

The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXVII, Issue 2

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

February 2010

MARQUE TIME

Happy February! The climate is brutal, the economy is tight and we have found the perfect diversion, the premiere British sports car. You have to love this hobby. Get your car running and restore the rest at your own pace. Looking at the mail order catalogs reminds me of the Sears Christmas Wishbooks of my childhood. I can enjoy looking and planning before spending a cent. I can't decide on which wheels, interiors, or upgrades I like the best. Half of the fun is free.

January's meeting brought us to a new location, Eastside Pizza in Portsmouth, with fantastic food. Although it was a cold and dark night, the TMGC spirit persevered. We had a tremendous turnout including more than a handful of MGs braving the elements. All of the LBCs came with tops up; we are a dedicated bunch but not completely crazy. Some of the board members were not able to attend and, with the president being a man of few words, we completed the meeting in what had to be a record time. I am sure that if Frank “make it quick” Linse had been present he would have approved.

Vice President Russ Ripp gave a report that made the former vice president proud. Great job, Russ.

Chuck and Becky Hassler were under the weather and decided not to share their misery. We hope that you are feeling better. When I heard your symptoms, one disease came to mind—the dreaded *luca* strain— which comes from repeated exposure to faulty *Lucas* wiring. Let's all be careful out there. The meeting didn't quite seem complete without the infamous raffle. I can only hope that the large attendance was not due to people hoping to win MG license plate holders. Luckily the TMGC is an adaptable group whose members were able to minimize the disappointment by purchasing beer with their raffle ticket money.

I will be out of town on business and unable to attend the February meeting. Thank you, Russ, for taking over. Have fun! I will miss my MG family.

Safety Fast!!
Bill



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Feb. 2 Tuesday Club Meeting – Williamsburg**
Hosted by Joyce & Craig Cummings
Happy Groundhog Day - Do we have 6 more weeks with the top up?
- Mar. 1 – Have you applied for your passport yet for MG -2010?**
- Mar. 3 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Norfolk**
Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach
- Mar. 13 Saturday - Moss Motors Drive-out –
Petersburg, VA (see page 4 for details)
- TBD Spring Tech Session – Norfolk**
Hosted by Frank & Debbie Linse
- Apr. 6 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**
Hosted by Renee & Bill Olcheski
- Apr. 9-11 GOF South – Jekyll Island, GA
www.MGclassics.org
- Apr. 30 – May 2 - Tentative Dates for 2010 Wine Tour to
Loudon County, VA
- May 5 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach**

Upcoming Activities (continued)

Hosted by Kathy & Mark Davidoski

Jun. 1 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Issie & Bill Yoshida

Jun. 23-27 MG 2010 – Belleville, Ontario
www.mg2010.com

Jul. 7 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Betty & Jim Villers

Jul. 14 Wednesday Ice Cream Drive
In honor of Bastille Day, French Vanilla Ice Cream
will be featured.

Aug. 3 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Karen & Tad Carter

TBD Summer Tech Session – Chesapeake
Hosted by Linda & Jim Freeh

Sep. 1 Wednesday - Club Meeting – Virginia Beach
Hosted by Anita Edwards-Struewing & Ron
Struewing

Sep.24-26 Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA,
www.PeachtreeMG.com

Sep. 26 Sunday - Tentative Date for TMGC Drive-out to the
Barksdale Theater – Hanover, VA. 2PM perform
ance of *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming*
Early departure from Tidewater area.

Oct. 5 Tuesday - Club Meeting – Yorktown
Hosted by Becky & Chuck Hassler

TBD Fall Tech Session – Chesapeake
Hosted by Susan & Terry Bond

Nov. 3 Wednesday – Club Meeting – Newport News
Hosted by Mitzi & Steve LaPaugh

TBD Holiday Party – Norfolk
Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach



JANUARY MINUTES

Michele Peters

We began our first TMGC meeting of the New Year at Eastside Pizza in Portsmouth at 7:49 PM, after most of us had filled our bellies with delectable pasta forms. Our Prez wanted to make a grand entrance and arrived late, but we won't hold that against him...this time!

New Members and guests: None

Vice-President: Our VP Russ Ripp (who we have to thank for suggesting Eastside Pizza) was too busy chewing to talk.

