

# DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

**October 2009**

## ▲ **First Pub Social of the Season** ▲

Our first *Pub Social* of the season will be held Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at the home of members Charlie and Alana Adams. Charlie and Alana have sent directions to their home in Fairfax Station, VA via e-mail. The *Social* begins at 1:00 pm and should end around 3:30 or 4:00.

Charlie purchased a project MGA a few months ago and is excited to show off his project and of course – solicit advice from our members who have been through the process.

The format for our *Pub Socials* is rather simple. We gather, talk MG talk, order pizza delivery, eat and have more MG conversation. The Redskins game is a Monday night game so we won't be interrupted by moans and groans of Redskin fans during our event. Or perhaps – cheers.

As always, we request you RSVP to Charlie and Alana yea, nay or maybe so that they know how many guests to plan for. If you have misplaced the directions to their home or to RSVP, please e-mail Charlie and Alana at [adamscas@msn.com](mailto:adamscas@msn.com).



## ▲ **Drive to Lunch November 7th** ▲

It has become tradition in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter that we end the driving season with a Side Curtain Fling. Driving an MGA with a bit of chill and nip in the air provides that one last opportunity to enjoy our MGs as many of us prepare to tuck our cars away for the winter months.

Bill and Kathy Wemhoff have organized our last *Drive to Lunch* of the season. We don't know where we are starting from, where we are going or what we will do once we get there, but it promises to be a wonderful day driving our MGAs. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and we will have full details by our *Pub Social* on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Our plans now are to meet somewhere in the Chantilly, Virginia area near Route 28 and Route 50 around 10:00 am and follow Bill and Kathy on some wonderful MGA roads with spectacular views of the fall changing of the leaves. Our destination will be Purcellville VA and lunch at the Magnolia Restaurant. Please RSVP the usual yea, nay or maybe to Bill and Kathy at [wemhoff2@verizon.net](mailto:wemhoff2@verizon.net) so we don't leave anyone behind.

## ▲ Hunt Country Classic Car Show ▲

The MG Car Club held their 14<sup>th</sup> annual classic British Car Show on Sunday, October 11, 2009.

As we have done the past few years, we organized a small caravan to drive to the show. We started in Manassas as Charlie Adams was collecting a spare MGB GT to take to the show –



getting an early taste of car show life while he begins the early stages of his MGA restoration project. Joining us were Keith & Kathy Kallapos and Jim Mackin – still learning that it can be cold at speeds without a jacket in the fall mornings! On the way we collected Ken & Joyce Lawrence along the roadside and we were on our merry way, traveling Route 55 through Haymarket, The Plains and into Marshall.

Once in the Marshall area, there are only two turns to reach the show field and these intersections are always carefully marked by members of the MG Car Club. This year, perhaps to provide an added opportunity to the local residents to view the cars, the signs were not in place AT the intersections but on the shoulders of the road leading up to the intersection – and on the opposite side of the road that one would be looking. Oh well. This gave me an opportunity to test how well the caravan would follow an obviously lost leader. To shorten the story, they followed well, then missed the turn-around point due to traffic, picked another British car to follow who led them wrong and ... well, we all finally made it to the show, arriving as two groups!

This year there were 21 MGAs on display in the MGA parking area, plus Bob and Jane Schoeplein showing in the race car class and Liz Ten Eyck showing in the Prince of Wales category reserved for the class winners of last year's event. In addition to those members of the "Lost Squadron", Chapter members Bill & Kathy Wemhoff, Tom Ford, Bruce Zivic, John & Kelly Burns all had their MGAs on display. Showing in the MGB GT class were members Charlie Adams in the borrowed GT and Ruth Arnold showing her 1974 MGB GT, *Bridget*. We later welcomed a late arriving Warren Arthur with his MGA, John Padgett, who helped park show cars, and past Chapter Chairman Amy Rothberg, who is now MGA-less but still active in the Chapter.

The quality of the cars on the show field is just spectacular. Each year the quality of the new restorations just continues to improve and the attention to detail of the older restorations also continues to improve. The winners in the MGA class this year were Paul Hanley with his 1959 Twin Cam, Chris & Cheryl Kintner with their 1957 1500 roadster and Bob Samuelson with his 1960 1600 roadster.

I would like to thank all of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter members who volunteered their time to the MG Car Club to assist with parking duties. It takes a great number of people to host a car show of this size and the MG Car Club always does a wonderful job making sure the event runs smoothly.

The MG Car Club has posted the winners of all the classes on their web site as well as photographs of many of the cars entered in the show. More information can be found at [www.mgcarclubdc.com](http://www.mgcarclubdc.com).

## ▲ Pocono Regional GT ▲

### NAMGAR in the POCONOS

Sept. 23-26, 2009  
Pocono Manor,  
Pennsylvania



Our MGAventures for 2009 continued with a number of Mid-Atlantic Chapter members attending the NAMGAR Regional GT in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania.

