

The Dipstick



“The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club”

www.mg.org

Volume XXXVII, Issue 10

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

October 2010

MARQUE TIME

Greetings MG enthusiasts. Thank you to Anita and Ron for hosting the September meeting. The attendees enjoyed a house full of friends and a table full of delicious treats. As the formal portion of the meeting ended, we were invited to enjoy a couple of short MG films on the Struewing home theater. I found the film about the hot-rod MG to be particularly inspiring.

As I was driving home on that beautiful night, my LBC seemed to be running real smoothly and maybe a little bit faster. Has anyone else noticed that a clean car feels more responsive? Ah, but I digress.

Conspicuously missing from the meeting was a familiar AH Bug-Eye Sprite. Yes, Robert has finally purchased an MG. Robert and his team of MG shoppers have brought a nice addition to the TMGC.

I am writing this on 9/11.

I don't think that any of us will forget where we were on that terrible day. This day especially is an opportunity to be thankful for the great country in which we live and to pay tribute to all of those affected by the unprovoked attack.

Fall is upon us and a great time for MGs. I hope that we can all make time to get out and enjoy.

Safety fast!!

Bill



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Oct. 1-3 British Car Festival, Waynesboro, VA
www.svbcc.net
- Oct. 5 **Tuesday - Club Meeting – Yorktown**
Hosted by Becky & Chuck Hassler
- Oct. 12 **Dipstick Inputs due.**
- Oct. 16 **80th Anniversary Celebration of the original MG Car Club Local event to be announced**
- TBD **Fall Tech Session – (Volunteer needed)**
- Nov. 3 **Wednesday – Club Meeting – Newport News**
Hosted by Mitzi & Steve LaPaugh
Chili Cook-off
- Nov. 6-7 Concours d'Elegance, Hilton Head Island, SC
www.hhiconcours.com
- Nov. 26 Black Friday Drive – Eastern Shore
8th Annual Open Studio and Winery Tour
- Dec. 10 **Friday- Holiday Party – Norfolk - 6:30 to whenever. Hosted by Cynthia Faschini & Andy Wallach. More information to follow.**
- Dec. 21 Holiday Lights Drive – Norfolk
Botanical Gardens
Dinner at Franco's in Norfolk at 6:00
Depart for Holiday Lights at 7:30
Tickets will be available in advance

Upcoming Activities (continued)

Shopping Center

Virginia Beach
6:30 – Dinner
8:00 - Meeting

Feb. 1 Tuesday – TMGC Meeting – 7:30 –
9:30 Location - TBD

February Snowball Run – TBD



SEPTEMBER MINUTES

by Michele Peters

El Presidente began our September meeting at 8:08 PM with a large crowd and lots of MGs at Anita and Ron Struewing's home in Virginia Beach. Anita, like Carmen T, always puts on a spectacular culinary feast for the eyes and the stomach. However, tonight she just about outdid her own self. I didn't count the different finger foods and desserts, but they were laid out across two tables and you can bet that big crowd put a dent in the delectables on those tables. I got to talking with a couple of people before I got to the food, and wouldn't you know but those dishes had just about been picked clean! Like I said last month, we certainly have a big group of eaters in this club...or should I say a group of big eaters? Any way you say it, we thoroughly enjoyed it, so thanks again Anita - you are wonderful! (Oh yeah, and if Ron helped out any with the food, good on you too, old buddy).

New Members and Guests: It was just us members tonight. There were a lot of us, but nonetheless, it was COZY!

Vice-President: Russ had 0 to say. Hmmm, I am beginning to wonder about our El Vice-Presidente... has he has slimmed down so much that he no longer has the strength to speak? Soon, he may not even have the strength to handle that Harley. Yeah, yeah, I don't need to hear the remarks about how that might be a good thing for your secretary (on either the slimming down point or the inability to speak point!).

Treasurer: Jim and Betty graced us with their presence - and I mean that! It was great to see them...they have been gallivanting about the country so much lately. And talk about ability to handle the finances...wow, Jim! I don't think we have had quite this

much money in the coffers for quite some time. Of course, not having to pay for much printing and posting of *The Dipstick* has helped our treasury substantially! We now have a balance of over \$4K.

