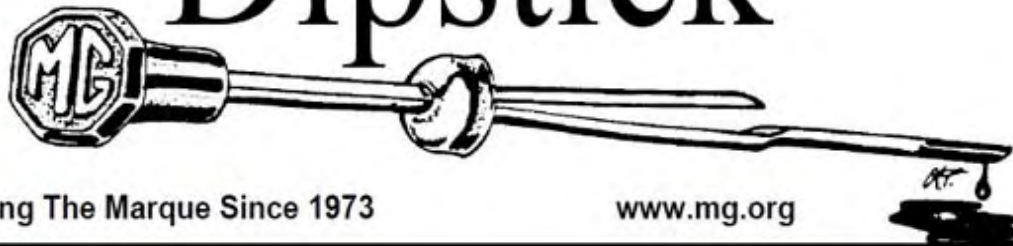




The Dipstick



Dedicated To Preserving The Marque Since 1973

www.mg.org

Volume 53 Issue 2

February 2026

January Activities Report

Southern Virginia is continuing to prove the saying that, "if you don't like the weather, wait 10 minutes and it'll change." The last meeting was at Lockside Bar and Grill, and, luckily, it was beautiful day! What a great turnout and meeting. Thank you for the suggestions for future outings.

One of the upcoming activities we discussed is a drive to Corolla, NC. Eric Fee has graciously offered to host a lunch at his Carova Beach home where wild horses can be viewed on a beach truck tour. 4 X 4 rental Jeep tours and other sight-seeing is also available. Eric suggested early spring, before June, so we're looking at possibly Sat, Apr 25th or Sat, May 23rd. Pam and I will make plans and provide the details soon.

We also discussed doing a two or three-day trip to Ocracoke for the British Cemetery Ceremony on Friday, 8 May 2026. The cemetery contains the graves of British and Canadian Royal Navy sailors from HMT Bedfordshire, who lost their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War. We will be driving down on 7 May 2026, staying the night in Ocracoke, attending the ceremony on 8 May at 11 AM, having lunch at one of the local restaurants on the island, and driving back after the ceremony. Feel free to add an additional night and drive back on Saturday, the 9th. That would provide an opportunity to explore the island a little more. The Anchorage Inn and Marina currently has rooms available and there are other places to stay on Ocracoke, as well as in Frisco and Hatteras Village. The Hatteras – Ocracoke ferry runs every 30 minutes in May, so getting to and from the island should not be an issue if you decide not to stay a second night. More details will be sent out very soon. If this sounds interesting, please reserve your lodging as soon as possible. We will coordinate and drive down as a club, but hotel reservations need to be booked individually.

Please also put in your calendars the MG International 2026 in Sandusky, Ohio, at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, from 23-27 August 2026. MG International hopes to get at least 1000 MGs to attend. If interested in going, here is the link to the website:

<https://mginternational2026.regfox.com/register>

The annual Swap Meet at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy is 7 Mar 26. We always have a good turnout and

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Marque Time!

President's
Message
from
Rob MacPherson



Here we are with January almost over! I'm just getting started on my Winter projects and the days are (thankfully) already getting longer. I suppose I'd better get busy! At least the Christmas decorations have all been boxed up...

We had a great turnout for the January meeting at Lockside, and a great day for it too, with warm sunny weather. The By-Laws Committee has been hard at work to come up with proposed revisions based on previous member suggestions for changes regarding the membership dues being based on a July 1 Fiscal Year, and the club officer terms changing at a different time. Proposed revisions will be provided for member review and further discussion will be entertained at the next club meeting. Please review the proposed revisions and be prepared to discuss during February's meeting.

Safety Fast. Rob

TMGC Officers and Committees

President	Rob MacPherson	TMGCPres@mg.org
Vice President	Russ Murphy	TMGCVp@mg.org
Secretary	Terry Walburn	Secretary@tmgc.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	
Membership	Mike Haag	Membership@mg.org

TMGC Membership

As of January 19th we have 99 paid memberships. As always, if you have any questions about your membership or have any changes in your information please contact me at membership@mg.org.

