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www.mg.org



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May 2012

FROM THE PREZ

Marque Time

Well it's almost May, and that means it's almost time for the annual Wine Tour, I'm sure it is going to be great as always, So thanks to Alan and Beckey for organizing it once again, I'm sure you know how much we all appreciate your hard work, visiting wineries and mapping out the local (non gravel) roads, but just in case you don't know I'm going to say it here in print. Thanks for all your hard work we greatly appreciate it. I realize I am speaking for all attendees but I don't think they'll mind, because I'm sure they all agree. While I'm on the subject of for stepping up and relieving Mitzi as editor and chief of the Dipstick. Mitzi's reign was brief but she effort that she wanted to keep the stepped up without hesitation when



Illustrious Leader Russ Ripp

thanks, a big thank you to Bob Stein the request was made, alas she realized with all her other responsibilities she couldn't devote the time and

Continued on page 2



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info! (TMGC Activities are in **bold**)

May

- Wednesday Club Meeting -Seaford, VA. Hosted by Jayne & **Bruce Easley**
- Drive Your MGA Day www.namgar.com
- 26 June 3 British Car Week See inside for Details
- 26 Art and Music! On the Farm -Machipongo. 9:30AM Departure from Gas Station -Shore Drive @ Northampton
- 30 Ice Cream Drive Yorktown to Williamsburg – 6:30PM **Departure from Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center**
- 31 Ice Cream Drive Virginia Beach -6:30PM Departure from Harris Teeter – Nimmo Parkway

June

- Ascension Festival Cruz-In 1:00-4:00PM. 4853 Princess Anne Rd, VBwww.AscensionVB.org
- Tuesday Club Meeting Virginia Beach. Hosted by Issie & Bill Yoshida
- 6-12 NAMGBR 2012, Dillard, GA Hosted by Peachtree MG Registry www.MG2012.com
- **OpSail 2012 Parade of Tall Ships**
- **Tall Ships at Cape Charles** http://TallShipsCapeCharles.com

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What do YOU want in the Dipstick?

Bob Stein—Editor

This issue of the Dipstick marks my debut as editor, and I want to know what YOU would like to see in our

newsletter. Features on members' cars? 'How to' articles? Crossword puzzles? Classified ads? Leads and acquisitions?

Whatever you want to see, you'll have a lot more success if you help PROVIDE stories and pictures, tech articles, or whatever. I can fill the pages of the Dipstick with images of Wildflower, Eleanor, and Rodney, but that might get boring after a while. (though Wildflower can't imagine anyone getting tired of looking at her).

In the meantime, this issue includes some new things to see how they are received. The 'My First MG' feature will provide a quick blurb and photo of someone's introduction to the marque. And with permission of NAMGC, we have Tech Tips from John Twist.

Please send your ideas, articles, photos, money, etc. to me at posti@aol.com. Thanks!

TMGC Officers

President	Russ Ripp	393-9908
Vice President	Steve LaPaugh	593-5927
Secretary	Michele Peters	482-1012
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Bob Stein	588-6200
Membership	Bill Yoshida	554-0402
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Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Mitzi LaPaugh	344-7887
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

MARQUE TIME—Continued from Page 1

high standards the Dipstick is accustomed to. So thanks to Bob for stepping in, I know he will do an excellent job. Well back to my preps, I mean last minute repairs for the wine tour.



Safety Fast

Russ Ripp President



Ask Eleanor

Have a technical problem with your MG? Looking for a parts source? Need help with your automotive love life? Write to Eleanor care of posti@aol.com.

Dear Eleanor – I am a handsome, sporty fellow forced to share my abode with a pair of eccentric old aunts. Despite my obviously superior athletic ability, my owner seems to prefer the spinsters. What can I do to educate him? Rodney in Norfolk.

Rodney – You are obviously a cheeky cad who does not appreciate the benefits of having experienced, and more to the point, civilized companions. Your owner appreciates refinement and style over coarse physical strength. Mind your manners lest you end up with a Ford V-6 under your bonnet and a gun rack mounted to your hatch! Eleanor.

Dear Eleanor – I need a new front tyre, but my owner cannot locate one through any local merchants. I am a TC wearing original size 19" wheels. Wildflower in Norfolk.

