



The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

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MG Tech Stuff – by Terry Bond *(Including Fall Tech Session Recap!)*

The Fall tech session at our house is now a page in the history book. For certain, 2021 will have a few more pages than the 2020 edition does! We had a great turnout on a nice fall day. Our new deck was finished, falling leaves provided a nice atmosphere, and clear, sunny skies gave us enough warmth to make things comfortable while we visited, ate, drank and even did a few tech things. At one point I counted 18 MGs between the front yard and the barn! Of course there were also a number of non-MGs there including Matt's Triumph and Jim's freshly restored Porsche. A few more modern cars were mingled in as well. It was a great to see our last founding member – Roosevelt Mosley!

The first tech issue was a gas leak. As Rick Flora pulled his MGB into the drive way (just as the coffee was ready) you could hear it sputter a bit, and you could actually smell it! There was some kind of gas leak! We pulled it out in front of the barn and quickly popped the bonnet to see fuel dripping from the newly installed glass in-line filter. Quick-tighten up the clamps! To no avail! We shut it down and quickly removed the filter. It was explained that this was the second of two purchased together just a couple of days ago. The first one leaked too! We quickly figured out that the glass tube is capped on both ends with a nicely chrome plated cap, held in place with a nut on each end. Tightening up those nuts was enough to improve the seal between the glass tube, rubber gaskets, and the nuts holding the unit together. Rick reinstalled the adjusted filter and with clamps tightened, it no longer leaked. We always assume that things right out of the box are ready to be installed. Nope. We've encountered these leaking items before. One time we even bought a clutch slave-cylinder that had the bleed screw in the wrong hole! It's worth double checking these things before installation obviously.



There were some other tech items handled during the day including some carb adjustment, plug wires being reconnected and plugs cleaned and gapped for Rob McPherson's MGTD. We even resolved a mysterious rattle problem in Bob McClaren's MGB. Following a carb adjustment, his road test revealed a strange rattle. It was difficult to pin down but seemed to be coming from under the bonnet. His air cleaner assembly was tightened down but that did not seem to help. Other possibilities were under investigation when someone noticed a spanner (wrench) had been left behind in the channel at the top of the driver's side front fender (wing). The tool was promptly replaced on its proper peg-board hook in the garage and the rattle problem was solved – and now becomes a part of this tech article.

Why does it seem colder weather produces all sorts of odd noises in our LBCs?

Perhaps it's just a thinning of the atmosphere. Our Southern humidity no longer provides an element of "lubrication." Maybe it's just the oils and greases congeal in colder weather, lessening their effectiveness? Maybe it's just driving more with windows rolled up, and tops up we can hear more from the car itself.

Here are a few interesting rattles we've uncovered –

Universal joints! The dreaded project of replacing them means we tend to ignore those initial soft "clunks" when shifting. They won't go away regardless how high you turn up the volume on the radio. Eventually, you'll need to replace them. It's one of those tasks where the first one takes 4 hours to figure out, and then it takes 20 minutes to finish the job! Getting the old ones out is always the worst part of the job. No, undoing all those nuts and bolts holding the flanges together is the worst part. We all detest having to remove the drive shaft to work on it. Do remember to use chalk (or something) to mark where those flanges meet up with other parts! I think a separate tech article on this project with clear photos might be in order. The parts are readily available and it really isn't so difficult so stay tuned if you've got that tell-tale "clunk" coming from under the car when you shift. Just don't let it get too much worse!



Loose suspension parts. This runs the gamut from shock absorber links to A-arm nuts and bolts up front. At some point (maybe over the winter?) it's worth putting the B up on stands and sliding under (safely of course) to tighten up everything and inspect it all. I usually do our GT at least once a year, usually before a long trip. I've found a few nuts and bolts that can be taken up a couple of turns doing this. Several years ago we tried a popular conversion to tube shocks for the rear of the GT. We learned that the shock mounts kept working themselves loose. Even the shock mounting bolts themselves worked loose over time. We've since changed back to stock MGB components. One tip here – if you have any components that utilize Nyloc nuts, those are basically one-time use items. If you remove them, replace only with new ones. A Nyloc nut has an encapsulated nylon washer in it that supposedly eliminates the need to use a separate steel lock-washer. They work great in a lot of places – once. Loose tabs on trim rings or even loose lug-nuts can be a problem, the latter a big problem if not detected and fixed. We've talked about some brake lining problems before, but those little spring brake-shoe retainer clips are quite prone to rusting and breaking, leaving a rattle and scraping sound at the wheel, especially when braking. It's worth inspecting brakes for wear, wheel cylinders for leaks, and those brake shoe retainer clips on an annual basis.