Safety fast. Mike Haag

Activity Report Continued

enjoy the camaraderie with other car clubs in the area. If you have any extra parts you'd like to sell, this is the place to do it! Come on out and join us! We usually have an indoor both and will likely do the same this year.

We have a few other activities in planning and will be presenting at the next meeting to discuss. As always, if anyone has a recommendation for club outings, please feel free to let Shayne and Pam know. Maybe we'll get a surprise "warming" soon and we can also get a drive in!

Upcoming events:

Weekend dessert drive to Be Free Ice Cream – TBD. They don't just have ice cream, they have croissants of all kinds, Danish, pastries, cookies and donuts, as well as coffee to go with all. We will try to plan a nice weekend, but with indeterminate weather, it may be a relatively short notice based on weather forecasts.

7 Feb 26 – MG Meeting hosted by Scott & Michelle Parker from 10am-12pm (kick tyres at 09:30) at 711 Elm Forest Ct, Chesapeake, VA 23322.

7 Mar 26 TRAACA Annual Swap Meet at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, 3373 Pruden Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23434, 8AM to 1PM.

25Apr 26 (tentative) Corolla day drive

8 May 2026 – Ocracoke British Cemetery Ceremony (7-9 May 26)

23 May 26 (alternate) Corolla day drive

9 May 2026 – 6thAnnual Rolling With The Knights at Church of the Ascension (Virginia Beach).

16 May 2026 –4th Annual Spring Car Show. Saturday, 10a-3p. Located at Real Life Church | 900 Centerville Turnpike N, Chesapeake, VA 23320

Safety Fast. Shayne

TRAACA Annual Swap Meet

The Antique Car Club Annual Swap Meet will be held on Saturday March 7th at the Nansemond-Suffolk Academy on Rt 460 in Suffolk.

The club will have a table at the swap meet for membership and as a gathering place for TMGC members. This is a fun, early spring gathering and a chance to get out with other club members, buy a treasure or two and to just have an enjoyable time.

If you would like your own booth at the swap meet, the information is on the TRAACA web site.

Safety Fast. Terry



Robert Perrone,

“Guest Host” for TMGC January 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Anyone in my age bracket will understand this scenario. You tune in to The Tonight Show, and instead of Johnny Carson, you find that the guest host is Garry Shandling. Should you even bother to watch?

Well, I was asked to fill in as Secretary because Terry Walburn was unavailable. So, understandably, some of you are debating whether you should waste five minutes of your life reading this. I can't blame you.

Of course, I don't think anyone reads this anyway. I'm not even sure Jim does. But if you do, and you see me at the next meeting, tell me the secret word, “penny”, and you'll get a little surprise.

But on to the minutes. Thanks to the efforts of our Vice President, Russ Murphy, we held our January 2026 meeting at a new venue, Lockside Bar & Grill in Great Bridge. Well, it's new to us anyway, and everyone seemed to enjoy the food, beverages, and the location.

As far as this report goes, I may repeat some of my earlier material when I write, but as Groucho Marx once said “If you've heard this story before, don't stop me, because I'd like to hear it again.”

TMGC President, Rob MacPherson, got the meeting underway, and a few minutes later I remembered that I had been asked to pinch-hit for Terry as Secretary. (Note: this is why I have a sign in my bedroom: “Socks first, then shoes” with a little diagram)



President Rob MacPherson.

I also forgot to bring a pen or paper, so I used my phone to take notes. Needless to say, they were sketchy, at best.

We had the usual Motion to Approve Minutes from last month, as published in The Dipstick, seconded and approved. Next month might be a different story. I don't know who would want to approve this.

New Members and Guests: This month we had no guests. I'm not sure why, since we all appear to bathe regularly (well, most of us), and the cars are great, too.

Vice-President's Report: Russ Murphy detailed the 2026 meeting schedule, and said that a few months are still available. For up-to-date info check our website, and contact Russ if you are able to host. On a side note, I see that no one has yet taught Russ how to do a proper TMGC Vice-President's shrug, so I may have to show him at the next meeting.



Vice President Russ Murphy.

