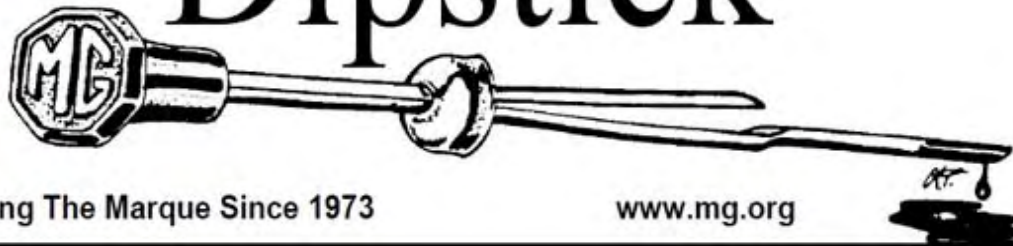




# The Dipstick



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Volume 53 Issue 6

June 2026

## June Activities Report

Wow did the weather change quickly! Last month was chilly and not ideal for driving topless, but has recently made a turn for the better. We had a wonderful drive to Ocracoke in May for the British Cemetery Ceremony, which was a memorable and enjoyable experience for the club members who made the trip. Fred and Linda are the only ones who took an MG, as the weather didn't cooperate for the day drive down or the drive back, but our full day on the island was beautiful! See the write-up from Shayne for the trip details.

We also got a nice evening drive from VA Beach to the Pungo area for a visit to Be Free Ice Cream. Rob led the group on a nice back roads drive and everyone enjoyed some delicious desserts. We had a two-day notice for this drive, which was a great success, with about 20 folks joining. We will do more of these "flash drives", so keep an eye out for an email from Rob letting us know where to meet and where we are going.

For the next outing, we are planning a visit to the Museum of the Albemarle on Saturday, 13 June. The museum is located in downtown Elizabeth City across from Waterfront Park on the Pasquotank River at 501 South Water Street and is open from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Museum promotes the understanding of history and material culture primarily of the Albemarle Region. Through regional collections, historical interpretation, and professional assistance, the museum encourages visitors to explore and understand the past, to reflect on their own lives and their place in history, and to preserve regional history for future generations. The first English settlement, under a 1672 treaty, guaranteed that the regions west of the Chowan River and south of Albemarle Sound would remain Indian country. The first generation of settlers in this area respected the land boundaries, so they never had to deal with Native hostility like the people of many other regions and colonies. The museum has numerous exhibits; all focused on the history of the Albemarle country and its residents. We think it will be a great day for a nice drive and learning more about the roots of where we live! Details will be provided at the next meeting.

Future outings are being planned for trips to the Currituck Maritime Museum and a trip to Petersburg to visit the Moss Motors showroom. More to follow on those! And as always, if you have ideas for a club outing, please let Shayne know. *Activity Report continued on page 14.*

### TMGC Coming Events

**Jun 2 - Meeting at Wallach's**

**Jun 13 - Drive to Albemarle Museum**

**Jun 27 - Suffolk BBQ Drive**



## Marque Time!

### President's

### Message

### from

### Rob MacPherson

Greetings fellow LBC enthusiasts!

Here it is nearly June, and Summer temps are certainly upon us. Hopefully by the time of publication we will have received some rain, as of now we are in a fairly serious drought!

We had a nice trip through the Outer Banks in spite of the heavy rain, a very nice ceremony at the British Cemetery and a lovely time in Ocracoke. I have heard a few people mention trying to make it an annual trip...

A great turn-out and fantastic weather for the Dessert Drive, good planning by Shayne & Pam, and outstanding Ice Cream at Be Free Ice Cream in the Red Mill/Upton area of VB.

Also a decent turn-out for the 4th Annual Real Life Christian Church Car Show on Centerville Turnpike, in support of our members who also participate in TRAACA. Nice car show, lots of variety!

Next up is the June meeting at Andy & Cynthia's house in Colonial Place, hope to see everyone there!

*Safety Fast, Rob*

#### TMGC Officers and Committees

|                 |                               |                    |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| President       | Rob MacPherson                | TMGCPres@mg.org    |
| Vice President  | Russ Murphy                   | TMGCV@mg.org       |
| Secretary       | Terry Walburn                 | Secretary@tmgc.org |
| Treasurer       | Mark Davidoski                | Treasurer@mg.org   |
| Dipstick Editor | Jim Villers                   | Editor@mg.org      |
| Activities      | Shayne McKean &<br>Pam Morris | 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 May 19th we now have 100 paid memberships. As always, if you have any questions about your membership or have any changes in your information please contact me at [membership@mg.org](mailto:membership@mg.org).

