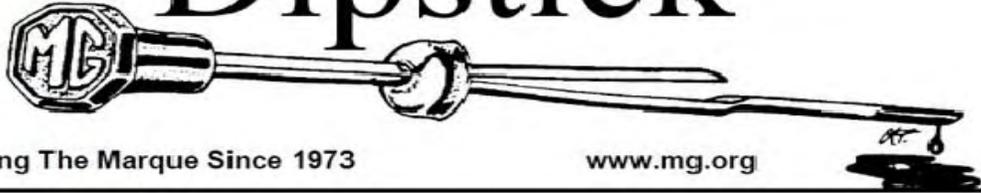




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 50 Issue 7

July 2023

Activities Report, July 2023

Wow, we've been busy since my last report! Our amazing 50th anniversary banquet was held on May 27 and was truly memorable. Sure, the food was good, but the camaraderie was wonderful. Quite a few of the people who have been long-time club members shared great stories of early organizing of the club, early trips, later trips, and special memories. After 50 years, the club is still going strong!

The traditional "Dessert Drives" get-togethers came off with good weather and good treats. More details are provided in this issue. Then of course we had our usual monthly meeting in early June, with the top deck of the Ocean View Pier as our venue. Good weather again, to enjoy the scenery and the pleasant day. On June 17 we met for a leisurely cruise up the rural route 10, "parading" through the historic town of Smithfield along the way to lunch together at the Upper Shirley Vineyards in Charles City county. Thankfully, another great weather day! After lunch we "chilled" outside for a bit, then drove another "no stoplight" stretch to the New Kent Winery/Talleysville Brewery, where we finished out the afternoon with some good conversation, libation, and "corn hole" games. A few of the group made an extra stop at Alewerks on the way home to pick up some "special supplies" for later.

By the time this issue of the Dipstick comes out, we'll probably have completed our annual visit to Harbor Park for "Turn Back the Clock" night and Tidewater Tides baseball on June 28. Roll on Tides! Then we'll have a Saturday meeting at the home of Faith and PJ Peterson July 1 to kick off the month. Moss Motors in Petersburg will be having a "Cars and Coffee" event on July 22, and a group is putting together plans for that, so "Stay Tuned" for more fun!

Safety fast and always! Bruce Easley

Coming Events

TMGC Events

- July 1 - Meeting, Peterson's
- July 22 - Moss Drive-out
- Aug 2 - Meeting, Villers'
- Sep 9 - Meeting, Ash's (Sat)
- Sep 21-4 - Fall Tour
- Oct 3 - Meeting, Ocheski's

TMGC Offices and Committees

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Marque Time!

President's Message from Mike

We had a great turnout for the June meeting at the Ocean View Fishing Pier restaurant, thanks to Scott for setting that up. We even had reserved MG parking! I think that venue is becoming one of our favorites for a meeting. The weather was nice and we were lucky to have had it the day before the smoke from the Canadian wildfires engulfed our area.

I want to thank Rob MacPherson for leading the Southside Dessert drive at the end of May. Yes, there are still semi-rural roads left in southern Virginia

Beach and we drove on many of them. Don't ask me to repeat that route, as I was just following the car in front of me.

Twenty years ago I was club President in 2003 for our 30th Anniversary. Never did I imagine I would be back as President during our 50th Anniversary. But, it was an honor and a privilege to help bring this celebration to fruition. It took a team to pull it off so I would like to thank those who contributed in many ways to make it a success: Mark & Kathy Davidoski, Jim Villers, Donald & Rose Ladd, Susan Bond, Bob Stein, Becky Watson, and First Lady Denise. I also want to thank the MWR staff who accommodated our needs and provided great service during the banquet. Without all of their support it would not have been the fun event it was!

They say not to sweat the small stuff, but it's hard not to when organizing an event that many folks are anticipating and looking forward to attending. Many of you have been in this same situation and were, like me, glad when it was a success and probably glad but also sad when it was all over. I was glad that the predicted rain and high winds held off until after the event was over so we could take a group picture on the front steps flanked by a fine assortment of the A, B, and C's of MG production. Glad that 67 members show up. Glad that the venue was large enough and there was enough room for everyone to mingle comfortably. Glad that the food was good and the bar well stocked. Glad that folks volunteered to share their MG stories for all to hear. Glad that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and having a good time.

For a single marque car club to still exist and be vibrant and active after 50 years is quite an accomplishment. We must be doing something right, and I think I know what that is. It's the people! Thankfully our club is fairly laid-back, informal, we are all positive people, and members just enjoy being with each other and sharing fun times in our beloved little MGs. The friendships developed over the years are deep and long lasting and so important to our lives. For this, I am so grateful for having been a member for 31 years. They have been some of the best times of my life. Here's to many more years of MG fellowship!

