

DISTRIBUTOR



Mid-Atlantic Chapter, North American MGA Register

March-April 2012

▲ **15th Annual *Britain On The Green* April 29th** ▲

Submitted by Bill Wemhoff

Once again, it's spring, the beginning of the driving season and time for the Capital Triumph Register to host its ***Britain On The Green*** car show. This will be the club's fifteenth annual show. It's a very nice event with plenty of British cars, and the club donates part of the proceeds to worthy local charitable organizations. Last year nearly 200 British cars registered for the event.



Dozens of Triumphs and MGs were joined by Austin Healeys, Jaguars, Rolls and Bentleys, Minis, Lotuses, Land Rovers, and a few cars you may not have seen before, such as Jensen, Riley, and Wolseley.

The show will be held on Sunday, April 29th with the show opening at 9:30 am and running until 3:30 pm. Preregistration is available prior to April 14th at \$25.00 per car with open registration available after April 14th at \$35.00 per car.

As in previous years, the show will be held at the Collingwood Library and Museum on Americanism (CLMA) grounds, a beautiful setting. The CLMA occupies 8.75 acres on the banks of the Potomac River, midway between old town Alexandria and Mount Vernon on what was once part of George Washington's River Farm. Additional information about the BOG event, including driving directions, registration forms and other information is available on the club's website at: www.capitaltriumphregister.com.

▲ ***Drive Your MGA Day Set for May 5th*** ▲



Details remain to be worked out but NAMGAR Chairman Bruce Woodson has declared Saturday, May 5th as the 2012 NAMGAR ***Drive Your MGA Day***. Keith Kallapos has volunteered to take the lead this year – or at least he will have volunteered once he reads this. We don't know where we're meeting, where we're driving to or where we'll eat breakfast and/or lunch – but it is sure to be an exciting time for all.

▲ Sunday Enthusiasts Run ▲

Submitted by Bob Williams – sole member of the Capital Area Lister Club

Vintage and Classic car owners are welcomed and encouraged to join us at the Fair Lakes Starbucks in Fairfax, VA on Sunday mornings between 8:30 am and 10:30 am. The event runs year-round and is an informal get-together of car-guys and car-gals. Everyone parks in the Kohl's parking lot, adjacent to Starbucks, with displays of a wide variety of cars – from hot rods, to classics to exotics. When the weather is nice, upwards of 70-100 cars attend the outing.

▲ Chili Party Recap ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall



Carl & Jean Josefson hosted the Chapter for our Annual Meeting and Chili Party at their home in Clifton on March 10th. Competition was fierce in battling for the honor of Mid Atlantic Chili Champion with eight pots making it safely to the testing table. One potential winner, the chili of Liz Ten Eyck, had no official tasters as the chili was displayed on the floorboard of her car – but as a past winner Liz is known to cook up a competitive pot. Liz also prepared the array of kitchen utensils for our Kitchen Box Challenge and Keith Kallapos once again provide a puzzling selection of MGA parts in our Parts Box Challenge.

The winners this year are: Karen Marshall, 1st Place Chili, Kathy Wemhoff, 2nd Place Chili, Jim Mackin, 3rd Place Chili. Finishing *juussttt* out of the Honorable Mention range with his can of Hormel Chili was multiple-time winner Butch Smith – given some slack considering their recent move to Mathews and his favorite pots & pans still packed away in cardboard boxes.

In the Kitchen Box Challenge, Martha Anne King identified the most kitchen utensils, followed by Jean Josefson and Regina Morris. We thank Martha Anne (and Terry) for making the long trip up from Mathews to attend – and by default as the Kitchen Box winner – they will need to make the trip next year also to return the box full of THEIR kitchen gadgets!

We judge the progress on Kelsey's restoration project by the parts Keith includes in our Parts Box Challenge. Last year there was a preponderance of brake and front end suspension parts, this year we found an increased number of body and interior bits, switches, hardware and such indicating that it may be time to begin actual assembly of her MGA. Fortunately, we have a number of members who have followed this path before and know their parts. Correctly identifying the most parts were Jim Mackin in 1st Place, Butch Smith in 2nd Place and Charlie Adams in 3rd Place.

Carl provided one more challenge in identifying the mystery sports car in an advertisement where just a whiff of any identifying feature was shown. Ken Lawrence knew the lines belonged to an early generation bug-eyed Austin Healey Sprite – which actually had most of us stumped.

We had a good selection of prizes to pick from this year and I would like to thank Dave Stuursma of Moss Motors for his assistance in providing us with Moss discount coupons and the donation of a new Moss product, a windscreen mirror, which was selected for testing by Butch.

