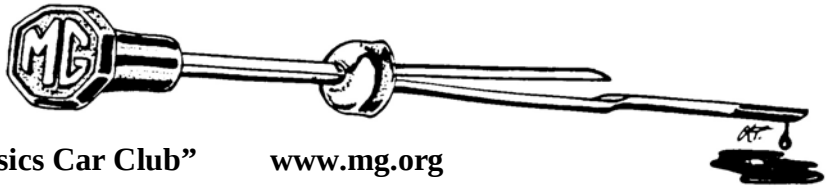


The Dipstick



"The Newsletter of the Tidewater MG Classics Car Club"

www.mg.org

Volume XXXI, Issue 9

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

September 2003

MARQUE TIME

Thanks to Paul and Carmen for hosting the August meeting. One of the few days we've had lately that didn't have a hint of rain in the forecast made for a very enjoyable evening and a very pleasant drive in the MG on a wonderful summer night. As usual, Carmen put out a fantastic spread of food for us to devour after the meeting. The \$20 annual dues is a great deal if you attend meetings, as you soon recoup your investment by partaking of the food and drinks offered at the meetings. That's one less supper I have to prepare every month, not that I actually do any cooking!

The beautifully manicured front yard of the Thiergardt's reminded me of another benefit to meeting in member's homes. These meetings can serve to provide ideas and inspiration for more than just MG projects, but other projects such as landscaping and home improvement. The hard work by others gives us a chance to see the finished project, or sometimes even a "work in progress". As a few examples, the remodeling and landscaping done by Jim and Betty, the great room addition and backyard fish pond of Andy and Cynthia, the Bond's garage/museum, and the wonderful old farmhouse and acreage of Alan and Beckey have given me ideas for various projects. Of course, finding the time to actually do any of it, well, that's another story.

Thanks to Robin for coordinating the club's 2nd trek down to the Moonrise Bay Vineyard in Knotts Island. Under threatening skies, we had a good showing of members and their MGs. Most of us had our tops down for the drive out, but soon put them up after arriving due to the start of some light drizzle. Speaking of home improvement, the owners had greatly expanded their tasting room, and added a covered picnic area where we enjoyed our wines, food, and conversation. We had a great afternoon, but by the time things were winding down, a light rain had begun, and many members took off to points North. By 5:00 PM when the last of us left, the light rain had turned into a torrential downpour. I could barely see 30ft in front of the car. The top was leaking in places I didn't know existed, and it seemed as if I was wiping the inside of the windshield about as fast as the wipers on the outside! Thankfully by the time we ap-

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check www.mg.org for the latest info!

- Sept. 3 Wednesday Meeting at Jim and Betty Villers (see map on back page)
- Sept. 6 Loch Norman British Car Festival
Mooresville, NC www.pbmclub.org
- Sept. 7 SCCA Solo II, Pungo Airfield
www.odr-scca.org
- Sept. 13-14 Brown's Island BCS
www.britishcarclub.com
- Sept. 19 Dipstick Deadline**
- Sept. 27 Wings and Wheels, Topping
<http://www.wingsandwheels.us>
- Sept. 27 TRAACA Car Show, Chesapeake City Park
www.aaca.org/tidewater
- Sept. 27 MGs on the Rocks, Bel Air, MD
www.mgsofbaltimore.com
- Oct. 3-5 Waynesboro
www.svbcc.org
- Oct. 4-5 SCCA Solo II, Pungo Airfield
www.odr-scca.org
- Oct. 7 Tuesday Meeting at Andy and Cynthia's**
- Oct. ?? Pig Pickin at Mark & Debbie Childers'**
- Oct. 11-12 Sportscar Vintage Racing Association at VIR www.virclub.com

(continued on page 3)

proached Creeds, it had let up to light drizzle again, and the rest of the drive back home was uneventful.

For the past 3-4 months, my car has been experiencing an intermittent idle. At a stoplight, the idle speed would drop sometimes from the normal 900 RPMs to about 500 or so. While in the parking lot of Kellam High School waiting to leave, I talked to Robin about it. As we were about to embark on our drive down, I noticed the car was hard to start, and it stalled 3 times just in the parking lot. My dropping idle speed problem was still there, only now it decided to drop straight to zero! How embarrassing, the first casualty of the afternoon! Not wanting to leave the safety of the parking lot, I waved everyone behind me to go around, while I climbed out and popped the bonnet. Nothing amiss to the naked eye, nothing simple like a loose vacuum hose. I grabbed a screwdriver and cranked the idle speed screw until it would keep running at a respectable idle and decided to go for it. Thankfully it worked ok, but I'm still scratching my head as to why it started doing that all of a sudden. Well, at least it did it in the parking lot and not on the road! I know, it's nothing that a good Weber carb wouldn't fix. Maybe after the car turns 25 I'll reinstall the Weber.

