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▲ Mark February 23rd for the Chili Party ▲

Submitted by Bill Wemhoff



Now that another excellent New Year's Eve party is behind us (thank you so very much Bill and Karen for being such wonderful hosts), the next MGA event is the annual Chili Party. We have offered to host this event this year at our home in Herndon and ask that you mark your calendars for Saturday, February 23rd, at 4:00 pm.

The Chapter will provide the beverages and we request guests bring a side dish, salad, appetizer, corn bread or dessert to share. We of course welcome a pot of your favorite chili to see if last year's winner Karen Marshall can be dethroned and a new Mid Atlantic Chili Champion crowned.

We will have the usual games of knowledge with our Kitchen Box Challenge and Parts Box Challenge - hopefully being prepared by the winners of last year's competition (hint to Martha Anne King and Jim Mackin ... hint hint).

Please RSVP to wemhoff2@verizon.net by February 18th so we can plan for the proper number of guests.

▲ 2013 Annual Meeting Preview ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall



We are a rather loosely run organization – although for being loose, we are actually a tight-knit group. Regardless, we do hold an Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Chili Party so that we can elect the members that make up the Executive Committee that governs the Chapter.

The Executive Committee consists of the Chapter chairman, vice-chairman, secretary/treasurer and one at-large member. We do the simple things like prodding members to host our various Pub Socials and our four main social events including the Chili Party, July 4th fireworks, the annual 'Ool Party and our Abingdon New Year's Eve celebration.

We also – in the best British Royal Navy tradition – use impressment of “volunteers” to organize our Drives to Lunch, Drive Your MGA Day and various drives to area car shows.

We also make sure the Chapter is respectful in spending the dues we collect in ways that best benefit the members. Dues are generally spent on reimbursing host members for the beverages and food purchases of our social events, costs for keeping the Chapter website current and online, and funding the prizes for the Chili Party contests.

Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination for each of these positions – with a requested commitment of one year’s minimum service.

The current members of the Executive Committee are Bill Marshall, Chairman, Liz Ten Eyck, Vice Chairman, Alana Adams, Treasurer, and Kathy Kallapos, Member-At-Large.

A number of us are growing a bit long-in-tooth in our service in our roles. The immediate danger is that the club becomes stale with a lack of new ideas or freshness in our approach to the basic service the Chapter provides to our membership. Another concern is a shortage of members with experience in leading the club should one or more of us step down for any reason in the future. Fresh vision is always good for any organization such as ours.

The most pressing need is for a volunteer to assume the role of Newsletter Editor – someone to gather information on upcoming local British car events and national NAMGAR events and present this information to our membership in a timely manner in our newsletter. Ideally, the newsletter should be prepared once per month and distributed to the membership, but a bi-monthly newsletter would also work as long as e-mail “blasts” are sent for situations requiring timely notification. The newsletter should also provide a recap of recent past events so that those who were unable to attend can follow along and also to perhaps – just perhaps – grab someone’s interest who has put off attending an event because it all sounds like “car stuff”.

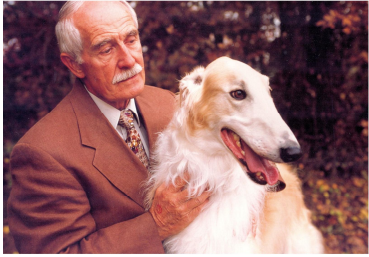
The newsletter should be a community effort, with members providing articles when they are taking the lead on an event and perhaps providing a reflection of an event they hosted. The Editor should be able to combine these contributions into our established format and thus, keep all of our membership informed of Chapter activities. The most common hesitation I hear is “I can’t write”. Writing is simply “telling the story” to paper as you would to your best friend. We may not all have John Grisham’s or J.K. Rowling’s skill with words, but we can all share our thoughts with our friends.

Give some thought to each of the roles noted above and ponder if you can help be a part of the team that keeps our club vibrant and an organization you’re excited to be a member of.

▲ **MG Car Club Winter Romp** ▲

The MG Car Club has scheduled their annual Winter Romp for **Saturday, February 23rd**. The MGCC is always first out of the gate for the new driving season – even if temperatures remain a bit chilly. This is generally a full day of driving on great MG roads with a nice restaurant chosen for the lunch break. Please contact Ruth Arnold for more details.

