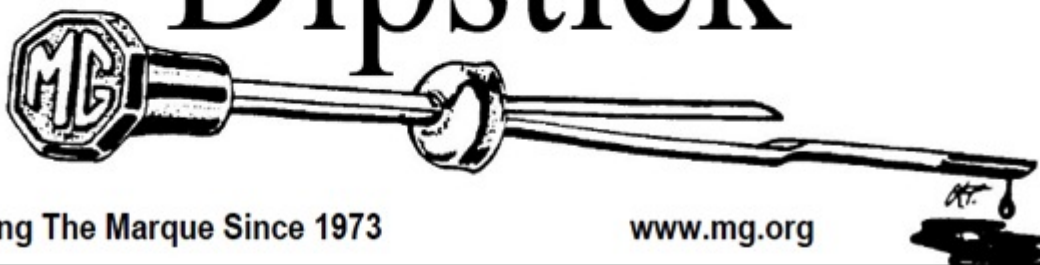




# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

[www.mg.org](http://www.mg.org)

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## *Happy Holidays*



### December Activity Report

Well here we are closing out yet another driving season. From brewery tours and wine tours in the spring, and Louisville and the Barksdale Theatre in the summer, to The Crooked Road and numerous car shows as we moved into the fall season. Total mileage is still being computed, but I know we covered a lot of ground this year. Your Activity Wonk hopes you enjoyed the places we visited, and looks forward to seeing you on the road in 2017.

Of note are the closings of several past destinations (or planned destinations). Our Crooked Road tour itinerary included a stop at the Horseshoe Restaurant in South Hill. This classic diner had been around since the 1930's, and had hosted many famous and infamous guests, including noted gangster, Roy Kelly. The restaurant closed suddenly over the summer, causing a late rerouting and alternate dining destination during our travels.\* The Rose and Crown in New Kent has changed hands several times over the years, and is currently closed. The Highlander Restaurant in Virginia Beach (a proposed meeting venue) has also shut their doors. And we visited Cecil Proffit's auto collection in the spring of 2012 some 15 months before his passing, and we spent an evening at Colonial Downs in 2009 before the demise of horse racing at that venue.

All of this isn't to say that we are bad luck or that we frequent the dives. What it does say is that if you see someplace interesting you want to visit, or a winding road you want to explore, grab the opportunity. So many things in life are fleeting, so don't pass up on a new adventure. Carpe diem. Better yet, carpe that steering wheel and hit the road. As author J.K. Rowling said, "The world is full of wonderful things you haven't seen yet. Don't ever give up on the chance of seeing them." Or as Yogi Berra said, "when you come to a fork in the road, take it".

With that in mind, our 2017 calendar is starting to take shape. We'll stay local in February, and sample the wares of several of our local brew-masters on our **4<sup>th</sup> Tidewater Brewery Tour**. In March, we venture out a little farther and explore some of the **antique shops on the Northern Neck**. Plans are underway for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual **Virginia Spring Tour** in April. We'll have **dessert drives** for both Peninsula and Southside members in May, and we'll piggyback off the **Moss MotorFest** event with a Petersburg Battlefield Tour for early arrivals. There is still room for two couples on the **Syzygy 2017-Drive to the Umbra** in August. Some of our planning is on hold while we wait for the 2017 Tides schedule and the 2017-2018 theatre schedule in Hanover. But know that we are keeping a close eye on any new developments and will fill in dates as they are known. And we are always open to suggestions for new adventures.

Our **Holiday Party** will be on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at Faith and PJ's home in Hampton. This is a potluck dinner. Got a great new recipe that you want to try? How about that favorite dish that everyone raves about? Bring it on - we've never turned away good food. We'll get things started at 6pm. Faith and PJ have asked that you RSVP by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that you let them know if you will be bringing a dish, and/or are able to get there early to help with the set-up.