Dear Wildflower – You can find a selection of 4.50x19 tires at Coker Tires in Pennsylvania. The Excelsior is a low-cost knock-off of the Dunlops we came with, though I prefer the more aggressive Firestone. Have your owner visit their web site at: http://www.cokertire.com/. Eleanor

Dear Eleanor—My 1977 MGB continues to run after the ignition is turned off—sometimes quite a while. It is not ignition timing 'stumble' - the engine runs smoothly and then finally cuts off. Frustrated in Norfolk.

Dear Frustrated - This is a common issue with your siblings, and is usually caused by a bad diode in your alternator. Insert one of the black plug-in diodes found in late model wiring harnesses in the lead from the Alternator to the Amp light with the arrow towards the alternator. This will stop the backflow of power to your ignition system. Eleanor

MAY ACTIVITY REPORT

By Tad Carter

Welcome to May – the start of the driving season in some parts of the country. Man I love this job – wine, food and tasty ice cream, festivals and parades, baseball and theatre, winding roads and fun cars! Throw in a few friends and you can't beat it.

We start May with Drive Your MGA Day on the 5th. Even if you drive another part of the alphabet, show your "A" brothers and sisters some love and get out on the road. We finish off the month with the 16th annual British Car Week. Locally, we start with Saturday, May 26th and Arts and Music! On the Farm on the Eastern Shore.

We'll have a 9:30 departure from Virginia Beach from the gas station on Shore Drive at Northampton Blvd (just before the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel entrance) for a 73-minute, 41-mile drive (mostly back roads) up to Machipongo. After a day of music, food and festivities, we'll be back in the Beach by 5:00, or you can travel at your leisure. Join in on this celebration of the bounty of the Eastern Shore. There is no need for advance reservations, but if you let me know you are coming, I won't miss you at the starting line.

We'll also have two mid-week Ice Cream runs during British Car Week. The first will be on Wednesday evening, May 30th. We'll meet at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center for a 6:30 departure, and head up Colonial Parkway into Williamsburg. Once again, our destination will be Sno-to-Go, where we will indulge ourselves with assorted ice cream creations.

The following night, May 31st, we will cater to the Southside Sweet Tooth with a drive through southern Virginia Beach. We'll meet at Harris Teeter – Nimmo Parkway at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center for a 6:30 departure. I'll try to get us lost in the Green Zone before we end up at Handel's at Red Mill Commons.



Finally, on Saturday June 2nd, we have been invited back to the Ascension Festival Cruz-In at Ascension

Church in VB. A combination Car Show/Craft Show/Picnic, a number of us have enjoyed this event the last few years. There will be good food, music, games for the kids and a place in the shade for the rest of us. The show is open from 1:00 to 4:00. 4853 Princess Anne Rd, VB.

If you aren't headed to Dillard, GA for NAMGBR -2012, there are a couple of local events you may find interesting. On Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th, there is more fun on the Eastern Shore as part of OpSail -2012. For you early risers, the Parade of Ships is on Friday the 8th beginning at 7:00am. The Cape Charles folks have blocked out about 1000 seats at the 2nd Island viewing stands. NO CARS are allowed – all access will be by motorcoach – so you will need to be at the Eastern Shore Visitors' Center with your ticket by 5:30am to get a seat on the bus out to the viewing station. Best bet is tickets in advance!!!

And on Saturday the 9th, while downtown Norfolk will be a parking lot and a sea of people, Cape Charles will be a host port for at least 3 tall ships plus several Navy and Coast Guard vessels. There will be free tours of the ships, and tickets are currently available for 2-hour sailing excursions on the tall ships. This will be a small-town fair atmosphere with food booths, bands, period costumes and more. This goes on into the evening, so you can go for as little or as much as you like.

For details and tickets for the parade or the sailing excursion, check out TallShipsCapeCharles.com.

By now, you should have received an e-mail announcement of our evening at Harbor Park for Tides baseball. Monday, June 18th night with Turn-Back-The-Clock night and the Norfolk Tides will play the Buffalo Bison. This game features \$0.50 hot dogs, sodas and popcorn. As of the time of writing, 10 of our 30 seats are spoken for. If you are interested, please contact me right away so I can confirm our ticket count. Tickets should be about \$10.

Teasers

Late in May, another email announcement will be sent for our annual trek to the Barksdale Theatre in Hanover. Save the date - Sunday, August 12th. We will need to reserve tickets for the show, so an early RSVP will be requested. Tickets should be about \$35.

Last but not least – 50 years ago today (May 1), The Beatles performed at Star Club in Hamburg, West Germany. 186 days from today, we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Magical Mystery Tour album with a Scavenger Hunt "Drive and Dine" here in Hampton Roads. Be on the lookout for details in a future issue of The Dipstick!