Safety first.

Mike

Renew your TMGC membership today!



Meeting Minutes -

June 6, 2023 By Robert Peronne



Once again, we had our club meeting at the Ocean View Fishing Pier. We had dinner al fresco in beautiful Summer weather. Well technically, it was still Spring, but it felt “Summery” nonetheless. (yes, I don't think “Summery” is a word either; I just make ‘em up as I go along)

At the appropriate time our unofficial TMGC Sergeant-At-Arms, Bill Olcheski, bellowed out his customary “HEY!” and the meeting began.

Our soon-to-be former President, Mike “Is it October yet?” Haag then started the meeting. After the usual motion to approve the minutes (they were) and checking to see if we had any new members or guests (we did not...) he turned to the monthly reports.

Vice-President’s Report: Mike noted that we had no Vice-president’s report because we had no Vice-president. This was also the reason that anyone reading this has to suffer through my version of the meeting minutes since Scott and Michelle think it is more important to take a trip to England than tend to their duties here. That’s OK, Scott, but while you were away we all decided you will make a great President in October!

Activities: Bruce noted upcoming events including the June 17th drive and the Tides “turn-back-the-clock” night on June 28th. There will also be a drive to the Moss “Cars and Coffee” event on July 22 in Petersburg. Check Bruce’s contribution in this edition of The Dipstick for more information.

Bruce also noted the great turnout and the good time had by all at the TMGC 50th Anniversary dinner in May. And, speaking of the 50th Anniversary...

Dipstick: If you missed it, or you want to look back at the event, check the special edition 50th Anniversary Dipstick that Jim Villers put together with the help of Mark Davidoski and Susan Bond.

Treasurer: Mark Davidoski gave his customary report on our finances. As usual, the balance is a bit lower than at other times of the years, but we should have an increase in our bank balance once we receive some additional funds from annual dues.



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Susan Bond



Frank Linse



Jayne Easley

Membership: Mike Ash was not with us, but I know that I can speak for him when I remind everyone to renew their memberships, as dues are payable as of July 1 via check, cash or PayPal. Please see the renewal info on our website, or contact Mike Ash directly.

History: Susan always has history to share, but now she has gone online, with help from Jim Villers. I have mentioned it before, but check the TMGC website for a comprehensive history of the club from 1999 to 2022. It really is interesting, to say the least.

Technical / Marque Time / New and Old Business: There was not much here to report, at least nothing that I recall. Then again, I was busy ordering another beverage right then, and nothing comes between me and a beer.

Regalia: The only thing I know for sure was that we collected some cash, and someone won the 50-50. Rose also handed out some fabulous prizes, but all I know for sure is that the numbers drawn were claimed by Rob, Al and Joe. Sadly, once again, it was not me.

At the request of our “soon to be lame-duck” President Mike, someone motioned to adjourn and someone else seconded. And thus ends this episode of the “Tales of the Substitute Secretary” for June 2023.



*Members on
the fishing
pier swing*

*Rachael
Huovinen &
son*



James River Run –

The Driving Season Continues!

June 17, 2023 By Mark Davidoski

Bruce and Jayne Easley organized and led a TMGC Saturday drive along the southern side of the James River on June 17th. The group linked up at the Waffle House on Portsmouth Boulevard in Chesapeake for a 9:00 a.m. departure under sunny skies.

The formation of seven MGs and one Chrysler Pacifica headed out toward Smithfield and the wide-open spaces northwest of Tidewater. But first we passed two HUGE Amazon Fulfillment Centers (ORF 2 and ORF 3) en-route to the Burger King just outside of Smithfield in order to retrieve our leaders, the Easley's. With a full complement of eight MGs plus the Pacifica, we continued into downtown Smithfield to show off our LBCs. Then it was up VA Route 10 past Bacon's Castle, through Surry and up to Hopewell. The road was pleasantly free of traffic as we wended our way through cornfields and enjoyed the shady side of the road for miles.



The Upper Shirley Vineyards lunch stop



Mike buying some wine



Lunch at the Upper Shirley Vineyards

Passing the iconic “Bubba’s Chikin ‘n Thangs” in beautiful Burrowsville, we knew we were far from the madding crowds of inbound tourists and familiar chokepoints like the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel – all good! Crossing the Benjamin Harrison Bridge we soon found ourselves approaching Shirley Plantation. A quick right turn brought us to Upper Shirley Vineyards (USV) for an 1130





The New Kent Winery/Talleysville Brewery

lunch reservation.

USV occupies a beautiful site adjacent to the Plantation. The restaurant and tasting room are spacious and offer views of the surrounding countryside, including a waterfront area. The service was fast and attentive, and the menu included many local specialties that were accompanied by excellent wine or beer selections. A guitarist was performing on the back veranda, which made for a relaxing conversational stopover after lunch.

