TIDEWATER MG CLASSICS

The Dipstick

Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973 www.mg.org

Volume 53 Issue 12 **December 2026**

December Activities Report

TMGC Coming Events

Dec 20 - Holiday Brunch at the Princess Anne CC

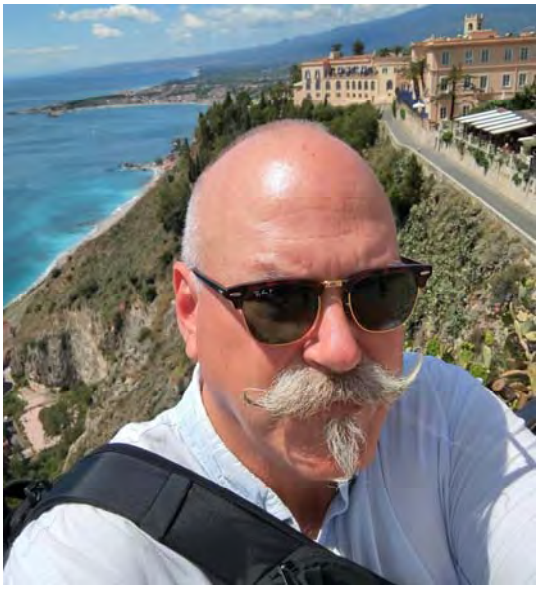
RSVP now to Mark Davidoski

The annual Trunk or Treat took place on Sunday, October 25, from 1–5 p.m. We couldn't have asked for better weather when our MGs pulled into Big Ugly Brewing! The lineup looked awesome in the lot—TC and MGBs all decked out with spiders, webbing, and plenty of Halloween spirit. With the trunks popped and loaded with candy, we spent the afternoon hanging out with a steady crowd of costumed families. The kids had a blast making their rounds, and plenty of parents stuck around to check out the cars and chat with us about the cars. Between handing out sweets and grabbing a few great beers from the taproom, it was a fun, laid-back day for everyone.

Soon after Trunk or Treat was behind us, we had another great opportunity to get together, enjoy our cars, and make the most of the cooler weather as we joined the Williamsburg British and Import Car Club at Upper Shirley Vineyards on November 2, 2026, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. We enjoyed a car display and lunch alongside members from many local British car clubs—including Rolls-Royce clubs, Jaguars, Minis, and other iconic British marques. Departing from Suffolk, our scenic group cruise took us on a roughly two-hour drive winding through quiet, tree-lined country roads painted in late-autumn golds and reds, curving past open farmland and backroads before catching the ferry across the James River. Between the discounted food and wine at a beautiful venue with a great atmosphere, it was a great turnout and a memorable drive for everyone who traveled together! We even made a group stop at The Fiddling Pig in Smithfield on the way home to wrap up the afternoon.

Led by Rob's MGA, a group of five MGs—including Russ's Midget and MGBs owned by Shayne, Scott, and Tommy—lined up near the Virginia Beach Oceanfront just before eight o'clock on a crisp November morning, with small American flags secured to their windshields for the Annual Virginia Beach Veterans Day Parade. Held each year to honor the service and sacrifice of military veterans and active-duty personnel, the parade is a longstanding Virginia Beach tradition featuring active-duty military units, veterans' organizations, local high school marching bands, and community groups making their way down the oceanfront. When the procession got underway, the five classic British roadsters rolled down Atlantic Avenue in formation, cruising alongside marching bands, color guards, and crowds lining the sidewalks. Their distinct exhaust notes and polished

Activities Report continued on page 2.



Marque Time!

President's Message from Rob MacPherson

Wow, time sure flies! As I'm writing this I'm realizing it's almost Thanksgiving, and the Holiday season is upon us. I have yet to fix the water leak on my TD, but have managed to solve the starting issues I have been fighting for several years with the MGA. I'm still trying to get my garage organized so I can do my projects more efficiently...

Hope to see all of you at the annual Holiday Brunch, don't forget to RSVP!

Safety Fast, Rob

Activities Report continued from page 1.

chrome drew plenty of waves from veterans and families along the route, and they even made a brief appearance on the evening news recap of the parade. It was a beautiful day and, as always, an honor to represent and support our veterans.

