



August 2007

▲ 4th of July Fireworks Social ▲

Our Chapter Social for the month of July was a July 4th event at the home of Bill & Karen Marshall. Taking advantage of the City of Manassas hosting *Celebrate America* in Old Town and providing the largest fireworks display in Northern Virginia for our “personal” viewing, we could not plan a better way to celebrate that most British of sports cars, the MGA. The early thunderstorms that pelted the area – but bypassed Manassas - cleared out and we were left with perfect weather for the outdoor event.

We had a great turn-out of club members and were honored by special guests Lee & Liz Niner of Pennsylvania, attending with their son Tommy and his family, who live in the area. Lee & Liz are past NAMGAR Treasurers and current NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators. Those that receive *MGA!* magazine are familiar with the Niner’s through their column, *The As Have It* – although Lee may be better known by his loving reply of “yes dear” to Liz’s uncanny sense of intuition!

Many delicious appetizers were provided by club members and traditional Fourth of July fare was cooked on the grill. Bill & Karen were proudly showing off new granddaughter Emma, visiting Virginia for the first time with parents Mike & Amanda Marshall of Texas. Mike was shown proper respect as the new father by promptly being “volunteered” to run the grill.

As dusk turned to night, we gathered in the front yard in eager anticipation of the explosions that would soon fill the sky in celebration of our nation’s birth. We enjoyed the City’s colorful fireworks display and at the end of the show were surprised by Karen, who provided sparklers for our group. Many commented it had been years since they had ended a Fourth of July with that most American of childhood traditions. This fact was reinforced by the difficulty in coordinating the adults, with sparklers sparking, to pose for a group picture. Many appeared to be years-away as they wrote their names or conjured imagery in the night sky with their flaming sticks trailing streaks of light.

It has long been a NAMGAR truism that “you come for the cars but stay for the people”. We would be remiss if we did not mention those that were not able to attend this year’s event due to health reasons. We look forward to having Bill Ludtke and Bill Ten Eyck strong and able to attend next year’s event.

Mark your calendar for next year when we will once again celebrate the Fourth of July on, well, July 4th.

▲ New Members ▲

We would like to welcome new members to our Chapter, Ken & Theresa Nagel of Huntington, MD. They are proud owners of a 1962 1600 Mark II roadster. Ken is also a member of NAMGAR. We look forward to meeting Ken & Theresa at an upcoming club event. Ken, please e-mail Amy a picture of your car so Amy can post it on our gallery page!

▲ Final Dues Notice ▲

Chapter Treasurer Martha Ludtke has notified the Board that there are still a few members that have not submitted their dues for 2007. Martha will be contacting those members directly by e-mail. If you suspect you are among the delinquent, please contact Martha at billnmartha@webtv.net for verification.

▲ 'Ool Party Venue Change ▲

Our annual 'Ool Party held at the home of Bill & Liz Ten Eyck has long been one of our most popular and well attended Drive & Social Events of the year. As many of you know, Bill has been in poor health lately as he continues to undergo treatment for his cancer. To reduce the stress for Liz, she has asked Steve & Nancy Woodall to host the 'Ool Party this year and Steve & Nancy have graciously volunteered their home and pool for the event. We assume the same rules apply to the Woodall's pool that apply to the Ten Eyck's pool and that is this is a 'Ool Party **because there is no Pee in the 'ool!**

This is considered both a Drive and a Social Event so we hope to see as many MGAs show up as possible Saturday, August 11th. Steve has laid out a wonderful drive through the countryside that will include a pass through the old town Clifton area.

▲ August Drive to Lunch ▲

Our *Drive to Lunch* for the month of August will be a shared event with the MG Car Club, Washington DC Centre. The MGCC has planned a drive to visit the Civil War battlefield at Antietam on Saturday, August 25th. Plans are to meet at Carderock Park just outside the Beltway at 9:30 am rain or shine. The caravan will head out via the Maryland countryside, stop for lunch around 11:30 and then visit the National Park Visitors Center at the Antietam battlefield. Afterwards we'll cross the Potomac into Sheppardstown and return home via West Virginia and Virginia. We should be home around 6 pm. For Virginia residents that live west of town, an alternate route to the lunch spot may be arranged if enough interest is shown. Please contact our MAC/MGCC coordinator Ruth Arnold via e-mail at fltrgb2@comcast.net for more information or to sign up for the drive.

▲ Eastern Shore Club Drive ▲

Just another reminder. Len and Ruth Renkenberger have graciously offered to host a gathering of club members on **October 7th**. The Renkenberger's have indicated that there are lots of things to do in their area, especially in St. Michaels. They will still have their pool open and hopefully the weather will be nice as it usually is at that time of year. They have offered the use of their canoe and two of their kayaks for those who would like to go out on the river. They are also thinking of having a driving tour of their local area as well as socializing at their house. More details will come in the future.

Stop what you are doing and **make reservations** today, since that area is still a very popular retreat at that time of year. The Renkenberger's have recommended The Best Western in St. Michaels (1228 S. Talbot St., St. Michaels, MD, 410-745-3333, <http://www.bestwesternmaryland.com/hotels/best-western-saint-michaels-motor-inn/>) as a least expensive one, however, it fills up early for holiday weekends. Our selected date, October 7, is during the Columbus Day weekend and you might have Monday off. Current plans are to caravan down together on Saturday, October 6th, and return according to club member's individual schedule either late on Sunday, October 7th or on Monday, October 8th.

▲ Project Cars ▲

We would love to hear about your project car and we know that there are more of them stored away somewhere. Read about other projects cars on the club's website 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. 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 Gambrell Lane, Springfield, VA 22153. 703-569-1508; bjmga@verizon.net

“FOR SALE”

Various MGA parts available, call Tom Ford at (540-272-4264) or e-mail (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.*