

1998

Tidewater MG Classics





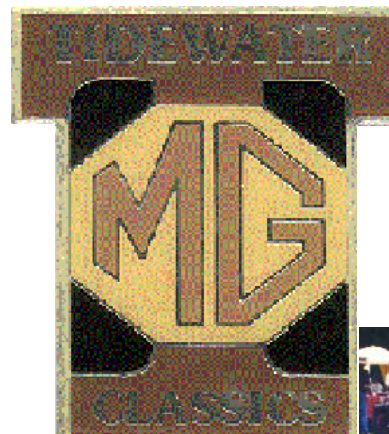
1998

Calendar

6 January	*Meeting
4 February	*Meeting
22 February	*Wicker Basket Affair and Meeting
3 March	*Meeting
29 March	*Tech Session
1 April	*Meeting
5 May	*25th Anniversary Meeting
17 May	Boulders Show, Richmond
30 May	Soap Box Derby Races
3 June	*Meeting
27-28 June	Tidewater Scottish Festival
7 July	*Meeting
8-12 July	MG '98
5 August	*Meeting
23 August	*Tech Session
1 September	*Meeting
13 September	*Pig Pickin and Rally
20 September	Berkeley Show
27 September	Wings and Wheels, Topping
2-4 October	Waynesboro Show
7 October	*Meeting
4 November	*Meeting
8 November	*Tech Session
5 December	*Christmas Party



President	Mark Childers
Vice President	Barry Tyson
Secretary	Doug Kennedy
Treasurer	Jim Villers
Editor	Bob Miller
Membership	Bob McClaren
Activities	Chuck Hudson
Clubs	Mike Ash



* Denotes TMGC event



Anniversary



25
Years

May 5, 1998
at the White
Horse Pub



Marilyn Wiley,
Peggy Bradford

25
Years



May 5, 1998



Anniversary

Anniversary



May 5, 1998



Chuck Hudson's RV6



Leaky carbs - Susan Bond, Doug Wilson, Terry Bond

25
Years

25
Years

May 5, 1998



Anniversary

Anniversary

May 5, 1998



Mark Childers and Chuck Hudson



Hank Giffin and
Mark Childers

25
Years

Stats from the Gathering:

71 members and guests attended
2 founding members were present
7 first year members were present

27 MG's All in a Row at the Mall



David and Bob Pellerin





May 5, 1998

Ira & Mary Cantin,
Mike & Jennifer Ash

25
Years



Barry Tyson, Mike Haag,
Paul & Carmen Thiergardt

Chuck Hudson, Bruce &
Carol Woodson, Mark
Childers, Libby & Bill Keeler



25th Anniversary

Mark Childers

Chuck Hudson may say that the Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebration took on a life of its own. We all know better. In addition to everything he originally volunteered for, he also took on most of my share while Debbie was in the hospital. What a great event, highlighted by Hank Giffin's call to founding member Dave Barrows. Thanks, too to all who donated door prizes, time, energy and talent to making the party a success.

The *Virginian Pilot's* May 1st Autoweek section gave the club some great publicity. Thanks to all who showed up and provided Mary Burnham with trivia, technical information and color commentary that made for a super article. Along with the half dozen requests for membership info, I must have answered fifty calls from people who once owned an MG, and just wanted to wax nostalgic for a few minutes.



Anniversary

Boulders 1998

Organized by Richmond Triumph Register

May 17, 1998



Barry Tyson's B



Doug Wilson's B



Bob Millers B



Mike Haag and his B

Boulders 1998

Congratulations to the following members for winning at Boulders:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Doug Wilson | 1st place, late MGB |
| Barry Tyson | 2nd place, early MGB |
| Vince Groover | 2nd place, MGB GT |



Scottish Festival



Mike Studley's
TD

June 27, 1998
at Chesapeake City Park



John Jones B



Vince Groover's YA



Frank Linse's Jag



Terry Bond's 1912 Triumph



Ivie Lister's 1936
Rolls Royce



MGB '98

The Seventh Annual North American MGB Register Convention



July 8-12, 1998
Hagerstown,
Maryland



Barry Tyson's B

"A Drive Through History!"



M G '98

July 8-12, 1998

"A Drive Through History!"



John Twist cures all MG ills.



Summit Point



MCG

1998

July 8-12, 1998

Touring in the area, Antietam
and Harpers Ferry



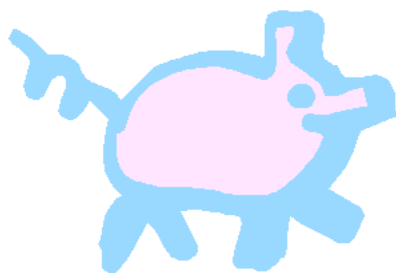
"A Drive Through History!"



