

DISTRIBUTOR

Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

July 2009

▲ Chairman's Message ▲

I actually love this time of year when getting a *Distributor* out is difficult. Not because there is a lack of happenings to write about, but because we are so active with our MGAs we do not have time to gather all the information and prepare the articles.

We have had an active year with NAMGAR events due to the close proximity (all things being relative) of the Key West Regional GT, GT-34 in Hot Springs, Arkansas and the upcoming September Regional GT in Pocono Mountains, PA.

Those who have received their new issue of *MGA!* magazine will note Liz Ten Eyck's beautiful 1962 Mark II graces the cover of the July/August issue. Inside a full write-up on the Key West event humbly authored by yours truly relates the fun and enjoyment to be had at a Regional GT event. Also gaining some photographic exposure are Larry and Diana Newman with a parade photograph and Karen Marshall along with Betty Ann Johns displaying the first draft and final versions of the Key West *Last Sunset* tee-shirt on the back cover. And yes, that is Naked Man signing last year's Key West issue for Bert Rauch.

GT-34 earned 1,000 mile dash plaques for Butch & Judy Smith and Bill & Karen Marshall



for driving their MGAs over 1,000 miles to attend. We were joined on our journey by Lee & Liz Niner (NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators and famous "yes dear" couple familiar to all *MGA!* readers) and Ben & Cyndi Nolan of the *Delaware Valley Classic MG Chapter*.

Shadowing our movements were Liz and Betty Ann who left a few days later towing Liz's MGA safely on the trailer – enjoying air-conditioned comfort along with real windshield wipers I might add.

The journey was not without excitement, as most veteran MGA owners know the letters stand for *MGA*ventures. Those tales will be recapped in our August *Distributor*.

Locally, we have added two new members to our Chapter and we look forward to their being active in both Chapter and NAMGAR events. We have the 'Ool Party coming up August 22nd and September also looks to be an active month with a number of events planned.

Bill Marshall

Safety first!

▲ New Members ▲

We would like to welcome two new members to our Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Jim Mathwick of Riva, Maryland is a NAMGAR member and owns a 1959 MGA roadster.

Charlie and Alana Adams hail from Fairfax Station, Virginia and own a 1962 Mark II roadster. Charlie has noted the engine has not fired since 1982 and he would be interested in any technical support anyone (calling Keith Kallapos) is willing to offer. Charlie can be reached by e-mail at adamscas@msn.com.

We look forward to meeting Jim, Charlie & Alana at an upcoming Chapter event. Guys, please e-mail a picture of your car so we can post it on our website gallery page!

▲ When you have to get to Texas Today ▲

A few weeks ago, Liz Ten Eyck stopped by the Kallapos office for a visit. The weather was perfect so naturally they went for a spin - this time in Keith's other driver, a 1985 MD (McDonnell Douglas). Just barely a classic with over 4 million miles on the chasis, this "old" girl still sailed through the turns and really performed on the straight-aways. Rough roads were no problem either; the handling was crisp yet smooth. It's almost as if they rode on a cushion of air. Though maintenance can sometimes be a headache, at least Keith didn't have to restore this one in his basement. Too bad the only model offered was a hardtop - a convertible would be way cool!

Submitted by Keith Kallapos



▲ MG Car Club Events ▲

Braille Rallye

Saturday, Aug 22nd

On August 22nd, the 47th Annual Braille Rallye, sponsored by the MG Car Club, will be held at Burke Lake Park in Picnic Shelter A at 9:30 am. The first car should leave the starting line between 10:00 and 10:15 am with vision impaired young people as navigators. More details and directions to the park will be published in the August issue of the MGCC Spark. Please come out and support this important event. *Short and sweet! Braille Rallye! August 22nd! Questions, call Nelson at (703) 723-1419.*

MGCC Camp-Out

Saturday, Aug 29th

Summer is now here and that means it's time to get ready for the MC Car Club's annual camp-out at Pat Hickok's beautiful White Post Farm in Berkeley Springs, WV. Typically, we have absolutely superb weather. It's hot and humid in Washington, but several degrees cooler and a whole lot less steamy in West Virginia.