Treasurer: Mark Davidoski reported a balance of \$2,388.48, even after the club subsidized the Holiday Brunch for members. Send him to Washington to work on our federal budget, I say.

Activities: Upcoming events that Shayne McKean has planned sounded great, and he said others are still in the works. He also asked for suggestions, so contact him if you have any. Check Shayne's article here in the Dipstick to see what's new. If you do, then I don't have to write about it here, and I always avoid extra work whenever possible.

Membership: We have 99 paid memberships in TMGC according to Mike Haag. He wanted one more for an even 100, but no luck so far. So, if you desire the great honor of being the 100th TMGC member in 2026, please contact Mike right away. If you join, I personally guarantee you a free beer at a 2026 TMGC meeting. No, I won't buy you one, but

I'll get you a beer at a meeting where the host provides it. I know, I'm very generous.

Dipstick: Jim Villers noted that entries for the Dipstick are due by the 20th of the month. Submit an article on almost any topic and Jim promised that he will print it. Then, as he said, you can "enjoy the limelight" of having your material published in the finest British motoring periodical east of the Elizabeth River.

Technical: Terry Bond promised an article for the next Dipstick but was somewhat mysterious as to the topic. If he is anything like me, it is because he hasn't written it yet.



Treasurer Mark Davidoski.

Marque Time: Shayne brought up engine issues he has with his MGB project and attempts to diagnose were made. I don't know exactly what these were because someone started talking to me and I completely lost track of what was happening.

Somewhere in the midst of all this someone mentioned MG International, which is a multi-day gathering of MG enthusiasts held every five years. The 2026 event will be held in Sandusky, Ohio from August 23-27, 2026. Our TMGC website has a link (on the lower left side) for MG International 2026 information and their sign-up form.

Some TMGC members have tentative plans to leave on Sunday, August 23 with a layover in Fayetteville, West Virginia, then on to Sandusky on Monday, August 24.

We will have more info in the coming weeks about our group drive to the event and the fake ID cards we will be using while in Ohio. Cost is \$100 each, payable to me, Juan Sanchez.

New and Old Business: Rob suggested changes to our TMGC by laws. One would have the officers start their terms on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year rather than from November 1 to October 31. He also proposed that we change the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 to the same period, January 1 to December 31.

Jim Villers made the mistake of saying that we needed a committee to undertake that task. Within a minute someone nominated Jim to be committee chair, and a unanimous voice vote followed. I guess Jim forgot about the old adage "the squeaky wheel gets the committee assignments" or something like that.

While sitting in the corner taking notes, I congratulated myself for keeping my mouth shut (for once). But before I knew it, Jim asked Mike Haag to be on the committee, and Mike immediately turned to me and said he'd like me on it as well. (Thanks, Mike...) He said something about needing a good lawyer to review the work. Well Mike, if I think of one, I'll let you know.

Regalia: Rose was not there, but Tommy Keiningham did a fine job of filling in and selling raffle tickets. I did not win, as usual, so sour grapes prevent me from reporting the names of all the winners.

I noted that Jennifer Ash picked the first winner from the bowl of tickets; her husband Mike. Now, Jennifer is very sweet and Mike is a founding member of our club, so I really shouldn't suspect anything. On the other hand, maybe that lovable personality that Jennifer displays is just a cover-up, and she is actually a criminal mastermind. So, that could explain why hundreds of "Save an Octagon / TMGC" license plate frames suddenly disappeared a few years ago!

While my mind was wandering on that subject, Rob asked for a motion to adjourn. There was a murmuring from the assembled faithful, and he made it official by banging of the gavel.



Activities Chair Shayne McKean

Proposed TMGC By Laws Revisions

At the January meeting, Jim Villers was appointed to chair a committee to update the club By Laws with a focus on changing the fiscal year of the club from July-June to January-December. Mike Haag volunteered to be a member of the committee. Other members have reviewed and contributed to the current draft By Laws which are posted on the club web site and the changes summarized below.

Membership: Article IV Section 2

Dues would be set at the September meeting. The membership year is January 1 through December 31. Half membership will apply for June-December.