We will also be collecting **donations for ForKids** in Norfolk. Now almost 30 years old, ForKids is one of the largest providers for homeless families in Virginia, touching over 37,000 lives annually through its holistic housing and extended services for families. If you are interested and able to contribute, here are some ideas. Gift cards (Target or Walmart) are best. They are easily stored, easily distributed, and can be used to address the most pressing needs throughout the year. Smaller denomination (\$20-25) cards are preferable to higher value (\$50 - 100) cards, as they can be distributed to more families for basic needs. Other needs include many standard household items - bedding, pillows and towels; dishes and silverware; cookware and glassware; toys and books; children's clothing and shoes. Contributions made at the Holiday Party will be delivered to ForKids during the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>.

We finish up our 2016 season with our **Holiday Lights** drive through the Norfolk Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. For those interested in dinner before the drive, we will have a group reservation at Franco's (6200 N Military Hwy, Norfolk) at 6:00. We'll leave from there at 7:22 for a short drive to the gardens. Dress warm - top down is the order of the day.

And that's a wrap for 2016. Thanks for playing along. We look forward to seeing you on the road in 2017. Until then, enjoy the ride!

Tad Carter

**Dipstick Calendar – 2016**

Dec. 10 - Holiday Party – Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson

Dec. 13 – Tuesday – Holiday Lights Drive to Franco's Restaurant - 6:00pm  
Depart for Norfolk Botanical Gardens – 7:22pm

**Dipstick Calendar – 2017**

Jan. 4 - (Wed) Monthly Meeting in VB Frankie's Place for Ribs

Feb. 7 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting Hosted by Eric Fee in Ocean View

Feb. 11 - (Sat) Tidewater Brew Tour

Mar. 1 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – open

Mar. 11 - (Sat) Antique Treasure Hunt

Apr. – TBD – Spring Tech Session

Apr. 4 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in Seaford Hosted by Jayne and Bruce Easley

Apr. – Williamsburg British Car Club Show

Apr. 28 – 30 (tentative dates) Spring Tour XV

May 3 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting – Hosted by Cynthia and Andy

June 2 - 3 Moss MotorFest 2017 – Petersburg, VA (TMGC – Battlefield Tour on Friday 6/2)

June 6 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in VB Hosted by Issie and Bill Yoshida

June 19 – 23 – NAMGAR – GT-42, Solvang, CA

June 25 – 28 – NAMGBR – MG-2017, San Diego, CA

July 5 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting - TBD

July 11 -15 - GOF-Central – Akron, OH

Aug. – TBD – Summer Tech Session

Aug. 1 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting in Hampton Hosted by Faith and PJ Peterson

Aug. 19 – 22, 2017 – SYZYG 2017 – Journey to the Umbra

Sep. 6 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting Ocean View Fishing Pier

# Tech Session Hosted by Susan and Terry Bond November 6, 2016



It was a cool and sunny day for the Fall Tech Session, hosted by Susan and Terry Bond. Early arrivals included Andy Wallach, who was busily working on a newly painted, original equipment running board from one his T-series MGs. With help from Craig Cummings and Tad Carter, Andy made use of the Bond's drill press and grinding wheel as he attached rubber-lined metal strips to the sheetmetal.

A second wave of attendees made its appearance before 11 a.m. This included Frank Linse, accompanied by George McQuery in Frank's Dodge pickup. The cargo was a portable engine hoist, which was used to unload Susan's spare MGB engine. This engine had recently completed a 1907 mile period of use in the Davidoski's MGB-GT, which made temporary use of it while its original powerplant was undergoing a complete rebuild. Susan's engine is back in the corner of the garage, ready for its next mission.

Later, Frank made some adjustments to the carbs on Durant Phillips' 1967 B-GT. The lack of a vacuum line connection between the advance unit and the carbs will require further investigation, but the car appeared to be running more smoothly when Frank was finished with his deliberations.

Frank also found time to gain access to the carefully concealed hardware behind Mark's dodgy passenger side door handle. After a search for the perfect combination of wrenches, the handle was once again secured in place.

Frank also helped Terry make some adjustments to the carbs on Susan's TC as he continued making his rounds of the assembled MGs.

Luncheon was served buffet style at 1230 – the appreciative crowd enjoyed chili dogs, sandwiches, sides and an amazing selection of beers from the garage refrigerator. The group started to disperse just before 2, but the session continued on into a pleasant Indian Summer afternoon. This was the latest in a very long line of Fall Tech Sessions that Team Bond has put on for the TMGC members – sincere thanks go out to Susan and Terry for another memorable gathering of MGs and the many friends who keep them on the road!







