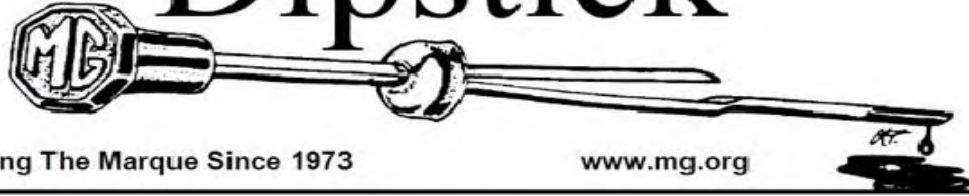




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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Volume 50 Issue 6

June 2023

Activities Report, June 2023

It's (always) time to party! Our 50th Anniversary "Golden Jubilee" banquet is almost upon us. By now, Prez Mike H has signed up everyone who's going, and last count was 62. Mike sent out a "teaser" that there will be incredible (like everything we do) gifts and a "special attendee" prominent MG owner/driver. I'm appropriately intrigued... what could "prominent" mean? There will definitely be a bar, so bring tips for your bartender to keep them happy! Look elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Dessert drives on May 24 (Peninsula) and 25 (Southside) will help us prepare for the lavish anniversary event. Drive your MG and get a huge banana split or sundae to make more room for the anniversary dinner.

Monies are being collected for the Norfolk Tides "Turn Back the Clock" baseball outing on June 28. Tickets are \$16 per person, payable to Bruce Easley or Robert Perrone at the dessert drives or at the anniversary banquet. Tickets will be distributed at the regular meeting on June 6 at the Ocean View pier, or by mail if you can't attend the meeting. A special "Thanks" to Robert for being willing to visit the box office and purchase advance tickets! A winery/brewery drive up the historic James River is planned for June 17, so be ready to drive!

Our July 1 regular meeting will be on a Saturday at the home of Faith and PJ Peterson in Hampton. Then on July 22, Moss Motors in Petersburg is hosting a "Cars and Coffee" event for those interested in another Saturday drive; more to follow. OK - there's a bunch of things going on - no excuse for not driving out MGs!!!

Party on!!! Bruce Easley

Coming Events

TMGC Events

- May 27 - TMGC 50th Anniversary Banquet
- Jun 6- Meeting, Ocean View
- Jun 28 - Tides Baseball Game
- July 1 - Meeting, Peterson's
- July 22 - Moss Drive-out



Marque Time! President's Message

Thanks to Cynthia & Andy for hosting the May meet-
ing at their beautiful home on the Lafayette River in
Norfolk. As usual with an event at their house, we
had a large turnout and Mayflower Road even stayed
dry this year.

I want to thank Alan & Beckey Watson for organizing
and leading the Spring Tour at the end of April. Even
the wet weather on Friday and the threat of severe

weather on Sunday afternoon didn't dampen our spirits or our enjoyment of driving our MGs and being with
friends once again. After 20 years of organizing these Spring Tours, Alan & Beckey are taking a well-
deserved retirement from performing these duties. Don't worry, there is already talk of continuing the
Spring Tours under "new management". More to follow later this year.

Since the Dipstick deadline is the 20th of the month, we likely won't have had our 50th Anniversary
"Golden Jubilee" Banquet at the end of May when you read this, if you do at all. So, I'm going to predict the
event was a huge success and everyone attending had a great time. A full report with pictures should be in
the July Dipstick.

Safety first.

Mike

" God save the MG, The King can take care of himself"



TMGC Offices and Committees

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Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2023

By Michelle Parker

This lovely May evening we gathered at the home of Andy and Cynthia Wallach. Thank you so much for hosting, it was enjoyed by all. We were happy to not have rainy weather and flooding this time. There were 11 MG's and 8 of them were GT's, so that was fun to see.

Our President, Mike Haag, called the meeting to order. No guests or new members were in attendance. A motion was made to approve last month's minutes, and they were approved.

For the Vice President's report, Scott Parker had nothing but a shrug. Our next meeting, Tuesday, June 6th, is all set for the Ocean View Fishing Pier in Norfolk at 6:30.

Bruce Easley, Activities Director, talked about the epic Spring Tour that just happened. Sounds like a wonderful time was had by all that were able to attend. This is the last tour that Allen and Becky will be planning. They have planned them for the last 20 years. Wow, that's impressive! I know that all the good times and good memories that y'all made possible are appreciated. May 6th is "Drive Your MG-A Day," but drive whatever MG you have that day. The Desert Drives are coming up this month. Wednesday, May 24th for the Peninsula, leaving from the Yorktown Battlefield. The Southside will be Thursday, May 25th, meeting BEHIND the Harris Teeter.

