



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 48 Issue 9

September 2021

TECH Stuff - Playing in the garage (or... safely jacking up the MGB!)

Had an interesting email the other day from a friend in PA who is fairly new to MG fun and excitement. He is resurrecting the old family MG and was going to take off wheels and tires to sandblast and paint everything and put new tires (oops, silly computer keeps changing the proper English spelling TYRES to tires).

Anyway, his problem was getting off the old rear wheels and tires. He put his floor jack under the center of the rear differential and proceeded to jack up the car. Being ever-mindful of the safety factor (even "Safety Slow") he put jack stands under the rear axles. He then removed the lug nuts but could not squeeze the tires out from under the wheel-wells. Were his tires simply too big? He was afraid to attempt using the original side jacking points due to rust issues.

Simple answer that we've all learned in a similar way, when you jack up the rear diff assembly, it moves up towards the bottom of the car, pushing the tires deeper into the wheel wells. If you support that diff assembly with jack stands, your wheels will simply be too far up into those wheel wells to easily remove them. Duh-light bulbs flashing.

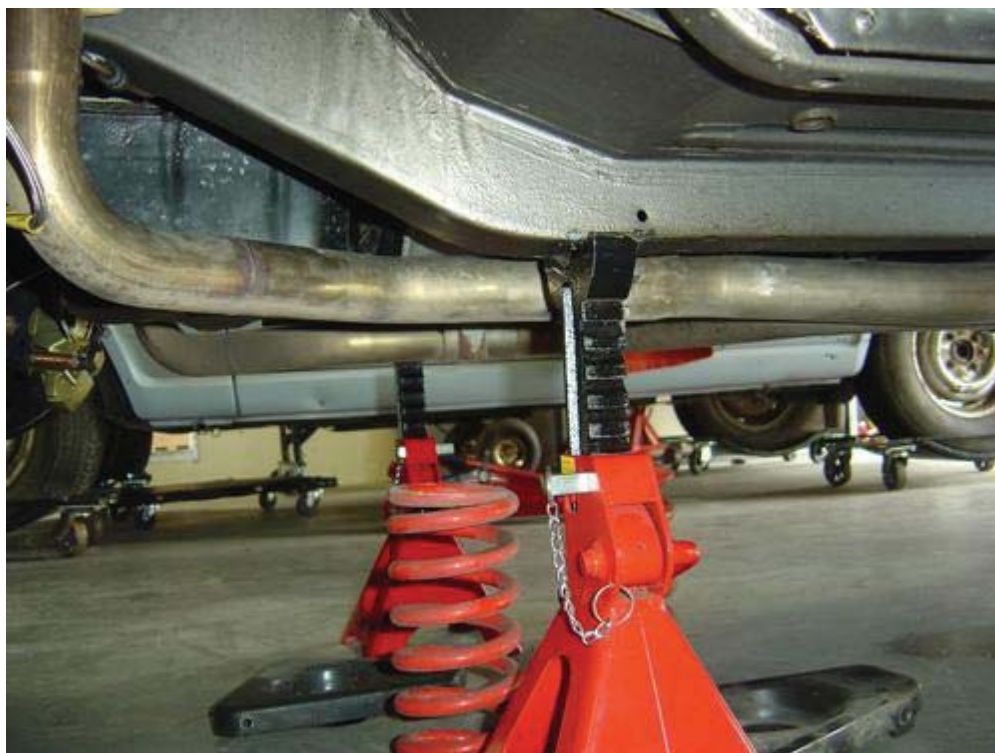
So, certainly use the diff to jack up the car, but put the jack stands under the front of the rear axle spring shackle assembly. This will allow that rear diff assembly to "sag" when you take the weight off that rear axle when you lower the jack. The body/frame of the car now rests safely on those jack stands (unless they are the recently recalled Harbor Freight type). Voila-there is plenty of room to remove the wheels and reinstall.



Recommended jackstand placement -- rear

Since he wanted all four wheels off the car at the same time, I let him know that John Twist advises to jack the front of the car up first, place jackstands under the front, then jack up the rear and put the jackstands in their proper place. John Twist has an excellent video available on You-Tube that explains his rationale on this. However I've heard several people with chrome bumper cars say that if you jack up the front first, there is not enough room under the diff assembly to slide a floor jack in under it. That's the case with our GTs.