In December, get ready to gear up for the Annual Suffolk Holiday Lights drive. We are looking to see if we can combine that with a tour of the Obici House this year but may end up being two different December events. Shayne will get details out as soon as plans are firmed up.

Lastly, don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Brunch on Dec 20th. Rob sent a reminder out, so put it in your calendar and we'll see you there! *Safety Fast,* Shayne and Pam

TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Rob MacPherson	TMGCPres@mg.org
Vice President	Russ Murphy	TMGCVP@mg.org
Secretary	Terry Walburn	Secretary@mg.org
Treasurer	Mark Davidoski	Treasurer@mg.org
Dipstick Editor	Jim Villers	Editor@mg.org
Activities	Shayne McKean & Pam Morris	Activities@mg.org
Webmaster	Mike Haag	Webmaster@mg.org
Historian	Sue Bond	
Regalia	Rose Ladd	
Technical	Terry Bond	

TMGC Membership

As of November 18th we now have 30 paid memberships for 2027. We have 2 new members:

Randy & Mary Carmone, Norfolk, VA:1965 + 1966 Sunbeam Tiger

Steve Windsor, Chesapeake, VA; No MG yet

Safety fast, Mike Haag

TMGC Dues are due on January 1.



TMGC November 2026 Meeting Minutes …by Terry Walburn

The November 8, 2026 meeting was called to order at 1:41 by the President, Rob MacPherson. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual chili cook-off and a Tech Session at Terry and Susan Bond's home. Thank you for hosting another leaf filled fall Tech Session.

Rob gave reminders to sign the yellow notebook for attendance purposes, and to vote for your favorite chili.

There were 3 new members in attendance, and they each introduced themselves. They received the typical warm welcome from the club members.

The previous meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Vice President's Report: Russ stated that December and May are the only months where locations have been determined. He requested volunteers to host meeting the other months. The December meeting will be December 20, 2026, at the Princess Anne Country Club for the Holiday Brunch event.

Activities: It was reported that the drive, food, and beverage for the winery was fantastic. This coming Wednesday is the Veteran's Day Parade at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Anyone interested in participating must arrive no later than 8:30 AM on 15th Street between Pacific and Atlantic avenues. The Turn back the Clock Night was discussed, and a future event may be planned there.

Treasurer's Report: Mark reported that we have $2,416.52 in the bank account.

Dipstick Report: Jim reminded everyone that anything for the Dipstick must be to him no later than the 20th. Earlier is preferred.



President Rob MacPherson.

Membership Report: Mike confirmed that we had 3 new members, and only around 20 members have paid their dues for the upcoming year (Jan-Dec). Other members paid cash on the spot trying to muck up the count for this report. So, the exact number at the time of this writing is uncertain , but this reminded me to pay my dues, so, we should be in the ballpark of 25 paid members for the 2007.

Tech Report: Rob informed the club of his starter issue and how he resolved it.



A Tech session was held in addition to the meeting.

Old Business: Officer elections were discussed and most of the officers agreed to a 2nd year term. I have limited availability and miss many meetings. I would be willing to serve a 2nd year if another member is not willing to be the Secretary. Tommy threw his name in the hat, and he was unanimously approved to be the Secretary.

New Business: No new business was introduced.

Marque Time: It was mentioned that a family is selling their 1973 midget. Terry Bond has pictures if anyone is interested. Sue thanked her daughter and neighbor for helping with the food and beverages for today. It was also discussed how a parasitic drain we diagnosed temporarily fixed with the disconnection of the trunk light switch on Steve's MG. A new switch will be needed.

The last item of New Business was the winner of the Chili Cook-off. Mary Pierce was the winner! Congratulations to you and thank you to all the participants!

Regalia: Rose reviewed the available merchandise and sold some items. Then she managed the raffle. A few signs and horns were won before the 50/50. The total for the 50/50 was $56.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 PM.



Terry demonstrated starting his Model T.

Turn Back the Clock at Westside Burgers



Marion and I represented the TMGC at the Turn Back the Clock activity at Westside Burgers in Suffolk on Fri, Nov 6. We were the only club members to show up, probably understandable considering the poor weather. The burgers, fries, and onion rings were great!

