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Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

April 2011

▲ Britain on the Green May 1st ▲

Submitted by Bill Wemhoff

The **Capital Triumph Register** is hosting its fourteenth annual *Britain on the Green* car show on Sunday, May 1. The show will again be held at the Collingwood Library in Alexandria, VA, a beautiful setting on the banks of the Potomac River. All British marques are invited and encouraged to attend.



Our club has been well represented in previous years and we've always managed to have a fun time. It's a great way to kick off the driving season, meet up with friends, and see what new improvements they've made to their LBCs.

For more information and to register, visit the **CTR** website at www.capitaltriumphregister.com. Questions can be addressed via e-mail at bog_2011@capitaltriumphregister.com.

▲ Drive Your MGA Day May 7th ▲

Submitted by Charlie Adams

For the past few years, NAMGAR has designated the first Saturday in May as the day to get the car cover off, charge up the battery, check the tire pressures, and put your MGA or Magnette on the road.



The Mid-Atlantic Chapter will once again organize a Drive to Lunch so that we may support NAMGAR in this endeavor.

Drive your MGA Day is a moment to enjoy the special energy of having a spring drive and outing with fellow MGA enthusiasts. I feel that excitement on many spring and summer Saturday mornings when the sun is up, the sky is blue and I can hop in my MG and go for an early cruise. I try to go as quietly as possible because when my MGA starts, I'm thinking that it might be growling just enough to wake the neighbors from their sleep-ins. So it's gently up the driveway and out to the street before building up the RPMs. Usually the top is down, the air is crisp, the sky is blue, but the shadows are long because the sun has not yet lifted far into the sky. It is a beautiful time to be on the road. The traffic is light and there are often other enthusiasts taking their special cars for an early Saturday morning drive.

This year our rally point will be Carderock, MD. I chose this rally point to provide easy access for club members from both Virginia and Maryland. Should you arrive early, you might take a stroll to the Potomac before we head out on our one hour drive. Our destination is Bassett's Restaurant in Poolesville, and our one hour country drive will take us along River Road which follows the Potomac River. While I haven't sampled the fare at Bassett's, the reviews are enthusiastic as in the following one:

"Far up in Montgomery County in the still-rural, upscale village of Poolesville sits an old-timer, part tavern part family gathering place. That it is the community hub is quite apparent, especially if you hit there midday for Sunday brunch. Indeed, but the food and the ambience look as if snatched from a Norman Rockwell painting. Think peel and eat shrimp, hot wings and a crab-and-artichoke dip to start, leading to New England clam chowder, hunky burgers with a mound of fries, fried chicken (of course), and Aunt Betty's tuna sandwich. While the cuisine is not haute, the buzz is hot, and folks really gravitate to a place where the wait staff greet one and all with a "hi, y'all" and pass around good cheer."

Those returning to Virginia will have the opportunity to take White's Ferry across the Potomac. This is the last of the Potomac ferry services and an entertainment for those who are not familiar with the ferry. I'm looking forward to having the ferry loaded with MGA's.

Timetable: 9:30 to 10:15 Gather at Carderock Park. Arrive early to take a stroll in the park.
10:30 Depart for Poolesville, MD. Drive about 50 minutes to one hour.
11:30 Lunch at Bassett's Restaurant
Post Lunch Return to VA via White's Ferry or MD destinations via best direction.

Directions to Carderock: From Virginia, cross the Potomac on I-495 via the American Legion Bridge to exit 41, the first exit in Maryland. On the exit, keep left to the Clara Barton Parkway. Follow the signs to Carderock, exiting Clara Barton Parkway on the right, and then at the stop sign, turn left into the park. Proceed to T and turn left into parking lot.

From Maryland, I-495 take exit 41, Clara Barton Parkway which is the last exit before crossing the American Legion Bridge to Virginia. Follow the signs to Carderock, exiting Clara Barton Parkway on the right, and then at the stop sign, turn left into the park. Proceed to T and turn left into parking lot.

