



August 2010

▲ **Up Next: Wild & Wonderful WVA Weekend** ▲

Butch and Judy Smith have organized a Chapter overnight outing to Elkins, WVA the weekend of August 20, 21 and 22nd. Plans are to meet in Winchester around 10:00 am on Friday, caravan as a group to Elkins and enjoy dinner at one of Elkins many eateries with plenty of time for socializing.

Saturday morning we arrive at the climate-controlled *New Tygart Flyer* passenger train at 10:00 am and enjoy a ride through spectacular West Virginia mountain scenery – featuring two mountain grades, an “S” curve tunnel, deep canyon and high bridge over the rushing Shavers Fork of Cheat River. Lunch will be provided while onboard the train and we return to Elkins about 3:00 pm. Judy has made group dinner arrangements at the Rail Yard Restaurant within walking distance of our hotel and the American Mountain Theater.



After dinner we mosey over to the Theater and enjoy 2 hours of comedy, gospel and country music and various skits. After breakfast Sunday morning, we make our way back home. There were a limited number of packages available and as of this writing – all have been purchased.

▲ **'Ool Party August 28th** ▲

Our annual 'Ool Party held at the home of Liz Ten Eyck has long been one of our most popular and well attended Drive & Social Events of the year.

This is considered both a Drive and a Social Event as Liz will lead us on a drive through the back roads of Great Falls, but also a Social as a running British car is not necessary to enjoy the 'ool and company of fellow Chapter members.

The Drive portion begins at 1:30 from Liz's home and will run for about 30 minutes. The 'Ool Party begins at 2:00 and will feature standard cookout fare. Members are asked to contact Liz regarding what to bring as far as appetizers, salads or desserts.



Bring your bathing suits and remember this is a 'Ool Party because there is no *P* in the pool! Look for the times, directions and other details in forthcoming clublist e-mail.

▲ Breakfast at Blue Ridge Cafe ▲

The Shenandoah Valley British Car Club is hosting a breakfast at the Blue Ridge Café scheduled for 9:30 am on Saturday August 28th at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville, VA.

The breakfast will feature Bob Vitrikas' lecture on motor sports with the topic this year the racing at Goodwood (on the Earl of March's estate) in the UK. Goodwood has been hosting races since the 1930's and today features vintage events such as the Revival (road racing) and the Festival of Speed (hill climbing). This September, a large group of SVBCC members will be traveling to Goodwood for the Revival. The Blue Ridge Café will serve a full English breakfast for \$13.50. Please RSVP if you wish to attend so the chef will have an accurate head count. Contact Mark Harris (mharris@cstone.net) or 434 295-8469 for more information.



▲ NAMGAR in the Poconos ▲

Submitted by Bill & Carol Shamonsky

After the great success of NAMGAR in the Poconos 2009 ... we're doing it again! The fall regional event will be held September 29-October 2, and again will be centered at the historic Inn at Pocono Manor in the Pocono mountain region of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Wednesday evening, following afternoon registration, we'll have a "Meet and Greet" reception at the Inn's Fireside Lodge. Thursday will be our Classic British Car Cruise into the picturesque town of Jim Thorpe, where we'll visit the Asa Packer Mansion, tour the streets and have a light lunch. Back at the Inn that evening, we'll be having "La Festa Italiana," an Italian buffet feast.

Friday we will again give everyone an opportunity to just have fun enjoying the many amenities of the Inn's 3,000-acre property ... or to take part in a number of optional events, such as a matinee movie and lunch at a nearby 1950s-style malt shop/cinema, or canoeing on the Delaware River, or shopping at the antiques mall, or cruising the Mount Airy Casino.

Saturday will be another road trip, to the Dorflinger wildlife sanctuary and glass museum. Lots to look at and see here, as well as a nice back-roads drive. Back at the Inn, Saturday night will be our traditional banquet. Contact: Bill and Carol Shamonsky. Phone: 570-563-3168. Email: cjs6872@comcast.net.



