



# The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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

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## Crooked Road Day 3

Our intrepid crew left the Galax Hampton Inn at 09:00 sharp, under low clouds and a drizzly morning. There were many tops up, except for a few hardy “amphibious” souls. Our first order of business was to push Don’s B to get it started, due to an electrical malfunction; thanks to Tad, Mike, and Russ! We get by with a little help from our friends. Next, a gas stop and final meet-up and we were off.

Due to poor interaction between MapQuest and GPS, we had the wonderful opportunity to see a few roads twice (U-turns), which allowed us to enjoy some of the great rolling hills and get some good road pictures. We rolled into the Beagle Ridge Herb Farm and Environmental Education Center about 10:30 and got to tour the herb garden and shop while we waited for the slide show and lunch. Beagle Ridge is a Certified Wildlife Habitat, operated by a Master Naturalist. Their specialty is raising lavender, monarch butterflies, and the milkweed plant on which they lay their eggs. The slide show explained the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, their long-distance migration pattern, and the tagging program established through the University of Kansas. Our pre-ordered lunch was very tasty, and included lavender cake with lavender glaze. Unusual treat!

After lunch, several MGers assisted in the tagging and release of male and female butterflies. Andy and Cynthia took the first turn, with most of the group joining in. Be sure to see the great pictures on the website. This was a great experience in a beautiful place. The only down side was the looonng (3.5 mi) gravel drive to the Farm, which left most of the MGs coated in dust – enough to send several drivers to the car wash in Floyd later.

Our drive to the Foggy Ridge Cidery was beautiful, and during the tour of fantastic winding roads and rolling hills we passed Beaverdam Road and Al's Nest (Al Hazlett was with the group). At Foggy Ridge we were educated in the production of various types of cider. The award-winning cidery produces about 6 types, which range in alcohol content from 7 to 18%. Tannin and acidity control is important in making cider, and the cidery specializes in producing a type that has effervescence not unlike champagne.

After more MG-class roads (notice the S-shape on the road signs), we arrived in Floyd and checked in at the beautiful Hotel Floyd. We had a few hours to enjoy the scenery, shops, and brew offerings in town, and were lucky to find that the local Fire Department was holding a benefit with live music in a valley glade in town. Dinner and dancing at the Dogtown Roadhouse was great, with music by the Get Right band. There was a great selection of brew offerings, with their Get Bent IPA on draft really hitting the spot. Back at the Hotel, Rose Ladd put got the group together with some great snacks and conversation before it was off to dreamland and the anticipation of another excellent day on the Road.

By Bruce Easley

## Crooked Road Day 4



### Drive the Crooked Road tour

#### Sunday – By Terry and Susan Bond

Thanks for the much needed late morning starts on this tour, Tad. Much appreciated after a great evening of music, strong ales, and the atmosphere in historic Floyd – heart of the Blue Grass trail, or “The Crooked Road.”

The morning dew provided enough moisture that almost everyone was able to wipe the dust from their cars – and off we went again, in search of yet more great crooked roads.

Wow did we manage to find some! Once again, Tad and Karen led us down winding pathways into the wilderness on shaded lanes past ancient farms and thorough small villages that time had passed by.

There is no such thing as a “wrong turn” on these events, just opportunities for scenic directional changes. You need to be flexible, and it’s oh-so neat to see MGs coming at you on the opposite side of the road. Makes for great photo opportunities. On one such “directional shift” we encountered a narrow gravel/dirt road that seemed to narrow and twist to the point where our fearless leader thought it best to turn around and take a smoother route. There are after all, always alternative routes available. Everyone was thankful and willingly gave up the opportunity to collect dust and shake car parts loose.





As we began to once again approach civilization, we rounded a turn in the small community of Fieldale, and there on a corner was a faithfully recreated 1930's gas station. For a moment I felt like a time-traveler. Signs, gas pumps, even an old car parked out front completed the scene. Best of all, it was an open antique shop filled with a lot of impressive automobilia. One great piece actually made it home into my collection of stuff. Best of all, it fit into the MG!

