



June 2007

▲ **4th of July Fireworks Social** ▲

The 4th is just around the corner. Come join other club members at the home of Bill & Karen Marshall for an evening social and an outstanding view of fireworks, which will be courtesy of the City of Manassas on Wednesday, **July 4, 2007** from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm or so. Drive your car and we will have a mini-coral at the corner of Mathis Ave. and Irving St. Please RSVP at 703-393-9308.

▲ **British Invade Gettysburg** ▲

Enjoy a ride up Route 15 and participate in the 7th Annual British Invade Gettysburg. It will a beautiful ride though the country to Gettysburg. There will also be bargain shopping at over 70 outlet stores and musical entertainment. Over two hundred British cars and motorcycles from all over the mid-Atlantic region will graced the center street and sidewalks of the Gettysburg Outlet Mall, on **Sunday, July 8**. The vehicles included fine examples of exotic Jensen, Allard, Lotus, and DeLorean marques and a few British bikes (including a vintage BSA pedal bicycle). These were interspersed among the usual packs of MGs and Triumphs and gaggles of Austin Healeys, Jaguars, Minis, Morris Minors, and new Lotus's.

▲ **45th Annual Braille Rallye**

The 45th Annual Braille Rallye, sponsored by the MG Car Club of Washington, DC will be held on Saturday, **July 14, 2007**. Please reserve this date on your calendar.

According to the MG Car Club website, for the past 44 years they have sponsored a Braille Rallye for sight-impaired individuals through the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind. The event includes a driving rallye and a picnic for the participants and their families. As in past years, this year's Braille Rallye will take place at Burke Lake Front Park in Fairfax County. Many of you may already be familiar with this event. For those who aren't, here is a brief description.

The Braille Rallye is usually attended by 25-35 members with their MGs, by a similar number of sight impaired individuals and by several Lighthouse staff. Prior to the rallye, the course through the countryside surrounding the park is plotted and the optimal time to complete the course while driving at the posted speed limit is determined. Each car in the Rallye is manned by a driver and a navigator. When they approach the start line of the rallye, the participants are not aware of the course route. At the starting line, each

navigator is provided with a set of instructions pointing out keys to the route. What makes the Braille Rallye especially interesting for the participants is that the navigators are sight impaired and the course instructions are prepared either in large print for navigators with some sight or in Braille for navigators who are sightless. Therefore, the driver and navigator are dependent upon each other to successfully complete the course. Upon completion of the rallye, the drivers, navigators and their families and the staff of the Lighthouse gather in a shelter in the park for a picnic. During the picnic, awards for several different classifications are presented to the winners of the rallye.

Please join the members of the MG Car Club by attending the Rallye. It is an opportunity for us to provide our sight impaired friends with a ride in the LBCs that we drivers all love so much. Even though they can't see our cars, they still have a great appreciation for them. If you have questions about the event, feel free to call Nelson Wilson at (703) 723-1419 or Linda Flickinger at (703) 644-6295.

▲ 'OOL' Party ▲

Mark your calendar and don't miss this one!!! **AUGUST 11, 2007**: Bill and Liz Ten Eyck will again be hosting our club's 'OOL' PARTY. 'OOL'? That's because there is no 'Pee' in the Ten Eyck's pool. More details will follow.

▲ 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.

▲ The Original British Car Day ▲

Some days are for eagles and some days are for ducks. June 3rd was definitely a day for ducks. We had so much water you would think it was a day for boating rather than a day for a car show. You know it is really going to be a bad weather day when Bill Marshall leaves his house with his top up and side curtains in tow. Unfortunately, there were not a lot of brave souls that day and attendance was down significantly. There were 4 MGAs in the line up. Since only six MGAs had pre-registered, they only awarded two trophies and they were taken home by Liz Ten Eyck and Larry Newman.

▲ Drive to Lunch ▲

The June *Drive to Lunch* event was designed to further support and encourage our Project Cars of the Mid-Atlantic. We recently began to feature the history and stories behind our members' project cars on our web site and felt a visit to see some of the actual cars was in order. This was an ambitious drive, visiting the homes of four project cars and one project garage, stopping by Glory Days Grill for lunch and getting it all done in what we hoped would be a six hour window! We would like to thank our hosts for allowing us to swarm into their homes, lingering long enough to inspect their MG projects before swarming out again.

