

# DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

**November 2009**

## ▲ **Middleburg Christmas Parade** ▲

Our driving activity for the month of December will be joining the MG Car Club for the Middleburg Christmas Parade – to be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

The MGCC has participated in this parade for a number of years and many of us have attended to showoff our MGAs to the crowd of spectators the parade attracts. It is tradition to ‘dress’ our cars – and ourselves - in festive seasonal fashion

In the past, the parade was held in the afternoon, and we were able to stroll the streets Middleburg in the morning, enjoy lunch with MGCC members and then participate in the parade. This year the timing will change for the parade and it will be held in the morning at 11:00AM instead of the usual 3:00PM start.



Parade day is an exciting and festive time in Middleburg with quite a lot to see and do. There is an arts and craft fair as well as many shops to browse in Middleburg. The contact person for the MGCC is Jim Byers. Jim will plan for a lunch get together at the Coach Stop restaurant after the parade for those interested, and will confirm the time with all of those participating in the Parade.

Those who are interested in joining us for the Parade and lunch afterwards should contact Jim directly at [byers.j.j@worldnet.att.net](mailto:byers.j.j@worldnet.att.net) or by phone at 703-768-9361.

Plans are to stage at the American Legion Hall in Middleburg no later than 10:00 am where there is plenty of parking. Jim will provide details on where to park and meet after the parade for lunch.

More information can be found at [www.mgcarclubdc.com](http://www.mgcarclubdc.com).

## ▲ Abingdon New Year ▲



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, and 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 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 well before midnight and tucked safely in bed before the crazies hit the roadways.

Time will be 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> until ... More details in the December *Distributor*.

## ▲ October Pub Social recap ▲

Our first *Pub Social* of the season was held Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the home of members Charlie and Alana Adams.

Red was the predominate color of the day as the MGAs driven by John Padgett, Steve & Nancy Woodall, Carl & Jean Josefson and the B GT of Bill & Karen Marshall were all some shade of red. The lone MG holdout was the BRG MGA of Keith and Kathy Kallapos.

Butch and Judy Smith did not bring their A as it is in the paint shop preparing for new paint, but it does now sport a new red top with zip-out rear window. Butch has 'long desired' a red MGA as it is such a rare MGA color and this new top goes part way to achieving that goal.



Our first order of business was to poke around Charlie's project MGA and offer our words of wisdom on how to approach restoration or alternately attempt to steal this very solid Mark II out from under his feet. Larry Newman was able to show us pictures of his current project nearing completion which only seemed to whet Charlie's desire to have one in running condition. But hey, what are friends for if not to encourage others to spend their money piling more MGAs into their available garage space!

Bill and Kathy Wemhoff provided some early insight on their forthcoming *Drive to Lunch* as our pizza delivery arrived. Each *Drive* organized by Bill & Kathy is spectacular and we expect this one to live up to our expectations. Arriving in time for lunch were Ken & Joyce Lawrence. Their tardiness was excused by their need to attend Joyce's mother's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday party earlier in the day.

As Kelsey Kallapos continues to make progress on her MGA restoration project, Chapter members



continue to support her with spare parts and useful bits. The latest to earn a YES tee shirt were John Padgett and Ken Lawrence for their contributions to Kelsey's project. YES stands for Young Enthusiast Sponsor with a tag line of "*shifting the joy of British motoring to the next generation*". Kelsey has presented a tee shirt to each Chapter member who has contributed parts or labor towards getting her MGA on the road with her goal of driving this MGA to high school in her senior year. Kelsey informs us she has plenty of tee shirts left and would like to see each Chapter member sporting one of these dashing fashion statements!

Pizza consumed, tires kick, tee shirts awarded and hosts reeled deeper into the MGA world, it was time to thank Charlie and Alana for their hospitality in opening their home for our members to gather and socialize.

We will hold our next *Pub Social* in early to mid February time frame and are seeking a Chapter member to host this event.

