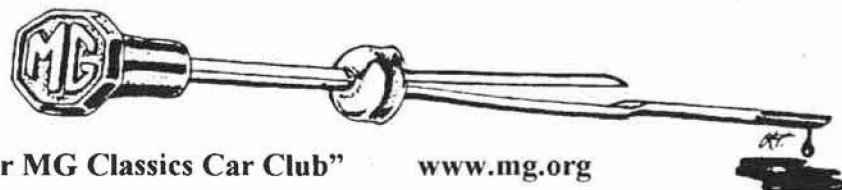


The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

www.mg.org

Volume XXVIII, Issue 3

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

April 2000

Marque Time

It was a spring day like any other spring day. The day was warm, the sun was out and a few dark clouds threatened showers in the distance. A perfect day for top down MG driving. But wait a minute, what am I thinking. This is February. February 27th to be exact, the middle of winter. How can this be. Then I realized this is Wickerbasket Sunday and Peggy has managed to provide the perfect weather for the perfect event. Year after year, how does she do it. Great food, members we haven't seen in a while and friends from Richmond. We had a large collection of great cars (including a Match Box MGF, not only available at Farm Fresh but Wal-mart and K-mart too, if you can't own the real thing you can own a toy version). There were classic club scrap books to look at and even a birthday to celebrate (her initials were S.B. and she is holding at 29 according to Jerry's observations). We also had our March meeting in February (please note the April meeting will actually be held in April, on April 5th, Wednesday). I know we stated otherwise in the March Dipstick but we are just running a test to see how many people actually read their Dipsticks, how much they comprehend of it. (This test was sponsored by the Tidewater MG Dipstick literacy foundation.). The web site should have the full calendar for the year on it. So if you need information on dates for events, check the web site. Please excuse our dust on the web site we are still freshening up and moving things around in case you notice something a little out of kilter. If you have an event you want to add to the calendar or you see a correction that should be made, contact Mike Haag our web site manager. If you need to change a commitment you have made, contact Chuck Hudson our activities chairman. Also don't forget to mail your registration form for the Colonial Vintage Car Show, it is in your March Dipstick. We need to support this effort.

A late breaking story in the world of MG. BMW has sold off its interest in Rover who is making the MGF. A venture capital corporation in the UK named Alchemy Partners Ltd. has bought the Rover and MG name and product line. Rumor is that they will call it the MG Car Co. Rumor also has it that they will close the Long Bridge plant where the MGF is presently being manufactured, leaving only the Oxford plant open. The word is that the Rover Corporation was losing 3.5 million dollars a day at the Long Bridge plant. Ford has purchased the Range Rover/Land Rover operations and name from BMW. Who knows how all this will affect MG'S future. It take a large infusion of capital to make an automobile company able to succeed and I am not sure that is there for the MG.

Prior to attending any of the MG events such as the Wickerbasket where my MG has set up inactive for a period of time, I go through a ritual I call the running of the blocks. Blocks being the city blocks in my neighborhood. This is not to be confused with the 'running of the bulls' in the Hemmingway novel but could also be called "the running of the dogs", but I will explain that a little later. The theory of the "running of the blocks" is that I begin by starting my MG and then driving around one block so that if it would happen to break down on my trip around the block, I would only have a relatively short distance to push it home to make the necessary repairs or adjustments. As I prove the reliability you increase the number of blocks in my neighborhood that I go around until I reach enough confidence to venture on to the open highway in traffic. I know there is a probably

Upcoming Club Activities

Apr 5th	Wednesday Meeting at Frank & Gloria Linse's 461-7783.
May 2nd	Tuesday Meeting at Pete & Barbra Douglas 495-0142.
Jun 7th	Wednesday Meeting at Andy Wallach's 622-8315.
Jul 5th	Wednesday Meeting at Jerry Goldman's 393-9854
Aug 2nd	Wednesday Meeting at David Sheppard's 496-0787.
Sep 5th	Tuesday Meeting at Bill Seib & Leslie Paul's 420-9523.
Oct 4th	Wednesday Meeting at Paul Thiergardt's 497-0455.
Nov 8th	Wednesday Meeting We still need a host.

a flaw in this logic and that one of Murphy's laws about MG's if it can fail it will eventually fail, but at least I can get a feel for the condition of the vital systems such as steering, fuel and electrical and also for the accessory systems like brakes and signaling devices. I consider the braking system on my MG an accessory because I have driven my MG when my brakes thought they were an optional equipment. They might work or they might not, it was their option. If you plan far enough ahead you can deal with this optional mode of operation. I have used the method, pump 1-2-3 and pull the brake lever when the brakes were in their optional mode to stop.

Anyway while I am "running the blocks" I have observed another phenomena. I was told by one of my ex-girlfriend that the only reason middle age men buy sports cars was to attract young women. At the time I was 34 and sort of resented inference that I was "middle aged". From where I stand now 34 was not middle aged. But I can see how wrong she was about attracting younger women. When I drive my MG, I seem to attract not young women, but every kid and dog in the neighborhood. I am sure the kids are attracted to the loud exhaust system. They are not old enough to realize that loud does not equate to power and speed. The noise level on my "high performance" exhaust system must be pretty close to the decibel level of breaking glass, because I am able to set off car alarms as I drive by. Any way the usual yell "cool car" and then check their peers faces to see if this was an appropriate response. They still haven't quite got the hang of when "cool" is the appropriate response to invoke status upon themselves from their peers at being able to recognize what is "cool" and what isn't.

