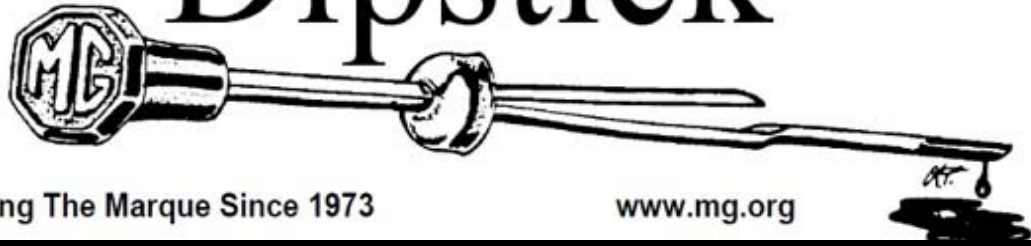




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 49 Issue 10

October 2022

ACTIVITIES

Sept MG Activities Report 9-19-22

Jayne and I sincerely missed seeing the group at the September meeting at the beautiful Ash Estate on the Eastern Shore. We were attending a family wedding in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, making a side trip to Mystic CT and the Mystic Seaport Museum. We didn't get pizza, but had some great seafood.

As I write this, I and others are preparing for the four day Fall tour this coming weekend to Maryland and Delaware: checking air pressures, oil, battery, etc., etc. Fall is a great time for driving, with the moderate temperatures and turning leaves. I encourage members to take part in the Spring and Fall tours; if you can't make all the days, you may be able to catch up with us for just a weekend overnight! BTW, thanks to those who submitted the great tech articles for the most recent Dipstick. Safety Fast requires good maintenance!

We shouldn't be bored in October! On 10/1 will be the 41st Annual British Car Festival in Waynesboro, VA. If you want to go south, Myrtle Beach SC is having their British Festival 2022 at Market Common on Deville St. on the same day. The inimitable Olcheskis will host us all at their hone for the monthly meeting on the evening of Oct. 4. On October 9 there is an opportunity to join in the 26th Annual Hunt County Classic British Classic Car Show at Willoughby Farm in Marshall, VA; information for this event can be found at mgcarclubdc/hunt-county-classic. Another interesting local event will be the TAMS 30th Annual Model Car Contest/ Swap Meet at VFW Post 4809 on Barteel St. in Norfolk on Oct. 15. If you're travelling south, Charleston, SC will host their 37th Annual British Car Day from 9-3 at the Palmetto Islands County Park. Then closer to home is a worthwhile event for club members to support: the

Coming Events

TMGC Events

- Oct 4: Meeting at Olcheski's
- Nov 2: Meeting; Chili Cook-off at Davidoski's
- Nov ?: Fall Tech Session
- Dec ?: Holiday Lights
- Dec 18: Holiday Brunch at Princess Anne

Other Events

- Oct 1: SVBCC Show in Waynesboro
- Oct 9: British Car Show, Marshall, VA
- Oct 15 Model Car Swap Norfolk



Marque Time!

President's Message

I want to thank Cynthia & Andy for hosting the September meeting at their beautiful home on the Lafayette River in Norfolk. It's always a treat meeting at their home and even some minor tidal flooding near their house didn't deter members from braving the elements and venturing out for the meeting.

One of the raffle prizes that night was the book *The Last Open Road* by author Burt "BS" Levy. I heard a couple of members say

it was a good read. I actually bought this book, and his follow-on book *Montezuma's Ferrari*, at MG2006 in Gatlinburg, TN from Mr. Levy who was there autographing and selling his books. When I got home, I put them on my book shelf where they sat untouched for the next 16 years. Unfortunately I have a habit of doing stuff like that, so don't ask me about my MGA or Corvette.

When we were packing a couple of weeks ago getting ready for our annual family get together at Topsail Island, NC I needed something to read and Denise reminded me that I still haven't read that book. So I pulled it off the book shelf, dusted it off and put it in my bag, along with a couple of car magazines, naturally. Well, our club members were right. It is a good read, especially since it mentions MGs and Jags quite often. It is one of those books you want to keep on reading. His style of writing allows you to clearly picture in your mind the characters, settings, events and adventures. I'm looking forward to reading his other book I have, maybe that will be next years' beach book.

Inside the book was a *The Last Open Road* sticker. I never put that on any of my cars because I felt guilty for not reading the book. Now that is over, I have the perfect car for the sticker, the white rubber bumper MGB GT project I bought last year. Of course, I need to restore it or at least make it a nice driver before I put that sticker on it. Let's hope that doesn't take another 16 years!