For those who've been before, I don't need to tell you what a great event this is. For those who haven't; some explanation may be necessary. This is a quasi camp-out because we actually camp in Pat's back yard and Pat graciously allows us to use the bathroom facilities in her house. Additionally, don't figure on beans & franks or some other meal reminiscent of Boy Scout days. Pat, Linda Stoddard, and one or two others provide a dinner Saturday night and a brunch Sunday morning that rival any gourmet restaurant you'll find. I'm not exaggerating here; the food is definitely up-scale and ample. We pay a modest fee to cover the costs. All you need to do is show up on Saturday, Aug 29th – it's a beautiful drive that takes about two hours from DC – maybe a little less. You do need a tent; you do need a sleeping bag; an air mattress is recommended; so is a flashlight. It's fun to come in an MG but that's not a requirement. We'll have dinner Saturday night followed by a bonfire (complete with S'mores and Ghost stories) thereafter. Most people end up hitting the sack by 10 pm. Next morning Pat serves her outstanding brunch around 9 am and most people are on the road back home before noon. On either Saturday or Sunday there's ample time to go into Berkeley Springs proper to enjoy the State-run mud baths and massage therapy or to do a little antiquing. One last point – this is a family affair. Feel free to bring children if you're so inclined. So, put this event on your calendar and please let Pat know if you plan to attend. Her number is (304) 258-9412. Additional details including directions to Pat's White Post Farm will be provided in the MGCC August Spark. *Editor's Note: MGCC invites members of the NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter to join them at their events. If you are not also a member of MGCC, please consider joining. Also, MGCC is putting out an advance plea for assistance with Hunt Country Classic Car Show, October 11th, mostly in the area of field lay-out on October 10th, the day before the show and with parking on the day of the show? If you can help, please contact Ruthie Arnold. Thanks.*

▲ 'Ool' Party ▲

Liz Ten Eyck will host our Annual 'Ool Party at her home in Great Falls on Saturday, August 22nd. The 'Ool Party has long been one of our most popular and well-attended drive & social events of the year. Liz will plan a nice drive through the back roads of Great Falls that are perfect for our MGAs. Bring your MGAs and bathing suits and remember this is an 'Ool Party because there is no 'P' in the pool (that is until Bill Marshall put one in it – come and see the 'P')! The main entrée and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to bytheoak@msn.com and let Liz know how many people will be attending and exactly what you plan to bring (appetizer, salad or dessert). That way we can ensure we have a good assortment of goodies. Directions and other details will be forthcoming.

▲ Final Dues Notice ▲

Chapter Treasurer Martha Ludtke has notified the Board that there are still a few members who have not submitted their dues for 2009. We will be contacting those members directly by e-mail. If you suspect you are among the delinquent, please contact Martha at m.ludtke@comcast.net for verification.

▲ 4th of July Social Recap ▲

Our Chapter's social event for the month of July was a July 4th party at the home of Bill & Karen Marshall. Taking advantage of the City of Manassas hosting *Celebrate America* in Old Town Manassas and providing the largest fireworks display in Northern Virginia for our "personal" viewing, we could not plan a better way to celebrate that most British of sports cars, the MGA. Temperatures were mild and humidity was low and we were left with perfect weather to enjoy the outdoor event.

We had a nice turn-out of Chapter members with Butch & Judy Smith taking time from GT-34 packing to attend, bringing their overnight guest, Martha Ludtke, along with them. Larry & Diana Newman made the drive from Maryland; Keith Kallaops, without vacationing Kathy, arrived in style driving his MGA; Liz Ten Eyck arriving with fellow GT-34 traveler Betty Ann Johns and her sister-in-law, Linda Quinn, in tow; Ken & Joyce Lawrence; Steve & Nancy Woodall (who demonstrated her culinary skills prepping her crab dish before our very eyes); Bill & Kathy Wemhoff; and Bob Schoeplein & Jane Howard arriving in Jane's MGB. Bob and Jane also took time to visit the *Celebrate America* festivities going on in Old Town during their first visit to Manassas. We always enjoy when new or long-lost members show for social functions and we hope Jim Mackin was made comfortable by the gang and will attend on a more regular basis.

Food and drink was not a concern as many delicious appetizers were provided by Chapter members and traditional Fourth of July fare was cooked on the grill. We welcomed the return of Mike & Amanda Marshall with our granddaughter Emma, who were visiting from Texas –

and once again were assigned the role of *Grillmasters* to ensure our burgers and ‘dogs were cooked to perfection.

As dusk turned to night, we gathered in the front yard in eager anticipation of the explosions that would soon fill the sky in celebration of our nation’s birth. We enjoyed the City’s colorful fireworks display and at the end of the show were surprised by Karen, who provided sparklers for our group. Many commented it had been years since they had ended a Fourth of July with that most American of childhood traditions. This fact was reinforced by the difficulty in coordinating the adults, with sparklers sparkling, to pose for a group picture. Many appeared to be years-away as they wrote their names or conjured imagery in the night sky with their flaming sticks trailing streaks of light.