As always we thank our hosts, Carl and Jean, as well as each of the members who donated time to assemble the challenges, prepare appetizers, chilies, salads and desserts, those that were able to attend and those whose commitment to the MGA Sebring Reunion made it impossible to attend.

▲ 2012 Annual Meeting ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall

We are a rather loosely run organization – although some might say for being unorganized, we are actually well-run. Regardless, we do hold an Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Chili Party so that we can elect the officers that make up the Executive Committee that governs the Chapter.



The Executive Committee consists of the Chapter chairman, vice-chairman, secretary/treasurer and one at-large member. We do the simple things like prodding members to host our various Pub Socials and our four main gatherings including the Chili Party, July 4th Fireworks, the annual ‘Ool Party and our Abingdon New Year’s Eve celebration. We also – in the best British Royal Navy tradition – impress “volunteers” to organize our Drives to Lunch, Drive Your MGA Day and various drives to area car shows.

We also make sure the Chapter is respectful in spending the dues we collect in ways that best benefit the members. Dues are generally spent on reimbursing host members for the beverages and food purchases of our main gatherings, costs for keeping the Chapter website current and online, and funding the prizes for the Chili Party contests.

Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination for each of these positions – with a requested commitment of one year’s minimum service.

Alana Adams read our Treasurer’s Report listing the income from membership dues as well as income from hosting our NAMGAR at Solomons Island Regional GT. Expenditures were, as noted, Chili Party prizes, web maintenance and reimbursements as well as costs associated with hosting the Regional GT.

The election of new officers was quite civil, with nominations quickly coming from the floor and seconded that Bill, Liz, Alana and Kathy continue in their roles. Objecting but overruled were Bill and Liz with poor Kathy not even arriving to the meeting in time to defend herself. Keith continues as our Technical Advisor. Seriously, we thank each member for their continued trust and endorsement of our performance.

Other business that was discussed will be covered in separate headings in this newsletter, but briefly include accepting the revised Chapter logo for better placement on Regalia products, the notice that dues for the 2012 year are now due, determining the interest in ordering Chapter shirts, and the eligibility for the Chapter to nominate a recipient for the NAMGAR *Renkenberger Spirit Award* – available to each Chapter every three years.

▲ **Renkenberger Spirit Award** ▲

The North American MGA Register Mission (NAMGAR) Statement says in part “...shall promote the enjoyment of the MGA sports car and its variants; encourage fellowship among MGA owners...” This relates to the personal or individual leadership traits that all organizations must have in order to remain viable and focused. Without that “personal bonding agent” that keeps everyone together, we would not have Chapters, Interest Groups, nor would we have a vibrant NAMGAR.

In every Chapter and Interest Group there are members who emulate the meaning of this statement, and the Board feels that recognition should be given to these members. Many of these members act tirelessly on the local level to ensure others enjoy their MGAs and/or variants, and they actively promote fellowship among their members. Their actions would not necessarily be recognized on the National stage but their input on the local level is immeasurable. Also, their contribution to the success of their Chapter or Interest Group directly affects the success of NAMGAR.

*The **Renkenberger Spirit Award** has been established to ensure those Chapter or Interest Group members who are enthusiastic supporters and promoters of their Chapter, Interest Group, and indirectly NAMGAR, are properly recognized.*

This Spirit Award is named for NAMGAR co-founding members Len and Ruth Renkenberger in recognition of their vision and dedication towards the NAMGAR mission, for their role as early supporters of local Chapters, and as individuals whose contributions are still reflected in the character of NAMGAR today.

Each NAMGAR Chapter is allowed to nominate one member (or couple) every three years. We last awarded this Spirit Award to Bill & Martha Ludtke in 2008. We are eligible at this time to nominate another Chapter member (or couple) to receive this award.

Each Chapter may determine its own criteria for the award, following the NAMGAR Mission Statement that the nominee, either currently or with past performance, provided service to the Chapter that promoted the enjoyment of the MGA sports car and its variants and encouraged fellowship among MGA owners.

The Executive Committee has decided we will open the nomination process to all members in good standing – meaning you are current on your dues. From the list of nominees, the Executive Committee will make the final selection and submit the request to the NAMGAR Chapter Coordinators for approval.

We are requesting you email your nominee to Alana Adams at adamscas@msn.com. We also request a brief comment as to why you feel your nominee deserves consideration for this award. Again, each Chapter determines their own criteria for this award and each nominee will receive full consideration. Please have your nominees to Alana by May 1st.

