

DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

February 2008

▲ **March Chili Party and Annual Meeting** ▲

Make plans to join us Saturday evening, March 29th for our annual Chili Party and Annual Meeting.

This is a potluck affair. Prepare a crock-pot of your favorite (and most secret) chili recipe to share with fellow club members and see who wins the members' blind taste vote for Best Chili of 2008. We also encourage members to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, corn bread or dessert to share.

This is also our Annual Meeting where we elect or reconfirm our Chapter's officers and look to ensnare new volunteers for various tasks

Directions to the party and the starting time will be included in our March 2008 newsletter.

▲ **Welcome New Members** ▲

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members Doug and Kay Campbell of Warrenton, VA. Many of us know Doug as the immediate past-president of the MG Car Club. Doug and Kay are also visible at local British car shows manning the Regalia booth for the MGCC.

Doug and Kay own a 1958 MG ZB Magnette and are members of NAMGAR, with the Magnette registered as a Variant of the MGA. Doug has been known to question from time to time with the Magnette being introduced first, who is the variant of whom?

“Winston” was purchased by the Campbell's in 1977 and later served as their primary car when living in Belgium. While in Europe Winston was treated to significant body and mechanical work in England. After returning to the States in 1991, the effects of the European weather became apparent and another body refurbishment was in order. Now nicely pampered and in semi-retirement, Winston is driven on nice sunny days and never in the rain or snow.

▲ **March Drive to Lunch** ▲

We will join the MG Car Club on Saturday, March 8th for their annual Winter Romp. This is a good chance to let your side curtains and heater get some much needed exercise while filling your lungs with refreshing brisk winter air! The Winter Romp is always a nice drive over scenic roads with a stop for a great lunch at a fine restaurant sure to be included. While the destination and route have not been finalized at this time, starting time is usually around 9:30 am with plans to be home before dark. We will have more information in the March *Distributor*.

▲ **Mid-Atlantic Chapter Turns 30** ▲

As most of us know, NAMGAR was formed in 1975 by a group of local MGA owners here in the Washington, DC area. In the beginning, most of the NAMGAR events and activities were centered in the DC area and were hosted and supported by local NAMGAR members.

As NAMGAR began to grow and supporting roles spread to members across the country, area MGA enthusiasts were once again able to focus on local activities and decided in April 1978 to form a regional chapter, to be known as the Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Officers elected in 1978 were Jerry Fralick as Chapter Chairman, Martha Ludtke as Secretary/Treasurer, Joe & Pat Kane as Membership Coordinators and Bill Ludtke as Technical Sessions Coordinator.

Thirty years later, we still have a number of those original members on our rolls including Warren Authur, Bill & Martha Ludtke, Len & Ruth Renkenberger, Reid & Lou Willis and John & Linda Wright.

Throughout this year we will include stories, quips and some *From the Past* articles from those early days of the Chapter along with some snapshots of some of the more memorable events in our Chapter's history.

▲ **Dues are Due** ▲

Please find attached a Membership Renewal Form for 2008. Dues are once again \$20.00 for the year and checks should be payable to NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Please mail your check to our treasurer:

Martha Ludtke
114 Wickham Terrace
Winchester, VA 22602

As a part of our association with NAMGAR as an affiliated chapter, we are required to provide NAMGAR with our membership numbers as well as the number of chapter members that also hold NAMGAR membership. If you are a member of NAMGAR, please indicate this and if possible, include your car's NAMGAR registration number.

▲ From The Past! ▲

Reprinted from the Technical Section of the September/October 1977 NAMGAR MGA newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 2.

COLD-WEATHER STARTING HINTS by Reid Willis

The MGA power plant is blessed with a good strong spark and an electric fuel pump, two important features for easy starting. All it usually needs on a cold morning is (1) a fast spin and (2) a rich mixture.

The cranking speed tends to be slower in the winter because the engine is stiff and the battery cold. You can help by putting the transmission in neutral and leaving the clutch out. There is less drag that way because unlike most American cars, the MGA uses low-viscosity oil in the transmission but the clutch has a carbon throw-out bearing.

Even with the choke knob all the way out, you may not be getting full choke. Pumping the pedal does no good because S.U. carburetors don't have acceleration pumps. Lift the hood and try raising the two choke levers, where they are connected to the choke wire just underneath the carburetors. (While you have the hood up, make sure the insulator on the end of the ignition coil is clean and dry.) Lift both levers all the way up and have your navigator turn on the switch and pull the starter. If it is going to start it should start now.

This is a one-person operation on the Twin Cam, which has the carburetors and starter switch on the same side; and a good thing, too considering the strange way the choke cable runs. Picture the M.G. Car Company production line in 1958. 'Enry is in the cockpit. "Gor blimey," says 'Enry "It's got left-hand steering!" He adds several feet of cable and puts the choke pull on the right. Meanwhile, 'Arold is under the bonnet. "Will you look at that, says 'Arold, "the bloody carbs is to starboard!" He adds several feet of cable on his end. By the time 'Enry and 'Arold knock off for tea the cable is meandering all about the automobile and connects to the choke levers the wrong way. "\$#@%&!" says the owner, several months later, as he rips out the cable and runs it in a straight line. I cut a full fathom off of the choke cable on my Twin Cam in January 1959, while standing in snow up to my knees.*

To get back to the subject, if fast cranking and full choke won't start the car, it probably wouldn't have started in the summer either. A compression test and a distributor checkout should reveal the cause. But that's another article.

Editor's Note: This was from a time when NAMGAR was both the national organization and also acted as the local Washington DC chapter – prior to our Mid-Atlantic Chapter being formally organized in 1978.

▲ 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.

“FOR SALE”

New MGB dog-leg repair panels L/H & R/H (Moss #457-585 \$36.95 and Moss #457-580 \$36.95) My price is \$32.00 each. My '67 MGB GT is in the shop and they said they didn't need to be replaced. Hope somebody can use them. Butch Smith 703-569-1508 or bjmga@verizon.net

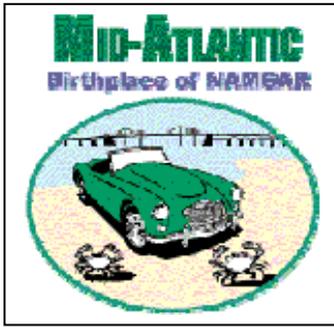
“FOR SALE”

My '67 BGT is in the paint shop. I am re-chroming her. Many items from the car are actually in pretty good shape. I really don't want to donate them to the Fairfax County recycle center. All are “best offer”. If interested, contact me for the list. Butch Smith 703-569-1508 or bjmga@verizon.net

“DRY STORAGE”

Dry garage storage facility for runners or future projects located on Route 50 in Middleburg, VA is available. Short, long term or just winter storage is available according to your needs. Current rates are \$85/month long term (4 months or more) or \$100/month short term (less than 4 months). For more information or to arrange a visit please contact Michael Eaton at 703-242-1768 or via e-mail at mg.carma@verizon.net

*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.*



Membership Application/Renewal Form
for the North American MGA Register

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Car Information (please complete to the best of your ability)

1st car

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Color : _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Body Number: _____

Engine Number: _____

2nd car (if applicable)

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Color: _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Body Number: _____

Engine Number: _____

Are you currently a national NAMGAR member? : Yes No

If yes, NAMGAR Car Registration Number(s) _____

Dues are \$20.00 per year.

Please make checks payable to "NAMGAR, Mid-Atlantic Chapter"

Print this form and send to: Martha Ludtke, 114 Wickham Terrace, Winchester, VA 22602