Note: The Mid Atlantic Chapter is organizing a *Drive to the Poconos*. The registration deadline has been extended to August 21st for those that have not registered yet. Visit www.namgar.com and click on the link to **NAMGAR in the POCONOS**.

▲ Our newest member! ▲

Congratulations to Tom and Marie-Josée Parisi on the birth of their daughter and as such, our newest 'member'. Mireille Alexandra Parisi was born on her mother's birthday, February 21, 2010. She was 6 lbs 10oz at birth.

As you may recall Marie-Josée (MJ) moved from Canada two years ago. Tom and MJ were married on January 10, 2009 and currently live in Arlington.

We hope to see Mireille (along with Tom and MJ) at an MG event soon!



▲ NAMGAR Website Updates ▲

Peter & Anne Tilbury of the *Canadian Classic MG Club* have taken on the task of a complete reconstruction of the NAMGAR website. They have done a spectacular job of creating a state of the art website for our enjoyment. While most sections are available to the general public, there are sections that require NAMGAR membership to access. The address label of your mailing envelope for your *MGA!* magazine contains your membership number – which should appear in the form of 8D3N1234. If you visit www.namgar.com, at the upper right will be a link to register. Click on the link; enter your NAMGAR number, name and preferred e-mail and password for the site. Once registered, you will have access to NAMGAR member-only areas. If you have any questions or comments regarding the website, please contact Peter and Anne at web@namgar.com.

▲ Ragtop Day(s) ▲

Submitted by Keith Kallapos

It was already a warm morning when Toby Fitzkee, Charlie Adams, Butch Smith, Liz Ten Eyck, and Bill Marshall showed up at John Padgett's home to help Keith and Kathy Kallapos install a convertible top on the Mistress. John brought out a collection of upholstery tools and set them up on a movable work bench under his spacious carport. No tiny brass tacks and hammers from Gippeto's workshop. We're talkin' electric staple gun, special cutters for lift the dots and turn-buttons, scissors, sand bags, and cotton padding - The Works!

After demonstrating to the crowd that the new frame and top would actually clear the Mistress' roll bar, Keith started off the tech session with an explanation of the parts and pieces on hand. By following Barney Gaylord's *MGAGuru's* detailed tutorial work began by wrapping the wooden header rail with vinyl. An extra strip of foam padding was added on the bottom to better seal the windscreen joint. Stapling was done by Butch and John with Charlie, Toby, and Bill pulling and stretching the vinyl taut while keeping the drop flap close to the glass. Ragtop apprentices in action were filmed by Liz, so we expect to see a short on You-Tube in the near future (just ask club cinematographer Ken Lawrence for tips)!

Now it was Kathy's turn to carefully wrap the ends of the frame where the wing bolts attach. Luckily, Butch's 1600 (with an identical British *Everflex top*) was parked in the driveway and served as a technical reference to aid Kathy in her endeavors. The work pace slowed to a crawl as phrases of "*Measure twice, cut once*", "*How did they do it on Butch's car?* ", and "*What do you think, John?*" were uttered more than once. Keith soon realized that the project would not be finished by midday, so the grill was fired up and the volunteers were treated to a backyard cookout.



Shortly after lunch with the header rail now complete, the main top was laid out on the frame, then attached with rear the bar and stapled to the front. The lift-the-dots were fitted, one at a time, along with the turn-buttons and snaps. After much discussion during the afternoon heat, Keith decided it was best to tackle the finishers and hydram strip another day. Because of his superior knowledge and collection of neat tools, John Padget was then recruited as a new member of the Grey Post Restoration team and thrilled to be presented with an official workshop T- shirt. Keith and Kathy completed the job the very next evening and we hear that they are still on good speaking terms.

Thanks to everyone's help the Mistress is proud to go out in public once again, a shining example of the Grey Post motto; "Not perfect, just pretty darn nice!"

