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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

January 2010

▲ Need a Volunteer to Host the Chili Party ▲

March is coming and so is our Annual Meeting and Chili Party. We are looking for a volunteer member to host this year's event. This is a potluck affair, so the host just needs to be prepared with electrical outlets for many, many crock-pots. Members prepare a crock-pot of their favorite chili recipe to share with fellow club members and compete to see who wins the members' blind taste vote for Best Chili of 2010. Members also bring a selection of salads, appetizers, side dishes, corn bread or desserts to share. The Chapter will provide the beer, wine and other beverages.

We generally hold the Chili Party on a Saturday evening in mid to late March – with the calendar showing March 13th, 20th and even April 3rd as possible dates.

The Annual Meeting and Chili Party is one of our most popular events and you can expect about 30 members will attend.

All volunteers please contact Liz Ten Eyck at bytheoak@verizon.net
First volunteer wins.

▲ Tucker Museum Visit ▲

Bill and Kathy Wemhoff have put together a special opportunity for our Chapter members to visit and tour a private collector's Tucker Museum in Old Town Alexandria.

Our initial plans were to tag along with another car group that Bill belongs to but the terrific response required we make our own plans with the collector. We are now scheduled for Sunday, February 21st at 2:00 pm.

Bill and Kathy are making arrangements for lunch in Old Town (for those that want to join us) and we'll then go over for the tour (please plan on about 2 hours). Those that can't make lunch can meet us at the museum. Details for all this will soon follow.

Please contact Bill at wemhoff2@verizon.net to R.S.V.P. both for the lunch and museum visit

▲ Dues are Due ▲

Please find attached a Membership Renewal Form for 2010. Dues are once again \$20.00 for the year and checks should be payable to NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Please mail your check to our treasurer, Martha Ludtke at the address on the form.

As a part of our association with NAMGAR as an affiliated chapter, we are required to provide NAMGAR with our membership numbers as well as the number of chapter members that also hold NAMGAR membership. If you are a member of NAMGAR, please indicate this and if possible, include your car's NAMGAR registration number as well.

For our newer members – those that joined our Chapter after September 1, 2009 – your membership dues at that time included your first full year with the Chapter so no additional dues are requested at this time. If you are in doubt as to when you joined – or when you last paid your dues – please contact Martha at m.ludtke@comcast.net.

We want your MGA...
to be registered with NAMGAR!



Membership is \$30 per year. The application form is available on-line at www.namgar.com or from: NAMGAR Registrar, 7522 SE 152nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236-4861.



Members receive *MGA!* Magazine, the bimonthly magazine devoted exclusively to the enjoyment, care, and preservation of the **MGA, Magnette and Variants**; and an annual Get-Together in various locations in the U.S.A. and Canada.

For those of you that are not NAMGAR members, we would encourage you to consider joining the national organization. With your membership comes a subscription to the bi-monthly magazine *MGA!* The magazine alone is worth the cost of admission. For those that have not enjoyed a recent copy of *MGA!* please contact us at manassasmga@gmail.com and we will send a copy for you to enjoy.

▲ Abingdon New Year's Eve Party ▲

Continuing our recent tradition, we rang in the New Year with a celebration on (sort of) English time. While the ball dropped in England at 7:00 pm our time, this year we stretched the clock a bit and celebrated at 8:00 pm with noisemakers, Champagne punch and watching the MG logo countdown to midnight on the BBC channel. Ken Lawrence even made a short video of the celebration and posted it for all to see on YouTube. Visit www.youtube.com, enter NAMGAR Midlantic Abingdon New Year's Eve 2009 and watch the happenings!

A number of people have requested the recipe for the Champagne punch which was provided by a coworker of Karen's:

12 oz of frozen lemonade
12 oz of frozen pineapple juice
3 cups of cold water and mix ingredients

Add one 2 liter bottle of 7-UP
Add one bottle of Champagne (chilled)

Enjoy!