Mike Haag



September 13, 1998
at the home of Alan
and Beckey Watson



Rallye and Pig Pickin'



Chuck Hudson



Libby Keeler



Carmen and Paul Thiergardt



Andy Wallach





Betsy & Doug Kennedy



Frank Linse

Rallye and Pig Pickin'

September 13, 1998



Olive & Robin Watson



Bob McClaren with Peggy Pickle



Vince Groover



Bill Keeler



September 13, 1998



Sabrina Goodwin & Mark Childers

Rallye and Pig Pickin'



Eiko & Doug Wilson



Bill Seib



Mike Haag

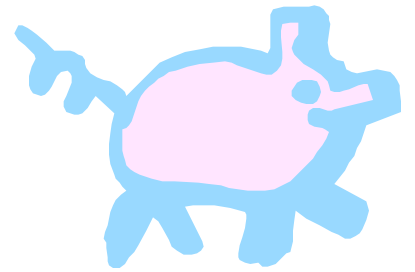


Bob Miller



Rallye and Pig Pickin'

September 13, 1998



Mike Spruill



Berkeley

September 20, 1998 at
Berkeley Plantation



Frank Linse's A



TF of Andy Wallach and Cynthia
Faschini

Organized by Central
Virginia MG Classics



September 20, 1998



Berkeley



Chuck Hudson's RV6

Berkeley

September 20, 1998



Before



Susan Bond's GT

Berkeley 1998

Congratulations to the winners at Berkeley:

Bill Keeler	1st place, chrome bumper MGB's
Frank Linse	1st place, MGA coupe
Chuck Hudson	1st place, open class, Honorable Mention, TC's
Bob McClaren	2nd place, GT class
Andy Wallach	2nd place, TF's
Doug Wilson	Honorable Mention, rubber bumper MGB's
George and Susan Ulrich	1st place, rally

WINGS & WHEELS



September 26, 1998
at Hummel Air Field,
Topping, Virginia



1936 Morris 8



Organized by Friends
of Hummel Field



Don Finlay's Minor and Susan Bond's B

WAYNESBORO

October 2-4, 1998



Lunch stop and Barry Tyson checks the map



B's of Barry Tyson, Susan Bond and Mike Haag



Susan Bond and Carol Finlay



We toured the Museum of the American Frontier near Staunton on the way to Waynesboro



WAYNESBORO

October 2-4, 1998



Barry Tyson's B



Car show organized by
Shenandoah Valley British Car
Club as part of the
Waynesboro Fall Foliage
Festival

Eiko and Doug
Wilson with their B



WAYNESBORO

October 2-4, 1998



1936 Morris 8



WAYNESBORO

October 2-4, 1998



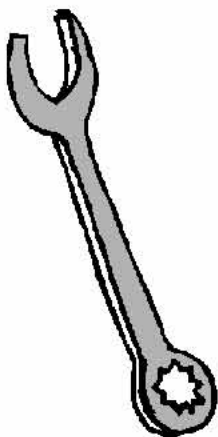
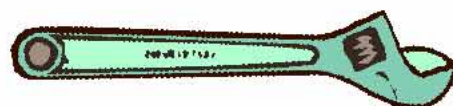
Carol Finlay, Susan Bond and
Linda Swartz at the banquet



Stop at Michie's Tavern on the way home

Tech Session

November 8, 1998 at the home of
Susan and Terry Bond



Birthday boy, Bill Keeler



From the *Virginian Pilot*, January 1, 1999

Year: New F-150, mega mergers mark 1998



Staff file photo

The Tidewater MG Classics club turned 25.

May: Tidewater MG Classics turns 25 (Auto Weekly, May 1).

Club proudly hails MG as a car “made to be raced”

by Mary Burnham

MG owners talk of a mysterious illness, “MG disease.” Symptoms include paying any price to save this British sports car from the junkyard, towing it any distance and then risking marital harmony by keeping as many as will fit in the garage.

Chuck Hudson of Virginia Beach has even given the syndrome a motto: “Save an Octagon,” referring to the shape of the MG hood emblem.

Preserving the historic racing marque is the mission of the Tidewater MG Classics car club, celebrating its 25th anniversary this month. Reaching the quarter-century mark is a tribute to the staying power of both the cars and their owners.

“True MGs were built tough and made to be raced,” said Mark Childers, Tidewater MG club president, who has made a career of restoring British cars.

“The founder of MG wanted to provide a cheap, fast car that was easy to make and maintain, and for the most part, they remained so.”