▲ New Mid Atlantic Chapter Members ▲

In a time when many Chapters and car clubs are losing members, we are fortunate our membership roster continues to grow. We feel this reflects on our goal of maintaining an active Chapter with a broad array of social events, tech sessions, local drives, distant drives and overall support for the NAMGAR mission of bringing the cars together with the people. In this vein, I thank everyone that has hosted, planned, contributed, volunteered or attended a Chapter outing for helping to make our Chapter one of the best MGA clubs around. NAMGAR now has about 50 Chapters in the US and Canada, and only 5 remain MGA-focused clubs.

Betty Ann Johns of Herndon is a frequent traveling companion with Liz Ten Eyck to Regional GTs and also attended GT-33 in Seven Springs, PA. A multiple Key West Regional veteran, Betty Ann enjoys the MGA lifestyle with the best of both worlds – someone else owns and maintains the car while Betty Ann enjoys the friendships and pleasures of seeing the country through the windscreen of an MGA.

Bob and Chris Vitrikas join us from Barboursville, VA. Many will recognize Bob's name as an early and long-time member of our Mid Atlantic Chapter and former Historian of NAMGAR. We believe it is a great compliment that many early Chapter and NAMGAR members want to continue to call the area that was the birthplace of NAMGAR 'home'. I'm sure Bob and Chris

are also motivated by the fact daughter Kelly, son-in-law John and their son Joshua live here and are also proud MGA owners! Well, forget John and Kelly – this is where grandson Joshua lives!!

We also welcome Lee and Liz Niner of Creamery, PA to our fold. Many will recognize Lee and Liz from their column in *MGA! The A's Have It!* If you read their column each issue, you have surely noted many of their “activities” involve a relaxing glass of wine. Lee and Liz have also been our GT caravan traveling companions in our trips, adventures and misadventures to GT-34 in Hot Springs and this year to GT-35 in Delavan, Wisconsin. The Niners are also perhaps motivated by the fact their son and his family live in Springfield, just a few blocks away from Butch and Judy Smith. Well, this year when returning from GT-35, we were all enjoying a relaxing beverage in the hotel’s social suite – also known in the best NAMGAR tradition as “whoever had the largest room” - when a *very relaxed* Lee was persuaded by Judy to part with the membership fee to join our Chapter. With the Niners retired and of course “on a fixed income” according to Lee, this was the *coupe de foudre* by Judy in peeling away twenty *large* from Lee.

▲ Road Trip to GT-35 ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall

The Mid Atlantic Chapter was well represented at GT-35 with attendance by Butch and Judy Smith, Bill and Karen Marshall, Keith and Kathy Kallapos, Liz Ten Eyck, Doug and Kay Campbell, Mike and Jennifer Ash and of course, our newly inducted members Lee and Liz Niner. We were joined by past Chapter members Dick and Pat Newman and Steve and Nancy Woodyard.



The featured car this year was the MG Mquette and we were proudly represented in this class by Doug and Kay – making the drive to Wisconsin from their home in Warrenton. Doug will have more to say on the *Mquette-tude* in our next *Distributor*.

While the Campbells chose a cooler northern route through New York into Canada and across Lake Michigan on the ferry, the Smiths, Marshalls, Kallapos and Ten Eyck chose to skirt Chicago to the south. The drive this year was uneventful as all the cars perform well both coming and going – with only a finicky starter solenoid hampering the pace for the Campbells and an alternator hiccup for the Ashes.

Our travel took us through a bit of West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and into Ohio where we spent the first night in Steubenville – childhood home of actor Dean Martin and also Jimmy ‘The Greek’ Snyder. It was The Greek that correctly predicted that after a long, hot, scorching day on the road the pool at the hotel would be ‘closed for renovations’ during our stay!

As Judy has done for many GT events, she once again accepted the role of wagon master and planned our trip to and from the GT – working out the distance, hotels and sights we planned to see along the way. This is a time-consuming task of plotting distances between towns in both terms of miles and time while staying on favorable MGA roads, and assuring we would arrive at our hotel at a reasonable hour and more important, that we would arrive at the GT before it was over.

