

# DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

April 2009

## ▲ Chairman's Report ▲

Last year was one of our Chapter's most successful years in memory with the number of *Drives to Lunch*, social events, car shows and NAMGAR events in which our members participated. I cannot say "thank you" enough to all those that organized an event on behalf of our Chapter. This year is shaping up to meet or exceed the success of last year.

We held our Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Chili Party on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Toby and Helen Fitzkee. I would like to once again thank Toby and Helen for their hospitality for allowing over 30 Chapter members to descend on their home to eat, drink and socialize! I also thank all the members who brought chili to enter in the cooking competition as well as the side dishes and desserts. We had plenty of food and no one left hungry.

I also must thank Butch & Judy Smith for preparing the Trivia Board, Keith Kallapos and John Padgett for preparing the Parts Box Challenge and Helen Fitzkee for preparing the Kitchen Box Challenge. An additional shout-out goes to Butch for scrounging all the prizes we awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers in each contest. Special thanks to Jeff Zorn of the **Little British Car Company** for providing the Chapter with a Gift Certificate in addition to providing many of the prizes at below-Moss pricing. I'm sure Butch ate the English biscuit that comes with every **LBCC** order ...

The actual meeting was a brief recap of the events we participated in last year as well as a look forward to the many events planned for this year. Our Treasurer Martha Ludtke provided a recap of our expenditures for the year as well as our current financial position. Our membership remains strong and we continue to add new members. We are also pleased that most members renew each year, which tells us we are doing something right!

It is our goal to provide a wide range of events so there is something for everyone. We have expanded the number of driving events we do each year, continued to attend our "old favorites" car shows, added more social events to the calendar, included some overnight events and have shown renewed participation in NAMGAR regional and national events.

This may just be a polite way of saying "get your dues in" as soon as possible if you have not renewed your membership for 2009 yet! Prompt renewal allows us to plan our budget for the year, makes Martha's job easier, ensures you won't be dropped from our membership ranks and most importantly, allows us to quit repeating ourselves on the topic of dues!

Elections were held to reaffirm our officers for 2009. We operate the Chapter under an Executive Committee with a Chapter chairman, vice-chairman, secretary-treasurer and one designated at-large member. I am pleased Liz Ten Eyck and Martha Ludtke are willing to continue in their roles of vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer, respectively, and Amy Rothberg in her role as our at-large member. I learned that stepping into the kitchen to refresh a drink during the course of the meeting may not be the smartest thing to do. When I returned, I was told a show of hands had honored me with the chairman's position for another year. I thank you all for your trust in me.

Our call for volunteers was successful as we snared new member Tran Vi, who volunteered to take on the role of our newsletter editor. The *Distributor* remains our most important communication asset and keeping the look fresh and full of interesting topics is a challenge each and every month. Tran has already provided a number of ideas to improve our format and we hope to unveil a new look *Distributor* with our May issue. As always, we encourage members to share their MGA Tales with the rest of us and for those of you living in exotic locations such as California, Mathews or Upper Black Eddy – we want to hear what's going on in your MG life also.

- Bill Marshall, Chairman

## ▲ Chili Party Recap ▲

It was a drizzly mid-afternoon on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Try as it might, the Sun's outline barely silhouetted behind the overcast sky. On the rain-coated trees, the occasional misting had licked eager young buds to a glossy sheen. In the far off distance, the echoing sound of returning Canada Geese announced Winter's sojourn and of the promise of Spring. Such a cold afternoon day belied a great gathering taking place at the annual meeting indoors.