We had a good turn out of members with Butch Smith driving his 1600, Jim Mackin with daughter Kat, driving his recently restored 1958 1500 roadster, on its first outing in ten years - summing up the spirit of project cars, Bill & Karen Marshall in their 1500 and Ken Lawrence, his A finally getting its "Spring" maintenance done, making its first appearance of the season. Also joining us on the drive were Steve Woodall, Toby Fitzkee, Liz Ten Eyck, Keith & Kathy Kallapos, Bill & Martha Ludtke and Michael Eaton, with kids Jonathan & Robert tagging along to enjoy the cars.

Our first Project visit was not a car but the new garage home for the Woodall's P-Type, TC and MGA. Despite being labeled the Taj-Garage and the Eighth Wonder of the World by some, there is no truth to the rumor that Fairfax County has issued a new zip code for the garage. When completed, the garage will have ample parking for Steve's collection of MGs, a mechanical work area and a paint booth for that "next project" MG lovers always seem to have in mind. This garage is the envy of car lovers everywhere. This is why it is proper that it houses MGs!

Leaving the Woodall's, we followed Toby Fitzkee on his motorcycle to his home to see his recently re-acquired high school car. Toby first purchased his 1956 1500 while in high school around 1966. Driven year 'round as his only means of transportation, he sold the car to a high school buddy after his freshman year in college. Some 35 years later, he ran into another high school chum who had acquired the MGA at some point in the distant past. Negotiations began and once again the now-neglected A returned to Toby's stewardship. Our group both commiserated with Toby on the depth of the project which lay ahead and were also encouraged by the completeness and known history of the car. Suffice it to say this will be a project that we'll be watching for a number of years into the future!

Our third stop was to visit the dormant 1962 Mark II project car of Butch & Judy Smith. Admittedly, a future retirement project, Butch has the A back on four wheels and the body painted and ready for reassembly. As with many MG project cars, the Mark II plays third fiddle behind their 1600 and MGB GT. Butch did demonstrate his flair for organization with a garage of neatly arranged parts boxes and wings, grilles, bonnet and boot lids hanging carefully from the rafters. By now, the group had worked up a thirst and appetite and was off to a refreshing lunch at Glory Days Grill.

After lunch, our group headed to the home of John Padgett where to our surprise, a car show awaited our arrival. John had casually mentioned to a couple of friends cold beer would be available and they responded by offering to help him with that problem, arriving in a collection of British classics to go along with John's MGA and his collection of numerous project MG TDs and TFs. Joining John's personal 1971 E-Type Jaguar on

the parade grounds were his friends' Austin Healey 3000, MGB and a very rare British Damiler SP250 with its 2.5 liter hemi V-8. Already behind schedule, we threw the clock away as we poked through John's cars, vintage photo collection, parts bins and his upholstery shop where he makes custom boat fittings as well as traditional British sports car interiors. Doing our best not to be rude to our host, we also begrudgingly helped to reduce the number of cold beverages in his cooler.

Time continued to march on and with the threat of rain; we began to lose some of our multitude. Our final stop was the home of Keith & Kathy Kallapos and perhaps the definitive definition of a "you-can-do-it-yourself" project car. Keith's MGA lay in what appeared to be a thousand pieces with body sections fully disassembled and lovingly repaired by Keith and his self-taught welding skills. Some larger sections were hanging in his self-constructed basement paint booth - featuring properly filtered air intake and the necessary exhaust requirements - awaiting final touches before receiving color. A detailed frame awaits reassembly into a rolling chassis with all the bits boxed and ready to go nearby. We were impressed that a basement workshop could suffice to strip, rebuild, weld, prime and paint a classic car and we expect the club will schedule another visit to the Kallapos' home as Keith's project continues to move forward. Their last challenge will be to figure out how to get the finished car out through the basement's French doors and back up to street level. Based on what's been accomplished so far, we left with no doubts regarding Keith's future success in working out those details.

This Project Car Tour was by all accounts a resounding success and we would once again like to thank our hosts for welcoming us into their homes and garages.



▲ Project Cars ▲

We would love to hear about your project car and we know that there are more of them stored away somewhere. Our June Drive to Lunch, see above, will visit some club member's project cars. 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.*