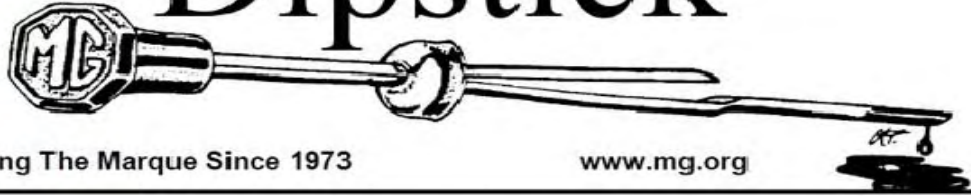




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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Membership Dues Overdue!

Activities Report, Aug 9, 2024

Things just seem to keep getting better... for classic car owners. There appears to be more and more interest locally with more events, and values are improving. But of course it's not about the money, it's about the DRIVE and the FUN, something that Tidewater MGers know a lot about through our monthly meetings, car show attendance and road trips. For anyone thinking about joining, our annual dues cover monthly meetings with food and frosty beverages, and two Technical Sessions, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Couple that with great MG information and technical advice in the award-winning monthly Dipstick, and that's one heck of a deal for \$20 for a family! We also have two multi-day road trips to various locations, with interesting activities and great driving routes. You don't need a flashy car to join, just a love for MGs and an interest in having fun.

Coming up very soon is the "Special Eastern Fall Nationals" at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton beginning August 22, put on by the Historic Virginia Peninsula Region of AACA. Judging and show will be open to the public on Saturday the 24th, and this should be an amazing show with many "special" and rare vehicles. I have been told that admission Saturday 11-3 is free. An informational brochure is available online at https://aaca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024_Special_Eastern_Fall_Hampton_VA.pdf

Next in line is the traditional September meeting at the Ocean View Fishing pier on Tuesday the 10th at 6 PM. We'll meet on the Top Deck if the weather is good, and get there early if you want to order dinner. Stay late if you want to catch a nice sunset over the water.

Be sure to check the Calendar of Events in the TMGC website at mg.org on line for the latest information about various local shows and events. This includes such things as the Colony Auto Enthusiasts Car Show September 8 in Williamsburg and the Memory Lane Classic Car Show in Kilmarnock, VA on the 14th. We have been notified that the Shirley Vineyards drive planned for Sept. 28 has been cancelled for 2024 with the expectation that it will be held next Spring or Summer.

A show that has a lot of potential for a "Road Trip" is the Sept. 21 "Autumn in the Mountains" show in North

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TMGC Coming Events
Sep 10 - Meet: OV Pier/Fee
Oct 9 - Meet: Davidoski's
Nov 5 - Meet: Olcheski's



Marque Time! President's Message

After months of prayers, medical updates, more prayers, doctors' visits, tests, and medical procedures the crew finally saw Don Ladd in the flesh! Don looked great and quickly settled into his normal role as club photographer. I was pumped to see Don and watch him working the crowd with his camera as he usually does. It was also great to see Rose and have her back in the groove again running the raffle and leading the regalia effort for the

club. Don's not out of the woods quite yet, he's got more medical procedures in the near future, but it was a pleasure to see the Ladd's again.

I'm happy to announce the grand opening of the life changing Faschini Wallyach Center for Restorative Therapies at Old Dominion University! The celebration will occur on Sat, Sep 21st from 10:00-12:00pm at the new health sciences building at ODU. Several years in the making and millions in donations from local businesses and medical organizations, this center will be transforming lives across the Mid-Atlantic region and Cynthia and Andy have been the catalyst to make this dream a reality. The entire club is invited to celebrate this grand opening and learn about the great things this new center will be accomplishing. Please come out and support Cynthia and Andy!!