In October we will elect a new President and Vice-President. Both Barry and myself have served consecutive terms in each of these positions, and it's time for new leaders to take over the helm. If you would like to serve the club in either of these capacities, please let me know. If you are worried about having to chair the meetings, don't. Anyone with a copy of the preceding month's minutes can conduct a meeting. If you're worried about having to write a monthly column, don't. The length and breadth of this column is up to the individual President. Your average monkey sitting in front of a keyboard can bang out a column as intelligent as mine!

Speaking of serving the club and going on winery tours, I'd like to finish by recognizing the volunteer efforts by two of our members, Robin and Alan Watson. We are probably one of the few clubs that can boast having a father and son as members, and two very active members to boot! Soon after joining, Robin took over the Membership Chair from Alan, and has been doing a great job since, overseeing a growing member base, and keeping the Roster updated. Last year he volunteered to help with getting the Dipstick copied and mailed out, taking a load off of our Editors. He organized the Moonrise Bay Vineyard drive these past two years, and no doubt worked in the background helping Alan with other social events this year.

As they say, like father, like son. As soon as Alan paid 2

his \$20 dues, he was off and running, volunteering to get the Dipstick printed for several years at no cost, saving the club a lot of money. He took over the Membership chair and ran that for a couple of terms. In the meantime, he and Beckey hosted a couple of Pig Pickin's, and every year they host a meeting. This year, Alan picked up the gauntlet and organized the Ice Cream Socials and our first ever Winery Tour. As with most men, they didn't do it alone, as we also need to recognize the support they get from their "better half" in helping us all to play with our toys. Like many members in our club, Robin and Alan epitomize the volunteer spirit that is so important to keeping clubs like ours alive to "live long and prosper".

Safety Fast! Mike

AUGUST MINUTES

Doug Kennedy

El Presidente Haag opened the meeting promptly at 8:05 Lucas Standard Time. He thanked Paul and Carmen Thiergardt for their hospitality in hosting us and providing Carmen's culinary delights.

Membership: Robin reported that after a hectic night of renewals he didn't have a specific total but our numbers exceed 119 members with 66 renewals received to date.

Treasurer's Report: In 388.50, Out 135.19, Left 2021.58.

Minutes: Accepted as written. Thanks to Andy for stepping in.

Newsletter: Kudos to Robin, George, Mark and others for their submissions and pictures. Great work gang.

Regalia: Frank has the standard assortment of shirts including 3X for "healthy" physiques. A grille badge was being raffled.

Activities: Alan and Beckey were thanked for their hard work on the great winery tour. Robin discussed the next tour to the Moonrise Bay Winery on the 17th. The September meeting is being held at the Villers' home but we have a hole for October. Cynthia agreed to host it after spending 15 minutes on the vibro-matic pulsating recliner. When asked to comment further she could only mumble "mmmmmmmmmm-ahhhhhhhhhh" Other tours are being planned by Alan and Beckey as well as a Toys for Tots road rally that would help to donate toys for charity. Mark offered that Toys for Tots would be a great charity for us to

support this year. Next Tech Session is at the Bond's in November. Mark talked about the Pig Pickin' in October — date's to be determined.

Clubs: Robin has applications for NAMGAR membership, as well as a bunch of other registers.

Technical: Mark talked about the Dent Wizard. He had a door get dented on his Olds and took it to the Dent Wizard folks. He is now sold on the service and says that his dent was removed perfectly and on top of that not charged a dime because the technician wasn't pleased with the results. Jim concurred as well since he had great results. If you have dings and dents that need attention give Mark a call for contact info. Discussion by some people then turned to Tidewater MG's service but because the discussion was less than positive the Secretary is leaving the tales of woe up to your imagination.

Elections: Mike is compiling a nominating committee to gather a slate that will include nominees for President and Vice President. If you are interested in serving as an Officer PLEASE contact Mike ASAP.

Marque Time: Peggy had some Sacred Octagons left over to grab. Alan mentioned that Beckey's article was in Classic MG and we all agreed how proud we were. Andy's son now has a 59A that's gotten a fair amount of work and the hope is to have it running soon. Barry talked about some legislation in the works that would impact emission controls in parts of the State. Mike is going to attend the local car club council meeting to learn more and keep us abreast of it. Terry also has some knowledge of the issue so we have several people keeping their noses into it so that classic cars aren't negatively impacted. Terry also discussed legislation protecting shade tree mechanics. This has died because all too many neighborhoods frown at ever-increasing piles of rusted "projects" sitting about.