Treasurer: Jim advised us that we are still well in the black.

Activities: Tad gave us his usual expansive report, which may be found in the "Activities" section.

Clubs: Mike and Jennifer were unable to attend the meeting, so no report.

History: Susan assured us that yes, we still have history. The 2009 album is in progress.

Membership: Bill reported that we have 110 paid members (and a couple of hold-outs!).

Newsletter: Ron was busy elsewhere, but had asked Anita to remind everyone about the deadlines and the requests for articles.

Technical: Mark was absent, so we had no report.

Old Biz: No report

New Biz: No report

Marque Time: Susan got her engine back from Tidewater Machine - yeah! Terry mentioned that he and Sue won't be in town this year for the Hickory Flea Market, so Jim Villers and Stephen Daniels will host.

If you are interested, the Knudson Churchill Scholarship Trust will raffle off a 1949 MGTC for \$100/ticket. Contact the Trust at 55928 Hixson Pike, Suite A -207, Hixson, TN 37343. It is a 501 (c) tax-exempt foundation.

Raffle: No Becky - no raffle.

We adjourned at 8:05PM, after a total of 16 minutes, the shortest meeting in my records! Enuf said!

Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

Memberships: As of 10 January 2010, the membership count stands at 110 paid members. Since the November report, dues from one delinquent member were received, and in December one new member joined .

Our new member is:

Walter Putland
Virginia Beach, VA
1970 MG Midget

At the January meeting, Denise Haag told me that Walter's wife, Renee, actually sent in the membership as a surprise Christmas present. I guess I blew the surprise when I made my "Welcome-to-the-Club" call to Walter. He did share during the conversation that he needed new tires before he could put the car on the road. I understand from Denise that he was surprised with 4 new tires from Santa. Guess he was a good boy all year.

Welcome to the club! We hope to see you at many future meetings and events.

Dues: All dues have been turned over to Jim Villers for deposit.

TMGC 2010 Annual Directory: Jim Villers has mailed the remainder of the Annual Directories to the club members who did not receive one at the November meeting. There are no more Directories available for distribution.

Safety Fast,



Officers and Committees

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| President | Bill Olcheski | 467-4046 |
| Vice President | Russ Ripp | 393-9908 |
| Secretary | Michele Peters | 482-1012 |
| Treasurer | Jim Villers | 481-6398 |
| Editors | Ron Struewing | 479-0084 |
| | Anita Edwards-Struewing | 479-0084 |
| Membership | Bill Yoshida | 554-0402 |
| Activities | Donald Ladd | 721-2934 |
| Historian | Susan Bond | 482-5222 |
| Technical | Mark Childers | 432-9155 |
| Regalia | Becky Hassler | 874-1477 |
| Clubs | Mike Ash | 495-0307 |
| Webmaster | Mike Haag | mikehmg@cox.net |

Note From The Editors

by Ron Struewing

For those of you who looked at the list above and thought there is a misprint, there is not. My wife and club member, Anita, is now the new coeditor.

After eight years of service to our club as coeditor, Peggy Craig is stepping down. As time passed by, Peggy decided she needed to start shedding some of her many responsibilities to this and other organizations and pass on the opportunities to others. Peggy, has done a wonderful job and we all thank her for her contributions to our club and newsletter and wish her well. We hope that we continue to see you and your husband, George, at our monthly meetings and other events.

Since Anita's main task at work is editing, she will be a natural at this position. Anita, we thank you for stepping forward to fill this gap and welcome you to our editing staff. We know you will continue to help keep *The Dipstick* the great publication it is.

As always, we continue to need volunteers to write articles and take photographs at events for publishing in our newsletter. Please send all articles and other written input to both Anita, TheACE2tor@cox.net, and me, rstruewing@cox.net, and send photographs to me and our Historian, Susan Bond, sue007@infionline.net. Susan will also ensure they get to our Webmaster, Mike Haag, for posting on our page.

As always, please send text in MS Word or Rich Text format and photographs separately whenever possible to aid us in editing.



Activities

by Tad Carter

Good news! We've got a full slate of meetings and Tech Sessions for 2010. Thanks to each of you who have opened your homes to the Club for these events.