The 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee is Saturday, May 27th. You can pay at the door, \$30 per person, cash or check. However, the head count is due by May 17th. An email will be sent out to remind all to sign up. Dress code was discussed, wear what you're comfortable in, but "business casual" may be the best way to describe it. We can bring in our own dessert and cake versus cupcakes was discussed. It was decided that cupcakes are the way to go. Thank you to Becky Watson for volunteering to decorate these for us!

June 4th in Adamstown, Maryland the 45th Annual Original British Car Day at Lilypons Water Gardens is happening. There isn't an organized drive to go, but you may be interested. For more information, the link is on the calendar on the website. June 6th is our meeting at the Ocean View Fishing Pier. Saturday, June 17th is a Winery/Brewery Drive, probably in the New Kent area. June 28th is the annual Tide's Turn Back The Clock night. The tickets are \$16 per person; payment must be made ahead and tickets will be given out at the June 6th meeting. If you can't make that meeting, Robert can mail them to you, just let him know. July 22nd Moss Motors is hosting Cars and Coffee. It will be their 75th anniversary. We may get a train together to head up to Petersburg for that. The first 200 cars get a goodie bag! The Williamsburg British Car show from a few weekends back was discussed. The turnout was good this year, the weather was fair, however the fairness of judging was questioned a bit, but sounds like it was a nice day



overall. The Fall Tour will take place September 21-24. Everyone should have received an email with all the details. Bob McKenna is putting this together and is looking for some RSVP's for the event. The Bond's have been to the Parade museum and said it is much more interesting and enjoyable than it sounds.

Mark Davidoski, Treasurer, was unable to attend. However, he sent along the information for the Treasurer's Report. The beginning balance was \$1709.59. Receipts totaled \$80.00; \$60 from the April 50/50 and \$20 in membership fees. Disbursements totaled \$231.26; in reimbursements to Parker for \$125 and Ladd for \$106.26. Bringing the balance going forward to \$1558.33.

Jim Villers was asked for the Dipstick Report... "The 20th!" ...all articles and inclusions are due by then. Mike mentioned that the last issue was very good. He also discussed how Jim and Susan have done an amazing job putting together the history page and have uploaded the scrapbooks to the website for the upcoming 50th Anniversary. Take a look at that when you're able, they put in a lot of hard work and did an awesome job! A big thank you to all that worked on it! Jim wrangled some volunteers to write up the Williamsburg show and the Spring Tour, so those are covered.

Mike and Jennifer Ash were also unable to attend and give the Membership Report this month. However, there are no new members this month, we are still at 93 members.

Terry Bond, gave the Technical Report as "all quiet on the Western front."

Susan Bond, our Historian, is really happy to finally have all the scrapbooks online and not have to haul them around anymore. Many members have been in the club for a long time, there are lots of photos and information from though the years there. So many memories and good times shared! Be patient when looking though, as it may take some time for them to load.

There was no old business to discuss. Other than the 50th anniversary already discussed, there was no new business.

The floor was opened to Marque Time. Don mentioned that Tadd had left some MG driver books for anyone interested. The Rollin With The Knights fliers were there for anyone wanting more info on that upcoming event. Terry asked if anyone has done business with Bap-Geon lately. He was looking for some odd-ball sized copper brake line washers. He thought about them and stopped by, but was disappointed with what he found. They have changed quite a bit. So, since things have changed there, you may want to call before driving out, they might not have what you need.

Regalia with Rose! Ordering the chambray button-down club shirts with the club logo and your name embroidered has changed. Now, you provide the chambray shirt and they will do the embroidery on it for a cost of \$20, paid up-front. Get the shirt and the \$20 to Rose and she will take it to them to get embroidered.

For the raffle: an antique car puzzle was won by Jim, an MG Poster Book was won by PJ and Faith, a '71 yellow MG BGT matchbox car was won by Al, a Jaguar Parts drawstring bag was won by David, and \$34 in the 50/50 was won by Rob who donated it back to the club.

For the 50th anniversary party we will have a 50/50 only. Tickets will be the same as always: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The goal is to reach \$100, tickets will be sold at the party so come prepared.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the meeting was closed.

TMGC Spring Tour ... Friday

by Robert Perrone

It was “The Last Dance”, so to speak. The final Spring Tour (aka Wine Tour) led by Alan and Beckey Watson. They did not disappoint, and neither did we.



There was a big turnout, and we had members from three states attend: Tad and Karen from South Carolina, and Bob and Missy as well as Bob and Dana from Maryland. But we missed having Mark and Kathy, particularly since it was due to Mark’s painful condition.

An MG is really not suited for interstates, but even more evident while driving in heavy rain. I know that it was stressful for me, and it might have also been for my MGB.