## Marque Time



CUBS WIN! CUBS WIN! CUBS WIN!

OK, since the Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series, I just had to say that. If you're a baseball fan, try to imagine that being said by the Baseball Hall Of Fame broadcaster Harry Carey. It sounds way better.

So, you might ask what that has to do with MG sports cars? Well, it might be a real stretch, but here's something.

As many of you may know, until this year, the Chicago Cubs had not won a World Series since 1908. They also had not even *played* in any World Series since 1945. And here is where the MG tie-in stretch comes in... It was not until the end of WWII, in 1945, that MG cars first officially were exported to the United States. I found some info online to satisfy your curiosity (if you actually had any about this).

*The TC Midget was the first postwar MG, launched in 1945....*

*It was exported to the United States, even though only ever built in right-hand drive.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MG\\_T-type#cite\\_note-PracticalMotorist196004-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MG_T-type#cite_note-PracticalMotorist196004-4)

*None of the 81 TCs built in 1945 were officially imported to America, but 20 left England the following year. Exports increased steadily, with 234 officially coming to the U.S. in 1947 and 1,143 reaching our shores in 1948. M.G. directors realized that this eager new market justified special consideration, so North American designated TCs, referred to as EXU (EXport United States) models due to their chassis plate stampings, began production in December 1948. As with all TCs, the 494 EXU cars built before the end of TC production were right-hand drive.*

Hemmings Sports & Exotic Car June, 2008,

<https://www.hemmings.com/magazine/hsx/2008/06/1945-1949-M-G--TC-Midget/1643377.html>

And there you go. But now back to actual TMGC matters. Our annual TMGC Holiday Party is Saturday, December 10th and is hosted by Faith & PJ Peterson at 4 Applewood Dr., Hampton. Please remember to support our charity for this year, ForKids. Tad will be collecting the donations and has suggested gift cards from Walmart or Target. For more information about this organization, check Tad's November submission to the Dipstick or visit [www.forkidsva.org](http://www.forkidsva.org)

We have much more to look forward to with club activities, but as for me, I'll also be looking forward to spring training. Go Cubs! (and Red Sox too!... sorry Al)

Safety Fast,  
Robert

Tech Article from Mark Childers  
The "Ride" of Frankenstein (Part 1)

On a Monday afternoon, twelve days after a killer VA state inspection by a safety wonk who tagged just about everything between the head and tail lights, the owner stopped by with his 72 MGBearer. While driving around on a soon to expire rejection sticker, the local constabulary had informed him of the driving limits of a rejection sticker - no top-down joy rides, and *yeah I saw you earlier this week at Target - you are so busted dude, get it fixed or get a ticket.* I didn't know this fellow, and had never seen the car before. He had been referred by my real-estate agent neighbor who left the guy thinking I was the patron saint of lost causes.

His alternative strategy consisted of scraping the sticker, buying vintage tags, and driving it till the wheels fell off (any day now, judging from the look of things). While I really wanted to ask of his travel itinerary so that no one in my immediate family would be within ten miles of him on any given day, instead, I asked why not just make the roads a bit safer without giving the authorities an opportunity to finger point at the antique tag program...

In the course of our conversation, it was mentioned that he had a \$1500 estimate from a local garage. After a long look at the car and the list of problems, I got my head wrapped around the enormity of it all and figured I could save him a grand. Oh, by the way, could I wave my magic screwdriver over his pride and joy and get it through inspection by Thursday? *Two chances on that, feller, fat and slim unless you mean two Thursdays from next Saturday....* But shoot for Friday, maybe Saturday afternoon, *don't call me I'll call you....*

The laundry list of problems was written on grease-spotted notebook paper, and ran nearly a full page. Promises, promises... Fast forwarding thru the boring details, I made it thru the list by Thursday night - a few cut corners, for sure, but was confident that it was safe and would now pass inspection. While working the handbrake, I noticed an exceptionally hard pedal. When I pulled the drums, I found a problem common to many "owner-maintained" MGB's : the primary and secondary brake shoes were reversed on both axles. While it has only a marginal effect on stopping, the reversed shoes affect pedal feel and emergency brake operation. With the shoes back on the right feet and the emergency brake adjusted and actually working, I was done with all the items on the inspection list, and was confident it would pass without any problem....



