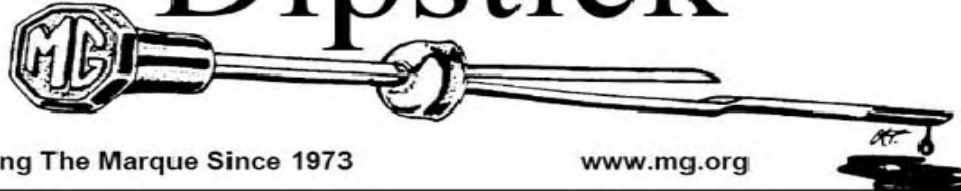




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 50 Issue 9

September 2023

Activities Report, September 2023

We've almost made it through the "dog days" of August. We've had some heat, but we've also had some nice days, and certainly there have been areas with much hotter days. The Moss "Cars and Coffee" drive turned out to be one of those nice days. A major "Thank You" to Rob MacPherson for leading the group in his MGA while I was out of town. From what I heard, it was a good crowd, good weather, and a great day.

While I think about it, I would like to take another opportunity to thank Susan Bond, Don Ladd, and anyone else who submits pictures of events for the club. I just reviewed pictures on line from the last couple of meetings, and they are a gas! What a great collection of beautiful cars and fun people! (Perhaps that should be "fun cars and beautiful people"?). At any rate, it's wonderful to have all these good times memorialized for posterity, so keep taking and sharing your photos!

There are several nice things coming up in September. Jennifer and Mike Ash have invited us to their Eastern Shore home for the Saturday, September 9 meeting, and Jennifer has suggested a short nature walk at the Savage Neck Nature Area before getting to their house. Unfortunately, I'll be traveling again, but Rob has offered to lead again, and we'll see if the weather cooperates for a walk. Plan to meet at the CBBT parking lot on the south side of the bridge tunnel; a specific time line will be forthcoming, but basically plan to be at the Ash's by 11:30 AM. Also in September, the Tidewater Region Antique Automobile Club (TRAACA) will host their annual meeting at the Chesapeake City Park from 8 AM to 3 PM. If you are interested in attending and registering, the form can be found at www.traaca.com

Then to finish out September, the annual Fall Tour will be a four-day event, Sept. 21-24, and is being organized by Bob McKenna. Contact him for details regarding itinerary, etc. This should be a really fun event and a good opportunity to drive our favorite vehicle to interesting places.

Tidewater MG's traditional Chili Cook-Off will be at the home of Mark and Kathy Davidoski in Virginia Beach on October 3. Whip up your best chili candidate and bring it to share and be judged by the group. Fame awaits the winner!

Then if you can make the Annual British Car Fall Festival held by the Shenandoah Valley British Car Club at Ridgeview Park in beautiful Waynesboro, VA, plan to be there by October 7 to celebrate 100 years of MGs and Triumphs. This is always a great event; for more info on line, go to www.svbcc.net

Coming Events

TMGC Events

Sep 9 - Meeting, Ash's

Sep 21-23 - Fall Tour

Oct 3 - Meeting, Olcheski's

Renew your TMGC membership today!



Marque Time!

President's Message

Once again, I want to start off by thanking those members who host a meeting. So, thanks to Betty & Jim Villers for hosting the August meeting. What a great turnout we had from both members and their MGBs! The driveway was full of MGBs with a couple of MGCs and an MGA added to the mix.

Thanks to Rob MacPherson for leading the group to the Moss Motors Cars & Coffee in Petersburg on Saturday, July 25th. Once again, his MGA lead the way. If you missed it, you missed a fun day! Perfect weather, a great turnout from TMGC members, a lot

of British cars to look at, and we finished up with a barbecue lunch and antique shopping. What a great way to spend a Saturday!