Rising from humble beginnings, the first MGs were actually hybrids, nothing more than sporty body work attached to a Morris Cowley chassis at the Morris Garages in Oxford, England.

While ironically William Morris was not a racing enthusiast, his company would go on to define the sports car until the last one was produced in 1980.

The now-famous MG initials, first used in 1923, stood for Morris Garages, the company started by William Morris to build and sell cars. In 1925, MG adopted the octagon logo, and in 1928 the MG Car Co. Was established and started building cars that were MG originals through and through. In 1930 the company moved to Abingdon, England, where it remained for the next 50 years.

Cars owned by the Tidewater club’s 140 members represent nearly the entire history of this legendary racing marque.

The oldest is a 1934 NA, owned by Vice Adm. Henry Giffin of Norfolk Naval Station. A founding member of the club, Giffin has four MGs, all pre-1948, and enjoys vintage racing. The 50th anniversary of Watkins Glen, N.Y., racetrack this September will likely find him reliving the glory days in one of his MGs.

Giffin recalls clearly the moment he fell for an MG.

It was in the 1970s, when his friend pulled up in one with the windscreen flipped forward. Giffin began scouring the countryside and found a 1953 MG TD in New Hampshire. It had chickens living in it. Still today, he enjoys driving with the windscreen down, a throwback to old-time driving: “Wind in your hair, bugs in your teeth and all that,” Giffin said, smiling.



Chuck Hudson, left, shown with his 1948 MG TC, Henry Giffin, with his 1934 MG NA, and Vince Groover, with his 1950 MG YA, are all members of the Tidewater MG Classics car club, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in May. Giffin’s MG NA is the oldest MG in the club. Instead of car shows, the club holds tech sessions and social gatherings, some with a British theme.

From the oldest to the newest, the latest model MG in the club sits in Chuck Hudson's garage. The limited production 1986 Metro 6R4, bears the MG logo, but was built by the company that bought MG, now known as the Rover Group. The four-wheel-drive car, one of only 150 produced, can do zero to 100 to zero again in nine seconds. Hudson doesn't experiment too much with it, though; it has only 362 miles logged.

Instead, Hudson prefers to drive his 1948 T-series Midget, a throwback to pre-war race cars and the days of unrestricted motoring. The Midget made a big splash when it hit the United States, reviving enthusiasm for racing at a brand new track in Watkins Glen, N.Y.

In the post-war years, MG continued building a reputation for sports cars, notably with the 1950 YA, the first MG to utilize rack-and-pinion steering. Vince Groover of Virginia Beach owns a complete original, save paint and tires. He had the car shipped over from England "sight unseen" 21 years ago.

"MG owners are very loyal," noted Giffin.

Their loyalty is not the museum variety, however. Most club members firmly believe MGs are made to be driven. Since they require quite a bit of TLC, however, they also say it pays to own several.

"The club saves a lot of MGs," said Frank Linse of Norfolk. "You'll find them in barns, squirreled away." Knowing how to fix them is a must. A benefit of club membership is the expertise, help and encouragement offered by other members.

Ask any dedicated MG owner how many cars he has, and you'll get a chuckle and some evasion.

"Eight, I think," answers Mike Ash, a Brit who emigrated to America on the Queen Elizabeth in 1967. Onboard with him was his cherished 1955 MG TF. It's one of four that he now drives. The others await his retirement for restoration. It was Ash, along with club founding member Dave Barrows, who first came up with the idea for the Tidewater MG Classics. Barrows, now 92, still lives in Virginia Beach.

Linse readily admits to owning five MGs, four of them driveable. But that's not counting a "couple of junkers" he purchased in North Carolina and has yet to go pick up. His regular driver is a 1974 MGB; his wife, Gloria, drives a 1978 MGB.

Linse also owns a 1958 MGA coupe, a car that at the time signaled a dramatic change for MG. When first introduced in 1955, the model's streamlined body was a sharp departure from MG's prewar cars. The MGA grew to become the most popular sports car of its day, until it was replaced by the MGB in 1962.

Doug Kennedy of Virginia Beach caught the "MG disease" from Linse, who helped him restore his 1969 MGB Mk II Roadster.

"Sometimes you might feel like giving up on a lengthy restoration, but there's always someone to help," Kennedy said. He and his wife, Betsy, found their car in Pinehurst, N.C., in 1993.

"The owner was about to have the car scrapped and because we loved it at first sight, we quickly made a deal to save it from the junkyard," he said. They towed it back to Virginia, got it running, drove it for six months and realized it needed a total restoration.