By the time you read this, we will be 6 events and 10,000 miles into our local schedule. I hope to see many more of you as the season rolls on, and I'll see you on Wednesday the 2nd at the Easley's in Seaford.



TMGC APRIL MINUTES

Michele Peters Secretary

We began our April 2012 meeting at 8:10 pm at Pete Olson's home in Virginia Beach, so thanks, Pete, for your hospitality (and all that great

food and drink!). Since our Veep was absent, El Presidente did his impression of the Veep's report, which he is very familiar with: "Uh..." Thanks for that, Russ.

New Members and Guests: We had two guests: Eric Fee who owns a 1980 B and Bob Vann who wants one. Welcome, guys! If I spelled your names wrong....get used to it! That's just the way your Secretary rolls....

Treasurer: Jim Villers, our Treasurer extraordinaire, gave his monthly report which I cannot repeat here (I mean, I could, but I've been advised not to), except to say we have about half of what we had before the Holiday Party last December. You will just have to make the darn meetings to find out if we have any money in the coffer for parties and such now...although somehow, we always seem to have enough money for beer....

Activities: See Tad's article elsewhere in The Dipstick, and mark your calendar for our many social and driving events...next up which is our annual Wine Tour (the tenth), which 22 of us are about to participate in, along with 15 of our LBCs. My advice to any of you who might be driving near us the last weekend of April....get off the roads! Now! For your own safety!

The Tall Ships at Cape Charles will be in full regalia at the Parade of Sails to commemorate the War of 1812 on June 8-12. Come out and see the Appledore V, the Sultana, the Lynx, and many more as they sail into the Eastern Shore Harbor. See www.tallshipscapecharles.com for more info.

Clubs: Mike and Jennifer joined us (I got to sit right next to that cutie, Jennifer) but although I do remember them saying a few words, I didn't write it down, so just remember, dear readers, when you feel like you are about to get perturbed with your Secretary for taking such poor notes: Don't do it! You



know that I work hard at this thankless job, for little pay (uh, wait, for NO pay), and it hurts me to hear you lash out at me like that, making allegations of laziness and slacker-ness and air-headed-ess! Gosh, I'm trying to ENJOY the meeting, too, boo-hoo!!

History: Susan brought two albums to view, as she usually does. Okay, now THERE'S somebody you can count on...we can't ALL be 007s!



Newsletter: Bob Stein has graciously agreed to take over the editing of The Dipstick for Mitzi. He would like everyone to please send photos and a brief paragraph of your first MG (or your only, as in my case) and suggestions for new features for The Dipstick. The more people we have contributing to our club and our newsletter, the better our club will be for everyone, so pitch in, folks! Get involved beyond coming to the meetings and drinking a lot of beer...it's really fun and you could be immortalized by yours truly, if you're good! (I won't say what you have to be good at!)

Membership: Bill reported that we have a total of 121 paid memberships. We now have 179 cars in the club; 22 As; 81 Bs; 16 GTs; 4 Cs; 9 TCs; 24 TDs (can you believe that?!); 5 TFs and 12 Midgets. What a motley (but cool) group!

Technical: Mark was present..."Hi Mark!" and told the gathered something about having papers which help you to trouble-shoot engine troubles by using a vacuum gauge, or something like that. You know I always have trouble with this section....you've got the directory, call Mark if you want to know what he actually said.

Old Business: none New Business: none

Marque Time: Terry advised the group that Sandy Hall's beloved Mustang was totaled recently and that she was OK and recuperating at home from minor surgery required by the mishap. He is sending a get well card on behalf of our club. Get well, soon, Sandy. And speaking of getting well, I am happy to report that Donald's arm is feeling better...good enough to work on the MG, anyway (but I have a feeling he would have to be nearly dead to stop him from doing that...at least, that's what Rose says).

There is a 280VX (or something like that) transmission for sale in the latest "MG Experience" - I think you should ask Terry B. if you are interested. If it's not Terry, then maybe it

was John T. If not John, then maybe somebody else knows, cuz I can't help you...

JD is cleaning up and getting rid of things his wife thinks he no longer needs - whoops! did I say that?! - let's try this again. JD is cleaning up and getting rid of things he thinks he no longer needs for his MG. If you think you might need something that he might have, give him a call (is that confusing enough for you?) His wife will thank you.

