



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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Volume 49 Issue 3

March 2022

"Death by Chocolate" Weekend, Feb. 12-13

By Bruce and Jayne Easley

Who expects nice weather in mid-February when you plan in advance? Well our group of MGers sure got it for our planned weekend in Chincoteague and Wachapreague on the Eastern Shore. A Saturday with 70 degrees was perfect for strolling around Chincoteague and taking part in their annual "Death by Chocolate" scavenger hunt. Even a threatened forecast of rain and possible snow on Sunday did not deter us or come to pass. As one of our party said, "I didn't buy that MG just to look at it sitting in the garage... I'm gonna drive it!"

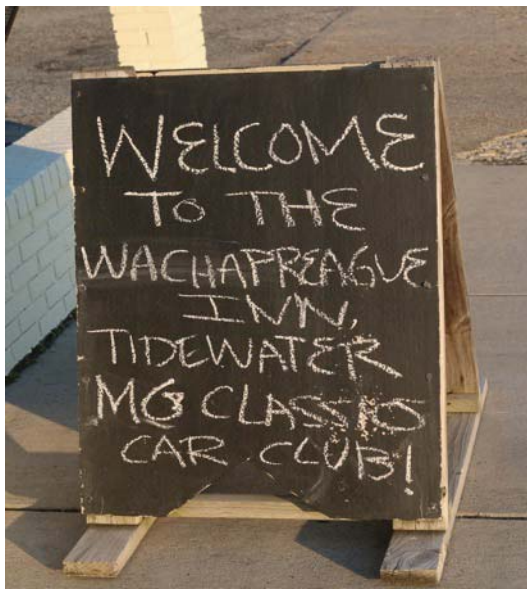


The group of 16 met and departed from the CBBT parking lot at oh-nine-hundred on Saturday, and stopped halfway to Chincoteague for a planned meetup with another "local" couple, before continuing on our mission to reach town and start "chocolating". On the approach to town we passed the NASA Wallop's Island facility with a huge solar farm and a wildlife refuge. We were able to park together in town close to the Main Street shops, and most of the group opted to start with lunch to beat the rush and to start filling out our scavenger hunt cards. Ironically we wound up at "Don's Seafood Restaurant/Chattie's Lounge" (Don is a famous member of our group), which advertised Dancing and a Raw Bar. We partook of no dancing, but enjoyed the meal. After lunch we set out on our own recognizance to seek out chocolate, card entries, and whatever was interesting. There were



a number of shops offering unique local items, some very good art (some better than others), decoy carvings, treats to eat, and other things. One disappointment was that the Black Narrows Brewing Company did not open until 4 PM. How could they do that on a special Holiday weekend? Of course it could be just as well we were prevented from sampling their signature IPA brew made from longleaf pine needles. Some of our group also visited the nearby Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and took hikes on the local byways.

At 3 PM the group reconvened for our trip to Wachapreague to check in at the hotel and get ready for dinner. En route we took some back roads, and where some of the party may have thought we would have to do the much-debated U-turn at a Dead End sign, we motored through... to a stoplight where the U-turn actually took place. The Wachapreague Inn is a classic fisherman's hotel, with not too many amenities, but friendly staff, good vibes, a lot of character and... right across the street from our restaurant! Although we were a relatively large party, the Island House Restaurant managed to seat us all together in a room with a view of the water. Their specialty is fresh seafood and they have plenty of choices, combinations and "turf" as well. Since we had taken up all the rooms in "The Big House" at the Inn, we were able to use the downstairs sitting room/kitchen area as our meeting place to gather, unwind, share a few more drinks of choice, and catch up with good friends and MG news before retiring to look forward to Sunday's back road tour.



Eastern Shore Excursion – Second Day

The weather turned from Saturday evening through early Sunday morning. Several members were up before 7 am, in time to enjoy coffee in the Big House meeting room. At 8 am the office was open, and assorted pastries were available as folks checked out. Motors were being tested and everyone's MG fired up nicely in the winter chill.

We departed sleepy Wachapreague at 0930 and headed south on Seaside Road. Mike and Jennifer led the way in their SUV. (Too bad the ZB Magnette couldn't make the trip!) Our seven-car convoy (including 5 of the remaining MGs) enjoyed a spirited trip down this historic route. Along the way we saw several examples of 18th and 19th century homes, sprinkled amongst the numerous Eastern Shore bungalows and farmsteads.

