

## MG-2014 – A Drive into a Gilded Past

by Steve Finch



What a great time at the MG-2014 NAMGBR Convention – *A Drive into a Gilded Past*. Donna and I, and Steve and Ruth Swarin, drove the 420 miles to French Lick IN on Sunday, June 15. Other WDMGC members in attendance at MG-2014 were Elvin and Janet Davis, Tim and Nancy Shaw, Graham Creswick and Marc Weitzman.

Established in 1845, French Lick Springs Hotel was founded by a physician to explore the healing properties of the abundant mineral springs in the area. In 1931, Franklin D. Roosevelt rounded up support at a Democratic Governor's Conference at French Lick Springs Hotel, for his presidential nomination. In 2006, French Lick Springs Hotel reopened after an extensive renovation. The original 1917 "Hill Course" was restored and reopened as The Donald Ross Golf Course. With renovation of the neighboring West Baden Springs Hotel in 2007, French Lick Resort was born.

We arrived without incident in time for the evening opening reception. It was good to get re-acquainted with many people we've met at other MG conventions and on the Rallye to Reno. Donna and I played golf Monday morning at the Donald Ross Course and that evening everybody drove to nearby Spring Mill State Park Lodge for a group dinner. Tuesday was pretty open with self-guided driving tours around the Hoosier National Forest and to various wineries. John Twist did his rolling tech session and there seemed to be something for everyone to do.

Wednesday was the car show with over 350 cars on the show field. Most were MGBs with a good number of MGAs, MGCs, Midgets and others. Of interest were five Post-Abingdon cars, three MGFs and two Rover MG RV8s. Also of special interest was the Huffaker MG Liquid Suspension Special racecar that competed in the Indianapolis 500 from 1964 to 1969, test driven by A. J. Foyt, and raced by Walt Hansgen and Wally Dallenbach, among others. That evening was the banquet and awards presentation. Tim Shaw took 1<sup>st</sup> in Class for his MG Midget and I took a 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class for my MGB/GT.

Thursday morning we said our goodbyes and headed home, arriving midafternoon without incident. The more I attend these conventions, the more MG friendships I make. Now I need to make time for the NAMGAR GT-39 Convention in Ottawa, Ontario, July 14-18 – *A Capital Idea*.



*Club members Janet and Evin Davis arriving at the host hotel for MG 2014 in French Lick*



*Steve and Donna Finch receiving an award in French Lick*



*Elvin and Janet Davis outside the MG 2014 Convention Hotel in French Lick*

## **Another Photo from Motor Muster**



*1960 MGA - Andrew Hoffman*