Signs indicating we were on Route 58 signaled the journey home had begun. But first – a lunch break at Berry Hill, a historic plantation turned into a superb meeting and convention center. Located about 25 miles from Virginia International Raceway, this historic and impressive mansion was one owned by Benjamin Harrison and is one of Virginia's finest examples of Greek Revival architecture. Darby's Tavern, in the former kitchen wing, was our lunch stop. We all managed to squeeze into a large, well air conditioned room and sat around a big square table. Nice for a change to have everyone at the same table rather than scattered in small groups. I'm still wondering how Al Hazlett managed to finish eating so quickly when he was the last one served. I believe he was hungry! We wandered about checking out the beautiful mansion, then hit the trail once again for the home-stretch.

I think everyone was a bit nervous as we began hearing rumors of a petrol shortage in the area, caused by a major gas pipe-line break in Alabama. Some in the group needed to top off their tanks in order to make it the rest of the way home, but not-to-worry. There was a very large Sheetz station right up on 58 close by.

It was a welcome sight -- that is until we got close and saw all the pumps were roped off and there was no gas to be had there.

Just a few miles further down the road however, there was a small four-pump station that had enough to allow everyone to fill up and ease the fears of not getting home.

After a few whacks in the right spot with his mallet, Russ quickly solved one of the only hoods-up roadside problems encountered on the whole trip. Seems the mallet has something to do with coaxing the starter into action following a stop. I think that among this group there is a size of mallet for every purpose whether it be banging exhaust systems into proper alignment or convincing Joe Lucas to do something.

Eventually we began to see familiar territory. The speed-traps in Brunswick County, the pit stop at Emporia, and then the familiar sights of Tidewater traffic on a Sunday at sunset.

Intrepid travelers began to peel away one-by-one as the sunshine begun to dwindle, and the weekend was over before we realized it.

It was a fantastic (long) weekend on a lot of really crooked roads. We got a good taste of Virginia's "Bluegrass trail" and the history it tells with the strum of a banjo and the screech of a fiddle mingled with the hum of a nicely tuned MG.

Thanks to Tad and Karen for another great Tidewater MG adventure. We know everyone is ready for the next chance to straighten out some crooked roads!



Somewhat motley crew



## Marque Time

Well, I for one love Summer weather. Unfortunately right after Summer we often get some of the effects of hurricane season here in Tidewater and, as everyone knows, this year was exceptionally bad. I haven't heard any reports of any club members that have had damage from the weather, but I know some area residents were hit hard. I hope that everyone (and their cars) made it through the storms.

I ended up being the unexpected overnight guest of Bill and Renee Olcheski. I was there during the worst night of rain and there was just too much flooding for me to chance it on a drive home. So, Bill and I made the best of it and enjoyed a few more beverages. Sometimes you just have to adapt to the situation. Bill and I adapted *very* well...

But now that the rain has stopped I can tell you that I am already enjoying the weather here in October. The cooler, drier air is perfect for a drive in an LBC. It is also a perfect time to get out and enjoy some of the car shows that are held during this season. I know that many of our members attended regional shows and the TMGC was well-represented.

So I hope everyone will keep getting out and join us for our November 2 meeting hosted by Rachel & Mathieu. That will be followed by a Tech Session at Sue & Terry Bond's house on the following Sunday. I know that we all appreciate members offering their homes to the club for meetings and other events, so a big "thank you" for that from all of us.

So, as always, I urge you all to come out and join us. See you there!

*Safety Fast, Robert*



# Activity Report

## *November 2016*

100% true story. It's early morning, day 4 of the Crooked Road trip, and the Activity Wonk is out doing a little recon work for our escape from Floyd. He fires up the MP3 player and it picks up in the middle of an old Merle Haggard song, "The Way I Am". The very first lyrics out of the speaker are "the road I'm on don't seem to go there". Is this an omen or a realistic description of Route 860? It was obviously the latter when the very next song in line was Ritchie Valens' "Come On, Let's Go". The route proved to be a successful short-cut out to Rte-40. Then it is back to Floyd to meet up with our convoy, and what is the first tune to come on as we all begin our trek toward Norfolk? Would you believe Springsteen's "Born to Run"?

