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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

November 2007

▲ *October Drive Report* ▲

Changes in latitude, changes in attitude was the theme for our October *Drive to the Renkenberger's*. Our group headed east over the Chesapeake Bay Bridge for a three day weekend on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to attend the Chapter outing hosted by NAMGAR co-founders Len & Ruth Renkenberger at their home on Sunday, October 7th.

Our intrepid group started in Manassas Saturday morning with Bill & Karen Marshall in their 1957 1500 forming the caravan with Keith & Kathy Kallapos, who graciously provided extra luggage space in their Chrysler convertible for all those 'necessities' one can't seem to leave home without. Our first destination was the home of Butch & Judy Smith to gather them along with their 1960 1600. This leg of our journey was uneventful short of crossing paths with fellow Chapter member Carl Josefson near Clifton – out for an early morning romp in his MGA. Once in Springfield and with Karen bewildered by how Judy can pack for three days in an MGA trunk, we set sail for Maryland where we collected Liz Ten Eyck and her niece Julie to round out our rolling armada as we made our way over the Bay Bridge to the Renkenberger's home in Easton. There we were greeted by Len & Ruth with much appreciated nourishment and the requisite cold beverages that welcomed us to the Eastern Shore.

Len gave us a tour of his garage workshop which includes his vintage boats, his MG TC, Ruth's MG TD as well as their 1962 MGA Mark II Deluxe. Also on hand were his Triumph TR6 projects and his Bentley and Rolls Royce examples of "big British" motoring. The mechanical among us found Len's collection of antique outboard motors equally as interesting as his cars.

Appetites curbed and hydration restored we said farewell to our hosts and headed to lovely St. Michaels to check into our rooms and to prepare for an evening of sightseeing and dinner. Dinner was enjoyed overlooking the water at the Bridge Restaurant on Tilghman Island where we watched as tall-mast sail boats kept the local drawbridge operator busy. A beautiful sunset was enjoyed and we returned to St. Michaels to stroll through town, "sample" some ice cream and then back to the hotel for much needed rest.

Sunday morning found us driving to the historic town of Oxford, taking the long route back to the Renkenberger's so we could cross over the Tred Avon River on the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry. The ferry – first established in 1683 - is believed to be the oldest privately operated ferry in the nation, and has been operating continuously since 1836. Mixed in with modern automobiles and bicyclists, our MGAs were the center of attention for the duration of the crossing. And yes, there was one gent on board that had owned a MGA “back when”.

Arriving at the Renk's we were greeted by fellow NAMGAR co-founders John & Linda Wright, who traveled down from Pennsylvania for the day and by Mike & Jennifer Ash, joining us from the Virginia Beach area, forsaking the comforts of an MG to exercise their “other British” Jaguar E-type. Unfortunately, Missing in Action were NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators Lee & Liz Niner, who chose to start the trip in their MGB rather than make the long drive from the Philadelphia area in their MGA. Reliable eye-witnesses report that it was hard to discern if the bellowing steam cloud just outside Philadelphia was coming from the radiator of the MGB or directly from Lee's ears....but I digress. Better results were had by Bill & Martha Ludtke, who arrived Sunday morning from Winchester with only the Redskin Stadium traffic to briefly impede their journey. Also joining us for the outing were local MG friends of Len & Ruth with Bob & Virginia Perram arriving in their MGB and Ron & Mary Ann Christi driving a beautiful MGYA.

Once fully gathered, the theme for the day became eat, drink, swim, sun and reminisce as we had founders of both NAMGAR and our own Mid-Atlantic Chapter to share their recollections with us. Despite memories a bit fuzzy on actual dates, early events were discussed and tales were told – some perhaps embellished by time and others that were so good they could only be true!

This would not truly be a MG event however without some type of mini tech session being required. John was able to quiet Butch's noisy generator with a few squirts of oil and the timing was reset on Len's Deluxe to enhance its idle. We would like to thank Len & Ruth for their kindness in opening their home to the Chapter and for hosting a wonderful event. We look forward to being invited back next year.

After a Sunday night dinner at the Washington Street Pub in Easton, our convoy retreated back to the hotel to find St. Michaels locked up tight with not a drop of adult refreshment to be found. Undaunted, Kathy Kallapos produce a fine bottle of wine and we toasted the day's events while relaxing poolside under the stars.

Our caravan headed home Monday morning, but the ladies insisted this was not to be without a stop at the Outlet Mall in Queenstown. While the guys rolled their eyes, many stores were visited and many purchases were pondered, but only one member stepped up to the cash register to finalize those prized finds. Yes, we found out Butch is the clothes hog among us! After a stop for lunch in the Bowie area we found ourselves back in Washington DC rush-hour traffic and were quickly reminded that our change in latitude was over, but we will savor the change in attitude for some time!

▲ Hunt Country Classic Car Show ▲

The MG Car Club hosted its 12th annual British Car Show on Sunday, October 14th at Willoughby Farm, home of Bill & Barbara Scott near Marshall, VA. This has long been considered our “home” car show of the season with most of the MGAs on display being members of our NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

This year there were eight MGAs in attendance with Chapter members Tom Ford, Bill Marshall, Amy Rothberg and Butch Smith among those vying for the “gold” and Michael Eaton displaying his historic Twin Cam Sebring Coupe project car. Michael has a wonderful, entertaining 20 minute tale of how he researched, tracked-down and eventually acquired the Sebring in California last year if you ever have *60 minutes* to listen. Yes, each time Michael was part-way through the story; someone would come up and ask that he start again from the beginning!