November TMGC Tech Session …….. by Robert Perrone, “volunteer” writer.



Jim Villers tracing down a battery draining current problem.

This year our annual TMGC Tech Session at the home of Sue & Terry Bond was combined with the November meeting and the annual chili cook-off. I didn't see much work being done on cars, so I presume that most people were not there to turn wrenches.

Since there is no need to repeat information you can get elsewhere in this fine automotive publication, I'll avoid any details of the meeting itself. Plus, as a bonus, I don't have to write as much. And for anyone reading this, as an even bigger bonus, you don't have to read as much of my writing.

Since there was little being done on any of the cars, I'll concentrate on two of the things I enjoy the most: food and beer. Actually, I should say beer and food. I need to keep my priorities straight.

As usual, Sue & Terry had a fine selection of beers. If I didn't have to drive, I would have sampled several. Although it doesn't apply with our club, in some other settings it can definitely make things more enjoyable. As Groucho Marx once said “I only drink to make other people seem interesting.”

But with all the beers to choose from, for a brief moment I considered asking for a "to go" package to sample a few more at home, but I thought that was tacky. Even for me, and that's saying a lot.



Robert Perrone observing a potential project.

Ah, chili on a cool November afternoon. I’m not sure about other members who have been around for years, but I personally miss Pete Olsen and his award-winning “Tailpipe Backfire” chili. Gone too soon, Pete.

And Dipstick readers can learn more about the events of the day by reading the minutes in this edition. I didn't write them, so hopefully they will be more entertaining than this article.

TECH STUFF – Sometimes just a little "tech" is all you need

By Terry Bond

What is the value of being at a club "tech Session?"

Well, it's of course a grand social affair, being able to visit with and get to know club members, and even some of the host's neighbors who descend out of pure curiosity. Of course it can also be a sort of feast for the palette as well as the eye. What's better than beautiful cars and great food? And, to quench one's thirst, there is usually a nice selection of suitable liquids to enjoy. Nothing beats coffee and donuts on a fall day! Collections of collections are always an added attraction, whether it's someone's garage décor or perhaps artwork in the home. Maybe there is a "green-thumb" in the group and the chance to tour the garden would be welcome.

Best of all for all you LBC car enthusiasts you might just learn something more about your own car. Even if you just come for the food, looking over the shoulder of an "expert" while some troubles are diagnosed or simple repairs are being made you can't help but soak up a little knowledge. You might even find the courage to give your own dizzy a twist to smooth out the idle under the watchful eye of someone who's been-there/done-that.



Wiggle some wires!

While we didn't pull any engines or replace any broken windscreens at this most recent session at our house, there were still a few learning/training opportunities available.

The first was a sputtering and intermittent stalling issue with a B roadster that was encountered along the way to the event. The car occasionally sputtered, nearly dies but then mysteriously came back to life again. Just a block away after a turn it quit completely but easily restated again following a brief rest. Upon arrival, the driver indicated he needed to check some possible fuel delivery problems.

A quick visual inspection and all seemed well. There was fuel in the visible filter, and it seemed to be flowing nicely at idle. But – then a favorite diagnostic trick was employed – wiggle a few wires!

Starting at the plug leads where attached to the distributor cap, a possible source of the trouble quickly revealed itself once the distributor cap was removed to inspect the rotor itself.

There is a small plastic clip on one side of the distributor just

beneath the cap. There is actually a small notch in the distributor cap that accommodates the top half of this little clip. Attached to it on the outside of the distributor is a thin wire leading back to the coil. Under the distributor cap, another short wire connects to the point set. That wire was broken almost at the edge of the little plastic clip. It seemed that simple vibration occasionally caused a break in the connectivity and the engine would stall, or sputter until the wires bounced back into close contact again.

You'll soon learn that MGB dizzies (distributors) are easier to work on if they are out of the car. There is a pinch-clamp down at the base of the unit itself where it goes into the engine block. Loosening the nut at the side of that clamp allows the distributor to be removed easily without upsetting any adjustments. Simply remove the distributor cap leaving the plug and coil wires attached, then, pull out the distributor itself.