Under the bonnet- things do loosen up over time and with use. Aside from leaving spanners and screwdrivers under there, we've found loose air cleaners, loose oil cooler assemblies, and even loose brackets holding things like the alternator in place. Of course that usually reveals itself as a squeal due to a belt slipping. It's certainly worth getting under there and grabbing onto a few parts (engine off of course) and giving them a little "wiggle" to see if anything is loose. In the process we've discovered hoses that are almost ready to pop off, to nuts and bolts that need tightening up. For a car that gets driven a lot it's not surprising some things do vibrate loose. One particularly difficult rattle to find is from the struts that hold the bonnet when it's open. When closed, those items are usually loose and not under any kind of stress.

They may be rattling against the bonnet itself or where it attaches to the inner fender (wing) support. Once you open the bonnet and put some weight on that strut it seems solid so could be an easily overlooked noise-maker. If you have an insulating pad under the bonnet, make sure it's still firmly in place. A good friend once began experiencing some over-heating issues that turned out to be a loose insulating pad restricting partial air-flow when closed. There are also a lot of cables under there, and if not properly held in place, they may be in contact with a metal surface or another component. It's worth wiggling them to make sure they are correctly routed and held in place by proper clamps.

Cockpit interior. Cables under the dash might be a rattle source while driving. We've also learned that at certain speeds, some items develop what's known as a "sympathetic vibration" that can be difficult to detect. Speedometer cables and choke cables are prone to this especially. Console parts can also be a rattle source but a biggie seems to be the tensioner that holds the gear shift lever. Ensure the chrome trim ring holding the shift-boot in place is also tightened down. It's a good time to tighten up window cranks and give a shake to your wide windows to ensure the mechanism inside isn't loosening up or rattling against other parts in there. Loose speakers in door panels are common. But-who can hear them anyway against that wonderful sound of an MGB under acceleration!

I think there are enough "winter projects" here to keep your hands greasy for a while, so I hope I've given you a few ideas. Even if your car runs great, there may still be some tinkering needed. Isn't that the fun of owning a LBC?

Happy Vintage Motoring-
Terry



Just a few of the cars at the Fall Tech Session. See our website for more!



Marque Time!



Getting back to normal-ish. That was the tag line in one of the late night talk show monologues recently. Yes, now that I am retired I can watch these if I want, and if I can stay awake that late! With the vaccinations and lifting of restrictions, life in general is returning to near normal, or normal-ish. This goes for our club as well.

We had four meetings in members' homes in 2021, thanks to Bruce & Jayne, Andy & Cynthia, Alan & Beckey and PJ & Faith. Mathieu & Rachel volunteered to host a meeting but the Navy had other last minute plans for Mathieu. Hopefully more members will volunteer to host meetings in 2022. Getting back to normal-ish.

We were able to have our Spring and Fall Tours once again, thanks to Alan & Beckey and Bob & Missy. It was so good to get back on the road again in our MGs, it didn't matter where we went. Getting back to normal-ish.

We also had Summer and Fall Tech Sessions, thanks to Jim & Betty and Terry & Susan. Getting back to normal-ish.

This year we will once again have our annual Holiday Party in December, thanks to Betty & Jim. Getting back to normal-ish.

Other club events this year included the Southside Dessert Drive, "Turn Back the Clock Night" Tides game and even a tour of the Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis. Getting back to normal-ish.

At the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween Day, Robert Perrone and I somehow got into a discussion of Mel Brooks films, including *Young Frankenstein*. In the movie there is a scene where his assistant Igor (played by Marty Feldman with the wonky eyes) steals a brain labelled ABNORMAL from a medical laboratory. When it is implanted into the monster and things go awry, Dr. Frankenstein asks Igor whose brain is this? Igor replies that it belonged to someone named AB NORMAL. I think all of us have had enough of AB NORMAL these past 21 months. Here's hoping we get back to NORMAL in 2022.