Of all the many cars at the Cars & Coffee event, there was one that really interested me. It's not a show car by any means, just an average looking chrome bumper green MGB. The proud owner, a retired mechanic, told me that since he had a project car to work on, he told his wife he needed a new garage and she agreed. What a great tactic to try, let me know how that works for you. He went on to tell me about the rust repairs and the paintwork he did. But what really caught my attention was under the bonnet. He installed a 1.9litre, fuel injected, DOHC engine from a 90's Saturn, along with a 5-speed transmission from a BMW, both of which he either had on hand or acquired cheaply. He fabricated the engine and transmission mounts, along with an adapter plate to mate the engine and transmission together, and many other bits & pieces, I'm sure. He also installed the Saturn dashboard into the MGB. With an engine rated at 124HP and a 5-speed, it's probably a fun car to drive. I'm not usually a fan of hot rods or resto-mods, but I have to appreciate those folks who have a vision and the ability to make it a reality.

Well, as I write this, we only have 46 paid memberships against last year's 93 memberships. Barely half! Like I pleaded last month, if you haven't renewed yet, please do so, it's the best \$20 you will ever spend. It's very quick and easy using PayPal from the Membership page on the website or the usual cash or check at a meeting or by mailing a check to Mike Ash. Thanks to those who have already renewed.

As a reminder, the slate of officers for the October election will be announced at the September meeting. It's not too late to throw your hat into the ring and get your name on a ballot. Remember, we are all volunteers and the club will only continue with folks volunteering their time and efforts.

Safety fast. Mike

Activities Continued. Also to look forward to: "Trunk or Treat" is on the calendar again at Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake on October 29; more details to come at future meetings. Join Renee and Bill Olchiski at their home in VA Beach on November 8 for the monthly meeting, followed by the annual Fall Tech Session hosted by the Bonds in Chesapeake on Sunday November 12, from noon till the work is done or all the libations are gone.

Safety fast. Bruce

Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2023 By Michelle Parker

We met at the home of Jim and Betty Villers on this August evening. What a great night for an MG drive! The weather was just lovely, as was the good company of friends. We began with Kick the Tires at 7:30, followed by the meeting at 8, and then some wonderful snacks. Thank you to the Villers for having us all out.

Mike Haag, Club President, called our meeting to order, twice, as we were a bit chatty and rowdy that evening. We met our guest for the evening, a new member, Kevin Bounds. He owns a primrose yellow '69 MGB. He had bought one when he was in high school as his first ever car purchase and when the opportunity to own one once again came along he couldn't resist. He's owned it for a year now and is working on it with some club members to keep it in tip-top shape. Welcome Kevin, it was so great to have you out with us! A motion was made to approve the minutes from July and they were approved.

Vice-President Scott Parker didn't have much to report, as our host homes are all lined up for the rest of the year. He did mention the Veteran's Parade in November and that he probably won't be able to lead our group as we will be out of town. Rob has stepped up to lead that one, thank you, Rob.

Bruce Easley, Activities Director, is back in town; so good to have him and Jayne back with us. The Magic Theater that some of us visited back in June has a nice write up in the Coastal Virginia Magazine July issue

TMGC Offices and Committees

President	Mike Haag	mikehmg@cox.net
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Regalia	Rose Ladd	twfrog@hotmail.com
Technical	Terry Bond	terryaaca@cox.net



MGs filling up Jim's driveway; there was additional parking along and across the street

if you're interested. A big thank you was given to Rob for heading up the drive to the Moss Motor's Cars and Coffee while they were away in Michigan. Looking ahead, September has something MG related almost every weekend. Our Club Meeting is Saturday, September 9th at the home of Mike and Jennifer Ash in Eastville at 11:00. Jennifer suggested a nature walk at Savage Neck Dunes for the group on the drive over, then following on to their house for the meeting, lunch, and some time down on the beach for any that would like to. Saturday, September 16th is the TRAACA 49th Annual Meet in Chesapeake City Park. It's a rain or shine event from 8-3 with a special exhibit for the 70th year of the Corvette. Bring your MG out and park with the group, \$25 early registration or \$30 day of. The Fabulous Fall Tour is the following weekend, September 21-24. Bob McKenna is the man with all the details on that. Come October, our meeting will be at Bill and Renee Olcheski's house. October 7th is the Shenandoah British Car Festival in Waynesboro. Bruce is working on a club winery or brewery drive for an upcoming Saturday, so be watching for details on that. Big Ugly Brewery will once again be hosting their Trunk or Treat Halloween event at the end of October. Sunday, November 12th will be the next Tech Session at the Bond's



Chatting around the cars on a beautiful evening



Mike Haag calling the meeting to order; note the History slideshow behind Andy,

home.