▲ National Ink ▲



Remembering Len

by Bill Marshall

Leonard Renkenberger, Jr. passed away on November 18, 2012 at age 78 from the effects of cancer. Through his interests, activities, and engaging personality, Len touched many lives and leaves countless friends behind.

The tale of NAMGAR's formation in 1975 by Mac Spears, John Wright, and Len and Ruth Renkenberger has been told many times, but Leonard "Renk" Renkenberger was so much more than a chapter in the NAMGAR history book. Renk was a leader, a motivator, a persuader, a cohort in hijinks, and a friend to anyone with a passion for British cars.

Renk's interest in all things mechanical began at an early age when accompanying his father on annual trips to the New York Auto Show. An engineer by profession, his first MG was a TC, brought home in the back of a dump truck and reassembled using photographs in *Road & Track* magazine as his primary shop manual. In late 1971 Renk discovered there was a club for the MG T-series and he and Ruth, along with Mac, attended their first Chesapeake Chapter NEMGTR

meeting in the dead of winter, both Mac and the Renkenbergers traveling in their TCs – sans tops as Ruth recalls, the memory fuzzy on if they were enjoying the "brisk" weather, or that neither had a top installed at that time! With typical passion, Renk and Ruth were soon chairmen of the Chapter and spirited supporters of the NEMGTR, attending T events in the northeast and Canada, usually traveling in Ruth's quicker TD.

Many Canadian events welcomed the MGA and Renk soon found that the extra speed and comfort made the MGA their new travel vehicle of choice. During the 1974 timeframe, Mac and Renk approached the Directors of the NEMGTR with a plan to include the MGA into the T-series fold, but it was quickly determined the MGA had a large enough following to form a stand-alone Register and thus, NAMGAR was formed in July 1975 at the kitchen table of John and Linda Wright's home in Maryland.

With characteristic determination, Renk and Ruth became a driving force in the growth of NAMGAR, with Renk serving as Newsletter editor, the forerunner of *MGA!* magazine, and Ruth as Secretary-Treasurer and later, following Mac as our second Chairman. It was Renk's objective that every MGA owner, the work that person performed on their car, and their contribution to NAMGAR should be appreciated and recognized.

The NAMGAR mission was to be a people club, not just a club where car owners competed for trophies.

Renk's interest in cars did not end with the MG marque. He was a member of the Rolls Royce Owners Club, the Triumph Register, the Studebaker Drivers Club, as well as being a co-founding member of the Triumph TR6 national club – for which he wrote many technical articles. Renk was a hands-on restorer, restoring many MGs, including an MG TC that was a 100 point Hershey winner. Renk was also proud of his 1946 Bentley with an aluminum body by Mulliner, which he took down to bare metal and restored in full. He also had a strong interest in older boats, restoring a 1957 14 foot Penn Yan Swift runabout, pulled to boat shows with his 1957 TR3, and a 1964 Chevy Lee 25-foot sailboat, as well as a full collection of vintage outboard motors.

Renk's interests also included show dogs, showing the Borzoi breed, and he was proud of their AKC Champion named Brin. As always, Renk was able to combine passions by attending many of the early shows in a restored Studebaker station wagon.

Current NAMGAR Chairman Bruce Woodson recently wrote "NAMGAR is like a good book. There is a beginning, a lot of character development, a great storyline, an ample amount of thrills and a few chills, and at this point in the story we don't know how it will end."

Leonard Renkenberger was the beginning of NAMGAR, no question he was a character, was a great storyline in his own right, but more importantly he encouraged others to become their own storylines. Those who attended early GTs know Renk provided an ample amount of thrills and perhaps a few chills – and at this point we do know Renk's story has come to an end.

But the spirit of Leonard Renkenberger lives on, a little bit in each and every one of us that is a member of NAMGAR and certainly everyone that shares Renk's passion for the British car hobby ... and life itself such as we are granted. Safety. Fast my friend. Forever, Safety Fast.

[Ed. Note: Look for additional tributes and reflections from Len's friends in the March/April issue of *MGA!* magazine.]

NAMGAR recognized the passing of fellow Chapter member Len Renkenberger in the January/February issue of **MGA!** with an article titled *Remembering Len*.

Renk was an integral part of our Mid Atlantic Chapter in our formative years and continued to keep an eye on our successes even as he and Ruth retired to the outskirts of our membership area.