Safety fast,

Mike

Activities Continued: 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat event at Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake from 12:30-3:30 pm. How can you not have fun giving away candy at a brewery with your Buds!

November sees the return of the much-anticipated Chili Cook Off for our monthly meeting at Mark and Kathy Davidosckis' home in Virginia Beach on the 2nd. Jim Villers has again stepped up to help plan our December Holiday event, with a Club Brunch on the 18th at the Princess Anne Country Club. There will be a per-person charge for the event, and more information will be shared at the upcoming meetings, so mark your calendars now for this and all events. Motor well!!

Meeting Minutes *August 6, 2022*

Have you ever had one of those weeks? Well, I had one this week. At the September Tidewater MG Club meeting, I sat in Andy and Cynthia’s beautiful living room, opened my laptop and prepared myself for about 20-25 minutes of banter, mayhem, and edge of your seat news from the officers and members of the TMGC. Feverishly, I typed and tried to capture every minutia of information as it poured from the lips of those who were brave enough to put themselves out there with stories of intrigue and adventure. One story was so interesting and out of this world that I wanted to get it all down on paper, but then thought better of it, and was actually asked not to put it in the meeting minutes. “No, I won’t put it in there. I have forgotten that I even heard it.”

At the end of the meeting, I closed up my laptop and ventured into the front room to partake of the spread that Cynthia had on display. Y’all, the shrimp was probably my favorite next to the spinach and artichoke dip covered bread pieces.

I visited a little and then Michael and I left for home. Meeting notes all put into place; only needing slight editing for complete sentences and correct punctuation. That would have to take place sometime in the next week. Work days came and went. Weekend came and went.

And then this past week happened. It something could go wrong, it did. I won’t bore you with the details, but suffice it to say, it was a rough one with a lot of colorful words thrown around for good measure.

So, it is now Friday night, September 16, 2022, and I am sitting down to edit my latest master piece. I open my computer and then Microsoft Word...

Nothing...all of it was gone...no meeting minutes...no funny stories...no technical jargon that I don’t understand, but try...no last treasurer’s report from Jim about the bank account...no activities report or membership numbers! And worst of all, NO REGALIA OR PRIZES! All of it...GONE!

“But Kelly,” you say, “you saved the meeting minutes before you closed your computer. Right?” I thought I did. “But Kelly,” you say, “what will you write about this month!?” Well, my brainhouse is not as good as it used to be, but I do remember the highlights:

It had rained. I saw Tom in his little MG turning around and wondered why. Well, the street to the left of Andy and Cynthia’s house was flooded. Michael assured me that Penelope would be good to drive through it. He was right. When we reached high ground, I noticed that the street on the other side of their home is also flooded. Their house was on an oasis. All the little MGs were safely tucked away behind the house, luckily!

Mike Haag called the meeting to order. The VP, the Activities Director, and someone else were not there.

President Mike then announced the office nominees. Scott is going to give someone a run for their money for the position of VP. Surprisingly enough, no one wanted to run against me for the position of Secretary. What

TMGC Offices and Committees

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Regalia	Rose Ladd	twfrog@hotmail.com
Technical	Terry Bond	terryaaca@cox.net

is up with that?

Mike Ash let us know that we still have members and that those of us who need to pay dues can still do that.

Jim let us know that we still have money even after paying Andy and Cynthia for hosting this month (A huge Thank You to you both. I love coming to your house).



Sue let us know that we still have history and, according to Mike (the president, not the Keeper of the Membership numbers), there are photo albums to prove it. (Seriously, though, Sue you are the woman when it comes to putting those albums together. I was able to look through a few once and was impressed by the places, people, and cars captured in those pages).

Terry shared a story. But I can't tell you what it was because I am sworn to secrecy (except for the 30+ people who were present and also know the secret). More to come...

Rob had a ink blot (spot, tech spot, what is it?) and wanted to know how to fix something that was broken on the MGA. Jim suggested buying a part to fix it from somewhere online.

Regalia was shared: hats mostly. I guess the magnets are sold out and no one wants to make more. Don had shirts for those who had ordered them. If you haven't gotten one yet, they are really nice.

Then it was time for the prize drawings.

First in line: Michael! (That's my boy!)

Tire repair thingy in the shape of a tire: Did Bob win that one?