At 1:30 p.m. it was time for departure for our next destination: New Kent Winery and Brewery just a short drive away. New Kent's addition of craft beers to its formerly

"wine only" fare was warmly received by many of our group, as well as a large number of other enthusiastic customers. Our lineup of nine MGs drew lots of attention, including a red wannabe LBC; a Pontiac Solstice that completed our display of mostly roadsters.

After a few cold ones, plenty of relaxing conversation, and a bit of corn hole tossing on the lawn, the group commenced the homeward journey. Several of the group made their way back down the other side of the James on US route 60. Another "stop of opportunity" was made at Alewerks outside of Williamsburg as the group continued to disperse for individual final destinations.

The James River Bridge was pleasantly free of congestion for this writer, and we arrived at home at 5:30 p.m. after covering 219 enjoyable miles under perfect weather conditions. Bruce and Jayne scored another win in their bid to become Activities Directors for Life! Well done as always....



Members enjoying the brew at the New Kent Winery/Talleysville Brewery



2023 Williamsburg British and European Car Show

April 22, 2023

By Scott Parker



Well, this year I was all alone since my trusty sidekick and dependable navigator was visiting her mom in warm and toasty Milton, FL for her 75th birthday bash. Going it alone was very unusual for me, so I opted to ask my friendly MG neighbors, Terry and Sue Bond, if they were heading up “north” for the festivities and they said Yes! So, up bright and early I hopped in my 1971 MGB GT and headed over to the Bond’s museum to meet my caravan partners. After a quick gas stop we headed north via the most direct and speedy route aka the simply wonderful I-664 Monitor – Merrimack Memorial Bridge Tunnel (NOT!). Luckily for us it was early and the roads were fairly clear, so with Sue in the lead and her pedal to the metal (literally...she’s quite the speedy driver) we made quick work of the hour drive to Williamsburg.



Terry And Susan Bond

We arrived to a well-organized Williamsburg Car Show where the team of volunteers welcomed me and tried their best to get me to sign up for the Williamsburg British Car Club since it was only \$8/year. I did hesitate for a moment, that’s pretty cheap, but then I quickly snapped out of it and realized my true allegiance to the mighty Tidewater MG Classics Club. What would the Prez (aka Big Mike) say if he knew the VP was being courted by another MG Club...he would not be happy, so I simply smiled and said “no thank you” and headed to my parking spot, which was right next to my caravan partners Terry and Sue.



Mike August

As I got settled in, I was quickly overwhelmed by the strong turnout of British cars, MGs from every generation, a slew of MGB GTs (more than I’ve ever seen at a car show), Morgans, Triumphs and the like. I was also pleasantly surprised to see several Tidewater MG Club faces making their way through the gauntlet of impressive automobiles. Mike and Carolyn August were just a few spots down from me with their nearly original 1972 aqua MGB GT, which is a practically untouched 1972 gem that they’ve owned for only a few short months. I was very impressed with how well the car had been maintained and it looks simply amazing for being over

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Donald Ladd's MGC with trailer



Eric Fee with his MGA

50 years old! I can't say the same thing about me.

Several other club members were there with their cars, notably, but not really MG related, was John and Elyse Kovac with their recently acquired 1996 Bentley Turbo RL. John was definitely in chauffeur mode and Elyse was riding high in style in this high-end luxury cruiser. Rob MacPherson and Eric Fee both brought their immaculate MGAs to the concourse. Donald and Rose showed off their well-travelled MGC GT, while the "Caroholic" Bob Stein displayed his unique right-hand driver 1978 MGB GT, and several other members brought their MGs to support this local event.

The weather was warm and windy for a mid-April day and the forecast was calling for rain in the afternoon, so the organizers moved up the judging to ensure people were able to get home before the rain arrived. So, after enjoying the diversity of cars I quickly grabbed some lunch and headed over to the announcers circle to see if any of us were lucky enough to win a coveted prize. I was sure that a recently restored and truly flawless mustard 1971 MGB GT owned by gentlemen from Richmond would take home the top prize, but to my surprise he nor any of us Tidewater MG folks made the cut. Oh well, we all had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the cars and fellowship from this amazing event!



Bob Stein with "Rodney"



Scott Parker with his MGB GT

Dessert Drives: Northside ...

Wednesday May 24



“Our faithful group of two cars met at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center on May 24 at the appointed time of 6:30 PM. In attendance were Faith and PJ Peterson and Jayne and Bruce Easley in their MGB roadsters – topless, of course. We cruised through “downtown” Yorktown along the waterfront, then drove the beautiful Colonial Parkway along the York River until we reached route 199. There we were able to burn out a little carbon route to Bruster’s Ice Cream in Williamsburg. So many flavors to choose from! One of the party got a perfect banana split, and the others opted for multi-scoop homemade waffle cones of their favorite flavors. The Easleys headed home again via the Parkway, while the Petersons took the I-64 fast lanes back to home in Hampton. Another tradition completed!



