A Trip to Traverse City and Area Including the Sunday Car Show at Alden August 9 – 11, 2013

Photos and story by Dale Brown

On Friday August 9, three couples from the Windsor Detroit MG Club left the Detroit area early in the morning heading for Traverse City and surrounds. Driving the beautiful back roads were Matt and Vicki Bade in a Red 1972 MGB Roadster, Marty and Sue Hunt in a Black 1980 MGB LE Roadster and Dale and Lise Brown in their Tartan Red 1972 Roadster. The intent of the trip was to drive open air and visit Wineries, Cheese Houses, Fruit Stands (especially for peaches and cherries), see the sights along the Peninsulas and then head over to the Alden Sports Car Show on Sunday before returning home. We weren't disappointed!

Our first day started off cool but sunny. We drove some two lane roads around the nice lakes starting in Waterford MI and into Bay City. We couldn't believe the big Vintage Homes all well maintained and restored when entering the City. We continued over the Saginaw River, along another two lane road and a short four lane highway on the way to Claire Michigan where we again went back on the two-laners. We stopped for a late lunch at a restaurant beside a river and lake. Eating on a deck overlooking the wonderful area is the best!

By this time, the weather had warmed up sufficiently for all drivers to take the roofs down on our cars. We arrived at our motel about 12 miles north of Traverse City on the Leelanau Peninsula and checked in. We had time to unpack and relax for a bit before heading north to check out a Winery and Marina on the edge of a bay. We came back and had dinner at Matt's favorite place in Sutton's Bay.

The following day saw the group go back to Sutton's Bay for an outdoor breakfast, followed by a stop at a Cheese Place which was part of a beautiful ranch, B&B and wedding centre. It was a wonderful experience. We took in a great Apple Cider facility where we could sample different styles of Hard Cider. Of course we picked our favorites and had a glass out on their patio.

Later in the day, we drove to the top of The Mission Peninsula and visited the Mission Point Lighthouse. A couple more tastings and wineries and then we headed into the Old Town Section of Traverse City. It was abuzz with tourists but we finally found a nice Italian restaurant that could accommodate the six of us. Excellent service I might add.

Sunday saw us check out of our motel and make our way toward Alden after stopping for breakfast along the way. We pulled into the Alden Sports Car Show around 11 am. to find many members of our club there including Lee Jacobson, Sheri Pellac, Sandi Kuivenhoven, Fran Lewis, Steve and Donna Finch, Heidi and Thomas Basinger and Denis and Erica Ferguson.. We missed some of the Valve Cover races but I'm sure Steve can fill us in with a story and photos in this edition or next. It was a quaint town and the shopping kept the women occupied while the men were able to spend time looking at more than British Cars for a change. It was an enjoyable show and it was well attended. Keep it in mind for next year especially if you want to make a long weekend trip out of it.

We left Alden and had an uneventful trip home stopping for dinner along the way. (Does it sound like we ate well? We did!)

September 2013