



1993

Tidewater MG Classics

1993

Calendar

6 January	*Meeting
30 January	*Chili Cook-off
2 February	*Meeting
20 February	*Spaghetti Dinner
28 February	*Tech Session
3 March	*Meeting
14 March	Richmond Chili Cook-off
6 April	*Meeting
25 April	*Champagne Brunch
5 May	*Meeting
16 May	*Tech Session
22 May	*20th Anniversary
1 June	*Meeting
13 June	*Tailgate Party
27 June	Bowie British Car Day
7 July	*Meeting
11 July	*Pool Party
3 August	*Meeting
14 August	Richmond Pig Roast
29 August	*Tech Session
1 September	*Meeting
19 September	Berkeley Show
26 September	*Pig Pickin'
5 October	*Meeting
3 November	*Meeting
7 November	*Tech Session
4 December	*Christmas Party

President	Ken Bingham
Vice President	Bob McClaren
Secretary	Cynthia Faschini
Treasurer	Jim Villers
Editor	Chris Holcomb
Technical	Robert Davis
Activities	Peggy Bradford Carol Bingham
Clubs	Mike Ash
Membership	Ned Kuhns

* Denotes TMGC event

Chili Cook-Off

January 30, 1993 at the home
of Ken and Carol Bingham

Chili Cook-off

Ken Bingham



If you missed the Chili Cook-off you really missed an exciting event! What a turn out ... over 60 people and 16 chilies! Our friends from the Richmond and Chesapeake Chapters showed up in true MG fashion. Our own Bob/George Ulrich took "The Best" chili award! Lynette Gold placed second, and Libby Keeler and Chris Holcomb tied for third! Bill Ludtke identified the most items (in fact – all but one!) in the Tool Box Game. Sue Bond won the Sewing Box Game and Cynthia Faschini won by a "nose" in the Smelling Game! I think everyone had a grand time and I want to thank Carol Bingham and Jennifer and Mike Ash for hosting the event and making it a real success!

Richmond Chili Cook-off

Ken Bingham

On Sunday, March 14th, in true Club fashion, we followed our taste buds up the road to Richmond for the Central Virginia MG Club's annual Chili Cook-off! Besides Carol and I, Keelers, McClarens and Tom Rosendale represented our club. We didn't win any chili awards, but we did finally figure out the secret to winning! If, after the first bite, your ears blow off and your eyes pop out of your head and your mouth is stuck open – that's what the judges want! The winning chili was so hot we had no idea what it tasted like!? McClarens did win the prize for driving the furthest in an MG! Again, in true MG fashion, we had a really nice time getting together with our Richmond friends and meeting new ones!!

Spaghetti Dinner

February 20, 1993 at the Spaghetti Warehouse



Spaghetti Dinner

Peggy Bradford

Twenty-seven members attended our winter dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Norfolk -- along with twenty-seven hundred noisy people looking for a table. I wondered if they had reservations, too. It was a fun group and, despite the chaos around us, I think everyone had a good time.

The food was good, although some parts of the dinner (i.e. bread, sauces, wine) weren't served in time to go with what they were intended or they were cold (wine with chocolate cheesecake was not as good as it would have been with pasta). Eventually most of us got what we ordered before we left.

This is obviously a popular place -- the noise level was always at a low roar. I was a little uneasy as I left and walked two blocks to my car (in a rather desolate area) and a guy in a pickup truck slowly followed me. However, as I hurried to get in my car, I was pleased to note it was their security guards who also waited to make sure I got my car started and was on my way.