▲ *Original British Car Day June 3rd* ▲

Submitted by John Tokar

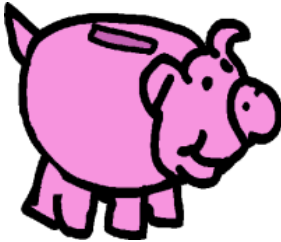


The Chesapeake Chapter of the New England MG T Register will host their 25th Anniversary Meet on Sunday, June 3rd. The show will once again be held at Lilypons Water Gardens in Adamstown, MD. The featured marque for 2012 will be the MGB in honor of its 50th anniversary.

Pre-registrations must be postmarked by May 15th to qualify for the \$15.00 rate. More information is available on the Chesapeake Chapter's web site at www.chesapeakechaptermgtclub.com

▲ *Dues are Due* ▲

It has been our tradition to collect our dues at our Annual Meeting with a Membership Renewal Form also posted in our newsletter. We find that often the newsletter is read and then filed for later reading – and the mention of the dues is quickly forgotten. Our plans this year are to send a *Dues are Due* e-mail to each member household with an attached Registration Form separate from the newsletter in hopes you will “star” this invoice and return your dues in a timely manner.



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, Alana Adams, at the address on the form, upon receipt of the e-mail.

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, 2011 – 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 Alana at adamscas@msn.com.



NAMGAR
North American MGA Register

For those of you who are not NAMGAR members, we would encourage you to consider joining the national organization. With your \$37.50 annual 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 me at manassasmga@gmail.com and I will send a copy for you to enjoy.

▲ New Chapter Shirts Are Available ▲



Liz Ten Eyck is now collecting orders for Chapter shirts featuring our revised Chapter logo. Our initial production run is planned using the same style and quality of the Solomons Island Regional GT shirts in our traditional white color. We need to order a minimum number of 12 shirts and will place an order when we reach that count.

Please contact Liz at bytheoak@verizon.net if you are interested in ordering a shirt.



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

Wanted: Ben Nolan is searching for the BRACKETS that attach to the side curtains like Moss sells for an MGA. Please contact Ben at cisol@aol.com if you have these parts. Ben says the brackets bolt on.

In pic 001 the distance between bolt holes is 2 1/8 inches (toward back of car). In pic 002 the distance between bolt holes is 2 1/2 inches (toward the windshield end).



For Sale: I have some never used MGA parts from when I reconstructed my MGA a few years back. I am interested in selling these fiberglass parts to a buyer who would want them. I'll sell them at a best offer price, really looking to get them out of my garage. Unused pairs of fiberglass rear quarter panels and rocker arms, one for the right and one for the left.

Contact: Robert Blitz (301) 762-0720 bxblitz@hotmail.com

▲ NAMGAR in Solomons Island ▲

Submitted by Bill Marshall



The Mid Atlantic Chapter was pleased to host the east coast Fall Regional GT, **NAMGAR at Solomons Island**, from September 28 to October 2, 2011 in Solomons Island, Maryland. As Chapter Chairman, I was happy to welcome incoming **MGA!** editor Mike Tooke to his first NAMGAR outing. Mike expressed an interest in personally experiencing MGAs and NAMGAR members *in action* – with the promise of what happens in Solomons, stays in Solomons. We were joined by NAMGAR members from nine states and most of the 25 MGs arrived Wednesday afternoon with little fanfare.

Not so lucky were our guests Mark and Cindy Michalak, who arrived with their MGA on the back of a flatbed truck. It seems the ring & pinion gearing had given up while touring Washington, DC – much to the decided **LACK** of amusement to the Secret Service officers assigned to protect the White House, in front of which the gears chose to make their final rotation. The combination of a vintage vehicle with Michigan license plates pulling a small trailer simply did not sit well with the Secret Service. Mark was in the early lead for the Regional's Hard Luck Award ... *but wait!* ... Mark's week was not over yet.

With registration completed and Mark and Cindy in a loaner MGB GT, we were off to Vera's White Sands Beach Club for our opening Meet & Greet reception set in a tranquil inlet overlooking the Patuxent River. After welcoming remarks by committee members Kathy Kallapos and Liz Ten Eyck, old acquaintances were renewed and new friendships made as these smaller Regional events promote opportunities to meet everyone attending. With a full day of travel for many behind us, it was an early evening return to the Hilton Garden Inn after dinner.