We continued through several small towns, including the outskirts of Willis Wharf. We arrived at our destination inside the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and proceeded to tour Battery Winslow. This is a relic of the old Coast Artillery days, when huge guns guarded the approaches to Hampton Roads. We posed with the 16 inch gun barrel that was displayed under a huge concrete casemate installation. This particular barrel came off of the USS Missouri and was last fired in anger during the Korean War. We climbed the long stairway to the top of the casemate and enjoyed pristine views of the Fisherman's Island area, including the Cape Charles Lighthouse.

After saying our goodbyes we jumped onto nearby Route 13 and headed home. The CBBT leg was peaceful, with excellent visibility all the way to Virginia Beach. Thanks to Bruce & Jayne, along with Mike and Jennifer for doing the legwork to coordinate a most enjoyable mid-winter outing in our MGs. We only scratched the surface of what the Eastern Shore has to offer, which means that more roadtrips to this history-rich area are in the offing!



MG DOGGEREL

By Bruce Easley, resident poet

The MG is a smart machine
As all the Ayes will have it,
And if you ever drive one once,
It may turn into a habit.

It could be a stately T,
Or a flashy, flowing A,
Or quite likely the wonderful B,
They all take your breath away.

Their rumbling, throaty purrs
Announce their lovely presence,
And British colours fair
Demonstrate their essence.

These are old-school cars,
Requiring only a canny
mechanic.
Engine rough, brakes too
grabby?
No one's in a panic.



Just another opportunity,
friends,
To gather, plot, and think,
And of course, in tradition,
An opportunity to drink!

But when we're on the road,
boys,
You will see our glee!
We love riding topless
For all the world to see.

We can see the stars above
As well as the sun overhead,
But all we really care about
Is the road ahead.

Just give us a clean, clear road,
With a winding twist or few,

And perhaps a hill or two,

And some friends to call our
crew,

And that's a bit of heaven
mate,
That few can get to do.



Marque Time!



I started thinking about this article in early February when it was cold outside with the threat of light snow in the forecast. I know, you didn't think I actually thought about these columns before I started writing! Anyways, if you are reading this in March and it is warm and sunny outside and am wondering why this guy is talking about winter, now you know.

Winter is the time of year when we tend to stay inside and do less outside or any other place that isn't warm, like a cold garage. However, winter is also the time of year to work on those car projects we didn't have time to do during the year, or things we need to do to our cars before the new driving season starts. Did you get your MG project done this winter? No? Neither did I.

Some years ago I bought an intermittent windshield, or, I should say windscreen wiper kit for my 1979 MGB. However, the self-parking feature of the wipers needs to work first, which mine have never worked. Not wanting to work on my back, upside down under the dash, this has never gotten repaired. Therefore, after several winters, the intermittent wiper kit still sits, unopened in its original box. Another application of Rain-X will do for another year.

I actually did get a couple of car projects done this winter on my 1969 Porsche 912, like completing re-installing the interior and getting the 5 speed transmission rebuilt, but I know that really doesn't count in an MG club. If you didn't get your MG project done this winter, don't worry. It will soon be spring and you will have another 9 months or so to plan, or procrastinate. As the saying goes, "why do today what you can put off until tomorrow".

Safety fast,
Mike



Activities 2022



Tidewater MG Activities Report

Feb. 20, 2022

If you haven't already looked at the pictures from the Eastern Shore "Death by Chocolate" tour on the website, please do so. We had great weather, with Saturday being a "shirtsleeves" day – pretty nice for mid-February, and we got none of the rain forecast for Sunday. Although the ride up was a long highway drive to get to Chincoteage on time, there was little or no traffic and we got into cruise mode. The town was very interesting, with lots of art, shops of all kinds, and lunch. We even got some free chocolate! A waterfront seafood dinner capped off the day, then a stay at the famous fisherman's rest, the Wachapreage Inn, where we had a meeting room to ourselves. But the best part of the trip (which yours truly had to miss) was the winding, beautiful Seaside Road tour led by Mike and Jennifer Ash. One member described it as "the best thing since he discovered girls". Hmmmm, I'm really sorry I missed that! The culmination of the drive before the bridge crossing home was the stop to see a WW2 "Big Gun" emplacement. Check the pictures!