The Treasurer's Report by Mark Davidoski informed us that at the end of June we had \$1108.41 in the account. In July we had \$312 come in in renewals and the 50/50. We received \$120 via PayPal. In disbursements we had \$125 out to the Peterson's for our last meeting; \$118.90 to Jim Villers for the printing of brochures for the 50th party, dipstick printing and mailing. Bringing the remaining balance to \$1,176.51 on July 31.

Jim Villers brought the Dipstick Report with a request for articles, due by the 20th please. Jennifer offered to do a write up, thanks Jennifer!

The Membership Report was brought by Mike Ash, we had 44 renewals as of that night. If you haven't, see him to renew. Apparently, there is no lifetime membership option; and if you join for 2 years and try to eek it into 3,



New member, Kevin Bounds

Mike's on it and it won't work.

Terry Bond gave us the Technical Report. The next article he's working on is replacing the hydraulic clutch master cylinder. He'll have some pointers on that because it's not the most pleasant job on an MGB, but easier if you have a right hand drive.

Historian Susan Bond pointed out that our history is all online on our website, take a look at your leisure.

There was no Old Business. As for New Business, elections will be coming up in October. A nominating committee will be set up and list of nominees will be provided at the September meeting. Mike said, "a club

only survives because of volunteers, so thank you to those who sign on."

Marque Time- Terry Bond mentioned how the upcoming article was brought about when they discovered a leak on their MGB GT on a recent trip to Gettysburg. Once home, they replaced the hydraulic clutch master cylinder then took that car up to PA again. They drove 1100 miles on an AACA tour with lots of back roads and covered bridges. Sounds amazing! Bill mentioned how he needed to change a spoke wheel tire and came to find out that Pro Time Automotive has a guy that drives a motorcycle and knows how to change a tire with a wire wheel. But when he put it on the spin balancer, they found that it spins the wrong direction. He is thinking of supplying them with one that works on MG's so there is someplace to take our cars for that.

Regalia with Rose! There was a Silent Auction for a clock that Don had made using the 50th anniversary party group photo. There are burlap club garden flags for \$15 each. Large club window stickers for \$2 and small for \$1. Auto coasters are \$1. And for the raffle: an MGA picture mat went to Rob; a model white MGB went to Al, and he gave it to Susan, so sweet; a cream 1945 MG TC model went to Mark; a trickle charger went to Bill; and the 50/50 went to Susan.

The motion to adjourn was made and we had some tasty snacks and some more time to chat. What a lovely evening! Thanks again to the Villers for hosting this wonderful time.



"Kicking the tires" after the meeting

Moss Cars & Coffee - July 22, 2023

By Mark Davidoski



TMGC sent a strong contingent of MGs to the Moss 75th Anniversary open house held in front of the Petersburg warehouse on a recent Saturday. Rob MacPherson organized an early rendezvous at the Huddle House near the intersection of US 58 and US 460 in Suffolk. Just after 7:30 a.m. the formation of eight MGs (eight and a half including the Ladd's trailer) was underway. With Rob's MGA in the lead, our road team included the Bond's 1973 B-GT, the Ladd's 1969 C-GT, Mike Haag's 1979 B, Al Hazlett's 1969 C-GT, Tim Lyke's 1968 B, Robert Perrone's 1967 B, and Mark Davidoski's 1974 1/2 B-GT. US 460 on a Saturday morning is a pleasant country drive, passing through Windsor, Wakefield, Ivor, Zuni, and Disputanta and the intervening fields of soybeans and sweet corn. We even spotted two ancient Jaguar Mk Is in front of the wrecking yard in Ivor.