Activities: Please see Tad's Activities section for a complete run-down. And Tad, you are doing such a fabulous job as our Activities Director. I want to take this opportunity to really thank you, on behalf of the entire membership, for all the time and energy that you put into your position with us. It really pays off...FOR US! Thanks a zillion, Tad! And by the way, Tad tells us that members of our club have driven 1,573 miles in our LBCs, including 64 families and 313 people this year. Now THAT is what I call an ACTIVE membership! Answer to the trivia question that no one knew existed: Sherman Edwards.

Membership: Bill noted that we have 108 paid memberships with the promise of renewal by an additional 7 members, for a "hopefully total" of 115 (and 173 MGs!). He left a draft directory out for people to review for errors, but I think some of us never got to see it. In fact, its whereabouts were hotly contested at one point in the evening. Well, if there are errors in my entry, don't blame me Bill, 'cuz I never got to lay eyes on that draft! Oh, and by the way, remember - it's never my fault! Bill says he hopes the 2011 TMGC directories will be available for distribution during the October meeting.

Newsletter: Ron and Anita continue to ask for writers for our events and for Dipstick submissions to them no later than the 12th of every month (and he means it! If he doesn't have it by the 12th, it ain't goin' in). Ron is particularly looking for technical articles and links for a Link of The Month.. Thanks to all who are writing and submitting photographs for the newsletter. You are doing a great job. Keep them coming.

Clubs: Mike and Jennifer were happily present and they will be writing for some upcoming events after they get back from their trip to England in Oct, having recovered from their trip to the eastern Canadian provinces in July. Seriously, can I be your porter or something? You guys and Mike and Denise...wow!

History: Susan had two albums with her and they were delightful!

Technical: Mark did not show up. Now I am a bit concerned that he may have been stunned and shamed by the blessing out that he got from me in the last Dipstick. Well, sorry, Mark, but you know the score...your secretary is nothing if not unforgiving! Just kidding - we actually really missed you, so we expect to see you

in October (and how could you miss Becky's pies, anyway?)

Old Business: There was apparently no old business at all.

New Business: And apparently no new business, either.

Marque Time: Deb Linse took a moment to express her thanks to all who sent condolences to her and her family at the passing of her mom a few weeks ago. There are many of us who really do know how difficult that passage is Deb, so please know that your mom, you and Frank, and all of your family, are in all of our hearts and in our prayers.

Anita E-S. is still looking to sell her dad's 1975 MGB; Mike Lally's '78 MGB is also for sale; and Sports & Exotic Cars magazine did a 6-page exposé on Wildflower! Whew - I didn't know people in this club had exposés done on either themselves or their cars...check it out! Bugeye

Robert Perrone got an incredible deal on a 1967 MGB recently. He also owns a 1961 Sprite (I guess this means he has an LBC "collection" now). Our Ex-Presidente was interested in the B originally, but decided against it, so Robert bought the car. Bernie gave him a brand new top; the dashboard on the B had recently been refurbished by Bernie and Frank; and Bernie and Frank will be helping him work on the car even more very soon. Now that's luck for you. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have the resources to take advantage of great opportunities when they present themselves.

Raffle and Regalia: Becky was back and we did have a raffle. But I need to clear up one thing: Stephen Daniels was supposed to run the raffle for Becky last month, but unfortunately wound up in the hospital instead. He is fine now, but when you see him next, wish him well. He went through quite a lot and we are more than happy to have him back with us, smiling and making cracks about everything (well, OK, just about me) again.

Mark wound up with the hat/cap (or whatever you wish to refer to it as), Andy got a CD, Bob got the Disney CD (Disney...really, Bob?), Nancy picked up the Enjoying MG magazine for Bernie, Renee chose the license-plate holder and someone else got the Dipstick CD (I tell you folks time and time again, you must make sure your secretary has access to what's happening at the meeting for me to report accurately, no matter which room the action happens to happen in...or

something like that!...on the other hand, having access to what's going on has actually never insured accurate reporting - but you know how often that I remind you that you get what you pay for...just love me for who I am!)

We quickly adjourned at 8:40 and pushed and shoved and elbowed first-in-line Nancy out of the way to the feasting tables (well, I guess I am using a little literary license here...people didn't really push, shove, or elbow; they just kind of nudged). And always remember, gentle readers, that if you have any issues with these Minutes...just ignore them, since complaining will do you absolutely no good, and may, in fact, do you a little harm since you will then be in my scope, and I wield great influence in these here parts (well, OK, it's just the Dipstick, but nevertheless...) And of course you know what you can TRY to do if any of this displeases you!



