

Bay State MGA Club goes to the British Invasion XXX, 2021

The plans to attend a large event with a group always begins a long time in advance. Don Tremblay, Mike and Pam Williams, and I started arranging flights and accommodations around May of this year. As you may recall, Don, Mike, and I attended the show in 2019 and really enjoyed it, so, Mike wanted to come again from Utah with his wife this time and show her part of New England. Don picked up Mike and Pam at the airport in Boston early Thursday morning and they spent the day touring one of the mansions in Newport, RI and ended up at Don's house for dinner Thursday night. Then Don drove them to my house and they spent the night here. On Friday morning, Sept 10, 2021 we started our drive to Stowe, VT. I drove my 1960 MGA Coupe and Mike and Pam drove my 1960 MGA Roadster. I packed in the Coupe a lot of the food and materials to prepare the club dinner on Saturday night. Mike and Pam drove with the top up (I assume so that Pam would not mess up her hair).

We drove to the usually meeting spot at Mike's Market in Fitzwilliam, NH at the corner of Route 119 and Route 12. Here we met up with Don and his friend, Ronnie, in Don's 1960 MGA 1600. We then proceeded up Route 12 through Keene, NH and crossed into Vermont at Bellows Falls, NH. Up Route 5 a short distance we took Route 103 to Ludlow, VT where we stopped for lunch. This is at about the 80 mile mark from my house. Then it was onto Route 100 for the drive north to Stowe, VT. As any of you know, this is a beautiful, scenic drive and there are many New England features to notice such as the Green Mountains, quaint towns, interesting architecture, and etc. There was a detour a short distance up Route 100 at Plymouth, VT and I was leading the group. I had passed a slow driving Vermonter who was driving 40 in a 50 mph area. Mike also passed this slow-poke, but Don was stuck behind him. I told Don at the lunch break about the detour. But, I made the turn and Mike made the turn and the Vermonter made the turn but Don went zipping past the turn (I could see him in my rearview mirror). There was no place to pull onto the side and wait for him to discover his mistake, so, Mike and I kept going to the end of Route 100a where it meets Route 4 and we waited there. It was not long before Don showed up and he was a bit upset with me. But we are friends and he lets me know where he stands and then we move on to the fun stuff. He led the way after that and that is why I now call him "Put Put Don"! We stopped in Waterbury for fuel so that we would be ready for the trip home without have to gas up when we were leaving.

We made it to the show field at 3:30 and got our registration packets. We then went to the Mountainside Resort where we had rented a condo/apartment for the two days. Since this was our first time at the unit we took some time to look around and unload the cars and then determined who got which bedroom. It worked out well but it was kind of a strange place because one enters on the ground floor where there is a sitting room and the master suite and then you climb the stairs to the second floor where there are two bedrooms, living room and kitchen. So, we had to schlep all the groceries up the stairs to the kitchen. After getting settled in we drove back to the show field for the reception. They had great hors d'oeuvres and Old Speckled Hen ale! It was then time to head downtown for the Street Party. We wanted to park on the street with the show cars this time as we had never done that before. We circled around a few times waiting until they closed the street and then took a little drive through the back country (per Don) and ended up back at the beginning of the blocked off street just in time to drive through and get a parking spot! We parked the three MGAs together on the street and then talked with folks looking at the cars. A little after 8:00 Don rounded us all up for a dinner at The Whip at the Green Mountain Inn. Besides those in our group we also had Tom McLeod and his wife from Maryland and Don's sister Debbie and her husband at the dinner. After dinner it was time to head back to the condo; it had been a long day!

In the morning we got up early enough to wipe down the cars. Ronnie and I went for a drive to find some coffee only to discover that the usual places I knew were either closed or had changed into something else (and were also closed). In any case, we got back and then all of

us drove over the the field in order to get parked in our class of the show. We parked together and another club member, Michael Rosen, was also in our class. The other club members did not drive their MGAs. We spent the day catching up with friends and acquaintances and talked to folks about our cars. We met some of the other exhibitors as well. I spoke with the president of the Boston Area MG Club, Michael Crawford, who had brought his newly purchased 1938 MG VA Tickford. He had done a marvelous job of cleaning it up and getting it running again. We made the rounds of the vendors and saw club members Geoff and Andrea Rogers vending their wares. When it came to awards we went over to where they were being presented and watched the Concours cars being driven by and given awards. Club member Roy Crane was there with his 1955 Austin Healey 100 BN1 and he took first place! This was a basket case project that he completely rebuilt himself (with the exception of some mechanic parts he had rebuilt by professionals). But he did 85 percent of the car including the bodywork and paint himself. The guy in front of him (who took second in judging) had a beautiful Allard sports car but when the judges came around the horn would not work. He honked his horn to the crowd during the ceremony and said that if his horn had worked while being judged he would have beat Roy!

Just after they finished the Concours drive by they needed more time to finish counting ballots, so, I left Don in charge of collection awards (if we received any) and I headed to the grocery for some last minute shopping. I got back to the condo and Mike and Pam and got back shortly afterward. Pam and I started getting the potatoes ready to bake as they would take the longest. Also we microwaved the corn (4 minutes on high in the husk for each ear) and I went out and started the charcoal in two grills to handle all the cooking. Dick Fabrizio arrived and he is the master griller. He helped me with the steaks and they turned out beautifully. We had salad fixings for everyone and mushrooms for Ellie Guyot. I don't think anyone went away hungry! At dinner we had those staying at the condo, Dick, Jim and Ellie, Judy Pruitt, Mike and Ryuko Rosen, and Tom McLeod and his wife. It was quite a large gathering. I was so busy in preparations that I did not get to eat until last. I don't know where the time went (probably because I had a few drinks!) During all of the preparation Don returned from the field and presented me with Third Place for the MGA Coupe and he took First Place with his MGA. I was surprised that Mike Rosen had not placed since his car is so very nice.

On Sunday we cleaned up the condo and loaded up the cars for the return trip. We headed out at 8:30 am and drove down Route 100 again. Some of the leaves were changing but it is a bit early for full blown New England color. We stopped in Ludlow again for fuel and to have lunch. We found a new place called Cafe at De Light as our usual place was closed (and some had said they did not want to eat there again!) After lunch we drove back to Fitzwilliam, NH where Don and Ronnie split off from the group and headed to Rutland, MA. Mike, Pam, and I headed back down Route 119 to Westford, MA and we had to arrange a limo to take them to their hotel in Boston where they planned to spend a day or two sightseeing. While we were waiting for the limo they got to talk with Jan and I showed them the cars in the garage. Mike thanked me for letting him drive my MGA (I think he may be the only other person who has driven it in the past 20 years!) We all had a wonderful time at Stowe and we appreciate all the Michael and Paula Gaetano have done over the past 30 years. During the awards ceremony club member Phil Roy presented the Gaetanos with an appreciation award. They plan to do the show again in 2022, so, stay tuned for that!

Safety Fast,
Jack Horner
President, Bay State MGA Club

The MGA 1600 class with the MGA Coupe, Don's MGA, and my MGA roadster with Michael Rosen's in the distance



Street Party Scene with our MGAs

