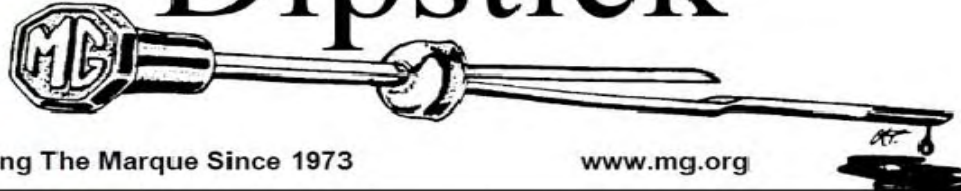




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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Activities Report, November 2023

The Tidewater MG group wrapped up October with a lot of fun at the “Trunk or Treat” event held at Big Ugly Brewing. The cars were appropriately decorated for Halloween, the kids were well costumed, and candy was consumed (as well as a few frosties). If you missed it, there’s a gallery of great pictures on line at mg.org.

November was a pretty full month for the group, with elections at the Nov. 8 monthly meeting to start. Scott Parker will be our President for 2024, and Rob MacPherson will take on the VP responsibilities. Otherwise, the slate is the same old bunch of clowns clones-suspects astute, hard-working representatives. Saturday, November 11 saw a number of Tidewater MGers show off their cars and support in the Virginia Beach Veterans Day parade; great pictures on line for that as well. Thanks, guys for your support! TMGCC’s annual Fall Tech Session was held at the home of Sue and Terry Bond on November 12, with a good turnout. One of the more interesting and involved evolutions consisted of replacing the windshield glass seal rubbers in a MGB windscreen frame. Check out THOSE pictures to see how many tech wannabes can get their hands on a windshield! Nice job, guys. Then November 17-19 was a three day car show event with the Coastal Virginia Car Show held in Virginia Beach at the Convention Center near the oceanfront, complete with celebrity appearances and judging.

For “auld lang syne”, we continue our annual December traditions with a dinner and Holiday Lights drive. We convene at Joe and Mimmas restaurant in Yorktown, then make a showy cruise through the Newport News City Park light show. This show is now in its 31st season, and this year includes a 36 foot high silhouette of the USS Newport News, a “Top Gun” ship. The Holiday Brunch and 2023 farewell is scheduled for Dec. 17 and will be held at the Princess Anne Country Club. A major “thank you” to the officers who set this up again for this year. Be there!! Then, 2023 is in the rear view, and it’s off to 2024!!

Safety fast. (as always), Bruce Easley

Coming Events

TMGC Events

Dec 5 - Holiday Lights

Dec 17 - Holiday Brunch



Marque Time!

President's Message

Well folks, it's hard to believe, but for some crazy reason I'm now the President? I'm not really sure what to write for the Marque Time, but here it goes. I first want to thank Mike, now President Emeritus, for his over 30 years of dedicated service to this fine club, serving as President twice and holding numerous other positions throughout the years. Thanks again Mike for all you do and did for the club!! I also want to thank Rob for stepping up as Vice President and leading the charge for the

Veteran's Day parade festivities this month. Looking forward to serving with you over the coming years...it'll be fun a ride! Also, keeping the theme here I want to thank all the club officers, Jim Villers, Mark Davidoski, Bruce Easley, Mike Ash, Terry and Sue Bond, Rose and Donald Lad, and of course my wife Michelle for their continued service to the club. You guys rock and make this club simply a joy to be part of. Thanks again for volunteering to serve!

Well as you all know, I missed the November meeting, but I honestly had a real solid excuse...I flew down to Dallas to celebrate my dad's 75th birthday and also my mom's cancer free diagnosis! She has defeated cancer and is doing phenomenally well! So, as you can imagine, I'm extremely grateful for the doctors, nurses and everyone's thoughts and prayers getting her through this season of life. Ok, enough about me, now back to the club.

We've got some upcoming events that I'm very much looking forward to, first up is dinner at Joe & Mimma's Pizza followed by the Holiday Lights drive on Dec 5 at the Newport News City Park. Thank you Bruce for setting this up! Then on Dec 17th we have our annual Holiday Party at the Princess Anne Country Club. It should be another amazing event and thanks Jim for locking this in and wishing you good luck and a speedy recovery on your upcoming surgery. Please also look at your 2024 calendar, we're beginning to compose the meeting schedule for the upcoming year and are looking for a few good homes to host our monthly shindigs. Rob and I will have more on that in the near term.

Well folks, that's all from the cheap seats here at the Parker ranch. Looking forward to serving you and enjoying your friendship, hospitality and MG dedication moving forward!

Safety fast. Scott

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Editor's Note: Scott sent me his picture for this Marque Time column and I asked him if he wanted to include the Pizza. Pizza goes with beer and MGs go with beer.

