

MG 2010 Belleville, Ontario

By Carole Looft

It was June 22 when a group of club members headed for the National MGB get-together that was being held in Belleville, Ontario. Ryan, along with Terry and I, met George Chase and Eddie Cole at Jeffersonville and continued on past Columbus where we were to rendezvous with Dar and Mary Planeaux and John and Linda Wolfe. Our mini caravan consisted of seven cars and we headed north toward the Cleveland area.

Just shy of Cleveland, however, Dar pulled off the Interstate, with a 'dead' engine. The problem was quickly diagnosed; Dar had run out of gas!! The guys siphoned a bit of gas from one of the other cars, and we were on our way to the nearest station. Our plan was to get to Niagara Falls, Ontario, where we would have time to view the Falls, spend the night, and travel to Belleville the next day. At Niagara we were joined by Tony Shoviak and his family who are from the Toledo area. We all had a nice evening meal at the hotel and then walked only a few blocks to take in the sights at the Falls.

The next morning we were off to Belleville, via Toronto. Traffic in Toronto was heavy and hectic, and adding the two Shoviak cars, it was challenging to keep our caravan of nine cars now, together. We finally arrived in Belleville around 3:00.

After the hotel check-in, the 'Parking Lot Party' began. This would continue for the next four days. The beer cans started piling up and the challenge was to see just how many cans we could accumulate

over the course of our stay there. The following day, we were joined by Graham and Diana Cooper who had stopped to visit friends along the way.

Many activities were planned throughout the event. There were scenic drives, a picnic, a tour of one of Canada's Air Force Museums, a winery visit and time to explore on our own. It didn't take long to scout out a pretty good English pub, the Winchester Arms. It wasn't far from the hotel and the food was good with a variety of authentic pub choices. They even had Old Speckled Hen on tap for those who wanted it.

Saturday was the 'car show' day and leading up to that day, we knew the forecast wasn't very promising. It turned out to be a gloomy day and it was obvious there would be rain at some point. Cars started showing up at the field at 8:00, and each class had a designated time of arrival. By 9:30 all cars were to be parked. I think it was around noon when the first drops of rain started and it would continue for the rest of the afternoon. At some point, when we realized that voting was probably over, we headed for an enclosed parking area that was part of the hotel's parking. The lawn chairs were pulled out and the 'parking lot party' continued.

Awards were handed out after the banquet that evening. Our club members did very well in representing Ohio. Receiving awards were: George Chase, Eddie Cole, Graham Cooper and Dar Planeaux.

Early Sunday morning we headed home. The plan was to drive the whole trip that day. It was a long, hot drive, and we ran into rain as we neared Detroit. The lines were long as we crossed the border, and Terry had to open trunk and trailer and explain what all those parts were that he was carrying. Other than that, the trip went well, and we all made it home without any major issues. I guess we could call this a practice run for next year and the trip to Reno.