The MGB model proved to be the siren song for the MG Car Co., with the last one rolling off the line in 1980. Five club members are lucky enough to have MGBs of that model year, Hudson said. However, due to enthusiast demand, the subsequent owners, British Leyland and now the Rover Group, have tacked the MG logo onto selected cars such as the Metro, Montego, Maestro, and most recently, the MGF.

Instead of car shows, the club holds tech sessions and social gatherings, some with a British theme, like gourmet potlucks, and in August they're planning a croquet party with British attire suggested.

"Sometimes we have a pig roast and give prizes for the best boot or something like that," Kennedy said. Monthly meetings begin with "tyre" kicking at members' homes on rotating first Tuesdays and Wednesdays of the month. For more information, call the club president: Mark Childers, at 473-1757, or Chuck Hudson at 425-6882.



Mike Ash, left, owns a 1955 MG TF, Doug Kennedy has a 1969 MGB Mk II Roadster and Frank Linse has a 1958 MGA coupe. Most club members believe MGs are made to be driven. Because the cars need quite a bit of care, they say, it also pays to own several.



Tidewater "MG" Classics

Peggy Bradford, #4748

On May 6th 1973, eight MG owners met in the Sears' parking lot at Pembroke Mall in Virginia Beach, establishing "The Tidewater 'MG' Classics". This year 71 members gathered in that same parking lot for our 25th Anniversary. Twenty seven MGs were parked in a row, advertising our existence to all. After much picture taking and greeting of old and new friends, we all proceeded to the White Horse Pub for celebrations. A silent auction continued throughout the evening with lucky members taking home MG keepsakes. Highlighting the evening was a cell phone call from one founding member (Hank Giffin) to another founding member (Dave Barrows) with others taking turns reminiscing with Dave about past MG adventures. We all left that evening thanking Dave for our humble beginnings and looking forward to another 25 years and more of friends, fellowship and love of MGs.

This year we resurrected an earlier club tradition -- "The Wicker Basket Affair". Initiated in January 1977 as a fund raising affair when the club was on the brink of bankruptcy, our first "Pot Luck Dinner" proved so popular that during the second dinner it was formally dubbed "The Wicker Basket Affair". This well-attended gourmet pot luck extravaganza continued for thirteen years. It was a wonderful winter social that we all looked forward to. This year's "Wicker Basket Affair", hosted at Peggy Bradford's home, reflected all the fellowship of previous dinners and also provided an impromptu car show on the front lawn while members inside did what we do best -- "EAT".

Last year the Club provided a "Soap Box Derby" car and driver. This year members continued their support by volunteering their services on race day to load cars on trailers for the trek up the hill and assisting with other work such as starting, timing and switching car wheels after each heat. Our driver this year, Chris Bradford, represented our Club well. This is a great event for members and families to spend time together while providing community service and advertising our club.

In September it's time to eat again at our annual "Pig Roast" and Club Car Show. This year the "Pungo Pig Roast" at Alan and Beckey Watson's, to which we also added a Rally prior to chowing down, provided a great occasion for all to enjoy a lazy Sunday afternoon reminiscing, looking over cars, "arguing" over rally techniques, and again, showing our expertise eating the delicious bar-b-que prepared by members who "volunteered" to pignit overnight so we could all enjoy the next day.

Throughout the year our members enthusiastically participate in other area gatherings. In May we caravan to the Boulders British Car Show in Richmond at which our members this year provided some winning cars. We again return to that area in the fall for the Annual British Car Day at Berkeley Plantation. The British Car Festival in Waynesboro, VA is another annual event to which we look forward. Our year wouldn't be complete without bringing our year to a close with our annual Christmas Party. Instead of members exchanging gifts, we all provide a gift of clothing or toys for a child at Hope Haven Children's Home. This year we also sponsored a "pizza party" for the residents.

Several Sunday tech sessions round out our year along with numerous impromptu ones as members gather to solve one another's MG problems. Our fall tech session at Sue and Terry Bond's is highlighted with leftover bar-b-que from the pig roast. As you can gather, our members will never go hungry.

Although our Club had its beginnings as a "T" group, we now embrace all MG enthusiasts into our growing family (now at around 140 members). We spread our news and tidbits to members through our monthly newsletter, "The Dipstick" adeptly edited by Bob Miller. Our president this year, Mark Childers, leads our monthly meetings held in member's homes on alternate first Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our Activities Chairman, Chuck Hudson, provides us with a year of memories. We are a transient community with the Navy and NATO bringing us many British friends and others from around the world. We welcome any MG enthusiasts who are in the area for a day, a year or forever. Please look up us if you're in the area. We'll make you feel right at home.