In a previous article I advised carrying a long shank open-end spanner (wrench) that enables you to easily access that nut. The long shank permits some additional leverage needed to loosen that nut without busting your knuckles or trying to stick a large hand into those tight quarters there. Handy tool!

With the distributor on the work-bench, or lightly clamped into a vise, we could quickly get at the wire. A quick solder job made the repair.



Long shank, thin open end wrenches, easily available at big-box stores very inexpensively. Super handy for LBCs.

As it says in most British shop manuals – assembly is the opposite of disassembly. In this case, the dizzy goes back into the engine block. It only fits in one way so don't worry about screwing that part up. Tighten the pinch bold just a bit, replace the distributor cap, and fire it up. There is a little "wiggle" room to move the distributor a bit left or right if the engine seems to run a bit rough, but not much adjustment is usually needed before giving that pinch-bolt clamp a final tightening.



Inside the dizzy-the broken wire is the short black one from The tan plastic clip to the points.

Problem solved, and it wasn't a fuel issue at all.

Even just watching MGB Guru Frank Linse perform his magic was a learning experience. His quick repair served as an excellent lesson in trouble-shooting and how to fix something yourself.

Next on the agenda was a member's electrical dilemma.



Jim Villers trying to figure out where the "Lucas Smoke" went.

Somewhere there was a steady drain on his battery. It ran fine but often required a batter charge after sitting for just a short time. Watching one of our electrical wizards Jim Villers work was a pleasure. Like Susan, he has a way with Joe Lucas!

First up was a check of the fuse box. A simple volt meter voltage test was employed to see where current might still be flowing with the car turned off. It was quickly discovered that current was still flowing on one particular circuit. A quick check with a wiring diagram narrowed things down and it was quickly discovered that the switch activating the trunk light was faulty. Even with the trunk (boot) lid closed, the light inside was still on. It wasn't obvious because you can't see the light unless you climb into the boot and close the lid. Try that! Simply disconnecting the switch solved the problem. A new switch will be obtained and there should be no more "Lucas smoke" escaping from that circuit. But, who needs a light there anyway?

So, what is the value in attending a club Tech Session? They help build strong minds, flexible fingers (or bodies), enhance your imagination, empower you with courage, quench your thirst, dull your hunger, get your MG out into the fresh air, and let you enjoy the companionship of your fellow club members and maybe keep your LBC running smoothly. If none of this sounds exciting, then just find an empty chair on the deck and enjoy the day.

We'll see you at the next one!

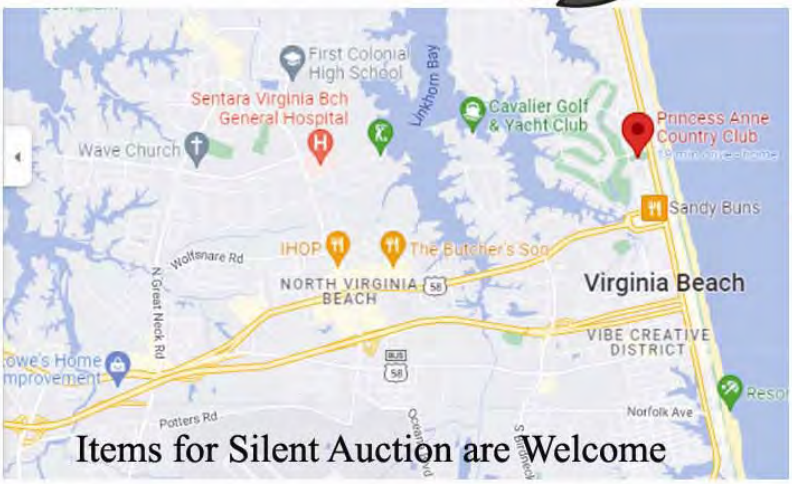
Safety Fast, ***Terry***

HOLIDAY PARTY

MG



Sunday Dec 20th
Princess Anne
Country Club,
3800 Pacific Avenue,
Virginia Beach, VA



Items for Silent Auction are Welcome

$15 Per Person
Payable at the door

RSVP
Mark Davidoski

Come on out
and join the PARTY.
Starting at 10:00 a.m.