Meeting at the Huddle House on US 460

We enjoyed a scenic detour that skirted the Petersburg Battlefield park, taking us over rolling forested terrain on the final approach to Moss. Arriving at 8:55 a.m. the entire front parking lot was awash with every manner of British sports cars, along with a huge turnout of the Miata universe that Moss began supporting a few years ago. On arrival we were greeted by Mark Childers (with his Miata) and Mike August (with his 1972 MGB-GT in rare Aqua). David Ford arrived a bit later driving his 1972 B, as did the Creeds, who were in the area and stopped by to join the group. Barry Basnight was also there, with his 1958 MGA. Richard and Sandy Hall made the trip with their 1973 B-GT.

Awards were offered for a variety of categories, including "Most in need of help from Moss Motors." That went to a young woman with her multi-hued first generation Miata. In fact, it seemed that the preponderance of awards went to the Miatas, of which there must have been about 30 or so on site. The furthest traveled



Having breakfast at the Huddle House

The Dipstick



TMGC and other cars on display outside the Moss distribution facility in Petersburg

award (driven, not trailered) went to two guys from New Jersey who brought an 1996 MGF. Of note, our turnout of 12 MGs looked like the largest club in attendance.

After enjoying cars and coffee and a quick tour of the lobby area of the Moss facility, we departed about 1:00 p.m. for a leisurely drive back to Hampton Roads. But not before a relaxing lunch at the Prince George Family BBQ restaurant in Disputanta. After an awesome lunch we popped next door to the The Bargain Corner Antiques. This is one of the regular stops for Susan and Terry Bond, who were greeted as old friends by the proprietors. A few items found their way into various MGs, before we resumed our trek. It was interesting to see the winning “Needs Help” Miata at the antique shop.

The homeward drive was trouble free (as in no contact with the HRBT or any other chokepoints.) The weather throughout the day was exceptional, with a thin overcast layer and steady breezes. It was almost chilly up in Petersburg, which was a welcome respite from our recent heat and humidity. Many of the attendees inquired about when (if ever) the parts desk will be open for local pickup. We were assured that this topic would be revisited at the next staff meeting. Fingers crossed!

By Mark D



Moss display cars in the lobby; a 1980 MGB LE (Limited Edition) and a MGA race car

On The Road Again Touring the MGBGT with Terry and Susan Bond.

We always try to squeeze in a tour with the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) each year and for 2023, we had our sights set on one scheduled in the Denver, PA area late in June.

Packing a week's worth of clothing, spare parts, etc. into an MGB isn't easy but the GT made it possible to even leave room for a few small souvenirs. We departed Tidewater on Friday after the usual rush-hour traffic subsided.

The car was running fabulously. The time spent earlier replacing the clutch master cylinder, adjusting valves, and preparing for over a thousand miles of driving paid off. The only concern was the week's weather forecast. High temps and over 50% chance of rain every day were predicted.

We opted for back roads all the way up the Eastern Shore and Susan had a wonderful route laid out for us with seafood stops, antique shops and one night in a hotel at the north end of the trip,

We managed to skirt most of the thunderstorms all the way and arrived Saturday morning in Denver, PA.

If you've never been to that area, it is near Lancaster, in the heart of Amish country. Scenery is wonderful, the pace leisurely, and the weather was still holding as we explored a few of the area's antique shops. It's said there are more antique dealers in this area than anywhere in the country. It's always a favorite stop on the way to or from Hershey.



Stanley at the host hotel. It was still clean after dodging heavy storms!



A nicely restored pedal car, surrounded by dozens of others

That afternoon we visited the Seiverling antique car and pedal car museum. Nicely restored early pedal cars filled a building and were really fascinating. Each was "driven" by an appropriately attired teddy bear

Most of the cars had been nicely restored and information about their histories was displayed beside them.