Membership and New Members

Bill Yoshida

Memberships: As of 9 September 2010, 109 paid memberships have been received for 2011. There were 2 new members that joined since the August meeting. An additional 6 members have indicated their intent to renew. This will bring the number to a total of 115 memberships for the 2011 year.

New Memberships: One of the two new memberships mentioned above is a member returning to the club after a few years absence.

Denning, Mike
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
1971 MGB

The new member in the club is:
Speer, Carmella
South Mills, NC 27976
1977 Midget

Memberships Renewal: All delinquent members were contacted a number of times to ensure each of last year's paid members had a chance to renew for 2011. 5 of the 116 members from 2010 have responded that do not intent to renew for 2011.

Dues: All checks and cash received during or prior to the 1 September meeting have been turned over to Jim Villers for deposit. I have one check that I received in the mail after the September meeting that will be turned

over to Jim.

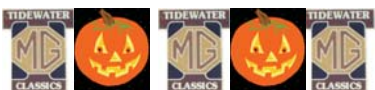
TMGC 2011 Directory: The initial draft of the 2011 TMGC Annual Directory was presented at the September meeting for review. Corrections and additions have been made to the document and it has been returned to the printer to produce a final draft before printing. Distribution of the 2011 Annual Directory is anticipated for early October.

Safety Fast,



Officers and Committees

President	Bill Olcheski	467-4046
Vice President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Secretary	Michele Peters	439-8050
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Ron Struewing	479-0084
	Anita Edwards-Struewing	479-0084
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
Activities	Tad Carter	496-9847
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



Activities

First Order of Business –

We are looking for a site for the Fall Tech Session. For those who have enjoyed these events in the past, you know that many projects just require space, extra hands, and technical know-how. Special tools aren't always necessary. If any of you has space to spare, I know the technical expertise will show up. The date can be of your choosing. Thanks!

Our Tuesday, October 5th meeting will be at the Yorktown home of Becky and Chuck Hassler. I am saving my pennies for raffle tickets, in hopes of scoring another great apple pie. If you are making a really long weekend out of the Waynesboro show, plan on stopping in Yorktown on the 5th as you return to Tidewater.

Saturday, October 16th marks the worldwide celebration of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the original MG Car Club. The plan is for car clubs around the world to upload live video, text, tweets, etc., and build a geographical and a chronological timeline showing all of the various activities as they happen. At this writing, our local plan is still in the works. Please stay tuned for an update via e-mail and the club website as soon as we get a final plan in place.

Our November meeting (Wednesday, 11/3) will feature a Chili Cook-off – perfect for the upcoming cool-weather season. Steve & Mitzi will supply all the fixin's, along with assorted beverages. We invite anyone wishing to participate to bring a batch of your favorite chili to the meeting. Awards will be given for the favorite dish and for other categories. Power will be available for crock-pots, but cooking should be done in advance. More details will be in the November Dipstick.

Later in November – Friday the 26th to be exact – we will have the second running of the Black Friday Drive. This is a great escape from the shopping crowds that will clog much of Hampton Roads. This year we will head over to the Eastern Shore for the Open Studio and Winery Tour. We'll hit a couple of studios early in the day, have lunch at a local restaurant, catch more studios and some wineries in the afternoon, and then head back to Tidewater late in afternoon. The exact route will be determined as the list of participating studios is finalized.

Please mark your calendar for two December traditions. On Friday the 10th, we are invited to Cynthia and Andy's home in Norfolk for our annual holiday party. They have some great things planned, so please take a look at details elsewhere in this edition of *The Dipstick*.

Then on Tuesday the 21st, we will once again venture out to the Holiday Lights at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. Dinner will be available beforehand at Franco's Restaurant. We'll get a 6:00 dinner reservation, allowing plenty of time for the 7:30 drive through the lights. It will be a great help in planning with Franco's if you let me know in advance how many will be joining us for the dinner. A sign-up e-mail will be sent in November. Tickets for the Lights will also be available in advance to help expedite our entry into the Gardens. I hope you will join us for these events!

That about wraps up the 2010 schedule. Time to start recruiting meeting hosts for 2011. Preferred meeting dates are still available!



