



DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

November 2008

▲ **We've been Busy** ▲

Your Newsletter staff would like to apologize for the lack of an October 2008 edition of the *Distributor*, but we've been busy! September and October were busy driving months for Chapter members and we decided we enjoy driving our MGAs more than writing about them. We will try to get everyone up to speed on what the Chapter has been doing these last few months.

▲ **Next event – November Pub Night** ▲

Our next event will be our first *Pub Night* of the season Sunday, *Sunday, Sunday* November 16th at the home of Steve and Nancy Woodall. Please note the date change from November 15th to Sunday, November 16th.

Monthly *Pub Nights* were once a staple of the Chapter, with our group meeting at various restaurants throughout the area for dinner and a brew one night each month. As traffic grew more and more unbearable, we decided to change the format of the *Pub Night* from a dinner each month to an afternoon social held at a member's home during the colder months we don't have a lot of driving activities. This allows more members to attend and also provides for a more sociable setting where we can actually hear each other speak.

Typically, the Chapter will provide the beverages and we order pizza delivery, with each family picking up the tab for their pizza selection. Activities begin at 1:00 pm with lunch ordered soon thereafter. This is considered a social event and not a driving event, but your MGA is welcome should the weather be nice enough to drive.

Many of us were able to visit the Woodall's carriage house while it was under construction but not many have seen the completed project. Steve and Nancy have been kind enough to host the Chapter and promise tours of the completed carriage house. Please note we do not call it a "garage"! The Woodall home is located at 8180 Cottage Rose Court in Fairfax Station, VA. We can e-mail directions for those that need them.

As normal, we request you RSVP yea or nay to Steve and Nancy as soon as possible to they can plan for the proper number of guests. Please e-mail Steve at swoodall1@cox.net.

▲ MG Car Club Drive ▲

Our friends at the MG Car Club will host a *Drive to Lunch* on Saturday, November 15th. Plans are to depart from the Sheetz in Haymarket, VA at 10:00 am and follow MG roads to the Three Foxes Vineyard off Route 17 North for a visit and wine tasting. From there, we will head to the Hunter's Head Pub in Upperville for lunch. After lunch, a second drive is planned to Veramar Vineyard in the Leesburg VA area for more wine tasting. We should be heading home no later than 3:30 pm to arrive home while still daylight.

Please RSVP to Al Marks by **Tuesday November 11th** so he can confirm reservations at Hunter's Head by Wednesday. Al's e-mail is marksal@msn.com. Al's cell phone on the day of the drive is 540-533-1405 should you be running late or not able to show.

▲ Virginia Scottish Games ▲

Our *Drive* for September was to the **Virginia Scottish Games & British Car Show** on Sunday, September 14th. We were invited to join the *Drive* organized by Bryan Sieling for the MG Car Club. The group met at the Aldie Mill in Aldie VA and caravanned to Sky Meadows State Park for the event.

The British Car Show is an informal display event where the focus is on the enjoyment of the cars and not on the amount of polish provided by their owners! The weather was very hot this year but there was still a good turn out of British cars for this event.

▲ Classics on the James ▲

Missing the Scottish Games, Liz Ten Eyck and Bill & Karen Marshall traveled to Richmond on September 14th to attend the 24th annual *Classics on the James* car show hosted by the Central Virginia British Car Club. This is a wonderful show and rather than the usual all-British show, they open it to European marques as well. This adds an element of interest to see Porches, Ferraris, Maseratis, Mercedes-Benz and Alfa Romeos as well as the normal mix of British cars.

The featured marque this year was Jaguar and on hand was the oldest Jaguar in North America, a 1929 Austin Swallow – predating the use of the Jaguar name.

There were 14 MGAs on display and as to be expected, the First Place class award was brought home by Liz for her beautiful 1962 Mark II.

▲ October Eastern Shore Club Drive ▲

Len and Ruth Renkenberger once again hosted the Chapter at their home in Easton Maryland the weekend of October 4th and 5th. Our small caravan consisted of Liz Ten Eyck and her guest Betty Ann Johns, followed by Bill & Karen Marshall. Once in Easton, we were joined by Keith & Kathy Kallopos – who were still reassembling their MGA Saturday morning - arriving at the Renkenberger's just in time to enjoy the refreshments provided by Ruth.

We were then off to visit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels to attend the Small Crafts festival held that weekend and to enjoy the museum's detailed history of the Chesapeake Bay and its watermen. After our tour, we felt more refreshments were in order and went to visit the Eastern Shore Brewery – a micro brewery recently opened in St. Michaels – to sample their products. The brewery has a nice operation, a strong knowledge of their brews, clever names such as St. Michaels Ale, Lighthouse Ale and Knot So Pale Ale. It is our hope they will soon hit on a tasty combination of barley and hops and produce a Good Tasting Ale!

