



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 47 Issue 7

July 2020

Sprite Saga

It was the summer of '69. No, I don't mean the Bryan Adams song. But it does have to do with true love.

That was the year that I fell for her. She was beautiful, graceful and so much fun to be around that I found myself smiling every time she was near.

She was an Austin-Healey Sprite.

I wasn't even close to driving age at this point, and the car belonged to my older sister's boyfriend, Steve. He was actually a very nice guy and quite tolerant of his girlfriend's pesky kid brother.

The car was a 1962 Sprite in Primrose Yellow and I loved it. Steve would take me for rides and let me turn the directional signals on and off. In case you're wondering how I managed to do that, the directional signals on those early Sprites consisted of a simple 3-position toggle switch in the middle of the dashboard. I have a photo of Steve and my sister (and my nephew Mike) with the back end of Steve's Sprite visible.

Anyway, I was hooked. And when the time came when I was old enough to buy my own car, it isn't hard to guess what I did.



When I was about 15 years old I became friends with someone who was a year older than me, and he owned a 1959 Bugeye Sprite. It was not in very good shape, and smoked like a 2-cycle chain saw, but I wanted one.

I worked all summer when I was 15 (*What child labor laws? They never heard of 'em in Gloversville*). With that job I saved up enough money to buy a car by my 16th birthday in September. I tried to persuade my friend to sell me his Sprite, but I think he was addicted to the fumes and he refused. Instead, he did me a great favor and found another Bugeye Sprite that was for sale. And yes, for those of you who know me, that is, in fact, the very same one I still have.

It turns out the car had additional benefits that I had not even considered when I bought it. I transferred to a new school late in my junior year of high school. It took a while to adjust, and there wasn't too much at my new school that interested me. That was until one day someone else transferred to the school. Yes, a girl. How did you guess?

Despite my best efforts, it was hard at first to attract her attention, particularly with every other guy at school forming a human pheromone wall around her. Finally after a few days, she reluctantly agreed to let me drive her home after school.

When she saw my car in the parking lot she reacted as if I presented her with a basketful of puppies. Since she was so infatuated with the car I figured that I should take a shot right then, so I asked her to go out with me the following weekend. I'm still not sure if she was actually listening, but she said yes. (Note: If our Editor is able to do so, you may see a photo of me in front of her house, circa 1974. One look and you'll know that it had to be the car she wanted.)

Now, at the time, she was the best thing to happen to me because of that car. But as it turns out I was soon to find something much longer lasting.



While I was driving her home she pointed to some skinny guy with long blonde hair walking down the street. She said that he went to her old school, and that I "...*just had to stop...*" because she wanted to say hi to her good friend. I was less than thrilled.

But, not wanting to mess things up before I had my first date with her, I stopped along the side of the street. I had the top down on my Sprite and she called to him. When he looked up at me... well, let's just say that the phrase "*if looks could kill*" was appropriate.

I didn't know it at the time, but she had dated him before. So, needless to say, he wasn't too happy to meet me either. He sat down on the hood of my car (*bonnet, for you who prefer the proper term*), his back to me and, with the rivets on his Levi jeans digging into the paint, had a nice chat with her, all without a single word to me.

Soon after that I went with that same girl to a party. Yes, at the home of Mr. Bonnet-Scratcher himself. He and I had a couple of beers (*well, the drinking age was 18 after all...*), and I guess he figured that I wasn't so bad after all. And when I found out how about his history with her, I guess I could understand his joy at meeting me. Besides, the scratches buffed out anyway.

In the end it turned out that dating that girl led to one of the best chance meetings I would ever have. For those of you who know me, that guy was Kerry, and he and I have been friends for over 40 years. And the girl? Let's just say that the Ford Administration lasted longer than that.

OK, so this might not be the most exciting story ever to appear in the Dipstick, but it's all I have.

I'm sure many of you can do better. After all, everyone has a story to tell, so why not share your own? You might even have one where you had better luck with the girl.

Safety Fast,
Robert



Frank looking over an MGA project owned by AACA member Barry Basnight, a neighbor of Susan and Terry. Barry also just purchased a road ready MGA so that he can join us on roadtrips!

Activities Update

Our July meeting will be at Deadline Brewing on Tuesday evening, July 7th. 2272 W Great Neck Road. Plan on arriving around 6pm. Deadline is normally closed to the public on Tuesdays and will open exclusively for our group. There should be plenty of space with both the tasting room and the outside tents, so social distancing shouldn't be an issue. Pizza from Shorebreak will be provided.

Tentative plans are being made for a Tech Session hosted Deb and Frank Linse in August. Details should be available by the August edition of The Dipstick.