Arriving at a little half past three, we walked past a row of cars street-side, up past the Marshall's red MGB GT parked in Toby and Helen Fitzkee's expansive U-shaped driveway. The house is a two-story sandstone contemporary with a well manicured lawn. "Very good," we mused, no one else had driven their A's in this wet weather. Toby answered the door with a polite howdy-doo. Immediately, numerous "hellos" and "welcomes" beset our entrance into the foyer. Looking westward from the foyer, past (on the left) a small table topped with MGA paraphernalia, sat the living room. To our right, the delightful smell of chili wafting in the kitchen air beckoned. Unseen by us, on a small separating wall between the foyer and living room hung one of day's three "contests," ingeniously created by Butch and Judy Smith. For those who attended past meetings, the other two contests were a repeat of the proverbial favorites, identify the miscellaneous items. Helen's "Ladies Kitchen Box" had every day and not-so everyday kitchen tools that many a brave man dove into. Also on the living room coffee table stood John Padgett's two and half foot high, custom made, octagonal shaped, MG box containing miscellaneous "A" parts, supplied by Keith Kallapos. Members had to lift a flap and slip their hand into the small opening and feel about to identify. Various hands groped inside the box and the occasional knowing smile signaled who knew the right answer.

We eventually had around thirty members milling about. John and Linda Wright, Martha Anne and Terry King, Bill and Kathy Wemhoff, Larry and Diana Newman and Ken and Joyce Lawrence were all mixing and mingling. On the couch sat Kelsey Kallapos, Amy Rothberg, and Dick and Cheryl Farwell busily attacking the "can you guess what" boxes. Helen, with the help of Karen Marshall and Kathy Kallapos, zipped in and out of the kitchen setting up the nine chili crock pots

in anticipation of what proved to be a very heated contest, no pun intended. Mike and Lisa Eaton arrived with all three sons in tow to add to the family ambiance.

The Awards Presentation got under way with Toby announcing the winners of the Chili Competition. Kathy Wemhoff took first place with her full flavored “Number 6” chili entry. Liz Ten Eyck narrowly took second place. Butch bowed to his betters accepting his third place finish and vowed to make a triumphal comeback next year. “The king shall return!” Butch jokingly intoned. Helen then took us through the contents of the Kitchen Box which held a few items that seemed to stump everyone. The Kitchen Box winners were Liz, Martha Anne and Cheryl, who were awarded bottles of wine as trophies by Helen and Toby.

Next, to the entertainment of all Keith and Kelsey took center stage with a colorful recitation, meticulously identifying one by one all the “A” parts in John’s mystery box. To no ones surprise, John Wright took first place, correctly identifying most of the twenty-five or so parts. Mike Eaton and Butch Smith came in second and third, respectively. John was overheard remarking that Mike would need to get up a little earlier in the morning if he expected to dethrone John next year.

Equally challenging was the trivia quiz framed on the wall. A combination of fill-in-the-blank and multiple choice questions stumped many players. To abundant adulation, Terry and Martha Anne stood and accepted first place, proving once again their mental prowess. Dick Farwell and Bill Marshall also proved they too were no mental lightweights by cinching second and third place.

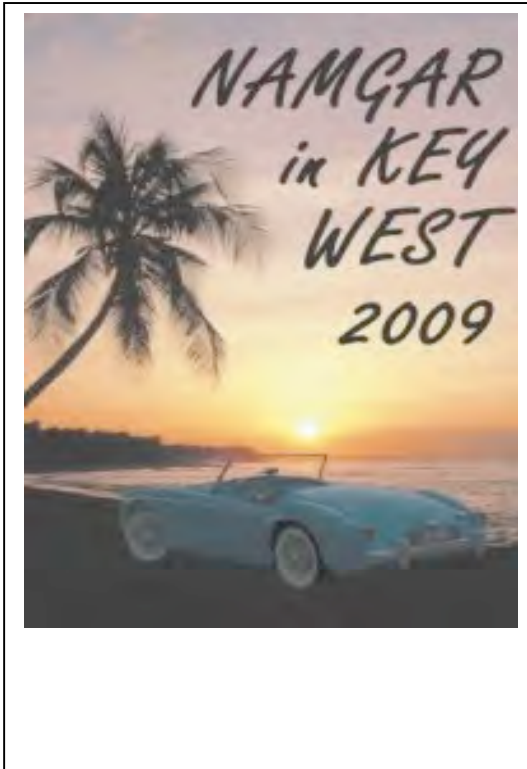
Rounding out the evening, Chairman Bill presented Martha with an engraved clock provided by NAMGAR honoring Bill and Martha Ludtke for receiving the *Renkenberger Spirit Award* for their service to the Mid Atlantic Chapter. This was an emotional event with Bill no longer with us. Fond recollections of Bill spontaneously erupted from many Chapter members who were touched by Bill’s kindness and friendship over the years. Bill will be greatly missed by all.