We shared the field with John & Kelly Burns in their recently acquired 1600 Mark II and Larry Newman with his supercharger-equipped 1600. We hope to entice both John & Kelly and Larry to join our Chapter soon as members. Bill & Kathy Wemhoff were with us but without their MGA due to an early-morning mechanical problem. Bob Schoeplein, having tossed a connecting rod through the block of Honeybee while racing at Mid-Ohio, was regrettably unable to make the show.

With perennial show winner Dick Farwell out of town and Liz Ten Eyck scheduled to represent the MGA in the newly created *Prince of Wales* division as last year’s Class Winner, it was an open field for the remaining MGAs on display. Over 250 British cars of all marques were on display and judging for each class was by popular vote of all those registered. Congratulations go to Butch Smith, Bill Marshall and John & Kelly Burns who were awarded first, second and third place respectively in the MGA class. Butch will now have the unenviable task of representing the MGA in next years *Prince of Wales* division. To the victor go the spoils they say!

▲ November Pub Night ▲

Our first post-season **Pub Night** will be held Sunday afternoon, November 18th at the home of Toby & Helen Fitzkee in Fairfax Station, VA. This will be an informal social gathering with plans to order pizza delivery as we’ve done in the past. Beverages will be provided by the Chapter. Starting time for this Pub Night will coincide with the 1:00 pm kick-off of the Redskins/Cowboys game – which Toby promises to be viewable on a TV screen nearby!

As always, we request you e-mail an **RSVP** to our hosts by November 12th so they can properly plan for the number of guests that will attend. If you are not sure, then please e-mail a “maybe”. If you know you will not be able to attend, please RSVP that to our hosts so they can reduce the “fudge” factor. Toby can be reached at tlfitzkee@hotmail.com to RSVP and for directions if needed.

▲ November Tech Session ▲

Dick Farwell will be hosting interested members for a mini tech session at his home in Sterling, Virginia on Saturday, November 17th. The plan is to rebuild his master cylinder and bleed the brakes to get his MGA back on the road. We have yet to finalize a meeting time for this tech session but we'll send out an e-mail as the date approaches. Please contact Dick for details at farwells@verizon.net.

▲ Middleburg Christmas Parade ▲

Our friends at the MG Car Club will once again be participating in the Middleburg Christmas Parade which will be held this year on Saturday, December 1st. Parade day is an exciting and festive time in Middleburg with a lot of sights to see. The day begins with a ceremonial Horse & Hounds parade down Main Street in the morning and of course Middleburg has many quaint shops to visit and browse. The Parade itself usually begins at 3:00 pm and all participating MGs must be in the staging area by 2:00 pm. The MGCC will make lunch reservations so all those interested in attending should contact Jim Byers via email at byers.j.j@worldnet.att.net so proper seating can be arranged. This is a fun event with the time spent in the staging area lasting much longer than the parade itself! Dress your MGA in full holiday spirit or at least tie a nice wreath to the grille. Last year's parade featured one lone MGA and we hope to exceed that number this year.

▲ West Coast Report ▲

Donna Kacmarcik has reported in from the West Coast branch of our Mid-Atlantic Chapter to keep us abreast of how she and Mike are doing as transplanted Easterners living in California. Donna notes they have not yet joined a car club while in California due to the fact there is no local MGA club, but only an all-encompassing British Car Club. With monthly meetings difficult to attend because of their location and required travel-time, they would not be able to be active members in the club, proving that traffic, shortage of time and other commitments affect us the same on both coasts.

Their local British Car Show was held October 6th and featured many beautiful British cars. While Mike has done a lot of re-chroming on his MGA since arriving in California, Donna reports that club members tend to vote for the cars of other club members and Mike has not fared well beyond a second-in-class finish a few years back. On the other hand, Donna has done quite well showing her 1971 Snowberry White Morris Minor that is completely original with only 23k miles, having taken first-in-class the past three years!

Donna's new daily drive is a 1967 Morris Minor Traveller that has been upgraded for safety and comfort with a 1275 engine, 5 speed transmission, disc brakes, adjustable front seats, left hand drive conversion and of course – a proper sound system for listening to good tunes. Life remains busy for Donna & Mike and things never seem to slow down – a sentiment those of us in the Mid-Atlantic area would most likely echo. Donna sends their best to everyone and promises to keep us posted on life on the West Coast.

▲ From the Past! ▲

Reprinted from the Chapter News section of the October 1977 NAMGAR MGA newsletter.

GUNSTON HALL PLANTATION AUTO SHOW, Sept. 10, 1977

From the STILL un-named, un-organized Washington, D.C. area group

On the Potomac River, the local Washington, D.C. area members of NAMGAR once again made a strong showing in the world of automotive show biz. The MGA line up included 7 roadsters, 3 coupes, 2 twin-cams, and 1 MK II Deluxe. Also attending was the unusual MGC and Bugeye Sprite both entered by Register members. This low-key, plenty of time to leisurely look at other cars, talk about MGAs, bend an elbow in the shade, was made to order for a beautiful fall day. The MK II Deluxe of the Renkenbergers won the popular voting acclaim of other MGA members and was awarded the Jefferson cup. The excellent '59 coupe of Maurice Barboza received the next highest number of votes. Unfortunately, there was only one award, but we take this opportunity to recognize an excellent MGA. This show is an annual invitational event for major car clubs in the area and NAMGAR appreciated the opportunity to participate for the first time. Thanks to all for driving your MGA and supporting our Register's activity at this event.

Mac Spears, Chairman

▲ Miscellaneous Information ▲

CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.mga-midatlantic.org Don't forget to check out our 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 contact Dennis Urick at: durick@hmausa.com. The price is \$45.00 plus shipping and handling. This is the real 'Bible' for MGA articles. This and other regalia can also be ordered directly from the NAMGAR website www.namgar.com.

“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.*