

ABCS Newsletter



April 2007

Volume 16 Issue 4

NEXT MEETING – May 10, 2007 – Rush Street Grill

Minutes of the ABCS Meeting for April 12, 2007

At this membership meeting, the program consisted of an enhanced DVD of MG2006 recorded by Bill Wilson. Many more pictures have been added to the original version shown during our Christmas Party, and missed by many. Bill has spent many hours compiling this version and it certainly shows.

Upcoming Events:

May 11-13 – Cruising Memory Lane, Johnson City, TN

May 12 – 20th Annual Springtime in the Smokies, Townsend, TN

May 25 – Car Show at Wal-Mart, Fort Henry Dr., Kingsport, TN

May 30 – Drive your British Car Week. Gathering at Gourmet & Co. Johnson City, TN

June 6-9 – Covered Bridge Celebrations, Elizabethton, TN.

The May program will be brought to you by Ann and Paul Kern. Janet Fisher, a friend of the Kerns, will be talking about “Polar Bears of Churchill.” Hope to see you there.

As you are aware, the annual drive to Townsend is coming up. At the recent Board meeting the subject came up as to where to meet for the drive. Since we basically have two groups, one from the Kingsport area, and one from the Johnson City area, a centralized place would be ideal to meet for the drive. This matter will be further discuss at the meeting, just give it some thought.

If you are planning on driving with the group, please let us know.

Drive to Abingdon and Surrounds

By Gerald Mitchell, Jr

On the morning of Saturday, April 14, I left home alone at 7:30 AM in my 2006 Honda Civic. Becky usually goes with me on these club drives, but she wasn't with me this time because she was in Bolivia. She had left two weeks before with a couple of girl friends and was on a trip to Peru and Bolivia. I arrived at the designated meeting place at the Cracker Barrel off I-81 exit 7 in Bristol, VA at 8:08 AM. In about 15 or 20 minutes Ann and Paul Kern and Labrador George arrived in their MGB. Ann, Paul, and I then went inside Cracker Barrel for breakfast. Dani and Barry Black, who had arrived in their yellow MGB soon joined us. Herren Floyd, who had arrived alone (Ottie was on a cruise with friends in the Caribbean) in his 1963 MGB also came in and sat with us. Allen McKenna along with his son and daughter were seated at a table nearby. We all had an enjoyable visit together even before the drive began. Those assembled for the drive were: Allen McKenna, his son and daughter in their 1973 Triumph TR-6; Dany and Barry Black in their yellow 1977 MGB; Herren Floyd, and his 1963 MGB; Ann and Paul Kern in their 1963 MGB; Margaret and Allen Calcote in their Honda Accord; Pat and Peter Davis in their white Jaguar XK8 convertible; Virginia Leamon, who rode with Calcotes; and I in my 2006 Civic.

Allen McKenna was the leader of this particular drive, all in the vicinity of Abingdon VA. Allen led our group out of the Cracker Barrel parking lot at 9:40 AM. Our first stop, after traveling through some very scenic and interesting countryside, was White's Mill. This is an old gristmill that has been in continuous operation for

about a hundred years or more. The large water wheel is still present on the side of the building but is no longer the source of power. But, the mill is still producing meals from various types of grain.



Some of the group hiked upstream to see the old original dam from which the water for the wheel was channeled. The mill, an old relic from days gone by and still in use was very interesting to see and become acquainted with and a gentleman there who has been associated with the mill for many years gave the members of our group a lot of interesting facts about the long history of the mill. Several of our

group made pictures of the mill and its surroundings

Our drive continued from White's Mill to the next point of interest which was the Abingdon Vineyard and Winery at 20530 Alvarado Road. The ambiance in the winery building is very pleasant, inviting, and luxurious and the owners were very hospitable and provided the members of the drive with a taste of the many varieties of vines available at their facility. Being a non-drinker, I just enjoyed the ambiance as the others enjoyed samples of the wines. Mr. Robert M. Carlson, one of the owners, gave the group a very interesting tour of the winery and described in details all the very complicated steps involved in the making of their several varieties of fine wines. We were all amazed at the very exacting and number of stages it's necessary to go through in the aging and making of the wines.



Barrels of aging wine

We stopped at Balla's Pizza & Subs Restaurant on the north side of Abigdon for lunch about 1:30 PM. My pizza was delicious and our group very much enjoyed the fellowship we experienced there before we departed for home. Allen had done a very good job of choosing lovely roads that were good roads for our sports car for this drive.



After our group had enjoyed the visit to the winery, Allen led us through some additional very scenic and curvy sports-car-appropriate roads back to Abigdon.

NAMGBR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The North American MGB Register (NAMGBR) was formed in late 1990 as the result of a strong demand for a non-profit, democratic organization which would be run by MG enthusiasts, for MG enthusiasts, where:

- The MGB Register would be dedicated to maintaining and expanding interest in Britain's most popular sports cars...the MGB and MG Midget. Each and every member would have a vote on policy.
- The Officers would be elected by the membership and would offer themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- The finances of the Register would be open to all, at any time.
- The MGB Register membership would be open to all, with no restrictions, and where ownership of an MG would not be a condition of membership.
- ACTIVITY, ENTHUSIASM and DEDICATION would be cherished. At the founding meeting, attended by enthusiasts from three continents, it was agreed that MG Midgets and MG 1100/1300s would be welcome in the Register and would be actively supported by their own sub-registers. NAMGBR also sought and gained the approval and support of the parent MG Car Club in England, the oldest and original of all MG clubs. NAMGBR is the only national Register of the MGB and Midget in the United States, Canada, and Mexico officially sanctioned by the MG Car Club UK and is proud to count amongst its honorary members Don Hayter, who styled the MGB while Chief Engineer at the MG Factory in Abingdon, Geoff Allen a long-time factory employee, and Ken Costello, inventor of the MGB GT V8.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

- The MGB Driver a bi-monthly 60 page magazine, packed with MGB Register news, technical information, photos, articles on the history and development of various MGs, letters from members, a calendar of events, cars for sale and much more.
- Technical advice from MG experts such as John Twist, Norman Nock and others. Have a problem? Call for immediate assistance or write and have the answer appear in the MGB Driver which might assist others.
- A unique Register blue and gold dash plaque inscribed with your personal membership number.
- Local, regional and national meets where you can join and socialize with like-minded enthusiasts. With over 70 local affiliated chapters you're never far from an MG friend.
- A mutual help scheme for members through a listing of willing participants. Stuck out in the boonies? Just call!
- A wide range of regalia and other items for sale to members to demonstrate your love of MGs.

YOU CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO "B" A MEMBER—JOIN NOW!

<http://www.namgbr.org/namgbr>



Membership Application



Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Country _____ E-Mail _____
 Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____

May we list your phone number as an emergency contact should a Register member traveling through your area need assistance? Yes ___ No ___

Where did you learn of the Register?

Which local MG or British Car Club(s) do you belong to?

How many MGs do you own?
 _____ MGBs _____ Midgets _____ 1100/1300s

What other British cars do you own?

Enclose your check or credit card information and return to:

North American MGB Register
 P.O. Box 55
 Whittington, IL 62897-0055
 Phone/Fax — 800-NAMGBR-1

One year membership is \$30.00 US (\$35.00 Overseas) and includes our bimonthly publication—MGB Driver.

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____