*When properly installed, the "bell" shaped hole is located top and forward on left and right sides (this is the right side)*



*Typical crush-prone area is about 6 to 8 inches inboard of the backing plates*

One last rear brake related job needed done before letting it go... For the last thirty years or so, regardless of what maintenance I might be performing, I've made a point to closely inspect both rear brake pipes, simply because I've found so many that have been crushed between the shock link and the differential tube or by roll back grappling hooks. . As an MGB ages, the springs flatten out, and the body sags, increasing the angle between the shock link and differential tube, while reducing the distance between the nearest points of contact – the brake pipe. The pipes are factory routed so as to intersect exactly between the shock link and the diff tube, resulting in a hammering effect on the brake pipe every time the rear suspension moves more than half travel. And this one was no different, plus a second crushed spot, inboard of the shock link on the left side, indicating that a roll-back operator had slipped a hook over the diff tube.

***Look for Mark's second installment in the January Dipstick!***

# Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 2016

TMGC November 2, 2016

Matthieu and Rachel Houvinen's home.....

2012: Late gavel from Robert, who had Game Seven on his mind and a Cubs shirt on his back.

Thank you to our host/hostess team – congratulations on their two week anniversary!

Minutes from October – approved as published.

Tad is in Chicago for Karen's father's memorial service. Read the Dipstick for Activities Report.

Bill Olcheski mentioned an ALS fundraiser opportunity at Slover Library on 17 November.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Villers reported a balance of \$2451.98.

Historian's Report: Susan brought the 2016 historical binder. Most of 2016 has been entered.

Discussion about 16<sup>th</sup> Bay Street versus 16<sup>th</sup> Street and who may have had navigational issues!

Marque Time:

1. Andy tells us that Abacus has one of his TD engines about ready to go!
2. David Kinsey brought some brochures for "Rent a Lift". This is a new business on Sellger Drive in Norfolk, just down the street from Frank Linse's place. It's a DIY automotive maintenance facility with a full range of tools included in the price of a lift rental. Check it out.
3. Donald Ladd mentioned that Rose's Midget was flooded during Hurricane Matthew and that State Farm was totaling it. The value is in dispute, which brought on a discussion of Collector Car Insurance versus regular car insurance. Lesson for all: know the difference between Agreed Value, Insured Value, and Replacement Value! Terry relayed his experience with J. C. Taylor, which was easy to work with and did not quibble about where to get some repair work done.