Day Two took us across Ohio to Wapakoneta, home of the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum. Our plans were to tour the museum but after another scorching day on the road and a large detour on the route, the call of cool beverages poolside was too great for our feeble bodies to overcome. We passed on the tour and also decided this was the perfect night for Chef Papa John to prepare and deliver a splendid Italian meal to the Mid Atlantic Hospitality Suite.

Day Three was a short day on the road as Judy's schedule had us arriving in Auburn, Indiana in time to spend the entire afternoon at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. The building itself is the former Auburn Automobile Company's national headquarters and is a National Historic Landmark. The collection is home to over 120 cars on three floors. The museum also has a display of other significant cars and honored our Key West friends Fred and Cindy Skomp's 100,000th MGA for a number of years. This museum is a 'must-stop' for any car enthusiast. While it was easy to narrow the list of favorite cars down to three or four, it was impossible to pick a one-best car on display.



Our route for Day Four took us across the remainder of Indiana into central Illinois. The view remained unchanged as we saw acres and acres of – make that hundreds of acres – no, make that miles of acres of corn on one side of the road with soybean on the other. The roads ran perfectly straight with the random left/right bend to clear another field of corn or soybean before running true again. The roads were perfect for our cars, the weather had turned cooler and the joys of British Motoring were underscored. With much of these parts of Indiana and Illinois looking much the same, I can't remember exactly where we were when one county was 'dry' and an Applebee's was the only option with a choice of beverages to the next county where Jack Daniel's was sold off the open shelf at the gas station.

Day Five took us from Bradley, Illinois to Delavan, Wisconsin where GT-35 was held at the Lake Lawn Resort. Lake Lawn is a beautiful lake resort with a feeling of isolation once within its boundaries, yet located a few blocks down the street from a shopping center with a full selection of stores and alternate dining options.

Monday evening was the First Timer's reception and car display – a first at a NAMGAR GT. This was a wonderful ice-breaker as many turned out to view the cars and talk to their owners. Keith and Kathy, having missed most of GT-33 with their then cantankerous Mistress, participated as First Timers. The NAMGAR Hospitality room opened after the First Timer's reception and as always, was a time to renew old friendships and make new friends.

The car show was held Tuesday morning on the lawn overlook the lake on the grounds of Lake Lawn. Everyone agrees having the car show on the grounds of the host hotel is the way to go as one is not 'stuck' at the show. After spending a bit of time Monday afternoon knocking off the grime, bugs and vast collection of butterflies caught on the grille and radiator, it was time to put forth our best displays and ask the voters to vote their hearts for best in each class – or if not, then please 'vote for me!'



Tuesday afternoon was the usual assortment of Tech Sessions, not having enough time to visit with everyone, more Hospitality tickets to exchange for drinks – with a Trivia & Raffle scheduled for the evening.

Wednesday morning offered the option of a rally or a guided tour of the surrounding countryside. Our group chose the rally which had us crisscrossing the area searching for clues which made perfect sense once explained – after the rally sheets were turned in. It must have been easier for some as the tie breaker was overall mileage – assuming the overall winner was the one who answered the clues with the least amount of backtracking. Wednesday afternoon Liz, her cousin Cathy, Keith, Bill and Karen piled into Liz's SUV and headed north to Milwaukee and the Harley-Davidson Museum. It was interesting to see the evolution of the motorcycle from a motorized bicycle to somewhere in the late 20's obtaining the classic look of today's Harley.

Wednesday evening was a picnic and Human Funkhana. We were assigned a team by color at Registration and our first task was to find our team members, assign a captain and divvy up the games in a manner that everyone participated. Mike and Jennifer Ash ended up on the winning team – with many points awarded to the team deemed “Most Spirited”.

