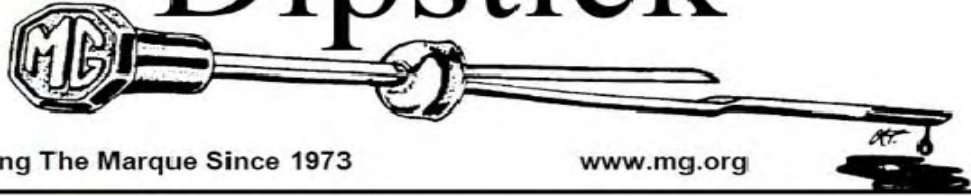




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

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Activities Report, Dec 19, 2024

First, before saying anything else, Pam and I would like to extend our deepest appreciation, as I'm sure you all do, to Bruce and the fantastic job he has done as the Activities Director for the last several years. We have not been in the club for that long (has it been a year already?), but reading through back issues of The Dipstick and enjoying the activities of the past year, Bruce definitely put a lot of work into this job. Pam and I have some big shoes to fill!

TMGC Coming Events

Jan 7 - Meeting at the Azalea Inn at 6:00

It may have been December and cold outside, but it was warm and toasty at Decoys Restaurant! Although it was dark outside, the décor inside told us that we were at a lovely riverside restaurant. With about 20 people enjoying great food and conversation on the Nansemond River, we reminisced on the fall tour and all of the tech sessions that went along with it, other recent outings that were enjoyable and discussed some fun ideas for the upcoming year. The traffic wasn't very cooperative getting to Decoys, but they did a splendid job accommodating us. PJ and Faith Peterson braved the weather incredibly well, as they pulled into the parking lot topless in their beautifully modified MGB. The rest of us had tops up and tried to stay warm!

After dinner, we all lined up and drove a short distance to Sleepy Hole Park to witness the beauty and glory of the Suffolk Festival of Lights! Well, maybe that's stating things a little strongly, but no can dispute that it was quaint and had a "small town" feel. I will say it gets a little better each year. Nonetheless, it was nice to drive out in the country and we enjoyed the ride through the park. Did I mention that it was free and is set up by volunteers?

The next meeting will be at the Azalea Inn in January. Pam and I are looking forward to planning some great events in the future, with hopes that we can all have some great fun and show off our Little British Cars! Passion Drives!

Safety first. Shayne McKean & Pam Morris

TMGC Offices and Committees

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Regalia	Rose Ladd	
Technical	Terry Bond	
Membership	Mike Haag	Membership@mg.org



Marque Time!

President's Message from Scott Parker

Happy Holiday everyone! We had a great time together during our annual Holiday Brunch at the wonderful Princess Anne Country Club. A big shout out to Jim Villers for securing and setting up the venue and preparing the Dipstick and President's Award Plaques, Mike Haag for his normal miraculous efforts coordinating and orchestrating a very successful Silent Auction, delivering the Club Rosters and preparing the President's Award for presentation and Mark and Kathy Davidoski for their efforts in collecting the funds and acting as the defacto door bouncers. Also, a big thank you to Sue Bond for filling for Don Ladd as Club Photographer while Don and Rose were enjoying a mystery vacation with family. Last, but definitely not least, is a very grateful thank you to Terry Bond for his enjoyable recap of

our 2024 activities during his time honored "Letter To Santa" fireside chat. I think everyone had a great time at the Holiday Brunch and looking forward to doing it again next year!

It was my profound honor to recognize Andy Wallach and Cynthia Faschini as the 2024 President's Award recipients! Andy and Cynthia have been bedrock members of our club for well over 40 years. They both served in various leadership and support roles over the years including President, Membership Chair and several stints as Club Secretary and this year marked the opening of the Faschini Wallach Center for Restorative Therapies only achievable from a generous endowment from Andy and Cynthia.

The center serves the local community with a unique rehabilitation experience that provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy services for patients of all ages with orthopedic and neurologic conditions and injuries. This selfless gesture was their way of thanking ODU for the care, intensive therapy and moral support they received throughout Andy's recovery and the hope that others can experience world class recovery support for those impacted by traumatic injuries. They both are well deserving of the award and the club sends a sincere heartfelt thank you for the positive and lasting impact they've had on the club and the local community!

Thank you Shayne and Pam for coordinating the Suffolk Christmas Lights Drive. About 20 members had a great time dining at Decoy's Seafood Restaurant and then enjoying a seasonably cool drive to Sleepy Hole Park to view the Suffolk Christmas Lights. Outside of some crazy traffic venturing to Suffolk, everyone had a great time of food, fun and fellowship!

Next up on the docket is a new January dinning location. We'll be meeting at 6:00pm Tuesday, January 7th, at the Azalea Inn located at 2344 E. Little Creek Rd, Norfolk. So, grab your coats and enjoy a chilly drive to Norfolk for some good food with friends and fellow MG aficionados. Well folks, that's all from the cheap seats here at the Parker homestead

Safety fast. Scott

Holiday Lights - December, 2024

With the Norfolk Botanical Gardens continued their walk-through only rather than drive-through, and with the bridge tunnel construction making the driving of our small MGs during the drive time hassle, we figured it was time to try the Festival of Lights in Suffolk. The Decoys Seafood Restaurant, recently acquired by Ron Pack and his sons, provided an attractive location on Bennett Creed to pre-



pare us for our Holiday drive. With our appetites satisfied and in the Christmas Spirit, we headed off to the Suffolk Festival of Lights in the sleepy Hole park. While not as elegant or spectacular as the lights in the Botanical Gardens but it was a much more comfortable drive and we all departed in a festive mood.