He replied that it was "editor's choice. So there is pizza. - Jim

TMGC November 2023 Meeting Minutes by Robert Perrone.

Recently I stopped by Mark Davidoski's to drop off a part for his MGB-GT and Mark mentioned that he had to get an article in for the Dipstick. Somewhere in the vast recesses of my murky mind something stirred. Then I realized why... I had volunteered to do the minutes for the November meeting.

Our TMGC Secretary, Michelle, was away with someone reportedly known as "Scott" and we assume that it was not against her will. We hope that she returns next month, which will certainly improve the quality of the minutes.

But you are stuck with this for now, presuming that you continue reading. I can't blame you if you don't.

The November 2023 meeting was held at the home of Bill and Renee Olcheski. I always enjoy a meeting at their home, not only for the warm atmosphere but also because Bill always asks me to stay afterward to drink an extra beer or two.

Speaking of Bill, as our unofficial Sergeant-At-Arms, Bill called our members to the meeting, which is, as I have mentioned before, not unlike herding cats.

Our soon-to-be Ex-President Mike Haag called the meeting to order and got things underway. Yes, I know that it is Mike's "swan song" as TMGC President, and that he will not be doing this again, but I think that, at this point, he will be happy just working on his presidential library and collecting his pension.

As usual, after listening to Mike for a while I remembered I was supposed to be taking notes. But I did hear that the minutes from the prior month (September) were approved and then paid a little more attention. Not a lot, but, just enough, hopefully.

Vice-President's Report: We were, shall we say, "Scott-free" that evening. (See what I did there? Yeah, it was kind of a lame, sad attempt) So no shrug, and no VP report.

Activities: Bruce noted several activities that are planned. I don't want to spoil it for you all, so I sug-



Mark, Al, Bruce and Al chat in the garage.



Andy, Hank, Jim, Susan, Robert and Mike.

gest that you check for the details in Bruce's own contribution to the Dipstick.

Treasurer: Mark Davidoski gave his report on our finances. We have had a fair amount of funds come in in the past few months from the renewal of memberships, and we appear to be in fine shape financially. I don't have the exact figures because I couldn't hear what Mark said, but it looks as if we will not need to sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts in front of the Walmart as a fundraiser any time soon.

Dipstick: Jim noted once again that contributions were due for the "premier automotive journal in the United States" by the 20th of the month, and thanked all who had written for the Dipstick over the past few months. He noted that he is always looking for new contributions, so let him know if you have anything of interest to share with the club.

Membership: Mike Ash was unable to join us, but President Haag noted that we would have the annual roster out soon, hopefully by the December Holiday Brunch.

Technical / Marque Time / New and Old Business: I combined all of this since the most significant event was the election of officers for our club. As Mike noted, the official slate of candidates consisted of Scott Parker for President, Rob MacPherson as Vice President, Mark Davidoski as Treasurer, and Michelle Parker as Secretary. Mike suggested that we vote on the entire slate by acclamation, which we did, and which was done without dissent. Thank you to all of our officers, as well as other members of the club that serve in various roles. We wouldn't be able to function as a club without you.

Regalia: Rose took care of the sale of the 50-50 raffle as well as noted items that were available for purchase. One particular donation that stood out in the raffle was Bill Olcheski's Marilyn Monroe poster, which he

claims he kept in his bathroom. No, I don't want to know why either. But that, as well as other fine items were raffled off and with one more matter to deal with, we were ready to close the meeting.

There was a motion to adjourn (by about 10 people) and then seconded by about 20 more.

And so this concludes the reign of King Mike.... um, I mean TMGC President Haag. Thank you again Mike from all of us. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we truly appreciate what you do for this club.



Jayne, Cathy, and Betty in the Kitchen



In the Meeting; Terry, Al, Mark, Jim, Scott and Bob.



A beautiful fall picture of Hank's MG with the barn



Installing a windshield in the frame.



Paul and Tommy checking brakes

Fall Tech Session By Mark Davidoski

We enjoyed a productive Tech Session at Susan & Terry's on a cool and dry Sunday afternoon. An assortment of member MGs were under the trees, with several taking turns in the garage/museum out back.

Tommy Keiningham's '73 MGB had some brake adjustments completed with Frank Linse's help. Frank also tweaked the mixture on Al Hazlett's '69 C-GT.

Mark Childers installed a new bottom seal for an MGB windshield. That's a job that took several sets of hands to complete - no small feat for the assembled installation team!

Hank Giffin completed the wiring of an LED high-mounted third brake light on his B-GT. The safety improvement is amazing.

Susan orchestrated a sumptuous mid day spread for the assembled mechanics and guests. And Terry conducted periodic tours of the attic where the latest finds from Hershey have found a new home.