I think my MG wet itself. Well, one thing is for sure, my leg (and everything else) was soaked all the way down to my socks. I swear that it came from a leak under the windshield. At least I think it did...

On the drive to Ashland we followed Mike “I ain’t afraid of no tractor-trailers” Haag. We made it to our destination without any incident, and I’m sure by that point Mike was happy to turn over the lead to Alan and Beckey.

I think it’s safe to say that everyone enjoyed their lunch at The Caboose. We’ve been there before, and it definitely is a fine choice. Not only was the food good, but they had a nice selection of craft beers. Unfortunately it was too early in the day to enjoy more than one, plus we had some driving to do, so it was one and done.



We did get an opportunity to enjoy some other adult beverages at Courthouse Creek Cider. As it said on their website, they produce authentic Colonial Era Cider, which is not at all the same as today’s sweet mass-produced ciders. I’m not certain what the general consensus was in our group, but it seems that most people seem to have the opinion that it was interesting, but not something that they would enjoy on a regular basis.

The rest of the afternoon featured some very enjoyable back roads, which were a welcome change after the



morning drive on the interstate.

Aside from the roads, the drive was even more enjoyable because the rain had let up considerably by the afternoon.

Our evening at the Appomattox Inn was relaxing, with pizzas (for most of us) and a beverage of choice. This has always been a favorite part of these drives for me; ending the day by spending time with great friends, swapping stories and sharing a good laugh or two.

To begin the first full day of the history-making, incomparable, and unforgettable “2023 Watson Grand Finale Spring Tour”, we were joined by Lonnie Selz, a friend of Alan Hazlett’s. Lonnie spotted our caravan and asked if he could accompany us for the day. It was a pleasure to have him, and his MGA be a part of the adventure. In addition to his presence in the group, he relayed that the only exclusively MG garage, “MG Matters”, was located a short distance away from the hotel, in Goode, Va.

TMGC Spring Tour ... Saturday

by Jayne Easley

The day began with an 8:30 departure for an excursion to the Laven-der Fields at Tantivy Farms...ah, but first, the journey...and oh what a journey it was! We were led by Alan, our fearless road-master, at a breath-stopping pace over his self-proclaimed favorite road in Vir-ginia: the now and forever club-infamous, Route 56 (to which the renowned Route 66 cannot hold a candle)! We were rocketed on an MG roller coaster extraordinaire, which Bruce aptly described as,



“like meeting yourself around every hairpin curve”. It was an incredible ride that proved itself worthy to be Alan’s favorite!!

The tour of the lavender fields began with an unexpected (mostly for the residents) stop at a nearby herb farm. Turns out the driveways to each site were very close to one another and we mistakenly drove into the one leading to the herb farm, much to the great surprise of the residents, who’d not planned on the convergence of a long line of British antique cars clamoring up their driveway. Despite the unintended intrusion, they were very cordial and helpful in relating that our intended destination was just a short distance away.

The farm boasted beautiful grounds, numerous lavender plants at various stages of development, several goats to assist in the weeding and manicuring, and much to the delight of many of us, delicious lavender ice cream for sale!



Our next stop was lunch at the vintage Pink Cadillac Diner in Natural Bridge. To add to our own mini adventure as we travelled there, page two of my rough draft notes for the day flew out of the car. Bruce rapidly pulled over, waited for traffic to pass and then deftly drove back, right up to the sheet, which graciously landed on the passenger side of the road, allowing me to simply open the door and snatch it up....like it never even happened! Onward to the Pink Cadillac, where we were surrounded by reminders of an earlier age, including a slightly broken 45 record of Elvis’ “Suspicious Minds” sitting atop an antique coke machine. The food was great and the service excellent....no small feat when serving a crew of our size!!



To

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From the restaurant, we rode a short distance to the Great Valley Farm Winery, which offered opportunities for imbibing and/or purchasing both beer and wine. The setting was beautiful, with a panoramic view of the mountains in the distance, and at the base of the rolling hills, a Safari Park that enabled us to view from afar, llamas, alpacas, boars, and a few other species. While we were at the Farm, several Mazda Miatas were parked in line, serving as a nice reminder of more modern “brothers and sisters of another mother” teaming up, as we were, to enjoy a beautiful spring Saturday in a gorgeous venue.



We left the winery for our return trip, stopping along the way at the Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg. The area is not only a graveyard, but also a public garden, historical park, and a wedding venue! As it turned out, it was Prom Night in the city and several of the attendees decided to mark the occasion by taking pictures at various sites among the gravestones and greenery. As another special bonus, Beckey got to see a newly planted area her company had recently sponsored, that even had signage commemorating the donation! Yet another extra, the area was also the site of the Stapleton Railroad Station House Museum, which in its heyday, also served as a Western Union telegraph and cable office.