TMGC Membership

As of December 20th, we have 100 paid memberships. Per the membership database, there are 145 MGs in the club broken down by model which can be seen on the website at <https://www.mg.org/clubinfo.html>. Hard copies of the club roster will be available at upcoming meetings, until we run out.

Safety fast. Mike Haag



Oh Come, All Ye Faithful... or at least those that were able to make it.

By Michelle Parker

We gathered together once again at the Princess Anne Country Club on Sunday, December 15, 2024. What a wonderful time it was celebrating the holidays at the annual Christmas brunch with our MG Club friends. It is always fun to see everyone dressed up in holiday apparel and enjoy the delicious spread that the country club puts out. We had over fifty members make it out this year, and we missed those that were not able to attend.

We held a regalia sale and silent auction with thirty-three great items up for bid this year. Twenty-eight of them sold and brought in just over \$200. Thank you to everyone that contributed items and to those that placed bids and made purchases.

Jim had a great suggestion of adding a trivia game we could play at the tables while we were eating. It was something the TRAACA group had done the week before to help liven up the conversation. Being the competitive type that I am, I had to up the ante by finding some tough questions and having some wonderful prizes at stake. It was actually just some tasty holiday snack items; and bragging rights, of course. Three of the six total tables came in with a tie score of ten and a half out of sixteen correct, the tie breaker was the order they were handed in. Our winners from this year's



Scott Parker presents The President's Award to Andy Wallach and Cynthia Fascaini



The outstanding Brunch buffet



The Omlet station is always a hit.



Faith & PJ Peterson, Bruce & Jane Easley, Beckey & Alan Watson

party were: Fred, Linda, Rob, Cory, Tommy, Mathieu, and Hudson.

With the absence of the Ladds, Susan Bond graciously agreed to take pictures for those that wanted them in front of the Christmas tree. Thank you, Sue! We were entertained by Terry Bond's charming recital of the club's year-in-review and a Letter to Santa. Thank you, Terry, it was wonderful! Bob Stein set up a slide show with pictures from this year's meetings and events. It is always so nice to reminisce, thanks Bob.



Terry Bond reading his Letter to Santa

The Dipstick Award this year went out to Doug Kennedy for the many wonderful articles he's submitted for publication. Doug wasn't able to attend so he'll be receiving the plaque at an up-coming meeting.

The President's Award was given to Andy and Cynthia for their wonderful contribution and the work they've done for the community in the Faschini Wallach Center for Restorative Therapies; as well as the support they consistently are for the club and its members. They have been a part of the club for so very long and their heart for others is always evident. We all love them and I know all of us are grateful they are in this club and part of our lives.

I think everyone had a wonderful time and we all went home with full bellies and happy hearts from time spent with good friends.