Please RSVP to Charlie Adams by May 5th at adamscas@msn.com or by phone at 703-582-3757 to let us know if you plan to attend so we don't leave any one behind.

▲ **NAMGAR gets MAD** ▲

NAMGAR is joining with the *North American Council of MG Registers* to produce a Mutual Aid Directory. This Directory will list the contact information of MG owners by state who are willing to be contacted by a fellow MG owner passing through their area should they be in need of assistance.

Assistance can range from providing the distressed MG owner with names of recommended local repair shops to providing a "safe haven" for the MG to be towed to until repair arrangements can be made.

NAMGAR Registrar John Drake is collecting the names of NAMGAR members who wish to have their information included in the forthcoming edition. If you would like to be included, please forward your address and telephone number to John at registrar@namgar.com with a note to add your information in the Mutual Aid Directory.

▲ Chili Party Recap ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall

We would like to thank Steve and Nancy Woodall for hosting our **Annual Meeting and Chili Party** at their home on Saturday, April 2nd. We were once again treated to the use of their Carriage House and plenty of Steve's cars to ogle during Happy Hour with dinner served on the upper level. It just doesn't get any better than this! We experienced a strong attendance with many members vying for the title of *Best Chili in the Mid Atlantic* honor. We also held our traditional Kitchen Box Challenge provided by last year's champion Jean Josefson as well as our Parts Box Challenge assembled this year by Keith Kallapos. I would also like to thank Butch Smith for acquiring the prizes for the Best Chili and Parts Box Challenge winners and runners up. The Chapter also extends a hearty *thank you* to Cecelia Bruce of Scarborough Faire for donating a gift certificate as a prize.

The winner of the *Best Chili* honor was Shelia Stern whose recipe relegated perennial winner Butch Smith to a runner-up position this year. Third place was taken by a surprising (to me) Bill Marshall. We had a number of offerings in a tie for 4th Place including defending champion Bruce Zivic. Here is a hint for next year's contestants: The more mild recipes seemed to be gaining favor over the fire-breathing concoctions!

The Kitchen Box Challenge was won by Judy Smith closely followed by Lisa Eaton and Shelia Stern. Our new formula of having the previous winner prepare the Box for the current year seems to allow for a year-long opportunity to find obscure kitchen gadgets known only to gourmets. Many items selected by Jean baffled the ladies but all of them did seem to correctly identify the various styles of wine-cork removers. I wonder what that means?

Keith did a wonderful job providing parts for the Parts Box Challenge but alas, no one substituted the worn parts taken from Kelsey's project car with shiny new or reconditioned parts. Jim Mackin identified the most parts with Michael Eaton and Butch Smith just a few parts behind.



We once again thank the Woodall's for their generosity in having the Chapter over for this event.



▲ Annual Meeting ▲

The Chili Party also serves as an opportunity to host our Annual Meeting. Martha Ludtke provided a recap of last year's Annual Meeting along with a Treasurer's report based on the numbers when she turned over the position to Judy Smith. Judy then provided a recap of the spending for the past year along with the announcement that with Butch and her pending relocation to Mathews, she would be stepping down from that position. This provided a nice segue to our nominations and election of our Executive Committee for the upcoming year. By voice vote, Bill Marshall and Liz Ten Eyck were again confirmed as Chairman and Vice Chairman, Keith Kallapos returns as our Technical Advisor, Alana Adams was approved as our new Secretary/Treasurer and Kathy Kallapos will serve as our new At-Large member. The Chapter continues to be supported by an active membership with a broad range of activities scheduled throughout the year.

▲ A Tale of Four MGAs ▲

Submitted by Charlie Adams

This adventure started because Butch and Judy Smith are preparing their home for sale. Happily, when they move, they are going only as far as Gloucester, VA. This is not far from the home of Terry and Martha Ann King in Mathews, VA. At that distance, about 2 hours and 40 minutes away, they will easily be within reach of the Capital area. That's very good because Butch and Judy and Alana and I have become very good friends in a short time. One thing I have discovered and the best part of being a member of our NAMGAR chapter is the great friends that we are making. I expect to be beating a path to Gloucester and Mathews, VA...and that will become the subject of future stories.



