

# **BSMGAC GOES TO BRITISH INVASION XXIII**

by Dick Fabrizio

Thursday, September 19, 2013 broke as another beautiful day, although a little on the cool side in Gloucester. Rewind. The MGA had been removed from its storage garage at a friend's home back in August. Last driven at the May driving tour to Portsmouth and back I had put it away for the summer months while I drove and performed some catch up repairs on the MGB. This summer had been unusually hot and humid. So when I went to take the MGA out for a good cleaning and primping for the British Invasion I found that the clutch had "frozen". I theorize that the damp and humid air had rusted the clutch pressure plate, disc and flywheel as one. I tried everything I knew to free it up but no luck. Frustrated, I had it towed to Mackay's Garage in Wakefield. Steve is amazing. He allowed me to "help" him pull the engine/transmission to replace the clutch and throw-out bearing (which we discovered was totally worn out right to metal on metal, which I consider to be premature for only 20k miles since the rebuild, but probably due to my constant double clutching on every shift !!). I know I slowed Steve down by "helping", but I was grateful to have the opportunity to get a little grease on my hands and perform a general check on the brakes and under carriage since I don't have a place to perform much more than an oil change.

Forward. We departed Gloucester to meet up with Jim and Ellie Guyot at their home in Haverhill. Jim led us around the Rt 495 commuter traffic and mostly back roads to our meeting place in Fitzwilliam, NH. Judy Pruitt was there, but unfortunately no one else from the Club. Where are all of you members?? Departing there at about 11:30 Jim led us on our usual route up the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River on Rt.12 crossing the river in Walpole, NH to the Vermont side in Westminster. Then Rt. 5 to Rt. 103 and in to Ludlow, VT where we took a lunch stop at the Java Baba (great sandwiches!). After lunch we started the final leg, picking up Rt.100 around Killington and up through the mountains. We had to endure several unscheduled stops along the way due to road repairs to damage caused by spring runoff. Then, on into Stowe where we picked up the keys to our house rental. As usual the ride was excellent although there was very little foliage to view. As they say "getting there is half the fun".... all the fun in my opinion. After settling in at our awesome town house with awesome amenities and views, we just hung out with some refreshments and a couple of excellent pizzas from Piecaso's.

Jack Horner drove up on his own in his MGA and met up with his roommate, Steve Palmisano with his TR6 at the Stowe Motel. Even Downing also stayed at the Stowe Motel and all enjoyed getting together with other LBC owners staying there over drinks and snacks.

On Friday we decided to stay local and took a ride to the Von Trapp Lodge; very nice...and expensive. From there we went to Ben & Gerry's for the factory tour and an afternoon treat. Arriving at the show field for registration we met up with Jack Horner, brother Steve Fabrizio and a few other past and present members then perused the vendor tent. Members Geoff and Andrea Rogers, with daughter Fiona, were vending on the field with all kinds of wonderful LBC parts. The registrant's reception was great with plenty of good Hobgoblin beer. We then brought the cars up to Main Street for the

display/concert and had a very nice dinner at the Blue Moon restaurant. Not getting to Main Street early enough only Jim was able to find a spot on Main Street for his car. After dinner we joined the crowd looking at all the fabulous LBCs and listening to the great band.

Saturday we headed out to the show field in plenty of time but upon arrival got stuck in a huge jam of LBCs trying to do the same....still not sure what happened there. The weather and the show was spectacular as usual with (I heard) approximately 675 cars. There was plenty of competition in every class and our own Roy Crane won an award in his class with his MGA ... congratulations! That evening we had a small get together at our unit that included a steak barbeque and all the fixings; "a good time was had by all." Jack Horner came over from his motel next door and later, his roommate Steve Palmisano joined us for drinks. Sunday brought showers and clouds in the morning so it was tops up and side curtains in for our departure home. The return route was basically a reverse of the ride up until we got to Rt.12 in Walpole, NH where there had been a fatal head on collision that required us to turn around and get on the Vermont side of the Connecticut River and continue south on Rt. 5 to Brattleboro then east on Rt. 119 to Gloucester via Haverhill. It was a wonderful weekend with special friends and the MGA ran great. Thanks Steve!!

Jack and Steve caravanned to Mike Bounanduci's place in Vermont on the way back along some stunningly beautiful back roads in order to pick up some parts from Mike and also look over the various cars he has for parts and for sale. The weather had cleared and warmed, so, they put the tops down for the rest of the trip home. After picking up I-91 they went into Walpole, NH for lunch and then ran into the same accident the rest of the club encountered, so, also had to backtrack and take an alternate route south and west. Everyone arrived home safely though and the British Invasion weekend is one to remember as one that had a great day for the show on Saturday.

