



## December 2008

### ▲ Ride to the Races ▲

November 2<sup>nd</sup> was our final *Drive to Lunch* for the year. This was a wonderful *Drive* to Charles Town Races & Slots organized by Keith and Kathy Kallapos. Only Keith and Kathy were willing to brave the cold elements top-down as the MGAs of Butch & Judy, Larry & Dianna and Liz all arrived tops-up and prepared for the weather. Bill took the easy way out and drove the BGT and Bill & Kathy selected the modern British comforts of their TR6. Experiencing even more comfort were Steve & Nancy in their BMW Z3 with Ken & Joyce selecting American Iron for the day.

*Kathy Kallapos reports:*

It started as a cool autumn morning with partly cloudy skies..... will it rain? Do we put the top up? Keith votes no, the rest vote yes. We met at *Diamonds and Rust* in Aldie, VA for coffee, donuts and “loo” privileges. An antique store on the bottom, healthcare recruiting firm up top. Interesting.

Our driving group consisted of Ken and Joyce Lawrence, Butch and Judy Smith, Bill and Kathy Wemhoff, Larry Newman and guest Diana, Bill Marshall, Liz Ten Eyck, Steve and Nancy Woodall and our leaders, Keith and Kathy Kallapos. At 10:30 on the dot, we pulled out of Aldie for a beautiful ride through Loudon County on newly paved back roads. Lime Kiln Road was a good start, twisting and turning with lovely autumn color. On to Snickersville Turnpike with stone walls, split rail fences and the best of Virginia hunt country scenery. We drove through the quaint collection of “monts”, Philomont, Airmont, and Bluemont each featuring its own general store. We passed Joyce Lawrence’s birthplace. I wish we had known. We could have stopped for a group photo in front of her girlhood home. Keith drove with wild abandon (for him) over winding roads as we climbed the Blue Ridge Mountains and crossed the border into West Virginia.

Once over the Shenandoah River an immediate right turn onto Bloomery Road gave us a scenic view of the river and floodplain. A quick stop to stretch our legs provided the opportunity for a group photo by the river. Does anyone know of a potty near by?

*Editor’s note: The answer was NO!*

Heading back towards civilization traffic thickened about 10 minutes from Charles Town but we managed to stay together as a group. We arrived at Charles Town Races right on time and went straight to the top of the garage for “semi private” parking away from the yahoos. Carl and Jean Josefson met us in the dining room as we were escorted to our window-side tables.

Sunday Brunch ... yum yum. It was a grand assortment of breakfast, dinner, appetizers and desserts. Does anyone remember how many oysters Steve Woodall polished off? Post time at 1:00PM sharp and the two Kathys won big in the first race. 20cents on See Wildcat...and 80 cents on “Old What’s his name”, then it was all down hill as lady luck moved on. Resident high roller, Butch Smith bet on every race and left a nice pile of confetti on the table instead of green backs lining his pockets. Liz was the big winner of the day; she actually studied the horses stats and walked away with ~ \$12!

Returning home, Keith in the lead had a “near miss” with a car turning directly into his path. Evasive action by both drivers avoided any contact. Bill Marshall witnessing from behind wondered if Keith or Kathy needed to change their underwear. Evidently it looked worse than it felt. Good defensive driving Keithy boy!

No mechanical difficulties plagued the A’s on this outing nor did we have to stop and retrieve fallen parts from the other “British” vehicles on the drive. We pulled in to the garage as the sun set and the Mistress was put to bed before any rain arrived. It was a good day!

## ▲ November Pub Night ▲

Our first *Pub Night* of the season was Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Steve and Nancy Woodall.

Many of us were able to visit the Woodall’s carriage house while it was under construction but not many had seen the completed project. We gathered for drinks and appetizers in the carriage house and receive tours of the two story “Taj-Garage” before stepping over to the main house for our pizza lunch.

These Sunday afternoon *Pub Nights* have proven popular in that we have far more members able to attend than were able to join us during the weeknights at a restaurant. Joining our hosts were Butch & Judy, Bill & Karen, Larry & Diana, Ken & Joyce, Keith & Kathy, Ruthie, Toby & Helen and Carl & Jean. We were also joined by our new member, Ted Wadsworth, whom we hope was not scared off and will return for future events. Bill and Kathy Wemhoff were scheduled to attend but Kathy took mercy on the rest of us by not bringing whatever virus she had contacted from the grandkids to the party!

The Pub Nights are always enjoyable because we have time to linger over conversations and catch up with everything going on in the MGA world. During our *Drives*, it seems we get a few words in during the pit stops and over lunch and then off we go again.

Our thanks go out to Steve and Nancy for opening their home to the Chapter for the event. We are currently looking for a volunteer to host a *Pub Night* in February.

## ▲ Renkenberger Spirit Award ▲

During the NAMGAR Chapter Contacts meeting held in conjunction with GT-33 at Seven Springs in July, NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators Lee and Liz Niner announced a new program designed to recognize the contributions of local NAMGAR Chapter members that give unselfishly of their time and service to their individual Chapter. NAMGAR recognizes that without the strong commitment of the local Chapters to the MGA marquee, NAMGAR itself would not remain a vibrant organization

In the November-December 2008 issue of *MGA!* magazine, NAMGAR announced this program would be named for NAMGAR co-founders Len and Ruth Renkenberger in recognition of their vision and dedication to the NAMGAR mission, for their role as early supporters of local Chapters throughout the country and as individuals whose contributions are still reflected in the character of NAMGAR today.

