brand name and it rates pretty highly. But, whatever brand you choose, to quote my favorite troubadour Harry Chapin, "Just do something," even if that's just getting our LBC out and driving around more often.

Terry

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation...50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves. Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.



TMGC Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2020
Makers Craft Brewing, Norfolk

7:14 PM: Call to order (President Perrone)
Minutes approved for October meeting.
Robert asked for any visitors and harassed Alan Watson as a sometimes visitor.
An enterprising panhandler then introduced himself. Bruce Easley ushered him to the side and sent him on his way.
Andy and Cynthia were thanked for finding Makers Craft as a meeting site.



Vice Presidents report: Mike asked for volunteers for the coming year's meetings.

Treasurers report: Jim reported a balance of \$2335.13. Pandemics and lack of activity cause the balance to grow.

Hank Giffin reminded us that the T series Mini-GOF from last year has been rescheduled for early May at Founders Inn, among other local sites. He will provide additional details via the Dipstick.

Activities Update: Bruce reminded us of the Holiday Lights Drive on Dec 15. Ticket sales are online only this year – please see the Botanical Gardens website. Membership rosters were made available for those who need one. (Thank you Jim Villers!) The October drive was well attended with 11 cars participating. Remember, MG 2021 is in Atlantic City, NJ from 14-17 June. This is the five year "all MG" meet.

Historian: Susan remarked that it's easy to keep the history binders updated during the pandemic.

Technical: Terry updated us on various fuel stabilizers that he's been researching. Look for an article in the Dipstick.

Marque Time: Jim reminded us to pick up a roster. He also shared the story of the active bald eagle nest on his property. More to follow as the family develops.



Alan mentioned that his Dad is selling his TR-3A. The car is mechanically excellent, but will need some of the usual body work. Asking a mere \$3K. Allen also mentioned a weekend meeting at his place up in Beaverdam.

Other events. The Williamsburg club hopes to hold its show on April 24th.

Hank gave a few more details about the Mini-GOF that is slated for 30 April – 2 May. This is the same weekend as the Spring Tour, but the Spring Tour just might be adjusted.

We thanked the owner of Makers Craft, who made a cameo appearance and thanked us for our patronage.

Robert closed us out with his tale of smashing his toe when he got mixed up with a trolley jack – beware!

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM.

Recorded by Mark Davidoski

Travel Logs by Faith

Well it finally happened. We were able to take our 2020 MG trip. It was suppose to be in June but because of a certain unnamed virus our plans were dashed as our accommodations had not yet opened. Luckily, we were able to reschedule for the last week in October with fingers crossed.

With the trip coming up and no hope of the virus taking a long siesta we changed our plans and decided to trailer the MG down to Fontana Village outside of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. This would allow us to pack our groceries and take anything we thought we might need, along with us. Of course, we over packed, but that's another story.

PJ put the MG in the car trailer on Wednesday and we finished packing just about everything else on Thursday. Friday morning we packed up all the cold food items and headed out for a drive to North Carolina.

We stopped in Emporia to meet up with Bob and Missy McKenna as they would be joining us for a few days. PJ also wanted to check the MG in the trailer. Now this is the part were any normal trip you would look at your car, give it a thumbs up and be on your way. But, of course, this would then not be a MG trip. So, yes you guessed it, no thumbs up. The MG having decided that it was being neglected decided to undo all the tie down straps except one. Luckily for us that one kept her pretty much in place in the car trailer. Unfortunately, it probably wouldn't do the job for the remainder of the trip. So for the next 45 minutes or so, the MG gets its well deserved individual attention, while once again being tied down in the car trailer.

As we needed to be at our destination by the end of the day the drive was done mostly on the interstate. At our lunch stop our MG needed some individual attention and had to be secured once again. Lesson learned, put a video on in the car trailer to keep the MG company on long drives.

Well, here it was late on Friday afternoon and we finally made it to Fontana Village after traveling with a car trailer on a small two lane twisty mountain road. We are sure the MG was enjoying every twist and turn. The next two hours were spent unpacking everything we brought along, I did mention that we over packed, and then taking the MG out of the car trailer. Mission accomplished and dinner before 8 p.m.