Two State Tour

As dictated by Wildflower (TC5308) to her human
Bob Stein
photographs by Susan Bond
August 7, 2010

Gracious! Has it already been a year since the last big family outing? After the wonderful time I had participating in last year's 'Two-Light' tour, I was most enthusiastic about August 7th's 'Two State' tour presented once again by the TD's humans Richard and Sandy Hall and the human of one of the MGBs, Tad Carter. My human, Bob, started off early to pick up his navigator Tyler, the same young man from last year, and we rolled briskly for the 11 am start at the human fuel warehouse (I believe they call it a Harris-Teeter) in Virginia Beach.



Wildflower with her Human and his Navigator

About halfway there, I began feeling a trifle off and ended up quite winded as we attempted to go over a bridge. My human found a safe spot to investigate, and after replacing my distributor base plate, I was back in fine fettle.

It was wonderful to see such a fine turnout for the family gathering. This year there were representa-



tives from every generation – TC, TD, TF, A, MGB, MGB-GT, and even a pair of Midgets. I rather shamefully noted that the sickly Triumph did not attend this year, an unkind thought that would come back to haunt



me later in the morning. There was also a Mercedes tagging along at the rear, though we did not get a chance to become acquainted.



The humans gathered for a driver's meeting, where Tad distributed a lovely color folder with pictures and information concerning places we would be going on the tour. I have to admit I was relieved – great-great grandson Rodney's bragging about the similar folder he got on the recent tour to Eastern Shore has become a trifle tiresome. There were also some detailed directions passed out, but alas, my human failed once again to obtain a copy.



We made quite an impressive procession as the family rolled out of the parking lot. The TD led the way, with the TF, myself, and the A close behind. The MGBs and Midgets followed in a parade that had other humans all waving and smiling in admiration as we passed by. For the next 45 minutes, we rolled through some lovely country roads, some familiar and others new to me. The weather was most cooperative, sunny and not too warm for our humans. We passed by a military aircraft installation called Fentress. (I know that



the younger girls are impressed with the bluster of modern jets, but it takes a radial engine to put a flutter in my fuel pump.)

Unfortunately, about 20 miles into our journey, I began to lose power again. This was annoying at first, then most embarrassing as my infirmity became more obvious to the youngsters. While I cannot deny being the most senior member of the family, this was the first time I have struggled to keep up. Remembering the Triumph from last year, I vowed to maintain the 'stiff upper lip' that carried the Empire to victory for centuries, and soldiered on.

As we were not able to keep up with the leaders and had no instructions, my human almost lost the Tour group again when they turned off on a side road. We caught site of them just as we passed the turn, and

managed to rejoin the family by detouring through a human educational facility's parking lot. After waiting for the family to regroup, the TD took off again. My infirmity continued to worsen, but thanks to a relaxed pace, I was able to hold position until we had almost reached our first stop –the Dismal Swamp Visitor's Center in North Carolina.

Traveling on a major highway proved to be more than I could manage, and my human pulled off the road to investigate. Several of the youngsters' humans offered to help, but he salvaged my dignity by assuring them I would make it. This time, he discovered that a brand new spark plug cable end had come apart due to faulty manufacture. While rigging that back together did not cure my infirmity, it did improve things to the point we were able to catch up with the Tour before they reached the Visitor's Center.



The family garnered great admiration and much attention as we passed through a human Rest Area and gathered in the Visitor's Center's parking lot. Rather considerably, the three of us "Ts" were allowed to socialize apart from the youngsters in a quiet, shaded circle. The MGA stayed with the youngsters – more in common with them, I suppose. Rodney was bothered by its MGB engine, but as you mature you understand that such things are often necessary. I haven't had the



heart to let the boy know his great-great grandmum had her own motor replaced decades ago.



Our humans spent the next hour or so at the Dismal Swamp Visitor's Center. I gathered that they had a most excellent Park Ranger who answered questions and provided background on the center, the swamp, and even provided a detailed explanation of his



personal accessories. The area was quite scenic, with a tree-lined canal for nautical traffic and many footpaths for unescorted humans. Although we could not see it from the parking lot, most of our humans also explored a raised walkway that went out into the Dismal Swamp itself. And when the time came to depart for the human fueling station that was our final destination of the tour,



we were all treated to a demonstration of the canal bridge as it opened to allow passage of a smart-looking sailing yacht.



30th Anniversary Celebration of the original MG Car Club October 16th, 2010

<http://www.mgcc.co.uk/mg80.html>



Fort Story Octagon Lighthouse

All participants need to provide the following:

Proof of valid drivers license

Car Insurance

Make/Model of Car to be driven on Base.