MGA! will feature additional tributes in the March/April issue with submissions by John Wright, Bob Vitrakas, Mike Hughes, Hank Rippert and Steve Mazurek – gentlemen who knew Renk well and speak of him with great passion, respect and ... tales that prove what happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas!

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Recognizes Bill Marshall with the Renkenberger Spirit Award

The Renkenberger Spirit Award was created by NAMGAR so local Chapters could recognize those members whose service to their Chapter embodies the spirit of NAMGAR co-founding members, Len and Ruth Renkenberger, in promoting the use and enjoyment of the MGA at the local club level. Len and Ruth were instrumental in encouraging and assisting many of the early NAMGAR Chapters during the formative years of NAMGAR – including our own Mid-Atlantic Chapter. With Chapters eligible every three years to present the Award, this year our Chapter chose to recognize Bill Marshall for his commitment to the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and fellow NAMGAR members.

As Chairman, Bill's sustained efforts have revitalized participation and interest in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and have encouraged Chapter members to take a renewed interest in national and regional NAMGAR events. Bill is the embodiment of the NAMGAR slogan, "It is the cars that are you here, but it is the people that bring you back."

I personally had no experience with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter until I met Bill and Karen Marshall on the Rallye in Reno for GT36 in 2011.



by Kathy Kallapos

Atlantic Chapter prior to Bill and Karen joining the club. Multiple longtime Chapter members have said we Bill breathed new life into a club that had become somewhat complacent as many mature clubs do. Bill is outgoing, fun-loving, mischievous, approachable, and very hard working – often working behind the scenes to provide a push or tug when it's needed. He creates an atmosphere that is welcoming and encouraging to new members – often loaning a spare MG to a new member without a working MG. Bill used to be the first of support that she and Len felt that Bill's contributions to the Chapter and our national group meant he was needed. Much of this is achieved by the congenial enthusiasm Bill brings to the club and therefore we feel this makes him deserving of the Renkenberger Spirit Award.

In accepting the award, Bill stated, "First, I would like to thank Kathy for her kind words. I heard a few in there that perhaps were true. I am indeed humbled and honored to be the club's support. I accept this Award on behalf of my fellow Mid-Atlantic Chapter members, without whose participation and equal dedication to the club, none of our accomplishments would have been possible. I note with greater satisfaction a number of members were nominated for this award – showing the depth of service among our club members. I would also like to mention Len and Ruth for the foundation they provided for both NAMGAR and Chapters such as ours – and I am pleased the Renk and fellow NAMGAR co-founding members John and Linda Wright continue to call the Mid-Atlantic Chapter home."

The Mid Atlantic Chapter also received coverage of our recognizing Bill Marshall with the Renkenberger Spirit Award with an article submitted by Kathy Kallapos.

This NAMGAR Chapter award was presented to Bill by Kathy during the 'Ool Party hosted by Liz Ten Eyck in August.



We would like to thank NAMGAR, **MGA!** and editor Mike Tooke for providing these images from the January/February 2013 issue and for granting permission to use these in our newsletter.

▲ NAMGAR Tours Savannah April 15-19 ▲



NAMGAR Vice Chairman Carol Shamonsky has organized a Regional GT to be held in Savannah, Georgia this Spring. This will bring an opportunity for NAMGAR members to start their driving season in a grand way by joining in on "NAMGAR Tours Savannah" from April 15-19, 2013. So, get your taxes done early and come relax with fellow NAMGAR members in a beautiful historic grand city of the South!

Savannah contains more than twenty city squares filled with museums, churches, mansions, monuments, and famous forts of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars making it the largest National Historic landmark District in the United States. Our host hotel is the Best Western Plus in the Historic District; so you'll be literally footsteps from all the action. Room rates are \$129 plus \$10 parking per night plus local and state taxes; rooms can be reserved by calling the hotel directly at 912-233-1011 and mentioning NAMGAR to get our rate.

Full details and a registration form can be found on the NAMGAR website www.namgar.com

▲ Key West Conch Out April 22-27 ▲



The Key West British Car Club is hosting **Conch Out 2013** the week of April 22nd to 27th this year in Key West. This follows on the heels of the NAMGAR Regional GT being held in Savannah and for those who can't get enough of MGA life or just yearn for warm weather and sunshine; this is a great opportunity to enjoy a NAMGAR double-header.

