

# DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

**December 2009**



## **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 ahead of us in their time zone, we will celebrate the ball dropping at 8:00 pm our time!

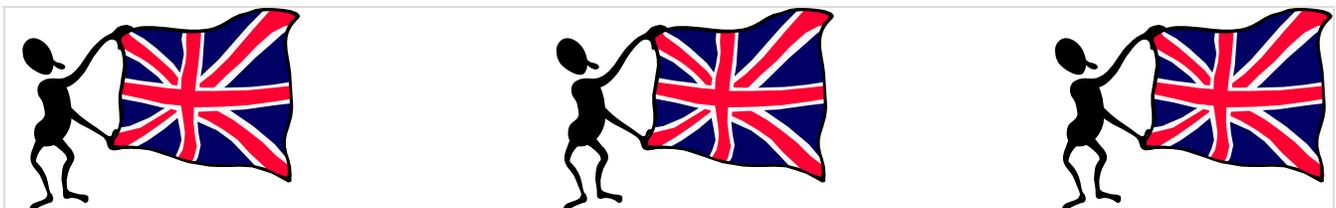
We have noticed many a fellow MGA driver has a few New Year's Eve celebrations in their rearview mirror and we are also speculating many a fellow MGA driver has not seen midnight on ANY night of the year in quite some time.

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.

Please **RSVP** to Bill and Karen at [manassasmga@gmail.com](mailto:manassasmga@gmail.com) by December 23rd.

**WHEN:** December 31, 2009  
**WHERE:** Bill & Karen Marshall  
9308 Mathis Avenue  
Manassas, VA 20110  
**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. until . . . ?

**Please coordinate with Karen as to what you would like to bring. The Chapter will provide: Beer, Wine and Soda**



## ▲ Middleburg Christmas Parade ▲

Our driving activity for the month of December was planned to take advantage of the MG Car Club's participation in the Middleburg Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

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.

This year things were moving along just fine with 14 MGs signed up to take part in the Parade. As always MGCC hosting members Jim & Jane Byers made reservations at the Coach Stop restaurant for the group to relax after the completion of the event and to enjoy lunch with our fellow MG enthusiasts.

Jim added a little something special this year to bring forth a bit of that Christmas spirit with the addition of snow! Our plans had been to drive the MGA making the MGB GT available for Charlie and Alana Adams to use as his newly acquired MGA (yes – a second one) still needed a once over before hitting the road. The snow caused many to leave their cars safely in their garages and led us to scrap our plans to drive the MGA. Charlie and Alana were not eager to venture out in a borrowed MG in the snow so Karen and I decided the now-available B would be warm and dry changed plans once again.



Undaunted by the snow and being assured by Jim the parade would continue despite the weather, we loaded the MGB GT with our 'display' packages and headed off to Middleburg to join the die-hards we knew would be there.

Once at the American Legion Hall staging area we were greeted by Jim and Jane and we quickly determined the two cars would be the sole representatives of the MGCC for this year and that the parade would move forward rather quickly as many of the marching bands and other participants made the choice to look forward to 2010. As our turn in line came, Jim and I decided to use an in-line formation that would 'stretch out' the cars rather than the traditional side-by-side formation typically used. Despite the weather there were many spectators lining the streets and we made our way down Washington Street to the cheers of admiration of the cars, bright flashbulbs and of course the calls of "I had one just like that in ....".

With the parade moving quickly we finished well before our 1:00 pm lunch reservation and after some consideration decided heading home before the snow got deeper was the wise choice to make.

The Middleburg Christmas Parade is an enjoyable event and we encourage all to mark the calendars for December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and make plans to join us – with snow tires being optional!

*Submitted by Bill Marshall*

## ▲ Storing Your MGA for Winter ▲

Ask a dozen MGA owners how each of them store their car over the winter and you will receive a dozen different answers. However, John Twist wrote an excellent article in the September/October, 2006 edition of MGA! Magazine of how to store your MGA for the Winter. Following is a synopsis of that article. If you want to get the skinny right from the horse's mouth, I suggest you dust off your old copy of MGA! Magazine and read his every word.