When jacking up the front, slide the floor jack under the crossmember, but slide it far enough back so one of the "lips" on the floor jack catches behind the rear edge of that crossmember. Give the jack a few pumps and then pull back on it to ensure that crossmember is firmly "caught" in the right place on the jack. If not, as you jack up the car, that front crossmember will slide back. IF it slips completely off your floor jack, there is not much to keep the car from dropping suddenly. The bottom tank on your radiator is not able to support the weight of the car, so be prepared to buy a new radiator, and clean up the mess on the garage floor! Many of you might recall a tech session years ago where one of our members actually did this – not pretty!



Recommended jackstand placement -- front

Placing front jackstands in this position allows for plenty of room to work on almost anything from front suspension to exhaust system. (ignore the coil spring in the photo, it is NOT intended as a safety catch if the car falls!)

A few crafty individuals have made special adaptors to use with the floor jack. These are securely fastened to the jack head and the "pegs" go into the holes on the bottom of the front crossmember. Whatever you do, be safe. Cement blocks, or other methods of hold up your car are absolute NO-Nos. What about that originally supplied jack for your MGB? You know, the one that goes into those little tubes under the sill of your car?



MGB side jacking point

I do not trust those jacking points nor the scary looking jack that is supposed to be used in them. Most others would advise just displaying the original jack rather than using it. As you can see in the below photo, if anything slips, it becomes a literal “can-opener” and your door and sill become its victims. In a recent informal survey taken by a large antique automobile club, they attempted to identify the ten most dangerous jacks ever supplied with new cars. As you might imagine, the MGB jack was certainly in the top ten!



Factory MGB jack in position to lift the side of the car

It is sometimes necessary to lift the entire side of your car. (Don't worry, it won't tip over!) If you do need to raise just one side of the car, use your floor jack, and add a long piece of hardwood, (or steel) across the top to spread the load. Jack the car up from just at the inside end of those little jacking tubes. BUT- only after you've assured yourself the rust-bugs have not begun to weaken that area. Personally, I'd jack front and back individually rather than trust those original side tubes. Opinions may vary, but-
Safety Fast FIRST, especially in the garage.
Terry

August Meeting Minutes

recorded by Kelly MacPherson

Date: August 3, 2021

Time: 7:15

Location: Big Ugly Brewery (ran out of road and thought I had missed it! Luckily, Michael was with me and said, "It's there mom, on the left. The big ugly building." Gotta love kids...)

Patrons: I think we were sharing a space with a birthday party!

Premise: First Tuesday in August. Must be...MG MEETING!

So, I'm not sure if y'all noticed, but there was a cute food truck out front – Ice Cream and Hot Dogs. Who else thought that was a strange combination? How does that ice cream taste? Do they put it on the hot dogs? Questions, questions, questions.

7:15pm: Another gaveling and another start to another meeting. Summer is almost over. Can't believe it. Betty asked if it was time to start the meeting and President Robert shared it was when he decided the meeting would begin. Actually, looking at my notes from last meeting, we started 4 minutes early this month. Cool.

7:20pm: Due to the loudness of the setting, the gavel did not have the same affect in getting everyone's attention. Luckily, Betty was there and banged the glass. Then Bill chimed in to assist with the announcement, "The meeting is starting!"

"Tickets! Tickets! We got tickets here!" announced president Robert. Tickets were dispersed and there was a move to approve the minutes from last month. There was a hardy aye and then on to the next event.

7:22pm: VP Mike was up, but I don't think he got the chance to share – or else there was no new business. President Mike announced that the VP and P would not be present at next month's meeting. Hmmm. No leaders. Mark did share that he would be there and take over.

7:23pm: Treasurer report – so sweet. Gave me another list, but, as I sit here typing this, I cannot find it. Well, there was a lot of money going in and out and we ended up with a pretty good chunk of it!



7:24pm: New members. Rick Flonce (sp?) with a 69 MGB and Dan Ciccone. He has a 55 MGT.

7:25pm: Bruce and activities! August 10 – Turn Back, August 22nd Tech Session. Fall Tour (read your dipstick). Hanover is best – looking for ideas in October. There is a Tank Museum somewhere south. (That would actually be kind of cool to see)

7:27pm: Sue and history. She has history and Terry. Was there going to be history with Terry? It was pretty loud, so I missed the history.