The second stage of the Tour was as pleasant as the first, though I was still unable to enjoy it fully. While I do love my human, I sometimes find myself envying family members who have more accomplished mechanics. Despite increasing difficulties, I made it to the Southland Restaurant just behind the rest of the family. Our humans' reputations must have preceded them, for they were put in a room separate from the other humans.



Always one to find the silver lining in any cloud, my infirmity had resulted in my being parked by a window where I could see the group inside. After refueling themselves, the humans celebrated the anniversary



Wildflower parked by the window

of one of the MGB-GT's human couples, Terry and Sue Bond. The two humans have had the same owners since 1970! Few of us in the parking lot could make the same claim.





From Southland, Tour participants made their own way home. The TD's human Richard extended an invitation to his much closer home, and after I began to suffer from some more serious infirmity my human decided to take him up on it. We made it to within a few miles before I found myself barely able to move under my own power. My owner decided to put my original distributor plate back in and clean my spark plugs – at which time two more spark plugs cable ends came apart. Luckily, the TD's human had some quality British-made Champion spark plug ends with him as spares.

With the distributor plate replaced, I felt wonderful again - for about a mile. Then I shut down completely. My human fussed with me a bit and then I fired up and was fine for another 100 yards before I shut down again. The cause should have been rather obvious, but the poor fellow is not the brightest bulb in the box. I had to finally signal him with a rapid staccato from my fuel pump before he realized he had run me out of petrol. The wait for fuel gave him time to think, and he finally came up with the answer to my earlier infirmity. One of my two distributor plate retainer screws had stripped, and the other would gradually loosen from vibration. This caused an increasingly poor ground connection for the points and limited my power. Each time he replaced my distributor plate, the screw would be retightened and I would be fine again.

I ended up spending the night sharing the TD's garage, which was quite pleasant as I was able to visit with TC5908. My owner returned the next morning with new distributor screws and my own Champion spark plug ends. We motored home uneventfully to close out a most eventful Two State, and as it turned out, Two Day tour. I can hardly wait until next year to see what adventures lay in store!



Replacing the Wiper/ Washer switch in a Rubber Bumper

by Steve LaPaugh

A common electrical problem with MGBs is the wiper/washer switch. In my case, the switch was hanging by a thread from the steering column. I recently picked up a used steering column for the good switches, as a new one runs \$100. Replacing the switch isn't hard; however, getting to it can be a pain. First you need to separate the plastic housing around the steering column by removing the two 10-32 machine screws from the passenger's side of the column. The screw nearest the dash is directly in line with the dashboard, making access tricky. However, if you tilt the column down you will have enough room to maneuver a screwdriver and remove the screw.

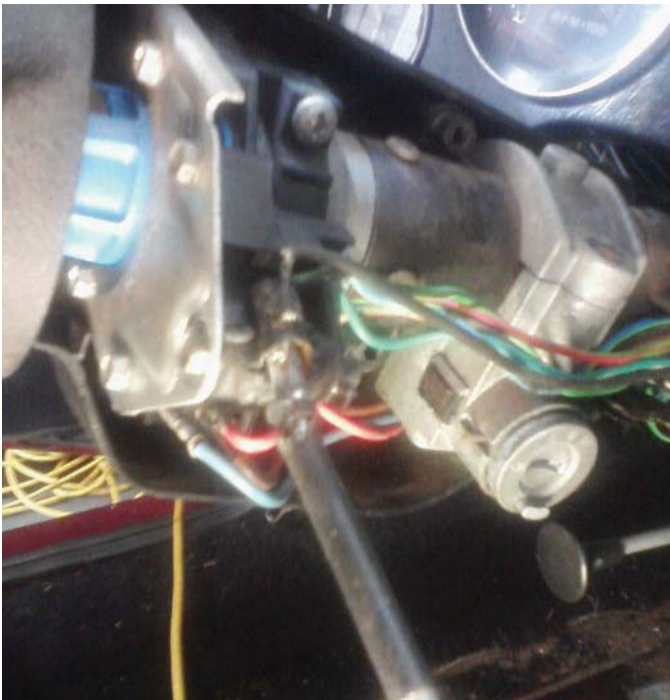
Once the housing is separated, carefully remove it by manipulating the rear of the housing and the switch so that you can slide the housing over and off the end of the wiper stalk. If your switch is as bad as



Housing removed

mine was, this is an easy task. Remember you won't need the stalk again so some creative destruction may be necessary. In your attempt to remove the switch remember not to destroy the column housing as it is not currently available through the aftermarket (at least they're not in the current Moss catalog). There is an angle bracket that the problem screw threads into, the screw nearest the dash. It is a good idea to check the threads on both screw and bracket to insure easy assembly later. Also check that the angle bracket is 90°. These Philips heads are often bugged up due to an overzealous or impatient previous owner. If your screw is butchered, replace it. I ran a 10-32 tap through the

angle bracket just to insure smooth assembly.