▲ Remembering Ron Eaton ▲

Editor's note: On Wednesday, December 30th 2009 we lost fellow Chapter member Ron Eaton. Ron was a long-standing member of our Mid Atlantic Chapter and NAMGAR, the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR and of the New England MGT Register. We asked Ron's long-time friend Bob Vitrikas to share his thoughts with us on Ron's passing. Our condolences go to Rosemary and sons Jim and Chapter member Michael and his family.



Ron Eaton

February 5, 1940 – December 30, 2009

**Husband and Father, Friend, Patriot,
Leader and MG enthusiast**

It was with shock and sadness that I learned of Ron's passing from another old MG friend, Mike Hughes. A flood of memories and emotions rushed through my mind as I recalled how Ron had touched my life over the past 25+ years, and many others, always with his wonderful smile and unforgettable laugh.

Above all else, Ron was a wonderful husband and father. You never thought of just Ron but always "the Eatons." It was a package deal as they traveled to MG events together. Married to Rosemary for 47 years, no small accomplishment for a career Navy man whose job took him away from family for months at a time, she and sons Michael and Jim were the focus of Ron's life. In recent years, daughter in law Lisa and grandsons David, Jonathan and Robert joined them on center stage. Center stage was their retirement home in Mathews, Virginia. A Navy man through and through, naturally their home was on the water where family and friends could gather to make memories that lasted a lifetime. Indeed, some MG friends moved to Mathews so they could be closer to Ron and Rosemary. That speaks volumes about their friendship.

Ron was a friend to everyone he met. His outgoing personality, warm smile and infectious laugh were impossible to resist. Ron didn't gather friends around him, they gathered around him because they wanted to be with him to share in the next "excellent adventure" he would come up with. Those adventures included caravanning to GTs and GOFs, helping a fellow enthusiast get their car back on the road, trying his hand at vintage racing, swapping cars with his MG buddies, chasing down rare and historic racing MGAs, and of course social gatherings that involved food and drink! Speaking of adventures, Ron's easy going nature and natural leadership were put to good effect as he led the NAMGAR Mid-Atlantic Chapter in hosting GT-15 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Ron made it look easy and inspired confidence in all of us. A member of NAMGAR and the MG T Register for over 25 years, Ron and Rosemary's extended MG family were legion. The ties they made were strong and deep as evidenced by the many MG friends that gathered to comfort Rosemary and family that cold first weekend in January 2010.

Husband, father, grandfather, friend, patriot, leader, and MG enthusiast, it's been quite a ride, Ron. Our lives are richer for having known you and you leave this world a better place because of your unselfish contributions to your family, friends, church, and our nation. It's been a wonderful life, Ron. A man can't ask for more than that.

Submitted by Bob Vitrikas

We asked other Chapter members that had a long association with Ron for their thoughts as well:

John and Linda Wright: *The shock and disbelief and reality are hard to understand much less put into words. But I know all that knew Ron are dealing with the same. We have known the Eaton family for quite some time. Always joyful and upbeat, together sharing their many common interests of faith, family and friends.*

It happened to be the MGs that brought our families together and allowed us to spend time during the summer months, meeting at the various MG events sponsored by our MG car clubs. My earliest clear memory of Ron was when he offered or I should say insisted that I drive his 1948 TC at the little hill climb we staged at one of the early Mini-GOF's. It must have been part of a plan as I still have the '48 TC for which I traded Ron a Mkll TD. Both of us were always happy with our "deal". We'll remember the trip to England in the 1980's, to Sebring, the Glen and to the sharing of the condo at GT 33. There are many memories and we will regret the ones not to be formed. We will all miss Ron's hearty laugh, his love for Rosemary and his family and the passion he shared with his sons and grandsons. The void left by Ron's passing can only be filled by the memories we are so fortunate to have. Remember the Hoobie Doobie!

Butch and Judy Smith: *To the best of my recollection we first met Ron and Ro at an early British Car Day. In the late 70's at Annapolis or Allen Pond. Our first GT with them was GT-6 in Harper's Ferry, WVA July 1981. Since then the four of us had been to many GT's (driven, thank you) and clocked several thousand miles on our fannies in our A's. Some breakdowns but a lot more laughs.*

One of our most memorial trips with them was to Indy for GT-14 in July 1989. Most of you have met Ron's twin brother Charlie. At Ron's suggestion our group decided to drop in on Charlie and Val who live in nearby Lebanon, IN and do some laundry. We had just been through a horrible rainstorm and were soaked. No call, no advance warning. It was a blast.