As we plan for our first Tech Session (April – TBD – hosted by Frank & Debbie Linse), we've settled on a date with the people at Moss Motors for taking a tour of their facility in Petersburg. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 13th. Moss is located about 75 minutes out of Suffolk by way of Route 460. The tour will include the warehouse and distribution facilities, as well as the upholstery shop, and will last 60-90 minutes.

Following our visit to Moss, we will head a few miles up the road to Brickhouse Run in Petersburg.

This British pub was a big hit on the 2008 Wine Tour. Our return route will bring us down Route 5 into Williamsburg, where we will disperse to our respective homes. We'll plan an early departure out of Suffolk for a mid-morning tour, and a noon lunch. Look for an ETA in Williamsburg of about 3:30PM.

I'm waiting to hear about our options for buying product during the Moss visit. Since this is not a normal business day in the warehouse, we may have to pre-order for pick-up. I'll let you know in the registration e-mail, which you should see in early February.

We're also in the early stages of planning an Eastern Shore Treasure Hunt for some time in the summer. Thanks to Richard Leal and Mike Ash for offering to organize this event.

Request for assistance: Richard has asked for a couple of volunteers to help set up the Treasure Hunt. Please let me know if you have a little time to offer, or contact Richard directly at 757-331-4620.

Other events on the horizon include a Bastille Day Ice Cream Run (French Vanilla, perhaps?), and a September drive to Hanover, VA for another performance at the Barksdale Theater.

Thanks to all for your incredible generosity toward CHKD with your gifts for the children and the proceeds from the Silent Auction. We raised over \$750 in cash and gift certificates, and filled two cars with presents from the Wish List. I know the hospital is grateful for your support, and I know Vince's memory will be honored through these gifts.

I look forward to seeing you in Williamsburg!



On a Sad Note....

RONALD B. EATON

February 5, 1940-December 30, 2009

by Mike and Jennifer Ash

Since 1977, Ron was a very active member of our Club, even after he left the Tidewater area. He was President of the Club from November 1978 to mid-1979, when he retired from the U.S. Navy to take a job in D.C. Ron had a TC when he joined the Club, then had MGAs and TDs. He was a T-Register member, became very active in NAMGAR, and was working on restoring one of the Sebring MGAs at the time of his very sudden death. Ron was a



heck-of-a nice guy, and great fun – a barrel of laughs. Some newer members may have read some of the old Dipsticks we have on CD and may have read about our out-of-town “Accountants,” Giffin, Eaton & West – or GEW. They were the ones who, when they read the Treasurer’s Report and saw we had \$20 or \$30 bucks in the kitty, called or wrote in to say “party-time” – well that was Ron!

On his “watch” in January 1979, Ron steered the Club toward becoming an all-MG club – not solely a T-Club, as it was in the beginning – something that caused us to thrive and grow to our present strength. Ron leaves a devoted and devastated wife, Rosemary, and two sons, Jimmy and Mike, to whom he passed on his love of MGs. Mike, in turn, is fostering that interest in his own three sons. The MG world has lost a great friend.

We have just heard that the MGTABC site has posted the sad news that John Twist’s wife, Caroline, passed away on January 13th.



GASOLINE AND THE PROBLEMS WITH OLD AGE!

by Geoff Wheatley

A few years ago I recall all the fuss that surrounded fact that non-leaded gasoline was going to ruin the engine of your beautiful classic car. I had friends and colleagues who stayed up half the night worrying about the future of their cars and buying just about every magazine on the market, to see what the experts were saying about the loss of lead in vehicle fuel. As we all know, very few engines ever got destroyed by the change in fuel production and various products suddenly appeared on the market that would replace the lost benefits of leaded fuel for those who needed a simple solution. I don't know if these products are still around but obviously, our cars are still being driven all over the country – so something must be right or those experts of doom and gloom were wrong!

Now we have another set of experts who are concerned about the use of Ethanol in modern fuel, with suggestions that this may well represent the same threat that unleaded fuel presented when it was first introduced. From all the data that I have read and there is plenty around, the worst thing about the Ethanol-blended fuel is that its life in the gas tank of a car is limited. After about three months in a non-vented tank

it may start to separate, this means that the ethanol separates from the gasoline. This may sound serious, but remember that the amount of ethanol in any gallon of gasoline is 10% or less, so the effect is not that dramatic. It is true that this separation can cause water to be attracted into the fuel tank by the process of separation, usually in a vented tank; how much is still open to debate and its effect is also unclear.