Dave successfully removed the steering wheel of his 1980 B. Now, I'm certainly no expert, but how hard can removing a steering wheel, be, after all? Come on, Dave! (JK)

Andy has been pleading with us to find an MGB GT for his son and now HE wants one, too. Hey, Andy, have you checked that out with Cynthia lately?

Mike Ash has free window glass and frames for a 1974 1/2 B if anyone is interested.

Pete Olson has a band saw for sale (or had one at the time of the meeting anyway). but I'm not sure why THIS ad is even

in THIS newsletter ... (just because you're the host doesn't make you special, Petehowever, making that excellent chili does...so never mind).

Raffle and Regalia: We had stuff and raffled it off. We adjourned at 8:40 pm so we could all get to the tremendous amount of delicious food awaiting. Those who are going on the Wine Tour only have a couple more weeks to wait before indulging in MG-driving and wine-drinking bliss, and soon, thereafter, inebriant and intoxicant behavior.

I have one thing to say to my fellow Wine Tour participants: "If you find yourself alone, riding in green fields with the sun on your face, do not be troubled. You are not in Elysium and you are not already dead. You have probably just run off the road in your inebriated state. What we do in life DOES echo in eternity (since you may be paying for the repairs for eternity), so drive safely, my friends, and may the gods be with you!"

April Meeting at Pete Olson's

Photos by Susan Bond



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TMGC in Williamsburg! Photos by Donald Ladd and Susan Bond



Williamsburg British Car Show

by John Collins photographs by Susan & Terry Bond and Donald Ladd

Allen and I met at Hardee's on Prudent Drive at about 8:30. This was a beautiful morning for a great scenic drive. The weather was in the mid-sixties and improved throughout the day. Allen and I headed north on VA 10 and reached the James River ferry at 9:30 am. Once onboard the ferry, Allen and I met up with Susan & Terry Bond, Don & Rose Ladd. We all arrived at the Williamsburg British Car Club Show location at Chicahominy River Front Park.

TMGC was showing strong!! The following members were present: Donald and Rose Ladd, Terry & Susan Bond, Allen Hazlett, Bob Stein, John Collins, Steve and Mitzi LaPaugh, Doug and Eiko Wilson, Bob and Missy McKenna, Bob and Linda Pellerin, Craig and Joyce Cummings, Bob and Dana Reiss, and Roy Gavilan

All attending, my apologies to any who were missed. Many awards were given and even some from our members:

- Roy Gavilan (MGB chrome bumper)
- Doug & Eiko Wilson (MGB rubber bumper)
- Missy McKenna (Migett/Sprite)
- Craig Cummings (MGC)
- Bob Stein (T series)
- Bob & Linda (small British sedan)

All cars were amazing, and winners were selected by participants in show.

As Far as I know, everyone made it there and back without any incidents...(I hope). My Starter was acting up on the ferry, but held in there till I was able to get home. Was a beautiful day, mid 80's and all sunshine. By 3:00 I was looking for some shade, my farmer tan is complete early in the season!

The ride home was equally as amazing as the ride up in the am. Once again, we (Allen, John Collins, Susan & Terry Bond, Bob Stein, Don & Rose Ladd crossed the James River Ferry. We enjoyed a very nice ride into Smithfield where we stopped for some much needed nourishment (Ice Cream!!!). After departing there we all soon parted ways, we will meet up another day.









April 22, 2012

Story by Susan Bond Photos by Susan Bond and Alan Ladd

We really did need rain, just not on the day of the MG tech session. A soggy crowd splashed thru the downpour, most from modern iron, to Frank Linse's garage. Andy was glad to see them as he had driven his MGA in and proceeded to take the body off, drafting some of the crowd to lift and move it. He spent the rest of the day taking parts off, creating quite a bit of noise in the process. The crowd watched and offered lots of advice which was mostly ignored. Said Andy, "Drive 'em in, tow 'em home!" Or for Roosevelt Moseley, "Tow 'em in and leave 'em". His work-in-progress B finally made it to a tech session only to be stranded on its trailer by the rain.

We were supposed to be preparing cars for the Winery Tour next week, hoping to avoid problems on the road. Oh well.

Deb provided subs for lunch so the day wasn't a total loss.