Raffle: As usual the Secretary lost to keep his streak alive. Robin snagged the booty and we all dove towards Carmen's delicacies like pregnant mosquitos to a pool of stagnant water.



Activities (continued from page 1)

Oct 19 Hunt Country Classic
www.mgcarclubdc.com

Oct. 17 Dipstick Deadline

Oct. ?? Driver Days, 1975 & older

Membership

Robin Watson

Total membership 113

The 2004 renewals are still slow coming in. When I mailed the August dipstick at the end of July I enclosed a renewal form to all those not renewed and again on August 11th I mailed a renewal notice to those that had still not renewed. As of today 21st I have only received eight more renewals. Out of a total 113 members 80 have renewed, 33 to go. For those members who would like to make notes in their 2003 Directory to keep it up to date we have the following new member:

Joe & Levona Lupton
213 Upland Dr., Hampton VA 23666
(757) 896-6396 jluptonatp@cox.net
79 MGB

Change of address for Craig & Joyce Cummings:
4017 Driftwood Way, Williamsburg VA 23188
(757) 345-2380 jacac2@cox.net
69 MGB-GT

Notes from the Editors...

Susan Bond

The gremlins hit again! The last sentence in Robin's article last month on the Tech Session should have read "Also, there was Roy Wiley, Jack Dawson, Carl Nagle, Don Price, Alan & Robin Watson." Guess I shouldn't try to cram so much on each page.

This issue is a bit thinner, not too many events when it is so hot (and rainy this year). But fall is coming with lots of British car shows for you to attend. Please drop us a line when you do, so we can let the rest know what they missed if they stayed home. Pictures are nice, too!

Officers and Committees

President	Mike Haag	496-7348
Vice President	Barry Tyson	488-7304
Secretary	Doug Kennedy	460-5037
Treasurer	Jim Villers	481-6398
Editors	Peggy Craig	382-7547
	Susan Bond	482-5222
Membership	Robin Watson	721-9277
Activities	Dan Kirby	430-9591
Historian	Susan Bond	482-5222
Technical	Mark Childers	432-9155
Regalia	Frank Linse	461-7783
Clubs	Mike Ash	495-0307

JULY 31ST ICE CREAM RUN

Joe Lupton

When I married my wife, Levona, slightly over four years ago, she had this cute little MGB in her garage. It is her baby and I had better not put a scratch on her "little car" or else! (She does let me drive it once in awhile, however). We had not been driving it much because of a clicking in the engine. I was afraid it was in need of a serious overhaul and didn't want to get stranded out in the boonies in it. It had already happened once on our way to dinner when we were dating. But that's another story!

We joined the club last month and right off discovered there was an Ice Cream run coming up at the end of the month. Levona called Alan Watson to get the details and it was decided we would do it!

This month's run was to begin at the James River fishing pier in Newport News at 7:00pm. On our way down Mercury Blvd we both noticed a red MG right behind us that turned out to be Alan Watson. I wasn't sure where we were meeting once we got to the Pier, but a toot from behind had us stopping in the first parking lot. We got out and met Alan, as we were the first two to arrive at the rendezvous. He quickly assured us



that our engine sounded pretty typical of most MGs. Shortly after that, Robin Watson showed up in his red MGB. By seven, J.D. Hawthorne and his son (in a car seat) had arrived, shortly followed by Susan and Terry (007) Bond in their hardtop. We had a caravan!



The route was across the JRB and along route 17 into Suffolk to the Cold Stone Creamery. It was threatening rain and we had the top down. As the rain started to show up on the windscreen, we pulled over to put the top up and let the rest proceed. We arrived at the destination just a few minutes late and by then everyone else



had parked in a nice row, so we pulled in alongside of the Bond's MG just as the rain began. A quick dash to the Creamery had us inside just in time before the heavens opened up and it really poured!



The Creamery! WOW! If you like ice cream, you missed out big time! This was a treat! The ice cream is blended with many good tasting confections of your choice on the cold polished marble slab and is served in a waffle cone-lined serving dish. I had the Strawberry Blonde while Levona had a Banana caramel nut dish! To say the least, it was well worth the drive to Suffolk!