Rob burned up another generator in the MG when he drove to Ashland. He got a voltage regulator from Moss, but needed adjustment. Anyone who knows how to adjust it, please let him know. Someone yelled out Abacus.

Mike has a 1955 TF and his had it. And someone has a 1969 that he got when he got married. Wonder who that was. That means he and the misses have been married 52 years! Congratulations!



Hank has two rings that he was going to use them on his MG. Brought them tonight, but Terry said they were not proper (did they do or say something wrong?). Lots of “proper” being tossed around. See Hank for the not “proper” rings if interested.

7:31pm: Housekeeping. Warning: What we are about to enter is a moment when a heavy debate and discussion occurred related to the top two positions on the “board” – P and VP. I tried to keep up, but there was a lot of repeating of information and, well, y’all know, I got squirrels. As such, I may have missed some aspects.

It all started with elections. The offices are open to everyone. Mike does not want to be VP or P. President Robert is done. Jim and Mike are on the nomination committee. (Someone yelled out Donald Trump. I wonder if he is free and willing?)

Prior to tonight's meeting, there was an email set out to the group with the current by-laws and proposed by-laws (areas that the group was looking at amending (possibly) for the group to review). Bruce had hard copies tonight for those interested in reading them. The by-laws can be amended, if that is what people want, in order to make the lengths of the VP and P flexible. There will still be a nomination committee.

So here is where it gets a little confusing for the new person: Hank said the vote had to be at an MG meeting. (Makes sense, since they are MG officers). Jim said it had to be done through two meetings (One meeting for P and the other for VP?). Robert said it is proposed at one meeting and at the second meeting the group votes.

Bruce read out something from a folded piece of paper with itty bitty writing on it (how does he know what that says!?). Something about an article. Speaking of which, did y'all see the article about Andy and Cynthia – true love birds. :0)

So back to the event at hand, still talking about the same thing. I don't think I've see folks so passionate about a topic. Did y'all see all the bumper stickers around the door to the back of the place? Wonder where that goes?

The sweetest English accent (Mike's wife!) could be heard breaking through the madness. Have you ever wondered how we have so many different accents and languages? And, can anyone explain to me who decided to "name" things specific words? But I di-gress.



Rules, publish....Rob wants duties to be published, but those are in a bunch of different places. Wait a minute. I wasn't elected in...

7:47pm: RAFFLES!!! Have I told you this is my favorite part? Here comes Rose, what does she have tonight?

Puzzle Quest

50/50

Something in a plastic bag (missed the name of what it was. I told you it was loud in here!)

The first winner was one of the new guys – Dan. How many tickets did those two have? Someone yelled "BINGO". Was that Dan? He had to have had a least 40 tickets and was having trouble finding the winner. Thank you to Rob, who walked over to help. Dan won the book (Thank you, Dan!). I mean....congratulations!

Jack won the 50/50, but left. There was a lot of protesting and "you have to be present to win" stuff.

7:57pm: Motion to adjourn. Quiet gavel.



Marque Time!



Well, only two more to go. Two months more to write in the Dipstick as TMGC president, that is, before a new TMGC president takes over. But it is comforting to know that once that happens, and my Marque Time entries end, my readers (both of them) will be deeply saddened.

At least that's the delusion I live under. In reality, since only two or three people read this, at least the other club members can rejoice. In November they can all start reading Marque Time again once we have our new president.

But even after doing this every month for nearly two years (*and this being my second go around as prez for a total of four*), I still most often forget until the last day or two before the deadline to send this to Mark. And not only is my short-term memory bad, but so is my short-term memory.

I could blame it on my age. I might claim that, as time marched on, my memory marched off with it, but I've always been like that.

I could say the same thing about my looks, and the years aren't making any improvements there either. Since I didn't start out as the most beautiful kid in the world, it's been mostly downhill from there.

Let's face it, I was an ugly child. When I was a kid I got lost at the beach. I asked a cop if he could help me find my parents. He said, "*I don't know, kid. There's so many places for them to hide.*"

And it wasn't any better at home. I was so ugly my parents had to hang a pork chop around my neck to get the dog to play with me.

OK, this month you had a two-for-one deal. Two Rodney Dangerfield gems in one edition of Marque Time. Maybe some of you won't miss me much, but you'll miss Rodney.