All the information regarding the schedule and registration for the event is available on the Key West British Car Club's web site at www.kwbcc.com.

Fred and Cindy Skomp always work hard to ensure those that visit their Key West community have a great time and ... with Dennis Urick in charge of many of the activities, you can be sure a good time will be had by all.

▲ Britain On The Green April 28th ▲



The Capital Triumph Register will host their 16th annual British car show **Britain On The Green** on Sunday, April 28th at the show's new home at Gunston Hall – home of patriot and "Father of the Bill of Rights" George Mason.

Information on registering for the show will be posted on Capital Triumph Register website after February 15th at www.CapitalTriumphRegister.com.

▲ **Drive Your MGA Day Set for May 4th** ▲



NAMGAR Chairman Bruce Woodson has declared Saturday, May 4th as the 2013 NAMGAR **Drive Your MGA Day**.

We are seeking a Chapter member to take the lead on preparing an event for this day. Whether breakfast or lunch we're driving to - it is sure to be an exciting time for all.

▲ **Original British Car Day June 2nd** ▲

Submitted by John Tokar



The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG "T" Register is proud to invite you to the 36th meet of **The Original British Car Day** to be held Sunday, June 2nd. This event is held for the enjoyment of all British car and motorcycle enthusiasts.

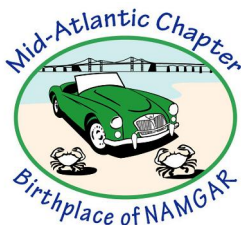
The event is held annually from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM at the beautiful grounds of Lilypons Water Gardens. Come and enjoy this gathering of all British marques in one setting and the beauty of the water gardens. Bring your leashed pet and picnic lunch or partake of the food and drink offered by our food vendors.

Whether you are displaying your car, or just coming to enjoy the event, the drive is beautiful no matter which direction you come from. Lilypons Water Gardens is located in Adamstown, Maryland on Lilypons Road. It can be accessed easily from the North I-70 or I-270 via Route 85, or from the South via Route 28. Please visit their web site at www.lilypons.com for directions and more information about their establishment.

The contact person for OBCD is John M. Tokar, Chairman, who can be reached at 410-775-0500, or by email at jtokar51@verizon.net

For more information please visit our website at: www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com

▲ **New Chapter Shirts Are Available** ▲



We have filled our first batch of new Chapter shirt orders and they have proven to be quite popular. Those interested in additional shirts or ordering your first should contact Liz Ten Eyck at bytheoak@verizon.com.

We need to order a minimum number of 12 shirts and will place an order when we reach that count.

▲ Looking Ahead – Plan Now for GT-38 ▲



As we have done in years past, the Chapter will organize a ***Drive to Asheville*** for GT-38. We expect a nice-sized group with Asheville being one of the closer GT locations in recent years.

We **HIGHLY** recommend you make your hotel reservations **EARLY** if you plan to attend – as GT hotels tend to fill quickly and room selections becomes scarce or even sold-out.

The highlight of this year's GT will be a trip to the Biltmore estate with plans for breakfast, a panoramic photograph of all the MGs participating, a tour of the home, gardens and vineyards. Please visit www.gt38-namgar.org for more information on events and registration information. **EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 1ST** for the **June 10-14** event.

▲ NAMGAR Wants You ▲



Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!

Join over 2,000 enthusiastic owners in the restoration, preservation, and sheer enjoyment of driving an MGA, Magnette, or variant of this noble breed. You'll receive six bi-monthly issues of *MGA!*, our full-color, award winning magazine, invitations to National and Regional Get-Togethers throughout the U.S. and Canada, plus a knowledge base and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). **Get more information at** <http://www.namgar.com>, or contact registrar@namgar.com.



For those of you who are not NAMGAR members, we encourage you to consider joining the national organization. Your \$37.50 annual membership comes with a subscription to the bi-monthly magazine ***MGA!***

The magazine alone is worth the cost of admission. For those that have not enjoyed a recent copy of ***MGA!*** please contact me at manassasmga@gmail.com and I will send a copy for you to enjoy.

FOR SALE!

We welcome your *For Sale*, *For Trade* or *To a Good Home* listings. Please e-mail your items to mga@mga-midatlantic.org