August begins the search for upcoming nominees for club officers which include the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Shortly, I'll appoint a Nomination Committee that'll reach out to potential nominees for the club officer positions. If you're interested in serving the club in any capacity, please reach out to a member of our leadership team and we'll make sure the nominating committee contacts you. Also, we are in NEED of an Activities Chair (Coordinator)! After 5 years of diligent, faithful and masterful service to the club, Bruce Easley is ready to pass the baton to the next MG devotee up to the task of filling our year with memorable activities. Bruce, it was truly an honor to work alongside you and experience many of the events you coordinated. Heck, our first club experience, was a monthly meeting at your home...thanks for all you do and did for the club!

For our next meeting, we'll enjoy a nice sunset dinner on the Chesapeake Bay as we gather at the Ocean View Fishing Pier on Tuesday, Sep 10th, located at 400 W Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, VA 23503. Arrive by 6pm to get a good seat on the Upper Deck overlooking the Bay. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate for this outdoor, scenic meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone next month! Well folks, that's all from the cheap seats here at the Parker and ranch.

Safety fast.

Scott



Meeting Minutes - August 10, 2024

By Michelle Parker

Our August meeting was at PJ and Faith’s home, thank you for your hospitality and for the yummy lunch. I was tickled pink to have spicy brown mustard and sauerkraut for my hot dog, that is my favorite way to top them!

President Scott Parker called the meeting to order and thanked our hosts as well. There were no guests or new members in attendance. July’s meeting minutes were then approved.

Vice President Rob MacPherson gave us his report reminding all that next month we are at the Ocean View

TMGC Offices and Committees

President	Scott Parker	TMGCPres@mg.org
Vice President	Rob MacPerson	TMGCV@mg.org
Secretary	Michelle Parker	
Treasurer	Mark Davidoski	Treasurer@mg.org
Dipstick Editor	Jim Villers	Editor@mg.org
Activities	Bruce Easley	Activities@mg.org
Webmaster	Mike Haag	Webmaster@mg.org
Historian	Sue Bond	
Regalia	Rose Ladd	
Technical	Terry Bond	
Membership	Mike Haag	Membership@mg.org

TMGC Membership

As of August 20, we have 66 paid memberships going into the new club year. Thanks to all who have renewed early and if you haven’t done so already, please consider renewing soon.

We had one new member; Doug Stuhlmann of Virginia Beach with a 1974 MGB.

Safety fast. Mike Haag

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President Scott Parker calls the meeting to order.

Fishing Pier on Tuesday, September 10 at 6pm. Look for some parking spot right up front reserved for our MGs.

Bruce Easley gave the Activities Report with all the upcoming activities, see his write up in The Dipstick or the calendar for the full details. September events are the Autumn in the Mountains car show and the Upper Shirley Vineyards Drive Out. October has our TMGC club Fall Tour as well as the SVBCC show and Big Ugly's Trunk or Treat.

Treasurer Mark Davidoski brought the Treasurer's Report: our latest balance was \$1647.89. We received a bunch of PayPal membership renewals recently, if you haven't renewed yet- now is the time.

The Dipstick Editor Jim Villers said to bring anything you have to add by the 20th.

The Membership Report was brought by Mike Haag stating 62 paid renewals so far. He said the sooner you renew, the sooner he can get the roster updated and out. Are you sensing a theme? If you

haven't renewed, as Scott used to always say, get hot! (I think that may be a Navy thing, IDK) "Best \$20 you'll ever spend" -Bruce Easley

Terry Bond gave the Technical Report saying there is special feature coming on some interesting tools you may want to look into.

There wasn't any Old Business to discuss at this meeting. For New Business: Cynthia discussed the upcoming grand opening for the ODU Faschini Wallach Center for Restorative Therapies on September 21

from 10-12. Please come out and support our beloved Andy and Cynthia and see the new building and hear all about what the center will be doing. Shayne updated us on his plans to pull his engine. This job, like many, has become larger than he first had planned. Watch the meeting video to hear all the details that I don't understand. He's heading to Maryland to pick up some things, if you'd like to ride along he's up for company on this trip. It sounds like it would be a fun one for anyone interested in cars and a visit to the garage where he's picking it up. Once he's ready to swap the engine he'll let us



Activities Chairman Bruce Easley discusses events..



Treasurer Mark Davidoski gives report.

