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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

August 2006

▲ Pub Night ▲

During the chapter meeting at the “Ool” Party, there was again discussion about having more driving events and fewer Pub Nights. A new trend is developing where if we have an club event during the month then we will not have a Pub Night. A desire has also been expressed by club members to have our Pub Nights at member’s homes rather than at a restaurant so that there can be more opportunities to socialize. The venue would be very informal, and a simple carryout menu or pizza could be ordered with everyone splitting the bill to minimize the impact on the hosting member. This new format is not in concrete yet, however, your input on this topic would be greatly appreciated. The goal is to enhance our enjoyment of owning and driving an “A” and provide more opportunities to help each other maintain our cars and talk about the topic (MGA’s) we all enjoy.

▲ Drive to Lunch ▲

The *Drive to Lunch* for August was a return trip to Winchester, VA to visit with Bill & Martha Ludtke at home. The drive group met at the Aldie Mill and consisted of the MGA's of Bill & Karen Marshall, Butch & Judy Smith and Liz Ten Eyck in her Gatlinburg-acquired 1600 Mark II, followed by Bob Schoeplin in his MGB and Ken & Joyce Lawrence enjoying the comforts of their American sedan - carrying the thoughts of their TC, TD and MGA resting comfortably back home in their garage. The weather was as perfect as August in the D.C. area can be and we enjoyed a meandering drive on back roads to Winchester. Leaving Aldie, we traveled St. Louis Road to the infamous Snickersville Turnpike to Route 7 and then returning to Route 50 via the built-for-MG Blue Ridge Mountain Road. Millwood Road led us up to Route 340 and onto Senseny Road to Bill & Martha's home where we were joined by Warren Arthur in his 1957 1500.

After a fine BBQ lunch and some peach cobbler with ice cream and watermelon for dessert, a chorus of Happy Birthday was sung for Judy - who was celebrating her 39th birthday - again. A tour of Bill's basement shop to view the progress of his MGA Coupe lead to an impromptu tech session as Bill provided technical advice for the ongoing adjustment saga of Bill Marshall's 1500 drum brakes and directed a well-tuned ear to Liz Ten Eyck's noisy generator. Those problems properly diagnosed and with brakes readjusted for the trip home we said our good-byes and left Bill & Martha to recover from the MG invasion - with hopes we will be invited back again soon. We hope

to have pictures of the day on our website soon. (*Our thanks to Bill Marshall for the great write-up of the day's adventure*)

▲ Other Upcoming Events ▲

September 24 – [Meeting of the Marques](#)

Spend a day (or the weekend) at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, PA at the 16th Annual 2006 Meeting of the Marques. This all-British motor show with a touch of non-British will be held September 24, 2006 on the beautiful meadows of the Allenberry Resort along the Yellow Breeches Creek in Boiling Springs, PA. The *Meeting of the Marques* has something for everyone. In addition to the myriad of British vehicles assembled, visitors can enjoy an excellent catered lunch and the Zembo Highlanders Bagpipe and Drum Corp will perform in the afternoon. First 200 cars will receive a dash plaque and special gift.

September 30 – [MGs on the Rocks Car Show & Parts Market](#)

This event is hosted by the MGs of Baltimore Club at the Rocks State Park in Harford County Maryland. There's only one place for a British sports car owner on September 30th and that's at the Annual MGs On The Rocks Car Show. This low pressure, popular vote event gives you the opportunity to show off your car while trading stories and gathering those parts that you're sure you'll need some day.

The site in Rocks State Park is a beautiful country setting so bring a picnic basket and join the fun. Entertainment and music provided all day long. Rocks is a family event, bring the whole gang (please - no pets). Food (Pit Beef!) and refreshments will be available for purchase. Rocks also has one of the largest British "For Sale" areas you'll find. More information can be found at www.mgsofbaltimore.com.

October 8 - The 11th annual [Hunt Country Classic](#) features [all British marques](#) and is held at the picturesque Middleburg, Virginia estate of Bill and Barbara Scott, owners of Summit Point Raceway. This car show and family outing is without equal in the area. If you only attend one car show a year--this is the one. For more car show information and registration form, check out www.mgcarclubdc.com.