Pedal cars are really toys for big boys and girls as prices on them have gone crazy in the past few years. We admired them but there were only a few British cars among them, all Austins.



A real 1920s Sunoco gas station inside the Boyertown Automobile Museum.

plete turn-of-the-century machine shop. The building itself was home to the Boyertown Auto Body Works manufacturing facility that produced early automobile and truck bodies.

From there we motored on to Eastwood Products for a visit to their retail store where we avoided the temptation to stock up on restoration tools and supplies..

The afternoon's visit was to the restored 1905 Pottstown Carousel where we were treated to a ride. Timing was amazing

the only rain

we encountered occurred while we were indoors!

On Monday, we quenched our thirsts with a visit to the historic Yuengling Brewery, America's oldest family owned brewery.

The tour through their original building (still in operation) was fantastic, but the free samples at the end were best. Those nicely chilled glasses of beer were our reward for climbing all the steps along the tour. The souvenirs we bought fit nicely into the GT!

In the afternoon, the threat of severe thunderstorms kept convertible tops up while we toured the Pioneer Coal Mine that included a chilly ride deep into the mountain side to learn first-hand about how coal was mined. Although the skies remained threatening, we stayed dry!

That evening we enjoyed an opening banquet and returned early to the nearby Comfort Inn to visit on the outdoor patio.

Sunday morning, we took back roads to the Boyertown Automobile Museum. The largest display of Duryea Automobiles existing is at Boyertown, along with many other PA built vehicles and great displays of artifacts, automobilia, and advertising.

A complete early Sunoco gas station and an early diner are also on the main floor. Upstairs is a com-



A complete early machine shop with belt-driven equipment.

as



Tuesday was “covered bridge day.” We discovered more wonderful back roads and crossed 10 different old covered bridges with almost no traffic to spoil the many great photo ops. The occasional Amish buggy added considerably to the ambience. My job was to take photos and help guide the GT and its low-hanging exhaust system safely over some of the steep entrance and exit points. Each bridge was a great photo op.

Several years ago we learned the hard way that covered bridges (and tall speed bumps) can “eat” MG exhaust systems. Plenty of great back roads were there for the taking, most were made for the MG. The only time we saw traffic it was horse-drawn.



A typical scene on Pennsylvania roads in Amish country.

Later that afternoon we were treated to a special pipe organ concert at the Highland Presbyterian Church. A massive pipe organ there had been installed by one of our AACA friends, Tour Chairman Chuck Gibson, owner of a company that has installed and maintains some of the finest large pipe organs in the country. The concert itself was given by a world renowned professional organist. Once again the rain held off until we were inside the church.



Our MGBGT exits a covered bridge

This is Amish country remember.

I believe they were as fascinated with our antique cars as we were with their horses and buggies.

A stop along the way included a visit to the National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia. The museum is fantastic and well laid out showing a time-line of the development of the clock and watch. A complete early 1900s watch and clock shop interior gave us a feeling of what it must have been like to shop for a new pocket watch at that time.

There are clock mechanisms on display from the tiniest to the largest imaginable, along with unusual clocks and many impressive grandfather clocks.

Later that afternoon we were



A clock shop from the early 1900s

Another of my jobs on this tour was to remind Susan to turn of the headlights when we stopped. I failed to do that when we arrived at the church. (fire me I guess).

Midway through the concert an announcement was made “there is a red MG out there with headlights on.” Of course everyone there knew whose car it was so there was a brief chuckle from the crowd as

Susan ran out to correct my blunder. Good thing though – she also noted the sunroof was still open.



No sooner had she returned to the concert when there was a boom of thunder and the long expected 50+% chance of rain made its appearance! It poured buckets while we were inside listening to beautiful music. Much better than trying to bail out the water later!

A wet drizzle was all that remained. We ended the day with a meal and cold brew and the historic Inn at Reinhold's Station where we met up with some local friends. They had attended the famed London-to-Brighton run for pre 1905 automobiles last November and we had fun listening to their adventure there.