Thursday was our last full day at the GT with an Auto Funkhana held in the morning, more Tech Sessions and the famous John Twist “Rolling Tech Session” in the afternoon. Liz benefited greatly from John's knowledge as he found a cracked distributor bracket which allowed the timing to vary as she was driving. A replacement distributor was installed and, as Liz noted, a properly running MGA is more important than good looking MGA!

The Awards Banquet was held Thursday evening and again the Mid Atlantic Chapter did well with the Marshalls being honored with 5th place in the 1500 class, the Smiths honored with 2nd in the 1600 class, the Ashes honored with 2nd in the Coupe class and Liz Ten Eyck receiving a special award for display in the Premier Emeritus group. We were all happy for Butch and Judy as Butch spent hundreds of hours detailing and reassembling his 1600 after its sickening ‘bump’ in the parking lot last year in Hot Springs. The car looked sharp sporting its new top, new chrome, new paint but it was Butch's nook & cranny polishing that made his MGA stand proud. The Smiths, Marshalls, Kallapos, Niners and Ashes were also recognized for driving 1,000 or more miles to a GT – benefiting greatly from the detour that took us miles out of our way.

Friday morning we said our goodbyes and began our journey home. The Campbells once again chose the cooler northern route and the rest of us dropping lower through Illinois and Indiana. After the second evening Keith and Kathy scooted off ahead to arrive home early Sunday to greet out of town guests, Liz headed north to visit family in Pennsylvania and the Smiths, Marshalls and Niners continued in convoy, reaching Parkersburg WVA. Leaving the hotel Sunday morning, we encountered a gent out for a Sunday morning romp in his MGA. I don't know who was more surprised to see the other! Eventually the Niners turned north to make their way home and the Smiths and Marshalls reverse-traced the route on Route 50 that we will take to Elkins later this month. After a stop in Winchester to visit with Martha Ludtke, we arrived home Sunday evening – a day ahead of our planned schedule.

▲ Scottish Games in September ▲

Our friends at the MG Car Club will host their club picnic at the Virginia Scottish Games to be held Saturday, September 4th at Great Meadow near The Plains in Virginia. This is a bring-your-own picnic with perhaps a little something to share with other club members. Each car that participates in the car show will receive two tickets for the event. **You must pre-register your car** in advance at www.vascottishgames.org/VSG2010Cars.html. While this is a two day event, please note the MGCC picnic will be held on Saturday. The MGCC is also arranging a caravan to the event from the Safeway parking lot in Middleburg, VA – departing the lot at 8:45 am sharp. If you are interested in joining the caravan or attending the games, please contact Bryan Sieling at bryan.sieling@verizon.net

▲ Looking Forward – Union Bridge MD ▲

While still a distance away, we are planning our annual Side Curtain Fling being a *Drive to Lunch* to Union Bridge, Maryland – home of fellow Chapter member John Tokar's *Vintage Restorations Limited* shop. Union Bridge is a quaint, historic town where we plan to visit some of the local attractions such as the Western Maryland Railroad Museum and have lunch with a tour of John's shop included in our plans. This will be held in the late October, early November time frame as John's schedule allows.



For Sale: MGB calipers, rotors, hoses, pads. Calipers are working fine. I just caught a nice sale on eBay and replaced all of this. Best offer over \$50.00. I hate to trash this stuff. Contact Butch Smith 703-569-1508 or bjmga@verizon.net

For Sale: 1960 MGA 1600 roadster. Recent paint, new battery, ran well when last driven. Asking price is \$7,500.00. Contact Louis Primovich at primo10000@yahoo.com, home 703-212-9613 or cell 703-209-9111.



To a Good Home: Ken Lawrence has a pair of 1969 Virginia license plates that are free to a good MG home. If you have a 1969 MGB that needs period plates, contact Ken at kennplan@gmail.com.

The *Distributor* welcomes your **Wanted**, **For Sale** or **Free to a Good Home** MG related listings. Please e-mail your listing to mga@mga-midatlantic.com to be included in the next issue.