Yeah, I could go on and on about our motoring stories, but I need to say that Ron was one of our best friends and MGA sole mates. It's nice to know that Mike and Jim are around to keep Ron's MGA legacy alive. And, of course, we still have the lovely and talented Rosemary. Now that's nice.

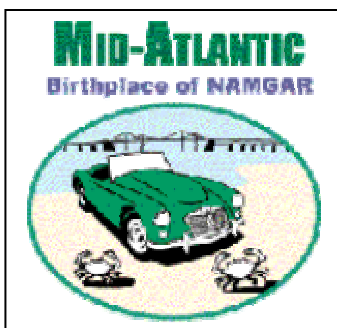
My pal loved his MGA's, a good Manhattan and steamed crabs! Well, OK if I must, I'll assume those habits for him. I believe he would approve. He has found the "The Last Open Road". SAFETY FAST! Some of you will know what this means. We miss him. Goodbye Ron.

Bob Schoeplein: *I've always known Ron's happy disposition -- no exceptions. Ron seemed particularly happy when he was paling around with his sons. I watched them each year at Watkins Glen. I told Kevin Richards a couple of months ago that if I did not race at the Glen one year, I wanted to join Ron, Michael, and their crew. When Ron entered the room at a social event, the energy picked up several notches. I can hear his laugh now.*

Bill and Karen Marshall: *Karen and I first met Ron and Rosemary at GT-31 in Gatlinburg. It was our first GT and other than our traveling companions Butch and Judy, Terry and Martha Anne and Bill and Liz, we knew no one. At one of the opening receptions, Butch introduced us to Ron and Ro and from that first handshake, we were their friends. All that mattered to Ron was that we were friends with his friends and we arrived in a MGA. We were members of the Eaton 'family' by the end of the evening.*

Liz Ten Eyck: *Ron and I both worked at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but in different offices. Almost every time I mentioned to a colleague that I still owned the first car I ever purchased, an MGA, I would be asked if I knew Ron Eaton. They always described him as the man who knew everything about an MGA. After I purchased a home with a two-car garage in 1983 and was getting my MGA back from my uncle who was storing it in North Carolina, I eagerly went off to find this man. He was excited to find another MGA owner and invited me to attend a Pub Night of the Mid-Atlantic chapter of NAMGAR. Well it only took one drive from Rockville to Mt. Vernon at 5:30 pm to decide that I couldn't regularly attend Pub Nights, but I was introduced to the club members and later, after I retired, was able to actively participate in club activities. Every time I saw Ron after that, we always talked MGAs first, and then nuclear activities. I certainly will miss his smiling face.*

Martha Anne and Terry King: *His laugh, that's the first thing I think of about Ron. How he could light up a room just by walking in and smiling! When his belly laugh let loose, everyone would turn to Ron and want to share in the joke. Ron chose to be happy...all the time. Traveling to GTs over the last 30 years with Ron and his family will always be one of our cherished memories. Once he started it, we all use his "wheels in the well" to get people moving and on the road. Ron challenged Terry to finish our perennially-under-restoration MGA with his encouraging "When are you gonna finish that POS?" We will miss you, dear friend, but your laughter still rings in our ears.*

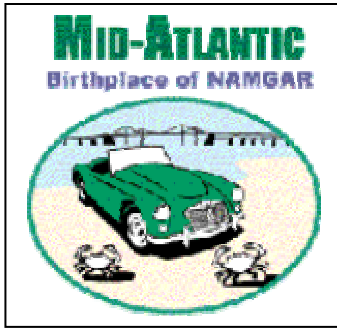


Celebrating 32 years as a NAMGAR Chapter 1978-2010

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

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Color : _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Body Number: _____

Engine Number: _____

2nd car (if applicable)

Style (coupe or roadster): _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Color: _____

Chassis (VIN): _____

Body 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