The next morning we traveled to Hershey for a visit to the new AACA Headquarters and the Library and Research Center. It was a special occasion – the dedication of a beautiful painting honoring Chris Ritter, the AACA Library and Research Center Director who was tragically killed in an accident last year.

The historic Inn at Reinhold's Station.

This entire tour was his creation and thanks to the efforts of club members, it continued on in his honor.

We returned (without rain) to the hotel and the evening banquet to close a great week of touring some fantastic Pennsylvania back roads.

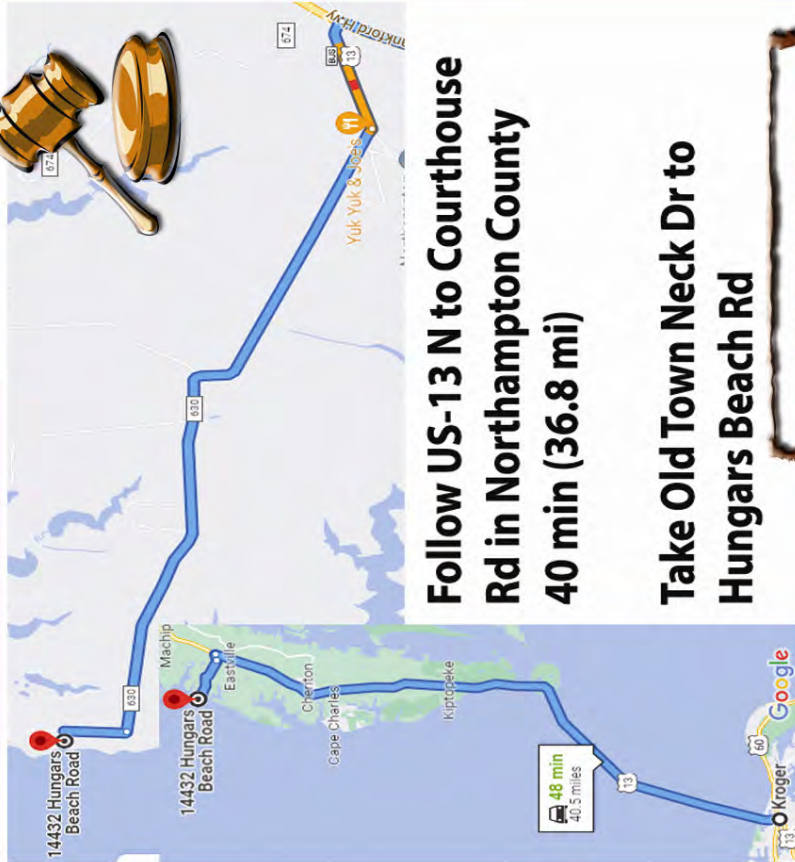
The next morning, we retraced our back roads adventure and headed South toward home. There was a stop along the way to visit a garden center we'd been introduced to several years ago on an MG club tour, and yes, there was still some room for a few plants now growing nicely in one of Susan's flower beds. The MG really enjoyed the trip of just over 1100 miles, and we eagerly await the next chance to straighten out more winding country roads.

I think the motto of a touring group we belong to is appropriate -

“Touring is not a spectator sport.” Terry



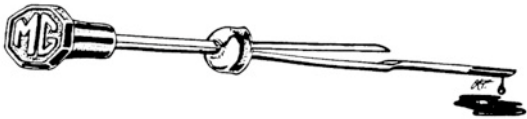
Monthly Meeting
Saturday, Sept 9th
Jennifer & Mike Ash
14432 Hungars Beach Rd,
Eastville, VA



Follow US-13 N to Courthouse
Rd in Northampton County
40 min (36.8 mi)

Take Old Town Neck Dr to
Hungars Beach Rd

11:30 - Kick Tyres
Meeting to follow



First Class

The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics

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

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