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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

**April 2007**

## ▲ **Britain on the Green** ▲

The Capital Triumph Register is sponsoring “Britain on the Green, the first major car show of the year in the area this Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is a “not to miss” event. Dust off your “A” and enjoy a fantastic spring day. The setting for the event is the historic and beautiful Collingwood Library and its surrounding grounds and gardens on the bank of the Potomac River. For more information and a registration form, please go to [www.capitaltriumphregister.com](http://www.capitaltriumphregister.com).

## ▲ **Drive to Lunch** ▲

Our first club drive of the season will be Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The details have yet to be nailed down but we'll caravan through some nice roads down to visit the Classic Car Center (<http://www.classiccarcenter.net/>) in Fredericksburg, VA. After a tour of some neat cars and their new facility, we'll have lunch in Fredericksburg and then optionally take a scenic tour through the countryside of the nearby historic Civil War sites.

This promises to be a fun day and a great way to kick off the driving season so mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details. If your A is not ready for the road, just drive another car in your stable. Amy Rothberg will be leading this drive so if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

## ▲ **Mini-Tech Session** ▲

Tom Ford will be replacing a leaking differential gasket on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> around 10 in the morning and has invited anyone who is interested to come and observe. The work involves removing both axles and replacing the hub gaskets, “O” ring and differential gasket. This is “heavy” auto work. He expects that the work will take a couple of hours. If anyone has ever considered tackling such a job, this would be a great opportunity to see first hand what would be involved. Anyone interested in attending should contact Tom directly at 540-272-4264 or by e-mail at [tomowog@comcast.net](mailto:tomowog@comcast.net) to let him know that you will be coming. His address can be found in the Member Roster section on our club website [www.mga-midatlantic.org](http://www.mga-midatlantic.org), and then all you need is Map Quest to get directions. If you are just lazy, you can call Tom for directions. Thanks Tom for the offer.

## ▲ Chili Party ▲

If you missed this year's Chili Party, you missed a great event. Bill and Kathy Whemhoff once again opened their beautiful home to the club and hosted the Chili Party. They were definitely the host and hostess with the "mostest" ensuring that the large group attending enjoyed the food and games. Butch and Judy Smith's chili was voted the best, followed by Carl and Jean Josefson, and Bill and Karen Marshall. Bill Ludtke identified the most parts in the Car Part Box, followed by Keith Kallapos and Butch Smith. A special thanks goes to John Padgett for making the club a beautiful new parts box in the shape of the MG octagon. Kathy Kallapos was the Kitchen Queen by identifying the most items in the Kitchen Box, followed by Jean Josefson and Karen Marshall. The "Collage of MG and Car-related Trivia Questions" stumped many, but Terry King came out on top, with Keith and Kathy Kallapos and Karen and Bill Marshall also displaying a great knowledge of trivia. Jean Josefson won the Car-Related Word puzzle from a drawing of all the eager participants. All winners received great prizes for their efforts.

## ▲ Dues are Due ▲

If you haven't gotten around to paying your dues this year, shame on you.

## ▲ Project Cars ▲

We would love to hear about your project car and we know that there are more of them stored away somewhere. Please see the attached article about Toby Fitzkee's project car. Read about other projects cars on the club's website [www.mga-midatlantic.org](http://www.mga-midatlantic.org).

## ▲ 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](mailto: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 all MGAs and MGBs without a rear sway bar. Shocks not included. I recommend a Monroe #330033. \$60.00 plus shipping. Butch Smith, 8408 Gambrill Lane, Springfield, VA 22153. 703-569-1508; [bjmga@verizon.net](mailto:bjmga@verizon.net)

### **"FOR SALE"**

Various MGA parts available, call Tom Ford at (540-272-4264) or e-mail ([tomowog@adelphia.net](mailto:tomowog@adelphia.net)) for information.

*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](mailto:bytheoak@msn.com).*

## ▲ Toby Fitzkee's Project Car ▲

### 1956 MGA Roadster

It was around the fall of 1965 when I purchased my first A in Harrisburg, PA. I had just received my driver's license and was living large. It was a 1958 1500, navy blue in color. It was my very first car which I purchased by trading in my savings bonds and selling my drum set. I believe I paid \$800.00 for it. On March 15, 1966, the Ides of March which I believe was also a bad time for Julius Ceasar, that I totaled my A when I skidded into the rear end of a much larger car on a snowy, wet intersection. Fortunately I wasn't seriously hurt, just split the bridge of my nose open on the steering wheel and bruised my sternum on the steering wheel hub, (it didn't give at all). At this point I was very depressed at having totaled my car and didn't know what I was going to do. I had paid for this car myself and had no means to pay for the repairs nor buy another one. Living large one day then feeling as low as the oil pan drain plug the next. One morning my mother showed me a little article in the classified section of one of the local newspapers. 1956 MGA FOR SALE, good running condition. It turned out that the owner lived on the other side of Peter's Mountain from me. My parents were great folks and guess what? They bought it for me- for \$600.00. Of course, I said that I would pay them back when I could, a little at a time. Well , you know how that went. Like I said my folks were great people. I had a great time with my "new" A and actually used the wrecked one for spare parts until I sold it to a guy that was going to make a "hot rod" out of it. Don't know if he ever did or not. I drove my A all through high school; summer, winter, spring and fall. I remember my dates in my A, driving to school, driving to football practices and just driving around with my two or three other friends that also had A's. We kind of had our own A club back then and would work on each other's cars. I remember working all Saturday washing, waxing, vacuuming out the inside and polishing the chrome just to get my A ready to do some cruising that night with my date or my girlfriend. Now jump ahead to about fall, 1969. I had completed my first year of college but it was "suggested" that I attend summer school in order to return for my sophomore year since my grades were, shall we say, on the low side of the RPM gauge. At this point I made a decision to sit out a semester to see if college was really what I wanted to do. It was at this time that I was working as an Iron Worker on Three Mile Island nuclear power plant when the slave cylinder or clutch cylinder went out for the fourteenth gazillionth time and I had had it with my A. I ended up selling it, as is, to a high school friend that lived in my town for about \$400.00. I had a 1954 XJ Jag coupe that I bought at the end of my freshman year in college for \$400.00 from a senior that needed \$400.00 to pay off a school debt in order to graduate. I just didn't need another British car to work on. I then bought a 1968 Camaro Z-28. Life went on! Now flash forward to 2005, three children later and thirty-three wonderful years of marriage (to the same lovely lady) have passed. It was as a memorial service for one of my uncles, who had passed away in Dauphin, PA, that I ran into another old high school classmate who, as I was told, was now the owner of a MGA. I just happened to be the EXACT same 1956 MGA that you just read about at the beginning of this article! YES! the EXACT SAME ONE! I walked up to Jim, the present owner, and after some reminiscing I told him that if he every wanted to sell the A to give me a call. That was in August of 2005. At the end of June, 2006 my wife and I hosted a family reunion at our home in Fairfax Station for my side of

my mother's family. One cousin asked me if I had heard from Jim about the A. I replied that I hadn't but would give him a call that Monday which I did. After a week and a half of telephone tag ( Jim doesn't have e-mail at home and doesn't like to receive non-business e-mails a work) I got in touch with him. I made him an offer and after a week I and my wife were on our way to Dauphin, PA with trailer in tow to buy back my old A. I'm 56 years young and now have my 56 MGA back after our separation of some 36 years. She has a lot of work to be done to her to get her road worthy, just ask Butch Smith. But it feels good to be a part of the A-team again. Oh, by the way, if anyone out there is interested in buying a boat, mine is for sale. Priorities, you know!

