



2020



Calendar

- 7 January *Meeting
- 5 February *Meeting
- 15 February *Another Horrible Idea Tour
- 3 March *Meeting

- Covid-19

- 10 May *Andy & Cynthia Welcome Home
- 7 July *Meeting
- 5 August *Meeting
- 1 September *Meeting
- 6 October *Meeting
- October Travel Logs
- 23 October *Leaf Covid Behind and Drive Me to the MoonTour
- 4 November *Meeting

* Denotes TMGC event



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|----------------|------------------------|
| President | Robert Perrone |
| Vice President | Mike Haag |
| Secretary | Mark Davidoski |
| Treasurer | Jim Villers |
| Editor | Mark & Kathy Davidoski |
| Membership | Mike Ash |
| Activities | Tad Carter |
| Historian | Susan Bond |
| Technical | Terry Bond |
| Regalia | Rose Ladd |
| Webmaster | Mike Haag |

2020

Meeting



Turnout was strong for our first monthly meeting since March. Arrivals began shortly before 6:00 PM as many members sampled the craft beer offerings of Deadline Brewing Project. Pizza and salad were served by Renee and Denise (appropriately equipped with Covid masks and gloves).

Robert called us to order at 7:36 PM and thanked Darryl of Deadline for opening the store just for us.

Meeting minutes, August 2020 Dipstick



July 7, 2020



Meeting



July 7, 2020



Tad and Karen are about to complete their move to the Carolinas. Jim Villers presented Tad with a plaque in recognition of his many years as out Activities Chairman. The inscription said it all: "So many miles, so many smiles!"

Meeting minutes, August 2020 *Dipstick*



Meeting



August 5, 2020
at the home of
PJ and Faith Peterson



Meeting



The August meeting was called to order by Robert at 8:18 PM. PJ and Faith Peterson were thanked by the assembled mass of exactly 9 (Nine) other members! It seems that Covid-19 concerns and threatening skies conspired to keep attendance low.

Thanks again for everyone observing Covid-19 protocols and thanks to PJ and Faith for an enjoyable repast with an excellent beverage selection!

Mark Davidoski, meeting minutes, September 2020 Dipstick



August 5, 2020



MEETING

September 1, 2020
at Pleasure House
Brewing,
Virginia Beach



Pleasure House Brewing was the site for the September meeting, and members started arriving around 6 PM. The weather had turned somewhat cooler and the rain held off, making for excellent outdoor meeting conditions behind PHB's facility on Pleasure House Road in Virginia Beach. The turnout was approximately 35-40 people, the most we've seen since the beginning of Covid-19 restrictions.

Mark Davidoski, Meeting Minutes, October 2020 Dipstick



MEETING

September 1, 2020



Meeting

October 6, 2020
at Big Ugly Brewing
in Chesapeake



Meeting

October 6, 2020

Big Ugly Brewing in Chesapeake was the site for the October meeting. The folks at Big Ugly cordoned off a section of the parking lot near the entrance for MG parking only, thus providing a mini car show as well. There was a good turnout of members on a beautiful early fall evening and it was good to see so many Mgs and their drivers, something that has been missing during this pandemic. After an initial mix-up over our reserved meeting space, sufficient space was quickly provided to accommodate all our members in a section near the bar. How convenient! The club provided pizza from the Great Pizza Company and after everyone finished eating, Robert called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.



Mike Haag, Meeting Minutes, November 2020
Dipstick



Meeting

October 6, 2020



Travel Logs



Travel Logs

Faith Peterson

Well it finally happened. We were able to take our 2020 MG trip. It was suppose to be in June but because of a certain unnamed virus our plans were dashed as our accommodations had not yet opened. Luckily, we were able to reschedule for the last week in October with fingers crossed.

With the trip coming up and no hope of the virus taking a long siesta we changed our plans and decided to trailer the MG down to Fontana Village outside of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. This would allow us to pack our groceries and take anything we thought we might need, along with us. Of course, we over packed, but that's another story.

PJ put the MG in the car trailer on Wednesday and we finished packing just about everything else on Thursday. Friday morning we packed up all the cold food items and headed out for a drive to North Carolina.

We stopped in Emporia to meet up with Bob and

Missy McKenna as they would be joining us for a few days. PJ also wanted to check the MG in the trailer. Now this is the part were any normal trip you would look at your car, give it a thumbs up and be on your way. But, of course, this would then not be a MG trip. So, yes you guessed it, no thumbs up. The MG having decided that it was being neglected decided to undo all the tie down straps except one. Luckily for us that one kept her pretty much in place in the car trailer. Unfortunately, it probably wouldn't do the job for the remainder of the trip. So for the next 45 minutes or so, the MG gets its well deserved individual attention, while once again being tied down in the car trailer.

As we needed to be at our destination by the end of the day the drive was done mostly on the interstate. At our lunch stop our MG needed some individual attention and had to be secured once again. Lesson learned, put a video on in the car trailer to keep the MG company on long drives.

Well, here it was late on Friday afternoon and we finally made it to Fontana Village after traveling with a car trailer on a small two lane twisty mountain road. We are sure the MG was enjoying every twist and turn. The next two hours were spent unpacking everything we brought along, I did mention that we over packed, and then taking the MG out of the car trailer. Mission accomplished and dinner before 8 p.m.

Day One - We lucked out and had come during peak fall season and instead of freezing morning temperatures we had beautiful sunny skies and highs in the low 70's. Loving this global warming

Travel Logs

weather this fall. We headed down Route 28 toward the Great Smokey Mountain National Park and arrived at the Visitor Center about an hour later. From there we drove through the park towards Gatlinburg, TN. On our way we stopped at the divide between North Carolina and Tennessee to marvel at the beautiful fall colors, the million of cars on the two lane road and all the people here for the fall colors. The downside of coming during peak fall season.