Operations: Article VI Section 4

The Officer Nominating Committee will be appointed at the September meeting, candidates will be announced at the October meeting and elections will occur at the November meeting.

Officers: Article VII Section 1

Officers will assume their offices on January 1.

Officers: Article VII Section 3

The Vice President will be responsible for coordinating meeting schedule.

Chairs: Article VII Section 2

The Spares Chair was abolished.

Chairs: Article VII Section 2 (renumbered)

The Technical Chair serves as a resource for information on technical matters regarding MG maintenance and repair. The "Chair" provides advice if possible, and contributes regularly to the club Newsletter 'the Dipstick' with advice for members who are maintaining or working on their own vehicles. Regular reports at club meetings may also be given to share useful information. The "Chair" need not possess mechanical skills or expertise but should be resourceful in assisting as needed.

Chairs: Article VIII Section 6

The Membership Chair forwards list of paid members to the Treasurer in March and prepares the Roster for distribution in April.

Chairs: Article VIII Section 8

The Publicity Chair was abolished.

Chairs: Article VIII Section 7 (now)

The Web Chair title was changed to Webmaster.

MG Owners Club Headquarters visit

Mike Haag

Back in May of last year, several TMGC members (Mark & Kathy Davidoski, Mike & Denise Haag and Robert Perrone) flew to London to take in some history and see the sites. On our first full day in England we took a train to Abingdon on a pilgrimage to the Kimber House, the headquarters of the MG Car Club (MGCC). See Mark's article on this visit in the September issue of the Dipstick.



MGOC Headquarters "Octagon House" (actually a rectangle).

This past November, Denise and I were back in England for a couple of reasons. One was to see an exhibit in London which was not open in May when we were there earlier. Secondly, and more importantly for me anyways, was to attend the largest classic car show in Britain, held every year in Birmingham at the National Exhibition Center on the first weekend on November. I had been wanting to go to this show for years and last year it finally happened. With over 3000 cars on display in five large exhibit halls along with many car club displays, classic cars for sale and a large auto jumble, to say this car show was incredible is an under-



MGOC Headquarters showroom with a sectioned MGB.

statement. Maybe more on that in a later article if there is interest.

After two full days of classic car immersion, we left on Sunday and took a train over to Cambridge where we walked around this historic and hallowed college city. On Monday morning, before leaving for London, we took a local bus to the MG Owners Club (MGOC) headquarters in Swavesey, a few miles out of Cambridge. They call it the Octagon House but really it is a large rectangular building. At the front is the store and offices, along with a couple of cars on display and assorted MG automobilia. Behind that is a large warehouse full of MG parts and at the rear of the building is a large workshop. After buying some necessary regalia and chatting with one of the volunteers, we walked around back to the workshop entrance to have a look inside to see what they were working on. Everyone looked busy so we didn't venture in, not sure that was even allowed but what we did see were a few MGBs, an a MGTF on a lift, and a Midget on another lift. Further in was a GT, an a MGF and probably others we didn't see. Being a member of the MGOC and also being so close, I just couldn't pass up this opportunity to visit their headquarters. After an hour or so we took the bus back to Cambridge to catch the train down to London and continue on our journey.



MGOC workshop entrance.



MGOC workshop with a lot of MG work in progress.

TECH STUFF – By Terry Bond

If you drive an MG what's the first indication it might be winter?

Answer-when you go to start your car on a cold morning, all it does is “click-click-click!”

Your MG's battery is out of sight and out of mind, so you aren't worried about it until then. What to do and how to avoid the problem is important for anyone who doesn't like just standing around out in the cold and being late for a club meeting.

When the temperature drops, your battery (that's the little black box under the back seat) faces an uphill battle to maintain its charge.

Why Do Car Batteries Die in Winter?

Age – Not you, the battery! How old is it? When did you last check it? Do you subscribe to the rationale – “you can't see it so it's probably ok?” Check the date and if you're close to end of life expectancy (the battery), consider a replacement as a pre-emptive measure.