On a recent April Sunday, Butch, two of his neighbors and I removed Butch's 1962 MGA MKII rolling project car from its backyard cocoon. No doubt Butch decided it would be best for the property sale to remove his car project from its backyard resting place. Soon we were joined by Bill Marshall, John Padgett and Terry King who helped load Butch's car on John's trailer for transport to the King's home in Mathews.

The following morning, Butch, John and I made the drive on a sunny, Virginia spring day. We arrived at the King's in less than three hours. Once there, we were directed to the corner spot chosen by Martha Anne where we again cocooned Butch's Mercedes blue MKII in silver tarps. The MKII now resides next to the woodland, so Butch can well expect that critters will attempt to find a way into his car when the temperature falls later this year.

That afternoon, we made our way to view two MGAs that Terry had found nearby his home. One of the workmen who visited Terry had seen Terry's car and exclaimed "I have one of those." Indeed, he had two but they ceased operation many years ago and had been parked in a field. One of them is an early MGA with an MGB motor, and the other is a 1600 MK II. In the years since they were placed in the field, weather has taken its toll. The early MGA has succumbed and little remains. Perhaps pieces of the drive train are recoverable. The body is largely gone. The 1600



MKII is also in sad shape, but is the better of the two. Its resting place is now a thicket with trees locking it at both the front and rear bumpers.

Chair saws, winches and a small team would be helpful to recover this corpse. However, it could be a worthwhile effort as it is a fairly complete car with its 1622 motor. Mike Eaton said he will likely be taking a look at it too. Also on the property, is a Studebaker, which I think is a 1950 Champion Starlite Coupe. Terry plans to talk to the owner of these cars to see what might be done to recover them.

After returning to the King's home, we worked on the fourth MGA, Terry King's project car. We assisted Terry in removing the engine so that he could paint it. With 8 hands, I think it took no more than an hour before the engine was extracted, and Terry found that he apparently has a new clutch and throw-out bearing. Overall, we saw that Terry has made some distance with his project car. All of the body panels have been addressed and the body painted although Terry plans to correct some paint flaws before he reassembles the car.



Late that afternoon and evening we enjoyed the fine hospitality of the King's very comfortable waterfront home. Lovely, lovely, lovely! Terry showed off his prowess in identify the year and models of old cars and Martha Ann gave us a geographical map tour of the area. I slept in peace that night next to an open window. The next morning, we cleaned Terry's engine and then headed back to Northern Virginia after planning a return to reinstall Terry's motor. Terry reports that he has already painted his engine and is ready for the next step.

▲ Classic MG Magazine ▲



The current issue of *Classic MG Magazine* features their review of NAMGAR GT-36 held this past July in Lake Delavan, Wisconsin. Along with a well-written article by Executive Editor Dick Lunney, the article featured many photographs of the event.

We are always pleased when Chapter members receive ink in a national publication and the photo collage on page 22 shows Chapter members Doug and Kay Campbell giving their Magnette "Winston" a good scrubbing along with Bill Marshall drying off his MGA after removing the many butterflies collected while traveling through the farmland of Indiana and Illinois. Former Chapter member Pat Newman also grabs some of the spotlight on page 25 along with her collection of MG memorabilia.



We would like to thank *Classic MG Magazine* for providing copies of the images and for permission to reprint these in our newsletter. Information about the magazine, publication schedule and subscription rates can be found at www.ClassicMGMagazine.com.



For Sale: HEADS 1500, 1600, early B (1622, also fits earlier) \$110 per head, guaranteed. Contact Bob Schoeplein 703-390-1188 or bobandjane2@comcast.net

For Sale: Grille off my 1967 MGB GT. No dents, straight. I hate to trash it. \$10.00. Contact Butch Smith 703-569-1508 bjmga@verizon.net

We welcome your *For Sale*, *For Trade* or *To a Good Home* listings. Please e-mail your items to mga@mga-midatlantic.org