Faith & PJ at Bruster's



Red Mill Cold Stone Creamery

Dessert Drives: Southside..

Thursday May 25

After meeting behind the Harris Teeter at the Municipal Center, Rob MacPherson led the group on a tour of rural Virginia Beach and Chesapeake. We drove down Muddy Creek Road, across the Pungo Ferry Bridge and back via Blackwater and North Landing Roads to eventually arrive at the Cold Stone Creamery in the Red Mill shopping center. Again, there is nothing like a nice ice cream cone to finish off a nice drive in an MG.



50th Annual Richmond Car Show and Swap

Meet .. Jun 10 by Mark Davidoski



A small yet motivated TMGC contingent made the trip to Richmond on Saturday June 10th for the Richmond Region AACA big show at St. Joseph's Villa. This year's edition included special displays of Factory High Output cars with everything from a 1912 Stutz Bearcat to a 1969 Dodge Charger Daytona. But the REAL highlight was the Central Virginia British Car Club's display honoring 100 years of MG! Sixteen MGs ranging from a 1933 L-type Magna to a late-1980 MGB told the MG story in chronologic order.



Rose & Donald Ladd with Marque Certificate

TMGC cars on display included Donald & Rose Ladd's 1969 MGC-GT, Mark & Kathy Davidoski's 1974 ½ MGB-GT, Bruce & Carol Woodson's 1959 MGA Twin Cam, and even Tim Hund's gorgeous (spelled FAST!) TVR . The father & son Woolford team was also on hand, plus Bob Stein serving as an AACA judge.

The drive up was uneventful (for a change) with a wide open westbound HRBT. But the eastbound side was already clobbered at 6:30 a.m. so some of us opted for the US 460 route on the way home – a pleasant speed limit drive through the land of peanuts, soybeans and early corn.



Mark Davidoski with his MGB GT

The show benefited St. Joseph's Villa, who provided their 83-acre campus for the show field. The Villa started as a girls' orphanage in 1834. Today it occupies a beautiful site in north Richmond, just off of Parham road. It maintains a reputation as a state of the art center for developmentally challenged youth. The annual AACA shows have provided over \$50,000 of funding in the last few years.

Plan now to attend the 55th annual show next June. You will see cars that you've only read about in history books. You will also be able to browse a huge selection of swap meet vendors.

Hats off to Richmond Region AACA and the Central Virginia British Car Club for doing the heavy lifting needed to make the show a complete success.

It's a Small World

by Jim Villers

While preparing to attending my 190 SL Group Convention in

Beaufort, SC, to celebrate the clubs fortieth anniversary, I reviewed the membership dates for the attendees to determine those with longevity. I came upon a name, Herschel Smith, that I did not recognize who had been a member for 35 year and I knew that I needed to meet him. After meeting Herschel, one of his first comments was that he had spent several years in Virginia Beach while stationed at NAS Oceania. As we discussed cars, I mentioned that I owned MGs and he said that he had owned an MGTD and that it was his daily driver while stationed at Oceania. He then mentioned that he was in the MG Club. Yes, it was the Tidewater MG T Classics.

I emailed a copy of our 50th Anniversary Dipstick issue to him to see if this brought back memories. Below is the email Herschel send in reply with a picture of his MGTD.



Herschel Smith at the 190 SL Convention



Herschel Smith's MGTD

Just continuing to show how small a world it is, Herschel also discovered that another member at the convention and he had attended the US Naval Academy during the same years in the early 1970s.

It is a small world.

Thanks for the info about the MGTD group. Those guys helped keep my 52 TD rolling when I drove it to Oceana almost daily. I remember Roosevelt, Jim Banyard, Vince Groover. There was a CPO in VF33 with me in the club named Levi but can't remember his last name. We were in Va Beach 78-81 flying F-4s, mostly deployed while Pam worked as a buyer for Rices Nachman's. Left for Pensacola and never came back. Good memories.

I traded up from my TD to my 190 SL in Monterey. This is the only picture I have. It was fun, especially on the drive from San Diego to DC to P'cola in summer of 76.

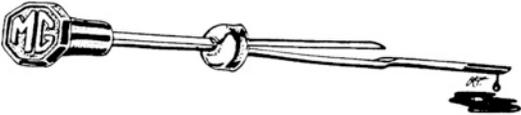
Maybe see you in Ohio.

Herschel

MG

Monthly Meeting
 Saturday, July 1st
 PJ & Faith Peterson
 4 Applegate Drive
 Hampton
 896-9606

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



First Class

The Dipstick Tidewater MG Classics

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