Getting a chance to meet others with a love for the MG was the real reason for the trip and we really enjoyed the experience. Those who made it were:

J.D. Hawthorne and son Colin,
Robin Watson,
Alan Watson (he organized the event),
Susan and Terry Bond,
George and Peggy Craig and granddaughter
Jenny Bradford (in modern iron- three just
don't fit too well in an MG)
Levona and Joe Lupton.

Levona and I are looking forward to more get togethers and meeting more MG owners. We just wish we had joined sooner and had made more ice cream runs.



A BREAKDOWN COMMUNICATED

Mark Childers

Remember those old postcards that provided nouns and verbs and adjectives and adverbs and you simply circled your choices to tell the story then mailed home a novella on the back of a 3 x 7 card? There are two hundred stories in the Naked City MG Classics (well, one hundred stories, and at least two versions of each...) but hardly anyone out there sends Sue and Peggy any roadside repair exploits for the Dipstick. They're starving for literature. Here's a little crib sheet to help you along. **Best entry by the November issue gets a Fabulous Prize**, selected "Just For You"!!!!

T'was a

[dark and stormy – cold and rainy – snow storm – blistering hot day – in the dead of the night – other: _____]

on a

[major freeway at rush hour – deserted back road in the middle of nowhere – other: _____]

when,

[All of a sudden – in interminably slow motion – in a flash – after several months of holding breath in anticipation – other: _____]

in spite of warnings by

[spouse – significant other – the peanut gallery at the last TMGC meeting – mom, dad – Lupe the Alfa to Zundapp Foreign Car guy – other: _____]

the

[radiator – lights – engine – brakes – stereo – steering – tires – other: _____]

began

[smoking – chugging – knocking – spitting – shaking – wheezing – dying – leaking – sneezing – wheezing – boiling – burning – other: _____].

The driver and/or passenger (NAME/S HERE) (anonymity NOT guaranteed) emerge/s from the cockpit and return/s

[seconds – minutes – hours – days – weeks – years – aeons – other: _____]

later appearing

[oil-covered and grimy-handed – freshly showered, and professionally manicured – other: _____]

wearing

[an impeccable white tux – clingy strapless little black number – filthy jeans and holey Battlefield GOF tee shirt – a pair of flip flops and a smile – other: _____] (discretion advised...)

and smelling like

[a rose – the dregs of a discarded bottle of Mad Dog 20/20 – 92 Octane Shell – old rear end fluid (which, according to a recent Harris poll, is worse than baby poop on the Whooooe Olfactory Offense Scale) – a puddle of well-seasoned garbage truck squeezin's so thoughtfully deposited by the city right where the car came to a rest – other: _____].

Using

[a rusted Leatherman 26-in-one – dental floss – pocket comb – fast food wrapper – disposable lighter – pop can – paper clip – crazy glue – silly string – trunk full of useless spares – AAA Card and cell phone – other/s: _____]

the feckless motorist continued the journey in

[a Morris Garage sports car – a Morris Garage tow truck – other: _____].

MEETING, AUGUST 4, 2003

At Paul and Carmen Thiergardt's



One Big Car Show!

Mike Haag

The MG Car Club in England held their 53rd Annual Meet on 20-22 June at Silverstone. There were 8000 cars and almost 30,000 people in attendance. 8000 MGs at a car show! Folks, that's EIGHT THOUSAND MGs at one show! Imagine that many MGs in one place? Here in the states we consider 300-400 MGs at one of the national meets a large show.

The MG Car Club is planning on another meet at Silverstone in 2004 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rover and 80 years of MG. Hmmm, how much does it cost to ship a car to England?

Westward Ho!

Our Trip to St. Louis for MG 2003

Mike Haag and Susan Bond

Day Two

Tuesday morning it was still raining, but the motel had a nice breakfast and we were back on the road. We didn't see any of the mountains of West Virginia, we were too busy trying to demist the windcreens, mop up the leaks, and dodge pot holes. We finally got out of



the foul weather and stopped for lunch. At the next gas station, a guy in a pick-up asked where we were going and where we were from, and made the bright observation that

we couldn't get lost as we just stay on 64 the whole way. The sun actually came out! We were tooling along in KY enjoying it and hoping the cars would dry out when it happened again, this time to Barry's B. It chugged up a hill and stopped just over the crest. Not a good place to work on a car. So with Susan following with dicey hazard warning lights on, Mike gave the B a shove and Barry masterfully coasted it down the hill, onto the exit ramp, thru a stop sign, and into a gas station (the only thing at the exit for Salt Lick), parking it neatly by the curb. Barry commented that felt like he was in the Soapbox Derby, trying to coax his car to roll a little faster and farther. Out came the tools. Same results as before. By this time it was after hours again. We decided to leave the B there but before we could get Barry and his stuff in our Bs, the skies opened again. Wiping the windows as fast as we could, we headed out. We had been aiming for the IL/IN border, but settled for Mt. Sterling KY. Ms. Lottie's on Main has good food.

