

Bay State MGA Club to British Invasion 2018 Report

Jan and I trailered the 1960 MGA Coupe to Stowe, VT this year as we had a wheel chair, luggage, and two dogs with us for this trip. We drove to Stowe on Thursday and stayed at the Commodore's Inn on Route 100 (right where all the construction was still going on! Dick and Nancy Fabrizio and Jim and Ellie Guyot caravanned on the back roads on Thursday as well and stayed at a house they rented in Waterbury, Vt. Judy Pruitt and her friend, Joanne Lonergan, also stayed at the house. After Jan and I got settled in our room we drove over to the Golden Eagle where Roy and Jane Crane were renting a house and had drinks and snacks with them on the back deck.

On Friday Jan and I had breakfast at the hotel and then took a drive up the mountain and enjoyed a ride up Mt Mansfield on the Gondola. The fall colors were just beginning and it was a clear day, so, the views were beautiful. We were able to take the dogs with us on the gondola and the staff were very accommodating getting all of us on and off the gondola car. We then continued our drive over the Notch and circled around on Route 15 and then south on Route 100 back to Stowe. Jan has not been in Stowe for a number of years and had a desire to go to the Malt Shop, so, that is where we had lunch. I then dropped her and the dogs at the hotel and I went to the show field to pick up my registration pack and visit some of the vendors. I went to Geoff and Andrea Rogers' display of car parts and chatted with them a bit. At the reception I met some new people and also ran into many car people I have known a long time. Lee Kline called and said he was in town for the show and we got together at the hotel for dinner and to catch up.

Saturday morning Jan's friend, Anne Howard, joined us for breakfast and while they enjoyed catching up I brought the MGA to the show field and got it positioned in the MGA 1600 class. I then went back and took the dogs to a doggy day care across the street from the hotel and then Jan and I went to the show field and set up our chairs behind the car. While Jan stayed near the car I went to the vendors and did my voting and visited with friends. Although Dennis Eklof was only two cars away I did not get a chance to talk with him. I spent quite a bit of time near the car talking with people about my car. I also took Jan around some of the cars using the wheel chair and the grass field was not too bad for getting around with it. I also took Jan to see Geoff and Andrea as she had not seen them in some time. We then went out to the truck and went for lunch with Lee Kline at a tavern just above the field. We ran into Don and Mary Jane Tremblay and their friends at the tavern as well as Dick, Nancy, Jim, and Ellie. After lunch I took Jan back to our room and then headed back to the field for the awards ceremony.

Roy Crane took a First in MG TD and I took a Third with the MGA 1600 Coupe. Since there were so few cars in the 1500 MGA they only had one award and Jim and Dick did not place unfortunately (as their cars are very nice). So, after the awards (did I mention that it was a very hot day?) I went back to the room to freshen up and then Jan and I joined Dick, Nancy, Jim, Ellie, Judy, and Joanne at the rented house for our usual club steak dinner. The house was a modern log cabin with all natural wood walls inside and out. We enjoyed cocktails on the deck before dinner and then a wonderful steak dinner that Dick barbecued (assisted by Jim, Ellie, and Judy). Then there was blueberry pie that Joanne brought. It was great catching up with club members and friends.

Sunday morning was checking out and heading back home. I am not sure when Jim, Dick and crew headed out, but Jan and I packed up and hit the road by about 8:30 and were home by noon. I did not get to drive the MGA much on this trip, but there were no issues with it and Dick and Jim said they had no issues either. Going to the British Invasion is always a highlight of the year and Michael Gaetano and team always put on a wonderful show. More than the great British Cars, it is the people that make the show so much fun to attend.

Safety Fast,

Jack Horner,
President, Bay State MGA Club

MGA 1600s at Stowe 2018



Jim and Dick's MGA 1500s at Stowe 2018