If you missed the thought bubbles coming out of the lead car, here they are: From the navigator (and probably the most logical reaction) "It is disturbing to put your music on Random Play". And from the Wonk, "I wonder what other driving songs we can add to the mix?". There are the obvious choices like Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again" and Emmylou Harris "I'm Movin' On". Or upbeat songs like The Doors "Break On Through" and another from Ritchie Valens – "La Bamba". So here's the challenge – What are your favorite driving songs? Send them in to your loyal Dipstick editors and we'll compile the soundtrack to the 2017 driving season.

Our October events did not come off as scheduled. The anticipated visit from Hurricane Matthew forced an early cancellation of our 10/8 trip to Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck. Although the hurricane chose a more eastern path, we still had plenty of wind and rain locally and it was good that we were not on the road. Rainfall totals of 12+ inches were experienced across much of our intended travel route. With a February ice storm wiping out our original attempt at a visit to Sylvan Heights, perhaps this destination is not meant to be.

Then we tried to take in the reopening of the Wallops Island Launch Facility, and the OA-5 resupply mission to the International Space Station. This was to be the first orbital launch out of Wallops Island in almost two years, following the catastrophic equipment failure that doomed OA-3 shortly after lift-off in 2014. Delayed once by Hurricane Matthew, OA-5 was pushed back again by Hurricane Nicole, which caused slight damage to the launch tracking station in Bermuda.

Let's hope this string of weather challenges doesn't continue on November 6<sup>th</sup>. That is the date of our Fall Tech Session at Sue and Terry's home in Chesapeake. I'm sure there are several projects that need to get done before some of you pack your cars away for the winter. And there are still more of us who need to make sure our heating systems are working correctly in preparation for the Holiday Lights Drive (Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for those taking notes). So come on out on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but please remember to reset your clocks that morning and arrive at 10:00AM Eastern Standard Time.





Our Holiday Party will be held this year on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at Faith and PJ Peterson's home in Hampton. Many thanks!! They have been generous with hosting other monthly meetings, but they really stepped up this time by hosting our #1 event. To all of those who plan to attend and want to help out with the potluck dinner, please watch the December Dipstick for ideas on what you can bring. As in the past, we will divvy up the salads, appetizers, main courses and desserts by year of car. I know some of you are saddled with multiple vehicles and restoration bills can get pretty pricey. If you fall into that category, just pick a dish and bring it along. There is no need to feed that masses for each model you own.

Once again, we will be supporting ForKids with donations made at any of our events between now and the holidays. If you are so inclined, and if you feel you are able, we invite you to contribute to this worthwhile organization. Please consider a gift card from Target or WalMart which can be easily transported, stored and used by the program for necessities throughout the year. All donations will be delivered following our Holiday Lights drive on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

At ForKids, their goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children in the South Hampton Roads areawith programs that work.

- Housing – ForKids provides shelter for over 50 families in crisis, giving the families a safe place to stay while they gain essential skills, stabilize employment, reduce debt and work toward self-sufficiency.
- Education - Over 300 children find tutoring, mentoring and coaching through a variety of educational opportunities. *Hot Meals and Homework* provides at-risk children with weekly tutoring and a hot meal for their entire family.
- Clinical Services – ForKids provides clinical counseling, health-care advocacy, employment counseling, budgeting classes, parenting classes and safety classes contribute to the self-sufficiency of 175 parents and their children.

As a note – these donations are not simply turned over to these families. As part of the self-sufficiency program, participants earn credits for their efforts, which translate into gift cards and used to purchase things their family needs.

For more information, [www.forkidsva.org](http://www.forkidsva.org)

Many thanks to all who have stepped up to host a meeting in 2017. At this point, we only have 3 dates left to fill – February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>.

I will be unable to attend the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting at Mathieu Huovinen's home in Ocean View, but I look forward to seeing you at the Tech Session.



*Born to be Wild!*

# Monthly Meeting Minutes

*October 4, 2016*

The car club's October meeting was held at the home of Bill and Renee Olcheski in Virginia Beach. At 8:05 PM President Robert Perrone called the meeting to order with a "thanks" to our hosts for opening their home to us. Robert asked if there were any new members or guests present, and we found that the club was graced with the presence of a new member, Mr. Durant Phillips, who has a '67 MGB GT.