Upcoming Shows:

Southeast British Car Festival, Dillard, GA September 17-20. Registration is OPEN. **The show has NOT been cancelled.**

Shenandoah Valley British Car Festival - cancelled for 2020

MG International 2021 will be in Atlantic City June 14 - 17, 2021. This is the 6th all-MG Register. It is a short drive (compared to Calgary, Reno or Louisville). Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for early registration information.



Dipstick Calendar – July 2020

July 7 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting
– 6:00pm
Deadline Brewing – Virginia Beach

Aug 5 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting – Hampton -
Tentative
Hosted by Faith and PJ

Summer Tech Session – TBA –
Tentative

Sep 1 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting
– ***Tentative***
Ocean View Fishing Pier

TBD – Wings & Wheels –
TRAACA – Pungo – ***Tentative***

Sep 17-20 – Southeast British Car Festival – Dillard, GA
Contact Peachtree MG Registry for details

Oct 7 (Tue) – Monthly Meeting
Hosted by Renee and Bill Olcheski

Nov 4 (Wed) – Monthly Meeting

Fall Tech Session – TBA
Hosted by Susan and Terry Bond

Dec TBA – Holiday Party
Hosted by Ashley and Billy Stutz

Dec 15 – (Tue) Holiday Lights

Bold-Faced Items are TMGC Events



Marque Time

I planned to write an article for this edition of The Dipstick about the drive to Alan and Beckey's where we were supposed to have our June TMGC meeting, the first since March 3. That piece was, of course, in addition to this monthly offering of Pulitzer Prize caliber wordsmithing (*is that even a word?*) which is read by at least 3 people each month. That number, of course, includes the author as well as the Editors...

But, as I was saying before I interrupted myself, we were *supposed* to have a meeting.

But the weather forecast put and end to those plans. The email from Alan and Beckey said it best "*We are SO disappointed!...*"

And I'm sure many of you share in their frustration. I know I certainly did.

After spending more time at home since I was 7 (when I had mumps and chicken pox back-to-back), I needed some extended time out of the house. Even my son Chris has been so bored that he wanted to come with me for the day. And you know it is surely a sign of true desperation when an 18 year old college student volunteers to go with his dad to a meeting where most of the attendees (including yours truly) look as if they got lost on the way to an AARP conference.

But I still could use a break. As many others have been doing, I have been working from home. Not that I have very much to do right now, but it keeps me off the streets. I am going a little stir-crazy. It is really quite sad to realize, as I did the other day, that one of the highlights of my day was chasing a housefly from room to room. But that does remind me of a quote that seems appropriate.

Groucho Marx once appeared in a Marx Brothers film as the character J. Cheever Loophole, a sleazy lawyer. Yeah, I know what you're thinking, but I get to make the lawyer jokes around here. Anyway... Groucho / Loophole said "*I have an agreement with the houseflies. The flies don't practice law and I don't walk on the ceiling.*"

I know, last month I had quotes from great philosophers but, between you and me, I prefer Groucho.

So, until we meet again, hopefully at the July meeting, keep a positive thought for the future. And don't let the houseflies win.

Safety Fast,
Robert

MG Tech Stuff – by Terry Bond

It was a sunny Sunday, and we decided the MGB needed to get out for a while. Us too. A drive-by at a local Nursing Home would be the ideal opportunity to provide a little joy for residents, a little fresh air for us, and much needed road use for the B.

We marveled at how nice it is to have a good battery as the B happily came to life. We backed out of the garage, and turned onto Forest Rd, windows already down, sunglasses on, and masks close at hand. No sooner did we turn onto Hillwell Rd than we noted a few water spots on the windscreen. By the time we turned on to Hanbury Rd headed for downtown Great Bridge it became a serious rain!

No wipers! A couple of flicks of the switch, then a manual nudge on the blade, and nothing! We turned around and let what little Rain-X remained on the windscreen get us safely back to the garage. Dang-has to be something simple! Here's the "rest of the story."

So, up goes the bonnet and out comes the flashlight.

