

Report on the BSMGAC Spring Tech Session

The BSMGAC held its annual Spring Tech Session at the home of Jan and Jack Horner in Westford, MA. We had beautiful weather and a good turnout. There were some new members that as well as some of the usual suspects. Members started arriving just before 10 am on Sunday, May 3, 2015 and by lunch time we had around 17 members there. There was coffee and donuts set up outside the garage for those “arriving hungry” and there was lots of car talk and kicking of tires. Everyone has something they wanted to discuss with the others to find out how they solved certain problems. Angus Ross brought his MGA steering wheel which he is in the process of restoring and explained how he drilled and welded each of the spoke holders and then filled the missing plastic with JB Weld and then sanded the surface smooth and applied a product from The Eastwood company that sticks very well to plastic. He still has to determine if the surface treatment will be effective with long use. He brought along an original wheel that had no plastic on it to show how it is assembled and where to weld. I also had a couple of wheels to show what damaged wheels looks like as well as the difference between a reproduction wheel and an original.

I gave a little talk about the differences between the 4 types of convertible top bows that I have found on MGAs and also the different header rails that the top is attached to at the front of the bows. We talked about what is available for top bows and what to look for and modify depending on the bows that the header rail is attached to and also which type of top is ordered. Since the earlier bows and header rails were obsoleted as production progress to the late MGA 1600 and MKII and many parts have been mixed during the life of some of the MGAs, it is often difficult to determine what is the right bows and header to order the correct top, as these changed over time as well.

We only put two cars up on the lift for oil changes, but those went smoothly. We also working on Paul Zink’s headlights as there were no high beams at first and then one side was not working at all. We found that the socket for the bulb had melted and was not making good contact.

Around 12:30 we adjourned to the back deck and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and had all the fixings to go with them. Many brought chips and dips, salads, beer, and other good stuff and we all had plenty to eat. We could not have asked for a better day to get the cars out and prepare them for the 2015 driving season.

We are hoping to have a drive at the end of May, but that is still to be determined. For June, we have the British By the Sea show on June 7, sponsored by the Connecticut MG Club at Harkness State Park. If anyone wants to caravan to the show, make your own arrangements, but I plan to be going. Here is their web site: <http://www.ctmgclub.com>. Also, the British Motorcar Festival is in Bristol, RI on June 11 to 14 and NAMGAR GT-40 is from June 15 to 20. There is also a Vintage Motorsports Festival at Thompson Speedway in CT from June 19 to 21. So, there is plenty to do in June. Get your car out and join some of our friends at one of these events.

Safety Fast,

Fred (Jack) Horner
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