***President's Award recipient
Andy Wallach & Cynthia Franchini***



Harry & Tammy Park



Bruce & Jayne Easley



Fred McCall & Linda Latham



Buckey & Debbie Tretler



Jim & Betty Villers



Mark & Kathy Davidoski



Mike & Carolyn August



Matheau & Hudson Huovinen



Dan & Chris Ciccone



Jennifer & Mike Ash



Pat Jenkins, Jack & Hilary Pavlidis



Bob Stein



Denise & Mike Haag



Shayne McKean & Pam Morris



Michelle & Scott Parker



Anita & Scott Kampe



Terry & Susan Bond



Tommy Keiningham



Doug Stuhlmann



Denise & Russ Murphy



Ted & Patti Dickson



Robert Perrone



Corie Green & Rob MacPherson

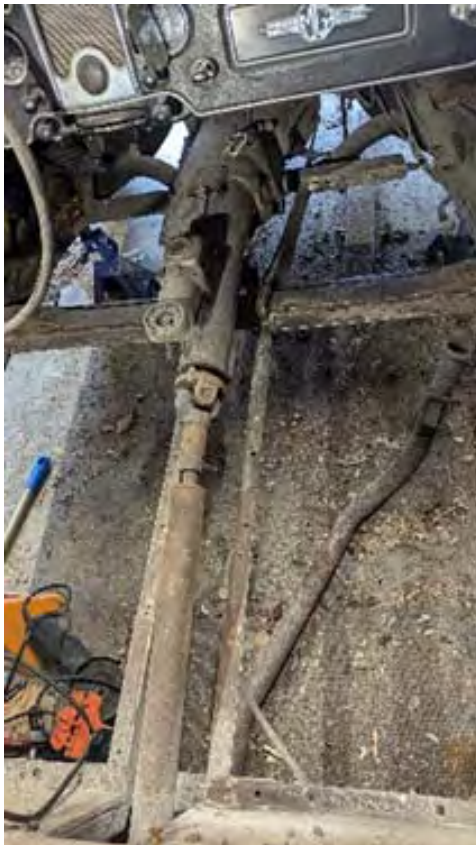


Allan & Beckey Watson

When Life Hands You Lemons

....head to Harbor Freight. by Doug Kennedy

Project Cheapskate, the restoration of a 35-year dormant MGA had been progressing steadily to the point that some actual driving became a reality. Well, two things became apparent. One, my “turned” rear brake drums were too out of spec to actually brake, and fittingly second, my second gear synchro in the gearbox seemed to have escaped the dark during decades of being trapped in a garage. First a call to Cecilia at Scarborough Faire (and the subject of an upcoming interview) to see about some new drums was met with her howl of “WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT? BUY SOME OVERSIZED SHOES FROM US!” It was a good reminder that this supplier should be on my speed dial. Shoes installed a few days later, and back out on the road, the neighbors were awoken early one morning to the sound of my gearbox making a noise somewhere be-



tween hitting an anvil with a ball peen hammer and a chainsaw trying to cut a chain link fence.

Time to move on to the next resto step, pulling the engine and gearbox. Not long after that some of the TMGC Angels, Mike Haag, Robert Perrone, Mark Davidoski and The Oracle descended on my increasingly small one-car garage with engine hoist ready to go. Engine bay pre-stripped and motor mounts free we were all ready to go. Until we were handed lemons. The A wasn't going to part with its drive train until the gearbox tunnel came out and that wasn't coming out until the floorboards came out too. Bidding adieu for the time being to the angels, I tore up all the carpeting, surveyed decades of rusty floorboard bolts, swore loudly enough for the dog to look at me, dove in and quickly remembered my good grinder was 700 miles away in Maine. Next stop, the land of “I only need this tool to last for a couple jobs”, Harbor Freight. In all honesty, HF gets a bad rap. It has really upgraded its quality and while I still wouldn't crawl under a car held up by one of its jack stands, or buy a cheap screwdriver set there, I've been



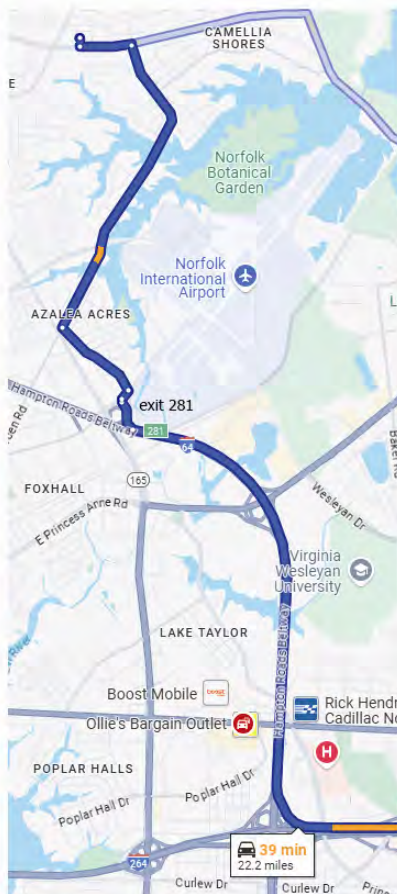
really pleased recently when I'm not inclined to borrow something and I just need it quick and cheap. One of their ever-available coupons and \$15 later I let the cutting and grinding begin. Apparently, the previous owner had found a sale on caulk because my garage quickly had a light dusting as the wire wheel on the grinder did its thing and four hours later we had floorboard freedom and the happy discovery that there was little to be replaced except for one \$20 replacement rail. A week or so later I sent out the bat signal and The Angels returned. Hoisting started. Then twisting. Then shoving. Then yanking, pulling and pushing. Then reality set in. Some people might be able to pull an A engine and gearbox in one piece but that wasn't going to happen unless we took off the front crank pulley. Maybe. So, the collective wisdom was to separate the gearbox, we did, and hoisting began anew. Happily, while I wondered about the tensile strength of two valve train studs as they held the entire engine above the engine bay my worst fears weren't realized and the engine settled into its new home on a rolling cart ready for a good power washing. Next, the gearbox was birthed from under the cowl with a bunch of hands grabbing ahold so that it could come to rest on a garage table where my either optimistic or unrealistic plan is to rebuild it. That will certainly make for another chapter in this restoration, and hopefully one that doesn't end with the sentence "It was at this point that I threw all the miscellaneous parts into a box and headed to Abacus for them to rescue me." My thanks to the TMGC Angels and a reminder of the best part of our hobby, the people who come with it.



Monthly Meeting

Tue, Jan 7th, 6:00 PM
Azalea Inn
&
Time Out Sports Bar

2344 E Little Creek Road
Norfolk



Take exit 281 toward
VA-165/Military Hwy
0.2 mi

Keep right at the fork, follow
signs for Gen Aviation/Cargo
Term and merge onto Robin
Hood Rd
121 ft

Take Miller Store Rd and Azalea
Garden Rd to your destination

6 PM kick tyres
Meeting to follow