Thursday morning dawned with the promise of a warm autumn day in Solomons. Perfect for our plans to visit the Calvert Marine Museum to view the maritime heritage of Solomons Island and the Chesapeake Bay region through artifacts and exhibits depicting the life of the watermen and supporting businesses – or to pull the differential unit from an MGA and replace it with one shipped over-night from home. Those not engaged in mechanical work boarded the *William B. Tennison* - a circa 1900 Chesapeake Bay 'Bugeye' sail vessel later converted to a powered oyster buy-boat – for a sightseeing cruise through the Solomons harbor to the Patuxent River where it flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Upon returning to shore, we continued to explore the history of Solomons Island with a tour of the Drum Point Lighthouse, now located on the museum's grounds, and of course taking time to visit the shops and enjoy lunch in this quaint marine town.



In keeping with our Chesapeake Bay theme, dinner plans for Thursday evening included a scheduled cross-peninsula drive to Popes Creek for dinner at regional favorite Captain Billy's Crab House overlooking the Potomac River. As a committee, we had concerns as to how best keep a caravan of 25 MGs in tow while navigating the series of traffic lights and turns leaving Solomons as the Patuxent Naval Air Station personnel left work. Our problem was solved when Liz arranged for a Maryland State Trooper to escort our convoy until we cleared the heavier traffic and reached the more rural area of the county. Captain Billy's fulfilled its reputation as a purveyor of fine seafood, cold beverages and excellent service and it was well into the night when the burbling sound of MGAs filled the air as we found our way back to Solomons.

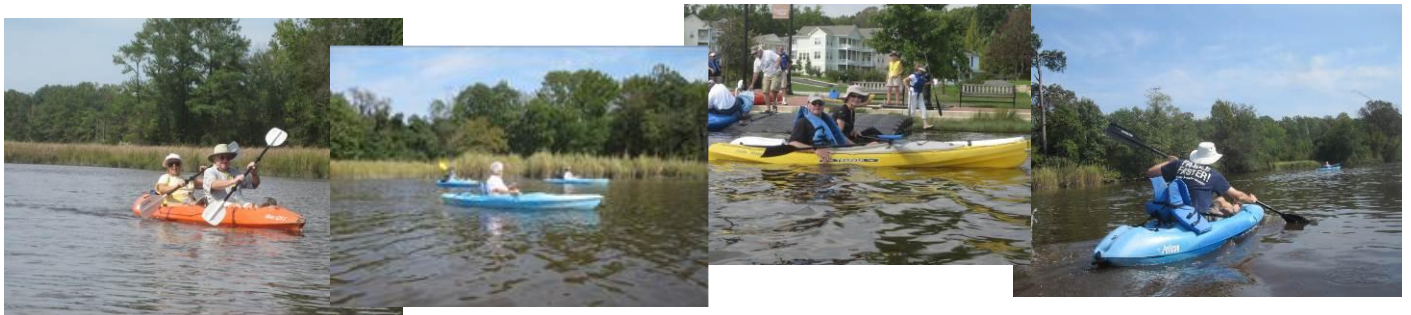


With four wheels back on the ground Mark and Cindy were able to join us Friday morning as we staged in the hotel parking lot for our British Car Rallye. The goal of our Rallye Masters Bill and Kathy Wemhoff was to make the questions challenging enough to demand attention while incorporating many of the scenic landmarks and vistas of the Solomons area. Our two hour Rallye took us from Solomons Island to the southern tip of St. Mary's County enjoying the towns of St. Mary's – Maryland's first colony and first capital - St. George Island – site of the first battle on Maryland soil during the Revolutionary War – and Piney Point – home of the oldest lighthouse on the Potomac River. Those able to follow directions were rewarded by arriving in the historic town of Leonardtown in time for lunch. After lunch, options included sightseeing in Leonardtown on-your-own or joining our group for a planned kayak excursion.



Novice and experienced kayakers alike entered the McIntosh Run at the Port of Leonardtown Winery for a lazy paddle to our landing area at the entrance to Breton Bay. We were able to convince a number of hesitant folks that kayaks were safe and near impossible to tip over. Our course, which took us through a blend of forested areas and open marshes of a wildlife sanctuary, promised neither strong currents nor whitewater rapids to upset our vessels – ensuring we would arrive to be ferried back to our MGAs in a dry condition. What we did not suspect was that returning the kayaks to shore would put our boaters in jeopardy.