A wide selection of donated MG parts were available for nominal donations. Several of us went home with useful spares or automobilia. Many thanks to the Ladd's for bringing Craig Cumming's stuff and to the Bonds for picking up Doug Wilson's excess inventory "for sale for donations to the club".

MGs and good friends - a perfect way to while away a beautiful Fall afternoon. Thank you Terry & Susan



Trunk or Treat 2023 by Susan Bond

We had another glorious, non-seasonal, day for Trunk or Treat at the Big Ugly Brewery on 29 October. The high temp was 84! With a wet, cold forecast for Halloween itself, many parents decided to go with a sure thing instead of waiting for a possible bad night.

Hank Giffin organized our participation and welcomed us.

His daughter, co-owner of the brewery, handed out drink tickets. Since it hadn't rained for weeks and the kids would be walking in dust instead of mud, we parked facing out this time which made it easier to talk to each other – when we had a chance. Hank also handed out extra bags of candy when we ran out, even though we thought we had brought plenty. They must have kept it in the fridge, it was nice and cool and didn't melt as quickly as the stuff I brought.

Members had fun decorating the boots of their MGs, with lots of ghosts and witches flying about. Since Eleanor doesn't have a boot, I decorated her with bows and handed out candy from her picnic basket, handy because it kept the sun off the candy.



The parade of kids was so much fun to

watch! We saw dragons, Wednesday Addams, bananas, princesses, Mama, first responders, lots of Marvel characters, and even a Tasmanian devil. I liked the family groups, too, like the doctor, surgeon and nurse, and a unicorn and its support team. Big Ugly also had a costume contest going on, so I guess they got creative for that.

Terry went for beer and hot dogs (it was great to have my own support team this year) and when the parade wound down we bought lumpia from the food truck, got



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another beer and sat inside to cool off with club members.

I have a partial list of club members who were there. If I didn't catch you, let me know so I can put your name in the album.

Tommy Keiningham, Robert Perrone, Paul Fuqua, Cathy and Mark Davidoski, Rose and Donald Ladd, Bob Stein, Susan and Terry Bond, John Kovac, Al Hazlett and his granddaughter, Scott Kampe, Al Jackson, Denise and Mike Haag, Stevie and Hank Giffin and their granddaughters, Tammy and Harry Park and their granddaughter, Joanna and David Bach, Penny and Joseph Creed, Rob McPherson, Mark Childers, and former member Robert Davis came in the talk with us.

Next year I will have to bring my granddaughter, too!



Joseph & Penny Creed



Tammy Park



Al Jackson



Bob Stein

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David & Joanne Beach



Mark Davidoski



Robert Perrone



Scott Kampe



Al Hazlett



Robert Perrone, Mark Davidoski, Paul Fuqua

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! *Or, perhaps it's broken?*

Just as planned, our November tech session provided inspiration for this month's tech article. Although a lot of other work was done (and several miracles accomplished), one item in particular has sprung to mind.

It seems that on the way to our place, one member suddenly realized the clutch pedal on his MGB was dangling and needed to be lifted back up again with his foot! Now you've probably heard of driving "heel to toe" by race drivers, but doing that in Tidewater traffic is not recommended!

The problem was easily solved by just replacing a simple spring that was easy to reach. Since the unbroken half was still attached to the clutch pedal, a suitable replacement was easy to find. In fact, we have a "pair" of them always handy in the parts department. Both the brake pedal and clutch pedal return springs are the same and are sold by many parts suppliers as a pair. It was a quick and easy fix.

It's happened before, and is sure to happen at more inconvenient times than on the way to an MG club tech session.

Roadside repairs are never a lot of fun, but if you are faced with a similar situation and have a little plastic baggie with replacement springs in your tool kit, you'll be back on the road again in Indy 500 pit-stop time. So, next time you are ordering anything, a word of advice – think about not only what you need, but try to add on some "emergency kit" spare parts to carry with you on the next tour. Clutch and brake pedal return springs are a must-have for that kit. You may never need them, but what great insurance!

Expanding that thought a bit, there are a lot of little springs that could be critical to getting you moving again while on a tour. One we had some difficulty figuring out recently while test-driving the 1948 MGTC following completion of our brake system rebuild.

The car had some rough running problems before we took it off-road for the project. It was something we knew we'd need to resolve, but first we needed the brake system operational so any test-runs could be done safely. Yes, stopping is critical when test driving your MG!

The rough-running included stumbling on acceleration, loping idle, running rich and the tendency to "load up" and bog down, eventually stalling. Certainly sounds like carbbies to me.