Tech

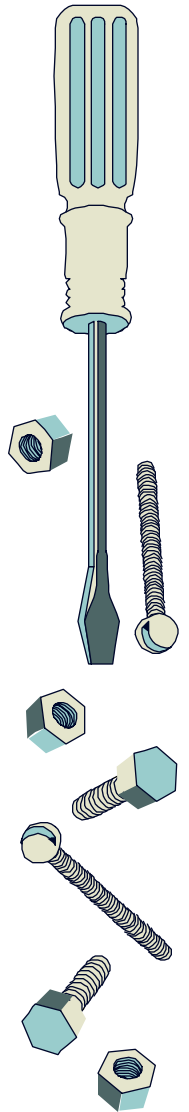
Session

February 28, 1993 at the home of
Frank and Gloria Linse

February Tech Session

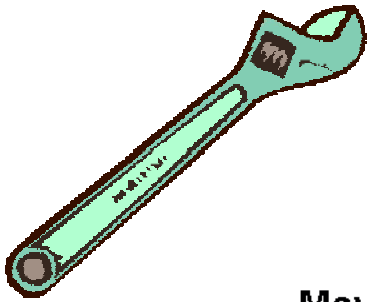
Ken Bingham

If you didn't make it to Frank Linse's you missed one heck of a Tech Session! Lots of questions were asked and Frank had lots of answers! Jim Villers trouble shot Bob/George's carburetor and now his car is running just great! Frank installed a rocker sill and dog leg to Tom Hollington-Sawyer's GT and that is what generated all kinds of questions. Gloria Linse really spoiled us and turned the tech session into what this club loves to do . . . EAT! Thanks Gloria for providing the sandwiches, sodas, etc., we really appreciated it. All in all, the tech session was very successful with a great turn out! Looking forward to the next one!



Tech Session

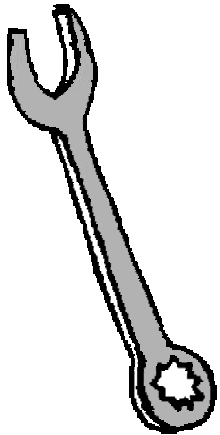
May 16, 1993 at the home of
Vince and Pam Groover



May Tech Session

Ken Bingham

The Tech Session at Pam and Vince Groover's was very successful. We had a beautiful day with lots of MGs coming out! I had a fuel pump problem this week (which is a long story in itself, my TD had to be towed for the first time!). Sure enough, Vince was able to fix it on Saturday (you can always go to Vince's for a tech session any day) and then on Sunday, we fixed my spare pump. Bill Keeler helped me earlier in the week put my tonneau cover on, and sure enough was helping Dave Bowling install his at the tech session. Paul Thiergardt was adding a wire to his amp gauge on his TF. Bob Miller was doing something to his B, along with numerous other folks. Roy Wiley and Carol Bingham showed up in their Mercedes' . . . the nerve! Well, at least Jennifer didn't show up in her Jagwire! All in all it was a great day with great friends and great cars. Thanks, Vince and Pam for another great MG event!



Stoney Point

May 16, 1993

Organized by Richmond
Triumph Register



Anniversary

**20
Years**

May 22, 1993 at Shifting Sands at
Dam Neck Naval Base

20th Anniversary

Ken Bingham

I'd like to thank everyone who made the Anniversary Dinner a huge success, and that's everyone who came!!! For those of you who left "early", you missed out on the dancing, and the disco demonstration performed by "Fred" Wallach and "Ginger" Bradford! Thanks to Daryl Bishop for getting the gift certificate from Sports & Classics. Again, a special thanks to Carol, Paula and Scooby for all their help! (We have 14 souvenir wine glasses left for sale).

TAILGATE PICNIC

June 13, 1993



Tailgate Picnic

Ken Bingham

A very special thanks to Jennifer and Mike Ash for planning and hosting the Tailgate Picnic at NAS Oceana. The weather was overcast but luckily, no rain! We had a really good turnout of MGs and of course lots of food! Jennifer did a superb job in planning some great games for all of us to play and enjoy! Winners got prizes too! The grand finale was the judging of the Picnic Lunches!!! Tom Rosendale even had a battery operated blender in his basket! Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed a really good time and another wonderful MG day!

BOWIE

June 27, 1993

Bowie British Car Day

Ken Bingham

Lots of our members were able to make it to the British Car Day in Bowie. And thanks to Bob/George Ulrich (he put a new wiring harness in my TD while I was out of town playing Navy), Carol and I were able to drive our TD to the car show. Thanks Bob! We got there a little late to enjoy all the events this British Car Day has to offer, but I would like to mention that I did make it to the flea market area and bought a self canceling turn signal switch from Liverpool Motor Works. Once I got the switch home I found a broken contact, I called Jerry at Liverpool Car Parts to ask him if he knew where I might get a new contact? Needless to say, Jerry sent me the new contact (no cost). It was a pleasure doing business with him and I look forward to seeing him at future car events!

