

Bay State MGA Club goes to the British Motorcar Festival 2016 in Bristol, RI

The British Motorcar Festival in Bristol, RI (<http://www.britishmotorcarfestival.com/>) was in its second year at Colt State Park and this was the first time that I had attended this "British Invasion South". Michael Gaetano and his team did another fantastic job of setting up and providing an entertaining and enjoyable weekend of car events. I usually drive my MGA to these types of events, but because of the weather forecast for rain, I decided again to trailer my car and only drive it in the local area. As I left Westford, MA on June 8th it started to rain and I had a few thunderstorms to drive through before the weather cleared and it was nice after that for the rest of the drive. I had arranged to stay at a Bed and Breakfast where Roy and Jane Crane were also staying. I arrived and met our hosts and they are MG people as well. They have a 1972 MGB which he was entering in the show. They provided a garage to park the MGs in, so, I did not have to worry about rain overnight. Roy and Jane arrived soon after I did and we had a pleasant evening talking about cars and getting to know each other better. Lots of drinks and lots of stories!

On Thursday morning Roy and I drove our cars over to Bristol, RI and toured the area around Colt State Park and then took in the Herreshoff Boat Museum (<http://www.herreshoff.org/>) which has a wonderful collection of their boats built over the years. Then Roy and Jane in their MGA and me in my MGA toured south to Newport, RI and found the Audrain Car Museum (<http://audrainautomuseum.org/>). They had a display of "Super Cars" which included modern Porches, Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Bugattis, and other exotics. It was a nice display and only a small portion of the collection which rotates every few months. As Roy says, "They are nice cars, but I wouldn't want to drive one because I might hurt myself". We then traveled down Bellevue Avenue where all the Mansions are and then around Ocean Avenue along the coast. It was a beautiful drive. Then, back to the house and relaxing on the back lawn overlooking the water. On Friday we drove out to the show grounds at Colt State Park and picked up our registrations and toured the vendors that were still setting up. We then had lunch at a local restaurant that Roy knew the owner of and then back to the show field to await the lineup to drive to the waterfront park for the Friday night car show on main street. We stayed until about 8:00 at which time we had enough and then back to the house for drinks.

Saturday morning we were up early to get to the field on time. We arrived in a long line of cars and got onto the field as the first two MGAs in the 1600 class. There were quite a few MGA 1600s, but only one MGA 1600 (Angus Ross's). We spend the day talking with friends and checking out the car corral and vendors. The show was cut short by reports of rain and hail coming, so, we left the field and we were told that the awards would be announced on Sunday. We returned to our house and it started to rain pretty hard. Roy's old boss picked us up and we went to his barn to take a look at his car collection. He has quite a diverse interest and has cars from a 1909 EMF to 1964 Lincoln Continental. All of his cars are convertibles. One reason we went to his barn is that he was looking at a 1990 Jaguar XJS in the car corral and the owner was bringing it over to be inspected on the lift. He ended up purchasing the car which I think makes it the newest vehicle by year in his collection. He also has Packard, Cadillac, Mercedes, Triumph, MG, Buick, Citroen, Ford, and others. After this we went to dinner at his house and had some interesting conversations about many subjects.

On Sunday we drove to the show field and it was unclear when the awards were to be announced, so, Roy and Jane left since they had a long drive home on the back roads and I stayed around until 11:00, but decided to leave after that and head home as well. I only ran into one brief shower on the way home. I got an email from Angus telling me that he had to be towed off the field because he had a problem with his alternator (conversion from original generator). He is still sorting that out, but it looks like the Bosch (who says Lucas is always the culprit)

alternator built in regulator fried and blew out all the light bulbs because it was generating 20 volts! That is probably a story for a tech article later on.

Anyway, I heard that Phil Roy took first place in MGA 1600/Twin Cam (congratulations, Phil!) and it looks like Angus took first place in MGA 1500 since he was the only entrant. The field has fewer cars than at Stowe, VT, but I think it was well attended and everyone enjoyed the show. I know it is bound to grow in popularity. I certainly plan to return. I think, again that weather played a role in a smaller turnout than may have been, but it was still a great show. I hope to see everyone at other shows throughout the year.

Safety Fast,
Jack Horner
President, Bay State MGA Club

The MGAs on the field. Angus Ross's (in front), Roy Crane's, Jack Horner's, Phil Roy's (with top up)