## ▲ Welcome New Members ▲

We would like to welcome new members Chris and Cheryl Kintner to our Chapter. Chris and Cheryl recently purchased a former Bob Vitrikas 1957 1500 MGA roadster with the early NAMGAR registration number of 351. At the recent Hunt Country car show, Chris and Cheryl were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the MGA grouping, keeping our Chapter's streak of award winning MGAs alive.

Many of us are familiar with Chris and Cheryl through their work with the MG Car Club, Washington DC Centre where Chris serves as the Editor of *The Spark* and Cheryl serves on the Board as Secretary.

Chris has promised to share the history of this car in a future issue of the *Distributor* as it now returns to its original home Chapter.





## ▲ *Drive to Lunch* recap ▲

*It has become tradition we end our primary driving season with a Side Curtin Fling – a drive where the air temperatures are crisp enough that tops-up and side curtains in place may be required. Each year however, we seem to be favored with beautiful MGA driving weather. This year our Drive was planned by Bill and Kathy Wemhoff with a lunch destination of **Magnolias at the Mill** restaurant in Purcellville, Virginia.*

*The following is a recap of our Drive provided by Charlie Adams.*

The morning was brisk and but the iris blue sky held the promise of warmer temperatures. By 8 o'clock on November 7th, the 30s had given way to high 40s. With the sun rising higher it sure looked like the possibility of tops down for LBCs later in the day. However, there were those hardy souls who put the top down early that morning, braving the crisp, cold air while wrapped up in warm gear. Having checked Weather Underground one last time, Alana and I headed out knowing that clear sky and warmer temperatures were going to bring smiles to all who could join the MGA caravan.

Our first stop was Bill Marshall's home in Manassas. At Bill's home, Alana and I moved into Bill's red MGB GT. Thanks to Bill's generosity, we would make this drive in the Most Expensive MGB in Northern Virginia. There could not be more than one MGB owner forced to build a garage as a part of the purchase of their B! We were joined by Keith and Kathy Kallapos in their fresh and beautiful BRG MGA. The Kallapos were dressed in style for top down motoring. Following Keith and Kathy's example, Bill led the way to the Stone Ridge Shipping Center top down also.

When we arrived at Wendy's, club members were already gathering. I think that Laurie Lawson traveled the furthest to join us that morning, making the journey from Gaithersburg, Maryland. He arrived with the top up on his exceptional Ash Green twin cam, but it wasn't long before Laurie decided he would go on from this point with top down. On the other hand, Liz Ten Eyck and friend Lynn Millar did not hesitate to travel in style and warmth with the top up and side curtains in place in her beautiful Root Beer colored Mark II. Amy Rothberg also met us at Wendy's and rode shotgun with Bill as Karen was in Texas visiting with their newest granddaughter, Brooke.



Altogether there were 8 MGs lined up for the start of the drive, including Carl and Jean Josefson with a lovely new interior in their MGA, Bob Schoeplein in Jane's white MGB, and of course Bill and Kathy Wemhoff, our hosts and route planners extraordinaire. After receiving our direction sheets and itinerary it was time to settle in and see what fine treats Bill and Kathy had designed for this day.

We explored a lovely rural corner of Virginia's Loudoun County tucked between the Potomac and West Virginia. A drive with some classic northern Virginia road names including Evergreen Mills, Charles Gap, Loyalty, Taylors Town, Lovettsville, Stony Point and the Snickersville Turnpike. Near Point of Rocks we were joined by Maryland members Jack and Shelia Stern, who brought their 1500 MGA into our caravan as if they had been there from the outset.

We wound through:

- lovely Waterford, founded in 1732 by Irish immigrants and which retains the feel of its colonial and civil war era growth;
- Lovettsville which has a German heritage dating from 1722;
- and Round Hill, named for the nearby hill used during the civil war as a signal post by both Confederate and Union troops.

Led by the fading fall leaves hues of reds, golds, oranges and yellows, blue sky and yellow sun, our caravan of lovely MGs brought out waves from many of those that we passed.