Day One - We lucked out and had come during peak fall season and instead of freezing morning temperatures we had beautiful sunny skies and highs in the low 70's. Loving this global warming weather this fall. We headed down Route 28 toward the Great Smokey Mountain National Park and arrived at the Visitor Center about an hour later. From there we drove through the park towards Gatlinburg, TN. On our way we stopped at the divide between North Carolina and Tennessee to marvel at the beautiful fall colors, the million of cars on the two lane road and all the people here for the fall colors. The downside of coming during peak fall season.

Mother Nature had done an excellent job of making this a beautiful drive. And traffic wasn't too bad until we made it into Gatlinburg. We attempted to go to the Roaring Fork Auto Trail but traffic there was at a stand still. We turned around and had our picnic lunch at a park in Gatlinburg. There we met someone who said that Cades Cove Loop was a wonderful drive and we believed him, forgetting that we had just turned around from a very long line of cars, so we headed out towards Cades Cove. The first part of the drive was very nice and we didn't have any backups. Once we started on the one way loop things changed very quickly. The nine mile loop took over four hours with bumper to bumper traffic almost the whole way. But we did luck out and get to see a bear's backside which also made traffic in the area even slower.

We finally returned to our cabin around 7:30 at night. Luckily for us the MG seemed to relish the drive, even in the dark.

Day Two - This was a Sunday and we really didn't want a repeat of yesterday's throngs of people. So, we headed back down Route 28. As a side note this is the only road in and out of Fontana Village. We then took Route 19 to Bryson City and back towards the park but this time we took the Blue Ridge Parkway. Not as crowded, with wonderful views of the mountains. We then got back on Route 19 and took it into Maggie Valley. While there we did some shopping and found a place to eat with outside seating. Yes, another wonderful fall day with temperatures nearing 70. We then continued through Maggie Valley and returned by way of the Great Smokey Mountain Expressway. We even made it back before dark. On our way back we drove across the top of Fontana Dam, just to see what was on the other side. Once again top down and no rain.



Day Three - Today we drove the Tail of the Dragon, 318 curves in 11 miles. Just a few other vehicles so no real slow downs. After crossing over into Tennessee we turned toward Gatlinburg via the Foothills Parkway. The views were, once again, just spectacular. We then traveled on Route 321 through Pigeon Forge and back into Gatlinburg. Traffic turned out to be extremely congested so we headed out to do some shopping and have lunch. We then once again headed towards the Great Smokey Mountain National Park but this time using the bypass around Gatlinburg. Once inside the park we drove up to Clingman's Dome. Nearing the top we once again encountered alot of traffic but were able to finally find a parking spot and walk up towards the Dome. Such beautiful breathtaking views. And, once again, we headed back to Fontana Village



Day Four - We lost our traveling companions today, as Bob and Missy, had to head back to Virginia. We took the MG and headed towards Cherohala Skyway. Traffic was alot better than going in and out the park. On our way back we once again traveled down Route 129, (The Tail of the Dragon) and took Route 28 from the other side back to our cabin passing by the bottom of Fontana Dam. The last time we were here we could travel to the bottom of the dam but this time they had the road blocked.

It started to rain on Wednesday and into Thursday so we took a break from driving and enjoyed walking around Fontana Village between storms. On Thursday, we started to pack up for our early Friday departure. This time the straps held except for one so we didn't need to stop and redo them.

We were making good time but once we hit Route 58 our luck once again changed. No, not the MG this time. We had apparently run over something very sharp just before getting off of I-85 and sliced our front truck tire. The tire held together for a few miles before starting to go flat. So for about an hour PJ ended up changing the tire while I watched and learned how to fix a flat. We had made it to an old gas station so we could pull off and not have to worry about traffic. Once it was changed we headed home without any further problems.

And as a footnote the truck has four new rims and tires on order.

Another great adventure with the MG.

Happy Trails!

Faith Peterson

Merry
CHRISTMAS

A stylized green Christmas tree graphic is positioned to the right of the word 'CHRISTMAS' in the holiday greeting.



**Holiday Party was
cancelled due to
COVID!**



The Dipstick

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