POOL PARTY

July 11, 1993 at the home of
Bob and Judy Miller



Pool Party

Ken Bingham

Finally the weather was great for this years annual pool party hosted by Judy and Bob Miller (Andy too)!!! We had a great turn out and lots of fun.

Their pool and yard were picture perfect and a much welcome relief, thanks to all the hot days we have been having. What a feeling to lounge in the pool with an ice cold brewski, the aroma of the barbeque wafting in the air, and listening to all the chatter and laughter! And then to taste all the side dishes we brought! Everyone enjoyed themselves and winter seemed a million months away! Once again a special thanks to the Millers for having us. We relly appreciated it!!!

Richmond Pig Roast

August 14, 1993



Richmond Pig Roast

Ken Bingham

What a superb day for the Central Virginia MG Classics and the Greater Richmond Sailing Association's Pig Roast and Cookout! Carol and I in our TD caravanned with Gregg Coogan and Ellen Lindner in their B to Williamsburg to meet up with Leonard and

Alice Lee Sargeant in their TD! We then followed Leonard through plantation country, up the hi-ways and down the by-ways to the lake. What a pretty route! Daryl and Sheri Bishop also were there in their TF, and the Keelers came in a Detroit Special! It was great to get together with old and new friends, and hear more good stories and tales!!! There were 30 or so MGs and British cars that came, which turned out to be a good show! And those Richmond folks sure know how to cook!!

Berkeley



September 19, 1993 at Berkeley Plantation

Organized by Central Virginia MG Classics

Berkeley

Ken Bingham

Boy, those Central Virginia MG Classics folks sure know how to put on a car show! The weather was perfect as Carol and I met up with Bob/George Ulrich and Sue and their neighbors the Oberlies (who brought both of his B's) and drove to the Norfolk Visitors Center. There we met up with Bob McClaren and his C, Daryl Bishop and his TF, Paul Thiergardt and his TF, Gregg Googan and his Detroit Special. Off we caravanned to Berkeley Plantation! We soon caught up with Frank Linse and his B-GT. At our pit stop, just outside of Williamsburg, Bill and Greg Keeler joined us with their TD. Driving down the old carriage road at Berkeley the excitement of the day was getting bigger as we spotted our friends from Richmond and then more and more of OUR Club members: (If I missed someone please forgive me) Sue and Terry Bond and their B-GT, Robert and Faye Davis and the Land Rover, Tom and Andree Hollington-Sawyer and their C-GT, Mark Childers and his B, George Perry and his TD, Leonard and Alice Sargeant and their TD, John Tokar and his A, Woody and Elaine Vosler and their B, Rick Lantz and his B, Mike and Jennifer Ash who worked at the show, Vince Groover, Chris Fisher, the Wessels', and the Villers'. And we had some winners!!! Frank got a 1st, Sargeant's got 2nd, Ulrich's got 3rd, and Davis' got Honorable Mention! After the hoopla, we circled our wagons (MG's) under the shade of an old oak tree down by the river and shared all the munchies we had brought, including some of the Bonds special brew and Carol's Snapple, and talked about how much fun these events are!!! (Especially if your car is painted RED!!!)

Richmond British Car Day

Susan Bond

The weather was perfect for the Ninth Annual British Car Day, held at Berkeley Plantation, and the cars came from all over. There were at least 160 registered, and I wouldn't be surprised if all of them showed up. There were at least a dozen from Tidewater, and 3 went home with prizes: Frank Linse with a first place for his green BGT, George Ulrich with an honorable mention for his red B, and Robert Davis with an honorable mention for his big green Land Rover.

PIG PICKIN'

September 26, 1993 at the home
of Chris and Shelley Holcomb



Pig Pickin'

Susan Bond

The weather was just as nice for our annual Pig Pickin', held the weekend after Berkeley at Chris and Shelley Holcombs. 63 adults entered 20 MGs in the car show, and there were 5 children's bikes. In between the nattering and eating, we voted for our favorite cars and bikes. Winners were:

Best bicycle	Susie
Best chrome	Tom Sawyer
Best boot	The Bingham
Best number plate	Ed Solomon
Best in show	The Bingham

Ken and Carol Bingham needed that boot to take home all the plaques they collected. Since they won't be here when the new officers take over, incoming president Bob McClaren presented Ken with a plaque commemorating his year as president of Tidewater MG Classics. And Ken presented the President's Award, for the person who has done the most for the club in the past year, to Carol, who organized the Chili Cook-off, Tailgate Party, and Anniversary Dinner, to name but a few.