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know. John Kovac talked about the Tidewater Wooden Boat Workshop Open House coming September 14th if anyone would like to come out to that to support. Mike Haag reminded Scott that is time to set up a nomination committee for club officers for next year...so get hot, Scott!

Marque Time: Don mentioned that his “white whale” MG is back on the market by the kid that bought it off of him, it may be a good parts car if anyone needs one. Mike and Carolyn were recently in England and saw some great



Gathering in the kitchen.



Gathering outside for lunch.

lager won by Bill Olcheski; an MG polo shirt won by Mark Davidoski; a set of etched mugs won by Geoff Haynes; a bottle of wine, some wine glass charms, and a book on wine tasting won by Mike August; and the 50/50 in the amount of \$30 won by Don Ladd and given back to the club.

This meeting of Tidewater MG Classics was adjourned. If you'd like to see what you missed, check out the YouTube video of the meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/@TidewaterMGClassics>.

MG sights and tours, hit him up for pictures and a chat about their trip. Jim discussed his next project of getting his V8 running the way he'd like it. He expounded on that and I haven't a clue what he was saying, but I'm sure it would make sense to y'all, so check out the video to listen in on that conversation. Looks like Robert is now a spokesman for Cerakote... no, he's not, he's just really impressed and shared about the great job it did on clearing up his headlights. A kit is only \$17 at Walmart. Mike Haag knows of someone in Ohio selling a '65 MGB, so if you're interested let him know.

Regalia With Rose! A pack of St George honey meade



Rose Ladd drawing for the 50/50 raffle prize.



TMGC Members are Invited to the Grand Opening

The Faschini Wallach Center for restorative therapies will have its grand opening dedication on September 21, 2024 from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock. The center is located in the new health sciences building at Old Dominion University. You will have an opportunity to tour the new health sciences building which is state of the art and also the 11,000 square-foot Faschini Wallach Center where you will see patients and students along with therapist demonstrating the equipment that is used. A formal invitation will be emailed to you where you will be able to RSVP. A brunch is also included.

The forgiving nature of the MG. OR....

I might make mistakes but at least I make them consistently.

By Doug Kennedy

Having decamped from the African veldt, also known as Virginia Beach in the summer time, to Rockport Maine my pale primrose 1969 MGB came out of mothballs. The mothballs part is NO joke. Field mice in Maine are as common as black flies in the spring. My first winter I Invested in some sort of miracle deterrent only to discover that the mice appreciated it for nesting material. So, back to old school chemical warfare and the mothballs were deployed in the air cleaner intakes, exhaust, under seats, and various other nooks and crannies. Successfully banishing the little hellions and my wiring intact my B started on the first try as it usually does (pause for copious wood knocking). A quick drive reminded me that on the top of the to-do list was a front brake change, with new brake hoses all around due to their age. I figured it was time for that and some other attention since I was getting some really bad disc scoring on one side and the parts are pretty cheap. So, jack stands in place, dead blow hammer poised to play whack-a-mole with my knockoffs, it was game on. But first, I diverge..... Prior to escaping the heat in VB I overhauled my 1962 MGA "Project Cheapskate's" brakes on all four corners. All went pretty well but I had this weird noise from one corner up front. No pulling, and stopping actually went pretty well but still...that noise. Further examination revealed the culprit. I managed to install a brake pad backwards! The friction surface was against the caliper and the opposite side, complete with anti-squeal paste was against the disc. DU-OH. I don't know how many of these I've done and on how many cars; dozens I'm sure. It was just a dumb move so all I could do was laugh, flip the pad, clean the disc well, button it all up and everything was as it should be.



Left: Top pad in place backwards, Brake material against the caliper and NOT the disc!

Fast forward to Maine...I pull the front wheel off of my B, peer in to the caliper and, you guessed it, many years ago I installed the exact same bad backwards on the B!