In combinations of single- and double-seat kayaks, 28 guests leisurely paddled through the serene sanctuary - on the lookout for the Bald Eagles, Baltimore Orioles and nesting ospreys that make their homes there. Experienced kayakers helped the novices gain their paddle motions, acted as tour guides and swapped cameras to document the experience. Even the most timid of beginners felt like experienced professionals as we approached the Leonardtown Wharf to put-in on shore. With a retaining wall separating the water from the shore, landing was a simple procedure of aligning with the floating platform, gaining a moderate amount of speed and hitting the sloped ramp to ground the kayak. First arrivals Mark and Bill helped secure the kayaks as we dismounted and cleared the ramp as others passed the kayaks to shore. Those still in the water paddled in a holding pattern waiting their turn – many eager to extend the outing just a little longer.



What happened next occurred in a blink of an eye so details remain a bit sketchy - but the outcome remained Mark was knocked off the platform, landed on the bow of the circling kayak of Kathy Kallapos and both ended up in the shoulder-high waters of Breton Bay. Our promise of a dry return was dampened, as were the cell phones and cameras of our now-drenched pair. While others showed necessary concern as to the well-being of Mark, Kathy and their electronic gear, I knew this was a Kodak moment not to be missed. If pictures of NAMGAR members *in action* were wanted, *in action* pictures of NAMGAR members we would get. In time all was sorted out, and we returned to the hotel to freshen up for dinner – some damp but no worse for the wear.



Our dinner plans for Friday evening were not as complicated as the night before. The Ruddy Duck Brewery & Grill was located in the parking lot of the Hilton Garden Inn and a quick stroll had us finding our seats. Our hopes for a quiet evening spending time swapping stories were quickly dashed when the live band began to set up just outside our dining area. Visions of loud rock n roll music played to a full dance floor were, well, true. What we did not expect was that the dance floor would be full of NAMGAR members! We took over the joint and many of us outlasted the band as the spirited nature of MGA owners came through.



Saturday was a much cooler day, down-right nippy in fact. Hoods went up on many cars as we continued our sightseeing with a visit to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station Museum. Established in 1942 as a base for experimental and advanced aircraft and weapon systems, the Naval Air Station continues in that role today. The Museum preserves and interprets the history and heritage of advancing aviation technology throughout the course of many generations of aircraft and weapon systems. After touring the museum, we gathered to caravan to our lunch destination of the Island Bar & Grill on St. George Island. We used this opportunity as another sightseeing tour of the area and headed for the Piney Point Lighthouse at the tip of the island where we posed for a group photo to commemorate the event.



Our Farewell Banquet Saturday evening provided an opportunity to thank all our guests for attending and to thank the Chapter members who helped make this Regional a great success. In addition to the aforementioned Kathy, Liz and Bill and Kathy, we recognized Alana, Karen and Betty Ann for their assistance in making me look knowledgeable while I waited to be told what to do and when.

It would not be a farewell banquet without the presentation of the usual awards. The Long Distance Award was presented to Mark and Cindy for their drive of over 800 miles to attend from their home in Michigan – the final 60 miles on the flatbed notwithstanding. As expected, Mark and Cindy also qualified for our Hard Luck Award for their mechanical issues capped by Mark's unexpected dive into the murky waters of Breton Bay. Rallye Master Bill walked us through the Rallye questions with groans heard as many realized they made some questions far more difficult than they were. In the end, a tie resulted between Karen and I and the team of Mike and Jennifer Ash – with both scoring 18 of the 21 questions correctly. The “fix” was not in as Bill had earlier determined the tie-breaker was total time to complete the Rallye, and Team Marshall arrived at the final checkpoint minutes ahead of Team Ash. One final award was our Spirit of the Mid Atlantic award presented to Ken and Melon Doris of New York for their leading the charge on the dance floor at the Ruddy Duck and longest distance traveled by Chapter members to attend the event.



Sunday morning was time to pack our cars and to say goodbye to our fellow participants. The few moments we allowed to exchange good wishes always seem to extend longer than planned when standing with a group of friends, lingering just a bit to relive the memories, not wanting it to come to an end. One by one, the sound of MGAs rumbling to life signaled the end of another chapter of our MGA memories.



NAMGAR promotes Regional GT events as “anything you want them to be” as they are really about enjoying the MGA with fellow MGA enthusiasts in a manner that brings the cars and people together. As with any GT, the goal is to have fun while driving an MGA and making new or rekindling old friendships formed over the years. A Regional GT supports the NAMGAR adage that “it’s the cars that get you there, but it’s the people that bring you back”. We will leave it to Editor Tooke to determine if the people *will* bring him back and whether what happened in Solomons actually stayed in Solomons or if indeed as suggested; there were enough memorable moments to warrant a mention in **MGA!**