Mother Nature had done an excellent job of making this a beautiful drive. And traffic wasn't too bad until we made it into Gatlinburg. We attempted to go to the Roaring Fork Auto Trail but traffic there was at a stand still. We turned around and had our picnic lunch at a park in Gatlinburg. There we met someone who said that Cades Cove Loop was a wonderful drive and we believed him, forgetting that we had just turned around from a very long line of cars, so we headed out towards Cades Cove. The first part of the drive was very nice and we didn't have any backups. Once we started on the one way loop things changed very quickly. The nine mile loop took over four hours with bumper to bumper traffic almost the whole way. But we did luck out and get to see a bear's backside which also made traffic in the area even slower.

We finally returned to our cabin around 7:30 at night. Luckily for us the MG seemed to relish the drive, even in the dark.

Day Two - This was a Sunday and we really didn't want a repeat of yesterday's throngs of people.

So, we headed back down Route 28. As a side note this is the only road in and out of Fontana Village. We then took Route 19 to Bryson City and back towards the park but this time we took the Blue Ridge Parkway. Not as crowded, with wonderful views of the mountains. We then got back on Route 19 and took it into Maggie Valley. While there we did some shopping and found a place to eat with outside seating. Yes, another wonderful fall day with temperatures nearing 70. We then continued through Maggie Valley and returned by way of the Great Smokey Mountain Expressway We even made it back before dark. On our way back we drove across the top of Fontana Dam, just to see what was on the other side. Once again top down and no rain.



Day Three - Today we drove the Tail of the Dragon, 318 curves in 11 miles. Just a few other vehicles so no real slow downs. After crossing over into Tennessee we turned toward Gatlinburg via the Foothills Parkway The views were, once again, just spectacular. We then traveled on Route 321 through Pigeon Forge and back into Gatlinburg. Traffic turned out to be extremely congested so we headed out to do some shopping and have lunch. We then once again headed towards the Great Smokey

Travel Logs

Mountain National Park but this time using the bypass around Gatlinburg. Once inside the park we drove up to Clingman's Dome. Nearing the top we once again encountered a lot of traffic but were able to finally find a parking spot and walk up towards the Dome. Such beautiful breathtaking views. And, once again, we headed back to Fontana Village.



Day Four - We lost our traveling companions today, as Bob and Missy, had to head back to Virginia. We took the MG and headed towards Cherokee Skyway. Traffic was a lot better than going in and out of the park. On our way back we once again traveled down Route 129, (The Tail of the Dragon) and took Route 28 from the other side back to our cabin passing by the bottom of Fontana Dam. The last time we were here we could travel to the bottom of the dam but this time they had the road blocked.

It started to rain on Wednesday and into Thursday so we took a break from driving and enjoyed walking around Fontana Village between storms.

On Thursday, we started to pack up for our early Friday departure. This time the straps held except for one so we didn't need to stop and redo them.

We were making good time but once we hit Route 58 our luck once again changed. No, not the MG this time. We had apparently run over something very sharp just before getting off of I-85 and sliced our front truck tire. The tire held together for a few miles before starting to go flat. So for about an hour PJ ended up changing the tire while I watched and learned how to fix a flat. We had made it to an old gas station so we could pull off and not have to worry about traffic. Once it was changed we

headed home without any further problems.

And as a footnote the truck has four new rims and tires on order.

Another great adventure with the MG.

Happy Trails!



To the Moon Tour

To the Moon

Renee and Bill Olcheski

Our fall driving tour, "Leaf the Covid Behind and Drive Me to the Moon" started at 8AM. These writers have not been up and out at this time of morning in a while! We left our house at 7:30 AM with fog and cool temperatures. We met at Lake Wright and visited until 8:20 AM. We left as a group of four MG's and two wannabees (a Miata and a SUV). We drove with the top down and heat on!

About 9AM, we met the rest of the group at WAWA in Yorktown. We departed for our first stop, The Poddery. The procession consisted of eight MG'S and the same wannabees. We drove on windy, country roads. The drive was beautiful as the leaves were starting to change color.



October 24, 2020



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To the Moon Tour

We were warmly welcomed at the Poddery by Mrs. Poddery. We learned that Mrs Poddery was an art teacher at Granby High School before moving to Matthews as an artisan creating pottery. We toured and were shown the many stages of pottery production.

October 24,
2020



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To the Moon Tour



We left for our next destination at 11:30. The sun came out and warmed us as we drove to the town of Matthews. Arriving was a treat unto itself. We parked on Main Street (yes, really!) and wondered around the quaint town that was very reminiscent of Mayberry. These writers ate at Southwind Pizza and enjoyed a casual lunch and beverages, in a COVID safe environment, outdoors. After lunch we browsed the art and antique shops .

Before heading to the Vineyard, Bruce and Jayne insisted we take a quick trip to the moon! You know nobody in this group was going to say no. So to the moon we went! Moon Post Office that is!

The tour ended at the Zoll Vineyard. We arrived about 2:30. Everyone tasted the fruits of the vine. We had time, while imbibing, to chat and visit with one another making a great end to our Fall Tour. A special thank you to Bruce and Jayne for organizing our day!

This review was brought to you by your traveling reporters, Renee and Bill



October 24,
2020



MEETING



November 4, 2020
at Maker's Craft
Brewery in Norfolk



MEETING

Andy and Cynthia were thanked for finding Makers Craft as a meeting site.

We thanked the owner of Makers Craft, who made a cameo appearance and thanked us for our patronage.

Mark Davidoski, Meeting Minutes, December 2020 *Dipstick*



November 4
2020