Unfortunately, the miles had taken their toll so while I had hoped to swap hoses and maybe pads it was time for the full monty. Happily, the generosity of Paul Fuqua and some front brake hoses he didn't want to use made the hit to the budget an easy one, a few days later I had all my parts, and it was time to start bleeding. That's when things went south. It wouldn't bleed the back wheels. I didn't have my fancy pressure bleeder so I called a local Land Rover resto neighbor into service and we pushed,

eased, cajoled the brake pedal but...nothing. At that point I swallowed my pride and called the Oracle. "Hello Frank, why the *&#@ won't my brakes bleed?" "Oh, your year has that weird brake valve connected to the warning light. Stomp on it hard and push it back into the right place." The Oracle had spoken. Stomping occurred, and enough success was gained to suggest that the problem lay within. That funky "safety valve", made of solid unobtainium has a little sliding pin inside and two rubber O rings that over time corrode, stick, or just decide to cause issues mating with the tiny plunger on the switch body. So....valve removed while trying to retain every ounce of silicone brake fluid since it's, you know, stupid expensive but at least not an excellent paint remover like DOT 3.

Sure enough, O rings were showing their age at 55. So, a quick call to Abingdon Spares here in Maine and I had a rebuild kit in short time, the valve rebuilt, and we were back to bleeding. Success. So, two cars, two head-scratching episodes of brake pads getting installed backwards, a call to the Oracle, some spare parts, a firm grip on the trusty 7/16th and 1/2-inch wrenches, no big deal but I'm reminded how sturdy these cars are. Like everyone, I've had my fair share of people saying "Isn't it hard to get them carbs balanced?" or "I hear the electrics are a mess on those." But the reality is that our MGs are really forgiving. We can drive them with brakes in the wrong position, springs that are sprung, balky transmissions that don't explode when we grind a gear or two, and they keep coming back for more. All they ask is that we drive them instead of letting them sit too long, attend to the leaks that emerge on the driveway outside the wheelbase, and resist the urge to do anything too stupid. Oh yeah, and I'd also add to that list "Try not to make the same mistake twice."



Right: A few years of driving with the brake pad on backwards did a good job of grinding down the metal of the pad!

Activities Report Continued from Page 1

Carolina. Unfortunately, Jayne and I will be away on a prior commitment, but if anyone is interested in finalizing plans, there is still time. The show is held at the Mills River Brewing location, which is about a 30 minute drive from Asheville, NC. There are plenty of places to stay and things to see and do in Asheville, including The Biltmore, breweries, an arts district, botanical gardens and more. The website pictures of the cars in the past years at this show are very interesting. Pre-registration is open until Sept. 7. This could make a great long weekend or 4 day trip if anyone is interested. <https://www.bccwnc.org/autumn-in-the-mountains-car-show/>

Another road trip option is the annual British Car Fall Festival in Waynesboro, VA on Saturday, Oct. 5. This is a great show in a beautiful venue and could be done in a day. Again, Jayne and I will have to miss this due to a prior commitment. Our October meeting will be Wednesday October 9 at the Davidoski's, which will be the annual Chili Cookoff, and to end up October locally is the Fall Classic Car Show at Newport News Park on the 19th and 20th. Info at vafallclassic.org along with registration information. Proceeds benefit the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters.

We will have the hospitality and great advice of Susan and Terry Bond at their home for the Fall Tech Session on Sunday November 10, and the next day is the Virginia Beach Veterans' Day parade. We have applied for MGs to join in the parade again this year, and will post more info regarding the parade as things develop.

Safety fast. (as always), Bruce Easley

Tech Stuff - Good Shop Practices – By Terry Bond

Need an extra hand?

Among the many things any MG owner wishes for is smaller hands and longer fingers, or maybe just one more of each.

Those normally handy hands are often useless when working under the dashboard, in some areas of the engine compartment, and elsewhere. I know my wrists are certainly not hinged to permit a full range of twisting, and my fingers only can do so many different things at the same time. They only bend a limited amount in any one direction -a limited amount without incurring pain. I can either hold a bolt or twist it, not often both at the same time.

I've recently come across a few things that can help. They seemingly can be that extra set of hands or longer, skinny fingers you've been wishing for. It's not too early to begin Christmas shopping so consider adding these to your tool box.

