

“Go East Old Man”

By Don Tremblay

A few issues ago in the “British Marque”, I wrote an article entitled, “Go West Old Man”, where you may recall that I received a hand written letter “out of the blue” just about this time of the year from a gentleman in Utah asking me if it was OK if he contacted me once in a while regarding questions relative to an MGA 1600 that he was restoring. Fast forward and many phone calls later along with two visits to Utah later, my western friend, Mike Williams, is now the proud owner of another MGA that has been saved to be enjoyed by his family for future generations. A happy ending indeed, but the story continues.

In reality, I cannot take all the credit for Mike’s successful restoration. Fred (Jack) Horner, who usually pens the articles for the Bay State MGA Club, who has also been a dear friend of mine for many years also got into the involuntary consulting end during Mike’s restoration.

Fast forward, it is now fall and what better way to fully initiate Mike into the fraternity of our hobby but invite Mike to attend the British Invasion? For many of us, attending The British Invasion in Stowe, VT. has become a “right of passage” over the years and with this year featuring the MG, the timing was perfect. It took little to no coaxing from me to convince Mike to fly out to Massachusetts. Jack and I planned our extended Stowe adventure weekend trip to leave our respective homes on Wednesday and meet in Fitzwilliam, NH on the MA/NH border a rendezvous location that we have used for years.

Mike rode with me in my dove gray MGA 1600 roadster and we met up with Jack in his freshly restored MGA 1600 white coupe. Our first planned stop was to travel to the American Precision Museum (APM) in Windsor, Vt. Originally this building was the Robbins and Lawrence arms factory. From this small factory, the Industrial Revolution started; it being the first facility in the US to use precision interchangeable parts for the manufacture of firearms. I highly recommended adding the APM to your Stowe adventure list for the future if you admire progressive American ingenuity, and who doesn't?

After our visit to the APM, we headed up to Stowe traveling only scenic back roads arriving in the late afternoon to our rented townhouse near the center of town. Thursday was a "chill day", settling in, cleaning our cars, and sight-seeing around town. Mike and Jack made a drive to Morristown to the local auto parts store for bug and tar cleaner since we both had quite a bit of tar from road work on the way. On the way there the road was so rough that one of the spark plug wires popped off and the car was only running on three cylinders. Fortunately, it was an easy fix.

On Friday morning, Jack, Mike, and I met up with Cecelia Bruce of Scarborough Faire on the British Invasion show field to help set up her vendor space. We also made plans to later meet up downtown for dinner and later attend the infamous Stowe Block Party, but first we had a special event planned! After lunch, we drove our MGAs up Mount Mansfield to the ski area to do something none of us had ever done before - zip-lining! After a brief indoctrination lesson on a scaled down zip-line, we took the gondola up to the top of the mountain for the four leg sequence down the mountain. Words cannot describe the experience. If you don't mind traveling at speeds up to 80 miles per hour with nothing between you and the blurred vision of trees below I highly recommend that you add this adventure to your bucket list.

The car show of the British Invasion was Saturday and we awoke to reports of mixed rain and overcast skies. Jack was less concerned than me since his MGA is a 1600 Coupe compared to my roadster - sans side curtains. In all, no one seemed to mind the weather resulting in a well attended event with only a few showers and clearing in the afternoon. Mike particularly liked visiting each vendor looking for a few bits he still needed for his MGA. Judy Pruitt and Dick Fabrizio stopped by on the field to hang with us and later joined us for the club cookout at our rented townhouse. Unfortunately, Mike had to catch a ride late in the afternoon to the Burlington airport to attend a wedding in Denver on Sunday, so, he was not at the dinner. For me, it turned out to be a great day indeed with my MGA winning first place in Class 6, 1959-1962 1600, MKII and Deluxe category. Member Phil Roy placed third. On Sunday, we had breakfast and Judy , Dick, Jack and myself caravanned on Route 100 and then Route 12 to where we started our adventure in Fitzwilliam, NH and continued our separate ways home.

Don promoting his MGA



Phil's MGA Twin Cam on the left, Don's MGA in the middle and Jack's MGA on the right



Mike riding shotgun with Jack



Jack, Mike, and Cecelia



Mike and Jack with the Coupe



Don, Jack, and Mike ready to zip