Our SATURDAY March 5 meeting will be at the home of Faith and "PJ" Peterson in Hampton at 11 O'CLOCK. We are trying to change things up a little to make the HRBT traverse easier since Saturday traffic should be much lighter. In April, we'll have a pretty full schedule, with the Spring Tech Session on April 10 at the homes of both Frank Linse and Paul Fuqua. This get-together will combine the Tech Session with our April monthly membership meeting. On the 23rd, the Williamsburg British Car Club will have their annual show at The Shops at High Street in Williamsburg. Alan and Beckey Watson have put together this year's Spring Tour scheduled for April 29-May 1, and an exciting time on the beautiful back roads of Central Virginia is on the menu.

The May 7 meeting will again be on a Saturday, at the home of Jayne and Bruce Easley in Seaford at 11 AM. The menu is for an outside picnic if the weather holds good. Plans are underway for a day trip to Elizabeth City on May 14 or 28, then in June we convene at one of our favorite spots – the Ocean View Pier for dinner; plan to be there at 6 PM. For North American Register fans, the NAMGAR will convene in Colorado Springs on June 10 (expect to see our member Chuck Hassler there), and the NAMGBR will hold a multiday event in Petersborough, Ontario June 19-23.

Jolly well drive we must!

Bruce Easley


Happy 
St. Patrick's Day



Date: February 1, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Gus and Georges Spaghetti and Steak House (G&G), Virginia Beach

Y'all I have lived on the Southside area for almost 23 years and in Virginia, on and off, since 1978 and I have never been to Gus and Georges. I've passed by it as a passenger and as a driver to and from Lynnhaven Mall and London Bridge area. In Newport News, we had a place called Artie and Toni's Steak House. They were a very sweet couple – Toni was from New York and Artie was from Greece. Their restaurant had great food. My parents took me and my brother there at least once a week and we



became like family. I work in Suffolk and there is a similar style restaurant named George's Steak House and they also have great food. Similar to Artie and Toni's food. So, as I approached the restaurant this evening, I wondered, "Will they have similar food?" And I can happily report a resounding, "YES!"

Enough talk of restaurants and food. The meeting is getting ready to begin. Before I start with this month's notes, I want to thank my stand in and the former President, Robert, for taking the minutes while I was out with the plague. Great job, my friend! You made me chuckle as I read through what I had missed at the last meeting. You are here by dubbed by me as the Secretary-In-Waiting. Now on with the show!

Feels like forever since I last submitted anything as secretary. As you all may, or may not have noticed, I'm wearing my mask tonight because I still have a cough. That is not due to the plague, but my asthma and allergies. However, I did not want anyone to be concerned and think, "Well, here comes Typhoid Mary to infect us all!"

It's a big group tonight, as I look around G&G.

7:12: Jim handed me the Treasurer's report. This must be the cue to call to order. Bill called it. Our President Mike unofficially nominated him as the Call to Order officiant. I second that – Bill has quite a set of lungs on him.

New members Dan and Sara Burke shared they own a 1971 MG Midget. Those are the sweetest little cars.

7:13: Rose announced she had a card for Craig Cummings. Don shared Craig has been sick over a year and on Monday he was hospitalized at 74 years young. Craig had put his car up for sale and Don purchased it.

There was a call to approve Robert's minutes from last month and they were.

Lost track of timing so from here on out, you all are on your own.

VP Report: Paul announced the next meeting would be held at the Peterson's domicile on Saturday March 5th from 11am – 1pm. Frank Linse will be sponsoring the Spring Tech Session on April 10th starting at 11am. Everyone will start at Franks and then walk down to Paul's house for a feast. He let everyone know that he has a bathroom in his garage (that is excellent news!). The Easley's will be hosting the May meeting at on the 7th. On June 7th, the group will be enjoying the early season of joy at the East Ocean View Pier. The Wallachs will host the September meeting. The Olcheski's will host the October meeting. And the Bonds will host the November meeting.

So, according to the group, people come to G&Gs from all over the area for their liver and onions plate. Not much on liver, but that may be something I try next time. Thank you for the tip.

Activities Report by Bruce:

On February 12-13 is the Death by Chocolate drive on the Eastern Shore. Jennifer shared information she had on dinner when the group got to the Eastern Shore Saturday night. The restaurant, Island House Restaurant & Marina, is said to have the best seafood in the area. The group has two options – a nice Valentine's Buffet set up just for the MG club and everyone sit together



or ordering off the menu and everyone pick where to sit. As of tonight, 17 people had signed up.