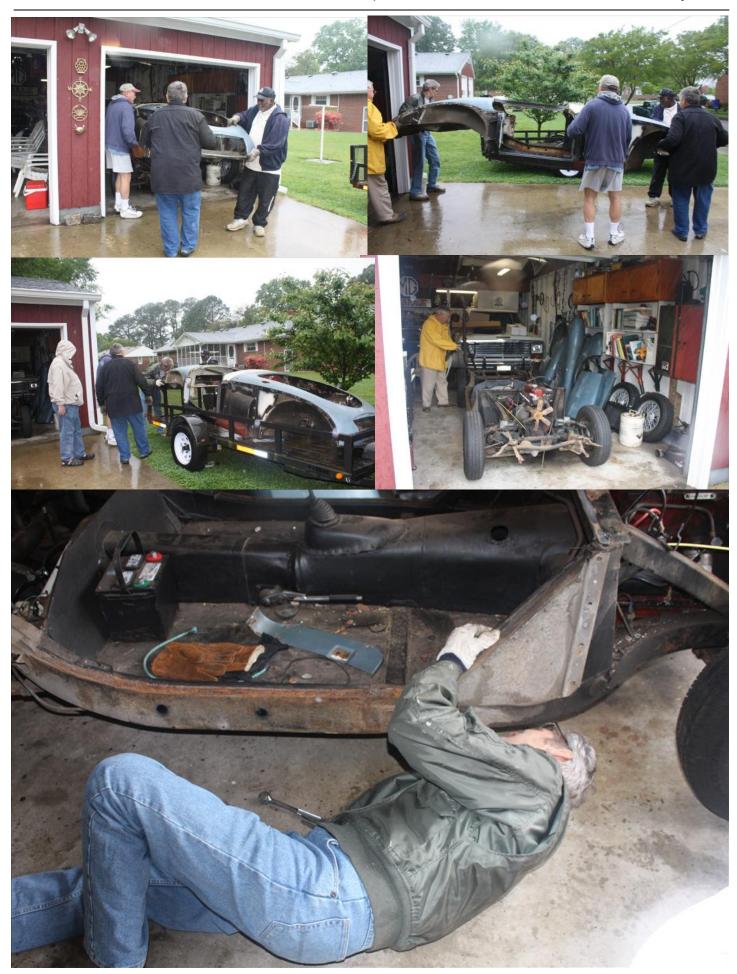
Rain, rain go away. Well, drat—that didn't work, but TMGC members are used to liquids dripping where they are not wanted.

The soggy crowd included: Bill Olcheski, Tad Carter, Russ Ripp, David Ford and son, Susan & Terry Bond, Mike Denning, Roosevelt Moseley, Roy Wiley, Donald Ladd, Craig Cummings, Roy Gavilan, Meade Fowlkes, Robert Perrone, Bernie Imdahl, Tommy Keiningham, Jon Suponski and former member Tom Sawyer (from Canada).

Thank you, Frank and Deb, for providing a place for the crowd to kill some time on a rainy day!



The Dipstick May 2012



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Membership Report

By Bill Yoshida

We had one new membership by mail in late March, and one new membership that joined at the April meeting. As of 12 April we have 120 paid memberships with one outstanding "promise" to renew their memberships for 2012. This brings the number of individual members in the club to 221.

New Memberships:

Eric Fee & Cindy Lee Hall Norfolk, VA 23503 1980 MGB LE

Bob Vann 5217 Lakeside Ave. Virginia Beach, VA 23451 Looking to buy an MGB

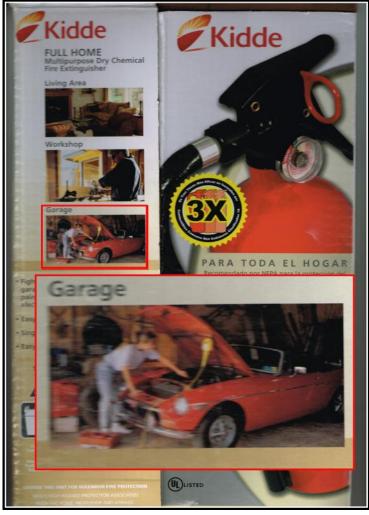
Dues: A \$20.00 check and \$20.00 cash was turned over to Jim Villers at the April meeting.

Cars: Total cars – 179

Cars & Types: 173 of the following types of MGs:

MGA: 20, A- Coupe: 2, MGB: 81, MGB-GT: 16, MGC: 2, MGC-GT: 2, MG TC: 9, MG TD: 24, MG TF: 5, Midget: 12, Other/Various MGs: 6 (1-Cooper

MG/ 1-MGNA/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB).