The *Renkenberger Spirit Award* will be initiated at the local Chapter level and awarded to Chapter members who meet the criteria for the award as determined by their Chapter guidelines. NAMGAR further stipulates this *Award* may only be given by a local Chapter once every three years to ensure those selected for recognition are persons whose contributions have stood out over a period of time.

We are of course proud that fellow Mid Atlantic Chapter members Len and Ruth were selected by NAMGAR to be recognized in such a manner.

The Executive Committee of the Mid Atlantic Chapter unanimously selected Bill and Martha Ludtke as the first recipients of the Award from our Chapter. Bill and Martha were informed of our selection in November 2008 before Bill's untimely passing in December.

## ▲ MGA Tales ▲

*Submitted by Dick Farwell:*

After spending hours getting my black & tan, 1961 MGA ready for GT-33, I headed to my local Costco to gas her up. It was early, and there were only a few people at the pumps. Although I often get compliments about my car, what follows was a first.

A Hispanic gentleman in his mid-50's approached the car and stated "What is this machine!". I informed him that it was a 1961 MGA and that it was made in England. After a brief pause, the man remarked "Truly, this is the car God drives!"

Unfortunately, God's mechanic must have been a little hung-over when he recently rebuilt the master cylinder, as about 60 miles later, my left-front caliper seized up. With the assistance and patience of my fellow Mid-Atlantic Chapter members (curse/stop/bleed brake every 60 miles), I nursed the "A" through West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Once at Seven Springs, the Mid-Atlantic faithful came through again. With assistance from John Wright, Butch Smith, Michael Eaton and his son Jonathan (the future of NAMGAR), a parking lot fix got me safely home, not to mention a 3rd place finish in the 1600 class!

## ▲ MGCC Turkey Rallye ▲

The MG Car Club held their annual Turkey Rallye Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a fun-filled gimmick rallye where having a good navigator is helpful. As the 'eye' in the name suggests, having a sharp pair to spot the clues while motoring along is a must.

As in past years, our Mid Atlantic Chapter participated in the competition with Ruth Arnold joining MGCC member Steve Boyce as his navigator. Bill and Karen Marshall and defending event champion Liz Ten Eyck, joined by her niece Julie rounded out our Chapter's teams.

The rallye combines two events in one. The first task is to follow the rallye map so you will be assured of reaching the final destination for lunch – as the actual name and location of the restaurant is NOT provided. The second challenge is to correctly answer as many questions as possible with clues provide throughout the route.

We started from our normal location at the West Marine parking lot in Woodbridge with Rallye Master David Gillette of the MGCC handing out the route maps and explaining very carefully how to interpret the directions and clues. Along with following the directions, you must also answer questions as you navigate the route, spotting such things as 'who sponsors the highway clean-up' (Matthew & Jennifer) and 'what does Mom make' (apple pies). The role of the navigator is critical to success.

Our route took us through the Town of Occoquan, through Lorton and on to Route 1 where we eventually made several laps of Mount Vernon neighborhoods. We all arrived safely for lunch at Primo's in Alexandria where once again the Mid Atlantic Chapter proved to have the best rallye teams with Bill & Karen having the most correct answers with Liz and Julie and Steve and Ruthie finishing in that order.

We would like to extend our thanks to David Gillette for preparing such a great rallye and for providing the coffee and doughnuts at the start!

## ▲ Passing of a Member ▲

We are once again saddened to report to passing of a Chapter member. Bill Ludtke passed away at his home in Winchester Virginia on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80. Bill had been battling the affects of emphysema for some time.

Bill was an early member of NAMGAR and a 30 year founding member of the Mid Atlantic Chapter. Bill was also a long-standing member of the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR. Until his retirement in 2003, Bill operated an automobile repair service with a focus on MGs and specializing on MGAs. Bill's knowledge of MGAs was indispensable to many Chapter members who relied on him for advice and hands-on assistance.

While stepping back in recent years from physically working on cars, Bill continued to serve as Technical Advisor for the Mid Atlantic Chapter for advice on mechanical and electrical quirks we faced in keeping our MGAs on the road. He was always ready to help a fellow MG owner.

The Chapter honored Bill and Martha for their service to the Mid Atlantic Chapter in November of this year by presenting them with the first *Renkenberger Spirit Award* given by our Chapter.

## ▲ Abingdon New Year's Eve Party ▲



Why a New Year's Eve Party with an Abingdon theme? Well, Abingdon England was the home of the factory where our MGAs were built. More importantly, because England is five hours ahead of us in their time zone, the ball will drop in Abingdon at 7:00 pm our time!

We have noticed many a fellow MGA driver has a few New Year's Eve celebrations in their rearview mirror and we are also speculating many a fellow MGA driver has not seen midnight on ANY night of the year in quite some time.

Our plans are to celebrate the coming of the New Year and still have guests on their way home before midnight and tucked safely in bed before the crazies hit the roadways.

Time will be 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> until .....

Please **RSVP** to Bill and Karen at [manassasmga@gmail.com](mailto:manassasmga@gmail.com)



**Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008**

***Mid-Atlantic Chapter***

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

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