*Safety fast, Mike Haag*

## TMGC May 2026 Meeting Minutes .....by Russ Murphy

1) First order of business was to officially start the meeting with President Rob calling the meeting to order.

2) Everyone in attendance accepted the meeting minutes from our previous meeting which was held at Steve Charles's house in Suffolk. I would like to thank Steve and family for allowing the club to invade their home on a Saturday afternoon.

3) Shayne then proceeded to let everyone know what events were coming

up in the future including a trip to Ocaracoke Island for a memorial service at the British cemetery to be held this coming Friday. As well as an evening get together for a nice ride around Virginia Beach with a stop for ice cream as our reward for the drive. (Those who didn't attend should check out "Be Free Craft Ice Cream Cafe, it was awesome). The Rolling with the Knights car show to be held on May 9th.

4) Vice president Russ brought up some future places for club activities and needs to get with the activities director to have a discussion about potential future opportunities for club activities.

5) There is \$2,149.00 in the club treasury.

6) As always Jim Villers requested articles for the Dipstick to be sent to him by the 20th of May. I apologize for the last minute delivery of these meeting minutes.

7) It's official, we have 100 paid members, who knew that many local people loved MG's?



*Classic MGs outside Rob MacPherson's garage.*



*Kicking the tyres prior to the meeting.*

8) Terry didn't have a technical report per se but did let us know of a friend who had the front tire of his '31 Chevrolet fall off the ramp while backing the car out of the trailer, proving that you have to be vigilant and careful each time even if it's something you've done a thousand times in the past.

9) We let everyone know that June's meeting is going to be held at Cynthia and Andy's house in Norfolk on June 2nd with a 6pm start. Although I'm not so sure Cynthia knew they were holding the next meeting.

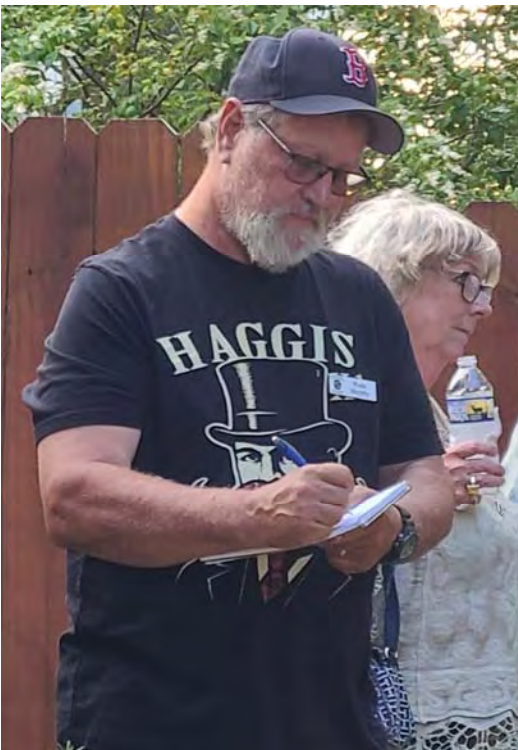


**Rob MacPherson chaired the meeting on the beautiful deck.**

10) We discussed the Williamsburg British car show, the attendance was a little lacking due to the show being moved to Sunday due to some inclement weather.

11) Former member Bob McClaren is selling some of his cars that he will not be able to restore. As I write this from another source one of the cars has been sold although I don't know which one.

12) The raffle winners were Rob - Matchbox MGBGT, Chris? (Can't read my own handwriting) won a sign,



Steve - a New England Patriots mug, and Linnie won the 50/50 of \$32.00 which he in turn donated back to the club. Thank you kind sir for the donation back to the club.

13) Hank motioned to adjourn the meeting with Mike Ash seconding.

14) On a completely different subject, one that was not put out at the meeting. If anyone makes a phone order to Moss Motors in Petersburg they will allow you to pick it up at the showroom instead of having to pay shipping.