By unanimous acclamation, Bill, Liz, and Martha were duly elected to another year’s tenure as club chairman, vice chairman, and secretary-treasurer. With that, the meeting drew to a close. Toby and Helen’s graciousness in inviting everyone into their home made this year’s meeting one of the best ever. Who would have thought four and half hours could pass so quickly and be so fleeting? Tight hugs and firm handshakes were exchanged as the membership filed outside for home. The early evening air revealed an almost cloudless sky. The earlier wetness had almost all evaporated. Could this be a harbinger of a great driving season ahead?

- reported by Tran Vi



## ▲ NAMGAR in Key West ▲



There is still time to make plans to attend the NAMGAR Regional GT in Key West, Florida. The dates are Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, for a late arrival in Key Largo, with final activities held Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> and an early departure for home Sunday morning. We have a number of Mid-Atlantic Chapter members planning to make the trip. This will be the final NAMGAR Regional GT to be held in Key West for some time as plans are to move the GT to different areas in the Florida region for the next few years. More information is available at [www.namgar.com](http://www.namgar.com) or contact Bill Marshall at [manassasmga@gmail.com](mailto:manassasmga@gmail.com).

## ▲ Britain On The Green ▲

For those Chapter members not enjoying Key West in April, the Capital Triumph Register will kick off the 2009 show season by hosting their 12<sup>th</sup> annual Britain on the Green on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

More information can be found at [www.capitaltriumphregister.com](http://www.capitaltriumphregister.com). On-line registration is also available. As in past years, the show will be held on the grounds of Collingwood Library and Museum in Alexandria, Virginia.

## ▲ Drive to Lunch May 17th ▲

Bill and Kathy Wemhoff have organized our first *Drive to Lunch* of the season. We don't know where we are starting from, where we are going or what we will do once we get there, but it promises to be a wonderful day driving our MGAs. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and we will have full details in the May issue of the *Distributor*.



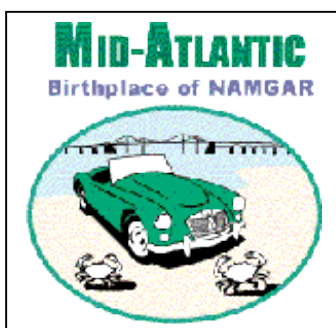


## ▲ Looking Forward ▲

The **Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG "T" Register** will host their 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Original British Car Day on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at Lilipons Water Gardens in Adamstown, Maryland. Fellow Mid-Atlantic Chapter member John Tokar is the Chairman of the event again this year and we hope for a large Chapter turnout to support the Chesapeake "T" Chapter. This is the ideal car show for our Maryland members to attend as Lilipons is an easy commute from most members' areas. For our Virginia members, we will organize a *Drive to the Show* with a starting point in the Leesburg area that morning.

As anyone who has ever worked a car show knows, a lot of volunteer labor is needed to produce an event as participant and spectator friendly as the Original British Car Day. Volunteers are needed on the day of the show and also on Saturday to help set up the show field. Please contact John at [jtokar51@verizon.net](mailto:jtokar51@verizon.net) or call him at 410-775-0500 if you are able to volunteer your time.

It should be noted that flyers will not be mailed out this year to save on printing expenses and to keep registration costs at a reasonable level. Past participants will have received a "Save the Date" postcard in the mail by now with instructions on how to download a registration form online. For those that did not receive a post card, registration forms to enter the car show are available for downloading on the Chesapeake Chapter's website [www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com](http://www.chesapeakechaptermgclub.com). We hope to see many of our Chapter members supporting the Chesapeake Chapter by attending the show.



Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter**

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