

Editorially Speaking.....

Alden or Bust...in T-Cars

We do drive topless

The 1949 TC and the 1951 TD took on their biggest adventure to-date with the Alden Classic Car Show road trip. Meeting up with Andy Henzel's sweet little Healey at a McDonalds in Davison (Photo #1 & #2), we were off and running. Chivalry is still alive and well, Shari retrieved Andy's driving glove in the middle of M-15, which he had left on his boot by mistake, one of our first unscheduled stops along the way (Photo #3). Then with the sky darkening (Photo #4) as we approached Bay City for lunch, we considered putting up the tops. The Healey in the lead was not about to yield to any rain since the motorcyclist in front of him was not stopping, so we drove on. As you can see from Photo #5, it only got worse, but would the Healey stop, noooooooooo. Rain fell, we kept moving without windshield wipers, taking on water by the tons (Photo #6), but the motorcycle and Healey (with us following like little ducks) drove on. Once the cyclist pulled over, we stopped to put up the bonnets under shelter, but I must

say, twelve hours later in the comfort of her bedroom, Shari shared her underwear were still wet. Never in our lifetime, have the T cars driven in thunder, lightening and even traffic lights out due to power outages in such weather topless! We traveled on to the Kingfish in Bay City for lunch and we wrapped up our baby T's in plastic, although the damage had already been done (Photos #7 & #8). The Healey was somewhat punished for his actions, as he forgot to turn off his lights as we dined. The rest of the trip to Alden after the rain stopped was spent by alternating socks and shoes hanging out the driver's window to dry them out as we traveled onward. There were stops for directions (the rain had completely destroyed all maps we had) and of course, chocolate (oh come on, we're women for heaven's sake). Arriving in Alden about 6:00 P.M., we ate at the Alden Bar & Grill (Photos #9 & #10), the Southwest Chicken Wrap was to die for.

The car show the next day brought out fellow T cars, WDMGC members, and much better weather (Photos #11 & #12). We again lunched at the Alden Bar & Grill, and you will never guess what we ordered, again. Anyway, after the show, it was the open road home. Us ducklings followed Big Daddy Healey onto I-75 and **what** were we thinking, we are T cars! We stopped at the Doherty Hotel Clare for dinner, an establishment built the same year as the MG was created I think. Nice place, good food but then back on the road again (thank you Willy Nelson).

Shari practiced praying (the Our Father was one of her favorites) on the way back but we are proud to announce, our baby T cars traveled **541 miles** without an issue, lovin' it, lovin' it! Our longest road trip ever, certainly something to go down in the record books for us and believe it or not, we are now confident enough to say, bring on a longer road trip, we are soooo ready to rumble (we do have *sweet* sounding engines after all)!
Sandy & Shari



Twist /Alden continued

.Unfortunately, we had to pass on the tour as our priority was to find a hotel for the next two nights, and as anyone who's been to Alden knows, lodgings in the immediate area are scarce. After finding a room in Man-celona, we drove back to Alden for the picnic dinner put on by the car show organizers, the Twin Bay Brits Car Club. The picnic is held at the park by the old railway depot, now a museum, and what a great job they do each year. There were dozens of salads of all types, great broasted chicken and of course, dessert. There were quite a few cars there but only a fraction of what we were to see Sunday. There was still an hour or more of daylight left when the festivities ended so Dale and I went on our own tour around Torch Lake exploring as many back roads as we could find.

Sunday morning was perfect weather wise as we packed the B (once again) and headed to Alden for the car show. The Twin Bay Brits may organize the Alden Classic Sports Car Show, but it's not restricted to British cars. Indeed, it's open to all sports cars though British cars do seem to be of the majority. This year's featured marque was the Porsche and let me tell you, the specimens at the show were of the very best. Other non-Brit cars included Mercedes, BMW, Mazda and GM. In the British fleet of cars were Minis, Jaguars, a Singer, a TVR, a couple of Triumphs and a whole lot of MGs: Ts, As, Bs, BGTs and a C, I think. Twin Bay Brits and Mad Dogs & Englishmen had the largest representation but our club did have a few members present as well: Jim and Carolyn Cox with their 79 MGB, Sandy Kuivenhoven with her 51 MGTD, Shari Pelic with her 49 MGTC and Dale and I with our 72 MGB. Officials do most of the judging at this show, but there was one ballot for people's choice and one for kid's choice. I was sure one of the Minis was going to win that one but in the end the kids chose the TVR!?! Though none in our group won in the MG category, some of us did walk away with a door prize. One thing for certain, we all thoroughly enjoyed our day at the show as well as browsing the many little shops in Alden, ok, perhaps some of us did more of the latter than others. After the awards presentation, we said our goodbyes and headed to Bellaire to check into the Bellaire Inn for the night. It just so happened that a group from Mad Dogs was staying there as well, so we joined them for some tailgating then for dinner later at a lakeside restaurant - what a wonderful end to the day.

Monday morning, after repacking the B for the last time this trip, we did what Jim and Carolyn Cox, and many from the Kalamazoo group had done the day before, we booked a room at the Bellaire Inn for next year! So with our reservation secure for August 7-10, 2009, we started on our long trip home via back roads blessed once again with perfect driving weather, and carrying back with us fond memories from two truly enjoyable events. Many thanks to John Twist and his crew, and to the Twin Bay Brits and their team of volunteers - Job well done folks!

Oh, and remember that small electrical problem we had? Well, it should be resolved any day now!