**Shayne McKean discusses activities**

**VP Russ Murphy as "Acting Secretary"**

## Spring Tech Session – April 26, 2026 by Jim Villers

Saturday was a chilly day when I departed the garage it was cold but the weather was warmer at Mathieu Huovinen's driveway where he was hosting the Spring TMGC Tech Session. I was the first car arriving but Mathieu was ready with a table of refreshments as the participants slowly arrived. I suspect that everyone was hoping for a warmer spring day. As members arrived, the work began.

It must have been carburetor day as tuning was the primary activity. Ted Dickson struggled to arrive with his car hardly running. It was brought into the garage as chief mechanic Mathieu Huovinen discovering that it was only running on the front carburetor. After removing the rear float bowl, it was found that the float valve passage was clogged. After cleaning and reassembly, the engine ran normally and Ted could drive it home.



*Mathieu cleaning out a stuck float valve.*



*A typical scene, everybody watching, nobody "working".*

checked his engine vacuum which also showed that everything was "normal". He said that he had adjusted everything and just wanted to confirm his work.

By noon, the weather warmed slightly and Rachel arrived with boxes of hot pizza which was immediately the center of attention.

Another successful day of driving and working on our cars.

*Shayne checking his engine vac-*

Tommy Kenningham's car was running rough and after a quick carburetor mixture adjustment, the engine ran much smoother.

Shayne McKean had questions about his engine timing and after a quick check, everything was fine. He then



## Spring Tour - Tuesday .... by Mike Haag

For this year's spring tour, organizer extraordinaire Robert called it the "Been There, Done That" tour as we are re-visiting a few places we saw in the past, staying in a hotel we stayed at a dozen years ago, as well as driving on some familiar roads. Nothing wrong with that, as we enjoyed these places and roads, some in the distant past and some in the not-too-distant past.



As usual, we south-siders met in the parking lot by the front shops on Premium Outlet Drive. Leaving at 08:10 and only driving a short distance on I-64, we came to a sudden and unexpected slowdown. Cars were inching along due to a wreck at Tidewater Drive. After a frustrating 15 minutes or so, we finally reached the Tidewater Drive exit, only to see no sign of a wreck. Thankfully after that it was smooth sailing through the HRBT and I-64 west to our first stop at the McDonalds in Toano where we met up with Bruce &

### *Meeting up with Bruce & Jane in Toano.*

Jayne. After a few minutes for a rest stop, coffee and tyre kicking, we started feeling raindrops and decided it was time to hit the road. Driving Rt. 30 is a relaxed drive in our little MGs while avoiding the dreaded interstate. We have driven that route often enough to Ashland that I think I can actually drive it now without getting lost. Passing through New Kent Courthouse and the sign for the Maidstone development, I reminded Denise that 5 months earlier we were in the original Kent County in southeastern England and spent 2 days in Maidstone, the county seat, where my maternal grandfather is from.



### *Gathering for lunch at the Caboose in Ashland.*



The next stop was the Wawa in Ashland where we topped up our petrol (we are driving British cars) tanks and met up with Alan & Becky and Tad Crater. Unfortunately Karen could not make this



*The five travelers who visited the Cooper winery in 2003.*     *The McKenna's and Easley's enjoy a flight.*

trip but hopefully we will see them both later this summer at MG International 2026 in Sandusky, OH. From there it was a short drive to the Caboose restaurant, a club favorite we have eaten at several times before for lunch. The advantage of pre-ordering our meals is that as soon as we got our drinks, the food appeared, saving much time. After lunch we drove about 45 minutes or so to our first winery of the day, the Fifty-Third Winery and Vineyard in Louisa. Some may remember this as Cooper Vineyards, one of the wineries we visited on our first Winery Tour back in 2003. Maybe more about this in a separate Dipstick article.



***Bruce Easley enjoying ribs.***

After an hour of tasting and conversing, it was on to our next winery over some nice two-lane roads. Pippin Hill Farm & Vineyard is a new one for us, and it did not disappoint. Talk about a million dollar view, looking over the rolling hills and vineyards with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background was spectacular! Thankfully we were led to a large back room as the winery was packed with folks. Surprisingly the place was busy, especially for a Tuesday afternoon. Don't these people work? We noticed several tables full of UVA students with notebooks, laptops, etc. Wow, classrooms sure have changed since I went to college! The tasting here was a little unusual, in that you purchased a flight of 4 wines contained in what looked like small, apothecary jars.