Safety conscious Bill Olcheski recently bought a new fire extinguisher to carry in his B. Quite appropriate! It is even labeled for work on MGBs in the garage! Are they trying to tell us something?

My First MG

Although I had owned a number of other British cars, my first MG was a 1977 Roadster that I got from a friend in 1992. He'd done a lot of cosmetics, but got frustrated with some electrical problems. (See the John Twist Tech Notes elsewhere in this issue) It was a non-overdrive car, but ran great thanks to a Weber

in this issue) It was a non-overdrive car, but ran great thanks to a Weber conversion. The electrical issue turned out to be a diode in the charging circuit, and with that fixed, the MG became my daily driver for ever a year!

driver for over a year!

What was YOUR first MG? Send in a paragraph or two about that Brit that captured your heart and warped your mind—include a photo if you have one!



'PUCA' - Named after an animal spirit of Great Britain that would lure unwary travelers on its back, take them for a wild ride, and leave them stranded!

Factory Optional Ace Mercury Wheel Disks—MGA/MGB/Midget

by Rich Wagner—Massachusetts (reprinted courtesy of MGB Driver Magazine—NAMGBR)

After going to British car shows for over 25 years, I have never seen the Ace Mercury Wheel Disc on any British car. This despite the fact that they were a factory option for the MGA, the Midget and the MGB. This is verified under the options listings in the Original MGB and Original MGA books. I have the MGB version of the book and the caps are mentioned but not pictured.

The Original MGA book does indeed show the Ace disks. There is a shot of a rather beat up one, missing its center cap, and a shot of a complete one mounted on the rear wheel of an



John Twist's Tech Tips

(reprinted courtesy of NAMGBR)

1977 MGB Electrics

(As noted elsewhere in this issue of the Dipstick, my first car was a 1977 MGB with precisely the electrical issues noted here.)

Several peculiar problems are common with the 1977 MGB. First, the electric cooling fans were wired to the BROWN circuit. This allowed the fans to run for up to 20 minutes AFTER the car was shut off! The wiring was changed in 1978 to the WHITE/BROWN circuit, allowing them to run only when the key was ON.

Second, the ignition WAS wired through the ignition relay. This was changed in 1978 but the relay continued to be called the ignition relay. In the 1977's, it is possible, if the anti run-on system is NOT working, to have the engine continue to run for up to a minute, ignition switch turned OFF and key in your palm.

Also, in the 1977 - 1980 models, a failure of the brake warning light diode can allow the engine to start when the handbrake is pulled UP!



'A. The Ace was also offered on the Midget and there are several shots of a Mk. II Midget sporting them in the Original Sprite and Midget book, including the photo on the back cover. The MGA ones are 15" in diameter (also usable on Z Magnettes), the MGB 14" and the Midgets 13".

You know how when you're not looking for something, you find it? Such is the case with the Ace Mercury caps and me. I was given an offer that I couldn't refuse on a full NOS set of the caps that came in the original BMC boxes and wrappers. The caps have been perfectly stored and are truly mint. The caps had never even been fitted on a car.

The look is truly dramatic on the car and I'm sure it's not for everybody. I do like the idea of going to shows and having something that I'm sure most people have never seen.

I've been asking a lot of questions about these caps to a lot of people but I've have been amazed at how many MG buffs really have never heard of them. I guess one of the main reasons would be that most of the cars have been fitted with wire wheels from the beginning and the person choosing the disc wheels might have been on a budget at the time of purchase.

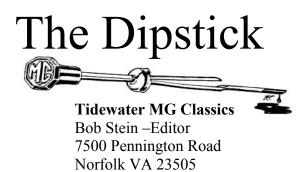
The numbers on the boxes are (2) AHH 7044 and (2) AHH 7045. This marking is written in black magic marker. Although the boxes and the BMC wrappers are all in great shape they don't appear to be numbered in any other way. One thing to be aware of with the Ace disks is that they are handed—ones for the left side of the car and ones for the right. The punched out "scoops" are oriented so the top ones are scooping air inwards towards the brakes. Two of the caps have the "scoops" pointing in one direction and the other two in the other direction.

Clausager mentions in the MGA book that perhaps part of why they are rarely seen today is that they are aluminum and fairly easily bent up. Watch those curbs!

I must admit I wasn't sure if the look of the cap would be overwhelming for overall style of the B. Now that I see them on the car I am very impressed at how well they really do look.

They add a whole new dimension to style of the 'B.





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