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From Old City, we ventured to dinner at the Big Lick Tropical Grill. Despite the huge lunch we had all enjoyed just a few hours earlier, we were treated to a large and varied menu of great food, with the opportunity to be seated in a room of our own. Once again, the staff provided great service and excellent offerings.

The final destination for a wonderful day found us back at the Inn with the reminder to meet in the breakfast area for the evening's activities. At that memorable gathering, Beckey and Alan presented everyone with individual pictures of our MGs mounted on glass plates. It was a very special, greatly appreciated gesture that will be an enduring memory not only of this trip but of the nineteen earlier memory-making times made possible through Beckey and Alan's great efforts, dedication, and commitment. In addition to that very special part of the evening, it was announced that PJ Peterson won the day's crossword puzzle. A meaningful portion of the evening was spent sharing memories of past trips, with several club members providing brief glimpses into unforgettable events. The day concluded with a group picture that was to be sent to the Davidoski, who had to cancel the trip and were greatly missed.

No words will ever adequately express our gratitude to Beckey and Alan for twenty years of extraordinary trips and incredible memories. We can only hope they will forever know how immeasurably grateful we all are.



TMGC Spring Tour ... Sunday

by Terry Bond

Despite a damp start to this year's tour, we managed to enjoy near perfect weather for most of it.

We slept in a bit Sunday morning, then enjoyed a breakfast together while watching TV weather reports in the hotel breakfast room. Of course the top-up or top-down debate began immediately, with most deciding to drive in typical MG fashion with the wind blowing through their hair. We just popped open our sun-roof on our GT, ready for what was almost certain to be a nasty band of rain headed our way.



MGs in the parking lot at Appomattox. Notice the sky and storm clouds!

On today's agenda was a short run to Appomattox – where the Civil War ended.

It's an impressive site, uncluttered and devoid of modern stuff competing for the camera's eye, providing unobstructed views of exactly what it must have looked like during the 1860s.

The small museum in the rebuilt court house (destroyed by fire in 1892) was filled with artifacts, and a short introductory video gave us a feel for those last hours of the war. Thank goodness it was unfiltered by modern political commentary. Here, history had not been obliterated.



The docents were skilled and we sat on the front porch of the Clover Hill Tavern listening to the history of the village and an overview of those final hours before Lee surrendered.

There were several other stops in the village for us to tour, including one of my favorites, an authentically outfitted "Meeks General store." I spent quite some time in here looking over the items on the shelves,

Club members on the court-house porch learning about the ending of the Civil War.



The Meeks General Store at Appomattox Court House.

secured, of course, behind glass windows. It was extremely well done and gave you the feeling of stepping back in time. Of course you know my fondness for old stores. Although there were no antique auto parts in this one, it was still fantastic.

After we were educated, we walked over to the home of Wilmer McLean. It was the actual site of the surrender. If you know your Civil War history, you will realize Wilmer McLean was



The Wilmer McLean home

witness to both the beginning and the end of that war. It was in 1861 the first shots were fired at the first battle of Bull Run on a farm owned by McLean. To avoid the conflict, the family moved to Virginia and settled in a small village called Clover Hill. The name of the village was soon changed however to Appomattox Court House. So, it seems the Civil War likely began in McLean's back yard, and ended in his parlor.

It was fitting place to conclude our tour also. At breakfast that morning, the group decided to pass on the planned group lunch stop in order to get ahead of the incoming storms.

Although we took our own best way home, everyone seemed to travel between to bands of heavy rain. A quick email survey later indicated everyone made it home, some even with their tops still down (or sun-roofs still open).

Everything about this tour was fabulous. The stops, the scenery, the winding roads, the food, the great hotel, and even the impromptu U-turns that were skillfully executed. **It was another great "Watson" tour.**



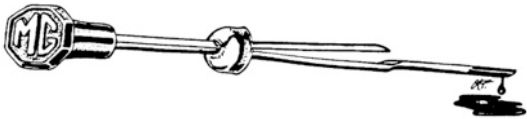


MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday June 6th
Ocean View
Fishing
Pier
Upper Deck

- Take I-64 (toward RICHMOND/HAMPTON if coming from Beach or Chesapeake, toward HAMPTON/NORFOLK if coming from Hampton)
- Take 4TH View St. exit - 273 - toward OCEAN VIEW
- Turn RIGHT (if coming from Beach or Chesapeake), turn LEFT (if coming from Hampton) onto 4TH View ST. Ocean View Fishing Pier is straight ahead.



Dinner 6 - 6:30
Meeting 7:30



First Class

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Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Jim Villers
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