Leaving Pippin Hill we took some back roads to Rt. 250. It had been overcast all day but as soon as we crested Afton Mountain the sun came out and there were blue skies ahead. At least for a while, but as we meandered our way through Waynesboro on towards Staunton the sky once again turned gray but at least no more drizzle. Our host hotel on this tour was the Hotel 24 South in downtown Staunton, where we stayed back in 2013 when it was known as the Stonewall Jackson Hotel. It had been bought out, with some renovations and a name change. Still a lovely place to stay, with a covered parking garage and convenient to many restaurants and shops in town. It still retained its charming, if not quirky, two different elevators to get from the lobby to the parking garage. Dinner that night was at the Mill Street Grill, a 5-minute walk from the hotel. Our group occupied 2 tables in the back and our waitress was wonderful, handling both tables in an efficient and friendly manner. Not an easy task in a crowded, noisy place with a bunch of hungry folks. Some of us had the Jagerschnitzel with a Kolsch beer, a hearty meal and a fine way to end the day.



***Dining Tuesday evening at the Mill Street Grill.***

## Spring Tour - Wednesday ....

Wednesday morning gathered in the hotel lobby for our daily mission briefing from Robert "Roadrunner" Perrone. Then it was off to Love's Truckstop for refueling. On to US11 South for a pleasant run to Duke's Antique Center on the edge of Lexington.

We enjoyed an hour of self-paced exploration of the countless offerings within. No wonder the Webster's entry for "eclectic"



*Gathering in the Duke's Antique Mall parking lot.*



*Allan Finds a treasure gift for Becky.*

sports a picture of Duke's! Everything from ancient firearms and vintage postcards, to antique toys, train sets and tools could be had - for a price.

From Lexington we headed for the Blue Ridge Parkway and turned northward. Humpback Rocks was our intended photo op site. Due to clouds (and visibility down to 40 feet) we continued without stopping for another 40+ miles at an average speed of 25mph. That leg was truly "sporting" as we each struggled to maintain sight of the MG immediately in front of us!



*Tommy Keiningham looked at everything.*

*Driving the Blue Ridge Parkway in FOG.*



At last we descended below the cloud deck and emerged near Blue Mountain Brewery. A relaxed lunch was accompanied by delicious craft beverages - perfect for post "race" decompression.

Then it was off to Lovington Winery. We enjoyed gorgeous views from the tasting house as well as chatting with the proprietors. This young couple, who purchased and updated the business about five years ago, are loving the alternative to their former golf pro life.



*Eating lunch on the Blue Ridge Brewery balcony.*



*At the Rockbridge Vinyard and Brewery, we tasted some brew before sitting for a group picture..*

Our final stop was Rockbridge Vineyard & Brewing. What a concept - excellent wine options PLUS delicious craft beers, all in the same building. This was a new high water mark for Spring Tours!

Finally, we packed away our wine purchases and headed back to Staunton. Most of the group returned to Mill Street Grill for supper. Several others sampled the smaller bistro options in town.

Later that evening a few MG clubbers met on the hotel's mezzanine for a nightcap. By 10 p.m. it was lights out for most. What a great day of challenging mountain driving and camaraderie, thanks to Robert's detailed planning!

*Donald Ladd tasting with wine tasting bottles at the Phippen Hill Farm & Vineyard.*



## Spring Tour - Thursday

Friday began with a gathering in the “Stonewall” hotel lobby with checking out and saying farewell to several of our travelers; Tad Carter and Bob and Missy McKenna. Most then walked the fifteen minutes to the Staunton Firehouse #1 to view the historic 1912 Jumbo fire engine while a couple of travelers just drove the four minutes and then waited for the rest to arrive.

Before their arrival, the fire bell rang and the two active fire engines departed the station with full regalia (lights and sirens) to leave a mostly abandoned station. This left



*Betty Villers entertaining the group in the lobby.*



*The fire engine on a call passes the walkers on their way to the fire station.*

the deputy chief to let us in and turn on the lights so that we could see the beautiful fire truck. It had been restored by White Post Restoration a number of years ago and it still retained its show ready appearance.