Sara asked, "What happens if the weather's bad?" Someone hollered out, "Put up your top!" (If you are the jokester, that was a good one!)

If it snows, it will be canceled. If rain...put up your top.

The Wachapreague Inn, where the group will be staying, will have pastries in the morning.

(Now I got back on track with the time)

7:30 Treasurer's Report by Jim:

- No income ("Just like me," yelled Robert)
- Only spent \$20 bucks



Mark announced the deadline for Dipstick submissions are the 20th. Anything that is appropriate for print (that may disqualify some).

7:32 Membership with Mike: 85 members to date and 110 plus cars reported. Jim stated that the rosters for the TMGC were made and ready to be sent electronically. Jennifer suggested having copies of the rosters for new members. Jim asked Mike, "How many copies would you want?" "One," he replied. It was shared that the club gave up years ago having things printed because everything is online now and can be found by anyone looking.

No Historian or Technical report tonight. We miss you Sue and Terry!

The club received a Thank You card from the Ronald McDonald house for the items donated on January 13. It's nice to support families of kids who are unwell. It alleviates the stress of finding things when all you have on your mind is your son or daughter's health.

New Business with PJ (forgot to look at my watch again. I may just give that part up). June 12 through 15 in Wytheville: MG V8 Registry Event. Bring Your Own Beverage. Event is off 81 South of Roanoke and Virginia Tech.



Mike Ash brought along a stack of MG magazines tonight for anyone who wanted them. If not, they will be recycled.

Regalia with Rose

Hats and Magnets are still available. Unfortunately, tonight, I did not bring money to purchase. Next month though, I will.

Tonight's list of goodies:

- Purchase and restoration guide
- Long moss MG Book
- Magnet 6" parts holder
- 36 MG Car Aftershave Bottle
- Box of goodies from the MG register
- \$24 for 50/50

I don't think anyone bought a hat or a magnet! What in the world? Bruce won the Long Moss MG Book. Robert got the magnet 6" parts holder and attempted to wear it on his head. Don got the purchase and restoration guide. Jim won the 36 MG car (I loved that car. But then again, I love cars). Al got the box of goodies and Rob Mac walked away with the \$24 (he should play the lottery tonight.)

Someone noticed Rose's denim shirt with the MG logo on it. Now, I do like that and would want one of those to wear with the MG hat I plan on getting next month. She has the information and will hopefully have that for us next month.

7:50 heard a motion to adjourn which was moved and seconded. I miss the gavel....

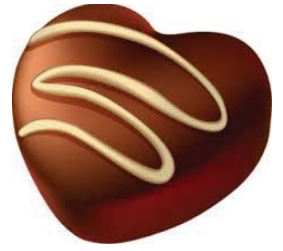
Well, another one in the books all. Safe journey. Until next time, Be Fearless!

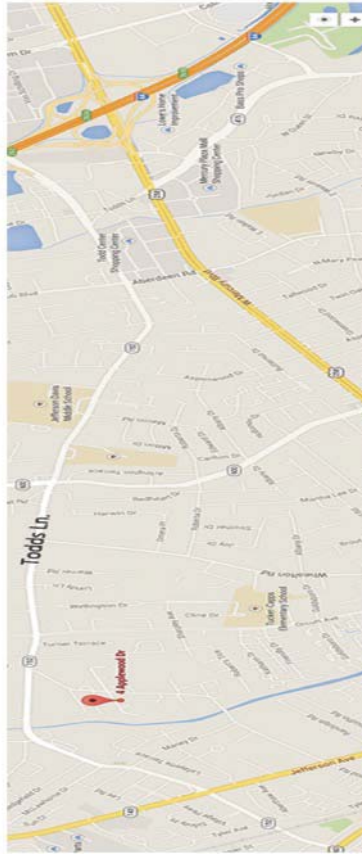
TMGC Officers and Committees

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Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
Regalia	Rose Ladd	737-2468



More views from the Eastern Shore
"Death by Chocolate" trip





10:30 - 11:00 am - Kick Tyres
11:00 Meeting

Monthly Meeting
Saturday, March 5th
PJ & Faith Peterson
4 Appplewood Drive
Hampton
896-9606



The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics

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