Day Three

Wednesday morning the sun and the Service Recommendation book came out again. The place in Louisville (there were only 2 in KY and we didn't want to backtrack) no longer worked on MG's, but said Nationwide Auto Restoration across the river in Jefferson IN did. The gas station just happened to have a AAA tow truck. The driver boasted about how fast it would go, so Mike and Susan left before the B was tied down,



knowing we could never keep up with it. We found out that they don't give very good directions in

KY – they all assume we know where we are going – so the tow truck got there first. Owner Ron Dilger greeted us and techs Shannon and L.J. played with the B for a

while and finally removed the air filters. Bingo, it started and ran! The theory was the dust and crud had been turned into glaze by



all the humidity so he tried to find replacements, to no avail. Then he realized he had pulled the choke out at the beginning. So we still don't know what was wrong with it. Next on the lift was Mike's B. The replace-



ment fuel pump had a leak which they couldn't stop. So Mike now has the fuel pump taken from an Austin Healey on his B! We got out of there just before rush hour. We had been aiming for St. Louis, but settled for Corydon, IN. O'Charley's, a chain that hasn't come to the Hampton Roads area yet, has good food.

Day Four

About an hour after leaving the motel on Thursday, somewhere in the middle of southern IN, Mike radioed that his car was doing the same thing again, coughing and dying. By sheer dumb luck, and maybe with a little divine intervention, we were near an exit and another gas station. We pulled over out of the way and up came Mike's bonnet for Round 3 of fighting mysterious fuel problems. After checking for voltage at the fuel pump, he remembered that he still had the small, universal solid state fuel pump in the boot that was on the car when he bought it. Isn't it good that we never throw anything away? He decided to jury-rig that pump in the engine bay and hope for the best. With some extra fuel line, some plastic tie clips borrowed from Sue, and a small hose clamp from Barry, we were back on the road again, and Mike didn't have any more problems for the remainder of the trip.



We crossed over into IL, and after stopping for lunch, continued on without any more problems — until the arch was in sight. Traffic was funneled into one lane because of road construction and moving at a crawl. So Barry's B decided to quit again, just before an over-



pass. Mike went on across and Susan pulled up behind and turned on the dicey hazard warning lights again. One redneck went by and yelled at Mike, "Buy American!" After a few tweaks under the bonnet Barry had his phone out to call AAA when Mike got on the radio and said, "Try taking the air filters out." He did and it ran! Barry found a gap in traffic and took off, not stopping till he got to the hotel. Susan finally got out, let Mike out, and joined the horrendous traffic. We will never gripe about our tunnels and bridges again – in St. Louis they funnel 3 interstates onto one bridge across the Mississippi!

We arrived at the Sheraton Westport Inn Lakeside Chalet in late afternoon. We'd made it!!! We'd only

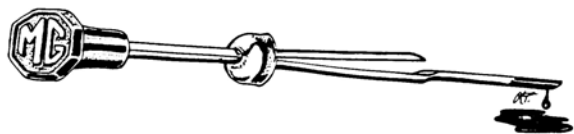


seen one B on the road, but there were hundreds in the cordoned-off parking lot. We checked in, registered and headed out into Westport Plaza, a series of bars, restaurants, and shops right next to the hotel, for their "Party in the Plaza", a block party held once a month.



Turned out to be a little more hip than we were prepared for so after we saw the multitude of people in the hot sun, we decided to go back to the plaza to explore and relax with a pint or two. All of the outdoor tables, ideal for people watching, were full so we decided to go inside a quasi-Irish pub, Llywelyn's for a beer (not Bud) and a menu. When we decided to order the waitress informed us that the kitchen had just closed because of the party. Danny O'Toole's Pub was a bit more accommodating and also had draft microbrews, a rarity in the city of Anheuser Busch where bars brag about serving Bud on the day it is made. The weather was perfect so we wandered around for a while before checking out the hospitality suite at the hotel which only had Bud, and not much of that, so we called it a night. For a change we were where we had been aiming for!

The Dipstick



The Tidewater MG Classics

Susan Bond

541 Forest Road

Chesapeake, VA 23322

Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS

Monthly Meeting

Wed, Sep 3rd

Jim and Betty Villers

3133 Inlet Rd

Va Beach

481-6398



7:30-8:00pm - Kick Tyres

8:00 - Meeting