Many thanks to Chris and Shelley for hosting this annual event. If anyone didn't get enough to eat it was their own fault.

Chris Holcomb: Our Pig Roast / Car Show was a success because so many of our members brought their MGs. From the show winners to the newly started projects to the daily runners, every one of those cars was a sign of our club's vitality and diversity.

Terry and Susan Bond have done a fantastic job of organizing our own in-club car show for the past several years and this year was no exception. They design and hand craft the plaques awarded to car show winners. Each plaque is a one-of-a-kind. Those of us who have one to show off are quiet proud. Thank again for making our show a success.

Tech Session

November 7, 1993 at the Bond's barn



Robert Davis

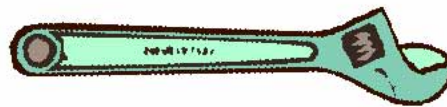


Terry's birthday cake



November Tech Session

Bob McClaren



The tech session at the Bond's museum turned out to be quite an affair. The "Front Suspension Show and Tell" by the Coogans was impressive. Doug Kennedy got new V-8 bushings installed on his '69 B, Robert Davis worked on a number of items on his latest MGB, Frank Linse pounded away on the Bond B-GT, and several other member's cars got tweaked, fixed, brakelighted, or other repairs. The Pig Picking's left over bar-b-que was outstanding but this time the rides Terry Bond was giving everyone in the "T"-series Ford upstaged the great food. At least 25 members and guests were seen participating in the afternoon activities. Thanks Susan & Terry! Dave Muth says that his son talked about the Model "T" ride all the way home



Christmas Party

December 4, 1993 at the home
of Bill and Libby Keeler

Christmas Party

Bob McClaren

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Many thanks to the Keeler's for hosting the Christmas/Holiday Party, and what a party it turned out to be. There were lots of people present including new members and prospective members and a real treat was provided by Susan and Bob George who came to the party with the Bingham's of Florida in tow. We all had a great time visiting with Carol and Ken.



Mike Ash, left, one of the founders of the Tidewater MG Classics club, and Ken Bingham, the group's president, stand next to their MGs.

Photos by PAM STARR

Club members have caught the MG bug

From *The Beacon*
May 27, 1993

By Pam Starr

They don't mind if other British sports car owners hang out with them.

But if you show up at one of the Tidewater MG Classics club parties in a Triumph or an Austin Healy, be prepared for abuse.

It's not personal. But nothing compares to owning an MG, club members say. And once the MG bug hits you, you're hooked.

"It's like eating potato chips – you can't stop at one," said Mike Ash, a club founder. He owns eight MGs. "It's the poor man's sports car ... they were always for the common man and still are."

Twenty years have passed since Ash and seven other men met in the Pembroke Mall parking lot to show off their MG (which stands for Morris Garages) cars. Back then the club was only for "T" series owners, but over the years the members decided to allow everyone who owned an MG to belong. In fact, the club's name used to be MG "T" Classics, but since the last of the "T" series rolled off the line in 1955, members figured there weren't enough of those owners around.

"It's a mutual support group," said Ash, a past president. "We want to preserve and maintain the car. They're very good handling cars and very good value."

More than 80 people in Hampton Roads agree with Ash enough to pay \$15 a year to belong to the club. Last Saturday night they and their guests celebrated the 20th anniversary of the club with a fancy dinner at the Shifting Sands club at the Fleet Combat Training Center at Dam Neck.

Members arrived in their gleaming MG roadsters, sedans and hardtops, of course, and admired each other's vehicles from the balcony of the Shifting Sands, which overlooks a long stretch of unspoiled beach. MGs, especially the convertibles, look like the ultimate cruising cars with their sleek lines and low carriages, and every owner remembers his or her first one.

"I bought my 1958 Magnet sedan for \$3,000 in 1979," said member Robert Davis. "And I worked on it for seven years, putting in air conditioning, power disc brakes, overdrive.

"I've owned MGs for 99 percent of my adult life. I love the cars."

Peggy Bradford, owns a 1952 MG TD in "British racing green" and says that owning an MG is like belonging to a clique.

"If you have an MG you're a friend," she said, "MG owners will honk and wave to each other on the road. I've put a little note on an MG in a parking lot if I see one."