Safety Fast,
Robert

Turn Back the Clock Night at Harbor Park

TMGC baseball fans took in the Norfolk Tides game versus the Memphis Redbirds on August 10th. The home team won and club members enjoyed the vintage - priced concessions while having a great time at the old ball game!





**Club items for sale.
See Rose at Sept Meeting
Hats - \$15
Magnet - \$5**



**Summer Tech Session
(August 22nd)
Thanks to hosts Jim & Betty**

***Look for coverage in the October edition
of The Dipstick!***

TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Robert Perrone	574-3233
Vice President	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Secretary	Kelly MacPherson	285-7502
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	Bruce Easley	570-2042
Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
Regalia	Rose Ladd	737-2468

Activities Update from Bruce Easley

Our Norfolk Tides “Turn Back the Clock” baseball outing was great, with enough attendees to qualify for discounted tickets, AND the Tides won! “Thank you” to Robert Perrone for picking up and distributing the tickets. As I write this, we have had our August meeting and are looking forward to the summer Tech Session at Jim and Betty Villers this Sunday. Bring your problems or your questions and solve them with some friends, “experts” and beers! And remember – “Safety Fast” is the slogan, but Safety Always applies when working with jacks, rotating equipment, etc. On September 1, plan to travel northside for our monthly meeting at the home of PJ and Faith Peterson in Hampton. I’m sure there will be some discussion regarding upcoming elections in October. The **Tidewater Region Antique Automobile Club’s** 2021 annual show will be held September 25 in Norfolk, with registration \$15 in advance up to Sept. 15 and \$20 day of show. For more information and the registration form, go to the Club web site at: http://traaca.com/2021_show.html. The TMGCC Fall Tour to the Lexington area October 1-4 will be a great trip with interesting venues, so get your MG ready to hit the road (like they are supposed to do). Also in October is the annual Shenandoah Valley British Car Club’s British car show on Saturday, October 2. This is a great show with a long history and is in a beautiful location near the Shenandoah mountains. Registration and other Information can be found at <http://svbcc.net/carshow.html>. Our October meeting and voting for officers will be on **October 6 at (TBA)**, so please plan to make this meeting a priority. See you there!

(Editor’s note: The October meeting site is changing. Look for an email update soon!)



TMGC Calendar of upcoming events

Sep 7 (Tue) Meeting hosted by PJ & Faith in Hampton, VA.

Sep 25 (Sat) [TRAACA](#) 47th Annual Meet in Norfolk, VA. (See link for details!)

Oct 1-2 (Fri-Sat) [Annual British Car Fall Festival](#), Waynesboro, VA

Oct 1-4 (Fri-Mon) Fall Tour to the Lexington, VA area

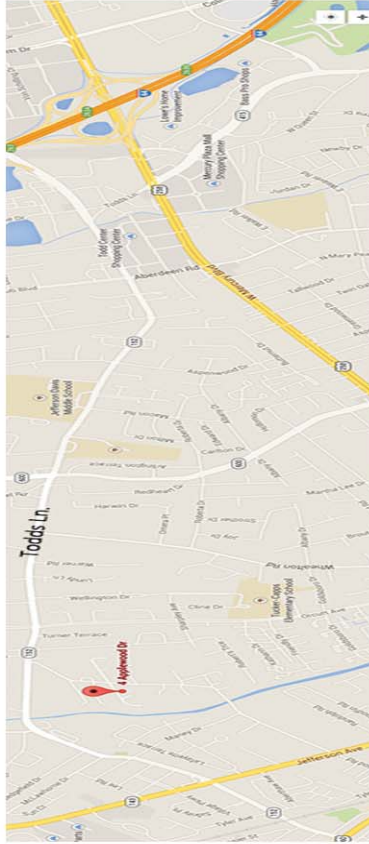
Oct 6 (Wed) TBA (email update soon)

Nov 3 (Wed) Meeting hosted by Mathieu & Rachel in Norfolk, VA

Nov ? (Sun) Fall Tech Session TBA

Dec ? (Sat) Tentative Holiday Party hosted by Betty & Jim Villers

Dec ? (Tue) Holiday Lights Drive at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens



Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 7th
PJ & Faith Peterson
4 Applewood Drive
Hampton
896-9606

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



The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

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