Moving on with business, the minutes of the September meeting were voted to be approved as written, and the prez then called for the VP report. Tad Carter announced that, although there was skepticism regarding the size of a huge groundhog reported by Cynthia Faschini during the Crooked Road Tour, the validation of the Dipstick issue provided proof that the report was correct. Tad then revealed that he had returned to the scene and recovered said monster groundhog, and then presented Cynthia with the pelt of the creature! (Turns out it was a large groundhog hand puppet, possibly obtained from the "Caddyshack" movie.)

Jim Villers then provided the monthly detailed Treasurer's report: we started with \$2,538.96 and after receipts and disbursements have a balance of \$2,501.98. He noted that \$227.98 was spent on the annual printing of the club roster, and that anyone else who is willing to receive an electronic copy in lieu of a hard copy should let him know, in order to minimize that expense for the club. For the Activities update, Tad reported that during the recent Crooked Road Tour, the group drove a total of over 9,000 vehicle miles, over 17,000 "people miles", and noted that Garmin and Google maps did not always agree. For all those miles, there were no significant problem issues with our hardy MGs. Sadly, our Sylvan Heights Bird Park tour is canceled due to the anticipated bad weather associated with hurricane Matthew. The potential drive to Wallops Island to view a rocket launch is still on the table, with the most current information indicating it may be around October 13. Tad will send out an email if the "trigger is pulled" on that activity. Our Fall Tech Session will be on November 6, the annual Holiday party will be held December 10 at the home of PJ and Faith Peterson, and we'll be doing the traditional Holiday Lights drive to view the decorations at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens on December 13. Tad noted that there are still a few dates available to host monthly meetings; let him know if your home is available or you have suggestions.

No club history update for this meeting, but Susan Bond keeps the albums and history, and these are always available to the group. Mark Davidoski thanked the contributors for the recounts of Days One and Two of the Crooked Road Tour, and let the group know that the next Dipstick will contain the write-ups for Days Three and Four. Please send him an article for the Pungo Wings and Wheels event and the Waynesboro car show if you attend. David Kinsey reminded the group that items with the MG logo and/or Abingdon crest are available on line from Stitchworks. He also still has some T-shirts and other club logo items available.



Old Business – none. New Business: Jim Villers proposed that the club increase the reimbursement amount for people who host meetings, etc. to \$125.00, as the club has accumulated assets and the costs of hosting events has risen. A motion for this was made, seconded and approved, and Jim noted that the change will be effective "the next time he writes a check".

*Cynthia's new friend*



Marque Tyme discussion: Andy Wallach announced he has 'seen the light' in regard to the improved traveling comfort of the MGB Roadster as compared to the MGA and MGTs they've used for touring in the past. Robert Perrone discussed his issue with a bad road vibration that was chronic at the 60-65 mph speeds. He found that a fix of the steering rack damper on the rack and pinion steering corrected 80% of the problem. He also commented that lubrication in the front end is also important, and recommended 90W oil. There was additional discussion among the members regarding that a new damper or rebuilt front end can take up to a year to loosen up back to "normal" where the steering will automatically track back to driving straight ahead quickly. Mark Childers reminded the group to change out antifreeze for radiator protection, noting that it can look "clean and green" but be contaminated and rotting out the radiator. David Kinsey mentioned that during October 21-23 there will be vintage car racing scheduled at Dominion Raceway. Frank Worrell asked if anyone had parts or leads for a headlight switch for his '78 B Roadster; the original part was apparently soldered to the steering column and self-destructed, and he's having trouble getting it functioning the way he'd like.

Bill Yoshida reported that we currently have 109 paid members, 6 promises to renew, and 179 cars registered with TMGCCC, even though a few members have sold their MGs or moved. A copy of the 2017 Directory was emailed to members on September 30, and he had brought hard copies to the meeting for those who need them, in order to save postage costs. He will be sending out information on any Directory corrections or updates, so contact Bill if you find errors.

