



August 2008

▲ This Saturday: The ‘OOL Party ▲

Liz Ten Eyck will host our annual ‘OOL Party at her home in Great Falls on Saturday, August 9th. The ‘OOL Party is one of our most popular events of the year and is a combined social and driving event. Liz is planning a nice drive through the back roads of Great Falls, which will be perfect for our MGAs. Bring your bathing suits and remember this is a ‘OOL Party because there is no *P* in the pool! Look for the times, directions and other details at our club website, www.mga-midatlantic.org.

▲ Looking Forward: Moonshine & Moonpies ▲

Bill & Kathy Wemhoff have put together our *Drive to Lunch* for the month of August. In keeping with the Chapter’s tradition of incorporating a *Drive* with a source for refreshing beverages once we reach our destination, our sights are set on the Belmont Farm Distillery near Culpeper, VA. Family-owned and operated, the distillery is dedicated to preserving a national tradition of fresh corn whiskey with their *VIRGINIA LIGHTNING* product – more commonly known as “moonshine”.

Following our tour of the distillery and a visit to their Gift Shop, we will continue on to Culpeper for lunch at a local establishment where we hope to find the moonpies.

Circle your calendar for Saturday August 30th and plan to join us at our starting location at the historic Aldie Mill in Aldie, VA at 9:30 am. Check out our website at www.mga-midatlantic.com for details.

▲ MGA Eastern Shore Weekend ▲

Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 4th and 5th. Len & Ruth Renkenberger have once again offered to host a Chapter outing at their home in Easton, Maryland. Our plans are to caravan to Easton leaving, early Saturday morning and returning late Sunday afternoon. Plans are still in the works but could include a ride on a skipjack sailboat or a scenic drive through Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. There could also be time for exploring interesting little shops in Easton or Cambridge. The main event will be a social gathering at the Renkenberger’s on Sunday afternoon. We are looking for the best motel

accommodations and when identified, reservations should be made promptly, since the Eastern Shore is a popular weekend destination in the Fall.

▲ GT-33 Memories ▲

9:00 AM, July 12th. Loaded up, topped off and wheels in the well. We're off! First stop the Marshalls. Then on to the Ludtke's in Winchester where Martha had iced tea, lemon aid and goodies for all. Meeting us there were the Farwell's ('61 1600), Liz Ten Eyck's ('62 MKII) and Larry Newman ('60 1600). With the Marshall's 1500 and my 1600 we had it covered. Needed a coupe. Ominous start. Mr. Newman had the bonnet up when we pulled up to the Ludtke's. Hmmm. Turned out to be something wrong with his alternator or battery. With technical support from Bill Ludtke and distilled water from Liz they got it going. No more problems, right?

Next stop Elkins, WV. Arthur Warren gave us a guided exit tour leaving Winchester. However, before we left town, Secret Agent Farwell pulls up with a locked left front brake caliper. On top of that Miss Liz forgot her purse at the Ludtke's. No problem. MJ ran it out to us while we tried to figure out what was wrong with the black beauty. Finally (and actually it was the only thing we could do in that situation) we bleed the caliper to loosen it up and we were off again. Well, sort of. Larry N's 1600 started smelling funny again. What? Kinda like the rotten egg smell of hydrogen sulfide gas. Seems his trusty battery was just a tad dry. We put some more H₂O in it and off we go again. For a while.

You guessed it. Dickie boy's brakes again. Side of the road, bleed the thing and off we go....for 70 miles or so and then the same routine again. We had a nice lunch break in Wardensville, WV and let our LBC's cool off.

Limping into Elkins we enjoyed a nice supper in town and had a great time at the new American Mountain Theater. Fashioned after something one would find in Branson, MO. The entertainment was wonderful. Kinda like country, modern, 50's & 60's music and some really corny jokes. (Ask us about the "Toaster Man" and how to whisper).



"Toaster Man"

July 13th. On our way to Chalk, PA, we ran into our only rain storm of the whole week. Once settled in the Lodge at Chalk Inn, Dick & Cheryl checked out the area and got us drinks, appetizers, while the rest of us went on to see Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" home. Amazing. Off course we were not finished with the "black cloud" over us. Yeah, bleed Dick's caliper, fill up Larry's battery and now Liz is skipping dinner to fix her headlamps. Bill M. and I kept wondering when it would be our turn to pull over. Thankfully, that never happened.

10:00 AM, July 14th. Arrived in 7 Springs all in one piece. Dick and I located some guy named John Wright, ran the brake problem by him and decided to try and fix it the next day. With help from John, Mike Eaton, Jonathan Eaton and Ron Eaton, the five of us got it fixed. The problem was either a frozen caliper piston that we cleaned up or the master cylinder front plate paper gasket. The consensus was to enlarge the hole a bit for some additional clearance of the brake MC piston. Seemed to work and we all made it back home with no more "pullovers". Many thanks for the help and brains behind that fixit.