*The beautifully restored “Jumbo” 1912 Robinson fire engine in its own display room with other historical items .*



*MG Club members with firemen in front of the ladder truck.*

After returning to the hotel and re-grouping, the group drove off on Route US-250 through “dozens” of stop lights until we reached the open road over Afton Mountain and then south on VA Route 51 heading eventually to the Blue Mountain Barrel House. Somewhere along the way, Donald Ladd and Bruce Easley

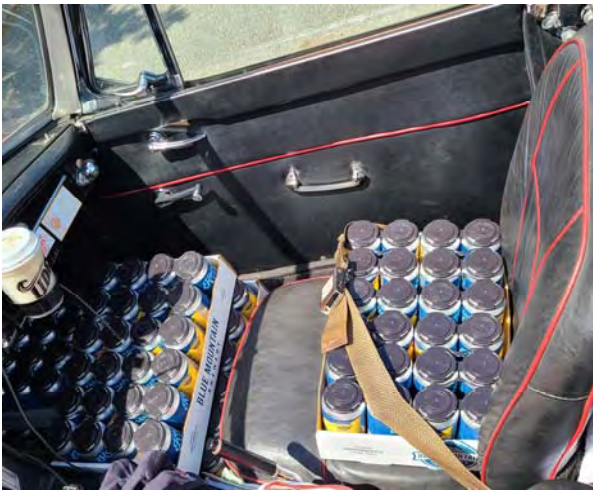


became separated from the leaders and were not seen until lunch time. The brewery stop was advertised as “just a rest stop”; however, Robert Peronne and Rob MacPherson managed to purchase at least five cases of the local brew and when the beer was loaded and properly strapped down, it was

time to head to lunch.

The drive to the Press Club restaurant in Farmville was enjoyable, fast and uneventful.

We arrived to find Bruce and Donald waiting for us as we headed inside for a nice lunch. Food



*The beer tightly strapped into Robert's MG.*

was good, service was slow and then we all headed for home to conclude another fantastic Spring Tour.... Thank You Robert.



*Robert and Rob thought that five cases would be enough.*



*Having lunch at our final stop, the Press Club restaurant in Farmville.*



# Back to Where We Started

By Beckey Watson

Alan and I went to visit our first winery (Windy River Winery in Beaverdam, VA) to see what “wine tasting” was all about. We had a nice experience, and thought it would be fun to do it again with some MG friends. We asked if any members of TMGC would be interested, got out the maps and tour guides, and the following year (2003) eight MGs and their drivers took a chance on our first attempt at an over-night TMGC Tour.



*The MG Club visiting the Cooper Vineyards in 2003.*

One of the wineries we visited was Cooper Vineyards in Louisa. It was just a metal pre-fab building, owned by a husband-and-wife team who were growing their own grapes and making wine. We enjoyed the visit, and learned about grapes, and barrels, and terroir from the tastings we had that weekend.

Fast forward to our most recent Spring Tour 2026, and we were back at the same establishment in Louisa, which had changed hands and is now known at Fifty-Third Winery & Vineyard. The number 53 was used because it was the 53rd farm winery in Virginia (when it was known as Cooper Vineyards). And what do you



*2003 travelers Mike Haag, Allen & Beckey Watson and Jim*

know, some original club members who went in 2003 were there again twenty-three years later! The facility has been expanded to include a large, chic tasting room – but I don’t think those that attended have changed a bit!

Thank you, Mike Haag, Jim and Betty Villers, for traveling with us all these years, and to Robert Perrone for leading us back to where it all began.

*Alan & Beckey Watson*

## Ocracoke & the British Cemetery Ceremony

HMT Bedfordshire was a British Royal Navy trawler requisitioned for military service during World War II. Originally constructed as a commercial fishing trawler, she was converted to serve as an armed patrol vessel. Assigned to the Royal Naval Patrol Service, Bedfordshire was deployed to help protect Allied shipping from German U-boat threats in the Atlantic. In 1942, Bedfordshire was sent across the Atlantic to participate in anti-submarine patrols off the coast of North Carolina, United States. On May 11, 1942, while operating near Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-558. All crew members aboard were lost. The bodies of several crewmen washed ashore and were buried in Ocracoke and Buxton, North Carolina, where the graves are maintained as British war graves.

An annual ceremony commemorates the service and sacrifice of HMT Bedfordshire and her crew, honoring their role in safeguarding Allied maritime operations during World War II. Attendees gather to pay tribute, share stories, and ensure the legacy of the vessel remains remembered for generations to come. This year marks the first year that the TMGC attended the ceremony and it was a great success! The attendees include Rob McPherson, Tommy, Lenny and Mary, Skip, Fred, Linda, Shayne and Pam. Only Fred and Linda braved the weather in a MG, Fred's MGA. The rest of us drove non-MGs, but the trip was still worth it.