Our closing raffle included the 50/50 cash split, a very nice MG tool bag, a laminated poster for valve adjustment directions, a nicely framed wine tour picture, a large MG advertisement poster and the coveted First in Line for food. This last was a great prize due to the excellent spread of roast beef, cheeses, beer-cooked sausages and other delights provided by the Olcheski's. Prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned.





## Dipstick Calendar – November, 2016

**Nov. 2 – Wednesday - Monthly Meeting**  
Hosted by Rachel & Mathieu Huovinen

**Nov. 6 – Sunday - Fall Tech Session –**  
Hosted by Susan and Terry Bond

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

**Dec. 13 – Tuesday – Holiday Lights Drive**

## Dipstick Calendar – 2017

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

**Feb. 7 – (Tue) Monthly Meeting**

**Feb. 18 - (Sat) Antiques Roadshow Drive**

**Mar. 1 – (Wed) Monthly Meeting**

**Mar. 18 - (Sat) Cask or Keg 2017**

## *Membership Update from Bill Yoshida*

**2017 membership status:** As of 20 October's mail there are 112 paid membership with 4 "promises to renew." I've not yet heard from 2 other members. I sent a "Final Chance" e-mail to the remaining "delinquent" members on 14 October.

### **New Members:**

Durant Phillips (joined at the October meeting)  
Newport News - 23606  
1967 MGB-GT

**Cars:** Total cars – 180 (173 MGs + 7 other LBCs)

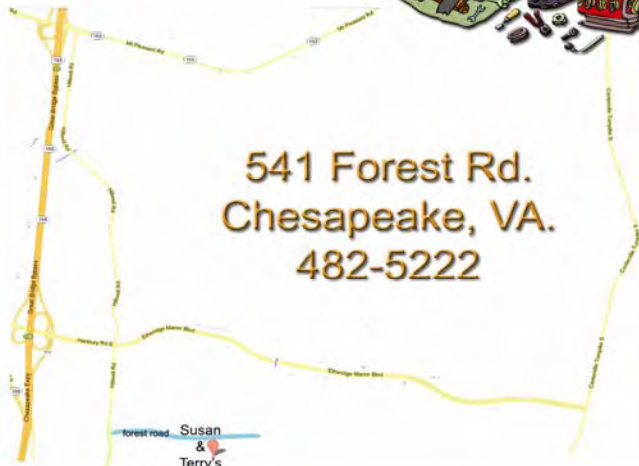
**2017 Annual Directory:** The 2017 Directory was e-mailed to all members with web addresses on 30 September. At the October meeting paper copies were available for pick up by members in attendance that had previously requested paper copies. The rest of the requested paper copies were mailed to members on 14 October. Updates to the Directory were e-mailed to members on 14 and 15 October. It is recommended that the updates be files with your 2017 Directory.

## Is Your Car in Need of a Tech Session?

Bring it to Susan & Terry's Garage  
Sunday, November 6th starting at 10 a.m.



541 Forest Rd.  
Chesapeake, VA.  
482-5222





British Car Fall Festival  
Waynesboro, Virginia



Don & I met up with Russ Ripp & Buffy (his Puppy) to head out to the Annual British Car Fall Festival in Waynesboro. It was not too good of a day, as we had to go in our Chevy Crossover. Burned up two distributors, but won't mention any names. But onward we went. Rain & all!! We arrived on Friday evening the 30th of Sept. After we checked in, we went down to lobby to meet up with other MG folks. There we found, Joyce & Craig Cummings, Faith & P.J. Peterson, and Barry Tyson, BJ, & Bella (their puppy.) Not too many people this year. All had food, and of course most had drinks after the long rainy drive up there. Sat there for awhile and enjoyed the chit chat. Then called it a night and went to our rooms.

Got up on Saturday morning, went down for breakfast then over to the field. Not too many cars, as the weather was not the best. But there were some good old diehards. We met up with Jennifer & Mike Ash at the field. After the voting was over all left and went their merry way to do as they pleased. Russ, Don, & I went antique shopping. (Of course) Had fun and enjoyed it. Went back to hotel to get ready for dinner and the awards.