Safety fast,
Mike



Holiday Party

Join us as we close out another driving season and celebrate the holidays.

We invite you to bring a favorite dish to share - a "Finger Food Dinner Party".

Add to the festivities by wearing a holiday ornament or decoration.

Help support our charity contribution to Ronald McDonald House at CHKD.

Wish List

6:30PM - Saturday, December 11, 2021

Hosted by Betty & Jim Villers

RSVP by Sunday, December 5th • BettyV@cox.net or 757-481-6398

Please let Betty know what you will bring so she can fill in as needed.



3133 Inlet Road, Virginia Beach



Trunk or Treat at Big Ugly Brewing

Vintage cars, including a good number of TMGC member rides, participated in the Halloween “Trunk of Treat” event sponsored by Big Ugly in Chesapeake. It was a perfect afternoon to host the parade of lucky kids who got to select their treats from the tailgates and trunks (aka boots!) of so many beautiful motorcars!



TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Vice President	Paul Fuqua	449-7463
Secretary	Kelly MacPherson	285-7502
Treasurer	Jim Villers	822-9182
Editors	Mark and Kathy Davidoski	499-4647
Membership	Mike Ash	678-0963
Webmaster	Mike Haag	Mikehmg@cox.net
Historian	Susan Bond	403-1169
Technical	Terry Bond	403-4614
Activities	Bruce Easley	570-2042
Clubs	Mike Ash	678-0963
Regalia	Rose Ladd	737-2468



What happens when Old Car Guys get sent
to a nursing home ...

November Activities Report

by Bruce Easley

Our Tech Session at the Bonds was moved to November 14 due to predicted inclement weather, and the decision turned out to be a good one. The weather was perfect and we had a great turnout, with a formal meeting included. The Bonds had an interesting selection of brews and other libations, good food, AND some work actually got done, along with Rose's raffle! The November 13 "No Bridge Tunnel" drive got bumped due to the meeting date change, but Rob McPherson and I (with families) had made an exploratory trip to collect information "down south" and that will be used for a future drive.



The Holiday Lights display at Norfolk Botanical has now changed to a "walking only" display, so there will be no Tidewater MG drive-through there. If anyone is still looking for lights to enjoy, the Norfolk Zoo has a lighted drive at \$45 per car, and there is a drive-through display of lights at the Virginia Beach Boardwalk for \$25 per car weeknights or \$30 per car weekends. The Boardwalk event website is <https://beacheventsvb.ticketspice.com/holidaylights>.

The Tidewater MG annual Holiday Party will be held at the home of Jim and Betty Villers, starting at 6:30 on Saturday, December 11. They are planning this year's party to include a variety of "finger foods", with attendees bringing their own specialties. Please RSVP to Jim and Betty with your confirmation of attendance and plans for your food contribution by December 5.

At the Party, we will also have the traditional Silent Auction, in which members bring MG-related items (or other amazing treasures) for attendees to bid on. Proceeds will go to supporting our charity for this year: the Ronald McDonald house. We also have a list of items desired for donation provided us by the R McD house, which is listed on the next page. These include various house-related sundries as well as gift cards. Please plan to bring some special item for auction, as well as donation items.

Our VP, Paul Fuqua, is making his list of venues for the monthly club meetings in 2022. Anyone wanting to host a meeting or with suggestions for meeting locations should contact him while there are still vacancies!

A 2022 calendar of events will be updated in the next issue of the Dipstick.

Note: If you have a silent auction item, please contact Rose Ladd so she can prepare a bid sheet for the party.

Ronald McDonald House Suggested Gifts

For Kitchen:

Boxed meals
Cereal (individually wrapped boxes preferred)
Packaged & Canned Fruit (fruit cocktail, applesauce cups, etc.)
Coffee Creamers
Canned Soups
Juice Boxes (Hi C, Capri-Sun)
Regular Coffee & Filters
Spices
Salt
Pepper
Coffee
Keurig Cups

Individually Packed Items:

Chips
Cookies
Crackers
Raisins
Nuts
Pop Tarts
Granola Bars

Household Goods:

Cleaning Supplies
Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
Lysol Disinfectant Spray
Dryer Sheets
Dishwasher Detergent (No liquid Dishwasher detergent)
Toilet Paper (no other paper products please)
Kitchen Hand Towels
White Towels
Hand Towels, & Washcloths
Energy Saving Light Bulbs
Silverware
Glassware
Plastic ware

Gift cards:

Walmart
Amazon
Target

November 14, 2021 at the home of Susan & Terry Bond.

