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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

June 2008

▲ **May 17th Drive to Lunch** ▲

Our first *Drive to Lunch* of the season was held Saturday, May 17th. The chilly, light-jacket morning warmed to a spectacular Spring day, perfect for enjoying our MGAs as we ventured across the river to try new roads and new scenery on the Maryland side of the Potomac. Organized by an Amy Rothberg determined to take us out of our comfort zone of heading north and west of Fairfax for our drives, the Virginia group met in Arlington with Amy joined by Keith Kallapos as her riding partner. Filling out our group were Bill & Karen Marshall, Liz Ten Eyck, Tom & MJ Parisi and Steve & Nancy Woodall, all arriving in their MGAs. We left Arlington with a planned route through Washington DC, getting a good look at a number of the memorials and taking us past the new Nationals baseball stadium enroute to collect Larry Newman as we entered into Maryland on Marlboro Pike.

With our convoy fully formed, we headed towards our lunch destination at Denny's Bar-B-Q in Clinton Maryland while traveling a wonderful collection of back country roads in Prince Georges County. With Keith as navigator it is not surprising we somehow meandered towards Andrews Air Force Base where unbeknown to us Amy had arranged a special treat by having the Blue Angles and others perform an air show overhead as we traveled the roads below. With the winds a bit breezy aloft, one had to read quickly what the skywriters were scripting across the sky, but their puffs of smoke appeared to say "Welcome MGAers" or something to that affect before being lost forever to the winds. In a rare moment of modesty, Amy downplayed her role in having the Blue Angles perform for us when we arrived at Denny's for lunch.

Now Denny's is the type of barbeque joint that one may be tempted to drive past when seen from the outside – let's just say the building has lost some of its glamour. But once seated in front of a plate of Denny's best pulled Bar-B-Q, mouthwatering became the appropriate description. With lunch fully enjoyed we were on the road again towards our next destination of Piscataway Park and the Accokeek Foundation's Colonial Farm.

Located directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, the Accokeek Foundation preserves 200 acres with a working farm that depicts life on a family farm on the eve of the American Revolution. The Park and Farm also serve to maintain the view as seen from the Mount Vernon side so visitors have an understanding of George Washington's choice of location for his home and estate.

With our tour complete, we reformed our caravan and headed home. This was a very enjoyable *Drive to Lunch* and we thank Amy for putting together such a wonderful drive.

▲ Original British Car Day ▲

The 31st Original British Car Day was held Sunday, June 1st at Lilypons Water Gardens in Adamstown, Maryland. This show is hosted by the Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG T Register and attracts a large number of quality British cars. As to be expected, our Mid-Atlantic Chapter members made up the bulk of the MGAs on display with Liz Ten Eyck, Butch Smith, Amy Rothberg, Bill Marshall, Tom Ford, Larry Newman, Bill & Kathy Wemhoff and Michael Eaton all competing for the four prizes to be awarded in our class. Ruth Arnold took the more challenging path by showing in the MGB GT class, but we will discover attending in a closed car has its advantages!

The day started off with a slight chance of rain but it was tops-down as we headed for Lilypons early Sunday morning. The overcast cleared off and it became a delightful day in which to wander the show field and admire the estimated 300 cars on display. While voting in some classes was quite easy, the large number of cars in the MGB and Triumph TR-6 classes made selecting the car of choice very difficult. We hope the voting public had the same level of difficulty when choosing the best MGA on the field with all of our cars “standing tall” to use the words of Ken Lawrence.