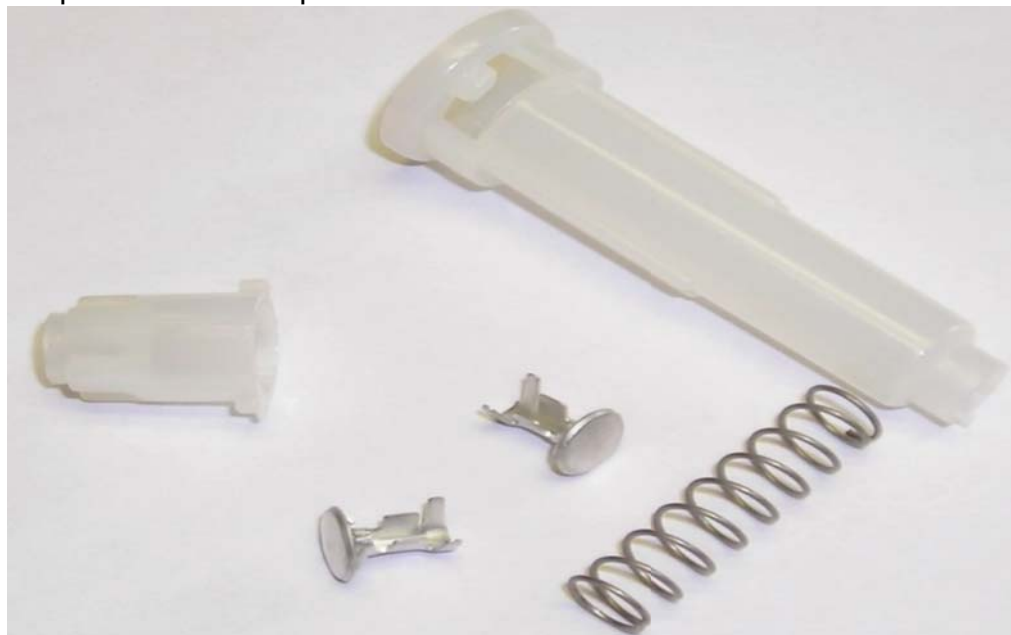
Keep it simple, keep it basic. They worked before, why not now. Nothing has been done since Susan changed the oil. Surely that would not have any impact on what Lucas does?.

MG Truth number 1 – Joe Lucas and Time are incompatible. That means, when things Lucas sit a long time, connections seem to get further and further apart. It's sometimes called "corrosion." Or maybe I'll just call it "Lucasness" or something like that.

In our MGB, the Wiper motor and blower fan are on the same circuit. Neither worked.

The main fuse box got a quick look and revealed no blown fuses. A little wiggle on the connectors and the fuses themselves revealed no corrosion, and just that little "wiggle" surely must have helped restore some of the "closeness" of the components involved, but still nothing. Perhaps the windscreen was too dry? Susan and I jumped to our respective computers to try and find a possible solution by consulting the ever-reliable MG discussion forums. At approximately the same time, we met in the hallway and decided we knew where to begin. (with the car that is.)

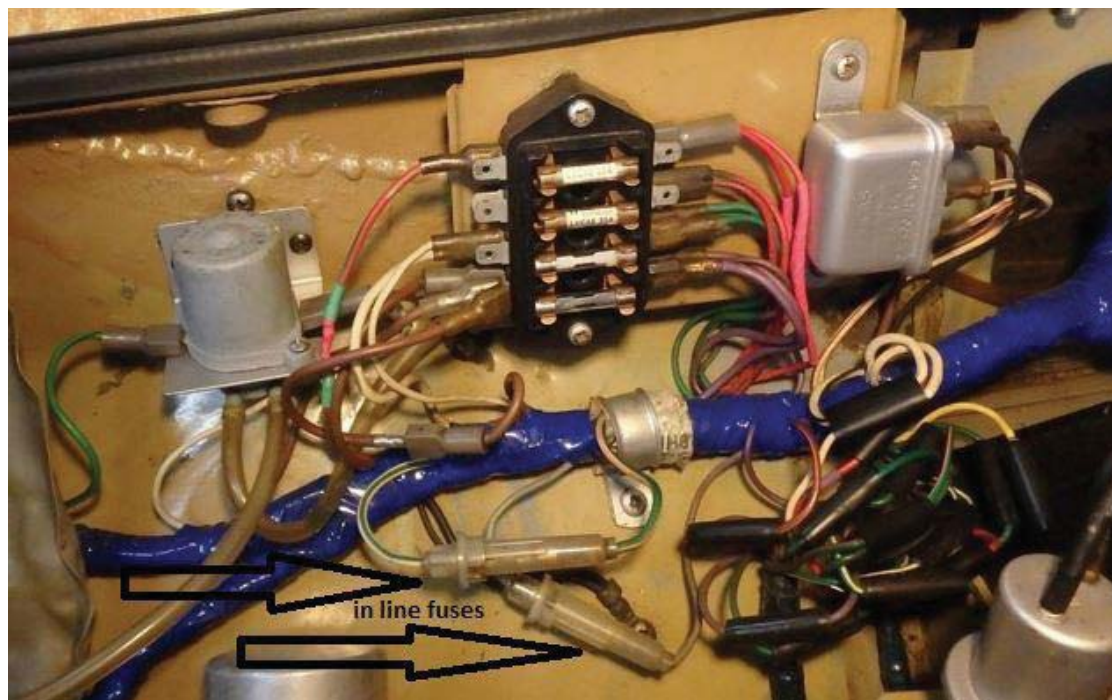
There is an in-line fuse on the white-green under the bonnet. Those little plastic connectors come apart and the fuse is inside, tension provided by a little spring, contact provided by a couple of little metal pieces that make contact with the ends of the fuse itself.