The group met in Chesapeake on Thursday and drove down 168 together, stopping for lunch at Sam and Omie's in Nags Head. The rain was off and on, but we certainly knew we were on the OBX due to the winds! Heading to OBX 12, the weather brightened, and we reached the Hatteras Ferry with no issues. The timing was perfect, as we boarded the ferry 15 minutes after reaching the dock and were on Ocracoke a little over an hour later. After checking into the hotel, which amounted to picking up the keys from a basket outside the office, and decided to meet for drinks at the 1718 Brewery to start the night with some great local brews! From there, we walked to Howards Pub for a great dinner and more beer!

Friday morning brought blue skies and warm weather. After breakfast at Pony Island Restaurant, the group visited the British Cemetery. Attendees included British, Canadian, Australian, American, and German attaches, all in uniform, as well as a group of Coast Guard Veterans who performed as a traditional Scottish bagpipe ensemble. People walked the grounds quietly and took photos before the ceremony began. The proceedings started with a British Officer recounting the history of the HMT Bedfordshire and her crew, followed by Canadian, American, and German Officers who spoke about the camaraderie and sacrifices of sailors during the war. The ceremony featured a 21 Gun Salute and a performance by the Scottish bagpipes. The haunting sound of the bagpipes added a solemn atmosphere, honoring the British sailors. As the music echoed across the cemetery, attendees felt a deep connection to the history and sacrifice of the crew, making the ceremony especially poignant. The German attaché's dog contributed to the moment by howling along with the bagpipes, eerily in tune. After the ceremony, we toured of the island, heading to the Ocracoke Lighthouse and then to the nearby Springer's Point Nature Preserve.

Springer's Point is a beautiful preserve located on the western edge of Ocracoke Village. This tranquil stretch of maritime forest, salt marsh, and sandy shoreline is one of the island's most cherished natural areas, offering a glimpse into Ocracoke's unspoiled landscape. We took a short walk on a trail winding through dense live oaks and native vegetation, eventually opening up to gorgeous views of Pamlico Sound. Springer's Point holds historical importance as it is believed to have been a favorite haunt of Blackbeard the pirate, adding a touch of legend to its serene setting.

After a short rest back at the hotel, we went across the street to SmacNally's Waterfront Bar and Grill, a favorite spot right on the waterfront. Sitting outside with a view of the harbor, we enjoyed the relaxed vibe and watching the Carolina Wrens scurry around the dock looking for leftovers. The fresh seafood was delicious, and the casual atmosphere made it the perfect place to unwind after exploring the island.

Closing the evening with more drinks, including a half bottle of Glenmorangie at the hotel, we enjoyed some great stories and a lot of laughing! Who knew Robert can belly laugh so hard! After a good night sleep, we got up early to head back to home. The weather leaving Ocracoke was worse than we had for the arrival, but once we got off the ferry in Hatteras, it cleared up, and we all had a safe trip home. We had a great time and have already started discussing plans for next year!

## May 12 Dessert Drive .... by Shayne McKean



The May 12th car club dessert drive was another enjoyable MG club experience. Most of our group met in Virginia Beach next to Mount Trashmore, using the meeting spot as an opportunity to kick tires and admire our sporty little cars. As the MG convoy began its journey, the roads came alive with the sound of engines. Rob MacPherson led the group on a thrilling half-hour drive that provided lots of winding backroads. Of course, it was also fun to see people admiring our lineup along the way.



Our tour ended with a relaxing visit to a local ice cream shop, Be Free Ice Cream in Virginia Beach. More club members met up with our group there, bringing our total to 21 participants! Every table was filled with a variety of ice cream, croissants, and drinks. The event provided a great opportunity to connect, share stories, and make memories together. It was the perfect ending to a beautiful spring day.

This outing was a nice reminder that our club is not just about cars—it is also about friendship and community. A huge thank you to Don and Rose Ladd for the wonderful suggestion. We are already looking forward to planning more dessert drives, so please share any future suggestions!