After the steady rains of last year’s show, the sunshine for this year was most appreciated. But what would an Original British Car Day be without a spot of rain! A quick moving thunderstorm approached the grounds late afternoon and everyone scrambled to get the open cars covered as quickly as possible. While some snapped on their tonneau covers and other simply huddled under tightly held tarps until the storm passed, a few chose this opportunity to practice their quickness in erecting an MGA top and installing side curtains during a high-pressure situation. Naturally, tops are easier to erect with two people so double the number of us got soaked to the bone during the process. Your still-wet reporter will use this space to inform Mr. Smith that he has been fully repaid for his assistance given so unselfishly during a similar thunderstorm while on our trip to Gatlinburg for GT-31 back in 2006. With the sun out again and clothes beginning to dry out, we awaited the results of the voting. Alas, with the quick arrival of the storm, the laptop containing the ballot information was unplugged without time to save the information, so all there votes had to be tabulated again.

For Liz Ten Eyck, the results were worth the wait as her beautiful 1962 Mark II was chosen best MGA of the show. Bob Samuelson of Maryland was second with Chapter members Michael Eaton and Larry Newman taking third and fourth place respectively.

Hats off to Event Chairman John Tokar, Co-Chairman Lin Snider, the members of the Chesapeake Chapter, and the many others who volunteered their time to make this show successful. Lilypons is a wonderful venue for a car show and we look forward to coming back next year – with an umbrella!

▲ Ken & Joyce Lawrence ▲

Ken and Joyce Lawrence celebrate their 60th anniversary this June 14th. While that in itself is special, what is important from our perspective is that they met due to the MG automobile when living in the same apartment complex in Alexandria. Joyce owned a 1953 TD and Ken was the proud driver of his 1954 TF. Ken made it a point to park next to the other MG whenever possible until he was admonished one day by a note on his windscreen about his habit of parking *too* close in the opinion of the TD owner. This was soon followed by another windscreen message asking if the TF owner had any mechanical knowledge of MG TD. Ken responded with his first white lie that yes, he was a master MG mechanic and he would be willing to share his knowledge with the TD driver. His rudimentary skills must have been enough to solve the problem Joyce was having with her TD and as they say, the rest is history. Joyce's MG TD is still a part of their family and Ken's mechanical skills have continued to evolve.

▲ 4th of July Social and Fireworks Viewing ▲

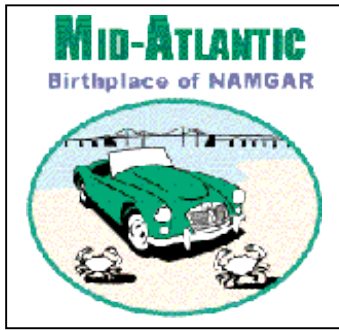
Our Chapter Social for the month of July will be a 4th of July event at the home of Bill & Karen Marshall in Manassas, Virginia. The event will be held conveniently enough on Friday, July 4th starting at 6:00 pm and going until the final fireworks explode in the sky somewhere around 10:00 pm. Those attending will have a great view of the firework display presented by the City of Manassas for their *Celebrate America* event in Old Town Manassas. The firework presentation is billed as the largest firework display in the Northern Virginia area.

We will plan standard 4th of July fare on the grill and welcome the addition of appetizers and desserts from our Chapter members. The Chapter will provide the beverages for the event. Please RSVP yes or no by June 29th if you have not done so already so that Bill & Karen can plan for the proper number of guests. The pool is open and sure to be warm if you want to come early and swim a bit.

▲ Road Trip to GT-33 in Seven Springs PA ▲

Butch and Judy Smith have put together a road trip to GT-33 in Seven Springs PA. Our plans are to leave Northern Virginia on Saturday morning, July 12th and caravan to Elkins West Virginia for the evening. Sunday our destination is Chalk Hill Pennsylvania where we will tour the Frank Lloyd Wright designed home *Fallingwater*. Christian Klay Winery is nearby where we will enjoy a little wine tasting after *Fallingwater*. We will leave Monday morning for Seven Springs, arriving at the GT headquarters in time for the Twin Cam Press Reenactment.

Anyone interested in joining us should contact Butch or Judy at bjmga@verizon.net. At this point, we have a nice caravan of five MGAs and Judy has promised wonderful MGA roads for the trip. It is unlikely we will have another GT this close to us any time in the near future so make plans now to attend.



Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

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