50/50 was one by someone else

A book called The Last Ride: Michael won that, too (time to play the lottery)

A Yuengling beer bottle that was turned into a fire starter, candle, or tiki torch. Whatever it was, it was VERY cool and I want one!

I know I did not get everything, but I did remember more than I thought I would. Lesson learned. Next time, save the dang minutes!

Well, another one for the books. Thank you for reading and if there is someone out there who wants to take me on, bring it.

Drive like there's no tomorrow (and for some of these cars...it sounds like there may not be!)

If you see an MG on the side of the road, look for the driver.

FALL TOUR THURSDAY 9/22 . . IN THE NEXT DIPSTICK

Thursday event:

Georgetown
Marvel
Carriage
Museum



FALL TOUR FRIDAY 9/23 . . IN THE NEXT DIPSTICK

Friday events:

Air Mobility
Command
Museum;



Alfred I
DuPont home,
Nemours



FALL TOUR SATURDAY 9/24

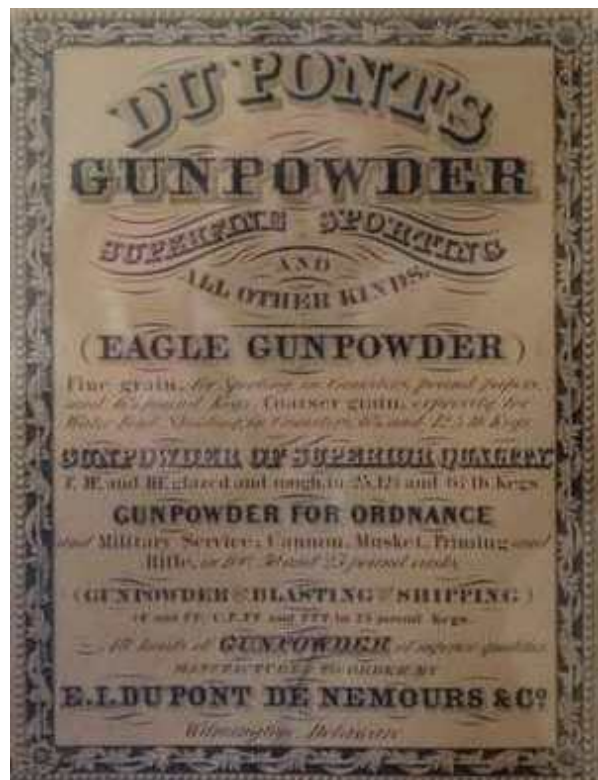
If you google the Hagley Museum in Delaware, you find that its claims to fame are a reference library and gunpowder. The reality of Hagley is a lot more interesting than it sounds. We entered through an imposing gateway with stone columns, then boarded a party bus which carried us around the 250 acres of amazing home and former gunpowder works. Impressive stonework was everywhere. The home, fences, gunpowder “mills” or mixing building storage buildings and workshops were all built using local “blue rock” gneiss granite which was quarried and shaped on the property.

EleuthereIrenee (“I.E”)DuPont emigrated from France after the French Revolution and settled in Wilmington, Delaware where he found land which he felt would be self-supporting to establish a significant factory in 1802 to produce the high quality gunpowder which he had been trained to make, and he knew would be critical for America. In addition to the many buildings

needed for production, he built a narrow gauge railway (pulled by horses to avoid sparks) for hauling his product, used the adjacent Brandywine River as a source of power for his belt-driven machine shop and for mills, built a steam engine for backup power, built luxury automobiles (one of which was electric) which were seen on the tour, made a “copy press” for making copies of correspondence, and established a respected reference library for industrial processes. His estate included gardens which provided beauty as well as food, and a beautiful multistory stone mansion with such essentials as a bowling alley in the basement. The home overlooked the Brandywine as well as several of the gunpowder production buildings; our docent mentioned that he built his home close to production so he could quickly communicate with workers but also to demonstrate that he was willing to share in the danger of the operation.

And there was danger. Although the stone buildings were designed to be separate and small to contain and minimize the impact of explosions, more than 288 explosions occurred over the span of the 120 years of production, resulting in 228 deaths. The largest occurred in 1890, involved 50,000 pounds of black powder, and was so strong that in Philadelphia it was thought an earthquake had occurred. DuPont’s youngest son of six children were killed in the explosion.