Terry recommendation - You should have a couple of spares in your travelling kit!)

From 71 to 74 the power for the wipers, heater fan and electric washers came from the accessories position of the ignition switch, a white/green wire, an in-line fuse below the fusebox, and a green/pink wire. If these others don't work either then check this fuse and the circuit back to the ignition switch if there is no voltage on the green/pink side of the fuse.

Here is a great photo showing the in-line fuses that I captured from the MGB Experience forum.



That little connector can be hard on fingernails so be careful when trying to open it. Let's see, does it twist? Does it just "snap" together? Which way does it twist? Do you pull or push on it? Eventually, it will come apart so fast you might drop the contents where they'll never be seen again. In any case, you'll most likely be surprised when it does come apart and you'll never really understand how you did that. But-it does come apart.

Check the fuse, clean the ends if needed, and put it back together. Remember, reassembly is the opposite of disassembly. You did take notes right?

In our case, the "Lucasness" was restored and the wipers worked vigorously once again. It was too late for our little "parade" but we were pleased the B is now ready for the road again.

If you need to go further than just banging around that little fuse holder, here are additional steps you can take.

If only the wipers are affected it is a matter of getting the voltmeter out.

You might want to start measuring voltage at the wiper motor with ignition on and the "stalk" pushed up or down.

But, there are several things to check before going too far. If that heater motor doesn't work, that in-line fuse is the most likely culprit. The blower motor connectors should be checked on the motor itself. Those pin connectors can corrode or work loose over time, or when you jiggle the wires while cleaning under the bonnet. You do clean under there don't you?

Check for any bad connections or "Lucasness" (looseness) from the ignition switch too..

Depending; on what previous owners (or amateur electricians) did, there may be additional in-line fuses under the dash or behind the radio that have been spliced into the power line coming from the auxiliary side of your ignition switch. Wiggle-away and see what happens.

If all of a sudden, the wipers come to life like ours did, you may never know what you did to solve the problem, so open a cold beer and bask in the glory of your wonderful mechanical accomplishment. You and Joe Lucas are now on speaking terms once again! We have until winter to trouble-shoot the blower motor so we're good for at least one more article on that!

(Terry recommendation – Carry Rain-X.)

Be safe-

Terry



September 17-20, 2020

The **Peachtree MG Registry** presents:
A Southern British Car Weekend in the mountains of North Georgia
at

The Dillard House Inn, Dillard, GA.

<https://www.dillardhouse.com>

All makes and models of British cars and motorcycles are welcome!

This is also a **NAMGBR** and a **NAMGAR** regional event with
MG Magnette ZA and ZB, built between 1953 and 1958, as **the featured models!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JOHNS BROTHERS IS 2020 TRAACA MEET PRESENTING PARTNER

Virginia Beach, Virginia, May 29, 2020. This historic assembly of collector cars is underway. The Tidewater Region of the world's largest automotive club, the Antique Automobile Club of America, is pleased to announce that one of the oldest continuing privately-held businesses in the Hampton Roads area, Johns Brothers, established in 1892, is the Presenting Partner of the 47th Annual Meet conducted by TRAACA on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Full details on the event are at www.TRAACA.com

The Chairman of the Meet, Paul Fuqua, has estimated that it will draw more than 300 collectible automobiles to the Meet and Show. "Our theme is the celebration of the 67 years of America's Corvette, just a small part of the Meet. We attract a large number of true Classic and Antique vehicles. And this year we are enthusiastic about allowing contemporary cars onto our show field. In the past if a car weren't an antique, more than 25 years old, it could not be on the show field. That's no longer the case."

"It's highly appropriate that Johns Brothers Security has chosen to be the Meet's Presenting Partner", said Fuqua. "Johns Brothers has provided essential services to this area for more than 125 years. As a company it has evolved from making horse-drawn deliveries of hardwood and coal to today's installation and maintenance of highly sophisticated, technologically-advanced surveillance and security systems."

The Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach is the site of the TRAACA Annual Meet. Admission to the TRAACA Meet is free to the public. The Museum imposes a parking fee of \$20 per car, regardless of the number of occupants who are normally charged \$15 per person to gain entry to the Museum and its attractions.

The grounds open at 7:00AM, the Parade at 11:00AM and Awards at 3:00PM. During the course of the day Museum pilots will be flying select military aircraft and individuals can buy tickets to win a fifteen-minute aerial tour of Virginia Beach from the open cockpit of an antique bi-plane.

"There's something going on all day for the family", Fuqua said, "from the great cars, the planes on display and flying, the judging, food vendors, a swap meet, model car races, raffles and a truly unforgettable gathering of Corvettes."



THE DIPSTICK



President.....Vince Groover
Vice-President...Peggy Bradford
Secretary.....Pat Beuter
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Editor.....Brenda Banvard

FROM OLE 6402

Welcome to a new "T" year, ya'll!

Thank you, Roy and Marilyn, for hosting the October meeting, and ,
also, to Roy for conducting club elections in such a democratic
manner. (I must have missed something. ED.)

Thanks, also, go to Mel and Judy Baker for allowing their home to
be invaded by the club for the Pig Roast on the 13th. Among the
more than 40 people attending were the Eatons of Fairfax, the
Colkers in their first-time-out 51 TD (with Brenda driving the
station wagon, just in case), the Grays (Larry and Sylvia) in
their first-time-ever-rained-on yellow TC, and Phil Topcik from
Richmond, who arranged his drill weekend at Little Creek so he
could make it, and all the in-town members, including Dave
Barrows, we enjoy seeing at most gatherings.

Make note! We will have our Christmas Party on Friday, the 7th of
December, so as not to conflict with the Richmond and Chesapeake
Chapters' parties. Many of our and their members hold dual
membership and no one wants to miss a party.

Our new Events Chairman is Mike Ash. If you wish to assist or
have a recommendation for your favorite happenig, contact Mike.

See ya at the Perino's on Tuesday, the 6th.

Vince

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21

Cover of the November 1984 Dipstick. Robert sent this over in response to the editor's plea for material! Please consider sending a story, anecdote, photo, or other Dipstick materials for our use during the ongoing period of COVID-19 inactivity! Thanks in advance!!



Eric and Cindy also provided some emergency material: "We are on a 2 week Chesapeake Bay sailing trip now with our Catalina 36 "big E". But car lovers are EVERYWHERE! This is my friend Martin's 57' Bel Aire in Kilmarnock, Virginia. We also enjoyed seeing his 2 showroom quality early model Corvettes. Plus one unbelievable garage with a car lift for parking & work! Yet, he is unfulfilled without an MG!!"

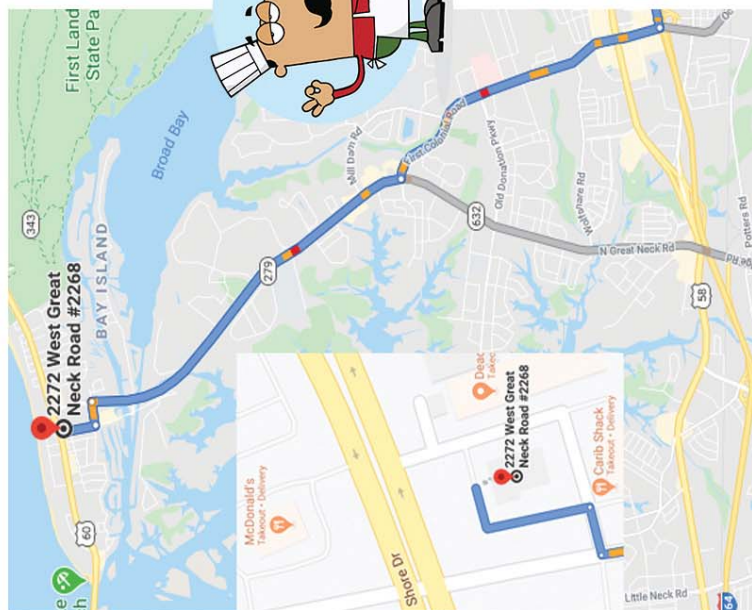


Hoping to see YOU on the 7th of July!



6:00 Doors open
6:30 pizza served
Meeting to follow

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, July 7th
Deadline Brewing
Project
2272 W. Great Neck Rd
Suite 2268
Virginia Beach



Tidewater MG Classics

C/O Kathy & Mark Davidoski

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Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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Affiliated with



North American MGB Register

FIRST CLASS