Not many people showed up for the banquet. Of all the winners, there were only about 10 that attended. Craig came in first place for his division. After that we all went back to our rooms. Some crashed and some partied. We stayed the night because of the weather, got up Sunday morning, had breakfast, then got back on the road. Made a few antique stops on the way home, then Russ went his way and we went ours.

*By Rose Ladd*





## 2016 Wings and Wheels Winners

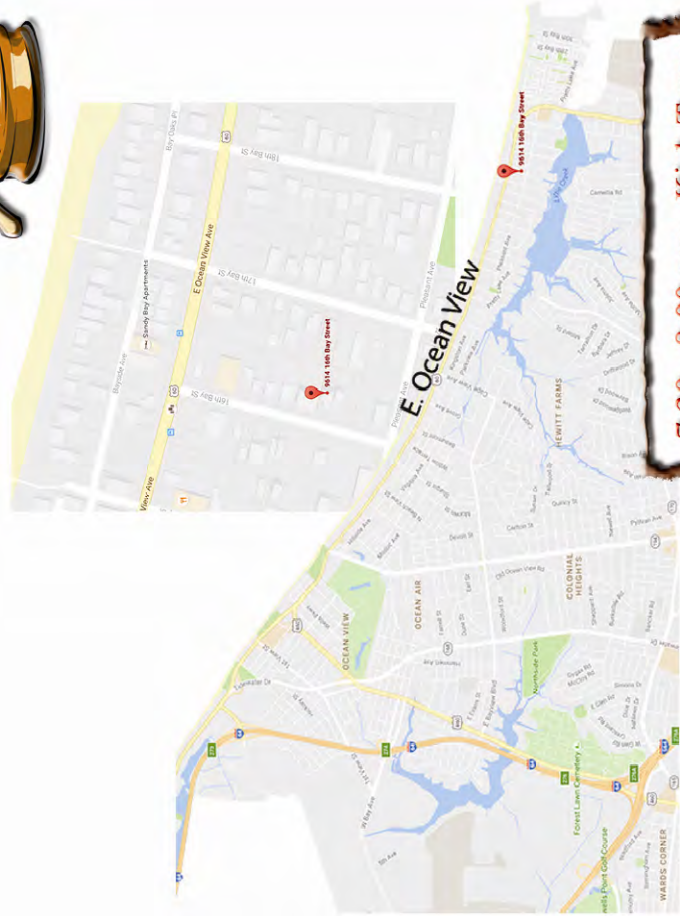
Richard & Sandy Hall	1959 MGA	2nd
Allen Hazlett	1966 MGB	1st
Patrick Smith	1966 MGB	1st
Rose Ladd	1978 MG Midget	1st
Dennis Sobota	1978 MGB	1st
David Ford	1972 MGB	3rd
Janice Gavilan	1974 MGB	3rd
Susan Bond	1974 MGB GT	AACA recognition
Patrick Smith	1966 MGB	Best Foreign Car
<b>Other than MG</b>		
Terry Bond	1914 Model T Ford	AACA recognition
Sam Kern	1925 Franklin	AACA recognition
Donald Ladd	1972 Chevrolet truck	2nd
Frank Linse	1963 Jaguar	1st
Hilary Pavlidis	1967 Mercury Cougar	1st
Mark & Marion McAlpine	1970 Chevelle	AACA recognition
Jim Villers	1950 Willys CJ-3A	AACA recognition
Sam Kern	1988 Chevrolet Truck	DPC
Mark & Marion McAlpine	1970 Chevelle	Best GM



Donald, Richard, Allen, Susan, Rose, and David collecting more trophies!



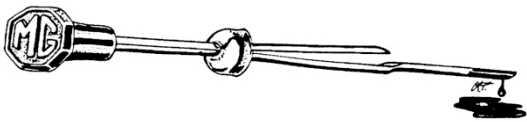




**7:30 - 8:00 pm - Kick Tyres**  
**8:00 Meeting**

**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 2nd**  
**Mathieu Houvinen**  
**9614 16th St.**  
**Norfolk, VA**  
**451-4969**

# The Dipstick



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 Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
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*Affiliated with*



**North American MGB Register**

**FIRST CLASS**