▲ **A Birthday Drive Down Memory Lane** ▲

Submitted by Toby Fitzkee

On June 29th I celebrated my 59th birthday. Now to some, like my kids, that would be a remarkable achievement to be “that old”. To others, like my wife, it would be just another day. But for me, it turned out to be a very special day! Let me explain by backing up a month or so. I have a 1956 MGA that is being restored by none other than Bruce Woodson in Richmond, Virginia and won’t be completed for awhile yet.

This particular 1956 MGA is the EXACT same one I drove when I was in High School way back in the late 60’s. I tracked it down and bought it back. I am a member of NAMGAR here in the Northern Virginia area and have met and become friends with some incredibly nice folks. One such person is Keith Kallapos. Since my A is in the shop, Keith was kind enough to suggest to me that we get together sometime and he would let me drive his A. Keith recently restored his A, mostly I might add, by himself with the help of his daughter Kelsey. I thought what a wonderful offer. I haven’t driven an A on the road since I had mine in High School. I told Keith that would be an absolute thrill. However, scheduling the time to actually pull off this “road trip” proved to be a bit of a challenge. I have Mondays off, so we tried to schedule a Monday in May that would coincide with Keith’s schedule. Two times we had a date but I had to re-schedule because something came up. Finally, Keith gave me some dates in June that he was available and lo and behold, June 29th was open. I e-mailed him back to tell him that June 29th was good for me around 9:00am in the morning. He replied that the 29th was good for him, also. I did mention that that date was my birthday in my previous e-mail, so in his reply he said that he would come to my home to pick me up since it was my birthday. I thought, “That’s really nice of him”. June 29th arrives and Keith pulls up to my home a little after 9:00 am in his MGA. He gets out, walks to the passenger side and says, “It’s yours for the morning”.

After we apply sunscreen, put on our sunglasses and hats and put on our “cool faces”, we pull out of the driveway and head south on Route 123. Shifting through the gears for the first time in about 40 years started to bring back vivid memories of times past in my old A. But what’s that up ahead? The traffic light has just changed from green to red. Okay, so I slow and start to down shift until I’m in second gear. Yeah, yeah, you already guessed what happened next. I tried to shift into 1st before I was completely stopped. At this point I looked over at Keith and with his always pleasant nature, said, “Can’t shift into 1st, not synchronized”. I thought, “He didn’t even get upset! WOW”. I flashed back to my High School days when I tried to

teach my girlfriend at that time how to drive a car with a manual transmission using my A as the training vehicle. After the second time she ground the gears like she was making hamburger, I said, "STOP, that's it! Let me drive". I took her straight home and told her that her father would have to teach her. Now, I'm a pretty patient person, but at that time you didn't mess with my A, even if you were my girlfriend. Fortunately, Keith is also a patient, forgiving soul. I must confess that I did grind the gears trying to put it in 1st one more time, but he didn't demote me to the passenger seat.

We were heading south on Route 123 to meet another one of our club members, John Padgett, who was driving his 1956 MGA, at the neighborhood Starbucks. After a couple of missed turns, John pulled into the parking space next to Keith's MGA. It turns out that this area of south Fairfax County has changed a bit from what John remembered, hence the wrong turns. We bought some refreshments and sat outside while Keith laid out our route. We were heading to Mason Neck and Pohick Bay Park. We finished our drinks and were off. What a beautiful day is was turning out to be and I was behind the wheel of an MGA. Couldn't get any better!

Well, it didn't and actually got a little worse. We had just passed over Route 1 when Keith heard John tell us to pull over at the stop sign coming up. John informed us that he heard something that sounded like a belt snapping. Keith had heard it too, I heard something but the rookie that I am had no idea what it was. Now, those of you who know John Padgett, know he is something of a "parts master". If it was my car that snapped a fan belt, I would be calling AAA. But with John, it's "let's see what we have in the trunk". The second belt he pulled out of the trunk fit and with Keith's tools they were able to remove the broken belt and replace it with the new one. Now to me this was way cool! Not only do I get to drive an A on my birthday, but I get a FREE tech session to boot thanks to John and Keith. Twenty minutes later we're back on the road cruising through Mason Neck and Pohick Bay Park. After a quick stop at John's place, where he showed us his latest finds and projects, Keith and I head back towards my home.