The November meeting of TMGC was held in conjunction with the Fall Tech Session. Newly elected President Mike Haag called us to order at 11:52 a.m. He noted that he hadn't led a meeting for 18 years, but would refer to his agenda "cheat sheet" to keep us on track!

Mike opened with a big shout out to our hosts, Susan & Terry, who went all out to provide us with working space AND a delicious luncheon which was enjoyed outside under sunny skies on the newly-refurbished deck. Mike noted everyone's flexibility in moving the date of the Tech Session on short notice due to weather concerns.

We did not have any new members or visitors to welcome, but Roosevelt Moseley was in attendance as the oldest founding member of TMGC!

The minutes from the last meeting were approved by voice vote -- unanimous as usual.

Vice President's Report: Other than the traditional vice presidential shrug, our new VP Paul Fuqua announced that a signup sheet for monthly meetings was going around – please consider hosting a meeting in the coming year.

Activities Report: Bruce Easley reported that a driveout event was being planned for the Spring, not to be confused with the extended Spring Tour. The Holiday Party is on Saturday December 11th at the Villers' home. Please RSVP by December 5th. We will be supporting the Ronald McDonald House this year. A listing of items needed will be published in the next Dipstick. Holiday Lights drive is still tentative for December 14th, but the new pricing of \$18 per person may make this a dinner only visit to Franco's at 6PM. (Note: due to walk only option at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, this TMGC event was subsequently cancelled.)

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported that TMGC remained very much in the black!

Dipstick: Please remember our deadline is the 20th of the month!

Membership: We have 82 member households at this time.

Historian: Susan displayed the 2021 scrapbook, which is a bit thinner than normal due to COVID conditions.

Time: 12:06 and Kelly's notes begin here....

So, I was late. Nothing new when it comes to me because I tend to get distracted easily and before I know it, it's time to go and I'm not ready. When I got to the house there was a roundabout of beautiful MGs, an elder Porsche, and a few other older cars that I don't know the names of. Penelope (my car) looked out of place amongst all of these beauties.

There was a large group of folks, standing and sitting, as I rounded the back of the house to the newly built (re-built?) back deck. Our new illustrious leader, Mike Haag, was holding court, standing near the stairs. As I reflect back, I could swear he was standing at a podium...



"Old news/New news", he asked. Bill started to speak when Mike said it wasn't Marque Time yet! But Bill stayed the course: "At mass this morning, they prayed for the recently departed Paul Thiergardt." All in attendance that knew Paul murmured and reflected on his participation as a club member. Someone said that Paul must have been close to 100 years old. Another shared that Paul had been a member of the club for a lot of years and owned a beautiful TF.

Regalia with Rose

As Rose started to share the goodies for this month, Charles called out something to her and she responded with her own retort. They are adorable! So...there are still hat's y'all. At this time, everyone should be wearing one! Rob has one that he wears whenever he is driving around in one of his MGs. There are also Tidewater MG Classics Magnets that PJ's friend makes. One of these meetings, I am going to have some money so I can get one of those. PJ's friend does a really nice job – they look very professional.

Now on with the goodies:

- 1971 MG Coupe car – still in the package – that Matt brought back from Spain. Looked like it was maybe a matchbox car. Do they have matchbox cars in Spain? It was well preserved!
- Sue brought an automotive book and another book about MGs
- Rose held up a sign that read "I need my garage time". "I beat my husband with it," she shared, "but now I have to give it up!"
- A Medium MG T-Shirt
- \$33 for 50/50

Rose moved right in to the raffle! She was not waiting for anyone today.

The first ticket, for first in line, was won by Dan Ciccone. "I need my garage time" sign was won by a gentleman in a blue shirt. An older gentleman who had a car hat on and a sweet smile won one of the books. Chip won the 1971 MG Coupe car: "Oh! I get another MG! If I add water does it grow?" Dan also won the other book. And Bruce got the \$33 from the 50/50!

Terry shared with the group that the guys who built the deck would be back today. They apparently worked quickly and got the deck completed before the MG meeting. It is quite a stunning deck.