First up is what's known as a "handy clamp." Actually, one version of this clever item is branded as "Handee-Clamp." The same concept is also available with several other brand names, including one made by "Tite Reach."

The "handy clamp" is one of those "why didn't I think of that" items. It's a long clamping tool designed to hold nuts, bolts, or whatever. It enables you to place fasteners, clamps, or other items into small spaces where your big old hands won't squeeze in.

My least favorite bolt and nut combo is those used on carburetor flanges. There is always at least one on the bottom that defies any attempt to hold the bolt while trying to begin threading the nut. I've spent more time on the ground looking for pieces I've dropped than actually working on the car itself!



Handee Clamp showing the variety of items that it can be used to help install.

To use the Handee Clamp you simply use the knurled wheel at the end to open or close the clamp. It easily holds bolts, nuts, clips, clamps, and whatever you need. With this tool, it's much easier to place and hold things in proper position.

Reviews on the brand "Handee Clamp" are generally favorable. They are available from a variety of sources including Amazon, and even Ebay.

Another version of the same item that seems to be

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made a bit sturdier is the “Tite-Reach Extension Clamp.” This one is made by a company in Iowa and it offers a few features that I like – such as a knurled area on the clamp to help grip items more firmly. The jaws themselves seem to be slightly taller and they open a bit wider. There are three versions in varying lengths available. Although it’s more expensive, I like the idea it’s an American made item. The entire product line can be viewed at their website.

<https://tite-reach.com/pages/shop-tite-reach-wrenches>

A similar item is an extendable alligator clip. The first one I ever saw was home-made, but a set of four can be purchased on Amazon for less than ten bucks.

These things sure look handy. It’s simply an alligator clip attached to the end of a pencil type device that can extend by simply pulling.



The Handee Clamp in use.



Extendable alligator clips

I’ve got a drawer in one of my tool cabinets filled with medical instruments like clamps, tweezers, and other neat items. Some have locking handles, serrated jaws and curved tips on them. They are great to help hold or clamp small pieces while placing things into tight areas where your fingers won’t reach. There is also a selection of dental picks in that drawer that have proven handy when working on small items. The possibilities are endless and it’s one of my go-to places for something special when needed.

Harbor Freight sells packages of these tools, and if you catch your dentist when it’s time to replace some tools, you might end up with a few quality items that’ll work well in your garage. Just be careful – they can be quite sharp. Of course you’ll want to ensure anything that you’ve added to your tool drawer is well cleaned.

Another great item I’ve discovered is a Ratchet extension.

This clever device is meant to help you tighten bolts and nuts in areas where you can’t fit a ratchet and socket combination.



Various medical/surgical instruments

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There are several brands available. Pro-Zero is sold under a variety of different names through Amazon, eBay, and others. I believe most are made in Taiwan. Reviews are mixed. The most commonly seen complaint is the quality. They seem very limited in the amount of torque they are able to withstand so you wouldn't want to try and use one with an impact wrench, especially when trying to break loose a stubborn bolt. Often attachments like socket adaptors must be purchased separately.

A sturdier but more costly version is produced by



Ratchet extension in use.



Ratchet Extension with adapters for various sized sockets

experience using these please chime in by email or at our next meeting. We should have them on-hand at our November tech session though so you can check them out before you decide to give any hints to your own personal "Santa."

Safety first.

Terry

Tite-Reach. Complete sets can be purchased that have a variety of adaptors and special low-profile sockets. Reviews of this product are much better and it seems they are able to withstand much higher torque. The Tite-Reach ratchet extension and all associated components can be seen on their website above.

All of these wrenches use an internal chain drive mechanism.

Again, Tite-Reach is an Iowa based company so hopefully customer service and support would be easier.

Disclaimer – at the time of writing this article, these handy tools are on order so I'm not able to evaluate them personally

yet. If you have any personal



Tite-Reach Kit with case

MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday Sept 10th
Ocean View
Fishing Pier
Upper Deck
400 W Ocean View Ave
Norfolk, VA



- 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.