We were joined for dinner by Len and Ruth and decided on the Suicide Bridge Restaurant located on the Choptank River. There have been three bridges located here over time and each bridge has a history of suicides according to local lore – although some claim a few of the victims may have had “assistance” in reaching the water below. After dinner we returned to our motel with plans for further sightseeing in St. Michaels Sunday morning and then returning to the Renkenberger's for brunch.

As we headed into town on Sunday morning, we stopped to fill up with gas. Traffic was a bit heavy and the gaps were not large enough for all three MGAs to pull out safely. When a promising opening appeared, Liz and Keith pulled out leaving Bill to make a decision of falling behind or hope the oncoming Cadillac would slow down and provide a little space. Well, the Cadillac owner obliged and space was made, but when the Cadillac began to follow us at every turn, thoughts of an angry driver began to emerge. Our destination was the St. Michaels Yacht Club where Len had his small sailboat docked. When we pulled into the parking lot and the Cadillac once again followed, we knew we had either an MGA fan or one upset driver with coffee spilled down his shirt. As luck would have it, the driver and passenger were none other than Chapter members Ken & Joyce Lawrence. They were on their way to the Renkenberger's when we pulled out and they decided to join our caravan!

After scoping out Len's sailboat, we began to make our way back to the Renkenberger's for brunch – timed for the arrival of John & Linda Wright making the trip Sunday morning from Pennsylvania. Our route took us past a garden center, which had a British telephone booth on display. Our caravan quickly pulled in so Bill & Karen could negotiate a fair price to obtain this booth for display at their Manassas home. We are sure the neighbors will be thrilled when the bright red telephone booth is finally positioned in the landscaping!

Arriving at the Renkenberger's we found the John and Linda had arrived just before us. Ruth prepared many variations of quiche which were enjoyed by all. As typical for these events, the Renk's and Wright's were peppered with questions about the early days of the founding of NAMGAR and stories emerged about early GTs, chapter outings, what passed for MGA “restoration” at that time and the quality level of the current crop of MGAs. It seems no MGA gathering can happen without an impromptu tech session becoming necessary and this event was no exception. A missing seat back bolt on Bill's seat was repaired by Len while John investigated the non-performing starter motor on Keith's MGA. Keith had provided entertainment all weekend for the tourists as each time we stopped. Keith could only restart his A by getting out the hand-crank and cranking the engine. Sometimes we waited bemused while Keith cranked with the key off, other times we suggested he turn the key on after just a few cranks. Such is the role of friends when it is the other guy's MGA suffering from Prince of Darkness woes.

Our group would not be complete without mentioning Bill & Martha Ludtke, who had emailed their regrets for not being able to attend that morning, and Butch Smith, who telephoned in his appearance later in the day. We were all in agreement Butch was much better company on the phone than he is in person. We did miss having Judy with us this year though.

With a desire to be home before dark and accepting Keith's self-imposed 50 mph speed limit, we started our good-byes around 3:00 pm and were on the road by 4:00 – arriving back in Virginia with minutes of daylight to spare.

We once again would like to thank our hosts Len and Ruth and hope to be invited back again next year.

▲ Hunt Country Classic Car Show ▲

The MG Car Club hosted its 13th annual British car show on Sunday, October 12th. This has long been considered our “home” car show of the season with most of the MGAs on display being members of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter. This year was a bit of an exception with 17 MGAs making the field, the largest turnout of MGAs in memory.

We took advantage of the drive to the show by forming a small caravan leaving Manassas with Bill Marshall leading the MGAs of Ken & Joyce Lawrence and Keith Kallopos with John Padgett riding shotgun, on a scenic route to the show. This route took us through Haymarket, The Plains and Marshall on our way to Willoughby Farm. Once there, we were joined by fellow Chapter members Tom Ford showing in the MGA class, Bob Schoeplein in the Race Car class and Bruce Zivic, his twin-cam undergoing an engine rebuild, and Ruth Arnold showing in their respective MGB classes. Doug and Kay Campbell were manning the Regalia tent for the MG Car Club and were unable to show their Magnette this year.

Our very own Butch Smith was to display in the Prince of Wales division as last year's top MGA, but despite the proximity to Halloween, Butch did not feel like a repeat winner this year with his grill out of the toothless car for new chrome plating. No sense of humor, this guy.