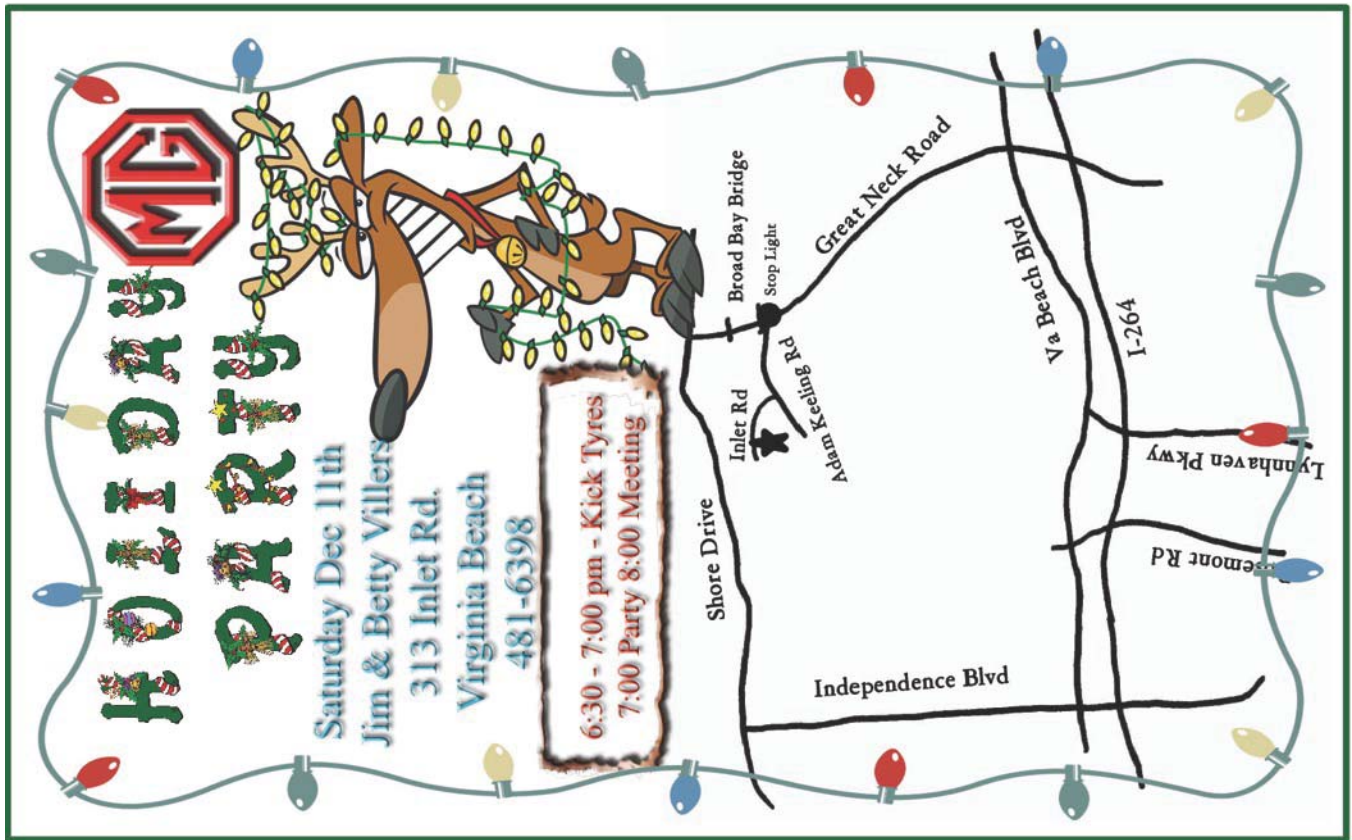
Jim shared that his Silver 356 was out front today with the paint job. The guy who painted it does it behind his house and may be a good painter for MGs. Jim shared that the guy has a large steel building with a paint booth and he is located off of Hickory Road. I saw the paint job and it really is stunning!

Rose shared with the group that she has a brand new, still in the package, MG Midget cover that she is willing to give up to anyone that wants it for \$100.

Sue provided the team with the lunchtime instructions. And what a spread it was!

At 12:17, the meeting was adjourned so everyone could get their eats on.





The Dipstick

Tidewater MG Classics

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