DuPont developed several improvements to his gunpowder production process, with a goal of making a



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product which would be the best available, measured by power produced, a product which was more easily handled in loading weapons, and had the least residue which fouled implements. During the course of our tour we learned the details of the methods he used and the processes he developed to achieve his goal. We were able to witness a contained explosion in an instrument used for testing his product; fortunately none of our party were injured.

Still possessing our fingers and toes, but of questionable good sense, we sallied forth to our next destination, using small, light, internal combustion powered vehicles, speeding along crowded highways. Upon arrival in

Chesapeake City, MD we wound our way throughout the town in search of parking places. As it would happen, a movie (“Little Hero”) was being filmed in town, so streets and parking spaces were mostly blocked off. Susan and Terry Bond were able to find a “primo” spot when one of the film coordinators told them to park their period vehicle where the other pre-1980 cars would be staged. Perhaps we’ll see 007 Bond in the movie when it’s finished.

The rest of our rabble made a short hike from our cars, through town, to the Chesapeake Inn where we overlooked the marinas on Back Creek while we enjoyed our wonderful lunch. Put this place on your list of good eateries if you are in the area. After lunch, we made a short 10 minute drive to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Museum. This canal was the brainchild of Augustine Herrman, and cut off 300 miles of water travel between the Delaware River and the upper Chesapeake Bay, resulting in significant savings of time, fuel and money. Construction started in 1804, and when the original canal opened for business in 1829 it was 14 miles long, 10 feet deep, and 36 feet wide at the bottom. As vessel size and needs changed, the canal was enlarged to 450 feet wide and 35 feet deep. 15,000 vessels a year still use the canal.



Canal travel was long and slow, which pretty well describes our car travel to our next destination of Salisbury, MD, where we dropped off our belonging at the motel and then convened at the Evolution Brewery and Public House for a great dinner and great beverages. This was a really nice evening together, enhanced by a surprise appearance by good friends Beckey and Alan Watson!

TECH STUFF – By Terry Bond

Problem – the MG is just too low to the ground, compared to all those over-tall SUV's, Pickup trucks, and Suburban's on the road today. We've always felt a bit uneasy on the road with them, especially when stopping. Are our brake lights really that visible? LED Bulbs themselves are nice, but we felt something higher up and more prominently displayed would add to safety (fast).



After attempting to devise and fit various other contraptions using suction cups that did not stick, we decided to try some of the new stick-on Led strip lighting. It is available from many different sources including of course, Amazon.



It offers many advantages. First, it comes in 12V – perfect for automotive use. It has a 3M stick-on backing making it easy to attach anywhere to almost anything. A big advantage is it can be cut to any length you need.

We chose to mount ours high in the rear GT hatch window. The sticky strip easily enables it to be mounted on the inside of that rear glass. Just figure out where it needs to go, clean the glass, then peel off the protective covering and stick it on.

To complete installation, Susan chose to utilize the usual bullet style connectors and we had extras on hand from previous electrical work on the car. Wiring could be spliced in by permanently soldering it to the brake wiring, but the bullet connectors allow it all to be removed if needed. Wiring can easily be tucked under interior panels.

As you can see, it adds quite a bit of extra visibility for brake lights. So, if you were following us on the club Fall Tour, we apologize for the glare, but we felt much safer.

See you at our fall tech session, November 13th. *Safety Fast* –
Terry



Travel Logs: Route 58

Well it's that time of year again for our greet and meet with the MG V8 Group. This year they picked Wytheville, Virginia. So, in making plans for our trip the first order of discussion is how to get there from here. This year we decided to travel on Route 58. We have driven a good portion of 58 but never the whole thing so this would be the year.



We left Friday morning, June 10 and headed out over the James River Bridge to 58. Our first stop was in Clarksville for lunch. No fancy restaurant just good old McDonald's. After lunch we explored a portion of the city on the quest to find the Easley home, which Bruce, yes, Easley, had mentioned to us. We thought we had the address but as luck would have it, we didn't. The Chamber of Commerce didn't recognize the name but they did give us a copy of a pamphlet containing 62 homes in the area. Google maps got us to Easley Street but not the home. The pamphlet did one better and we discovered that the Easley House was on Rose Hill Avenue as far away from Easley Street as you can get. A quick turn around and back into the center of town and low and behold we have the Easley House on Rose Hill Avenue formerly Rose Hill Tourist Home. Our first adventure and we only have just started. Next stop was at the Lover Leap's Wayside not to be confused with the actual Lover's Leap. We arrived a day early in Wytheville, but the hotel let us in and we didn't



have to sleep in the MG. First day, knocked out 361 miles.