Our caravan of one departed Manassas early September 23<sup>rd</sup> with plans to meet Keith & Kathy Kallapos at the Stone House in the Manassas Battlefield Park and then travel to Leesburg to meet with Liz Ten Eyck and her travel guest Linda Quinn. Larry and Diana Newman were called out of town by a family emergency and were not able to join us, as planned.

While the weather forecast for the day was scattered showers all along our travel route, we started with the top down and fortunately enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for the entire 250 miles enroute to Pocono Manor. Keith and Kathy were not so lucky, as at the moment their only top is their fiberglass hardtop and they were forced to travel without the benefits of open air motoring.

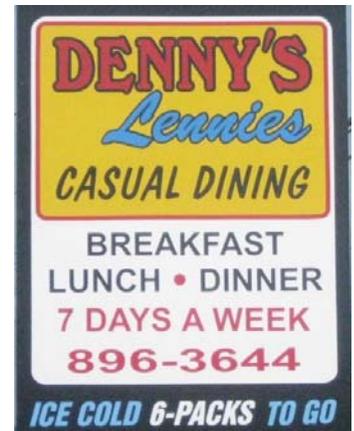
Our plans called for a leisurely day avoiding the Interstates and staying on the smaller roads, taking us through many quaint Pennsylvania towns. We stopped for lunch at a place, recommended by a local street construction crew, called *Denny's Lennies Casual Dining*. The theme of casual dining was correct as the pace was relaxed and the food was excellent – *apparently* all the ingredients being freshly selected at the local Farmer's Market, and then only selected by the staff as each order was placed – and we're still not sure if the Market was all that local or even located in Pennsylvania!

Mindful of the time spent *casually* waiting for lunch; we picked up the pace in an effort to reach the Inn at Pocono Manor before registration closed and in time to settle into our hotel rooms prior to the scheduled Welcoming Reception held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening.

Regional GT events provide an opportunity for NAMGAR members to *Get Together* at events that by design are smaller than a national GT.

Regionals can mimic the format of a GT or take on any aspect regarding activities the host Chapter desires. As with any GT, the goal is to have fun while driving an MGA and making new or rekindling old friendships with fellow MGA enthusiasts.

With seventeen cars registered and 33 guests attending, the event was by all accounts a great success. NAMGAR members from five states and Canada, representing six NAMGAR Chapters, journeyed to experience the NAMGAR adage, "It's the cars that get you there, but it's the people that bring you back".



With the Regional sponsored by the British Car Club of Northeast Pennsylvania, the scheduled activity for Thursday was a drive to Grey Towers, a National Historic Site operated by the U.S.



Forest Service. Grey Towers was built in 1886 by James and Mary Pinchot as their summer retreat. It was later the home of their son Gifford Pinchot, an early conservationist who was influential in establishing and served as the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Gifford was also twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania and was instrumental in preserving many natural sites as state parks. Led by our Regional hosts and fellow Key West alumni Bill and Carol Shamonsky, much of our route was through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area with its scenic beauty. Our 50-mile drive to Grey Towers took us over roads seemingly designed for MGAs in perfect fall weather, with only a light jacket necessary to fend off the chill of the

Pennsylvania mountains. From the front terrace of Grey Towers, views of New York and New Jersey were visible off in the distance.

Thursday evening our group gathered for a Western-themed barbecue held at the Inn. While the tenderfoots of the Northeast could not quite agree on what constituted ‘western’ dress, the food was delicious, spirits flowed freely from the bar and a rowdy game of Texas Hold-‘Em broke out at one of the tables. Large sums of nickels and dimes transferred around the table with each shuffle of the deck, but no MGA titles were seen exchanging hands.

At another table, your fellow Mid-Atlantic members discussed the possibility of hosting a Regional GT of our own – with the Maryland Eastern Shore and its historical and natural points of interests being incorporated into the theme of the event. Stay tuned for more details as we continue to explore this possibility as a Chapter event.

With many activities available at the Inn at Pocono Manor resort, Friday was designed as a free day to allow us to take advantage of their many offerings. Favored activities included rounds of golf, horseback riding on the trails of the Inn, enjoying spa treatments and kayaking on the Delaware River. Others took advantage of the short drives to visit the local coalmine museum, the picturesque village of Jim Thorpe, go antiquing or attend the hot rod show being held at nearby Pocono Raceway.

With Liz and Linda bowing out of riding the trails on horseback, this left Bill & Karen and Keith & Kathy, along with other fellow MGers, to tame the wild broncos of Pocono. While the horses



had rather tame given names such as Jill, Measles, Ranger and Coffee, we preferred to imagine we were riding Thunder, Lightning, Tornado and Bullet *as we made our way along the narrow mountainous trails and splashed through the raging white-water rivers, keeping an eye out for mountain lions, bears and other threats to our survival* – returning intact and only slightly worse for the wear two hours later.