Driving my MG through the neighborhood I can also attract enough different dogs in the neighborhood to fill the casting call for a film version of "All Good Dogs Go To Heaven". One dog in particular that stands out in my mind is a large yellow, flop eared dog. As I round the corner to pass his front yard, he is waiting. Lying crouched on the ground with his haunches slightly raised, chin down on his front paws, eyes glazed in that stare that he must be from his primitive ancestral past that stalked prey. When he catches sight of me the chase is on. Paws are drumming across the ground, his large pink tongue is hanging over his teeth from the side of his mouth as he seems to be in ecstasy in the pursuit of his prey. I have three theories on why he is chasing my MG. The first one is maybe he is thinking this thing (my MG) is small enough that he could actually catch it and do something with it. I am not exactly sure what he has in mind but probably neither does he. Or maybe his owners have let him watch too many Nissan commercials and he thinks if he catches it he can drive it. Or the third theory is that he senses that this thing is British and he has mistaken it for a sheep and is trying to herd it. soon he gets to an imaginary line that I guess is the end of his territory and I continue on my way back to my garage to prepare for the outing the next day.

When I return to my garage and park my MG I begin to think, I wonder if there is a Norman Rockwell painting with a middle aged man, clean shaven, tweed sport coat, tie and thinning hair blowing in the wind as he drives an imported sports car with the top down, on main street, in front of the barber shop, being chased by cherub looking boys who are wearing striped tee shirts and shoes who's laces are coming untied with their scruffy dogs of all shapes and sizes mingled among them in a way only Norman Rockwell could do. The caption would read something like "In spring middle aged man's fancy turns to small imported sports cars". It is not long after I store my MG in the garage and close the door that I see that the neighbors dogs are gathering in front of the garage door wanting to know if my MG can come out and play.

---SAFETY FAST--- **BARRY**

MARCH MINUTES

The March Meeting was held on Sunday, February 27th in conjunction with the Wicker Basket Affair. Barry started the meeting promptly at 2:08 PM thanking Peggy Bradford for once again graciously hosting the Wicker Basket. Doug was fashionably late, arriving just in time for the end of the meeting which enabled him to avoid note taking.

Membership- Alan reported good response from the mailing reminding past due members. There are currently 32 past due members with monies still coming in. The March newsletter will be the last one that members not paid up will receive.

Treasurer- Jim reported receipts of \$234.50 and expenses of \$90.06 leaving a balance of \$1,417.15

Then Barry remembered to get an approval of last months minutes. They were so approved.

Newsletter-No report, Ed missing.

Regalia-No report, no raffle, Frank rather laid back today.

Activities- The March Tech Session has been moved to Saturday, March 25th at Jim Villers house. It will be a joint session with the Mercedes club and will feature an emphasis on Brake Flushing.

Clubs-No report.

New Business- The 4th of July meeting has been moved to the 5th of July in consideration that this is a British Car club. Also, the November 7th meeting has been moved to November 8 to allow you to get out and vote.

NEEDED- Soap Box Derby driver-Male or Female, 70-80lbs. Race is towards the end of May. Forward any interested names to Chuck Hudson.

Old Business-No Vince jokes this month

Archives-Susan is now quite proficient with the scanner-if only she had something to scan. Please let her borrow any photographs, menus, articles or any other memorabilia for her to scan and put into the scrapbook.

Marque Time- Jim had info on a point conversion for the MG. See Cranecams.com or Jim Villers for more info. Bruce and Carol Woodson announced that the Berkley show will probably be moved to Browns Island this year. Tentative date is Sept. 24th. In addition, Virginia International Raceway was highly touted as being new and improved. Look for 3 vintage sports car races this year.

The meeting was adjourned with the Wicker Basket Affair following. Barry

Wednesday

April 5th Meeting

Wednesday

~ at ~

Kick Tires

***Frank & Gloria Linse's
301 E. McGinnis Circle
Norfolk, VA 23502
461-7783***

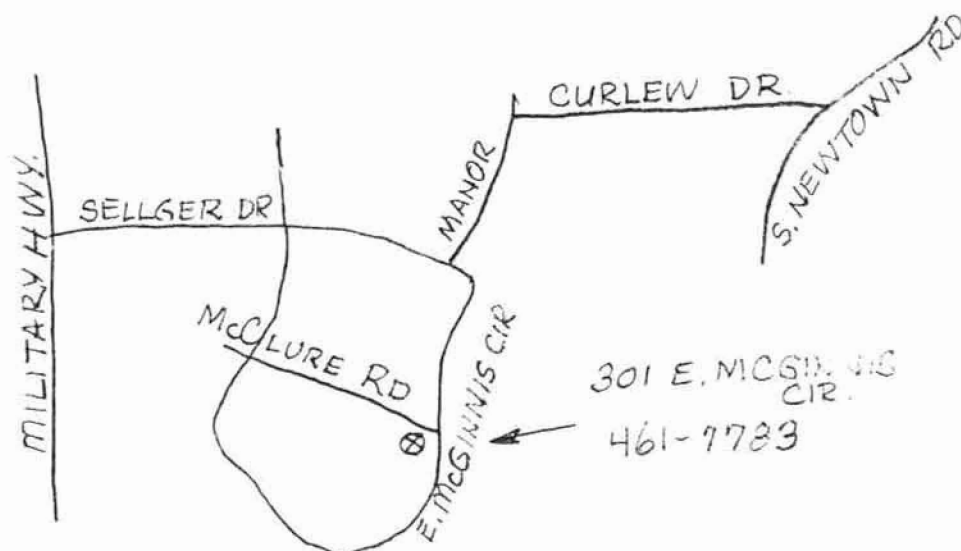
~~Meeting~~

At

At

7:30PM

8:00 PM



FIRST CLASS

23372+4326

**April 5th
Meeting at
Frank & Gloria Linse's**

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President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
V.President	Mike Haag	393-6410
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editor	Ed Kehrig	497-8073
Membership	Alan Watson	426-2600
Activities	Chuck Hudson	425-6882
Historian	Sue Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	473-1757
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783



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