As we were not scheduled to arrive until Saturday we took the day to go to the city's Visitor's Center and get some brochures on the area. Then we headed to some Antique Stores where I was successful in crossing off several Christmas presents, however, finding room in the MG did prove to be a bit of challenge. Mission accomplished.

Sunday, brought the first day of the MG V8 gathering with most of the participates arriving after 4 p.m. First night, pizza and beer. Actu-

ally, it's tradition.

Monday was a very busy day with the group. We left at 9 a.m. and took Route 52 up to the lookout on Big Walker Mountain. From there we traveled to Princeton, West Virginia, for lunch and to see a personal collection of cars along with lunch at the Train Station Museum. Leaving there we traveled to Tazewell, Virginia, and drove the Back of the Dragon putting over 200 miles on the MG. The Back of the Dragon is over 32 miles long and has over 438 twists and turns as well as several elevation changes.



Tuesday was a bit of a slower day. There were tech sessions in the morning which the driver of the MG thought were extremely useful. Apparently, replacing fluids in the MG is a must, and sooner rather than later is going to be our new motto. We were also able to visit two local museums and had a BBQ lunch in the park. That evening we enjoyed dinner at the Log House.

Wednesday was the last day with the group. PJ started to go to the tech session but the MG was not cooperating. It turned on but then quickly just shut it's self down. After a through exam, several other MG owners input, a trip by one of them to the local auto parts store, and then getting rid of all the corrosion around the battery terminals, a successful restart was accomplished. Apparently, our little MG wasn't getting her proper amount of attention. In the evening we attended the banquet and auction and are coming home with a stained glass British flag with a V8 symbol on it. Another successful event and next year we will be Illinois bound.

Thursday brings us back to Route 58. We travel through Galax and Independence on our way westward. We traveled another 300 miles today. Our first stop was for gas and lunch before heading to the Carter Fold. Unbeknownst to us they are not open during the week but we did get to see the outside of the buildings. The Carter Fold was built by June Carter Cash's cousins honoring their parents and June's mother who started performing together and descendants still perform there but only on the weekends. We then returned to Route 58 and the Natural Tunnel State Park not to be confused with the Natural Bridge. We took the chairlift both down and up to the Tunnel which is still being used by the railroad. Our last stop of the day was at the Wilderness Road State Park where we saw a reconstructed fort. One of the last stops before heading out into the wilderness and over the Cumberland Gap.

Friday, June 17, 2022 was our last day on Route 58. We finished Route 58 with a trip to the Cumberland Gap National Park. We took the road up to the Pinnacle Outlook and then traveled back to Hampton covering 540 miles in about 95 degree weather and getting home about 7 p.m.

Another fantastic trip in the little MG.



**41ST ANNUAL
BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 1, 2022

**RIDGEVIEW PARK
WAYNESBORO, VA**

**Shenandoah Valley British Car Club invites you to celebrate the
41st Annual British Car Festival!**

One of the oldest car shows on the East Coast, the SVBCC British Car Festival remains a favorite car gathering!

Festivities begin with Crullers & Coffee at the Car Show on Saturday, Oct. 1st staged among the massive trees and lovely views of Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro. British Classics, British Motorcycles as well as British DNA & Kit Cars are Welcome!

There is an on-site food vendor, lots of door prizes, and special car displays!

Get registration information & form, directions, maps, & show updates at
<http://www.svbcc.net/carshow.html>

Registration forms may also be printed to mail with a check.

GPS Coordinate for Ridgeview Park: 620 South Linden Avenue; Waynesboro, VA 22980
(I-64, Exit 94, Follow Signs)

A portion of 2022 Car Show profits will go to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Last year, we raised a \$2250 donation!

MAIL TO: Shenandoah Valley British Car Club, Ltd. ; P.O. Box 323; Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

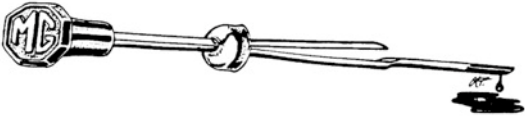
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MG

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

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 4th
Bill & Renee Olcheski
1409 Edgartown Ct.
Virginia Beach
467-4046

Turn onto Roundhill at traffic light.
Right at 3rd street (Clemsford).
Right at 2nd street (Edgartown Ct).



First Class

The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Jim Villers
3133 Inlet Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Affiliated with:



North American MGB Register



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