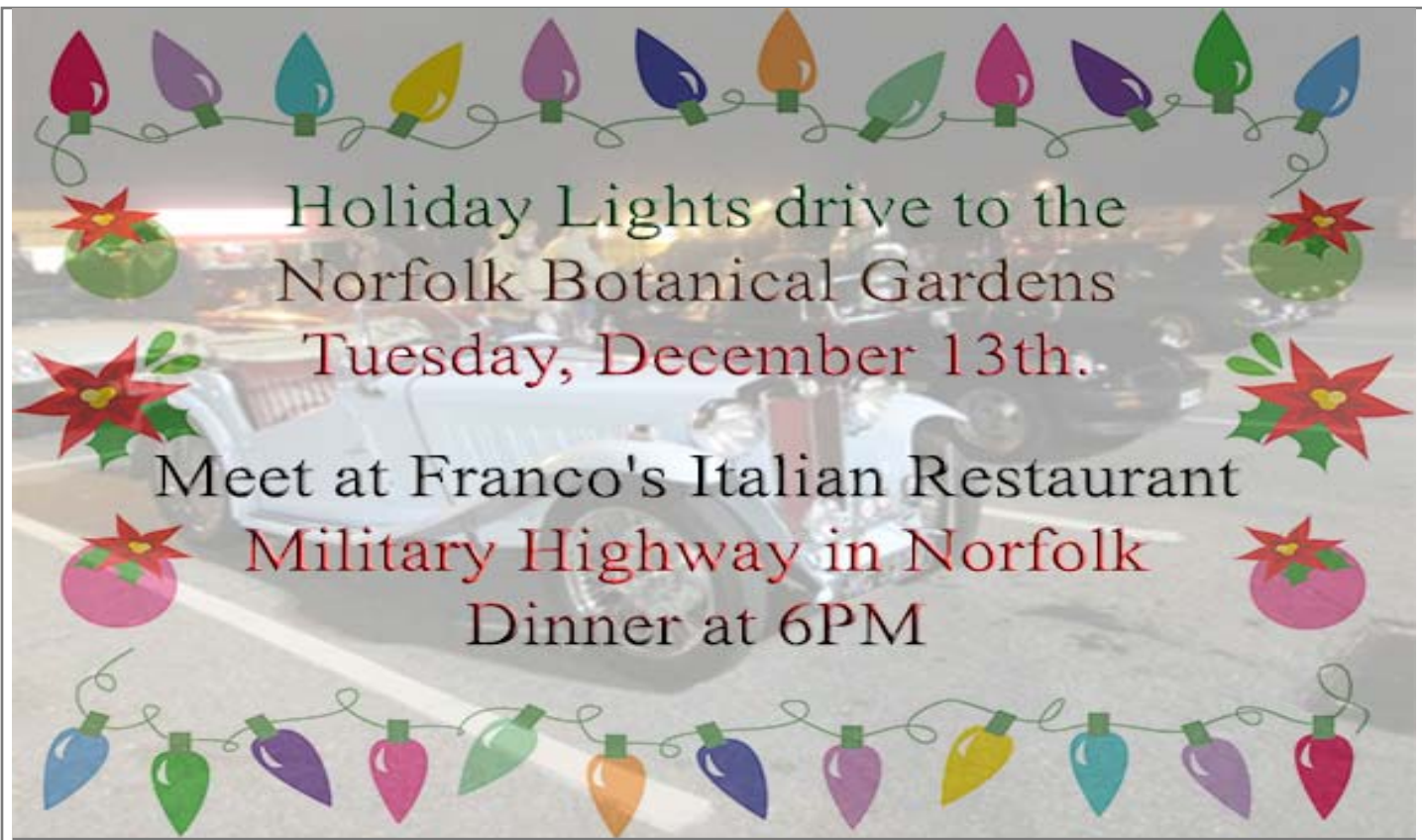
Raffle: Robert Perrone won the highly prized "My other car is an MG" decal. Mick won first in line at the sumptuous buffet provided by Rachel and Matthieu. Bill Olcheski won the 50/50. David Kinsey closed out

the raffle with a plea for nametag owners to step forward and claim their tags – and to pay for them, please!

At approximately 2030 (with Game Seven already in progress), meeting adjourned.







### Dipstick December 2016

**2017 Membership:** As of 20 November there are 113 paid memberships with 3 “Promises” to renew.

**Breaking News!** When I received the renewal form and the check written by Ashley Stutz, I realized that congratulations are in order for Billy Stutz and Ashley Gloekler on their wedding. We look forward to seeing Mr. & Mrs. Stutz at a meeting or event in the near future.

**New Memberships:** None.

**Cars:** Total cars – 180 (If all remaining 2016 memberships renew for 2017)

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

MGA	A- Coupe	B	B-GT	C	C-GT	TC	TD	TF	Midget
29	2	78	18	1	4	7	20	4	10

Other/Variou MGs – 7 (1-Cooper MG/ 2-VA/ 1-YB/ 1-ZB/ 2 ELVA Courier)

**Dues:** A \$20 dues check was provided to Jim Villers at the November meeting. I currently hold a \$20 check for turnover to Jim.

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**MG**

Saturday, Dec. 10th  
 PJ & Faith Peterson  
 4 Applewood Drive  
 Hampton  
 896-9606

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

The



Tidewater MG Classics  
 C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski  
 4705 Little John Road  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
[davidoskicrew@cox.net](mailto:davidoskicrew@cox.net)

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North American MGB Register

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