Poor (or lack of) maintenance is guaranteed to leave you stranded at some point. Our GT has been starting just fine, but a few days ago I decided to take advantage of nice weather for a little cruise. When I turned the key, absolutely nothing happened! A quick check revealed the positive terminal was so loose I could lift it off by hand. Just cleaning the terminal and tightening it on again was all it took. Honestly I can't remember the last time we bothered to check it! A regular visual check is sometimes all it takes to spot a potential problem.

Not long ago I experienced a similar problem on the 1967 Pontiac GTO. I try to run the car at least monthly and the last couple of times, it's been slower than usual to start. I blamed the cold weather. This time, all I got was that dreaded clicking noise followed by a whiff of an unpleasant odor. When I looked under the hood (yes, that car has a “hood” not a “bonnet”) I was surprised to see the negative terminal clamp was almost falling off. Corrosion between the wire strands under the terminal clamp itself where it attaches onto the ground wire proved to be the problem. It had overheated at some point and literally melted the lead terminal clamp away. There was very little ground connection remaining. A simple replacement of the bad clamp and thorough cleaning of the cable ends solved



Sometimes your car is hard to start when its cold.

the problem. Now its 400 cubic inch engine jumps to life quickly!

COLD weather! Batteries work harder to start the engine. Imagine trying to suck molasses through a straw. That's kind of how your battery feels in winter weather. Cold weather can thicken engine oil, making it more difficult for the engine to turn over. In the typical lead-acid battery, a chemical reaction needs to occur for the battery to have and hold a charge. Just as heat speeds up chemical reactions, cold temperatures slow them down. That's why you might feel your battery can become sluggish in winter, even though its state of charge may remain unchanged.

Car batteries are made up of chemical cells that produce an electric current. But when the temperature drops, the chemical reaction inside the battery slows down, reducing the amount of power it can generate. In fact, car batteries can lose up to 60% of their strength in freezing temperatures.

Current drain can be another problem. If you have an aftermarket radio that requires constant battery power just that simple drain can be enough to suck some of your "Lucas smoke" out of it. It's worth checking at least annually to ensure there are no electrical faults that can drain battery power. Note- electric system trouble-shooting is a separate topic for another time.

But Wait-there's more! In the winter months, you probably drive your LBC at lot less than usual. Perhaps once a month? Maybe just warm it up in the driveway? That'll keep the battery charged, right??? Sounds perfectly logical. Too bad it's dead wrong.

How long does it take to charge a car battery from driving? About four to eight hours at highway speeds is what it takes to actually charge a car battery in most cases. However, it will never reach 100 percent while you're driving as long as you've got some extra things sucking juice.

If you look it up, you might see "Drive 30 minutes after you jump a car to recharge the battery." Versions of this myth have been passed down for generations. They might have even been somewhat true back to the 1950s but not today.

Experts at Interstate Batteries have chimed in on this subject and here is their response to the question -"You would need to drive for a long time to charge a car battery. Your alternator is not a battery charger," he said. "There is no way your battery will get to 100 percent while you're driving."

On our LBCs, if you are running with lights on, wipers wiping and defrost or heater fan blowing, you're sucking juice almost as fast as the alternator can alternate it. Even under no-load situations the engine needs to be at least 1,000 rpm before it feeds your car battery an amp or two.

Actual battery chargers can take 10-24 hours to charge a car



battery. The “Fast chargers” or ”smart “chargers can do it quicker of course. If you’re using a trickle charger, you could be charging your battery for three or more days. They are designed to maintain the battery charge at a certain level, not bring it back from the dead. Charging too fast and you can overheat and kill your car battery.

So, how to keep your battery up to snuff and what to do when it’s dead?

Trickle Chargers and Jump Boxes are popular topics, and there are numerous brands of them on the market.

Let’s talk about those “trickle charters” first:

The one that’s been around longest seems to be a device called “The Battery Tender.” That’s the name of the company and that’s what they do. I’m not promoting any particular brand, and of course your results may vary, but I know of a lot of folks with antique cars (seasonally driven) who use them to maintain their batteries. They seem to work well and are reported to be very safe. You can do your own research on them and spend hours watching you-tube videos comparing them, but I’m always going to lean towards a well-known highly regarded product. I’ll also forever be a bit over-cautious about leaving my car battery plugged in while I’m away for a week somewhere.