With the cowling removed, you have good access to the switch. Follow the wire loom as it snakes through the column. It should end with a six-wire connector under the left side of the column. Be careful when separating the connector as the plastic has no doubt aged and is brittle. Although if it breaks, you should still be able to connect the two halves you just won't be able to snap it together. Check for tie wraps securing the wire loom to the steering column and cut them prior to removing the wires. Next, unbolt the three 1/4" machine bolts that hold the plastic switch



Switch assembly removed

body to the metal plate. The center bolt should have a washer behind it, which fits in a recess. With the column now apart, it is almost impossible to get enough clearance for a 1/4 x 1/4 drive socket. I ended up using a mini 1/4 combination wrench which was fine as the threads are fairly short. Be careful not to lose the bolts. You can stick a small magnet to the metal plate in hopes that if the screw falls out it will stick to the magnet. Once all the bolts are out, the switch and wire loom can be removed.



Switch Assembly

Installation, as they say, is the reverse of removal. If installing a used switch, now is a good time to clean the contacts and apply die-electric grease to both connectors at the six-wire connection and switch directly. My switch was used, so I filed off the corrosion with a small jewelers file and blew out the gradoo with compressed air. I then reinstalled the attaching bolts and the wiring that led under the dash and snugged it up with a tie wrap. Now is a good time to check operation of the switch before you button it up. This should complete the installation of the switch and give another six months or 5000 miles of reliable service whichever comes first. Remember, the frequency of replacement is directly proportional to the difficulty of the task.

*Happy
Halloween*



Tidewater MG Classics

International Holiday Celebration

Friday, December 10, 2010

Time: 6:30

Hosted by Cynthia Faschini and Andy Wallach

Appetizers/Greetings ≈ 6:30-7:30

Dinner ≈ 7:45 – 9:00

Desert/Coffee, etc. ≈ 9:30

Theme: The Seven Continents

Traditionally we have had a little over 90 members in attendance. Andy and I are delighted to provide the main dishes and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, along with the plates, silver and paper products.

The Story

In an effort to make our Holiday Party an international event this year we will celebrate with appetizers, main dishes, and side dishes from all over the world. One of the great aspects of this club is that there are many people who have traveled widely, many with ancestral lineage to one or more of the seven continents. In addition, as a driving club, there is a general interest in travel and adventure. It would be wonderful to have dishes from all seven continents - Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica, Europe, South America and North America – as part of our holiday celebration.

The Plan

Each dish that is prepared should feed at least 10-15 people (exception being Andy and myself). Therefore, we will need 15 appetizers, 15 side dishes and 12 deserts.

It would be great for each dish to be labeled with the country, continent and your name should members want the recipe to share.

The Details

If you are interested in bringing a dish, please let me (Cynthia) know what you plan to bring so I can coordinate all of the efforts involved with this celebration. Please be flexible, should I need to ask you to change a continent or the type of food to be shared.

As always, these Holiday Celebrations are a highlight and one of the reasons why our club is so successful. We have individuals who are caring, sharing and most of all, willing to celebrate the diversity in all of us.

Happy Holidays to all!

The Dipstick




The Tidewater MG Classics

Ronald Struewing, Editor
 5483 Doon St.
 Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7732

FIRST CLASS


Affiliated with





Monthly Meeting
 Tuesday, Oct 5th
 Cuck & Becky Hassler
 125 Aberfeldy Way
 Yorktown, VA
 (757) 874-1477

7:30 - 8:00 pm - Kick Tyres
 8:00 Meeting



Driving Directions
 I-64 W to Victory Blvd
 Left on Kiln Creek Pkwy
 (2nd Kiln Creek left)
 Right on Aberfeldy Way

9-1
 To Hampton Roads
 Bridge-Tunnel
 Norfolk & Va Beach