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### *Activity Report continued from page 1.*

Lastly, please also put in your calendars the MG International 2026 in Sandusky, Ohio, at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky from 23-27 August 2026. MG International hopes to get at least 1000 MGs to attend. If interested in going, here is the link to the website: <https://mginternational2026.regfox.com/register>

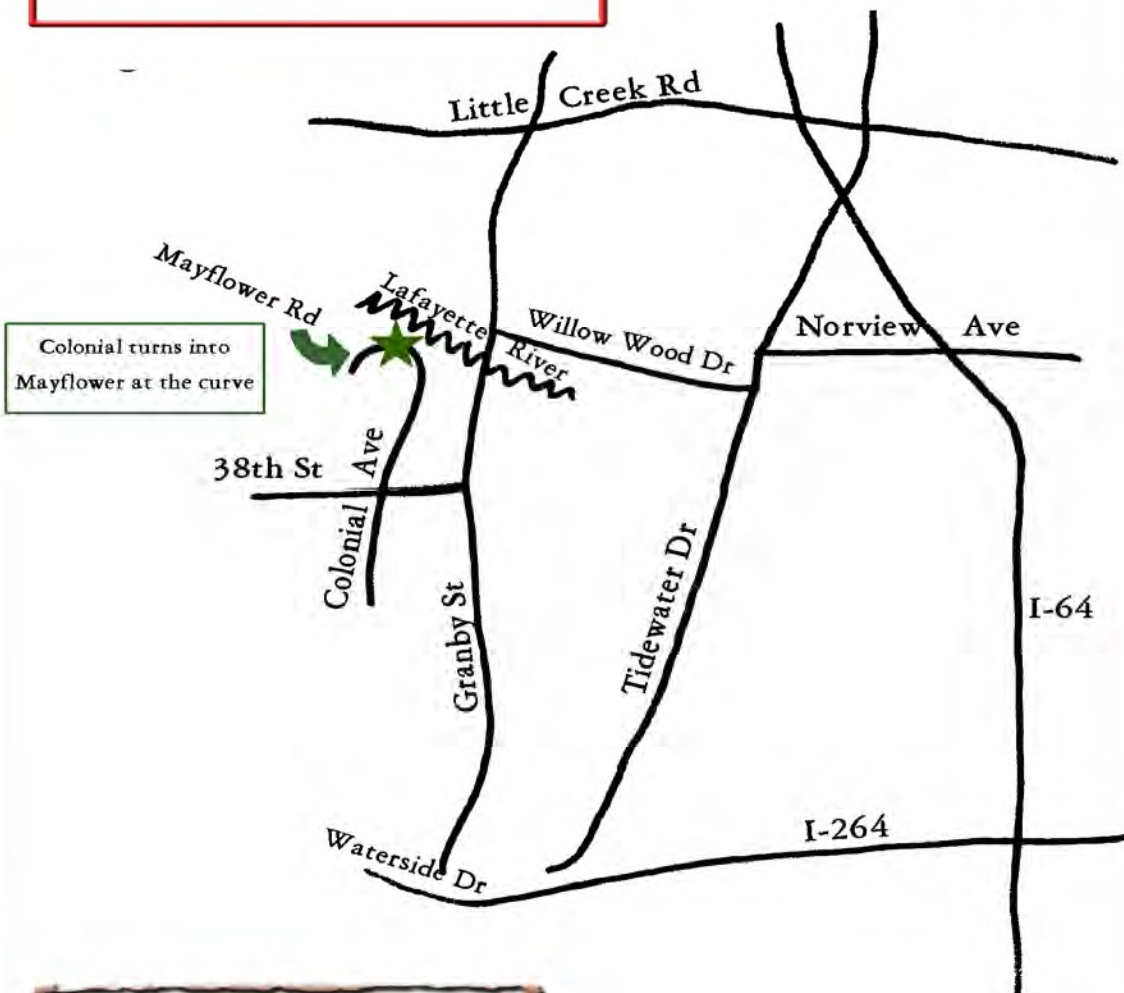
2 June 26 – TMGC meeting hosted by Andy Wallach & Cynthia Faschini at 545 Mayflower Road Norfolk 23508. Kick tyres at 6:00, meeting to follow.

13 Jun 26 – Drive to Museum of The Albemarle. 501 South Water Street, Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909

27 Jun 26 - Suffolk BBQ CO Cruise-In at the airport. 12 PM – 4 PM. 1200 Gene Bolton Dr, Suffolk.

*Safety fast, Shayne*

Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, June 2nd  
Cynthia & Andy  
545 Mayflower Rd.  
Norfolk, VA  
408-2032



6:00 Kick Tyres  
Meeting to follow