After three hours of overall driving we pull into my driveway. I was ever so grateful to Keith for his kindness and his time to let me drive his A. Our club really does have great people in it! It was a thrill and truly brought back very fond memories of the FUN MGA days in High School and even the not so fond memories of when I had to call my dad to come with the tow chain and get me when the Lucas wiring harness shorted out somewhere and my A just died along the side of the road. All in all, this birthday drive was a blast and just made me more excited thinking about the day when Bruce Woodson calls me to say, "It's finished. Want to drive it home?" That would be another great birthday present!

NAMGAR in the POCONOS

Sept. 23-26, 2009
Pocono Manor,
Pennsylvania

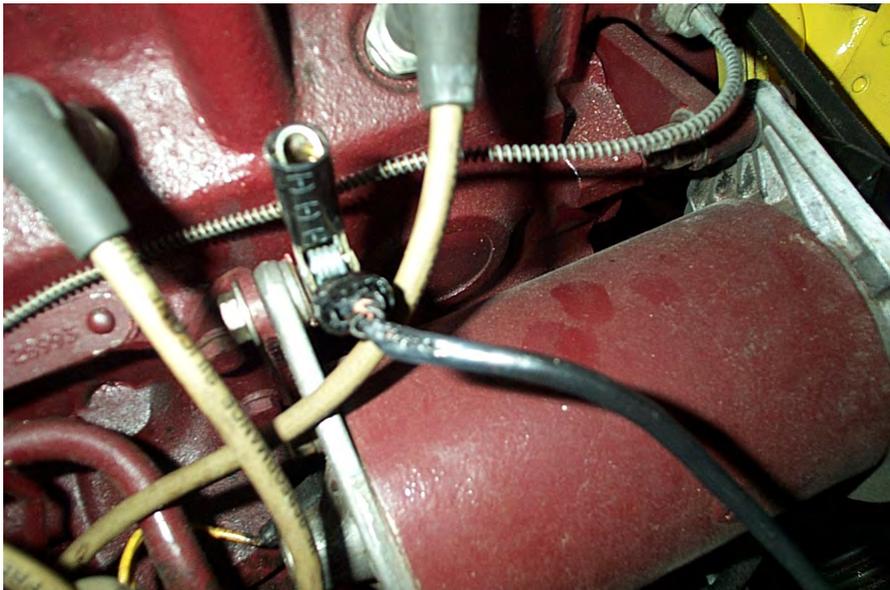


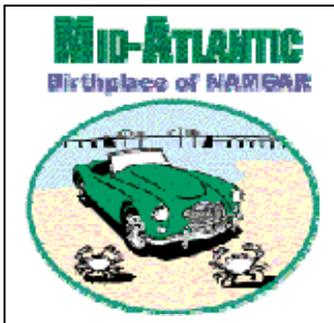
Hosted by the British Car Club of
Northeast Pennsylvania

www.bccnepa.com

▲ Recent Electrical Saga of William Riley ▲

We went out for a drive one Sunday evening a couple of weeks ago, and after returning I shut down the engine long enough to unlock the house and open the garage door. After that, the car wouldn't start. Dead batteries. Totally dead. Not even a click. I pushed the car into the garage and waited until the next weekend to deal with it. Instead of taking the batteries out and checking them, and charging each one independently, I took the shortcut of connecting the battery charger as shown, to the starter switch cable and ground in the engine compartment. When I came back later to check the status, I found the cables melted down as shown. My best guess is one or more cells were low on electrolyte, and shorted out. I'll know more when I have time to do what I should have done in the first place. There's never enough time to do it right, but always enough time to do it over.



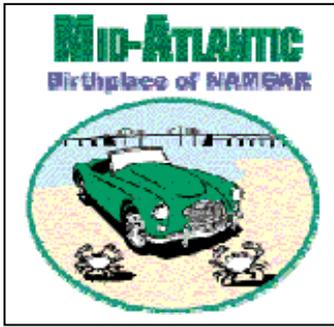


Celebrating 30 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2008

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*



Membership Application/Renewal Form
for the North American MGA Register

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

1st car

2nd car (if applicable)

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Model: _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Year: _____

Color : _____

Color: _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Body Number: _____

Body Number: _____

Engine Number: _____

Engine Number: _____

Are you currently a national NAMGAR member? : Yes _____ No _____

If yes, NAMGAR Car Registration Number(s) _____

NAMGAR, Mid-Atlantic Chapter 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