With pure Gasoline, i.e. fuel that has not been supported by ethanol, water can still develop in fuel tanks over any given period of time, as evidences by the rusty gas tanks that I have seen and replaced over the years. The answer to that problem is simple and not expensive. At last once a year, simply remove the drain plug of your gas tank and drain off whatever is inside, but make sure that the tank is down to its last cup full of fuel before you do this.

When I know that one or more of my cars will be under a dust sheet for a few weeks I invest in a bottle of fuel stabilizer; this increases the life span of the fuel. I have recently read that ethanol may damage aluminum; however, I have yet to see any report that states this is correct. At worst it may cause some effect if more than 25 % is used. Since no fuel that I have ever seen or purchased has more than 10%, there seems to be no truth in this suggestion. There is one thing that I have learned over the many years over which I have been involved with beautiful old cars, use the very best fuel you can buy. The additional octane will make sure the engine is running at its full capacity. Another tip that I have found useful is to find a location to fit an extra fuel filter in the feed line, if possible. Even with a modern filter, some unpleasant stuff can get through and clog the carburetors - usually when you are on the road and it's raining.

In addition to my cars, I also have a boat. A few years ago, the boating publications were full of news of the threat to marine engines and fuel lines by the ethanol mixture. There may be some truth regarding rubber fuel connections, although I have never encountered such things. Just to be sure, I replaced all the rubber lines with strengthened plastic lines and, to date, have not encountered any fuel problems.

We survived the loss of leaded fuel and I am sure the same will apply to addition of ethanol. So don't start losing sleep over the fate of your baby, tucked away in the garage under a dust sheet; it will be ready for the open road whenever!



Happy Valentine's Day



Holiday Lights Drive Norfolk botanical Gardens

December 29, 2009

Photographs by Tad Carter and Susan Bond

Bob Stein, Kitty Ledsome



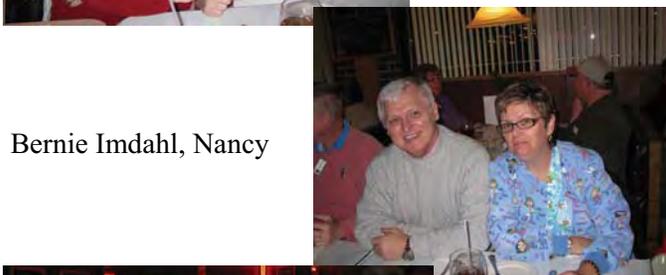
Andy, Josh & Eleanor Wallach



Barbara & Bob Ross



Becky & Chuck Hassler, Bernie Imdahl



Bernie Imdahl, Nancy



Blair, Katherine & Michele Peters



Casey & Kristi Puryear



Deb & Frank Linse



Diane & Evan Wallach,
Cynthia Faschini



Donald & Rose Ladd



Emily Ross,
Debbie Wicks



J.D., Colin, Lara
& Mitchell Hawthorne



Troy & Tad Carter

Ron Struewing &
Anita Edwards-
Struewing



Jim & Betty Villers



Kelsey & Craig Puryear



Leah Sheets, Josh
Robertson



Russ Ripp, Alison
Ashcroft



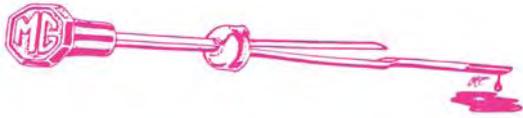
Taylor Sumner,
Terry Bond



Jack Sumner



The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing, Editor

5483 Doon St.

Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

FIRST CLASS

Affiliated with





7:30 - Kick Tyres
8:00 - Meeting



GROUND HOG DAY



Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 2

Craig & Joyce Cummings
4017 Driftwood Way
Williamsburg
757-254-8087

Driving Directions:
I-64 to Exit 242-A, onto Route 199
After 5 lights, go about a mile and exit onto 321 West (Monticello Ave)
At 4th light turn right onto News Rd (at Burger King)
About 1-1/2 miles turn right onto Springhill
Right at stop sign sign onto Driftwood
3rd house on the left