After adjusting mixture, idle speed, and checking both choke and throttle cables for proper length, I did a full synch on carbs. After cleaning plugs, checking ignition wires and fuel supply (pump and filter) the engine fired right up. After only a short time, it was back to its old habits once again. I must mention the air cleaner assembly on a TC is quite complicated. It takes three hands to get it on and off. Like most TC owners, we were using small canister type aftermarket air cleaners. You can still reach everything without having to take them off too.

At some point I retrieved our spare set of TC SU carbs just to use them for reference or possibly even in-

stall as test units. That should verify the running problems were carb related.

Well, a quick look at those carbs is all it took for the Lucas light bulb to go off! There were two small SPRINGS on those carbs that helped return the choke levers back to the shut position. I pulled the air cleaners on our car and there they were – one end dangling loose. Quickly reconnecting them resulted in pulling the two choke levers fully forward and in the shut-position. So, the problem was, the chokes of our MGTC SU Carbs were causing the rich-running condition! SPRINGS once again played a key role. Disconnected, broken, stretched or missing, springs = a poor (or not) running car! A pair of “spare” choke return springs was quickly included with a batch of parts ordered and will be carried as spares..

Another critical spring situation revealed itself one winter (hmm, that doesn't make much sense) on a fall tour when a member began to experience some loss of power when accelerating up hills. The usual checks might indicate a timing issue, so a look at the advance mechanism for the dizzy was in order. The hose was ok but looking inside, the problem was quickly discovered. The little spring operating the advance mechanism had come unhooked. It was an easy fix using only a small screwdriver and needle nosed pliers.

Moral of this story is – no matter what the season, there are a lot of SPRINGS that can give you headaches. Many of them are small and easy to replace. It's worth the time to go through the Moss (or other) catalog and look for those springs and buy replacements to carry with you – just in case. Entire spring assortments can be purchased on Amazon, or from auto parts stores too, and many of them make suitable emergency replacements.

If you want specific replacement springs, look for those that might leave you on the roadside if broken. Those that can easily be replaced are recommended – like throttle and choke springs, clutch and brake related springs, etc. You'll need to look through catalogs by searching the appropriate section. While it's probably not necessary to carry spare suspension springs on the next tour, you'll be glad you had the little spring necessary to keep you straightening out back roads on our next tour. If you've ever had a broken brake shoe spring, you'd be glad you had an extra!

Safety fast. - after you “spring back into action.”

Terry



Tidewater Veterans Day Parade – 2023 by Mike Haag



Rob MacPherson 's car in the line-up

For the first time, our club participated in this year's Tidewater Veterans Day Parade in Virginia Beach under cloudy, cool, and breezy weather but no rain. We were supposed to be in last year's parade but it was canceled due to the threat of some nasty weather. Six members showed up at our meeting point on 11th Street. The cars were then soon aligned on Atlantic Avenue to wait our turn. And wait we did, kicking tires in the cool breeze off the ocean for about 40 minutes.

Our club was group 93, near the back of the pack. With the parade starting at 0900, it was 0940 when we finally saw some movement up ahead of us. We started our cars and drove about 50 feet before stopping for another 10 minutes or so. Finally we got going and continued moving. After about a block, the parade marshal aligned us in three rows of pairs since our cars were smaller than most other vehicles. Rob MacPherson lead the group in

the "pole" inside position of row one, with Scott Kampe on the outside. Row two had Tommy Keiningham on the inside with Mike Haag on the outside. Row three had Paul Fuqua in the inside with Al Hazlett on the outside. We were followed by a huge Titan dump truck in group 94. The parade went up Atlantic Avenue, turned left on 17th street, then right on Baltic Avenue, then left on 19th street to the end at the Doubletree hotel. The parade took about 45 minutes, as we could drive no faster than the folks marching in front of us could walk. I was glad it wasn't any longer though, as my left leg was getting tired near the end.

We saw lots of smiling faces of all ages cheering us on and I'm sure our cars are in many people's pictures and videos. I am glad we finally got to do this and play a small part in honoring our veterans. WTKR channel 3 broadcast the parade live from near the convention center and I heard them talking about our club as we drove by them. You can watch the parade online by visiting the WTKR website at: <https://www.wtkr.com/positivelyhr/watch-since-1970-tidewater-veterans-day-parade-celebrates-hampton-roads-veterans>. Our club is shown at the 1:30 hour mark of the parade video.



Al Hazellet, Tommy Kenningham and Paul Fuqua' with Paul's MGB in the line-up

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MG

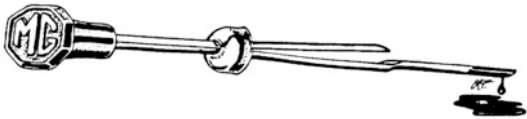
HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday Dec 17th
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Country Club,
3800 Pacific Avenue,
Virginia Beach, VA



**Come on out
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Starting at 10:30 a.m.**

**\$25 Per Person
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