Meanwhile, our most adventurous members, Keith and Kathy Kallapos, gave it a valiant try but came up a little short. They did all they could do to get his '57 ready to go. They got as far as the Ludtke's and no mo. Generator gremlin. However, they did make the meet and we were very happy they did!

July 18th. On our way home we stopped at the Ludtke's again and gave them a report on the GT. More hospitality and a good look and Keith's & Kathy's beautiful green MGA in the driveway.

Our chapter brought home some metal. The Farwell's won 3rd place in the 1600 class, Liz received a nice acknowledgement for her beauty in the Premier Emeritus class, Mike Eaton won 3rd place in the Race Car class, while some old friends from Oregon (Steve and Nancy Woodyard, former chapter members) took 2nd place in the Race Car class, and Greg and LeAnn Eroe (former chapter members) took 2nd place in the Coupe class. Our chapter also tied the Michigan Rowdies for most attendees - 28. GT-34? Hot Springs, Arkansas? Why not. After all we have Judy to get us there! That's it. Bye. Butch Smith

(Editor's Note – All of us who caravanned to the GT-33 would like to thank Judy for taking on the role of being our wagon master for the trip. She once again did a perfect job of planning activities, hotels and keeping us on schedule. With her outstanding navigational skills and trusty, new GPS, we were always on course.)

▲ **New Updated Webpage** ▲

We have finished the revision of our Chapter's web site, www.mga-midatlantic.org and we are quite pleased with the new look. In many cases our web site is the first impression we present to MGA owners and potential new members in our service area and for this reason it is important the site be kept current with the timely posting of our *Distributor* newsletter, a listing of upcoming Chapter Events and recaps and photographs of past Events.

Keeping the web site current requires a combination of both time and an understanding of web site applications. Often in the past, we found ourselves lacking either one or both of these requirements. It was with this in mind, our Executive Committee made the decision

to bring in outside help to handle this task on behalf of the Chapter. Kim de Bourbon lives in Pennsylvania and currently provides this service for three British car clubs in her area - the British Car Club of Northeast Pennsylvania, Keystone Regional MG Club and the British Car Club of Lehigh Valley in addition to our NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

We are still in the process of updating areas such as the Members List and our club list e-mail distribution. All the other areas should be working and looking quite spiffy at this time. Spend a few minutes reviewing the site and let us know what you think.

I would like to personally thank Kim for all her efforts in getting this done in a relatively short period of time. *Safety Fast!* Bill Marshall

▲ MGAed ▲

We have all had people stop and admire our cars and tell us about the one they once owned. To share such encounters with our club members, we are adding a new feature to the Distributor that I have entitled "MGAed" (which is subject to change by our more creative minds). To kick off this new section, Butch Smith has related a recent exchange.

"I pulled up to the gas pump to fill up my 1600 for the trip to GT-33. VARRRRROOM! Came a 20 something in one of those Honda Civic's with the 4" really loud muffler. We locked eyes and he said....Hey, Old Timer, nice wheels!" Ouch. I responded: "Kid, this sports car is older than your old man" but, thanks for the compliment. He nodded."

Butch then thought, ***"Good move kid. Let's hope some kid this age will continue the interest in our LBC's. Like Jonathan Eaton! Love that Lil' guy! Mikie.....keep his nose in the engine compartment."***

▲ Surprise Finding ▲

I am sure that every MGA owner dreams of finding an MGA tucked away in some barn or out-of-the-way-place. Well, I did just that during a recent visit to Vicksburg, Mississippi. Driving through the historic section of Vicksburg, what do I see sitting on the bed of an antique pickup truck but a white MGA coupe. Of course I had to stop and check it out. Since they were parked in front of an abandoned building I inquired at the local convenience store across the street. They didn't know who owned the vehicles but they did know that both had been parked there for over 10 years. Can you imagine two old vehicles being parked for 10 years around here and still be intact and without any graffiti. Well "Investigator" Liz starts asking everyone in town if they knew who owns the MGA. By the end of the day I knew the man's name, that he had lived in Hawaii, that he rides his bicycle around town in shorts and Hawaiian shirt (which the locals think is strange), and that no one knows his telephone and most don't even think he has one. Well, what could I do but leave my name and telephone number under the windshield wiper of the MGA on top of an eighth of an inch of dirt and dust, and on the door of the

abandoned building telling him to please call if he is interested in selling the car. You guessed it, no word from the owner to date.



▲ Miscellaneous Information ▲

CHAPTER WEBSITE: www.mga-midatlantic.org Don't forget to check out our website and send a picture of your car to Bill Marshall so it can be posted in the Gallery. Check our website for recently posted pictures of past outings.

“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

“FOR SALE”

Two MGB transmissions are for sale because they were replaced with overdrive units. One transmission is a '65 and the other is a '67. Both have very low mileage and were originally rebuilt by Bill Ludtke. For more information, contact Laurie Lawson at 301-253-3305.



Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

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