Third place went to Bob Samuelson of Maryland, second to John Casey of Jeffersonton, VA and ... *drum roll please* ... first place to our own Liz Ten Eyck. Bob Schoeplein captured second place in the race car class with his 1960 MGA “Honeybee”.

All in all this was a very good event and it was great to see so many new MGAs showing up at these shows. We hope we were able to entice a few to join both our Chapter and NAMGAR as well.

▲ MGCC Turkeye Rallye ▲

The MG Car Club will hold their annual Turkeye Rallye on Sunday, November 23rd. This is a fun-filled gimmick rallye where having a good navigator is helpful, although Liz Ten Eyck did win a few years ago driving solo. At the start of the rallye, you are given directions to follow, but not the final destination for lunch. Your ability to have lunch with your fellow rallye competitors depends on how well you follow directions! Cars are set off on intervals of a few minutes apart, and woe to the driver who decides to simply follow the car in front - because they may be on a different set of directions.

We will gather for the start of the Turkeye Rallye in the West Marine parking lot on Gordon Blvd in Woodbridge VA. Starting time is 11:00 am. The route typically takes us through the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria VA with a rallye driving distance of about 40 miles.

Please contact MGCC member David Gillette for more information at 703-282-2274 or david@draudio.net. As always, an RSVP is appreciated.

This is a very enjoyable rallye and a great way to end the driving season except there is one more driving event to follow.

▲ Middleburg Christmas Parade ▲

It may be becoming clear we enjoy taking advantage of other people's efforts. The MGCC is once again participating in the Middleburg Christmas Parade and we are once again invited to tag along. Parade day in Middleburg is an exciting and festive time with quite a lot to see and do. The day begins (early) with a ceremonial "horses and hounds" parade down Washington Street and there are many shops to browse as well as an arts and crafts fair.

The normal schedule is to meet for lunch with the MGCC members – reservations are required – around 12 noon, wander around Middleburg until we are required to be in the staging area around 2:00 pm with a Parade start somewhere in the 3:00 time frame. The Parade route takes us down (and downhill) Washington Street for about 5 blocks and then we're done!

This is an enjoyable event that always has a good turnout of British cars. Holiday decorations are encouraged for both passengers AND your MG. Parking is available at our assigned staging area for most of the day.

Please contact Jim Byers at byers.j.j@worldnet.att.net or by telephone 703-768-9361 to get on his mailing list. Again, you will need lunch reservations if you plan to join us for lunch as seating in Middleburg restaurants is quite limited.

▲ Passing of a Member ▲

We are sad to report the passing of long time NAMGAR and Mid-Atlantic Chapter member Reid Willis. Reid was a Navy man who purchased his MGA twin cam new as a serviceman stationed in Japan. Reid was an early and long standing member of NAMGAR and his MGA is registered as #19. Reid, along with his wife Lou, was quite active in both clubs for a number of years and his twin cam was the class winner at GT-1. Unfortunately, Reid was slowed in recent years by heart disease and Parkinson's. Reid passed away Friday, September 5th in Alexandria, VA.

▲ Abingdon New Year's Eve Party? ▲

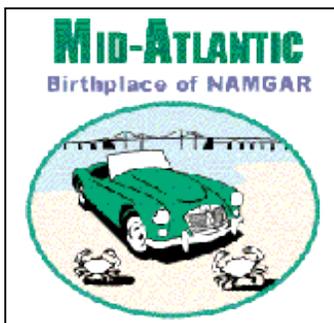
We are sniffing to see if there is enough interest among Chapter members to host an Abingdon New Year's Eve Party at our home in Manassas, Va.

Why a New Year's Eve Party with an Abingdon theme? Well, Abingdon England was the home of the factory where our MGAs were built, and more importantly because England is five hours ahead of us in their time zone, the ball will drop in Abingdon at 7:00 pm our time!

We have noticed many a fellow MGA driver has a few New Year's celebrations in their rearview mirror and we are also speculating many a fellow MGA driver has not seen midnight on ANY night of the year in quite some time.

Our plans are to celebrate the coming of the New Year and still have guests on their way home well before midnight and tucked safely in bed before the crazies hit the roadways.

Please e-mail Bill and Karen if this catches your interest and if there is enough interest, we will announce the details in the December issue of the *Distributor*. Our e-mail is manassasmga@gmail.com.



Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

Please forward articles, classifieds, or any information for the *Distributor* to Liz Ten Eyck, 11101 Rich Meadow Dr., Great Falls, VA 22066 or e-mail to bytheoak@msn.com