At Purcellville, we lunched in a private room at *Magnolias at the Mill*, one of the finest Loudoun County restaurants. Joining us at the restaurant was Martha Ludtke making the short drive from Winchester and Butch and Judy Smith, whose MGA continues to undergo the repainting process. Lively conversations among friends and excellent food had all smiling this day. Many thanks to Bill and Kathy for planning this fall adventure!

## ▲ **Bob Mason, MG TF and *Classic MG Magazine*** ▲

*North American Classic MG Magazine* ran an article in their most recent issue on a MG TF currently owned by Darryl Radick. Once purchasing the TF in 2004, Darryl became interested in learning more about the history of the car. His search back in time led him to Chapter member Bob Mason, now living in North Carolina.

As Darryl reports in his article, Bob was a vocational school instructor in Fairfax Virginia for 30 years and over that time, Bob and his students restored many vehicles – with quite a few of those being of the MG marque.

Butch Smith recalls this TF in particular: “*Well, many years ago when our Chapter was involved up to our knock-offs in British Car Day in Bowie, MD, Bob and I were talking about his TF. He needed 5 wire wheels and I had ‘em. Bob had two NOS PL 700 head lamps for trade. We did the deal and those lights are still burning in my 1960 1600 today. I am fairly sure that those photos on page 28 were taken in his shop at Jeb Stuart HS in Fairfax, VA and one*



*in front of his home. I recall that a couple of us went to the shop and saw the conversation he was doing from RHD to LHD. Jeez, I can't remember what I did last weekend, but all this came back to me as I read the story in Classic MG."*

This is not the first bit of 'ink' our Chapter has received in *Classic MG*. Liz Ten Eyck had a snapshot of her Mark II in a past issue and more recently, Jack Stern's red 1500 MGA graced the cover exiting a covered bridge on a Maryland drive. The photo above of the Mason / Radick TF was reprinted from *Classic MG Magazine* with their kind permission. For more information on this bi-monthly MG magazine please visit their web site [www.classicmgmagazine.com](http://www.classicmgmagazine.com).

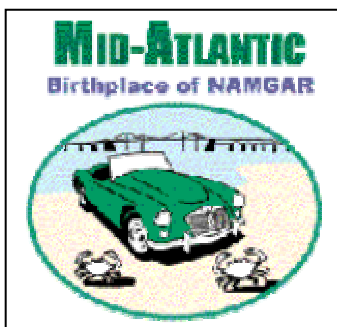
## ▲ More National Ink ▲

Butch also gained a little national exposure with a shot of a Mobil gasoline advertisement he sent to *MGA!* magazine with a story of how he came to be in possession of said poster. Butch claims the poster *was not* snatched out of the station window, but was properly given to him by management upon his request. Santa also claims eight tiny reindeer pull his sleigh ....

Sharing space with Butch on the back cover of the November / December issue of *MGA!* is a photograph of former Chapter member Bob Vitrikas's current MGA taken in Key West this year by Robert Muller of Germany. Robert liked the fact that we are 'given allowance' on running a front license plate here in the States so he took a vintage-flavored black & white photograph of Bob's race-inspired MGA. Robert said such a photograph taken now in Germany would be immediately recognized as 'modern' by the mandated front plate.

Inside the November/December issue is a beautiful shot of Bob Schoeplein in full race mode on page 19 in Honey Bee and Bill Marshall's report on NAMGAR in the Poconos on pages 22 and 23. Shape eyes will spot the MGA of Bill parked next to Liz Ten Eyck's on the show field. Keith and Kathy Kallapos grace the wall in the group photo with Karen standing just in front of them.

And speaking of *MGA!* - what a bold cover composition selected by Editor Steve Mazurek for the Nov/Dec 2009 issue. The magazine just gets better and better under Steve's guidance.



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

***Mid-Atlantic Chapter***

Washington DC - Maryland - Virginia