- Take your car on a half-hour run to evaporate all of the moisture in the exhaust and engine.
- Position your car on a large piece of plastic sheeting to protect the underside of your car from moisture rising up through the concrete.
- Block your car in place and leave the handbrake off.
- Install a 50/50 solution of antifreeze and water to prevent the coolant from freezing in the engine block
- Install fresh oil to bearing etching, caused by dirty, acidic, contaminated oil.
- Top of your fuel tank and add Stabill or similar product to reduce the amount of water that can be absorbed by the gasoline and slow the rate at which the gasoline turns to varnish.
- Top off the master cylinders to reduce water contamination in the hydraulic lines.
- Discharge a whole can of WD-40 on all engine components, especially the bright metal or aluminum parts and the wheels to protect them from oxidation. (This sounds good and I understand the principle, but there is no way that I would want to clean it all off in the spring before the first car show. Maybe this is good advice for those who have to store their car outside.)
- Remove the battery to prevent freezing. Should the battery freeze and burst, sulfuric acid will cover everything around the battery area.
- Store with your top up to prevent nasty creases that can develop in your top.
- Install side curtains to make it more difficult for small furry creatures to foul or devour interiors.
- Put duct tape over tailpipe outlet to prevent moisture (and rodents) from entering the exhaust system.
- If you cover your car, use cloth, never plastic.
- If stored on jack stands, place stands under the outer portion of the front A arms and under the leaf springs where the U bolts surround the axle and spring. This keeps the suspension from dropping away from the body and straining the shocks and the rebound rubbers/straps. Reduce tire pressure to 10-15 pounds if you store on jack stands. Whether you store on jack stands or on the ground, be certain to move the wheels a couple of times during storage. Several rotations work well to prevent the bearings from rusting and, if stored on the ground, will prevent flat spots from developing on the tires.
- Rolling the car back and forth prevents the brake pads from rusting to the rotors (just as the clutch disc and rust to the flywheel). Operate the brakes on a regular basis to prevent the cylinders from freezing because of rust. Some owners back off the adjustment on the brake drums so there is no chance of the shoes rusting to the drums – this also allows the cylinders to move farther while exercising the pedal. Exercise the handbrake, too, by rapidly moving the handle up and down to keep the cable and linkages from rusting.
- If the battery is stored in freezing temperatures then it should not be allowed to lose its charge. If the battery charge is reduced far enough, the electrolyte freezes, the case cracks, and the battery is ruined. Use of a “trickle charger” or battery monitor will accomplish this task with ease.
- Low winter humidity dries leather seats, allowing them to contract and crack. Prepare the leather with Lexol or similar product to keep them supple.

- Mice cause the greatest damage to interiors. They eat seats, carpeting, and wiring insulation – they eat everything. Several dishes of naphthalene mothballs, in the foot wells, in the trunk and engine compartment repel most mice.

Although after you have done all the above, you will wish that you lived in an area where you could drive your car all year round.

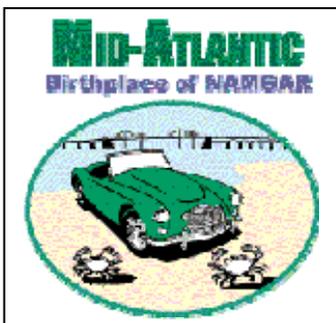
## ▲ **Welcome New Members** ▲

We would like to welcome new members Matthew Kutz and wife Brooks Scoville to our Chapter. Matt and Brooks own a MGA Mark II Deluxe in 'restoration' condition. Matt has recently completed restoration of his 1960 Triumph TR3 and is now beginning to make progress on his MGA.



With the addition of Matt's Deluxe, we now have 3 of these rare MGAs as members of our Chapter – the other two being Len Renkenberger's "Albatross" and John Wright's Sebring Deluxe.

We welcome Matt and Brooks and look forward to seeing them at Chapter events.



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

***Mid-Atlantic Chapter***

Washington DC - Maryland – Virginia