More than 1 million MGs were made in Britain between 1936 and 1980, when the original manufacturer ceased production. (The "T" series stopped in 1955.) The series included the TA, TB, TC, TD, TF, B, and A and were very popular with American servicemen after World War II. Prices of the MGs when new ranged from \$1,800 to \$8,000; now a good one will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000, according to Ash, but a restoration can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

"It's an investment car," he said. "They're harder to find now."

Ken Bingham, president of the club, said that most owners bought their cars in college and that the height of popularity for the cars was 1973.

"'Love Story' had one and anything on PBS will have an MG," he said. "You don't even need to own an MG to be in the club - just some interest."

The club meets monthly to socialize but members just don't stand around and talk about their cars. They have road rallies, chili cookoffs (in January) and summer pool parties, along with a yearly best-of-show contest for each series of cars. Sunday "tech sessions" help owners learn ways to restore their classic vehicles. Carol Bingham, Ken's wife, said that MG owners are "immediately friendly" with each other and that the cars are almost incidental.

"There is a real camaraderie when we get together and meet other people," she said. "Everyone's here because they love the cars ... it doesn't matter who you are or what you do - the common bond is the car."



The MG club's vice president, Bob McClaren, owns this car. "You don't even need to own an MG to be in the club," one member said.

From the *Virginian Pilot*, July 29, 1993

Clubs point car fans in the right direction

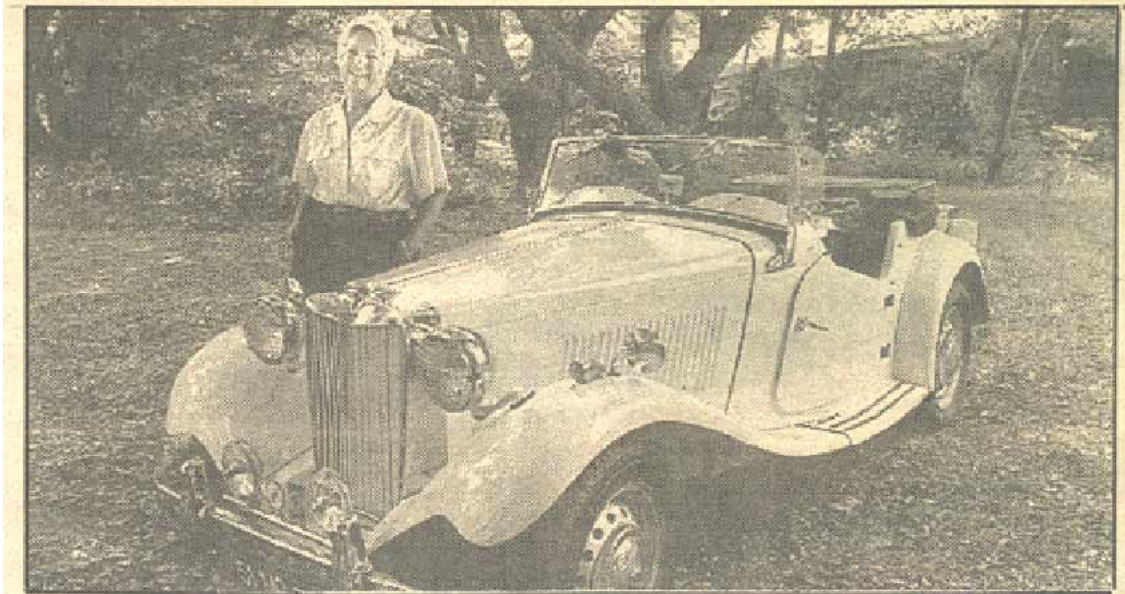


Photo by ERIC THINGSTAD

Carol Bingham and her 1951 MGTD belong to the Tidewater MG Club, one of many car clubs in Hampton Roads.

Tidewater MG Club: Founded in 1973, this group is celebrating 20 years of enthusiasm for MGs. Club president Ken Bingham says all 100 members either own an MG or want to own one. The club has a monthly social event, such as a road rally or tailgate party, and holds technical sessions on Sunday once a quarter so participants can learn repair and restoration. All events are family-oriented. Meetings are on alternate first Tuesdays or Wednesdays of the month. Call Bingham at 481-3635 for information.