Coming in late October or November – [2nd Annual Side Curtain Fling](#)

More information on this fun event will follow in the next issue of the *Distributor*.

▲ Miscellaneous Information ▲

CHAPTER WEBSITE: <http://mga-midatlantic.org/> Don't forget to check out our new website and send a picture of your car to Amy so it can be posted in the gallery. Check our website for recently posted pictures of past outings.

“TECH SESSIONS FROM MGA” book is available from NAMGAR, e-mail regalia contacts Bruce and Carol Woodson at: cvmga@aol.com. The price is \$45.00 plus shipping and handling. This is the real ‘Bible’ for MGA articles.

“CLASSIFIEDS”

Rear tube shock conversion kit for your MGA, TD, TF and all chrome bumper MGB’s. Later model B’s without a rear sway bar. \$60.00 plus shipping. For an extra charge I can supply the shocks, but they are available at any auto parts store. I get them at Fairfax Auto. Butch Smith, 8408 Gambrell Lane, Springfield, VA 22153. Tel: 703-569-1508, bjmga@verizon.net

“FOR SALE”

Various MGA parts available, call (540-272-4264) or e-mail (tomowog@adelphia.net) for information.

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

▲ **Interesting Articles** ▲

(Another article on the future of MGs. Thanks to Warren Arthur for finding the article and to Amy Rothberg for her support in downloading it)

China's Nanjing Automobile Group says it will revive the venerable British brand MG in the USA and elsewhere, and build a factory in Oklahoma to manufacture MGs.

The announcement Wednesday makes Nanjing the third Chinese automaker to declare U.S. intentions. China's Chery and Geely both have said they plan to sell here. But they intend to ship cars from China, not build them in the USA initially. "It's a gutsy plan, and I'm voting for it. I remember the MG and loved it," says auto entrepreneur Malcolm Bricklin. His Visionary Vehicles plans to distribute Chery (CHAIR-ee) models in the USA.

"Anything that comes in from China and catches on is good for us," he says. Bricklin plans to sell a full lineup and doesn't see MG sports models as a threat.

Nanjing bought rights to use the MG name last year. The initials stand for Morris Garages, where the first ones were made in the 1920s, according to Krause Publications' Standard Guide to British Sports Cars. The guide says U.S. sales of new MGs ended in 1980. U.S. production and sales are scheduled to begin by the third quarter of 2008. Nanjing says it will build a plant in Ardmore, Okla., that it expects to employ 325 and be able to produce 20,000 MG TF coupes a year for worldwide sales. An additional 150 will work at headquarters in Oklahoma City.

Nanjing says it will reopen the MG assembly plant at Longbridge, near Birmingham, England, mothballed since last year. Longbridge will manufacture an updated version of the MG TF roadster, sold in other markets until last year. The coupe and roadster are to be mid-engine, rear-drive machines sized and priced roughly similar to the Mazda Miata sports car, which starts at about \$21,000.

Three front-drive sedans are planned for a new factory at company headquarters in Nanjing, China. One is likely for the USA, says Kim Custer, spokesman for MG Motors North America. The North American unit will handle sales, distribution and marketing outside Asia. It is 49% owned by Nanjing, 51% owned mainly by two investment companies: Oklahoma Sovereign Development and Davis Capital. MG Motors thinks it will benefit from the well-known MG name.

"We'll start with a little tailwind, with a brand that has some equity," Custer says. "It's unbelievable how many MG clubs there are, so there's at least that much interest."

Nanjing could be the first Chinese company to sell cars here. Bricklin expects to begin sales late in 2008, a year later than he projected early this year, because of changes related to fuel economy.

China's Geely (JEE-lee) "probably will not be delivering autos to the U.S. market until 2010," spokesman John Harmer said Wednesday. Earlier this year, his forecast was for late 2008. He says the company now knows where it stands on meeting U.S. regulations.