Now, those magic “jump boxes.” You can spend from \$50 to over \$300 for them depending on what you think you need. The high-dollar stuff comes with a tire pump, flashlight, phone charger and even a “booster” to help start your car despite a totally dead battery. Oh, forgot to mention – those Jump Boxes are designed to work on batteries that are just too low on charge to crank the car. They generally do not work on a totally dead battery, and will not recharge one. It’s just a quick starting device not a battery charger! Again do your own research and be prepared for a couple of hours of entertainment watching You-tube before you make any decisions.

What I recommend and what I carry –

At home I’ve got a good quality battery charger. It’s been around a long time and has proven to be reliable. It’s a simple made-in USA name brand unit without LED displays, cell-phone charger or coffee maker included!

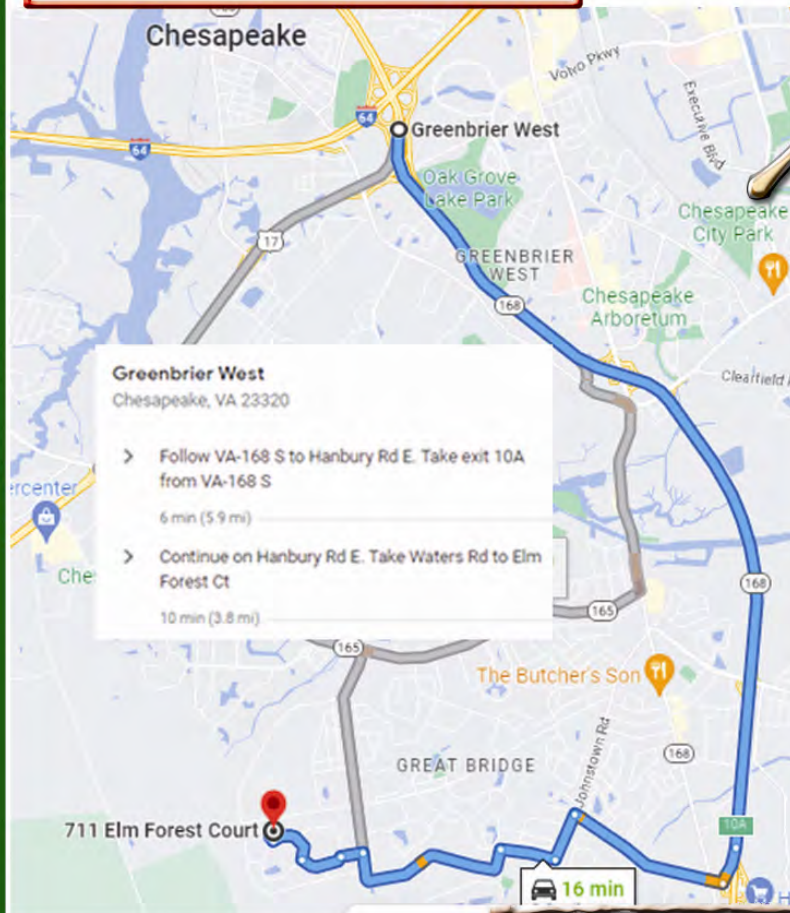
In the car, I carry a name-brand jump box. It’s made in the USA and it’s proven its value several times on our own car or helping others.

I don’t currently own a trickle charger but will be purchasing one soon from a vendor who will be at our Antique Automobile Club of America Convention in February. They will have a special discount sale there! I’ll be sure to bring it to a future club meeting so you can see it and learn more about it. Meantime, if any members have one and use is let me know and we’ll report further.

Until then, stay warmed and fully charged so we can go MG’ing in the spring.

Safety fast. Terry

Monthly Meeting
Saturday, Feb 7th
Scott & Michelle
Parker
711 Elm Forest Ct
Chesapeake, VA
23322



9:30 AM - Kick Tyres
10am-12pm Meeting