With a quick break for lunch, we joined Liz and Linda on their planned kayak trip down a section of

the Delaware River. We were privileged to have Pocono Manor resident and BCCNEPA member Russ Cramer as our guide during our kayak adventure. We nicknamed Russ the ‘Mayor’ of Pocono Manor due to his endless knowledge of all things local and his ability to obtain quick reservations for large groups of people. Russ is an avid kayaker and led our group on a two-hour trip down to the Delaware Water Gap – pointing out many of the historical areas and natural interests as we traveled the light rapids – landing on the shores of New Jersey, allowing us to add another state to our MGA travels this year.

Saturday dawned with cloudy skies as we prepared for the car show held on the grounds of the Inn. Our cars were joined by a number of BCCNEPA club members who came for the day to display their British cars for the enjoyment of the resort’s guests. Although cloudy and cool – okay, it was cold - it remained dry for the duration of the show, allowing us time to inspect and admire each of the vehicles on display.



At the Awards Dinner and Farewell Banquet held Saturday evening, awards were presented for overall Best of Show, first through third in the MGA class, first through third in the Other British class, Long Distance and a special, unannounced Spirit Award – properly given to Russ Cramer.

Best of Show was awarded to Liz for her 1962 MGA Mark II roadster. First Place in the MGA class was awarded to Mike and Cathy Finch of Ontario for their 1959 1500 roadster, Second to Jerry and Barbara Andres of Richmond, Virginia for their 1956 1500 roadster and Third to Micky and Linda Walka of New Jersey for their 1961 1600 roadster. Other British class winners were, in order, Nancy Ware for her 1954 MG TF, Ken Cooney for his 1954 Jaguar XK 120 and Al Borders for his 1967 Triumph TR4. All are members of BCCNEPA. The Long Distance Award was presented to Mark and Cindy Michalak of the Michigan Rowdies for their 652-mile trip to attend the event.

What begins as a long week when looking forward always seems to be too short when it is time to say our good-byes and start the return trip home. Bill and Carol Shamonsky, along with all the members of the BCCNEPA Chapter who contributed the many hours necessary to make the event such a success, are to be congratulated for their hard work, efforts and attention to detail. The event was run in a flawless manner from the picking up of the registration packet Wednesday afternoon to grabbing that final cup of coffee as we headed home Sunday morning.

The rain had finally arrived by late Saturday afternoon and was expected to stay with us all day Sunday. With this in mind we decided to cut a few hours off the return trip home by taking the Interstates back to the Harrisburg area, where we picked up Route 15 towards Gettysburg. We had made arrangements in advance to stop at the home of Mike and Pat Caltrider, in Littlestown, PA – just outside of Gettysburg.

Mike and Pat were early members of NAMGAR and of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Mike's MGA was the tenth car to be registered with NAMGAR and was also the first 1500 class member to claim pewter at GT-1 in Harpers Ferry in 1976. Mike has an outstanding collection of MGA models and memorabilia and was kind enough to show his collection to us. By the time we left the Caltrider's, the rain had begun to taper off and we made the remaining 100 miles home without event.

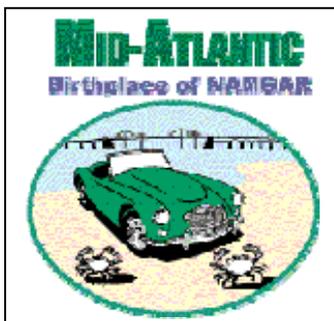
*Submitted by Bill Marshall*

## ▲ **Mini Tech Session** ▲

Well, having owned my MGA 1600 for several decades, I most likely could have fumbled my way thru this repair. But, after the trials and tribulations going and coming from GT-34 (read the last *Distributor* for the full story) I was not about to decline the most gracious offer of help from Keith Kallapos. The mini tech session was held on Saturday, October 3rd and involved installing a newly rebuilt distributor and re-timing the engine. As it turned out it was good thing Keith was there, as well as John Padgett. The darned thing wouldn't seat past the chinch plate. We had to take it off, spread it, mount the distributor and refit the plate to block. Yes, those 5/16" hex heads are real tight in there. With his timing light and some fine adjusting on the carb linkage, Keith had my baby back to humming like a Packard. Thanks guys. Much appreciated.

Both of these guys are extremely knowledgeable about our cars. I'm confident if you should have a question about anything they would gladly try and answer it for you. Keith has been known to trade his mechanical knowledge for as little as a sandwich and soft drink in return.

*Submitted by Butch Smith*



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

***Mid-Atlantic Chapter***

Washington DC - Maryland – Virginia